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Women's Soccer Coaches Pick Franklin Pierce To Win Regular Season

South Easton, Mass. – The Ravens of Franklin Pierce College once again are predicted to win the regular season title, as determined by the 2006 Northeast-10 Women's Soccer Coaches' Preseason Poll.

The Ravens, the five-time defending Northeast-10 Regular Season and six-time Tournament Champion, were the favorites by more than 30 points in the poll, garnering 13 first place votes for a grand total of 223 points. Last year, the Ravens made their 13th appearance in the NCAA Final Four and closed out their season with a 19-2-2 overall record.

Placing second in the poll is Assumption College with 189 points and one first place vote. The Greyhounds edge Merrimack College by only three points to secure the second position. Totaling for 186 points, Merrimack is the third place pick.

Picked fourth is Bryant University with 177 points, followed by The College of Saint Rose, claiming 171 points and the fifth position in the poll.

The University of Massachusetts Lowell and Southern Connecticut State University tie with 141 tallies, sharing the sixth place slot, while the Skyhawks Stonehill College pick up the final first place vote with 110 total tallies for a ninth place prediction.

Saint Anselm College secured tenth place in the poll with 106 points, while Pace University (80), Saint Michael's College (58), Le Moyne College (46), Bentley College (37) and American International College (21) round out the poll respectively.

In 2005, Franklin Pierce, Assumption, Merrimack and UMass Lowell garnered all four spots in the NCAA New England Regional. Franklin Pierce advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals after

2006 Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll			
Place	Team	Points	2005 Record, NE-10
1.	Franklin Pierce (13)	223	19-2-2, 12-1-1
2.	Assumption (1)	189	15-4-4, 9-2-3
3.	Merrimack	186	14-6-1, 9-4-1
4.	Bryant	177	13-6-2, 9-4-1
5.	Saint Rose	171	13-3-5, 7-3-4
6.	UMass Lowell	141	12-7-1, 9-4-1
6.	Southern Conn.	141	11-5-3, 7-5-2
8.	Southern N.H.	114	9-8-2, 7-5-2
9.	Stonehill (1)	110	8-4-4, 6-4-4
10.	Saint Anselm	106	10-6-1, 7-6-1
11.	Pace	80	11-8-1, 5-8-1
12.	Saint Michael's	58	5-12, 3-11
13.	Le Moyne	46	5-10-2, 2-10-2
14.	Bentley	37	0-12-4, 0-12-2
15.	American Int'l	21	1-14-1, 0-13-1

(First place votes in parentheses.)

defeating Assumption 2-0 in the regional final. The Ravens then continued their post-season success by defeating West Chester University 2-1 to punch their ticket to the NCAA Final Four in Wichita Falls, Texas before bowing to the eventual national champion Nebraska-Omaha 2-1.

This year's Northeast-10 tournament opens on October 24 with quarterfinal matches, followed by the NE-10 semifinals on October 27 and the championship on October 29.

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.