



# PURCHASE COLLEGE – SUNY MEN'S BASKETBALL NEWS

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## Panthers Nationally Ranked in Pre-Season Poll

Purchase, NY (Oct. 6, 2010) – Fresh off their first trip to the NCAA DIII Tournament last winter, Purchase College men's basketball has been ranked nationally in the first pre-season poll of the new season. The Panthers have been tabbed No. 23, according to DIII News.

The men's hoops team went 20-9 overall in 2009-10, including a 14-6 mark in Skyline Conference play. The Panthers then swept the league tournament, downing No. 1 Old Westbury to win the title. Purchase then pushed perennial tournament "Sweet 16" contender Mt. St. Mary of Maryland in the first round of March Madness before falling to MSM. MSM, which is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the newest poll, later advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season.

No banner season would be complete without the honors that follow. **Marvin Billups** was named Skyline Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Year, while fellow co-captain **Corey Orgias** garnered an All-Skyline 2nd Team selection. Billups was later named to D3Hoops.com All-Atlantic 1st Team, and head coach **Jeff Charney** was named D3Hoops All-Atlantic Coach of the Year. Billups was also later named to the All-Met team and Charney took home his second coach of the year honor from the Met writers.

The Panthers, which return their entire starting lineup from a year ago, are expected to top the Skyline Conference pre-season poll when it released later this month.

As for the latest DIII poll, reigning national champion Wisconsin-Stevens Points sits atop, while Illinois Wesleyan is second, Eastern Mennonite third, Carthage fourth and Williams fifth. The complete poll is listed below.

1. Wisconsin-Stevens Point
2. Illinois-Wesleyan
3. Eastern Mennonite
4. Carthage
5. Williams
6. Randolph-Macon
7. Franklin & Marshall
8. Wooster
9. St. Thomas
10. Washington (Mo.)
11. Rhode Island College
12. St. Mary's (Md.)
13. Guilford
14. Hope
15. Whitworth
16. St. Norbert
17. Texas-Dallas
18. MIT
19. SUNYIT
20. John Carroll
21. Plattsburgh State
22. Anderson
- 23. Purchase, SUNY**
24. Middlebury
25. Merchant Marine

DIII News is published by GSR Communications, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary season of covering small college basketball.

**-Bobby Ciafardini, SID**