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Small College Basketball Reveals 2026 Bevo Francis Top 25 Watch List

Ft. Myers, FL – Small College Basketball and the National Awards Committee are proud to present the Bevo Francis Top 25 Watch List for the 2025–26 season. The prestigious list recognizes 25 standout student-athletes from across NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, NAIA, USCAA, and NCCAA programs who have made a significant impact this season. Through their leadership, consistency, and outstanding play, these individuals have risen to the forefront of small college basketball nationwide. John McCarthy had the following to say about this year’s Top 25 Watch List:

"Congratulations to the players on the Bevo Francis Award Watch List of 25 players," mentioned McCarthy. "This is a very elite group of players that have had outstanding seasons, and they have led their respective teams to tremendous success. What an accomplishment to be listed on the Bevo Francis Award Watch List of 25 players! Thank you to the Small College Basketball National Awards Committee for their tremendous insight in this process."

The Clarence "Bevo" Francis Award is presented annually to the player who has had the finest overall season within Small College Basketball. Considerations will be season statistics and individual achievements, awards, personal character and team achievements. This is an incredibly prestigious award, as this award will only be given to one player within Small College Basketball per season.

2026 marks the 10th year of the Bevo Francis Award. Past winners include Dominez Burnett of Davenport University in 2016, Justin Pitts of Northwest Missouri State University in 2017, Emanuel Terry of Lincoln Memorial University in 2018, Aston Francis of Wheaton College in 2019, Kyle Mangas of Indiana Wesleyan University in 2020 and Trevor Hudgins of Northwest Missouri State University in 2022. In 2023, RJ Sunahara of Nova Southeastern was named the winner, while in 2024 Elijah Malone of Grace College received the honor. Last year MJ Iraldi of Nova Southeastern was named the 2025 winner. The award was not presented during the 2021 season.

On April 4th, the finalists of this year’s award will be announced, followed by the Bevo Francis Award winner being crowned on April 6th.

The Bevo Francis 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.

To stay up to date on all things Small College Basketball or to learn more about the Bevo Francis Award, please head to smallcollegebasketball.com.

2025-26 Bevo Francis Award Watch List

Jack Bachelor	6'2"	Jr.	Washburn
Caedmon Bontrager	6'7"	Jr.	Indiana Wesleyan
Tyree Campbell	6'5"	Sr.	Cal State East Bay
Luke Chicone	5'11"	Sr.	John Carroll
Micah Clark	6'7"	Sr.	Nelson
Dillon Claussen	6'8"	So.	Washburn
Carl Cleveland	6'6"	Sr.	Young Harris
Dallas Dillard	6'3"	Sr.	IUP
Dallas Graziani	5'8"	Sr.	Nova Southeastern
Sam Grieger	6'4"	Jr.	UW-Lacrosse
Tamaje Izuagbe	6'6"	So.	Oklahoma Wesleyan
Lazerek Houston	6'0"	Fr.	Central Missouri
Dylan Kuehl	6'6"	Sr.	Northern Michigan
Jalen Langsy	6'1"	So.	Northwestern (IA)
Cam Lowe	6'6"	So.	Black Hills State
Amondo Miller	6'7"	Sr.	Lubbock Christian
Ben Pearce	6'1"	Sr.	Emory
Zach Philipkoski	6'4"	Jr.	Daemen
Pace Prosser	6'2"	So.	Gannon
Ross Reeves	6'4"	Sr.	Nova Southeastern
Shane Regan	6'4"	Sr.	Chicago
Kye Robinson	6'2"	So.	Mary Washington
Zevi Samet	6'2"	Sr.	Yeshiva
Jesse Van Kalsbeek	6'6"	So.	Northwestern (IA)
Jevon Yarbrough	5'11"	Jr.	Hood