

Bears Picked To Finish Third in SAC

Written by LRU Sports Informationj
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The Lenoir-Rhyne University Football Team was picked to finish third in the 2011 South Atlantic Conference according to a preseason vote of the league's eight coaches.

The Bears, 7-4 last season including a 4-3 mark in conference play, also received two first-place votes. L-R tied for third in the conference in 2010 with Catawba.

Lenoir-Rhyne will be coached by first-year mentor Mike Houston. Houston, hired in May, spent the last four years as the team's defensive coordinator.

Wingate (9-3, 6-1) was picked to repeat as South Atlantic Conference champions after receiving four first-place votes for a total of 52 points.

Carson-Newman, a 21-time league champion, totaled 49 points and was voted to finish second in the race.

Lenoir-Rhyne returns 18 starters from a squad which earned its first winning season in 16 years in 2010.

The Bears will be led by senior offensive guard Chandler Rearden, who won the Jacobs Blocking Trophy (top offensive lineman in the league) and earned All-American honors by five different teams in 2010.

L-R opens the 2011 season on Saturday, September 3, against Concord in Athens, W.Va., at 7 p.m.

Lenoir-Rhyne's first home game takes place on Saturday, September 17, against long-time rival Carson-Newman. Kickoff with the Eagles at Moretz Stadium is set for 7 p.m.

2011 South Atlantic Conference

Football Preseason Coaches Poll

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1. Wingate (4) 52
2. Carson-Newman 49
- 3. Lenoir-Rhyne (2) 42**
4. Tusculum (2) 40
5. Catawba 38
6. Newberry 33
7. Mars Hill 26
8. Brevard 8

parenthesis represent first-place votes