



2009 FCS Coaches Poll

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Montana Moves Into No. 1 Spot

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – Montana became just the third team this season to hold the No. 1 ranking in the latest Football Championship Subdivision Coaches Poll after Villanova handed Richmond its first loss of the season Saturday.

The Grizzlies defeated Idaho State 12-10, coming back from a 10-9 deficit to remain undefeated on the season. Montana kicker Brody McKnight made a 33-yard field goal on the last play of the game to give the Grizzlies the win. Idaho State cornerback Michael Wright was able to deflect the ball, but McKnight's kick passed through the uprights.

Montana (9-0) received 16 first-place votes and 684 points overall. The Grizzlies earned their 12th Big Sky Conference title and are the only undefeated team in the Top 25.

Southern Illinois (8-1) received six first-place votes and 665 points overall. The Salukis defeated then-No. 9 South Dakota State 34-15 behind Deji Karim's 127 yards. Southern Illinois quarterback Paul McIntosh threw for only 108 yards but had touchdown passes of four and 40 yards. The Salukis held South Dakota State to just 14 rushing yards and sacked the Jackrabbits six times.

With the loss, South Dakota State dropped three spots to No. 12.

Villanova (8-1) jumped a spot to No. 3 with its win at then-No. 1 Richmond. The Wildcats received the other six first-place votes and 663 points overall.

Villanova quarterback Chris Whitney connected with Brandyn Harvey on fourth down for a 29-yard touchdown with 59 seconds remaining in the game to upset the Spiders 21-20, snapping

their 17-game win streak. Richmond was able to drive down the field to the Villanova 17 with 10 seconds left, but Andrew Howard's 35-yard field goal attempt missed wide left.

With the loss Richmond (8-1) dropped four spots into a tie with William & Mary (8-1) at No. 4.

The Tribe defeated Towson 31-0 behind quarterback R.J. Archer's 206 yards. Archer ran for a score and connected with Eric Robertson on a 25-yard touchdown pass. William & Mary has the top-ranked defense in the FCS and forced three Tiger turnovers. Towson was limited to 201 yards of total offense, including 79 rushing yards. The Tribe has won four consecutive games and has matched its best record through nine games since 1986.

Rounding out the top 10 were Elon (8-1) at No. 6, New Hampshire (8-1) at No. 7, Appalachian State (7-2) at No. 8, South Carolina State (8-1) at No. 9 and McNeese State (7-2) at No. 10. The Cowboys enter the top 10 after their 63-42 win against Sam Houston State. New to the poll this week was No. 25 Texas State (6-3) which defeated then-No. 19 Central Arkansas.

With the loss, the Bears dropped out of this week's poll.

Lafayette (8-1) made the biggest jump this week, moving up four spots to No. 20 after its 56-49 win against then-No. 20 Colgate. Prairie View A&M (6-1) jumped three spots to No. 19 after it defeated Alabama A&M 33-27.

The Colonial Athletic Association maintains five teams in the Top 25, including three in the top five and four in the top 10. The Big Sky Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Patriot League and Southland Conference each have three teams in the Top 25. The Mid-Eastern Athletic, Ohio Valley and Southern Conferences are each represented by two teams. The Big South and Southwest Athletic Conferences each have one team in the Top 25.

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 – Week 10 (November 9, 2009)

Team (No. 1 Votes)	2009 Record	Points	Previous Ranking
1. Montana (16)	9-0	684	2
2. Southern Illinois (6)	8-1	665	3
3. Villanova (6)	8-1	663	4
T4. Richmond	8-1	591	1
T4. William & Mary	8-1	591	5
6. Elon	8-1	561	6
7. New Hampshire	8-1	532	7
8. Appalachian State	7-2	513	8
9. South Carolina State	8-1	473	10
10. McNeese State	7-2	436	11
11. Northern Iowa	6-3	409	12
12. South Dakota State	7-2	343	9
13. Eastern Illinois	7-2	336	13
14. Holy Cross	8-1	334	14
15. Jacksonville State	6-3	293	15
16. Liberty	7-2	258	17
17. Stephen F. Austin	7-2	249	18
18. Eastern Washington	6-3	223	16
19. Prairie View A&M	6-1	182	22
20. Lafayette	8-1	168	24
21. Florida A&M	7-2	148	23
22. Weber State	5-4	113	21
23. Delaware	6-3	90	25
24. Colgate	8-2	66	20
25. Texas State	6-3	46	NR

Others receiving votes (points in parentheses): Butler (39), Southeastern Louisiana (21), Central Arkansas (15), Montana State (13), Harvard (10), Northern Arizona (7), Drake (6), Eastern Kentucky (6), Massachusetts (5), Cal Poly (4), Pennsylvania (3), Chattanooga (2), Alabama A&M (1), UC Davis (1).