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**WINONA STATE'S JOHN SMITH NAMED
NABC DIVISION II PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

KANSAS CITY, MO. (March 20, 2007) – Junior **John Smith** of unbeaten Winona (Minn.) State University has been named the Division II Player of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC).

Smith will receive his award on Sunday, April 1, at the annual NABC Awards Show presented by AT & T at the Sydney Marcus Auditorium at the Georgia World Congress Center at 6 p.m.

Smith, a 6-8 forward, is the leading scorer and rebounder for the Warriors, the defending NCAA Division II champion. He averages 16.9 points per game and 9.8 rebounds with 94 blocked shots, 56 steals and 74 assists.

Smith has been a key figure for Coach **Mike Leaf** as the Warriors take a 55-game win streak into a NCAA Division II quarterfinal game Wednesday with unbeaten Bentley College (32-0) at Springfield, Mass. He was named the Division II Player of the Year by the *Basketball Times* and was a member of the NABC and Daktronics All-America teams.

Smith, who has scored just more than 1,500 points, is closing in on 1,000 rebounds for the Warriors, who have a 33-0 record this season. He has also registered more than 300 blocks in his three seasons.

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