

## ASU Volleyball Selected Eighth in Preseason Poll

Written by Jennifer Clark  
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Appalachian State University volleyball was picked to finish eighth overall in the Southern Conference's preseason poll, announced the league office Monday afternoon. The Mountaineers completed the 2012 season with a 7-23 record, including a 3-13 mark in conference action, to finish in sixth place in the North Division.

"Based on our finish last year, none of us are surprised with our preseason ranking," said Ginipro. "However, our team knows how hard they worked to improve over the spring and how well our preseason training has gone so far. We are looking forward to getting on the court next Friday to start-up the 2013 season."

Samford has been tabbed as the preseason favorite in 2013 among the SoCon's volleyball coaches. The Bulldogs received six first-place votes and 95 points overall to grab the top spot in the rankings. Samford returns eight players from last year's roster that finished 23-9 in the regular season and 14-2 in league play before falling to College of Charleston in the semifinals of the SoCon tournament.

With 89 points and two first-place votes, Georgia Southern is picked to finish second in the preseason poll, while Furman was voted third, notching 79 points and a first-place vote. UNCG edged out Chattanooga to take the fourth spot with 67 points and the final two first-place votes. UTC (63 points) and Elon (60 points) were closely ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, with Davidson (47 points) following in seventh.

The Black and Gold were picked for an eighth place finish after tallying 44 points, with Western Carolina (26 points), Wofford (25 points) and The Citadel (10) rounding out the poll in spots nine through 11.

The coaches also selected the 2013 preseason all-conference team, which features nine players instead of the usual eight due to a tie in voting. Samford, Davidson, Furman and Georgia Southern each placed two players on roster, while UNCG added one. Samford's Katie Murphy and Davidson's Caroline Brown both were named to the squad for the second straight season.

App State opens the 2013 season when it hosts Loyola (Md.) in the home-opener of the Appalachian Invitational on Friday August 30 at 7 p.m. EST. The Mountaineers kick off conference play on September 26, when they travel to Western Carolina.