

DIVISION IV PRESEASON TOP 20 IN 2023

1  **EAU CLAIRE REGIS RAMBLERS**
CLOVERBELT WEST - 1ST

The Ramblers are tabbed to repeat as State DIV IV Champs. Regis is deep and experienced again with seven All-Conference players returning including three 1st teamers. Cole Selvig (Texas-commit) is back as well.

2  **STEVENS POINT PACELLI CATHOLIC CARDINALS**
CENTRAL WIS SOUTH - 1ST

The Cardinals are picked to win the flag in the CWS especially after their undefeated 10-0 run in 2022 and return some players that will contribute both on the mound and at the plate. Look for senior Brock Birrenkott and junior Asher Jordan to be the leaders on the field. Pittsville will challenge the Cards this spring.

3  **OAKFIELD OAKS**
TRAILWAYS NORTH - 1ST

State-qualifier won 17 games last year and returns all but one starter from that team, including two All-Conference picks. Favored to break D3 Markesan's grip on the Trailways North.

4  **NORTHWOOD-SOLON SPRINGS CO-OP LAKELAND EAST - 1ST**

10-0 in conference and five non-conference wins against D2 & D3 teams with losses to D2 state champ Denmark, D1 Superior, and MN AAA Duluth Denefeld. They fell to State Champ Regis in Sectional final and could be Regis' biggest threat to repeat.

5  **PECATONICA VIKINGS**
SIX RIVERS EAST - TIED 1ST

With five All-Conference players returning the Vikings are picked and last year's 20-win squad would be tough to pick against, especially after 7 straight titles. H.O.F. Coach Strommen will have the Vikes positioned to make another strong run at State.

6  **ELEVA-STRUM CARDINALS**
DAIRYLAND - 1ST

A new coaching staff has led the Cardinals from being a perennial doormat to the favorites in the Dairyland this year. A very robust non-conference schedule and a new culture along with every starter returning equals a program on a meteoric rise.

7  **BANGOR CARDINALS**
SCENIC BLUFFS - 1ST

Bangor finally got over the hump as runner-up at State in '22. They are picked to win the Scenic Bluffs. On the bump, Chase Horstman and Eli Tucker return and will be relied upon heavily. They'll need to fill holes left by a great senior class. Co-champ Cashton is on their heels and breathing hard.

8  **CASHTON EAGLES**
SCENIC BLUFFS - 2ND

Cashton won a share of the Scenic Bluffs with DIV runner-up Bangor and lost in the DIII Regional Finals to Viroqua. They have six starters and 60% of their pitching, including Connor Butzler and Jack Kleba, both were All-Conference..

9  **JOHNSON CREEK BLUE JAYS**
TRAILWAYS SOUTH - 2ND

The Bluejays earned Sectional runner-up last spring and return their ace in Dylan Bredlow who had a 1.55 ERA last year. With 75% of their bats and 80% arms returning, the Jays are poised to make some noise in the TS and beyond.

10  **RIB LAKE REDMEN**
MARAWOOD NORTH - 1ST

Rib Lake will rely on pitchers Michael Borchardt, Jackson Blomberg, and Andrew Wudi who all have varsity experience on the mound. Mike Borchardt will be the Redmen ace. He's a four-year starter and a returning 1st Team All-Conference pick. returning 1st Team All-Conference pick. He will be Coach Iverson's number 1 pitcher. He'll catch as well. Assistant coach Brad Borchardt is his father.

11  **BARNEVELD GOLDEN EAGLES**
SIX RIVERS EAST - 2ND

Barneveld returns seven starters from last year and will have solid depth in the pitching department with a lot of experience. The Eagles will surely have another epic battle with PEC in the extremely tough 6RE but look to write a new story.

12  **MARION MUSTANGS**
CENTRAL WISCONSIN NORTH - 1ST

Coach Joe Stuhr has his son Jaden, a two-time Player of the Year in the CWCN returning with most of his teammates that went 16-2 last year. They are hurt by a weak conference and need to find games against better teams to be tournament ready.

13  **POTOSI-CASSVILLE CHIEFTAINS**
SIX RIVERS WEST - 1ST

A return to the glory of Potosi baseball days as the program won their first title in over a decade. They return almost every starter and are confident they can hold off Belmont who will challenge them for the 6RW title.

14  **INDEPENDENCE-GILMANTON INDEES**
DAIRYLAND - 3RD

The Indees battled and won three games to make it back to Sectionals. They lost to the eventual state champions for the second year in a row. However they return 100% of their pitchers and almost 90% of their bats. They are poised for success and undervalued in Dairyland coaches poll.



The Hornets will be returning Conference Co-Player of the Year in senior Caydon Lomas. He is just one of three starters back from a team that won 17 games last year. Good young players are ready to keep the ball rolling for the Hornets.



Winning a Regional Championship was a big deal for a team that until two years ago was still in a co-op. The Wildcats return almost every starter from that team but need to develop pitchers quickly. They'll have a shot at busting up the Coleman-Crivitz stranglehold at the top of the M&O standings.



With almost 90% of their sticks returning and 75% arms, the Belmont will have another very solid team. Coach Trevor Kattre is confident his Braves will challenge Potosi-Cassville for the flag and looks to make some noise in the tourney as well.



Edgar finished strong by winning 13 out of 16 games but losing in the Regional Finals. The cats return six starters from last year's team and many key bench pieces. They benefit from playing a tough, almost all D3 conference.



The Cardinals return nine letter winners from last year with about 60% of arms and 87% bats so they have a lot of varsity experience. Thorp will be strong with Seniors Stephen Frankewicz (2nd Team All-Conference) and Aiden Rosemeyer a .566 hitter and a UW Stout football commit.



The Knights are picked third returning Hunter Stelzer, 1st team All-Conference and Colin Kinas, also 1st-Team, with a .500 bat and won 30% of their games on the hill. Both will lead Lourdes in fighting the Oaks for the top spot in a tough TN. A new coach inherits a lot of talent.

HONORABLE MENTION:

ROYALL, SENECA, RIVERDALE, SIREN.

PLEASE NOTE:

ONLY THOSE COACHES WHO SUBMITTED TEAM SURVEYS TO BASEBALL WISCONSIN ARE RANKED.

