

## CONFERENCE USA BASEBALL 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conference USA was the No. 5 ranked baseball conference in 2008, trailing only the ACC, Pac-10, SEC and Big 12.
- Rice advanced to its third straight College World Series and its seventh since 1997. It was the fourth consecutive year that C-USA placed a team in the CWS (Tulane in 2005).
- Conference USA tied a league record by placing five teams in the 2008 NCAA Championship (East Carolina, Houston, Rice, Southern Miss and Tulane). It was the seventh straight year that C-USA produced at least four NCAA teams. For the first time ever, five teams advanced to regional championship games.
- For the eighth time in the last nine years, a Conference USA team hosted an NCAA Regional when Rice welcomed Texas, St. John's and Sam Houston State to the Houston Regional. The Owls also hosted a Super Regional against Texas A&M, marking the ninth straight season a C-USA team has advanced to Super Regional play.
- Rice was ranked in the top 10 all season long, rising as high as No. 4 on several occasions.
- East Carolina, Houston, Southern Miss, Tulane and UCF have each been nationally-ranked in one of the four major polls (USA Today, NCBWA, *Baseball America*, *Collegiate Baseball*) this season, giving the league a total of six ranked teams at some point this season.
- Five Conference USA teams won at least one game against a nationally-ranked, non-conference opponent.
- C-USA teams posted a total of 20 wins over nationally-ranked, non-conference opponents during the regular season, including seven against Top 10 foes.
- Among the NCAA teams that C-USA defeated in 2008 were: Georgia (Memphis), Texas A&M (Houston, Rice), Oklahoma State (Rice), South Carolina (East Carolina), UC Irvine (Tulane), Texas (Rice), Long Beach State (Rice), North Carolina State (Marshall), Missouri (UCF), Michigan (East Carolina), UNC Wilmington (East Carolina), New Orleans (Southern Miss, Tulane), TCU (Tulane), Mississippi (Southern Miss) and Elon (East Carolina).
- Four Conference USA teams won at least 40 games this season for the first time ever, with another posting 39 victories. Seven of the nine league schools won at least 30 games for the first time ever.
- Seven different Conference USA players were honored as All-Americans, including Tulane pitcher **Shooter Hunt**, who appeared on all but one All-American team.
- Seven C-USA players earned Freshman All-American honors, the league's highest total since the 2002 season.
- Conference USA had two players that earned National Player of the Week honors.
- Six C-USA players were named to the 2008 *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District teams, including a pair of first team selections in Memphis pitcher **Neil Schenk** and Rice pitcher **Chris Kelley**.
- Conference USA had a record 37 players chosen in the June Major League Baseball Draft. included were a pair of first round picks in Tulane's **Shooter Hunt** and Rice's **Bryan Price**, the fourth straight year that C-USA has produced a first round pick. For the first time ever, each Conference USA school had at least one player selected.
- Thirteen players from C-USA schools appeared on the opening day rosters of Major League Baseball teams, with five more players being called up in the first two months of the season.

## **CONFERENCE USA BASEBALL SCHOOLS**

The nine schools that currently comprise Conference USA Baseball have enjoyed a great deal of success. Here are some of their accomplishments:

Eleven College World Series Appearances

2003 National Champions - Rice

At least one College World Series team in eight of the last 10 seasons.

99 NCAA Appearances in Baseball (60 since 1995)

Five National Players of the Year since 1995

Six National Freshman of the Year since 1995

107 players have been All-Americans since 1995

Schools have combined to win 40 or more games 51 times in the last 12 years

Has had a team ranked No. 1 in the nation in four of the last five regular seasons



EAST CAROLINA  
HOUSTON  
MARSHALL  
MEMPHIS  
RICE  
SOUTHERN MISS  
TULANE  
UAB  
UCF