

## Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Office

P.O. Box 425, 205 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood, IN 46142; Phone: (317) 882-8090; Fax: (317) 882-8086



Christopher Ragsdale

Commissioner

commissioner@heartlandconf.org

www.heartlandconf.org

Ryan Davis

Sports Information Director

hcac@heartlandconf.org

--August 4, 2009--

## HCAC Football Preseason Poll

### Franklin Tabbed by Coaches for Third-Straight HCAC Football Championship

**GREENWOOD, IN** – Franklin College claimed their second consecutive Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference football title last fall, posting a 7-0 conference mark. The Grizzlies have been selected as the favorite to win a third-straight league crown in 2009, according to a poll of the HCAC's eight head coaches.

Franklin, 11-2 overall in 2008, held off Mount St. Joseph in the preseason poll, receiving 61.5 points and 5.5 first place votes.

Mount St. Joseph placed second in the voting with 50 points and one first place vote, while Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology finished third with 47.5 points and the final 1.5 first place votes. Anderson University (39), Manchester College (30), Defiance College (28), Hanover College (19), and Bluffton University (13) round out the poll.

The Grizzlies will be looking for their third consecutive conference crown under the direction of three-time Coach of the Year Mike Leonard. Leonard will be striving to guide the Grizzlies into the NCAA Division III playoffs for the third time in as many years.

#### 2009 HCAC Preseason Poll

	Team	Points
1.	Franklin	61.5 (5.5)
2.	Mount St. Joseph	50 (1)
3.	Rose-Hulman	47.5 (1.5)
4.	Anderson	39
5.	Manchester	30
6.	Defiance	28
7.	Hanover	19
8.	Bluffton	13

Franklin will have to fill the void left at the quarterback position this fall after losing 2007 and 2008 HCAC Offensive Player of the Year Chad Rupp to graduation. Rupp led the highly powered Franklin offense, throwing for over 4,000 yards and 45 touchdowns last fall. The Evansville native threw all but 11 of Franklin's pass attempts last season, leaving little experience under center for the 2009 squad. Senior wide receiver **Adam Mellencamp (Freetown, Ind./Brownstown Central)** returns as the Grizzlies top receiver after catching 25 passes for 437 yards and two touchdowns last fall. Two All-HCAC First Team members of the offensive line also return for FC. Senior **Seth Qualls (Evansville, Ind./Reitz)** and Junior **Chad Schenkel (Carmel, Ind./H.S.)** will anchor the Grizzlies front line. The blue and gold offensive attack dominated HCAC defenses last season, averaging a league-best 40.3 points and 467.6 yards of offense per game.

Franklin also lost the HCAC's Defensive Player of the Year to graduation. Dan McManus paced the Grizzlies defensive line with 15.5 sacks, 20 tackles for loss, and three forced fumbles. Franklin will turn to a trio of linebackers to lead the Franklin defense which ranked fourth in the HCAC in yards allowed per game (338.9) last fall. Senior's **Teddy Henkle (Seymour, Ind./H.S.)** and **Joe Rush (Speedway, Ind./H.S.)** and junior **Nick Cochran (Plainfield, Ind./H.S.)** will look to improve on their stats from a season ago. Cochran led FC with 104 tackles last fall and ranked second on the club with three interceptions. Rush notched 64 tackles and two sacks, while Henkle marked 23 tackles in only three games played.

Franklin marched all the way to the NCAA Division III quarterfinals before falling to Wheaton 45-28 last December. The Grizzlies begin the season on the road against Baldwin-Wallace.

-MORE-



Mount St. Joseph had its worst season in the HCAC since 2001, finishing the conference campaign with a 3-4 record and a 5-5 overall mark. The Mount will look to climb back to the top of the conference standings this fall behind their top ranked defense. The Lions led the league last season, allowing only 15.6 points and 298.3 yards per contest. The Mount returns All-HCAC First Team members **Alex Harbin (Cincinnati, Ohio/Elder)** and **Erik Prosser (Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills)** to the defensive side of the ball in 2009. Harbin, a senior defensive end, led the team with four sacks and 10.5 tackles for loss last fall, while Prosser ranked second on the squad with 71 tackles from the linebacker position. Junior running back **Jake Davis (Cincinnati, Ohio/Anderson)** will return to pace the Mount offense. Davis led MSJ on the ground with 702 yards and 11 touchdowns on 150 carries last fall. Mount St. Joseph will open the 2009 season at Wilmington (OH).

Rose-Hulman finished second in the conference last season with a 5-2 conference record, finishing 7-3 overall. The Engineers ranked second in the HCAC in scoring offense, averaging 28.1 points per game a year ago and return the core of that offensive unit. Senior quarterback **Derek Eitel (Marshall, Ill./H.S.)**, junior wide receiver **Reed Eason (St. Louis, Mo./Parkway North)**, and senior running back **Calvin Bueltel (Huntingburg, Ind./Southridge)** all return after being named All-HCAC a year ago. Eitel threw for 1,564 yards and 12 touchdowns last fall to earn a spot on the All-HCAC Second Team. Bueltel led the HCAC in rushing yards, tallying 1,096 yards and 12 touchdowns on 206 carries, while Eason led all Engineer receivers with 433 yards and five touchdowns. Senior defensive back **Kyle Stevens (Santa Cruz, Cali./Harbor)** and junior linebacker **Scott Eaton (Fishers, Ind./Hamilton Southeastern)** return to lead the Rose defense. Stevens and Eaton each tallied 70 tackles and four tackles for loss a season ago. Rose-Hulman opens the season on the road against Earlham.

Anderson finished third in the league standings last fall with a 4-3 mark (5-5 overall). Junior running back **Daryll Stott (Union City, Ind./H.S.)** returns to lead the Ravens' offensive unit in 2009. Anderson ranked third in offense as a team in 2008, averaging 27.4 points and 385.5 yards per game. Stott rushed for 1,038 yards and 13 touchdowns last season, leading the HCAC with a 115.3 rushing yards per game average. Senior kicker **Tristan Cork (Indianapolis, Ind./Heritage Christian)** returns after leading the conference with nine field goals made last season, including a school-record 51 yard field goal against Franklin. Anderson will open the season at rival Taylor.

Manchester finished last season 3-4 in conference play and 5-5 overall. The Spartans return the core of their offensive and defensive units that ranked second in the HCAC last fall. Senior quarterback **Caleb Grimes (South Haven, Mich./H.S.)** returns under center as a dual threat option for the black and gold. Grimes threw for over 2,000 yards and 15 touchdowns and rushed for 467 yards and three scores last fall. Senior running back **Brandon Wells (Woodburn, Ind./Woodlan)** returns after leading the Spartans with 923 yards and a league-high 13 touchdowns on the ground. Seniors **Mike DePoy (South Bend, Ind./Clay)** and **Jermiah Jones (East Chicago, Ind./East Chicago Central)** return to anchor the defensive which ranked second in scoring defense (22.6 ppg) and total defense (329.8 ypg) last fall. DePoy led the Spartans with 91 tackles last season, while Jones added 42 tackles, two interceptions, and 10 pass breakups in the secondary. Manchester will play under the lights on Thursday, September 3 at home against Trine to kick off the season.

Defiance finished along side Anderson in the conference standings with a 4-3 record. The Jackets finished the season 4-6 overall after winning their final four contests. The Yellow Jackets will look to the defense for a successful 2009 season. DC ranked third in the HCAC in scoring defense last fall, surrendering 24.3 points per game. The Defiance offense struggled throughout the season, ranking seventh in scoring averaging 16.6 points per contest. Senior defensive back **Travis Guisinger (Lima, Ohio/Elida)** returns to the defensive side of the football for the Jackets. Guisinger recorded 65 tackles and a team-high nine tackles for loss last season. Defiance will open the schedule at home against Muskingum.

-MORE-



Hanover posted a 2-5 conference mark and 2-7 overall record last season in coach Joe Austin's first season at the helm. The Panthers finished seventh in the conference in scoring defense (37.2 ppg) a year ago. Hanover returns two first-team All-HCAC selections from last season to the defensive side of the ball. Sophomore defensive back **Rory Mannering (Walton, Ind./Lewis Cass)** and junior linebacker **Michael Spillmann (Franklin, Ind./H.S.)** look to improve on last year's stats. Spillmann led the team with 104 tackles and added 4.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, two interceptions, and two fumble recoveries. Mannering ranked second on the team with 93 tackles and added four tackles for loss, three interceptions, and three fumble recoveries. Hanover will open the 2009 season at home against Centre (KY).

Bluffton finished 1-9 overall last season with a conference mark of 0-7. The Beavers return two All-HCAC Second-Team selections from last year's team. Sophomore specialist **Antwane Miller (Canton, Ohio/Timken)** and senior kicker **Jonathan Thompson (Carmel, Ind./H.S.)** each return to help contribute some points offensively. The Beavers ranked last among HCAC teams in scoring offense (10.3 ppg), scoring defense (37.7 ppg), and total offense (190.8 ypg) last fall. Bluffton will open the season at home vs. Alma (MI).


The first weekend of the 2009 season is on September 5 with the conference season slated to begin on October 3.


### Players to Watch


	Anderson	Daryll Stott	Junior	Running Back	Union City, Ind./H.S.
		Shawn Wedmore	Senior	Offensive Line	Summitville, Ind./Madison-Grant
		Joe Zimmerman	Junior	Offensive Line	Lebanon, Ind./Western Boone
		Ryan Hildenbrand	Junior	Linebacker	Goshen, Ind./Fairfield
		Luke Hurst	Junior	Defensive Back	Clayton, Ohio/Northmont
		Leonard Wells	Sophomore	Defensive End	Warsaw, Ind./H.S.
		Tristan Cork	Senior	Kicker	Indianapolis, Ind./Heritage Christian
	Bluffton	Steve Sealscott	Sophomore	Defensive Back	Van Wert, Ohio/H.S.
		Antwane Miller	Sophomore	RB/WR/KR	Canton, Ohio/Timken
		Brock Miller	Senior	Quarterback	Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills
		Brandon Herr	Senior	Defensive Back	Bluffton, Ohio/H.S.
		Jason Johnson	Sophomore	Running Back	Lansing, Mich./Eastern
		Mitch Dunlap	Senior	Defensive Back	St. Marys, Ohio/Memorial
		Jonathan Thompson	Senior	Kicker	Carmel, Ind./H.S.
		Dan Chipka	Senior	Wide Receiver	Waterville, Ohio/Anthony Wayne
	Defiance	Travis Guisinger	Senior	Defensive Back	Lima, Ohio/Elida
		Joel Billings	Senior	Defensive Line	Waynesville, Ohio/H.S.
		Kent Corthell	Sophomore	Offensive Line	Delta, Ohio/H.S.
		Nick Nicol	Senior	Offensive Line	Temperance, Mich./Bedford
	Franklin	Seth Qualls	Senior	Offensive Line	Evansville, Ind./Reitz
		Teddy Henkle	Senior	Linebacker	Seymour, Ind./H.S.
		Nick Cochran	Junior	Linebacker	Plainfield, Ind./H.S.
		Chad Schenkel	Junior	Offensive Line	Carmel, Ind./H.S.
		Machy Magdalinos	Senior	Kicker	Indianapolis, Ind./Warren Central
		Joe Rush	Senior	Linebacker	Speedway, Ind./H.S.
		Patrick Hillenburg	Senior	Offensive Line	Bloomington, Ind./South
		Adam Mellencamp	Senior	Wide Receiver	Freetown, Ind./Brownstown Central
	Hanover	Dan Passafiume	Sophomore	Wide Receiver	Louisville, Ky./St. Xavier
		Rory Mannering	Sophomore	Defensive Back	Walton, Ind./Lewis Cass
		Michael Spillmann	Junior	Linebacker	Franklin, Ind./H.S.
		Bobby Smart	Senior	Tight End	Coral Springs, Fla./H.S.
		Corry Stewart	Senior	Defensive End	Nashville, Tenn./Ryan
		C.J. Croft	Freshman	Quarterback	Ft. Campbell, Ky./H.S.
		Zach Sieg	Senior	Offensive Line	Anderson, Ind./Highland
		Joe Vormohr	Senior	Offensive Line	Portland, Ind./Jay Co.

-MORE-



	Manchester	Caleb Grimes	Senior	Quarterback	South Haven, Mich./H.S.
		Brandon Wells	Senior	Running Back	Woodburn, Ind./Woodlan
		Chase Estopp	Junior	Offensive Line	Nappanee, Ind./Northwood
		Mike DePoy	Senior	Linebacker	South Bend, Ind./Clay
		Jermiah Jones	Senior	Defensive Back	East Chicago, Ind./E. Chicago Central
	Beau Fulk	Senior	Linebacker	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Carroll	

	The Mount	Alex Harbin	Senior	Defensive End	Cincinnati, Ohio/Elder
		Jake Davis	Junior	Running Back	Cincinnati, Ohio/Anderson
		Erik Prosser	Junior	Line Backer	Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills

	Rose-Hulman	Derek Eitel	Senior	Quarterback	Marshall, Ill./H.S.
		Reed Eason	Junior	Wide Receiver	St. Louis, Mo./Parkway North
		Thomas Reives	Graduate	Wide Receiver	Indianapolis, Ind./Arsenal Tech
		Calvin Buetel	Senior	Running Back	Huntingburg, Ind./Southridge
		Scott Eaton	Junior	Linebacker	Fishers, Ind./Hamilton Southeastern
		Matt Behling	Junior	Defensive Line	Columbus, Ind./North
		Brad D' Agnillo	Sophomore	Defensive Back	Cincinnati, Ohio/Colerain
		Kyle Stevens	Senior	Defensive Back	Santa Cruz, Cali./Harbor

For more information on the 2009 HCAC football season and up-to-date scores and statistics, please visit the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference website at [www.heartlandconf.org](http://www.heartlandconf.org).

- HCAC -

