

2008 PATRIOT LEAGUE SEASON NOTEBOOK

MAJOR AWARD WINNERS BACK IN 2008

All of the Patriot League's 2007 individual award winners return for the 2008 campaign. Holy Cross quarterback Dominic Randolph is back after placing in the top five nationally in most major categories a year ago and winning the Offensive Player of the Year. Lafayette linebacker Andy Romans, the 2007 Defensive Player of the Year, returns after helping the Leopards to the No. 1 rank in total defense a year ago. Fordham running back Xavier Martin enters his sophomore season after taking Rookie of the Year honors in 2007, while his head coach, Tom Masella, has the reigns for a third year after his 2007 Coach of the Year award.

LEAGUE BOASTS TOP PASSER, RUSHER IN NATION

The Patriot League is home to the top quarterback and running back in the Football Championship Subdivision going into the 2008 campaign. Randolph leads all qualified NCAA players with 292 passing yards and 303 yards of total offense per game in his career, which are also the top current marks in League annals. Colgate running back Jordan Scott has top marks with 4,473 rushing yards and 135.5 rushing yards per game, and comes off a 2007 campaign where he led the nation with 170.45 rushing yards per contest. Scott and Randolph were both finalists for the Walter Payton Award, given to the most outstanding player in the Football Championship Subdivision, in 2007. They are two of only eight finalists returning in 2008.

JORDAN SCOTT RECORD WATCH

Jordan Scott set or tied five Patriot League season or career records in 2007, including a season-best 170.45 rushing yards per game. Now, the Colgate running back has a chance to go out as one of the top players in League and NCAA history. Scott is 362 yards away from breaking the all-time Patriot League rushing mark of 4,834 (Lafayette's Erik Marsh, 1991-94), and is within 59 points of becoming the League's all-time leading scorer. He enters the year with 13 consecutive 100-yard rushing games and 24 total 100-yard efforts, both four games away from tying the League marks of Bucknell's Rich Lemon (1993-96). Scott's 1,019 carries are just eight shy of Marsh's Patriot League mark and 196 from a Division I record. Scott has already tied League records with six 200-yard games and three 1,000-yard seasons in his career. Another 1,000-yard campaign would make Scott the first Patriot Leaguer and only the seventh player in FCS history to reach the feat all four of his seasons.

25 ALL-LEAGUE PERFORMERS RETURN IN 2008

Randolph, Scott and Romans headline a group of 25 student-athletes that earned 2007 All-League honors and come back to the field in 2008. Nine First-Team All-League performers are part of that group, with Scott, Romans and Lehigh's Brian Jackson returning after earning All-America or ECAC recognition a year ago.

MORE RETURNING TALENT

While the All-League players are most noteworthy, the overall numbers of starters returning are very solid throughout the League. Every team has at least 13 starters back out of their groups on offense and defense, with Colgate and Fordham leading the way with 16 starters returning.

PATRIOT LEAGUE FACES OFF WITH SEVEN FCS CONFERENCES

Every Patriot League team will once again take on a schedule entirely composed of FCS opponents, and the League will square off with seven different conferences. The slate features 18 games against Ivy League opponents and five against teams from the Colonial Athletic Association.

COACHING STABILITY

Each Patriot League head coach enters at least his third season at the helm, with Colgate's Dick Biddle the elder statesman of the group in his 13th year in Hamilton. Biddle has already set Patriot League records for overall wins (95), League games coached (73) and League wins (57). He trails only Lafayette's Bill Russo (1986-99) for the longest tenure in League history.

Breaking a tie at the end of the regular season ...

In the case of ties in the final standings for regular season League play, the following process will be used until all ties are broken and the seeding process is completed (ties will be broken in rank order beginning with the highest seed):

1. Head-to-head competition - the higher seed will go to the team that has won the most League contests played against the other team(s) involved in the tie.
2. If a tie still exists, a comparison of records will be made between the tied institutions starting at the highest possible seed and continuing through the lowest seed, if necessary.
3. Sport-specific tie-breaking procedure.
 - a. A comparison of records against common out-of-League opponents will be made.
 - b. If a tie still exists, a committee consisting of the athletic directors of each of the institutions not involved in the tie will make a final decision considering each of the following, in no particular order:
 - *strength of schedule
 - *overall record
 - *computer rankings
5. Coin flip (two teams) or draw (multiple teams).

* The winner of the tiebreaker in the Patriot League for football earns the League's automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Football Championship.

Patriot League Co-Champions
2006 - Lafayette and Lehigh
2005 - Colgate and Lafayette
2004 - Lafayette and Lehigh
2002 - Fordham and Colgate
1999 - Colgate and Lehigh



2008 PATRIOT LEAGUE TEAM NOTEBOOKS

BUCKNELL The Bison have two new assistant coaches in 2008, with Harold Nichols taking over as offensive coordinator and Bill McCord as cornerbacks coach...A.J. Kizekai returns after earning First-Team All-Patriot League status as a kick returner and setting a League and Bucknell mark with 1,113 kick return yards in 2007...The Bison were flagged for only 29 penalties in 2007, while no other FCS team had fewer than 41...Of the five departed offensive starters, four were on the offensive line...First-Team All-Patriot League defensive end Josh Eden is taking the next two years off to serve a Mormon mission.



COLGATE The Raiders are the only Patriot League team to play 12 games this season, opening up on August 30 at Stony Brook...They return nine starters on offense, including All-America running back Jordan Scott and First-Team All-Patriot League offensive tackle Steve Jonas...Scott has an opportunity to break numerous Patriot League records, including the all-time rushing mark...Four of the five starters are back on the offensive line...The Raiders have won seven games or more in 10 of Head Coach Dick Biddle's 12 seasons, including a 7-4 mark in 2007.



FORDHAM The defending Patriot League champion Rams have 16 starters returning, including eight on the offensive side of the ball...Quarterback John Skelton is back after receiving Second-Team All-Patriot League honors, while running back Xavier Martin was the 2007 Rookie of the Year...The Rams are in search of consecutive Patriot League titles for the first time...Fordham was one of the most improved teams in the country in 2007, going from 3-8 to 8-4 and a trip to the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs.



GEORGETOWN The Hoyas bring back 15 starters from last year's team...Nicholas Umar was selected to wear the Joe Eacobacci No. 35 Memorial Jersey, which is an award in honor of the former defensive standout who was killed in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001...2006 Patriot League Rookie of the Year Charlie Houghton returns at running back...The Hoyas play their first three games on the road, with the home opener on Sept. 27 against Holy Cross.



HOLY CROSS The Crusaders have eight starters back on the offensive side of the ball after leading the Patriot League and placing in the top 15 nationally in passing, total and scoring offense a year ago...Quarterback Dominic Randolph returns as the active FCS leader in passing and total offense per game...Holy Cross plays the exact same opponents and order of games as the 2007 season, with only the sites switched...It has won seven games in each of the last two seasons, and the 14-8 mark is the best two-year span since 1991-92.



LAFAYETTE Linebacker Andy Romans and fullback Joe Russo will serve as co-captains in 2008...Romans returns after earning Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year honors and leading a Lafayette defense that placed first nationally with 260.9 yards per game allowed...Quarterback Rob Curley had a 3-1 record in starting the final four games of the season, and led the Leopards to a season-ending three-game win streak...Four running backs who started at least one game return on offense...Lafayette faces a five-game road trip from Oct. 11-Nov. 8, with the last three being Patriot League contests.



LEHIGH The Mountain Hawks have eight starters returning on the offensive side of the ball, but the starting quarterback position is open between three players...Lehigh is coming off its first losing overall and Patriot League season since 1997...They have not recorded consecutive losing Patriot League records since 1988-89...First-Team All-League defensive lineman Brian Jackson and linebacker Tim Diamond return, but the Mountain Hawks have to replace the entire starting secondary.



Patriot League Coordinator of Officials Jim Maconaghy - Fifth Season

Jim Maconaghy, who has more than two decades of on-field experience as a collegiate referee, enters his fifth season as the Patriot League Coordinator of Officials.

Maconaghy, who lives in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., also holds the same position for the Ivy League and the Colonial Athletic Association. He has worked with the Patriot League and Ivy since 2004, and started his time with the Colonial Athletic Association (formerly Atlantic 10) after retiring from officiating in 2000.

Maconaghy worked as a referee in all three Leagues, as well as the Yankee Conference and the Big East Conference, from 1986 to 2000. Prior to that, he was a referee on the NCAA Division II and III levels for seven seasons, beginning in 1979. He worked collegiate playoff games nearly every year from 1985 through 2000, including five NCAA playoff contests. Other top games in his career include the 1997 Army-Navy game, the 1999 Eddie Robinson Football Classic (Kansas vs. Notre Dame) and the Harvard-Yale game (twice).

Maconaghy has been a clinician on the scholastic and collegiate level since 1986. He was named the National Football Foundation "Collegiate Official of the Year" in 1996 and inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

In addition to assigning officials for home games for all Ivy League and Patriot League teams, Maconaghy coordinates clinics to educate officials and coaches on the intricacies of collegiate officiating, select the top officials for I-AA football assignments as well as work with the coaches and institutions to evaluate the game performances on a weekly basis.

2008 PATRIOT LEAGUE SEASON PREVIEW

Fordham Picked to Repeat in Patriot League Football

Randolph, Romans earn Preseason Awards

Defending Patriot League champion Fordham has been picked to repeat its title in 2008 in a poll of the League's head coaches and sports information directors. Fordham earned a first-place selection on nine of the 14 ballots, and received 68 points overall. Holy Cross had four first-place votes and 56 overall points to claim the second position, followed by Colgate with the remaining first-place vote and 53 points in third place. Lafayette placed fourth with 48 points, with Lehigh (35), Bucknell (18) and Georgetown (16) rounding out the preseason poll.

The poll voters also predicted a repeat performance for the Patriot League Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year honors, as the 2007 winners received the preseason recognition. Holy Cross senior quarterback Dominic Randolph was selected as Patriot League Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, while Lafayette senior linebacker Andy Romans was picked as the League's Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Fordham completed an outstanding turnaround season in 2007, improving from 1-5 in Patriot League play the year before to a 5-1 finish and the first outright Patriot League title in school history to earn the League's berth in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision postseason. The Rams also became the first squad to earn sole possession of the League crown since 2003, while finishing with an 8-4 overall record. Fordham won its first five Patriot League games and recorded a six-game winning streak that concluded with a 24-21 victory over Holy Cross on Nov. 3 that wrapped up the League's postseason berth. Fordham Head Coach Tom Masella has an 11-12 mark in two seasons with the Rams, where he is 6-6 in Patriot League play. The Rams bring back eight starters on each side of the ball, and have 57 letterwinners returning. Quarterback John Skelton, running back Xavier Martin and wide receiver Asa Lucas lead an offense that also has four starters back on the line, while James Crockett, Matt Loucks and Isiejah Allen are the top returnees on defense.



Holy Cross, Colgate and Lafayette take the next three spots in the poll after finishing in a three-way tie for second place at 4-2 in the Patriot League in 2007, and all recording overall marks of 7-4.

The Crusaders have Randolph back at the helm of an offense that returns eight starters after leading the Patriot League in passing, scoring and total offense in 2007. Four starters are back on the offensive line, along with running back Terrance Gass and wide receivers Jon Brock and Brett McDermott. The Crusader defense has six starters back in the fold, including linebackers Marcus Rodriguez and Ryan Stewart.

Colgate matches Fordham with a League-high 16 starters returning, including nine on the offensive side of the ball. One of those is running back Jordan Scott, who enters the 2008 season needing 362 yards to become the Patriot League's all-time leading rusher. Scott will get help from the return of four starters on the offensive line, as well as quarterback Alex Relph. Linebackers Ted Marshall and Greg Hadley are among seven returning starters on defense.

Lafayette saw its string of three consecutive Patriot League titles come to an end in 2007, but was still able to post its fourth consecutive winning record in League play. The Leopards enter the 2008 season with 13 starters returning, including wide receiver Shaun Adair and quarterback Rob Curley on offense and Romans and fellow linebacker Mark Leggiero on defense. The Leopards led the Patriot League in rushing, passing, scoring and total defense in 2007, finishing first nationally with 260.9 yards allowed per game.

Lehigh finished 5-6 overall and 2-4 in the Patriot League in 2007, and will try to rebound from its first losing marks since 1997 with 13 starters returning.

Bucknell and Georgetown round out the poll after finishing in a tie for sixth place in the League standings a year ago. Bucknell finished 3-8 overall, but has 14 starters back including eight on the defensive side of the ball. Georgetown finished with a 1-10 record in 2007, but returns 15 starters in 2008.

Randolph earns the Preseason Offensive Player of the Year honor after finishing the 2007 season by completing 297-of-482 passes for 3,604 yards with 30 touchdown passes and eight interceptions. His 34 touchdowns responsible for (four rushing) tied a League record, and Randolph was named as a candidate for the Walter Payton Award (FCS Most Outstanding Player) in addition to his Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year and First-Team All-League recognition. He enters the 2008 season as the active FCS and all-time Patriot League leader with 292 passing yards per game.

Romans led a Lafayette defense that finished in the top 10 nationally in scoring, rushing and total defense. He received First-Team All-Patriot League honors in addition to Defensive Player of the Year recognition after recording 113 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries in 2007.

Preseason Poll

1. Fordham (9 first-place votes)	68 points
2. Holy Cross (4)	56
3. Colgate (1)	53
4. Lafayette	48
5. Lehigh	35
6. Bucknell	18
7. Georgetown	16

Preseason Awards

Offensive Player of the Year: Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross
Defensive Player of the Year: Andy Romans, Lafayette

2008 PATRIOT LEAGUE COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

Saturday, Aug. 30
COLGATE at Stony Brook 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6
Drake at LEHIGH 12:30 p.m.
Massachusetts at HOLY CROSS 1 p.m.
GEORGETOWN at Howard 1 p.m.
Rhode Island at FORDHAM 6 p.m.
Duquesne at BUCKNELL 6 p.m.
LAFAYETTE at Marist 6 p.m.
COLGATE at Coastal Carolina 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 13
Furman at COLGATE 1 p.m.
BUCKNELL at Robert Morris 1 p.m.
LEHIGH at Villanova 1 p.m.
FORDHAM at Dayton 1 p.m.
GEORGETOWN at LAFAYETTE* 6 p.m.
Open Date: HOLY CROSS

Friday, Sept. 19
HOLY CROSS at Harvard 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20
FORDHAM at Columbia 12:30 p.m.
GEORGETOWN at Yale 12:30 p.m.
Dartmouth at COLGATE 1 p.m.
Cornell at BUCKNELL 6 p.m.
Open Date: LAFAYETTE, LEHIGH

Saturday, Sept. 27
HOLY CROSS at GEORGETOWN* 1 p.m.
COLGATE at FORDHAM* 6 p.m.
Penn at LAFAYETTE 6 p.m.
LEHIGH at Princeton 6 p.m.
Open Date: BUCKNELL

Saturday, Oct. 4
Cornell at LEHIGH 12:30 p.m.
HOLY CROSS at Yale 12:30 p.m.
GEORGETOWN at COLGATE* 1 p.m.
Harvard at LAFAYETTE 1 p.m.
BUCKNELL at Marist 1 p.m.
Open Date: FORDHAM

Saturday, Oct. 11
FORDHAM at LEHIGH* 12:30 p.m.
LAFAYETTE at Columbia 12:30 p.m.
Brown at HOLY CROSS 1 p.m.
Princeton at COLGATE 1 p.m.
Hofstra at BUCKNELL 1 p.m.
Penn at GEORGETOWN 2 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18
HOLY CROSS at Dartmouth 12:30 p.m.
BUCKNELL at GEORGETOWN* 1 p.m.
COLGATE at Cornell 1 p.m.
Yale at FORDHAM 1 p.m.
LEHIGH at Harvard 1 p.m.
LAFAYETTE at Liberty 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25
LEHIGH at HOLY CROSS* 1 p.m.
COLGATE at BUCKNELL* 1 p.m.
LAFAYETTE at FORDHAM* 1 p.m.
GEORGETOWN at Richmond 3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 1
BUCKNELL at HOLY CROSS* 12:30 p.m.
LAFAYETTE at COLGATE* 1 p.m.
LEHIGH at GEORGETOWN* 1 p.m.
Marist at FORDHAM 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8
FORDHAM at HOLY CROSS* 12:30 p.m.
COLGATE at LEHIGH* 12:30 p.m.
Marist at GEORGETOWN 12:30 p.m.
LAFAYETTE at BUCKNELL* 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15
BUCKNELL at LEHIGH* 12:30 p.m.
HOLY CROSS at LAFAYETTE* 1 p.m.
GEORGETOWN at FORDHAM* 1 p.m.
Open Date: COLGATE

Saturday, Nov. 22
HOLY CROSS at COLGATE* 1 p.m.
LEHIGH at LAFAYETTE* 1 p.m.
FORDHAM at BUCKNELL* 1 p.m.
Open Date: GEORGETOWN

Schedule as of July 3, 2008 and subject to change
All times eastern
TV schedules TBA
* - indicates Patriot League game



Lehigh and Lafayette face off in the 144th edition of the Most-Played Rivalry in College Football on Nov. 22 at Lafayette's Fisher Stadium.