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## **BIG TEN AND ACC ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF ANNUAL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHALLENGE**

*Initial Four-Year Agreement Between Two Conferences Set to Begin in 2007*

**PARK RIDGE, III.** – The Big Ten and the Atlantic Coast Conference today announced the formation of an annual Big Ten/ACC Challenge for women's basketball, which will span at least four years and will begin in the fall of 2007. The Big Ten/ACC Challenge will match 11 teams from each conference in head-to-head competition traditionally on the first Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after Thanksgiving, following the men's basketball Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

"The Big Ten Conference and its institutions are thrilled for the formation of this great event and the Big Ten/ACC Challenge will provide a wonderful stage on which these two traditionally dominant women's basketball conferences will compete," said Big Ten Commissioner James E. Delany. "The Big Ten and the ACC boast some of the most passionate women's basketball fans in the country and we feel this Challenge will not only strengthen our teams, but our loyal fan base as well."

The inaugural Big Ten/ACC Challenge will feature games outside the traditional timeframe as the first contest of the Challenge will feature Michigan at Miami on Nov. 19. The Big Ten will then host the next two games on Nov. 28, as Wake Forest travels to Northwestern and Iowa hosts Georgia Tech. Three games are slated for Nov. 29, with Michigan State hosting Clemson, Purdue traveling to North Carolina and Illinois heading to NC State. ACC teams will host three of the four Nov. 30 games when Maryland welcomes Ohio State, Virginia Tech hosts Minnesota and Wisconsin travels to Virginia. In addition, Indiana will serve as host to Florida State on Nov. 30. The 2007 Big Ten/ACC Challenge concludes on Dec. 2 with Duke competing at Penn State.

"The Atlantic Coast Conference is pleased to be part of the Big Ten/ACC Challenge for women's basketball," said ACC Commissioner John Swofford. "To be able to showcase our women's basketball teams in premier competition with the Big Ten Conference in a great event like this will create excitement and enthusiasm with our participating teams and their fans."

The Big Ten and ACC conference offices will coordinate the 11-game schedule each season, which may include rematches from year-to-year. In addition, the official title of the Challenge will rotate each year beginning with the Big Ten/ACC Women's Basketball Challenge in 2007. The 2008 event will be referred to as the ACC/Big Ten Women's Basketball Challenge. The name of the annual series will continue to mirror the official title of the men's basketball event.

Game times, as well as television and broadband coverage, will be announced at a later date.

The Big Ten and ACC have long been among the dominant conferences on the women's basketball scene. This past season, North Carolina advanced to the national semifinals giving the ACC back-to-back Final Four appearances for the third time in league history, just as the Big Ten had in 2003-04 and 2004-05. In 2005-06, the ACC became the first conference to send three teams – Duke, Maryland and North Carolina – to the same Final Four, while the Big Ten was represented by both Iowa and Ohio State in the 1993 event. The Big Ten has participated in five of the last nine Final Fours and eight overall, compared to the ACC's 11 trips, including six in the past 11 years.

In most recent comparison, the 2006-07 campaign concluded with collegepi.com rating the ACC and Big Ten third and fourth, respectively, in the final RPI. In the same report, the Big Ten was ranked first in strength of schedule, followed by the ACC in third. Since the 1999-00 season, the two conferences have squared off in head-to-head competition on 57 occasions, with the ACC holding a 29-28 advantage.

## **2007 BIG TEN/ACC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHALLENGE**

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **November 19**

Michigan at Miami

#### **November 28**

Wake Forest at Northwestern  
Georgia Tech at Iowa

#### **November 29**

Clemson at Michigan State  
Purdue at North Carolina  
Illinois at NC State

#### **November 30**

Ohio State at Maryland  
Minnesota at Virginia Tech  
Florida State at Indiana  
Wisconsin at Virginia

#### **December 2**

Duke at Penn State

### **FUTURE CHALLENGE NAMES & DATES**

2008: ACC/Big Ten Challenge – Dec. 3, 4, 5

2009: Big Ten/ACC Challenge – Dec. 2, 3, 4

2010: ACC/Big Ten Challenge – Dec. 1, 2, 3

### **ALREADY A CHALLENGE**

Since the 1999-00 season, the Big Ten and ACC have squared off in head-to-head competition on 57 occasions, with the ACC holding a 29-28 advantage.

### **COMMON CHALLENGERS**

The 2007 Big Ten/ACC Challenge will feature nine contests in which the two opponents have previously met. In the all-time series between the two teams, the ACC holds a 13-9 advantage, which includes Duke's 5-0 record over Penn State. The Big Ten has won five of the nine most recent meetings. The series history between the common opponents follows.

#### **Michigan is tied all time with Miami, 1-1**

- Last Meeting: MICH, 60-55, 12/3/06

#### **Northwestern leads Wake Forest, 2-0**

- Last Meeting: NU, 89-73, 12/4/93

#### **Clemson leads Michigan State, 1-0**

- Last Meeting: CLEM, 75-64, 12/18/89

#### **North Carolina leads Purdue, 3-1**

- Last Meeting: UNC, 84-72, 3/27/07 (NCAA Regional)

#### **Ohio State leads Maryland, 2-1**

- Last Meeting: OSU, 75-65, 3/22/05 (NCAA 2<sup>nd</sup> Round)

#### **Minnesota leads Virginia Tech, 1-0**

- Last Meeting: MINN, 70-56, 11/20/04

#### **Florida State leads Indiana, 2-1**

- Last Meeting: FSU, 58-47, 12/3/02

#### **Wisconsin is tied all time with Virginia, 1-1**

- Last Meeting: WIS, 84-78, 3/25/07 (WNIT Quarterfinal)

#### **Duke leads Penn State, 5-0**

- Last Meeting: DUKE, 70-42, 11/21/06

### **QUICK TURNAROUND**

Four Challenge games will serve as a rematch between the two teams from the 2006-07 season. Michigan defeated Miami, 60-55, last year, while Duke earned a 70-42 victory over Penn State prior to conference play. Wisconsin topped Virginia, 84-78, in the WNIT Quarterfinals and North Carolina advanced to the Final Four with an 84-72 win over Purdue.

### **NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES**

The Challenge's finale between Duke and Penn State will feature familiar foes and a few fresh faces as well. The Lady Lions, led by first-year head coach Coquese Washington, will meet a Blue Devil team that recently hired former Michigan State mentor Joanne P. McCallie as its head coach. McCallie will be looking for her first win in State College in seven attempts as an opposing head coach.