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2026 Trevor Hudgins Award Top 15 Watch List Announced

Ft. Myers, FL – Recognizing career achievement at the highest level, Small College Basketball and the National Awards Committee announce the Trevor Hudgins Top 15 Watch List for the 2025–26 season. The award annually celebrates the senior whose four-year (or five-year) career has defined excellence across Small College Basketball. John McCarthy reflected on the significance of this year’s Top 15 honorees:

"Congratulations to the 15 players on the Trevor Hudgins Award Watch List," stated McCarthy. "Each of them have had tremendous collegiate careers and helped lead their respective teams to a great level of success. This is a very elite group of seniors, and they should be recognized and celebrated. Thank you to the Small College Basketball National Awards Committee for their insight and information in this selection process, which is incredibly difficult."

The award is named in honor of Northwest Missouri State’s Trevor Hudgins, who had a historic career with the Bearcats. He led the Bearcats to three consecutive NCAA Division II National Championships. During his career, Hudgins started in every game and never missed one. He also never lost an NCAA Tournament game, leading the Bearcats to a remarkable 17-0 record in the NCAA Division II National Tournament. Hudgins was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons in 2021 and 2022. He holds both the NWMSU scoring and assists records and finished his career with 2,829 points, which ranks first all time in the 110 year history of the MIAA.

The 2026 season marks the third time that the Trevor Hudgins Award will be awarded. In 2024 KJ Jones of Emmanuel College was named the inaugural winner. Kaleb Lowery of The Master’s received the award in 2025. The video of the finalists will be released on Saturday April 4th, and the award winner will be announced through a video presentation on Monday April 6th, at halftime of the NCAA Division I National Championship Game.

Considerations for the Trevor Hudgins Award are overall career statistics and achievements, team achievements, awards, and personal character. The player must have played his entire career at the small college level. This is the highest award given to a four-year (or five-year) player within Small College Basketball. The overall intent of the Trevor Hudgins Award is two-fold: 1) To keep the collegiate legacy of Trevor Hudgins alive and continue to tell his story to the next generation, and 2) To provide a national platform to honor outstanding players – and ultimately one player – within small college basketball on an annual basis. The Trevor Hudgins Award is sponsored by Ken & Jeanette Scribner and Northwest Missouri State University.

The Small College Basketball National Awards Committee consists of the following coaches: Gary Stewart – UC-Merced, Chris Briggs - Georgetown (Ky.), Mike Donnelly – Florida Southern, Richard Westerlund – Northwestern (OH), Mark Vanderslice – USC – Aiken, Matt O’Brien – Southwestern (KS), Chris Wright – Langston (OK), Justin Leslie – Westmont, Raul Placeres – Maryville College (TN), Chris Martin – Loras (IA), John Lamanna – Whitman (WA), Brian Miller – MSOE, Justin Downer – Point Loma Nazarene, Matt Capell – STAC, Scott Moore – Grace, Keven Bradley – Hillsdale, Mark Rutledge – Southern Arkansas, Chase Tiechmann – Georgia Gwinnett, Mick Hedgepeth – Alabama Huntsville.

For more information on the Trevor Hudgins Award or Small College Basketball, please head to smallcollegebasketball.com.

2025-26 Trevor Hudgins Award Watch List

Jack Browder	6'4"	Carson-Newman
Bradley Bunch	6'6"	Pikeville
Carl Cleveland	6'6"	Young Harris
Mason Dopirak	6'2"	MSOE
Justin Hemphill	6'6"	Daemen
Nick Koch	6'1"	College of New Jersey
Dylan Kuehl	6'6"	Northern Michigan
Chase Morgan	6'6"	Maryville (TN)
Ben Pearce	6'1"	Emory
Shane Regan	6'4"	Chicago
Zevi Samet	6'2"	Yeshiva
Marcus Tomashek	6'6"	Michigan Tech
Henry Vetter	6'5"	Trinity (CT)
A.J. White	5'10"	North Georgia
Maceo Williams	6'7"	Ashland