

## PREECE POWER POLL—DECEMBER 23, 2011

1. Box Elder (4A)—Bees show sting at both Viewmont and Layton invites.
2. Maple Mountain (4A)—Golden Eagles setting sights on gold trophy this year.
3. Delta (3A)—Rabbits have strong and deep squad.
4. Mountain Crest (4A)—The Mustangs are definitely in the mix in 4A.
5. Millard (2A)—Eagles third at Viewmont, go 9-1 at Iron Man.
6. Payson (4A)—Star power leads Lions to 8th place at Reno TOC.
7. Viewmont (5A)—These Vikings want to get back on top.
8. Pleasant Grove (5A)—Not at full strength at Viewmont Invitational.
9. Uintah (3A)—Utes showed well at Layton Invite.
10. Layton (5A)—Star power still makes Lancers formidable.
11. Alta (5A)—Hawks look to have another Top 5 finish in 5A.
12. Kearns (5A)—Cougars have plenty of claw.
13. Wasatch (3A)—Young Wasps still looking to hit stride.
14. Salem Hills (4A)--Skyhawks win first ever Skyhawk showdown.
15. Logan (4A)—Grizzlies have plenty of stars.
16. South Summit (2A)--Wildcats still with trophy aspirations.
17. North Sevier (2A)—Wolves hope to get into trophy picture.
18. Davis (5A)—Darts are solid from top to bottom.
19. Hurricane (3A)—Tiger star power will help in rugged 3A.
20. Bear River (3A)—These Bears have plenty of bite.
21. Syracuse (5A)—Titans another tough team from Region One.
22. Cedar City (3A)—Redmen definitely in Top 5 mix in 3A race.
23. Fremont (5A)—Silverwolves tough in the lower weights.
24. Desert Hills (3A)—Thunder making some noise in southern Utah.
25. Altamont (1A)—Longhorns hoping want 1A crown in 2012.

Honorable Mention: In 5A: American Fork, Bingham, Jordan, Lehi, Weber, and West Jordan. In 4A: Highland, Mountain View, Murray, Olympus, Provo, Sky View and Westlake. In 3A: Canyon View, Juab, Morgan, Snow Canyon and Tooele. In 2A: Beaver, Manti, and North Summit. In 1A: Duchesne and Monticello.

Notes: I think the top 11 are solid choices but 12 and below is a bit of crap shoot. Kearns did well at Reno and has star power but lost to Davis in a dual. The Darts are solid and deep but may lack stars for the big tournaments. Bear River may be a team that is similar in that vain. North Sevier looks to be a big challenge to South Summit and had a great opening tournament at Panguitch. Many have wondered why Pleasant Grove ranked ahead of Uintah, some is based on Pleasant Grove's very good JV but the Vikings haven't been at full strength, for instance the Vikings divided up their team at Viewmont sending most of its top talent to the Beast of the East. It's hard to balance dual meet wins vs. big tournament finishes. I view the latter generally more important because it is how the state tournament is decided (tournament format). I don't discount JV strength (one reason Millard got the nod over Payson though the two teams have split) but don't put too much stock in the super elite tournament like Reno TOC where star power is a bit over exaggerated. Some of this is feel for sure. Injuries or illness by a key member of a team may lead to a lesser performance than expected. I don't think, in the end, my Preece Power Poll, is perfect but isn't severely flawed like these college football polls.