

TN Valley

Thursday, September 26, 2024

GAMEDAY

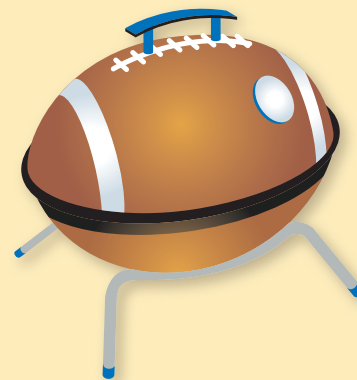


TITANIC TILT

Tide, Bulldogs set for showdown that could shape national-title chase

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TAILGATE of the week RECIPE

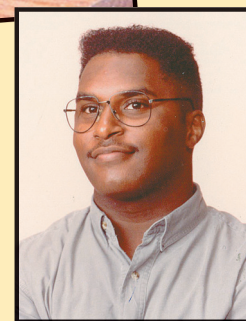


Boston Boneless Pork Butt

INGREDIENTS

5-6 lbs. Butt
1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
1 cup ketchup
1 cup hickory smoke barbecue sauce
1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 small garlic clove, minced

2 Tablespoons dried minced onion
1 Tablespoon red wine vinegar
1 Tablespoon molasses
1 teaspoon ground mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper



DIRECTIONS:

Cut fat from butt; rinse with water, pat dry. Place butt in a 6 quart slow cooker. Combine remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour over butt. Cook on low 7-8 hours. Remove from cooker and shred using 2 forks - be careful, this is hot. I put 1 1/2 cups of sauce taken from the cooker and mix with the meat. Serves about 12 1/2 cup servings.

**This week's recipe submitted
by Nigel Hubbard,
Russellville, AL**

Submit your recipes now and you could win \$50 if your recipe is selected.

To enter, submit your recipe to:

Tailgate Recipe Contest, 219 West Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630 - Attn: Mara Beth Cravens

*Weekly winners are entered for grand prize drawing for a Mini Max Green Egg.

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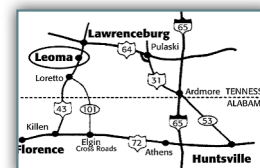
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Seth Henigan and the Memphis Tigers are big favorites against Middle Tennessee. [COLIN HACKLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

THE LINE

(as of Tuesday)			
Thursday			
FAVORITE	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Army	13½	45½	at TEMPLE
Friday			
at MIAMI (Fla.)	18½	55½	Virginia Tech
at RUTGERS	2½	44½	Washington
Saturday			
at NC STATE	6½	46½	Northern Illinois
at TULANE	6½	64½	South Florida
at BAYLOR	3½	45½	BYU
at KANSAS STATE	4½	55½	Oklahoma State
at SYRACUSE	28½	55½	Holy Cross
Navy	3½	57½	at UAB
at INDIANA	6½	53½	Maryland
at MICHIGAN	9½	36½	Minnesota
at OLE MISS	17½	52½	Kentucky
Nebraska	10½	47½	at PURDUE
at UCONN	5½	44½	Buffalo
at BOSTON COLLEGE	12½	55½	Western Kentucky
at JAMES MADISON	20½	57½	Ball State
Texas State	8½	56½	at SAM HOUSTON
at USC	15½	50½	Wisconsin
at TEXAS A&M	3½	51½	Arkansas
at WAKE FOREST	3½	60½	Louisiana
Oklahoma	2½	45½	at AUBURN
Eastern Michigan	14½	47½	at KENT STATE
at UCF	15½	63½	Colorado
at KANSAS	1½	59½	TCU
at MARSHALL	3½	54½	Western Michigan
at GEORGIA STATE	3½	57½	Georgia Southern
at OHIO	11½	46½	Akron
at CENTRAL MICHIGAN	2½	53½	San Diego State
Liberty	3½	60½	at APP STATE
at MIAMI (OH)	18½	47½	UMass
at UNLV	3½	49½	Fresno State
at NOTRE DAME	6½	45½	Louisville
at EAST CAROLINA	4½	55½	UTSA
at DUKE	2½	55½	North Carolina
at TEXAS	38½	62½	Mississippi State
at BOWLING GREEN	8½	51½	Old Dominion
at KENNESAW STATE	1½	45½	UT Martin
Louisiana Tech	2½	51½	at FLORIDA INT'L
at FLORIDA ATLANTIC	29½	47½	Wagner
at CLEMSON	21½	57½	Stanford
at TROY	6½	45½	UL Monroe
Iowa State	13½	43½	at HOUSTON
at RICE	6½	46½	Charlotte
at NORTH TEXAS	6½	68½	Tulsa
Georgia	2½	48½	at ALABAMA
at MEMPHIS	25½	61½	Middle Tennessee
at PENN STATE	17½	47½	Illinois
Ohio State	23½	48½	at MICHIGAN STATE
at LSU	21½	65½	South Alabama
Air Force	3½	34½	at WYOMING
New Mexico	9½	54½	at NEW MEXICO ST.
at SMU	5½	47½	Florida State
at TEXAS TECH	2½	59½	Cincinnati
at BOISE STATE	7½	64½	Washington State
at UTAH	11½	48½	Arizona
Oregon	24½	55½	at UCLA



Tyler Batty and the BYU Cougars will get an early start on Saturday when they face the Baylor Bears at 11 a.m.. [TYLER TATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

GAMES ON TV

Thursday	
Army at Temple, 6:30 p.m., ESPN	
Friday	
Virginia Tech at Miami, 6:30 p.m., ESPN	
Washington at Rutgers, 7 p.m., FOX	
Saturday	
Buffalo at UConn, 11 a.m., CBSSN	
BYU at Baylor, 11 a.m., FS1	
Kentucky at Ole Miss, 11 a.m., ABC	
Maryland at Indiana, 11 a.m., BTN	
Minnesota at Michigan, 11 a.m., FOX	
Northern Illinois at N.C. State, 11 a.m., CW	
Oklahoma State at Kansas State, 11 a.m., ESPN	

Navy at UAB, 11 a.m., ESPN2
South Florida at Tulane, 11 a.m., ESPNU
Western Kentucky at Boston College, 11 a.m., ACC Network
Arkansas vs. Texas A&M, 2:30 p.m., ESPN
Colorado at UCF, 2:30 p.m., FOX
Fresno State at UNLV, 2:30 p.m., FS1
Georgia Southern at Georgia State, 2:30 p.m., ESPNU
Louisiana-Lafayette at Wake Forest, 2:30 p.m., ACC Network
Oklahoma at Auburn, 2:30 p.m., ABC
San Diego State at Central Michigan, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN
Wisconsin at USC, 2:30 p.m., CBS
Mississippi State at Texas, 3:15 p.m., SEC Network

North Carolina at Duke, 3 p.m., ESPN2
Iowa State at Houston, 6 p.m., FS1
Stanford at Clemson, 6 p.m., ESPN
Georgia at Alabama, 6:30 p.m., ABC
Illinois at Penn State, 6:30 p.m., NBC
Middle Tennessee at Memphis, 6:30 p.m., ESPNU
South Alabama at LSU, 6:45 p.m., SEC Network
Air Force at Wyoming, 7 p.m., CBSSN
Cincinnati at Texas Tech, 7 p.m., ESPN2
Florida State at SMU, 7 p.m., ACC Network
Washington State at Boise State, 9 p.m., FS1
Arizona at Utah, 9:15 p.m., ESPN
Oregon at UCLA, 10 p.m., FOX

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Friday	
No. 7 Miami (4-0) vs. Virginia Tech (2-2), 6:30 p.m.	No. 9 Penn St. (3-0) vs. No. 19 Illinois (4-0), 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	
No. 1 Texas (4-0) vs. Mississippi St. (1-3), 3:15 p.m.	No. 10 Utah (4-0) vs. Arizona (2-1), 9:15 p.m.
No. 2 Georgia (3-0) at No. 4 Alabama (3-0), 6:30 p.m.	No. 12 Michigan (3-1) vs. Minnesota (2-2), 11 a.m.
No. 3 Ohio St. (3-0) at Michigan St. (3-1), 6 p.m.	No. 13 Southern Cal (2-1) vs. Wisconsin (2-1), 2:30 p.m.
No. 6 Ole Miss (4-0) vs. Kentucky (2-2), 11 a.m.	No. 14 LSU (3-1) vs. South Alabama (2-2), 6:45 p.m.
No. 8 Oregon (3-0) at UCLA (1-2), 10 p.m.	No. 15 Louisville (3-0) at No. 16 Notre Dame (3-1), 2:30 p.m.

No. 17 Clemson (2-1) vs. Stanford (2-1), 6 p.m.
No. 18 Iowa St. (3-0) at Houston (1-3), 6 p.m.
No. 20 Oklahoma St. (3-1) at No. 23 Kansas St. (3-1), 11 a.m.
No. 21 Oklahoma (3-1) at Auburn (2-2), 2:30 p.m.
No. 22 BYU (4-0) at Baylor (2-2), 11 a.m.
No. 24 Texas A&M (3-1) vs. Arkansas (3-1) at Arlington, Texas, 2:30 p.m.
No. 25 Boise St. (2-1) vs. Washington St. (4-0), 9 p.m.



Georgia's Kirby Smart and then-Alabama coach Nick Saban remained close after Smart worked for Saban for over a decade before being hired by the Bulldogs. [BRYNN ANDERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

To Smart, no-Saban Tide not strange

By Paul Newberry
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Kirby Smart no longer has to worry about his mentor-turned-nemesis in Tuscaloosa. Somewhere, deep in his gut, the Georgia coach might be a bit relieved that Nick Saban is now wearing a mic at the broadcast table rather than a headset on the sideline.

Just don't expect Smart to come right out and say it.

Deflecting several versions of the same question — essentially, what's it going to be like to face an Alabama team that's not coached by Saban? — Smart kept the focus squarely on the two powerhouse programs that will meet Saturday

night on Saban Field at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

"No, I don't expect it to be strange," Smart said Monday. "That's just the normal course of progression."

Still, there's no getting around the major issue hanging over a rivalry that largely has charted the course of the Southeastern Conference for nearly a decade.

Saban is not a part of it anymore — other than his duties as an analyst for ESPN's "College GameDay," which will be on hand in Tuscaloosa as the No. 2 Bulldogs (3-0, 1-0 SEC) face the No. 4 Crimson Tide (3-0, 0-0).

Smart said he's glad that Saban — who retired in January after winning a record

seven national titles, six of them in charge of the Alabama program — seems to be cherishing life after coaching.

"I'm thrilled that he gets an opportunity to do what he wants to do and be with who he wants to be with within his family and enjoy that," Smart said. "I'm really happy he's still part of college football because he makes college football better."

These two coaches — one now retired, the other in the prime of his career — will be linked forever.

Smart was on Saban's staff for more than a decade, soaking up every bit of wisdom he could glean from perhaps the greatest coach in college football history.

After the 2015 season, Smart departed

Tuscaloosa to take over the good-but-not-quite-great program at his alma mater, quickly pushing the Bulldogs to that next level.

You know, the spot at the top of the conference held by Saban's Crimson Tide.

Georgia captured the SEC crown in Smart's second season, only to be defeated in the national title game by Alabama in an overtime thriller.

Saban beat his former assistant three more times — twice with the league championship on the line, another time in a regular season — before Smart finally broke through with a 33-18 victory in the

SEE SMART, G5

SMART

From Page G4

more times — twice with the league championship on the line, another time in a regular season — before Smart finally broke through with a 33-18 victory in the national championship game at the end of the 2021 season.

That was the first of two straight national titles for Smart's Bulldogs, moving them to the pinnacle of college football's hierarchy, but it was Saban who delivered the final salvo to his former pupil.

After Georgia breezed through the 2023 regular season at 12-0 and seemed poised for an unprecedented third straight title in the poll era, Alabama pulled off a 27-24 upset in the SEC championship game — a result that knocked the Dawgs out of the four-team playoff.

It was a loss that still stings between the hedges.

"We definitely have a chip on our shoulder," receiver Arian Smith conceded.

Smart, who has brought a singular focus to the Bulldogs that was a hallmark of Saban's teams, doesn't want his players thinking about a game from nine months ago, especially when the Crimson Tide is now coached by Kalen DeBoer.

"I don't know how similar or different it will be," Smart said. "We're a different team. They're a different team. They're a different staff. We're a similar staff. So, I can't compare last year's game to



Kirby Smart was a part of four of Nick Saban's national championship teams as Alabama's defensive coordinator. [DAVE MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

this year."

This will be Smart's second trip to Tuscaloosa since taking the Georgia job. During the pandemic-plagued 2020 season, the Bulldogs lost 41-24 to an Alabama squad that went on to claim what would be Saban's final national title.

"You move on," Smart said. "I think the last time we went (to Tuscaloosa), it was four or five years from the time we had lived there. It's so weird when you play there because you're in and out. You're there and then you're gone."

Smart has certainly carved his own dynastic path at Georgia, but he never quite escaped Saban's shadow. His record against his former boss was 1-5. The Bulldogs have only two losses in their last 51 games — both of them coming to

Alabama.

For sure, Saban's presence still looms over this rivalry. There may be a different guy on the Alabama sideline Saturday night, but many of those taking the field will have ties to the previous coach.

"Well, he recruited a lot of them, and they're good players," Smart said of Saban, before catching himself and quickly shifting the focus to the game at

hand and not who will — or won't — be coaching in it.

"Any time you go against a really good team that's a powerhouse in college football, it's a challenge," Smart said, firmly back on message. "I really look at it like this is a hell of an opportunity for our kids, our program, on a national stage."

He went on a bit longer, but there was no more mention of Saban.



Nick Saban, after retiring as Alabama's coach, is now an analyst on ESPN College Gameday. [SAM CRAFT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Kirby Smart has turned Georgia into a college football superpower, just like his mentor, Nick Saban, did at Alabama. [REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

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Georgia at Alabama

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: ABC/FM-93.9, AM-920

Records: No. 2 Georgia (3-0, 1-0 SEC),
No. 4 Alabama (3-0, 0-0)

The series: Alabama leads 43-26-4.

Four-down territory

1. Everyone's watching: With ESPN's College GameDay coming to town, as well as former President Donald Trump, it's safe to say Saturday's game has the attention of the country. For Alabama, what matters is tuning out the hoopla and preparing for an important game. Still, it's hard not to take in some of the fun. "Yeah, it is kinda cool to have a lot of people who want to come be part of the atmosphere and add to the excitement and energy that the game will bring," Alabama coach Kalen DeBoer said.

2. Pressure is on: One of the keys for Alabama is getting quarterback Carson Beck rattled in the pocket. That doesn't happen often. The Bulldogs have allowed just two sacks in three games. The offensive line allowed 13 total sacks last season. Beck threw for nearly 4,000 yards last year and averages 226 this season. "This guy's a complete quarterback," Alabama defensive coordinator Kane Wommack said. "He's really as good as I've seen in the last couple of years. We have to be mindful of making him uncomfortable, but you want to make sure you're not sacrificing things from a coverage perspective in order to get that done."

3. Explosion or dud?: Jalen Milroe is No. 3 in the nation with a passing efficiency of 213.38 with eight touchdowns and no interceptions. He's also averaging nearly 17 yards per completion. Translation: He makes explosive plays. The issue is the Georgia defense, which is No. 1 in the SEC in pass defense (91 yards per game) and No. 3 in the nation in scoring defense (six points per game). The Bulldogs have allowed one explosive play (36 yards) all season. "The explosive play (film) cutup is not long, so that didn't take a very long time to watch," Alabama offensive coordinator Nick Sheridan said.

4. Talkin' Tide: Alabama freshman receiver Ryan Williams and freshman defensive back Jaylen Mbakwe have been busy on the field helping the Crimson Tide to a 3-0 record. They are also working hard off the field with their "New Wave



No. 4 Alabama will look to No. 2 Ryan Williams and No. 4 Jalen Milroe to boost the Crimson Tide's chances against No. 2 Georgia. [VASHA HUNT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Podcast." The duo have just a few episodes so far but have grown a popular following. The duo faced off in high school at the Class 6A title game and were teammates at the Under Armour All-American Game. "We've been talking about it for two years," Mbakwe said. "At the All-American Game, we were in front of the cameras a lot, so we said we need to start a podcast."

Key matchup

Alabama WR Ryan Williams vs. Georgia WR Dominic Lovett

Williams is the unquestionable spark for Alabama, leading the team in receptions (10), yards (285) and touchdowns (4). Lovett is Georgia's go-to threat, leading the offense in catches (12) and yards (155).

Player of the week

LT Overton, DL

Overton was a menace against Wisconsin two weeks ago with six tackles, including one for a loss, a pass breakup and a forced fumble. Another effort like that is crucial against Georgia.

By the numbers

1: Alabama leads the nation in third-down conversion defense. Opponents are 8-of-49 for a 16% success rate.

2: Alabama has allowed two touchdowns through three games and 26 total points.

59: The Crimson Tide is making its 59th appearance on ESPN's College GameDay with a 37-21 overall record.

2007: For the first time since 2007 (vs.

LSU), the Crimson Tide is an underdog at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Prediction

Georgia 21, Alabama 17

ESPN GameDay. Donald Trump. SEC opener for Bama. No. 2 vs. No. 4. There's a lot of hype around the game for sure. Can Alabama handle it? With Nick Saban at the helm that question is moot. We'll find out if DeBoer is up for the task of handling the pressure in his first big test as head coach. Don't expect much scoring. These defenses are too good. It's a matter of which team can find the edge. Georgia should find it late.

— Edwin Stanton

Beck, Georgia work to 'clean up' offense

By Chip Towers
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATHENS, Ga. — On Saturday, Georgia will venture into Alabama's Bryant-Denny Stadium, one of the toughest road environments in the SEC.

It's not a place the Bulldogs have been often — just 10 times in 132 years of football and three times this century — nor a venue in which they've had much success. They've won their just twice. Ever.

It's certainly not a place a team goes to get well. Yet that's what Georgia's offense will attempt to do as it arrives for Saturday's primetime tilt.

The Bulldogs will pull into Tuscaloosa with an offense nearly dry of the optimism that overflowed during the preseason. Through three games, Georgia is nine points and 95 yards a game behind last season's pace (40.1/496.5).

Being the Bulldogs' quarterback, Carson Beck has been the object of much of the finger-pointing for those shortcomings. So has offensive coordinator Mike Bobo. Whether either deserves that is a matter of debate.

"We have a really good offense, we have people around them and we've got a good quarterback," Georgia coach Kirby Smart contended last week. "We've just got to go out and execute. ... Clean up what you do, do it at a higher rate, make good decisions, communicate better."

Starting faster would be good, too, Smart added. An issue at times last year, slow starts have plagued Georgia in their two games of note this year. In their 13-12 win over Kentucky on Sept. 14, the Bulldogs had only 63 yards offense at the half. Beck accounted for 32 of that on 5-of-11 passing. They had three first downs. They trailed 6-3.

Having led Clemson only 6-0 at halftime of the season opener, that means Bulldogs are averaging 4.5 first-half points against FBS competition this season.

Improving on that is mainly a matter of effectively running the football, Beck said.

"Got to be physical in the run game," the fifth-year senior said



Carson Beck and the Georgia offense are averaging 4.5 points in the first half this year against FBS opponents. [JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

after the Kentucky game. "I think their defense just came out really strong. We did what we had to do, but we did not play real well."

It was well into the second half before Georgia got going against the Wildcats. After finally crossing the goal line three minutes into the fourth quarter, they needed a couple of huge first downs to salt away victory. Beck's 33-yard completion to Dominick Lovett and an eight-yard gain on a pass to Oscar Delp assured that Kentucky wouldn't have time to come back.

In Beck, the Bulldogs still believe.

"He handled it," junior running back Trevor Etienne said. "The moment didn't get too high. You know, he handled it well. I'd say he kept the offense poised and kept us all connected. We believed in him and followed and believed he'd do what it takes to win."

Beck almost always has. With the victory, he improved to 16-1 as Georgia's starting quarterback.

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Oklahoma at Auburn

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: ABC/FM-94.9

Records: No. 21 Oklahoma (3-1, 0-1 SEC), Auburn (2-2, 0-1)

The series: Oklahoma leads 2-0.

Four-down territory

1. Up in the air: If you are wondering about where the Auburn QB situation stands, so is head coach Hugh Freeze. After switching from Payton Thorne to Hank Brown and then back to Thorne, Auburn's still not set on finding an answer to who will take the reins of the offense. The two have combined for eight interceptions. "It's going to be a battle this week trying to figure out who can master the plan against all these fronts that we're going to face against Oklahoma," Freeze said.

2. Not the only one: Oklahoma is in the same boat with Auburn regarding quarterback play. After a rough outing last week against Tennessee, OU starter Jackson Arnold has been benched and replaced with freshman Michael Hawkins Jr. He took over for Arnold in the Tennessee game, but he'll start his first game inside Jordan-Hare Stadium, not exactly an ideal situation for a true freshman. He's thrown 22 passes for 149 yards and a touchdown and ran 14 times for 32 yards. Mobile QBs (See Arkansas' Taylen Green) are trouble for the Tigers.

3. More issues: The quarterback mess isn't the only trouble facing Auburn. The Tigers' run game goes up against a Sooner defense that allows 96 yards per game with one rushing touchdown. The outlier is last week's 151 yards allowed against Tennessee. Balance was the key for the Vols (194 passing), which is what Auburn is striving for, too. In the two losses, Auburn did have a fairly balanced offense. The problem was turnovers (four in each game).

4. Lowering the boom: Oklahoma doesn't mess around on defense when it comes to pressure. The Sooners are ranked seventh nationally with 14 sacks. That puts the Auburn QBs in a bigger spotlight, which is something the offense doesn't need. OU also has 32 tackles for loss. The Sooners are tough to score on, too. They allow 14 points per game. Auburn generated just 14 points in each of its losses.

Key matchup

Auburn RB Jarquez Hunter vs. Oklahoma RB



Auburn coach Hugh Freeze says he's unsure which quarterback he'll use Saturday against Oklahoma. [BUTCH DILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Jovantae Barnes

Auburn needs Hunter to break loose against a quality opponent. He rushed for 67 and 69 yards against Cal and Arkansas, respectively. The Sooners need a big effort from Barnes, too. With a new QB at the helm, he'll have to give OU all the help it can get.

Player of the week

KeAndre Lambert-Smith, WR

There's a quarterback issue at Auburn, but Lambert-Smith doesn't have any issues catching the ball from either of them. He leads the Tigers with 338 yards and five touchdowns. He's easily the

Tigers' primary target and playmaker.

By the numbers

2: KeAndre Lambert-Smith ranks second nationally in yards per reception with 28.17.

2: Both of Auburn's losses to the Sooners came in the Sugar Bowl. Auburn lost 40-22 in January 1972 and 35-19 in January 2017.

6: Auburn ranks sixth nationally in net punting, with a 45.78-yard average.

6.5: Jalen McLeod ranks third in the SEC with 6.5 tackles for loss. Against Arkansas, McLeod had seven tackles, including two for a loss.

Prediction

Oklahoma 28, Auburn 17

With both teams struggling to find a leader at quarterback, it will be up to the defenses to lead the way. Both are pretty good at stopping the run and both haven't given up too many chunk plays in the passing game. Auburn needs a strong run game to help out whoever starts at quarterback. That starts with the offensive line, which has been inconsistent so far. Auburn needs this one because there are three straight road games ahead, and none of them are easy.

— Edwin Stanton

UNA at West Georgia

When: 1 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: ESPN+/FM-98.3, FM-103.5

Records: UNA (0-5, 0-1 UAC), West Georgia (1-2, 0-2)

The series: UNA leads 22-13.

Four-down territory

1. Frenemies, again: UNA decided to give the whole Division I thing a try starting in 2018. This is West Georgia's first year as an FCS program. The two, however, are pretty familiar with each other. The Lions and Wolves were once Gulf South Conference foes, meeting every year 1983-2017. West Georgia won the last meeting 37-23, while UNA has taken seven of the last 10. And, hey, the Lions won't have to worry about playing in an old, outdated stadium, either. West Georgia's opened in 2009.

2. In (bad) need of a win: UNA is on an eight-game losing streak dating to last season. The program record is 12 over 1971-72. The Lions are 18-45 in six-plus seasons as a Division I team and are 19-45 against FCS competition since 1978. A loss to the Wolves, three games out of Division II, would likely be one of, if not, the biggest for the program since UNA officially moved in 2018. West Georgia beat Samford 38-29 in its season opener before losing 32-24 to Abilene Christian and 26-7 to Eastern Kentucky. The Wolves are coming off a bye as well.

3. Call for Mr. Smith: TJ Smith made his first start at quarterback for UNA in last week's 28-14 loss to Tarleton State. He completed 13 of 23 passes for 96 yards. He ran for a team-high 72 yards on 14 carries. And while he didn't take a sack or turn the ball over, the Lions didn't score any touchdowns when he was in the game. Still, he'll get another chance to show he can be the Lions' starter.

4. Letting the pack run? West Georgia running back Rajaez Mosley will get an opportunity to see how he fares against UNA's defense. Mosley leads the Wolves with 174 rushing yards in three games, although he's only averaging 2.9 yards per carry. But the Lions rank 101st out of 123 FCS teams in stopping the run with 207.4 yards per game. They've also allowed four 100-yard rushers. There was Kayvon Britten's 273 yards last week for Tarleton State. Sam Patrick had 123 yards for UT Martin. Wenkers Wright and Tommy Rittenhouse had 156



Scott Payne has been UNA's most consistent offensive weapon this season. [DREW BARTON/NORTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS]

and 103 yards, respectively, for Illinois State.

Key matchup

West Georgia DE Solomanie Bambara vs. UNA OL

Bambara is averaging a sack per game after recording two in the loss to Eastern Kentucky. His three currently rank third in the UAC behind the Central Arkansas tandem of David Walker (5½) and Samuel Horton (3½). UNA has given up 10 sacks so far.

Player of the week

Scott Payne, K

Payne has been UNA's most reliable

offensive weapon. The Middle Tennessee transfer has made all five of his field-goal attempts, including two in each of the last two weeks, and all four of his extra points. The Lions made four field goals all of last season. UNA has had trouble scoring this season, so Payne has been a positive.

By the numbers

1974: The last time UNA started a season 0-5. Mickey Andrews was the coach. The Lions actually lost their first six before closing out the year with four straight wins.

2010: The last time UNA won in Carrollton. The Lions beat West Georgia 17-10.

2: The number of sacks Edwin White-Schultz has for UNA. It's a team high. The safety has played in one game, which was last week.

8: The number of touchdowns UNA has scored. Running back Juice Allen leads the team with three. The Lions' opponents have a combined 22.

Prediction

Flip a coin

Go ahead. Take out a coin and call heads or tails. Your chances of winning are just as good as UNA's. A penny will work just as well as a quarter.

— David Glovach

This week's SEC, state games

Navy at UAB

When: 11 a.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN2

Records: Navy (3-0, 2-0 American), UAB (1-2, 0-0)

The series: Navy leads 1-0.

The lowdown: The Blazers will honor 100 patients from Smile-A-Mile by wearing their names on the back of their jerseys. ... Navy is looking to start a season 4-0 for the first time since 2017. ... The Midshipmen rank fourth in the nation in rushing offense at 307 yards per game and 10th in scoring offense at 47.7 points per game. ... UAB kicker Jonah Delange is 6-for-6 on field goals this season. ... The Blazers were off last week following a 37-27 loss at Arkansas. ... Navy has five one-play touchdown drives this season. ... The Midshipmen outlasted Memphis 56-44 last week. Quarterback Blake Horvath ran 12 times for a career-high 211 yards and four touchdowns, was 9-of-12 passing for a career-high 192 yards and two scores, and marked his first career reception for 13 yards. ... Horvath's 416 yards of total offense was 12 off the school record set in 2016.

Kentucky at No. 6 Ole Miss

When: 11 a.m. Saturday

TV: ABC

Records: Kentucky (2-2, 0-2 SEC), Ole Miss (4-0, 0-0)

The series: Ole Miss leads 29-14-1.

The lowdown: The last time Kentucky played a top-10 team, it lost to Georgia 13-12. ... Ole Miss has been held to fewer than 50 points once. That was a 40-6 win at Wake Forest. ... The Wildcats held three of their four opponents to 13 points or less. The one game they didn't, South Carolina put up 31. ... Saturday is the Rebels' homecoming. They are 2-2 when playing Kentucky for that event with both wins one-score games. Ole Miss won 14-7 in 1947 and 22-19 in 2022. ... The Wildcats have the worst scoring offense in the SEC at 22.5 points per game. ... The Rebels have allowed 22 points all season.

Arkansas vs. No. 24 Texas A&M

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Arlington, Texas

TV: ESPN

Records: Arkansas (3-1, 1-0 SEC), Texas A&M (3-1, 1-0)

The series: Arkansas leads 42-35-3.



UAB quarterback Jacob Zeno will have Boone Blackwell's last name on the back of his jersey for Smile-A-Mile on Saturday. [MATTHEW HINTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

The lowdown: The series is returning to campus sites next year. Texas A&M has won 11 of the last 12 meetings. ... A win for Arkansas would mean a 2-0 start to SEC play for the first time since 2006. The Razorbacks have only done that three other times: 1993, 1995 and 1998. ... The Aggies have started freshman Marcel Reed at quarterback the last two games. He's compiled 351 passing yards and 174 rushing yards. ... Arkansas quarterback Taylen Green has thrown for four touchdowns and rushed for four scores. ... Andrew Armstrong is Green's top target. He ranks second in the SEC in receiving yards with 348 despite missing the season opener.

Mississippi State at No. 1 Texas

When: 3:15 p.m. Saturday

TV: SEC Network

Records: Mississippi State (1-3, 0-1 SEC),

Texas (4-0, 0-0)

The series: Tied 2-2.

The lowdown: This is the Longhorns' first SEC game. ... Mississippi State lost starting quarterback Blake Shapen for the season thanks to a shoulder injury that will require surgery in last week's loss to Florida. ... Texas starting quarterback Quinn Ewers was listed as questionable after Monday's practice with an abdomen strain. ... Arch Manning could make his second start after throwing two touchdowns and two interceptions in last week's 51-3 win over Louisiana-Monroe. ... After their matchup against Texas, the Bulldogs will have matchups at No. 2 Georgia, against No. 24 Texas A&M, No. 5 Tennessee, No. 11 Missouri and No. 6 Ole Miss.

Alabama A&M at Florida A&M

Due to Hurricane Helene, Saturday's

game has been postponed to Nov. 29

Louisiana-Monroe at Troy

When: 6 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN+

Records: ULM (2-1, 0-0 Sun Belt), Troy (1-3, 0-0)

The series: Troy leads 12-8-1.

The lowdown: The Trojans have won four of the last five meetings with the Warhawks, including 45-14 last year. ... Goose Crowder threw to Devonte Ross for a 98-yard touchdown to cap Troy's 34-12 win over Florida A&M last week. Alas, it was 1 yard shy of tying a school record. In 1986, Mike Turk threw for Titus Dixon for an unbreakable school record. ... Ross totaled 11 catches for a school-record 229 yards and three

SEE SEC, G11



Mark Stoops will get to see if playing another ranked team will give Kentucky some more consternation. [DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

SEC

From Page G10

scores. Danny Grant had the record with 225 yards set in 1968. Grant did his on a school-record 16 catches. ... ULM mustered 111 yards offense in last week's 51-3 loss at No. 1 Texas. ... The Trojans drew an announced crowd of 29,024 last week, which ranks fourth in school history.

South Alabama at No. 14 LSU

When: 6:45 p.m. Saturday

TV: SEC Network

Records: South Alabama (2-2), LSU (3-1)
The series: First meeting.

The lowdown: USA is playing its first Power 4 conference opponent since last year's 33-7 win at Oklahoma State. ... The Jaguars are 1-6 against current members of the SEC. The win was in 2016, 21-20 at Mississippi State. ... Jordan Scruggs set a South Alabama school record with a 96-yard interception return in last week's 48-14 win at Appalachian State. The previous record was 95 by Devin Rockette in 2020 vs. Louisiana-Monroe. ... True freshman Fluff Bothwell leads the jags in rushing. He has 359 yards and six



Andrew Armstrong is trying to help push Arkansas to its first 2-0 SEC start since 2006. [BUTCH DILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

touchdowns, both of which ranks first in the nation among freshmen. ... LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier was the SEC's offensive player of the week after going 32-of-44 passing for 352 yards and three touchdowns in a 34-17 win over UCLA. ... The Tigers opened the second half last week with scoring drives of 96 and 92 yards. ... Bradyn Swinson was the SEC's defensive player of the week. Swinson had two sacks, giving him five this season to rank second in the nation. ... LSU held UCLA to 14 rushing yards.

— A. Stacy Long and David Glovach



South Alabama running back Fluff Bothwell has shown he's doesn't run soft when he has the ball. [SOUTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS]



It might be worth asking if Troy quarterback Goose Crowder likes people talking to him. [TROY ATHLETICS]



Mississippi State quarterback Blake Shapen won't be throwing any more passes this season. [JAMES PUGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

Football not Smith's first priority

By Larry Lage

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Armorian Smith pressed his palms together over the bridge of his nose, closed his eyes and leaned against the kitchen sink.

The 21-year-old Michigan State defensive back needed a moment in the four-bedroom, two-bathroom home he shares with five younger siblings. He has a lot on his plate, more than most college students and certainly more than most student-athletes.

His mother, Gala Gilliam, died of breast cancer a month ago and, without a father in the family's life, Smith has become the head of the household while studying criminal justice and playing major college football. He became the legal guardian for four siblings on Sept. 11.

"My cards were given to me," Smith said softly with a steely gaze, standing on a small porch behind the home as the sun set on a recent evening. "I didn't choose my deck of cards."

His 19-year-old sister, Aleion, is in charge while he is gone for about 12 hours most days to be a student and athlete. Appreciating her selfless sacrifice, Smith said he hopes to help her find a way to start taking classes next semester while juggling her role with the family.

Smith looks and sounds determined to help his siblings be happy, healthy and safe. His teammates watch in awe.

"I couldn't even begin to imagine if I was in his situation," linebacker Jordan Hall said. "He's in a tough spot, but he is one of the strongest guys I have ever known."

The family

Smith grew up in in Detroit, recalling how he was homeless at times and hopped from house to house to find places to sleep.



Armorian Smith transferred to Michigan State after his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and, after she died a month ago, is now the legal guardian of four of his siblings. [AL GOLDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

He was a three-star prospect at River Rouge High School and attended the University of Cincinnati for two years.

After Smith's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022 during his sophomore season with the Bearcats, he transferred last year to be closer to home. The life lessons from his mom continued.

When Smith, holding his 2-year-old sister, arrived at a recent fundraiser, each of his other siblings introduced themselves to people there to support the family and shook their hands while making eye contact.

"That's from my mom," he said.

She was trying to prepare him

for what was to come before she died Aug. 19. She was 41.

"She used to tell me everything: 'Get hard' and all of that," he recalled. "And I see why she was under a lot of stress."

Smith keeps notes on his phone to help manage busy days that start before dawn, when he is up to make sure his two sisters and three brothers are awake before he leaves for school. Smith gets a lift from a teammate or a ride-hailing service to make the 4-mile trip to campus for therapy on his surgically repaired shoulders and meetings with the football team before going to classes and practice.

His eldest sister gets their

16- and 15-year-old brothers, Armond and Avaugn, and 11-year-old sister, Arial, ready for school. There are two varieties of Cap'n Crunch atop the refrigerator in a kitchen that didn't have a table or chairs during a recent visit.

The school-age brothers rely on a ride-hailing company to get them to school and back while their oldest sister cares for their toddler sister, Amaira.

"Me and my sister got to work together to keep this all afloat," he said. "While I'm in college sports, she's got to be able to take care of everything that I can't do, like pick up where I left off, while I'm taking care of business."

He and the siblings he is now responsible for at least have a home thanks in part to a GoFundMe campaign.

Student caregivers

While Smith's story is unusual in college sports — the NCAA does not track the number of athletes whose day-to-day activities include caring for a dependent — a 2020 study from the National Center for Education Statistics found 19.5% of undergraduate college students had a dependent and 5.5% of them were responsible for non-child dependents. Other research

SEE SPARTANS, G13

SPARTANS

From Page G12

shows student-caregivers are disproportionately from his- torically marginalized racial and ethnic groups.

Ray Ray McElrathbey was a 19-year-old freshman at Clemson in 2006 when he took over custody of his 10-year-old brother because of his mother's drug problems and his father's gambling addiction. Initially, they lived solely off McElrathbey's scholarship and later the NCAA approved a plan where donations were administered by a local bank and distributed to Ray and Fahmarr. His story was the subject of "Safety," a Disney movie.

When McElrathbey was a child and saw "Angels in the Outfield," it inspired him because he felt there were other children out there like him. These days, he does speaking engagements and shares his message of hope with young people.

"Just kind to speak to those kids in a similar situation like I was growing up and have them have something to inspire them is the greatest gift," he said.

Tufts University professor Emma Armstrong-Carter, who has done research on children caregivers, said these young people show amazing strength and don't want to be pitied.

"Isn't it incredible that these young people are able to overcome so many challenges and support their families in ways that are necessary and meaningful?" Armstrong-Carter said. "There's a need for more institutional support to help them thrive."

Smith and his family are able to afford renting a house in the state capital, paying for utilities, bills, food and ride-hailing services thanks to waves of financial support. The GoFundMe effort has raised more than \$60,000, and he makes some money through name, image and likeness deals. Michigan State has helped through a student assistance



Gala Gilliam, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022, died in August. She was 41. [ARMORION SMITH VIA AP]

fund. Two fundraisers were hosted at a McDonald's in Lansing and an IHOP in Livonia set up by former Michigan State football players Jason Strayhorn and Sedrick Irvin and promoted on their "This is Sparta MSU" podcast.

Road trips are part of the calendar and the Spartans don't play two home games in a row until the end of the season in November, though two bye weekends will give Smith more time at home.

One of his mother's close friends, Yolanda Wilson, whose son, Nick Marsh, is a standout freshman receiver and former high school teammate, has been a source of support.

"I'm going to be there no matter what," she said. "That's a promise I made to their mother. And they have everybody here backing them up. So, it's going to be a hard transition as it is, but we're going to be that tight-knit community and have their back."

The love is not lost on Smith.

"Me and my family are very happy, very appreciative and grateful," he said. "There's a lot of love Spartan Nation has shown us these past few months. It's been a rough time, but to be able to take some of the stress off of my shoulders and show me a lot of love is a blessing and has warmed my heart."



"She used to tell me everything: 'Get hard' and all of that. And I see why she was under a lot of stress," Armorion Smith says of his mother. [PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Armorion Smith has five siblings living with him in a four-bedroom home near Michigan State's campus. They range from 19 to 2 years old. [PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

When Smith gave The Associated Press access to his home one recent evening, three siblings were upstairs in their bedrooms while a teenage brother was napping on a sectional couch in a living room

without a TV or table. His toddler sister giggled between drinks from a sippy cup.

"It just puts a smile on my face to see them happy," he said while watching video clips from practice on his phone.

Smith's sadness comes and goes, but he knows his mother would want him to carry on.

"I can feel her living through me," he said. "Almost like I hear her voice telling me how proud she is of me."

COLLEGE STANDINGS

(Through Sept. 21 games)

	Conference			All Games				
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA		
Army	2	0	61	21	3	0	103	28
Navy	2	0	94	55	3	0	143	76
North Texas	0	0	0	0	3	1	152	141
East Carolina	0	0	0	0	2	2	105	73
South Florida	0	0	0	0	2	2	128	119
Tulane	0	0	0	0	2	2	139	101
Tulsa	0	0	0	0	2	2	119	121
UTSA	0	0	0	0	2	2	90	128
UAB	0	0	0	0	1	2	74	72
Charlotte	0	0	0	0	1	3	68	146
Memphis	0	1	44	56	3	1	142	85
FAU	0	1	7	24	1	3	69	108
Rice	0	1	14	37	1	3	104	111
Temple	0	1	11	38	1	3	79	146

Atlantic Coast Conference										
	Conference			All Games						
	W	L	PF	P	A	W		L	PF	P
Louisville	1	0	31	19	3	0	142	33		
Boston College	1	0	28	13	3	1	128	59		
Virginia	1	0	31	30	3	1	121	94		
Clemson	1	0	59	35	2	1	128	89		
Stanford	1	0	26	24	2	1	94	65		
Syracuse	1	1	55	54	2	1	93	76		
Georgia Tech	1	2	71	83	3	2	165	102		
Florida St.	1	2	48	61	1	3	60	81		
Duke	0	0	0	0	4	0	123	61		
Miami	0	0	0	0	4	0	209	41		
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	4	0	194	102		
North Carolina	0	0	0	0	3	1	152	117		
SMU	0	0	0	0	3	1	169	91		
Virginia Tech	0	0	0	0	2	2	118	91		
California	0	1	9	14	3	1	92	51		
NC State	0	1	35	59	2	2	113	151		
Wake Forest	0	1	30	31	1	2	81	84		

Big 12 Conference

	Conference			All Games				
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA		
BYU	1	0	38	9	4	0	131	51
UCF	1	0	35	34	3	0	137	51
Utah	1	0	22	19	4	0	132	52
Cincinnati	1	0	34	0	3	1	126	64
Colorado	1	0	38	31	3	1	107	94
Texas Tech	1	0	30	22	3	1	164	131
West Virginia	1	0	32	28	2	2	127	114
Iowa St.	0	0	0	0	3	0	93	29
Arizona	0	0	0	0	2	1	90	80
Arizona St.	0	1	22	30	3	1	131	88
Kansas St.	0	1	9	38	3	1	115	78
Oklahoma St.	0	1	19	22	3	1	147	83
Baylor	0	1	31	38	2	2	119	67
TCU	0	1	34	35	2	2	155	128
Houston	0	1	0	34	1	3	52	84
Kansas	0	1	28	32	1	3	113	81

	Conference			All Games				
	W	L	PTS	W	L	PTS		
Weber St.	1	0	43	16	2	2	101	68
Montana St.	0	0	0	0	4	0	159	75
Idaho	0	0	0	0	3	1	99	74
Montana	0	0	0	0	3	1	158	88
UC Davis	0	0	0	0	3	1	105	88
Idaho St.	0	0	0	0	2	2	131	128
N. Arizona	0	0	0	0	2	2	135	83
Sacramento St.	0	0	0	0	2	2	122	95
Cal Poly	0	0	0	0	1	2	59	82
E. Washington	0	0	0	0	1	3	114	139
N. Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	4	53	138
Portland St.	0	1	16	43	0	3	60	169

	Conference			All Games				
	W	L	P	W	L	P		
SE Missouri	1	0	45	42	3	136	101	
Tennessee Tech	1	0	24	14	1	52	94	
Chas. Southern	0	0	0	0	1	2	45	80
E. Illinois	0	0	0	0	1	3	41	127
Gardner-Webb	0	0	0	0	1	3	94	82
L'wood (Mo.)	0	0	0	0	1	3	94	110
W. Illinois	0	0	0	0	0	3	52	182
Tennessee St.	0	1	14	24	2	2	99	125
UT Martin	0	1	42	45	1	3	115	145

	Conference			All Games				
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Illinois	1	0	31	24	4	0	129	50
Indiana	1	0	42	13	4	0	202	37
Iowa	1	0	31	14	3	1	128	55
Michigan	1	0	27	24	3	1	97	83
Michigan St.	1	0	27	24	3	1	102	57
Washington	1	0	24	5	3	3	108	41
Ohio St.	0	0	0	0	3	0	157	20



Notre Dame fans hope to cheer the Irish to victory over Louisville on Saturday. [MICHAEL CATERINA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Oregon	0	0	0	0	3	0	110	62
Penn St.	0	0	0	0	3	0	124	39
Rutgers	0	0	0	0	3	0	119	47
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	2	1	65	69
Purdue	0	0	0	0	1	2	77	104
Maryland	0	1	24	27	3	1	139	67
Nebraska	0	1	24	31	3	1	126	51
Southern Cal	0	1	24	27	2	1	99	47
Minnesota	0	1	14	31	2	2	106	50
Northwestern	0	1	5	24	2	2	69	63
UCLA	0	1	13	42	1	2	46	89

Coastal Athletic Association							
	Conference			All Games			
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA	
Delaware	1	0	42	13	3	0	119 52
New Hampshire	1	0	38	17	3	1	107 100
Rhode Island	1	0	21	9	3	1	69 95
Stony Brook	1	0	24	17	3	1	91 93
Villanova	1	0	14	13	3	1	86 71
Monmouth (N.J.)	1	0	51	22	2	2	158 146
Hampton	0	0	0	0	3	1	125 78
William & Mary	0	0	0	0	3	1	124 92
Richmond	0	0	0	0	2	2	108 84
Albany (N.Y.)	0	0	0	0	1	2	54 111
Elon	0	0	0	0	1	3	75 103
Maine	0	1	22	51	2	2	89 121
Bryant	0	1	17	38	1	3	77 146
NC A&T	0	1	13	42	1	3	77 173
Towson	0	1	13	14	1	3	71 102
Campbell	0	2	26	45	1	3	74 102

Conference USA								
	Conference				All Games			
Liberty	2	0	58	34	4	0	134	82
Sam Houston St.	1	0	31	11	3	1	110	83
W. Kentucky	1	0	49	21	3	1	106	105

Louisiana Tech	0	0	0	0	1	2	65	70
FIU	0	0	0	0	1	3	121	130
Jacksonville St.	0	0	0	0	1	3	119	148
Kennesaw St.	0	0	0	0	0	3	36	93
Middle Tenn.	0	1	21	49	1	3	73	171
UTEP	0	1	10	28	0	4	58	122
New Mexico St.	0	2	35	61	1	3	58	125

Ivy League

	Conference			All Games			
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA	
rown	0 0	0	0	0	10	26	14
Columbia	0 0	0	0	1	0	31	20
Dartmouth	0 0	0	0	1	0	45	13
Harvard	0 0	0	0	1	0	35	0
Yale	0 0	0	0	1	0	38	31
Cornell	0 0	0	0	0	1	24	41
Penn	0 0	0	0	0	1	22	29
Princeton	0 0	0	0	0	1	20	35

Mid-American Conference

East

	Conference			All Games				
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA		
Buffalo	1	0	23	20	3	1	87	74
Ohio	0	0	0	0	2	2	76	105
Bowling Green	0	0	0	0	1	2	88	77
Akron	0	0	0	0	1	3	61	171
Kent St.	0	0	0	0	0	4	41	205
Miami (Ohio)	0	0	0	0	0	3	25	68

West

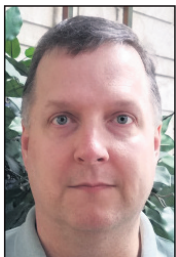
Cent. Michigan	1	0	37	34	2	2	128	126
E. Michigan	0	0	0	0	3	1	110	78
Toledo	0	0	0	0	3	1	149	76
W. Michigan	0	0	0	0	1	2	73	115
N. Illinois	0	1	20	23	2	1	90	52
Ball St.	0	1	34	37	1	2	76	133

	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference					
	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Howard	0 0	0	0	2 2	94	123
Morgan St.	0 0	0	0	2 2	101	70
NC Central	0 0	0	0	2 2	126	134
Norfolk St.	0 0	0	0	2 3	93	136
SC State	0 0	0	0	1 2	55	84
Delaware St.	0 0	0	0	1 3	62	118

Missouri Valley Conference								
Illinois St.	0	0	0	0	3	1	106	98
N. Dakota St.	0	0	0	0	3	1	157	93
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	3	1	123	97
S. Dakota St.	0	0	0	0	3	1	130	71
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	2	1	100	33
Missouri St.	0	0	0	0	2	2	117	109
N. Iowa	0	0	0	0	2	2	62	87
S. Illinois	0	0	0	0	2	2	100	124
Indiana St.	0	0	0	0	1	2	44	89
Murray St.	0	0	0	0	1	2	76	78
Youngstown St.	0	0	0	0	1	3	118	150

Mountain West Conference								
Fresno St.	1	0	38	21	3	1	142	81
San Jose St.	1	0	17	7	3	1	142	95
UNLV	0	0	0	0	3	0	122	41
Boise St.	0	0	0	0	2	1	146	96
Colorado St.	0	0	0	0	2	2	74	114
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	2	2	97	68
Nevada	0	0	0	0	2	3	118	118
San Diego St.	0	0	0	0	1	2	55	66
Utah St.	0	0	0	0	1	3	86	145
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	4	51	143
Air Force	0	1	7	17	1	2	31	54
New Mexico	0	1	21	38	4	0	110	179

PICKS PANEL



**STACY
LONG**



**SIRVELL
CARTER**



**MARA BETH
CRAVENS**



**DAVID
GLOVACH**



**GREGG
DEWALT**



**DEANGELO
MCDANIEL**



**CALEB
SUGGS**



**RENITA
JIMMAR**

Georgia at Alabama
Oklahoma at Auburn
North Alabama at West Georgia
Texas A&M vs. Arkansas
Kentucky at Ole Miss
Illinois at Penn State
Navy at UAB
North Carolina at Duke
TCU at Kansas
Washington at Rutgers

Georgia
Oklahoma
UNA
Texas A&M
Ole Miss
Penn State
Navy
Duke
Kansas
Rutgers

Alabama
Oklahoma
West Georgia
Texas A&M
Ole Miss
Penn State
Navy
Duke
Kansas
Washington

Georgia
Oklahoma
West Georgia
Arkansas
Ole Miss
Penn State
Navy
Duke
TCU
Washington

Georgia
Oklahoma
UNA
Texas A&M
Ole Miss
Penn State
Navy
Duke
Kansas
Rutgers

Alabama
Auburn
UNA
Arkansas
Ole Miss
Penn State
Navy
Duke
Kansas
Rutgers

Alabama
Oklahoma
UNA
Arkansas
Ole Miss
Penn State
Navy
North Carolina
TCU
Washington

Alabama
Oklahoma
West Georgia
Arkansas
Ole Miss
Penn State
UAB
Duke
Kansas
Rutgers

Alabama
Oklahoma
West Georgia
Texas A&M
Kentucky
Illinois
UAB
North Carolina
TCU
Rutgers

Last week
Season record

8-2
28-12

5-5
26-14

7-3
26-14

6-4
26-14

7-3
25-15

6-4
24-16

4-6
22-18

2-8
18-22

FBS LEADERS

RUSHING YARDS

	No.	Yards	TDs	Avg.
Kaleb Johnson, Iowa	82	685	9	8.4
Ashton Jeanty, Boise St.	56	586	9	10.5
Omarion Hampton, North Carolina	85	555	6	6.5
Ja'Quinden Jackson, Arkansas	69	472	8	6.8
Kyle Monangai, Rutgers	72	457	5	6.3
Micah Bernard, Utah	66	456	1	6.9
Dylan Sampson, Tennessee	69	449	10	6.5
RJ Harvey, UCF	59	448	8	7.6
Devin Neal, Kansas	72	443	3	6.2
Nate Noel, Missouri	69	441	2	6.4
Cam Skattebo, Arizona St.	86	433	5	5.0
Kalel Mullings, Michigan	53	429	4	8.1
Henry Parrish Jr., Ole Miss	57	427	7	7.5
John Mateer, Washington St.	57	425	5	7.5
Makhi Hughes, Tulane	77	424	3	5.5
DJ Giddens, Kansas St.	68	417	1	6.1
Jam Griffin, Oregon St.	67	413	4	6.2
Corey Kiner, Cincinnati	64	404	2	6.3
Rahsul Faison, Utah St.	67	395	1	5.9
Savion Red, Nevada	54	394	3	7.3
Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech	67	391	7	5.8
Anthony Tyus III, Ohio	57	391	4	6.9
Brashard Smith, SMU	53	380	6	7.2
Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech	71	379	2	5.3
Jonah Coleman, Washington	56	373	4	6.7

PASSING EFFICIENCY

	C	A	I	Yds.	TDs	Effic.
Jaxson Dart, Ole Miss	95	119	2	1,554	12	219.4
Drew Allar, Penn St.	41	58	1	729	8	218.3
Jalen Milroe, Alabama	35	52	0	590	8	213.4
Arch Manning, Texas	29	47	2	576	7	205.3
Cameron Ward, Miami (Fla.)	89	123	2	1,439	14	204.9
Tyler Shough, Louisville	52	76	0	850	8	197.1
Kurtis Rourke, Indiana	71	94	0	1,013	8	194.1
Thomas Castellanos, Boston Col.	45	70	2	729	10	193.2
Dillon Gabriel, Oregon	79	94	0	914	6	186.8
KJ Jefferson, UCF	32	51	1	563	5	183.9
Will Howard, Ohio St.	51	74	1	795	6	183.2
Cade Klubnik, Clemson	58	79	1	729	8	181.8
Will Rogers, Washington	84	111	0	1,048	8	178.8
Nico Iamaleava, Tennessee	61	88	2	892	7	176.2
Caden Veltkamp, Western Ky.	51	69	2	651	6	176.1
Quinn Ewers, Texas	58	79	2	691	8	175.3
Alonza Barnett III, J/ Madison	46	74	1	742	7	174.9
Eli Holstein, Pittsburgh	87	129	2	1,186	12	172.3
Luke Altmyer, Illinois	75	105	0	862	10	171.8
Gio Lopez, South Alabama	57	92	0	843	9	171.2
Goose Crowder, Troy	43	62	0	532	5	168.1
Rocco Becht, Iowa St.	54	79	2	743	6	167.4
Blake Shapen, Mississippi St.	74	108	1	974	8	166.9
Carson Beck, Georgia	56	82	0	680	7	166.1



San Jose State's Nick Nash [TYLER TAGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

RECEIVING YARDS

	Rec.	Yards	TDs	Avg.
Nick Nash, San Jose St.	50	637	8	12.7
Tre Harris, Ole Miss	38	628	4	16.5
Tai Felton, Maryland	41	604	5	14.7
Jack Bech, TCU	25	516	4	20.6
Devonte Ross, Troy	26	500	6	19.2
Travis Hunter, Colorado	37	472	5	12.8
Tetairoa McMillan, Arizona	23	453	4	19.7
Mac Dalena, Fresno St.	18	431	3	23.9
Luke Wysong, New Mexico	30	407	1	13.6
Malik Rutherford, Georgia Tech	29	398	2	13.7
Josh Kelly, Texas Tech	31	376	3	12.1
Kaedin Robinson, App State	24	375	0	15.6
Xavier Restrepo, Miami (Fla.)	20	362	5	18.1
Kamdyn Benjamin, Tulsa	25	359	2	14.4
Treon Sibley, Liberty	16	357	1	22.3
Jamaal Pritchett, South Alabama	26	355	4	13.7
Dante Wright, Temple	26	352	3	13.5
Pofele Ashlock, Hawaii	32	351	3	11.0
Harold Fannin Jr., Bowling Green	25	349	2	14.0
Malachi Fields, Virginia	24	349	2	14.5
Andrew Armstrong, Arkansas	23	348	0	15.1
Skyler Bell, UConn	15	347	1	23.1
De'Zhaun Stribling, Oklahoma St.	20	345	2	17.3



Central Florida's RJ Harvey [RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

SCORING

	TDs	XP	2-pt.	FG	Def.	Pts.
Dylan Sampson, Tennessee	10	0	0	0	0	60
RJ Harvey, UCF	9	0	1	0	0	56
Ja'Quinden Jackson, Boise St.	9	0	0	0	0	54
Max Gilbert, Tennessee	0	24	0	10	0	54
Kaleb Johnson, Iowa	9	0	0	0	0	54
Nick Nash, San Jose St.	8	0	1	0	0	50
Blake Craig, Missouri	0	15	0	11	0	48
Mario Anderson Jr., Memphis	8	0	0	0	0	48
Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech	8	0	0	0	0	48
Caden Davis, Ole Miss	0	28	0	6	0	46
Collin Rogers, SMU	0	12	0	11	0	45
Brashard Smith, SMU	7	0	1	0	0	44
Ben Sauls, Pittsburgh	0	22	0	7	0	43
Blake Horvath, Navy	7	0	0	0	0	42
Anthony Hankerson, Oregon St.	7	0	0	0	0	42
Henry Parrish Jr., Ole Miss	7	0	0	0	0	42
Devonte Ross, Troy	7	0	0	0	0	42
Randy Bond, Texas A&M	0	13	0	9	0	40
Kade Hensley, Coastal Carolina	0	18	0	7	0	39
Brock Taylor, Vanderbilt	0	17	0	7	0	38

(A receiver scores on a touchdown pass, not the passer.)

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

	Rush	Rec	Punt	KO	INT	Misc.	Total
Kaleb Johnson, Iowa	685	26	0	0	0	0	711
Nick Nash, San Jose St.	0	637	0	0	0	0	637
Tre Harris, Ole Miss	0	628	0	0	0	0	628
Tai Felton, Maryland	23	604	0	0	0	0	627
Cam Skattebo, Arizona St.	433	190	0	0	0	0	623
Devonte Ross, Troy	3	500	95	17	0	0	615
Omarion Hampton, North Carolina	555	57	0	0	0	0	612
Ashton Jeanty, Boise St.	586	12	0	0	0	0	598
Brashard Smith, SMU	380	71	-2	128	0	0	577
Desmond Reid, Pittsburgh	319	167	78	0	0	0	564
Jack Bech, TCU	7	516	34	0	0	0	557
Jamaal Pritchett, South Alabama	0	355	196	0	0	0	551
Ja'Quinden Jackson, Arkansas	472	49	0	0	0	0	521
Dylan Sampson, Tennessee	449	70	0	0	0	0	519
Travis Hunter, Colorado	0	472	0	0	38	0	510
Kalel Mullings, Michigan	429	2	0	74	0	0	505
DJ Giddens, Kansas St.	417	69	0	0	0	0	486
Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech	391	24	0	71	0	0	486
RJ Harvey, UCF	448	37	0	0	0	0	485

(While receiving is an all-purpose yard, passing is not.)

TACKLES

	Solo	Asst	Total	TPG
Shaun Dolac, Buffalo	34	28	62	15.5
Trey Rucker, Oklahoma St.	29	24	53	13.2
Isaac Smith, Mississippi St.	19	32	51	12.8
Jordan Pollard, San Jose St.	23	24	47	11.8
Colin Ramos, Navy	16	29	45	15.0
Dorian Hopkins, UTEP	16	29	45	11.2
Jordan Vincent, Utah St.	23	20	43	10.8
Red Murdock, Buffalo	24	17	41	10.2
Buom Jock, Colorado St.	16	25	41	10.2
Antonio Clary, Virginia	13	28	41	10.2
Travion Barnes, FIU	25	15	40	10.0
Tuasivi Nomura, Fresno St.	25	15	40	10.0
Matt Jones, Baylor	23	17	40	10.0
Teddy Buchanan, California	18	22	40	10.0
Nick Martin, Oklahoma St.	22	17	39	9.8
Dantonio Carter II, Jacksonville St.	17	22	39	9.8
D.J. Woodbury, Temple	26	12	38	9.5
Emmanuel McNeil-Warren, Toledo	18	20	38	9.5
Kory Chapman, UTEP	17	21	38	9.5
Rocco Nicholl, Kent St.	15	23	38	9.5
Zakye Barker, East Carolina	13	25	38	9.5
Aiden Fisher, Indiana	12	26	38	9.5
Jordan Kwiatkowski, Central Mich.	23	14	37	9.2
Myles Rowser, Arizona St.	14	23	37	9.2
Nick Andersen, Wake Forest	21	15	36	12.0
Keaton Thomas, Baylor	24	12	36	9.0
Danny Stutsman, Oklahoma	21	15	36	9.0
Alex Howard, Duke	17	19	36	9.0



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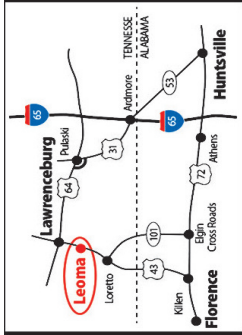
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