



# GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

2101 Providence Park – Suite 200 – Birmingham, AL 35242

Phone (205) 991-9880 – Fax (205) 437-0505

http://www.gulfsouthconference.org

Nathan N. Salant, Esq–Commissioner

Contact: Michael Anderson, Assistant Commissioner for Media & Public Affairs

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## 2009-10 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL RELEASE

### VALDOSTA STATE SELECTED AS GSC MEN'S BASKETBALL FAVORITE VSU, DSU SELECTED TO WIN DIVISION TITLES

Birmingham, AL—Three teams stood out from the pack in the 2009 Gulf South Conference Men's Basketball Pre-Season Coaches' Polls.

**Valdosta State** was not only predicted to return to the GSC Title Game, but to also come away with its first-ever league trophy. VSU was tabbed as the Overall Champion for the first time since 2002-03, thanks to seven votes. **West Division favorite Delta State** collected four Overall votes, while **defending league Champion Arkansas Tech** earned its most Overall nods ever (three).

The Conference was also represented in the Pre-Season national polls. Valdosta State was ranked No. 4 by *The Sporting News* and No. 11 by the *Division II Bulletin*. DSU was also ranked No. 21 by the *Division II Bulletin*, while defending NCAA South Regional Champion **Christian Brothers** was among 14 other schools to watch. *The Sporting News* also recognized CBU and ATU as 'Possible Breakthrough' squads.

### 2009 GSC MEN'S BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON COACHES' POLLS

#### EAST DIVISION

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Total</u>
Valdosta State	5	—	—	—	—	25
North Alabama	1	3	1	—	—	20
Alabama-Huntsville	—	3	1	1	—	17
West Alabama	—	—	4	1	—	14
West Georgia	—	—	—	4	1	9
West Florida	—	—	—	—	5	5

#### 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>
Delta State	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	46
Arkansas Tech	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	44
Harding	—	2	3	—	1	1	—	32
Arkansas-Monticello	—	1	1	4	1	—	—	30
Christian Brothers	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	30
Southern Arkansas	—	—	1	—	5	1	—	22
Henderson State	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	11
Ouachita Baptist	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	9

#### GSC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
<b>Valdosta State</b>	<b>7</b>
Delta State	4
Arkansas Tech	3

**NOTE:** The Head Coaches voted on this poll. Teams from the East received 5 points for a first place vote, 4 for a second place vote, 3 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 Head Coaches then cast one vote for the overall champion. The Head Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own squads.

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GSC MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES' POLLS

### VSU SELECTED AS EAST DIVISION FAVORITE

**Valdosta State** was a unanimous selection as the East Division favorites, grabbing five first-place votes en route to 25 total points. VSU seeks its second straight Division Title and is the divisional favorite for the first time since 2002-03.

**North Alabama** finished five points behind the Blazers at second-place with 20 points along with the other first-place nod. **Alabama-Huntsville** came in at third-place (17), while fourth-place **West Alabama** (14) earned its highest-ever East Division Pre-Season ranking after moving from the West Division in 1995-96. **West Georgia** (9) and **West Florida** (5) rounded out the poll.

### DSU LEADS THE WEST DIVISION VOTING

Fans can expect another close race in the West Division as **Delta State** finished just two points ahead of **defending Champion Arkansas Tech**. DSU and ATU split the eight possible first-place votes, but the Statesmen totaled 46 points compared to the Wonder Boys' 44.

Just two points separated the next three teams. **Harding's** 32 points was enough to grab third-place, while **Arkansas-Monticello** and **Christian Brothers** finished in a tie for fourth-place (30). Completing the poll was **Southern Arkansas** (22), **Henderson State** (11) and **Ouachita Baptist** (9).

## GSC MEN'S BASKETBALL IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

### NABC/Division II Bulletin Pre-Season Top 25

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. BYU-Hawaii                 | 14. Central Missouri    |
| 2. Findlay                    | 15. Winona State        |
| 3. Southwest Baptist          | 16. Kutztown            |
| 4. Cal Poly Pomona            | 17. Central Oklahoma    |
| 5. Bellarmine                 | 18. Grand Valley State  |
| 6. Tusculum                   | 19. Philadelphia        |
| 7. Merrimack                  | 20. Northern Kentucky   |
| 8. Augusta State              | <b>21. Delta State</b>  |
| 9. Florida Southern           | 22. Rollins             |
| 10. Bentley                   | 23. Johnson C. Smith    |
| <b>11. Valdosta State</b>     | 24. West Virginia State |
| 12. Southwest Minnesota State | 25. Incarnate Word      |
| 13. Metro State               |                         |

**Others to Watch:** Barton, Cal St. San B'Dino, Catawba, **Christian Brothers**, Claflin, Dallas Baptist, Fort Hays St., Gannon, UMass Lowell, NM Highlands, Seattle Pacific, Southern Indiana, Tarleton St., USC Aiken, Virginia Union

### ALL-AMERICANS (GSC only)

#### Super 16

F-Tyrone Curnell, Valdosta State

### The Sporting News College Basketball Magazine Division II Top 10

1. Bellarmine
2. BYU-Hawaii
3. Central Missouri
- 4. Valdosta State**
5. Bentley
6. Indiana (Pa.)
7. Grand Valley State
8. Humboldt State
9. Cal Poly Pomona
10. St. Cloud State

### Possible Breakthroughs (GSC only):

**Arkansas Tech**  
**Christian Brothers**

### All-America Team (GSC only)

#### First Team

F-Tyrone Curnell, Valdosta State

## WELCOME TO THE GSC

The Gulf South Conference welcomes two new head coaches for the 2009-10 season.

**Mark Price** became the ninth head coach in **Ouachita Baptist** history on April 17th, 2009. Price comes to Arkadelphia, AR after a three-year stint as an assistant at Division I Furman University. The Samford University graduate is no stranger to the GSC after serving as an assistant at Alabama-Huntsville from 2002-06 where he helped guide UAH to the 2003 Title Game and NCAA regional berths in 2003 and 2006.

**West Florida** turned to one its own to guide the program in a new direction. **Bob Stinnett's** coaching career spans from high school to the NCAA Division I level, but his familiarity with the UWF program and the local community made him the perfect fit. Stinnett is a UWF Hall of Fame inductee who captained the Argonauts' 1967-68 squad that built a 19-3 overall record which is still the best in school history. Stinnett comes to UWF after a two-year term at Pensacola High School where he led the Tigers to a trip to last year's state final four and a two-year, 54-15 record.

## 2009 GSC PRE-SEASON MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Four returning First Team All-GSC standouts and four returning Second Team honorees highlight the 2009 GSC Pre-Season Men's Basketball Team.

Eight schools are represented on the squad, led by **Delta State**, **Harding** and **Valdosta State** which posted two players apiece.

All five East Division members return after collecting All-GSC laurels a year ago. **Alabama-Huntsville guard Cody Jones**, **VSU forward Tyrone Curnell** and **West Alabama forward Jason Swanson** were named to last season's First Team. Curnell finished third in the league in steals (tied, 1.94), fourth in rebounding (8.2) and eighth in scoring (14.7) and blocks (1.26). Swanson was third in rebounding (8.3) and sixth in scoring (15.5). Jones placed eighth in field goal percentage (.544—142-261). Second Team returnees **Valdosta State guard Ricardo Lewis** and **West Georgia forward John Pringle** complete the squad. Pringle ranked fourth in blocks (1.59) and ninth in rebounding (7.2). Lewis was tops on the team in total assists (90) and third on the team in scoring average (10.8).

The West Division team is led by returning First Teamer **Delta State point guard Chad Atkins**. Atkins led the GSC in assists (6.83) and helped guide the Statesmen to a NCAA Regional berth. **HU forward Kevin Brown** and **guard Trent Morgan** took home Second Team laurels a year ago. Brown placed sixth in field goal percentage (.565—144-255), eighth in steals (1.67) and 10th in blocks (1.00), while Morgan was fifth in steals (1.83).

Rounding out the West squad is **Arkansas Tech guard Brandon Friedel**, **DSU guard Joe McCray** and **Southern Arkansas forward Justin Stuart**. Friedel was No. 1 in the GSC in three-point percentage (.474—64-135) and averaged 9.8 points per game. McCray averaged 12.9 points in 22 games for the Statesmen. Stuart played in all 26 games for the Muleriders, leading the squad in scoring (13.1).

### EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
G	#Cody Jones	UAH	6-7	225	SR	Churubusco, IN
F	#Tyrone Curnell	VSU	6-7	225	SR	Ocoee, FL
G	\$Ricardo Lewis	VSU	6-0	173	SR	Lake Weir, FL
F	#Jason Swanson	UWA	6-7	215	SR	Troy, AL
F	\$John Pringle	UWG	6-7	201	SR	Newark, NJ

### WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
G	Brandon Friedel	ATU	6-3	195	SR	Victoria, TX
PG	#Chad Atkins	DSU	6-2	185	SR	Madison, MS
G	Joe McCray	DSU	6-5	220	SR	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
F	\$Kevin Brown	HU	6-4	205	JR	Hughes, AR
G	\$Trent Morgan	HU	6-3	210	SR	Little Rock, AR
F	Justin Stuart	SAU	6-4	205	JR	Hope, AR

#—2008-09 First Team All-GSC

\$—2008-09 Second Team All-GSC

## 2009 GSC MEN'S BASKETBALL TOP NEWCOMERS

### EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN</u>
G	Xavier Baldwin	UAH	6-3	210	FR	Minor HS/Birmingham, AL
G	Jaime Smith	UAH	6-3	180	FR	Hoover HS/Hoover, AL
F	Eric Wormely	UNA	6-8	230	SR	Ball State University/Joilet Township, MO
F	Jared Strode	UNA	6-5	190	SR	Crichton College/Winchester, KY
F	Billy McShepherd	VSU	6-10	195	JR	Louisburg CC/Windsor, NC
C	Josh Williams	VSU	6-7	255	JR	Truett-McConnell CC/Covington, GA
G	Richmond Sirju	UWA	6-2	215	JR	Utah State/Lauder Hill, FL
G	Alquan Mendenhall	UWA	5-11	175	SO	High Point University/Pine Hill, AL
F	Peter Connole	UWF	6-7	180	FR	Pine Castle HS/Orlando, FL
G	Tramell Wooten	UWF	6-2	180	JR	Marion Military Institute/Stone Mountain, GA
G	Justin Cummings	UWG	6-3	190	JR	Snead State CC/Birmingham, AL
F	Julian Jones	UWG	6-8	220	JR	Western Illinois University/St. Louis, MO

### WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN</u>
G	Jarrell Turner	UAM	6-4	190	JR	South Suburban College/Chicago, IL
G	Hamid Ford	UAM	6-0	185	SO	Texas Southern University/Los Angeles, CA
G	Marcus Pillow	ATU	6-1	210	SR	University of Central Arkansas/Russellville, AR
G	Willie Sanders	ATU	6-1	180	JR	St. John's River CC/Jacksonville, FL
F	Michael Drake	CBU	6-6	200	FR	Catholic HS/Little Rock, AR
G	Alex Rogers	CBU	6-2	180	FR	Oak Hill HS/Cincinnati, OH
F	Roderick Ollie	DSU	6-6	205	JR	UAB/Indianola, MS
F	Dino Hair	DSU	6-9	205	SR	Middle Tennessee State/Picayune, MS
G	Bradley Spencer	HU	6-1	185	FR	Lonoke HS/Lonoke, AR
G	Tony Hall	HU	6-3	200	SO	Wallace State CC/Searcy, AR
C/F	Lance Smith	HSU	6-7	220	SR	Not available
PG	Jeff Shelton	HSU	6-1	180	SO	Not available
F	Miles Monroe	OBU	6-7	205	FR	Cabot HS/Cabot, AR
G	Julian LeDay	OBU	6-1	180	FR	Fossil Ridge HS/Keller, TX