

## THIS IS THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

- The Southeastern Conference sponsors championships in 20 sports - 11 women's sports and nine men's sports. They include baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball.
- The SEC's mission statement reflects the priorities of the league. "The purpose of the Southeastern Conference is to assist its member institutions in the maintenance of programs of intercollegiate athletics which are compatible with the highest standards of education and competitive sports."

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- From 2003-05, the SEC has had more student-athletes honored as CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans than any other conference. The league has had 102 student-athletes named CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans, including 46 named to the first-team.
- During the last ten years, the SEC has had 18 winners of the NCAA Today's Top VIII Award, which is given annually to eight outstanding senior student-athletes. Since 1997, no other conference has had as many student-athletes honored with this prestigious award. In 2006, Georgia swimmer Samantha Arsenault and Alabama football player DeMeco Ryans were honored with this award.
- The SEC had two student-athletes named by the National Football Foundation as National Scholar-Athletes - LSU center Rudy Niswanger and Alabama linebacker DeMeco Ryans. During the last four years, the SEC has had 10 student-athletes honored, the most of any conference. LSU's Rudy Niswanger won the Vincent dePaul Draddy Award given by the National Football Foundation in 2005 as the nation's top football scholar-athlete. Niswanger became the sixth SEC student-athlete to claim the "Academic Heisman" since the award was established in 1990.

## FOR THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

- The SEC distributed nearly \$600,000 during the 2004-2005 academic year from the NCAA Special Assistance Fund for Student-Athletes. This program was implemented to provide financial aid to student-athletes with specific needs such as clothing and shoes, medical or vision care, academic course supplies and family emergencies.
- During the 2005-06 academic year, the SEC will distribute more than \$1 million to directly benefit student-athletes from the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund.
- The SEC awards post-graduate scholarships totaling \$130,000 to 24 student-athletes each year. The top male and female nominee each receives the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Award, named for the league's fourth commissioner, and a \$10,000 scholarship. This year, 22 additional student-athletes (11 female and 11 male) received \$5,000 to continue their education. Florida basketball player Sarah Lowe and LSU football player Rudy Niswanger were named McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Award

winners in 2005-06.

- The SEC has established a Community Service Award to honor a male and female student-athlete with a \$5,000 scholarship for outstanding service in the community. Kentucky football player Antoine Huffman and Arkansas gymnast Hannah McLeod were named recipients of this award in 2006.

#### A LEADER IN WOMEN'S SPORTS

- The SEC has developed a "Principles for Gender Equity," which, calls for each league school to provide equitable funding for women's sports, promotions and marketing and other support services. The SEC currently conducts championships in 11 women's sports and nine men's sports.
- Tennessee diver Lauryn McCalley was named the recipient of the 2005 NCAA Woman of the Year award. This award recognizes senior student-athletes in intercollegiate athletics for their outstanding achievements in athletics, academics and community service. Since 1991, the SEC has had five winners of this award. Alabama gymnast Michelle Reeser was also a finalist for this honor in 2005.
- Since 1987, SEC schools have won 61 NCAA women's national championships, an average of more than three per year in the 11 women's sports the SEC sponsors. Eight of the 12 SEC institutions have won a national women's team championship since 1987.

#### COMPLIANCE AND EDUCATION

- The SEC Task Force Committee on Compliance and Enforcement recently issued a report of recommendations that represents an important initial step in a formal process of establishing a new standard of compliance excellence within the SEC. Among the recommendations included in this report was how institutions will handle reports of allegations, strengthening the relationship between the league's institutions and the conference office, developing new orientation programs and establishing an annual review of compliance issues.
- The SEC also conducts a New Coaches Orientation Program four times a year, which supplements institutional orientation programs and enhance the professional development of coaches. Topics of discussion range from the role of the SEC and NCAA to the role of athletics in higher education.

#### SPORTSMANSHIP

- The SEC has developed a sportsmanship statement for its institutions to follow. It states:  
"Coaches and student-athletes of a member institution, as well as individuals employed by or associated with that institution, including alumni, fans, patrons and boosters, shall conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their behavior shall at all times reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that characterize participation in the collegiate setting. For intercollegiate athletics to promote the character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education and to promote civility in society, coaches, student-athletes and all others associated with these

athletics programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifested not only in athletics participation but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program. It is the responsibility of each member institution to establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational mission and goals of the institution. Furthermore, member institutions are responsible for educating on a continuing basis all constituencies about these policies.”

## IN THE COMMUNITY

- The SEC launched its education initiative in 2002, utilizing the platform of intercollegiate athletics to provide elementary school teachers with relevant resources they can use to educate and prepare children for life. The SEC became the nation’s first conference to develop customized educational software, providing a CD-ROM containing SEC-branded content correlating to national educational standards. Since the CD-ROM was produced, the SEC has initiated an online program for K-8 students on education content and character development.
- SECKids.com is a website uniquely designed for school-age students. Now fans of all ages can access exciting, interactive and educational information on the SEC and its universities. SECKids.com features exclusive behind-the-scenes access at championship events, profiles of student-athletes and coaches, along with games and video highlights. Teachers can also register online to utilize the SEC Kids’s college software in their classroom. The SEC is the only conference in the country to develop a site of this kind.

## OVERALL ATHLETICS SUCCESS

- From 1990-2005, the SEC has won 104 team and 682 individual national championships. Since that time, the SEC has had at least one team ranked in the top five nationally in 76.7 percent of the total sports win which the league has competed (237 of 309). Nine of the SEC's 12 schools have won at least one national championship since 1990.
- In the 20 sponsored sports of the Southeastern Conference, the SEC had a higher national finish than any other conference in the nation in 2004-05. In a ranking system, using national polls and NCAA Championships finishes, the SEC had 973.5 points, edging second-place Pac-10 with 868 points. The Big 12 was third with 603.5 points followed by the Big Ten with 481 and the Atlantic Coast with 453 points. The SEC had also the highest men’s total with 451 points.

## **Southeastern Conference is the nation's top college football conference. Here's why ...**

..... Since conference expansion in 1992, the SEC has won 76.0 percent of its non-conference games (402-126-2).

.... The SEC has won at least 67 percent of its non-conference games in every season since 1992 (lowest mark, 2003, 31-15, .674).

..... In the final 2005-06 polls, the SEC, along with the ACC, had the most teams ranked in the top 25 polls. Five teams from the SEC were ranked in the final Associated Press and USA Today polls – LSU, Alabama, Georgia, Auburn and Florida. The BCS nor Harris Interactive conducts a post-bowl poll.

..... During the 2005 regular season, SEC games drew more than 5.7 million fans and had an average stadium capacity of 97.6 percent, leading the nation in both categories.

..... The SEC has seen its average attendance total climb every year for the past four years and in every year but one in the last ten seasons. This year's average of 74,700 fans, led all Division I-A conferences.

..... In 2005, the SEC was the most competitive in intra-conference games of any BCS automatic-qualifying conference. The 49 SEC intra-conference games had an average scoring margin of 13.96 points per game, which marked closer than the 14.82 margin in ACC games, 16.45 in Pac-10 games, 17.91 in Big Ten games, 19.25 in Big East games and 19.86 in Big 12 games.

..... SEC defenses posted its best numbers in years. The league's defenses gave up an average of only 20.7 points and 327.6 yards per game in 2005. It's the lowest since the league's defenses gave up 19.6 points in 1993 and 320.3 yards per game in 1996.

This, in spite of the league's offenses posted its lowest loss of turnovers (1.76 per game) since 1995 and second lowest since conference expansion.

..... The Southeastern Conference had 261 of its former student-athletes on 2005 National Football League Kickoff Weekend rosters, most of any conference in the nation. Using current conference alignments, the Atlantic Coast Conference was second behind the SEC with 231 players on NFL rosters. The Big Ten was third with 223, the Pac-10 fourth with 188 and the Big 12 was fifth with 176 former players on NFL rosters.

..... Since conference expansion in 1992, the SEC has won four national crowns spread out among four different teams. It is the most number of teams from a conference that has won a national title during this time. Alabama, Tennessee, Florida and LSU have won national crowns since 1992.

..... During the last nine seasons, the SEC has sent 66 teams to post-season bowl games, the most of any conference in the nation. Eleven of the SEC's 12 teams have been to post-season bowls in the last nine seasons.

.... The SEC has had 10 football student-athletes named National Football Foundation Scholar-Athletes in the last four years, more than any other conference.

2002 – Vanderbilt LB Hunter Hillenmeyer; LSU LB Bradie James; Georgia OT Jon Stinchcomb

2003 – Ole Miss QB Eli Manning; LSU OT Rodney Reed; Auburn LB Dontarrious Thomas

2004 – Georgia QB David Greene; Tennessee OT Michael Munoz

2005 – Alabama LB DeMeco Ryans; LSU C Rudy Niswanger

..... The SEC has the most extensive national television package in the nation with at least two games each weekend on national television (cable and network). CBS Sports provides a national network television game each week while ESPN/ESPN2 provides a national cable television game each week. The SEC's syndicated regional package with Jefferson-Pilot Sports is the most watched of its type in the nation.