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## Threeppeat? Azusa Pacific Picked To Win Third Straight GNAC Football Title

PORTLAND, Ore. – After winning two straight championships in their first three years in the conference, Azusa Pacific is picked to win their third straight crown in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference’s 2015 preseason coaches poll.

The Cougars received five of seven first place votes in the poll, leading the table with a total of 34 points. Azusa Pacific went undefeated in their third GNAC campaign to win the 2014 championship and has not lost a conference game since a 7-3 defeat at Central Washington on Sept. 28, 2013.

Azusa Pacific also enters the season ranked No. 19 in the American Football Coaches Association Division II Preseason Poll, which was released on Monday. The Cougars ended the 2014 season ranked 23rd after spending much of the season ranked in the lower half of the top-25.

The Cougars thrived as a running team, leading the GNAC and 10th in Division II with 269.3 rushing yards per game. All-American running back **Tyrell Watson** led the charge as he led Division II in rushing touchdowns (29), rushing yards (2,253), rushing yards per game (195.7) and scoring (15.8 points per game). The Cougars finished in top-50 in 23 different Division II statistical categories, including second in turnovers lost (10), third in sacks (3.91 per game), sixth in turnover margin (1.36) and seventh in passes had intercepted (5).

The Cougars return 38 letterwinners, but will be looking to replace a number of key role players including Watson, First Team All-GNAC offensive lineman **Cody Clay** and first team defensive standouts **Steven Fanua** and **Tyler Thornton**. The team returns a pair of First Team All-GNAC selections in tight end **Grant Widmer** and defensive lineman **David Kofovalu** and a trio of second teamers in offensive linemen **Jaylen Crutchfield** and **Ahmad Sunda** and defensive back **CJ Broussard**.

While not picking up a single first place vote, Humboldt State received all six possible second place votes to be picked second with 30 points while receiving two votes in the AFCA preseason poll. One of the most balanced teams in all of Division II football in 2014, the Lumberjacks were ranked in the Division II top-100 in all but six team statistical categories. Defensively, they led Division II in fourth down conversion defense (.133) and sacks (4.5 per game), ranked fourth in first downs allowed (155) and third down conversion percentage (.248), eight in total defense (285.7 yards allowed per game) and 17th in scoring defense (18.1 points allowed per game). Offensively, Humboldt State led the league and 20th nationally in scoring offense, averaging 38.8 points per game.

Like Azusa Pacific, Humboldt State will be looking to replace a lot of starting experience, but return solid players in the specialty positions. Quarterback **Robert Webber** was named the GNAC Co-Freshman of the Year after leading the GNAC and 28th in Division II in pass efficiency (145.8), averaging 220.8 yards per game. Sophomore offensive lineman **Alex Cappa** is the lone returner of seven First Team All-GNAC selections, earning GNAC Offensive Lineman of the Year honors as a freshman. The Lumberjacks return six Second Team All-GNAC selections, led on the offensive side of the ball by wide receiver **Ja’Quan Gardner** and wide receiver **Chase Krivashei**, who also received honors as a punt returner. Defensive second teamers returning include defensive lineman **Codey Heidebrecht** and linebacker **Cameron Buell**.

### 2015 GNAC Preseason Football Coaches Poll

Team (1st Place Votes)	2014 Record (Finish)	Pts.
1. Azusa Pacific (5)	10-1 (6-0, 1st)	34
2. Humboldt State	8-2 (4-2, Tie 2nd)	30
3. Central Washington (1)	7-4 (4-2, Tie 2nd)	27
4. Western Oregon (1)	6-5 (4-2, Tie 2nd)	23
5. Dixie State	1-10 (0-6, 7th)	15
6. South Dakota Mines	2-9 (1-5, 6th)	12
7. Simon Fraser	2-9 (2-4, 5th)	6

Votes awarded on a 6-5-4-3-2-1 basis. Coaches could not vote for their own teams.

Central Washington was picked a close third with 27 points, including one first place vote. They joined Humboldt State among teams receiving votes in the AFCA poll, picking up 11 points. Tying for second last year with Humboldt State and Western Oregon, the Wildcats are arguably the GNAC's most

experienced squad, returning nine offensive starters and seven defensive starters. Second Team All-GNAC running back **Jordan Todd** leads a Wildcats' program that finished the 2014 season ranked second in the league in scoring average at 35.5 points per game.

The Wildcats' experience includes five returning First Team All-GNAC selections, led by double selection Isaiah Davis (first team as both a defensive back and punt returner). Central also returns first teamers in offensive lineman **Calvin Hoochuli** and kick returner **Jesse Zalk**, who finished ranked 11th in Division II with an average of 29.1 yards per kick return. Zalk led a Central Washington return game that led Division II (25.73 yards per return).

Western Oregon, the third team in the 2014 second place logjam, is picked fourth with a total of 23 points. Thw Wolves finished 2014 as the second best passing team in the GNAC, averaging 309.5 yards per game (15th in Division II) behind Second Team All-GNAC quarterback **Ryan Bergman**. WOU will be replacing Bergman and three-time First Team All-GNAC receiver **Tyrell Williams**, but do return the GNAC Co-Freshman of the Year in receiver **Paul Revis**, who ranked seventh in Division II in all-purpose yards as a freshman at 184.45 yards per game.

The Wolves also return a pair of talented Second Team All-GNAC performers in defensive lineman **George Swartzlender** and defensive back **Roger Garrett**.

Dixie State and South Dakota Mines are picked fifth and sixth, respectively, in their final year of GNAC play. Both programs will become members of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference for the 2016 season.

Dixie State is aiming to move out of the GNAC cellar in their final season after going 0-6 in conference play last year. Their one win came late in the season, a 28-6 victory on Oct. 25 over NAIA member Menlo. The Red Storm shined brightest on defense last season, ranking third in the GNAC with 233.7 passing yards allowed per game. Dixie State was among the least penalized teams in Division II, ranking 22nd nationally with just 536 penalty yards.

The Red Storm will be led offensively by senior wide receiver **Nate Stephens**, who earned Second Team All-GNAC honors after finishing second in the league in both receiving yards (89.5 per game) and third in all-purpose yards (120.6 per game). The Red Storm also returns Second Team All-GNAC offensive lineman **Lucas Beddow**. On defense, Dixie State returns Honorable Mention All-GNAC linebacker **Robert Metz**, who led the team with 91 tackles.

Despite their 2-9 record and sixth place GNAC finish, South Dakota Mines had one of the most potent passing offenses in Division II. Returning First Team All-GNAC quarterback **Trent McKinney**, the league's Newcomer of the Year, finished seventh in Division II in total offense at 333.3 yards per game. He led a Hardrockers' offense that led the GNAC and finished 12th in Division II in passing offense, averaging 321.8 yards per game. The Hardrockers also ranked 11th in Division II in red zone offense, converting 77.3 percent of the time inside the 20-yard line (51-66).

Supplementing McKinney on the offense will be senior Second Team All-GNAC tight end **Elijah Balavitch** and Honorable Mention All-GNAC running back **Kevin Thompson**.

Simon Fraser is picked seventh in the GNAC as they welcome their third head coach in as many years. **Kelly Bates**, a longtime Canadian Football League player and assistant coach, inherits a team that finished fifth in the GNAC while ranking seventh in the league in scoring offense (21 points per game). The

### AFCA Division II Preseason Top-25 Poll Released Aug. 17, 2015

Rk	School (1st)	2014	
		Record	Pts. Rank
1.	Minnesota St.-Mankato (9)	14-1	751 2
2.	Colorado St.-Pueblo (16)	14-1	747 1
3.	Minnesota-Duluth (3)	13-1	648 3
4.	West Georgia (3)	12-3	632 6
5.	NW Missouri St. (1)	10-2	623 14
6.	Ferris State (Mich.)	11-1	601 11
7.	Pittsburg State (Kan.)	11-2	557 7
8.	Ohio Dominican	11-2	526 4
9.	Concord (W. Va.)	13-1	447 5
10.	Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.)	11-1	431 8
11.	Bloomsburg (Pa.)	11-2	422 12
12.	Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)	10-1	381 9
13.	Angelo State (Texas)	9-3	376 20
14.	Delta State (Miss.)	9-2	369 13
15.	North Alabama	9-2	358 26
16.	Valdosta State (Ga.)	10-3	286 10
17.	Sioux Falls (S.D.)	11-1	277 18
18.	Colorado School of Mines	10-2	189 19
19.	<b>Azusa Pacific</b>	<b>10-1</b>	<b>175 23</b>
20.	Winston-Salem St. (N.C.)	9-2	142 24
21.	Harding (Ark.)	9-2	129 17
22.	Texas A&M-Commerce	9-3	127 NR
23.	West Chester (Pa.)	11-2	125 15
24.	Grand Valley State (Mich.)	6-5	119 NR
25.	Slippery Rock (Pa.)	9-3	111 NR

Others Receiving Votes: Indianapolis (Ind.), 109; Tuskegee (Ala.), 101; Michigan Tech, 64; Carson-Newman (Tenn.), 63; Ashland (Ohio), 56; Gannon (Pa.), 46; Shepherd (W.Va.), 46; West Texas A&M, 44; Virginia St., 41; Midwestern St. (Texas), 39; Albany St. (Ga.), 37; Central Missouri, 37; Henderson St. (Ark.), 28; American International (Mass.), 24; North Carolina-Pembroke, 12; Wayne St. (Mich.), 12; **Central Washington**, 11; Tarleton St. (Texas), 11; California (Pa.), 7; Charleston (W.Va.), 6; Truman St. (Mo.), 6; Central Oklahoma, 5; St. Cloud State (Minn.), 4; **Humboldt St. (Calif.)**, 3; LIU-Post (N.Y.), 3; East Central (Okla.), 2; Newberry (S.C.), 2; Fayetteville St. (N.C.), 1; Southeastern Oklahoma St., 1.

Clan was strongest on the offensive line, ranking 54th in Division II with 5.91 tackles for loss allowed per game. The Clan's 259.5 passing yards per game ranked 51st nationally and their 13.47 yards per punt return ranked 26th.

Simon Fraser's leading returner is linebacker **Jordan Herdman**. The GNAC Defensive Player of the Year led the league with 165 tackles and finished second in Division II with 15 tackles per game. The Clan also return First Team All-GNAC offensive lineman **Michael Couture** along with Second Team All-GNAC selections in defensive lineman **Quinn Horton** and **Jamie Puffer**. The Clan also return wide receiver **Earl Anderson**, who has over 2,000 career yards to his credit.

Defending champion Azusa Pacific will open the 2015 GNAC season on Thurs., Sept. 3, against West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas. Five of the remaining six GNAC squads will open on Sat., Sept. 5, including a conference matchup between Western Oregon and Humboldt State in Arcata, Calif. Simon Fraser will kickoff their season on Sat., Sept. 12, traveling to Western Oregon for a non-conference contest.

**GNAC Football Team Capsules Follow On Next Page**



## GNAC Football Teams At A Glance

### AZUSA PACIFIC

**Head Coach:** Victor Santa Cruz (Hawaii, 1995, 53-45, 10th Season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Cesar Rivas-Sandoval (Defensive Coordinator), Rudy Carlton (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks), Bo Beatty (Speed & Conditioning), Ben Buys (Running Backs), Spencer Danielson (Linebackers), Gabe Higerd (Special Teams Coordinator/Safeties), Matt Johnson (Tight Ends), Justin Riddle (Wide Receivers), Jackie Slater (Offensive Line), Manako Tuifua (Defensive Line)

**2014 Overall Record:** 10-1 **GNAC Record (Finish):** 6-0 (1st)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 38 (19 Offense, 18 Defense, 1 Special Teams)

**Starters Returning:** 12 (8 Offense, 3 Defense, 1 Special Teams)

**Starters Lost:** 11 (3 Offense, 8 Defense)

**Basic Offense:** Spread

**Basic Defense:** Eagle

**Top Offensive Returners:** Chad Jeffries (QB, So., Honorable Mention All-GNAC in 2014, 126-205, 1,611 yards, 11 TD, .615 completion pct., 676 rushing yards, 6 Rushing TD), Blake Robertson (WR, Sr., 28 catches, 357 receiving yards, 3 TD), Grant Widmer (TE/HB, First Team All-GNAC in 2014, 9 catches, 98 receiving yards), Jaylen Crutchfield (OL, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014), Ahmad Sunda (OL, Jr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014).

**Top Defensive Returners:** CJ Broussard (CB, Jr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 59 tackles, 4 INT, 2 fumble recoveries, 2 forced fumbles), Jonathan Thropay (ROV, Jr., 54 tackles, 4 TFL, 3 INT), Erik Manning (LB, 48 tackles, 4.5 TFL), Talaiasi Taueli (DL, Sr., 26 tackles, 7.5 TFL, 3.5 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries), Taliuaki Suliafu (SS, So., 31 tackles, 7 TFL, 3 sacks).

**Top Returning Special Teams:** Jamie Cacciatore (K/P, Sr., 6/12 FG, 47/51 PAT, 65 pts., 45 punts, 37.5 yard per punt, 15 punts inside 20), Tyree Davis (KR/PR, 16 kick returns, 26 yards per return, 13 punt returns, 10.6 yards per return), Tarik Myles (PR, 13 punt returns, 6.6 yards per punt, 6 kick returns, 21.2 yards per return).

**Key Losses:** Terrell Watson (RB), Cody Clay (OL), Tanner Henry (WR), Steven Fanua (LB), Tyler Thornton (FS).

**Key Newcomers:** D.J. Morgan (WR/RB, 5-11, 180, Sr., Pacioma, Calif. – Univ. of Southern California), Josh Atkinson (DB, 6-0, 193, Sr., Livermore, Calif. – Univ. of Notre Dame), Charles Burks (DL, 6-0, 235, Sr., Huntington Beach, Calif. – Univ. of Southern California), Hunter Malberg (DB, 6-0, 200, Jr., North Bend, Wash. – Univ. of Minnesota-Duluth), Billy Tanuvasa (DL, 6-2, 295, Jr., Corona, Calif. – Univ. of Nevada-Las Vegas).

### CENTRAL WASHINGTON

**Head Coach:** Ian Shoemaker (Grinnell, 1996, 7-4, 2nd Season)

**Assistant Coaches:** John Picha (Assistant Head Coach), Payam Saadat (Defensive Coordinator), Jacob Claborn (Offensive Line), Jay Dumas (Wide Receivers), Eric Hoiium (Graduate Assistant), Nate Johnson (Defensive Backs), Benny Boyd (Special Teams/Defensive Backs)

**2014 Overall Record:** 7-4 **GNAC Record (Finish):** 4-2 (Tie 2nd)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 42 (20 Offense, 18 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

**Starters Returning:** 18 (9 Offense, 7 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

**Starters Lost:** 6 (2 Offense, 4 Defense)

**Basic Offense:** Single Back Multiple **Basic Defense:** Flex

**Top Offensive Returners:** Jake Nelson (QB, Jr., 215-363, 1,702 yards, 23 TD, 5 Rushing TD), Jordan Todd (RB, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 191 carries, 818 rushing yards, 12 TD), Jesse Zalk (WR/KR, First Team All-GNAC in 2014 as kick returner, 43 catches, 456 receiving yards, 7 TD, 21 kick returns, 611 yards, 1 TD).

**Top Defensive Returners:** Kevin Haynes (LB, So., First Team All-GNAC in 2014, 99 tackles, 8 TFL, 5 INT), Mitch Haldane (DL, Sr., 85 tackles, 11 TFL, 4.5 sacks, 3 fumble recoveries), Cedrique Chaney (DB, Sr., First Team All-GNAC in 2014, 50 tackles, 2 INT, 3 blocked kicks), James Fakkema (DL, Jr., 49 tackles, 7.5 sacks).

**Top Returning Special Teams:** Aubrey Reed (KR, 23 returns, 22.8 avg., 1 TD), Nate Stephens (PR, 10 returns, 3.7 avg.), Alex Giordani (K, 6-8 FG, 25-30 PAT).

**Key Losses:** Tovar Sanchez (DL).

**Key Newcomers:** James Adeyanju (DL, 6-4, 271, Sr., Chicago, Ill. – Univ. of Wisconsin), Myles Carelock (DB, 5-11, 230, Sr., Fairfield, Calif. – Southern Utah Univ.).

## GNAC Football Teams At A Glance

### DIXIE STATE

**Head Coach:** Scott Brumfield (Brigham Young, 1993, 11-43, 5th Season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Blaine Monkres (Director of Offense), Shay McClure (Director of Defense), Will Harris (Special Teams), Judd Thompson (Wide Receivers), Jim Eggleston (Tight Ends)

**2014 Overall Record:** 1-10 **GNAC Record (Finish):** 0-6 (7th)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 32

**Starters Returning:** 15 (7 Offense, 4 Defense, 4 Special Teams)

**Starters Lost:** 15 (6 Offensive, 9 Defensive)

**Basic Offense:** Spread

**Basic Defense:** 4-3

**Top Offensive Returners:** Nate Stephens (WR, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 985 yards, 89.5 receiving yards per game, 5 TD), Lucas Beddow (OL, So., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014), Myles Burton (RB, Sr., 431 yards, 95 rushes, 35.4 rushing yards per game, 2 TD), Hayden Gavett (QB, Jr., 42-85, 561 yards, 3 TD), Aubrey Reed (WR, Sr., 9 catches, 96 receiving yards), Nyle Amelita (OL, Sr.), Jake Hardcastle (OL, Sr.).

**Top Defensive Returners:** Robert Metz (LB, Sr., Honorable Mention All-GNAC in 2014, 91 tackles, 4.5 TFL, 1 sack), Trevor Oakley (LB, Jr., 58 tackles, 5.0 TFL, 2 sacks), Jacob Witham (DB, Jr., 29 tackles, 4 INT), Colton Olson (DB, So., 33 tackles).

**Top Returning Special Teams:** Aubrey Reed (KR, 23 returns, 22.8 avg., 1 TD), Nate Stephens (PR, 10 returns, 3.7 avg.), Alex Giordani (K, 6-8 FG, 25-30 PAT).

**Key Losses:** Ben Longshore (QB), Antonio Morton (WR), Conor Sklarsky (WR), Brock Johnson (WR), Dalton Groskreutz (WR), Jake Miller (DL), KJ Boyer (DL), Pauli Latu (DL), Saula Taufua (DL), Garland Munns (LB), Zac Christian (DB), Aeryus Holloway (DB).

**Key Newcomers:** Trevor Rea (QB, 6-5, 215, Fr., Plano, Ill.), Blake Barney (QB, 6-0, 185, Fr., St. George, Utah - Dixie), DeJon Coleman (RB, 5-9, 186, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif. - Arleta HS), Demarrio Hammonds (WR, 5-11, 175, Fr., Oakland, Calif. - Patterson), James Lautogia (DL, 6-2, 3-15, Jr., Tacoma, Wash. - Washington HS), Renno Sagapolu (DL, 6-1, 290, Jr., Honolulu, Hawaii - Farrington HS), Safari Bolden (LB, Jr.), Corey Stens (K, 6-0, 175, Jr., Corona, Calif. - Santiago HS).

### HUMBOLDT STATE

**Head Coach:** Rob Smith (Washington, 1981, 147-97-1, 25th Season, 7th at Humboldt State)

**Assistant Coaches:** Eric Tripp (Assistant head Coach/Offensive Coordinator), Miles Kochevar (Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs), Patrick Walsh (Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line), Seth Damron (Special Teams Coordinator/Linebackers), Adam Archibeque (Defensive Line), Mitch Jones (Running Backs)

**2014 Overall Record:** 8-2 **GNAC Record (Finish):** 4-2 (Tie 2nd)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 31

**Starters Returning:** 14 (8 Offense, 6 Defense)

**Starters Lost:** 10 (3 Offense, 5 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

**Basic Offense:** Multiple

**Basic Defense:** 4-3

**Top Offensive Returners:** Alex Cappa (OL, Fr., GNAC Offensive Lineman of the Year & First Team All-GNAC in 2014), Chase Krivashei (WR, Jr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 63 catches, 633 receiving yards, 6 TD), Ja'Quan Gardner (RB, So., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 88 rushes, 607 yards, 8 TD), Robert Webber (QB, So., GNAC Co-Freshman of the Year in 2014, 170-284, 2,208 yards, 22 TD, 145.8 pass efficiency).

**Top Defensive Returners:** Anthony Ezirm (DL, Sr., 31 tackles, 6.5 sacks), Codey Heiderbrecht (DL, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 35 tackles, 7.5 sacks, 3 forced fumbles), Cameron Buell (LB, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 50 tackles), Dillon Huffman (DL, Sr., Honorable Mention All-GNAC in 2014, 20 tackles, 4 TFL), Nick Sharpe (DB, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 26 tackles, 4 INT).

**Key Losses:** Nick Riccardulli (RB), Cass White (WR), Mick Johnson (OL), Alex Markarian (DL), Silas Sarvinski (DL), Jeremiah Maluia (DB), Travis Hansen (LB), Jamal Jones (DB), Chris Campbell (K/P).

**Key Newcomers:** Maquise Deadwiler (WR, 5-11, 185, Sr., San Diego, Calif. - Southwestern JC), Drew Dubois (LB, 6-1, 215, Jr., Broward County, Fla. - Feather Riber JC), Chris Hannible (DB, 6-0, 190, Jr., Bakersfield, Calif. - Bakersfield JC), Darrien Hamberry (DT, 6-3, 225, Jr., Milpitas, Calif. - Foothill JC), Connor Cox (LB, 6-3, 220, Fr., Arcata, Calif. - Arcata), Alex Elterman (P/K, 6-3, 200, Jr., Templeton, Calif. - Monterey Peninsula CC).

## GNAC Football Teams At A Glance

### SIMON FRASER

**Head Coach:** Kelly Bates (Saskatchewan, 2001, 1st Season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Joe Paopao (Offensive Coordinator), Dennis Kelly (Assoc. Offensive Coordinator), Jaime Hill (Defensive Coordinator), Tom Kudaba (Defensive Line), Bryan Wyllie (Special Teams/Defensive Line), Michael Lionello (Running Backs), Travis Hayes (Defensive Backs), Jon Klyne (Receivers), Keenan North (Graduate Assistant)

**2014 Overall Record:** 2-9 **GNAC Record (Finish):** 1-5 (5th)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 27 (13 Offense, 11 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

**Starters Returning:** 19 (9 Offense, 7 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

**Starters Lost:** 12 (4 Offense, 7 Defense, 1 Special Teams)

**Basic Offense:** Pro Style **Basic Defense:** 4-3

**Top Offensive Returners:** Ryan Stanford (QB, Sr., 212-381, 2,351 yards, 17 TD, 1 rushing TD), Michael Couture (OL, Sr., First Team All-GNAC in 2014), Felix Gacusana (OL, Jr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014).

**Top Defensive Returners:** Jordan Herdman (LB, Jr., GNAC Defensive Player of the Year in 2014, 165 tackles, 15 tackles per game), Jamie Puffer (DL, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 42 tackles, 5 sacks), Quinn Horton (DL, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014 38 tackles, 2.5 sacks, 3.5 TFL)

**Top Returning Special Teams:** Earl Anderson (KR/PR, Sr., 19.7 yards per kick return, 13.7 yards per punt return), Nikolai Karpun (P, Sr., 60 punts, 40 yards per punt), Tiernan Docherty (K, Sr., 10/15 FG, long of 43 yards).

**Key Losses:** Matt Isherwood (DB), Chris Tolbert (DB), Mitchell Barnett (LB), Kristian Lawrence (DL), Lemary Durant (WR), Bobby Popischil (WR), Steve Spagnuolo (RB), Jamal Kett (WR).

**Key Newcomers:** J.J. DesLauriers (WR, 5-11, 160, Fr., Burnaby, B.C.), Nathan Kyaeme (RB, 5-11, 190, Fr., Markham, Ont.), Kyle Nelson (OL, 6-2, 250, Fr., Surrey, B.C.), Will Kinnaird (OL, 6-5, 280, Fr., Port Coquitlam, B.C.), Shaquille Naicker (DL, 6-2, 260, Fr., Coquitlam, B.C.), Ovie Odjegba (RB, 5-10, 170, Fr., Vancouver, B.C.).

### SOUTH DAKOTA MINES

**Head Coach:** Stacy Collins (Western Oregon, 1998, 10-23, 4th Season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Zach Tinker (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks/Running Backs), George Booker (Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line), Taylor Breitszan (Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs), Ken Ackerman (Offensive Line).

**2014 Overall Record:** 2-9 **GNAC Record (Finish):** 1-5 (6th)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 33

**Starters Returning:** 21 (9 Offense, 8 Defense, 4 Special Teams)

**Starters Lost:** 7 (2 Offense, 3 Defensive, 2 Special Teams)

**Basic Offense:** Spread **Basic Defense:** 4-3

**Top Offensive Returners:** Trent McKinney (QB, Sr. First Team All-GNAC in 2014, 2,974 passing yards, 692 rushing yards, 9 TD, 270.4 passing yards game); Kevin Thompson (RB, Sr., Honorable Mention All-GNAC in 2014, 688 rushing yards, 76.4 rushing yards per game, 8 TD); Elijah Balavitch (TE, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 63 receiving yards).

**Top Defensive Returners:** Kyle Hudson (DL, Sr., 30 tackles, 8 TFL, 3 sacks, 1 forced fumble); Christian Chavez (DL, Sr., 32 tackles, 10 TFL, 5 sacks, 1 forced fumble), John Tyler (DB, Sr., 42 Tackles, 3 INTs, 1 fumble recovery).

**Top Returning Special Teams:** Rashad Ridley (KR, Sr., 17 returns, 21.0 yards per return); Daniel Ziegler (PR, So., 5 returns, 9.8 yards per return).

**Key Losses:** Jay Lata (LB); Jake Hepp (LB), Tim Crenshaw (WR); Josh Hastreiter (OL); Reece Buckles (OL) Amir Salah (DE)

**Key Newcomers:** Marshall Gleason (K, 5-11, 185, Jr., Rapid City, S.D. – Santa Ana); Bo Kaimulua (OLB, 5-10, 215, Jr., San Diego, Calif. - SDMA), Troy Kurtz (LB, 5-11, 225, Jr., Anaheim, Calif. – Santa Ana CC), Paul Vinke (OL, 6-5, 300, Jr., Ferndale, Wash. – Glendale CC).

## GNAC Football Teams At A Glance

### WESTERN OREGON

**Head Coach:** Arne Ferguson (Western Oregon 1991, 64-44, 11th Season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Brian Harris (Offensive Coordinator), Matt Overlin (Defensive Backs/Special Teams Coordinator), Josh Manning (Offensive Line), Miguel Gonzalez (Wide Receivers), Kimo von Oelhoffen (Defensive Line), Justin Fritz (Assistant Coach), Glen Moa (Assistant Defensive Backs), Jason Slowey (Assistant Offensive Line), Bryce Peila (Assistant Coach), Andrew Faamu (Graduate Assistant), Kyle Lane (Student Assistant)

**2014 Overall Record:** 6-5    **GNAC Record (Finish):** 4-2 (Tie 2nd)

**Letterwinners Returning:** 31

**Starters Returning:** 18

**Starters Lost:** 4

**Basic Offense:** Multiple 1-Back

**Basic Defense:** 4-3

**Top Offensive Returners:** Paul Revis (WR, So., 2014 GNAC Co-Freshman of the Year & First Team All-GNAC, 67 catches, 1,149 receiving yards, 11 TD), Joe Harris (RB, Sr., Honorable Mention All-GNAC in 2014, 95 carries, 371 yards, 3 TD), Kamakana Apelu (WR, So., 39 catches, 497 receiving yards, 3 TD), Daniel Thomas (WR, Sr., 33 catches, 447 yards, 3 TD), Trey Shimabukuro (QB, Sr., 50-83, 541 yds., 3 TD, 3 INT).

**Top Defensive Returners:** Tyler Johnson (LB, So., Honorable Mention All-GNAC in 2014, 71 tackles, 7 TFL, 2 INT), Shane Kuenzi (LB, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 65 tackles, 14 TFL, 2.5 sacks), Austin Spencer (DB, Jr., 55 tackles, 4 TFL), Jonathan Breland (LB, Sr., 54 tackles, 5 TFL, 1 sack), Breeon Moreno (DB, Sr., 51 tackles, 2 TFL, 3 INT), Roger Garrett (DB, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 47 tackles, 2 TFL), George Swartzlender (DL, Sr., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 43 tackles, 8 TFL, 1.5 sacks), Danny Hankins (DB, Jr., 35 tackles, 2 INT), Dominic Akina (DB, Jr., 31 tackles, 3 TFL).

**Top Returning Special Teams:** Paul Revis (KR/PR, So., Second Team All-GNAC in 2014, 28 returns, 644 yards), Jesse Correa (K, Sr., 10/18 FG, 25/31 PAT), Alexander Bradt (P, Sr., 38.1 avg., 11 punts inside 20, 4 of 50-plus yds.).

**Key Losses:** Kraig Akins (DL), Ryan Bergman (QB), Taylor King (OL), Nathaniel Penaranda (RB), Dylan Simkins (RB), Tyrell Williams (WR).

**Key Newcomers:** Chris Adamo (DB, 5-10, 175, Fr., Bend, Ore. – Mountain View), Andy Avgi (TE, 6-6, 260, Sr., Woodburn, Ore. - Woodburn), Malik Braxton (WR, 5-11, 185, Fr., Lynnwood, Wash. - Meadowdale), Austin Brisbee (QB, 6-4, 170, Fr., Portland, Ore. - Westview), Ty Currie (QB, 6-2, 195, Fr., Grenada, Calif. - Yreka), Shawn Munro (LB, 6-1, 220, Fr., Bothell, Wash. - Bothell).