



Butler and Blinn Top Pre-Season NJCAA/JC Football.com Top 25 Rankings

#1 Grizzlies and #2 Bucs Meet Aug. 30th in Clash of Former Champions

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. --- The 2008 NJCAA football season can not begin much better than a clash between its two most recent national champions. Wichita's Cessna Stadium (Kansas) will be the site for one of the best NJCAA season openers in many years as 2007 co-national champion **Butler Community College** (Kan.) hosts 2006 national champion **Blinn College** (Texas) on Thursday, August 28th.

To make it even more interesting, Butler and Blinn enter the season ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectfully, in the 2008 NJCAA / JC Football.com Pre-Season Top 25.

The Grizzlies of Butler have won seven consecutive Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference titles and head coach Troy Morrell is 85-10 (.894) in just eight seasons with the program and has taken home four KJCCC Coach of the Year awards.

More importantly, Butler has won five national titles; including last season's split title with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Morrell returns five starters from a defense that shutout four opponents in '07 and at one point last season did not allow a single point for 15-straight quarters. On offense the Grizzlies return offensive lineman Erik Dahl, a second-team All-American last season, and quarterback Press Taylor.

After winning the 2006 national title with an 11-0 record, the Buccaneers of Blinn College went 7-3 last season, which ended with back-to-back losses to Navarro College, Texas (last regular season game and opening round of conference playoffs).

Bucs head coach Brad Franchione, who is 26-6 (.812) in three years at Blinn, returns six starters on both offense and defense. Quarterback Terrance Cain, an Honorable Mention All-American last year, will lead the offense again for the Bucs. Cain's 71.1 percent completion rate set a NJCAA record last season.

The two teams have met just once previously, in 1987 at the Texas Shrine Bowl, with the Bucs pulling out a 35-14 win. Blinn is 5-0 all time against teams from the KJCCC, while Butler is 8-4 against team from Texas and 5-1 versus Lone Star State teams under Morrell.

Plenty of talent returning in '08

The NJCAA / JC Football.com Pre-Season Top 25 has many familiar names toward the top, as '07 co-national champion **Mississippi Gulf Coast**, **Snow College** (Utah), **Georgia Military College** and **Navarro College** (Texas) round out the top six and were all participants in NJCAA bowl games in '07. The three teams return 37 starters from last season combined.

Other pre-season favorites welcome back plenty of starters as well. **Jones County Junior College** (Miss.) has 11 total players returning from '07 and **Rochester Comm. & Technical College** (Minn.) gets back 15 players off last year's undefeated squad.

Pre-Season All-Americans on Page 4 & 5
2008 NJCAA / JC Football.com Poll Information on Page 6

Rank	College, State	2007 Record
1.	Butler Community College, Kan.	12-0
2.	Blinn College, Texas	7-3
3.	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	12-0
4.	Snow College, Utah	11-1
5.	Georgia Military College	9-2
6.	Navarro College, Texas	9-3
7.	Jones County Junior College, Miss.	9-2
8.	Nassau Community College, N.Y.	7-3
9.	Garden City Community College, Kan.	7-3
10.	Rochester Community & Technical College, Minn.	11-0
11.	Iowa Central Community College	9-2
12.	Eastern Arizona College	10-2
13.	Pearl River Community College, Miss.	6-3
14.	Kilgore College, Texas	8-4
15.	Glendale Community College, Ariz.	6-4
See Complete Rankings on Page 3		



Keep an eye on...

Eastern Arizona College and **Itawamba Community College** (Miss.) -- Both had great seasons last year but didn't get as much attention as other teams due to the timing of their losses. Eastern Arizona started out '07 with a 9-0 record before falling to Glendale Community College (Ariz.) and Snow. The Gila Monsters had the nation's best rushing offense last season (337.8 yds/game) and return 13 starters for their '08 campaign.



Itawamba, the only Mississippi team to qualify for its conference playoffs each of the last four years, returns 14 starters from last season's squad, which won the North Division of the Mississippi Assn. of Comm. & Junior Colleges. The North Division of the MACJC has had a tough time winning the conference due Southern Division powers Pearl River Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast. However, with the talent Itawamba returns, especially '07 All-American defensive end Pernel McPhee, the Indians have a chance to win their first MACJC title since 1990.



Fresh Faces

The 2008 season marks a regime change for 12 different NJCAA football programs. The biggest coaching change would have to be Tom Minnick's move from Joliet Junior College (Ill.) to Arizona Western College. Minnick had spent 10 years at Joliet, including the last two as head coach leading the Wolves to back-to-back Midwest Football Conference East Division titles. Last year, Joliet defeated North Iowa Area Community College 28-21 in the Graphic Edge Printing Bowl and was ranked 10th in the final NJCAA /JC.Football.com Poll-their highest national ranking in five years.

First-year Coaches for 2008:

Darian Dulin – Coffeyville Community College (Kan.)
Bob Majeski – Dodge City Community College (Kan.)
Mike Virden – Ellsworth Community College (Iowa)
Jeremy Richardson – Joliet Junior College (Ill.)
Steve LaLonde – North Iowa Area Community College
John Haines – Vermilion Community College (Minn.)
Buddy Stephens – East Mississippi Community College
Ricky Woods – Northwest Mississippi Community College
Steve Cheatham – East Central Community College (Miss.)
Tom Minnick – Arizona Western College
Mike Jacobs – Mesa Community College (Ariz.)
Land Jacobsen – Phoenix College (Ariz.)

Three New Bowl Games for 2008!

The NJCAA is very excited for the addition of three new postseason bowl games for 2008. The new North Star Bowl (name subject to change) will feature two games to be held at UCR Regional Stadium in Rochester, Minn., on November 22. The first game will have the runner-up from the Minnesota Community College Conference go against an at-large team, while the feature game will have the MCCC Champion challenge another at-large team.



The Mississippi Bowl will take place on December 7 at Indian Stadium in Biloxi, Miss. The game will feature the champion of the Mississippi Assn. of Community & Junior Colleges against an at-large opponent.





Rank	College, State	2007 Record	2007 Highlights	Returning Starters
1.	Butler Community College, Kan.	12-0	<i>Co-National Champions</i>	5 Def. - 2 Off.
2.	Blinn College, Texas	7-3	<i>3rd SWJCFC; lost in first round of conf. playoffs</i>	6 Def. - 6 Off.
3.	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	12-0	<i>Co-National Champions</i>	2 Def. - 3 Off.
4.	Snow College, Utah	11-1	<i>WSFL Champs; 22-2 last two years</i>	3 Def. - 4 Off.
5.	Georgia Military College	9-2	<i>Lost 24-21 in Pilgrim's Pride Bowl to Navarro</i>	7 Def. - 7 Off.
6.	Navarro College, Texas	9-3	<i>'08 Pilgrim's Pride Bowl Champs; SWJCFC Champs</i>	6 Def. - 5 Off.
7.	Jones County Junior College, Miss.	9-2	<i>Only two losses in '07 were to Miss. Gulf Coast</i>	4 Def. - 7 Off.
8.	Nassau Community College, N.Y.	7-3	<i>Finished 3rd in Northeast Football Conference</i>	5 Def. - 6 Off.
9.	Garden City Community College, Kan.	7-3	<i>3rd KJCCC; lost in first round of conf. playoffs</i>	3 Def. - 3 Off.
10.	Rochester Community & Technical College, Minn.	11-0	<i>Won MCCC for fifth time in six years</i>	7 Def. - 8 Off.
11.	Iowa Central Community College	9-2	<i>Beat Harper in Game 1 of Graphic Edge Bowl</i>	5 Def. - 4 Off.
12.	Eastern Arizona College	10-2	<i>WSFL Runner-Up; Chihuahua Bowl Champs</i>	7 Def. - 6 Off.
13.	Pearl River Community College, Miss.	6-3	<i>Missed MACJC playoffs for first time since 2001</i>	5 Def. - 5 Off.
14.	Kilgore College, Texas	8-4	<i>Lost to Miss Gulf Coast in Heart of Texas Bowl</i>	5 Def. - 6 Off.
15.	Glendale Community College, Ariz.	6-4	<i>Finished 4th in WSFL</i>	8 Def. - 7 Off.
16.	Joliet Junior College, Ill.	10-2	<i>Graphic Edge Bowl Champs; MFC Champs</i>	5 Def. - 4 Off.
17.	Erie Community College, N.Y.	7-3	<i>Finished 4th in Northeast Football Conference</i>	5 Def. - 8 Off.
18.	Fort Scott Community College, Kan.	9-3	<i>2nd KJCCC; lost to Mesa in Valley of Sun Bowl</i>	4 Def. - 4 Off.
19.	Central Lakes College, Minn.	7-4	<i>MCCC runner-up</i>	6 Def. - 3 Off.
20.	Itawamba Community College, Miss.	7-3	<i>North Division MACJC champs; lost in conf. playoffs</i>	8 Def. - 6 Off.
21.	Mesa Community College, Ariz.	9-2	<i>3rd WSFL; Won Valley of Sun Bowl</i>	4 Def. - 4 Off.
22.	Grand Rapids Community College, Mich.	4-5	<i>Suffered first losing season in over 10 years</i>	N/A
23.	Coffeyville Community College, Kan.	5-5	<i>Failed to make postseason for first time in 7 yrs.</i>	0 Def. - 4 Off.
24.	Cisco Junior College, Texas	7-3	<i>4th SWJCFC; advanced to conference playoffs</i>	5 Def. - 3 Off.
25.	Vermilion Community College, Minn.	6-3	<i>Lost in MCCC playoffs to Central Lakes College</i>	N/A
Others Receiving Votes				
	Northwest Mississippi Community College	6-4	<i>Finished 2nd in the North Division of MACJC</i>	5 Def. - 5 Off.
	Northland Community & Technical College, Minn.	6-3	<i>Missed MCCC playoffs</i>	4 Def. - 4 Off.
	Harper College, Ill.	6-6	<i>Advanced to bowl game for 21st time in school history</i>	8 Def. - 7 Off.
	Lackawanna College, Pa.	7-3	<i>Finished 2nd in Northeast Football Conference</i>	4 Def. - 4 Off.
	Tyler Junior College, Texas	5-4	<i>Ended season with three straight wins</i>	5 Def. - 7 Off.
	Scottsdale Community College, Ariz.	5-5	<i>Ended season 6th in WSFL</i>	2 Def. - 3 Off.
	College of DuPage, Ill.	6-4	<i>Fell to rival Harper in MFC-East playoffs</i>	3 Def. - 3 Off.
	Dean College, Mass.	9-1	<i>Northeast Football Conference champs</i>	6 Def. - 5 Off.
	Southwest Mississippi Community College	4-5	<i>Finished 4th in South Division of MACJC</i>	7 Def. - 3 Off.



NJCAA Pre-Season All-Americans OFFENSE - First Team

Position	Name	Ht.	Wt.	College
QB	Garrett Barnas*	6-1	195	Harper College, Ill.
RB	Cornelius Shackelford	5-10	210	Kilgore College, Texas
RB	Anton Taylor	5-10	205	Hinds Community College, Miss.
WR	Anthony Aker*	6-3	200	Rochester Comm. & Tech College, Minn.
WR	Terrance Moore*	6-2	185	Mesa Community College, Ariz.
TE	Woody McClendon*	6-3	245	Kilgore College, Texas
OL	Erick Dahl*	6-2	280	Butler Community College, Kan.
OL	DeMarde Dean	6-5	350	Coahoma Community College, Miss.
OL	Justin Wissler	6-5	305	Iowa Central Community College
OL	Andrew Tiller	6-6	320	Nassau Community College, N.Y.
OL	Roy Watts	6-6	310	Navarro College, Texas
PK	Sean Brauchle*	5-10	180	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

NJCAA Pre-Season All-Americans OFFENSE - Second Team

Position	Name	Ht.	Wt.	College
QB	Terrance Cain*	6-1	190	Blinn College, Texas
RB	Rodney Lovett	5-10	210	Fort Scott Community College, Kan.
RB	Desmond Washington	5-10	185	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
WR	Andre Simmons*	6-3	215	Independence Community College, Kan.
WR	Johnny Thomas*	6-4	185	Southwest Mississippi Community College
TE	Pat Fitzgerald	6-2	240	Nassau Community College, N.Y.
OL	Travis Nua	6-3	278	Arizona Western College
OL	Jeffery Wills	6-7	350	Lackawanna College, Pa.
OL	P.K. Keyes	6-4	325	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
OL	Ed Wells	6-3	305	Northland Comm. & Tech College, Minn.
OL	Cory Wright	6-2	305	Ellsworth Community College, Iowa
PK	Brad Hicks	6-0	175	Blinn College, Texas

**Denotes 2007 NJCAA All-American*



NJCAA Pre-Season All-Americans DEFENSE - First Team

Position	Name	Ht.	Wt.	College
DE	Pernell McPhee*	6-4	225	Itawamba Community College, Miss.
DE	James Aiono	6-2	270	Snow College, Utah
DL	Immanuel Dudley	6-0	280	Northeast Mississippi Community College
DL	Pauli Latu	6-2	282	Arizona Western College
LB	Kevin Dix	6-2	250	Dodge City Community College, Kan.
LB	Anthony Pritchard	6-2	227	Iowa Central Community College
LB	Chris White	6-4	235	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
DB	Marcus Benjamin	6-1	197	Arizona Western College
DB	Demetrious Warmble	5-11	180	Independence Community College, Kan.
DB	Ryan Clark	6-1	195	Navarro College, Texas
DB	Rashad McRae*	5-10	180	Georgia Military College
P	Joei Fiegler*	6-2	210	Georgia Military College

NJCAA Pre-Season All-Americans DEFENSE - Second Team

Position	Name	Ht.	Wt.	College
DE	Kyle Jenkins	6-4	255	Harper College, Ill.
DE	Tim Cox	6-1	230	Holmes Community College, Miss.
DL	Nathan Mageo	6-2	285	New Mexico Military Institute
DL	Peni Fiuangaihetau	6-2	275	Phoenix College, Ariz.
LB	Prentice Joseph	6-0	252	Blinn College, Texas
LB	Zach Hernandez	6-1	215	Mesa Community College, Ariz.
LB	Trevor Glomski	6-2	240	Rochester Comm. & Tech. College, Minn.
DB	Hiram Atwater	5-11	205	Garden City Community College, Kan.
DB	Jevon Livingston	6-1	185	Nassau Community College, N.Y.
DB	D.J. Pratt	6-5	195	North Iowa Area Community College
DB	Roteddric Cotton	5-11	175	Southwest Mississippi Community College
P	Cameron Kenney*	6-3	190	Garden City Community College, Kan.

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JC Football.com and NJCAA Continue Promotion of Two-Year of College Football

The NJCAA and JC Football.com will once again team up for the 2008 NJCAA football season to promote two-year college football.

The NJCAA / JC Football.com Poll will rank the top 20 NJCAA football teams in the nation and will be released each Tuesday during the regular season beginning Sept. 9th.

Poll Information

The NJCAA / JC Football.com Poll ranks the top 20 team in the NJCAA each week. NJCAA Football Panel Directors select their top 20 teams each week, which are then formulated into the weekly rankings. Panel Directors are not allowed to vote a team No. 1 from their own district until they have played at least five contests. After five contests, a Panel Director may only vote a team from their district No. 1 if they are undefeated. A Panel Director may vote a team from their district No. 2 at any time during the season.

The weekly poll will be released nationally on the NJCAA website (www.njcaa.org), and via email on each poll day at approximately 1 p.m. (Mountain Time). This year's poll dates are as follows: *Sept. 9, Sept. 16, Sept. 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, Oct. 29, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18 (Final Regular Season Poll) and Dec. 15 (Championship Poll and All-American Release).*

Also, NJCAA Football Players of the Week selections will commence with the start of the weekly rankings on Sept. 9.

