

# ***Atlantic Sun Conference***

## **2008 Volleyball Championship**

### **SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, November 20**

#3 Jacksonville vs #6 Campbell, 5:00pm

#4 Mercer vs #5 ETSU, 7:30pm

**Thursday, November 21**

#2 Belmont vs Winner Match 1, 5:00pm

#1 Lipscomb vs Winner Match 2, 7:30pm

**Saturday, November 22**

Championship Match, 6:00pm

### **GENERAL NOTES**

- The Atlantic Sun Volleyball Championship returns to Mercer University for the second consecutive year.
- Among the 2008 field, Belmont (2006), Jacksonville (2004) and Lipscomb (2007) have captured a Conference Championship.
- The host institution has won three of the seven championships held since the NCAA implemented the rally scoring format in 2001. Belmont is the most recent host champion, capturing the crown in 2006.
- The No. 1 seed has only reached the finals once in the past four seasons with top-seeded Florida Atlantic topping Belmont in 2005. The No. 1 seed has reached the finals three times since 2001, winning everytime.
- In the seven previous Championships to use the six-team format, only twice has a team won the Championship without the benefit of the opening-round bye, Jacksonville in 2004 and Lipscomb in 2007. Last season marked the first championship match between two schools that did not receive opening round byes.
- No champion has successfully defended its title since UCF won three straight from 2001-03.

### **TEAM NOTES**

#### **No. 3 Jacksonville Dolphins**

- The Dolphins will compete in their 10th consecutive ASun Tournament this week having reached the tournament final in each of the past two seasons.
- The Dolphins hold a winning record this season against ETSU and Campbell (2-0). JU split its series against Belmont and Mercer (1-1) and dropped both matches against Lipscomb (0-2).
- Junior libero Shelley Walroth broke her own single season digs record at JU with 672 last year and is now setting her sights on becoming only the 26th player in NCAA history to surpass 2,000 career digs.
- Walroth, who leads the conference in digs, ranks third in the nation with an average of 5.89 digs per set.
- Jacksonville leads the conference in blocking, averaging 2.21 blocks per set.
- Senior First-Team All-Conference performer Sara Bendorf ranks third in the league in kills, averaging 3.95 per set.

#### **No. 6 Campbell Camels**

- Campbell is making its first championship appearance since 2001.
- Head coach Leigh Mullins is in her first season with Campbell, leading the Camels to their first Championship appearance in seven years.
- Outside hitter Emily Werner leads the Camels attack. The sophomore notched double-digit kills in 11 matches for the season.
- Troy's four-set win over Jacksonville in the 2003 championship stands as the only first-round victory for a No. 6 seed in the last seven years.
- With a victory, Campbell will match its best-ever tournament showing. The Camels also advanced to the semifinals in 2001.
- Hope Leatigaga directs the Campbell offense, earning All-Freshman honors after ranking fifth in the A-Sun in assists with an average of 7.49 per set.

#### **No. 4 Mercer Bears**

- Head coach Noelle Rooke guided the Bears to a 18-10 record this season and the highest seeding for tournament play in program history. In Rooke's four seasons as head coach at Mercer, her previous jigh

win total was 13, achieved in 2004. 2008 marks the fourth time in program history that a team has surpassed the 16-win mark.

- After tallying the program's highest win total in 12 seasons, the Mercer volleyball team accumulated three Atlantic Sun All-Conference selections in addition to head coach Noelle Rooke earning ASun Coach of the Year honors. Seniors Karen Dorris and Claire Tucker landed spots on all-conference second-team and freshman outside hitter Amiee Frutchee garnered an all-freshman team selection. The 2008 Mercer squad tied the 1995 team with the most number of players honored as post-season all-conference selections. Rooke became the first conference coach of the year in program history.

- As a team, Mercer ranks second among conference teams in opponent's hitting percentage and blocks per set. The Bears have piled up 232 total blocks for an average of 2.17 blocks per set and limited opponents to a .156 hitting percentage.

- After downing Jacksonville, Mercer completed its home slate with 11-2 record. The 11-2 finish is the best home record since the 1996 Mercer team which finished 7-1 in Macon.

#### **No. 5 ETSU Lady Buccaneers**

- Head coach Lindsey Devine leads the Lady Bucs into the Atlantic Sun Tournament for the fourth consecutive season. ETSU is winless at the tournament in the previous three seasons.

- Freshman outside hitter McKayla Barber earned All-Freshman Team honors after leading her team in hitting percentage (.188) and blocks (65) this season. The Columbus, Ind. native also tallied 147 kills in her freshman campaign.

- With six freshmen on the roster, ETSU fields the second-youngest team in this year's tournament. Mercer tops the field with seven first-year performers.

- The Lady Bucs enter the tournament on a two-match winning streak after defeating USC Upstate and Campbell to close the regular season.

- ETSU dropped both matches to Mercer in the regular season, falling in five sets in Johnson City, getting swept by the Bears in Macon.