

## Baseball America/NHSBCA Top 25

Capsules By Nathan Rode

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, March 15 and do not reflect ties.

The second in season poll of 2008 saw some new teams enter, as several others have not gotten off to the start they wanted. No. 5 Catalina Foothills suffered the worst hit, dropping out of the rankings after a 3-4 start. Brookwood HS (Snellville, Ga.) made the largest jump to No. 13 after being unranked.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Previous</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Calvert Hall HS, Baltimore</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>2</b>
	The Cardinals' season is barely under way, the No. 1 spot was up for grabs after Wilson stumbled. The real test comes after Easter weekend when Calvert Hall will participate in the National Classic in Anaheim. The tournament features seven teams in the Baseball America Preseason Top 50.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Wilson HS, Long Beach, Calif.</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>1</b>
	The Bruins lost 6-1 to Anaheim's Katella HS, but will have a very good chance of reclaiming the top spot after the Anaheim Lions tournament.		
<b>3</b>	<b>American Heritage HS, Plantation, Fla</b>	<b>11-1</b>	<b>3</b>
	The Patriots lone loss came to against a competitive Stephen's County (Ga.) HS in the LaGrange Invitational, but they've won three straight and still have the highest ceiling of any team.		
<b>4</b>	<b>Sarasota (Fla.) HS</b>	<b>10-1</b>	<b>4</b>
	The Sailors have won four straight since a 3-2 loss to Eagle's View, an emerging sleeper in Jacksonville.		
<b>5</b>	<b>Tupelo (Miss.) HS</b>	<b>13-0</b>	<b>9</b>
	Still No. 1 in Mississippi, Tupelo is off to a hot start, but has the brunt of division play coming up, something head coach Gary Enis knows won't be easy.		
<b>6</b>	<b>James River HS, Midlothian, Va.</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>7</b>
	It's still cold in the Mid-Atlantic region and Virginia high schools only got started last week. The Rapids beat Richmond's Benedictine HS 10-3 and has one more game before heading west to the National Classic.		
<b>7</b>	<b>Vista Murrieta, Murrieta, Calif.</b>	<b>7-1</b>	<b>8</b>
	Yet another National Classic participant, Vista Murrieta dropped one game to Los Alamitos (Calif.) HS in the Loara Tournament championship, but still has the advantage of a challenging schedule and region on their side.		
<b>8</b>	<b>St. John's HS, Washington, D.C.</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>10</b>
	The Cadets opened the season with a 2-0 win over Stafford (Va.) HS then beat Potomac HS of Dumfries, Va. Next up is a trip to Anaheim.		

- 9 Bishop Gorman HS, Las Vegas** **7-0** **12**  
The Gaels have outscored opponents 85-20 in their first seven games. They've won 16 straight games dating back to 2007.
- 10 Walton (Ga.) HS** **4-1** **11**  
After dropping their season opener to South Gwinnett, the Raiders have won four straight in a tough Cobb County schedule.
- 11 Moody HS, Corpus Christi, Texas** **15-2** **16**  
A 6-3 victory over rival and area powerhouse Calallen helped boost Moody five spots, but the Trojans have division play approaching which is always challenging in baseball-rich Texas.
- 12 Bartlett (Tenn.) HS** **3-1** **14**  
Warming up and unscathed by the tornados that damaged the Memphis area, the Panthers lost to Lassiter (Ga.) HS and were threatened by the Atlanta tornado, which canceled their day's second game.
- 13 Brookwood HS, Snellville, Ga.** **6-0** **NR**  
All the Broncos did in the last two weeks was go to the LaGrange Invitational and knock off perennial powerhouse Cartersville (Ga.) twice along with former No. 21 Flanagan HS (Pembroke Pines, Fla.)
- 14 Kokomo (Ind.) HS** **0-0** **17**  
Kokomo is yet to play a game. The Indiana high school season opens on March 25.
- 15 Lutheran HS, Orange, Calif.** **7-1** **25**  
Te Lancers vaulted 10 spots after winning six straight while righthander Gerrit Cole has struck out 28 in 17 innings.
- 16 Holt HS, Wentzville, Mo.** **0-0** **18**  
Missouri will get started with high school contests at the end of March and scouts are itching to see Holt's righthander Tim Melville.
- 17 Owasso (Okla.) HS** **5-0** **23**  
The Rams are off to their normal start and are one of the teams responsible for dropping Catalina Foothills after a 10-1 victory.
- 18 Texarkana (Ark.) HS** **12-4** **15**  
The Razorbacks faltered in a couple of tournaments but are getting righthander Garrett Underwood back from shoulder trouble and Bo Bigham has nine home runs.
- 19 Cy-Fair HS, Cypress, Texas** **10-4** **13**  
Robbie Grossman is living up to expectations, batting over .400 and helping his team off to a 3-0 district start. The Bobcats' only blemishes come in close games to tough competition.
- 20 O'Connor HS, Glendale, Ariz.** **10-1** **20**  
The Eagles have won 10 straight, but still have to dip into a tough local schedule that includes No. 23 Chaparral, who is on the rise.
- 21 Sunrise Mountain HS, Peoria, Ariz.** **12-1** **NR**  
The Mustangs' season started off with a bang when lefthander Jaff Decker through a no-hitter. Their win column includes two giants, Hamilton and Horizon, both teams that appeared in the top 50 a year ago.

**22 Clovis West HS, Fresno, Calif. 9-1 NR**  
Putting Central California on the map are the Clovis West Cougars. Their only loss came in pool play of the Coca-Cola Classic, which they went on to win.

**23 Chaparral, Scottsdale, Ariz. 9-1 NR**  
The Firebirds have knocked off Catalina Foothills and Horizon with Hamilton and Rocky Mountain (Colo.) coming up in the Cleats National Invitational.

**24 Nova HS, Davie, Fla. 12-1 NR**  
The Titans bring another challenging schedule to the table and were able to knock off Stephens County and LaGrange in the LaGrange Invitation earlier this month. Next up is the ever-talented St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale) and then they play host to the Nova Tournament.

**25 Valley Christian HS, Cerritos, Calif. 9-2 NR**  
The Warriors snagged the final poll spot, edging Aptos (Calif.) HS, who would be at No. 26 had we ranked that far, with a 2-1 victory.

Dropped out: No. 5 Catalina Foothills HS, Tucson; No. 6 Barbe HS, Lake Charles, La.; No. 19 Chatsworth (Calif.) HS, No. 21 Flanagan HS, Pembroke Pines, Fla.; No. 22 Cypress (Calif.) HS; No. 24 Washington HS, New York City