



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference
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Thomas More College Picked to Repeat as 2009 PAC Football Champion

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.

Following is the voting breakdown among coaches, SIDs and media:

Coaches

1. Thomas More (6)	59
2. Wash. & Jeff. (2)	58
3. Grove City	35
4. Westminster	31
5. Waynesburg	28
6. Bethany	25
7. Thiel (1)	16

SIDs

1. Thomas More (6)	59
2. Wash. & Jeff. (3)	57
3. Grove City	41
4. Waynesburg	32
5. Westminster	30
6. Bethany	21
7. Thiel	13

Media

1. Thomas More (6)	82
2. Wash. & Jeff. (4)	76
3. Grove City	39
4. Waynesburg	26
5. Westminster	22
6. Bethany	21
7. Thiel	14

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Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) 2009 Preseason Football Poll		
	Points	2008 Record
1. Thomas More (18)	200	8-3 (6-0)
2. Washington & Jefferson (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)
<i>(xx) - first place votes</i>		
	2009 PAC Prediction	2008 Record
Geneva	4-4	5-5 (5-3)
Saint Vincent	1-7	1-9 (0-8)