



NORTH EAST COLLEGIATE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

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2006 NORTH EAST COLLEGIATE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION TOP 10 POLL (WEEK 4)

February 20, 2006

JERSEY CITY, NJ... The top three in the NECVA Top 10 poll remain unchanged for a second consecutive week, and Stevens Institute continues as the No. 1 ranked team in the conference for the 14th consecutive poll. For the third week in a row, the Ducks have received all 12 first place votes. Meanwhile, Rivier received every No. 2 vote, and Medaille earned nine of 12 third place nods. Among movers and shakers, Eastern Mennonite jumped five spots, up from ninth to a tie for fourth, after a neutral site win over Nazareth, combined with losses by other top teams. SUNY-New Paltz has won five of six, and moves into a share of fourth in the poll, up one spot. D'Youville climbs one, to sixth, following a 3-1 loss to Medaille and five-game win over Division II-Mt. Olive College. Nazareth fell from fourth to seventh after a 3-0 loss to EMU. MIT is up from 10th to eighth, as the Engineers continue to hang onto a share of the New England Division lead. Baruch falls one slot to ninth, after its 11-match winning streak was snapped in a neutral site, 3-2 loss to Ramapo. New Jersey City, the hottest team in the country with nine straight wins, was the biggest winner in points in the poll, climbing from three to 22—a 733% increase in support—after defeating Ramapo in the finals of the Gothic Knight Invitational. NJCU is ranked in the Top 10 for the first time this year. Despite ending Baruch's winning streak with a come-from-behind, five-game thriller, Ramapo fell from sixth to a tie for 10th in the poll after the loss to NJCU. No other teams received votes in this week's poll, as the top contenders for the 16-team 2006 NECVA Tournament become more clear.

RANK	(AVCA RANK)	SCHOOL (#1 votes)	RECORD	POINTS	LAST WEEK
1	#7	Stevens Institute (12)	13-7	120	1
2	#8	Rivier College	11-3	108	2
3	#9	Medaille College	7-8	90	3
4 (tie)	#10	Eastern Mennonite	7-3	64	9
4 (tie)	#12	SUNY-New Paltz	12-4	64	5
6	#13	D'Youville College	8-4	52	7
7	#11	Nazareth College	9-4	48	4
8	#15t	MIT	11-3	36	10
9	#15t	Baruch College	16-3	28	8
10 (tie)	RV	New Jersey City University	9-3	25	RV
10 (tie)	RV	Ramapo College	12-3	25	6

Dropped out: None

Also Receiving Votes: None.

Note: Points represent total out of 120. A team voted No. 1 on a ballot receives 10 points, No. 2 receives 9 points, No. 3 receives 8 points, and so forth.

ABOUT THE NECVA:

The North East Collegiate Volleyball Association, the largest known single-sport conference in the United States, is in its 12th year of competition during the 2006 season as a leading Division III men's volleyball conference. Founded in 1995 as the Metro Conference, it became known as the NECVA in 1998. Currently comprised of 35 colleges and universities stretching from New Hampshire to Virginia, Bard College, Lesley University, and Southern Vermont College joined the league this year to reach the current membership figure.

The league is divided into four smaller divisions: CUNY (8), Metro (8), New England (11), and Western (7), with one associate member. Each week, coaches from the four divisions nominate athletes and then vote for the divisional Player and Rookie of the Week awards. The conference sports information office then selects the NECVA Player and Rookie honors from each of these four divisional winners.

The NECVA holds an annual 16-team conference tournament each April with the top three schools in each division and four at-large selections earning berths. The NECVA champion receives one of four automatic bids to the Molten Division III Final Four in April. In addition, Stevens Institute will automatically be granted a bid to the Molten Final Four as the 2006 host institution for a second consecutive year.

2006 POLL VOTERS:

Tim Byram, Endicott College; Gregg Cohen, New York City College of Technology; Patrick Dorywalski, Stevens Institute of Technology; Bill Gorman, Wentworth Institute of Technology; David Hildebrandt, Newbury College; Karina Jorge, City College of New York; Keith Koch, Medaille College; Craig Kolek, Rivier College; John Neves; Baruch College; Mike Spinner, College of Mount Saint Vincent; Ira Thor, NECVA Sports Information Director/New Jersey City University; Cal Wickens, Nazareth College.