



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

2101 Providence Park – Suite 200 – Birmingham, AL 35242

Phone (205) 991-9880 – Fax (205) 437-0505

<http://www.gulfsouthconference.org>

Nathan N. Salant, Esq–Commissioner

Contact: Michael Anderson, Assistant Commissioner for Media and Public Affairs

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2006 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL RELEASE UNA PICKED TO WIN GSC TITLE; HU SELECTED AS WEST FAVORITE

Birmingham, AL—Last season was bitter sweet for Gulf South Conference Volleyball.

The GSC advanced three teams to the NCAA South Central Regional for the second year in a row, but the Conference failed to make the Title Match for the second straight season when **North Alabama** fell in the Semi-Finals.

This season, the GSC seeks to extend its post-season participant streak and claim its first regional crown since 2003.

2006 GSC VOLLEYBALL PRE-SEASON COACHES' POLL

The majority of GSC head coaches selected **North Alabama** to capture its third second consecutive GSC Championship behind seven Overall Champion votes. But UNA is not expected to run away with the crown with **Harding** also garnering five selections and **West Florida** grabbing two.

Ten time defending East Division Champion **North Alabama** was named the GSC East Division Pre-Season Favorite for the 10th consecutive season, nipping **West Florida**, 33-32. UNA captured four first-place votes, while UWF earned three. **Alabama-Huntsville** finished third (24), while West Georgia (20) clipped **Montevallo** (19) for fourth place. **Valdosta State** (11) and **West Alabama** (8) rounded out the East voting.

Harding was once again the choice to take the West Division, earning six first-place votes on its way to 36 points. **Arkansas Tech** collected the final first-place nod en route to a second place total of 31 points. **Christian Brothers** (26) and **Henderson State** (21) rounded out the favorites to advance to the GSC Tournament, followed by **Ouachita Baptist** (14), **Arkansas-Monticello** (10) and **Southern Arkansas** (9).

EAST DIVISION

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	TOTAL
North Alabama	4	1	1	—	—	—	33
West Florida	3	2	1	—	—	—	32
Alabama-Huntsville	—	2	3	—	1	—	24
West Georgia	—	—	2	4	—	—	20
Montevallo	—	2	—	2	1	1	19
Valdosta State	—	—	—	1	3	2	11
West Alabama	—	—	—	—	2	4	8

WEST DIVISION

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	TOTAL
Harding	6	—	—	—	—	—	36
Arkansas Tech	1	5	—	—	—	—	31
Christian Brothers	—	2	4	—	—	—	26
Henderson State	—	—	3	3	—	—	21
Ouachita Baptist	—	—	—	3	2	1	14
Arkansas-Monticello	—	—	—	—	4	2	10
Southern Arkansas	—	—	—	1	1	4	9

Overall Champion: North Alabama (7), Harding (5), West Florida (2)

2006 PRE-SEASON ALL-GSC TEAM

The 2006 Pre-Season All-GSC Volleyball Team is headlined by six returning All-GSC First Team members and six Second Teamers. The West Division leads the way with all eight members of its Pre-Season squad making All-Conference a year ago.

Thirteen different schools placed at least one player on the Pre-Season Team. **Harding** led all schools with three honorees followed by **Alabama-Huntsville** (two) which was the only other school to place multiple players.

Christian Brothers middle blocker Laura Washington highlights the star laden West squad. Washington was named the 2005 GSC West Division Player of the Year after leading the Conference in hitting percentage (.363). **HU middle blocker Katie Westmoreland** and **Ouachita Baptist middle blocker Breanne Garrett** also return from the All-GSC First Team after ranking fourth (.340) and sixth (.305), respectively, in hitting percentage.

Second Team returners include **Arkansas-Monticello outside hitter Amanda Sayre**, **Arkansas Tech setter Kayla Allison**, **Harding duo Leah Tepe** and **Tiffany Morrison** and **Southern Arkansas outside hitter Brandi Beeson**. Tepe, last season's Freshman of the Year, was second in assists (13.05), while Sayre placed fifth in kills (4.33) and Garrett and Beeson placed sixth (.305) and seventh (.289), respectively, in hitting percentage.

The East Division Pre-Season Team is led by three returning First Team standouts: **North Alabama setter Laura Bellinger**, **West Florida outside hitter Naiara Fernandes** and **West Georgia outside hitter Carolin Schoenick**. Bellinger was tops in the GSC in assists (14.36) and Fernandes finished ninth in service aces (0.50).

Valdosta State outside hitter Laura-Lee Atkinson caps the list of returning All-GSC members on the East Team after claiming Second Team accolades in 2005 while placing ninth in kills (4.08).

EAST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
OH	Shannon Polkowski	Alabama-Huntsville	6-0	SO	Huntsville, AL
MH	Kim Beesley	Alabama-Huntsville	6-0	SR	Huntsville, AL
MB	Monika Tortorici	Montevallo	6-0	SO	Birmingham, AL
S	*Laura Bellinger	North Alabama	5-7	JR	Portage, MI
OH	#Laura-Lee Atkinson	Valdosta State	5-9	SR	Tallahassee, FL
OH	Rafa Maranhao	West Alabama	5-9	SR	Recife, Brazil
OH	*Naiara Fernandes	West Florida	5-11	SR	Belo Horizonte, Brazil
OH	*Carolin Schoenick	West Georgia	6-2	SR	Berlin, GA

WEST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
OH	#Amanda Sayre	Arkansas-Monticello	5-9	SR	Del City, OK
S	#Kayla Allison	Arkansas Tech	6-0	SO	Tulsa, OK
MB	*Laura Washington	Christian Brothers	6-0	SR	Seattle, WA
MB	*Katie Westmoreland	Harding	5-11	SR	Cordova, TN
S	#Leah Tepe	Harding	5-7	SO	Germantown, TN
RH	#Tiffany Morrison	Harding	5-11	SR	Amarillo, TX
MB	*Breanne Garrett	Ouachita Baptist	6-0	JR	Garland, TX
OH	#Brandi Beeson	Southern Arkansas	6-0	JR	Magnolia, AR

*—2005 First Team All-GSC

#—2004 Second Team All-GSC

WELCOME TO THE GSC

The Gulf South Conference welcomes two new head coaches this season.

Ron Arenz takes over at **West Alabama** after spending the past four seasons at the Division I level as an assistant. Arenz spent last season at Michigan State University, before that the Cal State Long Beach graduate worked for three seasons at Western Michigan University.

Southern Arkansas turned to a familiar face when they hired **Brooke White**. White played for the Muleriders from 1998-2001 and served as a graduate assistant under former coach Shawn Laurendine. White comes to Magnolia, AR after serving as head coach at North Point Prep in Phoenix, AZ.

2006 TOP NEWCOMERS

EAST DIVISON

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN
MH	Sasha Pitts	Alabama-Huntsville	5-9	FR	Homewood HS/Birmingham, AL
S	Yuki Kurihara	Alabama-Huntsville	5-7	FR	Hoover HS/Hoover, AL
S	Joy Peschman	Montevallo	5-11	FR	Corona del Sol HS/Tempe, AZ
OH	Katy Handrick	Montevallo	5-10	FR	DePere HS/DePere, WI
OH	Nilcia Oliveira	North Alabama	5-11	JR	Indian Hills CC/Joao Pessoa, Brazil
MH	Kasie Spencer	North Alabama	6-2	SO	Cal State Fresno/La Verkin, UT
MB	Nancy Marin	Valdosta State	---	JR	Cerritos CC/Norwalk, CA
OH	Stephanie Kirrsteter	Valdosta State	5-8	FR	Spanish River HS/Boca Raton, FL
OH	Jessica Crook	West Alabama	5-10	FR	Ohatchee HS/Ohatchee, AL
S	Giuliana Francesco	West Alabama	5-10	FR	Instituto Madre Mazzarello/Sao Paulo, Brazil
MH	Danielle Spitzer	West Florida	6-1	JR	Western Carolina/Birmingham, AL
OH	Calli Kovel	West Florida	5-8	SO	Charleston Southern/Joliet, IL
DS/L	Kamille King	West Georgia	5-7	FR	Muncie Central HS/Muncie, IN
MB	Juliana da Silva	West Georgia	6-0	SO	Seminole State CC/Juiz de Fora, Brazil

WEST DIVISION

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	YEAR	LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN
MB/OH	Katherine Taju	Arkansas-Monticello	5-10	SR	Texas A&M-International/Panama City, Panama
OH	Olivia Petyniak	Arkansas-Monticello	5-10	FR	Huntley HS/Lith, IL
OH	Kirsten Boyd	Arkansas Tech	5-10	FR	Russellville HS/Russellville, AR
OH/MB	Katie Stamm	Arkansas Tech	6-1	FR	Marysville HS/Marysville, MI
OH	Allison Phebus	Christian Brothers	5-11	FR	William Henry Harrison HS/West Lafayette, IN
S	Brenna Blackburn	Christian Brothers	5-9	FR	Brighton HS/Sandy, UT
OH	Manuela Nesheva	Harding	5-8	FR	Dr. Petar Beron HS/Lukovit, Bulgaria
OH	Sarah Phipps	Harding	5-8	FR	Harding Academy/Memphis, TN
OH	Emily Trudgeon	Henderson State	5-11	SO	Yuba College/Yuba City, CA
MB	Edith Musebe	Henderson State	6-2	JR	Lee JC/Nairobi, Kenya
S	Aimee Schmidt	Ouachita Baptist	5-7	FR	Flower Mound HS/Flower Mound, TX
OH	Anna Ryan	Ouachita Baptist	5-8	FR	Redlands East Valley/Redlands, CA
S	Kayli Kerr	Southern Arkansas	5-7	JR	Lee College/Houston, TX
OPP	Jessica Suttan	Southern Arkansas	5-11	JR	Navarro College/Austin, TX

2006 GSC VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

(@ East Division Champion)

The top four teams in each Division will qualify for the GSC Volleyball Championship Tournament and be seeded according to their standing.

Friday, November 10

Quarter-Finals

Match 1	East #1 Seed vs. West #4 Seed
Match 2	East #2 Seed vs. West #3 Seed
Match 3	East #3 Seed vs. West #2 Seed
Match 4	East #4 Seed vs. West #1 Seed

Saturday, November 11

Semi-finals

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

Final

Match 7	Match 5 Winner v. Match 6 Winner
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