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## Former Paladins part of U.S. World Cup squad

Furman University

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## NCAA, FCS recognize teams' academic efforts

**THE FOOTBALL SUBDIVISION** Athletics Directors Association has announced that Furman's football program is the inaugural recipient of the Academic Progress Rate (APR) Award for the Southern Conference.

The APR Award recognizes an institution in each of the 14 Football Championship Subdivision (formerly NCAA Division I-AA) conferences that has the highest Academic Progress Rate score over the NCAA's most recent four-year time period. Furman's APR of 977 was 43 points higher than the Southern Conference average of 934 and 42 points higher than the FCS average.

NCAA member colleges and universities recently adopted a comprehensive academic reform package designed to improve the academic success and graduation rates of all student-athletes. The centerpiece of the reforms is the APR.

The APR awards two points each term to student-athletes who meet academic-eligibility standards and who remain with the institution. A team's APR is determined by the total points it earns at a given time divided by the total points possible.

The NCAA also honored five Furman teams with public recognition awards for their APR. The men's golf, women's basketball, women's cross country, and women's indoor and outdoor track squads were recognized for posting APR scores in the top 10 percent of all schools in their respective sports for the past four years.

A total of 841 teams representing 228 Division I institutions were recognized by the NCAA. High-performing teams receiving awards posted APR scores ranging from 978 to a perfect 1,000.



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**FIVE OF THE 23 PLAYERS** on this year's United States World Cup soccer squad represented colleges in South Carolina — and two of them were former Paladins.

Midfielders Ricardo Clark and Clint Dempsey, both members of the Class of 2005, were chosen to represent their country in the quadrennial international event, held this year in South Africa. Dempsey also played on the 2006 squad.

Clark (right photo, number 13), who was recently inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame, played two years at Furman before turning professional. An All-American as a collegian, he played on teams that combined to post a 36-8-1 record (16-0 in the Southern Conference). He was a three-time Major League Soccer All-Star with the Houston Dynamo and in 2003 was a finalist for MLS Rookie of the Year.

He scored the lone goal against Trinidad and Tobago last September to help the United States clinch its spot in the World Cup. He now plays for Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany's Bundesliga, the country's top soccer division.

Dempsey (left photo, number 8) scored the only credited goal for the United States in the 2006 World Cup and the team's first goal this year, against England. He was a star midfielder and forward during his three years at Furman, finishing with 17 goals and 19 assists in 62 games and earning All-America honors.

In 2004 he was named MLS Rookie of the Year while playing for the New England Revolution, and in 2006 he was named U.S. Soccer Player of the Year. He plays with Fulham of England's Premier League.

With five goals, he tied for second on the U.S. team in scoring during qualifying for this year's World Cup. Dempsey, who was inducted into the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008, became the first former Furman athlete to appear on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* when he joined World Cup teammates Landon Donovan and Tim Howard on the front of the June 7 issue.

The other state schools represented on the team were Clemson (defender Oguchi Onyewu and midfielder Stuart Holden) and South Carolina (goalkeeper Brad Guzan).