

# NAIA HOOPS REPORT

## PRESEASON ALL-AMERICAN WATCH LIST

A LIST OF SOME OF THE PLAYERS WHO HAVE BEST CASES FOR NAIA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## NHR PRESEASON TOP 25

THE RELEASE OF OUR NAIA HOOPS REPORT PRESEASON TOP 25 LIST.

## NAIA TO THE PROS - CHRIS COFFEY

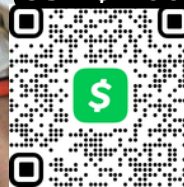
A LOOK INTO THE JOURNEY OF CURRENT PRO AND FORMER GEORGETOWN TIGER, CHRIS COFFEY.

## LEAGUE PREVIEWS

BREAKDOWN OF EACH NAIA CONFERENCE INCLUDING PLAYERS TO WATCH, TOP 5 TEAMS, SLEEPER PICKS AND MORE..



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# HOOPS REPORT

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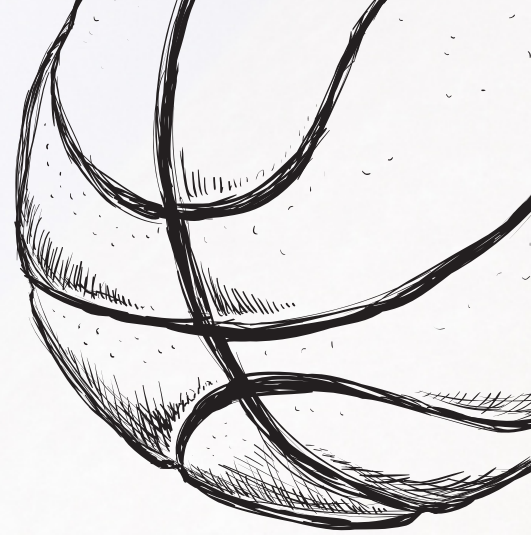
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# Welcome



We are happy to present to you the first NAIA Hoops Report Preseason Magazine.

Our hope, with this entire issue, is to help paint the picture of the landscape of NAIA basketball and to help provide positive excitement about this level of play. This is a project we have wanted to do for the past few years and finally put the MASSIVE work into it that it takes to pull off a magazine!

Recapping last season, we saw Loyola - New Orleans, take home a National Title. They arguably had the Top two players in the NAIA in Zach Wrightsil and Myles Burns. Both of which have decided to use their 5th year of eligibility at NCAA D1 programs. We see NAIA players leave to D1 nearly every season, but this year may be the most we have ever seen. Wrightsil will take his talents to Marquette, Burns heads off to Ole Miss. Their Loyola teammate, Brandon Davis is transferring to Texas State. Also headed to play D1 basketball are All-Americans, Jaylon Scott (Bethel (KS) to Charleston), Alex Gross (Olivet Nazarene to Morehead State) and Jonathan Brown (Central Methodist to Montana). Most of those transfers are grad transfers who decided to move on to D1 for final year of eligibility. BUT, that just goes to show what talent is in the NAIA every year!

While some players chose to use their 5th year to transfer up to D1, heading into this season we still see quite a few impact players using that 5th year of eligibility that was granted to them to remain with their NAIA programs. Highlighting that list are two 1st team All-Americans in Seth Maxwell of Indiana Wesleyan and Matt Simpson of Florida College. Those two also make up just two of the 12 players who return from the 30 member All-American teams last season.

With the small group of impact players returning, it will be interesting to see if some of the prominent NAIA powerhouse teams are able to repeat their dominance within their own leagues. We saw some teams last season take some big steps forward and are now hungry to fight for league titles. We will get to see if we see some "changing of the guard" a bit around the NAIA. Especially with the Top 25 ranking system moving from conference raters to now having the ARC raters rank the Top 25 teams. It will be interesting to see what impact that has on the polls this season!

No matter how this season turns out, you know it will be another great year in the NAIA! We are excited to be alongside of you the entire way! The Magazine is one of our top new features for this season, but as always we will be putting out articles all year long at [www.naiahoopsreport.com](http://www.naiahoopsreport.com). Junior and Pat Derksen will also be back for NHR - The Podcast. We are so excited that our platform helps to bring attention and awareness to the players and coaches of the NAIA, who are deserving of the support! None of this article is meant to take away from any other program or player, it's simply a conversation starter on what should be a GREAT basketball season!

# NAIA HOOPS REPORT PRESEASON TOP 25

Jumping right into it with our preseason Top 25 poll, which is always a fun one, because this time of year, EVERYONE is excited about the upcoming season, and this helps to strike up conversations. While we never pretend to know everything, we do a ton of research on what teams have returning, the transfers they have signed and any impact Freshman that a team may have. There will always be a few surprises along the way, as well as others who don't live up to expectations, but the unknown is the fun part of each season! Hopefully our Top 25 poll helps to paint the early picture of some of the teams to watch out for. For those of you who are new around here, this is NOT the official NAIA poll. That will be released on October 26th, on the NAIA website. Until then, we hope you enjoy our Preseason NAIA Hoops Report Top 25!

# 1

## ARIZONA CHRISTIAN

Hard to not love this Firestorm squad heading into this season. A squad that went 31-5 and lost in the Fab Four last season returns elite guard play in Angelo Johnson (2nd Team All-American) and Dennis Flowers, who was the team's 2nd leading scorer last year. They also return shooter, Paul Hayden who is 41% from 3 in his career and KeyVaughn Williams, who has 105 wins in his career at ACU. The Firestorm also return starting Forward, Bryce Davis, who was part of the NAIA All-Tournament team last season. The Firestorm will add newcomers Trent Hudgens, a D1 transfer from Santa Clara who was also a Top 5 prep player in Arizona out of High School, Mikah Blackwell, a 1st Team All-State California JUCO selection after averaging 18pts/10rebs per game, sharp shooting, James Berry, from D1 Merrimack and Ethan Blythe (Lane CC), DPOY in the NWACC. This is already a loaded group who is also expecting big things from 6'9 Freshman, Rick Maganga, who comes to ACU out of Gabon, Africa. When you are looking at teams who can compete for a National Title, ACU has the talent, the coaching, the guard play, the size and the depth to win it all. Can they piece it all together? We shall see, but they deserve the top spot in the rankings and will enter the season as the favorites to bring home a NAIA National Title.



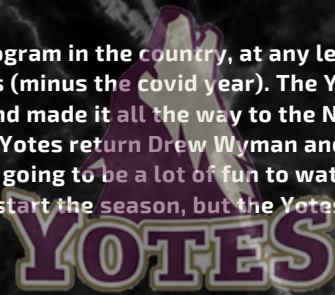
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## WILLIAM JESSUP

Could we see back-to-back seasons with two teams from the same league meeting in the national title game? Jessup returns their top two scorers in GSAC POY, Cash Williams (1st Team All-American) and Myles Corey (HM AA). They also return starter, Jaylen Johnson and part time starters Charlie Garison and Jordan Adams. They bring in a pair of NAIA transfers, Xavier Lovelace (Eastern Oregon) who is a perfect fit for how the Warriors play and Nigel McKay (Warner Pacific) big time shooter. They also bring in Max Edwards (La Pierce College) who averaged 18ppg in 2020 to gain All-State Cali JUCO honors. Jahvy Medearis (D1 Cal State-Bakersfield) and Aashay Verma (Butte College). This is a Warrior team that is built for another deep run after falling to Arizona Christian in the NAIA Quarterfinals last season.

## COLLEGE OF IDAHO

3



College of Idaho is the only men's program in the country, at any level, that has won 30+ games in each of the past four regular seasons (minus the covid year). The Yotes went 32-5 last season, won the Cascade Collegiate Conference and made it all the way to the NAIA Quarterfinals, before falling to the National Champions, Loyola. The Yotes return Drew Wyman and Jake O'Neil, two Sophomores that had big time Freshman years and are going to be a lot of fun to watch over the next three seasons. 3rd overall may be a little aggressive to start the season, but the Yotes are going to be really, really good!

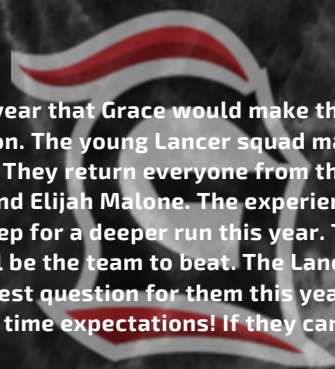
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## INDIANA WESLEYAN

Headed into Year Three as one division in the NAIA and the Wildcats have spent the better part of the past two seasons inside the Top 5. They bring back Seth Maxwell, who will be an early season favorite to win the NAIA National Player of the Year. They also return Spencer Piercefield who is one of the more underrated guards in the country. IWU is coming off of a 16-2 record in the Crossroads last season and even though they are losing some key contributors they should be the early season favorites to win the league once again! They have a really fun and strong non-conference schedule, so this is a team we are going to find out a lot about early on the in the season!

## GRACE

5



For us, we thought this would be the year that Grace would make their big jump. They had other ideas though and made that jump last season. The young Lancer squad made it all the way to Kansas City before losing in the NAIA Round of 16. They return everyone from that squad and feature two NAIA POY candidates in Frankie Davidson and Elijah Malone. The experience this team got last year will only help them this season as they prep for a deeper run this year. The Crossroads League is always brutal and Indiana Wesleyan, will still be the team to beat. The Lancers are no longer young though and have been battle tested. The biggest question for them this year is how they handle going from an "up and coming" team, to one with big time expectations! If they can handle that, this is a team that can compete with anyone!



# 6 OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN

OKWU comes into the season, fresh off of a 34-3 season that took them all the way to the NAIA Quarterfinals. The Eagles are a deep squad, that has played basically a 5 in - 5 out system the past few years. They are anchored by 3rd Team All-American, Jaiden Letzke, who is back and could be the early favorite to win the KCAC Player of the Year. Head Coach, Donnie Bostwick, will have the Eagles ready to make another deep run this season!

## FAULKNER

The SSAC was the best league in the NAIA last season, as proven by having both Loyola and Talladega in the National Championship game. With both of those squads losing head coaches and a plethora of good talent, the Eagles look to be soaring into the top spot this year. They are led by SSAC Freshman of the Year and 3rd team All-American, CJ Hines and also return 1st team All-SSAC member, Trace Hill. They have lost two years in a row now in the Round of 16, but once again look like a team primed to make a run to Kansas City!

# 8 JAMESTOWN

A new year is upon us and here we are again, with Jamestown inside of our Preseason Top 10. As they should be, with Mason Wlaters (2x All-American) back in the fold. He is a contender for National Player of the Year and leads a veteran Jimmie group that despite some major hiccups in the regular season, over the past two seasons, has played their best basketball at the end of each season. They have now made back-to-back trips to Kansas City and are looking good to make it 3 straight!

## GEORGETOWN

We had gone back and forth with Georgetown and Thomas More here, but we eventually settled in with Georgetown taking the final spot in the Top 10. They return 3 starters from last year and you can add in a fourth returning starter if you count the return of Jake Ohmer, who led Georgetown in scoring back in 2020, when the Tigers were the #1 ranked team in the NAIA before the Covid-shortened season. The Tigers got upset in the NAIA opening round last season, but Coach Briggs has the Tigers looking like a contender again!

# 10 THOMAS MORE

Thomas More is set to leave the NAIA after this season and they would love nothing more than to leave it with a Red Banner! They are coming off of a Fab Four run last season and return Reid Jolly (1st Team ALL-MSU), Noah Pack (HM All-MSU), Jacob Jones, Casey George and Wyatt Vieth from that team. Justin Ray and staff will also turn to 4 incoming transfers to help the Saints compete for a National Title this season. This is a dangerous Thomas More team, who plays well together on both sides of the ball. If the new guys buy-in right away, and gels together, the Saints can be a National Title contender!

- 11. CUMBERLAND (TN)**
- 12. LSU -SHREVEPORT**
- 13. MACU**
- 14. SCIENCE & ARTS (OK)**
- 15. WILLIAM PENN**
- 16. MARIAN**
- 17. LANGSTON**
- 18. CONCORDIA (NE)**
- 19. STILLMAN**
- 20. FLORIDA COLLEGE**
- 21. OTTAWA (AZ)**
- 22. HUNTINGTON**
- 23. MONTANA TECH**
- 24. INDIANA TECH**
- 25. SOUTHWESTERN (KS)**

A basketball player, Chris Coffey, is shown in mid-air, holding a basketball with his right hand. He is wearing a white Georgetown jersey with orange trim and the number 13. The background is dark with swirling white smoke or mist. The text "NIAIA TO THE PROS" is overlaid in large, orange, outlined letters.

# NIAIA TO THE PROS

**CHRIS COFFEY**  
GEORGETOWN (KY)

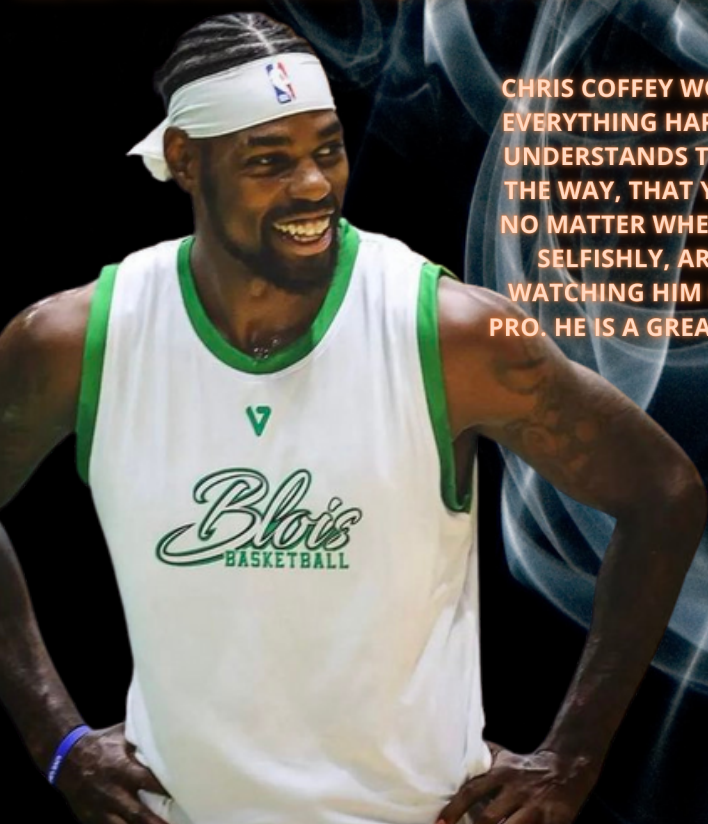
DESPITE WHAT SOME OUTSIDERS MAY THINK OR SAY, GOING PRO FROM AN NAIA PROGRAM ISN'T JUST A REALITY, IT IS A COMMON OCCURANCE. OUR 'NAIA TO THE PROS' FEATURES WERE SOME OF OUR MOST READ ARTICLES WHEN WE FIRST STARTED NAIA HOOPS REPORT. FOR US, WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE CAREERS OF SOME OF THE MOST PROMINANT PLAYERS TO EVER PLAY AT THIS LEVEL. ONE OF THE MORE RECENT, OF THOSE PROMINANT PLAYERS, IS THE JOURNEY OF 2020 NAIA PLAYER OF THE YEAR, CHRIS COFFEY. WHOSE JOURNEY TOOK HIM FROM A HIGH SCHOOL KID WHO WAS THINKING OF BECOMING A MARINE, TO ONE OF THE FIERCEST COMPETITORS THE NAIA HAS SEEN OVER THE PAST DECADE!

HEADING INTO HIS SENIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL, CHRIS DIDN'T HAVE MANY OFFERS TO PLAY COLLEGE BASKETBALL. WITH HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE ROTC, HE THOUGHT HIS FUTURE WAS ONE AS A MARINE. THINGS CHANGED THAT SUMMER THOUGH WHEN GEORGETOWN ASSISTANT, JAMES JACKSON, SAW CHRIS PLAY. COACH JACKSON SAW THE POTENTIAL WITHIN CHRIS AND WENT TO CHRIS'S HOMETOWN OF LOUISVILLE, KY TO SEE HIM AND HIS FAMILY. AFTER THE BASKETBALL SEASON, CHRIS WAS ABLE TO GO ON A VISIT TO GEORGETOWN AND THAT IS WHEN HE KNEW THAT HIS FUTURE WAS AS A COLLEGE BASKETBALL PLAYER AND NOT AS A MARINE. HE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CAMPUS AND THE TRADITION. HE LOVED HOW MUCH COACH CHRIS BRIGGS AND JACKSON BELIEVED IN HIM AND HE KNEW IT WAS AN EASY DECISION TO JOIN THE TRADITION RICH PROGRAM AND TRY TO LEAVE HIS OWN MARK ON THE PROGRAM!

IN A PROGRAM WITH A HISTORY OF GREAT TEAMS AND PLAYERS, CHRIS COFFEY DID INDEED LEAVE HIS OWN MARK ON THE PROGRAM. DURING HIS TIME AS A TIGER, COFFEY, ALONG WITH FELLOW SENIOR ALL-AMERICANS, ELJAY COWHERD AND JACOB CONWAY, HELPED TO LEAD GEORGETOWN TO THE 2019 NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (THE PROGRAMS FIRST SINCE 2013). IN 2020, WHEN COVID CANCELED THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT, THE TIGERS WERE THE #1 TEAM IN THE COUNTRY. AT 30-2, THEY MAY HAVE BEEN ON THEIR WAY TO BACK-TO-BACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. COFFEY WAS A BIG PART OF THOSE SQUADS AS HE WAS TWICE NAMED TO THE NAIA ALL-AMERICAN LIST, INCLUDING BEING NAMED THE NAIA PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN 2020. HE WAS NAMED AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER IN THE 2019 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. A CAREER THAT WILL NO DOUBT LEAD TO A FUTURE GEORGETOWN TIGER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION.

HIS NAIA SUCCESS HELPED LAUNCH HIM INTO A PRO CONTRACT. COFFEY SIGNED HIS FIRST PRO CONTRACT IN LATVIA IN 2020. HIS SUCCESS AS A PRO HAS OPENED UP OPPORTUNITIES TO WORKOUT FOR NBA TEAMS AND HE EVEN JOINED THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS MINI CAMP THIS PAST SPRING. HE IS CURRENTLY IN FRANCE, PLAYING IN THE BETCLIC ELITE LEAGUE WITH ADA BLOIS BASKET 41. WHILE THE NBA IS THE DREAM AND GOAL STILL, CHRIS IS ENJOYING TRAVELING THE WORLD AND LEARNING ABOUT HIMSELF ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS OUT OF LIFE! HE HAS ALSO TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SHOWCASING HIS TALENTS IN THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (TBT) ON ESPN THE PAST TWO SUMMERS. COFFEY GOT THE INVITE FROM HIS AGENT, DREW KELSO - OMS, ALMA MATTER, TEAM ARKANSAS. THE \$1 MILLION, WINNER TAKE ALL, EVENT HAS ALLOWED CHRIS TO FIND A NEW FAMILY WITH HIS TEAM ARKANSAS GUYS. HE SAID THE TBT IS LIKE A ROLLERCOASTER BECAUSE YOU JUST DON'T EVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. EVERY TEAM IS LOADED WITH TALENT, INCLUDING MANY WHO HAD STINTS IN THE NBA. MAYBE NEXT YEAR THEY CAN FIND A WAY TO WIN IT ALL, BUT FOR NOW, COFFEY ENJOYS HIS TEAMMATES AND GETTING TO PLAY AGAINST SOME OF THE BEST PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

CHRIS COFFEY WOULD HAVE MADE A HECK OF A MARINE, BUT HE IS A BIG BELIEVER THAT EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON. EVEN IN THE UPS AND DOWNS OF HIS CAREER, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AS LONG AS YOU STAY TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE, AND LET GOD LEAD THE WAY, THAT YOUR DREAMS AND GOALS WILL COME TO LIGHT! IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT NO MATTER WHERE CHRIS COFFEY'S JOURNEY TAKES HIM, HE IS SET UP FOR SUCCESS. WE, SELFISHLY, ARE GLAD HE CHOSE THE NAIA OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL! IT HAS BEEN FUN WATCHING HIM GROW FROM HIS TIME AS A FRESHMAN, TO WHAT HE HAS BECOME AS A PRO. HE IS A GREAT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAIA AND SOMEONE THAT WE CAN ALL ROOT FOR AS HIS PRO CAREER CONTINUES ON!



# PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCHLIST

## NAIA POY WATCHLIST

**Angelo Johnson**, 5'9 5Y, Arizona Christian  
**Kyran Jones**, 6'5 Sr, Georgetown  
**Frankie Davidson**, 6'7 Jr, Grace (IN)  
**Elijah Malone**, 6'10 Jr, Grace (IN)  
**Mason Walters**, 6'9 Sr, Jamestown  
**Seth Maxwell**, 7' F 5Y, Indiana Wesleyan  
**Taeshon Cherry**, 6'8, Marian  
**Cashmin Williams**, 6'3 Sr, William Jessup

## PRESEASON NAIA ALL-AMERICANS

**Will Philpot**, 6'5, Alice Lloyd  
**Vinny Belcaster**, 6'3, Bellevue  
**Drew Wyman**, 6'5 So, College of Idaho  
**Tony Burks**, 6'3, Columbia (MO)  
**Steven Fitzgerald**, 6'3, Cumberland  
**Nate Pryor**, 6'4 Sr, Eastern Oregon  
**Matt Simpson**, 6'0 5Y, Florida College  
**Jake Ohmer**, 6'1 Sr, Georgetown (KY)  
**Zach Goodline**, 6'1 Sr, Huntington  
**Jun Murdock**, 5'11 So, Kansas Wesleyan  
**Cortez Mosley**, 6'6, Langston  
**Jakemin Abney**, 6'4, LSU Alexandria  
**Jalen Brooks**, 6'5 Sr, LSU Shreveport  
**DaRaun Clark**, 6'5 Sr, MACU  
**Mark Mettie**, 6'10, Madonna  
**Kaleb Lowery**, 6'8 So, The Master's  
**Anthony Brown**, 6'4 Sr, MidAmerica Nazarene  
**Caleb Bellach**, 6'7 Jr, Montana Tech  
**Charles Jones**, 6'2 Sr., Multnomah  
**Alex Van Kalsbeek**, 6'6 Jr., Northwestern (IA)  
**Jaden Lietzke**, 6'7 So, Oklahoma Wesleyan  
**Tyler Schmidt**, 6'4, Olivet Nazarene  
**Josiah De'laCerde**, 6'7, OUAZ  
**Lorenzo Anderson**, 6'4, Peru State  
**Langston Gaither**, 6'4, Science & Arts (OK)  
**Gary Mims**, 6'5, Simpson  
**Riley Minix**, 6'7 Sr, Southeastern (FL)  
**Cevin Clarke**, 6'2 Jr, Southwestern (KS)  
**Antwaan Cushingberry**, 5'9 Sr, St. Francis (IN)  
**Markelle Turner**, 6'2 Sr, Union  
**Myles Corey**, 6'2 Jr, William Jessup  
**Chanze Cruesoe**, 6'1 Jr, William Penn



# 2022-23 LEAGUE PREVIEWS

*Your Ultimate Preseason Guide to NAIA Men's Basketball Leagues*





## American Midwest Conference Preview

THE AMERICAN MIDWEST CONFERENCE HAS HAD 3 DIFFERENT CHAMPIONS OVER THE PAST 3 SEASONS. DEFENDING CHAMPIONS, MISSOURI BAPTIST LOST THEIR TWO BEST PLAYERS AND WHILE THEY STILL SHOULD COMPETE FOR THE AMC TITLE, WE COULD SEE A NEW TEAM WIN THE AMC FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT SEASON. IT TRULY IS A WIDE-OPEN LEAGUE. AS OF RIGHT NOW THOUGH, COLUMBIA (MO) LOOKS LIKE THE TEAM TO BEAT HERE. THEY RETURN THE 2020-21 AMC POY, TONY BURKS, AS WELL AS A GOOD CORE OF OTHER RETURNERS. WHILE THE AMC WILL ENTER THE SEASON WITH FOUR LEGIT TEAMS, WHO SEEM TO BE READY TO COMPETE FOR THE AMC TITLE, DON'T COUNT OUT A FEW SLEEPER TEAMS LIKE LYON AND WILLIAMS BAPTIST. BOTH TEAMS HAVE A COUPLE KEY IMPACT TRANSFERS THAT COULD HELP CATAPULT THEIR TEAMS UP THE AMC STANDINGS THIS YEAR! NATIONALLY, THE AMC HASN'T HAD MUCH SUCCESS IN THE NAIA TOURNEY THE PAST FEW SEASONS. HOWEVER, THIS IS A LEAGUE TO KEEP AN EYE ON EARLY. THERE ARE A LOT OF MATCHUPS AGAINST ARC TEAMS FROM THE HEART AND THE KCAC. IF THEY CAN SNEAK A FEW EARLY WINS AGAINST ARC OPPONENTS, THEN THERE IS A CHANCE THEY CAN CLIMB THE ARC RANKINGS HIGH ENOUGH TO GET TWO TEAMS IN THIS YEAR. THAT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT THIS SEASON AS THE PARITY IN THE LEAGUE WILL MAKE THAT AMC TOURNAMENT A DOG FIGHT! WITH A LOT OF PLAYERS LOST TO GRADUATION AND A LOT OF LATE COACHING CHANGES LAST SEASON, THERE ARE A LOT OF PROGRAMS IN THE AMC WHO ARE LOOKING TO TAKE THAT NEXT STEP.

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Columbia (MO)

COLUMBIA GAVE IT ALL THEY COULD IN THE AMC FINALS LAST YEAR, BUT FELL JUST SHORT OF A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BID. THEY LOSE 1ST TEAM ALL-AMC MEMBER, CHIMA ODUOCHA, BUT THEY RETURN ARGUABLY THE BEST RETURNER IN THE LEAGUE IN, 2X ALL-AMERICAN AND 2020-21 AMC POY, TONY BURKS. BURKS 16.2PPG, WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR 3RD IN THE AMC LAST YEAR AND LEADS A GROUP OF THREE RETURNING COUGARS WHO WERE ALL AMC SELECTION LAST SEASON. LOOK FOR TRANSFER MARLON ALLEN (HILLSBOROUGH CC) TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT FOR THE COUGARS AS WELL. ALLEN SPENT HIS FRESHMAN SEASON AT TRUETT MCCONNELL WHERE HE AVERAGED 14.3PPG AND 8.9RPG. THE COUGARS LOOK READY TO WIN AN AMC TITLE!



### 2. Missouri Baptist

THE DEFENDING AMC REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM TO REPEAT AS CHAMPS. THEY LOSE ALL-AMC PLAYERS, BRENDON HARDY, JOHN YAEGER AND RJ PAIR. THAT TRIO WAS THEIR TOP 3 SCORERS FROM LAST SEASON. IN ORDER FOR THE SPARTANS TO REPEAT, THEY ARE GOING TO NEED A BIG YEAR FROM JADIS WHITE, IF THE TRANSFERS CAN STEP UP AND FILL IN SOME HOLES, THEN MBU WILL BE JUST FINE. THIS IS A TEAM THAT WE WILL HAVE OUR EYE ON EARLY ON IN THE SEASON.



### 3. Central Baptist

CENTRAL BAPTIST IS COMING OFF A BIT OF A STRANGE YEAR IN 2021-22. THE MUSTANGS HAVE OWNED THE AMC IN RECENT YEARS, AND WILL LOOK TO GET BACK TO THE TOP, AFTER A LATE COACHING CHANGE LED TO A BIT OF A DOWN YEAR. LOSING AMC POY, KELVIN ROBINSON AND JORDAN PARKER, ARE BIG LOSSES, BUT HEAD COACH, SAM KOHNKE HAD A FULL OFFSEASON TO RECRUIT THIS YEAR AND WAS ABLE TO BRING IN SOME TALENTED PIECES AROUND KEY RETURNERS, BREVIN BRIMBLE (14.5PPG), JAMES MOORE (9.8PPG), JALEN ADAMS (9.6PPG) AND BRAYLEN STEEN (7.0PPG) AND BLAKE BRADSHAW (5.4PPG). RETURNING 2/3RDS OF THEIR SCORING FROM LAST SEASON IS A GOOD THING FOR THE MUSTANGS. EXPECT BRIMBLE TO TAKE HIS GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND IF THE MUSTANGS GROUP OF NEW GUYS CAN FILL SOME HOLES, THIS IS A CBC TEAM THAT CAN COMPETE FOR AN AMC TITLE!



### 4. William Woods

THE OWLS HAVE BEEN TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS AND ARE CERTAINLY A TEAM THAT COULD SNEAK UP AND WIN THE LEAGUE. THEY RETURN 11 PLAYERS FROM A 3RD PLACE FINISH LAST SEASON, INCLUDING 2X DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR, DARIOUS YOHE. LOSING 1ST TEAM AMC MEMBER, MAKENZIE FESSLER, IS A BIG LOSS. THEY DO ADD GRAD TRANSFER AND FORMER AMC HM ALL-CONF MEMBER, GRANT PETERS, TO THE MIX GIVING THEM A NICE TRIO OF NATHAN SCHWARTZLE, PETERS AND YOHE! IF THEY CAN GET CONSISTENT PLAY FROM THEIR BENCH/DEPTH PIECES, THE OWLS CAN FIND THEMSELVES IN CONTENTION AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

### LYON 5. Lyon

THIS LYON SQUAD IS JUST TWO YEARS REMOVED FROM AN AMC TITLE. HOWEVER, A LATE COACHING CHANGE, LED TO A BIT OF A DOWN YEAR FOR 1ST YEAR HEAD COACH, RODNEY MAYES AND THE SCOTS. THEY ALSO LOST LEADING SCORER BEN KEATON TO AMC FOE, WILLIAMS BAPTIST. HOWEVER, THEY RETURN AMC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR, JOHN PAUL MORGAN, WHO AVG 13PPG AND LED THE ENTIRE AMC IN RPG WITH 10.4. THE SCOTS WILL LOOK TO A HANDFUL OF TRANSFERS, HIGHLIGHTED BY DELVONTA MCCLLOUD (D2 KENTUCKY ST), WILLIE LUCAS (NAIA POINT UNIV) AND SANDO HILL (D2 EAST CENTRAL). THEY WILL ALSO BE LOOKING FOR INCOMING FRESHMAN, JOHN THOMAS MORGAN TO HAVE A BIG YEAR!

## AMC POY Watch List

Tony Burks - Columbia  
Darius Yohe - William Woods  
John Paul Morgan - Lyon  
Brevin Brimble - Central Baptist  
Ben Keton - Williams Baptist

## Top Transfers

Isaac Ragland - Lyon (D2 Ark Tech)  
Nikola Sasaroga - Lyon (South GA Tech JC)  
Ben Keton - Williams Baptist (Lyon)  
Grant Peters - William Woods (Hannibal-Lagrange)

## Freshmen To Watch

Wyson Miller - William Woods  
Oluwadara Idowu - Williams Baptist  
Abdulh Diaby - William Woods

## 1 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers



LYON



## Appalachian Athletic Conference Preview

THERE IS NO SECRET HERE. THE FAVORITES TO WIN THE APPALACHIAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE WILL BE THE UNION BULLDOGS. THEY HAVE WON 8 OF THE LAST 9 REGULAR SEASON TITLES AND 9 STRAIGHT AAC TOURNAMENT TITLES. THEY RETURN THE 2X-REIGNING AAC POY, MARKELL TURNER, AND THE AAC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR, TERRIN HAMILTON. THEIR BIGGEST RIVAL OVER THE PAST FEW SEASONS, MONTREAT, LOST THEIR HEAD COACH AND BEST PLAYER. THEY ARE A FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM TO START THE SEASON AND CERTAINLY HAVE THE FIRE POWER TO CRACK IT OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEASON. HOWEVER, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE BULLDOGS WILL GO UNCONTESTED FOR AN AAC TITLE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE AAC MAY BE THE MOST VETERAN LEAGUE IN ALL OF THE NAIA. THERE ARE SEVERAL TEAMS WHO RETURN BACK ALL FIVE STARTERS. ESPECIALLY FROM THE TEAMS WHO MADE THE AAC SEMIFINALS LAST SEASON. TEAMS LIKE REINHARDT, TN WESLEYAN, COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL AND TRUETT MCCONNELL ARE THE VETERAN GROUPS WHO WILL LOOK TO TAKE DOWN UNION. THE AAC PLAYS A 24 GAME CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, SO TEAMS BEAT UP ON ONE ANOTHER AND A BAD 3 OR 4 GAME STRETCH CAN REALLY TAKE A TEAM OUT OF CONTENTION. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF TEAMS RETURNING 4 TO 5 STARTERS, THIS IS A LEAGUE THAT LOSES 7 OF THE 12 1ST TEAM ALL-AAC SELECTIONS AND 6 OF THE TOP 10 LEADING SCORERS. MARKELL TURNER, BARRING INJURY, SHOULD WIN HIS 3RD STRAIGHT AAC POY AWARD, BUT THERE WILL BE QUITE A BIT OF NEW NAMES ATOP THE STATISTICAL CATERGORIES THIS YEAR.

### AAC POY Watch List

Markell Turner - Union, 2x AAC POY  
 DJ Mercer - Union  
 Kristian Collins - Reinhardt  
 Ty Patterson - TN Wesleyan  
 Enocka Franky - Truett McConnell  
 Darrian Oates - Columbia International  
 Duncan Lexander - St. Andrews  
 Levontae Knox - Milligan

### Top Transfers

Duncan Lexander - St. Andrews (Charleston So.)  
 DJ Mercer - Union (Warner)

### Freshmen To Watch

Dawson Wilkins - Point

## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. Union

UNION RETURNS THE 2X REIGNING AAC POY, MARKELLE TURNER, WHO IS ONE OF THE NATIONS BEST SCORERS AND TERRIN HAMILTON, THE AAC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR. THEY LOSE BIG MAN AND AAC POY, ANDRE SILVA. NEW TO THE MIX THIS YEAR IS DJ MERCER (WARNER) A 1ST TEAM ALL-SUN PERFORMER FROM LAST SEASON WHO AVERAGED 15.4PPG. THE BULLDOGS HAVE WON 9 STRAIGHT AAC TITLES AND ARE LOADED WITH TALENT ONCE AGAIN AS THEY LOOK FOR 10 STRAIGHT THIS SEASON!



#### 2. Reinhardt

REINHARDT TIED FOR 2ND PLACE LAST SEASON AND ALTHOUGH THEY LOSE KRISTIAN COLLINS, THEY RETURN THIER NEXT 4 LEADING SCORERS IN 2ND TEAM ALL-AAC PERFORMER JALIN WIMBERLY (11PPG), NATE LOUIS (10.3PPG), TYLER SMITH (10PPG) AND TAFARI THOMAS (9.1PPG). THEY WILL LOOK TO NEWCOMER ANTONIO SPENCER (D1 KENNESAW ST) TO COME IN AND MAN THE PAINT FOR THE THEM. THIS IS A VETERAN GROUP, WHO IS WELL COACHED. CAN THEY TAKE CROWN FROM UNION? TIME WILL TELL, BUT THIS IS A REALLY DEEP AND REALLY HUNGRY GROUP WHO SEEMS TO BE UP TO THE CHALLENGE!



#### 3. Tennessee Wesleyan

COACH RAY STONE ENTERS YEAR 5 AT THE HELM FOR THE BULLDOGS AND IF YOU KNOW ONE THING ABOUT THEM IS THAT THIS TEAM WILL GET AFTER IT ON BOTH ENDS OF THE FLOOR. THE BULLDOGS RETURN A GOOD CORE OF PLAYERS HIGHLIGHTED BY 1ST TEAM ALL-AAC PERFORMER, TY PATTERSON. AT 6'4, 260, THIS BIG BOY CAN PLAY! THE BULLDOGS NEED TO BE MORE CONSISTENT THIS YEAR IF THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE A RUN AT AN AAC TITLE, BUT THEY COMPETE HARD AND BOAST ONE OF THE TOUGHEST HOME COURTS TO WIN AT IN THE AAC.



#### 4. Columbia International

ANOTHER TEAM IN THE AAC THAT IS LOADED WITH VETS. THE RAMS RETURN ALL 5 STARTERS, HIGHLIGHTED BY 1ST TEAM ALL-AAC SELECTION, DARRIAN OATES. THEY ARE COMING OFF OF A YEAR THAT SAW THEM REACH THE AAC SEMIFINALS BEFORE FALLING TO MONTREAT. IF THEY CAN CARRY THE MOMENTUM FROM THE LATTER PART OF LAST SEASON, THE RAMS COULD FIND THEMSELVES IN THE MIX FOR AN AAC TITLE AS WELL. CAN HEAD COACH TONY STOCKMAN AND HIS VETERAN GROUP GET OVER THE HUMP AND PUT PRESSURE ON THE REST OF THE LEAGUE? SHOULD BE A FUN GROUP TO WATCH!



#### 5. Truett McConnell

ANOTHER DEEP SQUAD, WHO RETURNS NEARLY EVERYONE. THE BEARS RETURN THEIR TOP 8 SCORERS FROM A 5TH PLACE TEAM FROM A YEAR AGO. BIG MAN, ENOKA FRANKY (1ST TEAM ALL-AAC) IS BACK FOR HIS 5TH YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY AND IS ONE OF THE TOP BIG MEN IN THE LEAGUE. HEAD COACH JON YEAH, HAS THE BEARS TRENDING UPWARD AND THEIR 20 WINS LAST SEASON WAS A PROGRAM BEST! THEY HAVE THE PIECES IN PLACE TO BEST THAT RECORD THIS SEASON, BUT THE AAC, BEING A HUGE LEAGUE, IS A GRIND AND THIS VETERAN GROUP WILL NEED TO NAVIGATE THE SCHEDULE THE BEST THEY CAN, ONCE AGAIN!

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## CALPAC Conference Preview

THE CALPAC IS AN ELEVEN TEAM, 2-BID LEAGUE, WITH ONLY SIX TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE CALPAC TOURNAMENT. THAT LEADS TO A LOT OF COMPETITIVENESS AS 13 TEAMS BATTLE FOR 6 SPOTS. SAINT KATHERINE'S AND BENU-MESA REPRESENTED THE LEAGUE LAST SEASON IN THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT, BUT NEITHER WAS ABLE TO ADVANCE. USK SWEPT BOTH THE REGULAR AND TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SEASON. THEY ARE A TOUGH SQUAD THAT WILL BE RIGHT THERE ONCE AGAIN., FOR US THOUGH, WE ARE LEANING TOWARDS ANTELOPE VALLEY GETTING BACK TO THE TOP OF THE CALPAC PEDASTAL THIS SEASON. THEY ARE A TEAM THAT, PRIOR TO COVID, HAD WON THE CALPAC 3 STRAIGHT SEASONS. THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY LOADED UP THIS SEASON WITH TALENT. SIMPSON WILL ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE CALPAC TITLE. THEY ARE ALSO LOADED WITH TALENT, RETURNING THE CALPAC POY, GARY MIMS. WE EXPECT THE TWO AUTO-BIDS TO COME FROM THAT GROUPING, BUT DON'T COUNT OUT BENU-MESA, WHO HAS MADE BACK-TO-BACK NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS. WE MENTIONED THAT THE REIGNING POY YEAR, GARY MIMS RETURNS, BUT THIS IS ALSO A LEAGUE THAT RETURNS 12 OF 16 PLAYERS WHO WERE SELECTED TO EITHER THE CALPAC 1ST OR 2ND TEAMS LAST YEAR. IT SHOULD BE A MUCH-IMPROVED LEAGUE EVEN IF IT DOESN'T GET ANYONE TO CRACK A TOP 25 POLL DURING THE SEASON. THEY STILL NEED TO PROVE IT IN NON-CONFERENCE PLAY, BUT IT SHOULD BE A BETTER LEAGUE THAN IT SHOWED ON THE NATIONAL SCENE LAST YEAR AND SHOULD BE A FUN BATTLE WITHIN THE LEAGUE AS WELL!

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Antelope Valley

UAV HAS DOMINATED THE CALPAC FOR AWHILE NOW, BUT COVID AND INJURIES HAD MAJOR IMPACTS ON THIS GROUP THE PAST FEW SEASONS. HEAD COACH, JORDAN MAST, HAS BUILT A SQUAD ONCE AGAIN THOUGH. ARKI NICHOLAS (FR OF YEAR), LEVONTE OTT (2ND TEAM) AND ELIAS EZENEKWE (LED TEAM IN PPG AT SEMESTER BEFORE SITTING OUT) GIVES THE PIONEERS A GOOD TRIO OF RETURNERS. THEY BRING IN SOME BIG TIME RETURNERS IN MICHAEL HAYES (CALI JUCO 2019-20 POY), DOMINIQUE ALEXANDER AND ANDREW LEWIS BOTH FROM D1 CHICAGO ST, AARIS BONDS (D2 MONTAVELLO) WHO ALSO PLAYED WITH LEWIS AND ALEXANDER AT CHICAGO STATE PRIOR TO MONTAVELLO. ALL FOUR OF THEM PUT UP NICE STATS AT THEIR PREVIOUS SPOTS. BONDS AND HAYES ARE A BIT OLDER, BUT AS WE SEE EVERY YEAR IN THE NAIA, THOSE OLDER GUYS SURE CAN PLAY! THE PIONEERS ON PAPER, LOOK LIKE THE TEAM TO BEAT IN THE CALPAC THIS SEASON!



### 2. St. Katherine

SAINT KATHERINE WENT 13-1 IN THE CALPAC LAST SEASON ON THEIR WAY TO WINNING THE CALPAC REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENT TITLES. THEY RETURN 4 OF THEIR TOP 7 PLAYERS INCLUDING 3 ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS LED BY FORMER US MARINE, BRYAN BAPTISTE. THEY ADD IN FOUR CALI JUCO GUYS WHO ARE USED TO WINNING IN CHRIS HARPER (CITRUS), ELJAY GALLEGOS (FRESNO CITY), ANDRE TREADWELL (COLLEGE OF SEQUOIAS) AND DAVID ODINIGWE (FULLERTON). LOSING KODY CLOUET HURTS, BUT THIS IS STILL A HUNGRY ST. KATHERINE'S SQUAD!



### 3. Simpson

SIMPSON WENT 10-3 LAST SEASON ON THEIR WAY TO WINNING THE CALPAC NORTH DIVISION AND GETTING THE 2-SEED IN THE CALPAC TOURNAMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY FELL TO BENU-MESA IN THE CALPAC SEMIFINALS LAST SEASON AND CAME UP JUST SHORT OF A NAIA AUTO-BID. THEY RETURN THE CALPAC POY, GARY MIMS AND HEAD COACH, TODD FRANKLIN, IS THE REIGNING CALPAC COACH OF THE YEAR. THEY WILL BE IN CONTENTION ALL SEASON LONG AND HAVE THE TALENT TO WIN THE LEAGUE.



### 4. BenU - Mesa

BENEDICTINE-MESA MAY HAVE NOT HAD THE REGULAR SEASON THEY WERE HOPING FOR, BUT THEY DID ENOUGH TO QUALIFY FOR THE CALPAC TOURNAMENT. A PLACE WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN REALLY GOOD THE PAST TWO SEASONS, MAKING IT TO THE TITLE GAMES IN EACH YEAR ALLOWING THEM TO QUALIFY FOR THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BACK-TO-BACK SEASONS. THEY TAKE A BIT OF A HIT THIS YEAR, LOSING ALL-AMERICAN BIG MAN, MAURICE WALTON. THEY DO RETURN TYLER FERNSTROM, WHO LED THE CALPAC IN MADE 3'S LAST SEASON. ALSO RETURNING, IS TRE CAROLINA, A 2X ALL-CALPAC SELECTION. TRE WILL HAVE A SHOT TO BE THE ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER AT BENU-MESA. JOINING THE WARHAWKS THIS SEASON IS MICHAEL KIRKLAND (D2 NOTRE DAME) AND TOMMIE FLANAGAN (CYPRESS).



### 5. Westcliff

HEAD COACH, JERRED COOK, LOOKS TO CONTINUE GETTING THIS WESTCLIFF TEAM TRENDING UPWARD. THEY RETURN ALL-CALPAC PLAYERS, JOSHUA HARRISON (1ST-TEAM), JOSHUA JONES (2ND-TEAM) AND ABDUL ABDULLAH (HONRABLE MENTION). THEY HAD A BIT OF A ROUGH STRETCH TO END THE SEASON LAST YEAR AND LOST A TON OF GAMES BY 10PTS OR LESS. THE WARRIORS WILL NEED TO WIN SOME OF THOSE CLOSE GAMES THIS YEAR IF THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

## CALPAC POY Watch List

Gary Mims - Simpson  
Michael Hayes - UAV  
Arik Nicholas - UAV  
Uriel Lejtman - La Sierra  
Joshua Harrison - Westcliff  
Mason Westlake - UC Merced

## Top Transfers

Michael Hayes - UAV (Chico St.)  
Dominique Alexander - UAVE (D1 Chicago St.)  
Andrew Lewis - UAV (D1 Chicago St.)  
Aaris Bonds - UAV (D2 Montavello)

## Freshmen To Watch

Maur Tablada - USK

## 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers





## Cascade Collegiate Conference Preview

YOU ARE GOING TO WANT TO KEEP AN EYE OUT ON THE WEST COAST THIS SEASON. ESPECIALLY IN THE CASCADE COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE. THE CCC HAS GREAT TRADITION AND WITH ALL OF THE GREAT, YOUNG TALENT IN THIS LEAGUE, WE ARE GOING TO SEE SEVERAL OF THESE TEAMS BE REALLY GOOD FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS! FOR THE MOST PART, THE CCC IS A 3-TEAM RACE WITH COLLEGE OF IDAHO BEING THE EARLY SEASON FAVORITE AND BOTH OREGON TECH AND LEWIS-CLARK STATE VERY CAPABLE OF DETHRONING THE DEFENDING CCC CHAMPIONS. THEY ARE ALSO THE THREE TEAMS THAT ARE BUILT FOR DEEP RUNS IN THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. ON PAPER, THE MIDDLE AND BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE IS MUCH STRONGER THIS SEASON AS WELL. EASTERN OREGON MAY NOT GET A TON OF PRESEASON LOVE, BUT THEY ARE GOING TO BE A TOUGH OUT BY SEASONS END. SOUTHERN OREGON HAS A NEW COACH BUT RETURNS NEARLY EVERYONE. BUSHNELL HAS THE SCORING POWER TO PUT UP POINTS WITH EVERYONE. THEN YOU GOT MULTNOMAH, WHO ON PAPER, IS ABSOLUTELY LOADED WITH TALENT. CHARLES JONES WAS ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER PLAYERS IN THE ENTIRE NAIA THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS. HE IS OLDER, BUT IF HE IS IN SHAPE, THEY ARE A TEAM THAT WILL BE TOUGH AS WELL. THAT DOESN'T COVER EVERYONE, BUT THE CCC IS LINED UP TO BE ANOTHER FUN BATTLE NIGHT IN AND NIGHT OUT. AS ALWAYS IN THE CCC, HOW TEAMS HANDLE THE MASSIVE ROAD TRIPS WILL DICTATE HOW THEIR SEASON ENDS UP!

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. College of Idaho

NO DOUBT THAT THE YOTES WILL MISS RICARDO TIME (CCC POY) AND IVORY MILES-WILLIAMS. HOWEVER, IT'S THE YOUNGSTERS TIME TO SHINE AS COI BOAST TWO OF THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE CCC IN SOPHOMORES, DREW WYMAN (CCC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR) AND JAKE O'NEIL. THE YOTES ARE WELL COACHED BY COLBY BLAINE AND THEIR MATCHUP ZONE GIVES PEOPLE FITS. WITH FOUR STARTERS RETURNING, THE YOTES SHOULD BE A TOP 10 TEAM TO START THE SEASON. THEY ALSO COULD GO BACK-TO-BACK IN FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR WINNERS AS THEY BRING IN THE OREGON SA POY, SAMAJE MORGAN, TO HELP ADD ANOTHER SCORING PUNCH TO THE YOTES!



### 2. Oregon Tech

THE OWLS SHOULD BE AN EARLY SEASON TOP 25 SQUAD. THEY HAD SOME GOOD MOMENTUM LATE LAST SEASON, BEFORE LOSING TO A VERY GOOD WILLIAM JESSUP SQUAD. SENIOR, KAISON FAUST (CCC DPOY) IS BACK. AS IS SOPHOMORE, KEEGAN SHIVERS (ALL-CONF) AND JOEY POTTS (LED TEAM IN BLOCKED SHOTS). THE OWLS WILL LOOK TO BOLSTER THEIR LINEUP WITH TRANSFERS, KODY BAUMAN (COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU), JAY ELMORE (LANE CC) AND FRESHMAN, NOAH THOMAS (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION AND EASTERN ATHLETIC LEAGUE POY). THE OWLS PLAY UPTempo AND ARE ALWAYS A LOT OF FUN TO WATCH. THEY HAVE THE TALENT TO MAKE A DEEP RUN IN MARCH!



### 3. Lewis-Clark St.

THE WARRIORS BATTLED THE INJURY BUG LAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY TO KEY PIECES. ALL WASN'T LOST THOUGH AS THEIR YOUNGINS GOT THROWN TO THE FIRE AND GOT PLENTY OF GREAT EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING QUALIFYING FOR THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. THEY RETURN A TRIO OF SOPHOMORES, OREGON COURTNEY (1ST TEAM ALL-CCC), SILAS BENNION (LED CCC IN APG (4.9)) AND BRENNEN NEWSON (6.5PPG/5.2RPG). THEY SIGNED A REALLY NICE NAIA TRANSFER IN SOPHOMORE DAVIAN BROWN (THE MASTERS). THEY ALSO SIGNED TRANSFERS KEEGAN CROSBY (D2 ALASKA-ANCHORAGE) AND QUENTIN RAYNOR (YAKIMA VALLEY). WARRIORS HAVE THE PIECES TO COMPETE FOR A CCC TITLE AND AUSTIN JOHNSON HAS PROVEN HE IS ONE OF THE TOP COACHES IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.



### 4. Eastern Oregon

WITH 13 NEW PLAYERS, EASTERN OREGON IS A BIT OF A SLEEPER TEAM THIS YEAR IN THE CCC. RETURNING IS, ALL-AMERICAN PHILLIP MALATARE, LAST YEARS NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR IN THE CCC. THE COOL PART ABOUT THE EOU TRANSFERS IS THAT MANY OF THEM PLAYED TOGETHER AT NORTH IDAHO JUCO, GOING 59-3 IN THEIR CAREERS. WHILE THEY ARE NEW TO THE MOUNTAINEERS PROGRAM, THEY BRING A TON OF WINS AND EXPERIENCE TOGETHER. THEIR BIGGEST OFFSEASON SIGN, WILL BE NATE PRYOR, WHO PRODUCED AT BOTH D1 WASHINGTON AND NEW MEXICO STATE. THIS EOU GROUP WILL BE ONE TO WATCH EARLY!



### 5. Multnomah

LISTEN, MULTNOMAH MAY HAVE BEEN JUST 14-17 LAST SEASON, BUT THEY HAD SOME BIG WINS, INCLUDING THEIR FIRST EVER WIN AT OREGON TECH. THEY RETURN 1ST TEAM ALL-CCC SELECTION, TYRESE TAYLOR. AS WELL AS ZACH RICHARDSON (CCC HM) AND TAYLOR PEPPINGER WHO HAS 81 MADE 3'S IN HIS CAREER. THE LIONS, THOUGH, MAY HAVE THE BEST PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE COMING IN, IN CHARLES JONES, WHO WAS THE NATIONAL JUCO POY IN 2018. HE SPENT SOME TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH AND IF HES IN ANY KIND OF SHAPE, THE LIONS WILL BE DANGEROUS. ON TOP OF THAT, THEY ALSO BRING IN SQUEAKY WILKINS WHO MADE 20 STARTS AT D1 WESTERN MICHIGAN AND QUENTIN JONES WHO PUT UP BIG TIME NUMBERS AT D1 NC A&T. IF THEY CAN FIGURE THIS THING OUT, THEY CAN MAKE SOME NOISE IN THE CCC!

## Cascade POY Watch List

Drew Wyman - College of Idaho  
Jake O'Neil - College of Idaho  
Keegan Shivers - Oregon Tech  
Kaison Faust - Oregon Tech  
Oregon Courtney - LCSC  
Phillip Malatare - Eastern Oregon  
Nate Pryor - Eastern Oregon  
Jake O'Neil - College of Idaho  
Tyrese Taylor - Multnomah  
Charles Jones - Multnomah  
Tez Allen - Southern Oregon  
Josh Meyer - Southern Oregon  
Stevie Schlabach - Bushnell

## Top Transfers

Charles Jones - Multnomah (Utah)  
Nate Pryor - Eastern Oregon (NM State)  
Davian Brown - LCSC (The Master's)  
Andy Stafford - Corban (Colorado Christian)  
Kody Bauman - OIT (C of Siskiyou)

## Freshmen To Watch

Samaje Morgan - College of Idaho  
Noah Thomas - OIT  
John Lustig - LCSC  
James Laurence - Northwest  
Cory Johnson - Bushnell

## 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers





## CCAC Conference Preview

THE CCAC IS A 2-BID LEAGUE THIS YEAR. PREVIOUSLY A 3-BID LEAGUE, THEY LOST LINCOLN (IL), WHO CLOSED ITS DOORS, LOWRING THE CCAC DOWN FROM 15 TEAMS TO 14 AND TAKING AWAY THAT EXTRA AUTO BID. A TOP THE LEAGUE, YOU WILL SEE SOME FAMILIAR FACES IN IU-SOUTH BEND AND OLIVET NAZARENE. ONU, LOST THE 2X CCAC POY, ALEX GROSS, TO D1 MOREHEAD STATE, BUT RETURNS ALL-AMERICAN, TYLER SCHMIDT. THEY WILL NO DOUBT STAY AT THE TOP OF THE CCAC STANDINGS, BUT FOR US WE NEED TO SEE HOW THEY LOOK WITHOUT THE DOMINANCE OF ALEX GROSS ON THE FLOOR. IU-SB RETURNS A PAIR OF 1K CAREER SCORERS IN MILES TRACY AND DONYELL MEREDITH AND GET A NICE TRANSFER PIECE IN DEJON BARNEY (LINCOLN). IU-NORTHWEST'S JARED JOHNSON IS COMING OFF OF AN ALL-AMERICAN SEASON AND COULD END UP AS THE CCAC POY THIS SEASON. THE REDHAWKS QUALIFIED FOR THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SEASON AND HAVE GOALS TO WIN A CCAC TITLE THIS SEASON. A TEAM TO LOOK OUT FOR WILL BE ROOSEVELT, WHO HIRED FORMER NBA PLAYER, DEE BROWN. THEY ARE MAKING THE MOVE TO NCAA D2 SOON AND WILL BE LOOKING OT MAKE SOME NOISE IN THE CCAC BEFORE THEY LEAVE. SAINT XAVIER IS ALSO A TEAM TO KEEP AN EYE ON. JACK HALVERSON (2ND TEAM) IS BACK, ALONG WITH JAEDEN KING. THIS IS ANOTHER LEAGUE THAT WE WILL HAVE OUR EYES ON EARLY ON IN THE SEASON. IT'S FUN WHEN LEAUGUES HAVE A BUNCH OF TOP RETURNERS THAT WE GET TO KEEP WATCHING, BUT IT'S EQUALLY AS FUN, LIKE IN THE CCAC THIS SEASON, WHERE THERE IS ALOT OF UNKNOWNNS HEADED INTO A SEASON!

### CCAC POY Watch List

Tyler Schmidt - Olivet Nazarene  
Jared Johnson - IU Northwest  
Miles Tracy - IUSB  
Donyell Meredith - IUSB  
Jack Halverson - St. Xavier  
Anterrius Rhyan - Judson

### Top Transfers

Anterrius Rhyan - Judson (D2 Young Harris)  
Dejon Barney - IUSB (Lincoln)  
Sam Emich - ONU (D2 Charleston)  
TJ Babikir - St Xavier (Hastings)  
Kevin Bishop - St Xavier (Pikeville)  
DeAvion Washington - IU-Northwest (D1 IN State)

### Freshmen To Watch

Ryan Chew - IUSB  
Ryan Paris - IUSB

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. IU - South Bend

THE TITANS BRING BACK A PAIR OF 2ND TEAM ALL-CCAC SELECTIONS IN MILES TRACY AND DONYELL MEREDITH. BOTH OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY SCORED OVER 1,000 CAREER POINTS. THOSE TWO LEAD A GROUP OF 5 RETURNERS AND HAVE WON A TON OF GAMES IN TITAN UNIFORMS. THEY ADD DEJON BARNEY TO THE MIX THIS SEASON. THE 6'9" TRANSFER FROM LINCOLN (LINCOLN SHUT DOWN SCHOOL, SO HE IS ALLOWED TO PLAY RIGHT AWAY) WAS A HM ALL-CCAC SELECTION LAST SEASON. THE TITANS ARE BIG AND HAVE THE SCORING POTENTIAL TO COMPETE WITH ANYONE IN THE CCAC. THEY ARE A FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM TO START THE SEASON, BUT IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO GEL AFTER LOSING ALL-AMERICAN, DYLAN ALLEN.



### 2. Olivet Nazarene

THE TIGERS WENT 31-4 LAST SEASON AND RETURN ARGUABLY THE BEST RETURNER IN THE ENTIRE LEAGUE IN TYLER SCHMIDT. THEY ARE ANOTHER FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM FOR US AND WHILE THEY HAVE DOMINATED THE CCAC IN RECENT YEARS, LOSING ALEX GROSS IS A REALLY BIG DEAL AS HE HAD THE ABILITY TO COMPLETELY TAKE OVER GAMES. ONU WILL COMPETE FOR THE CCAC TITLE STILL AND IT WON'T BE A SURPRISE TO SEE THEM WIN IT. ESPECIALLY WITH SCHMIDT, LANDON PFLEDERER AND BARIK OLDEN BACK IN TIGER UNIFORMS. THEY ALSO BRING IN 6'6" FORWARD, SAM EMICH, FROM D2 CHARLESTON (WV). COACH BIRKEY IS A GREAT COACH AND WE ARE EXCITED TO SEE THIS TEAM ON THE FLOOR!



### 3. IU - Northwest

ALL-AMERICAN JARED JOHNSON MAKES HIS RETURN TO IU-NORTHWEST. JOHNSON WAS ONE OF THE MOST ELITE SCORERS IN THE COUNTRY THIS PAST SEASON AND A BIG PART OF WHY IUN WAS ABLE TO GET AN AUTO-BID INTO THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNNEY LAST SEASON. IF COACH HERIDIA AND COMPANY CAN IMMULATE WHAT THEY DID LAST SEASON, THEN THEY CAN TAKE ON IUSB AND ONU ONCE AGAIN! GOOD WINS ARE ALWAYS FUN, BUT IF THEY CAN LIMIT THEIR BAD LOSSES, THEN WE MAY SEE A NEW TEAM RISE TO THE TOP OF THE CCAC!



### 4. Roosevelt

FORMER ILLINOIS STANDOUT AND NBA PLAYER, DEE BROWN TAKES THE HELM FOR ROOSEVELT. THIS MAY END UP BEING THEIR LAST SEASON AS A NAIA PROGRAM AS THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO MAKE THE MOVE TO NCAA D2. NONETHELESS, THIS WAS A ROOSEVELT SQUAD THAT WAS REALLY TOUGH LAST SEASON. DEE BROWN HAS BROUGHT IT SOME NICE YOUNG PIECES TO GO WITH A FEW TRANSFERS. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY BUILDING FOR THE MOVE TO GO D2, SO IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THEY ELECT TO RED SHIRT A FEW OF THEIR GUYS. EITHER WAY WE WILL ROCK WITH THEM AT NUMBER 4 HERE!



### 5. St. Xavier (IL)

JACK HALVERSON (2ND TEAM ALL-CCAC AND JAEDEN KING RETURN FOR ST XAVIER. TWO DOUBLE FIGURE SCORERS FROM THIS PAST SEASON. SXU ADDS IN TJ BABIKAR (HASTINGS), KEVIN BISHOP (PIKEVILLE) AND CEDRIC JOHNSON (D2 SIOUX FALLS) TO THE TEAM THIS SEASON. LOSING ALL-AMERICAN, JOSHUA EVANS IS A TOUGH ONE, BUT COACH FORD ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAVE SXU IN THE HUNT AND WE EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME THIS SEASON!

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## Continental Athletic Conference Preview

THE CAC, FORMELY KNOWN AS THE NAIA INDEPENDENTS, IS A 2-BID LEAGUE ONCE AGAIN THIS SEASON. THERE IS NO ACTUAL REGULAR SEASON IN THE CAC, BUT DEFENDING TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS, FLORIDA COLLEGE, IS THE HEAVY FAVORITE TO REPEAT. THEY RETURN CAC POY, MATT SIMPSON, WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST ELECTRIC SCORERS IN THE COUNTRY. THE FALCONS ARE A WELL ROUND GROUP, WHO FRESH OFF OF A ROUND OF 32 APPEARANCE LAST SEASON, MAKES AN APPEARANCE INSIDE OF OUR PRESEASON TOP 25. WITHOUT ACTUAL CONFERENCE GAMES, IT'S HARD TO TALK MUCH ABOUT THE REGULAR SEASON AND IT'S FAR TO EARLY TO REALLY TALK ABOUT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT SEEDING. WE CAN DISCUSS THE TOURNAMENT FORMAT THOUGH, AS THE CAC TOURNAMENT IS TRULY THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS WHEN DISCUSSING THE LEAGUE. AS WE MENTIONED, FLORIDA COLLEGE IS THE HEAVY FAVORITE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T OTHERS WHO CAN COMPETE AS WELL!

### CAC POY Watch List

Matt Simpson - Florida College (Reigning CAC POY)  
 Calvin Finch Jr. - Florida College  
 Deven Flowers - WAU  
 Allante Pickens - Iowa Wesleyan  
 Joey Brown - Iowa Wesleyan  
 Tyler Willoughby - Voorhees  
 Hector Rosario - Voorhees

### Top Transfers

Marquis Copeland - WAU (Nyack)  
 Mohamed Bundu - WAU  
 Calvin Finch Jr - Florida College (D2 West Alabama)  
 Tyler Willoughby - Voorhees (Middle GA St)  
 Allante Pickens - IA Wesleyan (Jamestown)  
 James Evans II - IA Wesleyan (Motlow St.)  
 Joel Finney - Fisher (Glendale CC)  
 Chris Finney - Fisher (Glendale CC)

### Freshmen To Watch

Jaylin McNeil - WAU  
 Henry Shannon - IA Wesleyan  
 Malachi Johnson - Voorhees  
 Keshawn Evans - Voorhees  
 Quentarr Taylor - Fisher

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers



## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. Florida College

FLORIDA COLLEGE'S FIRST YEAR IN THE CAC WAS A GOOD ONE AS THEY TOOK THE 1-SEED INTO THE CAC TOURNAMENT AND DIDN'T HAVE MUCH FRICION ON THEIR WAY TO THE CAC TOURNAMENT TITLE AND A BID INTO THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE FALCONS EVEN GOT THEMSELVES A BIG WIN OVER EVANGEL IN THE OPENING ROUND, BEFORE FALLING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, LOYOLA. MATT "WALKING BUCKET" SIMPSON RETURNS FOR HIS FIFTH YEAR. THE ALL-AMERICAN IS A STUD AND SO FUN TO WATCH HOOP. 2ND TEAM ALL-CAC SELECTION, PHAT CLEVELAND IS ALSO BACK. THE FALCONS BRING IN CALVIN FINCH JR (D2 WEST ALABAMA).



#### 2. Washington Adventist

ALWASY A TEAM THAT IS RIGHT IN THE MIX IN THE CAC. WAU RETURNS 6'9 F, DEVEN FLOWERS, WHO WAS THE CAC NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR. THEY ALSO BRING BACK THE DEFENSIVE POY, LAVEL HARRIS. THE SHOCK ARE GOING TO BE REALLY, REALLY BIG. ALONG WITH 6'9 DEVEN FLOWERS, THE SHOCK ARE BRINGING IN 6'9 MARQUIS COPELAND, 6'7 MOHAMED BUNDU AND 6'7 KEVIN PERRY!



#### 3. Northern New Mexico

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO LOST ITS TOP TWO PLAYERS IN TYRIQUE WEAVER AND RICARDO ZAMBRANO, BUT THIS NNMC SQUAD HAD GOOD DEPTH LAST SEASON AND GUYS LIKE JAMAL HARRIS, DAMIONE THOMAS, AND MOHAMMAD JAFARI ARE VERY CAPABLE OF FILLING THE GAPS AND MAKING THIS EAGLE TEAM STILL ONE OF THE BEST IN THE CAC.



#### 4. Iowa Wesleyan

NEW COACH, JORDAN ASHTON BRINGS BACK 1ST TEAM ALL-CAC MEMBER, JOEY BROWN AND HM ALL-CAC MEMBER, CARVER LOCKE BUT ALSO SIGNS A COUPLE OF REALLY NICE TRANSFERS IN ALLANTE PICKENS (STARTER FOR JAMESTOWN 2 SEASONS AGO) AND JAMES EVANS (MOTLOW STATE). LAST YEAR WAS THEIR FIRST YEAR BACK IN THE NAIA AND NOW WITH A NEW COACH AT THE HELM, THE TIGERS ARE LOOKING TO GET BACK TO THEIR OLD WINNING TRADITION THEY HAD GOING IN THE EARLY 2000'S.



#### 5. Voorhees

VOORHEES STYLE OF PLAY ALWAYS MAKES THEM TOUGH. THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS, THEY HAVE BEEN A BIT DOWN. SOME OF THAT WAS THE SCHEDULING DUE TO COVID, BUT THE TIGERS BRING BACK 5 PLAYERS FROM LAST SEASON, INCLUDING HECTOR ROSARIO, WHO WAS A DOUBLE FIGURE SCORER FOR THE TIGERS LAST SEASON. THEY DO LOSE ALL-CAC MEMBER, TAWON BLUE, WHO AVERAGED 18.3PPG. TO FILL THOSE SHOES, THE TIGERS WILL LEAN ON TRANSFER, TYLER WILLOUGHBY, WHO AVERAGED 12.5PPG AT MIDDLE GA STATE LAST SEASON.



## Crossroads League Preview

GENERALLY ONE OF THE PREMIER LEAGUES IN THE NAIA, THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE IS ONCE AGAIN LOADED! IT IS JUST A 2 AUTO-BID LEAGUE, BUT IT WILL BE NO SURPRISE IF THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE ENDS UP WITH 5 OR 6 TEAMS IN THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SEASON. INDIANA WESLEYAN, WITH THE 5TH YEAR RETURNS OF SETH MAXWELL AND SPENCER PIERCEFIELD, SHOULD BE THE FAVORITES TO WIN A REGULAR SEASON TITLE. HOWEVER, AS DOMINANT AS THEY WERE LAST SEASON, GOING 16-2 IN LEAGUE PLAY, THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE ONLY GOT BETTER THIS YEAR. GRACE, COMING OFF OF A ROUND OF 16 PERFORMANCE LAST YEAR, IS RIGHT ON THEIR HEELS FEATURING TWO OF THE TOP PLAYERS IN THE COUNTRY IN FRANKIE DAVIDSON AND ELIJAH MALONE. MARIAN, WHO IS ALWAYS ATOP THE CL STANDINGS, RELOADED WITH SOME REALLY NICE TRANSFERS. HUNTINGTON, WHO GOT A NICE OPENING ROUND WIN LAST YEAR AT NATIONALS AND A ST. FRANCIS SQUAD, WHO STILL HAS ANTWAAN CUSHINGBERRY, BOTH SHOULD HAVE GOOD YEAR. MVNU AND BETHEL (IN) ARE BOTH GOOD TEAMS, WHO HAVE GOOD RETURNERS AND ADD SOME NICE PIECES TO THE MIX. A LOT OF THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE LEAGUE RETURNING 7 OF THE 10 PLAYERS FROM THE ALL-CROSSROADS LEAGUE 1ST TEAM. THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE IS ALWAYS FUN TO WATCH, AND THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE NO EXCEPTION!

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Indiana Wesleyan

IWU WILL LOOK TO CONTINUE ITS DOMINANCE WITHIN THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE THIS SEASON. THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE WILDCATS IS THAT SETH MAXWELL AND SPENCER PIERCEFIELD ELECTED TO USE THEIR 5TH YEAR OPTIONS AND RETURN. THE WILDCATS ALSO RETURN STARTER, TIM ADETUKASI. THAT IS A REALLY GOOD TRIO RETURNING, BUT THEY WILL NEED SOME OF THEIR YOUTH TO STEP IN AND CONTRIBUTE RIGHT AWAY. GREG TONAGEL IS ONE OF THE BEST COACHES IN THE NAIA THOUGH AND WHILE THEY MAY NOT DOMINATE AS MUCH AS THEY DID LAST SEASON, THIS WILL STILL BE A VERY GOOD IWU TEAM!



### 2. Grace

GRACE IS LOADED WITH TALENTED PLAYERS WHO HAVE MOSTLY ALL PLAYED TOGETHER FOR TWO SEASONS. FRANKIE DAVIDSON IS A NATIONAL POY CANDIDATE. IF ELIJAH MALONE CONTINUES TO TREND UPWARD IN HIS DEVELOPMENT, HE TOO COULD BE ONE OF THE MOST DOMINANT PLAYERS IN THE NAIA. THE GIBBS TWINS ARE HEALTHY; JAKE WADDING AND IAN SCOTT BRING THEIR HARD HATS TO WORK. HARD TO NOT LIKE THIS GRACE TEAM, WHO, IF THEY CAN GET ALL ON THE SAME PAGE, COULD BE A SERIOUS NATIONAL TITLE CONTENDER THIS SEASON!



### 3. Marian

ANOTHER YEAR OF CHRISTIAN HARVEY?! YES PLEASE! THE 3X ALL-CL PERFORMER RETURNS BACK TO THE KNIGHT LINEUP THIS SEASON. HE IS JOINED BY SENIORS, HAYDEN LANGKABEL AND LUKE GOHMANN. THE KNIGHTS ALSO BRING IN FORMER ESPN 5 STAR PLAYER, TAESHON CHERRY, A FORMER ARIZONA STATE PLAYER BEFORE PLAYING HIS LAST SEASON AT DI GRAND CANYON. THEY ALSO ADD JACKSON AMES (DI MIAMI (OH)) AND JOSH BRYAN (DI BALL ST) TO THE MIX THIS SEASON. THE IF THIS GROUP FINDS WAYS TO GEL, THE TALENT IS THERE TO WIN THE CROSSROADS LEAGUE TITLE.



### 4. Huntington

ZACH GOODLINE IS ONE OF THE BEST GUARDS IN THE COUNTRY. WHEN YOU HAVE GREAT GUARD PLAY, YOU PUT YOURSELF IN GREAT POSITION TO WIN A LOT OF GAMES. THE FORRESTERS WERE ABLE TO QUALIFY FOR THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SEASON AND LOOKED REALLY GOOD IN THEIR OPENING ROUND WIN AGAINST GEORGETOWN (KY). BEN HUMRICHIOUS (2ND TEAM) AND LANE SPARKS (CL FR OF YEAR) ARE BACK TO JOIN ZACH GOODLINE. THEY ARE SUPER TOUGH TO BEAT AT HOME AND IF THEY CAN SNEAK A COUPLE ROAD UPSETS, THEY CAN FIND THEMSELVES IN THE RUNNING FOR A CL TITLE!



### 5. St. Francis (IN)

ANTWAAN CUSHINGBERRY RETURNS TO ST FRANCIS, THE ALL-AMERICAN HAS HAD ONE HECK OF A CAREER AND ENTERS HIS FINAL SEASON LOOKING FOR A NATIONAL TITLE. THE COUGARS ARE JUST TWO YEARS REMOVED FROM A FAB FOUR RUN, BUT NOW WILL BE WITHOUT THE SERVICES OF DAVID EJAH. LOTS TO STILL LIKE ABOUT THE COUGARS THOUGH AND EVEN IN A COMPETITIVE LEAGUE, AND TEAMS LIKE MVNU AND BETHEL WORTHY OF THIS SPOT, THIS IS STILL A DANGEROUS TEAM THAT IS WELL COACHED AND USED TO WINNING!

## Crossroads POY Watch List

Seth Maxwell - Indiana Wesleyan  
Frankie Davidson - Grace  
Elijah Malone - Grace  
Zach Goodline - Huntington  
Antwaan Cushingberry - St Francis  
Christian Harvey - Marian  
Taeshon Cherry - Marian  
Kyle Kegley - MVNU  
Jason Hubbard - Taylor

## Top Transfers

Drew Lutz - Bethel (IN) (Incarnate Word)  
Taeshon Cherry - Marian (Grand Canyon)  
Jackson Ames - Marian (Miami (OH))

## Freshmen To Watch

Hayden Nahra - Marian  
Javan Buchanan - Indiana Wesleyan  
Luke Imfield - Indiana Wesleyan  
Isaiah Davis - Huntington  
Gavin Foe - Marian  
Hayden Nahra - Marian

## 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers





## Frontier Conference Preview

THE FRONTIER CONFERENCE, WITH JUST 6 TEAMS, IS A 1-BID LEAGUE. BOTH CARROLL AND MONTANA TECH QUALIFIED FOR THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT LAST SEASON AND ARE THE FAVORITES TO WIN THE LEAGUE THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, THE FRONTIER IS GOING TO BE AN INTERESTING ONE TO WATCH EARLY AS THE LEAGUE LOSES 5 OF THE 6 1ST TEAM SELECTIONS FROM LAST SEASON. GONE ARE JOVAN SLJIVANCANIN (CARROLL), SHAMROCK CAMPBELL (CARROLL), JALEN HODGES (MONTANA WESTERN), SINDOU DIALLO (MONTANA TECH) OR MASCIIO MCCADNEY (MSU-NORTHERN). THAT GROUP COMBINED FOR 11 ALL-AMERICAN SELECTIONS. THE ONLY 1ST TEAMER RETURNING THIS YEAR, IS ALL-AMERICAN, CALEB BELLACH, OF MONTANA TECH. ALTHOUGH, 2ND TEAMER, MARCUS STEPHENS (PROVIDENCE), WAS A 1ST TEAMER IN 2020-21. THE CLOSESTS AREN'T BARE THOUGH AS MANY OF THESE TEAMS DO RETURN MULTIPLE STARTERS. WHILE MONTANA TECH AND CARROLL WILL ENTER AS THE FAVORITES, DON'T COUNT OUT MONTANA WESTERN HERE. THE BULLDOGS RETURN A NICE CORE, INCLUDING JAMAL STEPHENSON, ONE OF THE ONLY OTHER RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS. IF THEIR NEWCOMERS CAN MIX IN WELL EARLY ON, THE BULLDOGS HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMPETE FOR A LEAGUE TITLE. THE FRONTIER CONFERENCE PLAYS EVERYONE IN THE LEAGUE THREE TIMES. WHICH ALWAYS MAKES FOR A GRUeling SCHEDULE. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE FC TOURNAMENT AND HAVING TO PLAY A TEAM FOR THE FOURTH TIME. THE LEAGUE IS MOVING THE POSTSEASON TO A SINGLE SITE EVENT, WHICH WILL MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE MANAGEABLE, BUT THE FC IS ALWAYS A FUN LEAGUE TO FOLLOW!

## Projected Top Four Teams



### 1. Montana Tech

FOR ARTICLE PURPOSES, WE WILL GO WITH MONTANA TECH IN THE 1 SPOT. THEY HAVE THE BEST RETURNER IN THE LEAGUE IN, CALEB BELLACH, AND SEVERAL NICE PIECES AROUND HIM. INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP IS KEELEY BAKE, WHO WAS THE FC 6TH MAN OF THE YEAR AND BRIDGER LARSON, WHO WAS THE FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR BACK IN 2021. IF CAMDYN LARANCE AND MICHAEL URE CAN HAVE BREAKOUT SOPHOMORE CAMPAIGNS THEN MONTANA TECH WILL BE IN GOOD SHAPE. THEY ALSO BRING IN 3 JUCO TRANSFERS AS WELL AS IFANYI OKEKE, A CARROLL COLLEGE TRANSFER, WHO HAD SOME REALLY NICE GAMES WEARING PURPLE! THE OREDIGGERS HAVE A DEEP SQUAD THAT WE LIKE A LOT!



### 2. Carroll

THIS IS MORE LIKE 1A AND 1B THAN 1 AND 2. JOVAN SLJIVANCANIN AND SHAMROCK CAMPBELL HAD GREAT CAREERS FOR CARROLL. NOW THAT THEY ARE GONE, IT'S UP TO THEIR REMAINING 3 STARTERS, BRENDAN TEMPLE, JOHNNY HILLMAN AND ANDREW COOK TO STEP THEIR GAMES UP. COMING OFF OF A 29-5 SEASON, THEY ARE STILL A TALENTED GROUP, THAT FITS SO WELL WITH HOW KURT PAULSON RUNS HIS TEAM. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW JORDAN BRYANT (YUBA) FITS INTO THIS GROUP. THE 1ST TEAM ALL-BAY PLAYER IS AN ATHLETIC SCORER, WHO PROVIDES THE FIGHTING SAINTS WITH A DYNAMIC THAT THEY LACK A BIT.



### 3. Montana Western

LOSING JALEN HODGES (PRO) IS A BIG LOSS. AS IS LOSING MAX CLARK. HOWEVER, THE BULLDOGS DO RETURN, JAMAL STEPHENSON (2ND TEAM ALL-FC), SHARPSHOOTER, TANNER HAVERFIELD (41% FROM 3) AND TWO GUYS WHO HAD GOOD FRESHMAN CAMPAIGNS LAST YEAR IN MICHAEL HAVERFIELD AND KY KOUBA. THEY ADD IN STUD, JUCO GUARD, BRENTON WOODS AND A SNEAKY GOOD FRESHMAN IN JAVON LEE. STEPHENSON IS POISED TO HAVE A HUGE YEAR AND IF THE BULLDOGS ARE GOING TO COMPETE FOR A FC TITLE, THEY ARE GOING TO NEED THE YOUNG FRESHMAN BULLDOGS FROM LAST SEASON, TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS UP AS WELL. CERTAINLY A TEAM TO WATCH THROUGHOUT THE SEASON!



### 4. Rocky Mountain

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETURNS NEARLY 70% OF IT'S SCORING FROM LAST SEASON. THEY WILL BE STILL PRETTY YOUNG THIS SEASON, BUT WITH SO MANY OF THEM GETTING VALUABLE MINUTES LAST YEAR, THEY SHOULD BE READY TO COMPETE MORE THIS SEASON. MAXIM STEPHENS (12.0), JESSE OWENS (12.2) GIVE THE BATTLIN' BEARS A COUPLE OF DOUBLE-DIGIT SCORERS. FC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR, KAELE ROBINSON IS ALSO BACK. THE BEARS ADD ELLIOT BROOKS (NORTH ARK CC) AND KACE KITCHEL (D2 LINDENWOOD) TO THE MIX AS WELL.

## FC POY Watch List

Caleb Bellach – Montana Tech  
Brendon Temple – Carroll  
Jamal Stephenson – Montana Western

## Top Transfers

Brenton Woods – Montana Western (Central AZ)  
Elliot Brooks – Rocky Mountain (Lindenwood)

## Freshmen To Watch

Brayden Koch – Carroll  
Hayden Diekhans – Montana Tech  
JaVon Lee – Montana Western

## 1 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers





## Golden State Athletic Conference Preview

THE GSAC HAS GREAT TRADITION AND WILL ARGUABLY BE THE BEST CONFERENCE IN THE NAIA THIS SEASON. WE THINK THE BEST TWO TEAMS IN THE COUNTRY RESIDE HERE AND HAVE THREE TEAMS REANKED IN OUR PRESEASON POLLS. WHAT WILL BE INTERESTING TO FOLLOW IS THE FACT THAT ONLY SIX TEAMS ARE MAKING IT TO THE GSAC TOURNAMENT THIS SEASON. THAT MEANS THAT WE ARE GOING TO SEE QUITE A FEW DECENT TEAMS BE LEFT OUT OF THE GSAC TOURNAMENT. ARIZONA CHRISTIAN, SHOULD BE THE CONSENSUS NUMBER 1 TEAM IN THE COUNTRY HEADED INTO THIS SEASON. JESSUP IS OUR 2, FOR NOW, BUT SHOULD BE NO WORSE THAN 5TH IN THE NAIA COACHES POLL. THEY MAY HAVE THE BEST BACK COURT IN THE COUNTRY THIS SEASON. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE TO GET THE MONKEY OFF THEIR BACKS AND BEAT ARIZONA CHRISTIAN. OTTAWA (AZ) COMES IN AS THE 3RD TEAM IN THE LEAGUE. MATT KEELEY HAS DONE A HECK OF A JOB, STARTING THE PROGRAM AT OUAZ JUST 6 SEASONS AGO, TO QUALIFYING FOR THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BEATING A NCAA D1 PROGRAM LAST YEAR, TO NOW HAVING A PRESEASON TOP 25 PROGRAM. PLAYERWISE, THE GSAC WILL FEATURE SOME OF THE BEST GUARDS IN THE COUNTRY IN CASH WILLIAMS, MYLES COREY AND ANGELO JOHNSON. AS WE SAID, THIS IS A DEEP LEAGUE, THAT HAS SOME OF THE MOST ELITE PLAYERS IN THE NAIA. THEY ARE NOW PLAYING AFTERNOON GAMES ON SATURDAY'S SO IF YOU ARE NEW TO THIS LEVEL, MAKE SURE YOU TUNE IN! IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER REALLY FUN YEAR INSIDE OF THE GSAC!

### GSAC POY Watch List

Cash Williams – Jessup (Reigning GSAC POY)  
 Myles Corey – Jessup  
 Angelo Johnson – ACU  
 Bryce Davis – ACU  
 Josiah De'laCerde – OUAZ  
 Kaleb Lowery – The Master's

### Top Transfers

Trent Hudgins – ACU (DI Santa Clara)  
 Xavier Lovelace – Jessup (Eastern Oregon)

### Freshmen To Watch

Tiago Soares – The Master's

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers



#### 1. Arizona Christian

ACU GOT A TASTE OF THE NAIA SEMIFINALS LAST YEAR AND WILL BE HUNGRY TO GET BACK AND FINISH THE JOB THIS SEASON. WITH ELITE GUARD PLAY, THE SIZE, DEPTH AND COACHING, THEY ARE DESERVING OF THE #1 SPOT IN THE PRESEASON POLLS. ALL-AMERICAN, ANGELO JOHNSON, IS ONE OF THE BEST TWO WAY PLAYERS IN THE NAIA AND HAS HAD A HECK OF A CAREER AT ACU. THE FIRESTORM ARE THE BEST TEAM WE HAVE SEEN ON PAPER. THEY HAVE THE BEST MIX OF RETURNERS AND TRANSFERS. THEY HAVE THE COACHING THAT CAN GET THEM ORGANIZED AND TOGETHER. THEY WILL BE BATTLE TESTED, ESPECIALLY EARLY, BUT THERE ISN'T MANY BAD THINGS YOU CAN SAY ABOUT THIS TEAM.



#### 2. William Jessup

AS WE MENTIONED ABOVE, CASH WILLIAMS AND MYLES COREY MAY BE THE BEST BACK COURT IN THE ENTIRE NAIA. THEY ARE THE ENGINE THAT MAKES THIS JESSUP TEAM GO. JESSUP DIDN'T LOSE A LOT LAST YEAR, BUT WE LOVE THE PIECES THEY BROUGHT IN. COACH LANCE VON VOGT AND STAF DO A GREAT JOB OF RECRUITING TALENT, BUT ALSO FINDING GOOD FITS FOR HOW THEY PLAY. XAVIER LOVELACE (EASTERN OREGON) IS A GOOD FIT FOR THIS SYSTEM AND HIS ABILITY TO CRASH THE OFFENSIVE GLASS IS GOING TO EXTEND PLAYS FOR THE WARRIORS. ACU HAS BEEN A BIT OF THEIR KRYPTONITE LATELY, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING THEY WILL HAVE TO OVER COME IF THEY HAVE GPAC AND NATIONAL TITLE ASPIRATIONS!



#### 3. Ottawa (AZ)

THE SPIRIT ENTER YEAR 6 AS A PROGRAM. THEY STARTED TO TURN A CORNER LAST SEASON, COMING AWAY WITH SOME BIG TIME WINS AND FINISHING WITH A TOP 3 GSAC FINISH. THEY RETURN ALL-AMERICAN, JOSIAH DE'LCERDA, WHO LED THE SPIRIT WITH 17.4PPG LAST SEASON. IF THEY CAN USE SOME OF THAT MOMENTUM FROM LATE LAST SEASON AND CARRY IT INTO THIS YEAR, THE SPIRIT CAN BE A REAL CONTENDER HERE. THEY HAVE TWO OF THE BEST TEAMS IN THE COUNTRY AHEAD OF THEM RIGHT NOW, BUT SHOWED LAST YEAR THEY CAN COMPETE WITH THE BIG DOGS!



#### 4. Hope International

BILL CZECH ENTERS HIS 14TH SEASON AT THE HELM FOR HIU. THEY LOSE ALL-AMERICAN JOSH POWELL DAVIS AND ANTHONY GARCIA, BUT THIS IS A ROYALS TEAM THAT BRINGS BACK SOME GOOD YOUNG PLAYERS THAT ARE COMING OFF OF GOOD YEARS. SEBASTIAN CASTRO (11.0PPG), CHARLES NEAL (11.4PPG) AND JALANI HORN (10.9PPG) LEAD THE CHARGE FOR A ROYALS SQUAD WHO HAD A GOOD YEAR. IF THEY CAN REPLACE POWELL-DAVIS AND GARCIA PRODUCTION, THEN THIS HOPE INTERNATIONAL TEAM CAN BE A TOP 25 TEAM AGAIN THIS SEASON!



#### 5. The Master's

NOT FULLY SURE WHAT ALL WENT DOWN THIS OFFSEASON WITH THE MASTER'S. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HEAD COACH, KEVIN STARR, WAS LEAVING THE PROGRAM. THEN MIDWAY THROUGH THE SUMMER, HE WAS BACK. NONETHELESS, THE MUSTANGS WERE A YOUNG GROUP LAST SEASON AND HAD PLENTY OF BUMPS AND BRUISES. THEY RETURN, GSAC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR, KALEB LOWERY. THEY RETURN THE STARR BROTHERS AND WE WILL GET TO SEE IF TIAGO SOARES CARRIES THE SAME GAME AS THE REST OF THE SOARES CLAN. BROTHER, TIM, GSAC POY AND JUST WON A NBL TITLE IN AURALIA. SISTER, STEPHANIE, GSAC POY, NOW PLAYING FOR DI IOWA STATE IN HER GRAD YEAR. THIS IS A TALENTED MUSTANG TEAM, WHO IS NOW A YEAR OLDER AND IS VERY CAPABLE OF CONTENDING FOR A TITLE.



## Great Plains Athletic Conference Preview

THE GPAC IS AN 11 TEAM, 2 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. IT IS A TRADITION RICH LEAGUE WHO HAVE SOME OF THE BEST FAN BASES IN THE NAIA. THEY HAVE HAD BACK-TO-BACK YEARS OF SENDING TWO TEAMS TO KANSAS CITY AND GOING INTO THE 2022-23 SEASON, IS MAYBE THE HARDEST LEAGUE TO FIGURE OUT A PRESEASON TOP 5 FOR.

THERE ARE MANY LEAGUES WHO ARE VERY TOP HEAVEY, AND THE GPAC, IN OUR OPINION, HAS TWO ELITE TEAMS, BUT IT'S ALSO A LEAGUE WHERE IF TEAMS 3-6 WON THE LEAGUE, WE WOULDN'T BE SHOCKED EITHER. THE TWO FAVORITES HEADED INTO THIS SEASON ARE JAMESTOWN AND CONCORDIA (NE), WHO WE HAVE IN OUR PRESEASON TOP 25. FROM THERE, THE GPAC HAS A BUNCH OF FRINGE TOP 25 TYPES IN NORTHWESTERN (IA), DORDT, BRIAR CLIFF AND DOANE. EACH OF WHICH SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE TO SEE CRACK THE COACHES POLL THROUGHTOUT THE SEASON. JUST 2 GAMES SEPERATED 3RD PLACE FROM 7TH PLACE LAST SEASON AND YOU CAN EXPECT MUCH OF THE SAME THIS SEASON. NOT THAT THERE ARE THAT MANY TEAMS THAT ARE CAPABLE OF WINNING A GPAC TITLE, BUT THERE ARE THAT MANY TEAMS THAT CAN MAKE IT HARD ON EVERYONE ELSE THAT IS TRYING TO WIN A TITLE. A FEW UNTIMELY LOSSES CAN TAKE YOU FROM A CONTENDER TO OUT OF THE GPAC TOURNAMENT QUICK! A BIG PART OF THAT IS THAT THE GPAC RETURNS 9 OF THE 10 1ST TEAM ALL-GPAC MEMBERS. IT'S A LEAGUE THAT WILL KNOW EACHOTHER WELL AND AS LONG AS EVERYONE STAYS HEALTHY IN THE LEAGUE, IT IS GONG TO MAKE EVERY LEAGUE GAME MUST WATCH TV!

### GPAC POY Watch List

Mason Walters - Jamestown (2x GPAC POY)  
 Gage Smith - Concordia (NE)  
 Noah Schutte - Concordia (NE)  
 Bryce Coppock - Dordt  
 Josiah Gardiner - Doane  
 Jaden Kleinhesselink - Briar Cliff  
 Alex Van Kalsbeek - Northwestern (IA)  
 Aiden Vanderloo - Morningside

### Top Transfers

Dillon Carlson - Northwestern (Drury)  
 Guy Moran - Doane (North Central MO)

### Freshmen To Watch

Payson Gillespie - Concordia (NE)  
 Cale Lundin - Northwestern  
 Kaleb Booth - Northwestern

## Projected Top Five Teams

### 1. Jamestown

AS WE TALKED ABOUT IN THE TOP 25 PORTION OF THE MAGAZINE, JAMESTOWN HASN'T BEEN GREAT THE PAST TWO REGULAR SEASONS. THEY DO WHAT GOOD TEAMS DO THOUGH AND THAT IS FIGURE THINGS OUT AND PLAY YOUR BEST BASKETBALL AT THE RIGHT TIME OF YEAR. THEY HAVE DONE THAT THE PAST TWO SEASONS WITH BACK TO BACK TRIPS TO KANSAS CITY. THEY RETURN THE 2X GPAC POY AND NATIONAL POY CANDIDATE, MASON WALTERS. THEY ALSO BRING BACK 2ND TEAM ALL-GPAC PEFORMERS, WILL CORDES AND MARC KJOS. THIS IS A TALENTED AND VETERAN GROUP, WHO IS WELL COACHED.

### 2. Concordia (NE)

CONCORDIA LOST CARTER KENT AND JUSTIN WIERSEMA TO GRADUATION, BUT THE CUPBOARD ISN'T EMPTY. THE BULLDOGS RETURN, GAGE SMITH, NOAH SCHUTTE AND AJ WATSON FROM A TEAM THAT REACHED THE NAIA QUARTERFINALS LAST SEASON. IT'S THE PLAY OF NOAH SCHUTTE, LATE LAST SEASON, THAT REALLY TOOK THIS CONCORDIA TEAM TO THE NEXT LEVEL. THE BULLDOGS HAVE THE PIECES THAT FIT THEIR SYSTEM AND THEY EXECUTE REALLY WELL. THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS TEAM STILL THIS SEASON!

### 3. Northwestern (IA)

NORTHWESTERN WAS 21-11 LAST SEASON AND RETURN 2X ALL-AMERICAN, ALEX VAN KALSBECK. ALL-GPAC MEMBERS, GRANT DEMEULENAERE AND MATT ONKEN ARE BACK AS WELL. THE RAIDERS ALSO GET CRAIG STERK BACK, WHO WAS 2ND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE MEMBER IN 2020-21 AND TOOK LAST SEASON OFF. THEY PICK UP A COUPLE NICE D2 TRANSFERS IN DILLON CARLSON (DRURY) AND ZACH LAFAYE (WAYNE STATE). AS GOOD AS MASON WALTERS HAS BEEN IN THIS LEAGUE, ALEX VAN KALSBECK HAS ARGUABLY BEEN THE NEXT BEST PLAYER IN THE GPAC THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS. THIS IS A WELL COACHED GROUP, WHO WE BELIEVE IS CAPABLE OF WINNING THE GPAC THIS SEASON.

### 4. Dordt

BRYCE COPPOCK, CADE BLEEKER AND LUKE RANKIN ARE BACK FOR DORDT. THIS WAS A YOUNG GROUP, LAST SEASON, WHO PERFORMED BETTER THAN THE PRESEASON POLLS HAD THEM AT. WHILE THEY LOST IN THE NAIA OPENING ROUND, THEY GOT SOME VALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT THEY CAN CARRY INTO THIS YEAR. THE GPAC IS LOADED WITH RETURNERS, SO THINGS WON'T BE EASY, BUT THIS IS A TEAM THAT SHOWED THIER POTENTIAL LAST YEAR AND NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A FEW MORE OF THEIR CLOSER GAMES AND COMPETE FOR A GPAC TITLE.

### 5. Briar Cliff

THIS IS PROBABLY TOO LOW FOR THE DEFENDING GPAC REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONS. HOWEVER, THEY KIND OF LIMPED INTO THE FINAL COUPLE WEEKS OF THE SEASON, OPENING THE DOOR FOR THE REST OF THE LEAGUE. THE GOOD NEWS FOR BC FANS IS THAT BOTH JADEN KLEINHESSELINK (1ST TEAM) AND KYLE BOERHAVE (2ND TEAM) DECIDED TO COME BACK FOR THEIR 5TH YEAR. THIS WILL PUT THE CHARGERS IN CONTENTION FOR ANOTHER GPAC TITLE. IT'S JUST A DEEP LEAGUE WITH MANY TEAMS CAPABLE OF BRINGING HOME A GPAC TITLE.

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Preview

THE GCAC, IS AN 8 TEAM, 1 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. LAST SEASON, PHILANDER-SMITH WAS THE REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONS WITH A 7-2 RECORD. HOWEVER, IT WAS TOUGALOO WHO WOULD GO ON TO WIN THE GCAC TOURNAMENT AND ADVANCE TO THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. WITH SUCH A SMALL LEAGUE, THERE ISN'T MUCH ROOM FOR ERROR. TOUGALOO AND PHILANDER-SMITH SHOULD COMPETE FOR A GCAC REGULAR SEASON TITLE AGAIN. THE EARLY FAVORITE, THOUGH, IS GOING TO BE DILLARD. DILLARD WAS A FORCE IN THE GCAC PRIOR TO COVID. HOWEVER, IN THE LAST COUPLE OF SEASONS, THEY HAVE BEEN A BIT DOWN. THEY HAVE RELOADED WITH 11 TRANSFERS FROM THE D1, D2 AND NAIA LEVELS. ON PAPER, THEY LOOK LIKE THE BEST TEAM IN THIS LEAGUE. THE GCAC DOES ADD 3 NEW TEAMS AS WILEY (TX), OAKWOOD AND SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY - NEW ORLEANS ARE NEW MEMBERS. WILEY COMES FROM THE RED RIVER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE. BOTH OAKWOOD AND SOUTHERN (LA) ARE NEW NAIA MEMBERS. SOUTHERN, WAS ACTUALLY A PREVIOUS NAIA MEMBER BEFORE DROPPING THEIR ATHLETICS PROGRAM IN 2020. IT'S GOOD TO SEE THEM BACK IN THE NAIA NOW! THE REGULAR SEASON IN THE GCAC IS IMPORTANT FOR SEEDING, BUT WITH THE GCAC MOST LIKELY NOT GETTING ANY AT-LARGE CONSIDERATIONS, THE GCAC TOURNAMENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS LEAGUE!

### GCAC POY Watch List

Armani Allen – Dillard  
Quinterious Jones – Dillard

### Top Transfers

N/A

### Freshmen To Watch

N/A

### 1 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers



## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Dillard

THE MOST TALENTED TEAM IN THE LEAGUE AS DILLARD HAS RELOADED WITH A TON OF GOOD TRANSFERS. ARMANI ALLEN (LANGSTON), KENYON DULNIG (PIKEVILLE), AND QUINTERIUOS JONES (ST THOMAS) ALL HAVE HAD GOOD STATS AT THEIR PREVIOUS NAIA'S. INTERM HEAD COACH, ASHANTI GRAY, HAS HIMSELF A SQUAD! THE TOUGHEST PART OF HIS JOB IS GOING TO BE FINDING MINUTES FOR ALL OF THESE GUYS. THEY HAVE 13 GUYS WHO PLAYED REALLY GOOD MINUTES AT THEIR PREVIOUS SPOTS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THE TALENT IS THERE, IF THEY CAN HOLD IT TOGETHER, THEY WILL BE DANGEROUS!



### 2. Philander Smith

PHILANDER WON THE REGULAR SEASON GCAC TITLE LAST SEASON, BUT COULDN'T GET THE SWEEP IN THE GCAC TOURNAMENT TO ADVANCE TO THE NAIA TOURNEY. EXPECT COACH DAY AND THE PANTHERS TO, ONCE AGAIN, COMPETE FOR A GCAC TITLE.



### 3. Tougaloo

TOUGALOO, A FEW YEARS BACK, WAS A PERINIAL TOP 25 TEAM JUST A FEW YEARS BACK. WHILE THEY HAD A DOWN SEASON LAST YEAR, THEY WERE ABLE TO FIGURE THINGS OUT IN THE GCAC TOURNAMENT TO WIN IT ALL AND GET THE ONLY GCAC BID TO THE NAIA TOURNAMENT. THEY WERE A FAIRLY YOUNG GROUP LAST SEASON WITH JUST TWO SENIORS. IF CAM COPELAND IS BACK, IT WON'T BE A SHOCK TO SEE THEM WIN THE LEAGUE AGAIN.



## THE HEART CONFERENCE

### Heart Athletic Conference Preview

THE 14 TEAM HEART OF AMERICA RECEIVES 3 AUTO-BIDS TO THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE HEART IS ALWAYS A GRIND, BUT THIS LEAGUE WILL BE AN INTERESTING ONE THIS SEASON. WILLIAM PENN HAS WON THE HEART TITLE IN FIVE OF THE PAST 6 SEASONS. INCLUDING 4 STRAIGHT. THEY WILL ENTER THE SEASON AS THE FAVORITES TO WIN THE HEART, ONCE AGAIN, BUT THEY MAYBE AREN'T AS BIG OF FAVORITES AS THEY HAVE BEEN OVER THE PAST FEW SEASONS AS THE GAP IS CLOSING BETWEEN THEM AND THE FIELD. THE HEART ONLY RETURNS 2 PLAYERS OFF OF THE 1ST TEAM ALL-HEART TEAM. IT'S A LEAGUE THAT ALSO LOSES TWO COACHING LEGENDS IN ROCKY LAMAR AND JEFF SHERMAN. ALL OF THE NEWNESS OF THE LEAGUE IS WHAT SHOULD HELP TO BRING A LOT MORE PARITY TO THE LEAGUE. PLAYER WISE, THE BEST RETURNING PLAYER IN THE HEART AND FAVORITE TO WIN THE HEART POY, WILL BE ANTHONY BROWN OF MIDAMERICA NAZARENE. A KID WE HAVE BEEN FANS OF FOR YEARS, BROWN HAS HAD SOME BIG MOMENTS AND IS A GUY THAT NEW MNU HEAD COACH, ADAM HEPKER, WILL LEAN ON QUITE A BIT! ANOTHER STORY LINE TO LOOK OUT FOR IS THE RETURN OF ROB FRY TO CULVER-STOCKTON. THE HEART FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR, 2 SEASONS AGO, RETURNS AFTER SPENDING A YEAR AT D2, ST. LEO. THAT CULVER-STOCKTON TEAM WILL HAVE THE MOST RETURNING ALL-HEART PERFORMERS BACK AND COULD BE A SLEEPER TEAM IF THEY CAN TAKE THAT NEXT STEP THIS SEASON. PERU STATE, WHO HAS A LOT OF TALENT, IS ALSO A SNEAKY TEAM TO WATCH OUT FOR THIS YEAR!

### Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. William Penn

THE STATESMEN HAVE ONE OF THE BEST PG'S IN THE COUNTRY IN CHANZE CRUESOE. HE ALREADY HAS A COUPLE OF TRIPLE-DOUBLES UNDER HIS BELT AND IS THE ENGINE THAT MAKES THIS HIGH POWERED OFFENSE GO. THE STATESMEN ALSO GET BACK, EDDIE DAILY, WHO RETURNS AFTER SITTING OUT THIS PAST SEASON. THE 6'9 F, WAS AN ALL-LEAGUE PERFORMER TWO SEASONS AGO. THEY BRING IN JAMES PENNINGTON (TRINITY CHRISTIAN), WHO IS A PERFECT FIT FOR THEIR SYSTEM. THAT TRIO IS AS GOOD AS ANYONE IN THE HEART! THEIR DEPTH, WHICH HAS BEEN HUGE FOR THEM THE PAST FEW SEASONS, IS WHAT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE. LOSING 9 SENIORS, WHICH ALL HAD BEEN MOSTLY TOGETHER FOR 3 YEARS, IS TOUGH. WE MAY SEE SOME EARLY GROWING PAINS WITH THIS GROUP!



#### 2. MidAmerica Nazarene

ADAM HEPKER RETURNED TO MNU LAST SEASON AS THE COACH IN WAITING. HE TAKES OVER THIS MNU PROGRAM FROM THE LEGENDARY, ROCKY LAMAR. THE GOOD PART IS THAT HE HAS A NICE CORE OF RETURNERS BACK IN ANTHONY BROWN, CALEB JONES-MCCRARY AND JAKE ALEXANDER. THE PIONEERS ADD IN A TRIO OF JUCO GUYS IN EDWARD WRIGHT II (ALLEN COUNTY), KOBE REESE (SPOKANE CC) AND JONEL APONTE (CABRILLO CC). AS MENTIONED IN THE LEAGUE PREVIEW, ANTHONY BROWN WILL COME INTO THE SEASON AS THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD. HE HAS HAD ONE HECK OF A CAREER AT MNU AND WILL LOOK TO FINISH HIS SENIOR SEASON OFF WITH A HEART CHAMPIONSHIP!



#### 3. Evangel

THIS WILL BE EVANGEL'S FINAL SEASON IN THE HEART OF AMERICA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE AS THEY MOVE TO THE KCAC NEXT SEASON. THE VALOR HAD A GREAT TEAM LAST SEASON, UNFORTUNATELY THEY CHOSE THE WRONG GAME OF THE SEASON TO GO ICE COLD FROM 3 AND THEY GOT UPSET IN THE NAIA OPENING ROUND TO FLORIDA COLLEGE. BERT CAPEL WAS A GREAT HIRE TO REPLACE THE LEGEND STEVE JENKINS AND HE WILL LOOK TO GET THE VALOR TO THE NEXT LEVEL THIS SEASON. THEY RETURN JOSH PRITCHETT (1ST TEAM ALL-HEART), MANRIQUE ALVARADO AND EDRIEL MARTINBOROUGH, 3 GUYS THAT WERE KEY IN LAST YEARS SUCCESS. THEY GET A NICE TRANSFER IN BRYCE HUNT (D1 COPPIN ST) AND THEY LOOK READY TO MAKE A CHARGE AT A HEART TITLE.



#### 4. Grandview

GRANDVIEW HAS CHANGED THE DYNAMIC OF THEIR TEAM A BIT THIS SEASON. THEY BRING IN JUCO TRANSFERS CECIL LEE JR (HUTCH CC), KEYSHAUN BOLEN JR (CENTRAL ARIZONA) DOMINK BANGU (RIVERLAND) AND D2 TRANSFER, NOAH HART (MN MANKATO). THEY HAVE ISIAH JOHNSON AND BRADY SARTORIUS BACK FROM THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER FROM LAST SEASON. WHILE THEY LOST ALL-AMERICAN, RYAN MILLER, THE VIKINGS HAVE RELOADED AND LOOK TO HAVE BETTER DEPTH THIS SEASON!



#### 5. Central Methodist

MATT SHERMAN TAKES OVER FOR HIS DAD, JEFF SHERMAN AND WILL LOOK TO KEEP THE EAGLES SOARING. THEY HAVE A TALENTED GROUP IN THERE STARTING WITH TRANSFERS JAMES JORDAN (D1 KENT ST), EVERETT STUBBLEFIELD (LAKE LAND CC), JAQUAN MORRIS (D2 ENMU). THEY ALSO HAVE RETURNING ALL-CONF MEMBER, ISAIAH MAY AND BIG MAN, TOM SOWOOLU, WHO STARTED 23 GAMES AS A FRESHMAN. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT MATT SHERMAN CAN DO WITH THIS CMU PROGRAM IN YEAR 1!

### Heart POY Watch List

Anthony Brown - MidAmerica Nazarene  
Chanze Crusoe - William Penn  
James Pennington - William Penn  
Jalen Patterson - Baker  
Jake Fierst - Clarke  
Josh Pritchett - Evangel  
Lorenzo Anderson - Peru St.  
Jibril Harris - Peru St.  
James Jordan - Central Methodist

### Top Transfers

James Pennington - William Penn (Trinity Christian)  
Chris Burnell - Clarke (Rock Valley JC)  
Rob Fry - Culver-Stockton (D2 St. Leo)  
Edwin Wright II - MNU (Allen County CC)  
Cecil Lee Jr - Grandview (Hutchinson CC)  
Bryce Hunt - Evangel (D1 Coppin St)  
Lorenzo Anderson - Peru St. (Judson)  
James Jordan - Central Methodist (D1 Kent St.)  
Gavin Terhark - Benedictine (D2 Northern St)  
Sam'i Roe - Graceland (D1 Neb-Omaha)

### Freshmen To Watch

Rob Chaney - Clarke  
Caden Kaberline - MNU  
Manny Hammonds - William Penn  
Ty Morrison - Grandview  
Anthony Hall - Benedictine

### 3 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## KCAC Conference Preview

THE KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE IS A 13 TEAM, 2-BID LEAGUE. THE LEAGUE HAS BEEN PRETTY TOP HEAVY THE PAST FEW SEASONS. OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN WILL BE THE FAVORITES HEADED INTO THE SEASON AND WILL ALSO BE A TOP 10 TEAM WHEN THE COACHES POLL COMES OUT LATER THIS MONTH. THE EAGLES ARE COMING OFF OF AN APPEARANCE IN THE NAIA QUARTERFINALS. THE KCAC PUT TWO TEAMS INTO THE ROUND OF 16 IN KANSAS CITY LAST YEAR. RIGHT NOW, THEY ARE THE TOP TIER OF THE KCAC. SOUTHWESTERN (KS) AND KANSAS WESLEYAN RETURN THEIR BEST PLAYERS THIS YEAR AND YOU CAN FLIP A COIN ON WHO YOU WANT TO PREDICT THAT FINISHES HIGHER. EITHER WAY, WE LIKE BOTH TEAMS AND THINK BOTH ARE IN GREAT SPOTS TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. TO DO THAT THOUGH, YOU HAVE TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE GAUNTLET OF KCAC PLAY. WITH 24 LEAGUE GAMES, IT'S A GRIND EACH AND EVERY NIGHT. WE DO SEE A NICE GROUPING OF ALL-KCAC SELECTIONS RETURNING TO ACTION THIS SEASON AS WELL. IT IS HEADLINED BY THE KCAC LEADING SCORER AND 2ND TEAM ALL-AMERICAN, CEVIN CLARK (SOUTHWESTERN (KS)). OTHER KCAC PLAYER OF THE CANDIDATES WILL BE JADEN LEITZKE (OKWU) AND JUN MURDOCK (KANSAS WESLEYAN). THERE ARE SO MANY TEAMS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS LEAGUE THAT COULD BE SLEEPER TEAMS. TEAMS SUCH AS MCPHERSON AND FIRENDS ARE TEAMS WHO WERE MIDDLE OF THE PACK LAST SEASON THAT WILL BE LOOKING TO JUMP INTO THE UPPER PART OF THE KCAC!

### KCAC POY Watch List

Cevin Clark - Southwestern  
Phillip Smith - Southwestern  
Jaden Leitzke - OKWU  
Jun Murdock - Kansas Wesleyan  
Solomon Clayton - Bethany

### Top Transfers

Jerome Mabry - McPherson (D2 MN Crookston)  
Phillip Smith - Southwestern (FL Southwest JC)  
Cody Fredrickson - Ottawa (D2 Adams St)  
Phillip Smith - Southwestern (FL Southwestern)  
Jarvis Jennings - Southwestern (John Wood)

### Freshmen To Watch

Curtis Scott - Ottawa  
Christian Williams - Friends  
KJ Marshall - McPherson

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers



## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. Oklahoma Wesleyan

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN HAS MADE IT TO KANSAS CITY IN BACK-TO-BACK SEASONS. LAST YEAR THEY CAME WITHIN A POINT OF A FAB FOUR APPEARANCE. THIS IS A DEEP AND TALENTED GROUP, LED BY JADEN LEITZKE (3RD TEAM ALL-AMERICAN). THEIR STYLE OF PLAY REALLY TAKES A TOLL ON OPPOSING TEAMS AS THEY COME AT YOU IN WAIVES. THEY ARE A SMART TEAM, WHO SHOOTS THE BALL WELL AND THEN ATTACKS THE GLASS ON MISSES. THEY PLAY HARD AND COMPETE! THERE IS A REASON THEY ARE THE TEAM TO BEAT IN THE KCAC AND A PRESEASON TOP 10 TEAM.



#### 2. Southwestern (KS)

LAST SEASON DIDN'T END LIKE SOUTHWESTERN WAS HOPING. THEY WERE PLAYING GOOD BALL LATE IN YEAR, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FELL IN THE OPENING ROUND OF THE NAIA TOURNAMENT. THEY DO RETURN A GOOD CREW OF RETURNERS. INCLUDING, 2ND TEAM ALL-AMERICAN, CEVIN CLARK. WHO IS OPEN AND READY TO LET IT FLY AS SOON AS HE ENTERS THE GYMNASIUM. ON TOP OF THAT THEY RETURN DENG BOL (2ND TEAM ALL-KCAC AND DPOV) ANDREW O'BRIEN (HM ALL-KCAC), WHO SET THE SC ALL-TIME REBOUNDING RECORD AND COOPER PIERCE (HM ALL-KCAC). THEY ALSO ADD IN PHILLIP SMITH (FLORIDA SOUTHERN JUCO) WHO STARTED AT D1 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL 2 SEASONS AGO. JARVIS JENNINGS (JOHN WOOD) IS ALSO JOINING THE CLUB. JENNINGS WAS A 2X JUCO ALL-AMERICAN! THIS SOUTHWESTERN TEAM DIDN'T JUST SETTLE FOR THEIR GOOD RETURNING CLASS. THEY KNEW THEY NEEDED TO GET BETTER AND DID. THIS WILL BE A FUN GROUP TO WATCH!



#### 3. Kansas Wesleyan

THIS IS A TEAM THAT GOT SOME GREAT EXPERIENCE LAST YEAR IN THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHPS. THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR AT-LARGE SELECTION AND NOW JON MURDOCK AND COMPANY ARE READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP. WITH AJ RANGE BEING THE ONLY CONTRIBUTING SENIOR OFF OF LAST YEARS TEAM, THIS COYOTE TEAM BRINGS BACK NEARLY EVERYONE INCLUDING 4 STARTERS. THE YOUNG COYOTES ARE GROWING UP FAST AND THIS COULD BE A BIG, BIG YEAR FOR THEM!



#### 4. Bethel (KS)

THE THRESHERS LOST JALEN SCOTT, THE 2X KCAC POY, BUT ALL IS NOT LOST. THEY WERE ABLE TO TALK CLIFFORD BYRD AND BRYANT MOCABY INTO COMING BACK FOR A GRAD YEAR. THEY ALSO WILL BE LEANING ON HARPER JONAS TO TAKE HIS GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL. THE THRESHERS HAVE HAD SOME OF THEIR BEST SEASONS IN PROGRAM HISTORY AS OF LATE. IT MAY TAKE A COMBO OF DIFFERENT PLAYERS TO MAKE UP FOR JALEN SCOTT, BUT JASON ARTAZ HAS DONE A GREAT JOB WITH THIS PROGRAM, SO WE AREN'T READY TO DROP THEM THAT FAR DOWN THE LIST.



#### 5. Ottawa (KS)

OTTAWA WILL BRING IN 6 TRANSFERS THIS SEASON TO TRY AND RELOAD FROM A SENIOR GROUP THAT HAD GOOD CAREERS. THE TRANSFER GROUP MAY BE LED BY CODY FREDRICKSON (D2 ADAMS STATE) BUT WE REALLY LIKE THEIR PICKUP OF RICARDO ZAMBRANO (NORTHERN NEW MEXICO) WHO CAN REALLY BRING A SCORING THREAT TO THE LINEUP. THE OTTAWA RETURNING LIST IS HEADLINED BY TRISTAN HULL (HM ALL-KCAC). JOINING HIM WILL BE TY BLAND WHO WAS A DOUBLE FIGURE SCORER AND ELIJAH MASON, WHO PLAYED DECENT MINUTES AS A FRESHMAN.



## Mid-South Conference Preview

THE MID-SOUTH IS A 12 TEAM, 2-BID LEAGUE. THEY ACTUALLY SENT SIX TEAMS DANCING LAST SEASON. HOWEVER, OF THE SIX QUALIFIERS, JUST TWO MADE IT OUT OF THE FIRST ROUND AND THOMAS MORE WAS THE ONLY MSC TEAM TO MAKE IT TO KANSAS CITY, WHERE THEY ADVANCED ALL THE WAY TO THE NAIA FAB FOUR. THIS YEAR THOMAS MORE, GEORGETOWN AND CUMBERLAND (TN) ARE ALL LOADED UP AND LOOKING LIKE THE MAIN CONTENDERS.

CUMBERLANDS (KY) AND UT SOUTHERN ROUND UP OUR TOP 5 TEAMS. BOTH TEAMS HAVE SOME MAJOR TALENT AS WELL. TO SUM IT UP, THE MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE LOOKS LIKE IT'S REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE BEST LEAGUES IN THE NAIA, IS GOING TO STAY! THE LEAGUE DID LOSE LIFE (GA) TO THE SOUTHERN STATES ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, BUT THEY REPLACE THEM WITH WILBERFORCE.

IT IS GOING TO BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT ALL HAPPENS WITH THE MSC MOVING FORWARD. THOMAS MORE (NCAA D2) AND SHAWNEE STATE (RIVER STATES CONFERENCE) ARE SET TO LEAVE AFTER THIS SEASON. THAT CAN BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER DATE THOUGH. PLAYER WISE, THE MSC HAS A LOT OF REALLY GREAT RETURNERS AND TEAMS HAVE ALSO BROUGHT IN A TON OF BIG TIME TRANSFERS. THIS IS ANOTHER LEAGUE, WHERE IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE NAIA, AND WANT TO SEE SOME TOP NOTCH BASKETBALL, YOU SHOULD TUNE IN! IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER BIG TIME YEAR IN THE MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE!

### Mid-South POY Watch List

Steven Fitzgerald - Cumberlands (KY)  
 Jahi Hinson - Cumberlands (KY)  
 Adarion Hudson - UT Southern  
 Reid Jolly - Thomas More  
 Kyran Jones - Georgetown  
 Jake Ohmer - Georgetown  
 Isaac Stephens - Cumberland (TN)  
 Ty'Reek Johnson - Cumberland (TN)  
 Elijah Jordan - Lindsey Wilson

### Top Transfers

Ty'Reek Johnson - Cumberland (TN) (Fort Valley St)  
 Demarius Boyd - Cumberland (TN) (Walters St)  
 Kyle Ross - Thomas More (D1 WI-Milwaukee)  
 Matt Smith - Thomas More - (D1 Murray St)  
 Andre Silva - Cumberlands (KY) (Union)  
 Jadrian Flores - Cumberlands (KY) (D1 Western IL)  
 Rodney Lewis - Lindsey Wilson (Garden City CC)

### Freshmen To Watch

Jaden Coles - Thomas More  
 Jayden Lazard - Lindsey Wilson  
 Cole Davis - Lindsey Wilson

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers



## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. Georgetown

GEORGETOWN RETURNS 3 STARTERS, INCLUDING DOUBLE-DOUBLE MACHINE AND 3X ALL-AMERICAN, KYRAN JONES. WHILE LEADING SCORER, DERRIN BOYD, ELECTED TO TRANSFER TO NCAA D1, THE TIGERS MADE A HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT LAST MONTH WHEN THEN ANNOUNCED THAT JAKE OHMER IS RETURNING AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF OFF. OHMER WAS A BIG PART OF THE 2020 GEORGETOWN SQUAD THAT WAS THE #1 RANKED TEAM IN THE NAIA WHEN COVID CANCELLED THE SEASON. COACH CHRIS BRIGGS IS ONE OF THE BEST COACHES, AT ANY LEVEL, AND THIS YEARS TEAM JUST HAS THE FEEL THAT THE TIGERS ARE BACK!



#### 2. Thomas More

WE WENT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THOMAS MORE AND GEORGETOWN FOR THE #1 OVERALL SPOT IN THE MID-SOUTH. THOMAS MORE RETURNS, REID JOLLY (1ST TEAM ALL-MS), NOAH PACK (HM ALL-MS), JACOB JONES, CASEY GEORGE AND WYATT VIETH. LOSING THE MSC POY, RYAN BATTE, IS A BIG LOSS. BUT JUSTIN RAY AND COMPANY ARE LOCKED AND LOADED FOR THE FINAL SEASON IN THE NAIA. THEY BRING IN 3 D1 TRANSFERS AND A D2 TRANSFER. THIS IS THEIR LAST SEASON IN THE NAIA, AND THEY WOULD LOVE TO LEAVE IT WITH THE RED BANNER!



#### 3. Cumberland (TN)

LOSING TAVON KING HURTS, BUT THE TIGERS RETURN A GOOD GROUP OF PLAYERS ANCHORED BY ISAAC STEPHENS AND THE MSC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR, TJ STARGEL. THEY ALSO BRING IN TY'REEK JOHNSON WHO PUT UP SOME GOOD NUMBERS AT FORT VALLEY STATE. THEY ALSO SIGNED JUCO ALL-AMERICAN, DEMARIUS BOYD TO HELP BRING A SCORING PUNCH TO THE LINEUP. THE TIGERS HAVE SIZE, DEPTH AND TALENT TO BEAT ANYONE IN THE COUNTRY. THEY RAN INTO A VERY GOOD TALADEGA TEAM IN THE 2ND ROUND LAST YEAR, BUT CAN SEE THEM MAKING A DEEP RUN THIS YEAR!



#### 4. Cumberlands (KY)

CUMBERLANDS RETURNS 1ST TEAM ALL-MS MEMBERS, STEVEN FITZGERALD AND JAHU HINSON. THEY ALSO BRING IN THE AAC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR, ANDRE SILVA FROM UNION (KY) AND D1 TRANSFER, JADRIAN FLORES (WESTERN IL). THEY ARE A FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM FOR US ENTERING THE SEASON, BUT THIS IS A TEAM THAT CAN DEFINITELY MAKE SOME NOISE THIS SEASON. EITHER WAY, BARRING A FEW INJURIES, THEY SHOULD BE A TOURNAMENT TEAM AGAIN THIS SEASON.



#### 5. UT-Southern

ANOTHER FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM TO START THE SEASON, UT SOUTHERN RETURNS NEARLY EVERYONE FROM LAST SEASON. A GROUP THAT WAS ACTUALLY IN 1ST PLACE IN THE MSC STANDINGS WITH A MONTH TO PLAY, BUT THEY LOST 4 OF THEIR LAST 5 GAMES OF THE SEASON. ADARION HUDSON AND KAVION HANCOCK LEAD THE WAY FOR THE FIREHAWKS. WITH NEARLY EVERYONE BACK, THERE WASN'T A TON OF NEED FOR TRANSFERS, BUT THE FIREHAWKS DID BRING IN D2 TRANSFER, MALIK TYSON.



## North Star Athletic Association Preview

THE NORTH STAR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IS AN 8 TEAM, 1 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. THIS PAST SEASON THAT AUTO-BID WENT TO BELLEVUE, AND THEY WILL BE THE EARLY FAVORITE ENTERING THIS SEASON AS WELL. A TEAM THAT RETURNS 11 PLAYERS FROM THEIR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCE AND ADDED A COUPLE KEY PIECES.

WITH WHAT THEY HAVE COMING BACK, THE NSAA WILL BE THEIRS TO LOSE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE NORTH STAR HASN'T HAD A TON OF LUCK WINNING GAMES AGAINST NON-LEAGUE OPPONENTS. THIS HAS LED TO THE NSAA ONLY GETTING 1 TEAM INTO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS THE PAST TWO SEASONS. BELLEVUE PUT UP A FIGHT AGAINST 1-SEEDED WILLIAM PENN IN THE OPENING ROUND. THEY RETURN NEARLY EVERYONE IS BACK AND THEY HAVE ADDED SOME KEY PIECES AS WELL. MAYVILLE STATE, VITERBO AND VALLEY CITY STATE ARE ALL NIPPING AT THEIR HEELS AS WELL. UNLESS ONE OF THESE TEAMS CAN CLIMB IN THEIR ARC RATINGS, THE NSAA IS ONLY GOING TO GET ONE TEAM IN AND THAT IS WHY THE NSAA TOURNAMENT COULD END UP GETTING A BIT CRAZY! NOT TO SAY THAT THE REGULAR SEASON DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE IT WILL. NOT JUST FOR SEEDING PURPOSES, BUT TEAMS HAVE TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO TRY AND CLIMB IN THE ARC RANKINGS. IN TODAY'S WORLD OF NAIA HOOPS, THE ARC IS THE BIGGEST DETERMINING FACTOR ON WHO IS AND ISN'T GETTING AT-LARGE BIDS. IF YOU WIN A REGULAR SEASON TITLE, BUT DON'T HAVE A HIGH ENOUGH ARC RANK, THEN IN 1-BID LEAGUES LIKE THE NSAA, IT MEANS WIN OR GO HOME COME CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT TIME.

### NSAA POY Watch List

Jack Monis - Viterbo (Reigning NSAA POY)  
 Thomas Gieske - Mayville State  
 Vinny Belcaster - Bellevue  
 Paulo Araujo - Bellevue  
 Keenami Maggard - Bellevue  
 Ronnie Latting - Dakota State

### Top Transfers

Brandon Doss - Presentation (William Penn)  
 Jake Watson - Viterbo (Elsworth CC)  
 Macaulay Jones - Viterbo (Western Tx CC)  
 Alex Pena - Mayville St (Northwest CC)  
 Trent Blackshire - Mayville St (San Jose City)  
 Keenami Maggard - Bellevue (Los Medanos College)

### Freshmen To Watch

Colin Adams - Viterbo  
 Quinn Ewald - Viterbo  
 Liam Thompson - Bellevue  
 Nick Carlson - Valley City St.

### 1 Auto-Bid Predictions

## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. Bellevue

BELLEVUE GOT OFF TO A BIT OF A SLOW START LAST SEASON, BUT FOUND THEMSELVES JUST IN TIME TO START PLAYING THEIR BEST BASKETBALL AT THE RIGHT TIME OF YEAR. THEY SHARED THE NSAA REGULAR SEASON TITLE WITH VITERBO, BUT WENT ON TO WIN THE NSAA TOURNAMENT AND QUALIFY FOR THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. THEY RETURN A LOT OF TALENT AND THEY ARE SET UP TO HAVE A REALLY GOOD SEASON. VINNY BELCASTER WAS A BIG PART OF THEIR LATE SEASON SURGE AND HIM AND PAULO ARAUJO ARE TWO GUYS THAT WILL GIVE TEAMS FITS THIS SEASON.



#### 2. Mayville State

MAYVILLE STATE AND BELLEVUE HAVE KIND OF BEEN THE CREAM OF THE NSAA THE PAST FEW YEARS AND THAT IS HOW WE SEE IT SHAPING OUT AGAIN THIS SEASON. MAYVILLE RETURNS 6 GUYS, INCLUDING 1ST TEAM ALL-NSAA MEMBER, THOMAS GIESKE. COACH DARREN TIGHE ALSO BRINGS IN 8 TRANSFERS TO BUILD AROUND THOSE SIX CORE RETURNERS. TRENT BLACKSHIRE AND ALEX PENA PUT UP GOOD NUMBERS IN JUNIOR COLLEGE LAST SEASON. BLACKSHIRE BRINGS A DIFFERENT DYNAMIC TO THE COMETS AND GIVES THEM A SCORING PUNCH THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO BEAT BELLEVUE!



#### 3. Viterbo

VITERBO COMES OFF OF A SEASON THAT SAW THEM BE NAMED NSAA CO-CHAMPIONS. WHILE THE TOURNAMENT DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED, THEY BRING BACK THE NSAA PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN JACK MONIS. THEY ALSO BRING BACK HM ALL-NSAA SELECTION ROBERT CUNITZ. THE V-HAWKS BRING IN JAKE WATSON (ELSWORTH CC) AND MACAULAY JONES (WESTERN TX) TO HELP THEM TRY TO WIN THE LEAGUE ONCE AGAIN!



#### 4. Valley City State

VALLEY CITY STATE LOSES BOTH KEVIN SCHRAMM AND JALEN ADDISON TO GRADUATION. BOTH ARE BIG LOSSES, BUT EDDIE OYET AND DUOTH GACH ARE BACK, TWO GUYS WHO PROVIDE SOME LENGTH AND ATHLETICISM IF THEY DECIDED TO KEEP PRESSING. THEY ADD CLEVELAND BEDGOOD AND DREW CAREY TO THE ROSTER, BOTH OF WHICH PUT UP GOOD NUMBERS AT THEIR JUCO LAST SEASON. IF VCSU CAN OFFSET SOME OF THE SCORING THAT WAS LOST, THEY CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP PACE IN THE NSAA.



#### 5. Dakota State

DAKOTA STATE GOT A BIG FRESHMAN SEASON OUT OF RONNIE LATTING, WHO WAS NAMED 2ND TEAM ALL-NSAA. WITH THE GRADUATION OF 1ST TEAM NSAA MEMBER, LAMARR WOOD, THE TROJANS WILL LOOK FOR RONNIE TO STEP INTO THOSE SHOES THIS SEASON. THEY HAVE HAD A LOT OF TURNOVER, BUT HIM AND DESHAWN KELLY WILL LOOK TO LEAD A GROUP OF TRANSFERS THIS SEASON AND TO TRY AND HELP GARY GARNER WIN A NSAA TITLE!



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## Red River Athletic Conference Preview

THE RED RIVER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE IS A 13 TEAM, 2 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. LSU - SHREVEPORT AND LSU - ALEXANDRIA HAVE BEEN THE MOST DOMINANT TEAMS OVER THE PAST DECADE. LSUS LOST ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE FROM LAST SEASON. A TEAM THAT MADE IT TO KANSAS CITY FOR THE ROUND OF 16. COACH BLANKENSHIP DOES WHAT HE DOES BEST THOUGH AND THE PILOTS HAVE RELOADED ONCE AGAIN AND ARE ABSOLUTELY LOADED. THEY COME INTO THE SEASON AS THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE RRAC AND SHOULD BE A TOP 15 TEAM IN THE COUNTRY TO START THE SEASON. THE REST OF THE RRAC SEEMS TO BE A BIT OF A MYSTERY. XAVIER AND TEXARKANA SHOULD BE IN THE MIX. YOU CAN'T EVER COUNT OUT LARRY CORDERO AND LSU - ALEXANDRIA. FOR REGULAR SEASON PURPOSES, YOU HAVE TO ALSO CONSIDER PAUL QUINN, HOWEVER, IT'S UNKNOWN IF THEY HAVE THEIR ACCREDIATION FIGURED OUT WHERE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE POST SEASON OR NOT. PQ WERE THE CHAMPS OF THE WEST LAST YEAR AND NOW THAT THE LEAGUE GOES BACK TO ONE DIVISION, THEY WILL COMPETE FOR THE REGULAR SEASON TITLE AGAIN. THE RRAC THOUGH, STILL FEELS LIKE IT'S SHREVEPORTS TO LOSE. THEY ARE A POTENTIAL TOP 5 PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY. A TEAM IN THIS LEAGUE THAT LOOKS LIKE THEY COULD MAKE A NICE JUMP, IS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHWEST. THEY HAVE GONE THE TRANSFER ROUTE AND BRING IN A PLEOTHEA OF GUYS WHO CAN HELP GET THEM FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE TO ONE THAT COMPETES TOWARDS THE TOP!

### RRAC POY Watch List

Jalen Brooks - LSU Shreveport  
 Stacey Thomas - LSU Shreveport  
 Jakemin Abney - LSU Alexandria  
 Kobe Powell - Tx A&M Texarkana  
 Connor Ouellette - Tx A&M Texarkana

### Top Transfers

Stacy Thomas - LSU Shreveport (D1 La Tech)  
 Jalen Brooks - LSU - Shreveport (D2 Southern Ark)  
 Jamell Bradley - Southwest (D2 Tx A&M Kingsville)  
 Malik Malone - Southwest (Pikeville)

### Freshmen To Watch

Kaleb Huggins - Xavier (LA)  
 Noah Jonker - LSU Shreveport  
 Rayvon Smith - LSU Shreveport  
 Jordan Decuir - LSU Shreveport  
 Jordan Brooks - LSU Alexandria

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers



## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. LSU - Shreveport

THAT LITTLE SECTION TO THE RIGHT THAT SAYS "TOP TRANSFERS" WELL, YOU COULD BASICALLY FILL IT UP WITH THIS ENTIRE SQUAD. COACH BLANKENSHIP HAS DONE WHAT HE DOES BEST AND RELOADED! THE BIGGEST "NAME" AND BODY OF THE GROUP, IS STACY THOMAS, A 6'8" TRANSFER FROM LOUISIANA TECH, BUT MAYBE THE BEST PLAYER OF THE GROUPING IS JALEN BROOKS, A D2 TRANSFER FROM SOUTHERN ARKANSAS, WHO AVERAGED 13PPG AND 8.7RPG. HE IS TOP 10 AT SOUTHERN ARK IN 8 DIFFERENT STATISTICAL CATEGORIES. THIS SHREVEPORT TEAM LOOKS AS GOOD OR BETTER, ON PAPER, THEN LAST YEAR. THEY HAVE TO PUT IT TOGETHER FIRST, BUT THEY COULD BE A NATIONAL TITLE CONTENDER IF THEY DO!



#### 2. Xavier (LA)

XAVIER LOST THEIR BEST TWO PLAYERS TO THE PROS AND WHILE THAT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE SOME TEAMS HAVE TO REBUILD, COACH ALFRED WILLIAMS AND STAFF CONTINUE TO BUILD A STRONG PROGRAM AT XULA. COMING OFF OF A STRONG FRESHMAN CAMPAIGN, LANCE WILLIAMS WILL HAVE TO STEP HIS GAME UP. THIS IS A TEAM THAT HAD A TON OF GUYS WHO AVERAGED BETWEEN 5 AND 7PPG LAST SEASON. IF WILLIAMS, AND BOTH CAMERON AND CORY WELLS CAN PROVIDE MORE SCORING PUNCH THIS SEASON, THEN XULA WILL COMPETE FOR A RRAC TITLE. THEY CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE BEST DEFENSIVE TEAMS IN THE NAIA AND YOU CAN EXPECT THAT TO CONTINUE!



#### 3. Tx A&M Texarkana

TEXARKANA FELL SHORT OF MAKING IT TO TWO STRAIGHT NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS LAST YEAR. THEY HAD BIGGER EXPECTATIONS WITH KOBE POWELL AND CONNOR OULETTE. THOSE EXPECTATIONS WILL FOLLOW THEM INTO THIS SEASON. THOSE TWO, JOIN TRAY SPENCER IN THE RETURN. ALL 3 AVERAGED DOUBLE FIGURES LAST SEASON AND IF TEXARKANA IS GOING TO WIN A RRAC TITLE, THEY WILL NEED BIG YEARS AGAIN. HELPING TO LIGHTEN THE LOAD THIS YEAR WILL BE CHRISTOPHER COLEY (TEXAS WESLEYAN) WHO AVERAGED 7.4PPG/4.9RPG IN 2020-21.



#### 4. LSU - Alexandria

IT'S HONESTLY WEIRD PUTTING LSU-ALEXANDRIA IN THE 4 HOLE HERE. THEY HAVE BEEN SUCH A STAPLE IN THIS LEAGUE SINCE THEY STARTED THE PROGRAM 9 SHORT SEASONS AGO. ALL LARRY CORDERO HAS DONE THERE, IS WIN. THEY ARE COMING OFF OF A DOWN YEAR THOUGH, AND A COUPLE OF THEIR TOP PIECES TRANSFERRED OUT. THEY DO RETURN JAKEMIN ABNEY, AND JASON PERRY. NOW THEY WILL TRY TO TURN TO A SLEW OF TRANSFERS TO FILL THE GAPS. MITCHELL SERAILLE (D1 SFA) LEADS THE GROUP. FOLLOWED BY WILLIE LAPOOLE (SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA) AND KASHIE NATT (SUSLA)



#### 5. Univ. of the Southwest

THIS TEAM HAS BEEN STEADILY IMPROVING THE LAST COUPLE OF SEASONS. THEY RETURN LATARRYUS SMITH (HM ALL-RRAC) AND COMING OFF OF A RED SHIRT YEAR, WE SEE MARVIN LOWE RETURNING TO COLLEGE BASKETBALL. THIS USW STAFF HAS GONE OUT AND GOT SOME REALLY NICE TRANSFERS AS WELL. THEY START WITH JAMELL BRADLEY (TX A&M KINGSVILLE) AND MALIK MALONE (PIKEVILLE) REUNITES WITH HIS OLD MACU TEAMMATE, MARVIN LOWE. ALL TOGETHER, USW BRINGS IN 10 NEW TRANSFERS TO TRY AND HELP THEM MOVE THE NEEDLE CLOSER TO A RRAC TITLE.



## River States Conference Preview

THE RIVER STATES CONFERENCE IS A 13 TEAM, 2 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. THE LEAGUE IS SPLIT INTO 2 DIVISIONS, EAST AND WEST, WITH THE TOP 4 FROM EACH DIVISION MOVING ONTO THE RSC TOURNAMENT. LAST SEASON, IU-KOKOMO, LED BY A TRIO OF 5TH YEAR PLAYERS AND THE RSC PLAYER OF THE YEAR, DESEAN HAMPTON, PROVED TO BE TOO MUCH FOR THE LEAGUE. KOKOMO THEN WOULD GO AND UPSET 1-SEED WILLIAM PENN, ON THEIR HOME FLOOR TO ADVANCE TO KANSAS CITY! THEY LOSE THEIR TOP 3 PLAYERS FROM LAST SEASON, BUT COACH ERIC ECHELBERGER IS A HECK OF A COACH AND WE HAVE THEM IN OUR TOP SPOT TO START THE YEAR! WVU TECH AND ALICE LLOYD LOOK LIKE CONTENDERS AS WELL AND DON'T COUNT OUT IU EAST, RIO GRANDE OR IU SOUTHEAST. WE ARE ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW SARAH GAYLER DOES IN HER 2ND YEAR AS HEAD COACH AT BRESCIA. SHE HAD THE BEARCATS BATTLING LAST SEASON AND THEY SHOULD BE IMPROVED AGAIN THIS YEAR. OVERALL, THIS IS A COMPETITIVE LEAGUE. IT'S A TOUGH LEAGUE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, WITH SOME LONG ROAD TRIPS AND TOUGH ENVIRONMENTS. IT WAS PROBABLY A BETTER LEAGUE THEN IT WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR LAST SEASON AND WHILE WE HAVE SOME TURNOVER TO SOME OF THE TOP TEAMS FROM LAST YEAR, IT'S GOING TO BE ONE THAT WE WILL HAVE OUR EYE OUT ON EARLY AS THERE IS GOING TO BE A LOT OF UNKNOWNNS THAT WE ARE EAGER TO SEE GET PLAYED OUT!

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. IU Kokomo

LOSING DESEAN HAMPTON, TREQUAN SPIVEY AND ALLANTE HARPER IS NO EASY TASK WHEN TRYING TO STAY ATOP THE RIVER STATES CONFERENCE. THEY DO HAVE A GOOD CORE OF GUYS RETURNING THOUGH AND GUYS LIKE HUNTER WHITE WILL STEP INTO BIGGER ROLES THIS SEASON. IF THEY ARE GOING TO STAY ATOP THE RSC, THEY WILL HAVE TO FIND A GUY WHO CAN PUT GAMES AWAY, BUT AS WE MENTIONED, COACH ERIC ECHELBERGER IS A GOOD COACH WHO GETS THE BEST OUT OF HIS GUYS. AND NEW ASSISTANT COACH, TREQUAN SPIVEY, WILL BE ABLE TO STILL BRING A VETERAN VOICE TO THE TEAM, EVEN IF IT'S FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW THEN WHEN HE WAS A PLAYER!



### 2. WVU Tech

THE GOLDEN BEARS GET A NEW COACH IN GEORGE WILMORE, AS HE GETS ELEVATED TO THE TOP SPOT AFTER SERVING AS THE ASSISTANT COACH. THEY RETURN 1ST TEAM ALL-RSC SELECTION, THOMAS HAILEY, WHO IS COMING OFF OF A BIG TIME FRESHMAN SEASON. ALSO RETURNING FOR THE GOLDEN BEARS IS ANDREW WORK (2ND TEAM ALL-RSC). THIS IS A VETERAN GROUP, WHO IS TOUGH AND CAN SHOOT IT!



### 3. Alice Lloyd

ALICE LLOYD HAD A MAGICAL RIDE LAST YEAR AS THEY WERE THE LAST UNBEATEN TEAM OF NAIA TEAMS WHO COULD QUALIFY FOR THE NAIA TOURNAMENT. WHILE THEY HIT SOME ROAD BLOCKS IN A VERY TOUGH RIVER STATES CONFERENCE, THE EAGLES WERE STILL VERY MUCH A COMPETITIVE GROUP WHO SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE SEASON THEY HAD. THIS YEAR, WILL PHILPOT (1ST TEAM ALL-RSC) RETURNS AS DOES DAMON TOBLER (2ND TEAM ALL-RSC), BRYCE SLONE (2ND IN RSC IN 3PT%), COLYN STUGILL, BEN SOUMAHORO AND NOAH CAUDILL. THEY BRING IN JACOB CURRY (KING) AND JACK BROWN. THIS ALICE LLOYD TEAM COULD BE IN FOR ANOTHER REALLY FUN SEASON!



### 4. Rio Grande

RIO HAS BATTLED A LOT OF INJURIES THE PAST TWO SEASONS. IN PARTICULAR TO THEIR BEST TWO PLAYERS IN MIKI TADIC AND SHILOAH BLEVINS. IF THIS GROUP CAN STAY HEALTHY, THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO WIN THE LEAGUE. THEY GET A NICE TRANSFER BIG IN MIKE CODY (BRYAN) GIVING THE RED STORM A REALLY NICE TRIO. RYAN ARROWOOD ENTERS HIS 3RD SEASON AND IS LOOKING TO GET THIS RIO GRANDE TEAM BACK ATOP THE RIVER STATES CONFERENCE!



### 5. IU East

IU EAST LOST 3 OF ITS TOP 4 SCORERS FROM LAST SEASON, BUT GET A RETURN FROM JAMISEN SMITH (2ND TEAM ALL-RSC). THEY GET IBRA ATHIE (EDISON STATE) ADDED TO THE MIX. IBRA AVERAGED 17PPG LAST SEASON AND WILL HELP SOFTEN THE LOAD AS THE RED WOLVES TRY TO REPLACE SOME OF THEIR LOST SCORING. THIS IS A REALITIVELY YOUNG IU EAST SQUAD, BUT MARK HESTER IS ONE OF THE BEST COACHES AROUND AND WILL GET THIS YOUNG SQUAD COMPETING!

## RSC POY Watch List

Will Philpot - Alice Lloyd  
Tayton Smith - Brescia  
Donnie Miler - Midway  
Miki Tadic - Rio Grande  
Thomas Hailey - WVU Tech  
Shiloah Blevins - Rio Grande

## Top Transfers

Jacob Curry - Alice Lloyd (King U)  
Domontas Sakickas - Oakland City (D2 HI Pacific)  
Cassius Bell - Ohio Christian (Columbia College)  
Elijah Pughsley - Brescia (Western Carolina)  
Tobias Thompson - Midway (Lincoln Trail)  
Mike Cody - Rio Grande (Bryan)

## Freshmen To Watch

Wilgus Tolson - Alice Lloyd  
Landon Napier - Alice Lloyd  
Hunter Johnson - Oakland City  
Jayden Razor - Ohio Christian  
Brant Brower - Midway  
Kaden Warner - Rio Grande

## 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers





## Sooner Athletic Conference Preview

THE SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE IS A 12 TEAM, 2-AUTO BID LEAGUE. WHILE THE LEAGUE HAS A RICH HISTORY, THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS HAVE ONLY SEEN SAGU MAKE IT TO KANSAS CITY. THEY HAVE DONE IT TWICE, MAKING IT TO THE FAB FOUR IN 2021 AND LOSING IN THE ROUND OF 16 LAST SEASON. THE LEAGUE LOSES A TON OF IT'S TOP TALENT, BUT AS YOU WILL SEE ON THIS PAGE, THE ENTIRE LEAGUE HAS RELOADED. YOU MAY NOT FIND ANOTHER LEAGUE WITH THE AMOUNT OF REALLY GOOD TRANSFERS THAT THE SAC IS THROWING OUT THIS SEASON. WITH ALL THE NEW FACES, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW IT ALL SHAKES OUT. WE DO THINK THIS IS AS DEEP OF A LEAGUE AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE SAC IN A FEW YEARS. ONE OF THE BIGGEST STORYLINES TO WATCH IS WHAT NEW HEAD COACH, CHRIS WRIGHT CAN DO AT LANGSTON AFTER LEADING TALLADEGA TO THE NATIONAL TITLE GAME LAST YEAR. ANOTHER ONE IS GOING TO SIMPLY BE HOW DO ALL OF THESE NEW PARTS IN THE SAC AFFECT THE LEAGUE STANDINGS. WE THINK THERE ARE 6 TEAMS IN THE SAC WHO COULD FIND THEMSELVES IN THE TOP 25 AT ONE POINT OR ANOTHER THIS SEASON. THEY STILL HAVE TO PLAY THE GAMES, AND THE NEW GUYS IN THE LEAGUE HAVE TO GEL WELL ON THEIR TEAMS, BUT ON PAPER, THE SAC LOOKS LIKE THEY COULD HAVE A COUPLE OF TEAMS ADVANCE TO KANSAS CITY THIS SEASON! TO START, WE WILL PUT MACU AS OUR EARLY SEASON FAVORITE. IF ALL GOES RIGHT THIS SEASON, WE WON'T BE SHOCKED TO SEE THE SAC GET 5 TEAMS IN THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS THIS SEASON!

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Mid-America Christian

JOSH GAMBLIN IS THE YOUNGEST HEAD COACH TO EVER WIN A NATIONAL TITLE AND WHAT HE HAS DONE AT MACU IN THE PAST 7 SEASONS HAS BEEN REALLY IMPRESSIVE. THE SAC IS AS GOOD AS IT'S BEEN IN YEARS AND THIS MACU TEAM SHOULD BE THE EARLY SEASON FAVORITES. NOT ONLY DO THEY BRING BACK ALL-SAC PERFORMER, JASIAH LEWIS, AND TWO ALL-SAC FRESHMAN TEAM MEMEBERS, QUENTIN WOODSON AND TERENCE GAINES, BUT THE EVANGELS ALSO BOAST ONE OF THE TOP TRANSFERS IN THE NAIA IN DARAUN CLARK (D2 UC-COLORADO SPRINGS), WHO AVERAGED 16.2PPG AND WAS ONE OF THE PREMIER SHOOTERS IN THE RMAC.



### 2. Science & Arts (OK)

USAO LOST THE SAC POY, CAMERON HINES AND ALL LEAGUE PLAYER, STEPHON HALL. THOSE WERE TWO OF THE TOP 5 PLAYERS IN THE SAC LAST SEASON. THEY RETURN RORY PANTOPHLET (HM ALL-SAC), GERARD MAKUNTAE (9.8PPG/8.2RPG) AND LOGAN DOLAN (STARTER) FROM LAST YEARS SQUAD. THAT IS A GOOD TRIO OF RETURNS TO BUILD AROUND AND BOY DID CHRIS FRANCIS AND STAFF DO THAT! THE DROVERS LOADED BACK UP WITH 5 REALLY NICE TRANSFER PIECES. LANGSTON GAITHER (D2 COLUMBUS STATE) WAS A 2ND TEAM ALL LEAGUE PERFORMER AT HIS D2 AND HELPED LEAD THEM TO THE NCAA D2 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. HE WILL BE A FORCE FOR SAC POY. THEY ALSO BRING IN TRANSFERS, SAMKELO CELE (D1 MARIST), CEJAY MANN (D2 ARK TECH), TUTU MAJOK (D1 WISC-GB) AND TYLER CAULEY (LABETTE CC). THIS IS A TEAM THAT HAS THE TALENT TO BE A TOP 10 TEAM IN THE NAIA, BUT FOR NOW WE HAVE THEM AS A FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM AS WE WANT TO SEE THEM PLAY!



### 3. Langston

LANGSTON HAS ONLY WON 1 GAME IN THE PAST TWO SEASONS, BUT THAT WAS THE OLD LANGSTON. THE AD WENT OUT AND HIT A HOME RUN IN HIRING NATIONAL RUNNER-UP HEAD COACH, CHRIS WRIGHT. COACH WRIGHT AND STAFF ARE BRINGING IN 10 LEGIT IMPACT TRANSFERS. AJ RAINEY WAS AN NAIA ALL-AMERICAN LAST SEASON. TRISTAN HARPER WAS 1ST TEAM ALL SSAC SELECTION. TORU DEAN (D2 BERRY) IS A TOUGH PG WHO FITS WHAT WRIGHT WANTS TO DO. CORETZ MOSELY (JUCO) IS A TALENT WHO MAY END UP BEING THE BEST OF THE GROUP. JAMES ELLIS (JUCO) ADDS SOME GOOD SIZE TO THE LIONS. D'MONTE BROWN (JUCO) 2ND TEAM ALL-CONF PLAYER. ANTHONY WHITE (D2 IUP) WILL BE FUN TO WATCH GROW AND CHEREEF KNOX (D1 ST JOSEPH'S), JAMIR REED (D1 CENTRAL CONN ST) AND CEDRIC ROLAND (COFFEYVILLE) ALL RED SHIRTED AT TALLADEGA LAST SEASON. WHEN WE SAY THIS TEAM IS LOADED, WE MEAN THIS TEAM IS LOADED!!!!



### 4. Wayland Baptist

WAYLAND GOT HOT AT THE END OF LAST SEASON AND COACH CLINT GALYEAN ENTERS HIS SECOND SEASON AT WBU AND AFTER A LATE SEASON CHARGE AND FALLING SHORT OF A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BID, HE'S GOT WBU LOADED UP! THEY START WITH RETURNING, RJ MASON (2ND TEAM ALL-SAC) AND PARRISH HEWITT WHO AVERAGED 17PPG BEFORE TAKING A REDSHIRT YEAR. DYLAN MCDUGAL (SAC ALL-FR TEAM) AND JAXON REGER RETURN AS WELL. THEY ADD, TEDRICK WOLFE, WHO RS AT WBU LAST YEAR AFTER TRANSFERING TO WBU WITH COACH GALEAN. HE WAS AN ALL-AMERICAN AT CENTRAL BAPTIST. WBU ALSO BRINGS IN TRANSFERS, REECE SPENCER (HOUSTON BAPTIST), BONNY UDON (HOWARD) D'MICHAEL BELLFIELD (OKLAHOMA BAPTIST) MANNY CUMP (D1 SAM HOUSTON ST.), BOL TONG (D1 NEW ORLEANS). COACH GALYEAN KNOWS HOW TO WIN BALL GAMES AND DONT BE SHOCKED IF WAYLAND IS YOUR SAC CHAMPIONS THIS SEASON!



### 5. Texas Wesleyan

TEXAS WESLEYAN RETURNS BIG MAN KRISTIAN LAFAYETTE WHO TOOK HOME THE SAC NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR AWARD, ADD IN PEYTON SALLEE, ONE OF THE NAIA'S BEST SHOOTERS, LAMINE KOMARA, AKILI VINING AND OUSMANE NDIAM AND OU HAVE A TOUGH CORE OF RETURNERS. THE RAMS ARE ALSO BRINGING IN 3 TRANSFERS, HEADLINED BY KEYAUN HOSKIN (YORK) WHO AVERAGED 16.8PPG LAST SEASON IN THE KCAC. THEY ALSO SIGN ROBERT BROWN (D1 IONA) AND JUWAN JONES, WHO IS ACTUALLY MAKING A RETURN TO TEXAS WESLEYAN. HE STARTED 11 GAMES IN THE 2018-19 SEASON FOR THEM.

### SAC POY Watch List

Langston Gaither - USAO  
DaRaun Clark - MACU  
AJ Rainey - Langston  
Cortez Mosley - Langston  
Brooks Haddock - SAGU  
Tedrick Wolfe - Wayland Baptist  
Kristian Lafayette - Texas Wesleyan

### Top Transfers

DaRaun Clark - MACU (D2 Colorado - CO Springs)  
Langston Gaither - USAO (D2 Columbus St.)  
Samkelo Cele - USAO (D1 Marist)  
CeJay Mann - USAO (D2 Ark Tech)  
Shawn Hopkins - SW Christian (D2 MN State)  
AJ Rainey - Langston (LSU Alexandria)  
Cortez Mosley - Langston (Colby JC)  
Brooks Haddock - SAGU (OKWU)  
Philbert Weekes - SAGU (Buffalo St)  
Terrin Johnson - SAGU (Multnomah)  
Tedrick Wolfe - Wayland Baptist (CBC)  
Keyaun Hoskin - Texas Wesleyan (York)

### Freshmen To Watch

Jack McWilliams - Oklahoma City  
Jalen Goar - MACU  
JJ Boling - SAGU  
Dallas Smith - SAGU  
Will Luther - Wayland Baptist

### 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## Southern States Athletic Conference Preview

THE SOUTHERN STATES ATHLETIC CONFERENCE IS AN 11 TEAM, 2-BID LEAGUE. IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE DEEPEST LEAGUE LAST YEAR, BUT THE TEAMS AT THE TOP PROVED HOW TOUGH OF A LEAGUE THE SSAC IS BY PUTTING 3 TEAMS IN THE ROUND OF 16 AND HAVING AN ALL SSAC TITLE GAME BETWEEN LOYOLA AND TALLADEGA. A GAME WHERE LOYOLA WON TO BECOME THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! THIS YEAR HOWEVER, WILL HAVE AN ENTIRE NEW LOOK TO IT. LOYOLA LOST THEIR HEAD COACH AND 3 BEST PLAYERS. TALLADEGA LOST THEIR HEAD COACH AND MOST OF THEIR TEAM. THE SSAC WILL ALSO ADD LIFE (GA) TO THE LEAGUE THIS SEASON. EVEN WITH THE AMOUNT OF TURNOVER AND NEWNESS WITHIN THE SSAC, THE TOP OF THE SSAC SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY FROM WHAT IT HAS BEEN LATELY. FAULKNER, WHO HAS MADE BACK-TO-BACK TRIPS TO KANSAS CITY, IS THE EARLY SEASON FAVORITE. THEY ARE ANCHORED BY 3RD TEAM ALL-AMERICAN CJ HINES, WHO WILL ENTER THE SEASON AS THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE SSAC PLAYER OF THE YEAR. HINES IS COMING OFF OF A STELLER FRESHMAN SEASON AND HAS ALREADY PROVEN TO BE ONE OF THE TOP GUARDS IN THE NAIA! STILLMAN GETS BACK ALL-AMERICAN, DEVIN MERRIWEATHER, AND BELONGS IN THE SSAC FAVORITES CONVERSATION. DON'T COUNT OUT DEFENDING CHAMPIONS, LOYOLA. THEM, DALTON STATE AND WILLIAM CAREY ARE ALL TEAMS WHO MAY NOT BE ON EVERYONE'S RADAR EARLY IN SEASON, BUT WE FEEL ALL THREE ARE VERY CAPABLE OF BEING SURPRISE TEAMS THIS SEASON.

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Faulkner

FAULKNER IS COMING OFF OF A TRIP TO THE NAIA ROUND OF 16. THEIR 2ND STRAIGHT TRIP TO KANSAS CITY. THEY RETURN 4 STARTERS FROM THAT TEAM AND ARE LED BY 3RD TEAM ALL-AMERICAN, CJ HINES AND 1ST TEAM ALL-SSAC SELECTION, TRACE HILL. DANIEL GARMENDIA AND ISAIAH BROOKS ROUNDED OUT THE KEY RETURNERS FOR THE EAGLES. COACH SCOTT SANDERSON AND STAFF IS ALSO ADDING IN JONATHAN GARCIA (COCHISE JC) AND TJ WILLIAMS (SHELTON ST). THEY ARE RIGHTFULLY SO, THE FAVORITES TO TAKE DOWN THE SSAC THIS SEASON!



### 2. Stillman

THE RETURN OF ALL-AMERICAN DEVIN MERRIWEATHER ALONG WITH DERRICK FINKLEA AND TOMIAS BRAND. THEY ADD IN BRENDAN LANGFORD (BRYANT & STRATTON) JORDAN BELL (BEVILL STATE) AND BAILEY TALLEY (UT SOUTHERN). THE TIGERS ARE ALWAYS A TOUGH AND GRITTY BUNCH. THEY WILL NEED SOME GUYS TO STEP UP TO FILL THE SHOES OF LONDELL KING AND TREY PETTY, BUT EXPECT THEM TO HAVE A SAY FOR THE SSAC TITLE.



### 3. Loyola

THEY ARE THE DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, BUT HEAD COACH, STACY HOLLOWAY IS NOW AT OLE MISS, ALONG WITH ALL-AMERICAN MYLES BURNS AND NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNER, ZACH WRIGTHSIL, IS NOW AT MARQUETTE. THEY ALSO LOST ALL-AMERICAN PG, BRANDON DAVIS, TO DI TEXAS STATE. WITH A NEW HEAD COACH AT THE HELM AND SEVERAL NEW PLAYERS, THE WOLFPACK MAY HAVE SOME GROWING PAINS THIS SEASON. HOWEVER, THEY STILL RETURN FORMER NAIA ALL-AMERICAN, JALEN GALLOWAY AS WELL AS ZACH MULLER. BOTH OF WHICH WERE PIVOTAL PIECES ON LAST YEAR'S TITLE TEAM. THEY WILL HAVE LARGER ROLES THIS SEASON AS LOYOLA WILL BE COUNTING ON THOSE GUYS TO HELP THEM TRY TO KEEP PACE IN THE SSAC THIS SEASON!



### 4. Dalton State

DALTON MAY START THE SEASON A LITTLE UNDER THE RADAR, BUT DON'T SLEEP ON THIS SQUAD! THEY RETURN 3 STARTERS IN DONAVAN MILLER, JAELEN FERRELL AND FRANKLIN ALMONTE. THEY BRING IN HANDFUL OF TRANSFERS IN JUCO NATIONAL CHAMPION, NOAH PARCHER (DMACC), JACQUEZ FOUNTAIN (SW MISS JC) AND CARTERUS EVANS (BEVILL STATE CC) ALONG WITH D2 TRANSFERS, BOUBACAR KAMISSOKO (WEST ALABAMA) AND SEAN COBB (GRAND VALLEY STATE). THE ROAD RUNNERS HAVE SOME SERIOUS FIRE POWER THIS SEASON AND ARE A TEAM TO KEEP AN EYE ON!



### 5. William Carey

THERE ARE SEVERAL TEAMS AROUND THE NAIA, WHO WERE ROLLING BEFORE 2020, THAT HAVE BEEN DOWN THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE CRUSADERS OF WILLIAM CAREY ARE ONE OF THOSE PROGRAMS. BETWEEN COVID AND INJURIES, THE PAST TWO SEASONS JUST HAVEN'T BEEN WHAT LEGENDARY HEAD COACH, STEVE KNIGHT, IS ACCUSTOMED TO. THEY LOST THEIR TOP TWO SCORERS FROM LAST SEASON, BUT DO RETURN FIVE PLAYERS WHO HAVE STARTING EXPERIENCE. THEY ALSO SIGN CASEY SMITH (LSU-ALEXANDRIA) WHO STARTED 15 GAMES FOR LSU LAST SEASON.

## SSAC POY Watch List

CJ Hines - Faulkner  
Devin Merriweather - Stillman  
Pierles Brown - Middle GA St  
Jaquez Fountain - Dalton St

## Top Transfers

Pierles Brown - Middle GA State (Snead St. CC)  
Jace Moore - Middle GA State (South GA St CC)  
Jonathan Garcia - Faulkner (Cochise JC)  
TJ Williams - Faulkner (Shelton St CC)  
Brendan Langford - Stillman (Bryant & Stratton)  
Michael Harden - Loyola (DI Southern U)  
Noah Parcher - Dalton St (Des Moines CC)  
Jaquez Fountain - Dalton St (Southwest Miss JC)  
Casey Smith - William Carey (LSU Alexandria)

## Freshmen To Watch

Ricardo Gonzalez - Brewton Parker  
Aiden Carter - Faulkner  
Raygan Edmondson - Faulkner  
Alex Hammond - Loyola  
Noah Goins - Loyola  
Rawlings Ganza - William Carey

## 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers





## The Sun Conference Preview

THE SUN CONFERENCE IS A 8 TEAM, 1 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. THEY ARE COMING OFF OF A SEASON WHERE THEY HAD 3 TEAMS RECEIVE BIDS TO THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. UNFORTUNATELY, NONE WERE ABLE TO ADVANCE PAST THE OPENING ROUND. SOUTHEASTERN (FL), DESPITE A LATE COACHING CHANGE, WILL STILL BE THE FAVORITES TO TAKE DOWN THE 2022-23 CROWN. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A LEAGUE THAT WILL BE WIDE OPEN FOR THE TAKING. ST. THOMAS, WHO CAME ON STRONG AT THE END OF LAST SEASON, IS TALENTED ONCE AGAIN. FLORIDA MEMORIAL, A BIT OF A SURPRISE TEAM LAST YEAR, IS LOOKING ULTRA COMPEITITVE AGAIN. KEISER AND WARNER ARE WELL COACHED AND SHOULD BE RIGHT THERE IN THE MIX AS WELL. WE ADDED WEBBER INTERNATIONAL AS A SLEEPER PICK, THEY ARE A BETTER TEAM, ON PAPER, THEN THEY WERE LAST SEASON. THE SUN CONFERENCE HAS A REALLY FUN MIX OF SOME BIG TIME RETURNERS IN RILEY MINIX (22 SUN POY), ROD BOGGAN (21 SUN POY) EVEN THOUGH HE SWITCHED SCHOOLS, WE CONSIDER HIM A LEAGUE RETURNER. CORE'VON "BIG SHOT" LOTT AND JOSEPH MARTZ MIXED IN WITH SOME BIG TIME TRANSFERS; TAVIN PIERRE-PHILIPPE, BRANDON FARMER, FRED MULBAH AND MORE. IT'S GOING TO ONLY ADD TO THE EXCITEMENT OF THE LEAGUE. CAN THE SUN REPEAT WITH 3 TEAMS IN THE NAIA CHAMPIONSHIPS? TIME WILL TELL, BUT THIS THE LEAGUE IS WIDE OPEN AND THE SUN TOURNAMENT IS GOING TO BE A TON OF FUN AS WE WATCH THESE TEAMS BATTLE FOR THAT ONE AUTO-BID!

### The Sun POY Watch List

Riley Minix - Southeastern (FL) (Reigning Sun POY)  
 Rod Boggan - Florida Memorial  
 Tavin Pierre-Philippe - FI Memorial  
 Joseph Martz - Warner  
 Core'von Lott - Keiser

### Top Transfers

Jordan Hernandez - St Thomas (Life)  
 Fred Mulbah - St Thomas (D2 Pitt Johnstown)  
 Rod Boggan - Florida Memorial (Warner)  
 Christian Taylor - FI Memorial (Barstow jc)  
 Tavin Pierre-Philippe - FI Memorial (D2 New Haven)  
 Brandon Younger - Keiser (D1 Presbyterian)  
 Brandon Farmer - Keiser (Sante Fe)  
 Chris Sodom - Southeastern (D1 Delaware St)

### Freshmen To Watch

Joshua Thrower - St Thomas  
 Joe Stubbs - Keiser

## Projected Top Five Teams



#### 1. Southeastern (FL)

RILEY MINIX ENTERS HIS SENIOR SEASON FOR THE FIRE. THE REIGNING SUN PLAYER OF THE YEAR WILL LOOK TO ADD TO HIS ALREADY GREAT CAREER. RANDY LEE, WHO WAS ELEVATED TO HEAD COACH THIS SEASON, HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF BUILDING AROUND HIS STRONG RETURNING CORE. THE FIRE BRING IN 7'3 D1 TRANSFER, CHRIS SODOM AND JALEN MULL WHO STARTED EVERY GAME FOR ST. FRANCIS (IN) LAST SEASON WHILE AVERAGING 11PPG. THIS IS A LOADED FIRE TEAM THAT IS GOING TO BE A LOT OF FUN TO WATCH!



#### 2. St. Thomas

TALENT DOESN'T ALWAYS EQUATE TO VICTORIES, BUT THIS BOBCAT TEAM IS LOADED WITH TALENT. THEY RETURN DEANDRE JOHNSON, JUSTIN RODGERS AND JAMES HARRIS. THEY ADD IN JORDAN HERNANDEZ (LIFE), ONE OF THE BEST 3PT SHOOTERS IN THE NAIA LAST SEASON, FRED MULBAH (D2 PITT-JOHNSTOWN), DANIEL OGORO (D1 YOUNGSTOWN STATE) . COACH CRAEY IS IN YEAR 2 AT THE HELM OF THE BOBCATS AND ARE LOOKING TO GET THIS TEAM TO A SUN TITLE!



#### 3. Warner

WARNER WILL ONCE AGAIN BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO WIN THE SUN CONFERENCE TITLE. THEM BEING 3RD IN OUR PREDICTIONS, ISN'T A SLAM ON THEM, BUT A NOD TO HOW TOUGH THE SUN CONFERENCE WILL BE THIS SEASON. THEY DO LOSE DJ MERCER, BUT RETURN JOSEPH MARTZ (1ST TEAM ALL-SUN) AND LOGAN WEST (2ND TEAM ALL-SUN).. THOSE TWO, COMBINED WITH THE REST OF THEIR RETURNERS EQUALS OUT TO BE NEARLY 70% OF THEIR SCORING BACK FROM THEIR CO-SUN CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD LAST SEASON. THE ROYALS ARE A VERY DANGEROUS TEAM!



#### 4. Florida Memorial

FLORIDA MEMORIAL LOST BASICALLY THEIR ENTIRE TEAM. THEY HAVE RELOADED QUITE NICELY THOUGH. THEY MAY NOT BE AS MASSIVELY BIG AS THEY WERE LAST YEAR, BUT THEY GOT A BIG TIME PICK UP IN ROD BOGGAN, WHO WAS THE SUN CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR, 2 SEASONS AGO WHEN HE WAS PLAYING FOR WARNER. ALSO HELPING TO OFFSET SOME OF THE TALENT LOST FROM LAST YEAR WILL BE TAVIN PIERRE-PHILLIPE WHO IS COMING OFF OF A BIG TIME YEAR AT NCAA D2, NEW HAVEN, AND CHRISTIAN TAYLOR, WHO PUT UP 27PPG AT BARSTOW JUCO IN CALIFORNIA. ALL TOGETHER, FMU HAS 14 NEW PLAYERS. IF COACH AL-AMEEN CAN GET THEM TO PLAY TOGETHER, THIS FLORIDA MEMORIAL TEAM COULD MAKE SOME SERIOUS NOISE!



#### 5. Keiser

ALL PLAYERS IN THE NAIA ARE OUR FAVORITES, BUT BOY DO WE LOVE OURSELVES SOME CORE'VON "BIG SHOT" LOTT! LOTT IS A 2X 1ST TEAM ALL-SUN PERFORMER WHO WILL PASS THE 2000 CAREER POINT MARK THIS SEASON. HE IS JOINED BY RETURNERS, SHAQUILLE HARRIS AND CHRISTIAN MILLER-CARDWELL. COACH CHIEF BRYANT IS ALSO BRINGING IN SOME GOOD TRANSFERS IN BRANDON YOUNGER (D1 PRESBYTERIAN), BRANDON FARMER (SANTO FE CC), MILTON BURETT (D2 LEMOYNE), JUSTIN TUCKER (D1 CAMPBELL) JORDAN AGYEMANG (D2 CLARION). THIS SHOULD BE A LOADED GROUP WHO CAN CERTAINLY WIN A SUN TITLE!

### 1 Auto-Bid Predictions



### At-Large Potential



### Top Sleepers





## WHAC Preview

THE WHAC IS AN 11 TEAM, 2 AUTO-BID LEAGUE. SINCE MOVING TO 1 DIVISION, INDIANA TECH HAS REACHED THE NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BACK-TO-BACK YEARS AND HAVE GOT AN OPENING ROUND WIN IN BOTH YEARS. THEY RETURN THE NUCLEOUS OF THEIR TEAM AND WILL BE THE FAVORITES TO REPEAT AS WHAC REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONS. WITH THE 3 INDIANA TECH SENIORS AND MARK METTIE RETURNING FOR THEIR 5TH YEARS, THE WHAC WILL HAVE 7 OF 10 1ST TEAM ALL-WHAC MEMBERS BACK THIS SEASON. THE WHAC HASN'T HAD MUCH LOVE FROM THE TOP 25 POLLS THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS, BUT THIS MAY BE THE BEST THE WHAC HAS BEEN SINCE MOVING 1 DIVISION. AS OF RIGHT NOW, INDIANA TECH AND MADONNA SEEM LIKE THEY ARE IN THEIR OWN SEPRATE TIER AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE WHAC TEAMS. THAT ISN'T TO SAY THAT SOMEONE WON'T SURPRISE US, BUT BOTH TEAMS ARGUABLY HAVE THE BEST FIVE PLAYERS IN THE ENTIRE LEAGUE. MADONNA WITH MARK METTIE AND HENRY SPEIGHT IS GOING TO BE A LOT OF FUN TO WATCH AND PROVIDE PLENTY OF MATCHUP NIGHTMARES FOR TEAMS. INDIANA TECH THOUGH, WITH THEIR ENTIRE TEAM RETURNING, CAN MAKE SOME NOISE THIS SEASON. THEY HAVE A FEW BIG TIME NON-CONFERENCE MATCHUPS INCLUDINGAN OPENING WEEKEND MATCHUP WITH INDIANA WESLEYAN, WHO HAS HAD THEIR NUMBER. IF THE WHAC IS GOING TO GET SOME TOP 25 LOVE, THEY NEED TO WIN SOME OF THE BIG NON-CONFERENCE MATCHUPS EARLY THIS SEASON!

## Projected Top Five Teams



### 1. Indiana Tech

INDIANA TECH RETURNS EVERYONE FROM LAST SEASONS WHAC REGULAR SEASON TITLE TEAM. HEADLINED BY THE GRAD YEAR RETURN OF THE "BIG 3" GRANT SMITH, ROG STEIN AND JOSH KLINE. THIS IS A TEAM THAT HAS WON BACK-TO-BACK OPENING ROUND GAMES IN THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AND WANT A TASTE OF KANSAS CITY! THEIR VETERAN LEADERSHP AND SIZE MAKE THEM A DANGEROUS GROUP!



### 2. Madonna

MADONNA GETS A 5TH YEAR OUT OF MARK METTIE, WHO WAS RUNNER UP FOR WHAC PLAYER OF THE YEAR LAST SEASON. THEY ALSO GET BIG NEWS AS 2020-21 WHAC POY, HENRY SPEIGHT, IS BACK FROM INJURY. MADONNA REALLY PLAYED SOME GREAT BASKETBALL DOWN THE STRETCH LAST SEASON BEFORE FALLING IN THE WHAC TOURNAMENT TITLE GAME. THEY ADD 2 IMPACT TRANSFERS IN DERIC MURRAY (AQUINAS) AND DEVIN MARSHALL (KALAMAZOO VALLEY CC). THIS IS A FRINGE TOP 25 TEAM TO START THE SEASON AND NO ONE SHOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY CRACK THE TOP 25 EARLY IN THE SEASON!



### 3. Lourdes

FORMER NBA PLAYER, DENIS HOPSON, CAN REALLY COACH AND HIS GRAY WOLVES ARE NEVER A TEAM TO TAKE LIGHTLY. THEY HAVE 9 RETURNERS BACK FROM THEIR WHAC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, HEADLINED BY 1ST TEAM ALL-WHAC SELECTION, JOEY HOLIFIELD. THEY ALMOST HAD THEMSELVES A BIG UPSET IN THE OPENING ROUND LAST YEAR AND IF WE KNOW ANYTHING IT'S THAT THE GRAY WOLVES ARE A TOUGH BUNCH WHO ARE WELL COACHED AND COMPETE HARD!



### 4. Cornerstone

LOSING CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ, THE WHAC POY, IS TOUGH TO REPLACE. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT CARTER NYP HAS ELECTED TO COME BACK FOR HIS 5TH SEASON TO JOIN FELLOW 2ND TEAM ALL-WHAC MEMBER CORY AINSWORTH. HEAD COACH, KIM ELDERS, IS TOP 5 ON THE COACHING ACTIVE WINS LIST. HIS TEAMS ALWAYS PLAY THEIR BEST BASKETBALL LATE IN THE YEAR AND ARE SUPER TOUGH TO BEAT IN THE WHAC TOURNAMENT.



### 5. Lawrence Tech

THE BLUE DEVILS RETURN 2ND TEAM ALL-WHAC MEMBER, GUNNAR GUSTAFSON AND WHAC ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM SELECTION ANDREW RINN. THEY ALSO DIP INTO THE TRANSFER PORTALS TO SIGN A COUPLE OF D2 PROSPECTS IN ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ (D2 CAMERON) AND NATE WARD (D2 PALM BEACH ATLANTIC). THEY WILL LOOK TO IMPROVE ON THEIR 7TH PLACE WHAC FINISH LAST SEASON.

## WHAC POY Watch List

Mark Mettie – Madonna  
Henry Speight – (2020 WHAC POY)  
Josh Kline – Indiana Tech  
Grant Smith – Indiana Tech  
Rog Stein – Indiana Tech  
Cory Ainsworth – Cornerstone  
Carter Nyp – Cornerstone  
Diego Robinson – Rochester  
Joey Holifield – Lourdes

## Top Transfers

Deric Murray – Madonna (Aquinas)  
Devin Marshall – Madonna (Kalamazoo Valley CC)  
Alejandro Gonzalez – LTU (D2 Cameron)  
Nate Ward – LTU (D2 Palm Beach Atlantic)  
Stauros Polatoglou – Rochester (Northwestern ST)

## Freshmen To Watch

Amari Robinson – Concordia (MI)  
Lewis Jones – Cornerstone  
Evan Engelsma – Cornerstone  
Lake McIntosh – Lawrence Tech  
Shamar Matthews – Lawrence Tech  
Gunner Walters – Rochester  
Dimitris Arsenikos – Rochester

## 2 Auto-Bid Predictions



## At-Large Potential



## Top Sleepers

