

Lights picked atop the Frontier

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The Frontier Conference basketball coaches have voted and the results are in. And the coaches on the men's side have picked the Montana State University-Northern Lights to repeat as league champions in 2012.

Northern received five of the eight first-place votes in the 2011-12 Frontier Conference Men's Coaches Preseason Poll, which was released Sunday night. The Lights also received a total of 47 points in the poll.

Northern earned a share of the Frontier Conference regular season championship last spring by going 10-4 in league play. The Lights and Carroll College tied for the regular season title, then the Lights went on to beat the Saints in the championship game of the Frontier Conference Playoffs, earning the league's automatic bid to the NAIA national tournament.

The Saints finished second in the voting with 41.5 points, and they received two first-place votes. Carroll also went to the NAIA tourney a year ago. UM-Western, which finished third in the league standings a year ago was picked to finish third again this season, while Westminster College was picked to finish fourth. The Griffins also received one first-place vote.

Lewis-Clark State was picked to finish fifth on the men's side, followed by Rocky Mountain College, Great Falls and Montana Tech. UGF and Tech actually finished in a tie with 11 points apiece.

On the women's side, Lewis-Clark State received six first-place votes and 48 points overall, as the Warriors were picked by the coaches to earn the league crown this upcoming season. LC State finished second to Westminster last season, but still made the trip to the national tournament by going 11-3 in conference play and 29-5 overall.

The Griffins went 12-2 in league play and made their fourth straight trip to the NAIA tourney a year ago. In the 2011-12 Preseason Coaches Poll, the Griffins are picked second and received two first-place votes.

The MSU-Northern women were picked fifth in the poll released Sunday night. The Skylights went 4-10 in league play last season and went 13-18 overall, finishing seventh in the final regular season Frontier standings.

Carroll was picked third by the league's coaches, followed Rocky, Western, Northern, Montana Tech and UGF.



MSU-Northern's David Maddock and the 2011-12 Lights' basketball team were picked to win the Frontier Conference this season by the league's coaches. For more on the Lights and Skylights, see Page A7.

Frontier Conference Men's Preseason Basketball Poll

MSU-Northern (5)	47
Carroll College (2)	41.5
Montana Western	38.5
Westminster (1)	33

Lewis-Clark 22
Rocky Mountain 20
Great Falls 11
Montana Tech 11

**Frontier Conference
Women's
Preseason Basketball Poll**

Lewis-Clark (6) 48
Westminster (2) 44
Carroll College 33
Rocky Mountain 31
Montana Western 27
MSU-Northern 17
Montana Tech 16
Great Falls 8