

LRU Women's Soccer Ranked No. 8 Nationally

Written by LRU Sports Information
Tuesday, 09 August 2011 18:19

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Women's Soccer Team is ranked No. 8 in the 2011 NSCAA/Continental Tire NCAA Division II National Preseason Top 25 Poll. NSCAA is the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Grand Valley State (Mich.), the defending national champion, is ranked first to start the season.

The Bears return 13 letterwinners and eight starters from a squad which finished 19-2-2 last year and won both the South Atlantic Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships for the first time ever.

L-R also earned a berth in the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament for the first time in school history and advanced all the way to the national quarterfinals.

Lenoir-Rhyne opens the season on Thursday, September 1, against Limestone in Gaffney, S.C., beginning at 4 p.m.

L-R's first home match is Friday, September 9, versus Florida Tech at 7 p.m., at the Moretz Sports - Athletic Complex.

Florida Tech and Lenoir-Rhyne squared off in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight last year with the Panthers advancing to the Final Four on penalty kicks. Florida Tech is ranked fourth nationally in the preseason poll.

Lenoir-Rhyne also plays No. 16 Columbus State during the regular season as well on the road in Columbus, Ga., on Sunday, October 2, at 1:30 p.m.

2011 NSCAA/Continental Tire

NCAA Division II Top 25 Preseason Women's Soccer Poll

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1. Grand Valley State (Mich.) 22-1-2
2. UC San Diego 19-3-3
3. Saint Rose (N.Y.) 23-1
4. West Chester (Pa.) 18-2-3
5. Florida Tech 10-7-5
6. St. Edward's (Texas) 17-2-2
7. Fort Lewis (Colo.) 18-3-2
- 8. Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.) 19-2-2**
9. Central Missouri 19-1
10. Seattle Pacific (Wash.) 16-2-2
11. Armstrong Atlantic State (Ga.) 14-4-2
12. California (Pa.) 18-1-4
13. Wisconsin-Parkside 16-3-2
14. Tampa (Fla.) 16-5-2
15. Winona State (Minn.) 17-4-2
16. Columbus State (Ga.) 19-2-1
17. Northern Kentucky 17-2-2
18. Franklin Pierce (N.H.) 14-6-1
19. West Florida 17-2-2
20. C.W. Post (N.Y.) 14-2-4
21. Abilene Christian (Texas) 17-3-1
22. Regis (Colo.) 15-4-2
23. California State Los Angeles 15-4-1
24. Slippery Rock (Pa.) 14-3-5
25. American International (Mass.) 14-7-1

Also receiving votes: University of Bridgeport (Conn.), Bloomsburg (Pa.), BYU-Hawaii, North Carolina-Pembroke, Metro State (Colo.), Truman State (Mo.)