

49ers Rejected By SoCon, Big South

Written by Mike Kelly
Thursday, 09 June 2011 12:41

Charlotte, which begins playing football in 2013, had its hopes of joining the Southern Conference as an associate member for football only, squashed on Wednesday.

The Southern Conference rejected their bid to join the league. The offer was voted down by the school presidents. The Big South followed suit and echoed a similar sentiment, rejecting the 49ers associate membership offer as well. The only option now, according to Charlotte Athletics Director Judy Rose, is to approach the Colonial Athletic Association, or to be an FCS Independent when the school begins playing football in 2013.

The Big South currently has seven member schools playing football. Adding Charlotte would have balanced out the conference with eight teams. Ironically, the Big South does have an associate member in Stony Brook (NY). That school joined the Big South in 2008, and is also in the league temporarily, recently signing a four-year extension through 2015.

The rest of Charlotte's athletic teams compete in the Atlantic 10 Conference, and no matter where the football team does end up, Rose feels the rest of Charlotte's athletic teams will stay in the A-10. There are currently four independents playing football at the FCS level: Bryant University, Georgia State, South Alabama and Iona.

TEXAS STATE TO JOIN WAC

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Texas State University will begin play football at the FBS level in 2012.

The Bobcats will leave the Southland Conference and join the Western Athletic Conference next season. Texas State, 4-7 last season, has also announced its schedule for 2012.

The Bobcats will open the season at Houston on September 1; they will play their home opener against Texas Tech on September 8. Texas State will also play Nevada at home (September 29) at New Mexico (October 6) and at Navy (November 17).

The WAC schedule will find the Bobcats playing Louisiana Tech, Idaho and New Mexico State at home; San Jose State, Texas-San Antonio and Utah State on the road. The WAC has not released the dates for the league's 2012 schedule.

The only FCS school Texas State will play next season will be current Southland Conference member, Stephen F. Austin, at home on September 22. The Bobcats will play two FBS teams this season. They open the 2011 season at Texas Tech on September 3; they travel to Wyoming the following week, September 10.

SOLIDER FIELD TO HOST FCS GAME

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Alabama A&M and Hampton University have announced that they will play each other at Solider Field in Chicago, IL., on Saturday, September 3.