



# GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

2101 Providence Park -- Suite 200 -- Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone (205) 991-9880 -- Fax (205) 437-0505  
<http://www.gscsports.org>

Nathan N. Salant, Esq--Commissioner

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Stagno, Assistant Sports Information Director

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## 2012-13 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON RELEASE

### ALABAMA-HUNTSVILLE LEADS PRESEASON COACHES POLL

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – After going 11-3 in Gulf South Conference play and ranked as the second seed in the GSC Tournament, **Alabama-Huntsville** looks to replicate last season's success in hopes of claiming the 2012-13 GSC title.

UAH claimed five first-place votes and two second-place votes, a total of 47 points, as it was the choice as the GSC's top team in the preseason voting poll done by the conference's head coaches. Last year's surprise GSC Champions, **West Alabama**, finished with a total of 42 points, three first-place votes and three second-place votes, while **Valdosta State** rounds out the Top 3 with a total of 35 points. After a 22-7 season, including a 12-2 GSC record, **Delta State** is ranked fourth with 33 total points. **North Alabama** completes the Top 5 with 26 points.

The GSC title secured an automatic bid to the NCAA South Region Tournament for UWA, which was one of four league teams to advance to the postseason. Though UWA and UAH were first-round victims, DSU advanced to the semifinals, while VSU battled for a trip to the NCAA Elite Eight, but fell as well.

The Preseason All-GSC Conference Team shapes out as follows: UAH's **Jasmine Hammon** (7 votes) and **Jordan Smith** (6 votes), UWA's **Nikkia Jordan** (6 votes) and **Brittany Weathers** (6 votes) and DSU's **Brooke Rhodes** (4 votes).

GSC members Delta State and Valdosta State were selected as one of seven matchups set to be featured as the 2012-13 NCAA Division II Basketball Game of the Week on the CBS Sports Network. DSU and VSU were just one of two doubleheader matchups selected to be a part of the television schedule. Valdosta State hosts Delta State in the third installment of the television schedule on and can be seen on Tuesday, January 26, 2013, starting at 10:30 a.m. (CT).

### 2012-13 GSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Total
Alabama-Huntsville	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	47
West Alabama	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	42
Valdosta State	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	35
Delta State	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	33
North Alabama	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	26
West Georgia	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	17
Christian Brothers	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	13
West Florida	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	11

**NOTE:** The head coaches voted on this poll. Teams received seven points for a 1st place vote, six for a 2nd place vote, five for 3rd, etc. The head coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

### WELCOME TO THE GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

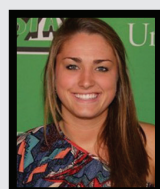
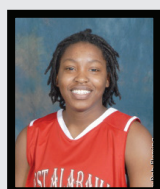
The Gulf South Conference welcomes two new competing institutions, as well as, two new head basketball coaches to its ranks for the 2012-13 season.

Future GSC members **Shorter University** (Ga.) and **Union University** (Tenn.) take the next step to becoming full members in 2014-15, as they play complete league schedules beginning this season. SU and UU will not be eligible for the GSC or NCAA Tournaments, however, until the 2014-15 season.

Delta State introduced **David Midlick** as its new head women's basketball coach. Midlick brings nine years of experience at the NCAA Division I level to DSU. **Stephanie Lawrence Yelton**, who has amassed 16 years of experience at both the Division I and II levels, will lead West Florida's women's basketball squad this season.

## 2012-13 GSC PRESEASON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Headlining the Preseason All-GSC Conference Team was UAH's **Jasmine Hammon**, a unanimous decision. Last season Hammon was second in the league in scoring (17.2 ppg), an All-GSC First Team honoree and she earned three GSC Player of the Week awards. UAH also is represented by **Jordan Smith**. She tied for the GSC lead in assists per game (4.0) and was second in the league in 3-point FG made (1.9). UWA will return **Nikkia Jordan**, last year's Most Outstanding Player in the GSC Tournament, and **Brittany Weathers**, who had a memorable game dropping 33 points against Southern Arkansas (11/13/11) last season. DSU's **Brooke Rhodes** is the final member of the team. She was an All-GSC Second Team and a Daktronics All-South Region Second Team honoree.



<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
G	* Jasmine Hammon	UAH	5-9	Jr.	Muscle Shoals, Ala.
G	* Jordan Smith	UAH	5-8	Jr.	Hoover, Ala.
G	Nikkia Jordan	UWA	5-6	Sr.	Decatur, Ala.
F	^ Brittany Weathers	UWA	6-0	Sr.	Hattiesburg, Miss.
G	^ Brooke Rhodes	DSU	5-8	Jr.	Pelahatchie, Miss.

\* - 2011-12 First Team All-GSC  
 ^ - 2011-12 Second Team All-GSC

## 2012-13 GSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOP NEWCOMERS

<u>POS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HOMETOWN/LAST SCHOOL</u>
G	Halle Jarnagin	UAH	6-1	Fr.	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood HS
F	Kendra Jones	UAH	5-11	So.	Lacey's Spring, Ala./Jacksonville State
F	Samantha Reeves	CBU	6-0	Fr.	Somerville, Tenn./Fayette Academy
G	Ashley Schaefer	CBU	5-8	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Northern Kentucky
G	Chelsey Rhodes	DSU	5-6	Fr.	Monticello, Ark./Monticello HS
F	Mekena Randle	UNA	5-9	Jr.	Madison, Ala./Arkansas State
G	Kamyia Smith	VSU	5-7	Jr.	St. Petersburg, Fla./St. Petersburg
G/F	Jasmine Mapp	VSU	5-9	Fr.	Quitman, Ga./Brooks County HS
G	Tiarra Pritchett	UWA	5-7	So.	Huntsville, Ala./Arkansas State
G/F	Anna Dill	UWA	5-10	Jr.	Fulton, Miss./Gardner-Webb
G	Jerlisa Taylor	UWG	5-6	Sr.	Douglasville, Ga./Georgia State
G	Brittany Johnson	UWG	5-9	So.	Fort Wayne, Ind./Georgia State
G	Toynetta Johnson	UWF	5-6	Jr.	Pascagoula, Miss./Pearl River CC
F	Raquel Miller	UWF	6-2	Jr.	Jackson, Tenn./Southern Illinois