

# ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## ATHLETICS

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**Contact:** Ben Greenberg, SID (479) 968-0645

### **FOOTBALL PICKED TO FINISH IN A FOURTH PLACE TIE IN PRESEASON GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE POLL**

**RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas** – Arkansas Tech Football was selected to finish in a fourth place tie in the Gulf South Conference Preseason Coaches Poll released Tuesday at the league's Football Media Day in Little Rock.

Tech, who finished tied for fifth last season with Delta State with a 6-3 league mark, received 65 points in the poll to finish in a two-way tie for fourth place with Southern Arkansas. North Alabama was tabbed as the preseason favorite to win the GSC title as the Lions received 95 points and six of a possible 11 first-place votes. Valdosta State was picked second with 92 points and received four first place votes, while Delta State was tabbed third with 82 points and the final first place vote.

The preseason poll was voted on by the league's 12 head coaches and they were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

"The preseason poll reflects what has happened with our program the past couple of seasons and that means zero as we enter this season," said Tech Head Football Coach and Athletic Director **Steve Mullins**.

The Wonder Boys, who return eight starters and 34 lettermen from last season's 7-3 team, received one vote for third place, five votes for fourth place and two votes apiece for fifth and sixth place.

Behind Tech in the poll was West Georgia (64 points), Harding (45 points), Henderson State (34 points), Ouachita Baptist (26 points), West Alabama (20 points) and Arkansas-Monticello (17 points).

The Wonder Boys will open its 2006 season on Thursday, Aug. 31 when they face off against Northeastern [OK] State. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Russellville High School's Cyclone Stadium.

#### **2006 Gulf South Conference Preseason Coaches Poll**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>
1. North Alabama (6)	95
2. Valdosta State (4)	92
3. Delta State (1)	82
<b>4. Arkansas Tech</b>	<b>65</b>
Southern Arkansas	65
6. West Georgia	64
7. Harding	45
8. Henderson State	34
9. Ouachita Baptist	26
10. West Alabama	20
11. Arkansas-Monticello	17

**( ) – indicates first place votes**  
Head Coaches voted in the poll, but they weren't allowed to vote for their own team.

**-- Tech Athletics --**