SUN BELT

SUN BELT CONFERENCE HISTORY

Sun Belt Conference
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Chris Jackson	Assistant Commissioner
Rob Broussard	Dir. of Media Relations

The Sun Belt Conference is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

And what a 30 years it has been.

From its beginnings as one of the top basketball leagues in the country to its current status as one of the few leagues offering competition at the highest level in every sponsored sport, the Sun Belt Conference continues to shine.

On the field, Sun Belt schools have developed champions including Major League Baseball All-Stars, NFL Pro Bowlers and PGA Tour winners.

However, it is off the field where the league continues to make its mark.

The Sun Belt Conference strives to make sure its student-athletes are just that: STUDENT-athletes. Eleven Sun Belt Conference schools are graduating their student-athletes at a higher rate than its student body.

Currently, the SBC sponsors 19 sports - nine for men and 10 for women. The men's sports include baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and swimming and diving.

The women's sports include basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field and volleyball.

This past year, the league signed a contract with XOS Technologies, Inc., giving the league and its schools the opportunity to broadcast its events on the internet. The broadcasts allow Sun Belt student-athletes to be shown not just to the country, but also to the world.

The league also has a television contract with ESPN and ESPNU, allowing the conference to receive more national and regional TV exposure than ever before. The agreement with ESPN continues the longest conference relationship for the sports television leader.

The Sun Belt is one of only 11 conferences to play Division I-A football. This gives each conference school the opportunity to play in the Bowl Championship Series and a chance at a national championship.

In just five seasons, the league has secured a bowl win (2002 New Orleans Bowl), had multiple teams reach the postseason (2005 - North Texas and Troy) and had Troy's Demarcus Ware chosen as the 11th overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys.

Since Sun Belt football began in 2001, overall home attendance has jumped 57 percent.

Off the field, the Sun Belt continues to make even greater strides. More and more student-athletes are graduating. For the fifth straight season, the league has had an Academic All-American in men's basketball. In 2004, the Sun Belt also produced its first ever football and volleyball Academic All-American.

SBC to Celebrate 30-year Anniversary in 2005-06

The Sun Belt Conference embarks on its 30th season of athletic competition in 2005-2006. The Sun Belt is one of only eleven NCAA conferences to participate in Division 1-A football and basketball and sponsors 19 sports (9 men, 10 women). The conference office and its member schools will celebrate the 30th anniversary throughout the upcoming year with a number of promotional initiatives highlighting each individual sport.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

2001 FINAL SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	Conference				Overall							
	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	H	A	N	Streak
$#North Texas	5-1	.833	200	104	5-6	.455	255	248	3-1	2-4	0-1	L1
#Middle Tennessee	5-1	.833	248	152	8-3	.727	408	286	5-0	3-3	0-0	W1
New Mexico State	4-2	.667	209	163	5-7	.417	286	400	2-2	3-5	0-0	L1
UL Lafayette	2-4	.333	163	192	3-8	.273	234	365	2-3	1-5	0-0	L3
Arkansas State	2-4	.333	90	194	2-9	.182	177	357	2-4	0-5	0-0	L4
UL Monroe	2-4	.333	105	152	2-9	.182	148	351	1-4	1-5	0-0	L1
Idaho	1-5	.167	234	292	1-10	.091	313	495	1-4	0-6	0-0	L2

 # = co-champions $ = New Orleans Bowl representative

2002 FINAL SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	Conference				Overall							
	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	H	A	N	Streak
*^North Texas	6-0	1.000	159	59	8-5	.615	249	192				W7
New Mexico State	5-1	.833	177	160	7-5	.583	327	328	5-0	2-5	0-0	W1
Arkansas State	3-3	.500	125	109	6-7	.462	259	361	4-3	2-4	0-0	W1
Middle Tennessee	2-4	.333	158	151	4-8	.333	297	332	3-2	1-6	0-0	W1
Louisiana-Monroe	2-4	.333	140	176	3-9	.250	236	451				W1
Louisiana-Lafayette	2-4	.333	117	178	3-9	.250	203	352	3-2	0-7	0-0	L2
Idaho	1-5	.167	123	166	2-10	.167	285	428				L4

** = Sun Belt Champion^ = New Orleans Bowl representative*

2003 FINAL SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	Conference				Overall							
	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	H	A	N	Streak
*^North Texas	7-0	1.000	237	142	9-4	.692	358	285	5-0	4-3	0-1	L1
Louisiana-Lafayette	4-3	.571	225	228	4-8	.333	266	415	3-3	1-5	0-0	W2
Middle Tennessee	4-3	.571	213	204	4-8	.333	332	375	2-4	2-4	0-0	W1
Arkansas State	3-4	.429	131	273	5-7	.417	242	401	4-1	1-6	0-0	L2
Utah State	3-4	.429	193	136	3-9	.250	264	315	3-2	0-7	0-0	L3
Idaho	3-4	.429	191	171	3-9	.250	248	314	1-4	2-5	0-0	W2
New Mexico State	2-5	.286	154	172	3-9	.250	262	341	2-3	1-6	0-0	L2
Louisiana-Monroe	1-6	.143	180	249	1-11	.083	239	467	0-5	1-6	0-0	L5

** = Sun Belt Champion^ = New Orleans Bowl representative*

2004 FINAL SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	Conference				Overall							
	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.	H	A	N	Streak
*^North Texas	7-0	1.000	251	153	7-5	.583	309	358	4-1	3-3	0-1	L1
Troy	5-2	.714	197	96	7-5	.583	286	200	5-0	2-4	0-1	L1
New Mexico State	4-3	.571	187	182	5-6	.455	273	355	4-1	1-5	0-0	L1
Louisiana-Monroe	4-3	.571	153	172	5-6	.455	211	303	3-1	2-4	0-1	W1
Middle Tennessee	4-4	.500	202	190	5-6	.455	269	293	4-1	1-5	0-0	L1
Arkansas State	3-4	.429	136	185	3-8	.273	215	365	2-2	1-6	0-0	L1
Louisiana-Lafayette	2-5	.286	145	167	4-7	.364	242	272	3-2	1-5	0-0	L3
Utah State	2-5	.286	124	181	3-8	.273	184	333	2-2	1-6	0-0	W1
Idaho	2-5	.286	154	218	3-9	.250	245	473	1-1	1-7	1-1	L2

** = Sun Belt Champion^ = New Orleans Bowl representative*

ALL-TIME SBC STANDINGS

1. North Texas	25-1 (.962)	6. Utah State	5-9 (.357)
2. NMSU	15-11 (.577)	7. ULM	9-17 (.346)
3. MT	15-12 (.555)	8. Idaho	7-19 (.269)
4. ASU	11-15 (.423)	9. Troy	5-2 (.714)
5. ULL	10-16 (.385)		

SUN BELT CONFERENCE HONOR ROLL

2004 All-Sun Belt Conference Teams

First Team Offense

Pos.	Player	School
OL	Andy Brewster	UNT
OL	Steven Gibbs	ASU
OL	Bruce Hampton	ULM
OL	Junior Louissaint	Troy
OL	Steve Subia	NMSU
TE	Andy Blount	UNT
WR	Kerry Wright	MT
WR	Bobby Bernal-Wood	Idaho
QB	Buck Pierce	NMSU
RB	DeWhitt Betterson	Troy
RB	Jamario Thomas	UNT

Second Team Offense

Pos.	Player	School
OL	Lonnie Chambers	UNT
OL	Nick Cole	NMSU
OL	Dylan Lineberry	UNT
OL	Quinton Staton	MT
OL	Henry Tellis	Troy
TE	Andrew Mooney	NMSU
WR	Johnny Quinn	UNT
WR	Bill Sampy	ULL
QB	Scott Hall	UNT
RB	Jayson Bird	Idaho
RB	Antonio Warren	ASU

First Team Defense

Pos.	Player	School
DL	Adrian Awasom	UNT
DL	Aubrey Dorisme	NMSU
DL	Brandon Guillory	ULM
DL	Demarcus Ware	Troy
LB	Jimmy Cottrell	NMSU
LB	Cole Snyder	Idaho
LB	Josh Williams	ASU
DB	Derrick Ansley	Troy
DB	C.C. Brown	ULL
DB	Jonas Buckles	UNT
DB	Chris Harris	ULM

Second Team Defense

Pos.	Player	School
DL	Evan Caldwell	UNT
DL	Michael Pruitt	UNT
DL	Eric Thomas	Troy
DL	Ronald Tupea	USU
LB	Bernard Davis	Troy
LB	Robby Farmer	Troy
LB	John Winchester	ULM
DB	Johnny Faulk	Troy
DB	Matt Griebel	NMSU
DB	Tyrell Johnson	ASU
DB	Markeith Knowlton	UNT

First Team Special Teams

Pos.	Player	School
K	Nick Bazaldua	UNT
P	Joel Stelly	ULM
RS	Kevin Robinson	USU
AP	Johnny Quinn	UNT

Second Team Special Teams

Pos.	Player	School
K	Colby Smith	MT
P	Thomas Olmstead	Troy
RS	Leodis McKelvin	Troy
AP	Kevin Robinson	USU

2004 Sun Belt Football Awards

Sun Belt Player of the Year
Jamario Thomas, UNT

Offensive Player of the Year
Jamario Thomas, UNT

Defensive Player of the Year
Demarcus Ware, Troy

Freshman of the Year
Jamario Thomas, UNT

Newcomer of the Year
Dylan Lineberry, UNT

Coach of the Year
Darrell Dickey, UNT

All-Sun Belt Honors

2001

First Team: Wes Counts, qb; Dwone Hicks, rb; Kendall Newson, wr; Brandon Westbrook, ol; Tanaka Scott, de; Scotty Brown, lb; Jykine Bradley, db.

Second Team: Glen Elarbee, ol; Michael Woods, fs; Robert Billings, p.

Player of Year: Wes Counts, qb

Offensive Player of Year: Dwone Hicks, rb

Players of the Week: Dwone Hicks (9/3), Wes Counts (9/24, 10/8), ReShard Lee (10/1), Kendall Newson (10/29), Jykine Bradley (9/3), Scotty Brown (9/24, 10/1, 11/19), Robert Billings (9/24, 10/1)

2002

First Team: Robert Billings, p; ReShard Lee, all-purpose; Brandon Westbrook, ol

Second Team: Tyrone Calico, wr; Glen Elarbee, c; Dwone Hicks, rb; Brian Kelly, pk

Players of the Week: ReShard Lee (9/2), Andrico Hines (10/21), Robert Billings (11/4)

2003

First Team: Brandon Westbrook, ol; Kerry Wright, wr

Second Team: Demetrios Walker, de; Michael Woods, db; Brian Kelly, pk

Players of the Week: Robert Billings (11/10), Andrico Hines (9/22, 10/20, 11/10), Brandon Lynch (9/22), Will Martin (11/26), Michael Woods (10/13)

2004

First Team: Kerry Wright, wr

Second Team: Quinton Staton, ol; Colby Smith, pk

Players of the Week: Clint Marks (10/11)