



News Release

For Immediate Release

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MEAC ANNOUNCES 2012 SOFTBALL PRESEASON PREDICTIONS

Delaware State and Bethune-Cookman Picked to Win Divisional Titles

NORFOLK, Va., February 10, 2012 – The Delaware State Lady Hornets were predicted to win the 2012 MEAC Softball title, as voted on by the conference's head softball coaches and sports information directors. Delaware State was chosen to finish first in the Northern division, while the two-time defending MEAC champion Bethune-Cookman Lady Wildcats were picked to win the Southern division.

For the second consecutive year, Delaware State's Jordan Reid was selected as the conference's Preseason Player of the Year while Coppin State's Paige Arnold earned Preseason Pitcher of the Year accolades.

Reid, the two-time MEAC Player of the Year, led the MEAC and was second in the nation with a .497 batting average. She was atop the MEAC in on-base percentage (.551) and hits and finished second in runs scored (45). Reid posted five triples, 11 doubles and concluded the 2011 campaign with 77 hits in 155 appearances at the plate.

Coppin State's Paige Arnold, the 2010 MEAC Pitcher of the Year, finished the season with a 16-11 record and an ERA of 1.46 in 192.0 innings. She led the MEAC in earned run average and strikeouts (187).

DSU advanced to last year's championship finale before falling to B-CU in the second championship game of the double elimination bracket. The Lady Hornets concluded the 2011 season with a 32-19 mark and were 12-6 in northern divisional play. Delaware State welcomes back 13 letterwinners, including Reid for the 2012 season.

Coppin State was picked to finish second in the northern division followed by Norfolk State and Howard. Hampton and Morgan State tied for fifth place and Maryland Eastern Shore rounded out the northern division preseason predictions.

Bethune-Cookman was 33-26 overall and posted an unblemished 12-0 mark in conference play. The Lady Wildcats won their seventh overall MEAC tournament crown and second consecutive title a year ago. This season B-CU returns seven starters from last year's championship team.

Florida A&M, was picked to finish second in the southern division followed by South Carolina State and North Carolina A&T who tied for third place. Savannah State and North Carolina Central complete the southern division predictions.

Reid and Arnold are joined by Stephanie Sarris (DSU), Kathy Cortez (NSU), Stephanie Martello (DSU), Tera Gainer (FAMU), Whitney Holland (NSU), Aurelia Gamch (B-CU), Hope Fletcher (NCAT), Danielle Wright (NSU), Detavia Kenan (NCAT), and Rachel Carroll (DSU) on the 2012 Preseason All-MEAC team.

Conference play begins March 31 with all MEAC northern and southern divisional teams in action.

The 2012 MEAC Softball Championship tournament is scheduled for May 10-12, 2012 at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex in Ormond Beach, Florida.

For more information on MEAC Softball or other sponsored sports, log on to www.MEACsports.com



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2012 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Preseason Predictions
As voted on by the MEAC's Head Softball Coaches and Sports Information Directors
(First Place Votes in Parenthesis)

Northern Division

School	Pts.
1. Delaware State (19)	290
2. Coppin State (1)	195
3. Norfolk State (2).....	194
4. Howard (3).....	193
T5. Hampton	174
T5. Morgan State (1)	174
7. Maryland E. Shore	106

Southern Division

School.....	Pts.
1. Bethune-Cookman (16).....	282
2. Florida A&M (10)	264
T3. South Carolina State	175
T3. North Carolina A&T	175
5. Savannah State.....	167
6. North Carolina Central.....	139

2012 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Preseason All-Conference Team

Preseason Player of the Year

Jordan Reid, Delaware State

Preseason Pitcher of the Year

Paige Arnold, Coppin State

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown
Paige Arnold	Coppin State	P	5-7	Sr.	Detroit, Mich.
Stephanie Sarris	Delaware State	P	5-6	So.	Rohnert Park, Calif.
Kathy Cortez	Norfolk State	C	5-3	So.	Pomona, Calif.
Stephanie Martello	Delaware State	1B	5-6	So.	Oxnard, Calif.
Tera Gainer	Florida A&M	2B	5-7	Sr.	Crestview, Fla.
Whitney Holland	Norfolk State	3B	5-11	Sr.	Suffolk, Va.
*Aurelia Gamch	Bethune-Cookman	SS	5-4	Jr.	Madera, Calif.
*Hope Fletcher	North Carolina A&T	SS	5-4	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio
Jordan Reid	Delaware State	OF	5-8	Sr.	Accokeek, Md.
Danielle Wright	Norfolk State	OF	5-3	Sr.	Safety Harbor, Fla.
Detavia Kenan	North Carolina A&T	OF	5-7	So.	Raleigh, N.C.
Rachel Carroll	Delaware State	UTL	5-7	Sr.	Oxnard, Calif.

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