As Syracuse University Heads Into its inaugural year in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), it’s time to consider what’s ahead in this uncharted territory. There will be previously unexplored road trip destinations to punch into the GPS, unfamiliar fight songs, and new rivalries to fire up while dusting off some old Big East ones. It’s also worth mentioning that snow is a novelty in most of these locations.

Okay, then, Orange Nation, here we go. First off, the Huskies, Hoyas, and Scarlet Knights are out as conference colleagues. The Blue Devils, Tar Heels, and Seminoles are in. And that’s just the start of it if you’ve attempted to follow the changing landscape of college athletics the past few years. The Big East, as we knew it, is no more. Well, actually, the seven Catholic university non-football playing members kept the name, while the conference’s gridiron group became the American Athletic Conference (AAC).

AAC now aside, here in the ACC, Syracuse is a new member along with Pittsburgh and Notre Dame (which will remain independent in football, as it did in the Big East). Louisville will be on board in 2014-15, but Maryland, an ACC original member, will head to the Big Ten then. With Maryland’s pending departure, the remaining charter members are Clemson, Duke, North Carolina, North Carolina State, and Wake Forest. Those schools, along with South Carolina (now a member of the Southeastern Conference), exited the Southern Conference to found the ACC in 1953.

For many college sports fans, ACC basketball has long held a powerful mystique. There’s no doubt it will be intriguing to
Syracuse University officially joined the Atlantic Coast Conference on July 1.
see the Orange traveling Tobacco Road, tipping off in Carolina’s Dean Dome, and enduring the frenzy of the Cameron Crazies at Duke. Remember, Jim Boehiem ’66, G’73 earned his first trip as head coach to the NCAA Final Four, when the Orange knocked off North Carolina in the 1987 East Regional championship. And it will be history in the making when SU and Duke go at it, as Boehiem and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski are the two most winning coaches in college basketball.

The ACC has more than its share of championship hardware in other sports as well. In lacrosse, both the Orange men’s and women’s teams have ready-built rivalries. Witness the 2013 NCAA tournaments, where Duke downed the Orange, 16-10, in the men’s final, and the North Carolina women claimed the title with a win over Maryland, which knocked off SU in the semifinals. While the SU men reign supreme in the national title count with 11, Virginia (5), Carolina (4), Maryland (2), and Duke (2) have all won multiple NCAA crowns. In women’s lacrosse, Maryland has collected 10 titles, including seven straight between 1995 and 2001. Orange women’s coach Gary Gait ’90 helped build the Maryland dynasty, serving as an assistant coach there for nine years. In the six seasons since he took over the SU program, the Orange women have turned into national contenders, advancing to the NCAA Final Four four times and the final in 2012.

In field hockey, where the Orange women have emerged as a national power—earning two Final Four trips under Coach Ange Bradley—the ACC is a dominant force. Just consider this: ACC schools have captured 10 of the last 11 national championships—and eight of the last 10 national title games have been all-ACC finals. Maryland (8), North Carolina (6), and Wake Forest (3) have collected multiple championships. Finally, if it’s near total domination you’re looking for, get this: The North Carolina women’s soccer team has won 21 NCAA championships since 1982.

On the gridiron, seven of the current ACC members have won national titles, not counting Notre Dame. One of the sport’s most recognizable names, John Heisman—yes, that Heisman—has history with two of the schools: Clemson and Georgia Tech. Heisman—the man who gave the game the center snap, the quarterback “hut,” and lobbied the forward pass into existence—coached at Clemson from 1900-03. In his first year, he guided the Tigers to their first undefeated season.
and a conference championship. In 1904, Heisman took over at Georgia Tech, where he coached for 16 seasons, leading Tech to unbeaten seasons in 1915 and 1916 and the national championship in 1917.

Heisman, a Shakespearean actor who managed a summer stock theater company, would appreciate the theatrics of today’s mascots. Otto, for instance, will make new sideline acquaintances with the likes of Georgia Tech’s Buzz the Yellow Jacket and Wake Forest’s Demon Deacon. Aside from learning the moves of a whole new set of mascots and creating new chants, Orange Nation will have a whole new set of mascots and cre-  ations, as a school color. And Clemson has what it calls Clemson Orange, which we’ll assume—rightly or wrongly—is more of a tiger orange. Look out for Clemson’s fabled Tiger Paw, too—it’s been known to appear on highways and elsewhere, including rivals’ home turf.

Syracuse, naturally, is the ACC’s northern most outpost, so many visiting football fans will appreciate a roof over their heads in the Dome, but certainly not walking to it when they meet those blustery brain-numbing winds. Of course, old Big East foes Virginia Tech and Miami are acquainted with Central New York, but let’s not forget that Boston College and Pitt don’t exactly offer hospitable climates in the late fall. Amid welcoming the return of old rivals and building new ones, it’s worth noting that SU has squared off at least once with every ACC team on the gridiron. True, SU hasn’t played Duke since the late ’30s, but the Blue Devils blistered the Orange in 1938 (21-0) and 1939 (33-6) in their only two meetings to date. When Clemson comes to the Dome on October 5, it will be only the second meeting as the Orange dropped the Tigers, 41-0, in the 1996 Gator Bowl. When Coach Scott Shafer’s Orange men visit Georgia Tech on October 19, it will be the first time the two teams haven’t met on a neutral site. And anyone headed to Atlanta should know there’s The Varsity restaurant there, which claims to be the world’s largest drive-in, serving upwards of 30,000 on a game day.

Finally, with all this in mind, if you hit the road, plan on spending a lot of drive time on Interstate 81 South. In the meantime, check out the encapsulated look at the newest version of the ACC, courtesy of Internet gleanings of the conference, the schools, and elsewhere. 

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**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**LOCATION:** Tallahassee, Florida  
**FOUNDED:** 1851  
**NICKNAME:** Seminoles  
**COLORS:** Garnet and Gold  
**JOINED THE ACC:** July 1, 1991  
**SPORTING LIFE:** Two FSU quarterbacks have won the Heisman Trophy: Charlie Ward (1993) and Chris Weinke (2000).  
**HOME FOOTBALL FIELD:** Bobby Bowden Field at Doak S. Campbell Stadium (82,300)  
**DISTANCE FROM THE DOME:** 1,234 miles  
**VERSUS SU FOOTBALL:** FSU leads series, 5-1.  
**NOTABLE ALUMNI:** FSU College of Music professor Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in music; Grammy Award-winning singer Rita Coolidge; actor Burt Reynolds.

**GEORGIA TECH**  
**LOCATION:** Atlanta, Georgia  
**FOUNDED:** 1885  
**NICKNAMES:** Yellow Jackets, Ramblin’ Wreck  
**COLORS:** Old Gold and White  
**JOINED THE ACC:** April 1, 1978  
**SPORTING LIFE:** Georgia Tech has been voted national champion in football four times (1917, 1928, 1952, and 1990).  
**HOME FOOTBALL FIELD:** Bobby Dodd Stadium at Historic Grant Field (55,000)  
**DISTANCE FROM THE DOME:** 962 miles  
**VERSUS SU FOOTBALL:** Georgia Tech leads series, 2-0.  
**NOTABLE ALUMNI:** Golf legend Bobby Jones; Apollo 16 commander John Young, who walked on the moon; architect Michael Arad, who designed the World Trade Center Memorial in New York City.

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**  
**LOCATION:** Louisville, Kentucky  
**FOUNDED:** 1798  
**NICKNAME:** Cardinals  
**COLORS:** Red and Black  
**JOINS THE ACC:** 2014-15 season  
**SPORTING LIFE:** When Louisville enters the ACC in 2014, it will be the Cardinals’ sixth conference since 1964, following membership in the Missouri Valley (1964-75), Metro (1975-95), Conference USA (1995-2005), Big East (2005-13), and American Athletic (2013-14).  
**HOME FOOTBALL FIELD:** Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium (55,000)  
**DISTANCE FROM THE DOME:** 680 miles  
**VERSUS SU FOOTBALL:** Series tied, 5-5.  
**NOTABLE ALUMNI:** Mystery novelist Sue Grafton; Tori Murden McClure, first American and woman to row solo across the Atlantic; football legend Johnny Unitas.
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
LOCATION: College Park, Maryland
FOUNDED: 1856
NICKNAME: Terrapins, Terps
COLORS: Red, White, Black, and Gold
JOINED THE ACC: May 8, 1953
SPORTING LIFE: Maryland is one of only three major universities to have won national championships in football (1953), men’s basketball (2002), and women’s basketball (2006).
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium (54,000)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 365 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: SU leads series, 18-14-2.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Muppets creator Jim Henson, CBS This Morning co-anchor Gayle King.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
LOCATION: Chapel Hill, North Carolina
FOUNDED: 1789
NICKNAME: Tar Heels
COLORS: Carolina Blue and White
JOINED THE ACC: May 8, 1953
SPORTING LIFE: Women’s soccer legend Mia Hamm was a member of four NCAA championship teams (1989, 1990, 1992, 1993), leading those Tar Heels teams to a combined 92-1-2 record. She was National Player of the Year in 1992 and 1993.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Kenan Memorial Stadium (63,000)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 637 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: Series is tied, 2-2.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: Novelist Thomas Wolfe, basketball great Michael Jordan, comedian Lewis Black.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
LOCATION: Coral Gables, Florida
FOUNDED: 1925
NICKNAME: Hurricanes
COLORS: Orange, Green, and White
JOINED THE ACC: July 1, 2004
SPORTING LIFE: Longtime Miami women’s track and field head coach Amy Deem was the head women’s track and field coach for Team USA at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Sun Life Stadium (75,000)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 1,404 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: Miami leads series, 15-7.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida), Honduran President Porfirio Lobo Sosa, singer Gloria Estefan.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
LOCATION: Raleigh, North Carolina
FOUNDED: 1887
NICKNAME: Wolfpack
COLORS: Red and White
JOINED THE ACC: May 8, 1953
SPORTING LIFE: The late Kay Yow, who served as the NC State women’s basketball coach from 1975-2009, is a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. She guided the U.S. women’s basketball team to a gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Carter-Finley Stadium (57,583)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 633 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: NC State leads series, 6-0.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: Basketball Hall of Famer David Thompson; Bill Cowher, TV football analyst and former head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers; Katharine Stinson, first woman engineer hired by the Federal Aviation Administration.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
LOCATION: Notre Dame, Indiana
FOUNDED: 1842
NICKNAME: Fighting Irish
COLORS: Gold and Blue
JOINED THE ACC: July 1, 2013 (football remains independent)
SPORTING LIFE: Knute Rockne, the winningest coach in Notre Dame football history (105-12-5), is considered by many to be the greatest college football coach of all time. He led his alma mater to five undefeated seasons and three national championships from 1918-30. He died in a plane crash in Kansas on March 31, 1931, at age 43.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 590 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: Series is tied, 3-3.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: TV personality Regis Philbin, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, author Nicholas Sparks.
PITT

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
LOCATION: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
FOUNDED: 1787
NICKNAME: Panthers
COLORS: Blue and Gold
JOINED THE ACC: July 1, 2013
SPORTING LIFE: When Pitt, led by Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett, captured the NCAA football title in 1976, it was the first Eastern team to accomplish the feat since Syracuse won in 1959.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Heinz Field (65,050)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 361 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: Pitt leads series, 33-30-3.

VIRGINIA TECH

LOCATION: Blacksburg, Virginia
FOUNDED: 1872
NICKNAME: Hokies
COLORS: Chicago Maroon and Burnt Orange
JOINING THE ACC: July 1, 2004
SPORTING LIFE: Hokies football coach Frank Beamer started three years as a cornerback during his undergraduate days at Virginia Tech. He has been head coach since 1987, winning both Big East and ACC titles and guiding the Hokies to the national title game in 1999 after an undefeated regular season.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: Lane Stadium/ Worsham Field (65,632)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 571 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: SU leads series, 9-8.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: Jazz guitar virtuoso Charlie L. Byrd; ABC News correspondent Pierre Thomas; Betty Chao, entrepreneur and founder and CEO of Westech International Inc.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
LOCATION: Charlottesville, Virginia
FOUNDED: 1819
NICKNAME: Cavaliers, Wahoos, ‘Hoos
COLORS: Orange and Blue
JOINING THE ACC: December 4, 1953
SPORTING LIFE: The men’s soccer team has won five national titles, including four straight (1991-94).
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: David A. Harrison III Field at Scott Stadium (61,500)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 491 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: Series is tied, 2-2.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: Actress Tina Fey, FBI Director Robert Mueller, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
LOCATION: Winston-Salem, North Carolina
FOUNDED: 1834
NICKNAME: Demon Deacons
COLORS: Old Gold and Black
JOINING THE ACC: May 8, 1953
SPORTING LIFE: The Wake Forest baseball team won the 1955 College World Series. It remains the only ACC team to have captured the national baseball championship while a member of the conference.
HOME FOOTBALL FIELD: BB&T Field (31,500)
DISTANCE FROM THE DOME: 647 miles
VERSUS SU FOOTBALL: Series tied, 1-1.
NOTABLE ALUMNI: Golf great Arnold Palmer; Charlie Ergen, co-founder of Dish Network; NBA San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan.

ACC FOOTBALL TEAMS are split into the Atlantic and Coastal divisions. Syracuse will compete in the Atlantic Division with Boston College, Clemson, Florida State, Maryland, North Carolina State, and Wake Forest. Louisville will join the Atlantic in the 2014 season, replacing Maryland.