

# Atlantic Sun Conference

## 2008 Men's Soccer Championship


### SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 12

#3 Lipscomb vs #6 Mercer, 4:00pm 

#4 Stetson vs #5 Belmont, 7:00pm 

Thursday, November 13

#2 Jacksonville vs Winner Match 1, 4:00pm 

#1 (No. 22) Campbell vs Winner Match 2, 7:00pm 

Saturday, November 15

Championship Match, 3:00pm 

### GENERAL NOTES

- 2008 marks the 28<sup>th</sup> The Atlantic Sun Conference Men's Soccer Championship
- Among the 2008 field, Mercer (1992, 1999 and 2001), Stetson (2005) and Campbell (2007) have captured a Conference Championship. \* Jacksonville won in 1999 but later vacated due to NCAA sanctions
- The host institution has not won the any of the last six Championships since Mercer captured the 2001 crown. Prior to this drought, 12 of the first 21 Championships had been won by the host school.
- The Championship is being held in North Carolina for only the second time in conference history. Campbell also hosted in 2000.
- The No. 1 seed has reached the Finals in five straight and seven of the last eight Championships
- In the eight previous Championships to use the six-team format, only once has a team won the Championship without the benefit of the opening-round bye, Campbell in 2007. Only three times in those eight Championships has the final not featured the top two seeds. (No. 5 FAU in 1999, No.3 Mercer in 2004 and No. 3 Campbell in 2007)
- The reigning champion has successfully defended their crown nine times, most recently done by UCF from 2002-04.

### TEAM NOTES

#### No. 3 Lipscomb Bisons

- In the last two seasons, the Bisons have turned in a 9-6-3 regular-season record against A-Sun competition. In their first four years in the league, they won just five of 33 Atlantic Sun matches and had never finished higher than a tie for seventh in the standings.
- Miguel DaSilva joined Ben Page as the only two Bisons to make the First-Team All-Atlantic Sun. Page made the team in 2007. DaSilva's selection this was the lone unanimous choice for the First Team
- Garret Pettis won the Freshman of the Year award, the first postseason award won by a Lipscomb men's soccer athlete.
- Pettis and DaSilva enter the A-Sun Championship ranking first and second in the A-Sun in points (DaSilva, 26; Pettis 23) and first and second in goals (Pettis, 11; DaSilva tied for second with eight).
- DaSilva and Pettis scored goals in the same game three times; Lipscomb won all three games.
- DaSilva leads the league in assists with 10, three of those assists came on Pettis goals.
- Pettis broke DaSilva one-year-old school record for most goals in a season
- Pettis matched DaSilva in 2007 as a unanimous selection to the All-Freshman team

#### No. 6 Mercer Bears

- Mercer's three titles (1992, 1999, 2001) are the most among current A-Sun schools.
- Mercer returns to the A-Sun Championship after missing the field in 2007, ending a nine-year streak of consecutive appearances.
- Bolade Ogunmade has scored seven of Mercer's 16 goals this season. He accounts for more than 43 percent of all the goals scored by the Bears this season. No single A-Sun player accounts for a greater percentage of his team's offense than Ogunmade.
- No sixth seed has never defeated the third seed in the eight years the A-Sun has featured a six-team Championship field. No. 6 seeds are 0-7-1 with the lone tie coming in 2003 when Stetson and Belmont finished leveled at zero. The Hatters, the sixth seed that year, represents the lone sixth seed to play in the semifinals, as they advanced past the Bruins in a shootout.
- Mercer's five ties are the most in a season by an A-Sun school in the 30-year history of the league. They tied three of their nine A-Sun games, the most ties in conference play since Jacksonville also picked up three ties in 2000.
- Brad Ruzzo will attempt to join Georgia State's Kerem Daser in 2000 as just the second head coach in the last 20 years to lead his team to the A-Sun Championship crown in his first year with the team.
- David Bird leads the conference with 90 saves

#### No. 4 Stetson Hatters

- The Hatters extended their streak of consecutive appearance at the A-Sun Championship to 11 straight years
- Stetson's defender Robert Hodge earned a spot on the All-Atlantic Sun's First Team, extending Stetson's streak of having at least one First-Team performer to eight straight years, the longest active streak in the A-Sun.
- 2008 marks the first time in four years that the Hatters have to play a first-round game. From 2005-07, Stetson earned a bye into the semifinals by virtue of finishing in one of the top two spots in the standings.
- The Hatters enter the A-Sun Championship riding a three-game win streak having outscored its opposition 11-2 over those three games. The streak started with a 2-0 win against Belmont on Oct. 26.
- Stetson is unbeaten in its last five games against Belmont (4-0-1) and has registered shutouts in all four wins. The Hatters have outscored the Bruins 11-1 in these five contests.
- The Hatters have not lost to the Bruins since a 2-0 decision on Oct. 19, 2003.
- The No. 4 seed has won its quarterfinal match in five of the last six years, but never advanced to the final in any of those four years.
- Stetson is the last No. 4 seed to advance to the finals (2002) when Stetson defeated top-seeded Mercer in the semifinal (in 2002, the field consisted of just 4 teams).

#### No. 5 Belmont Bruins

- The Bruins have made the A-Sun Championship field six straight years, the second-longest active streak in the A-Sun (Stetson, 11).
- Belmont set a program record for victories in a season with 10, surpassing the nine victories the Bruins achieved in 1992 and 2003
- Belmont has yet to advance past the first round of an A-Sun Men's Soccer Championship; the Bruins are 0-4-1 and have been shut out in each of their last three appearances. Their last goal in an A-Sun Championship came in 2004 in a 2-1 overtime loss to Georgia State
- The men will look to match the Belmont women in winning the A-Sun Soccer Championship in the same year. One school's men's and women's teams have not won both titles since UCF won both in 2002 and 2003. The only other instance in which one A-Sun school won both titles came in 1997 with Georgia State.
- In forwards Dan Meacock and Will Moorad, Belmont placed two players on the All-Freshman team for the first time since Jay Ayers and Robert Fernandez landed on the All-Freshmen Team in 2004.
- Moorad and Meacock both enter the A-Sun Championship having registered 18 points and combining to score 15 of the Bruins' 29 goals.
- After winning its first-round game in both 1998 and 1999, the fifth seed has won and advanced to the semifinals just once in the last six Championships that featured six-team fields.
- Wednesday's match with Stetson marks the first time Belmont has faced an opponent for the second time at the A-Sun Championship. Belmont made its Championship debut in 2003 and dueled Stetson to a 0-0 tie but the Hatters advanced 5-4 in a shootout. After that meeting, Belmont faced Georgia State, Mercer, Jacksonville and Lipscomb in successive years.