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### **Finlandia Men's Soccer Joins WIAC**

HANCOCK – Finlandia University Athletics is pleased to announce that the university will join the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) as an affiliate member in the sport of men's soccer effective in the 2009-10 academic year.

“On behalf of Finlandia University and our men's soccer program, we are positively ecstatic about our affiliate membership within the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference,” said Chris Salani, athletics director at Finlandia.

“Our association within one of the strongest DIII athletics conferences in the country will provide unprecedented opportunities for further development of our men's soccer program. This affiliation provides our student-athletes a level of distinction and opportunity to be very proud of.”

“We are extremely pleased and fortunate to have an institution such as Finlandia University join our conference,” commented WIAC Commissioner Gary Karner. “The addition of Finlandia elevates the sport of men's soccer to championship status within the WIAC, thereby providing our men's soccer teams the opportunity to compete for a conference championship and for our student-athletes to vie for all-conference recognition and other individual honors.”

With the addition of Finlandia University, five institutions will be fielding men's soccer teams in the WIAC. Current conference members include UW-Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, UW-Superior and UW-Whitewater.

The Lions are the fifth institution to gain admission into the WIAC as an affiliate member, joining Lawrence University for wrestling; and Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.), Hamline University (Minn.), and Winona State University (Minn.) for women's gymnastics.

For additional information about the Athletics programs at Finlandia University, please contact Athletics Director Chris Salani at 906-487-7378 or [chris.salani@finlandia.edu](mailto:chris.salani@finlandia.edu).