

Cougars, Eagles Ranked In Collegiate Baseball Preseason Poll

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College of Charleston baseball was selected No. 32 in the newly released Collegiate Baseball Preseason Poll.

Georgia Southern was the only other

Southern Conference squad to make the Top 40, coming in at No. 34, while Samford, Elon and UNCG all received votes. Florida garnered the most votes to earn the top ranking, while 2012 opponent and reigning national champion South Carolina was second. In-state rival and 2012 opponent Clemson was picked 25th, while Coastal Carolina also received votes.

The Cougars have already earned a number of preseason accolades as Collegiate Baseball tabbed CofC as having the 35th-best recruiting class for this season, while redshirt-sophomore slugger Daniel Aldrich was recently named a NCBWA Preseason First Team All-American. College of Charleston returns the entire starting pitching rotation from a team that went 39-22 last season. Senior Josh Renfro and juniors Christian Powell and Jake Zokan will look to be strong on the mound with senior David Peterson providing relief from the bullpen, while veteran outfielders Marty Gantt and Aldrich will bring speed and power to the lineup.

College of Charleston opens play on Friday, Feb. 17 with a weekend series at South Alabama.

GSU Baseball Ranked 34th in Preseason Poll by CBN

Days after Victor Roache (Ypsilanti, Mich.) received preseason All-America honors, the entire Georgia Southern Baseball Team received an honor of their own. The College Baseball Newspaper ranked the Eagles 34th in their preseason top-40 poll.

The 2011 Southern Conference Tournament Champions return 17 letterwinners from a year ago after going 36-26 and advancing to the NCAA Columbia Regional. GSU opens the 2012 season at home against UT Martin on February 17th; and four of the Eagles' opponents on the 56-game 2012 schedule were also ranked in the poll, including #1 Florida and #32 College of Charleston.

Georgia Southern hit .289/.381/.435 as a team on offense, while the Eagles' pitching staff compiled a 4.48 ERA with a 1.78 K/BB. Senior shortstop Eric Phillips (Carrollton, Ga.), who hit a team-best .390; and the NCAA leader in home runs for 2011, Roache, highlight the returners on

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offense, while weekend starters Chris Beck (Jefferson, Ga.) and Josh Adams (Bath, S.C.) return on the mound.