

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 3, 2009

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ARKANSAS TECH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RECEIVES TWO VOTES IN LATEST USA TODAY/ESPN DIVISION II COACHES' TOP 25 POLL

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas – Arkansas Tech Women's Basketball received two votes in this week's 13th *USA Today/ESPN* WBCA Division II Top 25 Coaches' Poll that was released on Tuesday.

Tech, who is 19-8 overall on the season and 9-5 in the GSC, earned votes in this week's poll after going 1-1 last week. Tech opened the week with a 71-66 overtime home win last Thursday over Arkansas-Monticello and then closed the regular season with a disappointing 67-61 loss on Saturday at Christian Brothers. Tech had now been either ranked or has received votes in 11 of the 13 polls this season.

The *USA Today/ESPN* WBCA Coaches' Poll is voted on weekly by a panel of 29 head coaches at NCAA Division II institutions and all the coaches are members of the WBCA (Women's Basketball Coaches Association). This season, Tech Head Coach **Dave Wilbers** is one of the voters in this year's poll.

Tech is one of five Gulf South Conference schools that are receiving votes in this week's poll. Delta State received 29 votes to be second among teams receiving votes, while West Georgia received 11 votes and Arkansas-Monticello earned 10 votes after its loss to Tech. The final GSC team receiving votes this week is Valdosta State as the Lady Blazers received one vote in this week's poll.

In addition to the three GSC foes, another of Tech's opponents this season was mentioned in this week's poll as Fort Lewis (25-2 on the season) remained fourth in this week's poll. Fort Lewis posted a 73-64 overtime win over the Golden Suns at Rollins' Thanksgiving Classic on Nov. 29 in Winter Park, Fla.

Minnesota State-Mankato (26-1 on the season) leads the poll for the second straight week as they earned 675 points and 27 first place votes. Northern Kentucky (25-2 on the season) remained second, while California [PA] (24-3 on the season) remains third and Alaska-Anchorage (26-3 on the season) follows Fort Lewis at No. 5 this week.

Hillsdale [MI] (24-3 on the season) moves up two spots to No. 6 and is followed by UC-San Diego (26-3 on the season) at No. 7 and Seattle Pacific (19-4 on the season) moves up two spots to No. 8. Quincy [IL] (24-3 on the season) climbs three spots to No. 9 and Emporia State (23-3 on the season) falls five spots to No. 10 in this week's poll.

The second 10 begins with Washburn (23-4 on the season) at No. 11 and they are followed by Central Oklahoma (23-4 on the season) at No. 12 and Tusculum (23-4 on the season) at No. 13. Francis Marion (24-3 on the season) falls seven spots to No. 14, while West Texas A&M (22-4 on the season) falls four spots to No. 15. Indiana [PA] (22-5 on the season) and St. Mary's [TX] (23-4 on the season) are tied at No. 16

and are followed by Michigan Tech (22-5 on the season) at No. 18, Franklin Pierce (21-5 on the season) at No. 19 and District of Columbia (22-4 on the season) falls one spot to No. 20 this week.

Fort Valley State (23-4 on the season) leaps to two spots to No. 21 and are followed by Rollins [FL] (23-4 on the season) at No. 22. Gannon [PA] (24-3 on the season) and Lenoir-Rhyne (23-4 on the season) are tied at No. 23 and Holy Family (25-4 on the season) remains at No. 25 in this week's poll.

The Golden Suns will return to action on Thursday, March 5, when they open up play in the 2009 GSC Tournament against Valdosta State. Tip-off is set for 2:45 p.m. at the DeSoto County Civic Center in Southaven, Miss.

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