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2010 IOWA CONFERENCE MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . Four-time defending league champion and two-time national semifinalist **Loras College** is the unanimous pick of Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) men's soccer coaches to win the 2010 IIAC title. The Duhawks received the maximum eight available first-place votes (coaches cannot vote for their own team), totaling 72 points in the IIAC Men's Soccer Coaches' Poll.

Wartburg College collected the remaining first-place vote along with six second-place votes to edge **University of Dubuque** for second by a 63-56 margin. The Spartans received two second-place votes and four third-place votes. **Central College** posted 52 points with two second-place votes to rank fourth. The complete 2010 IIAC Men's Soccer Coaches' Poll follows:

Rank	School (1st place votes)	Points	2009 Record
1	Loras (8)	72	20-3-1, 8-0-0 IIAC (24 pts.)
2	Wartburg (1)	63	16-4-2, 6-2-0 IIAC (18 pts.)
3	Dubuque	56	14-4-2, 7-1-0 IIAC (21 pts.)
4	Central	52	9-10-0, 3-5-0 IIAC (9 pts.)
5	Luther	47	7-9-2, 5-3-0 IIAC (14 pts.)
6	Coe	34	6-10-2, 2-5-1 IIAC (7 pts.)
7	Simpson	33	6-9-4, 3-4-1 IIAC (10 pts.)
8	Buena Vista	21	1-16-0, 0-8-0 IIAC (-1 pts.)
9	Cornell	18	4-13-0, 1-7-0 IIAC (2 pts.)

New Coaches: **Andres Leza**, an assistant at Clarke, is the new head coach at Cornell. He replaces Derek Bell, who resigned after one season. At Wartburg, **Kirk Artist** has assumed the head job, taking over for T.J. Buchholz, who resigned in late June to become an assistant women's coach at NCAA Division I UC-Riverside. Artist, a four-time all-Iowa Conference selection and former Wartburg assistant, spent 2009 directing the efforts of the men's and women's programs at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa.

Iowa Conference Schedule: The season opens Wednesday, September 1, with seven schools in action. The Iowa Conference schedule opens Saturday, September 25 with a complete schedule of four games.

Conference Tournament: The top-six teams following the regular season round-robin schedule qualify for the 2010 Iowa Conference Tournament with an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament on the line. The quarterfinal matches, played at the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds, will be November 2 or 3. The semifinals and finals are November 5-6, hosted by the women's top seed.

Team-By-Team Preview: A brief preview for each Iowa Conference team follows.



Buena Vista University Beavers
1-16-0 overall, 0-8-0 IIAC (-1 pt; 9th)

Head Coach (season): Marc Baumbach (2nd)
Record at School (yrs): 1-16 (1)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 8 / 3
Letterwinners returning/lost – 8 / 8
All-IIAC players returning – 0
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1
(Middlebrooks)



Central College Dutch
9-10-0 overall, 3-5-0 IIAC (9 pts.; 6th)

Head Coach (season): Garry Laidlaw (13th)
Record at School (yrs): 119-94-13 (12)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 9 / 2
Letterwinners returning/lost – 17 / 7
All-IIAC players returning – 4 (McKenzie-08-09, Jandik-07-08, McQuerry-09, Schroeder-09)
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1
(DeLucia-08)

Buena Vista returns eight starters and eight letterwinners from last season's 1-16-0 team that finished ninth in the Conference with minus-1 points and an 0-8-0 record. The Beavers' top three scorers from 2009 are back. Sophomore forward **Justyn Coughenower** led the team with eight points on three goals and two assists. Sophomore midfielder **Jerome Middlebrooks**, an all-IIAC honorable mention selection last season, started all 17 games and posted three goals and an assist for seven points. Junior midfielder **Ben Welch** added two goals and an assist for five points. The defense will be led by senior defender **Jared Archer** and sophomore goalkeeper **Dustin Dobbels**, who led the league in saves with 55.

Buena Vista head coach **Marc Baumbach** says, "Our team is very young and working hard to establish itself as a very competitive side in the IIAC. We will look to build on the changes we have made and expect more from ourselves in every match we play. I think the top teams will be there again this year, Loras and Wartburg, with the other teams still looking to close the gap on them. All of the teams are improving, however, and I expect the conference to have even more parity than it did last year."

Central returns nine starters and 17 letterwinners from last season's 9-10 team that finished sixth in the Conference with nine points and a 3-5-0 record. Among those nine returners are four all-Conference players along with an honorable mention selection. Leading the Dutch offensively will be senior forward **Brett McKenzie**, a second team all-IIAC pick in 2009 after being named to the first team in 2008. McKenzie tied for the league lead in goals with seven and was third in scoring with 14 points. In all games, he accounted for 10 goals and three assists. Senior midfielder **Cody Jandik**, a two-time all-league pick named honorable mention last season, ranked third on the team with 11 points on five goals and an assist. Also back are second team all-league picks **Kevin McQuerry** and **Jonathan Schroeder**, and 2008 honorable mention pick **Nick DeLucia**. Schroeder, a junior midfielder, scored four goals and a team-high six assists for 14 points. DeLucia, a senior midfielder/forward, notched a pair of goals. McQuerry, a junior defender, added five assists.

Central head coach **Garry Laidlaw** says, "Our conference is as deep as it has ever been. We learned some valuable lessons last season which will serve us well as we prepare for the fall. Leadership and experience will play an integral role in reaching our potential as a team."



Coe College Kohawks

6-10-2 overall, 2-5-1 IIAC (7 pts.; 7th)

Head Coach (season): Homer Screws (9th)

Record at School (yrs): 44-70-13 (8)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 10 / 1

Letterwinners returning/lost – 15 / 10

All-IIAC players returning – 1 (Frerichs-08)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 0

Coe returns 10 starters and 18 letterwinners from last season's 6-10-2 team that placed seventh in the league with seven points and a 2-5-1 record. Sophomore midfielder **Jacob Johnson** led the team in scoring last season, posting seven goals to rank seventh among all Iowa Conference players. He also claimed the game-winning goal in three of Coe's six victories. Midfielders **Reid Galbraith** and **David Schmitz** will also figure in offensively. Galbraith, a sophomore, ranked second on the team with nine points on three goals and three assists, while Schmitz, a junior, ranked third with eight points on four goals.

Defensively, the Kohawks will be led by senior **Matt Caldwell** and juniors **Joe Frerichs** and **Josh Kleinmeyer**. Caldwell, a defender, posted two assists, while Frerichs, an honorable mention all-IIAC pick who was a second teamer in 2008, had an assist. Kleinmeyer had a goal and an assist for three points.

Coe head coach **Homer Screws** says, "I'm confident we have the depth at each position to improve last season's winning record."



Cornell College Rams

4-13-0 overall, 1-7-0 IIAC (2 pts.; 8th)

Head Coach (season): Andres Leza (1st)

Record at school: 0-0 (first year)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 5 / 6

Letterwinners returning/lost – 11 / 13

All-IIAC Players returning – 0

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 2

(Beehler-09, Essandoh-08)

Cornell returns five starters and 11 letterwinners from last season's 4-13-0 team that placed eighth in the Conference with two points and a 1-7-0 league mark. The Rams will be led up front by a pair of honorable mention all-league strikers – sophomore **Alex Beehler** and senior **Kobina Essandoh**. Beehler led the team in scoring with 14 points on six goals and two assists, while Essandoh, an honorable mention pick in 2008, netted three goals and had two assists in 17 games. Junior midfielder **Julian Peota** started 13 matches in 2009, netting three goals (one game-winner) and an assist for seven points.

Cornell head coach **Andres Leza** says, "The men's program is a very young and inexperienced team. However, it is a very talented group. If the few upperclassmen can provide solid leadership on the field we will be playing our best soccer by the end of the season and will surprise a few teams. I expect us to battle for positioning for the conference tournament."



University of Dubuque Spartans
14-4-2 overall, 7-1-0 IIAC (21 pts.; 2nd)

Head Coach (season): Brad Johnson (2nd)
Record at School (yrs): 14-4-2 (1)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): n/a
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): n/a

Starters returning/lost – 8 / 3
Letterwinners returning/lost – 18 / 4
All-IIAC players returning – 5 (Zurbuchen, Soumaoro, Kasper, McDonald, Martinez)
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 0



Loras College Duhawks
20-3-1 overall, 8-0-0 IIAC (24 pts.;
champion)

Head Coach (season): Dan Rothert (12th)
Record at School (yrs): 158-71-11 (11)
Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): 5 (2009)
IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 2 (2007)

Starters returning/lost – 6 / 5
Letterwinners returning/lost – 7 / 12
All-IIAC players returning – 2 (Bonilla, McCord-08)
All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 3
(Jennings, St. George, Lamale)

Dubuque returns eight starters and 18 letterwinners from last season's 14-4-2 team that finished second in the Conference with 21 points and a 7-1-0 record. The Spartans return five All-IIAC players, including three of the league's top ten scorers, from last season. Senior forward **Idrissa Soumaoro** and junior midfielder **Ryan Zurbuchen** were first teamers, while junior goalkeeper **Nick Kasper**, sophomore defender **Nick McDonald**, and junior forward **Pablo Martinez** were selected to the second team. Soumaoro, a first team all-region selection, ranked fourth in the league in scoring with 13 points on five goals and three assists, while Zurbuchen, an all-region second-teamer, and Martinez for ninth with nine points. Zurbuchen scored one goal to go with a league-high seven assists. In 20 games overall, Soumaoro (8 goals, 3 assists) and McDonald (9g, 1a) tied for sixth among IIAC players in scoring with 19 points. Zurbuchen (3g, 11a) ranked ninth with 17 points, while Martinez (7g, 2a) ranked tenth with 16 points. Meanwhile, Kasper ranked second in the league in goals-against average (0.78) and save percentage (.826) while posting six shutouts. In eight IIAC games, Kasper posted an 0.85 GAA and an .846 save percentage with 33 saves and one shutout. Senior defender Colin Brice will be a key cog in the Spartan defense in front of Kasper. He also scored three goals and assisted on another in 2009.

Dubuque head coach **Brad Johnson** says, "With a fantastic group of returning players and an encouraging group of newcomers we are looking forward to a successful 2010 season."

Loras returns six starters and seven letterwinners from last year's 20-3-1 team that captured the school's fourth consecutive conference title with 24 points and an 8-0-0 record, advancing to the third round (round of 16) of the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship for the third consecutive season. 2008 Iowa Conference MVP **Miguel Bonilla** is one of two returning all-conference players for the Duhawks. Bonilla, a three-time all-IIAC first-teamer and a third-team all-American last season, led all IIAC players with 44 points and 19 goals. In seven IIAC games, he registered a league-high seven goals and was second in scoring with 16 points. The other is senior forward **Justin McCord**, a 2008 second teamer. In addition, senior defender **Thomas Jennings**, and senior forwards **Donald St. George** and **Matt Lamale** received honorable mention in 2009. St. George ranked fourth on the team in scoring with 15 points on six goals and three assists, Jennings scored a goal and had two assists and Lamale was credited with four shots. Also back for the Duhawks is senior midfielder **Thomas Strumpf**. Strumpf scored three goals and an assist for seven points.

Loras head coach **Dan Rothert** says, "Our team will be led by a great group of eight seniors who have experienced a lot of success (two Final Fours and a Sweet 16 and three NSCAA top ten finishes). Although we lost some great players to graduation, with our experience and the quality of our new players, our sights are very high again. The IIAC should also be deeper and we anticipate a lot of very good games."



Luther College Norse

7-9-2 overall; 5-3-0 IIAC (14 pts.; 4th)

Head Coach (season): Chris Garcia-Prats (3rd)

Record at School (yrs): 15-19-4 (2)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): 6 (2002)

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 6 (1996)

Starters returning/lost – 6 / 5

Letterwinners returning/lost – 15 / 7

All-IIAC players returning – 1 (Olson)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 2 (Kustra, Kessler-08)

Luther returns six starters and 15 letterwinners from last season's 7-9-2 team that finished fourth in the Conference with 14 points and a 5-3-0 league record. Junior defender **Michael Olson**, a 2009 second team all-league pick, will lead the defense. He also registered a pair of goals last season. Also back is a pair of honorable mention picks – junior midfielders **Michael Kustra** (2009) and **Jake Kessler** (2008). Kustra had one assist and Kessler scored a goal for the Norse last season. Olson and Kustra are captains this season. Senior defender **Alex Case** will join Olson on defense in front of junior goalkeeper **Steve O'Meara**. Case also added a goal and an assist last season, while O'Meara was the goalie of record in each game this season, posting a 1.07 goals-against average, 44 saves, a .698 save percentage, and eight shutouts. In eight IIAC games, O'Meara posted a league-high four shutouts, an 0.66 goals-against average, and an .808 save percentage. He ranked third in GAA and fourth in save percentage.

Luther head coach **Chris Garcia-Prats** says, "The Iowa Conference should once again be represented by a number of teams at the regional and national level. The conference standings over the last couple of years have come down to the last game of the season, I would expect the same this year. We have a motivated and experienced group of returning players along with a dynamic group of first-years coming in."



Simpson College Storm

6-9-4 overall, 3-4-1 IIAC (10 pts.; 5th)

Head Coach (season): Mike Wilson (6th)

Record at School (yrs): 30-54-9 (5)

Career Record (yrs): same

IIAC Titles (last): 1 (2000)

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 1 (2000)

Starters returning/lost – 5 / 6

Letterwinners returning/lost – 11 / 11

All-IIAC players returning – 0

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 0

Simpson returns all five starters and 11 letterwinners from last season's 6-9-4 team that finished fifth in the Conference with 10 points and a 3-4-1 record. Senior forward **Lucas Haack** tied for the team lead in scoring with 10 points on four goals and two assists while **Jim Frizzell** added two goals and three assists to rank fifth on the team with seven points. Junior midfielder **Bryan Michelsen** appeared in 18 matches, starting 13, and was credited with two shots on goal. Junior defender **Nate Van Horn** started 18 games last season, attempting six shots, including one on goal.

Simpson head coach **Mike Wilson** says, "We intend to build on the progress made over the past several seasons and place ourselves in a position to contend for the conference title in November. Several teams in the IIAC have the potential to be conference champions which will make for a competitive and exciting season."



Wartburg College Knights

16-4-2 overall, 6-2-0 IIAC (18 pts.; 3rd)

Head Coach (season): Kirk Artist (1st)

Record at School (yrs): first season

Career Record (yrs): first year

IIAC Titles (last): 3 (2006)

IIAC Tourney Titles (last): 5 (2009)

Starters returning/lost – 4 / 7

Letterwinners returning/lost – 14 / 8

All-IIAC players returning – 2 (McKenna, Prater)

All-IIAC hon. mention returning – 1 (Cook)

Wartburg returns four starters and 14 letterwinners from last season's 16-4-2 team that finished third in the Conference with 18 points and a 6-2-0 record, won the Iowa Conference tournament, and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship. The Knights will be led by senior midfielder **Luke Prater** and senior defender **Kyle McKenna**. Prater, a three-time all-conference selection and a 2009 first team all-region pick, ranked third on the team in scoring with 19 points on seven goals and five assists. McKenna, a first team all-league pick in 2009, contributed a goal and two assists. Sophomore forward **Brandon Cook**, an all-IIAC honorable mention pick, ranked second on the team in scoring with 30 points on 12 goals and six assists. Cook ranked third among all IIAC players in scoring and goals. In eight IIAC games, he scored 11 points on five goals to rank seventh in the league in scoring and fourth in goals scored. Senior midfielder **Josh Palmer** scored two goals and assisted on four others last season.

Wartburg head coach **Kirk Artist** says, "We have a strong and experienced core of players that is back from last year. The conference is becoming stronger every year and it should be a test every game."

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