



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SOCCER

# 2020-21

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## 2020-21 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SOCCER STANDINGS

STANDINGS	CONFERENCE					OVERALL				
	W-L-T	Pts	GF	GA	ST	W-L-T	Pct	GF	GA	ST
Samford	7-0-2	23	20	2	W4	8-1-3	.792	27	5	W5
Furman	6-0-2	20	13	4	T1	7-0-2	.889	14	4	W1
Chattanooga	6-2-1	19	9	5	W1	7-3-1	.682	11	6	L1
Mercer	5-3-0	15	13	9	W1	8-10-1	.447	36	28	L1
UNCG	4-4-1	13	8	7	L1	4-5-2	.455	8	9	L1
Wofford	3-4-2	11	10	11	T1	3-4-2	.444	10	11	T1
Western Carolina	3-5-1	10	13	15	T1	4-7-1	.375	14	17	T1
ETSU	1-4-1	4	4	13	L4	1-6-1	.188	6	17	L4
The Citadel	1-6-0	4	6	13	L3	7-9-3	.447	23	23	T1
VMI	0-6-1	1	4	21	L5	1-8-2	.182	10	22	L7

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

(all times Eastern)

April 16 (Friday)	TV/Digital	Time
No. 1 Samford vs. No. 2 Furman (SoCon Tournament)	ESPN+	2 p.m. CT

Selections for the NCAA Championship will be April 19, and both tournaments will conclude with the NCAA College Cups at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary. The women's national semifinals will be May 13 the national championship will be May 17.

Other dates for the tournaments are:  
 First round — Women, April 27-28; Men, April 29.  
 Second round — Women, April 30-May 1; Men, May 2.  
 Third round — Women, May 5; Men, May 6.  
 Quarterfinals — Women, May 9; Men, May 10.  
 Currently, the campus venues that will host tournament games are at Campbell, East Carolina, University of North Carolina Wilmington, UNC Greensboro and Wake Forest.

Off-campus sites for tournament matches include:  
 Bryan Park (Greensboro, North Carolina).  
 J. Burt Gillette Athletic Complex (Wilson, North Carolina).  
 Sportsplex (Matthews, North Carolina).  
 WakeMed Soccer Park (Cary, North Carolina).

## NOTES

• No. 1 Samford and No. 2 Furman meet in the SoCon Championship for the second-straight season.

• The SoCon announced on March 31 that three conference matches would be canceled due to opt-outs and injuries that have left ETSU's team below the conference's recommended guidelines at a key position. The games affected were ETSU at The Citadel on Thursday, ETSU at Mercer on Saturday and Furman at ETSU on April 6. The games were not made up and were to be considered no-contests.

• Furman head coach Andrew Burr, already the winningest coach in women's soccer league history, earned his 100th conference win in a 2-0 win over Chattanooga on March 19 and pushed his total to 101 in the 3-1 win over Western Carolina on March 26. He's the first SoCon coach to surpass 100 conference wins.

• Nationally, Furman is seventh in corner kicks per game (7.67), Samford is 15th in goals against average (0.395) and Furman is right behind in 18th.

• Furman is 19th in the latest RPI.

• The Paladins have posted a 17-1-3 record in their last 20 regular season SoCon matches.

• The Citadel and Mercer were the only two teams to compete in the fall. The SoCon elected to move conference play to the spring season amid concerns around the coronavirus, though teams were allowed to compete in fall nonconference action at their discretion.

• The Citadel and Mercer met twice in the fall in nonconference contests. The teams played to a 1-1 draw on Sept. 17 in Charleston, S.C. It was the first time The Citadel earned a positive result against Mercer, who entered the match 7-0 against the Bulldogs. The Citadel won the second contest, 3-2, in Oct. 9 in Macon, Georgia.

• Samford was picked to win the 2020-21 SoCon Championship in voting of the league's 10 head coaches.

• The 2021 SoCon Championship includes just four teams due to the conference's cost-cutting measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Samford won the 2019 Southern Conference women's soccer championship by downing No. 9 The Citadel, 5-1, in the quarterfinals, No. 4 Mercer, 3-0, in the semifinals and No. 2 Furman, 1-0, in the championship final. Samford also claimed at least a share of the regular-season title for the sixth straight season in 2019.

## SoCON STATS



## NCAA STATS



## COACHING RECORDS

Coach, School	Career Record	School (Yrs.)	SoCon (Yrs.)
Ciaran Traquair, The Citadel	62-98-7 (8th)	32-56-5 (5th)	5-38-1 (5th)
Jay Yelton, ETSU	1-6-1 (1st)	Same	1-4-1 (1st)
Andrew Burr, Furman	208-83-26 (16th)	Same	101-37-19 (16th)
Tony Economopoulos, Mercer	109-107-17 (12th)	99-66-17 (9th)	35-18-6 (7th)
Michael Coll, UNCG	105-97-27 (12th)	64-54-16 (7th)	36-18-6 (7th)
Todd Yelton, Samford*	277-132-50 (22nd)	237-100-46 (18th)	98-12-18 (12th)
Gavin McKinney, Chattanooga	110-75-20 (10th)	37-50-17 (6th)	23-23-8 (6th)
Chris Haight-Thompson, VMI	2-24-3 (2nd)	Same	0-16-2 (2nd)
Chad Miller, Western Carolina	180-155-31 (19th)	87-99-20 (11th)	43-55-9 (11th)
Emily Grant, Wofford	10-16-2 (2nd)	Same	6-10-2 (2nd)

\* later vacated 24 overall wins and four ties (13 wins and four ties in SoCon play) from 2012-13

## NOTES

- Samford holds a 3-2-0 all-time versus Furman in SoCon tournament play and an 8-5-4 advantage in the overall series.
- Furman boasts a 42-16-3 overall record in the SoCon Women's Soccer Championship, while Samford owns a 15-6-3 record .
- The teams played to a 1-1 draw in the regular-season meeting at Furman on March 21.
- The championship match is the second straight between Samford and Furman and the second consecutive featuring the top two seeds in the tournament, while also being the 11th straight championship featuring one of the two squads.
- Top-seeded Samford won 1-0 in 2019 to claim its third Southern Conference Championship title in the first and only championship final featuring the Bulldogs and Paladins.
- Furman, the owner of six SoCon titles, makes its league-leading 16th appearance in the championship final and is looking for its first title since a 1-0 double-overtime win against Mercer in 2015.
- Samford and Furman were picked to finish first and second, respectively, in the coaches preseason poll.

## Women's Soccer Champions

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Tournament site	Tournament MOP	Regular-season champion
1994	Davidson	Georgia Southern	Greensboro, N.C.	Shannon Lowrance, DAV	Davidson
1995	Davidson	Furman	Davidson, N.C.	Claudia Lombard, DAV	Furman
1996	Davidson	Georgia Southern	Davidson, N.C.	Katherine Cournelius, DAV	Davidson
1997	UNCG	Wofford	Davidson, N.C.	Kim Rosbenberg, UNCG	UNCG
1998	UNCG	Furman	Greenville, S.C.	Ali Lord, UNCG	UNCG
1999	Furman	Davidson	Greensboro, N.C.	Kaye Brownlee, FUR	Furman
2000	UNCG	Furman	Charleston, S.C.	Lynsey McLean, UNCG	Furman
2001	UNCG	Western Carolina	Greenville, S.C.	Kathryn Clewley, UNCG	UNCG/Furman/WCU
2002	Furman	College of Charleston	Greensboro, N.C.	Andre'a Morrison, FUR	Furman
2003	UNCG	Furman	Greensboro, N.C.	Rakel Logadottir, UNCG	Furman
2004	Furman	Davidson	Greensboro, N.C.	Andre'a Morrison, FUR	UNCG
2005	Western Carolina	Furman	Greenville, S.C.	Alesha Row, WCU	Davidson
2006	UNCG	Furman	Cullowhee, N.C.	Shannon Donovan, UNCG	UNCG
2007	Furman	UNCG	Davidson, N.C.	Rachel Fry, FUR	UNCG
2008	Western Carolina	UNCG	Charleston, S.C.	Caitlin Williams, WCU	UNCG
2009	Davidson	College of Charleston	Greensboro, N.C.	Amanda Flink, DAV	UNCG
2010	UNCG	Samford	Cullowhee, N.C.	Kelsey Kearney, UNCG	UNCG
2011	Samford	College of Charleston	Greensboro, N.C.	Shanika Thomas, SAM	Samford
2012	Georgia Southern	Furman	Birmingham, Ala.	Katie Merson, GSU	UNCG
2013	Furman	Elon	Spartanburg, S.C.	Stephanie DeVita, FUR	Furman
2014	Mercer	Samford	Cullowhee, N.C.	Maggie Cropp, MER	Samford
2015	Furman	Mercer	Greenville, S.C.	Stephanie DeVita, FUR	Samford
2016	Samford	ETSU	Johnson City, Tenn.	Anna Allen, SAM	Samford
2017	UNCG	Samford	Birmingham, Ala.	Regan Lehman, UNCG	Furman/Samford
2018	UNCG	Furman	Macon, Ga.	Heida Ragney Vidarsdottir, UNCG	Samford
2019	Samford	Furman	Greensboro, N.C.	Morgan McAslan, SAM	Samford/Furman
2020-21			Birmingham, Ala.		Samford

### SoCon Championship record by school

School	Appearances	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	For	Opp	Semis	Final	Titles
Furman	24	41	16	3	.713	107	47	22	15	6
UNCG*	22	30	12	5	.691	113	27	15	10	8
Samford <sup>^</sup>	11	15	6	3	.688	44	21	10	5	3
Mercer	5	6	4	1	.591	16	15	4	2	1
Western Carolina	17	9	14	3	.404	27	42	5	3	2
Wofford	16	8	15	2	.360	27	54	5	1	0
The Citadel	6	3	6	0	.333	12	23	1	0	0
VMI	5	2	5	1	.313	5	16	0	0	0
ETSU	9	4	9	0	.308	15	43	3	1	0
Chattanooga	9	1	8	2	.091	7	27	1	0	0

\* later vacated a win and two ties from 2008 and one win and the title from 2010

<sup>^</sup> later vacated win from 2013

#### Former members

Davidson	19	15	13	3	.532	53	33	10	6	4
Georgia Southern	12	10	11	1	.477	28	32	9	3	1
Elon	9	4	8	1	.346	8	25	3	1	0
College of Charleston	15	6	14	3	.326	24	32	6	2	0
Appalachian State	15	2	15	0	.118	17	56	4	0	0

**No. 1 Samford vs. No. 4 Mercer**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.** – No. 1 seed Samford (8-1-3, 7-0-2 SoCon) downed No. 4 seed Mercer (8-10-1, 5-3), 6-1, in the first semifinal match at the Southern Conference Women's Soccer Championship, held in Birmingham, Alabama, on Friday evening. With the win, the Bulldogs advance to the championship final, held next weekend, and will face the winner of No. 2 Furman and No. 3 Chattanooga, who meet on Saturday at 7 p.m. ET in Greenville, South Carolina.

The six goals are the most by a team in the SoCon Women's Soccer Championship since top-seeded Samford beat No. 9 The Citadel, 6-0, in the 2014 quarterfinals, and the most by one team in the semifinal round since No. 1 UNCG beat No. 5 Wofford, 6-0, in 1998.

Samford, which won the regular-season title, pushing their streak to seven consecutive years with at least a share of the regular-season crown, will play in its sixth championship final and seek the Bulldogs' fourth title and second consecutive.

It was raining as the game got underway. Samford got on the board first as the recipient of an own goal by the Bears in the eighth minute. First-team all-conference midfielder Alyssa Frazier doubled the Bulldogs' lead in the 21st minute on a pass from Caroline Orman, a second-team all-conference forward, before Kyla Reynolds added another goal just 44 seconds later off an assist from Taylor Yount, a first-team all-conference forward, to push the lead to three. The 3-0 scored held until the half. Out of the break, the teams played seven minutes before the game, which started an hour late due to inclement weather, was halted due to lightning in the area.

Nearly an hour and a half later, play resumed, and five minutes into the action, Mercer forward Nicole Icen, the 2019 SoCon Player of the Year, put the Bears on the board off an assist from Jordan Lynn. However, Samford answered less than 30 seconds later when Reynolds netted her second goal of the contest off a pass from Nikki Barrio, pushing the lead back to three, 4-1.

Reynolds capped off the hat trick in the 68th minute, again on an assist from Barrio, running the lead to 5-1. Freshman Morgan Greene netted her third goal of the season in the 76th minute to extend the lead to 6-1 en route to the victory.

Samford goalkeeper Morgan McAslan, a first-team all-conference selection, played 86 minutes in goal and recorded one save, while Mercer's Jordyn Ebert played the entire contest and tallied eight.

**No. 2 Furman vs. No. 3 Chattanooga**

**GREENVILLE, S.C.** – No. 2 seed Furman (7-0-2, 6-0-2 SoCon) knocked off No. 3 Chattanooga (7-3-1, 6-2-1) in the second semifinal match of the Southern Conference Women's Soccer Championship, held in Greenville, South Carolina, on Sunday afternoon. With the 1-0 win, the Paladins advance to their 16th championship final, held next Friday at 2 p.m. CT in Birmingham, Alabama, and will face Samford (8-1-3, 7-0-2), the regular-season champion, No. 1 seed and host. The teams played to a 1-1 draw in the regular-season meeting at Furman on March 21.

The championship match is the second straight between Samford and Furman and the second consecutive featuring the top two seeds in the tournament, while also being the 11th straight championship featuring one of the two squads. Top-seeded Samford won 1-0 in 2019 to claim its fourth Southern Conference Championship title in the first and only championship final featuring the Bulldogs and Paladins. Furman, the owner of six SoCon titles, will make its league-leading 16th appearance in the championship final and look for its first title since a 1-0 double-overtime win against Mercer in 2015.

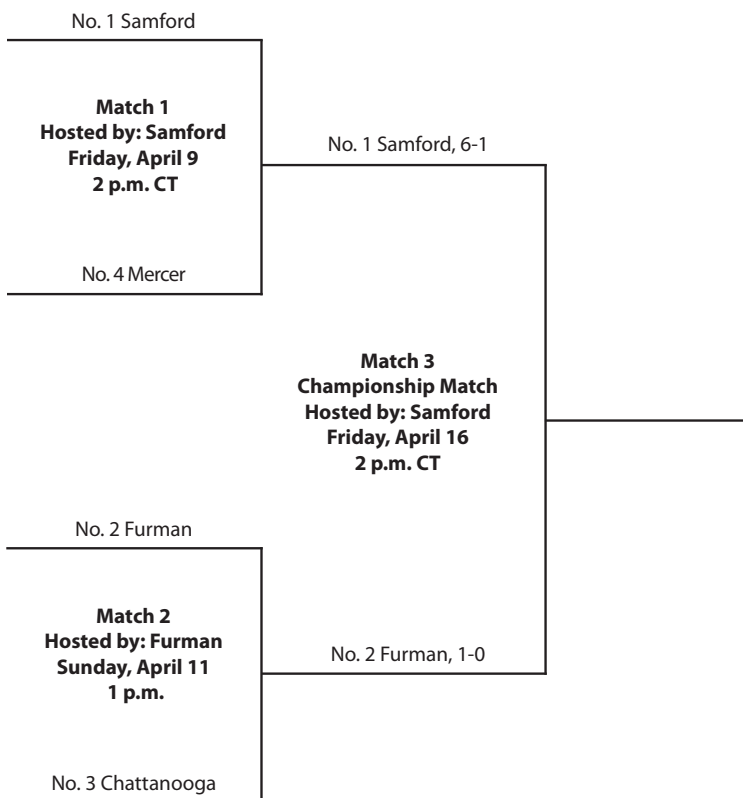
Furman and Chattanooga played 87 scoreless minutes on Sunday afternoon before the Paladins got a goal from redshirt sophomore forward Kyndal Anderson, her fourth of the year, on assists from Nieva Gaither, the SoCon Freshman of the Year, and Isabella Gutierrez, the SoCon Player of the Year. Anderson also netted the game-winner in the 2-0 regular-season victory against the Mocs, also on passes from Gaither and Gutierrez.

With 87:27 on the clock, Gaither, at the top of the 18 yard box, found Gutierrez on the left side of the goal, setting the junior midfielder up for a perfect pass to Anderson, who was crashing in for the goal from point-blank range.

Furman finished with 10 shots, four of which were on goal, while Chattanooga tallied 10 and three, respectively. Furman took six corner kicks to Chattanooga's three. The Paladins split goalkeepers as freshman Addison Corn, a SoCon all-freshman selection, started the first half and recorded a save, while sophomore Nora Sampson played the second half and tallied a pair of saves. Junior Ashton Shields played all 90 minutes in goal for the Mocs and recorded three saves in the loss.

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Campus Sites / April 9/10 & 16/17, 2021



Note: All times Eastern unless otherwise noted.



## SoCon vs. Other Conferences

**Overall: 9-14-4**

### Atlantic Coast (0-2-1)

Sept. 24 #12 Pittsburgh 2, The Citadel 1 (OT)  
 Sept. 27 #12 Pittsburgh 1, The Citadel 0  
 Feb. 24 NC State 0, UNCG 0 (2OT)

### Atlantic Sun (2-3)

Feb. 19 The Citadel 1, Jacksonville 0  
 Feb. 21 Lipscomb 2, ETSU 1  
 Feb. 21 Mercer 1, Kennesaw State 0  
 Feb. 23 North Florida 2, The Citadel 1  
 Feb. 25 Liberty 1, Western Carolina 0

### Atlantic 10 (0-1-1)

Feb. 21 Davidson 1, Western Carolina 0  
 Feb. 28 VMI 1, Davidson 1 (2OT)

### Big South (0-1)

Feb. 13 High Point 2, UNCG 10

### Capital Athletic Conference - DIII (1-0)

Feb. 23 VMI 5, Southern Virginia 0

### Conference Carolinas - DII (1-0)

Oct. 3 The Citadel 1, Belmont Abbey 0

### Conference-USA (1-2-1)

Oct. 17 UAB 2, Mercer 1  
 Feb. 13 Marshall 2, ETSU 1 (OT)  
 Feb. 17 Western Carolina 1, Charlotte 0 (OT)  
 Feb. 18 Samford 1, UAB 1 (2OT)

### South Atlantic Conference - DII (1-0)

Feb. 14 The Citadel 4, Anderson 1

### Southeastern Conference (0-1)

Feb. 25 Ole Miss 1, Samford 0

### Sun Belt (2-4-1)

Sept. 11 Georgia State 2, Mercer 1 (OT)  
 Sept. 14 The Citadel 2, Georgia Southern 1  
 Sept. 24 Mercer 1, Georgia Southern 0  
 Oct. 1 The Citadel 0, App State 0 (2OT)\*  
 Oct. 15 Georgia State 2, Mercer 1  
 Oct. 16 The Citadel 3, Georgia Southern 0  
 Feb. 28 Troy 1, Mercer 0 (OT)

### USA South - DIII (1-0)

Feb. 11 Mercer 13, Wesleyan 0

Home team underlined

\* neutral site

## Active Career Leaders

### Points

- 58 Logan Dix, Sr., CIT
- 57 Chloe Arnold, Sr., UTC
- 50 Abigail Zoeller, Sr., MER
- 43 Ally Fordham, Sr., MER
- 41 Isabella Gutierrez, Jr., FUR

### Goals

- 25 Logan Dix, Sr., CIT
- 25 Chloe Arnold, Sr., UTC
- 20 Ally Fordham, Sr., MER
- 16 Sarah Connolly, Sr., ETSU
- 16 Isabella Gutierrez, Jr., FUR

### Assists

- 20 Abigail Zoeller, Jr., MER
- 16 Alyssa Frazier, Sr., SAM
- 13 Suzuka Yosue, So., CIT
- 10 Sarah Adcock, Sr., MER
- 10 Hannah Roth, Sr., CIT
- 10 Jasmine Greene, So., FUR
- 10 Ellie Laxer, Sr., FUR

### Game-Winning Goals

- 9 Ally Fordham, Sr., MER
- 8 Isabella Gutierrez, Jr., FUR
- 8 Chloe Arnold, Sr., UTC
- 6 Logan Dix, Sr., CIT
- 6 Caroline Orman, Sr., SAM

### Goals Against Average (Min. 2000 Minutes)

- 0.70 Morgan McAslan, Jr., SAM
- 0.87 Ashton Shields, Jr., UTC
- 0.97 Aiyannah Tyler-Cooper, Sr., UNCG
- 1.20 Jordyn Ebert, Sr., MER
- 1.65 Natalia Icen, Sr., Western Carolina

### Saves

- 359 Jordyn Ebert, Sr., MER
- 257 Maria Mon, Jr., WOF
- 255 Aiyannah Tyler-Cooper, Sr., UNCG
- 138 Ashton Shields, Jr., UTC
- 121 Morgan McAslan, Jr., SAM

### Wins

- 32 Jordyn Ebert, Sr., MER
- 27 Aiyannah Tyler-Cooper, Sr., UNCG
- 21 Morgan McAslan, Jr., SAM
- 15 Ashton Shields, Jr., UTC
- 11 Abby Buchholz, So., UNCG
- 11 Maria Mon, Jr., WOF

### Shutouts

- 18 Aiyannah Tyler-Cooper, Sr., UNCG
- 15 Jordyn Ebert, Sr., MER
- 14 Morgan McAslan, Jr., SAM
- 14 Ashton Shields, Jr., UTC
- 8 Melody Mezzina, So., WCU

### Saves Per Game (Min. 10 Games)

- 6.12 Maria Mon, Jr., WOF
- 4.87 Noelle Heilpern, So., VMI
- 4.55 Aiyannah Tyler-Cooper, Sr., UNCG
- 4.54 Jordyn Ebert, Sr., MER
- 4.18 Ashton Shields, Jr., UTC

## All-Time Records in SoCon Play

Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
The Citadel	20th	26-135-8	.178
ETSU	24th	41-85-11	.339
Furman	27th	177-53-22	.746
Mercer	7th	36-20-6	.629
UNCG	24th	172-45-16	.773
Samford	13th	98-13-17	.832
Chattanooga	25th	58-161-22	.286
VMI	7th	12-47-4	.222
Western Carolina	22nd	100-96-22	.509
Wofford	24th	74-128-31	.384

## SoCon 100th Anniversary

The SoCon is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021. The fifth-oldest NCAA Division I college athletic association, the SoCon contested the first-ever collegiate conference basketball tournament in 1921, tackled freshman eligibility in 1922, became the first conference to adopt the 3-point field goal in basketball in 1980 and developed women's championships in 1984.



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## Furman's Gutierrez named SoCon Women's Soccer Player of the Year

### *Chattanooga's McKinney selected Coach of the Year*

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** – Furman midfielder Isabella Gutierrez has been named the Southern Conference Player of the Year. Chattanooga defender Maggie Shaw was named the Defensive Player of the Year and the Mocs' head coach, Gavin McKinney, was named SoCon Coach of the Year after his squad compiled a 6-2-1 conference record and finished third in the standings, the highest finish in program history. Furman's Nieva Gaither, a midfielder, was tabbed freshman of the year.

The league coaches voted on a pair of all-conference teams, an all-freshman team and the four individual awards. They were not allowed to vote for themselves or their own players. The first team includes 12 players due to a tie in the voting while the second features 11, both voted on by position. The all-freshman team also consists of 11 players but gives no regard to position.

Samford leads the way with six players on the all-conference teams, with Furman and Mercer closely behind with five each. Chattanooga totaled three all-conference selections, while Wofford placed two and The Citadel and UNC Greensboro had one all-conference selection apiece.

Gutierrez finished conference play tied for second in the league in points (10) and points per game (1.25) and was in second in goals (four), and goals per game (0.50). The junior from Statesboro, Georgia, was named the Southern Conference Offensive Player of the Week on March 9 and was honored as the March Offensive Player of the Month. Gutierrez, the first Furman player to be named Player of the Year since 2014, is the seventh Furman player to be honored and the ninth overall recognition for the Paladins as Emily Turgeon and Stephanie DeVita each won the award twice.

Shaw anchored the backline for Chattanooga, leading the Mocs to five shutouts, second-most amongst league teams, and 0.53 goals against average, third in the league. The junior from Columbia, South Carolina, played and started in nine games for the Mocs, who earned a spot in the SoCon tournament semifinals for the first time in program history.

Gaither made a big impact in the Furman lineup, starting all eight games for the Paladins and netting two goals for the squad that is 6-0-2 entering the SoCon semifinals as the No. 2 seed. Her four assists lead the Paladins and are tied for fourth in the conference. The Lilburn, Georgia, native is the SoCon-leading 10th freshman of the year for the Paladins and the second in a row after Jasmine Greene became the first since 2013 when she was honored a season ago.

McKinney, who is in his sixth season as the leader of the Mocs, was named Southern Conference Coach of the Year for the first time in his career. He's just the second coach from Chattanooga to be awarded the honor, joining J.D. Kyzer in 2003. Chattanooga, the No. 3 seed in the SoCon Championship, was one of just two league teams to keep regular-season champion Samford out of the win column this season, as it played to a scoreless draw with the Bulldogs to open league play.

Samford placed a league-best five players on the first team. Forward Taylor Yount, a second-team selection a year ago, was top-5 in league contests in shots and shots per game while adding three goals. Midfielder Alyssa Frazier, defender Lexi Orman, and goalkeeper Morgan McAslan earned spots on the first team for the second consecutive year and are joined by defender Kylie Gazza. Frazier had three assists and two game-winning goals for the Bulldogs, who won at least a share of the regular-season championship for the seventh straight season, while Orman and Gazza anchored the Samford backline and aided McAslan, who led the league in shutouts in conference play, amassing six solo and another combined in just nine games. McAslan, a native of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, had a league-best 0.22 goals against average in conference play and a .909 save percentage. She was named the SoCon Defensive Player of the Week on March 16 and the March Defensive Player of the Month.

Furman forward Greene, a first-team selection for the second straight season, and midfielder Miya Poplin join Gutierrez on the all-conference first team. Gaither earned a spot on the second team at midfielder and was joined by defender Faith Hauberg. In conference contests, Gaither was fourth in the league in points (eight) and points per game (1.00).

Mercer defender Brie Pavol was the lone first-team selection for the Bears, who placed a league-best four on the second team. Forwards Ally Fordham and Aliah Kitchens were joined by midfielder Ciara Whitely and goalkeeper Jordyn Ebert. Fordham led the league in goals (five) and goals per game (0.62) in conference contests and tied for second with Gutierrez in both points (10) and points per game (1.25). Four of her goals were game-winners, also a league best. Pavol helped anchor the Mercer defense, providing support for Ebert who led the league in saves (48) and saves per game (6.00) in conference action.

Shaw was the lone first-team all-conference selection for Chattanooga, who placed forward Chloe Arnold and defender Lauren Dluzewski on the second team. Arnold amassed seven points in the Mocs' nine conference games and led the team with four goals and nine points overall.

Wofford had two second-team selections, placing forward Rachel Rasins and midfielder Katie Gilligan on the squad. Rasins netted two goals and two assists in eight games played, while Gilligan added three assists for the Terriers.

The Citadel forward Suzuka Yosue, a second-team selection a year ago, was The Citadel's lone selection, claiming a spot on the first team and becoming the first Bulldog to earn first-team honors since midfielder Mariana Garcia in 2012. UNCG defender Ashley Avelino was honored on the second team.

Furman placed three student-athletes on the all-freshman team, while Chattanooga and Wofford both added a pair. ETSU, Mercer, Samford and Western Carolina each placed one.

No. 1 Samford hosts No. 4 Mercer on Friday, April 9, at 2 p.m. CT, while No. 2 Furman hosts No. 3 Chattanooga on Saturday, April 10, at 7 p.m. ET in the SoCon Women's Soccer Championship semifinals. Both contests will air on ESPN+. The championship match, hosted by the highest remaining seed on April 16 or April 17, will also air on ESPN+.

<b>Player of the Year –</b>	<b>2020-21 All-Conference First Team</b>	<b>2020-21 All-Conference Second Team</b>	<b>2020-21 All-Freshman Team</b>
Isabella Gutierrez, Jr., MF, Furman	F – Suzuka Yosue, The Citadel F – Jasmine Greene, Furman F – Taylor Yount, Samford	F – Ally Fordham, Mercer F – Aliah Kitchens, Mercer F – Caroline Orman, Samford	Sinoxolo Cesane, ETSU Addison Corn, Furman Nieva Gaither, Furman
<b>Defensive Player of the Year –</b>	M – Isabella Gutierrez, Furman M – Miya Poplin, Furman M – Alyssa Frazier, Samford	F – Chloe Arnold, Chattanooga F – Rachel Rasins, Wofford M – Nieva Gaither, Furman	Miya Poplin, Furman Kendall Cook, Mercer Ella Simpson, Samford
Maggie Shaw, Jr., D, Chattanooga	D – Brie Pavol, Mercer D – Kylie Gazza, Samford D – Lexi Orman, Samford	M – Ciara Whitely, Mercer M – Katie Gilligan, Wofford D – Faith Hauberg, Furman	Kendra Mueller, Chattanooga Ao Yamada, Chattanooga Maggie Lloyd, Western Carolina
<b>Coach of the Year –</b>	D – Maggie Shaw, Chattanooga GK – Morgan McAslan, Samford	D – Ashley Avelino, UNCG D – Lauren Dluzewski, Chattanooga GK – Jordyn Ebert, Mercer	Mia Bookhard, Wofford Olivia Hughes, Wofford
Gavin McKinney, Chattanooga			
<b>Freshman of the Year –</b>			
Nieva Gaither, MF, Furman			

# PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE

## SAMFORD PREDICTED TO WIN WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** – For the fifth time in the last six seasons, Samford is the preseason favorite to win the Southern Conference women's soccer title in voting of the league's 10 head coaches. The Bulldogs edged Furman 1-0 in the 2019 Southern Conference Championship to claim their third tournament title and first since 2016.

The coaches also selected a 12-member preseason all-conference team, which features an extra player due to a tie in the voting. Samford picked up a league-best four selections, while Furman claimed three, Mercer claimed two, and The Citadel, UNCG and Chattanooga each placed one on the team.

Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams or players in the balloting.

Samford, which garnered seven first-place votes, finished with 79 points. Furman, which played in the championship each of the last two seasons, was second with 74 points, earning the remaining three first-place votes. UNC Greensboro, the 2017 and 2018 SoCon tournament champion, was picked third with 63 points, while Mercer had 53 points to finish fourth. The middle of the poll was tightly packed as Chattanooga (46), Western Carolina (41) and The Citadel (39) were separated by just seven total points and were picked fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively. ETSU was picked eighth with 26 points to edge Wofford (19) by seven points, while VMI rounded out the poll with 10 points.

Samford went 13-4-5 overall last season and 7-1-1 in league play, tying Furman for the top spot in the regular season. The Bulldogs return seven starters from that squad, including four preseason all-conference selections - forward Taylor Yount, midfielder Alyssa Frazier, defender Lexi Orman and goalkeeper Morgan McAslan - all of which were all honored on the 2019 all-conference first team. Yount tied for the league lead in goals (10) and was second in the league in shots (60), points (22) and points per game (1.0) in 2019, while Frazier finished second in assists (nine) and third in assists per game (0.41). McAslan, a junior, boasted a league-best 0.87 goals against average, led the league in solo shutouts (eight) and was also in the top three in both saves (94) and save percentage.

Furman put forward Jasmine Greene, midfielder Isabella Gutierrez and defender Faith Hauberg on the preseason all-conference team. The Paladins went 14-6-1 overall and 7-1-1 in 2019. Greene, the 2019 SoCon Freshman of the Year, and Gutierrez were both first-team all-conference picks last season.

UNCG finished the 2019 campaign 10-8-2 overall and 7-2 in SoCon play, tying for third in the league standings and earning a spot in the SoCon semifinals. Defender Kayla Campbell, a second-team all-conference performer a season ago, represents the Spartans on the preseason all-conference team.

Mercer, which also made an appearance in the tournament semifinals last season after amassing a 16-4 record and finishing 7-2 in league action, put forward Nicole Icen, the 2019 SoCon Player of the Year, and midfielder Ciara Whitely, a 2019 second team all-conference pick, on the preseason all-conference squad. Icen led the league in points (23), points per game (1.28) and goals per game (0.56) and tied for the league lead in total goals (10).

Chattanooga defender Maggie Shaw and The Citadel forward Suzuka Yosue, a second-team all-conference selection a season ago, round out the preseason squad.

The 2021 spring regular season begins on Sunday, Feb. 7, as Mercer and UNCG are in action. ETSU's season begins on Feb. 12, while The Citadel gets underway two days later. Samford, VMI and Western Carolina kick off on Feb. 18 and Chattanooga begins on Feb. 26. Furman begins on Feb. 28, while Wofford is scheduled to play only conference contests, which are set to begin on Friday, March 5.

The SoCon Women's Soccer Championship will feature just the top four seeds as part of the league's cost-cutting initiative. The semifinals, hosted by the highest seeds, will be contested on April 9 or 10 with the finals, hosted by the highest remaining seed, scheduled for April 16 or 17.

### 2020-21 Preseason Coaches' Poll

1. Samford (7)	79
2. Furman (3)	74
3. UNCG	63
4. Mercer	53
5. Chattanooga	46
6. Western Carolina	41
7. The Citadel	39
8. ETSU	26
9. Wofford	19
10. VMI	10

() denotes first-place votes

### 2020-21 Preseason All-Conference Team

F	Suzuka Yosue, The Citadel
F	Jasmine Greene, Furman
F	Nicole Icen, Mercer
F	Taylor Yount, Samford
MF	Isabella Gutierrez, Furman
MF	Ciara Whitely, Mercer
MF	Alyssa Frazier, Samford
D	Faith Hauberg, Furman
D	Kayla Campbell, UNCG
D	Lexi Orman, Samford
D	Maggie Shaw, Chattanooga
GK	Morgan McAslan, Samford

# SoCON OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Feb. 23	..... Kendall Cook, F/M, Fr., Mercer
March 2	..... Chloe Arnold, F, Sr., Chattanooga
March 9	..... Isabella Gutierrez, F, Jr., Furman
March 16	..... Kendall Mueller, F, R-Fr., Chattanooga
March 23	..... Nieva Gaither, F, Fr., Furman
March 30	..... Rea Syska, MF, So., Western Carolina
April 6	..... Kylie Gazza, D, So., Samford

# SoCON DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Feb. 23	..... Melody Mezzina, GK, So., WCU
March 2	..... Aiyanah Tyler-Cooper, GK, Sr, UNCG
March 9	..... Ashton Shields, GK, Jr., Chattanooga
March 16	..... Morgan McAslan, GK, Jr., Samford
March 23	..... Addison Corn, GK, Fr., Furman
March 30	..... Maggie Shaw, D, Jr., Chattanooga
April 6	..... Maria Mon, GK, Jr., Wofford

# SoCON PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

## February

Offensive.....	Kendall Cook, F/M, Fr., Mercer
Defensive.....	Melody Mezzina, GK, So., WCU

## March

Offensive.....	Isabella Gutierrez, F, Jr., Furman
Defensive.....	Morgan McAslan, GK, Jr., Samford



### The Citadel

(7-9-3, 1-6-1 SoCon)

S14	at Georgia Southern.....	W, 2-1
S17	MERCER.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
S24	#12 PITTSBURGH.....	L, 1-2 (OT)
S27	#12 PITTSBURGH.....	L, 0-1
O1	vs. Appalachian State.....	T, 0-0 (2OT)
O3	at Belmont Abbey.....	W, 1-0
O10	at Mercer.....	W, 3-2
O16	GEORGIA SOUTHERN.....	W, 3-0
F14	at Anderson.....	W, 4-1
F19	JACKSONVILLE.....	W, 1-0
F23	NORTH FLORIDA.....	L, 1-2
M5	*at Wofford.....	L, 0-2
M7	*at Furman.....	L, 0-1
M12	*MERCER.....	L, 1-2 (OT)
M19	*VMI.....	W, 3-0
M21	*UNCG.....	L, 1-3
M26	*at Chattanooga.....	L, 0-1
M28	*at Samford.....	L, 0-3
A1	*ETSU.....	CANC.
A3	*WESTERN CAROLINA.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)



### ETSU

(1-6-1, 1-4-1 SoCon)

F13	MARSHALL.....	L, 1-2 (OT)
F21	LIPSCOMB.....	L, 1-2
M5	*UNCG.....	W, 2-1
M7	*VMI.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
M12	*at Chattanooga.....	L, 1-2 (2OT)
M14	*at Samford.....	L, 0-5
M19	*at Western Carolina.....	L, 0-3
M26	*WOFFORD.....	L, 0-1
M28	*FURMAN.....	CANC.
A1	*at The Citadel.....	CANC.
A3	*at Mercer.....	CANC.



### Furman

(7-0-2, 6-0-2 SoCon)

M5	*MERCER.....	W, 2-1 (2OT)
M7	*THE CITADEL.....	W, 1-0
M12	*at VMI.....	W, 2-0
M14	*at UNCG.....	W, 1-0
M19	*CHATTANOOGA.....	W, 2-0
M21	*SAMFORD.....	T, 1-1
M26	*at Western Carolina.....	W, 3-1
M28	*at ETSU.....	CANC.
A2	*at Wofford.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
A11	^vs. No. 3 Chattanooga.....	W, 1-0
A16	^vs. No. 1 Samford.....	2 p.m. CT

^ SoCon Tournament (Greenville, S.C./Birmingham, Ala.)



### Mercer

(8-10-1, 5-3-0 SoCon)

S11	GEORGIA STATE.....	L, 1-2 (OT)
S17	at The Citadel.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
S24	at Georgia Southern.....	W, 1-0
O9	THE CITADEL.....	L, 2-3
O15	at Georgia State.....	L, 1-2
O17	UAB.....	L, 1-2
F7	at UAB.....	L, 1-2
F11	WESLEYAN.....	W, 13-0
F21	KENNESAW STATE.....	W, 1-0
F28	TROY.....	L, 0-1 (OT)
M5	*at Furman.....	L, 1-2 (2OT)
M7	*at Wofford.....	W, 2-1 (OT)
M12	*at The Citadel.....	W, 2-1 (OT)
M19	*UNCG.....	W, 1-0
M21	*VMI.....	W, 3-1
M26	*at Samford.....	L, 1-2
M28	*at Chattanooga.....	L, 0-1
A1	*WESTERN CAROLINA.....	W, 3-1
A3	*ETSU.....	CANC.
A9	^vs. No. 1 Samford.....	L, 1-6

^ SoCon Tournament (Birmingham, Ala.)



### UNCG

(4-5-2, 4-4-1 SoCon)

F7	UNCW.....	PPD
F13	at High Point.....	L, 0-2
F24	at NC State.....	T, 0-0 (2OT)
F27	at Elon.....	PPD
M5	*at ETSU.....	L, 1-2
M7	*at Western Carolina.....	W, 2-0
M12	*WOFFORD.....	T, 0-0 (2OT)
M14	*FURMAN.....	L, 0-1
M19	*at Mercer.....	L, 0-1
M21	*at The Citadel.....	W, 3-1
M28	*at VMI.....	W, 1-0
A1	*CHATTANOOGA.....	W, 1-0
A3	*SAMFORD.....	L, 0-2



### Samford

(8-1-3, 7-0-2 SoCon)

F18	UAB (ESPN+).....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
F25	at Ole Miss.....	L, 0-1
M5	*at Chattanooga.....	T, 0-0 (2OT)
M12	*WESTERN CAROLINA.....	W, 3-0
M14	*ETSU.....	W, 5-0
M19	*at Wofford.....	W, 2-0
M21	*at Furman.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
M26	*MERCER.....	W, 2-1
M28	*THE CITADEL.....	W, 3-0
A1	*at VMI.....	W, 2-0
A3	*at UNCG.....	W, 2-0
A9	^vs. No. 4 Mercer.....	W, 6-1
A11	^vs. No. 2 Furman.....	2 p.m. CT

^ SoCon Tournament (Birmingham, Ala.)





**Chattanooga**  
(7-3-1, 6-1-1 SoCon)

F26	NORTH ALABAMA.....	W, 2-0
M5	*SAMFORD.....	T, 0-0 (2OT)
M12	*ETSU.....	W, 2-1 (2OT)
M14	*WESTERN CAROLINA.....	W, 2-1
M19	*at Furman.....	L, 0-2
M21	*at Wofford.....	W, 1-0
M26	*THE CITADEL.....	W, 1-0
M28	*MERCER.....	W, 1-0
A1	*at UNCG.....	L, 0-1
A3	*at VMI.....	W, 2-0
A11	^vs. No. 2 Furman.....	L, 0-1

^ SoCon Tournament (Greenville, S.C.)



**VMI**  
(1-8-2, 0-8-1 SoCon)

F23	at Southern Virginia.....	W, 5-0
F28	at Davidson.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
M5	*at Western Carolina.....	L, 0-3
M7	*at ETSU.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)
M12	*FURMAN.....	L, 0-2
M14	*WOFFORD.....	L, 2-4
M19	*at The Citadel.....	L, 0-3
M21	*at Mercer.....	L, 1-3
M28	*UNCG.....	L, 0-1
A1	*SAMFORD.....	L, 0-2
A3	*CHATTANOOGA.....	L, 0-2



**Western Carolina**  
(4-7-1, 3-5-1 SoCon)

F18	CHARLOTTE.....	W, 1-0 (OT)
F21	DAVIDSON.....	L, 0-1
F25	at Liberty.....	L, 0-1
M5	*VMI.....	W, 3-0
M7	*UNCG.....	L, 0-2
M12	*at Samford.....	L, 0-3
M14	*at Chattanooga.....	L, 1-2
M19	*ETSU.....	W, 3-0
M26	*FURMAN.....	L, 1-3
M28	*WOFFORD.....	W, 3-1
A1	*at Mercer.....	L, 1-3
A3	*at The Citadel.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)



**Wofford**  
(3-4-2, 3-4-2 SoCon)

M5	*THE CITADEL.....	W, 2-0
M7	*MERCER.....	L, 1-2 (OT)
M12	*at UNCG.....	T, 0-0 (2OT)
M14	*at VMI.....	W, 4-2
M19	*SAMFORD.....	L, 0-2
M21	*CHATTANOOGA.....	L, 0-1
M26	*at ETSU.....	W, 1-0
M28	*at Western Carolina.....	L, 1-3
A2	*FURMAN.....	T, 1-1 (2OT)