

# Western Michigan University Athletic Media Relations

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## Men's Basketball Releases Schedule

*Broncos to host six non-conference Division I opponents for the first time in 36 years.*

**KALAMAZOO** - Western Michigan men's basketball head coach Steve Hawkins has announced the 2008-09 schedule for the Broncos.

The schedule is highlighted by five non-conference Division I opponents venturing into University Arena before New Year's Day for the first time since the 1991-92 season when the Broncos finished 21-9 and advanced to the Postseason NIT for the first time in school history. With a home ESPN BracketBusters game in February, WMU will host six Division I non-conference teams for the first time since 1972-73.

"One of the things we've tried to do is respond to our fans' requests for more non-conference home games and we feel we've done that with this schedule," Hawkins said. "Overall, this schedule is balanced with home and road games and is littered with teams that have had great success in their conferences and will be projected to finish very high in their conferences again this season. Overall, this is a tough schedule that will help us achieve what a non-conference schedule should be there for and that is to help you prepare for Mid-American Conference play.

"We've been striving to get the schedule balanced and it's been difficult to do so. We had an unbalanced schedule last year to set up for this season, and from here on out we should be able to keep a fairly balanced schedule and give Bronco fans more non-conference home games," Hawkins said. "I'd like to do it a lot more regionally, but regional teams won't play us at home so we're playing more of a national schedule."

The Broncos open the season vs. TCU in Charleston, S.C., at the Charleston Classic, Nov. 14-16. The field includes a pair of 2008 NCAA Tournament teams in Clemson and Temple, in addition to 19-13 East Tennessee State, Hofstra, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and the host College of Charleston. In addition to opening with TCU, the Broncos are on the same side of the bracket with Hofstra and Clemson.

The Broncos then make their University Arena debut on Nov. 18 against Detroit, followed by another Horizon League foe, Loyola (Ill.), on Nov. 22.

The home lineup also features IUPUI, a team that went 26-7 last season, on Nov. 29, Iona on Dec. 18 and Green Bay in a return BracketBusters engagement on Dec. 30.

The road schedule is highlighted by trips to VCU on Dec. 4, UNLV on Dec. 14 and Southern Illinois on Dec. 22.

The Rams won the Colonial Athletic Association regular season championship and earned a spot in the Postseason NIT on their way to a 24-8 record last season and two years ago they won the CAA, reached the NCAA Tournament and defeated Duke in the first round.

The Runnin' Rebels went 27-8, won the Mountain West Conference Tournament and defeated Kent State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The year before, UNLV advanced to the Sweet 16.

The Salukis earned a bid to the Postseason NIT and defeated Oklahoma State in the first round before finishing 18-15. SIU also played host to ESPN's College GameDay last season as one of the nation's premier mid-major venues. The Salukis are also coming off a Sweet 16 appearance in 2007.

The Brown & Gold will also travel to Sam Houston State on Nov. 25 and Holy Cross on Dec. 6 in the beginning of home-and-home series. The Bearkats have been one of the best teams in the Southland Conference and posted a 23-8 record last season, 21-10 record in 2006-07 and 22-9 mark in 2005-06. The Crusaders are a constant favorite to win the Patriot League after making the NCAA Tournament four times in the last eight years.

The MAC schedule begins and ends with in-state rival Central Michigan as the Broncos travel to Mount Pleasant on Jan. 11 and host the Chippewas on March 8. The Broncos will host MAC East crossover opponents Buffalo (Jan. 27), Kent State (Jan. 31) and Ohio (Feb. 11) and travel to Bowling Green (Feb. 4), Akron (Feb. 8) and Miami (Feb. 14).

Once again, the MAC Tournament will be contested at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio, March 11-14.

The Broncos return three starters and eight letterwinners from last season's team that finished 20-12 overall and won the Mid-American Conference West Division with a 12-4 league record. Leading the way for the Broncos will be 2007-08 First Team All-MAC junior guard David Kool and 2006-07 Honorable Mention All-MAC senior guard Shawntes Gary.

# 2008-09 Western Michigan Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Kalamazoo College</b> <sup>Exh</sup>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<i>Nov. 14-16</i>	<i>Charleston Classic</i>	<i>Charleston, S.C.</i>	
<i>Nov. 14</i>	<i>TCU</i>		<i>12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Nov. 15</i>	<i>Clemson or Hofstra</i>		<i>5:30/8 p.m.</i>
<i>Nov. 16</i>	<i>TBA</i>		<i>TBA</i>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Detroit</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>Loyola (Ill.)</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<i>Nov. 25</i>	<i>at Sam Houston State</i>	<i>Huntsville, Texas</i>	<i>8 p.m.</i>
<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>IUPUI</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<i>Dec. 4</i>	<i>at VCU</i>	<i>Richmond, Va.</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Dec. 6</i>	<i>at Holy Cross</i>	<i>Worcester, Mass.</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Dec. 14</i>	<i>at UNLV (Orleans Arena)</i>	<i>Las Vegas, Nev.</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>
<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Iona</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b>
<i>Dec. 22</i>	<i>at Southern Illinois</i>	<i>Carbondale, Ill.</i>	<i>8:05 p.m.</i>
<b>Dec. 30</b>	<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<i>Jan. 11</i>	<i>at Central Michigan *</i>	<i>Mount Pleasant, Mich.</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>Toledo *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>Northern Illinois *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<i>Jan. 20</i>	<i>at Ball State *</i>	<i>Muncie, Ind.</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Jan. 24</i>	<i>at Eastern Michigan *</i>	<i>Ypsilanti, Mich.</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>Buffalo *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>Kent State *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<i>Feb. 4</i>	<i>at Bowling Green *</i>	<i>Bowling Green, Ohio</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Feb. 8</i>	<i>at Akron *</i>	<i>Akron, Ohio</i>	<i>2 p.m.</i>
<b>Feb. 11</b>	<b>Ohio *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>at Miami *</i>	<i>Oxford, Ohio</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<b>Feb. 18</b>	<b>Eastern Michigan *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 21</b>	<b>ESPN BracketBusters</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>at Northern Illinois *</i>	<i>DeKalb, Ill.</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>at Toledo *</i>	<i>Toledo, Ohio</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>
<b>March 4</b>	<b>Ball State *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Central Michigan *</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, Mich.</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<i>March 11-14</i>	<i>MAC Tournament</i>	<i>Cleveland, Ohio</i>	

\*Indicates Mid-American Conference game

All times EST and subject to change

Home games in **Bold** played at University Arena