

2009-10 MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE TELEVISION TALENT

TOM ACKERMAN

Play by Play / Sideline Reporter

Tom Ackerman is in his seventh season as a member of The Valley TV Network.

Ackerman will handle play-by-play duties plus serve as the sideline reporter for the 2010 State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship at Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

A 1997 graduate of Indiana University, he is in his 13th year at KMOX Radio (AM 1120) in St. Louis, where he is Manager of Sports Operations and the morning sports anchor on "Total Information A.M." The host of programs like "Sports Open Line" and "Sports on a Sunday Morning," Ackerman has also handled play-by-play duties for University of Missouri men's basketball and served as a sideline reporter on Mizzou football broadcasts for KMOX Radio.

In addition to his radio responsibilities, Ackerman has also served as a host for St. Louis Cardinals post-game shows on Fox Sports Midwest.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Ackerman and his wife, Angie, live in St. Louis, and have a daughter Erika (3).

KIRK CHAMPION

Analyst

Kirk Champion is in his second year with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as an analyst for the 2010 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Baseball Championship in Wichita, Kan.

Champion completed his 21st year in player development for the Chicago White Sox system in 2009. For the past seven seasons, he has served as the White Sox's pitching coordinator.

In all, he spent 14 seasons as a minor league pitching coach, guiding a staff to six postseason appearances and league championships at South Bend of Midwest League (Class A in 1989), Birmingham of Southern League (Class AA in 1993) and Charlotte of International League (Class AAA in 1999).

Champion has had the honor of serving as an All-Star Game pitching coach for the Midwest League (1989), Florida State League (1992), AAA (2001) and MLB Futures (2000).

Serving as the pitching coach for Team USA on three occasions (2001 Baseball World Cup at Taiwan, 2006 Olympic Qualifying Tournament at Havana, Cuba and 2009 Baseball World Cup-winning squad in Italy), he toiled as a pitching coach for the MLB Arizona Fall League in 1998 and 2008.

A 1981 graduate of Missouri State University (then Southwest Missouri State University), he spent 10 years as a college coach before joining the White Sox organization.

He served three years as an assistant coach at MSU, four campaigns as head coach at Rend Lake (Ill.) Community College and three seasons at Southern Illinois. During the 1986 season, SIU captured the Missouri Valley Conference regular-season crown and received an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

A native of Granite City, Ill., he and his wife Jodi live in Shiloh, Ill., and have a son Atlee (14) and a daughter Mabree (11).

DAVE DIR

Analyst

Dave Dir is in his third year with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as the analyst for the 2009 State Farm MVC Women's Soccer Championship telecast from Omaha, Neb.

Dir began his analyst career in 2001 on ESPN and Fox, following a distinguished tenure as head coach of the Dallas Burn of Major League Soccer (MLS). Currently an analyst for MLS telecasts of FC Dallas, he has been a co-host on World Cup Tonight for the 2002 World Cup and

MLS Primetime as well as a sideline reporter and color commentator for U.S. Men's National Team telecasts.

One of the most successful American professional coaches in the 1990s, Dir has been a winner at every level of soccer coaching -- prep, collegiate, club and professional.

Most recently, he was head coach of the Dallas Burn, holds the record for longest tenure with one MLS team and ranks fourth in all-time wins in league history.

The owner of a 121-89 record as a professional head coach, he collected a U.S. Open Cup championship with the Burn in 1997 and back-to-back American Professional Soccer League (APSL) titles with the Colorado Foxes in 1992 and 1993.

Currently, Dir is the president of Associated Soccer Group -- a national soccer consulting company -- and the lead assistant coach for the U.S. Men's Under-20 National Team.

A native of Anchorage, Alaska, Dir attended Western Illinois University. He later played professionally as a goalkeeper for the Chicago Sting in the NASL and was taken with the first pick of the Sting in the 1981 draft.

Dir and his wife Cindy live in Dallas, Texas.

LINDA DOLLAR

Analyst

Linda Dollar is in her second tour (seventh year overall) with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as an analyst for the 2009 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Volleyball Championship in Omaha, Neb. Prior to returning as analyst in 2004, Dollar previously handled analyst duties for the 1997 MVC Volleyball Championship.

The all-time winningest volleyball coach in Missouri State University history, Dollar posted a career record of 758-266-21 in 24 MSU seasons. She ranked second at the end of her coaching tenure on the all-time list for victories in women's collegiate volleyball history.

A three-time conference coach of the year selection, Dollar received a bachelor's degree from Missouri State University in 1970 and a master's degree from the University of Kansas in 1971.

GREG HALBLEIB

Play-by-Play

Greg Halbleib is in his 14th year with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as play-by-play for the 2009 State Farm MVC Women's Volleyball Championship telecast from Omaha, Neb.

He is in his 18th season as the play-by-play television voice for Illinois State University women's volleyball. Halbleib has 30 years of experience as a central Illinois radio broadcaster and is currently the sports director at WJBC Radio -- the flagship station of the Illinois State radio network -- in Bloomington, Ill.

BOB HARSTAD

Analyst

A member of the Missouri Valley Conference's Athletics Hall of Fame, Bob Harstad is in his second season as a member of The Valley TV Network.

Harstad is one of only four MVC players -- Cincinnati's Oscar Robertson, Indiana State's Larry Bird and Wichita State's Xavier McDaniel -- to score 2,000 points (2,110) and grab 1,000 or more rebounds (1,126).

A first-team All-MVC choice from 1989 to 1991, he was named the Missouri Valley Conference's Player of the Year in 1990 and earned State Farm MVC Championship Most Outstanding Player honors in 1991 -- the first tournament played in St. Louis.

A starter in all 128 collegiate games -- the most in Bluejay basketball history -- he led CU to regular-season titles and postseason tournament

crowns in 1989 and 1991. He also powered the Jays to two NCAA Tournament appearances and a win over New Mexico State in the first round in 1991.

A native of Loveland, Colo., Harstad and his wife Kate live in Edmond, Okla., with their sons Jack (10) and Luke (7).

MITCH HOLTHUS

Play-by-Play

Entering his 15th season as one of the league's play-by-play voices is Mitch Holthus. He served as The Valley's lead television play-by-play man for 13 seasons.

In 2007, Holthus was named the third recipient of the league's John Sanders Spirit of the Valley Award -- given to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the late MVC staffer and demonstrates passion for the Conference, strong work ethic and sense of humor.

A native of Smith Center, Kan., Holthus is in his 16th season as the radio play-by-play voice of the Kansas City Chiefs -- the longest tenured play-by-play announcer in KC history -- on their 80-station network.

A 24-year broadcast veteran, he was the play-by-play voice of the Kansas State Wildcats for 12 seasons. He served as television host of the Kansas State football and basketball coaches shows from 1985 to 1996. He also toiled as play-by-play announcer at WIBW Radio, flagship station of the Kansas City Royals, from 1983 to 1996.

He has earned the distinction of being the Kansas Sportcaster of the Year eight times -- 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1998 and 2001 -- from the National Association of Sportscasters and Sportswriters, and has been voted the Metro Sportscaster of the Year by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters nine times.

On the board of directors for the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association, Holthus was inducted into the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in October 2008.

A 1979 Kansas State grad, he and his wife, Tami, a former college basketball player at KSU, have a son Brian (27) and a daughter Hayley (24), who both played basketball and graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan.

JILL HUTCHISON

Analyst

Jill Hutchison is in her 11th year as a member of the Missouri Valley Conference Television Network talent and serves as the league's women's basketball analyst.

A member of the Missouri Valley Conference's Athletics Hall of Fame, Hutchison was inducted into the Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in June 2009.

The former head women's basketball coach at Illinois State, she retired following the 1998-99 season. Hutchison finished with a 461-323 career record, 10 conference championships and two NCAA Tournament appearances.

Three-time president of the WBCA, she was named conference coach of the year three times and district coach of the year in 1996.

TY KEOUGH

Analyst

Ty Keough is in his third year with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as the analyst for the 2009 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Men's Soccer Championship telecast from Des Moines, Iowa.

A veteran soccer analyst, Keough has broadcast a total of four World Cup competitions for ABC/ESPN (USA in 1994, France in 1998 and Korea/Japan in 2002) and TNT (Italia in 1990) and attended a total of seven World Cups.

A U.S. Olympic Team co-captain (1980) and a starter for U.S. National and World Cup Teams (1977-80) in his own right, he was the

lead analyst for the first eight seasons of Major League Soccer for ABC/ESPN, served as analyst from U.S. Men's National Team telecasts (1989-2003) and is currently TV analyst for the Seattle Sounders (MLS).

A 1979 graduate of Saint Louis University, he was a four-time All-American for the Billikens and later went on to play professionally in over 400 matches for a total of 12 seasons in the North American Soccer League (NASL) and Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL).

Following his playing days, he spent 10 campaigns as the head men's soccer coach at Washington University in St. Louis, compiling a .725 winning percentage from 1987 to 1996 and earning UAA Conference Coach of the Year honors five times and NSCAA Midwest Region Coach of the Year laurels in 1995.

Keough and his wife Abby live in St. Louis and have two daughters Meredith (21) and Madeleine (19). In fact, he has helped coach his daughters' JB Marine Soccer Club (St. Louis) to seven Missouri State Cup championships.

LAURA LEONARD

Analyst

Laura Leonard is in her second tour (ninth year overall) with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as an analyst for women's basketball and the 2010 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Softball Championship in Des Moines, Iowa.

Prior to returning as a softball analyst in 2005, Leonard had previously handled a women's basketball analyst role for the league during the mid-1990s.

In her 20th year as a sales representative for Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals, Leonard enters her 19th season as the radio analyst for Drake women's basketball.

A two-sport athlete at Drake University from 1979 to 1983, she played both basketball and softball, earning Academic All-America women's basketball honors in 1983. Leonard later became head softball coach for the Bulldogs from 1985 to 1988.

A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Leonard received a bachelor's degree in education from Drake University in 1983 and earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Drake in 1987.

R.C. McBRIDE

Play-by-Play

R.C. McBride is in his seventh year with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as play-by-play for the 2010 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Softball Championship telecast from Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition to his softball responsibilities, McBride will handle between-game host duties for the 2010 State Farm MVC Women's Basketball Championship at The Family Arena in St. Charles, Mo.

The radio play-by-play voice of Illinois State women's basketball, he is the Program Director of WJBC Radio in Bloomington, Ill. He has received recognition for his news reporting and sports play-by-play, including a National Edward R. Murrow Award for news anchoring in 2002, while the station was named the National Small Radio Station of the Year by the National Association of Broadcasters in 2005 and 2009.

A native of Danville, Ill., McBride is a 1995 graduate of Illinois State University. He and his wife Christy have daughters Paige and Allison, and live in Normal, Ill.

MAC MCCAUSLAND

Analyst

Mac McCausland is in his ninth season as a member of the Missouri Valley Conference Television Network talent team.

During a 22-year period, he has handled television analyst duties for University of Northern Iowa basketball games on KWWL-TV (Waterloo), Iowa Public Television and KFXA-TV (Cedar Rapids).

Since 1980, he has served as a radio/television analyst for the Iowa Hawkeye Sports Network, Creative Sports, Raycom Sports, ESPN, ESPN Plus and/or ESPNU.

A 1968 graduate of the University of Iowa, McCausland played for former Wichita State head coach Ralph Miller with the Hawkeyes from 1964 to 1968 and later served as freshman coach for Miller from 1968 to 1970.

A former boys basketball club head coach, McCausland guided the Waterloo Boys Club team from 1988 to 1994, winning six state championships. Standout players on the Boys Club team included Raef LaFrentz (University of Kansas/Portland Trailblazers) and Ryan Bowen (University of Iowa/New Orleans Hornets).

A native of Maquoketa, Iowa, McCausland has two children: Amy (36) and Kent (33).

DAN McLAUGHLIN **Play-by-Play**

In his 13th season with the Missouri Valley Conference television package is Dan McLaughlin. A studio host for The Valley Network during the 1998 State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Tournament, he is in his 12th season as a play-by-play talent and his second as the television network voice of The Valley.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., and a 1996 Lindenwood University graduate, he works for KMOX Radio in St. Louis and handles sports talk shows and serves as the play-by-play voice for St. Louis Cardinals telecasts on Fox Sports Midwest. For the past nine seasons, he's done play-by-play for University of Missouri men's basketball telecasts on Fox Sports Midwest.

For the past 12 summers, he served as a pre-game show host and reporter for all Cardinal baseball telecasts. His duties have included being the play-by-play voice for Cardinals baseball telecasts on Fox Sports Midwest, KPLR-TV (WB) in St. Louis and the Cardinal TV Network.

In the summers of 2002, 2007 and 2008, McLaughlin handled play-by-play for national telecasts for Fox Saturday Baseball. In 2001, he added play-by-play of the Cardinals on KMOX Radio as well as being host of a weekly program, "Inside Baseball."

McLaughlin and his wife Libby have four children: Luke (4), Avery (3) and twins Barrett and Olivia born on February 11, 2009.

CHARLIE SPOONHOUR **Analyst**

Charlie Spoonhour is in his second tour as a member of the Missouri Valley Conference television network telecast team. Spoonhour, who was 54-31 as the head coach of the UNLV Runnin' Rebels from 2001 to 2004, previously served as an analyst with the MVC TV network for two years (1999-2001).

One of college basketball's most colorful personalities, Spoonhour coached for nine seasons at Missouri Valley Conference member Missouri State University, compiling a 197-81 record, a 1992 Valley Tournament championship, five NCAA Tournament appearances and two NIT appearances. During his tenure at MSU, he was named the Mid-Continent Conference Coach of the Year in 1984, 1987 and 1988.

In seven seasons at Saint Louis University, he guided the Billikens to a 122-90 record and three NCAA Tournament appearances, advancing to the second round twice. In 1994, Spoonhour was named the "National Collegiate Coach of the Year" by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association.

A native of Rogers, Ark., Spoonhour began his collegiate head coaching career at Moberly Junior College (1972-74), registering a 58-17 slate in two seasons while leading the Greyhounds to third place at the National Junior College Tournament in 1974. He then moved on to Southeastern Iowa Community College, working six seasons (1975-81) and collecting a 147-46 record and three Coach-of-the-Year selections (1976, 1979 and 1981).

Named to the Moberly College Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983 and inducted into the National Junior College Basketball Hall of Fame

in 1991, "Spoon" was selected for the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Spoonhour received a bachelor's degree in physical education from the University of the Ozarks in 1961 and earned a master's degree in education from the University of Arkansas in 1972. He and his wife, the former Vicki Korner, live in Las Vegas, Nev.

SCOTT WARMANN **Play by Play / Host**

Scott Warmann is in his fifth season as a member of The Valley TV Network.

Warmann will perform play-by-play duties and serve as the between-games host for the 2010 State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship at Scottrade Center in St. Louis. He will also handle play-by-play responsibilities for the 2010 State Farm MVC Women's Basketball Championship at The Family Arena in St. Charles, Mo.

Warmann handles play-by-play as a member of the Missouri Valley Football Conference telecast team and serves as play-by-play voice for the Southern Illinois' football and men's basketball telecast packages.

A St. Louis native, Warmann was an on-air personality for Clear Channel as a member of the St. Louis Rams radio network team for five seasons. At Clear Channel, he was a studio host on the Rams Radio Network, including the 1999 Super Bowl championship season.

Previously, he has worked at St. Louis radio stations KLSG (1380 AM) and KTRS Radio (AM 550).

SEAN WHEELOCK **Play-by-Play**

Sean Wheelock is in his third year with The Valley Network, and is slated to serve as play-by-play for the 2009 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Soccer Championship telecast from Omaha, Neb., and the 2009 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Men's Soccer Championship telecast from Des Moines, Iowa.

A veteran broadcaster in Major League Soccer since the league's inaugural season of 1996, Wheelock has served as the host of "MLS Wrap" on Fox Soccer Channel, "MLS Extra Time" on ESPN2 and as the voice of the Kansas City Wizards.

His television and radio play-by-play experience also includes numerous MLS matches for ESPN/ESPN2 and Fox Soccer Channel, World Cup Qualifiers, US Open Cup, French League 1, Dutch Eredivise, USL and NCAA men's and women's soccer championships. For the 2006 FIFA World Cup, he worked as a commentator for both XM Satellite Radio and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Aside from his TV work in the United States, Wheelock is the U.S. and CONCACAF correspondent for BBC Radio in the UK. In addition to his soccer broadcasting experience, he has called three Super Bowls for BBC Radio 5 and serves as host of their weekly NFL recap program.

Wheelock and his wife Kelly, who hails from Odiham, Hampshire, England, live in Shawnee, Kansas, and have a daughter Ellee.