Dear family, friends, and prospective student-athletes,

“Follow your passions and discover your potential.” This is the positioning statement of the NCAA Division III Identity Initiative. As a member of Division III, Saint Mary’s College has a wonderful forum to share our student-athlete stories.

There are so many misconceptions about NCAA Division III. All that some people know about Division III is that it is the branch of the NCAA that cannot give athletic scholarships. Others refer to the NCAA’s third branch as the “lowest division.” These statements could not be further from the truth!

While it is true that we do not offer financial assistance based on athletic ability, Division III institutions offer need- and merit-based aid that many times matches or exceeds the amounts offered through athletic scholarships. Students choose to participate in NCAA Division III athletics purely for the love of their sport. They are freed from the pressures that athletic scholarships often unintentionally place on student-athletes. Division III encourages full immersion in the college experience and does not limit student-athletes to their competitive arena to experience success. Our student-athletes know that we encourage and expect them to have a life outside of athletics.

Saint Mary’s College has been a proud member of NCAA Division III since 1990. Our membership in Division III offers our student-athletes the full range of the college experience.

Membership on a varsity athletic team does not limit our student-athletes’ choices—it allows them to fully integrate themselves in the campus experience. Our women participate in study abroad programs. They are leaders in clubs and organizations outside of athletics. They make a strong impact through their community service activities. And finally, Saint Mary’s student-athletes achieve at the highest levels in both the competitive arena as well as in the classroom. Division III is hardly the “lowest division” of the NCAA. I would argue that it is the “fullest division,” allowing students the full college experience along with the opportunity to compete within their sport or sports.

Explore this media guide along with our website to learn more about the experiences of our Division III student-athletes at Saint Mary’s College.

Julie Schroeder-Biek ’88
Director of Athletics and Recreation
Quick Look at Saint Mary's College

Basketball
- School record 18 overall wins in 2011
- Highest MIAA finish in program history in 2009 with second place
- Three MIAA Players of the Year since 2004

Cross Country
- Nine consecutive seasons named to MIAA Team GPA Honor Roll
- Highest MIAA finish in program history in 2010 with third place
- Nearly 50 personal record times set in the last two seasons

Golf
- Four consecutive MIAA Championships from 2002–05
- Seven NCAA Division III Championship appearances
- Seven MIAA Season Medalists and one individual NCAA national champion

Soccer
- College record 10 MIAA victories in 2005 for third-place finish
- Eleven consecutive seasons with an All-MIAA honoree
- Seven-time NSCAA Team Academic Award winners since 2004

Softball
- Seven consecutive 20-plus win seasons
- Four MIAA Most Valuable Players since 2004
- 2004 MIAA Tournament Champions

Swimming
- More than 60 new all-time, top-five performances since the 2007–08 season
- Sixteen new school records in 2008–09
- Six straight seasons with an All-MIAA honoree

Tennis
- Four consecutive MIAA Tournament Championships from 2001–04
- NCAA Division III Tournament appearance in 2002
- At least one All-MIAA honoree every year since joining the MIAA

Volleyball
- Two MIAA Players of the Year since 2006
- College record 11 MIAA victories and third-place finish in first season of conference membership
- Ten-time MIAA Team GPA Award recipients

Academic Achievements 2011–12
- Total number of student-athletes: 105
- Athletic Department cumulative GPA (8 sports): 3.30
- Athletic Department cumulative GPA for sport captains: 3.53
- Number of student-athletes above a 3.0 cumulative GPA: 83 Fall Semester, 76 Spring Semester
- Teams earning MIAA Academic Honor Roll (minimum 3.3 GPA required): Four
- Number of times in 2011–12 student-athletes earned Dean’s List honors: 61
- Student-athletes on MIAA Honor Roll (minimum 3.5 GPA required): 40

Catholic women’s college in Notre Dame, Indiana, established in 1844 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross

An academic program that requires a senior comprehensive project, focuses on writing proficiency, and underscores the importance of women’s voices, social responsibility, and intercultural competence

95 percent of students receive financial aid

A nationally recognized study abroad program that offers learning opportunities in 20 countries

Volunteering/service work participation of 80 percent compared to national average of 55 percent

NCAA Division III varsity athletic teams and a wide range of club and intramural sports through Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame, just across the street

A connection with Notre Dame that allows students to take classes, participate in clubs, and cheer in the student section at Irish football games

AND: Pets in a senior residence hall, a Quidditch club, a picturesque island, a lake perfect for canoe races, a medieval-looking tower, a tunnel, and lifelong friendships with intelligent, confident women leaders committed to changing the world

Schedule your Saint Mary’s campus visit today at saintmarys.edu/visit
A core of returning players paired with incoming freshmen look promising to continue the basketball team’s ascent within the MIAA over the past few seasons. With the graduation of five seniors who contributed more than 40 points per game, head coach Jenn Henley will look for the right balance of returners and newcomers as the Belles take to the hardwood.

The team will look to continue a handful of streaks established over the past few years, including its current stretch of seven straight seasons in the MIAA’s top four and eight consecutive years of at least 10 overall wins.

Shanlynn Bias ’14, Annie Doyle ’13, and Ariana Paul ’15 are expected to provide offensive firepower after seeing action in all 26 contests last year and contributing at least 100 points each. From the second game of the Ohio Northern Thanksgiving Classic through the end of the season, Bias scored in each of the Belles’ final 21 games of the year. In her junior season, Doyle notched career highs for assists and steals. Paul was third on the team in total rebounding and free throw percentage in her rookie campaign.

Also returning are Kayla Wolter ’13, Katherine Wabler ’14, and Kelsie Plesac ’15, all of whom combined for more than 50 appearances in the 2011–12 season.

In the past 10 years, 13 Saint Mary’s basketball players have been honored with All-MIAA accolades a total of 22 times.

In 2006, 2007, 2011, and 2012, three Belles earned All-Conference honors. The Belles boast an All-American in Alison Kessler ’08, who was also the MIAA Most Valuable Player in the 2007–08 season.

Academically, at least three members of the basketball program have earned MIAA Honor Roll accolades each year since Saint Mary’s joined the MIAA in 1997.
2012–13 Schedule

Nov. 16–17 at Wheaton
  Tip Off Tournament  1 p.m./5:30 p.m.

Nov. 20 at Anderson  7:30 p.m.

Nov. 24–25 SMC Thanksgiving Classic
  Nov. 24 vs. Otterbein  4 p.m.
  Nov. 25 vs. Ohio Northern  1 p.m.

Nov. 28 at Adrian*  7:30 p.m.

Dec. 1 vs. Olivet*  3 p.m.
  Dec. 5 at Kalamazoo*  7:30 p.m.

Dec. 8 vs. Alma*  3 p.m.
  Dec. 15 at Calvin*  3 p.m.
  Dec. 18 at Chicago  6 p.m. CST
  Dec. 20 at Millikin  2 p.m. CST

Dec. 28–29 University of Dubuque Holiday Tournament TBA

Jan. 5 vs. Albion*  3 p.m.

Jan. 9 vs. Trine*  7:30 p.m.
  Jan. 16 at Hope*  7:30 p.m.
  Jan. 19 at Olivet*  3 p.m.

Jan. 23 vs. Adrian*  7:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 vs. Kalamazoo*  3 p.m.

Jan. 30 at Trine*  7:30 p.m.
  Feb. 2 at Albion*  3 p.m.
  Feb. 6 vs. Calvin*  7:30 p.m.
  Feb. 9 at Alma*  3 p.m.

Feb. 13 vs. Hope*  7:30 p.m.

Feb. 20–23 MIAA Tournament (Top Four Teams Only) TBA

*denotes MIAA contest
Home games in bold
Schedule subject to change

Building a Tradition of Excellence

All-American
Alison Kessler

All-Region Honoree
Alison Kessler

Multi-All-MIAA Honorees
Emily Creachbaum
  Bridget Boyce
  Bridget Lipke
  Alison Kessler
  Erin Newsom
  Kelley Murphy

Four-Time MIAA Honor Roll
Alison Kessler
  Katie Rashid
  Meghan Conaty

Top-Four MIAA Finishes
Faculty Advisors
Each varsity team has a faculty advisor who serves as a liaison between athletics and our academic departments. Our faculty advisors support our student-athletes in a variety of ways. They are available to discuss schedule planning and choosing a major while also mentoring student-athletes facing academic challenges. They attend competitions, team meetings and banquets. Faculty advisors help to spread the word amongst their colleagues of the exciting accomplishments of our student-athletes and teams.

Team Chaplains
The athletic department has some very special fans that foster the bond between the College and the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Our team chaplains join our athletes and coaches in pre-game prayers while also passionately and vigilantly cheering on our teams from the sidelines. Interaction with our Sisters assists us in learning our heritage and honoring the traditions, values and mission of Saint Mary’s College.

NCAA Student-Athlete Affairs (SAA)
Saint Mary’s College is a member of the NCAA Student-Athlete Affairs (SAA) program. The program assists student-athletes with academics, athletics, personal development, career development, and community service. At Saint Mary’s, head cross country coach Jackie Bauters, an alumna and former student-athlete, monitors the academic progress of the student-athletes through individual mentoring.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)
In 1989 the NCAA adopted the idea to have an association-wide Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The mission of the committee is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, reviewing legislation, protecting student-athlete welfare, and fostering a positive student-athlete image.

At Saint Mary’s, the SAAC goes above and beyond the call to serve as a liaison between athletes and the athletic administration. Each year the athletic teams perform an on- and off-campus community service project and host holiday-themed parties for various groups in the area. They also read to elementary school children, raise money for foundations, participate in charitable walks, and support local food pantries.

Athlete of the Week
Saint Mary’s College honors outstanding student-athletes each week. At the end of the academic year, all of our Athlete of the Week recipients are recognized for their accomplishments at a reception in which they have the opportunity to invite a professor or staff member who has influenced them.

Athletic Hall of Fame
In 1993 former Athletic Director JoAnn Nester created the Saint Mary’s College Athletic Hall of Fame to recognize outstanding Saint Mary’s athletes, coaches, and athletic administrators for their numerous contributions to Saint Mary’s athletics. Since the inception of the Hall of Fame, 29 individuals and two teams have been inducted.

Senior Awards Banquet
Each spring the Athletic Department honors its senior student-athletes at a special recognition banquet. In addition to each senior athlete receiving a watch to commemorate their athletic careers, a select few seniors are recognized with special awards, including the Don Miller Belles Spirit Award and the Marvin Wood Outstanding Senior Athlete Award.
**MIAA History**
The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) is America’s oldest collegiate athletic conference.

The 2012-13 school year will mark the 125th consecutive year of operation for the NCAA Division III affiliated conference. From the very beginning, the MIAA has conducted full-season championships in multiple sports. There have been changes in some of the sports, but these changes have served to develop the MIAA into one of America’s finest NCAA Division III conferences, today offering 20 sports for men and women.

The MIAA’s continuity is noteworthy. Of the 13 schools that have had full membership, nine are still members—Adrian, Albion, Alma, Calvin, Hope, Kalamazoo, Olivet, Saint Mary’s, and Trine. Albion and Olivet were charter members, although Albion is the only member to hold continuous membership. Ex-members are Michigan State University (1888–1907), Eastern Michigan University (1892–1926), and Hillsdale College (1888–1960).

The MIAA’s membership list went unchanged from 1954 to 1997, when Defiance College of Ohio and Saint Mary’s College of Indiana were invited to join. It also marked the first time that the league added members outside Michigan. The league stipulated, however, that the name of the conference would not change. The inaugural year of current members are: Adrian (1908), Albion (1888), Alma (1902), Calvin (1953), Hope (1926), Kalamazoo (1896), Olivet (1888), Saint Mary’s (1997), and Trine (2004).

**MIAA Women’s All-Sports Award Results**
Since 1998, a trophy has been awarded at the conclusion of the spring sports season to the school with the highest cumulative point total in the final standing in the MIAA championships. Saint Mary’s earned their highest-ever finish in the MIAA’s Women’s All-Sport Standings at the conclusion of the 2008–09 academic year. The Saint Mary’s teams combined for a third-place finish among all MIAA schools. Points are awarded based upon each MIAA school’s final conference standing in each sport.

**What It Means to Be Division III**
“Follow your passions and discover your potential. The college experience is a time of learning and growth—a chance to follow passions and develop potential. For student-athletes in Division III, all of this happens most importantly in the classroom and through earning an academic degree.

The Division III experience provides for passionate participation in a competitive athletic environment, where student-athletes push themselves to excellence and build upon their academic success with new challenges and life skills. And student-athletes are encouraged to pursue the full spectrum of opportunities available during their time in college. In this way, Division III provides an integrated environment for student-athletes to take responsibility for their own paths, follow their passions, and find their potential through a comprehensive learning experience.”

—National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

To read more on how Saint Mary’s exemplifies what it means to be Division III, please visit: saintmarys.edu/athletics

Rules about recruiting prospective student-athletes at a Division III institution include the following:

- Prospects may receive printed materials at any time from NCAA Division III coaches.
- There is no limit on the number or timing of phone calls or emails at the NCAA Division III level, and the prospect may make calls to the coach at their own expense.
- Electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete by, or on behalf of, a member of the institution’s athletics department staff is limited to electronic mail, text messages and facsimiles. An enrolled student-athlete may send electronic mail and text messages to a prospective student-athlete for recruitment purposes. All other forms of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., instant messaging and social networking websites) are prohibited.
Cheer on one of Saint Mary’s eight varsity athletic teams as they compete in the MIAA conference.

A fun and exciting time for the whole family.

For team schedules visit saintmarys.edu/athletics

Camp registration begins November 26, 2012
Visit saintmarys.edu/camps

Please visit us online at saintmarys.edu/athletics for up-to-date information, rosters, team schedules, recruiting, and contact information.

Information is subject to change

Follow Saint Mary’s Athletics on: