

ASU Men's Soccer to Play as Scheduled

Written by Staff Reports
Thursday, 08 September 2011 20:40

Appalachian State University men's soccer will participate as scheduled in this weekend's Davidson adidas Classic in Davidson, N.C. In their first matches since the death of head coach Shaun Pendleton, the Mountaineers will face Gardner-Webb on Friday at 5 p.m. and Detroit on Sunday at 5 p.m. at Davidson's Alumni Soccer Stadium.

In a team vote held on Wednesday, the Mountaineers elected to continue their season as scheduled following Pendleton's death earlier this week. Matt Nelson, who has been an assistant coach at ASU since Pendleton's arrival in 2008 and played collegiately for Pendleton at Lynn University, will serve as the program's acting head coach for the duration of the 2011 campaign.

"Over the past 72 hours, Matt has shown tremendous courage, bravery, wisdom, strength, compassion and leadership," ASU director of athletics Charlie Cobb said. "I am incredibly confident that he will grow daily and continue his own healing in addition to being a compassionate, yet firm leader for the team."

Lenoir-Rhyne Women's Soccer Opens Home Schedule Against Florida Tech

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Women's Soccer Team opens the home portion of its 2011 schedule on Friday against Florida Tech in a match-up of two of the top teams in NCAA Division II. The contest is scheduled for 7 p.m., at the Moretz Sports - Athletic Complex.

In the NSCAA/Continental Tire NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Top 25 National Preseason Poll, Lenoir-Rhyne is ranked eighth while Florida Tech is No. 5.

The Panthers advanced to the Final Four last year after winning in a penalty kick shootout over the Bears in the quarterfinal round in Tampa, Fla. Officially, the match ended in a 1-1 tie but Florida Tech prevailed in penalty kicks, 5-4.

Florida Tech is 3-0 on the season while Lenoir-Rhyne has started the year 1-0 after winning by

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a 2-1 score last Friday over Georgia College in Greeneville, Tenn.

L-R, which won the South Atlantic Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships for the first time ever in 2010, is 8-0-1 in its last nine contests dating back to last season.

Lenoir-Rhyne was also picked to repeat as league champions after receiving nine of the 10 first-place votes in the preseason poll and placing a SAC-high seven players on the all-conference first and second teams.

Of the seven preseason all-league players, six earned first-team accolades including two All-Americans: senior midfielder Catherine Hauck (Lake Mary, Fla.), the 2010 SAC Player Of The Year, and junior midfielder Elizabeth Hawes (Valdese, N.C.).

Florida Tech, meanwhile, was picked to win the Sunshine State Conference this fall.

Lenoir-Rhyne will then travel to Misenheimer, N.C., to take on Pfeiffer Monday at 4 p.m., in a make-up contest before hosting Belmont Abbey next Wednesday at 7 p.m.