

NORTH CENTRAL CARDINALS

PRE-SEASON 2025 REPORT BY INSIDEHITTER.COM

Gregory Arena
Naperville, IL

2024 RECORD: 14-10
PROJECTED 2025 RECORD: 17-8

FINAL 24 RANKING: 21
PRE-SEASON 2025 RANKING: 14

FINAL 24 RATING: 19.64
PRE-SEASON 2025 RATING: 21.24

CONFERENCE: CCIW
HEAD COACH: TBD
ASST COACH: Matt Nelson

[GOOGLE DIRECTIONS TO ARENA](#)

[2025 ROSTER LINK](#)

[2025 SCHEDULE LINK](#)

[2025 STATISTICS LINK](#)

[2025 COACHES POLL LINK](#)

| 2024 ROSTER | ROSTER | STATUS | CLASS | POS | HT | # | KILLS | TA | E | HIT% | TB | D | A | ACE | SETS | TA | E | REC% | SSF | RATER | NOTES | |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Nathan Jones | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2024 | MB | 6' 6" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| 2 | Tyler Donovan | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2024 | S | 6' 7" | 18 | 53 | 111 | 9 | 0.396 | 37 | 128 | 540 | 19 | 60 | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 304.4 | GRAD STUDENT RETURNS PS |
| 3 | Austin Scott | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2025 | OH | 6' 4" | 1 | 127 | 377 | 65 | 0.164 | 19 | 78 | 9 | 6 | 61 | 303 | 13 | 0.957 | 18.6 | 159.1 | PROBABLE STARTER |
| 4 | Cooper Lundal | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2025 | MB/OPP | 6' 6" | 3 | 130 | 265 | 29 | 0.000 | 40 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 60 | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 154.6 | PROBABLE STARTER |
| 5 | Danny Smithers | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2025 | L | 6' | 11 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0.100 | 0 | 170 | 30 | 0 | 68 | 329 | 8 | 0.976 | 18.6 | 99.2 | PROBABLE STARTER |
| 6 | Connor Davis | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2026 | MB | 6' 6" | 4 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0.200 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | - | 18.6 | 49.6 | |
| 7 | Jeffrey McEachern | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2026 | OH | 6' 2" | 8 | 5 | 11 | 4 | 0.091 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 65.6 | |
| 8 | Mitchell Hester | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2026 | MB | 6' 7" | 27 | 104 | 201 | 30 | 0.368 | 51 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 65 | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 126.5 | PROBABLE STARTER |
| 9 | Brannen Almarales | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2026 | RS | 6' 4" | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TRANSFER-IN PS |
| 10 | Carson Steinbach | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2026 | S/RS | 6' 1" | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TRANSFER-IN LEWIS |
| 11 | BK Bartlett | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2027 | OH/OPP | 6' 4" | 14 | 22 | 57 | 9 | 0.228 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 62 | 6 | 0.903 | 18.6 | 92.9 | |
| 12 | Caelan Koth | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2027 | OPP/OH | 6' 2" | 9 | 82 | 255 | 46 | 0.141 | 19 | 114 | 10 | 9 | 53 | 5 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 182.3 | |
| 13 | Jakub Ochal | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2027 | OPP/OH | 6' 6" | 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0.333 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 31.0 | |
| 14 | Jonathan Brown | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2027 | OH/DS | 6' | 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -1.000 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | - | 18.6 | 18.6 | |
| 15 | Teronce Walker | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2027 | MB | 6' 4" | 10 | 11 | 25 | 2 | 0.360 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 85.5 | |
| 16 | Maddox Davis | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2028 | MB/OPP | 6' 1" | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | James Bullock Jr. | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2028 | MB | 6' 7" | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Alex Zudor | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2028 | S/L | 6' 1" | 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Chris Mactal | ACTIVE | 25 ROSTER | 2028 | MB | 6' 6" | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Carson Skalbeck | GRADUATED | 2024 | L/DS | 5' 8" | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 13 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 14.1 | | |
| 21 | Hayden Coday | GRADUATED | 2024 | MB | 6' 5" | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| 22 | Jared Moser | GRADUATED | 2024 | OH | 6' 2" | 7 | 232 | 555 | 112 | 0.216 | 31 | 117 | 11 | 34 | 68 | 396 | 8 | 0.980 | 18.6 | 273.1 | MAJOR LOSS | |
| 23 | Karson Eggert | GRADUATED | 2024 | S | 6' 1" | 24 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 0.000 | 0 | 13 | 48 | 4 | 25 | 0 | 0 | - | 18.6 | 60.6 | | |
| 24 | Luke Schmidt | GRADUATED | 2024 | OPP | 6' 6" | 13 | 45 | 119 | 20 | 0.210 | 9 | 33 | 9 | 6 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 0.500 | 18.6 | 192.8 | | |
| 25 | Michael Szewes | GRADUATED | 2024 | OH | 6' 1" | 16 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 0.400 | 1 | 22 | 4 | 3 | 61 | 31 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.6 | 23.1 | | |
| 26 | Gabriel Martinez | NR | 2027 | L | 5' 8" | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 0 | 0 | - | 18.6 | 25.1 | | |
| 27 | Tyler Volting | NR | 2027 | OH/DS | 6' 1" | 17 | 5 | 22 | 12 | -0.318 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 29 | 1 | 0.966 | 18.6 | 47.4 | | |
| 28 | Will Padgett | NR | 2026 | S | 6' 2" | 23 | 1 | 6 | 2 | -0.167 | 2 | 9 | 87 | 1 | 19 | 0 | 0 | - | 18.6 | 91.8 | | |

IH COMMENTS:

The Cardinals lose 6 players to graduation and 3 that are not returning as well as their Coach from last years squad. Kyle Exline has moved up to D1 Loyola in Chicago and the losses of some great players in Moser and Schmidt are always hard to handle. But adding 4 new recruits as well as two junior transfers from Benedictine and D2 Lewis will be very positive. Central boasts solid metrics with a returning hit % of .259 and receive percentage of .962. The team had less than 100 aces last season and lose close to 44% of those to graduation. With Donovan returning as playmaker, NCC retains one of the best setter in the game. At 6' 7" and solid experience and success, the Cardinals will be in great shape. Seniors OH Scott, MB Lundal, and L Smithers will also be leaders for the 2025 season. Almarales will be a key addition to the 25 squad. Freshman middles Bullock and Mactal bring size and skill for the future. As usual, NCC put together a highly competitive non conference schedule that includes hosting NYU and Benedictine in January as well as an early February tri-match at home against Nazareth and Cal Lutheran. Combine this with their CCIW conference matches and NCC will get strong experience against top competition. Coach Exline is the only Head Coach this program has known. He has led the team since its inception 9 years ago in 2016 and has produced an overall win percentage of .652, 2 conference titles and 2 trips to the NCAA tournament. His replacement will be pivotal to this teams success going forward.



| 2024 TEAM STATS | 24 KILLS | 24 TA | 24 E | 24 HIT% | 24 B | 24 D | 24 A | 24 ACES | 24 REC | 24 RE | 24 REC% | 24 SETS |
|-----------------|----------|-------|------|---------|------|------|------|---------|--------|-------|---------|---------|
| | 830 | 2057 | 344 | 0.236 | 218 | 761 | 758 | 98 | 1182 | 37 | 0.969 | 671 |

| 2025 RETURNING STATS | KILLS | TA | E | HIT % | B | D | A | ACES | REC | RE | REC% | SETS |
|----------------------|-------|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|--------|------|
| | 541 | 1332 | 196 | 0.259 | 174 | 545 | 598 | 43 | 711 | 27 | 0.962 | 413 |
| RETURNING % | 65% | 65% | 57% | 0.023 | 80% | 72% | 79% | 44% | 60% | 73% | -0.007 | 62% |



| 24 TEAM MAKEUP | FROSH | SOPH | JUNIOR | SENIOR | GRAD |
|----------------|-------|------|--------|--------|------|
| | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| AVG AGE = | 20.55 | | | | |
| 25 TEAM MAKEUP | FROSH | SOPH | JUNIOR | SENIOR | GRAD |
| | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| AVG AGE = | 20.53 | | | | |

PRE-SEASON GRADES

B

ATTACKING

B

BLOCKING

A-

DEFENSE

A

SETTING

B-

SERVING

A

RECRUITMENT

A-

OVERALL

14

25 RANK