AFCA D2 COACHES POLL

PRESENTED BY hudl

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 11, 2025
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Ferris State Starts 2025 at No. 1

WACO, TEX.– Fresh off their third national title in 2024, Ferris State is the preseason No. 1 team in the AFCA Division II Coaches Poll, presented by Hudl. The Bulldogs, who went 14-1 a year ago, will open the season against No. 9 Pittsburg State. The Gorillas went 8-3 in 2024 and lost in the first round of the playoffs to the preseason No. 2 team, Harding. The Bisons will look to better their 12-2 record and quarterfinal appearance as they open their season in week 2 against Northwestern Oklahoma State.

Grand Valley State begins at No. 3. The Lakers want to improve from their second-round playoff exit from a year ago. Slippery Rock, who gave Ferris State their toughest competition in the semifinals of the playoffs last season, received one first-place vote and starts 2025 at No. 4. Central Oklahoma, who also lost to the defending national champs in the second round, sits at No. 5.

Besides Ferris State vs. Pittsburg State, there are two other top 25 matchups in the opening week of the season as No. 8 West Florida, who was unranked to end the 2024 season, will play host to No. 17 Lenoir-Rhyne. The Bears went 10-3 in 2024 with a second-round playoff appearance. The final matchup has No. 19 Virginia Union vs. No. 24t Miles in the Black College Football Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio.

2025 AFCA Division II Coaches Poll, presented by Hudl – August 11, 2025

Rank	School (1st votes)	2024 Rec.	Pts.	2024 Rank*	Season Opener	Head Coach
1.	Ferris St. (30)	14-1	773	1	Aug. 28 vs. No. 9 Pittsburg St.	Tony Annese
2.	Harding	12-2	734	4	Sept. 4 at Northwestern Oklahoma St.	Paul Simmons
3.	Grand Valley St.	11-2	669	6	Aug. 30 vs. Lincoln (Pa.)	Scott Wooster
4.	Slippery Rock (1)	12-2	576	3	Sept. 5 at Franklin Pierce	Shawn Lutz
5.	Central Oklahoma	11-2	569	9	Aug. 30 at UT-Permian Basin	Adam Dorrel
6.	Colorado St.-Pueblo	10-2	549	8	Aug. 28 vs. South Dakota Mines	Philip Vigil
7.	Kutztown	11-1	517	5	Sept. 4 vs. Assumption	Jim Clements
8.	West Florida	7-3	504	NR	Aug. 29 vs. No. 17 Lenoir-Rhyne	Kaleb Nobles
9.	Pittsburg St.	8-3	451	17	Aug. 28 at No. 1 Ferris St.	Tom Anthony
10.	Western Colorado	11-2	450	10	Aug. 28 vs. West Texas A&M	Jas Bains
11.	Minnesota St.	11-4	449	7	Aug. 28 vs. Northwest Missouri St.	Todd Hoffner
12.	Valdosta St.	13-1	402	2	Aug. 30 vs. Clark Atlanta	Graham Craig
13.	Angelo St.	9-3	352	20	Aug. 28 at Fort Hays St.	Jeff Girsch
14.	Charleston	11-1	337	15	Aug. 28 vs. Livingstone	Mike Tesch
15.	California (Pa.)	10-3	275	12	Sept. 4 vs. No. 14 Charleston	Gary Dunn
16.	Bemidji St.	10-4	254	13	Aug. 28 at Michigan Tech	Brent Bolte
17.	Lenoir-Rhyne	10-3	248	16	Aug. 29 at No. 8 West Florida	Doug Socha
18.	Ouachita Baptist	10-2	246	14	Sept. 4 at East Central	Todd Knight
19.	Virginia Union	10-4	228	11	Aug. 31 vs. No. 24t Miles	Alvin Parker
20.	UIndy	10-2	191	19	Aug. 28 at Marian	Chris Keevers
21.	Central Washington	8-4	176	24	Aug. 28 vs. Colorado Mesa	Chris Fisk
22.	Central Missouri	9-3	149	NR	Aug. 28 at Delta St.	Josh Lamberson
23.	Augustana (S.D.)	8-4	127	25	Aug. 30 vs. Missouri Western	Jerry Olszewski
24t.	Ashland	9-4	114	23	Sept. 4 at Indiana (Pa.)	Doug Geiser
24t.	Miles	10-3	114	22	Aug. 31 vs. No. 19 Virginia Union	Chris Goode

*– Ranking in final AFCA Division II Poll of 2024

Others Receiving Votes: West Alabama, 113; Carson-Newman, 100; Wingate, 74; Fort Hays St., 66; Colorado School of Mines, 42; Saginaw Valley St., 35; Minnesota-Duluth, 29; Albany St., 26; Northwest Missouri St., 21; Indiana (Pa.), 16; UT-Permian Basin, 16; Delta St., 13; Findlay, 12; UNC-Pembroke, 12; Davenport, 10; Johnson C. Smith, 9; East Stroudsburg, 7; Fairmont St., 7; Southern Arkansas, 6; Texas A&M-Kingsville, 5; Colorado Mesa, 1; Truman St., 1.

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