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Cougars take second in Kruse Award standings

Summary: Morris finishes the year with 83 total points.

(May 31, 2011)-With the spring championships decided, the Morris athletic department has combined for a second place finish in the final Kruse Award standings, measuring all-around success of the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference's (UMAC) eight full member institutions.

Buoyed by a UMAC Championship in men's track and field—the school's third overall on the year—Morris finishes the spring, and 2010-11 campaign, with 83 total points in second place. St. Scholastic claims the Kruse Award title with 92 total points after winning 12 total championships on the season, including all in the spring season except for men's track and field.

The Jerome Kruse Memorial Award, with its inaugural season of 1996–97, is in honor of Jerome Kruse, a long-time athletic director of Northwestern College in Wisconsin and later Martin Luther College. Mr. Kruse's life ended early. Because of his dedication to the UMAC and to student-athletes, the award bears his name. The annual honor recognizes the top overall institution in the UMAC, using a rating system with points accumulated by the place finishes of the institution's athletic teams in the final regular season standings of all conference-sponsored sports.

Morris and St. Scholastica were at the top of the standings all season long, with the Cougars (62) holding a three-point lead over the Saints (59) after the winter season. After the initial standings were announced following the fall season, Morris (43) trailed the Saints (45) by two points.

Cougar men's track and field won its second straight UMAC title this spring, beating the second place Saints by nearly 40 points. Also scoring high for Morris this season were the second place softball and women's track and field teams. Women's tennis finished in fourth place in the final standings, with baseball and men's tennis wrapping up the season in fifth and sixth place respectively.

Men's track and field joined women's golf and women's basketball as UMAC champions during the year, while softball and women's track and field joined men's basketball, each of the indoor track and field teams, men's golf, volleyball and each cross-country team with runner-up finishes for the maroon and gold in 2010–11.

Northwestern finished the season third with 76 total points, with Martin Luther in fourth at 53.5. Not far behind in fifth was Bethany Lutheran with 52 points, while Presentation (26.5), Northland (26)) and Crown (23) rounded out the scoring respectively.

2010–11 Kruse Award Standings (points)

1. College of St. Scholastica (92)
2. University of Minnesota Morris (83)
3. Northwestern College (76)

4. Martin Luther College (53.5)
5. Bethany Lutheran College (52)
6. Presentation College (26.5)
7. Northland College (26)
8. Crown College (23)

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