

SOCON SOUTHERN CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL

2024

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2024 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE					OVERALL					ST
	W-L	Pct.	H	A	ST	W-L	Pct.	H	A	N	
The Citadel	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
ETSU	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Furman	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Mercer	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
UNCG	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Samford	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Chattanooga	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Western Carolina	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Wofford	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	--	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	--

NOTES

• The 41st season of Southern Conference volleyball gets underway on Friday with 12 games on the schedule and all nine teams in action.

• The Citadel was picked to win the 2024 SoCon volleyball title in preseason voting by the league's nine head coaches. The Bulldogs went 14-2 in conference play in 2023.

• The league has one new head coach in 2024, but it is a familiar face. Lindsey Devine returns to ETSU after leading the Bucs from 2003-2018. She spent three seasons as the head coach at Alabama from 2019-2021.

• The reigning SoCon Player of the Year Ali Ruffin and SoCon Setter of the Year Belle Hogan are back to lead The Citadel. Both were on the preseason all-conference team and were joined by Jenna Forster (ETSU), Mary Beth Headley (Furman), Skyler Bumpers (Mercer), Gracie Lynn Butler and Kaleigh Meritt (Samford) and Paige Gallentine (Chattanooga).

• Furman and UNCG both host tournaments on the opening weekend.

• Conference play starts Wednesday, Sept. 25 with a match between Western Carolina and The Citadel. The rest of the league will begin on Sept. 26 or 27. All nine teams play the other eight twice throughout the year, with the regular season concluding on Nov. 16.

• The 2024 #SoConVB Championship will take place Nov. 21-24 at Harrah's Cherokee Center - Asheville. The tournament will feature all nine league teams and serve as the first fully neutral volleyball championship in conference history.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE (all times Eastern)

Aug. 30 (Friday)	TV/Digital	Time
UT Martin vs. The Citadel		11 a.m.
Charleston Southern at Furman		Noon
Robert Morris at UNCG	YouTube	1 p.m.
Wofford vs. Georgia Southern		2:30 p.m.
Western Carolina vs. Charleston		3 p.m.
Marshall vs. ETSU		4 p.m.
Quinnipiac vs. Mercer	ESPN+	4 p.m.
Wofford vs. North Alabama		5:30 p.m.
UTRGV at Furman		6:30 p.m.
Missouri State at UNCG		7 p.m.
Mississippi State vs. Samford		7 p.m.
SIU vs. Chattanooga	YouTube	7 p.m.
The Citadel at Alabama	ESPN+	8 p.m.
Aug. 31 (Saturday)	TV/Digital	Time
Elon vs. ETSU		10 a.m.
Oral Roberts vs. Chattanooga	SEC Network	10 a.m.
The Citadel vs. Grambling		11 a.m.
Rhode Island vs. Mercer		Noon
Charlotte at Furman		1 p.m.
Wofford at Auburn		2 p.m.
USC Upstate at UNCG	ACC Network	2 p.m.
Western Carolina vs. Cleveland State	SEC Network	3 p.m.
Idaho vs. Chattanooga	ESPN+	4 p.m.
Alcorn State vs. Samford	ESPN+	5 p.m.
ETSU at Davidson	ESPN+	5 p.m.
Mercer at North Florida	ESPN+	7 p.m.
Sept. 1 (Sunday)	TV/Digital	Time
Chattanooga vs. Alabama A&M	ESPN+	1 p.m.
Western Carolina at North Carolina	ESPN+	2 p.m.

COACHING RECORDS

Coach, School	Years	School (Pct.)	SoCon (Pct.)	Career (Pct.)
Dave Zelenock, The Citadel	7th/12th	84-85 (.497)	40-56 (.404)	125-193 (.393)
Lindsey Devine, ETSU	17th/20th	292-218 (.573)	60-20 (.750)	321-270 (.543)
Michelle Young, Furman	25th/25th	406-315 (.563)	252-154 (.621)	406-315 (.563)
Chad Sutton, Mercer	2nd/2nd	16-12 (.571)	12-4 (.714)	16-12 (.571)
Felicia Turner, UNCG	2nd/2nd	1-27 (.036)	0-16 (.000)	1-27 (.036)
Keylor Chan, Samford	9th/26th	138-103 (.573)	85-43 (.667)	392-379 (.508)
Julie Torbett Thomas, Chattanooga	3rd/31st	36-30 (.545)	16-16 (.500)	504-434 (.537)
Karen Glover, Western Carolina	14th/17th	171-216 (.443)	98-110 (.473)	247-275 (.473)
Lynze Roos, Wofford	10th/19th	150-118 (.560)	79-65 (.542)	314-237 (.570)



ACTIVE CAREER LEADERS

Kills

1247 - Ali Ruffin, CIT
 878 - Gracie Lynn Butler, SAM
 837 - Bailey Hartsough, WCU
 776 - Jenna Forster, ETSU
 611 - Brianna Cantrell, ETSU

Kills Per Game (min. 225 games)

3.85 - Ali Ruffin, CIT
 3.24 - Gracie Lynn Butler, SAM
 2.87 - Bailey Hartsough, WCU
 2.37 - Jenna Forster, ETSU
 2.01 - Sarah MacLean, WOF

Assists

3153 - Belle Hogan, CIT
 1874 - Elaine Redman, UTC
 1695 - Kiera McCarles, MER
 1629 - Sarah Janourova, WCU
 1449 - Ella Abraham, FUR

Assists Per Game (min. 10)

9.92 - Belle Hogan, CIT
 5.01 - Ella Abraham, FUR
 5.01 - Sarah Janourova, WCU
 0.82 - Paige Gallentine, UTC
 0.59 - Kate Morgan, SAM

Service Aces

116 - Kate Morgan, SAM
 113 - Ali Ruffin, CIT
 100 - Paige Gallentine, UTC
 92 - Belle Hogan, CIT
 80 - Bailey Hartsough, WCU

Total Blocks

265 - Kate Wonus, SAM
 209 - Marcelle Baez-Carlo, UTC
 194 - Grainne McGrath, FUR

Digs

2,069 - Paige Gallentine, UTC
 1,337 - Kate Morgan, SAM
 1,044 - Ali Ruffin, CIT
 991 - Jaelynn Elgert, CIT
 753 - Sarah Janourova, WCU

SoCON vs. OTHER CONFERENCES

Overall: 0-0

SoCON HISTORY

The SoCon is celebrating its 103rd anniversary in 2024. 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.

ALL-TIME RECORDS IN SoCON PLAY

Team	Years	W-L	Pct.
The Citadel	25th	54-341	.137
ETSU	31st	260-181	.590
Furman	40th	347-224	.608
Mercer	10th	78-82	.488
UNCG	27th	183-271	.403
Samford	16th	170-70	.708
Chattanooga	40th	278-295	.485
Western Carolina	40th	270-306	.469
Wofford	27th	158-287	.355

AVCA COACHES TOP 25

Preseason Poll - Aug. 19

School (1st)	PTS	Record	Prev
1. Texas (46)	1503	0-0	NR
2. Nebraska (15)	1474	0-0	NR
3. Wisconsin	1391	0-0	NR
4. Pittsburgh	1338	0-0	NR
5. Stanford	1228	0-0	NR
6. Louisville	1221	0-0	NR
7. Penn State	1005	0-0	NR
8. Purdue	986	0-0	NR
9. Kentucky	963	0-0	NR
10. Oregon	943	0-0	NR
11. Florida	870	0-0	NR
12. Creighton	811	0-0	NR
13. Kansas	691	0-0	NR
14. Georgia Tech	665	0-0	NR
15. Tennessee	650	0-0	NR
16. BYU	547	0-0	NR
17. Arizona State	430	0-0	NR
18. Minnesota	358	0-0	NR
19. Arkansas	334	0-0	NR
20. Florida State	309	0-0	NR
21. Southern California	300	0-0	NR
22. Dayton	269	0-0	NR
23. Baylor	244	0-0	NR
24. Marquette	233	0-0	NR
25. Georgia	187	0-0	NR



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THE CITADEL TABBED AS PRESEASON SOCON VOLLEYBALL FAVORITE

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The Citadel was picked as the favorite to win the 2024 Southern Conference volleyball title in preseason voting by the league’s nine head coaches. The coaches also selected an eight-member preseason all-conference team.

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

The Citadel, the defending SoCon regular-season champion, received four first-place votes and 58 points to claim the top spot in the preseason poll. Samford collected one first-place vote and 53 points to finish second in the poll. Mercer also claimed a first-place vote along with 47 points, taking the third spot in the poll. Furman’s 43 points and one first-place vote placed the Paladins in fourth. Wofford, the defending SoCon Tournament champion, which was the first women’s tournament title in school history, finished in fifth place with 36 points and a first-place vote. ETSU received the final first-place vote and 30 points, claiming sixth place in the process. Chattanooga followed in seventh with 27 points and Western Carolina was eighth with 21 points. UNCG rounded out the poll with nine points.

The Citadel Bulldogs are coming off a 27-4 overall record, including winning their first 23 matches, and a 14-2 mark in SoCon play in 2023, concluding their season with an appearance in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC). The Citadel is under the direction of the reigning SoCon Coach of the Year Dave Zelenock, who is the program’s winningest head coach, and will be led by the preseason all-conference selections Ali Ruffin and Belle Hogan. In 2023, Ruffin was the SoCon Player of the Year and Hogan was the SoCon Setter of the Year as both were first-team all-conference selections. Ruffin, a senior outside hitter, completed the 2023 season first in the conference in kills (529), a school record, and double-doubles (22). Hogan, a senior, finished her 2023 campaign with a school record of 1,266 assists, which led the league.

Samford finished as the conference tournament runner-up last season after going 16-15 overall and 9-7 in conference play a season ago, placed outside hitters Gracie Lynn Butler and Kaleigh Meritt on the preseason team. Both players were first-team all-conference selections in 2023. Butler, who was an all-tournament pick last season, was second in the conference in kills (469). Meritt, the reigning Rayna Taylor Freshman of the Year, was fifth in kills per set (3.39).

Mercer had a 12-4 mark in league play and a 16-12 overall record in 2023. The Bears put senior middle blocker Skyler Bumpers on the preseason team. Bumpers led the SoCon in hitting percentage (.370) in 2023. Furman completed the 2023 season with an 8-8 mark in SoCon play and 17-11 overall record. The Paladins’ outside hitter, Mary Beth Headley, made the preseason all-conference squad. Headley was in the top 10 in the conference in kills per set (3.05) and service aces (29).

ETSU right side Jenna Forster and Chattanooga libero Paige Gallentine rounded out the preseason all-conference team. Gallentine led the SoCon in total digs (624) and was third in service aces (42) in 2023.

The 2024 regular season begins on Friday, Aug. 30, with all nine teams in action.

The SoCon Volleyball Championship will be on Nov. 21-24 at Harrah’s Cherokee Center – Asheville in Asheville, North Carolina. The 2024 volleyball championship marks the first time in the conference’s history that the tournament will be hosted exclusively at a neutral location for all teams. A first-round match between the No. 8 and No. 9 seed will be played on Nov. 21, with the quarterfinals slated for Nov. 22. The semifinal matches will be held on Nov. 23 and the final is set to be played on Nov. 24.

2024 Preseason Coaches Poll

1. The Citadel (4)	58
2. Samford (1)	53
3. Mercer (1)	47
4. Furman (1)	43
5. Wofford (1)	36
6. ETSU (1)	30
7. Chattanooga	27
8. Western Carolina	21
9. UNCG	9

() denotes first-place votes

2024 Preseason All-Conference Team

Belle Hogan, The Citadel, Sr., S
Ali Ruffin, The Citadel, Sr., OH
Jenna Forster, ETSU, Gr., RS
Mary Beth Headley, Furman, Gr., OH
Skyler Bumpers, Mercer, Sr., MB
Gracie Lynn Butler, Samford, Sr., OH
Kaleigh Meritt, Samford, R-So., OH
Paige Gallentine, Chattanooga, Sr., LIB

