



# Men's Basketball

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March 4, 2010 • Contact: Mike Kern

## UNI's Ben Jacobson Named Valley's Top Men's Basketball Coach League Champion's Coach Earns MVC Coach of the Year Honors

ST. LOUIS -- For just the fifth time in league history and first since 2002, a coach has earned back-to-back MVC Coach of the Year honors. Ben Jacobson led the Panthers to their first outright league championship, a school-record 25 wins, and a school-record 15 conference victories. UNI achieved its highest ever national ranking (18) and were ranked in the Top 25 for six-straight weeks.

Jacobson received 35 of a possible 40 first-place tallies and 111 total points to outdistance Indiana State's Kevin McKenna in the voting. Wichita State's Gregg Marshall was third in the balloting, conducted by league coaches, media and sports information directors.

In his fourth year as head coach at UNI, Jacobson engineered a regular-season championship for the Panthers, who were picked to win the league in the MVC's pre-season poll. Jacobson has guided the Panthers to a 25-4 overall record, 15-3 in the Missouri Valley Conference, and their first-ever MVC outright regular-season title (the Panthers shared the crown with Creighton last year). UNI received the top seed in this week's State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament.

The last coach to win back-to-back top honors in the MVC was Creighton's Dana Altman (2001, 2002). Jacobson is the 13th coach in Missouri Valley Conference history to win the honor more than once, joining Altman and Southern Illinois' Chris Lowery (2005, 2007) as the league's active coaches to have won the award multiple times. Hall of Famer Maury John of Drake won the award a league record four times (1964, 1968, 1969, 1970) and is the only MVC coach to earn it four times.

While this is Jacobson's first head-coaching job, he had 12 years of prior assistant coaching experience, including as an assistant at UNI for former Panther coach Greg McDermott since 2001-02. In Jacobson's four seasons as head coach at UNI the Panthers have won 18, 18, 23, and 25 games. His 18 wins in his rookie campaign in 2006-07 marked the most for a first-year Panther coach since the team joined the Division I ranks for the 1980-81 season.

Jacobson (2009, 2010) joins Eldon Miller (1997) as the only UNI coaches to have won the league's top coaching honor. The Valley began recognizing a Coach of the Year in 1949.

### 2010 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year Voting

Coach, School	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Ben Jacobson, UNI	35	3	-	111
Kevin McKenna, Indiana State	4	19	12	62
Gregg Marshall, Wichita State	1	11	16	41
Cuonzo Martin, Missouri State	--	4	8	16
Tim Jankovich, Illinois State	--	3	3	9
Marty Simmons, Evansville	--	--	1	1

*Coaches received 3 points for a first-place vote, two points for a second-place vote and one point for a third-place vote.*

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