

LRU Football Receives Votes In AFCA NCAA Division II Top 25 Preseason Poll

Written by LRU Sports Information
Monday, 15 August 2011 17:01

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Football Team is receiving votes in the 2011 AFCA NCAA Division II Preseason Coaches Poll. AFCA is the American Football Coaches Association. The Bears received seven total votes and are one of four conference members to receive votes in the poll.

Minnesota-Duluth, the defending national champions, opens the 2011 campaign as the preseason favorite.

Wingate, a fellow member of the South Atlantic Conference, is ranked No. 14 after coming off its first league championship last fall. The Bulldogs also had 284 total votes.

Lenoir-Rhyne (7-4 last season including a 4-3 mark in conference) returns 18 starters from a 2010 squad which put together its first winning campaign since 1994.

The other league members to receive votes are Carson-Newman (80) and Tusculum (nine).

Lenoir-Rhyne opens the 2011 season on Saturday, September 3, against Concord in Athens, W.Va., beginning at 7 p.m.

L-R's first home contest of the year takes place on Saturday, September 17, versus league-rival Carson-Newman. Kickoff at Moretz Stadium is set for 7 p.m.

**2011 AFCA NCAA Division II
Top 25 Preseason Coaches Poll**

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1. Minnesota-Duluth (28) 1
2. Delta State (Miss.) 2
3. Northwest Missouri State (1) 3
4. Abilene Christian (Texas) 8
5. Grand Valley State (Mich.) 10
6. North Alabama 22
7. Texas A&M-Kingsville 9
8. Augustana (S.D.) 6
- 9t. Albany State (Ga.) 4
- 9t. Bloomsburg (Pa.) 15
11. Shepherd (W.Va.) 7
12. California (Pa.) 14
13. St. Cloud State (Minn.) 12
14. Wingate (N.C.) 20
15. Central Missouri 5
16. Nebraska-Kearney 23
17. Mercyhurst (Pa.) 11
18. Washburn (Kan.) NR
19. West Texas A&M 18
20. Valdosta State (Ga.) 17
21. Wayne State (Mich.) 21
22. Central Washington NR
23. Kutztown (Pa.) 13
24. Henderson State (Ark.) NR
- 25t. Hillsdale (Mich.) 16
- 25t. Shaw (N.C.) NR

() indicates first-place votes
number indicates last year's final ranking

Others receiving votes: Colorado School of Mines, 87; Carson-Newman (Tenn.) 80; Missouri Western State 72; Tuskegee (Ala.) 68; West Liberty (W.Va.) 60; Sioux Falls (S.D.) 48; Colorado

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State-Pueblo 31; Michigan Tech, 31; New Haven (Conn.) 28; Ashland (Ohio) 24; Fort Valley State (Ga.) 24; Wayne State (Neb.) 17; Midwestern State (Texas) 15; Morehouse (Ga.) 14; Southern Connecticut State 14; Tusculum (Tenn.) 9; **Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.) 7**; Lincoln (Pa.) 7; Pittsburg State (Kan.) 7; West Alabama, 6; Central Oklahoma, 5; Winona State (Minn.) 4; Winston-Salem State (N.C.) 4; Ouachita Baptist (Ark.) 3; St. Augustine's (N.C.) 3; Chadron State (Neb.) 1; Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.) 1; Harding (Ark.) 1; Merrimack (Mass.) 1; Minnesota State-Mankato 1.