



WEEKLY NOTEBOOK

2021-22 MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Three PacWest Teams Pull Away From The Pack

MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

No.	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak
1.	Azusa Pacific	9-2	12-6	Won 6
2.	Biola (RV)	11-3	17-4	Won 6
3.	Point Loma	10-4	14-8	Won 5
4.	Fresno Pacific	7-5	13-6	Lost 2
5.	Concordia	7-5	10-8	Lost 1
6.	Academy of Art	7-6	11-10	Won 1
7.	Hawai'i Hilo	6-6	10-9	Lost 5
8.	Chaminade	6-8	8-12	Lost 4
9.	Holy Names	3-8	5-14	Lost 4
10.	Dominican	3-10	7-14	Lost 1
11.	Hawai'i Pacific	0-12	3-15	Lost 14

IRVINE, Calif. -- Typically, preseason polls go straight into the trash bin once a season actually starts, but this year's preseason poll that the PacWest men's basketball coaches voted on is worth revisiting.

In October, the PacWest coaches anticipated that the top three teams in the PacWest would be Point Loma, Biola and Azusa Pacific. With three weeks left in the regular season, those same three teams have emerged as the top contenders for the PacWest title, except in the opposite order.

However, it wasn't always clear that this year's season would turn out this way. Only two weeks ago, Hawai'i Hilo was in first place, and before that, Academy of Art was in first place, while Chaminade was ranked in the top-10 in the West Region.

While more twists and turns are certainly on the horizon, for the moment, Azusa Pacific, Biola and Point Loma have finally created some separation from the rest of the pack in the PacWest title race with all three teams currently on winning streaks of five or more games.

Later today, Biola has a chance to become the first team to clinch a PacWest Championships berth with a win at Holy Names. Also on the schedule tonight is Azusa Pacific's game at Chaminade as the Cougars look to remain in first place.

When it comes to qualification for the NCAA West Regional, a run to the PacWest Championships title in Fresno is the only way to secure a berth. With this year's expanded tournament, eight teams will have a chance to reach the NCAA postseason by winning three games in a row in the first week of March.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Ben Okhotin, Point Loma

F, Sr., 6-6 -- San Diego, Calif.

Since he started coming off the bench in December, Okhotin has found his role with the Sea Lions and has averaged 17.8 points per game in that time. More recently, Okhotin has been a spark off the bench for Point Loma's five-game winning streak, averaging 22 points per game in those five wins. He has made over half of his shots from beyond the arc in each game during the winning streak, and opened this past week with a 6-for-11 performance from 3-point territory to finish with 23 points. Against Holy Names on Saturday, he was even more efficient, making 6 of 10 treys to defeat Holy Names. He is now shooting .405 from beyond the arc this season and .563 during the winning streak. Point Loma tied the PacWest record for 3-pointers made in a single game with 21 in the win over Fresno Pacific. Point Loma now has 242 made triples this season, which puts the team on pace to break the program's D2-era record and potentially within reach of the PacWest record.

DEFENDER OF THE WEEK



Denny Slay, Academy of Art

G, Gr., 5-11 -- Woodbridge, Va.

Slay notched six steals on Saturday to lead Academy of Art to its seventh PacWest win this season at Dominican. The Urban Knights won 63-52 in a defensive battle against the Penguins. Academy of Art held Dominican to just 23 points in the second half as the Penguins were forced into 18 turnovers in the game. As a team, Academy of Art had a total of 13 steals as the Urban Knights continue to inch closer to the PacWest's top-10 list for steals by a team in the single season. The Urban Knights have recorded 229 steals so far. Slay made four steals in the second half, which were converted into seven points, including four fastbreak points just after Dominican had pulled within one point. Slay has a total of 38 steals this season with only two games all year in which he hasn't recorded a steal. His tally of six is a new season-high for the Knights' guard.

PACWEST RECORD WATCH

INDIVIDUAL SINGLE SEASON RECORD TRACKER

Stat	Player	Team	No.	Top 10	Record
Points	Wayne Arnold	CUI	430	606	825
Field Goals	Wayne Arnold	CUI	146	220	263
3-Pointers	Wayne Arnold	CUI	68	90	109
FT Made	Aniwaniwa Tait-Jones	UHH	87	150	216
Rebounds	Latrell Williams	ART U	150	281	357
Assists	Chris Rossow	BU	97	160	296
Steals	Klay Brown	ART U	53	70	104
Blocks	Wayne Arnold	CUI	32	57	107

TEAM RECORD TRACKER

Stat	Team	Number	Top 10	Record
Points	Point Loma	1753	2623	3085
Field Goals	Point Loma	597	921	1079
3-Pointers	Point Loma	242	284	336
FT Made	Point Loma	277	558	614
Rebounds	Biola	843	1206	1394
Assists	Point Loma	364	501	597
Steals	Academy of Art	229	271	328
Blocks	Concordia	66	130	159

PREVIOUS WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

Date	Player	Defender
Nov. 15	Wayne Arnold, CUI	Christian Popoola, ART U
Nov. 22	Donald McHenry, UHH	Jelani Watson-Gayle, FPU
Nov. 29	Wayne Arnold, CUI	Jesse Elrod, BU
Dec. 6	Justin Hemsley, APU	Joshua Bagley, ART U
Dec. 13	Aniwaniwa Tait-Jones, UHH	Latrell Williams, ART U
Dec. 21	Kaden Anderson, PLNU	Wayne Arnold, CUI
Jan. 10	Chris Rossow, BU	Klay Brown, ART U
Jan. 17	Aniwaniwa Tait-Jones, UHH	Klay Brown, ART U
Jan. 24	Jelani Watson-Gayle, FPU	Klay Brown, ART U
Jan. 31	Wayne Arnold, CUI	Myles Franklin, PLNU

D2SIDA NATIONAL RANKINGS

Week 12 - February 1

Rank	Team	W-L	Prev.
1.	Lubbock Christian (11)	19-0	1
2.	Nova Southeastern (3)	18-0	2
3.	Northwest Missouri State	19-2	4
4.	CSU San Bernardino	16-1	5
5.	Indiana (Pa.)	17-2	3
6.	West Liberty	18-2	6
7.	UNC Pembroke	18-1	7
8.	Minnesota Duluth	19-2	8
9.	Ferris State	16-3	11
10.	CSU San Marcos	14-2	9
11.	Queens (N.C.)	17-3	14
12.	Bentley	14-2	15
13.	Chico State	13-2	13
14.	Augustana	17-2	17
15.	Regis	16-2	20
16.	Central Oklahoma	17-3	12
17.	Flagler	16-3	24
18.	West Texas A&M	18-4	10
19.	Fairmont State	16-3	16
20.	Lincoln Memorial	16-3	18
21.	Upper Iowa	19-3	22
22.	Dominican (N.Y.)	13-3	21
23.	Barry	14-3	NR
24.	Hillsdale	15-4	NR
25.	Augusta	16-3	RV

Receiving Votes: Grand Valley State, Mercyhurst, Embry Riddle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Black Hills State, Union

D2SIDA REGIONAL RANKINGS

Week 12 - January 31

Rank	Team	W-L	Prev.
1.	CSU San Bernardino	16-1	1
2.	Cal State San Marcos	14-1	2
3.	Chico State (6)	13-2	3
4.	Saint Martin's	13-4	T5
5.	Biola	15-4	T5
6.	Central Washington	11-4	4
7.	Fresno Pacific	13-4	9
8.	Seattle Pacific	12-8	RV
9.	Cal State Monterey Bay	9-5	7
10.	Azusa Pacific	10-6	NR

Receiving Votes: Point Loma, Alaska Anchorage, Western Washington