



222 Third Street SE Ste. 423
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
[Phone] (319) 366-4845
[Fax] (319) 366-4911
www.iowaconference.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 21, 2006

Contact: Will Wolper
wwolper@iowaconference.com
319-366-4845

2006 IOWA CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . Coe College, which has earned a share of three of the last four Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) football titles, is the coaches' pick to win the 2006 IIAC title. The Kohawks received seven of eight first-place votes, totaling 63 points in the IIAC football Coaches' Poll.

Defending co-Champion, Central College, received the other first-place vote along with five second-place votes and a third-place vote, and is second in the Poll with 56 points. Wartburg College is third in the preseason poll with 51 points followed by Luther College with 48 points. The complete 2006 IIAC football Coaches' Poll follows:

Rank	School (1st place votes)	Points	2005 Record
1	Coe (7)	63	9-2, 7-1 IIAC
2	Central (1)	56	9-2, 7-1 IIAC
3	Wartburg	51	7-3, 6-2 IIAC
4	Luther	48	6-4, 5-3 IIAC
5	Simpson	41	5-5, 3-5 IIAC
t-6	Buena Vista	27	5-5, 4-4 IIAC
t-6	Dubuque	27	2-8, 1-7 IIAC
8	Loras	25	3-7, 2-6 IIAC
9	Cornell	14	2-8, 1-7 IIAC

Preseason All-Americans: Four Iowa Conference football players were named to preseason All-America Teams. Central senior defensive back **Brett Doud** was named a Second Team preseason All-America by Don Hansen's *Football Gazette* and d3football.com. Coe junior receiver/running back **Neil Suckow** and Cornell junior linebacker **Chris Gustafson** join Doud on the *Football Gazette* Second Team while Luther seniors **Kyle Pearson** (receiver) and **Jon Stavast** (offensive guard) were named to the *Football Gazette* Third Team.

Preseason National Polls: Defending Conference co-Champions Central and Coe are included in multiple preseason national polls. Central is 12th in *Lindy's* poll, 16th in *USA Today Sports Weekly*, 17th in Don Hansen's *Football Gazette*, and 18th on d3football.com and in *Street & Smith's Football Annual*. Coe is ranked 20th in *USA Today Sports Weekly*, 22nd on d3football.com and 29th in Don Hansen's *Football Gazette*.

New Coaches: Four schools will have new coaches roaming their sidelines this fall. **Steve Osterberger**, who compiled a 32-28 record in six seasons as head coach at Buena Vista, has moved across the state to take the helm at Loras replacing **Chris Kleiman**. Osterberger's former offensive coordinator, **Jay Anderson**, takes over at Buena Vista. Another former offensive coordinator takes the reigns at Wartburg as **Eric Koehler** replaces **Rick Willis**. **Matt Dillon**, a 1981 graduate of Cornell, takes over for **Ray Reasland** at his alma mater. Dillon led West Des Moines Dowling High School to back-to-back Class 4A state titles (2000, 2001).

Team-By-Team Preview: A brief preview for each Iowa Conference team follows.

Buena Vista returns 12 starters and 27 letterwinners from last season's 5-5 team that finished fifth in the Conference with a 4-4 record. A pair of linebackers, junior **Cody Pierce** and senior **Wade Hammen**, will anchor the Beavers defense that returns eight starters from last year's squad that ranked seventh in total defense. The duo was first and third on the team with 107 and 70 total tackles, respectively, and had team-highs 10.5 and 10.0 tackles for loss, which ranked eighth and ninth in the Conference. The offense will feature eight new starters, but returns junior quarterback **Chris Hawkins**, who ranked third in the Conference in pass efficiency (125.2), passing yards (2,149 yards) and total offense (2,015 yards).

Buena Vista head coach **Jay Anderson** says, "I think we could be very solid on the defensive side of the ball. We return eight starters from last year and feel like we have improved our depth. Offensively we'll be breaking in eight new starters. We have some guys that have worked hard and are eager to prove themselves, coming together as a unit will be a key to our success early in the season. "

Central returns 19 starters and 30 letterwinners from last season's 9-2 team that finished in a tie for first in the Conference with a 7-1 record. The Dutch gained a share of its Conference record 27th IIAC title last year and made its NCAA record-tying 17th playoff appearance. Key contributors return at all offensive skill positions led by 2005 IIAC Most Valuable Player **Vance Schuring**, a junior running back. He rushed for a Conference-best 1,339 yards and 16 touchdowns on 290 carries, becoming the first Central running back to rush for 1,000 yards since 1998. He finished third in the IIAC with an average of 126.6 all purpose yards per game and ninth in total offense with 122.8 yards per game. Junior quarterback **Tim Connell** completed 122-of-243 passes for 1,545 yards and 10 touchdowns. He was also Central's second leading rusher with 475 yards and five touchdowns on 116 carries. Connell's favorite target, senior **Brad Ryals**, returns. A 2004 All-Conference pick, Ryals had 41 receptions for 669 yards and five touchdowns in 2005. Junior tight end **Jon Haugen** was the Dutch's third leading receiver last year with 16 receptions for 209 yards and two scores.

A pair of All-Conference selections lead the defense. Junior linebacker **Andrew Lehn** and junior cornerback **Brett Doud** were First Team picks last year. Lehn finished second in the Conference with 133 tackles including 74 solo. He also had five tackles for loss, two sacks and two interceptions. Doud had 49 tackles and a Conference-best five interceptions. He was also an All-Conference pick as a return specialist, averaging 31.2 yards per kick return and 11.3 yards per punt return. Junior **Dustyn Baethke** made the transition from running back to stinger last season. From the linebacker/defensive end hybrid position, he had 60 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, two sacks and two interceptions. Senior linebacker **Colby Myers** had a team-high 10 tackles for loss and was third on the team with 70 tackles.

Central head coach **Jeff McMartin** says, "The luxury we have is that we have a lot of guys back. The challenge we have is that we've got to improve. We want to take another step and we're very hungry, but we still have a lot of work to do. Last year wasn't a perfect season. Our formula hasn't changed. We have to give everything we have and play hard. We have to be sharp mentally and physically on every play and we've got to stay healthy."

Coe returns 16 starters and 34 letterwinners from last season's 9-2 team that finished in a tie for first in the Conference with a 7-1 record. It was the Kohawks third Conference title in the last four years. Coe was the only Iowa Conference school to rank in the top half of the Conference in rushing, passing, total and scoring offense and rushing, passing, total and scoring defense. The Coe defense had five All-Conference picks last year, only one (senior lineman **Adam Jordison**) returns. Jordison was second in the Conference with 13.5 tackles for loss and ranked fifth with six sacks to go along with 42 tackles. Top returnees joining him on the defensive side of the ball include junior linebacker **Zach Nosbisch** and a trio of defensive backs, seniors **Nick Hirth** and **Clint Mersch**, and junior **Jeremy Squires**. Nosbisch is the Kohawks' top returning tackler. His 81 tackles were third overall on the team last year. Hirth had 53 tackles last season, fifth overall and second among 2006 returnees. Mersch had 32 tackles and four interceptions. Squires had 44 tackles and three picks.

The Kohawk offense is loaded with experience at the skill position. Senior quarterback **Andy TeKippe**, senior running back **Ashton Northern** and junior running back/wide receiver **Neil Suckow** were all First Team All-Conference selections last year while senior wide-out **Jon Rife** and senior lineman **Rob Nance** were Second Team All-Conference picks. TeKippe led the Conference with a 129.8 pass efficiency, and ranked second in passing yards (225.8/game) and total offense (257.0/game). Suckow led the IIAAC with 20 touchdowns and 1,624 all purpose yards, nearly 300 more than the next player. Northern was third in the Conference with 959 rushing yards. Rife was fourth in the IIAAC with 805 receiving yards and seventh with 54 receptions. Coe also returns two-time All-Conference kicker **Michael Herzberger**, who set the school record for career field goals (25) after just two seasons.

Coe head coach **Erik Raeburn** says, "Our players have been working very hard and are excited to start."

Cornell returns 14 starters and 40 letterwinners from last season's 2-8 team that finished tied for eighth in the Conference with a 1-7 record. Running backs **Nate Newmeister** and **Travion Hardman** will lead the offense behind holes created by junior tackles **Heath Sienknecht** and **Shane Eaglin**. Hardman led the Rams with 466 rushing yards and 891 all purpose yards as a freshman. He was also the team's top kick returner, averaging 18.3 yards on 20 returns. He ranked eighth in the Conference in rushing and kick return average. Newmeister finished third on the team in rushing (148 yards), receiving (33 receptions, 446 yards) and all purpose yards (594 yards). He showed his versatility last season completing 12-of-28 passes for 135 yards.

A pair of inside linebackers and defensive ends will lead Cornell's defense. Junior linebacker **Chris Gustafson** led the Conference with 125 tackles last season. He also had 6.5 tackles for loss. Senior **Adam Eichhorn** earned First Team All-Conference honors after a 92 tackle, 6.0 tackle for loss. Juniors **Aaron Hadenfeldt** and **Jason Williams** are back on the ends. Hadenfeldt led Cornell and ranked seventh in the Conference with 10.5 tackles for loss including four sacks. Williams was limited to six games last season but had 12 tackles.

Cornell head coach **Matt Dillon** says, "We are excited to get the season started at Cornell. Our goal is to be competitive in the Iowa Conference, one of the toughest Conferences in all of NCAA Division III. Depth will be a huge concern for the Rams, with only 65 players on the roster, but the quality of the players in the program is as good as it has ever been. If we can remain relatively injury free, we will have the capability of surprising some people this year."

Dubuque returns 15 starters and 32 letterwinners from last season's 2-8 team that finished tied for eighth in the Conference with a 1-7 record. The Conference's top ranked passing offense returns a number of its key personnel led by All-Conference junior quarterback **Jermar Jackson**, All-Conference junior lineman **Mike Fielding**, junior receiver **Torrey Smith** and sophomore receiver **Edward McIntosh**. Jackson completed 233-of-433 passes for 2,562 yards and 19 touchdowns. He led the Conference in passing yards and total offense (2,833). He also rushed seven touchdowns. Smith was third on the team with 40 receptions and 451 receiving yards. His 4.44 receptions per game were 10th in the IIAC. McIntosh's 35 receptions and 289 yards were fourth on the team. Both players caught three touchdown passes.

A quartet of seniors will lead the Spartans defense that ranked fifth last year. **Prince Bussie**, a three-year starter and former All-Conference selection at free safety is moving to inside linebacker this year. He is 10 tackles shy of setting the school career record. **Rodney Baker** returns on the outside after posting a 58 tackle season with 6.5 tackles for loss. **D.J. Moore** is a three-year starter at corner. Last season, he had 39 tackles and a Conference-best 11 pass break-ups. **Jason Wilke** anchors the line that will start five returning letterwinners from his end position. He had 41 tackles and six tackles for loss last season.

Dubuque head coach **Vince Brautigam** says, "I am excited to see what this team can do. I believe they are physically as well as mentally ready to make their mark in the IIAC."

Loras returns 14 starters and 31 letterwinners from last season's 3-7 team that finished seventh in the Conference with a 2-6 record. The Duhawks return a pair of All-Conference performers on defense, which finished tops in the Conference last season. Junior linebacker **Brock Hall** led the team with 99 tackles, which ranked fifth in the Conference. He also had 6.5 tackles for loss, two sacks and two interceptions. Senior defensive back **Adam Laffey** tied for second in the IIAC with four interceptions. He also had 43 tackles on the year. Senior **Tyson Farley** joins Laffey in the defensive backfield off a season in which he had 43 tackles, five pass break-ups, three fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

The offensive side of the ball should receive a boost from the return of a healthy **Matt Burds**. The senior wide receiver was injured in the third game of the season but had seven catches for 82 yards and two touchdowns at the time of his injury. He also returned six punts for a 10.0 yard average and one touchdown. He was the Duhawks' top receiver in 2004 with 39 catches for 570 yards and seven touchdowns. Junior fullback **Tim Andrews** rushed for 27 yards on 11 carries in seven games last year. Junior **Bob Roe**, started all 10 games last season at left tackle, and will anchor the offensive line.

Loras head coach **Steve Osterberger** says, "One of the keys for our football team will be how fast we can come together as a squad during pre-season camp."

Luther returns 16 starters and 40 letterwinners from last season's 6-4 team that finished fourth in the Conference with a 5-3 record. The Norse finished second in total offense and scoring offense, third in passing offense and fourth in rushing offense, one of only two Iowa Conference schools to rank in the top half of all four categories (Coe). A pair of two-time All-Conference performers lead the offense this year. Preseason All-American senior **Jon Stavast** anchors the offensive line from his guard position. Senior wide receiver **Kyle Pearson** had 87 receptions for 981 yards and seven touchdowns. He also averaged 24.3 yards per kick return. He led the Conference with 11.3 receptions per game, ranked second with 98.1 receiving yards per game and was fifth with 115.1 all purpose yards per game.

Senior linebacker **Jud Taylor** and lineman **Luke Wigle** lead the defense. Taylor led the team with 86 tackles, nine tackles for loss and four sacks, ranking 11th in the Conference in tackles and tied for ninth in sacks. Wigle had 20 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and one sack.

Luther head coach **Paul Hefty** says, "We are looking to improve as a team within the very tough and competitive IIAC."

Simpson returns 18 starters and 30 letterwinners from last season's 5-5 team that finished sixth in the Conference with a 3-5 record. Running back **Adam Reutzel** earned All-Conference honors last year as a freshman and will lead the Storm offense as it changes from a spread format to pro-style. Reutzel finished second in the Conference last year averaging 93.7 rushing yards per game, and had seven touchdowns. He also had 20 receptions for 131 yards and his 1,068 all purpose yards were sixth in the IIAC. Senior **Kyle Peterson** and junior **Trent Kain** were second and fourth on the team in receiving last year. Peterson had 40 catches for 624 yards and three touchdowns, finishing 10th in the Conference with 62.4 yards per game. He also averaged 20.9 yards per kick return and ranked ninth in the IIAC with 980 all purpose yards. Kain had 24 receptions for 208 yards and one touchdown. Junior **Bill Nelson** handled both punting and kicking duties last year, earning All-Conference honors as a punter averaging 39.3 yards per punt, second in the Conference. He also connected on all five field goal attempts, including a school record 50-yarder against Buena Vista.

Defensively, senior lineman **BJ Bengaard** is the team's top returning tackler with 58. He had eight tackles for loss and four sacks. Junior lineman **Dustin Schelling**, a Second Team All-Conference pick, was second in the Conference with seven sacks and fourth with 13.0 tackles for loss. He also had a team-high three interceptions to go along with his 47 tackles. Two-time All-Conference defensive back **Nick McFall** had 33 tackles last season and 11 pass break-ups.

Wartburg returns 13 starters and 31 letterwinners from last season's 7-3 team that finished third in the Conference with a 6-2 record. Senior running back **Dan Hammes** is a two-time All-Conference performer and enters the year 212 yards shy of 2,000 for his career. In 2004, he rushed for 1,007 yards in 2004. Last season, leg injuries limited him to seven games but he still led the team with 649 yards and five rushing touchdowns. Junior wide receiver **Kyle Duchman** had a team-high 61 receptions for 663 yards and six touchdowns last season. He finished fourth in the Conference in receptions per game (6.1) and eighth in receiving yards per game (66.3). A pair of linemen, senior **Lincoln Taylor** and junior **Ben Hogan**, anchor the offensive line that blocked for the top rushing offense and allowed the fewest sacks in the Conference last season.

The Knights' had three All-Conference performers on the defense that finished third in the IIAC in total defense, second in pass defense and fourth in rush defense. Junior defensive back **Nick Weber** is the lone returnee among that trio. He had 48 tackles, a team-high four interceptions and nine pass break-ups. He was also the team's top punt returner, averaging 13.2 yards per return which ranked second in the Conference. Senior lineman **Kyle Krause** and sophomore linebacker **Ryan Gerardy** are Wartburg's other top returnees on the defensive side of the ball. Krause had 38 tackles, seven tackles for loss and two sacks. Gerardy had 26 tackles, three tackles for loss and two sacks.

Wartburg head coach **Eric Koehler** says, "We feel that the first five weeks of our season will be critical to getting our team ready for the 2006 Iowa Conference schedule. Those five weeks will include our pre-season training camp and scrimmage, our first game versus 2005 NCAA playoff qualifier Monmouth College, and a bye week before we start league play. Our success will depend on how fast our young players mature during that time span."

~ ~ www.iowaconference.com ~ ~