

# DIVISION II PRESEASON RANKINGS - 2017

1		<b>BELOIT TURNER TROJANS</b>	Coming off a 23-5 record, and undefeated in conference, the Trojans six returning starters include five who were named All-Conference.
2		<b>JEFFERSON EAGLES</b>	Won 21 games last year, return six starters, including five All-Conference players. There will be some very good baseball in the Rock Valley this spring.
3		<b>RIVER VALLEY BLACKHAWKS</b>	Ryan Wickman leads a team that went to State last year and won 20 games. Half the starting lineup returns. Will battle Prairie du Chien in the Southwest.
4		<b>CATHOLIC MEMORIAL CRUSADERS</b>	Picked 3rd in the DI loaded Wisconsin Little Ten, the Crusaders return six starters and half of their pitching staff from last spring.
5		<b>FOX VALLEY LUTHERAN FOXES</b>	Slight favorite in the ultra-competitive North Eastern Conference. Four ranked teams could take turns beating each other up.
6		<b>WEST SALEM PANTHERS</b>	Led by a newly inducted Hall of Fame coach, the Panthers, who went to State last two years, may be even better this year. Seven starters return.
7		<b>PRAIRIE DU CHIEN BLACKHAWKS</b>	Was set to be the top ranked in DIII but just slid into DII for the 2017 season. Still formidable, they can play with anybody.
8		<b>CAMPBELLSPORT COUGARS</b>	Picked to win the East Central along with Waupun, 9-2 Sonny Johnson returns to lead the pitching staff. Most starters also return.
9		<b>WAUPUN WARRIORS</b>	All-State Ryan Behling returns with five other starters and most of the pitching staff as Waupun returns to prominence in DII.
10		<b>LUXEMBURG-CASCO SPARTANS</b>	The Spartans didn't lose a single senior last year and return four All-Conference players to a team that won 16 games.
11		<b>COLUMBUS CARDINALS</b>	Finished just one game short of 20 wins last year and return almost all the pitching and six starters, including four All-Conference players.
12		<b>ANTIGO RED ROBINS</b>	First time in DII, they become an instant threat. Favored to win the Great Northern which would give them five consecutive titles. Need to develop pitching.
13		<b>WHITEWATER WHIPPETS</b>	Whippets return to past glory with 22 wins in 2016, the entire pitching staff returning intact and five starters, including three All-Rock Valley North players.
14		<b>MADISON EDGEWOOD CRUSADERS</b>	DII Crusaders picked to win the Badger South despite the rest being DI teams. Most of the pitching and six starters return including two All-Conference players.
15		<b>PORTAGE WARRIORS</b>	Picked 2nd behind Waunakee, ranked in DI, the Warriors return six starters and over half of last year's pitching staff.
16		<b>FREEDOM IRISH</b>	20-8 in 2016, the Irish return almost all of their starters, two-thirds of their pitching, three All-Conference players and will be battle-ready against tough competition.
17		<b>WAUPACA COMETS</b>	The defending State Champions bring back their All-Star catcher in addition to five other starters. New head coach Rocky Modello needs to rebuild the pitching staff.
18		<b>MAUSTON GOLDEN EAGLES</b>	Majority of pitching staff returns for a team that won 20 games last year as does half the starting lineup and two All-Conference players.
19		<b>WISCONSIN DELLS CHIEFS</b>	The Dells and Mauston tied as favorites to win the SCC. Two quality pitchers in a loaded league which is always helpful.
20		<b>LODI BLUE DEVILS</b>	26-3 in 2016, the Blue Devils are one of the top DII teams and will continue to be so despite losing over half of their pitching and a tough Columbus squad to beat.

**ALSO RECEIVING VOTES:** MARTIN LUTHER, WESTBY, PRESCOTT, RIPON, RACINE LUTHERAN-PRAIRIE, ASHLAND, VIROQUA, MARSHALL, VALDERS, ELLSWORTH, ALTOONA, MOSINEE, HAYWARD, SOUTHERN DOOR.  
- SEVERAL DII COACHES CONTRIBUTED TO THIS POLL -