



HORIZON LEAGUE

Raise Your Sights

In its 29th year, the Horizon League continues to aspire toward its goal of being one of the nation's leading athletics conferences while being recognized as a leader in the development of student-athletes as leaders and role models.

The Horizon League membership features ten public and private institutions that have impressive academic reputations and a storied tradition of broad-based athletic programs. Current membership includes Butler University, Cleveland State University, the University of Detroit Mercy, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, Valparaiso University, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wright State University and Youngstown State University.

The Horizon League's primary focus is on adding value to the educational experience through its four platforms of athletic performance, academic achievement, community outreach, and personal responsibility and accountability. It is the League's belief that athletics is a powerful and visible resource tool that can be used to enhance student-athletes' collegiate experience. The Horizon League's goals are to enhance the holistic university experience for the student-athlete, to create an affiliation of institutions with similar athletic goals, and to adhere to the principals of integrity, diversity, excellence and growth.

The Horizon League sponsors competition in 19 sports – nine for men (baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, swimming and diving, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and tennis) and 10 for women (basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, tennis and volleyball). In all sports, all teams participate in their respective postseason League championships regardless of regular-season performance, allowing all student-athletes an opportunity to qualify for NCAA championships. The League receives automatic bids to NCAA championships in baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's golf, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

The Horizon League is headquartered in Indianapolis, the "Amateur Sports Capital of the World," with offices in the Pan American Plaza (201 S. Capitol Avenue), located across the street from the RCA Dome and just blocks from Conseco Fieldhouse, the State Capitol Building and the NCAA national office.



A PROUD HISTORY

Founded in 1979 as the Midwestern City Conference with six charter members, the League changed its name to the Midwestern Collegiate Conference in 1985 and added women's sports for the 1986-87 academic year. Charter members of the conference included current members Butler and Loyola as well as the University of Evansville, Oklahoma City University, Oral Roberts University and Xavier University. Among other current members, Detroit joined in 1980 and Cleveland State, UIC, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Wright State came aboard in 1994 in the largest non-merger conference expansion in history, with Youngstown State joining in 2001 and Valparaiso on July 1, 2007.

On June 4, 2001, the Horizon League unveiled its current name and ushered in a new dynamic direction that has brought the League closer to its stated goal of being one of the nation's top 10 conferences with a focus on enhancing the student-athletes experience by upgrading the League's market and competitive positions.

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

In the past few years, the Horizon League has enjoyed unprecedented success on the national stage, highlighted by three Sweet Sixteen appearances (Butler 2003, 2007; UW-Milwaukee 2005) and seven wins in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship in the past five seasons. In other sports, League teams have won at least one game in their respective NCAA Championships each of the last five seasons in men's soccer (Milwaukee 2002-05, UIC 2006) and four of the last six in softball (UIC 2002, 2004; Wright State 2003; Green Bay 2005) while advancing into the second round in women's soccer each of the last three (Detroit 2004, Milwaukee 2005-06). Butler's Victoria Mitchell became the League's first NCAA individual champion when she won the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2005 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships and then finished fourth at the 2005 NCAA Cross Country Championships in leading the Butler women to a 24th-place national finish.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Horizon League student-athletes also excel in the classroom as more than 500 have been named to the Academic Honor Roll each of the past five semesters for carrying a grade-point average of 3.2 or better. Thirty-one student-athletes were named to ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District teams in 2006-07 and nine earned Academic All-America honors, including four first-team selections, after boasting 35 academic all-district picks and 11 Academic All-Americans in 2005-06.