

GAMEDAY

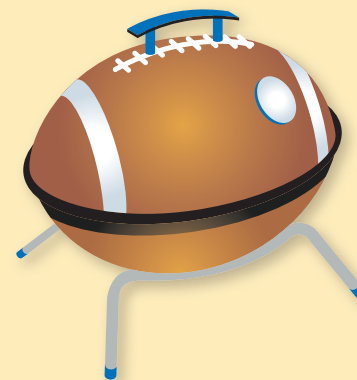


IRON-CLAD SITUATION

Tide tries for SEC berth, CFP chance; Tigers seek bowl bid, bragging rights

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

TAILGATE of the week RECIPE



Tailgate Smoked Chicken

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Whole Chicken - cut in half
- 1/2 tsp Smoked Paprika
- 1 tsp Brown sugar
- 1 tsp Chili powder

- 1 tsp Garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp Onion powder
- Salt to taste
- Black Pepper to taste
- 1/2 tsp Cayenne pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1- Cut Chicken in Half. 2- Rinse Chicken with water and dry off. 3- Rub all sides heavily with BBQ Rub. 4- Heat grill to 350 - 400 degrees for 20 min. 5- Grill skin side down over indirect heat for 20 min. 6- Flip and grill skin side up over indirect heat for 20 min. 7- Rotate, still skin side up and grill for 25 min. Pull off of grill when internal temperature reaches 165 F in the breast and thigh, or leave on if you want the skin crispier. 8- Let rest for 10 minutes. 9- Cut into pieces and serve.

Directions for BBQ Rub: Place the smoked paprika, brown sugar, chili powder, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper and cayenne pepper in a small bowl. Whisk the spices together well, breaking up any clumps. Generously coat the chicken with the rub.



This week's recipe submitted by Jennifer Ingram, Huntsville, 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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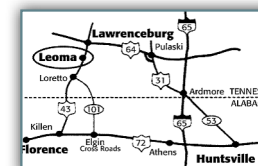
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Southern California fans hope the Trojans give them reason to signal victory Saturday over UCLA. [MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

THE LINE

(as of Monday)

Thursday FAVORITE	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at MEMPHIS	4½	59½	Navy
Friday			
Utah	12½	59½	at KANSAS
Ole Miss	6½	62½	at MISSISSIPPI ST.
Iowa	6½	39½	at NEBRASKA
Ohio	6½	44½	at BUFFALO
Air Force	2½	46½	at COLORADO ST.
Georgia	12½	59½	at GEORGIA TECH
Texas A&M	2½	51½	at TEXAS
Indiana	28½	54½	at PURDUE
Arizona	1½	48½	at ARIZONA STATE
Saturday			
Iowa State	13½	47½	at OKLAHOMA ST.
Texas Tech	23½	52½	at WEST VIRGINIA
at LOUISVILLE	2½	47½	Kentucky
Ohio State	9½	44½	at MICHIGAN
at BAYLOR	2½	60½	Houston
at KANSAS STATE	17½	51½	Colorado
Miami (Fla.)	6½	51½	at PITTSBURGH
at SOUTH CAROLINA	2½	46½	Clemson
at BYU	18½	47½	UCF
at MARSHALL	8½	62½	Georgia Southern
Western Kentucky	2½	55½	at JACKSONVILLE ST.
at OLD DOMINION	26½	58½	Georgia State
at APPALACHIAN ST.	2½	55½	Arkansas State
at TEXAS STATE	9½	62½	South Alabama
at TULSA	8½	59½	UAB
Boston College	3½	53½	at SYRACUSE
at NEW MEXICO ST.	4½	53½	Middle Tennessee
at OKLAHOMA	10½	36½	LSU
at DUKE	1½	54½	Wake Forest
at TCU	4½	57½	Cincinnati
Missouri	2½	58½	at ARKANSAS
Penn State	12½	56½	at RUTGERS
Oregon	6½	51½	at WASHINGTON
at MINNESOTA	1½	37½	Wisconsin
at TENNESSEE	2½	64½	Vanderbilt
at SOUTHERN MISS	6½	51½	Troy
at FLORIDA	1½	51½	Florida State
at WASHINGTON ST.	13½	42½	Oregon State
at VIRGINIA	10½	52½	Virginia Tech
at MICHIGAN STATE	3½	48½	Maryland
at ILLINOIS	6½	47½	Northwestern
at USC	21½	59½	UCLA
at NC STATE	7½	48½	North Carolina
Alabama	5½	47½	at AUBURN
SMU	13½	53½	at CAL
UNLV	8½	52½	at NEVADA
Notre Dame	32½	51½	at STANFORD
Fresno State	2½	46½	at SAN JOSE STATE
at HAWAII	8½	44½	Wyoming

GAMES ON TV

Thursday

Tuskegee at Alabama State, 2 p.m., SWAC TV
Navy at Memphis, 6:30 p.m., ESPN

Friday

Iowa at Nebraska, 11 a.m., CBS
Kent State at Northern Illinois, 11 a.m., CBSSN
Ohio at Buffalo, 11 a.m., ESPN
Ole Miss at Mississippi State, 11 a.m., ABC
Utah at Kansas, 11 a.m., ESPN
Air Force at Colorado State, 2 p.m., FS1
Georgia at Georgia Tech, 2:30 p.m., ABC
San Diego State at New Mexico, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN
Temple at North Texas, 2:30 p.m., ESPN
Boise State at Utah State, 3 p.m., CBS
Indiana at Purdue, 6:30 p.m., NBC
Texas A&M at Texas, 6:30 p.m., ABC
Arizona at Arizona State, 8 p.m., FOX

Saturday

Ball State at Miami (Ohio), 11 a.m., CBSSN
Clemson at South Carolina, 11 a.m., SEC
Colorado at Kansas State, 11 a.m., FS1
Houston at Baylor, 11 a.m., TNT
Iowa State at Oklahoma State, 11 a.m., ESPN
Kentucky at Louisville, 11 a.m., ACC
Miami at Pittsburgh, 11 a.m., ABC
Ohio State at Michigan, 11 a.m., FOX
Texas Tech at West Virginia, 11 a.m., ESPN
UCF at BYU, noon, ESPN2
Grambling at Southern, 1 p.m., NBC
Boston College at Syracuse, 2 p.m., CW
Cincinnati at TCU, 2:30 p.m., FOX
Kennesaw State at Liberty, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN
LSU at Oklahoma, 2:30 p.m., ABC
Oregon at Washington, 2:30 p.m., CBS

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Friday

No. 2 Indiana (11-0) at Purdue (2-9), 6:30 p.m.
No. 3 Texas A&M (11-0) at No. 16 Texas (8-3), 6:30 p.m.
No. 4 Georgia (10-1) vs. No. 23 Georgia Tech (9-2), at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, 2:30 p.m.
No. 6 Mississippi (10-1) at Mississippi St. (5-6), 11 a.m.
No. 14 Utah (9-2) at Kansas (5-6), 11 a.m.
No. 21 N. Texas (10-1) vs. Temple (5-6), 2:30 p.m.



Indiana offensive lineman Carter Smith and the Hoosiers can measure off a perfect regular season when they play at Purdue on Friday. [DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Penn State at Rutgers, 2:30 p.m., BTN
Vanderbilt at Tennessee, 2:30 p.m., ESPN
Wake Forest at Duke, 2:30 p.m., ACC
Wisconsin at Minnesota, 2:30 p.m., FS1
James Madison at Coastal Carolina, 2:45 p.m., ESPN
Missouri at Arkansas, 3 p.m., SEC
Florida State at Florida, 3:30 p.m., ESPN2
UCLA at USC, 3:30 p.m., NBC
Oregon State at Washington State, 5:30 p.m., CW

Maryland at Michigan State, 6 p.m., FS1
Virginia Tech at Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN
Alabama at Auburn, 6:30 p.m., ABC
Charlotte at Tulane, 6:30 p.m., ESPN
Northwestern at Illinois, 6:30 p.m., FOX
North Carolina at N.C. State, 6:30 p.m., ACC
SMU at California, 7 p.m., ESPN2
UNLV at Nevada, 8 p.m., CBSSN
Fresno State at San Jose State, 9:30 p.m., FS1
Notre Dame at Stanford, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

Saturday

No. 1 Ohio St. (11-0) at No. 15 Michigan (9-2), 11 a.m.
No. 5 Oregon (10-1) at Washington (8-3), 2:30 p.m.
No. 7 Texas Tech (10-1) at W. Virginia (4-7), 11 a.m.
No. 8 Oklahoma (9-2) vs. LSU (7-4), 2:30 p.m.
No. 9 Notre Dame (9-2) at Stanford (4-7), 9:30 p.m.
No. 10 Alabama (9-2) at Auburn (5-6), 6:30 p.m.
No. 11 BYU (10-1) vs. UCF (5-6), noon

No. 12 Vanderbilt (9-2) at No. 18 Tennessee (8-3), 2:30 p.m.
No. 13 Miami (9-2) at No. 24 Pittsburgh (8-3), 11 a.m.
No. 17 Virginia (9-2) vs. Virginia Tech (3-8), 6 p.m.
No. 19 Southern Cal (8-3) vs. UCLA (3-8), 6:30 p.m.
No. 20 James Madison (10-1) at Coastal Carolina (6-5), 2:45 p.m.
No. 22 Tulane (9-2) vs. Charlotte (1-10), 6:30 p.m.
No. 25 SMU (8-3) at California (6-5), 7 p.m.

AUBURN VERSION

Alabama at Auburn

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/Radio: ABC/FM-94.9, FM-100.3

Records: No. 10 Alabama (9-2, 6-1 SEC), Auburn (5-6, 1-6)

The series: Alabama leads 51-37-1.

Four-down territory

1. Deuce is loose: After 10 games of hoping for a glimpse of freshman quarterback Deuce Knight, Tiger fans got their wish last week and were not disappointed. Knight led the Tigers past Mercer with 162 rushing yards with four touchdowns and 239 passing yards with a pair of touchdowns. It was a big performance, but not against a top-tier team like Alabama. Knight may not start in the Iron Bowl, but his effort, along with his speed and athleticism, leaves the door open for him to see the field against the Tide. "That's a great idea. I'll take that back upstairs and see if we can get that done," Auburn interim coach D.J. Durkin said in a press conference this week.

2. Open offense: Part of the dissatisfaction with ex-coach Hugh Freeze was the lack of an exciting offense and scoring. During Freeze's last six games at the helm, Auburn scored 90 total points. With Derrick Nix calling the plays, the Tigers have scored 100 points in just two games. Receiver Cam Coleman's production has increased as well. In that same six-game stretch, Coleman had 325 yards. He had 208 total yards in the past two games. "He's a great football coach and he's a great person. That's a guy taking advantage of an opportunity," Durkin said of Nix.

3. Ready to run: Alabama's defense is among the best in the nation (No. 10 scoring defense), but it is susceptible to allowing big runs. Five times Alabama held opponents to under 100 yards, with four teams running for over 100 and two teams eclipsing 200 yards. Auburn's run game has caught fire of late, rushing for 200-plus yards in three of its last four games. "The running game will be critical. We need to establish our run game," Durkin said. "That's the thing we feel that we always need to do. It gives you an advantage in the game."

4. Tying down Ty: Alabama quarterback Ty Simpson is second in the SEC in passing and near the top in efficiency. There are



Cam Coleman, after bolstered production in Auburn's last two games, will seek even more Saturday against Alabama. [GEORGE WALKER IV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

moments when he holds onto the ball too long, which Auburn is hoping to capitalize on. Simpson has been strip-sacked five times this season. "He's played at a really high level," Durkin said. "We're here at the end of the season so you get a chance to watch the whole menu of all the games, and I think he does a really good job. He commands that offense. They give you multiple looks with shifts and motions, and you can tell his eyes are in the right place."

Key matchup

Auburn LB Xavier Atkins vs. Alabama LB Yhonzae Pierre

Where would Alabama and Auburn be without these defenders? Pierre has emerged as a star on the national stage with his six sacks, 10 tackles for loss and nine QB hurries. Atkins is having an

All-American season with seven sacks, 15 tackles for loss, a pair of forced fumbles and a team-leading 81 total tackles.

Player of the week

Cam Coleman, WR

The sophomore has been a bright spot in a miserable season, and he's stepped up his game the past two weeks. He leads the Tigers with 682 yards and five touchdowns.

By the numbers

1: Auburn is the only SEC team with a kickoff return for a touchdown this season.

1: The Tigers' 193 interception return yards are the most in the SEC.

4: Auburn is 4-1 this season and 14-5 the last three seasons when scoring

20-plus points in a game.

40: Auburn will honor Bo Jackson for the 40th anniversary of his 1985 Heisman Trophy season.

Prediction

Auburn 24, Alabama 20

Alabama has a spot in the SEC title game and playoffs hinging on a win Saturday. All Auburn has to look forward to is an insignificant bowl game with a win. Still, throwing a wrench in the Crimson Tide's postseason plans is enough to add some spice to the Iron Bowl. Auburn is always dangerous inside Jordan-Hare Stadium and always give Alabama fits. If something crazy can happen, it will happen in the Iron Bowl.

— Edwin Stanton



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ALABAMA VERSION

Alabama at Auburn

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: ABC/FM-93.9, FM-97.7, AM-920

Records: No. 10 Alabama (9-2, 6-1 SEC), Auburn (5-6, 1-6)

The series: Alabama leads 51-37-1.

Four-down territory

1. Tide has turned over: Turnovers weren't an issue for Alabama through the first nine games with just six total, among the best in the nation. The Crimson Tide has nearly matched that total the past two games with five, including three in the loss to Oklahoma. Ty Simpson had two interceptions against Eastern Illinois, though one was a last-second deep shot to the end zone at the end of the first half. Despite the troubles, Alabama has surrendered just 11 turnovers, tied for the fourth-fewest giveaways in the SEC and ranking 24th nationally.

2. Three of a kind: Alabama's defense must contend with three quarterback scenarios with Auburn. Deuce Knight's first start last week was historic with four rushing touchdowns and two passing TDs. Ashton Daniels has earned several starts as well as Jackson Arnold. It's not that big of a predicament, however. "We will anticipate the potential that we might see two or maybe three of them, but from our standpoint, I don't think it's really going to change how we see them and how we view them from a game plan standpoint," Alabama defensive coordinator Kane Wommack said.

3. Small step: For the first time in four games, Alabama went over 100 yards rushing. Granted, the performance came against Eastern Illinois, but the Crimson Tide will take anything that's positive from the run game these days. There wasn't an exceptional individual effort, though as five backs saw playing time in the rout. Alabama has just one player with more than 100 yards in a game, a 136-yard day for Jam Miller against Vanderbilt. Several players did see the field last week, which could lead to opportunity against an already stout Auburn defense.

4. Missing pieces: Alabama was without three offensive players last week. The Crimson Tide didn't need them against Eastern Illinois, but they are crucial for



Alabama linebackers Yhonzae Pierre and Deontae Lawson hope to have reason for many celebrations at Auburn on Saturday. [VASHA HUNT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

the Iron Bowl. DeBoer said top Tide receiver Germie Bernard and center Parker Brailsford should be available, but the status of tight end Josh Cuevas is unclear. If Cuevas can't go, Alabama has Kaleb Edwards and Marshall Pritchett as the top replacements. Backup Danny Lewis Jr. has dealt with a nagging injury for two weeks and did not play last week.

Key matchup

Alabama LB Yhonzae Pierre vs. Auburn LB Xavier Atkins

Where would Alabama and Auburn be without these defenders? Pierre has emerged as a star on the national stage with his six sacks, 10 tackles for loss and nine QB hurries. Atkins is having an All-American season with seven sacks, 15 tackles for loss, a pair of forced fumbles

and a team-leading 81 total tackles.

Player of the week

Ty Simpson, QB

Although his Heisman Trophy stock has tumbled, Simpson is still a great engineer of the Tide's offense. He'll have to block out a rowdy Jordan-Hare Stadium crowd and avoid hits from one of the best defenses in the SEC.

By the numbers

6: Alabama has scored six touchdowns on its opening drive this season.

7: Since 2019 there have been seven different head coaching matchups in the Iron Bowl.

7.6: Since Week 2, Alabama has allowed just 7.6 points per game in the second half.

49: The Tide is 73-of-149 (49%) on third down, third-best in the SEC and 14th in FBS.

Prediction

Auburn 24, Alabama 20

There is no question strange things happen in the Iron Bowl at Jordan-Hare Stadium. The past two meetings went Alabama's way on a wild set of circumstances, but it seems like Auburn usually benefits from the Jordan-Hare mystique. Given that Auburn has a burst of momentum under interim D.J. Durkin and Alabama has let its foot off the gas in recent SEC games, don't be surprised to see something crazy happen Saturday.

— Edwin Stanton



How much longer Lane Kiffin will be leading Ole Miss onto the football field has been quite the topic of conversation the last couple of weeks. [ROGELIO V. SOLIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Bryan Thomas Jr. and South Carolina will see if they show off some dance moves for the second straight year against Clemson. [SCOTT KINSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

This week's SEC, state games

NO. 6 Ole Miss at Mississippi State

When: 11 a.m. Friday

TV: ABC

Records: Ole Miss (10-1, 8-0 SEC), Mississippi State (5-6, 1-6)

The series: Ole Miss leads 67-47-6, Mississippi State trails 46-68-6.

The lowdown: Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin will announce whether he's staying in Oxford or searching for greener pastures the day after the Egg Bowl. ... The Egg Bowl dates to 1901. Mississippi State won the matchup 17-0 in Starkville. ... The Bulldogs need the win for more than bragging rights. They need it to become bowl eligible. ... Both Ole Miss and Mississippi State are coming off byes. The Rebels beat Florida 34-24 on Nov. 15, while the Bulldogs lost 49-27 at Missouri. ... Ole Miss is trying for just the second 11-win season in program history. The first was in 2023. ... Mississippi

State is trying to compile two conference wins for the first time since 2022.

No. 4 Georgia vs. No. 16 Georgia Tech

When: 2:30 p.m. Friday

Where: Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta

TV: ABC

Records: Georgia (10-1), Georgia Tech (9-2)

The series: Georgia leads 72-41-5.

The lowdown: According to CBS Sports, Georgia can reach the SEC title game if Auburn beats Alabama or Texas beats Texas A&M. If those scenarios don't happen, Georgia would need to win a three-way tiebreaker with Alabama and Ole Miss based on SEC opponent winning percentage. ... Georgia Tech is looking for its first 10-win season since

SEE SEC, G9

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 An advertisement for The Wood Floor Store. It features a group of four people sitting at a table in a room with a brick wall, watching a football game on a large screen. The screen shows a player in a white jersey with the number 87. The store's logo, which includes a tree and the text 'THE WOOD FLOOR STORE ESTABLISHED 2002 FLORENCE-AL', is prominently displayed in the foreground.

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Vanderbilt at Tennessee

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday

TV/radio: ESPN/ FM-97.9/AM-1340

Records: No. 12 Vanderbilt (9-2, 5-2 SEC), No. 18 Tennessee (8-3, 4-3)

The series: Tennessee leads 81-32-5.

Four-down territory

1. Pavia problem: Vandy quarterback Diego Pavia had an excellent season in 2024, but he's taken it to another level this year. He has the Commodores knocking on the door of a playoff spot while leading the team with 661 rushing yards and eight rushing TDs and 2,924 passing yards (No. 13 in the country) with 26 TDs (tied for fifth in the nation). "He has the ability to use his feet to make plays and he's throwing the ball extremely well right now," Tennessee coach Josh Heupel said.

2. Track meet: Tennessee is one of the nation's top scoring offenses, averaging 42 points per game (No. 4 in the nation). Vanderbilt is nipping at the Vols' heels, though, at 39 points per game (No. 9). It could add up to a back-and-forth offensive slugfest on Saturday. Vandy has been held to under 30 points just twice this season and coming away with a 1-1 mark. Tennessee lost both times it scored under 30 points.

3. Right time to peak: The Tennessee defense has played well all season, but particularly the past two games, allowing just two touchdowns. That's good news heading into a matchup with an offensive juggernaut in Vandy. Most of the recent success, Heupel said, is due to having everyone healthy as well as getting great play from younger players like freshmen linebackers Edwin Spillman and Jadon Perlotte and defensive lineman Caleb Herring. "It takes all 11 doing their job," Heupel said. "We have to be assignment sound and disciplined."

4. Tight spot: Eli Stowers is one of the most dangerous tight ends in the country. He leads Vanderbilt in receiving yards (705) and receptions (57). At 6-foot-4, 235 pounds, he's got great hands and speed. He could be an issue for the Vols. "He's got the ability to play in space, he recognizes and works off leverage very well, and plays very strong after making the catch," Heupel said.

Player of the week

Braylon Staley, WR

Chris Brazzell and Mike Matthews



Tennessee receiver Braylon Staley has been the Vols' top target this season and will be a focus Saturday against Vanderbilt. [MIKE STEWART/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

get most of the attention, but Staley is QB Joey Aguilar's top target with 58 receptions for 771 yards and six touchdowns.

Key matchup

Tennessee QB Joey Aguilar vs. Vanderbilt QB Diego Pavia

Two of the bests quarterbacks in the nation face off and there should be plenty of big plays to make the highlight reel. Aguilar has thrown for 300 yards four times this season and ranks No. 8 in the nation in passing yards. Pavia has become a household name, leading Vandy to new

heights with his arm and his legs.

By the numbers

2: Tennessee has forced 16 fumbles, which is second in the nation behind Texas Tech's 18.

3: Tennessee has won three straight over Vandy in Neyland Stadium.

3: The Vols have three receivers with 700-plus yards in the same season for the first time in school history (Chris Brazzell II 926, Braylon Staley 771, Mike Matthews 712).

2,000: Tennessee has over 2,000 rushing yards for five straight seasons, the

longest streak since 1989-94.

Prediction

Tennessee 35, Vanderbilt 31

The Vols have had the Commodores' number the past five meetings. This one has the potential to be a classic with Pavia and Aguilar leading the show. Both teams have the offensive firepower to win, but the Vols have the edge on defense. Tennessee should finish the regular season strong and will await its postseason fate feeling confident.

— Edwin Stanton



Nate Frazier and Georgia were able to enjoy a victory over Georgia Tech last season. Only after eight overtimes, of course. [MIKE STEWART/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

SEC

From Page G7

2014. Paul Johnson was the coach then. The Yellow Jackets finished with an 11-3 record. ... Georgia Tech was eliminated for ACC championship contention after being scrubbed 42-28 by Pitt last week. ... Georgia has won seven straight in the series and eight of 10. The Bulldogs won 44-42 in eight overtimes last season.

No. 3 Texas A&M at No. 17 Texas

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday

TV: ABC

Records: Texas A&M (11-0, 7-0 SEC), Texas (8-3, 5-2)

The series: Texas leads 77-37-5.

The lowdown: Texas A&M can clinch a spot in its first SEC title game with a win. The Aggies have been in the league since 2012. ... Texas, which is out of the running to make the SEC championship game, played for the league title last year, its first season in the conference. ... Texas A&M and Texas have met 13 times since 2000. The Longhorns have won 10 of those meetings, which includes last year's rivalry renewal 17-7. The Aggies came out victorious in 2006, 2007 and 2010. ... In last week's 52-37 win over Arkansas, Arch Manning became the first Texas quarterback to record a passing, rushing and receiving touchdown in the same game since Bobby Lane did so against Missouri in 1946. ... Texas A&M is looking for its first 12-0 regular season since 1992.

Kentucky at Louisville

When: 11 a.m. Saturday

TV: ACCN

Records: Kentucky (5-6), Louisville (7-4)

The series: Kentucky leads 20-16.

The lowdown: The outcome of the Governor's Cup tends to favor the road team. Kentucky leads the series 9-5 when played in Louisville. The Cardinals hold an 11-10 advantage when the matchups have occurred in Lexington. ... Louisville snapped a five-game skid in the series last season with a 41-14 win. ... The Wildcats are in need of a victory to become bowl eligible. ... The Cardinals enter on a three-game losing streak, which knocked them out of contention for the ACC championship. They fell to SMU 38-6 last week. ... Kentucky had a three-game win streak snapped thanks to a 45-17 blowout loss at Vanderbilt. Commodores quarterback Diego Pavia threw for 484 yards and five touchdowns. He also rushed for 48 yards and a score.

Clemson at South Carolina

When: 11 a.m. Saturday

TV: SECN

Records: Clemson (6-5), South Carolina (4-7)

The series: Clemson leads 73-44-4.

The lowdown: Clemson has won eight of the past 10 Palmetto Bowls, but South Carolina has won two of the past three. ... The Tigers became bowl eligible last week after a 45-10 win over FCS Furman.

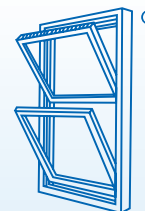
SEE SEC, G10

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Kendrick Law and Kentucky are hoping to keep their heads against an in-state rival to become bowl eligible Saturday. [GEORGE WALKER IV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



South Alabama will be looking for a positive sendoff to a season that has been rather disappointing. [SOUTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS]

SEC

From Page G9

... The Gamecocks, which snapped a five-game losing streak with a 51-7 win over Coastal Carolina, will miss a bowl game for the second time in three seasons. ... Clemson coach Dabo Swinney is 186-52 during his 18th season in charge. He is within one win of Joe Paterno and Urban Meyer for the fourth-most victories in the first 20 seasons as a head coach. ... The Palmetto Bowl was first played in 1896.

Western Kentucky at Jacksonville State

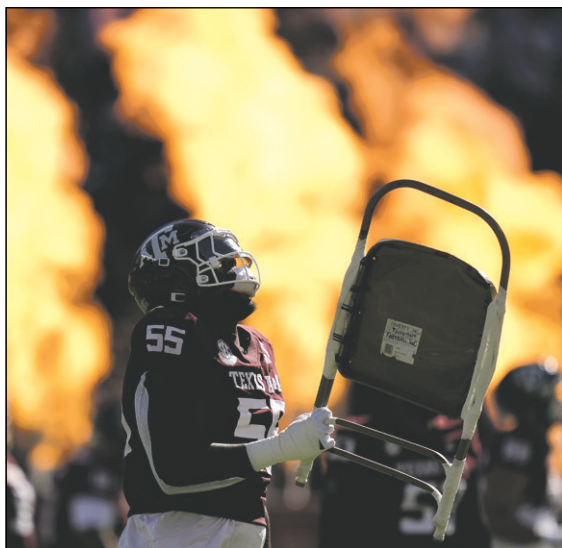
When: 1 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN+

Records: Western Kentucky (8-3, 6-1 Conference USA), Jacksonville State (7-4, 6-1)

The series: Western Kentucky leads 5-3.

The lowdown: The winner will clinch a spot in the CUSA championship game and likely host. ... WKU, Jax State and Kennesaw State are in a three-way tie for first place entering the regular-season finales. Kennesaw closes with a trip to Liberty. ... If Jax State and Kennesaw both lose, Jax State goes to the title game due to a head-to-head win. ... If Western Kentucky and Kennesaw both lose, there is no head-to-head tiebreaker. ... JSU could have clinched last weekend but lost 27-21 at Florida International. ... The Gamecocks suffered two fourth-quarter



Ar'Maj Reed-Adams and Texas A&M want to make sure Texas doesn't pull out the chair from under them for a possible trip to the SEC championship game. [SAM CRAFT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

turnovers in FIU territory. ... Western Kentucky is coming off a 13-10 loss at LSU. The Hilltoppers g out 152 yards offense and scored their touchdown on a 71-yard fumble return. ... Jax State and Western also played each other consecutive weeks last year. The Hilltoppers won 19-17 before the Gamecocks won the CUSA title 52-12.

UAB at Tulsa

When: 2 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN+

Records: UAB (3-8, 1-6 American), Tulsa (4-7, 1-6)



After stumbling at Florida International, Caden Creel and Jacksonville State will try to leap past other conference foes and into the CUSA championship game. [JACKSONVILLE STATE ATHLETICS]

The series: Tulsa leads 4-1.

The lowdown: UAB's already dismal season took another downturn in the hours before last week's 48-18 loss to South Florida. Redshirt freshman Daniel Mincey was arrested and after allegedly stabbing two of his teammates hours before kickoff. ... The Blazers are capping a fourth straight losing season. They had six straight winning seasons 2017-22 after rekindling the program. ... The Golden Hurricane is finishing its fifth straight winning season. ... Tulsa has won each of the last two weekends, 31-14 at Oregon State two weeks ago and 26-25

at Army last week. ... The Hurricane has one home win this year, 35-7 over Abilene Christian in the season opener.

South Alabama at Texas State

When: 2 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN+

Records: South Alabama (4-7, 3-4 Sun Belt), Texas State (5-6, 2-5)

The series: Texas State leads 6-4.

The lowdown: Texas State bids adieu to the Sun Belt before joining the Pac-12 next season. ... The Bobcats are finishing



UAB's success has taken a dive in recent seasons. [SOUTH FLORIDA ATHLETICS]



Missouri fans will certainly be expecting the Tigers to help Arkansas complete another winless SEC campaign. [L.G. PATTERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Oklahoma fans will be expecting the Sooners to go 1-0 this week. That means beating LSU. [ALONZO ADAMS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

SEC

From Page G10

their 13th Sun Belt season, of which 11 have had losing league records. Texas State went 5-3 in Sun Belt play in 2014 (under Dennis Franchione) and 5-3 last year (under G.J. Kinne). ... South Alabama is ending a three-year streak of winning seasons. The Jags' first NCAA-recognized team was in 2012, and their first winning year was 2022. ... With last week's 42-35 win over Southern

Miss, USA has won three of its last four games. ... Texas State has also won two straight after last week's 31-14 win over Louisiana-Monroe.

Troy at Southern Miss

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN+

Records: Southern Miss (7-4, 5-2 Sun Belt), Troy (7-4, 5-2)

The series: USM leads 8-6.

The lowdown: The winner will be the Sun Belt West champion and seal a berth in the league championship game at No.

20 James Madison. ... Southern Miss has lost two straight, 41-14 at home to Texas State and 42-35 last week at South Alabama. ... The Golden Eagles last won a division title in 2015, in Conference USA. They last won a league title in 2011, in Conference USA. ... Troy snapped out of a two-game funk with last week's 31-19 home win over Georgia State. ... The Trojans, after consecutive games with sub-200 yards offense, rolled up 423 on Georgia State. ... Goose Crowder, in his second game back after an injury, was 27-of-43 passing for 361

yards and four touchdowns.

LSU at No. 8 Oklahoma

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday

TV: ABC

Records: LSU (7-4, 3-4 SEC), Oklahoma (9-2, 5-2)

The series: LSU leads 3-1.

The lowdown: LSU has won three straight in the series — 37-17 last season, 63-28 in the 2019 Peach Bowl and 21-14 for the 2003 season national

SEE SEC, G13

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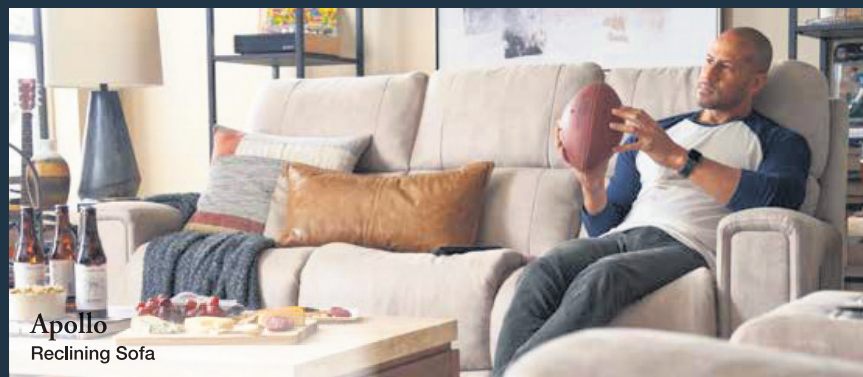
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COLUMN

Iron Bowl has bedlam, voodoo potential

By Doug Segrest
For GameDay

Just two weeks ago, Alabama seemed a virtual lock for the College Football Playoff. Auburn was focused on getting the season over and getting a fresh reset under a new regime.

Then Oklahoma bullied its way into Tuscaloosa while, across the state, Ashton Daniels and Deuce Knight came of age.

Now, it's voodoo season.

And no one does voodoo better than Auburn. At night. In Jordan-Hare Stadium, with the temperatures dropping, the wind howling and a chance to wreck a season beckoning for another dramatic finish.

Because, for Alabama, this IS the season. Winning the Iron Bowl doesn't salvage the Crimson Tide, it merely prolongs opportunity. An Iron Bowl victory punches the ticket to Atlanta for the SEC championship game.

So, the stakes are clear.

Alabama must win Saturday. And probably again a week later. That's the difference between missing out on the CFP again or, at the least, getting a first-round home date or resecurng a first-round bye that seemed so possible not so long ago.

Resurgent Auburn is playing merely for the possibility of a lower-tier bowl date. But while there's a pall over Alabama's fortunes, Auburn's future looks brighter than it has in years.

Interim coach D.J. Durkin has the chance for a final addition to the résumé with an upset win thanks to a resurgent offense and two quarterbacks who now provide optimism instead of gloom.

History still says Alabama wins. Teams with losing records put up a fight but rarely pull it off. Expect this one to go to the wire.

But keep this in mind: This is merely the main course to a holiday weekend of rivalries.

Looking ahead

• **Ole Miss at Mississippi State (11 a.m. Friday on ABC):** The Lane Kiffin sweepstakes decision may come to a quick conclusion after the game. Just don't count on it. All the pressure is on Ole Miss, which can't afford a bad loss.



Auburn fans will make it heavily rain toilet paper at Toomer's Corner — if the Tigers pull off an upset of Alabama on Saturday. [BUTCH DILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

• **Georgia vs. Georgia Tech (2:30 p.m. Friday on ABC):** Georgia is a CFP lock, right? Probably so. But a loss in Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium solidifies Tech's case and could open up an extra slot for the ACC, which would mean one less SEC team in the field.

• **Texas A&M at Texas (6:30 p.m. Friday on ABC):** The Aggies head to Atlanta with a victory. But Texas keeps its longshot CFP hopes alive with the upset.

• **Vanderbilt at Tennessee (2:30 p.m. Saturday on ABC):** We'll say it clearly. Vanderbilt is a playoff-worthy team. But the Commodores need a win in Knoxville and a lot of help to make it.

• **LSU at Oklahoma (2:30 p.m. Saturday on ABC):** This was supposed to be a coronation for LSU. Instead, the Tigers try to derail Oklahoma's post-season aspirations. Unfortunately, LSU doesn't have the offense to challenge the Sooners.

• **Missouri at Arkansas (2:30 p.m. Saturday on SEC Network):** An under-the-radar showdown that benefits Missouri if other dominoes fall.

• **Alabama at Auburn (6:30 p.m. Saturday on ABC):** You know the stakes. Prepare for bedlam.

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

SEC

From Page G11

championship. Oklahoma beat the Tigers 35-0 in the Sugar Bowl for the 1949 season. ... LSU is on a two-game win streak, although both were one-score affairs. The Tigers bested two-win Arkansas 23-22 and then topped Conference USA member Western Kentucky 13-10. ... The Sooners are winners of three straight, beating ranked Tennessee, Alabama and Missouri. ... Oklahoma is likely playing for a spot in the College Football Playoff. ... Sooners kicker Tate Sandell has made 22 straight field goals, including 15 of 40 yards or more.

Missouri at Arkansas

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday

TV: SECN

Records: Missouri (7-4, 3-4 SEC), Arkansas (2-9, 0-7)

The series: Missouri leads 12-4.

The lowdown: This game is known as the "Battle Line Rivalry." The award is a silver trophy in the outline of Missouri and Arkansas. The winner gets to put the dividing line in its school color. ... Since the Tigers joined the SEC in 2012, they have won nine of 11 meetings, including



Troy will certainly have a more boisterous postgame locker room should it win on Saturday. [TROY ATHLETICS]

the last three. The Razorbacks came out victorious in 2015 and 2021. ... Missouri is 2-4 after beginning the season with five straight wins. It managed to beat Auburn 23-17 in double overtime on Oct. 18 and Mississippi State 49-27 on Nov. 15. Both Auburn and Mississippi need to win this week to become bowl eligible. ... Arkansas is trying to avoid its third winless SEC campaign. The Razorbacks went completely defeated in league play in 2018-19.



Florida State coach Mike Norvell avoided the fate Billy Napier suffered at Florida. [COLIN HACKLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Florida State at Florida

When: 3:30 p.m. Saturday

TV: ESPN2

Records: Florida State (5-6), Florida (3-8)

The series: Florida leads 38-28-2.

The lowdown: Known — how well? — as the Sunshine Showdown. ... Florida State, after a 2-10 season last year, is trying to become bowl eligible. ... Florida is trying to match its win total from 2017. That was the program's fewest victories going 0-10-1

in 1979 under Charley Pell. ... Seminoles coach Mike Norvell is getting at least one more season in charge. It was announced Sunday that he was returning with "fundamental changes" coming. Florida State is 7-17 since winning the ACC in 2023. ... Florida is coming off a 31-11 loss to Tennessee. It was the first time the Vols beat the Gators in the Swamp since 2003. ... Florida State lost 21-11 at N.C. State last week.

— A. Stacy Long and David Glovach

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COLLEGE STANDINGS

(Through Nov. 22 games)

American Athletic Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
North Texas	6	1	330 203	10	1	509 265
Tulane	6	1	217 167	9	2	317 273
Navy	6	1	233 192	8	2	329 279
South Florida	5	2	337 191	8	3	464 277
East Carolina	5	2	236 180	7	4	360 241
Memphis	4	3	255 178	8	3	398 242
UTSA	4	3	256 207	6	5	381 328
Army	3	4	155 156	5	5	226 224
Temple	3	4	185 200	5	6	309 304
FAU	3	4	215 255	4	7	351 394
Rice	2	5	137 237	5	6	235 335
Tulsa	1	6	155 262	4	7	254 316
UAB	1	6	160 271	3	8	286 435
Charlotte	0	7	113 285	1	10	172 409

Atlantic Coast Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Virginia	6	1	215 155	9	2	371 233
Pittsburgh	6	1	269 167	8	3	414 261
SMU	6	1	221 104	8	3	360 210
Georgia Tech	6	2	257 228	9	2	388 284
Miami	5	2	224 113	9	2	371 159
Duke	5	2	241 188	6	5	366 321
Wake Forest	4	3	147 162	8	3	290 209
Louisville	4	4	202 205	7	4	321 253
Clemson	4	4	234 188	6	5	316 231
California	3	4	164 217	6	5	260 283
N.C. State	3	4	198 233	6	5	320 327
Stanford	3	5	153 222	4	7	206 301
North Carolina	2	5	128 161	4	7	212 252
Virginia Tech	2	5	155 216	3	8	250 335
Florida St.	2	6	201 194	5	6	375 224
Syracuse	1	6	104 226	3	8	230 385
Boston College	0	7	132 266	1	10	271 381

Big 12 Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
BYU	7	1	237 176	10	1	367 192
Texas Tech	7	1	295 100	10	1	469 135
Utah	6	2	325 178	9	2	462 203
Arizona St.	6	2	197 195	8	3	289 253
Arizona	5	3	257 194	8	3	368 220
Houston	5	3	220 205	8	3	309 238
Cincinnati	5	3	237 213	7	4	358 253
Iowa St.	4	4	214 193	7	4	309 229
TCU	4	4	199 220	7	4	324 279
Kansas St.	4	4	253 224	5	6	329 306
Baylor	3	5	235 270	5	6	349 360
Kansas	3	5	208 234	5	6	316 290
UCF	2	6	152 216	5	6	271 242
West Virginia	2	6	175 277	4	7	261 321
Colorado	1	7	149 288	3	8	237 342
Oklahoma St.	0	8	115 285	1	10	157 380

Big Sky Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Montana St.	8	0	363 110	10	2	458 206
Montana	7	1	318 201	11	1	490 282
UC Davis	6	2	252 196	8	3	343 324
Sacramento St.	5	3	291 231	7	5	405 315
Idaho St.	5	3	229 211	6	6	396 327
N. Arizona	4	4	240 234	7	5	380 375
E. Washington	4	4	180 232	5	7	281 362
Cal Poly	2	6	207 256	4	8	330 378
Idaho	4	4	158 172	5	7	199 288
N. Colorado	2	6	166 270	4	8	243 341
Weber St.	2	6	184 302	4	8	277 460
Portland St.	1	7	171 328	1	11	194 512

Big South-OVC Association

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Tennessee Tech	8	0	290 139	11	1	482 212
UT Martin	6	2	204 139	6	6	248 287
Gardner-Webb	5	3	208 188	7	5	330 357
L'wood (Mo.)	5	3	241 204	6	6	297 324
Chas. Southern	4	4	158 172	5	7	199 288
SE Missouri	3	5	179 198	4	8	278 361
W. Illinois	3	5	185 241	4	8	277 417
E. Illinois	2	6	142 200	3	9	210 350
Tennessee St.	0	8	83 209	2	10	155 319

Big Ten Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Indiana	8	0	320 105	11	0	476 128
Ohio St.	8	0	296 68	11	0	417 84
Oregon	7	1	263 141	10	1	432 164
Michigan	7	1	212 153	9	2	322 197
Southern Cal	6	2	253 192	8	3	409 259
Washington	5	3	224 152	8	3	391 207
Iowa	5	3	213 136	7	4	307 166



South Florida fans hope the Bulls can polish off a nine-win regular season vs, Rice on Saturday. [GAIL BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Illinois	4	4	197 244	7	4	332 266
Nebraska	4	4	188 212	7	4	335 236
Minnesota	4	4	159 237	6	5	262 274
Northwestern	4	4	170 194	6	5	257 231
UCLA	3	5	165 264	3	8	208 372
Penn St.	2	6	209 204	5	6	341 221
Rutgers	2	6	169 284	5	6	308 342
Wisconsin	2	6	74 194	4	7	147 242
Maryland	1	7	151 247	4	7	254 280
Michigan St.	0	8	151 261	3	8	257 331
Purdue	0	8	127 253	2	9	222 326

Coastal Athletic Association

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Rhode Island	8	0	313 141	10	2	385 230
Villanova	7	1	273 170	9	2	337 249
Monmouth (N.J.)	6	2	305 186	9	3	480 333
New Hampshire	6	2	225 169	8	4	320 256
William & Mary	6	2	262 195	7	5	354 308
Maine	5	3	236 192	6	6	290 291
Elon	4	4	220 188	6	6	345 297
Stony Brook	4	4	233 209	6	6	336 309
Towson	4	4	222 197	6	6	321 301
Campbell	2	6	224 248	2	10	296 430
NC A&T	2	6	182 347	2	10	246 523
Bryant	1	7	179 284	3	9	270 364
Albany (N.Y.)	1	7	132 282	2	10	201 387
Hampton	0	8	126 324	2	10	215 440

Conference USA

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Kennesaw St.	6	1	228 159	8	3	301 259
W. Kentucky	6	1	206 164	8	3	323 244
Jacksonville St.	6	1	211 177	7	4	325 287
Missouri St.	5	2	189 167	7	4	275 298

FIU	4	3	205 195	6	5	295 317
Louisiana Tech	4	3	226 155	6	5	290 226
Delaware	3	4	196 218	5	6	296 359
Liberty	3	4	204 188	4	7	265 270
New Mexico St.	2	5	166 203	4	7	235 300
Middle Tenn.	1	6	172 216	2	9	238 347
Sam Houston St.	1	6	135 251	2	9	197 398
UTEP	1	6	156 201	2	9	249 304

Ivy League

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
Yale	6	1	208 124	8	2	296 172
Harvard	6	1	245 143	9	1	394 181
Dartmouth	4	3	172 152	7	3	264 213
Penn	4	3	189 191	6	4	271 265
Cornell	3	4	149 186	4	6	210 260
Brown	2	5	162 230	5	5	265 270
Princeton	2	5	121 136	3	7	208 244
Columbia	1	6	116 200	2	8	156 279

Mid-American Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
W. Michigan	6	1	170 95	7	4	253 203
Cent. Michigan	5	2	198 119	7	4	283 251
Ohio	5	2	204 133	7	4	313 249
Toledo	5	2	230 70	7	4	358 143
Miami (Ohio)	5	2	175 136	6	5	268 239
Buffalo	4	3	173 181	5	6	262 251
Akron	4	4	188 213	5	7	267 329
Ball St.	3	4	104 180	4	7	166 313
E. Michigan	3	4	161 167	4	7	268 326
Kent St.	3	4	175 183	4	7	220 372
N. Illinois	2	5	133 176	3	8	174 257
Bowling Green	1	6	115 183	3	8	201 277

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
S.C. State	5	0	191 106	9	3	381 316
Delaware St.	4	1	119 99	8	4	387 297
N.C. Central	3	2	152 125	8	4	405 308
Howard	2	3	116 145	5	7	238 295
Morgan St.	1	4	118 144	4	8	280 319
Norfolk St.	0	5	111 188	1	11	251 427

Missouri Valley Conference

	Conference			All Games		
	WL	PF	PA	WL	PF	PA
N. Dakota St.	8	0	306 116	12	0	506 140
South Dakota	6	2	214 213	8	4	300 326
Illinois St.	5	3	243 212	8	4	367 326
Youngstown St.	5	3	299 259	8	4	434 360

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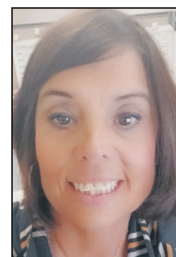
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Miami
Arizona State

Auburn
Vanderbilt
Texas A&M
Florida
Arkansas
Kentucky
South Carolina
Michigan
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Last week
Season record

8-2
94-36

8-2
88-42

9-1
87-43

8-2
86-44

9-1
84-46

4-6
69-61

8-2
68-62

4-6
67-63

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

FRIDAY, DEC. 5
Conference USA: No. 2 seed at No. 1 seed, 6 p.m. (CBSSN)
Sun Belt: West champion at James Madison, 6 p.m. (ESPN)

American: No. 2 seed at No. 1 seed, 7 p.m. (ABC)
Mountain West: No. 2 seed at No. 1 seed, 7 p.m. (FOX)

SATURDAY, DEC. 6
Big 12: Arlington, Texas, 11 a.m. (ABC)
Mid-American: Detroit, 11 a.m. (ESPN)

SWAC: Prairie View A&M at Jackson State, 1 p.m. (ESPN2)
SEC: Atlanta, 3 p.m. (ABC)
ACC: Charlotte, N.C., 7 p.m. (ABC)
Big Ten: Indianapolis, 7 p.m. (FOX)

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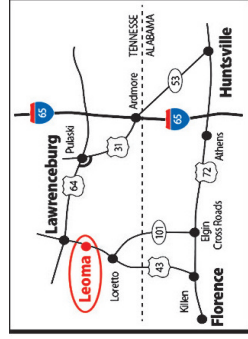
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