

## NCAA Division I Preview

### CENTRAL REGION

#### Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)

##### **Nebraska (31-3, 18-2 Big 12)**

**2008 Final AVCA Ranking:** 3rd

**2008 NCAA Postseason Finish:** NCAA National Semifinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-1<sup>st</sup>

**2008 RKPI:** 3

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero/2

**Top Returners:** Sydney Anderson (S, 6-0, Jr., AVCA Second-Team All-America, Volleyball Magazine Second-Team All-America, Big 12 Newcomer of the Year, AVCA All-Central Region, First-Team All-Big 12, Seattle Regional All-Tournament Team, Runza/AVCA Showcase All-Tournament Team); Kayla Banwarth (L, 5-10, Jr., Runza/AVCA Showcase All-Tournament Team); Kori Cooper (MB, 6-0, Sr., AVCA Honorable-Mention All-America; AVCA All-Central Region; First-Team All-Big 12); Lindsey Licht (RS/Opp., 6-5, Jr., Seattle Regional All-Tournament Team); Tara Mueller (OH, 6-0, Jr., AVCA Second-Team All-America; Volleyball Magazine Second-Team All-America; Seattle Regional Most Outstanding Player; Seattle Regional All-Tournament Team; AVCA All-Central Region; First-Team All-Big 12)

**Top Newcomers:** Hannah Werth (OH, 6-1, Fr.); Gina Mancuso (OH, 6-1, Fr.); Megan Pendergast (DS/L, 5-7, Fr.); Hayley Thramer (MB, 6-2, Fr.)

**Top Player Lost:** Jordan Larson (OH, 6-0, three-time AVCA All-America)

##### **Texas (29-4, 18-2 Big 12)**

**2008 Final AVCA Ranking:** 4th

**2008 NCAA Postseason Finish:** NCAA Semifinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-1<sup>st</sup>

**2008 RKPI:** 4

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/9

**Top Returners:** Ashley Engle (RS/Opp., 6-3, Sr., AVCA First-Team All-America, AVCA All-Central Region, All-Big 12 First-Team); Juliann Faucette (OH, 6-2, Jr., 2007 AVCA National Freshman of the Year, 2007 AVCA First-Team All-America); Destinee Hooker (OH, 6-4, Sr., AVCA First-Team All-America, AVCA All-Central Region, All-Big 12 First-Team); Michelle Kocher (S, 5-10, So., Big 12 Freshman of the Year)

**Top Newcomers:** Sha'Dare McNeal (MB/OH, 6-1, Fr.) and Bailey Webster (OH, 6-3, Fr.)

**Top Players Lost:** Lauren Paolini (MB, 6-5, AVCA First-Team All-America, AVCA All-Central Region, All-Big 12 First-Team)

##### **Iowa State University (22-13, 11-9 Big 12)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 12th

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Final

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-4th

**2008 RKPI:** 31

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + Libero/11

**Top Returners:** Kaylee Manns (Sr., S, 5-10, 2008 AVCA Second-Team All-American), Ashley Mass (Jr., L, 5-8, 2008 AVCA Second-Team All-American), Victoria Henson (Jr., OH, 5-10, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American), Rachel Hockaday (So., OH, 6-0, Big 12 All-Freshman Team).

**Top Newcomers:** Jamie Straube (MB, 6-2), Alison Landwehr (S, 6-0), Hannah Johnson (MB, 6-3).

**Top Players Lost:** Jen Malcom (MB, 6-1, 2008 All-Big 12 Honorable Mention)

**Kansas State (24-8 overall, 14-6 Big 12)****2008 Final Ranking:** 20th**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round**2008 Conference Finish:** Third**2008 RKPI:** 28**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2+Libero/7 letterwinners**Top Returners:** Kelsey Chipman (Sr., MB, 6-2), Lauren Mathewson (Jr., L, 5-6)**Top Newcomers:** Kathleen Ludwig (R-Fr., OPP, 6-0), Caitlyn Donahue (Fr., OH/DS, 5-10)**Top Players Lost:** Nataly Korobkova (OPP, 2007-08 AVCA All-America Third Team, All-Big 12 First Team), Rita Liliom (OH, 2008 All-Big 12 First Team), Megan Farr (MB, All-Big 12 Honorable Mention)**Texas A&M (16-14, 11-9 Big 12)****2008 Final National Ranking:** RV**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-4th**2008 RKPI:** 57**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero/9**Top Returners:** Sarah Ammerman (Sr., OH, 6-2, USA A2 Team, All-Big 12 Honorable Mention); Mary Batis (Sr., OH, 6-0, All-Big 12 Honorable Mention); Kelsey Black (So., L/OH, 5-11, USA Junior National Team)**Top Newcomers:** Caitlin Adams (Fr., MB, 6-2); Alisia Kastmo (Fr., MB, 6-4); Tori Mellinger (Fr., DS/OH, 5-10); Lindsey Miller (Fr., MB, 6-2)**Top Players Lost:** Kelsey Bryant (RS/MB); Darla Donaldson (MB); Jillian Phillips (MB)**Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament****Missouri State (23-13, 11-7, Missouri Valley)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA 1st round, MVC Tournament champions**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th**2008 RKPI:** 77**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/10**Top Returners:** Sara Staubach (Sr., OH, 6-0, 2008 1st-team all-MVC), Calli Norman (So., MB, 6-1, 2008 1st-team all-MVC), Cara Hackmann (Jr., MH, 6-0, 2008 2nd-team all-MVC), Kelley Michnowicz (So., RS, 6-2, 2008 MVC all-freshman team), Addie Foley (Sr., OH, 5-10)**Top Newcomers:** Melissa Gmur (Jr., S, 5-9), Megan Bess (So., OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Terri Del Conte (DS), Ashley Kell (S), Nikki Vandepopulier (DS)**North Dakota State (24-4, 16-0, The Summit League)****2008 Final National Ranking:** none**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA first round**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st**2008 RKPI:** 80**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/9**Top Returners:** Chrissy Knuth (So., MH, 6-0, Summit League Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year), Jennifer Lopez (So., S, 5-10, All-Summit League first team), Brooke VandenBergh (Jr., OH, 5-10, All-Summit League second team)**Top Newcomers:** Brynn Joki (Fr., OH/S, 6-1), Megan Lambertson (Fr., MH/OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Kristen Hille (OH, Summit League Tournament MVP)

**UNI (25-9, 13-5 Missouri Valley)\*****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd**2008 RKPI:** 45**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero/7**Top Returners:** Shannon Aschoff (OH, 6-2, 2008 Second-Team All-MVC), Ellie Blankenship (L, 5-10, 2008 Second-Team All-MVC), Bre Payton (5-9, S, 2008 MVC All-Freshman Team), Michelle Burow (MB, 6-1, 2008 MVC All-Freshman Team).**Top Newcomers:** Amy Braun (OH, 5-10), Molly Turk (S, 5-10), Shelby Kintzel (MB, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Amy Sampson (OH, 5-11, 2008 First-Team All-MVC), Ashten Stelken (MB, 6-3, 2008 First-Team All-MVC, 2008 Honorable Mention AVCA All-District)**Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized****Bradley (6-26, 2-16, Missouri Valley)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T9th**2008 RKPI:** 261**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero/10**Top Returners:** Melissa Collins (Jr., OH, 5-11), Kaitlyn Comiskey (Sr., OH, 6-0), Rachele Dejean (So., L/DS, 5-1), Amy Reichel (Sr., OH, 6-2), Megan Schmidt (So., MB, 6-1), Caitlin Staib (Jr., OH, 6-1),**Top Newcomers:** Laura Doolin (Fr., S, 5-9), Madelyn Ervin (Fr., OH, 6-0), Allie Gardner (Fr., L/DS, 5-5), Skylar Lesan (Fr., S, 6-0), Jessica McNellis (Fr., MB, 6-3), Alise Tupuritis (Fr., OH, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Sam Black (S), Emily Austin (MB)**Creighton Bluejays (18-9 overall, 15-3 Missouri Valley)****2008 Final National Ranking:** Not Ranked**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost in MVC Tournament semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd place of 10**2008 RKPI:** 46**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/8**Top Returners:** Jessica Houts (Sr., MB, 6-0, 2008 AVCA Honorable-Mention All-American), Allie Oelke (Jr., RS/OH, 6-1), Lauren Bloemke (Sr., MB, 6-0), Sarah Schulze (Sr., OH/DS, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** Megan Bober (Fr., S, 6-0), Alicia Runge (Jr., OH/MB, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Bianca Rivera (L, 5-3, 2008 AVCA Honorable-Mention All-Region), Korie Lebeda (S, 5-8), Carolyn Decker (OH, 6-1)**Indiana State University (8-23, 2-16 Missouri Valley)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** 10th**2008 RKPI:** 230**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/8**Top Returners:** Whitney Fromm (S, 5-8); Kelli Whitaker (OH, 5-10); Jodilynne Stoker (OH, 5-11); Stephanie Volden (MB, 6-0); Stacy Qualizza (MB, 6-1).**Top Newcomers:** Shea Doran (MB, 6-3); Auriel Armstrong (MB, 6-1); Christin Fullenkamp (OH, 6-0); Ana Maira Charun (OH, 5-10).**Top Players Lost:** Kristy Cox (L, 5-6), all-time Indiana State leader in digs and fifth all-time Missouri Valley Conference leader in digs.

**IUPUI (16-15, 9-7, The Summit League)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th

**2008 RKPI:** 179

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6/11

**Top Returners:** Danielle Goodnight (Sr., S, 5-9, First Team All-Summit), Kalyse Reimbold (So., OH/RS, 6-0, All-Freshman Summit League), Ashley Johnson (Sr., MH, 5-11), Monica Suding (Sr., MH, 6-0), Rachel Holmes (Jr., DS/S, 5-8), Shari Bernhardt (So., DS/OH, 5-8)

**Top Newcomers:** Nicole Ramey (Fr., MH, 5-10), Lindsey Weber (Fr., 5-10, OH), Kortni Wright (Fr., 6-1, RS/MH)

**Top Players Lost:** Chelsea Bastin (Libero)

**Kansas (13-16, 7-13 Big 12)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** None

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-8th

**2008 RKPI:** 117

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero/11

**Top Returners:** Karina Garlington (Jr., OH, 6-0, ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Third Team), Nicole Tate (So., S, 5-10, Big 12 All-Freshman Team), Katie Martincich (Sr., DS/S, 5-10, 2007-08 Big 12 Sports person of the Year, 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Third Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Morgan Boub (Fr., DS, 5-8), Caroline Jarmoc (Fr., MB, 6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Savannah Noyes (MB), Natalie Uhart (MB)

**McNeese State University (12-18, 7-9 Southland)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NR

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NR

**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th

**2008 RKPI:** 225

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+Libero/8

**Top Returners:** Chanel Tyler (OH, 5-9, All-SLC second team),

**Top Newcomer:** Priscilla Massengale (Fr., OH, 5-10), Taylor Bustamento (Fr., OH, 5-10), Becky Bekelja (Fr., S, 5-7)

**Top Players Lost:** Alyson Jones (SLC all-tournament)

**University of Evansville (14-18, 8-10 Missouri Valley Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** State Farm MVC Tournament Quarterfinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th

**2008 RKPI:** 167

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/9

**Top Returners:** Ginta Gabruseva (Sr., OH, 6-2, MVC All-Tournament Team), Brooke Maher (So., OH, 5-11), Ellen Sawin (So., RS/S, 6-0, MVC All-Freshman Team), Julie Sylvester (Jr., DS/L, 5-5), Emily Wandersee (Jr., MH, 5-10, Second Team All-MVC)

**Top Newcomers:** Heather Barnes (Fr., MH, 5-10), Jessica Knackmuhs (Fr., OH, 5-11), Maia Miller (Fr., DS/OH, 5-7), Hannah Wilson (Fr., OH, 5-11)

**Top Players Lost:** Katie Kincaid (S, MVC Scholar-Athlete), Sally Kulupka (OH, MVC Scholar-Athlete), Kerry Sylvester (MH, MVC Scholar-Athlete)

**Oklahoma (12-16 (8-12 Big 12))****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** 8th**2008 RKPI:** 76**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6/10**Top Returners:** Brianne Barker (S, 5-9, 2008 All-Big 12 Freshman Team), Caitlin Higgins (OH, 6-0, 2008 All-Big 12 Freshman Team), Francie Ekwerekwu (MB, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** María Escoto-Lopez (DS, 5-7), Morgan Reynolds (OH/OPP, 6-2)**Top Players Lost:** Lacy Barnes (L, 5-5)**South Dakota State (10-17, 8-8 The Summit League)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th**2008 RKPI:** 194**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2/9**Top Returners:** Ellyce Youngren (6-2, So., OH) 2008 Summit League all-freshman team, Kelli Fiegen (6-3, So., MB), Stacey Wernert (5-6, Sr., L)**Top Newcomers:** Kelsey Hansen (6-3, Fr., RS), Kelly Herrmann (6-0, Fr., OH), Kaitlin Klingemann (6-3, Fr., MB), Thyele Rechatiko (5-6, Jr., S)**Top Players Lost:** Mackenzie Angner (6-0, OH) 2008 First-Team All-Summit League. Ranked second in the nation with 5.04 kills per set in 2008.**Southern Illinois (17-12, 7-11, Missouri Valley Conference)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th**2008 RKPI:** 117**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/8**Top Returners:** Jennifer Berwanger (OH, 5-10, 2008 All-Missouri Valley Conference First Team), Chandra Roberson (MB, 5-10, 2007 All-Missouri Valley Conference Second Team), Kelsie Laughlin (OH, 6-1), Marina Medic (MB, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Alicia Johnson (RS, 5-11), Rachael Brown (S, 5-10), Alysia Mayes (MB, 6-1), Keana Richardson (DS, 5-7), Laura Thole (OH, 5-10), Bailey Yeager (DS/OH, 5-8)**Top Players Lost:** Kristy Elswick (L, 5-5), Brooklyn Robbins (S, 5-9, 2008 All-Missouri Valley Conference Second Team), Kristie Berwanger (RS, 6-0)**University of Colorado (13-16, 7-13, Big 12)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** DNC**2008 Conference Finish:** t-8th**2008 RKPI:** 121**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2/8**Top Returners:** Kaitlyn Burkett (Sr., S, 6-1), Schylur Edelman (Jr., MB, 6-1)**Top Newcomers:** Nikki Kinzer (Fr., MB, 6-2), Kerra Schroeder (Fr., OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Alex Buth (RS), Lauren Schaefer (MB), Amber Sutherland (OH), Callie Webster (L)

**University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) (12-20 Overall, 5-11 League, The Summit League)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a

**2008 Conference Finish:** 16th

**2008 RKPI:** 259

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/10

**Top Returners:** Christiana McQuin (So., MH/RS, 6-2, Summit League all-Freshman Team), Brittany Fossier (So., 6-2, MH), Jamie Hagerman (Sr., 6-0, OH), Elizabeth Beck (So., 5-11, OH) Holly Schmidt (Jr., 6-4, MH/RS), Erin Wellwood (So., 5-6, S), Nicole Kerkman (So., 5-6, L/DS)

**Top Newcomers:** Brittney Robers (Fr., S, 6-2), Kelsey Knoche (So., OH, 6-0), Emily Lucas (Fr., OH, 6-0), Ella Meier (Fr., OH/RS, 5-11), Kayla Riggs (Jr., L/DS, 5-7)

**Top Players Lost:** Kate Humphreys (OH), Alexandra Miller (L/DS), Danni Sperry (S/DS), Mandy Tipton (OH/DS)

**UTSA (Texas-San Antonio) 19-12, 11-5 Southland (West Division)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** not ranked

**2008 Postseason Finish:** none

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**2008 RKPI:** 164

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero / 8

**Top Returners:** Kendra Rowland (OH, 5-11, Jr., 2008 first-team All-SLC), Kelsey Jewasko (DS/OH, 5-7, So., 2008 first-team All-SLC and Libero of the Year), Stefanie Robbins (MH, 6-2, 2008 honorable mention All-SLC and Newcomer of the Year), Amber Brooks (S, 5-7, 2008 honorable mention All-SLC).

**Top Newcomers:** Andee Josserand (OH, 5-10, Fr.), Whitney Walls (OH, 6-0, Fr.).

**Top Players Lost:** Audrey Hiser (L, 5-7), Valorie Rogers (MH, 6-1).

## **EAST REGION**

### **Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

**Duke University (25-9, 15-15 ACC)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** RV

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA 2nd Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-1st (ACC Co-Champion)

**2008 RKPI:** 32

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + Libero / 11

**Top Returners:** Rachael Moss (Sr., OH, 5-10, AVCA All-America HM, All-East Region, All-ACC First Team, First Team Academic All-America) Kellie Catanach (So., S, 6-2, AVCA All-East Region, Freshman All-ACC) Claire Smalzer (Jr., LIB, 5-10) Becci Burling (Jr., MB, 6-1) Sophia Dunworth (So., MB/OH, 6-1, Freshman All-ACC)

**Top Newcomers:** Christiana "T" Gray (Fr., MB, 6-5) Megan Hendrickson (Fr., OH, 6-0) Phoebe Maglathlin (Fr., DS/LIB, 5-7) Nailah Waterfield (Fr., DS/LIB, 5-3)

**Top Players Lost:** Jourdan Norman (Sr., AVCA All-America HM, All-East Region, All-ACC Second Team) Sue Carls (Sr.) Aana Wherry (Sr.)

### **Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

#### **Liberty (25-9, 13-3 Big South)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-1st

**2008 RKPI:** 83

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + Libero/10

**Top Returners:** Karyl Bacon (Jr., OH/DS, 5-6, Big South All-Tournament Team), Kallie Corbin (Sr., S, 5-9, AVCA Honorable Mention All-American, VaSID State Player of the Year, Big South Player of the Year, Big South Tournament MVP), Kelly Haseman (So., L, 5-8, Big South All-Freshman Team), Chelaine McCarty (Sr., MB, 6-2, AVCA Honorable Mention All-East Region, Second Team All-Big South), Nicki Scripko (Jr., OH/RS, 6-1, Second Team All-Big South, Big South All-Tournament Team, 2007 AVCA Honorable Mention All-East Region)

**Top Newcomers:** Hannah Anderson (Fr., OH, 6-0), Erica Manor (Fr., OH, 6-1), Kendle Rollins (Fr., MB, 6-0)

**Top Players Lost:** Jessica Nelson (OH, 5-9), Ashley Webber (MB, 6-1)

### **Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized**

#### **Georgia State (3-25, 2-12 CAA)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NR

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA

**2008 Conference Finish:** 9th

**2008 RKPI:** 284

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 (including libero)/ 6 letterwinners

**Top Returners:** Audrey Cantrell, R-Jr., L, 5-6 Ashley Jones, Jr., OH/S/RS, 5-8 All-CAA Third Team Jocelyn Waldern, Sr., MH, 6-0

Rachel Boryc, Jr., RS, 6-0

**Top Newcomers** Vineece Verdun, R-So., MHRaquel Jones, Jr., MH Nevena Peeva, So., OH Mirjam Pfyl, So. OH

**Top Players Lost:** Name (Pos., Honors)Michelle Trimble, MH, Graduated Liz Schaab, OH, Graduated

#### **Hofstra University (18-14, 9-5 CAA)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost in semifinals of the Colonial Athletic Association Championship

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 103

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 1+libero/5

**Top Returners:** Monica Knight (Sr., OH, 6-0), Chrissey Cruz (Sr., S, 5-10), Rachel August (Jr., S/L, 5-9)

**Top Newcomers:** Nikki Kinnier (Fr., OH, 5-11), Kylee Maneja (Fr., L/OH, 5-8), Marina Markovic (Gs., OH, 6-1), Maile Scarpino (Fr., L, 5-6), Anissa Whitney (Jr., OH/MB, 6-3)

**Top Players Lost:** Harmonie Calinda (OH, All-CAA), Lauren Engle (OH, All-CAA), Ashley Legerretta (MB, All-CAA)

**James Madison - 13-18, 6-8 CAA****2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th**2008 RKPI:** 256**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/3+libero, 8/6**Top Returners:** Lindsay Callahan (Jr., OH, 6-0), Lauren Fanelli (Jr., S, 5-8), Kelly Turner (So., MB, 5-11, CAA All-Rookie), Holly Wall (So., OH, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Danielle Erb (Fr., OH, 6-0), Haley Jacobsen (Fr., MB, 6-3), Megan Wiechmann (Fr., S, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Lauren Miles (S, 2nd Team All-CAA, VaSID Second Team All-State), Michelle Johnson (MB), Kelsey McNamara (OH)**NC State (9-26, 3-17 ACC)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** 10th**2008 RKPI:** 233**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/13**Top Returners:** Isis Gardner (OH, 6-2), Arlee Tamietti (OH, 6-0), Margaret Salata (MB, 6-1), Alex Smith (S, 5-8), Alysson Weissberg (OH, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Kelly Burns (S, 6-0), Sarah Griggs (OH, 5-11)**Top Players Lost:** Aiwane Iboaya (MB, 5-11)**Towson University (19-12, 8-6, Colonial Athletic Association)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** lost in the first round of the conference tournament**2008 Conference Finish:** sixth place**2008 RKPI:** 188**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 starters plus the libero/8**Top Returners:** Katee Luecke (Jr., Setter, 5-11); Alysha Fanning (Sr., MB, 6-0); Susan Gansor (So., MB, 6-5, CAA All-Rookie Team); Shelynne Hoyt (Jr., MB, 6-1); Britney Loomis (Jr., OH, 5-11); Missy Rohrbaugh (Sr., Libero, 5-6)**Top Newcomers:** Amanda Halls (Fr., OH, 6-1); Evan Schulz (Fr., S, 5-11); Rachel Gambow (Fr., Libero, 5-10); Kelsey Hoefler (Fr., OH, 5-11); Stacey Niehoff (Fr., Libero, 5-8); I'ishah Keliikoa (Fr., MB/OPP, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Val Chromy (RS, Second Team All-CAA); Maddie Haseltine (OH, Third Team All-CAA); Ally Perko (OH)**University of Miami (26-6 overall, 16-6 ACC)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** None**2008 Conference Finish:** T-3rd**2008 RKPI:** 44**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero / 10**Top Returners:** Genny Mayhew (Sr., OH, 5-11, 2008 All-ACC Second Team); Lane Carico (So., OH, 5-11, 2008 ACC Freshman of the Year, 2008 AVCA East Region Freshman of the Year, 2008 All-AVCA East Region Team, 2008 All-ACC Second Team, 2008 All-ACC Freshman Team, 2008 All-AVCA All-American honorable mention); Cassie Loessberg (Sr., DS/L, 5-7)**Top Newcomers:** Jenna Berkley (Fr., MH, 6-2); Nrithya Sundararaman (Fr., RS/S, 5-10)**Top Players Lost:** Angelica Ellis (OH, 6-0, 2008 All-ACC Second Team); Ashley Woods (MH, 6-2)

**UNC Asheville (18-14, 8-8 Big South)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:**NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** Conference Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th**2008 RKPI:** 193**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/10**Top Returners:** Kelsey Benorden (Jr.,OH, 6-10, 2008 Big South 1st-Team, All Tournament team), Raquel Miotto (Sr., L, 5-10, 2008 Big South 1st Team), Cindi Miller (So., OH, 6-0, 2008 Big South All-Freshman Team) Lauren Ficker (Sr., MB, 5-11), Kaitlyn McDaniel (Sr., S, 5-5)**Top Newcomers:** Una Japundza (MB, 6-0), Chelsie Kenley (MB, 6-2), Holly Shelton (MB, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Heather Burns (MB, 6-0, leading blocker)**UNC Wilmington****2008 Final National Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** 10th**2008 RKPI:** 305**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + libero/12**Top Returners:** Paula McConnell, Sr., MB, 6-1 Lindsay Strucko, Sr., OH, 6-0 Rachael Caricato, Jr., MH, 6-1 Ashlyn Morris, Sr., DS, 5-7**Top Newcomers:** Natalie Lahaie, Fr., S, 5-11 Gretchen Wilson, Fr., OH, 5-9**Top Players Lost:** Megan Nash, RS Jacqueline Crane, S**Virginia Commonwealth****2008 Final National Ranking:** Not ranked**2008 Postseason Finish:** None**2008 Conference Finish:** Second**2008 RKPI:** 111**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/7**Top Returners:** Ivana Rich (MB, 5-11, All-CAA First Team); Jessica Ojukwu (MB/OH, Third Team All-CAA); Lenka Melicharkova (S, 5-10); Kelsie Clegg (MB, 6-5)**Top Newcomers:** Michala Kvapilova (OH, 6-1), Grace DeMichelis (S, 5-9)**Top Players Lost:** Laryssa Goncalves (L, Two-time All-CAA); Elisa Kuehnel (OH, Second Team All-CAA)**Virginia Tech (20-11, 11-9, ACC)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th**2008 RKPI:** 90th**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+Libero/12**Top Returners:** Felicia Willoughby (Jr., MB, 6-0, Honorable Mention All-America, All-AVCA East Region, First-Team All-ACC, First-Team All-State, Led ACC in hitting percentage), Erin Leaser (So., S, 5-10, ACC All-Freshman Team, Virginia Sports Information Directors' Rookie of the Year, Academic All-ACC)**Top Newcomers:** Cara Baarendse (Fr., MB, 6-1), Morgan O'Neill (Fr., OH, 5-9), Liz Trinchere (Fr., MB, 6-0), Jessica Wellman (Fr., L, 5-4)**Top Players Lost:** Kristen Cunningham (MB, Two-time Academic All-Conference), Sarah Munoz (OH)

**William and Mary (19-9, 9-5, Colonial Athletic Association)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Conference Quarterfinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 95

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** Four+L / Nine

**Top Returners:** Erin Skipper (Jr., OH, 6-0, AVCA HM All-Region, First Team All-CAA, VaSID First-Team All-State); Ginny Bray (Jr., MB, 6-1, Third Team All-CAA)

**Top Newcomers:** Lindsay Kresch (So. transfer, OH, 6-1); Jordyn Moloney (Fr., S, 5-8); Gabi Smith (Fr., L, 5-5); Gina Lang (Fr., OH, 5-11); Shaylin O'Connell (Fr., MB, 6-2); Delaney Gordon (Fr., L, 5-7)

**Top Players Lost:** Kim Mount (S, First Team All-CAA, VaSID First Team All-State, CAA Setter of the Year)

## **MIDEAST REGION**

### **Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

**Penn State (38-0, 20-0 Big Ten)**

**2008 Final AVCA Ranking:** 1st

**2008 NCAA Postseason Finish:** NCAA National Champions

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 1

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/10

**Top Returners:** Megan Hodge (OH, 6-3, Sr., AVCA First-Team All-America, NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player); Alisha Glass (S, 6-0, Sr., AVCA First-Team All-America, NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team); Blair Brown (RS/Opp., 6-4, Jr., AVCA Second-Team All-America), Arielle Wilson (MB, 6-3, Jr., AVCA Second-Team All-America)

**Top Newcomers:** Kristin Carpenter (OH, 5-7, Fr.), Darcy Dorton (OH, 6-2, Fr.), Fatima Balza (MB, 6-3, Jr.)

**Top Players Lost:** Christa Harmotto (MB, 6-2, AVCA First-Team All-America); Nicole Fawcett (OH, 6-4, AVCA First-Team All-America, AVCA National Player of the Year); Roberta Holehouse (DS/L, 5-8, Honorable Mention All-Big Ten)

**Illinois (26-8 15-5 Big Ten)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 11th

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Sweet 16

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 6

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero/9

**Top Returners:** Laura DeBruler (Jr., OH, 5-10, AVCA Second Team All-American, First Team All-Big Ten, First Team All-Mideast Region), Michelle Bartsch (So., OH, 6-3, AVCA Mideast Freshman of the Year, Big Ten Freshman of the Year, AVCA All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention), Johannah Bangert (Jr., MB, 6-1, NCAA leader in blocks, AVCA All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention, Honorable Mention All-Big Ten), Ashley Edinger (Sr., L, 5-9), Hillary Haen (Jr., S, 5-10), Abby Nelson (Jr., MB, 6-3)

**Top Newcomers:** Jessica Jendryk (OH, 6-1), Erin Johnson (MB, 6-3), Jackie Wolfe (S, 5-9)

**Top Player Lost:** Lizzie Bazzetta (S, 5-10)

**Purdue (26-9, 13-7 Big Ten)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** 15th**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th**2008 RKPI:** 10**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/9**Top Returners:** Kristen Arthurs (MB, 6-3, 2008 Honorable Mention All-Mideast Region), Jaclyn Hart (S, 6-1), Lisa Pierce (OH, 6-0), Carrie Gurnell (OH, 6-1).**Top Newcomers:** Carly Cramer (DS, 5-6), Rachel Davis (S, 6-0), Anna Drewry (MB, 6-3), Katie Griffin (OH, 6-2), Courtney Gosewisch (DS, 5-8), Brittany Lee (DS, 5-9), Catherine Rebarchak (MB/OH, 6-2), Ariel Turner (OH, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Stephanie Lynch (MB, 6-3, 2008 AVCA First Team All-American), Danita Merlau (OH, 6-4), Kelli Miller (L, 5-8, 2008 Honorable Mention All-Mideast Region)**Michigan (26-9, 12-8 Big 10)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** 17th**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th**2008 RKPI:** 24**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/11**Top Returners:** Lexi Zimmerman (S, 5-10, 2008 AVCA Second-Team All-American), Alex Hunt (LS, 6-0, 2008 Big Ten All-Freshman Team), Juliana Paz (OH, 6-0), Megan Bower (RS, 6-1), Sloane Donhoff (L, 5-9)**Top Newcomers:** Catherine Yager (S, 6-0), Amanda Yerke (OH, 6-3)**Top Players Lost:** Beth Karpiak (MB, 6-1), Kerry Hance (L, 5-6)**Minnesota****2008 Final National Ranking:** 14th**2008 Postseason Finish:** second round of NCAA Tournament**2008 Conference Finish:** 16-4, 2nd place, overall record was 27-7**2008 RKPI:** 7**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 (+lib)/4**Top Returners:** Hailey Cowles, 5-10, Jr., DS/LIB - 2.68 dps, 0.96 kps; Brook Dieter, 6-1, Jr., OH - 3.57 kps, 2.23 dps, 0.68 blps, Second-Team All-American & First-Team All-Big Ten; Ariana Filho, 6-2, So., MB - 1.22 kps, 0.74 blps; Lauren Gibbemeyer, 6-2, Jr., MB - 3.24 kps, 1.39 blps, Third-Team All-American & First-Team All-Big Ten; Jessica Granquist, 5-8, So, DS/LIB - 2.38 dps; Christine Tan, 5-4, Jr., LIB/DS - 4.89 dps, Big Ten Def. Player of the Year, First-Team All-Big Ten**Top Newcomers:** Taylor Carico, Sr., S, 5-11; Jasmine Dittrich, Fr., MB, 5-11; Katherine Harms, Fr., OH, 6-2; Brianna Haugen, Fr., MB, 6-1; Tabitha Love, Fr., OH, 6-6; Jess Menden, So., S/DS, 5-8; Mia Tabberson, Fr., S, 6-2; Megan Wilson, Sr., OH, 6-2.**Top Players Lost:** Rachel Hartmann, S, four-year setter; Pam Luiz, OH; Kyla Roehrig, OH, four-year outside hitter; Kelly Schmidt, MB, team-captain; Katie Vatterdot OH**Western Michigan (28-7, 14-2 Mid-American)****2008 Final National Ranking:** RV**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st**2008 RKPI:** 26**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6 + libero/8**Top Returners:** Jillian Mitchell (S, 5-7, 2008 AVCA All-Mideast Region, MAC Setter of the Year, First Team All-MAC), Caitlin Strimel (L, 5-11, 2007-08 MAC Defensive Player of the Year, First Team All-MAC), Michelle Moore (OH, 5-10, 2007-08 First Team All-MAC), Jaime Gotham (MB, 6-2, Second Team All-MAC)**Top Newcomers:** Kelly Griffin (OH, 6-1), Jessica Brown (MB, 5-11), Brandie Merren (S, 5-7)**Top Players Lost:** None

### Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament

#### **Ohio University (24-8, 13-3 Mid-American Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NR

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd overall/1st East

**2008 RKPI:** 23

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero/9

**Top Returners:** Ellen Herman (Sr., OH, 6-1, 2008 AVCA honorable mention All-American), Michelle Jantsch (Jr., S, 5-11, 2008 second-team All-MAC), Meghan Simons (Sr., MB, 6-3, 2008 first-team All-MAC), Jane Sytsma (Sr., MB, 6-3, 2008 second-team All-MAC)

**Top Newcomers:** Lexie Hartnett (Fr., MB, 6-1), Leah Petrovich (Fr., S, 6-0), Faith Robins (Fr., OH, 6-0)

**Top Players Lost:** Amanda Andersen (MB/OPP, 2005 MAC Freshman of the Year, 2006 second-team All-MAC)

### Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized

#### **Buffalo (6-25, 1-15, Mid-American Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 12th

**2008 RKPI:** 273

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** Starters: 5+libero/1 Letterwinners: 12/3

**Top Returners:** Kristin Bignell (Jr., MB, 6-1, Academic All-MAC) Lindsey Schlegel (Jr., S, 5-9)

Kelsey Lueders (R-Jr., MB, 6-2)

**Top Newcomers:** Abby Niekamp (So., MB, 6-1) Rachel Sarcione (So., L/DS, 5-4) Tori Beckman (Fr., OH, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Claudia Neba (OH/MB) Kate Love (OH)

#### **Ball State (12-21; 6-10 Mid-American Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** MAC Tournament Quarterfinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th West/7th Overall

**2008 RKPI:** 203

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6 + libero/11

**Top Returners:** Jennifer Boyd (So., MB, 6-0, Second Team All-MAC & MAC All-Freshman Team), Brittany McGinnis (So., S, 5-10, MAC All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Kelsey Brandl (So., MB, 6-4); Lauren Schlaker (Fr., DS, 5-7)

**Top Players Lost:** None

#### **Canisius (17-11, 12-6 MAAC)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** MAAC Semifinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 215

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/9

**Top Returners:** Michelle Godfrey (MB/RS, 6-3, 2007 all-MAAC Second Team), Renee Lettow (OH, 5-10), Janelle Davis (S, 5-9)

**Top Newcomers:** Emily Elek (MB, 5-10), Samantha Good (MB/RS, 5-10), Allyson Severyn (L, 5-7)

**Top Players Lost:** Morgan Ammons (OH, 5-11, all-MAAC Second Team), Brittany Gerde (OH/S, 6-0, MAAC all-Tournament Team), Sarah Podlesh (L, 5-7)

**Eastern Illinois University (5-24 Overall, 2-16 Ohio Valley Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Did not qualify for six-team OVC tournament

**2008 Conference Finish:** 10th (of 10)

**2008 RKPI:** 310

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/9

**Top Returners:** Melanie Boykins (So., MH, 6-0), Shaina Boylan (Sr., DS/L, 5-7), Kelsey Orr (Jr., OH, 5-10), Alex Zwettler (Jr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Newcomers:** Stephanie Arnold (Fr., MH, 6-1), Chrissie Albers (So., S, 6-0), Kylie Cavanah (Jr., S, 5-9), Andrea Johnson (Fr., MH, 6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Lauren Sopcic (MH)

**Fairfield University (20-13, 16-2 MAAC)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 147

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/9

**Top Returners:** Katie Mann (Sr., MB, 5-11, First Team All-MAAC), Alex Lopez (Jr. OH, 5-9, Second Team All-MAAC), Lauren Hughes (Jr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Newcomers:** Hannah Segebart (Jr., S, 5-7), Brianna Dixion (OH/RS, 5-8), Kara Reis (L, 5-9), Stephanie Cruz (L/DS, 5-0)

**Top Players Lost:** Karlie Urbaniak (RS, 5-10, Second Team All-MAAC), Brandi Higa (L, 5-4)

**Fairleigh Dickinson University (17-14, 4-4 Northeast Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost in Northeast Conference Tournament quarterfinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-5th

**2008 RKPI:** 253

**Returning Starters/Letter winners:** 4/3

**Top Returners:** Meghan Alger, SO, MH, 6-1; Sarah Berkland, JR, MH, 6-2; Ali Philbrick, SR, OH, 6-0; Kelsey Semler, SO, L, 5-4; Sarah Willey, SO, S, 5-8

**Top Newcomers:** Lawryn Fowler, FR, RS/MH, 5-9; Violeta Slabakova, FR, MH/OH, 5-11; Meaghen Wheeler, FR, OH, 5-10

**Top Players Lost:** Lauren Boothby, MH (2008 NEC Player of the Year); Karolina Kowalski, S; Megan Philbrick, OH

**Indiana (17-15, 9-11, Big 10)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th

**2008 RKPI:** 48

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero/6

**Top Returners:** Ashley Benson (Jr., MB, 6-3, 2008 All-Big Ten, 2008 AVCA All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention), Caitlin Cox (So., L, 5-3, 2008 Big Ten All-Freshman Team), Kelsey Hall (Sr., OH, 6-0), Taylor Wittmer (Jr., MB, 6-1), Mary Chaudoin (So., S, 6-3)

**Top Newcomers:** Jordan Haverly (Fr., OH, 6-1), Kelci Marschall (Fr., RS, 6-0), Shawn Hindman (Fr., OH, 6-2), Sam Thrower (Fr., MB, 6-1), Whitney Thomas (Sr., RS, 6-0)

**Top Players Lost:** Erica Short (OH, 2008 AVCA All-American Honorable Mention, 2008 All-Big Ten), Juli Pierce (DS)

**Kent State (13-18, 3-13 Mid American Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th East

**2008 RKPI:** 249

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + Libero/7

**Top Returners:** Kristen Barr (Jr., L, 5-7), Lauren Jones (Jr., OH, 5-10, 2007 All-MAC Freshman Team), Jenny Keck (Sr., S, 6-0), Katie Veatch (Sr., 5-8, S, 2006 All-MAC Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Kristen Farris (Fr., MB, 6-2), Kathy Krupa (Fr., MB, 6-2), Meredith Paskert (Fr., MB, 6-1), Jessica Ronyak (Fr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Ashley Feutz (OH, 2008 All-MAC Second Team, 2007 All-MAC First Team, 2005 All-MAC Freshman Team), Krista Groce (MB), Vaiva Laniauskas (OH)

**Iona College (19-12, 11-7 MAAC)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** MAAC Semifinal

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th

**2008 RKPI:** 212

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero/12

**Top Returners:** Allison Nieters (So., OH/L, 5-9, MAAC Defensive Player of the Year), Sarah Wiener (Sr., OH, 6-1, All-MAAC First Team), Alyssa Erickson (Jr., S, 5-9)

**Top Newcomers:** Emily Aguiar (Fr., MB, 6-1), Theresa Harvey (Fr., OH, 5-8), Stephanie Rocco (Fr., OH/DS, 5-9)

**Top Players Lost:** Kendall Paulus (OH), Rachele Wilson (MH, MAAC Rookie of the Year)

**Loyola (Md.) University Greyhounds (8-25 overall, 4-14 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4-14/9th

**2008 RKPI:** 289

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero/6

**Top Returners:** Nina Camaioni (Jr., OH, 5-10, 2007 MAAC Rookie of the Year; 2007 All-MAAC Second Team); Karlee Woodward (Sr., MB, 6-2, 2007 All-MAAC Second Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Aubrey Kirven (Fr., S, 5-7); Kathryn Dircks (Fr., OH/OPP, 5-10); Taylor Koncelik (Fr., MB/OH, 6-0); Annie Manes (Fr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Rachel Schillinger (MB, 1,000+ career kills); Christina Greenup (OH)

**Marist (14-17, 9-9 conference, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NR

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Failed to make conference tournament

**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th

**2008 RKPI:** 254

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10

**Top Returners:** Alexandra Schultze (Sr., OH, 5-9, All-MAAC Second Team), Joanna Foss (Jr., OH, 6-1, All-MAAC Second Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Stephanie Robinett (So., OH, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Kelsey Schaefer (RS), Cassie Campbell (L)

**Michigan State (15-16, 7-13 Big 10)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-7th**2008 RKPI:** 67**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6 + Libero/8**Top Returners:** Natalie Emro (S, 6-1, All-Big Ten Freshman Team), Allyson Karaba (DS/L, 5-7), Vanessa King (MB, 6-0, All-Big Ten), Jenilee Rathje (OH, 5-11), Becca Zlabis (OH, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** Amy Dentlinger (OH, 6-1), Elizabeth Egerer (OH, 6-0), Nicole Peter (S, 5-11)**Top Players Lost:** Heather McDaniel (DS/OH, 5-11), Vineece Verdun (MB, 6-2)**Northern Illinois (18-14, 9-7 Mid-American Conference)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** Second round of MAC tournament**2008 Conference Finish:** Third, West Division**2008 RKPI:** 143**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + Libero/9**Top Returners:** Meagan Schoenrock (Sr., OH, 6-2, 2008 First Team All-MAC, MAC All-Academic Team) Allison McGlaughlin (So., OH, 5-10, Second Team All-MAC, MAC All-Freshman Team) Cassie Yates (Sr., MB, 6-1) Maddie Hughes (Jr., L, 5-8)**Top Newcomers:** Sue Hayes (Fr., DS, 5-1) Mary Kurisch (Fr., OH/MB, 6-2) Kaitlyn Pascus (Fr., OH/MB, 6-1) Meghan Romo (Fr., OH, 6-1) Margo Schwartz (Fr., OH/MB, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Irene Johnson (OH, 2008 Academic All-MAC)**Northwestern Wildcats (8-23, 2-18 Big Ten)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason:** None**2008 Conference Finish:** 11th**2008 RKPI:** 142**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/8**Top Returners:** Kate Nobilio (Sr., LIB, 5-4); Sabel Moffett (R-Jr., MB, 6-0); Brittani Gray (R-Jr., OH, 6-0); Elyse Glab (Jr., S, 6-1); Ariel Baxterbeck (Sr., OH, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Julie Chin (LIB, 5-7); Susan Oxnard (OH, 5-9); Maria Turner (DS, 5-10)**Top Player Lost:** Chelsy Hyser (MB, 6-1)**Wisconsin (17-15, 7-13 Big Ten)****2008 Final National Ranking:** Not ranked**2008 Postseason Finish:** Did not qualify**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th**2008 RKPI:** 58**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero/8**Top Returners:** Brittney Dolgner (Sr., OH, 6-0, 2007 AVCA Second-team All-American); Janelle Gabrielsen (So., S, 6-1, 2008 Big Ten All-Freshman Team); Elle Ohlander (So., MB, 6-6, 2008 Big Ten All-Freshman Team); Kim Kuzma (Jr., DS, 5-7)**Top Newcomers:** Mary Ording (Fr., MB, 6-2); Alexis Mitchell (Fr., OH, 6-0); Julie Mikaelson (Fr., RS, 6-2)**Top Players Lost:** Audra Jeffers (MB); Katherine Dykstra (RS); Nikki Klingsporn (S)

## **MIDWEST REGION**

### **Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

#### **Tulane University (28-6, 15-1 C-USA)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** RV

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA 2nd Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 13

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2 + Libero/7

**Top Returners:** Visnja Djurdjevic (OH, 6-1, 2008 C-USA/Louisiana/AVCA Midwest Region Freshman of the Year), Rachel Lindelow (S/RS, 5-10), Jenn Miller (L, 5-9, 2008 All C-USA second team), Lindsey Shepard (MB, 6-0, 2008 C-USA All-Academic Team), Ksenija Vlaskovic (OH/RS, 6-1, 2007 AVCA HM All-American)

**Top Newcomers:** Milica Jovic (RS, Fr., 6-3), Marija Milosavljevic (MB, Fr., 6-4), Elysa Jackson (S/DS, Fr., 5-9), Jaye Loyd (S/DS, Sr., 5-5)

**Top Players Lost:** Jen Linder (MB, 6-0, 2008 AVCA HM All-American), Sara Radosevic (OH, 6-1, 2008 C-USA Player of the Year & AVCA HM All-American), Luna Rebrovic (S, 5-9), Bridget Wells (RS, 6-3, 2008 All C-USA First Team, AVCA HM All-American).

#### **UAB (27-8, 13-3 Conference USA)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** RV

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Second Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd

**2008 RKPI:** 22

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2/8

**Top Returners:** Andrea Lalic (Sr., OH, 6-2), Savannah Pegg (Sr., OH, 5-10), Heather Thomas (So., L, 5-7), MacKenzie Wilson (So., S, 5-8)

**Top Newcomers:** Michelle Uzoh (Jr., MB, 5-11), Sam Serley (Fr., MB, 6-3), Alison Woods (Fr., S, 5-9)

**Top Players Lost:** Ivana Bozic (OH, AVCA Honorable Mention All-American), Nevena Stefanov (S, AVCA Honorable Mention All-American), Casey Dent (MB, AVCA Honorable Mention All-Region), Lilly Domingos (MB, All-Conference USA Second Team), Aleksandra Vujovic (L)

### **Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

#### **Milwaukee (23-9, 13-3 Horizon)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost in NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** First

**2008 RKPI:** 69

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/1

**Top Returners:** Lauren Felsing (Sr., L, 5-9, AVCA Honorable Mention All-Region, All-Horizon League, Horizon League All-Tournament Team); Maddie Sueppel (Jr., MB, 6-1, All-Horizon League, League Tourney MVP); Natalie Schmitting (Jr., MB, 6-2); Kerri Schuh (So., OH, 6-0, Horizon League All-Newcomer Team, Horizon League All-Tournament Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Jena Berg (Jr., OH/S, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Becky Peters (OH, All-Horizon League)

**Rice University (23-8,12-4, Conference USA)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:**n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 30

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10

**Top Returners:** Name (Yr., Pos, Ht, Post-Season Honors)

Natalie Bogan, Sr., MB 5-11, Conference USA First Team

Meredith Schamun, Jr., S, 5-11, Conference USA First Team, AVCA All-America Honorable Mention

Tracey Lam, Jr., Libéro, 5-6, Conference USA Libéro of the Year, Conference USA Second Team

Ashleigh McCord, So., OH, 6-2, Conference USA Freshman Team, 2009 USA Volleyball Junior National Team

**Top Newcomers:** Name (Yr., Pos, Ht)

Nancy Cole, Fr., MB, 6-2

Megan Murphy, Fr., S, 5-10

**Top Players Lost:** Name (Pos., Honors)

Karyn Morgan, OH, Conference USA First Team, AVCA All-America Honorable Mention

Jessica Holderness, OH, Conference USA Second Team

**Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized**

**Butler (19-11, 8-8 Horizon League)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th

**2008 RKPI:** 124

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero/11

**Top Returners:** Jessica Wolfe (Jr., OH, 6-0, All-Horizon League Team), Porshia Allen (Sr., OH, 6-1, All-Horizon League Team), Kelsey Labrum (Jr., OH, 5-11, Horizon League Newcomer of the Year), Katie Daprile (Jr., DS/OH, 5-10)

**Top Newcomers:** Kelly Hunter (Fr., S, 5-8), Gina Vera (Fr., S, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Dana Daprile (S), Nina Inic (DS/L)

**Cleveland State University (11-19, 7-9 (6th place), Horizon League)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th place regular season (league tournament runner-up)

**2008 RKPI:** 176

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/11

**Top Returners:** Name Amy Benz (Jr., MB, 6-2, 2007 & 2008 First Team All-Horizon League, 2007 Collegiate Volleyball Update Rising Star's Team, 2007 & 2008 Horizon League All-Tournament Team), Beth Greulich (Sr., RS, 6-0, 2006 & 2007 First Team All-Horizon League), Jordan Goad (So., S, 5-9, 2008 Horizon League All-Newcomer Team).

**Top Newcomers:** Kara Koch (Fr., OH, 6-0), Marie Frease (Fr., MH, 6-2), Amanda Medvetz (Fr., DS, 5-6)

**Top Players Lost:** Jordan Bateman (L, 5-6), Jenni Ramminger (MH, 5-11)

**Green Bay (9-18, 5-11, Horizon)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-7<sup>th</sup>

**2008 RKPI:** 227

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/6

**Top Returners:** Nikki Hintze (Sr., OH, 5-11), Holly Visser (Sr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Newcomers:** Whitney Schott (Jr., S, 5-8), Carmen Leitermann (Fr., MB, 6-2)

**Top Players Lost:** Megan Elfering (LIB, 5-6, 2008 All-Horizon League), Liesl Tesch (OH, 5-10), Abby Bergsma (MB, 6-2)

**University of Houston (20-12, 10-6, Conference USA)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** Fourth

**2008 RKPI:** 43

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+Libero/7

**Top Returners:** Lucy Charuk (MB, 6-2, Jr., 2008 C-USA First Team All-Conference, 2008 AVCA Midwest All-Region Team, 2008 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention), Ingrida Zauere (OH, 6-2, So., 2008 C-USA All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Tara Roenicke (S, 5-11, Fr.), Marlucci Toazi (OH, 6-0, Jr.)

**Top Players Lost:** Justine Farmer (OH, 5-10, 2008 C-USA First Team All-Conference, 2008 AVCA Midwest All-Region Team, 2008 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention)

**Loyola (19-12, 8-8 Horizon)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-4<sup>th</sup>

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/9

**Top Returners:** Dana VanDiggelen (OH/RS, 6-1), Katie Johnson (OH, 6-0), Mallory Curran (MB, 6-0), Alyse Serritella (L, 5-2), Lauren Ditscheit (S, 5-8)

**Top Newcomers:** Kristen Haggengjos (OH, 5-9), Diana Schulte (MB, 6-1), Karen Sueppel (OH, 6-0)

**Top Players Lost:** Sarah Singer (OH, 5-11, All-Horizon League)

**Memphis Tigers (17-14, 8-8 C-USA)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** Sixth

**2008 RKPI:** 112

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/10

**Top Returners:** Christine Bach (Libero, 5-9, 2007-08 C-USA All-Academic, 2008 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV First Team, Three-Time C-USA Libero of the Week), Carolyn Baker (6-1, MB, 2008 C-USA All-Freshman Team), Becky Shaffer (DS, 5-4), Casey Sines (6-2, MB), Lauren Thompson (5-10, OH), Emily Underwood (6-3, MB, 2008 Second Team All-C-USA, 2008 C-USA All-Academic, Top-10 in nation in blocks per game)

**Top Newcomers:** Altrese Hawkins (5-10, R-Fr., RS/OH), Stephanie Pauls (5-11, Fr., S)

**Top Players Lost:** Laura Côté (5-8, S, U of M's all-time assists record holder, 2007-08 Second Team All-C-USA, 2006 AVCA All-Midwest Region, 2006 AVCA All-American (HM), 2006 First Team All-C-USA, 2006 CoSIDA Academic All-District IV, 2006 C-USA All-Tournament, Six Time C-USA Setter of the Week)

**Murray State (18-13, 13-5, Ohio Valley)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** Runner-up in OVC Tournament**2008 Conference Finish:** T-3rd**2008 RKPI:** 155**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero/9**Top Returners:** Jade Guo (So., S, 5-11, OVC Freshman of the Year, All-OVC Second Team, All-OVC Newcomer Team) Logan Su (So, 6-1, All-OVC Second Team, All-OVC Newcomer Team) Kayleah Sauer (So., L, 5-6, All-OVC Newcomer Team) Sara Hayden (Jr., MH, 5-10, OVC All-Tournament Team)**Top Newcomers:** Cassy Woolverton (RFr., MB/OH, 6-0); Lydia Orf (Fr., L, 5-6); Wendi Zickfield (Fr., MB/OH, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Heather Norris (L, 2006 AVCA All-American HM, 2006 OVC Defensive Player of the Year) Alison Muger (OH, 2008 OVC All-Tournament Team)**New Orleans (22-10, 13-5 Sun Belt)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-2<sup>nd</sup> West, SBC Tournament Runner-up**2008 RKPI:** 60**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/8**Top Returners:** Lindsey Loyd (RS/OH, 5-11, 2008 First-Team All Sun Belt), Maria Szivos (OP, 6-2, Led Sun Belt in service aces)**Top Newcomers:** Vesna Jelic (OH, 5-11), Kaitlin Hatcher (L, 5-10), Kayla McGee (MB, 5-10), Hajnalka Molnar (OH, 5-11)**Top Players Lost:** Dobrilla Kovacevic (OH, 5-11, 2006/2008 First-Team All Sun Belt), Jaci Bayley (S, 5-8)**Southeast Missouri State University (13-14, 11-7 Ohio Valley Conference)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th**2008 RKPI:** 197**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero/9**Top Returners:** Molly Davis (Sr., Libero, 5'2", OVC Medal of Honor, CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American Third Team) Claire Keaton (Jr., Outside Hitter, 5'10", All-OVC second team) Sarah Barth (Sr., Setter, 5'11")**Top Newcomers:** Brittney Kalinoski (Freshman, Outside hitter, 5'11") Karlee Lursen (Freshman, Outside hitter, 5'9")**Top Players Lost:** Aubrey Dondlinger (Outside hitter, All-OVC second Team)

**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (13-14)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** N/A**2008 RKPI:** 239**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2/5 + libero returning**Top Returners:** Sydney Winslow (Jr., OH, 6-1), Noelle Franke (6-0, OH, So.), Brittni Birkey (6-0, OH, Sr.), Haley Rosenkranz (5-7, DS, So.), Diane Schmidlin (5-10, OH, Jr.), Tiffany Turner (5-4, DS, Sr.)**Top Newcomers:** Danielle Cushley (Fr., OH, 5-10), Karie Downing (Jr., 5-11, MH), Brianne Graunke (Fr., MH, 6-0), Jessica Hemann (So., MH, 5-10), Sammi Minton (Fr., S, 5-7), Kelsey Mosher (Fr., MH, 6-0), Jamie Mueller (Fr., S, 5-10), Brooke Smith (Fr. OH, 5-10)**Top Players Lost:** Kelsey Hubert (MH, 5-11), Mallory Clements (S, 6-0, Academic All-American, first team ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District V.), Samantha Schulte (MH, 6-0, Academic All-American, first team ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District V.), Emily Rahn (OH, 5-9).**SMU (14-17, 6-10, Conference-USA)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost in 1st round of C-USA Tournament.**2008 Conference Finish:** 8th**2008 RKPI:** 137**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/11**Top Returners:** Kendra Kahanek (Sr., MB, 6-2, 2nd in C-USA in blocks) Dana Powell (So., OH, 6-0, 2008 C-USA All-Freshman Team)**Top Newcomers:** Kendrick Koch (Fr., S, 5-10) Courtney Manning (Fr., MB, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Natalie Peters (MB, 3rd on team in points, kills and Kill Percentage) Stefanie Kons (S, Led team in Kill Percentage, 2nd in assists)**UCF (15-17, 6-10, Conference USA)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-8th**2008 RKPI:** 110**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2/8**Top Returners:** Erin Campbell (Sr., OH, 5-11), Lauren Williams (Jr., MB, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Angelica Crump (Fr., OH, 6-1), Brittanie Wallace (Jr., OH, 6-0), Meredith Murphy (Fr., L, 5-8), Nicole Reidel (Fr., MB, 6-1), Evija Vilde (Fr., RS, 5-11), Dani Harrison (Fr., L, 5-8), Tory McCutcheon (Fr., MB, 6-2)**Top Players Lost:** Stephanie Serna (RS, AVCA All-Midwest Region Honorable Mention, All-Conference USA Second Team), Jenny Heppert (MB, *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America Second Team, *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District III First Team, Conference USA All-Academic Team, Conference USA Volleyball Student-Athlete of the Year)**University of Illinois at Chicago (14-18, 5-11, Horizon League)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost in Conference Tournament quarterfinals.**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th/9**2008 RKPI:** 191**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/7**Top Returners:** Lana Lobdell (Sr., MH, 6-1, third in kills, second in blocks in 2008) Casie Sullivan (RSJr., OH, 5-11, second in kills in 2008 with 296) Jessica Dalke (RSSo., S, 5-9, led in 2008 assists with 607)**Top Newcomers:** Nicole Allgood (RSFr., MB, 5-11) Jacqueline Lang (Fr., OH, 5-9) Kelsey Safranek (Fr., OH, 5-11) Aubry Sniegowski (Fr., RS, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Katarina Nedeljkovic (OH/RS, three-time All-Horizon League selection)

**UTEP (8-24, 3-13 Conference USA)****2008 Final National Ranking:** -**2008 Postseason Finish:** C-USA Championship Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** T-11th**2008 RKPI:** 186**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + Libero/8**Top Returners:** Amy Sanders (Senior, OH, 6-1), Cat Chavez (Senior, OH, 5-8)**Top Newcomers:** Kelsey Moore (Freshman, MB, 6-2), Bridget Logan (Freshman, OH, 5-11), Cassandra Burrueal (Freshman, MB, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Daidre Mendenhall (MB)**Valparaiso (25-7, 12-4 Horizon League)****2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd**2008 RKPI:** 68**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10**Top Returners:** Angie Porché (5'8", OH, Sr., 2008 Horizon League Player of the Year/2007, 2008 Horizon League All-League Team/2007, 2008 AVCA All-Midwest Region/2007, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American); Kim Bukowski (5'7", S, Sr., 2008 Horizon League All-League Team/2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-Midwest Region); Val Bollenbacher (5'10", OH, Sr.), Tara Diebler (6'1", MH, Jr.) [changed name from Tara Newton after getting married in June]**Top Newcomers:** Taylor Root (5'6", L, Fr., PrepVolleyball.com HS All-American); Mary Dent (5'10", OH, Fr.)**Top Players Lost:** Brittany Malicoat (L, 2007, 2008 Horizon League Defensive Player of the Year/2007, 2008 Horizon League All-League Team/2008 AVCA All-Midwest Region/2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American); Allison Sears (MH, 2008 Horizon League All-League Team)**Wright State (15-16, 10-6 Horizon)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** Third**2008 RKPI:** 148**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/9**Top Returners:** Shaunda Sandifer (MB, 6-3, Jr., 2008 All-Horizon League), Becca Awaa (Opp, 6-1, Sr.), Lexi Leonhard (OH, 5-11, Sr.), Jessica Woods (OH, 5-8, Jr.), Michelle Hammond (S, 5-6, Sr.)**Top Newcomers:** Katherine Godina (OH, 5-11, Jr.), Ashley Heyman (MB, 6-1, Jr.), Kenzie Egan (L, 5-4, Fr.)**Top Players Lost:** Lizzy Gunn (MB, 6-0, 2008 All-Horizon League), Leilani Tafuna (L, 5-11).**Youngstown State (11-17, 4-12 Horizon League)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** Ninth**2008 RKPI:** 210**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + Libero/11**Top Returners:** Ruth Boscaljon (Sr., MH, 6-3, 1.16 bps ranked first in Horizon League and 45<sup>th</sup> nationally, .297 attack percentage was second in Horizon League)**Top Newcomers:** Angela Roidt (Fr., S, 5-8), Suzanne Lasseigne (Fr., OH, 5-10)**Top Players Lost:** Ebony Barbosa (OH, 985 kills/1,061 digs in career), Karla Everhart (S, 3,339 career assists)

## **NORTHEAST REGION**

### **Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

#### **Saint Louis (29-5, 13-0 Atlantic 10)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 21

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Second Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 21

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero / 11

**Top Returners:** Sammi McCloud (Sr., RS, 6-2, 2008 AVCA All-America Third Team), Whitney Roth (Sr., S, 5-9, 2008 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention), Bridget Fonke (Sr., OH, 6-1, 2008 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention), Whitney Behrens (Sr., L, 5-4, 2008 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention), Sally Warning (Sr., MB, 6-3), Megan Boken (Jr., OH, 5-11)

**Top Newcomers:** Lydia Blaha (So., MB, 6-0), Carly Marcum (Fr., MB, 6-2), Carly Schumacher (Fr., MB, 6-3)

**Top Players Lost:** Lauren Christman (MB, 6-1)

### **Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

#### **American University (24-9, 13-1 Patriot League)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NR

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Tournament First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**2008 RKPI:** 96

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10

**Top Returners:** Ann Recht (MB, 6-8, 2006 Patriot League All-Tournament Team), Claire Recht (MB, 6-8), Cassandra Ricketts (RS, 6-3, 2007 Patriot League All-Tournament Team), Rebecca Heath (OH, 5-11, 2008 Patriot League Rookie of the Year)

**Top Newcomers:** Krysta Cicala (S, 5-11), Katie Ganny (S, 5-8), Rose Shine (L/DS, 5-4)

**Top Players Lost:** Rubena Sukaj (OH, 6-1, Three-Time AVCA All-America Honorable Mention), Ivana Cebakova (L, 5-10, Two-Time Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year), Christina Nash (S, 6-3, Two-Time Patriot League Setter of the Year)

#### **Dayton (21-13, 11-2, Atlantic 10)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd

**2008 RKPI:** 47

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10

**Top Returners:** Lindsay Fletemier (RS Jr., MB, 6-6, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American), Tiffany Gaerke (Jr., OH, 6-1, 2008 Atlantic 10 All-Championship Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Amanda Cowdrey (Jr., OH, 5-10), Hannah Clancy (Fr., S, 6-0), Shayne Brown (Fr., MB, 6-0), Paige Vargas (Fr., DS, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Erin Schroeder (S, 2007 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American, 2007 Second Team All-Atlantic 10), Bethany Akerhielm (MB, 2008 First Team All-Atlantic 10), Nicole Bateman (OH/L, 2008 Honorable Mention All-Atlantic 10)

## **Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized**

### **Army (26-4, 13-1 Patriot League)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Patriot League Tournament Quarterfinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-1st

**2008 RKPI:** 67th

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/6

**Top Returners:** Maureen Bannon (Sr., S, 5-10, 1st Team All-Patriot League) Rachel Dunn (Sr., OH, 5-10) Liberty McEntee (So., DS/L, 5-4) Brittany Jensen (Jr., DS/L, 5-5)

**Top Newcomers:** Katie Briggs (Fr., MB, 6-3) Ariana Mankas (Fr., OH, 5-7) Francine Vasquez (Fr., OH/RS, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Jamie Clark (5-10, 1st Team All-Patriot League, AVCA All-Region Honorable Mention) Briana Stremick (RS, 6-3, 2nd Team All-Patriot League, Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year) Elizabeth Lazzari (OH, 5-10, 2nd Team All-Patriot League, Army Athletic Association Trophy – top female cadet-athlete in graduating class) Briana Stremick (MB, 6-1, 2nd Team All-Patriot League)

### **Binghamton (16-15, 9-3 America East)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** America East Finalists

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd

**2008 RKPI:** 160

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/9

**Top Returners:** Michelle McDonough (OH, 6-0, 2008 America East First Team), Anna Lejina OH, 5-11, 2008 America East First Team), Lindsey Mueller (S, 5-9, 2008 America East First Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Alex Roland (Fr., MB, 6-0), Elana King (Fr., S, 5-8), Jen Fiorentino (So., DS, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Jaclyn Strader (L), Ashley Allen (RS)

### **Charlotte (12-17, 3-10 Atlantic 10 Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th East, T-8th Overall

**2008 RKPI:** 251

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 / 8

**Top Returners:** Kat Hicks (RJr., OH, 6-1), Kaitlyn Knight (Sr, OH, 5-11), Kara Raker (Jr., MB, 6-2), Jenn Webb (Sr., M, 6-0)

**Top Newcomers:** Jenna Litoborski (Fr., OH, 5-11), Shannon McClean (Fr., RS, 6-0), Bianca Rouse (Fr., OH, 5-10), Kalan Thompson (Fr., RS, 5-8), Lily Vera (Fr., S, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Courtney Cowles (S), Carly Romberg (L, Conference Libero of the Year, 2nd Team All-Conference)

### **Connecticut (21-11, 10-4 BIG EAST)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** Unranked

**2008 Postseason Finish:** BIG EAST Tournament First Round Loss to Notre Dame

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th/15

**2008 RPKI:** 100

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + Libero/8

**Top Returners:** Rebecca Murray (MH, 6-2, Jr.), Lauren Lamberti (RS, 6-1, Jr.), Chauntay Mickens (OH, 6-1, RS Sr., All-BIG EAST Second Team), Jordan Kirk (RS, 6-1, So.), Jessica Isaac (Libero, 5-8, Sr.)

**Top Newcomers:** Keeley Abram (S/DS, 5-8), Samantha Arriaran (S, 5-10), Cayla Broadwater (MH, 6-0), Mattison Quayle (OH, 6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Megan Frey (MB, 6-0), Annie Luhrsen (Setter, 6-0, BIG EAST Freshman of the Year, All-BIG EAST First Team)

**Cornell (10-15, 9-5 Ivy League)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-3rd**2008 RKPI:** 156**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + Libero/8**Top Returners:** Kelly Hansen (So., MB, 6-4), Erin McCarthy (Jr., OH, 5-11), Megan Mushovic (Sr., L, 5-7, 2008 First-Team All-Ivy), Juliana Rogers (Sr., MB, 6-1)**Top Newcomers:** Sydney Campbell (S, 5-9), Alice Cope MB, 6-1), Hanna Drake (RS, 6-2), Taylor Nieman (L, 5-3), Deveney Pula OH, 6-0), Ana Vanjak (MB, 6-3), Lucy Zheng (S, 5-11)**DePaul (7-22, 4-10 BIG EAST)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** 13th**2008 RKPI:** 247**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/9**Top Returners:** Sarah Cullen (OH, 5-11), Christy Landschoot (S, 5-11), Kate Letcher (MB, 6-1)**Top Newcomers:** Rachel Aumann (MB, 6-1), Chandler Carney (OH, 6-1), Chelsea Thurlby (DS/L, 5-6)**Top Players Lost:** Jacie Fiedler (MB, 6-2), Caitlin Callaghan (OH, 5-11)**Duquesne (15-14, 3-10 Atlantic 10)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th (West)**2008 RKPI:** 190**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + libero (does not award letters)**Top Returners:** Jessica Artman (OH, 5-10), Chelsea Tillotson (S, 5-11), Liz Homan (MH, 6-0, 2008 Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team), Katie Goss (OH, 6-1), Nicole Wright (OH, 6-0), Sarah Svorinic (S, 5-8), Amy Palko (L, 5-7), Brittany Poling (MH, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Sara Scheirman (OH, 5-10), Ashley Buse (MH, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Amanda Humphrey (MH, 5-11), Tricia Mullen (OH, 5-11)**Fordham University (18-16, 6-7, Atlantic 10)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost opening round of the Atlantic 10 Championship**2008 Conference Finish:** T-2nd - East Division (conference will now switch over from two divisions to one)**2008 RKPI:** 184**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:****Top Returners:** Christi Griffiths (Jr., MH, 6-1, 2nd Team All-Atlantic 10), Katie Wells (Jr., MH, 6-0, 2nd Team All-Atlantic 10, Katherine Burrell (5th-Sr., S, 5-9), Megan Arend (So., 5-7, L, Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team), Kaliee May (Jr., OH, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** Randi Ewing (Fr., MH, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** None

**George Washington (19-11, 9-4 Atlantic 10)****2008 Final National Ranking:** nr**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st East Division**2008 RKPI:** 135**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/11**Top Returners:** Abby Syverson (Sr. MH, 6-2, 2006 A-10 All-Rookie team) Alyssa Valentine (So., S, 5-10, 2008 A-10 Rookie of the Year) Leah Hill (Jr., OH, 5-9, A-10 All-Conference second team)**Top Newcomers:** Lauren Whyte (Fr., MH, 6-2) Brianna DeBrock (Fr., MH, 6-3)**Top Players Lost:** Liz Moulton (Sr., OH, 6-0, A-10 All-Conference second team) Maggie Wright (Sr., Libero, 5-5, two-time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District 2; A-10 Student-Athlete of the Year)**Harvard University (10-15 overall , 5-9 Ivy League)****2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** fifth**2008 RKPI:** 228**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 12/2**Top Returners:** Anne Carroll Ingersoll (So., MB, 6-2, Ivy League Rookie of the Year, honorable mention All-Ivy), Christine Wu (So., L/DS, 5-4, honorable mention All-Ivy)**Top Newcomers:** Taylor Doctor (Fr., OH) , Beth Kinsella (Fr., S), Jenny Martin (Fr., OH), and Anne Carroll (Fr., MB)**Top Players Lost:** Katherine McKinley (OH., Second-team All-Ivy)**Navy (17-13, 5-9, Patriot League)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-5th**2008 RKPI:** 266**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + Libero / 6**Top Returners:** Holly Berger (L, 5-4), Krista Eschelmann (MB, 6-2), Abbie Merkl (RSH, 6-0), Aubrey Manes (OH, 5-9)**Top Newcomers:** Carolyn Ewert (OH, 5-9), Ndidi Ibe (MB, 5-11), Christy Rapp (DS, 5-8)**Top Players Lost:** Alexa Gibbs (MB, 6-0), Jessie Sims (OH, 5-9), Marissa Watson (S, 5-8)**Syracuse (17-15, 8-6, BIG EAST)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** BIG EAST Tournament First Round**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th**2008 RKPI:** 119**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/11**Top Returners:** Kacie MacTavish (Sr., OH, 5-11, 2008 Second-team All-BIG EAST, 2008 Second-team *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-District I), Sarah Morton (Sr., MB, 6-1, 2008 First-team All-BIG EAST), Mindy Stanislovaitis (Jr., OH, 6-2), Noemie Lefebvre (So., OH, 5-9), Hayley Todd (Jr., MB, 6-2), Annabelle Pellerin (Sr., OH, 5-11), Ashley Williams (So., DS, 5-6), Shanetha McLaurin (Sr., DS, 5-4), Hallie Morse (So., S, 5-11), Sarah Hayes (Jr., DS, 5-9), Erin Little (So., MB, 6-1)**Top Newcomers:** Samantha Hinz (Fr., MB, 6-0), Laura Homann (Fr., S, 5-10), Kayla-Al Kahluau (Fr., DS, 5-3)**Top Players Lost:** Jacki Kliment (DS), Emily Kaier (OH), Brittany Kern (MB), April Quigley (S, 2007 First-team *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-District I), Marissa Kanemura (DS)

**Rutgers (2-22, 1-13, BIG EAST)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** No postseason**2008 Conference Finish:** 15th**2008 RKPI:** 287**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+Libero/12**Top Returners:** Caitlin Saxton (So., OH, 5-9), Kallie Pence (So., S, 5-9)**Top Newcomers:** Name Stephanie Zielinski (Fr., S, 5-10)**Top Players Lost:** Roxy Calder (S)**Villanova University (14-16, 5-9, BIG EAST)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-11th**2008 RKPI:** 152**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+ libero/8**Top Returners:** Name (Yr., Pos, Ht, Post-Season Honors) Maggie Mergen (So., MB, 6-2),

Morgan Petkovich (So., OH, 5-11), Chelsea Graman (Sr., S, 5-10), Kim Maroon (So., DS, 5-8)

**Top Newcomers:** Krista Andersen (Fr., OH, 6-0), Kristina Bither (Fr., OH, 5-9), CeCe Twitty (Fr., MB, 6-1)**Top Players Lost:** Dana Tartazky (OH, 2nd team All-BIG EAST), Whitney Harrington (MB)**Xavier (16-15, 8-5 A-10)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** A-10 Tournament semifinalist**2008 Conference Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup>/West**2008 RKPI:** 123**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/10**Top Returners:** Kelly Ruth (Sr., OH, 5-11, 2008 A-10 All-Conference Second Team), Hillary Otte (Sr., RS, 6-0, 2008 A-10 All-Conference Second Team), Lauren Kaminsky (Sr., OH, 5-11, 2008

A-10 Academic All-Conference Team), Kathryn Traut (So., MB, 6-1, 2008 A-10 All-Rookie Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Kaela Freppon (S, 5-11), Alex Smith (MB, 6-1), Stephanie Vorherr (DS/L, 5-9)**Top Players Lost:** Jenn Welsh (S, 5-9)**PACIFIC REGION****Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)****Stanford (31-4, 17-1 Pac-10)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** 2nd**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Championship Match**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st**2008 RKPI:** 2**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + libero/10**Top Returners:** Alix Klineman (OH, 6-4, 2008 AVCA First-Team All-American, 2007 AVCA Second-Team All-American, 2007 & 2008 All Pacific Region Team, 2007 & 2008 All-Pac-10

Team, 2007 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, 2007 Pacific Region Freshman of the Year, 2007 &amp;

2008 Final Four All-Tournament Team), Cassidy Lichtman (S/OH, 6-1, 2008 All-Pac-10

Honorable Mention), Gabi Ailes (L, 5-7), Janet Okogbaa (MB, 6-3)

**Top Newcomers:** Hayley Spelman (OH, 6-6), Charlotte Brown (MB, 6-5), Karissa Cook (S, 5-11), Hannah Benjamin (L/DS, 5-10)**Top Players Lost:** Foluke Akinradewo (MB, 6-3, 2007 AVCA National Player of the Year, 2007 & 2008 Pac-10 Player of the Year, 4X AVCA All-American, 3X AVCA First-Team All-American, 4X All Pacific Region, 4X All-Pac-10), Cynthia Barboza (OH, 6-0, 3X AVCA First-Team All-American, 3X All Pacific Region, 3X All-Pac-10)

**Washington (27-5, 15-3 Pac-10)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** 5th**2008 NCAA Postseason Finish:** Quarterfinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd**2008 RKPI:** 5**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/12**Top Returners:** Tamari Miyashiro (L, 5-7, Sr., two-time Volleyball Magazine National Defensive Player of the Year, AVCA Second Team All-America, First Team All-Pac-10)

Becky Perry (OH, 6-2, Jr., Volleyball Magazine Second Team All-American, First Team All-Pac-10) Jenna Hagglund (S, 5-10, Jr., AVCA Third Team All-America, Honorable Mention All-Pac-10)

Airiial Salvo (OH, 6-0, Sr., Honorable Mention All-Pac-10, former Mountain West Conference

Player of the Year at Utah) Kindra Carlson (OH, 6-1, Jr., Honorable Mention All-Pac-10)

Jill Collymore (OH, 5-10, Sr., ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Third Team, led Pac-10 in service aces) Bianca Rowland (MB/OH, 6-0, So., Pac-10 All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Kelly Holford (DS/L, 5-9, Fr.), Kylin Munoz (OH, 6-1, Fr.), Jenny Noguerras (S, 5-11, Fr.), Genevieve Orlandini (DS/L, 5-6, Fr.)**Top Player Lost:** Jessica Swarbrick (MB, 6-1, three-time AVCA All-American, three-time All-Pac-10 First Team)**California (26-7, 13-5 Pac-10)****2008 Final National Ranking:** 6th**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Final**2008 Conference Finish:** Third**2008 RKPI:** 6**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 / 9**Top Returners:** Hana Cutura (Sr., OH, 6-4, 2008 AVCA First-Team All-American), Carli Lloyd (Jr., S, 5-11, 2008 AVCA Second-Team All-American), Tarah Murrey (So., OH, 6-3, 2008 Freshman All-Pac-10), Mindi Wiley (Sr., MH, 6-3, 2008 AVCA All-Pacific Region Honorable Mention)**Top Newcomers:** Elly Barrett (Fr., S, 5-11), Kat Brown (Fr., MH, 6-3), Tia Gaffen (Fr., MH, 6-1), Correy Johnson (Fr., MH, 6-4)**Top Players Lost:** Am'ra Solomon (OH, 2008 AVCA All-Pacific Region Honorable Mention)**UCLA (22-11, 9-9 Pac-10)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** 8**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** T-5th**2008 RKPI:** 20**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10**Top Returners:** Kaitlin Sather (OH, 6-1, Sr., 2007 Honorable Mention All-Pacific-10 Conference, Redshirted in 2008), Amanda Gil (MB, 6-6, So., 2008 Pacific Region and Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, 2008 All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention), Katie Camp (MB, 6-5, So., 2008 All-Pacific-10 Freshman Team)**Top Newcomers:** Lauren Cook (S, 5-7), Rachael Kidder (OH, 6-2), Bojana Todorovic (S/DS/OH, 5-11), Mari Hole (OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Nellie Spicer (S, 5-10, 2008 AVCA First-Team All-American, 2008 AVCA First-Team All-Region, 2008 All-Pac-10 First Team), Jessica Fine (L, 5-6, 2008 AVCA Third-Team All-American, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-Region, 2008 All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention), Ali Daley (OH, 6-0, 2008 All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention)

**Oregon (2008: Overall 25-9, Pac-10 11-7)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 9

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Third Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th

**2008 RKPI:** 14

**Returning Starters / Letterwinners:** 4 / 6

**Top Returnees:** Nevena Djordjevic (Sr., S, 5-10); Neticia Enesi (Sr., MB, 6-1, 2008 AVCA 2nd Team All-American), 2008 Mizuno 3rd Team All-American, 2008 All-Pac-10 & All-Region); Heather Meyers (Jr., OH, 5-11, 2008 NCAA All-Region Tournament Team; 2007 All-Pac-10 Hon. Mention; 2007 Pac-10 All-Freshman Team); Sonja Newcombe (Sr., OH, 6-1; 2008 AVCA Hon. Mention All-American, 2008 All-Pac-10 & All-Region, 2007 & '06 All-Pac-10 Hon. Mention, 2006 Pac-10 All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Katherine Fischer (OH, Fr., 5-10); Jocelyn Levig (OH, Fr., 6-1); Haley Jacob (L, Fr., 5-2); Lauren Gross (OH, Fr., 6-2); Kellie Kawasaki (L, 5-5); Emilee Sisco (OH, Sr.-TR (Colorado), 6-2); Gabrielle Sisco (S, 6-3)

**Top Players Lost:** Gorana Maricic (OH, 2008 & '07 AVCA 1st Team All-American, 2008 & '07 All-Pac-10 & All-Region); Kristen Forristall (MB); Marija Milosevic (OH); Katie Swoboda (L, 2008 & '07 All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention)

**University of Southern California (17-12 Overall, 9-9 Conference, Pacific-10)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** No. 13

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Second Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** Tied-5th

**2008 RKPI:** 18

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 7 (+ libero) / 1

**Top Returners:** Jessica Gysin, Sr., OH, 6-1, 2008 Asics/Volleyball Magazine All-America second team, 2008 All-Pac-10 Alex Jupiter, So., OH, 6-3, 2008 Pac-10 All-Freshman Team Alli Hillgren, Sr., L, 5-8, 2008 Pac-10 honorable mention Lauren Williams, So., MB, 6-4, 2008 Pac-10 honorable mention, 2008 Pac-10 All-Freshman Team

**Top Newcomers:** Katie Fuller, Fr., OH/OPP, 6-2 Kelly Irvin, Jr., S, 5-9 (transfer from Virginia)

**Top Players Lost:** Taylor Carico, S, 2008 Pac-10 honorable mention, (transferred to Minnesota)

**Santa Clara (18-10, 8-6, West Coast Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 25th

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Tournament 2nd Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th

**2008 RKPI:** 36

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/10

**Top Returners:** Lindsay Davigeadono (Sr., OH, 6-3, 2008 Hon. Men. All-WCC) Tanya Schmidt (So., MB, 6-3, 2008 WCC All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Katie Borden, 5-7 DS, Laguna Blanca (Santa Barbara CA), Santa Barbara VBC Katherine Douglas, 6-1 OH, Woodside (CA), Vision Kayla Lommori, 5-11 OH, Yerington (NV), Capital City Alexandra Palmer, 5-7 S, Laguna Beach (CA), Laguna Beach VBC Samantha Peters, 6-2 MB, Cherry Creek (Englewood CO), Colorado Performance Lexi Williamson, 6-1 OH, Cathedral Catholic (San Diego CA), Wave

**Top Players Lost:** Anna Cmyalo (OH, 3-time All-American) Brittney Lowe (OH, All-WCC)

**Pepperdine University (20-8, 8-6 West Coast)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** none

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-4th

**2008 RKPI:** 27

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+libero/6

**Top Returners:** Kiah Fiers (S, 5-11, All-WCC honorable mention), Lilla Frederick (OH, 5-10, WCC All-Freshman), Kim Hill (MB, 6-4, WCC Freshman of the Year), Rachel Lumsden (OH, 6-3, All-WCC honorable mention), Stevi Robinson (L, 5-8, WCC Defensive Player of the Year).

**Top Newcomers:** Victoria Adelhelm (MB, 6-3), Brittney Clark (MB, 6-0), Caitlin Racich (OH, 6-1).

**Top Players Lost:** Cassi Chamberlain (MB, 6-3), Julie Rubenstein (OH, 6-3, AVCA Third-Team All-American).

**Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

**Portland State University (20-9, 11-5 Big Sky Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Tournament First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd

**2008 RKPI:** 104

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6/10

**Top Returners:** Nique Fradella (S, 5-9, 2008 second team All-Big Sky Conference, 10.15 apg), Christie Hamilton (MB/OH, 6-3, .295 attack pct.), Erica Jepsen (MB/OH, 6-0, 1.26 bpg), Marija Vojnovic (OH, 5-9, 2008 first team All-Big Sky Conference, 2.93 kpg)

**Top Newcomers:** Garyn Schlatter (S, 5-9), Dominika Kristinikova (S, 5-9), Whitney Phillips (OH, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Jalen Pendon-Thomas (L, 5-9, Honorable Mention All-Big Sky Conference, 4.86 dpq)

**Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized**

**University of Arizona (16-14, 6-12, Pac-10 Conference)**

**Final Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** --

**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th in Pac-10

**2008 RKPI:** 78

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/12

**Top Returners:** Tiffany Owens, Jr., OH, 5'11, Pac-10 Honorable Mention; Paige Weber, Jr., S, 5'11; Whitney Dosty, Jr., OH, 6'3; Stephanie Snow, Jr., MB, 6'4

**Top Newcomers:** --

**Top Players Lost:** Brooke Buringrud – OH; Randy Goodenough – OH; Brittany Leonard - L

**Eastern Washington (18-11, 12-4 Big Sky Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** None

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Big Sky Final

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 105

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6/9

**Top Returners:** Hayley Hills (Sr., OH, 5-11, 2008 Big Sky Player of the Year), Chenoa Coviare (Jr., MB, 6-1, 2008 All-Big Sky Second Team), Alysha Cook (Jr., OH/RS, 6-0, 2008 All-Big Sky Honorable Mention), Ashley Hamilton (Sr., S, 6-0, 2008 All-Big Sky Honorable Mention)

**Top Newcomers:** Sara Todorovich (Jr., MB, 6-4), Lindsay Niemeier (Fr., S, 5-9), Ashley Wright (Fr., OH, 6-1), Shelby Puckett (Fr., OH, 5-11)

**Top Players Lost:** Mandy Daniels (L, 5-9, 2007 Big Sky Libero of the Year), Chelsea Ross (OH/RS, 6-0)

**Gonzaga University (10-21, 3-11 West Coast Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a

**2008 Conference Finish:** t-7th

**2008 RKPI:** 177

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 10-6

**Top Returners: Name (Yr., Pos, Ht, Post-Season Honors):** Layne Brosky (RS,6-0), Michelle Boevers, OH, 6-0), Emily Johnson (OH, 5-10), Caitlin Cozad (MB, 6-0), Denise Van de Mortel (S, 5-10)

**Top Newcomers: Name (Yr., Pos, Ht):** Terran Poindexter (OH, 5-10), Meredith Crenshaw (MB, 6-2), Nicole Lowell (MB, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost: Name (Pos., Honors):** Elaina Renius (MB, 6-4), Paige Dillingham (L, 5-11)

**Montana (14-13, 10-6 Big Sky)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 149

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** Five + libero/7

**Top Returners:** Taryn Wright (Sr., S, 5-10, second team All-Big Sky Conference); Jaimie Thibeault (Jr., MB, 6-2, first team All-Big Sky Conference); Amy Roberts (Jr., OH, 5-10, second team All-Big Sky Conference); Brittney Brown (Jr., L, 5-6, Big Sky Conference Top Newcomer)

**Top Newcomer:** Mie Lindgren (Fr., OH, 5-9)

**Top Player Lost:** Jade Roskam (OH)

**Northern Arizona (15-10, 7-9, Big Sky)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th

**2008 RKPI:** 181

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/7

**Top Returners:** Lexi Sullivan (OH, 6-0, 2008 Big Sky Freshman of the Year), Jana Mays-Robinson (S, 5-6)

**Top Newcomers:** Kelli Dallmann (S, 5-10); Anna Gott (L, 5-7); Lauren Campbell (OH, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Brittany Stowers (L, 5-3, 2008 Big Sky Libero of the Year, 2008 All-Big Sky First Team)

**Northern Colorado (17-10, 10-6 Big Sky)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** Big Sky semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** Third**2008 RKPI:** 130**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + libero/12**Top Returners:** Allison Raguse (Sr., MB, 6-0, 2008 Big Sky Second Team), Kenzie Shreeve (Sr., OH, 6-2, 2008 Big Sky First Team), Taylor Smith (Sr., MB, 6-0, 2008 Big Sky Honorable Mention), Breanna VanDerMost (Sr., 5-5, DS)**Top Newcomers:** Kelley Arnold (Fr., OH, 6-1), Brittany Crenshaw (Fr., MB, 6-2), Marissa Hughes (Fr., S, 5-9)**Top Players Lost:** Lauren Carter (S, 2008 Big Sky Honorable Mention)**Oregon State (14-17, 3-15, Pacific-10)****2008 Final National Ranking:**N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:**N/A**2008 Conference Finish:**Ninth**2008 RKPI:** 81**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/9**Top Returners:** Camilla Ah-Hoy (Sr., S., 5-10); Bree Knitter (Sr., OH/MB, 6-1); Lexie Rathgeber (Sr., MB, 6-3); Rachel Rourke (Sr., OH, 6-5, Under Armour/Volleyball Magazine Honorable Mention All-American, AVCA Honorable Mention All-Pacific Region); Jill Sawatzky (Jr., OH, 6-2)**Top Newcomers:** Tami Brown (Fr., MB, 6-2); Ashley Eneliko (Fr., MB/OH, 5-11); Dianni Freeman (Fr., DS/L., 5-4); Megan McBride (Fr., S, 6-1); Alyssa O'Neil (Fr., DS/OH, 5-9); Camille Saxton (Fr., OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Ashley Evans (L); Natalie Hooper (DS); Lauren Rinderknecht (MB/OH)**Sacramento State (10-23, 8-8 Big Sky)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th**2008 RKPI:** 162**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/9**Top Returners:** Desiree Hoyum (Sr., OH, 6-0, 2008 Honorable Mention All-Big Sky), Maddison Thivierge (Jr., MH, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** Janelle Currey (Fr., OH/LIB, 5-10), Hannah Hettinga (Fr., S, 5-9)**Top Players Lost:** Rose Burke (S, 2008 Honorable Mention All-Big Sky)**Seattle University (10-23, Independent)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** N/A**2008 RKPI:** 224**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero/10**Top Returners:** Jamie Mellies (Jr., S, 6-0, 2007 GNAC Co-Freshman of the Year); Cristin Richards (So., OH, 6-1); Kaytlyn Dill (So., OH, 6-0)**Top Newcomers:** Kelly Biette (MH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Libby Graff (OH)

**Washington State University (10-19, 3-15 Pac-10)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** None

**2008 Postseason Finish:** None

**2008 Conference Finish:** t-9th

**2008 RKPI:** 134

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 / 9

**Top Returners:** Jackie Albright (Sr., OH, 6-0), Meagan Ganzer (So., OH, 6-3), Kelly Hyder (Sr., L, 5-9), Brittany Tillman (Jr., MB, 6-1)

**Top Newcomers:** Oceana Bush (Fr., DS, 5-5), Conley Kipp (Fr., MB, 6-4), Rachel Todorovich (Fr., RS, 6-2)

**Top Players Lost:** Brittany Johnson (OH), Emily Rooney (MB)

**Weber State, 21-13, 9-7 Big Sky Conference**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th

**2008 RKPI:** 141

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4 + libero / 7

**Top Returners:** Chelsea Randall (Sr., OH, 5-10, Big Sky All-Conference Second Team); Caitlyn Anderson (Sr., L/OH, 5-11); Jenna Leggat (Sr., OH, 5-11)

**Top Newcomers:** Caitlin Penrod (S, 5-11)

**Top Players Lost:** Brittney Bisailon (MB, Big Sky All-Conference First Team)

## **SOUTH REGION**

### **Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

**University of Florida (27-4, 18-2 Southeastern Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 10

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinal

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 9

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/10

**Top Returners:** Elyse Cusack (Sr., L, 5-8, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-America, 2008 AVCA All-South Region, 2008 All-SEC Second Team); Kelly Murphy (So., RS/S, 2008 AVCA National Freshman of the Year, 2008 AVCA All-America Third Team, 2008 AVCA All-South Region, 2008 AVCA South Region Freshman of the Year, 2008 SEC Freshman of the Year, 2008 All-SEC Freshman Team, 2008 All-SEC First Team); Kristy Jaeckel (So., RS, 2008 All-SEC Freshman Team).

**Top Newcomers:** Chloe Mann (Fr., MB, 6-1); Brynja Rodgers (Jr., S, 5-9)

**Top Players Lost:** Kelsey Bowers (MB, 2006-07 All-SEC Second Team), Cindy Bathelt (S)

**University of Kentucky (26-6, 17-3 Southeastern Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 22

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd in East and 2nd overall

**2008 RKPI:** 31

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 +libero/10

**Top Returners:** Sarah Rumely (S/5-11, 2008 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention, SEC Player of the Year), Lauren Rapp (RS/6-3, 2008 AVCA All-South Region Honorable Mention, All-SEC Second Team) Becky Pavan (MB/6-4, 2008 AVCA All-South Region Honorable Mention, All-SEC Freshman Team), Sarah Mendoza (OH/5-11, 2008 All-SEC Second team), BriAnne Sauer (L/5-6)

**Top Newcomers:** Whitney Billings (OH/6-1), Stephanie Klefot (DS/L/5-6), Zan Morgan (MB/6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Queen Nzenwa (MB/6-2, 2008/2007 AVCA All-America Honorable Mention, four-time All-SEC player)

**Western Kentucky University (26-10, 12-5, Sun Belt Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** RV

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Tournament First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd East/ SBC Tournament Champions

**2008 RKPI:** 34

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/9

**Top Returners:** Brittany Bowen (Senior, MH, 6-0, 2008 All-Sun Belt Second Team), Aquila Orr (Senior, OH), Abbie Siljendahl (Senior, OH, SBC All-Tournament Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Sarah Rogers (Freshman, 5-7, L), Jordyn Skinner (Freshman, 5-10, OH), Paige Wessel (Freshman, 5-10, OH/MH)

**Top Players Lost:** Megan Argabright (MH, 4-time All-SBC First Team, 4-time AVCA All-South Region, 4-time AVCA Honorable Mention All-American) and Julia Noe (S, All-SBC Second Team, AVCA All-South Region, AVCA Honorable Mention All-American)

**Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

**Belmont Bruins (25-8, 16-4 Atlantic Sun)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Lost to No. 7 Hawai'i in NCAA Tournament, First Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd, Tournament Champions

**2008 RKPI:** 88

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/9

**Top Returners:** Name Channing Salava (So., S, A-Sun Freshman of the Year, Second Team All-Conference, A-Sun All-Tournament Team); Jenny Gray (Sr., MB/RS, 6-0, Second Team All-Conference); Maggie Johnson (So., OH, A-Sun All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Nichole Kurz (Fr., MB/RS, 6-3) Katie Marshall (So.-TR, OH, 6-0)

**Top Players Lost:** Cat Mundy (OH, 2008 A-Sun Tournament MVP, 2007, 08 First Team All-Conference, ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV Third Team, 2008 A-Sun Preseason Player of the Year) Emily Cahill (MH, 2006, 07, 08 Second Team All-Conference, Belmont's All-Time leader in hitting percentage)

**LSU (18-10, 13-7 SEC)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** None**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st (SEC Western Division)**2008 RKPI:** 51**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/8**Top Returners:** Brittnee Cooper (2008 All-SEC, AVCA All-South Region First Team, AVCA All-American Honorable Mention), Lauren DeGirolamo (2007 All-SEC, AVCA All-South Region First Team, AVCA All-American Honorable Mention), Michele Williams (2008 All-SEC Freshman Team)**Top Newcomers:** Madie Jones (OH/RS, 6-2), Ally Judkins (MB, 6-1), Meghan Mannari (L, 5-9)**Top Players Lost:** Elena Martinez (L, 5-8, 2007 & 2008 AVCA All-South Region First Team, SEC Defensive Player of the Year, AVCA All-American Honorable Mention), Kyna Washington (OH, 5-11)**Tennessee (22-10, 15-5 SEC)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA First Round**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd**2008 RKPI:** 50**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5 + Libero/10**Top Returners:** Nikki Fowler (Jr., OH, 6-2, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American, All-SEC First Team), Chloe Goldman (Sr., L, 5-6, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-South Region), Kylie Marshall (Sr., OH, 5-11), Farren Powe (Sr., MB, 6-1), Leah Hinkey (Jr., MB, 6-1), Kelsey Mahoney (So., S, 5-10), Alyssa Hilby (Fr., MB, 6-3)**Top Newcomers:** Leslie Cikra (Fr., OH/MB, 6-3), Emily Steinbeck (Jr., S, 5-8), Rebekah Smith (Fr., OH/DS, 5-11), Natalie Guerra (Fr., S, 5-6), Jasmine Brown (Fr., DS/S, 5-8)**Top Players Lost:** Milan Clarke (OH, 6-1), Mindy Flynn (MB, 6-1), Laurén LaFlamme (DS, 5-11), Michaela Hanakova (S, 5-8), Jaye Loyd (DS/S, 5-5)**Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized****Alabama (16-13, 9-11 SEC)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** Third/SEC West**2008 RKPI:** 87**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/8**Top Returners:** Brooks Webster (OH, 6-0, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American, SEC First Team Selection)**Top Newcomers:** Kelsey Anderson (Fr., OH/DS, 5-8), Kayla Fitterer (Fr., OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Lindsey Buteyn (MB, 6-1), Amy Pauly (L, 5-4, Alabama all-time leader in digs in a match and digs in a season)**Arkansas (7-23, 4-16 Southeastern Conference)****2008 Final National Ranking:** Not Ranked**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 5th West**2008 RKPI:** 180**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+L/3**Top Returners:** Kristin Seaton (Sr., OH, 6-0); Lindsay Scanlan (Sr., S, 6-0); Kelli Stipanovich (So, OH, 6-1)**Top Newcomers:** Kendall Cleveland (Fr., OH, 6-0), Jasmine Norton (Fr., OH, 5-11), Amanda Anderson (Fr., MB, 6-2),**Top Players Lost:** Christina Lawrence (Sr., OH, 1,000+ career kills), Caira Dortch (Sr., S)

**Arkansas State (21-12, 10-8, Sun Belt)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** 1st round Sun Belt Conference tournament

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th West Division

**2008 RKPI:** 150

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/12

**Top Returners:** Cayla Fielder (So., MB, 6'1", Second Team All-Sun Belt, Sun Belt Freshman of the Year), Erin Neeley (Sr., L, 5'5"), Konae Purcell (Sr., OH, 5'11"), Laura Bennett (Jr., S, 5'8")

**Top Newcomers:** Kelsie Hodges (Fr., MB, 5'11"), Taylor Coughlin (Fr., OH, 6'0")

**Top Players Lost:** Mafo Joelle (OH)

**University of Denver (25-7, 14-4, Sun Belt Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** Sun Belt Conference Tournament Opening Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1-West Division

**2008 RKPI:** 55

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+Libero/3

**Top Returners:** Emmy Davidsmeyer (Sr., RH, 6-0, named SBC Offensive Player of the Week (11/3); earned All-SBC first team honors), Jordan Raines (So., MB, 6-0), Clare Maxwell (Sr., S, 5-10), Kacie Wikierak (Jr., DS, 5-7, selected as the 2008 SBC Defensive Preseason Player of the Year; named SBC Defensive Player of the Week twice (9/15, 10/6))

**Top Newcomers:** Brianna Zimlich (Fr., OH, 6-1), Lyndi Johnson (Fr., DS/L, 5-8), Faimie Kingsley (Fr., MB, 5-9)

**Top Players Lost:** Holly Benson (OH, named SBC Defensive Player of the Week (9/22); named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District 7 University Division Third Team; earned All-SBC second team honors.), Kerry Porter (MB), Jacqueline Paul (MB)

**Florida Atlantic University**

**2008 Final National Ranking :**N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> East

**2008 RKPI:** 183

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/4

**Top Returners:** Krystena Castro (Sr. MB, 6-0), Anne Vaughan (Sr., OH, 6-1)

**Top Newcomers:** Ivana Stanojevic (Jr, MB, 6-5), Joanne Marras Tate (Jr., 6-0, S)

**Top Players Lost:** Casey Larocca (S, All-time Program Leader in assists), Katie Arvidson (MB)

**University of Georgia (17-14, 10-10 Southeastern Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a

**2008 Conference Finish:** 10-10 / 5th SEC Eastern Division

**2008 RKPI:** 79

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero / 6

**Top Returners:** Erika Clark (Jr., OH, 5-9); Valentina Gonzalez (Jr., MH, 6-0); Kathleen Gates (So., S, 5-10, SEC All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Nicole Choi (Fr., DS/L, 5-5); Lauren Hutchinson (Fr., MH, 6-1); Adria Fecteau (Fr., S/DS, 5-8); Kathleen Luft (Fr., OH, 6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Maria Taylor (OH, 2007 & 2008 All-SEC Second Team)

**Lipscomb (21-11, 17-3, Atlantic Sun)****2008 Final National Ranking:** Not ranked**2008 Postseason Finish:** Finals of Atlantic Sun Tournament**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd**2008 RKPI:** 138**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6/9**Top Returners:** Alex Kelly (Jr., MH, 6-1, Atlantic Sun Player of the Year, Atlantic Sun All-Conference First Team), Stefine "Jake" Pease (Jr., S, 5-8, Atlantic Sun All-Conference First Team), Katie Rose (So., OH, 6-0, Atlantic Sun All-Freshman Team), Erin Pierce (Sr., OPP., 5-11).**Top Newcomers:** Meghan Hinemeyer (OH, 5-11), Kory Honel (OH, 5-9). Kaycee Green (OH, 6-1).**Top Players Lost:** Jessica Turner (L)**Mississippi State University (6-25, 1-19 Southeastern Conference)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 SEC Finish:** T-10th**2008 RKPI:** 258**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6/10**Top Returners:** Ioana Demian (OH, 6-0), Dorey Gray (S, 6-0), Mandy Mellencamp (MH, 6-1), Ashley Newsome (6-0, MH), Faith Steinwedell (6-2, OH), Kayla Woodard (L, 5-5)**Top Newcomers:** Chanelle Baker (MH, 5-010), Hillary Parker (S, 5-8)**Top Player Lost:** Cristina Jucan (OH, 5-11)**South Alabama (11-15, 5-11, Sun Belt Conference)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** T-4th in SBC East Division**2008 RKPI:** 173**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/10**Top Returners:** Juliana Almeida (Jr., Outside Hitter, 5-10) Hristina Markova (Jr., Outside Hitter, 6-0) Samia Salomao (So., Libero, 5-10) Lindsey Schwartz (So., Middle Blocker, 5-10)**Top Newcomers:** Katarina Kananen (Fr., Setter, 5-9) Allegra Pratt (Fr., Outside Hitter/Right Side Hitter, 6-0) Lea Katharina Thurm (Fr., Middle Blocker, 6-3)**Top Players Lost:** Brittany Blackwelder (Middle Blocker, Program's All-time Blocks and Block Assists Leader) Maria Kashavelova (Setter)**South Carolina (21-9, 12-8 SEC)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th SEC East, 5th Overall**2008 RKPI:** 62**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+1/9**Top Returners:** Ivana Kujundzic (Sr., OH, 6-1, AVCA All-South Honorable Mention)

Bridget Denson-Dorman (Sr., S, 5-9, AVCA All-South Honorable Mention)

Sarah Cline (Sr., DS/L, 5-9, ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District III First Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Taylor Bruns (Fr., S, 6-0), Christina Glover (Fr., OH, 5-11)**Top Players Lost:** Belita Salters (MB., AVCA All-South Honorable Mention, first-team All-SEC)

**Stetson (5-23, 2-18 Atlantic Sun)****2008 Final National Ranking:** none**2008 Postseason Finish:** none**2008 Conference Finish:** 11th of 11**2008 RKPI:** 286

Returning Starters/Letterwinners: 4/9

**Top Returners:** Sam Freeman (So., MB, 5-11); Laura Boyd (Sr., MB, 6-1); Stephanie Canfield (Jr., OH, 5-10)**Top Newcomers:** Kelli Carneal (Fr., S, 5-11); Madison Anderson (Fr., RS, 6-0); Monique Russell (Fr., L, 5-5)**Top Player Lost:** Rebecca Orzechowicz (OH, 2nd all-time in digs and 7th all-time in kills at Stetson)**UALR (24-8, 13-5 Sun Belt)****2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** First Round Sun Belt Conference Tournament**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd West Division**2008 RKPI:** 99**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/6**Top Returners:** Anita Bucur (Sr., RS/OPP, 6-3, 2008 Second Team All-Sun Belt), Giuliana De Francesco (Sr., S, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** Katharina Nobel (Jr., MB, 6-5), Daniele Souza Moura (Fr., DS, 5-9), Emily Pepperman (Fr., DS, 5-6)**Top Players Lost:** Amila Barakovic (OH, First Team All-Sun Belt), Amy Hafner (L, Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year)**North Texas (6-25, 4-14 Sun Belt Conference)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th Sun Belt West Division**2008 RKPI:** 271**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 6+Libero/14**Top Returners:** Roxana Casvean (5-11, Jr, OH, 303 kills), Amy Huddleston (5-11, Jr, OH, 261 kills, .261 att%)**Top Newcomers:** Rachele Wilson (6-1, So, MB, Co-Metro Atlantic Conference Rookie of the Year at Iona), Madison Barr (6-0, So, MB, Eastern Illinois transfer), Brittany Brown (6-3, Fr, MB, First-Team AI-AVCT League in El Dorado, KS)**Top Players Lost:** None, returning all 14 lettermen**Troy University (13-19, 4-13 Sun Belt)****2008 Final National Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** None**2008 Conference Finish:** 6th Eastern Division**2008 RKPI:** 196**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+Libero/7**Top Returners:** Meghan Gilroy (Sr., MH, 6-0), Megan Henderson (Jr., S, 5-10), Emily Strader (Jr., L, 5-5), Lauren Barney-Baker (Sr., OPP, 6-1), Brittany McClelland, (So., MH, 5-11), Laura Mackley (So., OH, 5-11), Vicky Rogoschewsky (Jr., OH/DS, 5-11)**Top Newcomers:** Kayla Giles (Fr., OH, 5-10), Devon Von Pingel (Fr., MH, 5-11), Lizzie Clough (Fr., DS, 5-9), Caroline Alexander (Fr., S, 5-9), Danielle Gissendanner (Fr., DS, 5-8)**Top Players Lost:** Aubre Smith (MH, 6-0), Meghan Washlow (S, 5-7), Jean McCarthy (OH, 5-10), Kerry Heinz (OH, 5-11)

**USC Upstate (11-23, 4-16 Atlantic Sun)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 10th

**2008 RKPI:** 291

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/6

**Top Returners:** Morgan Thomas (MH, 6-0), Jane Hawryliw (OH, 6-0), Megan Healey (L, 5-6), Katie Downey (MH, 6-0)

**Top Newcomers:** Emily Sanders (S, 5-6), Mindy Quimby (OH, 5-10), Paige Weiland (OH, 5-11), Erin Jacobson (OH, 6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Sandra Campbell (MH, 6-1), Holly Mauldin (S, 5-8), Jovana Lubura (OH, 6-2)

## **WEST REGION**

### **Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

**Utah (26-6, 14-2, Mountain West Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 16

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 16

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + Libero/10

**Top Returners:** Stephanie Shardlow (Jr., S, 5-10), Chelsey Sandberg (Sr., MB, 6-1), Keisha Fisher (Jr., L, 5-7), Cinthia Silva (Sr., OH, 5-10), Karolina Bartkowiak (Jr., MB, 6-2, 2008 All-MWC)

**Top Newcomers:** McKenzie Odale (Fr., S, 5-11), Brooke McAlister (Fr., OH, 6-0), Natalie Nichols (Fr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Lori Baird (MB, 2008 AVCA Third-Team All-American, 2008 MWC Co-Player of the Year), Kathryn Haynie (OH, 2008 All-MWC), Emillie Toone (MB, 2006, 2008 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American)

**Long Beach State (26-6, 13-3 Big West)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** 23rd

**2008 Postseason Finish:** 1-1, Second Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 27

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/6

**Top Returners:** Brittney Herzog (Sr., MB, 6-0, First-Team All-Big West), Caitlin Ledoux (So., OH, 6-2, Big West Freshman Of The Year), Naomi Washington (Sr., MB, 6-3, AVCA Honorable Mention All-American)

**Top Newcomers:** Sarah Clause (Fr., OH, 6-0), Libby Fontanilla (Fr., OH, 5-10), Janisa Johnson (Fr., OH, 5-9)

**Top Players Lost:** Iris Murray (L), Quincy Verdin (OH, First-Team All-Big West), Nicole Vargas (S, AVCA All-Region)

**Colorado State (23-7, 12-4 MWC)**

**2008 Final AVCA Ranking:** 24th

**2008 NCAA Postseason Finish:** NCAA Regional Semifinals

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd

**2008 RKPI:** 21

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+libero/3

**Top Returners:** Tessa Nelson (MB, 6-2, RS-Sr., 2008 All-MWC, 2009 MWC Preseason Co-Player of the Year); Katelin Batten (L, 5-5, Sr.); Jacque Davisson (OH, 5-11, Jr.); Katelyn Steffan

(RS/Opp., 6-4, RS-So.); Danielle Minch (OH, 6-2, Jr.); Audrey Hemmings (DS, 5-6, Jr.);  
**Top Newcomers:** Tori Brummett (MB, 6-4, Fr.); Dana Cranston (OH, 6-3, Fr.)  
**Top Players Lost:** Mekana Barnes (MB, 6-0, 2007 AVCA All-American third team, 2007 & 2008 AVCA all-region, three-time all-MWC, 2007 MWC Player of the Year); Ashley Fornstrom (S, 5-9, two-time MWC Setter of the Year, three-time all-MWC, 2007 and 2008 AVCA all-region).

#### **New Mexico State University (26-9, 15-1, WAC)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** RV

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NCAA Second Round

**2008 Conference Finish:** 1st

**2008 RKPI:** 33

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/6

**Top Returners:** Krista Altermatt (Sr., OH, 6-1, 1<sup>st</sup> Team all-WAC), Kelli Goodan (Sr., OH, 6-2, Academic all-WAC), Jennah DeVries (So., S, 5-8, all-Freshmen team WAC)

**Top Newcomers:** Kayleigh Giddens (Jr., OH, 6-0), Stephanie Ziegler (Fr., OH, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Krystal Torres (L, AVCA All-America (honorable mention), 1<sup>st</sup> team all-WAC, AVCA all-region, all-time digs leader at NMSU), Lindsey Yon (OH, AVCA all-region, 1<sup>st</sup> team all-WAC, all-time leader in kills per set at NMSU), Amber Simpson (MH, 1<sup>st</sup> team all-WAC, AVCA all-region)

#### **Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

#### **Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized**

##### **Air Force Academy (5-24, 0-16 Mountain West Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a

**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a

**2008 Conference Finish:** 9th

**2008 RKPI:** 294

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 (+libero)/12

**Top Returners:** Michelle Harrington (Sr., MH, 6-1), Nichole Stilwell (Jr., MB, 6-0)

**Top Newcomers:** Jackie Bringman (RS, 6-0), Briana Jones (MH, 5-10), Grace Konstanzer (OH, 5-10), Maile Lolohea (MH, 5-11)

**Top Players Lost:** Katie Batchelder (OH, 5-10), Jasmine Pettie (MB, 6-1), Kristina Stewart (OH, 5-10)

##### **Boise State University (9-19, 5-11, Western Athletic Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA

**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th (WAC)

**2008 RKPI:** 225

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3 + libero/8

**Top Returners:** Sadie Maughan (Jr., MB, 6-4, 2008 All-WAC Second Team), Alisha King (Jr., OH, 6-3), Elizabeth Griffin (So, OH, 6-0), Lauren Hamm (Jr., L/DS, 5-9)

**Top Newcomers:** Breann Nesselhu (So., S, 5-9), Kirsten Duren (Fr., S, 5-4), Elizabeth Harden (Fr., OH, 6-1), Laura Watt (Fr., MB, 6-1)

**Top Players Lost:** Jeanette Jenkins (OH), Maren Ericson (OH), Lydia Blaha (MB), Mandy Klein (S)

**Cal Poly (16-13, 9-5 Big West)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** NR**2008 Postseason Finish:** Not selected**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd**2008 RKPI:** 54**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 7/5**Top Returners:** Dominique Olowolafe (MB, 6-1, 2008 All-Big West first team), Hailey Fithian (S, 5-10).**Top Newcomers:** Sarah Cawrse (S, 6-1), Holly Franks (OPP, 6-1), Chelsea Hardin (OH, 5-11), Anuhea Keanini (S, 5-7), Jennifer Keddy (MB, 6-4), Megan McConnell (OH, 6-1), Molly Pon (OH, 6-0)**Top Players Lost:** Kylie Atherstone (OH, 6-1, 2008 AVCA All-America honorable mention), Jaclyn Houston (MB, 6-3, 2008 AVCA All-America honorable mention).**Cal State Northridge (9-21 Overall Record, 3-13 Big West)****2008 Final National Ranking:** n/a**2008 Postseason Finish:** n/a**2008 Conference Finish:** T-8th**2008 RKPI:** 222**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/8**Top Returners:** Angela Hupp (Sr., OH, 6-1, 2008 First Team All-Big West); Sam Orlandini (So., S, 5-9, 2008 Big West All-Freshman Team)**Top Newcomers:** Britney Graff (Fr., OH, 5-11); Cecily Houston (Fr., MB, 5-11)**Top Players Lost:** Val Kepler (MB); Kelley Hanson (L/DS)**Fresno State (7-20, 3-13 WAC)****2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** NA**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA**2008 Conference Finish:** 8th**2008 RKPI:** 277**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 7/10**Top Returners:** Baylee Platt (OH, 2008 WAC All-Freshman Team), Brianna Clarke (RS/MB, 2008 WAC All-Freshman Team)**Top Newcomers:** Taylor Horton (RS/OH, High School All-American)**Top Players Lost:** No letterwinners lost**Idaho (19-10, 11-5 Western Athletic Conference)****2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A**2008 Postseason Finish:** WAC Tournament Semifinals**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd**2008 RKPI:** 114**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3/8**Top Returners:** Anna McKinney (Sr., MB, 6-2, Second Team All-Western Athletic Conference), Sarah Conwell (Sr., OH, 5-11), Debbie Pederson (Sr., MB, 6-3), Kelsey Taylor (Jr., MB, 6-3), Cassie Hamilton (So., OH, 5-8).**Top Newcomers:** Jennifer Feicht (Fr., S, 5-11), Miranda Pratt (Fr., 6-0, OH), Alexandra Sele (Fr., 6-2, MB), Allison Walker (Fr., 6-2, OH/MB).**Top Players Lost:** Haley Larsen (OH, First Team All-Western Athletic Conference), Kelsey James (S, Second Team All-Western Athletic Conference), Sarah Loney (OH).

**Louisiana Tech (4-24, 0-16, Western Athletic Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 9<sup>th</sup>

**2008 RPI:** 296

**Letterwinners Returning/ Lost:** 9/ 2

**Starters Returning/ Lost:** 6/ 1 (L)

**Top Returners:** KC Clayton- SR. - MB- 6'1, Samantha Crowder- SR. - MB- 6'2, Lindsay Armstrong- SR. - OH- 6'2

**Top Newcomers:** Jennifer Goodwin (TR-JR, Blinn College ), Lorie Hunsucker (TR-JR, Blinn College) Kassia Pinto (TR-SO, Lake Land College), Nataliya Panova (SO-TR, Houston)

**Top Players Lost:** Debora Bolonhini (L, 5'6)

**Nevada (12-17, 7-9 Western Athletic)**

**2008 Final National Poll Ranking:** na

**2008 Postseason Finish:** na

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-5th

**2008 RKPI:** 185

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5+libero/11

**Top Returners:** Lindsay Baldwin (Jr., MB, 6-1, 2008 All-WAC), Kylie Harrington (Jr., OH, 5-10, second-team All-WAC), Lauren Kelly (Sr., DS/L, 5-7), Nicole Link (Jr., L/OH, 5-8), Sonnie Sei (Sr., S, 5-10), Jorgan Staker (Sr., RS, 6-1)

**Top Newcomers:** Janelle Batista (Fr., RS/MB, 5-11), Kelly Chang (Fr., L/DS, 5-2), Elissa Ji (Fr., OH, 5-10)

**Top Players Lost:** Allison Hernandez (L/OH, 5-9)

**New Mexico (22-7, 11-5, Mountain West)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA

**2008 Conference Finish:** 3rd

**2008 RKPI:** 65

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10

**Top Returners:** Jade Michaelsen (Jr., S, 5-11, All-Mountain West Conference), Rose Morris (Sr., OH, 6-1), Anna Lehne (Sr., MB), Allison Buck (So., L)

**Top Newcomers:** Chantale Riddle (Fr., MB, 6-0), Jordan Russell (Fr., S, 5-8), Jackie Rodriguez (Fr., DS/L, 5-7)

**Top Players Lost:** Jeanne Fairchild (OH, AVCA Third-Team All-American), Gayle Tripp (L, All-MWC), Sarah Kwasigroch (DS/S)

**San Jose State (13-18, 7-9, Western Athletic)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** T5th

**2008 RKPI:** 182

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 2 + libero/6

**Top Returners:** Brianna Amian (Jr., OH/RS, 5-10, First Team All-WAC); Kristal Tsukano (Sr., 5-3, L); Kylie Miraldi (So., 6-1, MB)

**Top Newcomers:** Caitlin Andrade (Fr., S, 5-9); Alex Akana (Fr., OH, 6-0); Taylor Japhet (Fr., OH, 5-11)

**Top Players Lost:** Kelly Crow (OH, First Team All-WAC); Colleen Burke (MB, Second Team All-WAC)

**Texas Christian University (20-12, 9-7 Mountain West Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** T-4<sup>th</sup>

**2008 RKPI:** 98

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4+Libero/2

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Honors</b>
Katelyn Blackwood	L	5-6	Sr.	
Kourtney Edwards	MB	6-3	Sr.	
Lauren Otto	OH	5-10	Sr.	
Irene Hester	OH	6-0	Jr.	
Christy Hudson	RS	6-2	Jr.	2008 All-MWC
Sarah Joeckel	OH	5-9	So.	
Megan Munce	DS	5-8	So.	

**NEWCOMERS**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Meghan Horio	DS/S	5-8	Los Alamitos, Cal.
Emily Kirby	MB/RS	6-3	Sherman, TX
Makenzie Smith	DS	5-10	Austin, TX
Sloane Sunstrum	OH	5-11	Southlake, TX

**UC Davis (12-17, 12-4 Big West Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** none

**2008 Postseason Finish:** none

**2008 Conference Finish:** 7th

**2008 RKPI:** 218

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 3+libero/6

**Top Returners:** Avreeta Singh (Sr., L, 5-7, 2007 All-Big West Conference Honorable Mention), Kayla Varney (Jr., OH, 5-10), Carson Lowden (Sr., S, 5-10)

**Top Newcomers:** Devon Damelio (Fr., OH, 6-1), Lindsay Dowd (Fr., S, 5-8), Winsome Hitchcock (Fr., MB, 6-0), Lauren Reed (Fr., MB, 6-1), Allison Whitson (Fr., OH, 6-1).

**Top Players Lost:** Renee Ibekwe (OH, 5-11, 2008 All-Big West Conference First Team)

**UC Irvine (17-12, 12-4 Big West)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** NA

**2008 Conference Finish:** 2nd

**2008 RKPI:** 92

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 4/10

**Top Returners:** Kari Pestolesi (OH, 5-11, AVCA All-West Region, All-Big West 1st team) Taryn Robertson (S, 5-11, AVCA All-West Region) Alexandra Hauser (MB, 6-2, Big West All-Freshman Team)

**Top Newcomers:** Taylor Smith (OPP, 6-0, 08-09 Under Armour All-American 1st team), Courtney Moeller (OH, 6-1), Marissa Alvarez (S, 5-9)

**Top Players Lost:** Devon Sutherland (L, 5-6), Lauren Kellerman (OH, 6-0 AVCA Honorable Mention All-American), Shannan Homan (OPP, 6-2)

**Utah State University (11-17, 9-7 WAC)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** NA

**2008 Postseason Finish:** First Round WAC Tournament

**2008 Conference Finish:** 4th

**2008 RKPI:** 57

**Returning Starters/Letterwinners:** 5/7

**Top Returners:** Katie Astle (Jr., MB, 6-1, Second-Team All-WAC); Chelsea Fowles (Jr., S, 5-9, Second-Team All-WAC); Emily Kortsen (So., OPP, 6-1, WAC All-Freshman Team); Christine Morrill (Jr., LIB, 5-7, Second-Team All-WAC); Danielle Taylor (R-Jr., MB, 6-1, 2007 Second-Team All-WAC)

**Top Newcomers:** Laurel Bodily (Fr., LIB, 5-6); Sami Brunatti (Fr., MB, 6-0); Josselyn White (Fr., OH, 6-3)

**Top Players Lost:** Melissa Osterloh (OH, First-Team All-WAC); Rebecca Anderson (MB); Heather Hillier (DS/S), Kris Hymas ((OH)

**Wyoming (5-20 overall, 4-12, Mountain West Conference)**

**2008 Final National Ranking:** N/A

**2008 Postseason Finish:** N/A

**2008 Conference Finish:** 8th, MWC

**Starters Returning/Letterwinners:** 3/4

**2008 RKPI:** 172

**Top Returners:** Dani Bedore (OPP, 5-9, Jr.), JennaRae Jester (MB, 6-2, Jr.), Lauren Whitney (OH, 5-11, Jr.)

**Top Newcomers:** Barbara Lasic (S, 5-9, Jr.), Jadranka Tramosljanin (OH, 5-10, Fr.), Camille Coffman (MB/OPP, 6-3, Fr.), Jodi Purdy (OH, 5-11, Fr.)

**Top Players Lost:** Tasha Weishahn (S, 5-8, Sr.), Samantha Eley (OH/LIB, 5-8, Sr.), Carissa Lee (LIB, 5-5, Sr.)

**UNASSIGNED REGION**

**Top 25 (and Receiving Votes)**

**Other Teams that made the NCAA Tournament**

**Other Teams in the Region – Alphabetized**

**Bryant University (16-19, N/A) *\*Bryant will be a full member of the NEC in 2012-13***

2008 Final National Ranking: N/A

2008 Postseason Finish: N/A

2008 Conference Finish: N/A

2008 RKPI: N/A

Returning Starters/Letterwinners: 4/5

**Top Returners:** Maria Scocca (So., MH, 6-2), Jazmin Stoner (So., OH, 5-9), Julie Geonnotti (Sr., OH/RS, 5-9), Adrienne Boss (Jr., MH/RS, 5-11)

**Top Newcomers:** Karli Davis (Fr., MH, 6-1), Emily Kaup (Fr., MH/RS, 6-0), Macy Mitrovich (Fr., OH, 5-8)

**Top Players Lost:** Delia Glover (L, 5-6), Maureen Atkins (S/DS, 5-5, 2007 All-Conference (DII))

## **Conference Preseason Polls**

### **Big South**

1. Liberty (9) 81
2. Coastal Carolina 67
3. UNC Asheville 62
4. High Point 51
5. Winthrop 49
6. Presbyterian 28
7. Charleston Southern 27
8. Radford 24
9. Gardner-Webb 16

### **MAAC**

1. Fairfield 93
1. Siena 93
3. Canisius 72
3. Iona 72
5. Marist 65
6. Niagara 40
7. Loyola 37
8. Saint Peter's 31
9. Manhattan 28
10. Rider 19

### **Mountain West**

1. Utah (8) 138
2. Colorado State (4) 135
3. New Mexico (3) 112
4. BYU (2) 96
5. TCU 89
6. UNLV 87
7. San Diego State 53
8. Wyoming 38
9. Air Force 17

### **Ohio Valley**

1. Murray State (9) 142
2. Morehead State (5) 136
3. Southeast Missouri (2) 125
4. Austin Peay (2) 123
5. Tennessee Tech (2) 115
6. Jacksonville State 85
7. UT Martin 52
8. Eastern Kentucky 49
9. Tennessee State 45
10. Eastern Illinois 29

**WAC**

1. Hawai'i (8) 64
2. New Mexico State (1) 57
3. Utah State 45
4. Idaho 41
5. Nevada 37
6. Fresno State 29
7. San Jose State 28
8. Boise State 12
9. Louisiana Tech 11

**West Coast**

1. San Diego (7) 49
2. Pepperdine 38
3. Saint Mary's College (1) 37
4. Santa Clara 35
5. San Francisco 24
6. Loyola Marymount 21
7. Gonzaga 10
7. Portland 10