

Atlantic Sun Conference

2008 Men's Soccer Championship

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 12

#3 Lipscomb 2, #6 Mercer 1 

#5 Belmont 4, #4 Stetson 3 (2 OT) 

Thursday, November 13

#2 Jacksonville vs #3 Lipscomb, 4:00pm 

#1 (No. 22) Campbell vs #5 Belmont 4, 7:00pm 

Saturday, November 15

Championship Match, 3:00pm 

GENERAL NOTES

- 2008 marks the 28th 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. 2 Jacksonville Dolphins

- In the last two years, the Dolphins are 15-4-1 against A-Sun schools, including A-Sun Championship games.
- Defeated Lipscomb, 3-2 in semifinals of 2007 A-Sun Championships
- Jacksonville as won its last four against Lipscomb and outscored the Bisons 13-3 in those four games and scored at least three goals in all four games.
- Placed five players on the All-Atlantic Sun Second Team, the most by one school in conference history; five teams had placed four on the second team (last: UCF in 2001)
- Five times in the history of the Atlantic Sun Men's Soccer Championship has the runner-up one season gone on to win the title the next year, the last was Mercer in 2001.
- Ramak Niakan Safi leads JU with seven goals and 16 points, up from two goals and five points last year
- Niakan Safi ranks second in the A-Sun in game-winning goals with five.
- In only nine games, forward Tony Taylor has scored 10 points (four goals, two assists) - he ranks as one of seven players in the A-Sun averaging more than a point per game.
- Joey Sanchez one of two goalkeepers in the A-Sun with a GAA less than 1.00 (0.92); Ranks second to Aaron Johnson in shutouts (five) and save percentage (.794)

No. 3 Lipscomb Bisons

- In the last two seasons, the Bisons have turned in an 11-7-3 regular-season record against A-Sun competition (including A-Sun Championship games). 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 rank first and second in the A-Sun in points (DaSilva, 27; Pettis 25) and first and tied for third in goals (Pettis, 12; DaSilva tied for third 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 11, four of those assists came on Pettis goals.
- Pettis broke DaSilva one-year-old school record for most goals in a season
- Pettis' 12 goals are the seventh most in the A-Sun in the last four seasons.
- Pettis matched DaSilva in 2007 as a unanimous selection to the All-Freshman team
- 2-0 all-time in A-Sun Men's Soccer Championship first-round games, 0-1 in semifinal games.

No. 1 Campbell Camels

- First A-Sun team to complete and unbeaten and untied conference season since FIU went 6-0-0 in 1995
- No A-Sun team has gone unbeaten and untied in league play and played nine games like Campbell (closest: College of Charleston, 8-0-0 in 1994).
- Five teams have posted unbeaten and untied conference seasons in A-Sun history. Three have gone on to win the A-Sun Championship (Centenary in 1989 and 1990, College of Charleston in 1994). FIU lost to Campbell in semifinals of the 1995 A-Sun Championship and in 1992 (Mercer), no championship was held.
- Place five players (Richard Jata, Aaron Johnson, Stephen Oyuga, Josue Soto and Vince Petrasso) on the All-Atlantic Sun First Team - first school with five First-Team members since FIU in 1996 - FIU advanced to College Cup Championship game
- Vince Petrasso: 2007 A-Sun Championship MVP, no player has won consecutive Tournament MVPs. Mercer's Neil Zarac (1999 and 2001) and Georgia State's Darren McKune (1997 and 2000) each won multiple MVPs.
- No. 1 seeds have advanced to the finals in each of the last five years. The last top seed not to make the final occurred in 2002 when fourth-seeded Stetson defeated Mercer.
- Camels have won four of their last five A-Sun Championship games in which they have been the higher seed dating back to 1999. Lone loss in that span, the 2005 title game as the top seed to No. 2 Stetson.
- The host had won at least one game of the A-Sun Championship every year back to 2000 until Stetson lost to Campbell last year.

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 11, surpassing the nine victories the Bruins achieved in 1992 and 2003
- Belmont advanced to the semifinals of the A-Sun Championship for the first time in program history; the Bruins had been 0-4-1 and have been shut out in each of their last three appearances prior to Wednesday.
- 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 have combined for 41 of Belmont's 91 points (17 goals, seven assists) and account for 17 of the Bruins 33 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 (FAU in 1999).
- Wednesday's 4-3 game with Stetson marked the first time both teams scored at least three goals in an A-Sun Championship game since Centenary defeated Georgia State by the same score in the 1989 title game.
- Belmont's win was just the fourth A-Sun Championship game decided in the second overtime. In the two instances not to occur in the final, the winning team won their following game - in 2004 Mercer defeated Stetson in the first round and advanced past FAU in the semifinals on penalty kicks. That same year UCF defeated GSU in the other semifinal game then beat Mercer, 1-0 in the title game.