

UPDATE

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FROM USA TODAY'S NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK

Metro Conference seeks to expand to 16 teams

In the expansion wars, the Metro Conference has gone past the talking stage. After a two-day meeting in Charlotte, eight Eastern football independents have a concrete proposal to study.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI. 29 TRACK AND FIELD: BNP meeting, Lille, France.

SAT. 30 BOWLING: PBA, Hammer Senior Open, Houston, through Thursday.

CYCLING: Tour de France, Prologue a Futuroscope (4 miles).

MOTORCYCLE RACING: Assen, Netherlands.

SUN. 1 AUTO RACING: World Sports Prototype endurance race, Hockenheim, West Germany; IMSA, Camel Continental, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

RUNNING: San Francisco Marathon.

MON. 2 TRACK AND FIELD: Dagens-Nyheter Galan, Stockholm.

TUE. 3 CYCLING: Tour de France, fourth stage, Nantes to Mount St. Michael.

SOCCER: World Cup, semifinal, Naples, Italy.

The eight — the University of Miami, East Carolina, West Virginia, Temple, Rutgers, Pittsburgh, Syracuse and Boston College — have been invited to join the Metro. It would become a 16-team league with two eight-team divisions for football.

The proposal is the outgrowth of a study the league had done by Raycom, a television syndicator, which already has a five-year deal to televise Metro basketball.

"This would be the first superconference," said Ken Heines, a Raycom official. "In football, we'd be talking 35 percent of the country's TV markets. That's more than anybody — even the Big Ten. In basketball, even without the three Big East teams, you'd still be talking 15 percent, which puts it up with everybody except maybe the Big Ten and Big East."

Heines says Raycom would like to see the deal firmed up in a month or two. It already has been approved by present Metro members.

► Also Thursday, Nebraska Chancellor Martin Massengale said he has no interest in having the school move from the Big Eight Conference to the Big Ten, at least for now. "I think there is a need for some stability within our programs right now, particularly with all the uncertainty that is going on," Massengale said. "I don't feel the need to do anything like that right now." Wednesday, athletic director Bob Devaney acknowledged he contacted Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany informally to find out the status of the conference's expansion plans and whether it would consider inviting Nebraska to join.

— John Bannon