



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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2006 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE FOOTBALL RELEASE

GSC SEEKS REDEMPTION IN 2006 FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN

Birmingham, AL—Last season, the Gulf South Conference seemed poised to place its 15th team in the NCAA Division II Football Championship Game before **North Alabama** suffered a heartbreaking defeat.

Overall, the GSC turned in a strong showing in the Playoffs, placing three teams including Quarter-Finalists **UNA** and **Central Arkansas** and increasing its record for NCAA Playoff victories to 71.

The 2006 campaign should be one of the most exciting ever thanks to the renewal of the nine-game GSC-TV Live Football Game of the Week package which has increased its market to include Memphis, TN and its surrounding suburbs and the Florida panhandle. Not to be overlooked is the return of GSC coaching legend **Bobby Wallace** to **West Alabama** and the return of one of the longest rivalries in all of college football when cross-street rivals **Ouachita Baptist** and host **Henderson State** meet in the 75th annual *“Battle of the Ravine”* on November 4th.

2006 GSC FOOTBALL PRE-SEASON COACHES' POLL

North Alabama snapped **Valdosta State's** four-year Pre-Season No. 1 run, nipping VSU as the 2006 GSC Football Pre-Season favorite, 95-92. UNA tops the Pre-Season Poll for the first time since 1998 behind six first-place votes and is ranked No. 8 in the nation by *Don Hansen's Football Gazette* and *Street's & Smith's*.

Valdosta State, No. 11 in the nation by *Lindy's*, garnered four first-place nods, placing second ahead of **Delta State** (82) which collected the remaining first-place vote and is ranked No. 23 nationally by *Lindy's*. One point separates the next three schools with **Arkansas Tech** and **Southern Arkansas** tying for fourth with 65 points followed by **West Georgia's** (No. 22 by *Lindy's*) 64.

Harding finished seventh (45) followed by **Henderson State** (34), **Ouachita Baptist** (26), **West Alabama** (20) and **Arkansas-Monticello** (17).

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	Total
North Alabama	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95
Valdosta State	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
Delta State	1	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	82
Arkansas Tech	0	0	1	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	65
Southern Arkansas	0	2	0	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	65
West Georgia	0	0	2	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	64
Harding	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	1	1	0	45
Henderson State	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	1	1	34
Ouachita Baptist	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	0	26
West Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	20
Arkansas-Monticello	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	17

NOTE: The Head Coaches voted in this poll. Teams received 10 points for a first place vote, 9 for a second place vote, etc. The Head Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own squads.

2006 GSC FOOTBALL GAME OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 14	Harding @ North Alabama	7:00 pm
Sept. 21	Henderson @ West Alabama	7:00 pm
Sept. 28	Valdosta State @ Ouachita Baptist	7:00 pm
Oct. 5	Henderson State @ Arkansas-Monticello	7:00 pm
Oct. 12	Valdosta State @ Delta State	7:00 pm
Oct. 19	Southern Arkansas @ Harding	7:00 pm
Oct. 26	Arkansas Tech @ Southern Arkansas	7:00 pm
Nov. 2	West Alabama @ Delta State	7:00 pm
Nov. 9	Valdosta State @ West Georgia	7:00 pm

All games are Thursday night contests; All times are Central

2006 FALL GSC WEEKLY WEBCASTS

Keep up with the latest happenings in Gulf South Conference country thanks to the GSC Weekly Webcasts. Join host, Jim Cavale, as he reviews all of the past week's action including exclusive video clips. Webcasts will be updated each Thursday beginning September 7th and will run through the end of the Fall Sports season. All Conference multimedia features can be found on the official GSC website at www.gulfsouthconference.org.

2006 PRE-SEASON ALL-GSC TEAM

The 2006 Pre-Season All-GSC Football Team includes eight players named to last year's All-Conference First Team and 10 from the Second Team. For the third consecutive year, **North Alabama** led the way on the Pre-Season list, landing six honorees. **Southern Arkansas** added five players, followed by **Delta State's** four. **Harding** and **West Georgia** each placed three players, while **Ouachita Baptist** and **Valdosta State** earned a pair of standouts apiece. **Arkansas-Monticello** and **West Alabama** rounded out the contingent landing one player respectively.

2005 GSC Offensive Player of the Year, DSU quarterback Scott Eyster, headlines the offense. Eyster was tops in the league last season in passing (282.5), total offense (293.5) and ranked third in passing touchdowns (23).

SAU running back D.D. Holyfield, UNA wide receiver Anthony Merritt and Delta State guard Robert Young also return from last year's First Team offense. Holyfield also made the Pre-Season Special Teams squad as a kick returner. He led the GSC in rushing in 2005, racking up 1,154 yards on 171 carries (104.9 average), while also finishing second in all purpose yards (143.2) and scoring (8.7). Merritt, a Harlon Hill finalist a year ago, was the most versatile player in the GSC, scoring a touchdown as a wide receiver, a kick returner and a punt returner. He led the league in all purpose yards (162.6) and kick return average (25.8), while ranking second in receptions (5.69) and punt return average (10.9) and fourth in receiving (66.8). Young was tabbed a Pre-Season All-American by *Street and Smith's* and is joined on the GSC Pre-Season squad by fellow guard and teammate **Travis Mikal-Allen**.

Joining Mikal-Allen as 2005 Second Teamers on the Pre-Season All-GSC squad are **UAM running back John L. Williams, OBU wide receiver Bruce Steele** and **Southern Arkansas tight end Johnny Fields**. Williams ranked second in the league in rushing (99.5), while Steele was fifth in receiving (65.0).

The defense is headlined by three returning All-GSC First Team standouts: **UWG defensive lineman Odell Willis, DSU linebacker Michael Eubanks** and **SAU defensive back Demarea Caldwell**. Eubanks and Willis finished first (13.5) and second (10.0), respectively, in the Conference in sacks. Eubanks also placed fifth in tackles for loss (15.5), along with his 57 total stops. Caldwell finished tied for the top spot in fumble recoveries (three).

A trio of linebackers account for the returning Second Team All-Conference stars on the Pre-Season defense: **North Alabama's Donald Tharpe, Southern Arkansas' Derrick Harris** and **West Georgia's John Perkins**. Tharpe ranked seventh in sacks (tied, 6.0) and eighth in tackles for a loss (13.0) to go along with his 69 total tackles. Harris led the Muleriders in tackles (67) and he also placed fifth in the GSC in sacks (7.0). Perkins returns after finishing second in tackles for loss (tied, 17.0) and racking up 80 total stops.

The Special Team squad contains one returning First Team All-GSC member and three returning Second Teamers. **UWA's Paul Girton** makes his second straight appearance on the Pre-Season squad as a long snapper after claiming First Team laurels a year ago. **HU placekicker Ben Davis** and **Ouachita Baptist punter Craig McFarlin** join Holyfield as 2005 Second Team members. Davis ranked second in field goal percentage (68.8--11-16). McFarlin is the league's leading returning punter, booting 62 punts for 2,588 yards (41.7 avg.) for second place.

OFFENSE

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
QB	*Scott Eyster	Delta State	6-3	190	SR	Hammond, LA
FB	#John L. Williams	Arkansas-Monticello	6-2	217	JR	Gainesville, FL
FB	*D.D. Holyfield	Southern Arkansas	5-8	160	SR	Hope, AR
WR	*Anthony Merritt	North Alabama	6-0	189	SR	Columbus, GA
WR	#Bruce Steele	Ouachita Baptist	6-1	190	SR	Twin City, GA
TE	#Johnny Fields	Southern Arkansas	6-1	233	JR	De Soto, TX
G	*Robert Young	Delta State	6-2	325	SR	Pensacola, FL
G	#Travis Mikal-Allen	Delta State	6-1	312	JR	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
T	Andrew Reid	North Alabama	6-3	278	SR	Birmingham, AL
T	Gerald Davis	Valdosta State	6-4	300	JR	Greensboro, GA
T	Barron Hamlin	West Georgia	6-3	307	SR	Jackson, GA
C	No players nominated					

DEFENSE

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
DL	Justin Currie	Harding	5-10	305	SR	Memphis, TN
DL	Mantrell Ashford	North Alabama	6-4	240	SR	Louisville, MS
DL	Kelvin Roberts	Valdosta State	6-2	240	SR	Valdosta, GA
DL	*Odell Willis	West Georgia	6-3	239	SR	Yantley, AL
LB	*Michael Eubanks	Delta State	6-2	215	JR	Cleveland, MS
LB	#Donald Tharpe	North Alabama	5-10	205	SR	Pensacola, FL
LB	#Derrick Harris	Southern Arkansas	5-8	200	SR	Lake Cormorant, MS
LB	#John Perkins	West Georgia	5-10	230	SR	Rome, GA
DB	Robert Towns	Harding	5-11	200	SR	Memphis, TN
DB	Derrell Ashford	North Alabama	5-11	200	SR	Louisville, MS
DB	Jason Campbell	North Alabama	5-9	165	SR	Holly Springs, MS
DB	*Demarea Caldwell	Southern Arkansas	6-2	186	SR	Bastrop, LA

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
PK	#Ben Davis	Harding	5-8	145	SR	Gainesville, FL
P	#Craig McFarlin	Ouachita Baptist	6-0	181	JR	Whitehouse, TX
RS (KR)	#D.D. Holyfield	Southern Arkansas	5-8	160	SR	Hope, AR
KB (LS)	*Paul Girton	West Alabama	6-3	241	SR	Pensacola, FL

*ó2005 First Team All-GSC

#ó2005 Second Team All-GSC

KBóKick Blocking Team

NOTE: The 2006 GSC Pre-Season Football Team was selected by the Head Coaches. Balloting that ended in a tie was not broken. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

2006 TOP NEWCOMERS

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN
DE	Ricky Miller	Arkansas-Monticello	6-3	260	JR	Fresno State/Tustin, CA
K	Ryan Guardia	Arkansas-Monticello	5-9	195	SO	New Mexico State/Hurly, MS
LB	Anthony King	Delta State	6-3	220	JR	Texas State/Sehertz, TX
LB	Brushon Barnes	Delta State	6-2	240	JR	Southwest Mississippi CC/Hammond, LA
WR	Eric Marshall	Delta State	6-3	205	JR	Holmes CC/Eupora, MS
RB	Ken Cox	Delta State	5-9	205	JR	Mississippi Delta CC/Cleveland, MS
RB	Ardell Briggs	Harding	5-9	190	JR	Foothill CC/Compton, CA
LB	Jermaine Blanchard	Harding	6-1	195	FR	White Station HS/Memphis, TN
DE	Cam Melson	Harding	6-3	285	SO	Western Carolina/Atlanta, GA
WR	Devin Link	Harding	5-11	175	JR	Palomar CC/Bartow, FL
WR/KR	Jamar Green	Henderson State	5-9	165	SO	Blinn JC/Chilton, TX
OT	Louis West	Henderson State	---	---	SO	Pasadena CC/N/A
OT	Kurt Kutcher	Henderson State	6-6	325	JR	Blinn JC/Navarro, TX
OG	Kevin Davis	Henderson State	6-4	305	JR	Blinn JC/Channelview, TX
WR	Lionel DeWalt	North Alabama	6-6	215	SO	Kentucky/Bowling Green, KY
WR	Rony Santil	North Alabama	6-4	215	SR	Southwest Baptist/Lauderdale, FL
DL	Dedrick Clark	North Alabama	6-6	275	SR	Ole Miss/Pontotoc, MS
OL	Tez Thigpen	North Alabama	6-2	320	JR	Northeastern CC/Holly Springs, MS
OG	Ryan Reeves	Ouachita Baptist	6-3	260	FR	Malakoff HS/Malakoff, TX
DB	Jamario McClain	Ouachita Baptist	6-1	205	JR	Cerritos JC/Pico Rivera, CA
RB	Willie Hopson	Ouachita Baptist	5-9	185	SO	Central Arkansas/Nashville, AR
WR	Tony Taylor	Ouachita Baptist	5-8	155	JR	Modesto JC/Stockton, CA
LB	Lucas Holts	Southern Arkansas	5-11	240	JR	Northwest Mississippi JC/Senatobia, MS
DB	Mike Brown	Southern Arkansas	6-0	200	JR	Northeast Mississippi JC/Belle Glade, FL
WR	Mario Coleman	Southern Arkansas	6-2	210	JR	Mississippi Delta JC/Indianola, MS
OL	Jonathon Moore	Southern Arkansas	6-2	290	FR	Greenwood HS/Greenwood, MS
WR	Cedric Jones	Valdosta State	6-0	180	FR	Ware County HS/Waycross, GA
QB	Deon Williams	Valdosta State	5-10	180	FR	Tuscaloosa County HS/Northport, AL
OL	Corey Renella	Valdosta State	6-2	295	FR	Mosley HS/Lynn Haven, FL
DB	Larry Dean	Valdosta State	6-2	192	FR	Tifton County HS/Tifton, GA
CB	Donial Summers	West Alabama	5-10	175	JR	Hinds CC/Jackson, MS
DE	Corey Moon	West Georgia	6-5	256	FR	Decatur HS/Decatur, GA
WR	Steve Dawson	West Georgia	5-10	180	FR	Valdosta HS/Valdosta, GA
WR	Xavier Godard	West Georgia	5-10	170	JR	Western Carolina/Athens, GA
CB	Gary Hodges	West Georgia	5-11	190	JR	Northeast Mississippi JC/Columbus, MS

NOTE: A maximum of four Top Newcomers are submitted by the Head Coaches during the Pre-Season All-GSC nomination process.

CURRENT GSC STREAKS AND RECORDS

CHASING GSC RECORDS

Delta State senior quarterback Scott Eyster is poised to make his mark on the GSC and NCAA record books. Current Valdosta State Head Coach Chris Hatcher holds the league's career records for passing yards (11,363), total offense (11,024) and pass attempts (1,529), but Eyster is well in range of all three marks. The Pre-Season All-American enters 2006 with 9,961 yards passing, 10,340 yards total offense and 1,155 pass attempts. Not only that, but Eyster also has his sights set on the NCAA records for passing yards (11,742) and total offense (11,881).

North Alabama senior wide receiver/return specialist Anthony Merritt became the GSC career leader in yards returned (1,385) and punt return touchdowns (six) last year, but he may not be done shattering Conference records, currently standing just nine attempts short of the record for most punt returns (125).

GSC IN THE NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

DON HANSEN'S FOOTBALL GAZETTE PRE-SEASON TOP 40

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Grand Valley State | 21. C.W. Post |
| 2. Saginaw Valley State | 22. Carson-Newman |
| 3. Albany State | 23. California (PA) |
| 4. Northwest Missouri St. | 24. Minnesota-Duluth |
| 5. East Stroudsburg | 25. Ashland |
| 6. Pittsburgh State | 26. Central Washington |
| 7. Bloomsburg | 27. West Georgia |
| 8. North Alabama | 28. Delta State |
| 9. Presbyterian | 29. Winona State |
| 10. Nebraska-Omaha | 30. Concordia-St. Paul |
| 11. South Dakota | 31. Nebraska-Kearney |
| 12. West Texas A&M | 32. Central Missouri |
| 13. North Dakota | 33. Missouri Western |
| 14. Washburn | 34. Angelo State |
| 15. North Carolina Central | 35. Southeastern Oklahoma St. |
| 16. Shepherd | 36. Tarleton State |
| 17. Valdosta State | 37. Michigan Tech |
| 18. Edinboro | 38. West Chester |
| 19. Tuskegee | 39. Arkansas Tech |
| 20. Northwood | 40. Texas A&M-Kingsville |

All-Americans

QB-Scott Eyster, Delta State
 FB-Bernard Palmer, Henderson State
 WR-Anthony Merritt, North Alabama
 OG-JoJo Bates, North Alabama
 OG-Robert Young, Delta State
 OT-Ed Primas, Southern Arkansas
 AP-Scott Carpino, Harding
 AP-D.D. Holyfield, Southern Arkansas
 DT-Justin Currie, Harding
 DE-Tim Hunt, North Alabama
 DE-Odel Willis, West Georgia
 LB-Michael Eubanks, Delta State
 LB-Donald Tharpe, North Alabama
 PK-Yuta Fukuda, North Alabama
 P-Craig McFarlin, Ouachita Baptist
 P-Anthony Rodriguez, Arkansas-Monticello
 RS-Anthony Merritt, North Alabama
 RS-Tracey Stiger, Arkansas Tech

LINDYIS

Top 25

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Grand Valley State | 14. Pittsburgh State |
| 2. Saginaw Valley State | 15. Edinboro |
| 3. Bloomsburg | 16. North Dakota |
| 4. Albany State | 17. Shepherd |
| 5. Presbyterian | 18. Tuskegee |
| 6. East Stroudsburg | 19. Northwood |
| 7. South Dakota | 20. C.W. Post |
| 8. Northwest Missouri State | 21. Minnesota-Duluth |
| 9. West Texas A&M | 22. West Georgia |
| 10. Nebraska-Omaha | 23. Delta State |
| 11. Valdosta State | 24. Central Washington |
| 12. North Alabama | 25. Texas A&M-Kingsville |
| 13. Washburn | |

All-Division II Team

FIRST TEAM

AP-Anthony Merritt, North Alabama
 LB-Jason McNeil, Valdosta State
 LB-Michael Eubanks, Delta State
 P-Craig McFarlin, Ouachita Baptist

SECOND TEAM

DB-Monterio James, Delta State

Newcomer of the Year

RB-Skyler Thornton, Valdosta State

The Big Ones

Sept. 2, Albany State @ Valdosta State

Other Key Games

Oct. 28, Valdosta State @ North Alabama

Oct. 28, Delta State @ West Georgia

STREET & SMITH'S

Top 25

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Grand Valley State | 14. Nebraska-Omaha |
| 2. East Stroudsburg | 15. Carson-Newman |
| 3. North Carolina Central | 16. Valdosta State |
| 4. Saginaw Valley State | 17. Ashland |
| 5. Northwest Missouri State | 18. Washburn |
| 6. Pittsburgh State | 19. Minnesota-Duluth |
| 7. North Dakota | 20. Nebraska-Kearney |
| 8. North Alabama | 21. Winona State |
| 9. Bloomsburg | 22. Concordia-St. Paul |
| 10. Presbyterian | 23. C.W. Post |
| 11. West Texas A&M | 24. California (PA) |
| 12. Shepherd | 25. Southern Connecticut |
| 13. South Dakota | |

All-Americans

RS-Anthony Merritt, North Alabama
 LB-Donald Tharpe, North Alabama

Games To Watch

Nov. 11, North Alabama @ West Alabama

2006 GSC TEAM PREVIEWS



ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO BOLL WEEVILS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 7/5
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 9/3
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1

Quarterback is always a high-profile position, but at **Arkansas-Monticello** finding the right quarterback will be the main factor in rebounding from last year's 1-10 campaign. UAM's running attack is in the capable hands of **John L. Williams**, second in the GSC in rushing (99.5) in 2005. The biggest question is who will line up under center and give the Boll Weevils a balanced attack. There should be a three-way battle heading into Fall practice as transfer **Diego Dixon** joins spring standouts **Elijah McDonald** and **J.C. Ross**. **Head Coach Gwayne Mathews** suffered through one of the worst defensive seasons in UAM history a year ago, but Mathews is optimistic about the 2006 unit. A pool of deep and talented linebackers is led by returning starters **Wes Ables** and **Corrie Ross**, while **Jeremy Brown**, **Jordan Wisener** and **Calvin Sojourney** saw extensive playing time last season. The defensive backfield is led by starters **Lavar Wyatt** and **Solomon Edwards** with transfer **Vernon Price** adding depth. **Wide receiver/punter Anthony Rodriguez** returns after ranking third in the league in 2006 with a 40.8 average.



ARKANSAS TECH WONDER BOYS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 4/8
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 4/4
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 0/2

Change is in the air at **Arkansas Tech's** football program in 2006. ATU lost 15 starters from last year's 7-3 team. During the spring, the coaches implemented a new offense (one-back set) and defense (3-4). Finally, the Wonder Boys will have new home for one season, Russellville High School's Cyclone Stadium, while Buerkle Field receives a face-lift. **Tight end Josh Rogers** and **free safety Corey Smith** headline the small list of returnees. Rogers, a 2004 First Team All-GSC star, seeks to take advantage of ATU's new offense which is expected to be led by last year's back-up **Justin Ray** or University of Arkansas transfer **Cole Barthal**. **Running back R.J. Vanhook** also returns after leading the squad in rushing (586 yards and four TDs). Smith is among three of the top six tacklers returning from last year. Smith racked up 57 stops, while **defensive back Zach Noel** added 75 tackles. **Defensive tackle Terry McNack** recorded 38 total tackles including a team-high 12.0 for a loss. Return special **Tracey Stiger** leads the special teams returnees after ranking 8th in the nation in punt returns in 2005.



DELTA STATE STATESMEN

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 9/4
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 10/3
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 1/0

If the cornerstone of a successful season is stability at quarterback, **Delta State** will begin the 2006 season on the right foot. 2005 GSC Offensive Player of the Year, **quarterback Scott Eyster**, leads the list of 20 returning starters. The Pre-Season All-GSC selection led the league in passing (282.5) and total offense (293.5). His top target is **wide receiver Rob Davis** who was tops in receptions (6.00) and second in receiving (83.7). The biggest question on offense is at running back: **Steven Davis** is the top returnee rusher, gaining 155 yards and one TD on 23 carries a year ago. The defense is highlighted by two of last year's three top tacklers. **Free safety Jamarcus Wiggins** led the squad with 100 stops and added two interceptions, while **linebacker Michael Eubanks** had a breakout freshman campaign, ranking with 57 tackles and 15.5 tackles for a loss. **Defensive back Monterio James** also had an excellent freshman season, leading the league in interceptions (eight) and adding 32 tackles. **Spencer Strickland** leads the special teams after placing sixth in punting average (38.5).



HARDING BISONS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 4/7
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 2/9
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 1/1

Harding fielded one of the most experienced teams in school history in 2005 with 22 returning starters, but 2006 is a different story. Just seven return: four on offense, two on defense and one on special teams. The running game should be the Bisons' strong suit with three starting linemen and last year's leading rusher returning. **Guards Ross Conn** and **Jared Wilson** and **tackle Wheeler Parsons** will block for **running back Kyle Wess**, who led the squad in rushing via 447 yards on 90 carries. The defense returns two impact players-- **Nose guard Justin Currie** and **cornerback Robert Towns**. Currie totaled 51 tackles and placed ninth in the GSC in sacks (0.55), while Towns tied for second in interceptions (seven) and added 41 tackles and nine pass breakups. Harding's placekicking duties are in the capable hands of **Ben Davis**, a perfect 27-for-27 on point-after attempts last year, and second in the GSC in field goal percentage (68.8).



HENDERSON STATE REDDIES

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 9/5
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 9/2
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 0/0

Henderson State seeks to mesh a productive off-season with an infusion of new talent and returning leadership. Eighteen starters return from 2005, led by the Reddies' leading rushing, receiver and their four top tacklers. **Running back Bernard Palmer** turned in an impressive freshman campaign, ranking seventh in the GSC in rushing (78.7 ypg), while **wide out Marques Clark** finished 6th in receptions (4.45) and 7th in receiving (63.6) this year will be the team's colors. The quarterback position could be a concern as 2005 wide receiver **Garrett Manning** will be calling the signals. The dual-threat sophomore is not a newcomer to the quarterback position, earning All-District honors three times in his high school career. **Defensive end Sam Carter** spearheads the defense after posting a team-best 64 tackles, eight for a loss, a year ago. **Strong safety Jabrayl Ward** (60), **linebacker Charles Green** (60) and **strong safety Jason Santiago** (59) round out the list of HSU's top returning tacklers. Santiago also led all players with four interceptions.



NORTH ALABAMA LIONS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 4/7
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 2/0

North Alabama has plenty to play for this season after coming just 30 seconds short of a berth in the NCAA Championship Game last year. Luckily for the Lions, they return 11 starters and 30 lettermen. Leading the way is Pre-Season All-GSC and All-Americans **wide receiver Anthony Merritt** and **linebacker Donald Tharpe**. Merritt set two GSC and NCAA records last year while totaling 2,251 all-purpose yards. He also ranked 2nd in the league in receptions (5.79) and 4th in receiving (67.3). **A.J. Milwee** returns at quarterback after playing in 11 games a year ago, including key efforts in two playoff wins. **Eric Parker** leads the rushing attack after gaining 302 yards and scoring two TDs in a back-up role last year. Tharpe is the leading returning tackler after totaling 78 stops with 15.0 for a loss and a team-high eight sacks. **Kentrel Tanner** and **Mantrell Ashford** return from the defensive line where Ashford posted 33 tackles, six for a loss, and Tanner added 21 tackles in 10 games. **Yuta Fukuda** leads the special teams after a surprising 2005 in which he set the school record hitting 18-of-29 field goals and a 1.29 per game average which was good for second in the GSC.

2006 GSC TEAM PREVIEWS (cont.)



OUACHITA BAPTIST TIGERS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 7/5
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 9/6
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 0/0

The **Ouachita Baptist** Tigers were tamed last year, limping to a 2-8 season, but they hope 16 returning starters help them regain their tenacity. The offense has a solid foundation, thanks to four returning linemen and three returning wide receivers. **Michael Ennis** and **Sammy Williams** are set at tackle, followed by **center Grant Jackson** and **center/guard Justin Hardaway**. **Bruce Steele** leads the stable of wide outs, placing fifth in the league in receiving yards (65.0) and fourth in touchdown catches (seven). Vanderbilt University transfer **Lance Parker** will vie for the vacant quarterback spot, while former **Central Arkansas** standout **Willie Hopson** will battle for playing time at running back. Two of last year's top three tacklers top the list of nine returning defensive players. **Strong safety Josh Crosby** finished second on the team in tackles (65) and added 9.5 tackles for a loss, while **cornerback DeAundrea Crockett** placed third with 54 stops. OBU features the league's top returning punter, **Craig McFarlin**, who was second in punting average (41.7).



SOUTHERN ARKANSAS MULERIDERS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 3/3

Southern Arkansas hopes a very experienced and talented backfield can help the Muleriders navigate through a tough schedule which features two I-AA foes and six road games. **Senior Damian Melancon** and **junior Josh SanFilippo** return at quarterback. Melancon started the first three games last season before suffering a season-ending injury, but SanFilippo stepped in and passed for 1,085 yards and 13 TDs and rushed for 525 yards on three scores. Pre-Season All-GSC **D.D. Holyfield** heads the running back stable after setting six SAU records in 2005. Holyfield led the GSC in rushing (104.9) and placed second in all-purpose yards (143.2) and scoring (8.7). **Fullback Tony McDaniel** earned All-Region honors, pounding out 445 yards and one TD. The defense is led by **linebacker Terrence Smith**, second on SAU in tackles via 49 stops and eight for a loss. 2005 All-GSC First Teamer **Demarea Caldwell** tops the defensive backfield after placing fourth on the team in tackles (37). **David Korff** returns at placekicker along with kick returner **Ryan Sworn**. Sworn ranked second in the GSC in return yards (25.0) last year.



VALDOSTA STATE BLAZERS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 5/5
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 1/2

Advancing to the NCAA playoffs would be considered an excellent season for many programs, but at Valdosta State, last year's First Round exit left a sour taste in the Blazers' mouths. VSU returns 13 starters, but its attempts to reclaim post-season swagger will be challenging. Two-year starter **Barrett Wilkes** returns at quarterback, but he enters the Fall at No. 2 on the depth chart after missing spring practice due to injury. **Clay Calloway** grabbed the top spot during the spring after playing two seasons at wide receiver. Whomever steps under center will have nine of the top 11 receivers returning. Leading the way are last year's top three: **Derek Tharpe** (44 catches; 501 yards; one TD), **Zach Parker** (42 catches; 456 yards; four TDs), **Sherard Reynolds** (38 catches; 650 yards; seven TDs). VSU's "Black Swarm" defense features many new faces. **Junior linebacker Michael Cullen** is the leading returning tackler, notching 48 stops in 11 games. **Junior cornerback Shawn Harris** started all 12 games in 2005, totaling 46 tackles and two interceptions.



WEST ALABAMA TIGERS

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 10/1
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 9/2
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 3/0

West Alabama made sure its 75th football season would be memorable, turning its program over to Division II coaching legend **Bobby Wallace**. Wallace built a dynasty at rival North Alabama from 1988-97 including three consecutive NCAA and GSC Titles. UWA suffered through a 2-9 mark last season, but Wallace seeks to right the ship utilizing 22 returning starters. **Running back Jerin Wright** led the Tigers in rushing rolling up 671 yards and five TDs on 168 carries. **Quarterback James Reiter** ranked second in rushing (397 yards) and added five TDs while passing for 1,260 with eight TD passes. **Wide out Chris Coach** placed third in the GSC in receiving (80.7) and added six TD grabs. The defense is spearheaded by **linebackers Lewis Thompson** and **Kidane McBride**. Thompson ranked sixth in the league in tackles per game in 2005 (7.8 per game, 86 total) while McBride posted 76 tackles and 11.5 for a loss. William Grice and Terrance Campbell return from a pass defense that grabbed 11 interceptions a year ago. **Placekicker Mitch Warfield** connected on 21-of-23 PATs last year, while **punter J.D. Wu** averaged 35 yards per punt.



WEST GEORGIA WOLVES

Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: 6/5
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 6/5
Special Teams Starters Returning/Lost: 1/3

Last year, **West Georgia** used a punishing defense to post its first winning season since 2001. The defense should continue to be strong for the Wolves in 2006 thanks to six key returnees. The offense will have a new look beginning with new **offensive coordinator Tommy Laurendine** who returns to UWG after six years at Southern Arkansas. **Quarterback Keats Baldwin** returns after seeing action in 10 games a year ago, passing for 1,301 yards and nine TDs. **Stan Rowe** is top running back after gaining 482 yards on 88 carries in 10 games. **Linebacker John Perkins** topped the team in tackles (80) and added 17.0 tackles for a loss. **Defensive end Odell Willis** placed second in the GSC in sacks (10.0) and added 34 tackles, 12.5 for a loss. **Cornerback Larico Stevenson** finished third on the squad with 59 tackles and added six interceptions.



2006 GSC TEAM SCHEDULES/RESULTS

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

GSC Games in **BOLD**

\$--GSC TV Game of the Week

*--Homecoming



ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO BOLL-WEEVILS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 26	@ Southern Arkansas	6:00 pm
Sept. 09	@ Sam Houston State	6:00 pm
Sept. 16	Ouachita Baptist	6:00 pm
Sept. 23	@ Harding	6:00 pm
Sept. 30	@ Northwestern State	6:00 pm
Oct. 05	\$Henderson State	7:00 pm
Oct. 14	@ North Alabama	6:00 pm
Oct. 21	West Georgia	6:00 pm
Oct. 28	* West Alabama	3:00 pm
Nov. 04	@ Valdosta State	12:00 pm
Nov. 11	@ Delta State	3:00 pm



ARKANSAS TECH WONDER BOYS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 31	!Northeastern State	7:00 pm
Sept. 09	@ Texas College	7:00 pm
Sept. 16	!West Georgia	6:00 pm
Sept. 23	@ Valdosta State	12:00 pm
Sept. 30	@ North Alabama	6:00 pm
Oct. 07	!*Delta State	3:00 pm
Oct. 14	!Henderson State	1:00 pm
Oct. 21	@ Ouachita Baptist	1:30 pm
Oct. 26	\$@ Southern Arkansas	7:00 pm
Nov. 04	!Harding	1:00 pm



DELTA STATE STATESMEN (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 02	West Virginia Tech	6:00 pm
Sept. 09	@ Stephen F. Austin	6:00 pm
Sept. 16	@ Henderson State	6:00 pm
Sept. 23	Ouachita Baptist	6:00 pm
Sept. 30	@ Southern Arkansas	6:00 pm
Oct. 07	@ Arkansas Tech	3:00 pm
Oct. 12	\$Valdosta State	7:00 pm
Oct. 21	* North Alabama	4:00 pm
Oct. 28	@ West Georgia	6:00 pm
Nov. 02	\$West Alabama	7:00 pm
Nov. 11	Arkansas-Monticello	3:00 pm

!--@ Russellville High School's Cyclone Stadium



HARDING BISONS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 31	@ Southwest Baptist	6:00 pm
Sept. 09	Missouri Southern	6:00 pm
Sept. 14	\$@ North Alabama	7:00 pm
Sept. 23	Arkansas-Monticello	6:00 pm
Sept. 30	West Alabama	6:00 pm
Oct. 07	@ West Georgia	6:00 pm
Oct. 19	\$Southern Arkansas	7:00 pm
Oct. 28	* Henderson State	2:00 pm
Nov. 04	@ Arkansas Tech	1:00 pm
Nov. 11	@ Ouachita Baptist	1:30 pm



HENDERSON STATE REDDIES (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 31	!Central Arkansas	7:00 pm
Sept. 16	Delta State	6:00 pm
Sept. 21	\$@ West Alabama	7:00 pm
Sept. 30	West Georgia	6:00 pm
Oct. 05	\$@ Ark.-Monticello	7:00 pm
Oct. 14	@ Arkansas Tech	1:00 pm
Oct. 21	*Paul Quinn	3:00 pm
Oct. 28	@ Harding	2:00 pm
Nov. 04	* Ouachita Baptist	3:00 pm
Nov. 11	Southern Ark.	3:00 pm



NORTH ALABAMA LIONS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 09	@ Tusculum	6:00 pm
Sept. 14	\$Harding	7:00 pm
Sept. 23	@ Southern Arkansas	6:00 pm
Sept. 30	Arkansas Tech	6:00 pm
Oct. 07	@ Ouachita Baptist	1:30 pm
Oct. 14	* Arkansas-Monticello	6:00 pm
Oct. 21	@ Delta State	6:00 pm
Oct. 28	Valdosta State	6:00 pm
Nov. 04	@ West Georgia	2:00 pm
Nov. 11	@ West Alabama	6:00 pm

!--@ War Memorial Stadium (Little Rock, AR)



OUACHITA BAPTIST TIGERS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 02	@ Missouri Southern	6:00 pm
Sept. 09	@ East Texas Baptist	2:00 pm
Sept. 16	@ Arkansas-Monticello	6:00 pm
Sept. 23	@ Delta State	6:00 pm
Sept. 28	\$Valdosta State	7:00 pm
Oct. 07	North Alabama	3:00 pm
Oct. 14	@ Southern Arkansas	2:30 pm
Oct. 21	* Arkansas Tech	1:30 pm
Nov. 04	@ Henderson State	3:00 pm
Nov. 11	Harding	1:30 pm



SOUTHERN ARKANSAS MULERIDERS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 26	Arkansas-Monticello	6:00 pm
Aug. 31	@ Nicholls State	6:00 pm
Sept. 16	@ West Alabama	7:00 pm
Sept. 23	North Alabama	6:00 pm
Sept. 30	Delta State	6:00 pm
Oct. 07	@ Valdosta State	12:00 pm
Oct. 14	* Ouachita Baptist	2:30 pm
Oct. 19	\$@ Harding	7:00 pm
Oct. 26	\$Arkansas Tech	7:00 pm
Nov. 04	@ Central Arkansas	6:00 pm
Nov. 11	@ Henderson State	3:00 pm



VALDOSTA STATE BLAZERS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 02	@ Albany State	6:00 pm
Sept. 09	Fort Valley State	6:00 pm
Sept. 23	Arkansas Tech	1:00 pm
Sept. 28	\$@ Ouachita Baptist	7:00 pm
Oct. 07	* Southern Arkansas	1:00 pm
Oct. 12	\$@ Delta State	7:00 pm
Oct. 21	West Alabama	1:00 pm
Oct. 28	@ North Alabama	6:00 pm
Nov. 04	Arkansas-Monticello	12:00 pm
Nov. 09	\$@ West Georgia	7:00 pm



WEST ALABAMA TIGERS (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 31	Concordia	7:00 pm
Sept. 09	@ Lambuth	1:30 pm
Sept. 16	Southern Arkansas	7:00 pm
Sept. 21	\$Henderson State	7:00 pm
Sept. 30	@ Harding	6:00 pm
Oct. 07	*Webber International	4:00 pm
Oct. 14	West Georgia	6:00 pm
Oct. 21	@ Valdosta State	12:00 pm
Oct. 28	@ Ark.-Monticello	3:00 pm
Nov. 02	\$@ Delta State	7:00 pm
Nov. 11	North Alabama	6:00 pm



WEST GEORGIA WOLVES (0-0, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 26	Presbyterian	6:00 pm
Sept. 09	@ Furman	5:00 pm
Sept. 16	@ Arkansas Tech	6:00 pm
Sept. 30	@ Henderson State	6:00 pm
Oct. 10	Harding	6:00 pm
Oct. 12	@ West Alabama	7:00 pm
Oct. 21	@ Ark.-Monticello	6:00 pm
Oct. 28	Delta State	6:00 pm
Nov. 04	* North Alabama	2:00 pm
Nov. 09	\$Valdosta State	6:00 pm



2006 GSC-TV LIVE FOOTBALL GAME OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 14	HU @ UNA	7:00 pm
Sept. 21	HSU @ UWA	7:00 pm
Sept. 28	VSU @ OBU	7:00 pm
Oct. 5	HSU @ UAM	7:00 pm
Oct. 12	VSU @ DSU	7:00 pm
Oct. 19	SAU @ HU	7:00 pm
Oct. 26	ATU @ SAU	7:00 pm
Nov. 2	UWA @ DSU	7:00 pm
Nov. 9	VSU @ UWG	7:00 pm

All games are Thursday night contests; All times are Central