

Missouri Valley Conference Style Guide

ABBREVIATIONS:

First reference: Missouri Valley Conference

Subsequent (preferred): The Valley (note the capital "T" in the); Conference (note the capital "C" in second references to The Valley)

Acceptable second reference: MVC, or the MVC (no capital "t" in the)

Television Network (for all-sports league): *The Valley on ESPN3*

Football: Missouri Valley Football Conference

Subsequent (preferred): Valley Football

Acceptable reference: Valley or Valley FB

Acceptable reference: MVFC

Not acceptable: MVC or MVC FB, or MVC Football

ACADEMIC MAJORS:

Use lowercase, except for words that are proper nouns or adjectives:

the department of English, master's degree, bachelor's degree, degree in psychology, Bachelor of Arts and Science, English literature, chemistry, math, Spanish

ALL-AMERICAN, ALL-AMERICA

Use the "n" when referring specifically to an individual, and always capitalize both A's. All-American Erica Fricke. She is an All-American.

ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Team

All-America selection; All-America team

AVOID REDUNDANCY

record -- not new record; sure -- not absolutely sure

destroyed -- not totally destroyed; veteran – not experienced veteran

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL

center fielder, College World Series, designated hitter, doubleheader, double play, earned run average (ERA is acceptable in all references), fastball, first baseman, hit and run (verb), hit-and-run (noun, adj.), home plate, line up (verb), lineup (noun), major league (noun), major-league (adj.), major-leaguer (noun), pinch hit (verb), pinch-hit (noun, adj.), pinch-hitter (noun), pitchout, put out (verb), putout (noun), RBI (singular and plural), shut out (verb), shutout (noun), strikeout (noun), strike out (verb)

BASKETBALL

backboard, backcourt, baseline, foul line, foul shot, free throw, free-throw line, frontcourt, full-court press, goaltending, half-court press, halftime, hook shot, jump ball, jump shot, layup, man-to-man, midcourt, weakside, zone, zone trap

BROADCAST (present and past tense)

The championship will be broadcast on FOX Sports Midwest.

FOX Sports Midwest (not Fox Sports Net). Comcast SportsNet; FOX Sports

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES, COLLEGE CUP

These terms are used for the final eight teams in the NCAA Softball Tournament and NCAA Baseball Tournament and final four teams in the NCAA Men's and Women's soccer tournaments, respectively. They are equivalent terms to the Final Four in men's and women's basketball.

CAPITALIZATION

Capitalize titles when used before a person's name.

Athletics Director Ron Prettyman of Indiana State gave the speech. Ron Prettyman, *director of athletics* at Indiana State, gave the speech.

Do not capitalize homecoming.

Do not capitalize noon or midnight.

Capitalize the word "championship" only when referring to a specific titled event.

The MVC Women's Basketball *Championship* concluded.

The Lady Bears were playing for the *championship*.

For all-conference teams or all-star teams, capitalize the word "all" only when it precedes a capitalized word:

All-Missouri Valley Conference; all-conference; All-America; all-region

Do not capitalize regional or district: East *regional*, the West *district*.

AstroTurf, Dean's List, East Coast, Midwest, West Coast, T-shirt

Capitalize conference when used with the name of the league.

Kristine Willrett earned a spot on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team.

HYPHENS

Use hyphens on modifiers that refer to an individual's height, weight or experience.

Jessie Janik, a *5-foot-10*, outside hitter, pounded the game winning ace.

A *four-year* veteran, Amy Harre found a home in the professional softball league.

Hyphenate all-, co- and self- compounds – all-conference, co-captain, self-taught.

He took first- and second-place times in the 400-meter dash and 200-meter dash, respectively. He was a first-place finisher in the 400. (prefer "He won the 400.")

NICKNAMES

Spell out team nicknames in full. Use the plural with proper adjectives

Braves forward, not Brave forward, and use "brave forward" only if he showed exceptional courage.

NUMBERS

Spell out one to nine and use figures for numbers that are 10 and over. The Missouri Valley returned to a *three*-game Conference series format and saw the league's RPI climb from 15 to seven by season's end.

Scores, heights and weights should always be in numerals. Wichita State beat Bradley, 72-69. Southern Illinois signed a *6-foot-4* guard. UNI's new tackle weighs *285* pounds.

Use noon and midnight without 12. Game time is *noon*. Practice starts at *midnight*.

For ages, used figures. At *36* years, she is the youngest head coach in the league.

Abbreviate number with No. – Nationally, Drake's softball team is ranked *No.* 10 in the Associated Press poll. Don't use "Number 10."

POSSESSIVES

A team nickname which ends in "s" should be followed by an apostrophe.

The Redbirds' leading scorer, Kate Stake, scored 45 runs.

As a modifier, a nickname should not be possessive. Lady Bears coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson.

SAMPLES/COMMON TERMS

Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete First Team; Missouri Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year; Scholar-Athlete of the Week; A member of the 2005 MVC Men's Basketball All-Tournament Team (all caps, since it refers to a specific unit and/or person)

He was a first-team all-MVC scholar-athlete pick; Watkins was a four-time all-MVC performer in cross country (lowercase "a")

player-of-the-week pick; He was MVC Player of the Week; he was player of the week. Creighton won its ninth-straight MVC Tournament title.

STATCREW

Team abbreviations used by the MVC and MVFC in Statcrew

BRAD – Bradley

DU – Drake

UE – Evansville

ILS – Illinois State

INS – Indiana State

LU – Loyola

MSU – Missouri State

UNI – Northern Iowa

SIU – Southern Illinois

WSU – Wichita State

NDSU – North Dakota State

USD – South Dakota

SDSU – South Dakota State

WIU – Western Illinois

YSU – Youngstown State

SCHOOL NOMENCLATURE

BRAD -- Bradley is the principal identifier for the Department of Athletics at Bradley University. BRAD is the preferred abbreviation.

DU -- Drake and DU are the preferred abbreviations for Drake University.

UE -- It's University of Evansville on first reference, and Evansville or UE after that. It's NOT Evansville University or EU.

ISU or ILS -- Illinois State is the principal identifier for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Illinois State University. ISU is the preferred abbreviation, however, ILS is used to differentiate from league member Indiana State (which also uses ISU).

ISU or INS -- ISU is the preferred abbreviation, however, INS is used to differentiate from league member Illinois State (which also uses ISU).

Loyola -- The primary logo is the one with the wolf head over the words Loyola University Ramblers. Full name is Loyola University Chicago, second reference just Loyola. Never use Loyola of Chicago, Loyola (Chicago), Loyola-Chicago, Loyola (Ill.), etc. Can be abbreviated as LU or LUC.

Missouri State -- Missouri State will work in the first reference in a news story, and MSU is an acceptable abbreviation in subsequent references and statistical listings.

UNI -- It's University of Northern Iowa on first mention, UNI thereafter. Please do not refer to UNI at any time as Northern Iowa, and it's not NIU, which is commonly seen.

SIU -- SIU is the preferred abbreviation, however, SIUC is also used (differentiating it from SIUE, which is the abbreviation for the Edwardsville campus). The "SIU" logo is preferred for television, the "dog" logo is preferred for all other uses.

WSU -- The primary logo of Wichita State University athletics is the athletics wheat logo, which is different from the University's wheat logo. In addition, Wichita State athletics' secondary logo is the WUShock mascot logo. For baseball, the secondary logo is the Baseball WU. WSU is the preferred abbreviation on second reference.

NDSU or ND State -- NDSU is the primary abbreviation for North Dakota State University, while ND State has been used for tickers, scoreboards and television broadcasts. Bison - the s sounds like "z"

USD -- USD is the primary abbreviation for South Dakota. Coyotes is the school nickname. It's pronounced Kye-YOTES. (rhymes with Oats).

SDSU -- SDSU is the primary abbreviation for South Dakota State. South Dakota State is the preferred abbreviation on the second reference.

W. Illinois -- The Western Illinois Department of Athletics prefers that Western Illinois be used in references to athletics programs. When an abbreviation is necessary, W. Illinois is preferred. WIU is not preferred.

YSU -- YSU is a suitable and preferred abbreviation for Youngstown State University in news stories and broadcasts.