

ASU Women's Soccer Releases 2013 Schedule

Written by Brandon McGinnis
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Appalachian State University women's soccer head coach Sarah Strickland announced the 2013 schedule on Tuesday, as the Mountaineers look

to continue their recent success after winning 10 games in 2012. This season's schedule features 13 games played in North Carolina and a trip to the Colorado College Invitational in Colorado Springs.

After recording seven Southern Conference victories in 2012, the most ever by the program, the Apps play their final season in the conference before moving to the Sun Belt Conference in 2014. Appalachian graduated just four seniors and returns 79-percent of its scoring from a year ago, including Julia Holz, who led the team with eight goals. Strickland's squad also returns a group seven seniors, which have contributed to the program on and off the field.

"This senior class is a special group. They were freshmen my first season at App State and it has been a privilege to grow with them through their career," Strickland said. "It will definitely be difficult to say goodbye to this group of incredible young women."

The Mountaineers open their preseason with two exhibitions in Virginia, as the Apps head to ACC opponent, Virginia Tech on Aug. 15 and Longwood on Aug. 17.

After closing out their preseason schedule, Appalachian opens its regular season with back-to-back home matches against boarder rival ETSU and Austin Peay on Aug. 23 and Aug. 25, respectively. This is the second-straight season the Apps face APSU in the opening two matches, falling to the Lady Gobs in Clarksville, Tenn. a season ago, 3-1.

Appalachian's first road trip of the regular season will be a long one, as it partakes in the Colorado College Invitational and will square off against Vermont on Aug. 30 and host, Colorado College, on Sept. 1. The tournament will be the furthest road matches in the Strickland era.

After their Rocky Mountain trip, the Mountaineers return to the High Country for a non-conference showdown with UNC Asheville on Sept. 5. Last season, the Apps cruised to a 4-2 win over the Bulldogs in Asheville.

App State rounds out its non-conference, pre-conference schedule with a trip to High Point on Sept. 15 and a home match with Morehead State on Sept. 22.

With three of the first four SoCon matches on the road, the Mountaineers have a daunting task in front of them. App State opens with a road match at UNCG on Sept. 26, before returning home for a match with Elon, the team who eliminated Appalachian in the opening round of the SoCon Championships a year ago.

The Apps then hit the road for a match with Georgia Southern on Oct. 4, and a Oct. 6 match with Davidson.

After a tough slate of road matches, the Apps return home with four-straight SoCon matches, as the Mountaineers host Chattanooga (Oct. 11), Samford (Oct. 13), Wofford (Oct. 18) and Furman (Oct. 20) in a two-week span.

As Appalachian closes out the 2013 regular season, the Apps are faced with three road matches, including a non-conference matchup squeezed in the middle. App State begins with a trip to the Palmetto State for a match with The Citadel on Oct. 25.

The Apps remain in South Carolina with a non-conference battle with Francis Marion on Oct.

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Western Carolina closes Appalachian's regular season with an Oct. 30 meeting in Cullowhee. The 2013 SoCon Women's Soccer Championships will begin the week on Nov. 4, with the semifinals and finals on Nov. 8 and Nov. 10, respectively, in Davidson, N.C. The champion of the conference tournament will receive the automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

"We are all very excited about the 2013 schedule. Every match will be challenging and it will definitely push us to get ready for the SoCon matches," Strickland said. "With our final year in the SoCon it will be an exciting season to see the end of some long standing rivalries. We are hopeful to continue some of those traditions in the future in our non-conference matches and are very thankful for the opportunity to represent the SoCon for one final season."

2013 ASU SCHEDULE

Aug 15 @ Virginia Tech (Exhibition), 4 p.m.
Aug 17 @ Longwood (Exhibition), 1 p.m.
Aug 23 ETSU, 7 p.m.
Aug 25 AUSTIN PEAY, 2 p.m.
2013 Colorado College Invitational
Aug 30 Southern Utah, 3:30 p.m.
Sep 01 Colorado College, 1 p.m.
Sep 05 UNC ASHEVILLE, 7 p.m.
Sep 15 @ High Point, 7 p.m.
Sep 22 MOREHEAD STATE, 1 p.m.
Sep 26 @ UNCG *, 7 p.m.
Sep 29 ELON *, 3 p.m.
Oct 04 @ Georgia Southern *, 7 p.m.
Oct 06 @ Davidson *, 2 p.m.
Oct 11 CHATTANOOGA *, 7 p.m.
Oct 13 SAMFORD *, 2 p.m.
Oct 18 WOFFORD *, 7 p.m.
Oct 20 FURMAN *, 2 p.m.
Oct 25 @ The Citadel *, 3 p.m.
Oct 27 @ Francis Marion, 2 p.m.
Oct 29 @ Western Carolina *, 7 p.m.
Southern Conference Championships
Nov 05 SoCon Quarterfinals at Campus Sites TBA
Nov 08 SoCon Semifinals at Davidson, N.C. TBA
Nov 10 SoCon Final at Davidson, N.C. TBA

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* Conference Games
Home Games In CAPS