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Messiah Holds No. 1 Ranking in Penn Monto/NFHCA Division III Coaches Poll

CHANDLER, Ariz. – Messiah earned the No. 1 ranking in the Penn Monto/NFHCA Division III Coaches Poll for the sixth straight week on Tuesday as the Falcons have won all 16 of their regular-season contests against DIII opponents heading into this week’s conference tournament action.

Messiah finished the regular season with a 16-1 mark, with the only loss coming in the opener against a Shippensburg squad which is ranked No. 2 in the Penn Monto/NFHCA Division II Coaches Poll. Messiah capped its 16-game winning streak against Division III opposition with a 4-1 win at then-No. 19 William Smith on Saturday. Messiah has the top seed in the MAC Commonwealth Tournament, beginning action at home against Lebanon Valley College on Wednesday. Messiah captured 40 first-place votes and 838 points to earn the top spot in this week’s poll.

Salisbury held its spot at No. 2 in the ranking, followed by Tufts at No. 3. Middlebury was up one place to No. 4 by winning a top-five showdown against Bowdoin in the quarterfinals of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) Tournament on Saturday. The College of New Jersey also slid up one spot to No. 5.

Ursinus came in at No. 6, with No. 7 Franklin & Marshall, No. 8 Bowdoin, No. 9 Babson and No. 10 Trinity (Conn.) rounding out the top 10. Hamilton was next at No. 11 followed by No. 12 Montclair State, No. 13 Amherst, No. 14 Muhlenberg, No. 15 University of Rochester, No. 16 Alvernia, No. 17 Skidmore, No. 18 Williams, No. 19 Kean and No. 20 William Smith.

Conference tournament action dominates the schedule throughout Division III this week. Selections for the 2016 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Tournament will come out on Sunday.

The next Penn Monto/NFHCA Division III Coaches Poll will be announced on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The poll is voted on by NFHCA member coaches, and has no bearing on selection to the 2016 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship.



Penn Monto/NFHCA Division III Coaches Poll – Nov. 1

<u>Institution (Record)</u>	<u>Points (First-Place Votes)</u>	<u>Previous Ranking</u>
1. Messiah (16-1)	838 (40)	1
2. Salisbury (14-1)	769 (1)	2
3. Tufts (14-2)	737 (1)	3
4. Middlebury (13-3)	670	5
5. College of New Jersey (14-3)	629	6
6. Ursinus (14-4)	551	7
7. Franklin & Marshall (13-3)	533	8
8. Bowdoin (11-5)	482	4
9. Babson (17-2)	438	10
10. Trinity (Conn.) (12-4)	361	11
11. Hamilton (12-4)	346	15
12. Montclair State (15-4)	337	13
13. Amherst (11-5)	335	9
14. Muhlenberg (15-2)	334	12
15. University of Rochester (16-3)	265	14
16. Alvernia (18-1)	259	17
17. Skidmore (13-5)	201	16
18. Williams (10-6)	196	20
19. Kean (16-2)	174	18
20. William Smith (12-5)	141	19

Others Receiving Votes (Next Five): Vassar (69), University of New England (32), Christopher Newport (28), Cortland (27), York (Pa.) (15)