



SAM

Lindsay Matern

Shannon Weath

**Head Coach
Todd Yelton**

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SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

Location:	Birmingham, Ala.
Year Founded:	1841, Howard College
Enrollment:	4,715
Nickname:	Bulldogs
School Colors:	Red and Blue
Stadium (Capacity):	Samford Track and Soccer Stadium (1,200)
Affiliation:	NCAA Division I
Conference:	Southern
President:	Dr. Andrew Westmoreland
Alma Mater:	Ouachita Baptist University '79
Director of Athletics:	Martin Newton
Alma Mater:	Samford '83
First Year of Soccer:	1997
All-Time Record:	148-92-34 (.602)
2010 Overall Record:	13-6-3
2010 Conference Record/Finish:	8-2-1/2nd
Last NCAA Appearance:	2007 NCAA Tournament, First Round, Tallahassee, Fla., LSU, L 1-0 (20T)
Starters Returning/Lost:	8/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost:	13/10
Head Coach:	Todd Yelton (King College '91)
Record at School:	110-47-26 (9 seasons)
Career Record:	150-79-30 (13 seasons)
Assistant Coaches:	Jay Yelton (King College '98) Andy Stoots (Milligan College '02)

2011 SCHEDULE

Aug. 12	TENNESSEE (Exhibition)	6 p.m.
Aug. 15	at Mississippi State (Exhibition)	7 p.m.
Aug. 19	BELMONT	7 p.m.
Aug. 21	ALABAMA	7 p.m.
Aug. 26	at UAB	7 p.m.
Aug. 28	MEMPHIS	2 p.m.
Sept. 2	at Kennesaw State	6 p.m.
Sept. 9	AUBURN	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Elon*	6 p.m.
Sept. 25	at UNC-Greensboro*	1 p.m.
Sept. 30	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON*	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	THE CITADEL*	2 p.m.
Oct. 6	WOFFORD*	7 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Furman*	1 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Appalachian State*	6 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Western Carolina*	1 p.m.
Oct. 21	DAVIDSON* (Senior Night)	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	GEORGIA SOUTHERN*	2 p.m.
Oct. 26	CHATTANOOGA*	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	SoCon Tournament*	TBA
Nov. 4	SoCon Tournament*	TBA
Nov. 6	SoCon Tournament*	TBA

*Southern Conference game

**The quarterfinal round of the SoCon Tournament will be held at the home site of the higher-seeded team.

All times are Central; dates and times are subject to change.

PHONE DIRECTORY (ALL NUMBERS ARE AREA CODE 205)

Department of Athletics Fax	726-2132
Sports Information Fax	726-2545
Keith Baker (Assistant Coach, Track)	726-4567
Diane Blakney (Administrative Assistant, Football)	726-2575
Mandy Burford (Head Coach, Softball)	726-4147
Lee Burgess (Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball)	726-2920
James Carlson (Equipment Manager, Football)	726-2575
Antonio Carter (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Jay Chapman (Football Operations Director)	726-4031
Joe Collins (Turf Manager)	726-2276
Tony David (Associate Head Coach, Baseball)	726-4095
Michelle Dorsey (Head Athletic Trainer)	726-2574
Bill D'Ottavio (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Casey Dunn (Head Coach, Baseball)	726-2134
Michelle Durban (Associate Director of Athletics/SWA)	726-4088
Rahim Esmail (Head Coach, Tennis)	726-2592
Woodie Eubanks (Head Coach, Golf)	726-2355
Brandon Evans (Assistant Athletic Trainer)	726-2574
Mick Fieldbinder (Assistant Coach, Baseball)	726-4095
Mike Grace (Director of Multimedia Services)	726-4295
Brandon Herring (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Paul Hogan (Strength and Conditioning, Football)	726-2575
Jennifer Hogan (Academic Adviser)	726-4291
Hollie Huey (Director of Community and Campus Relations)	726-4344
Daniel Jacobi (Head Football Athletic Trainer)	726-2579
Terrence Johnson (Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball)	726-2709
James Joseph (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Marvin Julich (Director of Bulldog Club)	726-4217
Katherine Katz (Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball)	726-4072
Paul Kelly (Associate Head Coach, Men's Basketball)	726-2920
Matt Knowles (Assistant Athletic Trainer)	726-2574
Rhett Lashlee (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Andrea Lemmond (Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball)	726-4219
Sara Lightsey (Administrative Assistant, Basketball)	726-2920
Emily London (Special Projects Coordinator)	726-2966
Larry Long (Associate Director of Athletics)	726-4307
Wanda Lucas (Assistant Director of Athletics)	726-2131
Ryan Mayberry (Assistant Coach, Golf)	726-2355
Michael McGreevey (Director of Ticket Sales/Customer Service)	726-4351
Chris Metress (Faculty Athletics Representative)	726-2192
Mike Morris (Head Coach, Women's Basketball)	726-2919
Joey Mullins (Sports Information Director)	726-2799
Peter Neuberger (Senior Associate Director, Athletics)	726-2975
Martin Newton (Director of Athletics)	726-2131
Ross Newton (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Miguel Pate (Assistant Coach, Track)	726-4567
Lisa Pierce (Assistant Coach, Volleyball)	726-4491
Jay Roberson (Associate Director of Athletics)	726-2100
Tommy Rohling (Strength and Conditioning)	726-2668
Rocky Sabbatini (Video Coordinator, Football)	726-2575
Zac Schrieber (Sports Information Director)	726-2802
Derek Schroeder (Head Coach, Volleyball)	726-4088
Chris Scott (Assistant Director of Athletics)	726-2966
Don Scott (Director of Marketing)	726-3647
Michael Scruggs (Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball)	726-4220
Rory Segrest (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Sam Shade (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Andy Stoots (Assistant Coach, Soccer)	726-4039
Lori Strand (Assistant Coach, Track/Cross Country)	726-4198
Pat Sullivan (Head Coach, Football)	726-2575
Rucker Taylor (Assistant Coach, Baseball)	726-4095
Rod Tiffin (Head Coach, Track and Field/Cross-Country)	726-2081

Jimmy Tillette (Head Coach, Men's Basketball)	726-2920
Travis Trickett (Assistant Coach, Football)	726-2575
Ashton Turner (Compliance Coordinator)	726-4244
Jay Welborn (Basketball Operations Director)	726-4292
Jay Yelton (Assistant Coach, Soccer)	726-4039
Todd Yelton (Head Coach, Soccer)	726-4039

CREDENTIALS

No media credentials are required for coverage of regular-season home matches since admission is free. For postseason matches, credentials may be obtained through the Office of Sports Information.

INTERVIEW POLICIES

Media interviews with players and coaches are encouraged, and every effort will be made to accommodate media requests. In-person interviews are preferred. Telephone interviews can be arranged through the Office of Sports Information.

The best time to reach Head Coach Todd Yelton is weekdays, 8:30–11:30 a.m. All interviews should be coordinated through the Office of Sports Information.

Players and coaches will be available for interviews at the soccer field after a brief cooling-off period at the conclusion of each match.



Trine Taule

Sports Information Staff

Joey Mullins (Football, Women's Basketball, Baseball)

Sports Information Director

Office Phone: 205-726-2799

Home Phone: 205-822-3609

Cell Phone: 205-532-3477

Email: jmmulli1@samford.edu

Zac Schrieber (Men's Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis)

Sports Information Director

Office Phone: 205-726-2802

Cell Phone: 205-532-3476

Email: zdschrie@samford.edu

Nathan Sheehan (Volleyball, Cross-Country, Track and Field, Softball)

Intern

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Office of Sports Information

Samford University

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Birmingham, AL 35229

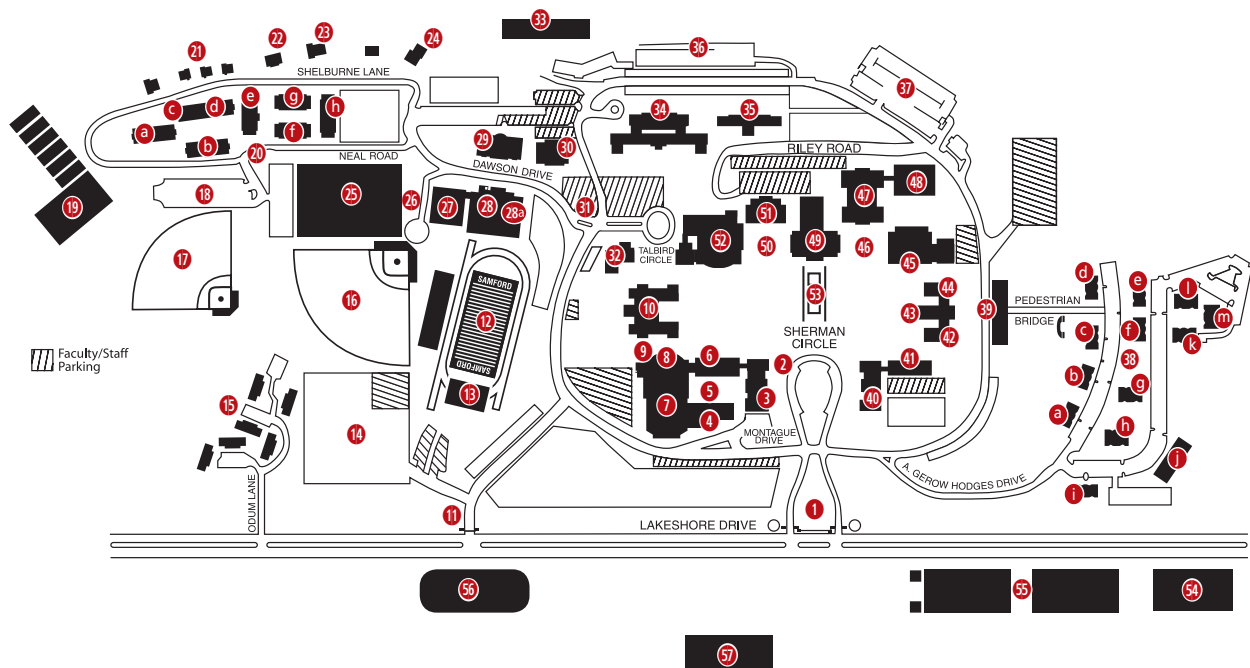
PRINT	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	CONTACT
Anniston Star	P. O. Box 189, Anniston, AL 36202	256-235-9242	205-235-3535	Bran Strickland
Associated Press	200 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36101	1-800-821-3737	334-265-7177	John Zenor
Associated Press	Suite 500, One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30303	1-800-222-1790	404-524-4639	Sports
Birmingham News	P. O. Box 2553, Birmingham, AL 35202	205-325-2431	205-325-2425	Sports
Cullman Times	300 Fourth Avenue Southeast, Cullman, AL 35055	256-734-2131	256-734-1020	Justin Graves
Decatur Daily	P. O. Box 2213, Decatur, AL 35609	256-340-2461	256-340-2392	Mark Edwards
Dothan Eagle	P. O. Box 1968, Dothan, AL 36203	334-792-3141	334-712-7979	Jon Johnson
Enterprise Ledger	P. O. Box 311130, Enterprise, AL 36331	334-347-9533	334-347-0825	Danny Lewis
Florence Times Daily	P. O. Box 797, Florence, AL 35631	256-766-3434	256-740-4717	Gregg Dewalt
Fort Payne Times-Journal	P. O. Box 349, Fort Payne, AL 35967-0281	256-845-2550	256-845-8835	Lou Gilliland
Gadsden Times	P. O. Box 188, Gadsden, AL 35999	256-549-2051	256-549-2105	Kim Craft
Huntsville Times	P. O. Box 1487, Huntsville, AL 35807	256-532-4430	256-532-4262	Sports
Mobile Press Register	P. O. Box 2488, Mobile, AL 36630	334-433-1551	334-434-8603	Randy Kennedy
Montgomery Advertiser	P. O. Box 1000, Montgomery, AL 36101-1000	334-261-1586	334-261-1548	Brad Zimanek
Opelika-Auburn News	P. O. Drawer 2208, Opelika, AL 36803-2208	334-749-6271	334-749-1228	Mike Szvetitz
Over the Mountain Journal	2016 Columbiana Road, Birmingham, AL 35216	205-823-9646	205-824-1246	Maury Wald
Samford Crimson	P. O. Box 292269, Birmingham, AL 35229-2269	205-726-2998	205-726-2586	Sports Editor
Scottsboro Daily Sentinel	701 Veteran's Drive, Scottsboro, AL 35768	256-259-1020	256-259-2709	Jason Bowen
Selma Times-Journal	P. O. Box 611, Selma, AL 36702	334-875-2110	334-872-4588	Sports Editor
Talladega Daily Home	P. O. Box 977, Talladega, AL 35160	256-362-1000	256-249-4315	Sports Editor
Troy Messenger	P. O. Box 727, Troy, AL 36081	334-566-4270	256-566-4281	Greg Rossino
Tuscaloosa News	P. O. Drawer 1, Tuscaloosa, AL 35402	1-800-866-6086	205-349-0802	Tommy Deas

TELEVISION	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	CONTACT
WBRC-TV	P. O. Box 6, Birmingham, AL 35202	205-583-4345	205-583-4356	Rick Karle
WVTM-TV	P. O. Box 10502, Birmingham, AL 35202	205-558-7345	205-323-3314	Don Haas
Alabama's ABC 33/40	800 Concourse Parkway, Suite 200/201, Birmingham, AL 35244	205-982-3988	205-982-3942	Mike Raita
WIAT-TV	P. O. Box 6146, Birmingham, AL 35209	205-322-4200	205-326-2722	B. J. Millican

RADIO	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	CONTACT
WJOX/WSPZ Radio	244 Goodwin Crest Drive, Suite 300, Birmingham, AL 35209	205-945-4646	205-942-3999	Ryan Haney
WERC Radio	530 Beacon Parkway West, Suite 600, Birmingham, AL 35209	205-942-9600	205-439-8390	Sports
WVSU Radio	800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229	205-726-2877	205-726-4032	Andy Parrish

MISCELLANEOUS	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	CONTACT
BP Sports Online	901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203	615-782-8615	615-782-8736	Editor
Sports Ticker	600 Plaza Two, Jersey City, NJ 07311-3992	1-800-367-8935	1-800-336-0383	Sports
Sports Network	www.sportsnetwork.com			Craig Haley
Don Hansen's Football Gazette	www.donhansen.com			Don Hanesen

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



BIRMINGHAM TO: MILES DRIVING TIME (HOURS)

Starkville, Miss.	145	2.5
Kennesaw, Ga.	150	2.75
Nashville, Tenn.	200	3.0
Elon, N.C.	500	8.5
Greensboro, N.C.	485	8.0
Greenville, S.C.	300	5.0
Boone, N.C.	420	7.0
Cullowhee, N.C.	300	5.5

TO SAMFORD

From I-20/59 North: Exit onto I-65 South toward Montgomery. Continue approximately five miles and take Exit 255 to Lakeshore Drive. Turn left onto Lakeshore Drive and continue approximately three miles. Turn right at the third traffic light and the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium will be on your right.

From I-65 North: Take Exit 255 to Lakeshore Drive. Turn right onto Lakeshore Drive and continue approximately two miles. Turn right at the third traffic light and the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium will be on your right.

From I-20 West: Exit onto I-459 South toward Montgomery/Tuscaloosa. Continue approximately 10 miles and take exit for Highway 280 North toward Mountain Brook. Take Lakeshore Drive exit and turn left onto Lakeshore Drive and continue approximately four miles. Turn left at the fourth traffic light and the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium will be on your right.

From I-65 South: Take Exit 255 to Lakeshore Drive. Turn left onto Lakeshore Drive and continue approximately three miles. Turn right at the third traffic light and the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium will be on your right.

From I-59 South: Exit onto I-65 South toward Montgomery. Continue approximately five miles and take Exit 255 to Lakeshore Drive. Turn left onto Lakeshore Drive and continue approximately three miles. Turn right at the third traffic light and the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium will be on your right.

HOTELS

Birmingham Marriott	3590 Grandview Parkway	205-968-3775
Drury Hotels	160 State Farm Parkway	205-940-9500
Hampton Inn—Lakeshore Drive	30 State Farm Parkway	205-313-2060
Hilton Garden Inn	520 Wildwood North Circle	205-314-0274
Holiday Inn Express	492 Wildwood Circle North	205-942-6070
Sheraton Birmingham	2101 Richard Arrington Boulevard	205-324-5000
Spring Hill Suites	3950 Colonnade Parkway	205-969-8099
The Wynfrey Hotel	1000 Riverchase Galleria	205-987-1600

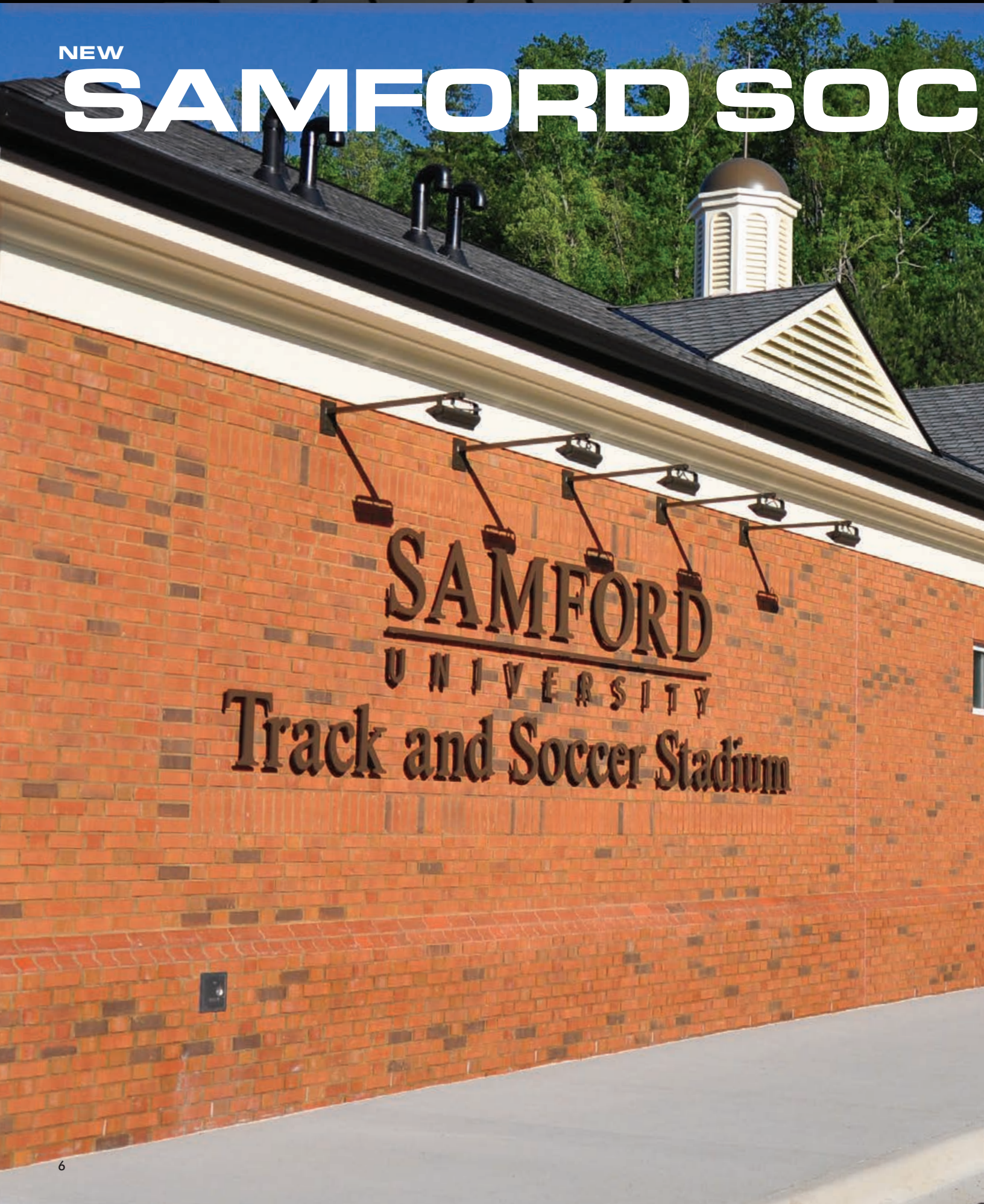
RESTAURANTS

Brio Tuscan Grille	591 Brookwood Village	205-879-9177
Dominos	430 Green Springs Highway	205-916-0070
Firehouse Subs	429 Green Springs Highway	205-945-2637
Jason's Deli	583 Brookwood Village	205-877-8477
Mafioza's Pizzeria	2 Dexter Avenue	205-414-7878
Moe's	716 Montgomery Highway	205-842-7603
Papa John's	736 Montgomery Highway	205-978-7272

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Main Gate | 19a. Darwin E. Hardison Tennis Courts | 33. Facilities Management | 51. Dwight M. Beeson Hall (Business) |
| 2. Sherman Oak | 19b. Pat Murphy Courington Tennis Pavilion | 34. Lena Vail Davis Residence Hall | 52. Ralph W. Beeson University Center |
| 3. Frank Park Samford Hall (Admission, Administration) | 20. West Campus Residence Halls | 35. Mamie Mell Smith Residence Hall | 52a. Dining Hall |
| 4. Jane Hollock Brock Hall | 20a. Sigma Chi | 36. North Parking Deck | 52b. Bookstore |
| 4a. Jane Hollock Brock Recital Hall | 20b. Mountain View | 37. Northeast Parking Deck | 52c. The Hub (Information Center) |
| 5. Hazel P. Boren Courtyard and Garden | 20c. Sigma Nu | 38. Beeson Woods Residence Halls | 53. Centennial Walk/University Quadrangle |
| 6. John H. Buchanan Hall (Arts) | 20d. Alpha Omicron Pi | a. James Hall | 54. Children's Learning Center |
| 7. Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center | 20e. Phi Mu | h. Lucille Hall | 55. Intramural/Recreation Complex |
| 8. Bonnie Bolding Swearingen Hall | 20f. Chi Omega | b. Luther Hall | 55a. Alpine Tower |
| 8a. Benjamin F. Harrison Theatre | 20g. Alpha Delta Pi | c. Malcolm Hall | 56. Track and Soccer Stadium |
| 8b. Bolding Studio | 20h. Zeta Tau Alpha | d. Wesley Hall | |
| 8c. Samford Art Gallery | 21. Facilities Management Houses | e. Ralph Hall | |
| 9. Gertha Itasca Earwood Bolding Memorial Garden | 22. Pi Kappa Phi House | f. Orlean Hall | |
| 10. Divinity Hall (Divinity) | 23. Air Force ROTC Detachment | g. Dwight Hall | |
| 10a. Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel | 24. Lambda Chi Alpha House | 39. William Self Propst Hall | |
| 11. West Gate Entrance | 25. Pete Hanna Center (Athletics) | 39a. Conservatory | |
| 12. F. Page Seibert Stadium | 25a. Thomas E. and Maria H. Cortis Arena | 39b. Boyd E. Christenberry Planetarium | |
| 12a. Leo E. Bashinsky Press Tower | 25b. Fitness/Wellness Center | 40. Robert I. Ingalls, Sr. Hall (Pharmacy) | |
| 13. Cooney Family Field House | 26. Bulldog Spirit Plaza | 41. Thomas D. Russell Hall | |
| 14. South Stadium Parking Lot | 27. Leo E. Bashinsky Field House | 42. James Horton Chapman Hall | |
| 15. Student Apartments | 28. F. Page Seibert Hall | 43. A. Hamilton Reid Chapel | |
| 16. Joe Lee Griffin Baseball Field | 28a. University Health Services | 44. Percy Pratt Burns Hall | |
| 16a. Carl E. Miller, Jr. Press Box | 29. Dwight M. and Lucille S. Beeson Center for Healing Arts (Nursing) | 45. Elinor Messer Brooks and Marion Thomas Brooks Hall (Arts and Sciences) | |
| 17. Bulldog Softball Field | 30. Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall (Education and Professional Studies) | 46. Martha F. and Albert P. Brewer Plaza | |
| 18. West Parking Deck | 31. Victory Flag | 47. Memory Leake Robinson Hall (Law) | |
| 19. Samford Tennis Center | 32. John D. Pittman Hall | 48. Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library | |
| | | 49. Harwell G. Davis University Library | |
| | | 50. Ben Brown Plaza | |

NEW

SAMFORD SOC



CER STADIUM

Earlier this year, the Samford soccer program moved into its new home, the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium. Construction of the state-of-the-art facility began in August 2010 and was finished during the summer 2011. The stadium includes locker rooms, a ticket office and a high-tech press box. With the addition of the facility, Samford is slated to host the Southern Conference championships in soccer in 2012.

Samford University dedicated the stadium Friday, April 22, hours before student-athletes christened it with SoCon track and field championship competition.

Athletics director Martin Newton, acknowledging that the university provides an excellent "broad-based education and athletic experience for all Samford students," noted that athletics is sometimes called the "front porch to a university."

"We are proud to have this front porch on Lakeshore Drive. It will contribute to helping Samford student-athletes compete at the highest level in the Southern Conference," said Newton.

The complex, which includes a nine-lane track with a regulation soccer field inside the track, is located across Lakeshore Drive from the campus.

Newton, who was named athletics director in March, added that Samford's greatest asset is its people. "And the finest student-athletes in the country are here at Samford," he said.

The complex has a seating capacity of 1,200, with 360 chair-back seats. A 300-square-foot press box sits atop the grandstand. A 5,000-square-foot support building houses concessions, ticket booth, restrooms, storage and locker rooms.

Expectations are once again high for the Samford University soccer team as the Bulldogs head into the 2011 campaign. Samford enters the season boasting a roster comprised of seven returning starters and five additional returning letterwinners from a team that finished with a 13-6-3 overall record in 2010. The Bulldogs also registered a stellar 8-2-1 Southern Conference mark and placed second in the talent-laden conference en route to a thrilling run to the SoCon Tournament championship match.

Despite losing to the 12th-ranked UNC-Greensboro Spartans, 1-0, in the conference final, Samford Head Coach Todd Yelton lauded his team's performance and stressed the continued difficulty of competing in one of the nation's top conferences.

"UNC-Greensboro beat us 1-0 both times that we played them," said Yelton. "They were great games. The previous

opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Just two years prior, Yelton's squad advanced past 19th-ranked Vanderbilt in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament and became the first Ohio Valley Conference team to reach the second round of the postseason competition.

During the 2005 campaign, Yelton helped Samford to a school-record

Those two guys make my job a lot easier. I'm very fortunate and blessed to have the assistant staff that I do."

With one of the top coaching staffs in the nation, as well as a load of returning talent, the 2011 Samford Bulldogs are poised to make a run at the SoCon championship and earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

GOALKEEPERS

For the fourth straight season, Samford's goalkeeping position will be anchored by the record-setting 6-3 **Alyssa Whitehead** (Hattiesburg, Miss.). Whitehead, who was named a second-team All-SoCon performer in 2010, holds Samford's school record in career shutouts with 26. As a junior last season, she finished the campaign with 12 shutouts and a goals-against average of 0.79.

Whitehead has been starting in goal for the Bulldogs since her freshman season



Sarah Wilkinson

BULLDOGS ENTER 2011 WITH EXPECTATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP

two times that we played them, we had a tie and a win. If you look at the SoCon, and you take into account wins over teams from a major conference, there are always several. Furman beat Alabama, 3-0, last year, and UNC-Greensboro beat Wake Forest. You look at those results and realize that it's a big-time league. We've gotten better and better each year. Obviously, the goal will be to win the title this year."

Every season, Yelton's goal is to win the conference, earn the SoCon Tournament title and to advance to the NCAA Tournament. Since taking the reins of the Samford soccer program in 2002, he has propelled the Bulldogs to national prominence in nine years at the team's helm. The winningest coach in Samford soccer history, Yelton has led his team to four regular-season conference titles, two NCAA Tournament appearances and a conference tournament championship.

In 2007, Yelton's team became the first squad in Samford history to receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs qualified for the Field of 64 for the second time in three seasons and nearly pulled off an upset of LSU in the



15-4-4 overall mark and a 7-2 conference record. He was named the OVC Coach of the Year, his second such honor in three years.

Despite Yelton's numerous accolades, he readily admits that Samford wouldn't be nearly as successful without the hard work and dedication of assistant coaches Jay Yelton and Andy Stoots.

"I would match my staff up against anybody else's in the nation," said Yelton. "Jay is in the discussion as one of the best goalkeeping coaches in the country. Adding Andy to our staff has been fantastic. He understands it and brings another dimension to our program.

and is ranked No. 2 on the SoCon's Active Career Leader list in goals-against average (0.68). She is also ranked No. 3 on the SoCon's Active Career Leader list in shutouts (26) and enters the season ranked No. 4 on the SoCon's Active Career Leader list in wins (30).

"We have three players at the position this season," Yelton said. "First off, we have Alyssa Whitehead, who in my mind is one of the best goalkeepers in the country. She'll play in the league if she wants to; she's that good."

Following Whitehead on the goalkeeping depth chart is redshirt freshman **Julia Wright** (Ridgeland, Miss.). She greatly improved during the 2010 campaign and is poised to vie for Whitehead's starting position following her graduation in 2012.

"Julia Wright has made tremendous strides since last year," Yelton said. "She's worked really hard to increase her standing and has done very well.

"We also have **Melissa Montgomery**, a true freshman, coming in. She can challenge for the starting job in the future."

Montgomery comes to Samford from

Georgetown, Texas, as the lone goalkeeper of the 2011 signing class. She was team captain of her club team, the Georgetown Force FC, for two seasons. She led Georgetown High School to its first playoff appearance in 10 years and was a three-year letterwinner at GHS. Montgomery finished her senior season with a 15-7-4 record, including 12 shutout performances.

"Historically, our goalkeepers have always done extremely well," said Yelton. "There have been very few years that we haven't had a player become an All-Conference goalkeeper. Several years, we've actually led the nation in multiple goalkeeping categories, so it's always been a major strength for us."

DEFENDERS

In 2010, Samford's defense finished the season ranked No. 19 in the nation in shutout percentage. The Bulldogs allowed only 18 goals in 22 matches played. They

finished the campaign ranked first in the SoCon in shutouts (12) and second in the conference in goals allowed (18).

Returning from last season's dominant defensive group this year will be juniors **Adrienne Mancino** (Lancaster, Pa.) and **Sabbath McKiernan-Allen** (Indianapolis, Ind.). Mancino started all 22 matches in 2010 and logged 1,970 minutes of playing time, which was tied for first place on the team. She also played in 14 consecutive matches without leaving the field for 1,300 straight minutes of game action.

McKiernan-Allen started the first eight matches before suffering a season-ending injury in practice prior to Samford's SoCon opener against Elon (Sept. 24). She logged 711 minutes of playing time before her injury and barely missed being able to receive a medical redshirt season. Prior to her injury, she played in 711 of the team's 740 total minutes of game action.

Michelle Moll



Katie Proud



"This will be an interesting spot for us this year," said Yelton. "We will have a lot of positions up for grabs. Adrienne Mancino and Sabbath McKiernan-Allen have both been starters in the past, and we look for them to continue that this season."

Sophomore **Mary Grabowsky** (Duncanville, Ala.) finds herself in a great position to be able to break into the starting lineup this season, while true freshmen **Katie Danehy** (Memphis, Tenn.) and **Lindsey Hansen** (Zionsville, Ind.) will both be looked upon to add significant playing time and to strengthen the depth at the position.

Grabowsky earned playing time in nine matches for the Bulldogs as a true freshman and logged 130 minutes of game action. She rattled off a shot on goal in Samford's 7-0 SoCon victory at The Citadel Oct. 3.

"Mary Grabowsky had a great spring season," said Yelton, "but then it's going to fall to the freshmen. They will help bolster the position. Both Lindsey Hansen and Katie Danehy are talented players who have outstanding futures, but they have never competed at this level. They

might get thrown to the fire rather quickly, but we always seem to get our defense sorted out by the time conference play rolls around, and we don't generally give up a lot of goals."

Danehy starred at Saint Mary's Episcopal High School, where she was a four-time member of the All-State team and was invited to the ODP Region Camp in 2007-09. In 2010, Danehy was one of only three high school students to play against the U17 Korean national team. While competing for the Birmingham United Club Team, she was named a team captain and helped lead her squad to a pair of Alabama State championships in 2009 and 2010.

Hansen was the 2010 recipient of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Senior Excellence Award. She earned All-State honors in soccer in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and she was also named her high school's Offensive Player of the Year in 2009. Hansen was a member of the Olympic Developmental Program squad from 2006 to 2009 and earned the 2010 Leadership Award.

MIDFIELDERS

Samford's midfield this season boasts three returning starters, sophomores **Shanika Thomas** (Ontario, Canada), **Michelle Moll** (Evansville, Ind.) and **Trine Taule** (Frekhaug, Norway). All three players exploded into the starting lineup as true freshman last season and played key roles in Samford's second-place finish in the SoCon.

Thomas logged 1,731 minutes of game action, which was the fourth highest on the team. She also finished the season with two goals and an assist for a total of 5 points. As an attacking midfielder, Thomas had 16 shot attempts, seven on goal, for a .438 shots-on-goal percentage.

Moll was named to the All-Tournament Team of the 2010 SoCon Tournament as she helped the Bulldogs advance to the championship match of the eight-team competition. She tallied the game-winning goal during the 81st minute of play to lift Samford to a key 1-0 SoCon victory against Western Carolina (Oct. 17).

Taule returns this season as the team's most flexible player. With her rare combination of size and quickness, she possesses the talent to star at either the midfield or forward positions.

Last season, Taule played primarily in the midfield and was named to the SoCon's All-Freshman Team. She also earned SoCon All-Tournament honors for her outstanding performances in matches against Davidson (Oct. 31), The Citadel (Nov. 5) and UNC-Greensboro (Nov. 7). Taule finished the season ranked fifth in the SoCon in goals (9) and sixth in the conference in points (21). She earned playing time in all 22 matches for the Bulldogs and started in 18 contests as a true freshman, logging 1,407 minutes of game action.

"The great thing about Trine Taule is that she can play in the midfield and she can play up top," Yelton said. "We'll see how it sorts out. She's a talented player and has a great understanding of the game. She's extremely intelligent, especially with soccer. Trine would rather play as a forward, and that's where we would slot her in, but you just never know until you get all of the pieces of the puzzle and put them together."

Samford's 2011 midfield also includes talented returning letterwinners **Lindsay Matern** (Lakeland, Fla.) and **Shannon Weathington** (Duluth, Ga.). Matern, who will be a senior this

season, remained injury-free throughout the 2010 season and was able to compete at full speed for the first time in her collegiate career. She earned playing time in 18 of 22 matches and logged 403 minutes of game action. Matern also scored a goal and added an assist for a total of 3 points.

Weathington is a junior this season and is expected to have a breakout campaign in 2011.

"We have some great players in our midfield," said Yelton. "Getting Lindsey Matern back from her injuries has been great for us. She had an outstanding spring season. It was almost like we were getting a brand-new player in that regard. She understands the game very well."

"We also have Shanika Thomas and Michelle Moll, who are both great competitors and great players. They both had outstanding freshman campaigns, and Trine Taule can play in the midfield as well if we need her."

Also joining Samford's midfielders this season are true freshmen **Joy Grove** (Midlothian, Va.) and **Allison Bond** (Atlanta, Ga.). Yelton has high expectations for both of the young players and feels that they each possess the talent to contribute on the field this season.

FORWARDS

Samford's front line will be highlighted this season by 2010 first-team All-SoCon performer **Sarah Wilkinson** (Euless, Texas). Last year, the speedy competitor broke onto the national scene and earned playing time in 21 of 22 matches, starting in 16 contests.

Wilkinson enters the 2011 campaign ranked second on the SoCon's Active Career Leaders list in game-winning goals (9). As team captain, she helped guide Samford's squad to a 13-6-3 overall record and the championship match of the SoCon Tournament. Wilkinson concluded the season tied for second place in the conference's statistical rankings in game-winning goals (4).

"Sarah Wilkinson is a true competitor," said Yelton. "We love her energy."

Possibly joining Wilkinson in the starting lineup this year are returning letterwinners **Kaley Blanton** (Mandeville, La.) and **Katie Proud** (Knoxville, Tenn.), as well as redshirt freshman **Brittany Hoffman** (Knoxville, Tenn.). Last season, Blanton

Alyssa Whitehead



was named the SoCon Player of the Week Sept. 7 after she scored a pair of goals and added an assist in Samford's wins against Southern Miss, 4-0, and UAB, 1-0. Due to a rash of injuries on the team, she was switched from defender to forward and immediately made her mark on Samford's offense as she scored a goal and added an assist against Southern Miss (Sept. 3).

"Kaley Blanton had a great fall and scored some really good goals for us in the spring," said Yelton.

Blanton was one of Samford's highest touted incoming freshmen in 2010, but she suffered a season-ending injury early in the year. Prior to her injury, she logged a season-high 56 minutes of playing time against Mercer. Earlier in the match, she scored a goal on her lone shot attempt of the season. She also received significant playing time in road matches against Alabama (Aug. 20) and Memphis (Aug. 22).

Proud joined the Bulldogs as a true freshman in 2010 and earned playing time in 20 of 22 matches. She logged 803 minutes of game action and

finished the season tied for third place on the team in both goals scored (4) and points (10). She scored the game-winning goal against Georgia Southern (Oct. 24) as the Bulldogs earned a 3-0 SoCon victory. She also tallied the game-winning goal during the 39th minute of play in a key 2-0 victory against Kennesaw State (Sept. 10).

"Katie Proud is always going to be a handful because of her pace, and we'll get Brittany Hoffman back from her injury. I think that she would have been a SoCon All-Freshman performer last season if she had not gotten hurt."

Samford's lone true freshman at the forward position this season is **Amanda Abbott** (Marietta, Ga.). Abbott finished her prep career as a league-leading scorer at Lassiter High School. During her first two seasons at LHS, she compiled 30 goals and finished each year as the team's second-leading scorer. While competing for the NASA 11 Elite, Abbott led the team in scoring and piloted her squad to the championship title of the 2009 Georgia State Cup. She was a varsity starter as a freshman and helped lead her team to a 12-4-1 record.

"Amanda Abbott has a great nose for the goal," Yelton said. "That group might take a little bit of time to gel, just because we lost so many forwards from last season, but it's going to be a very good group."

SCHEDULE

Samford's 2011 slate is highlighted by home matches against in-state opponents Auburn and Alabama, as well as a cross-town duel versus budding-rival UAB. Additionally, the Bulldogs square off against Southeastern Conference opponents Tennessee, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt, and will host nationally ranked Memphis. The Bulldogs are also scheduled to travel to Georgia for a key regional matchup against Kennesaw State.

"This is going to be a strongly demanding schedule with many quality opponents," said Yelton. "We have a lot of great home contests for people to come out and see, especially with us hosting Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn and Memphis in Birmingham. Those are all traditionally strong teams, and our goal for our nonconference schedule is to get us ready for conference play."

Samford begins its 2011 slate with a pair of exhibition contests against SEC

foes Tennessee and Mississippi State. On Aug. 12, the Bulldogs play their first match in the new, multimillion-dollar Samford Track and Soccer Stadium against Tennessee. Three days later, Samford plays at Mississippi State in its final exhibition match of the preseason.

The Bulldogs open their regular-season schedule with home matches against Belmont (Aug. 19) and Alabama (Aug. 21). Last year, Samford opened its 2010 campaign at Alabama and dropped a hard-fought 2-1 decision against the Crimson Tide.

On Aug. 26, the Bulldogs continue their rivalry with cross-town foe UAB in a contest at West Campus Field. Last season, Samford earned a 1-0 victory in the series held at Bulldog Field. Two days after their matchup at UAB, the Bulldogs square off against another top-flight Conference USA squad as Memphis comes to the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium Aug. 28.

Following a key regional matchup at Kennesaw State (Sept. 2), Samford returned home to host its biggest contest of the nonconference schedule—a Sept. 9 home duel against Auburn. Last season, the Bulldogs dropped a hard-fought 2-0 decision on the road to the Tigers.

Samford embarks on its most difficult road trip of the 2011 season Sept. 17 as the Bulldogs begin travel for a three-match stretch at Vanderbilt, Elon and UNC–Greensboro. Last year, Elon and UNC–Greensboro handed Samford its only two losses in Southern Conference play.

Throughout the heart of the SoCon schedule, the Bulldogs will host College of Charleston (Sept. 30), The Citadel (Oct. 2) and Wofford (Oct. 6) in consecutive matches before hitting the road for another three-game road trip versus Furman (Oct. 9), Appalachian State (Oct. 14) and Western Carolina (Oct. 16). Samford closes out its 2011 regular-season schedule with home matches against Davidson (Oct. 21), Georgia Southern (Oct. 23) and Chattanooga (Oct. 26).

The semifinal rounds of the 2011 SoCon Tournament will be held in Greensboro, N.C., at the UNC–Greensboro Soccer Stadium (3,540) Nov. 4–6. The opening round of the eight-team tournament will be held at the home facility of the higher-seeded teams. The winner of the event will earn an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.



The Bulldogs huddle prior to a match in 2010.