



# GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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For Immediate Release

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## 2009 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE BASEBALL RELEASE

### STATESMEN ARE PRESEASON KINGS ONCE AGAIN

**Birmingham, Ala.** — For the eighth time in nine years, **Delta State** is again the favorite as the GSC Baseball Preseason Champion and are also picked to win the West Division crown.

The defending GSC Champions earned seven championship votes for the second year in a row, edging out last season's East Division Champions **Valdosta State** in the preseason coaches' poll. The Blazers earned five nods as Preseason Champion while 2005 Tournament winners **Southern Arkansas** claimed the remaining three votes.

### 2009 GSC BASEBALL PRESEASON COACHES' POLLS

#### EAST DIVISION

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Valdosta State</b>	6	—	—	—	—	—	36
West Alabama	1	4	1	—	—	—	30
North Alabama	—	2	2	2	—	—	24
West Florida	—	5	3	1	1	—	22
Montevallo	—	—	1	3	2	—	17
Alabama-Huntsville	—	—	—	1	2	3	10
West Georgia	—	—	—	—	2	4	8

#### WEST DIVISION

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Delta State</b>	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	48
Southern Arkansas	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	44
Ouachita Baptist	—	2	4	1	—	—	—	36
Harding	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	28
Arkansas Tech	—	—	2	2	2	1	—	26
Henderson State	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	21
Christian Brothers	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	11
Arkansas-Monticello	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	10

#### GSC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Delta State	7
Valdosta State	5
Southern Arkansas	3

**NOTE:** The GSC Baseball Head Coaches voted on this poll. Teams from the East received 6 points for a first place vote, 5 for a second place vote, 4 for third, etc. In the West, teams received 7 points for a first place vote, 6 for a second place vote, 5 for third, etc. The coaches then cast one vote for the overall champion. They were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

### Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's Preseason Top 40

1. Mount Olive	16. Florida Southern	31. St. Joseph's (Ind.)	<b>Also Receiving Votes:</b> Indiana (Pa.) 32, Southeastern Okla. 28, Slippery Rock 28, Southern Indiana 22, Kutztown 22, Indianapolis 18, Belmont Abbey 16, Georgia College & St. 16, California (Pa.) 10, Wayne St. (Mich.) 4, Concordia-St. Paul 4, Nebraska-Kearney 4, Nova Southeastern 4, UMass-Lowell 4, <b>North Alabama 2, West Florida 2, Winona St. 2.</b>  GSC Teams in <b>BOLD</b>
2. Tampa	17. North Georgia	32. West Virginia State	
3. Central Missouri	18. Angelo State	33. Francis Marion	
4. U.C.-San Diego	19. Grand Valley State	t-34. Florida Tech	
5. Columbus State	20. Wayne State (Neb.)	t-34. Carson-Newman	
<b>6. Southern Arkansas</b>	<b>21. Valdosta State</b>	t-36. Erskine	
7. Cal. State-Chico	22. Tusculum	t-36. Lynn	
8. Emporia State	23. Shippensburg	38. Minnesota St.-Mankato	
<b>9. Ouachita Baptist</b>	24. Cal. St.-Stanislaus	39. Mansfield	
10. South Carolina - Aiken	<b>25. West Alabama</b>	t-40. Bellarmine	
11. Abilene Christian	26. Northern Kentucky	t-40. Cal. St.-Los Angeles	
<b>12. Delta State</b>	27. Mesa State		
13. Ashland	28. St. Mary's		
14. Franklin Pierce	29. Catawba		
15. West Chester	30. Western Oregon		

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GSC BASEBALL COACHES' POLLS

### SAU LOOKS TO CHALLENGE PRESEASON CHAMPIONS DSU IN THE WEST

Despite being selected as GSC Baseball Preseason Champions with seven votes, **No. 12 Delta State** was not a unanimous choice for West Division Champions. Only four points behind the Statesmen in the voting (44-48), **No. 6 Southern Arkansas** (three Championship votes) looks to dethrone DSU for its first Division title in school history and return to the GSC Tournament for the 11th consecutive year. The Statesmen have won a record 19 Division crowns, ten more than any other squad in the Conference, claiming 13 of the last 14 titles. DSU also claimed its league-leading 11th GSC Championship last season, increasing its total to six more than the next closest team. Both squads also look to repeat as NCAA postseason participants in the newly realigned South Region.

**Ouachita Baptist** built on 2007's success by defeating host DSU in the South Central Regional before falling in the National Championship game to Mount Olive. The NCAA Runner-Up is picked to finish third this season with 36 points as they welcome new head coach **Chris Moddelmog**. A 1994 graduate of Murray State, Moddelmog owns a 203-178 record in seven years as a head coach on the NJCAA circuit.

**Harding** (28 points) is chosen to return to the GSC Tournament after making its second all-time appearance last season. The Bisons received two third-place nods, three fourth-place votes and two for fifth place.

**Arkansas Tech** (26) missed the postseason by a half-game last year and is narrowly picked to do the same this year. However, the Wonder Boys look to make a fourth appearance in six years behind Preseason All-GSC **third baseman Tony Sanchez**.

**Henderson State** (21) is not expected to make its first-ever GSC Tournament but with three Preseason All-GSC members, the Reddies could make waves this year. The Reddies are one of only two active teams without a GSC Tournament appearance, the other being **Christian Brothers** (11). The Bucs are tabbed to finish seventh by the coaches.

Rounding out the West Division is **Arkansas-Monticello** (10) who enters a full season under **head coach Carlos James**. James took over the coaching duties for the final 14 games of 2008 before the interim tag was removed May 12.

### VSU UNANIMOUS SELECTION FOR EAST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

The East Division head coaches expect **No. 21 Valdosta State** to repeat as GSC East Division Champs, unanimously voting the Blazers with six first-place votes and five overall Championship nods. The Blazers were not even selected to make the GSC Tournament last season, but first year **head coach Greg Guilliams** led VSU to its fourth division title and the quarterfinals of the GSC postseason.

The second-most winningest team in the GSC over the past four years, **No. 25 West Alabama**, is picked to finish second for the second year in a row. The Tigers have 173 victories since 2005, one less than DSU. UWA is the only GSC team with four-straight 40-win seasons which include a Division title, a GSC Championship and three NCAA Tournament berths. The Tigers earned four second-place nods along with one first and third-place vote each for 30 total points.

**North Alabama (RV)** enters uncharted territory after legendary head coach Mike Lane retired during the offseason. **Mike Keehn** takes over at the helm of the Lions after 20 years as an assistant for Lane. UNA received 24 points with two votes a piece for second, third and fourth place.

**2007 GSC Champions West Florida (RV)** received 22 points and the final nod for the GSC Tournament. The Argos enter their 15th season in the GSC, earning five second-place votes, three for third and one fourth and fifth place selection each.

**Montevallo** looks to finish out its final season in the GSC in the postseason, but were selected fifth with 17 points. The Falcons earned a nod for third place, three fourth-place votes and two for fifth place.

**Alabama-Huntsville** (10) and **West Georgia** (8) completes the East voting.

### Ping! Baseball's Preseason Top 30

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <b>Delta State</b>       | 16. Nebraska-Omaha      |
| 2. Mount Olive              | 17. St. Mary's          |
| 3. Tampa                    | 18. Sonoma State        |
| 4. Central Missouri         | 19. West Virginia State |
| 5. <b>Ouachita Baptist</b>  | 20. Grand Valley State  |
| 6. South Carolina - Aiken   | 21. West Chester        |
| 7. Emporia State            | 22. Ashland             |
| 8. <b>Southern Arkansas</b> | 23. Erskine             |
| 9. <b>West Alabama</b>      | 24. Northern Kentucky   |
| 10. Cal. State-Chico        | 25. St. Joseph's (Ind.) |
| 11. Franklin Pierce         | 26. Western Oregon      |
| 12. U.C.-San Diego          | 27. Mesa State          |
| 13. Abilene Christian       | 28. Caldwell (N.J.)     |
| 14. Tusculum                | 29. Cal. St.-Stanislaus |
| 15. Columbus State          | 30. Shippensburg        |

GSC Teams in **BOLD**

### 2009 GSC Baseball Schedule of Events

- Tuesday, January 27: Preseason Release
- Sunday, February 1: Season Begins
- Tuesday, February 17: First GSC Players of the Week Release
- Tuesday, March 10: First GSC Weekly Release
- Saturday, March 14: GSC Play Begins
- Thursday, April 30: All-GSC Release
- Saturday, May 2 - Wednesday, May 6: GSC Baseball Tournament
- Thursday, May 14 - Sunday, May 17: NCAA South Regional
- Saturday, May 23 - Saturday, May 30: NCAA Championships

## 2009 PRESEASON ALL-GSC BASEBALL TEAM

Twelve 2008 First Team All-GSC standouts highlight the 2009 Preseason All-GSC Team, which consists of all returning 2008 First and Second Team All-GSC members. Overall, **West Alabama** landed the most with seven, following its record-breaking 12 members on the 2008 squad. The Tigers were followed by **GSC Champions Delta State**, **East Division Champs Valdosta State**, **North Alabama** and **Southern Arkansas**, all placing four members a piece. **NCAA National Runner-Up Ouachita Baptist** and **Henderson State** each returned three players while **Arkansas Tech**, **Christian Brothers** and **West Georgia** rounded out the contingent with one player each.

Headlining the East squad are seven returning First Team members including three-time All-GSC selection and **2008 GSC East Division Player of the Year Rob Dahlberg**. The UWA **third baseman** and **2006 East Division Freshman of the Year** was named All-America on all three squads (ABCA, Daktronics, NCBWA) as well as First Team selections to the All-South Central Region teams (ABCA, Daktronics). Other First Team members include teammates **Jeremy Finney (second base)**, **Nick Wheeler (shortstop)** and **Mike Schmitt (starting pitcher)**. VSU **outfielder Blaine Wilson** and **starting pitcher Glen Lemke** join UNA **outfielder Jeffrey Ritter** as the remaining First Team returnees.

DSU middle infielders **Clay Sartain (second base)** and **Devin Goodwin (shortstop)** return after consecutive appearances on the All-GSC First Team. Like Dahlberg, Sartain earned three All-America honors as well. Debut members to the All-GSC First Team last season include fellow Statesmen **starting pitcher Corey Cunningham**, OBU **third baseman Rudy Jovanovski** and SAU's **2008 GSC West Division Freshman of the Year, starting pitcher Hayden Simpson**.

### EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C*	Chase Blackwood	VSU	SR	R/R	5-10	200	Taft, Calif.
1B*	Jud Jones	UWG	SR	R/R	5-11	220	La Grange, Ga.
<b>2B*</b>	<b>Jeremy Finney</b>	<b>UWA</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Memphis, Tenn.</b>
<b>3B</b>	<b>Rob Dahlberg</b>	<b>UWA</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Gilbertown, Ala.</b>
<b>SS*</b>	<b>Nick Wheeler</b>	<b>UWA</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Hokes Bluff, Ala.</b>
SS	Cole Mitchell	UNA	SR	R/R	6-1	180	Lester, Ala.
SS	Jon Koenigsfeld	VSU	JR	R/R	5-11	170	New Port Richey, Fla.
<b>OF*</b>	<b>Jeffrey Ritter</b>	<b>UNA</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Detroit, Mich.</b>
<b>OF*</b>	<b>Blaine Wilson</b>	<b>VSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Santa Maria, Calif.</b>
OF	Qualon Millender	UNA	SR	S/R	5-9	165	Talladega, Ala.
<b>SP</b>	<b>Mike Schmitt</b>	<b>UWA</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>Cheyenne, Wyo.</b>
<b>SP*</b>	<b>Glen Lemke</b>	<b>VSU</b>	<b>JR</b>	<b>S/R</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Leavenworth, Kan.</b>
SP	Brennen Auerbach	UNA	SR	R/R	6-1	195	Olathe, Kan.
SP	Matt Hill	UWA	SR	R/R	6-4	210	D'Iberville, Miss.
SP	Josh Varner	UWA	SO	R/R	6-4	205	Brandon, Miss.
RP	Brian Burgess	UWA	SO	R/R	6-1	190	Huntsville, Ala.

### WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	Brandon Graves	SAU	SR	R/R	6-0	205	Hewitt, Texas
1B	Joe Kaminski	CBU	JR	R/R	6-4	225	Sherwood, Ark.
1B	Robert Gilbert	HSU	JR	L/R	6-0	205	Jasper, Texas
<b>2B</b>	<b>Clay Sartain</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Horn Lake, Miss.</b>
2B	Cannon Lester	SAU	JR	R/R	5-11	185	El Dorado, Ark.
<b>3B*</b>	<b>Rudy Jovanovski</b>	<b>OBU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sterling Heights, Mich.</b>
3B	Tony Sanchez	ATU	SR	L/R	5-7	183	Mesquite, Texas
3B*	James Schroeder	SAU	SR	R/R	6-0	205	Montgomery, Texas
<b>SS</b>	<b>Devin Goodwin</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Russellville, Ala.</b>
OF*	Jeremy Saucedo	HSU	SR	R/R	5-7	175	Corpus Christi, Texas
OF	Blake Lockwood	OBU	SR	L/R	6-1	170	Stuttgart, Ark.
<b>SP</b>	<b>Corey Cunningham</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Clinton, Miss.</b>
<b>SP</b>	<b>Hayden Simpson</b>	<b>SAU</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Magnolia, Ark.</b>
SP*	Chris Brown	HSU	SR	R/R	5-10	150	Little Rock, Ark.
SP*	Chase Baran	OBU	SR	L/L	6-2	195	Boyd, Texas
RP	Levi Bishop	DSU	SR	L/L	5-8	165	Saltillo, Miss.

**NOTE:** The 2009 Preseason All-GSC Baseball Team consists of all returning First and Second Team players from the 2008 All-GSC Team. 2008 First Team All-GSC in **BOLD**; \*--2008 Top Newcomers

**UWA 3B**  
**Rob Dahlberg**



**DSU 2B**  
**Clay Sartain**

## 2009 GSC BASEBALL TOP NEWCOMERS

### EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL / HOMETOWN</u>
RHP	Chase Earl	UAH	5-10	170	R/R	JR	Central Alabama CC / Valley, Ala.
C	Christopher Parkman	UAH	6-0	205	R/R	JR	East Central CC / Louisville, Miss.
OF	Jovan Pickett	UAH	5-8	160	L/L	JR	Bevill State CC / Leeds, Ala.
LHP	Kyle Johanson	UM	5-11	180	L/L	JR	Gordon College (Ga.) / Bowman, Ala.
LHP	Caleb McLeod	UM	6-2	185	R/L	JR	Shelton State CC / Hueytown, Ala.
OF	Chris Sosebee	UM	6-2	180	R/R	JR	Jeff State CC / Warrior, Ala.
OF	Will Campbell	UNA	6-1	190	R/R	JR	Oregon State / Selilman, Ariz.
RHP	Mitch Handley	UNA	6-0	185	R/R	JR	Kansas City Kan. CC / Grain Valley, Mo.
1B/P	Chase Porch	UNA	6-1	190	R/R	JR	N.E. Miss. CC / Blue Springs, Miss.
LHP	Matt Costello	VSU	6-1	190	L/L	JR	Volunteer St. CC / West Barnstable, N.Y.
OF	Brandon Decker	VSU	6-3	205	L/R	JR	South Florida CC / Gulf, Fla.
RHP	Ross Gusky	VSU	6-1	190	R/R	JR	Tallahassee CC / Pittsburgh, Pa.
INF	Bryan Mason	UWA	6-1	175	L/R	JR	Elgin CC (Ill.) / Madison Heights, Mich.
LHP	Dom Sapp	UWA	6-0	184	L/L	JR	Monroe CC / Geneva, N.Y.
LHP	Trevor Zugmaier	UWA	6-1	200	L/L	JR	St. Charles CC / Barnhart, Mo.
RHP	Dustin Brenton	UWF	6-0	180	R/R	JR	Central Alabama CC / Birmingham, Ala.
RHP	Kevin Johnson	UWF	6-5	220	R/R	JR	Ala. Southern CC / Pensacola, Fla.
LHP	Ryan Sorce	UWF	5-1	180	R/L	FR	Pace HS / Pace, Fla.
1B	Daniel Henley	UWG	6-0	200	R/R	JR	Southern Union CC / Sylvester, Ga.
RHP	Chad Reeves	UWG	6-0	200	R/R	JR	Chattanooga St. CC / Trenton, Ga.
RHP	Corey Watts	UWG	6-2	215	R/R	JR	Southern Union CC / Williamson, Ga.



**UNA OF Will Campbell**

### WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN</u>
1B	Richard Atwood	UAM	6-4	215	R/R	JR	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC / VanCleve, Miss.
P/3B	Tyler Henry	UAM	6-4	205	R/R	JR	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC / Bay St. Louis, Miss.
C	Blain Ivey	UAM	6-3	210	R/R	JR	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC / Baton Rouge, La.
SP	Blaine Sims	ATU	6-0	185	L/L	JR	Kaskaskia JC (Ill.) / Scott, Ark.
SP	Karyle Whitley	ATU	6-1	185	R/R	JR	Pima JC / Tucson, Ariz.
OF	Chad Wynn	ATU	5-10	170	R/R	JR	Three Rivers JC (Mo.) / Bono, Ark.
SS	David Clayton	CBU	6-1	160	R/R	JR	Southwest Tenn. CC / Memphis, Tenn.
LHP	Mitch Porwoll	CBU	5-10	155	L/L	FR	Bakersfield Christian HS / Bakersfield, Calif.
3B	Alan Wright	CBU	6-0	185	R/R	JR	Tennessee / Memphis, Tenn.
3B/1B	Kellen Bozeman	DSU	6-2	205	R/R	JR	LSU-Eunice / Baton Rouge, La.
OF/1B	Cade Hoggard	DSU	6-3	215	R/R	JR	Mississippi State / Oxford, Miss.
P/DH	David Mooney	DSU	5-10	185	L/L	JR	Hinds CC / Clinton, Miss.
P	Kyle Cline	HU	6-0	210	R/R	FR	Spruce Creek HS / Ormond Beach, Fla.
INF/P	Josh Creveling	HU	6-2	240	R/R	JR	Western Nevada College / Las Vegas, Nev.
1B	Scott Sammons	HU	5-10	220	L/L	SO	St. Petersburg College (Fla.) / Searcy, Ark.
RHP	Todd Bryan	HSU	5-11	175	R/R	SR	North Alabama / Bryant, Ark.
INF	John Waylock	HSU	6-0	175	L/R	JR	Muscatine CC (Iowa) / Cary, Ill.
OF	Richie Wood	HSU	6-3	175	R/R	JR	Bossier Parish CC (La.) / Bryant, Ark.
OF	Kevin Bird	OBU	5-10	190	R/R	JR	Lake Land CC / Potomac, Ill.
C	Derek Dibbens	OBU	6-0	200	R/R	SR	Texas-Permian Basin / McPherson, Kan.
P/1B	Will Gowdy	OBU	6-4	210	R/L	JR	Seward County (Kan.) / Amarillo, Texas
OF	Joey Register	SAU	6-0	225	R/R	SR	Texas A&M / Lufkin, Texas
RHP	Matt Speake	SAU	6-1	210	R/R	JR	Texas A&M / Tyler, Texas
SS	Andrew Whittington	SAU	6-2	205	L/R	JR	Galveston College / Texas City, Texas



**OBU C Derek Dibbens**