

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 2003

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## 2003 IOWA CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW

By: Jesse Gavin, IIAC Intern

**MOUNT VERNON, IOWA . . .** Two-time defending Conference Champion Loras College is the favorite among Iowa Conference women's soccer coaches to win its third straight title. The Duhawks received six of seven first-place votes and tallied 62 points in a preseason poll of the Conference coaches. Luther received the other first-place vote and was second in the coaches' rankings with 55 points followed by Simpson with 47 points. The complete 2003 IIAC coaches poll follows.

Rank	School	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Loras (6)	62
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Luther (1)	55
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Simpson	47
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cornell	42
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wartburg	38
6 <sup>th</sup>	Dubuque	25
7 <sup>th</sup>	Coe	21
8 <sup>th</sup>	Central	15
9 <sup>th</sup>	Buena Vista	10
Note: First-place votes in parenthesis. Nine points awarded for first-place vote, Eight points awarded for second-place vote		

Conference coaches agree that the gap between the top teams and the rest of the pack is narrowing.

"Almost all the top teams return all their key players and should only improve from last year. Obviously, you have to look to Loras again as they only lost one starter and have won the Conference the past two years," Cornell co-coach **Steve Robertson** said. "The other programs like Central, Coe and Dubuque should also be improved and should challenge for the Conference Tournament this year. Buena Vista should also be better."

"The IIAC is getting better every year and more and more teams are putting themselves in a position to compete for the Championship. You can't look past anyone in the Conference," Loras coach **Dan Rothert** said. "We have a big target on our back having won the last two Championships."

"[The Conference] has always been very close 1 through 4, but this year, I think there will be two more teams that will be added into that mix. This year will be the toughest year by far for competing in the IIAC and making the Conference Tournament," Dubuque coach **Jason Berna** said.

“The Conference is getting stronger and deeper with some of the mid-level teams of the past getting stronger and the traditional powers not having as much of an edge in talent as in year’s past,” Buena Vista coach **Matt Klosterman** said.

Under a new Conference policy adopted last season, the Iowa Conference women’s soccer Champion and all-sports trophy points will be determined by the regular season round-robin schedule. The Conference Tournament will determine which school receives the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Previously, the standings of the top-four Conference teams were determined by the finish of the Conference Tournament. The 2003 IAC Tournament will be November 4, 7-8. First round matches will be played at the higher seed. Semifinals and final will be played at the University of Dubuque.

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**Buena Vista University Beavers**  
**(2-18, 1-8 9<sup>th</sup> in IIAC)**

**Starters Returning/Lost: 6/4**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/4**

**About the 2003 Beavers:** Under second-year coach **Matt Klosterman**, Buena Vista will look to build on the improvements seen last season. The Beavers return 10 letterwinners including its top scorer, **Muffin Morris**, and its top goaltender, **Melissa Riddle**.

"I expect we will be quite young and should experience some growing pains with many new starters. We will be much deeper than the 15 players on squad from a year ago," Klosterman said.

Morris netted two goals and one assist last season while Riddle led the Conference with 12.21 saves per game and also recorded two shutouts. **Krystal Cary** and **Katie Blinkard** each scored one goal, both of which were game winning tallies.

Anchoring the defense with Riddle will be **Abbie Kretz**, an All-Conference selection last season. Joining Kretz on defense is **Becky Dewey**.

Other returnees for the Beavers are **Christina Pruisman**, **Laura Sanden** and **Ann Eddy**. Newcomers looking to make an immediate impact include **Emily Carlson**, **Jodi Coleman**, **Tiffany Ellenberger**, **Nikiya Lyles**, **Paula Motz**, **Crystal O'Dell**, **Sara Saunders**, **Erin Stewart** and **Racheal Witsosky**.

**Central College Dutch**  
**(5-12, 2-7 8<sup>th</sup> in IIAC)**

**Starters Returning/Lost: 10/1**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 13/2**

**About the 2003 Dutch:** **Jess Watson**, **Myra Applegate** and **Lynette Woodrow** are the top returning forwards for second-year head coach **Cory Ann Ellis**. Woodrow, a Second Team All-IIAC selection in 2002, led the Dutch in goals (12) and points (25). The team will look to first-year players **Natalie Collier** and **Hollie Dickinson** for other scoring options.

Three-time letterwinner **Melissa Eshelman** will key the midfield attack for the Dutch in 2003. Eshelman had career-highs in 2002, scoring three goals and totaling ten points. **Jami Wheelock** and **Tasha Schill** won letters in 2002. Freshmen **Bre Van Sickle** and **Chelsea Sandvik** will also be asked to contribute.

Defensively, **Shannon Bowzer** and **Leslie Schmailzl** return. Schmailzl tallied three goals in 2002, which tied her for second on the squad. Newcomers **Rosanna Montague** and **Megan Augustin** will provide depth on defense.

In goal, the Dutch will have to replace former All-Conference performer **Katie Pipho**. Top candidates to take over in net are **Sara Soldner** and **Ashley Veigelt**. **Jennie Bandstra** is also a possibility, but has seen only limited action at goalkeeper.

"We're looking to provide better competition within the conference. We expect to have a winning season and make it into the conference tournament," Ellis said.

## **Coe College Kohawks (10-8, 3-6 7<sup>th</sup> in IIAC)**

**Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 15/3**

**About the 2003 Kohawks:** Coe returns most of the defense that surrendered just 28 goals last season (fifth fewest in the Conference) and much of the offense that scored 51 goals for third-year coach **Mickey Wu**.

“We will have a young team and will need to mature very quickly,” Wu said.

Forwards **Danielle Allen**, **Emily Sellers**, and **Jenny Petersen**, and midfielder **Alyssa Burnell** combined for 19 goals last season. Allen’s seven goals ranked second on the team and her 14 points were third best. Burnell was second on the team with 15 points and third with six goals. Sellers tallied five goals and 12 points, ranking fourth on the team in both categories. Petersen added three goals.

**Lauren Sensenbrenner**, who split time between forward and defense, scored two goals and had three assists as a freshman. Other returnees on defense are **Jill Sandmire** and **Bridget Dunlay**

**Cari Johnson** returns as the starting netminder, ranking in the Conference top-10 in four categories – goals against average (1<sup>st</sup>, 2.12), shutouts (t-5<sup>th</sup>, 1), saves (6<sup>th</sup>, 44) and saves per game (6<sup>th</sup>, 5.5).

## **Cornell College Rams (13-6-1, 6-2-1 2<sup>nd</sup> in IIAC)**

**Starters Returning/Lost: 6/5**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/9**

**About the 2003 Rams:** The Ram forward corps was hit hard by graduation following 2002, losing 26 of the team’s 49 total goals. Co-head coaches **Mike and Steve Robertson**, in their 10<sup>th</sup> season at Cornell, will look to a pair of incoming freshman, **Shannon Schmidt** and **Stephanie Clark**, to fill the void.

“We have a good group of freshmen and a strong group of returners, but we will still be very young this year with only three seniors,” Steve Robertson said. “We look to get back to the Conference Tournament and then see what happens at that time.”

Another top freshman who will probably see some time at midfielder for the 2003 Rams is **Kate Euser**. She will join returning All-Conference selections **Erin Lynch** and **Tiffany Klingert** in the middle. Lynch notched 11 points (2g-7a) in 20 games in 2002, while Klingert tallied 18 points (7g-4a). She also scored a pair of game-winning goals.

A quartet of returnees, including a pair of All-Conference players, will anchor the defense for the Rams this season. **Jen LaBaw** was a First Team All-IIAC pick last season scoring two goals and seven points. **Kim Bussiere** was a Second Team All-IIAC pick in her freshman season totaling five points. **Caity O’Rourke** and **Alex Myers** also return to the backfield for Cornell. The two combined for six points, all off of assists.

In goal, Cornell must replace Conference Most Valuable Player **Katie Boyle**. The top candidate to do just that is senior **Carolyn Lee**. Lee saw time as a midfielder in 2002, but now moves to the goalkeeper spot.

## University of Dubuque Spartans (10-8-1, 4-4-1 6<sup>th</sup> in IIAC)

**About the 2003 Spartans:** Dubuque is coming off a 10-7-1 season and a Conference Tournament appearance in the second year of the program. It will look to continue their climb to the top of the Conference with a solid class of four juniors, seven sophomores, and a talented group of 10-12 freshmen. The Spartans will play four teams that were either regionally ranked or National Tournament qualifiers last year.

"After tasting victory last year, the girls are hungry to get going again this fall and exceed last year's performance," third-year coach **Jason Berna** said. "I expect the team to finish in the top half of the Conference this year and make it to the Conference Tournament that will be played at UD in 2003."

The Dubuque defense will be anchored by goaltender **CeCe Zangara** who posted a 7-6-1 record last season. Joining her on defense will be **Jackie Herring** (2g-1a), **Kourtney Shay** (3g-5a) and **Jillian Nieves** (1g).

**Julie Futrell** and **Simone Odlesbee** return at midfield and All-Conference forward **Katie Bosley** returns. Bosley led the team with 13 assists and 39 points, and ranked second with 13 goals. Futrell finished third in team scoring with 20 points (6g-8a) followed by Oglesbee with 19 points (7g-5a).

## Loras College Duhawks (18-5-0, 7-2-0 1<sup>st</sup> in IIAC)

**Starters Returning/Lost: 10/1**  
**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 19/2**

**About the 2003 Duhawks:** Loras graduated **Maggie Moore**, its all-time leading scorer, but she is the only starter that does not return from the 2002 team that won the IIAC for the second straight year and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We are very excited about defending our IIAC title and hope to be able to challenge on the National scene again. With having everyone back except one and some high quality new players, we have set our goals high and hope to win a third IIAC title," sixth-year coach **Dan Rothert** said. "The past two years we have played great at the end of the year and won the Conference Tournament (which determined the champion). This year, with the new format, we want to win the Conference regular season as well!"

All-Region player **Michelle Wieser** (21 goals, 19 assists) will lead the high powered offense that scored 102 goals. Expecting to compete for Moore's position will be **Jenni Wilberding** (7 goals, 3 assists) and **Julie Sapko** (13 goals, 2 assists) as well as newcomers **Molly Edwards**, **Dani Gaydusek** and **Diana Babo**.

At midfield, 2002 All-IIAC performers **Katie Brake** (6 goals, 2 assists) and **Kerry Walsh** (8 goals, 1 assist) will be back as well as returning starters **Rodie Doar** (3 goals, 7 assists) and **Julie Krett** (3 goals, 5 assists). Also expected to see time at midfield are Sapko, **Melissa Donile** (2 goals, 2 assists), **Katie Zurek** (3 goals, 4 assists) and newcomers **Emily Dock**, **Jaclyn Kluck** and Gaydusek.

The defense will be lead by All-Region performer **Fae Carroll** (4 assists) and **Becky Duffy** (1 goal, 1 assist). Also returning on defense will be returning starter **Lauren Konrath** (1 goal, 1 assist). Expect major defensive contributions from newcomers **Laura Baker** and **Stephanie Burgmeier**.

In goal, **Erin Hall** and **Katie Eskey** who split time in 2002, will again challenge each other for the starting position. Hall posted a 7-1-0 record with a 0.82 goals against average. Eskey went 11-4 with a 0.95 GAA.

**Luther College Norse**  
**(15-3-1, 8-1-0 T-3<sup>rd</sup> in IIAC)**

**Starters Returning/Lost: 9/2**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 20/5**

**About the 2003 Norse:** Head coach **Doug Mello** enters his thirteenth season at Luther with a pair of very talented forwards at his disposal. **Katie Pettigrew** is one of three returning All-conference selections for the Norse. In 2002, Pettigrew finished third in the nation in points per game (4.16) and goals per game (1.84). **Sarah Olson** also returns for 2003. Last season, she finished second to Pettigrew on the team with 13 goals.

The Norse have a lot of depth returning at midfielder as well. **Abby Bachelder** was a First Team All-IIAC pick in 2002, totaling 28 points, good for third on the squad. **Sarah Braun, Anne Peterson** and **Kirsten Russell** also provide experience. The trio combined for nine goals and 47 points in 2002.

Defense will be the only question mark for Mello's team. All-Conference performer **Liz Westcott** has graduated, as well as **Erika Hegland**. **Kendal Maxa** and **Krista Lane** will look to fill the void. Maxa notched twelve points last season, including three goals.

Second Team All-IIAC selection **Michelle Edelman** returns in goal for her senior season. She led the conference in shutouts (10) and was fourth in goals against average (0.82) in 2002 posting a 15-3-1 record.

"We have 20 recruits coming in, with a large number ready to contribute right away," Mello said. "When we mix them with our returning players we think we will get a really strong combination of players that will make the next step to win another Conference title after a couple of years of disappointment."

The Norse played three games in Costa Rica in mid-August, winning all three contests. Mello called that trip "huge" for his team.

## **Simpson College Storm (15-4-2, 7-2 T-3<sup>rd</sup> in IIAC)**

**Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/6**

**About the 2003 Storm:** Despite winning 15 matches last season, Simpson only returns eight letterwinners due to graduation.

"We had a successful year, we do have some key players returning on both ends of the field," sixth-year coach **Aziz Haffar** said. "It is very difficult to assess where we are or what kind of team we will have before this season."

Simpson will look for **Erin Goettl** and **Lindsay Clark** to lead the Storm offense. Goettl, a Second Team All-Conference selection, finished 10th in Division III in goals per game (1.43) and 11th in points per game (3.19).

Clark, a First Team All-Conference selection at midfield, tied for the team lead in assists with Goettl (10). Clark was second on the squad in goals (11), points (32), and shots (81). **April Bachinski**, **Ashley Curran**, **Natalie Chizek**, and **Megan Schonhorst** are expected to contribute to the midfield.

Others returning to the Simpson offense include **Chelsie Reifschneider** (1g, 2a), **Kelli Demetri** (1a), **Megan Gallagher** (8g, 3a) and **Megan Hauswald** (3g, 5a).

Haffar expects **Jessica Copeland**, **Amy Hubner**, **Morgan Kelly** and **Melissa Menning** to contribute at the forward positions.

**Heather Barrett** anchors the defense. She recorded two goals and three assists last season and will be joined by **Lindsay Barrett**, **Jadrian Clark**, **Jennifer Kniss**, **Jessie Prunty**, **Amy LeBlanc** and **Ryly Zetterman** on defense.

**Ellie Ankeny** is the only experienced goaltender returning. She appeared in six matches and recorded a shutout in her only start of the season. She did not allow a goal and made three saves in 206 minutes of work. Challenging for playing time in net will be **Jillian Baxter**, **Tia Nearnmeyer** and **Stephanie Shimp**.

## Upper Iowa University Peacocks (3-15, 0-9 10<sup>th</sup> in IIAC)

**Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 5/8**

**About the 2003 Peacocks:** Upper Iowa will compete in a full Iowa Conference schedule but as a non-Conference team after reclassifying to Division II.

First-year coach **Troy Otradovec** takes over a team with its five returning starters as the only returning letterwinners.

“We have some quality athletes and as long as we improve day-to-day, we will have success on the field this year,” Otradovec said. “Our team is very young with only one senior and no juniors so the young players are going to get a chance to play immediately and will have to step up and compete.”

Four of the Peacocks five returning starters are sophomores. The lone exception is senior **Mandy Luiken**, who scored one goal from her position on defense and posted a 3-7 record in 13 games in goal. Joining her on defense is **Chrissy Johnson**, who scored four goals and assisted on another last season.

**Melissa Davidson** returns at forward, and **Heather Olson** and **Amy Wengert** return at midfield. Olson tallied eight points (3g-2a) last season and Wengert notched five points (2g-1a). Olson also appeared in 11 contests in goal, posting a 2-5 record.

## Wartburg College Knights (12-7, 6-3 5<sup>th</sup> in IIAC)

**Starters Returning/Lost: 10/1**

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 18/2**

**About the 2003 Knights:** Wartburg has qualified for the Iowa Conference Tournament two straight seasons but has been eliminated in the first round both years, something fourth-year coach **Jim Conlon** looks to change.

“We’ve gotten to a point where we really feel like we’re beginning to peak the last two seasons and kind of just stayed there,” Conlon said. “We need to pull together and play like they can in each match.”

The Knights’ offense must replace record-holding forward **Kat Breitbach** and will look to **Tiffany Treanor**, **Chelsea Krohe** and **Katie Rapp** to pick up much of the scoring punch. Rapp led the team with 26 points and tied Breitbach for the team lead with nine goals. Treanor had a team-high nine assists and ranked second with 23 points. Krohe contributed four goals and six assists in limited action due to injury.

**Mindy Viering** and Rapp, both All-Conference performers last season, lead a strong defensive unit that includes **Michelle Bethel** and **Ashley Kueker**. Viering, Bethel and Kueker all scored one goal last season.

**Mary Achelpohl**, **Sarah Smart** and **Kate Stoffel** all posted respectable numbers in goal last season. Achelpohl led the team with six wins and a 1.02 goals against average in nine games. Smart led the team with 11 appearances, posting a 2-5 record with a 1.55 GAA. Stoffel went 4-1 with a 1.70 GAA in nine games.