

Issue No. 29 - Week of 8/22/2012

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The scheduling of FBS schools is increasing each year for the FCS level. The frequency of these games has heightened and is becoming more commonplace each season. A decade ago, one wouldn't anticipate such matchups- today, it's a norm. Whether it's called a payday or recruiting strategy, it is certainly an exciting moment for FCS programs to have a chance for the big upset. Need I remind you of the biggest upset in college football history- Appalachian State's victory over then #5 Michigan in 2007. If that doesn't motivate every FCS coach, player, and program, I don't know what will.

[In 2011, there were 6 upsets in FCS play over FBS opponents:](#)

Sacramento State over Oregon State
Richmond over Duke
Indiana State over Western Kentucky
North Dakota State over Minnesota
Sam Houston State over New Mexico
Southern Utah over UNLV



App State "shushed" Michigan 34-32 on 9/1/2007

This season, 79 of the 122 FCS teams will play at least one FBS team this season, including 8 teams in the top 10. [Here are a few facts on FCS/FBS matchups for 2012:](#)

- Cincinnati, Florida State, Texas A&M, UT-San Antonio, and Pittsburgh are the only FBS teams that will play at least 2 FCS teams this season.
- 49 FCS teams will play 53 lower division (Div II or III) teams.
- Campbell, Charleston Southern, and NC A&T are the only FCS teams to have at least 2 lower division teams on schedule.
- FCS/FBS matchup with the shortest distance is Villanova vs. Temple (16 miles apart).
- FCS/FBS matchup with the longest distance is Nicholls State vs. Oregon State (2,607 miles apart).
- Pioneer and Ivy Leagues will not play any FBS teams.
- Savannah State is the only FCS team to play 2 FBS teams ranked in the top 20.
- Missouri Valley, Southern, and Southland Conferences are the only FCS conferences where each of their teams will play at least 1 FBS opponent.

[Click here for a list of each FCS team and their FBS opponent for 2012](#) (and lower division matchups)

Funny how....

- Fordham of the Northeast Conference remains ineligible for a conference title due to its offering of scholarships in a non-scholarship conference, however they are the only Northeast Conference team to schedule an FBS opponent.
- Montana, ranked #1 in attendance in 2011 and the winningest FCS team in the 2000's, has no FBS teams on schedule.
- Savannah State is third from last in FCS winning percentage at .365 and is playing the toughest teams in it's history in Oklahoma State and Florida State. Good luck, Tigers!

As mentioned above, the longest FCS/FBS matchup is 2,607 miles apart. [Here are some other FCS teams that will travel far to play FBS teams:](#)

- SC State at Arizona (1,967 miles)
- Tenn Tech at Oregon (2,448 miles)
- Wagner at Florida Atlantic (1,250 miles)
- Savannah State at Oklahoma State (1,100 miles)
- New Hampshire at Minnesota (1,450 miles)

Are these games credible to their programs for recruiting? Is the payday alone worth it for the program? What do you think about FCS teams playing out the footprint of their recruiting turf? [Let us know your thoughts.](#)

Need stat proof to back up your FCS football debate? Visit ["FCS Hodge Podge"](#) to get quick facts!

Just to confirm....

The NCAA has officially expanded the FCS playoff selection from 20 to 24 teams starting in 2013. The Pioneer League will have an automatic bid and will be the 11th FCS conference to participate in post-season play. The SWAC and Ivy League conferences do not send their teams to the post-season.

Trivia Results: Craig Haley of Philadelphia, PA answered last week's trivia. The 2 FCS teams that nailed all their field goal attempts in 2011 were: NC Central of the MEAC made 7 of 7 with an average distance of 31 yds; Sacred Heart of the Northeast Conference made 11 of 11 with an average distance of 30 yds.

Trivia Question: What is the only FCS team that will face 3 FBS teams in 2012?

[Enter your trivia answer](#) here. Trivia answer and winner will be announced on the next digest.

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