

Bobcats Tabbed Seventh in Preseason Poll

Written by Whitney Noble
Monday, 26 August 2013 17:38

The Lees-McRae College men's soccer team is picked to finish seventh in the race for the 2013 Conference Carolinas regular season championship, announced league officials Monday. Limestone College leads the pack with 64 points and eight first-place votes, followed closely by Erskine College with one first-place vote and 56 points. Barton College is third with 46 points, followed by Mount Olive College (37), Belmont Abbey College (33), North Greenville University (31), Lees-McRae (28), King College (21), and Pfeiffer University (8).

The Bobcats will boast a near ideal mix of youth and experience this season in head coach Lee Squires' third year at the helm, returning a veteran corps of 13 letter-winners, while welcoming a talented recruiting class of 12 freshmen and transfers. Led by seniors Thomas Rusling (Sheffield, England), James Galvani (High Wycombe, England), Brandon Meade (Mocksville, N.C.), and Chris DeSanto (Greensboro, N.C.), the Bobcats are primed for a run at the program's sixth conference crown. Lees-McRae returns over 90 percent of its scoring from a season ago, led by junior standout James Smith (Eastbourne, England), who posted two goals and three assists last fall.

The Bobcats open the 2013 campaign on Thursday, September 5 when they make the short trip to Hickory, N.C. to take on Lenoir-Rhyne University in a Southeast region clash at 7 p.m.

2013 Conference Carolinas Men's Soccer Preseason Poll

| Rk. | School | (1st-place votes) | Points |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Limestone | (8) | 64 |
| 2 | Erskine | (1) | 56 |
| 3 | Barton | | 46 |
| 4 | Mount Olive | | 37 |
| 5 | Belmont Abbey | | 33 |
| 6 | North Greenville | | 31 |
| 7 | Lees-McRae | | 28 |
| 8 | King | | 21 |
| 9 | Pfeiffer | | 8 |

Photo Courtesy: James Galvani, LMC Athletics