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## **SOUTHERN UTAH'S TODD SIMON IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2021 JIM PHELAN NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD**

BOSTON, MA --- Southern Utah head coach Todd Simon is the recipient of the 2021 Jim Phelan award.

Todd Simon led Southern Utah to its first ever Big Sky Regular Season Championship and the No. 1 overall seed in the Big Sky Conference Tournament. The Thunderbirds finished 12-2 in conference play and 20-4 overall.

“In the five seasons before Todd Simon took over, Southern Utah averaged seven wins per season,” said Angela Lento Vice President of CollegeInsider.com. “He has shown a great ability to do more with less and there is no question that he will do great things in coaching, before his career is over.”

Southern Utah finished the regular season with the fourth-best scoring offense in the nation at 84.2 points per

game. They were also eighth in the NCAA in scoring margin with a +14.7. His teams have not only excelled on the court, but also in the classroom as well. Southern Utah finished the Fall semester with a 3.09 GPA and had nine student-athletes finish with over 3.0 GPA.

The Jim Phelan Award, which is presented annually to the nation's top Division I coach, is named in honor of a legendary bow-tied coach who spent his entire career at Mount Saint Mary's University.

He led the Mountaineers to the 1962 NCAA Men's Division II Basketball Championship. When he retired in 2003, after coaching for 49 years, he had amassed 830 wins (overall record of 830-524) in all divisions. In those 49 years, 19 of his teams amassed 20 or more wins in a season.

## 2020-21 JIM PHELAN AWARD FINALISTS

Casey Alexander	Belmont
Tony Bennett	Virginia
Mike Boynton	Oklahoma State
Isaac Brown	Wichita State
Scott Davenport	Bellarmino
Darian DeVries	Drake
Scott Drew	Baylor
Andy Enfield	USC
Mark Few	Gonzaga
Dennis Gates	Cleveland State
Leonard Hamilton	Florida State
Chris Holtmann	Ohio State
Juwan Howard	Michigan
Bob Huggins	West Virginia
Pat Kelsey	Winthrop
Eric Konkol	Louisiana Tech
Ritchie McKay	Liberty
Porter Moser	Loyola Chicago
Eric Mussleman	Arkansas
Nate Oats	Alabama
Kelvin Sampson	Houston
<b>TODD SIMON</b>	<b>SOUTHERN UTAH</b>
Byron Smith	Prairie View A&M
Preston Spradlin	Morehead State
Brad Underwood	Illinois

