

SoCon Media Choose Eagles as Preseason Favorites

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Georgia Southern has been selected the Southern Conference's preseason football favorite in balloting conducted by the league's media. The Eagles earned 15 of 28 first-place votes after sharing the SoCon crown in 2012 with a 6-2 league record. Georgia Southern, which returns 1,000-yard rushers and preseason All-Americans Dominique Swope and quarterback Jerick McKinnon, picked up 210 points in the balloting. Wofford finished second in the voting with four first-place votes and 194 points, edging Appalachian State, which grabbed six first-place votes and 190 points. The Terriers and Mountaineers finished tied with Georgia Southern for the SoCon title last year, and all three earned spots in the FCS Playoffs.

Chattanooga earned two first-place votes and 176 points to finish fourth in the preseason vote. Samford was fifth with 149 points, followed by The Citadel (126) and Furman (107), which picked up the remaining first-place vote. Elon was picked eighth with 61 points and Western Carolina rounded out the voting with 47 points.

Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, which are transitioning to FBS status, will be ineligible for the FCS Playoffs this season and are thus ineligible for the SoCon title. The 2013 campaign starts Thursday, Aug. 29, when Chattanooga hosts UT Martin at 7 p.m. and Western Carolina takes on Middle Tennessee on the road at 7:30 p.m.

2013 SoCon Football Preseason Media Poll

School	(First-place votes)	Points
1. Georgia Southern	(15)	210
2. Wofford	(4)	194
3. Appalachian State	(6)	190
4. Chattanooga	(2)	176
5. Samford		149
6. The Citadel		126
7. Furman	(1)	107
8. Elon		61
9. Western Carolina		47

Photo Courtesy: Jerick McKinnon, SoCon Athletics