

L-R Women's Soccer Favored Again In SAC

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 28 August 2013 17:20

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Women's Soccer Team was voted to win its fourth straight league crown after being picked first in the 2013 South Atlantic Conference Preseason Coaches Poll. L-R, 16-2-2 last year including a perfect 9-0 mark in conference play, received 10 out of the possible 12 first-place votes for a total of 120 points.

A league-high eight players for the Bears earned All-SAC Preseason honors including five on the first team: sophomore forwards Leah Mullins (Kissimmee, Fla.) and Garcelle Alequine (Wilmington, Del.), junior midfielder Hanna Kiebel (Parker, Colo.) and sophomore defenders Brianna Belsky (Egg Harbor Township, N.J.) and Amber Madriaga (Wailuku, Hawaii).

Mullins led the Bears in goals scored (13) and points (29) last year en route to First-Team All-SAC and All-Southeast Region honors while being named the SAC Freshman Of The Year and Most Valuable Player of the league tournament.

Alequine tallied eight goals with a team-leading seven assists for 23 points en route to all-conference second-team accolades while Kiebel has garnered All-SAC honors for two years straight.

On defense, Belsky and Madriaga anchored a line which allowed just 11 goals in 20 matches all season to go along with 12 shutouts. Both players picked up All-SAC and All-Southeast Region honors while Belsky was named an NCAA Division II Honorable Mention All-American by Daktronics.

L-R sophomore forward Kendall Smith (Asheville, N.C.), senior defender Blair McDonough (Staunton, Va.) and sophomore defender Casey Marlin (Floyds Knobs, Ind.) were named to the All-SAC Preseason Second Team.

Lenoir-Rhyne won both the 2012 South Atlantic Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships and earned its third consecutive berth to the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Tournament last fall.

Lenoir-Rhyne opens the season on Friday, September 6, at home against Lees-McRae. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m., at the Moretz Sports - Athletic Complex as part of the L-R Women's Soccer Classic.

2013 South Atlantic Conference Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches Poll

- 1. Lenoir-Rhyne 120 (10)**
2. Wingate 105 (1)
3. Tusculum 101 (1)
4. Catawba 88
5. Lincoln Memorial 73
6. Anderson 68
7. Queens 63
8. Newberry 56
9. Carson-Newman 42
10. Mars Hill 36
11. Coker 27
12. Brevard 13

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2013 All-South Atlantic Conference Preseason Women's Soccer Teams

FIRST TEAM

F - Jade Montgomery, Wingate

F - Leah Mullins, Lenoir-Rhyne

F - Krystal Goss, Anderson

F - Garcelle Alequine, Lenoir-Rhyne

MF - Hanna Kiebel, Lenoir-Rhyne

MF - Gabrielle Brodie, Newberry

MF - Josefin Hedstrom, Lincoln Memorial

MF - Sophie Waller, Catawba

D - Brianna Belsky, Lenoir-Rhyne

D - Amber Madriaga, Lenoir-Rhyne

D - Anna Toole, Catawba

D - Sam Adams, Lincoln Memorial

GK - Kaitlyn Neipp, Anderson

SECOND TEAM

F - Juliana Conte, Catawba

F - Kendall Smith, Lenoir-Rhyne

F - Brooke Foil, Queens

F - Taylor Lewis, Tusculum

MF - Alisha Pugh, Tusculum

MF - Alyssa Morris, Mars Hill

MF - Taryn Grivois, Wingate

MF - Amy Morford, Tusculum

D - Blair McDonough, Lenoir-Rhyne

D - Savannah Pitt, Lincoln Memorial

D - Chelsey Horan, Wingate

D - Casey Marlin, Lenoir-Rhyne

GK - Marissa Williams, Tusculum

Photo Courtesy: Leah Mullins, L-R Athletics