



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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For Immediate Release

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January 27, 2009

2009 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE SOFTBALL PRE-SEASON RELEASE ALABAMA-HUNTSVILLE PICKED AS GSC SOFTBALL CHAMPION UAH UNANIMOUS TO WIN EAST; ARKANSAS TECH CHOSEN TO CAPTURE WEST

Birmingham, AL—For the fifth straight year, the coaches have chosen **Alabama-Huntsville** to win the Gulf South Conference Championship.

The Chargers remained in their familiar top spot by sweeping all first place votes in the divisional poll. Alabama-Huntsville also snatched up 11 out of 13 possible votes for the overall champion. UAH won its eighth GSC Conference Championship last year, defeating Arkansas Tech 8-0 at the Greenbrook Softball Complex in Southaven, Miss. Taking second was **Valdosta State**, who received two votes from the coaches.

The West Division was predicted to go in Arkansas Tech's column, as the Golden Suns topped the list. Tech will look to repeat as West Division Champions, as ATU amassed a 41-17 overall record and advanced all the way to the GSC Tournament Championship game last season.

2009 GSC SOFTBALL PRE-SEASON COACHES' POLLS

EAST DIVISION

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama-Huntsville	5	—	—	—	—	25
Valdosta State	1	3	1	—	—	20
West Florida	—	1	4	—	—	16
North Alabama	—	2	—	3	—	14
West Alabama	—	—	1	3	1	10
West Georgia	—	—	—	—	5	5

WEST DIVISION

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>	<u>Total</u>
Arkansas Tech	5	—	1	—	—	—	34
Arkansas-Monticello	2	3	1	—	—	—	31
Delta State	—	3	2	1	—	—	26
Henderson State	—	1	1	2	2	—	19
Ouachita Baptist	—	—	2	2	1	1	17
Christian Brothers	—	—	—	1	2	3	10
Southern Arkansas	—	—	—	1	2	3	10

GSC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Alabama-Huntsville	11
Valdosta State	2

NOTE: The Head Coaches voted on this poll. Teams from the East received 5 points for a first place vote, 4 for a second place vote, 3 for third, etc. In the West, teams received 6 points for a first place vote, 5 for a second place vote, 4 for third, etc. The Head Coaches then cast one vote for the overall champion. The Head Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own squads.

Tied teams are listed in alphabetical order

CLOSER LOOK AT THE GSC SOFTBALL COACHES' POLLS

UAH TABBED TO WIN EAST TITLE

Alabama-Huntsville was selected as the unanimous East Division favorite after totaling a perfect 25 points, including all first place votes. **Valdosta State** grabbed the silver in this year's pre-season poll (20), with **West Florida** (16 points) claiming the bronze. **North Alabama** (14) is in the fourth slot, with **West Alabama** (10) and **West Georgia** (5) closing out the voting.

ATU PICKED TO WIN WEST TITLE

Arkansas Tech was picked to win the West Division title, earning five first place votes for a total of 34 votes. ATU advanced to the GSC Championship game last season en route to picking up 41 wins on the year. **Arkansas-Monticello** (31) is picked to finish second, just a year after being tabbed the division favorite. **Delta State (26)** checks in the third spot.

Henderson State grabbed fourth, collecting 19 points. **Ouachita Baptist** snatched up the fifth spot, getting 17 votes from the league's coaches. **Christian Brothers** (10) and **Southern Arkansas** (10) tied for the fifth spot.

GSC TO HOLD CROSSOVER TOURNAMENT

The Gulf South Conference will hold one Crossover Tournament in 2009, scheduled for April 2-5 in Decatur, AL.

GSC CROSSOVER

April 2-5, 2009

Schedule of Games

Thursday	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
4:00	VSU v. ATU	UWG v. OBU	UWA v. SAU	UWF v. DSU		
6:00	UNA v. DSU	UAH v. OBU	UWA v. UAM	UWF v. CBU		
8:00	VSU v. HSU	UWG v. SAU				
Friday	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
12:00	UWG v. ATU	UWF v. UAM	UWA v. HSU			
2:00	UNA v. HSU	VSU v. DSU	UWF v. SAU	UWG v. CBU		
4:00	UNA v. OBU	UAH v. ATU	UWA v. CBU	VSU v. UAM		
Saturday	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
12:00	UNA v. CBU	UAH v. HSU	UWA v. DSU			
2:00	UNA v. SAU	UAH v. CBU	UWF v. OBU			
4:00	UWF v. ATU	UWG v. HSU	VSU v. OBU			
Sunday	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
10:00	UNA v. UAM	UAH v. SAU	UWA v. ATU	VSU v. CBU	UWF v. HSU	
12:00	UNA v. ATU	UAH v. UAM	UWA v. OBU	UWG v. DSU		

2009 GSC PRE-SEASON SOFTBALL TEAM

A nice mix of youth and experience highlight this year's team, with several seniors joined by a plethora of talented underclassmen. **Alabama-Huntsville** lead all teams with six players selected to the East Division squad. **Arkansas Tech (4)** was second, followed by several teams with three athletes chosen. **West Alabama, Christian Brothers, Delta State and Henderson state** were apart of the group that had a trio represented. **North Alabama (2), West Georgia (2) and Arkansas-Monticello (2)** all placed multiple players.

Below is complete listing of the top returning players in the Gulf South Conference according to the league's coaching body.

EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	& Krystal Johnson	UAH	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala.
IF	Beth Lawson	UAH	Jr.	Hazel Green, Ala.
P/IF	Caitlin Lee	UAH	So.	Birmingham, Ala.
P	& Alex Lewis	UAH	So.	Huntsville, Ala.
OF	#& Kristina Prater	UAH	Jr.	Athens, Ala.
P/1B	@\$& Sage Woodham	UAH	Sr.	Daphne, Ala.
P	^ Megan Niesel	UNA	Sr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
2B	Sarah Whitlow	UNA	Sr.	Hartselle, Ala.
IF	^ Andi Braswell	VSU	Sr.	Jacksonville, Fla.
OF	^ Valisha Fincher	UWA	So.	Tarrant, Ala.
SS	& Courtney Gordon	UWA	Sr.	Columbus, Ga.
2B	^ Kelli Hartley	UWA	So.	Northport, Ala.
P	^ Jillian LaFrance	UWF	Jr.	Calgary, Alberta
1B	& Kara Pollock	UWG	So.	Lawrenceville, Ga.
SS	@# Kim Weaver	UWG	Sr.	Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
SS	^ Lindsay Randall	UAM	Sr.	Keithville, La.
OF	# Becca Tipton	UAM	Jr.	Dermott, Ark.
P	& Casey Hammons	ATU	Jr.	Carthage, Texas
1B	& Tiphani Moon	ATU	So.	Eules, Texas
C	& Roxie Palacios	ATU	Jr.	Crosby, Texas
RF	&# Sarah Pratt	ATU	Sr.	Garland, Texas
P	@\$^ Nikki Dunn	CBU	Sr.	Southaven, Miss.
IF	Casey King	CBU	So.	Flower Mound, Texas
OF	Victoria Mathews	CBU	So.	Victoria, Texas
C	# Courtney Clark	DSU	Jr.	Little Rock, Ark.
P	\$ Edie Oliver	DSU	Jr..	Eupora, Miss.
OF	\$& Brittany Tillery	DSU	Sr.	Starkville, Miss.
2B	^ Heather Canderday	HSU	So.	Dardenelle, Ark.
2B	^ Tori Gast	HSU	Sr.	Germantown, Tenn.
SS	^ Kayla Lucas	HSU	So.	Marion, Ark.
P/UT	& Kristen Rigsbee	OBU	So.	Frisco, Texas

@—2006 First Team All-GSC
 \$—2007 First Team All-GSC
 &—2008 First Team All-GSC

%—2006 Second Team All-GSC
 #—2007 Second Team All-GSC
 ^—2008 Second Team All-GSC

2009 GSC SOFTBALL TOP NEWCOMERS

EAST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN</u>
P/UT	Whitney Hawkins	UAH	5-10	Jr.	Wallace-Dothan CC/Athens, Ala.
SS	Kathryn Whitlock	UAH	5-7	Fr.	Arab HS/Arab, Ala.
P	Jennifer Sexton	UNA	5-10	Jr.	Wallace-Hanceville CC/Harvest, Ala.
CF	Cassandra McKinney	UNA	5-4	Fr.	East Limestone HS/Athens, Ala.
C	Kathryn Young	UNA	5-7	Fr.	Central HS/Florence, Ala.
P	Margaret Carter	VSU	5-8	So.	Samford/Palatka, Fla.
P	Holly Satterfield	VSU	5-6	So.	Florida International/Chattanooga, Tenn.
SS	Marti Littlefield	VSU	5-9	Fr.	Berrien County HS/Nashville, Ga.
OF	Jessica Powell	UWA	5-8	So.	Sierra College/Orangevale, Calif.
OF	Lauren Mills	UWA	5-8	Jr.	Western Nebraska CC/Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
P	Jessica Cervantes	UWA	5-6	Jr.	College of the Sequoias/Visalia, Calif.
1B	Shannon Miles	UWF	5-6	Jr.	Bossier Parish CC/Shreveport, La.
3B	Amber Ingram	UWF	5-7	Fr.	Catholic HS/Pensacola, Fla.
C	Heather Crews	UWG	5-5	So.	Dalton College/Bainbridge, Ga.
2B	Lindsay Ellenburg	UWG	5-7	Fr.	Collins Hill HS/Lawrenceville, Ga.

WEST DIVISION

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN</u>
P	Lyndsey McVay	ATU	5-6	Jr.	Bossier Parish CC/Jonesboro, Ark.
SS	Stephanie Lasley	ATU	5-8	Fr.	Greenbrier HS/Greenbrier, Ark.
P	Heather McAfee	ATU	5-6	Fr.	Central Gwinnett HS/Lawrenceville, Ga.
OF	Brooke Davis	CBU	5-5	Fr.	Southaven HS/Southaven, Miss.
P/OF	Brooke Allgood	DSU	5-8	Jr.	Wallace Hanceville CC/Hueytown, Ala.
OF	Callie Weaver	DSU	5-6	Jr.	Northeast MS CC/Houston, Miss.
C	Kim Hensley	DSU	5-5	Jr.	St. Petersburg College/Land O'Lakes, Fla.
P	Melissa Decker	HSU	5-7	Fr.	North Monterey County HS/Prundale, Calif.
2B	Catherine Jones	HSU	5-2	Jr.	Central Arkansas/Nashville, Ark.
3B	Ashley Ray	HSU	5-7	Fr.	Wynne HS/Wynne, Ark.
CF	Monica Davis	OBU	5-8	Fr.	Forney HS/Forney, Texas
P/1B	Taylor Austin	OBU	5-10	Fr.	Wills Point HS/Canton, Texas
C/SS	Alexis Johns	OBU	5-9	Fr.	Juan Sequin HS/Arlington, Texas
IF/OF	Brittany Chaney	SAU	5-5	Fr.	Memorial HS/Houston, Texas
IF	Stephanie Montes	SAU	5-6	Fr.	J. Frank Dobie HS/Houston, Texas
IF/OF	Hannah Spiva	SAU	5-3	Fr.	Atlanta HS/Atlanta, Texas