

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

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ARKANSAS TECH GOLDEN SUNS BASKETBALL TABBED FOURTH IN PRESEASON GSC WEST DIVISION POLL

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama – Arkansas Tech Women’s Basketball was tabbed to finish fourth in the Preseason Gulf South Conference West Division Coaches’ Poll that was released by the league on Thursday.

Tech received 33 points in the preseason poll to finish three points behind third-place Arkansas-Monticello (36 points) and eight points behind second place Ouachita Baptist (41 points). The Golden Suns received two votes each for second, third and fourth place, while one coach voted Tech to finish fifth.

The Preseason Poll was voted on by the league’s head coaches and the head coaches could not vote for their own team.

Tech Head Coach **Dave Wibers’** third Golden Suns team returns just two starters, including senior three-year starting guard **Ashley Chisum** (Bryant, Ark.) and three letterwinners from last season’s 19-9 squad that finished tied for third in the West Division.

Delta State was once tabbed as the preseason choice to win not only the West Division title, but also the overall GSC Championship for the fifth consecutive year. The Lady Statesmen earned 49 points, including seven first place votes, for first place in the West Division and received 11 points to win the overall GSC title. In addition to DSU, West Georgia (2 points) and Tech (1 point) each received votes to win the overall GSC title.

Meanwhile, in the East Division, the coaches tabbed Valdosta State as the favorite as the Lady Blazers earned 23 points, including three first-place votes. West Georgia was picked second as they earned 22 points and three first-place votes, while North Alabama was tabbed third as the Lions received 18 points. West Alabama was tabbed fourth as they earned 12 points, while West Florida (10 points) and Alabama-Huntsville (5 points) were tabbed fifth and sixth respectively.

Following the top four in the West Division is Harding, who received 24 points to finish in fifth place, while Henderson State (20 points) was tabbed sixth. Christian Brothers (11 points) and Southern Arkansas (10 points) were tabbed to finish seventh and eighth respectively.

In addition to releasing the preseason polls, the league also released its Preseason All-GSC Teams for both divisions. The West Division team features UAM senior forward Monica Perkins-Miller, Delta State junior guard Bug Cooper, Delta State sophomore forward Veronica Walker, Harding senior forward Stacey Owens, Ouachita Baptist sophomore guard A’Laeshia Adams and Southern Arkansas guard Goldie White.

The East Division team features Alabama-Huntsville sophomore center Renita Lewis, North Alabama sophomore forward Dana Jackson, North Alabama senior guard

Jameica York, Valdosta State senior guard Leschelle Matthews, West Florida senior guard Amy Drake and West Florida senior guard Tiffany Williams.

Tech had sophomore forward **Natalia Santos** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and junior guard **Jenny Vining** (Marshall, Ark.) were named to the GSC West Division's Top Newcomers List. Santos is a transfer from New Mexico Junior College, while Vining is a transfer from the University of Oklahoma and was the MVP of the 2007 Class 3A State Tournament when she led Marshall to the state championship.

The Golden Suns will begin its 2009-10 season with an exhibition game on Nov. 7 at Missouri State beginning at 7 p.m. and will conclude its exhibition slate on Nov. 14 at home against the University of Ozarks at 2 p.m. Tech will open the regular season on Nov. 16 when they host Central Baptist in a 5:30 p.m. game at Tucker Coliseum.

PRESEASON GSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL POLL

West Division

	Team	Points
1.	Delta State (11)	49
2.	Ouachita Baptist	41
3.	Arkansas-Monticello	36
4.	Arkansas Tech (1)	33
5.	Harding	24
6.	Henderson State	20
7.	Christian Brothers	11
8.	Southern Arkansas	10

() – indicates GSC Tournament champion votes

East Division

	Team	Points
1.	Valdosta State	23
2.	West Georgia (2)	22
3.	North Alabama	18
4.	West Alabama	12
5.	West Florida	10
6.	Alabama-Huntsville	5

() – indicates GSC Tournament champion votes

PRESEASON ALL-GSC TEAMS

WEST DIVISION

\$ Monica Perkins-Miller, UAM	Forward	Sr.	Houston, Texas
\$ Sarita 'Bug' Cooper, DSU	Guard	Jr.	Indianola, Miss.
Veronica Walker, DSU	Forward	So.	Indianola, Miss.
\$ Stacey Owens, Harding	Forward	Sr.	Russellville, Ark.
A'Laeshia Adams, OBU	Guard	So.	Little Rock, Ark.
# Goldie White, So. Arkansas	Guard	Sr.	Hampton, Ark.

EAST DIVISION

Renita Lewis, Ala.-Huntsville	Center	So.	Birmingham, Ala.
Dana Jackson, No. Alabama	Forward	So.	Winchester, Tenn.
# Jameica York, No. Alabama	Guard	Sr.	Mobile, Ala.

# Leschelle Matthews, VSU	Guard	Sr.	Columbus, Ga.
# Amy Drake, West Florida	Guard	Sr.	Niceville, Fla.
Tiffany Williams, West Florida	Guard	Sr.	St. Petersburg, Fla.

\$ - 2008-09 First-Team All-GSC selections

- 2008-09 Second-Team All-GSC selections

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