



SPORTS NEWS

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Washington & Jefferson College Picked to Repeat as 2008 PAC Football Champion

LATROBE, Pa. - Washington & Jefferson College was picked to capture the 2008 football championship in the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC), according to the preseason poll released at the 2008 PAC Football Media Day at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe today. Voters in the polls included conference head coaches, sports information directors (SIDs), and members of the media present at the conference media day.

The defending PAC champion Presidents of sixth-year head coach **Mike Sirianni** return 16 starters and 58 lettermen from last year's team which finished 10-1 overall, including a perfect 6-0 mark against conference competition. W&J, which is ranked second in the nation in NCAA Division III by *The Sporting News* in their 2008 preseason poll, earned 23 of 28 first-place votes and 192 points in the conference poll to edge second place Waynesburg (165), followed by Westminster (100), Grove City (97), Thomas More (87), Bethany (78), and Thiel (65).

"It is nice to be the favorite, but as past preseason polls have shown, it doesn't necessarily mean we'll get the trophy at the end of the year," said Sirianni. "Three different teams have won the PAC over the past five years and that shows how much the conference has improved. Our seniors are hoping to win their third in a row."

NCAA Division III provisional members Geneva and Saint Vincent were predicted to post 5-3 and 1-7 records, respectively, in 2008 against PAC teams, according to poll voters. Geneva and Saint Vincent are not eligible for the PAC football title until the schools are granted active membership in Division III by the NCAA at the conclusion of their provisional membership period, tentatively scheduled for 2010 for Saint Vincent and 2011 for Geneva.

Following is the voting breakdown among coaches, SIDs and media:

<u>Coaches</u>		<u>SIDs</u>		<u>Media</u>	
1. Wash. & Jeff. (5)	59	1. Wash. & Jeff. (9)	63	1. Wash. & Jeff. (9)	70
2. Waynesburg (3)	54	2. Waynesburg	52	2. Waynesburg (1)	59
3. Thomas More	34	3. Westminster	36	3. Westminster	41
4. Thiel (1)	26	4. Grove City	33	4. Grove City	39
5. Grove City	25	5. Bethany	29	5. Thomas More	29
6t. Westminster	23	6. Thomas More	24	6. Bethany	26
6t. Bethany	23	7. Thiel	15	7. Thiel	24

Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) 2008 Preseason Football Poll		
	Points	2007 Record
1. Washington & Jefferson (23)	192	10-1 (6-0)
2. Waynesburg (4)	165	8-3 (5-1)
3. Westminster	100	5-5 (2-4)
4. Grove City	97	4-6 (3-3)
5. Thomas More	87	4-6 (2-4)
6. Bethany	78	4-6 (2-4)
7. Thiel (1)	65	3-7 (1-5)
<i>(xx) - first place votes</i>		
	2008 PAC Prediction	2007 Record
Geneva	5-3	8-3 (7-1)
Saint Vincent	1-7	0-10 (0-8)