

Bobcats XC Tabbed 8th in Preseason Poll

Written by Whitney Noble
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The Lees-McRae College men's cross country team is picked to finish eighth in

the race for the 2013 Conference Carolinas Championship, announced league officials Thursday.

Mount Olive College, ranked 21st in the national preseason poll, is picked to claim the league championship this season with eight first-place votes and 64 points. King University is second with 57 points and one first-place vote, receiving votes in the national preseason poll as well. Belmont Abbey College is third with 46 points, followed by North Greenville University (41), Limestone College (33), and Barton College (28). Erskine College is seventh with 19 points; Lees-McRae and Pfeiffer University are tied for eighth with 18 markers.

"I believe we are going to be a much improved team this fall," said head coach Ley Fletcher. "We are shooting for a top five performance at the conference championships. We have brought in some very talented freshmen to go along with two returning seniors, and I think that puts us in great position to make a big leap this year."

The Bobcats return three letter-winners from last year's squad, including seniors Michael Davis (Independence, Va.) and Tyler Dunn (Jasper, Ga.), while welcoming 10 promising freshmen into the fold. Coupled with the return of junior Jordan Meyer (Boiling Springs, S.C.), the Bobcats appear primed for a run at the conference crown with a strong mix of youth and experience. Lees-McRae opens the 2013 campaign on Friday, September 6 when the Bobcats travel to Johnson City, Tenn. to take part in the Buffalo Stampede.

2013 Conference Carolinas Men's Cross Country Preseason Poll

Rk.	School	(1st-place votes)	Points
1.	Mount Olive	(8)	64
2.	King	(1)	57
3.	Belmont Abbey		46
4.	North Greenville		41
5.	Limestone		33
6.	Barton		28
7.	Erskine		19
8.	Lees-McRae		18
8.	Pfeiffer		18