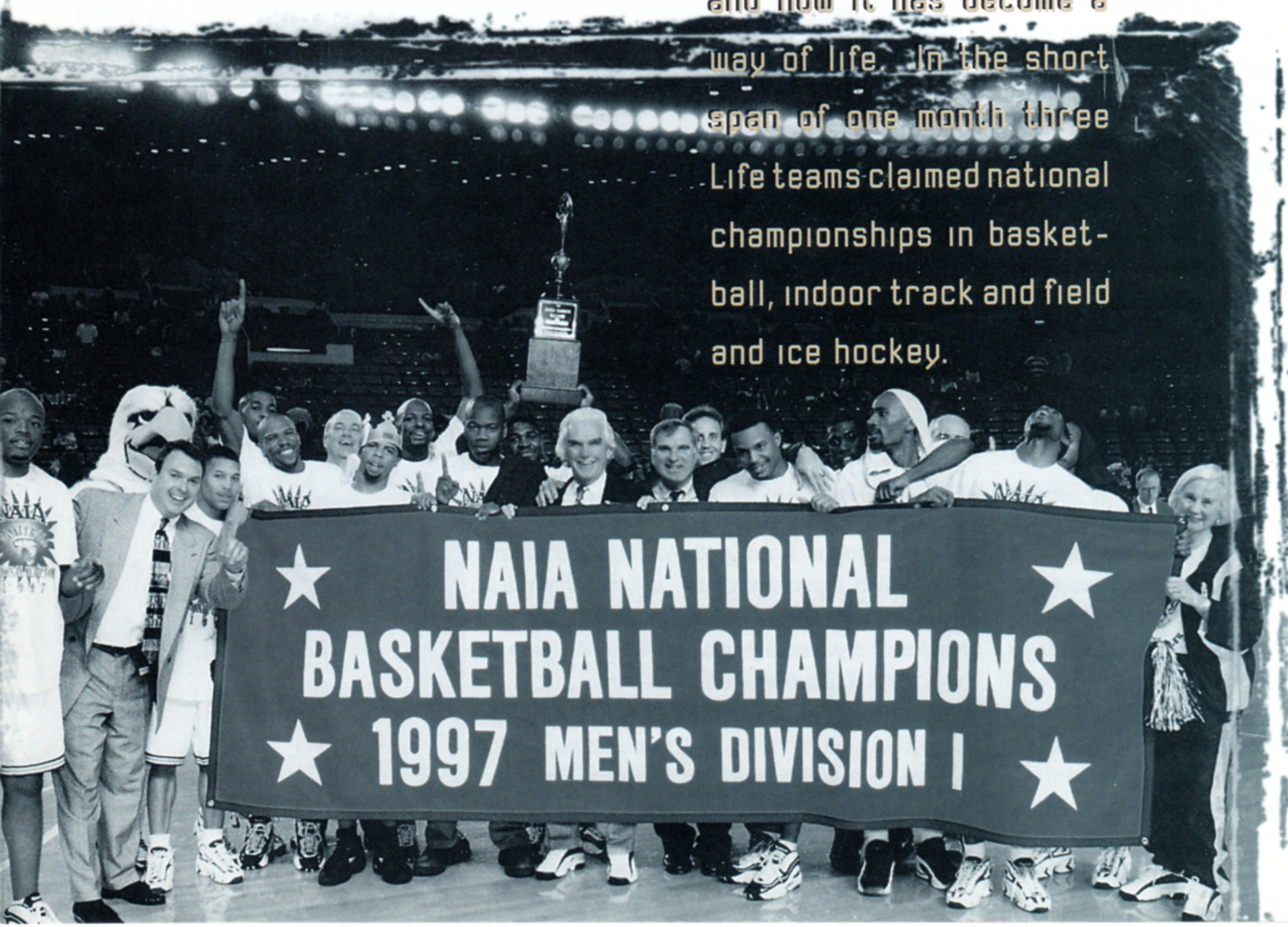


# WINNERSVILLE U.S.A. - LIFE SPORTS CLAIM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Life University winning has always been a passion and now it has become a way of life. In the short span of one month three Life teams claimed national championships in basketball, indoor track and field and ice hockey.







*Roger Kaiser*



*Mike Spino*



In addition, two team leaders claimed national coach of the year honors: **Mike Spino** in track and field and **Roger Kaiser** in basketball. This national title was the second for Head Coach Roger Kaiser. While coaching West Georgia College in 1974 he became the first Georgia college basketball coach to win a national championship.

Life won its first national collegiate title when the men's track and field team won the 1997 NAIA National Indoor Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska in late February.

During March the Life University Running Eagles basketball team claimed the NAIA national championship in Tulsa while the Skating Eagles Hockey squad captured the American College Hockey Association Division II National Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.

Life's indoor runners scored 63 points en route to victory, topping second place California Baptist College by seven points. The women's



team finished in fifth place with 39 points.

Life had four national individual champs and ten individual All-American performances at the meet. Sammy Nyamongo won the 5,000 in 14:34.18; Silah Misoi won the 3,000 in 8:01.79 and set the meet record in prelims; Marten Ejdervall won the weight throw

with a toss of 59 feet 9.75 inches and for the women, Josephine Kandie won the 5,000 in a **new meet record time** of 17:18.22.

Also qualifying for All-American honors: Nyamongo, second in the mile (4:05.13) second in the 3,000 (9:18.73); Misoi, 4th in the mile (4:07.99), distance medley relay team, second (10:06.33) Chris Johnson, 6th in the 600 (1:20.83). For the women: Tumaini Urio, second in the one mile (4:59.40) and second in

the 3,000 (10:04.00); Neketa Sears, second in the 400 (56.48) and 4th in the 200 (25:34).

The Running Eagles finished 16th at last year's indoor championships, but have had two consecutive second place finishes at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships.

The basketball netters claimed their national title —

and an almost perfect 37-1 season — with speed, pressure defense and outside shooting against a much larger Oklahoma Baptist crew. The Running Eagles forced 24 turnovers and hit a dozen three-pointers to win a hard fought 73-64 victory in the national title bout.

It's unbelievable. I'm just out of words," said Don Smiley, after scoring 15 points against Oklahoma Baptist. "Everybody (on Life's team) really wanted this win."

Life beat Huston-Tillotson (Texas), Brigham Young-Hawaii, Birmingham Southern and Cumberland to reach the NAIA final for the second time in four years. The last time they were in the title game was in the 1993-94 season

when the Eagles national crown hopes were thwarted by Oklahoma City 99-81.

Senior forward **James Harris** earned the *Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player Award and All-American Honorable Mention* for his outstanding tournament play. **Curtis Carrington**, a senior guard, was named to the *All American First Team*. **Don Smiley** was elected to the *All-American Third Team*, while **Anthony Maxwell** also received *Honorable Mention*.

Life Hockey — national runners-up a year ago — entered this year's national championship as the number one seed in the Southeast, and after winning five games in four days, captured the national crown.

Not only did they win, but they won big, outscoring their opponents 46-9. Life defeated Central Michigan University 9-2, Wagner College 7-4 and University of Southern California 9-1 in pool play.

In the semifinals Life routed Michigan State 12-0 and in the national championship game the Eagles defeated Penn State 8-2.

Life's Goalkeeper Bryan Musa was named tournament Most Valuable Player. He and Center Ryan Darcy were both named to the All-Tournament team and Life's Defenseman Scott Lynch was named to the second team All-Tournament.

Life finished the hockey season with a 19-3-2 record.

