



Pan American Plaza, Suite 500
201 South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46225

317-237-5622 (phone)
317-237-5620 (fax)

www.horizonleague.org
www.horizonleaguenetwork.tv

Mens' Basketball Contact: Will Roleson
317-237-5606 or wroleson@horizonleague.org

Butler
University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 1, 2010

Cleveland State
University

Horizon League announces men's basketball All-League Teams and specialty award winners

Butler's Hayward named Player of the Year; Valpo's Wood voted top newcomer

University of
Detroit Mercy

INDIANAPOLIS – Butler sophomore Gordon Hayward has been named Player of the Year to highlight the Horizon League's 2009-10 Men's Basketball All-League Teams and specialty award winners, which were announced Monday (March 1) by the League office.

University of
Illinois at Chicago

Valparaiso sophomore Brandon Wood has been selected as Newcomer of the Year, while Butler's Brad Stevens claims Coach of the Year honors for the second season in a row.

Loyola
University Chicago

Butler sophomore Ronald Nored and Detroit senior Woody Payne has been voted Co-Defensive Players of the Year, and Loyola sophomore Walt Gibler was selected Sixth Man of the Year.

Valparaiso
University

Hayward is joined on the All-League First Team by classmate Shelvin Mack and junior teammate Matt Howard -- the 2008-09 Player of the Year – plus Green Bay junior Rahmon Fletcher and Cleveland State junior Norris Cole.

University of
Wisconsin-Green Bay

The All-League Second Team features Wood, along with Wright State junior Vaughn Duggins, Milwaukee senior Ricky Franklin, Detroit sophomore Chase Simon and Valparaiso junior Cory Johnson.

The player, coach and newcomer of the year awards as well as the All-League and All-Newcomer Teams were voted on by the League's head coaches, sports information directors and selected media members.

University of
Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The All-Newcomer Team includes Valpo's Wood and Johnson, along with Detroit's Simon, sophomore Eli Holman and junior Xavier Keeling.

Wright State
University

Joining Nored and Payne on the All-Defensive Team are Butler senior Willie Veasley, Cleveland State junior D'Aundray Brown and Duggins. The defensive awards and Sixth Man of the Year were voted on only by the League's 10 head coaches.

Hayward is the fourth Butler player in the last five seasons to be named the Horizon League's Player of the Year, following Brandon Polk (2005-06), Mike Green (2007-08) and Howard last season. A native of Brownsburg, Ind., Hayward ranks fourth in the League in scoring (15.8 ppg) and third in rebounding (8.5 rpg), while leading the conference with 11 double-doubles.

Youngstown State
University

Stevens directed Butler to its fourth straight League regular-season title and the first 18-0 season in conference history. The Bulldogs (26-4) are riding a nation-leading and school-record 18-game winning streak and have been ranked in the national coaches poll every week this season, including 10th this past week.

-more-

Wood leads the League with 17.5 points per game, including 39 at Georgia Southern, 30 at defending national champion North Carolina and 24 at national runner-up Michigan State. A native of Kokomo, Ind., Wood helped Valparaiso to a fourth-place tie in the League standings with a 10-8 record, which was a five-game improvement over last season.

Nored and Payne are the first co-winners of the defensive player honor in the award's third year of existence. Nored (Homewood, Ala.) ranks eighth in the League in steals with 1.5 per game, while Payne (Inkster, Mich.) stands second with 2.4 per contest.

Gibler, a native of Cincinnati, averaged 11 points and 5.1 rebounds per game despite starting only once for Loyola and averaging just 22 minutes a contest.

The 2010 Speedway Horizon League Men's Basketball Championship begins Tuesday with first-round games at campus sites. Action then moves to Indianapolis and historic Hinkle Fieldhouse on the Butler campus for a second-round doubleheader on Friday and the semifinals on Saturday. Friday's games will be available live on the Horizon League Network (HorizonLeagueNetwork.tv) at 6 and 8 p.m. ET. Saturday's first semifinal will be shown live on ESPN360.com at 5:15 p.m. and tape-delayed on ESPNU at 10 p.m., following a live broadcast of the second semifinal at 8 o'clock.

The higher-remaining seed after the semifinals earns the right to host the championship game March 9 at 9 p.m. ET on ESPN. The Horizon League champion receives an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament, where League teams have won games in each of the past five seasons and advanced to the regional semifinals three times in the past seven years.

2009-10 Horizon League Men's Basketball All-League Teams and Specialty Award Winners

All-League First Team

Gordon Hayward	Butler	So.	G/F	6-9	207	Brownsburg, Ind.	15.8 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 48.0 FG%
Rahmon Fletcher	Green Bay	Jr.	G	5-10	165	Kansas City, Mo.	16.6 ppg, 3.1 apg, 47.5 FG%
Norris Cole	Cleveland State	Jr.	G	6-2	175	Dayton, Ohio	16.4 ppg, 4.2 apg, 81.0 FT%
Shelvin Mack	Butler	So.	G	6-3	215	Lexington, Ky.	13.9 ppg, 3.2 apg, 1.4 spg
Matt Howard	Butler	Jr.	F	6-8	230	Connersville, Ind.	12.0 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 48.4 FG%

All-League Second Team

Vaughn Duggins	Wright State	Jr.	G	6-3	195	Pendleton, Ind.	14.5 ppg, 3.0 apg, 46.7 FG%
Brandon Wood	Valparaiso	So.	G	6-2	190	Kokomo, Ind.	17.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 46.2 FG%
Ricky Franklin	Milwaukee	Sr.	G	6-1	200	Milwaukee, Wis.	15.1 ppg, 3.9 apg
Chase Simon	Detroit	So.	G	6-6	200	Detroit, Mich.	14.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg
Cory Johnson	Valparaiso	Jr.	F	6-7	225	Duluth, Minn.	15.3 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 55.5 FG%

All-Newcomer Team

Brandon Wood	Valparaiso	So.	G	6-2	190	Kokomo, Ind.	17.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 46.2 FG%
Chase Simon	Detroit	So.	G	6-6	200	Detroit, Mich.	14.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg
Cory Johnson	Valparaiso	Jr.	F	6-7	225	Duluth, Minn.	15.3 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 55.5 FG%
Eli Holman	Detroit	So.	C/F	6-10	255	Richmond, Calif.	11.3 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 72 blocks
Xavier Keeling	Detroit	Jr.	F	6-7	235	Huntsville, Ala.	12.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 46.4 FG%

All-Defensive Team

Ronald Nored	Butler	So.	G	6-0	174	Homewood, Ala.	5.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.5 spg
Woody Payne	Detroit	Sr.	G	5-11	165	Inkster, Mich.	5.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.4 spg
Willie Veasley	Butler	Sr.	G/F	6-3	206	Freeport, Ill.	10.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.1 spg
D'Aundray Brown	Cleveland State	Jr.	G	6-4	185	Youngstown, Ohio	8.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 2.5 spg
Vaughn Duggins	Wright State	Jr.	G	6-3	195	Pendleton, Ind.	14.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.3 spg

Player of the Year – Gordon Hayward, Butler

Newcomer of the Year – Brandon Wood, Valparaiso

Co-Defensive Players of the Year – Ronald Nored, Butler; Woody Payne, Detroit

Sixth Man of the Year – Walt Gibler, Loyola

Coach of the Year – Brad Stevens, Butler