



MPSF Men's Volleyball
 For Immediate Release
 December 12, 2016

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BYU TOPS 2017 MPSF MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACHES' POLL

BYU collected 119 points and nine first-place votes to finish at the top of the MPSF Men's Volleyball Coaches' poll for the second-straight year. The Cougars return five starters plus a libero from last season's MPSF Championship and NCAA runner-up team, including All-Americans Ben Patch, Brenden Sander, and Jake Langlois. Setting those pin hitters is All-American Leo Durkin. All-Conference Price Jarman continues as a starting middle blocker from last year's squad which ended as the No. 1 blocking team in the nation. UCLA finished second in the poll, totaling 111 points and the remaining three first-place votes. The Bruins return six starters from last year's NCAA Semifinal team. In addition to All-Americans Mitch Stahl (MB), Jake Arnitz (OH), and Micah Ma'a (S/OH), all-conference Hagen Smith (S/OH) and JT Hatch (OH) are also back. Taking third was Long Beach State with 103 points. The 49ers also reached the 2016 NCAA Semifinals, and welcome back All-Americans TJ DeFalco (OH), Josh Tuaniga (S) and Andrew Sato (L). UC Irvine is projected to make the MPSF's largest leap after an injury-plagued season, taking fourth in the poll with 79 points. Included in the returnees are All-Americans Tamir Hershko (OH) and Michael Saeta (S/Opp). Pepperdine was fifth with 73 points, highlighted by the return of All-MPSF outside hitter David Wieczorek. Hawaii completed the top-half of the poll with 63 points. Opposite Stijn van Tilburg is back from an MPSF All-Freshman season. Completing the top-eight, Stanford (61) and UC Santa Barbara (58) are also picked to reach the postseason. Included in the Cardinal returnees are opposite Gabriel Vega, All-American libero Evan Enriques, and all-conference middle Kevin Rakestraw. Amongst the Gauchos' returnees is All-MPSF middle Henri Cherry. CSUN (53), USC (36), Cal Baptist (24), and UC San Diego (12) round out this year's MPSF Coaches' Poll.

Each MPSF team has 18 conference matches on its schedule this year, which includes two contests against seven opponents, and one match against the remaining four. The 2017 MPSF Championship Tournament begins with the top-four seeds hosting quarterfinal action on April 15. The conference semifinals are on April 20, on the home floor of the best remaining seed. That evening's winners will battle on April 22 for the MPSF Championship, contested at the semifinal site, with an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament on the line (May 4-6 at Ohio State).

Rank	Team	Points (First-Place Votes)	2016 Record	2016 MPSF Finish
1	BYU	119 (9)	27-4 Overall; 19-3 MPSF	1 (MPSF Champion/NCAA Final)
2	UCLA	111 (3)	25-7 Overall; 17-5 MPSF	T2 (MPSF Final/NCAA Semifinal)
3	Long Beach State	103	25-8 Overall; 17-5 MPSF	T2 (MPSF & NCAA Semifinal)
4	UC Irvine	79	10-20 Overall; 7-15 MPSF	T8 (MPSF Quarterfinal)
5	Pepperdine	73	13-11 Overall; 12-10 MPSF	6 (MPSF Quarterfinal)
6	Hawaii	63	16-12 Overall; 11-11 MPSF	7 (MPSF Quarterfinal)
7	Stanford	61	19-6 Overall; 17-5 MPSF	T2 (MPSF Quarterfinal)
8	UC Santa Barbara	58	20-10 Overall; 14-8 MPSF	5 (MPSF Semifinal)
9	CSUN	53	14-15 Overall; 7-15 MPSF	T8
10	USC	36	7-19 Overall; 5-17 MPSF	11
11	Cal Baptist	24	14-16 Overall; 6-16 MPSF	10
12	UC San Diego	12	5-23 Overall; 0-22 MPSF	12