



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2003 / Contact: Dwayne Hanberry, SCAC Assistant Commissioner, Communications

**SCAC ANNOUNCES 2002-03
ALL-SCAC MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**

For consecutive seasons, the DePauw University men finished with the best regular season record in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC). Therefore, it should come as no surprise that for the second consecutive season, a DePauw Tiger has been named as the conference Player-of-the-Year. A year after former teammate Mike Howland was selected, senior center Joe Ringger was named the 2002-03 SCAC Player-of-the-Year in exclusive voting by the league's head coaches. In that same voting, Southwestern University head coach Bill Raleigh was named the SCAC Coach-of-the-Year. The coaches also voted on Newcomer and Defensive Players-of-the-Year, and first-year guard Rami Almfety of Rhodes College and sophomore center Sean Devins of Trinity University were the respective recipients.

Ringger was a unanimous choice as the Player-of-the-Year, garnering all nine votes from the coaches (coaches could not vote for their own players). One game into the SCAC tournament, he is second in the SCAC in scoring (18.7 ppg) and leads the league in rebounding (9.5 rpg). Ringger is currently fifth on the league's all-time career scoring list with 1,516 points and second on the all-time career rebounding list with 751 rebounds - just nine rebounds behind the all-time leader John Garber of Millsaps College (94-97). In addition, he is fourth in the conference in field goal percentage (55.3%) and 11th in blocked shots (0.77 bpg). Ringger had 12 double-doubles this season (second in the SCAC), including Thursday night's 26-point, 13-rebound effort in DePauw's 74-64 first-round conference tournament win against Rhodes.

Raleigh, in his fourth season with Southwestern, has led the Pirates to an 18-8 overall mark, a 10-4 conference record, and a third-place regular season finish in the SCAC. The 18 wins are the most by a Southwestern men's team since the Pirates joined the league in 1994-95. Raleigh spent three years as the head coach at the University of Dallas before arriving at Southwestern prior to the 1999-2000 season.

Rhodes's Almfety finished second among all first-year players in scoring at 14.9 points per game (seventh overall in the SCAC) in garnering Newcomer-of-the Year honors. Almfety, who is the second consecutive Rhodes player to win the award (Stephen Russell a year ago), also finished second in the league in free throw percentage (86.5%), third in three-point percentage (40.6%), and ninth in field goal percentage (46.7%).

Devins was the coaches' choice for Defensive Player-of-the-Year after leading the league in blocks with 91 through the first game of the SCAC tournament - the third-highest single season total in conference history. Devins was also a force offensively for Trinity, averaging 10.5 points (21st in the SCAC) while shooting a SCAC-best 62.3% from the field. The sophomore also averaged 5.4 rebounds per game (13th in the SCAC).

-more-

PAGE 2 – 2002-03 Men's All-SCAC Basketball Honors

Rounding out the remainder of the All-SCAC First Team, Jeremy Bettis of DePauw averaged 15.5 points (fifth in the SCAC) and 7.9 rebounds per game (third in SCAC) and was seventh in the league in field goal percentage (49.6%), fourth in free throw percentage (83.1%), and fifth in blocked shots (1.36 per game). Jason Morris of Trinity averaged 14.0 points per game (ninth in the SCAC), and was also ranked in the top 10 in the conference in assists (3.23 per game – sixth), steals (1.73 per game – second) and free throw percentage (75.3% - 10th). Thomas Adams of Millsaps was the league leader in scoring through Thursday's games, averaging 18.8 points per contest. In addition, Adams is averaging 9.0 rebounds (second in the SCAC), 1.46 steals (10th in the SCAC) and 1.27 blocks per game (sixth in the SCAC). He also shot 56.2% from the field – good for third in the conference. Jason Atwell of Centre averaged a team-leading 14.3 points per game for the Colonels (eighth in the SCAC). Atwell was one of the better three-point shooters in the league, averaging 2.96 treys per game (second in the SCAC) while hitting them at a 40.1% clip (fourth in the SCAC).

2002-03 SCAC PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR

Joe Ringger	DePauw	6-7	Sr.	Center	Westville, Ind.
-------------	--------	-----	-----	--------	-----------------

2002-03 SCAC NEWCOMER-OF-THE-YEAR

Rami Almefty	Rhodes	5-11	Fy.	Guard	Little Rock, Ark.
--------------	--------	------	-----	-------	-------------------

2002-03 SCAC DEFENSIVE PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR

Sean Devins	Trinity	6-10	So.	Center	Sugar Land, Texas
-------------	---------	------	-----	--------	-------------------

2002-03 SCAC COACH-OF-THE-YEAR

Bill Raleigh	Southwestern	18-8 Overall / 10-4 SCAC / #3 seed SCAC Tourney			
--------------	--------------	---	--	--	--

2002-03 ALL-SCAC FIRST TEAM

Joe Ringger	90 (9)	DePauw	6-7	Sr.	Center	Westville, Ind.
Jeremy Bettis	74	DePauw	6-7	Sr.	Forward	Mecca, Ind.
Jason Morris	68 (1)	Trinity	6-0	So.	Guard	Duncanville, Texas
Thomas Adams	67	Millsaps	6-4	Sr.	Forward	Columbus, Miss.
Jason Atwell	57	Centre	6-5	Jr.	Guard	Harrodsburg, Ky.

2002-03 ALL-SCAC SECOND TEAM

Kyle Ellisor	41	Southwestern	5-8	Jr.	Guard	Houston, Texas
McKenzie Lash	34	Millsaps	6-3	Sr.	Forward	Columbus, Miss.
Sean Devins	29	Trinity	6-10	So.	Center	Sugar Land, Texas
Stan Goldberg	23	Oglethorpe	6-4	Jr.	Center	Snellville, Ga.
Philip Griffith	16	Rose-Hulman	6-7	So.	Forward/Center	Mooreland, Ind.

HONORABLE MENTION (players receiving votes)

Centre – Rob King (Jr.); **Hendrix** – Reggie Talley (Jr.); **Rhodes** – Rami Almefty (Fy.), Austin Lutz (Jr.); **Rose-Hulman** – Jon Query (Sr.); **Sewanee** – Jonathan Jarrett (Sr.), Jason Smith (So.); **Southwestern** – Mike Dunleavy (Sr.); **Trinity** – Adam Luton (Sr.)

First-place votes in parentheses. Voting totals based on coaches' votes with 10 points awarded for first-place votes, nine points for second-place votes, eight points for third-place votes, etc., down to one point for a 10th-place vote. All players not elected to the First or Second Team, but who received at least TWO votes, were named Honorable Mention. Coaches could not vote for their own players.