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For Immediate Release: May 29, 2018
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A-State Men's Golf Ties School Record with Three All-SBC Selections

JONESBORO, Ark. (5/29/18) – The Arkansas State men's golf team tied a school record for the third consecutive year by placing three student-athletes on the 2018 All-Sun Belt Conference Team, announced Tuesday by the league office.

Earning first-team recognition for the Red Wolves, senior **Tanner Napier** made his third straight appearance on the list of the league's top players. Joining him on the all-conference team were sophomore **Zan Luka Stirn** and junior **Joel Wendin** as third-team picks. Stirn and Napier were both on the All-Sun Belt Conference Team last year as well.

The Red Wolves' three selections tied the most in the league along with Georgia Southern, Coastal Carolina, Georgia State and ULM. The five programs combined for 15 of the 18 players comprising the All-Sun Belt squad, made up of a first, second and third team. South Alabama, Texas-Arlington and Appalachian State each had one player receive the honor.

Led by third-year head coach Mike Hagen, the Red Wolves' nine combined all-conference selections since 2016 are the most in school history over a three-year span. The 2017, 2016 and 1995 teams also featured three players tabbed all-conference. Additionally, A-State's nine all-conference players ties Georgia State for the most in the league since 2016.

While Napier was also named All-Sun Belt in 2016 and 2017, he made his first appearance on the first team this year. Ranked as the No. 197 player in the nation by GolfStat.com, Napier tied for sixth place at the Sun Belt Conference Championships before being selected to play in the NCAA Regional in Norman, Okla.

The Paris, Texas, native went on to finish tied for 29th place, collecting the best finish ever by an A-State golfer competing as an individual at an NCAA Regional. Napier ended the season with a team-best 72.7 stroke average while picking up five top-10 finishes.

One year after being named the Sun Belt Conference's Freshman and Newcomer of the Year, Stirn put together another strong season in 2017-18 to land him on the all-conference team again. He is the 11th highest nationally-ranked (No. 417) player in the league and compiled a 57-17 record against conference opponents.

Stirn, who is from Kranj, Slovenia, averaged 73.8 strokes per round and ranked 22nd in the Sun Belt Conference in score vs. par (1.94). He picked up three top-10 finishes and placed among the top 25 players in five tournaments.

Wendin ranked 20th in the Sun Belt Conference this past season in score vs. par (1.91) and 19th in stroke average (73.7). He is the ninth highest nationally-ranked player (No. 396) in the conference by GolfStat.com.

The Gavle, Sweden, native recorded season-best 54-hole (211) and single-round scores (66) at the Bubba Barnett Intercollegiate, where he also posted his best finish of the year by taking fourth place among 74 players. Wendin posted three top-10 and five top-25 finishes in 2017-18.

2018 ALL-SUN BELT CONFERENCE MEN'S GOLF TEAM

First Team

Tanner Napier, Arkansas State

Morgan Deneen, Coastal Carolina

Steven Fisk, Georgia Southern

Jake Storey, Georgia Southern

Alex Herrmann, Georgia State

Yannick Schütz, South Alabama

Second Team

Tripp Summerlin, Appalachian State

Luis Ruiz, Coastal Carolina

Archer Price, Georgia Southern

Nick Budd, Georgia State

Max Catherine, ULM

Aaron Guanlao, UTA

Third Team

Zan Luka Stirn, Arkansas State

Joel Wendin, Arkansas State

Thadd Obecny II, Coastal Carolina

Severin Soller, Georgia State

Guillaume Fanonnel, ULM

Joao Girao, ULM

Men's Golfer of the Year

Steven Fisk, Georgia Southern

Newcomer of the Year

Morgan Deneen, Coastal Carolina

Freshman of the Year

Max Catherine, ULM

Coach of the Year

Jim Garren, Coastal Carolina