



# 2008 Atlantic Coast Conference Football Mid-Week Media Notes Page



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The Atlantic Coast Conference Football Mid-Week Notes Page will be published each Wednesday during football season by the ACC Media Relations Staff. For more information, please contact the school sports information contact of the school listed after each note. To be added to the ACC Media Relations e-mail list, call or e-mail Mike Finn ([mfinn@theacc.org](mailto:mfinn@theacc.org)) or Barb Dery ([bdery@theacc.org](mailto:bdery@theacc.org)) at 336-851-6062.



Last Saturday's **Miami at Florida** football game on ESPN recorded a 5.0 rating on the cable network and was the 3rd most-viewed regular season college football game ever on ESPN behind two Miami/Florida State matchups (9/4/06 - 9,120,000; 10/8/94 - 7,667,000) giving the ACC a hand in the top three most viewed college football games on ESPN. It was the 2nd most-viewed Saturday night regular season college football game ever on ESPN behind Miami/Florida State on 10/8/94 - 7,667,000.

---Mike Finn, Atlantic Coast Conference ([mfinn@theacc.org](mailto:mfinn@theacc.org))



**Boston College** is off this week and will take a break from conference action when it hosts UCF on September 20. The Eagles have won 18 consecutive games against non-conference opponents, dating back to September 25, 2004. Interestingly, that loss came at the hands of the ACC's Wake Forest during BC's final season as a member of the Big East. LSU has the nation's second-longest non-conference win streak with 15, followed by Georgia (12), Kentucky (11) and Texas (10).

---Chris Cameron, Boston College Sports Information ([cameroch@bc.edu](mailto:cameroch@bc.edu))



With injuries to starters **Barry Humphries (Anderson, SC)** and **Chris Hairston (Winston-Salem, NC)**, Clemson will start three red-shirt freshmen on the offensive line this weekend. Those players will be **Mason Cloy (Columbia, SC)**, **David Smith (Greenville, SC)** and **Landon Walker (North Wilkesboro, NC)**. It will be Walker's first career start. Cloy and Smith started last week for the first time against The Citadel. This will be the first time since 1943 that Clemson has started three freshmen across the offensive line in the same game. It happened in 1943 only because the US Government drafted Clemson's entire junior and senior classes for World War II.

---Tim Bourret, Clemson Sports Information ([btimoth@clemson.edu](mailto:btimoth@clemson.edu))



Despite the loss of returning starting running back Re'quan Boyette prior to the season, Duke has managed to average 198.0 rushing yards per game through two weeks. **Clifford Harris (Marrero, La.)**, who entered the season with 92 career carries in three previous seasons, has 181 yards in two outings with three touchdowns. Duke has four total rushing touchdowns in 2008 after finding the end zone a total of six times on the ground in 12 games a year ago.

---Art Chase, Duke Sports Information ([chasea@duaa.duke.edu](mailto:chasea@duaa.duke.edu))



Florida State played an FBS-high 22 true freshmen in its season opener versus Western Carolina. Overall, 39 players made their collegiate debuts in that game. Last season, FSU played a total of three true freshmen in its season opener against Clemson. In the previous four years, the Seminoles had 21 true freshmen make an appearance in the first game of the season combined. That's one less than the number that played this past Saturday.

---Elliott Finebloom, Florida State Sports Information [[efinebloom@fsu.edu](mailto:efinebloom@fsu.edu)]



**Georgia Tech's Paul Johnson** is the first Yellow Jacket head coach to win in his first ACC game. The Yellow Jackets are attempting to open ACC play 2-0 for just the second time in the last 10 seasons.

---Dean Buchan, Georgia Tech Sports Information [[dbuchan@athletics.gatech.edu](mailto:dbuchan@athletics.gatech.edu)]



**Da'Rel Scott (Conshohocken, Pa.)** is off to one of the best starts for a running back in school history. The sophomore has tallied 320 rushing yards through the first two games of the season, including a career-high 197 yards in the season opener vs. Delaware. Scott's 320 yards are the third most ever for a Maryland back through the first two games of a season, trailing only Charlie Wysocki, who had 339 in 1979 and 330 the following year. Scott, who ranks first in the ACC and tied for fourth in the nation in rushing (160.0 ypg), has more yards on the ground than 62 NCAA FBS teams.

----Shawn Nestor, Maryland Media Relations ([snestor@umd.edu](mailto:snestor@umd.edu))



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**U** Running Back U? The University of Miami has developed a reputation as one of the top rushing teams nationally in recent years and this year appears to be no different. Through the season's first two games, Miami is out-rushing its opponents 285-to-138 on the ground while its top four performers in terms of all-purpose yards gained are running backs. Sophomore **Graig Cooper (Memphis, Tenn.)** leads the team with 134 all-purpose yards (53 - rush, 81 - punt return), followed by junior **Javarris James (Immokalee, Fla.)** (77 - rush, 11 - receiving), senior Derron Thomas (**Edgard, La.**) (57 - rush, 19 receiving) and sophomore **Shawnbrey McNeal (Dallas, Tex.)** (47 - rush). All four of the top gainers - Cooper, James, Thomas and McNeal - have scored a rushing touchdown this season, while Cooper also has a 66-yard punt return for a touchdown.

---**Kerwin Lonzo, Miami Sports Information (klonzo@miami.edu)**



**Brandon Tate (Burlington, NC)** posted a school-record 397 all-purpose yards in the win over McNeese State. Tate needs only 181 punt return yards to post at least 1,000 career yards on both kickoff and punt returns. Only 10 players in NCAA history have recorded 1,000 yards in both categories.

---**Kevin Best, North Carolina Media Relations (kevinbest@unc.edu)**



Defensive coordinator Mike Archer has used his defensive schemes this season to force more interceptions than any team in the country. The team has six interceptions to lead the NCAA in the category after having just 10 all of last season. Five of the six interceptions have come from players who had zero career picks coming into the season. **DeAndre Morgan (Riviera Beach, Fla.)**, **Jimmaul Simmons (Wilmington, NC)** (on his first career play), **Nate Irving (Wallace, NC)** and **Justin Byers (Charlotte, NC)** had interceptions against USC. **Jeremy Gray (Opelika, Ala.)** had his fourth career interception against William & Mary, and Irving picked off the second pass of the season (and his career) in that game.

----**Pat Norris, NC State Sports Information (pat\_norris@ncsu.edu)**



This week **Virginia** faces UConn in the Cavaliers first road game of the 2008 season. The Huskies are coming off a 12-9 overtime win at Temple where Junior tailback Donald Brown rushed for a career-best 214 yards and scored the game-winning touchdown on the Huskies' first overtime possession. Did you know ... Since 2004, Virginia has held 19 opponents to 100 rushing yards or fewer, including Richmond (19 yards) last Saturday. Virginia is 17-2 in those games. The lone losses were to NC State and Texas Tech last season.

----**Jim Daves, Virginia Media Relations (jimdaves@virginia.edu)**



**Virginia Tech's** longest run and pass in an ACC contest has come against Georgia Tech, who the Hokies will face Saturday. In 2004, Bryan Randall connected with Eddie Royal on an 80-yard touchdown pass and Jahre Cheeseman broke off a 70-yard run last year. In four ACC contests with the Jackets, Virginia Tech has scored four non-offensive touchdowns.

----**Bryan Johnston, Virginia Tech Athletics Communications (blj@vt.edu)**



Wake Forest head coach **Jim Grobe** took advantage of the open date on the Deacons' schedule to visit ESPN headquarters in Bristol, CT. Grobe made live appearances on First Take, College Football Live and ESPNNews Football Overdrive. He also taped an ESPN Radio segment with Scott Van Pelt, did a podcast interview with Andy Gresh and had over 200 questions come in on-line during a live web chat.

----**Steve Shutt, Wake Forest Media Relations (shuttsj@wfu.edu)**