



# 2008 Missouri Valley Conference Men's Soccer

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## 2008 MVC Men's Soccer All-Conference Teams Announced

St. Louis -- Creighton, the nation's second-ranked team and Missouri Valley Conference regular-season champion, have claimed the league's top individual honors, with senior midfielder Andrei Gotsmanov being named MVC Player of the Year and junior defender Chris Schuler taking the league's Defensive Player of the Year honors. The Bluejays' pair headlines a list of 25 student-athletes named to the 2008 MVC All-Conference teams, selected by the coaches, which were announced by the league office Thursday. The all-conference teams will be recognized at an awards luncheon on Friday in Evansville, Ind.

A Missouri Athletic Club Hermann Trophy candidate, Gotsmanov helped Creighton to its third-straight MVC regular-season championship and the No. 1 seed in this week's State Farm MVC Tournament. The Bluejays posted a 4-0-1 conference record to earn their first outright regular-season title since 2003. Along with MVC regular-season runner-up Drake, the league's top-two finishers combined to place 12 athletes on the first- and second-team all-conference squads. The Bulldogs placed a combined seven players on the first- and second-teams, the most in the league and the most in school history. Missouri State, the tournament's No. 3 seed, was the only other school to place multiple players on the all-conference first-team with two players honored.

Gotsmanov is the ninth player in Creighton history to win the league's top honor, joining the likes of three-time All-American Brian Kamler and Hermann Trophy winner Johnny Torres. The midfielder is tied for the league lead with nine goals, including three game-winning goals, and paced a Bluejay attack that netted 28 goals in 15 matches. He has accounted for nearly a point and a half per game, second in the conference.

Schuler has been the anchor of one of the nation's best defensive units, serving as a center back for a side that has allowed just seven goals in 15 matches – the second-best goals against average (0.45) in NCAA Division I. The Bluejays' defense has posted 11 shutouts, equaling the second-most in any single season in Missouri Valley Conference history. Just four teams have been able to score against the CU defense, a shutout percentage of nearly 75 percent – also second-best in the nation. He is the seventh Creighton player to win the conference's Defensive Player of the Year award and eighth award winner overall (Matt Allen won two DPOY awards – 2006, 2007).

The Valley's Freshman of the Year, goalkeeper Brian Holt, is the final man in the tight Creighton defense. In nearly 1,300 minutes of action, Holt has allowed 0.49 goals against, a number that puts him seventh in the country and has helped him to shutouts against then No. 5 California, No. 11 Saint Louis and No. 24 Drake. Holt is the fourth CU player to win the league's honor for the top newcomer. The award was a Newcomer of the Year award from 1991-95 and Freshman of the Year from 1996-present.

Creighton's coaching staff has earned the MVC's Coaching Staff of the Year honor, the first coaching honor for the school since the 1996 season. Prior to 2006, the award had been named "Coach of the Year." Overall, the award is the fourth for Creighton as Bob Warming earned back-to-back MVC Coach of the Year honors in 1992 and 1993 and Bret Simon shared the award in 1996. Currently the second-ranked team in the NSCAA and Soccer America polls, Creighton began the season in the top-10 and has never fallen lower than 12th. In fact, over the past six weeks, the Bluejays have been ranked in the top three in every major college soccer poll.

Drake is the winner of the Valley's Fair Play Award, which is structured after the FIFA Fair Play honor. It's given to the Valley squad that has the fewest penalty cards during conference play. The Bulldogs have had an historic season of their own, winning a school-record 14 matches, holding a national ranking in nine-consecutive weeks and equaling their highest regular-season finish (2nd) and are the No. 2 seed at the State Farm MVC Tournament.

## 2008 MVC Men's Soccer All-Conference Teams

### First-Team

Name	School	Pos.	Yr.	Hometown (High School)
Alex Riggs	Missouri State	GK	So.	St. Peters, Mo. (Fort Zumwalt South)
Grant Campbell	Bradley	D	Jr.	Littleton, Colo. (Chatfield)
Julien Edwards	Drake	D	Jr.	Ottawa, Ontario (De La Salle)
*Chris Schuler	Creighton	D	Jr.	Aurora, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley)
#Seth Sinovic	Creighton	D	Sr.	Leawood, Kan. (Rockhurst)
#Andrei Gotsmanov	Creighton	M	Sr.	Eagan, Minn. (Woodbury)
^Matt Kuhn	Drake	M	So.	Raytown, Mo. (South)
Ryan Moylan	Drake	M	Sr.	Wauwatosa, Wis. (East)
Kevin Shrout	Drake	M	Jr.	Lee's Summitt, Mo. (Lee's Summitt)
Justin Alford	Missouri State	F	Sr.	Poplar Bluff, Mo. (Poplar Bluff)
^Mike Luttrull	Evansville	F	So.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Avon)
*Brad Peters	Eastern Illinois	F	Sr.	St. Peters, Mo. (St. Dominic)
Jeff Thayer	Creighton	F	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
*Garrett Webb	Drake	F	Jr.	Prairie Village, Kan. (Shawnee Mission East)

\*Repeat first-team selection; #Second-team in 2007; ^All-Freshman team in 2007

### Second-Team

Name	School	Pos.	Yr.	Hometown (High School)
Michael Drozd	Drake	GK	So.	Hartwood Heights, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
Johannes Demarzi	Missouri State	D	Jr.	Carmichael, Calif. (Sacramento Waldorf)
Reggie Edu	Evansville	D	Jr.	Fontana, Calif. (Etiwanda)
Travis English	Bradley	D	Jr.	Tuscon, Ariz. (Catalina Foothills)
Kipp Erskine	Evansville	D	Sr.	Raleigh, N. C. (Wakefield)
^Sergio Castillo	Creighton	M	So.	Escondido, Calif. (Orange Glen)
#Luke Gorczyca	Drake	M	Jr.	Overland Park, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas)
#^Robby Lynch	Evansville	M	So.	Carmel, Ind. (Carmel)
Richie Menjivar	Evansville	M	Fr.	North Hills, Calif. (James Monroe)
Chris Cutshaw	Bradley	F	Jr.	Carmel, Ind. (Carmel)
Tom Irvin	Evansville	F	So.	Collinsville, Ill. (St. Louis University High)

#Second-team in 2007; ^All-freshman in 2007

**Honorable Mention:** Alec Dufty, Evansville, GK; Brian Holt, Creighton, GK; Calvin Clark, Drake, D; Nick Foster, Drake, D; Adam Gartner, Eastern Illinois, D; Alex Harrison, Eastern Illinois, F

### All-Freshman

Name	School	Pos.	Hometown (High School)
Brian Holt	Creighton	GK	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
Gerard Barbero	Missouri State	M	Marietta, Ga. (Lassiter)
Ryan Child	Eastern Illinois	M	Frome, England (Frome)
Ethan Finlay	Creighton	M	Marshfield, Wis. (Marshfield)
Bryan Gaul	Bradley	M	Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)
Greg Jordan	Creighton	M	Naperville, Ill. (Central)
Richie Menjivar	Evansville	M	North Hills, Calif. (James Monroe)
Bobby Smith	Bradley	M	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart-Griffin)
Tyler Crawford	Evansville	F	Columbia, Ill. (Gibault)
Hunter Kennedy	Drake	F	Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Cedar Valley Christian)
Tad Kreamalmeyer	Evansville	F	Troy, Ill. (Collinsville Christian Academy)
Heath Melugin	Missouri State	F	Springfield, Mo. (Kickapoo)
Christian Meza	Bradley	F	Carpentersville, Ill. (Dundee-Crown)

### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Andrei Gotsmanov Creighton

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Chris Schuler Creighton

### FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Brian Holt Creighton

### COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR

Creighton (Bob Warming, Jason Mims, Johnny Torres, Paul Harvey)

### MVC FAIR PLAY AWARD

Drake