

Appalachian State is ranked No. 12 nationally in The Sports Network's preseason NCAA Division I FCS poll, which was announced on Tuesday. The Mountaineers' ranking is not a true indication of where prognosticators truly feel Appalachian State stacks up nationally in its final FCS season. The Sports Network's FCS executive director Craig Haley pointed out in the article that accompanied the poll's release that Appalachian's No. 12 ranking came despite some voters leaving the Apps off their ballots altogether in response to the Mountaineers' impending move to the Sun Belt Conference and NCAA Division I FBS ranks in 2014. Two-time-defending national champion North Dakota State received 127 of 134 first-place votes and is ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll. The Bison are looking to join Appalachian State (2005-07) as the only teams to ever win three-straight FCS titles. Wofford, which was picked to finish fifth in the Southern Conference by the league's coaches, comes in at No. 8 in The Sports Network poll, followed by preseason SoCon favorite Georgia Southern at No. 9. Like Appalachian, GSU was left off some voters' ballots as it embarks on its final FCS campaign before joining the Mountaineers in the Sun Belt and FBS in 2014. Chattanooga rounds out the SoCon teams in the poll at No. 24. Appalachian State's season-opening opponent, Montana, is ranked 20th. The longtime FCS powers square off on Aug. 31 in Missoula, Mont.

The Sports Network FCS Top 25 College Football Poll

1.	North Dakota State Bison (127)	14-1	3340	1
2.	Montana State Bobcats (1)	11-2	3079	5
3.	Sam Houston State Bearkats (5)	11-4	2941	2
4.	Eastern Washington Eagles	11-3	2873	4
5.	Villanova Wildcats	8-4	2334	15
6.	South Dakota State Jackrabbits	9-4	2268	14
7.	Central Arkansas Bears	9-3	2244	10
8.	Wofford Terriers	9-4	2089	7
9.	Georgia Southern Eagles (1)	10-4	2002	3
10.	New Hampshire Wildcats	8-4	1920	13
11.	Towson Tigers	7-4	1871	17
12.	Appalachian State Mountaineers	8-4	1696	9
13.	Illinois State Redbirds	9-4	1657	8
14.	Cal Poly Mustangs	9-3	1646	12
15.	Richmond Spiders	8-3	1384	18
16.	Stony Brook Seawolves	10-3	1178	11
17.	Northern Iowa Panthers	5-6	1106	NR
18.	Northern Arizona Lumberjacks	8-3	988	20
19.	James Madison Dukes	7-4	964	19
20.	Montana Grizzlies	5-6	813	NR
21.	Eastern Illinois Panthers	7-5	686	NR

ASU RANKED NO. 12 BY TSN

Written by Mike Flynn

Wednesday, 14 August 2013 06:38

22.	Lehigh Mountain Hawks	10-1	587	16
23.	Bethune-Cookman Wildcats	9-3	514	22
24.	Chattanooga Mocs	6-5	505	NR
25.	Coastal Carolina Chanticleers	8-5	489	24

Others receiving votes: Eastern Kentucky 468, Youngstown State 463, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 174, Colgate 174, Tennessee State 151, Wagner 140, Delaware 130, The Citadel 100, Indiana State 90, Penn 57, McNeese State 46, Sacramento State 44, Samford 39, Southern Illinois 39, Harvard 35, South Carolina State 32, Southeastern Louisiana 30, Tennessee-Martin 29, Stephen F. Austin 17, San Diego 15, Albany 13, Liberty 12, Bucknell 11, Grambling State 8, North Carolina Central 8, Tennessee Tech 6, Jackson State 6, Furman 4, Alabama A&M 4, Alabama State 4, Alcorn State 4, William & Mary 4, Jacksonville State 3, Missouri State 3, Weber State 2, Murray State 2, Butler 2, Elon 2, Florida A&M 2, Northwestern State 1, Duquesne 1, Drake 1.