

High School Top 25 Capsules

By **Nathan Rode**

April 17, 2008

The staff of Baseball America and the National High School Baseball Coaches Association Ranking Committee compiles the top 25 rankings. In-season polls are conducted bi-weekly and released every Tuesday. The final poll will be released June 17. Records included are as of Sunday, April 13 and do not reflect ties.

BASEBALL AMERICA/NHSBCSA TOP 25			
Rk	School	Record	Prev.
1.	Tupelo (Miss.) HS	24-0	2
After a disappointing loss in last year's playoffs, Tupelo has won their first 24 games of 2008. Junior righthander Chris Stratton is leading the pitching staff with a 7-0, 1.69 line and has struck out 58 in 41 innings.			
2.	American Heritage HS, Plantation, Fla.	20-2	1
The Patriots were the third victim of the revolving door at the top spot. Their win streak was snapped after nine games in the National Grand Slam tournament by Palm Beach (Fla.) Central.			
3.	Sarasota (Fla.) HS	19-2	3
The Sailors have won nine straight games, which included their 11th Sarasota Classic title in program history.			
4.	Bishop Gorman HS, Las Vegas	25-1	4
The Gaels recently made a statement by beating a talented Durango High club 24-4. Thirteen of their wins have been by a margin of 10 runs or more.			
5.	Moody HS, Corpus Christi, Texas	23-2	5
The Trojans are winners of 12 straight and have outscored opponents 91-22 during that stretch.			
6.	Brookwood HS, Snellsville, Ga.	16-1	6
The Broncos are cruising through their region schedule with the state tournament coming up in May and they haven't lost since March 18.			
7.	Lutheran HS, Orange, Calif.	15-2	7
The Lancers have bounced back from their loss to Crespi High (Encino, Calif.) in the National Classic and Gerrit Cole has struck out 10 in each of his last two starts.			
8.	Owasso (Okla.)	22-0	8
With 44 straight wins dating back to 2007, the Rams continue to roll. Senior infielder James Stanfield leads the team with a .471 average and nine home runs.			

9. Valley Christian HS, San Jose, Calif. 18-2 11

The Warriors have continued their momentum from the Valley Christian Crown Classic and reeled off 10 straight wins.

10. Wilson HS, Long Beach, Calif. 15-3 17

Winners of eight straight, the Bruins have found some stable ground for now after stumbling a couple of times early.

11. Plant HS, Tampa 21-2 12

Plant High was knocked out of the Saladino tournament in the quarterfinals by Brandon (Fla.) High, but has pulled out big wins over teams like Tampa's Alonso High.

12. South Caldwell HS, Hudson, N.C. 14-1 23

The Spartans have won seven straight since March 17 when they dropped a 1-0 contest against Watauga High (Boone, N.C.).

13. Vista Murrieta HS, Murrieta, Calif. 14-4 16

The Broncos haven't lost since the National Classic and shortstop Derek Legg is batting .450/.558/.767 with five triples.

14. Sunrise Mountain HS, Peoria, Ariz. 21-3 10

Lefthander Jaff Decker is 7-0, 0.67 and hitting .565 with 15 home runs as the Mustangs head toward the start of the state playoffs on April 26th.

15. Plano (Texas) West HS 25-0 NR

The Wolves have completely torn through their district with a 12-0 league record and are led by outfielder Jason Coats who is hitting .493 with six home runs.

16. Creighton Prep, Omaha 15-0 NR

The Junior Blue Jays are dominating the Nebraska competition as usual and have outscored opponents 151-33.

17. Paul VI, Fairfax, Va. 16-0 NR

The Panthers have proven themselves in 2008, tearing through a tough conference schedule, winning the Southeastern Baseball Classic in South Carolina and knocking off then No. 15 St. John's High (Washington, D.C.).

18. Washington HS, New York City 21-0 22

It's a wonder how a New York City has as many wins as some Florida schools, but the Trojans have played almost every day since their season opened and won every time.

19. Calvert Hall HS, Baltimore 13-3 25

After a very disappointing trip to Southern California, the Cardinals have returned and won 11 straight.

20. Nova HS, Davie, Fla. 20-3 19

The Titans were blanked 3-0 by Davie rival Western High, but still have a strong resume heading into the playoffs next week.

21. Cy-Fair HS, Cypress, Texas 14-4 18

Cy-Fair took a small hit after losing to a tough club in Houston's Langham Creek High.

22. Bartlett HS, Memphis, Tenn.**13-4****9**

After being rained out in five straight games, Bartlett returned to the field April 7 and won two games before dropping a 7-6 decision to Collierville (Tenn.) High.

23. St. Xavier HS, Louisville**12-1****NR**

The Tigers had their win streak snapped at 12 games, but still knocked off Ohio's preseason No. 1 Moeller Catholic (Cincinnati) and Indiana defending state champs Cathedral Catholic (Indianapolis).

24. Jupiter (Fla.) HS**18-4****13**

The Warriors were impressive at the National Classic, but lost back-to-back games against Royal Palm Beach (Fla.) High and Park Vista High (Boynton Beach, Fla.).

25. Harrison HS, Kennesaw, Ga.**17-1****NR**

The Hoyas have knocked off perennial powers like Lassiter High (Marietta, Ga.), but have the tough task of facing Kennesaw Mountain (Ga.) High again, who their one loss came against.

Dropped out: No. 14 James River HS (Midlothian, Va.); No. 15 St. John's HS (Washington, D.C.); No. 20 Texarkana (Ark.) HS; No. 21 Walton HS, Marietta, Ga.; No. 24 Florida Christian HS, Miami