

WEEKLY NOTES

2026 VOLLEYBALL: NO. 1 (AUG. 27)



// STANDINGS //

Summit League

Overall

	W-L	Pct.	SF	SA	H	A	Strk	W-L	Pct.	SF	SA	H	A	N	L10	Strk
Kansas City	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
North Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
North Dakota State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
Omaha	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
Oral Roberts	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
South Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
y-South Dakota State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
x-St. Thomas	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-

y-2025 Regular Season Champion | x-2025 Summit League Tournament Champion

// SCHEDULE //

Friday, Aug. 28 | TV/Stream

Kansas City vs. Jackson State (Clarksville, TN.) | No Stream
Oral Roberts vs. Nicholls (Thibodaux, LA.) | ESPN+
South Dakota State vs. Sacramento State (Malibu, Calif.) | No Stream
North Dakota vs. Eastern Washington (Seattle, Wash.) | ESPN+
Kansas City vs. UT Martin (Clarksville, TN.) | No stream
Oral Roberts vs. Stonehill (Thibodaux, LA.) | ESPN+
South Dakota vs Drake (Des Moines, Iowa) | ESPN+
North Dakota State at Tulane (New Orleans, LA) | ESPN+
Omaha at Washington State | (Pullman, WA) | PAC12N

Local Time

10 a.m. CT
2 p.m. CT
3 p.m. PT
3 p.m. PT
4 p.m. CT
5 p.m. CT
6 p.m. CT
6:30 p.m. CT
6 p.m. PT

Saturday, Aug. 29 | TV/Stream

St. Thomas vs. Texas Tech (Laramie, Wyo.) | MWN+
Kansas City vs. Austin Peay (Clarksville, TN.) | ESPN+
North Dakota State vs. Tennessee Tech (New Orleans, LA) | No stream
Omaha vs. Central Michigan (Pullman, WA.) | No Stream
South Dakota vs. Milwaukee (Des Moines, Iowa) | No stream
North Dakota vs. Seattle (Seattle, Wash.) | ESPN+
Oral Roberts vs New Orleans (New Orleans, LA) | ESPN+
South Dakota State vs Pepperdine (Malibu, Calif.) | ESPN+

1 p.m. MT
1:30 p.m. CT
2 p.m. CT
2 p.m. PT
3 p.m. CT
4 p.m. PT
4:30 p.m. CT
5 p.m. PT

Sunday, Aug. 30 | TV/Stream

South Dakota State vs Villanova (Malibu, Calif) | No Stream
North Dakota vs Chicago St. (Seattle, Wash.) | ESPN+
South Dakota vs. DePaul (Des Moines, Iowa) | No Stream
St. Thomas vs Wyoming (Laramie, Wyo.) | MWN+

10 a.m. PT
10 a.m. PT
11 a.m. CT
1:30 p.m. MT

Key: ESPN+ (ESPN Plus), PAC12N (PAC 12 Network), Mountain West Network+ (MWN Plus)

// 2025 ALL-LEAGUE RETURNERS //

North Dakota State

Arianna Blohm, MB - Second Team All-League
Rya Borer, DS - All-Freshman Team
Lauren Jansen, OH - First Team All-League

Omaha

Faith Venable, OH- All-Freshman Team

Oral Roberts

Cortnee Smith, OH/RS- Second Team All-League

St. Thomas

Morgan Kealy, S - First Team All-League, Setter of the Year
Anya Schmidt, OH - All, Freshman Team, Freshman of the Year

South Dakota

Ava Ball, OH - All-Freshman Team
Morgan Bode, MB - Second Team All-League
Avery Van Hook, S - Second Team All-League
Amanda Loschen, MB - Second Team All-League
Lauren Medeck, OH - First Team All-League

South Dakota State

Madison Burr, MB - First Team All-League
Hannah Klein, OH - All-Freshman Team
Rylee Martin, S - First Team All-League
Sylvie Zgonc, OH - First Team All-League, Player of the Year

// SUMMIT LEAGUE NETWORK //



- The newly launched Summit League Network will be a subscription-based, one-stop shop for all Summit League digital content and serve as the exclusive streaming home for live and on-demand coverage for the League's nine member institutions.
- Fans can expect more than 600 live events to be streamed through SLN on the Midco Sports Plus app each year.
- Visit SummitLeagueNetwork.tv to subscribe and for more details.

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SUMMIT LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL WEEKLY NOTES

// NO. 1 (AUG. 27) //

// AROUND THE LEAGUE //

- Three 2025 individual Summit League award winners return in 2026: South Dakota State's Sylvie Zgonc (Player of the Year), St. Thomas' Morgan Kealy (Setter of the Year) and St. Thomas' Anya Schmidt (Freshman of the Year)
- Preseason favorite South Dakota State enters the season as the two-time defending Summit League regular-season champion after posting a perfect 16-0 league record in 2025. Sylvie Zgonc became just the fourth player in Summit League history to win Player of the Year in consecutive seasons and the first since North Dakota State's Chrissy Knuth accomplished the feat in 2008-09. Zgonc led the league with 451 kills and 4.34 kills per set last season, while Rylee Martin led the conference in assists per set. The Jackrabbits ranked 3rd in the nation a season ago in blocks per set (3.04)
- The Jackrabbits added a unique two-sport talent in the offseason with the addition of Brooklyn Meyer, who will transition from the basketball court to volleyball for her final collegiate season. Meyer was a two-time WBCA Honorable Mention All-American, a three-time All-Summit League First Team selection and the 2025-26 Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year in basketball. She will play middle blocker for the Jackrabbits.
- The Tommies are coming off the most successful season in program history at the Division I level, winning their first Summit League Tournament title and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time. St. Thomas went 21-10 overall and took No. 5 seed Iowa State to five sets in the NCAA Tournament.
- Anya Schmidt made quite an impression during her freshman campaign, setting a St. Thomas Division I-era record with 58 service aces. The total ranked 10th nationally and 18th all-time in Summit League history, while her 10-ace performance at Oral Roberts was the second-most in a single match in league history. Schmidt also led the Summit League and ranked 19th nationally with 0.50 aces per set.
- The Coyotes have recorded at least 10 Summit League victories in every season since 2016, a streak that has now reached 10 consecutive seasons. USD went 12-4 in league play last season and earned the No. 2 seed at the Summit League Championship.
- Senior setter Avery Van Hook enters the 2026 season as the Summit League's active career leader in assists with 3,272. She also ranks first among active league players in assists per set at 9.77.
- North Dakota State advanced to the Summit League Tournament semifinals last season after defeating Denver in the quarterfinals. NDSU enters 2026 with three players ranked among the league's active career leaders in multiple statistical categories, including Arianna Blohm, who has recorded 308 career blocks, Lauren Jansen, who has recorded 85 service aces, and Rya Borer, whose 3.89 career digs per set ranks first among active Summit League players.
- North Dakota State will play its first 10 matches of the 2026 season on the road, beginning with the Tulane Tournament in New Orleans. The Bison's first home match comes Sept. 18 against Western Illinois.
- Omaha brings back Summit League all-freshman team honoree Faith Venable. She finished last season ranked 25th in the nation in aces per set (0.47).
- The Mavs 2025 match against South Florida featured 51 tie scores and 23 lead changes, including 20 ties and 10 lead changes in the fourth set alone. The fourth frame ended 38-36, making it the second-highest-scoring set in Division I volleyball during the 2025 season.
- The Fighting Hawks' return nine players from a season ago while bringing in 10 new comers as well as new coach David Nguyen. Nguyen guided Fairleigh Dickinson to its first NCAA Tournament appearance and its first NEC Tournament championship during his four seasons at the helm. Nguyen also led FDU to 71 wins after the program had totaled just 26 victories during the five seasons before his arrival.
- Kansas City returns its 2025 kills leader Rianne Wattree, who put down 209 kills and averaged 2.07 kills per set. Sophomores Mia Weaver and Emry Brown are also back after ranking third and fifth on the team with 135 and 118 kills, respectively, during their freshman campaigns.
- Head coach Christi Posey enters her 16th season leading the Roos. During her tenure, Kansas City has produced 10 winning seasons, including a 22-9 campaign in 2023 when the Roos shared the Summit League regular-season title and earned a berth in the NIVC.
- Oral Roberts' returns three players from a season ago while bringing in thirteen new comers. All-League Second Teamer Cortnee Smith ranked seventh in the league a season ago with 3.03 kills per set.

// PLAYERS TO WATCH //

South Dakota State

Joslyn Richardson, Sr., DS | Sylvie Zgonc, Sr., OH

South Dakota

Lauren Medeck, Jr., OH | Avery Van Hook, Sr., S

St. Thomas

Anya Schmidt, So., OH | Morgan Kealy, Sr., S

Omaha

Faith Venable, So., OH | Maddie Stuesser, Jr., S

North Dakota State

Lauren Jansen, Sr., OH | Zoe John, Jr., OH

North Dakota

An Den Hamer, Jr., RS | Lauren Perugini, Sr., OH

Kansas City

Rianne Wattree, Jr., OH/RS | Chloe Kaminski, Gr., DS/L

Oral Roberts

Cortnee Smith, Jr., OH | Ana Appel, Fr., S

// PRESEASON POLL //

Rank	School	2025 Record	Points (1st)
1.	South Dakota State	23-5 (16-0)	47 (6)
T2.	South Dakota	20-9 (12-4)	41 (1)
T2.	St. Thomas	21-10 (11-5)	41 (1)
4.	North Dakota State	17-11 (10-6)	29
5.	Omaha	10-16 (7-9)	27
6.	North Dakota	7-20 (4-12)	16
7.	Kansas City	3-26 (2-14)	14
8.	Oral Roberts	3-25 (1-15)	9

// RETURNING 2025 NCAA LEADERS (TOP 25) //

Individual

Aces Per Set

19. Anya Schmidt, UST 0.50
25. Faith Venable, OMA 0.47

Attacks Per Set

20. Sylvie Zgonc, SDSU 11.86

Service Aces

10. Anya Schmidt, UST 58

Team

Aces Per Set

10. St. Thomas 1.99

Assists Per Set

17. St. Thomas 12.99

Blocks Per Set

3. South Dakota State 3.04

Digs Per Set

18. South Dakota 16.68

Kills Per Set

15. St. Thomas 14.03

Match W-L Pctg.

15. South Dakota State 0.821

Opp Hitting Percentage

8. South Dakota State 0.159

Team Digs

21. South Dakota 1,885

Team Service Aces

8. St. Thomas 229

Team Total Blocks

17. South Dakota State 316.0

// 2026 VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP //



The 2026 Summit League Volleyball Championship will take place November 22-24 at the First Bank & Trust Arena in Brookings, S.D. The top six teams at the conclusion of the regular season advance to the championship. The winner of the Summit League Championship receives the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.