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2026 Trevor Hudgins Award Top 25 Watch List Released

Ft. Myers, FL – Small College Basketball and the National Awards Committee is thrilled to announce the Trevor Hudgins Top 25 Watch List for the 2025-26 season. Once again this year, the Trevor Hudgins Awards is awarded to the senior who has had the best overall four-year (or 5-year) career within Small College Basketball. John McCarthy shared his thoughts on the Top 25 list:

"Congratulations to the 25 players that have made the Trevor Hudgins Award Watch List, as this is an elite list of players in their final year of eligibility that have played their entire careers at the small college level --- and they have excelled, and helped to lead their respective teams to great success," mentioned McCarthy. "Thank you to our SCB National Awards Committee for providing excellent information and insight, and thank you to all of those coaches, SID's and others that have submitted nominations."

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. On March 1st, the list will be reduced to 15 players. 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 Northwest Missouri State University.

The Small College Basketball National Awards Committee consists of the following coaches: Gary Stewart - Stevenson (Md.), Chris Briggs - Georgetown (Ky.), Mike Donnelly – Florida Southern, Richard Westerlund – Great Lakes Christian, Mark Vanderslice – USC – Aiken, Matt O'Brien – Southwestern (KS), Chris Wright – Langston (OK), Justin Leslie – Midwestern State, 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

Ty Allred	6'9"	Colorado Mesa
Jakob Braaten	6'0"	Southwest Minnesota State
Jack Browder	6'4"	Carson-Newman
Bradley Bunch	6'6"	Pikeville
Carl Cleveland	6'6"	Young Harris
Hayden Diekhans	6'6"	Montana Tech
Dallas Dillard	6'3"	IUP
Mason Dopirak	6'2"	MSOE
Scott Gyimesi	6'6"	Tufts
Justin Hemphill	6'6"	Daemen
Avery Jackson	6'3"	The Master's
Jair Knight	6'2"	Emory
Nick Koch	6'1"	College of New Jersey
Dylan Kuehl	6'6"	Northern Michigan
Chase Morgan	6'6"	Maryville (TN)
Jarrel Okorougo	6'5"	Trinity (CT)
Ben Pearce	6'1"	Emory
Shane Regan	6'4"	Chicago
Nick Roper	6'8"	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
Andrew Young	6'9"	Missouri S&T