



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
 CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
 CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
 EMORY UNIVERSITY
 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY in ST. LOUIS



UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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WASHINGTON EARNS PRESEASON PICK TO CAPTURE UAA MEN'S SOCCER TITLE
Bears In Search of Seventh Association Championship and First Title Since 1999

Washington University, which returns all 11 starters among its 23 letterwinners, will enter the new season as the favorite to capture the 2007 soccer championship in preseason polling of the Association coaches. The Bears, who won their final three games to come within a game of claiming the UAA title last fall, earned four first-place votes in earning top honors with 43 points.

Seven points separated the top four teams in this year's poll, with each earning at least one first-place vote. New York University, which advanced to their first NCAA Division III final four in 2006, is the coaches' choice to finish second in the standings, earning a pair of first-place votes in tallying 40 points. Case Western Reserve University, which won its last four UAA contest en route to claiming its first Association championship, garnered a first-place vote in being picked to finish third with 38 points. The University of Rochester is predicted to finish fourth in the standings, picking up the remaining first-place vote in totaling 36 points. Rounding out the remaining teams in the poll, in order, are the University of Chicago (27 points), Carnegie Mellon University (20), Emory University (12), and Brandeis University (9).

Last year, a record five Association teams — Case, Chicago, NYU, Rochester, and Washington — earned berths into the NCAA Division III Championship field, with NYU becoming only the third UAA team to reach the championship round. The Violets dropped a 3-0 decision to eventual national champion Messiah College in the semifinals.

• **Washington:** Washington returns 26 letterwinners, including all 11 starters, from a team which finished third in the UAA with a 4-2-1 record and made their first NCAA Division III tournament since 1999 with a 12-4-1 mark. Senior backs and All-UAA first team selections Matt Hemphill and Elie Zenner will once again bolster the Washington defense, a unit that allowed just nine goals all year. Zenner also led the Bears in scoring, tallying six goals and two assists for 14 points. Sophomore John Smelcer, the UAA Rookie of the Year, will return in goal after posting a 0.53 goals against average a year ago, the fourth lowest in school history and ranking 17th among NCAA Division III goaltenders. He also stopped 49 shots for an .845 save percentage. The Bears also return sophomore and All-UAA honorable mention John Hengel, who led the squad in points (15) on five goals and five assists.

• **NYU:** Seven returning starters are among 15 returning letterwinners for the Violets, who capped an historic season with a final four appearance in the NCAA Division III Championship. NYU set school records for consecutive victories (10) and longest unbeaten streak (10-0-2) and held the top spot in the UAA standings for the most of the season. Senior Midfielder Jared Thayer returns to pace the Violet offensive attack. The 2006 UAA Player of the Year and Division III All-America pick by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (second team), and *d3kicks.com* (third team),

Thayer led the Violets with 11 goals and 26 points, while doling out four assists. He also tallied game-winning goals in four contests. Juniors Adam Dhanens and Chris Wright, both All-UAA honorable mention selections a year ago, also return. Dhanens was the third leading scorer for the Violets with eight goals and 18 points, while Wright started all 26 games in goal with a 0.72 goals against average and an .819 save percentage (77 saves). Also returning to the NYU offense are junior forward Brandon Neal (five goals, three assists – 13 points) and senior midfielder Matthew Ramirez (four goals, nine points).

• **Case:** The Spartans returns the heart of its lineup in a quest to defend their UAA championship. Picked to finish last in the Association standings in past seasons,

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RANK, TEAM	PTS.	2006 RECORD (UAA)
Washington (4)	43	12-4-2 (4-2-1)
NYU (2)	40	15-4-4 (4-2-1)
Case (1)	38	17-2-2 (5-2-0)
Rochester (1)	36	9-6-3 (2-3-2)
Chicago	27	10-5-4 (2-3-2)
Carnegie Mellon	20	14-5-0 (4-3-0)
Emory	12	11-6-0 (2-5-0)
Brandeis	9	13-7-3 (2-5-0)

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Case proved their doubters wrong in 2006 with a 17-2-2 overall mark and a 5-2-0 UAA record, winning their final four Association contests to claim their first ever title and the automatic berth to their first NCAA Division III Championship. The Spartans return a class of juniors with a year of maturity and experience under their belt that should make them serious contenders for another Association title run. Juniors R.J. French, Kevin Bigart, and Matt Paglia all return for the Spartans this season on offense. French, an All-UAA first team selection a year ago, led the team in points (33) and assists (11), and tied for the team lead in goals with 11. Bigart, an All-UAA honorable mention, tied for the team lead in goals (11) and recorded 29 points in starting all 21 games for Case. Paglia, a second team All-UAA selection, recorded 27 points for the Spartans last season, tallying nine goals and nine assists. On defense, junior Konrad Karasek and senior Chad Skidmore will both battle for time in goal. Karasek, An All-UAA first team pick, was the second ranked goalkeeper in NCAA Division III last fall, yielding only four goals in 14 games for a 0.307 goals against average. He also stopped 51 shots on goal in posting a .927 save percentage, which also ranked second in Division III, and registered seven shutouts. Skidmore played and started in nine contests for the Spartans, allowing seven goals for a 0.71 goals against average, making 23 saves for a .793 save percentage, and posting four shutouts.

- **Rochester:** Despite the loss of four players to graduation, including last year's leading scorer, the University of Rochester returns 23 letterwinners and eight starters from a team that finished fifth in the UAA with a 2-3-2 record, but held strong against a tough Division III schedule to earn a second straight trip to the NCAA Division III Championship (advancing to the second round) and finish with a 9-6-3 mark. The Yellowjackets will open 2007 in search of their 500th all-time victory (499-302-69 in 73 seasons of play). Senior defender Nick Mikolenko and classmate midfielder Patrick Ripp are two of the Yellowjackets top scorers from a year ago. Mikolenko a two-time All-UAA honoree and All-Northeast Region selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), finished second in scoring with four goals and nine assists for 17 points. Mikolenko, along with senior and fellow defender Bobby Milenovici (All-UAA honorable mention) were instrumental in the success of a defense that posted a pair of shutouts – one coming in NCAA tournament play – and held nine other teams to a single goal. Ripp an honorable mention All-UAA selection and Third Team All-Northeast Region by *D3kicks.com*, was second on the team in assists (six), and scored two goals to finish third in scoring with 10 points. Senior Eric Meister will return to join Ripp in shoring up the midfield.

- **Chicago:** The Maroons bring back six starters among 16 letterwinners from a team that made their second straight NCAA tournament and fourth trip overall. Senior forward Andrew Hamilton, a second team All-UAA selection last fall, returns to the front line after leading the team in goals scored (seven) and points (19). He was also the top goal

scorer in Association play with five and finished tied for second in scoring with 10 points. Sophomore forward Edgar Friloux finished second in scoring for the maroons in scoring with ten points (four goals, two assists), while juniors Eric Floyd and Tom Lobdell were tied for fourth on the team with seven points, each tallying three goals and an assist. The Maroons lost record setting and All-UAA second team goalkeeper Keith Crum to graduation, but possess a quality replacement in junior Micah Gruber. Despite playing only seven games as a backup (making five starts), Gruber made the most of his opportunity, posting a 3-0-1 record with a 0.90 goals against average, 21 saves (.808 percentage) and a shutout. Senior John Cartwright and sophomore John Hughes will support Gruber in the backfield. The duo was part of a defense that allowed 16 goals in 19 games with six shutouts in 2006.

- **Carnegie Mellon:** The Tartans will need to fill a big void in its lineup with the graduation of four of its top five scorers from a year ago, which included all-time leading scorer, three-time All-UAA first team selection, and 2003 Association Rookie of the Year Jonathan Browne. Youth will play a major role in the development of this year's squad with only two seniors and two juniors among 20 returning letterwinners that captured an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Championship a year ago. Junior goalkeeper Matthew Bazin will protect the net for the Tartans for the second straight year. An honorable mention All-UAA selection in posting nine shutouts a year ago, Bazin was among the nationally ranked goalies in NCAA Division III, giving up 11 goals in 1,662 minutes for a 0.61 goals against average and 71 saves for an .866 save percentage. Sophomore midfielders Ryan Browne and Jonathan Hall, both All-UAA honorable mention honorees, made impressive debuts in their rookie season, starting all 19 games. Browne finished fourth on the squad with four goals, four assists, and 12 points. Classmates and fellow midfielders Ricky Griffin and Jonathan Simon will also be looked upon for major contributions after breaking into the lineup as freshman, combining for five goals and three assists last fall.

- **Emory:** Emory will turn to the experience of new Head Coach Sonny Travis to lead a strong core of returnees. Travis replaces 19-year head coach Mike Rubesch, who left to pursue a career coaching in the South Africa Premier Soccer League. Juniors and top scorers Patrick Carver and Patrick McFarland look to lead the Eagle offense. Carver, the 2005 UAA Rookie of the Year, has 21 goals and 55 points through two seasons at two different positions. He led the squad for the second straight season as a midfielder in scoring with six goals and nine assists for 21 points. McFarland finished second on the team in 2006 with five goals and five assists for 15 points. On the defensive side, goalkeeper Keith Meehan will return for his senior season, following a solid 2006 season in the net. Meehan played all but five minutes in goal for the Eagles last season, compiling a 0.93 goals against average and six shutouts.

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In the backfield, the Eagles will look to recover from the loss of three key graduating seniors from last year's team. The lone returning defensive starter will be junior Jordan Edelman, who started each of Emory's 17 games last year. Also figuring to be a factor in the Eagles' backfield is sophomore Andre Jakubowski, who played in 14 games during his inaugural season with Emory last year.

• **Brandeis:** In 2006, Brandeis University capped a 13-7-3 campaign with their second Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Championship with a 5-3 victory over New England College. With a newly renovated Gordon Field, the Judges enter 2007 with 18 letterwinners and an exciting young team, which boasts the talents of first team All-UAA junior forward Ben Premo, who in just two

years is 13th on the school's all-time scoring list. Premo, who was also a third team All-New England selection, was the Judges' leading scorer for the second year in a row with 16 goals and 10 assists for 42 points. He had a point in 14 of the Judges' 23 contests (with goals in nine of them) and registered five multi-goal games. Seniors Brett Fitzgerald and David Weinstein return to anchor the Judges defense, which recorded six shutouts. Fitzgerald, a second team All-UAA selection, also scored four goals, including three as the team's top performer on penalty kicks. Sophomore goalkeeper Taylor Braken will tend the nets for another season. An honorable mention All-UAA pick in his rookie season, Braken logged 1,943 minutes in 22 games, compiling a 1.30 goals against average with 77 saves and six shutouts in posting a 10-7-3 record.