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UIC Ranked No. 22 in Preseason Top 25

Flames poised for more national honors in 2000

Jan. 26, 2000

Chicago, Ill. - After tying a NCAA record with 67 wins and finishing with a No. 13 national ranking last season, the UIC softball is set to make another run at national honors in 2000.

Returning every starter and their top two pitchers from a year ago, the Flames received a No. 22 ranking in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Preseason Top 25. The poll was released Wednesday morning.


"I am very pleased that we are ranked among the nation's top teams in the preseason poll," said UIC Head Coach [Mike McGovern](#). "I'm happy any time that our program is ranked in the Top 25."

UIC finished 1999 with a sterling 67-17 record and a season-ending No. 13 national ranking. With the team's entire starting rotation returning for this year, there was some speculation as to just how high the Flames would be ranked to start the season.

But McGovern seemed to shrug off any suggestions that his team might be underrated.

"You have to earn your ranking and so much of it is subjective," he explained. "Sometimes, it's hard for the voters to be right on the mark at the beginning of the season. But, if we play like we are capable, our ranking will take care of itself. Besides, I rather be ranked high at the end of the season than at the beginning."

The No. 22 Flames will get their first opportunity to improve their ranking when they kick off their season Feb. 4 in San Diego. UIC will be playing six games on the three-day trip, including two against No. 15 Long Beach State.

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Senior Gina Arnold and the Flames should have plenty to cheer about in 2000.



USA TODAY/NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION

Rank-Team	99 Record	Points
1. UCLA (25)	63-6	673
2. Washington (1)	51-18	638
3. Fresno State (1)	65-10	602
4. Arizona	53-16	587
5. Southern Miss	52-9	518
6. Michigan	51-13-1	475
7. LSU	55-10	451
8. Oklahoma	40-16	434
9. Arizona State	41-29	408
10. La.-Lafayette	54-11	399
11. Oregon State	47-25	369
12. California	51-22	315
13. Nebraska	35-21	294
14. DePaul	54-14	281
15. Long Beach St.	34-21	280
16. Massachusetts	43-10	230
17. Michigan State	41-23	217
18. South Carolina	49-21	198
19. Texas	45-17	188
20. Hawaii	35-23	178
21. Stanford	40-25	158
22. UIC	67-17	149
23. C. Michigan	41-18	116
24. Missouri	41-21	98
25. Iowa	41-26-1	80

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