



850 Ridge Avenue  
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## **2016 Great Lakes East Conference Preview**



**Miami University Redhawks**  
**Oxford, Ohio**

**2015 Record:** 10-1 2015 NCFA Runners Up 2015 GLC Champions

**Head Coach:** Jay Fry Sr.

**Assistants:**

Defensive Coordinator – Joe Jackson

Defensive Backs – Jake Jackson

Defensive Line- Zac Saleski

Receivers – Todd Tripplett

Offensive Line – Gerry Myers

Quarterbacks – Russ Foster

**Team Captain(s):** TBD

**Returning Starters:** 12

**Players to Watch:** Jack Hanaway, Will Hogan, Max Mather, Jack Baglien, Joe Dillon

### **Season Outlook**

Miami ended their 2015 season with a heartbreaking loss in the NCFA Championship Game to Middle Georgia State, the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the last 4 years they have ended their season that way. The Redhawks hope they can turn that sour taste into a sweet ending in 2016. They will enter the season as strong contenders to repeat as GLC champions and re-enter the NCFA playoffs, however to do so they will have to replace 2015 NCFA leading rusher Tyler Rus. Longtime Miami coaching stalwart Jay Fry Sr does return some firepower for the 2015 team in returning All-Americans Michael Christy, Jack Hannan and John Zuccaro. Miami is entering a few into the NCFA best nickname group with “Big Milk” Tom Radford, “Megatron” Colin Hogan and “Chef Shaw” Garrett Shaw. The Redhawks will look to Coach Joe Jackson’s defense to hold things together until the offense can find its rhythm and hope that happens before some of their big GLC East clashes including the yearly tilt against their #1 rival Oakland University.



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## **Oakland University Grizzlies**

**Auburn Hills, MI**

**2015 Record:** 4-2

**Head Coach:** Tom Menas

### **Assistants:**

Karl Featherstone

Jeff Allor

Alex Gilbert

Jack Fugate

Scott Kennedy

Jim Garris

Phil Menas

Nick Schilling

LJ Stolarski

**Team Captain(s):** Malik Pettway, Zack Eaglen, Chris Polite

**Returning Starters:** 16

**Players to Watch:** Shakeer Williams, Nathan Emery, Malik Pettway, Steven Oconnel, James Bartsch, Brian Khashola, Chris Polite, Trajan Seay, Robert Saad

### **Season Outlook**

After winning the 2014 NCFA National Championship Oakland took a step back in 2015 finishing 4-2. For the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 4 years Oakland will also be entering their season with a new Head Coach with Tom Menas taking over for Jeff Allor who has taken a step back to an assistant role with the program. The Grizzlies do return a lot of key players who were a part of the 2014 championship team and will look to those players including team leaders RB Malik Pettway, LB Brian Khasola, CB/K/P Chris Polite, and LB

Jim Bartsch to help guide the new additions with what it takes to win an NCFA title. Oakland is happen to once again renew their in state rivalry with Michigan State alebit it from counter sides of the GLC. Oakland again figures to be among the most physical teams in the NCFA and if they can "Trust the Process" they will be in contention at the end for the GLC Championship and the NCFA playoffs.



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The Ohio State University Buckeyes  
Columbus, Ohio

2015 Record: 3-3

Head Coach: Darryl Payne

Assistants:

David Ladden

Isaac Melton

Derek Coker

Terrell Brown

Nicholas Straight

William McCoy

Team Captain(s): Ken Merchant Jr, Tyler Jackson, Matt Thiede, Trevor Brown, Brent Lary, Bobby Newby, Taariq Parker

Returning Starters: 13

Players to Watch: Ken Merchant Jr, Brent Lary, Hamzah Masood, Tyler Jackson, Duana Nyei, Trevor Brown, Taariq Parker

### Season Outlook

The Buckeyes are looking to rebound from a disappointing 2015 season and have hit the recruiting trail very hard this offseason. Head Coach Darryl Payne is confident the returning players are hungry to make a change in the results from last season and that the new additions will fall in line and help that cause. There is a lot of buzz surrounding the program thanks to the leadership of their new executive board which should bode well for improving the on field results. The GLC East still runs through Oxford and the Miami program but OSU should be in the mix to compete with the top dogs of the conference. The yearly match up with rival UM-Flint again figures to be a great game once again with both teams treating that rivalry much like their NCAA counter parts do.



University of Michigan Flint - Kodiaks  
Flint, MI

2015 Record: 0-5

Head Coach: Treva Walker

Assistants:

Team Captain(s): Logan Rubel, Entrice Mitchell

Returning Starters: 15

Players to Watch:



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### Season Outlook

The Kodiaks are hoping to build on a solid off-season and lay the groundwork for future success and get something in the W column this season. Led by new head coach Trevais Walker, Flint looks to "Play hard, Play smart, play together and most importantly have fun!" UM has the calendar already circled for their match up with the team down south Ohio State, a win over the Buckeyes would be a great achievement for the new coaching staff and could spearhead a resurgence for the Kodiaks



**Wright State University Raiders**  
Dayton, OH

**2015 Record:** 4-5

**Head Coach:** Jimmy Johnson

**Assistants:**

Marcus Fails

**Team Captain(s):** Drew Danner, Forrest Cordova, Devin Gevedon, Peter Ngoh

**Returning Starters:** 12

**Players to Watch:** Forrest Cordova (QB), Peter Ngoh (CB) Drew Danner (WR), Lawrence Yahle (WR), Tyler Godsey (LB)

### Season Outlook

Wright State had a heartbreaking 2015 season, they entered with high hopes and lost a number of close games leading to a disappointing 4-5 finish. They made a coaching change halfway thru the 2015 season and enter 2016 with Jimmy Johnson at the helm. Although they will have to replace some major production on the defensive side of the ball with the departure of NCFA Defensive Player of the Year Jimmy Neyhouse and 2015 All-American LB John Phillipe they do return 2015 NCFA All-American QB Forrest Cordova. The defense will look to LB Tyler Godsey and a lot of new faces to keep the pressure on opposing GLC offenses but it will be the Raider offense that will be the catalyst to make them contenders in the GLC. The offense will be focused on the strong arm of Cordova and his connection with top receivers Drew Danner and Lawrence Yahle. If the Raider OL can stay healthy and give those guys the time they need Wright State could feature on of the most explosive offenses in the NCFA.



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## 2016 Great Lakes West Conference Preview



Loyola University Chicago Ramblers  
Chicago, Illinois  
2015 Record: 4-4

**Head Coach:** Connor Gomer

**Assistants:**

Assistant Head Coach / Co-Defensive Coordinator – John L Clarke

Co-Defensive Coordinator – Norm Perez

Special Teams Coordinator – Demetrius Hughes

Offensive Line – Dawn Pedersen

Tight Ends & Inside Linebackers – Kim Marks

Defensive Line – Cory Reidl

Defensive Backs & Receivers – Scott Ruzinsky

**Team Captain(s):** Kenny Sweezey, Jon Khosa, Conor Deal, Daniel Catlin

**Returning Starters:** 11

**Players to Watch:** Jordan Skach (QB), Chris Hall (RB), Jon Khosa (DE), Dan Catlin (LB), Conor Deal (DL), Kenny Sweezey (OL/LB), James Rodriguez (WR/DB), Scotty Scales (LB)

### Season Outlook

The Ramblers have made great strides the last couple years but enter 2016 with some big questions marks. The biggest is the change at the top with Head Coach John Clarke stepping back into an assistant role and former player Connor Gomer taking the reins of the program. On top of the LUC has to replace two time NCFA All-American Matt Bos as well as the final members of the inaugural 2012 team that graduated last spring. Leading the way for the 2016 is team president and two way iron man Kenny Sweezey a returning NCFA All-American and returning 2 time NCFA All-American defensive end Jon Khosa. Those two hope to lead a group of new and returning young players as they make their way into GLC title contention. Returning QB Jordan Skach looks to make a mark as one of the top signal callers in the NCFA while Khosa and Sweezey lead a Rambler defense that has the potential to among the conference's best with linebackers Dan Catlin, Scotty Scales and defensive lineman Conor Deal all returning.



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**Michigan State University Spartans**  
East Lansing, MI

**2015 Record:** 4-1

**Head Coach:** Chris Pickney

**Assistants:**

**Team Captain(s):** Lucas Mayo, Vinny Costanzo, Jake Sterling, Bill Zaleto

**Returning Starters:** 25

**Players to Watch:** Lucas Mayo (LB), Jake Sterling (WR) Pat Lowen, Bill Zaleto

**Season Outlook**

The Spartans came into the NCFA and the Great Lakes Conference with a bang in their inaugural season, knocking off GLC heavy hitters Oakland and Wright State before losing to GLC Champion Miami in their last game. Head Coach Chris Pickney brings back a good core and expects to be a contender for the NCFA Title in 2016. QB Vinny Costanzo and WR Jake Sterling look to reignite their connection which was among the NCFA bests before being derailed by injuries while Lucas Mayo and Pat Lowen will be laying the wood for the Spartan defense. With a nice group of new addition mixed in with their returning players expect Michigan State to be in the mix with the wide open GLC West. Although they are no longer in the same side of the GLC look for Michigan St to renew their rivalry with Oakland University, which is always flamed a little higher seeing as Spartan coach Chris Pickney spent the 2014 season leading Oakland to the NCFA title.



**Robert Morris University – Peoria Eagles**  
Peoria, IL

**2015 Record:** 4-5

**Head Coach:** Seth Carson

**Assistants:**

Michael Carey

Josh Carter

Michael Dixon

Austin Wertz

**Team Captain(s):** TBD

**Returning Starters:** 9

**Players to Watch:** Kyle McKenna (DB/WR), Johnathon Maebane (DB/RB), Dushon Morris (WR), Roderick Taylor (QB), Joseph Lee (OL)



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### Season Outlook

The 2015 RMU squad entered the season with a new coach and a lot of new players facing a steep learning curve, the beginning of the season showed that with a pile of losses to some stiff non NCFA competition. However those early season losses allowed the team to gel and there were able to put it all together defeating rival UW-Milwaukee on a last second touchdown pass to secure the GLC West title and nearly knocking off undefeated Miami for the full GLC crown. This season they again have some new faces but Coach Carson and his staff are back in the fold, have recruited some very talented new players, and will look to the leadership of returning players to stay near the top of the GLC and compete for the NCFA playoffs. Returning team captain Kyle McKenna will again be a force on both sides of the ball as will Johnathon Maebane. Dynamic receiver Dushon Morris looks to come back from an injury plagued 2015 season to once again ascend to his position among the best in the NCFA. If the new players such as QB Roderick Taylor can pick up the systems early they could be among the NCFA's best this fall.



### **The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Panthers Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**2015 Record:** 4-2

**Head Coach:** Dave Mogensen

**Assistants:**

Associate Head Coach / Defensive Coordinator – Jim Knowles

Assistant Head Coach / Receivers – Antoine Burns

Special Teams Coordinator / Defensive Backs – Shawn McKenzie

Defensive Line – Chester Hall

Offensive Line – Mike Dhein

Running Backs – JoJo Moore

Offensive Quality Control – Josh Fuher

**Team Captain(s):** TBD

**Returning Starters:** 19

**Players to Watch:** Tony Sanicola (S), Chris Labeots (OT), Josh Draper (CB), Shane Schwaller (RB), Jordan Platek (QB), Keith Morris (LB), Dez Marion-Moore (DL), Eric Koeller (LB), Kyle Wirtz (WR), Brandon Smith (WR)

### Season Outlook

UWM was expecting a rebuilding year in 2015 after having to replace a strong senior class from 2014 including former NCFA Offensive Player of the Year Sam Clark, however stellar defense early on led to



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some big wins and they were in the thick of the GLC championship contention at the end. If not for a last second heave from Robert Morris they would have ended up in the GLC Title game last fall. The good news for the Panthers is that they return 19 of 22 starters and despite a very tough schedule they should once again be in contention for the GLC crown and the NCFA playoffs. UWM has lost 4 games combined the last two regular seasons, all to Robert Morris and Oakland and all by less than a touchdown. Leading the way for them to change those outcomes are 5 returning All-Americans including safety Tony Sanicola who proved to be force all over the field in 2015. The offense will center on QB Jordan Platek who should be near the league leaders for passing in his 2<sup>nd</sup> season at the helm of the high flying UWM attack. However for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight season the Panthers will be looking for a receiver to step up and replace the previous year's NCFA leading receiver, as Matt Fix has left to run NCAA D2 track at UW-Parkside. Look for returning starters Kyle Wirtz and Brandon Smith to fill that void.