

## SoCon Media Predicts Second-Place Finish

Written by Charles Cochrum  
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Appalachian State University men's basketball has been predicted to finish second in the Southern Conference North Division by the league's media, the SoCon announced on Thursday. One day after the release of the coaches' poll, the league's media

contingent echoed the predictions by giving the Mountaineers three first-place votes and a total of 136 points in the poll.

Chattanooga earned 172 points and 24-of-30 first-place nods to repeat as division champs and Western Carolina earned a pair of first-place votes and 123 total points to find itself third.

UNCG was picked fourth in the division with 90 points and a lone first-place ballot, while Elon (76 points) and Samford (36 points) rounded out the division.

In the South, Davidson narrowly edged College of Charleston for the top spot with 165 points and 18 first-place votes. The Cougars earned 156 points and 10 top votes.

Defending league champion Wofford was predicted to place third with 105 points and a first-place vote, ahead of fourth-place Furman's 80 points.

Georgia Southern was close behind in fifth with 76 points and the remaining first-place vote, while The Citadel was picked sixth with 48 points.

The SoCon coaches chose senior Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) as the Preseason Player of the Year, while numerous other publications list the league's leading returning scorer on their preseason all-conference teams.

Including Carter, Jason Capel's squad returns four starters from last season and welcomes the return of Isaac Butts (Milledgeville, Ga./Georgia Military), who redshirted last season.

Online publications Collegehoops.net, Rushthecourt.net and Collegesportsmadness.com all predict Carter as one of the top performers in the league for 2011-12.

Appalachian hosts Mountaineer Madness on Thursday evening from 5-8 p.m. at Varsity Gym and fans get their first look at the team in action next Thursday in an exhibition against Lenoir-Rhyne on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. The regular season opens on Nov. 11 when ASU hosts Lees-McRae.

## SoCon Men's Basketball Predicted Order of Finish

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### North Division

**Team** (1st Place Votes) **Total**

1. Chattanooga	(24)	172
<b>2. Appalachian State</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>136</b>
3. Western Carolina	(2)	123
4. UNCG	(1)	90
5. Elon		76
6. Samford		36

### South Division

**Team** (1st Place Votes) **Total**

1. Davidson	(18)	165
2. College of Charleston	(10)	156
3. Wofford	(1)	105
4. Furman		80
5. Georgia Southern	(1)	76
6. The Citadel		48