

# 2022 NC State Wolfpack Preview



The 2022 NC State Wolfpack is led by head coach Kim Landrus in her fifth season. She is joined by assistant coaches Phillip Ogletree and Bob Starkell.

The Wolfpack finished the 2021 season ranked No. 15 with a national qualifying score of 196.250 and a regular season record of 12-4. The 15th place finish is the highest for the Wolfpack since 1999. NC State was also named the 2021 EAGL regular season champion as a result of having the highest national qualifying score at the conclusion of the nine week regular season. In addition, Emily Shepard was named the EAGL Gymnast of the Year as well as the Southeast Regional Gymnast of the Year. She also qualified to nationals as an individual on floor. The Wolfpack had nine placements on the first all-EAGL team and two on the second all-EAGL team. There were also 18 gymnasts named to the EAGL all-scholastic team.



**Emily Shepard**

The 2021 squad consists of five seniors, five juniors, four sophomores and six freshmen.

The Wolfpack's top returners are juniors Emily Shepard and Chloe Negrete. Shepard was first-team all-EAGL on vault (9.888 NQS), bars (9.900 NQS), floor (9.875 NQS) and in the all around (39.375 NQS). She was also the EAGL Gymnast of the Week for weeks one, two, six and seven. Negrete was first-team all-EAGL on vault (9.863 NQS), beam (9.869 NQS) and floor (9.913 NQS). She was also the EAGL Gymnast of the Week for week four and Specialist of the

Week for weeks three and nine. In addition, sophomores Madison Benson and Carina Jordan, who were both named EAGL Rookie of the Week during the season as well as graduate student Nicole Webb should also be major contributors in 2022.

NC State brings in eight newcomers for the 2022 season—freshmen Peyton Childs, Macy Jennings, Lucy Lehman, Hailey Merchant, Lauren Rutherford and Brooke Smead, as well as graduate transfer Gabrielle Kistner and junior transfer Shruthi Anand. The top contributors are expected to be Rutherford and Merchant. Rutherford is a four time level 10 nationals qualifier, finishing sixth in the all around in 2021 and second on floor in 2019. Merchant is a three time level 10 national qualifier and was the national bars champion in 2018. Other newcomers to watch are Lehman and Kistner on vault.



**Chloe Negrete**

The Wolfpack opens up the season on Friday, Jan. 7 at North Carolina with Bowling Green and Auburn.