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2017 South Atlantic Conference Preview



Columbus State University Cougars
Columbus, Georgia

2016 Record: 4-2

Head Coach: Michael Speight

Team Captain(s): John Blanchard, James Whiteman, Damion Brown, Taurez Russell

Returning Starters: 12

Players to Watch: James Whiteman, Jurmon Weaver, Dontae Donahue, Darien Hargrove

Season Outlook

Columbus State is coming off a very successful 2016 campaign that saw them make their way to the South Atlantic Championship Game where they fell to eventual NCFA runner up Middle Georgia State.

They enter 2017 as contenders for the SAC crown once again, Coach Michael Speight feels they are brought in some very key defensive pieces that will help them get past Middle Georgia and into the NCFA playoffs. Their motto of "Deeds not Words" is being driven home by the coaching staff and we should expect to see them among the top of the NCFA power rankings this fall



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University of Fort Lauderdale Eagles
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

2016 Record: 6-2

Head Coach: Tracy Davis

Assistants:

Offensive Coordinator – Rodney Gray

Co-Defensive Coordinator – Bryan Jones

David Brunson, Marty Culpepper, Jimmy McClendon, Melvin Jones

Team Captain(s): Chad Boyd, Ken Hankerson, Juan O’Farrill, Chris Cunningham

Returning Starters: 12

Players to Watch: Chad Boyd, Juan O’Farrill, Chris Cunningham, Ken Hankerson, Kyle Smoot

Season Outlook

The Eagles are entering their first season in the NCFA this fall but not their first season of club football. They are established and do return 12 starters from their squad last season, a season where they finished with a 6-2 record. They are expecting to be contenders for an NCFA championship immediately this

fall, the first step to that goal will be competing for the South Atlantic title, which means getting through Middle Georgia. Coach Tracy Davis believes their strong leadership and a great defense will allow them to find success early. Look for the Eagles to possibly be a surprise entrance in the NCFA playoffs this fall.



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University of Florida Gators
Gainesville, FL



Season Outlook

Another new face to the NCFA and the South Atlantic Florida is looking to make their mark this fall. They have had a strong presence on social media and that is hopefully generating some buzz for them down in Gainesville. If they want to make a name for themselves on the field they can circle week 5 on their calendar and their showdown with NCFA powerhouse Middle Georgia State.



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Lander University Bearcats
Greenwood, South Carolina
Head Coach: Ferric Fuller

Season Outlook

The third of the new SAC teams, Lander University is also a complete unknown. Just like Florida if they want to make a name for themselves in the SAC it can be done in their tilt against Middle Georgia. With the uncertainties of the SAC Lander will have a chance to compete for a spot in the South Atlantic title game if they can gel quickly.



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**Middle Georgia State University Knights
Cochran, Georgia**

2015 Record: 7-3 – NCFA Runners Up / SAC Championship

Head Coach: Daniel Mock

Team Captain(s):

Returning Starters: 16

Players to Watch:

Season Outlook

Perennial NCFA Powerhouse Middle Georgia State is back and looking to avenge a close NCFA Title game loss from last season. They are an unknown commodity this year and will be a young team but they do expect to continue their dominance in the South Atlantic and once again contend for an NCFA title berth. No Team has made three straight NCFA title games so Middle Georgia is looking to make some history there this fall. It will be interesting how the new blood in the SAC is able to match up with the Knights