



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

2017-18 Men's Basketball Preseason Release | October 12, 2017



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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TOPS PRESEASON CONFERENCE POLL

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Christian Brothers has been named the men's basketball preseason conference favorite for the 2017-18 season, as selected by the league's head coaches.

Christian Brothers turned in an overall record of 18-13 and a league record of 14-8 in the 2016-17 season. CBU made the NCAA Tournament last season for the first time since 2013, and the team returns 10 players this year, including Preseason All-GSC selections **Jeff Larkin** and **Adam Dieball**. Larkin was named second team all-conference in 2016-17 after leading the Buccaneer offense with 17.4 points per game and 42 steals.

Valdosta State was selected second in the poll, despite the loss of GSC Player of the Year Jeremiah Hill, earning four first place votes. The Blazers went 26-6 overall and 19-3 in conference last season, advancing to the GSC Championship Game and the NCAA South Regional. Junior guard **Beau Justice**, a Preseason All-GSC selection, returns this year after tallying 14.3 points per game and 27 steals in the 2016-17 season.

Alabama Huntsville, the defending GSC Champion, was selected third in the poll. The Chargers won their third conference title last season, boasting a 26-8 overall record and a 17-5 GSC record. UAH was the top-seeded team at the NCAA South Regional and advanced all the way to the Sweet Sixteen. UAH lost several key players from last year's team, including all-conference selections Seab Webster and Brandon Roberts.

Delta State comes in fourth in the poll, followed by West Florida and Montevallo in fifth and sixth. The Statesmen also qualified for the NCAA South Regional last year and advanced to the second round. The Argonauts received one first place vote. Montevallo returns to the GSC this year after changing conference affiliation in 2009. The Falcons won three GSC Championships from 2004-07.

Ranking seventh is North Alabama, followed by 2015-16 GSC Champion West Georgia in eighth and Union in ninth. The Bulldogs return Preseason All-GSC honoree **Charlie Wilson**. Wilson ranked second in the league in field goal percentage and assists last season.

Lee is ranked 10th in the poll, followed by West Alabama. The Tigers' **Gavin Robinson** rounds out the preseason all-conference team.

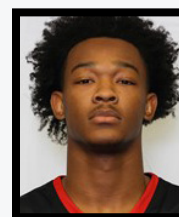
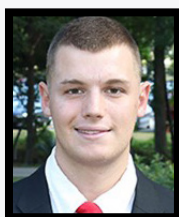
Mississippi College, Shorter, and Auburn Montgomery close out the poll.

2017-18 GSC MEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

School	Total Points
1. Christian Brothers (8)	158
2. Valdosta State (4)	144
3. Alabama Huntsville (1)	139
4. Delta State	131
5. West Florida (1)	130
6. Montevallo	113
7. North Alabama	103
8. West Georgia	86
9. Union	60
10. Lee	58
11. West Alabama	57
12. Mississippi College	47
13. Shorter	30
14. Auburn Montgomery	18

NOTES: The head coaches voted in this poll. Teams received 13 points for a first place vote, 12 for a second place vote, etc. The head coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams. Number of first place votes in parenthesis.

2017-18 PRESEASON ALL-GSC TEAM



POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
F	Adam Dieball*	CBU	6-9	JR	Cincinnati, Ohio
G	Beau Justice	VSU	6-2	JR	Peebles, Ohio
G	Jeff Larkin^	CBU	6-0	SR	Cincinnati, Ohio
F	Gavin Robinson	UWA	6-7	SR	New Orleans, La.
F	Charlie Wilson	UU	6-8	SR	Pensacola, Fla.

NOTES: The 2017-18 Preseason All-GSC Men's Basketball Team was selected by the head coaches. Positions were not a factor. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

*Indicates Previous First Team All-GSC Selection

^Indicates Previous Second Team All-GSC Selection

2017-18 TOP NEWCOMERS

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	HOMETOWN LAST SCHOOL
F	Kerney Lane	UAH	6-7	FR	Atlanta, Ga. Saint Pius X Catholic HS
G	Sam Orf	UAH	6-1	FR	St. Charles, Mo. Christian Brothers College HS
G	Kenneth Keith	AUM	5-10	JR	Opelika, Ala. Lurleen B. Wallace CC
F	Antoine Pitts	AUM	6-7	FR	Auburn, Ala. Auburn HS
F	Jacob Lyons	CBU	6-6	FR	Hernando, Miss. Christian Brothers HS
G/F	Luke Rudy	CBU	6-5	FR	Cincinnati, Ohio Oak Hills HS
G	Armon Benford	DSU	6-2	JR	Chicago, Ill. South Suburban CC
G	Matthew Wilson	DSU	6-2	FR	Farmington, Ark. Farmington HS
F	Jason Landman	LEE	6-8	FR	Arab, Ala. Air Force Prep
G	Michael Scott McGuirk	LEE	6-4	FR	White Plains, Ala. White Plains HS
G	Donovan Ham	MC	6-4	JR	Atlanta, Ga. Georgia Highlands
F	Howard Thomas	MC	6-8	SR	Brandon, Miss. McNeese State
G	Deshawn Jones	UM	6-3	SR	Gulfport, Miss. Jacksonville State
G	Chris Williams	UM	6-2	JR	Denver, Colo. Trinidad CC
G	Kendarius Smith	UNA	5-10	JR	Camden, Miss. Northeast Mississippi CC
G/F	Kendall Stafford	UNA	6-4	JR	Corinth, Miss. Northeast Mississippi CC
F	Josh Burnett	SU	6-5	JR	Honolulu, Hawaii Kennesaw State
G	Tayvaughn Major	SU	6-2	JR	North Charleston, S.C. Charleston Southern
G	Todd Barnes	UU	6-5	JR	Altadena, Calif. Pasadena CC
F	Pedro Da Silva	UU	6-10	JR	Sao Paulo, Brazil Cowley CC
G	Clay Guillozet	VSU	6-4	SO	Greenville, Ohio West Liberty HS
F	KJ James	VSU	6-6	SR	Charleston, S.C. Armstrong Atlantic
G	Josh Fleming	UWA	5-9	JR	New Haven, Conn. Garden City CC
F	Charles Tripp	UWA	6-7	JR	Demopolis, Ala. Marion Military Institute
F	Shondell Jackson	UWF	6-5	JR	Warren, Ohio Owens CC
F	Latrell Tidwell	UWF	6-7	JR	Cincinnati, Ohio Kankakee CC
G	Marquill Smith	UWG	6-4	JR	Miami Gardens, Fla. San Francisco
G	Paul Turner	UWG	6-5	JR	Chicago, Ill. College of Central Florida

NOTE: Top newcomers are submitted by the head coaches during the Preseason All-GSC nomination process.