

THIS IS THE SUN BELT CONFERENCE...

While there are 31 NCAA conferences that sponsor multiple sports, the Sun Belt is one of only eleven to participate in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) and Football Bowl Subdivision. The Sun Belt was formed in 1976 with six members competing in four men's sports, and today comprises 13 institutions of higher learning while sponsoring 19 championship sports for men and women.

The Sun Belt Conference enters its 33rd season in 2008-2009 with a proud history of athletic and academic success. The conference sponsors 10 women's sports - basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball; and nine men's sports - baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, and indoor and outdoor track and field.

Each of the 19 sports has seen numerous team and individual accomplishments, and 12 Sun Belt Conference schools are currently graduating its student athletes at a rate higher than their school's student body. All Sun Belt schools are committed to excellence in the 21st century, and facility upgrades and expansion are occurring on virtually every campus.

During the 2007-08 academic year alone the Sun Belt Conference accomplished numerous feats. In the fall of 2007 Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky University both represented the league in the NCAA Volleyball Tournament - the first time the Sun Belt has sent multiple teams to the NCAA Tournament in volleyball. Middle Tennessee did not disappoint, as the Blue Raiders advanced to the "Sweet 16" - marking the first time a Sun Belt school has made the round of 16 in volleyball.

The Sun Belt momentum continued in the sport of football as Florida Atlantic defeated Memphis in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. The win marked the second consecutive season that a Sun Belt team has defeated its Conference USA opponent as Troy defeated Rice in 2006.

In men's basketball, Western Kentucky University and South Alabama both received bids to the 2008 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament - the first the league has sent two teams to the "Big Dance" since 1994. WKU's 101-99 win over 14th ranked Drake followed by a 72-63 win over San Diego made the Hilltoppers the first Sun Belt team to reach the tournament's "Sweet 16" since 1993.

Despite losing more than half of the league's All-Conference members from 2006-07, Sun Belt women's basketball ranked in the top half (14th of 31) of the final league RPI rankings for the 10th consecutive year. In six of those ten years, Sun Belt women's basketball has placed in the national top 10 for RPI.

There was no shortage of success in the Sun Belt's spring sports in 2008 as well. In tennis, Florida International and Denver represented the Sun Belt in the NCAA Women's Tennis Tournament - with the Pioneers advancing to the second round. In men's tennis, South Alabama and Denver represented the league in the NCAA Tournament with USA advancing to the second round.

Sun Belt golf was also well represented in postseason play as Middle Tennessee's men's team and Denver's women's team both reached the NCAA National Championship. Both the Blue Raiders and Pioneers finished in the top ten of their regionals to advance to the final stage of the NCAAAs.

The 2008 Sun Belt softball season saw Louisiana-Lafayette reach the Women's College World Series after defeating Houston in three games in the Super Regionals and winning the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional by defeating East Carolina and in-state rival LSU twice.

In baseball, the Sun Belt Conference has sent multiple teams to the NCAA tournament each year since 1988. The 20-year streak of having two or more teams reach NCAA play is

matched by only four other conferences (ACC, Big West, SEC, Pac-10).

Because of its status as a member of the Division 1-A football coalition, the Sun Belt Conference has a permanent seat on the NCAA's 17-member Board of Directors. As a result, the conference has a crucial voice on some of the most pressing issues in college athletics and will always have a role in the implementation of any future NCAA legislation and guidelines.

The conference continues to utilize television to grow and promote the league. Adding volleyball, baseball and softball to the conference's television package has resulted in more national and regional television exposure for the league than at any time in its history. The conference's regional television package enables live telecasts of Sun Belt events to reach over 20 million households. Additionally, ESPN televised the conference's men's basketball championship game for the 28th straight season in 2008, marking its longest affiliation with any conference in the country.

The Sun Belt Conference has partnered with JumpTV Sports, Inc. to deliver a full-service, customized, public and premium web site to provide fans with a broad range of real-time information and content about the conference's athletic teams. The Sun Belt is one of the few conferences in the nation to provide video highlights and features on its website from each of the league's respective championships. This technology serves as a great recruiting tool for schools by enabling anyone in the world with internet access to view the conference's championship events, and fans in five different countries viewed the conference's most recent soccer championship.

Prominent Sun Belt alumni include United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (Denver), NFL Hall of Fame football player "Mean" Joe Greene (North Texas), Arizona Diamondbacks All-Star baseball player Luis Gonzalez (South Alabama), former member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives John Breaux (Louisiana-Lafayette), country music superstar Tim McGraw (Louisiana-Monroe), and actor Andy Garcia (Florida International).

The conference's first 32 years have also produced numerous individual national champions along with Olympic track medalists including Earl Bell, Tom Hill and Al Joyner (Arkansas State), Hollis Conway (Louisiana-Lafayette), and Tayna Lawrence (Florida International). Old Dominion's Anne Donovan received the Naismith Trophy recognizing the nation's top women's basketball player in 1983, helped the United States win the Olympic gold medal in 1984, and helped the Lady Monarchs capture the national championship in 1985 (one of eight women's Final 4 appearances by Sun Belt schools: Old Dominion - 1983, 1985; WKU - 1985, 1986, 1992; Louisiana Tech - 1994, 1998, 1999). Sun Belt teams have also participated in the men's NCAA Final 4 (UNC-Charlotte in 1977), the College World Series (Louisiana-Lafayette in 2000), the women's College World Series (Louisiana-Lafayette in 1993, 1995, 1996, 2003), and had 10 players selected in the first round of the NBA Draft.

The Sun Belt Conference is led by Commissioner Wright Waters, who is in his ninth full year as commissioner. He was named the conference's fourth commissioner in February of 1999 following the tenures of Vic Bupas (1976-1990), Jim Lessig (1990-1991), and Craig Thompson (1991-1998). The league's annual all sports champion is awarded the Vic Bupas Cup, named after the conference's first commissioner.

The conference office has been headquartered in downtown New Orleans since 2000 after moving from suburban Metairie, La., where it had been based since 1991. Prior to moving to the "Big Easy," the league was based in Tampa, Fla., from 1977-1991. The original conference office was located in Charlotte, N.C., from 1976-77.



Wright Waters
Commissioner



Bert Carter
Associate Commissioner/
Chief Financial Officer



Dr. Kathy Keene
Associate Commissioner
Compliance



Rick Mello
Associate Commissioner/
Sports Administration



Bryant Carter
Assistant Commissioner/
Sports Administration



Travis Llewellyn
Director of Multimedia/
New Media



John McElwain
Associate Commissioner/
Media Relations



Chauntrell Shelby
Chief Office Administrator

OPPONENT Conference	Head Coach (Record and Year at School) Media Contact	2007-08 Record (Conf.) Phone	Website Email
Lynn University Sunshine State	Scott McMillin (96-50/5 yrs) Chad Beattie	16-13 (8-8) (561) 237-7341	www.lynn.edu/athletics cbeattie@lynn.edu
Rollins College Sunshine State	Tom Klusman (484-286/28 yrs) Jessica Goldstein	19-9 (8-8) (407) 864-8087	www.nmnathletics.com jgoldstein@rollins.edu
Monmouth NEC	Dave Calloway (149-164/11 yrs) Chris Tobin	7-24 (4-14) (732) 263-5180	www.gomuhawks.com ctobin@monmouth.edu
Arizona PAC-10	Lute Olsen (589-187/24 yrs) Richard Paige	19-15 (8-10) (520) 621-4163	www.ArizonaAthletics.com rpaige@arizona.edu
Santa Clara West Coast	Kerry Keating (15-16/1 yr) Michelle Schmitt	15-16 (6-8) (408) 554-2114	www.santaclarabroncos.com mschmitt@scu.edu
UMKC The Summit	Matt Brown (11-21/1 yr) James Allen	11-21 (6-12) (816) 235-1036	www.umkckangaroos.com allenjc@umkc.edu
McNeese State Southland	Dave Simmons (15-17/1 yr) Louis Bonnette	15-17 (9-6) (337) 475-5207	www.mcneesesports.com lbonnette@mcneese.edu
Florida Gulf Coast Atlantic Sun	Dave Balza (124-60/7 yrs) Matt Fairchild	10-21 (6-10) (239) 590-7061	www.fgcuathletics.com mfairchi@fgcu.edu
Savannah State Independent	Horace Broadnax (72-152/7 yrs) Opio Mashariki	13-18 (912) 356-2446	www.savstate.edu/athletics masharik@savstate.edu
SE Louisiana TBA	Jim Yarbrough TBA	TBA TBA	TBA TBA
UAB CUSA	Mike Davis (38-27/2 yrs) Norm Reilly	23-11 (12-4) (205) 934-0722	www.uabsports.com nreilly@uab.edu
Kentucky SEC	Billy Gillispie (18-13/1 yr) Dewayne Peevy	18-13 (12-4) (859) 257-3838	www.ukathletics.com dewayne.peevy@uky.edu
Miami ACC	Frank Haith (69-60/4 yrs) Margaret Belch	23-11 (8-8) (305) 284-3244	www.hurricanesports.com mbelch@miami.edu
Denver Sun Belt	Joe Scott (11-19/1 yr) Mike Kennedy	11-19 (7-11) (303) 871-7555	www.DenverPioneers.com Michael.Kennedy@du.edu
Troy Sun Belt	Don Maestri (435-313/27 yrs) Ricky Hazel	12-19 (4-14) (334) 670-3832	www.TroyTrojans.com jehazel@trojans.edu
South Alabama Sun Belt	Ronnie Arrow (140-100/8 yrs) Brian Fremund	26-7 (16-2) (251) 414-8032	www.usajaguars.com bfremund@usouthal.edu
Middle Tennessee St. Sun Belt	Kermit Davis (100-82/6 yrs) Tony Stinnett	17-15 (11-7) (615) 904-8209	www.GoBlueRaiders.com stinnett@goblueraiders.com
New Orleans Sun Belt	Joe Pasternack (19-13/1 yr) Rob Broussard	19-13 (8-10) (504) 280-7027	www.UNOprivateers.com rbrouss1@uno.edu
Western Kentucky Sun Belt	Ken McDonald (1st year) Todd Stewart	29-7 (16-2) (270) 745-3444	www.WKUSPORTS.com todd.stewart@wku.edu
Florida International Sun Belt	Sergio Ruoco (42-74/4 yrs) Rich Kelch	9-20 (6-12) (305) 348-3164	www.FIUSPORTS.com kelchr@fiu.edu
North Texas Sun Belt	Johnny Jones (106-100/7 yrs) Stephen Howard	20-11 (10-8) (940) 369-8404	www.MeanGreenSports.com stephen.howard@unt.edu
Louisiana-Monroe Sun Belt	Orlando Early (38-53/3 yrs) Jeff Hendrix	10-21 (4-14) (318) 342-5462	www.ULMAthletics.com jhendrix@ulm.edu
Arkansas State Sun Belt	John Brady (1st year) Jerry Scott	10-20 (5-13) (870) 972-3405	www.astateRedWolves.com jscott@astate.edu
Arkansas Little-Rock Sun Belt	Steve Shields (82-65/5 yrs) Joe Angolia	20-11 (7-11) (501) 569-3449	www.ualrTrojans.com jaangolia@ualr.edu
Louisiana-Lafayette Sun Belt	Robert Lee (40-55/4 yrs) Chris Whitehead	15-15 (11-7) (337) 482-6331	www.RajunCajuns.com whitehead@louisiana.edu

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REGIONAL ROUND
November 17 & 18

SEMIFINAL ROUND
November 26

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND
November 28

4 Boston College
November 17, 7 pm ESPN2

13 Loyola (Md.)
November 17, 9:30 pm

8 St. John's
November 17, 9:30 pm

9 Cornell
November 17, 9:30 pm

East Championship
November 18, 7:30 pm ESPN2

East Consolation
November 18, 4:30 pm

1 Purdue
November 17, 7 pm ESPN2

14 Eastern Michigan
November 17, 9:30 pm

6 Georgia
November 17, 9:30 pm

10 Loyola Chicago
November 17, 9:30 pm

North Championship
November 18, 7 pm ESPN2

North Consolation
November 18, 4 pm

2 Oklahoma
November 17, 9 pm ESPN2

16 Mississippi Valley State
November 17, 9 pm

5 Davidson
November 17, 6 pm

12 James Madison
November 17, 6 pm

South Championship
November 18, 9:30 pm ESPN2

South Consolation
November 18, 6:30 pm

3 Arizona
November 17, 11 pm ESPN2

15 Florida Atlantic
November 17, 11 pm

7 UAB
November 17, 8 pm

11 Santa Clara
November 17, 8 pm

West Championship
November 18, 11:30 pm ESPN2

West Consolation
November 18, 8:30 pm

Madison Square Garden
November 26
7 pm or 9 pm
ESPN2

Madison Square Garden
November 28
3:30 pm
ESPN 2

Madison Square Garden
November 26
7 pm or 9 pm
ESPN2

Consolation Game
Madison Square Garden
November 28
1:30 pm, ESPN 2

CHAMPION

CHAMPION

CHAMPION

CHAMPION

EAST
Chestnut Hill, MA
Conte Forum

NORTH
West Lafayette, IN
Mackey Arena

SOUTH
Norman, OK
Lloyd Noble Center

WEST
Tucson, AZ
McKale Center

Consolation Bracket
November 24, 25

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Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Championship

March 4-10 • Summit Arena • Hot Springs, Arkansas

First Round games at campus sites

First Round
Campus Sites
March 4

Quarterfinals
Tournament Site
March 8

Semifinals
Tournament Site
March 9

Finals
Tournament Site
March 10

No. 8 Seed

No. 8 Host

No. 9 Seed

No. 4 Seed

No. 4 Host

No. 13 Seed

No. 5 Seed

No. 5 Host

No. 12 Seed

No. 6 Seed

No. 6 Host

No. 11 Seed

No. 7 Seed

No. 7 Host

No. 10 Seed

No. 1 Seed

G1 - 12:30 p.m.

G5 - 6:30 p.m.

ESPN

G2 - 3:00 p.m.

ESPN

G4 - 9:00 p.m.

ESPN

G6 - 9:00 p.m.

ESPN

G3 - 6:30 p.m.

ESPN

Championship Game
TBA

ESPN

CHAMPION

CHAMPION

All games webcast live on www.sunbeltsports.org

STATE

DENVER

FAU

FIU

LOUISIANA STATE

ULM

MP

WKU

84

85

A New Day