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UAA's Thompson Selected GNAC Pre-Season Player of the Year

GNAC PRE-SEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

*+Travis Thompson, Alaska Anchorage (G, 6-1, Sr., Anchorage, AK)
*Sango Niang, Simon Fraser (G, 6-0, Sr., Paris, France)
*+Andy Avgi, Western Oregon (F, 6-6, Jr., Woodburn, OR)
*+Kevin Rima, Northwest Nazarene (F, 6-7, Sr., Fairbanks, AK)
+Riley Stockton, Seattle Pacific (G, 6-4, Sr., Spokane, WA)
*Cory Hutson, Seattle Pacific (C, 6-8, Sr., Sammamish, WA)
Anye Turner, Western Washington (F, 6-7, Sr., Olympia, WA)
*Brian McGill, Alaska Anchorage (G, 6-2, Jr., Clackamas, OR)
*Austin Hudson, MSU Billings (F, 6-7, Sr., Salt Lake City, UT)
*Joe Slocum, Alaska (G, 6-3, Sr., San Francisco, CA)
Jeffrey Parker, Western Washington (F, 6-6, So., Richmond, CA)
Devon Alexander, Western Oregon (G, 6-1, Jr., Fontana, CA)
Ryan Rogers, Saint Martin's (F, 6-4, Sr., Auburn, WA)
Ricardo Maxwell, Western Washington (G, 5-10, Jr., Cincinnati, OH)
Joey Schreiber, Western Washington (F, 6-7, So., Renton, WA)
*Unanimous +Repeaters

PORTLAND, Ore. – Alaska Anchorage guard Travis Thompson has been voted the *GNAC Men's Basketball Pre-Season Player of the Year* by the league's head coaches.

Thompson (6-1, Sr., Anchorage, AK – Dimond) was one of 15 players selected to the team – eight of them unanimously.

Thompson averaged 21.3 points per game and made 109 of 259 three-pointers last season.

He is the only returning player that earned first team all-league honors last season. Thompson enters his senior season ranked 40th in GNAC history in scoring with 1,197 points.

"We are very happy that Travis received this honor," UAA coach Rusty Osborne said. "He has been a tireless worker throughout his career, and is very deserving as were others in our league.

"His game continues to grow each year, and after another offseason of work, we expect him to have a tremendous senior year," Osborne, who is beginning his 11th season as UAA's head coach, said.

"I know that his (Travis') main goal is for our team to win a league championship and his extra work and preparation

has been more about that than about individual accolades."

Thompson's backcourt mate UAA point guard Brian McGill (6-2, Jr., Clackamas, OR) was also a unanimous selection.

Last year McGill finished second in the GNAC in assists (5.9) and 11th in scoring (15.6) in earning second team all-league honors.

Other unanimous picks to the 2014-15 pre-season team included forwards Kevin Rima (6-6, Sr., Fairbanks, AK – Hutchinson) of Northwest Nazarene, Andy Avgi (6-6, Jr., Woodburn, OR) of Western Oregon and Austin Hudson (6-7, Sr., Salt Lake City, UT) of Montana State Billings, guards Sango Niang (6-0, Sr., Paris, France) of Simon Fraser and Joe Slocum (6-3, Sr., San Francisco, CA) of Alaska and Seattle Pacific center Cory Hutson (6-8, Sr., Sammamish, WA – Skyline).

Niang, who averaged 16.3 points and 5.6 assists and was a second team all-conference selection last year, finished second in the balloting in back of Thompson.

Rima, Avgi and Hudson were honorable mention all-league selections last winter.

Rima averaged 14.8 points and ranked fourth in the GNAC in both rebounds (7.7) and blocked shots (31).

Avgi was WOU's second-leading scorer averaging 13.1 points and was also the team's top rebounder (5.7).

Hudson averaged 14.3 points and was the GNAC's No. 7 rebounder averaging 7 ½ per contest.

Slocum, who is the lone returning starter for Alaska, averaged 10.4 points, 4.1 assists and 2.1 steals last season.

Western Washington, which received seven of a possible nine first-place votes in the GNAC pre-season coaches poll, didn't have a unanimous selection to the pre-season team.

The Vikings did, however, have a league-best four players named to the pre-season squad including forwards Anye Turner (6-7, Sr., Olympia, WA – Black Hills), Jeffrey Parker

(6-6, So., Richmond, CA – Salesian) and Joey Schreiber (6-7, So., Renton, WA – Eastside Catholic) and guard Ricardo Maxwell (5-10, Jr., Cincinnati, OH).

Maxwell was the lone newcomer selected to the team. Two years ago he averaged 20.6 points in earning first team NWAACC all-star honors at Edmonds CC.

Turner, Parker and Schreiber were all starters last year for the Vikings. Turner averaged 8.5 points and ranked third in the GNAC in blocks with 41 and sixth in rebounds (7.5). Parker averaged 11.9 points and led the Vikings in three-pointers making 57 of 132.

Schreiber, who missed eight games with an injury, averaged 10.7 points per game in his freshman season.

Completing the 15-man team were Seattle Pacific guard Riley Stockton (G, 6-4, Sr., Spokane, WA), Western Oregon guard Devon Alexander (6-1, Jr., Fontana, CA) and Saint Martin's forward Ryan Rogers (6-4, Sr., Auburn, WA).

Stockton, an honorable mention selection on last year's post-season all-conference team, averaged 8.1 points and led SPU with 5.8 rebounds and in steals with 44. He also ranked second in assists with 150.

Alexander led the conference in steals (2.1) and also averaged 9.7 points and 2.9 assists. Rogers averaged 13.5 points and 5.9 rebounds a year ago for the Saints.

Stockton is one of four players who were named to the pre-season team for the second year in a row. Thompson, Rima and Avgi were also selected to the pre-season team last fall.