Florida Atlantic University recently completed the 2007-08 season which included two conference titles, 63 all-conference performers and a record number of student-athletes posting at least a 3.0 grade point average. The football team earned a berth in the New Orleans bowl, becoming the fastest startup program to earn a bowl bid. The seven-year old program made even more history be defeating Memphis 44-27.

This year's athletic highlights include:

The football team's 42-39 defeat of Minnesota at Dolphin Stadium marked FAU's first win over a team from a BCS conference. Rusty Smith was named USA Today National Player of the Week for his efforts. Defensive back Tavious Polo, who nabbed three interceptions in the game, was named Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week and ended the year by being named an FSWA Freshman All-American. The Owls had 12 players receive all-conference honors, including Smith, who was named Sun Belt Player of the Year and MVP of the New Orleans Bowl. Howard Schnellenberger was named Sun Belt Coach of the Year.

Women's soccer was in contention for the conference title all season long and advanced to the conference tournament.

Men's soccer swept both the regular season and tournament titles of the Atlantic Soccer Conference and Head Coach Kos Donev was named ASC Coach of the Year.

Men's basketball played one of the most challenging non-conference schedules in the country, including a game at eventual national champion Kansas. The team also hosted a first-round game in the conference tournament for the second straight season, before eventually falling in the quarterfinals.

Women's swimming narrowly missed winning a third consecutive Sun Belt title. The Owls won five individual titles and Samantha Schlachterman was named SBC Diver of the Year.

Source: Athletic Department
**Athletics**

**Women's track** finished fifth during indoor season. The outdoor season saw FAU host its first home meet. Two runners won individual titles at the conference meet and three runners advanced to NCAA Regional's.

**Men's tennis** finished third at the conference tournament and Olivier Sajous was named to the all-conference team.

**Women's golf** had two golfers named all-conference as they finished their second season in the Sun Belt.

**Head Coach** Joan Joyce won her 600th career game on the way to leading the softball team to a 17-7 conference record, while facing a tough tournament schedule, which included a win over #6 LSU at the Palm Springs Classic.

**FAU's baseball team** upset #1 Miami 6-3 on the road as part of head coach Kevin Cooney's 21st and final season. Senior right fielder Mike McKenna was named All-American after setting several school records. He earned consensus National Player of the Week honors during the season and was named Sun Belt Player of the Year. The Owls advanced to the semifinals of the Sun Belt Tournament. Seven players form the team signed professional contracts shortly after the season ended.

As evidence of their commitment to academics, an all-time high 176 student-athletes earned at least a 3.0 GPA during the Fall Semester. In the spring, the number of student-athletes with a 3.0 GPA was 163. Ninety-eight student-athletes graduated during the academic year.

At the athletic department's student-athlete recognition banquet, Blair Bodenmiller (softball) and Chris Eberhart (baseball) were named Female and Male Student-Athlete of the Year, respectively, for their performance on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

**Note:** Conference Champions: Football and Men's Soccer
- All-American: Mike McKenna (baseball)
- Sun Belt Player of the Year: Rusty Smith (football), Samantha Schlachterman (diving) and Mike McKenna (baseball)
- Average Players to earn a 3.0 GPA during a semester: 170
- Athletes Graduated: 98
- Conference Coaches of the Year: Howard Schnellenberger (football), Kos Donev (men's soccer)