



National Association of Basketball Coaches NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Rankings

2014-15 Pre-Season Rankings – Nov. 6, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Central Missouri won the 2013-14 NCAA Division II championship, but it is the three teams the Mules vanquished at the Elite Eight that head up the NABC/Division II pre-season rankings.

West Liberty, who lost in the national championship game to the Mules, received half of the first place votes and got the nod as the top-ranked team to begin the year. The Hilltoppers, who made their first appearance in the title game last March, led the nation in scoring for the eighth time in nine years last season.

Southern Connecticut State continued its surge last season and took a 19-game winning streak to the Elite Eight before falling in the national quarterfinals. After UCM knocked off Southern Connecticut, it took down Metropolitan State in a thrilling semifinal contest.

Despite losing a talented senior class, Metro State is ranked third heading into the year, followed by a pair of regional finalists from 2013-14, East Stroudsburg at No. 4 and Montevallo at No. 5. Four of the top five teams in the pre-season poll received at least one first place vote.

Drury earned its second straight trip to the Elite Eight last season before losing to West Liberty in the quarterfinals and comes into the new season ranked sixth. Minnesota State was picked seventh in the pre-season, followed by Cal Poly Pomona – who also got one first place vote – Florida Southern and Bellarmine.

Western Washington missed the NCAA Tournament last year after two straight Elite Eight appearances that included the 2012 national title, but is expected by many to return among the top teams in the nation. The Vikings were picked 11th, followed by Tarleton State, Delta State, Philadelphia and Indiana (Pa.).

In the 16th spot in the pre-season poll is Findlay, who was bumped off in overtime by conference rival Lake Superior State in the Midwest Regional's opening round. The Oilers are followed by the third member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference in the rankings, Lewis, while UC-Colorado Springs checks is No. 18.

Chico State and South Carolina Aiken – who faced off in the national quarterfinals a year ago – are 19th and 20th, respectively. The final five teams in the pre-season poll are Saint Anselm, Seattle Pacific, Lincoln Memorial and Pacific West Conference rivals Cal Baptist and Dixie State.

The first regular season ranking will be released Nov. 25.

NABC/Division II Rankings (Nov. 6, 2014 – Pre-Season Rankings)

| | Record | Points | Last |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|------|
| 1. West Liberty, W.Va. (8) | 31-4 | 385 | 7 |
| 2. Southern Connecticut St. | 30-3 | 364 | 4 |
| 3. Metropolitan State, Colo. (4) | 32-2 | 361 | 1 |
| 4. East Stroudsburg, Pa. (1) | 30-2 | 344 | 2 |
| 5. Montevallo, Ala. (2) | 26-6 | 325 | 18 |
| 6. Drury, Mo. | 28-4 | 296 | 8 |
| 7. Minnesota State | 30-5 | 277 | 9 |
| 8. Cal Poly Pomona (1) | 22-7 | 264 | 24 |
| 9. Florida Southern | 26-4 | 242 | 10 |
| 10. Bellarmine, Ky. | 23-8 | 218 | NR |
| 11. Western Washington | 20-8 | 192 | NR |
| 12. Tarleton State, Texas | 28-3 | 188 | 3 |
| 13. Delta State, Miss. | 26-7 | 182 | NR |
| 14. Philadelphia, Pa. | 25-7 | 180 | NR |
| 15. Indiana, Pa. | 24-5 | 170 | 15 |
| 16. Findlay, Ohio | 24-5 | 147 | 21 |
| 17. Lewis, Ill. | 21-6 | 142 | NR |
| 18. Colo.-Colorado Springs | 21-9 | 105 | NR |
| 19. Chico State, Calif. | 25-8 | 89 | 19 |
| 20. South Carolina Aiken | 33-4 | 84 | 5 |
| 21. Saint Anselm, N.H. | 22-8 | 76 | NR |
| 22. Seattle Pacific, Wash. | 26-6 | 60 | 11 |
| 23. Lincoln Memorial, Tenn. | 28-3 | 59 | 6 |
| 24. Cal Baptist | 24-4 | 43 | 17 |
| 25. Dixie State, Utah | 21-7 | 41 | NR |

Others receiving votes: Kentucky Wesleyan 39, Central Missouri 34, GRU Augusta 34, Limestone (S.C.) 25, Barry (Fla.) 23, Fort Hays State (Kan.) 21, St. Mary's (Texas) 21, Christian Brothers (Tenn.) 20, Arkansas-Fort Smith 18, Alaska-Anchorage 17, Midwestern State (Texas) 15, Arkansas Tech 14, Michigan Tech 14, Augustana (S.D.) 11, Grand Valley State (Mich.) 9, Washburn (Kan.) 9, Angelo State (Texas) 7, Harding (Ark.) 6, Newberry (S.C.) 6, Alabama-Huntsville 5, Benedict (S.C.) 3, Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.) 3, Cal State-Stanislaus 2, Texas A&M-Commerce 2, Cal State-San Bernardino 1, Indianapolis (Ind.) 1, Minnesota State-Moorhead 1,

Records are final from the 2013-14 season.

Last ranking listed is from the final NABC/Division II poll of the 2013-14 season.