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2009 IOWA CONFERENCE MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . Three-time defending league champion and two-time national semifinalist **Loras College** is the unanimous pick of Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) men's soccer coaches to win the 2009 IIAC title. The Duhawks received the maximum eight available first-place votes (coaches cannot vote for their own team), totaling 72 points in the IIAC Men's Soccer Coaches' Poll.

Wartburg College collected the remaining first-place vote along with six second-place votes to edge **Central College** for second by a 62-57 margin. The Dutch received two second-place votes and five third-place votes. **Luther College** posted 51 points with a second-place vote to rank fourth. The complete 2009 IIAC Men's Soccer Coaches' Poll follows:

Rank	School (1st place votes)	Points	2008 Record
1	Loras (8)	72	20-5-1, 7-1-0 IIAC (21 pts.)
2	Wartburg (1)	65	15-7-0, 5-3-0 IIAC (15 pts.)
3	Central	57	12-7-0, 7-1-0 IIAC (20 pts.)
4	Luther	51	8-10-2, 3-4-1 IIAC (10 pts.)
5	Simpson	39	6-10-2, 4-4-0 IIAC (11 pts.)
6	Coe	38	8-7-2, 3-4-1 IIAC (10 pts.)
	Dubuque	38	10-9-0, 4-4-0 IIAC (12 pts.)
8	Buena Vista	20	2-16-0, 1-7-0 IIAC (3 pts.)
9	Cornell	19	3-13-0, 1-7-0 IIAC (3 pts.)

New Coaches: **Marc Baumbach**, an assistant coach with the men's and women's programs at Luther from 2001 to 2007, is the new head coach at Buena Vista. He replaces **Scott Phipps**, who resigned in June after two seasons. **Derek Bell**, a former assistant women's coach at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is the new coach at Cornell. He joins the Ram program after assisting the Pointers to back-to-back trips to the sectional round of the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship. Bell replaces **Dan Cotterill**. At Dubuque, 2003 Iowa Conference MVP **Brad Johnson** assumes the head job after five years as an assistant. He replaces Jason **Berna**, who was named UD's Director of Soccer Operations in November 2008 and will remain at the helm of the Spartan women's program.

Iowa Conference Schedule: The season opens Tuesday, September 1, with eight teams in action. The Iowa Conference schedule opens Saturday, September 26 with a complete schedule of four games.

Conference Tournament: The top-six teams following the regular season round-robin schedule qualify for the 2009 Iowa Conference Tournament with an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament on the line. The quarterfinal matches, played at the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds, will be November 3 or 4. The semifinals and finals are November 6-7, hosted by the men's top seed.

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



Buena Vista University Beavers
2-16-0 overall, 1-7-0 IIAC (3 pts; t-8th)

Head Coach (season): Marc Baumbach (1st)
Record at School (yrs): 0-0 (first year)
Career Record (yrs): 0-0 (first year)

IIAC Titles (last): n/a
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 4 / 7
Letterwinners returning/lost – 6 / 13
All-IIAC players returning – 0
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 0



Central College Dutch
12-7-0 overall, 7-1-0 IIAC (20 pts.; 2nd)

Head Coach (season): Garry Laidlaw (12th)
Record at School (yrs): 110-84-13 (11)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 6 / 5
Letterwinners returning/lost – 18 / 6
All-IIAC players returning – 4 (McKenzie, Jandik, Shelton, Lundgren-06)
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1 (DeLucia)

Buena Vista returns four starters and six letterwinners from last season's 2-16-0 team that finished tied for eighth in the Conference with three points and a 1-7-0 record. **Dustin Dobbels** returns at goalkeeper, where he started 13 of 18 games a year ago, compiling a 2-13 record with a 3.18 goals-against average, 125 saves, and a shutout. Defender **Cody Johnson** played in 15 games a year ago, starting six. The Beavers will also be bolstered by a pair of incoming freshmen – midfielder **Jerome Middlebrooks** and forward **Justyn Coughenower**.

Buena Vista head coach **Marc Baumbach** says, "We have a solid group of hard-working, honest players that will push to be competitive all season long. I expect the top three schools from 2008 – Loras, Wartburg, and Central – to be there again, with the other schools, including ourselves, making it difficult every step of the way."

Central returns six starters and 18 letterwinners from last season's 12-7 team that finished second in the Conference with 20 points and a 7-1-0 record. The Dutch will look to senior midfielder/back **Erik Lundgren** for leadership. One of two captains in 2009, Lundgren is the lone senior starter and was a Second Team All-Conference selection as a freshman in 2006. Last season, he played in 19 games, scored three points on a goal and an assist. Junior forward **Brett McKenzie** was a First Team All-IIAC pick in 2008, leading the team with 20 points on nine goals and two assists and ranking fifth in the IIAC in points. He'll join Lundgren as a co-captain. Two starters return in the midfield in juniors **Nick DeLucia** and **Cody Jandik**. Jandik was a Second Team All-Conference pick after scoring six goals with three assists. DeLucia received honorable mention and was the team's second-leading scorer with 19 points on seven goals and five assists. Sophomore forward **Eric Shelton**, another Second Team All-IIAC honoree, also returns after scoring 17 points on seven goals and three assists a year ago.

Central head coach **Garry Laidlaw** says, "Our team will have a fairly different look this season. That hasn't changed our own expectations. We are excited to see how close we can come to reaching our full potential and competing again in a league that keeps getting stronger."



Coe College Kohawks

8-7-2 overall, 3-4-1 IIAC (10 pts.; t-6th)

Head Coach (season): Homer Screws (8th)

Record at School (yrs): 38-60-11 (7)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 13 / 7

Letterwinners returning/lost – 5 / 4

All-IIAC players returning – 1 (Frerichs)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 0

Coe returns five starters and 13 letterwinners from last season's 8-7-2 team that finished tied for sixth in the Conference with ten points and a 3-4-1 league mark. Sophomore defender **Joe Frerichs**, a Second Team All-Conference selection last season, will anchor the defense along with senior **Nate Rowland**. Frerichs was Coe's third-leading scorer in 2008 with 10 points on four goals and two assists. Rowland played in 16 games. Up front, the Kohawks will be led by sophomores **David Schmitz** at forward and **Josh Kleinmeyer** and **Tom Wakeland** in the midfield. Schmitz was Coe's second-leading scorer last season with 15 points on seven goals and an assist. Kleinmeyer added a goal and three assist, while Wakeland posted a goal and an assist. Coe will also benefit from the presence of all-conference placekicker **Elliot Rausa**, who will perform double-duty with the football and soccer programs this fall.

Coe head coach **Homer Screws** says, "I'm confident we have the depth at each position to improve last year's winning season."



Cornell College Rams

3-13-0 overall, 1-7-0 IIAC (3 pts.; t-8th)

Head Coach (season): Derek Bell (1st)

Record at school: 0-0 (first year)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 10 / 1

Letterwinners returning/lost – 13 / 2

All-IIAC Players returning – 0

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1
(Essandoh)

Cornell returns 10 starters and 13 letterwinners from last season's 3-13 team that tied for eighth in the Conference with three points and a 1-7-0 league mark. Junior midfielder **Kobina Essandoh**, an honorable mention All-Conference selection in 2008, led the team with 17 points on eight goals and one assist. Also returning is senior forward **Joey Vandermausse**. Vandermausse posted seven points on three goals, an assist, and a game-winning goal in 2008. Defensively, the Rams will rely on senior defenders Ryan Walden and Kyle Roberts. Walden started 14 matches last season, scoring a goal, while Roberts, a three-year letterwinner, started 15 matches last season.

Cornell head coach **Derek Bell** says, "We're looking to make an impact this season. We're really excited about the depth and the new faces."



University of Dubuque Spartans
10-9-0 overall, 4-4-0 IIAC (12 pts.; 4th)

Head Coach (season): Brad Johnson (1st)
Record at School (yrs): 0-0 (first year)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 8 / 4
Letterwinners returning/lost – 13 / 4
All-IIAC players returning – 1 (Soumaoro)
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 0



Loras College Duhawks
20-5-1 overall, 7-1-0 IIAC (21 pts.;
champion)

Head Coach (season): Dan Rothert (11th)
Record at School (yrs): 138-68-10 (10)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): 4 (2008)
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 2 (2007)

Starters returning/lost – 9 / 2
Letterwinners returning/lost – 20 / 2
All-IIAC players returning – 7 (Hoyt, Mejia,
Bonilla, Minkel, Rizzo, McCord, Splittgerber-06 &
07)
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1
(Lamale)

Dubuque returns eight starters and 13 letterwinners from last season's 10-9 team that finished fourth in the Conference with 12 points and a 4-4-0 record. A quartet of seniors will lead the way for the Spartans in 2009. Midfielders **Giordano Dasio** and **Ellis Kelling** each scored a goal in 2008 with Dasio adding an assist. Forward **Chris Talac** added an assist in 14 games, while defender **Justin Amerine** played in all 19 games last season. Amerine anchored a defense that allowed 32 goals, only 12 in league play. Junior midfielder **Idrissa Soumaoro**, a Second Team All-Conference player in 2007, returns after being injured midway throughout the season. In only nine games, Soumaoro was fourth-leading scorer with 10 points on three goals and four assists.

Dubuque head coach **Brad Johnson** says, "The UD men's soccer program will look to take another step forward during the 2009 season. With a majority of the 2008 squad returning, the Spartans will look to build upon the experience and maturity of the upperclassmen. As well, several exciting incoming players will look to make an immediate impact in the IIAC."

Loras returns nine starters and 20 letterwinners from last year's 20-5-1 team that captured the school's third conference title with 21 points and a 7-1-0 record, advancing to the national semifinals of the 2008 NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship for the second consecutive season. Junior midfielder/forward **Miguel Bonilla**, the 2008 Iowa Conference Most Valuable Player and a First Team NSCAA All-Far West Region pick, led all IIAC players in scoring last season, scoring 42 points on 18 goals and six assists in 26 games. Bonilla's total also included a league-high five game-winning goals. Senior midfielder **Santiago Mejia**, a three-time All-Iowa Conference selection and a Third Team NSCAA/adidas® All-American, added 27 points on five goals and a league-high 17 assists. Mejia also had four game-winning goals. Senior forward **Justin McCord** (11-5—27) tied Mejia for second on the team in scoring, while senior **Nick Rizzo** (6-4—16) ranked fourth. Both McCord and Rizzo were Second Team selections. Also, junior midfielder **Matt Lamale**, a two-time honorable mention selection, returns after adding three assists in 26 starts.

Defensively, senior defender **Tyler Hoyt** is Loras' final returning First Teamer, scoring three goals and adding two assists. **Nate Minkel**, a senior defender who was named Second Team All-IIAC each of the last two seasons, added a pair of goals. Minkel and Hoyt anchor a defense that allowed 0.85 goals per game and had a 0.84 team goals-against average. As if they needed it, the Duhawks will also benefit from the return of two-time First Team All-Conference pick **Matt Splittgerber**, who received a fifth year of eligibility after having last season wiped out due to injury after just two games.

Loras head coach **Dan Rothert** says, "With 20 of 22 players back from last year and the success we have had over the past few years, we are very optimistic about the season. However, we know that we will have to have our 'A' game every time we step on the pitch if we want to achieve our goals this year. No doubt, the conference is as competitive as ever, which will make things exciting and we are looking forward to getting started."



Luther College Norse

8-10-2 overall; 3-4-1 IIAC (10 pts.; t-6th)

Head Coach (season): Chris Garcia-Prats (2nd)

Record at School (yrs): 8-10-2 (1)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): 6 (2002)

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 6 (1996)

Starters returning/lost – 10 / 1

Letterwinners returning/lost – 17 / 3

All-IIAC players returning – 1 (Pyzdrowski)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1
(Kessler)

Luther returns 10 starters and 17 letterwinners from last season's 8-10-2 team that tied for sixth in the Conference with 10 points and a 3-4-1 league record. Four of the top five scorers are back for the Norse including senior forward **Adam Pyzdrowski**. Pyzdrowski scored 27 points on 12 goals and three assists. He ranked second in the IIAC in goals a year ago. **James Laroque**, another senior forward, ranked second on the team with 13 points on four goals and five assists. Junior midfielder **Alex Case** added four goals and two assists for 10 points, while sophomore midfielder **Jake Kessler**, an honorable mention All-IIAC pick, posted two goals and five assists. Kessler and Laroque tied for fourth among all league players in assists.

Luther head coach **Chris Garcia-Prats** says, "We have a solid group of returning players along with a solid recruiting class for 2009. The players are looking to build on a great off-season and improve on last year's performances. The conference is as strong as ever and I would predict the season will go down to the last game to qualify for postseason play."



Simpson College Storm

6-10-2 overall, 4-4-0 IIAC (11 pts.; 5th)

Head Coach (season): Mike Wilson (5th)

Record at School (yrs): 24-45-5 (4)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): 1 (2000)

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 1 (2000)

Starters returning/lost – 11 / 0

Letterwinners returning/lost – 16 / 4

All-IIAC players returning – 1 (Skultety)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1 (Miller)

Simpson returns all 11 starters and 16 letterwinners from last season's 6-10-2 team that finished fifth in the Conference with 11 points and a 4-4-0 record. Senior midfielder **Corey Miller**, who received honorable mention All-Conference last season and was a Second Teamer in 2006 and 2007, was the Storm's leading scorer a year ago with five goals and four assists. Junior midfielder **Sandro Tadic** posted 13 points on six goals and an assist. Senior midfielder **Connor Skultety**, a Second Team All-Conference selection, senior defender **Matt Winegard**, and senior goalkeeper **Josh Youngman** helped anchor a defense that ranked second in the IIAC in goals allowed last season with 22. Winegard added three assists offensively, while Youngman posted a 6-8-2 record with a 1.19 goals-against average and 80 saves in 16 games.

Simpson head coach **Mike Wilson** says, "I anticipate a closely contested conference season with several teams with the ability to earn the conference title. Our expectations are to continue to grow from our past experiences and utilize our early matches in September to find the right mix of players that will allow us to contend for the conference championship."



Wartburg College Knights

15-7-0 overall, 5-3-0 IIAC (15 pts.; 3rd)

Head Coach (season): T.J. Buchholz (2nd)

Record at School (yrs): 15-7-0 (1)

Career Record (yrs): 83-66-4 (8)

IIAC Titles (last): 3 (2006)

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 4 (2008)

Starters returning/lost – 8 / 3

Letterwinners returning/lost – 17 / 5

All-IIAC players returning – 3 (Michael, Prater, Miller)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1 (McKenna)

Wartburg returns eight starters and 17 letterwinners from last season's 15-7 team that finished third in the Conference with 15 points and a 5-3 record, won the Iowa Conference tournament, and advanced to the first round of the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship. The Knights' strength will be in their defense. They return First Team All-IIAC and Third Team NSCAA All-American **Trent Michael** at goalkeeper. Michael, a senior, posted a 14-7 record with a league-low 0.73 goals-against average and .862 save percentage, 94 saves, and eight shutouts. Junior defender **Luke Prater** received First Team All-IIAC honors last season after being a Second Team pick in 2007. Prater will be joined in the defensive back by senior defender **Matt Haager**. That trio anchored a unit that allowed a league-low 16 goals and posted a league-low 0.73 goals-against average. Offensively, Wartburg will be led by senior midfielder **Geoff Miller**, a First Team All-Conference pick in 2008. Miller had four goals and four assists for 12 points. Junior **Kyle McKenna**, an honorable mention All-Conference selection, posted 11 points on four goals (all game-winners) and three assists.

Wartburg head coach **T.J. Buchholz** says, "I hope to build on our team's success last year and to keep improving for this season. The IIAC should be very strong this year from top to bottom and every game should be a great one to watch."

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