

ACC-SEC Challenge

Early every college basketball season, the ACC-Big 10 Challenge provides a meaningful series of games between two major conferences. I propose that a similar event could be provocative, lucrative, and informative for college football. Although I will discuss the ACC and SEC, similar arrangements could be made for any pair of conferences with the same cardinality.

The ACC and SEC already share many geographical rivalries, and schools from these conferences regularly play each other during the regular season and bowls. Here are the BCS era results (using current conference members)

	Games	ACC Wins	SEC Wins
2008	12	6	6
2007	9	3	6
2006	8	1	7
2005	6	2	4
2004	5	2	3
2003	11	6	5
2002	11	8	3
2001	7	2	5
2000	8	4	4
1999	6	4	2
1998	8	5	3
total	91	43	48

Despite yearly fluctuations, the conferences are generally competitive. As a football fan, the ACC-SEC challenge may be wishful thinking, but it does appear feasible and beneficial to all parties.

1. TV and ticket revenue would be substantial. The series would generate excitement, foster conference allegiance, and drive bragging rights for the entire southeast region of the country.
2. Geographically appealing matchups would be regular occurrences. No more would fans in East Tennessee lament the fact that Tennessee and Virginia Tech never play each other in football.
3. With a 12 game schedule, there is ample room for the game each year. Fans would certainly prefer it in lieu of another game vs a FCS or mid-major team.
4. Ideally, the games could be played during weeks 2 and 3 of the season.
5. Each season's schedule could rotate to favor natural or intriguing matchups. Each school could alternate home/away, or potentially play at a neutral site.
6. The inter-conference results would provide good information about the relative strengths of each conference. The alliance would strengthen schedules, and potentially benefit member schools in polls and rankings.

I'll conclude with a hypothetical schedule for one round of the ACC-SEC challenge.

FSU vs UF	VT vs UT	BC vs UK	Duke vs Vandy
GT vs USC	NCSt vs Auburn	UVA vs Ark	UMD vs OleMiss
Clem vs UGA	UNC vs Alabama	Miami vs LSU	Wake vs MissSt

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