

## Gaels Golf Success Continues with McRae Selection to NCAA

By Jennifer Wake

Saint Mary's junior Mike McRae will head to the Arizona State University's Karsten Golf Course on May 17 as one of six individuals selected to participate in the three-day NCAA 2007 Western Regional Golf Tournament. It marks the fourth straight year the Saint Mary's golf team will have a representative in the NCAA Championships.

McRae finished the 2006-07 season with a 72.6 stroke average, playing at par or better in 19 of the 33 rounds he competed in. Posting a top-20 finish in nine of 11 events this season, McRae also had five top-5 finishes and took home medalist honors at the USF Triumph at Pauma Valley in March, where Saint Mary's captured the title.

The Saint Mary's victory, played March 13 at the Pauma Valley Country Club outside of San Diego, was won with a one-over-par 283-290-280 performance. McRae shot rounds of 70-70-69 at the par-71, 7,077-yard Pauma Valley course. The score of 209 marked the lowest 54-hole score for McRae and the seventh lowest

total in Saint Mary's history.

This season, McRae posted four rounds in the 60s, which included a career-low round of 67 in the final round of the Ogio-Pacific Coast Intercollegiate. Last year, the Salt Lake City native was named to the All-West Coast Conference Team. He entered the final round of the West Coast Conference Championships tied for 10th, but shot 2-under par in the final round to move up to fourth.

Prior to McRae's selection to this year's NCAA Championship, Chad Cocco was selected as an individual in 2006, the SMC golf team earned an at large berth into the 2005 NCAA Western Regional, and Joe Lanza was selected as an individual in 2004.

In order to advance out of the Western Regional tournament, McRae will have to post one of the top two scores for a player not advancing with his team. The championship rounds will start on May 30 and the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club's Gold Course in Williamsburg, Va.



Mike McRae Photo by Rich Davi

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