**History Made: Football In NAIA Top 25 For First Time In Program History**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. –** At long last, the Louisiana Christian University football program has finally broken through the glass ceiling and out of the receiving votes section to land at #25 in this week's NAIA Top 25 Poll, the first time the Cats have ever been ranked as members of the NAIA.

To find the last instance of a LCU squad being ranked at any point, you would need to go all the way back to the conclusion of its lone NCAA Division III Playoff appearance in 2012, when the Orange and Blue ended the year at #23 in the D3Football.com Poll.

Offensive Coordinator [*David Feaster*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/coaches/david-feaster/353), three-time SAC Offensive Player of the Week [*Sal Palermo III*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/sal-palermo-iii/6761), and a devastating stable of running backs spearhead the offense that is among the elite units in the sport.

The men from Pineville lead the nation in total yards (3,087), first downs (164), and first downs per game (27.3), are second regarding rushing touchdowns (24) and yards (1,768), third for total yards per game (514.5), rushing yards per game (294.7), and yards per carry (6.5) while also slotting among the top-ten in terms of yards per pass attempt (9.6), touchdowns scored (36), and scoring offense (44.7).

Defensive Coordinator [*Tyson Andrus*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/coaches/tyson-andrus/354) has had a student-athlete from each level of his defense register a SAC Player of the Week award in 2023 as [*Detavius Eldridge*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/detavius-eldridge/6874) nabbed one for the linemen, [*Andre Reed*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/andre-reed/6749) took the first accolade of the season home for the linebacking corps, and [*Tyren Young*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/tyren-young/6910) snatched the honor out of the secondary.

Thanks in large part to a nine-sack day that saw the Stallions record -18 total yards, the tenacious D leads the NAIA with 22 quarterback takedowns while sitting in the top-five for total offense allowed (211.8) and passing yards given up (118.0).

On top of the above, #25 Louisiana Christian has limited its victims to a smidge over two touchdowns on average (14.2), the seventh-fewest in the country.

Both the punter and the placekicker deployed by Special Teams Coordinator [*Joe Weaver*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/coaches/joe-weaver/355) have laid claim to weekly hardware as well as [*Levi Hilborn*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/levi-hilborn/6895) received Conference recognition while [*Mason Ingram*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/mason-ingram/6898) earned statewide praise as the Louisiana Sports Writer Association's Player of the Week a few weeks back.

The home stretch of the 2023 season looks to be a bloodbath between the Sooner Athletic Conference's top-three squads as Louisiana Christian heads to #24 Ottawa (Arizona) in just 12 days while the Wildcats end the regular season in a possible de facto championship game at #17 Texas Wesleyan on November 11 in Fort Worth.

First things first for Head Coach [*Drew Maddox*](https://www.lcwildcats.net/sports/football/roster/coaches/drew-maddox/352) as standing in their way this Saturday is Texas College's Homecoming which will kickoff at 2 p.m. inside Mewbourne Field.

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