

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Office

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HCAC Volleyball Preseason Poll

Mount St. Joseph Picked to Claim Tenth HCAC Volleyball Crown

GREENWOOD, IN – The College of Mount St. Joseph volleyball team has been selected as the preseason favorite to win the 2008 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championship. In a poll of the nine HCAC head coaches, the Mount received 79 total points and eight first place votes.

Anderson University placed second in the poll with 64 points, while Manchester College is picked to finish third in the conference standings this fall with 62 points. Hanover College (53 points, 1 first place vote), Defiance College (39), Transylvania University (36), Bluffton University (31), Franklin College (27) and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (14) round out the poll.

The Lions are coming off a 20-17 season and 7-1 conference record in 2007, sharing the conference championship with Hanover College. The Mount fell in the HCAC Tournament championship game to Hanover, 28-30, 22-30, 30-21, 27-30, ending their season. MSJ will look to continue their dominance in the HCAC after losing solid talent to graduation.

Leading the way for Michele Benoit's Lions will be senior setter **Katie Playko (Norwalk, Ohio/Norwalk St. Paul)**, who was named to the 2007 All-HCAC first team, and junior outside hitter **Anna Richter (Fairfield, Ohio/Hamilton Badin)**.

Playko saw action in 37 matches last year, recording a league high 1,383 assists and also chipped in 333 digs. Richter earned a spot on the All-HCAC Second Team, adding 466 kills, 40 blocks, and 456 digs.

Anderson finished tied for third in the HCAC last season with a 6-2 conference mark and a 17-14 record overall. The Ravens will look to contend for their first conference volleyball championship this season behind junior **Jessica Berlin (New Haven, Ind./Snider)** and senior **Kasey Bollier (Piercetown, Ind./Wawasee)**. Berlin earned first team All-HCAC honors last season, recording 305 kills and 281 digs as a sophomore. Bollier contributed 1,235 assists, ranking second in the conference with an average of 11.23 per game.

Manchester finished tied with Anderson last season with a 6-2 conference record and an overall record of 16-15. The Spartans return 2007 Freshman of the Year **Lauren Nash (Sellersburg, Ind./New Albany)** to the lineup this fall. Nash led the HCAC with an average of 11.82 assists per game last season, and also added 389 digs during her rookie season. She will be joined by second team All-HCAC member **Christa Peden (North Manchester, Ind./Manchester)** to lead MC in 2008. Peden recorded 333 kills, 114 digs, and 118 blocks last season as a freshman.

The 2008 volleyball season is scheduled to open on August 29.

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2008 HCAC Preseason Poll

	Team	Points
1.	Mount St. Joseph	79 (8)
2.	Anderson	64
3.	Manchester	62
4.	Hanover	53 (1)
5.	Defiance	39
6.	Transylvania	36
7.	Bluffton	31
8.	Franklin	27
9.	Rose-Hulman	14



Players to Watch

	Jessica Berlin	Junior	OH	New Haven, Ind./Snider
	Kasey Bollier	Senior	S	Pierceton, Ind./Wawasee
	Caitlin Morency	Junior	L	Lanesville, Ind./Floyd Central
	Carol Weatherford	Junior	MH	Terre Haute, Ind./North
	Kayla Pickering	Sophomore	OH	Jamestown, Ohio/Greenview
	Shauna Rowland	Sophomore	S	Bucyrus, Ohio/Wynford
	Michele Rosen	Junior	OH	Harrison, Ohio/H.S.
	Brittany Roth	Junior	L	Findlay, Ohio/H.S.
	Danyel Lipps	Junior	OH	West Alexandria, Ohio/Twin Valley South
	Kristen Nicely	Freshman	RS	Defiance, Ohio/Ayersville
	Ashton Judis	Junior	DS	Livonia, Mich./Livonia Stevenson
	Sara Porter	Sophomore	OH	Toledo, Ohio/Start
	Kelsey Ferguson	Sophomore	S	Brighton, Mich./H.S.
	Amy Burke	Senior	L	Indianapolis, Ind./Franklin Central
	Brooke Brown	Sophomore	OH	Avon, Ind./H.S.
	Katherine Rogers	Senior	OH	Batesville, Ind./H.S.
	Rachel Kloentrup	Sophomore	OH	Morning View, Ky./Simon Kenton
	Erin Huntington	Senior	M	N. Manchester, Ind./Manchester
	Kirsten Brandvik	Freshman	RS	
	Danessa Cutter	Freshman	S	
	Katie Roller	Freshman	DS	
	Christa Peden	Sophomore	MH/OH	N. Manchester, Ind./Manchester
	Lauren Nash	Sophomore	S	Sellersburg, Ind./New Albany
	Tiffany Moore	Senior	L	Ossian, Ind./Norwell
	Stephanie Rion	Senior	OH	Schaumburg, Ind./H.S.
	Anna Richter	Junior	OH	Fairfield, Ohio/Hamilton Badin
	Katie Playko	Senior	S	Norwalk, Ohio/Norwalk St. Paul
	Jamie Grauvogel	Sophomore	OH	Cleves, Ohio/Harrison
	Caitlin Sargent	Senior	MH	Covington, Ohio/H.S.
	Julie Schumacher	Senior	DS	Cincinnati, Ohio/Seton
	Sarah Messmer	Senior	MH	Cincinnati, Ohio/McNicholas
	Brandi Sturgill	Senior	S	Zionsville, NC/Watauga
	Katie Tharp	Senior	MH	Linton, Ind./Linton-Stockton
	Andrea Herbstreit	Senior	S	Walton, Ky./Ryle
	Jordan Geisen	Sophomore	MH	Florence, Ky./St. Henry
	Sarah Ruckreigel	Senior	OH	Louisville, Ky./Butler
	Sarah Sams	Sophomore	L	Lexington, Ky./Dunbar

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