

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Office

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HCAC Men's Soccer Preseason Poll

Transylvania Picked to Win Third Straight Men's Soccer Title

GREENWOOD, Ind. – Transylvania University's men's soccer team has been selected as the front runner to win the 2007 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championship. The Pioneers received seven first-place votes and 77 total points in a poll of the conference's nine head coaches.

Rose-Hulman will look to claim the school's first HCAC championship, as the Engineers totaled a second best 70 points and one first place vote. Manchester College placed third in the poll with 62 points and the final first place vote. Anderson University finished fourth with 49 points and was followed by Hanover College (46 points), Defiance College (41), Bluffton University (27), Mount St. Joseph (17) and Franklin College (16).

Transylvania is coming off a 14-3-1 record in 2006. The Pioneers finished on top of the HCAC last season with a 7-1-0 record, and knocked off Rose-Hulman in the conference tournament final 3-0. Transy advanced to the NCAA tournament but failed to advance past the first round due to a 2-0 decision to Ohio Northern. TU led the HCAC in scoring last season with 42 goals, while only surrendering a league best 11 goals.

2007 HCAC Preseason Poll

	Team	Points
1.	Transylvania	77 (7)
2.	Rose-Hulman	70 (1)
3.	Manchester	62 (1)
4.	Anderson	49
5.	Hanover	46
6.	Defiance	41
7.	Bluffton	27
8.	Mount St. Joseph	17
9.	Franklin	16

The Pioneers return four first team all-HCAC selections from 2006. Leading the way will be junior **Ryan Wood (Versailles, Ky./Woodford Co.)** and senior **Matt Karaffa (New Albany, Ind./H.S.)**. Wood led Transy in scoring last season with eight goals and three assists, while Karaffa added five goals and four assists. The Pioneers other returning first team all-HCAC selections include seniors **Ryan Dale (Cincinnati, Ohio/Clark Montessori)** and **Matt Vogel (Lexington, Ky./Lexington Christian)**.

Rose-Hulman will look to challenge the Pioneers for the top spot in the standings once again. The Engineers finished the 2006 campaign 15-4-1 overall and 6-2-0 in conference action. Rose will have to fill the vacant spots left by 2006 conference MVP Yaw Aning and conference leading scorer David McIlwaine this fall. The Engineers will turn to senior forward **Matt Trowbridge (Ft. Collins, Co./Poudre)** and junior **Trevor Miller (Okemos, Mich./H.S.)** to pick up the scoring slack from the departed McIlwaine. Trowbridge ranked second on the team with seven goals and seven assists last fall, while Miller ranked third with five goals and two assists. Senior **Trey Buck (Austin, Tex./Ohio State)** returns in net where he surrendered a 0.83 goal against average, a league best .840 save percentage, and posted a league high six shutouts as a junior.

Manchester finished the 2006 season with a disappointing 3-4-1 conference record and a 9-7-1 mark overall, finishing sixth in the conference standings. The Spartans welcome back a trio of first team all-HCAC selections this fall. Senior forward **Parker Swanson (Elgin, Ill./H.S.)** led the team with 11 goals and two assists last fall, ranking second in the conference in goals scored. Sophomore defender **Brian Woods (Carmel, Ind./Westfield)** earned freshman of the year honors in 2006 after scoring five goals and four assists. Junior **Chris Rowe (Belleville, Mich./H.S.)** followed up his 2005 freshman of the year campaign with two goals and three assists as a sophomore.



The 2007 men's soccer season is set to begin on Aug. 31.

Players to Watch

	Peter Boberg	Junior	M	Algonquin, Ill./Dundee-Crown
	Charlie Barleycorn	Sophomore	D	Westerville, Ohio/St. Francis DeSales
	Jason White	Sophomore	D	Madisonville, Ky./North Hopkins
	Nick Burrus	Senior	M	St. Louis, Mo./Westminster
	Nate Flath	Junior	M	Wadsworth, Ohio/H.S.
	Brandon Kindell	Sophomore	F	
	Micah Boehr	Senior	M	Bluffton, Ohio/H.S.
	Benjamin Hughes	Senior	M	Camden, Ohio/Preble Shawnee
	Michael Bell	Senior	F	Rossford, Ohio/H.S.
	Craig Burke	Senior	D	Reynoldsville, Ohio/St. Charles Prep
	Chris Kessler	Freshman	F	
	Michael Harwood	Junior	F	
	Rocky Legge	Sophomore	M	
	Ben Jarvis	Senior	F	
	Ben Spain	Junior	M	Richmond, Ky./Lexington Catholic
	Andrew Inick	Sophomore	M	Louisville, Ky./Ballard
	Kyle Laker	Junior	D	Oldenburg, Ind./Batesville
	Michael Hansford	Sophomore	GK	Liberty Township, Ohio/Lakota West
	Chris Rowe	Junior	M	Belleville, Mich./H.S.
	Parker Swanson	Senior	F	Elgin, Ill./H.S.
	Brian Woods	Sophomore	D	Carmel, Ind./Westfield
	Austin Campbell	Junior	GK	Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills
	Robert Huesman	Junior	D/M	Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills
	Andrew Brockman	Junior	F/M	Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills
	Trey Buck	Senior	GK	Austin, Tx./Ohio State Uni.
	Matt Trowbridge	Senior	F	Ft. Collins, Co./Poudre
	Trevor Miller	Junior	F	Okemos, Mich./H.S.
	Ryan Wood	Junior	M	Versailles, Ky./Woodford Co.
	Matt Karaffa	Senior	M	New Albany, Ind./H.S.
	Ryan Dale	Senior	D	Cincinnati, Ohio/Clark Montessori
	Matt Vogel	Senior	D	Lexington, Ky./Lexington Christian

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