



GREAT LAKES

*NCFA Conference
Preview*



Eastern Michigan started their inaugural season with a bang, winning their opening game, things changed fast as they then went on to lose 6 in a row to end the season. The see the GLC-East to be a wide open race and based on the influx of new talent and a great spring season where they won 3 out of 4 scrimmages, the Eagles think they have as good a shot of anyone as making the GLC title game.



**Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI**

**Head Coach – Lawrence Page
Assistants – William Jackson, Kevin Daniels, Chris
Veldman**

2017 record – 1-6

Conference Finish – 3rd

Final National Ranking –

Returning Players – 10

Returning Starters – 10

**Players to Watch – Taeron George, Joe Donvoan, James
Moore, Hakeem Evans, Bobby Ellman, Ben Brazleton,
Darin Beals**

Loyola enters 2018 with great optimism under new head coach Norman Perez after a very productive spring session. They are banking on a rebuilt offensive line led by newcomers Cole Pfeifer and Matthew Fink to help protect QB Brendan Larson enough to get the ball to big play threat Larenz Jones. Returning Academic All-American and jack of all trades Adam Klepp will look to bring balance to the Rambler offense on the ground. Defensively, Loyola will look to speed over size to keep up with the GLC elite. Coach Perez feels like they have enough talent to make a push to dethrone perennial GLC-West top dogs, Robert Morris, a tough task but 2018 looks like it will be a wide open year and they will look to capitalize.



**Loyola University - Chicago
Chicago, IL**

Head Coach – Norman Perez Sr

**Assistants – Todd Partridge, Austin Weber, Juan
Rodroquez, David Jennings, Armando Vega, Corey
Diemer, Jason Lawson, Riley Halligan, Hiram DeJesus**
2017 record – 1-6

Final Conference Ranking – 3rd

Final National Ranking – 23rd

Returning Players – 11

Returning Starters - 11

**Players to Watch – Cole Pfeifer, Jack Ryan, Adam Klepp,
Larenz Jones, Matthew Fink, Vince Serio, Bailey Placek**

Michigan State enters its 4th season in the NCFA and will be under a new head coach in Mark Beach. Beach has a pretty full cupboard to work with and expects to push Oakland in the GLC-East. Returning QB Robert Atkinson should be among the NCFA passing leaders yet again, especially with returning NCFA Academic All-American Jourdyn Thompson and his 20 yards per catch average returning. Those two along with a solid influx of new recruits should put the Spartans in line for an exciting offense. Defensively they will look to continue their tough nosed mentality around a strong secondary and Linebacker Core. Chyle Johnson, Darion Jackson and Aaron Clark should make life difficult in the back end for opposing QB's while Jarred Bonney and Alex Kim rove the middle from their LB post. If the defense can come together and that big play offense can show up consistently look for Michigan State to be a player on the national stage.



**Michigan State University
Lansing, MI**

Head Coach – Mark Beach

Assistants – Terrance Wilson, Jonathon Beach, Terrance Porterfield, Kelly Patmore, Brandon Glasscoe, Jhoshua Hickey, Joshua Darby, Nicholas Collins

2017 Record – 4-2

Final Conference Ranking – 3rd

Final National Ranking – 12th

Players to Watch – Robert Atkinson, Jourdyn Thompson, Chyle Johnson, Darion Jackson, Aaron Clark, Steven Bonham, Matt Neill, Cam Face, Matt Meagher, Demarco Henry, Shai Quan Ayers

The two-time NCFA Champions Oakland Grizzlies come into 2018 with more questions than any of their previous campaigns. 2017 started with business as usual as the Grizzlies zoomed to an 8-0 regular season and had sights on a 2nd straight national title, they however ran into eventual NCFA champs Sacred Heart in the playoffs, bowing out in the final four. They enter the season with a new Head Coach, Rick Fracassa. He will be the programs 5th head coach in 6 seasons. Fracassa is looking to continue the programs rich tradition on defense while upgrading their offense into a more fast paced spread look. With only 12 returning players the Grizzlies will be looking to 2-time returning All-American and former NCFA Defensive Player of the Year Bobby Saad to lead a crew of new faces. Saad will once again be a terror for opposing offenses both as a pass rusher and run stopper, however last year he also showed he can be a force on offense as a pass catcher. Look for Saad to line up all over the field this fall. If the Grizzlies can get caught up to speed quick with both Coach Fracassa's new systems and the culture of tradition that is Oakland football they should once again stamp their way into the GLC title game.



**Oakland University
Rochester, MI**

Head Coach – Rick Fracassa
Assistants – Jason Fracassa, Chuck Saad
2017 record – 8-1
Conference Finish – 1st
Final National Ranking – 4th
Returning Players – 12
Returning Starters – 14
Players to Watch – Bobby Saad

Robert Morris has been the class of the Great Lakes East since the birth of their program in 2013, winning their division each year, a 5 year streak. They have continued their method of scheduling tough early season non-conference games and then running the table in their conference slate. 2nd year coach Dwayne Siggers is excited about both his returning leaderships and a strong group of newcomers. Returning NCFA All-American John Maebane will once again man the middle of the defense from his LB spot while also putting time in at FB. Juan'Ya Andrews returns as the workhorse on offense, he should be one of the premier tailbacks in the league this fall. Returning team captain Mo Winsley once again be clearing the way for Andrews from his center spot. Joining Maebane on defense to lead are LB Larry Billups and DB James Washington. Both should be among the best at their positions in the NCFA. Ultimately with the talent returning and their history of bringing in quality new players, all signs point to the streak continuing and the Eagles once again taking the top spot in the GLC West.



**Robert Morris University - Peoria
Peoria, IL**

Head Coach – Dwayne Siggers
Assistants – Scot Heathcoat, Chris Pedersen, Adrian Smith, Brian Carver
2017 record – 5-4
Conference Finish – 1
Final National Ranking – 5th
Returning Players – 12
Returning Starters – 12

Players to Watch – John Maebane, Juan'Ya Andrews, Brandon Green, Mo Winsley, Larry Billups, James Washington

After a year and half hiatus SIUE is back in the NCFA this fall and looking to make their mark. They brought in new Head Coach Chris Royal and have a strong group of returning players who they think can help them contend for an NCFA playoff berth.

They will be looking for a strong defense to be their calling card with Taylor Brewer, Cory Belles, and Kyle Keasey leading the charge. Offensively their ball control offense will be led by a 3 headed monster in the backfield, Josh Hicks, Matt McDonald and David Bricker. During an independent season last year, those three combined for nearly 1000 yards on the ground. The Cougars could be a surprise in the GLC west, look for them to be a player in the conference race.



**Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville
Edwardsville, IL**

Head Coach – Chris Royal

Returning Players – 14

Returning Starters – 14

Players to Watch – Taylor Brewer, Kyle Keasey, Matt McDonald, Andy Winschel, Harrison Allers, Cody Schafluetzel, Josh Hicks, David Bricker, Chris Simmons, Harrison Allers