

2025-26 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE					OVERALL					
	W-L	PCT	H	A	ST	W-L	PCT	H	A	N	ST
UTC	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	-
ETSU	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
WOF	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
FUR	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
SAM	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
WCU	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
MER	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-

2025-26 PRESEASON POLL

TEAM (1ST-PLACE VOTES)	TOTAL
1. Chattanooga (6)	48
2. UNCG (2)	39
3. ETSU	38
4. Wofford	28
5. Furman	26
6. Samford	19
7. Western Carolina	14
8. Mercer	12

2025-26 PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

2025-26 PRESEASON SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Caia Elisaldez, Jr., G, Chattanooga

2025-26 PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TEAM

Meghan Downing, Sr., F, ETSU
 Carmen Richardson, So., G, ETSU
 Clare Coyle, So., F, Furman
 Ariana Bennett, Sr., F, Mercer
 Makiah Asidanya, Jr., G, UNCG
 Jaila Lee, Sr., G, UNCG
 Emily Bowman, R-Sr., C, Samford
 Gianna Corbitt, So., F, Chattanooga
 Caia Elisaldez, Jr., G, Chattanooga
 Molly Masingale, So., G, Wofford



2025-26 PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Chattanooga junior guard Caia Elisaldez was voted the SoCon Preseason Player of the Year. The Whittier, California, native averaged 14.1 points per game last season, ranking second in the league in the category and first in total points scored, with 437. Elisaldez is one of two starters returning for the Mocs this season.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE (ET)

AWAY AT HOME GAME TIME STREAM *BOLD INDICATES SOCON TEAM.

Monday, November 3

Montevallo at Samford	12:00 pm	ESPN+
King at Chattanooga	12:00 pm	ESPN+
Mercer at UNC Asheville (Big South)	6:30 pm	ESPN+
Elon (CAA) at ETSU	7:00 pm	ESPN+
North Greenville at Furman	7:00 pm	ESPN+
Converse at Wofford	7:00 pm	ESPN+
UNCG at Stanford (ACC)	10:00 pm	ACCNX

Wednesday, November 5

UNCG at San Francisco (WCC)	7:30 pm	ESPN+
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Thursday, November 6

Chattanooga at Florida (SEC)	5:00 pm	SECN+
Virginia-Lynchburg at Western Carolina	6:00 pm	ESPN+
Furman at Georgia (SEC)	6:30 pm	SECN+
Mercer at Clemson (ACC)	7:00 pm	ESPN+

Broadcast Key ACCN+: ACC Network Extra | BTN: Big Ten Network | ESPN+: ESPN Plus | SECN+: SEC Network+ | YT: YouTube

2026 INGLES SOCON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Southern Conference Basketball Championships will be held March 5-9. The women's tournament will be held March 5-8 at the Harrah's Cherokee Center - Asheville, in Asheville, North Carolina. The tournament will include all eight women's teams.



2025-26 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTES

MOC'S VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE FOR 2025-26

Chattanooga picked up six of the eight possible first-place votes in the coaches' poll, earning 48 points overall. The Mocs finished 17-15 overall and 9-5 in Southern Conference play last season. They were the conference tournament runner-up before going 1-1 in the WNIT. Head coach Deandra Schirmer's team returns two starters—Caia Elsaldez and Gianna Corbitt—both of whom were named to the preseason All-Conference Team. While unranked in the preseason CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll, Chattanooga received 93 votes heading into Week 1, making them the only SoCon program to earn recognition. The Mocs will open the season with a home matchup against King University (Tenn.) before traveling to Gainesville, Fla., for a road test against the SEC's Florida Gators.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

UNCG finished the 2024-25 campaign with a 25-7 overall record and a 13-1 mark in Southern Conference play, capturing the 2025 Ingles SoCon Women's Basketball Championship—the second title in program history. The Spartans were picked second in the preseason coaches' poll, earning two first-place votes and 39 points. Guards Makiah Asidanya and Jaila Lee were named to the preseason All-Conference Team. UNCG will open the 2025-26 season on the West Coast, facing Stanford on opening day followed by a matchup with San Francisco on November 5.

SAMFORD'S NEW LEADER

Matt Wise enters his first season as head coach of the Samford Bulldogs. Previously serving as associate head coach, Wise has spent the past three seasons in Birmingham, focusing on player development and game strategy. Speaking at SoCon Media Day, Wise shared his vision for the program: "For me, the goals are for us to establish our identity and culture, as a program built on love, development, growth, and competing."

MID-MAJOR MADNESS

A couple of mid-major matchups open the calendar for Southern Conference programs. Mercer will face UNC Asheville on opening day in Asheville, while ETSU will host Elon for its season opener. The Bears hold a 6-4 all-time record against the Asheville Bulldogs. Last season's meeting took place on November 4, 2024, resulting in a 75-52 Mercer victory. Ariana Bennett, a 2025-26 Preseason All-Conference selection, contributed eight points and three rebounds in that matchup. ETSU last faced Elon in 2016 and 3-3 in the series against the Phoenix. Head coach Brenda Mock Brown will look to veteran leaders Meghan Downing and Carmen Richardson—both Preseason All-Conference selections—to set the tone in the Bucs' home opener.

COLLEGEINSIDER.COM MID-MAJOR TOP 25 10/27/2025

SCHOOL (1ST-PLACE)	RECORD	PTS.	CONFERENCE
1. South Dakota State (20)	0-0	746	Summit
2. Harvard (6)	0-0	730	Ivy
3. James Madison (1)	0-0	615	CAA
4. Green Bay	0-0	301	Horizon
5. Fairfield	0-0	587	MAAC
6. Princeton (1)	0-0	562	Ivy
7. Gonzaga	0-0	537	WCC
8. Murray State	0-0	503	MVC
9. Middle Tennessee	0-0	445	CUSA
10. Kent State	0-0	428	MAC
11. Ball State	0-0	384	MAC
12. Illinois State	0-0	377	MVC
13. Aiblene Christian	0-0	364	WAC
14. Belmont	0-0	267	MVC
15. Montana State	0-0	260	Big Sky
16. Columbia	0-0	232	Ivy
17. FGCU	0-0	195	ASUN
18. Liberty	0-0	188	CUSA
19. Arkansas State	0-0	184	Sun Belt
20. Quinnipiac	0-0	178	MAAC
21. Troy	0-0	152	Sun Belt
22. Louisiana Tech	0-0	133	CUSA
23. Charleston	0-0	116	CAA
24. Farleigh Dickison	0-0	105	Northeast
25. Hawaii	0-0	96	Big West

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE COACHING RECORDS

COACH, SCHOOL	SEASON AT SCHOOL	CAREER	SCHOOL RECORD	SOCON RECORD	CAREER RECORD
Brenda Mock Brown, ETSU	4th	12th	60-35	24-18	177-172
Pierre Curtis, FUR	3rd	3rd	31-32	10-18	31-32
Michelle Clark-Heard, MER	2nd	15th	8-22	3-11	260-175
Trina Patterson, UNCG	10th	27th	146-129	68-58	329-429
Matt Wise, SAM	1st	1st	--	--	--
Deandra Schirmer, UTC	2nd	7th	17-15	9-5	131-46
Jonathan Tshipis, WCU	2nd	10th	13-17	3-11	155-154
Jimmy Garrity, WOF	10th	13th	140-127	64-61	206-153

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:

Maine 94, Chattanooga 93, High Point 88, Howard 86, Tennessee Tech 75, North Dakota State 72, Stephen F Austin 63, Portland 60, Cleveland State 58, Navy 53, Lindenwood 44, Toledo 44, Drake 32, Missouri State 29, Norfolk State 26, Santa Clara 22, Southern 20, Drexel 19, UT Arlington 18, Youngstown State 11, McNeese 10, Northern Arizona 10, UC Irvine 10, Buffalo 9, Montana 8, Incarnate Word 7, Vermont 7, Bowling Green 6, Army 5, UNCG 5, Purdue Fort Wayne 3, Miami (OH) 2, Robert Morris 1.

ACTIVE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE LEADERS

Points scored per game (min. 35 games)

Name	School	GP	FG	3FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Maddie Heiss	WOF	59	213	85	74	585	9.92
Caia Elisaldez	UTC	64	214	35	108	571	8.92
Emily Bowman	SAM	84	223	0	154	600	7.14
Makiah Asidanya	UNCG	54	90	40	72	292	5.41

3-point field goals made

Name	School	GP	3FG	AVG
Molly Masingale	WOF	29	46	1.59
Maddie Heiss	WOF	59	85	1.44
Gianna Corbitt	UTC	32	34	1.06

Free-throw percentage (min. 15 made)

Name	School	GP	FTM	FTA	PCT.
Ariana Bennett	MER	30	92	115	.800
Molly Massingale	WOF	29	74	94	.787

Rebounds

Name	School	GP	OFF	DEF	NO	AVG
Gianna Corbitt	UTC	32	42	192	234	7.31
Clare Coyle	FUR	32	68	132	200	6.25
Emily Bowman	SAM	84	178	346	524	6.24
Ariana Bennett	MER	30	61	84	145	4.83
Meghan Downing	ETSU	82	145	251	396	4.83

Rebounds per game (min. 35 games)

Name	School	GP	NO	AVG
Emily Bowman	SAM	84	524	6.24
Meghan Downing	ETSU	82	396	4.83

Blocked shots

Name	School	GP	NO	AVG
Emily Bowman	SAM	84	150	1.79
Meghan Downing	ETSU	82	117	1.43

Steals

Name	School	GP	NO	AVG
Gianna Corbitt	UTC	32	51	1.59
Chantelle Stuart	FUR	32	47	1.47
Jaila Lee	UNCG	32	42	1.31
Nahawa Diarra	MER	28	35	1.25
Raina McGowens	FUR	30	33	1.10

Assists

Name	School	GP	NO	AVG
Chantelle Stuart	FUR	32	106	3.31
Sierra Godbolt	SAM	31	98	3.16
Caia Elisaldez	UTC	64	200	3.13
Nahawa Diarra	MER	28	76	2.71
Molly Masingale	WOF	29	73	2.52

Assists per game (min. 35 games)

Name	School	GP	NO	AVG
Caia Elisaldez	UTC	64	200	3.13
Maddie Heiss	WOF	59	81	1.37
Makiah Asidanya	UNCG	54	60	1.11
Jada Knight	SAM	49	48	0.98

SPECIALTY STATS LEADERS

40-point games	OVR	SoCon
30-point games	OVR	SoCon
20-point games	OVR	SoCon
15-rebound games	OVR	SoCon
10-rebound games	OVR	SoCon
15-assist games	OVR	SoCon
10-assist games	OVR	SoCon
5-block games	OVR	SoCon
Double-doubles	OVR	SoCon
20/15 games	OVR	SoCon
20/10 games	OVR	SoCon

SOCON VS. OTHER CONFERENCES

American	0-0	Northeast	0-0
America East	0-0	Ohio Valley	0-0
Atlantic 10	0-0	Pacific 12	0-0
Atlantic Coast	0-0	Patriot League	0-0
Stanford		Southeastern	0-0
Clemson		Florida	
Atlantic Sun	0-0	Georgia	
Big 12	0-0	Southland	0-0
Big East	0-0	Southwestern	0-0
Big Sky	0-0	Summit league	0-0
Big South	0-0	Sun Belt	0-0
UNC Asheville		West Coast	0-0
Big Ten	0-0	San Francisco	
Big West	0-0	Western Athletic	0-0
Coastal	0-0	Non Division-I	0-0
Elon		Converse	
Conference USA	0-0	King (Tenn.)	
Great West	0-0	Montevallo	
Horizon League	0-0	North Greenville	
Independent	0-0	Total	0-0
Ivy	0-0	Home	0-0
Metro Atlantic	0-0	Away	0-0
Mid-American	0-0	Neutral	0-0
Mid-Eastern	0-0		
Missouri Valley	0-0		
Mountain West	0-0		

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

DATE	AWAY	HOME	TIME	LOCATION	RESULT
11/3	Montevallo	Samford	12:00 PM EST	Birmingham, AL	
11/3	King (Tenn.)	Chattanooga	12:00 PM EST	Chattanooga, TN	
11/3	Mercer	UNC Asheville	6:30 PM EST	Asheville, NC	
11/3	Converse	Wofford	7:00 PM EST	Spartanburg, SC	
11/3	Elon	ETSU	7:00 PM EST	Johnson City, TN	
11/3	North Greenville	Furman	7:00 PM EST	Greenville, SC	
11/3	UNC Greensboro	Stanford	10:00 PM EST	Stanford, CA	
11/5	UNC Greensboro	San Francisco	7:30 PM EST	San Francisco, CA	
11/6	Chattanooga	Florida	5:00 PM EST	Gainesville, FL	
11/6	Virginia-Lynchburg	Western Carolina	6:00 PM EST	Cullowhee, NC	
11/6	Furman	Georgia	6:30 PM EST	Athens, GA	
11/6	Clemson	Mercer	7:00 PM EST	Macon, GA	
11/7	ETSU	Tennessee	6:30 PM EST	Knoxville, TN	
11/8	Samford	Nebraska	TBA	Lincoln, NE	
11/8	Wofford	High Point	12:00 PM EST	High Point, NC	
11/9	Chattanooga	Lipscomb	3:00 PM EST	Nashville, TN	
11/9	Tusculum	Western Carolina	6:00 PM EST	Cullowhee, NC	
11/10	Furman	Vanderbilt	7:00 PM EST	Nashville, TN	
11/10	Gardner-Webb	Mercer	7:00 PM EST	Macon, GA	
11/10	UNC Greensboro	Auburn	7:00 PM EST	Auburn, AL	
11/11	Georgia State	Wofford	7:00 PM EST	Spartanburg, SC	
11/12	Kennesaw State	ETSU	2:00 PM EST	Johnson City, TN	
11/12	Western Carolina	Campbell	7:00 PM EST	Buies Creek, NC	
11/12	Chattanooga	Troy	7:00 PM EST	Troy, AL	
11/13	Samford	Florida	TBA	Gainesville, FL	
11/13	Mercer	Wake Forest	6:00 PM EST	Winston-Salem, NC	
11/13	Georgia State	Furman	7:00 PM EST	Greenville, SC	
11/14	UNC Greensboro	Presbyterian	6:00 PM EST	Clinton, SC	
11/15	Clafin	ETSU	4:00 PM EST	Johnson City, TN	
11/16	UAB	Chattanooga	2:00 PM EST	Chattanooga, TN	
11/16	Wofford	App State	2:00 PM EST	Boone, NC	
11/16	Oklahoma	Western Carolina	3:30 PM EST	Cullowhee, NC	
11/16	Campbell	Furman	7:00 PM EST	Greenville, SC	
11/19	UNC Asheville	Western Carolina	5:00 PM EST	Cullowhee, NC	
11/19	Furman	Radford	7:00 PM EST	Radford, VA	
11/19	Mercer	Jackson State	7:00 PM EST	Jackson, MS	
11/19	Samford	Alabama	7:00 PM EST	Tuscaloosa, AL	
11/20	Austin Peay	Chattanooga	6:00 PM EST	Chattanooga, TN	
11/20	ETSU	Tennessee Tech	7:00 PM EST	Cookeville, TN	
11/21	Gardner-Webb	UNC Greensboro	7:00 PM EST	Greensboro, NC	
11/22	Mercer	Ga. Southern	1:00 PM EST	Statesboro, GA	
11/22	Northern Ky.	Chattanooga	2:00 PM EST	Chattanooga, TN	
11/22	Wofford	Charlotte	2:00 PM EST	Charlotte, NC	
11/22	ETSU	Memphis	3:00 PM EST	Memphis, TN	
11/23	Western Carolina	Wake Forest	1:00 PM EST	Winston-Salem, NC	
11/23	Clemson	Furman	2:00 PM EST	Greenville, SC	
11/23	UNC Greensboro	North Carolina	6:00 PM EST	Chapel Hill, NC	
11/24	Samford	Central Ark.	2:30 PM EST	Atlanta, GA	
11/25	Samford	Georgia State	12:00 PM EST	Atlanta, GA	
11/25	Western Carolina	West Georgia	2:00 PM EST	Carrollton, GA	
11/25	Wofford	UNC Asheville	4:00 PM EST	Asheville, NC	
11/25	Florida A&M	Mercer	7:00 PM EST	Macon, GA	
11/26	Stony Brook	Samford	2:30 PM EST	Atlanta, GA	
11/26	UNC Greensboro	N.C. Central	11:00 AM EST	Durham, NC	
11/28	Mercer	Charleston So.	2:00 PM EST	Charleston, SC	
11/28	Western Carolina	Clemson	4:00 PM EST	Nassau, Bahamas	
11/28	ETSU	Bellarmine	4:30 PM EST	Louisville, KY	
11/28	Sacramento St.	Chattanooga	5:00 PM EST	Riverside, CA	
11/29	ETSU	Louisville	TBA	Louisville, KY	
11/29	UNC Asheville	Furman	2:00 PM EST	Greenville, SC	
11/30	Eastern Ill.	ETSU	11:30 AM EST	Louisville, KY	
11/30	Ga. Southern	Wofford	1:00 PM EST	Spartanburg, SC	

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