



National Tenpin Coaches Association 2023-2024 Pre-Season Coaches Poll

Vanderbilt Tops NTCA Pre-Season Poll

October 1, 2023 --- Defending national champion Vanderbilt tops the preseason National Tenpin Coaches Association poll of the nation's NCAA head coaches.

The Commodores garnered 51 of the 56 first-place votes to outpace second place Arkansas State, which earned three first-place votes, by 208 poll points. The two Conference USA rivals met in last April's NCAA championship match.

Vanderbilt returns an experienced, veteran lineup although it graduated 2023 Player of the Year Mabel Cummins. The Commodores deep roster includes seniors Caroline Thesier, Jennifer Loreda and Amanda Naujokas along with two-time All-American Paige Peters and talented sophomores Victoria Varano and Alyssa Ballard, last year's Southland Freshman of the Year.

Arkansas State returns its entire starting lineup that finished last season on a major roll. The Red Wolves won the Southland Bowling League title and the NCAA Regional before falling to Vanderbilt in the national finals. Brooklyn Buchanan, Faith Welch and Maggie Thoma headline the powerful rotation.

Nebraska was third in the poll. It returns Jillian Martin, one of just two returning NTCA first-team All-Americans and 2023's national Rookie of the Year. The Huskers experienced some graduation losses but also return veterans Kayla Verstraete and Alexis Buchert.

Traditional bowling powers North Carolina A & T and Stephen F. Austin round out the preseason's top five-point getters.

The Aggies, which ranked as high as No. 2 last season, return a pair of honorable mention All-Americans in Lauren Tomaszewski and Melanie Katen, a two-time MEAC Player of the Year.

The Ladyjacks lost a pair of first-team All-Americans in Carlene Beyer and Chloe Skurzynski but return Brystal Beyer, an NTCA Rookie second-team pick a year ago.

Youngstown State, one of six members of the newly transitioned Conference USA, held down sixth place, while Jacksonville State was close behind in voting in seventh receiving two first-place votes.

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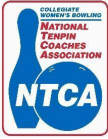
JSU will be in its first season under veteran coaches Shannon and Brian O'Keefe, who previously directed McKendree to a pair of national titles. While JSU will be fielding its first team ever, the lineup is loaded with former NTCA Player of the Year Crystal Elliott, second-team All-Americans Maranda Pattison and Isabel Allen and third-team All-American Rebecca Hagerman.

Sam Houston State, another former NCAA champion program, was eighth in voting followed by Maryville, who was noted No. 1 in the Division II/III poll, and Louisiana Tech.

Duquesne, Maryland-Eastern Shore, Newman, McKendree, Fairleigh Dickinson were placed 11-15 with Mercyhurst, Sacred Heart, Mount St. Mary's, Central Missouri, and Wisconsin-Whitewater completing the Top 20.

Lincoln Memorial, Tulane, Delaware State, Merrimack, and Morgan State round out the Top 25.

The NCAA season officially opens October 1 and will conclude April 13 in Detroit with the national championship match.



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Rank	School, Location, Conference Affiliation	First Place	Point	Regular	Final
		Votes	Total	Season Record ('22-'23) (RPI)	Season Ranking ('22-'23)
1	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (C-USA)	51	2148	94-29-0 (.638)	1
2	Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR (C-USA)	3	1940	78-29-0 (.634)	2
3	University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE (INDEPENDENT)		1846	80-37-0 (.633)	4
4	North Carolina A&T, Greensboro, NC (MEAC)		1584	89-32-0 (.622)	6
5	Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX (C-USA)		1564	81-38-0 (.625)	5
6	Youngstown State, Youngstown, OH (C-USA)		1424	80-41-0 (.616)	7
7	Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL (C-USA)	2	1406	N/A	N/A
8	Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX (C-USA)		1311	78-45-0 (.608)	9
9	Maryville University, St. Louis, MO (GLVC)		1269	94-41-0 (.610)	8
10	Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA (C-USA)		1216	77-43-0 (.599)	10
11	Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (NEC)		940	69-30-0 (.598)	12
12	Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD (MEAC)		896	75-44-0 (.597)	11
13	Newman University, Wichita, KS (GLVC)		826	71-34-0 (.597)	13
14	McKendree University, Lebanon, IL (GLVC)		622	100-17-0 (.665)	3
15	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ (NEC)		592	79-40-0 (.591)	15
16	Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA (ECC)		455	83-38-0 (.590)	14
17	Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT (NEC)		454	59-38-0 (.578)	17
18	Mount St. Mary's Univ., Emmitsburg, MD (INDEPENDENT)		442	80-48-0 (.579)	20
19	University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO (GLVC)		382	72-48-0 (.577)	19
20	University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, WI (INDEPENDENT)		377	64-47-0 (.571)	18
21	Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN (ECC)		355	64-42-0 (.579)	16
22	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (C-USA)		271	71-49-0 (.566)	22
23	Delaware State University, Dover, DE (MEAC)		239	53-31-0 (.576)	23
24	Merrimack College, North Andover, MA (NEC)		110	51-28-0 (.561)	25
25	Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD (MEAC)		105	54-41-0 (.566)	24

Rankings Continued: Lewis University (26), Monmouth University (27), Niagara University (28), Fayetteville State University (29), St. Francis University, PA (30), Oklahoma Christian University (31), Saint Vincent College (32), Daemen University (33), Alabama State University (34), and University of Alabama Birmingham (35).

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.