

Osborne named league MVP for Mustangs

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Mount Mercy senior Dondre Osborne has been named the Most Valuable Player in the Midwest Collegiate Conference after leading the Mustangs to the league championship and the NAIA Division II national tournament.

Paul Gavin of Mount Mercy has been named the MCC Coach of the Year. Ian Matos of Mount Mercy joined Osborne on the all-conference first team. James Boonstoppel, Kyle Lamaak and Ben Struss received honorable mention.

Abby Herb and Christa Oldham of Mount Mercy were named to the women's all-conference team. Makenzie Zeitler received honorable mention.

Osborne, from Zion, Ill., is averaging 14.6 points, 5.0 assists and 2.4 steals per game. He ranks sixth in the nation in total steals (73) and 17th in assists (149). Osborne was an iron man for the Mustangs in league games, averaging 38.2 minutes per contest.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Dondre," said Gavin. "He plays the game with incredible passion and enthusiasm, but more importantly helps manifest an environment of unselfishness and toughness.

"As a coach, I believe the most important measure of a player is how much they make their teammates better. Done has done that and more."

Gavin has led the Mustangs to a 26-4 record and their third trip to the NAIA national tournament in school history. He has compiled a 386-328 record in 23 years at Mount Mercy and has been honored as the MCC Coach of the Year five times.

Mount Mercy won the regular-season title and the tournament championship in the league this year. The Mustangs had to deal with the tragic death of teammate Danny DeBacker in a car accident in September, dedicating the season to his memory.

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"In my estimation, Coach Gavin did the best coaching job of his distinguished 23-year career," said Mount Mercy athletic director Scot Reisinger. "He not only managed a team coming off of a disappointing 2013-14 season and the loss of some key players due to injury, but he had to help his team cope with the ultimate loss of one of their teammates.

"We are so proud of Paul and the way he and his players have handled this season of adversity to become conference champions."