



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HUSKIES HEADING TO TORONTO

Northern Illinois To Play In International Bowl

TORONTO, ONTARIO – The Northern Illinois University Huskies have accepted an invitation to represent the Mid-American Conference at the 2010 International Bowl in Toronto. They will be facing the University of South Florida Bulls from the BIG EAST Conference on January 2, 2010 at Rogers Centre.

Led by head coach Jerry Kill in his second season at the helm, the Huskies found success in 2009 finishing second in the MAC's West Division with a record of 7-5. This included a record of 5-3 in conference play.

The upcoming International Bowl will mark Northern Illinois's fifth appearance in a bowl game. In their four previous bowl appearances they have a record of 2-2 including their most recent post-season win, a 34-21 victory over Troy State in the 2004 Silicon Valley Classic.

"This is a great time for the Huskies. It's the first time in school history that NIU will be in back-to-back bowl games, which is a huge accomplishment for our seniors and another step forward for our program. We're very excited about the International Bowl and the opportunity for our players and fans to have a first-class experience in a beautiful stadium and a great city," remarked Kill. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our program versus a tremendous opponent as we know South Florida is a very good football program from a great league. It will be a great challenge."

The Huskies this season are led by junior running back Chad Spann, who was one of three Huskies to garner first team All-Mac selections. Spann fished the season with 945 yards on 159 carries and a conference high 19 touchdowns.

NIU had the top rushing offence in the MAC as the Huskies averaged 202.4 rushing yards per game. In addition, the Huskies offensive line has allowed just 14 sacks this season, the second-lowest total in the league.

International Bowl Executive Director Ken Hoffman said Coach Kill and the Huskies have to be commended for the success they have had on the field in 2009.

“With the team that Coach Kill has put on the field at Northern Illinois in 2009, their success is something that they can be proud of, we are excited to welcome them to the International Bowl,” Hoffman noted.

The 2010 International Bowl will be broadcast in the U.S. on ESPN2 and in Canada on The Score.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BOWL:

The International Bowl is the only NCAA Division I football game played outside the U.S. The fourth annual International Bowl will be played on Saturday, January 2, 2010 at Rogers Centre with a noon kick-off. Tickets are now on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at Ticketmaster.ca or by calling 416-872-5000.

For further information, including media credential requests, please visit the official International Bowl website at www.internationalbowl.org.

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