



SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MEN'S SOCCER 2020-21



702 North Pine Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303 • 864-591-5100 • Fax: 864-591-3448

Jasmine Washington, Media Relations Assistant (MSOC contact)

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2020-21 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MEN'S SOCCER STANDINGS

STANDINGS	CONFERENCE					OVERALL				
	W-L-T	Pts	GF	GA	ST	W-L-T	Pct	GF	GA	ST
Belmont	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	1-0-0	1.000	3	0	W1
Furman	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	1-0-0	1.000	3	0	W1
VMI	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	2-1-0	.667	4	7	W2
UNCG	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	1-1-0	.500	4	3	W1
Mercer	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	2-5-0	.286	7	10	W1
ETSU	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	0-3-0	.000	1	6	L3
Wofford	0-0-0	0	0	0	-	0-0-0	.000	0	0	-

NOTES

• The Belmont Bruins won the 2021 spring season opener against Bellarmine, 3-0. With Sunday's win over the Knights, Belmont has lost just one season opening match in the last six years. The Bruins also remain unbeaten in their last two season openers under head coach David Costa. The Bruins received a total of five points from their freshman class in their 2021 debut, which included two goals and an assist from the freshman midfielder duo of AJ Chastonay and Michael Saunders.

• ETSU dropped the Tuesday afternoon match to Marshall, 0-2. The two sides met in the 2019 season, also a home contest for the West Virginia side. The Herd defended their home field, edging the Bucs in a narrow 2-1 win.

• The Furman Paladins shutout South Carolina, 3-0, in their season opener. Freshman Jake Raine tallied the game-winning goal and added an assist in his first collegiate game. The squad will travel to Spartanburg, S.C. on Feb. 24 for the first road contest of the season.

• Mercer snapped its four-game losing skid with a shutout victory over Jacksonville on Sunday. Sophomore Dylan Gaither scored the Bears' lone goal of the game in the 70th minute and now leads the team in goals on the season (3). This week's SoCon Defensive Player of the Week Brant Zulauf recorded a three-save shutout in his first collegiate victory.

• VMI earned a pair of 2-1 wins this week over Southern Virginia and Marymount. The Keydets improve to 2-1 overall this season, which is the best start for the VMI men's soccer program since 2004.

• UNCG defeated Belmont Abbey, 4-1, on Feb. 17 in its 2021 home opener. Junior Fernando Garcia scored two goals in the Spartans' victory, marking his first career two-goal game.

• Wofford's Feb. 17 matchup against Winthrop was postponed. The Terriers will now open the season on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. against High Point. The game can be streamed on ESPN+.

• The 2020-21 SoCon Men's Soccer Championship is set to be contested on consecutive weekends in April. The top two seeds will host semifinal matches on either April 9 or 10, with the top remaining seed hosting the final on April 16 or 17.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

Feb. 24 (Wednesday)
UNCG at Gardner-Webb 6 p.m.
Wofford at High Point% 6 p.m.
Furman at USC Upstate% 7 p.m.

Feb. 25 (Thursday)
Central Arkansas at Belmont% 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 (Saturday)
Wofford at South Carolina 6 p.m.
VCU at ETSU% 7 p.m.

Feb. 28 (Sunday)
Elon at UNCG 6 p.m.

March 2 (Tuesday)
Lipscomb at Belmont 7 p.m.

%ESPN+

PLAYER OF THE WEEK RELEASE

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – Belmont's AJ Chastonay and Mercer's Brant Zulauf have been named the Southern Conference men's soccer offensive and defensive players of the week, respectively, for all competition from Feb. 16-22.

Freshman Chastonay earned player of the week honors for his first collegiate game after scoring a pair of goals in Belmont's 3-0 season opener on the road against Bellarmine. The Louisville, Kentucky, native score his first goal in the 56th minute, less than one minute after he was subbed into the game, and placed the Bruins on the board. He scored his second goal in the 80th minute to put Belmont up 2-0. Chastonay leads the conference with four points per game (four) and is tied for first in the NCAA Division I national rankings for goals per game (two).

Belmont hosts Central Arkansas at home on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. for the Bruins' home opener.

Mercer goalkeeper Zulauf earned his second career start in the Bears' lone game of the week at Jacksonville. The redshirt freshman played in all 90 minutes with three saves, leading to the Bears' 1-0 shutout. The game marks Zulauf's first career shutout and win. His seven saves on the season are the third-best in the conference.

The Bears travel to Birmingham, Alabama, on Feb. 28 for their last nonconference matchup against UAB at 6 p.m., before opening conference play on March 13 against UNCG.



SoCon PRESEASON POLL/TEAM

School (1st)	Pts.
1. Mercer (5)	34
2. Furman (1)	30
3. UNCG (1)	29
4. ETSU	17
5. Wofford	16
6. Belmont	15
7. VMI	6

Presason all-conference team Pos, Player, school

F	Trevor Martineau, Mercer
F	Niccolo Dagnoni, Belmont
F	Micah Albert, UNCG
MF	Kieran Richards, ETSU
MF	Adrian Roseth, Wofford
MF	Nelson Oceano, UNCG
D	Cole McLagan, Furman
D	Tommy Kay, Furman
D	Kareve Richards, Mercer
D	Buster Sjoberg, Wofford
GK	JR DeRose, Mercer

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE NEWS AND NOTES

SoCon PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

February

March

SoCon PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Feb. 16

Offense.....Dawson Gideon, F, Mercer
 Defense.....JR DeRose, GK, Mercer

Feb. 23

Offense..... AJ Chastonay, MF, Belmont
 Defense.....Brant Zuluaf, GK, Mercer

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

April 6

ACTIVE CAREER LEADERS

POINTS SCORED

- 67 Trevor Martineau, Jr., MER
- 41 Leo Toledo Jr., R-Sr., MER
- 39 Cole McLagan, R-Sr., FUR
- 34 Niccolo Dagnoni, Jr. BEL
- 24 Nelson Oceano, Sr., UNCG

GOALS

- 25 Trevor Martineau, Jr., MER
- 16 Cole McLagan, R-Sr., FUR
- 11 Leo Toledo Jr., R-Sr., MER
- 11 Niccolo Dagnoni, Jr. BEL
- 9 Micah Albert, Jr., UNCG

ASSISTS

- 20 Leo Toledo Jr., R-Sr., MER
- 17 Trevor Martineau, Jr., MER
- 16 Nelson Oceano, Sr., UNCG
- 12 Niccolo Dagnoni, Jr. BEL
- 7 Cole McLagan, R-Sr., FUR
- 7 Matthew Cutler, Jr., UNCG

GAME-WINNING GOALS

- 10 Trevor Martineau, Jr., MER
- 5 Leo Toledo Jr., R-Sr., MER
- 3 Cole McLagan, R-Sr., FUR
- 2 Seven players tied with two

SAVES (MIN. 1 GAME)

- 256 Broden Schull, Jr., VMI
- 158 JR DeRose, R-Sr., MER
- 133 Ben Hale, R-Sr., FUR
- 126 Josh Perryman, R-Jr. ETSU
- 116 Nicolo Dini, Sr., BEL

WINS

- 27 Ben Hale, R-Sr., FUR
- 26 JR DeRose, R-Sr., MER
- 15 Josh Perryman, R-Jr., ETSU
- 8 Brendan Pulley, So., UNCG
- 6 Nicolo Dini, Sr., BEL

SHUTOUTS

- 15 Ben Hale, R-Jr., FUR
- 11 JR DeRose, R-Sr., MER
- 7 Josh Perryman, R-So., ETSU
- 3 Brendan Pulley, So., UNCG
- 2 Nicolo Dini, Jr., BEL
- 2 Broden Schull, Jr., VMI
- 2 Cameron Petty, Jr., BEL

GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE (MIN. 2,000 MINUTES)

- 1.02 Ben Hale, R-Jr., FUR
- 1.23 Josh Perryman, R-So., ETSU
- 1.25 JR DeRose, R-Sr. MER

() indicates SoCon career rank

UNITED SOCCER COACHES TOP 25 POLL

School (1st)	Prev.
1. Clemson	8-2-1
2. Pittsburgh	7-1-0
3. Wake Forest	7-2-0
4. Virginia Tech	3-2-2
5. Coastal Carolina	6-1-1

*Final rankings from Fall 2020 season

NR=Not Ranked

RV=Recieved Votes

COACHES' RECORDS

COACH, SCHOOL	OVERALL (YRS.)	SCHOOL (YRS.)	SoCon (YRS.)
David Costa, Belmont	6-12-2 (2nd)	Same	1-4-1 (2nd)
David Casper, ETSU	17-18-3 (3rd)	Same	7-5-1 (3rd)
Doug Allison, Furman	310-144-56 (26th)	Same	135-51-21 (26th)
Brad Ruzzo, Mercer	117-102-26 (13th)	Same	32-16-4 (7th)
Chris Rich, UNCG	10-10-1 (2nd)	Same	5-1-0 (2nd)
Max Watson, VMI	2-1-0 (1st)	Same	0-0-0 (1st)
Joel Tyson, Wofford	4-13-1 (2nd)	Same	2-3-1 (2nd)

2020-21 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

The 2020-21 SoCon Men's Soccer Championship was postponed from the fall to the spring because of the coronavirus pandemic and will be contested on campus sites on consecutive weekends in April. The top two seeds will host semifinal matches on either April 9 or 10, with the top remaining seed hosting the final on April 16 or 17.

Semifinals

Friday, April 9 or Saturday April 10

M1: No. 1 seed vs. No. 4 seed

M2: No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed

Final

Friday, April 16 or Saturday, April 17

M3: Match 1 winner vs. Match 2 winner



SOCON VS. NONCONFERENCE

Atlantic Sun (2-2-0)

2/13 Lipscomb 2, ETSU 1
 2/13 North Florida 2, Mercer 1
 2/20 Belmont 3, Bellarmine 0
 2/21 Mercer 1, Jacksonville 0
 3/2 Lipscomb at Belmont 7 p.m.

Atlantic 10 (0-0-0)

2/14 Davidson at UNCG PPD
 2/27 VCU at ETSU 7 p.m.
 3/6 Wofford at Davidson 7 p.m.

Big East (0-1-0)

2/5 Xavier 2, ETSU 0

Big South (0-0-0)

2/14 USC Upstate at Wofford PPD
 2/14 Gardner-Webb 5, VMI 0
 2/24 UNCG at Gardner-Webb 6 p.m.
 2/24 Furman at USC Upstate 7 p.m.
 3/3 Furman at Gardner-Webb 6 p.m.
 3/3 VMI at Radford 7 p.m.
 3/10 Longwood at VMI 4 p.m.

Colonial (0-1-0)

2/6 UNCW 2, UNCG 0
 2/28 Elon at UNCG 6 p.m.

Conference USA (1-2-0)

10/10 South Carolina 1, Mercer 0
 10/14 Kentucky 3, Mercer 1
 2/21 Furman 3, South Carolina 0
 2/23 ETSU at Marshall 2 p.m.
 2/27 Wofford at South Carolina 6 p.m.

Sun Belt (1-2-0)

9/18 Georgia State 2, Mercer 1
 9/22 Mercer 3, Georgia Southern 0
 10/6 Georgia State 2, Mercer 0
 2/25 Central Arkansas at Belmont 6:30 p.m.

Non Division 1 (3-0-0)

2/17 VMI 2, Southern Virginia 1
 2/17 UNCG 4, Belmont Abbey 1
 2/20 VMI 2, Marymount 1
 3/6 Belmont at Trevecca Nazarene 3 p.m.

Total.....7-8-0 (.467)

Ranking=United Soccer Coaches

Southern Conference men's soccer media relations information

Name	School	Phone	Email	Website
Seth Raborn	Belmont	615-460-8023	seth.raborn@belmont.edu	Belmontbruins.com
Matt Busch	ETSU	402-841-1363	buschm@etsu.edu	ETSUBucs.com
Jordan Caskey	Furman	864-294-3065	jordan.caskey@furman.edu	FurmanPaladins.com
Stephen Waldman	Mercer	478-301-5219	waldman_sr@mercer.edu	MercerBears.com
Rob Knox	UNCG	610-800-1044	reknox@uncg.edu	UNCGSpartans.com
Mike Carpenter	VMI	540-464-7015	carpentermj@vmi.edu	VMIKeydets.com
Josh Manganello	Wofford	864-597-4098	manganellojd@wofford.edu	WoffordTerriers.com
Jasmine Washington	Southern Conference	571-449-1677	jwashington@socon.org	SoConSports.com



Belmont

(1-0-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- F20 at Bellarmine..... W, 3-0.
- F25 vs. Central Arkansas ..7:30 p.m.
- M2 vs. Lipscomb 8 p.m.
- M6 at Trevecca Nazarene.... 4 p.m.
- M13 at Wofford* 11 a.m.
- M16 vs. VMI* 6 p.m.
- M23 at ETSU* 3 p.m.
- M27 at UNCG* 5 p.m.
- M30 vs. Furman* 6 p.m.
- A3 vs. Mercer* 7 p.m.

* Southern Conference match



ETSU

(0-3-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- F5 vs. XavierL, 0-2
- F13 at Lipscomb.....L, 1-2
- F23 at MarshallL, 0-2
- F27 vs. VCU..... 7 p.m.
- M13 vs. Furman* 3 p.m.
- M16 at Mercer* 7 p.m.
- M20 at Wofford* 7 p.m.
- M23 vs. Belmont 3 p.m.
- M30 vs. VMI 3 p.m.
- A3 at UNCG 7 p.m.

* Southern Conference match



Furman

(1-0-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- F21 vs. South Carolina W, 3-0
- F24 at USC Upstate 7 p.m.
- M3 at Gardner-Webb..... 6 p.m.
- M13 at ETSU* 3 p.m.
- M16 vs. Wofford* 7 p.m.
- M20 at UNCG* 7 p.m.
- M23 vs. Mercer* 7 p.m.
- M27 vs. VMI* 7 p.m.
- M30 at Belmont* 6 p.m.
- A2 vs. Winthrop 7 p.m.

* Southern Conference match



Mercer

(2-5-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- S18 GEORGIA STATE..... L, 2-1
- S22 GEORGIA SOUTHERNW, 3-0
- O6 at Georgia State L, 2-0
- O10 SOTUH CAROLINA..... L, 1-0
- O14 at Kentucky..... L, 1-3
- F7 at Davidson.....PPD
- F13 at North Florida.....L, 1-2
- F17 vs. Stetson.....Can.
- F21 at Jacksonville.....W, 1-0
- F28 at UAB..... 6 p.m.
- M13 vs. UNCG* 2 p.m.
- M16 vs. ETSU* 4 p.m.
- M20 at VMI* 2 p.m.
- M23 at Furman* 7 p.m.
- M27 vs. Wofford* 2 p.m.
- A3 at Belmont* 6 p.m.

* Southern Conference match



UNCG

(1-1-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- F6 at UNCW.....L, 0-2
- F14 vs. Davidson..... PPD
- F17 vs. Belmont Abbey W, 4-1
- F24 at Gardner-Webb 6 p.m.
- F28 vs. Elon..... 6 p.m.
- M13 at Mercer* 7 p.m.
- M20 vs. Furman* 7 p.m.
- M23 at VMI* 3 p.m.
- M27 vs. Belmont* 5 p.m.
- M30 at Wofford* 6 p.m.
- A3 vs. ETSU* 7 p.m.

* Southern Conference match



VMI

(2-1-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- F14 vs. Gardner-Webb L 0-5
- F17 at Southern Virginia W, 2-1
- F20 vs. Marymount W, 2-1
- M4 at Radford 7 p.m.
- M10 vs. Longwood 4 p.m.
- M16 at Belmont* 5 p.m.
- M20 vs. Mercer* 2 p.m.
- M23 vs. UNCG* 3 p.m.
- M27 at Furman* 7 p.m.
- M30 at ETSU* 3 p.m.
- A3 vs. Wofford* 3:30 p.m.

* Southern Conference match



Wofford

(0-0-0, 0-0-0 SoCon)

- F14 vs. USC Upstate..... PPD
- F17 at Winthrop PPD
- F24 at High Point..... 6 p.m.
- F27 at South Carolina 6 p.m.
- M6 at Davidson 7 p.m.
- M13 vs. Belmont* 11 a.m.
- M16 at Furman* 7 p.m.
- M20 vs. ETSU* 7 p.m.
- M27 at Mercer* 7 p.m.
- M30 vs. UNCG* 7 p.m.
- A3 at VMI* 3 p.m.

* Southern Conference match