



For immediate release

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College of Idaho Slight Favorite in CCC Men's Basketball Preseason Poll **Yotes Capture 6 First-Place Votes; Oregon Tech Picked Second, Warner Pacific Third, Evergreen Fourth**

PORTLAND, Ore. – On the strength of three returning starters and a recruiting class that features four college transfers, College of Idaho has earned the favorites' tag for the upcoming 2009-10 Cascade Collegiate Conference men's basketball season, according to a poll of the CCC's 10 head coaches.

The Yotes, looking to capture the CCC's regular season title for the first time since the 2003-04 season, earned six first-place votes and totaled 89 points to edge defending regular season CCC co-champion Oregon Tech in the balloting. The Owls received two first-place votes and totaled 87 points. Warner Pacific, with 76 points, was picked third. Evergreen, with two first-place votes, finished in fourth place with 75 points.

Eastern Oregon, which has won or shared each of the past two regular season crowns, was picked fifth (61 points). The Mountaineers were followed by Northwest Christian (45), Northwest (42), Southern Oregon (31), Concordia (30) and Corban (14).

The CCC's 18th season of men's basketball tips off Oct. 27 when Eastern Oregon meets Walla Walla University in a non-conference game.

College of Idaho is expected to be led by 6-8 senior forward Craig McGee, an honorable mention NAIA All-American last season who averaged 16 points, 9.1 rebounds and shot better than 56 percent from the field. He is joined on the front line by 6-8 senior forward Jabari McIntosh, a member of the CCC's All-Defensive Team who averaged 5.7 points and 3.8 rebounds in addition to blocking 48 shots in 2008-09. The other returning starter is senior guard Kelvin Potts, who averaged 10.2 points and 3.6 assists.

Top newcomers for 10th-year head coach Mark Owen include former two-time Idaho 4A Player of the Year Matt Ballenger, a 6-5 transfer from the University of Colorado; 6-0 senior guard Noah Gottlieb, a transfer from Chaminade University; 6-3 junior guard Kelly McCarty, a transfer from Hawaii-Hilo who averaged 18 points per game in 2007-08; and 6-4 junior forward Steve Peres, who averaged 15 points and six rebounds per game last season at El Camino College in southern California. The Yotes also signed 6-6 freshman forward Bryden Benke, the 2009 Idaho 5A Player of the Year.

Oregon Tech, which has finished first or second in the CCC in five of the past six seasons, is led by senior Justin Parnell, a 6-4 guard who was named the conference's Newcomer of the Year last season after averaging 15.2 points, 4.4 rebounds and 4.5 assists. Parnell went on to earn first team All-CCC and honorable mention NAIA All-America recognition. Veteran coach Danny Miles, who boasts a 38-year record of 876-368, must replace six lettermen and three starters from 2008-09, including first team All-American point guard Jguwon Hogges.

Warner Pacific returns a pair of starters from last year's national tournament team, including 6-8 senior Kaylone Riley, who averaged a double-double (11.0 ppg, 10.6 rpg) in addition to leading the nation in blocked shots (113). Evergreen will be led once again by guard Nathan Menefee, a 5-10 senior who finished second in the nation in scoring (24.3) while earning Cascade Collegiate Conference Player of the Year and first team All-America honors.

2009-10 CCC Preseason Men's Basketball Poll			
	Pts	2008-09 Records	
		Overall	CCC
1. College of Idaho (6)	89	16-15	12-8
2. Oregon Tech (2)	87	29-6	15-5
3. Warner Pacific	76	21-9	14-6
4. Evergreen (2)	75	20-12	13-7
5. Eastern Oregon.....	61	25-8	15-5
6. Northwest Christian	45	18-13	11-9
7. Northwest.....	42	13-16	7-13
8. Southern Oregon	31	9-21	7-13
9. Concordia.....	30	10-20	4-16
10. Corban	14	11-19	7-13

First place votes in parentheses