

DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL: Thursday, Aug. 17 at 10 am Pacific

**SAN RAMON** – Entering the season ranked at No. 15 nationally, Cal State San Bernardino has been selected in the coaches' poll as the favorite for the 2017 California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) volleyball title.

The CCAA volleyball format continues to feature divisional play. The top four teams in each division will earn a bid into the CCAA Tournament, which will be held Nov. 16-18 on the campus of San Francisco State. At the conclusion of the three-day, single-elimination event, the winner will be crowned the conference champion and will receive an automatic berth to the NCAA West Regional.

In the preseason poll of coaches, the Coyotes were the unanimous favorite in the South Division with 67 points and 12 first-place votes. Featured at the No. 2 spot in that same division is UC San Diego, who tallied 51 points.

Sonoma State was tabbed as the favorite in the North Division, tallying 73 points and seven first-place votes to edge No. 2-ranked Chico State. The Wildcats earned 71 points and six first-place votes.

Rounding out the predicted playoff spots are Cal State East Bay and Stanislaus State in the North Division and Cal State LA and Cal State San Marcos in the South Division.

The top-ranked Coyotes went 25-5 last year and finished as West Region semifinalists. CSUSB hosted the 2016 CCAA Tournament and topped Chico State in five sets to earn its 12th conference title in the last 16 seasons. Heading into 2017, the Coyotes return a pair of All-CCAA First Team honorees in junior setter Jayann DeHoog and senior outside hitter Lauren Nicholson.

The Tritons of UCSD finished the 2016 campaign in second place for the South Division, posting an overall record of 13-13.

For the 2017 North Division favorites, the Seawolves, last year featured a 15-12 overall mark and an appearance in the CCAA Tournament semifinals. One of the key returners for SSU in 2017 will be senior setter Courtney Seda, who received All-CCAA Second Team honors last year.

Chico State was picked to finish third in the North Division in the 2016 preseason poll but finished with a 23-8 record after reaching the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years.

The 2017 regular season play begins on Thurs., Aug. 31 with five of the 13 teams in action. On Wednesday, Sept. 13, CCAA play will start with a 7 p.m. matchup in Hayward between Cal State Monterey Bay and Cal State East Bay.

## 2017 CCAA Women's Volleyball Coaches' Preseason Poll

### NORTH

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Points (Champion votes)</u>
1.	Sonoma State*	73 (7)
2.	Chico State*	71 (6)
3.	Cal State East Bay*	49
4.	Stanislaus State*	45
5.	Cal State Monterey Bay	32
6.	Humboldt State	29
7.	San Francisco State	16

### SOUTH

1.	Cal State San Bernardino*	67 (12)
2.	UC San Diego*	51
3.	Cal State LA*	45 (1)
4.	Cal State San Marcos*	36
5.	Cal Poly Pomona	23
6.	Cal State Dominguez Hills	15

*\*Predicted as 2017 tournament team*