



News Release

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MEAC ANNOUNCES 2013 VOLLEYBALL PRESEASON HONORS

Florida A&M and Hampton Picked to Win Southern and Northern Divisions

NORFOLK, Va., August 14, 2013 - South Carolina State outside hitter Desire Waller was named the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Volleyball Preseason Player of the Year the conference announced today. Preseason honors were voted on by the conference's head volleyball coaches and sports information directors.

The Florida A&M Lady Rattlers and the Hampton Lady Pirates were picked as the preseason favorites in the northern and southern divisions. Florida A&M received 19 first-place votes, while Hampton garnered 14.

Florida A&M posted an unblemished 10-0 conference mark and a 15-10 overall record in 2012. The Lady Pirates finished second in the north standings with a 9-3 conference record and a 19-14 overall mark. Hampton returns a wealth of talent, including Krista Kraskura and Bibiany Fonseca.

Joining Waller on the preseason team is Kraskura and Fonseca from Hampton, North Carolina Central's Christine Anthony and Kalin Russell, and Norfolk State's Goda Jankauskaite and Noelle Eagles.

Waller, who is the two-time reigning MEAC Volleyball Player of the Year, led the MEAC with 4.91 kills per set during her junior season. The senior ranked among the top ten in the conference in hitting percentage (.255), and kills (381). Waller surpassed the 1,000-kill mark last season, and added 169 digs, 2.19 digs/set and 42 blocks during the 2012 season. She concluded the regular season with eight 20-plus kill performances, including a MEAC season-high 31 kills in a conference win over North Carolina Central.

Defending MEAC tournament champions Maryland Eastern Shore was predicted to finish second after finishing 11-1 in conference play a year ago. UMES garnered 10 first-place votes. Norfolk State was tabbed third, followed by Coppin State, Morgan State, Delaware State and Howard.

North Carolina Central, which had three first-place votes, was predicted to finish second in the south division. South Carolina State is predicted to finish third, followed by Bethune-Cookman, North Carolina A&T and Savannah State.

Conference play begins on September 27 with the defending MEAC tournament champion Maryland Eastern Shore Lady Hawks hosting the Delaware State Lady Hornets. The 2013 MEAC Volleyball Championship will be held November 15-17 at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Md.

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2013 MEAC Volleyball Preseason Predicted Order of Finish
(First Place Votes In Parenthesis)

Northern Division

1. Hampton (14)	274 pts.
2. Maryland Eastern Shore (10)	249 pts.
3. Norfolk State (2)	218 pts.
4. Coppin State	177 pts.
5. Morgan State	154 pts.
6. Delaware State	130 pts.
7. Howard	123 pts.

Southern Division

1. Florida A&M (19)	282 pts.
2. North Carolina Central (3)	225 pts.
3. South Carolina State (4)	211 pts.
4. Bethune-Cookman	191 pts.
5. North Carolina A&T	177 pts.
6. Savannah State	136 pts.

2013 MEAC Volleyball Preseason Team

Preseason Player of the Year: Desire Waller, South Carolina State

Name	Pos.	Cl.	School	Hometown
Krista Kraskura	OH	Jr.	Hampton	Kuldiga, Latvia
Christine Anthony	OH	So.	NCCU	Willemstad, Curacao
Desire Waller	OH	Sr.	SCSU	Houston, Texas
Goda Jankauskaite	MB	Sr.	NSU	Kaunas, Lithuania
Kalin Russell	MB	Sr.	NCCU	Baldwin, N.Y.
Bibiany Fonseca	S	Sr.	Hampton	Uberlandia, Brazil
Noelle Eagles	L	R.-Jr.	NSU	Richmond, Ind.