

Atlantic Sun Conference

2008 Volleyball Championship

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 20

#3 Jacksonville 3, #6 Campbell 0

#5 ETSU, 3 #4 Mercer 2

Thursday, November 21

#2 Belmont vs #3 Jacksonville, 5:00pm

#1 Lipscomb vs #5 ETSU, 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. 2 Belmont Bruins

- Belmont appears in its fifth A-Sun Tournament tonight against Jacksonville.
- The Bruins defeated every A-Sun Team in the conference at least once this season.
- Belmont enters the tournament on a season-best nine-match winning streak.
- Belmont has notched at least 20 wins in each of the past five seasons. The Bruins are the only current member institution to post 20-plus wins in five straight seasons.
- The Bruins lead the conference in kills per set (13.22) and service aces (245) and aces per set (2.17).
- Five Bruins received postseason accolades this year with freshman setter Channing Salava leading the way with Freshman of the Year honors. Senior Cat Mundy notched a First-Team selection, while senior Emily Cahill and junior Jenny Gray captured second-team honors. Freshman Maggie Johnson joined Salava on the All-Freshman Team.

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.
- Bendorf led the Dolphins with 14 kills in their opening round win against Campbell.

No. 1 Lipscomb Lady Bisons

- This is the fourth straight appearance for the Lady Bisons in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament

- The Lady Bisons are the defending Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament Champions, beating Mercer in the quarterfinals, Belmont in the semifinals and Jacksonville in the championship match. The Lady Bisons were the fourth seed last season.
- Lipscomb setter Stefine "Jake" Pease was the Atlantic Sun Tournament MVP in 2007.
- The Lady Bisons closed out the regular season with five straight wins. They also won seven of their last eight.
- The Lady Bisons 20 wins this season tie the program record set last season. The 20 wins, however, set a new regular season victory mark.

No. 5 ETSU Lady Buccaneers

- Head coach Lindsey Devine leads the Lady Bucs into the Atlantic Sun Tournament for the fourth consecutive season. ETSU captured its first tournament win in four tries Thursday night against Mercer.
- 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 youngest team remaining in this year's tournament. Mercer topped 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.
- With Thursday night's victory against Mercer, the Lady Bucs have won three consecutive matches for the first time this season.