



Hello, Gulf South Nation:

I am honored and humbled to begin my first year as Commissioner of the Gulf South Conference. As we get close to the start of another exciting competition season, my first priority is to wish all our student-athletes a healthy, competitive, and rewarding year.

I hope you enjoy the opportunity to compete alongside your teammates and coaches while balancing your commitment to education with your pursuit of excellence on the fields and courts. Be humble in victory, and when the outcome does not go your way, respond with the character, determination, and respect that define great competitors.

I also want to thank our Presidents, administrators, coaches, officials, and support personnel for the unwavering support and tireless effort you provide to create outstanding experiences for our student-athletes, both on and off campus. Your work is the foundation of everything we do.

To our parents, friends, family, and fans, thank you for the passion you have for Gulf South athletics. Please bring that energy and enthusiasm to our venues while remembering that mistakes will happen and opportunities will be missed. Your encouragement and support can make a tremendous difference to our student-athletes.

While I am new to the Gulf South Conference, I am certainly not unaware of the history, tradition, and excellence this conference has established in NCAA Division II athletics. I am proud to be part of that tradition, and I share your expectation that we will continue to uphold it and showcase the strength of the Conference not only amongst ourselves, but regionally and on the national stage as well.

As we begin this new season, I am reminded of what we strive to accomplish together through the Gulf South Conference: **Compete, Graduate, and Impact**. Those three words capture what we ask of our student athletes to compete with excellence, graduate prepared for the future and use the experiences they gain through athletics to make a lasting impact on their communities and the world around them.

I look forward to working with all of you and to an exciting year in the Gulf South Conference.

**Best of luck to all our teams, coaches, and student athletes. Let's have a great year in the Gulf South!**

Bill Popp

Commissioner  
Gulf South Conference