



# NATIONAL TENPINS COACHES ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release

December 23, 2008

## COMMODORES BACK ON TOP OF NTCA NATIONAL POLL

**HACKENSACK, NJ – Vanderbilt University** of Nashville, TN, winner of all three events it has entered this season, was ranked as the No. 1 team by the National Tenpins Coaches Association's second national poll of the season. The NTCA, the coaches association of NCAA bowling, has scheduled five national polls during the 2008-09 NCAA season.

The **VU Commodores** (36-5), who own a nation leading 0.878 match winning percentage, have won their last 16 straight matches during their string of tournament victories. **Vanderbilt**, which received 18 out of a possible 20 first place votes, won championships at the 12-team FDU Fright Knight Invite in Elmwood Park, NJ; the 20-team UMES Hawk Classic in Millsboro, DE; and the 19-team St. Paul's Invitational in Richmond, VA since the start of the season.

The **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** was ranked second by the NTCA membership. The **Huskers** have topped the final standings at all three events they have entered, as well. **Nebraska** (30-9, 0.769) was first at the five-team UWW Warhawk Classic in Fort Atkinson, WI; the nine-team MSU Maverick Challenge in Chicago, IL; and the nine-team JSU Capital City Classic in Jackson, MS.

Moving up four notches to the No. 3 ranking was **Fairleigh Dickinson University** of Teaneck, NJ. The **Knights** have won their last 19 matches, improving their season mark to 41-7 (0.854). **FDU**, which owns a share of first place in the Northeast Conference standings, finished second at the Fright Knight Invite, fifth at the Hawks Classic, and fourth at the St. Paul's Invitational this Fall.

Making a bigger climb up the poll was **Delaware State University**. The **Hornets** flew up five spots and landed on an all-time program-best No. 4 ranking. **DSU** (46-15, 0.754) is tied for first place in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, and ended in third place at the Fright Knight Invite and fourth place in the Hawk Classic during their 2008-09 campaign.

The **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** of Princess Anne, MD, the 2008 NCAA National Champions, slipped to the No. 5 ranking. **UMES** (46-15, 0.754) struggled out of the starting gate, losing eight of their first 14 matches and a finished in sixth place at the Fright Knight Invite. However, since then, the **Hawks** have turned it around, going 40-7, including 20 wins out of their last 21 matches, a fourth place finish at the Hawks Classic, and a share of the lead in the MEAC.

Ranked sixth was **Arkansas State University** of Jonesboro, AR. The **Red Wolves** (27-10, 0.730) have captured a second place trophy at the Capital City Classic and a third place trophy at the Maverick Challenge since the last poll. **New Jersey City University** of Jersey City, NJ was ranked seventh. The **Gothic Knights** (30-12, 0.714) have a pair of third place conclusions, one at the Fright Knight Invite and the other at St. Paul's Invitational. Ranked eighth was **Kutztown University** of Kutztown, PA. The **Golden Bears** (31-11, 0.738) experienced the biggest improvement in the poll, climbing eight places after a second place finish at the Hawk Classic and maintaining a first place tie in the NEC. The **University of Central Missouri** of Warrensburg, MO were ranked ninth. The **Jennies** (27-14, 0.659) closed out the Fall semester with a strong performance at the St. Paul's Invitational, finishing in second place. **Alabama A&M University** of Huntsville, AL rounds out the top ten. The **Bulldogs** (26-12, 0.684) are first in the South West Athletic Conference Eastern Division, finished second in the 10-team SWAC Round-up, and ended in third at the Capital City Classic.



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## 2008-09 NTCA DECEMBER NATIONAL POLL

Rank	Institution, City, State	Season Record	1st Place	Total	Previously
		W - L - T	Votes	Points	Ranked
1.	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN	36 - 5 - 0	18	573	2
2.	University of Nebraska - Lincoln, NE	30 - 9 - 0	2	509	3
3.	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ	41 - 7 - 0		488	7
4.	Delaware State University, Dover, DE	46 - 15 - 0		422	9
5.	Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD	46 - 15 - 0		384	1
6.	Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR	27 - 10 - 0		376	5
7.	New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ	30 - 12 - 0		340	8
8.	Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA	31 - 11 - 0		327	16
9.	University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO	27 - 14 - 0		278	4
10.	Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, AL	26 - 12 - 0		205	11
11.	Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT	23 - 14 - 0		192	6
12.	Minnesota State University - Mankato, MN	16 - 8 - 0		190	10
13.	Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA	37 - 19 - 0		149	12
14.	Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL	23 - 13 - 0		101	20
15.	University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, WI	20 - 18 - 0		98	15
16.	Adelphi University, Garden City, NY	25 - 23 - 0		95	13
17.	Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD	35 - 26 - 0		86	NR
18.	Jackson State University, Jackson, MS	20 - 20 - 0		38	14
19.	St. Francis College, Brooklyn Heights, NY	27 - 26 - 0		35	19
20.	Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC	15 - 8 - 0		24	18

### Also receiving votes:

Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL; St. Peter's College, Jersey City, NJ; Bowie State University, Bowie, MD; Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA; Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX; Louisiana Tech, Ruston, LA; North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC; Texas Southern, Houston, TX; Grambling State University, Grambling, AL; Hampton University, Hampton, VA.

### Point system:

NTCA voters rank the top 20 teams on their ballot. Each position has a designated point value, ranging from 32 points for first place and one point for twentieth place. Teams are ranked using total points standings, after the highest and lowest votes for every team are dropped. The specific point values follow:

**1st place = 32 points, 2nd = 29, 3rd = 27, 4th = 25, 5th = 23, 6th = 21, 7th = 19, 8th = 17, 9th = 15, 10th = 13, 11th = 11, 12th = 9, 13th = 8, 14th = 7, 15th = 6, 16th = 5, 17th = 4, 18th = 3, 19th = 2, 20th = 1.**

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