



# 2009 FCS Coaches Poll

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## Villanova Claims First Title, No. 1 Ranking

### Wildcats Top Montana 23-21 in Championship Game

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** – After winning its first Football Championship Subdivision title Friday night with a 23-21 win over Montana, the Villanova Wildcats were selected as the unanimous No. 1 in the final FCS Coaches Poll. The Wildcats received all 28 first-place votes and 700 points overall.

It marked the first time in the three year history of the poll that Villanova earned the No. 1 ranking. The Wildcats spent 13 weeks in the top five this season, dropping to No. 6 only once. Villanova downed Holy Cross, New Hampshire and William & Mary to reach the finale in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Matt Szczur, who was named the championship game's most outstanding player, rushed for a career-high 159 yards, two touchdowns and also racked up 68 receiving yards for Villanova (14-1). Quarterback Chris Whitney threw for 142 yards, ran for another 102 and added a score.

National runner-up Montana (14-1) fell to No. 2 after spending the past three weeks at No. 1. The Grizzlies, which received the Big Sky Conference's automatic bid, made their record-setting 17<sup>th</sup> straight playoff appearance. Montana defeated South Dakota State, Stephen F. Austin and Appalachian State en route to its second consecutive trip to the championship game.

Semifinalists Appalachian State (11-3), the preseason No. 1, and William & Mary (11-3) finished the season tied at No. 3. The Mountaineers fell at Montana 24-17, while the Tribe lost 14-13 at Villanova.

Rounding out the top five was Richmond (11-2), which fell in the quarterfinals to Appalachian State by a score of 35-31.

Playoff participants completed the top 10 with Southern Illinois (11-2) at No. 6, followed by New Hampshire (10-3) at No. 7, South Carolina State (10-2) at No. 8, Stephen F. Austin (10-3) at No. 9 and Elon (9-3) at No. 10.

The six remaining playoff teams finished no lower than No. 19.

Dropping out of the poll was Montana State (7-4), which finished the season with a 33-19 loss to Montana.

The Colonial Athletic Association led the way with four ranked teams, which all placed in the top seven. The Big Sky, Missouri Valley and Southland Conferences, along with the Patriot League each had three ranked teams. The Mid-Eastern Athletic, Ohio Valley and Southern Conferences were each represented by two teams, while the Big South Conference, Ivy League and Southwest Athletic Conference each had one.

The FCS Coaches Poll website can be viewed [here](#) and is updated each week after the release of the poll.

The FCS Coaches Poll is based exclusively on a voting panel of head coaches in the FCS under the cooperation of the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) and is administered by the Southern Conference.

#### **2009 FCS Coaches Poll – Final (December 21, 2009)**

<b>Team (No. 1 Votes)</b>	<b>2009 Record</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Previous Ranking</b>
1. Villanova (28)	14-1	700	3
2. Montana	14-1	672	1
T3. Appalachian State	11-3	629	5
T3. William & Mary	11-3	629	6
5. Richmond	11-2	579	4
6. Southern Illinois	11-2	541	2
7. New Hampshire	10-3	515	10
8. South Carolina State	10-2	477	7
9. Stephen F. Austin	10-3	450	12
10. Elon	9-3	439	9
11. South Dakota State	8-4	413	11
12. McNeese State	9-3	375	8
13. Eastern Washington	8-4	345	14
14. Holy Cross	9-3	317	19
15. Eastern Illinois	8-4	272	17

16. Jacksonville State	8-3	258	13
17. Weber State	7-5	252	18
18. Northern Iowa	7-4	246	15
19. Prairie View A&M	9-1	223	16
20. Colgate	9-2	165	20
21. Liberty	8-3	155	22
22. Florida A&M	8-3	127	21
23. Pennsylvania	8-2	97	23
24. Texas State	7-4	59	T25
25. Lafayette	8-3	56	24

Others receiving votes (points in parentheses): Montana State (38), Delaware (18), James Madison (14), Butler (6), Harvard (6), Grambling State (5), Northern Arizona (5), Alabama A&M (4), Illinois State (4), Central Connecticut State (2), Dayton (2), Tennessee Tech (2), Central Arkansas (1), Massachusetts (1), UC Davis (1).