

Staats, Duffy and Palmer To Play In USL Development League

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Three members of the Lees-McRae College men's soccer program are playing in the United Soccer League's Premier Development League this summer, announced interim head coach Jim Hart Wednesday.

Luke Staats (Almere, Holland), Luke Duffy (Wakefield, England), and David Palmer (Gateshead, England) are representing the Green and Gold this summer, playing for the Michigan Bucks, West Virginia Chaos, and Mississippi Brilla, respectively.

Staats battled through several nagging injuries this season for Lees-McRae, making 12 starts on the back line while tallying one assist as the Bobcats made the program's fourth straight NCAA Tournament appearance. Duffy enjoyed a tremendous campaign with the Bobcats, making 21 starts in the defensive third en route to a pair of all-region selections. Palmer put together one of his best seasons in the Green and Gold, posting nine goals, four assists, and 22 points en route to a first team all-conference nod.

Lees-McRae is expected to return 16 lettermen next season after posting a 13-5-3 record and advancing to its fourth straight NCAA Tournament appearance. The Bobcats captured the program's fourth straight Conference Carolinas regular season title and third conference tournament crown in the last three years, posting a 7-1-1 mark in league play.