



Furman Men's Soccer Game Release

NCAA Play-In Match

November 13, 1999, 6 p.m.

Furman Paladins (18-1-1) vs. Radford Highlanders (5-10-4)

Eugene Stone Stadium, Greenville, S.C.



THE GAME

Furman enters the NCAA Play-In match having won 11 straight matches. The Paladins are ranked fourth in the nation, their highest-ever national ranking.

The Paladins will face Radford in the play-in match. Radford is 5-10-4 and is fresh off winning the Big South Championship. The Highlanders were the sixth seed in the Big South Tournament and defeated top seeded Liberty 4-3 in penalty kicks in the championship match.

The winner of the play-in match will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

HEAD COACH

Furman: Doug Allison (South Carolina '89)
75-20-7 (.770), 5th Year at Furman
75-20-7 (.770), 5th Year Overall
Radford: Spencer Smith (Tennessee '87)
59-44-14 (.564), 5th Year at Radford
92-95-20 (.493), 11th Year Overall

1999 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Furman (18-1-1, 8-0 SoCon)
Sept. 3 Furman 2, #18 S. Florida 1 (@ UAB)
Sept. 5 Furman 1, @ UAB 0
Sept. 8 @ #17 Furman 4, Belmont 1
Sept. 12 #17 Furman 3, @ Georgia State 1
Sept. 19 @ #11 Furman 2, Elon 0
Sept. 23 #15 Furman 2, @ Charleston 1 (OT)
Sept. 26 @ #15 Furman 1, South Carolina 1
Oct. 1 #14 Furman 3, Akron 1 (@ Clemson)
Oct. 3 #2 Santa Clara 1, #14 Furman 0
Oct. 6 @ #13 Furman 7, Wofford 1
Oct. 8 @ #13 Furman 4, The Citadel 0
Oct. 12 Furman 1, @ #11 Appalachian St. 0
Oct. 17 #11 Furman 3, @ UNCG 1
Oct. 22 #8 Furman 1, @ Davidson 0
Oct. 24 @ #8 Furman 3, VMI 0
Oct. 27 @ #6 Furman 3, Clemson 2
Oct. 31 @ #6 Furman 3, Georgia So. 1
Nov. 5 #4 Furman 3, The Citadel 0 (SoCon)
Nov. 6 #4 Furman 1, @ Charleston 0
Nov. 7 #4 Furman 3, UNCG 2

THE LAST MATCH

Furman 3, UNCG 2

Furman won the 1999 Southern Conference Tournament Championship with a 3-2 victory over UNCG. The Paladins claimed their eighth Southern Conference Tournament title with the win. When Furman scored early in the second half to extend its lead to 3-0, it appeared the Paladins were ready to coast to victory. UNCG rallied and pulled to within 3-2 with 24 minutes to play, but the Paladin defense held off the Spartans late. John Barry Nusum scored three goals, while Graham Seagraves, Jack Handy, John Bradford, and Carl Junot were named to the all-tournament team. Seagraves earned MVP honors for his defensive play all weekend and for holding Southern Conference

leading scorer Alejandro Moreno in check in the championship match. Seagraves also earned Soccer America Team-of-the-Week honors for his performance.

FU - Matt Goldsmith (unassisted) 9:53
FU - John Barry Nusum (Alvarez) 31:06
FU - John Barry Nusum (Rodriguez, Bethell) 52:31
UNCG - own goal 56:15
UNCG - Svanfir Gislason (unassisted) 67:25

RADFORD

Radford enters the match with a 5-10-4 record after pulling off two upsets in the Big South Tournament. The sixth-seeded Highlanders upset third-seeded Charleston Southern 3-1 in the first round, then knocked off surprise seventh-seeded UNC Asheville 1-0 in overtime in the semifinals to set up a date with top seeded Liberty in the final. After 150 minutes of scoreless soccer, Radford and Liberty were still even at 0-0. In penalty kicks, Radford came through as the Highlanders won 4-3.

NOTING THE PALADINS

✓ **SOCON CHAMPS...**Furman concluded the Southern Conference regular season with a perfect 8-0 league record and swept three matches at the Southern Conference Tournament last weekend. In claiming the regular season title, the Paladins won their 14th SoCon championship in the last 17 years. The tournament championship was the eighth since 1988. Furman has posted an incredible 92-8 Southern Conference record since 1983. Since 1986, the Paladins have won either the regular season or the tournament every season.

✓ **PLAY-IN BLUES...**Furman will hope to reverse its NCAA Play-in game record this year. The Paladins are 0-3 lifetime in play-in games. Furman lost to UNCG 2-1 in 1994 and 7-1 in 1996, while it lost to Charleston Southern 2-1 in 1997.

✓ **THIRD TIME'S A CHARM...**The Paladins will be looking to make their third NCAA Tournament appearance this season. In 1991, Furman defeated Wake Forest in Winston-Salem 1-0 and lost to N.C. State 4-1 in the second round. The 1993 club lost to South Carolina 1-0 in a first round match. Furman head coach Doug Allison was on the Gamecock sideline as an assistant coach for that match.

✓ **HOME SWEET HOME...**While it appears Furman should have little trouble receiving an NCAA tournament bid, regardless of the outcome of the play-in match, the Paladins have extra motivation. A win by Furman puts the Paladins, ranked 4th nationally by Soccer America, in great shape to receive one of eight seeds. Earning a

1999 SOCON STANDINGS

Team	SoCon	Overall
Furman	8-0	18-1-1
UNC Greensboro	7-1	13-7-1
Davidson	5-3	10-11
Appalachian State	5-3	8-10
College of Charleston	4-4	6-11-1
Georgia Southern	3-5	5-12-1
Wofford	2-6	4-13
The Citadel	1-6-1	4-13-1
VMI	0-7-1	6-10-1

Friday, November 2

@ Blackbaud Stadium, Charleston, S.C.
Furman 3, The Citadel 0
UNCG 5, Wofford 0
Davidson 3, Georgia Southern 2 (OT)
College of Charleston 3, Appalachian State 2

Saturday, November 6

@ Blackbaud Stadium, Charleston, S.C.
Furman 1, College of Charleston 0
UNCG 3, Davidson 0

Sunday, November 7

@ Blackbaud Stadium, Charleston, S.C.
Furman 3, UNCG 2

1999 FURMAN PALADINS REGULAR SEASON HONORS

Southern Conference Player-of-the-Week

Week 1: Scott Blount
Week 4: John Barry Nusum
Week 7: Stephen Rodriguez
Week 9: Andy Foy

Soccer America Team-of-the-Week

September 9: Scott Blount
October 20: Stephen Rodriguez
November 10: Graham Seagraves

UAB/Nike Classic All Tournament Team
Scott Blount John Bradford
John Barry Nusum Matt Goldsmith

Clemson/Nike All Tournament Team
Andy Foy Graham Seagraves
Seth Marks

1999 FURMAN PALADINS POST SEASON HONORS

Southern Conference Player-of-the-Year
Daniel Alvarez

Southern Conference Coach-of-the-Year
Doug Allison

All-Southern Conference First Team
John Barry Nusum Daniel Alvarez
Matt Goldsmith Seth Marks
Scott Blount

All-Southern Conference Second Team
Stephen Rodriguez Graham Seagraves

Southern Conference All-Tournament Team
Graham Seagraves (MVP) John Bradford
Jack Handy Carl Junot

seed would guarantee home games in the first two rounds and would mean the Paladins would not have to play another seeded team until the quarterfinals. Since Doug Allison arrived at Furman, the Paladins are 43-5-2 at home for a .880 winning percentage. Furman is 7-0-1 this season at Stone Stadium.

✓ **HIGHEST RANKING EVER...**Furman's current No. 4 national ranking is the highest ever for the Furman soccer program. Prior to this season, the highest national ranking achieved by the Furman soccer team was a tenth place showing in a 1996 *Soccer America* poll. Furman eclipsed that mark on October 18 of this season and has risen each week since. The Paladins are currently 6th in the NSCAA poll. Furman soccer is no stranger to the top 25, though, as the Paladins have been ranked in the top 25 every season since 1996 and at some point during seven years this decade. Furman finished the season ranked 16th in Soccer America in 1996 and was ranked for seven weeks that season. The Paladins were ranked during three weeks of the 1997 season and nine weeks last year.

✓ **LONGEST WINNING STREAK...**Furman has now won 11 matches in a row, which is the longest winning streak in school history. The Paladins have not lost since October 3 when then second-ranked Santa Clara downed the Paladins 1-0 at Clemson. The previous longest winning streak of six matches occurred in 1986, 1996, and earlier this season. Furman's unbeaten streak is currently the fifth longest in the nation.

✓ **COMFORTABLE SITUATIONS** ...Remarkably, Furman has trailed in only 37 minutes this season. The only times the Paladins have been behind are the final 20 minutes of the Santa Clara match and a 17-minute span against Clemson, when Furman was down 1-0. Furman has played in 1,869 minutes, meaning that the Paladins have either been tied with or led their opponents 98% of the time this year.

✓ **ALLISON AMONG THE NATION'S BEST...**Furman head coach Doug Allison is currently in his fifth season at Furman and has posted a 75-20-7 overall record. Allison's winning percentage of .770 is second-best among active Division I head coaches. He trails only Indiana's Jerry Yeagley.

*Top Winning Percentage
Active Head Coaches (11/8/99)*

1. Jerry Yeagley, Indiana 471-83-37 .828
2. Doug Allison, Furman 75-20-7 .770
3. Schellas Hyndman, SMU 332-89-33 .768
4. Dave Masur, St. John's 197-56-27 .752
5. Michael Parker, UNCG 367-114-20 .752

✓ **A SUCCESS AT ALL LEVELS...**Furman is not the first place that Doug Allison has found success in the collegiate ranks. Allison, a native of Bath, England, came to the United States in 1984 to play soccer at the University of South Carolina. At USC, he led the Gamecocks to a combined 67-14-6 record and is still South Carolina's all-time leading scorer with 63 goals and 32 assists. Prior to taking the Furman job, Allison served as an assistant coach at both North Carolina and South Carolina. In seven seasons as an assistant, Allison's teams compiled a 95-

38-12 record. Allison's combined college soccer record as a player, assistant coach, and head coach is 237-72-25 for a .747 winning percentage.

✓ **EXPERIENCE COUNTS...**When Furman seniors Seth Marks and Stephen Rodriguez played in the SoCon semifinal match against College of Charleston, they set the Furman school record for matches played with 80. Marks and Rodriguez have now each played in 81 matches. Furman has a total of nine seniors on its 1999 roster. Other experienced Paladins include Graham Seagraves with 80 career matches, Daniel Alvarez (77), and Andy Foy (74). Over the last four years, this senior class holds a 64-15-4 record, the best four-year record in Furman soccer history.

✓ **THE KING OF ASSISTS...**Furman senior Daniel Alvarez has taken down the Furman assist records this season. Midway through the season, Alvarez broke Furman's 12-year old career record with his assist in Furman's 1-0 win over Appalachian State. He surpassed Jeff Jones, who played on successful Furman teams from 1984-87. Alvarez now has 38 career assists. Alvarez' 13 assists this season sets the Furman single season record. Many of Alvarez' assists this season have come in unusual fashion -- on 35-yard throw-ins that are more dangerous than a typical corner kick. Alvarez currently ranks eighth in the nation in assists per match.

✓ **THE BERMUDA CONNECTION...**The Paladins attack has once again been led by Bermuda's John Barry Nusum. Nusum, a sophomore from Devonshire, Bermuda, leads Furman with 14 goals and seven assists on the season. Last year, Nusum scored 10 goals and recorded 11 assists to lead the Paladins. Allison actually went on a recruiting trip to Bermuda, an infrequent stop for traditional soccer powers, and found the young, but powerful Nusum. Nusum, a husky 6-1, 185 lb forward, is only 18 years-old. Students graduate high school a year earlier in Bermuda than in the United States, thus Nusum is the normal age of a college freshman.

✓ **WAITING HIS TURN...**The Furman coaching staff knew they had something special in goalkeeper Scott Blount when he arrived at Furman in 1997. Blount filled in for an injured Ronnie Pascale and performed admirably early in his freshman season. When Pascale returned, Blount as forced to wait his turn as the All-South keeper finished his career in strong fashion. This season, the job belongs solely to Blount and he has performed remarkably. Selected to the Soccer America Team-of-the-Week during the first week of the season, Blount currently has the 11th-best goals against average in the nation. Blount has allowed only 12 goals this season and has a goals against average of 0.62. Blount earned a redshirt last season, thus he currently holds sophomore status and should be a fixture in Furman's goal for the next two seasons.

✓ **QUICK STARTS...**The Paladins soccer team has been a quick starter this season as they have outscored opponents 29-3 in the first half. The Paladins have never trailed at halftime and have led at the half in 16 of 20 matches this season.

Furman has given new definition to the term quick start in two matches this season as the Paladins scored 16 seconds into the match against Wofford and 35 seconds into the match against The Citadel.

✓ **GREAT CROWDS...**Furman's average home attendance this season is 1,370. In the 1998 attendance rankings, that would place 12th in the nation. Furman has benefited from two huge in-state rivalry battles this season as the Clemson match drew 2,852 fans and the South Carolina match drew 2,345 spectators.

✓ **TEAM D...**Furman ranks 11th in the nation in team defense with a 0.674 team goals against average. Furman's defense has allowed only 14 goals this season and allowed two goals in a match only twice. Leading the way are goalkeeper Scott Blount, sweeper Seth Marks, as well as Graham Seagraves, Jack Handy, John Bradford, and Matt Goldsmith.

✓ **NATIONAL STATS...**Furman's ranks 13th in the nation in scoring with a 2.50 goals per match average. The Paladins rank 11th in team defense with a 0.674 team goals against average and third in winning percentage. Scott Blount places 11th, while Daniel Alvarez both place eighth in the nation in their respective categories of goals against average and assists per match.

✓ **NATIONAL TEAM...**Furman has six players on its team with some sort of national team experience. Headlining that list is current U.S. Under-20 National Team member Matt Goldsmith. Goldsmith took off Furman's winter and spring terms last year to travel to Nigeria to compete in the FIFA World Youth Championships. In addition to Goldsmith, John Bradford and Stephen Rodriguez were members of the Under-17 team. Scott Blount was invited to tryout for the U.S. Under-20 team. John Barry Nusum is a member of the Bermuda Under-23 National Team and Paul Leese advanced to the final round of tryouts for the Great Britain World University Games Team last summer.

✓ **TAKING DOWN THE BIG BOYS...**The Furman women's soccer team is not the only giant-killers on the Furman campus. The men's soccer team defeated Clemson 3-2 in overtime and the football team destroyed North Carolina 28-3 during the same week that women's soccer defeated Iowa.

✓ **ELITE PROGRAMS...**The combined records of the Furman men's and women's soccer programs is 38-3-1, the second-best combined record in the nation. The combined 38 wins is the best in the country. The Furman women's team advanced to the NCAA Tournament and concluded their season 20-3. Santa Clara best winning record, with a combined 33-3-1 mark.

✓ **TRIPLE TITLE...**While the Furman men's and women's soccer teams have already claimed the Southern Conference regular season and tournament titles, the Furman football team is also having a breakthrough season. The Paladins are currently one of three SoCon teams with one loss as Furman is 5-1 in the conference and 7-2 overall. Furman can clinch a share of the SoCon title with wins in its last two matches.