

Atlantic Sun Conference

2008 Women's Soccer Championship

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 5

#4 Jacksonville vs #5 ETSU, 4:00pm

#3 Belmont vs #6 Stetson, 7:30pm

Thursday, November 6

#1 Mercer vs Winner Match 2, 4:00pm

#2 Kennesaw State vs Winner Match 1, 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, two teams have won the Championship without the benefit of the opening-round bye (Jacksonville, 2006 and Georgia State, 1997)
- The No.3 seed has been upset by the No. 6 seed in the quarterfinals in the last four out of five Championships.
- Nine out of the last 14 championships ended with the No. 1 seeded team winning the championship.

TEAM NOTES

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.
- The Bears have the lowest goals-against average in the A-Sun at 0.54 and have only let in 10 goals in 18 games
- 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

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.

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 has not won a game since Jacksonville won a semifinal match in 2002. 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.

No. 4 Jacksonville Dolphins

- The opening match of the Championship features the 2006 champions, the Jacksonville Dolphins, and the fifth-seeded ETSU Buccaneers. It will be the second time the teams have met at the A-Sun championship. In 2006, the No. 5 Jacksonville dueled No. 4 ETSU to a double overtime draw, but Jacksonville beat out the Bucs in PKs 4-3.
- 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.

No. 5 ETSU Buccaneers

- Junior Jordan Monty is tied for the lead in the conference in game-winning goals with four.
- ETSU's goalkeeper Megan Masch looks to put up a stellar showing in the tournament. The freshman is fourth in the league play with a 0.85 GAA and is third in saves with 50.
- ETSU's seniors are the only class to see four consecutive years of postseason play in program history.
- In 2007, ETSU defeated Stetson 2-1, before dropping to eventual champion Kennesaw State in the semifinals.

No. 6 Stetson Hatters

- Stetson earned the final berth into the Championship when Mercer beat Campbell on October 25 .
- Much of their success has been at the feet of Tessa Gavilsky. She leads the A-Sun in shots (69), points (29) and goals (11).
- Stetson enters the tournament 7-9-2 after a loss to FGCU.
- This is the third time the Hatters have entered into the tournament as the sixth seed. In both prior instances, 2003 and 2005, the Hatters upset the third seed and advanced to the semifinal round.
- Tessa Gavilsky named Player of the Year; this is the first Player of the Year award for the Stetson soccer program.