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**BIG EAST CHANGES SELECT REPEAT OPPONENTS FOR 2009-10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON
- Home/Away League Schedule Announced -**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The BIG EAST Conference has selected new repeat opponents for eight of the league's 16 women's basketball teams, while also announcing the home/away league schedule for the 2009-10 season. After maintaining the same repeat opponents for the last two seasons, and some for the last four years, the BIG EAST opted for the change that will slightly affect the home/away cycle of certain teams.

The format for league play is a 16-game schedule. Each team will play 16 conference games - seven opponents home only, seven opponents away only and one opponent both home and away, a repeat opponent. Each member will have a total of eight home and eight away games. The rationale in determining the repeat opponents are as followed: providing additional television inventory; competitive issues/RPI implications and geographic rivalries/minimizing travel costs.

The most notable change in the repeat opponents will be that defending national champion Connecticut will now face Notre Dame instead of Rutgers, which it met twice for the last four seasons. The Scarlet Knights will now match up against Syracuse twice. DePaul, Notre Dame's former partner, will face Marquette, while Georgetown and USF will play twice.

After a memorable 2007-08 basketball season, the BIG EAST continued by reaching new heights on the national scene in 2008-09. The success came in many forms – the league having a consistent presence in the national polls and the RPI rankings; the overwhelming depth of the league as teams three through 10 in the standings were not separated by more than one win and no two teams were split by more than two wins. This season saw the BIG EAST capture both the NCAA National Championship and the WNIT Championship titles – becoming the only conference to win both in the same season. The league had two teams playing for the national title in Connecticut and Louisville. USF was the WNIT champ.

With a sweep of the national coach and player of the year awards, by Connecticut's Geno Auriemma and Maya Moore, respectively, the Conference had three of the five-member Wooden Award All-America Team, four of the 10 on the WBCA All-America Team and a total of 10 All-Americans. For the second straight season, the league posted its best nonconference record in regular-season play and home attendance figures continue to rise year-after-year. The Conference again reached new heights in its national, regional and local television exposure.

In an early preseason power ranking by SI.com, two BIG EAST teams are ranked in the top 10, including UConn at No. 1 and Rutgers at No. 6. In ESPN's 64 teams to watch in 2009-10, the sports network named Connecticut (No. 1), Notre Dame (No. 5), Rutgers (No. 8), DePaul (No. 17), Pittsburgh (No. 26), Louisville (No. 32) and Georgetown (No. 40) to its watch list.

Below is the grid of the 2009-10 BIG EAST women's basketball home/away league opponents:

| | | CINCINNATI | CONNECTICUT | DEPAUL | GEORGETOWN | LOUISVILLE | MARQUETTE | NOTRE DAME | PITTSBURGH |
|--------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Repeat | | Louisville | Notre Dame | Marquette | USF | Cincinnati | DePaul | Connecticut | West Virginia |
| | | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games |
| | 1 | Georgetown | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | DePaul | Connecticut | Cincinnati | DePaul | Connecticut |
| | 2 | Notre Dame | Georgetown | Connecticut | Louisville | Marquette | Connecticut | Marquette | Georgetown |
| | 3 | Pittsburgh | Providence | Louisville | Notre Dame | Notre Dame | Georgetown | Pittsburgh | Louisville |
| | 4 | St. John's | Rutgers | Pittsburgh | Providence | Providence | Pittsburgh | Providence | Rutgers |
| | 5 | USF | St. John's | St. John's | Rutgers | USF | Providence | USF | St. John's |
| | 6 | Villanova | USF | Syracuse | St. John's | Syracuse | Seton Hall | Villanova | Seton Hall |
| | 7 | West Virginia | West Virginia | Villanova | Seton Hall | Villanova | USF | West Virginia | Syracuse |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games |
| | 1 | Connecticut | DePaul | Georgetown | Cincinnati | DePaul | Louisville | Cincinnati | Cincinnati |
| | 2 | DePaul | Louisville | Notre Dame | Connecticut | Georgetown | Notre Dame | Georgetown | DePaul |
| | 3 | Marquette | Marquette | Providence | Marquette | Pittsburgh | Rutgers | Louisville | Marquette |
| 4 | Providence | Pittsburgh | Rutgers | Pittsburgh | Rutgers | St. Johns | Rutgers | Notre Dame | |
| 5 | Rutgers | Seton Hall | Seton Hall | Syracuse | St. John's | Syracuse | St. John's | Providence | |
| 6 | Seton Hall | Syracuse | USF | Villanova | Seton Hall | Villanova | Seton Hall | USF | |
| 7 | Syracuse | Villanova | West Virginia | West Virginia | West Virginia | West Virginia | Syracuse | Villanova | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Repeat | | PROVIDENCE | RUTGERS | ST. JOHNS | SETON HALL | USF | SYRACUSE | VILLANOVA | W. VIRGINIA |
| | | Villanova | Syracuse | Seton Hall | St. Johns | Georgetown | Rutgers | Providence | Pittsburgh |
| | | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games | Home Games |
| | 1 | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Louisville | Cincinnati | DePaul | Cincinnati | Connecticut | DePaul |
| | 2 | DePaul | DePaul | Marquette | Connecticut | Pittsburgh | Connecticut | Georgetown | Georgetown |
| | 3 | Pittsburgh | Louisville | Notre Dame | DePaul | Providence | Georgetown | Marquette | Louisville |
| | 4 | Rutgers | Marquette | Providence | Louisville | Rutgers | Marquette | Pittsburgh | Marquette |
| | 5 | Seton Hall | Notre Dame | USF | Notre Dame | Syracuse | Notre Dame | Rutgers | Rutgers |
| | 6 | Syracuse | St. John's | Villanova | USF | Villanova | St. John's | Seton Hall | Seton Hall |
| | 7 | West Virginia | Seton Hall | West Virginia | Syracuse | West Virginia | West Virginia | Syracuse | Villanova |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games | Away Games |
| | 1 | Connecticut | Connecticut | Cincinnati | Georgetown | Cincinnati | DePaul | Cincinnati | Cincinnati |
| | 2 | Georgetown | Georgetown | Connecticut | Marquette | Connecticut | Louisville | DePaul | Connecticut |
| 3 | Louisville | Pittsburgh | DePaul | Pittsburgh | Louisville | Pittsburgh | Louisville | Notre Dame | |
| 4 | Marquette | Providence | Georgetown | Providence | Marquette | Providence | Notre Dame | Providence | |
| 5 | Notre Dame | USF | Pittsburgh | Rutgers | Notre Dame | Seton Hall | St. John's | St. John's | |
| 6 | St. John's | Villanova | Rutgers | Villanova | St. John's | USF | USF | USF | |
| 7 | USF | West Virginia | Syracuse | West Virginia | Seton Hall | Villanova | West Virginia | Syracuse | |