



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Butler University

Cleveland State University

University of Detroit Mercy

University of Illinois at Chicago

Loyola University Chicago

Valparaiso University

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Wright State University

Youngstown State University

Butler Unanimous Favorite, Mack Chosen Player of the Year in Men's Basketball Preseason Poll

Seven Horizon League schools represented on all-league teams

INDIANAPOLIS – Butler University tallied all 48 first-place votes and was tabbed the unanimous favorite to win the 2010-11 Horizon League men's basketball championship as selected by the annual preseason poll of the league's media, coaches and sports information directors. The Bulldogs placed two players on the Preseason Horizon League First Team, led by Player of the Year selection **Shelvin Mack**.

Detroit edged Cleveland State by five points for second in the poll, while Valparaiso took fourth. Milwaukee, Wright State and Green Bay were separated by 17 points in finishing fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively. Loyola, UIC and Youngstown State rounded out the poll.

Mack, who spent part of the summer playing for the 2010 USA Basketball Select squad which competed against the 2010 USA Men's World Championship Team, was joined on the first team by teammate **Matt Howard**, the 2009 Horizon League Preseason Player of the Year. The first team was guard-heavy, as Cleveland State's **Norris Cole**, **Brandon Wood** of Valparaiso and Green Bay's **Rahmon Fletcher** comprised the remainder of the team.

Named to the second team were Wright State guard **Vaughn Duggins**, Detroit forward **Eli Holman**, Valpo forward **Cory Johnson**, Detroit guard **Chase Simon** and UIC guard **Robo Kreps**.

Butler, who went undefeated in Horizon League play before finishing two points shy of the national title a year ago, returns three starters - Mack, Howard and guard **Ronald Nored** - to the squad that finished the 2009-10 season with a No. 2 national ranking. Head Coach **Brad Stevens** welcomes back 11 letterwinners from last year's team.

Mack was the second-leading scorer on Butler last year, averaging 14.1 points per game, complimenting his scoring with 3.7 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game. Howard controlled the post for the Bulldogs, finishing with 11.6 points and 5.2 rebounds per game in 2009-10.

2010-11 PRESEASON VOTING

Rank	School (1 st)	Points
1.	Butler (48)	480
2.	Detroit	381
3.	Cleveland State	376
4.	Valparaiso	312
5.	Milwaukee	259
6.	Wright State	256
7.	Green Bay	242
8.	Loyola	146
9.	UIC	121
10.	Youngstown State	67

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Shelvin Mack, Butler

ALL-LEAGUE TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Shelvin Mack, GButler
 Norris Cole, GCleveland State
 Matt Howard, FButler
 Rahmon Fletcher, GGreen Bay
 Brandon Wood, GValparaiso

SECOND TEAM

Vaughn Duggins, GWright State
 Eli Holman, FDetroit
 Cory Johnson, FValparaiso
 Chase Simon, GDetroit
 Robo Kreps, GUIC

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Butler University	Detroit is led by the inside-outside combination of Holman and Simon. Holman tied for the conference lead with 8.9 rebounds per game a year ago while averaging 11.8 points. Simon led the Titans in scoring, posting 14.0 points while handing out 2.5 assists per contest. Freshman Ray McCallum joins his father's squad after earning McDonald's and Parade All-American honors while in high school.
Cleveland State University	Cleveland State brings back all five starters from last year's 16-17 (10-8 Horizon League) squad. Cole leads the Vikings, having finished second in the Horizon League in scoring with 16.3 points per game in his junior year. The Vikings boast three double-digit scorers among their returners - Cole, junior Jeremy Montgomery and junior Trevon Harmon .
University of Detroit Mercy	Valparaiso returns the league-leader in scoring in Wood, who put up 17.7 points per game in 2009-10; Johnson was fourth in the conference in scoring, averaging 15.6 points for the Crusaders. Head Coach Homer Drew returns four starters to last year's 15-17 (10-8 Horizon) team.
University of Illinois at Chicago	Milwaukee brings back Tone Boyle , who missed the 2009-10 season with an injury, giving the Panthers four returning starters entering the season. Boyle led the Panthers in scoring two years ago, while 2009-10 Horizon League Freshman of the Year Ja'Rob McCallum will be counted upon as well.
Loyola University Chicago	Wright State will be led by new bench boss Billy Donlon , who will count on Duggins to reprise his role from last year, when he led the Raiders with 14.2 points per game.
Valparaiso University	Green Bay, a second-round CBI participant in 2009-10, is also breaking in a new head coach, as Brian Wardle takes over the Phoenix. Wardle will rely on the backcourt of Fletcher (15.8 ppg) and senior Bryquis Perine (13.4 ppg) who combined to average nearly 30 points per game last year.
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	Loyola returns all five starters from a year ago, including the league's leading rebounder in Andy Polka , who tied with Holman, grabbing 8.9 caroms per contest.
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	Led by new head coach Howard Moore , UIC will look to integrate seven newcomers among their nine returning lettermen. Among UIC's returners, Kreps is the Flames' leader in points (15.2 ppg) and assists (2.1 apg).
Wright State University	Youngstown State will break in 12 newcomers on coach Jerry Slocum's squad. Vytas Sulskis , who averaged 11.3 points per game a year ago, is one of three returning letterwinners for the Penguins.
Youngstown State University	The regular season will begin Nov. 10 when UIC travels to the University of Pittsburgh in the 2k Sports Classic benefitting Coaches versus Cancer for a 7 p.m. ET tip on ESPN3.com. The League schedule will tip off with Butler at Loyola on Wed., Dec. 1, with three more league contests to follow on Dec. 2.
	The 2011 Horizon League Men's Basketball Championship is slated for March 1, 4-5, 8. The regular-season champion will host the second round and semifinals, with the higher remaining seed hosting the championship game live on ESPN as part of "Championship Week."

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Comprised of 10 public and private institutions of higher learning, the Horizon League is an NCAA Division I athletics conference that sponsors 19 intercollegiate championship sports and is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. The League and its member institutions aspire to teach young people, through athletic competition, the value of learning, service to others and personal responsibility.