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Southern Utah wins 2002-03 Mid-Con Sportsmanship Award

ELMHURST, ILL. — For the first time in the history of the award, a Mid-Continent Conference institution can lay claim to more than one Mid-Con Sportsmanship Award. After four different schools won the award in the first four years of its existence, Southern Utah University won its second Mid-Con Sportsmanship Award during the 2002-03 school year. The Thunderbird athletic department also took away the honors in 1999-2000.

"This is a special award since it is voted upon by each school's peers within the league," Mid-Con Interim Commissioner Ed Grom said. "Southern Utah runs a first-class program with first-class student-athletes, coaches and administrators. It all starts at the top, with the leadership of President Steven Bennion and Director of Athletics Tom Douple. The Mid-Con commends Southern Utah for being the first two-time winner of this award."

The Mid-Con's Sportsmanship Award is given annually to the league institution that is judged by its peers to be the best in the conference in living up to the ideals of sportsmanship. Areas for evaluation include student-athlete conduct, staff/administrator conduct, coaches conduct and event management.

Past winners of the Mid-Con Sportsmanship Award include UMKC (1998-99), Southern Utah (1999-2000), IUPUI (2000-01) and Valparaiso (2001-02).