



Great Northwest Athletic Conference

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Men's Soccer: Simon Fraser Still On Top In GNAC Preseason Poll, Ranked 3rd In Nation

Great Northwest Coaches Poll	2012 Records	Pts.
1. Simon Fraser (7)	19-2-1 (12-1-1, 1 st)	61
2. Seattle Pacific	11-3-5 (7-3-4, 3 rd)	51
3. Northwest Nazarene (1)	9-4-5 (8-2-4, 2 nd)	50
4. Western Washington	8-8-2 (6-6-2, 5 th)	37
5. MSU Billings	11-5-2 (7-5-2, 4 th)	34
6. University of Mary	5-10-3 (4-8-2, 6 th)	30
7. Saint Martin's	3-15-0 (2-12-0, 8 th)	15
8. SD Mines	2-11-0	10

(Note: First-place votes in parenthesis. Points awarded on a 8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis).

PORTLAND, Ore. – It is no surprise that Simon Fraser starts the 2013 soccer season precisely where it has finished in each of its first three seasons in the GNAC: at the top.

The 2012 national semifinalist enters this season ranked No. 3 in the nation according to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) preseason coaches' poll, and the Clan is locked and loaded for a run at not only their fourth straight GNAC title but at a national championship as well.

Three-time *GNAC Coach of the Year* Alan Koch has guided the Clan to an incredible 56-4-2 overall record dating back to 2010, with an equally impressive conference mark at 32-2-2.

With reigning GNAC scoring leader Carlo Basso at the crux of the perennial powerhouse, the coaches have reached a consensus that SFU is the top dog in the GNAC, indicated by its reception of seven first place votes.

The final first place nomination was given to Northwest Nazarene, which falls to third in the GNAC preseason coaches poll despite finishing in second place in 2012.

Sixth year coach Coe Michaelson has five of his starters back, including second-team all-GNAC pick and NNU scoring leader Jaime Torres.

Edging the Crusaders by a single point (51-50) in this year's poll is Seattle Pacific, which finished in third place in conference play a season ago.

The Falcons, piloted by Mark Collings (sixth season), return a dozen lettermen and a trio of GNAC all-stars.

Senior forward Blaine Carver will be in pursuit of a double-digit goal figure this season, after notching eight in 2012 and earning a third-team all-America nod from the NSCAA.

Rookie coach Alex Balog brings fresh energy to the Montana State Billings program, which finished fourth in last season's conference standings.

Despite losing first-team all-GNAC midfielder Thomas Chameraud and being selected to finish fifth in the preseason poll, Balog's recruiting class is chalk full of talent and could turn some heads this fall.

Receiving 37 total points and placing fourth in the preseason poll is Western Washington, which is also sporting a rookie head coach.

Greg Brisbon takes over a program that is four years removed from the top of the conference and has serious potential to be a factor in 2013.

Andrew Weishaar will be called upon to set the pace offensively, as his seven goals last year led the Vikings and earned him second-team all-GNAC honors.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth ranked teams were separated by a spread of just seven points, indicating that WWU, MSU Billings and sixth-ranked University of Mary could shuffle places freely throughout the season.

The Marauders did not go unnoticed in their first season of affiliation in the GNAC, finishing 4-8-1 and in sixth place. Star forward Rory Pratt's eight goals tied him for third in the league, and his presence in the lineup this season will give Mary a shot at climbing up the standings.

The seventh spot in the poll is occupied by Saint Martin's. The Saints won just three contests last year, but six of their starters and nine total letter winners return for a fresh start in 2013.

The newest addition to the GNAC, South Dakota School of Mines, rounds out the preseason poll with 10 total points.

Head coach Joe Burger brings his young group into the conference after a rocky 2012 season, the first in program history.

TEAM CAPSULES

SIMON FRASER Clan

Head Coach: Alan Koch, Simon Fraser '01 (87-13-3, 6 years; Overall, 109-29-3, 8 years)

Assistants: Clint Schnieder, James Merriman, Nour Fathy

2012 Record: 19-2-1

Conference: 12-1-1, 1st

Returns: Lettermen – 14 Starters - 8

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Carlo Basso (F, 6-4, Sr., 22-14-7-35, 1st team GNAC), Chris Bargholz (M, 5-10, Jr., 19-5-6-16, 2nd team GNAC), Ryan Dhillon (M, 5-10, So., 22-7-5-19, 2nd team GNAC), Jovan Blagojevic (M, 6-0, Jr., 12-6-4-16, HM GNAC), Alex Rowley (M, 5-10, So., 21-3-10-16, HM GNAC), Marco Voegeli (D, 5-9, Jr., 17-1-1-3)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Lucas Ferritto (F, 5-6, Sr., 12-2-0-4), Colin Jacques (F, 5-10, So., 21-3-4-10), Adam Staschuk (M, 5-9, Sr., 17-1-2-4), Jason van Blerk (D, 6-2, So., 17-0-1-1), Juan Sanchez (M, 5-9, Sr., 12-0-1-1)

Transfers: Scott Shewfelt (GK, 6-4, Sr., London, ON – Coastal Carolina), Brandon Watson (GK, 6-1, R-Fr., Victoria, B.C. – Coastal Carolina), Glenn Paden (F, 6-0, Jr., Lake Forest Park, WA – Oregon State), Johannes Hallman (D, 6-3, Jr., Lidkoping, Sweden – Hawaii Pacific), Chris Merriman (D, 5-10, Jr., Nanaimo, B.C. – Vancouver Island)

OUTLOOK

According to the 2013 NSCAA national preseason poll, the loss of 2012 *GNAC Player of the Year* Michael Winter and several other GNAC all-stars will have little impact on Simon Fraser this season as the Clan is the No. 3 team in the country.

One of the main reasons SFU earned a berth in the Division II Final Four a year ago and has won three consecutive GNAC titles is Carlo Basso (6-4, Sr., Coquitlam, BC – Archbishop Carney). The forward led the conference in points last season (35), combining 14 goals with seven assists to reach the tally.

Basso was joined on the 2012 GNAC First Team by Winter and defenders Helge Neumann and Matt Besuchko, all of whom graduated. Last year's trio of seniors anchored a defense that led the conference with just 0.77 goals allowed per contest.

Also returning for SFU are Chris Bargholz (5-10, Jr., Fuessen, Germany – Gymnasium Hohenschwangau) and Ryan Dhillon (5-10, R-So., North Delta, BC – North Delta), a pair of second-team all-GNAC midfielders.

The Clan will miss the production of Justin Wallace, a second-team all-GNAC pick in 2012 who trailed only Basso amongst conference leaders in points (27) and goals (10).

Jovan Blagojevic (6-0, Jr., Coquitlam, BC – Centennial) returns for the Clan after starting 11 contests and scoring six goals in 2012.

Midfielder Alex Rowley (5-10, So., Maple Ridge, BC – Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary) provides

additional experience as he started 20 matches, scored three goals and led the team with 10 assists as a freshman in 2012.

Three-time *GNAC Coach of the Year* Alan Koch has bolstered his squad with a pair of Division I transfers and five international players.

Scott Shewfelt (6-4, Sr., London, ON – Coastal Carolina) will fill the void in the net left by JD Blakely and Hide Ozawa who started 13 and nine contests in goal for the Clan in 2012, respectively.

Shewfelt brings the Clan Division I experience and was cited as goalkeeper of the year by the Ontario Soccer Association in 2011.

Three European defenders – Alexander Kleefeldt (6-3, Fr., Frankfurt, Germany – FC Eddersheim), Magnus Kristensen (6-3, Fr., Stavanger, Norway – Viking Stavenger Club), and Johannes Hallman (6-3, Jr., Lidkoping, Sweden – Hawaii Pacific) – will plug the gaps on defense.

Offensively, Glenn Paden (6-0, Jr., Lake Forest Park, WA – Oregon State) brings the Clan a boot that netted three goals and two assists in 13 games in 2012 for the Division I Beavers.

SEATTLE PACIFIC Falcons

Head Coach: Mark Collings, Seattle Pacific '99 (52-28-15, 5 years)

Assistants: Kevin Reiman, Dan Pingrey, Erik Skipper

2012 Record: 11-3-5

Conference: 7-3-4, 3rd

Returns: Lettermen – 12 Starters - 4

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Blaine Carver (F, 5-10, Sr., 18-8-2-18 1st Team GNAC, 3rd team NSCAA), Anthony Mohammed (M, 5-7, Sr., 17-1-0-2, HM GNAC), Ian Adams (F, 5-10, So., 18-4-1-9, HM GNAC), Evan Robicheau (D, 6-0, Jr., 18-0-2-2)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Kodiak Gamble (D, 5-9, Sr., 17-2-0-4), Sean Russell (M, 5-11, Jr., 18-0-2-2), Taylor Backous (F, 6-4, Jr., 9-0-0-0), Matt Merchant (M, 5-11, So., 16-3-2-8), Garrett Jones (M, 5-9, So., 13-0-2-2), Bryson Pavel (D, 6-0, So., 16-0-0-0), Danny Olivas (M, 6-1, So., 18-1-4-6)

Transfers: Jeff Mullen (D, 6-3, Jr., Soldotna, AK – Peninsula CC/Grand Canyon), Rodney Greiling (GK, 6-3, So., Kent, WA – Florida International)

OUTLOOK

In 2012 four Falcon first-team all-GNAC selections helped Seattle Pacific finish third in the conference standings. Of the quartet receiving the conference's highest citation, only Blaine Carver (5-10, Sr., Soldotna, AK – Soldotna) returns to the squad in 2013.

Carver notched eight goals and 18 points while starting 17-of-18 matches.

Midfielder Caleb Nyone, defender Jon Pearman and goalkeeper Zach Johnson provided the Falcons with

strength up the middle and left a void to fill after graduating.

Only four returnees started at least 10 games for SPU in 2012, and the Falcons will turn to their three seniors to mentor a plethora of young talent.

Joining Carver in assuming leadership roles will be honorable mention all-GNAC picks Anthony Mohammed (5-7, Sr., Litchfield Park, AZ – Agua Fria) and Ian Adams (5-10, So., Shoreline, WA – Shorecrest), as well as three-year letterman Kodiak Gamble (5-9, Sr., Tucson, AZ – Ironwood Ridge).

Mohammed started 17 matches in the midfield in 2012, scoring once and providing stability to the Falcons' shape.

Adams scored four goals and chipped in an assist over 18 contests, which earned him all-conference honors as a freshman.

Gamble, who was an honorable mention all-GNAC selection in 2010 and 2011, started just three games in 2012 but managed to score twice. SPU will look to the defender for an increased workload this season.

Evan Robicheau (6-0, Jr., Puyallup, WA – Puyallup) will play in tandem with Gamble in the back and provides solid experience after starting 13 games in 2012 as a sophomore.

Offensively, SPU will look for Danny Olivas (6-1, So., Phoenix, AZ – O'Connor) to have a break-out season, as the midfielder started 10 games, scored once and had four assists last year as a freshman.

NORTHWEST NAZARENE Crusaders

Head Coach: Coe Michaelson, Albertson '02 (38-41-9, 5 years)
Assistants: Dane Manley, Dan Mangeac, Ryan Scott, Stephen Marshall

2012 Record: 9-4-5

Conference: 8-2-4, 2nd

Returnees: Lettermen – 7 Starters - 5

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Jaime Torres (M, 5-8, Sr., 16-5-1-11, 2nd team GNAC), John DiLulo (F, 5-8, Sr., 17-3-6-12, HM GNAC), Dylan Coffee (F, 5-11, Jr., 18-2-1-5), Daniel Clark (M, 6-0, Sr., 18-2-1-5), Derrick Brown (M, 5-9, Sr., 15-0-0-0)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Evan Horwood (F, 5-9, Sr., 15-0-1-1), Alfredo Zendejas (M, 5-5, So., 8-0-0-0), Ruben Cortez (GK, 6-1, Sr., 0.00 GAA, 0 shutouts)

Transfers: Emmett Demirelli (M, 6-0, Jr., Boise, ID – Chemeketa CC), Ian Ward (D, 6-0, Jr., Chehalis, WA – Pacific University), Fredy Razo (F, 5-10, Jr., Irvine, CA – Irvine Valley College), Luke Broz (D, 5-11, So., Boise, ID – Highline CC), Cedric Dinane (F, 6-2, Jr., Marseille, France – Universite JF Grenob), Mark Watson (M, 5-8, Jr., Clackamas, WA – Pacific University), Juan Perez (D, 6-0, Jr., Los Angeles, CA – LA Harbor College), Daniel Day (D, 5-11, Jr., Salem, OR – Chemeketa CC)

OUTLOOK

With its leading scorer tallying just five goals, Northwest Nazarene pulled off a second place finish in the GNAC in 2012. The Crusaders scored 26 goals total, and a sound

roster from top-to-bottom proved resilient enough for the impressive finish.

Jaime Torres (5-8, Sr., Pomona, CA – Mt. San Antonio College) made good in his first year at NNU, scoring five goals and dishing out an assist in 16 games. The reigning second-team all-GNAC forward is the centerpiece of the Crusaders' offense in 2013.

Other returnees include forwards John DiLulo (5-8, Sr., Boise, ID – Boise HS) and Dylan Coffee (5-11, Jr., Syracuse, UT – Syracuse HS) and midfielders Daniel Clark (6-0, Sr., Littleton, CO – Front Range Christian HS) and Derrick Brown (5-9, Sr., Dublin, CA – Cal Poly SLO).

DiLulo started 13 games in 2012, scoring three goals and tallying six assists while tying Torres for the team lead in shots (40).

Coffee scored twice in 12 starts as a sophomore, and is expected to increase production as an established two-year veteran.

Clark scored a pair of goals and contributed an assist in 12 starts, and Brown provided consistent excellence in the center in 15 starts.

Head coach Coe Michaelson scored by bringing in Fredy Razo (5-10, Jr., Irvine, CA – Irvine Valley College), as the striker set a school career-record with 44 goals in two seasons at Irvine Valley.

Evan Horwood (5-9, Sr., Salt Lake City, UT – Intermountain Christian HS) will be called upon to provide NNU with leadership after notching an assist in 15 appearances a year ago.

As a freshman, Alfredo Zendejas (5-5, So., El Paso, TX – Vista Grande HS – AZ) saw action in eight contests, and his six starts in 2012 suggest he could be a key factor in the Crusaders' midfield this season.

A major void was left by the departure of Alfredo Ontiveros, who started all 18 games in goal for NNU and led the GNAC with nine shutouts a season ago.

WESTERN WASHINGTON Vikings

Head Coach: Greg Brisbon, Seattle Pacific '98 (0-0-0, first year)

Assistants: Brendan Quilici

2012 Record: 8-8-2

Conference: 6-6-2, 5th

Returnees: Lettermen – 14 Starters - 6

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Andrew Weishaar (F, 6-1, Sr., 17-7-3-17, 2nd team GNAC), Kurtis Pederson (D, 6-1, So., 17-0-3-3, HM GNAC), Uche Ugwoaba (M, 5-7, So., 18-1-0-2, HM GNAC), Keegan Rogers (GK, 6-1, Jr., 1.29 GAA, 5 shutouts, HM GNAC), Gabriele Zaccagnini (M, 5-8, Jr., 18-1-1-3), Bailey Martin (D, 6-0, Sr., 18-0-1-1), Pat Cole (D, 5-8, Jr., 18-0-0-0), Dean Byron (D, 6-1, Sr., 17-0-2-2)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Tye Hastings (M, 6-0, RS-Jr., 0-0-0-0), Caden Sowers (F, 5-7, Jr., 9-0-0-0), Austin Curtis (F, 5-11, So., 14-3-0-6), Leonard Kusina (F, 5-10, So., 18-1-2-4), Sawyer Preston (D, 6-1, So., 16-0-1-1)

Transfers: Jeremy Wentzel (D, 5-5, So., Edmonds, WA – Shoreline CC)

OUTLOOK

Andrew Weishaar (6-1, Sr., Puyallup, WA – Puyallup) led the Vikings in points in 2012 with 17 and the second-team all-GNAC forward is hungry to improve upon his seven-goal tally to help propel Western Washington up the conference standings.

The Vikings scored 29 goals in 2012, but only marginally outscored their opponents as they conceded 24.

With the loss of first-team all-GNAC pick Sujinda Dangan, WWU will turn to three other returning all-conference players to assume leadership roles.

Kurtis Pederson (6-1, So., Puyallup, WA – Bellarmine Prep) and Uche Ugwoaba (5-7, So., Burien, WA – Highline) both earned honorable mention all-GNAC honors as freshmen last year as the two made a strong first impression.

Pederson assisted on three goals in 15 starts while Ugwoaba started all 18 contests and scored once.

Goalkeeper Keegan Rogers (6-1, Jr., Portland, OR – Portland Christian) is WWU's other returning all-GNAC player, as he recorded five shutouts and a 1.29 goals allowed average while playing every minute last season.

Bailey Martin (6-0, Sr., Tacoma, WA – Stadium) and Dean Byron (6-1, Sr., Renton, WA – Liberty) provide WWU with a solid one-two punch of senior leadership on the back line in front of Rogers.

Gabriele Zaccagnini (5-8, Jr., Olympia, WA – Capital) returns to the Viking midfield after starting all 18 contests and contributing a goal and an assist in 2012.

Forwards Austin Curtis (5-11, So., Bonney Lake, WA – Bonney Lake) and Leonard Kusina (5-10, So., Fairbault, MN – Shattuck St. Mary's Prep) burst onto the scene in 2012. Curtis scored three goals in five starts and Kusina added one goal and a pair of assists in eight starts, as both figure to be fixtures up top for the next three seasons.

Sawyer Preston (6-1, So., Sammamish, WA – Eastlake) is another young talent who saw action in 16 games as a freshman in 2012. The defender should receive more consistent playing time this season and compliment Martin and Byron nicely on defense.

MONTANA STATE BILLINGS Yellowjackets

Head Coach: Alex Balog, Auburn (0-0-0, first year)

Assistants: Thomas Chameraud, Conner Moe

2012 Record: 11-5-2

Conference: 7-5-2, 4th

Returns: Lettermen – 7 Starters - 6

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Cameron Lee (D, 6-1, So., 18-1-0-2, HM GNAC), Eoin Hurley (GK, 6-3, Jr., 1.00 GAA, 5 shutouts, HM GNAC) Kyle Emerick (M, 5-8, Jr., 18-4-3-11), Matt

Brink (D, 5-10, Jr., 17-0-0-0), Landon Horst (M, 5-11, Sr., 16-3-2-8), Sam Butterworth (D, 5-11, So., 17-1-0-2)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Chad Ward (F, 5-11, Sr., 17-2-0-4)

Transfers: Nicholas Rasmussen (D, 6-0, So., Allyn, WA – Olympic College), Michael Aringer (D, 6-2, Jr., Passau, Germany – University of Passau), Yoann Le Rouzic (M, 5-11, Jr., Ploemel, France – Ecole Superieure de Realisation Audiovisuelle), Omar Ambrocio-Vazquez (M, 5-9, Jr., Leavenworth, WA – Peninsula College), Parker Vacura (D, 5-11, Jr., Healy, AK – Peninsula College), Grady Bryson (D, 6-1, Jr., Helena, MT – Pacific University), Andres Moreano-Enriquez (M, 5-9, Jr., Quito, Ecuador – UT-Permian Basin), Cameron Stanek (GK, 6-4, Jr., Casper, NY – Northwest College)

OUTLOOK

While the departure of a pair of Thomases – Chameraud and Sheets - will put a dent into Montana State Billings' offense, the Yellowjackets boast a youthful squad continue an upward trend of conference finishes.

Landon Horst (5-11, Sr., Greeley, CO – Laramie County Community College), one of just two Yellowjacket seniors, is MSU Billings' top returning starter with three goals and two assists in 14 starts in 2012.

Kyle Emerick (5-8, Jr., Billings, MT – Billings Senior HS) had a strong showing in his sophomore campaign, amassing 11 points on four goals and three assists in nine starts.

The defensive unit is held together by Cameron Lee (6-1, So., Bloemfontein, South Africa – King Williams College), Sam Butterworth (5-11, So., Aylesford, England – Kent College), and Matt Brink (5-10, Jr., Billings, MT – Billings Senior HS), who started 18, 17, and 16 games in 2012, respectively.

The defenders will hold the back line in front of honorable-mention all-GNAC goalkeeper Eoin Hurley (6-3, Jr., Dublin, Ireland – University College of Dublin), who started all 18 contests in 2012 and recorded five shutouts with a solid 1.00 goals allowed average.

Newly appointed head coach Alex Balog has been busy in the offseason, locking down several highly touted recruits to bolster his roster.

Nicholas Rasmussen (6-0, So., Allyn, WA – Olympic College) adds depth to the Yellowjackets' defense, as he started all 16 contests and contributed three assists in his freshman campaign at Olympic.

Another transfer, Omar Ambrocio-Vazquez (5-9, Jr., Leavenworth, WA – Peninsula College), could have an immediate impact as the midfielder tallied four goals and seven assists for the 2012 NWAACC champion Pirates.

MSU Billings was in the middle of the pack in most major categories last season, ranking third in points (81), shots (284), assists (25), and goals allowed (18), and fourth in goals (28) and shutouts (5).

UNIVERSITY OF MARY Marauders

Head Coach: Dave Cook, Mary '05 (21-60-8, 5 years)

Assistants: Dave Ripley, Jarryd Phillips

2012 Record: 5-10-3

Conference: 4-8-2, 6th

Returnees: Lettermen – 12 Starters - 8

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Rory Pratt (F, 6-2, Jr., 18-8-1-17, 1st Team GNAC), Jonathon Sellars (M, 6-1, So., 18-2-0-4, HM GNAC), Michael Frenzel (GK, 6-3, Sr., 2.33 GAA, 2 shutouts, HM GNAC) Aaron Mc Elwee (M, 5-8, Jr., 14-1-4-6), Joe Wood (M, 6-1, Jr., 16-3-1-7), Kyle Roesler (D, 5-9, Sr., 14-0-0-0), Adam Potter (M, 5-9, So., 18-0-5-5), Ramiro Rivera (M, 5-5, So., 18-0-0-0)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Alex Boyes (D, 6-4, So., 16-2-2-6), Dace Moerkerke (F, 6-1, So., 18-3-0-6), Jake Meyer (D, 6-0, Sr., 12-1-0-2), Liam Smallwood (D, 5-10, So., 11-0-1-1)

Transfers: Jack West (GK, 6-2, Jr., Mansfield, England – Genesee CC)

OUTLOOK

After a sixth place finish in 2012 GNAC play with a conference record of 4-8-2, the Marauders will look to first-team all-GNAC selection Rory Pratt (6-2, Jr., Dublin, Ireland – St. Michaels College) to lead a movement towards the top of the table.

The Irish forward tied for third in the conference in goals with eight and started all 18 contests for Mary.

Also returning is Jonathon Sellars (6-1, So., York, England – York College), another of Mary's players from across the pond. In 18 games last season he scored twice and was rewarded with an honorable mention all-GNAC citation for his efforts.

With three goals and an assist in 13 starts in 2012, Joe Wood (6-1, Jr., Anchorage, AK – Bartlett HS) will be called upon to boost the offense and maintain shape across the midfield.

Joining Wood in the midfield is the sophomore duet of Adam Potter (5-9, So., Waterford, Ireland – De La Salle College) and Ramiro Rivera (5-5, So., Harvard, IL – McHenry County HS), both of whom played in all 18 matches a year ago.

Potter started every game and assisted on five Marauder goals.

Another GNAC all-star, Michael Frenzel (6-3, Sr., Bismarck, ND – Century HS), is back in the net for the Marauders after starting 15 matches as a junior and recording a pair of shutouts.

The return of Aaron Mc Elwee (5-8, Jr., Sion Mills, Northern Ireland – Holy Cross College), Kyle Roesler (5-9, Sr., Fargo, ND – South HS), and Alex Boyes (6-4, So., York, England – York College) ensures that Mary's back line will not lack experience.

Mc Elwee scored once and notched four assists in 14 starts, Boyes tallied two goals and two assists in 14 contests, and Roesler started 13 matches on the back line.

Dace Moerkerke (6-1, So., Hamilton, MT – Hamilton HS) made a strong first impression, scoring three times in nine starts as a freshman.

SAINT MARTIN'S Saints

Head Coach: Rob Walker, St. Martin's '87 (35-71-3, 6 years)

Assistants: David Cross, Zac Lubin (goalkeepers)

2012 Record: 3-15-0

Conference: 2-12-0, 8th

Returnees: Lettermen – 9 Starters - 6

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): CJ Chu (M, 5-11, Sr., 15-3-0-6, HM GNAC), Dylan Gaydosh (F, 6-1, Sr., 18-8-2-18, HM GNAC), Matt Olson (F, Jr., 5-6, 15-1-1-3), Ivan Gonzalez (M, 6-0, Sr., 17-0-2-2), Luke Chouinard (D, 6-2, Jr., 17-0-0-0), JJ Olson (GK, 5-11, Jr., 3.55 GAA, 0 shutouts)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Emil Kirov (M, 5-10, So., 17-1-0-2), Eric Owen (GK, 6-2, Jr., 3.55 GAA, 1 shutout)

Transfers: Perry McNamar (D/F, 5-11, Jr., Richland, WA – Walla Walla CC)

OUTLOOK

Despite a last place finish in the 2012 GNAC standings, Saint Martin's returns six starters and nine players who saw action in at least 10 matches last season.

Leading the charge are Dylan Gaydosh (6-1, Sr., Federal Way, WA – Stadium) and CJ Chu (5-10, Sr., Des Moines, WA – Mt. Rainier), who represented the Saints as honorable mention all-GNAC selections in 2012.

Gaydosh led SMU with eight goals and tacked on a pair of assists in 18 contests, while Chu found the net three times in 15 starts.

Matt Olson (5-7, Jr., Bremerton, WA – Bremerton) brings valuable experience as a striker to the table, as he scored once and recorded an assist in 12 starts up top as a sophomore.

Defensively, Luke Chouinard (6-2, Jr., Boise, ID – Westminster College) and Ivan Gonzalez (6-0, Sr., Salem, OR – Chemeketa CC) saw significant playing time last season and should help the Saints maintain structure in 2013.

Gonzalez recorded two assists as a midfielder a year ago.

JJ Olson (5-11, Jr., Lakeville, MN – Shattuck – St. Mary's) and Eric Owen (6-2, Jr., Tacoma, WA – Stadium) split time in the net in 2012, with Olson starting nine contests and Owen seven.

Emil Kirov (5-10, So., San Jose, CA – Evergreen Valley) returns to the pitch after turning in one goal and playing in 17 matches as a freshman in 2012.

The spread in scoring between the middle four teams in the GNAC last season was minimal, suggesting a few minor

improvements could bode well for the Saints. Despite scoring 24 goals, SMU trailed NNU by just two, MSU Billings by four and WWU by five.

If the Saints can improve upon last year's conference-worst 61 goals allowed, there is a good chance a finish in the top half of the table is attainable.

SOUTH DAKOTA MINES Hardrockers

Head Coach: Joe Burger, University of Missouri '95 (2-11-0, 2 years)

Assistants: Luke Schweitzer

2012 Record: 2-11-0

Conference: Independent

Returnees: Lettermen – 11 Starters - 7

Returning Starters (Games-G-A-Pts): Mario Pena (F, 5-7, So., 12-4-0-8), Andreas Skau (M, 6-1, So., 12-0-3-3), Bennett Medeck (M, 5-7, Sr., 12-1-0-2), Garrett Frederick (M, 5-10, Sr., 12-1-0-2), Derek Szanto (D, 6-4, So., 12-0-0-0), Gabe Dahmke (D, 6-0, So., 13-0-0-0)

Other Key Returnees (Games-G-A-Pts): Michael McGraw (F, 6-3, So., 8-3-0-6), Matthew Emerson (M, 5-11, So., 7-0-0-0), Sam LeTempt (M/D, 5-10, So., 8-0-0-0), Eric Milbrandt (GK, 6-0, So., 2.13 GAA, 1 shutout)

Transfers: None

OUTLOOK

Without a senior to be found on its roster in 2012, South Dakota School of Mines held its own in its first year of competition at the Division II level.

The good news for the Hardrockers is that almost everyone is back and the squad is motivated to turn some heads in its first year affiliated with the GNAC.

SD Mines went 2-11 under first-year head coach Joe Burger in 2012 and was outscored 35-14.

Michael McGraw (6-3, So., Vandalia, OH) led the squad with four goals and added an assist in 12 matches as a freshman.

Mario Pena (5-7, So., Shakopee, MN) provided additional firepower up top, contributing three goals in 11 contests.

In the midfield, Bennett Medeck (5-7, Sr., Rapid City, SD), Garrett Frederick, 5-10, Sr., Chadron, NE), and Andreas Skau (6-1, So., Bergen, Norway) return for the Hardrockers.

Medeck and Frederick each played in 12 games and contributed a goal apiece for SD Mines, while Skau participated in all 13 contests in 2012.

Defensively, Gabe Dahmke (6-0, So., Sheridan, WY) and Derek Szanto (6-4, So., Temecula, CA) anchored the back line with 24 combined games of experience.

The defense is protected by Eric Milbrandt (6-0, So., Groton, SD), who notched 28 saves and recorded a shutout last season in more than 420 minutes in the net.

Matthew Emerson (5-11, So., Fruita, CO) saw action in the midfield in 12 games last season, and Sam LeTempt (5-10, So., Sheridan, WY) brings experience in eight games to the table for the Hardrockers.