

2008 PAC Football Release Week 1 - September 2



Presidents' Athletic Conference
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2008 PAC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

School	PAC Games			PF	PA	All Games				
	W	L	Pct.			W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
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 2008 PAC championship or player of the week honors

LAST WEEK

No Games Scheduled

THIS WEEK (September 6)

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

Washington & Jefferson College Picked to Repeat as 2008 PAC Football Champion

LATROBE, Pa. - Washington & Jefferson College was picked to capture the 2008 football championship in the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC), according to the preseason poll released at the 2008 PAC Football Media Day at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe on August 6. 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 Presidents of sixth-year head coach **Mike Sirianni** return 16 starters and 58 lettermen from last year's team which finished 10-1 overall, including a perfect 6-0 mark against conference competition. W&J, which is ranked second in the nation in NCAA Division III by *The Sporting News* in their 2008 preseason poll, earned 23 of 28 first-place votes and 192 points in the conference poll to edge second place Waynesburg (165), followed by Westminster (100), Grove City (97), Thomas More (87), Bethany (78), and Thiel (65).

"It is nice to be the favorite, but as past preseason polls have shown, it doesn't necessarily mean we'll get the trophy at the end of the year," said Sirianni. "Three different teams have won the PAC over the past five years and that shows how much the conference has improved. Our seniors are hoping to win their third in a row."

NCAA Division III provisional members Geneva and Saint Vincent were predicted to post 5-3 and 1-7 records, respectively, in 2008 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.

2008 PAC Preseason Football Poll

	Points	Record	2007
1. Washington & Jefferson (23)	192	10-1 (6-0)	
2. Waynesburg (4)	165	8-3 (5-1)	
3. Westminster	100	5-5 (2-4)	
4. Grove City	97	4-6 (3-3)	
5. Thomas More	87	4-6 (2-4)	
6. Bethany	78	4-6 (2-4)	
7. Thiel (1)	65	3-7 (1-5)	

(xx) - first place votes

	2008 PAC Prediction	2007 Record
Geneva	5-3	8-3 (7-1)
Saint Vincent	1-7	0-10 (0-8)

PAC FOOTBALL 2008 - Week 1 Conference Notes

54 AND COUNTING: The 2008 season marks the 54th 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 24 years ... However, three different teams have won the PAC crown in the past five years, including Waynesburg (2003) and Thiel (2005) ... The conference placed a record three teams in the postseason in 2007: W&J (NCAA D-III play-offs), Waynesburg (ECAC Southwest Bowl) and Geneva (NCCAA Victory Bowl).

TURF TALK: Three PAC programs - Bethany, Thomas More, and Westminster - will have new artificial turf surfaces this season, while Geneva (which added turf in 2007) will debut new home bleachers and a new press box ... With these new facilities, eight of the nine PAC programs will now play home games on artificial surfaces, with Saint Vincent being the lone natural grass field ... The Saints' new stadium will open on Sept. 27 against Westminster, so Thomas More will play its home opener against John Carroll this weekend at nearby Dixie Heights High School in Erlanger, Ky.

AROUND THE LEAGUE: **Geno DeMarco** begins his 16th season at the helm for Geneva ... Only his predecessor Gene Sullivan has spent longer on the sidelines ... Sullivan served as Geneva's head coach for 17 seasons from 1976-92 ... W&J Head Coach **Mike Sirianni** is three victories shy of moving into second place on the school's all-time coaching win list ... The PAC has announced plans to compete in the "PAC-MAC Football Challenge Series" with the football-playing members of the Middle Atlantic Conference in 2010-11.



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



Bethany opens the 2008 season Saturday with a trip to Otterbein for the first-ever meeting between the Bison and Cardinals ... BC won its second season opener in three years with a 24-7 triumph at Hiram to begin the '07 campaign ... WR **Matt Cruse** caught six passes for 122 yards, including a 59-yard touchdown reception in the victory, while the Bison defense held the Terriers to 258 total yards ... Bethany returns eight starters on offense, including four along the offensive line, while the defense welcomes back seven starters, which includes three in the defensive secondary ... This will mark the second straight season Bethany has started the year in the state of Ohio following last year's 24-7 win at Hiram ... Bethany is 7-11-1 in road season openers since 1971.

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



Geneva opens its 119th year of college football on Saturday when it welcomes Seton Hill University to a newly renovated Reeves Field ... Reeves Field was built in 1925 and has undergone a complete renovation over the past two years ... Last year, Reeves was given a new synthetic playing surface and new visitor side bleachers ... The 2008 season will see a new press box, home side bleachers, concessions and rest rooms ... Geneva will meet Seton Hill for just the second time ... In 2006, the Golden Tornadoes defeated Seton Hill 9-7 as a member of the Mid-States Football Association and the NAIA ... Geneva has since moved to NCAA Division III while the Griffins are members of the WVIAC and NCAA Division II.

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



Grove City opens the 2008 season Saturday in Carlisle, Pa. against Dickinson ... Grove City returns six offensive starters and eight defensive starters ... The Wolverines return All-PAC selections in CB **Mike Baker** and OG **Dave Salera** ... Grove City also welcomes back its leading passer (**Andrew DiDonato**), leading rusher (**Brian Mercer**) and leading tackler (**Adam Eichler**) from 2007 ... Grove City opens its home schedule Sept. 13 against Carnegie Mellon ... Conference play begins the following week under the lights at Robert E. Thorn Field against Bethany ... The 2008 season is Grove City's 25th season of competition in the Presidents' Athletic Conference

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



The Bearcats will open up the 2008 season on Saturday, hosting the McDaniel College Green Terror ... Sixteen starters and 32 letterwinners return from last season for Saint Vincent, the first season of football at the school since the program was disbanded following the 1962 season.

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



Thiel College opens its 104th varsity football season with a non-conference bout vs. the Marietta College Pioneers ... Thiel and Marietta have only met five times since the series began in 1921, with the Pioneers winning the last three meetings ... The last – and only - Thiel win in the series came 85 years ago during the 1923 season. Then known as the "Huskies," Thiel won that meeting 13-7 ... This Saturday's game marks the eighth home opener held at Alumni Stadium ... Over the previous seven home openers, Thiel has a record of 1-6, with the only win coming by way of a 39-36 victory over Ohio Wesleyan to open the 2005 season ... Thiel has opened its season at home nine times since 1990 and four times since 2001.

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



The Saints open their second season under head coach **Jim Hilvert** this weekend, as Thomas More hosts OAC power John Carroll at Dixie Heights High School.

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



Washington & Jefferson opens the season on the road for the first time since 2005 on Saturday at Oberlin ... The Presidents have won their last three road season openers and have not suffered a loss on the road in a season opener since falling at Emory & Henry by a 38-10 margin in 1997 ... Senior quarterback **Bobby Swallow** leads 16 returning starters from last year's 10-1 squad which claimed the school's 21st PAC title ... W&J Head Coach **Mike Sirianni** is three victories shy of moving into second place on the school's all-time coaching win list.

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



The Waynesburg University football team is gearing up for their 2008 season opener against Wooster on Saturday at John F. Wiley Stadium ... When Waynesburg has the ball, all eyes will be on sophomore running back **Robert Heller**, who returns to the team after rushing for over 2,000 yards and 26 touchdowns last year ... Both numbers were tops in Division III ... On defense, Waynesburg has to find replacements for six departed starters ... It will also be the fourth season-opener for head coach **Rick Shepas**, who is coming off his best season with the team as Waynesburg went 8-3 last year.

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



The Titans begin their fourth season under head coach **Jeff Hand** with 17 returning starters including nine on defense from a team that went 5-5 and 2-4 in the PAC ... Westminster has won all four meetings against Heidelberg dating back to 1968 ... This is the first meeting between Westminster and Heidelberg since 1971, a year after Westminster won its first the NAIA National Championship and a year before Heidelberg won the NCAA Division III National Championship ... After Westminster beat Heidelberg at home, 13-10, the Student Princes went on to win a school-record 18 straight games ... Westminster lost in the NAIA national championship game that year.

PAC FOOTBALL GAME PREVIEWS - WEEK 1



McDaniel (0-0) at Saint Vincent (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1 p.m.
 Chuck Noll Field (1,100/grass) - Latrobe, Pa.

Radio/TV: WCNS-AM (1480); www.redzonemedia.com

Series Record: Series tied 0-0-1

Game Notes: Saint Vincent and McDaniel (formerly known as Western Maryland) have met just once before, as the two teams battled to a 0-0 tie in the 1938 season finale ... This week's game will be a battle of NFL training camps, as Saint Vincent serves as the summer home of the Pittsburgh Steelers, while the Baltimore Ravens hold their training camp at McDaniel... The Bearcats are 18-19-3 all-time in season openers.



Washington & Jefferson (0-0) at Oberlin (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1 p.m.
 Savage Stadium (3,000/grass) - Oberlin, Ohio

Radio/TV: WJPA-AM (1450); www.wjpa.com

Series Record: W&J leads 2-0-1

Game Notes: W&J and Oberlin meet for the third consecutive season on Saturday ... The Presidents have posted a pair of lopsided victories the last two years, claiming a 33-13 triumph in Ohio in 2006 and a 56-26 win in Washington last season ... The schools had previously not met on the gridiron since 1894 (0-0 tie in Washington) ... **Bobby Swallow** completed 23-of-34 passes for 554 yards and seven TDs in the two Oberlin wins.



Bethany (0-0) at Otterbein (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1:30 p.m.
 Memorial Stadium (4,000/grass) - Westerville, Ohio

Radio/TV: www.teamline.cc (code 3724)

Series Record: First meeting

Game Notes: The Bison have a combined record of 29-61-3 all-time against schools currently in the OAC ... Otterbein returns 20 starters from last year's 5-5 team ... The Cardinal offense is led by junior QB **Jack Rafferty**, who rushed for 10 TDs while also throwing for 1,388 yards and eight scores ... Senior MLB **Eric Burnsides**, who led the team with 80 tackles in '07, is back to spearhead the defensive efforts.



Grove City (0-0) at Dickinson (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1:30 p.m.
 Biddle Field (3,000/turf) - Carlisle, Pa.

Radio/TV: WSAJ-FM (91.1); www2.gcc.edu/sports

Series Record: Dickinson leads 3-0

Game Notes: Grove City opens the season with Dickinson for the fourth time this decade (2000, 2001 and 2007) ... The teams last played in Carlisle in the 2000 opener with the Red Devils earning a last-second 13-9 victory ... The game will be the first on Dickinson's new artificial turf ... Nine of Grove City's 10 games will be played on artificial surfaces ... All 10 GCC games will be played in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



John Carroll (0-0) at Thomas More (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1:30 p.m.
 Dixie Heights Stadium (1,000/turf) - Erlanger, Ky.

Radio/TV: None

Series Record: First meeting

Game Notes: John Carroll was 6-4 last season and finished tied for fourth in the Ohio Athletic Conference ... This will be the first ever meeting between Thomas More and John Carroll ... The Saints will return the trip next year as they open the 2009 season at Don Shula Stadium in University Heights, Ohio.



Marietta (0-0) at Thiel (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1:30 p.m.
 Alumni Stadium (1,400/turf) - Greenville, Pa.

Radio/TV: WPIC-AM (790); www.msasportsnetwork.com

Series Record: Marietta leads 4-1

Game Notes: Thiel and Marietta meet for the first time since 1925 ... Marietta enters 2008 with a new head coach in **Jeff Filkovski**, who looks to right the ship after a 3-7 season a year ago ... Filkovski, the 28th coach to lead the Pioneer football program, was the quarterback on Allegheny's 1990 national championship football squad, a team on which Thiel head coach **Jack Leipheimer** served as secondary/defensive coordinator.



Westminster (0-0) at Heidelberg (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1:30 p.m.
 Frost-Kalnow Stadium (6,500/grass) - Tiffin, Ohio

Radio/TV: WWNW-FM (88.9); Westminster Cable Network (WCN); SportsTime Ohio (STO) - tape delay

Series Record: Westminster leads 4-0

Game Notes: The Titans open the 2008 season on the road ... Heidelberg is coached by former Thomas More head coach **Mike Hallett** in his second year ... The Student Princes also have 17 returning starters back from a team that went 4-6 last year and 3-6 in the Ohio Athletic Conference.



Wooster (0-0) at Waynesburg (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 1:30 p.m.
 Wiley Stadium (4,000/turf) - Waynesburg, Pa.

Radio/TV: WCYJ-FM (88.7); www.waynesburg.edu; WCTV-TV (Channel 12); WQKT/WKVX Radio (Wooster)

Series Record: Wooster leads 2-1

Game Notes: Wooster comes in following a 4-6 season in 2007 ... However, the Scots ended the year by winning their final two contests by a combined total of 115-27 ... The series between the two opponents is led by Wooster 2-1 ... Waynesburg won last year's meeting 45-35 at Wooster.



Seton Hill (0-0) at Geneva (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6 - 7 p.m.
 Reeves Stadium (6,500/turf) - Beaver Falls, Pa.

Radio/TV: WBVP-AM (1230); WMBA-AM (1460); www.msasportsnetwork.com

Series Record: Geneva leads 1-0

Game Notes: Geneva opens its 119th year of college football on Saturday when it welcomes Seton Hill to a newly renovated Reeves Field ... The only meeting between the two schools came in 2006, with Geneva coming away with a 9-7 victory ... The Golden Tornadoes are 7-8 in season opening games under head coach **Geno DeMarco** since he took over in 1993 ... Geneva last opened the season at home in 2006 with a 7-0 loss to Thiel College ... Last year, Geneva turned the tables with a 20-3 season opening victory at Thiel in Greenville.



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

6	at Otterbein	1:30 p.m.
13	KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN	1 p.m.
20	at Grove City*	7 p.m.
27	Open Date	

October

4	THOMAS MORE*	2 p.m.
11	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.
18	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.
25	WAYNESBURG*	1 p.m.

November

1	GENEVA*	1 p.m.
8	at Wash. & Jeff.*	1:30 p.m.
15	SAINT VINCENT*	1 p.m.

Geneva Golden Tornadoes
0-0**September**

6	SETON HILL	7 p.m.
13	at Salisbury	6 p.m.
20	Open Date	
27	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.

October

4	WASH. & JEFF.*	7 p.m.
11	at Grove City*	1:30 p.m.
18	WAYNESBURG*	7 p.m.
25	at Saint Vincent*	1 p.m.

November

1	at Bethany*	1 p.m.
8	THOMAS MORE*	1:30 p.m.
15	WESTMINSTER*	1:30 p.m.

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

6	at Dickinson	1 p.m.
13	CARNEGIE MELLON	1:30 p.m.
20	BETHANY*	7 p.m.
27	at Wash. & Jeff.*	7 p.m.

October

4	at Saint Vincent*	1:30 p.m.
11	GENEVA*	1:30 p.m.
18	THOMAS MORE*	2 p.m.
25	Open Date	

November

1	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.
8	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.
15	THIEL*	1 p.m.

Saint Vincent Bearcats
0-0**September**

6	MCDANIEL	1 p.m.
13	at Gallaudet	1 p.m.
20	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.
27	WAYNESBURG*	1:30 p.m.

October

4	GROVE CITY*	1:30 p.m.
11	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.
18	at Wash. & Jeff.	2 p.m.
25	GENEVA*	1 p.m.

November

1	THIEL*	1:30 p.m.
8	Open Date	
15	at Bethany*	1 p.m.

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

6	MARIETTA	1:30 p.m.
13	at Albion	1 p.m.
20	WASH. & JEFF.*	1:30 p.m.
27	GENEVA*	1:30 p.m.

October

4	at Westminster*	1:30 p.m.
11	BETHANY*	1:30 p.m.
18	Open Date	
25	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.

November

1	at Saint Vincent*	1:30 p.m.
8	WAYNESBURG*	1:30 p.m.
15	at Grove City*	1 p.m.

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

6	JOHN CARROLL	1:30 p.m.
13	Open Date	
20	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.
27	WESTMINSTER*	1:30 p.m.

October

4	at Bethany*	2 p.m.
11	SAINT VINCENT*	1:30 p.m.
18	at Grove City*	2 p.m.
25	THIEL*	1:30 p.m.

November

1	WASH. & JEFF.*	1:30 p.m.
8	at Geneva*	1:30 p.m.
15	MOUNT ST. JOSEPH	1:30 p.m.

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

6	at Oberlin	1 p.m.
13	FROSTBURG STATE	7 p.m.
20	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.
27	GROVE CITY*	7 p.m.

October

4	at Geneva*	7 p.m.
11	Open Date	
18	SAINT VINCENT*	2 p.m.
25	WESTMINSTER*	7 p.m.

November

1	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.
8	BETHANY*	1:30 p.m.
15	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.

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

6	WOOSTER	1:30 p.m.
13	at Hanover	1 p.m.
20	THOMAS MORE*	1:30 p.m.
27	at Saint Vincent*	1:30 p.m.

October

4	Open Date	
11	WESTMINSTER*	1:30 p.m.
18	at Geneva*	7 p.m.
25	at Bethany*	1 p.m.

November

1	GROVE CITY*	1:30 p.m.
8	at Thiel*	1:30 p.m.
15	WASH. & JEFF.*	1:30 p.m.

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

6	at Heidelberg	1:30 p.m.
13	ALLEGHENY	1:30 p.m.
20	SAINT VINCENT*	1:30 p.m.
27	at Thomas More*	1:30 p.m.

October

4	THIEL*	1:30 p.m.
11	at Waynesburg*	1:30 p.m.
18	BETHANY*	1:30 p.m.
25	at Wash. & Jeff.*	7 p.m.

November

1	Open Date	
8	GROVE CITY*	1:30 p.m.
15	at Geneva*	1:30 p.m.