



SOUTH ATLANTIC

*NCFA Conference
Preview*



Columbus State is coming off a strong 2017 season finishing 2nd in the conference behind NCFA runner up Fort Lauderdale. With 9 returning starters Head Coach Michael Speight has been preaching “Deeds not Words” to his players this off-season and have plans to be playing into December. Look for the passing Tandem of James Whiteman to Tieric Reese to be a big play connection this fall. Look for the defensive to be led by a strong backfield, manned by Anthony Murray and MyJahn Wheeler. Columbus State will have a strong presence in the South Atlantic this fall and should be considered an NCFA title contender.



Columbus State University Cougars
Columbus, GA

Head Coach – Michael Speight
Assistants – Eric Singleton, Konrad Kaplen, Emmanuel Lockhart, Lyndon Kilcrease
2017 record – 8-2
Conference Finish – 2nd
Final National Ranking – 5th
Returning Players – 17
Returning Starters – 9
Players to Watch – Anthony Murray, James Whiteman, Myjahn Wheeler, Devontae Nelson, Tyler Collins

NCFA newcomer Florida Gulf Coast enters the South Atlantic, adding yet another Florida based program to the league. Head Coach Daniel Mcleod is expecting to field a very fast team, especially on defense. FGCU is looking duplicate the formula that led Fort Lauderdale to the NCFA title game in their inaugural season in the league. Look for FGCU to put a lot of pressure on the rest of the SAC.



**Florida Gulf Coast University
Fort Myers, FL**

**Head Coach – Daniel Mcleod
2017 record – N/A**

Returning Players – 25

**Players to Watch – Nathan Salinetto, Andres Velazques,
Jared Conner**

Florida Club Football entered the NCFA with great attention in 2017, that attention however did not translate to the win column as they finished with a goose egg on the W side. A new year brings increased optimism, additions to the coaching staff and to the roster have the Gators thinking they can get that elusive first program win this fall.



**University of Florida
Gainesville, FL**

Head Coach – Patrick Powers
Assistants – Ayeobele Randolph, Jarad Dorsey, Ryan
Paddock, Nick Cuesta
2017 record – 0-5
2017 Conference Ranking – 4th

Returning Players – 10
Returning Starters – 5

UNC-Greensboro entered the 2017 season with big hopes to for a conference championship, they started strong before running into perennial NCFA powerhouse Coppin State, dropping that game and spoiling their chances for NCFA post-season play. The Spartans expect to once again be in the mix for the NCFA National Title. Head Coach Oscar Malone will once again lead an explosive spread offense, led by returning starting QB Brandon Travis. Travis is cut in the dual threat mode and should be a contender for NCFA Offensive Player of the Year. Travis will be looking to 6'5" Jaquavius Pouny often as a passing target. The Travis to Pouny connection could be deadly for their SAC opponents. Defensively returning starters Kobe Rudsil, Davis Omokhua and Malik Hicks give Spartans defensive Coordinator Matthew McKay a solid base for their attacking defensive scheme. Expect UNCG to give the rest of the SAC fits on both sides of the ball. The Spartans should be in play for a SAC championship and NCFA post season action.



**University of North Carolina - Greensboro
Greensboro, NC**

Head Coach – Oscar Malone

**Assistants – Matthew McKay, Sammy Henderson,
Anthony Griffen, Kevin Jones, Jeff Knittle, George Sills,
2017 record – 6-1**

Conference Finish – 2nd

Final National Ranking – 7th

Returning Players – 16

Returning Starters – 16

**Players to Watch – Kobe Rudsil, Brandon Travis, Malik
Hicks, Jaquavius Pouny, Davis Omokhua**

After back to back NCFA title game appearance, including an NCFA title in 2015 the Middle Georgia State Knights took a step back in Coach Kiwaukee Thomas's first season, 2017. They were knocked off the SAC throne by Fort Lauderdale and did not qualify for the NCFA playoffs. Coach Thomas believes they have the nucleus in place to regain their perch among the NCFA elite. Look for returning WR Chris Daley to be the focal point of the Knights offense, while Javier Pierce should anchor the D. Look for last season to be an anomaly as the Knights should regain their standing and be a factor in the wide open South Atlantic race.



**Middle Georgia State University
Cochran, GA**

**Head Coach – Kiwaukee Thomas
Assistants – Victor Hall, Terry Kendrick, Vetrimeyer
Miller, Antonio Harris
2017 record – 3-5
Conference Finish – 3rd
Final National Ranking –
Returning Players – 12
Returning Starters – 10**

The Gamecocks return to the NCFA in 2018 after a multi year hiatus. They enter the season as an unknown and won't have an easy road to glory with some of the strong teams in the SAC. Head Coach Ernie Lair will look to WR Ian Neville to lead the offense while LB Jack Leahy anchors the D. South Carolina hopes 2018 can be a building block year to future NCFA success.



**University of South Carolina - Columbia
Columbia, SC**

**Head Coach – Ernie Lair
Assistants – Derek Lair, Tim Barts, Joe Corey, John
Menechino**

Players to Watch – Ian Neville, Jack Leahy, Ryan Hood

The Fort Lauderdale Eagles, burst on the NCFA scene last fall securing big victories over every team that came in their path including convincing wins over NCFA power Middle Georgia State Knights. It wasn't until running into the hard nosed Sacred Heart Pioneers that the Eagles were grounded. Heading into 2018 the Eagles may be the most favored team to win the NCFA title, mainly because of returning QB Nathaniel Watson. Watson was a one man wrecking crew in the NCFA title game, showing his dual threat skills against the best defense in the league, Watson is the front runner for NCFA Offensive Player of the Year. The Eagles are breaking in a new head coach in Roderick Gray and a lot of new assistant coaches so there may be bumps to work thru as the new systems are learned but expect the Eagles to be near the top of the NCFA when the final national rankings are released.



**University of Fort Lauderdale
Fort Lauderdale, FL**

Head Coach – Roderick Gray

**Assistants – Rudy Taylor, Jarret McDonald, Mark Barr Jr,
Jean Belliot, Melvin Jones, David Brunson, AD- Benny
Blades**

2017 record – 10-2

Conference Finish – 1st

Final National Ranking – 2nd

Returning Players – 15

Returning Starters – 6

Players to Watch – Nathaniel Watson, Joshua Taylor