

Atlantic Sun Conference

2008 Women's Soccer Championship

SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 6

#1 Mercer vs #4 Jacksonville, 4:00pm

#2 Kennesaw State vs #3 Belmont, 7:30pm

Saturday, November 8

Championship Match, 6:00pm

GENERAL NOTES

- The Atlantic Sun Conference will hold its 15th Women's Soccer Championship at this year's tournament.
- The championship will look a lot like 2007 as the same six teams enter into the tournament. Kennesaw State hosts the Championship for the third straight year.
- Among the 2008 field, only Jacksonville, in 2000 and 2006, and Kennesaw State in 2007, have captured the Conference Championship.
- The host institution has won just two of the last six tournaments (Campbell in 2004 and Kennesaw State in 2007) after winning five of the first eight.
- The Championship is being held in Georgia for the third-straight year and the fourth time in conference history, Georgia State hosted in 1997
- The Championship is being contested at the same site and school for three consecutive years for the first time in Championship history.
- The No. 1 seed has reached the Finals in seven of the last eight Championships
- In the six-team format, only two teams have won the Championship without the benefit of the opening-round bye (Jacksonville, 2006 and Georgia State, 1997)
- Nine out of the last 14 championships ended with the No. 1 seeded team winning the championship.

TEAM NOTES

In regular season play, Jacksonville's Katie Orr scored a goal in the dying embers of the first half to give JU a 1-0 win in Macon, Ga. on Oct. 5, albeit in somewhat fortuitous fashion. Mercer had two goals disallowed in the contest, and saw an Emerald Phillips effort crash back off the woodwork.

No. 1 Mercer Bears

- Enter the tournament with their first regular-season title with an A-Sun mark of 7-2-1
- Bears have entered into five previous championships with their best finish coming with last year's runner-up showing
- Recent history favors Mercer, as nine out of the 14 championships ended with the No. 1 seeded team winning the championship.
- Conceded just 10 goals in 18 matches this season, including a school record 10 shutouts and holding the NCAA's 11th-best GAA of 0.54.
- Five Bears earned Atlantic Sun All-Conference postseason honors, tying a program record
- Mercer's Heather Manting received the Atlantic Sun Defensive Player of the Year award, while freshman midfielder Olivia Tucker earned Freshman of the Year honors and head coach Grant Serafy was chosen as the Coach of the Year for the second straight season
- Six out of the last nine No. 1 vs. No. 4 matches have ended with the No. 1 coming out on top
- Mercer has won five out of their last six matches

No. 4 Jacksonville Dolphins

- The semifinal match of the Championship features the 2006 champions, the Jacksonville Dolphins, and the host and second-seeded Kennesaw Owls. It will be the second time the teams have met at the A-Sun championship. In 2006, the No. 5 Jacksonville stunned top-seed Kennesaw State, 2-1, in the semifinals.
- In 2006, became the first fifth-seeded team to win the championship.
- Jacksonville's Keri Zwickler looks to close out a stellar career that has included four first-team all-conference selections and the 2005 Freshman of the Year award.
- JU enters the week with four shutouts in its last five matches, which is the Dolphins best streak entering the conference tournament since the 1998 season when they reached the championship round.
- 10 Jacksonville players stayed on the pitch for the entire 110 minutes of Wednesday's contest.
- Yesterday, goalkeeper Alexa Rooney made a clutch save on ETSU's final penalty kick to advance the Dolphins to the semifinals.
- In 2006, JU defeated the Buccaneers (7-9-2) in the very same manner as yesterday's quarterfinal match, which propelled the Dolphins to winning their second A-Sun Tournament title in school history.

Earlier this year, the Owls played Belmont to a scoreless tie. Staci Pugh picked up five saves while Rachel Baer had six shots and four shots on goal. Belmont's Lin had 10 saves while Loftis and Elizabeth Bubliss each took three shots.

No. 2 Kennesaw State Owls

- Only time that Kennesaw State has claimed the No. 2 seed
- Rachel Baer led in shots (51), goals (9) and points (20) during conference play.
- In the 14-year history of the Atlantic Sun Women's Soccer Championship, only one school has successfully defended its title. UCF won three straight Championships from 1994 to 1996, then won back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999; after a year absence, the Knights again three-peated from 2001-03.
- The Owls can join the Dolphins and Knights as the third team in league history to win multiple championships. Only the Owls, Jacksonville Dolphins and Campbell Camels, among current A-Sun institutions, have won an A-Sun Women's Soccer Championship.
- They are currently undefeated at home and are just 2 home wins away from reaching the NCAA National tournament again.
- Luck favors the number two seed as they have advanced to the finals five out of the last nine semifinals.
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No. 3 Belmont Bruins

- The Bruins are making their second Women's Soccer Championship Appearance.
- 2007 marks the second consecutive year Belmont earned the third seed
- The No. 3 seed has not advanced to the final since 2002.
- The No. 3 seed had not won a game since Jacksonville won a semifinal match in 2002. Before yesterday's win, the No.3 seed has lost in the quarterfinals in seven straight years
- After never finishing higher than 4th A-Sun play, the Bruins finished the 2008 season in third with a 6-3-1 record, they ended the 2007 season in fourth place, but achieved the third seed due to third place FGCU's reclassification.
- In conference postseason awards, four Bruins – junior Annie Musacchio, sophomore Jessica Rix, and freshmen Sari Lin and Jamie Loftis – were honored. It marks only the second time four BU players have been honored in a single season.
- The Bruins return seven starters off a team that finished fourth in the conference last season.