



**2007 BIG SOUTH PRESEASON POLL**

Liberty has been selected to finish first in the League's annual preseason poll, as voted by the head coaches, SIDs and media panel. Below are the preseason poll results, with first-place votes in paranthesis:

1. Liberty (12) .....87
2. Coastal Carolina (7) .....79
3. Gardner-Webb (1) .....63
4. Charleston Southern .....43
5. VMI .....28

**2007 PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

*Preseason Offensive Player of the Year*  
Jerome Simpson, Sr., WR, Coastal Carolina

*Preseason Defensive Player of the Year*  
Brian Johnston, Sr., DE, Gardner-Webb

**PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

**OFFENSE**

- QB Brock Smith, Jr., Liberty
- RB Rashad Jennings, Jr., Liberty
- RB Zach Terrell, Jr., Liberty
- WR Jerome Simpson, Sr., Coastal Carolina
- WR Duvaughn Flagler, Sr., Gardner-Webb
- WR Brandon Turner, Sr., Liberty
- TE Chris Luck, Sr., Liberty
- OL Stephen Sene, R-Sr., Liberty
- OL Demario Deese, Soph., Gardner-Webb
- OL Rick Howell, Sr., Charleston Southern
- OL Robert Brown, Sr., VMI
- OL Eddie Pinigis, R-Sr., Liberty

**DEFENSE**

- DL Brian Johnston, Sr., Gardner-Webb
- DL Dennis Justiniani, Sr., Charleston Southern
- DL Adrain Grady, R-Sr., Coastal Carolina
- DL Steve Ackley, R-Sr., Liberty
- LB Mario E. Brown, Jr., Gardner-Webb
- LB Jada Ross, R-Sr., Charleston Southern
- LB Stevie Ray Lloyd, R-Sr., Liberty
- LB Mike Pavelko, Jr., Gardner-Webb
- DB C.J. Hirschman, Sr., Charleston Southern
- DB Daniel Cooke, Jr., Gardner-Webb
- DB Ryan Greiser, Jr., Liberty
- DB Okeba Rollinson, R-Jr., Chas. Southern

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

- PK Nick Ellis, Sr., Charleston Southern
- P Michael Hanna, Jr., Gardner-Webb
- RS Wynton Jackson, R-Sr., Liberty
- LS David McCarthy, Jr., Gardner-Webb

**2007 BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL COACHES TELECONFERENCE - EACH TUESDAY**

Each Tuesday during the 2007 season, the Big South head football coaches -- including future members Presbyterian and Stony Brook -- will participate in a weekly teleconference call, beginning at 10:20am ET. Each call will be recorded and available for playback beginning Tuesday afternoons. The first call is scheduled for tomorrow, **Tuesday, Aug. 28. THIS CALL IS OPEN TO MEDIA ONLY.** For more information, please contact Mark Simpson at 704-341-7990 or marks@bigsouth.org.

**THE BIG SOUTH IN THE NATIONAL POLLS**

<u>Week of</u> Preseason	<u>CSU</u> --/--/--	<u>CCU</u> 23/20/24	<u>GWU</u> --/--/--	<u>LU</u> RV/--/RV	<u>VMI</u> --/--/--
Sept. 3					
Sept. 10					
Sept. 17					
Sept. 24					
Oct. 1					
Oct. 8					
Oct. 15					
Oct. 22					
Oct. 29					
Nov. 5					
Nov. 12					
Nov. 19					

*The Sports Network is listed first, followed by the FCS Coaches Poll and the CollegeSportingNews.com "Any Given Saturday" ranking.*

*RV - Received Votes*

*Notes: Coastal Carolina received a preseason No. 21 ranking from both Street & Smith's and Lindy's ... Liberty received a preseason No. 25 ranking from Lindy's.*

**2007 BIG SOUTH NATIONAL HONORS**

**Ted Hendricks National Defensive End of the Year**

**Award Watch List**

Brian Johnston, Gardner-Webb

**The Sports Network Preseason All-America**

- Jerome Simpson, Coastal Carolina (1st team)
- Brian Johnston, Gardner-Webb (2nd team)
- Jada Ross, Charleston Southern (2nd team)

**CollegeSportingNews.com Preseason All-America**

- Jerome Simpson, Coastal Carolina (1st team)
- Brian Johnston, Gardner-Webb (2nd team)

**Lindy's Preseason All-America**

- Jerome Simpson, Coastal Carolina (1st team)
- Duvaughn Flagler, Gardner-Webb (2nd team)
- Brian Johnston, Gardner-Webb (2nd team)
- Mario E. Brown, Gardner-Webb (2nd team)

**Street & Smith's Preseason All-America**

- Jerome Simpson, Coastal Carolina
- Brian Johnston, Gardner-Webb

**The Sports Network Positional Rankings**

- Jerome Simpson, Coastal Carolina (No. 2 WR)
- Brian Johnston, Gardner-Webb (No. 4 DE)
- Duvaughn Flagler, Gardner-Webb (No. 6 WR)
- Jada Ross, Charleston Southern (No. 8 LB)

**A QUICK LOOK BACK AT 2006...**

The Big South Conference enters the 2007 season on the heels of its most successful campaign to date. Coastal Carolina became the first Big South team to clinch a berth in the FCS playoffs; Charleston Southern and Coastal Carolina were ranked in the Top 25 in the same week -- another Conference first; Big South members appeared on the ESPN family of networks on four different occasions; former CCU quarterback **TYLER THIGPEN** was the Conference's first NFL Draft pick and first finalist for the Walter Payton Award; Big South members won a League-record 21 non-conference games; and the League enjoyed a record-breaking season at the gate, as the five football members averaged a combined 6,838 fans per game.

**BIG SOUTH KICKS OFF SIXTH SEASON ON SATURDAY**

The Big South begins Year Six of its young football history this weekend with all five members in action, beginning with VMI's home game with Lock Haven at 1:00pm. Big South teams are a combined 14-10 in season openers since 2002, including a League-best 4-1 mark in 2005 and 2006. Gardner-Webb's 4-1 season opening record is the best among the Big South membership. Liberty has won its last three season openers as well.

**TEAM-BY-TEAM OPENERS**

Charleston Southern is opening the campaign on the road for the fifth-straight season, and faces crosstown rival The Citadel Saturday afternoon. Coastal is opening on the road for the third time overall and third time in the last four years, while Gardner-Webb is on the road to start the year for the third time in four seasons as well. Liberty is hosting its fourth consecutive season opener, and VMI, which is playing its 118th season, is opening at home for the third-straight year at Foster Stadium. Below is a team-by-team look at season openers:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Last Season Opening Win</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Charleston Southern	4-12	2006 (at Presbyterian, 21-13)	3-0 at home, 1-12 on road
Coastal Carolina	3-1	2005 (at Elon, 17-10)	1-1 at home, 2-0 on road
Gardner-Webb	19-16-2	2006 (at Jacksonville, 49-14)	8-2 under Steve Patton
Liberty	16-18	2006 (St. Paul's, 27-0)	14-7 opening year at home
VMI	70-43-4	2006 (Davidson, 20-19)	Jim Reid is 8-6-2 in openers

**BIG SOUTH ADDS STONY BROOK AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

On March 20, 2007, the Big South Conference added Stony Brook University as an associate member in football. Stony Brook will begin competing in the Big South in the 2008 season and will immediately be eligible for the League's championship. The addition of Stony Brook will give the Big South six Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) members in 2008. Presbyterian College will officially join the Big South in 2008-09 and will be considered an Independent this season. Next year, PC will be included in Conference scheduling, but as part of its transition to Division I, the Blue Hose will not count in the League standings nor be eligible for the football championship until 2011-12. The Big South will have six core playing members beginning in 2008 and will be eligible to qualify for an automatic bid to the FCS playoffs in 2010.

**COASTAL CAROLINA, LIBERTY RANKED IN PRESEASON TOP 25**

The Coastal Carolina Chanticleers are ranked in the preseason Top 25 in three national polls. The Chants are as high as No. 20 in the new FCS Coaches Poll. Coastal is No. 23 by *The Sports Network*, and No. 24 in the *CollegeSportingNews.com* preseason ranking. The Chanticleers have now been ranked in the Top 25 for eight consecutive weeks. Meanwhile, *Street & Smith's* and *Lindy's* preseason magazines have Coastal rated No. 21 nationally, while *Lindy's* ranked Liberty No. 25 in its preseason poll.

**GARDNER-WEBB'S JOHNSTON CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL AWARD**

Big South Preseason Defensive Player of the Year **BRIAN JOHNSTON** is one of 27 college football players named to the 2007 Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award Preseason Watch List. The award is presented annually to the top defensive end in college football, and Johnston is the lone student-athlete from an FCS program. The Watch List also includes preseason FBS All-Americans **CALAIS CAMPBELL** (Miami) and **DERRICK HARVEY** (Florida).

**CENTURY MARK**

Two Big South coaches are likely to record their 100th career collegiate win this season. Coastal Carolina's **DAVID BENNETT** and Gardner-Webb's **STEVE PATTON** each enter the season with 97 career wins at the collegiate level. Bennett is 97-28, including a 34-11 mark at Coastal. Patton is 97-65-1 in his collegiate head coaching career, including a 67-42 record at the helm of the Bulldogs.

<b>BIG SOUTH VS. OTHER CONFERENCES</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>0-0 (.000)</b>
<b>Colonial</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
James Madison	
William & Mary	
<b>Mid-American Conference</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Ohio	
Toledo	
<b>Mid-Eastern Athletic</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Delaware State	
<b>Northeast</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Robert Morris	
St. Francis (Pa.)	
<b>Ohio Valley</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Austin Peay	
<b>Patriot League</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Lehigh	
<b>Pioneer League</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Jacksonville	
<b>Southeastern</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Mississippi State	
<b>Southern</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Appalachian State	
Elon	
Furman	
Georgia Southern	
The Citadel	
Wofford	
<b>Western Athletic Conference</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Hawaii	
<b>FCS Independent</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Savannah State	
<b>FCS Reclassifying</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Presbyterian	
Winston-Salem State	
<b>Non-Division I</b> .....	<b>0-0</b>
Chowan	
Johnson C. Smith	
Lock Haven	
North Greenville	
Shippensburg	
Tusculum	

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

Charleston Southern, Coastal Carolina and VMI enter the 2007 season with new quarterbacks for the first time since before 2003. The Bucs said good-bye to four-year starter **COLLIN DRAFTS**, the Chanticleers bid adieu to Walter Payton Award finalist and the program's first starting QB in **TYLER THIGPEN**, while the Keydets said farewell to four-year starter **JONATHAN WILSON**. The trio gave the Big South its most-experienced group of quarterbacks in the Conference's history. Current juniors **BROCK SMITH** of Liberty and Gardner-Webb's **DEVIN CAMPBELL** are now the elder statesmen of Big South quarterbacks.

**POINT OF ORDER**

Coastal Carolina has scored a point in all 45 games in its history, establishing the Big South record for consecutive games with a point. Gardner-Webb has scored in each of its last 40 contests, followed by VMI (27), Charleston Southern (20) and Liberty (18).

**NEVER MESS WITH A STREAK**

Liberty will carry the longest win streak into this season at three wins, as the Flames defeated Western Carolina, Charleston Southern and VMI to close out the 2006 campaign. Charleston Southern carries a nine-game home win streak into 2007, three away from tying the Big South record of 12, set by Coastal Carolina. CSU's streak began Oct. 15, 2005 with a 63-42 win over West Virginia Wesleyan. The Bucs' home opener is set for Sept. 15 vs. Johnson C. Smith. Meanwhile, Coastal Carolina has won its last five home games and faces Winston-Salem State in its first home game on Sept. 8.

**DID YOU KNOW ...**

... That the best won-loss records in the Big South since the start of 2004 belong to Coastal Carolina (28-6) and Charleston Southern (21-11). Also, for the first time in League history last year, two teams won nine games in the same season (Coastal and Charleston Southern each won 9).

**HE MAKES IT LOOK SO SIMP-LE**

Coastal Carolina senior WR **JEROME SIMPSON** caught a touchdown pass in his final eight games (12 total) last season and finished 2006 with a Big South-record 16 touchdown receptions, setting his career-high and also breaking the League's overall single-season touchdown record of 14. He caught a TD pass in all but one game (South Carolina State) and recorded five multi-TD games to lead the League. Simpson's 1,077 receiving yards in 2006 set a single-season Big South record, becoming the third player in League annals with 1,000 receiving yards in a campaign. He also is just the second player in Big South history to surpass 2,000 career receiving yards, which he reached during Coastal's playoff game at Appalachian State. He enters his senior season eighth all-time in receptions (120) and second in yardage (2,023). Simpson is the Big South's career leader with 33 touchdown receptions -- 27.5 percent of his 120 receptions.

**TACKLE BOX**

Charleston Southern senior linebacker **JADA ROSS** is on target to become the Big South's all-time leading tackler when the 2007 season comes to a close. Ross enters his final season third all-time with 323 career stops, just 42 away from breaking former Coastal Carolina LB **JAMAR LEATH**'s record of 364, which he established last season. Ross also is the only player in Big South history to record 20 tackles in a game twice in the same season, which he accomplished in 2006.

**HEAD RUSH**

Liberty junior RB **ZACH TERRELL** is the Big South's leading active rusher with 1,341 career rushing yards, currently 11th all-time in League history. He is 34 yards from cracking the Top 10, and needs 659 yards to become the fifth player in Big South history with 2,000 rushing yards. Meanwhile, three Big South players are on the verge of surpassing 1,000 career rushing yards in 2007. VMI tailback **NAT JACKSON** is 22 yards shy from the milestone (978), Coastal Carolina fullback **MIKE TOLBERT** needs 78 yards (922) and Charleston Southern's **KENNY HARPER** is 265 yards away from 1,000 yards, as he is at 735 for his career.

**CAUGHT UP IN THE EXCITEMENT**

Coastal Carolina's **JEROME SIMPSON** and Gardner-Webb's **DUVAUGHN FLAGLER** will challenge two League career records this season. Simpson is 406 yards away from the all-time receiving yards mark of 2,429, set by former CSU wideout **MAURICE PRICE**. Flagler is 660 yards from the record. Flagler needs 74 receptions to tie Price's career receptions record of 202, while Simpson stands 82 away. Simpson and Flagler rank first and second, respectively, in career touchdown receptions. Simpson has 33, ahead of Flagler's 22 TD catches.

**THE BIG SOUTH EDGE WEB  
VIDEO STREAMING & TELEVISION SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, Sept. 1**  
Lock Haven at VMI The EDGE  
Tusculum at Liberty FTN, The EDGE

**Saturday, Sept. 8**  
William & Mary at VMI The EDGE  
Winston-Salem St. at Coastal Carolina The EDGE  
Shippensburg at Liberty FTN, The EDGE

**Saturday, Sept. 15**  
Johnson C. Smith at Chas. Southern The EDGE  
Georgia Southern at Coastal Carolina SportSouth

**Saturday, Sept. 29**  
St. Francis (Pa.) at Liberty FTN, The EDGE

**Saturday, Oct. 6**  
Savannah State at Charleston Southern The EDGE

**Saturday, Oct. 13**  
Presbyterian at VMI The EDGE  
Chowan at Coastal Carolina The EDGE

**Saturday, Oct. 20**  
Gardner-Webb at VMI \* The EDGE  
Liberty at Charleston Southern \* The EDGE  
Presbyterian at Coastal Carolina \* The EDGE

**Saturday, Oct. 27**  
Presbyterian at Liberty FTN, The EDGE  
Chas. Southern at Gardner-Webb \* SportSouth  
VMI at Coastal Carolina \* The EDGE

**Saturday, Nov. 3**  
Charleston Southern at VMI \* The EDGE  
Coastal Carolina at Liberty \* MASN

**Saturday, Nov. 10**  
VMI at Liberty \* FTN, The EDGE  
Presbyterian at Charleston Southern The EDGE  
Gardner-Webb at Coastal Carolina \* The EDGE

**Saturday, Nov. 17**  
Coastal Carolina at Chas. Southern \* SportSouth  
The Citadel at VMI CSTV  
Liberty at Gardner-Webb \* MASN

**Key:**  
CSTV - College Sports Television  
FTN - Flames Television Network  
MASN - Mid-Atlantic Sports Network



**BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL WEEKLY REPORT • TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES & RESULTS • AUG. 27, 2007**

**CHARLESTON SOUTHERN (0-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Sept. 1	at The Citadel	2:00pm
Sept. 8	at Wofford	7:00pm
Sept. 15	JOHNSON C. SMITH	1:30pm
Sept. 22	at Hawaii	12:05am
Sept. 29	at North Greenville	7:00pm
Oct. 6	SAVANNAH STATE	1:30pm
Oct. 20	LIBERTY *	1:30pm
Oct. 27	at Gardner-Webb * ( <i>SportSouth</i> )	6:30pm
Nov. 3	at VMI *	1:00pm
Nov. 10	PRESBYTERIAN	1:30pm
Nov. 17	COASTAL CAROLINA * ( <i>SportSouth</i> )	12:00pm

\* - Big South Conference game  
HOME GAME IN ALL CAPS

**#20 COASTAL CAROLINA (0-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Sept. 1	at Delaware State	7:00pm
Sept. 8	WINSTON-SALEM STATE	7:00pm
Sept. 15	GEORGIA SOUTHERN ( <i>SportSouth</i> )	7:00pm
Sept. 22	at James Madison	6:00pm
Oct. 6	at Furman	2:00pm
Oct. 13	CHOWAN	7:00pm
Oct. 20	PRESBYTERIAN	7:00pm
Oct. 27	VMI *	7:00pm
Nov. 3	at Liberty * ( <i>MASN</i> )	3:30pm
Nov. 10	GARDNER-WEBB *	7:00pm
Nov. 17	at Charleston Southern * ( <i>SportSouth</i> )	12:00pm

\* - Big South Conference game  
HOME GAME IN ALL CAPS

**GARDNER-WEBB (0-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Sept. 1	at Ohio	7:00pm
Sept. 8	JACKSONVILLE	6:00pm
Sept. 22	at Mississippi State	7:00pm
Sept. 29	AUSTIN PEAY	6:00pm
Oct. 6	at Appalachian State	2:30pm
Oct. 13	at Wofford	1:30pm
Oct. 20	at VMI *	1:00pm
Oct. 27	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN * ( <i>SportSouth</i> )	6:30pm
Nov. 3	SAVANNAH STATE	1:30pm
Nov. 10	at Coastal Carolina *	7:00pm
Nov. 17	LIBERTY * ( <i>MASN</i> )	3:30pm

\* - Big South Conference game  
HOME GAME IN ALL CAPS

**LIBERTY (0-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Sept. 1	TUSCULUM	7:00pm
Sept. 8	SHIPPENSBURG	7:00pm
Sept. 15	at William & Mary	7:00pm
Sept. 22	at Elon	1:30pm
Sept. 29	ST. FRANCIS (PA.)	7:00pm
Oct. 6	at Toledo	7:00pm
Oct. 20	at Charleston Southern *	1:30pm
Oct. 27	PRESBYTERIAN	1:00pm
Nov. 3	COASTAL CAROLINA * ( <i>MASN</i> )	3:30pm
Nov. 10	VMI *	1:00pm
Nov. 17	at Gardner-Webb * ( <i>MASN</i> )	3:30pm

\* - Big South Conference game  
HOME GAME IN ALL CAPS

**VMI (0-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Sept. 1	LOCK HAVEN	1:00pm
Sept. 8	WILLIAM & MARY	1:00pm
Sept. 15	at James Madison	6:00pm
Sept. 22	at Lehigh	1:00pm
Sept. 29	at Robert Morris	1:00pm
Oct. 13	PRESBYTERIAN	1:00pm
Oct. 20	GARDNER-WEBB *	1:00pm
Oct. 27	at Coastal Carolina *	7:00pm
Nov. 3	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN *	1:00pm
Nov. 10	at Liberty *	1:00pm
Nov. 17	THE CITADEL ( <i>CSTV</i> )	12:00pm

\* - Big South Conference game  
HOME GAME IN ALL CAPS

**FUTURE MEMBER PRESBYTERIAN (0-0)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Sept. 1	at Furman ( <i>CSS</i> )	7:00pm
Sept. 8	PIKEVILLE	1:30pm
Sept. 13	at Samford	8:00pm
Sept. 22	at Western Carolina	6:00pm
Sept. 29	at N.C. Central	2:00pm
Oct. 6	NORTH GREENVILLE	2:00pm
Oct. 13	at VMI	1:00pm
Oct. 20	at Coastal Carolina	7:00pm
Oct. 27	at Liberty	1:00pm
Nov. 3	CHOWAN	1:30pm
Nov. 10	at Charleston Southern	1:30pm

HOME GAME IN ALL CAPS