



NEWS RELEASE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPION FERRIS STATE BEGINS 2022 AT NO. 1

WACO, TEX.— After winning the program’s first Division II national title with a perfect 14-0 record in 2021, Ferris State (Mich.) starts the 2022 season at No. 1 in the AFCA Division II Coaches’ Top 25 Poll. The Bulldogs, who earned all 30 first-place votes, will begin their title defense on September 1 hosting Central Washington. Northwest Missouri State comes in at No. 2, followed by Valdosta State (Ga.), the national runner-up from a year ago, at No. 3.

The first big Top 25 matchup of the season pits the fourth and fifth ranked teams as No. 4 Colorado School of Mines travels to No. 5 Grand Valley State (Mich.). Shepherd (W.Va.), Angelo State (Tex.), Bowie State (Md.), Harding (Ark.) and Notre Dame (Ohio) round out the Top 10.

There is a second Top 25 matchup on the first weekend as No. 8 Bowie State (Md.) plays host to No. 16 New Haven (Conn.).

2022 American Football Coaches Association Preseason Division II Coaches’ Poll – August 15, 2022

Rank	School (1st votes)	2021 Rec.	2021 Pts.	2021 Rank*	Season Opener	Head Coach
1.	Ferris St. (Mich.) (30)	14-0	750	1	Sept. 1 vs. Central Washington	Tony Annese
2.	Northwest Missouri St.	11-2	661	4	Sept. 1 vs. Fort Hays St. (Kan.)	Rich Wright
3.	Valdosta St. (Ga.)	12-2	656	2	Sept. 1 vs. Keiser (Fla.)	Tremaine Jackson
4.	Colorado School of Mines	12-2	654	3	Sept. 1 at No. 5 Grand Valley St. (Mich.)	Brandon Moore
5.	Grand Valley St. (Mich.)	10-2	596	7	Sept. 1 vs. No. 4 Colorado School of Mines	Matt Mitchell
6.	Shepherd (W.Va.)	13-2	550	5	Sept. 1 at Southern Connecticut St.	Ernie McCook
7.	Angelo St. (Tex.)	11-3	494	11	Sept. 1 vs. Chadron St. (Neb.)	Jeff Girsch
8.	Bowie St. (Md.)	12-2	479	6	Sept. 3 vs. No. 16 New Haven (Conn.)	Kyle Jackson
9.	Harding (Ark.)	11-2	467	10	Sept. 1 at East Central (Okla.)	Paul Simmons
10.	Notre Dame (Ohio)	11-2	465	9	Sept. 1 at Ashland (Ohio)	Garrett Mack
11.	West Florida	9-2	452	12	Sept. 3 vs. Warner (Fla.)	Pete Shinnick
12.	West Georgia	9-3	373	13	Sept. 1 vs. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	David Dean
13.	Kutztown (Pa.)	11-2	359	8	Sept. 3 at Assumption (Mass.)	Jim Clements
14.	Nebraska-Kearney	10-3	318	15	Sept. 1 at Missouri Southern	Josh Lynn
15.	Newberry (S.C.)	10-3	250	17	Sept. 3 vs. Allen (S.C.)	Todd Knight
16.	New Haven (Conn.)	10-2	243	14	Sept. 3 at No. 8 Bowie St. (Md.)	Chris Pincince
17.	Western Colorado	10-2	226	16	Sept. 3 at West Texas A&M	Jas Bains
18.	Albany St. (Ga.)	10-2	160	18	Sept. 3 vs. Mississippi College	Gabe Giardina
19t.	Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.)	8-3	154	NR	Sept. 3 vs. Virginia St.	Mike Jacobs
19t.	Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)	9-2	154	23	Sept. 1 at Oklahoma Baptist	Todd Knight
21.	California (Pa.)	9-1	143	21	Sept. 1 vs. Fairmont St. (W.Va.)	Gary Dunn
22.	Bemidji St. (Minn.)	10-3	137	19	Sept. 1 vs. Minnesota St.	Brent Bolte
23.	Slippery Rock (Pa.)	9-3	131	20	Sept. 3 vs. Wayne St. (Mich.)	Shawn Lutz
24.	Midwestern St. (Tex.)	7-3	112	NR	Sept. 3 vs. Colorado St.-Pueblo	Bill Maskill
25.	Augustana (S.D.)	9-3	99	NR	Sept. 1 at Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.)	Jerry Olszewski

*– Ranking in final AFCA Division II Poll of 2021

Others Receiving Votes: Frostburg St. (Md.), 97; Indiana (Pa.), 79; Indianapolis (Ind.), 65; Washburn (Kan.), 59; Findlay (Ohio), 52; Pittsburg St. (Kan.), 46; Tiffin (Ohio), 34; Minnesota-Duluth, 32; Henderson St. (Ark.), 31; Central Washington, 25; Bentley (Mass.), 24; Minnesota St., 23; Ashland (Ohio), 22; West Texas A&M, 15; Saginaw Valley St. (Mich.), 14; Truman St. (Mo.), 13; Colorado St.-Pueblo, 7; Southeastern Oklahoma St., 7; Delta St. (Miss.), 5; Ohio Dominican, 4; Virginia Union, 4; West Alabama, 3; Shaw (N.C.), 2; Chadron St. (Neb.), 1; Colorado Mesa, 1; UT-Permian Basin (Texas), 1; West Chester (Pa.), 1.

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