



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

## 2017-18 Rankings – Oct. 31, 2017 (Pre-Season Poll)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – No team since Cal State Bakersfield in 1993 and 1994 has captured back-to-back NCAA Division II championships, but led by reigning national player of the year Justin Pitts, Northwest Missouri State is projected to end that 23-year run of no repeat champions.

The NABC/Division II pre-season coaches poll has Northwest Missouri State picked as its No.1 team, marking the first time since in six years that the defending national champion is the top-ranked team in the pre-season.

Queens (N.C.), who lost in the championship game of the Southeast Regional, was picked second while Bellarmine – who in 2011 was the last reigning titleholder to open at year at No. 1 – was picked third.

The Knights played in last year's Elite Eight, as did the two teams immediately behind them in No. 4 Lincoln Memorial and No. 5 St. Thomas Aquinas. Two more 2017 Elite Eight participants, Chico State and Colorado School of Mines, are also in the pre-season top 10.

Indiana (Pa.) is sixth ahead of Chico State, while IUP's conference mate, Shippensburg, is eighth and immediate in front of Mines at No. 9. Ferris State holds down the No. 10 spot in the poll.

Two pre-season favorites in their respective conferences, UT-Permian Basin and Barry, open the second 10 and the seventh Elite Eight team in the poll, Rollins, checks in at No. 13.

California Baptist is 14<sup>th</sup> and Southwest Minnesota State comes at No. 15, while the second half of the second 10 consists of Fort Lewis, West Liberty, Merrimack, Wheeling Jesuit and Findlay.

The final five teams in the pre-season top 25 are West Texas A&M, Western Washington, Arkansas-Monticello, Kentucky Wesleyan and Delta State.

Two pre-season events kick off the 2017-18 season this weekend, with the second annual Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic in Evansville, Ind., that will include five teams in the pre-season poll – St. Thomas Aquinas, Indiana (Pa.), Ferris State, Findlay and Kentucky Wesleyan as well as 2016 national champion Augustana.

The other opening weekend event is the Disney Tip-Off Classic in Anaheim, Calif., which runs from Friday through Sunday. The schedule for the rest of the schools in NCAA Division II begins in earnest on Friday, Nov. 10.

### NABC/Division II Rankings (Oct. 31, 2016 – Pre-Season Poll)

|                                | Record | Points | Last |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|
| 1. Northwest Missouri St. (15) | 35-1   | 399    | 1    |
| 2. Queens, N.C. (1)            | 30-4   | 374    | 6    |
| 3. Bellarmine, Ky.             | 32-4   | 351    | 2    |
| 4. Lincoln Memorial, Tenn.     | 30-6   | 324    | 15   |
| 5. St. Thomas Aquinas, N.Y..   | 28-6   | 308    | NR   |
| 6. Indiana, Pa.                | 28-4   | 304    | 8    |
| 7. Chico State, Calif.         | 26-8   | 297    | NR   |
| 8. Shippensburg, Pa.           | 27-4   | 254    | 9    |
| 9. Colorado School of Mines    | 30-5   | 236    | 11   |
| 10. Ferris State, Mich.        | 28-5   | 230    | 14   |
| 11. UT-Permian Basin           | 26-6   | 216    | 17   |
| 12. Barry, Fla.                | 23-7   | 210    | NR   |
| 13. Rollins, Fla.              | 24-11  | 194    | NR   |
| 14. California Baptist         | 26-5   | 180    | 13   |
| 15. Southwest Minnesota State  | 28-6   | 159    | 18   |
| 16. Fort Lewis, Colo.          | 26-7   | 134    | 23   |
| 17. West Liberty, W.Va.        | 28-4   | 117    | 7    |
| 18. Merrimack, Mass.           | 19-12  | 88     | NR   |
| 19. Wheeling Jesuit, W.Va.     | 25-8   | 83     | NR   |
| 20. Findlay, Ohio              | 25-7   | 72     | 25   |
| 21. West Texas A&M             | 26-9   | 67     | NR   |
| 22. Western Washington         | 25-6   | 63     | 12   |
| 23. Arkansas-Monticello        | 23-7   | 51     | NR   |
| 24. Kentucky Wesleyan          | 28-3   | 46     | 5    |
| 25. Delta State, Miss.         | 23-9   | 45     | NR   |

**Others receiving votes:** Fairmont State (W.Va.) 44, Indianapolis (Ind.) 40, Christian Brothers (Tenn.) 39, Le Moyne (N.Y.) 39, UNC Pembroke 31, UC San Diego 24, Virginia Union 23, Central Missouri 21, Augusta (Ga.) 16, Dixie State (Utah) 16, Benedict (S.C.) 14, Columbus State (Ga.) 13, Northern State (S.D.) 12, Tarleton State (Texas) 10, Bloomfield (N.J.) 8, MSU Moorhead (Minn.) 8, Jefferson (Pa.) 6, Barton (N.C.) 5, Valdosta State (Ga.) 4, Washburn (Kan.) 3, Kutztown (Pa.) 2, Western Oregon 2, Cal State San Marcos 1, San Francisco State (Calif.) 1.

Records are final from 2016-17 season. Last ranking was from the final 2016-17 poll.