



THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

Setting the Standard for Intercollegiate Athletics

IN BASEBALL

The Southeastern Conference, with its storied 82-year history of athletic achievements and academic excellence, has built perhaps the greatest tradition of intercollegiate competition in baseball of any league in the country since its inception in 1933.

An SEC squad has now appeared in the College World Series 30 of the last 31 years, including four teams in 2015. Seven SEC teams were selected for NCAA Regional play with five advancing to NCAA Super Regionals.

The SEC has sent 54 teams to the College World Series since 1990. That was accomplished despite no SEC teams making the field in 1992. LSU has now been to Omaha 14 times, Florida nine times, South Carolina six times, Georgia and Mississippi State five times, Arkansas four times, while Alabama, Tennessee and Vanderbilt have been three times each. Auburn has been twice.

SEC teams have won 10 of the last 25 national championships, with LSU winning six (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2009), South Carolina winning two (2010, 2011), Vanderbilt taking home the title in 2014 and Georgia claiming the 1990 title. The SEC has finished runner up nine times in that span, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The SEC has averaged more than eight games played per year in the College World Series since 1990. In 2015, an SEC team played in each of the 16 games of the CWS. In 2004, 12 of the 15 games played in Omaha involved a SEC team. In 1997, the SEC had a team in 13 of the 14 games played in the CWS. Since 1990, an SEC team has played in 185 of the 376 games in the College World Series, an amazing 49 percent of games.

The SEC has played 55 games in the "Final Four" of the College World Series since 1990, an average of over three per year. Only five times, 1992, 1994, 2003, 2006 and 2007 has the SEC failed to get a team to the "Final Four" of the CWS.

The SEC Baseball Tournament drew more than 130,000 fans in 2015, better than 7,000 per game. The event has become the Birmingham metro's highest attended sporting event annually, second in the state only to NASCAR races at Talladega. Birmingham Magazine recently named it the top sporting event annually in the Birmingham area. The entire SEC Baseball Tournament was broadcast live on national television for the first time in the history of the event.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- SEC teams comprised half of the teams in the 2015 College World Series (Arkansas, Florida, LSU and Vanderbilt). Vanderbilt finished as the NCAA runner-up, giving the SEC a team in the CWS Championship Series for the eighth consecutive year.
- Just 10 programs nationally have advanced to at least three of the last seven College World Series. Five of those programs are SEC programs - Arkansas, Florida, LSU, South Carolina and Vanderbilt.
- At the conclusion of the season, the top-five spots on the national average attendance charts were SEC teams, with each of those five programs averaging better than 7,300 fans per game.
- The SEC had seven players selected in the first round of the 2015 Major League Baseball Draft. Those seven picks represented five different schools. The SEC has now had a first-round MLB selection each year since 1991 and 105 total in the first round during that time.
- Former Arkansas baseball outfielder Andrew Benintendi was named the 2014-2015 Roy F. Kramer SEC Male Athlete of the Year by a vote of the league's athletics directors.
- Benintendi won USA Baseball's Golden Spikes Award. Each of the four finalists for the award were SEC Baseball Players - Benintendi, an outfielder from Arkansas, Alex Bregman, a shortstop from LSU, Carson Fulmer, a right-handed pitcher from Vanderbilt, and Dansby Swanson, a shortstop from Vanderbilt.
- Florida catcher/designated hitter JJ Schwarz and LSU right-hander Alex Lange were named the 2015 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association National Freshman Hitter and Pitcher of the Year recipients, giving SEC student-athletes a sweep of the national freshman of the year awards.
- Mississippi State's Seth Heck and Auburn's Cole Libscomb were named to the 2015 Capital One Academic All-America Division I Baseball Team. Heck is the 2015 SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.