



SPORTS NEWS

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SAINTS NAME PAST NATIONAL LEVEL COACH TO LEAD NEW NORDIC PROGRAM

DULUTH, Minn. – Athletic Director Tony Barrett announced today that The College of St. Scholastica has tabbed ex-U.S. Junior Development Biathlon Coach and Minnesota native Chad Salmela as its first head coach for the newly formed men's and women's Nordic ski programs at the College.

Salmela brings a vast breadth of knowledge and experience to the program which will begin competing in the 2006-07 academic year.

A member of the U.S. Biathlon Team for eight years, Salmela moved onto the coaching side of the sport in 1998 as the National Team's Assistant Coach. Later, Salmela took on the job of U.S. Junior Development Biathlon Coach where he helped develop a pair of athletes — sisters Lanny and Tracy Barnes — into Olympic team members.

Salmela has close ties with the Olympic community.

He was the Biathlon Sport Manager of the Salt Lake City games in 2002 where he developed and managed all aspects of the biathlon venue and then became the live-event, on-site color announcer for the Olympic Biathlon and Cross Country Skiing competitions.

In addition to his role at the Salt Lake City games, Salmela was on the United States Olympic Committee's (USOC) Athletes Advisory Council and became the Athletes Services Coordinator for USOC at the 2003 Pan Am Games in Santo Domingo and at the 2004 Olympic games in Athens.

He expanded his announcing role in 2002 as the television Color Analyst of the Biathlon World Cup for the Outdoor Life Network (OLN) which he continues with even today.

Most recently, Salmela was the Color Analyst for NBC's Olympic coverage of the 2006 Torino Games Biathlon events.

Salmela will take on a program that has remarkable resources before the first pair of skis hit the trail. "I can't think of many schools better poised to launch a Nordic ski team, and that is why I am so excited about the opportunity to do this right here in my home town," states the new head coach. "The setting, with such good and reliable snow and great trails, the culture of skiing being so strong within the community, and the reputation of the college, will bring in skiers from across the country to the program."

Expectations are already high for the brand new Nordic teams. "Based on what we have to work with," Salmela adds, "I believe this program can be successful in the future on the national level of collegiate ski racing. It will take some hard work on my part as well as the athletes' part, but I know the college, athletic department, and I are completely on the same page as to where we want this program to ultimately go, and that is to the top."

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