

Crossroads League Ends Second in 2020-2021 Directors' Cup Standings

CLEVELAND – The final standings for the 2020-2021 NAIA Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup Championship were recently announced, with the Crossroads League finishing second among all NAIA conferences and leagues.

The Crossroads League piled up 3,883.25 points throughout the year, narrowly missing the top mark of 3,968 points from the Great Plains Athletic Conference. The CL was the only league in the NAIA to have two members finish inside the top-five in the school standings and also saw four schools place top-25, with all 10 members finishing inside the top 111 out of the 185 schools in the rankings.

Indiana Wesleyan led the charge for the Crossroads League with 856.50 points to take third place overall, while Marian followed in fifth with 717.25 points. Huntington and Taylor finished 20th and 21st with 484.5 and 479.5 points each.

Schools are awarded points in the Directors' Cup Standings based on each institution's finish in up to 13 sports at a National Championship event. Four of those sports must include results from men's and women's basketball, men's soccer and volleyball.

Crossroads League Members in the Final Directors' Cup Standings

3-Indiana Wesleyan, 856.5
5-Marian, 717.25
20-Huntington, 484.5
21-Taylor, 479.5
40-Bethel, 334
56-Grace, 280
75-Saint Francis, 211.5
80-Spring Arbor, 204
85-Mount Vernon Nazarene, 189
111-Goshen, 127

Crossroads League Takes Eight CoSIDA Honors for Softball and Baseball

AVON, Ohio - The Crossroads League recently put eight student-athletes on the 2021 CoSIDA NAIA Softball and Baseball Academic All-District Teams. All eight honors came from Taylor and Mount Vernon Nazarene, with TU claiming five awards and MVNU taking three.

The CL took five spots on the CoSIDA Academic All-District Softball Team, including four-of-11 awards from District II, with baseball accounting for three total honors.

The eight student-athletes will advance to the ballot for CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, which

will be announced on July 26.

CoSIDA Academic All-District and All-America honors are voted on by CoSIDA members from around the nation, after student-athletes are nominated by their Sports Information Department.

2021 CoSIDA NAIA Academic All-District Recipients

Crossroads League Softball

Kylee Matern, Mount Vernon Nazarene

Maddi Evans, Taylor

Ashton Whitman, Taylor

Kara Tucker, Taylor

Lauren Kanai, Taylor

Crossroads League Baseball

Jake Glover, Mount Vernon Nazarene

Aaron Saal, Mount Vernon Nazarene

Conner Crawford, Taylor

IWU's Mangas Takes Third-Straight CL Male Athlete-of-Year Nod

AVON, Ohio – For the third time in as many years, the Crossroads League has named Indiana Wesleyan's Kyle Mangas as its Male Student-Athlete of the Year. Mangas is the first three-time winner of the award since it was started in 2011-2012.

Mangas continued to put up eye-popping numbers during his senior campaign with the Wildcats, setting career-highs with 29.5 points, 7.4 rebounds, 5.1 assists, 1.9 steals and 0.8 blocks per game. Mangas also shot a career-best 60.3 percent from the floor and an 84.9-percent clip from the charity stripe, while hitting 39.0 percent of his looks from three-point range. Mangas closed the season with an IWU single-season program record of 974 points and as the Crossroads League's second all-time leading scorer with 3,453 career points.

The NAIA's top performer led the nation in scoring average, finished second with 169 assists, sixth with 62 steals, 14th with 76 made trifectas and 17th with 244 rebounds. Those statistics led to Mangas being heralded as the NAIA Player of the Year for a second-straight time, the Crossroads League Player of the Year for a third-straight season and a First-Team All-American for the fourth time in as many chances.

The top honors extended to the classroom for Mangas as well, where he was named the CoSIDA NAIA

Men's Basketball Academic All-American of the Year, marking his second-straight Academic All-American award.

"We are extremely proud of the way Kyle represented the 'I am Third' pursuit of putting God first, others second and self third," stated IWU head men's basketball coach Greg Tonagel. "He is a model to all student-athletes on what it looks like to compete for Christ."

Indiana Wesleyan went 30-3 overall and 15-1 in Crossroads League play throughout the 2020-2021 season on the play of Mangas, winning the CL's regular season crown for a fourth-straight time.

During his record-setting four-year career at IWU, Mangas set the program's career scoring record and helped the Wildcats to a 120-20 overall record with four league titles and one NAIA National Championship.

The Crossroads League Male Student-Athlete of the Year award is nominated and voted on by the 10 Athletic Directors from the Crossroads League and announced each summer.

Crossroads League Male Student-Athlete of the Year Recipients

2020-2021 – Kyle Mangas, Indiana Wesleyan (basketball)

2019-2020 – Kyle Mangas, Indiana Wesleyan (basketball)

2018-2019 – Kyle Mangas, Indiana Wesleyan (basketball)

2017-2018 – Erik Escobedo, Bethel (track and field)

2016-2017 – Lane Mahurin, Indiana Wesleyan (basketball)

2015-2016 – Austin Fox, Saint Francis (basketball)

2014-2015 – Matt Schauss, Bethel (basketball)

2013-2014 – Riley Swanson, Mount Vernon Nazarene (baseball)

2012-2013 – Brady Klotz, Bethel (golf)

2011-2012 – Caleb Kennedy, Huntington (basketball)

Grace's Briscoe Earns Third Crossroads League AD-of-the-Year Honor

AVON, Ohio – Grace's Chad Briscoe has been named the 2020-2021 Crossroads League Athletic Director of the Year. The honor is the third for Briscoe in his time with the Lancers.

"I am humbled to receive this award. It is a direct reflection of the tremendous work and investment from our coaches and student-athletes throughout the year. I am thankful for the platform that we have been given at Grace College to live out and share Christ in the arena of athletics," Briscoe said. "I serve alongside outstanding athletic directors in the league. They are all friends who sharpen me professionally and work with excellence on a daily basis."

Briscoe recently wrapped up his 12th season as the Grace College Director of Athletics, while overseeing one of the most successful athletic seasons in school history. During the 2020-2021 year, Grace secured NCCAA National Championships in men's soccer, men's tennis and men's track and field and saw seven teams compete at NAIA National Championships. Those accomplishments were accompanied by each of the GC varsity teams posting a team grade-point average of 3.0-or-higher for a fourth-straight year.

Briscoe is well-respected at the national level of the NAIA, having been a member of the National Administrative Council for the past six years. In each of the past three years, Briscoe has served on the NAC's Executive Committee and was recently elected to be the vice chair for that group.

Briscoe also helped guide NAIA men's basketball through its first year back as a single division sport, working as a member of the inaugural NAIA Men's Basketball Selection Committee.

The Crossroads League Athletic Director-of-the-Year honor is voted on by the 10 Athletic Directors from the Crossroads League and announced each summer.

Crossroads League Athletic Director of the Year Recipients

2020-2021 – Chad Briscoe, Grace

2019-2020 – Mark DeMichael, Indiana Wesleyan

2018-2019 – Mark DeMichael, Indiana Wesleyan

2017-2018 – Josh Gleason, Goshen

2016-2017 – Chad Briscoe, Grace

2015-2016 – Mark DeMichael, Indiana Wesleyan

2014-2015 – Mark DeMichael, Indiana Wesleyan

2013-2014 – Lori Culler, Huntington

2012-2013 – Tim Demant, Goshen

2011-2012 – Mark DeMichael, Indiana Wesleyan

2010-2011 – Angie Fincannon, Taylor

2009-2010 – Chad Briscoe, Grace

Marian's Huppert Named Crossroads League SID of the Year

AVON, Ohio – The Crossroads League announced on Tuesday that Mitch Huppert of Marian University had been named its 2020-2021 Sports Information Director of the Year. The award is the first for Huppert, who recently completed his first full year as the SID for the Knights and his fifth year overall in the Sports Information Department at Marian.

“Being named the Crossroads League Sports Information Director of the Year in my first year as the SID at Marian is a tremendous honor and I am very thankful,” said Huppert. “We have a great group of

SIDs in the Crossroads League that have helped push me to do my best each day. I'd like to thank our Manager of Athletics Marketing Toni Polizzi and our Assistant SID Trae Straziscar for their work and help throughout the year, and I want to thank our Director of Athletics Steve Downing and Assistant AD Cassie Mackell, for their support. We also have a great group of student and adult staff that help run our games, and working alongside them is very rewarding. We have a great group of coaches and student-athletes at Marian, and despite the difficulties that 2020-2021 presented, I am thankful they allow me to work with them, travel with them and tell their stories."

During the 2020-2021 year, Huppert and his department continued to grow Marian's livestream coverage by incorporating a new partnership with ISC Sports Network to air soccer, volleyball and basketball games in addition to football contests. Huppert and his staff also published over 650 stories and nearly 100 videos.

In addition to also continuing to expand MU's social media presence, Huppert oversaw the hosting of four CL Championships and served as the primary contact for the NAIA Opening Round in women's basketball, women's soccer and volleyball.

"Mitch has been with us at Marian for five years, and when I hired him I just knew he had a lot of qualities that would fit in at Marian," said MU Director of Athletics Steve Downing. "This does not really surprise me that he won this award, seeing all of the hard work that Mitch puts in. What I like most about Mitch is that he is not just our SID, but he is an all-around guy that helps us with marketing and fundraising, as well as our facilities. He has made himself as good as he is through his hard work and efforts."

The Crossroads League Sports Information Director-of-the-Year award was voted on by the 10 Sports Information Directors from the Crossroads League.

Crossroads League Sports Information Director/Department of-the-Year Recipients

2020-2021 – Mitch Huppert, Marian

2019-2020 – Josh Neuhart, Grace

2018-2019 – Chris Bauman, Spring Arbor

2017-2018 – Zach Wadley, Marian

2016-2017 – Seth Mikel, Taylor

2015-2016 – Josh Neuhart, Grace

2014-2015 – Seth Mikel, Taylor

2013-2014 – Geoff Sherman, Marian