

For immediate release

USA TODAY SPORTS PRESEASON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES POLL - 10/20/2026

The USA TODAY Sports preseason Top 25 women's basketball poll, with team's RECORDS FROM LAST YEAR in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last year's final poll and first-place votes received.

Rank	School (record)	Points	Last season's final rank	First-place votes
1	South Carolina (36-4)	792	2	26
2	Connecticut (38-1)	772	3	6
3	Southern California (18-14)	686	NR	0
4	Duke (27-9)	664	5	0
5	Michigan (28-7)	652	6	0
6	Texas (35-4)	632	4	0
7	Louisville (29-8)	578	11	0
8	LSU (29-6)	572	7	0
9	Vanderbilt (29-5)	521	8	0
10	Iowa (27-7)	476	12	0
11	North Carolina (28-8)	432	13	0
12	UCLA (37-1)	422	1	0
13	Notre Dame (25-11)	403	14	0
14	Kentucky (25-11)	352	17	0
15	Washington (22-11)	319	NR	0
16	TCU (32-6)	270	9	0
17	Maryland (24-9)	267	19	0
18	Minnesota (24-9)	252	18	0
19	Oklahoma State (24-10)	239	NR	0
20	Ohio State (27-8)	233	15	0
21	Oklahoma (26-8)	211	10	0

22	Illinois (22-12)	163	NR	0
23	Mississippi (24-12)	95	22	0
24	West Virginia (28-7)	92	16	0
25	North Carolina State (21-11)	67	NR	0

Dropped out: No. 20 Michigan State (23-9); No. 21 Baylor (25-9); No. 23 Texas Tech (26-8); No. 24 Virginia (23-10); No. 25 Princeton (26-4).

Others receiving votes: Baylor (25-9) 44; Arizona State (24-11) 42; Nebraska (19-13) 40; Tennessee (16-14) 20; Michigan State (23-9) 18; Gonzaga (24-10) 15; South Dakota State (27-7) 11; Oregon (23-13) 9; Oregon State (23-12) 8; Rice (29-6) 5; Villanova (25-8) 5; Princeton (26-4) 4; Florida (18-15) 3; James Madison (26-9) 3; Texas Tech (26-8) 3; Clemson (21-12) 2; Fairfield (28-5); Kansas (22-14) 2; Virginia (22-12) 2.

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