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NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION – @NCBWA
CENTRAL REGION CHAIR – Thomas Breach, St. Cloud State (thomas.breach@stcloudstate.edu)

Southern Arkansas tops 2023 NCBWA Preseason Central Region Poll

Reigning Region Champion earns 12 first place votes, MIAA leads region with four ranked programs

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Central Region committee has released their 2023 Preseason Central Region Poll, led by reigning region champion Southern Arkansas. Four Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association programs are featured in the Top 10 rankings while the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and Great American Conference each have three ranked teams.

Southern Arkansas tops the poll with 12 of 15 first place votes, earning 145 points. Central Missouri earned two first place votes and placed second with 128 points while Augustana added the final top vote to take third with 120 points. Minnesota State-Mankato is fourth with 104 points while Henderson State is fifth with 87 and St. Cloud State places sixth with 60. Northeastern State's 58 points place them seventh with Pittsburg State (50), Oklahoma Baptist (34) and Washburn (13) occupying the final three spots.

Six more programs – Central Oklahoma, Ouachita Baptist, Missouri Southern State, Harding, Arkansas Tech and Southeastern Oklahoma State were each featured on at least one ballot.

CENTRAL REGION

Rank	Team (1st Place Votes)	2022 Record	Pts	Prev
1	Southern Arkansas (12)	47-13	145	-
2	Central Missouri (2)	45-9	128	-
3	Augustana (1)	47-13	120	-
4	Minnesota State-Mankato	39-9	104	-
5	Henderson State	40-17	87	-
6	St. Cloud State	37-13	60	-
7	Northeastern State	38-17	58	-
8	Pittsburg State	31-21	50	-
9	Oklahoma Baptist	26-22	34	-
10	Washburn	33-21	13	-

Receiving Votes: Central Oklahoma (29-21) 8 points; Ouachita Baptist (32-24) 8 points; Missouri Southern State (29-23) 4 points; Harding (33-19) 3 points; Arkansas Tech (23-23) 1 point; Southeastern Oklahoma State (32-20) 1 point.

Dropped Out: N/A

The NCBWA Central Region committee consists of 15 voters with five representatives each from the GAC, MIAA and NSIC. Weekly regular season rankings will begin on February 13 and run through May 8. The Central Region of NCAA DII Baseball is comprised of three conferences – the Great American Conference, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate – featuring 39 programs spanning nine states.

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