

# 2009 PAC Football Release Week 1 - August 31



**Presidents' Athletic Conference**  
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## 2009 PAC FOOTBALL STANDINGS (preseason)

School	PAC Games			PF	PA	All Games			PF	PA
	W	L	Pct.			W	L	Pct.		
Bethany	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Grove City	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Thiel	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Thomas More	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Washington & Jefferson	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Waynesburg	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Westminster	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Geneva*						0	0	.000	0	0
Saint Vincent*						0	0	.000	0	0

\* - NCAA Division III provisional member - not eligible for PAC championship or player of the week honors

### LAST WEEK

No Games Scheduled

### THIS WEEK (September 5)

Otterbein at Bethany - 1 p.m.  
Saint Vincent at McDaniel - 1 p.m.  
Waynesburg at Wooster - 1 p.m.  
Dickinson at Grove City - 1:30 p.m.  
Heidelberg at Westminster - 1:30 p.m.  
Thomas More at John Carroll - 1:30 p.m.  
Thiel at Marietta - 2:30 p.m.  
Frostburg State at Geneva - 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Washington & Jefferson - 7 p.m.

## Thomas More College Picked to Repeat as 2009 PAC Football Champions

LATROBE, Pa. - Thomas More College was picked to capture the 2009 football championship in the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC), according to the preseason poll released at the 2009 PAC Football Media Day at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe today. Voters in the polls included conference head coaches, sports information directors (SIDs), and members of the media present at the conference media day.

The defending PAC champion Saints of third-year head coach **Jim Hilvert** return 18 starters and 35 lettermen from last year's team which finished 8-3 overall, including a perfect 6-0 mark against conference competition.

Thomas More earned 17 of 28 total first-place votes and 200 points in the conference poll to edge second place Washington & Jefferson (191) by just nine points, followed by Grove City (115), Waynesburg (86), Westminster (82), Bethany (67) and Thiel (43).

"It's a great honor to be picked first, but we still have to go out and prove ourselves," said Hilvert. "The PAC is very strong this year, so we'll have to be ready to play every game."

NCAA Division III provisional members Geneva and Saint Vincent were predicted to post 4-4 and 1-7 records, respectively, in 2009 against PAC teams, according to poll voters. Geneva and Saint Vincent are not eligible for the PAC football title until the schools are granted active membership in Division III by the NCAA at the conclusion of their provisional membership period, tentatively scheduled for 2010 for Saint Vincent and 2011 for Geneva.

### Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) 2009 Preseason Football Poll

	Points	2008 Record
1. Thomas More (18)	200	8-3 (6-0)
2. Wash. & Jeff. (9)	191	11-2 (5-1)
3. Grove City	115	6-4 (3-3)
4. Waynesburg	86	5-5 (2-4)
5. Westminster	82	5-5 (3-3)
6. Bethany	67	3-7 (1-5)
7. Thiel (1)	43	2-8 (1-5)

(xx) - first place votes

	2009 Pred.	2008 Record
Geneva	4-4	5-5 (5-3)
Saint Vincent	1-7	1-9 (0-8)

## PAC FOOTBALL 2009 - Week 1 Conference Notes

**SEASON #55:** The 2009 season marks the 55th season of football in the Presidents' Athletic Conference ... Washington & Jefferson College has won a conference-best 22 PAC football titles, including 20 in the past 25 years ... However, four different teams have won the PAC crown in the past six years, including Waynesburg (2003), Thiel (2005) and defending 2008 champion Thomas More ... The conference placed two teams in the NCAA Division III playoffs in 2008, with W&J advancing to the national quarterfinals.

**PRESEASON NOTES:** Grove City, which opens against Dickinson Saturday, is the least penalized team in the PAC each of the past four seasons ... Waynesburg will be led by junior QB **Brad Dawson** on offense and 2009 preseason All-American returner **Scott Cree** on defense against Wooster ... Washington & Jefferson is looking to extend its streak of 25 consecutive winning seasons, beginning Saturday against Oberlin ... Saint Vincent is 17-17-3 all-time on opening day ... Westminster was 5-0 at home, 0-5 on the road in 2008.

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** The lone new head coach in the PAC in 2009 is Thiel first-year mentor **Kurt Reiser**, who takes over for **Jack Leipheimer** after serving as a Tomcat assistant for several years ... After starting the 2008 season at 1-5, Geneva managed to pull back to a .500 record with four victories to close the season, including a win against eventual PAC champion Thomas More ... This Saturday's game against Otterbein marks Bethany's first season opener at home since 2005, when the Bison beat Franklin & Marshall 35-21.



**Bethany  
Bison  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



The largest Bison roster in school history will look to carry BC to their first winning season since 2001 this year ... Eight starters return on offense after the unit set school records for points scored (280) and passing yards (2,548) ... Bethany is strong at the skill positions, with TE **Jorge Laboy** (First Team All-PAC), WR **Matt Cruse** (Second Team) and RB **Eric Walker** (Honorable Mention) back, as well as QB **Chad Smith**, who threw for 2,302 yards and 16 TDs ... On defense, a pair of All-PAC performers return in LB **John Gyure**, who switches from DL, and FS **Nelson Mitzen**, who led the team with 91 tackles and three interceptions last year ... But with an incoming class of more than 100 bodies, expect lots of new faces on the field for BC.

**Geneva Golden  
Tornadoes  
(0-0)**



The Golden Tornadoes open their 120<sup>th</sup> season Saturday against Frostburg State ... It is the first meeting between the two schools since a 22-7 Geneva victory in 1992 ... The GTs hope to build upon the momentum gained by a four-game winning streak to end to 2008 campaign ... After starting the season at 1-5, Geneva managed to pull back to a .500 record with those four victories, including a win against eventual PAC champion Thomas More ... GC returns 18 starters on offensive and defense and will focus on getting off to a better start ... It is the second straight season that Geneva is opening at home ... Last year, the Golden Tornadoes dropped a 27-18 decision to NCAA D-II national qualifier Seton Hill to open the season ... The GTs are just 4-6 in their last ten season openers.

**Grove City  
Wolverines  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



Grove City opens the 2009 season Saturday at Robert E. Thorn Field against Dickinson ... It is the fifth time this decade the teams have squared off in the season opener ... The Wolverines return 14 total starters this season, including eight on offense ... QB **Andrew DiDonato** is the program's all-time leader in pass completions, attempts and yards ... He needs two touchdown passes to break the career mark of 32, set by **Mike Zeigler** from 1964-67 ... DiDonato and senior DT **Tony Clark** are the Wolverines' co-captains this year ... Grove City has been the least-penalized team in the PAC each of the last four seasons ... The Wolverines scrimmaged at Denison August 26 ... Grove City is selected third in the conference's annual pre-season poll.

**Saint Vincent  
Bearcats  
(0-0)**



The Bearcats return 78 players, and 21 of 22 regular starters, for the 2009 season, including six players that received PAC Coaches Honors in sophomore LB **Anthony Johnson**, sophomore CB **Roscoe Barber**, sophomore RB **Jairus Marlow**, junior CB **Quillian Reid**, junior C **Kelly Kneppshield**, and junior DT **John Jackson** ... Marlow led the PAC in yards per carry (7.8) in 2008, while scoring six touchdowns ... He also owned the longest play from scrimmage in the PAC on the year, with a 93-yard touchdown run in week four vs. Waynesburg ... Johnson finished in the top five in the conference with 78 tackles and 11.5 TFLs ... Reid and Kneppshield have both started all 20 games over the first two years of their careers ... Saint Vincent's last opening day win came in 1961 vs. Carnegie Tech by a 20-12 score.

**Thiel  
Tomcats  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



Thiel opens the 2009 season under the direction of first-year head coach **Kurt Reiser**. Reiser, a longtime Tomcat offensive assistant coach, takes over for **Jack Leipeheimer**, who resigned at the conclusion of the 2008 season to take over athletic director duties at Thiel.

**Thomas More  
Saints  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



The Thomas More College football team kicks-off the 2009 season on Saturday when they travel to University Heights, Ohio to play John Carroll University ... The Saints, the 2008 Presidents' Athletic Conference champions, were picked to capture the 2009 championship according to the preseason poll released the Conference's media day in Latrobe, Pa.

**Washington & Jefferson  
Presidents  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



The Presidents open the 2009 season Saturday by hosting Oberlin at 7 p.m. in Cameron Stadium ... W&J has recorded 25 consecutive winning seasons and current head coach **Mike Sirianni** has been a part of the last 10, including six as the head coach ... The Presidents defense returns eight starters, including [D3football.com](http://D3football.com) All-Region junior S **Craig Sedunov** and ECAC All-Star senior DE **Jacob Bloomhuff** ... The Presidents' offense returns only three starters and will have its fourth season-opening starting quarterback in Sirianni's 11th year ... One player who will help the new quarterback is senior WR **Craig Besong** ... Besong, a [D3football.com](http://D3football.com) All-South Region choice, compiled one of the top receiving seasons in school history last year with 75 receptions for 1,186 yards and 16 touchdowns.

**Waynesburg  
Yellow Jackets  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



The Jackets are currently preparing for their season-opener on Sept. 5 at the College of Wooster ... This year's team, under the guidance of fifth-year head coach **Rick Shepas**, will be led on offense by junior QB **Brad Dawson** and senior CB **Scott Cree** on defense ... Along with being the team's number one cornerback, Cree electrified fans and opponents last year with five total special teams touchdowns en route to being named both a 2008 postseason All-American, and a first-team 2009 preseason All-American as a returner.

**Westminster  
Titans  
(0-0, 0-0 PAC)**



The Westminster football enters the 2009 season with a PAC-best seven-game home win streak after the Titans went 5-5 last year, winning all five home games for the first time since 1996 and losing all five road games ... The Titans posted a third-place 3-3 record in the PAC for their highest finish in the league standings since 2003 ... Westminster returns 28 lettermen and 16 starters ... Nine of the returning offensive starters include the school's all-time leading passer in senior QB **Kevin Franz** with 6,204 yards, a wide receiver that broke the school's single season reception record in senior WR **Jon Gubish** with 64, and a tight end that will go down as the school's most productive player at his position in second-team all-PAC senior **Gary Hutsler**. Despite all that, the team MVP last year was senior RB **Nick McKolosky**.

# PAC FOOTBALL GAME PREVIEWS - WEEK 1



## Otterbein (0-0) at Bethany (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 1 p.m.  
Bethany Field (1,000/turf)  
Bethany, W.Va.

**Media:** WVBC-FM (88.1); [www.teamline.cc](http://www.teamline.cc) (team code 3724).

**Series Record:** Otterbein leads 1-0

**Game Notes:** The Bison open with Otterbein for the second consecutive year after the Cardinals pulled away for a 40-7 win in last year's lidlifter ... Bethany missed on two chances for scores late in the first half last year and trailed 13-7 at the break, but Otterbein, 9-2 and an NCAA playoff team last year, scored on its first four possessions of the second half ... The Cardinals are ranked in three preseason polls this year, sitting 11<sup>th</sup> in *Lindy's* poll, while earning 24<sup>th</sup> from [D3Football.com](http://D3Football.com) and 25<sup>th</sup> in *The Sporting News* ... QB **Jack Rafferty**, one of 10 Gagliardi Trophy (top D-III player) finalists, is one of 14 starters back for Otterbein



## Saint Vincent (0-0) at McDaniel (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 1 p.m.  
Scott Bair Stadium (4,000/  
turf) - Westminster, Md.

**Media:** WCNS-AM (1480); [www.redzonemedia.com](http://www.redzonemedia.com)

**Series Record:** McDaniel leads 1-0-1

**Game Notes:** For the second straight season, the Bearcats will face McDaniel College in the season opener... Last season, the Green Terror scored 38 unanswered points over the final three quarters to win 38-7 ... It will be the third all-time meeting between the two squads on the gridiron, as they previously faced each other in 1938, ending in a scoreless tie ... Like Saint Vincent, McDaniel has the bulk of its lineup returning from a season ago, with 19 starters and 50 lettermen back... This week's game will be a battle of AFC North training camps, as Saint Vincent hosts the Pittsburgh Steelers in the summer months, while the Baltimore Ravens train at McDaniel.



## Waynesburg (0-0) at Wooster (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 1 p.m.  
John P. Papp Stadium (4,500/  
grass) - Wooster, Ohio

**Media:** WCYJ-FM (88.7);

[www.waynesburgsports.com](http://www.waynesburgsports.com)

**Series Record:** Wooster leads 3-1

**Game Notes:** Last year, the Scots downed the Yellow Jackets 27-6 in Waynesburg ... However, the Jackets picked up a road victory in Ohio the year before, winning by the final of 45-35 ... Wooster holds a 3-1 edge in the overall record between the two teams.



## Dickinson (0-0) at Grove City (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 1:30 p.m.  
Robert E. Thorn Field (3,500/  
turf) - Grove City, Pa.

**Media:** WSAJ-FM (91.1); [www2.gcc.edu/sports](http://www2.gcc.edu/sports)

**Series Record:** Dickinson leads 6-1-1

**Game Notes:** Grove City hosts Dickinson in the 2009 season opener ... Dickinson won last year's rain-soaked meeting in Carlisle, Pa. 34-7 ... Dickinson leads the all-time series 6-1-1 ... Each of the nine meetings, including this year's game, has been Grove City's season opener in that particular year ... The teams first met in 1947 with Dickinson prevailing 27-13 ... Grove City's lone win in the series came two years later, 25-6 ... The teams battled to a 6-6 tie in 1948 ... The Wolverines are 6-6 in their last 12 home openers ... Grove City is 12-13 in season openers under 26<sup>th</sup>-year head coach **Chris Smith** ... All 10 of Grove City's games are on artificial surface this season.



## Heidelberg (0-0) at Westminster (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 1:30 p.m.  
Burry Stadium (4,500/turf)  
New Wilmington, Pa.

**Media:** WNNW-FM (88.9); [www.titanradio.net](http://www.titanradio.net);

WHEI-FM (88.9); Westminster Cable Network (WCN)

**Series Record:** Westminster leads 4-1

**Game Notes:** Heidelberg travels to Westminster for the first time since 1971 when the Titans defeated the Student Princes 13-10 ... That was the last of four straight Westminster wins from 1968-71 ... In last year's season opener, Heidelberg handed Westminster one of its biggest losses in school history, 62-27 ... Westminster ran 84 plays with 326 total yards while Heidelberg racked up 596 yards on just 57 plays ... Heidelberg finished the season with a 4-6 record (3-6 in the OAC) ... Heidelberg returns 32 lettermen and 15 starters under third-year head coach **Mike Hallett**, the former Thomas More head coach.



## Thomas More (0-0) at John Carroll (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 1:30 p.m.  
Don Shula Stadium (5,416/  
turf) - University Hts., Ohio

**Media:** WJCU-FM (88.7); [www.wjcu.org](http://www.wjcu.org)

**Series Record:** John Carroll leads 1-0

**Game Notes:** John Carroll leads the all-time series with Thomas More, 1-0, following a 41-14 lidlifter win last season at Dixie Heights High School Stadium in Edgewood, Ky. ... Thomas More opens the season with 18 starters and 35 lettermen returning from last season's team that went 8-3 overall, including 6-0 in the PAC and won the PAC title and made its third-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III National Playoffs ... John Carroll returns 40 lettermen from a team last season that went 5-5 overall and 4-5 in the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC).



## Thiel (0-0) at Marietta (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 2:30 p.m.  
Don Drumm Stadium  
(7,000/turf) - Marietta, Ohio

**Media:** WPIC-AM (790); [www.thielathletics.com](http://www.thielathletics.com)

**Series Record:** Marietta leads 5-1

**Game Notes:** Thiel kicks off a new era of Tomcat football on Saturday afternoon at Marietta's Don Drumm Stadium ... Long-time Thiel assistant **Kurt Reiser** will take the reins of the program as its 25th head coach as he matches up against former teammate, **Jeff Filkovski**, who is in his second season as head coach of the Pioneers ... Reiser and Filkovski played together at Allegheny College, where they won a national championship in 1990 ... Marietta prevailed in last year's meeting in Greenville, 21-18 ... Thiel is 1-5-0 against the Pioneers all-time ... The teams first met in 1921, with the Tomcats only win coming in 1923.



## Frostburg St. (0-0) at Geneva (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 7 p.m.  
Reeves Field (6,500/turf)  
Beaver Falls, Pa.

**Media:** WBVP-AM (1230); WMBA-AM (1460);

[www.msasportsnetwork.com](http://www.msasportsnetwork.com)

**Series Record:** Geneva leads 9-8-1

**Game Notes:** Geneva and Frostburg State are meeting for the first time since a 22-7 Geneva victory back in 1992 ... The Golden Tornadoes maintain a slight edge in the all-time series at 9-8-1 ... Geneva and Frostburg met every season from 1983-1989 with Geneva coming out on top four times during that span ... Saturday's game will be the first against Frostburg State during the 17-year coaching span of **Geno DeMarco** ... Frostburg State is coming off a 3-6 season in 2008 including games against common opponents W&J and Salisbury ... Like Geneva in 2008, Frostburg dropped both of those games against D-III Top 10 powers.



## Oberlin (0-0) at Wash. & Jeff. (0-0)

Sat., Sept. 5 - 7 p.m.  
Cameron Stadium (3,500/  
turf) - Washington, Pa.

**Media:** WJPA-AM (1450); [www.wjpa.com/sports](http://www.wjpa.com/sports)

**Series Record:** W&J leads 3-0-1

**Game Notes:** The Presidents defeated the Yeomen, 49-35, last season in Oberlin, Ohio ... Washington & Jefferson and Oberlin meet for the fifth time in history and for the fourth consecutive year Saturday evening ... Prior to the 2006 meeting, the two colleges hadn't faced off on the gridiron since a scoreless tie on October 27, 1894 ... The Presidents lead the all-time series with the Yeomen, 3-0-1.

**Bethany Bison  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	OTTERBEIN	1 p.m.
12	at Kentucky Christian	1 p.m.
19	GROVE CITY*	7 p.m.
26	Open Date	

**October**

3	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.
10	THIEL*	1:30 p.m.
17	WESTMINSTER*	1:30 p.m.
24	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.
31	at Geneva*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	WASH. & JEFF.*	1 p.m.
14	at Saint Vincent*	1 p.m.

**Geneva Golden Tornadoes  
0-0****September**

5	FROSTBURG STATE	7 p.m.
12	at Saint Vincent	1 p.m.
19	Open Date	
26	THIEL*	7 p.m.

**October**

3	at Wash. & Jeff.*	2 p.m.
10	GROVE CITY*	4 p.m.
17	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.
24	SAINT VINCENT*	1:30 p.m.
31	BETHANY*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.
14	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.

**Grove City Wolverines  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	DICKINSON	1:30 p.m.
12	at Carnegie Mellon	noon
19	at Bethany*	7 p.m.
26	WASH. & JEFF.*	7 p.m.

**October**

3	SAINT VINCENT*	2 p.m.
10	at Geneva*	4 p.m.
17	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.
24	Open Date	
31	WAYNESBURG*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	WESTMINSTER*	1 p.m.
14	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.

**Saint Vincent Bearcats  
0-0****September**

5	at McDaniel	1 p.m.
12	GENEVA	1 p.m.
19	WESTMINSTER*	1 p.m.
26	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.

**October**

3	at Grove City*	2 p.m.
10	THOMAS MORE*	1:30 p.m.
17	WASH. & JEFF.*	1 p.m.
24	at Geneva*	1:30 p.m.
31	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	Open Date	
14	BETHANY*	1 p.m.

**Thiel Tomcats  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	at Marietta	2 p.m.
12	ALBION	1:30 p.m.
19	at Wash. & Jeff.*	7 p.m.
26	at Geneva*	7 p.m.

**October**

3	WESTMINSTER*	1:30 p.m.
10	at Bethany*	1:30 p.m.
17	Open Date	
24	THOMAS MORE*	1:30 p.m.
31	SAINT VINCENT*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.
14	GROVE CITY*	1:30 p.m.

**Thomas More Saints  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	at John Carroll	1:30 p.m.
12	Open Date	
19	WAYNESBURG*	1:30 p.m.
26	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.

**October**

3	BETHANY*	1:30 p.m.
10	at Saint Vincent*	1:30 p.m.
17	GROVE CITY*	1:30 p.m.
24	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.
31	at Wash. & Jeff.*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	GENEVA*	1:30 p.m.
14	at Mount St. Joseph	1:30 p.m.

**Wash. & Jeff. Presidents  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	OBERLIN	7 p.m.
12	at Frostburg State	7 p.m.
19	THIEL*	7 p.m.
26	at Grove City*	7 p.m.

**October**

3	GENEVA*	2 p.m.
10	Open Date	
17	at Saint Vincent*	1 p.m.
24	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.
31	THOMAS MORE*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	at Bethany*	1 p.m.
14	WAYNESBURG*	1:30 p.m.

**Waynesburg Yellow Jackets  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	at Wooster	1 p.m.
12	HANOVER	1:30 p.m.
19	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.
26	SAINT VINCENT*	1:30 p.m.

**October**

3	Open Date	
10	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.
17	GENEVA*	1:30 p.m.
24	BETHANY*	1:30 p.m.
31	at Grove City*	1:30 p.m.

**November**

7	THIEL*	1:30 p.m.
14	at Wash. & Jeff.*	1:30 p.m.

**Westminster Titans  
0-0, 0-0 PAC****September**

5	HEIDELBERG	1:30 p.m.
12	at Allegheny	7 p.m.
19	at Saint Vincent*	1 p.m.
26	THOMAS MORE*	1:30 p.m.

**October**

3	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.
10	WAYNESBURG*	1:30 p.m.
17	at Bethany*	1:30 p.m.
24	WASH. & JEFF.*	1:30 p.m.
31	Open Date	

**November**

7	at Grove City*	1 p.m.
14	GENEVA*	1:30 p.m.