2018-19 Highlights

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Football

Men’s Soccer

Women’s Track and Field
NCAA ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AT LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

At Lenoir-Rhyne University, student-athletes participate in 22 varsity sports, 11 for men and 11 for women. The Bears’ athletic department has grown leaps and bounds in the past decade. Since the 2004-05 academic year, Lenoir-Rhyne has added 10 sports: women’s tennis and men’s and women’s outdoor track and field (2005), men’s and women’s indoor track and field (2007), women’s swimming and men’s tennis (2008), men’s swimming and men’s and women’s lacrosse (2011). In addition, the student-athlete population has grown by an impressive 46 percent in the past 17 years.

Lenoir-Rhyne University offers a wide range of sports. On the women’s side, there’s basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field and volleyball. The men’s sports consist of baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, softball, swimming, tennis and indoor and outdoor track and field. SEE BACK PAGE FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE BREAKDOWN.

Lenoir-Rhyne has been a member of the South Atlantic Conference since its inception as a football-only league in 1975. The SAC is entering its 31st year as an all-sports league and has been a member of NCAA Division II since the 1993-94 school year.

2018-19 ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

RONNIE CLIFTON
Football

TALON LACLAIR
Softball

JOSH ADKINS
Track & Field/XC

RUBEN MORILLAS
Soccer

2018-19 NATIONAL COACHES OF THE YEAR

DREW CRONIC
Football

GREG PARADINE
Men’s Lacrosse
The Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team completed the biggest turnaround in the nation, transforming from a 3-win team in 2017 to a 12-win program in 2018. The Bears went a perfect 7-0 in SAC play to clinch the eighth SAC Championship in team history. The Bears also went undefeated in Moretz Stadium. For the fourth time in program history, the Bears advanced to the NCAA Playoffs and earned victories over Florida Tech and Wingate. The 12-win campaign marks the second highest win total in program history and the second furthest they advanced in the playoffs in team history. Head Coach Drew Cronic was named AFCA National Coach of the Year and Jason Poe and Kyle Dugger earned All-American accolades. Poe also earned the Jacobs Trophy given to the top offensive lineman in the SAC and QB Grayson Willingham broke the record for most touchdown passes in a season.
The Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Team won its first South Atlantic Conference Championship in program history. The program had several NCAA National Championship Meet participants including the men’s 4x100 relay team. Additionally, PJ Lotharp qualified for Outdoor Nationals in the 200-meter dash. Lotharp was named Southeast Regional Indoor Track Athlete of the Year, while also garnering his second straight All-American honor in the Indoor 60-meter dash.

**MEN’S SOCCER**

The Lenoir-Rhyne Men’s Soccer Team won the first South Atlantic Conference Regular Season Championship in program history in 2018. Bears Head Coach Jack Winter was named the SAC Coach of the Year and six different players were named to the All-Conference team. Marcos Enriquez was awarded the SAC Defensive Player of the Year and Carles Montoliu Lobo earned the SAC Freshman of the Year. Additionally, Ruben Morillas (Pamplona, Spain) was named a Google Cloud First Team Academic All-American. LR went 11-6 overall and 7-3 in league play.
SPIRIT TEAM

The Lenoir-Rhyne Spirit Team took home a National Championship in 2019 with its performance in the Division II Gameday division of the National Cheerleading Association Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla. After finishing in second place a year ago, the Bears and Head Coach Christy Creson brought home the top prize in April. The Bears scored a perfect 10-out-of-10 in Game Day Material, Skill Incorporation and Effective Use of Game Day Props while scoring at least nine-out-of-10 in the six of the seven remaining judgment categories.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The Bears returned to the national stage in 2018-19, earning their first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2015-16. The Bears handed Queens a pair of losses while the Royals were ranked inside the top-10 in the nation and LR beat Lincoln Memorial for the first time since 2010. Under Head Coach Everick Sullivan, the Bears won their first South Atlantic Conference Tournament game since 2009 and advanced to the SAC Tournament Championship game for the first time since 2005. LR earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament which marked the program’s sixth trip to the Big Dance.
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Jason Poe
Football
Second Team All-American
Jacobs Blocking Trophy
First Team All-Conference
First Team All-Region

Marcos Enriquez
Soccer
Defensive Player of the Year
First Team All-Conference
First Team All-State
First Team All-Region

Domtila Kiplagat
Cross Country
SAC Runner of the Year
NCAA Qualifier
First Team All-Conference

PJ Lotharp
Track and Field
Indoor T&F Athlete of the Meet
Regional Athlete of the Year
First Team All-American (60-m dash)
Second Team All-American (200-m dash)

Autumn Drayton
Track and Field
Outdoor Field Athlete of the Meet
Finished first in the discus and shot put and third in javelin at SAC Championships
## LENOIR-RHYNE ATHLETICS

### STUDENT-ATHLETE BREAKDOWN

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<thead>
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<th>MEN’S PROGRAMS</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>WOMEN’S PROGRAMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Baseball</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cross Country/T&amp;F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country/T&amp;F</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
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**TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN NCAA SPORTS:**

580 – 393 (M), 187 (W)

**TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT-ATHLETES INCLUDING SPIRIT TEAM:**

610

### 2018-19 LENOIR-RHYNE ATHLETICS

**FINAL TALLY**

- 60 - All-South Atlantic Conference honorees
- 6- NCAA Division II Championship berths
- 3 – South Atlantic Championships
- 3 – South Atlantic Conference Coaches of the Year
- 2 – National Coaches of the Year
- 1 – National Championship (Cheerleading)
- 2nd – SAC Echols Excellence Awards Standings
- 15 – Sport Programs Improved in the SAC Standings
- 3 – SAC Freshmen of the Year
- 5 – SAC Players of the Year
- 4 – SAC Elite 20 Award Winners
- 1 – SAC Scholar Athlete of the Year
- 4 – Academic All-Americans
- 3 – NCAA All-Americans
- 3.30 – Cumulative GPA
- 18 – Athletic Teams with GPA of 3.0 or Higher
COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics reached new heights when giving back this past school year as all 22 sports combined for a total of 6,029 hours of community service, which ranked in the top 20 of all NCAA Division II Athletic Departments. The Bears embraced the local community with one hundred percent of its student-athletes participating in community service during the year. The chances were aplenty as there were 289 opportunities through 92 different organizations. Some of the highlights of this past year include the Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team contributing the most hours (960) and the softball team topping all others in average hours per student-athlete (14). On top of the excellence in community service, the SAAC led all conference schools by raising more than $6,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. That figure ranked No. 17 in all of Division II and was the second straight year LR raised over $6k.