

# SOCON SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL

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## 2025-26

# SOCON

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

## 2025-26 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

|                  | Conference |      |     |     |    | Overall |      |     |     |     |    |
|------------------|------------|------|-----|-----|----|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|----|
|                  | W-L        | Pct. | H   | A   | ST | W-L     | Pct. | H   | A   | N   | ST |
| Chattanooga      | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| ETSU             | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| Furman           | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| Mercer           | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| Samford          | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| The Citadel      | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| UNCG             | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| VMI              | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| Western Carolina | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |
| Wofford          | 0-0        | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  | 0-0     | .000 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | -  |

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

### November 3 (Monday)

Johnson & Wales at VMI, 6 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 Furman vs. High Point, 6:30 p.m. (Field of 68 Opening  
 Day Marathon at Rock Hill, S.C.) **F68**  
 Erskine at The Citadel, 7 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 Mercer at Tennessee, 7 p.m. **SEC+**  
 Union Commonwealth at Chattanooga, 7 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 Western Carolina at Cincinnati, 7 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 Wofford at George Mason, 7 p.m.  
 Samford at Tulane, 8:30 p.m.

### November 4 (Tuesday)

Converse at ETSU, 7 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 UNCG at Kansas State, 8 p.m. **ESPN+**

### November 5 (Wednesday)

LaGrange at Mercer, 7 p.m. **ESPN+**

### November 6 (Thursday)

The Citadel at Boston College, 7 p.m. **ACCX**

### November 7 (Friday)

Troy at Furman, 6:30 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 South Carolina State at Samford, 8:30 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 VMI at Southern Indiana, 8:30 p.m.  
 Chattanooga at Saint Mary's, 10:30 p.m. **ESPN+**

### November 8 (Saturday)

Western Carolina at Duke, 1:30 p.m. **CW**  
 Milwaukee at Wofford, 2 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 Elon at UNCG, 4 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 ETSU at Presbyterian, 6 p.m. **ESPN+**  
 Chattanooga at UNLV, 9 p.m. **MWN**

### November 9 (Sunday)

Lipscomb at Mercer, 2 p.m. **NEX/ESPN+**  
 VMI at Missouri, 2 p.m. **ESPN+**

## Preseason predictions

The Chattanooga Mocs are the preseason favorites to win the 2025-26 men's basketball title in polling of the league's 10 head coaches, while VMI senior guard Rickey Bradley, Jr. is the coaches' selection as the preseason player of the year. Bradley averaged 16.3 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.4 steals per game last season in 34 games played.

### Preseason Player of the Year

Rickey Bradley Jr, Sr., G, VMI

### Preseason All-Southern Conference Team

Jaylen Smith, Jr., G, ETSU  
 Cooper Bowser, Jr., F, Furman  
 Tom House, Sr., G, Furman  
 Jadin Booth, Gr., G, Samford  
 Dylan Faulkner, Jr., C, Samford  
 Jikari Johnson, Gr., G, Chattanooga  
 Collin Mulholland, R-So., F, Chattanooga  
 Teddy Washington Jr., Gr., G, Chattanooga  
 Rickey Bradley Jr, Sr., G, VMI  
 Marcus Kell, R-Jr., F, Western Carolina

### Coaches poll

| Team (1st)          | Total |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Chattanooga (5)  | 77    |
| 2. Furman (5)       | 73    |
| 3. Samford          | 62    |
| 4. ETSU             | 61    |
| 5. UNCG             | 43    |
| 6. VMI              | 41    |
| 7. Western Carolina | 32    |
| 8. Mercer           | 30    |
| 9. Wofford          | 21    |
| 10. The Citadel     | 10    |

## NOTES

• The 105th season of Southern Conference men's basketball tips off Monday with eight SoCon teams in action. ETSU and UNCG opens its season on Tuesday.

• Preseason Southern Conference favorite Chattanooga is ranked No. 22 in the preseason CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25. Furman was the league's top-ranked team, coming in at No. 14. ETSU and Samford received votes in the poll.

• The Citadel, Mercer and Western Carolina each face Power Four opponents on the road this week.

• Defending SoCon regular-season and NIT Tournament champion Chattanooga opens its season with a home game against Union Commonwealth, before heading west to play Saint Mary's and UNLV. The Mocs finished the 2024-25 season 15-6 in games on the road and at neutral sites.

• Samford's Lennie Acuff and Wofford's Kevin Giltner begin their first seasons at the helm in Birmingham and Spartanburg, respectively. Acuff comes to the Bulldogs after an NCAA Tournament appearance with Lipscomb last season, while Giltner, who is returning to his alma mater, spent the last six seasons as an assistant at Virginia Tech.

## ACTIVE SoCon CAREER LEADERS

### Points scored (SoCon career rank)

|     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 846 | Rickey Bradley, VMI      |
| 543 | Ben VanderWal, FUR       |
| 417 | Cooper Bowser, FUR       |
| 417 | Brennan Watkins, VMI/UTC |
| 407 | TJ Johnson, VMI          |

### Points scored per game (min. 35 games)

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 13.02 | Rickey Bradley, VMI      |
| 8.04  | Marcus Kell, WCU         |
| 8.02  | Brennan Watkins, VMI/UTC |
| 6.22  | Cooper Bowser, FUR       |
| 5.97  | Collin Mulholland, UTC   |

### 3-point field goals made

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 93 | TJ Johnson, VMI          |
| 79 | Rickey Bradley, VMI      |
| 75 | Maki Johnson, ETSU       |
| 66 | Brennan Watkins, VMI/UTC |
| 54 | Tom House, FUR           |

### Rebounds

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| 438 | Ben VanderWal, FUR  |
| 312 | Rickey Bradley, VMI |
| 215 | Cooper Bowser, FUR  |
| 205 | AJ Clark, VMI       |
| 197 | Marcus Kell, WCU    |

### Blocked shots

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 84 | Cooper Bowser, FUR |
| 38 | AJ Clark, VMI      |
| 33 | Ben VanderWal, FUR |
| 27 | Sola Adebisi, CIT  |
| 26 | Marcus Kell, WCU   |

### Steals

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 96 | Allen Strothers, ETSU |
| 95 | AJ Clark, VMI         |
| 55 | Ben VanderWal, FUR    |
| 45 | TJ Johnson, VMI       |
| 41 | Brady Shoulders, MER  |

### Assists

|     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 208 | Allen Strothers, ETSU    |
| 163 | Rickey Bradley, VMI      |
| 124 | Tan Yildizoglu, VMI      |
| 103 | Ben VanderWal, FUR       |
| 87  | Brennan Watkins, VMI/UTC |

## MID-MAJOR TOP 25 (PRESEASON)

Preseason Southern Conference favorite Chattanooga is ranked No. 22 in the preseason CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25. Furman was the league's top-ranked team, coming in at No. 14. ETSU and Samford received votes in the poll.

### CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25

| Rank | School (1st-place) | Record     | Points     | LW | Conf.            |
|------|--------------------|------------|------------|----|------------------|
| 1    | Gonzaga (28)       | 0-0        | 772        | -  | West Coast       |
| 2    | Saint Mary's (3)   | 0-0        | 731        | -  | West Coast       |
| 3    | Liberty            | 0-0        | 633        | -  | CUSA             |
| 4    | Illinois State     | 0-0        | 587        | -  | Missouri Valley  |
| 5    | Yale               | 0-0        | 532        | -  | Ivy League       |
| 6    | San Francisco      | 0-0        | 523        | -  | West Coast       |
| 7    | Akron              | 0-0        | 495        | -  | Mid-American     |
| 8    | High Point         | 0-0        | 491        | -  | Big South        |
| 9    | UC Irvine          | 0-0        | 419        | -  | Big West         |
| 10   | Miami (OH)         | 0-0        | 403        | -  | Mid-American     |
| 11   | Northern Iowa      | 0-0        | 356        | -  | Missouri Valley  |
| 12   | UNCW               | 0-0        | 346        | -  | Coastal Athletic |
| 13   | Charleston         | 0-0        | 327        | -  | Coastal Athletic |
| 14   | <b>Furman</b>      | <b>0-0</b> | <b>304</b> | -  | <b>Southern</b>  |
| 15   | UCSB               | 0-0        | 258        | -  | Big West         |
| 16   | Towson             | 0-0        | 227        | -  | Coastal Athletic |
| 17   | Santa Clara        | 0-0        | 225        | -  | West Coast       |
| 18   | Bradley            | 0-0        | 209        | -  | Missouri Valley  |
| 19   | Kennesaw State     | 0-0        | 162        | -  | CUSA             |
| 20   | McNeese            | 0-0        | 151        | -  | Southland        |
| 21   | Montana            | 0-0        | 144        | -  | Big Sky          |
| 22   | <b>Chattanooga</b> | <b>0-0</b> | <b>141</b> | -  | <b>Southern</b>  |
| 23   | Kent State         | 0-0        | 119        | -  | Mid-American     |
| 24   | Belmont            | 0-0        | 116        | -  | Missouri Valley  |
| 25   | Navy               | 0-0        | 91         | -  | Patriot          |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Drake 81, St. Thomas 78, Arkansas State 69, Milwaukee 68, Vermont 66, Portland State 63, Troy 66, Harvard 62, Norfolk State 58, Murray State 53, Omaha 51, Hawaii 46, Little Rock 41, Queens 40, New Mexico State 37, Quinnipiac 25, Seattle 24, Robert Morris 23, **ETSU 22**, Toledo 22, UC San Diego 22, Utah Valley 21, Siena 20, Radford 19, Bryant 16, **Samford 16**, California Baptist 15, South Dakota State 14, Northern Colorado 13, Lamar 12, Eastern Kentucky 11, Sacramento State 10, Bethune-Cookman 9, Ohio 9, UNC Asheville 9, James Madison 8, Southern Illinois 6, Cornell 5, Long Island 5, Middle Tennessee 5, Central Connecticut 4, Oakland 3, Youngstown 3, Boston University 2, Incarnate Word 2, Jacksonville State 2, FGCU 1.

## SoCon PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

|              |
|--------------|
| Nov. 10..... |
| Nov. 17..... |
| Nov. 24..... |
| Dec. 1.....  |
| Dec. 8.....  |
| Dec. 15..... |
| Dec. 22..... |
| Dec. 29..... |
| Jan. 5.....  |
| Jan. 12..... |
| Jan. 19..... |
| Jan. 26..... |
| Feb. 2.....  |
| Feb. 9.....  |
| Feb. 16..... |
| Feb. 23..... |
| March 2..... |

### Did you know?

• First conducted in 1921, the SoCon men's basketball tournament is the nation's oldest college conference tournament. The 2026 tournament will be the 106th edition.

• Furman's Frank Selvy scored an NCAA-record 100 points on Feb. 13, 1954. His record still stands.

• Western Carolina's Ronnie Carr hit the first 3-point basket in NCAA history on Nov. 29, 1980.

• Wofford's Fletcher Magee finished his career in 2019 as the NCAA Division I record-holder with 509 made 3-pointers.

• While it currently has 10 member schools, the Southern Conference has had 44 full-time members in its illustrious history, including the schools that exited to found the Southeastern Conference (1932) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (1953). In all, 21 schools that are now members of "Power 5" conferences were once members of the SoCon.

## SoCon COACHING RECORDS

| Coach, school               | Career (yrs.)  | School (yrs.) | SoCon (yrs.)  |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ed Conroy, The Citadel      | 208-287 (17th) | 75-144 (8th)  | 37-93 (8th)   |
| Brooks Savage, ETSU         | 38-29 (3rd)    | Same          | 20-16 (3rd)   |
| Bob Richey, Furman          | 181-81 (9th)   | Same          | 99-42 (9th)   |
| Ryan Ridder, Mercer         | 205-139 (12th) | 14-19 (2nd)   | 6-12 (2nd)    |
| Mike Jones, UNCG            | 252-200 (15th) | 78-50 (5th)   | 48-24 (5th)   |
| Lennie Acuff, Samford       | 711-428 (36th) | 0-0 (1st)     | 0-0 (1st)     |
| Dan Earl, Chattanooga       | 141-177 (11th) | 68-38 (4th)   | 68-108 (11th) |
| Andrew Wilson, VMI          | 26-72 (4th)    | Same          | 10-44 (4th)   |
| Tim Craft, Western Carolina | 196-188 (13th) | 8-22 (2nd)    | 4-14 (2nd)    |
| Kevin Giltner, Wofford      | 0-0 (1st)      | Same          | 0-0 (1st)     |

## SoCon vs. Other Conferences

### American Athletic Conference (0-0)

11/3 Samford at Tulane, 8 p.m.

### Atlantic 10 (0-0)

11/3 Wofford at George Mason, 7 p.m.

### Atlantic Sun (0-0)

11/9 Lipscomb at Mercer, 2 p.m.

### ACC (0-0)

11/6 The Citadel at Boston College, 7 p.m.

11/8 Western Carolina at Duke, 1:30 p.m.

### Big 12 Conference (0-0)

11/3 Western Carolina at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

11/4 UNCG at Kansas State, 8 p.m.

### Big South Conference (0-0)

11/3 Furman vs. High Point, 6:30 p.m.

11/8 ETSU at Presbyterian, 6 p.m.

### CAA (0-0)

11/8 Elon at UNCG, 4 p.m.

### Sun Belt (0-0)

11/7 Troy at Furman, 6:30 p.m.

### Horizon League (0-0)

11/8 Milwaukee at Wofford, 2 p.m.

### Mountain West (0-0)

11/8 Chattanooga at UNLV, 9 p.m.

### Non-Division I (0-0)

11/3 Johnson & Wales at VMI, 6 p.m.

11/3 Erskine at The Citadel, 7 p.m.

11/3 Union Commonwealth at Chattanooga, 7 p.m.

11/4 Converse at ETSU, 7 p.m.

11/5 LaGrange at Mercer, 7 p.m.

### OVC (0-0)

11/7 VMI at Southern Indiana, 8:30 p.m.

### Southeastern Conference (0-0)

11/3 Mercer at Tennessee, 7 p.m.

11/9 VMI at Missouri, 2 p.m.

### Sun Belt (0-0)

11/7 Troy at Furman, 6:30 p.m.

### WCC (0-0)

11/7 Chattanooga at Saint Mary's, 10:30 p.m.

All Times Eastern

## HOME TEAMS UNDERLINED ALL TIMES EASTERN

|                                         |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| America East Conference.....            | 0-0 |
| American Athletic Conference.....       | 0-0 |
| ASUN Conference.....                    | 0-0 |
| Atlantic 10 Conference.....             | 0-0 |
| Atlantic Coast Conference.....          | 0-0 |
| Big East Conference.....                | 0-0 |
| Big Sky Conference.....                 | 0-0 |
| Big South Conference.....               | 0-0 |
| Big Ten Conference.....                 | 0-0 |
| Colonial Athletic Association.....      | 0-0 |
| Conference USA.....                     | 0-0 |
| Division I Independents.....            | 0-0 |
| Horizon League.....                     | 0-0 |
| Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference..... | 0-0 |
| Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.....    | 0-0 |
| Missouri Valley Conference.....         | 0-0 |
| Non-Division I opponents.....           | 0-0 |
| Ohio Valley Conference.....             | 0-0 |
| Patriot League.....                     | 0-0 |
| Southeastern Conference.....            | 0-0 |
| Southland Conference.....               | 0-0 |
| Southwestern Athletic Conference.....   | 0-0 |
| Summit League.....                      | 0-0 |
| Sun Belt Conference.....                | 0-0 |
| Western Athletic Conference.....        | 0-0 |

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <b>Total .....</b> | <b>0-0</b> |
| Home .....         | 0-0        |
| Away.....          | 0-0        |
| Neutral.....       | 0-0        |
| vs. Top 25.....    | 0-0        |

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