



EMPORIA STATE HORNETS

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

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EMPORIA STATE FOOTBALL RANKED #22 IN AFCA PRESEASON POLL

August 18, 2014-For the first time in school history, the Emporia State football team will begin the season ranked in the top 25 of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) NCAA Division II Preseason Poll. The Hornets are ranked #22 and are one of three MIAA teams in the top 25 with a total of six conference schools receiving votes.

Eight teams from NCAA Super Region 3 are in the top 25 with a total of 15 region teams receiving votes. Only the top six in the final NCAA Regional Rankings will make the playoffs.

The Hornets started last season receiving votes in the pre-season poll and were ranked as high as #10 after starting the season 8-0. Emporia State finished last season 9-2 with both losses to teams that finished last season ranked in the top ten nationally and are #1 and #3 in this year's preseason poll. The Hornets were 2-2 against ranked teams in 2013.

The AFCA Poll and D2Football.com polls are the two major polls that come out weekly during the season. Emporia State has been ranked in the top 25 in a number of other preseason polls this year. The Hornets were #9 in Steve Pugh's compughterratings.com ranking, #13 in Lindy's Pre-season Magazine, #15 in the Bennett Rankings, #16 in the Massey Ratings, and #22 in the Sporting News Preseason poll.

The Hornets have laid a good foundation for continued success with a total of 21 players back that started at least two games for last year's 9-2 squad. The defense returns seven players with at least five starts while the offense brings back ten players with at least four starts last season.

The Hornets will open the season on Thursday, September 4 against Missouri Southern in Welch Stadium.

###HORNETS###

2013 AFCA NCAA Division II Preseason Poll				
School (1st votes)	2012 Rec.	Pts.	2013 Rank*	
1. Northwest Missouri St. (31)	15-0	799	1	
2. Grand Valley St. (Mich.)	12-3	725	3	
3. <i>Minnesota-Duluth</i>	11-2	634	8	
4. Colorado St.-Pueblo	11-1	619	7	
5. North Alabama	10-3	589	10	
6. Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.)	13-2	538	2	
7. <i>Minnesota St.-Mankato</i>	11-1	530	6	
8. <i>Henderson St. (Ark.) (1)</i>	11-1	523	13	
9. Pittsburg St. (Kan.)	10-2	522	19	
10. West Chester (Pa.)	13-2	477	4	
11. West Texas A&M	11-3	407	11	
12. Shepherd (W.Va.)	11-1	393	9	
13. Ohio Dominican	10-1	390	12	
14. Winston-Salem St. (N.C.)	10-2	389	14	
15. <i>St. Cloud State (Minn.)</i>	12-2	350	5	
16. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	10-3	333	17	
17. Tarleton St. (Texas)	7-3	266	NR	
18. Indianapolis (Ind.)	10-2	229	18	
19. Delta St. (Miss.)	7-3	206	NR	
20. Indiana (Pa.)	9-2	167	24	
21. North Carolina-Pembroke	9-2	140	15	
22. EMPORIA ST. (KAN.)	9-2	133	20	
22. <i>Azusa Pacific (Calif.)</i>	10-2	133	NR	
24. Bloomsburg (Pa.)	10-2	103	16	
25. Tuskegee (Ala.)	8-3	98	25	

*- Ranking in final AFCA Division II Poll of 2013

Others Receiving Votes: Saginaw Valley St. (Mich.), 87; **Central Missouri, 82**; West Alabama, 67; Valdosta St. (Ga.), 59; American International (Mass.), 51; Ferris St. (Mich.), 41; California (Pa.), 38; **Missouri Western St., 38**; Albany St. (Ga.), 32; Midwestern St. (Texas), 31; *Harding (Ark.)*, 27; Colorado School of Mines, 20; Newberry (S.C.), 20; Concord (W.Va.), 19; East Stroudsburg (Pa.), 19; Slippery Rock (Pa.), 13; Eastern New Mexico, 12; *Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)*, 9; *Winona St. (Minn.)*, 9; Fayetteville St. (N.C.), 7; *Sioux Falls (S.D.)*, 7; Truman St. (Mo.), 5; Findlay (Ohio), 3; Miles (Ala.), 3; Chadron St. (Neb.), 2; Michigan Tech, 2; **Washburn (Kan.)**, 2; West Georgia, 2.

MIAA Teams in Bold
Super Region 3 Teams in Italics