# 2005-2006







## Mid-Continent Conference Men's Basketball



## 2005-06 Men's Composite Schedule **———**

| 2000 00 mon 0 comp                                |                |  |             |
|---|----------------|--|-------------|
| Wednesday, November 9                             |                | Wednesday, December 7                                  |             |
| [1] OAKLAND vs. Albany                            | 5 p.m.         | Ball State at IUPUI                                    | 7 p.m.      |
| Thursday, November 10                             |                | VALPARAISO at Marquette                                | 7 p.m.      |
| [1] OAKLAND vs. Florida/St. Peter's               | 5/7:30 p.m.    | Missouri State at ORAL ROBERTS                         | 7:05 p.m.   |
| Friday, November 18                               |                | UMKC at Penn State                                     | 7:30 p.m.   |
| UT-Tyler at CENTENARY                             | 7 p.m.         | Friday, December 9                                     |             |
| Harris-Stowe at WESTERN ILLINOIS                  | 7 p.m.         | [6] CHICAGO STATE vs. Cal State-Fullerton              | 4:05 p.m.   |
| [2] SOUTHERN UTAH vs. Mississippi                 | 8:15 p.m.      | Saturday, December 10                                  |             |
| Saturday, November 19                             |                | IUPUI at Western Michigan                              | 2:30 p.m.   |
| [3] IUPUI vs. Winthrop                            | 5:30 p.m.      | CENTENARY at Stephen F. Austin                         | 4 p.m.      |
| Notre Dame College at OAKLAND                     | 6 p.m.         | [6] CHICAGO STATE vs. San Francisco/New Mexico State   | 4:30/7 p.m. |
| Central Methodist at UMKC                         | 7 p.m.         | Saint Louis at OAKLAND                                 | 6 p.m.      |
| Utah State at ORAL ROBERTS                        | 7:05 p.m.      | SOUTHERN UTAH at Utah                                  | 7 p.m.      |
| [2] SOUTHERN UTAH vs. South Carolina State        | 8:15 p.m.      | VALPARAISO at Charlotte                                | 7 p.m.      |
| Sunday, November 20                               |                | WESTERN ILLINOIS at Evansville                         | 7 p.m.      |
| CHICAGO STATE at Ohio State                       | 2 p.m.         | UMKC at Northern Iowa                                  | 7:05 p.m.   |
| [2] SOUTHERN UTAH at New Mexico                   | 4:15 p.m.      | Sunday, December 11                                    |             |
| [3] IUPUI vs. Marquette/Rice                      | 5:30/8 p.m.    | ORAL ROBERTS at Northern Colorado                      | noon        |
| Tuesday, November 22                              |                | Monday, December 12                                    |             |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at Utah Valley State             | 2:05 p.m.      | UMKC at South Dakota State                             | 7 p.m.      |
| CENTENARY at SMU                                  | 7 p.m.         | Tuesday, December 13                                   |             |
| IUPUI at Western Kentucky                         | 7 p.m.         | CHICAGO STATE at Louisville                            | 7:05 p.m.   |
| Wednesday, November 23                            |                | Thursday, December 15                                  |             |
| VALPARAISO at IPFW                                | 6 p.m.         | ORAL ROBERTS at Louisiana-Lafayette                    | 7:05 p.m.   |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at Arizona State                    | 7 p.m.         | Saturday, December 17                                  |             |
| [4] ORAL ROBERTS vs. Southern California          | 7:30 p.m.      | Birmingham-Southern at CENTENARY                       | 3 p.m.      |
| Friday, November 25                               |                | CHICAGO STATE at Nebraska                              | 7 p.m.      |
| [4] ORAL ROBERTS vs. Eastern Washington/Marquette | noon/5:30 p.m. | Elon at IUPUI  | 7 p.m.      |
| Saturday, November 26                             |                | Wichita State at UMKC                                  | 7 p.m.      |
| CHICAGO STATE at Bradley                          | 2:05 p.m.      | Sacramento State at SOUTHERN UTAH                      | 7:05 p.m.   |
| Duquesne at OAKLAND                               | 6 p.m.         | Sunday, December 18                                    |             |
| Indiana Wesleyan at IUPUI                         | 7 p.m.         | Illinois-Springfield at WESTERN ILLINOIS               | 5 p.m.      |
| Central Michigan at UMKC                          | 7 p.m.         | VALPARAISO at Duke                                     | 8 p.m.      |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at Brigham Young                    | 7 p.m.         | Monday, December 19                                    |             |
| Indiana at WESTERN ILLINOIS                       | 8 p.m.         | OAKLAND at Marquette                                   | 5:30 p.m.   |
| CENTENARY at Mississippi                          | TBA            | CHICAGO STATE at Detroit Mercy                         | 7:05 p.m    |
| [4] ORAL ROBERTS at Great Alaska Shootout         | TBA            | CENTENARY at Alabama-Birmingham                        | 7:30 p.m.   |
| Monday, November 28                               |                | Tuesday, December 20                                   |             |
| IUPUI at Elon                                     | 7 p.m.         | IUPUI at Vanderbilt                                    | 7 p.m.      |
| Indiana-South Bend at VALPARAISO                  | 7:05 p.m.      | VALPARAISO at Longwood                                 | 7 p.m.      |
| Tuesday, November 29                              |                | ORAL ROBERTS at Utah State                             | 7:05 p.m.   |
| UMKC at Missouri                                  | 7 p.m.         | SOUTHERN UTAH at Weber State                           | 7:05 p.m.   |
| St. Gregory's at ORAL ROBERTS                     | 7:05 p.m.      | Wednesday, December 21                                 |             |
| Weber State at SOUTHERN UTAH                      | 7:05 p.m.      | OAKLAND at Wisconsin-Milwaukee                         | 7 p.m.      |
| Eastern Illinois at WESTERN ILLINOIS              | 7:05 p.m.      | Thursday, December 22                                  |             |
| Northwestern State at CENTENARY                   | 7:30 p.m.      | CENTENARY at Nicholls State                            | 2 p.m.      |
| Wednesday, November 30                            |                | Urbana at IUPUI  | 7 p.m.      |
| OAKLAND at Bowling Green                          | 7 p.m.         | SOUTHERN UTAH at Drake                                 | 7:05 p.m.   |
| Friday, December 2                                |                | Friday, December 23                                    |             |
| [5] VALPARAISO vs. Tulane                         | 5:45 p.m.      | Spring Arbor at OAKLAND                                | 7 p.m.      |
| Saturday, December 3                              |                | Tuesday, December 27                                   |             |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at Idaho                            | 2:05 p.m.      | UMKC at VALPARAISO *                                   | 7:05 p.m.   |
| [5] VALPARAISO vs. Iowa/Fairfield                 | 5:45/8:05 p.m. | Wednesday, December 28                                 |             |
| IUPUI at Colorado State                           | 7 p.m.         | CHICAGO STATE at Saint Louis                           | 7 p.m.      |
| Longwood at UMKC                                  | 7 p.m.         | OAKLAND at Toledo                                      | 7 p.m.      |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at Kansas                        | 7 p.m.         | ORAL ROBERTS at Oklahoma                               | 7 p.m.      |
| Tulsa at ORAL ROBERTS                             | 7:05 p.m.      | Thursday, December 29                                  | _           |
| Sunday, December 4                                |                | [7] WESTERN ILLINOIS vs. Birmingham-Southern           | 6 p.m.      |
| CHICAGO STATE at Illinois-Chicago                 | 5 p.m.         | VALPARAISO at CENTENARY *                              | 7 p.m.      |
| Tuesday, December 6                               |                | Friday, December 30                                    | - •         |
| CENTENARY at Birmingham-Southern                  | 7 p.m.         | [7] WESTERN ILLINOIS vs. Central Florida/North Florida | 6/8 p.m.    |
| CHICAGO STATE at Purdue                           | 7 p.m.         | CHICAGO STATE at IUPUI *                               | 7 p.m.      |
| Miami (Ohio) at OAKLAND                           | 7 p.m.         | Eastern Illinois at UMKC                               | 7 p.m.      |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at Loyola (III.)                 | 7 p.m.         | OAKLAND at Missouri                                    | 8 p.m.      |
|   |                |  |             |

## **2005-06 Men's Composite Schedule**

| Saturday, December 31                                      |                        | Saturday, January 28   |                  |
|--|------------------------|--|------------------|
| CHICAGO STATE at Michigan                                  | 1 p.m.                 | WESTERN ILLINOIS at OAKLAND *  | 6 p.m.           |
| ORAL ROBERTS at Minnesota                                  | 1 p.m.                 | UMKC at CENTENARY *  | 7 p.m.           |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at UNLV                                      | 2 p.m.                 | IUPUI at VALPARAISO *  | 7:05 p.m.        |
| Sunday, January 1  |                        | CHICAGO STATE at SOUTHERN UTAH *   | 7:35 p.m.        |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at Arkansas                               | 6:30 p.m.              | Monday, January 30   | 7                |
| Monday, January 2 OAKLAND at VALPARAISO *                  | 7:05 n m               | ORAL ROBERTS at UMKC *   | 7 p.m.           |
| ORAL ROBERTS at CHICAGO STATE *                            | 7:05 p.m.<br>7:30 p.m. | Thursday, February 2 CENTENARY at VALPARAISO *   | 7:05 p.m.        |
| UMKC at SOUTHERN UTAH *                                    | 7:35 p.m.              | SOUTHERN UTAH at ORAL ROBERTS *  | 7:05 p.m.        |
| Tuesday, January 3   |                        | UMKC at Utah Valley State  | 7:05 p.m.        |
| Houston at CENTENARY                                       | 7 p.m.                 | Saturday, February 4   | •                |
| Wednesday, January 4                                       | -                      | WESTERN ILLINOIS at CENTENARY *  | 4:30 p.m.        |
| UMKC at CHICAGO STATE *                                    | 7:30 p.m.              | OAKLAND at IUPUI *   | 7 p.m.           |
| IUPUI at OAKLAND *   | 7:30 p.m.              | CHICAGO STATE at ORAL ROBERTS *  | 7:05 p.m.        |
| ORAL ROBERTS at SOUTHERN UTAH *                            | 7:35 p.m.              | SOUTHERN UTAH at VALPARAISO *  | 7:05 p.m.        |
| Thursday, January 5 CENTENARY at WESTERN ILLINOIS *        | 7 n m                  | Monday, February 6<br>  CHICAGO STATE at UMKC *  | 7 n m            |
| Saturday, January 7  | 7 p.m.                 | WESTERN ILLINOIS at IUPUI *  | 7 p.m.<br>7 p.m. |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at ORAL ROBERTS *                         | 3 p.m.                 | Thursday, February 9   | , b.iii.         |
| CHICAGO STATE at OAKLAND *                                 | 6 p.m.                 | SOUTHERN UTAH at CHICAGO STATE *   | 7 p.m.           |
| CENTENARY at UMKC *  | 7 p.m.                 | VALPARAISO at IUPUI *  | 7 p.m.           |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at IUPUI *                                   | 7 p.m.                 | ORAL ROBERTS at OAKLAND *  | 7 p.m.           |
| Longwood at VALPARAISO                                     | 7:05 p.m.              | Saturday, February 11  |                  |
| Monday, January 9  |                        | CENTENARY at CHICAGO STATE *   | 5 p.m.           |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at UMKC *                                 | 7 p.m.                 | UMKC at OAKLAND *  | 6 p.m.           |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at OAKLAND *                                 | 7:30 p.m.              | ORAL ROBERTS at IUPUI *  | 7 p.m.           |
| ORAL ROBERTS at VALPARAISO *                               | 7:35 p.m.              | WESTERN ILLINOIS at VALPARAISO *   | 7:05 p.m.        |
| Tuesday, January 10<br>Georgia Tech at CENTENARY           | 7 p.m.                 | Monday, February 13<br>  CENTENARY at SOUTHERN UTAH *  | 7:35 p.m.        |
| Wednesday, January 11                                      | 7 p.iii.               | Thursday, February 16  | 7.33 p.iii.      |
| IPFW at VALPARAISO   | 7:05 p.m.              | IUPUI at CENTENARY *   | 7 p.m.           |
| Thursday, January 12                                       | 7.00 p                 | SOUTHERN UTAH at WESTERN ILLINOIS *  | 7 p.m.           |
| CHICAGO STATE at CENTENARY *                               | 7 p.m.                 | CHICAGO STATE at VALPARAISO *  | 7:05 p.m.        |
| IUPUI at UMKC *  | 7 p.m.                 | UMKC at ORAL ROBERTS *   | 7:05 p.m.        |
| Saturday, January 14                                       |                        | Saturday, February 18  |                  |
| SOUTHERN UTAH at CENTENARY *                               | 7 p.m.                 | OAKLAND at CENTENARY *   | 7 p.m.           |
| OAKLAND at UMKC *  | 7 p.m.                 | CHICAGO STATE at WESTERN ILLINOIS *  | 7 p.m.           |
| VALPARAISO at WESTERN ILLINOIS *                           | 7 p.m.                 | SOUTHERN UTAH at UMKC *  | 7 p.m.           |
| IUPUI at ORAL ROBERTS * Monday, January 16                 | 7:05 p.m.              | ORAL ROBERTS at ESPN Bracket Buster game VALPARAISO hosts ESPN Bracket Buster game   | TBA<br>TBA       |
| OAKLAND at WESTERN ILLINOIS *                              | 8 p.m.                 | Thursday, February 23  | IDA              |
| Tuesday, January 17  | о р.ш.                 | ORAL ROBERTS at CENTENARY *  | 7 p.m.           |
| UMKC at North Dakota State                                 | 8 p.m.                 | IUPUI at CHICAGO STATE *   | 7 p.m.           |
| Thursday, January 19                                       | '                      | VALPARAISO at UMKC *   | 7 p.m.           |
| CENTENARY at IUPUI *                                       | 7 p.m.                 | OAKLAND at SOUTHERN UTAH *   | 7:05 p.m.        |
| VALPARAISO at CHICAGO STATE *                              | 7 p.m.                 | Saturday, February 25  |                  |
| OAKLAND at ORAL ROBERTS *                                  | 7:05 p.m.              | OAKLAND at CHICAGO STATE *   | 5 p.m.           |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at SOUTHERN UTAH *                        | 7:05 p.m.              | UMKC at WESTERN ILLINOIS *   | 7 p.m.           |
| Saturday, January 21                                       | F                      | VALPARAISO at ORAL ROBERTS *   | 7:05 p.m.        |
| WESTERN ILLINOIS at CHICAGO STATE * CENTENARY at OAKLAND * | 5 p.m.                 | IUPUI at SOUTHERN UTAH *   | 7:35 p.m.        |
| UMKC at IUPUI *  | 6 p.m.<br>7 p.m.       | Saturday, March 4 – Tuesday, March 7 Mid-Continent Conference Basketball Championship  |                  |
| VALPARAISO at SOUTHERN UTAH *                              | 7:05 p.m.              | (John Q. Hammons Arena at the UMAC/Tulsa, Okla.)   |                  |
| Tuesday, January 24  | 7.00 p.m.              | term de l'amination de la constant de l'amination d |                  |
| ORAL ROBERTS at WESTERN ILLINOIS *                         | 7 p.m.                 | All times local to site.   |                  |
| Wednesday, January 25                                      | -                      | * - indicates Mid-Con game.  |                  |
| Johnson and Wales at SOUTHERN UTAH                         | 7:05 p.m.              |  |                  |
| Thursday, January 26                                       |                        | Tournament Key   |                  |
| IUPUI at WESTERN ILLINOIS *                                | 7 p.m.                 | [1] — Coaches vs. Cancer Classic (Gainesville, Fla.)   |                  |
| VALPARAISO at OAKLAND *                                    | 7 p.m.                 | [2] — Jim Thorpe Classic (Albuquerque, N.M.)   |                  |
| CENTENARY at ORAL ROBERTS *                                | 7:05 p.m.              | [3] — Marquette Pepsi Blue & Gold Classic (Milwaukee, Wis.)  |                  |
|  |                        | [4] — Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout (Anchorage, Alaska)<br>[5] — Hawkeye Challenge (Iowa City, Iowa)   |                  |
|  |                        | [6] — Novice Chamerige (Nowa City, Nowa)   |                  |
|  |                        | [7] — Central Florida Tournament (Orlando, Fla.)   |                  |
|  |                        | 1 L-1 SSEED CONTRACTOR (STRAIGO, FRA.)   |                  |

#### 2005-06 Mid-Continent Conference Preseason Poll & All-Conference Team

#### **MID-CON PRESEASON POLL** (selected by coaches, SIDs, media) **Oral Roberts** 358 (24) Valparaiso 314 (2) IUPUI 274 Western Illinois 227 LIMKC 208 (1) 159 (1) 6. **Oakland** 7. Southern Utah 131 Chicago State 100 8. 56 9. Centenary (first place votes in parentheses)

#### 2005-06 MID-CON PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

#### **FIRST TEAM**

Brandon Cole, IUPUI Quinton Day, UMKC Caleb Green, Oral Roberts Ron Howard, Valparaiso Dan Oppland, Valparaiso Ken Tutt, Oral Roberts

#### SECOND TEAM

Ali Berdiel, Valparaiso George Hill, IUPUI David Jackson, Western Illinois Mohamed Kone, Valparaiso Larry Owens, Oral Roberts

#### PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Caleb Green, Oral Roberts

The 2005-06 campaign marks the 24th men's basketball season.

#### Mid-Con Tourney returns to Tulsa

The Mid-Continent Conference Championship will return to Tulsa and the John Q. Hammons Arena at the UMAC until 2007-08. The Tulsa Sports Commission was awarded the Championship bid at the Mid-Con Presidents Meeting in July.

#### Centenary has a new top Gentleman

**Rob Flaska** will roam the sidelines for Centenary this season, replacing **Kevin Johnson**. It is the first head coaching job for the former first assistant at the University of Arkansas. The Gents missed the 2004-05 Mid-Con Championship with a 3-24 overall record and a 1-15 mark in conference play.

#### Green looks to repeat as Player of the Year

Oral Roberts junior **Caleb Green** will look to become just the fourth player in conference history to win back-to-back Player of the Year awards. The forward finished the season in the Top 10 in the league in scoring (19.4), rebounding (9.3), field goal percentage (.552) and free throw percentage (.753). Green begins his junior season ranked 23rd on the Mid-Con's all-time rebounding list with 584 caroms in two seasons. Other first team all-stars returning for the 2005-06 campaign are ORU junior **Ken Tutt** and Valparaiso senior **Dan Oppland**.

#### ORU on ESPN2 during Great Alaska Shootout

Oral Roberts earned a berth in the Great Alaska Shootout after a solid 2004-05 performance. The Golden Eagles will open the tourney against USC on ESPN2 at 10:30 p.m. CST. In addition to the Golden Eagles and Trojans, the Great Alaska Shootout field includes Eastern Washington, Marquette, South Carolina, Monmouth, Southern Illinois and Alaska Anchorage. ORU returns four starters, including Mid-Con Player of the Year Caleb Green, and its top reserve from last year's 25-8 squad.

#### Big name teams on Mid-Con schedules

Several nationally-ranked teams and perennial contenders will take on Mid-Con squads this season. Mid-Con teams are scheduled to face at least seven squads that finished 2004-05 with an RPI of 35 or better. The Mid-Con will also square-off against at least 31 teams that reached post-season play a year ago.

Here is a list of notable Mid-Con games:

Nov. 10 - Oakland vs. Florida (tournament)

Dec. 3 - Western Illinois at Kansas

Dec. 10 - Southern Utah at Utah

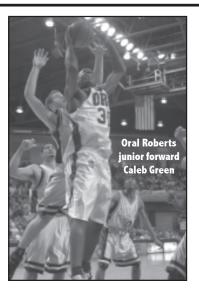
Dec. 13 - Chicago State at Louisville

Dec. 18 - Valparaiso at Duke

Dec. 21 - Oakland at UW-Milwaukee

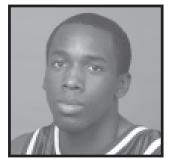
Dec. 28 - Oral Roberts at Oklahoma

Jan. 10 - Georgia Tech at Centenary



#### Valpo gets Berdiel back; loses Harris

After a summer of waiting, Valparaiso found out that senior Ali Berdiel will return to the Crusaders lineup this year, while junior Kenny Harris will miss the upcoming season. Berdiel is recovering from a leg injury that sidelined him for most of last season, while Harris is currently undergoing rehabilitation after collapsing during a supervised workout in April.



Chad Maclies, Centenary College March 9, 1983 - May 3, 2005

#### IN MEMORIAM

On May 3, 2005, the Centenary College community suffered a tremendous loss when Chad Maclies was found dead in his Cline Hall dorm room. Maclies, a senior, was a leader for the Gents on the basketball court and was the epitome of the term student-athlete. Centenary President Kenneth Schwab called Maclies "a superb young man, a model student-athlete and an integral part of the Centenary family." He was scheduled to graduate in December 2005 and was a double major in math and physics with minor in computer science. Maclies, who was 22, was selected to the All Mid-Con second team after leading the Gents in scoring and rebounding.



### **= 2005-06 Men's Preview**

#### The Mid-Con's international flavor

There are 17 international players listed on the Mid-Con preseason rosters. Southern Utah and Valparaiso lay claim to the most foreign players on their rosters with four representatives apiece. UMKC and Western Illinois have three international student-athletes each, while Chicago State, IUPUI and Oakland all have one foreign player on their respective rosters.

#### Akindele and Marshall head to the next level

Chicago State sophomore **Deji Akindele** will not be back in uniform for the Cougars as he forfeited his remaining eligibility after declaring for the NBA draft and signing with an agent. Akindele went undrafted despite impressive pre-Draft workouts. He also played with Dallas Mavericks squad in the Southern Cal Summer Professional League before signing a free agent contract with the Golden State Warriors this fall.

Former Oakland standout **Rawle Marshall** signed a free agent deal with the Dallas Mavericks during the summer after earning first team All-Conference honors a year ago.

#### **Sidelines**

Oakland head coach Greg Kampe is one win away from reaching the 350-victory mark for his career ... ORU's Jonathan Bluitt will likely break into the Top 20 in conference history in assists. He enters the year with 385 helpers in three seasons ... CBS Sportsline Mid-Con Freshman of the Year Tim Blackwell of UMKC returns to the Kangaroos after averaging 10.1 points and 2.9 rebounds per game ... Valparaiso head coach Homer Drew ranks 15th in the NCAA among active coaches with 538 career wins ... UMKC's Quinton Day is the league's top returning steals threat. Last season, Day was second in the conference in thefts (2.03) ... Only three teams return their leading scorer from a year ago (Brandon Cole, IUPUI; Caleb Green, Oral Roberts; Dan Oppland, Valparaiso) ... ORU's Caleb Green is 12th on the Mid-Con's career field goal percentage chart with a .569 mark in two seasons ... Green is also 19th on the alltime free throws made list (339) and 20th in career free throws attempted (460) ... The Mid-Con Men's Basketball Championship game will appear on ESPN for the 12th consecutive year.

| Mid-Con Coaches Records                  |         |      |         |      |         |      |  |
|--|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|--|
| Coach, Team (Yrs. at School/Overall)     | School  | Pct. | Career  | Pct. | Mid-Con | Pct. |  |
| Rob Flaska, Centenary (1st/1st)          | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0     | .000 |  |
| Kevin Jones, Chicago State (3rd/3rd)     | 21-50   | .296 | 21-50   | .296 | 16-26   | .381 |  |
| Ron Hunter, IUPUI (11th/11th)            | 173-148 | .539 | 173-148 | .539 | 51-55   | .481 |  |
| Rich Zvosec, UMKC (4th/13th)             | 58-57   | .504 | 161-205 | .440 | 37-25   | .597 |  |
| Greg Kampe, Oakland (21st/21st)          | 349-255 | .578 | 349-255 | .578 | 52-40   | .565 |  |
| Scott Sutton, Oral Roberts (6th/6th)     | 100-79  | .559 | 100-79  | .559 | 55-37   | .598 |  |
| Bill Evans, Southern Utah (13th/13th)    | 183-189 | .492 | 183-189 | .492 | 58-64   | .475 |  |
| Homer Drew, Valparaiso (16th/28th)       | 269-213 | .558 | 538-335 | .616 | 149-101 | .596 |  |
| Derek Thomas, Western Illinois (2nd/2nd) | 14-42   | .250 | 14-42   | .250 | 8-24    | .250 |  |

#### <u>Valpo and Oral Roberts selected to participate</u> in the ESPN Bracket Buster Series again



The Oral Roberts and Valparaiso men's basketball teams have been selected to represent the Mid-Continent Conference in the 2006 ESPN Bracket Buster Saturday program. This is the second consecutive year that the Golden Eagles and the Crusaders will participate in the event, which is in its fourth season. Bracket Buster Saturday is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2006, with a total of 11 games (out of 50) being carried on either ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU.

The 2006 ESPN Bracket Buster includes a pool of 100 teams representing 18 conferences. The event has expanded each of the last three years, with 18 teams participating in 2003, 46 in 2004 and 64 in 2005. The selection of the 11 games that will be televised will be made by the staff of ESPN, in consultation with the commissioners of the participating conferences. Consideration will be given to avoiding match-ups between conference teams and between teams that previously met during the 2005-06 season. Pairings will be announced on January 29, 2006.

#### 2006 BRACKET BUSTER SATURDAY FIELD

HOME TEAMS: <u>VALPARAISO</u>, Austin Peay, Ball State, Boise State, Bowling Green, Bradley, Cal State-Fullerton, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, Canisius, Central Michigan, College of Charleston, Cleveland State, Creighton, Detroit, Drexel, Eastern Illinois, Eastern Kentucky, Evansville, Hawaii, Hofstra, Iona, Jacksonville State, Kent State, Louisiana-Lafayette, Loyola (III.), Loyola (Md.), Manhattan, Miami (Ohio), Montana, Montana State, Murray State, Nevada, Northeastern, Northern Iowa, Ohio, Old Dominion, Pacific, Saint Mary's (Calif.), Saint Peter's, San Jose State, Southern Illinois, Utah State, Virginia Commonwealth, Western Kentucky, Western Michigan, Wichita State, Winthrop, UW-Green Bay and UW-Milwaukee.

AWAY TEAMS: ORAL ROBERTS, Akron, Albany, Arkansas State, Bucknell, Buffalo, Butler, Cal Poly, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State-Northridge, Delaware, Drake, Eastern Michigan, Eastern Washington, Fairfield, Fairleigh Dickinson, Fresno State, George Mason, Georgia State, High Point, Idaho, Illinois-Chicago, Illinois State, Indiana State, Long Beach State, Louisiana Tech, Marist, Missouri State, Morehead State, New Mexico State, New Orleans, Niagara, UNC-Asheville, UNC-Greensboro, Northern Arizona, Northern Illinois, Northwestern State, Rider, Samford, Santa Clara, Siena, Southeast Missouri State, Stephen F. Austin, Toledo, Tennessee-Martin, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, Vermont, Wright State and Youngstown State.

#### **Returning Statistical Leaders**

Several of the Mid-Con statistical leaders from a year ago are back in the fold. A list of the top returnees in each category are listed below. (Based on Top 10 in scoring, rebounding and assists; Top 5 in all other categories.)

| Scorin | na                    |      | Free 1 | Throw Percentage     |      | Three-Point Field Goal Percentage |  |
|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|----------------------|------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2.     | Caleb Green ORU       | 19.4 | 1.     | Ken Tutt. ORU        | .870 | 2. Seth Colclasure, Valpo .464    |  |
| 3.     | Dan Oppland, Valpo    | 18.6 | 2.     | Dan Oppland, Valpo   | .772 | 4. Tim Blackwell, UMKC .452       |  |
| 6.     | Ken Tutt. ORU         | 17.1 | Assist |                      | , -  | 5. T.J. Gray, WIU .429            |  |
| 10.    | Brandon Cole, IUPUI   | 14.2 | 1      | Jonathan Bluitt. ORU | 5.39 | Three-Point Field Goals Made      |  |
|        | unding                |      | 2.     | Quinton Day, UMKC    | 4.83 | 3. Brandon Cole, IUPUI 2.57       |  |
| 2      | Caleb Green, ORU      | 9.3  | 3.     | Steve Barnes, SUU    | 4.54 | 4. Ken Tutt, ORU 2.48             |  |
| 7      | Larry Owens, ORU      | 7.5  | 5.     | Jarryd Loyd, Valpo   | 3.93 | 5. Seth Colclasure, Valpo 2.13    |  |
| 9t.    | Brandon Cole, IUPUI   | 7.0  | 6.     | Tyrone Hamilton, CC  | 3.88 | Assist to Turnover Ratio          |  |
|        | Goal Percentage       | ,.0  | 8.     | Ron Howard, Valpo    | 3.74 | 1. Jonathan Bluitt, ORU 2.74      |  |
| 4.     | Caleb Green, ORU      | .552 | Steals | ' <b>'</b>           | 3.71 | 2. Seth Colclasure, Valpo 2.54    |  |
| 5      | Larry Owens, ORU      | .551 | 2.     | Quinton Day, UMKC    | 2.04 | 3. Steve Barnes, SUU 2.51         |  |
| J.     | Larry Official, Offic | .551 | 5.     | Larry Owens, ORU     | 1.76 | 5. Rand Janes, SUU 1.92           |  |