

Issue No. 10 - Week of 9/10/2011

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1. DYNAMIC DUO

As much anticipation from week 1 centered mainly around Appalachian State, Delaware, Eastern Washington, and James Madison, the heroes of the augural 2011 season are Sacramento State and Richmond.

[Sacramento State defeated Oregon State in OT....29-28](#). For a program who's had 3 winning seasons since joining FCS level play, and the first win over an FBS opponent, this is the kind of start that the Hornets desperately needed. Sac State avenges a 40-7 loss to the Beavers back in 2003. Sac State has two more road games before playing home on 9/24 against Montana.

[Richmond defeated Duke....23-21](#). Although an upset, the Spiders are no stranger to Wallace Wade stadium, as they've defeated the Blue Devils on all 3 matchups; 2006, 2009 & 2011 (at least since their FCS debut in 1982). Clearly the coaching debacle with (former) Head Coach Latrell Scott had no negative effect on Richmond's performance and outcome.

Two upsets down and (hopefully) several to go. Congrats Big Sky and CAA conferences!

2. HEARTBREAK HOTEL

Other FCS teams battled hard against FBS foes in week 1. Here's a recap on some close matchups that fell short for the FCS.

- Liberty practically outplayed NC State as they controlled the clock, outgained the Wolfpack in total net yardage (406 to 318), and moved the chains 21 times (versus 17 for NCSU). However, the 7 turnovers (4 interceptions; 3 fumbles lost) helped the Wolfpack seal the victory. The game was closer than the final score of 43-21.
- Eastern Kentucky forced 5 turnovers on Kansas State and held them scoreless until the 4th quarter, but it wasn't enough juice to close the deal. The Colonels fell, 10-7.
- National champs, Eastern Washington fought tough with inter-state foe Washington Huskies but came up short, 30-27. Senior QB, Bo Levi Mitchell created 469 yds of total offense and made 39 completions. The Eagles should have some confidence moving into next week.
- Northern Iowa controlled most of the game against Iowa State but dropped another heartbreak to cross-state rival, 20-19. Iowa State scored a TD in the last 40 seconds to wrap it up with the Panthers. NIU's last win over Iowa State was this week in 2007.
- After dodging a hurricane threat last week, Stony Brook meant business on the gridiron against UT-El Paso. The Seawolves had 410 net yds (versus 401 for UTEP) and controlled much of the clock. Although they ran the ball well (231 yds) and forced 3 turnovers, the 365 yds passing for the Miners seemed to be the final straw, as a 25 yd pass in OT capped a win over Stony Brook, 31-24.

3. THERE'S A FIRST FOR EVERYTHING

The UT-San Antonio Roadrunners won their program's first game over Northeastern State (Div II), 31-3. Sophomore QB, Eric Soza rushed for 102 yds and passed for 237 yds in front of a packed house of just under 57,000 attendees in the Alamo Dome. The Roadrunners face Div. III opponent, McMurry this week before jumping into FCS play the following week against Southern Utah.

To help UT-San Antonio commemorate their inaugural season, **The Underdawg compiled a list of all FCS Teams' records of their first season with a football team.** ([click here to view](#))

Quick facts from the list:

- South Alabama had the best record of first season teams with a 7-0 start
- Georgia State and Texas Southern played the most first season games, 11 games each.
- Portland State had the most losses in their first season, 8.
- 16 teams had went .500 in their first season, including McNeese State at 5-5.
- Princeton was the first FCS school with a football program, 1869.
- 53 FCS teams had winning first year seasons
- 21 FCS teams experienced tie games in their first season, including Murray State and Montana having the most at 3.
- Montana is the only FCS team that had more ties than wins or losses in their first season, 1-2-3 record.
- Albany, Citadel, Holy Cross, Montana, Murray State, South Dakota, South Dakota State, Western Illinois are the only teams whose first ever football game resulted in a tie.



Former Miami U. coach, Larry Coker leads UTSA to their first win in FCS play.

Of the first season info above, **here are the FCS teams (46) that won the first game of their inaugural season, their opponent, score, and location.** ([click here to view](#))

Few facts from the list:

- Stephen F. Austin has the largest margin of victory amongst inaugural games, 120 pts
- Georgetown has the smallest margin of victory amongst inaugural games, 2 pts.
- Yale was the first FCS team to win its inaugural game, 1872.
- Harvard was the first FCS team to win its inaugural game against a non-USA school

Bonus: All FCS schools beginning with a "G" won their inaugural season's game.

The Underdawg "Game of the Week "

SC State vs. Bethune-Cookman

This MEAC showdown will more than likely set the pace for another run at the conference ring. The Bulldogs look to avenge a devastating 14-0 home loss last year. Bethune went on to a 10-1 season, the best ever under then new coach, Brian Jenkins and true MEAC champions (shared with SCSU and FAMU). Bethune is coming off a rout of Prairie View A&M in the annual MEAC/SWAC Challenge, 63-14. That was by far the largest margin of victory in the "challenge" history and the most points scored against Panthers since 2003. They will need the same level of intensity, energy and defensive take-aways against the Bulldogs this Saturday. This game is merely a must-win for SC State, or they'll be looking at the first 0-3 start since 1996, given that week 3's matchup with FBS opponent Indiana will be an "L".

Trivia Results: The only (3) FCS schools that started their football programs the same year their schools were founded are: Stephen F. Austin (1923), Texas Southern (1947), and Old Dominion (1930). Note: ODU discontinued football from 1941-2008...resumed in 2008-present.

Trivia Question: How many Heisman Trophy Winners were from FCS schools?

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