



# 2014 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BY AARON KIRBY FOR WWW.COLLEGEBASEBALLDAILY.COM

## PROJECTED 2014 STANDINGS

\*2013 RECORDS LISTED/ **NCAA REGIONAL**

TEAM	SoCon		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
1 WESTERN CAROLINA	23	7	39	20
2 CITADEL	18	12	34	30
3 GEORGIA SOUTHERN	13	17	27	32
4 APPALACHIAN ST	13	14	30	24
5 FURMAN	14	16	32	25
6 <b>ELON</b>	18	11	34	30
7 SAMFORD	12	17	27	30
8 UNCG	11	19	24	31
9 WOFFORD	10	20	20	36
10 DAVIDSON	12	18	18	31

## PROJECTED REGIONAL TEAMS

SoCon TOURNAMENT WINNER

## IN REGIONAL MIX

WESTERN CAROLINA, CITADEL, APPALACHIAN ST

## TOP 5 LINEUPS

- CITADEL
- WESTERN CAROLINA
- FURMAN
- GEORGIA SOUTHERN
- APPALACHIAN ST

## TOP 5 PITCHING STAFFS

- WESTERN CAROLINA
- CITADEL
- APPALACHIAN ST
- GEORGIA SOUTHERN
- FURMAN

## BEST SCHEDULES

- APPALACHIAN ST
- CITADEL
- GEORGIA SOUTHERN
- WESTERN CAROLINA
- SAMFORD

## 1ST TEAM ALL CONFERENCE

Pos	NAME	SCHOOL	CLASS
SP	JEREMY NULL	WCU	JR
SP	JAMIE NUNN	APP ST	JR
RP	TYLER POWELL	WCU	JR
C	ADAM MARTIN	WCU	SR
1B	JACOB HOYLE	WCU	JR
2B	SEBASTIAN GOMEZ	ELON	SR
SS	AARON ATTAWAY	WCU	SR
3B	BEN MORGAN	GSU	SR
OF	TYLER ZUPCIC	APP ST	SR
OF	HUGHSTON ARMSTRONG	CITADEL	SR
OF	JOSH HYMAN	WOFFORD	SR
DH	ADAM MARTIN	WCU	SR

## 2ND TEAM ALL CONFERENCE

Pos	NAME	SCHOOL	CLASS
SP	MAX POVSE	UNCG	JR
SP	JORDAN SMITH	WCU	SR
RP	SKYLAR HUNTER	CITADEL	SO
C	CHASE GRIFFIN	GSU	JR
1B	CALVIN ORTH	CITADEL	SR
2B	BENIGNO MARRERO	UNCG	SO
SS	JOHNATHAN STOKES	CITADEL	JR
3B	CHRIS OHMSTED	FURMAN	JR
OF	JAYLIN DAVIS'	APP ST	SO
OF	ERIC KALBFLEISCH	UNCG	JR
OF	TYLER GRIFFIN	CITADEL	SR
DH	BO THOMPSON	CITADEL	JR

## PLAYER OF YEAR

AARON ATTAWAY, SS, WESTERN CAROLINA

## PITCHER OF YEAR

JEREMY NULL, RHP, WESTERN CAROLINA

## FRESHMAN OF YEAR

HEATH QUINN, OF, SAMFORD

## CONFERENCE MOVEMENT

MERCER, ETSU AND VMI WILL JOIN THE SoCon IN 2015. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON MOVED TO CAA IN 2014 WITH ELON JOINING THE CAA IN 2015. APPALACHIAN ST AND GEORGIA SOUTHERN WILL JOIN THE SUN BELT IN 2015. DAVIDSON WILL MOVE TO THE A-10 IN 2015.



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## TOP 5 RETURNING HITTERS

1	AARON ATTAWAY	SS	WCU	SR
2	TYLER ZUPCIC	OF	APP ST	SR
3	HUGHSTON ARMSTRONG	OF	CITADEL	SR
4	SEBASTIAN GOMEZ	2B	ELON	SR
5	JACOB HOYLE	1B	WCU	JR

## TOP 5 RETURNING PITCHERS

1	JEREMY NULL	RHP	WCU	JR
2	JAIME NUNN	RHP	APP ST	JR
3	MAX POVSE	RHP	UNCG	JR
4	SKYLAR HUNTER	RHP	CITADEL	SO
5	JORDAN SMITH	RHP	WCU	SR

## TOP 5 NEWCOMERS 2014

- OF HEATH QUINN, SAMFORD (HS, BIRMINGHAM, AL)  
\*RHP JORDAN HOWARD, GSU (HS, CORDELE, GA)
- 3B TRIPP MARTIN, SAMFORD (COASTAL CAROLINA)
- RHP JOSH WIRSU, GSU (GORDON ST COLLEGE)
- RHP LUCAS BAKKER, ELON (N. IOWA CC)
- RHP JOSE LAZARO, ELON (FIU/PALM BEACH CC)  
\*Injured will miss 2014 season

## TOP 10 NON CONFERENCE WEEKENDS

- 2/14-2/16 APPALACHIAN ST AT ARKANSAS
- 2/28-3/2 NEBRASKA AT CITADEL
- 2/21-2/23 APPALACHIAN ST AT NC STATE
- 2/21-2/23 CITADEL VS OKLAHOMA, VS OHIO ST AT UCF
- 2/14-2/16 GEORGIA SOUTHERN AT GEORGIA
- 2/21-2/24 WESTERN CAROLINA AT WASHINGTON STATE
- 3/7-3/9 SAMFORD AT LOUISVILLE
- 3/7-3/9 CITADEL VS COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
- 3/14-3/16 APP ST VS MICHIGAN, VS KENT ST, AT COFC
- 2/21-2/23 UNCG AT GEORGIA TECH

## RECENT SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

YEAR	REGULAR SEASON	TOURNEY(SEED)
2013	WESTERN CAROLINA	ELON(3)
2012	T-APP ST & COFC	SAMFORD(4)
2011	ELON	GEORGIA SOUTHERN(4)
2010	CITADEL	CITADEL(1)
2009	ELON	GEORGIA SOUTHERN(2)
2008	ELON	ELON(1)
2007	T-WCU & COFC	WOFFORD(9)
2006	ELON	COFC(2)
2005	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	FURMAN(8)
2004	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	CITADEL(3)
2003	WESTERN CAROLINA	WESTERN CAROLINA(1)

## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE REGIONAL BIDS BY YEAR

YEAR	#	TEAMS
2013	1	ELON
2012	3	SAMFORD, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, APP ST
2011	1	GEORGIA SOUTHERN
2010	3	CITADEL, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, ELON
2009	2	GEORGIA SOUTHERN, ELON
2008	1	ELON
2007	2	WESTERN CAROLINA, WOFFORD
2006	2	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, ELON
2005	2	FURMAN, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
2004	2	CITADEL, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
2003	1	WESTERN CAROLINA



In 2013 Western Carolina finished the season winning 21 of 24 games, which including winning 16 consecutive SoCon games, to win the Regular Season tile by 4 games over CofC and Elon. The #1 seed Catamounts went just 1-2 in SoCon tournament while #3 seed Elon dropped their opening game of tourney 10-1 to host Furman before winning 5 strait including a 6-5 win over The Citadel in the championship game to earn the automatic bid.

The Southern Conference tournament moves back to Charleston, SC for 2014 after being in Greenville, SC the last 2 years. The format will also change as all 10 teams will make the trip to Charleston with the #1 and #2 seed earning a bye. The 8 other teams will be paired (#4/#9, #6/#7 and #3/#10, #5/#8) with the loses playing elimination game and the lowest seeded winners on first day will play the top 2 seeds on day two.



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## #1-Western Carolina (39-20 overall; 23-7 SoCon; 1st)

The Catamounts regular season title in 2013 was their first Southern Conference championship since 2007. However, after going 1-2 in conference tournament and finishing the season at 39-20 with RPI#50 the Catamounts were left out of the NCAA tourney. WCU returns the offense and pitching to take the next step.

WCU returns 7 of 9 position players including 2 preseason All-Americans senior SS Aaron Attaway (.363, 68 R, 97 H, 15 2B, 5 3B, 12 HR, 54 RBI) and junior 1B/LHP Jacob Hoyle (.310, 66 H, 16 2B, 11 HR, 52 RBI). Senior C Adam Martin (.286, 40 H, 10 2B, 8 HR, 36 RBI) is primed for big season after being named top prospect this summer in the Northwoods League. Also returning are junior 2B Bradley Strong (.295, 61 H, 11 2B, 4 3B, 3 HR, 28 RBI, 17-23 SB), senior DH/C Luke Gragg (.293, 39 H, 1 HR, 26 RBI), senior OF Cody Jones (.283, 54 H, 8 2B, 3 HR, 22 RBI) and senior OF Dykota Spiess (.260, 13 2B, 4 HR, 20 RBI).

The Catamounts have the best 1-2 starters in the league in the 6'-8" junior RHP Jeremy Null (9-2, 3.46, 14 GS, 91.0 IP, 109 K) and senior RHP Jordan Smith (7-3, 3.73, 15 GS, 94.0 IP, 70 K). Null and Smith will give WCU the chance to win any weekend series in 2014. Last years set up man junior RHP Tyler Powell (2-2, 2.82, 34 APP, 2 SV, 38.1 IP, 55 K) moves into the closers role for 2014 and was just named one of 50 relievers on the NCBWA initial "Stopper of the Year Award". Freshman LHP Bryan Sammons (Wilmington, NC/Hoggard HS) should play a big role in 2014 and may start the season in the rotation. Sophomores RHP Jonathan Waszak (0-1, 4.81, 32 APP, 33.2 IP) and LHP Alex Barr (2-0, 6.62, 13 APP, 17.2 IP, 19 K) are expected to play big roles in the bullpen. RHP TJ Fussell (Asheville, NC/Montreat) transferred to WCU for graduate school from Montreat and was granted a 6th year of eligibility after being injured most of his career.

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (7/2)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Aaron Attaway	.363	59-59	267	68	97	15	5	12	54
Jacob Hoyle	.310	57-53	213	40	66	16	2	11	52
Bradley Strong	.295	59-58	207	45	61	11	4	3	28
Luke Gragg	.293	52-35	133	22	39	5	0	1	26
Adam Martin	.286	42-39	140	26	40	10	0	8	36
Cody Jones	.283	59-53	191	41	54	8	0	3	22
Dykota Spiess	.260	48-40	146	28	38	13	0	4	20

### Other Notable

Reece Strong	.375	11-0	8	3	3	0	0	0	0
Dale Urquhart	.308	17-5	26	5	8	2	0	0	4
Danny Bermudez	.240	37-29	100	15	24	5	1	0	10
J.D. Long	.100	27-4	20	6	2	1	0	0	3

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Jeremy Null	3.46	9-2	14-14	0	91.0	82	27	109	.240
Jordan Smith	3.73	7-3	15-15	0	94.0	87	33	70	.242

### Other Notable

Tyler Powell	2.82	2-2	34-1	2	38.1	31	28	55	.228
Jacob Hoyle	4.66	1-1	4-2	0	9.2	13	8	5	.325
Jonathan Waszak	4.81	0-1	32-1	1	33.2	40	10	19	.292
Bryce Danielson	4.85	0-0	16-0	0	13.0	15	8	14	.283
Taylor Sandefur	5.27	1-0	7-4	0	13.2	16	8	7	.302
Alex Barr	6.62	2-0	13-0	0	17.2	23	9	19	.329
Colton Davis	7.00	0-0	16-1	0	18.0	25	13	17	.333
Danny Schneider	8.53	1-1	7-0	0	6.1	10	4	2	.400

Prediction-WCU heads into 2014 as favorite for two reasons.....Jeremy Null and Jordan Smtih. Entering the season there is no other team that can match the Catamounts top 2 starters. There are some question marks though and the biggest question mark is who will step up and be the #3 starter? Their top 3 hitters Aaron Attaway, Jacob Hoyle and Adam Martin are also probably the best 3 together in the league. In the end the same thing that kept the 2013 team out of a regional could prevent the 2014 club from getting a bid if they do not win the tourney. In 2013 WCU only played 3 games vs top 50 RPI clubs going 0-3 and have only 3 games (vs Clemson, at Georgia Tech, at Clemson) vs teams that finished with RPI below 50 in 2013. That means that there could be very little margin for error in 2014.

\*RPI info from www.warrenolan.com



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## #2-The Citadel (35-25 overall; 18-12 SoCon; 4th)

Coach Jordan and the Bulldogs had two tough years with young ball clubs in 2011 (20-36 overall and 8-22 SoCon/11th) and 2012 (25-33 overall and 13-17 SoCon/8th). In 2013 the now sophomore and juniors finished the regular season in 4th place and got to the championship game undefeated before losing to Elon 6-5.

7 of 8 position players return who combined for 49 HRs in 2013. Senior OF Hughston Armstrong (.379, 85 H, 11 2B, 1 HR, 23 RBI, .447 OB%, 18-19 SB), senior 1B Calvin Orth (.316, 68 H, 10 2B, 7 HR, 33 RBI), senior OF Tyler Griffin (.314, 50 H, 12 HR, 52 RBI), junior SS Johnathan Stokes (.309, 73 H, 13 2B, 5 HR, 25 RBI), junior 2B Mason Davis (.305, 62 R, 83 H, 11 2B, 5 HR, 25 RBI, 22-27 SB), junior DH Bo Thompson (.299, 58 H, 10 2B, 14 HR, 52 RBI) and senior OF/3B Drew DeKerlegand (.288, 61 H, 14 2B, 5 HR, 49 RBI).

The Bulldogs only lost one pitcher and return 27 of 35 wins. That one lost was Pitcher of the Year Austin Pritcher (8-3, 2.99, 99.1 IP, 80 K) but there is plenty left. Senior LHP Logan Cribb (4-3, 3.60, 11 GS, 75.0 IP, 64 K) should step into the Friday Night role and sophomore RHP Skylar Hunter (3-4, 5.35, 33 APP, 13 SV, 35.1 IP, 44 K) who was Louisville Slugger Freshman All American will return as closer. Two relievers had 88 appearances combined in 2013 senior RHP David Rivera (5-1, 4.03, 40 APP, 44.2 IP, 42 K) and senior RHP Zach Sherrill (3-1, 4.14, 48 APP, 45.2 IP, 38 K). The 48 appearances from Sherrill set Southern Conference record for most appearances in a season, the 40 appearances from Rivera are tied for 4th most ever. Also returning are junior LHP James Reeves (3-1, 4.01, 24 APP, 6 GS, 51.2 IP, 42 K), and sophomore RHP Austin Mason (3-4, 6.63, 13 GS, 54.1 IP)

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (7/1)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
H. Armstrong	.379	59-59	224	57	85	11	2	1	23
Calvin Orth	.316	58-55	215	32	68	10	2	7	33
Tyler Griffin	.314	42-42	159	39	50	7	2	12	52
Johnathan Stokes	.309	60-60	236	33	73	13	0	5	52
Mason Davis	.305	60-60	272	62	83	11	4	5	25
Bo Thompson	.299	56-56	194	46	58	10	0	14	52
Drew DeKerlegand	.288	59-57	212	47	61	14	5	5	49

### Other Notable

Bailey Rush	.244	45-33	119	16	29	9	1	2	16	
Bret Hines		.228	41-18	57	5	13	2	0	1	8
Jason Smith	.203	34-13	59	13	12	0	0	1	9	

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Logan Cribb	3.60	4-3	20-11	0	75.0	74	25	64	.253
Austin Mason	6.63	3-4	14-13	0	54.1	73	16	34	.316

### Other Notable

Ross White	3.43	0-1	22-0	1	21.0	21	4	12	.263
James Reeves	4.01	3-1	24-6	0	51.2	56	12	42	.275
David Rivera	4.03	5-1	40-0	1	44.2	43	11	42	.250
Zach Sherrill	4.14	3-1	48-0	0	45.2	39	17	38	.227
Austin Livingston	5.09	4-2	14-8	0	35.1	44	19	27	.297
Skylar Hunter	5.35	3-4	33-0	13	35.1	39	19	44	.287
Brett Tompkins	6.38	1-1	9-3	0	18.1	22	12	12	.282
Kevin Connell	7.22	1-2	22-1	0	28.2	44	14	17	.338

Prediction-This is the season The Citadel has been waiting for since 2011 and the team should be rewarded for taking their lumps in 2011 and 2012. The offense should not have trouble scoring runs so the key to their season will be their pitching. After LHP, Logan Cribb there is not much experience starting. Sophomore closer Skylar Hunter has a great arm and saved 13 games as Freshman but needs to lower that 5.35 ERA. If the pitching staff comes through the Bulldogs will be hard to beat in 2014. Their schedule should allow them to be in position for an at-large bid.



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## #3-Georgia Southern (27-32 overall; 13-17 SoCon; 7th)

Head Coach Rodney Hennon suffered his first losing season in his 16 seasons as a head coach and first time not winning 30+ games in season. GSU started 2013 by winning 2 of 3 from Georgia, winning at Florida and splitting series vs Indiana and were (19-9 overall and 9-3 SoCon) after win at Jacksonville on April 2nd and finished the season (6-21 overall and 4-14 SoCon). The Eagles didnt pack it in and made a run to bracket finals undefeated before dropping 2 games to Elon. GSU brought in 21 new players in 2014 to turn it around quickly.

Leading the returning players are senior 3B/SS Ben Morgan (.307, 74 H, 16 2B, 6 HR, 36 RBI) and junior C Chase Griffin (.272, 65 H, 10 2B, 4 HR, 47 RBI). Also returning are seniors OF Robbie Dodds (.305, 65 H, 11 2B, 3 HR, 33 RBI) and UTL Stryker Brown (.252, 37 H, 1 HR, 16 RBI). Junior college transfer Dalton Busby (Bradenton, Fla/State College of Fla) should step in and play shortstop after having good summer in the Great Lakes league. Freshman Ryan Cleveland (HS Toccoa, Ga/Stephens Country) will start at first base.

The Eagles return 2 of 4 starters both left handers junior Sam Howard (6-7, 5.55, 11 GS, 84.1 IP, 87 K) and sophomore Jason Richman (4-5, 6.12, 14 GS, 72.0 IP). Howard will be Friday night guy with Juco transfer JR RHP Josh Wirsu (Harlem, Ga/Gordon State College) as the Saturday guy. Junior RHP Will Middour will likely start Sunday or mid week. Middour missed all of 2013 with injury after going 3-3, 3.60 ERA in 11 starts as sophomore in 2012. Sophomore LHP Evan Challenger (1-1, 4.23, 38.1 IP) threw well as freshman until injury cut his season short and should be able to throw around April. Freshman RHP Avery Fagan (HS Loganville, Ga/Loganville) has thrown the ball well since getting to Statesboro. One of top recruits freshman RHP Jordan Howard (HS Cordele, Ga/Crisp Academy) will miss all of 2013 with shoulder injury.

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (5/4)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Ben Morgan	.307	59-59	241	48	74	16	2	6	36
Robbie Dodds	.305	54-51	213	29	65	11	2	3	33
Chase Griffin	.272	59-59	239	39	65	10	1	4	47
Stryker Brown	.252	53-36	147	26	37	3	1	1	16
Kyle Streicher	.204	53-41	142	21	29	7	2	0	14

### Other Notable

Hunter Thomas	.273	6-6	22	1	6	3	0	0	6
Garren Palmer	.224	32-11	49	7	11	3	0	0	7
Cole Watson	.073	24-18	55	9	4	0	0	0	2

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/2)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Sam Howard	5.55	6-7	23-11	0	84.1	105	35	87	.307
Jason Richman	6.12	4-5	16-14	0	72.0	98	28	42	.329

### Other Notable

Evan Challenger	4.23	1-1	17-5	0	38.1	51	10	24	.329
Clint Taylor	5.14	0-0	9-0	0	14.0	18	4	5	.316
Matt McCall	6.14	3-2	24-4	4	51.1	62	20	43	.300

Prediction-The Eagles brought in a talented group of 21 players for 2014. The Eagles enter the season with some unknowns but will finish atleast in the upper half of league.



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## #4-Appalachian St (30-24 overall; 13-14 SoCon; 5th)

The Mountaineers are taking a page out of Elon's normal scheduling book in 2014. They open the season with (3) at Arkansas, at Tennessee, (3) at NC State, and mid week game at UNC.

App St returns 6 of 8 position starters and gets back one of the leagues best in senior OF Tyler Zupcic. Zupcic (.338, 56 R, 71 H, 17 2B, 2 HR, 34 RBI) was all conference but missed the entire 2013 after injuring his knee in NCAA regional win over Oklahoma. Also returning are senior DH/3B Noah Holmes (.296, 9 2B, 5 HR, 27 RBI) and sophomore OF Jaylin Davis (.257, 53 H, 12 2B, 4 HR, 36 RBI) who was voted SoCon Freshman of Year by the coaches and a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American.

3 of 4 starters return on the mound led by JR RHP Jamie Nunn (9-5, 3.96, 15 GS, 97.2 IP, 77 K) who was 1st team all conference. Two lefthanders who both started 11 games last year are also back senior Chad Farmer (2-0, 5.40, 11 GS, 41.2 IP) and junior Jeffrey Springs (3-4, 6.28, 11 GS, 53.0 IP, 47 K). Junior RHP Taylor Thurber (3-2, 2.91, 26 APP, 2 SV, 55.2 IP, 7 BB, 36 K) also returns after very good year out of bull pen.

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (6/2)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Noah Holmes	.296	50-49	179	27	53	9	2	5	27
William Head	.288	49-45	163	34	47	5	2	1	25
Preston Troutman	.259	53-52	185	28	48	8	2	4	27
Jaylin Davis	.257	54-53	206	32	53	12	4	4	36
Dillon Dobson	.252	54-53	206	40	52	10	2	6	28
Josh Zumbrook	.236	45-45	157	23	37	12	1	4	25
Tyler Zupcic									

### Other Notable

Alex Leach	.370	13-13	54	14	20	7	1	2	13
Michael Pierson	.292	18-12	48	8	14	1	0	2	13
Brandon Burris	.187	41-30	123	15	23	5	0	1	6

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (3/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Jamie Nunn	3.96	9-5	15-15	0	97.2	94	37	77	.255
Chad Farmer	5.40	2-0	11-11	0	41.2	50	23	27	.296
Jeffrey Springs	6.28	3-4	17-11	0	53.0	72	36	47	.327

### Other Notable

Taylor Thurber	2.91	3-2	26-0	2	55.2	61	7	36	.288
Tyler Moore	2.45	1-0	18-0	0	29.1	28	8	15	.262
Rob Howard	3.86	1-0	9-1	0	18.2	24	9	10	.320

Prediction-What a difference a few years can make. In 2010 App St played one of the worst schedules in Southern Conference finishing 24-4 out of conference and 38-18-1 overall but no chance for an at-large bid. In 2014 they play easily the best schedule in the league so if they can win even just a few of those and finish in top 3 they should have very good shot at at-large bid. Highest finish 1st lowest finish 6th.



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## #5-Furman ( 32-25 overall; 14-16 SoCon; 6th)

The Paladins got off to a great start in 2013. On March 16th they were 14-4 overall and 5-2 in the SoCon (2-0 vs Michigan St, 2-1 at Elon, 2-0 at Coastal Carolina, 2-1 vs App St.) but went 18-21 the rest of the season.

Furman returns 5 regular starters and 3 all conference candidates on offense in senior 1B/RHP Alex Abrams (.335, 62 H, 11 2B, 6 HR, 35 RBI), junior 3B Chris Ohmstede (.291, 66 H, 10 2B, 14 HR, 49 RBi) and senior DH Greg Harrison (.412, 5 HR, 23 RBI).

On the mound Furman returns 4 pitchers who started 7 or more games led by senior RHP Alex Abrams (5-1, 2.43, 17 APP, 7 GS, 63.0 IP, 48 K). Two juniors RHP Matt Solter (0-1, 4.66, 26 APP, 7 SV, 36.2 IP, 33 K) and RHP Elliott Warford (2-5, 6.04, 26 APP, 7 GS, 53.2 IP) also return. To climb up standings Furman could use Warford to return to his freshman form where he went (6-0, 3.61, 31 APP, 7 SV, 52.1 IP).

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (5/3)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Alex Abrams	.335	49-48	185	39	62	11	1	6	35
Jordan Simpson	.317	56-53	202	28	64	9	1	2	29
Griffin Davis	.295	50-32	132	21	39	11	0	0	15
Chris Ohmstede	.291	57-57	227	42	66	10	0	14	49
Hunter Burton	.288	57-55	219	38	63	11	2	0	14

### Other Notable

Greg Harrison	.412	22-21	85	18	35	13	1	5	23
Jake Jones	.312	37-25	93	12	29	3	1	0	8
Jarrold Rickman	.237	35-19	76	6	18	2	1	1	14
Andrew MacLatchie	.210	24-18	62	5	13	4	0	3	10
Heath Burton	.189	33-5	37	8	7	1	1	0	3
Matt Towarmicky	.158	15-5	19	2	3	0	0	0	0
Zack Greenwell	.100	19-2	20	0	2	0	0	0	1

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Alex Abrams	2.43	5-1	17-7	0	63.0	54	17	48	.236
Jake Wolff	7.69	2-2	16-12	0	45.2	55	20	37	.306

### Other Notable

Brant Masters	3.38	1-0	11-0	0	10.2	11	4	5	.262
Matt Solter	4.66	0-1	26-1	7	36.2	35	22	33	.250
Ryan Dittmar	4.91	2-2	20-1	0	22.0	22	14	13	.259
Tyler Wood	6.03	2-2	11-8	0	31.1	34	13	14	.286
Elliott Warford	6.04	2-5	26-7	1	53.2	79	18	37	.336
Ryan Morse	6.85	1-0	20-0	1	23.2	15	24	32	.190
Jacques de Gruy	7.94	2-3	10-3	2	28.1	37	18	21	.322

Prediction-Furman looked like a real contender early in 2013 but fell apart. If they can put it together for an entire season they could finish at or near the top. They have not put it together for entire season in long time but have always played very good in SoCon tourney so have them topped out at 4th and making some noise in the tourney.



# 2014 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BY AARON KIRBY FOR WWW.COLLEGEBASEBALLDAILY.COM

## #6-Elon (34-30 overall; 18-11 SoCon; T-2nd)

Coach Kennedy and the Phoenix found a way to get it done once again in 2013. Elon finished tied for 2nd place in regular season and came through the losers bracket in Greenville to punch the NCAA ticket for the 6th time since joining the SoCon in 2004. It will be hard for them to get their 7th trip to NCAA in their final season before joining former SoCon member CofC in the Colonial Conference. It might be a good year for Elon to decide not to schedule their normally brutal non conference schedule.

Elon returns 3 starting position players led by all conference senior 2B Sebastian Gomez (.323, 75 H, 16 2B, 3 HR, 42 RBI). Also returning are 5 players who started 27 games or more including junior C/INF Chris King (.305, 10 2B, 3 HR, 23 RBI).

One the mound the Phoenix will have to replace all 3 weekend starters and return only 6 of 34 wins. Elon will need junior college transfers like the Australian born juco transfer junior RHP Lucas Bakker (Queensland, Australia/North Iowa Area CC), junior RHP Jose Lazaro (Florida International Univ/Palm Beach CC) and junior LHP Jake Stalzer (Indian Hills CC) to step in and make big impact. Another JC transfer RHP Joe McGillicuddy (Louisburg, JC) was expected to be a weekend starter but will miss the 2014 season.

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (6/3)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Sebastian Gomez	.323	60-58	232	39	75	16	1	3	42
Quinn Bower	.269	57-54	208	41	56	5	1	1	22
Wil Leathers	.257	58-48	187	30	48	7	1	3	22
Chris King	.305	45-27	105	12	32	10	1	3	23
Casey Jones	.287	48-33	129	25	37	9	0	0	17
Joey Tomko	.280	40-32	118	24	33	7	1	1	16
Blaine Bower	.262	52-29	107	27	28	2	0	1	12
Danny Lynch	.242	46-30	120	15	29	8	1	2	17

### Other Notable

Tyler McVicar	.292	38-17	65	11	19	3	0	1	8
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### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (0/3)

### Other Notable

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Ryan Pennell	5.87	3-2	24-0	0	30.2	33	19	22	.275
Tyler Manez	6.82	1-3	16-3	0	30.1	41	19	27	.345
Jacob Baker	7.21	0-2	16-7	0	43.2	46	31	42	.271
John Antonelli	7.92	1-0	20-0	1	25.0	35	18	17	.337
Danny Lynch	9.24	0-1	10-0	0	12.2	15	7	5	.341
Brandon Kacer	10.12	1-0	14-2	0	16.0	22	13	13	.328

Prediction-Its hard to pick Elon down because coach Kennedy and the Phoenix always find a way to win. However returning only 6 wins (17.6%) and lowest returning ERA on staff was 5.87 so I see Elon struggling in 2014.





# 2014 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BY AARON KIRBY FOR WWW.COLLEGEBASEBALLDAILY.COM

## #7-Samford (27-30 overall; 12-17 SoCon; 8th)

The Bulldogs hung on to qualify for the 2013 SoCon tourney by just a half game, after winning 41 games and making the Regional Final in Tallahassee. The Bulldogs lost All-American OF Phillip Ervin who was the 27th player taken over all in the 2013 draft and CK Irby who was taken in 10th round.

Samford returns just 2 position starters in senior C Drew McWhorter (.264, 11 2B, 1 HR, 16 RBI) and senior 1B Caleb Bryson (.260, 50 H, 7 2B, 9 HR, 36 RBI). Two newcomers are expected to make a big impact in 2014, freshman OF Heath Quinn (Oak Mtn HS, Birmingham) who was drafted in 12th rd out of a local HS and JR 3B Tripp Martin. Martin is from nearby Pelham HS had to sit out 2013 after transferring from Coastal Carolina.

Samford returns just 1 weekend starter in senior RHP Alex Milazzo (6-2, 4.40, 12 GS, 61.1 IP, 50 K) after losing senior RHP Eric Wright (5-4, 5.05, 13 GS, 76.2 IP) for the season after an injury in the fall. Two transfers should have impact in 2014 senior RHP Chase Traffica (Louisiana Lafayette) and junior RHP Alex Ledford (Louisburg College).

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (2/6)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Drew McWhorter	.264	37-35	125	13	33	11	0	1	16
Caleb Bryson	.260	53-53	192	32	50	7	0	9	36

### Other Notable

Patrick McGavin	.315	29-21	89	13	28	9	0	0	23
Brandon Haarer	.282	29-20	78	12	22	5	0	1	12
Richard Greene	.279	33-22	68	8	19	3	1	0	10
Jared Watson	.244	23-11	41	8	10	2	0	1	6
Frankie Navarrete	.240	36-30	104	22	25	4	0	2	16
Damon Waller	.240	31-9	50	10	12	2	1	2	13
Brandon Powell	.216	38-3	37	5	8	1	0	0	6
Danny Rodriguez	.148	17-4	27	6	4	0	0	0	3

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Alex Milazzo	4.40	6-2	12-12	0	61.1	65	31	50	.260

### Other Notable

Andres Gracia	4.08	0-4	24-0	3	35.1	41	7	25	.304
Luke Leeth	5.06	1-0	8-1	0	5.1	5	3	10	.227
Patrick Maronde	5.14	1-2	20-2	0	28.0	28	18	20	.262
Patrick McGavin	6.17	0-5	19-7	1	35.0	40	26	27	.294
Cole Limbaugh	6.46	4-3	15-7	0	46.0	63	20	34	.335
Parker Curry	6.53	1-2	20-1	0	30.1	42	12	20	.321
Mark Donham	7.62	0-0	10-0	0	13.0	16	14	11	.320
Charles Terry	9.67	1-1	17-0	0	27.0	46	13	16	.380

Prediction-Samford lost a ton and losing SP Eric Wright before season did not help things. Finish on high end 4th and low end 8th.



# 2014 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BY AARON KIRBY FOR WWW.COLLEGEBASEBALLDAILY.COM

## #8-UNCG (24-31 overall; 11-19 SoCon; 10th)

The Spartans went 24-31 overall and 11-19 in SoCon in head coach Link Jarretts first year as head coach.

UNCG has 12 new comers and returns only 2 starting position players. Those 2 returning players are very solid in 2013 SoCon freshman of year 2B Benigno Marrero (.352, 70 H, 10 2B, 3 HR, 28 RBI, .405 OB%) and junior OF Eric Kalbfleisch (.310, 61 H, 21 2B, 4 HR, 31 RBI).

On the mound the Spartans return their top 2 starters in junior RHP Lee Gilliam (2-4, 3.69, 12 GS, 68.1 IP, 58 K) and junior RHP Max Povse (4-4, 4.75, 14 GS, 77.2 IP, 81 K). Sophomore RHP Ryan Clark (5-1, 2.05, 26 APP, 2 SV, 30.2 IP, 5 BB, 25 K) should join Gilliam and Povse in the week-end rotation.

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (2/7)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Benigno Marrero	.352	54-54	199	36	70	10	0	3	28
Eric Kalbfleisch	.310	52-49	197	30	61	21	2	4	31

### Other Notable

Zac MacAnaney	.272	40-25	114	17	31	4	1	1	19
Jake Hall	.233	19-5	30	3	7	2	0	0	4
Sean Guite	.200	19-11	35	7	7	0	1	0	3
Julian Abreu	.200	7-6	20	2	4	1	0	0	2

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Lee Gilliam	3.69	2-4	12-12	0	68.1	63	33	58	.240
Max Povse	4.75	4-4	14-14	0	77.2	76	33	81	.248

### Other Notable

Ryan Clark	2.05	5-1	26-0	2	30.2	29	5	25	.254
Caleb Henley	4.85	1-0	25-1	1	26.0	23	26	26	.247
Tyler Frazier	6.50	1-3	26-0	0	36.0	33	32	38	.254
Dylan Thompson	6.51	1-4	20-4	0	27.2	42	9	17	.350
Dylan Hathcock	6.85	3-4	23-3	4	44.2	56	19	39	.318
Adam Anderson	7.00	1-0	16-0	0	9.0	17	8	6	.405
Adam Boghosian	9.50	0-1	13-0	0	18.0	22	21	12	.319
Blair Betts	11.57	1-1	11-0	0	7.0	9	8	5	.321
Brandon Browne	28.35	0-1	7-4	0	6.2	16	14	3	.471

Prediction-Coach Jarrett will have UNCG back to being a contender soon but not in 2014. Friday Night guy RHP Max Povse will bring the scouts to Greensboro and should be fairly high draft pick.



# 2014 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BY AARON KIRBY FOR WWW.COLLEGEBASEBALLDAILY.COM

## #9-Wofford (20-36 overall; 10-20 SoCon; 11th)

The Terriers led the country in stolen bases with 163 in 2013 and return 138 with 107 from the returning 6 starters (OF Josh Hyman 26, C Mathew Ramsey 21, INF Seth Neely 17, OF James Plaisted 17, OF Mathew Kaskow, INF Alec Paradowski 10). Senior's OF Josh Hyman (.338, 71 H, 14 2B, 6 HR, 36 RBI) and INF Seth Neely (.319, 69 H, 38 RBI) lead the offense.

On the mound Wofford is led by two senior all conference candidates in starting RHP Jesse Morris (7-6, 4.73, 14 GS, 83.2 IP, 102 K) and closer RHP Eric Eck (1-3, 2.80, 26 APP, 10 SV, 35.1 IP, .205 B/AVG). Eck was just named one of 50 players in country to the initial Stopper of the Year watch by NCBWA

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (6/1)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Josh Hyman	.338	56-56	210	43	71	14	3	6	36
Seth Neely	.319	56-56	216	24	69	7	1	0	38
Alec Paradowski	.283	54-54	191	37	54	10	1	1	20
James Plaisted	.263	47-43	152	23	40	9	0	0	22
Matthew Ramsay	.257	52-51	167	28	43	6	1	3	25
Matthew Kaskow	.174	52-47	149	34	26	6	0	2	13

### Other Notable

Matthew Pelt	.270	42-34	122	19	33	7	1	1	16
Eric Brenk	.242	28-26	95	9	23	4	1	3	19
Demetrius Jennings	.219	36-33	96	20	21	4	0	0	8
Luke Feisal	.204	41-36	108	5	22	5	0	1	12

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (2/1)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Jesse Morris	4.73	7-6	14-14	0	83.2	99	20	102	.285
Luke Leftwich	7.64	2-6	19-11	0	55.1	62	42	69	.287

### Other Notable

Eric Eck	2.80	1-3	26-0	10	35.1	27	17	38	.205
Will Stillman	3.29	2-2	21-0	0	27.1	16	21	30	.168
Matthew Milburn	4.91	3-3	31-4	0	44.0	56	21	40	.301
Connor Foltyn	6.23	0-0	8-0	0	4.1	8	3	4	.400
Luke Leftwich	7.64	2-6	19-11	0	55.1	62	42	69	.287
Josh Simpson	7.88	0-1	10-0	0	8.0	13	7	2	.361
Connell Anderson	9.95	0-3	18-2	0	25.1	43	21	14	.374

Prediction-Wofford is darkhorse in 2014. While they should finish in the 8th to 10th range they could finish as high as 6th. The speed they return along with a very solid #1 in RHP Jesse Morris and closer RHP Eric Eck at back end they will win some games.



# 2014 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BY AARON KIRBY FOR WWW.COLLEGEBASEBALLDAILY.COM

## #10-Davidson (18-31 overall; 12-18 SoCon; 9th)

The Wildcats finished just 1/2 game out of the 8th and final spot in the Southern Conference tournament in 2013 and return 6 of 8 starting position players including their top 3 hitters in senior OF Forrest Brandt (.295, 52 H, 11 2B, 1 HR, 27 RBI, 11-13 SB), senior OF Nathan Becker (.292, 49 H, 10 2B, 1 HR, 14 RBI) and junior 3B David Daniels (.255, 40 H, 6 2B, 3 HR, 18 RBI).

On the mound Davidson returns 16 of the 18 wins including all 3 weekend starters led by senior RHP Danny Mooney (6-4, 4.71, 13 GS, 78.1 IP, 70 K). junior RHP Ryan Lowe (4-8, 5.40, 14 GS, 75.0, 55 K) and junior LHP Rob Bain (2-4, 5.64, 9 GS, 52.2 IP) also return from weekend rotation.

### Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (6/2)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi
Forrest Brandt	.295	48-48	176	34	52	11	2	1	27
Ryan Lowe	.295	41-41	149	20	44	10	0	5	25
Nathan Becker	.292	49-49	168	29	49	10	1	1	14
David Daniels	.255	42-40	157	22	40	6	1	3	18
Lee Miller	.238	39-37	126	16	30	5	2	6	23
Sam Foy	.236	47-47	199	20	47	6	0	1	21

### Other Notable

Andrew Pope	.242	29-10	33	7	8	0	2	1	3
Ben Arkin	.231	15-1	13	1	3	0	0	0	3
Daniel Gerow	.213	31-25	94	11	20	3	0	1	11
Ty Middlebrooks	.213	23-12	47	7	10	3	0	0	3
Chris Dyer	.188	26-24	80	9	15	2	0	1	9

### Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (3/0)

Player	era	w-l	app-gs	sv	ip	h	bb	so	b/avg
Danny Mooney	4.71	6-4	14-13	0	78.1	94	29	70	.297
Ryan Lowe	5.40	4-8	15-14	0	75.0	85	41	55	.291
Rob Bain	5.64	2-4	15-9	0	52.2	73	16	28	.335

### Other Notable

Matt Saeta	3.48	2-1	24-3	3	41.1	39	16	26	.245
Nick Neitzel	4.29	1-2	10-3	0	21.0	17	14	21	.221
Jip Richards	5.10	1-2	23-0	0	30.0	27	22	25	.243
Durin O'Linger	7.32	0-0	11-0	0	19.2	29	10	18	.354
Justin Charles	7.71	0-0	15-0	0	9.1	10	11	9	.256
Michael Goldberg	8.38	0-2	13-2	0	19.1	25	13	11	.329

Prediction-The Wildcats will finish 8th-10th and take a series from a contender or two but not enough offense to climb to high.