

# 2007-08 Northeast Conference Men's Basketball Team-By-Team Previews



## Central Connecticut State

It was a fitting end to the Central Connecticut State careers of four-year letterwinners Javier Mojica and Obie Nwadike, the duo hoisting the NEC trophy high over their heads at Detrick Gymnasium after downing in-state rival Sacred Heart to win the third conference title in program history last March. Mojica, the former walk-on and 2006-07 NEC Player of the Year, and Nwadike, the undersized power forward with nearly 1,000 career-rebounds, formed the heart-and-soul of a poised and mature Blue Devil team that fought through some early hiccups - CCSU started the year 3-9 in non-conference play - to produce one of the greatest regular seasons in NEC annals with a 16-2 league slate.



Named Jim Phelan Coach of the Year by his peers for a record fourth time a year ago, head coach Howie Dickenman has always squeezed every bit of potential out of his teams, turning CCSU into a consistent winner with the Blue Devils averaging 18.4 victories over the last nine years, including three 20+ win seasons. Now in his 12th year, Dickenman faces one of his greatest coaching challenges, trying to find the magic touch with a team that features a near complete roster turnover with just three returning players joined by eight newcomers.

All three returnees are in the backcourt, led by senior standout Tristan Blackwood, a first team NEC all-star and one of the most complete players in the conference. Tabbed the NEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year last season, Blackwood also emerged as one of the most lethal long range shooters in the country. With 122 three-pointers, the six-footer established a new conference single-season standard and ranked fourth nationally with 3.6 made per contest. Blackwood also matched a 16-year old NEC mark by converting ten shots from outside of the arc in a win over Robert Morris in February. He led the league and finished fourth nationally in free throw shooting (.924), and ranked in the NEC top-10 in scoring (17.1 ppg, second), assists (4.1 apg, sixth) and assist-to-turnover ratio (1.33, seventh).

As the team rallies around Blackwood, CCSU's lone multiple letterwinner, he will continue to serve as mentor to guards Joe Seymore and Dannie Powell. The 6'3" Seymore started 22 games and averaged 7.5 ppg for the Blue Devils as a freshman, displaying a sweet southpaw stroke from the outside. He paced all NEC freshman with 66 trifectas, including four of his trademark rainbows in CCSU's first round NCAA game against Ohio State. A tenacious on-the-ball defender, Powell (2.4 ppg) served as Blackwood's backup last season. The senior played a critical role down the stretch in the Blue Devils' title win over Sacred Heart, slashing into the paint for the go-ahead layup with three minutes to play and adding a key rebound and assist down the stretch.

With Dickenman forced to rebuild his frontcourt from scratch and add depth to his backcourt, the bevy of newcomers will face a steep learning curve this season. Of the eight new faces, all are freshman except for 6'6" forward Marcus Palmer, a Los Angeles native and transfer from Eastern Arizona College. Palmer was named an NJCAA All-American last season after he averaged 21.0 ppg and 7.0 rpg. He will be joined up front by forwards David Simmons, Ken Horton and Tamir Johnson. Simmons, at 6'4", starred at Henninger in Syracuse, NY where he tallied 16.8 ppg and 12.3 rpg en-route to All-State honors. The 6'6" Horton also averaged a double-double at New York's Ossining High School with 23.0 ppg and 12.0 rpg. One of three Philadelphia recruits, the 6'6" Johnson was an Honorable Mention All-City player as a senior at Imhotep, where he teamed with fellow newcomer and Honorable Mention honoree Jermaine Washington, a 5'11" guard who averaged 13.3 ppg. The third recruit out of the City of Brotherly Love is 6'2" guard Brian Wanamaker, who played at national power Roman Catholic and was also named to the Philadelphia Honorable Mention squad. Rounding out the newcomers are 6'1" Aaron Hall and 6'2" Shemik Thompson. Hall prepped at St. Thomas More in 2006-07, a year after earning All-State plaudits at Faith Heritage in Syracuse. Thompson was chosen first team All-State in Delaware following a 16.1 ppg campaign as a senior at Cape Henlopen.

### CCSU By The Numbers

<b>Quick Facts</b>	
2006-07 Overall Record:	22-12
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	16-2/1st
NEC Tournament Finish:	Won NEC title
Starters Returning/Lost:	2/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	3/6
2006-07 Final RPI:	144
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	6-2

<b>NEC Record</b>	
Last Two Years:	29-7 (.806)
Last Three Years:	37-17 (.685)
Last Four Years:	46-26 (.639)
Last Five Years:	58-32 (.644)

<b>Overall Record</b>	
Last Two Years:	40-23 (.635)
Last Three Years:	52-39 (.571)
Last Four Years:	66-53 (.555)
Last Five Years:	81-66 (.551)

<b>Leading Returning Scorers</b>	
Tristan Blackwood	17.1 ppg
Joe Seymore	7.5 ppg
Dannie Powell	2.4 ppg

<b>Leading Returning Rebounders</b>	
Tristan Blackwood	2.5 rpg
Joe Seymore	2.1 rpg
Dannie Powell	1.4 rpg

<b>Leading Returning Assists</b>	
Tristan Blackwood	4.1 apg
Dannie Powell	1.4 apg
Joe Seymore	1.1 apg

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## Fairleigh Dickinson

With 25th year head coach Tom Green at the helm of the Fairleigh Dickinson program, one thing is for certain: regardless of the team's roster turnover from year-to-year, it is impossible to dismiss the Knights as a contender in the NEC. Despite losing a pair of all-stars and a dominating big man, the Knights quickly regrouped last season, scoring a non-conference win at Seton Hall in November. During league play, FDU stayed near the top of the standings for much of the season before fading somewhat down the stretch to finish tied for fourth in the NEC.



Green, the winningest coach in conference history, will face a new set of challenges this coming season with the departure of first team all-NEC forward Andre Harris and do-everything swingman Michael Peeples, who combined for nearly 31 points per outing a year ago. If Green has any chance at adding to his league record four NEC titles, it will hinge on his ability to incorporate yet another fresh set of faces into the rotation.

Carrying the load for the Knights will be the sterling backcourt of junior Cameron Tyler and senior Manny Ubilla. Tyler blossomed in his sophomore year into one of the top point guards in the conference. His ability to draw defenders with his athletic attacks to the hoop created open shots for teammates - Ubilla in particular - and made for some stunning scoring flurries for the 6'0" New York City product. Tyler finished second on the club with 14.3 ppg, added 4.4 rpg and finished third in the conference with 5.1 apg. Ubilla stepped right into a feature role for the Knights last season, averaging 11.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg and 2.9 apg, while displaying a deadly touch from the outside. He hit 63 three-pointers and made 39.6 percent of his attempts on the year to rank in the NEC top-ten in both categories. Ubilla, a 6'3" catch-and-shoot specialist, hit a number of big shots on the year, including a dagger at the buzzer to stop Garden State rival Monmouth in a televised game last February. Reinforcing the backcourt for FDU is veteran Bernell Murray and sophomore Sean Baptiste. A dependable point guard, Murray (3.7 ppg) has a tremendous amount of big-game experience and as a senior is the last link to the Knights' 2005 NEC Championship team. A physical player who is unafraid of contact and can get to the line, Baptiste (4.6 ppg) was a valuable contributor off the bench for the Knights in 2006-07.

With the loss of Harris and Peeples, along with starting center Jordan Ingram, Green will have to retool a front line headed by 6'6" senior Eric Hazard. One of the league's best at spotting up from the three-point stripe, Hazard (5.3 ppg) provided instant offense off the bench last year, but could be moved into a more prominent role this coming season. The Jersey native made nearly 80 percent of his shots from long range and his 41.2 percent conversion rate ranked fourth in the NEC. Look for sophomore forward Bryan Lytle and 7'0" English import Lawrence Brown, a sophomore center, to crack the rotation as well.

While Green added five to members to the Knights' cast in the offseason, he was clearly looking toward the future with his additions. Three of the recruits are New Jersey products who will sit out the 2007-08 season, including 6'1" junior guard Eric Moore, who averaged 12.5 ppg, 2.3 apg and buried 75 three-pointers in 21 starts for Buffalo a year ago. He led the Mid-American Conference in three-point field goal production, averaging 2.7 per game. Another transfer who will sit out this year is burly 6'8" forward Alvin Mofunanya, who played two years at Saint Joseph's. Freshman guard Anthony Jeune contributed 17.0 ppg his senior year at Camden Catholic, but will be redshirt in 2007-08 after sustaining serious injury in February. Freshman John Galvin, a 6'8" forward, will immediately bolster the frontcourt after a terrific scholastic career at Weston (CT), where he earned All-State status last season and graduated as the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,902 points. In 2006-07, he averaged 24.0 ppg and 15.0 rpg. Freshman Jordan Stasyszyn, a 6'3" shooting guard, will give the Knights yet another three-point marksman. As a senior at Carlisle (PA), he hit 10 treys in a playoff game and 110 on the year as he averaged 24.0 ppg.

### FDU By The Numbers

<b>Quick Facts</b>	
2006-07 Overall Record:	14-16
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	9-9/Tie-4th
NEC Tournament Finish:Lost in quarterfinals	
Starters Returning/Lost:	2/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	9/4
2006-07 Final RPI:	233
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	9-10

<b>NEC Record</b>	
Last Two Years:	23-13 (.639)
Last Three Years:	36-18 (.667)
Last Four Years:	47-25 (.653)
Last Five Years:	56-34 (.622)

<b>Overall Record</b>	
Last Two Years:	34-28 (.548)
Last Three Years:	54-41 (.568)
Last Four Years:	71-53 (.573)
Last Five Years:	86-67 (.562)

<b>Leading Returning Scorers</b>	
Cameron Tyler	14.3 ppg
Manny Ubilla	11.9 ppg
Eric Hazard	5.3ppg

<b>Leading Returning Rebounders</b>	
Cameron Tyler	4.4 rpg
Manny Ubilla	4.3 rpg
Eric Hazard	2.3 rpg

<b>Leading Returning Assists</b>	
Cameron Tyler	5.1 apg
Manny Ubilla	2.9 apg
Bernell Murray	1.5 apg

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## Long Island

Looking for a return to prominence, a significant personnel facelift has given sixth year head coach Jim Ferry the opportunity to flip the reset switch and take the Long Island program in a new direction this coming season.



With star guard James Williams - the face of the Blackbirds in recent years and the 17th-leading scorer in NEC history with 1,710 points - and two of his key cohorts now graduated, Ferry improved the team's athleticism in the offseason with a number of pivotal additions to the lineup who will complement a cast of veteran returnees.

Long Island's experience lies in its frontcourt, anchored by seniors Eugene Kotorobai, Paska Morkeliunas and Kellen Allen. One of the NEC's top three-point threats the last two years, the 6'5" Kotorobai drilled 52 shots from beyond the arc and ranked sixth in the league with a 40.0 percent success rate from outside the arc in 2006-07. He is also the team's leading returning scorer (9.7 ppg) and rebounder (6.5 rpg). Morkeliunas (4.5 ppg, 3.7 rpg) is a rugged interior defender who at 6'7", 230 lbs., has an innate ability to draw fouls in the paint. Last season, he went to the line 109 times, the second-highest figure on the team despite averaging just over 16 minutes per game. Long Island's low-post offense will be bolstered with the return of 6'7" Allen, a jump hook specialist who missed the last 18 games of the 2006-07 campaign with an injury. When healthy, Allen averaged 4.8 ppg and converted 56.5 percent of his shot opportunities. Sophomore Aurimas Adomaitis, the team's biggest player at 6'8" and 235 lbs., started 21 games in a promising freshman campaign, averaging 6.0 ppg and 3.2 rpg. Junior forward Albert Forbes, who has suffered through two injury plagued seasons and has yet to suit up for the Blackbirds, will provide depth up front.

Sophomore Jaytornah Wisseh and junior Tyrone Mattison will push the tempo in the team's ultra-swift backcourt. Wisseh displayed tremendous upside for Long Island last season when he was tabbed to the all-NEC Rookie team. A freewheeling penetrator, Wisseh often seemed unguardable in one-on-one situations and served notice of his skills with back-to-back 20+ point outings in early February, including a career-best 29-point effort at Sacred Heart. He averaged 8.7 ppg on the season and led the team with 3.0 apg. Manning the point, Mattison often deferred on offense to Williams and fellow graduate Aubin Scott, but should come into his own this season with two years under his belt. Extremely quick coast-to-coast, Mattison contributed 6.3 ppg and 2.0 spg as a sophomore.

Ferry wasted little time replenishing his backcourt with the addition of 6'1" shooter David Hicks during last fall's signing period. A Minnesota native, Hicks prepped at South Kent in Connecticut in 2006-07. During the spring, Ferry added 5'11" Nehemiah Weicks out of the California JUCO ranks. Weicks is versatile enough to play either guard position and like Hicks, can stroke it from the outside. The Blackbirds also received a commitment from 6'4" forward Ron Manigault, a New York City native who played two years at the City College of San Francisco. The cousin of local playground legend Earl "The Goat" Manigault, he has the versatility to play any of four positions and will add some grit to the Blackbird lineup. LIU landed another urban recruit in 6'7" forward Ike Udanoh, a Detroit native whose natural athleticism and aggressiveness on the boards will serve him well in an up-tempo atmosphere. Ferry completed his recruiting class in the summer with the addition of two more guards, 6'3" Kyle Johnson out of Ontario, Canada and 6'1" Alan Mozee from Oklahoma City.

### Long Island By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	10-19
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	6-10/10th
NEC Tournament Finish:	Did not qualify
Starters Returning/Lost:	2/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	8/6
2006-07 Final RPI:	310
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	5-5

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	15-21 (.417)
Last Three Years:	25-29 (.463)
Last Four Years:	29-43 (.403)
Last Five Years:	36-54 (.400)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	22-35 (.386)
Last Three Years:	36-50 (.419)
Last Four Years:	44-69 (.389)
Last Five Years:	53-88 (.376)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

Eugene Kotorobai	9.7 ppg
Jaytornah Wisseh	8.7 ppg
Tyrone Mattison	6.3 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

Eugene Kotorobai	6.5 rpg
Paska Morkeliunas	3.7 rpg
Aurimas Adomaitis	3.2 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Jaytornah Wisseh	3.0 apg
Tyrone Mattison	2.0 apg
Kellen Allen	0.8 apg

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## Monmouth

To those who have followed Monmouth basketball in recent years, the 2006-07 season was an aberration. One of the dominant programs in the NEC with three conference titles to their credit since 2001, the Hawks suffered their first losing season since 1999-00 and missed out on postseason festivities for the first time in eight years.



Though it may be difficult to predict the direction the program will take with the loss of three starters and four key performers, 11th year head coach Dave Calloway has a knack for restocking his roster with players that thrive in Monmouth's unique motion offense and suffocating matchup zone defense.

The one area where the Hawks seem established is in the backcourt with the return of starting guards Jhamar Youngblood and Whitney Coleman. The 6'1" Youngblood burst onto the scene last season enroute to NEC Rookie of the Year honors. A lightning-quick ballhandler with boundless energy and an attacking style of play, Youngblood in a short period of time became the pulse of the Monmouth team and conjured up images of former Hawk standout and NEC Player of the Year Rahsaan Johnson. He ranked second on the team with 12.3 ppg, shot 44.2 percent from three-point range and sat among league leaders in steals (1.7 spg, fifth) and field goal percentage (.525, sixth). As Calloway employed a point guard by committee approach last season, Coleman's ability to handle multiple roles made him one of the glue guys on the team in his sophomore season. He led the Hawks in minutes and finished second on the club with 41 three-pointers. A terrific athlete and able defender, the 6'3" Coleman (9.1 ppg, 3.1 rpg) has few peers when it comes to his ability to elevate off the floor and finish strong on the break. Junior guard Alex Nunner showed promise off the bench and can stretch defenses with his long range shooting ability (16 three-pointers), while sophomore guard Yaniv Simpson will look to crack the rotation following an injury-plagued freshman campaign.

With the graduation of 1,000-point scorers Deki Delic and Marques Alston, along with starting center Corey Hallett and massive 7'2" backup center John Bunch, the Monmouth frontcourt will feature an entirely new look in 2007-08. The only holdovers from last season were rarely used sophomores Rickie Crews and Shawn Barlow. Crews, a slinky 6'7" forward with ball skills, can play a key role on both ends of the floor with his length and ability to alter shots. At 6'11, 250 lbs., Barlow will press for time in the pivot along with 6'10" Canadian import Adam Dobriensky and 6'9" Dutch Gaitley, both of whom sat out last season and should enter the year with a clear understanding of the Monmouth system.

With a wide-open competition for playing time in the frontcourt, newcomers George Barbour and Nick Del Tufo could figure prominently in Calloway's plans. Barbour is a west coast recruit out of Torrance, CA, who at 6'7", 220 lbs. is both quick on his feet and strong enough to mix it up down on the block. Del Tufo was a local pickup for Calloway out of Mendham, NJ. The 6'7" forward is a heady player with a nice touch from the outside. The Hawks' point guard of the future may very well be Staten Island native James Hett, a shrewd player and terrific on-the-ball defender. Rounding out the class is 6'4" swingman R.J. Rutledge, son of longtime St. John's assistant coach Ron Rutledge. The Baldwin, NY native will be another asset in Monmouth's patented motion system with his ability to shoot it from downtown and slice his way to the hoop.

### Monmouth By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	12-18
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	7-11/8th-tie
NEC Tournament Finish:	Did not qualify
Starters Returning/Lost:	2/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	6/6
2006-07 Final RPI:	257
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	5-6

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	19-17 (.528)
Last Three Years:	33-21 (.611)
Last Four Years:	45-27 (.625)
Last Five Years:	58-32 (.644)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	31-33 (.484)
Last Three Years:	47-46 (.505)
Last Four Years:	68-58 (.540)
Last Five Years:	83-71 (.539)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

Jhamar Youngblood	12.3 ppg
Whitney Coleman	9.1 ppg
Alex Nunner	2.4 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

Jhamar Youngblood	3.5 rpg
Whitney Coleman	3.1 rpg
Alex Nunner	1.8 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Whitney Coleman	2.7 apg
Jhamar Youngblood	2.0 apg
Alex Nunner	0.6 apg

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## Mount St. Mary's

A program hungry for success, Mount St. Mary's refused to buy into the pre-season hype a year ago when the team was picked to finish tenth in the NEC by league head coaches. After a rocky start in non-conference play, the Mount righted the ship with a fourth place finish in the NEC regular season standings and followed with the school's first NEC Tournament win since 2000, a 78-61 conquest of Robert Morris in the quarterfinals. A tight loss to eventual conference champion CCSU in the semifinals left Mount St. Mary's fans excited by the future of the program under fourth year head coach Milan Brown.



While this year's version of the Mount will no longer feature do-everything guard and defensive stalwart Mychal Kears, the team will be fast and athletic with size at the wing and forward positions, and in a league where having good guard play is paramount to success, will feature one of the circuit's top backcourts in senior Chris Vann and sophomore Jeremy Goode. The 6'0" Vann came into his own last season as the top scoring option in the Mount's halfcourt offense. With a multifaceted offensive game, he led the team with 13.6 ppg and drilled 64 shots from three-point range, ninth most in the conference. Vann certainly benefitted from the emergence of the 5'9" Goode, a budding star at the point who was tabbed to the NEC all-Rookie team. Goode is a blur in the open court and creative in the Mount's set attack, often using his ability to shake defenders to set up teammates with pinpoint dishes. He finished the year with 10.1 ppg and ranked third in the NEC in steals (1.8 spg) and fourth in assists (5.0 apg). His 155 assists were the second most recorded by a freshman in league history, just eight off the all-time mark.

Aside from Vann and Goode, the Mount features a number of interchangeable parts with every other player on the roster measuring at least 6'4" tall. Utilized in a swing capacity, 6'5" Kelly Biedler and 6'4" Will Holland showed promise as freshmen and should step into larger roles in 2007-08. Biedler (5.8 ppg, 3.2 rpg) led the team with 21 blocks and seemed equally comfortable launching the ball from long range as he did taking it to the hoop. Holland (5.5 ppg) is a terrific athlete and leaper who also grew into a reliable shooter from long range with 33 trifectas.

Juniors Sam Atupem and Markus Mitchell have anchored the Mount's front line the last two seasons. At 6'7", Atupem (5.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg) is nimble around the hoop and active on defense, while the 6'7", 245 lb. Mitchell (4.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg) can swing the ball well for a big man (38 assists) and is a reliable low-post scorer. Both players have shot over 50 percent from the field in each of their first two seasons. Other returnees up front include senior center Jason Loughry, a seven-footer who has played well at times in spot duty, and 6'8" Tayvon Jackson, who sat out his freshman season and should provide a lift defensively with his shot-blocking prowess.

Determined to fortify his frontcourt, Brown added four freshman forwards to the roster in the offseason, the most notable being 6'7" Shawn Atupem, who will join his brother for the next two years at the Mount. A combo forward with perimeter skills, Atupem averaged 13.0 ppg and 9.0 rpg as a senior at Woodside in Newport News, VA. Danny Thompson was to add even more athleticism to the lineup, but tore his ACL over the summer and will sit out 2007-08. When he returns to the lineup next season, the 6'7" forward will be counted on to finish around the hoop and be a strong rebounding presence. Thompson averaged a double-double (15.0 ppg, 11.0 rpg) for C.H. Flowers in Springdale, MD last season and played in the PG County All-Star game. Pierre Brown, a 6'5" second team All-State player who compiled 18.1 ppg and 9.0 rpg for Jamestown in Virginia, adds yet another scoring option at the wing for the Mount. Brown added a late recruit and low block scoring option in 6'7" John Schwarz out of Perry High School in Baltimore. Schwarz earned second team all-Metro honors after leading the area with 13.0 rpg. The final newcomer is 6'3" guard Jean Cajou, a strong defender who averaged 14.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg and 2.0 spg at Paul VI in Fairfax, VA back in 2005-06.

### Mt. St. Mary's By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	11-20
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	9-9/Tie-4th
NEC Tournament Finish:	Lost In Semifinals
Starters Returning/Lost:	3/2
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	7/3
2005-06 Final RPI:	252
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	4-6

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	20-16 (.556)
Last Three Years:	25-29 (.463)
Last Four Years:	33-39 (.458)
Last Five Years:	39-51 (.433)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	24-37 (.393)
Last Three Years:	31-57 (.352)
Last Four Years:	41-76 (.350)
Last Five Years:	52-92 (.361)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

Chris Vann	13.6 ppg
Jeremy Goode	10.1 ppg
Kelly Biedler	5.8 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

Markus Mitchell	3.5 rpg
Sam Atupem	3.4 rpg
Jeremy Goode	3.4 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Jeremy Goode	5.0 apg
Chris Vann	1.4 apg
Markus Mitchell	1.2 apg

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## Quinnipiac

It has been a busy year to say the least for Quinnipiac basketball. The whirlwind began with the grand opening of the sparkling TD Banknorth Sports Center in January, an intimate 3,500-seat facility that has few peers in the northeast for arenas of its size.



At the conclusion of a rollercoaster season that ended with a setback in the NEC Tournament semifinals, a change of leadership resulted in the hiring of longtime UConn assistant Tom Moore, a 20-year coaching veteran who will usher in the next era of basketball at the Hamden, CT university. Moore, who served on Jim Calhoun's staff the last 13 seasons, inherits a team hit hard by graduation as just three significant contributors and seven letterwinners in total return to the fold. To his credit, Moore replenished the roster in quick fashion with six newcomers set to join the first year head coach as they embark upon their maiden voyage in the NEC.

Without question, the Bobcats' ringleader this year will be 6'4" senior guard DeMario Anderson, a prodigious talent who can score from every spot on the floor and is practically unguardable one-on-one. After sitting out 2005-06, Anderson got off to a slow start last season before recovering to score in double figures in each of the last 20 games, averaging 18.5 ppg while hitting at a 54.5 percent clip from the floor in that stretch. On the year, he ranked eighth in the league in scoring (15.7 ppg) and tenth in field goal percentage (.508). Anderson's backcourt partner Casey Cosgrove went through the proverbial trial by fire as a freshman, starting 22 games at point guard for the Bobcats. While his offensive numbers were modest (3.5 ppg, 23 3PG), he did rank 12th in the conference with 3.4 apg and most importantly, took care of the ball. The 5'8" Cosgrove led the NEC with a 1.88:1 assist-to-turnover ratio and averaged less than two miscues per contest. Junior Brian Geffen will make his Quinnipiac debut after he sat out last season upon transferring from Boston University. The 5'11" guard averaged 4.5 ppg for the Terriers in 2005-06. James Feldeine, an athletic 6'4" sophomore guard, could also see more minutes after being used sparingly as a freshman.

Senior Karl Anderson is Quinnipiac's lone experienced returnee in the frontcourt. The 6'9", 255 lb. forward/center only averaged 17.4 mpg a year ago when he contributed 6.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg and shot 59.4 percent from the floor, but is a seasoned post-up player with a soft touch from mid-range.

With so few experienced hands, Moore will have the opportunity to put an immediate stamp on the program with his initial recruiting class, a group that addresses a number of needs, most notably up front. At 6'6", sophomore forward Louis Brookins is a terrific athlete and wing player who last played two years ago at Maryland-Eastern Shore. Freshman center Ed Zajac will add some needed size to the lineup. Possessing a nice touch from the outside, the 6'9" native of Lindenhurst, NY comes to Quinnipiac after year of prep ball at Cheshire Academy in Connecticut. Moore also added 6'7" power forward Justin Crotty out of Newburgh, NY and sophomore Jonathan Cruz, who will sit out the 2007-08 season after transferring from Rhode Island, where he started seven games last season. A 6'7" combo forward, Cruz is an adept passer who can score in the post. One of two brother combinations in the NEC, the signing of Jeremy and Evann Baker could go a long way in fueling the Bobcats' basketball renaissance. Jeremy, a 6'2" junior point guard, averaged 3.3 apg for Garden City CC last season. Evann, a 6'3" freshman guard, averaged 22.0 ppg and 6.0 apg for Maine Central Institute last season and originally signed a letter of intent with Wichita State, but was granted a release following a coaching change. He was the Washington D.C. area Player of the Year in 2005-06. The final piece of the recruiting puzzle is 6'2" guard Brian Crilley, a noted three-point specialist out of Absecon, NJ.

### Quinnipiac By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	14-15
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	11-7/3rd
NEC Tournament Finish:	Lost in Semifinals
Starters Returning/Lost:	1/4
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	7/6
2005-06 Final RPI:	236
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	7-7

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	18-18 (.500)
Last Three Years:	24-30 (.444)
Last Four Years:	29-43 (.403)
Last Five Years:	39-51 (.433)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	26-31 (.456)
Last Three Years:	36-48 (.429)
Last Four Years:	45-68 (.398)
Last Five Years:	62-80 (.437)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

DeMario Anderson	15.7 ppg
Karl Anderson	6.8 ppg
Casey Cosgrove	3.5 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

DeMario Anderson	4.3 rpg
Karl Anderson	3.5 rpg
Casey Cosgrove	2.1 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Casey Cosgrove	3.4 apg
DeMario Anderson	1.6 apg
Karl Anderson	0.6 apg

# 2007-08 Northeast Conference Men's Basketball Team-By-Team Previews



## Robert Morris

Timing is an important part of basketball, whether related to taking charges, snaring a rebound or hitting a cutter down the lane. It could also be used to describe new Robert Morris head coach Mike Rice's good fortune in inheriting a solid contender for the NEC crown that returns four starters who combined for more than two-thirds of the Colonials' points last season.



After spending the last two years as an assistant coach and top recruiter at Pittsburgh, Rice was introduced as the seventh coach in program history in April, and immediately hit the recruiting trail in an attempt to bolster an already solid lineup and lead the Colonials to their first NEC crown since 1992. No NEC team may possess more firepower among its top three players than Robert Morris, which bolted out to an NEC record 8-1 start last year in the non-conference season, before fading in league play and falling in the NEC quarterfinals.

While point guard Derek Coleman will be difficult to replace, seniors Tony Lee and A.J. Jackson were second team all-NEC picks last season, and junior Jeremy Chappell was the NEC Rookie of the Year in 2005-06. Lee is the unquestioned heart and soul of the team, and inch-for-inch perhaps the best rebounder in the nation. Despite measuring just 6'0", Lee ranked tenth in the conference with 6.1 rpg and also led the NEC in field goal percentage by hitting 59.3 percent of his shots, including an astounding 67.0 percent of his attempts from two-point range. He lifted his scoring average by over four points from his sophomore season to finish seventh in the conference with 15.9 ppg and also wound up fifth on the circuit with 4.4 apg. As if that wasn't enough, Lee's commitment on the defensive end of the floor led to the Boston native leading the league and ranking eighth nationally with 2.8 spg. In earning his second consecutive all-NEC honor, Jackson paced the Colonials with 16.9 ppg (third in the league), 7.8 rpg (second) and seven double-doubles (third). A truly versatile talent, the 6'6", 230 lb. Jackson is one of the few NEC players in recent years who can shoot with range - he drilled 41 shots from outside the arc - take his man off the dribble and score effectively with his back to the basket. Coming off a spectacular freshman year, Chappell started slow last season but came on strong in its latter stages with four 20+ point outings in the last eight games. A 6'3" two-guard, Chappell is at his best in the transition game, but also helped spread the floor with his three-point shooting ability, burying 44 shots from downtown. He ended the year third on the Colonials with 14.4 ppg and 5.1 rpg.

The fourth returning starter is 6'9" center Freddie Harris, who came back from an injury-plagued 2005-06 campaign to average 4.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg and provide Robert Morris with a sturdy defensive presence in the lane. Sophomore guard Mezie Nwigwe and junior forward Ifeanyi Ehirim played key roles off the bench for the Colonials in their first year with the program. Nwigwe (4.2 ppg) developed a reputation as a defensive stopper, while Ehirim (2.3 ppg) is a slender, bouncy 6'7" forward who can run the floor like a gazelle and find ways to score in the post. Bidding for increased roles this season will be sophomore Jimmy Langhurst, a sharpshooting guard, and athletic sophomore forward Dallas Green. Sophomore Bas Rozendaal, a seven-footer who sat out last season, will also be given a look with hope he can develop into a shot-blocking presence in the paint.

It didn't take long for Rice upon his arrival to ink his first four recruits. Freshman Gary Wallace could challenge for the vacant starting spot at the point following a prolific high school career at New Jersey power Seton Hall Prep. The 6'3" native of Montclair, NJ led his team to a 59-4 overall record the last two years and averaged 10.8 ppg and 5.9 apg as a senior. Rice also added Philadelphia product Khalif Foster and French import Bateko Francisco to his backcourt. The 6'3" Foster is an aggressive wing player who averaged a double-double in his senior year with 18.1 ppg and 10.3 rpg, and finished his career as the all-time leading scorer for Academy of the New Church with 1,322 points. Francisco, at 6'1", comes to Moon Township by way of Fort Scott CC, where he led the KJCCC in scoring with 19.5 ppg last season. Fortifying the team's rebounding and interior defense will be 6'7" forward William Royal, a Cincinnati product who averaged 17.3 ppg and 9.4 rpg last season at Harmony Community Prep School after earning all-state honors in Pennsylvania at Harrisburg High School the prior year.

### Robert Morris By The Numbers

Quick Facts	
2006-07 Overall Record:	17-11
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	9-9/Tie-4th
NEC Tournament Finish:Lost in Quarterfinals	
Starters Returning/Lost:	4/1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	8/4
2006-07 Final RPI:	207
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	6-5

NEC Record	
Last Two Years:	19-17 (.528)
Last Three Years	30-24 (.556)
Last Four Years:	40-32 (.556)
Last Five Years:	47-43 (.522)

Overall Record	
Last Two Years:	32-25 (.561)
Last Three Years	46-40 (.535)
Last Four Years:	60-55 (.522)
Last Five Years:	70-72 (.493)

Leading Returning Scorers	
A.J. Jackson	16.9 ppg
Tony Lee	15.9 ppg
Jeremy Chappell	14.4 ppg

Leading Returning Rebounders	
A.J. Jackson	7.8 rpg
Tony Lee	6.1 rpg
Jeremy Chappell	5.1 rpg

Leading Returning Assists	
Tony Lee	4.4 apg
Jeremy Chappell	2.7 apg
A.J. Jackson	1.2 apg

# 2007-08 Northeast Conference Men's Basketball Team-By-Team Previews



## Sacred Heart

There is a buzz building on the Sacred Heart campus, one that hasn't been felt since the university elevated its athletic program to Division I status in 1999. It started back in March when the Pioneers wrapped up their best-ever regular season showing in the NEC with a second place finish and then went on to win the first two tournament games in school history. A spine-tingling 74-70 setback to CCSU before a national television audience in the conference title game proved to be the crowning moment for a program that just two years earlier finished with a 4-23 record and was picked to finish ninth in the conference in the 2006-07 NEC preseason coaches poll.



Following the school-record 18-win season, Sacred Heart followers have every reason to be optimistic this year with the return of one of the most accomplished outfits in the conference. It will now fall on to 30th year head coach Dave Bike to balance the expectations that will likely follow his team.

One aspect of the game Bike can surely rely on is his team's ability to shoot the basketball as Sacred Heart returns four players who hit 39 or more three-pointers a year ago when the Pioneers led the NEC and ranked 17th nationally in scoring with 78.5 ppg. The veteran of the group is senior guard Drew Shubik, a terrific all-around player who drilled 40 trifectas and averaged 9.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg and a team-leading 4.0 apg. The reigning NEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year in men's basketball also ranked second in the conference with 2.0 spg and a 1.83:1 assist-to-turnover ratio. If the 6'4" Shubik causes matchup problems with his size, junior Luke Granato is even a bigger headache for opposing coaches. At 6'6", Granato (8.8 ppg) finished fifth in the league with 71 shots from outside the arc, including a career-high eight in Sacred Heart's competitive showing against North Carolina last November.

### Sacred Heart By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	18-14
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	12-6/2nd
NEC Tournament Finish:	Lost in Title Game
Starters Returning/Lost:	3/2
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	9/2
2006-07 Final RPI:	150
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	5-7

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	20-16 (.556)
Last Three Years:	23-31 (.426)
Last Four Years:	31-41 (.431)
Last Five Years:	37-53 (.411)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	29-31 (.483)
Last Three Years:	33-54 (.379)
Last Four Years:	45-69 (.395)
Last Five Years:	53-90 (.371)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

Joey Henley	11.1 ppg
Chauncey Hardy	10.6 ppg
Brice Brooks	9.9 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

Brice Brooks	6.0 rpg
Joey Henley	4.5 rpg
Drew Shubik	3.9 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Drew Shubik	4.0 apg
Chauncey Hardy	2.8 apg
Luke Granato	0.8 apg

Sophomore guards Chauncey Hardy and Ryan Litke will look to build on their impressive freshman campaigns. Hardy, a terrific athlete and adept distributor who was named to the all-NEC rookie squad, finished third on the team in scoring with 10.6 ppg, sank 39 treys and shot 43.8 percent from downtown to rank second on the circuit. A fearless shooter, Litke came off the bench to average 8.4 ppg, sank 62 three-point shots and finished third in the conference with a 43.1 percent success rate from long range. He was especially productive in the NEC Tournament, hitting for 13.3 ppg in three contests, including 12 points on 4-8 shooting from three-point range against CCSU in the title game. Adding to the long distance barrage this season will be 6'4" sophomore guard Corey Hassan, a 2005-06 America East all-Rookie selection who hit 67 trifectas for Boston University as a freshman.

Up front, senior power forward Joey Henley will likely miss the season with a knee injury sustained while playing receiver on the Pioneer football squad. Henley, who also missed the 2005-06 season with a football injury, came up big in the 2007 postseason, scoring 20 in the team's quarterfinal win over Wagner before adding 22 points and seven boards in a dominating performance versus CCSU in the league championship game. A second team all-NEC pick as a sophomore, Henley (11.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg) has few peers in the conference as an athlete, displays a soft touch around the hoop - he finished third in the NEC with a .568 field goal percentage - and is nearly impossible to contain when he puts the ball on the floor. Fellow senior Brice Brooks had a breakout season in 2006-07, averaging 9.9 ppg and a team-high 6.0 rpg. A valuable performer off the bench early in the year, the 6'7" forward with a reliable mid-range shot was inserted into the starting lineup down the stretch as Sacred Heart closed out the year with seven wins in its last ten outings. Junior forward Ryon Howard began last season as a starter but went down early on with a knee injury that sidelined him for the remainder of the season. Howard, if recovered, is a perfect fit in the Pioneers' up-tempo style of play with his ability to finish on the break and his attacking style on offense. Junior Liam Potter, a 7'0" center, began to make strides last season when he started 19 games, averaged 4.7 ppg and shot 65.9 percent from the floor.

In the offseason, Bike added highly regarded 6'9" Turkish center Mehmet Sahan to the mix, as well as Jerell Thompson, a 5'10" point guard out of Plainfield, NJ. Joshua Marshall, a 2006-07 recruit who sat out last year, is a 6'5" forward who could see time as well in a deep Sacred Heart lineup.

# 2007-08 Northeast Conference Men's Basketball Team-By-Team Previews



## St. Francis (NY)

From the perspective of St. Francis (NY) head coach Brian Nash, the painful start to the 2006-07 season faded into a distant memory by late February. But just as the Terriers were hitting their stride by winning three straight over upper echelon teams to close out the regular season and earn an NEC Tournament berth for the 16th time in the last 17 years, a loss to eventual conference champion Central Connecticut State in the quarterfinals ended the season on an abrupt note.



Now in his third year, with his rebuilding plan at the Brooklyn school in full swing, Nash has designs on making a serious postseason run in 2007-08, perhaps using his team's late-season charge both as a motivational tool and as a reflection of the Terriers' true potential. One thing is certain: with four returning starters and six of the top-seven scorers back in the fold, St. Francis will be one of the more experienced teams in the conference.

The centerpiece of the Terriers is 6'5" senior forward Robert Hines, a high octane talent who earned second team all-NEC recognition last season, his first with the program. Despite his 250 lb. frame, he sacrifices little in the way of quickness and is one of the best in the conference both in the low post and at creating his own shot off the dribble. With surprising range on his jumper and the ability to locate open teammates from the high post, Hines was clearly the Terriers' go-to scorer a year ago when he ranked fifth in the conference with 16.5 ppg and also added 5.9 rpg and 2.4 apg.

Doing his best to feed Hines the ball will be junior guard Jamaal Womack, a 5'8 jitterbug whose tireless play and hustle often served as a momentum changer for the Terriers. He ranked third on the club with 10.6 ppg and by adding a reliable three-point shot to his arsenal, helped spread the floor and open up the middle of the lane for a team loaded with slashers. Womack finished seventh in the NEC with 67 treys on the year, including nine in a career-high 31 point outing in the Terriers' win over Robert Morris in mid-February. Sharing playmaking duties with Womack will be 6'3" senior guard Marcus Williams. A physical player who isn't afraid to mix it up underneath, Williams possesses outstanding court vision and led the Terriers with 2.8 apg. He also ranked seventh in the conference with 1.7 spg and averaged 8.2 ppg and 5.1 rpg on the year. Junior Otis Campbell, a 6'2", 215 lb. guard who was a former high school teammate of Williams at powerhouse St. Anthony's in New Jersey, will be a welcome addition to the backcourt after sitting out last season with injuries.

A pair of experienced hands will flank Hines in the frontcourt in senior Bass Yessoufou and junior John Gooden. Active on both ends of the floor, the lithe, 6'9" Yessoufou (5.1 ppg, 3.6 rpg) started 25 games for St. Francis last season, hitting 53.2 percent shots from the floor to lead the team. The rugged Gooden (4.6 rpg, 3.9 rpg) has a nose for the hoop and at 6'6", 230 lbs., has provided the Terriers with a spark off the bench in each of the last two years. Athletic swingman Kayode Ayeni (3.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg) came on strong in his freshman season, displaying terrific leaping skills and the ability to convert in the open court. Others looking to break into the regular frontcourt rotation include senior three-point specialist Sami Pekkola and sophomores David Burton and Rainier Rickards.

While the Terriers were the top rebounding team in the NEC last season with a +3.9 margin, Nash made it a priority to shore up the team's outside shooting in the offseason. St. Francis shot just 41.2 percent from the field in 2006-07, but that could be remedied with the addition of 6'3" freshman guard Rocco Rubino, one of New York City's top three-point shooters last season when he was selected to the CHSAA first team after averaging 15.0 ppg at Archbishop Molloy. Another backcourt addition, 6'2" Ricky Cadell, is a polished point guard prospect who finished his senior season at The Patterson School in North Carolina averaging 15.0 ppg, 7.0 apg and 5.0 rpg. Nash added a third guard over the summer in 5'8" Lateef Willis out of Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx.

### St. Francis (NY) By The Numbers

<b>Quick Facts</b>	
2006-07 Overall Record:	9-22
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	7-11/Tie-8th
NEC Tournament Finish:	Lost in Quarterfinals
Starters Returning/Lost:	4/1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	9/3
2006-07 Final RPI:	281
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	5-8

<b>NEC Record</b>	
Last Two Years:	14-22 (.389)
Last Three Years:	23-31 (.426)
Last Four Years:	35-37 (.486)
Last Five Years:	44-46 (.489)

<b>Overall Record</b>	
Last Two Years:	19-39 (.328)
Last Three Years:	32-54 (.372)
Last Four Years:	47-67 (.412)
Last Five Years:	61-83 (.424)

<b>Leading Returning Scorers</b>	
Robert Hines	16.5 ppg
Jamaal Womack	10.6 ppg
Marcus Williams	8.2 ppg

<b>Leading Returning Rebounders</b>	
Robert Hines	5.9 rpg
Marcus Williams	5.1 rpg
John Gooden	3.9 rpg

<b>Leading Returning Assists</b>	
Marcus Williams	2.8 apg
Robert Hines	2.4 apg
Jamaal Womack	1.8 apg

# 2007-08 Northeast Conference Men's Basketball Team-By-Team Previews



## St. Francis (PA)

All it took was one two week stretch to give ninth year head coach Bobby Jones and the Saint Francis (PA) faithful something to look forward to in 2007-08. After a promising start gave way to a school record 15-game losing streak, things looked bleak for the Red Flash, but instead of wilting away, the team regrouped to win four of its last five games to close out the year. "I am really proud of these guys," said Jones at the time. "They showed a lot of character and heart down the stretch."



If Saint Francis is to carry the momentum into the coming season, Jones will need continued development from a host of young and talented players - all five starters return, as do 12-of-14 letterwinners - who were thrust into the spotlight a year ago. In fact, the team will likely go as far as sophomore Devin Sweetney can carry it, given that the Red Flash do not feature a single senior on the roster. Sweetney, a 6'6" swingman who took the NEC by storm last season, may shoulder an even heavier load than he did a year ago when he led the team - and all NEC freshman - with 13.0 ppg, 7.7 rpg and six double-doubles. A sinewy slasher and explosive leaper, the NEC all-Rookie pick formed a terrific one-two punch on the wing with fellow newcomer Chris Berry. A 6'4" junior, Berry is a natural scorer with a reliable stroke from the outside. He averaged 11.7 ppg last season and also snared 4.9 rpg.

By rolling out what amounts to a four-guard lineup at times, Jones will be counting on his team's quickness and three-point shooting prowess to win games. To that end, returning starters Marquis Ford and Cale Nelson will play a key role in delivering the ball to Sweetney and Berry, while serving as capable scorers in their own right. Ford's ability to play off the ball and development as a three-point threat last season were significant benchmarks in his career. In addition to averaging 9.3 ppg and 4.1 apg (seventh in league), he hit a team-high 51 trifectas on the year and led the NEC with an astounding 51.0 percent conversion rate from beyond the arc. After a year off, Nelson returned to the club and logged significant minutes for the first time in his tenure at Saint Francis. Displaying poise and superb court vision at the point, he finished the year with 8.7 ppg, 3.6 apg and 46 three-pointers, Nelson also ranked third in the conference in free throw percentage (.863) and fifth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.54:1).

The Red Flash will also rely heavily on agile 6'9" junior forward Bassirou Dieng, who started 26 games in 2006-07. An active defender who is able to run the floor and finish in transition, Dieng averaged 6.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, led the team with 28 blocks and even hit 10-21 shots from downtown. Jones will need better production from his bench this season, with seven players who averaged 2.1 ppg or less set to return.

Junior guard Grant Surprenant is a proven marksman from long range, having hit 68 treys in his first two years. His classmate, Steve Profeta, struggled with his shot last season, but the 6'5" guard did show potential as a freshman 2005-06. Junior guard Kyle Jackson, along with sophomore forwards Mislav Jukic, Kurt Hoffman and Randy Spaid, and sophomore guard Chris McFarland, will all look to make an impact after limited playing time a year ago.

Jones elected to use just one of his two remaining scholarships in the offseason, landing 6'0" point guard Sorena Orandi, who has played for the Under-18 Swedish National Team and spent last year at Solebury Prep near Philadelphia where he was a multi-sport athlete, also competing in cross country and track and field.

### St. Francis (PA) By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	8-21
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	5-13/11th
NEC Tournament Finish:	Did not qualify
Starters Returning/Lost:	5/0
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	12/2
2006-07 Final RPI:	321
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	2-5

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	7-29 (.194)
Last Three Years:	17-37 (.315)
Last Four Years:	27-45 (.375)
Last Five Years:	37-53 (.411)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	12-45 (.211)
Last Three Years:	27-58 (.318)
Last Four Years:	40-73 (.354)
Last Five Years:	54-87 (.383)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

Devin Sweetney	13.0 ppg
Chris Berry	11.7ppg
Marquis Ford	9.3 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

Devin Sweetney	7.7 rpg
Chris Berry	4.9 rpg
Bassirou Dieng	3.9 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Marquis Ford	4.1 apg
Cale Nelson	3.6 apg
Devin Sweetney	2.1 apg

# 2007-08 Northeast Conference Men's Basketball Team-By-Team Previews



## Wagner

At first glance it appears that the return to the lineup of all-NEC senior forward Durell Vinson holds the key to Wagner's season. One of the top players in the conference and a nightly double-double threat, Vinson will be the cornerstone of the team and a welcome sight for Seahawk fans following a one-year absence.



But if Wagner is to challenge for league supremacy, it will be the contributions of the players surrounding Vinson that may spell the difference. For the first time since his initial season with the program, fifth year head coach Mike Deane returns a seasoned cast of veterans with three seniors and seven upperclassmen dotting the roster. That experience could prove priceless in a year in which a host of NEC teams are facing significant roster transformations. In fact, dating back to the 1986-87 campaign, Wagner is believed to be the first NEC team to begin a year with five 500-point career scorers.

The Seahawks are also the first conference team to bring back five double figure scorers since the 2000-01 season, led by Vinson, who averaged 15.2 ppg and 9.6 rpg in 2005-06 en-route to first team all-conference plaudits. A relentless rebounder and superb low-post scorer, his hunger on the court is an intangible that is hard to measure. The 6'7", 215 lb. forward will also help shore the Seahawks' deficiency on the boards from last season after leading the conference in rebounding margin three straight years from 2003-06.

Vinson's old high school teammate, 6'2" senior guard Mark Porter capably manned the point last season when he finished second in the NEC with 5.2 apg. An improviser with the ball, Porter's ability to attack the basket and hit mid-range jumpers resulted in him leading Wagner with 13.8 ppg, while also contributing 5.2 rpg. The third senior in the starting lineup is 6'7" forward James Ulrich. One of the league's most improved players a year ago, he upped his scoring average from 6.3 ppg to 13.2 ppg and his rebounding from 4.4 rpg to 6.7 rpg despite being forced to play out of position, often manning the pivot in Vinson's absence. Ulrich's versatility - he runs the floor well in transition, can stick baseline shots with regularity and has an array of post moves - is only matched by his competitive zeal on the court.

Juniors Jamal Smith and Joey Mundweiler round out the list of the Seahawks' returning double-digit point producers. After a series of stops and starts, the 6'5" Smith finally played a full season healthy and displayed glimpses of his vast potential. An inside-outside threat who can create his own scoring opportunities as a swingman, Smith averaged 11.7 ppg and 5.5 rpg in a swing role. Mundweiler (11.6 ppg) seems to relish his role as Wagner's designated gunslinger from three-point territory. Last season, he finished second in the conference with 89 trifectas and ignited numerous surges with his ability to string two and three shots in a row from outside the arc.

Coming off the bench for the Seahawks will be junior forward Justin Drummond and sophomore forward Llewchean Radford. At a lean 6'6", Drummond (5.7 ppg, 3.5 rpg) was a spot-starter for the Seahawks last season who can handle the ball and possesses good court vision. At 6'4", Radford (4.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg) is a bull underneath the basket, and at 230 lbs., is not afraid to throw his weight around. Sophomore forwards Doug Elwell and Michael Orock should also contribute.

Of the five freshman recruits Deane landed in the offseason, 5'11" Jaren Haley is perhaps the most vital to the team's success in 2007-08. A 16.0 ppg scorer as a senior at Freedom High School in Woodbridge, VA, the speedy guard will be groomed to eventually take over at the point guard spot. Deane also looked toward the future by adding some size up front with the signing of 6'11", 255 lb. center Brian Szczpanski, the all-time blocked shots leader at New York's Webster-Schroeder High School, 6'7", 225 lb. forward Clifton Spiller, who averaged a double-double as a senior at Holy Spirit in Absecon, NJ, and 6'8", 235 lb. English import Clayfell Harris.

### Wagner By The Numbers

#### Quick Facts

2006-07 Overall Record:	11-19
2006-07 NEC Record/Finish:	8-10/7th
NEC Tournament Finish:Lost in Quarterfinals	
Starters Returning/Lost:	4/1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	7/3
2005-06 Final RPI:	298
Games Decided By 5 Points or Less:	3-5

#### NEC Record

Last Two Years:	14-22 (.389)
Last Three Years	24-30 (.444)
Last Four Years:	34-38 (.472)
Last Five Years:	48-42 (.533)

#### Overall Record

Last Two Years:	24-33 (.421)
Last Three Years	38-49 (.437)
Last Four Years:	51-65 (.440)
Last Five Years:	72-76 (.486)

#### Leading Returning Scorers

Durell Vinson*	15.2 ppg
Mark Porter	13.8 ppg
James Ulrich	13.2 ppg

#### Leading Returning Rebounders

Durell Vinson*	9.6 rpg
James Ulrich	6.7 rpg
Jamal Smith	5.5 rpg

#### Leading Returning Assists

Mark Porter	5.2 apg
James Ulrich	1.5 apg
Jamal Smith	1.5 apg

\* 2005-06 statistics