



2009 FCS Coaches Poll

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 23, 2009

Montana Takes No. 1 Ranking Into FCS Playoffs

Appalachian State Returns to Top Five

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – Montana maintained the top ranking for the third consecutive week in the latest FCS Coaches Poll, the final poll of the regular season. The Grizzlies garnered 22 first-place votes and 689 points overall.

The NCAA announced the field of 16 for the FCS playoffs Sunday, and all 16 teams were ranked in the top 20 in the latest poll.

Montana (11-0) defeated then-No. 23 Montana State, 33-19. The No. 1 Grizzlies, which received the automatic bid from the Big Sky Conference, are making their 17th-consecutive appearance in the FCS playoffs and will face No. 11 South Dakota State, which received an at-large bid.

Appalachian State re-entered the top five for the first time since the Mountaineers were ranked second in week one. The Mountaineers (9-2) moved up a spot to No. 5 after their 19-14 win against Western Carolina. ASU earned the automatic bid for the Southern Conference and will host No. 7 South Carolina State in the first round of the FCS playoffs.

Southern Illinois (10-1) held its position at No. 2 and received four first-place votes with a 42-24 victory at Southeast Missouri State. The Salukis earned the Missouri Valley Football Conference's automatic bid and will host No. 17 Eastern Illinois in the first round of the playoffs. Southern Illinois was named to the field of 16 for the seventh straight season. Eastern Illinois earned the automatic bid from the Ohio Valley Conference.

Villanova (10-1) remained at No. 3 and garnered the final two first-place votes with its 30-12 defeat of Delaware. The Wildcats earned the automatic bid from the Colonial Athletic Association,

and will host No. 19 Holy Cross, which received the Patriot League's automatic bid. It is the eighth consecutive trip to the playoffs for Villanova.

No. 4 Richmond (10-1) faced a tough test against then-No. 5 William & Mary (9-2). A last-second field goal gave the Spiders a 13-10 victory against the Tribe. With the loss, William & Mary dropped a spot to No. 6.

Both teams received at-large bids to the playoffs. The defending FCS champion Spiders will host No. 9 Elon, which is making its first appearance in the playoffs. The Tribe will host No. 18 Weber State, an at-large selection.

Rounding out this week's top 10 were William & Mary at No. 6, South Carolina State (10-1) at No. 7, McNeese State (9-2) at No. 8, Elon (9-2) at No. 9 and New Hampshire (9-2) at No. 10.

McNeese State earned the Southland Conference's automatic bid and will face New Hampshire, an at-large bid recipient.

Two teams jumped four spots in this week's poll and will coincidentally face each other in the first round of the playoffs. Stephen F. Austin (9-2) defeated Northwestern State 19-10 and garnered the Southland Conference's automatic bid. The Lumberjacks moved to No. 12 and will face No. 14 Eastern Washington (8-3), which received an at-large bid.

The Eagles won 49-45 on the road at Northern Arizona.

No. 16 Prairie View A&M (8-1) and No. 21 Florida A&M (8-3) both moved up three spots in this week's poll. The Panthers earned a 49-17 win against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, while the Rattlers won 42-6 at Bethune-Cookman.

New to the poll this week was Texas State (7-4), which defeated Sam Houston State 28-20. The Bobcats moved into a tie for 25th with Montana State.

The Big Sky Conference and the Colonial Athletic Association remained tied for most ranked teams with four each. The CAA's four teams are all in the Top 10. The Missouri Valley Conference, Patriot League and Southland Conference are each represented by three teams. The Mid-Eastern Athletic, Ohio Valley and Southern Conferences each have two teams in the poll. Three conferences are each represented by one team including the Big South Conference, the Ivy League and the Southwest Athletic Conference.

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 12 (November 23, 2009)

Team (No. 1 Votes)	2009 Record	Points	Previous Ranking
1. Montana (22)	11-0	689	1
2. Southern Illinois (4)	10-1	670	2
3. Villanova (2)	10-1	655	3
4. Richmond	10-1	615	4
5. Appalachian State	9-2	558	6
6. William & Mary	9-2	531	5
7. South Carolina State	10-1	526	7
8. McNeese State	9-2	489	8
9. Elon	9-2	473	10
10. New Hampshire	9-2	469	9
11. South Dakota State	8-3	405	12
12. Stephen F. Austin	9-2	361	16
13. Jacksonville State	8-3	340	15
14. Eastern Washington	8-3	304	18
15. Northern Iowa	7-4	258	11
16. Prairie View A&M	8-1	239	19
17. Eastern Illinois	8-3	235	T13
18. Weber State	7-4	231	20
19. Holy Cross	9-2	206	T13
20. Colgate	9-2	167	21
21. Florida A&M	8-3	138	24
22. Liberty	8-3	137	17
23. Pennsylvania	8-2	120	25
24. Lafayette	8-3	56	22
T25. Montana State	7-4	47	23
T25. Texas State	7-4	47	NR

Others receiving votes (points in parentheses): Butler (24), Central Connecticut State (19), Harvard (13), Central Arkansas (10), James Madison (10), UC Davis (9), Dayton (8), Delaware (8), Alabama A&M (6), Southern (6), Illinois State (4), Maine (4), Northern Arizona (4), Chattanooga (3), Drake (3), Grambling State (2), Old Dominion (1).