

Furman SoCon Preseason Favorite

Written by Phil Perry
Thursday, 15 August 2013 11:52

In an extremely close vote of the 11 Southern Conference women's soccer

coaches, Furman was predicted to win the league in 2013, edging Samford by just one point in the annual preseason poll. The SoCon coaches also selected a preseason all-conference team, with the Paladins leading the way with five selections. Furman picked up 94 points in the preseason poll, with five first-place votes. Samford had 93 points and four first-place votes, while defending regular-season champion UNCG rounded out the top three with 85 points and the remaining two first-place votes. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams or players in the balloting. Furman went 16-3-3 in 2012, including a third-place SoCon finish at 7-2-2. The Paladins reached the SoCon Championship title match and played to draws with UNCG and Samford, which finished first and second in the regular season, respectively, in 2012. The Paladins were paced by forward Stephanie DeVita, the reigning SoCon Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year, and keeper Rose Hull, who led the league with a 0.62 goals against average as a rookie last season. Both earned spots on this year's preseason all-conference squad, with DeVita earning the maximum possible number of points. Joining DeVita and Hull on the preseason squad are teammates Caitlin Shelton and Hannah Stanifer in the midfield and Ali Simpson at defender. Samford, which finished 11-7-2 overall and 8-1-2 in the SoCon last season, put three players on the preseason all-conference team in forward Brittany Hoffman, midfielder Michelle Moll and defender Katie Danehy. UNCG, which went 12-7-1 overall and 9-1-1 in the SoCon for its 10th regular-season title last year, put sophomore keeper Jamie Simmons on the preseason all-conference team. Citadel forward Mariana Garcia and Elon defender Olivia Mackey complete the 11-member preseason squad. Davidson finished fourth in the preseason poll with 65 points, followed by Elon (63), Appalachian State (58) and defending SoCon tournament champion Georgia Southern (46). Western Carolina was tabbed eighth with 39 points, followed by The Citadel (30), Wofford (21) and Chattanooga (11). The 2013 regular season begins on Friday, Aug. 23, with all 11 league teams in action. The 2013 SoCon Women's Soccer Championship will feature the top eight teams in the final regular-season standings, with the top four seeds hosting quarterfinal matches on Nov. 3 and the semifinals and final taking place at Wofford's Snyder Field in Spartanburg, S.C., on Nov. 8 and 10.

2013 Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll

1. Furman (5) 94
2. Samford (4) 93
3. UNCG (2) 85
4. Davidson 65
5. Elon 63
- 6. Appalachian State 58**
7. Georgia Southern 46

Furman SoCon Preseason Favorite

Written by Phil Perry

Thursday, 15 August 2013 11:52

8. Western Carolina 39

9. The Citadel 30

10. Wofford 21

11. Chattanooga 11

() denotes first-place votes

2013 Preseason All-Conference Team

F Mariana Garcia, The Citadel

F Stephanie DeVita, Furman

F Brittany Hoffman, Samford

MF Caitlin Shelton, Furman

MF Hannah Stanifer, Furman

MF Michelle Moll, Samford

D Olivia Mackey, Elon

D Ali Simpson, Furman

D Katie Danehy, Samford

GK Rose Hull, Furman

GK Jamie Simmons, UNCG