

UGF Argonaut Volleyball Team breaks into the National Top 25 Ranking

There is something new in the recently released NAIA Top 25 Volleyball Coaches Poll National Rankings. The 17-1 University of Great Falls Lady Argonaut Team now occupies a much earned spot. "I am very pleased to see the ladies get the recognition they have played hard for and well deserve." Head Coach Arunas Duda said. "As we prepare for another conference match this weekend in Havre, this news will motivate them to work harder and play better." Duda added.

Two other Frontier Conference teams are on the list. Pre-season # 7 Lewis-Clark State College dropped to # 11 after losing to conference foe Rocky Mountain College. The win boosted Rocky from up 4 places in the ranking to # 10.

The volleyball team has a very tough trial over the next 2 weeks. On the 16th they are in Havre to take on the Skylights of MSU-Northern. On the 22nd it's off to Lewiston, Idaho to battle Lewis-Clark State. The 24th they are in Salt Lake City, UT to battle the Griffins of Westminster College. Finally on the last day of the month the team is home again, in the McLaughlin Center for a very tough match against #10 Rocky Mountain College at 7:00 pm. Put that date on your schedule.

The complete NAIA Press Release is posted below.

No. 1 Texas at Brownsville Tightens Hold in Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball Coaches' Top 25 Poll

Fresno Pacific drops out of rankings for first time dating back to 2000

Sept. 13, 2011

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Texas at Brownsville strengthened its grip on the top spot in the second regular-season Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball Coaches' Top 25 Poll after sweeping away No. 2 Lee (Tenn.) on Sept. 9. The Scorpions (11-0) became this season's first unanimous No. 1 by taking all 23 first-place votes for 653 total points, the national office announced Tuesday.

Texas at Brownsville is ranked No. 1 for consecutive weeks thanks to its continued dominance on the court. Head coach Todd Lowery's squad has dropped only two sets all year and has twice defeated teams ranked No. 2 – Columbia (Mo.) on Sept. 2 and Lee (Tenn.) on Sept. 9. The Scorpions, backed by stars Danica Markovic and Paula Barros, look forward to another match-up with an elite opponent. They will take on fourth-ranked Embry-Riddle (Fla.) on Friday as part of the Scorpion Invitational Tournament.

Lee remained second despite the 3-0 home loss to Texas at Brownsville. The Lady Flames bounced back to win their next two matches to help pick up 624 total points in this week's poll. No. 3 Azusa Pacific (Calif.), No. 4 Embry-Riddle (Fla.) and No. 5 Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.) each moved up one spot. Azusa Pacific tallied 614 points, Embry-Riddle piled up 591 points and Point Loma Nazarene garnered 562 points.

Three teams are making their first appearances in the poll in 2011. Cal State San Marcos checks in at No. 17, while Grand View (Iowa) and Great Falls (Mont.) rank 24th and 25th, respectively. Preseason No. 1 Fresno Pacific (Calif.) dropped out of the Top 25 after resting idle since the release of last week's poll. Saint Xavier (Ill.) and Indiana Wesleyan also dropped out of the rankings.

Rocky Mountain (Mont.) has leaped up four spots in each of the last two polls since being ranked 18th in the preseason. The 10th-ranked Battlin' Bears scored their second victory over a top-10 opponent when they knocked off then-No. 7 Lewis-Clark State (Idaho), 3-1, on Sept. 8. Outside hitter Sara Brunner spurred the upset by pounding out 12 kills.

The Sunbirds' fall from the rankings leaves the Golden State Athletic Conference with five teams in the poll, still good enough to lead all conferences for the third-straight time in 2011.

The poll was voted upon by a panel of head coaches representing each of the conferences and Independents. The next poll will be announced on Sept. 13.

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

NOTES (all information as of 2000): Fresno Pacific (Calif.) is unranked for the first time in 132 polls ... Azusa Pacific (Calif.) now holds the NAIA's longest consecutive poll-streak with 74-straight appearances dating back to the final poll of the 2004 season ... Concordia (Calif.) comes in right after Azusa Pacific with 62-consecutive top-25 rankings .. With two No. 1-rankings all-time, Texas at Brownsville is now tied with former NAIA member California Baptist for the sixth-most appearances atop the poll ... Great Falls (Mont.) is ranked for the first time since Sept. 19, 2007 ... Cal State San Marcos and Grand View (Iowa) are ranked for the first time.

RANK	LAST WEEK	SCHOOL (1 ST PLACE VOTES)	RECORD	TOTAL POINTS
1	1	Texas at Brownsville (23)	11-0	653
2	2	Lee (Tenn.)	4-1	624
3	4	Azusa Pacific (Calif.)	13-2	614
4	5	Embry-Riddle (Fla.)	7-0	591
5	6	Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.)	8-0	562
6	3	Columbia (Mo.)	7-2	534
7	9	Concordia (Calif.)	11-1	505
8	8	College of Idaho	7-1	504
9	10	Indiana Tech	9-0	487
10	14	Rocky Mountain (Mont.)	13-2	477
11	7	Lewis-Clark State (Idaho)	7-3	425
12	11	Doane (Neb.)	16-1	420
13	12	Biola (Calif.)	12-4	402
14	13	Southern Oregon	6-2	386
15	15	Taylor (Ind.)	7-2	354
16	16	Bellevue (Neb.)	7-4	299
17	NR	Cal State San Marcos	13-5	276
18	19	Madonna (Mich.)	12-1	274
18	21	Viterbo (Wis.)	12-2	274
20	18	Missouri Baptist	9-1	258
21	17	Vanguard (Calif.)	11-4	241
22	22	Indiana East	12-1	228
23	20	Oklahoma Baptist	10-7	221
24	RV	Grand View (Iowa)	12-2	193
25	RV	Great Falls (Mont.)	17-1	111

Others receiving votes: Fresno Pacific (Calif.) 110; Saint Xavier (Ill.) 106; Indiana Wesleyan 102; Lubbock Christian (Texas) 35; Carroll (Mont.) 34; Point Park (Pa.) 28; Evangel (Mo.) 22; Concordia (Ore.) 21; SCAD Savannah (Ga.) 18; Georgetown (Ky.) 9; Grace (Ind.) 4; Freed-Hardeman (Tenn.) 4; Jamestown (N.D.) 3; Trinity Christian (Ill.) 3; College of the Ozarks (Mo.) 1; Wiley (Texas) 1; Spring Hill (Ala.) 1; Asbury (Ky.) 1; Southern Nazarene (Okla.) 1; Cornerstone (Mich.) 1; Daemen (N.Y.) 1; Friends (Kan.) 1; Texas Wesleyan 1.

REMEMBER the date and time. September 30th at 7:00 pm in the McLaughlin Center it's the Battlin' Bears of Rocky Mountain College vs. your University of Great Falls Lady Argos in top-ranked volleyball action. – See you there!