

Bobcats favored to win Conference Carolinas crown

Written by LMC Sports Information
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The Lees-McRae College women's volleyball team is favored to finish first in the race for the 2011 Conference Carolinas regular season championship, announced league officials Monday with the release of the Conference Carolinas Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Lees-McRae primed for a run at the program's 14th Conference Carolinas title in the last 15 years, returning five starters from last year's 25-8 squad, which posted an unblemished 18-0 record in league play en route to both the conference regular season and tournament crowns. The Bobcats topped the poll with 113 points and six first-place votes, followed closely by Erskine College with 112 points and three first-place votes. Newcomer King College (Tenn.) is third with 97 points and three first-place votes, while Belmont Abbey College (85) and Queens University of Charlotte (84) round out the top five. Barton College is sixth with 64 points, followed by Pfeiffer University (58), Limestone College (48), Mount Olive College (47), and North Greenville University (41), Coker College (24) and Converse College (19) round out the poll.

Megan Epperson (St. John, Ind.), Taylor Clendenin (Statesville, N.C.), and Megan Mitchell (Minden, Nev.) return to anchor the Bobcat rotation, and with the help of key returners Jessica Singewald (Port St. Lucie, Fla.), Lauren Fox (Garland, Texas), and Dana Oliver (Davie, Fla.), look poised for a deep run into the NCAA Tournament under the guidance of head coach Wes Schneider.

"I'm excited for this season and hope that we do well," said Schneider. "Everyone in the conference has gotten a ton better and I think the conference will be the best it's been in a long time. I look forward to the competition."

Lees-McRae opens the season on Friday, September 2 when the Bobcats host Lander University and Wingate University as part of the Carolina Challenge in Williams Gymnasium. The Bobcats will take on Lander at 5 p.m., followed by Wingate at 7 p.m.

Conference Carolinas Women's Volleyball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rk.	School	(First-place votes)	Points
1.	Lees-McRae	(6)	113

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2.	Erskine	(3)	112
3.	King	(3)	97
4.	Belmont Abbey		85
5.	Queens		84
6.	Barton		64
7.	Pfeiffer		58
8.	Limestone		48
9.	Mount Olive		47
10.	North Greenville		41
11.	Coker		24
12.	Converse		19