

10-14-2009

Poll for Top 25 in NAIA Teams

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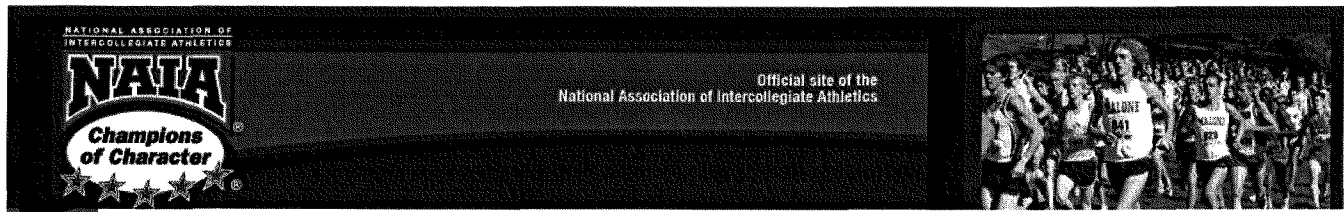
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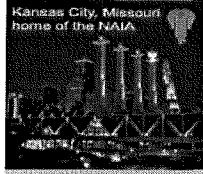
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Men's Cross Country

Two Teams Return in NAIA Men's Cross Country Coaches' Top 25 Poll

Top-seven teams remain unchanged, two other teams hold position

Oct. 14, 2009

FALL SPORTS

- Cross Country - M
- Cross Country - W
- Football
- Soccer - M
- Soccer - W
- Volleyball

WINTER SPORTS

- Basketball - DI M
- Basketball - DI W
- Basketball - DII M
- Basketball - DII W
- Swimming & Diving - M
- Swimming & Diving - W
- Indoor Track & Field - M
- Indoor Track & Field - W
- Wrestling

SPRING SPORTS

- Baseball
- Golf - M
- Golf - W
- Softball
- Tennis - M
- Tennis - W
- Outdoor Track & Field - M
- Outdoor Track & Field - W

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. - For only the second time in 2009, the top five teams in the NAIA Men's Cross Country Coaches' Top 25 were able to hold their position among the ranks, the NAIA announced Wednesday. Malone University (Ohio) captured 18 first-place votes for 616 points to spend its 28th consecutive week at No. 1. The Pioneers are followed by No. 2 Southern Oregon University, No. 3 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Fla.), No. 4 Concordia University (Neb.) and No. 5 University of British Columbia.

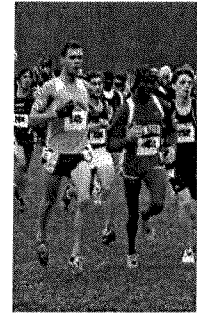
New, but not unfamiliar to the Top 25 this week are No. 19 Dakota State (S.D.) and No. 24 Wayland Baptist (Texas). Dakota State first and last appeared in the poll on Sept. 30, at No. 21. Wayland Baptist was preseason No. 15, but had since fallen out of the Top 25 prior to Wednesday's poll. The No. 24 nod is the first regular-season ranking for the Pioneers in 2009.

Black Hills State (S.D.) improves six spots this week, hurdling from No. 22 to 16. The Yellow Jackets are eyeing a spot back among the top 10, where they were listed in the first regular-season poll on Sept. 16. Previously ranked 23rd, Westmont (Calif.) moves up five spots to No. 18 this week.

Three conferences, American Midwest Conference, Cascade Collegiate Conference and the Association of Independent Institutions, each have three teams represented among the Top 25. Malone, No. 6 Shawnee State (Ohio) and No. 25 Cedarville (Ohio) represent the AMC, while the Cascade is visible in Southern Oregon, No. 13 College of Idaho and No. 22 Eastern Oregon. British Columbia, No. 8 California State-San Marcos and No. 12 Simon Fraser (B.C.) appear for the AII.

Southern Oregon is spending its second week as the nation's No. 2 team after earning four first-place votes and totaling 605 points. The Raiders have narrowed in on the Pioneers point total, now only 11 points back. Last week, Southern Oregon trailed Malone by 15 points. Embry-Riddle remains third with 581 points and holds a high advantage to fourth-ranked Concordia's (Neb.) 543 points. British Columbia is only five points back in the No. 5 spot.

The poll was voted upon by a panel of head coaches representing each of the conferences. The next poll will be released on Oct. 21.



Dakota State (S.D.) and Wayland Baptist (Texas) return to the Top 25 this week

RANK	LAST WEEK	SCHOOL (1 ST PLACE VOTES)	TOTAL POINTS
1	1	Malone University (Ohio) (18)	616
2	2	Southern Oregon University (4)	605
3	3	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Fla.)	581
4	4	Concordia University (Neb.)	543
5	5	University of British Columbia	538
6	6	Shawnee State University (Ohio)	524
7	7	Aquinas College (Mich.)	522
8	9	California State University-San Marcos	479
9	10	Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.)	451
10	11	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	449
11	12	McKendree University (Ill.)	411
12	13	Simon Fraser University (B.C.)	387
13	15	College of Idaho	360
14	14	Cornerstone University (Mich.)	354
15	18	Oklahoma Baptist University	349
16	22	Black Hills State University (S.D.)	325
17	17	Bryan College (Tenn.)	317
18	23	Westmont College (Calif.)	275
19	RV	Dakota State University (S.D.)	251
20	20	Lindenwood University (Mo.)	220
21	16	Doane College (Neb.)	193
22	21	Eastern Oregon University	188
23	19	Vanguard University (Calif.)	173
24	RV	Wayland Baptist University (Texas)	168
25	24	Cedarville University (Ohio)	147

Other receiving votes: Oklahoma Christian University 97; Kansas Wesleyan University 82; Azusa Pacific University (Calif.) 66; Marian College (Ind.) 61; Southwestern College (Kan.) 47; University of Rio Grande (Ohio) 47; Shorter College (Ga.) 25; University of Great Falls (Mont.) 19; Indiana Wesleyan University 17; Lubbock Christian University (Texas) 16; Dordt College (Iowa) 6; Lee University (Tenn.) 1; Taylor University (Ind.) 1; California Baptist University 1.