

# Cougars tabbed third in OVC Volleyball preseason poll

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BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – SIUE volleyball has been picked to finish third in the [Ohio Valley Conference](#) for the 2018 season by a vote of the league's coaches and sports information directors.

SIUE, coming off a 23-win season and an appearance in the National Invitational Tournament under Head Coach Kendall Paulus, trailed only Murray State and Austin Peay in the preseason poll.

Redshirt junior setter [Sami Knight](#) was SIUE's lone player honored on the preseason All-OVC team. Knight led the Cougars in assists per set (6.49) and service aces per set (0.32).

After SIUE, the predicted order of finish in the OVC includes Eastern Kentucky, Belmont, Morehead State, Jacksonville State, Eastern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Tennessee State, UT Martin and Tennessee Tech.

SIUE's season begins August 24 at the LaQuinta Cowtown Classic in Fort Worth, Texas. The Cougars play Green Bay, UAB and host TCU in the two-day tournament.

### **2018 Volleyball Preseason All-OVC Team (voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors)**

Kirsten Stucker, Austin Peay  
Taylor Smith, Eastern Illinois  
Chloe Rojas, Eastern Kentucky  
Rachel Giustino, Murray State  
Rachel Holthaus, Murray State  
Katirah Johnson, Murray State  
Cassie Knutson, Eastern Kentucky  
Brooke Moore, Austin Peay  
Lauren Rokey, Morehead State  
Kirsten Brugere, Tennessee Tech  
Alexa Nichols, Belmont  
MacKenzie Rombach, Jacksonville State  
Rachel Henderson, Tennessee State  
[Sami Knight](#), SIUE

### **2018 OVC Volleyball Predicted Order of Finish (voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors)**

1. Murray State (10) – 230
2. Austin Peay (14) – 227
- 3. SIUE – 193**
4. Eastern Kentucky – 175
5. Belmont – 152
6. Morehead State – 129
7. Jacksonville State – 125
8. Eastern Illinois – 112
9. Southeast Missouri – 95

10. Tennessee State – 58

11. UT Martin – 56

12. Tennessee Tech - 32