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**FAVORITES IDENTIFIED IN GLVC MEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON POLL**  
**DRURY, KENTUCKY WESLEYAN, SOUTHERN INDIANA SELECTED TO FINISH ATOP RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS**

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. – Drury University, University of Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan have been selected as the favorites to claim divisional crowns in the 2008-09 Great Lakes Valley Conference Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches Poll. Drury and Southern Indiana received identical votes in the poll of the GLVC coaches and have been selected as the top teams in the GLVC West Division. Kentucky Wesleyan edged Northern Kentucky and Lewis to receive the nod as the favorite in the GLVC East Division.

Drury and Southern Indiana each received 23 total points and three first-place votes in the poll. Quincy, a GLVC Tournament participant in 2007-08, finished third in the poll with 16 total points. Missouri-St. Louis, Rockhurst and Missouri S&T rounded out the West Division predictions with 12, nine and seven total points, respectively.

Kentucky Wesleyan was one of three teams in the GLVC East Division to receive first-place votes. The Panthers collected 32 total points and three first-place votes to lead the pack. Northern Kentucky trailed closely behind to finish second in the GLVC East Division polling with 31 total points and two first-place votes and last season's GLVC Tournament runner-up Lewis finished with 30 total points and the final two first-place votes.

Bellarmine finished fourth in the polling in the GLVC East Division with 18 total points. Saint Joseph's followed with 15 total points and UW-Parkside and Indianapolis rounded out the voting with 11 and 10 points, respectively

Drury is the reigning GLVC Champion having claimed the conference crown over Lewis last season on an overtime tip-in at the buzzer. The Panthers, led by head coach Steve Hesser, return three starters from last season's championship squad and six letterwinners in all.

Drury, which went 25-6 overall and 15-4 in league play a year ago, return senior starters Tim Brown, Adam White and Chris Ijames. White averaged 10.6 points and 4.7 points per game for the club last season, while Ijames added 11.9 points and 4.7 rebounds per game. Brown dished out 4.77 assists per game last year to rank third in the GLVC in the category.

The Panthers enter the 2008-09 campaign as one of two GLVC clubs ranked in the Division II Bulletin Top 25. Drury is ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the publication's top 25, joining Northern Kentucky which is ranked fourth in the country.

Southern Indiana, which missed out on a berth to the GLVC Tournament for the first time in 2007-08, will look to rebound under the guidance of head coach Rick Herdes. The Eagles, which finished last season with a 15-12 overall record and 9-10 league mark, will return two starters and six lettermen from a year ago.

Senior forward Anthony Pimble leads the cast of returners and has been named an honorable mention preseason All-American for 2008-09. Pimble averaged 11.4 points and 4.1 rebounds last season.

USI will open the season at the Disney Division II Tip-Off Classic and will be looking for their fourth championship in five appearances at the preseason tournament.

Kentucky Wesleyan, under head coach Todd Lee, vaulted to the top of the league standings in 2007-08 and finished with a 24-8 record and 14-5 mark in the GLVC. The Panthers, despite the departure of GLVC Player of the Year Jeff Fahnbulleh, will have a strong nucleus of returning players as they look for back-to-back division crowns.

Included in the Panthers' returning players is honorable mention preseason All-American T.J. Smith. The senior guard averaged 13.6 points and a league-best 6.9 assists per game a year ago for Kentucky Wesleyan.

The 2008-09 men's basketball season will begin on Nov. 15 for the majority of GLVC teams. Conference play will start on Dec. 4 The GLVC Championship, featuring the league's top eight teams, will be hosted on March 6-8 at the home site of the league's top seed .

The complete 2008-09 GLVC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches Poll follows:

**West Division**

<b><u>Team (First-place votes)</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>2007-08 Records (GLVC)</u></b>
1. Drury (3)	23	25-6 (15-4)
Southern Indiana (3)	23	15-12 (9-10)
3. Quincy	16	16-13 (9-10)
4. Missouri-St. Louis	12	10-17 (5-14)
5. Rockhurst	9	9-18 (5-14)
6. Missouri S&T	7	3-24 (0-19)

**East Division**

<b><u>Team (First-place votes)</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>2007-08 Records (GLVC)</u></b>
1. Kentucky Wesleyan (3)	32	24-8 (14-5)
2. Northern Kentucky (2)	31	21-8 (14-5)
3. Lewis (2)	30	20-11 (11-8)
4. Bellarmine	18	17-11 (11-8)
5. Saint Joseph's	15	18-12 (13-6)
6. UW-Parkside	11	16-11 (9-10)
7. Indianapolis	10	14-13 (8-11)

For more information about the GLVC and each conference member, please visit [www.glvcsports.org](http://www.glvcsports.org).