

GAMEDAY



CAT SCRATCH FEVER

Tigers back at home to welcome Kentucky into their Jordan-Hare lair

Win a Mini Max Big Green Egg from Story & Lee!*

TAILGATE of the week RECIPE



Toasted Pecan Halves

INGREDIENTS

2 cups pecan halves

1 tablespoon butter

DIRECTIONS:

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Spread 2 cups of pecans on ungreased cookie sheets. Toast 6-8 minutes. Remove from oven. Add 1 tablespoon butter, toss till evenly coated. When cool, store in airtight container. Makes 4 1/2 cup servings.



This week's recipe submitted
by Rebecca Ellett,
Sheffield, 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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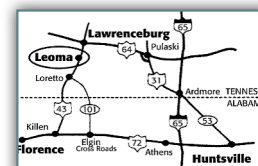
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Maybe things will look up for Bill Belichick this week when North Carolina travels to Syracuse. [PHELAN M. EBENHACK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

THE LINE

Thursday	(as of Tuesday)		
FAVORITE	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Marshall	5½	55½	at CSTL CAROLINA
Tulane	3½	55½	at UTSA

Friday			
Memphis	13½	50½	at RICE
at SYRACUSE	2½	45½	North Carolina
at LOUISIANA TECH	16½	48½	Sam Houston

Saturday			
at AIR FORCE	1½	48½	Army
at UCONN	11½	64½	UAB
at ILLINOIS	12½	62½	Rutgers
at NORTH TEXAS	6½	65½	Navy
Miami (FL)	11½	50½	at SMU
at TEXAS	2½	45½	Vanderbilt
at CLEMSON	3½	56½	Duke
at BAYLOR	4½	59½	UCF
at BOWLING GREEN	1½	43½	Buffalo
at OHIO STATE	20½	43½	Penn State
at HOUSTON	13½	49½	West Virginia
at IOWA STATE	7½	48½	Arizona State
East Carolina	4½	58½	at TEMPLE
at UNLV	4½	61½	New Mexico
Louisville	11½	53½	at VIRGINIA TECH
Notre Dame	28½	56½	at BOSTON COLLEGE
Indiana	21½	50½	at MARYLAND
Old Dominion	16½	53½	at UL MONROE
Texas Tech	7½	53½	at KANSAS STATE
at WESTERN KY.	8½	52½	New Mexico State
at SOUTH ALABAMA	4½	54½	Louisiana
at MINNESOTA	3½	44½	Michigan State
at LIBERTY	3½	51½	Delaware
at BOISE STATE	17½	50½	Fresno State
Georgia	7½	50½	at FLORIDA
Pittsburgh	15½	51½	at STANFORD
Virginia	4½	52½	at CAL
at WESTERN MICH.	4½	40½	Central Michigan
at KANSAS	24½	56½	Oklahoma State
at ARKANSAS	4½	67½	Mississippi State
at MICHIGAN	20½	49½	Purdue
at SAN DIEGO STATE	10½	41½	Wyoming
Arizona	4½	53½	at COLORADO
at OLE MISS	12½	54½	South Carolina
at TENNESSEE	3½	56½	Oklahoma
Washington State	3½	47½	at OREGON STATE
USC	6½	59½	at NEBRASKA
at FLORIDA STATE	9½	50½	Wake Forest
Georgia Tech	5½	57½	at NC STATE
at AUBURN	10½	44½	Kentucky
at TROY	7½	52½	Arkansas State
at UTAH	8½	55½	Cincinnati
at SAN JOSE STATE	2½	57½	Hawaii



Michigan, after giving the Paul Bunyan Trophy some headgear last weekend, faces Purdue this week. [RYAN SUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

GAMES ON TV

Thursday
Marshall at Coastal Carolina, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2
Tulane at UTSA, 6:30 p.m., ESPN

Friday
Brown at Penn, 6 p.m., ESPN
Memphis at Rice, 6 p.m., ESPN2
North Carolina at Syracuse, 6:30 p.m., ESPN
Sam Houston at La. Tech, 7 p.m., CBSSN
Idaho at Northern Arizona, 9:30 p.m., ESPN2

Saturday
Army at Air Force, 11 a.m., CBS
Duke at Clemson, 11 a.m., ACC Network
Miami at SMU, 11 a.m., ESPN
Navy at North Texas, 11 a.m., ESPN2
Penn State at Ohio State, 11 a.m., FOX
Rutgers at Illinois, 11 a.m., NBC

UAB at UConn, 11 a.m., CBSSN
UCF at Baylor, 11 a.m., ESPN
Vanderbilt at Texas, 11 a.m., ABC
West Virginia at Houston, 11 a.m., FS1
Arizona State at Iowa State, noon, TNT
Louisville at Virginia Tech, 2 p.m., CW
Delaware at Liberty, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN
Fresno State at Boise State, 2:30 p.m., FS1
Georgia at Florida, 2:30 p.m., ABC
Indiana at Maryland, 2:30 p.m., CBS
Michigan State at Minnesota, 2:30 p.m., BTN
Notre Dame at Boston College, 2:30 p.m., ESPN
Pittsburgh at Stanford, 2:30 p.m., ACC Network
Texas Tech at Kansas State, 2:30 p.m., FOX
Virginia at California, 2:45 p.m., ESPN2
Central Michigan at Western Michigan, 3 p.m., ESPN

Mississippi State at Arkansas, 3 p.m., SEC Network
Arizona at Colorado, 6 p.m., FS1
Purdue at Michigan, 6 p.m., BTN
South Carolina at Ole Miss, 6 p.m., ESPN
Wyoming at San Diego State, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Ga. Tech at N.C. State, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2
Kentucky at Auburn, 6:30 p.m., SEC Network
Oklahoma at Tennessee, 6:30 p.m., ABC
USC at Nebraska, 6:30 p.m., NBC
Wake Forest at Florida State, 6:30 p.m., ACC Network
Washington State at Oregon State, 6:30 p.m., CBS
Arkansas State at Troy, 7 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at Utah, 9:15 p.m., ESPN
Hawaii at San Jose State, 9:30 p.m., CBSSN

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Friday
No. 8 Ga. Tech (8-0) at N.C. State (4-4), 6:30 p.m.
No. 25 Memphis (7-1) at Rice (4-4), 6 p.m.
Saturday
No. 1 Ohio St. (7-0) vs. Penn St. (3-4), 11 a.m.
No. 2 Indiana (8-0) at Maryland (4-3), 2:30 p.m.
No. 5 Georgia (6-1) vs. Florida (3-4) at Jacksonville, Fla., 2:30 p.m.
No. 7 Mississippi (7-1) vs. South Carolina (3-5), 6 p.m.

No. 9 Vanderbilt (7-1) at No. 20 Texas (6-2), 11 a.m.
No. 10 Miami (6-1) at SMU (5-3), 11 a.m.
No. 12 Notre Dame (5-2) at Boston College (1-7), 2:30 p.m.
No. 13 Texas Tech (7-1) at Kansas St. (4-4), 2:30 p.m.
No. 14 Tennessee (6-2) vs. No. 18 Oklahoma (6-2), 6:30 p.m.

No. 15 Virginia (7-1) at California (5-3), 2:45 p.m.
No. 16 Louisville (6-1) at Virginia Tech (3-5), 2 p.m.
No. 17 Cincinnati (7-1) at No. 24 Utah (6-2), 9:15 p.m.
No. 21 Michigan (6-2) vs. Purdue (2-6), 6 p.m.
No. 22 Houston (7-1) vs. West Virginia (2-6), 11 a.m.
No. 23 Southern Cal (5-2) at Nebraska (6-2), 6:30 p.m.

Kentucky at Auburn

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: SEC/FM-94.9, FM-100.3

Records: Kentucky (2-5, 0-5 SEC), Auburn (4-4, 1-4)

The series: Auburn leads 28-6-1.

Four-down territory

1. Wide open: The Tigers put in Stanford transfer Ashton Daniels at Arkansas after starting QB Jackson Arnold threw a pick-6 inside the red zone last week in the first half. Daniels was 6-of-8 passing for 77 yards, and the Tigers outscored Arkansas 33-3 to secure a 33-24 win and snap a four-game losing skid. Who will start Saturday? Auburn coach Hugh Freeze isn't sure, but the position is wide open.

2. Cam questionable: With the offense still having issues, the status of Cam Coleman becomes increasingly important. The Tigers' leading receiver (440 yards, three touchdowns) left last week's game with an ankle injury. The good news is it doesn't appear to be serious. "We're hopeful, but obviously don't know just yet," Freeze said. "It's not a high ankle sprain, it's down in the lower part. Those tend to heal quicker. We don't really know at this point." Coleman was a key cog last week, making a 23-yard touchdown catch for the offense's only score.

3. Red zone: Auburn can thank Alex McPherson and the defense for last week's win. McPherson's six field goals and a pick-6 supplied the bulk of the points for the Tigers. The offense contributed with just one touchdown. Red-zone scoring was a big issue last week, but it's also been a sore spot this season. Of the Tigers' 24 red-zone scores, 11 have been field goals. Auburn is 46% in the red zone scoring touchdowns (13-of-28).

4. A cut above: Kentucky QB Cutter Boley is coming off a pair of confidence-building performances against Texas and Tennessee, in which he was a combined 57-of-74 passing (77%) for 588 yards and five touchdowns. He also rushed for 76 yards and one touchdown. He is the first UK QB to complete at least 74.3% of his passes in consecutive games since Dusty Bonner in 1999. He is the first UK QB with at least 26 completions in consecutive games since 2015 (Patrick Towles) and consecutive conference games since 2010 (Mike Hartline).



Auburn running back Jeremiah Cobb and quarterback Ashton Daniels hope to provide the Tigers more offensive spark against Kentucky. [MICHAEL WOODS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Key matchup

Auburn WR Eric Singleton Jr. vs. Kentucky WR Kendrick Law

Singleton has to pick up the slack for Cam Coleman, who may not be 100%. He's second on the team with 367 yards and two touchdowns. Law leads the Wildcats in receptions (24), yards (302) and touchdowns (2).

Player of the week

Xavier Atkins, LB

Atkins is the MVP of the defense and has led or tied for the team lead in tackles in all five SEC games and is tied for second with 49 tackles in league play.

By the numbers

2: Auburn's Jeremiah Cobb has two straight games with 100-plus yards rushing.

2: The Tigers are tied for second in the league with a plus-7 turnover margin with four forced fumbles and seven interceptions.

3: Auburn has three players ranked in the SEC top 15 in tackles for loss. Xavier Atkins is first with 13, Keyron Crawford 10th with eight and Robert Woodyard Jr. 14th with seven.

20: Of Auburn's 36 offensive possessions that have resulted in points, 20 were drives of seven or more plays and

60 or more yards.

Prediction

Auburn 35, Kentucky 14

Daniels at QB gives Auburn a much-needed boost. He doesn't make the offense more dynamic, but he does move the ball effectively and that's what the Tigers need more than anything. The defense continues to keep Auburn in games. You have to wonder where Auburn would be if it made a QB change earlier in the season—maybe Freeze wouldn't be on the hot seat.

— Edwin Stanton

Oklahoma at Tennessee

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: ABC/FM-97.9, AM-1340

Records: No. 18 Oklahoma (6-2, 2-2 SEC), No. 14 Tennessee (6-2, 3-2)

The series: Oklahoma leads 3-2.

Four-down territory

1. Dark Mode: Tennessee will don its “Dark Mode” uniforms against Oklahoma. The Vols have played in the black uniforms six times overall and five times under head coach Josh Heupel (4-1). It’s also the first night game at Neyland Stadium this season. According to Rocky Top Insider, here is a look at the Vols’ record under Heupel in various uniform combinations: orange jersey/white pants (20-2), orange jersey/orange pants (8-1), white jersey/white pants (8-8), white jersey/orange pants (1-4), Dark Mode (4-1, 1-1 with white helmet, 3-0 with black helmet), and Smokey grey (3-0).

2. Sore spot: There is a reason to be concerned before the Vols take on the Sooners in a must-win game for both team’s playoff survival. Tennessee’s defense has allowed 30-plus points in four straight games. Fortunately for UT, the offense responded in three of those games to earn the win. The offense may have to bail out the defense again against a Sooners team that has the capability to roll up big numbers. “The correctables have to get corrected and that’s what we did this morning and that’s what we will continue to work on this week. I’m excited to go play with these guys,” Heupel said.

3. Mirror image: The Vols’ defense faces a skilled quarterback in Oklahoma’s John Mateer. The defense has seen a version of him already this season, in some ways. Tennessee held off Arkansas QB Taylen Green in a close win a couple weeks ago. “(Mateer) is kind of similar (to Green). I would not say he is as athletic as him, but he is still similar, so we have to keep our eyes on him, keep him in the pocket to make sure he does not get to our edges like we tried to do with Taylen Green,” Tennessee defensive lineman Dominic Bailey said.

4. Not on their mind: With playoff limited to 12 spots, every game counts. The Vols have two losses already and can’t afford any slipups the rest of the season. “I’m approaching that one day



Tennessee’s Mike Matthews has three 100-yard receiving games this season and will look to haul in his fourth against Oklahoma. [JAMES PUGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

at a time,” tight end Miles Kitzelman said. “None of that matters if you don’t take care of the weekend that is in front of you and take care of the day that is in front of you, the meeting that is in front of you, the lift that is in front of you, so just attacking it day-by-day and being very process oriented, not worried about the results but worried about the process.”

Key matchup

Tennessee QB Joey Aguilar vs. Oklahoma QB John Mateer

Aguilar has one of the best arms in the nation, passing for 2,344 yards and 18 touchdowns. Mateer is mobile out of the pocket (226 rushing, five TDs) and has a good arm, too (1,790, eight TDs).

Player of the week Mike Matthews, WR

Matthews caught six passes for 107 yards last week, his third 100-yard game of the season. His 562 yards is third on the team but he’s capable of big plays.

By the numbers

5: Tennessee has five defensive touchdowns this season, which is tied with Louisiana Tech for the national lead.

8: UT leads the SEC in eight categories: Fourth-down conversion percentage, offensive first downs, fumbles recovered, kickoff returns average, passing offense, scoring offense, total offense, turnovers gained.

9: Tennessee leads the SEC with nine individual 100-yard receiving games.

292: Joey Aguilar averages 292 yards of total offense per game.

Prediction

Tennessee 38, Oklahoma 28

Maybe the Vols are on to something with the “Dark Mode” uniforms. If it works, why change it? Something that must change is the defense. Missing tackles, missed assignments and silly mistakes isn’t going to cut it despite the offense putting up video game numbers. Corraling Sooner QB John Mateer has to be the priority. If the defense can step up just a little bit, Tennessee’s Joey Aguilar and the offense will take care of the rest.

— Edwin Stanton

UNA at Utah Tech

When: 3 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN+

Records: UNA (2-6, 1-3 UAC), Utah Tech (1-7, 0-4)

The series: UNA leads 2-0.

Four-down territory

1. Not quite the same height: This will be UNA's second trip to the state of Utah in two years. The Lions played at Southern Utah last season and with it came some pretty high altitude. Southern Utah's stadium in Cedar City sits at 5,769 feet above sea level, the fourth highest in Division I after Wyoming (7,215), Northern Arizona (6,980) and Air Force (6,620). Utah Tech's isn't quite that high. St. George, which is located two hours closer to Las Vegas than Salt Lake City, is only 2,700 feet above sea level. But that's still a little more than 2,000 above Florence.

2. Kindred spirits? UNA and Utah Tech are separated by 1,687 miles — on the shortest route through Mississippi, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and then Utah — but the programs certainly have something important in common. Neither has been very good, let alone competitive, since making the jump to the FCS. The Lions moved ahead of the 2018 season. They are 23-55 since then, including 7-22 against conference foes. The Trailblazers left Division II after the 2019 season. They have compiled an 11-47 record, including 4-20 against league opponents, since. Both UNA and Utah Tech are at the bottom of the UAC standings.

3. Last meeting for, it appears, a while: Utah Tech — as well as Southern Utah — won't be moving to the rebranded WAC (which will also be known as the UAC) next season. Instead, the Utah schools will be joining the Big Sky in 2026 to replace the departing Sacramento State, which is set to join the Big West in all sports but football. Utah Tech and Southern Utah will be competing against the likes of Eastern Washington, Idaho, Idaho State, Montana, Montana State, Northern Arizona, Northern Colorado, Portland State and Weber State.

4. A learning QB: Saturday will mark the 10th career start for Utah Tech signal caller Bronson Barben. Unlike when the Lions faced Austin Peay's first-year



Utah Tech quarterback Bronson Barben has not been overly consistent this season. [UTAH TECH ATHLETICS]

starter Chris Parson last week, Barben hasn't been quite as dynamic. The red-shirt freshman is completing a little more than 58% of his throws for 1,000 yards, four touchdowns and six interceptions. Barben has more multi-interception games (2) than multi-TD outings (1). He's also rushed for a score. Barben, however, was 5-for-8 for 137 yards and two touchdowns last year at UNA.

Key matchup

UNA LB Demarcious Robinson/DB Cameron Jamar vs. Utah Tech TE Eric Olsen

The Lions will likely have different people covering Olsen in different defensive packages, so why not list two here? Olsen currently ranks first among FCS

tight ends in catches (37) and yards (412) to go along with his two touchdowns. He's the Trailblazers' main offensive threat.

Player of the week

Noah Gregg, WR

Gregg is coming off his first 100-yard game. He had five catches for 106 yards in last week's loss at Austin Peay. It was also UNA's first of the season. The Lions had five such performances from various players last year.

By the numbers

6: The number of consecutive losing seasons UNA has. A loss Saturday would make it No. 7.

7-36: UNA's record on the road. The Lions are 0-5 this season.

319: The number of points UNA has allowed this season. The month of October has featured 171 (54%) of those.

219: The number of points the Lions have managed to score this season. Only 99 have come in the first half of games with 37 of those coming against Division II Northeastern State (Oklahoma).

Prediction

Utah Tech 35, UNA 30

It's a road game. But if the Lions were to finally get a win away from Braly Stadium, this would be the game to do it.

— David Glovach

Alabama's DeBoer 'definitely evolving'

By Kennington Lloyd Smith III
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA — Alabama's seven-game winning streak has revealed a new side of coach Kalen DeBoer.

And it could set the tone for the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide as it moves closer to securing a spot in the Southeastern Conference championship game and the College Football Playoff.

Alabama (7-1, 5-0 SEC), which has won every game since a stunning loss at Florida State to open the season, is off this week before beginning a three-game homestand that includes LSU and No. 18 Oklahoma.

DeBoer is sure to be fired up before each of the games. He certainly was for Alabama's last home game, a 37-20 win against rival Tennessee.

With AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" blaring inside Bryant-Denny Stadium, DeBoer led players toward the field before the opening kick. His energy steadily increased as they made their way through the hallways and out of the tunnel.

DeBoer clapped his hands every so often, yelling "Let's go!" His energy culminated with him slapping the goalpost as the team reached the field.

"That's definitely a new side of coach DeBoer, and it's good," receiver Germie Bernard said. "We need for him to be fired up because, as players, we learn from the leader. He's the leader, and so he has to lead by example, and he's been doing a great job of that."

DeBoer attributed the moment to feeding off of the players' pregame energy. The clip provided a peek into the growing confidence inside the Alabama program, one that seemed to be missing during the ups and downs of DeBoer's first year in Tuscaloosa.

"If you haven't seen that emotion from the outside, now you have," linebacker Deontae Lawson said. "That's the coach DeBoer that we're getting used to. He's definitely evolving."

Alabama's rise and DeBoer's swagger began after that Week 1 debacle in Tallahassee. The Crimson Tide players began holding players-only meetings every Friday. DeBoer arrives at the end of each one to deliver a message. Now, several weeks later, it's considered the turning point to the season.

"He came in and said what he needed



Alabama coach Kalen DeBoer has shown more emotions to his players this season, and the players like it. [VASHA HUNT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

to say," Lawson recalled. "He said some things, and the guys just got really very excited. That was the first little taste of it."

The sense of urgency has been palpable.

Florida State's four-game losing skid has made the opener a "bad loss" for Alabama, creating a back-against-the-wall mentality. There's also a new level of comfort between DeBoer, his staff and his players.

"I've been able to just really tap into just the guys as a whole," DeBoer said.

"But also really individually and be able to know what makes one guy tick vs. another. You talk to the whole team, certainly, but you also have to have that relationship and that understanding of what makes guys go. So I think our coaching staff gets that, and we communicate very well."

Alabama's current résumé is one of the strongest in college football, complete with four wins against ranked opponents. And the Tide ended an unsettling trend with last week's come-from-behind 29-22 victory at South Carolina.

Alabama won as a double-digit away-from-home favorite, a position that didn't bode well for a program that lost to FSU in Week 1 and to Vanderbilt, Oklahoma and Michigan last year in similar positions.

"I challenged the guys, and they believe it: That the world has not seen Bama's best yet," DeBoer said. "That's really what we're striving to do. When you keep it really as simple as possible on that, have great preparation, everyone caring about what we're trying to accomplish, you have that edge."



UAB will see if it can savor the sweet taste of victory once again — this time in Connecticut. [MIKE STEWART/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

This week's SEC, state games

UAB at UConn

When: 11 a.m. Saturday

TV: CBSSN

Records: UAB (3-4), UConn (5-3)

The series: UConn leads 1-0.

The lowdown: UAB is playing its first game since upsetting then-No. 22 Memphis 31-24 on Oct. 18, which was its first game under interim coach Alex Mortensen following the firing of Trent Dilfer. ... The 24 points allowed by the Blazers was their best effort of

the season. ... UConn ranks 17th nationally, averaging almost 466 yards offense per game. ... UConn's Joey Fagnano has 18 TD passes and zero interceptions. ... Fagnano has thrown for 2,262 yards, the most for the Huskies in eight years. ... UConn, which won 10 games over five seasons from 2016-21, is trying to become bowl eligible for the third time in four seasons. ... The Huskies beat the Blazers 31-23 last year after UAB led 20-3 at halftime. ... UAB's Iverson

Hooks leads the American Conference with an 80-yard receiving average per game. He has 41 catches for 560 yards and five touchdowns this season. Hooks had 25 catches for 298 yards and three TDs in his first three years with the Blazers. ... UAB sophomore Solomon Beebe averages 126.1 all-purpose yards per game and ranks 10th nationally. ... UConn's three losses were all in overtime and all on the road, including 37-34 in double OT to Rice last week.

... Huskies kicker Chris Freeman, with a 45-yarder last week, has made 12 straight field goals.

No. 9 Vanderbilt at No. 20 Texas

When: 11 a.m. Saturday

TV: ABC

Records: Vanderbilt (7-1, 3-1 SEC), Texas (6-2, 3-1)

The series: Vanderbilt leads 8-4-1.

SEC

From Page G8

The lowdown: The Commodores are ranked their highest since they were No. 7 for one week in 1937. That same week, Italian premier Benito Mussolini said it was “necessary” that Germany, under Adolf Hitler, regain colonies lost in “the World War.” ... Vandy is 7-1 for the first time since 1941. ... Its seven wins before November matches the school record set in 1915. ... Makhi-lyn Young’s 80-yard touchdown run in last week’s 17-10 win over Missouri was Vandy’s longest in three years. ... Last week, Texas rallied from a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit to win 45-38 in overtime at Mississippi State, tying for the seventh-largest comeback win in school history. ... UT QB Arch Manning was in concussion protocol early in the week and his status was uncertain. ... The Longhorns are playing their first home game since a 55-0 win over Sam Houston in September. ... Texas’ 27-24 victory at Vanderbilt last year marked its first win over the Commodores since 1928. ... Vandy hasn’t beaten the Longhorns since 1927. ... The teams have met in Austin just one previous time, a 5-5 tie in 1903. ... According to College Football Scorigami, there have been 28 games in college football history to end 5-5, most recently in 1911.

Alabama A&M at Grambling State

When: 2 p.m. Saturday

TV: SWAC TV

Records: Alabama A&M (4-4, 1-3 SWAC), Grambling State (5-3, 2-2)

The series: Grambling leads 22-9.

The lowdown: With A&M’s JD Davis II and Grambling’s A’Myne Darensbourg, both teams are expected to start backup quarterbacks. ... Alabama A&M, with last week’s 56-13 loss to Alabama State, has dropped four straight Magic City Classics. ... The 56-13 was the most points scored and the largest margin in the Magic City Classic since Bama State’s 59-13 win in 1991. ... Grambling ended Jackson State’s 11-game conference winning streak last week. Josh McCormick kicked a 44-yard field goal with 21 seconds left to give the Tigers a 26-24 victory in Las Vegas. ... Grambling QB Czavien Teasett was 16-of-26 for 232 yards and two touchdowns but suffered an injury. ... The Bulldogs own three straight wins over Grambling, including last year’s 22-16 finale.



Diego Pavia and Vanderbilt will see if they can leap over the Texas in the SEC standings. A win would be the Commodores’ first over the Longhorns in almost 100 years. [WADE PAYNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



SEE SEC, G10

Donovan Payne and Alabama A&M were forced to take a seat against Alabama State last week. [ALABAMA A&M ATHLETICS]

SEC

From Page G9

Louisiana-Lafayette at South Alabama

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday
TV: ESPN+
Records: Louisiana-Lafayette (2-6, 1-3 Sun Belt), South Alabama (2-6, 1-3)
The series: Louisiana-Lafayette leads 9-4.

The lowdown: The Jags snapped a six-game losing streak with last week's 38-31 victory at Georgia State. ... Linebacker Tirrell Johnson's career-high 10 tackles at Georgia State last week earned him Sun Belt defensive player of the week honors. He forced a fumble that led to the Jags' go-ahead score in the fourth quarter and intercepted a pass to seal it. ... Safety Wesley Miller made a career-high 11 tackles. ... Brendan Jenkins' first-quarter touchdown catch was his first at USA. He had six the last two seasons at Samford. ... The Jags have scored 38 points in each of the wins this year, including 38-21 in August vs. FCS Morgan State. ... Louisiana-Lafayette quarterback Lunch Winfield accounted for 326 yards offense in last week's 35-23 loss at Troy. He threw for 187 yards and ran for 139. The Ragin' Cajuns finished with 371 yards. ... It was Winfield's second 100-yard rushing game of the season. ... ULL has had three starting quarterbacks this year: Walker Howard, Daniel Beale and Winfield. ... The Ragin' Cajuns were 6-0 on the road last season. This year, they're 0-4. ... The road team has won four straight in the series. The last home team to savor a victory was Lafayette, 38-10 in 2020.

No. 5 Georgia vs. Florida

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Jacksonville, Florida
TV: ABC
Records: Georgia (6-1, 4-1 SEC), Florida (3-4, 2-2)
The series: Georgia leads 56-44-2.

The lowdown: UGA has won the formerly named "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" each of the last four years and seven times in eight seasons. ... This is the 92nd time the rivals have played in Jacksonville, including all but two years since 1933. The Gators won 52-14 at home in 1995 and 52-17 at Georgia in 1995 due to stadium renovations in Jacksonville. ... The game will leave Jacksonville for the next two years, also due to stadium work. It will be in Atlanta in 2026 and Tampa in 2027. ... Florida makes its debut under interim



Tirrell Johnson certainly did his part to make sure South Alabama entered its matchup against Louisiana-Lafayette with two wins instead of one. [SOUTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS]



SEE SEC, G11 Billy Gonzales will see if he can help Florida upset Georgia a week after the Gators told Billy Napier to take a hike. [FLORIDA ATHLETICS]

SEC

From Page G10

head coach Billy Gonzales after tossing Billy Napier overboard following a 23-21 win over Mississippi State two weeks ago. ... Gonzales is the seventh interim coach in Gators history. ... Previous UF interim coaches have gone 14-9, including 4-2 in their debut. ... Then-interim head coach Galen Hall led the Gators to a 27-0 win over then-No. 8 Georgia in 1984. Hall went 8-0 as an interim and was hired as the full-time coach. ... Florida's most-recent win over a top-5 team was five years ago against Georgia. ... The Bulldogs were off last week after beating Ole Miss 43-35 on Oct. 18.

Mississippi State at Arkansas

When: 3 p.m. Saturday

TV: SEC Network

Records: Mississippi State (4-4, 0-4 SEC), Arkansas (2-6, 0-4)

The series: Arkansas leads 19-14-1.

The lowdown: The Razorbacks have lost six straight, including three under interim head coach Bobby Petrino. They last went longer when they ended 2019 with a nine-gamer and Barry Lunney Jr. as an interim head coach. ... The Bulldogs have dropped four straight. ... Last week, the Hogs gave up a go-ahead interception return for a touchdown and then turned the ball over on their last three possessions in a 33-24 home loss to Auburn. ... Mississippi State has its own testament to a late collapse. The Bulldogs turned a 17-point fourth-quarter lead at home against Texas into 45-38 overtime loss. ... Arkansas quarterback Taylen Green ranks first national with 2,781 total yards. His 603 rushing is fifth among QBs. ... The Razorbacks' 490.9-yard average is on pace to set a school record. ... Mississippi State's 410.8 average is its highest since 2021's 441.6. ... Green was 23-of-29 passing for 314 yards and five touchdowns in the Hogs' 58-25 win at Mississippi State last year. ... Arkansas receiver Raylen Sharpe has caught a pass in 37 consecutive games. ... The Razorbacks have made 216 straight extra points. ... Arkansas and Mississippi State are meeting for the 35th straight year but, under the SEC's new schedule format, will skip a showdown next season.

South Carolina at No. 7 Ole Miss

When: 6 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN

Records: South Carolina (3-5, 1-5 SEC), Ole Miss (7-1, 4-1)



Seydou Traore and Mississippi State let Texas off the hook last week. Now, the Bulldogs will have to see if they can avoid being in the SEC cellar or if it will be Arkansas. [JAMES PUGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



South Carolina fans won't have to be worried about being disgusted this week after the Gamecocks' collapse against Alabama — at least at home.

[SCOTT KINSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Jordan Lovett had a few Louisiana-Lafayette players looking at the back of his jersey last week.
[TROY ATHLETICS]

SEC
From Page G11

The series: Ole Miss leads 10-8.
The lowdown: South Carolina is 13-4 in November under coach Shane Beamer, including 6-0 against ranked teams. ... The Gamecocks have dropped three straight, most recently 29-22 at home to Alabama, which scored twice in the final 2 ½ minutes. ... Ole Miss' Trinidad Chambliss ranks 15th in the nation with 2,240 yards of total offense. ... Winston Watkins' 111 yards receiving in last week's 34-26 win at Oklahoma was the most by an Ole Miss freshman since Elijah Moore had 129 vs. South Carolina in 2018. ... Since the start of the 2020 season, Ole Miss has averaged an FBS-best 501.9 yards per game. ... While the Rebs beat the Gamecocks 27-3 last year, their previous meeting was a track meet. Ole Miss' 59-42 victory featured 1,256 yards offense. The 101 points are the second highest in South Carolina history, exceeded only by a 65-39 win at Mississippi State in 1995. ... Beamer is seeking his 250th college win. He has 47 as a player, 38 as a graduate assistant, 132 as an assistant coach and 32 as Carolina's head coach.

Arkansas State at Troy
When: 7 p.m. Saturday
TV: ESPNU
Records: Arkansas State (4-4, 3-1 Sun Belt), Troy (6-2, 4-0)

The series: Arkansas State leads 12-9.
The lowdown: Troy, with last week's 35-23 win over Louisiana-Lafayette, has won five straight. It's the 10th longest winning streak in the nation. ... Troy coach Gerad Parker is now 10-10 with the Trojans. ... Troy is bowl eligible for the third time in four years and the 13th time in its 25-year FBS history. ... The Trojans have avenged 2024 defeats to South Alabama, Texas State, Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette. ... Arkansas State beat Troy 34-31 last year. ... Troy's defense has forced a three-and-out on 27 of 88 possessions this year. ... Jordan Lovett, who had 161 yards in his first six games this year, ran for 113 on 21 carries vs. ULL. He scored his first two touchdowns of the season and has three in three years at Troy. Tae Meadows, the Trojans' leading rusher, was ruled out for undisclosed reasons. ... Arkansas State, in last week's 34-24 home win over Georgia Southern, had two 100-yard rushers. Kenyon Clay had 124 and Devin Spencer 123. ... The Red Wolves last had two 100-yard rushers in October 2016, also against Georgia Southern. ... Arkansas State has won three straight by a combined 12 points. The Red Wolves beat Texas State 31-30 on Oct. 4, scoring a touchdown with 7 seconds remaining, and South Alabama 15-14 on Oct. 14, on a walkoff 38-yard field goal by Clune Van Andel.

— A. Stacy Long

PICKS
PANEL

Kentucky at Auburn
UNA at Utah Tech
Oklahoma at Tennessee
Vanderbilt at Texas
Mississippi State at Arkansas
Cincinnati at Utah
Duke at Clemson
Army at Air Force
North Carolina at Syracuse
Virginia at Cal

Last week
Season record



STACY
LONG

Auburn
UNA
Tennessee
Texas
Arkansas
Utah
Clemson
Air Force
Syracuse
Virginia

8-2
69-21



DAVID
GLOVACH

Auburn
Utah Tech
Tennessee
Vanderbilt
Arkansas
Cincinnati
Clemson
Air Force
Syracuse
Virginia

8-2
64-26



SIRVELL
CARTER

Auburn
UNA
Tennessee
Vanderbilt
Arkansas
Utah
Duke
Army
Syracuse
Virginia

8-2
60-30



GREGG
DEWALT

Auburn
UNA
Tennessee
Texas
Mississippi State
Utah
Clemson
Air Force
North Carolina
Cal

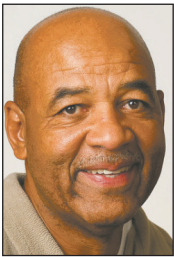
7-3
58-32



RENITA
JIMMAR

Auburn
Utah Tech
Oklahoma
Texas
Arkansas
Cincinnati
Clemson
Army
Syracuse
Cal

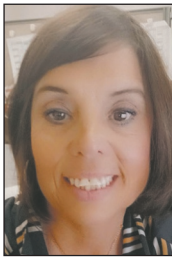
6-4
58-32



DEANGELO
MCDANIEL

Auburn
UNA
Tennessee
Texas
Mississippi State
Utah
Clemson
Air Force
Syracuse
Virginia

5-5
51-39



MARA BETH
CRAVENS

Kentucky
Utah Tech
Tennessee
Vanderbilt
Arkansas
Cincinnati
Duke
Army
Syracuse
Virginia

6-4
47-43



CALEB
SUGGS

Kentucky
UNA
Tennessee
Texas
Mississippi State
Cincinnati
Clemson
Army
Syracuse
Virginia

4-6
41-49

Defense carries Indiana's playoff hopes

By Michael Marot
The Associated Press

It's easy to get enamored with No. 2 Indiana's glitzy offense.

The gritty, increasingly stout defense has been just as impressive — maybe even better.

The Hoosiers set the tone with an interception return for a touchdown on the second play of last weekend's game and that came two weeks after holding usually high-octane Oregon to one field goal over the final 39 minutes of game time.

So, as Indiana continues chasing its goals — a perfect regular season, the first Big Ten championship game berth in school history, a second straight playoff bid and a national championship — coach Curt Cignetti knows he needs a strong, steady defense to achieve those feats.

"The kids respond," Cignetti said after a 56-6 rout of UCLA. "They have a lot of pride. We have some defensive backs back there that have really good ball skills. The safeties, as much as I like to get on them about being late to get lined up and stuff like that, they have really good ball skills. They've made a lot of really nice interceptions. Our linebackers do, too. We do a good job of stopping the run."

Frankly, the Hoosiers (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) have done everything pretty well this season.

They head to Maryland this weekend ranked among the top 12 in the Football Bowl Subdivision in scoring defense (10.9 points per game), total defense (242.8 yards), pass defense (157.4) and run defense (85.4). Their time of possession advantage, more than nine minutes per game, also ranks fourth nationally.

But how good this defense has been is not reflected by numbers alone.

Prior to the Michigan State game, Spartans coach Jonathan Smith said he couldn't find a weakness. Other coaches and analysts have raved about Indiana's ability to tackle and their use of proper techniques — features that don't happen by chance.

"They get us really prepared for every game," defensive tackle Tyrique Tucker said, referring to the Hoosiers' coaches. "They make sure we know everything. We see all the looks at practice. They all do a really great job at preparing us for what we are about to see out there."



Linebackers Aiden Fisher and Isaiah Jones have been major pieces to Indiana's success this season. [LYDIA ELY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

They'll even mix it up come game time.

Following Saturday's contest, Bruins interim coach Tim Skipper credited the Hoosiers with throwing some "unscouted" looks at his offense, something a veteran unit like Indiana's is capable of.

Linebacker Aiden Fisher, who had the game-changing takeaway against UCLA, defensive end Mikail Kamara and cornerback D'Angelo Ponds each possess All-American credentials and each followed Cignetti and defensive coordinator Bryant Haines from James Madison to Indiana. Tucker, another

transfer from James Madison, is one of the Big Ten's top interior linemen.

Their experience in the system has helped new transfers such as safety Louis Moore, who played at Ole Miss last year, and defensive lineman Hosea Wheeler, who was at Western Kentucky, make quick, productive transitions.

The emergence of Isaiah Jones as a starting linebacker has helped, too.

Jones made only two starts in 2024, but has become a menace for opposing quarterbacks and now ranks third on the team in tackles (45), behind only Moore and Fisher. Jones also took over the defensive

play-calling duties last weekend when Fisher left with a knee injury after only two series.

While Fisher is expected to play against the Terrapins (4-3, 1-3), Jones promises to be ready if he's making the calls again at Maryland. But the secret to his success is simple — preparation.

"We have a lot of cut-ups," Jones said earlier this season. "Really, it's just using angles and attacking the offense. We don't want to sit back and kind of react to the offense; we want to get after them, get after the quarterback, and kind of get them off schedule."

COLLEGE STANDINGS

(Through Oct. 25 games)

American Athletic Conference									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Navy	5	0	175	123	7	0	261	161	
Tulane	3	0	81	50	6	1	181	156	
Memphis	3	1	158	95	7	1	301	159	
North Texas	3	1	190	138	7	1	369	200	
South Florida	3	1	196	109	6	2	323	195	
Temple	3	1	145	104	5	3	269	208	
East Carolina	2	1	88	59	4	3	212	120	
Army	2	3	116	117	3	4	167	168	
FAU	2	3	151	199	3	5	242	290	
UTSA	1	2	99	95	3	4	224	216	
Rice	1	3	75	126	4	4	173	224	
UAB	1	3	101	146	3	4	208	272	
Tulsa	0	5	108	197	2	6	176	237	
Charlotte	0	5	84	209	1	7	140	298	

Atlantic Coast Conference									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Georgia Tech	5	0	157	104	8	0	288	160	
Virginia	4	0	141	101	7	1	297	179	
Pittsburgh	4	1	192	119	6	2	322	176	
Louisville	3	1	123	102	6	1	242	150	
SMU	3	1	112	65	5	3	251	171	
Duke	3	1	146	84	4	3	237	180	
Miami	2	1	91	53	6	1	238	99	
Wake Forest	2	2	96	99	5	2	187	132	
California	2	2	104	129	5	3	200	195	
Virginia Tech	2	2	108	120	3	5	203	239	
Clemson	2	3	145	113	3	4	182	146	
Stanford	2	3	87	157	3	5	140	236	
NC State	1	3	122	145	4	4	244	239	
Syracuse	1	4	84	161	3	5	203	250	
North Carolina	0	3	44	76	2	5	128	167	
Florida St.	0	4	104	128	3	4	278	158	
Boston College	0	5	85	185	1	7	214	275	

Big 12 Conference									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
BYU	5	0	160	120	8	0	290	136	
Cincinnati	5	0	185	112	7	1	306	152	
Houston	4	1	141	116	7	1	230	149	
Texas Tech	4	1	175	64	7	1	349	99	
TCU	3	2	152	142	6	2	277	201	
Utah	3	2	174	89	6	2	311	114	
Arizona St.	3	2	106	136	5	3	198	194	
Kansas St.	3	2	172	124	4	4	248	206	
Iowa St.	2	3	137	138	5	3	232	174	
Baylor	2	3	160	171	4	4	274	261	
Kansas	2	3	136	151	4	4	244	207	
Arizona	1	3	110	116	4	3	221	142	
UCF	1	3	96	94	4	3	215	120	
Colorado	1	4	93	165	3	5	181	219	
West Virginia	0	5	78	195	2	6	164	239	
Oklahoma St.	0	5	74	216	1	7	116	311	

Big Sky Conference									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Montana	4	0	160	112	8	0	332	193	
UC Davis	4	0	140	79	6	1	331	207	
Montana St.	4	0	173	44	6	2	268	140	
E. Washington	3	1	82	118	4	4	183	248	
N. Arizona	2	2	96	114	5	3	236	255	
Sacramento St.	2	2	154	143	4	4	268	227	
Cal Poly	1	3	85	120	3	5	208	242	
Idaho	1	3	122	117	3	5	217	197	
N. Colorado	1	3	118	126	3	5	195	197	
Weber St.	1	3	102	139	3	5	195	297	
Idaho St.	1	3	96	139	2	6	263	255	
Portland St.	0	4	77	154	0	8	100	338	

Big South-OVC Association									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Tennessee Tech	5	0	222	92	8	0	404	123	
Gardner-Webb	3	1	106	94	5	3	228	263	
UT Martin	3	1	117	78	3	5	161	226	
L'wood (Mo.)	2	2	113	142	3	5	169	262	
SE Missouri	2	2	103	101	3	5	202	264	
E. Illinois	2	3	101	110	3	5	169	204	
Chas. Southern	2	3	114	132	3	6	155	248	
W. Illinois	1	4	115	174	2	7	207	350	
Tennessee St.	0	4	43	111	2	6	115	221	

Big Ten Conference									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Indiana	5	0	207	64	8	0	363	87	
Ohio St.	4	0	134	25	7	0	255	41	
Oregon	4	1	161	85	7	1	330	108	
Iowa	4	1	156	75	6	2	250	105	
Michigan	4	1	122	95	6	2	232	139	
Southern Cal	3	1	141	95	5	2	297	162	
Nebraska	3	2	133	133	6	2	280	157	



SMU fans hope the Mustangs can continue riding high in the ACC standings. [JACOB KUPFERMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Washington	3	2	117	112	6	2	284	167
Minnesota	3	2	88	137	5	3	191	174
Northwestern	3	2	93	97	5	3	180	134
UCLA	3	2	120	140	3	5	163	248
Illinois	2	3	128	198	5	3	263	220
Maryland	1	3	95	88	4	3	198	121
Rutgers	1	4	112	187	4	4	251	245
Penn St.	0	4	106	119	3	4	238	136
Michigan St.	0	5	104	190	3	5	210	260
Purdue	0	5	88	149	2	6	183	222
Wisconsin	0	5	27	143	2	6	100	191

Coastal Athletic Association									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Monmouth (N.J.)	4	0	170	95	7	1	345	242	
Rhode Island	5	0	196	98	7	2	268	187	
Villanova	5	1	215	133	6	2	245	202	
Maine	3	1	133	86	4	4	187	185	
New Hampshire	3	2	116	115	5	4	211	202	
William & Mary	3	2	140	147	4	4	211	232	
Stony Brook	2	2	112	111	4	4	215	211	
N.C. A&T	2	2	125	129	2	6	189	305	
Elon	2	3	114	113	4	5	239	222	
Campbell	2	3	142	152	2	7	214	334	
Towson	1	3	79	110	3	5	178	214	
Bryant	0	4	103	148	2	6	194	228	
Albany (N.Y.)	0	4	51	158	1	7	120	263	
Hampton	0	5	95	196	2	7	184	312	

Conference USA									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Kennesaw St.	3	0	104	49	5	2	177	149	
Jacksonville St.	3	0	101	76	4	3	215	186	
W. Kentucky	4	1	129	122	6	2	236	189	
Missouri St.	2	1	68	64	4	3	154	195	

Liberty	2	1	73	69	3	4	134	151
Delaware	2	2	118	109	4	3	204	198
Louisiana Tech	2	2	113	88	4	3	174	131
FIU	1	2	67	89	3	4	157	211
UTEP	1	2	54	66	2	5	147	169
New Mexico St.	1	3	95	113	3	4	155	168
Middle Tenn.	0	3	64	77	1	6	130	208
Sam Houston St.	0	4	78	142	0	7	119	272

Ivy League									
	Conference			All Games					
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Harvard	3	0	110	31	6	0	259	69	
Dartmouth	2	1	90	55	5	1	182	116	
Penn	2	1	84	80	4	2	166	154	
Yale	2	1	92	54	4	2	180	102	
Princeton	2	1	71	66	3	3	158	174	
Cornell	1	2	64	99	2	4	125	173	
Brown	0	3	52	111	3	3	155	151	
Columbia	0	3	34	101	1	5	74	180	

Mid-American Conference								
	Conference			All Games				
	W	L	P	W	L	P		
Miami (Ohio)	4	0	115	68	5	3	208	171
Cent. Michigan	3	1	111	60	5	3	196	192
Ohio	3	1	125	82	5	3	234	198
Buffalo	3	1	106	103	4	4	195	173
W. Michigan	3	1	94	42	4	4	177	150
Toledo	2	2	126	55	4	4	254	128
Ball St.	2	2	69	105	3	5	131	238
Kent St.	2	2	104	103	3	5	149	292
Akron	2	3	90	145	3	6	169	261
Bowling Green	1	3	75	109	3	5	161	203
N. Illinois	1	3	66	96	2	6	107	177
E. Michigan	1	4	110	137	2	7	217	296

COLUMN

Only beauty in SEC shows on scoreboard

By Doug Segrest
For GameDay

The college football we've always known has flipped on its head. Payers get paid like pros and coaches go from legends to the firing line in the course of a season or two — or in weeks, depending on expectations.

That's why perspectives must change.

You may feel Mississippi State blew a 17-point lead last weekend or that South Carolina choked away an eight-point upset in 135 seconds.

That's old school thinking.

The truth is the SEC is more like the NFL today. Aesthetics don't matter. It's all about winning in crunch time.

Texas just did that again. A week after avoiding the upset of all upsets in Lexington, the Longhorns rallied from a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit for another overtime victory in Starkville, taming Mississippi State 45-38.

Alabama needed 15 points in the final 2:15 to survive at South Carolina and avoid a damaging loss. That's the definition of a trap game, following a string of four-straight Top 25 wins.

Good teams find a way to win. They make plays under duress. That's the difference between 10-2 and headed for the playoffs and 5-7 and looking for a coaching upgrade.

We said a week ago Texas A&M was starting to pull away with a favorable schedule down the stretch. The Aggies emphasized the point with a 49-25 beatdown at LSU, perhaps the single-most impressive conference victory this season.

But let's not get carried away. Texas A&M also survived nailbiters with Auburn (at home) and Arkansas to get to the top of the standings before feasting on an LSU program that's lost its way.

To get to Atlanta, they'll have to finish off Beau Pribula-less Missouri, South Carolina and Texas. That's close to "lock" territory.

There may not be a great team in the SEC this season. Meanwhile, the Big Ten conceivably has two in Ohio State and Indiana. (Yes, Indiana is real.)

But come postseason time, no one will be more stress-tested than the SEC teams that advance.



Texas A&M defensive end Cashius Howell and the Aggies could be raising their hands for an invitation to the SEC championship game, barring a late-season upset. [GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Looking ahead

• **Vanderbilt at Texas (11 a.m. on ABC):** Vandy's still dandy heading into the final leg of its four-week Top 25 challenge with only a loss at Alabama marring the way. If the Commodores survive Saturday, they become a legitimate frontrunner for the CFP. Don't count out Texas, either. Three of the next four games come against Top 10 foes. A sweep gets the Longhorns in.

• **Georgia vs Florida (2:30 p.m. on ABC):** The Gators arrive at the Cocktail Party a week rested and removed from the Billy Napier drama. Expect this one to be tight for three quarters.

• **Oklahoma at Tennessee (6:30 p.m. on ABC):** Welcome to the CFP wildcard playoffs. The only problem: The winner isn't guaranteed a bid, but the loser's definitely looking elsewhere in December.

• **Kentucky at Auburn (6:30 p.m. on ESPN):** The Tigers can double their winning streak, move to near lock for a bowl berth and stop the Hugh Freeze rumors with a victory at home.

Doug Segrest, who covered college football for 28 years for numerous newspapers in Alabama and Tennessee, is a freelance columnist.



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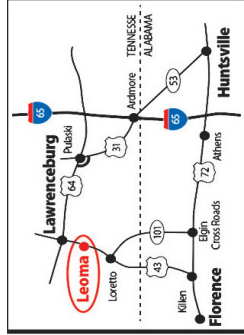
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