



2016 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SOCCER

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#GSCWSOC



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LEE TABBED GSC COACHES PRESEASON FAVORITE

Birmingham, Ala. — As the Gulf South Conference Women's Soccer season approaches, Lee, the 2015 GSC Tournament Runner-Up, will enter the season as the preseason favorite, as dubbed by the GSC coaches on Thursday.

Lee paced the GSC last season going 10-2 to top the conference standings and claim a share of the GSC Regular Season Title, with North Alabama, the 2016 GSC Tournament Champion. The Lady Flames went 11-5-4 overall and garnered preseason favorite honors with seven first-place votes. West Florida turned in three first-place votes, while UNA earned the other two. UNA will also enter the 2016 campaign as the lone NSCAA-ranked team, coming in at No. 18 overall. Mississippi College will play in its first season of NCAA Division II and GSC eligibility. Moving one step closer in the NCAA DII reclassification process this summer was Spring Hill, a GSC soccer affiliate. The league is also set to expand in the fall of 2017-18, with the additions of both Auburn-Montgomery and Montevallo, both women's soccer-playing institutions.

Lee announced Chris Hennessey as full-time head coach this offseason, while Delta State tabbed Luke Sheekey to lead its program. Hennessey led his squad to the GSC Tournament Final last season. Sheekey arrives from the Louisiana Olympic Development Program and Holy Cross High School, where he has spent the last three seasons.

The 2016 Preseason All-GSC Team comprised of 12-total players this year. Leading the charge were Lee, West Florida and North Alabama, all placing three standouts each to the list. West Alabama had two, while Christian Brothers rounded out the honorees, with one. Both halves of the 2015 Co-GSC Freshmen of the Year, UNA's **Kylie Huey** (18 points) and CBU's **Melissa Tammi** (4 goals) highlighted the field. UWF saw **Svenja Burkhardt**, **Kaley Ward** (24 points) and **Sara Helgadottir**, while UNA also had **Shelby Thornton**, the GSC Tournament Most Outstanding Player, and **Beatriz Fernandes**. Lee placed **McKenzie Bricker**, who dished out three assists in the GSC Tournament, **Summer Lanter** (10 goals) and **Kinsey Cichowitz**. UWA had **Kirsten Reilly**, who scored seven game-winning goals last season, and **Mara DeLuca**.

2016 GSC WOMEN'S SOCCER PRESEASON COACHES POLL

Last season's Co-GSC Regular Season Champion and GSC Tournament Runner-Up, **Lee** (114 points), will enter the 2016 season as the GSC Preseason Coaches' Favorite. The Lady Flames were followed by **West Florida**, with 111 points, and **North Alabama** (104 points), the 2016 GSC Tournament Champion. Rounding out the Top 5 was the newly added **Mississippi College** (83 points) and **West Alabama**, with 82 points. **Christian Brothers** earned the six-spot, followed by: **Valdosta State** (61 points), **West Georgia** (53 points), **Union** (44 points), **Alabama Huntsville** (33 points), **Shorter** (22 points) and **Delta State**, with 12 points.

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	TOTAL
Lee	7	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	114
West Florida	3	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111
North Alabama	2	4	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	104
Mississippi College	—	—	3	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	83
West Alabama	—	—	2	4	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	82
Christian Brothers	—	—	—	2	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	73
Valdosta State	—	—	1	—	1	4	2	2	1	—	—	61
West Georgia	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	3	1	—	—	53
Union	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	—	—	44
Alabama Huntsville	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	4	—	33
Shorter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	2	22
Delta State	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	12

NOTE: The GSC Preseason Women's Soccer Team was selected by the head coaches. Balloting that ended in a tie was not broken. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

2016 PRESEASON ALL-GSC TEAM

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
GK	Shelby Thornton	North Alabama	Jr.	Amory, Miss.
D	McKenzie Bricker	Lee	Jr.	Collierville, Tenn.
D	Svenja Burkhardt	West Florida	Sr.	Bad Salzuflen, Germany
D	Mara DeLuca	West Alabama	Sr.	Birmingham, Ala.
M	Kinsey Cichowitz	Lee	Sr.	Buena Vista, Colo.
M	Beatriz Fernandes	North Alabama	Jr.	Lisbon, Portugal
M	Sara Helgadottir	West Florida	Sr.	Grindavik, Iceland
M	Kirsten Rielly	West Alabama	Sr.	Musselburgh, Scotland
F	Kylie Huey	North Alabama	So.	Arlington, Tenn.
F	Summer Lanter	Lee	Jr.	Soddy-Daisy, Tenn.
F	Melissa Tammi	Christian Brothers	So.	Collierville, Tenn.
F	Kaley Ward	West Florida	Sr.	Saint Cloud, Fla.

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2016 TOP NEWCOMERS TO THE GSC

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN / LAST SCHOOL</u>
F	Arieal Alexander	UAH	Fr.	Lafayette, La. / Lafayette HS
D	Lauren Mayer	UAH	Fr.	Alabaster, Ala. / Thompson HS
D	Amelia Skalos	CBU	Fr.	New Orleans, La. / Ben Franklin HS
M	Sinead Tierney	CBU	So.	Winford, England / Old Dominion
GK	Ella Hunkin	DSU	Fr.	Chelsea, London, England / Chelsea FC Academy
F	Anoucke Baas	DSU	Fr.	Cepelle aan den Usel, Holland / Commenius Lyceum Capelle
D	Laila Dilts	LEE	Fr.	Carmel, Ind. / Guerin Catholic HS
F	Carly Smoltz	LEE	Fr.	Alpharetta, Ga. / Kings Ridge Christian
F	Kyra Montes	MC	Fr.	Shreveport, La. / C.E. Byrd HS
D	Katie Taylor	MC	r-Fr.	Tupelo, Miss. / Arkansas
M	Haley Yarber	UNA	Fr.	Cleveland, Tenn. / Bradley Central HS
D	Caroline Naess	UNA	Fr.	Hamar, Norway / Hamar Cathedral School
F	Cassie Burdiss	SU	Fr.	Wilksboro, N.C. / West Wilkes HS
D	Amberly Halstead	SU	Jr.	Las Vegas, Nev. / Mississippi Valley State
F	Sydney DeJohn	SHC	Fr.	Hoover, Ala. / Hoover HS
M	Johanna Meister	SHC	Fr.	Waldshut-Tiengen, Germany / Hochrein-Gymnasium Waldshut
D	Brooke Watson	UU	Fr.	Southaven, Miss. / DeSoto Central HS
M/F	Addyson Dunn	UU	Fr.	Jackson, Tenn. / University School of Jackson
GK	Alyssa Curtis	VSU	Jr.	Palate, Fla. / Andrew
M/F	Brittney Benedict	VSU	Fr.	Palm Beach, Fla. / Park Vista HS
F	TeMia Pride	UWA	Fr.	Huntsville, Ala. / Lee-Huntsville HS
M	Megan McGettigan	UWA	Fr.	Chalkville, Ala. / Hewitt-Trussville HS
D/M	Camille King	UWF	Fr.	Land O' Lakes, Fla. / Wiregrass Ranch HS
GK	Elizabeth Bankhead	UWF	Fr.	Baton Rouge, La. / University Laboratory School
GK	Morgan Springer	UWG	Fr.	Emmitsburg, Md. / Catocin HS
D	Amia Canada	UWG	Fr.	Fredricksburg, Va. / Courtland HS

NOTE: Top Newcomers are submitted by the head coaches during the Preseason All-GSC nomination process. Players from Spring Hill will be recognized, as games against SHC count toward the GSC standings, but the school is NOT eligible for the GSC Tournament.