

2008 O'REILLY ESPNU BRACKETBUSTERS TEAM CAPSULES

AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE

ALBANY GREAT DANES (23-10)

- Albany set a school record for Division I wins with 23 in 2006-07 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second-straight season.
- Senior guards **Brent Wilson** (11.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg) -- third-team all-conference choice -- and **Brian Lillis** (6.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg) -- the 2007 America East Defensive Player of the Year -- return to lead the Great Danes.
- Following last season, seventh-year head coach **Will Brown** signed a contract extension through the 2011-12 campaign.
- Albany has participated in the last two *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters*, losing at VCU, 70-67, in 2006 and at Boise State, 83-82, in 2007.

BINGHAMTON BEARCATS (13-16)

- **Kevin Broadus**, who helped lead Georgetown to the 2007 Final Four as an assistant coach, takes over the Binghamton program.
- The Bearcats, who are making their first appearance in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* pool, saw Broadus add two incoming freshmen and two junior-college transfers in his first month at Binghamton.
- Seniors **Mike Gordon** (10.9 ppg, 4.0 apg) -- second-team all-league selection -- and **Richard Forbers** (11.9 ppg) return in the backcourt.
- Sophomore **Lazar Trifunovic** (10.8 ppg, 6.4 rpg) -- a 6-8 forward -- is the leading returning rebounder in the America East.

BOSTON TERRIERS (12-18)

- Head coach **Dennis Wolff** is in his 14th season at **Boston University** and is the Terriers' winningest head coach (216-167).
- The Terriers, who are making their first appearance in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* pool, return sophomore guards **Tyler Morris** (13.4 ppg), **Corey Lowe** (14.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2.9 apg) and **Carlos Strong** (9.5 ppg) and forward **Scott Brittain** (7.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg).
- Morris -- a prep teammate of Ohio State's Greg Oden and Mike Conley at Lawrence North -- was the 2007 America East Rookie of the Year.

- Lowe was an America East All-Rookie choice, while Brittain played for Canada in the FIBA Under-19 World Championship in the summer of 2007.

VERMONT CATAMOUNTS (25-8)

- Under third-year head coach **Mike Lonergan**, Vermont tied a school record for wins, appeared in the America East tourney game for the fifth-straight season and advanced to the NIT for the first time.
- The Catamounts return four starters, including junior guard **Mike Trimboli** (15.8 ppg, 5.0 rpg) -- first-team all-conference choice.
- Senior guard **Kyle Cieplicki** (7.4 ppg), junior forward **Colin McIntosh** (7.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg) and sophomore forward **Marqus Blakely** (7.9 ppg) also return.
- A participant in the 2005 *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters*, Vermont lost, 74-64, at Nevada, but won the America East championship and defeated Syracuse, 60-57, in the NCAA Tournament.

ATLANTIC SUN CONFERENCE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE BUCCANEERS (24-10)

- Entering his fifth season at **East Tennessee State**, **Murry Bartow** has led the Buccaneers to postseason play twice -- 2004 NCAA Tournament and 2007 NIT.
- Junior guard **Courtney Pigram** (18.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.7 apg) -- the 2007 Atlantic Sun Player of the Year -- returns to lead ETSU.
- Along with Pigram, the Bucs feature sophomore guards **Mike Smith** (11.0 ppg, 3.7 rpg) and **Dequan Twilley** (5.8 ppg, 4.0 apg) and senior forward **Andrew Reed** (9.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg).
- The Buccaneers, who will be making their third *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* appearance, are 2-0 in the event, defeating Fresno State, 66-62, in 2004 and Austin Peay State, 85-81, in 2005.

BIG SKY CONFERENCE

NORTHERN ARIZONA LUMBERJACKS (18-12)

- **Northern Arizona**, which has played for the Big Sky Conference tournament championship in three of the last four seasons, has won or shared the league regular-season title the last two seasons.

- The Lumberjacks ranked in the top 10 nationally scoring, field goal percentage, three-point field goal percentage and assists in 2006-07.
- Junior point guard **Josh Wilson** (6.03 apg) led the Big Sky and ranked ninth nationally for assists per game.
- The Lumberjacks are making their fourth appearance in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, defeating San Jose State (2007) and falling to Tulsa (2005) and Western Kentucky (2006).

PORTLAND STATE VIKINGS (19-13)

- **Portland State**, which tied its school record for single-season wins in 2006-07, returns Big Sky Newcomer of the Year **Dupree Lucas**, who averaged 13.2 points overall and 15.1 in Big Sky play.
- Head coach **Ken Bone** has guided the Vikings to the Big Sky Tournament semifinals in each of his first two seasons.
- Senior center **Scott Morrison** holds school records for blocked shots in a game (six), season (70) and career (134).
- Portland State is competing in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series for the third time in four campaigns.

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

HIGH POINT PANTHERS (22-10)

- Fifth-year head coach **Bart Lundy**, who has a 70-52 slate with the Panthers, led **High Point** to a school-record total for Division I wins last season.
- Senior forward **Arizona Reid** (21.0 ppg, 9.5 rpg) became the first player in league history to average better than 20 points and nine rebounds per game.
- The 2007 Big South Player of the Year, Reid was an honorable mention All-America choice by AP and an All-District selection by the USBWA and NABC.
- High Point is making its second appearance in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, after falling at Loyola (Md.), 77-71, in 2006.

WINTHROP EAGLES (29-5)

- Head coach **Randy Peele** begins his first season at **Winthrop**, having coached previously in the Big South at former member UNC Greensboro from 1995 to 1999.

- The Eagles, who defeated Notre Dame in the first round of the 2007 NCAA Tournament, have advanced to the Big Dance three-straight seasons and seven of the last nine campaigns.
- Winthrop returns senior **Michael Jenkins** (14.8 ppg, 3.2 apg, 1.5 spg) -- first-team All-Big South -- and senior **Chris Gaynor** (3:1 assist-to-turnover ratio).
- The Eagles are 2-0 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, defeating Northern Illinois in overtime, 98-97, in 2006 and winning at Missouri State, 77-66, in 2007.

BIG WEST CONFERENCE

CAL POLY MUSTANGS (19-11)

- Entering his eighth season at **Cal Poly**, head coach **Kevin Bromley** owns a record of 80-106. His 2006-07 squad posted the best slate during his tenure and appeared in the Big West Championship game.
- Senior **Dawin Whiten** (11.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 28.8 mpg) has ranked among the Big West top 10 for treys made per game in each of his first three seasons.
- Junior point guard **Trae Clark** (9.1 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 3.7 apg) ranked fourth in the league for assists per game.
- Cal Poly is 1-1 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, defeating Portland State, 92-87, in 2007.

CAL STATE FULLERTON TITANS (20-10)

- Head coach **Bob Burton** is in his fifth season at **Cal State Fullerton**, posting a 68-51 record including three-consecutive winning campaigns -- the first time CSF has done that in more than 20 years.
- Senior forward **Scott Cutley** (15.6 ppg, 9.5 rpg) -- a first-team All-Big West choice -- anchors the Titans' frontline. He led the league in rebounding and had a Big West-high 11 double-doubles.
- Senior guard **Marcus Crenshaw** (11.4 ppg, 1.4 rpg) -- the 2006-07 Big West Sixth Man Award recipient -- led the league in three-pointers with 83, while senior guard **Frank Robinson** (11.9 ppg, 6.1 rpg) earned the top sixth-man honor in 2005-06.
- Cal State Fullerton is 1-1 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, with the Titans losing to Wright State, 77-62, in 2007.

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE MATADORS (14-17)

- **Bobby Braswell** enters his 12th season at the helm of **Cal State Northridge**. The school's career winning percentage leader (.517), he has a 168-157 slate.
- The Matadors return their top three scorers -- senior guard/forward **Jonathan Heard** (13.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg), senior forward **Calvin Chitwood** (13.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg) and junior guard **Rob Haynes** (8.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg).
- CSUN has been the Big West steals leader for six-straight seasons, and in 2006-07, the Matadors recorded 9.0 steals per game, ranking 22nd nationally.
- Guard **Josh Jenkins** (18.7 ppg, 9.1 apg) transfers from Frank Phillips College, where he earned junior college All-America honors after beginning his collegiate career at New Mexico State.
- Cal State Northridge is 1-2 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, including an 85-76 loss to Cleveland State in 2007.

LONG BEACH STATE 49ERS (24-8)

- The former head coach at the University of Minnesota and Gonzaga University, **Dan Monson** is the 16th head coach in **Long Beach State** history.
- Monson inherits a team that resembles nothing from last year's edition, as gone are the top nine scorers from a unit that had four players average double digits.
- Junior guard **Donovan Morris**, who played two seasons at Fresno State before sitting out last campaign due to NCAA transfer rules, brings some Division I experience to an untested 49er roster.
- The 49ers have posted a 1-1 mark in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, winning at Manhattan in 2006 but losing at home to Hawai'i in 2007.

UC DAVIS AGGIES (5-23)

- After having played a full double round-robin schedule (16 games) against Big West competition in each of the last three seasons, **UC Davis** completed its four-year re-classification period from Division II to Division I and officially became the ninth member of the Big West on July 1, 2007.
- Junior guard **Vince Oliver** (12.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.2 apg) is the Aggies' top returning scorer. He posted 20 or more points in seven games in 2006-07.

- Height is one of the trademarks for the 2007-08 Aggies. Of the 13 roster players, eight stand at least 6-foot-7, including 7-2 junior center **Michael Boone**.
- This is the first season that UC Davis will be competing in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series.

UC IRVINE ANTEATERS (15-18)

- Entering his 11th season at **UC Irvine**, **Pat Douglass** possesses a record of 153-138 and stands just 11 victories shy of becoming the school's all-time leader.
- The Anteaters are one of two Big West teams who return four starters, and those players enabled UC Irvine to lead the league in scoring defense (67.0 ppg) and blocked shots per game (4.1).
- Seniors **Patrick Sanders** (11.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg) and **Darren Fells** (10.2 ppg, 6.1 rpg) were the team's top two scorers and rebounders. Sanders led the Big West in blocked shots with 51.
- The backcourt is powered by sophomore guard **Michael Hunter** (6.8 ppg, 2.4 rpg). He ranked fifth in the league for three-point field goal percentage (44.0).
- UC Irvine owns a 1-2 mark in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, including a 76-62 loss to San Francisco in 2007.

UC RIVERSIDE HIGHLANDERS (7-24)

- **UC Riverside** hired Jim Wooldridge as the Highlanders' fourth head coach in as many seasons. Wooldridge, who has a 312-237 record in 19 seasons, previously coached at Central Missouri State, Texas State, Louisiana Tech and Kansas State.
- Senior guard **Larry Cunningham** (13.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg) led the Highlanders in scoring last season and became the 13th UC Riverside player to pass the 1,000-point plateau (1,012).
- Key injuries in the frontcourt hampered UC Riverside in 2006-07, as forwards **B.J. Visman** (10.0 ppg, 8.6 rpg) and **Benoit Bekono** (6.0 ppg, 6.5 rpg) played sparingly. Visman nearly averaged a double-double through five games before wrist trouble ended his season, while Bekono started the first six games before his campaign ended with a severe knee injury.
- The Highlanders are 2-0 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, defeating Southeast Missouri State (69-61 in 2006) and Idaho (81-76 in 2007).

UC SANTA BARBARA GAUCHOS (18-11)

- Head coach **Bob Williams**, who has a 140-122 record, enters his 10th season piloting **UC Santa Barbara**. He guided the Gauchos to their best win total since the 1991-92 squad won 20 during the regular season.
- UC Santa Barbara has finished second in the Big West in overall scoring defense for six-straight seasons.
- Senior guard **Alex Harris** (21.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg) -- an NABC second-team All-District 15 choice -- became the first Gaucho since Raymond Tutt in 1997 to win the league's scoring title.
- A two-time recipient of second-team All-Big West honors, junior forward **Chris Devine** (14.1 ppg, 6.6 rpg) ranked in the conference top 10 in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage.
- A participant in the initial *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, UCSB is 1-2 overall, including a 71-70 loss to Eastern Washington in 2007.

PACIFIC TIGERS (12-19)

- **Bob Thomason** is the dean of Big West head coaches, beginning his 20th season at **Pacific**. Among all-time Big West coaches, Thomason (322-240) ranks second for overall and league wins (188).
- The Tigers, who had a three-year run of 20-win seasons and NCAA Tournament appearances snapped in 2006-07, return four of the team's top seven scorers.
- Junior forward **Anthony Brown** (14.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg) -- a second-team All-Big West selection -- is the team's top returning player. His seven double-doubles were the second-best total in the Big West for 2006-07.
- Pacific has depth at point guard with junior **Steffan Johnson** (9.7 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 3.6 apg) and senior **Solomon HorseChief** (6.8 ppg, 1.3 rpg, 75.4 FT%) splitting starting duties in 2006-07.
- The Tigers are 2-1 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, defeating UTEP in 2005 and winning at Montana, 78-77, in 2007.

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

DELAWARE BLUE HENS (5-26)

- Delaware is one of two CAA teams that return all five starters from the 2006-07 campaign.

- The Blue Hens will be led by senior forward **Herb Courtney** (18.1 ppg), who had a league-high 10 double-doubles a year ago.
- Sophomore point guard **Brian Johnson** (4.2 apg, 38.1 mpg) was a CAA All-Rookie Team choice and led Delaware in minutes played.
- The Blue Hens welcome a pair of transfers who will become eligible on Dec. 14. Junior guard **Marc Egerson** (7.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg) transfers from Georgetown, while junior forward **Jim Ledsome** (2.4 ppg, 2.5 rpg) arrives from Nebraska.

DREXEL DRAGONS (23-9)

- Drexel went 13-4 on the road in 2006-07, tying for the most road wins at the Division I level. Among the Dragons' road victims were Villanova, Syracuse, Creighton, Hofstra and Saint Joseph's.
- The Dragons' triumph total was the best for the school since the 1995-96 campaign, and Drexel played in its fourth NIT in the last five seasons.
- Senior forward **Frank Elegar** (16.0 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 52.8 FG%, 1.2 bpg) was a second-team All-CAA selection and a member of the CAA All-Tournament team.
- The Dragons rallied from an 11-point, second-half deficit to knock off Creighton, 64-58, in front of 17,607 fans during last year's *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series.

GEORGE MASON PATRIOTS (18-15)

- **George Mason** welcomes back all five starters from last year's squad, which reached the finals of the CAA Tournament as a No. 6 seed.
- Senior forward **Will Thomas** (13.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 62.7 FG%) was a second-team All-CAA choice and a member of the league's All-Defensive Team.
- Thomas and senior guard **Folarin Campbell** both surpassed the career 1,000-point mark, as Mason upset second-seeded Old Dominion, 79-63, in the semifinals of the 2007 CAA Tournament.
- Head coach **Jim Larranaga** is the winningest coach in Mason history with 184 victories and owns the most CAA triumphs of any coach in league history with 124.

GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS (11-20)

- **Georgia State** begins its first season under head coach **Rod Barnes** -- the 2001 Naismith Coach of the Year while at Mississippi. In eight seasons at Ole Miss, he had a 141-109 record with four postseason berths, including a trip to the NCAA Sweet 16.
- Junior guard **Leonard Mendez** (13.8 ppg, 47.5 3FG%) led the CAA in three-point percentage and scored in double figures 24 times, including 19 of the Panthers' final 21 contests.
- Junior forward **Rashad Chase** (8.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg) is a former CAA All-Rookie Team selection (2005-06).
- Senior center **Deven Dickerson** recorded a team-high 47 blocked shots in 2006-07 and ranks third at GSU for career rejections with 101.

HOFSTRA PRIDE (22-10)

- **Hofstra** has averaged 23 victories over the past three seasons. The Pride, which has a 40-14 CAA slate in the same span, has earned three-consecutive NIT appearances.
- Senior guard **Antoine Agudio** ranks eighth on Hofstra's career scoring list with 1,664 points. The first-team All-CAA standout is third among all active Division I players for career points, trailing only VMI's Reggie Williams and Utah State's Jaycee Carroll.
- Agudio, who set a single-season record with 100 treys in 2006-07, is Hofstra's career three-pointer leader (273) and has a chance to pass the CAA mark of 371, held by UNC Wilmington's Brett Blizzard.
- The Pride edged Patriot League front-runner Holy Cross, 65-64, on a pair of Carlos Rivera free throws with 1.7 seconds left during the 2007 *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event.

JAMES MADISON DUKES (7-23)

- **James Madison** is the only team in the CAA to return four players -- **Juwann James** (13.0 ppg), **Terrance Carter** (12.8 ppg), **Pierre Curtis** (11.4 ppg) and **Joe Posey** (10.1 ppg) -- who averaged double-figure scoring totals for 2006-07.
- Junior forward James has ranked among the top 20 in the CAA for scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage in each of his first two seasons at JMU.

- Sophomore point guard Curtis earned CAA All-Rookie Team and Mid-Major Freshman All-America honors and led the team in assists (112) and steals (37).
- The Dukes will add junior guard **Abdulai Jalloh** (second-team All-Atlantic 10 choice at Saint Joseph's in 2005-06) and sophomore forward **Dazzmond Thornton** (a freshman at Texas Tech in 2005-06).

NORTHEASTERN HUSKIES (13-19)

- **Northeastern** got off to a 3-12 start against a difficult schedule in its first season under coach **Bill Coen**, but captured six of its final eight contests and finished in a tie for fifth in CAA play (9-9).
- Sophomore guard **Matt Janning** (11.6 ppg) was the 2006-07 CAA Rookie of the Year and was among the league leaders for assists (90) and three-pointers (55).
- Sophomore forward **Eugene Spates** scored a career-high 17 points off the bench versus fourth-ranked Pittsburgh and then topped it with 20 points against ACC member Boston College.
- The Huskies welcome junior forward **Chris Alvarez** (two-year starter at Dayton) and sophomore center **Nkem Ojougboh** (6.8 ppg at Texas-San Antonio in 2005-06), who sat out the 2006-07 season.

OLD DOMINION MONARCHS (24-9)

- **Old Dominion** has averaged 25 victories over the past three campaigns and made three-straight postseason appearances (two NCAA Tournaments and an NIT). The 75 wins are the most in school history for the Monarchs over a three-year period.
- Senior guard **Brandon Johnson** (2.1 spg) made the CAA All-Defensive Team after collecting 69 steals. With 147 career thefts, he is just seven shy of moving into the ODU top 10.
- ODU defeated eventual Final Four participant Georgetown, 75-62, last season, making the Monarchs' first win over a ranked foe since 1995 and the Hoyas' first loss in McDonough Arena in 24 years.
- The Monarchs are 2-0 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, beating Marist (84-71 in 2005) and Toledo (73-70 in 2007).

TOWSON TIGERS (15-17)

- **Towson's** 2006-07 win total was its best in 11 seasons.

- Head coach **Pat Kennedy**, whose teams have won 20 or more games 10 times, ranks among the nation's winningest coaches with 449 career victories.
- Senior guard **C.C. Williams** (4.1 apg) set a Towson single-game record for assists, when he dished out 14 in a 92-65 win over Georgia State on Feb. 10, 2007.
- Senior forward **Tommy Breaux** (5.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.1 bpg) is the top returning shot blocker in the CAA. He is also a wide receiver for the Towson football team.

UNC WILMINGTON SEAHAWKS (7-22)

- Despite its 2006-07 record, **UNC Wilmington** has been the most dominant program in the CAA over the past decade, winning four league titles and earning five postseason appearances in the last eight years.
- The Seahawks return senior guard **T.J. Carter** (13.6 ppg), who missed last season due to hernia problems after being selected third-team All-CAA in 2006.
- Senior center **Vladimir Kuljanin** (13.6 ppg, 7.1 rpg) ranked fourth in Division I for field goal percentage (66.2) last season and was a member of the Canadian team at the 2007 Pan Am Games.
- Senior forward **Todd Hendley** averaged 11.7 ppg over the summer for the U.S. Athletes in Action team that competed in the Jones Cup in Taipei.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH RAMS (28-7)

- **Virginia Commonwealth** set a school record for overall wins and established the CAA mark for conference victories with 16. The 28 wins matched the second-best total for a CAA squad, trailing only Navy's 30-5 unit in 1985-86.
- The Rams rallied from an 11-point deficit under 11 minutes to play to upset Duke, 79-77, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament and took third-seeded Pittsburgh to overtime in the second round before falling, 84-79.
- In his first season with the Rams, **Anthony Grant** was tabbed the CAA Coach of the Year and the Coach of the Year in the state of Virginia by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.
- Junior guard **Eric Maynor** (6.4 apg) dished out a school-record 224 assists in 2006-07 and ranked fifth in the NCAA for assists per game. He was named to the national second-team All-Defensive squad by Rivals.com.

WILLIAM & MARY TRIBE (15-15)

- **William and Mary** returns four starters from last year's squad that posted the most overall and league (eight) victories for the school since 1997-98.
- Senior guard **Nathan Mann** has led the Tribe in three-pointers made for the past two campaigns and enters his final season fifth on the W&M career list with 142.
- Junior forward **Alex Smith** (5.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg) played on Panama's national team at the Pan American Games this past summer.
- Sophomore guard **David Schneider** (8.1 ppg) earned a spot on the CAA All-Rookie team and contributed a team-high 69 assists. His father, Jeff, was a starting guard at Virginia Tech (1979-82).

HORIZON LEAGUE

BUTLER BULLDOGS (29-7)

- Former assistant **Brad Stevens** takes the controls of the **Butler** program after national coach of the year Todd Lickliter, who is now head coach at Iowa, guided the Bulldogs to a league-record 29 wins and the semifinals of the NCAA Midwest Regional.
- The Bulldogs reached the 20-win plateau for the ninth time in the last 11 seasons and the NCAA appearance was BU's sixth during that span.
- Senior guard **A.J. Graves** (16.9 ppg, 2.43 apg) leads a group of three returning starters, after hitting 98 three-pointers and finishing second nationally in free throw percentage (.948).
- Senior guard **Mike Green** (13.9 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 4.0 apg) was the league's Newcomer of the Year.
- In 2007, 12th-ranked Butler had a 22-game homecourt win streak snapped, when Southern Illinois won, 68-64, in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series.

CLEVELAND STATE VIKINGS (10-21)

- Entering his second season at **Cleveland State**, head coach **Gary Waters** led Kent State to its first-ever NCAA Tournament in 1999 and guided Rutgers to three NIT appearances in his six-year stint there.
- CSU features one of the Horizon League's most underrated players in junior forward **J'Nathan Bullock** (13.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg).

- The Vikings led the loop in steals per game (7.5) and averaged four blocked shots per contest, with junior forward **Renard Fields** (0.79 bpg) leading the way.
- CSU will also welcome junior guard **Cedric Jackson**. A two-year starter at St. John's (2004-06), he is expected to score and see time at the point.
- Cleveland State, which has a 2-0 record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, traveled across the country to post an 85-76 win at Cal State Northridge. CSU beat Delaware, 52-40, in 2006.

DETROIT TITANS (11-19)

- **Detroit** showcases one of the loop's top players in senior guard **Brandon Cotton** (18.1 ppg). Cotton finished third in the Horizon League for scoring and notched two 30-point outburst in conference play.
- Senior guard **Jon Goode** (49 3FG) leads the Titans' perimeter attack, while fellow senior **Brandon Bell** (6.3 ppg, 2.9 apg) handles point guard responsibilities.
- Veteran head coach **Perry Watson** has posted more Horizon triumphs (129) and coached more league games (208) than any other coach in loop history.
- Detroit outlasted Buffalo, 92-84 in overtime, in the 2007 *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series.

GREEN BAY PHOENIX (18-15)

- **Green Bay** returns four starters from last year's team, which shot a league-high 38.3 percent from beyond the three-point arc and finished seventh nationally in free throw percentage (76.0).
- Junior **Mike Schachtner** (14.9 ppg, 45.6 FG%, 45.6 3FG%, 91.2 FT%) ranked among Horizon League leaders for field goal percentage (3rd), free throw percentage (2nd) and three-point accuracy (fifth).
- Sophomore **Tony Cotton** (7.6 ppg, 46.2 3FG%) and junior **Ryan Tillema** (8.6 ppg) also return for Green Bay.
- Junior forward **Terry Evans** (7.7 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.7 spg) is one of the Horizon's top defenders, earning All-Defensive Team honors in each of his first two seasons.
- In 2007, Green Bay defeated Northern Illinois, 82-76, in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event.

LOYOLA RAMBLERS (21-11)

- **Loyola** is coming off its first 20-win season since 1985, when the Ramblers went 27-6 and reached the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.
- Fourth-year head coach **Jim Whitesell** has done a remarkable job turning around the Loyola program, guiding the Ramblers to their first consecutive winning seasons since 1984 and 1985.
- Junior guard **J.R. Blount** (12.9 ppg) is the team's top returning scorer and is the first Rambler since Chris Williams (1998-2000) to average double figures for both his freshman and sophomore seasons.
- Loyola, which must replace four starters and 49 percent of its scoring, does return its top two rebounders in sophomore forward **Andy Polka** (7.2 rpg) and junior forward **Leon Young** (5.6 rpg).

MILWAUKEE PANTHERS (9-22)

- **Milwaukee**, which advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 in 2005 and second round in 2006, endured growing pains in 2006-07, as the Panthers had just one starter with Division I experience.
- Senior guard **Avery Smith** (15.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg) scored 30 or more points three times last season, including 33 in an 84-76 loss at Drake in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event.
- Senior forward **Paige Paulsen** (11.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg) recorded a pair of double-doubles.
- Senior guard **Allan Hanson** (7.7 ppg, 2.9 apg) and junior guard **Ricky Franklin** (7.2 ppg) also provide additional scoring punch.

UIC FLAMES (14-18)

- **UIC**, which started 12 different players at least one game, battled through adversity, with head coach **Jimmy Collins'** season-long illness and several team injuries at various points during the campaign.
- The Flames will rely on the backcourt tandem of junior **Josh Mayo** (12.2 ppg, 3.19 apg, 41.0 3FG%) and senior **Robert Bush** (6.8 ppg).
- Junior center **Scott VanderMeer** (5.6 rpg, 3.47 bpg) set a Horizon League single-season record with 111 blocked shots and ranked fifth nationally in blocks per game.

- UIC defeated Central Michigan, 84-62, in the 2007 *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, as the Horizon League went, 7-2.

VALPARAISO CRUSADERS (16-15)

- Valparaiso joins the Horizon League after a 25-year run in The Summit League (formerly Mid-Continent Conference), including seven trips to the NCAA Tournament under head coach **Homer Drew**.
- Sophomore guard **Samuel Haanpaa** (12.0 ppg) knocked down 75 three-pointers on 46 percent accuracy (12th nationally), while junior guard **Brandon McPherson** (11.3 ppg, 3.3 apg) also returns.
- Up front, junior forward **Urule Igbavboa** (11.6 ppg, 7.5 rpg) -- a second-team All-Mid-Con choice -- hit 56.3 percent of his field goals and had 10 double-doubles.
- The Crusaders lost an 89-80 decision at Western Michigan in the 2007 *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series.

WRIGHT STATE RAIDERS (23-10)

- In 2006-07, **Wright State** won 18 of its final 22 games to set the school's Division I single-season record for victories. The Raiders defeated Butler, 60-55, in the Horizon League championship to advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1993.
- Sophomore guards **Vaughn Duggins** (9.0 ppg, 2.5 apg) and **Todd Brown** (8.6 ppg) lead the list of returnees.
- Senior forward **Jordan Pleiman** (7.3 ppg, 5.4 rpg) shot nearly 57 percent from the field.
- Wright State has victories in the last three *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters*, defeating Northern Illinois (72-66 in 2005), Bowling Green State (70-51 in 2006) and Cal State Fullerton (77-62 in 2007).

YOUNGSTOWN STATE PENGUINS (14-17)

- **Youngstown State** posted its best record in six years as a Horizon League member, but faces an uphill battle after the graduation of its top two scorers.
- Head coach **Jerry Slocum**, who recorded his 600th career victory in 2007, enters his 33rd season as a collegiate coach.
- Senior guard **Byron Davis** (8.6 ppg, 3.87 apg) finished fifth in the league for assists.

- The Penguins feature the frontcourt tandem of senior **John Barber** and junior **Jack Liles** (6.4 rpg, 1.16 bpg), who each averaged more than seven points per game in 2006-07.
- YSU edged Eastern Kentucky, 66-61, in the 2007 *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event.

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

CANISIUS GOLDEN GRIFFINS (12-19)

- Head coach **Tom Parrotta** begins his second season at **Canisius**, after a five-year stint at Hofstra, including a final campaign as associate head coach.
- Sophomore guard **Frank Turner** (11.9 ppg, 5.4 apg, 4.6 rpg) is the Griffs' top returning and was selected 2006-07 MAAC Co-Rookie of the Year.
- Forward **Pawel Malesa** (6.3 ppg) is the lone senior on the Golden Griffin roster.
- The Griffs have seven newcomers for the 2007-08 season: 6-6 freshman forward **Rishawn Johnson**, 5-10 junior guard **Willie Hassell**, 6-4 freshman guard **Julius Coles**, 6-5 freshman forward **Elton Frazier**, 6-0 freshman guard **Rob Goldsberry**, 6-7 freshman forward **Greg Logins** and 6-6 freshman forward **Tomas Vazquez-Simmons**.

FAIRFIELD STAGS (13-19)

- **Ed Cooley** enters his second season as head coach at **Fairfield**. Prior to joining the Stags, he spent nine campaigns as an assistant coach at Boston College.
- Four starters return for the 2007-08 season -- 6-7 sophomore forward **Greg Nero** (15.4 ppg, 3.9 rpg), 6-8 sophomore forward **Anthony Johnson** (8.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg), 6-0 junior guard **Jonathan Han** (7.7 ppg, 4.5 apg) and 6-4 sophomore guard **Devin Johnson** (2.6 ppg, 2.2 rpg).
- A member of the 2006-07 MAAC All-Rookie Team, Nero is the Stags' top returning scorer and rebounder.
- The Stags have three newcomers -- 6-5 freshman guard **Warren Edney**, 6-6 freshman forward **Yorel Hawkins** and 6-2 freshman guard **Lyndon Jordan**.

IONA GAELS (2-28)

- After serving the last six seasons as an assistant and associate head coach at Louisville, **Kevin Willard** became the 11th head coach in **Iona** history in April.

- Former Seton Hall standout **Shaheen Holloway** also joined the Gaels staff as an assistant coach for the Maroon and Gold.
- Junior forward/center **Gary Springer** (5.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg in 2005-06) returns to the hardwood after sitting out last season with a knee injury.
- Iona welcome a couple of newcomers -- 6-3 freshman guard **Rashon Dwight** and 6-2 freshman guard **Andre Tarver**.
- The Gaels have added two Big East Conference transfers -- former Louisville forward **Jonathan Huffman** and former Seton Hall guard **Kashif Pratt** -- who will be eligible for the 2008-09 campaign.

LOYOLA GREYHOUNDS (18-13)

- **Jimmy Patsos** enters his fourth season as head coach at **Loyola**, compiling an overall record of 39-48 (.448) and an MAAC slate of 25-29 (.462).
- The Greyhounds return four starters, including senior guard **Gerald Brown** (22.2 ppg) -- a first-team All-MAAC selection who led the league in scoring.
- Junior guard **Marquis Sullivan** (13.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg) was a third-team All-MAAC choice.
- Senior forward **Omari Israel** (9.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg), sophomore guard **Brett Harvey** (7.4 ppg, 4.2 apg, 2.5 rpg) and senior center **Hassan Fofana** (3.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg) also return for Loyola.
- The Greyhounds add five newcomers -- 6-3 sophomore guard **Jamal Barney**, 6-2 freshman guard **Tony Lewis**, 6-0 junior guard **Joe Miles**, 6-5 freshman forward **Isaac Reid** and 5-11 freshman guard **Brian Rudolph**.

MANHATTAN JASPERS (13-17)

- In his second season at **Manhattan**, **Barry Rohrssen** was named the 22nd head coach for the Jaspers after spending seven seasons as assistant coach at Pittsburgh, including the two campaigns as associate head coach under head coach Jamie Dixon.
- Senior forward/center **Arturo Dubois** (12.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg) was a second-team All-MAAC choice in 2006-07.
- Junior forward **Devon Austin** (12.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg) earned third-team All-MAAC honors last season.

- Sophomore guard **Antoine Pearson** (9.5 ppg, 2.3 apg) was selected for the 2006-07 MAAC All-Rookie Team, while fellow sophomore guards **Darryl Crawford** (9.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg) and **Patrick Bouli** (6.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg) also return.

MARIST RED FOXES (25-9)

- **Matt Brady** starts his fourth season as head coach at **Marist** with an overall slate of 55-36 (.604) and an MAAC mark of 34-20 (.630).
- Senior forward/center **Ryan Stilphen** (10.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg) is the Red Foxes' returning leading scorer.
- Senior forward/center **Wilfred Benjamin** (5.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg) and senior guard/forward **Ben Farmer** (5.7 ppg, 3.5 rpg) also return for Marist.
- The Red Foxes welcome three freshmen -- 6-1 guard **Jeremiah Bowman**, 6-1 guard **Jayde Gavin** and 6-9 forward **Korey Bauer**.

NIAGARA PURPLE EAGLES (23-12)

- Head coach **Joe Mihalich** owns an overall mark of 160-113 (.586) and an MAAC record of 114-72 (.613) in eight seasons at **Niagara**.
- Senior guard **Charron Fisher** (20.6 ppg, 8.0 rpg) was a first-team All-MAAC selection and led the Purple Eagles to their third trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2006-07.
- Sophomore guard **Tyrone Lewis** (12.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg) was named to the 2006-07 MAAC All-Rookie Team.
- Niagara also returns back 6-1 senior guard **Stanley Hodge** (4.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg) and 6-5 sophomore guard **Andrew Patterson** (1.9 ppg, 0.9 rpg).

RIDER BRONCS (16-15)

- **Tommy Dempsey** begins his third season as the head coach at **Rider** with an overall slate of 24-35 (.407) and an MAAC mark of 13-23 (.361).
- Senior forward **Jason Thompson** (20.1 ppg, 10.0 rpg) led the Broncs in scoring and the league in rebounding while earning first-team All-MAAC honors.
- Three additional Broncs starters return -- junior guard **Harris Mansell** (12.4 ppg, 4.7 rpg), sophomore guard **Ryan Thompson** (8.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg) and junior guard **Lamar Johnson** (6.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg).

- Rider also welcomes three incoming freshmen -- 6-2 guard **Justin Robinson**, 5-10 guard **Matt Griffin** and 6-6 forward **Mike Ringgold**.

SAINT PETER'S PEACOCKS (5-25)

- **John Dunne** starts his second season as the head coach at **Saint Peter's**. He previously served as an assistant coach for 12 campaigns, including five years at Seton Hall.
- Senior forward **Todd Sowell** (13.0 ppg, 8.5 rpg) nearly averaged a double-double for the 2006-07 campaign, senior guard **Raul Orta** (13.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg) is the Peacocks' returning leading scorer.
- Junior guard **Kevin Spann** (11.6 ppg, 3.5 apg), sophomore guard/forward **Akeem Gooding** (10.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg) and senior guard **Tim Spittler** (4.5 ppg, 4.1 rpg) also return.

SIENA SAINTS (20-12)

- **Fran McCaffery** enters his third season as head coach at **Siena** with an overall record of 35-25 (.583) and an MAAC mark of 22-14 (.611).
- Leading the Saints will be 6-3 junior guard **Kenny Hasbrouck** (16.0 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.6 apg) -- a second-team All-MAAC selection in 2006-07.
- Sophomore guard/forward **Edwin Ublies** (11.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.3 apg) returns after earning 2006-07 MAAC Co-Rookie of the Year laurels.
- Siena welcomes four freshmen -- 6-8 forward **Ryan Rossiter**, 5-10 guard **Chris De la Rosa**, 6-7 forward **James Carr** and 6-4 guard **Clarence Jackson**.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

AKRON ZIPS (26-7)

- In 2006-07, **Akron** claimed its first MAC East Division championship since 1998 and fell to Miami (Ohio), 53-52, on a three-point, buzzer-beater in the league tournament title game.
- The Zips tied a school record for single-season victories, posted their second-straight 20-win campaign and received votes in the final basketball polls.
- Akron also compiled a 13-1 record at home, falling only to top 25 ranked Nevada, 73-71, on Dec. 22.

BALL STATE CARDINALS (9-22)

- **Ball State's** 70-61 victory versus Northern Illinois on Jan. 16, 2007, enabled the Cardinals to reach the 700-win plateau in home games.
- The Cardinals own an all-time record of 170-53 at Worthen Arena for a .762 winning percentage.
- While **Peyton Stovall** has moved into the career top 10 for three-point field goals with 122, **Skip Mills** continues to climb the Ball State list, hitting 30 treys in 2006-07 to up his total to 135 and move into fifth place on that chart.

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS (13-18)

- A new chapter in the history of **Bowling Green State** men's basketball begins in 2007-08, as **Louis Orr** was named the 15th head coach in the history of the program in April of 2007.
- The 2003 Big East Conference of the Year, Orr had previously compiled an 80-69 record in five seasons at Seton Hall (2001-2006).
- A total of 10 letterwinners return from the 2006-07 unit, including **Nate Miller** (14.1 ppg, 7.7 rpg), **Ryne Hamblet** (10.4 ppg, 4.2 apg, 1.7 spg) and **Erik Marschall** (9.1 ppg).

BUFFALO BULLS (12-19)

- For the second-straight season, **Buffalo** will be looking to replace its top four scorers from the previous campaign.
- The Bulls return three starters -- **Andy Robinson** (10.3 ppg), **Byron Mulkey** (9.3 ppg) and **Greg Gamble** (6.2 ppg).
- Robinson increased his scoring average from 2.6 ppg as a freshman to over 10 points in 2006-07, averaging 20.7 points over the final four games of the season.
- Sophomore **Sean Smiley**, who missed all but two games last season with an injury, is healthy and ready to return for the 2007-08 season.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS (13-18)

- Under the direction of head coach **Ernie Zeigler**, **Central Michigan** tied for the nation's 17th-best turnaround. CMU also went 7-9 in league games under Zeigler after winning just one contest the previous year.

- Senior guard **Giordan Watson** (18.8 ppg, 4.16 apg) finished second in the MAC for scoring and sixth for assists while earning first-team All-MAC honors. He enters his final season with 1,255 career points -- 12th on the all-time CMU list.
- The Chippewas' field goal percentage defense was improved a year ago, and CMU was 10-2 when holding foes under 45 percent from the floor.
- Central Michigan also led the MAC in free throw percentage (.725), and Watson paced the squad with a team-best 82.5 clip.

EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES (13-19)

- Senior guard **Travis Lewis** (2.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.7 apg) is a starting wide receiver on the **Eastern Michigan** football team, and, for the past two seasons, has not joined the hoops squad until his gridiron duties are fulfilled.
- The Eagles made the most of the three-point arc in 2006-07, leading the Mid-American Conference in treys made per game (7.53) and finishing fourth in three-point percentage (.359).
- The Eagles' men's basketball coaching staff has a strong Eastern Michigan University presence, as head coach **Charles E. Ramsey** is a 1992 EMU grad and assistant coach **Carl Thomas** finished his undergraduate degree in 1991. Director of Basketball Operations **Rich Marion** completed his bachelor's degree in 1996.

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES (21-11)

- **Kent State** is one of just nine Division I programs to win at least 20 games in each of the last nine seasons and just one of seven teams to post at least 10 league wins during that same span.
- Since the start of the 1998-99 season, the Golden Flashes have a 210-82 record and are 14th nationally over that period with a .719 winning percentage.
- Kent State returns all five starters from a team that closed the 2006-07 regular season, winning 12 of its final 15 games.
- During the stretch, the defense was key as they held opponents to 60.7 points per game and 41.2 field goal shooting.

MIAMI REDHAWKS (18-15)

- After winning the MAC Tournament title by defeating the No. 5, No. 1 and No. 2 seeds, fourth-seeded Miami (Ohio) earned an automatic bid to make the program's 17th NCAA Tournament appearance in 2007.
- In what may be the most thrilling victory in Miami history, senior guard **Doug Penno** banked the game-winning three-pointer with under a second remaining in the 2007 MAC Tournament title game.
- The RedHawks were the only team in all of Division I not to allow 70 or more points in a single game in 2006-07. The most points allowed was 69 points to Ohio in an overtime win for the 'Hawks.
- With 175 career MAC wins in 17 seasons as a head coach in the league, Miami head coach **Charlie Coles** is just one victory shy of tying former Ohio head coach Jim Snyder for second in career MAC triumphs.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES (7-23)

- Former University of Colorado boss **Ricardo Patton** becomes the 26th head men's basketball coach at **Northern Illinois**.
- Senior point guard **Ryan Paradise** (10.1 ppg) is the NIU's leading returning scorer and shot 42.5 percent from three-point range in 2006-07.
- Junior college forwards **Najul Ervin** and **Sean Smith** were Patton's first signees as the Huskie head coach.

OHIO BOBCATS (19-13)

- Head coach **Tim O'Shea** will have to replace two starters and 40 percent of **Ohio's** scoring from last year's squad, but will have All-MAC performers **Jerome Tillman** and **Leon Williams** returning.
- O'Shea, who is entering his seventh season at Ohio, has led the 'Cats to 59 wins in the last three seasons and is just eight wins shy of passing former OU coach Danny Nee on the school's all-time victory list.
- All told, the Bobcats will have eight new faces available to put on the court for the coming season. Ohio will have the services of Murray State transfer **Justin Orr** along with three junior college transfers and four prep recruits.

TOLEDO ROCKETS (19-13)

- The 2006-07 MAC Coach of the Year, **Stan Joplin** is in second place on Toledo's all-time coaching win list with a 192-136 (.585) mark.
- UT has posted a MAC-best 46-5 (.902) record at home since the start of the 2003-04 campaign. Toledo has a 119-27 (.815) win-loss mark at Savage Hall in 11 seasons under Coach Joplin.
- The Rockets have two starters and six letterwinners returning from 2006-07, including MAC Defensive Player of the Year **Kashif Payne** (7.6 ppg, 4.2 apg, 1.1 spg).
- Sophomore guards **Jonathan Amos** (6.1 ppg), **Ridley Johnson** (3.9 ppg) and **Tyrone Kent** (5.7 ppg) also return in the backcourt.

WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS (16-16)

- **Western Michigan** returns 13 letterwinners, including every player who started a game in 2006-07.
- The Broncos are led by first-team Academic All-American and second-team All-MAC center **Joe Reitz**, honorable mention All-MAC guard **Shawntes Gary** and MAC Freshman of the Year guard **David Kool** headline the returnees.
- Reitz has a chance to become the all-time leading scorer at WMU, standing ninth with 1,234 career points and in striking distance of Manny Newsome's total of 1,786. He is also on pace to break the school record for career free throws made and attempted.
- WMU returns the 2006-07 MAC leaders for assists (**Michael Redell**), free throw shooting (Kool) and three-point accuracy (**Derek Drews**).

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

BRADLEY BRAVES (22-13)

- **Jim Les** begins his sixth year as a collegiate head coach and has a 84-73 record at **Bradley**.
- Under Les, the Braves have recorded back-to-back 22-win seasons and consecutive postseason appearances, reaching the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in 2006 and the second round of the NIT in 2007.

- The Braves lost three starters, but return the top two returning scoring leaders in the Missouri Valley Conference in seniors **Jeremy Crouch** (13.8 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 2.3 apg, 50 3FG%) and **Daniel Ruffin** (13.8 ppg, 5.3 apg, 2.0 spg).
- Senior forward **Matt Salley** (7.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg) is Bradley's top returning rebounder.
- Bradley owns a 3-1 record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* pool, having defeated Northern Illinois (76-67 in 2004), Tennessee Tech (77-62 in 2006) and VCU (73-64 in 2007).

CREIGHTON BLUEJAYS (22-11)

- **Creighton** is one of nine teams -- Arizona, Duke, Florida, Gonzaga, Kansas, Kent State, Kentucky and Syracuse are the others -- nationally with nine-straight 20-win seasons.
- The Bluejays are the only school in the 101-year history of the Missouri Valley Conference to post nine-consecutive 20-win campaigns -- no other MVC member owns more than six straight.
- The Jays return senior forward **Dane Watts** (9.9 ppg, 6.4 rpg) and junior point guard **Josh Dotzler** (2.2 ppg, 2.0 apg, 1.0 spg).
- Creighton head coach **Dana Altman** enters the 2007-08 season with 260 wins at CU in 13 campaigns. That ranks third all-time among MVC coaches, trailing only league Hall of Famer Henry Iba of Oklahoma State and Eddie Hickey of Creighton and Saint Louis.
- CU, which has made either the NIT or NCAA Tournament in 10-consecutive seasons, owns a 3-2 record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series.

DRAKE BULLDOGS (17-15)

- **Keno Davis** was named Drake's 24th head basketball coach, succeeding his father -- Dr. Tom Davis -- who retired following the 2006-07 campaign.
- The Dogs enjoyed their first winning season in 20 years in 2006-07, posting 17 wins against a schedule that featured 13 games against NCAA Tourney teams.
- Sophomore guard **Josh Young** (10.7 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 2.5 apg) -- an MVC All-Freshman and All-Newcomer selection -- led all Valley freshmen in scoring.

- Senior forward **Klayton Korver** (9.3 ppg, 3.4 rpg) enters his final season fourth on the all-time Bulldog list for career three-pointers (153).
- Drake has a 3-1 all-time record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, including an 84-76 victory against Milwaukee in 2007.

EVANSVILLE PURPLE ACES (14-17)

- Former **Evansville** standout and assistant coach **Marty Simmons** returns to his alma mater to guide the UE program. Serving as head coach at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville for the past five seasons, he had an 88-59 record and two trips to the NCAA Division II Tourney.
- Simmons will try to turn things around for the Purple Aces, who graduated three 1,000-point scorers -- Matt Webster (1,451), Bradley Strickland (1,068) and Kyle Anslinger (1,045).
- Junior guard **Jason Holsinger** (11.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 5.1 apg) ranked among league leaders for assist-to-turnover ratio (2.57 -- third), three-pointers per game (2.8 -- fourth), assists (fifth) and three-point shooting (43.7 -- sixth).
- Six newcomers join the 2007-08 squad, including 6-11 freshman center **Pieter van Tongeren**, 6-0 freshman guard **Kavon Lacey** and 6-5 junior guard/forward **Nate Garner**.
- Evansville has a 1-3 record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, breaking into the win column with a 69-65 triumph at Samford in 2007.

ILLINOIS STATE REDBIRDS (15-16)

- Head coach **Tim Jankovich** begins his first season at **Illinois State** with four starters and 10 lettermen returning from 2006-07.
- The guard trio of sophomore **Osiris Eldridge** (9.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.2 apg) and seniors **Boo Richardson** (9.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 4.9 apg) and **Dominatrix Johnson** (8.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 3.2 apg) should be one of the league's best.
- Eldridge was the Missouri Valley Conference's Freshman of the Year, while Richardson and senior forward **Anthony Slack** (9.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg) were members of the All-Newcomer Team.

- Illinois State has a 4-1 all-time record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, including a 70-57 victory versus Ball State in 2007.

INDIANA STATE SYCAMORES (13-18)

- Long-time Creighton assistant **Kevin McKenna** begins his first season as head coach at **Indiana State**. He inherits an ISU squad with four returning starters.
- Senior guard **Gabriel Moore** (11.5 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.7 spg) anchors a starting unit that also includes junior forward **Jay Tunnell** (9.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg) and sophomore guards **Marico Stinson** (9.4 ppg, 2.4 rpg) and **Cole Holmstrom** (9.2 ppg, 2.0 rpg).
- In a game versus Drake in 2007, Stinson (nine) and Holmstrom (five) combined to connect for 14 three-pointers, as the Sycamores finished the game 14-for-17 from three-point range.
- ISU handed Butler its first loss of the 2006-07 campaign, when the Sycamores defeated the 14th-ranked Bulldogs, 72-64, at the Hulman Center.
- The Sycamores saw their record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series fall to 1-2, when ISU dropped a 70-58 decision to Miami (Ohio) in 2007.

MISSOURI STATE BEARS (22-11)

- Now in his ninth season at **Missouri State**, head coach **Barry Hinson** has a 152-101 record and led the Bears to three consecutive NIT appearances.
- MSU returns senior center **Drew Richards** (7.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg) and senior guard **Spencer Laurie** (5.9 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 4.7 apg) -- the 2007 MVC Newcomer of the Year.
- The Bears also boast junior guard **Shane Laurie** (3.2 ppg, 1.5 rpg) and senior forwards **Dale Lamberth** (7.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg) and **Deven Mitchell** (10.9 ppg, 5.0 rpg) -- the 2007 MVC Sixth Man of the Year.
- MSU had its record in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series slip to 1-3, when the Bears fell to Winthrop, 77-66, in 2007.

UNI PANTHERS (18-13)

- **Ben Jacobson** guided **UNI** to 18 victories -- the second-best total by a first-year Panther head coach -- including a season sweep of Iowa and Iowa State.

- The Panthers were selected to represent the United States of America at the World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand, in August of 2007. UNI became the first college team to don the red, white and blue in international competition.
- UNI features senior guard **Jared Josten** (7.8 ppg, 0.7 rpg), junior guard **Travis Brown** (7.9 ppg, 1.9 rpg) and senior center **Eric Coleman** (13.1 ppg, 9.1 rpg) -- second-team All-MVC choice.
- The Panthers also return senior guard **Adam Viet** (4.8 ppg, 0.7 rpg), 7-1 sophomore center **Jordan Eglseder** (3.6 ppg, 2.1 rpg) and sophomore forward **Adam Koch** (2.8 ppg, 2.2 rpg).
- UNI sustained its first loss in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event in 2007, losing at 11th-ranked Nevada, 79-64, to slip to 4-1 in the series.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS (29-7)

- In his fourth season at **Southern Illinois**, **Chris Lowery** holds a record of 78-26. A 1995 SIU grad, he is one of just two coaches in league history to lead his alma mater into the NCAA Tournament as both a player and a coach.
- In the midst of a league-best Big Dance appearance streak, the Salukis have participated in six-straight NCAA Tournaments.
- Southern Illinois has compiled a 79-3 record at the SIU Arena over the past six seasons -- the nation's best homecourt winning percentage over that span.
- Senior forwards **Randal Falker** (12.3 ppg, 7.7 rpg) and **Matt Shaw** (11.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg) anchor the Salukis' frontcourt, while junior guard **Bryan Mullins** (6.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg) handles the point.
- The Salukis' top reserves include junior guard **Wesley Clemmons** (3.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg), junior forward **Tony Boyle** (2.6 ppg, 1.7 rpg) and sophomore guard **Josh Bone** (2.0 ppg).
- The Salukis are 4-1 in their previous *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* games, including a 68-64 victory at 12th-ranked Butler during the 2007 series.

WICHITA STATE SHOCKERS (17-14)

- Head coach **Gregg Marshall** takes over the **Wichita State** controls, after compiling a nine-year record of 194-83 at Winthrop.

- The Shockers, who have qualified for postseason play in four of the last five seasons, return senior forward **PJ Couisnard** (11.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg) and senior point guard **Matt Braeuer** (6.1 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 3.8 apg).
- Wichita State, which had 17 sellouts for an average attendance of 10,478 in 2006-07, also returns senior forward **Phillip Thomasson** (6.1 ppg, 3.7 rpg), sophomore guard **Gal Mekel** (4.0 ppg, 1.1 rpg) and junior guard **Wendell Preadom** (2.4 ppg, 1.9 rpg).
- The Shockers have seven newcomers, including redshirt freshmen **Arbry Butler** and **JT Durley** and junior college transfers **Ejike Hart**, **Ramon Clemente** and **Mantas Griskenas**.
- WSU is 1-3 in its previous *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* games, including a 60-58 loss to Appalachian State during the 2007 series.

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

AUSTIN PEAY GOVERNORS (21-12)

- **Austin Peay** captured its seventh overall regular-season OVC title -- winning 16 league games in the process -- but lost in the tourney championship tilt and fell to Air Force in the first round of the NIT.
- The Gobs return all five starters, including junior forward **Drake Reed** (15.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg) -- the 2007 OVC Player of the Year.
- Other APSU returnees include senior forward **Fernandez Lockett** (11.9 ppg, 7.9 rpg) and senior guard **Todd Babington** (9.2 ppg, 1.8 rpg).
- **Dave Loos** -- the only administrator at the Division I level to hold both the athletics director and head men's basketball coach titles -- is in his 18th season and owns a school-best 271 wins at the APSU helm.
- The Governors will be appearing in their fifth *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event -- the most by any OVC school -- and have a 1-3 mark in the series, losing at Akron, 74-57, in 2007.

EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS (10-20)

- Head coach **Mike Miller** enters his third season at the **Eastern Illinois** controls. He has all 11 players returning from last year's squad and has a starting line-up that includes just one senior.

- The Panthers' top returnee is sophomore guard **Romain Martin** (14.8 ppg) -- the 2007 OVC Co-Freshman of the Year. He was just one of 23 freshmen nationally to lead their team in scoring.
- Also returning are senior forward **Bobby Catchings** (10.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg) and junior guard **Mike Robinson** (10.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.6 apg).
- Eastern Illinois is 0-2 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, losing at Loyola of Chicago, 66-43, in 2007.

EASTERN KENTUCKY COLONELS (21-12)

- **Eastern Kentucky** closed last season winning 11 of its final 14 games, including a dramatic 63-62 triumph versus Austin Peay State in the OVC Tournament final.
- Head coach **Jeff Neubauer** is the youngest head men's basketball coach in the OVC at 36 years of age. He has posted 34 victories in his two seasons at EKU.
- The Colonels return three starters, including 2007 OVC Co-Freshman of the Year **Adam Leonard** (12.5 ppg, 104 3FG), junior guard **Mike Rose** (15.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg) and senior forward **Darnell Dials** (8.7 ppg, 4.1 rpg).
- Eastern Kentucky is 0-2 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, losing at Youngstown State, 66-61, in 2007.

JACKSONVILLE STATE GAMECOCKS (9-21)

- In his eighth season as head coach at **Jacksonville State**, **Mike LaPlante** has been a part of coaching staffs at each of his Division I coaching stops (Yale, Maine, Auburn and JSU) that have set records for most wins at their respective schools.
- The Gamecocks have five talented newcomers to compliment returning players **Will Ginn** (9.3 ppg, 4.1 apg) and **DeAndre Bay** (2.3 ppg, 5.2 apg).
- JSU is 367-93 (.798) in the 33-year history of Pete Mathews Coliseum, including a 49-21 slate in the last five seasons.
- The Gamecocks are 1-1 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, defeating New Orleans in 2006 and losing to Chattanooga in 2007.

MOREHEAD STATE EAGLES (12-18)

- After winning just four games in 2005-06, **Morehead State** turned it around under first-year head coach and MSU alum **Donnie Tyndall**.

- The Eagles returnees include sophomore guard **Maze Stallworth** (7.2 ppg, 3.7 rpg), junior guard **Cordaryl Ballard** (9.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg) and senior point guard **Nic Stojakovic** (4.0 ppg, 4.2 apg).
- Morehead State is 0-2 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, falling at Central Michigan in 2006 and at home to Bowling Green State in 2007.

MURRAY STATE RAGERS (16-14)

- Head coach **Billy Kennedy** enters his second season with the **Murray State** program and hopes to build on a streak that saw the Racers win eight of their final 11 games in 2006-07.
- MSU has made an OVC-record 19 postseason appearances, with eight of those trips (seven NCAA and one NIT) in the last 13 seasons.
- The Racers return senior guard **Bruce Carter** (12.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg) -- an OVC All-Newcomer selection -- and junior guard **Tyler Holloway** (10.6 ppg, 55 3FG).
- Murray State is appearing in its fourth *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, boasting a 3-0 record with wins over Rice (69-63 in 2005), Illinois-Chicago (72-68 in 2006) and Rider (58-51 in 2007).

SAMFORD BULLDOGS (16-16)

- Head coach **Jimmy Tillette** -- the winningest coach in Samford history with 165 wins in 10 previous seasons -- is the only Bulldog coach to pace the school to back-to-back 20-win seasons and two NCAA Tournament appearances.
- Samford returns three starters from last season, including senior center **Travis Peterson** (11.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg), senior guard **Joe Ross Merritt** (8.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg) and senior guard **Curtis West** (6.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg).
- Samford, which joined the OVC for the 2003-04 campaign, will become a part of the Southern Conference with the 2008-09 season.
- The Bulldogs are 0-2 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, dropping a 69-65 decision at home to Evansville in 2007.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE REDHAWKS (11-20)

- Head coach **Scott Edgar**, who won over 100 games and OVC Coach of the Year honors at Murray State, is in his second season at **Southeast Missouri State**.

- The Redhawks return four starters, including senior forward **Brandon Foust** (12.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg) -- an OVC All-Newcomer choice.
- SEMO also features senior center **Michael Rembert** (9.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg) and sophomore guard **Roderick Pearson** (8.0 ppg, 2.1 rpg).
- The Redhawks are 0-2 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, falling to UC Riverside in 2006 and Louisiana Tech in 2007.

TENNESSEE-MARTIN SKYHAWKS (8-23)

- Head coach **Bret Campbell** enters his ninth season at Tennessee-Martin. He is currently the second-longest tenured coach in the OVC and ranks second in wins -- behind Austin Peay's Dave Loos in both areas.
- The Skyhawks witness the departure of seven seniors, but return senior forward **Gerald Robinson** (12.9 ppg, 6.1 rpg), who led the team in scoring and rebounding a year ago.
- UTM is one of two OVC teams to be undefeated in *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* action, as the 'Hawks topped Evansville, 69-62, in 2006 and Saint Peter's, 59-58, in 2007.

TENNESSEE STATE TIGERS (12-20)

- Head coach **Cy Alexander**, who was recently named to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Academic Enhancement Group, enters his fifth season at Tennessee State.
- Alexander welcomes back senior guard **Bruce Price** (19.3 ppg) who missed all of last season with an injury.
- The Tigers also return senior **Ladarious Weaver** (13.7 ppg, 93 3FG), senior point guard **Reiley Ervin** (9.6 ppg, 4.1 apg) and senior forward **Jerrell Houston** (9.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg).
- TSU is 1-1 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series, winning 70-69 at Ball State in 2006 and losing at home to Loyola of Maryland, 62-60, in 2007.

TENNESSEE TECH GOLDEN EAGLES (19-13)

- Head coach **Mike Sutton** -- recipient of the 2005-06 USBWA's Most Courageous Award -- is in his sixth season at Tennessee Tech, having won 89 games.

- The Golden Eagles return senior guard **Anthony Fisher** (17.2 ppg, 4.3 apg) -- a first-team All-OVC selection -- and senior forward **Amadi McKenzie** (13.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg) -- a second-team All-OVC choice.
- TTU has made a total of four postseason appearances, most recently in the 2002 NIT. The Golden Eagles topped Georgia State, Dayton and Yale, before falling to Memphis in the quarterfinals.
- Tennessee Tech is 1-1 in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* event, losing at Bradley in 2006 and posting a thrilling 85-84 overtime win versus Northwestern State in 2007.

PATRIOT LEAGUE

BUCKNELL BISON (22-9)

- Entering his 14th season at Bucknell, Bison alum **Pat Flannery** has a record of 222-159 and two NCAA Tournament appearances.
- The Bison have won a Patriot League-best 73 games during the past three campaigns and own a Patriot regular-season mark of 38-4 -- the best three-year run in league history.
- Senior guard **John Griffin** (10.5 ppg, 3.1 apg) is the Bison's leading returning scorer, while senior forward **Darren Mastropaolo** (6.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg) is the top returning rebounder. Junior guard **Jason Vegotsky** (7.4 ppg, 38.4 3FG%) is another key returnee.
- Bucknell has split its previous two *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* games, losing at UNI, 65-61 in double overtime, in 2006 and defeating Towson, 73-63, in 2007.

HOLY CROSS CRUSADERS (25-9)

- Entering his ninth season, Holy Cross alum **Ralph Willard** owns a record of 159-89 and has powered the Crusaders to four NCAA Tournament and an NIT appearance.
- Senior center **Tim Clifford** (11.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.9 bpg) -- second-team All-Patriot League honors -- and junior forward **Alex Vander Baan** (6.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg) headline the Crusaders frontcourt, while guard **Pat Doherty** (5.3 ppg, 2.2 apg) is the top returning guard.
- Sophomore forward **Eric Meister** (3.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg) was named to the Patriot League All-Rookie squad a year ago.

- Holy Cross made its *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* debut in 2007, losing a heart-breaking 65-64 setback at Hofstra.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS (25-8)

- **Appalachian State** compiled school-record totals for overall victories and SoCon triumphs (15), while collecting the program's third postseason appearance and first in the NIT.
- The Mountaineers claimed the 2006 San Juan Shootout championship with consecutive wins against Virginia, UCF and Vanderbilt.
- ASU graduated its back court, but the front court features seniors **Donte Minter** (11.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg) and **Jeremy Clayton** (10.1 ppg, 7.1 rpg).
- Appalachian State made its first appearance in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series in 2007, when the Mountaineers posted a last-second, 60-58 victory at Wichita State.

DAVIDSON WILDCATS (29-5)

- **Davidson** posted its third-straight, 20-win season under head coach **Bob McKillop** while earning SoCon regular-season and tournament championships.
- Victorious in 25 of its last 27 contests, Davidson established a SoCon record with 17 league triumphs and set 14 schools record in 2006-07.
- Sophomore guard **Stephen Curry** (21.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 40.8 3FG%) -- the 2006-07 SoCon Rookie of the Year -- ranked ninth nationally in scoring and set the NCAA single-season freshman mark for three-point field goals (122).
- Senior guard **Jason Richards** (13.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 7.3 apg) -- second-team All-SoCon selection -- ranked second nationally for assists (249) and assists per game.

ELON PHOENIX (7-23)

- Head coach **Ernie Nestor** is in his fifth season at the helm of **Elon** and led the program to the 2005-06 Southern Conference North Division title and took home SoCon Coach of the Year honors that season.

- The Phoenix welcome back senior point guard **Montell Watson** (9.7 ppg, 2.7 apg in 2005-06), who missed the 2006-07 campaign with a foot injury.
- In fact, Elon's roster boasts only two seniors -- Watson and **Brian Waters** (5.1 ppg, 3.1 apg in 2006-07).
- Despite a 3-9 mark at home last campaign, the Phoenix is typically tough to beat at the "Nest," where it sports a 61-39 record since moving to NCAA Division I play for the 1999-00 season.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES (15-16)

- Head coach **Jeff Price** enters the 2007-08 campaign as the third-winningest coach in school history with 137 triumphs at **Georgia Southern**.
- Senior forward **Louis Graham** (14.5 ppg, 8.2 rpg) is the school's all-time leader in blocked shots (153) and became the 18th player in Eagles' history to score score 1,000 career points in 2006-07.
- Senior point guard **Dwayne Foreman** (6.1 apg) ranked eighth nationally for assists per game and his 176 assists last season were the most by a GSU player since 2001-02.
- The Eagle last participated in the *O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters* series in 2005, losing at Illinois-Chicago, 92-83.

THE SUMMIT LEAGUE

ORAL ROBERTS GOLDEN EAGLES (23-11)

- **Oral Roberts** is coming off back-to-back trips to the NCAA Tournament (2006 and 2007) for the first time in school history.
- Head coach **Scott Sutton** enters the 2007-08 season six wins shy of 150 career wins -- all at ORU.
- The Golden Eagles, who have 69 wins over the last three campaigns, have captured three-straight Summit League regular-season titles.
- **Jonathan Dunn, Tim Morton, Clement N'Gom, Andre Hardy** and **Kyron Stokes** give ORU five scholarship freshmen for the first time since the 2000-01 campaign.

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

SAINT MARY'S GAELS (17-15)

- Head coach **Randy Bennett** enters his seventh season at Saint Mary's and now stands just eight wins (102-93) away from tying for the school's all-time coaching victory total.
- Junior forward **Diamon Simpson** (14.1 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 2.47 bpg) received first-team All-WCC honors. He ended the season with a conference-high 79 blocked shots and upped his career total to 124.
- Sophomore center **Omar Samhan** (9.2 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1.44 bpg) led all WCC freshmen in scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage (53.2) and blocked shots (47). His deflection total set a school record.
- Junior guard **Wayne Hunter** (8.8 ppg) and senior guard **Todd Golden** (3.19 apg) return in the backcourt.

WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BOISE STATE BRONCOS (17-14)

- **Greg Graham**, who has 101 career wins, can become just the third coach in **Boise State** history to compile 100 victories with the Broncos if BSU posts 17 triumphs in 2007-08.
- Boise State boasts two of the league's five top returning scorers and the WAC's top two returning rebounders in **Reggie Larry** (14.1 ppg, 8.1 rpg) and **Matt Nelson** (13.5, 8.9 rpg).
- Nelson also led the Western Athletic Conference in field goal percentage (57.8).
- Sophomore guard **Anthony Thomas** was the 2006-07 WAC Freshman of the Year.

FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS (22-10)

- **Fresno State**, which returns three starters and eight letterwinners, made its first trip to the postseason since 2002, when the Bulldogs competed in the NIT.
- It took head coach **Steve Cleveland**, who guided the Bulldogs to their best record since 1995-96, just one season to take Fresno State back to postseason play.
- The Bulldogs return one of the top point guards in the WAC in senior **Kevin Bell** (5.5 apg), who led the league in assists for a second-straight year and ranked 27th nationally for assists per game.

- Senior **Hector Hernandez** returns as one of the top international players in the WAC. This summer, he competed in the Pan Am Games and the FIBA World Championships with the Mexican National Team.
- Senior **Rekalin Sims** (Kentucky) and sophomore **Bryan Harvey** (Louisville) will be eligible to play for the Bulldogs after sitting out the 2006-07 season.

HAWAI'I RAINBOW WARRIORS (18-13)

- **Bob Nash** begins his first season as head coach at **Hawai'i**, succeeding Riley Wallace who retired after 20 seasons. Nash has been associated with UH program for 28 years -- two as a player, two as a grad assistant and 24 as a full-time assistant coach.
- The Rainbow Warriors return three starters and eight letterwinners from last season's squad, which posted the program's eighth-consecutive winning season.
- Returning are veterans **Bobby Nash** (11.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.1 apg) and **Matt Gibson** (10.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.5 apg).
- UH will once again host the eight-team Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic which will feature teams such as Georgia, St. John's, Tulane and Saint Mary's.

IDAHO VANDALS (4-27)

- Head coach **George Pfeifer** guided Idaho to its first postseason win as a Western Athletic Conference member with a 50-49 victory over San Jose State in the first round of the WAC Tournament.
- Idaho's 2007-08 roster consists of four returning players and two redshirts from last season. The Vandals added nine new players, including one Division I transfer and five junior college players.
- Playing in just 22 of Idaho's 31 games, **Darin Nagle's** 42 blocked shots tied for sixth on Idaho's single-season deflections list.
- The 2006-07 Vandals set a school record for most three-point field goals made in a season with 225, passing the previous mark of 190 set in 1998-99.

LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS (10-20)

- Head coach **Kerry Rupp** became the 16th head coach in the history of the **Louisiana Tech** basketball program last April.

- Rupp comes to Tech after serving on staffs with Rick Majerus at Utah and Mike Davis of UAB (and a previous tenure at Indiana).
- The Bulldogs will return a young squad with only two seniors -- **J.J. Marshall** and **Keith Smith** -- on the 2007-08 roster.
- Louisiana Tech and NBA legend **Karl Malone** will be on Rupp's staff as director of basketball operations and assistant strength and conditioning coach.

NEVADA WOLF PACK (29-5)

- Head coach **Mark Fox** and **Nevada** set the school single-season record for wins and turned in the Wolf Pack's fourth-straight season with at least 25 victories.
- Fox is the first coach in school history to lead his squad to three-consecutive 20-win and NCAA Tournament campaigns.
- Nevada returns one starter and a total of nine letterwinners from last year's unit, including 2006-07 first-team All-WAC selection **Marcelus Kemp**.
- The Wolf Pack has turned in a 60-6 record at Lawlor Events Center over the last four years and brings a 12-game homecourt winning streak into this season.

NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES (25-9)

- Last season, **New Mexico State** won its first Western Athletic Conference Tournament and fourth conference crown.
- The Aggies are the most improved team in Division I men's basketball over the previous two seasons, as NMSU went 6-24 in 2005-06 and posted 25 victories last year for a 19-win improvement.
- Head coach **Marvin Menzies** joined the Aggies after two seasons as an assistant at Louisville. He also has coaching stints at UNLV, Southern California and San Diego State.
- New Mexico State led the nation in both free throws made (641) and free throws attempted (975).

SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS (5-25)

- **George Nessman** -- the only WAC men's basketball head coach to earn two master's degrees -- enters his third season at **San Jose State**.

- Guard **Jamon Hill** is one of five returning players in the WAC who started every one of his team's games in 2006-07.
- Center **Oliver Caballero** was one of 25 players invited to tryout for the 2007 Mexican National Team.
- Forward **Chris Oakes**, a transfer from Pepperdine, is scheduled to be eligible following the completion of the fall semester.

UTAH STATE AGGIES (23-12)

- In the last eight seasons, **Utah State** has won 76.2 percent of its games (198-62). In that span, the Aggies' winning percentage ranks fifth nationally and its victory total lists ninth.
- Utah State -- one of just four schools nationally to win at least 23 games in each of the last eight seasons joining Gonzaga, Kansas and Syracuse -- has appeared in a school-record eight-straight postseasons (five NCAA and three NIT).
- Head coach **Stew Morrill** needs just 13 wins to become the school's all-time winningest coach.
- The Aggies return senior guard **Jaycee Carroll** (21.3 ppg) -- first-team All-WAC selection and the league's returning scoring leader. With 1,737 career points, he ranks seventh at USU and needs 391 more to become the school's all-time scoring leader.