

RedWolves Hire Ryan Vruggink as new Head Coach

FLORENCE, S.C. — Ryan Vruggink has been named the new Head Coach for the Florence RedWolves 2019 Season.

Vruggink is a veteran of the CPL, having coaching stints in Macon and Martinsville. The experience of being in the league was one of the main reasons he chose the Florence job.

"My first goal whenever I decided to pursue opportunities as a head coach for the summer of 2019 was to stay in the CPL," said Vruggink. "Having been in the league now for three years, I've grown to really appreciate the level of talent and fans that the games draw on a night to night basis."

"When I first spoke with Barbara, I was thrilled that she was interested in the possibility of me becoming the next RedWolves head coach. The facilities at Francis Marion are beautiful and I think will really help me in recruiting for the 2019 Summer and I can't wait to work with her and

Kevin to make this a great season of RedWolves baseball.
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Last season, Vrugink was a part of the inaugural coaching staff for the Macon Bacon as pitching coach.

The Bacon pitching staff was effective this season, with a team ERA of 4.57 and tossing 416 strikeouts. One of the pitchers Vrugink coached in Macon, James Williams, finished with a 2.49 ERA and 46 strikeouts and was named a CPL National League All Star. Williams also played for the RedWolves in 2017, where he'd finish with a 3-0 record, a 3.08 ERA and 18 strikeouts.

Vrugink was also named pitching coach for the 2018 CPL Select vs Team USA game in Cary, North Carolina.

Before coming to Macon, Vrugink was with current Bacon coach Danny Higgenbotham in Martinsville for two seasons.

While with the Mustangs, Vrugink coached Joshua Vincent to the 2017 CPL All Star Game. Vincent finished 2017 with a 2.91 ERA and 23 strikeouts.

Being in the CPL for so long, Vrugink has been able to not only watch his players develop, but he's also been able to develop himself as a coach.

"I think this league does an incredible job of developing players," says Vruggink. "The coaches and front office groups across the league are top notch and provide players the opportunity to excel in front of big crowds and give them a true sense of what pro ball is like."

"With that being said, the talent that this league is able to attract is also high and as an assistant coach I have gotten to learn a lot from the guys that I have worked with in Macon and Martinsville. I have gotten to watch and talk with guys at some of the best NCAA programs in the country and learn what they do on a day to day basis and add or modify parts of the throwing program I have at my school with what I've learned in mind."

During the collegiate season, Vruggink is an assistant at NJCAA member Mineral Area College in Park Hills, Missouri.

Last season, the Cardinals went 27-23. Pitcher Kollin Stone was named 2nd Team All-Region with a 4.50 and 62 strikeouts and will be attending Arkansas State next season.

As a player, Vruggink began in the bullpen at the University of Houston, before transferring to Arkansas Tech.

As a freshman at Houston, Vruggink appeared in 14 games out of the bullpen striking out 13 and held opponents to a team-best .222 batting average.

In his senior year at Arkansas Tech, Vruggink pitched 29 innings, finishing with a 4.34 ERA and 46 strikeouts for the Wonderboys.

Vruggink graduated from Arkansas Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration – Marketing and Management. He just completed his Masters of Education with an emphasis in Sports Administration from the University of Central Methodist.

Vruggink is already excited for the 2019 season.

"I'm thrilled for my first head coaching position," says Vruggink. "I think it is a step that I am ready to take and one necessary for me to take to further my career. I'm extremely thankful that this opportunity is in the CPL, in a league that has so much history and tradition."

Owls Shoot Season Low Round at UCF Challenge on Sunday

ORLANDO, Fla. – The No. 37 Kennesaw State women's golf team opened action at the UCF Challenge on Sunday (Feb. 3) and sit in fourth place after the first round at the par-72, 6,349-yard Eagle Creek Golf Club.

"This was the ideal way to start our spring season," said Head Coach Rhyll Brinsmead. "The positive energy amongst the team is contagious. I'm a firm believer in happy people play good golf and that was evident today."

"It's so refreshing to watch the players enjoy the moment and take advantage of the opportunity that's been given to them. This is one of the best events of the spring season and after round one we have proved we belong."

KSU shot a season-low 6-under par total of 282 in the first round. The Owls are currently ahead of six ranked teams, including an eight-stroke lead on 18th ranked Illinois and a one-stroke lead on sixth ranked Vanderbilt.

Redshirt-junior Clara Aveling lead the Owls with a 4-under par score of 68. Aveling is currently tied for first.

"Clara's round of 68 is one of the best rounds of golf I've seen," said Brinsmead. "Going bogey free on this golf course is impressive."

Seniors Medy Thavong and Charlotte Charrayre are currently tied for 24th after carding a 1-under par 71.

Freshman Chloe Thornton is tied for 36th after shooting an even par 72 in the opening round.

Senior Roanne Tomlinson is tied for 49th after posting a 1-over par 73.

College of Charleston sits at first place after shooting a 9-under par score of 279.

The Owls continue play at the UCF Challenge in the second round starting at 8:45 am on Monday (Feb.4). Live scoring for the second round is available [here](#)

To keep up with the latest Kennesaw State women's golf news follow the team on Twitter [@KSUOwlNation](#) and [@KSUOwlsWmnsGolf](#) or by liking Kennesaw State University on [Facebook](#).

RedWolves drop third straight in Hampton

HAMPTON, Va. — The RedWolves bats go quiet in the final four innings in road loss at Peninsula on Saturday night.

The RedWolves (1-3)(15-13) would take an early 2-0 lead in the Top of the 3rd Inning after an RBI single by **Griffin Hulecki** (Ball State) would score **Patrick Causa** (Mt. Saint Mary's). **Joe Simone** (Rider) would then score off an RBI fielder's choice by **Chris Botsoe** (Eastern Kentucky).

Simone lead the way hitting for the RedWolves, going 3-for-4 with a double and a run scored.

The Peninsula Pilots (3-2)(20-10) would answer right back with two runs of their own in the Bottom of the 3rd with an RBI single by Cole Girourd (Lamar) and a bases loaded walk drawn by Cole Prestegard (Troy) to tie the game back up 2-2.

Girourd would get another RBI single in the Bottom of the 4th, followed by a double steal by Girourd and Kyle Butler (Radford) to put the Pilots ahead 4-2.

The RedWolves and Pilots would combine for just one hit in the final four innings of the game.

Joshua Plummer (Tennessee) would get the loss for Florence, going 4.0 innings, allowing four runs off of six hits and tossing three walks and one strikeout. **Jacob Grenus** (Lincoln Memorial) would finish the game for the RedWolves, going 4.0 innings allowing no runs or hits, tossing one walk and five strikeouts.

Austin Krizan (Southern Indiana) would start the game for Peninsula, going 4.2 innings, allowing two runs off of six hits, tossing four walks and seven strikeouts.

The rest of the pitching staff for Peninsula would allow zero RedWolves hits.

Ryan Fox (VCU) would get the win, going 1.1 innings and throwing two strikeouts. Tyler Garbee (Mercyhurst) would go two innings throwing two strikeouts, while Jackson Wark (St. Louis) would close out the game for Peninsula, going one inning and also tossing two strikeouts.

The RedWolves will have a few days off for the 2018 CPL All Star Show in Lexington, South Carolina. **Patrick Causa**, Kris Kuhn, **Michael Kuypers** and **Joe Simone** will participate in the game at Lexington County Baseball Stadium on July 9 at 7:35 PM.

The RedWolves will be back home on July 11 against Lexington County. Fans will have a chance to throw it and win it for an area rug courtesy of Ashley and Parrott Furniture. Gates open at 6:00 PM with first pitch set for 7:00 PM.

Owls blank UConn in Season Opener

KENNESAW, Ga. – The Kennesaw State Men's Tennis team opened up their season with a 7-0 win over UConn on Sunday afternoon.

"Today was a great start for the guys," said Director of Tennis Matt Emery. "UConn hit us with some pretty big punches early in the doubles and I think we did a great job of weathering that and then closing out the doubles point."

After a lengthy delay due to weather, the Owls (1-0) would come out hot, winning the doubles point over the Huskies (3-4) with a 7-5 victory by sophomore Bryan Triana and junior Drew Lahey over John Michael Holtmann and Jack McLister and a 6-3 win by freshman Gaston Muhammad and senior Fermin Calvo Barcelo over Hank Hill and Yili Zheng.

In singles action, Lucas de Torres Curth would get the scoring started, knocking off Jack McLister 6-2, 6-0 at No.4 singles. At No. 1 singles, Fermin Calvo Barcelo defeated Yilji Zheng 6-1, 6-1, while at No.6 singles, Sebastian Osorio would earn a 6-4, 6-2 win over Christian Provenzano. In No.3 and No.5 singles, Gaston Muhammad and Harvey Maughan would both pick up 6-3, 6-4 wins over Hank Hill and Justin Warren. In the most tightly contested singles match, Brian Triana would defeat John Michael Holtmann 4-6, 6-1, 10-4 to preserve the shutout at No.2 singles.

"Great intensity across the board from all six guys in singles," said Emery. "The ones that got ahead did a great job of slamming the door and Bryan, who lost the first set, came back and won in three."

"We are excited to get back to work Tuesday and get ready for an exciting weekend on the road at Georgia Tech and Kentucky."

The Owls will return to the court this Friday, taking a short trip down I-75 to take on Georgia Tech in Atlanta at 5:00 PM.

Results

Singles

- 1 Fermin Calvo Barcelo (KSU) vs Yilji Zheng (UConn) 6-1, 6-1
- 2 Brian Triana (KSU) vs John Michael Holtmann (UConn) 4-6, 6-1, 10-4
- 3 Gaston Muhammad (KSU) vs Hank Hill (UConn) 6-3, 6-4
- 4 Lucas de Torres Curth (KSU) vs Jack McLister (UConn) 6-2, 6-0
- 5 Harvey Maughan (KSU) vs Justin Warren (UConn) 6-3, 6-4
- 6 Sebastian Osorio (KSU) vs Christian Provenzano (UConn) 6-4, 6-2

Doubles

- 1 Bryan Triana/Drew Lahey (KSU) vs John Michael Holtmann/Jack McLister (UConn) 7-5
- 2 Gaston Muhammad/Fermin Calvo Barcelo (KSU) vs Hank Hill/Yilji Zheng (UConn) 6-4
- 3 Lucas de Torres Curth/Harvey Maughan (KSU) vs Justin Warren/Christian Provenzano (UConn) Unfinished

To keep up with the latest Kennesaw State men's tennis news follow the team on Twitter [@KSUOwlNation](#) and [@KSUMensTennis](#) or by liking Kennesaw State University on [Facebook](#).

Three RedWolves named to All CPL Teams

HOLLY SPRINGS, N.C. — **Kristopher Kuhn** and **Joe Simone** were named All CPL First Team while Johnathan Hughes was named All CPL Second Team for the 2018 season on August 23.

Kuhn (College of Charleston) lead the CPL in innings pitched going 56.1 innings this summer, including a complete game victory over Savannah on July 14. Kuhn was named CPL Pitcher of the Week for Week 7 after his July 14 performance.

Kuhn finished the season with the second best ERA in the CPL at 2.08 and threw 58 strikeouts, fifth best in the league. Kuhn was also a CPL All Star for the National League.

Simone (Rider) batted .338 this season, fifth best in the CPL. Simone was also 10th in the league in hits with 51, third in doubles with 14 and third in On Base Percentage at .457. Simone was a member of both the CPL Select Team and the CPL National League All Star Team.

Hughes (Georgia Tech) was fourth in the CPL in ERA at 2.49. Hughes tossed 41 strikeouts in 2018, averaging just over seven strikeouts a game, eighth best in the CPL.

Each ALL CPL team features 25 players: one player per each infield position, four designated hitter/utility players, five outfielders, seven starting pitchers and four relief pitchers.

Six Former RedWolves selected in 2018 MLB Draft

SECAUCUS, N.J. — Six former RedWolves, including three CPL All Stars, heard their names called in the 2018 MLB Draft.

Kevin Woodall of Coastal Carolina would hear his name called first off the board, as he was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the 10th round on the second day of the draft.

Woodall would play in 13 games for the RedWolves in 2017, finishing with a .255 batting average, nine RBIs and two home runs.

Woodall would finish his Coastal Carolina career with a .271 batting average, 141 RBIs and 40 home runs. He also holds the Chanticleer record for double plays turned with 117.

Day three of the draft would be a busy one for former RedWolves, as the day started with Reece Hampton of UNC-Charlotte off the board in the 12th round to the Detroit Tigers.

Hampton was a speedster for the RedWolves in 2016, stealing 19 bases. He also batted .293 with 15 RBIs while in Florence. Hampton was also a member of the 2016 CPL West Division All Star Team.

Hampton finished his senior year with the 49ers starting all 58 games and finishing with a career high five home runs and 37 RBIs.

L.A. Woodard of Middle Tennessee State would be off the board in the 16th round, being taken by the New York Mets.

Woodard only played in four games for the RedWolves, but he was effective with a .400 batting average and an RBI.

Woodard posted a .267 batting average with one homer, two triples, 11 doubles, 20 RBIs and 23 stolen bases this past season for the Blue Raiders.

Drew Wharton of Clemson would go to the Chicago Cubs in the 30th round.

Wharton would play for Florence in 2015, batting .227 with five doubles and 14 RBIs for the RedWolves. In his senior year with the Tigers, Wharton hit .255 as a senior with seven home runs, 41 RBIs and 12 doubles.

Another Chanticleer with ties with Florence would go off the board in the 36th round, as Matt Beaird was selected by the Baltimore Orioles.

Beaird would have a fantastic 2017 with the RedWolves, batting .333 with nine RBIs, two home runs and a perfect fielding percentage. He was named to the 2017 CPL West Division All Star Team.

Beaird finished his career at Coastal Carolina batting .231 with 66 RBIs, five home runs and threw out a school record 46 base stealers.

The final former RedWolf taken in the 2018 draft would be Tyler Webb of Memphis in the 40th round to the Minnesota Twins.

Webb played in Florence in 2017, batting .269 with 22 RBIs. He was also named to the 2017 CPL West Division All Star Team.

Webb batted .274 with 19 doubles and seven steals as a senior for the Tigers.

The Coastal Plain League has seen over 1,500 alumni drafted by Major League teams. 113 alums who have made it to the Majors including former RedWolf Lou Trivino to the Oakland A's in 2018. Some of the CPL's most notable alumni include former AL MVP, Cy Young winner

and 2017 World Series champion Justin Verlander, Ryan Zimmerman, Chris Taylor, Mark Reynolds, NFL Super Bowl XLVIII champion quarterback Russell Wilson, and former Florence Redwolf, three time MLB All Star and two time World Series champion, Kevin Youkilis.

Women's Basketball Set To Open 2017-18 Season Friday Evening vs. Pfeiffer

The Gardner-Webb women's basketball team is coming off a solid 2016-17 season. The Runnin' Bulldogs finished 12-19 overall, with wins over Appalachian State, and in televised games against Western Carolina and Liberty. But the 'Dogs struggled to close games out at times, losing five games by three points or less including a season ending 54-51 loss to Radford in the second round of the Big South Conference Tournament.

"Last season could've been so much different if we would've finished out those few games," says Gardner-Webb Women's Basketball Head Coach Rick Reeves. "But we have some depth this year and I'm excited for the season."

Coach Reeves, who enters into his 14th season with the Runnin' Bulldogs says that the team's outlook remains the

same; win the Big South Conference no matter how the last season went.

"Well we always want to win the conference and go to the NCAA Tournament," says Reeves. "That's the goal every year. This preseason we were picked seventh, but I told the young ladies that the last time we won the conference, we were picked sixth so that doesn't really mean anything to us."

The Runnin' Bulldogs will have a veteran team this season, as four of their five starters return from last year's squad, including second team All-Big South selection Tierra Huntsman. The redshirt-senior out of Connersville, Indiana was the team's leading scorer, averaging 15.2 points per game last season. Huntsman also lead the Runnin' Bulldogs with 62 steals last season, good enough for sixth in the Big South Conference. Huntsman says it's an honor to be named as a representative from GWU on the All Conference Rankings.

"It's an honor to have someone named from Gardner-Webb," says Tierra Huntsman. "It shows how good our team is and I have to thank my teammates for supporting me."

The Runnin' Bulldogs will return to the floor with Savannah Plentovinch, who averaged 39% from three and averaged three assists per game. Her twin sister Carley Plentovich will return as well, but will miss the beginning of the

season due to offseason surgery. Carley also shot well from behind the arc at 36% and finished the season with 37 assists.

Returning inside for the Runnin' Bulldogs is 6'2 senior Celia Tibbs. Tibbs lead the team last season with 19 blocks last year. Alexus Hill also returns for the Runnin' Bulldogs. Hill was second on the team in assists, finishing with 66 last season. Ky'Asia Stanford will also be back on the court for Gardner-Webb, as she was second on the team with 32 steals last season.

Morgan Pointer and Corinna Weigand return for their second season at Gardner-Webb. Pointer shot 71% from the free throw line last season while Weigand redshirted last year.

Coach Reeves says that the depth returning to the team will help them win some of those games that they were unable to close out last season.

"Practice has been great," says Reeves. "The young ladies' attitudes have been great and I'm proud of them."

There are new faces on the GWU roster as well. Katie Stainer is a sophomore transfer from Southeastern Illinois College. The Brisbane, Australia native averaged 5.5 points per game and 2.9 assists per game for the Falcons last season.

The Runnin' Bulldogs also signed a quartet of freshmen that will look to help GWU to a conference title this season. Taylor Kelley, out of Clermont, Ga. averaged 14.9 points, 2.9 steals, and 2.1 assists per game throughout her senior season, which also saw her surpass the 1,000 point mark for her career.

Nia Lee is a Freshman out of Lawrenceville, Ga. who led her team to the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Class AAAAAAA Girls State Basketball Tournament semifinals for the first time since 2007 in 2017, with the team finishing the year with a 24-5 record.

Faith Hoover is a freshman out of Raleigh, N.C. and averaged 9.0 points per game and 5.3 rebounds per game throughout her senior campaign and earned 2016-17 North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) 4-A Cap-8 Conference All-Conference Honorable Mention honors.

The Runnin' Bulldogs also add Alexis Hueston out of Roanoke, Va. Hueston averaged 12.8 points and 7.5 rebounds per game throughout her senior season and took part in the 2017 Virginia High School Coaches Association (VHSCA) All-Star basketball game.

GWU will also add sophomore Gabrielle Caponegro to the roster, but she will have to sit out the 2017-18 season due to NCAA transfer rules. At LIU-Brooklyn, Caponegro

averaged 3.3 points and 4.4 rebounds per game for the Blackbirds.

The team is a tight knit group, and they are very motivated by the low preseason ranking, as the Runnin' Bulldogs were voted to finish seventh in the Big South Conference preseason poll.

"We're not bothered by it," says Huntsman. "It's up to us to prove people wrong."

The women's basketball team faces a daunting non-conference schedule. The 'Dogs will start off the season at home to Division III Pfeiffer on November 10. The Falcons finished just 8-19 last season but defeated Division I foe NC Central last season 50-47. The Falcons will also play SoCon member Furman later in the season.

The 'Dogs then travel up to Lexington, Ky. for the Matthew Mitchell Classic as they take on Kentucky on November 12. The Wildcats fell to eventual national champion South Carolina in the SEC Tournament last season and hosted the First and Second Round of the NCAA Tournament, defeating Belmont 73-70 before falling to Ohio State 82-68. After that, GWU takes a quick drive to Morehead, Ky. to take on the Morehead State Eagles on November 13. The Eagles finished second in the Ohio Valley Conference with a 21-10 record and qualified for the Women's NIT.

The Runnin' Bulldogs will return to Paul Porter Arena for a five-game home stand, starting with American Conference member UCF on November 17. The Knights finished 21-12 last season and advanced to the second round of the Women's NIT. The Knights also knocked off the Bulldogs in Orlando 66-52 last year, but GWU shot 41% from beyond the arc. GWU will then welcome Furman on November 20, for a rematch of last year's contest, an 84-62 win for the Paladins.

After a quick break for Thanksgiving, the 'Dogs take on NAIA rival Montreat College on November 25. The Cavaliers would fall by a score of 92-45 in Boiling Springs last season. Four Runnin' Bulldogs would score in the double digits, lead by 14 points from Savannah Plentovich. The Dogs then host their first Education Day of the year on November 28 at 11:00 AM against USC Upstate. The Runnin' Bulldogs knocked off the Spartans 57-53 in Spartanburg last season, outscoring Upstate 24-10 in the second half.

GWU returns to the road for a rivalry showdown with Wofford College on December 5. The Terriers knocked off the Bulldogs 75-66 last season and held GWU to just 41.5% shooting.

After a break for exams, GWU will travel to Davidson College for an early morning showdown with the Wildcats on December 15 at 11:30 AM. Davidson finished 6-23 last season, with an 82-72 win over Big South member High

Point. The team will then travel north to Emmitsburg, Md. for a matchup with Mount Saint Mary's of the Northeastern Conference on December 17. The Mountaineers finished 12-18 last season, and will play NCAA powerhouses Notre Dame and Maryland this season.

The Dogs will take a break for Christmas, and return home to face Western Carolina on December 28. Last season, the Runnin' Bulldogs knocked off the Catamounts in Cullowhee by a score of 68-60. Tierra Huntsman would lead the 'Dogs with 24 points.

GWU plays their final non-conference game on December 30 against Division II member Converse College. The Runnin' Bulldogs knocked off the Valkyries 68-38 at home last season and held Converse to 23% shooting.

Coach Reeves believes the challenging non-conference schedule will help his team once they reach conference play.

"I always look to schedule teams that are better than the best teams in our conference," says Reeves. "It's helped us a lot in the past. We just need to stay healthy. Everyone remembers when we knocked off North Carolina when they were ranked a few years ago. We were poised for a good season but we had a lot of injuries and couldn't finish. So we'll need to stay healthy for when we reach the conference tournament so we can win it."

The Runnin' Bulldogs will play their first conference game on the road on January 2 at High Point University, before taking on Radford at home on January 6, in a rematch of the Big South Tournament. Radford was also voted to win the Big South Women's Championship.

Other notable conference matchups include January 20 vs Charleston Southern where Coach Reeves will coach his 250th Big South contest, another education day matchup on Feb 13 at 11 AM vs Longwood, and the Runnin' Bulldogs home contest against High Point on February 24, which will be nationally televised on ESPN3.