



November 4, 2003

For 2 p.m. Release

Contacts: John Paquette, Rob Carolla, Tammy Donovan

BIG EAST Announces The Addition Of Five Marquis Institutions

NEW YORK – The BIG EAST Conference announced that five institutions have accepted invitations for membership into the league. Those schools are: University of Cincinnati, DePaul University, University of Louisville, Marquette University, and the University of South Florida. The additions were authorized by a vote of the league's Presidents.

All five universities, which currently compete in Conference USA, will begin BIG EAST Conference play in the 2005-06 academic year.

"This is a very exciting day in the history of the BIG EAST," said Commissioner Michael Tranchese. "We are thrilled to be joined by five great institutions, all of whom exemplify the characteristics of sportsmanship and scholarship that are central to the BIG EAST tradition. We look forward to the added enthusiasm and vigorous competition our new members will bring to our men's and women's sports and to the expanded reach into even more of the nation's top media markets our conference will achieve under our new structure."

"The addition of five highly-competitive institutions today ensures that the BIG EAST will remain one of the nation's premier athletic conferences," said Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, OSA, President of Villanova University and Chair of the BIG EAST Presidents. "The extraordinary spirit of cooperation that existed among our membership during the past few months enabled us to work quickly and efficiently to enhance our future."

"For the past several months, everyone connected with the BIG EAST has worked creatively and cooperatively to build an even stronger conference," said Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh and incoming Chair of the league's Presidents. "Great credit is due the professional staff of the conference and our athletic directors, as well as the Presidents and Chancellors who have been actively involved in the restructuring process. We are excited about our new members, the markets we serve, our expanded geographic reach, the high levels of performance we will bring to every sport, and the opportunities we will continue to provide our student-athletes."

The University of Cincinnati, with an enrollment of 34,000, sponsors 18 sports. The Bearcats were one of only three schools nationally in 2002-03 to send its football, men's basketball, women's basketball and women's volleyball teams to postseason play.

DePaul University, with an enrollment of 23,600, sponsors 15 sports. DePaul has sent its softball team to seven straight NCAA Tournaments.

- more -

The University of Louisville, with an enrollment of 21,089, sponsors 21 sports. The Cardinals have appeared in five straight football bowl games.

The Marquette University men's basketball team advanced to the NCAA Final Four this past March. The school, which has an enrollment of 11,000, sponsors 14 sports.

The University of South Florida, with an enrollment of 41,392, has sent more teams to NCAA postseason play than any current member of Conference USA. USF sponsors 18 sports.

The BIG EAST Conference, with its headquarters in Providence, R.I., is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2003-04. The league takes pride in its long list of accomplishments. Providing opportunities to excel amongst the nation's best, both athletically and academically, has always been its mission.

Since opening its doors in 1979, the league has won 22 national championships in six different sports and 118 student-athletes have won individual national titles. More than 300 student-athletes have earned Academic All-America honors.

In 2002-03, Syracuse University won the men's basketball title and the University of Connecticut won its second straight women's basketball crown.

In 2005-06, The BIG EAST Conference will include: University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, DePaul University, Georgetown University, University of Louisville, Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, Providence College, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Seton Hall University, University of South Florida, Syracuse University, Villanova University, West Virginia University.

- BIG EAST -

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Location: Cincinnati, Ohio
Founded: 1819
Enrollment: 34,000
University Endowment: \$899 Million
Living Alumni: 207,133
Cincinnati Population: 331,285
Television Market (in USA): No. 32
Nickname: Bearcats
Colors: Red & Black
Web Site: www.UCBearcats.com
President: Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher
Athletic Director: Bob Goin
SWA Stephanie Rousseau
Faculty Representative Dr. Nancy Hamant
Football Coach: Rick Minter
Men's Basketball Coach: Bob Huggins
Women's Basketball Coach: Laurie Pirtle

Notable Alumni

David Canary, Heather French Henry, Sandy Koufax, Miller Huggins, Faith Prince, Albert Sabin, William Howard Taft, Oscar Robertson

Academic Notables

- UC offered the nation's first cooperative education program (1906)
- With more than \$300 million in research projects annually, UC is ranked 46th among America's universities by the National Science Foundation.
- Almanac of Architecture & Design rated UC's interior design school the best in America
- UC has been the source of many contributions in society, including the first electric organ, first oral polio vaccine, first antihistamine (Benadryl) and first observations of the National Weather Service.

Sponsored Sports (18)

Baseball, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Football, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Women's Rowing, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Men's Swimming & Diving, Women's Swimming & Diving, Women's Tennis, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Volleyball

Did You Know?

UC was the first school to make five straight appearances in the men's basketball Final Four (1959-63).

DE PAUL UNIVERSITY

Location: Chicago, Illinois
Affiliation Catholic, Vincentian
Founded: 1898
Enrollment: 25,300
University Endowment: \$192.8 Million
Living Alumni: 113,000
Chicago Population: 2,896,016
Television Market (in USA): No. 3
Nickname: Blue Demons
Colors: Royal Blue & Scarlet
Web Site: www.depaulbluedemons.com
President: Rev. John P. Minogue, C.M.
Athletic Director: Jean Lenti Ponsetto
SWA Kathryn Statz
Faculty Representative John McEnroe
Men's Basketball Coach: Dave Leitao
Women's Basketball Coach: Doug Bruno

Notable Alumni

Terry Cummings, George Wendt, Richard J. Daley, Richard M. Daley, Gillian Anderson, Samuel Skinner, George Perle, Benjamin Hooks

Academic Notables

- DePaul has been recognized as one of the top 100 universities in America awarding master's and .. bachelor's degrees to minorities
- DePaul's reach extends worldwide, with faculty . teaching courses in Hong Kong, Bahrain, the Czech Republic, Russia, South Africa, El Salvador and other countries
- DePaul is one of only seven colleges or universities world-wide to be granted Non-Governmental Organization Status. The status allows DPU representatives to attend UN conferences and meetings
- In the 2004 edition of *The Best 351 Colleges*, DePaul was ranked No. 1 in the survey's rankings of "Happy Students"

Sponsored Sports (15)

Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Men's Golf, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Softball, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, Men's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Volleyball

Did You Know?

DePaul University is the nation's largest Catholic institution of higher education and is the eighth largest private, not-for-profit university in the United States.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Location: Louisville, Kentucky
Founded: 1798
Enrollment: 21,089
University Endowment: \$475.2 Million
Living Alumni: 103,398
Louisville Population: 256,231
Television Market (in USA): No. 50
Nickname: U of L, Cardinals
Colors: Red & Black
Web Site: www.UofLSports.com
President: Dr. James R. Ramsey
Athletic Director: Tom Jurich
SWA Julie Hermann
Faculty Representative Dr. Elaine Wise
Football Coach: Bobby Petrino
Men's Basketball Coach: Rick Pitino
Women's Basketball Coach: Tom Collen

Notable Alumni

Sen. Mitch McConnell, Sen. Christopher Dodd, Sue Grafton, Bob Edwards, Tom Jackson, Marsha Norman, Dot Richardson, Johnny Unitas, Wes Unseld

Academic Notables

- U of L is one of the oldest Urban institutions in the United States, founded in 1798
- Louisville surgeons performed the first hand transplant in the United States and second one in the world
- U of L surgeons were the first in the world to successfully implant the first fully implantable artificial heart
- U of L's Photographic Archives are among the nation's largest, housing more than 1.2 million photographs
- The Thinker statue at Louisville's administration building is thought to be one of only three originals overseen by Rodin himself.

Sponsored Sports (21)

Baseball, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Women's Rowing, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Softball, Men's Swimming & Diving, Women's Swimming & Diving, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Volleyball

Did You Know?: The University of Louisville cheerleading squad has captured nine national championships, including one in 2002-03.

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Affiliation Catholic, Jesuit
Founded: 1881
Enrollment: 11,000
University Endowment: \$203 Million
Living Alumni: 100,000
Milwaukee Population: 596,974
Television Market (in USA): No. 33
Nickname: Golden Eagles
Colors: Blue & Gold
Web Site: www.gomarquette.com
President: Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J.
Athletic Director: Bill Cords
SWA Sarah Bobert
Faculty Representative Dr. Greg Naples
Men's Basketball Coach: Tom Crean
Women's Basketball Coach: Terri Mitchell

Notable Alumni

Chris Farley, Doc Rivers, Patrick McGrath, Hildegard Sell, Dr. Herman Viola, Don Ameche

Academic Notables

- *The Princeton Review* named Marquette one of the best universities in the Midwest
- Multiple Marquette alumni have won the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism
- Marquette's Haggerty Museum of Art features more than 8,000 works, including those from Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, Keith Haring & Roberto Matta
- MU students hail from all 50 states and 80 countries
- The Marquette community performs more than .. 100,000 hours of community service each year

Sponsored Sports (14)

Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Men's Golf, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, Men's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Volleyball

Did You Know?: Marquette made its third appearance in the men's basketball Final Four last season. MU has also played in the Final Four in 1974 and '77, winning the National Championship in 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Location: Tampa, Florida
Founded: 1956
Enrollment: 41,392
University Endowment: \$227 Million
Living Alumni: 173,000
Tampa Population: 315,140
Television Market (in USA): No. 13
Nicknames: USF, Bulls
Colors: Green & Gold
Web Site: www.GoUSFBulls.com
President: Dr. Judy Genshaft
Athletic Director: Lee Roy Selmon
SWA Barbara Sparks-McGlinchy
Faculty Representative Dr. Jack Romeo
Football Coach: Jim Leavitt
Men's Basketball Coach: Robert McCullum
Women's Basketball Coach: Jose Fernandez

Notable Alumni

Chucky Atkins, Eddie Carpenter, Mark Consuelos, Leo Gallagher, Anthony D. Henry, Drake Hogestyn, Nicole Johnson, Tony LaRussa, Kerry Sanders, Rick de Oliveira

Academic Notables

- USF is the second largest university in the Southeast and among the top 20 in the nation
- The school is one of just 88 Research I Universities in the country
- USF is the nation's top university for students transferring from another college, according to *U.S. News & World Report*
- USF students hail from all 50 states and 116 countries
- The school has pioneered the concept of brain repair - placing cells in the brain to help fix the damage of disease or injury
- USF researchers developed a technique that allows for a faster detection of anthrax (from three days to six hours)

Sponsored Sports (18)

Baseball, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Football, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Women's Sailing, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Softball, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Volleyball

Did You Know?: USF plays its home football games in Raymond James Stadium, home of the Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers



BIG EAST MEDIA MARKETS

<u>Rank</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>DMA</u>	<u>TV Households</u>	<u>Pct. of U.S.</u>
1	Rutgers University St. John's University Seton Hall University	New York	7,376,330	6.804
3	DePaul University	Chicago	3,399,460	3.136
4	Villanova University	Philadelphia	2,874,330	2.651
8	Georgetown University	Washington, D.C.	2,224,070	2.052
13	University of South Florida	Tampa-St. Petersburg	1,644,270	1.517
22	University of Pittsburgh West Virginia University	Pittsburgh	1,175,410	1.084
27	University of Connecticut	Hartford-New Haven	1,001,320	.924
32	University of Cincinnati	Cincinnati	872,330	.805
33	Marquette University	Milwaukee	871,490	.804
48	Providence College	Providence	635,610	.586
50	University of Louisville	Louisville	624,470	.576
79	Syracuse University	Syracuse	384,290	.354
87	<u>University of Notre Dame</u>	<u>South Bend</u>	<u>330,200</u>	<u>.305</u>
	Total:		23,908,770	22.06