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Seward Ranked to Begin Season

For the 18th consecutive season the Seward County Lady Saints Volleyball program has found itself ranked inside the NJCAA top 20, this year making an early appearance at #14 in the National Poll released this week.

Seward finds themselves slated in with the nation's elite teams in the pre-season poll at #14 and is the top rated team from the Jayhawk Conference in the poll. Defending league champ Barton and dark horse Hutchinson each received votes for the rankings but weren't able to crack the top 20. Perennial National Tournament contenders are scattered about the pre-season rankings however none of last year's top 3 finishers at the National Championship event were inside the top 4 of this year's first poll. To take it a step further, defending National Champions Blinn, failed to even make the poll of 20 teams. Southern Idaho is #1 after a 24-12 campaign a season ago while Tyler and Central Florida check in behind the Golden Eagles at #2 and #3.

The Lady Saints schedule in 2012 will be another action packed one, as Seward will square off against 6 different teams ranked in the pre-season poll in a total of 9 matches against those teams. Seward returns 6 players from their 25-16 squad in 2011 including All-Conference middle hitter Bailey McFerren, fellow middle hitter Sarah Miller who was in the top 10 in the nation in blocks as a freshman, right side hitters Aubree Young, Lakeria Eatmon, and Rachel Coleman, as well as outside hitter Jasmine Bryant. The group is joined by 8 newcomers composed of a pair of setters, 5 hitters, and a defensive specialist.

The gals in green kick off their 2012 season on August 24th when they head to the New Mexico desert to play in the New Mexico Military Classic Tournament and face off with #11 Seminole State in their opener. Seward opens their home slate on September 5th when they host the Colby Lady Trojans at 6:30 in the Greenhouse.

Roy Allen

Top 20 National Poll | August 02, 2012

Rank	College	Region	Record	Points	1st Votes	Last Week
1	College of Southern Idaho	18	24-12	0	0	0
2	Tyler Junior College	14	24-6	0	0	0
3	College of Central Florida	8	43-9	0	0	0
4	San Jacinto College-Central	14	32-5	0	0	0
5	Western Wyoming Community College	9	39-3	0	0	0
6	Western Nebraska Community College	9	41-2	0	0	0
7	Salt Lake Community College	18	29-9	0	0	0
8	Eastern Arizona College	1	27-6	0	0	0
9	Miami Dade College	8	24-6	0	0	0

10	Iowa Western Community College	11	45-7	0	0	0
11	Seminole State College	2	35-5	0	0	0
12	North Idaho College	18	25-10	0	0	0
13	Western Texas College	5	21-14	0	0	0
14	Seward County Community College	6	25-16	0	0	0
15	Wallace State Community College-Hanceville	22	42-5	0	0	0
16	Florida State College at Jacksonville	8	19-14	0	0	0
17	Arizona Western College	1	12-9	0	0	0
18	Casper College	9	16-20	0	0	0
19	Lake Land College	24	15-24	0	0	0
20	Gadsden State Community College	22	31-8	0	0	0

Other schools receiving votes

College	Region	Record	Points	Last Week	
Barton Community College	6	29-12		0	0
Midland College	5	18-13		0	0
John A. Logan College	24	17-14		0	0
Kaskaskia College	24	23-9		0	0
Hutchinson Community College	6	16-23		0	0

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