2017 COVENANT BASEBALL SEASON GUIDE

ABOUT COVENANT

Location: Lookout Mountain, Georgia
Enrollment: 1,104
Founded: 1955
Nickname: Scots
Colors: Royal Blue and White
Affiliation: NCAA Division III
Conference: USA South
President: Dr. J. Derek Halvorson
Director of Athletics: Tim Sceggel
SWA: Joanna Ehman
Website: www.athletics.covenant.edu
Twitter: @CovenantScots
Facebook: Covenant Athletics
Instagram: @CovenantScots

SPORTS INFORMATION

Director: Andrew Mindeman
Email: andrew.mindeman@covenant.edu
Office Phone, Fax: 706-419-1514, 706-419-1660
Mailing Address: 14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

COACH INFORMATION

Head Coach: Doug Simons
Alma Mater: Pepperdine ('88)
Career Record: 191-237 (10 years)
Record at Covenant: 191-237 (10 years)
Phone, Email: 706-419-1515, doug.simons@covenant.edu
Assistant: Paul Phillips (1st Year)
Email: paul.phillips@covenant.edu

TEAM INFORMATION

2016 Record: 23-17
2016 USA South Record: 9-8
2016 USAS Regular Season Finish: 6th
2016 USA South Tournament Finish: 0-2
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 27/10
Starters Returning (Position/Pitchers): 8/2

2017 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 3	Greensboro	2:00 PM
Feb. 4	Greensboro (DH)	12:00 PM
Feb. 10	Emory & Henry	2:00 PM
Feb. 11	Emory & Henry (DH)	12:00 PM
Feb. 15	at Oglethorpe	5:00 PM
Feb. 17	Berea	2:00 PM
Feb. 18	Berea (DH)	12:00 PM
Feb. 24	at LaGrange*	5:00 PM
Feb. 25	at LaGrange* (DH)	1:00 PM
Feb. 28	Sewanee	2:00 PM
Mar. 3	Maryville*	2:00 PM
Mar. 4	Maryville* (DH)	12:00 PM
Mar. 10	at N.C. Wesleyan* (DH)	12:00 PM
Mar. 11	at N.C. Wesleyan*	12:00 PM
Mar. 14	at Sewanee	3:00 PM
Mar. 17	at Emory	3:00 PM
Mar. 18	Emory (DH)	1:00 PM
Mar. 21	Oglethorpe	3:00 PM
Mar. 24	at William Peace* (DH)	3:00 PM
Mar. 25	at William Peace*	1:00 PM
Mar. 28	Berry	3:00 PM
Mar. 31	Huntingdon*	3:00 PM
Apr. 1	Huntingdon* (DH)	12:00 PM
Apr. 4	at Berry	4:00 PM
Apr. 7	at Piedmont*	7:00 PM
Apr. 8	at Piedmont* (DH)	2:00 PM
Apr. 12-15	at USA South Tournament	--
Apr. 18	at Carson-Newman	3:00 PM
Apr. 22	Methodist (DH)	12:00 PM

All times eastern | * indicates USA South game

PROGRAM HISTORY

Conf. Regular Season Championships: 1
Last: 2014 (USA South)
Total National Tournament Appearances: 2
Last: 2014 (NCAA)



2017 NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/High School
1	Donny Lewis	So.	OF	L/R	5'9"	160	Vinton, Va./William Byrd
2	Devin Cerrato	Jr.	OF	R/R	5'10"	180	Valrico, Fla./Newsome
3	Trenton Nobles	Jr.	OF	L/R	6'2"	175	Marianna, Fla./Marianna
4	Julien Amorelli	Sr.	INF	L/R	5'11"	160	Bayside, N.Y./LaGuardia
5	Grant Kierpa	So.	RHP	R/R	6'0"	165	Milton, Ga./Fellowship Christian
6	Matt Reitz	So.	RHP	R/R	6'0"	180	Jacksonville, Fla./Providence
7	Jay Epperson	Jr.	OF	L/L	5'11"	175	Jackson, Tenn./North Side
8	Matt Herrin	R-Jr.	RHP	R/R	5'10"	178	Rome, Ga./Armuchee
9	Christian Murray	Fr.	INF	R/R	6'1"	190	Mobile, Ala./Cottage Hill Christian Academy
10	Taylor Bloye	Sr.	INF/RHP	R/R	6'1"	180	Dallas, Ga./North Paulding
11	Luke Harvey	Sr.	OF	L/R	5'11"	175	Apex, N.C./Homeschool
12	Z Arima	Sr.	C	R/R	6'1"	180	Herriman, Utah/Herriman
13	Joel Johnson	Jr.	INF	R/R	6'1"	185	Alingsas, Sweden/Eastwood Christian (Ala.)
14	Kyle Phillips	Fr.	RHP	R/R	6'0"	160	Pelham, Ala./Pelham
15	Forrest Hunter	Sr.	C	R/R	5'9"	190	Bonita Springs, Fla./South Fort Myers
16	Alex Kerr	Sr.	C/RHP	R/R	6'3"	205	Lithia, Fla./Newsome
17	Drew Bradley	So.	LHP	R/L	6'0"	185	Lithia, Fla./Durant
18	Jaret Barr	Fr.	OF	L/R	6'1"	190	Atlanta, Ga./Lakeside
19	Ben Copeland	Jr.	RHP	R/R	6'2"	205	Maryville, Tenn./Maryville Christian
20	John Mitchell	R-So.	OF	L/R	6'1"	180	Macon, Ga./Stratford Academy
21	Jacob McClure	So.	1B	R/R	5'11"	195	Douglasville, Ga./Chapel Hill
22	Josiah Butcher	Fr.	RHP	R/R	6'2"	205	Loganville, Ga./Loganville
23	Richie Hennessey	So.	RHP	R/R	6'3"	190	Vero Beach, Fla./Homeschool
24	Tyler Moore	Fr.	INF	R/R	5'11"	170	Stone Mountain, Ga./Tucker
27	Ty Wilmore	So.	RHP	R/R	5'11"	185	Duluth, Ga./Peachtree Ridge
29	Noah Stevenson	Fr.	1B	R/R	6'4"	230	Atlanta, Ga./Kell
33	Jonah Carignan	So.	C	R/R	5'11"	195	Coral Springs, Fla./Calvary Christian Academy
34	Caleb Bloye	Jr.	1B	R/R	6'4"	205	Dallas, Ga./North Paulding
35	Jesse Vaughan	Fr.	INF	R/R	5'11"	190	Johns Creek, Ga./Fellowship Christian
36	John Sherrod	Fr.	LHP	R/L	6'1"	175	Mobile, Ala./Cottage HIll Christian Academy
37	Ross Skipper	Fr.	LHP	R/L	6'2"	185	Brentwood, Tenn./Christ Presbyterian Academy
38	Daniel Johnson	Jr.	INF	R/R	6'1"	180	Alingsas, Sweden/Eastwood Christian (Ala.)
42	Stephen Kegley	Sr.	INF/RHP	R/R	5'10"	160	Villa Rica, Ga./Villa Rica
43	Andrew Godsey	So.	OF	R/R	5'10"	170	Ringgold, Ga./Grace Baptist Academy
44	Zack Walch	Fr.	OF	L/L	5'10"	170	Norcross, Ga./Norcross
45	Sam Doherty	So.	RHP	R/R	5'10"	150	Maitland, Fla./The Master's Academy
46	Jackson Heuer	Fr.	RHP	R/R	5'11"	145	Flushing, N.Y./Benjamin N. Cardozo
47	Ben Walsh	Fr.	INF	R/R	6'1"	170	Stanfield, N.C./Homeschool
48	Lewis Saunders	Fr.	INF	R/R	6'0"	170	Gurley, Ala./Madison County
49	Joe Yacono	So.	C	R/R	5'9"	160	Webster, N.Y./Webster Thomas
52	Johnathon Kelley	So.	C	R/R	5'11"	175	Canton, Ga./Woodstock
54	Ken Alexander	Fr.	C	R/R	5'11"	185	Charlotte, N.C./Carmel Christian
55	Aaron Innes	Fr.	OF/2B	R/R	5'10"	175	Acworth, Ga./North Paulding
58	Zach Kyzer	Fr.	RHP	R/R	6'3"	190	Acworth, Ga./Mount Paran Christian

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Doug Simons (11th Year; Pepperdine '88)
Assistant Coaches: Paul Phillips (1st Year; Covenant '14), Nick Ascue (1st Year), Caleb Abney (1st Year), Scott Whitted (4th Year), KC Simons (2nd Year)

Season Preview: Scots set for 2017 season

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN -- With a vast majority of returning players from last season's 23-17 team, the 2017 edition of the Covenant baseball team looks to build on last year's success. Under 11th-year head coach Doug Simons, the Scots feature eight returning position starters to go along with a deep, but young, pitching staff.

"I'm pretty excited about the group that we have," said Simons, who is nine wins shy of 200 career coaching victories. "The leadership that we have on this team is one of the best we've had. The leadership from our seniors and juniors is as strong as ever."

LINEUP:

The lineup that collectively hit .296 last season features eight returning starters. Senior Luke Harvey led the USA South in batting average last season at .413 with 14 doubles and 28 RBIs, while stealing 26 bases, leads the offense into 2017.

Trenton Nobles came on strong a season ago in his first year of significant playing time. The junior hit .336 with 10 extra-base hits and 26 RBIs. Fellow outfielder Devin Cerrato returns after stealing 10 bases a year ago, to go along with a .989 fielding percentage while roaming center field. Junior first baseman Caleb Bloye led the team with 40 RBIs and hit three home runs, and senior Alex Kerr tied for the team-lead with four home runs to go with 33 RBIs.

"This group is very experienced and knows what to do," Simons said. "We don't have a superstar, but I look for each game someone new to step up. The guys are going to battle up there every game and every pitch."

The infield will feature a new left side as Joel Johnson looks to be the starting third baseman and Taylor Bloye at shortstop. Johnson started off last season strong before injuries hampered his efforts later in the year and Bloye hit .283 and made 17 starts. Julien Amorelli started 19 games at second base and looks to be the starting second baseman.

At catcher, the Scots are again loaded with depth. Kerr is one of three senior catchers for Covenant along with Forrest Hunter and Z Arima. Hunter hit .295 with a home run and seven RBIs last year, while Arima hit .392 with a homer and 14 runs batted in.

Covenant also has depth with its bench. Simons is looking for contributions from freshman Jaret Barr (Atlanta, Ga.) along with sophomore Donny Lewis and junior Jay Epperson in the outfield and in specialty roles during the year. Freshmen Christian Murray (Mobile, Ala.), Tyler Moore (Stone Mountain, Ga.) and Lewis Saunders (Gurley, Ala.) all provide options on the infield for Simons.

PITCHING:

For as experienced as the batting order will look, the pitching staff is almost the opposite. The rotation is talented, but most are freshmen or sophomores. "Consistency will be the key for this group," Simons said. "We have a lot of young arms, but we also have a lot of potential in those arms."

Headlining the starting staff will be sophomore right-hander Matt Reitz. Reitz made 11 starts in his rookie campaign and went 3-6 with one complete-game in 67 innings of work a year ago. "Matt is our top guy," Simons noted. "He is full of confidence and did a great job for us last year as a freshman."

Sophomore Drew Bradley and freshman Zach Kyzer (Acworth, Ga.) look to round out the weekend rotation. Bradley made a couple of spot starts a season ago and went 2-0 with a 4.68 ERA in 32.2 innings. "Drew had a very good fall season and he can eat up a lot of innings and get late into games for us," Simons said.

Simons is also excited about the potential of the 6-foot-3 right-hander Kyzer. "He's everything you want in a starter, he just doesn't have collegiate experience yet," Simons said of Kyzer. "He has the talent with a ton of upside." Sophomore Grant Kierpa started five games last season going 2-0 with a 3.49 ERA and will look to start mid-week games.

The back-end of the bullpen looks to be a mix of Matt Herrin, Taylor Bloye and Alex Kerr. Herrin appeared in four games a year ago, while Bloye had a 2.08 ERA in five appearances and Kerr collected two saves. Simons also has depth with his staff and expects freshmen Kyle Phillips (Pelham, Ala.), John Sherrod (Mobile, Ala.), and Ross Skipper (Brentwood, Tenn.) along with sophomore Ty Wilmore to see time on the mound.

OUTLOOK:

In his 11th year, Simons notes that this team has some of the best chemistry together that he's had in his time with the program. That team chemistry could be a key for the team's success during the year.

The Scots were picked to finish seventh in the USA South preseason coaches' poll and the league appears to be strong once again. "This is a really strong conference once again," Simons said. "There are no easy weekends and the guys will have to battle through those."

Covenant will be tested in the conference slate with 12 of its 18 league games on the road, including a trip to preseason favorite LaGrange on Feb. 24-25. The Scots will also play regional powers Emory and Berry in the non-conference portion.

"How we pitch is going to be a key, but even more so I think it comes down to this group's ability to play together so well and have the upperclassmen step up and lead," Simons said.

2016 STATS

Record: 23-17 Home: 16-5 Away: 7-8 Neutral: 0-4 USA South: 9-8

Date	Opponent		Score
2/6	at Greensboro	W	10-4
2/6	at Greensboro	W	9-4
2/12	EMORY & HENRY	W	6-3
2/12	EMORY & HENRY	W	6-5
2/13	EMORY & HENRY	W	5-0
2/16	at Oglethorpe	L	5-6
^2/19	vs Huntingdon	L	6-12
^2/19	at #7 Rhodes	L	3-7
^2/20	vs #5 Webster	L	8-13
*2/26	LAGRANGE	W	5-2
*2/27	LAGRANGE	L	0-7
*2/27	LAGRANGE	W	5-4
3/1	SEWANEE	W	7-5
*3/4	at Maryville College	L	1-15
*3/5	at Maryville College	L	1-4
*3/5	at Maryville College	L	1-5
3/7	HAMPDEN-SYDNEY	W	4-1
*3/11	N.C. WESLEYAN	W	10-3
*3/11	N.C. WESLEYAN	L	1-4
*3/12	N.C. WESLEYAN	L	4-7
3/15	BERRY	L	2-3
3/18	#4 EMORY	W	4-3
3/19	at #4 Emory University	L	4-7
3/19	at #4 Emory University	L	2-3
3/22	OAKLAND CITY	W	12-7
*3/25	WILLIAM PEACE	W	1-0
*3/25	WILLIAM PEACE	W	5-4
*3/26	WILLIAM PEACE	W	12-5
3/28	at Sewanee	W	17-8
*4/2	at Huntingdon	W	10-8
*4/2	at Huntingdon	L	4-13
4/5	OGLETHORPE	W	15-3
*4/7	PIEDMONT	W	5-2
*4/8	PIEDMONT	W	13-8
*4/9	PIEDMONT	L	7-14
&4/14	vs N.C. Wesleyan	L	1-3
&4/15	vs LaGrange	L	0-11
4/19	at Berry College	W	9-4
4/23	at Methodist	W	6-1
4/23	at Methodist	W	12-9

* USA South
^ Rhodes Classic (Memphis, Tenn.)
& USA South Tournament (Wilson, N.C.)

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi	bb	hbp	so	sb-att
11 Luke Harvey	.413	40-40	150	39	62	14	0	1	28	24	1	20	26-30
1 Trenton Nobles	.336	35-35	128	24	43	8	2	0	26	11	2	13	3-5
34 Caleb Bloye	.296	40-40	159	25	47	11	2	3	40	5	4	18	9-9
16 Alex Kerr	.270	39-39	137	21	37	4	0	4	33	12	5	20	2-3
9 Perry Rigby	.267	40-40	150	20	40	8	1	4	26	12	0	35	1-3
3 Devin Cerrato	.230	40-39	148	28	34	9	0	0	8	18	4	24	10-12
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12 Z Arima	.392	23-20	74	10	29	4	0	1	14	6	1	11	2-2
33 Jonah Carignan	.333	4-1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0-0
4 Julien Amorelli	.301	27-19	83	14	25	5	0	0	8	5	1	9	2-3
15 Forrest Hunter	.295	19-15	44	5	13	3	0	1	7	2	1	10	1-1
10 Taylor Bloye	.283	20-17	53	15	15	1	0	0	7	6	1	16	2-3
2 Kyle Delk	.278	20-4	18	7	5	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	5-6
43 Donny Lewis	.267	12-1	15	3	4	0	0	0	3	1	2	5	0-0
38 Daniel Johnson	.267	7-2	15	3	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	1-1
7 Jay Epperson	.250	17-8	28	6	7	3	0	0	3	6	0	12	5-5
44 Ryan Gosney	.238	10-4	21	2	5	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	0-0
13 Joel Johnson	.237	19-19	59	13	14	2	0	1	4	10	1	14	2-2
39 Stephen Kegley	.216	17-15	37	3	8	1	0	0	4	2	1	6	1-3
41 Jacob McClure	.000	9-2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0-0
18 Alec Mitchell	.000	1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0-0
27 Ty Wilmore	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-0
50 Andrew Godsey	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Totals	.296	40	1327	238	393	74	5	15	215	126	25	233	72-88
Opponents	.272	40	1347	227	366	61	10	23	195	112	62	273	55-73

Player	era	w-l	app	gs	cg	sh	sv	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
5 Garrett Kriston	3.86	9-3	12	12	6	1	0	86.1	76	47	37	21	101
6 Matt Reitz	5.51	3-6	12	11	1	0	1	67.0	78	49	41	17	33
44 Ryan Gosney	7.13	3-3	11	5	0	0	0	41.2	51	36	33	24	35
10 Taylor Bloye	2.08	0-0	5	0	0	0	0	4.1	8	3	1	2	5
14 Grant Kierpa	3.49	2-0	7	5	0	0	1	28.1	23	18	11	7	11
45 Jonah Paul	4.15	2-2	5	5	1	1	0	26.0	19	14	12	4	21
35 Ray Brooks	4.40	0-1	10	0	0	0	0	14.1	12	7	7	9	13
42 Sam Doherty	4.50	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	4.0	4	3	2	2	1
17 Drew Bradley	4.68	2-0	14	2	0	0	0	32.2	37	21	17	19	29
18 Alec Mitchell	4.94	2-2	15	0	0	0	3	27.1	44	21	15	5	17
8 Matt Herrin	7.36	0-0	4	0	0	0	0	3.2	6	3	3	1	3
16 Alex Kerr	8.44	0-0	5	0	0	0	2	5.1	8	5	5	1	4
Totals	4.86	23-17	40	40	8	2	7	341.0	366	227	184	112	273
Opponents	4.72	17-23	40	40	4	2	6	335.2	393	238	176	126	233

Score by innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	EX	Total
Covenant	33	25	40	33	45	28	12	14	6	2	238
Opponents	25	19	30	28	25	31	21	26	21	1	227

Win-loss breakouts: Day 22-15; Night 1-2; vs Left 5-4; vs Right 18-13;
1-run games 5-3; 2-run games 2-1; 5+run games 11-7; Extra inns 1-0; Shutouts 2-2.
Current streak: Won 3; Longest winning streak: 6; Longest losing streak: 4.
Attendance: Home 1447 (avg 68); Away 2484 (avg 130); Total 3931 (avg 98).