



ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, May 24, 2010

ACC and Big Ten Announce Match-ups for Fourth Annual Women's Basketball Challenge *Four ACC schools remain undefeated in the previous three ACC/Big Ten Challenges*

GREENSBORO, N.C. – The Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big Ten Conference announced Monday the pairings for the annual ACC/Big Ten Women's Basketball Challenge, which is in its fourth year of what began as a four-year agreement and has been extended until 2012.

The 2010 Challenge will take on a two-day format again this year and is slated to open on Wednesday, Dec. 1, as Florida State and Georgia Tech host Big Ten foes, and Wake Forest and NC State travel to perform in front of non-conference crowds.

The ACC/Big Ten Women's Basketball Challenge matches 11 teams from each conference in head-to-head competition traditionally on the first Wednesday and Thursday after Thanksgiving, following the ACC/Big Ten Men's Basketball Challenge. Last year, the ACC won seven of the 11 Big Ten/ACC Challenge games. In 2008, the ACC also won seven contests, while the inaugural Challenge in 2007 saw the ACC collect eight victories.

The ACC and the Big Ten conference offices determine the 11-game schedule each season, and match-ups may repeat from year-to-year in efforts to coordinate similar opponents and reach competitive equity. Each of the Big Ten's 11 institutions will participate, while the ACC will select 11 teams from its 12-team membership.

In addition, the official title of the Challenge will rotate each year. The 2010 event will be referred to as the ACC/Big Ten Women's Basketball Challenge and will continue to mirror the official title of the two conferences' challenge agreement for men's basketball.

In the previous three Challenges, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Maryland and Virginia remain undefeated for the ACC, while Michigan boasts the only unbeaten record among Big Ten squads.

The ACC and the Big Ten have long been among the most dominant conferences on the women's basketball scene. This past season, the ACC was represented by nine overall postseason squads, including six teams in the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship, making it the eighth-straight year the league has had at least six in the Big Dance. Duke and Florida State advanced to the NCAA Regional Finals, giving the ACC at least one team in the Elite Eight for the ninth consecutive year. Overall, the ACC has made 14 Final Four appearances, including four in the past five years.

The Big Ten tied a conference record in 2010, sending nine teams into postseason play. Four Big Ten teams – Iowa, Michigan State, Ohio State and Wisconsin – earned bids to the NCAA Championship, while five – Illinois, Michigan, Northwestern, Penn State and Purdue – participated in the postseason Women's National Invitational Tournament (WNIT). Historically, the conference has sent at least one team to the NCAA's Sweet 16 in 24 of the last 26 years and has had at least one squad participate in five of the last 12 Final Fours, owning eight overall appearances.

Since the 1999-2000 season, the two conferences have squared off in head-to-head competition on 99 occasions with the ACC holding a 57-42 advantage. Last season, the ACC boasted a 9-5 record over Big Ten teams, including a 76-59 Miami victory over Michigan to advance the Hurricanes to the championship round of the WNIT.

Game times, as well as television and broadband coverage, will be announced at a later date. For more information about the ACC/Big Ten Women's Basketball Challenge, including a complete schedule, log on to theACC.com.

2010 CHALLENGE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 1

Wake Forest at Michigan
Michigan State at Florida State
Northwestern at Georgia Tech
NC State at Illinois

Thursday, December 2

Duke at Wisconsin
Iowa at North Carolina
Penn State at Boston College
Virginia at Ohio State
Maryland at Purdue
Indiana at Clemson
Virginia Tech at Minnesota



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FUTURE CHALLENGE NAMES & DATES

2011: Big Ten/ACC Challenge – Nov. 30, Dec. 1

2012: ACC/Big Ten Challenge – Nov. 28, 29

SERIES RECORDS

Penn State leads Boston College, 1-0 (Last Meeting: Penn State, 85-43, 12-29-84, State College, Pa.)

Clemson leads Indiana, 1-0 (Last Meeting: Clemson, 77-58, 12-20-79, Chapel Hill, N.C.)

Duke leads Wisconsin, 1-0 (Last Meeting: Duke, 86-66, 11-27-87, Durham, N.C.)

Georgia Tech leads Northwestern, 2-1 (Last Meeting: Georgia Tech, 55-46, 11-21-07, Atlanta, Ga.)

Michigan State leads Florida State, 1-0 (Last Meeting: Michigan State, 82-69, 12-21-94, San Juan, PR)

Iowa leads North Carolina, 2-0 (Last Meeting: Iowa, 73-64, 12-21-95, Myrtle Beach, S.C.)

Virginia Tech and Minnesota: Series tied 1-1 (Last Meeting: Virginia Tech, 68-62, 11-30-07, Blacksburg, Va.)

NC State leads Illinois, 1-0 (Last Meeting: NC State, 61-47, Raleigh, N.C.)

Ohio State leads Virginia, 5-1 (Last Meeting: Ohio State, 73-60, 12-18-02, Columbus, Ohio)

Maryland leads Purdue, 3-1 (Last Meeting: Maryland, 70-59, 12-04-08, West Lafayette, In.)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Only one of this year's Challenge contests will feature a pair of teams that have never faced one another. Wake Forest takes on first-time opponents for the second consecutive year in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

ALREADY A CHALLENGE

Since the 2000 season, the two conferences have squared off in head-to-head competition on 99 occasions with the ACC holding a 57-42 advantage. Last season, the ACC boasted a 9-5 record over Big Ten teams, including a 76-59 Miami victory over Michigan to advance the Hurricanes to the championship round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament (WNIT).

COMMON CHALLENGERS

The 2010 Challenge will feature 10 contests in which the two opponents have previously met. Among those all-time series, the Big Ten holds a 12-10 advantage, while only three games between the match-ups have occurred since 2003.

UNDEFEATED IN CHALLENGERS

In the previous three Challenges, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Maryland and Virginia remain undefeated for the ACC, while Michigan boasts the only unbeaten record among the Big Ten squads.

2009 CHALLENGE RESULTS

(ACC 7, BIG TEN 4)

December 2

Georgia Tech 64, Penn State 60

Illinois 65, Wake Forest 50

Boston College 72, Iowa 67

December 3

Florida State 82, Indiana 74

Duke 83, Ohio State 67

Maryland 66, Minnesota 45

Wisconsin 53, NC State 48

Virginia 56, Purdue 49

Michigan 71, Virginia Tech 51

Clemson 69, Northwestern 68

Michigan State 72, North Carolina 66

2008 CHALLENGE RESULTS

(ACC 7, BIG TEN 4)

December 3

Georgia Tech 70, Michigan State 57

Florida State 73, Penn State 60

North Carolina 72, Ohio State 63

December 4

Maryland 70, Purdue 59

Duke 71, Iowa 47

Clemson 78, Northwestern 75 (ot)

Minnesota 80, Boston College 60

Wisconsin 61, Virginia Tech 52

Virginia 63, Illinois 39

December 5

Michigan 63, NC State 52

Indiana 69, Miami 54

2007 CHALLENGE RESULTS

(ACC 8, BIG TEN 3)

November 19

Michigan 65, Miami 50

November 28

Georgia Tech 76, Iowa 57

Wake Forest 60, Northwestern 45

November 29

North Carolina 90, Purdue 72

NC State 61, Illinois 47

Michigan State 68, Clemson 51

Florida State 85, Indiana 78

November 30

Maryland 77, Ohio State 53

Virginia Tech 68, Minnesota 62

Virginia 84, Wisconsin 60

December 2

Penn State 86, Duke 84