

Appalachian State University women's basketball opens its 2012-13 season against Lees-McRae at 5 p.m. on Friday at the Holmes Center. The Mountaineers, who won their second-straight Southern

Conference title a year ago, are once again one of the favorites to repeat as champions. The Apps were picked to finish first in the preseason SoCon media poll and second in the coaches' poll.

Prior to Friday's contest, the Mountaineers will be honored as 2011-12 SoCon Champions as the championship banner is unveiled from the rafters of the Holmes Center.

### **SCOUTING THE BOBCATS**

- Lees-McRae dropped an exhibition game to Milligan by a 62-57 final on Tuesday night. Senior Icey Patterson paced the Bobcats with 14 points in the contest.
- The Bobcats will officially consider Friday's game at Appalachian State as an exhibition game before beginning its regular season at Queens on Nov. 17.
- Lees-McRae plays in the NCAA Division II Conference Carolinas and finished 9-16 overall and 5-11 in conference play.
- The Bobcats are led by first-year head coach Michele Williams, who came to Lees-McRae from Kings College, where she took the Tornado to four national tournament appearances in five seasons.
- Lees-McRae returns two starters and seven letterwinners from last year's squad. Patterson is the team's leading returning scorer after averaging 12.6 points per game a season ago.

### **SERIES HISTORY**

- Appalachian State and Lees-McRae have never met in the regular season, despite the close proximity of the two schools (LMC is located in nearby Banner Elk).
- The two schools have met in a series of preseason exhibition games, most recently in 2009 and 2010.
- App State dominated the previous two exhibition contests, scoring better than 100 points in each game. The Mountaineers won 110-43 in 2010 and picked up a 108-61 victory the year

## ASU Women's Basketball Opens Season Against Lees-McRae

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before

- In two games against Lees-McRae, Appalachian senior Anna Freeman has scored a combined 34 points and pulled down 14 rebounds.

### UP NEXT

- Appalachian State travels to Virginia Tech on Wednesday night in an attempt to knock of its third ACC opponent in as many years. The Mountaineers downed Wake Forest during the 2010-11 campaign and picked up a win over NC State in last year's WNIT.
- The Mountaineers return home against Gardner-Webb on Nov. 20 before heading to Greenville, N.C. for the ECU Pirate Thanksgiving Invitational to face Campbell and Norfolk State.

**Photo Courtesy: Courtney Freeman, ASU Athletics**