

## Four SoCon Teams to Participate In BracketBusters

Written by SoCon Sports Information  
Thursday, 29 September 2011 11:02

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The 10th annual Sears BracketBusters, a three-day men's college basketball event pitting potential NCAA Championship hopefuls against each other Feb. 17-19, will feature 13 nationally televised games - on either ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU or ESPN3. The NCAA hopefuls will be selected from a pool of 142 teams from 16 conferences, the largest Sears BracketBusters pool in the event's history, which includes two team that reached the 2011 Final Four in Houston.

The Southern Conference will have four teams in the event. Appalachian State and Davidson have been designated as home teams, while College of Charleston and Wofford will be on the road. The SoCon is 17-12 all-time in the event and has gone 8-1 the last two years, including a perfect 5-0 mark last season.

For the seventh straight year, ESPNU will feature five Sears BracketBusters games, while ESPN or ESPN2 will television up to six and ESPN3 will carry two. The 13 Sears BracketBusters matchups will be announced Monday, Jan. 30 with dates, times and networks. The television matchups are selected by ESPN, while a Committee of Conference Commissioners determines the additional non-televised games.

Sears BracketBusters, named because of the success of the teams in NCAA Championship play, will provide the 26 televised teams an opportunity to play other top non-conference opponents three weeks before Selection Sunday. The 116 teams not selected for Sears BracketBusters will compete against each other through the same three days.

The 142-team field will feature teams from 16 conferences: 12 each from Colonial Athletic Association, Mid-American Conference and Southland; 11 each from Ohio Valley Conference and Big South; 10 each from Horizon League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Missouri Valley and Summit League; nine each from America East, Big Sky and Big West; eight from the Western Athletic Association; four from the Southern Conference; three from the MEAC; and two from the West Coast Conference.

As part of the agreement, all 13 of the Sears BracketBusters home teams in televised games, as well as the remaining 58 home squads, will play a return game at the home facility of their opponent in November or December of the 2013-14 season.

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Sears BracketBusters is part of ESPN's college basketball franchise programming, along with Rivalry Week, Feast Week presented by Lowe's, Holiday Hoops Presented by Kay Jewelers, Judgment Week and Championship Week Presented by Dick's Sporting Goods.

Teams participating this season in Sears BracketBusters have produced 87 appearances in the last six NCAA Championships.

Sears BracketBusters Home and Away Teams (Matchups announced Jan. 30)

Home Team	Visiting Team
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America East

Albany	Binghamton
Maine	Boston University
New Hampshire	Hartford
Vermont	UMBC
Stony Brook	

Big Sky

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Montana Eastern Washington

Northern Arizona Idaho State

Northern Colorado Montana State

Sacramento State Portland State

Weber State

Big South

Charleston Southern Campbell

Coastal Carolina High Point

Gardner-Webb Liberty

Radford Presbyterian

VMI UNC-Asheville

Winthrop

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### Big West

UC Irvine	Cal Poly
UC Riverside	UC Davis
Cal State Fullerton	UC Santa Barbara
Cal State Northridge	Long Beach State

### Pacific

### Colonial

Delaware	Drexel
George Mason	James Madison
Georgia State	Old Dominion
Hofstra	Towson
Northeastern	UNC Wilmington
VCU	William & Mary

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### Horizon

Butler	Loyola (Ill.)
Cleveland State	UIC
Detroit	Valparaiso
Green Bay	Wright State
Milwaukee	Youngstown State

### Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

Canisius	Fairfield
Iona	Marist
Loyola (Md.)	Niagara
Manhattan	Rider
Saint Peter's	Siena

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### Mid-American

Ball State	Akron
Bowling Green	Buffalo
Central Michigan	Eastern Michigan
Kent State	Northern Illinois
Miami (Ohio)	Toledo
Ohio	Western Michigan

### MEAC

Morgan State	Delaware State
Hampton	

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### Missouri Valley

Bradley

Drake

Creighton

Indiana State

Evansville

Northern Iowa

Illinois State

Southern Illinois

Missouri State

Wichita State

### Ohio Valley

Austin Peay

Morehead State

Eastern Illinois

SE Missouri State

Eastern Kentucky

Tennessee-Martin

Jacksonville State

Tennessee Tech

Murray State

Tennessee State

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SIU Edwardsville

Southern

Appalachian State

College of Charleston

Davidson

Wofford

Southland

McNeese State

Central Arkansas

Nicholls State

Lamar

Northwestern State

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Sam Houston State

Texas-Arlington

Southeastern Louisiana

Texas-San Antonio

Stephen F. Austin

Texas State



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### Summit League

UMKC	IPFW
North Dakota State	IUPUI
Oral Roberts	Oakland
South Dakota State	Southern Utah
South Dakota	Western Illinois

### WAC

Idaho	Fresno State
Louisiana Tech	Hawaii
New Mexico State	Nevada
Utah State	San Jose State

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### West Coast Conference

Loyola Marymount

St. Mary's (Calif.)

Sears BracketBusters in NCAA Championship play from 2006-11:

2011 NCAA Championship: 13 berths - Akron, Boston University, George Mason, Indiana State, Morehead State, Northern Colorado, Old Dominion, Saint Peter's, UC-Santa Barbara, UNC Asheville, Utah State, VCU, and Wofford. Eight wins: George Mason defeated Villanova; Morehead State defeated Louisville; UNC Asheville defeated Arkansas-Little Rock; VCU defeated USC, Georgetown, Purdue, Florida State and Kansas.

2010 NCAA Championship: 12 berths - Butler, Morgan State, Murray State, New Mexico State, Northern Iowa, Ohio, Old Dominion, Siena, Utah State, UC-Santa Barbara, Vermont, Winthrop. 10 wins overall: Butler defeated UTEP, Murray State, Syracuse, Kansas State, Michigan State; Murray State defeated Vanderbilt; Northern Iowa defeated UNLV and Kansas; Ohio defeated Georgetown; and Old Dominion defeated Notre Dame.

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2009 NCAA Championship: 13 berths - Akron, Binghamton, Butler, Cal State Northridge, Cleveland State, Morehead State, Morgan State, North Dakota State, Northern Iowa, Portland State, Siena, Utah State, and Virginia Commonwealth. Three wins overall: Cleveland State defeated Wake Forest; Morehead State defeated Alabama State and Siena beat Ohio State.

2008 NCAA Championship: 15 Berths - Austin Peay, Boise State, Butler, Cal State-Fullerton, Davidson, Drake, George Mason, Kent State, Oral Roberts, Portland State, Saint Mary's, San Diego, Siena, UMBC and Winthrop. Six wins overall: Davidson defeated Gonzaga, Georgetown and Wisconsin to reach the Elite Eight; Butler defeated South Alabama; Siena defeated Vanderbilt; and San Diego defeated Connecticut.

2007 NCAA Championship: 17 Berths - Albany, Butler, Creighton, Davidson, Eastern Kentucky, Holy Cross, Long Beach State, Miami (Ohio), Nevada, New Mexico State, Niagara, Old Dominion, Oral Roberts, Southern Illinois, Virginia Commonwealth, Winthrop and Wright State. Seven wins overall: Butler defeated Old Dominion and Maryland to reach the Sweet Sixteen; Southern Illinois defeated Holy Cross and Virginia Tech to reach the Sweet Sixteen; Nevada defeated Creighton; Virginia Commonwealth defeated Duke; and Winthrop defeated Notre Dame.

2006 NCAA Championship: 19 Berths - Albany, Bradley, Bucknell, George Mason, Iona, Kent State, Montana, Murray State, Nevada, UNC-Wilmington, Northern Iowa, Northwestern State, Pacific, Oral Roberts, Utah State, Southern Illinois, UW-Milwaukee, Winthrop and Wichita State. Twelve wins overall: Bradley defeated Kansas and Pittsburgh to reach the Sweet Sixteen; Bucknell defeated Arkansas; George Mason defeated Michigan State, North Carolina, Wichita State and Connecticut to reach the Final Four; Montana defeated Nevada; Northwestern State defeated Iowa; UW-Milwaukee defeated Oklahoma; and Wichita State defeated Seton Hall and

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Tennessee to reach the Sweet Sixteen.

### About Sears BracketBusters

The Sears BracketBusters concept, named because of the success of participating teams from these conferences in NCAA Tournament play through the years, provides programs with an opportunity to play top non-conference opponents roughly three weeks before Selection Sunday. Each conference selects its participating teams before the season, and the matchups for the event are determined by ESPN in conjunction with the conferences. Sears BracketBusters is an example of ESPN college basketball franchise programming. Others include Rivalry Week, Feast Week Presented by Lowe's, Holiday Hoops Presented by Kay Jewelers and Judgment Week and Championship Week Presented by Dick's Sporting.