



# News Release

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## NCC Men's Basketball

### Twelve Players Named to All-North Central Conference Team

Sioux Falls, S.D. -- Twelve players have been named to the 2003-2004 All-North Central Conference men's basketball team announced today by the conference office. No team placed more than two players on the select squad. Nebraska-Omaha head coach Kevin McKenna earned Coach of the Year honors.

Tola Dada of Nebraska-Omaha won Most Valuable Player and Alex Carlson from St. Cloud State was named Defensive Player of the Year. Ben Beran of South Dakota State was named the Freshman of the Year while Jamel Staten of Minnesota State nabbed Newcomer of the Year laurels.

Tola Dada was chosen Most Valuable Player after a season where he was NCC and Wells Fargo Finals champion Nebraska-Omaha's leading scorer and rebounder with a 12.6 points and 5.8 rebounds per game average. Beran, selected as a Freshman of the Year, finished the season with an average of 5.8 points and 3.9 rebounds in 32 games for the Jacks. Carlson, the pick for Defensive Player of the Year, finished second in league assists with a 6.07 average and was third in scoring (20.4 ppg). Staten, the league's newcomer of the year, led the league ledger in scoring (22.3 ppg) and rebounding (8.9 rpg).

McKenna led the Mavericks to the NCC regular-season championship with a 15-3 record. It is the first time McKenna has been honored by his peers as the NCC Coach of the Year.

#### 2003-2004 All-North Central Conference Men's Basketball Team

Name	School	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown
Luke Anderson	Minnesota State	G/F	6-5	190	So.	Bloomington, Minn.
Alex Carlson	St. Cloud State	G	6-2	190	Sr.	Litchfield, Minn.
CoCo Cofield	North Dakota State	G	6-0	196	Sr.	College Park, Ga.
Tola Dada	Nebraska-Omaha	F	6-6	220	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
Ty Graham	Nebraska-Omaha	F	5-8	165	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Tommie King*	South Dakota	G	6-5	200	Sr.	Seattle, Wash.
Evan Lindahl	North Dakota	F	6-10	230	So.	Cando, N.D.
Andy Moeller	South Dakota State	G	6-1	175	Jr.	LeClaire, Iowa
Ben Nemmers	North Dakota State	G	5-10	171	Sr.	Cedar Falls, Iowa
Todd Rypkema	North Dakota	C	6-11	233	Jr.	Danbury, Wis.
Derrick Schantz	South Dakota State	F	6-6	195	Sr.	Center Point, Iowa
Jamel Staten	Minnesota State	F	6-6	225	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.

\*Two-time Selection

**Coaches of the Year:** Kevin McKenna, Nebraska-Omaha

**Most Valuable Player:** Tola Dada, Nebraska-Omaha

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Alex Carlson, St. Cloud State

**Freshman of the Year:** Ben Beran, South Dakota State

**Newcomer of the Year:** Jamel Staten, Minnesota State

**By Schools:** Minnesota State (2), Nebraska-Omaha (2), North Dakota (2), North Dakota State (2), St. Cloud State (1), South Dakota (1), South Dakota State (2).

**By Class:** Sophomore (2), Junior (3), Senior (7)

**Honorable Mention:** *Augustana:* Justin VanMeeteren; *St. Cloud State:* Nate Miller; *South Dakota:* Josh Mueller, Derek Paben, Turner Trofholz; *South Dakota State:* Marquis Richardson.

#NCC#