

# 2008 Centennial Conference Football Media Guide



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On the Cover: Muhlenberg OL Mike Nolan. Helmets courtesy of The Helmet Project.

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# The Centennial Conference

## The History

In its 16th year of competition, the Centennial Conference is one of the nation's elite small college conferences.

On June 4, 1981, Keith Spalding, president of Franklin & Marshall College, made the announcement that "eight private colleges found it timely and appropriate to form a round-robin football schedule among institutions with similar attitudes and practices in intercollegiate football competition." With that statement, the Centennial Conference was born.

From 1983-92, the eight private colleges - Dickinson College, Franklin & Marshall College, Gettysburg College, Johns Hopkins University, Muhlenberg College, Swarthmore College, Ursinus College and Western Maryland (now McDaniel) College - participated in a football-only conference. Because of the success in operating the Centennial Football Conference, the presidents began to study the feasibility of an all-sports conference early in 1991. The presidents received a positive report from an ad hoc committee in March 1992, which also recommended that Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College and Washington College be invited to join as charter members.

On April 29, 1992, Gordon A. Haaland, president of Gettysburg College and acting chairman of the committee of the original eight presidents, announced the expansion of the Conference to an all-sports conference. He also announced that Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Washington had accepted the invitations to become charter members.

A purpose and mission statement adopted by the presidents stated, "recognizing that our fundamental purpose is the academic mission of institutions, we agree to establish an all-sports conference in the spirit of rationalizing our competition by controlling travel, schedule and costs. The Conference will be controlled by the presidents of the member institutions."

The Centennial Conference encourages athletic competition among national liberal arts colleges and universities that share similar academic aspirations and a commitment to the importance of the total educational experience of students engaged in sports. Intercollegiate athletics programs are an integral part of the life of the member institutions and flow from their educational objectives. Each

institution provides a comprehensive, broad-based athletics program. All varsity sports are treated equitably, and every sport is important.

The Centennial Conference crowns champions in 24 sports and continues to sponsor intercollegiate programs of national prominence for women and men. Soccer, basketball, lacrosse and track and field are just four of the sports in which Centennial schools have been synonymous with national excellence. On the average, Centennial members boast of 21 varsity teams per campus, which is well above the national norm.



Cheering on Bryn Mawr's rugby squad; the eight Conference football titles won by Dickinson; the beauty of Franklin & Marshall's aquatic center; the historic battlefield surrounding Gettysburg's athletic facilities; the speed, stamina and strength of Haverford's cross country/track teams; events at Johns Hopkins' storied Homewood Field; the scenic beauty of a fall football afternoon on The Hill at McDaniel; basketball games at Muhlenberg's famed Memorial Hall; Swarthmore's tennis teams; the history and tradition of excellence in field hockey at Ursinus; an early morning workout on the Chester River for Washington's crews. These are just some of the elements that have helped the Centennial Conference foster a wonderful, rare spirit of competition, excellence and camaraderie for athletes, spectators, and alumni.

In 2007-2008, Centennial teams and individuals qualified for national Division III championship competition in 22 sports. The Conference has had five teams win NCAA titles - Washington College men's lacrosse (1998) and men's tennis (1994, 1997), Ursinus field hockey (2006) and Franklin & Marshall women's lacrosse. Fifty-six students earned All-America

recognition, including 14 who were selected to the first team.

The Centennial Conference is also equally proud of its student-athletes' accomplishments in the classroom. In 2007-2008, eight students were named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America teams, including one first-team selection, while two others were awarded NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarships.

## The Members

**Bryn Mawr College** is a highly selective liberal-arts college in suburban Philadelphia for students who share an intense intellectual commitment, a self-directed and purposeful vision of their lives, and a desire to make meaningful contributions to the world. Bryn Mawr comprises an undergraduate college with 1,200 women, two coeducational graduate schools and a coeducational postbaccalaureate premedical program.

The citizens of frontier Carlisle founded a grammar school in 1773 on land donated by Thomas and John Penn, but classes were temporarily suspended when the first schoolmaster went off to serve at Valley Forge. With an optimism buoyed by colonial independence, Philadelphia physician Benjamin Rush argued that the fledgling grammar school should be transformed into a college that would be "a source of light and knowledge to the western parts of the United States," to the wilderness lands stretching west from the Susquehanna River. John Dickinson, the governor of Pennsylvania and drafter of the Articles of Confederation, was persuaded by this argument, and on Sept. 9, 1783, a charter was approved by the "Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." The new **Dickinson College**, founded by Presbyterians but with an independent Board of Trustees, was dedicated to "the instruction of youth in the learned languages" and in the "useful arts, sciences, and literature."

On June 6, 1787, amidst a crowd of distinguished faculty, founders, and trustees, the institution that would one day become **Franklin & Marshall College** was born. With a contribution of 200 English pounds from Benjamin Franklin, then the President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, the college bearing solely his name was officially dedicated with the belief that it would become a major intellectual force in American higher education. One hundred

miles away and more than 40 years later, in Mercersburg, Pa., another small college began to take shape. Having grown from a Reformed Church academy, Marshall College, named upon the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, officially opened in 1836 with a well-established reputation. Back in Lancaster, Franklin's board of trustees, in their continued effort to bring a formidable liberal arts institution to central Pennsylvania, soon realized that the college could not progress alone, and Franklin and Marshall united to become a single college in 1853.

**Gettysburg College** has been witness and participant to some of the most significant events in the history of our nation. Chartered in 1832 to provide education for the residents of south central Pennsylvania, the College was a neighbor to fighting between Union and Confederate troops in July 1863. On July 1, math professor Michael Jacobs cancelled classes after telling his students that their minds were no longer on their lessons. Pennsylvania Hall, the College's first building, served during and after the Civil War battle as a hospital for the wounded, treating more than 700 Union and Confederate soldiers. On November 19, 1863, Gettysburg College students walked from Pennsylvania Hall into the historic town to hear President Abraham Lincoln deliver his legendary Gettysburg Address. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was also closely associated with Gettysburg College. Following his presidency, he returned to Gettysburg to live and served the College as a member of its Board of Trustees. He wrote his memoirs in what is today the College's Admissions Office, now known as Eisenhower House.

**Haverford College** is a coeducational undergraduate liberal arts college founded in 1833 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). While the College is not formally affiliated with any religious body today, the values of individual dignity, academic strength, and tolerance upon which it was founded remain central to its character. The Honor Code, affirmed by the student body each year, represents the philosophy of conduct within the College. Students are expected to maintain a strong sense of individual responsibility as well as intellectual integrity, honesty, and genuine concern for others. Originally landscaped by the English gardener William Carvill, the park-like 216-acre campus includes more than 400 species of trees and shrubs, a nature walk, and a duck pond. The varied architectural styles of campus buildings, representing more than 150 years of

architectural evolution, give the campus a unique character and charm.

The **Johns Hopkins University** opened Feb. 22, 1876, with the inauguration of its first president, Daniel Coit Gilman. "What are we aiming at?" Gilman asked at his installation address. The encouragement of research ... and the advancement of individual scholars, who by their excellence will advance the sciences they pursue, and the society where they dwell." Building from scratch, rather than taking over an existing institution, freed Gilman to create something entirely new, at least in the United States. He established a research university, dedicated not just to advancing students' knowledge but also to advancing the state of human knowledge generally, through research and scholarship. The university is named for its initial benefactor, Baltimore merchant Johns Hopkins, whose \$7 million bequest - the largest U.S. philanthropic gift to that time - was divided evenly to finance the establishment of both the university and The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

**McDaniel College** is a private, selective college of the liberal arts and sciences where students from 23 states and 19 countries prepare for lives of leadership and service. The College was the first coeducational college south of the Mason-Dixon line, and one of the first coeducational colleges in the nation. Since its inception, it has been an independent liberal arts college with an autonomous Board of Trustees. Founded in 1867 as Western Maryland College after the thriving Western Maryland railroad, the name was changed in 2002 to McDaniel College, honoring William Roberts McDaniel, whose 65-year association with the College helped shape its destiny and today personifies its mission.

Founded in 1848 to provide a liberal arts education in the Judeo-Christian humanistic tradition, **Muhlenberg College** is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and excellence. It is an independent, undergraduate, coeducational institution related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Most significant in its tradition are the historic ties between the College and the Lutheran Church. The name Muhlenberg College was adopted in honor of the "patriarch" of the Lutheran Church in America, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. The sons of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg made important contributions to the early life of our country. General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg wintered at Valley Forge with George Washington; Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg was the first speaker of the

United States House of Representatives; and Henry Ernst Muhlenberg was one of the most eminent early American scientists and the first President of Franklin College, now Franklin & Marshall College.

**Swarthmore College**, founded in 1864 by members of the Religious Society of Friends as a co-educational institution, occupies a campus of more than 300 acres of rolling wooded land in an adjacent to the Borough of Swarthmore in Delaware County, Pa. It is a small college by deliberate policy. Its present enrollment is about 1,400 men and women students. Although it has been nonsectarian in control since 1908, and although Friends now compose a small minority of the student body, the faculty, and the administration, the College still values highly many of the principles of that society. Foremost among these principles is the individual's responsibility for seeking and applying truth and for testing whatever truth one believes one has found.

Founded in 1869, the mission of **Ursinus College** is to model civility, to prepare students for an interdependent world and to teach students how to put their ideas to work. The College is located on a scenic, wooded 160-acre campus, 30 miles from Center City Philadelphia. Chartered by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1869 on the site of the former Freeland Seminary, by members of the German Reformed Church, the institution is named for Zacharias Ursinus, a distinguished 16th-century scholar and theologian of the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

**Washington College** is a private, selective independent liberal arts and sciences college located in Chestertown on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Founded in 1782 under the patronage of George Washington, it is the tenth-oldest college in the country and the first college chartered in the new nation. From its birth, Washington College was distinct among its peers in its secular mission to educate young, responsible citizens of the new democracy who could lead government, start businesses, and promote peace, prosperity, and knowledge. Washington left his stamp of ownership on Washington College with his founding gift of 50 guineas, his service on the Board, and his very name. Washington served on the Board of Visitors and Governors for five years until 1789, when he became President of the United States. He accepted an honorary degree from Washington College that same year and became a leading alumnus.

## School Affiliations

**BRYN MAWR** - Charter member of the Centennial Conference in 1992.

**DICKINSON** - Participated in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) track and field championship in 1913. Joined MAC Western Division in 1958. Resigned from MAC Western Division in 1960. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1960. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**FRANKLIN & MARSHALL** - Participated in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) track and field championship in 1913. Represented at inception meeting of MAC on April 23, 1922 and considered original member. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1958. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**GETTYSBURG** - Became member of Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association in 1914. Represented at inception meeting of Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) on April 23, 1922 and considered original member. Joined MAC Northern (University) Division in 1946. Resigned from MAC University Division in 1974. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1974. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**HVERFORD** - Represented at first meeting of Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association on Dec. 11, 1912, and became member in 1914. Represented at inception meeting of Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) on April 23, 1922 and considered original member. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1946. Charter member of the Centennial Conference in 1992. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**JOHNS HOPKINS** - Joined the Middle Atlantic Conference in 1916. Resigned from MAC in 1938. Charter member of the Maryland State Intercollegiate (Mason-Dixon) Conference in 1936. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1958. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**JUNIATA (associate)** - Joined the Middle Atlantic Conference in 1922. Joined Centennial Conference as associate member in football in 2005. Resigned from MAC in 2007.

**McDANIEL** - Charter member of the Maryland State Intercollegiate (Mason-Dixon) Conference in 1936. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1958. Charter member of the Centennial Football

Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**MORAVIAN (associate)** - Joined the Middle Atlantic Conference in 1946. Joined Centennial Conference as associate member in football in 2005. Resigned from MAC in 2007.

**MUHLENBERG** - Represented at first meeting of Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association on Dec. 11, 1912, and participated in the track and field championship in 1913. Represented at inception meeting of Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) on April 23, 1922 and considered original member. Joined MAC Northern (University) Division in 1946. Resigned from MAC University Division in 1964. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1964. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**SWARTHMORE** - Represented at first meeting of Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Association on Dec. 11, 1912, and participated in the track and field championship in 1913. Represented at inception meeting of Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) on April 23, 1922 and considered original member. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1946. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**URSINUS** - Joined the Middle Atlantic Conference in 1922. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1946. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1983. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

**WASHINGTON** - Joined the Middle Atlantic Conference in 1922. Charter member of the Maryland State Intercollegiate (Mason-Dixon) Conference in 1936. Joined MAC Southern Division in 1958. Charter member of the Centennial Football Conference in 1992. Resigned from MAC in 1993.

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## Centennial Conference Media Services

### www.Centennial.org

The Centennial Conference official web site can be accessed by visiting [www.centennial.org](http://www.centennial.org). Football information is updated with new material daily with standings, statistics, game previews, notes and other information. Links to each Centennial school athletic department home page are also located on this site.

### Centennial Honors and Awards

All-Centennial Conference teams are selected by the Conference's head coaches. Player of the Week selections are made by the Conference Office. Nominations for the Player of the Week awards are made by the sports information offices of the member institutions.

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