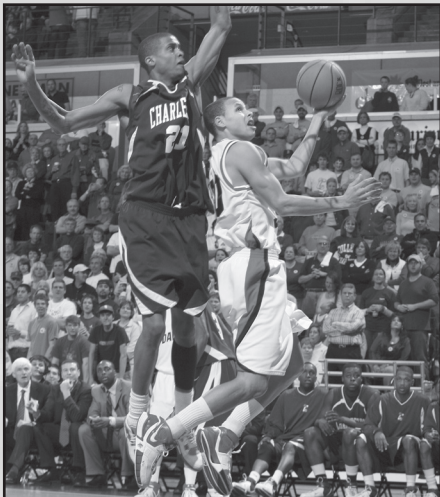




# SoCon BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Stephen Curry scored 29 points in the championship game to lead Davidson to its second-consecutive SoCon title in 2007.

The Southern Conference returns to the historic Charleston area and the North Charleston Coliseum for the 2008 Southern Conference Tournament. The Tournament is scheduled for March 7-10 at the 14,000-seat venue. It marks the sixth time in the past seven seasons that the conference tournament has been held at facility.

The oldest league tournament in the nation, the first tournament was held in 1922 and 2008 marks the 88<sup>th</sup> year of the post-season classic.

Tickets for the tournament are available by contacting any member institution ticket office.



### Conference Tournament Longevity

No.	Conference	Years
1.	Southern Conference	87
2.	Atlantic Coast Conference	53
3.	Southeastern Conference	47
4.	Ohio Valley Tournament	43
5.	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	35
6.	Big West Conference	31
	Big Sky Conference	31
8.	Missouri Valley Conference	30
	Sun Belt Conference	30
	Atlantic 10 Conference	30



### First Round March 7 (Friday)

- Game 1: No. 8 seed vs. No. 9 seed, 3:00 p.m.
- Game 2: No. 7 seed vs. No. 10 seed, 5:15 p.m.\*
- Game 3: No. 6 seed vs. No. 11 seed, 7:30 p.m.\*

### Quarterfinals March 8 (Saturday)

- Game 4: No. 1 seed vs. winner of Game 1, 2:00 p.m.
- Game 5: No. 4 seed vs. No. 5 seed, 4:15 p.m.\*
- Game 6: No. 2 seed vs. winner of Game 2, 7:00 p.m.
- Game 7: No. 3 seed vs. winner of Game 3, 9:15 p.m.\*

### Semifinals March 9 (Sunday)

- Game 8: Winner of Game 4 vs. Winner of Game 5, 6:00 p.m.
- Game 9: Winner of Game 6 vs. Winner of Game 7, 8:30 p.m.

### Championship March 10 (Monday)

- Game 10: Championship, 9:00 p.m. (ESPN2)

\*- Games scheduled to begin 30 minutes following the conclusion of the previous game.



## 2008 National Invitational Tournament

### First Round March 18 and 19

### Second Round March 20-22, 24

### Quarterfinal Round March 25-26

### Semifinals and Championship Madison Square Garden

- Semifinals:**  
Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- Championship:**  
Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

## 2008 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship



**Opening Round**  
Tuesday, March 18, 2008  
UD Arena - Dayton, Ohio  
Host: University of Dayton

**First and Second Rounds**  
March 20 and 22, 2008  
Honda Center - Anaheim, Calif.  
Host: Big West Conference

Pepsi Center - Denver, Colo.  
Hosts: Mountain West Conference and Colorado State University

Quest Center Omaha - Omaha, Neb.  
Hosts: Creighton University and Missouri Valley Conference

Verizon Center - Washington, D.C.  
Host: Georgetown University

March 21 and 23, 2008  
BJCC Arena - Birmingham Ala.  
Host: Southeastern Conference

Alltel Arena - Little Rock, Ark.  
Host: University of Arkansas-Little Rock

RBC Center - Raleigh, N.C.  
Host: North Carolina State University

St. Petersburg Times-Forum - Tampa, Fla.  
Host: University of South Florida

**Regionals**  
March 27 and 29, 2008  
**East Regional**  
Charlotte Bobcat Arena - Charlotte, N.C.  
Host: University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**West Regional**  
US Airways Center - Phoenix, Ariz.  
Host: Arizona State University

March 28 and 30, 2008  
**Midwest Regional**  
Ford Field - Detroit, Mich.  
Host: University of Detroit Mercy

**South Regional**  
Reliant Stadium - Houston, Texas  
Hosts: University of Houston and Rice University

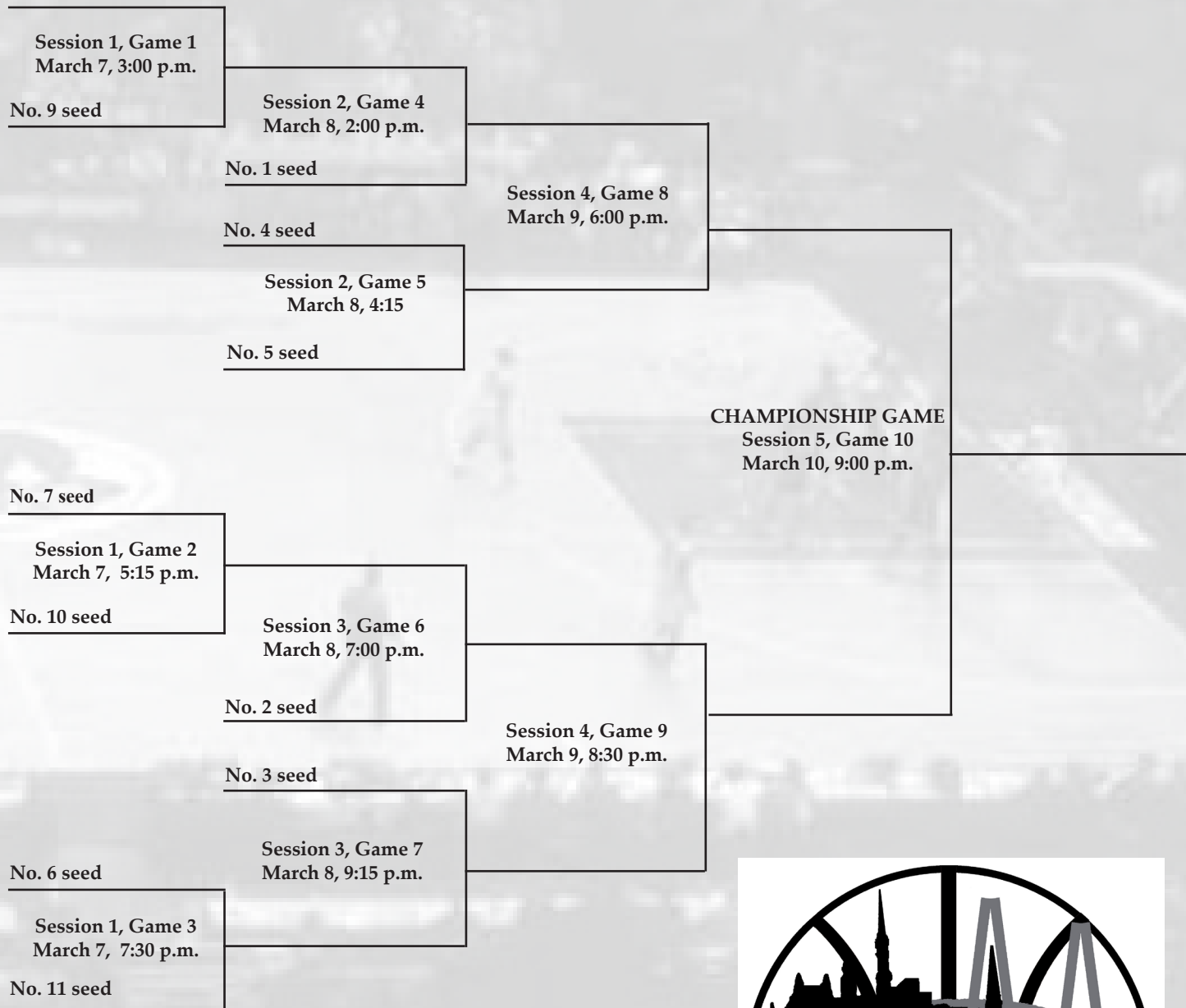
**Final Four**  
Alamadome - San Antonio, Texas  
Host: University of Texas-San Antonio

# SoCon Basketball Championship



## 2008 Southern Conference Men's Basketball Championship MARCH 7-10 • NORTH CHARLESTON COLISEUM • CHARLESTON, S.C.

No. 8 seed



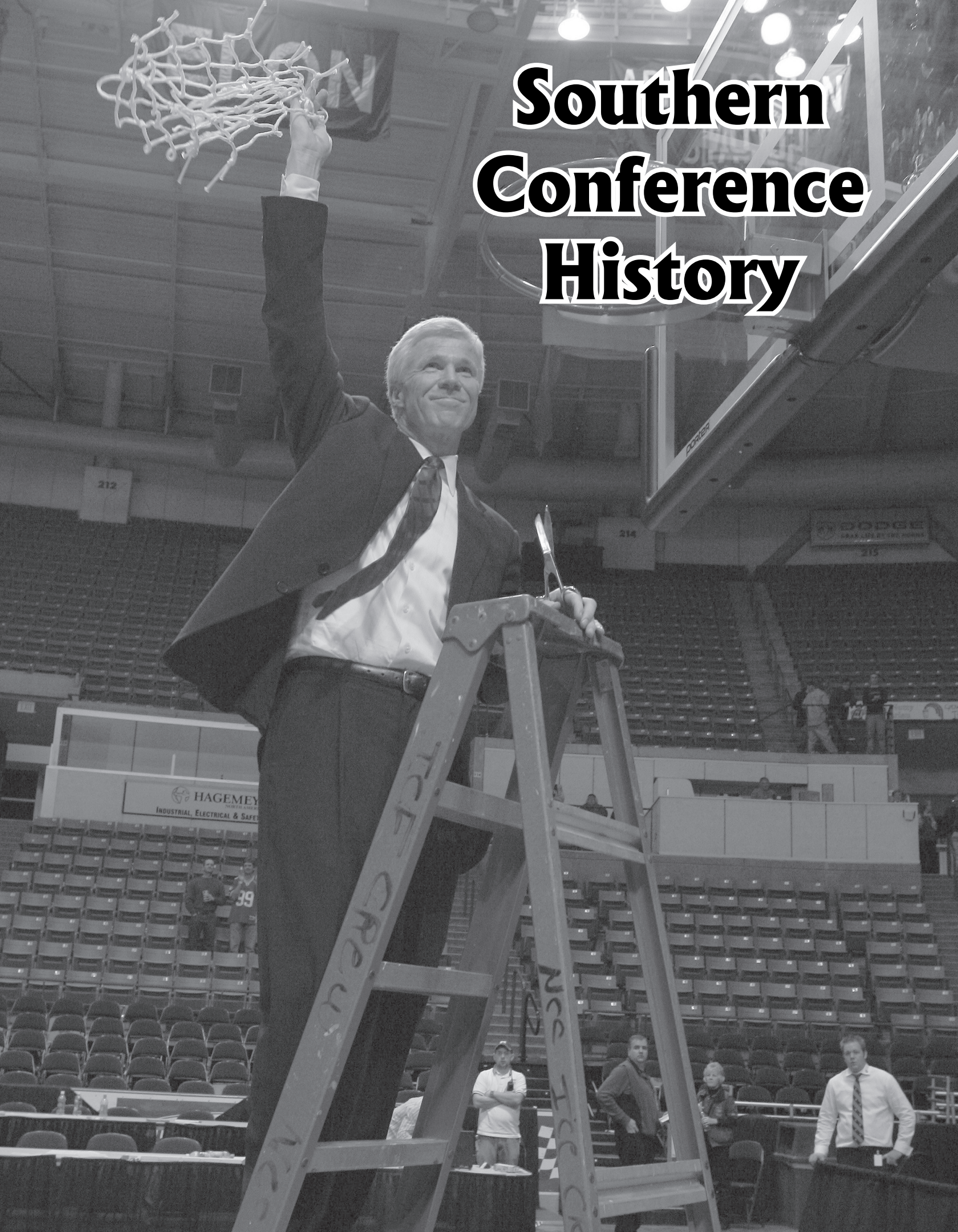
Champions of North and South Divisions receive No. 1 and No. 2 seeds regardless of overall conference record. No. 1 seed will be the team with the best conference win-loss percentage.

The bracket may be adjusted to allow the highest seeded local team to play a prime time (evening) game.

Game times for March 7-8 are approximate. There will be 30 minutes between games on those days.



# Southern Conference History





# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE HISTORY

## The Southern Conference

The Southern Conference, which began its 87th season of intercollegiate competition in 2007, is a national leader in emphasizing the development of the student-athlete and defining the league's role in helping to build lifelong leaders and role models.

The Southern Conference is the nation's fifth-oldest NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association. Only the Big Ten (1896), the Missouri Valley (1907), the Pacific 10 (1915) and the Southwestern Athletic (1920) conferences are older in terms of origination.

The Southern Conference has also excelled as the premier Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) conference. Southern Conference member Appalachian State won the 2006 and 2007 Football Championship Subdivision titles. The Conference currently consists of 11 members in four states throughout the Southeast and sponsors 19 varsity sports and championships that produce participants for NCAA Division I Championships.

Academic excellence has been a major part of the Southern Conference's tradition. League athletes have been recognized countless times on Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-America and district teams. A total of 19 Rhodes Scholarship winners have been selected from conference institutions.



*The Southern Conference moved its offices into the historic Beaumont Mill in Spartanburg, SC in January, 2005. The mill was constructed in 1890 alongside Chinquapin Creek. The main products in 1900 were carpet warps, seamless bags (for corn and grain), and wrapping twines for domestic market. In 1907, the mill operated with 12,360 spindles and 252 automatic looms. During WWII, Beaumont Mill produced "duck" which was the fabric made to outfit GIs in rafts and ammunition belts. The mill closed in 1999 and was partially dismantled in 2002. The Southern Conference was the first tenant in the revitalized mill.*

The Southern Conference office is located in the historic Beaumont Mill in Spartanburg, S.C. A textile mill that was in operation from 1880 until 1999, Beaumont Mill was renovated in 2004 and today offers the SoCon a first-class meeting area and offices as

well as a spacious library for storage of the conference's historical documents.

## Membership History

The Southern Conference was formed on February 25, 1921 at a meeting in Atlanta, Ga. as 14 institutions from the 30-member Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) reorganized as the Southern Conference. Those charter members included Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi State, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Tennessee, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Washington & Lee. Athletic competition began in the fall of 1921.

In 1922, six more schools - Florida, LSU, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tulane and Vanderbilt - joined the fold. A year later, the University of the South joined the ranks. VMI became a member in 1925 and Duke was added 1929. Since then, conference membership has experienced a series of membership changes with 42 institutions having been affiliated with the league. The league has undergone two major transitions during its history.

The first occurred in December 1932 when the Southeastern Conference was formed from the 23-school Southern Conference. The league's 13 members west and south of the Appalachian Mountains reorganized to help reduce the extensive travel demands



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Championships

The Southern Conference is celebrating 25 years of women's championships in 2007-08. The year-long celebration of women's sports will highlight student-athletes, coaches and teams. Commissioner Ken Germann spearheaded the Southern Conference's expansion to include women's athletics. The Germann Cup, named in honor of the former commissioner, annually recognizes the top women's athletics programs in the conference. From its humble beginnings, women's athletics have become an integral part of the Southern Conference and its success. The league crowns champions in nine women's sports including cross country, soccer, volleyball, indoor track & field, basketball, tennis, golf, outdoor track & field and softball.

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE HISTORY



that were present in the league at the time. In 1936, the Southern Conference invited The Citadel, William & Mary, Davidson, Furman, Richmond and Wake Forest to join the membership.

The second major shift came about in 1953 when Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, South Carolina and Wake Forest withdrew from the league to form the Atlantic Coast Conference. This change was brought about due to the desire of many of those schools to schedule a greater number of regular season basketball games against local rivals.

Today, the league continues to thrive with a membership that spans four Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Current league members are Appalachian State, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Davidson, Elon, Furman, Georgia Southern, UNC Greensboro, Chattanooga, Western Carolina and Wofford. On July 1, 2008, Samford will officially join the league, bringing membership of the conference to 12.

## Leadership

John Iamarino was officially named commissioner of the conference on January 2, 2006. Previously, Iamarino served as commissioner of the Northeast Conference. In nine years with the New Jersey-based league, Iamarino promoted the conference through an ambitious agenda which improved competition, upgraded compliance-related matters and increased the marketing and brand awareness of the conference and its member institutions.

The Southern Conference named its first commissioner in December 1950. Duke head football coach Wallace Wade made the transition from Blue Devil football coach to athletics administration as the first person at the helm of the conference.

Lloyd Jordan replaced Wade as the commissioner in 1960 and served a 14-year term until Ken Germann became the league head in 1974. Germann was the commissioner for 13 years and orchestrated the league's expansion to include women's athletics. In 1987, he was succeeded by Dave Hart who spearheaded the transfer of the league office from Charlotte, N.C. to Asheville, N.C.

Wright Waters succeeded Hart upon his retirement in 1991. Under Waters' leadership, the Southern Conference



*The Atlanta Memorial Auditorium was the site for the first Southern Conference Basketball Championship in 1922. The SoCon basketball tournament is the longest of its kind in college basketball history.*

expanded to 12 members, added three women's sports and posted record revenue from the basketball tournament. Waters, who is currently the commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, was followed by Alfred B. White in 1998. White, a veteran member of the NCAA staff, introduced the current SoCon logo and elevated the conference's commitment to marketing and development of corporate partners. He became the president of the Asheville franchise of the National Basketball Development League in 2001.

Danny Morrison headed the conference from 2001-2005 and orchestrated the league's move from Asheville, N.C. to historic Beaumont Mill in Spartanburg, S.C. Under Morrison's leadership, the conference increased its marketing and promotional efforts.

## Championship History

The first Southern Conference Championship was the league basketball tournament held in Atlanta in 1922. The North Carolina Tar Heels won the tournament to become the first recognized league champion in any sport. The Southern Conference Tournament remains the oldest of its kind in college basketball.

The Southern Conference began sponsoring women's sports during the 1983-84 season. That year, league championships were held in volleyball, basketball and tennis. Cross country joined the mix in 1985 and the league began holding indoor and outdoor track championships in 1988. Most recently, the conference instituted golf and softball championships in the spring of 1994 and

added soccer in the fall of 1994.

The Southern Conference currently declares champions in 10 men's sports - football, soccer, cross country, basketball, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, wrestling, baseball, tennis and golf - and nine women's sports - soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, tennis, golf and softball.

## Basketball

Men's basketball was the first sport in which the conference produced a championship. The league tournament is the nation's oldest, with the inaugural championship held in Atlanta in 1922. North Carolina won the first Southern Conference title by downing Mercer, 40-25, at the Atlanta Memorial Auditorium.

Not only was the Southern Conference Tournament the first of its kind, the league also helped change the face of college basketball. In 1980, the league began a season-long experiment with a 22-foot three-point field goal with the approval of the NCAA Rules Committee. Ronnie Carr of Western Carolina made the first three-point field goal in college basketball history in a game against Middle Tennessee State on Nov. 29, 1980.

Another college basketball tradition that originated in the SoCon is the traditional cutting of the nets by the winning team. According to USA Today, the practice of net cutting originated in 1947 with North Carolina State head coach Everett Case. As a first-year head coach, Case led the



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE HISTORY

Wolpack to the SoCon Tournament title. To commemorate the event, Case celebrated by claiming the nets as a souvenir of the win.

Basketball coaching legend Red Auerbach gives credit to former George Washington coach Bill Reinhart, who coached in the SoCon for nearly 30 years, as one of the originators of the modern fast-break.

West Virginia's 10 tournament championships are still the most in league history. The Mountaineers were led by the incomparable Jerry West from 1958 through '60. West, a two-time All-America selection, spurred West Virginia to the Final Four in 1959. The Mountaineers lost in the championship game that season to California, 71-70, but West earned Final Four Most Valuable Player honors. West was a three-time Southern Conference tournament MVP, a two-time league regular season MVP, and was twice named the conference's Athlete of the Year. He went on to a spectacular career with the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1979. He was a 14-time NBA All-Star while with the Lakers. It is West's silhouette that comprises the NBA's globally recognized logo.

Frank Selvy set the NCAA record for points in a game while at Furman. As a Paladin senior on Feb. 13, 1954, Selvy scored 100 points in a game against Newberry, a record that still stands. Selvy was the Southern Conference Most Valuable Player in 1953 and 1954 and the league's Athlete of the Year in 1954. He went on to a 10-year career in the NBA.

Rod Hundley was another West Virginia star during the 1950s. "Hot Rod" made a name for himself as one of the most spectacular players to tour the league during his era. Hundley averaged 24.5 points per game in his three seasons as a Mountaineer and was an all-conference and all-tournament performer in each of those three years. He was the Southern Conference Most Valuable Player and Athlete of the Year as a senior in 1957. He was the first player selected in the 1957 NBA draft and enjoyed a six-year career in that league.

East Tennessee State's Keith "Mister" Jennings made his mark on the college basketball world in the early 1990s. Despite standing less than six feet tall, Jennings was a two-time all-conference choice and the league's Player of the Year and Athlete of the Year in 1991. Jennings played with the Golden State Warriors of the NBA.

## Southern Conference Members

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Alabama (1921-1932)                         | Mississippi State (1921-1932)                      |
| <b>Appalachian State (1971-present)</b>     | North Carolina (1921-1953)                         |
| Auburn (1921-1932)                          | <b>North Carolina at Greensboro (1997-present)</b> |
| <b>College of Charleston (1998-present)</b> | North Carolina State (1921-1953)                   |
| <b>Chattanooga (1976-present)</b>           | Richmond (1936-1976)                               |
| <b>The Citadel (1936-present)</b>           | South Carolina (1922-1953)                         |
| Clemson (1921-1953)                         | Tennessee (1921-1932)                              |
| <b>Davidson (1936-1988, 1991-present)</b>   | Tulane (1922-1932)                                 |
| Duke (1928-1953)                            | University of the South (1922-1932)                |
| East Carolina (1964-1976)                   | Vanderbilt (1922-1932)                             |
| East Tennessee State (1978-2005)            | Virginia (1921-1937)                               |
| <b>Elon (2003-present)</b>                  | VMI (1924-2003)                                    |
| Florida (1922-1932)                         | Virginia Tech (1921-1965)                          |
| <b>Furman (1936-present)</b>                | Wake Forest (1936-1953)                            |
| George Washington (1936-1970)               | Washington & Lee (1921-1958)                       |
| Georgia (1921-1932)                         | West Virginia (1950-1968)                          |
| <b>Georgia Southern (1991-present)</b>      | <b>Western Carolina (1976-present)</b>             |
| Georgia Tech (1921-1932)                    | William & Mary (1936-1977)                         |
| Kentucky (1921-1932)                        | <b>Wofford (1997-present)</b>                      |
| Louisiana State (1922-1932)                 |  |
| Marshall (1976-1997)                        |  |
| Maryland (1921-1953)                        |  |
| Mississippi (1922-1932)                     |  |

**Bold indicates current conference member**

More recently, Western Carolina's Kevin Martin was a first round pick of the Sacramento Kings in 2004. Martin was second in the nation in scoring as a junior at 24.9 points per game before leaving for the NBA.

Besides West Virginia's team in 1959, the Southern Conference has been represented in the Final Four on two other occasions. North Carolina advanced to the NCAA championship game in 1943 before falling 43-40 to Oklahoma State. North Carolina State finished third in the tournament in 1950.

Women's basketball competition began in the Southern Conference in 1983-84 with seven teams. In the sport's history, seven schools have won the league's tournament at least once with Chattanooga winning 10 championships and Appalachian State owning six titles. UNC Greensboro won the 1998 tournament as head coach Lynne Agee became the first coach to take a team to the NCAA Tournament in all three Divisions - I, II and III. In 2001, Chattanooga head coach Wes Moore became the first coach in NCAA history to take three different teams to the NCAA Tournament in all three Divisions.

Since 1984, seven different teams have claimed at least a share of the regular season crown. Chattanooga has the most overall

titles with 12, six of them shared. Chattanooga owns the most outright championships with seven. Only three players have won the conference Player of the Year award twice: East Tennessee State's DeShawne Blocker in 1992-93 and 1994-95; Furman's Jackie Smith, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and Chattanooga's Damita Bullock, who won the award in 2000 and 2001.

### Football

The Southern Conference has the most prolific history among Football Championship Subdivision conferences. The league boasts the best winning percentage in the history of the Championship Subdivision Playoffs (.633). League players have garnered more than 200 All-America selections and numerous national player or coach of the year awards. The conference has had at least one team in the Top 10 of the final Football Championship Subdivision poll for 22 consecutive years with at least two teams finishing in the Top 20 in every season since 1982.

The conference has placed multiple representatives in the Football Championship Subdivision Playoffs in 19-of-23 seasons, with 14 Championship Game appearances and six national titles. Appalachian State has won the last 2006 and 2007 national championships. The SoCon has had at least one team reach the semifinals in seven of



### Samford University Joins Southern Conference for 2008-09

Samford University has accepted an invitation to join the Southern Conference beginning July 1, 2008. In 2003-04, The Birmingham, Ala.-based university was ranked seventh in the inaugural national Academic Progress Ratings (APR). Over the last five years, more than 50 percent of Samford's student-athletes earned a grade point average of 3.00 or better. In the last three academic years, Samford student-athletes have earned an average grade point average of 2.85. Founded in 1841 and located in Birmingham, Samford is the largest independently supported university in Alabama. With an enrollment of more than 4,500 students, Samford sponsors 17 sports for men and women. Samford has established a record of success as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) winning 11 team titles the last four seasons. Nine coaches have been honored as OVC Coach of the Year with eight student-athletes earning conference Player of the Year recognition.

the last eight years and in 12 of the last 14 seasons.

Prior to the conference's reclassification in 1981, Southern Conference football teams appeared in a total of 35 bowl games from 1926-71, posting a record of 16-17-2. There are nearly 40 former Southern Conference players in the College Football Hall of Fame. One of the most recognizable of these names is former North Carolina running back Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice. Justice helped guide North Carolina to three bowl appearances. He was a first team All-America selection in 1948 and 1949. In 1949, Justice earned first team all-conference honors for the fourth consecutive season, becoming the first player in league history to achieve that feat.

Another of the league's football products that made it to the College Football Hall of Fame is Sam Huff of West Virginia. Huff was a three-year starter on both the offensive and defensive lines for the Mountaineers. In 1955, Huff earned first team All-America honors on the field and was a first team Academic All-America for his work in the classroom. He played 12 seasons in the National Football League for the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins. He was a five-time All-Pro defensive lineman and is also a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In recent years, the SoCon has continued to produce outstanding student-athletes. Georgia Southern's Adrian Peterson captured the Walter Payton Award presented annually to the FCS's most outstanding offensive player in 1999. Furman's Louis Ivory was awarded the honor in 2000. Appalachian State's Dexter Coakley was a three-time all-conference selection and consensus All-America in 1994, '95 and '96 before going on to stardom with the Dallas Cowboys. Coakley won a pair of Buck Buchanan Awards, given to FCS's top defensive player each year. Terrell Owens went from catching passes at Chattanooga to a stellar NFL career. Western Carolina's David Patten and Appalachian State's Matt Stevens were both members of the New England Patriots Super Bowl Champion team in 2002 and Patten also earned Super Bowl rings with the Patriots in 2004 and '05.

### Other Sports

In baseball, Wake Forest advanced to the championship game of the NCAA College World Series in 1949 in Wichita, Kan. Demon Deacon second baseman Charles Teague was named Most Valuable Player. The Citadel made history in 1990 by becoming the first military school to make an appearance at the College World Series. The Bulldogs were joined at the College World Series at Omaha's Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium by current

conference member Georgia Southern.

One of the Southern Conference's more famous baseball alums is Duke's Dick Groat. The Blue Devil shortstop, who was also a basketball standout, was the conference's Athlete of the Year in 1951 and 1952. He went on to a 14-year career in the major leagues. In 1960, he was named the National League MVP after he led the league in batting with a .325 average for the World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates.

Among Southern Conference alums to grace Major League Baseball fields have been Atlee Hammaker (East Tennessee State), Jeff Montgomery (Marshall) and Mike Ramsey (Appalachian State). Other SoCon players to go on to a career in the major leagues include Angels third baseman Dallas McPherson (The Citadel), pitchers Britt Reames (The Citadel) and Ryan Glynn (VMI) who both pitched with Oakland in 2005, Furman's Tom Mastny, a pitcher with the Cleveland Indians (2007) and Brian Rogers, a pitcher with the Pittsburgh Pirates (2007).

Arnold Palmer, perhaps the most famous golfer to have ever lived, competed under the Southern Conference banner as a collegian at Wake Forest. He took medalist honors at the Southern Conference Tournament in 1948 and 1949 and was the tournament's runner-up in 1950. Palmer was the medalist at the NCAA Golf Championships in 1949 and 1950. He went on to become one of the most accomplished golfers to play on the professional tour. Palmer won 60 tournaments while competing on the PGA Tour and has added 10 more victories as a member of the Senior PGA Tour. He has also won eight major championships - four Masters, two British Opens, one U.S. Open and one U.S. Amateur.

Women's sports are relatively young in the league's history. In 2007-08, the Southern Conference will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary of women's championship. Furman golfer Dottie Pepper was named the Southern Conference Women's Athlete of the Decade in conjunction with that event. Appalachian State's Mary Jayne Harrelson won the NCAA Outdoor title at 1500 meters in 1999 and 2001. Furman's Brandi Jackson won the NCAA Women's Golf East Regional in the spring of 2003.

### Coaches and Administrators

The Southern Conference has also been a breeding ground for some of college athletics' most recognized coaches and administrators.

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE HISTORY

Legendary basketball coaches Adolph Rupp of Kentucky and Everett Case of North Carolina State both worked the sidelines in the Southern Conference. Rupp guided the Wildcats to a 30-5 mark during the 1931 and 1932 seasons. Yet, for all his coaching accomplishments, Rupp never led Kentucky to a Southern Conference tournament championship. Case mentored the Wolfpack to six consecutive Southern Conference Tournament championships from 1947 through 1952.

Lefty Driesell coached Davidson to three Southern Conference Tournament championships in 1966, 1968 and 1969. Driesell also won the league's Coach of the Year award four straight times from 1963 through 1966. Former Georgia Tech coach and current mentor at College of Charleston Bobby Cremins earned league Coach of the Year honors three times in the late '70s and early '80s while at Appalachian State.

Terry Holland saw his basketball coaching career take off at Davidson when he returned to his alma mater in 1970. Holland was honored as the Southern Conference Coach of the Year for three consecutive seasons from 1970-72 and led the Wildcats to the conference tournament title and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 1970.

J. Dallas Shirley, a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, spent 21 years as the assistant to the commissioner and supervisor of officials in the Southern Conference. He also served as president of the International Association Basketball Officials and the United States Olympic Basketball Committee.

The legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant got his coaching start in the Southern Conference as he guided the Maryland Terrapins in 1945. A renowned Southern Conference football coach is the late Frank Howard of Clemson, who guided the Tigers as a league member from 1940-52. Howard won 69 Southern Conference games which still ranks tied for fourth on the league's all-time coaching victories list.

The Southern Conference has been represented on the sidelines at five Super Bowls in recent years. Bobby Ross, who piloted the San Diego Chargers to the 1996 Super Bowl, was the head coach at The Citadel from 1973-77. Former Buffalo Bills head coach Marv Levy directed William & Mary from 1964-68. He was succeeded at William & Mary by Lou Holtz. William & Mary competed in the Southern Conference from 1936-77.



Appalachian State's Mary Jane Harrelson was an NCAA Champion in the 1,500 meters in 1999 and 2001.

## 2007 Men's Basketball Officials

Name	Hometown	Years	Name	Hometown	Years	Name	Hometown	Years
Robbie Adams	Starr, S.C.	7	Terry Gilbert	Olar, S.C.	1st	Timothy Nestor	Advance, N.C.	12
Roger Ayers, Jr.	Roanoke, Va.	7	Dwayne Gladden	Virginia Beach, Va.	3	Roger Parramore	Pinehurst, N.C.	3
Charles Balunek	Kennesaw, Ga.	1st	Donnee Gray	Bryans Road, Md.	22	Rick Pate	Raleigh, N.C.	4
James Barker	Ellenwood, Ga.	5	Tony Greene	Stone Mountain, Ga.	17	Antinio Petty	Chattanooga, Tenn.	15
Carl Blair	Rocky Mount, N.C.	17	Ron Groover	Newnan, Ga.	5	Steve Pyatt	Clinton, Tenn.	20
Curtis Blair	Mechanicsville, Va.	3	Jeb Hartness	Chattanooga, Tenn.	9	Nathan Quick	Charlotte, N.C.	5
Scott Bolnick	Atlanta, Ga.	1st	Allan Hawkins	Vienna, W. Va.	30	Carlos Reyes	Mableton, Ga.	11
Frankie Bordeaux	Greenville, N.C.	16	Jerry Heater	Charlotte, N.C.	6	Richard Ridenhour	Rockwell, N.C.	23
Haywood Bostic, Jr.	Midlothian, Va.	4	Karl Hess	Forest, Va.	20	Mark Schnur	Charlotte, N.C.	7
James Breeding	Louisville, Ky.	5	Jerry Hill	Flat Rock, N.C.	11	Kevin Scott	Flowery Branch, Ga.	3
Chuck Bridwell	Travelers Rest, S.C.	14	Donald Hudson	Douglasville, Ga.	1st	Curtis Shaw	Brandenton, Fla.	17
William Bush III	Washington, D.C.	17	Tyler Huffer	Roswell, Ga.	3	Forrest Sigler	Lilburn, Ga.	5
Shawn Carpenter	Roanoke, Va.	5	Sean Hull	Ellicott City, Md.	14	Doug Sirmons	Virginia Beach, Va.	11
Sean Casady	Virginia Beach, Va.	8	William Humes	Asheville, N.C.	9	Scott Smith	Chapel Hill, N.C.	8
Mark Chafin	Forest, Va.	7	Robert James	Midlothian, Va.	21	John Spears	Waynesboro, Va.	12
William Cheek	Raleigh, N.C.	28	Chuck Jones	Sharpesburg, Ga.	6	Zelton Steed	Charlotte, N.C.	18
Tim Clougherty	Raleigh, N.C.	4	Anthony Jordan	Decatur, Ga.	2	Dan Stryffeler	Simpsonville, S.C.	9
Steve Coleman	Greenwood, S.C.	5	Bryan Kersey	Newport News, Va.	17	Michael Stuart	Maryville, Tenn.	17
John Corio	Pinebluff, N.C.	14	Chris King	Stone Mountain, Ga.	2	Raymond Styons, Jr.	Greenville, N.C.	19
Brad Corriher	Salisbury, N.C.	14	Lee Kluttz	Mt. Pleasant, N.C.	13	Everette Summers	Columbia, S.C.	11
Marc Couch	Loganville, Ga.	3	Kevin Lanier	Fort Mill, S.C.	2	Robert Taylor	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	1st
William Covington, Sr.	High Point, N.C.	11	Jamie Luckie	Charlotte, N.C.	16	Glenn Tuitt	Decatur, Ga.	7
Michael Cowart	Rustburg, Va.	2	Barry Mathis	Maryville, Tenn.	10	Ted Valentine	Charleston, S.C.	22
Dave Davis	Rockingham, N.C.	12	Gary Maxwell	Cookeville, Tenn.	15	Jeff Wayner	Cornelius, N.C.	2
Michael Drummond	Rock Hill, S.C.	14	Xavier McCall	Raleigh, N.C.	2	Gary Wall	Raleigh, N.C.	24
Billy Dunlap	Laurens, S.C.	9	Terry Moore	Spartanburg, S.C.	19	Tony Whisnant	Hildebran, N.C.	7
Mike Eades	Princeton, W. Va.	7	Quintin Murphy	Bedford, Va.	14	Mike Wood	Spartanburg, S.C.	21
Brad Etter	Marietta, Ga.	4	Mike Nance	College Park, Ga.	6			
Greg Fogleman	Durham, N.C.	9	Ray Natili	West Columbia, S.C.	15			

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF



## John Iamarino Commissioner

A new era in Southern Conference history was ushered in when the league's Council of Presidents named John Iamarino commissioner on January 2, 2006. The eighth commissioner in the 87-year history of the conference, Iamarino has emphasized a strategic plan that calls for greater emphasis on the student-athlete in Southern Conference championships,

increased television and video-streaming coverage, an aggressive policy toward conference and non-conference scheduling, and a commitment to rules compliance.

In Iamarino's short tenure, he reorganized the conference operation with the creation of a director of championships and the addition of a director of multi media services. A new television deal was struck with SportSouth in which more games in more sports will be aired throughout the Southern Conference footprint.

Iamarino, 52, has spent the past 23 years at the conference level, working at both the Sun Belt Conference and the Northeast Conference. Prior to joining the SoCon, he served as Commissioner of the NEC for nine years. During that time, the conference launched its first web-site, increased television coverage from 12 to 30 basketball games, worked to implement 30 grants-in-aid for the previously non-scholarship football programs, and initiated the league's aggressive marketing and merchandising efforts.

Under his leadership, the NEC added new championships in the women's sports of lacrosse, swimming & diving and field hockey. More recently, he was instrumental in the formation of the Gridiron Classic, a post-season game between the champions of the NEC and Pioneer Football League.



At the Sun Belt, he spent 13 years (1984-97) in a variety of publicity, compliance and administrative positions, rising to the level of Associate Commissioner. When the original Sun Belt merged with the then-American South Conference in 1991, Iamarino was the lone staffer from the original organization to move to the new Sun Belt, heading the transition team for the unprecedented merger of two Division I conferences.

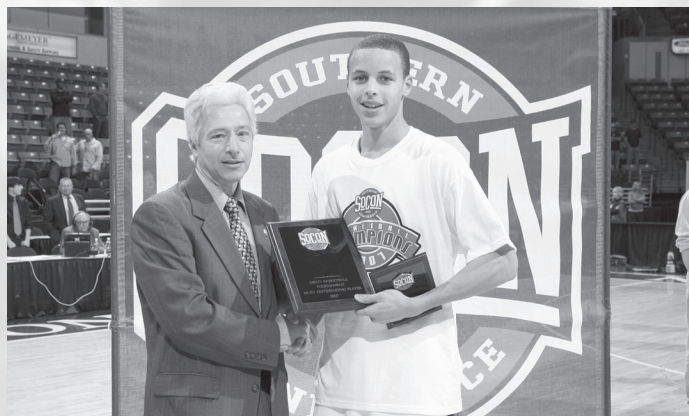
He entered the field of intercollegiate athletics as Assistant Sports Information Director at Georgetown in 1979, working two years there before moving on to become Sports Information Director at Jacksonville.

He is active nationally with experience as a member of the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee, the Division I-AA Football Governance Committee and a special sub-committee of the Collegiate Commissioners' Association studying the I-AA football playoffs. He recently served as Vice President of the CCA representing Division I-AA and served a term on the NCAA's Special Events Committee.

Iamarino is a 1977 graduate of St. Bonaventure, where he earned magna cum laude honors majoring in journalism. A native of Monsey, N.Y., he resides in Spartanburg, S.C. with his wife, Mary Ann, and son P.J. (11).

### Iamarino At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**  
Monsey, N.Y.  
**EDUCATION:**  
B.A., St. Bonaventure, 1977  
**EXPERIENCE:**  
Assistant Sports Information Director, Georgetown, 1979-81  
Sports Information Director, Jacksonville, 1981-84  
Media Relations Director, Sun Belt Conference, 1984-88  
Assistant Commissioner, Sun Belt Conference, 1988-91  
Associate Commissioner, Sun Belt Conference, 1991-97  
Commissioner, Northeast Conference, 1997-06  
Commissioner, Southern Conference, 2006-present



## Southern Conference Commissioners



Wallace Wade  
1951-60



Lloyd Jordan  
1960-73



Ken Germann  
1974-86



Dave Hart, Sr.  
1986-91



Wright Waters  
1991-98



Alfred White  
1998-2001



Danny Morrison  
2001-05



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF



## Geoff Cabe Senior Associate Commissioner

The senior member of the Southern Conference staff, Geoff Cabe is in his 19th year as a member of the league's staff, having joined the conference in July, 1988 as an intern in the media relations department. He was promoted to media relations director in 1991 and rose to the rank of assistant commissioner in 1991. In 1995, he assumed responsibility for overseeing the league's championship events.

Cabe was named an associate commissioner in 1999 and senior associate commissioner in 2002. In his most recent role, Cabe is responsible for many of the conference's athletic competition functions, including developing the conference's playing and television schedules. He also serves as the primary liaison with the league's athletics directors and serves as the director of the conference's men's basketball championships.

He has served as the interim commissioner on two occasions in his tenure. He was appointed to the position on June 15, 2005 following the resignation of former commissioner Danny Morrison, who became the director of athletics at TCU. Cabe had previously served a stint as interim commissioner in 2001 following the departure of Alfred White as commissioner. When the Southern Conference hosted the first and second rounds of the 2001 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships in Greenville, S.C., Cabe served as the tournament director for the highly successful event. He is also a member of the Steering Committee for the NCAA FCS National Championship Game in Chattanooga, Tenn.

When the Southern Conference hosted the first and second rounds of the 2001 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship in Greenville, S.C., Cabe served as tournament director of the highly-successful event. For the last 11 years, Cabe has been the tournament director of the Southern Conference Men's Basketball Championship.

Born July 15, 1966 at Highlands, N.C., Cabe graduated from Highlands High in 1984. At Highlands High School, he lettered in four sports and was an All-Western North Carolina honorable mention selection in basketball. He graduated from UNC Asheville in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. Cabe worked as a sports correspondent for the Asheville Citizen-Times and has been a contributing writer to the Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook.

Cabe was married to the former Amy Hinson on June 12, 2004. The couple has one daughter, Alicen Carol (1) and a stepson, Austin (13).

### Cabe At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**

Highlands, N.C.

**EDUCATION:**

B.S., UNC Asheville, 1988

**EXPERIENCE:**

Media Relations Assistant, Southern Conference, 1988-91  
Assistant Media Relations Director, Southern Conference, 1989-91  
Assistant Commissioner/Media Relations, Southern Conference, 1991-95  
Assistant Commissioner/Championships, Southern Conference, 1995-99  
Associate Commissioner/External Affairs, Southern Conference, 1999-02  
Senior Associate Commissioner, Southern Conference, 2002-present



## Sue Arakas Associate Commissioner

In her 14th year as a member of the Southern Conference staff, Sue Arakas oversees the conference's budget, financial resources, office operations, and meeting planning. She also supervised the management of daily business operations and administers all policies and procedures of the conference. The conference internship program is also under her supervision.

In addition, Arakas serves as the league's Senior Woman Administrator. She oversees the management of its nine women's sports, as well as being responsible for the coordination of Championship events for women's soccer, women's golf, volleyball, women's basketball and softball. She also serves as the staff liaison for various league sport and standing committees and has overseen planning for celebration of the Southern Conference's 25th anniversary of women's championships.

While with the SoCon, Arakas has been involved in national organizations such as NACWAA, most recently as a 2004 graduate of NACWAA/HERS East, a professional leadership development institute. She currently serves as the chair of the Conference Woman Administrators, whose membership includes women administrators from conferences in Division I, II and III and the junior college levels.

Arakas joined the league office on June 1, 1994 as an administrative assistant and was promoted to Assistant Commissioner for Internal Operations in January, 1997. She was named Associate Commissioner in July, 1999.

She and her husband, Tommy, have a son and daughter-in-law, Stamati and Cyndi Arakas, who are product managers in Baltimore, Md. for DeWalt Power Tools and Black & Decker. They also have a daughter and son-in-law, Katina and Scott Kenyon, who both work for Dell Computers in El Salvador, and granddaughter Nina. Sue and Tommy reside in Asheville, N.C.

### Arakas At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**

Asheville, N.C.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Administrative Assistant, Southern Conference, 1994-97  
Assistant Commissioner for Internal Affairs, Southern Conference, 1997-99  
Associate Commissioner, Southern Conference, 1999-present

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF



**Doug King**  
Associate Commissioner

A veteran with 10 years experience in athletics dealing with compliance issues, Douglas King joined the Southern Conference staff in February, 2003 as Assistant Commissioner for Compliance. He was promoted to Associate Commissioner in 2005.

In his role with the league office, King assists each Southern Conference institution with its campus compliance program administering the conference's NCAA Special Assistance Fund, NCAA Student-Athlete Opportunity Funds, Coaches Certification Exam and the National Letter of Intent Program. King serves as a liaison between the member institutions and NCAA Membership Services and Enforcement staffs while providing interpretations of NCAA and Conference legislation.

In addition to his compliance responsibilities, King is the conference administrator responsible for overseeing the wrestling, men's and women's cross country and men's golf championships. He serves on the NCAA's Progress Toward Degree Waiver committee and the NCAA Division I Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet.

King joined the conference after a five-year stint at Houston. He had served as a Compliance Coordinator for two years, Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance for two years and Director of Football Operations for one season. As Houston's Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance, he was responsible for certifying the initial and continuing eligibility of more than 350 Cougar student-athletes.

He served as a Compliance Assistant at New Mexico in 1997-98 before moving to Houston.

A 1991 graduate of Bentley where he earned a bachelor's degree in management with a minor in pre-law, the Swanzey, N. H. native was a member of the lacrosse team and served on the college's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

King and Scout "The Wonderdog" reside in Spartanburg, S.C.

## King At-A-Glance

### HOMETOWN:

Swanzey, N.H.

### EDUCATION:

B.S., Bentley, 1991

### EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Compliance Coordinator, New Mexico, 1997-98  
Compliance Coordinator, Houston, 1998-00  
Assistant Athletics Director, Houston, 2000-02  
Director of Football Operations, Houston, 2002-03  
Assistant Commissioner, Southern Conference, 2003-04  
Associate Commissioner, Southern Conference, 2005-present



**Mike Ballweg**  
Assistant Commissioner

With more than 30 years experience in intercollegiate athletics, Mike Ballweg was named assistant commissioner of the Southern Conference on August 16, 2006. He is responsible for the conference's public relations efforts and the day-to-day operation of the league's media relations operation.

A native of Blacksburg, Va., Ballweg is a 1975 graduate of Virginia Tech where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

During his undergraduate college days, he worked as an intern in the sports information office at Virginia Tech under Mr. Wendy Weisend (a member of the College Sports Information Directors Hall of Fame). He served as the assistant athletics director and sports information director at Hampton (1975-81); director of sports media relations at Ohio (1981-83); sports information director at West Virginia (1983-84) and Virginia Commonwealth (1984-92). He spent two years as the assistant executive director at the Blockbuster Bowl and Raycom in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (1992-94) before serving as assistant athletics director at Rhode Island for 11 years.

Ballweg is a member of the College Sports Information Director's of America (CoSIDA) and is a member of the Site Selection Committee. He has served as the national chair of the CoSIDA Publications Committee. His publications have earned a total of 38 CoSIDA citations for excellence.

Ballweg and his wife, Shari, reside in Boiling Springs, S.C. A native of Sarasota, Fla., she is assistant vice president and lead trainer for Citizens Bank.

## Ballweg At-A-Glance

### HOMETOWN:

Blacksburg, Va.

### EDUCATION:

B.S., Virginia Tech, 1975

### EXPERIENCE:

Sports Information Director, Hampton, 1975-81  
Director of Sports media Relations, Ohio, 1981-83  
Sports Information Director, West Virginia University, 1983-84  
Sports Information Director, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1984-92  
Assistant Executive Director, Blockbuster Bowl/Raycom, 1992-94  
Assistant Athletics Director, Rhode Island, 1994-06  
Assistant Commissioner, Southern Conference, 2006-present



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF



## Mandi Copeland Director of Multimedia Services

In her eighth year with the Southern Conference, Mandi Copeland is taking on a new role as the league's director of multimedia. She joined the league on May 31, 2000 as assistant director of public affairs and served as director of media services for two years before moving to the newly-created multimedia position.

Copeland is responsible for overseeing the conference's video streaming efforts as well as the design and development of the league's website, [www.SoConSports.com](http://www.SoConSports.com). She is also responsible for various aspects of television and radio. Copeland also serves as the conference's technology consultant and works with the SoCon Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Copeland is an active member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America Committee, serving as a district coordinator with the program. She has assisted at numerous NCAA championship events, including several NCAA Women's Basketball and Baseball Regional Tournaments, the 2003 Women's Final Four in Atlanta, Ga., and the 2006 College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Copeland graduated from Florida State in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in communications. She transferred to Florida State in 1995 after lettering in tennis at West Virginia as a freshman. She earned her master's degree in physical education in 2000 from Florida State. She served as a graduate assistant with the Florida State sports information office serving as the primary contact for softball, women's soccer and swimming & diving, as well as assisting with football and men's and women's basketball.

Born in Royal Oak, Mich., Copeland graduated from Riverside High in Greer, S.C., in 1994. At Riverside High, Copeland was a five-year letter winner in tennis, receiving all-conference honors all five years and served as team captain for two seasons. She also served as an athletic trainer for football and baseball.

### Copeland At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**

Greer, S.C.

**EDUCATION:**

B.S., Florida State, 1998

M.S., Florida State, 2000

**EXPERIENCE:**

Sports Information Student Assistant, Florida State, 1997-98

Sports Information Graduate Assistant, Florida State, 1998-2000

Assistant Director for Public Affairs, Southern Conference, 2000-05

Director of Media Services, Southern Conference, 2005-2007

Director of Multimedia Services, 2007-present



## Jonathan Caskey Assistant Director of Media Relations

Jonathan Caskey, former assistant sports information director at Appalachian State, is in his first year as the Southern Conference's director of media relations. In his role, he is responsible for graphic design of all conference publications and is the staff liaison for a number of sports including soccer, women's basketball and softball. In addition, he assists at conference championships and works with the league public relations initiatives.

A 2003 graduate of Furman, Caskey earned a bachelor's degree in History. A member of the National History Honor Society, Caskey worked as a sports information and athletics operations assistant as a student and staffed more than 100 events including baseball, men's soccer and women's events.

Caskey spent a year as a public affairs assistant at the Southern Conference where he was the primary media contact for volleyball, women's soccer, track & field, softball and golf, assisting at conference championships. He was also involved with numerous research projects while compiling, researching and designing record books for numerous sports.

He moved to Appalachian State where he served as assistant sports information director from 2004-05. He served as the primary contact for men's and women's soccer, women's basketball and softball. He also wrote and edited media guides and press releases.

For the last two years, the Greenville, S.C. native has worked with the International Service Corps in Delhi, India.

Caskey's brother, Jordan, is the assistant sports information director at Furman.

Jonathan, and his wife, Kelley, reside in Boiling Springs, S.C. and have one daughter, Kiran (1).

### Caskey At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**

Greenville, S.C.

**EDUCATION:**

B.A., Furman, 2003

**EXPERIENCE:**

Public Affairs Assistant, Southern Conference, 2003-04

Assistant Sports Information Director, Appalachian State, 2004-05

International Service Corps, 2005-07

Ass't. Director of Media Relations, Southern Conference, 2007-present

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF



## Brandon Neff Director of Championships

After serving as an external affairs assistant for one year, Brandon Neff was promoted to the newly-created director of championships position in 2007. In his position, he is responsible for championship administration at conference championships and overseeing the league's 19 championship events.

He plans and manages conference championships and develops championship policies and directives. He also coordinates the Southern Conference's merchandise and sales program.

He served as an athletic administrative intern at the Mid-Continent Conference where his duties included assisting with the day-to-day operations of the office, including working with the compliance program, conference championships, media relations and event management.

Neff spent three years as assistant commissioner of the Iowa Community College Athletic Association. He also gained experience as a fan service representative for the Chicago Bears and as a production assistant with Championship Productions.

Neff earned his bachelor's degree in exercise sport science with an emphasis in sport management from Iowa State in 2003. He earned a master's in sport management from Northern Illinois in 2006 where he served as a graduate assistant for intramurals and sport clubs in 2005-06.

A native of Alta, Iowa, Neff was married to the former Stephanie Tucker on August 18, 2007. A native of Oskaloosa, Iowa, she is a registered dietician at Spartanburg Regional Hospital. The couple resides in Spartanburg.

### Neff At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**

Alta, Iowa

**EDUCATION:**

B.S., Iowa State, 2003

M.S., Northern Illinois, 2006

**EXPERIENCE:**

Assistant Commissioner, Iowa Community College Athletic Conference, 2001-04

Fan Services Representative, Chicago Bears, 2005

Athletic Administrative Intern, Mid-Continent Conference, 2006

External Affairs Assistant, Southern Conference, 2006-07

Director of Championships, Southern Conference, 2007-present



## Mike Mitchell Senior Account Executive

Mike Mitchell, former assistant athletics director for marketing and development at UNC Asheville, is in his first year as senior account executive for SoCon Sports Properties. He is responsible for the league's corporate relations and sponsorship program. Mitchell serves as a

liaison between the Southern Conference and its marketing partner, Host Communications.

Mitchell spent two years at UNC Asheville as assistant athletics director for development and marketing before joining the Southern Conference in July 2007. He served as assistant athletics director/marketing and development at Longwood in 2004.

He previously worked at the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) as a marketing consultant in corporate communications and marketing for the Toronto-based company since 2003. Mitchell also worked as a facilitator of corporate partnerships for the city of Kitchener in Ontario (2001-03) after serving as the marketing manager in intercollegiate athletics at the University of Western Ontario (2000-01). While at Western Ontario, he developed and implemented marketing plans for 32 varsity sports teams, negotiated partnerships with local and national businesses, and increased ticket sales by 30 percent.

Mitchell served as owner and executive producer of Thin Air Productions in Toronto, a sports television production company focusing on live sports broadcasting. Additionally, he has experience with CTV Sportsnet in Toronto (1997-98), and CHRW TV and Radio in London, Ontario (1993-97) as director of news and sports.

A native of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Mitchell received his bachelor of arts in social science with a degree in history from the University of Western Ontario in 1991. He also attended Fanshawe College in Ontario from 1991-93 while studying broadcast journalism.

### Mitchell At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**

Windsor, Ontario

**EDUCATION:**

B.A., University of Western Ontario, 1991

**EXPERIENCE:**

News and Sports Director, CHRW-TV and Radio, 1993-97

News and Sports Director, CTV Sportsnet, 1997-98

Marketing Manager, University of Western Ontario, 2000-01

Strategic Partnership Coordinator, City of Kitchener, Ontario, 2001-03

Marketing Consultant, Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2003-04

Assistant Athletics Director, Longwood, 2004-05

Assistant Athletics Director, UNC Asheville, 2005-07

Director of Marketing, Southern Conference, 2007-present



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF



## Curt Cassell Media Relations Assistant

After a year as public relations coordinator at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Curt Cassell has joined the Southern Conference as a public relations assistant.

Cassell earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from Dayton in 2003 with a minor in public relations. As an undergraduate student, Cassell worked in the Dayton athletic ticket office where he helped manage ticket operations for all sporting events at UD Arena and Welcome Stadium.

He was a Founding Father of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and volunteered at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. He also served as a Pastoral Care Assistant and a Youth basketball camp volunteer.

Cassell worked with State Insurance Agency for two years as new business coordinator. He processed group and individual insurance applications and coordinated a program for licensing agents to sell carrier products.

Prior to joining the Southern Conference, Cassell spent a year as public relations coordinator at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind. He wrote and edited press releases for all sports, compiled statistics and helped maintain the conference's web-site.

### Cassell At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
**EDUCATION:**  
B.S., Dayton, 2003  
**EXPERIENCE:**  
New Business Coordinator, State Insurance Agency, 2004-06  
Public Relations Intern, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, 2006-07  
Media Relations Assistant, Southern Conference, 2007-present



## Jim Burch Coordinator of Officials

Jim Burch is in his 19th year as the Southern Conference's coordinator of men's basketball officials. He is responsible for assigning officials for the league. A long-time college basketball official, Burch assumed his Southern Conference coordinator's position in July of 1988 and announced his retirement as a game official.

His officiating experience includes 17 years as a high school referee and 29 years on the collegiate level. He worked the Central Intercollegiate

Athletic Association (CIAA) tournament for 20 years, the Southern Conference event for 15 years, and worked four NCAA regional tournaments.

Born July 7, 1927 at Raleigh, N.C., Burch is a 1949 graduate of Fayetteville State with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. He earned a master's degree in educational administration from Indiana and has done post-graduate work at New York University, North Carolina and Duke.

Prior to his retirement in 1988, Burch has officiated games for the Southern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Sun Belt Conference, Colonial Athletic Association, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

In addition to the Southern Conference, Burch also supervises men's basketball officials for the South Atlantic Conference. He is a member of the Fayetteville State Athletic Hall of Fame, the CIAA Basketball Officials Hall of Fame, and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Basketball Hall of Fame. In 1996, Referee Magazine selected him as one of the 20 referees who have most influenced officiating in the last 20 years.



## Laura Hayes Assistant to the Commissioner

A member of the Southern Conference staff since May 16, 2007, Laura Hayes handles a variety of administrative tasks in her role as assistant to the commissioner.

She assists with the daily management of the conference's business operations and financial endeavors and aids with the planning and execution of conference meetings. She serves as a liaison between the league office and Southern

Conference member schools and coordinates the conference's Graduate Scholarship program.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, she earned her insurance license from Greenville Technical College in 1999. She worked in the insurance and banking industry before moving to the Southern Conference. An avid reader, she enjoys kick boxing.

She and her husband Lewis have a daughter Ashton (20) and a son, Brennen (10). Her husband is the fire chief at Croft Station in Spartanburg.

### Hayes At-A-Glance

**HOMETOWN:**  
San Antonio, Texas  
**EDUCATION:**  
Greenville Technical College, 1999  
**EXPERIENCE:**  
L.M. Hubert Household Management, 1994-97  
Arthur State Bank, 1997-00  
State Farm Insurance, 2000-04  
Allstate Insurance, 2004-05  
George Johnson Insurance, 2005-06  
The Palladian Group, 2006-07  
Assistant to the Commissioner, Southern Conference, 2007-present



# SoCon MEDIA SERVICES



**Southern Conference**  
702 N. Pine Street  
Spartanburg, S.C. 29303  
www.soconsports.com

## Press Releases

The Southern Conference utilizes e-mail and the league's web-site ([www.socon.com](http://www.socon.com)) to distribute information, press releases, notes and statistics. If you wish to be added to the distribution list, please contact a member of the media relations staff.

## SoCon.TV

In July 2005, the Southern Conference launched SoCon.TV, a live video streaming network designed to bring SoCon sports to fans around the world through the internet. The network includes not only Southern Conference Championship events but also regular season events from around the league.

## Players of the Week

The Southern Conference selects a player of the week throughout the season. The honorees will be announced on Tuesdays and will be available on the conference's web-site ([www.socon.com](http://www.socon.com)) or by contacting the conference office.

## Post-season Awards

Following the conclusion of the regular season, voting is conducted on the all-conference teams by both the league's coaches and members of the Southern Conference Sports Media Association (SCSMA). The coaches select a 10-member all-conference squad while the SCSMA chooses a five-player first-team, second-team and third-team. Both groups select a Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year and a Coach of the Year.

## Southern Conference on the Web

Visit the Southern Conference's official web-site at [www.soconsports.com](http://www.soconsports.com). Information related to men's basketball and the conference's other 18 sports can be found on the site include: up-to-date statistics, standings, weekly releases and game recaps. Video streaming of select championships and regular season contests is also available.

## Athletic Media Relations Staff



**Mike Ballweg**  
Assistant  
Commissioner  
Office: (864) 591-5100  
Cell: (864) 380-1166  
Fax: (864) 591-3448  
Home: (864) 578-2211  
mballweg@socon.org

**Responsibilities:**  
Administration,  
Football, Men's

Basketball, Baseball



**Jonathan Caskey**  
Assistant Director of  
Media Relations  
Office: (864) 591-5100  
Cell: (864) 525-5174  
Fax: (864) 591-3448  
Home: (864) 599-8842  
jcaskey@socon.org

**Responsibilities:**  
Publications, Men's  
Soccer, Women's

Soccer, Women's Basketball, Men's Golf,  
Women's Golf, Softball



**Curt Cassell**  
Media Relations Assistant  
Office: (864) 591-5100  
Cell: (864) 525-5157  
Fax: (864) 591-3448  
Home: (317) 410-6246  
ccassell@socon.org

**Responsibilities:**  
Volleyball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Wrestling,  
Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Women's Indoor and  
Outdoor Track and Field, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis

## Men's Basketball Coaches Teleconference

The Southern Conference sponsors a weekly teleconference each Tuesday throughout the basketball season. The first teleconference will be on Thursday, Jan. 3. The remainder of the teleconferences will be conducted each Tuesday from January 8 through February 26. Coaches will be available on alternate weeks according to the schedule listed below.

All coaches will be available for the final teleconference on Tuesday, February 26 prior to the start of the annual Southern Conference Tournament.

Members of the media may access the teleconference by dialing (866) 375-5101. For more information, contact Mike Ballweg, Jonathan Caskey or Curt Cassell at (864) 591-5100.

### January 3 (Thursday), 15 (Tuesday), 29 (Tuesday), February 11 (Tuesday), 26 (Tuesday):

Time	Coach, School
10:00-10:08	Bobby Cremins, College of Charleston
10:08-10:16	Ed Conroy, The Citadel
10:16-10:24	Bob McKillop, Davidson
10:24-10:32	Jeff Jackson, Furman
10:32-10:40	Mike Young, Wofford

### January 8 (Tuesday), 22 (Tuesday), February 5 (Tuesday), 19 (Tuesday) and 26 (Tuesday):

Time	Coach, School
10:00-10:08	Houston Fancher, Appalachian State
10:08-10:16	John Shulman, Chattanooga
10:16-10:24	Ernie Nestor, Elon
10:24-10:32	Mike Dement, UNC Greensboro
10:32-10:40	Larry Hunter, Western Carolina

School	Web-site	Media Relations	E-mail	Office Phone	Press Row Phone
Appalachian State	<a href="http://www.goasu.com">www.goasu.com</a>	Ty Patton	<a href="mailto:pattons@appstate.edu">pattons@appstate.edu</a>	(828) 262-7162	(828) 262-7060
College of Charleston	<a href="http://www.cofcsports.com">www.cofcsports.com</a>	Tony Ciuffo	<a href="mailto:ciuffo@cofc.edu">ciuffo@cofc.edu</a>	(843) 953-5465	(843) 953-6554
Chattanooga	<a href="http://www.gomocs.com">www.gomocs.com</a>	Jeff Romero	<a href="mailto:jeff-romero@utc.edu">jeff-romero@utc.edu</a>	(423) 425-5292	(423) 756-5476
The Citadel	<a href="http://www.citadelsports.com">www.citadelsports.com</a>	Noelle Orr	<a href="mailto:noelle.orr@citadel.edu">noelle.orr@citadel.edu</a>	(843) 953-5353	(843) 953-2138
Davidson	<a href="http://www.davidson.edu/athletics">www.davidson.edu/athletics</a>	Joey Beeler	<a href="mailto:jobeeler@davidson.edu">jobeeler@davidson.edu</a>	(704) 894-2931	(704) 892-3324
Elon	<a href="http://www.elon.edu/athletics">www.elon.edu/athletics</a>	Chris Rash	<a href="mailto:crash@elon.edu">crash@elon.edu</a>	(336) 278-6712	(336) 278-6749
Furman	<a href="http://www.furmanpaladins.com">www.furmanpaladins.com</a>	Jordan Caskey	<a href="mailto:jordan.caskey@furman.edu">jordan.caskey@furman.edu</a>	(864) 294-2376	(864) 294-3066
Georgia Southern	<a href="http://www.georgiasouthernegles.com">www.georgiasouthernegles.com</a>	Matt Horne	<a href="mailto:mhorne@georgiasouthern.edu">mhorne@georgiasouthern.edu</a>	(912) 681-5288	(912) 681-5289
UNC Greensboro	<a href="http://www.uncgspartans.com">www.uncgspartans.com</a>	Mike Hirschman	<a href="mailto:mwhirsch@uncg.edu">mwhirsch@uncg.edu</a>	(336) 334-5615	(336) 334-3270
Western Carolina	<a href="http://www.catamountsports.com">www.catamountsports.com</a>	Daniel Hooker	<a href="mailto:dhooker@email.wcu.edu">dhooker@email.wcu.edu</a>	(828) 227-2339	(828) 227-2129
Wofford	<a href="http://www.woffordterriers.com">www.woffordterriers.com</a>	Brent Williamson	<a href="mailto:williamsondb@wofford.edu">williamsondb@wofford.edu</a>	(864) 597-4093	(864) 597-4487