

PRESS RELEASE

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West Virginia Projected as 2021 Big 12 Soccer Favorite

IRVING, Texas - For the eighth time in the last nine seasons, West Virginia was selected as the favorite in the 2021 Big I2 soccer preseason poll, as voted by the league's head coaches.

The Mountaineers earned five first-place votes and 74 points, edging defending regular-season champion TCU by one point (73). Oklahoma State (64), Texas Tech (56) and Texas (52) rounded out the top five. The Horned Frogs garnered four first-place votes, while the Longhorns earned one first-place vote.

West Virginia capped the 2020 season with a No. 13 ranking in the United Soccer Coaches poll, while Oklahoma State was No. 13. TCU finished its best season in program history with an Elite Eight finish and No. 5 ranking.

Kansas (40), Baylor (36), Iowa State (26), Oklahoma (15) and Kansas State (14) rounded out the poll.

The 2021 season begins Thursday, August 19, while Conference action starts on Thursday, September 23.

2021 BIG 12 SOCCER PRESEASON POLL

| Rank | Team (First-place Votes) | Points |
|------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1. | West Virginia (5) | 74 |
| 2. | TCU (4) | 73 |
| 3. | Oklahoma State | 64 |
| 4. | Texas Tech | 56 |
| 5. | Texas (I) | 52 |
| 6. | Kansas | 40 |
| 7. | Baylor | 36 |
| 8. | Iowa State | 26 |
| 9. | Oklahoma | 15 |
| 10. | Kansas State | 14 |

Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team.

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