



2009 FCS Coaches Poll

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Top Five Teams Maintain Position

Richmond Holds On At No. 1

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – Top-ranked Richmond earned its 16th straight victory Saturday, defeating Massachusetts 34-12 and tying its best start in school history. The Spiders maintained their No 1 ranking in the latest FCS Coaches Poll receiving all 28 first-place votes and 700 points overall.

The rest of the top five also picked up wins to hold onto their rankings.

Richmond (7-0) intercepted the Minutemen six times. Patrick Weldon made the first pick and put the Spiders on the Massachusetts 27-yard line. After quarterback Eric Ward's 24-yard run, Ben Keating scored on a 1-yard run to put Richmond ahead 7-3. Ward finished 8-for-20 through the air, passing for 52 yards and rushing for 62. Justin Forte had a career-high 28 carries for 118 yards and two scores.

Montana (7-0), the only other remaining unbeaten in the Top 25, held at No. 2 after its 45-30 win at Sacramento State.

Chase Reynolds and Thomas Brooks-Fletcher combined for 245 rushing yards and four touchdowns for the Grizzlies. Montana (7-0) scored two touchdowns on back-to-back possessions following a successful on-side kick and also staged a fake field goal to maintain possession and eventually score. Sacramento State pulled within 10 with five minutes remaining, but Jabin Sambrano scored on a 57-yard catch to put Montana ahead 45-28 with 3:35 left. The Hornets added two more points with a safety and had possession, but Caleb McSurdy picked off a pass to ensure the win.

Southern Illinois (6-1) remained at No. 3 after its 27-8 win against Youngstown State. Joe Allaria caught an 86-yard touchdown pass from redshirt-freshman quarterback Paul McIntosh, the second longest reception in school history. McIntosh came in for Chris Dieker in the first quarter after the starter was sacked and injured his non-throwing shoulder. Dieker did not return, but McIntosh finished 10-for-14 with 133 yards and rushed 12 times for 81 yards. The Salukis have won 11 straight conference games.

Villanova (7-1) came in at No. 4 after defeating Rhode Island 36-7 and giving head coach Andy Talley his 200th career victory. The Wildcats rushed for 376 yards and tallied 500 yards of total offense. It was the third time this season that Villanova had rushed for 300 or more yards in a game.

William & Mary (6-1) stayed at No. 5 with a 24-3 victory against James Madison. R.J. Archer threw for two scores, including a nine-yard pass to Rob Varno to put the Tribe ahead 7-0 in the first quarter. The Dukes pulled within four, but William & Mary scored 17 unanswered points.

Northern Iowa (5-3) was the only top 10 team to fall Saturday, as the Panthers were upset by then-No. 13 South Dakota State for their second straight loss. SDSU quarterback Thomas O'Brien went 26-for-37 with 285 yards and two scores, including a 63-yard touchdown pass to Glen Fox. Fox had five receptions for 99 yards. Kyle Harris added a 49-yard field goal for the Jackrabbits, who only had one turnover, compared to Northern Iowa's three.

With the win, South Dakota State jumped four spots to No. 9, while Northern Iowa fell eight spots to No. 14.

Rounding out the top 10 were Elon (6-1) at No. 6, followed by New Hampshire (6-1) at No. 7, Appalachian State (5-2) at No. 8, South Dakota State at No. 9 and South Carolina State (6-1) at No. 10.

Holy Cross (6-1), Delaware (5-2) and Eastern Illinois (6-2) made the biggest jumps this week, each moving up five spots. The Crusaders moved to No. 17 after handing Colgate its first loss of the season, followed by idle Delaware at No. 18. The Panthers came in at No. 19 after their upset of then-No. 12 Jacksonville State.

New to this week's poll are No. 24 Liberty (5-2) and No. 25 Prairie View A&M (5-1). The Flames defeated Charleston Southern 20-13, while the Panthers won at Southern 16-14.

Falling out of the poll was Eastern Kentucky, which fell at Austin Peay 24-20.

The Colonial Athletic Association is represented by six teams, including three in the top five and four in the top 10. The Big Sky Conference has four ranked teams. The Missouri Valley and Southland Conference are represented by three teams, while the Ohio Valley Conference, Patriot League and Southern Conference each have two. The Big South, Great West, Mid-Eastern Athletic and Southwest Athletic Conferences each have one ranked 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 8 (October 26, 2009)

Team (No. 1 Votes)	2009 Record	Points	Previous Ranking
1. Richmond (28)	7-0	700	1
2. Montana	7-0	668	2
3. Southern Illinois	6-1	645	3
4. Villanova	7-1	614	4
5. William & Mary	6-1	578	5
6. Elon	6-1	546	7
7. New Hampshire	6-1	508	8
8. Appalachian State	5-2	493	9
9. South Dakota State	6-1	457	13
10. South Carolina State	6-1	453	10
11. McNeese State	5-2	419	11
12. Central Arkansas	5-2	354	14
13. Weber State	5-3	352	15
14. Northern Iowa	5-3	340	6
15. Stephen F. Austin	6-1	328	18
16. Cal Poly	4-3	231	19
17. Holy Cross	6-1	192	22
18. Delaware	5-2	179	23
19. Eastern Illinois	6-2	172	24
20. Jacksonville State	4-3	149	12
21. Eastern Washington	5-3	141	21
22. Northern Arizona	5-2	128	25
23. Massachusetts	4-3	116	16
24. Liberty	5-2	67	NR
T25. Colgate	7-1	64	17
T25. Prairie View A&M	5-1	64	NR

Others receiving votes (points in parentheses): Florida A&M (56), Lafayette (28), Butler (18), Eastern Kentucky (12), UC Davis (8), Albany (5), Brown (3), Chattanooga (2), Harvard (2), James Madison (2), Missouri State (2), Southern Utah (2), Gardner-Webb (1), Montana State (1).