

Mountaineers Ranked Fifth In Coaches Poll

Written by Chandler Carver
Wednesday, 22 August 2012 10:04

The North Dakota State Bison finished the 2011 football season as the No. 1 team in the Football Championship Subdivision Coaches Poll, and will

begin their 2012 campaign in the same spot. The defending national champions received 19 of the 26 first-place votes to earn 640 points overall.

The Bison have 13 returning starters, led by All-America cornerback Marcus Williams. On offense, quarterback Brock Jensen and 1,100-yard running back Sam Ojuri highlight the returnees. The Bison finished 14-1 last season and defeated the Sam Houston State Bearkats in the 2011 NCAA Championship game.

Sam Houston State, who also finished 2011 with a 14-1 record, received six first-place votes (623 points) and will start the 2012 season where they left off, at No. 2.

Georgia Southern received one first-place vote after advancing to the national semifinals and begins the year ranked third. Montana State was tabbed fourth, while three-time champion Appalachian State rounded out the top five.

After finishing 10th last year, Old Dominion makes its first appearance in the preseason top 10 at No. 6. Northern Iowa, James Madison, Towson and Montana complete the top 10, respectively.

Ten conferences are represented in the poll. The Colonial Athletic Association has the most ranked teams with six, followed by the Missouri Valley with five teams. The Big Sky, Southern Conference and Southland all have three ranked teams. The MEAC, Ohio Valley, Big South, Patriot, and Ivy make up the remaining conferences.

The FCS Coaches Poll is based exclusively on a voting panel of head coaches in the FCS under the cooperation of the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) and is administered by the Southern Conference.

FCS Coaches Preseason Poll

Team

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(No. 1 Votes) 2011 Record Points Final Ranking

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1. North Dakota State	(19)	14-1	640	1
2. Sam Houston State	(6)	14-1	623	2
3. Georgia Southern	(1)	11-3	592	3
4. Montana State		10-3	540	7
5. Appalachian State			504	11
6. Old Dominion		10-3	470	10
7. Northern Iowa		10-3	466	5
8. James Madison		8-5	456	14
9. Towson		9-2	454	9
10. Montana		11-3	425	4
11. Lehigh		11-2	371	6
12. New Hampshire		8-4	337	12
13. Wofford		8-4	322	13
14. Delaware		7-4	294	20
15. Eastern Washington		6-5	248	NR
16. Maine		9-4	232	8
17. Stony Brook		9-4	228	16
18. Youngstown State		6-5	184	NR
19. Central Arkansas		9-4	157	15
20. Illinois State		7-4	148	22
21. Eastern Kentucky		7-5	127	21
22. Harvard		9-1	113	17
23. Norfolk State		9-3	72	NR
24. Stephen F. Austin		6-5	69	NR
25. Indiana State		6-5	66	NR

Others Receiving Votes: Jacksonville State (54); Liberty (48); Murray State (32); Jackson State (30); Bethune-Cookman (21); Tennessee Tech (20); South Carolina State (15); Florida A&M (14); Grambling State (13); William & Mary (12); North Dakota (10); Albany (9); Northern Arizona (9); Cal Poly (8); Chattanooga (7); Portland State (7); Alabama A&M (3); Idaho State (3); Cornell (2); Pennsylvania (2); Alabama State (1); McNeese State (1); San Diego (1).

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Photo Courtesy: Jamal Jackson, ASU Athletics