

Issue No. 9 - Week of 9/3/2011

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1. LUCKY CHARMS

According to legendary mythology, a sea wolf is a creature that springs luck upon those who view it. As indicative of the spirit of this creature holds the same for the [Stony Brook Seawolves](#) and its surrounding Long Island community, who anxiously sighed relief to a determined Hurricane Irene this past weekend. Stony Brook is the only FCS school (with active football team) on Long Island, NY and, although the school was not around during the Long Island Express hurricane of 1938, the anticipation of Irene was emotional indeed.

The Seawolves need similar luck as they face FBS opponent UTEP in the 2011 season-opener this weekend. Although, skills may replace luck in this upcoming contest as Stony Brook is returning 19 starters and outweighs UTEP's lineman on both sides of the ball. The culmination of All-Conference preseason backfield threat of Brock Jackolski and Miguel Maysonet, along with senior WR, Matt Brevi should provide an offensive attack against the Miners. Defensively, Ryan Haber (DL) and Craig Richardson (LB) will look to stop UTEP's dominance over FCS foes as they've averaged 470 yds of offense in their 4-0 record against the FCS in the last six seasons.

The Seawolves hope to bounce back from a hard-fought yet crushing, season-opening defeat last year to South Florida, 59-14. The matchup against UTEP will mark the second time that Stony Brook has played an FBS opponent since their entrance into FCS level play in 1999. They'll meet another FBS squad, Buffalo, the following week.

The UTEP game will take place on 9/3/2011 at 9pm ET at the Sun Bowl in El Paso, TX. Support Stony Brook as they look to 3-peat as Big South champs! (previous two conference titles were shared with Liberty and Coastal Carolina)

2. FCS NAVIGATION

Corporate & community support, attendance numbers, and revenue- these are variables that are considered in every collegiate football programs' planning. The same level of importance goes into the NCAA's decision for a title game location. As you know, the FCS title game was relocated to Frisco, TX after a somewhat surprising decision made early last year. The title game was in Chattanooga, TN for the previous 13 years at Finley Stadium. Frisco, a thriving Dallas suburb, wooed the NCAA and supporters with fancy facilities, a strong corporate support system, and the obvious large football fan-base culture. The Southland Conference is a co-host to the title game.

Ok, I get the picture. Basically, who has the best numbers, presentation, and persuasive skills to show a consistent sales growth forecast while leveraging expenses. I've been in those boardrooms before. But what about location in regards to travel? Outside the football-fanatic, Texas footprint, how can others conveniently make the title game event? Will Frisco capitalize on non-resident ticket sales? Is Frisco a good center location for FCS fans to attend the title game?

[The Underdawg](#) gathered some data regarding past title game locations, and developed a few stats to support a title game location decision from a geographical standpoint:

Here's a list of the history of FCS title game locations and years held:

Wichita Falls, TX (1978, 1981-1982)

Orlando, FL (1979)

Sacramento, CA (1980)

Charleston, SC (1983-1984)

Tacoma, WA (1985-1986)

Pocatello, ID (1987-1988)

Statesboro, GA (1989-1991)

Huntington, WV (1992-1996)

Chattanooga, TN (1997-2010)

Frisco, TX (2011-2013)



Former Head Coach, Erk Russell led Georgia Southern to its 1st FCS title in 1985

Note: Wichita Falls, TX; Orlando, FL; Sacramento, CA; and Tacoma, WA were not home to FCS schools at the time of title game hosting.

- An FCS title game has been in all four U.S. time zones (mainland)
- Georgia Southern & Marshall were the only FCS teams to play and win titles in their home town/stadium
- The largest average attendance span for FCS title games covered 1992-1996 in Huntington, WV (30,070 people)
- The highest total points scored in an FCS title game is 98; UMass defeated Ga Southern in 1998, 55-43.
- The lowest total points scored in an FCS title game is 19; Youngstown St defeated McNeese St in 1997, 10-9. Montana defeated Furman in 2001, 13-6.
- The largest margin of victory in an FCS title game is 40 pts; Delaware defeated Colgate, 40-0 in 2003.
- The closest margin of victory featured 3 FCS title games decided by 1-point (NE Louisiana defeated Marshall in 1987, 43-42; Youngstown St defeated McNeese St in 1997, 10-9; Eastern Washington defeated Delaware in 2010, 20-19)
- 20 different teams have won the FCS championship; 6 teams are located West of the Mississippi (River) and 14 located East.
- 6 FCS teams have won the title more than once.

[Click here for a complete list of FCS title game locations, dates, attendance numbers, and more!](#)

More FCS title game facts:

- Frisco, TX is within 3 degrees longitude of the center of the USA, Lebanon, Kansas, and within 2 degrees longitude of the center of the footprint of all FCS schools, Lyndon, Kansas.
- 75% (94 of 126) of the FCS schools are East of the Mississippi River; 25% (32 of 126) are West.
- Of the FCS schools that represent the 75% density; the center point of the geographical longitude and latitude area of the Eastern USA is Wilkesboro, NC (32 miles from Boone, NC, home of Appalachian State)....the center point of the geographical land-only area of the Eastern USA is Crossville, TN (80 miles from Chattanooga, TN)
- The closest FCS school to the center point of the USA is Univ. of South Dakota (Vermillion, SD; 307 miles from Lebanon, KS)
- The closest FCS school to the center point of the FCS footprint nationwide is Missouri State (Springfield, MO; 225 miles from Lyndon, KS)

From these facts, there is argument either way to continue hosting the title game in Frisco. With nearly a center-point destination on the longitude scale, Frisco is a solid hub abroad. Chattanooga is the closest to midway of the majority of the FCS school footprint of the Eastern majority. This was a debating point in Chattanooga's presentation to the NCAA to keep the games there. Perhaps to settle any location dispute, the closest major city to the center of the USA is Kansas City, MO. Should the next title game location be in K.C.? Is weather an adjoining factor to consider with location, especially with January title game dates now? Something to consider for the next round of cities bidding for the FCS title game series.

Bonus:

- The northern-most FCS school is North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)
- The southern-most FCS school is Bethune-Cookman (Daytona Beach, FL)
- The western-most FCS school is Portland State (Portland, OR)
- The eastern-most FCS school is Maine (Orono, ME)

DID YOU KNOW?Jacksonville State had the first woman in NCAA Div I history to play and score in a game. Ashley Martin kicked an extra point against Cumberland U. on 8/30/2001, and helped the Gamecocks to a 72-10 romp that day.

3. ANOTHER SHOT AT GOLIATH

This week marks the 4th anniversary of the biggest upset in Div I football history- Appalachian State's "Big House" win over (then) #5 Michigan, 34-32. Personally, it was a landmark moment....as if I'd ask someone, "Where were you on 9/1/2007?"...or, "What were you doing when App St beat Michigan?" Since then, the FBS game face has been tightened. There's a newfound respect for FCS level competition. FBS homecoming scheduling of FCS opponents has reduced more than 40% since 2007. Tell me that App State didn't change the game! Michigan has even scheduled App State to a rematch back in Ann Arbor, MI in 2014.



This block FG attempt sealed App State's upset over Michigan in 2007

Here's a list of FCS teams facing ranked FBS teams in the first week of the 2011 season:

Youngstown State at #17 Michigan State, 9/2/2011 at 7:30pm ET
Appalachian State at #13 Virginia Tech, 9/3/2011 at 12:30pm ET
UT-Chattanooga at #10 Nebraska, 9/3/2011 at 3:30pm ET
Missouri State at #15 Arkansas, 9/3/2011 at 7:00pm ET

Check [Sportsnetwork](#) for broadcasting info for these games

Here's a list of (post-season) #1 ranked FBS teams who played FCS teams to-date with final score:

1951	Tennessee	UT-Chattanooga	42	13
1957	Auburn	UT-Chattanooga	40	7
1960	Mississippi	UT-Chattanooga	45	0
1981	Clemson	Wofford	45	10
1990	Georgia Tech	UT-Chattanooga	44	9
1996	Florida	GA Southern	62	14
2001	Miami FL	Troy	38	7
2003	LSU	Western Illinois	35	7
2006	Florida	W. Carolina	62	0
2008	Florida	Citadel	70	19
2009	Alabama	UT-Chattanooga	45	0
2010	Auburn	UT-Chattanooga	62	24

Trivia Results: According to individual FCS school website information, the smallest FCS school in population is Presbyterian College (Big South) with 1200 students.

Trivia Question: What are the only (3) FCS schools that started their football programs the same year their schools were founded?

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