

The National Tenpin Coaches Association 2020-2021 Preseason Poll

October 12, 2020

Preseason poll produces same uncertainty as the 2020 calendar year.

NASHVILLE, TN---The first National Ten Pin Coaches Association (NTCA) poll of the 2020-21 season reflected some of the same uncertainty as the 2020 calendar year with no less than seven teams earning at least one first-place vote for the first time in poll history.

McKendree and Vanderbilt were picked 1-2 in pre-season balloting despite significant graduation losses with Arkansas State, Nebraska and Sam Houston State rounding out the Top 5.

Maryland-Eastern Shore was sixth with seventh place Stephen F. Austin and ninth-place Louisiana Tech also receiving first-place votes. North Carolina A & T was in eighth and Youngstown State in tenth round out the Top 10.

McKendree's Bearcats took 25 of the 51 first-place votes to top the poll. Despite losing first team All-Americans Breanna Clemmer and Taylor Baily, Coach Shannon O'Keefe's program returns a solid nucleus led by honorable mention All-America Hope Gramley. McKendree has been no lower than third in the last three NCAA Championship matches

Vanderbilt, which has finished third-first and second in the last three NCAA Championships, netted 14 first-place votes despite losing former national Player of the Year Maria Bulanova and second team All-America Adel Wahner. Returning starters Samantha Gainor, Angelique Dalesandro, Mabel Cummins and four promising newcomers including a trio of former Junior Gold champions made a strong impression on the voters.

Arkansas State had five first-team votes to land in third place. The Red Wolves expect to be led by third-team All-American Taylor Davis, Sarah Sanes and a balanced set of returnees. They will miss anchor Julia Huren, a second-team All-America selection in 2020.

Nebraska garnered a pair of first-place votes and is in fourth place. The Big Red must figure out how to replace the 2020 national Player of the Year Raquel Orozco but the addition of Duquesne transfer Crystal Elliott and returning veteran Cassidy Ray give them plenty of firepower.

Sam Houston State sits fifth in the pre-season poll, led by former national Rookie of the Year Bea Hernandez, Elise Chambers and Hayley Conley.

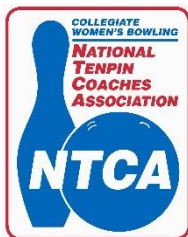
Maryland-Eastern Shore, Stephen F. Austin, North Carolina A & T, Louisiana Tech University and Youngstown State complete the Top 10.

The second 10 include #11 Duquesne, followed by Mount St. Mary's, Fairleigh Dickinson, Sacred Heart, Central Missouri, Wisconsin-Whitewater, Delaware State, Maryville (Saint Louis), Tulane and Adelphi.

UAB, Monmouth, Lincoln Memorial, Wilmington and Long Island University round out the Top 25.

In the nine years since the NTCA has conducted a pre-season poll, only twice has the early coaches' pick gone on to capture the NCAA Championship. Nebraska went wire-to-wire in the 2014-15 season and Maryland-Eastern Shore won in 2012 after being the pre-season choice. Last season Vanderbilt was No. 1 but the Covid-19 pandemic cancelled the post-season tournaments.

The voting is conducted by NCAA head coaches who are members of the NTCA. Coaches ranked their selections from 1 through 25 with 40 points awarded to the No.1 team, 37 to second, 35 to third and so on.



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<u>Rank</u>	<u>School, Location, Conference Affiliation</u>	<u>First Place Votes</u>	<u>Points Total</u>	<u>Previous Ranking</u>
1	McKendree University, Lebanon, IL (GLVC)	25	1784	1
2	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (SBL)	14	1717	4
3	Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR (SBL)	5	1680	2
4	University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE (INDEPENDENT)	2	1637	3
5	Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX (SBL)	2	1503	5
6	University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD (MEAC)		1324	6
7	Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX (SBL)	1	1262	7
8	North Carolina A&T, Greensboro, NC (MEAC)		1096	9
9	Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA (SBL)	1	1062	11
10	Youngstown State, Youngstown, OH (SBL)		1003	10
11	Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (NEC)		976	8
12	Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg MD (NEC)		756	12
13	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ (NEC)		749	13
14	Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT (NEC)		627	14
15	University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO (GLVC)		542	15
16	University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, WI (INDEPENDENT)		468	17
17	Delaware State University, Dover, DE (MEAC)		441	16
18	Maryville University, St. Louis, MO (MIAA)		367	20
19	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (SBL)		359	19
20	Adelphi University, Garden City, NY (ECC)		331	18
21	University of Alabama Birmingham, Birmingham, AL (MEAC)		209	21
22	Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ (MEAC)		191	22
23	Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN (ECC)		159	23
24	Wilmington University, Wilmington, DE (ECC)		117	24
25	Long Island University, Brooklyn NY (NEC)		105	25

Also receiving points: Prairie View A&M University, Alabama State University, Valparaiso University, Saint Francis University (PA), Tusculum University, Medaille College

Point system: NTCA submitted ballots rank the top 25 programs in the sport of NCAA bowling. Each position has a designated point value, ranging from 40 points for first place and one point for twenty-fifth place. To be ranked teams need to equal or surpass the minimum vote criteria, which is one vote for every eight ballots submitted. The actual ranking position is determined by using the adjusted point standings, which lists in priority order the total points a school has accumulated after the highest and lowest votes are dropped.

The specific point values follow: 1st place = 40 points, 2nd =37, 3rd =35, 4th =33, 5th =31, 6th =29, 7th =27, 8th =25, 9th =23, 10th =21, 11th =19, 12th =17, 13th =15, 14th =13, 15th =11, 16th =10, 17th =9, 18th =8, 19th =7, 20th =6, 21st =5, 22nd =4, 23rd =3, 24th =2, 25th =1.