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For Immediate Release

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Capital's Kyser Named December OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month

-Written by Mike Ott, Capital Sports Information Assistant

Austintown, OH – Early morning practices, weeks of grueling conditioning, road games all over the state of Ohio, studying by the light of a cell phone on the bus ride home, biology labs, and humanities exams. Welcome to the life of a college student-athlete, specifically Steve Kyser, a senior on the Capital University men's basketball team, and the December Ohio Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Month.

On the hardwood, Kyser averaged 13.2 points and a team-best 5.1 rebounds per game as he helped lead the Crusaders to OAC regular season and tournament titles a season ago. Maybe the most surprising statistic last season for the OAC honorable mention selection was his 20 made three-point baskets. The 6-5, 255-pound post player enjoys nothing more than to take his opponents by surprise with his versatility.



"My favorite thing to do on the basketball court would have to be shooting the three," Kyser said. "Anyone with a big body can bang down low, but I pride myself in being able to take my game outside as well."

When Kyser first broke onto the OAC scene his sophomore year, teams would give him the outside shot because there was no scouting report on him. Now that teams are aware that he is a dual-threat, he is forced to add more to his arsenal if he wants to stay successful.

"The coaches have been working with me on making a pump-fake, then taking one hard dribble and going up with the shot," he said. "They also stress that I need to take my game inside early then work my way out."

Making adjustments and overcoming different obstacles has been the theme of Kyser's life as a student-athlete. Kyser dressed for only a handful of games his freshman year due to being part of a senior-laden squad, and the coaches told him he would have to work hard to get where he wanted to be. Academically, Kyser took a while to get into the flow of balancing basketball and his biology/pre-physics assistant double-major.

On the court, Kyser would take the advice of the coaching staff, and off it he developed a study routine that worked for his busy schedule. The fruits of his labor became evident last year as Kyser was the Kneel Costello Award recipient as the most improved player for the Crusaders, and he closed out the academic year with a cumulative 3.29 grade point average.

Upon graduation, Kyser hopes to enter into a 27-month physician's assistant program consisting of heavy bookwork to start, then more than a year of on-the-job training alongside a doctor. Kyser has spent the last two summers shadowing doctors in the orthopedic and cardiology fields and really valued the experience.