HPU basketball tops Big South poll

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. — High Point University's men's and women's basketball teams topped the Big South Conference preseason basketball polls.

The Panthers — who have captured the last three regular-season and the last two tournament titles for both the men and the women — were the outright favorite on the men's side and tied with Radford on the women's side.

The men received 79 points and seven first-place votes, followed by Presbyterian with 69 points and the other two first-place votes.

Winthrop (57), Longwood (54), UNC Asheville (43), Radford (34), Charleston Southern (33), USC Upstate (21) and Gardner-Webb (15) rounded out the rest of the men's poll.

The women matched Radford — both receiving 75 points and four first-place votes.

Longwood (63), Gardner-Webb (43), UNC Asheville (41 and the final first-place vote), Winthrop (41), USC Upstate (36), Presbyterian (18) and Charleston Southern (13) completed the women's poll.

Graduate forward Cam'ron Fletcher — one of the key returners from last year's team that upset Wisconsin in the first round of the NCAA Tournament — was selected the men's preseason player of the year.

Jason Rivera Torres, a senior guard from Monmouth, and CJ Brown, a junior guard from South Florida, join Fletcher on the first team, while senior forward Isaac Garrett, from Oakland, was named to the second team.

Radford's Georgia Simonsen was named the women's preseason player of the year. High Point's Taylor Feldman, a graduate guard from Purdue, and Juliann Woodard, a junior forward from Michigan State, were selected to the second team.