Western Carolina's Jennifer Lauer Named Player of the Week:
Western Carolina sophomore keeper Jennifer Lauer has been named the Southern Conference's women's soccer player of the week for all matches Sept. 17-23. The award is selected by the

league office. Lauer was flawless in goal on the week as the Catamounts went 1-0-1 to open Southern Conference play. She posted nine saves to go along with a 0.00 goals against average as WCU tied Elon 1-1 on Friday and topped UNCG 1-0 on Sunday. The Acworth, Ga., native entered Friday's home match against Elon with the Catamounts trailing 1-0 in the 21st minute. Lauer made two second-half saves and Western Carolina netted the match-tying goal in the 76th minute to send the game to overtime. Lauer made another save in the first extra period as WCU and Elon played to the 1-1 draw and she earned her first career decision. Lauer worked nearly the equivalent of a full regulation game, logging a scoreless 89 minutes, 37 seconds in the net. Lauer was rewarded with her first career start two days later at UNCG and didn't disappoint. She made six saves on the day, facing nine shots from the Spartans in picking up her first career win and shutout. The weekly award is the first of Lauer's career. Western Carolina (5-4-1, 1-0-1 SoCon) returns to action on Friday when it hosts Davidson (3-5-2, 1-1-0 SoCon) in Cullowhee, N.C., at 7 p.m. Also nominated: Samantha Childress (Appalachian State), Michaela Hermann (College of Charleston), Vanessa Aponte (The Citadel), Dani Johnson (Davidson), Stephanie DeVita (Furman), Nora El-Shami (Georgia Southern), Tinna Bergthorsdottir (UNCG) and Lindsey Hansen (Samford).

2012 SoCon Women's Soccer Players of the Week
Aug. 21 Jamie Simmons, UNCG
Aug. 28 Chesney White, UNCG
Sept. 4 Katie Merson, Georgia Southern
Sept. 11 Kaley Blanton, Samford
Sept. 18 Julia Holz, Appalachian State
Sept. 25 Jennifer Lauer, Western Carolina

Elon's Chris Thomas Named Player of the Week:
Elon senior forward Chris Thomas has been named the Southern Conference's men's soccer player of the week for all matches Sept. 17-23. The selection is made by the league office. The award is Thomas' second in the last three weeks. Thomas, who was also the league's player of the week on Sept. 11, scored all four of Elon's goals last week, helping the Phoenix to a 2-0 mark. Elon downed William & Mary in overtime on Wednesday before stunning No. 6 Charlotte on Saturday. In the 2-1 win over William & Mary, Thomas converted a Matt Wescoe pass for the game-tying goal in the 63rd minute before burying a penalty kick for the golden goal in the 96th. The Snellville, Ga., native followed that with an equally impressive showing against the 49ers, who were the NCAA College Cup runners-up last season. Thomas scored what would prove to be the game-winner in the 13th minute and added an insurance goal in the 33rd as the Phoenix took the 2-0 win. Both goals came courtesy of Wescoe assists. With 10 goals and 22 points on the season, Thomas is second nationally in goals, points, goals per game (1.43) and points per game (3.14). He is the SoCon's active career leader in points (87) and goals (40), with his goal total good for 14th in league history. The weekly award is the fifth of Thomas' career, moving him into sole possession of second in SoCon history in that category, one back of UNCG's Randi Patterson, who was honored six times from 2003-05. Thomas was named College Soccer News' National Player of the Week this week, as well. Elon (5-2) is back in action Tuesday when it hosts Radford at 7 p.m. in Elon, N.C. Also nominated: Sean de Silva (College of Charleston), Valeriy Sviderskiy (Davidson), Tyler Peoples (Furman) and Alex Hutchins (Wofford).

2012 SoCon Men's Soccer Players of the Week

Aug. 28	Maximilian Schulz, UNCG
Sept. 4	Coleton Henning, Furman
Sept. 11	Chris Thomas, Elon
Sept. 18	Valeriy Sviderskiy, Davidson
Sept. 25	Chris Thomas, Elon