



## **Men's Basketball Soars to Top of State Poll**

November 26, 2014

California Community Colleges Men's Basketball Coaches Association State Poll November 24, 2014

After two weeks of the 2014-15 season, Mt. San Antonio has soared to the top of the CCCMBCA State Poll. The Mounties (7-0) are one of four unbeaten teams remaining in the state of California. Mt. SAC has conquered six state or regional ranked teams – including defending state champions Santa Rosa – twice. In a four- overtime marathon, Mt. SAC scored a 110-108 victory over No. 5 Chaffey. The Mounties will put its No. 1 ranking on the line on Tuesday (Nov. 25) at home against Irvine Valley. After that Mt. SAC will be idle until hosting Moorpark in the first round of the Mt. SAC Tournament on December 5.

Skyline, the North's only unbeaten team, comes in at No. 2 after starting 7-0 themselves. The Trojans' 77-73 victory over Lassen in the championship game of the Mendocino Tournament propelled them in the poll. Like Mt. SAC, Skyline has a quiet week, traveling to Gavilan on Tuesday before breaking until December 4.

Lassen, which leads the state with nine wins, comes in at No. 3 this week. The Cougars opened the season with nine straight wins before falling to No. 2 Skyline. Lassen's most impressive win in their start was its 86-80 win over Merritt, which opened the season as Northern California's top-ranked team. There will be a good one in November 29 when Lassen squares off against No. 10 Columbia at Cabrillo College.

Four of the next five ranked teams come from Southern California. Saddleback, which appears to be set for another Orange Empire Conference title run, comes in at No. 4. Followed by Chaffey at No. 5, San Bernardino at No. 7 and Antelope Valley at No. 8, Merritt managed to squeeze in at No. 6. Saddleback won the College of the Desert Tournament and took third at the San Bernardino Valley Tournament, falling to San Bernardino in a semifinal game. Earlier this year, Saddleback had beaten back the Wolverines, 83-78, in the second round of the Desert Tournament. Saddleback is the odds-on-favorite for the Palomar Thanksgiving Tournament, which begins on Friday. Chaffey comes in at No. 5 despite having played two ranked opponents – in Mt. SAC (loss) and Cuesta (No. 19, a win). The Panthers won the Cuesta and Fullerton tournaments however the opposition wasn't stellar. Omitting Mt. SAC and Cuesta, Chaffey's opposition is a combined 8 and 21.

Merritt was the talk of the state when the season began, but things cooled after suffering an 86-80 defeat at the hands of Lassen. The Thunderbirds however rebounded, winning the Shasta Tournament, which included a victory over Ohlone. Merritt will travel to Bakersfield where they may get tested by a athletic LA Pierce team. After losing to Saddleback back on Nov. 7, San Bernardino has run off five straight wins, including a 73-30 dismantling of Pasadena City. The Wolverines have a run of three consecutive tournaments, with a possibility of playing 10 games over a 16-day period, including four at the usually competitive Riverside Holiday Tournament.

Southern California's preseason No. 1 ranked team – Antelope Valley – comes in at No. 8. The Marauders have stumbled lately, losing its last two games after running off four straight wins to open the season.