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Reigning National Champions Picked to Finish First in NE-10 Men's Soccer

South Easton, Mass. – The Franklin Pierce University Men's Soccer team is picked to finish atop the Northeast-10 standings as voted upon by the conference's 14 head coaches. The Ravens collected 13 of the possible 14 first-place votes for a total of 195 points.

Last season the Ravens won their third straight NE-10 Regular Season Title and advanced to the NCAA Division II National Championship game claiming the team's first ever National Title.

The University of Massachusetts Lowell (12-4-4, 10-2-1 NE-10) received the final first-place vote and in the process collected 180 points to finish second, while Southern Connecticut State University (14-2-5, 9-1-3 NE-10) followed with 170 points for a third place finish. The Owls won their first-ever Northeast-10 Tournament Title last season. Le Moyne College (14-4-2, 9-2-2, NE-10) and Merrimack College (13-6-3, 6-4-3) round out the top five with 141 and 139 points respectively.

Southern New Hampshire University (5-8-5, 5-6-2 NE-10) received 131 points and is predicted to finish in sixth place followed by American International College (6-9-3, 5-7-1 NE-10) with 101 points. Saint Michael's College (10-5-4, 5-4-4 NE-10) is picked to finish in eighth place with 86 points edging out the conference's newest member the University of New Haven by one point (85). The Chargers were 6-10-1 overall and had a 4-4-1 record in the East Coast Conference in 2007. Assumption College (6-9-3, 4-7-2 NE-10) received 68 points as the Grey Hounds are slated to finish tenth.

Rounding out the poll in order is Saint Anselm College (6-10-1, 4-9-0 NE-10), Bentley College (6-12-1, 3-10-0 NE-10), Stonehill College (5-12-2, 2-10-1 NE-10) and the College of Saint Rose (1-15-1, 1-11-1 NE-10).

In addition to Franklin Pierce's victory in the Division II National Championship game, the Northeast-10 had a number of schools qualify for the NCAA tournament last year including Le Moyne, UMass Lowell and Southern Connecticut. Teams will begin their quest for the conference championship as well as a chance to play for a National Championship beginning on Thursday, August 28 as seven teams are in action to jump start the 2008 season. The first NE-10 conference match-up is scheduled for Friday, September 5 with American International hosting Assumption.

The Northeast-10 tournament is slated to begin on Sunday, November 2 with the quarterfinals followed by the semifinals on Wednesday, November 5. The finals will take place on Saturday, November 8. For more details log onto the Northeast-10 website at www.northeast10.org.

With 15 member institutions the Northeast-10 is the second largest NCAA Division II athletic conference in the nation. Its 23 championship sports provide athletic opportunities for over 5,500 student-athletes, the largest such program of any Division II conference.

2008 Men's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll

Team	Points	2007 Rec., NE-10
1. Franklin Pierce (13)	195	17-2-4, 11-0-2
2. UMass Lowell (1)	180	12-4-4, 10-2-1
3. Southern Connecticut	170	14-2-5, 9-1-3
4. Le Moyne	141	14-4-2, 9-2-2
5. Merrimack	139	13-6-3, 6-4-3
6. Southern New Hampshire	131	5-8-5, 5-6-2
7. American International	101	6-9-3, 5-7-1
8. Saint Michael's	86	10-5-4, 5-4-4
9. New Haven	85	6-10-1, 4-4-1 *
10. Assumption	68	6-9-3, 4-7-2
11. Saint Anselm	65	6-10-1, 4-9-0
12. Bentley	60	6-12-1, 3-10-0
13. Stonehill	27	5-12-2, 2-10-1
14. Saint Rose	22	1-15-1, 1-11-1

(First Place Votes In Parentheses)

** Member of the East Coast Conference in 2007*