



# National Tenpin Coaches Association

## 2023-2024 December Coaches Poll

### JACKSONVILLE STATE TOPS NTCA FALL POLL

*December 7, 2023* --- There was considerable turbulence in the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) December polling. The nation's head coaches appeared to draw significantly different opinions from their preseason judgment after watching the fall collegiate bowling season unfold.

Jacksonville State soared from its preseason rank of No. 7 into the top spot. The veteran Gamecocks, 33-6 flew under the preseason radar in their first year of competition. But championships in challenging fields at the MOTIV Ladyjack Classic and Hawk Classic and a second place finish at Destination Orlando showed everyone that Jacksonville State is a force to be reckoned with. Jax State earned 43 of the 50 first-place votes in the poll.

Vanderbilt, 39-14 and the preseason No. 1, dropped into second after winning the Warhawk Classic, finishing second at the MOTIV Ladyjack Classic and scoring a pair of third places at Destination Orlando and the Hawk Classic. The Commodores collected six first-place votes.

Youngstown State was one of the big climbers from the preseason poll, jumping from sixth to third after winning Destination Orlando and notching impressive second place finishes at the Penguin Classic and Hawk Classic. The Penguins picked up the remaining first-place vote.

Louisiana Tech was also a big mover, gliding into fourth place after sitting in tenth at the beginning of the year. The Bulldogs won the SWIBC I & II and the Track Kat Klash, were second at the Colonial Lanes Classic and fourth at the Hawk Classic.

North Carolina A & T dropped to fifth place after compiling a 37-10 record, followed by Arkansas State, which fell from its preseason No. 2 position. Nebraska was seventh, down from No. 3, while Duquesne rose from 11<sup>th</sup> to eighth. Stephen F. Austin dropped to ninth and Maryville closed out the Top 10.

Sam Houston leads off the second 10, with Tulane, Merrimack and Maryland-Eastern Shore and Mount St. Mary's in 15<sup>th</sup>. Wisconsin-Whitewater, Sacred Heart, Newman, Valparaiso and Oklahoma Christian – making its poll debut – closing out the top 20.

McKendree, Kutztown, Central Missouri, Delaware State and Fairleigh Dickinson complete the Top 25.

*-rankings on next page-*



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Rank	School, Location, Conference Affiliation	1st Place Votes	Point Total	Pre-Season Ranking
1	Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL (CUSA)	43	1933	7
2	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (CUSA)	6	1800	1
3	Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH (CUSA)	1	1645	6
4	Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA (CUSA)		1561	10
5	North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC (MEAC)		1513	4
6	Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR (CUSA)		1499	2
7	University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE (INDEPENDENT)		1319	3
8	Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (NEC)		1101	11
9	Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX (CUSA)		1091	5
10	Maryville University, St. Louis, MO (GLVC)		1050	9
11	Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX (CUSA)		750	8
12	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (CUSA)		745	22
13	Merrimack College, North Andover, MA (NEC)		715	24
14	University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD (MEAC)		677	12
15	Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD (INDEPENDENT)		670	18
16	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI (INDEPENDENT)		486	20
17	Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT (NEC)		461	17
18	Newman University, Wichita, KS (GLVC)		316	13
19	Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN (CUSA)		267	NR
20	Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, OK (INDEPENDENT)		217	31
21	McKendree University, Lebanon, IL (GLVC)		203	14
22	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, PA (ECC)		185	NR
23	University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO (GLVC)		154	19
24	Delaware State University, Dover, DE (MEAC)		119	23
25	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ (NEC)		98	15

**Rankings Continued:** Niagara University (26), Felician University (27), Mercyhurst University (28), Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania) (29), Saint Vincent College (30).

*Point system: NTCA submitted ballots rank the top twenty-five programs in the sport of NCAA bowling. Each position has a designated point value, ranging from forty points for first place and one point for twenty-fifth place. To be ranked teams need to equal or surpass the minimum vote criteria, which is one vote for every eight ballots submitted. The actual ranking position is determined by using the adjusted point standings, which lists in priority order the total points a school has accumulated after the highest and lowest votes are dropped.*

*The specific point values follow: 1st place = 40 points, 2nd =37, 3rd =35, 4th =33, 5th =31, 6th =29, 7th =27, 8th =25, 9th =23, 10th =21, 11th =19, 12th =17, 13th =15, 14th =13, 15th =11, 16th =10, 17th =9, 18th =8, 19th =7, 20th =6, 21st =5, 22nd =4, 23rd =3, 24th =2, 25th =1.*