



NATIONAL TENPIN COACHES ASSOCIATION

"NCAA bowling – there's nothing like it!"

For Immediate Release
December 13, 2011

VALPO VAULTED TO NO. 1 IN NTCA DECEMBER COACHES POLL

HACKENSACK, NJ – **Valparaiso University** of Valparaiso, IN was voted as the top ranked team in the 2011 December national poll conducted by the membership of National Tenpin Coaches Association, the coaches alliance of NCAA participating women's bowling programs. The **Crusaders** (30-8, 0.790) improved 17 places in the rankings and nipped **Fairleigh Dickinson University** of Teaneck, NJ by only two points.

Since the beginning of the season, **Valparaiso**, which collected eight first place votes, competed in three events, resulting in two championships and a third place finish. The **Crusaders** bested the eight-team field at the **UCM Greater Ozark Invitational** in Springfield, MO and the nine-team field at the **VU Crusader Classic** in Merrillville, IL. **Valpo's** third place finish occurred at the 19-team **UMES Hawk Classic** in Millsboro, DE.

Just as strong out of the blocks was second ranked **Fairleigh Dickinson**. The **Knights** (45-12, 0.790), who garnished six first place votes, participated in five events this season. **FDU** won the 12-team **B-CU Wildcat Invitational** in Ormond Beach, FL, won the 18-team **FDU NJ Jamboree** in Elmwood Park, NJ, finished second at the **UMES Hawk Classic**, finished third at the 11-team **VUU Invitational** in Midlothian, VA, and sits in second place in the **Northeast Conference** after one meet.

The third ranked team was **Sacred Heart University** of Fairfield, CT. **SHU** (37-9, 0.804), which received four first place votes and jumped six spots in the poll, has played in four events. The **Pioneers** are in first place in the **Northeast Conference**, finished in second place at the **VUU Invitational**, ended in fourth at the **FDU NJ Jamboree**, and finished up in sixth place at the **UMES Hawk Classic**.

The **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** of Princess Anne, MD, the defending NCAA national champions, was ranked fourth. The **Hawks** (37-9, 0.804) are perched in first place in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference North Division with a 20-0 record after two meets. **UMES**, which received four first place votes, also competed at the **FDU NJ Jamboree** and the **UMES Hawk Classic**, ending in fifth place and fourth place, respectively.

Moving up two spots to No. 5 since the last poll was **Sam Houston State University** of Huntsville, TX. The **Bearkats** (40-13, 0.755) competed in four intercollegiate tournaments. **SHSU** closed out the first half by winning the title at the 14-team **SHSU Track Kat Klash** in Huntsville, TX. The **Kats** also brought home some hardware at the **UCM Greater Ozark Invitational** and at the **FDU NJ Jamboree** with third place finishes, and ended in seventh at the **UMES Hawk Classic** in their only other appearance.

The NTCA, which has honored NCAA women's bowling programs and student-athletes by conducting national polls and selecting all-America teams since 2005, will conduct 10 national polls this season. This poll is the second of six coaches' polls scheduled for the 2011-12 season. Four media polls are scheduled beginning the second half of the season.....The two-point margin of victory for top billing is the second narrowest since the NTCA began conducting polls in January of 2005. In the 2007 April poll, the **University of Nebraska** was voted No. 1 over **Fairleigh Dickinson** by one point.....**Valparaiso's** 17-place improvement is a record.



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2011-12 NTCA DECEMBER NATIONAL POLL

Rank	Institution, City, State	Season Record W - L	1st Place Votes	Adjusted Point Standings	Previously Ranked
1.	Valparaiso University, <i>Valparaiso, IN</i>	30 – 8	8	582	18
2.	Fairleigh Dickinson University, <i>Teaneck, NJ</i>	45 – 12	6	580	3
3.	Sacred Heart University, <i>Fairfield, CT</i>	37 – 9	4	554	9
4.	Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore, <i>Princess Anne, MD</i>	37 – 9	4	518	1
5.	Sam Houston State University, <i>Huntsville, TX</i>	40 – 13		505	7
6T.	Vanderbilt University, <i>Nashville, TN</i>	30 – 13	1	437	2
6T.	University of Central Missouri, <i>Warrensburg, MO</i>	26 – 12		437	4
8T.	University of Nebraska, <i>Lincoln, NE</i>	18 – 6		363	5
8T.	Arkansas State University, <i>Jonesboro, AR</i>	27 – 11		363	6
10.	New Jersey City University, <i>Jersey City, NJ</i>	24 – 8		285	10
11.	Stephen F. Austin University, <i>Nacogdoches, TX</i>	25 – 16		195	13
12.	Delaware State University, <i>Dover, DE</i>	30 – 17		157	12
13.	Norfolk State University, <i>Norfolk, VA</i>	32 – 14		137	15
14.	St. Francis University, <i>Loretto, PA</i>	33 – 14		127	19
15.	Kutztown University, <i>Kutztown, PA</i>	24 – 20		121	8
16.	Monmouth University, <i>West Long Branch, NJ</i>	26 – 21		103	--
17.	St. Peter’s College, <i>Jersey City, NJ</i>	32 – 12		98	--
18.	University of Wisconsin, <i>Whitewater, WI</i>	13 – 12		88	17
19.	Adelphi University, <i>Garden City, NY</i>	32 – 24		77	11
20.	St. Francis College, <i>Brooklyn Heights, NY</i>	23 – 23		17	16

Also receiving points:

Alabama A&M University, *Huntsville, AL*; Bethune-Cookman University, *Daytona Beach, FL*; Florida A&M University, *Tallahassee, FL*; Fayetteville State University, *Fayetteville, NC*; Long Island University, *Brooklyn, NY*.

Point system:

NTCA voters rank the top 20 teams on their ballot. Each position has a designated point value, ranging from 32 points for first place and one point for twentieth place. To be ranked teams need to equal or surpass the minimum vote criteria, which is one vote for every eight ballots submitted. In this poll, two votes were necessary. The actual ranking position is determined by using the adjusted point standings, which lists in priority order the total points a school has accumulated after the highest and lowest votes are dropped.

The specific point values are: *1st place = 32 points, 2nd = 29, 3rd = 27, 4th = 25, 5th = 23, 6th = 21, 7th = 19, 8th = 17, 9th = 15, 10th = 13, 11th = 11, 12th = 9, 13th = 8, 14th = 7, 15th = 6, 16th = 5, 17th = 4, 18th = 3, 19th = 2, 20th = 1.*