



New York Tech Edges STAC for Top Spot in ECC Women's Basketball Preseason Poll

New York Tech's Knollmeyer Named Preseason Player of the Year

West Babylon, N.Y. – In a tight vote, New York Tech topped St. Thomas Aquinas by just one point for first place in the East Coast Conference Women's Basketball Coaches Preseason Poll. Meg Knollmeyer (Hampton, N.H.) of New York Tech was also selected by the league's coaches as the ECC Preseason Player of the Year.

New York Tech, the defending ECC Champions, and St. Thomas Aquinas, the defending ECC Regular Season Champions, nearly split the nine first-place votes. The Bears earned five to finish with 76 points, one point ahead of the Spartans, who earned four.

After previously finishing as conference runner-up on five different occasions, New York Tech finally got over the hump to win the program's first ECC title a season ago. With all but one significant contributor returning from last year's roster, expectations are high for another successful Bears' run in 2019-20. Knollmeyer and fellow ECC All-Conference pick, Shalie Frierson, are the key returnees for Tech.

Knollmeyer had a triumphant return last season after missing all of the 2017-18 campaign due to injury. In 29 games played, she averaged 14.9 points and 8.8 rebounds on 45.6 percent shooting. Her points per game mark was fifth in the conference, while her rebounding total was fourth. She ranked second in the ECC in steals per game (2.3) and seventh in blocks per game (0.9), as well. For her efforts, she earned a spot on the ECC All-Conference First Team. Knollmeyer was also key in leading the Bears to the ECC title. She averaged 14.7 points, 9.7 rebounds, and 2.0 blocks per game over three Tech wins to be named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

St. Thomas Aquinas just missed the top spot after a special 2018-19 campaign. The Spartans finished 26-5, won their first ECC Regular Season title since 2011, and earned an at-large berth into the NCAA Championship. As with the Bears, the Spartans' roster returns nearly intact from a year ago. ECC All-Conference picks, Ruth Adams and Emily Preston, headline the 11 returners for St. Thomas Aquinas.

Daemen is next in the poll at No. 3 with 62 points. The Wildcats had a scorching hot finish to last season, winning 15 of their final 16 games to earn the No. 2 seed in the ECC Championship. Reigning ECC Rookie of the Year, Katie Titus, and All-Conference selection, Tiara Filbert, are among seven returners for Daemen.

At No. 4 is Roberts Wesleyan with 52 points. The Redhawks will be led by senior Emily Miller, a two-time All-Conference honoree. Miller is well within striking distance of becoming just the fifth player in conference history to score 2,000 points in their career.

The rest of the expected ECC Championship participants includes Bridgeport at No. 5 and Molloy at No. 6.

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2019-2020 ECC Women's Basketball Preseason Poll

Team	Pts.	Last Year's Record
1. New York Tech (5)	76	23-9 (12-6 ECC)
2. St. Thomas Aquinas (4)	75	26-5 (17-1 ECC)
3. Daemen	62	18-10 (15-3 ECC)
4. Roberts Wesleyan	52	15-17 (10-8 ECC)
5. Bridgeport	41	12-17 (8-10 ECC)
6. Molloy	37	10-18 (5-13 ECC)
T7. Mercy	21	4-24 (5-13 ECC)
T7. Queens	21	6-20 (5-13 ECC)
9. Dist. Columbia	20	10-18 (7-11 ECC)

() - first place votes

Preseason Player of the Year – Meg Knollmeyer, New York Tech (6-1, R-Jr., F, Hampton, N.H.)

About the ECC

Founded as the New York Collegiate Athletic Conference in 1989 and rechristened the East Coast Conference in July 2006, the ECC was formed to enhance intercollegiate athletic competition among member institutions and to assist them in integrating athletics into their academic program in a fiscally sound way. The ECC is committed to the highest standards of scholarship, sportsmanship, teamwork, and citizenship. Its mission is to promote the total person concept in its student-athletes, which stresses the abilities to excel in academic achievement, athletic competition, and positive character traits. East Coast Conference members include: University of Bridgeport (Bridgeport, Conn.); University of the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.); Daemen College (Amherst, N.Y.); Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.); Molloy College (Rockville Centre, N.Y.); New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, N.Y.); Queens College (Flushing, N.Y.); Roberts Wesleyan College (Rochester, N.Y.); College of Staten Island (Staten Island, N.Y.) and St. Thomas Aquinas College (Sparkill, N.Y.). Associate Members include: Adelphi University (Garden City, N.Y.); Bloomfield College (Bloomfield, N.J.); Caldwell University (Caldwell, N.J.); Chestnut Hill College (Philadelphia, Pa.); Farmingdale State College (Farmingdale, N.Y.); Felician University (Rutherford, N.J.), Georgian Court University (Lakewood, N.J.), Holy Family University (Philadelphia, Pa.), Kutztown University (Kutztown, Pa.), Lincoln University (Lincoln University, Pa.), Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, Tenn.), Mercyhurst University (Erie, Pa.); Post University (Waterbury, Conn.), Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, N.H.), Tusculum University (Greeneville, Tenn.); and Wilmington University (New Castle, Del.).

The ECC sponsors the following championship sports: baseball; men's and women's basketball; women's bowling; men's and women's cross country; Esports (Overwatch and League of Legends); men's and women's lacrosse; softball; men's and women's tennis; men's and women's indoor track and field; men's and women's outdoor track and field; men's and women's soccer; and women's volleyball.

The East Coast Conference is a proud member of the NCAA and Division II. Division II is a dynamic and engaging group of colleges, institutions and conferences of varying sizes and educational missions. Division II members encourage and support diversity; value sportsmanship, fairness and equity; and place the highest priority on the overall educational excellence of the student-athlete.

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