



# GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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For Immediate Release

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## 2007 GSC VOLLEYBALL PRE-SEASON RELEASE

### UNA PREDICTED TO WIN GSC CHAMPIONSHIP; HARDING TABBED TO WIN THE WEST

**Birmingham, AL**— With the first matches of the new season only a few weeks away, the league's coaches put their heads together to predict how teams in the league will finish when all is said and done. Not only did they pick the league's top teams, but also the GSC's top returning players along with those whose impact should be felt the most this year.

When it comes to hoisting the GSC Championship trophy, North Alabama was again selected to capture the hardware. The Lions have won the league title a conference-high 16 times, including a 3-0 win over Harding to capture last year's crown. UNA heads into 2007 on the heels of another great year, advancing all the way to the NCAA Championship Match. The Lions, led by NCAA South Regional Coach of the Year Stephanie Radecki, finished the season a perfect 12-0 in GSC play.

The league's coaches feel that Harding will once again be victorious in the West, finishing with the most votes among the division's squads. Harding had a magical campaign a year ago, joining UNA with a unblemished 12-0 record in league action. The Lady Bisons were the GSC West Division Champions for the fifth consecutive year and had four players capture All-GSC honors. Head Coach Keith Giboney's accomplishments garnered him the GSC West Division Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year.

### 2007 GSC VOLLEYBALL PRE-SEASON COACHES' POLL

In this year's Pre-Season Poll, **North Alabama** was chosen to reign supreme in the East. The Lions picked up 32 votes, good enough for the top spot in the division. UNA barely edged out **West Florida**, as the Lady Argonauts picked up three first-place votes and 31 points overall to finish in second place. **West Georgia** came in in third, with 29 points, followed by **Valdosta State** with 18. **Alabama-Huntsville** claimed the fifth spot (14), with **Montevallo** (13) and **West Alabama** (10) closing out the division.

In the West, five-time defending champ **Harding** was chosen to win the title again, picking up 35 votes to ensure its place at the top of the standings. **Henderson State**, led by last season's Freshman of the Year Bethany Wright, claimed the second spot with 32 points, including two first place votes. Next was **Ouachita Baptist** with 23 points followed **Arkansas Tech** who claimed the fourth spot with 21. **Arkansas-Monticello** (16), **Southern Arkansas** (10) and **Christian Brothers** (9) round out the West.

#### EAST DIVISION

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	TOTAL
North Alabama	2	4	—	—	—	—	32
West Florida	3	1	2	—	—	—	31
West Georgia	2	2	1	1	—	—	29
Valdosta State	—	—	2	2	2	—	18
Alabama-Huntsville	—	—	—	3	2	1	14
Montevallo	—	—	1	1	2	2	13
West Alabama	—	—	1	—	1	4	10

#### WEST DIVISION

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	TOTAL
Harding	5	1	—	—	—	—	35
Henderson State	2	4	—	—	—	—	32
Ouachita Baptist	—	2	2	1	1	—	23
Arkansas Tech	—	—	3	3	—	—	21
Arkansas-Monticello	—	—	1	3	1	1	16
Southern Arkansas	—	—	—	1	2	3	10
Christian Brothers	—	—	—	—	3	3	9

**Overall Champion:** North Alabama (6), West Florida (4), Harding (2), West Georgia (2)

## 2007 PRE-SEASON ALL-GSC TEAM

The 2007 Pre-Season All-GSC Volleyball Team is a veteran-laden squad. 16 of the 18 members are upperclassmen, including 12 that made an All-GSC team last season. **Arkansas Tech, Harding, Henderson State, North Alabama, West Alabama, West Florida and West Georgia** lead all teams with two players. **Alabama-Huntsville, Arkansas-Monticello, Montevallo, and Ouachita Baptist** placed one player on the team.

The Preseason All-GSC East Team features some familiar faces. Three players on the squad made appearances on postseason lists last year, headed up by First Team All-GSC selections **Danielle Palasak and Caroline Schoeneck**. This was Schoeneck's second straight First Team nod, as the senior has climbed up the West Georgia history books in her stellar career. Palasak will look to lead her team on another title run, as the senior was a key cog in a squad that won 35 games and advanced to the NCAA Championship Match.

In the West there were no surprises, with all eight members coming off seasons that saw them make All-GSC lists. Leading the way is OBU senior **Breanne Garrett**, ATU outside hitter **Rachael Urquhart** and Harding duo **Katelin Parks and Leah Tape** who all made the First Team a year ago. Also on the West Division squad are 2006 Freshman of the Year **Bethany Wright** along with dominant senior middle blocker **Kameshia Melton** of Arkansas-Monticello.

### EAST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
RS	Kelly Ingram	Alabama-Huntsville	6-1	Jr.	Mt. Olive, Ala.
MH	Monika Tortorici	Montevallo	6-0	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala.
L	Jessica Hansen	North Alabama	5-5	Jr.	Council Bluffs, Iowa
OH	#Danielle Palasak	North Alabama	5-11	Sr.	Garden City, Mich.
S	Guiliana DeFrancesco	West Alabama	5-9	So.	Sao Paulo, Brazil
OH	\$Allison Nall	West Alabama	5-10	Jr.	Cullman, Ala.
L	Jerica Carter	West Florida	5-8	Jr.	Gainesville, Fla.
MH	Danielle Spitzer	West Florida	6-1	Sr.	Birmingham, Ala.
RS/M	\$Juliana da Silva	West Georgia	6-0	Jr.	Juiz de Fora, Brazil
OH	#Caroline Schoeneck	West Georgia	6-2	Sr.	Berlin, Germany

### WEST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
MB	\$Kameshia Melton	Arkansas-Monticello	5-9	Sr.	Grapevine, Texas
S	\$Kayla Allison	Arkansas Tech	6-0	Jr.	Tulsa, Okla.
OH	#Racheal Urquhart	Arkansas Tech	5-11	Jr.	Chatham, Ontario
OH	#Katelin Parks	Harding	6-0	Sr.	Stanwood, Wash.
S	#Leah Tape	Harding	5-7	Jr.	Germantown, Tenn.
MB	\$Edith Musebe	Henderson State	6-2	Sr.	Nairobi, Kenya
L	\$Bethany Wright	Henderson State	5-7	So.	Georgetown, Texas
MB	#Breanne Garrett	Ouachita Baptist	6-0	Sr.	Garland, Texas

#—2006 First Team All-GSC

\$—2006 Second Team All-GSC

## GSC VOLLEYBALL MATCH OF THE WEEK

For the first time ever in the sport of volleyball, the Gulf South Conference will feature a "Match of the Week" in 2007. The GSC will highlight teams around the conference throughout the volleyball season, spotlighting one match per week. The release will take a look at the history of the matchup, along with quotes from coaches and player profiles.

Tentatively set to start once the conference slate begins, every team will appear at least once during the year. This will show the strength of the GSC, recognizing a league that sports impressive volleyball history.

GSC volleyball has been a major player nationally, making 21 appearances in the NCAA Tournament. The conference also boasts a national championship (North Alabama, 2003) and a .545 winning percentage (24-20) in postseason play. The Gulf South Conference has had as many as three teams chosen to compete in regional action in one year, and has been represented in 11 straight seasons of postseason action (1996-2006). North Alabama continued that success a year ago, advancing to the NCAA Championship match for the second time in four seasons.

"There is increased interest in volleyball in the Southeast, and this level of fan support warrants more exposure," said Commissioner Nate Salant. "We believe one of the steps we can take is to select a match each week, focusing league, media and public attention on it."

## 2007 TOP NEWCOMERS

### EAST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN
OH	Carrie Brown	Alabama-Huntsville	5-10	Fr.	Donoho School/Anniston, Ala.
OH	Sade Oates	Alabama-Huntsville	5-8	Jr.	NW Shoals CC/Cherokee, Ala.
OH	Kara Zawisza	Montevallo	5-10	Fr.	Saline HS/Ann Arbor, Mich.
OH	Maureen Esler	Montevallo	5-10	Fr.	Lassiter HS/Marietta, Ga.
MH	Whitney Sanders	North Alabama	6-1	Jr.	South Alabama/Haleyville, Ala.
S	Alison Jacobs	North Alabama	5-9	So.	Auburn/Elkhorn, Neb.
OH	Ruthie King	Valdosta State	5-9	Fr.	Lake Howell HS/Winter Park, Fla.
L	Laura Boos	Valdosta State	5-6	Jr.	Arkansas-Fort Smith/Chandler, Ariz.
OH	Gabi Pedrosa	West Alabama	6-0	So.	Ball State/Belo Horizonte, Brazil
MB	Whitney Jones	West Alabama	6-1	Fr.	Robertsdale HS/Robertsdale, Ala.
RS/S	Luciana Rapach	West Florida	5-9	Jr.	Iowa Western CC/Porto Alegre, Brazil
S	Madeline Gonzalez	West Florida	5-7	Jr.	Hillsborough CC/Bayamon, Puerto Rico
OH	Andressa Martins	West Georgia	5-1	So.	Seminole State/Olinda, Brazil
M	Jordan McDonald	West Georgia	5-10	Fr.	Vestavia Hills HS/Birmingham, Ala.

### WEST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN
OH	Taura Rush	Arkansas-Monticello	5-11	Jr.	Eastern Arizona/Joseph City, Ariz.
L	Keri Gilbert	Arkansas-Monticello	5-10	Fr.	Hill County Christian HS/San Marcos, Texas
MB	Sarah Von Lienen	Arkansas Tech	6-2	Fr.	Immaculate Conception HS/Lakeland, Tenn.
OH	Kelly O'Malley	Arkansas Tech	5-11	Fr.	Billings Senior High School/Laurel, Mont.
OH	Michelle Hein	Christian Brothers	5-11	Fr.	Corona del Sol HS/Tempe, Ariz.
OH	Logan Westphal	Christian Brothers	5-11	Fr.	Herndon HS/Herndon, Va.
DS	Emily Tate	Harding	5-8	Fr.	Sachse HS/Sachse, Texas
OH	Rosie Redding	Harding	5-11	Fr.	Bentonville HS/Bentonville, Ark.
S	Laura Timms	Henderson State	5-9	Fr.	Conroe HS/Conroe, Texas
MB/OH	Tiffany Gunn	Henderson State	5-10	Fr.	Bonham HS/Bonham, Texas
OH	Kaitlyn Mitcham	Ouachita Baptist	5-9	Fr.	Fort Worth Paschal/Fort Worth, Texas
OH	Ryleigh Lay	Ouachita Baptist	5-9	Fr.	Royse City HS/Royse City, Texas
MB	Cristina Correa	Southern Arkansas	5-10	Jr.	DePaul/Houston, Texas
S	Kourtney Neal	Southern Arkansas	5-6	Jr.	Seminole State/Mineola, Texas

## 2007 GSC VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

*(at West Division Champion)*

The top four teams in each Division will qualify for the GSC Volleyball Championship Tournament and be seeded according to their standing. This if not a final bracket.

**Friday, November 9**

**First Round**

Match 1	TBA	West #1 Seed v. East #4 Seed
Match 2	TBA	West #3 Seed v. East #2 Seed
Match 3	TBA	West #4 Seed v. East #1 Seed
Match 4	TBA	West #2 Seed v. East #3 Seed

**Saturday, November 10**

**Semifinals**

Match 5	TBA	Match 1 Winner v. Match 2 Winner
Match 6	TBA	Match 3 Winner v. Match 4 Winner

**Final**

Match 7	TBA	Match 5 Winner v. Match 6 Winner
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\* All times are Central and subject to change