



NATIONAL CLUB FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# 2026 TEAM PREVIEWS

OFFICIAL PRESEASON MEDIA GUIDE



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GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE  
East Division  
4 teams



II

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE  
West Division  
3 teams



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MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
North Division  
3 teams



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MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
South Division  
3 teams

DIVISION I

# GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

## EAST DIVISION



4 clubs · listed alphabetically



### The Ohio State University Buckeyes

**Buckeyes**

2025 record: 9-0

01



### University of Pittsburgh Club Football

**Pitt**

2025 record: 4-3

02



### University of Toledo Rockets

**Rockets**

2025 record: 6-2

03



### Wright State University Raiders

**Raiders**

2025 record: 2-4

04



**BUCKEYES**

CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

DIVISION

East Division

2025 RECORD

9-0

## The Ohio State University Buckeyes

Great Lakes Conference · East Division

2025 FINAL RECORD

9-0

HEAD COACH

James Grega Jr

ASSISTANT COACHES

Brendan McNeill, Robert Smoot, Zac Saleski, Nick Untch, Patrick Parrish, Todd Thiele, Paul Allmon, Raheem Massenburg, Alex Strohm, Sam Garber

2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

The Buckeyes are in the middle of a historic run of excellence, currently in the middle of 5 straight NCFA Championship Game appearances, including back to back Championships. Winning the Title over Clayton State in 2024 and Coppin State in 2025. Coach Grega and his staff have turned the Buckeyes Club program into an absolute machine, winning titles and shipping players up to the OSU varsity program year after year. 2026 however, finds them with more unknowns than they have had in years. The graduation of some major players finds them in an unknown spot. Is 2026 the year someone knocks OSU off their Great Lakes throne and stops their streak of championships or will Coach Grega do what he seemingly always does, find new cogs for the Buckeye Machine and become the first NCFA team to Three-Peat.



PITT

#### CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

#### DIVISION

East Division

#### 2025 RECORD

4-3

## University of Pittsburgh Club Football

Great Lakes Conference · East Division

#### 2025 FINAL RECORD

4-3

#### HEAD COACH

Matthew Mutone

#### ASSISTANT COACHES

Cameron Fries, Jeremy Fetterhoff

#### 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

After a 2 year hiatus from NCFA play, Pitt is back. They spent the last 2 seasons building up the program under Head Coach Matthew Mutone and expect to hit the ground running this season. 18 returning players including standouts Mason Peck LB/DB/WR, Noah Judkins DB/WR, Chris Donne DL, Alex Kendal OT/DL and Abir Bakshi QB/LB. Coach Mutone has been preaching one simple mantra as they build for the 2026 season: "If you don't think you're going to beat the guy across from you every single rep you already lost." They don't expect to roll through their schedule but if a few bounces go their way, they do expect to be in contention for a conference title.



CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

DIVISION

East Division

2025 RECORD

6-2

# University of Toledo Rockets

Great Lakes Conference · East Division

2025 FINAL RECORD

6-2

2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Toledo continues to be one of the best programs in the NCFA. Playing home games in arguably the best stadium in the league, the Glass Bowl, Toledo has figured out how to find success in the league, but hasn't yet figured out how to beat conference rival Ohio State. That hurdle is the one they have circled in 2026, the game that will determine if they can finally break through to National contention or once again see themselves on the outside looking in.



## RAIDERS

### CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

### DIVISION

East Division

### 2025 RECORD

2-4

# Wright State University Raiders

Great Lakes Conference · East Division

### 2025 FINAL RECORD

2-4

### 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Wright State University is coming off a disappointing 2025 season where they finished with a 2-4 record. They had a strong 2-1 record at home but were unable to find a road victory, finishing their road slate 0-3. Living in the tough Great Lakes East with the likes of OSU and Toledo doesn't make life any easier for them and 2026 will once again see those 2 rivals be strong. However both OSU and Toledo enter 2026 with more questions than they have had in years. Wright State has always been one of the most stable programs in the NCFA, they have a strong number of returning players and if the ball bounces well for them, they could find themselves in the thick of the conference race.

DIVISION II

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE  
WEST DIVISION



3 clubs · listed alphabetically



University of Loyola-Chicago Ramblers

Ramblers

2025 record: 2-3

01



Michigan State University Spartans

Spartans

2025 record: 5-2

02

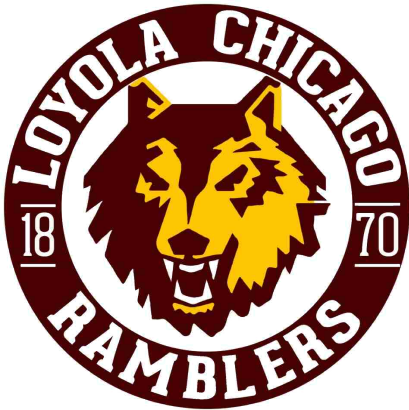


Oakland University Grizzlies

Grizzlies

2025 record: 2-3

03



**RAMBLERS**

CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

DIVISION

West Division

2025 RECORD

2-3

# University of Loyola-Chicago Ramblers

Great Lakes Conference · West Division

2025 FINAL RECORD

2-3

HEAD COACH

James Rodriguez

2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

NCFA stalwart Loyola-Chicago once again returns to the league under the direction of former player James Rodriguez. Win or lose, good season or bad, Loyola always has solid numbers, and always competes. This season they are hoping a few things go their way in close games which could get them back into Great Lakes Conference Title contention.





## SPARTANS

### CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

### DIVISION

West Division

### 2025 RECORD

5-2

## Michigan State University Spartans

Great Lakes Conference · West Division

### 2025 FINAL RECORD

5-2

### HEAD COACH

Mark Beach

### 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Michigan State has championship aspirations for the 2026 season under HC Mark Beach. They return a strong amount of players from the 2025 Great Lakes West Championship squad and will be the leader in the clubhouse to take the Division once again – will they be able to stay healthy enough to challenge Ohio State for the conference crown will be the question as injuries have decimated their roster at the end of each of the last two seasons.



## GRIZZLIES

### CONFERENCE

Great Lakes Conference

### DIVISION

West Division

### 2025 RECORD

2-3

# Oakland University Grizzlies

Great Lakes Conference · West Division

### 2025 FINAL RECORD

2-3

### HEAD COACH

Brett Jacobs

### ASSISTANT COACHES

Tyrese Johnson, Charles Harwood

### 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Oakland is hoping 2025 was the final step in their program rebuilding and they see the fruits of it in 2026. Returning Head Coach Brett Jacobs is focusing on the basics in camp, blocking, tackling and execution. They will be leaning on returning RB Migual Garcia as a catalyst to their offense, while Aleksander Rabin anchors the D. If the Grizzlies continue with their traditional stifling D and can take down their biggest rival, Michigan State they could see themselves back in the Great Lakes Conference Title game.

DIVISION III

# MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

## NORTH DIVISION

3 clubs · listed alphabetically



### Clarkson Golden Knights

Golden Knights

2025 record: 3-1

01



### Sacred Heart University Pioneers

Pioneers

2025 record: 1-3

02



### Vermont Catamounts

Catamounts

2025 record: 0-3

03



## GOLDEN KNIGHTS

### CONFERENCE

Mid-Atlantic Conference

### DIVISION

North Division

### 2025 RECORD

3-1

# Clarkson Golden Knights

Mid-Atlantic Conference · North Division

### 2025 FINAL RECORD

3-1

### HEAD COACH

Cheyenne Dashnaw

### ASSISTANT COACHES

Trever Leinenbach

### 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Clarkson is coming off one of the best seasons in their history, finishing at the top of the Mid-Atlantic North, breaking Sacred Heart's string of consecutive division titles. Coming into the 2026 season Clarkson expects to be in the mix for another division title and look to try and take the next step into conference championship contention. With 20 returning players from the 2025 squad, there is enough fire power for them to start strong. If their new recruits are on point, they could be in store for a magical 2026 run.

**PIONEERS**

## CONFERENCE

**Mid-Atlantic Conference**

## DIVISION

**North Division**

## 2025 RECORD

**1-3**

# Sacred Heart University Pioneers

Mid-Atlantic Conference · North Division

## 2025 FINAL RECORD

**1-3**

## HEAD COACH

**Anquan Nealy**

## 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

It's been a tough run for SHU the last couple of seasons. They had a run of dominance, winning numerous North Atlantic Titles and having a run to the NCFA title in 2017. 2nd year coach Anquan Nealy looks to continue the rebuild in 2026 and has his sights on the Mid-Atlantic. They won't be National Title contenders yet in 2026 but expect them to add to their win total this season.



CATAMOUNTS

CONFERENCE

Mid-Atlantic Conference

DIVISION

North Division

2025 RECORD

0-3

# Vermont Catamounts

Mid-Atlantic Conference · North Division

2025 FINAL RECORD

0-3

HEAD COACH

Paul Winters

ASSISTANT COACHES

Dominic Albertini, Morgan Cohen

2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

In the early years of the NCFA, Vermont was a powerhouse – players like Jack Leclerc and Jake Bieleki leading high powered offenses. Then the Catamounts fell on some hard times. Barely finishing seasons. The last couple years the program has been on a resurgence and expects 2026 to continue on an upward trend. They return a whopping 30 players from their 2025 roster, and although they finished without a win, those players gained valuable experience and Coach Winters thinks if they can find some luck, 2026 could be the year all the rebuilding work begins to pay off. Players like David Osborne (noseguard/tackle), Cooper Wheeler (wide receiver), Cooper Duggan (running back), Matthew Finnegan (guard) and Nasir Hines (QB) will be leading the charge towards a successful season.

DIVISION IV

# MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

## SOUTH DIVISION

3 clubs · listed alphabetically



### Columbus State University Cougars

Cougars

2025 record: 4-3

01



### Coppin State University Eagles

Eagles

2025 record: 8-1

02



### George Mason University

Patriots

2025 record: 4-3

03



**COUGARS**

CONFERENCE

**Mid-Atlantic Conference**

DIVISION

**South Division**

2025 RECORD

**4-3**

## Columbus State University Cougars

Mid-Atlantic Conference · South Division

2025 FINAL RECORD

**4-3**

HEAD COACH

**Michael Speight**

ASSISTANT COACHES

**Thomas Nguyen, Jonathan Fisher, Brad Warren, Roderick Fowler, Carnard Chapman, Justin Youmes, Daryl Spruill**

2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Columbus State has been knocking on the door of NCFA greatness for the last few years, and thought a move to the Mid-Atlantic in 2025 would be the way to break thru that door. However Columbus ran into a few issues and saw 2025 become a year to forget. They have regrouped under the longest tenured Head Coach in the NCFA, Michael Speight, return 22 players from last season and have set their hopes high. They have the Coppin State revenge game circled and expect to be in contention for a spot in Butler at the 2026 NCFA Championship game.



**EAGLES**

## CONFERENCE

**Mid-Atlantic Conference**

## DIVISION

**South Division**

## 2025 RECORD

**8-1**

# Coppin State University Eagles

Mid-Atlantic Conference · South Division

## 2025 FINAL RECORD

**8-1**

## HEAD COACH

**Franklyn Herrera**

## 2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Coppin State is coming off a magical 2025 run, seeing them finish the regular season undefeated leading to a matchup with Ohio State in the NCFA Championship Game. They played hard and hung with OSU but unfortunately fell short. Coach Herrera returns looking to grab the Mid-Atlantic title once again, seeking redemption against Ohio State. They return a large amount of players and have found some great new talent, will 2026 be the year they break through and add to their NCFA Championship Trophy Case?



CONFERENCE

Mid-Atlantic Conference

DIVISION

South Division

2025 RECORD

4-3

# George Mason University

Mid-Atlantic Conference · South Division

2025 FINAL RECORD

4-3

HEAD COACH

Lamont Gore

ASSISTANT COACHES

James Crowell Jr., Mike Dyson, Marlon Richardson, John Wilson, Antonio Harris, Ricardo Smith, William Fenwick

2026 SEASON PROSPECTUS

After a couple of disappointing postseason losses including losing the 2021 NCFA Title game to Ohio State, George Mason found themselves on the outside of the postseason in 2025. New Head Coach Lamont Gore looks to get things back on track in the 2026 season. There will be a lot of new faces on the squad in 2026 but you can expect the same high-powered offense for GMU under Coach Gore. If they can get through Coppin, 2026 could see them back in postseason action.