

L-R Football Picked Second In SAC Coaches Preseason Poll

Written by Staff Reports
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The Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team was voted to finish second in the 2013 South

Atlantic Conference Preseason Coaches Poll announced Monday morning by the league office. Carson-Newman, who finished 9-3 last year and advanced to the NCAA Division II National Quarterfinals, was picked to win the title.

The Bears and the Eagles both received four of the eight coaches first-place votes while Carson-Newman held the edge in total points by a 59-55 margin.

Lenoir-Rhyne also finished 9-3 in 2012 including a 6-1 mark in league play while winning its second straight conference championship.

The Bears advanced to the postseason for the first time in 50 years as well and won their first playoff game since 1962 in a 21-6 victory over Fort Valley State in the First Round of the NCAA Division II Playoffs. L-R, however, fell to Carson-Newman in the second round on the road by a 38-35 margin.

L-R welcomes back 62 letterwinners including 16 starters highlighted by a pair of preseason All-Americans in junior linebacker Tanner Botts (Lawrenceville, Ga.) and junior fullback Isaiah Whitaker (Salisbury, N.C.).

Lenoir-Rhyne opens the 2013 season on Saturday, September 7, against Concord at Moretz Stadium beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bears have won 12 straight home games dating back to 2010.

2013 South Atlantic Conference Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Carson-Newman 59 (4)
- 2. Lenoir-Rhyne 55 (4)**
3. Wingate 48
4. Mars Hill 39
5. Newberry 34
6. Tusculum 26
7. Catawba 19
8. Brevard 8