

Sioux Falls (S.D.) sits No. 1 for fourth straight ranking

Sept. 14, 2009

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – For the fourth straight time and 33rd overall occurrence this decade, the University of Sioux Falls (S.D.) is No. 1 in the first regular season NAIA Football Top 25 Coaches' Poll, the NAIA announced today (Sept. 14). With a 2-0 overall record, Sioux Falls earned 444 total points and 18 of the possible 19 first-place votes. The Cougars have outscored their opponents 120-6 this year and the offense has averaged 474 yards in two games. Sioux Falls puts its nation-best 16-game winning streak on the line against No. 19 Hastings (Neb.) this Saturday in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The 33 overall No. 1 rankings since 2000 for Sioux Falls is the second highest amount. USF continues its recent trend of success in the polls with being ranked now either No. 1 or No. 2 for the last 33 consecutive polls. Overall, Sioux Falls has been ranked in the Top 25 in the last 106 straight polls.

Carroll (Mont.) receives 427 total points and one first-place nod to earn the No. 2 spot. The Fighting Saints are 3-0 on the year and are 115-13 since 2000. This ranking extends their active streak to 107 straight weeks, which is the second longest active stretch.

The next four teams hold their spots from the Preseason Top 25 poll, No. 3 Lindenwood (Mo.), No. 4 St. Francis (Ind.), No. 5 Morningside (Iowa) and No. 6 Columbian (Ky.). All these teams are undefeated on the year and St. Francis kicked off its season this past Saturday with a home win, its 53rd straight home victory.

One of the newcomers to the poll this week, No. 21 McPherson (Kan.), is mentioned for the first time since Aug. 17, 2004 -- a span of 63 polls. Also, No. 19 Hastings (Neb.) is ranked for the first time since Oct. 1, 2007 while No. 17 Benedictine (Kan.) is ranked for the first time since Aug. 13, 2007.

The poll was voted upon by a panel of head coaches representing each of the conferences and independents. The next Top 25 Poll will be announced on Monday, Sept. 21.

For more information on NAIA football, please click [here](#).

NOTES: By being knocked out the Top 25 poll, Virginia-Wise has its streak of 30 straight rankings snapped – the Cavaliers have started the year 1-2 and had held the ninth (tie) longest active streak of being ranked... Three teams dropped out of the Top 25 poll since the last time in the Top 25 Preseason Poll (Aug. 10) – Baker (Kan.) (No. 12), Dickinson State (N.D.) (No. 15) and Virginia-Wise (No. 21)... Benedictine last was ranked No. 19 back in the 2007 Preseason Top 25 poll (Aug. 13)... No. 22 (tie) McKendree (Ill.) is in the Top 25 poll for the first time since Aug. 11, 2008 while No. 25 Nebraska Wesleyan earns a ranking for the first time since April 21, 2008 (Spring poll)... The last time a team other than Carroll (Mont.) and Sioux Falls was ranked at No. 1 was Saint Francis (Ind.) on Nov. 12, 2006 – a streak of 31 polls... Carroll has now been ranked in the Top 5 in the last 54 straight polls dating back to November, 2004... St. Francis boasts the longest consecutive stretch of being named in the Coaches' Top 25 Poll – now standing at 120 straight mentions – the last time St. Francis was not mentioned in the Top 25 was Oct. 19, 1999... After St. Francis, Carroll is the next team in line with 107 straight Top 25 rankings while Sioux Falls stands at 106 straight mentions... Since 2004 when Ohio Dominican started varsity football, the Panthers have been ranked in 36 of a possible 65 polls – those 36 polls happen to be the last 36 straight weeks, which is the eighth longest active stretch... Since 2000, Carroll has been ranked No. 1 53 times, the highest amount of any program during that time span; Sioux Falls is second with 33 mentions at No. 1 followed by Georgetown (Ky.) with 14, Northwestern Oklahoma State with 11 and St. Francis with three... Since 2000, there are seven teams that have been ranked at least one time each season – Carroll (Mont.), MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.), St. Ambrose (Iowa), St. Francis (Ind.), St. Xavier (Ill.), Sioux Falls (S.D.)... There are 76 schools that have been ranked at least once in the Top 25 since 2000, of that group of schools, six no longer sponsor NAIA football.



With a 2-0 start, No. 17 Benedictine (Kan.) is in the poll for the first time since Aug. 13, 2007

2009 NAIA Football Top 25 Coaches' Poll – (Sept. 14 – Rating #1)

RANK	LAST WEEK[^]	SCHOOL (1st PLACE VOTES)	2009 RECORD*	TOTAL POINTS
1	1	University of Sioux Falls (S.D.) (18)	2-0	444
2	2	Carroll College (Mont.) (1)	3-0	427
3	3	Lindenwood University (Mo.)	2-0	406
4	4	University of Saint Francis (Ind.)	1-0	397
5	5	Morningside College (Iowa)	2-0	376
6	6	University of the Cumberlands (Ky.)	2-0	359
7	8	MidAmerica Nazarene University (Kan.)	2-0	336
8	7	Langston University (Okla.)	1-1	290
9	13	Saint Ambrose University (Iowa)	2-0	285
T10	10	Union College (Ky.)	1-0	281
T10	14	Lambuth University (Tenn.)	2-0	281
12	11	Shorter College (Ga.)	1-1	262
13	16	Missouri Valley College	2-0	256
14	17	Saint Xavier University (Ill.)	3-0	243
15	22	Ottawa University (Kan.)	2-0	189
16	18	Montana State University-Northern	2-1	155
17	RV	Benedictine College (Kan.)	2-0	130
18	9	Friends University (Kan.)	0-1	129
19	NR	Hastings College (Neb.)	3-0	126
20	20	Ohio Dominican University	1-1	123
21	NR	McPherson College (Kan.)	2-0	104
T22	23	Northwestern College (Iowa)	1-1	83
T22	RV	McKendree University (Ill.)	2-1	83
24	25	Malone University (Ohio)	1-1	29
25	RV	Nebraska Wesleyan University	1-1	27

Others receiving votes:

Sterling College (Kan.) 22; Baker University (Kan.) 18; Cumberland University (Tenn.) 14; West Virginia Institute of Technology 12; Minot State University (N.D.) 11; Dickinson State University (N.D.) 11; Georgetown College (Ky.) 8; Southern Oregon University 8; Eastern Oregon University 5; Black Hills State University (S.D.) 3; University of Virginia's College at Wise 3; Bacone College (Okla.) 1; Graceland University (Iowa) 1; Grand View University (Iowa) 1; William Penn University (Iowa) 1

[^] Ranking in 2009 preseason poll (Aug. 10)

* Record as submitted by schools and raters