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Stonehill Predicted to Claim 10th Women's Lacrosse Regular Season Title

South Easton, Mass. – The Stonehill College Skyhawks are predicted to claim an unprecedented 10th straight Northeast-10 Regular Season Title as voted by the conference's 11 head coaches.

Stonehill received eight first-place votes and 118 points in the preseason poll. Last year the Skyhawks finished a perfect 10-0 in conference play to claim their ninth straight regular season title.

After advancing to the conference championship game a year ago, the Bentley College Falcons (8-2, NE-10) are predicted to finish tied for second with Southern New Hampshire University (8-2, NE-10). Both teams finished deadlocked for second place at 8-2 last year.

<u>2008 Women's Lacrosse Preseason Coaches' Poll</u>		
<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>2007 Record</u>
1. Stonehill (8)	118	18-2
T-2. Bentley (1)	98	11-6
T-2. Southern New Hampshire	98	10-4
4. Merrimack (1)	87	11-6
5. Bryant (1)	86	9-6
6. Saint Michael's	65	7-8
7. Saint Anselm	60	8-7
8. Southern Connecticut	38	3-10
9. Assumption	28	0-14
10. Franklin Pierce	25	2-15
11. American International	23	2-11

(First place votes in parentheses)

As mentioned earlier, Bentley advanced to the NE-10 Championship game along with Stonehill. The Skyhawks prevailed and won their eighth straight championship title and advanced to the NCAA Division II Semifinals before falling short to the eventual National Champion, C.W. Post 11-8.

Merrimack College (7-3, NE-10) and Bryant University (7-3, NE-10) each received the final first place votes and are predicted to finish fourth and fifth respectively. The Warriors edged out the Bulldogs 87-86 in points. Predicted to finish sixth is Saint Michael's College (5-5, NE-10). The Purple Knights received 65 points; however Saint Anselm College (4-6, NE-10) closely followed with 60 points and is predicted to finish seventh. The Owls of Southern Connecticut State University (3-7, NE-10) picked up 38 points in the poll and are slated to finish eighth.

Assumption College (0-10, NE-10), Franklin Pierce University (1-9, NE-10) and American International College (2-8, NE-10) round out the poll respectively.

The 2008 season opens up this Friday as Bryant travels to Louisville for a non-conference match-up. The first Northeast-10 contest is set for Tuesday, March 11 as Southern Connecticut visits Saint Anselm in Manchester, N.H. The 2008 Northeast-10 Championship will begin on Wednesday, April 30 and will conclude with the championship game on Sunday, May 4.

Sponsoring 23 championship sports and 15 full-time members, the Northeast-10 is the second largest NCAA Division II athletic conference in the nation and sponsors the most championships of any Division II conference.

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