

ESPN THE MAGAZINE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® TEAM

SELECTED BY COSIDA

FOR RELEASE:

Monday, February 22, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. (EST)

COLE ALDRICH OF KANSAS, DANIEL McKEEHAN OF THOMAS MORE LEAD ESPN THE MAGAZINE'S ACADEMIC ALL AMERICA® MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

TOWSON, Md. – Junior center **Cole Aldrich** of number one-ranked Kansas and senior guard **Daniel McKeehan** of Thomas More headline the 2009-10 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Men's Basketball teams, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Aldrich and McKeehan have been selected as the Academic All-America® of the Year in the University and College Divisions, respectively.

A 6-11 center, Aldrich is a Communication Studies major with a 3.32 G.P.A. A two-year starter for the Jayhawks, he is one of only three players in the Big 12 Conference averaging double figures in scoring and rebounding.

The Bloomington, Minn. native is averaging 11.6 points and 10.1 rebounds per game while leading Kansas to a 26-1 record. Honored as the co-winner of the Big 12 Conference Pre-Season Player of the Year award, he is second in the Big 12 with 3.8 blocked shots per game, a mark that ranks him sixth in the nation. Aldrich has been named as the Big 12 Player of the Year twice this season.

As a sophomore, Aldrich was an honorable mention All-American selection while averaging 14.9 points and 11.1 rebounds per game. He was also named first team All-Big 12 Conference and NBC.com and Athlon's named him the Most Improved Player in the nation. The Big 12 leader in blocked shots, Aldrich became the first player in the storied history of Kansas basketball to record a "triple double" when he scored 13 points with 20 rebounds and 10 blocked shots in a win over Dayton.

In addition to earning first team All-Big 12 notice as a sophomore, Aldrich was a member of the Big 12 Conference All-Defensive Team and was named as the co-winner of the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year award.

As a freshman, he was a key reserve for the Jayhawks' national championship team which defeated Memphis in the NCAA Final Four.

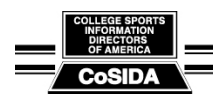
An Economics major with a minor in Business Finance, McKeehan has a perfect 4.00 G.P.A. A native of Mainville, Ohio, McKeehan has led Thomas More to a 19-6 record and a share of the President's Athletic Conference regular season title.

A starter in 23 of 25 games for the Saints, he leads the team in scoring with a 15.7 average. A power forward, he also has a team-leading .627 field goal percentage while averaging 4.8 rebounds per game. A solid all-around player, he is also the team leader with 55 assists and 55 steals.

A second team All-PAC selection as a junior after transferring from Milligan College, McKeehan scored a career high 33 points against conference rival Thiel on January 16. His performance earned him a spot on the D3hoops.com Team of the Week.

As a junior, McKeehan averaged 12.1 points and 4.6 rebounds per game while leading the Saints to the PAC championship. A member of the Economics Club, he was also selected to the Presidents Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll for the 2008-09 year.

- more -



Joining Aldrich on the 2009-10 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® University Division first team are seniors **Patrick Foley** of Columbia University and **Yves Mekongo** of La Salle as well as juniors **Tim Abromaitis** of Notre Dame and Butler University's **Matt Howard**.

Foley and Howard were second team selections in 2009 while Mekongo earned third team honors last year.

A Finance major with a 3.72 G.P.A., Abromaitis has started 19 of 27 games at Notre Dame this season. The team's second-leading scorer with a 17.3 average, he has scored in double figures 24 times and has topped the 20-point mark in eight games. In the first start of his college career, he exploded for 31 points against Central Florida in early December.

One of the top three-point shooters in NCAA Division I, he has connected on 75 of 153 attempts for a .490 percentage. A native of Unionville, Conn., Abromaitis was named to the BIG EAST weekly honor roll earlier this season. Abromaitis, who will graduate one full year ahead of his class, has already been accepted into Notre Dame's one-year intensified MBA program.

Only the second basketball player in Columbia history to earn Academic All-America® honors, Foley is a History major with a 3.87 G.P.A. Despite missing nine games due to injuries, he is the Lions' second-leading scorer with a 9.7 average. A two-year co-captain, he has started 14 games this season and leads the team with 2.8 assists per game. One of the Lions' top free throw shooters, the Blue Point, N.Y. native has helped Columbia post a 9-15 record.

A Finance major with a 3.77 G.P.A., Howard has led 18th-ranked Butler to a 25-4 record and its fourth straight Horizon League regular season title. A second team Academic All-America® selection as a sophomore, he was named as the Horizon League Player of the Year last season. Named as the Horizon League's Pre-Season Player of the Year in 2009-10, the 6-8 forward is averaging 11.9 points and 5.2 rebounds per game with a .488 field goal percentage while helping Butler to a 17-game winning streak, the longest in the nation. Honored as a mid-major All-American as a sophomore, the Connersville, Ind. native averaged a team-leading 14.8 points and 6.8 rebounds per game in 2008-09. He is already the 20th-leading scorer in school history with 1,245 points.

A native of Cameroon, Mekongo is an Integrated Science, Business and Technology major with a 3.81 G.P.A. A starter in 21 of 23 games for LaSalle, he suffered a broken finger injury in mid-February. The Explorers' fourth-leading scorer, he is averaging 11.1 points per game as well as 5.5 rebounds per contest. In early February, he became the 48th player in school history to score 1,000 points in a career. Last summer, he represented Cameroon at the 2009 FIBA African Championships.

The average G.P.A. for the first team is 3.70.

Seniors **Marc Larson** of Bowling Green, **Roman Martinez** of New Mexico and **Nick Schneiders** of South Carolina-Upstate headline the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® University Division second team. Junior **E'Twaun Moore** of Purdue and sophomore **Luke Babbitt** of Nevada complete the second team. The University Division third team includes seniors **Matthew Mullery** of Brown and **Jake Robinson** of Western Carolina, along with juniors **Devon Beitzel** of Northern Colorado and **Graham Hatch** of Wichita State. Sophomore **Gordon Hayward** of 18th-ranked Butler rounds out the third team.

Joining McKeehan on the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® College Division first team are graduate student **Aaron Hill** of Rockhurst and seniors **Brock Bradford** of Husson, **Chris Handke** of Cornell College (Iowa), and **Austin Meier** of the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

A third team Academic All-America® selection in 2009, Hill graduated from Rockhurst with a degree in Business Administration and a 3.84 G.P.A. Currently pursuing his M.B.A., he was honored as the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Year in 2008-09. Last season, he averaged 20.0 points per game and was honored as a second team All-American® selection. The third-leading scorer in the GLVC this season, he is averaging 19.7 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. He ranks among the NCAA Division II leaders in three-point shooting by converting 90 of 218 attempts. A native of Canton, Mo., he also ranks

- more -



among the leading free throw shooters in the nation with an .886 percentage.

Bradford, an Accounting major with a 3.97 G.P.A., is the leading scorer for Husson and has led the Eagles to a 15-10 record. A two-time All-North Atlantic Conference selection, he averaged 13.8 points per game as a junior while leading Husson to its first NAC championship. A four-year starter and two-year co-captain, Bradford is averaging 15.6 points and a team-leading 4.4 assists per game. He also leads the team with 2.2 steals per game. A native of Kendisheag, Maine, he will finish his career as one of the leading scorers in school history with more than 1,300 points. He is also the second-leading free throw shooter in school history with an .840 mark. A Husson Presidential Scholar and Sigma Beta Delta inductee, he has earned several Excellence in Accounting awards during his college career.

A Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major with a 3.91 G.P.A., Handke is a four-year starter for Cornell College who has led the Rams to a 15-10 record. The Rams' leading scorer with a 13.5 average, he leads the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in rebounding and blocked shots. A 6-11 center, he is averaging 9.8 rebounds and 2.04 blocks per game. The Rams' career leader in blocked shots, he led Cornell to the IIAAC championship as a junior and earned all-tournament honors at the NCAA Division III regional tournament. A native of Bellevue, Iowa, he has been named to the Academic All-IIAC team three times.

The lone junior on the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® College Division first team, Meier has a double major in Architectural Engineering and Construction Management with a 3.95 G.P.A. A three-year starter who was named as the Northern Athletics Conference Rookie of the Year as a freshman, he has earned All-NAC honors twice for Milwaukee School of Engineering. The Raiders' leading scorer with a 16.6 average, he ranks among the conference leaders with an 8.4 rebounding average while leading his team to a 16-9 record. He is also one of the NAC leaders with a .583 field goal percentage. A native of Oshkosh, Wis., he has received high honors for the last eight quarters at MSOE.

The average G.P.A. for the first team of honorees is a very impressive 3.93.

Senior **Cameron Smith** of Washington (Mo.), a third team selection last year, leads the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® College Division second team. He is joined on the second team by seniors **John Hoch** of Carroll, **Andy O'Keefe** of Grove City and **Aaron Trigg** of Gordon (Mass.). Junior **Zach Ashworth** of Scranton completes the second team. Graduate student Scott Rodgers of Texas-Dallas headlines the third team. He is joined by a pair of seniors, **Andrew Dau** of Simpson (Iowa) and **Matt Pelton** of Augustana (Ill.), on the third team, along with juniors **Steve Djurickovic** of Carthage and **Eric Duerr** of Case Western Reserve.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director.

Since the program's inception in 1952, CoSIDA has bestowed Academic All-America honors on more than 15,000 student-athletes in Divisions I, II, III and NAIA, covering all NCAA championship sports.

ESPN The Magazine – winner of the 2006 and 2003 National Magazine Award for General Excellence – is a provocative and innovative sports publication. Full of insight, analysis, impact and wit, the oversized biweekly with a circulation of 1.9 million looks ahead to give fans a unique perspective on the world of sports.

For more information about the Academic All-America® Teams program, please visit www.cosida.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dan O'Connell, Towson University (doconnell@towson.edu) (410) 704-3102
Academic All-America® Vice-Chair For Publicity/Communications

Geoff Hassard, SUNY at Oneonta (hassargj@oneonta.edu) (607) 436-2106
Academic All-America® Coordinator of Publicity



2009-10 ESPN THE MAGAZINE Academic All-America® Men's Basketball Team (University Division) as selected by CoSIDA

FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Tim Abromaitis	Notre Dame	V	Jr.	Unionville, Conn.	3.72	Finance
Cole Aldrich	Kansas	VII	Jr.	Bloomington, Minn.	3.32	Communication studies
Patrick Foley (3)	Columbia	I	Sr.	Blue Point, N.Y.	3.87	History
Matt Howard (2)	Butler	V	Jr.	Connersville, Ind.	3.77	Finance
Yves Mekongo (2)	La Salle	II	Sr.	Elizabeth, N.J.	3.81	Int. Science, Business & Tech.

SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Luke Babbitt	Nevada	VIII	So.	Reno, Nev.	3.51	Pre-business Administration
Marc Larson	Bowling Green State	IV	Sr.	Mattawan, Mich.	3.97	Engineering Technology
Roman Martinez	New Mexico	VI	Sr.	El Paso, Texas	3.48	Business Admin./Marketing
E'Twaun Moore	Purdue	V	Jr.	East Chicago, Ind.	3.30	Org. Leadership & Supervision
Nick Schneiders	So. Carolina Upstate	III	Sr.	Rietberg, Germany	3.71	Graphic Design

THIRD TEAM

Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Devon Beitzel	Northern Colorado	VII	Jr.	Lafayette, Colo.	3.72	Finance & Accounting
Graham Hatch	Wichita State	VII	Jr.	Mesa, Ariz.	3.73	Chemistry
Gordon Hayward	Butler	V	So.	Brownsburg, Ind.	3.31	Computer Engineering
Matthew Mullery	Brown	I	Sr.	Millstone, N.J.	3.31	Modern American History
Jake Robinson	Western Carolina	III	Sr.	Canton, N.C.	3.40	Finance

Academic All-America of the Year: Cole Aldrich, Kansas

2009-10 ESPN THE MAGAZINE Academic All-America® Men's Basketball Team (College Division) as selected by CoSIDA

FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Brock Bradford	Husson	I	Sr.	Kenduskeag, Maine	3.97	Accounting
Chris Handke	Cornell (Iowa)	VII	Sr.	Bellevue, Iowa	3.91	Biochemistry & Molecular Bio.
Aaron Hill (3)	Rockhurst	VII	Gr.	Canton, Mo.	3.84	Business Administration (MA)
Daniel McKeehan	Thomas More	IV	Sr.	Maineville, Ohio	4.00	Econ. & Business Finance
Austin Meier	Milwaukee Engineering V	V	Jr.	Oshkosh, Wis.	3.95	Architect. Eng. & Construction Mgt.

SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Zach Ashworth	Scranton	II	Jr.	Doylestown, Pa.	3.87	Finance
John Hoch	Carroll	V	Sr.	Colgate, Wis.	3.85	Physical Education
Andy O'Keefe	Grove City	II	Sr.	Perry, Ohio	3.78	Mathematics & Secondary Ed.
Cameron Smith (3)	Washington (Mo.)	VII	Sr.	Noblesville, Ind.	4.00	Energy, Envir. & Chem. Eng.
Aaron Trigg	Gordon (Mass.)	I	Sr.	Overland Park, Kan.	3.80	Business Admin. & Finance

THIRD TEAM

Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Andrew Dau	Simpson (Iowa)	VII	Sr.	Primghar, Iowa	3.97	Computer Science & Math.
Steve Djurickovic	Carthage	V	Jr.	Pleasant Prairie, Wis.	3.49	Exercise and Sport Science
Eric Duerr	Case Western Reserve	IV	Jr.	Gibsonia, Pa.	3.96	Biology (Pre-Med)
Matt Pelton	Augustana (Ill.)	V	Sr.	Bloomington, Ill.	3.92	Accounting, Finance & Int. Bus.
Scott Rodgers	Texas-Dallas	VI	Gr.	The Woodlands, Tex.	3.81	Business Administration (MA)

Academic All-America of the Year: Daniel McKeehan, Thomas More

(2) ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America® 2nd team in 2009

(3) ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America® 3rd team in 2009

