



2009 FCS Coaches Poll

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October 12, 2009

Slight Shakeup in Top 10

Richmond Holds on to No. 1

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – No. 1 Richmond rallied to defeat last week's No. 12 James Madison to earn its 15th-straight win and tighten its grip on No. 1 in the latest FCS Coaches Poll.

The Spiders' last loss came to the Dukes almost exactly one year ago on October 11, 2008. Richmond (5-0) rallied in the fourth quarter behind a six-yard touchdown pass by Ben Keating to take the lead. James Madison was able to move the ball to Richmond's six-yard line late in the fourth, but redshirt quarterback Justin Thorpe fumbled the ball, and the Spiders recovered with 58 seconds left to ensure the win. Keating scored all three of Richmond's touchdowns. Richmond received all 28 first-place votes and 700 points overall.

For the second-straight week, Villanova found itself in a top-five battle, this time against then-No. 5 New Hampshire. Tom Manning kicked two field goals in the fourth quarter to help New Hampshire (5-0) hand Villanova (5-1) its first loss, 28-24. Scott Sicko caught a 32-yard pass for a touchdown for UNH, which has won three of the past four games against Villanova. Matt Szczur scored two touchdowns for Villanova, which is the first team to score more than 16 points against New Hampshire this season. With the win, New Hampshire moved into the No. 4 spot, while Villanova dropped to No. 6.

Montana (5-0) took over at No. 2 with its 35-23 win versus then-No. 14 Cal Poly. Marc Mariani caught six passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns for the Grizzlies, while Chase Reynolds rushed for 109 yards and three touchdowns. Montana picked up the win despite five turnovers. Jordan Yocum scored on a one-yard run at the end of the first half to give the Mustangs a 17-7 lead. The Grizzlies responded in the second half with three touchdowns, including two from Reynolds, to win the game.

Northern Iowa (5-1) moved up one spot to No. 3 after its 42-27 victory at North Dakota State. Panthers quarterback Pat Grace threw three touchdowns, and despite having to leave the game briefly in the third quarter after an injury, returned to throw two of those scores in the fourth quarter, including one for 39 yards. Pat Paschall ran for 115 yards for North Dakota State, his sixth straight 100-yard game. The Bison racked up 514 total yards against a Northern Iowa defense that came into the game ranked second in the country in yards allowed.

Rounding out the top five was Southern Illinois (4-1), which defeated Illinois State 43-23. Deji Karim ran for 273 yards and three touchdowns, including a 93-yard score. Illinois State kept it close behind Matt Brown's two touchdown passes, including one for 81 yards. The Redbirds tied the game at 23 with a field goal, but the Salukis pulled ahead for good with a field goal of their own. Karim added another touchdown early in the fourth, and Chris Dieker threw his second touchdown pass of the day to ensure the win.

Villanova came in at No. 6 after its first loss of the season, followed by William & Mary (5-1) at No. 7, Central Arkansas (4-1) at No. 8, Elon (5-1) at No. 9 and Appalachian State (3-2) at No. 10. The Phoenix jumped two spots and into the top 10 after defeating The Citadel 43-7.

South Carolina State (4-1) moved up four spots to No. 12 after its 37-10 win at Norfolk State, while Jacksonville State (4-2) jumped five spots to No. 13 after its 41-7 victory at Murray State.

Colgate (6-0) made the biggest jump this week, moving six spots to No. 18 after its overtime win at Princeton.

New to the poll this week is No. 21 Stephen F. Austin (4-1). The Lumberjacks upset then-No. 7 McNeese State, 16-13. After pulling ahead 14-0 in the first half, the Lumberjacks blocked a Cowboys' extra point attempt to maintain a 14-13 lead. McNeese State was then called for a hold in the end zone, giving Stephen F. Austin a safety.

Falling out of the rankings this week was Montana State (3-2), which lost to Northern Arizona, 23-10.

The Colonial Athletic Association maintains six ranked teams, with two in the top five and four in the top 10. The Big Sky, Missouri Valley, Ohio Valley and Southland Conferences each have three ranked teams, while the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Patriot League, and Southern Conference each have two. The Great West Conference is represented by one team.

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 6 (October 12, 2009)

Team (No. 1 Votes)	2009 Record	Points	Previous Ranking
1. Richmond (28)	5-0	700	1
2. Montana	5-0	657	3
3. Northern Iowa	5-1	645	4
4. New Hampshire	5-0	621	5
5. Southern Illinois	4-1	578	6
6. Villanova	5-1	549	2
7. William & Mary	5-1	530	8
8. Central Arkansas	4-1	501	9
9. Elon	5-1	462	11
10. Appalachian State	3-2	441	10
11. McNeese State	3-2	368	7
12. South Carolina State	4-1	359	16
13. Jacksonville State	4-2	332	18
14. South Dakota State	4-1	304	19
15. Weber State	3-3	258	21
16. James Madison	2-3	235	12
17. Eastern Washington	4-2	214	15
18. Colgate	6-0	208	24
19. Cal Poly	2-3	184	14
20. Massachusetts	3-2	178	13
21. Stephen F. Austin	4-1	155	NR
22. Florida A&M	4-1	146	22
23. Eastern Kentucky	3-2	121	17
24. Holy Cross	4-1	53	20
25. Eastern Illinois	4-2	49	25

Others receiving votes (points in parentheses): Northern Arizona (42), Chattanooga (38), Prairie View A&M (37), Delaware (35), Montana State (27), Youngstown State (17), Liberty (16), Morgan State (14), Butler (12), Southern Utah (4), Tennessee State (4), Harvard (2), Lafayette (2), Albany (1), Missouri State (1).