



# GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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## 2012 GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE FOOTBALL RELEASE

### VSU TABBED GSC PRE-SEASON FOOTBALL FAVORITE

Birmingham, AL—Valdosta State enters the 2012 season as the team to beat in the Gulf South Conference after the Blazers finished first in the GSC Pre-Season Coaches' Poll.

VSU topped the Pre-Season Poll for the first time since 2008, seventh overall, totaling 15 total points via three first-place votes and one second-place nod. West Alabama finished one point behind the Blazers for second place, garnering two first-place and two second-place designations. UWA earned the second-place spot for the second time in three years.

Two-time defending Conference Champion Delta State was only other school to hit double-digits, finishing in third-place (10). North Alabama and West Georgia completed the five-team poll by tallying six and five points, respectively.

### 2012 GSC FOOTBALL PRE-SEASON COACHES' POLL

SCHOOL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Valdosta State	3	1	—	—	15
West Alabama	2	2	—	—	14
Delta State	—	2	2	—	10
North Alabama	—	—	2	2	6
West Georgia	—	—	1	3	5

**NOTE:** The Head Coaches voted in this poll. Teams received 4 points for a first place vote, 3 for a second place vote, etc. The Head Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own squads.

### CLOSER LOOK AT THE GSC COACHES' POLL

#### VSU Back On Top...

Valdosta State was tabbed GSC Pre-Season Favorite for the seventh overall time and first since 2008. The Blazers entered 2008 hot off their second NCAA Title only to finish third in the league standings. VSU ranks third all-time in the Pre-Season Favorite role, following North Alabama (10) and Troy State (8).

#### Fulfilling the Prophecy...

Out of the past 37 Pre-Season Coaches polls on record, 13 first-place teams have gone on to hoist the GSC trophy in November. Delta State is the most recent Pre-Season favorite to win the Title a year ago.

#### The Strive From Five...

West Georgia seeks to disprove the Pre-Season Poll by becoming the first fifth-place finisher to go on to claim the crown. North Alabama finished fifth in 2003 before putting together a perfect 9-0 season en route to the Title. Former members Southern Arkansas and Henderson State hold the record for the lowest Pre-Season ranked team to ever win at least a share of the league title (SAU in 1997 and HSU in 2010).

## INSIDE THE GSC HUDDLE

### RETURN TO GLORY FOR UNA?

The **North Alabama** Nation could not have been happier with UNA's choice to lead its program when GSC legend and Division II Hall of Famer **Bobby Wallace** came out of retirement to return to Florence. Wallace's retirement was short lived after he stepped down at GSC rival West Alabama at the end of the 2010 season. His goal at North Alabama is simple: return the Lions to the king of the DII Football jungle. Wallace guided the school to its only set of NCAA Titles, capturing three consecutive from 1993-1995.

### CHADWELL APPOINTED NEW STATESMEN LEADER

**Delta State** had some big shoes to fill at the end of the 2011 season when Ron Roberts moved on to Division I-FCS Southeastern Louisiana after leading the Statesmen to four GSC Titles in five seasons. **Jeremy Chadwell** was selected to roam the sidelines at McCool Stadium after building North Greenville's program into a regional power which culminated in a loss to DSU in last year's NCAA Regional Final. Chadwell spent three seasons at NGU notching a 22-14 record led by back-to-back 10-win seasons.

### GSC WELCOMES SHORTER TO THE LEAGUE SCHEDULE

**Shorter University** enters 2012 as a GSC Provisional Member and a NCAA DII Year Two Candidacy institution. The Hawks entered the next phase of the membership process for the Conference by being placed in each of the GSC's sports' schedules for 2012-13. All of games versus current GSC members count in the league standings and count as a NCAA DII contest.

### VSU TO TAKE PART IN LONE STAR FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

For the second year in a row, a GSC institution is featured as a participant in the second-annual Lone Star Football Festival. The festival returns to Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, TX and has expanded to a three-day, six-game event in 2012. Valdosta State kicks off the final day of action on Saturday when the Blazers meet Angelo State at Noon (Central). North Alabama carried the GSC banner in 2011, earning a thrilling victory over Abilene Christian, 23-17.

### GSC AND LSC PARTNER TO CREATE FIRST AND TEN CHALLENGE

The Gulf South Conference and Lone Star Conference joined forces to create the GSC-LSC First and Ten Challenge, a regular-season series set to debut in 2012 that will match up football teams from two of the best leagues in all of NCAA Division II. The event includes a total of 10 inter-conference games involving all five of the GSC's members (Delta State, North Alabama, Valdosta State, West Alabama and West Georgia) and six of the LSC's nine (Abilene Christian, Angelo State, Midwestern State, Tarleton State, Texas A&M-Kingsville and West Texas A&M). VSU and ASU kickoff the series at Cowboy's Stadium on September 15 and five of the matchups are featured in the 2012 GSC-TV LIVE schedule (see below).

## 2012 GSC-TV LIVE SCHEDULE

This year's GSC-TV LIVE Football schedule includes nine telecasts led by six Thursday night contests and six non-conference battles. Defending league champion Delta State kickoffs the slate on Saturday, September 1 when the Statesmen host in-region, SIAC opponent Fort Valley State at Noon (Central).

On January 27, 2011, the GSC and the Lone Star Conference created the 2012 GSC-LSC First and Ten Challenge which is comprised of 10 inter-conference games between two of the top football leagues in NCAA Division II. Five of those battles take center stage in this year's GSC-TV LIVE schedule starting with Abilene Christian which journeys to DSU on Thursday, September 27. Other First and Ten Challenge GSC-TV telecasts include Midwestern State at West Alabama (Oct. 4), West Texas A&M at West Georgia (Oct. 27), Texas A&M-Kingsville at Valdosta State (Nov. 1) and Tarleton State at North Alabama (Nov. 3).

Three key league contests round out the GSC-TV schedule: North Alabama at West Georgia (Oct. 18), Valdosta State at Shorter (Oct. 25) and North Alabama at West Alabama (Nov. 8).

All games feature 6:30 pm Central Time kickoffs except for the September 1st (Noon), October 27th (7:00 pm) and November 3rd (3:00 pm) telecasts.

Comcast/Charter Sport Southeast continues as the primary carrier, showing all nine games live along with Mediacom, Alabama Cable Network and TV-24 (Anniston, AL). Joining on a limited basis are ESPN3 and CoxSports. Availability to view telecasts on ESPN3 will be limited to those markets where CSS is not provided, while CoxSports will show games on a tape-delay basis (scheduled to be released at a later time). Additional coverage on ESPN Game Plan is a possibility as well.

Play-by-play commentator Don Russell, color commentator Rick Rhodes and sideline reporter Jim Cavale will continue to lead the broadcast from the booth and sidelines for the third year in a row. Gulf Coast Mobile, L.L.C. earned the right to produce this year's GSC-TV package.

### 2012 GSC-TV LIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Game	Time
Sept. 01	SAT	Fort Valley State @ <b>Delta State</b>	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	THUR	Abilene Christian @ <b>Delta State</b>	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 04	THUR	Midwestern State @ <b>West Alabama</b>	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 18	THUR	<b>North Alabama @ West Georgia</b>	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	THUR	<b>Valdosta State @ Shorter</b>	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	SAT	West Texas A&M @ <b>West Georgia</b>	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 01	THUR	Texas A&M-Kingsville @ <b>Valdosta State</b>	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 03	SAT	Tarleton State @ <b>North Alabama</b>	3:00 p.m.
Nov. 08	THUR	<b>North Alabama @ West Alabama</b>	6:30 p.m.

Times listed above are Central; Schedule is subject to change; GSC Teams in **BOLD**

## 2012 PRE-SEASON ALL-GSC TEAM

The 2012 Pre-Season All-GSC Football Team includes 32 total members and is led by three 2011 Individual Award winners, seven returning Pre-Season players, nine 2011 All-Conference First Teamers and five Second Teamers spanning the past three seasons.

**West Alabama** led the way with 10 total Pre-Season members, followed by eight from **Valdosta State**. **West Georgia** posted six honorees, while **Delta State** and **North Alabama** each added four.

**UWA linebacker Deon Lacey** is back on the Pre-Season Team from 2011 and after claiming the 2011 GSC Defensive Player of the Year award. Both of last year's Freshman of the Year winners are back as well: **West Alabama quarterback Kyle Caldwell** and **UWG linebacker Teddy Lawrence**.

Also returning from last year's Pre-Season Team is **West Georgia tight end Daniel Yossif**, **VSU offensive lineman Edmund Kugbila** (guard) and **Ryan Schraeder** (tackle), **UWG defensive lineman Juan Pickett**, **UNA defensive back Rod Woodson** and **UWG return specialist Denarius Appling**. Appling was also the lone player to occupy two spots on this year's Pre-Season Team after also garnering a spot at wide receiver.

Kugbila, Schraeder, Lacey, Woodson and Appling head the class of the 2011 First Team stars which also includes **UWA running back Matt Willis**, **VSU offensive tackle Mesh Wokomaty**, **linebacker Chris Pope** and **defensive back Matt Pierce**.

**West Alabama offensive guard Andy Nations**, **UWA defensive back Otha Foster** and **Valdosta State defensive lineman Lawrence Virgil** made the 2011 Second Team, while **VSU wide receiver Gerald Ford** returns after advancing to the 2009 Second Team.

### OFFENSE

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
QB	\$Kyle Caldwell	West Alabama	5-7	149	SO	Dadeville, AL
RB	Bryce McBride	Delta State	5-8	200	SR	West Covina, CA
RB	*Matt Willis	West Alabama	5-8	205	SR	Collins, MS
WR	Lavon Downs	Delta State	6-1	185	SR	Avon Park, FL
WR	Jason Smith	North Alabama	5-10	157	JR	Gurley, AL
WR	&Gerald Ford	Valdosta State	6-3	215	JR	Harvey, LA
WR	Denarius Appling	West Georgia	5-7	140	JR	Griffin, GA
TE	!Daniel Yossif	West Georgia	6-4	242	SR	Clinton Township, MI
G	!*Edmund Kugbila	Valdosta State	6-4	365	SR	Lawrenceville, GA
G	#Andy Nations	West Alabama	6-6	347	SR	Pascagoula, MS
T	!*Ryan Schraeder	Valdosta State	6-7	290	SR	Wichita, KS
T	*Mesh Wokomaty	Valdosta State	6-6	308	SR	Dallas, GA
C	Skeeter Sellers	West Alabama	6-0	280	JR	Enterprise, AL

### DEFENSE

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
DL	Taylor Carney	North Alabama	6-2	267	SO	Killen, AL
DL	Dominique Duster	North Alabama	6-0	275	JR	Florence, AL
DL	Tyler Josey	Valdosta State	6-2	246	SR	Dublin, GA
DL	!Juan Pickett	West Georgia	6-1	279	SR	Columbus, GA
DL	#Lawrence Virgil	Valdosta State	6-3	286	JR	Quitman, GA
LB	Kenny Barnes	Delta State	6-0	190	JR	Madison, MS
LB	!+*Deon Lacey	West Alabama	6-2	208	SR	Brighton, AL
LB	^Teddy Lawrence	West Georgia	6-1	205	SO	Rome, GA
LB	Bryant McGowan	West Alabama	5-10	185	SR	Enterprise, AL
LB	*Chris Pope	Valdosta State	6-1	214	JR	Jackson, GA
DB	Kelly Dawsey	West Georgia	6-0	185	JR	Valdosta, GA
DB	#Otha Foster	West Alabama	5-11	199	SR	Angie, LA
DB	*Matt Pierce	Valdosta State	5-10	198	SR	New Orleans, LA
DB	!*Rod Woodson	North Alabama	5-11	199	SR	Olive Branch, MS

### SPECIAL TEAMS

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	HT	WT	YEAR	HOMETOWN
PK	Ryne Smith	West Alabama	5-8	176	SR	Madison, MS
P	Andrew Jones	Delta State	6-0	185	SR	Corinth, MS
RS	!*~Denarius Appling	West Georgia	5-7	140	JR	Griffin, GA
MISC	Matt Humphries (LS)	West Alabama	5-11	230	SO	Hueytown, AL
	Josh Senkbeil (BT)	West Alabama	6-0	207	SR	Red Bay, AL

**NOTES:** !—2011 Pre-Season All-GSC Team; \*—2011 First Team All-GSC; #—2011 Second Team All-GSC; \$—2011 GSC Offensive Freshman of the Year; ^—2011 GSC Defensive Freshman of the Year; +—2011 GSC Defensive Player of the Year; ~—2010 Second Team All-GSC; &—2009 Second Team All-GSC; BT—Blocking Team; LS—Long Snapper; The 2012 GSC Pre-Season Football Team was selected by the Head Coaches. Balloting that ended in a tie was not broken. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

## 2012 TOP NEWCOMERS

<b>POS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>LAST SCHOOL/HOMETOWN</b>
OL	Ed Boley	Delta State	FR	West Monroe HS/Monroe, LA
LB	Quintin Gayton	Delta State	JR	Dodge City CC/Columbia, SC
DE	Jamison Goins	Delta State	FR	Gulfport HS/Gulfport, MS
LB	Lucas Shipman	Delta State	FR	Dutchtown HS/Hampton, GA
WR	Brian Sutherland	North Alabama	SR	UT-Chattanooga/Smyrna, GA
RB	Lamonte Thompson	North Alabama	FR	Florence HS/Florence, AL
DB	Nick Williams	North Alabama	SR	University of Georgia/Bainbridge, GA
LB	Tavarius Wilson	North Alabama	JR	Hinds CC/Jackson, MS
WR	Chris Anderson	Valdosta State	FR	Brunswick HS/Brunswick, GA
WR	Zay Howard	Valdosta State	FR	Collins Hill HS/Suwanee, GA
RB	Austin Scott	Valdosta State	FR	Hardaway HS/Columbus, GA
LB	Mario Gainer	West Alabama	JR	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC/Gautier, MS
WR/KR	Reggie Hall	West Alabama	JR	East Central CC/Monroe, LA
DL	Willie Packer	West Alabama	JR	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC/Moss Point, MS
WR	Seth Roberts	West Alabama	JR	Pearl River CC/Tallahassee, FL
OL	Malcolm Aldridge	West Georgia	FR	Burke County HS/Waynesboro, GA
TE	Eric Newman	West Georgia	SO	Newberry College/Dacula, GA
DL	Jed Nwankwoh	West Georgia	FR	McEachern HS/Powder Springs, GA
QB	Austin Trainor	West Georgia	JR	Florida A&M/Tallahassee, FL

**NOTE:** A maximum of four Top Newcomers are submitted by the Head Coaches during the Pre-Season All-GSC nomination process.

## GSC IN NATIONAL PRE-SEASON PUBLICATIONS

### LINDY'S PRE-SEASON PREDICTIONS

#### Top 25

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pittsburg State        | 14. <b>West Alabama</b>  |
| 2. Minnesota-Duluth       | 15. Washburn             |
| 3. Northwest Missouri     | 16. North Greenville     |
| 4. Midwestern State       | 17. Nebraska-Kearney     |
| 5. Wayne State (Mich.)    | 18. Elizabeth City State |
| 6. <b>Delta State</b>     | 19. Kutztown             |
| 7. Winston-Salem State    | 20. Hillsdale            |
| 8. Colorado State-Pueblo  | 21. California (Pa.)     |
| 9. Grand Valley State     | 22. St. Cloud State      |
| 10. New Haven             | 23. Missouri Western     |
| 11. <b>Valdosta State</b> | 24. Mars Hill            |
| 12. <b>North Alabama</b>  | 25. Humboldt State       |
| 13. Abilene Christian     |                          |

#### All-Division II Team

#### **SECOND TEAM**

OL - Ryan Schraeder, Valdosta State  
 OL - Lamar Young, Delta State

### USA TODAY

#### Top 10

1. Pittsburg State
2. Minnesota-Duluth
3. Northwest Missouri
4. Grand Valley State
5. Midwestern State
6. Colorado State-Pueblo
7. Missouri Western
8. **West Alabama**
9. Abilene Christian
10. California (Pa.)

### 2012 CDS Division II Preseason All-American Teams

#### **FIRST TEAM**

##### **Offense**

OL, Lamar Young, Delta State

##### **Defense**

LB, Deon Lacey, West Alabama

#### **SECOND TEAM**

##### **Offense**

OL, Edmund Kugbila, Valdosta State

RB, Matt Willis, West Alabama

##### **Defense**

LB, Xavier Triplett, Delta State

#### **THIRD TEAM**

##### **Offense**

OL, Ryan Schraeder, Valdosta State

##### **Defense**

LB, Chris Pope, Valdosta State

DB, Rod Woodson, North Alabama

##### **Special Teams**

P, Andrew Jones, Delta State

#### **HONORABLE MENTION**

##### **Offense**

OL, Mesh Wokomaty, Valdosta State

##### **Defense**

DB, Matt Pierce, Valdosta State

##### **Special Teams**

PR, Denarius Appling, West Georgia

## 2012 GSC TEAM PREVIEWS



### DELTA STATE STATESMEN



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Series
Sept. 01	SAT	\$Fort Valley State	12:00 pm	1-0-0
Sept. 08	SAT	@ Elizabeth City State	12:00 pm	2-0-0
Sept. 22	SAT	<b>North Alabama</b>	6:00 pm	24-30-1
Sept. 27	THUR	\$Abilene Christian	6:30 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 06	SAT	@ Tarleton State	12:00 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 13	SAT	@ <b>West Georgia</b>	6:00 pm	18-7-0
Oct. 20	SAT	@ <b>Valdosta State</b>	1:00 pm	18-12-1
Oct. 27	SAT	* <b>West Alabama</b>	4:00 pm	34-19-3
Nov. 03	SAT	@ Indianapolis	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 10	SAT	@ <b>Shorter</b>	1:00 pm	0-0-0

GSC Games in **BOLD**  
\$--GSC TV Game of the Week

\*---Homecoming  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL



### NORTH ALABAMA LIONS



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Series
Sept. 02	SUN	!@ Miles	6:00 pm	6-0-0
Sept. 08	SAT	Harding	6:00 pm	7-5-0
Sept. 15	SAT	Kentucky Christian	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 22	SAT	@ <b>Delta State</b>	6:00 pm	30-24-1
Sept. 29	SAT	* <b>Shorter</b>	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 06	SAT	@ Texas A&M-Kingsville	7:00 pm	4-0-0
Oct. 13	SAT	<b>Valdosta State</b>	6:00 pm	20-14-1
Oct. 18	THUR	\$@ <b>West Georgia</b>	6:30 pm	19-10-0
Nov. 03	SAT	\$ <b>Tarleton State</b>	3:00 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 10	SAT	\$@ <b>West Alabama</b>	6:30 pm	48-16-1

GSC Games in **BOLD**  
!--@ Legion Field (Birmingham, AL)  
\$--GSC TV Game of the Week

\*--Homecoming  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL



### SHORTER HAWKS



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Series
Aug. 30	THUR	@ Campbell	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 08	SAT	@ Newberry	5:30 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 15	SAT	@ Chowan	5:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 22	THUR	*Charleston Southern	12:00 pm	12-3-0
Sept. 29	SAT	@ <b>North Alabama</b>	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 06	SAT	Point	12:00 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 13	SAT	Ave Maria	12:00 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 20	SAT	@ <b>West Alabama</b>	6:00 pm	0-1-0
Oct. 25	THUR	\$@ <b>Valdosta State</b>	6:30 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 03	SAT	@ <b>West Georgia</b>	1:00 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 10	SAT	<b>Delta State</b>	1:00 pm	0-0-0

GSC Games in **BOLD**  
\$--GSC TV Game of the Week  
**Note:** Games against GSC teams count toward league standings, but SU is not eligible for the GSC Title.

\*--Homecoming  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL



### VALDOSTA STATE BLAZERS



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Series
Sept. 01	SAT	@ Saginaw Valley State	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 08	SAT	Fort Valley State	6:00 pm	16-3-0
Sept. 15	SAT	!Angelo State	12:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 22	SAT	<b>West Alabama</b>	6:00 pm	28-2-0
Sept. 29	SAT	Edward Waters	6:00 pm	1-0-0
Oct. 06	SAT	@ <b>West Georgia</b>	1:00 pm	20-9-0
Oct. 13	SAT	@ <b>North Alabama</b>	6:00 pm	14-20-1
Oct. 20	SAT	* <b>Delta State</b>	3:00 pm	12-18-1
Oct. 25	THUR	\$@ <b>Shorter</b>	6:30 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 01	THUR	\$Texas A&M-Kingsville	6:30 pm	0-0-0

GSC Games in **BOLD**  
\$--GSC TV Game of the Week  
!--@ Cowboys Stadium (Arlington, TX)

\*--Homecoming  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL



### WEST ALABAMA TIGERS



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Series
Sept. 01	SAT	@ Clark Atlanta	5:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 08	SAT	@ Samford	6:00 pm	6-9-1
Sept. 15	SAT	Mississippi College	6:00 pm	2-1-0
Sept. 22	SAT	@ <b>Valdosta State</b>	6:00 pm	2-28-0
Sept. 29	SAT	<b>West Georgia</b>	6:00 pm	11-18-0
Oct. 04	THUR	\$Midwestern State	6:30 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 13	SAT	College of Faith	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Oct. 20	SAT	* <b>Shorter</b>	6:00 pm	1-0-0
Oct. 27	SAT	@ <b>Delta State</b>	4:00 pm	20-34-3
Nov. 03	SAT	@ Abilene Christian	12:00 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 08	THUR	\$ <b>North Alabama</b>	6:30 pm	16-48-1

GSC Games in **BOLD**  
\$--GSC TV Game of the Week (CSS/Cox)

\*--Homecoming  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL



### WEST GEORGIA WOLVES



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Series
Sept. 01	SAT	Point	6:00 pm	0-0-0
Sept. 08	SAT	Tusculum	12:00 pm	1-1-0
Sept. 15	SAT	@ Miles	6:00 pm	4-0-0
Sept. 29	SAT	@ <b>West Alabama</b>	6:00 pm	18-11-0
Oct. 06	SAT	* <b>Valdosta State</b>	1:00 pm	9-20-0
Oct. 13	SAT	@ <b>Delta State</b>	6:00 pm	7-18-0
Oct. 18	THUR	\$ <b>North Alabama</b>	6:30 pm	10-19-0
Oct. 27	SAT	West Texas A&M	7:00 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 03	SAT	Shorter	1:00 pm	0-0-0
Nov. 10	SAT	@ Midwestern State	1:00 pm	0-0-0

GSC Games in **BOLD**  
\$--GSC TV Game of the Week (CSS/Cox)

\*--Homecoming  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL