



For release at 4 p.m., Eastern time, January 13, 2026

NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK – Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Matthew Willenborg of the University of Central Oklahoma and Aliyah Hawkins of King University have been selected as this week's national players of the week by the NCAA Division II Conference Information Directors of America for the week of Jan. 5-11.

MEN: Matthew Willenborg, 6-7, Jr., Central Oklahoma Hometown: Norman, Oklahoma

Willenborg led the Bronchos (11-7) to a pair of overtime wins in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association play last week, including a 93-86 victory over fifth-ranked Arkansas Fort Smith when he recorded 27 points, nine rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals. With his team up by two in the final minute, Willenborg hit a three-pointer to make it a two-possession lead for UCO and he added two free throws to ice the win with 23 seconds to play, completing a day where he was 14-of-16 at the free throw line.

Earlier in the week, he scored a career-high 37 points – 21 of which came in the second half – as the Bronchos outlasted Northeastern State 97-93. In that game, Willenborg went 12-of-24 from the floor with a pair of three-pointers and 11-of-12 at the free throw line, while adding 10 rebounds, three assists, four blocks and four steals. He shot 47.2 percent (17-of-36) from the field in the two games, while making five-of-13 from beyond the arc and converting 25 of his 28 free throw attempts. The leading scorer in the MIAA, where he was named as the league's Player of the Week, Willenborg also averaged 9.5 rebounds, 3.5 blocks, three steals and 1.5 blocks per game.

WOMEN: Aliyah Hawkins, 5-7, Fr., King Hometown: Crossville, Tennessee

Hawkins flirted with a pair of triple-doubles in two King victories last week, as she had 22 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists in a 74-53 win over North Greenville and followed it with a 20-point, 11-rebound, eight-assist showing in a 72-58 victory over Southern Wesleyan. Hawkins was nine-of-12 from the field and four-of-seven from three-point range in the first of those wins and added four steals along the way.

In the Southern Wesleyan victory, she made five-of-10 from the field, four-of-eight from beyond the arc and six-of-10 at the free throw line, finishing the week with marks of 63.6 percent (14-of-22) from the field, 53.3 percent (eight-of-15) from three-point land and was six-of-10 at the line to go along with 11 rebounds, 8.5 assists and 2.5 steals per game. The two double-doubles were the first of her collegiate career and helped her earn Player of the Week honors from Conference Carolinas.