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Contact: Kaho Akau, Media Relations Assistant
 503-305-8756 • kakau@gnacsports.com

Simon Fraser Unanimous Favorite In Men’s Soccer Preseason Poll

PORTLAND, Ore. – Fresh off a third consecutive conference title and its seventh championship in the past nine years, Simon Fraser enters the season as the unanimous favorite to defend its title in the 2019 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Preseason Men’s Soccer Coaches Poll.

Simon Fraser received all seven first-place votes for a total of 49 points. The Clan also enters its 2019 campaign ranked No. 13 in the 2019 United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division II Men’s Preseason Poll.

2019 GNAC Preseason Men’s Soccer Coaches Poll

Team (1st Place Votes)	2018 Record (Finish)	Pts.
1. Simon Fraser (7)	17-2-0 (11-1-0, 1st)	49
2. Western Washington	11-6-1 (7-4-1, 2nd)	38
3. Saint Martin’s	9-9-0 (7-5-0, 3rd)	32
4. Seattle Pacific	8-11-0 (4-8-0, 6th)	29
5. Montana State Billings	7-10-2 (4-7-1, 5th)	23
6. Concordia	7-9-1 (5-7-0, 4th)	16
7. Northwest Nazarene	3-14-1 (3-9-0, 7th)	9

Votes awarded on 7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

Coming off a second-place finish in 2018, Western Washington enters 2019 picked second in the preseason poll with 38 points. The Vikings are followed by Saint Martin’s (32 pts.), which finished in third place last season. Rounding out the poll is Seattle Pacific (29 pts.), Montana State Billings (23 pts.), Concordia (16 pts.) and Northwest Nazarene (9 pts.).

Simon Fraser wrapped up its 2018 campaign with an overall record of 17-2-0 and a near-perfect conference record of 11-1-0. Its only blemish during the regular season was a 2-1 loss against Western Washington that snapped a 16-game win streak. The Clan would later fall to Cal Poly Pomona in the second round of the NCAA West Regionals.

The Clan will have to defend its title without the help of Mamadi Camara, the 2018 GNAC Player of the Year, and Michael North, the 2018 GNAC Defensive Player of the Year. Head coach **Clint Schneider** does return 13 letterwinners and seven starters from last year’s team that outscored its GNAC opponents 61-8.

Returning for the Clan are brothers **Matteo** and **Marcello Polisi**. Matteo was the leading scorer for the Clan in 2018 with 18 goals to go along with 11 assists and a team-leading 47 points. He received First Team All-GNAC, D2CCA West Region Player of the Year, and D2CCA First Team All-America honors. Marcello also received First Team All-GNAC and First Team All-West Region honors as a midfielder.

Also returning for the Clan is junior goalkeeper **Luciano Trasolini**. The 2018 GNAC Newcomer of the Year recorded 16 wins, 34 saves, 11 shutouts and a 0.44 GAA as a sophomore. **Connor Glennon** will also return, fresh off a First Team D2CCA All-America season, to help anchor the Clan offense.

Western Washington received a majority of the second-place votes in the preseason poll. The Vikings finished in fourth place in 2017 but made the climb to second place in 2018.

The Vikings return 18 letterwinners and eight starters to a team that went 11-6-1 (7-4-1 GNAC) in 2018. The Vikings finished second in the GNAC in goals, goals against average and shutouts. Returning for the Vikings is First Team All-GNAC midfielder **Georg Cholewa**, who scored eight goals and distributed seven assists as a sophomore.

Saint Martin's shook things up in the GNAC last year. After finishing in last place in 2017, head coach **Rob Walker** led the Saints to a 9-9-0 (7-5-0 GNAC) record. The Saints' third-place finish marks the best finish for the program since its third-place finish in 2011.

The Saints will rely heavily on senior forward **Brandon Madsen** and senior midfielder **Sebastian Navarro**. Madsen, a First Team All-GNAC and Second Team D2CCA All-West Region selection, will look to top his 13-goal junior season. Navarro, a Second Team All-GNAC selection, scored six goals to add to nine assists in 2018.

Seattle Pacific finished in sixth place last season but found itself picked fourth in the preseason poll. Entering his 12th season as head coach, **Mark Collings** returns five All-GNAC players in 2019.

Returning are forwards **Titus Grant** and **Alden Massey**. Grant scored 13 goals last season on his way to First Team All-GNAC honors. Massey, a Second Team All-GNAC selection, also contributed six goals of his own in 2018.

With Alex Balog leaving Montana State Billings for Villanova, the Yellowjackets welcome **Thomas Chameraud** into his first season as head coach after four seasons as an assistant.

After losing six starters from last year's team, including three Second Team All-GNAC selections, the Yellowjackets will look to rebuild their lineup. The Yellowjackets showed bright spots in 2018, finishing in the top three in the GNAC in goals, assists, shots and points.

Returning for the Yellowjackets are **Luca Battistotti** and **Samuele Folla**. The two defenders finished 2018 with Honorable Mention All-GNAC honors.

Concordia, picked sixth, finished fourth in the conference standings last year. It was the Cavaliers' best finish since 2015.

Dan Birkey enters his 32nd season as head coach of the Cavaliers. Returning on the field is **Nicholas Denley**, an Honorable Mention All-GNAC selection who scored five goals in 2018, including a game-winning goal in the Cavaliers' 1-0 over Seattle Pacific.

Rounding out the 2019 GNAC Preseason Men's Soccer Coaches Poll is Northwest Nazarene. The Nighthawks finished in last place in 2018, just a year after finishing in third place in 2017.

Entering his first year as head coach for the Nighthawks is **Adam Pearce**. Returning for the Nighthawks is junior forward **Jake Levine**, a Second Team All-GNAC selection who scored five goals and tallied a total of 15 points in 2018.

All seven GNAC teams will begin their regular seasons on Sept. 5 against non-conference opponents. Conference play is scheduled to begin on Oct. 3.

Team Capsules On Following Pages



2019 GNAC Men's Soccer Teams At A Glance

CONCORDIA

Head Coach: Dan Birkey (Warner Pacific, 1979, 386-206-34, 32nd Season)

Assistant Coaches: Andrew Duvall, Jeremiah Doyle

2018 Overall Record: 7-9-1

Conference: 5-7-0, 15 Pts. (4th)

Letterwinners Returning: 15

Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3

Returning Starters: Nicholas Denley (M, So., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 5 Goals, 4 Assists, 14 Points, 1 Game-Winning Goal), Santeri Ihamuotila (D, Jr., All-GNAC Second Team, 17 Matches/16 Starts), Axel Lonnfors (D, Jr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 14 Starts), Kieran McMinn (F, Sr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 5 Goals, 1 Assist, 11 Points, 3 Game-Winning Goals).

Other Key Returners: Christian Thyron (F, Sr., 2 Goals, 1 Assist), Brendan Laun (D/M, Jr., 1 Goal, 1 Assist, 1 Game-Winning Goal), Paul Seydel (F, Jr., 2 Goals, 1 Assist, 1 Game-Winning Goal).

Key Losses: Grant Alcorn (GK, All-GNAC Second Team).

Key Freshmen: Mathias Ericksen (GK, 6-4, Vejle, Denmark – Campus Vejle), Matthew Jordan (F, 5-11, Seattle, Wash. – Nathan Hale), Carter Marcotte (M, 5-8, Delta, B.C. – Seaquam), Ayden Lawes (F, 6-2, Mililani, Hawaii – Mililani).

Key Transfers: Austin Stafford (M, Jr., 5-10, Federal Way, Wash. – Pierce CC), Andrew Clayton (GK, Jr., 6-2, Temecula, Calif. – Mira Costa JC), Daniel Hagopian (D, Jr., 6-1, Koln, Germany – Snow College), Oscar Rosas (F, Jr., 5-11, Dayton, Ore. – Chemeketa CC), Chris Manning (M, So., 5-10, Albuquerque, N.M. – Colorado Mesa Univ.).

MONTANA STATE BILLINGS

Head Coach: Thomas Chameraud (Montana State Univ. Billings, 2012, 1st Season)

Assistant Coaches: Tom Lohmann, Tulio Melo

2018 Overall Record: 7-10-2

Conference: 4-7-1, 13 Pts. (5th)

Letterwinners Returning: 13

Starters Returning/Lost: 6/6

Returning Starters: Luca Battistotti (D, Jr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 1 Goal, 3 Assists, 5 Points), Samuele Folla (D, Sr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 1 Goal, 1 Assist), Pascal Pisarek (D, So., 3 Goals, 6 Points), Shantik Bedrosian (F, Jr., 2 Assists), Liam Knox (D, Sr.), Bryan Maxwell (D, So.).

Other Key Returners: Andres Perez (F, So., 4 Goals, 1 Assist, 9 Points), Brady Tesch (M, So., 1 Goal, 3 Assists), Austin Shafer (F, So., 2 Goals), Ignacio Crespo (M, Sr., 2 Goals).

Key Losses: Adam Hepburn (M), Dana Kowachek (F, All-GNAC Second Team), Guillaume Kremer (M, All-GNAC Second Team), Ricardo Palomino (F, All-GNAC Second Team), Ludvig Rhodin (GK, All-GNAC Honorable Mention).

Key Freshmen: Yaniss Aka (D, 6-0, Nevers, France – Lycee Paul Constant), Petur Hauksson (F, 6-0, Alftanes, Iceland – Fjolbrautaskolinn i Garoabae), Jessy Martin (GK, 5-11, Chateauroux, France – Blaise Pascal).

Key Transfers: Paul Cuevas (M, Jr., 5-11, Yakima, Wash. – Skagit Valley CC), Theo Lamare (F, Jr., 5-9, Lorient, France – Le Likes), Andrew Rivera (D, Jr., 6-0, Inglewood, Calif. – Yavapai JC).

NORTHWEST NAZARENE

Head Coach: Adam Pearce (Concordia (Ore.), 2000, 1st Season)

Assistant Coaches: Dane Manley

2018 Overall Record: 3-14-1

Conference: 3-9-0, 9 Pts. (7th)

Letterwinners Returning: 16

Starters Returning/Lost: 6/5

Returning Starters: Jake Levine (F, Jr., All-GNAC Second Team, 5 Goals, 5 Assists, 15 Points), Daniel Brendel (M, Jr., 1,239 Minutes), Dominic Abdel-Ahad (M, So., 1 Goal), Skyler Munroe (F, Jr., 2 Goals, 2 Assists), Danny Cuevas (D, Jr., 2 Assists, 1,348 Minutes), Brandon Parsio (D, So., 1 Assist, 1,065 Minutes).

Other Key Returners: Eddie Banuelos (D, Sr.), Ty Iannone (D, So.), Alex Nadermann (GK, So., 4 Starts, 18 Saves).

Key Losses: Alex Mitrovic (D, All-GNAC Second Team), Jose Labanino-Ramos (D), Logan Wood (F), Rafael Junqueira (F, All-GNAC Honorable Mention).

Key Freshmen: Max Hartley (M, 5-9, Spanga, Sweden – Blackebergs Gymnasium), Sawyer Price (GK, 6-3, Olympia, Wash. – Olympia), Aidan McGinty (M, 6-1, Vancouver, Wash. – Union), Matt Capone (M, 5-10, Mercer Island, Wash. – Mercer Island).

Key Transfers: Lorenzo Valentini (D, So., 6-5, Saarbrücken, Germany – Saarland Univ.), Garrison Lee (D, Jr., 5-11, Kapolei, Hawaii – Whatcom CC), Braeden Anderson (D, So., 5-10, Redondo Beach, Calif. – Cal St.-Dominguez Hills).

2019 GNAC MEN'S SOCCER TEAMS AT A GLANCE

SAINT MARTIN'S

Head Coach: Rob Walker (Saint Martin's, 1987, 115-264-20, 13th Season)

2018 Overall Record: 9-9-0 **Conference:** 7-5-0, 21 Pts. (3rd)

Letterwinners Returning: 12 **Starters Returning/Lost:** 8/3

Returning Starters: Brandon Madsen (F, Sr., All-GNAC First Team, D2CCA-All West Region Second Team, 13 Goals, 4 Assists, 30 Points), Sebastian Navarro (M, Sr., All-GNAC Second Team, 6 Goals, 9 Assists, 21 Points), Cayman John (D, Sr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 6 Goals, 4 Assists, 16 Points), Jason Fairhurst (M, Jr., 3 Goals, 1 Assist), Stephen Murray Jr. (D, Jr., 3 Assists), Oscar Aguilar (F, So., 2 Assists), Jose Marquez (D, Jr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention), Collin LaBranche (D, Sr.), Nick Phillips (M, JR.).

Other Key Returners: Dylan Shaw (GK, Jr., 10 Saves), Brandon Kam (D, Jr., 9 GP), Will Eldred (F, Sr., 1 Goal).

Key Losses: Alexis Lopez (F, All-GNAC Honorable Mention), Griffin Small (GK), Steven Chu (D).

Key Freshmen: Austin Platt (M, 6-0, Fife, Wash. – Fife), Ethan Anastasi (F, 5-10, Lake Stevens, Wash. – Lake Stevens).

SEATTLE PACIFIC

Head Coach: Mark Collings (Seattle Pacific, 1999, 119-57-30, 12th Season)

Assistant Coaches: Erik Skipper, James Ward, Andy Machin

2018 Overall Record: 8-11-0 **Conference:** 4-8-0, 12 Pts. (6th)

Letterwinners Returning: 14 **Starters Returning/Lost:** 8/3

Returning Starters: Titus Grant (F, Jr., All-GNAC First Team, 13 Goals, 5 Assists), Alden Massey (F, So., All-GNAC Second Team, 6 Goals, 3 Assists, 15 Points), Travis Swallow (D, Jr., 2 Goals, 1 Assist), Alex Mejia (D, Jr., 2 Goals, 1 Assist), Ed Weise (D, So., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 1 Goal, 1 Assist), Nik Reiersen (D, Jr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 1 Goal, 1 Assist), Jose Benavides (M, Jr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention), Lars Hellenen (GK, So., 1 Shutout).

Other Key Returners: Jake Ferry (F, So., 3 Goals, 1 Assist, 7 Points), Mario Vukic (F, So., 1 Goal, 3 Assists), Trevor Lee (M, Sr., 2 Assists), Aidan Chaparro (M, So., 1 Assist).

Key Losses: Reid Baez (M), Luke Postma (D), Jacob Bohl (D), Jason Schmidt (M).

Key Freshmen: Mussa Amissi (D, 5-11, Portland, Ore. – David Douglas), Tyler Collings (D, 5-8, Seattle, Wash. – Ballard), Jordan Marwood (GK, 6-2, Langley, B.C. – Walnut Grove), Cole Rogers (M, 6-1, Portland, Ore. – Sunset).

Key Transfers: Eduardo Calvo-Salinas (M, So., 5-7, Madrid, Spain – Univ. of Portland), Musa Ali (F, So., 5-10, Seattle, Wash. – Cal St.-Dominguez Hills), Cam Welty (GK, Fr., 6-2, Issaquah, Wash. – Cal St.-Monterey Bay).

SIMON FRASER

Head Coach: Clint Schneider (Midwestern State (Texas), 2003, 52-9-11, 5th Season)

Assistant Coaches: Kevin Harmse, Tyler Baldock, Branden Shaw

2018 Overall Record: 17-2-0 **Conference:** 11-1-0, 33 Pts. (1st)

Letterwinners Returning: 13 **Starters Returning/Lost:** 7/4

Returning Starters: Matteo Polisi (F, Jr., D2CCA West Region Player of the Year, D2CCA First Team, United Soccer Coaches First Team, All-West Region First Team, All-GNAC First Team, West Region Player of the Year, 18 Goals, 11 Assists, 47 Points), Connor Glennon (F, Jr., D2CCA First Team, All-West Region First Team, All-GNAC First Team, 16 Goals, 6 Assists, 38 Points), Marcello Polisi (M, Jr., All-West Region First Team, All-GNAC First Team, 3 Goals, 4 Assists), Eric de Graaf (D, Sr., All-GNAC First Team, 2 Goals, 2 Assists), Quinn Dawson (D, Sr., 2 Goals, 2 Assists), Rahid Rahiem (M, Jr., 4 Goals, 3 Assists), Luciano Trasolini (GK, Jr., United Soccer Coaches Third Team, USC All-West First Team, GNAC Newcomer of the Year, All-GNAC First Team, 34 Saves, 16 Wins, 11 Shutouts).

Other Key Returners: Kyle Jones (M, Sr., Injured in 2018, 2017 All-GNAC Second Team), William Raphael (F, Sr.).

Key Losses: Mamadi Camara (M, United Soccer Coaches First Team, D2CCA Third Team, All-West Region First Team, USC West Region First Team, GNAC Player of the Year, All-GNAC First Team), Michael North (D, D2CCA First Team, United Soccer Coaches Second Team, All-West Region First Team, USC West Region First Team, GNAC Defensive Player of the Year, All-GNAC First Team), Joost Mangert (D, GNAC Freshman of the Year, All-GNAC First Team, D2CCA All-West Region Second Team).

Key Freshmen: Jorick Schilken (D, 6-0, Roermond, The Netherlands – College Den Hulster), Jonathan Kisse (F, 5-11, Toronto, Ont. – Ecole Secondaire Catholique Saint-Freere-Andre), Christian Hanche-Olsen (M, 5-10, Bekkestua, Norway – Norges Toppidrettsgymnas I Baerum).

Key Transfers: Peder Syversten (D, R-Fr., 6-2, Tonsberg, Norway – Wang Toppidrett Tonsberg).

2019 GNAC MEN'S SOCCER TEAMS AT A GLANCE

WESTERN WASHINGTON

Head Coach: Greg Brisbon (Seattle Pacific, 1998, 52-39-17, 7th Season)

Assistant Coach: Kyle Segebart

2018 Overall Record: 11-6-1

Conference: 7-4-1, 22 Pts. (2nd)

Letterwinners Returning: 18

Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3

Returning Starters: Georg Cholewa (M, Jr., All-GNAC First Team, All-West Region Second Team, 8 Goals, 7 Assists, 23 Points), Gus Diehl (M, So., All-GNAC Honorable Mention), Drew Farnsworth (M, Jr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 2 Goals, 5 Assists), Jeremiah Lee (D, Sr., All-GNAC Second Team), Nick Morgan (D, Sr.), Christian Rotter (F, Sr., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 5 Goals, 3 Assists), Ryan Schaefer (F, Sr., 5 Goals), Brandon Wolter (GK, So., All-GNAC Honorable Mention, 7 Shutouts).

Other Key Returners: Taylor Allen (F, Sr., 3 Goals), Teagan Eldridge (F, So., 1 Goal), Iakov Shmelev (D, So.), Dakota Stamnes (M, So.).

Key Losses: Drew Barker (F), Louis Genty (D), Stephen Jinneman (D, All-GNAC First Team, All-West Region Third Team), Garrett Strawn (D).

Key Freshmen: Theo Steinmetz (D, 6-0, Shoreline, Wash. – Shorewood).

Key Transfers: Camron Miller (D, Jr., 6-3, Snohomish, Wash. – Whatcom CC), Alex Whiting (F, Jr., 6-0, University Place, Wash. – Tacoma CC).