



Pan American Plaza, Suite 500
201 South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46225

317-237-5622 (phone)
317-237-5620 (fax)

www.horizonleague.org
www.horizonleaguenetwork.tv

Men's Basketball Contact: Will Roleson
317-237-5606 or wroleson@horizonleague.org

Butler
University

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Cleveland State
University

Butler tops Horizon League men's basketball preseason poll *Wright State picked second, defending champion Cleveland State third*

INDIANAPOLIS – Butler University has been picked to win the Horizon League men's basketball title this season, according to the League's 2009-10 preseason poll that was released Tuesday (Oct. 20).

University of
Detroit Mercy

The Bulldogs (26-6, 15-3 Horizon League in 2008-09) -- who return every player from last year's regular-season championship and NCAA Tournament squad -- received 455 points and 43 of 46 first-place votes from League head coaches, sports information directors and media members. Butler has captured at least a share of the League's regular-season title each of the last three seasons.

University of
Illinois at Chicago

Anchoring the Bulldogs' lineup will be junior forward Matt Howard, who is the League's reigning Player of the Year after averaging 14.8 points and 6.8 rebounds per game last season. Also back is sophomore swingman Gordon Hayward who averaged 13.1 points and 6.5 rebounds en route to first-team All-League and Newcomer of the Year honors as a freshman.

Loyola
University Chicago

Coming off its third straight 20-win season, Wright State University (20-13, 12-6) was picked second with 398 points and one first-place vote. Defending champion Cleveland State University (26-11, 12-6) was tabbed third with 324 points and the remaining two first-place votes. The Vikings won their first League title last season with a 57-54 victory over Butler in the championship game and then defeated Wake Forest University in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Valparaiso
University

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (17-14, 11-7) was voted to finish fourth with 314 points and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (22-11, 13-5) fifth with 273. Rounding out the poll are the University of Detroit Mercy (209 points), Youngstown State University (197), Valparaiso University (137), the University of Illinois at Chicago (126) and Loyola University Chicago (97).

University of
Wisconsin-Green Bay

University of
Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Other players to watch this coming season include a trio of returning second-team All-League picks in senior guard Tone Boyle (13.2 ppg) of Milwaukee, senior guard Todd Brown (11.7 ppg) of Wright State and junior guard Rahmon Fletcher (10.8 ppg, 4.5 apg) of Green Bay.

Wright State
University

The regular season will begin Nov. 11 when Detroit plays at the University of California in the Coaches v. Cancer tournament at 11 p.m. ET on ESPNU. The League schedule will tip off with four games on Dec. 3, including Cleveland State at Wright State, which also will be broadcast on ESPNU.

Youngstown State
University

The 2010 Speedway Horizon League Men's Basketball Championship is scheduled for March 2, 6-7 and 9. The regular-season champion will host the second round and semifinals, with the higher remaining seed hosting the championship game live on ESPN as part of "Championship Week."

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The following is the complete 2009-10 Horizon League men's basketball preseason poll.

Rank Team	Total Points	1st-pl. Votes	2008-09 Overall	2008 League	2008-09 HL Finish	2008-09 Postseason
1. Butler	455	43	26-6	15-3	1st	NCAA (first round)
2. Wright State	398	1	20-13	12-6	T-3rd	
3. Cleveland State	324	2	26-11	12-6	T-3rd	NCAA (second round)
4. Milwaukee	314		17-14	11-7	5th	
5. Green Bay	273		22-11	13-5	2nd	CBI (first round)
6. Detroit	209		7-23	2-16	10th	
7. Youngstown State	197		11-19	7-11	T-6th	
8. Valparaiso	137		9-22	5-13	9th	
9. UIC	126		16-15	7-11	T-6th	
10. Loyola	97		14-18	6-12	8th	

The Horizon League's men's basketball preseason All-League Teams will be announced Wednesday afternoon.