

SPORTS NEWS

Wise chosen as men's basketball coach

Former basketball standout Tim Wise, B.A. 1989, was named the 25th head men's basketball coach at his alma mater.

"We are thrilled that Coach Wise has accepted this opportunity," said Ron Jurney, Millsaps' athletic director. "Coach Wise is dedicated to Millsaps College and its student-athletes, and we believe that his intelligence, work ethic, and passion for the game will be beneficial to our basketball success."

Wise took over the school's 93-year-old program after serving the last five seasons as the Majors' assistant coach. During the past five campaigns, Millsaps saw five consecutive winning seasons and compiled a record of 79-48. The Majors won the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference title in 2000-01 and advanced to the Division III NCAA Tournament the same year.

Wise, who graduated with a degree in economics, was a four-year

basketball letterman under Coach Don Holcomb, from 1985 to '89.

Wise received his teacher certification from the University of Memphis in 1993 and a master of science in sports administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2000. From 2000 to '02, he was an adjunct professor in the sports administration department at Belhaven College.

Wise succeeds John Stroud, who began his career at Millsaps in 1990 and retired in March to pursue opportunities in private business. During his 13-year tenure, Stroud guided his teams to three Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships and led the Majors to three NCAA tournament appearances.

The two-time SCAC Coach of the Year and the all-time wins leader at Millsaps, Stroud compiled a record of 204-131, reaching the 200-victory plateau this season in a 71-48 triumph



Tim Wise

over the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in January. Suffering only two losing seasons while at Millsaps, Stroud posted seven seasons of at least 16 wins, including three campaigns of 20 wins or more. Stroud's best year came in 1994-95 as he led the Majors to a 25-3 mark, an SCAC title, and a trip to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16.

Millsaps taps Saunders as head football coach

David Saunders has been named the 19th head football coach at Millsaps College.

"We are pleased to welcome Coach Saunders to Millsaps," Athletic Director Ron Jurney said. "He is well respected in football circles and carries with him a wealth of knowledge."

Saunders comes to Millsaps after four years at the University of Mississippi as the director of recruiting. Saunders replaces Bob Tyler, who retired in November after three years at the Majors' helm.

At Ole Miss, Saunders established an acclaimed recruiting program and was lauded as one of the top nine recruiters in the nation by the television sports network ESPN. Saunders joined the Ole Miss athletic staff in December 1998 after working

at the University of Tennessee, where he was responsible for on-campus recruiting.

Prior to joining the UT Volunteers, Saunders served two years as assistant football coach and recruiting coordinator at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro (1996-97). He spent the 1995 season coaching at Baylor University in Texas.

In 1993 and 1994, Saunders was the defensive coordinator and defensive-backs coach at Nicholls State University in Louisiana. From 1990 to '92, Saunders coached the defensive line at Georgia Southern University and helped lead the Eagles to the 1990 Division I-AA national championship. From 1984 to '89, Saunders coached and served as the recruiting coordinator at Jacksonville State



David Saunders

University in Alabama.

Saunders, a native of Douglasville, Georgia, graduated from Auburn University in 1982 with a bachelor of science degree and was a walk-on lineman for the Tigers.

Halbrook Award recognizes Millsaps' tradition of excellence

Millsaps College is the winner of the 2002 Halbrook Award in the independent college division.

Administered cooperatively by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, and the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges, the Halbrook Award recognizes colleges and universities that maintain and achieve high academic standards for student athletes.

"At Millsaps, we are dedicated to producing great students, as well as great athletes," said Millsaps Athletic Director Ron Jurney. "Our athletic programs emphasize the importance of being a leader in the classroom, on the field, and in one's community."

Millsaps has won the prestigious award for 11 of the last 13 years. Individual Halbrook certificates for academic achievement also go to the most outstanding male and female athletes at each member institution.

Recipients must demonstrate academic achievement and campus leadership in addition to athletic ability. The two Millsaps winners are Matt Yglesias, a senior baseball player from Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, and Laura Hillgartner, a senior soccer player from Rockwall, Texas.

The annual awards program was named in honor of its founder, former state Representative David M. Halbrook of Belzoni and his brothers, John C., James G., and J. A. Halbrook.

Baseball, softball teams crowned SCAC champs

Millsaps baseball and softball teams won the SCAC championship in their respective sports at the SCAC Spring Sports Festival in Terre Haute, Indiana, and completed their 2003 campaigns by advancing to their respective NCAA Championships.

The baseball team, after winning its first conference baseball title since 1994 and sixth overall, was awarded with Player, Pitcher, and Coach of the

Year honors in exclusive 2003 SCAC voting by the league's head coaches.

Senior shortstop Matt Yglesias received the SCAC Player of the Year award, while junior pitcher Doug Garner earned Pitcher of the Year honors.

The Majors also placed a league-high seven players on the All-SCAC first team. Along with Yglesias and Garner, juniors Bo Roberts (catcher), Scott Staines (third base), and Stuart Phillips (center field) made the league's top team. Senior K. K. Aldridge (second base) was named to the first team for the third time, while senior pitcher Chat Lenhart also earned All-SCAC honors for the third time.

The fastpitch softball team turned in a 2-2 performance in the NCAA Division III Softball Championships in Atlanta. In just their fourth season, the Majors became the first-ever SCAC softball team to win a game in the NCAA softball championships.

Millsaps finished the historic 2003 campaign with a school-record mark of 28-11. Head Coach Joe Kinsella was named SCAC Coach of the Year, while senior outfielder Barbara Balla was tapped the league Player of the Year.

The Majors managed a conference-high seven All-SCAC first team spots. In addition to Balla, sophomores Naffie Mooney (left field), Brittany Ladner (designated hitter),



Linebacker tackles extra season

The senior linebacker Matt O'Bryant, a 2002 Hewlett-Packard All-America Team selection, will take advantage of a medical year red-shirt granted in his freshman season and continue to play football for Millsaps this fall. O'Bryant is also only the second player in the SCAC to be named Defensive Player of the Year in consecutive years, 2001 and 2002.

and Tammy Ladner (pitcher) were named to the SCAC's first squad, while junior Robin Rockco (short-stop) and freshmen Christina Sharp (second base) and Danielle Cross (pitcher) were also tabbed first-teamers.

Page named Coach of the Year

Millsaps Head Coach Jim Page, in his 15th season as the Majors' skipper, was named the SCAC Coach of the Year, the fifth time in his career that he has been honored with the award. Page led his squad to a 13-5 Western Division mark, 27-15 overall record, and the SCAC tournament championship. Over his career, Page has compiled a 335-226-1 record, which includes six Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference titles and three trips to the NCAA Division III National Championships, including this year's NCAA tournament-bound team.

