

4-1-2018

## Sports Briefs

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### Recommended Citation

Moore, Vince (2018) "Sports Briefs," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 61 : Iss. 1 , Article 16.  
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol61/iss1/16>

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# SPORTS BRIEFS

BY VINCE MOORE

While the Paladin cross-country programs dominated their Southern Conference competition in 2017, they were not the only fall sports at Furman to excel. The football team finished second in the conference and qualified for the NCAA FCS playoffs, while both the women's soccer and volleyball teams won their regular season conference crowns. All in all, the teams performed well enough that both the men and women led the league's all-sport races at the conclusion of the fall season. The Commissioner's and Germann cups are awarded at the end of the year to the schools fielding the best all-around men's and women's programs, respectively.

## FOOTBALL

**Paladin fans couldn't be blamed for not expecting much in 2017.**

First-year Head Coach Clay Hendrix and his staff inherited a team that had gone 3-8 the previous year and a program that hadn't had a winning season since 2013. But Furman surprised almost everybody by winning seven of its last eight regular season games, qualifying for the playoffs and defeating Elon on the road in the tournament's first round. The Paladins' season ended at Wofford in round two with a loss to the Terriers. A total of 13 players were named All-Southern Conference – running back Antonio Wilcox, offensive guard Terrell Bush, center Matthew Schmidt and tight end Andy Schumpert were first-team selections – and Schmidt received the league's Jacobs Blocking Award. Hendrix was also named Southern Conference Coach of the Year.



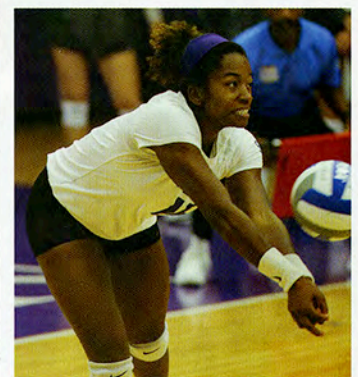
## SOCCER

**The women's team** not only won a share of the regular-season conference championship, it also had a record six players named to the All-Conference First Team – forward Molly Dwyer, midfielder Rachel Shah, defensive midfielder Sanon Williams, defender Jordan Evens, defender Quinn Lombard and goalkeeper Kellsey Weaver. Head coach Andrew Burr was also voted league Coach of the Year. The Paladins fell to Western Carolina in the semifinal round of the conference tournament, finishing the season at 13-3-2 with an 8-0-1 record in league play.

On the men's side, junior midfielder Laurence Wyke was named conference Player of the Year, the first Paladin to receive that honor since Coleton Henning in 2011. Five other players were named All-SoCon, with senior defender Kevin Edelman joining Wyke on the first team. The Paladins posted a 12-5-3 record and finished third in the league. Their season ended with a loss to UNC-Greensboro in the semifinal round of the conference tournament.

## VOLLEYBALL

**Head Coach Michelle Young** was named conference Coach of the Year as she led the Paladins to a 21-10 record and the regular-season league championship, the team's second in the last four years. The season included a 10-game winning streak in conference play and nonconference wins over Georgia Tech and Liberty. Junior and outside hitter Jamila Johnson, who recorded a



team-high 384 kills and was second in digs with 329, was named First-Team All-Conference. Four other Paladins were named to the second team. Furman lost to Wofford in the semifinals of the conference tournament. ●