

SPRING HILL COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER 2021

NCAA Division II
MAKE SHC YOURS



MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW 2021



Every team wipes the slate clean with the beginning of a new season, but it has never been truer than for the 2021 edition of the Spring Hill College men's soccer team. Not only are the Badgers coming off a year in which they were forced to opt out of 2020 and the 2021 Spring Championship season due to the Novel Coronavirus Global Pandemic, but also in April they also welcomed new head coach Chris Leonardi.

Leonardi is committed to the idea that what happened in the past is in the past. "When I arrived on campus, the first thing I told our players was that however things were done in the past for good or for bad is not what I want to hear about," he says. "We are here to forge a new path and take this team to new heights by doing things our way."

This particular team lends itself to Leonardi's philosophy as it brings seven first-year players, a red shirt freshman, and five sophomores to the table out of a roster of 23 players. "We have had great leadership from our seniors," Leonardi says. "Luckily, we have several returners including nine lettermen. Our seniors have been through a lot the past three years: winning a conference championship as freshmen, slipping back to 6th place in the standings as sophomores, and then dealing with the pandemic as juniors. You could say they have literally seen the good, the bad, and the ugly ... and in that order!"

Focusing on his returning players, Leonardi says, "Everybody has been responding well to what [Assistant Coach] Adam Looney and I have asked. They have accepted the new ways of operating and new things we have installed. Luca Carrese, Alessandro Erdelyi, all of our upperclassmen in fact, have been open to all we are asking of them. You can tell that one way or another, they want to leave on the highest note possible."

When asked about his thoughts on the high-level of play that marks the Gulf South Conference (GSC), Leonardi is not shy about saying that it will be a challenge for his players this year. "Looking at the preseason predictions, I think they are fair. I am familiar with several of the coaches in the conference, but there have been a few coaching changes and every team brings in new recruits, so it is hard to say how things will go. There are no weak teams this year, but there is also no runaway favorite. Our goal is to make the conference tournament and once there, keep

going. But for right now, we are more worried about our first games of the year. 'One game at a time' is a tired old saying, but for us it is true."

Leonardi promises Badger fans one thing. "There's a French saying, 'Mouiller le maillot,' meaning 'Get your hands dirty,'" he says. "We are going to work every minute of every game. We want Library Field to be a special place. 90-minutes-plus of effort every time. We want people to not want to come here to our home. With that, we need our fans to be loud and supportive, too!"

With that thought in mind, Leonardi stresses that his team will feature a defensive flavor. "We are first going to defend properly," he states flatly. "We will certainly worry about creating scoring opportunities on the other end, but first we will defend properly. We won't be moving the ball or taking shots just to move the ball and take shots. That doesn't help us."

Of course, every good defense relies on a good director being in goal and the Badgers have four quality weapons from which to choose in that department. Returning senior Erdelyi, junior college transfer Fabian Keiblinger, and Augusto Jannone bring their experience while freshman Gino Gandzior is also competing for a starting role.

The defense is arguably the deepest lineup for SHC. Senior Robin Stoffels is an experienced veteran with sophomores Diogo Proenca and Albert Vila Truco as well as freshmen Serni Batalla, Ian Tobar-Dechant, Brogan Horniman, and Jonas Scherf all battling for spots.

Seniors midfielders Juan Pablo Herrera and Sacha Ducreux bring experience to the SHC transition game along with veterans Joao Amaral, Matthew Moreno, and Diogo Sousa. Freshman Philip Haugerud continues to push the returners.

Returning forwards Mikkel Aasboe, Rafa Passanha, and Carrese are working hard while sophomores Albert Vila Truco and Alexandre Carneiro together with freshman Paolo Hortian push the veterans every day.

Overall, Leonardi and his team are anxious to get the season started. "The first week at practice has been great," he says. "The boys are looking forward to coming out, putting last year's frustrations behind them, putting on the jerseys, and going back to work."

COACHING STAFF

Chris Leonardi - Head Coach

Leonardi joined the Badgers in April 2021 after seven successful seasons as the men's head coach at Martin Methodist College (MMC) in Pulaski, Tenn.

Leonardi held a 66-50-10 record at MMC and directed the RedHawks to the 2019 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament where they downed previously undefeated University of Houston-Victoria in the first round prior to losing to the eventual national champion, Central Methodist University in the following round.

In 2013, Leonardi was the assistant coach at MMC where he helped lead the RedHawks to a record-breaking 19-2-2 season that culminated in the program's first-ever NAIA men's national championship.

Prior to joining MMC, Leonardi was the boys and girls soccer coach at the University School of Jackson (Tenn.). With the girls, Leonardi amassed a 227-57-16 overall record and won two state titles in 2010 and 2011. In 13 years, the girls made three championship appearances, five Final Four appearances, eight state tournament appearances, and won nine region titles with five district titles. Leonardi was voted National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Regional Coach of the Year (private/parochial, high school girls) in 2011. With the boys, Leonardi tallied a 204-78-17 overall record. In 12 years, the boys made two Final Four appearances, four state tournament appearances, and won six region titles with eight district titles.

Leonardi is part of US Soccer Region III staff, a member of the Tennessee Olympic Development Program (TN ODP) staff, and a coaching instructor for the Tennessee State Soccer Association. He currently holds a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) "A" License, the NSCAA Premier Diploma, and a NCSAA Goalkeeper Level 1 License.

A 1998 graduate of Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn., Leonardi earned a B.S. in Physical Education and Health. During his playing career with the Eagles, Lambuth captured one Tennessee Collegiate Athletic Conference (TCAC) championship and two Mid-South Conference (MSC) championships.

Hailing from Nice, France, Leonardi moved to the United States at the age of 16 to attend high school in Jackson. He is the 14th head coach in SHC men's soccer history and has one daughter named Lola.



Adam Looney - Assistant Coach

Adam Looney joined the Badgers staff in July 2021 after serving as the Boys Soccer Head Coach at Daphne (Ala.) High School (DHS) where he successfully turned a 3-15 record in 2018 into a 7-5-1 record in 2019-20 while also dealing with the stresses of the Covid-19 Pandemic that cut the season short. In the 2020-21, he navigated Daphne through the transition to a 7A classification with an impressive 15-3-1 record, the 7A Section 2 Championship, and a Baldwin County Cup Championship. That season the Trojans made an AHSAA Final Four appearance for only the third time in school history.

Before his tenure at DHS, Looney served as the Boys Head Coach at Satsuma (Ala.) High School from 2016-2019 where he established a successful team culture and rebuilding the men's side into a competitive program. He was a Youth Coach with Mobile United FC in 2015-16 as a U14 Boys Coach and as a U18 Boys Assistant Coach. Since 2016, Looney has been a Youth Coach with the Gulf Coast Rangers FC also in the roles of U14 Boys Coach and U18 Boys Coach. A native of Mobile, Looney played for Theodore High School in 2004 and Baker High School from 2005-2008.



GENERAL FACTS

Institution: Spring Hill College
City/State/Zip: Mobile, AL 36608
Founded: 1830
Enrollment: 1,500
Nickname: Badgers
School Colors: Purple, white
Home Facility: Library Field
Capacity: 500
Affiliation: NCAA Division II
Conference: Gulf South
Interim President: E. Joseph Lee II, Ph.D.
Athletic Director: Joe Niland
Alma Mater: SUNY Buffalo (1981)
Deputy AD for Compliance: Chad LeBlanc
Assistant Athletic Director: Craig Kennedy
Senior Woman Administrator: Emily Marcouiller
Faculty Athletic Representative: Steven Almquist, Ph.D.
Athletic Department Phone: 251-380-3485
Assistant AD for Athletic Communications: Jim Stennett
SID Phone: 251-380-4468
SID Email: jstennett@shc.edu
Athletic Web Site: www.shcbadgers.com
Twitter: SHCBADGERS
Facebook: SHCBADGERS
Instagram: SHCBADGERS

COACHING STAFF:

Head Coach: Chris Leonardi
Alma Mater (Year): Lambuth (1998)
Record at school: 1st year
Career record: 66-55-10 (7 years)
Office Phone: 251-380-4475
Coach's email: cleonardi@shc.edu
Best time/day to reach: 10 a.m.
Assistant Coach: Adam Looney
Athletic Trainers: Laura Beth Wright, ATC;
Ian Rogol, ATC; Cheyne Bush, ATC
Trainer's Phone: 251-380-3493

TEAM INFORMATION:

Overall Record Last Year: Opted out of 2020-21 season
Conference/Finish: Opted out of 2020-21 season
Final 2020-21 NCAA Ranking: n/a
Players Return/Lost/New: 16/9/7 (from 2020)
Starters Return/Lost: 6/5 (from 2019)
Returning Lettermen: 9

MEN'S 2021 ROSTER

Player	Class	Exp.	Hometown/Previous School(s)		
1	Fabian Keiblinger	GK	6-0	R-Jr.	Sitzenberg-Reidling, Austria / Kansas City (Kan.) CC
2	Carlos Fernandes	FWD	5-9	R-Fr.	Carcavelos, Lisbon, Portugal / Escola Basica e Secundaria de Carcavelos
3	Ian Tobar-Dechant	DEF	6-1	Fr.	Santiago de Compostela, Spain / I.E.S. Eduardo Pondal
4	Albert Vila Truco	DEF	6-1	R-So.	Alpicat, Lleida, Catalonia, Spain / INS Manuel de Montsuar
5	Robin Stoffels	DEF	6-0	R-Jr.	Rossbach, Germany / Upper Iowa University
6	Joao Amaral	MF	5-6	R-So.	Lisbon, Portugal / Escola Secundária São João do Estoril
7	Diogo Sousa	MF	5-9	R-Jr.	Estoril, Portugal / Liceu de São João do Estoril
8	Sacha Ducreux	MF	5-7	R-Jr.	Saint-Etienne, France / Lycée de la Versoie, Thonon les Bains
9	Luca Carrese	FWD	6-3	R-Jr.	Cascais, Portugal / Liceu de Sao Joao
10	Philip Haugerud	MF	6-1	Fr.	Jessheim, Norway / Jessheim VGS
11	Matthew Moreno	MF	5-11	Gr.	Northplainfield, N.J. / St. Benedict's Prep
12	Alexandre Carneiro	MF	5-10	R-So.	Lisbon, Portugal / Escola Secundaria de Leal Da Camara
13	Alessandro Erdelyi	GK	6-5	R-Jr.	Turin, Italy / Collegio Sacra Famiglia
15	Rafa Passanha	FWD	5-8	R-Jr.	Lisbon, Portugal / Externato Crisfal Mount Mercy
16	Jonas Scherf	DEF	5-7	Fr.	Jena, Thuringia, Germany / Sportschool Jena
17	Paolo Hortian	FWD	5-10	Fr.	Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany / Gesamtschule Rodenkirchen
18	Juan Pablo Herrera	MF	5-9	R-Jr.	Acarigua, Venezuela / Gateway Legacy Christian Academy
19	Mikkel Aasboe	FWD	6-1	R-So.	Trondheim, Norway / Strinda VGS
20	Semi Batalla	DEF	6-2	Fr.	Artesa de Segre, Lleida, Spain / INS Els Planells
22	Diogo Proenca	DEF	6-0	R-So.	Vila Franca de Xira, Portugal / Alves Redol Instituto Politecnico de Santarem
23	Brogan Homiman	DEF	5-9	Fr.	Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England / Ridgewood
31	Gino Gandzior	GK	6-2	Fr.	Detmold, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany / Christian-Dietrich-Grabbe
32	Augusto Jannone	GK	5-7	R-Jr.	Sevilla, Spain / Central Christian College of Kansas

2019 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Site	Result
Sun., Sept. 8	Florida Southern College	Library Field	W, 4-2
Fri., Sept. 13	at Palm Beach Atlantic University	West Palm Beach, Fla.	L, 1-2 (OT)
Sun., Sept. 15	at Rollins College	Winter Park, Fla.	W, 2-1
Sat., Sept. 21	University of West Florida	Library Field	L, 1-2
Fri., Sept. 27	*at Union University	Jackson, Tenn.	L, 0-1 (OT)
Sun., Sept. 29	*at Christian Brothers University	Memphis, Tenn.	L, 1-4
Fri., Oct. 4	*Auburn University Montgomery (AUM)	Library Field	L, 1-4
Sun., Oct. 6	*University of Montevallo	Library Field	L, 0-2
Thurs., Oct. 10	*Shorter University	Library Field	W, 3-1
Sun., Oct. 13	*at Lee University	Cleveland, Tenn.	W, 2-1
Fri., Oct. 18	*at University of West Alabama	Livingston, Ala.	W, 2-1
Sun., Oct. 20	*at University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH)	Huntsville, Ala.	W, 2-1
Fri., Nov. 1	*at University of West Florida	Pensacola, Fla.	L, 1-4
Thurs., Nov. 7	*Mississippi College	Library Field	Rain Out
Sat., Nov. 9	*Delta State University	Library Field	W, 2-0
Nov. 12	!at University of West Florida	Pensacola, Fla.	L, 1-3

* GSC match

! 2019 GSC Championship Tournament Quarterfinals

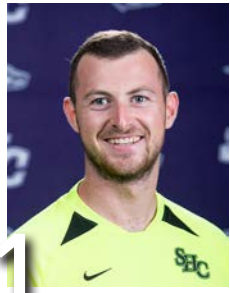
2019 GSC FINAL STANDINGS

Team	GSC	Overall
Group A		
Miss. College	4-0	5-1
Union	3-1	6-1
Christian Brothers	2-2	3-3-1
West Alabama	1-3	4-4-1
Delta State	0-4	0-6-1
Group B		
AUM	3-0-1	3-0-2
UAH	1-1-2	1-1-3
Lee	1-0-2	1-2-2
Shorter	1-2-1	1-2-2
Montevallo	0-3	1-4

*Spring Hill 0-0 0-0

*West Florida 0-0 0-0

*Opted out of Spring 2021 Schedule



1

Fabian Keiblinger
R-Junior



2

Carlos Fernandes
R-Freshman



3

Ian Tobar-Dechant
Freshman



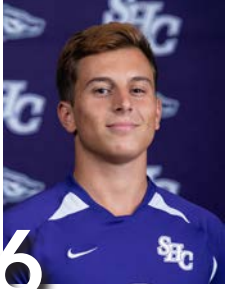
4

Albert Vila Truco
R-Sophomore



5

Robin Stoffels
R-Junior



6

Joao Amaral
R-Sophomore



7

Diogo Sousa
R-Junior



8

Sacha Ducreux
R-Junior



9

Luca Carrese
R-Junior



10

Philip Haugerud
Freshman



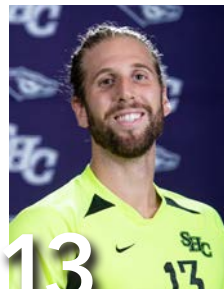
11

Matthew Moreno
Grad.



12

Alexandre Carneiro
R-Sophomore



13

Alessandro Erdely
R-Junior



15

Rafa Passanha
R-Junior



16

Jonas Scherf
Freshman



17

Paolo Hortian
Freshman



18

Juan Pablo Herrera
R-Junior



19

Mikkel Aasboe
R-Sophomore



20

Serni Batalla
Freshman



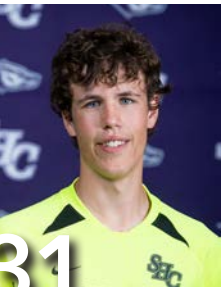
22

Diogo Proenca
R-Sophomore



23

Brogan Horniman
Freshman



31

Gino Gandzior
Freshman



32

Augusto Jannone
R-Junior

2021 ROOSTER



2021 SCHEDULE



Date	Event	Site	Time
Sept. 3	Tusculum University	Library Field	4 p.m.
Sept. 6	Faulkner University	Library Field	1 p.m.
Sept. 10	at Eckerd College	St. Petersburg, Fla.	7 p.m. (east)
Sept. 12	at Rollins College	Winter Park, Fla.	2:30 p.m. (east)
Sept. 17	*at University of West Alabama	Livingston, Ala.	5 p.m.
Sept. 19	*University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH)	Library Field	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	Thomas University	Library Field	2 p.m.
Oct. 1	*Christian Brothers University	Library Field	1 p.m.
Oct. 3	*Union University	Library Field	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 8	*at University of Montevallo	Montevallo, Ala.	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	*at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM)	Montgomery, Ala.	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	*Shorter University	Library Field	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	*Lee University	Library Field	1 p.m.
Oct. 23	Florida Southern College	Library Field	1 p.m.
Oct. 29	*at Mississippi College	Clinton, Miss.	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	*at Delta State University	Cleveland, Miss.	3 p.m.
Nov. 4	*University of West Florida	Library Field	1 p.m.
Nov. 7	2021 GSC Championship Tournament	TBD	TBD

* GSC match



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