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# Mountain West Conference MEN'S BASKETBALL

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## MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES 2007-08 MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** – The Mountain West Conference announced its 2007-08 men's basketball awards today. The league's nine men's head coaches, along with a selected media panel, picked the all-conference teams, as well as the coach, player, newcomer, freshman and defensive awards.

UNLV Head Coach **Lon Kruger** captured MWC Coach of the Year honors for the first time, while BYU's **Lee Cummard** and New Mexico's **J.R. Giddens** were named Co-Players of the Year. Additionally, Air Force's **Tim Anderson** garnered Defensive Player of the Year accolades, Colorado State's **Marcus Walker** was chosen as the Newcomer of the Year and San Diego State's **Billy White** was tabbed the Freshman of the Year.

All nine Mountain West institutions were represented on the 15-member all-MWC teams. Regular-season champion BYU and San Diego State led the league with three all-conference selections apiece, highlighted by unanimous first-team honoree Cummard for the Cougars. UNLV and Utah also had multiple players chosen with two each, while Air Force, Colorado State, New Mexico, TCU and Wyoming had one apiece.

Five players were repeat all-conference selections. **Trent Plaisted** of BYU and **Brandon Ewing** of Wyoming are both third-time honorees, with Plaisted moving up to the first team after consecutive second-team selections, while Ewing is a second-team choice for the second straight year, following third-team accolades in 2005-06. Cummard makes the leap to the first team after receiving third-team kudos last season. UNLV's **Wink Adams** was a first-team member this year after earning second-team honors in 2006-07, while Utah's **Luke Nevill** moves up to the second team following a third-team appearance last year.

Kruger collected his first MWC coaching honor after guiding the Runnin' Rebels to their second straight runner-up MWC finish (12-4) and back-to-back 20-win campaigns (23-7) for the first time since the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons.

Cummard, a 6-7, 185-pound junior guard/forward from Mesa, Ariz., led the Cougars to their second straight and fourth overall MWC regular-season title. He finished with the league's second-best field goal shooting percentage in conference play, converting 54.8 percent of his attempts while averaging 15.5 points and 7.1 rebounds.

Giddens, a 6-5, 215-pound senior from Oklahoma City, Okla., helped the Lobos to their highest MWC finish (third) in three years while registering league-high averages of 18.3 points and 8.3 rebounds a game in conference action. He was the only student-athlete to register two 30-point outings in MWC play this season, including a career-high 36 against Wyoming.

Anderson, a 6-3, 180-pound senior guard from El Paso, Texas, led the Falcons and ranked second in the conference with 34 steals while averaging 37 minutes a game in league play. He also registered six blocks against MWC opponents.

Walker, a 6-0, 175-pound junior guard from Kansas City, Kan., ranked second in the league with an 18.1 scoring average in conference action. He topped the 20-point mark in eight of 16 MWC contests this season, including a run of six straight.

White, a 6-7, 190-pound forward from Las Vegas, Nev., led all freshmen in scoring (9.1 ppg) and rebounding (6.5 rpg) in conference action. He shot 62.9 percent from the field and recorded two double-doubles against league opponents.

(more)

## 2007-08 All-Mountain West Conference Men's Basketball Team

(Selected by media and head coaches)

### First-Team All-Mountain West

*Lee Cumnard, BYU	Jr.	G/F	6-7	185	Mesa, Ariz. (Mesa HS)
**Trent Plaisted, BYU	Jr.	F/C	6-11	245	San Antonio, Texas (Clark HS)
J.R. Giddens, New Mexico	Sr.	G	6-5	215	Oklahoma City, Okla. (Univ. of Kansas)
Lorenzo Wade, San Diego State	Jr.	F	6-6	228	Las Vegas, Nev. (Univ. of Louisville)
*Wink Adams, UNLV	Jr.	G	6-0	200	Houston, Texas (Gulf Shores Academy)

### Second-Team All-Mountain West

Tim Anderson, Air Force	Sr.	G	6-3	180	El Paso, Texas (Franklin HS)
Marcus Walker, Colorado State	Jr.	G	6-0	175	Kansas City, Kan. (Indian Hills CC)
Johnnie Bryant, Utah	Sr.	G	6-0	180	Oakland, Calif. (Ohlone College)
*Luke Nevill, Utah	Jr.	C	7-1	265	Perth, Australia (Kell HS-Ga.)
**Brandon Ewing, Wyoming	Jr.	G	6-2	190	Chicago, Ill. (Julian HS)

### Third-Team All-Mountain West

Jonathan Tavernari, BYU	So.	F	6-6	215	Sao Bernardo, Brazil (Bishop Gorman HS)
Ryan Amoroso, San Diego State	Jr.	F	6-8	272	Burnsville, Minn. (Marquette Univ.)
Billy White, San Diego State	Fr.	F	6-7	190	Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley HS)
Kevin Langford, TCU	Jr.	F	6-8	243	Fort Worth, Texas (Univ. of California)
Curtis Terry, UNLV	Sr.	G/F	6-5	205	University Place, Wash. (Curtis HS)

### Honorable Mention

Chad Toppert, Jr., G, New Mexico  
 Joe Darger, Jr., F, UNLV  
 Rene Rougeau, Jr., G, UNLV  
 Brent Hackett, Sr., G, TCU  
 Daniel Faris, Jr., C, New Mexico

**Co-Players of the Year:** Lee Cumnard, BYU; J.R. Giddens, New Mexico

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Tim Anderson, Air Force

**Newcomer of the Year:** Marcus Walker, Colorado State

**Freshman of the Year:** Billy White, San Diego State

**Coach of the Year:** Lon Kruger, UNLV

*\*Indicates number of previous all-conference selections*