

ACC Adds Louisville

Written by Staff Reports

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Louisville will join the ACC. It's a done deal after presidents approved a three-fourths majority vote this morning, according to a source with direct knowledge of the situation. Presidents had discussed the possibility of Louisville, UConn, Cincinnati and others in recent days but settled on the Cardinals, a huge coup for aggressive UL athletic director Tom Jurich. UConn was in the mix because of its strong academic ties and its location in a strong television market, but Louisville has a strong basketball/football presence and top-rate facilities, among other positives. The Cardinals will join the ACC in 2014.

The Big East rules require a \$10 million exit fee and 27 months notice, but the Cardinals -- like several schools before them -- should be able to negotiate a higher buyout to leave before the 27-month period.

ESPN first reported the news. Louisville replaces Maryland, which defected to the Big Ten early last week. Maryland and Rutgers, which is leaving the Big East for the Big Ten, will join the Big Ten in 2014.

Tulane announced on Tuesday that it was leaving Conference USA to join the Big East as a full-time member in 2014. Shortly after that, East Carolina announced it was leaving C-USA for the Big East as a football-member only in 2014.