

Top-Seeded Bears Host Coker Wednesday In SAC Tournament

Written by Staff Reports

Tuesday, 04 March 2014 19:04

The Lenoir-Rhyne Women's Basketball Team (22-5, 17-5) earned the No. 1 seed in the 2014 Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament. L-R will take on eighth-seeded Coker (12-14, 10-12) on Wednesday at Shuford Memorial Gymnasium at 6:00 p.m.

The Bears swept the season series from the Cobras this year and defeated Coker, 48-41, just last Wednesday on Senior Day at home. L-R leads the all-time series with Coker, 3-0.

Lenoir-Rhyne enters the tournament ranked No. 24 in NCAA Division II and first in the latest Southeast Region Poll. The Bears are also 17-2 in their last 19 games. L-R tied for the league championship with Wingate, the fourth in school history, and earned the tiebreaker over the Bulldogs for conference tournament seeding.

L-R is led this year by junior guard and all-league performer Jazmine Charles (Lexington, N.C.). Charles ranks first on the team in scoring (17.5 ppg), rebounding (6.6 rpg) and three-pointers made with 48.

Coker earned the last seed in the tournament after downing Tusculum by a 79-68 score last Saturday in Greeneville, Tenn. The Cobras are led by Tanesha Stenson (14.8 ppg).

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Lenoir-Rhyne is looking to advance to the semifinals of the league tournament for the second straight season. The Bears last earned the top seed in the conference tournament during the 2009-10 campaign.

Following Wednesday's campus on-site quarterfinal games, the Food Lion SAC Tournament Semifinals and Finals will be played at Timmons Arena in Greenville, S.C.

The Lenoir-Rhyne Men's Basketball Team will face Newberry in the Quarterfinal Round of the 2014 Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament on Wednesday at Shuford Memorial Gymnasium beginning at 8:00 p.m.

L-R (16-10) enters the tournament on a five-game winning streak and finished league play this year with a 15-7 mark. The Bears tied for third in the league standings and earned the No. 4 seed in the conference tournament while Newberry (18-8, 14-8) is seeded fifth.

Lenoir-Rhyne leads the all-time series with Newberry, 74-23, while the two squads split their regular season contests this year. Newberry prevailed by a 134-127 score in triple overtime on Wednesday, January 15, in Newberry, S.C., while L-R won, 83-79, on Monday, February 17, in Hickory, N.C.

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Lenoir-Rhyne is led this season by senior guard R.J. McClure (Canton, N.C.). McClure is first on the squad in scoring (17.8 ppg) and three-pointers made (74) and set the league record for points in a single game (52) and school record for three-pointers made (12) in the setback to the Wolves earlier this year.

Newberry leads the South Atlantic Conference in scoring (92.8 ppg) and is led individually by Dondray Walker (16.8 ppg) and Demarkus Smith (16.2 ppg).

Lenoir-Rhyne is hosting the first round of the league tournament for the first time in five years. L-R's last win in the conference tournament took place in 2009 when the Bears defeated Carson-Newman by a 111-109 score in overtime in the quarterfinal round at Shuford Memorial Gymnasium.

The winner of the contest between the Bears and the Wolves will face the winner of the Lincoln Memorial and Wingate game on Saturday beginning at Noon.

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Following Wednesday's campus on-site first round contests, the Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament Semifinals and Finals will be played at Timmons Arena in Greenville, S.C.

2014 Food Lion SAC Women's Basketball Tournament

Wednesday, March 5 - Quarterfinals

No. 8 Coker at No. 1 Lenoir-Rhyne, 6 p.m.

No. 5 Catawba at No. 4 Carson-Newman, 6 p.m.

No. 7 Newberry at No. 2 Wingate, 7 p.m.

No. 6 Anderson at No. 3 Lincoln Memorial, 6 p.m.

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Saturday, March 8 - Semifinals

(at Greenville, S.C. - Timmons Arena)

Coker/Lenoir-Rhyne winner vs. Catawba/Carson-Newman winner, 5:30 p.m.

Newberry/Wingate winner vs. Anderson/Lincoln Memorial winner, 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 9 - Finals

(at Greenville, S.C. - Timmons Arena)

4 p.m.

2014 Food Lion SAC Men's Basketball Tournament

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Wednesday, March 5 - Quarterfinals

No. 8 Wingate at No. 1 Lincoln Memorial, 8 p.m.

No. 5 Newberry at No. 4 Lenoir-Rhyne, 8 p.m.

No. 6 Queens at No. 3 Anderson, 7 p.m.

No. 7 Coker at No. 2 Carson-Newman, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 8 - Semifinals

(at Greenville, S.C. - Timmons Arena)

Wingate/Lincoln Memorial winner vs. Newberry/Lenoir-Rhyne winner, Noon

Queens/Anderson winner vs. Coker/Carson-Newman, 2:30 p.m.

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Sunday, March 9 - Finals

(at Greenville, S.C. - Timmons Arena)

1:30 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Jazmine Charles, L-R Athletics