



# GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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For Immediate Release

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January 26, 2010

## 2010 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE BASEBALL RELEASE

### SAU EMERGES AS NEW FAVORITE IN GSC BASEBALL

**Birmingham, Ala.** — The defending League Champs are in uncharted territory in the GSC Baseball Preseason Polls.

For the first time in school history, **Southern Arkansas** was selected as West Division and GSC Tournament Champions in the preseason coaches' poll. The Muleriders earned more Championship votes (10) than in 14 previous polls combined (7).

**Valdosta State** is the coaches' choice to win the East Division for the second straight season, while also claiming two overall title votes, the only other squad with multiple Championship nods.

### 2010 GSC BASEBALL PRESEASON COACHES' POLLS

#### EAST DIVISION

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
<b>Valdosta State</b>	4	1	—	—	—	24
West Alabama	2	1	2	—	—	20
West Florida	—	3	2	—	—	18
North Alabama	—	1	2	2	—	14
Alabama-Huntsville	—	—	—	4	1	9
West Georgia	—	—	—	—	5	5

#### WEST DIVISION

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Total
<b>Southern Arkansas</b>	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	49
Delta State	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	43
Ouachita Baptist	—	1	4	1	1	—	—	33
Harding	—	1	4	1	—	1	—	32
Henderson State	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	24
Arkansas Tech	—	—	—	2	1	4	—	19
Arkansas-Monticello	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	17
Christian Brothers	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7

#### GSC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

SCHOOL	VOTES
<b>Southern Arkansas</b>	<b>10</b>
Valdosta State	2
Delta State	1
West Alabama	1

**NOTE:** The GSC Baseball Head Coaches voted on teams from their own division in this poll. Teams from the East received 5 points for a first place vote, 4 for a second place vote, 3 for a third, etc. In the West, teams received 7 points for a first place vote, 6 for a second place vote, 5 for a third, etc. The coaches then cast one vote for the overall champion. They were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

### Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's Preseason Top 40

1. Emporia State (Kan.)	17. Tusculum (Tenn.)	33. Southern Indiana	Shepherd (W. Va.), Fla. Tech (6),
2. Florida Southern	18. Western Oregon	34. Calif. St.-Los Angeles	Minn. St.-Mankato (4),
3. California-San Diego	19. <b>West Alabama</b>	35. Mercyhurst (Pa.)	<b>Henderson St. (Ark.)</b> , Nova
4. <b>Southern Arkansas</b>	20. Grand Valley State (Mich.)	36. Dowling (N.Y.)	Southeastern (Fla.), <b>North Ala.</b> ,
5. Mesa State (Colo.)	21. Angelo State (Texas)	37. St. Mary's (Texas)	Barton (N.C.), Columbus St.
6. South Carolina-Aiken	22. Calif. St.-Chico	t-38. Catawba (N.C.)	(Ga.), Armstrong Atlantic (Ga.),
t-7. Tampa (Fla.)	23. <b>Delta State (Miss.)</b>	t-38. Slippery Rock (Pa.)	Calif. St.-Stanislaus, Bellarmine
t-7. Ashland (Ohio)	24. North Georgia	t-40. N.C.-Pembroke	(Ky.), Quincy (Ill.), Wayne St.
9. West Chester (Pa.)	25. Kutztown (Pa.)	t-40. Dominican (N.Y.)	(Mich.), St. Joseph's (Ind.),
10. Lynn (Fla.)	26. <b>Valdosta State (Ga.)</b>		Southwest Minn. St., St.
11. Central Missouri	27. Georgia College & State		Edward's (Texas), Shippensburg
12. Francis Marion (S.C.)	t-28. Cameron (Okla.)	<i>Also Receiving Votes:</i>	(Pa.), Concord (W. Va.), Mo.
13. Abilene Christian (Texas)	t-28. Northern Kentucky	N.M.-Highlands (28), Rockhurst	Southern, California (Pa.) (1).
14. Wayne State (Neb.)	30. Mount Olive (N.C.)	(Mo.), <b>West Florida (24)</b> , Texas-	
15. Indianapolis (Ind.)	31. Barry (Fla.)	Permian Basin (22), Erskine	
16. Franklin Pierce (N.H.)	32. Colorado State-Pueblo	(S.C.), Belmont Abbey (N.C.) (16),	GSC Teams in <b>BOLD</b>
		Calif. St.-Dominguez Hills (10),	

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GSC BASEBALL COACHES' POLLS

### SAU LOOKS TO BUILD OFF HISTORIC 2009 SEASON

After a school-record 52 victories last season, **Southern Arkansas (No. 4 CBN)** is poised to repeat as GSC Champions but look to make the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Championships. The Muleriders' return six starters from last year's squad, including All-America pitcher Hayden Simpson. Simpson tossed a no-hitter last season and was second in the nation with nearly 11 strikeouts per game, a big reason SAU was unanimously selected as West Division Champions.

**No. 23 Delta State** finished second in the voting (43 points), marking just the second time since 2001 that the Statesmen were not chosen as West Division or GSC Champions. DSU has won a record 19 Division crowns, ten more than any other squad in the Conference, claiming 13 of the last 15 titles. The Statesmen also claimed their league-leading 11th GSC Championship just two years ago, increasing its total to six more than the next closest team.

**Ouachita Baptist** (33) is selected to finish third in the West for the second consecutive year. The Tigers finished fourth last season, earning the Tournament bid over cross-street rival **Henderson State** by one game.

**Harding** (32) is chosen to return to the GSC Tournament for the third consecutive season, finishing fourth in the balloting. The Bisons won their first Tournament game since 2002 last year and picked up four, third-place votes.

After missing its first GSC Tournament appearance by one game, **Henderson State** (RV) aims to make the trip to Millington despite being chosen fifth in the preseason poll with 24 points. The Reddies are one of only two active teams without a GSC Tournament appearance, the other being **Christian Brothers** (7 points). The Bucs are tabbed to finish eighth by the coaches.

**Arkansas Tech** (19) has a new skipper for the first time in 11 years as **Dave Dawson** takes over in Russellville. Dawson takes over the reigns of the Wonder Boys after four year as head coach of Kansas Wesleyan.

**Head coach Carlos James** enters his second full season at the helm of **Arkansas-Monticello** (17) and the rest of the league has taken notice, as the Boll Weevils received a fourth-place vote for the first time in over two years.

### VSU CHOSEN AS EAST DIVISION CHAMPS AGAIN

For the second consecutive season, **No. 26 Valdosta State** was selected as GSC East Division Champs, taking 24 total votes and four, first-place nods. After winning the 2008 East Division crown, the Blazers were the unanimous choice to repeat last year. VSU instead finished third in the Division but made it to the Championship Game of the GSC Tournament before dropping a pair of games in the NCAA postseason.

**No. 19 West Alabama** is picked to finish second for the second year in a row. The Tigers have 211 victories since 2005, placing them third among GSC teams in that timeframe (SAU-217, DSU-212). UWA earned two first-place nods along with one second and two third-place votes for 20 total points.

**West Florida (RV)** edged out **North Alabama (RV)** for third place with four more points (18-14). The Argos received three second-place votes to the Lions' one.

Despite finishing second last year and returning four All-GSC performers, **Alabama-Huntsville** earned just nine points and even a vote for last place in the East. The Chargers, playing on campus this year, look to prove the naysayers wrong once again after being selected sixth last season.

For the first time in 19 seasons, there will be a new man patrolling the dugout in Carrollton as Stanley "Skip" Fite takes over the **West Georgia** (5) program. Fite replaces David Fowlkes after 25 years as the head coach at Augusta State (Ga.).

### Ping!Baseball's Preseason Top 30

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Calif.-San Diego             | 16. Angelo State (Texas)     |
| 2. Florida Southern             | 17. Barry (Fla.)             |
| 3. Emporia State (Kan.)         | 18. Lynn (Fla.)              |
| <b>4. Southern Arkansas</b>     | 19. Wayne State (Neb.)       |
| 5. Grand Valley St. (Mich.)     | 20. Dowling (N.Y.)           |
| 6. Central Missouri             | 21. Mesa State (Colo.)       |
| 7. Tampa (Fla.)                 | 22. Western Oregon           |
| 8. Francis Marion (S.C.)        | 23. Georgia College & State  |
| 9. South Carolina-Aiken         | 24. Tusculum (Tenn.)         |
| <b>10. Valdosta State (Ga.)</b> | 25. Slippery Rock (Pa.)      |
| 11. Franklin Pierce (N.H.)      | <b>26. West Alabama</b>      |
| <b>12. Delta State (Miss.)</b>  | 27. Catawba (N.C.)           |
| 13. Ashland (Ohio)              | 28. Armstrong Atlantic (Ga.) |
| 14. Abilene Christian (Texas)   | 29. Belmont Abbey (N.C.)     |
| 15. West Chester (Pa.)          | 30. Mount Olive (N.C.)       |

GSC Teams in **BOLD**

### GSC on NCBWA Preseason All-America Team

#### **First Team**

Will Gowdy, Util., OBU

#### **Honorable Mention**

Ryan McCrory, 1B, UAH

Chase Presley, 2B, HU

Greg Pron, OF, UWF

Brodie Brumley, P, HU

Kyle Cline, P, HU

Kevin Johnson, P, UWF

## 2010 PRESEASON ALL-GSC BASEBALL TEAM

Twelve 2009 First Team All-GSC standouts highlight the 2010 Preseason All-GSC Team, which consists of all returning 2009 First and Second Team All-GSC members. Overall, **Alabama-Huntsville**, **Henderson State** and **West Florida** returned the most with four members a piece. Four squads followed with three each as **GSC Champions Southern Arkansas** were joined by *East Division Champs* **West Alabama**, **Delta State** and **Ouachita Baptist**. **Arkansas-Monticello**, **Arkansas Tech**, **North Alabama** and **Valdosta State** all returned two members a piece. **Christian Brothers** and **Harding** rounded out the contingent with one player each.

Headlining the West squad are nine returning First Team members including **2009 GSC West Division Player of the Year Will Gowdy** from OBU. The senior earned First Team honors at both starting pitcher and outfielder and was named NCBWA Third Team All-America. SAU **starting pitcher Hayden Simpson** also returns as a unanimous selection to last year's All-GSC team. The *2008 GSC West Division Freshman of the Year* was named First Team All-America on all three squads (Rawlings/ABCA, Daktronics and NCBWA). Other First Team members include fellow Muleriders **Cannon Lester (second base)** and **Andrew Whittington (shortstop)**. Rounding out the returners from the First Team are DSU's **Kellen Bozeman (designated hitter)**, **Cade Hoggard** and **Michael Niemann (outfield)** and CBU's **Joseph Kaminski (first base)**.

The East squad has just three returning First Team members led by UAH **first baseman Ryan McCrory**, VSU **outfielder Brandon Decker** and UNA **starting pitcher Justin Fleming**.

### EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>BT</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	Tyler Hastings	UWF	JR	5-11	195	R/R	Niceville, Fla.
<b>1B</b>	<b>Ryan McCrory</b>	<b>UAH</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>L/R</b>	<b>Mobile, Ala.</b>
2B	Nick Huckaby	UAH	SR	5-11	200	R/R	Jamestown, Ky.
2B	Dewayne Gunn	UNA	SR	5-10	200	L/R	Tuscumbia, Ala.
3B	Austin Smith	VSU	SR	6-1	220	R/R	St. Petersburg, Fla.
SS	Brandon Brewer	UWF	JR	5-8	165	L/R	Apopka, Fla.
DH	Brian Simone	UWA	JR	5-10	185	L/R	Amherstburg, Ontario
<b>OF*</b>	<b>Brandon Decker</b>	<b>VSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>L/R</b>	<b>Gulf, Fla.</b>
OF	Kevin Deese	UWA	JR	6-4	205	L/R	Fosters, Ala.
OF	Greg Pron	UWF	JR	6-6	190	R/R	Daphne, Ala.
<b>SP</b>	<b>Justin Fleming</b>	<b>UNA</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>L/L</b>	<b>Muscle Shoals, Ala.</b>
SP*	Chase Earl	UAH	SR	5-10	170	R/R	Valley, Ala.
SP	Jacob Wray	UAH	SR	5-10	185	R/R	Hartselle, Ala.
SP*	Kevin Johnson	UWF	SR	6-5	230	R/R	Pensacola, Fla.
RP	Brian Burgess	UWA	JR	6-1	190	R/R	Huntsville, Ala.

### WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BT</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	Kendal Norman	HSU	JR	6-0	190	R/R	Hot Springs, Ark.
<b>1B</b>	<b>Joseph Kaminski</b>	<b>CBU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>Sherwood, Ark.</b>
1B	Robert Gilbert	HSU	JR	6-0	205	L/R	Jasper, Texas
1B	Brock Green	OBU	SO	6-2	165	L/R	Hot Springs, Ark.
<b>2B</b>	<b>Cannon Lester</b>	<b>SAU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>El Dorado, Ark.</b>
<b>SS*</b>	<b>Andrew Whittington</b>	<b>SAU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>L/R</b>	<b>Texas City, Texas</b>
<b>DH*</b>	<b>Kellen Bozeman</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>Baton Rouge, La.</b>
DH*	Blaine Ivey	UAM	SR	6-3	210	R/R	Baton Rouge, La.
<b>OF*</b>	<b>Cade Hoggard</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>Oxford, Miss.</b>
<b>OF</b>	<b>Michael Niemann</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>JR</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>L/L</b>	<b>Yelm, Wash.</b>
<b>OF*</b>	<b>Will Gowdy</b>	<b>OBU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>R/L</b>	<b>Amarillo, Texas</b>
OF	Drew Harper	UAM	SR	6-2	200	R/R	Meridian, Miss.
OF	Jeremy Houchin	ATU	SR	5-10	196	R/R	Springdale, Ark.
OF	Clint Stroud	ATU	SR	6-2	200	R/R	Bonham, Texas
OF	Jonathan Dooley	HSU	SR	6-0	190	R/R	DeQueen, Ark.
<b>SP*</b>	<b>Will Gowdy</b>	<b>OBU</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>R/L</b>	<b>Amarillo, Texas</b>
<b>SP</b>	<b>Hayden Simpson</b>	<b>SAU</b>	<b>JR</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>Magnolia, Ark.</b>
SP	Brodie Brumley	HU	SR	6-2	220	R/R	Scottsboro, Ala.
RP	Evan Eary	HSU	SR	5-10	155	R/R	Batesville, Ark.

**NOTE:** The 2010 Preseason All-GSC Baseball Team consists of all returning First and Second Team players from the 2009 All-GSC Team. 2009 First Team All-GSC in **BOLD**; \*--2009 Top Newcomers

## 2010 GSC BASEBALL TOP NEWCOMERS

<b>EAST DIVISION</b>				
<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL / HOMETOWN</u>
RHP	Dustin Bryant	UAH	JR	Southern Union CC / Fyffe, Ala.
LHP	Ryan Frevert	UAH	JR	Hutchison CC / Liberty, Mo.
OF	Bradley Ray	UAH	SR	Auburn / Birmingham, Ala.
RHP	Patrick Hinton	UNA	JR	Northeast Mississippi CC / Corinth, Miss.
OF/2B	Jared Mothershed	UNA	JR	Northwest Shoals CC / Tuscumbia, Ala.
RHP	Will Rankin	UNA	JR	Wallace State CC / Hartselle, Ala.
RHP	Brett Kennedy	VSU	JR	Florida State College at Jacksonville / Rockmart, Ga.
RHP	Cameron Martin	VSU	JR	Merced CC / Turlock, Calif.
IF/RHP	Jordan Yost	VSU	SR	West Virginia / Beckley, W. Va.
RHP	Cory Lopez	UWA	SO	LSU-Eunice / Walker, La.
3B	Colin McKeen	UWA	JR	Parkland College / Orangeville, Ontario, Canada
LHP	Moses Munoz	UWA	SR	Southern Mississippi / San Antonio, Texas
3B	Dustin Lawley	UWF	JR	Wallace State CC-Hanceville / Bessemer, Ala.
RHP	Jason Postill	UWF	JR	Tallahassee CC / Orlando, Fla.
OF/DH	Zach Taylor	UWF	JR	Wallace State CC-Hanceville / Vandiver, Ala.
2B/SS	Michael Hornsby	UWG	SR	Tennessee / Carrollton, Ga.
P	Kyle Parrish	UWG	JR	Jefferson State JC / Canton, Ala.
1B	Blake Parrott	UWG	JR	Gordon JC / Meansville, Ga.

<b>WEST DIVISION</b>				
<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL / HOMETOWN</u>
Util.	Lanc Crochet	UAM	JR	Nicholls State / Houma, La.
C	Noah Sanders	UAM	SR	West Alabama / Saltillo, Miss.
RHP	Tyler Walker	UAM	JR	Arkansas Tech / Anaheim Hills, Calif.
OF	Matt Johnson	ATU	JR	Tyler JC / Grand Saline, Texas
OF	Colt Loehrs	ATU	JR	Cowley County CC / Arkansas City, Kan.
IF	Josh Riley	ATU	JR	Howard JC / Sulphur Springs, Texas
SS	Kyle Moore	CBU	FR	Southaven HS / Southaven, Miss.
LHP	Lee Paine	CBU	JR	Northeast Miss. CC / Oxford, Miss.
C	Aaron Short	CBU	JR	Chattanooga State CC / Cleveland, Tenn.
P	Josh Bransetter	DSU	FR	Pine Forest HS / Pensacola, Fla.
P	Coty Saranthus	DSU	JR	Southwest Mississippi CC / Jackson, Miss.
C	Patrick Taylor	DSU	JR	Berry College / Arab, Ala.
3B	Jason Nappi	HU	JR	Mississippi State / Birmingham, Ala.
RHP	Patrick Nappi	HU	SR	Alabama / Birmingham, Ala.
OF	Clay West	HU	JR	Western Texas College / Lubbock, Texas
RHP	Nathan Eller	HSU	FR	Sylvan Hills HS / Sherwood, Ark.
OF/P	Gip Hendrix	HSU	JR	Texarkana College / Houghton, La.
OF	Bobby Tatum	HSU	JR	Mineral Area College / Pine Bluff, Ark.
RHP/3B	Sam McGill	OBU	JR	Des Moines Area CC / Erie, Pa.
LHP	Kolby Moore	OBU	JR	Independence CC / Indianola, Iowa
SS	Cass Via	OBU	JR	Garden City CC / Fruita, Colo.
1B	Jake Astor	SAU	JR	Des Moines Area CC / North Liberty, Iowa
C	Brandon Choate	SAU	JR	Panola College / Hooks, Texas
3B/1B	Logan Williams	SAU	JR	Mississippi / Damascus, Ark.