

ASU Baseball Picked to Finish Sixth in SoCon

Written by Mike Flynn

Thursday, 10 February 2011 15:37

The Southern Conference's baseball coaches and media have picked Appalachian State University to place sixth in the league's preseason polls, the SoCon office announced on Thursday.

Appalachian returns five position starters and four starting pitchers from last year's club that finished seventh in the SoCon with a 14-14-1 conference record. The 2010 Mountaineers posted the second-highest win total in ASU history with a 38-18-1 overall record. Three of the 38 victories came at the SoCon Tournament, where the Apps fell just one win shy of playing in its first conference championship game since 1986.

College of Charleston was the overwhelming choice of the league's coaches and media to win the 2011 SoCon Championship. The Citadel, Elon, Georgia Southern and Western Carolina comprised Nos. 2-5 in both polls, followed by Appalachian. Samford, Furman, UNC Greensboro, Wofford and Davidson made up the final five in both votes.

Junior catcher Jeremy Dowdy (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) was the Mountaineers' lone representative on the SoCon coaches' preseason all-conference teams. Dowdy, who is widely regarded as one of the nation's top defensive backstops and a likley high selection in June's Major League Baseball Draft, received second-team preseason all-SoCon recognition after hitting .338 with 13 doubles, six home runs and 48 RBI a season ago.

Appalachian opens the 2011 campaign next weekend (Feb. 18-20) when it hosts a three-game series versus Maryland-Eastern Shore at McNair Field in Forest City, N.C. Game times are set for 5 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$6 per game and can be purchased at the gate.

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2011 SoCon BASEBALL PRESEASON COACHES POLL

	Team	Points
1.	College of Charleston (10)	100
2.	Elon	81
	Georgia Southern	81
4.	Western Carolina (1)	79
5.	The Citadel	68
6.	Appalachian State	58
7.	Samford	44
8.	Furman	35
9.	UNC Greensboro	23
	Wofford	23
11.	Davidson	18

2011 SoCon BASEBALL PRESEASON MEDIA POLL

	Team	Points
1.	College of Charleston (19)	239
2.	The Citadel (1)	196
3.	Elon (1)	193
4.	Georgia Southern (1)	180
5.	Western Carolina (1)	173
6.	Appalachian State	128
7.	Samford	102
8.	Furman	85
9.	Wofford	72
10.	UNC Greensboro	51

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11. Davidson 33

First-place votes in parentheses