

# Another academic national championship!

Southern Utah University's Men's Cross Country team has claimed its first academic national championship with a team grade point average of 3.580 during the 2004-05 season. The award is presented annually by the United State Cross Country Coaches Association (USCCCA).

The Thunderbird men, who won the Mid-Continent Conference cross country title for the seventh time in eight tries this past season, had three athletes named to the conference's all-academic list, including seniors **Brad Parker** and **Aared Sampson** and junior **Chad Sanada**.

"Any time you can win a title, it's a thrill," Head Coach **Eric Houle** said. "It is a testimony of the type of student-athletes we have in our program. All of our athletes scored at least a 28 on the ACT and they work just as hard in the classroom as they do in competition."

"It's a great honor for our student-athletes," SUU Athletic Director **Tom Douple** said. "Coach Houle should be congratulated for recruiting athletes who did a tremendous job of representing Southern Utah University, both athletically and academically."



## *SUU Track and Cross Country Programs Land Two on CoSIDA Academic All-America Teams.*

Southern Utah University's Men's Track and Field and Cross Country programs had two athletes voted to the 2005 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Track & Field/Cross Country teams, which were announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

The Thunderbirds were represented by junior distance runner Chad Sanada, who was voted to the All-America second team, while sophomore distance runner **Jess Baumgartner** earned All-America third-team accolades. In all, 46 student-athletes representing 37 different NCAA Division I institutions were honored. Meanwhile the SUU duo are the only two Utah collegiate student-athletes represented on the teams.



Aared Sampson



Chad Sanada



Jess Baumgartner



Tiffany Burt

### *SUU Softball player named Mid-Con player of the Year*

Southern Utah shortstop **Tiffany Burt** made history in her first season for the Thunderbirds, as the junior transfer from Dixie State became the first player in Mid-Continent Conference history to be honored with the Mid-Con Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year awards in the same season.

Burt was one of four Thunderbirds named either first- or second-team all-conference, along with fellow first-team members, **Jentry Johnson** and **Kortny Hall** and second-team selection **Kristen Carmicheal**. Burt was the epitome of a five-tool player this year in guiding the T-Birds to their third consecutive Mid-Con regular-season title. Burt scored more runs (38) than any other player in the conference this season and shared the league-lead for home runs (11) and total bases (100).

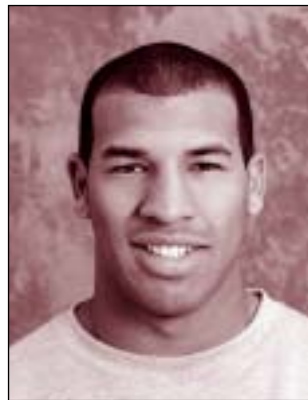
### *Two Thunderbirds Sign NFL Free Agent Contracts*

Two members of Southern Utah University's 2004-05 football team have signed free agent contracts with National Football League teams. **Marques Harris** and **Lee Chart** have both received and accepted offers from NFL squads.

Harris, a 6'-1", 235-pound linebacker from Grand Junction, Colo., received a two-year deal from the San Diego Chargers, while Chart, a 6'-3", 295-pound offensive lineman from Park City, Utah, received a make-good contract from the Indianapolis Colts.

"I couldn't be happier for both Marques and Lee," SUU Coach **Wes Meier** said. "They're both quality players and quality people who now have a great opportunity in front of them. To get an opportunity to play in the NFL and to make a name for yourself is something every football player dreams of at some point and now they've realized at least a part of the dream.

"This is a good indication of the quality of athletes we have in our program," he added. "In fact, this year's draft and free-agent signings have been a good



Marques Harris



Lee Chart

indication of the quality of athletes we have in the Great West Football Conference. Three other players from our league were drafted and, a hand full of others, have signed as free agents in the last couple of days.

Two additional Thunderbirds, linebacker **Mike Overly** and offensive lineman **Jeff Barbee**, have signed contracts to play in the German Football League.

### *Super STUDENT*

**M**atthew Lust, a senior Sociology major at Southern Utah University, has been named a winner in the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research competition for internet research. The Couch Award honors the late Carl Couch, long-time professor of Sociology at the University of Iowa and founder of the so-called "New Iowa School" of social research. Lust, from Fredericksburg, VA, was awarded third place in this national competition for his paper "Virtual Members and Real Interaction: The Internet and Online Sociation." This competition honors student papers from all disciplines researching various aspects of the influence of the Internet on society. He will present his paper at the International Conference in Chicago, Illinois, in October.