

THE WEEKEND OF OCT 22-25, 2026



AVCA POLL Week 8, October 19, 2026

DATA THROUGH October 21, 2026

RANKED VS. RANKED 12 matches

PREGAME BOOKS 12 matches



Graphics, books and this guide
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PREGAME BOOKS THIS WEEKEND

20261022-colorado-byu.pdf	4 storylines
20261023-kansas-tcu.pdf	4 storylines
20261023-minnesota-purdue.pdf	4 storylines
20261023-oregon-penn-state.pdf	4 storylines
20261023-washington-wisconsin.pdf	4 storylines
20261024-arizona-state-byu.pdf	4 storylines
20261025-kansas-baylor.pdf	4 storylines
20261025-penn-state-indiana.pdf	4 storylines
20261025-stanford-north-carolina.pdf	4 storylines
20261025-texas-a-and-m-kentucky.pdf	4 storylines
20261025-vanderbilt-tennessee.pdf	4 storylines
20261025-washington-minnesota.pdf	4 storylines

THE WEEKEND

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Twelve matches pair two AVCA top-25 teams. The highest-ranked pairing is No. 8 Arizona State at No. 11 BYU on Saturday. No. 11 BYU, No. 16 Penn State, No. 17 Kansas, No. 20 Minnesota, and No. 21 Washington each play two ranked teams.

Day	Match	First serve (host)	TV	MESH pick
Thu Oct 22	 No. 25 Colorado (13-4) at  No. 11 BYU (15-1)	6:30 PM MDT	ESPN+	BYU 88%
Fri Oct 23	 No. 10 Oregon (16-2) at  No. 16 Penn State (13-5)	7:00 PM EDT	B1G+	Penn State 60%
Fri Oct 23	 No. 21 Washington (14-3) at  No. 6 Wisconsin (13-5)	8:00 PM	Big Ten Network	Wisconsin 71%
Fri Oct 23	 No. 17 Kansas (12-5) at  No. 13 TCU (15-4)	7:00 PM	ESPN+	Kansas 52%
Fri Oct 23	 No. 20 Minnesota (11-5) at  No. 12 Purdue (11-6)	7:00 PM EDT	B1G+	Purdue 50%
Sat Oct 24	 No. 8 Arizona State (15-3) at  No. 11 BYU (15-1)	6:30 PM MDT	ESPN+	BYU 61%
Sun Oct 25	 No. 19 Texas A&M (11-8) at  No. 4 Kentucky (15-3)	1:00 PM	ABC	Kentucky 80%
Sun Oct 25	 No. 22 Vanderbilt (15-2) at  No. 9 Tennessee (14-3)	1:00 PM ET	SEC Network	Tennessee 69%
Sun Oct 25	 No. 16 Penn State (13-5) at  No. 18 Indiana (11-6)	3:00 PM	FS1	Indiana 51%
Sun Oct 25	 No. 15 Stanford (12-6) at  No. 23 North Carolina (12-4)	8:30 PM	ESPN	North Carolina 61%
Sun Oct 25	 No. 17 Kansas (12-5) at  No. 24 Baylor (12-5)	2:00 PM	ESPN	Baylor 50%
Sun Oct 25	 No. 21 Washington (14-3) at  No. 20 Minnesota (11-5)	1:00 PM	Big Ten Network	Minnesota 68%

MESH pick: the MESH team model's win probability, from every rally of the season, adjusted for opponent and site. Times as the host school lists them. A full pregame book for each match is listed on the contents page.

AVCA TOP 25 AND THE MODEL

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AVCA	Team	Record	Move	Points	MESH rank	Adj. side-out %	Adj. point-scoring %	Schedule	Luck
1	 Nebraska	19-0	–	1575	1	70.0% (1st)	53.9% (1st)	18th	+4
2	 Pittsburgh	17-1	–	1512	2	69.5% (2nd)	50.6% (4th)	7th	+4
3	 Louisville	18-2	–	1420	3	68.0% (4th)	52.3% (2nd)	17th	-1
4	 Kentucky	15-3	–	1389	4	67.4% (7th)	50.4% (5th)	3rd	+1
5	 Florida	15-2	▲2	1283	5	66.9% (10th)	50.0% (6th)	9th	+7
6	 Wisconsin	13-5	–	1259	9	68.2% (3rd)	46.4% (44th)	2nd	+5
7	 SMU	14-4	▼2	1190	12	67.2% (8th)	46.7% (39th)	4th	+6
8	 Arizona State	15-3	–	1122	7	65.6% (13th)	49.8% (7th)	23rd	-1
9	 Tennessee	14-3	–	1045	8	65.9% (12th)	49.6% (10th)	35th	-4
10	 Oregon	16-2	▲1	986	16	64.1% (26th)	48.2% (19th)	14th	+16
11	 BYU	15-1	▲3	826	6	67.5% (6th)	48.9% (12th)	39th	+6
12	 Purdue	11-6	▲1	814	18	65.5% (14th)	47.7% (25th)	8th	-5
13	 TCU	15-4	▼3	795	23	64.2% (24th)	46.0% (49th)	19th	+6
14	 Texas	9-7	▼2	783	25	64.8% (19th)	45.6% (59th)	1st	+4
15	 Stanford	12-6	▲1	653	28	63.4% (32nd)	47.5% (27th)	11th	+1
16	 Penn State	13-5	▼1	567	15	63.6% (29th)	49.7% (8th)	13th	-3
17	 Kansas	12-5	–	550	11	67.7% (5th)	47.0% (32nd)	31st	-13
18	 Indiana	11-6	–	507	27	63.0% (35th)	48.1% (20th)	6th	+2
19	 Texas A&M	11-8	–	364	17	64.9% (18th)	47.8% (23rd)	10th	-13
20	 Minnesota	11-5	▲1	335	10	64.7% (20th)	50.7% (3rd)	15th	-11
21	 Washington	14-3	▼1	308	19	64.5% (21st)	48.9% (13th)	32nd	+0
22	 Vanderbilt	15-2	▲2	300	14	66.3% (11th)	48.4% (17th)	38th	+4
23	 North Carolina	12-4	–	209	26	64.3% (22nd)	48.1% (21st)	27th	+4
24	 Baylor	12-5	NEW	149	20	67.0% (9th)	45.3% (65th)	16th	-2
25	 Colorado	13-4	–	132	40	60.9% (78th)	47.0% (33rd)	40th	+11

AVCA Week 8 poll, Oct 19. MESH rank, adjusted rates and schedule strength rank each team among 348 D-I teams in MESH's team model (3,060 matches of play-by-play, 496,713 rallies). Luck: actual win % minus the win % the team's points predict, in percentage points.

MESH TEAM RATINGS

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	Team	Conference	Record	Rating	Adj. side-out %	Adj. point-scoring %	Schedule	AVCA
1	 Nebraska	Big Ten	19-0	+22.96	70.0% 100	53.9% 100	+7.58 95	No. 1
2	 Pittsburgh	ACC	17-1	+19.31	69.5% 100	50.6% 99	+8.82 98	No. 2
3	 Louisville	ACC	18-2	+18.82	68.0% 99	52.3% 100	+7.78 95	No. 3
4	 Kentucky	SEC	15-3	+16.93	67.4% 98	50.4% 99	+9.82 99	No. 4
5	 Florida	SEC	15-2	+15.56	66.9% 97	50.0% 99	+8.65 98	No. 5
6	 BYU	Big 12	15-1	+15.26	67.5% 99	48.9% 97	+5.81 89	No. 11
7	 Arizona State	Big 12	15-3	+15.02	65.6% 97	49.8% 98	+7.20 94	No. 8
8	 Tennessee	SEC	14-3	+14.67	65.9% 97	49.6% 97	+6.05 90	No. 9
9	 Wisconsin	Big Ten	13-5	+14.35	68.2% 99	46.4% 88	+11.99 100	No. 6
10	 Minnesota	Big Ten	11-5	+13.79	64.7% 95	50.7% 99	+8.06 96	No. 20
11	 Kansas	Big 12	12-5	+13.72	67.7% 99	47.0% 91	+6.28 91	No. 17
12	 SMU	ACC	14-4	+13.67	67.2% 98	46.7% 89	+9.40 99	No. 7
13	 Michigan State	Big Ten	15-3	+12.90	64.2% 93	49.7% 98	+4.39 83	—
14	 Vanderbilt	SEC	15-2	+12.82	66.3% 97	48.4% 95	+5.94 89	No. 22
15	 Penn State	Big Ten	13-5	+12.56	63.6% 92	49.7% 98	+8.22 97	No. 16
16	 Oregon	Big Ten	16-2	+12.50	64.1% 93	48.2% 95	+8.07 96	No. 10
17	 Texas A&M	SEC	11-8	+12.36	64.9% 95	47.8% 94	+8.54 97	No. 19
18	 Purdue	Big Ten	11-6	+12.02	65.5% 96	47.7% 93	+8.74 98	No. 12
19	 Washington	Big Ten	14-3	+12.00	64.5% 94	48.9% 97	+6.20 91	No. 21
20	 Baylor	Big 12	12-5	+11.94	67.0% 98	45.3% 82	+8.03 96	No. 24
21	 Georgia Tech	ACC	13-5	+11.88	63.6% 92	49.2% 97	+4.82 85	—
22	 Illinois	Big Ten	12-7	+11.67	65.2% 96	47.7% 93	+7.46 94	—
23	 TCU	Big 12	15-4	+11.42	64.2% 93	46.0% 86	+7.56 95	No. 13
24	 Colorado State	Pac-12	14-3	+11.39	63.0% 90	48.6% 96	+4.43 83	—
25	 Texas	SEC	9-7	+11.33	64.8% 95	45.6% 83	+12.13 100	No. 14
26	 North Carolina	ACC	12-4	+11.16	64.3% 94	48.1% 94	+6.52 93	No. 23
27	 Indiana	Big Ten	11-6	+10.88	63.0% 90	48.1% 95	+8.93 99	No. 18

Rating: points per 100 rallies better than an average D-I team on a neutral floor. Small grey numbers are percentiles among D-I teams (100 = best). Schedule: average rating of opponents faced.

CONFERENCE POWER

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Conference	Teams	Avg. rating	AVCA 25	MESH 50	Best team (MESH rank)	Conference	Teams	Avg. rating	AVCA 25	MESH 50	Best team (MESH rank)
Big Ten	18	+10.20	8	12	 Nebraska (1st)	Summit	8	-0.60	0	0	 South Dakota (72nd)
SEC	16	+9.10	6	11	 Kentucky (4th)	United Athletic	9	-1.24	0	1	 Eastern Kentucky (48th)
Big 12	15	+8.06	6	7	 BYU (6th)	CAA	11	-1.29	0	0	 Charleston (51st)
ACC	18	+6.17	5	7	 Pittsburgh (2nd)	Big South	8	-1.31	0	1	 High Point (46th)
Big East	11	+3.00	0	2	 Marquette (32nd)	Missouri Valley	11	-1.50	0	1	 Northern Iowa (37th)
Pac-12	9	+2.64	0	2	 Colorado State (24th)	Big Sky	11	-1.57	0	0	 Utah Tech (66th)
American	13	+2.07	0	0	 Tulsa (54th)	Horizon	11	-1.64	0	0	 Wright State (88th)
Mountain West	10	+1.63	0	1	 Hawaii'i (30th)	Patriot	9	-2.37	0	0	 Lehigh (82nd)
Conference USA	10	+1.08	0	1	 Western Kentucky (43rd)	SoCon	10	-2.96	0	0	 Wofford (83rd)
Sun Belt	14	+0.80	0	0	 Georgia Southern (55th)	America East	6	-4.29	0	0	 UMBC (133rd)
MAC	11	+0.72	0	0	 Toledo (53rd)	OVC	9	-4.85	0	0	 Lindenwood (58th)
WCC	10	+0.71	0	2	 San Diego (34th)	Southland	12	-5.20	0	0	 Incarnate Word (164th)
Big West	12	-0.11	0	2	 Cal Poly (44th)	MAAC	12	-8.49	0	0	 Fairfield (152nd)
Ivy	8	-0.12	0	0	 Yale (57th)	MEAC	8	-8.91	0	0	 Coppin State (166th)
ASUN	8	-0.21	0	0	West Florida (64th)	NEC	8	-11.93	0	0	 Long Island University (163rd)
Atlantic 10	10	-0.28	0	0	 Dayton (52nd)	SWAC	12	-12.30	0	0	 Alabama A&M (227th)

Conferences with four or more D-I members, ordered by the average MESH rating of their teams. AVCA 25: teams in this week's AVCA Top 25. MESH 50: teams in MESH's top 50.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

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KILLS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Olivia Babcock	Pittsburgh	5.29	307 in 58
2	 Jurnee Robinson	LSU	5.03	342 in 68
3	 Bianna Muoneke	Georgia	5.00	335 in 67
4	 Allie Sweet	UNC Greensboro	4.97	378 in 76
5	 Ksenia Rakhmanchik	Baylor	4.90	284 in 58
6	 Sylvie Zgonc	South Dakota State	4.74	332 in 70
7	 Taylor Stanley	Kansas	4.73	279 in 59
8	 Kennedy Louisell	James Madison	4.68	323 in 69
9	 Kiera Hamilton	George Mason	4.63	338 in 73
10	 Sydney Jones	Houston	4.53	290 in 64

ASSISTS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Kassie O'Brien	Kentucky	11.80	755 in 64
2	 Avaya Maga	Oklahoma	11.56	705 in 61
3	 Avery Scoggins	Vanderbilt	11.54	681 in 59
4	 Charlie Fuerbringer	Wisconsin	11.15	747 in 67
5	 Bergen Reilly	Nebraska	11.13	579 in 52
6	 Caroline Kerr	Tennessee	10.96	603 in 55
7	 Allie Hazelwood	Southern Miss	10.87	750 in 69
8	 Izzy Starck	Pittsburgh	10.83	628 in 58
9	 Kaci Johnson	Lindenwood	10.77	765 in 71
10	 Macy Hinshaw	Santa Clara	10.75	817 in 76

DIGS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Addison Pollock	Pennsylvania	5.85	304 in 52
2	 Rashanny Solano Smith	St. John's	5.61	449 in 80
3	 Jasmine Dulan	Drake	5.50	407 in 74
4	 Sophia Tocmo	McNeese	5.38	350 in 65
5	 Laney Klika	Wofford	5.27	427 in 81
6	 Najah Harris	Southern	5.16	356 in 69
7	 Brennan Ramirez	Abilene Christian	5.09	377 in 74
8	 Jady Petersen	Northern Iowa	5.05	333 in 66
9	 Brooke Malek	Siena	5.02	432 in 86
10	 Cameron Bradley	Ole Miss	4.93	266 in 54

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS (CONTINUED)

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BLOCKS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Kelli Jo Burgess	BYU	1.87	101 in 54
2	 Ava Bogan	Cornell	1.78	105 in 59
3	 Ryleigh Patterson	Harvard	1.70	102 in 60
4	 Aubrey Easterwood	Providence	1.67	112 in 67
5	 Naomi White	Washington State	1.57	102 in 65
6	 Marianna Singletary	UCLA	1.57	108 in 69
7	 Favor Anyanwu	SMU	1.57	105 in 67
8	 Jackie Taylor	North Carolina	1.53	89 in 58
9	 Damisi Osibodu	Stony Brook	1.52	100 in 66
10	 Ella Piskorz	Pepperdine	1.51	104 in 69

ACES PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Natasha Casey	UCF	0.76	42 in 55
2	 Sofia Rossi	Harvard	0.69	37 in 54
3	 Ema Petkovic	UT Rio Grande Valley	0.68	41 in 60
4	 Abbie Hagedorn	Sacred Heart	0.68	52 in 76
5	 Alida Bennour	Georgia Tech	0.66	43 in 65
6	 Emersen Schrom	Duquesne	0.64	50 in 78
7	 Helena Vukovic	Charleston	0.63	43 in 68
8	 Sarah Wadsworth	UNC Asheville	0.62	55 in 89
9	 Antonie Kelnarova	Saint Mary's	0.62	50 in 80
10	 Maja Daca	UConn	0.61	46 in 75

HITTING PERCENTAGE

	Player	School	Pct.	Total
1	 Caroline Noonan	Charleston	.436	199-385
2	 Faith Young	Western Kentucky	.430	194-384
3	 Ally Chandler	UC Davis	.424	211-408
4	 Lizzy Andrew	Stanford	.417	185-379
5	 Kamryn Lee-Caracci	Georgetown	.410	183-346
6	 Olivia Burrage	Kennesaw State	.405	220-405
7	 Joeline Spelts	Montana State	.399	222-436
8	 Mamie Krubally	Fairfield	.394	243-497
9	 Gabby Weihe	Western Michigan	.389	180-360
10	 Diane Pichelman	Green Bay	.385	251-550

Per-set leaders played in at least 75% of their team's sets; hitting percentage needs 5 attempts per team set. MESH's ranking from each school's official season statistics through Oct 21; the NCAA's official minimums can differ.

FRESHMAN LEADERS

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KILLS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Taylor Stanley	Kansas	4.73	279 in 59
2	 Addison Massey	Kansas State	4.27	239 in 56
3	 Carola Tesoro	St. John's	3.95	312 in 79
4	 Ruth Martinez	Miami	3.82	218 in 57
5	 Britni Silver	NC State	3.81	259 in 68
6	 Lauren Decker	Robert Morris	3.79	269 in 71
7	 Simone Searles	Duquesne	3.76	293 in 78
8	 Alida Bennour	Georgia Tech	3.68	239 in 65

BLOCKS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Aubrey Easterwood	Providence	1.67	112 in 67
2	 Maaik Heilig	Pittsburgh	1.49	70 in 47
3	 Hazel Slusher	Samford	1.36	98 in 72
4	 Kinsley Young	TCU	1.32	87 in 66
5	 Geovanna Gonçalves Rocha	Hofstra	1.23	80 in 65

ASSISTS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Anna Flores	California	10.22	787 in 77
2	 Eva Long	NC State	9.92	714 in 72
3	 Luanna Markus	Marquette	9.81	667 in 68
4	 Kenlee Barnard	Robert Morris	9.62	702 in 73
5	 Lana Rnjak	UT Rio Grande Valley	9.58	642 in 67
6	 Morgan Petelin	Tennessee Tech	9.49	721 in 76
7	 Maddie Carnes	Bellarmine	9.26	676 in 73
8	 Anabelle Cerny	South Alabama	9.18	698 in 76

ACES PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Natasha Casey	UCF	0.76	42 in 55
2	 Alida Bennour	Georgia Tech	0.66	43 in 65
3	 Abby Zimmerman	California	0.49	38 in 77
4	 Abbie Lyttle	Bellarmine	0.48	35 in 73
5	 Maya Harris	Illinois	0.46	32 in 69

DIGS PER SET

	Player	School	Per set	Total
1	 Sophia Tocmo	McNeese	5.38	350 in 65
2	 Aspen Boice	Idaho State	4.81	337 in 70
3	 Mia Jannazzo	Radford	4.63	380 in 82
4	 Natalia Navarro	Nicholls	4.24	335 in 79
5	 Alyssa Chu	Lafayette	4.21	299 in 71
6	 Ava Dyer	Providence	4.21	240 in 57
7	 Ella Vogel	Air Force	4.11	271 in 66
8	 Meredith Martin	Michigan	4.11	288 in 70

HITTING PERCENTAGE

	Player	School	Pct.	Total
1	 Simone Searles	Duquesne	.306	293-630
2	 Nina Scrucca	Cincinnati	.304	154-345
3	 Taylor Boice	UC Irvine	.299	177-375
4	 Taylor Stanley	Kansas	.295	279-601
5	 Dara Obeid	Omaha	.294	175-398

Freshmen as listed on each school's 2026 roster (redshirt freshmen included), same minimums as the national leaders.

STREAKS AND LUCK

LONGEST ACTIVE WINNING STREAKS

Team	Wins	Record	AVCA
 Nebraska	19	19-0	No. 1
 Charleston	19	19-2	—
 Eastern Kentucky	13	18-2	—
 Utah Tech	12	15-3	—
 BYU	12	15-1	No. 11
 Wright State	10	14-5	—
 Northern Iowa	10	14-5	—
 Long Island University	10	10-7	—
 American University	10	14-4	—
 Western Kentucky	9	14-6	—
 UT Rio Grande Valley	9	12-7	—
 Fairfield	9	15-5	—

WINNING MORE THAN THEIR POINTS SAY

Team	Record	Points say	Luck
 Loyola Marymount	15-3	12-6	+18
 Lipscomb	12-5	9-8	+18
 Oregon	16-2	13-5	+16
 Duke	13-5	10-8	+14
 North Florida	11-7	9-9	+13
 VCU	9-8	7-10	+13
 UCLA	15-4	13-6	+13
 Oral Roberts	6-12	4-14	+13

WINNING LESS THAN THEIR POINTS SAY

Team	Record	Points say	Luck
 St. Thomas	6-10	10-6	-23
 Northeastern	4-14	7-11	-18
 San Diego	9-8	12-5	-18
 Cal State Northridge	8-10	11-7	-16
 Utah State	3-14	6-11	-15
 UC San Diego	9-10	12-7	-15
 California Baptist	3-16	6-13	-14
 Alabama	9-8	11-6	-14

Points say: the record a team's share of points would predict (Pythagorean expectation, exponent 8.75). Luck in percentage points of win %. Nebraska (19-0) is the only unbeaten D-I team.

- **Texas has seven losses. It has not had more in a full season since 2003.** AVCA No. 14 Texas (9-7) lost 3-2 at home to Florida on Sunday, its first home loss since the 2025 NCAA tournament. Before this season, Texas had never had more than four losses through Oct. 20 in any season since 2011 (four in 2011 and 2018). Its seven losses already match its full-season totals of 2006 and 2024, and the last Texas team with more was 2003 (15-14). Texas has also been swept four times; in every full season from 2011 through 2025 it was swept at most twice. It is 221-20 at home since 2011. Texas plays at South Carolina on Sunday.
- **Three straight defending champions have fallen to 15th or lower. Before 2024 it had happened once since 1982.** Texas A&M, the 2025 national champion, is AVCA No. 19 at 11-8, twice as many losses as in its 29-4 title season. The two defending champions before it also slid: Texas reached AVCA No. 15 in 2024 and Penn State fell to AVCA No. 25 in 2025. Before 2024, the only defending champion since 1982 to drop to 15th or lower the next season was 1990 Long Beach State (15th), not counting the COVID-disrupted 2020 polls. A&M lost 3-1 at home to Florida on Friday and is 2-6 against ranked teams.
- **Sunday in Lexington is a rematch of the 2025 national final.** AVCA No. 4 Kentucky (15-3) hosts AVCA No. 19 Texas A&M (11-8) on Sunday. The last time they met, A&M swept top-seeded Kentucky 3-0 in the national final in Kansas City on Dec. 21, 2025. Kentucky had won the regular-season meeting 3-1 in College Station. Kentucky setter Kassie O'Brien leads D-I with 11.80 assists per set.
- **Two AVCA No. 5 teams lost to unranked opponents five days apart.** Only twice this season has a top-five team lost to an unranked opponent, and both came in the last 11 days: Vanderbilt beat AVCA No. 5 Florida on Oct. 11, and on Oct. 16 Miami (8-9) came back from two sets down to beat AVCA No. 5 SMU 3-2 in Dallas, taking the fourth set 33-31. Miami freshman Ruth Martinez had 29 kills, tied for the most by any D-I player against a ranked opponent this season. SMU fell to AVCA No. 7.
- **Nebraska's opponents are hitting .104.** Nebraska (19-0) has held opponents to a .104 hitting percentage, the lowest against any D-I team (next: Lehigh, .132). It has won 57 of 61 sets; Purdue took the second set on Saturday, the fourth set Nebraska has lost all season. Nebraska is 8-0 against ranked teams with a 24-2 set record. A year ago Nebraska also started 19-0, but had lost six sets. It has won 49 straight regular-season matches (all 30 in 2025 plus 19 this year). UCLA and USC visit Lincoln this weekend.
- **Nebraska has topped 24 of the last 25 AVCA polls.** Nebraska was AVCA No. 1 in every 2025 poll from the preseason through Week 14, finished third in the final poll after its only loss, and has been AVCA No. 1 in all nine 2026 polls. It received all 63 first-place votes for the second straight week. It is one of 15 teams since 1982 to be AVCA No. 1 in every poll from the preseason through Week 8, and the fifth Nebraska team (2005, 2006, 2007, 2025, 2026). Thursday's visitor, UCLA, is tied for the most points among unranked teams (118) after beating Penn State 3-2.
- **Preseason AVCA No. 25 Oregon is in the top 10. Every preseason AVCA No. 25 to get there by Week 8 did it in the last five seasons.** Oregon started the season AVCA No. 25 and has climbed in seven straight polls to AVCA No. 10, its first top-10 ranking since the 2024 final poll. It has won seven straight and is 16-2. Since 1982, four preseason AVCA No. 25 teams have been in the top 10 by Week 8, all since 2022: San Diego (2022), Arkansas (2023), TCU (2025) and Oregon. Oregon plays at AVCA No. 16 Penn State on Friday; Penn State won 3-1 in Eugene last season.
- **BYU is ranked its highest since 2023 and hosts two ranked teams.** AVCA No. 11 BYU (15-1) has won 12 straight since its only loss, to Pittsburgh on Sept. 4, and its ranking is its best since Week 9 of 2023. It hosts AVCA No. 25 Colorado on Thursday and AVCA No. 8 Arizona State on Saturday. Arizona State won both meetings last season and is 7-1 against ranked teams this year; on Sunday it came back from two sets down to win at Kansas. BYU is fourth in D-I in hitting (.310) and MESH's team rating has it sixth.
- **Vanderbilt's second-ever ranking takes it to Knoxville.** Vanderbilt (15-2) moved up to AVCA No. 22 in its second appearance in an AVCA poll; it is not in any of the 1982-2025 polls. It went 9-18 last season. On Sunday it plays at AVCA No. 9 Tennessee, which swept Vanderbilt in Nashville last season. The two rank fifth and sixth in D-I in hitting percentage (Vanderbilt .303, Tennessee .297). Tennessee has won five straight and is 7-1 at home; Vanderbilt has won six straight. MESH's team rating has Vanderbilt 14th.
- **Kelli Jo Burgess is blocking at a rate one D-I player topped over a full season from 2021 to 2025.** BYU middle Kelli Jo Burgess, a transfer from Oklahoma, leads D-I with 1.87 blocks per set (101 in 54 sets). Among D-I players with 80 or more sets from 2021 to 2025, only Boston College's Julia Haggerty averaged more (1.91 in 2024). Burgess averaged 1.27 at Oklahoma last season. BYU hosts Colorado and Arizona State this week.
- **Five of Kansas's 2025 players are on Top 25 teams. Kansas plays one of them Friday.** Five players from Kansas's 2025 roster are now on ranked teams: Selena Leban (AVCA No. 5 Florida), Ellie Moore (AVCA No. 7 SMU), Aurora Papac (AVCA No. 8 Arizona State), Raegan Burns (AVCA No. 9 Tennessee) and Molly McCarthy (AVCA No. 13 TCU). No other 2025 roster has more than three players on current Top 25 teams. AVCA No. 17 Kansas lost 3-2 to Arizona State on Sunday and plays at TCU on Friday and at AVCA No. 24 Baylor on Sunday.
- **Olivia Babcock leads D-I in kills and points per set, and her kill rate has risen every year.** Pitt's Olivia Babcock leads D-I with 5.29 kills per set and 6.21 points per set. Her kill rate has gone up every season: 3.62 in 2023, 4.72 in 2024, 5.17 in 2025. Among D-I players with 80 or more sets from 2021 to 2025, four had a higher points-per-set season, led by Miami's Flormarie Heredia Colon (7.17 in 2025). AVCA No. 2 Pittsburgh (17-1) plays at Georgia Tech and Clemson.
- **Stanford has been swept five times and has its most losses since 2021.** AVCA No. 15 Stanford (12-6) has been swept by Penn State, Arizona State, SMU, Pittsburgh and Louisville. Its six losses are already more than in any full season since 2021 (19-11). Stanford was AVCA No. 5 in the preseason. MESH's team rating has Stanford 28th, 13 spots below its poll rank. It plays at Duke on Friday and at AVCA No. 23 North Carolina on Sunday; North Carolina is 0-3 against ranked teams.
- **Preseason AVCA No. 2 Texas is AVCA No. 14. One preseason AVCA No. 2 since 1982 was lower in Week 8.** Texas started the season AVCA No. 2 and is AVCA No. 14 in Week 8. In the 38 seasons with a preseason and a Week 8 poll, only 2025 Penn State (18th) was ranked lower at this point. Every other preseason AVCA No. 2 was 11th or better in Week 8.

- **Wisconsin has played 13 ranked teams, three more than anyone in D-I.** AVCA No. 6 Wisconsin (13-5) has played 13 matches against teams ranked at the time, the most in D-I (next: Texas, 10). It is 8-5 in them, tied with Nebraska for the most wins over ranked teams. All five of its losses came against ranked teams: Kentucky, Stanford, Pittsburgh, Texas and Nebraska. Wisconsin hosts AVCA No. 21 Washington on Friday; it won 3-1 in Seattle last season.
- **MESH rates Minnesota 10 spots above its poll rank.** Minnesota (11-5) is AVCA No. 20, but MESH's team rating has it 10th, the biggest gap in that direction among Top 25 teams. The biggest gap the other way is AVCA No. 25 Colorado, which MESH rates 40th. Minnesota has won four straight and plays at AVCA No. 12 Purdue on Friday and hosts AVCA No. 21 Washington on Sunday; Colorado plays at AVCA No. 11 BYU on Thursday.
- **Baylor is back in the poll after sweeping TCU in Fort Worth.** Baylor returned at AVCA No. 24 after two weeks out, after sweeping AVCA No. 10 TCU on the road on Sunday 25-22, 25-22, 27-25. Ksenia Rakhmanchik had 23 kills on 41 swings with four errors (.463). She is fifth in D-I with 4.90 kills per set. TCU fell three spots to AVCA No. 13 and hosts AVCA No. 17 Kansas on Friday; Baylor hosts Kansas on Sunday.
- **Florida won at Texas A&M and at Texas on the same weekend.** AVCA No. 5 Florida (15-2) won 3-1 at AVCA No. 19 Texas A&M on Friday and 3-2 at AVCA No. 12 Texas on Sunday, and moved up two spots. Florida was AVCA No. 17 in the preseason; its 12-spot climb is fourth among Top 25 teams, behind Oregon (15), Tennessee (13) and BYU (13). Florida is 6-1 against ranked teams and hosts LSU and Ole Miss this week.
- **Teams have won 115 matches after losing the first two sets, and two came against ranked teams last week.** D-I teams have come back from 0-2 to win 115 times this season. Only four of those came against ranked teams, and two were last week: Miami at AVCA No. 5 SMU on Oct. 16 and Arizona State at AVCA No. 17 Kansas on Oct. 18. Gardner-Webb has done it three times; Penn has lost three matches that way.
- **USC's Mia Tvrđy had 16 blocks in a three-set match, and USC visits Nebraska Saturday.** USC's Mia Tvrđy had 16 blocks (1 solo, 15 assists) in a 3-0 win over UC Santa Barbara on Sept. 20, still the most by any D-I player in any match this season. Five players have had 14, all in four or five sets; no one else has more than 12 in three sets. USC had 20.5 team blocks that night, the most in a three-set match this season. USC (8-10) plays at AVCA No. 1 Nebraska on Saturday.
- **Central Michigan is 0-21 two years after going 24-7.** Central Michigan has lost all 21 of its matches and won 5 of 68 sets. In 2024 it went 24-7. In MESH's NCAA history for the program, back to 1997, its worst full season is 3-24 (2005), and it has never gone winless. Le Moyne (0-18) and Tennessee State (0-17) are D-I's other winless teams.
- **Charleston has won 19 straight, matching Nebraska, and is not getting a vote.** Charleston opened 0-2 (swept by Vanderbilt and Lipscomb) and has won 19 straight, tied with Nebraska for the longest active streak in D-I. It received no votes in this week's AVCA poll. Middle Caroline Noonan leads D-I in hitting percentage at .436 (199 kills, 31 errors, 385 attempts).
- **Freshman Natasha Casey leads D-I in aces per set.** UCF freshman Natasha Casey has 42 aces in 55 sets (0.76 per set), the most in D-I. Among D-I players with 80 or more sets from 2021 to 2025, two had a higher full-season rate: Coppin State's Andrea Tsvetanova (0.86 in 2022) and Maryland's Samantha Schnitta (0.79 in 2024).
- **Kansas freshman Taylor Stanley is third in D-I in points per set.** Kansas freshman Taylor Stanley averages 5.67 points per set, third in D-I behind Olivia Babcock and Allie Sweet, and 4.73 kills per set, seventh in D-I and first among freshmen. Kansas plays two ranked teams on the road this week, AVCA No. 13 TCU and AVCA No. 24 Baylor.
- **Pitt's only loss came in a 38-36 set.** AVCA No. 2 Pittsburgh (17-1) lost only to SMU, 3-1 at home on Oct. 7, and the third set went 38-36, the longest set involving a ranked team this season. Pitt has won 52 of 59 sets and is 7-1 against ranked teams. Two sets this season have gone longer, both 40-38: Brown at Rhode Island (Sept. 5) and UConn-DePaul (Sept. 26).
- **Four Top 25 teams have no D-I transfers, including AVCA No. 1 Nebraska.** None of Nebraska's 16 players was on another D-I roster in 2025. Texas, Indiana and North Carolina are the other Top 25 teams with no D-I transfers. Florida and TCU have six each. Across the Top 25, 56 of 428 players (13.1%) were on a different D-I roster last season, compared with 11.0% across D-I.
- **Allie Sweet has a D-I-high 378 kills, including the season's only 36-kill match.** UNC Greensboro's Allie Sweet leads D-I with 378 kills and had the season's top single-match total, 36 against Delaware State on Sept. 20 (85 swings, five sets). No one else has more than 34 in a match. She has 37.3% of her team's kills.
- **D-I is missing more serves for every ace than at any time since 2021.** D-I servers have 0.668 aces per service error this season, down every year from 0.748 in 2022: 0.732, 0.710, 0.697.

Each note was computed from MESH's data by a script kept with this guide. Dots rank how surprising the note is (five is the most). Baselines are stated in each note: team results back to 2011 or earlier, player season statistics from 2021, rosters from 2025.

- **Three teams have played nine five-set matches.** Wake Forest (6-3), Saint Louis (5-4) and East Tennessee State (4-5) have each played nine five-set matches, the most in D-I. North Alabama is 5-0 in them; California Baptist is 0-7. 670 of 3,295 D-I matches this season (20.3%) have gone five sets.
- **Nebraska wins more than half the rallies it serves. No other D-I team does.** Nebraska has scored on 50.9% of its own serves (1,407 serves), the only D-I team above 50%; West Florida is next at 49.3%. Nebraska also leads D-I in sideout percentage (70.3%) and share of points won (59.4%).

Each note was computed from MESH's data by a script kept with this guide. Dots rank how surprising the note is (five is the most). Baselines are stated in each note: team results back to 2011 or earlier, player season statistics from 2021, rosters from 2025.

Thursday, October 22, 2026 · 6:30 PM MDT · Provo, Utah · ESPN+ · Series: Colorado 3-1 vs. BYU in meetings on file since 2024 · MESH: BYU 88%



Record	13-4 (4-3 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 25
Streak / last 5	W2 · LWLWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-2
Hitting / opp.	.214 / .180
MESH rank	40th
Coach	Jesse Mahoney
Top attackers	Ana Burilovic 276, Lily Dwinell 134, Cayla Payne 126



Record	15-1 (7-0 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 11
Streak / last 5	W12 · WWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-1
Hitting / opp.	.310 / .185
MESH rank	6th
Coach	Rob Neilson
Top attackers	Claire Little Chambers 196, Elli Mortensen 182, Sophia Callahan 99

THE STORY

Colorado's big block meets a BYU offense that has won 12 straight.

AVCA No. 11 BYU is 15-1, 7-0 in the Big 12, has won 12 straight and hits .310, 4th in D-I, in Rob Neilson's first season. AVCA No. 25 Colorado blocks 2.98 per set, 4th in D-I, but hits .214 and .081 in its four losses. MESH makes BYU an 88% favorite.

- 1. **Can Colorado's block slow BYU's offense.** Colorado blocks 2.98 per set this season, 4th in Division I. BYU hits .310, 4th, and has won 12 straight.
- 2. **Colorado's offense swings with the result.** Colorado has hit .259 in its 13 wins this season and .081 in its four losses.
- 3. **BYU sides out at will.** BYU wins 67.5 percent of rallies on the other team's serve this season, 3rd of 348 Division I teams in MESH's model.

Full pregame book: 20261022-colorado-byu.pdf.

Friday, October 23, 2026 · 7:00 PM EDT · University Park, Pa. / Rec Hall · B1G+ · Series: Oregon 5-3 vs. Penn State in meetings on file since 2011 · MESH: Penn State 60%



Record	16-2 (7-1 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 10
Streak / last 5	W7 · WWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	4-2
Hitting / opp.	.260 / .194
MESH rank	16th
Coach	Trent Kersten
Top attackers	Sjakkie Donkers 208, Alanah Clemente 201, Valentina Vaulet 187



Record	13-5 (5-3 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 16
Streak / last 5	W1 · WWWLW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-3
Hitting / opp.	.254 / .175
MESH rank	15th
Coach	Katie Schumacher-Cawley
Top attackers	Kennedy Martin 265, Whitney Lauenstein 177, Gabrielle Nichols 113

THE STORY

Oregon's close-set habit meets Kennedy Martin in Rec Hall.

AVCA No. 10 Oregon arrives 16-2 on a seven-match win streak and is 12-5 in sets decided by two points. AVCA No. 16 Penn State is 9-2 at home, 10-0 when it wins the first set, and leans on Kennedy Martin's 265 kills.

- 1. Oregon keeps winning the close ones.** Oregon is 12-5 this season in sets decided by two points, and six of its 16 wins came by seven or fewer total points.
- 2. The first set matters more for Penn State.** Penn State is 10-0 this season when it wins the first set and 3-5 when it loses it. Oregon is 5-1 after dropping the first set.
- 3. Kennedy Martin against a middling block.** Kennedy Martin has 29.6 percent of Penn State's kills this season, 265 of 896.

Full pregame book: 20261023-oregon-penn-state.pdf.

Friday, October 23, 2026 · 8:00 PM · UW Field House · Madison, Wis. · Big Ten Network · Series: Washington 2-3 vs. Wisconsin in meetings on file since 2014 · **MESH: Wisconsin 71%**

W Washington

Record	14-3 (5-3 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 21
Streak / last 5	L1 · WWLWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-2
Hitting / opp.	.254 / .160
MESH rank	19th
Coach	Leslie Gabriel
Top attackers	Simona Mateska 210, Kylie Kleckner 156, Maija Howse 140

W Wisconsin

Record	13-5 (7-1 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 6
Streak / last 5	W2 · WWLWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	8-5
Hitting / opp.	.267 / .223
MESH rank	9th
Coach	Kelly Sheffield
Top attackers	Audrey Flanagan 185, Eva Travis 155, Decelise Champion 131

THE STORY

Washington's defense gets its toughest test in a young Wisconsin's gym.

AVCA No. 21 Washington is 14-3 and holds opponents to .160, but all three losses are sweeps in its last six matches. AVCA No. 6 Wisconsin is 7-0 at home, plays the 2nd-hardest schedule in MESH's model, and gets 52.4 percent of its kills from freshmen.

- 1. **Washington's step up in class.** All three of Washington's losses this season are sweeps, and all came in its last six matches.
- 2. **Wisconsin sides out, but can't score on its serve.** Wisconsin wins 40.6 percent of rallies on its own serve this season, 273rd of 348 Division I teams in MESH's model.
- 3. **A freshman Wisconsin.** Freshmen have 52.4 percent of Wisconsin's kills this season, 491 of 937.

Full pregame book: 20261023-washington-wisconsin.pdf.

NO. 17 KANSAS AT NO. 13 TCU

Friday, October 23, 2026 · 7:00 PM · Fort Worth, Texas · ESPN+ · Series: Kansas 5-21 vs. TCU in meetings on file since 2012 · **MESH: Kansas 52%**



Record	12-5 (5-2 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 17
Streak / last 5	L1 · WLWWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-4
Hitting / opp.	.281 / .182
MESH rank	11th
Coach	Matt Ulmer
Top attackers	Taylor Stanley 279, Grace Nelson 146, Reese Ptacek 135



Record	15-4 (6-2 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 13
Streak / last 5	L1 · WWLWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	3-3
Hitting / opp.	.272 / .198
MESH rank	23rd
Coach	Jason Williams
Top attackers	Becca Kelley 269, Evan Hendrix 268, Jalyn Gibson 132

THE STORY

Kansas owns the early sets; TCU owns the late ones.

AVCA No. 17 Kansas is 40-11 in sets one through three and 2-6 after that, and lost from 2-0 up to Arizona State on Sunday. AVCA No. 13 TCU is 8-1 in fourth and fifth sets and 8-1 at home, but was swept in two of its last three. MESH gives Kansas a 52% chance.

- 1. **Kansas early, TCU late.** Kansas is 40-11 in the first three sets of its matches this season and 2-6 in fourth and fifth sets. TCU is 8-1 in those late sets.
- 2. **Stanley against AVCA-ranked teams.** Taylor Stanley hits .383 against unranked teams this season and .147 in 19 sets against AVCA-ranked teams.
- 3. **Kansas serve against TCU's pass.** Kansas aces 2.53 per set in its wins this season and 1.52 in its losses.

Full pregame book: 20261023-kansas-tcu.pdf.

NO. 20 MINNESOTA AT NO. 12 PURDUE

Friday, October 23, 2026 · 7:00 PM EDT · West Lafayette, Ind. / Holloway Gymnasium · B1G+ · Series: Minnesota 10-14 vs. Purdue in meetings on file since 2011 · **MESH: Purdue 50%**

Minnesota

Record	11-5 (5-3 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 20
Streak / last 5	W4 · LWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-4
Hitting / opp.	.282 / .178
MESH rank	10th
Coach	Keegan Cook
Top attackers	Mckenna Wucherer 248, Kelly Kinney 168, Elena Hoecke 102

Purdue

Record	11-6 (4-4 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 12
Streak / last 5	L1 · LWWWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	3-6
Hitting / opp.	.255 / .189
MESH rank	18th
Coach	Dave Shondell
Top attackers	Addy Tindall 233, Lameen Mambu 172, Grace Heaney 154

THE STORY

Minnesota's serve and first-set starts meet Purdue at home in a coin flip.

AVCA No. 20 Minnesota has won four straight and is 11-0 when it wins the first set; it serves 2.04 aces per set, 10th in D-I, to Purdue's 1.00. AVCA No. 12 Purdue is 8-2 at home and 8-0 against unranked teams, but 3-6 against AVCA-ranked ones. MESH makes Purdue a 50.4% favorite.

- 1. The first set decides Minnesota.** Minnesota is 11-0 this season when it wins the first set and 0-5 when it loses it.
- 2. Minnesota's serve against Purdue's pass.** Minnesota serves 2.04 aces per set this season, 10th in Division I. Purdue serves 1.00, 341st.
- 3. Purdue against ranked teams.** Purdue is 8-0 this season against unranked teams and 3-6 against AVCA-ranked teams. All six of its losses came to AVCA-ranked opponents.

Full pregame book: 20261023-minnesota-purdue.pdf.

NO. 8 ARIZONA STATE AT NO. 11 BYU

Saturday, October 24, 2026 · 6:30 PM MDT · Provo, Utah · ESPN+ · Series: Arizona State 1-5 vs. BYU in meetings on file since 2013 · **MESH: BYU 61%**

	Arizona State
Record	15-3 (6-1 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 8
Streak / last 5	W6 · WWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	7-1
Hitting / opp.	.249 / .156
MESH rank	7th
Coach	JJ Van Niel
Top attackers	Noemie Glover 267, Una Vajagić 251, Aniya Clinton 137

	BYU
Record	15-1 (7-0 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 11
Streak / last 5	W12 · WWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-1
Hitting / opp.	.310 / .185
MESH rank	6th
Coach	Rob Neilson
Top attackers	Claire Little Chambers 196, Elli Mortensen 182, Sophia Callahan 99

THE STORY

BYU's 12-match run meets the team that has beaten it five straight times.

AVCA No. 11 BYU is 15-1 in Rob Neilson's first season, has won 12 straight and sides out 67.5%, 3rd in D-I. AVCA No. 8 Arizona State is 15-3 and 6-0 since Isabella Costantini took over at setter, with opponents hitting .113. Arizona State has won the last five meetings on file.

- 1. BYU's sideout against Arizona State's serve and defense.** BYU sides out at 67.5 percent this season, 3rd of 348 Division I teams in MESH's model.
- 2. Arizona State's defense with Costantini setting.** Since Isabella Costantini took over at setter on Sep. 27, Arizona State is 6-0 and its opponents have hit .113.
- 3. Whoever wins the first set.** BYU has won the first set in 14 of its 16 matches this season and is 14-0 when it does.

Full pregame book: 20261024-arizona-state-byu.pdf.

NO. 19 TEXAS A&M AT NO. 4 KENTUCKY

Sunday, October 25, 2026 · 1:00 PM · Lexington, Ky. · ABC · Series: Texas A&M 15-6 vs. Kentucky in meetings on file since 2011 · **MESH: Kentucky 80%**



Record	11-8 (4-3 SEC)
AVCA	No. 19
Streak / last 5	W1 · WLLLLW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-6
Hitting / opp.	.232 / .182
MESH rank	17th
Coach	Jamie Morrison
Top attackers	Kyndal Stowers 230, Natalie Ring 155, Taryn Morris 150



Record	15-3 (7-1 SEC)
AVCA	No. 4
Streak / last 5	W4 · LWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	5-3
Hitting / opp.	.279 / .198
MESH rank	4th
Coach	Craig Skinner
Top attackers	Brooklyn DeLeye 284, Morgan Gaerte 217, Asia Thigpen 151

THE STORY

The national final rematch finds the champion at 11-8 and Kentucky unbeaten at home.

AVCA No. 19 Texas A&M swept Kentucky for the 2025 national title but is 11-8 this season, 0-6 when it drops the first set and 0-3 in five-setters. AVCA No. 4 Kentucky is 15-3, 8-0 at home and 23-0 at home since the start of 2025, with Brooklyn DeLeye at 4.44 kills per set.

- 1. Texas A&M has not come back once.** Texas A&M is 0-6 this season when it loses the first set.
- 2. DeLeye against Stowers.** Brooklyn DeLeye and Kyndal Stowers rank 12th and 15th in Division I in kills per set this season.
- 3. An 11-8 record that undersells A&M.** Texas A&M is 0-3 in five-set matches this season, and it outscored its opponent in those three losses combined.

Full pregame book: 20261025-texas-a-and-m-kentucky.pdf.

NO. 22 VANDERBILT AT NO. 9 TENNESSEE

Sunday, October 25, 2026 · 1:00 PM ET · Food City Center · Knoxville, Tenn. · SEC Network · Series: Vanderbilt 1-0 vs. Tennessee in meetings on file since 2025 · **MESH: Tennessee 69%**



Record	15-2 (6-2 SEC)
AVCA	No. 22
Streak / last 5	W6 · WWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-1
Hitting / opp.	.303 / .206
MESH rank	14th
Coach	Anders Nelson
Top attackers	Samantha Wunsch 216, Reese Animashaun 202, Maya Witherspoon 181



Record	14-3 (5-2 SEC)
AVCA	No. 9
Streak / last 5	W5 · WWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-3
Hitting / opp.	.297 / .182
MESH rank	8th
Coach	Eve Rackham Watt
Top attackers	Kennedi Rogers 213, Jalyn Stout 177, Maggie Dostic 93

THE STORY

Vanderbilt's serve tests the nation's best pass in Knoxville.

AVCA No. 22 Vanderbilt, 9-18 a year ago, has won six straight and beat No. 5 Florida. AVCA No. 9 Tennessee passes .957, 1st in D-I, and leads the country in kills per set, but is 2-3 against AVCA-ranked teams. MESH gives Tennessee a 69% chance.

- 1. **Vanderbilt's serve against Tennessee's pass.** Tennessee leads Division I with a .957 reception percentage this season. Vanderbilt aces 2.02 per set, best in the SEC.
- 2. **Who has beaten whom.** Tennessee is 2-3 against AVCA-ranked teams this season. Vanderbilt is 2-1, with a win over Florida, a team that swept Tennessee.
- 3. **Tennessee's block, Vanderbilt's missing one.** In Vanderbilt's two losses this season, opponents hit .375. In its 15 wins, .182.

Full pregame book: 20261025-vanderbilt-tennessee.pdf.

Sunday, October 25, 2026 · 3:00 PM · Bloomington, Ind. · FS1 · Series: Penn State 1-21 vs. Indiana in meetings on file since 2011 · **MESH: Indiana 51%**



Record	13-5 (5-3 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 16
Streak / last 5	W1 · WWWLW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-3
Hitting / opp.	.254 / .175
MESH rank	15th
Coach	Katie Schumacher-Cawley
Top attackers	Kennedy Martin 265, Whitney Lauenstein 177, Gabrielle Nichols 113



Record	11-6 (4-4 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 18
Streak / last 5	W1 · WLLLW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-5
Hitting / opp.	.259 / .223
MESH rank	27th
Coach	Steve Aird
Top attackers	Jaidyn Jager 232, Ella Boersema 157, Sara Snowbarger 102

THE STORY

Kennedy Martin and Penn State test an Indiana defense that won the last meeting.

AVCA No. 16 Penn State leads the series 21-1 since 2011, but Indiana's one win came 3-0 at Penn State last November. Kennedy Martin has 29.6 percent of Penn State's kills; Indiana digs 11.37 per set, 340th in D-I. MESH makes AVCA No. 18 Indiana a 50.9% favorite at home.

- 1. **Kennedy Martin against Indiana's floor.** Indiana digs 11.37 per set this season, 340th of 348 Division I teams. Kennedy Martin has 265 of Penn State's 896 kills.
- 2. **Indiana needs the first set; Penn State owns the third.** Penn State is 17-1 in third sets this season. Indiana is 0-5 when it loses the first set.
- 3. **Indiana's one win in the series.** Penn State leads the series 21-1 since 2011. Indiana's one win came last season, 3-0 at Penn State on Nov. 2.

Full pregame book: 20261025-penn-state-indiana.pdf.

NO. 15 STANFORD AT NO. 23 NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday, October 25, 2026 · 8:30 PM · Chapel Hill, N.C. · ESPN · Series: Stanford 1-2 vs. North Carolina in meetings on file since 2015 · **MESH: North Carolina 61%**

 Stanford	
Record	12-6 (5-3 ACC)
AVCA	No. 15
Streak / last 5	W2 · WWLWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	2-6
Hitting / opp.	.274 / .213
MESH rank	28th
Coach	—
Top attackers	Julia Blyashov 205, Lizzy Andrew 185, Jordyn Harvey 184

 North Carolina	
Record	12-4 (7-1 ACC)
AVCA	No. 23
Streak / last 5	L1 · WWWWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	0-3
Hitting / opp.	.259 / .172
MESH rank	26th
Coach	Mike Schall
Top attackers	Safi Hampton 187, Chelsea Thorpe 154, Laynie Smith 116

THE STORY

Neither team has beaten a ranked opponent since August, and one of them will.

AVCA No. 15 Stanford is 12-6, 10-0 against unranked teams and 2-6 against AVCA-ranked ones. AVCA No. 23 North Carolina is 12-4, 7-1 in the ACC and 5-0 at home, but 0-3 against ranked teams. North Carolina's block, 2.97 per set, meets a Stanford attack hitting .274. MESH makes North Carolina a 61% favorite.

- 1. A ranked win for somebody.** Stanford is 2-6 against AVCA-ranked teams this season and has not beaten one since Aug. 30. North Carolina is 0-3.
- 2. North Carolina's block against Stanford's attack.** North Carolina's ACC opponents have hit .132 this season. It blocks 3.28 per set in league play.
- 3. Who wins the first set.** Both teams are unbeaten this season when they win the first set: Stanford 9-0, North Carolina 10-0.

Full pregame book: 20261025-stanford-north-carolina.pdf.

NO. 17 KANSAS AT NO. 24 BAYLOR

Sunday, October 25, 2026 · 2:00 PM · Ferrell Center · Waco, Texas · ESPN · Series: Kansas 11-16 vs. Baylor in meetings on file since 2011 · **MESH: Baylor 50%**



Record	12-5 (5-2 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 17
Streak / last 5	L1 · WLWWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-4
Hitting / opp.	.281 / .182
MESH rank	11th
Coach	Matt Ulmer
Top attackers	Taylor Stanley 279, Grace Nelson 146, Reese Ptacek 135



Record	12-5 (4-3 Big 12)
AVCA	No. 24
Streak / last 5	W3 · WLWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-4
Hitting / opp.	.261 / .189
MESH rank	20th
Coach	Ryan McGuyre
Top attackers	Ksenia Rakhmanchik 284, Nadiya Johnson 169, Bailey Warren 112

THE STORY

Kansas's serve and a freshman star meet a Baylor team that has found its attack.

AVCA No. 17 Kansas is 12-5 and leads the Big 12 with 2.17 aces per set, behind freshman Taylor Stanley's 4.73 kills per set. AVCA No. 24 Baylor is 12-5, back in the poll after sweeping No. 10 TCU, and has won nine straight sets. Kansas has won the last three meetings.

- 1. Kansas's serve against Baylor's pass.** Kansas averages 2.17 aces per set this season, 5th in Division I and 1st in the Big 12.
- 2. Two one-third hitters.** Taylor Stanley's 4.73 kills per set lead all Division I freshmen with 40 or more sets this season.
- 3. Kansas after the third set.** Kansas is 40-11 in the first three sets of matches this season and 2-6 in fourth and fifth sets.

Full pregame book: 20261025-kansas-baylor.pdf.

NO. 21 WASHINGTON AT NO. 20 MINNESOTA

Sunday, October 25, 2026 · 1:00 PM · Maturi Pavilion · Minneapolis, MN · Big Ten Network · Series: Washington 2-1 vs. Minnesota in meetings on file since 2011 · **MESH: Minnesota 68%**

Washington

Record	14-3 (5-3 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 21
Streak / last 5	L1 · WWLWL
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-2
Hitting / opp.	.254 / .160
MESH rank	19th
Coach	Leslie Gabriel
Top attackers	Simona Mateska 210, Kylie Kleckner 156, Maija Howse 140

Minnesota

Record	11-5 (5-3 Big Ten)
AVCA	No. 20
Streak / last 5	W4 · LWWWW
Vs. AVCA-ranked	1-4
Hitting / opp.	.282 / .178
MESH rank	10th
Coach	Keegan Cook
Top attackers	Mckenna Wucherer 248, Kelly Kinney 168, Elena Hoecke 102

THE STORY

Washington's rebuilt defense meets the coach who built its last great teams.

AVCA No. 21 Washington is 14-3 a year after going 13-17, and holds opponents to .160. AVCA No. 20 Minnesota has won four straight, serves 2.04 aces per set, and is coached by Keegan Cook, who went 198-56 at Washington. MESH gives Minnesota a 68% chance.

- 1. Washington's attack against good teams.** Washington has hit .143 in its three losses this season, all of them sweeps, and .276 in its 14 wins.
- 2. Minnesota's serve against Washington's pass.** Minnesota aces 9.6 percent of its serves this season, 3rd of 133 teams MESH reads touch by touch.
- 3. The first set decides it.** Minnesota is 11-0 this season when it wins the first set and 0-5 when it loses it.

Full pregame book: 20261025-washington-minnesota.pdf.

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Nebraska took every first-place vote again. **TCU** dropped from No. 10 to No. 13; **BYU** climbed 3. **Baylor** is new at No. 24; Michigan State fell out.

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Kills per set against hitting percentage for every D-I player with 5 attempts per team set. **Olivia Babcock** (Pittsburgh) leads in volume at 5.29 a set while hitting .367. **Bianna Muoneke, Chloe Chicoine, Kennedy Martin, Olivia Babcock** are the only ones at 4 kills a set and .300.



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20261021-model-attackers.png

DIVISION I · THE BEST TEAM-SEASONS SINCE 2019



NO. 2 SINCE 2019.
AND STILL GOING.

By Evolve's rating, the chance of winning a point against an average D-I team after adjusting for schedule, this **Nebraska** team is already the 2nd-best team-season since 2019, and Nebraska holds 3 of the top five. **Pittsburgh** is the only other 2026 team in the top 12.

EVOLVE RATING, 2019-2026



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Ratings: Evolve (evolve.net), used with permission; 2026 through Oct 21, mid-season. Records as of each season's end (2026: to date).



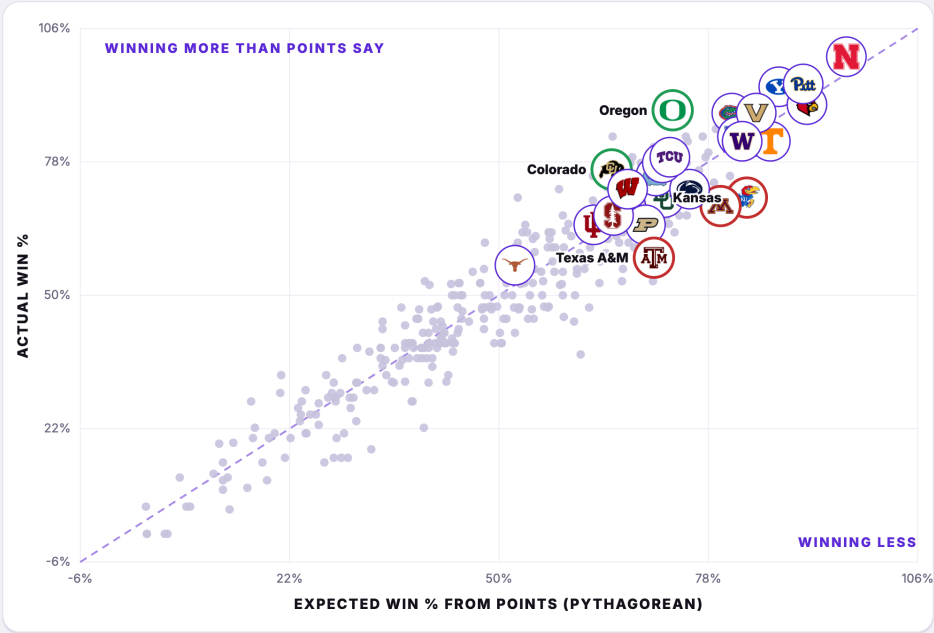
20261021-model-history-best-teams.png

DIVISION I · RECORD VS. POINTS · WHO HAS BEEN LUCKY



OREGON 16-2.
POINTS SAY 13-5.

From the points each team has won and lost, a Pythagorean expectation says what its record should be. **Oregon** has won 16% more of its matches than its points predict, the most of any ranked team. **Texas A&M** (11-8) has the most bad luck: its points say 13-6.



THIS WEEKEND Every D-I match live, with box scores and play-by-play, in MESH Volleyball

MESH team model from the play-by-play of 3,060 D-I matches (496,713 rallies), adjusted for opponent and site, through Oct 21. AVCA poll of Oct 19. Expected win % = points won*8.75 / (points won*8.75 + points lost*8.75). Logos are the AVCA Top 25; dots are every other D-I team.



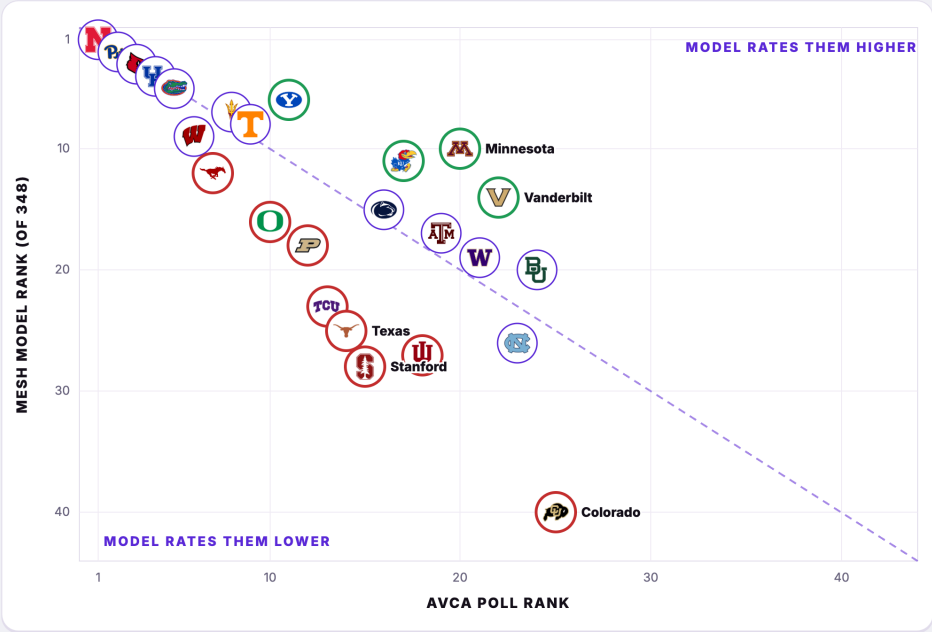
20261021-model-luck.png

AVCA POLL VS. MESH TEAM MODEL · WEEK 8

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POLL: NO. 20 MINNESOTA.
 MODEL: NO. 10.

MESH's rating puts **Minnesota** 10 places above its poll rank and **Colorado** 15 below (No. 25 in the poll, No. 40 in the model). Michigan State, Georgia Tech, Illinois, Colorado State are in the model's top 25 but not the poll's.



THIS WEEKEND Every D-I match live, with box scores and play-by-play, in **MESH Volleyball**

MESH team model from the play-by-play of 3,060 D-I matches (496,713 rallies), adjusted for opponent and site, through Oct 21. AVCA poll of Oct 19. On the dashed line the poll and the model agree; green, the model rates a team 5+ places higher; red, 5+ lower.

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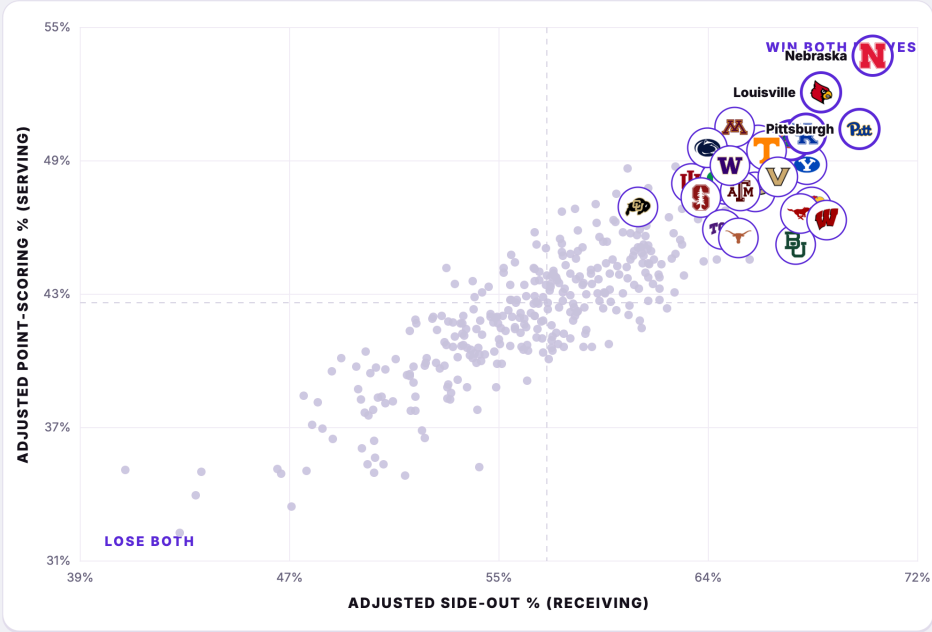
20261021-model-poll-vs-model.png

DIVISION I · BOTH HALVES OF THE RALLY · MESH TEAM MODEL

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SIDE OUT. THEN SCORE.
 NEBRASKA DOES BOTH BEST.

Every D-I team by how often it wins the point when receiving (side-out %) and when serving (point-scoring %), adjusted for opponents. **Nebraska** leads both: 70.0% and 53.9%. Logos are the AVCA Top 25.



THIS WEEKEND Every D-I match live, with box scores and play-by-play, in **MESH Volleyball**

MESH team model from the play-by-play of 3,060 D-I matches (496,713 rallies), adjusted for opponent and site, through Oct 21. AVCA poll of Oct 19. Dashed lines are the D-I averages.

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20261021-model-rally-halves.png

DIVISION I INDIVIDUAL LEADERS • 2026 SEASON



BABCOCK: 5.29
 KILLS A SET.

Olivia Babcock of Pittsburgh leads Division I in kills per set by 0.26 over Jurnee Robinson (LSU). The leaders in six categories, from each school's season statistics.

KILLS PER SET Pitt Olivia Babcock Pittsburgh • 307 in 58 sets 5.29	ASSISTS PER SET KY Kassie O'Brien Kentucky • 755 in 64 sets 11.80
LSU Jurnee Robinson LSU • 342 in 68 sets 5.03	OU Avaya Maga Oklahoma • 705 in 61 sets 11.56
G Bianna Muoneke Georgia • 335 in 67 sets 5.00	V Avery Scoggins Vanderbilt • 681 in 59 sets 11.54
DIGS PER SET PA Addison Pollock Pennsylvania • 304 in 52 sets 5.85	BLOCKS PER SET BYU Kelli Jo Burgess BYU • 101 in 54 sets 1.87
S Rashanny Solano Smith St. John's • 449 in 80 sets 5.61	C Ava Bogan Cornell • 105 in 59 sets 1.78
D Jasmine Dulan Drake • 407 in 74 sets 5.50	H Ryleigh Patterson Harvard • 102 in 60 sets 1.70
ACES PER SET UCF Natasha Casey UCF • 42 in 55 sets 0.76	HITTING PERCENTAGE CU Caroline Noonan Charleston • 199 K, 385 att .436
H Sofia Rossi Harvard • 37 in 54 sets 0.69	WK Faith Young Western Kentucky • 194 K, 384 att .430
UT Ema Petkovic UT Rio Grande Valley • 41 in 60 sets 0.68	UCD Ally Chandler UC Davis • 211 K, 408 att .424

THIS WEEKEND Every D-I match live, with box scores and play-by-play, in MESH Volleyball

Per-set leaders played in at least 75% of their team's sets; hitting percentage needs 5 attempts per team set. MESH's own ranking from each school's official season statistics, through Oct 21; the NCAA's official ranking can differ in its minimums.



20261021-national-leaders.png

UNBEATEN • THE LONGEST WIN STREAKS IN DIVISION I



19-0.
 57 SETS TO 4.

Nebraska is the last unbeaten team in Division I and has dropped 4 sets all season. Charleston has also won 19 straight.

15 sweeps in 19 matches	8-0 against AVCA-ranked teams	.326 team hitting, in Division I
ACTIVE WINNING STREAKS, D-I		
N No. 1 Nebraska		19 (19-0)
Charleston		19 (19-2)
EKU Eastern Kentucky		13 (18-2)
UT Utah Tech		12 (15-3)
BYU No. 11 BYU		12 (15-1)
Wright State		10 (14-5)
Northern Iowa		10 (14-5)
Long Island University		10 (10-7)
American University		10 (14-4)
Western Kentucky		9 (14-6)

THIS WEEKEND Every D-I match live, with box scores and play-by-play, in MESH Volleyball

AVCA Week 8 poll (Oct 19). Records and results from the schools' official schedules and box scores, through Oct 21. Streaks count matches against all opponents.



20261021-nebraska-streaks.png

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Twelve matches pair two AVCA top-25 teams. The highest-ranked pairing is No. 8 **Arizona State** at No. 11 **BYU** on Saturday. No. 11 **BYU**, No. 16 **Penn State**, No. 17 **Kansas**, No. 20 **Minnesota**, and No. 21 **Washington** each play two ranked teams.

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