



# 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 2, #3 Lipscomb 2 (JU, 4-1 in PKs)   
#1 (No. 22) Campbell 7, #5 Belmont 1 

Saturday, November 15

#1 (No. 22) Campbell, #2 Jacksonville 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 Championship 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 six straight and eight of the last nine Championships
- In the nine Championships to use the six-team format, 2008 marks the sixth time that the top two seeds have met in the final
- The reigning champion has successfully defended their crown nine times, most recently done by UCF from 2002-04.
- Jacksonville and Campbell are meeting in the title game for the second straight year, marking the first time since 1995 and 1996 that the same two schools met in consecutive finals - College of Charleston beat Campbell both years.
- The same two teams have met in consecutive title games five times previous to these last two years. In those five instances, the team that won the previous year also won the next year three times.
- 2008 marks the 12<sup>th</sup> time that the two teams that finished with the two-best conference records will meet in the final. While the team that owned the second-best record has won three of the last four title games (Georgia State v Mercer in 2000, Stetson v Campbell in 2005 and Gardner-Webb v Stetson in 2006), the top team from the regular season has won eight of the 11 all-time matchups.
- Campbell is the 19<sup>th</sup> host to make the title game in league history. The host has gone on to win the title in 13 of the 18 previous times, but in the two instances, Stetson in 2006 and Mercer in 2004, the host lost.

## TEAM NOTES

### No. 1 Campbell Camels

- Despite claiming the trophy in penalty kicks last year, Campbell owns an 0-3-1 record in title games.
- 6-0-1 against the Dolphins since the start of the 2003 season.
- Richard Jata has three goals and two assists in four career games against Jacksonville.
- Jata can become the Player of the Year to lead his team to the A-Sun Championship since Mercer's Max Rooke in 2001.
- Campbell is the sixth host to enter the A-Sun Championship as the top seed since 1996. Four of the previous five went on to win the title (lone exception: Jacksonville in 1999, lost 2-0 to FAU in the final).
- 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).
- Including A-Sun Championship games, the 1994 College of Charleston team finished with a 10-0-0 record against A-Sun opponents. With a win, the Camels would finish 11-0-0 and set the league record for most wins without a loss or tie, when including Championship games.
- 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 six years, they are just 2-2-1 in the final in that span, 0-2-1 in the last three. UCF in 2004 is last the top seed to win the title, completing its run of three straight titles.
- Camels have won five of their last six 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.
- With Thursday's 7-1 win vs Belmont, the Camels own the two-highest goal outputs in A-Sun Championship play since Houston Baptist scored 12 in a West Division semifinal in 1985 The Camels hung a 6-1 defeat on Gardner-Webb in last year's first round.

### No. 2 Jacksonville Dolphins

- Have not defeated the Camels since a 4-1 win on Oct. 12, 2002.
- Fourth A-Sun Men's Soccer title-game appearance; 1-1-1 in previous trips.
- In the last two years, the Dolphins are 15-2-1 against A-Sun opposition, including A-Sun Championship games, with the exception of Campbell; 0-2-1 against the Camels during that span.
- Second seeds have won the title four of the last five times they have advanced to the title game (Gardner-Webb in 2006, Stetson in 2005, GSU in 2000 and Mercer in 1999; FAU lost to UCF in 2003).
- In the 11 years of single division play, the top two seeds have met in the title game five times. The second seed owns a 3-2 advantage and have won the last two (Stetson in 2005, Gardner-Webb in 2006).
- Including last year's title game, the Dolphins are the first team in A-Sun history to play consecutive A-Sun Championship games decided by shootout.
- 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.
- Joey Sanchez one of two goalkeepers in the A-Sun with a GAA less than 1.00 (0.97); Ranks second to Aaron Johnson in shutouts (five) and save percentage (.789)