

## 1. THE RETURN OF THE DELTA DEVIL

To add to the existing FCS Award repertoire, the **Jerry Rice Award** will commence this year to honor the Freshmen of the Year for FCS Football. The winner of the first Jerry Rice Award will be announced after the 2011 regular season at the 25th annual FCS Awards Banquet and Presentation (as reported by [Sportsnetwork.com](http://Sportsnetwork.com)). Jerry Rice joins three other SWAC legends whose names are representative of top FCS honors:

Walter Payton (FCS Outstanding Player) of Jackson State

Eddie Robinson (FCS Coach of the Year) of Grambling State

Buck Buchanan (FCS Outstanding Defensive Player) of Grambling State.

Jerry Rice represents Mississippi Valley State, where he broke records and finished on that unforgettable 1984 team that still holds an NCAA record for Best Passing Offense (496.8 avg yds) and Best Scoring Offense (60.9 avg points per game). The SWAC has surely produced quality players that have paved the way! Much respect.

## 2. TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE

As some FCS teams entertain the thought of moving into FBS conferences, much is to be considered. Many programs improve their facilities, retain quality coaches for the long-term, and position themselves to recruit quality players consistently. Certainly, there are financial considerations and logistical demands that must be met for NCAA approval. ([Visit TheUnderdawg's Home Page for NCAA bylaws](#) )

The Underdawg put together a few facts regarding FCS-to-FBS transition (note: includes only teams that participated a min of 3 yrs on FCS level). Check out these stats!

- Number of teams that have moved from FCS to FBS- 18
- Avg winning % of FCS teams before moving to FBS- .560
- Avg winning % of FCS teams after moving to FBS- .438
- Team with longest stint before FBS transition- Western Kentucky, 30 yrs
- Team(s) with shortest stint before FBS transition- Florida Int'l & South Florida, 3 yrs
- Team with highest winning % as an FCS team before moving to FBS- Troy (.764)
- Team with highest winning % as an FCS team after moving to FBS- Boise St. (.767)
- Team with lowest winning % as an FCS team before moving to FBS- Buffalo (.333)
- Team with lowest winning % as an FCS team after moving to FBS- W. Kentucky (.083)
- FCS conference that has moved more teams to FBS- Independents (7)
- State with the most FCS teams that moved to FBS- Florida, 3 (Fla Intl, Fla Atl, S Fla)
- Who was the first team to move from FCS to the FBS? Akron (1986)
- Who was the most recent team to move from FCS to the FBS? W. Kentucky (2008)
- How many teams improved their winning % from FCS-to-FBS transition? Boise St, UConn, South Fla
- Success rate of FCS-to-FBS transition with teams having equal or better winning%- 16%
- What is the Bowl History W/L record and winning % of FCS-to-FBS teams? 37-34 W/L, .521% (note: includes bowl games post FCS, not prior FCS as some teams dropped to FCS before going back to FBS)
- Which FCS-to-FBS team has the best bowl game success? Marshall (6-2 W/L, .75%)
- Which FCS-to-FBS team has the most bowl game appearances? Boise St (11)

Current FCS teams that are either committed or anticipating moving to FBS: Massachusetts, UTSA, South Alabama, Texas St, Villanova, Appalachian St, Jacksonville St, Ga Southern, Lamar, Old Dominion, Georgia St.

### 3. FOR NAME SAKE

Epic myths and ancient cultures have curbed our society to adopt and adorn mascots. Traditionally, mascots were used in tribal and indigenous societies to instill fear in intruders or enemies to protect one's territory or domain. Ultimately, they're meant to bring good luck or victory. Colleges have widely adopted this concept to provide similar purposes, more apparently through their sports teams and images. Mascot characters and nicknames vary from ferocious animals, spirits, and rodents, to depicting colors, famous people, and even plants.

Here are some interesting FCS mascots and their significance:

- Coastal Carolina **Chanticleers**.... a fierce rooster; pronounced "SHON-ti-clear"; emulated inter-state sister school USC Gamecocks
- Presbyterian **Blue Hose**...teams were distinguished by wearing blue stockings or "hose" in competition (now there's a fashion statement!) ; indicative of Scottish-related tradition.
- Delaware **Blue Hens**...state bird of Delaware; fighting chicken traced from the Revolutionary War.
- James Madison **Dukes**...named after school President Samuel Duke; bulldog symbol was chosen in 1972.
- UMass **Minutemen**...young, mobile fighters of Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War. Not a good booster name for the male ego, huh.
- Cornell **Big Red**....coined by a graduate through a football song, "the big, red team"; a bear named "Touchdown" is the symbol.
- Dartmouth **Big Green**...used "Indian" mascot til '70s, then went with school color of green; Keggy the (beer) Keg is an unofficial, controversial symbol. Didn't know Dartmouth was a party school!
- Florida A&M **Rattlers**...rattle snakes were prevalent around the campus after heavy rains. Campus sits on the highest of 7 hills in Tallahassee; only snake mascot in the FCS
- Indiana St. **Sycamores**...common tree in the Wabash River Valley area; first mascot name was the "fighting teachers". Not sure how far that would have gone.
- Western Illinois **Leathernecks**...not a Marine, a dog. Indicative of a tenacious dog with a leathered collar.
- St. Francis **Red Flash**...name stuck from the 1927 football team that was noted as one of the fastest on the east coast. Of course they had red uniforms.
- Austin Peay State **Governors**...named after 1923-27 Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay.
- Georgetown **Hoyas**...school admits to unknown meaning of "Hoya". Greek & Latin roots of "hoya saxa" stands for "what rocks", which depicts the stonewalls that surround the campus. A bulldog is the symbol.
- Marist **Red Foxes**...high school kid came up with name in 1979; no relation to Fred Sanford.
- Elon **Phoenix**...were called the "Fighting Christians" til 1999; Phoenix name chosen in reference to school's 1923 fire, as to Elon "rising from the ashes".
- Sam Houston St. **Bearkats**...can't find the spelling of "bearkat" in the dictionary with a "k", but the team spells with a "k" since the animal is considered more mythical than real.
- UTSA **Roadrunners**....students had a write-in option in 1977; otherwise, mascot would have been the armadillo. Fair enough!
- Dayton **Flyers**...named for the Wright Flyer I, an aircraft that was fabricated at the Wright Bros. bicycle shop in Dayton.
- UT Chattanooga **Mocs**...if you're thinking moccasins, you're wrong. Short for mockingbird, the state bird of Tennessee.

#### Other facts:

89 of the 126 FCS teams have animal mascot names

28 of the 33 FCS Champions to-date have animal mascot names

2 FCS teams have the "Aggie" mascot (NC A&T & Cal- Davis), but they're represented by different animals- dog and horse, respectively. Aggie generally represents schools with "Agricultural" as a main area of study or part of the school's name.

Mascot breakdown: 27 groups/ people; 3 colors; 6 spirits or things; 28 cats; 18 birds, 18 dogs, 4 insects, 7 bears, 1 snake, 1 plant, 13 other animals

Mascots that have FCS Championships: 5 groups/people; 5 birds, 3 cats, 1 snake, 1 bronco, 1 herd, 2 dogs, 1 bear, 1 insect

#### 4. **OBITUARIES**

Charles Kyeremeh, Jr., a sophomore running back at the University of Maine, was killed in a motorcycle crash on July 10th. Kyeremeh, who had redshirted during the 2010 season, was an honor roll student who had graduated from Cedar Crest High School in Lebanon, Pa.

Manny Marshall, a former University of Delaware defensive lineman, was one of three people killed in a car accident Monday in southern New Jersey on Interstate 295. Marshall, a native of Cheverly, MD, was a part of the Blue Hens' 2007 FCS title run against Appalachian State. He was 24 years old.

**Trivia Results:** Thanks to Trevor Busby of Minneapolis, MN for quick input to last week's trivia. The FCS conference with teams with the longest distance (mileage) between them is the Pioneer League. Univ. of San Diego (CA) and Marist College (Poughkeepsie, NY) are 2864 miles apart.

**Trivia Question:** What state has the most FCS schools represented?

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