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Emory and Chicago Split as Preseason Women's Soccer Favorite

Emory University and University of Chicago were voted to share the University Athletic Association preseason number-one ranking by poll of the head coaches. The Eagles and the Maroons tied for second in the final UAA standings for the 2007 season. Both now see themselves in a deadlock for the top preseason pick.

Both schools edged last year's UAA champion Washington University in the preseason rankings by two points. When Emory took on Chicago last season on the road, the schools locked up into a defensive battle that ended in a 0-0 tie. This year Chicago will travel south to take on Emory in the early part of October.

Last year's UAA champion Washington will be looking to defend its UAA title after coming off a 17-4-0 season under first year head coach Jim Conlon. The Bears who lost to Emory and Chicago last season will look to rebound from their only two losses in UAA play. They will host Emory on October 12th at home and close out the season at home against Chicago on November 8th.

Table with 3 columns: Team, Pts., 2007 UAA (Overall). Rows list teams from 1. Emory (3) to 8. Case.

2008 UAA Women's Soccer Team Capsules

Brandeis University: The Brandeis women's soccer team will be looking to successfully defend their 2007 ECAC Division III Tournament title and a 13-6-2 record, 3-3-1 in the Association. The Judges look to replace top scorer Sarah Jasak, but junior midfielder Melissa Gorenkoff was a second-team All-UAA selection who returns after posting eight goals and five assists for 21 points.

Carnegie Mellon University: The Tartans return four starting defenders and UAA Rookie of the Year Anya Rosen in goal in 2008 as they look to improve upon their fifth place finish from a year ago. Rosen who was twice named UAA Defensive Athlete of the Week and finished with a 0.77 goals against average will have senior central defenders Sarah DeWath (two-time HM) and Mary Ashe in front of her ready to thwart any opposing attack.

Case Western Reserve University: The Case Western Reserve University women enter season two under the leadership of Head Coach Tiffany Crooks. The Spartans finished 6-11-1 overall and 0-6-1 in the University Athletic Association a year ago, but return nine starters in 2008.

season-ending injury 14 games into the season, led the team in scoring with seven goals and Yule was right behind her with five scores. Although the Spartans did not win in *UAA* play last season, they entered conference play 6-3 and tied the University of Rochester 1-1 in the season finale.

Emory University: The Emory University women's soccer team, which finished the 2007 season ranked 14th in the nation with a 16-2-2 record (4-1-2 *UAA*), will look to take another step forward in 2008 following a trip to the round of 16 of the NCAA tournament last season. The Eagles' strength in 2008 looks to be its defensive backfield, led by third-team NSCAA/adidas all-American Grace Lam, and second-team all-*UAA* honoree Whitney Briggs. Last season, the defense was one of the best in the nation, finishing the year ranked 12th amongst all Division III teams with a 0.48 goals against average. Pacing the offense will be three all-*UAA* honorees in second team midfielder Alexa Wahr, and honorable mention forwards Joyce Lam (whose 11 assists in 2007 matched a school record) and Maya Vankineni. Offense will likely be a team effort for Emory in 2008, much like in 2007 when the team registered 14 different goal scorers. The Eagles will have to replace two key seniors and all-*UAA* first team members from last season's squad – leading scorer Jamie English and goalkeeper Emily Fedeles. Head Coach Sue Patberg, now in her fourth season with Emory, has a 38-10-6 record with the Eagles.

New York University: Fresh off its first postseason appearance since 2002, New York University (10-7-1, 1-5-1 *UAA*) returns eight full-time starters from a squad that reached the 2007 ECAC Division III Metro Tournament. Second-year head coach Werner T. Dasbach returns plenty of offensive firepower, with two-time Second Team All-*UAA* selection and senior forward Sarah Pillemer (7-2-16, 2 GWG) leading the way. The sophomore trio of Rebecca Assing (8-0-16, 3 GWG), Laura Palumbo (5-4-14) and Filiz Kipcakli (4-3-11) were three of the Violets' top-four scorers last year. All four players could also see action in the midfield along with talented junior Lucy Dolly Caires (2-7-11), depending upon which plan of attack Dasbach employs. Defensively, the quartet of seniors Alyssa Simon and Nicole Stutz, as well as junior captain Erin Twomey and sophomore Katie Gaston return for a unit that posted nine clean sheets last fall. For the first time in four years, though, NYU will have a new goalkeeper as senior Rebekah Kramer will look to fend off a challenge from sophomore Alexandra Walters.

University of Chicago: Chicago returns a pair of All-Central Region performers as well as three other players who garnered All-*UAA* honors in 2007. Junior midfielder Claire Gill and junior forward Brooke Bontz earned All-Central Region Second Team and All-*UAA* First Team accolades a year ago. Gill scored five goals, including a pair of game-winners in Association play. Chicago's leading scorer, Bontz netted seven goals and registered two assists for 16 points. She turned in a pair of multiple-goal performances and notched the winning goal in a critical 2-1 win over Washington University in the regular season finale. Senior midfielder Olivia Ndyabagye and senior defender Anne Scherer also merited All-*UAA* honors in 2007, Ndyabagye on the Second Team and Scherer as an Honorable Mention pick. Ndyabagye scored four goals and was credited with three assists on the season. She had a goal and a pair of assists in Association competition. Scherer, who had a goal and two assists, helped bolster a Maroons' defensive unit that notched 10 shutouts. With an overall record of 12-4-4, Chicago reached the second round of the 2007 NCAA Division III tournament. The Maroons were the *UAA* runner-up with a 4-1-2 mark.

University of Rochester: Defense is still the strong point for the Yellowjackets with four vets across the back line, including a three-time All-*UAA* selection. Rochester posted 12 shutouts a year ago and held three other teams to one goal. The Yellowjackets were 10-5-4 overall and competed in the ECAC Upstate NY Championships, the 25th consecutive post-season appearance. Kelsey Turley has earned All-*UAA* honors in each of her first three seasons (Second Team in 2007) and was an All-Region selection last year as well. She could be joined on the back line by Stephanie Diebold, Meaghan Magee, and Lindsay Rood (HM All-*UAA* in 2007). The midfield will be anchored by First Team All-*UAA* selection Laura Bojko. She earned her second All-*UAA* accolade and picked up Second Team All-Region honors in the process. Bojko scored three goals last season and set up four others. Kirsten Ross (2-1-5) may settle into midfield, or move to the back line. Eileen Boylan (1-0-2) started four matches a year ago. On the front line, Bridgette Varin (5-1-11) is the top returning scorer who was accorded Honorable Mention status last year. A running mate could be Erin Carballo (4-0-8) who played in 18 of 19 matches and started three times.

Washington University: First-year head coach Jim Conlon returns 23 letterwinners and seven starters from last year's squad, which posted a 17-4 overall mark and advanced to the NCAA Sectional semifinals. Conlon replaces Wendy Dillinger, who spent six years as the head coach before taking the same position at Iowa State University. Junior forward Caryn Rosoff leads Washington U.'s bid for its third-straight *UAA* championship. Rosoff, a second-team All-America selection, led the Bears with 10 goals and eight assists for 28 points. The reigning *UAA* MVP also led the conference in points and was second in

goals scored. Junior Libby Held and junior captain Becca Heymann, both third-team all-Central Region selections in 2007, also return for the Bears. Held, a first-team all-*UAA* selection in 2007, was part of the Bears' defense that allowed just 14 goals all season, while posting 10 shutouts. Heymann, an honorable mention all-*UAA* honoree, started all 21 games in the midfield and finished second on the team in goals (9) and third in points (20). Senior captain Caitlin Malone, a first-team all-*UAA* selection, was second on the team last season in scoring with nine goals and 22 points. Malone led the Bears and the *UAA* in game-winning goals with five. Also returning in the Bears' backfield is senior Carly Anderson, senior captain Shirey Lane, and junior Cassie Scaman. Anderson was a second-team all-conference honoree in 2007.