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CREDITS

The 2023 68 Ventures Bowl game program is a publication of the 68 Ventures Bowl.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Mobile County Commissioners..... 3
- Mayor of Mobile Welcome..... 4
- Today's Game..... 5
- 25 Years of Shining A Light 12
- 68 Ventures Bowl Recap 14
- 68 Ventures Bowl Scores 16
- 68 Ventures Bowl Records 18
- Hancock Whitney Stadium..... 22
- Art Contest..... 84
- 68 Ventures Bowl Players in the NFL..... 88
- 68 Ventures Bowl Staff 92
- Mobile County Spelling Bee..... 94
- Extra Yard For Teachers 97
- 68 Ventures Bowl Spansors 98

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

- University of South Alabama Profile 28
- University of South Alabama Athletics 31
- Head Coach..... 33
- Coaching Staff 35
- Team Statistics 37
- Season in Review..... 39
- Numerical Roster 44
- Depth Chart..... 46
- Players..... 47

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

- Eastern Michigan University Profile 55
- Eastern Michigan University Athletics 56
- Head Coach 58
- Coaching Staff 61
- Team Statistics 65
- Season in Review..... 66
- Numerical Roster 72
- Depth Chart..... 77
- Players..... 78





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68 VENTURES BOWL

MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA



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Commissioner, District 2



RANDALL DUEITT
Commissioner, District 3



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 8, 2023



Dear Friends,

As mayor of Mobile, I am honored to welcome you to the Port City and the 68 Ventures Bowl. Our community is excited to host the players, faculty, families and fans of the Eastern Michigan Eagles and the South Alabama Jaguars.

To our hometown Jags, your journey to this moment has made "Our City" beam with pride. Mobilians are ready to cheer you on as you showcase your talent and dedication on the national stage. To Eastern Michigan fans, we are very excited to have you here and I know Mobilians will welcome you with open arms.

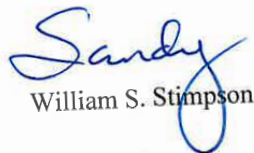
To newcomers and returning visitors, I hope you take this opportunity to see what makes Mobile, Alabama, so special. While you're here, take a stroll along our picturesque waterfront, savor the flavors of our local cuisine, and immerse yourself in the unique blend of history and cultures Mobile has to offer. We are the oldest city in Alabama, and our storied past predates our nation's founding.

From our unrivaled waterways and bustling entertainment district to historical sites like Fort Conde and the Africatown Heritage House, there is something here for every visitor to enjoy, learn from and return to see again. Wherever you choose to go, you'll find Mobilians who are happy you're here. I am one of them.

Here in the birthplace of Mardi Gras, we take having a good time seriously. So, no matter where your journey takes you, make sure you're having fun. We like to say that Mobile was "Born to Celebrate." No matter what team you're here to cheer for, your presence adds to the excitement and camaraderie that will make the first ever 68 Ventures Bowl truly special. Let this be a celebration of talent, teamwork, our communities, and our shared love of football.

Again, welcome to Mobile. We hope you enjoy the game and enjoy yourself while you're here as our guest. Come back to visit us again soon!

Sincerely,


William S. Stimpson

City of Mobile | P.O. Box 1827 Mobile, Alabama 36633 | www.cityofmobile.org



SOUTH ALABAMA & EASTERN MICHIGAN MEET IN 25TH ANNUAL 68 VENTURES BOWL

By Brian Henry

Eastern Michigan and South Alabama will meet in the 25th annual 68 Ventures Bowl tonight at Hancock Whitney Stadium.

EMU is making its second appearance at the 68 Ventures Bowl. South Alabama is playing in the game in its home city for the first time.

The game will be televised by ESPN with kickoff set for 6:00 p.m. (CT). Taylor Zarzour (play-by-play), Matt Stinchcomb (analyst) and Alyssa Lang (sideline reporter) will call the game to a national audience.

The game will also air on the 68 Ventures Bowl Radio Network with Brad Law calling his first 68 Ventures Bowl. Bart Hyche will serve as the analyst and Randy Kennedy will be on the sidelines for his fifth national broadcast of the game. Mike Grace will be the executive producer for the 24th season.

SERIES HISTORY

This will be the first-ever meeting on the football field between South Alabama and Eastern Michigan.

SOUTH ALABAMA BOWL HISTORY

The appearance in the 68 Ventures Bowl by South Alabama will be its first at the Mobile game and the fourth overall. They are 0-3 after playing in the 2014 Camelia Bowl, the 2016 Arizona Bowl and last season's New Orleans Bowl.

It is also the first time in program history the Jags will make bowl game appearances in consecutive seasons.

SUN BELT BOWLING IN 2023

A conference-record and national-best 12 Sun Belt teams will participate in Bowl Season in 2023, outpacing the totals from the ACC (11), Big Ten (9), Big 12 (9), SEC (9) and Pac-12 (8). No other non-autonomy conference has more than seven Bowl Season representatives.

The Sun Belt—which opened the season with four-straight weeks with a victory over an autonomy five foe—once again captured national attention during the 2023 campaign. In addition to bettering the conference-record of seven Bowl Season participants and tying the conference-record of four wins over autonomy five opponents set in 2022, the Sun Belt also hosted ESPN's College GameDay for the second time in as many seasons—App State in 2022 and James Madison in 2023.

For the sixth-straight season, the conference boasts multiple 10-win teams—and for the third-straight year had multiple teams reach the mark during the regular season.

6 of the 12 teams will be in action on Saturday, Dec. 23

SUN BELT BOWL HISTORY

Prior to the start of 2023 Bowl Season, Sun Belt Conference schools have compiled a 39-30 record in postseason play since football was added in 2001.

South Alabama is the ninth different SBC member to play in the 68 Ventures Bowl.



MID-AMERICAN STANDINGS

WEST	Conf. Pct.	All	Pct.
Toledo	8-0 1.000	11-2	.846
Northern Illinois	5-3 .625	6-6	.500
Eastern Michigan	4-4 .500	6-6	.500
Central Michigan	3-5 .375	5-7	.417
Western Michigan	3-5 .375	4-8	.333
Ball State	3-5 .375	4-8	.333

EAST	Conf. Pct.	All	Pct.
Miami	7-1 .875	11-2	.846
Ohio	6-2 .750	9-3	.750
Bowling Green	5-3 .625	7-5	.583
Buffalo	3-5 .375	3-9	.250
Akron	1-7 .125	2-10	.167
Kent State	0-8 .000	1-11	.083



SUN BELT STANDINGS

WEST	Conf. Pct.	All	Pct.
Troy	7-1 .875	11-2	.846
Texas State	4-4 .500	7-5	.583
Arkansas State	4-4 .500	6-6	.500
South Alabama	4-4 .500	6-6	.500
Louisiana	3-5 .375	6-6	.500
Southern Miss	2-6 .250	3-9	.250
ULM	0-8 .000	2-10	.167

EAST	Conf. Pct.	All	Pct.
James Madison	7-1 .875	11-1	.917
App State	6-2 .750	8-5	.615
Coastal Carolina	5-3 .625	7-5	.583
Old Dominion	5-3 .625	6-6	.500
Georgia Southern	3-5 .375	6-6	.500
Georgia State	3-5 .375	6-6	.500
Marshall	3-5 .375	6-6	.500



SUN BELT IN MOBILE

South Alabama's appearance in the 68 Ventures Bowl is the 14th by a Sun Belt member in Mobile. While it is the first for the Jaguars, the conference is 9-4 all-time with Appalachian State, Arkansas State, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Louisiana, Middle Tennessee, Southern Miss and Troy representing the league since the partnership began in the 2009 season (Jan. 6, 2010 game date).

EASTERN MICHIGAN BOWL HISTORY

Eastern Michigan is making its seventh bowl appearance and its sixth in the last eight seasons. The Eagles are 2-4 all-time following last season's 41-27 win over San Jose State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

They are playing in 68 Ventures Bowl for the second time in three seasons. EMU fell to Liberty, 56-20, in the 2021 Lending Tree Bowl – the first time it was played in Hancock Whitney Stadium.

No MAC school has appeared in more bowl games since 2016 than Eastern Michigan. The Eagles have also participated in the 2016 Bahamas, 2018 Camelia, 2019 Quick Lane Bowls. They also won the 1987 California Raisin Bowl.

Additionally, Eastern earned bowl eligibility for the third consecutive season in 2023, the first such occurrence in program history.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE BOWLING IN 2023

A total of six programs from the Mid-American Conference accepted bowl invitations for 2023.

This marks the eighth time in MAC history to have six or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023) in a single-season. This also marks the 14th time in MAC history to have five or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023) in a single-season.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE BOWL HISTORY

Current members of the MAC have combined for 127 bowl appearances entering 2023 Bowl Season. The teams have gone 47-80 all-time.

MAC IN MOBILE

The MAC representative has gone 9-11 all-time in Mobile. The nine victories are tied with the Sun Belt Conference for the most by any single conference in the previous 24 68 Ventures Bowls.

Two years ago, Eastern Michigan became the 12th different MAC team to be invited to Mobile.

A MAC school has not won in Mobile since Toledo on Jan. 4, 2015 – a span of six-consecutive losses.

Eastern Michigan's Brian Dooley Chosen For 2023 Disney Spirit Award Offensive Lineman Donated Scholarship to Teammate Undergoing Financial Hardships

Helping one's teammate is part of being a college football player. But Eastern Michigan offensive lineman Brian Dooley took that to another level, donating his scholarship to a teammate, an incredibly selfless act that earned him the 2023 Disney Spirit Award.

Dooley captured national attention earlier this season at EMU when he donated his football scholarship to one of his teammates. It was a significant gesture by Dooley given that walk-on Zack Conti had been working multiple jobs and donating blood plasma for money to pay for college. Conti's struggles have been further complicated by the fact that his mother has been fighting polycystic kidney disease and needs a transplant.

"At Walt Disney World we love the amazing stories that come out of college football every year," said Adam Ball, vice president of ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. "And we also love the challenge of trying to find one, like Brian Dooley's, that embodies the indomitable spirit that is at the core of this very special award."

Since 1996 the Disney Spirit Award has been presented every year by Walt Disney World Resort to the most inspirational figures in college football. The award was created to honor people like



Dooley who demonstrate an indomitable spirit and a willingness to help others.

Dooley, whose mother is a nurse and father is a truck driver, is in his final season at Eastern Michigan. He and his family are now paying for college themselves. Dooley said the decision to donate his scholarship was an easy one and he hopes it inspires others to help out in their communities.



"I think it's just the beginning. If people see what I've done they might take it to a whole new level," said Dooley. "I wish I could do more. To me it wasn't that big of a deal what I did. I was just doing it for one of my brothers. So, hopefully I can do a lot more now."

Dooley, a graduate student majoring in criminal justice, has routinely found ways to lift others around him. As a team captain, he has let his teammates take his place during the pregame coin toss, giving them the chance to represent the team. Off the field, he has performed more than 100 hours of community service, including reading to young students, building and refurbishing parks and participating in EMU's "Victory Day," an event supporting those with cognitive and physical impairments.

Dooley is the 28th recipient of the Disney Spirit Award and the first from Eastern Michigan University. He was presented with the trophy during the "Home Depot College Football Awards" on ESPN on Dec. 8.



HIGH SCORING GAMES COME WITH THE TERRITORY IN MOBILE

Mobile has had a penchant for high-scoring games. Through 24 games, the teams have combined for 1,519 total points, an average of 63.3 points per game. The average score has been 40.9-22.4.

The lowest winning score came in 2013 when Arkansas State defeated Kent State 17-13.

SHUTOUTS RARE IN LOWER ALABAMA

There has been just one shutout in the 24 previous 68Ventures Bowls, with that occurring six years ago when App State defeated Toledo 34-0 in 2017. Two other times, the losing team failed to reach double digits – Ohio in 2007 and Bowling Green in 2008 – with both squads managing just seven points.

TIGHT BALL GAMES

There have been six games decided by 7 points or less and three of those by 3-points or fewer.

OVERTIME HAS HAPPENED TWICE BUT NOT SINCE 2010

There have been two overtime games in 68Ventures Bowl history. Arguably the most exciting contest in the 24-year history of

the game happened in 2001 when Marshall outlasted East Carolina, 64-61, in double overtime in the highest-scoring bowl game in NCAA history. Eight years later Central Michigan defeated Troy, 44-41, also in double overtime

HOME SWEET HOME

South Alabama’s participation in this year’s 68Ventures Bowl marks the first time the Jaguars have played in their home stadium for a postseason game. It is the 70th time in bowl history for a school to play on its home field and the first since Hawaii in the 2019 Hawaii Bowl. Teams are 39-30 when playing on their home field.

There are actually two teams playing their bowl game on their home field this year, as Memphis is playing in the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 29.

SWEET HOME ALABAMA

With South Alabama in the game for the first time, it comes as no surprise that 58 players from Alabama are on the Jaguars’ roster, including 28 with direct ties to the Mobile area.

The lone Alabamian on the EMU roster is wide receiver J.B. Mitchell, III. The red-shirt junior is from Alabaster and played at Thompson HS.

SUN BELT VS. MAC

Entering the 2023 Bowl Season, the Sun Belt Conference and Mid-American Conference have met in a bowl game 26 times, with the SBC holding a 15-11 head-to-head lead.

Prior to Buffalo’s win over Georgia Southern in last year’s Camelia Bowl, the SBC had won the last 10 postseason matchups dating back to 2015. The MAC held a 10-5 record from 2004-14.

The South Alabama-Eastern Michigan matchup is one of four during 2023 Bowl Season pitting a Sun Belt Conference school against one from the Mid-American Conference.

Bowl	Date	Sun Belt school	MAC school
Myrtle Beach	Dec. 16	Georgia Southern	Ohio
Cure	Dec. 16	Appalachian State	Miami (Ohio)
Camelia	Dec. 23	Arkansas State	Northern Illinois
68 Ventures	Dec. 23	South Alabama	Eastern Michigan

BOWL GAME AGES

Bowl	First Game
Rose	1902
Orange	1935
Sugar	1935
Sun	1936
Cotton	1937
Gator	1946
Citrus	1947
Liberty	1957
Peach	1968
Fiesta	1971
Independence	1976
Holiday	1978
ReliaQuest	1986
Guaranteed Rate	1989
Pop Tarts	1990
Las Vegas	1992
Alamo	1993
Potato	1997
Music City	1998
68 Ventures	1999
New Orleans	2001
Hawaii	2002
Duke’s Mayo	2002
Armed Forces	2003
Birmingham	2006
New Mexico	2006
Texas	2006
Gasparilla	2008
Military	2008
Pinstripe	2010
First Responder	2011
Boca Raton	2014
Camelia	2014
Quick Lane	2014
Bahamas	2014
Arizona	2015
Cure	2015
Frisco	2017
Myrtle Beach	2020
LA Bowl	2021
Fenway	2022

BACK IN PRIME TIME

The 25th 68 Ventures Bowl kicks off in primetime for the 20th time overall and the first since 2019 – following three years of early-to-mid-afternoon starts.

THE WORLDWIDE LEADER

For the 25th time, the game will be televised on ESPN. The network provides a national – and global – audience to showcase the programs and the Port City of Mobile.

Mobile native Taylor Zarzour will serve as the play-by-play commentator, with Matt

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Stinchcomb as the analyst and Alyssa Lang providing sideline commentary. Stinchcomb will be calling his third game in Mobile after witnessing the 2017 and 2022 contests, while Lang was part of last year's contest

The name change is the seventh in the history of the Mobile-based bowl game. It was previously known as the Mobile Alabama Bowl, GMAC Bowl, GoDaddy.com Bowl, GoDaddy Bowl, Dollar General Bowl and for the past four years, the Lending Tree Bowl.



"We've had a long history of great title sponsors and are thrilled to have 68 Ventures joining us. The sponsorship by 68 Ventures will allow the Bowl to continue and increase our year-round charitable efforts in the community, and this partnership will allow both organizations to elevate and grow our local community involvement and impact," said Jerry Silverstein, Bowl President.

"We are thrilled to be part of such a prestigious event and for the incredible opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of our community. As a native Mobilian, former college football player and entrepreneur that still calls coastal Alabama home, it's an honor to join forces with the City of Mobile to make this year's game an unforgettable experience for the teams and their fans. The sacrifices these athletes make to compete at this level is a source of inspiration to us, and we look forward to celebrating them by bringing an energy to this year's game that only a local partner can provide. We are humbled to be selected to take part in the college football bowl experience and excited to contribute to this tradition of excellence, both on and off the field," said Nathan Cox, 68 Ventures Founder & CEO.

"This bowl game title sponsorship will allow 68 Ventures to shine a spotlight upon the Gulf Coast as a region with business opportunities abound and a quality-of-life component no other place can rival," said Adam Campbell, 68 Ventures President.

HANCOCK WHITNEY STADIUM

This 2023 68 Ventures Bowl marks the third year the game has been played at Hancock Whitney Stadium on the University of South Alabama campus. The 25,450-seat venue was completed in 2020 following a little less than two years of construction and a cost of \$78 million.

The facility features 11 luxury suites, 44 loge boxes, ample concourse space, Musco LED lighting, and Daktronics High-Definition Video and Ribbon Boards.

From 1999-2020, the first 22 Mobile bowl games were played at historic Ladd-Peebles Stadium near downtown Mobile.

68 VENTURES SIGNS ON WITH MOBILE BOWL GAME

In May, 68 Ventures signed on to be the title sponsor of the Mobile bowl game. 68 Ventures (68V) is the parent company for numerous operating businesses along the Gulf Coast which focus on development, investment and construction. Headquartered in Daphne, Ala., 68V is a purpose driven, culturally focused organization with a strong operational track record that has resulted in it becoming the largest single-family developer within the region, deploying well over a billion dollars in capital, and reaching the rank of one of the top 100 private home builders.



25 YEARS OF SHINING A LIGHT ON THE PORT CITY

BY BILL VILONA

The idea of a college football bowl game in Mobile was formulated decades ago with a simple presumption.

Why not bring together a community's love for football, along with its proven know-how on throwing a party as the origination of Mardi Gras, for a bowl game to celebrate the region's festive spirit?

What a special marriage this has been.

The 68 Ventures Bowl featuring Eastern Michigan and South Alabama celebrates a

The company located on the Eastern Shore has grown into one of the nation's top 100 private home builders with more than \$250 million in assets in its company portfolio.

And it's also the first time in the 15-year history of South Alabama's football program that the Jaguars are playing in this bowl game, along with the venue being on their campus at Hancock-Whitney Stadium.

"Well, my first thought is that it's amazing how time flies," said South Alabama athletic director Dr. Joel Erdmann, laughing. He joined the school's athletic department administration in 1997 and has been the Jaguars director of athletics since 2009, coinciding with the football team's first season.

"I remember I used to help with the bowl game operations when it first began in 1999," Erdmann said. "The bowl game back then -- and still is today -- a great bowl game which has been

embraced by the city and is known for its great student-athlete and fan experience.

"I think the bowl folks and the people in our community, who helped make it happen, capitalized on the rich history of the city of Mobile and the options for entertainment for everyone involved during the week. It has been fun to see it grow and have great games and provide national exposure for the city of Mobile."

Yes, speaking of entertainment. The 68 Ventures Bowl game is the grand finale of 10 events in four days, beginning with the players welcome reception on Dec. 19 and the one-of-a-kind Mardi Gras style parade, sponsored by Greer's Markets and Al.com, has been the signature public event on the night before the game in downtown Mobile.

The ultra-popular parade featuring both teams and players tossing beads and candy has been a staple event. It celebrates Mobile's distinction as the home of Mardi Gras, which first happened in the early 1700's in Mobile before New Orleans was even founded as a city.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN MOBILE BOWL GAME HISTORY

DEC. 22, 1999

The inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl featured LaDarian Tomlinson leading TCU to a 28-14 win over East Carolina. The Horned Frogs held the Pirates to minus-16 yards rushing.

DEC. 20, 2000

Tomlinson and the Horned Frogs were back a year later where he earned MVP honors with 188 yards rushing on 28 carries and two TD. But Southern Miss came away with a 28-21 victory scoring the final 14 points as Jeff Kelly threw the game-winning touchdown pass with 8 seconds left, connecting on a 29-yard pass to Kenneth Johnson. The 7-7 halftime score represented the lowest scoring first half in Mobile bowl history.

DEC. 19, 2001

Byron Leftwich leads Marshall to 64-61 OT win over East Carolina. They trailed 38-8 at halftime before he finished by tying the NCAA Bowl Game record of 576 passing yards. Still the highest scoring bowl game in NCAA history and is the third-largest deficit overcome to win. ECU's 61 points as a loser are the most by a losing team in NCAA Bowl Game history. The game saw four defensive TD scored, including a pick-6 and scoop-and-score by the Pirates on the first two Marshall possessions. Leftwich and ECU quarterback David Garrard would go on to be teammates with the Jacksonville Jaguars from 2003-07.



25th anniversary of bowl history in Mobile on December 23 at Hancock-Whitney Stadium. The milestone moment reinforces the community pride, support and preparation it takes to pull this all together for a nationally televised game on ESPN.

"We're certainly proud of it. We've had a really good run," said Jerry Silverstein, the co-founder of the bowl game, who has been the bowl president since the inaugural game on Dec. 22, 1999 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium. "We thought it would be successful, but like any new venture, you just never know and it exceeded our expectations.

"And how this bowl has been received by the fans here and TV viewers across the country on ESPN has been very special."

The silver anniversary game on this Saturday before Christmas comes with a trifecta of first-time gifts.

It's the first year of a partnership with 68 Ventures, a real estate company based in Daphne, which will celebrate its involvement as the first local presenting sponsor in the bowl's history.



DEC. 18, 2002

Leftwich led the Thundering Herd to a dominating 38-15 win over Louisville, becoming the first player in NCAA history to throw four TD passes in back-to-back bowl games. He finished with 249 passing yards and did much of it without being able to step with his plant foot after aggravating a November shin injury.

DEC. 18, 2003

Ben Roethlisberger threw four touchdowns to lead Miami-Ohio to a 49-28 win over Louisville. The RedHawks finished the year with a 12-1 record.

DEC. 22, 2004

The seventh GMAC Bowl saw the nation's No. 4 ranked offense in Bowling Green run away from Memphis, 52-35, on a rain-soaked field. The Falcons put up 558 yards and scored 17-straight points to open the second half. Omar Jacobs passed for 356 yards and five TD.

JAN. 6, 2008

Tulsa defeats Bowling Green 63-7 for a 56-point margin of victory, which stood as an NCAA bowl game record until last year's 65-7 national championship margin by Georgia over TCU. Tulsa QB Paul Smith tossed five TD and 312 yards for has his NCAA record 14th-consecutive 300-yard passing game.

JAN. 6, 2010

Andrew Aguila of Central Michigan makes five field goals, including the game-winner, to lift the Chippewas over Troy 44-41 in 2OT. Troy's Michael Taylor made a 46-yard FG with 31 seconds left to send the game into overtime. He later had a 31-yarder blocked in the second OT, opening the door for Aguila to make the winner from 37 yards. Dan LeFevour threw for 395 yards to surpass 4,000 in a season, becoming just the 41st quarterback to achieve the feat. Antonio Brown played for CMU in that game before being one of best receivers in the NFL during the 2010s. He had 403 all-purpose yards in the game with 22 rushing, 178 receiving and 203 on kickoff returns, including a 95-yarder for a TD.

JAN. 6, 2013

Kent State went 11-2 and appeared in a bowl game for the first time in 40 years. Arkansas State won 17-13.

After the Civil War, Mardi Gras was revived by resident Joe Cain in 1867 and this city has let the good times roll since then.

"We wanted to showcase the city of Mobile and Mardi Gras and educate the public to the fact that Mardi Gras was started in Mobile, Alabama, it was not started in Louisiana," Silverstein said. "And today, people still say, 'Really, I did not know that.' when you tell them that.

"So that brings a little nostalgia and history element and the players get to experience a really fun time. The parade has been something where people who have come to the bowl game, and experienced a parade like that for the first time, then have come back to Mobile during Mardi Gras season on their way to the beach.



"It is a been huge, huge hit."

The 68 Ventures Bowl holds special distinctions in the vast array of bowl games throughout the nation. The highest-scoring bowl game in the sport's history was played in Mobile on December 19, 2001.

Then known as the GMAC Bowl, the Marshall Thundering Herd rallied behind quarterback Byron Leftwich from a 38-8 halftime deficit to beat East Carolina 64-61 in double overtime in front of a sellout crowd of 40,139 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

"I would say that has to be our all-time game," said Silverstein, who joined with former college football coach and ESPN analyst Mike Gottfried to lead the effort in bringing a bowl game to Mobile. "People still talk about

that game and it remains a record for combined points."

It was one of two double OT games in the bowl's history. The other was Central Michigan's 44-41 win against Troy in the 2010 game.

Fast forward to a year ago. Southern Mississippi running back Frank Gore Jr., son of the former five-time NFL All-Pro running

back by the same name, rushed for a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) record 327 yards in the Eagles' 38-24 victory against Rice. No running back had gained that many yards before in a bowl game.

Gore and Leftwich are among a large number of star college players and future NFL stars who played in the game. The second year of the bowl game fea-

tured TCU's LaDarian Tomlinson, who was inducted in 2017 into the Pro Football Hall of Fame after a stellar career with the San Diego Chargers and New York Jets.

Former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, soon-to-be Hall of Famer, played in the 2003 game as quarterback for Miami (Ohio) University, leading the team to a 49-28 win against Louisville in a game that attracted the second largest crowd (40,620) in the bowl's history.

"A couple years ago we looked at this and we had 51 or 52 players who had played in this game who were on active NFL rosters," Silverstein said. "And for a small game like ours, that is a lot of good players and it shows you that great players come from all over."



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When Silverstein and Gottfried teamed to help start the bowl game proposal for Mobile, the college football landscape was far different than today. The inaugural 1999 game was called the Mobile Alabama Bowl. It became the 23rd bowl game on the schedule.

This year will feature 43 bowl games from Dec. 16 through the two national semifinal



games in the Allstate Sugar Bowl and Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

“There are many cities across the country that would love to have a college football bowl game,” Silverstein said. “We are very fortunate to have ours and maintain it through these years. It couldn’t be done without the support of the community, the city of Mobile and the county.”

Silverstein and Gottfried worked with former Mobile mayor Mike Dow in the mid-1990’s to bring the idea of a bowl game to fruition. It occurred during a time where the number of NCAA Division I football teams grew, new conferences were formed and other conferences expanded.

Conference USA began one of the bowl-tie in conferences led by its former commissioner Mike Slive, who later went on to become SEC commissioner. In that era, the upstart conferences and expanding conferences were urged by their member schools to help create additional bowl games and tie-ins for their conferences.

“Not having a college team here at that time (South Alabama started football in 2009) or a pro team, we were definitely cautious on how we put it together and what we did and how to give this bowl some longevity,” Silverstein said. “We needed to make sure we stayed in the space of who we were

and tried not to do more than what we are with our marketplace.”

“The mayor of Mobile at the time (Dow) charged us to go figure it out, see what it was going to take. We went at it, formed it and put it together.”

Gottfried, now 79, later teamed with his wife, Mickey, to form Team Focus in 2000, a cost-free, community outreach program to reach young men growing up without fathers. Team Focus is one of the bowl’s many charitable partners.

“We have a reading program throughout the year where kids read books, provide a report and get selected with first place winner get receiving \$10,000 savings bond for college and nine other places with savings bonds,” Silverstein said. “We do hospital visits, we do Habitat for Humanity. We work with our local

Food Pantry organization and we work with other community events and organizations.

“There is a lot of too this bowl game beyond football. We provide a year-round community impact.”

The staff working the 68 Ventures Bowl planned a full array of activities for the participating teams all week leading up to the game itself. The mission is to balance the football preparation and focus with a fun set of events the teams enjoy and remember to enhance the bowl experience.

The quest is to also incorporate an educational experience of Mobile’s history and attractions so the teams can understand what makes the city special.

“You have an entertainment district downtown in Mobile that is within walking distance of the hotels where the teams are staying and many of the out-of-town fans,” Erdmann said. “We are also fortunate to live and work in a place with a climate like ours where it might be 60 degrees at kickoff (Dec. 23).

“I think all of that lends to the enjoyment of the fans and the teams. I think the support of the city and our community and the sincere attention paid to the game has made it last. There are not a lot of bowl games out there which have been in existence for a quarter of a century.”

JAN. 5, 2014

After a Ball State TD with 1:33 to play put the Cardinals ahead 20-16, Arkansas State went 59 yards in 1:01 for a game-winning TD with 32 seconds left and a 23-20 win.

JAN. 4, 2015

Toledo defeats Arkansas State 63-44 in a game that saw a combined three defensive TD scored. Current Cleveland Browns running back Kareem Hunt rushed for 271 yards and had a bowl record five rushing TD for the Golden Flashes. Hunt was the No. 4 trending item on Twitter that night. The game is the second-highest scoring game in Mobile bowl history & the fifth-highest in an NCAA Bowl.

DEC. 18, 2021

Liberty scored 43 unanswered points as Malik Willis threw for 231 yards and rushed for 58 more with a combined five TD (3 passing, 2 rushing). Rain and lightning disrupted pregame activities with three different stoppages. The start of the game was even delayed 15 minutes due to the weather. The game was the first at Hancock Whitney Stadium following 22 bowls at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

DEC. 17, 2022

Frank Gore rushed for NCAA Bowl Game record 329 yards and two TD, while adding an 18-yard TD pass in Southern Miss’ 38-24 win over Rice.



FUN FACTS

First Game: December 22, 1999
TCU 28, East Carolina 14

Wildest Game: Dec. 19, 2001
Marshall 64, East Carolina 61

Latest Game Date: Jan. 8, 2012
Northern Illinois 38, Arkansas State 20

Earlier Game Date: Dec. 17, 2022
Southern Miss 38, Rice 24

2022 LENDINGTREE BOWL GAME RECAP

SOUTHERN MISS GOES RICE 38-24 WITH RECORD-SETTING NIGHT



Frank Gore, Jr. showed up and showed out Saturday night.

The sophomore running back from the University of Southern Mississippi smashed the NCAA bowl game, LendingTree Bowl and school single-game rushing record with 329 yards leading the Golden Eagles to a 38-24 come-from-behind win over Rice University at Hancock Whitney Stadium.

Gore averaged 15.7 yards on 21 rushing attempts as the Golden Eagles piled up 361 rushing yards. Gore etched his name in the record book with a 56-yard run in the fourth quarter that also sealed the win for USM.

On the previous drive, Gore had fumbled at the Rice 31-yard line giving the Owls a chance at a game-tying score. The USM defense forced a three-and-out and Gore ran into history.

"I give credit to my o-line," Gore said. "They made the blocks and opened up the holes for me. I just kept playing. I wasn't really worried about the stats. I was focused on winning the game and winning the trophy."

The 329 yards are the most in any bowl game in NCAA history, breaking the previous record of 318 yards set by Appalachian State running back Camerun Peoples against North Texas at the inaugural Myrtle Beach Bowl in 2020.

He also broke the LendingTree Bowl single-game rushing record of 275 yards held by Toledo's Kareem Hunt against Arkansas State in 2014.

Gore is the second player in Southern Miss history to rush for 300 yards in a game. He topped the previous record of 304 yards held by Sam DeJarnette against Florida State in 1982.

For his efforts, Gore was named the 2022 LendingTree Bowl Most Valuable Player.

After falling behind 24-17 in the third quarter, Southern Miss scored the game's final 21 points for the comeback win.

"I thought we came out and played a dominant first half," USM head coach Will Hall said. "Then the third quarter they drove and scored on the opening drive, then we had a bad turnover and they scored in one play, and boom it's tied. Our kids are used to it. We play close games, we didn't bat and eye, we kept battling and threw the super back in there and frank made a big play like he always does."

Gore started the comeback with a 19-yard TD game-tying touchdown pass to Tiauelin Mims with 3:52 left in the third quarter to tie the game at 24-24. It was Gore's third TD pass of the season and seventh of his career.

Gore finished with 348 total yards, which were 77 less yards than Rice (425) had in the game. Gore also had three total TDs, which equaled the total number of TDs scored by the Owls.

On its next possession, USM marched 98 yards in five plays to take a 31-24 lead. Gore opened the drive with a 59-yard run to the Rice 39-yard line. Quarterback Trey Lowe finished the drive



“We took it one step further and took the lead,” Bloomgren added. “We weren’t able to get it done after that.”

The Southern Miss defense took over in the fourth quarter, led by linebacker Daylen Gill, who recorded 11 tackles and three sacks to earn defensive MVP honors. He had a sack on each of the final two possessions for the Golden Eagles, who finished with a season-high six sacks.

“The first half we came out and dominated,” Gill said. “The second half we were a little sluggish. I feel like God was on my side tonight. I wanted to put the icing on cake for senior year.”

Southern Miss scored on the game’s first possession to take a quick 7-0 lead. The Golden Eagles marched 75 yards in six plays, capped by Lowe’s 19-yard TD pass to Jakarius Caston. Caston caught four passes for 94 yards and one TD.

USM became the first team since Buffalo (2018) to score on the first possession of the game at the LendingTree Bowl.

Three possessions later, Gore set the tone for what would be a memorable night, when he raced 64 yards for his first of two rushing TDs in the game, as the Golden Eagles extended the lead to 14-0.

Gore had three runs of 50 or more yard against the Owls. Overall, USM had four plays of 50 or more yards in the game.

Christian Van Sickle put Rice on the board with a 34-yard field goal to cut the lead to 14-3 with 6:04 left until halftime.

Briggs Bourgeois followed with an 18-yard field goal to give USM a 17-3 halftime lead.

USM punter Mason Hunt averaged 42.5 yards on four punts, including two punts inside the 20-yard line. His performance earned him Special Teams MVP honors.

Southern Miss (7-6) becomes the first three-time LendingTree Bowl champion. The Golden Eagles improved to 3-0 all-time at the LendingTree Bowl, with wins in 2000 and 2007.

Rice (5-8) played in its first bowl game since 2014.

with a 26-yard touchdown pass to Jason Brownlee to put the Golden Eagles back in front.

Brownlee finished with three catches for 72 yard and one TD to earn offensive MVP honors.

Rice trailed 17-3 at halftime but scored on its first three possessions of the third quarter to take its first lead at 24-17.

The Owls took the second half kickoff and marched 80 yards in seven plays, capped by AJ Padgett’ 26-ayrd pass to Isaiah Esdale to pull to within 17-10.

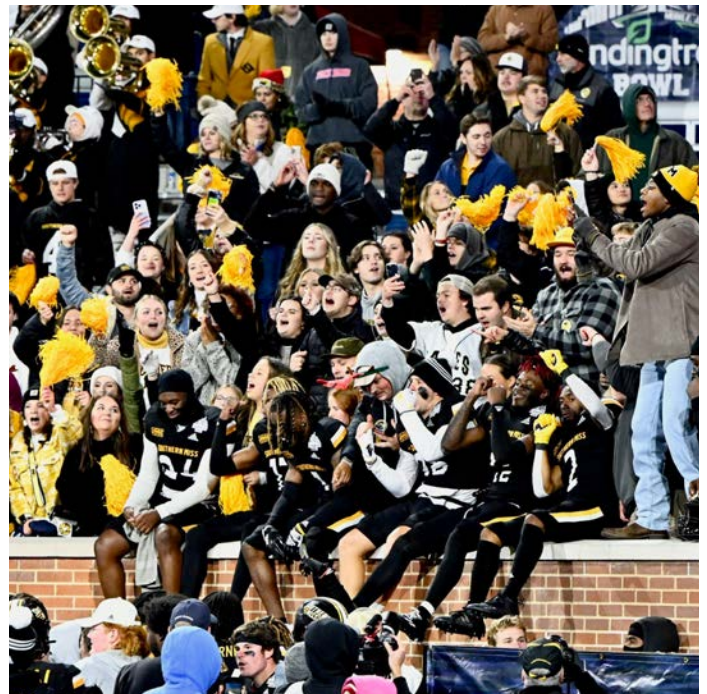
The Rice defense then forced a turnover on the next possession on a strip-sack by Izeya Floyd and subsequent recovery by Ikenna Enechukwu at the USM 32-yard line.

On the next play, Padgett fired a 32-yard TD pass to Esdale and all of the sudden the game was tied 17-17 less than five minutes into the third quarter. Esdale caught three passes for 83 yards and two TDs.

“We challenged our guys at halftime to come out and give it their best shot, play the best half of football they could play,” Rice head coach Mike Bloomgren said. “We came out and started doing exactly what we talked about. Offense, we have to score on the first possession. Defense, we need a turnover or a quick three-and-out and tie this thing up in two possessions, we did just that.”

The Owls forced a punt in the next possession and Padgett went back to work. Cameron Montgomery exploded for a 57-yard run to the USM 31-yard line on the first play. Three plays later, Padgett hit Bradley Rozner with an 18-yard TD pass as the Owls took a 24-17 lead.

Padgett completed nine of his first 10 passes in the third quarter and threw three TD passes.



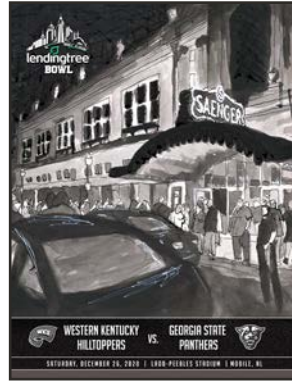
68 VENTURES BOWL SCORES



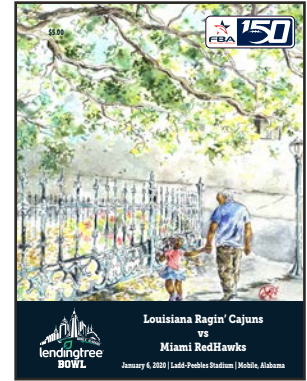
—2022—
Southern Miss 38
Rice 24



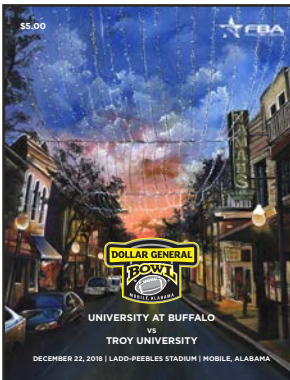
—2021—
Liberty 56
Eastern Michigan 20



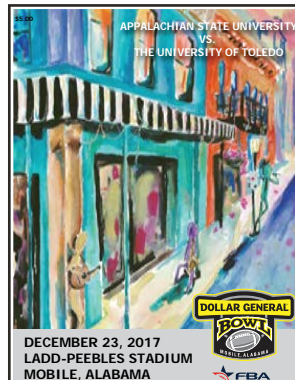
—2020—
Georgia State 39
Western Kentucky 21



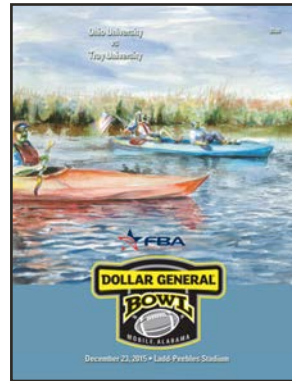
—2020—
Louisiana 27
Miami (Ohio) 17



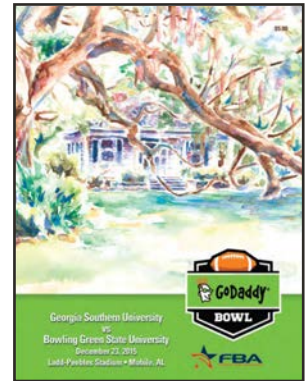
—2018—
Troy 42
Buffalo 32



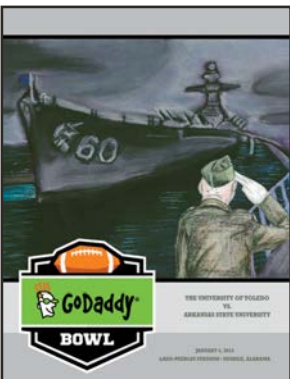
—2017—
Appalachian State 34
Toledo 0



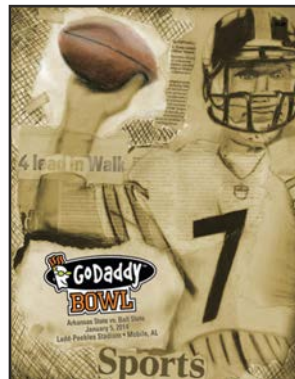
—2016—
Troy 28
Ohio 23



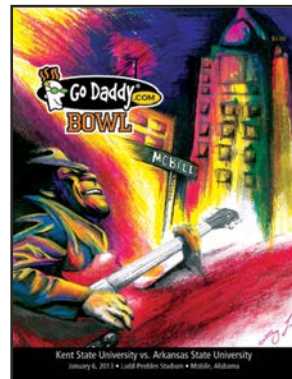
—2015—
Georgia Southern 58
Bowling Green 27



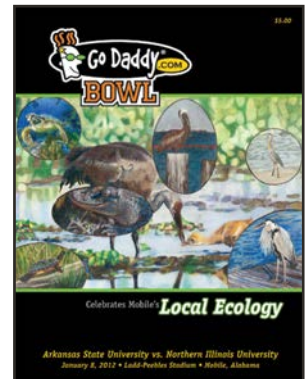
—2015—
Toledo 38
Arkansas State 20



—2014—
Arkansas State 23
Ball State 20

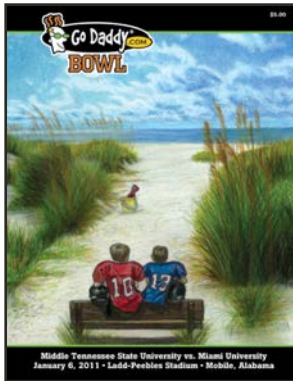


—2013—
Arkansas State 17
Kent State 13



—2012—
NIU 38
Arkansas State 20

68 VENTURES BOWL SCORES



—2011—
Miami (Ohio) 35
MTSU 21



—2010—
Central Michigan 44
Troy 41



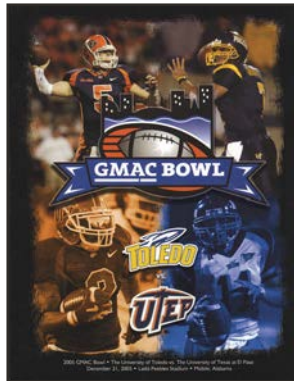
—2009—
Tulsa 45
Ball State 13



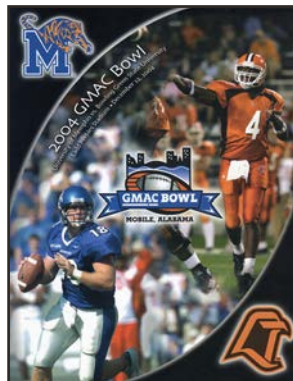
—2008—
Tulsa 63
Bowling Green 7



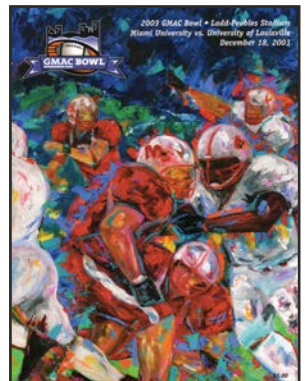
—2007—
Southern Miss 28
Ohio 7



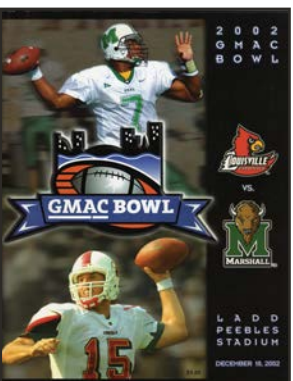
—2005—
Toledo 45
UTEP 13



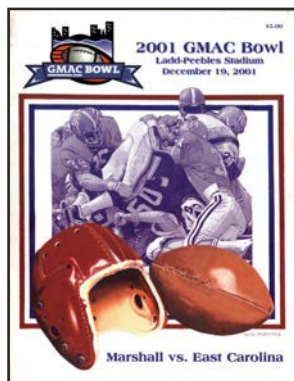
—2004—
Bowling Green 52
Memphis 35



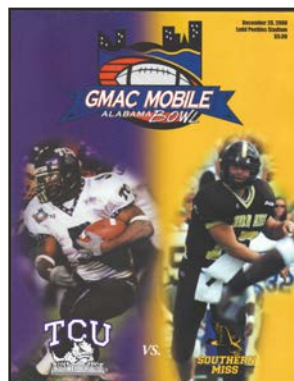
—2003—
Miami (Ohio) 49
Louisville 28



—2002—
Marshall 38
Louisville 15



—2001—
Marshall 64
East Carolina 61



—2000—
Southern Miss 28
TCU 21



—1999—
TCU 28
East Carolina 14



68 VENTURES BOWL RECORDS

MOST APPEARANCES: 4

Arkansas State, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

MOST GAMES WON: 3

Southern Miss, 2000, 2007, 2022

MOST GAMES LOST: 2

Louisville, 2003 vs. Miami
Louisville, 2003 vs. Marshall
East Carolina, 1999 vs. TCU
East Carolina, 2001 vs. Marshall
Arkansas State, 2012 vs. NIU
Arkansas State, 2015 vs. Toledo

TOTAL YARDS/PLAYS

Total yards gained (game): 1,151 Marshall (649) vs. East Carolina (492), 2001

Total yards gained (team): 649

Marshall, 2001 vs. East Carolina

Most rushing/passing plays (game): 180

Marshall(104) vs. East Carolina(76), 2001

FIRST DOWNS

Most first downs (game): 59

Marshall(36) vs. East Carolina(23), 2001

Most first downs (team): 36

Marshall, 2001 vs. East Carolina

Fewest first downs: 9

Ball State, 2009 vs. Tulsa

PASSING

Most passing attempts (game): 113

CMU(56) vs. Troy(57), 2010

Most passing attempts (team): 70

Marshall, 2001 vs. East Carolina

Most pass completions (game): 65

CMU(33) vs. Troy(32), 2010

Most pass completions (team): 41

Marshall, 2001 vs. East Carolina

Most yards gained passing (game): 798

CMU(395) vs Troy(403), 2010

Most yards gained passing (team): 576

Marshall, 2001 vs. East Carolina

Fewest passes attempted (team): 19

TCU, 1999 vs. East Carolina

Fewest passes completed (team): 10

TCU, 2000 vs. Southern Miss

Consecutive completions (team): 12

Miami (Ohio), 2020 vs. Louisiana

RUSHING

Most yards rushing (game): 577

Tulsa(482) vs. Ball State(95), 2009

Most yards rushing (team): 482

Tulsa, 2009 vs. Ball State

Least yards rushing (team): 16

East Carolina, 1999 vs TCU

SCORING

Most points scored in a quarter:

1st Quarter

East Carolina (21) vs. Marshall, 2001
Miami, (Ohio) (21) vs. Louisville, 2003
Memphis (21) vs. BGSU, 2004
Tulsa (21) vs. BGSU, 2008
Toledo (21) vs. Arkansas State, 2015

2nd Quarter

Louisville (21) vs. Miami, (Ohio), 2003
BGSU (21) vs. Memphis, 2004
Toledo (21) vs. UTEP, 2005
Southern Miss (21) vs. Ohio, 2007

3rd Quarter

Marshall (28) vs. East Carolina, 2001

4th Quarter

Toledo (21) vs. Arkansas State 2015

Most points scored in a half

1st Half: East Carolina (38) vs. Marshall, 2001

2nd Half: Marshall (56) vs. East Carolina, 2001

Most combined points (game): 125

Marshall (64) vs. East Carolina (61), 2001(20T)

Highest scoring bowl game in NCAA history

Most points (team): 64

Marshall (64) vs. East Carolina (61), 2001

Fewest combined points (game): 30

Arkansas State (17) vs. Kent State (13), 2013

KICKING

Most punts (game): 15

NIU (8) vs. Arkansas State (7), 2012

Fewest punts (game): 3

CMU (1) vs. Troy (2), 2010

Best team punting average: 50.2

Marshall (6) vs. Louisville, 2002

Most field goal attempts: 6

CMU (6) vs. Troy, 2010

Most field goals: 5

CMU (5) vs. Troy, 2010

PENALTIES

Most Penalties (combined): 27

Marshall (17) vs. Louisville (10) total yards (235), 2002

Most penalties (team): 10

Marshall, 147 yards vs. Louisville, 2002

Most yards penalized (combined):

235 yds

Marshall vs. Louisville, 2002

Most yards penalized (team): 147 yds

Marshall vs. Louisville, 2002

Fewest yards penalized: 14 yds

BGSU, 2004 vs. Memphis

TURNOVERS

Most fumbles (combined): 4

Marshall (3) vs. East Carolina (1), 2001
BGSU (4), vs. Tulsa (0), 2008

Most fumbles (team): 4

Louisville vs. Marshall, 2002
BGSU vs. Tulsa, 2008

Most fumbles lost: 4

BGSU vs. Tulsa, 2008

Most passes intercepted (game): 6

MTSU (2) vs Miami, (Ohio) (4), 2011

Most passes intercepted (team): 4

Miami, (Ohio) (4) vs. MTSU, 2011





68 VENTURE BOWL RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Most plays: 82 yds

Byron Leftwich, Marshall vs. East Carolina, 2001, 70 pass, 12 rush

Most yards gained : 566 yds

Byron Leftwich, Marshall vs. East Carolina, 2001, 576 pass, (: 10) rush

Most points scored: 30

Kareem Hunt, Toledo vs. Arkansas State, 2015
(ties NCAA bowl record)

RUSHING

Longest run from scrimmage: 88 yds

Lionel Gates, Louisville vs. Miami, 2003

Longest TD run from scrimmage: 88 yds

Lionel Gates, Louisville vs. Miami, 2003

Most yards gained rushing: 329 yds

Frank Gore, Southern Miss vs. Rice, 2022

Most Rushing TDs: 5

Kareem Hunt, Toledo vs. Arkansas State, 2015
(ties NCAA bowl record)

PASSING

Longest pass: 70 yds

Austin Boucher to A. Robinson
Miami, (Ohio) vs. MTSU, 2011

Longest TD pass: 66 yds

Fredi Knighten to Tres Houston
Arkansas St. vs. Toledo, 2015

Most TD passes thrown: 5

Omar Jacobs, BGSU vs. Memphis, 2004
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo vs. UTEP, 2005
Paul Smith, Tulsa vs. BGSU, 2008
Fredi Knighten, Arkansas St. vs. Toledo, 2015

Most passing attempts: 70

Byron Leftwich, Marshall vs. ECU, 2001

Most completions: 41

Byron Leftwich, Marshall vs. ECU, 2001

Most passing yards: 576 yds

Byron Leftwich Marshall vs. ECU, 2001

Most interceptions thrown: 4

Dwight Dasher, MTSU vs. Miami, (Ohio), 2011

Consecutive Completions: 12

Brett Gabbert, Miami, 2020 vs. Louisiana

68 VENTURES BOWL ALL-TIME RESULTS

Date	Results	Attendance
Dec. 22, 1999	TCU 28, East Carolina 14	34,200
Dec. 20, 2000	Southern Miss 28, TCU 21	40,300
Dec. 19, 2001	Marshall 64, East Carolina 61 (2 OT)	40,139
Dec. 18, 2002	Marshall 38, Louisville 15	40,646
Dec. 18, 2003	Miami (Ohio) 49, Louisville 28	40,620
Dec. 22, 2004	Bowling Green 52, Memphis 35	40,160
Dec. 21, 2005	Toledo 45, UTEP 13	35,422
Jan. 7, 2007	Southern Miss 28, Ohio 7	38,751
Jan. 6, 2008	Tulsa 63, Bowling Green 7	36,932
Jan. 6, 2009	Tulsa 45, Ball State 13	32,816
Jan. 6, 2010	Central Michigan 44, Troy 41 (2 OT)	34,486
Jan. 6, 2011	Miami (Ohio) 35, Middle Tennessee 21	38,168
Jan. 8, 2012	Northern Illinois 38, Arkansas State 20	38,734
Jan. 6, 2013	Arkansas State 17, Kent State 13	37,913
Jan. 5, 2014	Arkansas State 23, Ball State 20	36,119
Jan. 4, 2015	Toledo 63, Arkansas State 44	36,811
Dec. 23, 2015	Georgia Southern 58, Bowling Green 27	28,656
Dec. 23, 2016	Troy 28, Ohio 23	32,377
Dec. 23, 2017	Appalachian State 34, Toledo 0	28,706
Dec. 22, 2018	Troy 42, Buffalo 32	31,818
Jan. 6, 2020	Louisiana 27, Miami (Ohio) 17	29,212
Dec. 26, 2020	Georgia State 39, Western Kentucky 21	5,128 (Covid-19)
Dec. 18, 2021	Liberty 56, Eastern Michigan 20	15,186
Dec. 17, 2022	Southern Miss 38, Rice 24	20,512

RECORDS BY CONFERENCE

Conf.	Record
Independents	1-0 (.100)
Sun Belt	9-4 (.692)
WAC	1-1 (.500)
MAC	9-11 (.450)
C-USA	4-7 (.364)
American	0-1 (.000)



RECEIVING

Most receptions: 15

Denero Marriott, Marshall vs. ECU, 2001

Most receiving yards: 234

Denero Marriott, Marshall vs. ECU, 2001

KICKING

Most punts (game): 8

Chris Miller, Tulsa vs. Ball State, 2009

Highest punting average: 50.2

Curtis Head, Marshall (6 punts)

Longest punt: 65 yds

Britt Barefoot, Southern Miss vs Ohio, 2007

Shortest punt: 12 yds

Neely Sullivant, Arkansas State vs. NIU, 2012

Most FG attempts: 6

Andrew Aguila, CMU vs. Troy, 2010

Most FG made: 5

Andrew Aguila, CMU vs. Troy, 2010

Longest FG: 44 yds

Andrew Aguila, CMU vs. Troy, 2010



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HANCOCK WHITNEY STADIUM



Hancock Whitney Stadium is the new home of the 68 Ventures Bowl.

The 68 Ventures Bowl was previously played at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile. Liberty defeated Eastern Michigan in the first game played on the South Alabama campus in 2021, and Southern Miss took out Rice in last year's game.

"We are excited for the opportunity to present the community, our partners, the participating institution and college football fans with a state of the art game day experience," said 68 Ventures Bowl President, Jerry Silverstein. "Hancock Whitney provides the newest game day technologies as well as a modernized fan experience with various levels of seating and amenities."

Hancock Whitney is a bank holding



company located in Gulfport, Miss.

Hancock Whitney Stadium is also the home of the South Alabama Jaguars. The field is named Abraham A. Mitchell Field, a substantial donor to the program.

South Alabama Athletic Director Joel Erdman said, "We are excited for the opportunity to host the 68 Ventures

Bowl on campus and in Hancock Whitney Stadium. We look forward to working with the bowl representatives, teams and fans as they travel to Mobile and enjoy a memorable bowl experience."

The stadium features 11 suites, 44 loge boxes, terrace standing room with drink rails and ample concourse space. The stadium is also equipped with Musco LED lighting (ability to create light show), Daktronics High Definition Videoboard and Daktronics High Definition Ribbon Boards and Sound System. The \$78 million state-of-the-art facility offers numerous opportunities for the athletics department and enhances the game day atmosphere.

"The move to the new stadium has lots to offer our participating universities



giving them access to upgraded sports medicine capabilities, practice facilities, fan engagement and meeting areas,” said 68 Ventures Bowl Executive Director, Sherrie Dyal. “We are thrilled to be able to offer these to our guests and compete with the amenities other bowl games are able to offer.”

The first college football game was played here on Sept. 12, 2020. Tulane defeated South Alabama, 27-24.

The Reese’s Senior Bowl moved to Hancock Whitney Stadium this past season. The Senior Bowl had been played at Ladd-Peebles Stadium from 1951-2020. The game features the top college NFL prospects; rosters divided into North and South.

The coaching staffs for the teams are selected from NFL teams that did not make playoffs.

The 68 Ventures Bowl is one of 13 bowl games played in an active college football stadium. It is also one of nine bowl games played in an on-campus stadium, joining Arizona, Boise State, Charlotte, Coastal Carolina, FAU, SMU, TCU and Navy. Four other bowl games are played in college stadiums, but at off-campus sites. UAB (Protective Stadium), USF (Raymond James Stadium), Memphis (Liberty Bowl) and UCLA (Rose Bowl) also host bowl games. Memphis (Liberty Bowl) and UCLA (Rose Bowl) also host bowl games.

COLLEGE STADIUMS HOSTING BOWL GAMES

BOWL GAME	STADIUM	FBS HOST
Arizona Bowl	Arizona Stadium	Arizona
Armed Forces Bowl	Amon G. Carter Stadium	TCU
Birmingham Bowl	Protective Stadium	UAB
Boca Raton Bowl	FAU Stadium	FAU
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl	Albertson’s Stadium	Boise State
Famous Toastery Bowl	Jerry Richardson Stadium	Charlotte
First Responder Bowl	Gerald J. Ford Stadium	SMU
Gasparilla Bowl	Raymond James Stadium	USF
LendingTree Bowl	Hancock-Whitney Stadium	South Alabama
Liberty Bowl	Liberty Bowl	Memphis
Military Bowl	Navy Marine Corps Stadium	Navy
Myrtle Beach Bowl	Brooks Stadium	Coastal Carolina
Rose Bowl	Rose Bowl	UCLA



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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

We're the University of South Alabama. South, for short. Home to nearly 14,000 students and more than 115 academic programs, South is a dynamic community of leaders and learners who support and challenge one another to be actively engaged citizens who advance the Gulf Coast region and the world. Founded in 1963, South's vision is to foster an environment that couples engaging learning experiences with high-level research, enabling our faculty and students to be leaders in their disciplines.

The unique and beautiful Gulf Coast region is a catalyst for discovery and innovation, and South's 1,200-acre campus has been transformed over the past decade with new facilities and resources for teaching, housing and recreation, health sciences, the arts, engineering, computer science and athletics.

Jaguar athletes compete in 17 NCAA Division I sports, including baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

The coastal region is healthier because of the USA Health system. Through its five components — Children's & Women's Hospital, University Hospital, Mitchell Cancer Institute, USA Health Physicians Group and the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine — and supported by the College of Nursing and the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions — USA Health provides care to hundreds of thousands of people, and is a training ground for future physicians and healthcare professionals.

The University has implemented a strategic plan that is organized around five major priorities: Student Access and Success, Enhancement of Research and Graduate Education, Global Engagement, Excellence in Health Care, and University-Community Engagement. These priorities are the guiding influence in developing a strong, consistent vision for the future of the University.

USA is a place where students discover and strengthen their career passions, and form connections that result in lifelong relationships. At South, we look at the world and see things that we have the power to change, affect and shape — together. So that's exactly what we do, every single day.



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SOUTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS

Dr. Joel Erdmann has presided over one of the most successful eras in the University of South Alabama's history and is now in his 13th year as Director of Athletics. Such success follows hard work and an atmosphere of excellence inspired by the Erdmann motto and department's core values, "graduation, citizenship, championships."

Over the past decade-plus, Erdmann's impact includes: milestone records both on the field and in the classroom by student-athletes, the beginning of an NCAA Division I FBS football program, new construction and/or renovation in every sport/facility, unprecedented fundraising, and the hiring of championship-driven team of coaches as well as a stellar team of administrative professionals and staff. Erdmann's championship mindset lead to the department's best-ever Academic Progress Rate scores and GPA in the history of Jaguar Athletics and the Sun Belt Conference All-Sports Championship Vic Bubas Cups four years in a row.

Over the course of his career in intercollegiate athletics, Erdmann's expertise has been called upon for service in leadership and advisory roles within universities, conferences, the NCAA, and in communities to advance the future of sports for women and men. Erdmann currently serves as the Sun Belt Conference representative on the board of the LEADI Association.

In the past 23 years in athletic administration, Erdmann has been entrusted to serve on both football and baseball championship selection committees. In baseball, Erdmann served a four-year term on the prestigious NCAA Division I Baseball Championship Committee where he served as Chairman of the Championship Selection Committee for the 2016 College World Series. As chair, his leadership responsibilities include oversight of the process to select and seed the best championship field of teams and provide the best experience for student-athletes, coaches, and fans for the NCAA DI Championship Baseball Tournament in Omaha.



JOEL ERDMANN
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

In football, Erdmann joined a select group of Athletic Directors in 2017 who completed a mock selection exercise for the College Football Playoff Committee. During the 2006-07 academic year, Erdmann served on the NCAA Division II Football Championship Committee and he co-chaired the NCAA Division II Football Southeast Region Advisory Committee.

With an eye toward the future, Erdmann understands students, coaches and communities often define themselves by the places and spaces they gather. Creating a vibrant interactive game-day atmosphere for fans and a meaningful, competitive experience for student-athletes is an Erdmann hallmark for sustained success and a foundation for growth. Erdmann's tenure at

the University of South Alabama has touched every aspect of brick and mortar making up Jaguar Athletics. Taking into account his experiences in the construction and renovation of numerous facilities including the new Hancock Whitney Stadium, Erdmann recognizes the unique challenges in maintaining or constructing sports venues from funding and financing, development and planning, design, architecture, engineering and systems integration, and operations and maintenance for these venues.

He was the athletics director at Southeastern Louisiana from 2007-09 and North Alabama from 2002-07.

Prior to those stops, he spent five seasons at South, heading up the Jaguar Athletic Club from 2001-02 and was the assistant to the athletic director from 1997-2000. Erdmann was an professor in the USA HPELS department from 1995-2002.

Erdmann earned his bachelor's degree in Education from South Dakota State in 1986. He later added a master's in Physical Education from South Alabama in 1992 and a doctorate in Sports Management/Athletic Administration from Florida State in 1995.

He is wife's name is Tina.





HEAD COACH KANE WOMMACK

Kane Wommack enters his third year as the head coach of the South Alabama football program after a record-setting 2022 season in which the team won 10 games and made a trip to the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl.

He is also a member of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Board of Trustees.

Last season, the Jags finished 10-3 and finished second in the Sun Belt Conference West Division. The ten wins were the most of any South Alabama team during FBS play and tied the school record for wins in a season dating back to the inception of the program. South Alabama had 14 players selected to all-conference teams at the end of the year with La'Damian Webb and Yam Banks earning first-team honors and Banks

earning All-American honors at the end of the year.

The program had a pair of players – Jalen Wayne and Darrell Luter, Jr. – named to the Reese's Senior Bowl and were selected to participate in the NFL Combine. James Jackson was also selected to play in the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl following the season.

In his first season at the helm, the Jags finished 5-7 dropping four games by one score or less. The Jags had eight selections to the all-conference teams including Jalen Tolbert earning Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Year honors. Tolbert was selected to play in the Reese's Senior Bowl and was invited to the NFL Combine, before being selected in the third round by the Dallas Cowboys.

A finalist for the award given to the

top NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision assistant coach last season, Kane Wommack was named the head football coach at the University of South Alabama on Dec. 12, 2020.

Wommack (pronounced WAH-mick), 34 at the time of his hiring and one of the youngest head coaches in college football, became the third head coach since the inception of South's program and the youngest at the NCAA FBS level. The Jaguars' defensive coordinator in 2016 and '17, he returned to the program after working three years as linebackers coach at Indiana including serving as the Hoosiers' defensive coordinator his final two seasons.

Wommack was one of five finalists for the Broyles Award in the fall after his efforts helped IU post a 6-2 mark overall



on the way to finishing 12th in the final Associated Press poll after earning an invitation to the Outback Bowl. His unit led the Big Ten Conference with both 17 interceptions and a 64 percent red zone defensive rate — ranking first in the country in the latter category and second in the former — while also pacing the league with 20 takeaways and 3.12 sacks per contest. The Hoosiers also finished 10th nationally in turnover margin (1.00) and were among the top 25 in scoring (20.2 points per game) and passing efficiency (120.96 rating) as well in 2020.

Following the season, seven members of the IU defense earned all-Big Ten honors including a school-record four — Jamar Johnson, Jerome Johnson, Micah McFadden and Tiawan Mullen — first-team selections. Mullen also became the first cornerback in program history to earn first-team All-America honors after being recognized by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) while McFadden was a third-team Associated Press All-American.

In his first year as the youngest Power 5 defensive coordinator, Wommack led IU to top-50 rankings nationally in scoring, total, rush and pass defense for the first time since 1993. His efforts helped the Hoosiers hold four opponents to three points or less, the most in one season since limiting five to three or fewer in 1945.

Wommack was the Jaguars' defensive coordinator and linebackers coach during the 2016 and '17 campaigns, leading a unit that was among the top 10 in the country in passing defense (174.6 ypg) while allowing over 10 points fewer than the previous season — the fifth-best improvement in the NCAA FBS that fall — his first year on the staff. In 2017, South was in the top 15 nationally in both red zone defense and fumble recoveries as the Jags recorded 20 takeaways both seasons he was in charge of the defense.

Under his direction, Jeremy Reaves — currently with the Washington Football Team in the National Football League — was a two-time first-team all-Sun Belt Conference selection and the program's first-ever individual to receive an individual award from the league after



KANE WOMMACK
HEAD COACH

being named the Defensive Player of the Year in 2017. After ranking in the top 10 in the nation in both sacks and tackles for loss in 2016, Randy Allen was voted first-team all-Sun Belt while linebackers Bull Barge, Roman Buchanan, Kalen Jackson and Darrell Songy each earned all-league accolades during Wommack's two years at South.

Prior to his arrival at South, Wommack was the defensive coordinator and safeties coach at Eastern Illinois, where he helped the Panthers make a first-round appearance in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs while finishing in the top 25 of the final national poll in 2015. That fall, EIU's defense ranked second nationally in interceptions (19), third in

takeaways (31), fourth in pass efficiency defense (103.0), eighth in red zone defense (67.3%) and 10th in tackles for loss (98) while Dino Fanti was named the 2015 Ohio Valley Conference co-Defensive Player of the Year. In his first year with the program, the Panthers ranked second in the league in scoring defense and fourth in takeaways as four members of the unit earned all-OVC honors.

Wommack also has experience having worked at Tennessee-Martin in 2010, Jacksonville State in '11 — where he helped the Gamecocks claim a share of the OVC championship — and Ole Miss during the 2012 and '13 seasons.

He began his collegiate playing career at Arkansas, where he was a fullback in 2005 and '06, helping the Razorbacks win the Southeastern Conference West Division title his second year. After transferring to Southern Mississippi, Wommack helped the Golden Eagles to three straight bowl appearances before earning his undergraduate degree in political science in 2009; he began his coaching career as a volunteer assistant while at the school.

Wommack and his wife Melissa have three sons: Asher, Tatum and Jones. His father, Dave, had more than 35 years of experience coaching at the collegiate level, including serving as defensive coordinator at Ole Miss before retiring following the 2016 season.



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SOUTH ALABAMA STATISTICS

Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
	09/02/2023	at Tulane	L	17-37	26973
	09/09/2023	Southeastern La.	W	35-17	15237
	09/16/2023	at Oklahoma St.	W	33-7	53855
	09/23/2023	Central Mich.	L	30-34	18369
*	09/30/2023	at James Madison	L	23-31	26064
*	10/07/2023	at ULM	W	55-7	12099
*	10/17/2023	Southern Miss.	W	55-3	23478
*	10/28/2023	Louisiana	L	20-33	16709
*	11/02/2023	at Troy	L	10-28	28212
*	11/11/2023	Arkansas St.	W	21-14	15242
*	11/18/2023	Marshall	W	28-0	14105
*	11/25/2023	at Texas St.	L	44-52	15617

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
La'Damian Webb	11	186	1037	30	1007	5.4	16	65	91.5
Kentrel Bullock	10	77	404	24	380	4.9	3	34	38.0
Marco Lee Jr.	12	53	232	12	220	4.2	2	13	18.3
Braylon McReynolds	4	33	180	19	161	4.9	0	35	40.3
Gio Lopez	4	11	72	6	66	6.0	1	20	16.5
Dorian Smith	4	2	34	0	34	17.0	1	29	8.5
Desmond Trotter	4	9	43	15	28	3.1	0	17	7.0
PJ Martin	3	9	30	2	28	3.1	0	14	9.3
Jarvis Durr	1	3	20	0	20	6.7	0	13	20.0
Todd Justice	12	1	19	0	19	19.0	0	19	1.6
Jonathon Carter	1	1	8	0	8	8.0	0	8	8.0
Carter Bradley	11	43	118	166	-48	-1.1	1	17	-4.4
Team	12	4	0	7	-7	-1.8	0	0	-0.6
Total	12	432	2197	281	1916	4.4	24	65	159.7
Opponents	12	428	1690	289	1401	3.3	10	56	116.8

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Carter Bradley	11	151.3	221-326-7	67.8	2660	19	84	241.8
Gio Lopez	4	119.2	27-42-2	64.3	283	1	35	70.8
Desmond Trotter	4	212.6	20-24-1	83.3	236	4	51	59.0
Total	12	151.6	268-392-10	68.4	3179	24	84	264.9
Opponents	12	138.4	196-324-11	60.5	2521	19	76	210.1

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Caullin Lacy	12	91	1316	14.5	7	84	109.7
Jamaal Pritchett	12	49	756	15.4	6	51	63.0
La'Damian Webb	11	24	144	6.0	1	19	13.1
DJ Thomas-Jones	12	24	212	8.8	3	33	17.7
Lincoln Sefcik	9	17	165	9.7	1	24	18.3
Javon Ivory	11	16	183	11.4	1	39	16.6
Braylon McReynolds	4	15	101	6.7	0	26	25.3
Kentrel Bullock	10	14	111	7.9	1	30	11.1
Devin Voisin	2	5	77	15.4	1	29	38.5
Jacob Hopper	10	3	31	10.3	1	14	3.1
Brandon Crum	10	2	8	4.0	1	5	0.8
Todd Justice	12	2	9	4.5	0	6	0.8
Keyshawn Woodyard	4	2	34	17.0	0	21	8.5
Marco Lee Jr.	12	1	8	8.0	0	8	0.7
Jeremiah Webb	8	1	3	3.0	1	3	0.4
PJ Martin	3	1	18	18.0	0	18	6.0
Dorian Smith	4	1	3	3.0	0	3	0.8
Total	12	268	3179	11.9	24	84	264.9
Opponents	12	196	2521	12.9	19	76	210.1

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	6-6	4-2	2-4	0-0
CONFERENCE	4-4	3-1	1-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	2-2	1-1	1-1	0-0

Team Statistics

	USA	OPP
First Downs	265	200
Rushing	110	75
Passing	141	101
Penalty	14	24
Rushing Yardage	1916	1401
Rushing attempts	432	428
Average per rush	4.4	3.3
Average per game	159.7	116.8
TDs Rushing	24	10
Passing Yardage	3179	2521
Comp-Att-Int	268-392-10	196-324-11
Average per pass	8.1	7.8
Average per catch	11.9	12.9
Average per game	264.9	210.1
TDs Passing	24	19
Total offense	5095	3922
Average per play	6.2	5.2
Average per game	424.6	326.8
Kick returns: #-Yards	16-265	29-558
Punt returns: #-Yards	22-215	5-11
Int returns: #-Yards	11-52	10-29
Fumbles-Lost	19-9	14-8
Penalties-Yards	81-702	70-559
Punts-Avg	40-39.9	61-40.6
Time of possession / game	30:30	29:29
3rd-down conversion	71/164	54/159
4rd-down conversion	17/26	8/18
PAT-attempts	(38-40) 95%	(30-32) 94%
2-point conversion-attempts	(3-8) 38%	(1-1) 100%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaden Voisin	4	13	3.3	0	13
Marquise Robinson	2	24	12.0	0	24
Maurice Strong Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Yam Banks	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jalen Jordan	1	0	0.0	0	0
Wesley Miller	1	3	3.0	0	3
Khalil Jacobs	1	12	12.0	0	12
Total	11	52	4.7	0	24
Opponents	10	29	2.9	1	24





SOUTH ALABAMA STATISTICS

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Diego Guajardo	13-18	72.2	0-0	2-2	5-5	5-7	1-4	51	0
Opponents	11-13	84.6	0-0	5-5	4-5	2-3	0-0	44	0

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT						pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	
La'Damian Webb	17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	104
Diego Guajardo	-	13-18	37-39	-	-	-	-	-	76
Caullin Lacy	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Jamaal Pritchett	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Kentrel Bullock	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
DJ Thomas-Jones	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20
Marco Lee Jr.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Brandon Crum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Devin Voisin	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Carter Bradley	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6
Jacob Hopper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Lincoln Sefcik	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Jeremiah Webb	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Gio Lopez	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Javon Ivory	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Dorian Smith	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Braylon McReynolds	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Jacob Meeks	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	48	13-18	38-40	0	3	3	0	0	371
Opponents	33	11-13	30-32	1	0	0	0	0	263

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
South Alabama	80	102	86	103	0	371
Opponents	51	89	43	80	0	263



Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jack Martin	40	1595	39.9	54	1	21	12	4	0
Total	40	1595	39.9	54	1	21	12	4	0
Opponents	61	2474	40.6	60	1	20	18	8	0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Caullin Lacy	21	210	10.0	0	41
Jamaal Pritchett	1	5	5.0	0	5
Total	22	215	9.8	0	41
Opponents	5	11	2.2	0	8

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Kentrel Bullock	9	163	18.1	0	31
Caullin Lacy	2	40	20.0	0	40
Braylon McReynolds	2	34	17.0	0	17
Brandon Crum	1	6	6.0	0	6
Jacob Hopper	1	9	9.0	0	9
Jamaal Pritchett	1	13	13.0	0	13
Total	16	265	16.6	0	40
Opponents	29	558	19.2	1	100

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Caullin Lacy	12	0	1316	210	40	0	1566	130.5
La'Damian Webb	11	1007	144	0	0	0	1151	104.6
Jamaal Pritchett	12	0	756	5	13	0	774	64.5
Kentrel Bullock	10	380	111	0	163	0	654	65.4
Braylon McReynolds	4	161	101	0	34	0	296	74.0
Marco Lee Jr.	12	220	8	0	0	0	228	19.0
DJ Thomas-Jones	12	0	212	0	0	0	212	17.7
Javon Ivory	11	0	183	0	0	0	183	16.6
Lincoln Sefcik	9	0	165	0	0	0	165	18.3
Devin Voisin	2	0	77	0	0	0	77	38.5
Gio Lopez	4	66	0	0	0	0	66	16.5
PJ Martin	3	28	18	0	0	0	46	15.3
Jacob Hopper	10	0	31	0	9	0	40	4.0
Dorian Smith	4	34	3	0	0	0	37	9.3
Keyshawn Woodyard	4	0	34	0	0	0	34	8.5
Desmond Trotter	4	28	0	0	0	0	28	7.0
Todd Justice	12	19	9	0	0	0	28	2.3
Marquise Robinson	12	0	0	0	0	24	24	2.0
Jarvis Durr	1	20	0	0	0	0	20	20.0
Brandon Crum	10	0	8	0	6	0	14	1.4
Jaden Voisin	12	0	0	0	0	13	13	1.1
Khalil Jacobs	12	0	0	0	0	12	12	1.0
Jonathon Carter	1	8	0	0	0	0	8	8.0
Wesley Miller	11	0	0	0	0	3	3	0.3
Jeremiah Webb	8	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.4
Carter Bradley	11	-48	0	0	0	0	-48	-4.4
Total	12	1916	3179	215	265	52	5627	468.9
Opponents	12	1401	2521	11	558	29	4520	376.7

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Carter Bradley	11	369	-48	2660	2612	237.5
La'Damian Webb	11	186	1007	0	1007	91.5
Kentrel Bullock	10	77	380	0	380	38.0
Gio Lopez	4	53	66	283	349	87.3
Desmond Trotter	4	33	28	236	264	66.0
Marco Lee Jr.	12	53	220	0	220	18.3
Braylon McReynolds	4	33	161	0	161	40.3
Dorian Smith	4	2	34	0	34	8.5
PJ Martin	3	9	28	0	28	9.3
Jarvis Durr	1	3	20	0	20	20.0
Todd Justice	12	1	19	0	19	1.6
Jonathon Carter	1	1	8	0	8	8.0
Total	12	824	1916	3179	5095	424.6
Opponents	12	752	1401	2521	3922	326.8



SOUTH ALABAMA STATISTICS

Team Defense

##	Player	gp	Tackles				tfl/yds	Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot				int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
10	Quentin Wilfawn	12	46	35	81	15-53	6.5-38	.	1	6	.	2	.	.	
4	James Miller	12	27	41	68	4-6	.	.	.	1	1-9	.	.	.	
22	Trey Kiser	12	29	39	68	9.5-27	2.5-14	.	2	1	.	.	.	.
2	Jaden Voisin	12	29	37	66	2-5	.	4-13	7	.	.	1	.	.	
25	Khalil Jacobs	12	22	31	53	7.5-22	3-14	1-12	.	2	.	3	.	.	
8	Yam Banks	12	25	19	44	4.5-20	1-6	1-0	2	3	.	1	.	.	
11	Jamie Sheriff	12	18	23	41	7-26	3-19	.	.	10	.	1	.	.	
6	Ricky Fletcher	12	26	11	37	1-1	.	.	12	1	1-0	.	.	.	
99	Wy'Kevious Thomas	12	10	26	36	3-7	1-6	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
1	Jalen Jordan	11	22	13	35	2-3	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
7	Marquise Robinson	12	19	15	34	1.5-5	.	2-24	.	.	1-25	.	.	.	
30	Charles Coleman III	12	13	13	26	2.5-9	1.5-7	.	.	5	.	.	.	.
12	Jamall Hickbottom	12	9	17	26	2-5	0.5-3	.	.	.	2-0	1	.	.	
31	Mike Harris	11	8	13	21	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
95	Brock Higdon	12	6	12	18	4-25	3-21	.	1	4	.	.	.	.
55	Maurice Strong Jr.	11	8	5	13	3.5-14	2-9	1-0	.	2	.	.	.	.
9	Ke'Shun Brown	6	9	4	13	.	.	.	.	.	1-5	.	.	.
90	Carlos Johnson Jr.	12	3	10	13	1-4	0.5-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Rickey Hyatt Jr.	10	2	7	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20	Lamondre Brooks	7	6	3	9	2.5-6	1-4	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
29	Wesley Miller	11	3	5	8	1-2	.	1-3	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	
39	Dalton Hughes	12	5	2	7	1-1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
19	Dallas Gamble	12	3	3	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	Christopher Wallace, Jr.	12	2	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
18	RJ Moss Jr.	3	2	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
53	Emauri Sibley	4	1	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Chrystyile Caldwell	9	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Blayne Myrick	10	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	Reggie Neely	11	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
21	Jordan Norman	3	1	2	3	1.5-11	1.5-11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
26	Brian Dillard	11	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Jamarrien Burt	10	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Keith Gallmon Jr.	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	La'Damian Webb	11	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Isaac Mason	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
88	Lincoln Sefcik	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
27	Gavin Forsha	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Braylon McReynolds	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Jamaal Pritchett	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
14	Kentrel Bullock	10	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
91	Nathan Rawlins-Kibonge	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
28	Travis Drosos	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
Totals		12	369	400	769	76-252	27-155	11-52	27	39	8-39	9	0	0	
Opponents		12	427	438	865	74-307	31-196	10-29	34	22	9-94	13	0	0	





SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 1

Tulane 37, South Alabama 17
Sept. 2, 2023

Yulman Stadium | New Orleans, LA

Turnovers and penalties plagued South Alabama as the Jaguars fell to Tulane 37-17 in the season opener.

The Jaguars lost three fumbles on the night and threw two interceptions. South's defense did a good job of getting the offense the ball back, though, as it hopped on three fumbles of its own. Jamie Sheriff, Khalil

Jacobs and Yam Banks all forced fumbles while James Miller, Ricky Fletcher and Ke'Shun Brown came up with the recoveries. Miller and Sheriff also led the tackling efforts on the night with seven apiece.

Offensively, Carter Bradley threw the ball 30 times, completing 23 for 190 yards and a touchdown. Bradley also scrambled from four yards out for the first score of 2023.

After falling behind 24-7 in the first half, the Jags kicked a field goal to make the score 24-10 heading into the locker room. Tulane received the ball to start the second half, but Banks laid a big hit on a Tulane rusher to get South Alabama the ball back. That turnover led to Voisin's touchdown a few plays later, but it would prove to be the final points of the night for USA as Tulane ran away with the ball game



BRAYLON MCREYNOLDS

top target on the night with eight catches for 139 yards and a touchdown. The duo hooked up for an 84-yard touchdown strike on the first play of the fourth quarter, which set a record for the longest passing touchdown in program history.

The ground game was led by a one-two punch from Kentrel Bullock and La'Damian Webb. Bullock rushed for 82 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries while Webb produced 81 yards and two touchdowns. Marco Lee then came in as South's closer in the fourth quarter, rushing for a total of 66 yards and a touchdown.

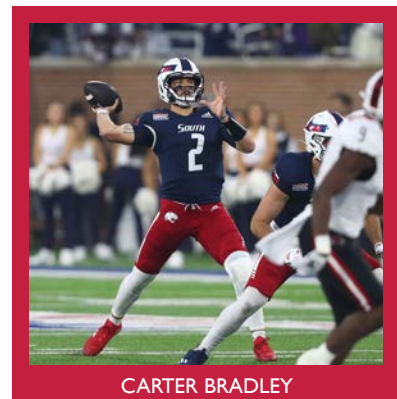
Coming out of the halftime break, USA quickly took control of the game when Webb scored his second touchdown of the night from 13 yards out. Bullock then made the score 21-7 with his rushing score late in the third quarter. Lacy's 84-yard highlight touchdown opened the fourth quarter to put the Jags up 28-10, and the two teams traded points the rest of the way before South clinched the win.

GAME 3

South Alabama 33, Oklahoma State 7
Sept. 16, 2023

Boone Pickens Stadium | Stillwater, Okla.

South Alabama scored on its first drive of the game and never looked back as the Jaguars dismantled Oklahoma State, 33-7, at Boone Pickens Stadium. The victory over the Cowboys marked South Alabama's second win over a Power 5 opponent in program history, and the first over a team from the Big 12 Conference.



CARTER BRADLEY

The Jags owned a 395-208 advantage in total yards, including 243 yards on the ground while only allowing OSU 94 total rushing yards. USA also won the battle through the air, outpacing the Pokes 152-114. Oklahoma State could only manage 3.2 yards per play for the game while South Alabama nearly doubled that total with 6.3 yards per snap.

La'Damian Webb carried the ball 18 times for 151 yards and two touchdowns. His big highlight came in the fourth quarter when a 65-yard touchdown run put the game on ice.

Carter Bradley completed 10-of-16 passing attempts for 152 yards and two touchdowns.

GAME 2

South Alabama 35, Southeastern Louisiana 17
Sept. 9, 2023

Hancock Whitney Stadium | Mobile, Ala.

After a slow first half that saw the game tied at seven apiece at halftime, South Alabama came alive in the second half to outscore Southeastern Louisiana, 28-10, and win the game 35-17 at Hancock Whitney Stadium.

The Jags produced a balanced offensive attack on the night, passing for 261 yards and earning 248 yards on the ground. Carter Bradley threw for 258 yards and a touchdown on a 73-percent completion clip, with Caullin Lacy acting as his



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 4

Central Michigan 34, South Alabama 30
Sept. 23, 2023
Hancock Whitney Stadium | Mobile, Ala.

In a back-and-forth battle, South Alabama took the lead with just under three minutes to play, but could not hold on as Central Michigan drove down the field to score with seconds remaining and secure a 34-30 victory.

Despite the loss, South outgained the Chippewas, 405-355, on the night. The Jags rushed for 151 yards to CMU's 125 and threw for 254 yards to Central Michigan's 230. The USA defense struggled to get off the field on third down as the Chips converted 9-of-13 third-down attempts.



DIEGO GUAJARDO

Carter Bradley threw for 254 yards on the night with two touchdowns. On the ground, La'Damian Webb and Kentrel Bullock paced the Jaguars with 68 and 65 yards, respectively. Webb scored twice on the night, while Bullock ripped off a long rush of 29 yards.

The Jags started off hot, quickly going up 14-0 on their first two drives of the game. CMU then responded to make it 14-13 going into halftime. The Chippewas continued to carry that momentum into the second half and held the lead until there was just 2:42 on the clock in the fourth quarter. A Webb touchdown from one yard out put South up in the final minutes, but the Chips went 75 yards in 2:29 to score the game-winning touchdown with just 13 seconds remaining.

GAME 5

James Madison 31, South Alabama 23
Sept. 30, 2023
Bridgeforth Stadium / Zane Showker Field
Harrisonburg, Va.

After falling behind by 21 early in the fourth quarter, South Alabama rallied to make it a one-score game, but could not find the end zone on its last drive as James Madison held on to win 31-23.

The Jags had several bright spots in the losing effort, including the receiving duo of Caullin Lacy and Jamaal Pritchett who both

had big games. Lacy caught six passes for 132 yards, including a 55-yard connection with Carter Bradley in the fourth quarter to set up a La'Damian Webb touchdown run. Pritchett caught three passes for 65 yards, and scored his first touchdown in a USA uniform on a 48-yard bomb from Bradley.

It was the explosive plays of JMU that haunted the Jags, though, as the Dukes scored three times from 44 yards out or further. Trey Kiser led the attack for South with eight total tackles, including three tackles for loss. Wy'Kevious Thomas also played a good game with six tackles, including 1.5 for loss and half a sack.

GAME 6

South Alabama 55, Louisiana-Monroe 7
Oct. 7, 2023
Malone Stadium | Monroe, La.

South Alabama dominated ULM from start to finish as the Jaguars earned their first win in Monroe in program history with a 55-7 victory.

Everything was clicking for South as the Jags scored on their first five drives of the game. Overall, USA scored on nine of 10 offensive drives for the game, including the final four of the night. Defensively, the Jaguars stopped ULM on 10 of 11 drives for the game by forcing two takeaways, two turnovers on downs, and five punts.

Carter Bradley had 303 passing yards and three touchdowns while completing 20-of-29 passes. Freshman Gio Lopez came on in relief to throw for 84 yards and a touchdown of his own.

The favorite receiving target on the night was Caullin Lacy who recorded a career-high 156 receiving yards on seven catches. Lacy added a 44-yard touchdown on the night, and a long reception of 50 yards. La'Damian Webb led the Jags in rushing with an even 100 yards on 19 carries, while scoring a touchdown for the fifth-consecutive game.

South dominated the Warhawks in every phase of the game, totaling 589 yards of offense while only surrendering 250. The Jags went 7-of-13 on third downs and 3-of-3 on fourth down, and held ULM to under 50 percent on third down and 0-of-2 on fourth down. USA also possessed the ball for 36:30 of the game while ULM could only manage 23:30 of possession.



JADEN VOISIN





SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 7

South Alabama 55, Southern Miss 3
Oct. 17, 2023 | Hancock Whitney Stadium | Mobile, Ala.

South Alabama scored on its opening drive and never looked back as the Jaguars dismantled Southern Miss, 55-3, in a record-setting victory on a Tuesday night in Mobile.

South's 647 yards of total offense set a program record, while the 52-point win was also the biggest margin of victory against an FBS program in school history. The team's seven rushing touchdowns also set a new single-game record.

South Alabama outgained the Golden Eagles, 647-149, as the Jags threw for 360 yards while grinding out 287 yards on the ground. South converted on 7-of-11 third downs while holding USM to just 1-of-13, and recorded two takeaways to one for Southern Miss.

La'Damian Webb had a monster game for USA, rushing for 102 yards and four touchdowns on 20 carries. His four rushing touchdowns tied the school record which he set last season at Georgia Southern. It also marked the sixth-straight game with a rushing touchdown for Webb. Joining Webb in the record-setting rushing effort was Kentrel Bullock with a 17-yard touchdown, freshman quarterback Gio Lopez who scored his first-career rushing touchdown, and Dorian Smith who scored his first-career touchdown on his first-career carry.

Carter Bradley threw for 319 yards on 21-of-27, becoming the first quarterback in school history to throw for 300 yards or more in five games. Jamaal Pritchett recorded a career-best 122 yards receiving.



JAMAAL PRITCHETT

GAME 8

Louisiana 33, South Alabama 20
Oct. 28, 2023
Hancock Whitney Stadium | Mobile, Ala.

South Alabama could not overcome five turnovers as the Jaguars fell to Louisiana, 33-20, Saturday night at home.

The receiving duo of Jamaal Pritchett and Caullin Lacy combined

for 299 yards and two touchdowns on the night. Pritchett hauled in 11 receptions for 168 yards and two touchdowns. All three statistics were career highs for the sophomore receiver. La'Damian Webb finished with 96 rushing yards and a touchdown, giving him a rushing score in seven-consecutive contests.



JAMES MILLER

Quentin Wilfawn was all over the field for the Jaguars on defense, setting a career-high in tackles with 15. His 4.5 tackles for loss also tied the school record for tackles for loss in a single game.

After a scoreless first half, South showed signs of life by coming out of the locker room with back-to-back touchdown drives. The defense struggled to get off the field, though, and the offense surrendered three more turnovers as the Jaguars could only climb within six points before the Ragin' Cajuns pulled away.

GAME 9

Troy 28, South Alabama 10
Nov. 2, 2023
Veterans Memorial Stadium | Troy, Ala.

Despite solid play from freshman Gio Lopes in his first-career start, South Alabama could not generate enough offense or get enough stops to defeat Troy as the Jags fell, 28-10, in the Battle for the Belt.

Lopez threw for 155 yards while completing 17-of-27 passes in his first-collegiate start, and also chipped in 39 yards rushing. He connected with Caullin Lacy nine times for 89 yards

La'Damian Webb ran for 53 yards and a touchdown, giving him his eighth-consecutive game with a rushing score this year.

Quentin Wilfawn recorded his second-straight, double-digit tackle game with 11 takedowns on the night. He also recorded two tackles for loss, one sack and one forced fumble.

The Jags scored the first touchdown of the night after recovering a Trojan fumble and going 44 yards for a score. Troy responded by scoring the final two touchdowns of the half to take a 14-7 lead. South scored the first points of the second half on a Diego Guajardo field goal in the fourth quarter, but Troy responded with two more touchdowns to put the game out of reach late.



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 10

South Alabama 21, Arkansas State 14
Nov. 11, 2023

Hancock Whitney Stadium | Mobile, Ala.

Led by a big game from Quentin Wilfawn and an interception by Jaden Voisin, the South Alabama defense turned in a strong performance to help the Jaguars defeat Arkansas State, 21-14.



KHALIL JACOBS

Wilfawn did a little of everything for the Jaguars with 10 total tackles, three for loss, 2.5 sacks, one pass breakup, a forced fumble and four quarterback hurries. His efforts, combined with a key interception by Voisin inside South's 10-yard line in the third quarter, helped South keep the Red Wolves' offense at bay for the night. In total, the Jags stopped Arkansas State behind the line of scrimmage 11 times for the game while holding them to just 116 yards rushing on 3.2 yards per attempt.

Offensively, USA rode the legs of running back La'Damian Webb who carried the ball 28 times for 163 yards and a touchdown. Of those 163 yards, 73 came on South's second drive of the game when he ripped off a 60-yard run to get the Jaguars into the Arkansas State red zone. Webb then finished off the drive with a touchdown rush from 13 yard out.

Pritchett's third-quarter touchdown gave USA a 15-point lead, but Arkansas State would pull within seven when they scored a touchdown on a 46-yard pass of their own on their last drive of the game. The Jags were able to run out the clock for the final 3:39.

GAME 11

South Alabama 28, Marshall 0
Nov. 18, 2023

Hancock Whitney Stadium | Mobile, Ala.

For the first time in program history, South Alabama football became bowl eligible in back-to-back seasons thanks to the Jaguars earning their first-ever shutout over an FBS program after a dominant, 28-0, victory over Marshall.

The defense set the tone early as South came away with interceptions on consecutive drives to open the game as Jalen Jordan and Jaden Voisin, before Marquise Robinson closed out a near-perfect half for the defense by completing the interception hat trick on the last play of the second quarter.

Overall, South held Marshall to just 201 total yards, including 42 rushing yards. The defense swarmed to the ball all night with seven quarterback hurries, which held the Thundering Herd to a completion percentage of 61 with just 159 passing yards for the game.

Offensively, USA was balanced on the night with 197 yards rushing and 196 yards through the air for a total of 393 yards for the game.

Webb had another monster game with 117 rushing yards and a rushing touchdown in addition to his touchdown reception. Braylon McReynolds also provided the team with a burst of energy in his second week back from injury with 53 yards on eight carries, including the longest running play of the night at 35 yards. Marco Lee Jr. chipped in an additional 30 yards in his final home game in a South Alabama uniform.

GAME 12

Texas State 52, South Alabama 44
Nov. 25, 2023

Bobcat Stadium | San Marcos, Texas

After falling behind 24-0 in the first quarter, South Alabama came storming back to pull within a touchdown, but could not complete the comeback as the Jaguars fell to Texas State 52-44 in the regular-season finale.

One of the game's biggest storylines for South Alabama took place in the third quarter when starting quarterback Carter Bradley went down with an injury. Senior backup Desmond Trotter then entered the game and proceeded to throw for 220 yards and four touchdowns while completing 19-of-22 pass attempts on the night. His four touchdown passes tied a single-game record at South Alabama. Bradley threw for 183 yards and two scores before leaving the game.

Several receivers had big games for the Jaguars, but it was DJ Thomas-Jones who turned in a career performance with three touchdown receptions on the night. It was the first time a Jaguar recorded three receiving touchdowns in the same game since Jalen Tolbert in 2020.

Facing a 24-0 deficit, South went on to score 24 of the next 31 points in the game to make it a one-score game. The teams alternated scores for the remainder of the night as Texas State secure the win with a rushing TD with 3:04 left.



QUENTIN WILFAWN





SOUTH ALABAMA ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Exp.	Hometown / Previous School / High School
0	Keith Gallmon Jr.	S	5-9	202	R-Sr.	Mobile, Ala. / Mobile Christian School
0	Braylon McReynolds	RB	5-8	187	So.	Mobile, Ala. / McGill-Toolen HS
1	Jalen Jordan	S	5-9	185	Sr.	Lake Cormorant, Miss. / Ole Miss / Lake Cormorant HS
1	Desmond Trotter	QB	6-3	220	Sr.	Irondale, Ala. / Shades Valley HS
2	Carter Bradley	QB	6-3	223	Sr.	Jacksonville, Fla. / Toledo / Providence HS
2	Jaden Voisin	S	6-0	204	R-Jr.	Crestview, Fla. / Crestview HS
3	La'Damian Webb	RB	5-7	210	Sr.	Opelika, Ala. / Jones (Miss.) College / Beauregard HS
3	Rickey Hyatt Jr.	S	6-1	192	R-Jr.	Westerville, Ohio / Kentucky / Westerville Christian HS
4	Caulin Lacy	WR	5-9	185	Jr.	Mobile, Ala. / Faith Academy
4	James Miller	LB	6-2	232	Sr.	Tampa, Fla. / Indiana / Armwood HS
6	Rickey Fletcher	CB	6-2	196	So.	Durant, Miss. / Holmes County HS
6	Jay'juan Townsend	WR	6-0	176	Jr.	Forest, Miss. / Eufaula HS
7	Marquise Robinson	CB	6-1	193	Jr.	Crosby, Miss. / Southwest Mississippi CC / Wilkinson HS
7	Gio Lopez	QB	6-0	223	Fr.	Huntsville, Ala. / James Clemens HS
8	Yam Banks	S	6-1	208	Jr.	Ridgeland, Miss. / Ridgeland HS
8	DJ Thomas-Jones	TE	6-2	252	Sr.	Mobile, Ala. / Ole Miss / Saraland HS
9	Ke'Shun Brown	LB	6-1	235	R-Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Texas A&M / G.W. Carver HS
9	Devin Voisin	WR	6-0	194	R-Jr.	Crestview, Fla. / Crestview HS
10	Tanner McGee	QB	6-4	219	R-Jr.	Randleman, N.C. / Randleman HS
10	Quentin Wilfawn	LB	6-1	257	R-Sr.	Oxford, Miss. / Northwest Mississippi CC / Oxford HS
11	Jamie Sheriff	DL	6-2	269	R-Sr.	Terry, Miss. / Mississippi Gulf Coast CC / Terry HS
11	Anthony Eager	WR	6-0	173	Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / McGill-Toolen HS
12	Jamall Hickbottom	DL	6-2	305	Sr.	Mobile, Ala. / Williamson HS
12	Jamaal Pritchett	WR	5-9	172	Jr.	Jackson, Ala. / Tuskegee / Jackson HS
13	Christopher Wallace Jr.	S	6-0	196	So.	Mobile, Ala. / Mary G. Montgomery HS
13	Javon Ivory	WR	6-1	202	R-Sr.	Grove Hill, Ala. / Memphis / Clarke County HS
14	Cole Blaylock	S	6-0	195	Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / UMS-Wright Preparatory School
14	Kentrel Bullock	RB	5-11	204	Jr.	Columbia, Miss. / Ole Miss / Columbia HS
15	Chrystyle Caldwell	LB	6-1	205	R-Fr.	Elba, Ala. / Elba HS
15	Shamar Sandgren	WR	6-2	168	Jr.	Savannah, Ga. / Itawamba CC / Island HS
16	Jamarrien Burt	CB	6-1	168	R-Fr.	Ocala, Fla. / Oklahoma / Forest HS
16	Christopher Davis Jr.	WR	6-0	154	So.	Watson, La. / Live Oak HS
17	Bishop Davenport	QB	6-2	185	R-Fr.	Spring, Texas / Utah State / Spring HS
17	Reggie Neely	CB	6-0	184	Jr.	Memphis, Tenn. / East Mississippi CC / Briarcrest Christian
18	RJ Moss Jr.	DL	6-4	266	So.	Biloxi, Miss. / Biloxi HS
18	Keyshawn Woodyard	WR	6-1	195	R-So.	Mobile, Ala. / UMS-Wright Preparatory School
19	Dallas Gamble	CB	6-0	194	R-Jr.	Booneville, Miss. / Booneville HS
19	Trip Maxwell	QB	6-2	201	Fr.	Flowood, Miss. / Hartfield Academy
20	Lamondre Brooks	DL	6-2	244	So.	Birmingham, Ala. / Huffman HS
20	Brandon Crum	TE	6-4	260	Sr.	Auburn, Ala. / Auburn HS
21	Jarvis Durr	RB	5-11	185	Fr.	Brandon, Miss. / Brandon HS
21	Jordan Norman	DL	6-3	239	Fr.	Hoover, Ala. / Hoover HS
22	Trey Kiser	LB	6-0	233	Sr.	Sulphur, Okla. / NE Oklahoma A&M JC / Sulphur HS
22	PJ Martin	RB	5-10	205	Fr.	New Orleans, La. / De La Salle HS
23	Cash Turner	WR	6-0	157	Fr.	Orange Beach, Ala. / Orange Beach HS
23	Tremel States-Jones	S	6-0	200	So.	Surrey, BC, Canada / Clearwater Academy International
24	Josh Bledsoe	CB	6-0	170	Fr.	Lafayette, Ala. / Lafayette HS
25	Khalil Jacobs	LB	6-2	226	So.	Clearwater, Fla. / Niceville HS
26	Brian Dillard	CB	6-2	190	Jr.	Ocala, Fla. / Independence CC / Lake Weir HS
26	Jonathon Carter	RB	5-9	184	R-Fr.	Troy, Ala. / Charles Henderson HS
27	Jacob Hopper	TE	6-6	257	Jr.	Boaz, Ala. / Sardis HS
27	Gavin Forsha	LB	6-3	225	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Kansas State / Mount Juliet Christian Academy
28	Isaac Mason	S	5-9	192	R-Fr.	Florence, Ala. / Florence HS
28	Travis Drosos	LS	6-0	222	Jr.	Gilbert, Ariz. / Colorado / Perry HS
29	Marco Lee Jr.	RB	6-0	235	Sr.	Columbus, Ga. / Virginia Tech / Hardaway HS
29	Wesley Miller	S	5-11	188	R-Fr.	Columbia, Miss. / Mississippi State / Heritage Academy
30	Charles Coleman III	DL	6-3	283	R-Sr.	Huntsville, Ala. / Mae Jemison HS
30	Stacey Boykins Jr.	WR	6-1	198	Fr.	Daphne, Ala. / Daphne HS
31	Mike Harris	S	5-10	178	R-Jr.	Phenix City, Ala. / Baylor / Central HS
32	Blayne Myrick	LB	6-2	223	So.	Fairhope, Ala. / Fairhope HS



SOUTH ALABAMA ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Exp.	Hometown / Previous School / High School
33	Dorian Smith	RB	5-9	175	Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / Faith Academy
33	Alex Shamburger	S	6-2	171	Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / McGill Toolen HS
34	Micah Turner	TE	6-3	213	Fr.	Antioch, Ala. / Straughn HS
34	Jordan Buchanan	S	6-1	168	R-Fr.	Suwanee, Ga. / Purdue / North Gwinnett HS
35	Nick Curtis	DL	6-5	215	R-Jr.	Birmingham, Ala. / Auburn / Kent State / Hoover HS
35	David Delgado	P/K	5-10	175	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. / San Diego State / Hilltop HS
36	Diego Guajardo	PK	6-0	191	Sr.	Spanish Fort, Ala. / Daphne HS
36	Cameron Rutledge	DL	6-1	178	Jr.	McCalla, Ala. / Mississippi College / McAdory HS
37	Jacob Meeks	PK	6-3	202	Sr.	Grand Prairie, Texas / ULM / Forest HS
37	Karon Weary	S	6-2	174	Fr.	Columbia, Miss. / East Marion HS
38	Calvin Williams	CB	5-11	180	Fr.	Phenix City, Ala. / Russell County HS
39	Dalton Hughes	LB	6-2	226	So.	Tupelo, Miss. / Tupelo HS
40	Aleksi Pulkkinen	K	6-4	190	Fr.	Helsinki, Finland / Vuosaari Kukio
42	Anthony Zaccaro	LS	6-2	227	Jr.	Melville, N.Y. / Old Dominion / St. Anthony's HS
43	Taylor Milton	LB	6-3	226	Jr.	Zachary, La. / New Mexico State / Zachary HS
44	Michael Archie	CB	6-1	204	Fr.	Pensacola, Fla. / Pensacola Catholic HS
45	Ed Smith IV	DL	6-2	290	So.	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Central HS
46	Toshi Yamamoto	DL	5-11	220	Fr.	Hoover, Ala. / Hoover HS
47	Eli Ntsasa	S	6-1	187	Jr.	West Linn, Ore. / Laney College / West Linn HS
48	Jordon Williams	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	Metairie, La. / Archbishop Rummel HS
49	Logan Lewis	LB	5-11	225	Fr.	Metairie, La. / Archbishop Rummel HS
51	Reed Buys	OL	6-4	305	R-Jr.	Vicksburg, Miss. / Mississippi State / Warren Central HS
52	John Ward	OL	6-4	290	Fr.	Atmore, Ala. / Northview (Fla.) HS
53	Emauri Sibley	LB	6-0	200	So.	Zachary, La. / Arkansas-Monticello / Zachary HS
55	Dontae Lucas	OL	6-4	317	Sr.	Overton, Fla. / Florida State / IMG Academy
55	Maurice Strong Jr.	DL	6-1	294	Sr.	Raiford, Fla. / Union County HS
56	Adrian Griffin	OL	6-5	281	Fr.	Pleasant Grove, Ala. / Pleasant Grove HS
57	Jayson Jarrell	OL	6-0	300	Jr.	Fairhope, Ala. / Birmingham Southern / Fairhope HS
59	Sam Williams	OL	6-0	291	R-Fr.	Pascagoula, Miss. / Resurrection Catholic School
61	Julius Kidd	OL	6-2	318	R-Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / Davidson HS
62	Kade Hogue	OL	6-1	295	R-Fr.	Daphne, Ala. / Goode Elite Prep / Bessemer Academy
65	Josh McCulloch	OL	6-3	312	Sr.	Houston, Texas / Aldine Benjamin Davis HS
67	Reggie Smith	OL	6-1	314	R-Sr.	Pensacola, Fla. / Escambia HS
69	Kenton Jerido	OL	6-2	331	So.	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Northridge HS
70	Adrein Strickland	OL	6-6	332	So.	Panama City, Fla. / Mosley HS
71	James Robinson	OL	6-4	330	R-Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Tennessee / G.W. Carver HS
73	Daniel Foster-Allen	OL	6-3	298	R-Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / Auburn / St. Paul's Episcopal School
74	Reid Gavin	OL	6-4	331	So.	Ellisville, Miss. / South Jones HS
74	Johnathan Street	DL	6-2	290	R-Jr.	State Line, Miss. / Holmes County CC
75	Damon Parr	OL	6-6	349	So.	Jacksonville, Ala. / Pleasant Valley HS
76	Lucas Taylor	OL	6-5	330	R-Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / Mississippi State / St. Paul's Episcopal HS
77	Malachi Carney	OL	6-4	315	R-Fr.	Pleasant Grove, Ala. / Pleasant Grove HS
79	Jordan Davis	OL	6-5	319	R-So.	Fairburn, Ga. / South Carolina / Creekside HS
80	Hollis McDaniel	TE	6-3	205	Fr.	New Orleans, La. / Jesuit HS
81	Jeremiah Webb	WR	5-11	192	R-Jr.	Chicago, Ill. / South Dakota / Urban Prep Academy
82	Trent Thomas	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / Cottage Hill HS
83	Jace Larsen	WR	6-1	161	Fr.	New Orleans, La. / Jesuit HS
84	Oakley Coleman	WR	6-3	185	R-Jr.	Mobile, Ala. / McGill-Toolen HS
85	Caeleb Schlachter	WR	6-3	192	R-Fr.	Kelowna, B.C., Canada / Clearwater Academy International
86	Todd Justice	TE	6-3	244	R-Jr.	Chelsea, Ala. / Chelsea HS
87	Jack Martin	P	5-11	178	Sr.	Mobile, Ala. / Alabama / McGill-Toolen HS
88	Lincoln Sefcik	TE	6-3	248	Sr.	Enid, Okla. / Northeastern Oklahoma A&M JC / Enid HS
89	Chris Holifield Jr.	WR	5-10	184	R-Jr.	Mobile, Ala. / Pearl River CC / LeFlore HS
90	Carlos Johnson Jr.	DL	6-0	282	R-Jr.	Mobile, Ala. / Spanish Fort HS
91	Nathan Rawlins-Kibonge	DL	6-6	240	R-So.	Portland, Ore. / Oklahoma / Jefferson HS
93	Baxter Turner	LS	5-10	188	Fr.	Saraland, Ala. / Saraland HS
94	Hamilton DiBoyan	K	5-11	155	Fr.	Alpharetta, Ga. / Denmark HS
95	Brock Higdon	DL	6-7	268	Jr.	Pelham, Ala. / Pelham HS
96	Eli Webb	LB	6-2	222	So.	Fairhope, Ala. / Belhaven / Fairhope HS
97	Devery Smith	DL	6-1	280	Jr.	Daphne, Ala. / Daphne HS / East Central CC / Dodge City
99	Wy'Kevious Thomas	DL	6-2	308	R-Jr.	Riverdale, Ga. / Riverdale HS





SOUTH ALABAMA DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Position	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	5	Carter Bradley	6-3	223	Sr.
	1	Desmond Trotter	6-3	220	Sr.
	7	Gio Lopez	6-1	223	Fr.
RB	3	La'Damian Webb	5-7	210	Sr.
	14	Kentrel Bullock	5-11	204	Jr.
TE	8	DJ Thomas-Jones	6-3	252	Sr.
	20	Brandon Crum	6-4	260	Sr.
	or 27	Jacob Hopper	6-6	257	Jr.
WR-H	11	Anthony Eager	6-0	173	Fr.
	6	Jay'juan Townsend	6-0	176	Jr.
WR-Z	13	Javon Ivory	6-1	202	R-Jr.
	15	Shamar Sandgren	6-0	171	Jr.
WR-X	12	Jamaal Pritchett	5-8	172	So.
	6	Jay'juan Townsend	6-0	176	Jr.
LT	79	Jordan Davis	6-5	319	R-So.
	65	Josh McCulloch	6-3	312	Sr.
LG	51	Reed Buys	6-4	305	R-Jr.
	71	James Robinson	6-4	330	R-Jr.
C	67	Reggie Smith	6-1	314	Sr.
	69	Kenton Jerido	6-2	331	So.
RG	55	Dontae Lucas	6-4	322	Sr.
	74	Reid Gavin	6-4	331	So.
RT	70	Adrein Strickland	6-6	332	So.
	77	Malachi Carney	6-4	315	R-Fr.

DEFENSE

Position	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
BANDIT		Jamie Sheriff	6-2	269	R-Sr.
	95	Brock Higdon	6-7 2	68	R-Jr.
NG	99	Wy'Kevious Thomas	6-2	308	R-Jr.
	12	Jamall Hickbottom	6-2	305	Sr.
DT	30	Charles Coleman III	6-3	283	Sr.
	90	Carlos Johnson Jr.	6-0	282	Jr.
HUSKY	8	Yam Banks	6-1	208	Jr.
	13	Christopher Wallace Jr.	6-0	196	So.
MIKE	4	James Miller	6-1	232	Sr.
	25	Khalil Jacobs	6-2	226	So.
STING	22	Trey Kiser	6-0	233	Sr.
	9	Ke'Shun Brown	6-1	235	R-Jr.
WOLF	10	Quentin Wilfawn	6-1	257	R-Jr.
	20	Lamondre Brooks	6-2	244	So.
FCB	6	Ricky Fletcher	6-2	196	So.
	17	Reggie Neely	6-0	184	Jr.
ROVER	31	Mike Harris	5-10	178	R-Jr.
	or 1	Jalen Jordan	5-9	185	Sr.
FS	2	Jaden Voisin	6-0	204	R-Jr.
	3	Rickey Hyatt Jr.	6-1	203	R-Jr.
BCB	7	Marquise Robinson	6-1	193	Jr.
	19	Dallas Gamble	6-0	194	R-Jr.



SPECIALISTS

Position	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
KO	37	Jacob Meeks	6-3	202	Sr.
PK	36	Diego Guajardo	6-0	191	Sr.
P	87	Jack Martin	5-11	178	Sr.
LS	28	Travis Drosos	6-0	222	Jr.
H	87	Jack Martin	5-11	178	Sr.
KR	14	Kentrel Bullock	5-11	204	Jr.
PR	12	Jamaal Pritchett	5-8	172	So.



PLAYERS



Keith Gallmon Jr. **0**

S 5-9 202 R.Sr.



Braylon McReynolds **0**

RB 5-8 187 So.



Jalen Jordan **1**

S 5-9 185 Sr.



Desmond Trotter **1**

QB 6-3 220 Sr.



Carter Bradley **2**

QB 6-3 223 Sr.



Jaden Voisin **2**

S 6-0 204 R.Jr.



La'Damian Webb **3**

RB 5-7 210 Sr.



Rickey Hyatt Jr. **3**

S 6-1 192 R.Jr.



Caullin Lacy **4**

WR 5-9 185 Jr.



James Miller **4**

LB 6-2 232 Sr.



Rickey Fletcher **6**

CB 6-2 196 So.



Jay'juan Townsend **6**

WR 6-0 176 Jr.



Marquise Robinson **7**

CB 6-1 193 Jr.



Gio Lopez **7**

QB 6-0 223 Fr.



Yam Banks **8**

S 6-1 208 Jr.



DJ Thomas-Jones **8**

TE 6-2 252 Sr.



Ke'Shun Brown **9**

LB 6-1 235 R.Jr.



Devin Voisin **9**

WR 6-0 194 R.Jr.



Tanner McGee **10**

QB 6-4 219 R.Jr.



Quentin Wilfawn **10**

LB 6-1 257 R.Sr.



Jamie Sheriff **11**

DL 6-2 269 R.Sr.



Anthony Eager **11**

WR 6-0 173 Fr.



Jamall Hickbottom **12**

DL 6-2 305 Sr.



Jamaal Pritchett **12**

WR 5-9 172 Jr.



Christopher Wallace Jr. **13**

S 6-0 196 So.





Javon Ivory 13
WR 6-1 202 R-Sr.



Cole Blaylock 14
S 6-0 195 Fr.



Kentrel Bullock 14
RB 5-11 204 Jr.



Chrystyle Caldwell 15
LB 6-1 205 R-Fr.



Shamar Sandgren 15
WR 6-2 168 Jr.



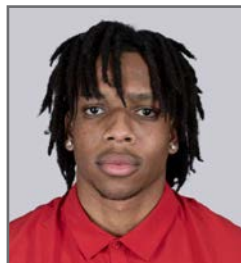
Jamarrien Burt 16
CB 6-1 168 R-Fr.



Christopher Davis Jr. 16
WR 6-0 154 So.



Bishop Davenport 17
QB 6-2 185 R-Fr.



Reggie Neely 17
CB 6-0 184 Jr.



RJ Moss Jr. 18
DL 6-4 266 So.



Keyshawn Woodyard 18
WR 6-1 195 R-So.



Dallas Gamble 19
CB 6-0 194 R-Jr.



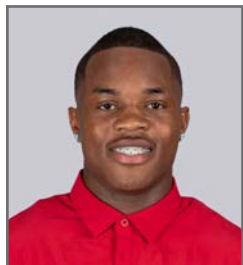
Trip Maxwell 19
QB 6-2 201 Fr.



Lamondre Brooks 20
DL 6-2 244 So.



Brandon Crum 20
TE 6-4 260 Sr.



Jarvis Durr 21
RB 5-11 185 Fr.



Jordan Norman 21
DL 6-3 239 Fr.



Trey Kiser 22
LB 6-0 233 Sr.



PJ Martin 22
RB 5-10 205 Fr.



Cash Turner 23
WR 6-0 157 Fr.



Tremel States-Jones 23
S 6-0 200 So.



Josh Bledsoe 24
CB 6-0 170 Fr.



Khalil Jacobs 25
LB 6-2 226 So.



Brian Dillard 26
CB 6-2 190 Jr.



Jonathon Carter 26
RB 5-9 184 R-Fr.



PLAYERS



Jacob Hopper **27**

TE 6-6 257 Jr.



Gavin Forsha **27**

LB 6-3 225 Jr.



Isaac Mason **28**

S 5-9 192 R-Fr.



Travis Drosos **28**

LS 6-0 222 Jr.



Marco Lee Jr. **29**

RB 6-0 235 Sr.



Wesley Miller **29**

S 5-11 188 R-Fr.



Charles Coleman III **30**

DL 6-3 283 R-Sr.



Stacey Boykins Jr. **30**

WR 6-1 198 Fr.



Mike Harris **31**

S 5-10 178 R-Jr.



Blayne Myrick **32**

LB 6-2 223 So.



Dorian Smith **33**

RB 5-9 175 Fr.



Alex Shamburger **33**

S 6-2 171 Fr.



Micah Turner **34**

TE 6-3 213 Fr.



Jordan Buchanan **34**

S 6-1 168 R-Fr.



Nick Curtis **35**

DL 6-5 215 R-Jr.



David Delgado **35**

P/K 5-10 175 Jr.



Diego Guajardo **36**

PK 6-0 191 Sr.



Cameron Rutledge **36**

DL 6-1 178 Jr.



Jacob Meeks **37**

PK 6-3 202 Sr.



Karon Weary **37**

S 6-2 174 Fr.



Calvin Williams **38**

CB 5-11 180 Fr.



Dalton Hughes **39**

LB 6-2 226 So.



Aleks Pulkkinen **40**

K 6-4 190 Fr.



Anthony Zaccaro **42**

LS 6-2 227 Jr.



Taylor Milton **43**

LB 6-3 226 Jr.





Michael Archie **44**
CB 6-1 204 Fr.



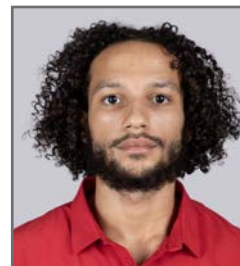
Ed Smith IV **45**
DL 6-2 290 So.



Toshi Yamamoto **46**
DL 5-11 220 Fr.



Jordan Williams **48**
LB 6-2 200 Fr.



Eli Ntsasa **47**
S 6-1 187 Jr.



Logan Lewis **49**
LB 5-11 225 Fr.



Reed Buys **51**
OL 6-4 305 R-Jr.



John Ward **52**
OL 6-4 290 Fr.



Emauri Sibley **53**
LB 6-0 200 So.



Dontae Lucas **55**
OL 6-4 317 Sr.



Maurice Strong Jr. **55**
DL 6-1 294 Sr.



Adrian Griffin **56**
OL 6-5 281 Fr.



Jayson Jarrell **57**
OL 6-0 300 Jr.



Sam Williams **59**
OL 6-0 291 R-Fr.



Julius Kidd **61**
OL 6-2 318 R-Fr.



Kade Hogue **62**
OL 6-1 295 R-Fr.



Josh McCulloch **65**
OL 6-3 312 Sr.



Reggie Smith **67**
OL 6-1 314 R-Sr.



Kenton Jerido **69**
OL 6-2 331 So.



Adrein Strickland **70**
OL 6-6 332 So.



James Robinson **71**
OL 6-4 330 R-Jr.



Daniel Foster-Allen **73**
OL 6-3 298 R-Fr.



Reid Gavin **74**
OL 6-4 331 So.



Johnathan Street **74**
DL 6-2 290 R-Jr.



Damon Parr **75**
OL 6-6 349 So.



PLAYERS



Lucas Taylor 76

OL 6-5 330 R-Fr.



Malachi Carney 77

OL 6-4 315 R-Fr.



Jordan Davis 79

OL 6-5 319 R-So.



Hollis McDaniel 80

TE 6-3 205 Fr.



Jeremiah Webb 81

WR 5-11 192 R-Jr.



Trent Thomas 82

TE 6-4 235 Fr.



Jace Larsen 83

WR 6-1 161 Fr.



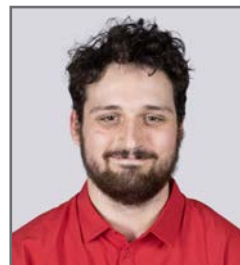
Oakley Coleman 84

WR 6-3 185 R-Jr.



Caeleb Schlachter 85

WR 6-3 192 R-Fr.



Todd Justice 86

TE 6-3 244 R-Jr.



Jack Martin 87

P 5-11 178 Sr.



Lincoln Sefcik 88

TE 6-3 248 Sr.



Chris Holifield Jr. 89

WR 5-10 184 R-Jr.



Carlos Johnson Jr. 90

DL 6-0 282 R-Jr.



Nathan Rawlins-Kibonge 91

DL 6-6 240 R-So.



Baxter Turner 93

LS 5-10 188 Fr.



Hamilton DiBoyan 94

K 5-11 155 Fr.



Brock Higdon 95

DL 6-7 268 Jr.



Eli Webb 96

LB 6-2 222 So.



Devery Smith 97

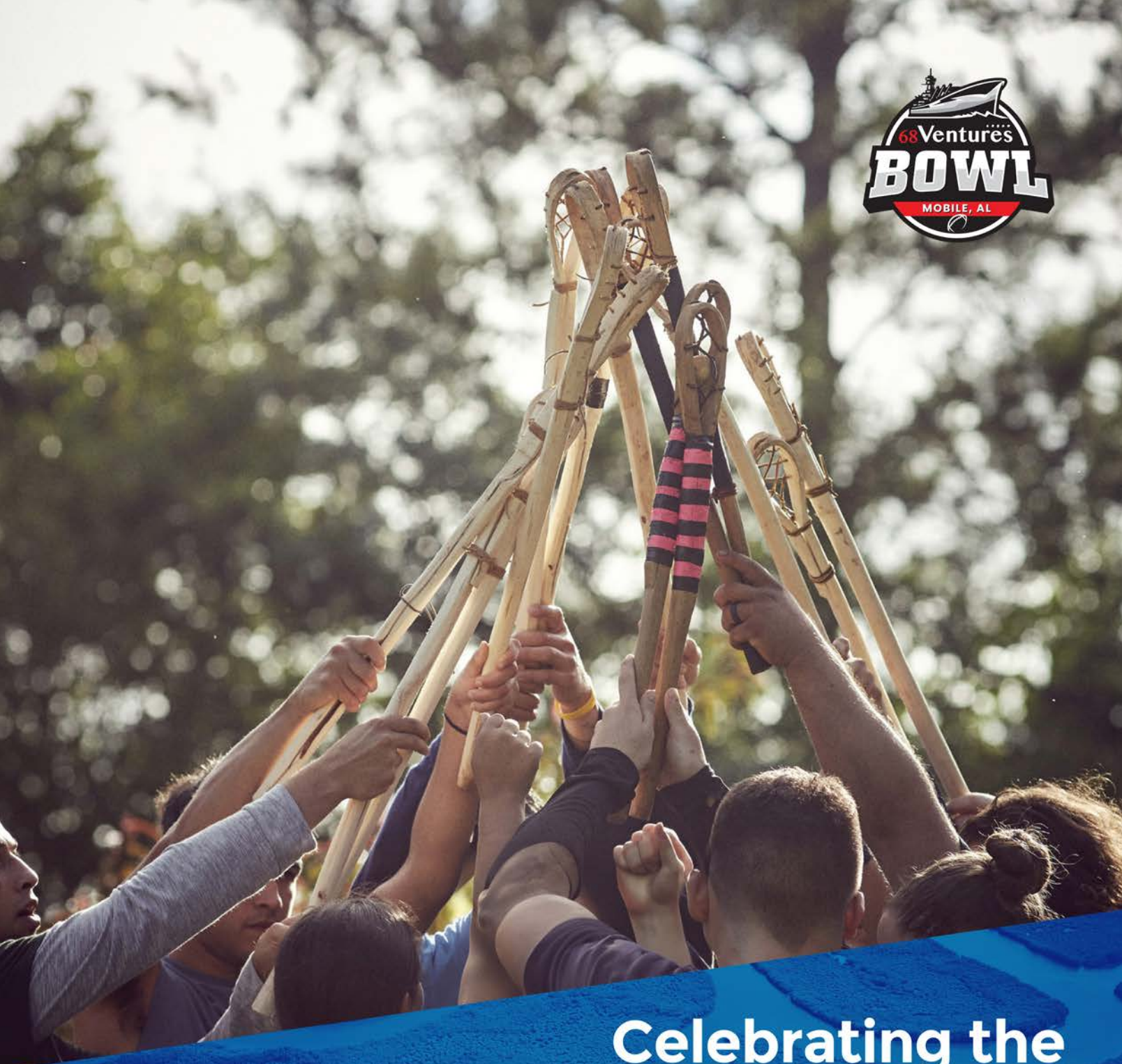
DL 6-1 280 Jr.



Wy'Kevious Thomas 99

DL 6-2 308 R-Jr.





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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Eastern Michigan University is among the most diverse public universities in Michigan, with a strategic focus on equity and inclusion in its core mission. Founded in 1849, Eastern is the second oldest public university in Michigan. It currently serves more than 16,000 students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, specialist, doctoral and certificate degrees in the arts, sciences and professions. In all, more than 300 majors, minors and concentrations are delivered through the University's Colleges of Arts and Sciences; Business; Education; Engineering and Technology; Health and Human Services; and its graduate school. EMU is regularly recognized by national publications for its excellence, diversity, and commitment to applied education. In 2022, EMU was ranked by U.S. News and World Report in the category of social mobility. The ranking reflects Eastern's core value of being a welcoming institution of opportunity.

EMU is located in historic Ypsilanti, about 10 miles east of Ann Arbor, 40

miles west of Detroit and just 20 minutes from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. It is an area rich in academic, research, technological and recreational resources.

EMU's 800 plus-acre campus of scenic floral and wooded areas includes 18 miles of walkways and jogging trails and has 122 buildings throughout the academic and athletic campuses. Eagle Crest – Eastern Michigan's golf course and resort – is located on the banks of nearby Ford Lake.

Ypsilanti plays a leading role in industry and education. The city and the University have forged close ties that have lasted more than 160 years.

Since its inception, Eastern Michigan, first as a Normal School, then as a College and finally, as a University, has grown and developed to respond to the ever-changing needs of society. Over the years, EMU has educated thousands of sons and daughters of Michigan, the nation, and the world.

For more information about Eastern Michigan University, visit emich.edu.



JAMES SMITH, PRESIDENT

Athletically, EMU has been a member of the Mid-American Conference since 1971 and has been among the league's most successful members. The Division I program boasts 157 MAC team championships, the most of any team in the league during that span. For more information, visit EMUEagles.com

EMU has had a track representative at every summer Olympic Games since Hayes Jones in 1960. The Eagles have had 19 representatives, 16 men and three women, in 61 years. Eastern Michigan student-athletes have brought home two gold medals, two silver and two bronze during that span.

Eastern Michigan has produced 15 national team championships between the NAIA and NCAA levels since 1966. The total is the most of any Mid-American Conference institution. The titles won include: baseball (NAIA - 1970), men's cross country (NAIA - 1966, 1967, 1970), men's indoor track and field (NAIA - 1969, 1970, 1971), men's outdoor track and field (NAIA - 1970, 1971; NCAA Division II - 1972) and men's swimming and diving (NAIA - 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971; NCAA Division II - 1972).

Since 1932, Eastern Michigan has produced 55 individual national champions. The men's track and field team leads the way with 37, while the men's swimming and diving squad boasts 15.

Since joining the Mid-American Conference, Eastern Michigan has racked up 157 team championships in 17 sports.



EASTERN MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

The mark of an exceptional athletics program is the progress that is made each year. And under the leadership of Vice President and Director of Athletics Scott Wetherbee, the Eastern Michigan University department of athletics has experienced tremendous success in competition, the classroom, as well as in the community.

During his tenure, Eastern Michigan has won 18 Mid-American Conference team championships and 110 MAC individual championships. Furthermore, 349 EMU student-athletes have collected All-MAC honors and 863 have collected Academic All-MAC recognition under his leadership. All told, Eastern has won 157 MAC team titles since 1973, the most of any league institution over that span.

In addition, Wetherbee continues to work on the department's plan to build a safe and highly-effective atmosphere for its student-athletes through the continual revitalization of its athletic facilities. EMU

opened the Student-Athlete Performance Center on Aug. 27, 2019, marking the first major construction project on the athletics campus since the opening of the Convocation Center in 1998. Additional projects include artificial turf at the soccer/lacrosse complex, a locker room for the swimming & diving team, and an expanded erg room for the rowing program.

Under his guidance, Eastern Michigan Athletics has secured more than \$20 million in cash and pledges to help upgrade facilities and further enhance the student-athlete experience. EMU has generated six gifts of \$1 million or more, including the first seven-figure gift in Eastern Athletics history, an \$8 million gift for a GameAbove Golf Performance Center (the largest gift in school history), \$2.7 million to rename the campus arena in honor of former student-athlete and NBA Legend George Gervin, and a \$1 million sponsorship (largest in school history).

Eastern Michigan also continues to

expand opportunities for female student-athletes with the addition of women's lacrosse as the EMU's 19th varsity sport. The team began play in the 2022-23 academic year.

Overall, Wetherbee has made 10 head coaching hires in his time at Eastern Michigan, and will welcome new leaders for baseball and tennis in 2023-24. He also hired volleyball head coach Kevin Foeman, men's basketball head coach Stan Heath, women's golf head coach Stephanie Jennings, gymnastics head coach Katie Minasola, swimming head coach Derek Perkins, lacrosse head coach Sara Tisdale, and baseball head coach Robbie Britt. Additionally, he promoted Sue Parks from head women's track & field/cross country to oversee both the men's and women's programs.

Wetherbee chairs several MAC committees, including the Volleyball Coaches, the Basketball Game Management, and the league's 75th

Anniversary Celebration. Furthermore, he is the only AD in the league to have earned Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) certification from participation in conference-wide continuing educational activities.

During the 2022-23 athletics year, EMU struck gold again with MAC titles in both men's and women's indoor track & field. To go with team success, 18 individual track & field student-athletes claimed individual conference titles. Furthermore, Eastern was one of 17 Division I institutions to have at least one player taken in the NFL, NBA, and MLB drafts, as former Eagles Jose Ramirez and Sidy Sow were taken in the 2023 NFL Draft, while Emoni Bates was selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA, and Luke Russo was picked by the Philadelphia Phillies. It marked the first time EMU had accomplished the feat since the 1998 athletics year.

Moreover, EMU football saw their winningest season since 1987, as the 2023 squad rattled off nine wins, split the MAC West Division title with Toledo, and earned their first post season victory since 1987 when it defeated San Jose State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Academically, EMU soared to new heights. Eastern student-athletes posted a department-wide 3.382 cumulative GPA, 0.013 ahead of the previous best of 3.369 in winter 2021.

All 19 teams continued the tradition of working closely with the campus and local community totaling 5,694 hours of community service. Additionally, Wetherbee hired Sara Tisdale to not only coach lacrosse but to also coordinate Eastern Athletics DEI programming. He also spearheaded the EMU Athletics DEI Committee with numerous student-athletes, coaches, and staff involved. The committee meets bi-weekly to build programming and engagement opportunities.

In 2021-22, EMU took home team titles in men's cross country and men's indoor track & field to go along with 14 MAC individual titles. Meanwhile, the football program played in its fourth bowl game in the previous six seasons. Prior to 2016, Eastern had reached bowl eligibility just twice in its history and had earned the opportunity to play in a postseason bowl just once (1987 California Bowl).



SCOTT WETHERBEE
Vice President/Director of Athletics

In total, Eastern Michigan Athletics brought in \$5 millions in gifts during Fiscal Year 22 for just the second time ever.

During the 2020-21 campaign, Eastern Michigan captured three conference team championships in men's cross country, men's indoor track & field, and gymnastics.

The 2019-20 season saw plenty of triumphs both on the field and in the classroom despite battling adverse conditions. Eastern won three MAC team titles and 11 individual league championships before the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the entire spring sports season.

Persevering under unusual circumstances, EMU student-athletes posted their highest semester and cumulative grade point average in school history. With more than 430 student-athletes, Eastern recorded a 3.516 winter semester GPA. It bettered the previous best of 3.238 set in the fall of 2016. EMU also added a cumulative 3.332 GPA, another department best previously set in the fall of 2018 at 3.27.

EMU opened the Student-Athlete Performance Center on Aug. 27, 2019. Heavily supported by fundraising efforts, the 60,000 square-foot structure houses the sports medicine, sports performance, and equipment operations areas. Additionally, the facility has locker rooms, coaches' offices, and meeting spaces for the football team, while also including

a new video board inside Rynearson Stadium.

The 2018-19 campaign was another record-setting season in both athletics and academics for Eastern. The Eagles finished near the top in the battle for the MAC's all-sports championships. It marked the eighth time in the past 12 years that Eastern Michigan placed inside the top-five spots in both standings.

Coupled with three MAC team titles and 15 individual league championships, the 2018-19 campaign was one of the most successful seasons in Eastern Michigan history. In the classroom, EMU student-athletes posted a cumulative 3.270 GPA during the winter semester, then the highest mark on record. It was the 19th term in a row EMU student-athletes had earned over a 3.0 GPA.

During Wetherbee's first year at EMU in 2017-18, the department took home two of the Mid-American Conference's top three institutional awards – the Cartwright Award and the Reese Trophy. The Cartwright Award is given for program excellence in academics, athletics, and citizenship, while the Reese Trophy is for the top men's athletic program in the league.

Wetherbee also helped secure approval for Phase I of the Championship Building Plan for a new sports medicine and training facility.

The Kalamazoo, Mich. native was named to the position at EMU on June 26, 2017. He is Eastern Michigan's 14th athletic director after spending four years at Mississippi State University, including serving as the department's interim director of athletics from October-November 2016.

He has spent time on the senior or executive staffs at five athletic departments, including EMU, MSU, East Carolina University, San Diego State University, and Fresno State University.

Wetherbee earned a Bachelor's degree in sports administration from Ball State in May 1997. He started his collegiate career at Ferris State University as a student-athlete on the baseball team before the program was discontinued.

He and his wife, Tracy, have two children: Taylor and Spencer. Taylor will be part of EMU's gymnastics team beginning in 2023-24.

HEAD COACH CHRIS CREIGHTON

Toughness. Pride. Resilience. These key words have come to describe EMU football as Chris Creighton enters his 10th season as the head man at Eastern Michigan in 2023.

Named the 37th head football coach at Eastern Michigan University on Dec. 11, 2013, Creighton and his staff have made tremendous strides in changing the culture and mindset surrounding the program.

During his 25-plus year head coaching career, the 54-year-old Creighton has accumulated eight conference titles and an all-time record of 191-113 (.628 winning percentage). He is the only coach in EMU history to lead the program to multiple bowl appearances with the 2016 Bahamas Bowl, the 2018 Camellia Bowl, the 2019 Quick Lane Bowl, the 2021 LendingTree Bowl, and the 2022 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. Voted a finalist for the 2016 American Football Coaches Awards' first-ever Comeback Coach of the Year, Creighton led EMU in to the program's first winning season since 1995 and its first bowl appearance since 1987.

One of seven active Football Bowl Subdivision coaches to record more than 180 wins, Creighton helped the Eagles to the program's first win over a Big Ten or Power Five team with a 16-13 victory over Rutgers, Sept. 9, 2017. Nearly one year later, EMU used a 24-yard field goal as time expired for a stunning 20-19 win over Purdue, Sept. 8, 2018, for Eastern's first walk-off win in two decades. The magic continued in 2019, when Eastern posted its third-consecutive Big Ten road victory with a 34-31 walk-off triumph at Illinois, Sept. 14. Most recently, EMU rolled to a 30-21 victory at Arizona State in 2022 for the Mid-American Conference's first regular season win over a Pac-12 Conference member.

The 2022 season entailed the most success of Creighton's tenure with the Green and White. The Eagles finished the season with a 9-4 record, including winning their last four games, capping off the season with a 41-27 win over San Jose State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. The victory over SJSU marked Eastern's first bowl win in the Creighton era and the first for EMU



CHRIS CREIGHTON

since it took down the same Spartans in the 1987 California Raisin Bowl. EMU also shared the MAC West Division title while winning the Michigan MAC trophy for the first time since 2012.

The drafting of former Eagles Sidy Sow and Jose Ramirez highlighted the multitude of accomplishments in the 2022 season. First, Sow was selected in the fourth round (117th overall) by the New England Patriots, while Ramirez was taken in the sixth round (196th overall). The duo marked the first time in 46-years that multiple EMU players have been drafted in the same season.

EMU was lethal on both sides of the football in 2022. The defensive secondary snagged 13 interceptions on the year, both the most in the conference and the most in Creighton's tenure with the Eagles. The Green and White also recovered six fumbles, for a total of 19 forced turnovers. Eastern finished the season with the fifth best defense in the MAC, allowing an average of 377 yards-per-game.

Offensively, the Eagles were extremely efficient. EMU finished the season with the second-most efficient offense in the conference, completing 244 of its 391 pass attempts for a 138.2 efficiency rating. The ground game proved to be Eastern's bread and butter as the Eagles rushed for a conference-best 25 touchdowns on the season. Through the air, EMU tossed 23 TDs, fourth most in the conference while averaging the third-best completion percentage in the MAC (62.4%) and the

second-most yards-per-completion in the conference (7.4).

Under the leadership of Creighton, EMU landed nine student-athletes on the all-conference teams, as well as having the MAC's Defensive MVP, Ramirez. Besides on-field accomplishments, Creighton once again led the flock off the field and in the classroom as Eastern led the MAC in the 2022 season with 23 Academic All-MAC selections.

Eastern Michigan added another line to its lists of "firsts," under Creighton in 2021. With its selection to the LendingTree Bowl, Eastern made three consecutive bowl appearances (excluding COVID-shortened 2019 season) for the first time in program history, and its fourth postseason appearance in the previous six seasons. In going to a bowl game for the third time in four seasons, 30 of Creighton's student-athletes have the opportunity to do something that only one other group in program history has accomplished previously - play in three bowl games.

The 2021 regular season had plenty of exciting moments. One of the most memorable occasions in recent EMU history, the Eagles erupted for a 52-49 win over MAC-West rival Toledo (Nov. 2). It was the program's first victory inside the Glass Bowl since the 1999 season. Coming into the game, Eastern had lost 10 consecutive road games to Toledo. EMU's most impressive home win came in Week 11, when the Green and White used late-game defensive heroics to upend in-state foe Western Michigan, 22-21, on Senior Night in the Factory. The victory marked the third straight for Eastern over Western, the best stretch for the program since it notched the same number between 2011-13.

In 2020, Creighton successfully guided the program through to challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also taking on a play-caller role for the first time in his stint at Eastern. Creighton took over the Offensive Coordinator role, as the Eagles went 2-4 in their short, six-game slate.

EMU ranked No. 1 in the nation with a 100 percent red zone scoring clip (tied

with Washington State) in 2020. The Eagles produced points in 28-of-28 trips inside the opponent's 20-yard line, a 22.5 percent improvement over last season's efficiency. In total, 21 of EMU's red zone trips resulted in touchdowns. Additionally, the team averaged 4.66 trips to the red zone per game in 2020, a considerable improvement from EMU's 2019 numbers (3.8 trips per game).

Under Creighton's leadership, EMU put up one of the best four-year stretches in program history between 2016-19. EMU went 25-26 during that stretch, its most wins in a four-season span since 1986-89 when the Eagles went 6-5, 10-2, 6-3-1, and 7-3-1. Furthermore, EMU went 10-4 in the month of November in those four years. In the four seasons prior, Eastern combined for a total of seven wins during the entire 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 campaigns.

In 2019, Eastern played in a postseason bowl for the third time in the last four seasons, and for the fifth time in school history. It was also the first time in program history that EMU played in the postseason in consecutive campaigns.

There was plenty of reason to "say our name" in 2018, thanks to the play both on and off the field. After a successful regular season, Eastern aided its postseason hopes with a viral video of student-athletes lip syncing to Destiny's Child's "Say My Name" to help EMU claim its second bowl appearance in three seasons.

Eastern Michigan finished the 2018 season with a 7-6 record after a last-second field goal proved to be the difference against Georgia Southern in the Camellia Bowl. EMU closed the regular season with five straight Mid-American Conference victories for its first winning record in conference play since 1995. Furthermore, the Green and White's 22.1 points allowed per game tied for the 11th-best mark in school history in the modern era (since 1976), and the best since 1993.

One of the best football teams in recent Eastern Michigan history and arguably one of the best in the Mid-American Conference, the Eagles experienced plenty of moments of celebration as well as heartbreak in 2017.

The margin for error was razor thin for the Eagles this year as nine of EMU's 12 games were decided by seven points or less, including six of EMU's seven losses



coming down to one possession, and a school-record three in overtime. All told, EMU's seven losses were by a combined 35 points.

The 2016 Eagles finished in a seven-way tie for the most improved program in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) in 2016, bettering its win total from one win in 2015, to seven. Creighton led the Eagles to their first bowl appearance in 29 years. The turnaround was tied for the largest in school history, equalled only by the 1924 and 1977 teams. As an offense, EMU ranked 35th in the FBS in total offense, posting 455.2 yards per game in 13 contests. The team also shattered the school record for total offense with 5,917 yards, breaking the previous record of 5,010. Other notable offensive highlights for the Eagles included ranking 16th nationally in third down conversions, 18th in passing offense, 21st in red zone offense, and 25th in first down offense.

On defense, the Eagles saw a remarkable improvement in its first season under defensive coordinator Neal Neathery. EMU allowed 86.5 yards per game less in 2016 (432.7 per game) than it did in 2015 (519.2 per game) to rank 83rd in the country and seventh in the MAC. Overall, EMU was nationally ranked seventh in fumbles recovered, 32nd in turnovers gained, 58th in interceptions, and 59th in rushing defense.

Away from the field, EMU led the MAC in team grade point average for the 2015-16 academic year. It marked the second consecutive season the Eagles posted the

top GPA in the league, holding a 2.90 team mark.

During the 2015 campaign, the Eagles finished the regular season ranked nationally in the top-60 in seven statistical categories to go along with 11 top-five rankings in the MAC. EMU finished the year with 39 touchdowns, a mark that is tied for the fifth-most in a single-season during the squad's history, while its 4,560 yards of total offense is also the fifth most.

In his first year in Ypsilanti, Creighton's Eagles finished the regular season ranked nationally in the top-60 in nine statistical categories to go along with six top-five rankings in the MAC standings. Nationally, EMU finished the year tied with Georgia Tech, Northwestern and Oklahoma State for most blocked kicks with six. The six rejections were the most since the 2009 season when the Green and White also blocked six kicks.

As an All-America quarterback, Creighton led Kenyon (Ohio) College to its only North Coast Athletic Conference title in 1989 and was named conference player of the year after setting single-season conference records for passing yardage (2,843) and touchdowns (29). He was inducted into the Kenyon Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

Creighton earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kenyon College in 1991 and a master's degree from Concordia (Ill.) University in 1993. He and his wife, Heather, have two daughters, Hallie and Kate, and a son, Luke.

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EASTERN MICHIGAN STATISTICS

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
09/01/2023	Howard	W	33-23	18056
09/09/2023	at Minnesota	L	6-25	48101
09/16/2023	Massachusetts	W	19-17	16138
09/23/2023	at Jacksonville St.	L	0-21	20966
* 09/30/2023	at Central Mich.	L	23-26	28323
* 10/07/2023	Ball St.	W	24-10	18696
* 10/14/2023	Kent St.	W	28-14	18443
* 10/21/2023	at NIU	L	13-20	9458
* 10/28/2023	Western Mich.	L	21-45	16297
* 11/08/2023	at Toledo	L	23-49	17842
* 11/14/2023	Akron	Wot2	30-27	13664
* 11/21/2023	at Buffalo	W	24-11	11243

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Samson Evans	12	142	652	17	635	4.5	12	61	52.9
Jaylon Jackson	12	125	617	43	574	4.6	2	55	47.8
Austin Smith	12	101	371	237	134	1.3	2	41	11.2
Dontae McMillan	7	6	24	0	24	4.0	1	18	3.4
Bryson Moss	4	1	8	0	8	8.0	0	8	2.0
Hamze El-Zayat	12	2	7	0	7	3.5	0	6	0.6
Terry Lockett	6	1	6	0	6	6.0	0	6	1.0
Ike Udengwu	3	5	19	14	5	1.0	0	15	1.7
Tanner Knue	11	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2	0.2
JB Mitchell	12	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1	0.1
Cam'Ron McCoy	2	2	0	10	-10	-5.0	0	0	-5.0
Team	12	10	0	23	-23	-2.3	0	0	-1.9
Total	12	397	1707	344	1363	3.4	17	61	113.6
Opponents	12	476	2373	241	2132	4.5	20	55	177.7

Passing

Player	gp	effc	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Austin Smith	12	112.7	171-298-7	57.4	1775	9	68	147.9
Ike Udengwu	3	62.1	13-28-2	46.4	100	0	17	33.3
Samson Evans	12	665.2	1-1-0	100.0	28	1	28	2.3
Cam'Ron McCoy	2	-200.0	0-1-1	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	12	109.1	185-328-10	56.4	1903	10	68	158.6
Opponents	12	125.6	205-351-7	58.4	2462	13	69	205.2

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Tanner Knue	11	50	479	9.6	3	39	43.5
JB Mitchell	12	35	398	11.4	1	50	33.2
Hamze El-Zayat	12	25	370	14.8	2	50	30.8
Jaylon Jackson	12	22	221	10.0	2	68	18.4
Jere Getzinger	12	15	79	5.3	1	10	6.6
Blake Daniels	12	13	149	11.5	0	37	12.4
Samson Evans	12	12	89	7.4	0	17	7.4
Von Swinton	4	4	26	6.5	0	13	6.5
Andreas Paaske	7	4	39	9.8	0	21	5.6
Max Reese	7	2	8	4.0	0	6	1.1
Dontae McMillan	7	1	12	12.0	0	12	1.7
Terry Lockett	6	1	5	5.0	0	5	0.8
Elijah Jackson-Anderson	11	1	28	28.0	1	28	2.5
Total	12	185	1903	10.3	10	68	158.6
Opponents	12	205	2462	12.0	13	69	205.2

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	6-6	5-1	1-5	0-0
CONFERENCE	4-4	3-1	1-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	2-2	2-0	0-2	0-0

Team Statistics

	EMU	OPP
First Downs	196	260
Rushing	86	115
Passing	85	114
Penalty	25	31
Rushing Yardage	1363	2132
Rushing attempts	397	476
Average per rush	3.4	4.5
Average per game	113.6	177.7
TDs Rushing	17	20
Passing Yardage	1903	2462
Comp-Att-Int	185-328-10	205-351-7
Average per pass	5.8	7.0
Average per catch	10.3	12.0
Average per game	158.6	205.2
TDs Passing	10	13
Total offense	3266	4594
Average per play	4.5	5.6
Average per game	272.2	382.8
Kick returns: #-Yards	29-626	35-607
Punt returns: #-Yards	12-144	16-110
Int returns: #-Yards	7-53	10-57
Fumbles-Lost	12-5	19-11
Penalties-Yards	77-745	77-684
Punts-Avg	62-44.6	43-43.4
Time of possession / game	29:01	30:55
3rd-down conversion	57/162	64/162
4rd-down conversion	10/16	12/33
PAT-attempts	(24-27) 89%	(32-33) 97%
2-point conversion-attempts	(1-2) 50%	(1-1) 100%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Bennett Walker	3	0	0.0	0	0
Quentavius Scandrett	2	22	11.0	0	22
Tim Grant-Randall	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Cameron Smith	1	35	35.0	0	35
Total	7	53	7.6	0	35
Opponents	10	57	5.7	0	34



EASTERN MICHIGAN STATISTICS

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Jesus Gomez	11-15	73.3	0-0	3-3	4-5	2-3	2-4	55	0
Kenyon Bowyer	1-1	100.0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	25	0
Opponents	14-16	87.5	1-1	4-5	7-7	2-3	0-0	48	0

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT				dpx	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Samson Evans	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	74
Jesus Gomez	-	11-15	20-23	-	-	-	-	-	53
Jaylon Jackson	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Hamze El-Zayat	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Tanner Knue	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Austin Smith	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Kenyon Bowyer	-	1-1	4-4	-	-	-	-	-	7
Dontae McMillan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Kendric Nowling	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Jere Getzinger	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
JB Mitchell	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Elijah Jackson-Anderson	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	30	12-16	24-27	1	0	0	0	1	244
Opponents	34	14-16	32-33	0	1	1	1	3	288

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Eastern Mich.	50	95	42	44	13	244
Opponents	59	81	69	69	10	288



Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Mitchell Tomasek	61	2764	45.3	72	3	17	24	17	0
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	62	2764	44.6	72	3	17	24	17	1
Opponents	43	1867	43.4	79	5	10	16	10	0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Hamze El-Zayat	12	144	12.0	0	29
Total	12	144	12.0	0	29
Opponents	16	110	6.9	0	36

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaylon Jackson	16	342	21.4	1	84
Hamze El-Zayat	7	172	24.6	1	96
Dontae McMillan	3	47	15.7	0	19
Luke Cameron	2	21	10.5	0	14
Kendric Nowling	1	44	44.0	1	44
Total	29	626	21.6	3	96
Opponents	35	607	17.3	0	36

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Jaylon Jackson	12	574	221	0	342	0	1137	94.8
Samson Evans	12	635	89	0	0	0	724	60.3
Hamze El-Zayat	12	7	370	144	172	0	693	57.8
Tanner Knue	11	2	479	0	0	0	481	43.7
JB Mitchell	12	1	398	0	0	0	399	33.3
Blake Daniels	12	0	149	0	0	0	149	12.4
Austin Smith	12	134	0	0	0	0	134	11.2
Dontae McMillan	7	24	12	0	47	0	83	11.9
Jere Getzinger	12	0	79	0	0	0	79	6.6
Kendric Nowling	10	0	0	0	44	0	44	4.4
Andreas Paaske	7	0	39	0	0	0	39	5.6
Cameron Smith	12	0	0	0	0	35	35	2.9
Elijah Jackson-Anderson	11	0	28	0	0	0	28	2.5
Von Swinton	4	0	26	0	0	0	26	6.5
Quentavius Scandrett	12	0	0	0	0	22	22	1.8
Luke Cameron	12	0	0	0	21	0	21	1.8
Terry Lockett	6	6	5	0	0	0	11	1.8
Bryson Moss	4	8	0	0	0	0	8	2.0
Max Reese	7	0	8	0	0	0	8	1.1
Ike Udengwu	3	5	0	0	0	0	5	1.7
Tim Grant-Randall	12	0	0	0	0	-4	-4	-0.3
Cam'Ron McCoy	2	-10	0	0	0	0	-10	-5.0
Total	12	1363	1903	144	626	53	4089	340.8
Opponents	12	2132	2462	110	607	57	5368	447.3

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Austin Smith	12	399	134	1775	1909	159.1
Samson Evans	12	143	635	28	663	55.3
Jaylon Jackson	12	125	574	0	574	47.8
Ike Udengwu	3	33	5	100	105	35.0
Dontae McMillan	7	6	24	0	24	3.4
Bryson Moss	4	1	8	0	8	2.0
Hamze El-Zayat	12	2	7	0	7	0.6
Terry Lockett	6	1	6	0	6	1.0
Tanner Knue	11	1	2	0	2	0.2
JB Mitchell	12	1	1	0	1	0.1
Cam'Ron McCoy	2	3	-10	0	-10	-5.0
Total	12	725	1363	1903	3266	272.2
Opponents	12	827	2132	2462	4594	382.8



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EASTERN MICHIGAN STATISTICS

Team Defense

#	Player	gp	Tackles				tfl/yds	Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	no-yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf	
6	Chase Kline	11	47	96	143	5-16	2-10		3	10	1-0	2			
19	Joe Sparacio	12	58	74	132	6.5-35	2.5-23		3	5		3			
0	Quentavius Scandrett	12	30	26	56			2-22							
29	Kempton Shine	12	29	25	54	2.5-5			9						
47	Justin Jefferson	12	12	32	44	6.5-27	3.5-18		2	11	2-0	1			
94	Peyton Price	12	10	34	44	4.5-29	4-28			7	1-0				
16	Cameron Smith	12	21	21	42	1-2		1-35	3			1			
11	Mikah Coleman	12	14	24	38	6.5-35	4.5-31		1	8					
45	Joseph Zelinsky	11	15	22	37	5-16	1.5-9			2					
98	Tim Grant-Randall	12	10	18	28	2.5-11	1.5-8	1-4	2	6					
92	Alex Merritt	9	6	21	27	4.5-7				3					
12	Elijah Williams	11	15	10	25	4.5-13	1-5			1	1-0	1			
99	Melvin Swindle	10	5	17	22	1-2				3					
7	Londyn Craft	12	8	13	21	1-2									
17	Bennett Walker	12	8	11	19			3-0	5						
8	T.J. Peavy	3	7	11	18	1-2			1						
27	David Carter	11	8	10	18	1-2			3		1-0	1			
4	Daiquan White	12	10	8	18	1-2			12		1-3				
44	Luke Cameron	12	6	10	16				1	1					
10	Josh McCarty	12	3	10	13										
90	Adrian Gonzalez	10	3	10	13	1.5-3	0.5-2		1		1-0				
36	Zach Mowchan	3	5	5	10							1			
23	Elijah Jackson-Anderson	11	7	3	10										
39	Barry Manning	7	7	3	10							1			
5	Korey Hernandez	11	6	3	9				1						
74	Jez Janvier	7	5	4	9	0.5-0									
91	Malik Tullis	8	4	4	8					1					
32	Kendric Nowling	10	2	5	7										
14	Keylen Gulley	9	5	2	7				1						
26	Tristen Hines	9	3	2	5										
49	Jaden Gaines	8	1	4	5	1-11	1-11			1		1			
97	Mikey Haney	2		4	4										
24	Kaiden Keefe	7	3	1	4										
13	Jason Marshall	9	1	3	4								1		
12	Dontae McMillan	7	1	1	2							1			
57	Carter Gilbert	10	1	1	2				1						
35	Jaheim Jenkins	3		2	2										
1	Hamze El-Zayat	12	1		1										
67	Broderick Roman	5	1		1										
83	Jere Getzinger	12	1		1							1			
75	Carson Lee	9	1		1										
4	Austin Smith	12	1		1										
81	Nick Devereaux	7	1		1										
93	Ugo Nosike	4		1	1										
40	Bryce Eliuk	4	1		1										
13	Jamarien Wheeler	3								1					
33	Ryan Kingston	11									1-0				
89	Soloman Bell	1									1-0				
35	Jesus Gomez	10													
	Totals	12	383	552	935	57-220	22-145	7-53	49	60	11--3	14	1	1	
	Opponents	12	392	338	730	78-344	32-219	10-57	47	34	5-3	10	2	3	



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 1

EASTERN USES SPECIAL TEAMS TO UPEND HOWARD IN OPENER

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)

– The Eastern Michigan University football team opened its 2023 season with a 33-23 home victory over Howard University Friday, Sept. 1, inside ‘The Factory’ at Rynearson Stadium. The Eagles (1-0) scored the first 23 points in the game to lead wire-to-wire with two kickoff returns sparking EMU past the Bison (0-1).

Jaylon Jackson returned a kickoff 84 yards for a touchdown after the Eagles forced a safety and Hamze El-Zayat added another kickoff score as he sprinted 94 yards for the score. Samson Evans opened the scoring with a 2-yard run on EMU’s opening drive to record the 30th touchdown of his career, leaving him one shy of tying Gary Patton, who found pay dirt 31 times from 1984-87.

Defensively, Eastern recorded 4.0 sacks on the night, including 1.5 by Tim Grant-Randall, 1.0 each from Mikah Coleman and Peyton Price, and 0.5 from Joey Zelinsky, who wore the No. 0 jersey, given weekly to the defensive player that exhibits the team’s ‘Hard Hat Mentality’. Overall, Joe Sparacio led the team with 10 tackles, including a team-high four solo tackles.

How It Happened

Eastern jumped out to a 7-0 lead on the opening drive as Evans crashed into the end zone from two yards out for the score. Near the end of the quarter, the EMU defense pushed the Bison back and forced a punt from their own end zone where the ball was snapped through the punter’s hands, out of the back of the end zone, and scoring a safety for the Eagles. On the ensuing, the free kick was fielded by Jackson, who wove his way 84 yards for the score to stake the hosts to a 16-0 score at the end of one.

In the second quarter, Tanner Knue pulled down a 20-yard pass from Austin Smith to make it 23-0 before the Bison responded with a 69-yard passing score. The ensuing PAT was blocked, making it 23-6. The ensuing kickoff saw the Eagles’ special teams shine again, this time with El-Zayat taking the kick 96 yards to the house. Howard would add a field goal at the end of the half for a 30-9 EMU lead. Howard scored twice in the third quarter to make it interesting as two rushing touchdowns brought the hosts to within seven points, 30-23. But, late in the fourth, the Eagles stood tall and added a field goal to make it 33-23, solidifying the victory on opening night.



GAME 2

EAGLES COME UP SHORT AT MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University football team fought hard, but ultimately fell to the University of Minnesota, 25-6, inside Hunting Bank Stadium Saturday, Sept. 9. Eastern falls to 1-1 on the year while Minnesota improved to 2-0 (1-0 Big Ten).

How It Happened

It was a classic Midwest football clash in the early stages of Saturday night’s contest between the Eagles and Golden Gophers, as both squads would end the first quarter with no points on the board. Minnesota would draw first blood with a chip shot 24-yard field goal, giving the Golden Gophers a slight 3-0 lead early in the second quarter.

EMU wasted no time striking back as they marched 73-yards down the field on the ensuing drive, ending in a Jesús Gómez field goal, evening the score at three each. The back-and-forth battle continued with the Gophers capturing the game’s first touchdown late in the second frame, before Gomez would knock through another field goal, bringing the score to 10-6 in favor of Minnesota at the end of the first half.

Minnesota took hold of the game in the third quarter with a field goal and touchdown in the frame. However, the Eagles would not go out quietly as they forced two Golden Gopher turnovers in the second half. Justin Jefferson forced and recovered the first fumble of his Eastern career early in the fourth, before Bennett Walker secured his first interception as an Eagle, and the third in his college football career.

The game concluded soon after, resulting in a 25-6 win in favor of the Golden Gophers.



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 3

EMU FENDS OFF MINUTEMEN, 19-17, WITH LATE SCORE

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)

– The Eastern Michigan University put together a five-play, 77-yard drive, culminating in a 50-yard touchdown reception from Austin Smith to Hamze El-Zayat with 1:20 left in the ballgame to give the Eagles a 19-17 win over the University of Massachusetts Minutemen Saturday, Sept. 16, at ‘The Factory’ inside Rynearson Stadium. The triumph, the Eagles’ seventh-consecutive at home against non-conference opponents, improved Eastern Michigan’s record to 2-1 on the season while the Minutemen fell to 1-3.

Samson Evans paced the Eagles rushing attack by accumulating 89 yards over the course of the game, averaging 11.1 yards per carry, a career-high clip for the graduate student. Jaylon Jackson also added 83 yards and one touchdown on the ground, averaging 6.9 yards per carry. Bennett Walker showed out for the Eastern Michigan defense, collecting two interceptions, the first for an EMU player since 2019. Quentavius Scandrett added one interception and Chase Kline had 11 tackles, 3.0 TFLs including 2.0 sacks, and one forced fumble in the win.

The Eagles won the turnover battle in Saturday’s game, forcing four turnovers for the first time since the 2019 season, turning those takeaways into 10 points. Eastern put together a stellar showing on the ground, logging 214 rushing yards while averaging 8.2 yards per carry and out-rushing UMass by 90 yards, all of which are season-highs. Defensively, Eastern Michigan stood firm against the UMass rushing attack, holding the Minutemen to 124 yards on the ground. The Eagles’ defense disrupted the UMass passing attack on the way to recording three interceptions and breaking up seven Minutemen passes.

How It Happened

Eastern Michigan grabbed a 3-0 lead over UMass after scoring the game’s first points with 2:31 left in the first quarter. The Eagles then extended the lead to 10-0 with another score by Jackson.

UMass temporarily took control of the lead, building a 17-13 advantage late in the game before the Eagles scored again with a 50-yard touchdown pass from Smith to El-Zayat, putting EMU back in front, 19-17. After a last-minute attack in their final drive of the game, the Minutemen would hand the Eagles back possession for the EMU offense to assume victory formation, taking consecutive knees to run out the clock, resulting in a 19-17 Eastern Michigan win.



GAME 4

EAGLES COME UP SHORT IN ROAD LOSS AT JAX STATE

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University football team fell to the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks, 21-0, in its final regular-season non-conference matchup, Saturday, Sept. 23, on Burgess-Snow Field.

How it Happened

Despite a potent ground game, the Eagles were able to bend and not break. They held the hosts to three scores in the game while thwarting several others, including forcing the Gamecocks to turn the ball over on downs inside the Eastern five-yard line in the third quarter.

The hosts scored one each in the first three quarters to build their lead, taking leads of 7-0 in the first, 14-0 at halftime, and 21-0 at the end of three. While the EMU offense was unable to score, the play of punter Mitchell Tomasek helped the defense as he continually flipped the field, including booting a 72-yarder, the longest in the nation this year.

digit tackling performance. The last time EMU had a double-digit tackler in four consecutive games came via former Eagle Terry Myrick who did so in four games from Nov. 3-27, 2020. Sparacio currently leads the MAC in tackles (52).



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 5

EASTERN DROPS MAC OPENER AT CENTRAL MICHIGAN

MT. PLEASANT, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University football team dropped a nail-biting loss to Central Michigan University, 26-23, Sept. 30, inside Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

The Eagles fell to 2-3 overall and 0-1 in Mid-American Conference play while the Chippewas improved to 3-2 on the year and 1-0 in Mid-American Conference play.

Austin Smith led all Eagles rushers with 71 yards and one touchdown in the contest. Jaylon Jackson also added 62 yards on the ground, averaging 6.2 yards per carry, as well as 32 receiving yards.

Running back Samson Evans brought himself one step closer to making EMU football history as the graduate student broke through from inside the CMU five yard line to score the 31st touchdown of his EMU career, tying him with former Huron great Gary Patton (1984-87). One more touchdown and Evans will sit firmly atop the Eastern leader board with 32 career touchdowns.

Through the air, Tanner Knue reeled in seven catches for 68 yards and one score. Quentavius Scandrett showed out for the Eastern Michigan defense, totaling one interception, bringing the Eagles' season total to five.

The Eagles won the turnover battle in Saturday's game, forcing one turnover while avoiding any giveaways, with EMU turning that takeaway into three points.

Defensively, Eastern Michigan held up well against the Central Michigan rushing attack, holding the Chippewas to 193 yards on the ground.

How It Happened

After falling behind 7-0, Eastern Michigan responded with a touchdown with 5:24 left in the first quarter to tie it at 7-7. The Eagles proceeded to break the 7-7 tie with a 55-yard field goal from Jesús Gómez, making the score 10-7.

Central Michigan then grabbed a 14-10 lead, but Eastern Michigan scored again at the 9:24 mark in the third quarter with a four-yard touchdown reception from Smith to Knue to jump back ahead, 16-14.

Central Michigan then took control of the lead, building a 19-16 advantage before the Eagles scored again with a two-yard touchdown run from Evans to jump back in front 23-19. Eastern Michigan did not score again in the game and Central Michigan tacked on seven more points to finish off the scoring.



GAME 6

EASTERN DOWNS BALL STATE, 24-10, ON HOMECOMING

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) – Austin Smith was an efficient 18-of-28 passing for 192 yards and two scores, JB Mitchell III posted another career game, and Samson Evans claimed the record for touchdowns in a career as the Eastern Michigan University football team downed visiting Ball State University, 24-10, Saturday, Oct. 7, on Homecoming. The Eagles, who lead wire-to-wire inside Rynearson Stadium to win their fourth home game in a row, improved to 3-3 overall and 1-1 in Mid-American Conference play while the Cardinals slipped to 1-5 overall and 0-2 in the MAC.



Evans etched his name into the record books as the program's top scorer as his 2-yard touchdown score in the second quarter gave him 32 for his career and broke the tie with Gary Patton (1984-87), who held the mark for 26 years. Evans, who finished with 42 yards on the ground and needs just 32 more to reach 2,000 for his career, is the program's all-time rushing touchdown leader as well, a mark he broke last year.

Smith, who connected on a pair of touchdown passes, including a 50-yarder to Hamze El-Zayat and another to Mitchell, recorded a season-high 192 yards through the air, finishing five shy of his career-high 197 yards accumulated last year against the Cardinals in a 20-16 road win, Oct. 16, 2022. Smith's top target on the day was Mitchell, who recorded career-highs in receptions and yards with seven and 71, respectively, while recording his first scoring grab as an Eagle. El-Zayat posted 63 yards, his highest total as Eagle.

While the offense played well, the defense once again shined bright as the Eagles limited the Cardinals to just 10 points, including pitching a shutout in the second half.

How It Happened

Eastern Michigan got on the scoreboard first and jumped out to a 3-0 lead with 5:54 remaining in the first quarter as Jesus Gomez blasted a 53-yard field goal. Ball State then tied it up at 3-3 before the Eagles responded with a two-yard touchdown rush from Evans to jump back in front, 10-3. The Eagles then added a touchdown with 6:36 left in the second quarter with Mitchell pulling down a 3-yard pass from Smith to make it a 17-3 lead before Ball State scored with 2:32 remaining in the half to give the hosts a 17-10 lead at the break.

In the second half, the Eagles' 50-yard touchdown pass from Smith to El-Zayat was the only scoring as Eastern stretched its lead to the final margin of 14 points, 24-10.

SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 7

EMU SOAKS UP 28-14 VICTORY OVER VISITING KENT STATE

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)

– The Eastern Michigan University football team got on the scoreboard first and never looked back on its way to a 28-14 victory over Kent State University inside ‘The Factory’ at Rynearson Stadium, Oct. 14.



Samson Evans paced the Eagles rushing attack by accumulating 47 yards and two touchdowns over the course of the game.

Austin Smith’s most prolific target in the ballgame was Tanner Knue, who caught five passes for 85 yards and one score. Knue’s 85 yards are the most by any Eagles receiver in a single game in 2023.

The duo of Chase Kline and Joe Sparacio led the defensive charge as they recorded 13 tackles, respectively, with Sparacio, who tallied eight solo tackles, adding a forced fumble. Peyton Price added seven tackles and one recovered fumble while Adrian Gonzalez and Elijah Williams each recovered one fumble in the win.

Eastern Michigan’s offense made the most of its visits to the red zone, scoring on all three of its trips, with all of those scores being touchdowns.

How It Happened

Chaos struck upon the opening kickoff as EMU defensive back Kendrick Nowling scooped up the ball on an attempted KSU on-side kick and trotted 44 yards into the endzone with a crew of Golden Flashes on his tail, granting Eastern an early 7-0 advantage just six seconds into the contest.

Eastern Michigan grew its lead to 14-0 after scoring the game’s first points from scrimmage with 0:44 left in the second quarter, an Evans 19-yard TD run. The Eagles then followed with another score with 7:02 to go in the third, extending the EMU lead to 21-0 as Smith floated a ball right into the hands of Knue in the far corner of the endzone for a TD.

Kent State then scored to make it a 21-7 game, but Eastern Michigan responded with 9:28 left in the fourth quarter to extend its lead to 28-7 as Evans plowed in from three yards out for his second score of the day. Eastern Michigan went scoreless the rest of the game while Kent State tacked on seven points to finish off the scoring.

The game concluded in a 24-14 win for Eastern, marking Chris Creighton’s 50th win as the Eastern Michigan head coach

GAME 8

EASTERN FALLS AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS, 20-13

DEKALB, Ill. (EMUEagles.com) –The Eastern Michigan University football team fell to Northern Illinois University, 20-13, on a windy day inside Huskie Stadium on NIU’s DeKalb campus, Oct. 21. The Huskies improved to 4-4 on the year and 3-1 in Mid-American Conference play, while the Eagles fell to 4-4 overall and 2-2 in conference matchups.

Samson Evans led all Eagles rushers with 68 yards and one touchdown in the contest. Jaylon Jackson also added 31 yards on the ground, averaging 4.4 yards per carry.

Austin Smith’s most prolific target in the ballgame was Hamze El-Zayat, who caught six passes for 74 yards, marking season-highs for the first-year Eagle.

The Eastern Michigan offense did a good job keeping drives alive, converting on 50 percent (7-of-14) of third-down attempts, tying a season-best output.. Defensively, Eastern Michigan held up fairly well against the Northern Illinois offensive attack, holding the Huskies to 289 total yards, a season-low for the Eagles defense.

How It Happened

After falling behind 7-0, allowing just the third first-quarter touchdown of the season, Eastern Michigan fired back with a touchdown with 5:26 left in the first quarter to tie it at 7-7 as Evans found paydirt from two-yards out. The Eagles proceeded to break the 7-7 tie with a 34-yard field goal from Jesús Gómez, making the score 10-7.

After Northern Illinois scored to tie the game at 10-10, Eastern Michigan got on the scoreboard again with 8:28 remaining in the third quarter with a 37-yard field goal from Gómez to retake the lead at 13-10. Eastern Michigan went scoreless the rest of the game while Northern Illinois tacked on 10 points to finish off the scoring. The contest concluded in a 20-13 victory in favor of the Huskies.



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 9

MISCUES PLAGUE EMU IN SETBACK TO WMU

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University football team fell to cross-state rival, the Western Michigan University Broncos, 45-21, in what was Eastern's final Saturday game of the season inside Rynearson Stadium, Oct. 28. The Broncos improved to 3-6 on the year and 2-3 in Mid-American Conference play while the Eagles fell to 4-5 overall and 2-3 in conference matchups.



Joe Sparacio collected a career-high 23 tackles while Chase Kline added 19 as the top two tacklers in the MAC combined for 42 stops on the day. Sparacio's total ranks as the most in a single game in the FBS this year while Kline's total tied for second.

Offensively, Austin Smith led Eastern Michigan's passing attack with 231 yards through the air, tossing one touchdown and one interception. Jaylon Jackson reeled in nine catches for 111 yards and one score while JB Mitchell III got in on the action in the passing game as well, hauling in five balls for 99 yards. The Eagles also got 66 yards receiving from Tanner Knue in the contest.

Samson Evans paced the Eagles rushing attack by accumulating 26 yards and two touchdowns throughout the game, giving him at least one score in each of the last five contests. Ike Udengwu III, who earned his first career start under center, also added 12 yards on the ground, averaging four yards per carry.

How It Happened

After Western Michigan took a 21-0 lead to start the contest, Eastern Michigan got on the board with 3:29 left in the second quarter as Evans ran in from 15 yards out to pick-up his first score of the day and cut the deficit to 21-7 at the break. In the third quarter, the Eagles added to their total as Evans again scored, this time from five yards out, making it 25-13 heading into the fourth quarter.

After the Broncos scored to increase their lead to 32-13, Eastern responded with a touchdown with 11:14 left in regulation to cut the deficit to 32-21 as Jackson pulled in a 68-yard pass from Smith for the score. But, EMU wasn't able to score again and Western Michigan tacked on 13 more points to finish off the scoring. The game concluded shortly after, resulting in a 45-21 win in favor of the Broncos.

GAME 10

FOOTBALL FALLS AT TOLEDO IN #MACTION

TOLEDO, Ohio (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University football team fell to the University of Toledo Rockets on the road Wednesday, Nov. 8, inside the Glass Bowl in its first #MACTION game of the season, 49-23.



The Rockets improved to 9-1 on the year and 6-0 in Mid-American Conference play, while the Eagles fell to 4-6 overall and 2-4 in conference matchups. With the victory, the Rockets claimed the MAC West Division title and a berth in the MAC Championship game in Detroit, Dec. 2.

Jaylon Jackson paced the Eagles rushing attack by accumulating 74 yards and one touchdown over the course of the game, averaging 4.6 yards per carry. Austin Smith also added 25 yards on the ground.

Elijah Jackson-Anderson reeled in one catch for 28 yards and one score, marking the first score of his college football career as he pulled in a pass from running back Samson Evans.

Chase Kline paced the Eastern Michigan defensive effort, recording 13 tackles and one recovered fumble while Cameron Smith added four tackles and one interception, the first of his career. Peyton Price had five tackles, 1.0 TFL, and one sack in the loss.

The Eagles won the turnover battle, forcing two turnovers while coughing the ball up one time. The Eastern Michigan offense did a good job keeping drives alive, converting on 40 percent of third-down attempts. The Eagles also went 2-for-2 on fourth down.

Defensively, Eastern Michigan held up fairly well against the Toledo rushing attack, holding the Rockets to 101 yards on the ground. In part because of that stellar defense, Eastern Michigan runners out-gained its Toledo counterparts 141-101.

How It Happened

After Toledo took a 35-0 lead, Eastern Michigan responded with a Jesús Gómez as time expired to narrow the margin to 35-3 at halftime. Toledo increased its lead to 42-3, but the Eagles responded with a touchdown to cut the lead to 42-9.

After Toledo scored to increase its lead to 49-9, Eastern Michigan scored again with 4:27 left in the fourth quarter to close the gap and make it a 49-16 game. The Eagles then scored again, narrowing the gap to 49-23.

SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 11

EMU OUTLAST AKRON, 30-27, IN DOUBLE OVERTIME THRILLER.

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) – Austin Smith found Jere Getzinger in the back of the end zone in double overtime to send the Eastern Michigan University football team to a 30-27 victory over the University of Akron Tuesday, Nov. 14, inside Rynearson Stadium on Senior Night. The Eagles (5-6, 3-4 MAC) kept their hopes for bowl eligibility alive with the victory that also snapped a three-game losing skid while the Zips fell to 2-9 on the year and 1-6 in league play.

How It Happened

After a scoreless opening quarter of play, Akron took the first lead of the game, 7-0, before the Eagles came back to tie things as Samson Evans cashed in from two-yards out. The Zips responded with another score with 1:49 to play in the half before Evans again scored from two-yards out with 15 ticks on the clock to make it a 14-14 game at the break.

Following intermission and a scoreless third quarter of play, Akron reclaimed the lead with a 23-yard field goal with 8:00 showing on the fourth-quarter clock before Jesús Gómez forced overtime with his 32-yard field goal with 10 seconds remaining in regulation.

The Zips won the coin toss in overtime, putting the Eagles on offense first where Evans again scored, this time bouncing his way in from 11 yards before Akron responded with a two-yard passing touchdown to end the first overtime. In the second extra session, the Zips went first with the Eastern defense standing strong to force a field goal. From there, the Eagles pounded the ball to the three-yard line where Smith found Getzinger in the back of the end zone for the tight end's first career score and the winning points EMU needed.



GAME 12

EMU SECURES THIRD CONSECUTIVE BOWL BID, TOPS BUFFALO

BUFFALO, N.Y. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University football team, behind one of its best first-half performances of the season, battled its way to a 24-11 road victory Tuesday, Nov. 21, inside UB Stadium in Buffalo, N.Y., to secure its sixth win of the season and bowl eligibility for the third year in a row. The Eagles (6-6, 4-4 Mid-American Conference) saw a balanced offensive attack and another strong defensive performance to close out the regular season with the win over the Bulls (3-9, 3-5 MAC).

How It Happened

Eastern scored first and never looked back as a 7-0 first quarter lead turned into a 24-0 advantage at the break. The Eagles got on the board first with Austin Smith (Ellenwood, Ga./Cedar Grove) running the ball in from five-yards out with 7:20 remaining in the opening stanza. After several stops on defense, the Eagles were back on the board in the second as Jaylon Jackson (Burlison, Texas/Centennial/Lamar) pulled down a Smith pass and ran in from 19 yards out to make it 14-0. After Jesús Gómez (Peubla, Mexico/Prepa Tec Puebla) was true from 29 yards with 4:21 remaining, Eastern added another touchdown, this time via a Samson Evans (Crystal Lake, Ill./Prairie Ridge/Iowa) 1-yard rush.

Following the break, the Bulls tallied the only two scores in the remaining two quarters, including a 6-yard rush from Ron Cook with a two-point conversion before Alex McNulty connected on a 40-yard field goal to make it 24-11 in favor of the visitors. Despite not scoring in the second half, Eastern was able to limit the Bulls' chances as Buffalo finished the game 3-of-12 in third-down conversions and just 1-of-6 on fourth down.



EASTERN MICHIGAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Exp.	HOMETOWN/HS/LAST SCHOOL
1	Hamze El-Zayat	WR	5-8	182	Gr.	Dearborn, Mich. / Fordson / Fordham
1	Joshua Scott *	DB	5-10	177	Jr.	Antioch, Calif. / Deer Valley / City College of San Francisco
2	Tanner Knue ***	WR	5-11	178	Gr.	Mason, Ohio / Mason
3	Quentavius Scandrett *	DB	6-2	189	Jr.	Hampton, Ga. / Lovejoy
3	Ike Udengwu III	QB	6-2	208	Jr.	City of Industry, Calif. / Workman / Mt. San Antonio
4	Daiquan White	DB	5-9	160	Fr.	Fairborn, Ga. / Creekside
5	Korey Hernandez ***	DB	5-10	193	Gr.	Decatur, Ga. / Cedar Grove / Arkansas / Iowa Western
5	Max Reese	TE	6-2	235	So.	Chicago, Ill. / Fenwick
7	Londyn Craft	DB	6-1	205	Gr.	Rio Rancho, N.M. / IMG Academy / Miss. State / Kentucky
7	Von Swinton	WR	6-2	191	Jr.	Stafford, Va. / North Stafford / Indiana
8	Cam'Ron McCoy	QB	6-0	192	So.	St. Louis, Mo. / St. Mary's
8	T.J. Peavy ***	DB	5-10	195	Sr.	Fayetteville, Ga. / Sandy Creek / Air Force Academy
9	Makhail Wood	WR	5-10	150	Fr.	Hoschton, Ga. / Mill Creek
10	Josh McCarty *	DB	5-11	203	Sr.	Troy, Mich. / Orchard Lake St. Mary's
11	Terry Lockett Jr.	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn. / Minnehaha Academy / Michigan State
12	Dontae McMillan	RB	5-10	195	Sr.	Seattle, Wash. / Chief Sealth / Weber State
12	Elijah Williams ***	DB	6-0	208	Gr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Pike
13	Jason Marshall	DB	6-2	198	So.	Trenton, Mich. / Trenton
13	Jamarien Wheeler	WR	6-0	204	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn. / Washburn / Iowa Central CC
14	Keylen Gulley	DB	5-11	170	Jr.	Largo, Fla. / Largo / Coffeyville C.C.
14	Isaac Smith	WR	6-1	196	Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. / St. Georges / Wisconsin
15	Jeremiah Salem	QB	6-3	186	So.	Germantown, Tenn. / Houston
16	Cameron Smith *	DB	6-2	198	Jr.	Cleveland, Ohio / Euclid
17	JB Mitchell III	WR	6-1	198	Jr.	Alabaster, Ala. / Thompson
17	Bennett Walker	DB	6-0	190	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. / Patrick Henry / San Diego Mesa
18	Ali Abdul-Barr	DB	6-1	213	So.	Atlanta, Ga. / Woodland-Stockbridge
18	Owen McGraw	WR	5-6	148	Fr.	Garden City, Mich. / Garden City
19	Adam Rammouni	WR	6-1	197	So.	Dearborn, Mich. / Dearborn
19	Joe Sparacio *	LB	5-11	220	Gr.	Naples, Fla. / First Baptist Academy / Boston College
20	Joey Mattord	RB	5-11	177	Fr.	Hartland, Mich. / Hartland
21	Bryson Moss *	RB	5-8	194	Jr.	Newnan, Ga. / Newnan
22	Samson Evans ***	RB	6-0	217	Gr.	Crystal Lake, Ill. / Prairie Ridge / Iowa
23	Elijah Jackson-Anderson *	RB	5-10	192	So.	Flint, Mich. / Grand Blanc
23	Quinn Fracassi	WR	5-11	165	So.	Howell, Mich. / South Lyon
24	Kaiden Keefe *	WR	6-1	181	Sr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo. / Valor Christian
24	Hussein Hussein	DB	5-9	170	Jr.	Garden City, Mich. / Garden City / Adrian
26	Tyron Bates	WR	5-10	170	So.	Long Beach, Calif. / Paramount / Cerritos J.C.
26	Tristen Hines *	DB	5-11	175	Sr.	Milan, Mich. / Milan
27	David Carter Jr. **	DB	5-11	191	Sr.	Ecorse, Mich. / River Rouge
28	Jaylon Jackson *	RB	5-6	168	Sr.	Burleson, Texas / Centennial / Lamar
28	Jaivian Norman	DB	5-9	178	Fr.	Springfield, Ohio / Springfield
29	Kempton Shine ****	DB	6-0	184	Sr.	Chicago, Ill. / St. Rita
30	Deion Brown	RB	5-9	178	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. / Kirkwood
30	Mitchell Tomasek *	P	6-4	214	Jr.	Columbus, Ohio / Worthington Kilbourne
31	Jesse Vasquez	DB	5-10	180	Jr.	Lansing, Mich. / East Lansing / Albion
32	Kendric Nowling **	DB	6-2	215	Sr.	Chicago, Ill. / Marist
33	Carter Evans *	DL	6-3	248	Jr.	Crystal Lake, Ill. / Prairie Ridge
33	Ryan Kingston	P	6-6	201	Fr.	South Bend, Ind. / Riley
35	Jesús Gómez *	K	6-1	214	Jr.	Puebla, Mexico / Prepa Tec Puebla
35	Jaheim Jenkins	DB	6-2	191	So.	Bainbridge, Ga. / Bainbridge / Iowa Western C.C.
36	Zach Mowchan *	LB	6-1	225	Jr.	Dillsburg Pa. / Northern York
37	Kenyon Bowyer	K	5-9	191	Sr.	Sacramento, Calif. / Capital Christian / Marshall
38	Chase Arrington	DB	5-9	175	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa. / North Catholic
39	Barry Manning	DB	6-1	200	So.	Stone Mountain, Ga. / Tucker

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EASTERN MICHIGAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Exp.	HOMETOWN/HS/LAST SCHOOL
40	Bryce Eliuk	LB	6-0	221	Fr.	Linden, Mich. / Linden
41	James Doerer	LB	6-0	240	Jr.	Grosse Point, Mich. / Grosse Point South / Valparaiso
42	Quinn Kelly	LS	5-11	200	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. / St. Rita
43	Cole McElvany	LB	6-1	221	So.	Milan, Mich. / Milan
44	Luke Cameron ***	LB	6-0	226	Gr.	Kokomo, Ind. / Kokomo / Army West Point
45	Joseph Zelinsky *	DL	6-3	250	Sr.	Cressona, Pa. / Blue Mountain / Hudson Valley CC
46	Steve Bird ***	LS	5-10	229	Gr.	Phoenix, Ariz. / Sandra Day O'Connor
47	Justin Jefferson **	LB	5-11	228	Sr.	Chicago, Ill. / Brother Rice
48	Hudson Fiene	K	5-8	174	Fr.	Yorkville, Ill. / Yorkville
49	Jaden Gaines	DL	6-4	242	So.	Alpharetta, Ga. / Chattahoochee
50	Owen Snively	OL	6-4	311	Jr.	Fremont, N.H. / Tilton / Colorado State
51	Mitchell Dietzel	LS	6-4	225	Fr.	Burlington, Wis. / Catholic Central
52	Ke'Vion Wellington	DL	6-2	270	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / North Central
53	Messiah Blair	DL	6-6	225	Fr.	Detroit, Mich. / Martin Luther King
55	Dan Sunderman	OL	6-4	313	Gr.	Omaha, Neb. / Millard South / Central Missouri
56	Sterling Miles *	DL	6-5	244	Sr.	West Bloomfield, Mich. / West Bloomfield / Cincinnati
57	Carter Gilbert	DL	6-4	306	Jr.	Oxford, Mich. / Oxford
58	Maliak Bogard	DL	6-5	215	So.	Beggs, Okla. / Beggs
60	Tommy Dickinson	OL	6-3	284	So.	Collegeville, Pa. / Methacton
61	Jeremiah Jackson Jr.	OL	6-3	300	So.	Lakeland, Fla. / Kathleen
62	Kellen McDonough	OL	6-3	268	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa. / Woodland Hills
63	Mickey Rewolinski *	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Caledonia, Wis. / Union Grove
65	Nicholas Gallegos	OL	6-3	286	So.	Naperville, Ill. / Neuqua Valley
66	Daniel Warnsman *	OL	6-3	308	Jr.	Dublin, Ohio / Dublin Coffman
67	Broderick Roman	OL	6-3	294	Sr.	Lansing, Mich. / Okemos
68	Alex Howie ***	OL	6-3	310	Gr.	Canton, Mich. / Salem
69	Trenton VanBoening	OL	6-6	284	Fr.	Libertyville, Ill. / Libertyville
70	Dimitri Douglas **	OL	6-3	308	Gr.	Saline, Mich. / Saline / Michigan State
71	Terrance Saunders	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan. / Blue Valley West
72	Mack Indestad	OL	6-8	290	So.	Lemont, Ill. / Lemont Twp.
73	Joshua Anderson	OL	6-4	312	So.	Florissant, Mo. / Westminster Christian Academy
74	Jez Janvier *	DL	6-5	310	Jr.	Montreal, Quebec / Cegep VieuxMontreal
75	Carson Lee	OL	6-2	318	Jr.	Greenwood Village, Colo. / Cherry Creek / Colorado
76	Chris Mayo	OL	6-5	308	Jr.	Deptford, N.J. / The Peddie School / West Virginia
77	Brian Dooley ****	OL	6-5	313	Gr.	Bowling Green, Ohio / Tol. St. John's Jesuit
78	Dennis Strey Jr.	OL	6-6	313	So.	Paw Paw, Mich. / Paw Paw
80	Tyree Lockett	WR	5-10	168	So.	Belleville, Mich. / Belleville
81	Nick Devereaux	WR	6-0	194	Jr.	Troy, Mich. / Brother Rice / Davenport
82	Cedric Anton	TE	6-2	245	Fr.	Poppenhausen, Germany / Rabun Gap / Nacoochee (Ga.)
83	Jere Getzinger ***	TE	6-3	248	Sr.	West Branch, Mich. / Ogemaw Heights
84	C.J. Horton	TE	6-5	238	Jr.	Ft. Scott, Kan. / Ft. Scott / Kansas St. / IA Wstrn
86	Joseph Walker Jr.	WR	6-3	206	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Warren Central
87	Gabe Hoffmann	TE	6-5	242	Fr.	Sammamish, Wash. / Eastside Catholic
88	Blake Daniels	TE	6-5	243	Gr.	Macomb, Mich. / L'Ance Creuse North / Davenport
89	Soloman Bell	DB	5-9	199	So.	Pontiac, Mich. / Southfield A&T / Highland C.C.
90	Adrian Gonzalez *	DL	6-3	290	Sr.	Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico / Liceo Cancún
91	Malik Tullis	DL	5-11	270	Fr.	Fairburn, Ga. / Creekside
93	Ugo Nosike	DL	6-2	292	So.	South Holland, Ill. / Thornwood / Arizona / Butler C.C.
94	Peyton Price **	DL	6-2	300	Jr.	Lafayette, Ind. / Jefferson
95	Gary Dorsey Jr.	DL	6-6	232	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio / Deer Park
96	Luke Fletcher	DL	6-3	240	Fr.	Port Huron, Mich. / Port Huron North
97	Mikey Haney ***	DL	6-4	250	Gr.	Maumee, Ohio / Maumee
98	Tim Grant-Randall *	DL	5-11	275	Sr.	Conroe, Texas / Oak Ridge / Blinn
99	Melvin Swindle II *	DL	6-1	282	Jr.	Oklahoma City, Okla. / Heritage Hall

* - letters won



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EXPERIENCE

==== MATTERS ====

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JASON SMITH
FOX10 CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

EASTERN MICHIGAN DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Position	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	4	Austin Smith	6-2	218	So.
	3	Ike Udengwu III	6-2	208	Jr.
	or 8	Cam'Ron McCoy	6-0	192	Fr.
RB	28	Jaylon Jackson	5-6	168	Sr.
	or 22	Samson Evans	6-0	217	Gr.
X	17	JB Mitchell III	6-1	198	Jr.
	13	Jamarien Wheeler	6-0	204	Jr.
Z	2	Tanner Knue	5-11	178	Gr.
	5	Max Reese	6-2	235	So.
H	1	Hamze El-Zayat	5-8	182	Gr.
	11	Terry Lockett Jr.	6-0	180	Jr.
Y	83	Jere Getzinger	6-3	248	Sr.
	85	Andreas Paaske	6-6	255	Jr.
	or 88	Blake Daniels	6-5	243	Gr.
LT	63	Mickey Rewolinski	6-5	300	Jr.
	76	Chris Mayo	6-5	308	Jr.
LG	54	Zack Conti	6-6	315	Sr.
	55	Dan Sunderman	6-4	313	Gr.
C	75	Carson Lee	6-2	318	Jr.
	67	Broderick Roman	6-3	294	Sr.
	70	Dimitri Douglas	6-3	308	Sr.
RG	68	Alex Howie	6-3	310	Gr.
	75	Carson Lee	6-2	318	Jr.
RT	77	Brian Dooley	6-5	313	Gr.
	73	Joshua Anderson	6-4	312	So.



DEFENSE

Position	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
END	47	Justin Jefferson	5-11	228	Sr.
	45	Joey Zelinsky	6-3	250	Sr.
NOSE	94	Peyton Price	6-2	300	Jr.
	99	Melvin Swindle II	6-1	282	Jr.
TACKLE	98	Tim Grant-Randall	5-11	275	Sr.
	92	Alex Merritt	6-3	290	Sr.
LEO	11	Mikah Coleman	6-5	253	Sr.
	49	Jaden Gaines	6-4	242	So.
MIKE	6	Chase Kline	6-3	236	Sr.
	44	Luke Cameron	6-0	226	Gr.
WILL	19	Joe Sparacio	5-11	220	Gr.
	12	Elijah Williams	6-0	208	Gr.
STAR	4	Daiquan White	5-9	160	Fr.
	5	Korey Hernandez	5-10	193	Gr.
	16	Cameron Smith	6-2	198	Jr.
FREE	27	David Carter Jr.	5-11	191	Sr.
	29	Kempton Shine	6-0	184	Sr.
CB	14	Keylen Gulley	5-11	170	Jr.
	3	Quentavius Scandrett	6-2	189	Jr.
BANDIT	39	Barry Manning	6-1	200	So.
	17	Bennett Walker	6-0	191	Jr.
CB	26	Tristen Hines	5-11	175	Sr.



SPECIALISTS

Position	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
KO	37	Kenyon Bowyer	5-9	191	Sr.
	or 33	Ryan Kingston	6-6	201	So.
PK	35	Jesús Gómez	6-1	214	Jr.
	37	Kenyon Bowyer	5-9	191	Sr.
P	30	Mitchell Tomasek	6-4	214	Jr.
	33	Ryan Kingston	6-6	201	So.
LS	46	Steve Bird	5-10	229	Sr.
	51	Mitchell Dietzel	6-4	225	Fr.
HOLD	30	Mitchell Tomasek	6-4	214	Jr.
	33	Ryan Kingston	6-6	201	So.
KR	28	Jaylon Jackson	5-6	168	Sr.
	1	Hamze El-Zayat	5-8	182	Gr.
PR	1	Hamze El-Zayat	5-8	182	Gr.
	28	Jaylon Jackson	5-6	168	Sr.
	23	Elijah Jackson-Anderson	5-10	192	So.

EASTERN MICHIGAN **E**



Hamze El-Zayat **1**
WR 5-8 182 Gr.



Joshua Scott **1**
DB 5-10 177 Jr.



Tanner Knue **2**
WR 5-11 178 Gr.



Quentavius Scandrett **3**
DB 6-2 189 Jr.



Ike Udenwu III **3**
QB 6-2 208 Jr.



Daiquan White **4**
DB 5-9 160 Fr.



Korey Hernandez **5**
DB 5-10 193 Gr.



Max Reese **5**
TE 6-2 235 So.



Londyn Craft **7**
DB 6-1 205 Gr.



Von Swinton **7**
WR 6-2 191 Jr.



Cam'Ron McCoy **8**
QB 6-0 192 So.



T.J. Peavy **8**
DB 5-10 195 Sr.



Makhail Wood **9**
WR 5-10 150 Fr.



Josh McCarty **10**
DB 5-11 203 Sr.



Terry Lockett Jr. **11**
WR 6-0 180 Jr.



Dontae McMillan **12**
RB 5-10 195 Sr.



Elijah Williams **12**
DB 6-0 208 Gr.



Jason Marshall **13**
DB 6-2 198 So.



Jamarien Wheeler **13**
WR 6-0 204 Jr.



Keylen Gully **14**
DB 5-11 170 Jr.



Isaac Smith **14**
WR 6-1 196 Sr.



Jeremiah Salem **15**
QB 6-3 186 So.



Cameron Smith **16**
DB 6-2 198 Jr.



JB Mitchell III **17**
WR 6-1 198 Jr.



Bennett Walker **17**
DB 6-0 190 Jr.

E

PLAYERS



Ali Abdul-Barr 18

DB 6-1 213 So.



Owen McGraw 18

WR 5-6 148 Fr.



Adam Rammouni 19

WR 6-1 197 So.



Joe Sparacio 19

LB 5-11 220 Gr.



Joey Mattord 20

RB 5-11 177 Fr.



Bryson Moss 21

RB 5-8 194 Jr.



Samson Evans 22

RB 6-0 217 Gr.



Elijah Jackson-Anderson 23

RB 5-10 192 So.



Quinn Fracassi 23

WR 5-11 165 So.



Kaiden Keefe 24

WR 6-1 181 Sr.



Hussein Hussein 24

DB 5-9 170 Jr.



Tyrone Bates 26

WR 5-10 170 So.



Tristen Hines 26

DB 5-11 175 Sr.



David Carter Jr. 27

DB 5-11 191 Sr.



Jaylon Jackson 28

RB 5-6 168 Sr.



Jaivian Norman 28

DB 5-9 178 Fr.



Kempton Shine 29

DB 6-0 184 Sr.



Deion Brown 30

RB 5-9 178 Fr.



Mitchell Tomasek 30

P 6-4 214 Jr.



Jesse Vasquez 31

DB 5-10 180 Jr.



Kendrick Nowling 32

DB 6-2 215 Sr.



Carter Evans 33

DL 6-3 248 Jr.



Ryan Kingston 33

P 6-6 201 Fr.



Jesús Gómez 35

K 6-1 214 Jr.



Jaheim Jenkins 35

DB 6-2 191 So.

EASTERN MICHIGAN **E**



Zach Mowchan 36
LB 6-1 225 Jr.



Kenyon Bowyer 37
K 5-9 191 Sr.



Chase Arrington 38
DB 5-9 175 Fr.



Barry Manning 39
DB 6-1 200 So.



Bryce Eliuk 40
LB 6-0 221 Fr.



James Doerer 41
LB 6-0 240 Jr.



Quinn Kelly 42
LS 5-11 200 Fr.



Cole McElvany 43
LB 6-1 221 So.



Luke Cameron 44
LB 6-0 226 Gr.



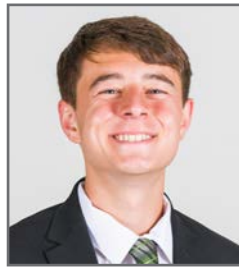
Joseph Zelinsky 45
DL 6-3 250 Sr.



Steve Bird 46
LS 5-10 229 Gr.



Justin Jefferson 47
LB 5-11 228 Sr.



Hudson Fiene 48
K 5-8 174 Fr.



Jaden Gaines 49
DL 6-4 242 So.



Owen Snively 50
OL 6-4 311 Jr.



Mitchell Dietzel 51
LS 6-4 225 Fr.



Ke'Vion Wellington 52
DL 6-2 270 Fr.



Messiah Blair 53
DL 6-6 225 Fr.



Dan Sunderman 55
OL 6-4 313 Gr.



Sterling Miles 56
DL 6-5 244 Sr.



Carter Gilbert 57
DL 6-4 306 Jr.



Maliek Bogard 58
DL 6-5 215 So.



Tommy Dickinson 60
OL 6-3 284 So.



Jeremiah Jackson Jr. 61
OL 6-3 300 So.



Kellen McDonough 62
OL 6-3 268 Fr.

E

PLAYERS



Mickey Rewolinski 63

OL 6-5 300 Sr.



Nicholas Gallegos 65

OL 6-3 286 So.



Daniel Warnsman 66

OL 6-3 308 Jr.



Alex Howie 68

OL 6-3 310 Gr.



Broderick Roman 67

OL 6-3 294 Sr.



Trenton VanBoening 69

OL 6-6 284 Fr.



Dimitri Douglas 70

OL 6-3 308 Gr.



Terrance Saunders 71

OL 6-2 290 Fr.



Mack Indestad 72

OL 6-8 290 So.



Joshua Anderson 73

OL 6-4 312 So.



Jez Janvier 74

DL 6-5 310 Jr.



Carson Lee 75

OL 6-2 318 Jr.



Chris Mayo 76

OL 6-5 308 Jr.



Brian Dooley 77

OL 6-5 313 Gr.



Dennis Strey Jr. 78

OL 6-6 313 So.



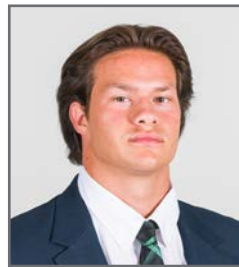
Tyree Lockett 80

WR 5-10 168 So.



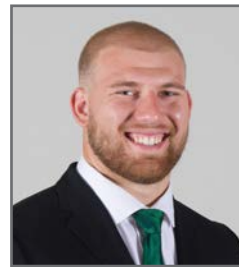
Nick Devereaux 81

WR 6-0 194 Jr.



Cedric Anton 82

TE 6-2 245 Fr.



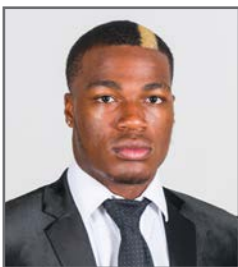
Jere Getzinger 83

TE 6-3 248 Sr.



C.J. Horton 84

TE 6-5 238 Jr.



Joseph Walker Jr. 86

WR 6-3 206 Fr.



Gabe Hoffmann 87

TE 6-5 242 Fr.



Blake Daniels 88

TE 6-5 243 Gr.



Soloman Bell 89

DB 5-9 199 So.



Adrian Gonzalez 90

DL 6-3 290 Sr.



EASTERN MICHIGAN **E**



Malik Tullis **91**

DL 5-11 270 Fr.



Ugo Nosike **93**

DL 6-2 292 So.



Peyton Price **94**

DL 6-2 300 Jr.



Gary Dorsey Jr. **95**

DL 6-6 232 Fr.



Luke Fletcher **96**

DL 6-3 240 Fr.



Mikey Haney **97**

DL 6-4 250 Gr.



Tim Grant-Randall **98**

DL 5-11 275 Sr.



Melvin Swindle II **99**

DL 6-1 282 Jr.



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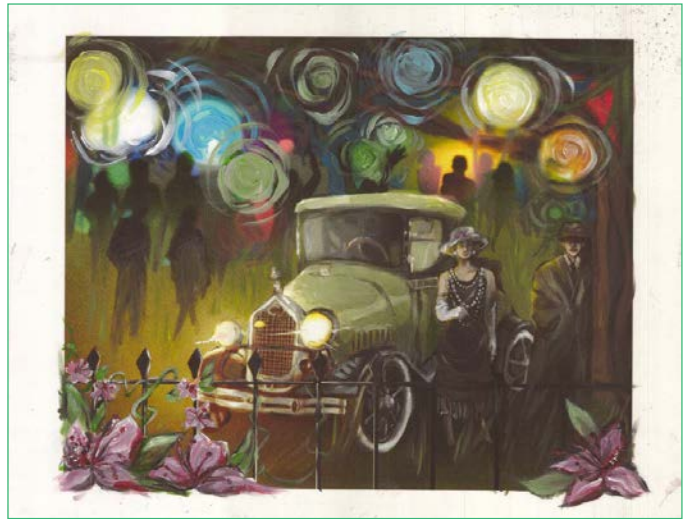
18TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST

The 68 Ventures Bowl Art Contest invited students from Mobile and Baldwin County schools to enter this annual contest for a chance to earn their school's art program a cash prize. This year's theme was "Commemorating 25 Years: The Roaring 20's in Mobile", and the contest received over 150 entries. Finalists were selected by judges from the Baldwin and Mobile Counties' art community. Since 2007, winning artwork has been chosen for the front cover of the 68 Ventures Bowl Program and the cover for this year's game day program will be revealed at the banquet. The 68 Ventures Bowl has awarded approximately \$33,000 to local schools' art programs since the contest's inception.

FIRST PLACE



THERESE MULROY
Baton Academy
6th-8th Grade



PENNY SNELL
Bayside Academy
9th-10th Grade



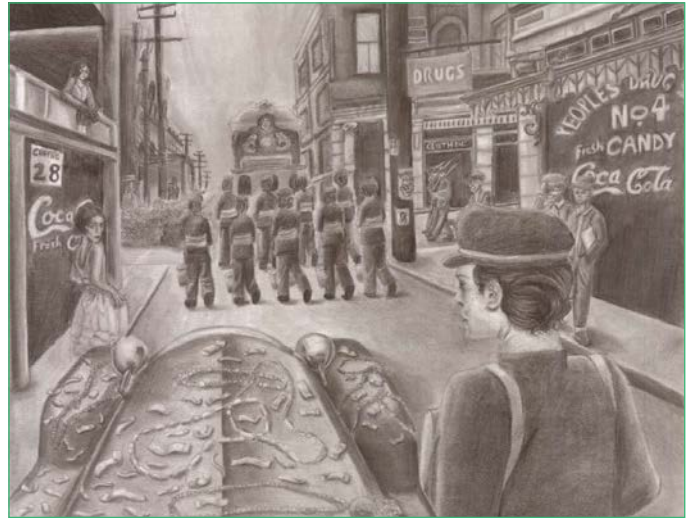
LAUREN BIXLER
St. Paul's Episcopal
11th-12th Grade

18TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST

SECOND PLACE



MAGDA DE HAART
Barton Academy
6th-8th Grade



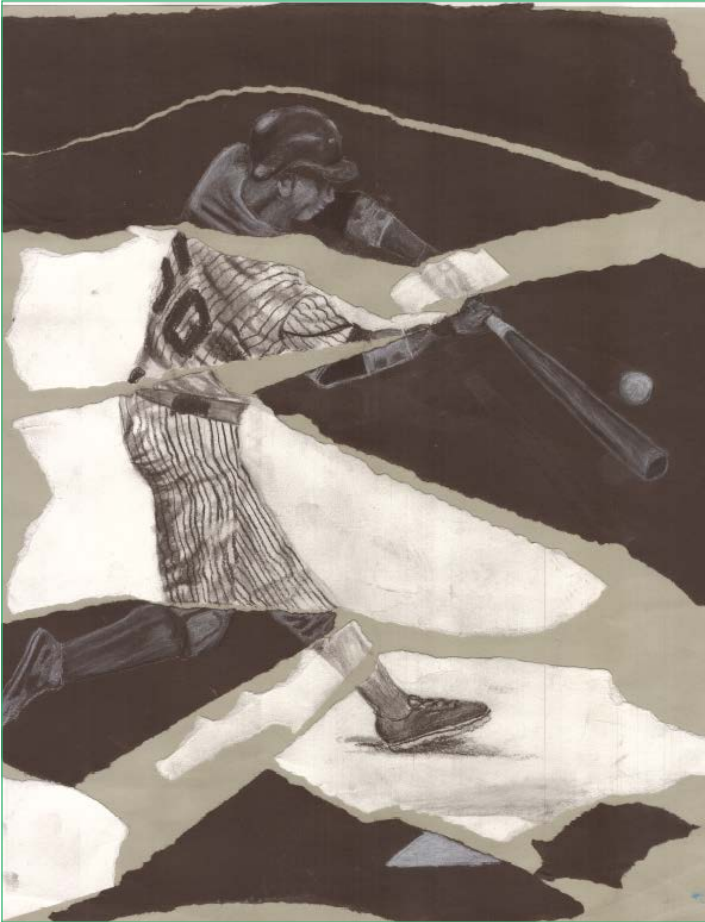
EVANIA SMITH
Saraland High School
9th-10th Grade



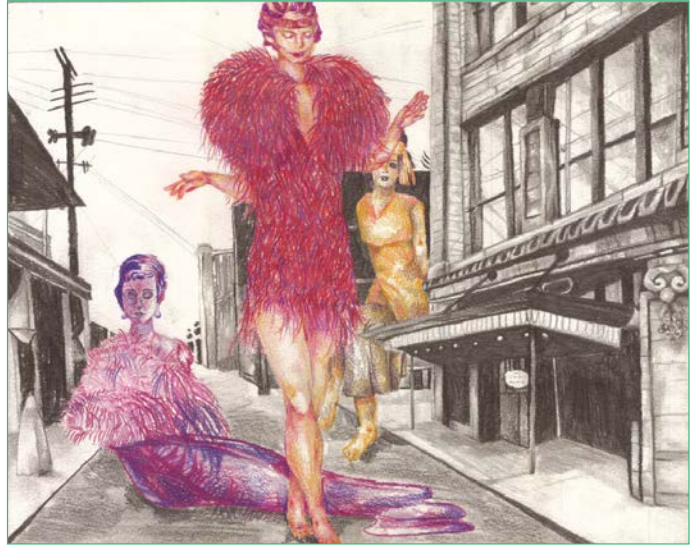
YUFEI ZHAO
Saraland High School
11th-12th Grade

18TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST

THIRD PLACE



MADISON MCMILLAN
Barton Academy
6th-8th Grade



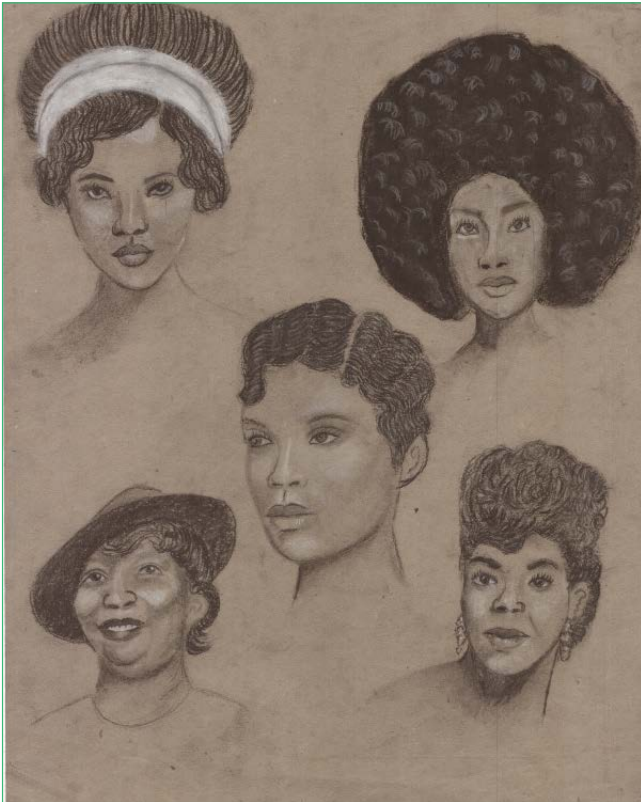
JACKSON MCCOY
St. Paul's Episcopal
9th-10th Grade



MADELYNN RIDGELL
St. Paul's Episcopal
11th-12th Grade

18TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTIONS



ADDYSON CHANEY
Barton Academy
6th-8th Grade



MIA STEVENS
St. Paul's Episcopal
11th-12th Grade



JENA SAYYAD
Barton Academy
9th-10th Grade

68 VENTURES BOWL IN THE NFL

Jahleel Addae
Central Michigan
Houston Texans

Mario Addison
Troy
Carolina Panthers

Olasunkanmi Adeniyi
Toledo
Pittsburg Steelers

Tarell Basham
Ohio
New York Jets

Nick Bellore
Central Michigan
Seattle Seahawks

Matt Brieda
Georgia Southern
San Francisco 49ers

Brandon Brooks
Miami (OH)
Philadelphia Eagles

Raymond Calais
Louisiana
Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Jordan Chunn
Troy
Dallas Cowboys

Chris Clark
Southern Miss
Houston Texans

Charles Clay
Tulsa
Arizona Cardinals

Demario Davis
Arkansas State
New Orleans Saints

Gehrig Dieter
Bowling Green
Kansas City Chiefs

Kevin Dobson
Louisiana
Pittsburgh Steelers

Eric Fisher
Central Michigan
Kansas City Chiefs

Antonio Garcia
Troy
Miami Dolphins

Colby Gossett
Appalachian State
Cleveland Browns

Stephen Gostkowski
Memphis
New England Patriots

Chuck Harris
Buffalo
Chicago Bears

Tae Hayes
Appalachian State
Jacksonville Jaguars

Treyvon Hester
Toledo
Washington Redskins

Ka'dar Hollman
Toledo
Green Bay Packers



WILLIE SNEAD

Reggie Howard
Toledo
Los Angeles Chargers

Kareem Hunt
Toledo
Cleveland Browns

Ryan Hunter
Bowling Green
Kansas City Chiefs

Anthony Johnson
Buffalo
Los Angeles Chargers

Diontae Johnson
Toledo
Pittsburg Steelers

Jon'va Johnson
Toledo
Dallas Cowboys

Roubbens Joseph
Buffalo
Washington Redskins

Brett Kern
Toledo
Tennessee Titans

Josh Kline
Kent State
Minnesota Vikings

Roger Lewis
Bowling Green
Indianapolis Colts

Joe Lowery
Ohio
Chicago Bears

Greg Mancz
Toledo
Houston Texans

J. D. McKissic
Arkansas State
Detroit Lions

Rashaan Melvin
Northern Illinois
Detroit Lions



68 VENTURES BOWL IN THE NFL

Scott Miller
Bowling Green
Tampa Bay Buccaneers

A.J. Ouellette
Ohio
Cleveland Browns

Sam Sloman
Miami (Ohio)
Los Angeles Rams

Damion Willis
Troy
Cincinnati Bengals

Rolan Milligan
Toledo
Indianapolis Colts

Quentin Polling
Ohio
Oakland Raiders

Willie Snead IV
Ball State
Baltimore Ravens

Malik Willis
Liberty
Tennessee Titans

Roosevelt Nix
Kent State
Pittsburgh Steelers
Elijah Nkansah
Toledo
Houston Texans

Ben Roethlisberger
Miami (OH)
Pittsburgh Steelers
Trevon Sanders
Troy
New York Jets

Cody Thompson
Toledo
Kansas City Chiefs
Brynden Trawick
Troy
Baltimore Ravens

Brian Winters
Kent State
New York Jets
Logan Woodside
Toledo
Tennessee Titans

James O'Hagan
Buffalo
New York Giants

Tuzar Skipper
Toledo
New York Giants

Brant Weiss
Toledo
Los Angeles Chargers



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68 VENTURES BOWL IN THE NFL

LaDianian Tomlinson played in the 1999 and 2000 68 Ventures Bowl with TCU. He was the Most Valuable Player in 2000. He played 11 seasons in the NFL with the San Diego Chargers and New York Jets. Tomlinson compiled 13,684 yards and 145 rushing touchdowns in his career. He led the NFL in rushing yards and TDs in 2006 and 2007. His best year came in 2007, when he led the NFL with 1,815 yards and 28 TDs. He compiled seven 1,000-yard seasons. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2017.



LADIANIAN TOMLINSON



STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI

Stephen Gostkowski scored 369 points in his illustrious career at Memphis. He played with the Tigers in the 2004 68 Ventures Bowl. He was selected in the fourth round of the 2006 NFL Draft by the New England Patriots. Gostkowski has played in 169 games in his 16-year NFL career. He led the league in field goals made in 2008 (40) and 2013 (41). He also led the NFL with 74 extra points in 2007 and 66 extra points in 2012. His 62-yard field goal was the longest in the NFL in 2017.



BEN ROETHLISBERGER

Ben Roethlisberger 68 Ventures Bowl MVP after leading Miami (Ohio) to a 48-29 win over Louisville in 2003. He started 247 games for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 2004-21. He completed more than 5,000 passes and finished with 64,088 yards and 418 touchdowns. Roethlisberger was the NFL Rookie of the Year in 2004. He led the NFL in total passing yards twice and passing yards per game three times. He played in three Super Bowls with the Steelers, winning two championships. The Steelers defeated Seattle in Super Bowl XL and Arizona in Super Bowl XLIII.



KAREEM HUNT

Kareem Hunt tied the all-time NCAA bowl record with five rushing touchdowns in Toledo's 63-49 win over Arkansas State in 2017. Hunt has played six seasons in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs and Cleveland Browns. He led the NFL with 1,327 rushing yards as a rookie with the Chiefs in 2017.

Malik Willis was the MVP of the 2021 68 Ventures Bowl, leading Liberty to a 56-20 win over Eastern Michigan. He was selected in the third round of the 2022 NFL Draft by the Tennessee Titans. Willis has started two games for the Titans this season.



MALIK WILLIS



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Pictured above are (from left) Kaylee Sadler, Violet Young, Nancy Grace, Chris Conken, Kaprena Agee and Laurie Howard.

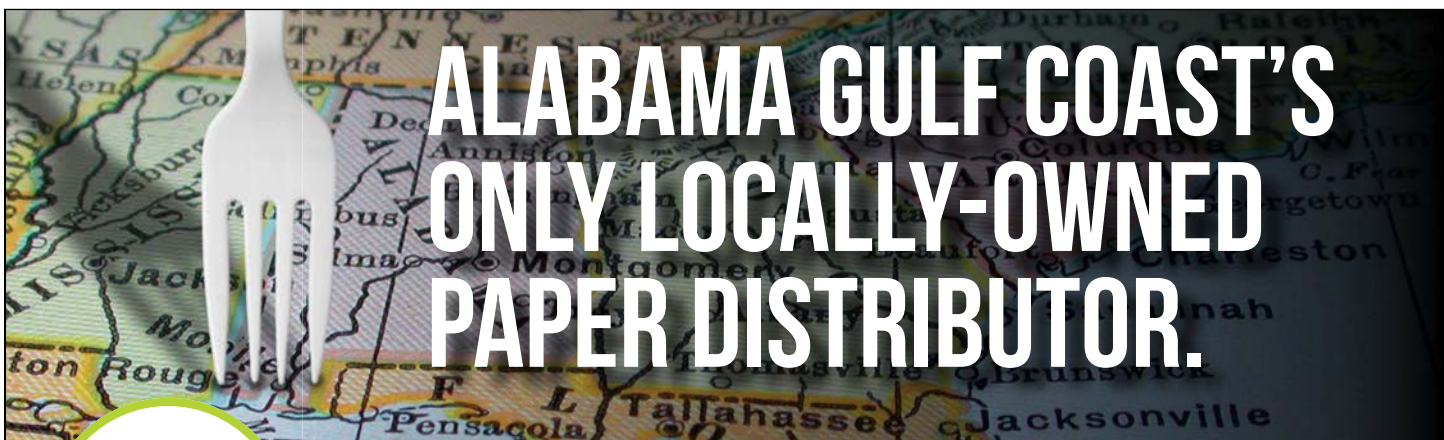


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68 VENTURES BOWL STAFF



**JERRY SILVERSTEIN,
PRESIDENT**

Jerry is a co-founder of the 68 Ventures Bowl and has served as President since 1999. He is a native of Mobile, Ala., and is a 1983 graduate of the University of Alabama where he lettered in swimming (1979-80). Jerry received his Real Estate Broker License and began work for M&B Realty in Mobile,

Alabama. He was promoted to President of M&B Realty in 1992 and took ownership of the company, which he still owns and operates today. Additionally, as owner of Storm Reconstruction Services, he is key in the bidding, negotiation and execution of multi-governmental emergency contracts of over \$100,000,000. Jerry began his 30-plus year career in storm reconstruction in 1989, when Hurricane Hugo blew through Charleston, South Carolina. Silverstein also owns and operates M&B Realty. In addition to his work in storm reconstruction and real estate, Jerry also is an owner and President of Bay Shore Finance which was founded in 2007. Silverstein serves on the board of the Mitchell Cancer Institute, and is a member of Bowl Season through which he serves on the Champions Award Committee. Over the years, he has served on numerous committees and boards including Boy Scouts of America, Mobile Ballet, Team Focus, and Springhill Avenue Temple, to name a few. Silverstein is a father of three, Leighton Jacobs, Margeaux Silverstein and Ashton Silverstein, and grandfather to three, Wright & Barrett Jacobs and Harper Lefort.



**SHERRIE DYAL,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Sherrie Dyal serves as the Executive Director for the 68 Ventures Bowl. She is responsible for all bowl operations, game day management and corporate relations. She has served the bowl in various capacities since 2005. Dyal was the 2020 recipient of the Football Bowl Association Leadership Award for her

contributions to the college football bowl scene. In addition, she has received a Medallion Award from the Mobile Chapter of the Public Relations Council of Alabama and was presented the Bridge Award from the USA Department of Communication in 2010. Dyal serves as the President of the Mobile County Sports Complex Advisory Board and a National Leadership Team member for Kappa Delta Sorority. She previously served on the boards for the Mobile chapter of the Public Relations Council of Alabama and as the Committee Chair for the Transitional Living Program for the residents of Wilmer Hall Children's Home. She began her career in athletics in Athletic Development at the University of South Alabama. Dyal, a Mobile native, graduated from the University of South Alabama. She and her husband, Evan, have three children, Emma Katherine, Bailey and Finn.



**FRANK MODARELLI, SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF OPERATIONS**

Frank Modarelli has served various roles at the 68 Ventures Bowl since its inception in 1999. He currently serves as Senior Director of Operations and previously served as both the bowl's Executive Director and Head of the Selection Committee. Modarelli previously

worked for both Warehouse and Equifax. He spent 30 years as an insurance investigator for Equifax. Modarelli is an Army Veteran and was stationed for four years in Germany. A native of Struthers, Ohio, Modarelli graduated from Youngstown State University. He is married to his wife, Pat, and the couple has two children, Frank and Mike, and four grandchildren.



**MIKE LAIRD,
EVENT COORDINATOR**

Mike Laird has served as the 68 Ventures Bowl Sales and Event Coordinator since its inception in 1999. A native of Mobile, Laird is a 1969 graduate of the University of South Alabama where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. He was part of the University of South Alabama's inaugural

baseball team. Prior to his work with the bowl, Laird led sales across the U.S. for Global Tellink and OmniPhone. Laird is married to his college sweetheart, Claire. The couple has two grown children, Michael and Matthew, and four grandchildren, Claire Burton, Kate, Gabriel, and Jacob.



**JOHN "JT" CLARK,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
AND TICKET OPERATIONS**

John "JT" Clark currently serves as the Director of Marketing and Ticket Operations. He is responsible for all marketing aspects of the 68 Ventures Bowl as well as ticket operations.

Clark is a founder, owner and board member for the AFC Mobile minor league soccer team. He has previously worked in the commercial airlines industry as Operations Manager for InterAir Airlines and owner of World Grid Logistics. He began his athletic career working in game day operations and Athletic Development for the University of South Alabama. A native of Oklahoma, Clark graduated from the University of South Alabama.

BRIAN HENRY, DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS

Brian Henry is working his first 68 Ventures Bowl in 2023 and is responsible for all publicity and publications for the game. He has worked on the game day staff of 15 previous bowl games, including the Cotton, Copper and Sun Bowls. A veteran of 20 years in college athletics communications, he is in his ninth year as the Sports Information Director at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. At UWF, he has been part of a football and men's tennis national championship, in addition to more than a dozen regional titles in women's basketball, men's golf, women's soccer, softball and men's and women's tennis. Henry has served as the media coordinator for 12 NCAA regional and national championships hosted by the Argonauts. Prior to UWF, he worked at Massachusetts, Lamar, Missouri, UTEP and Vanderbilt. He earned his bachelor's degree in Journalism from Troy University in 2004. A native of Tucson, Arizona, he and his wife Tracy have two teenage children, Abigail and Andrew.



LEXIE CANTIN, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & OPERATIONS

Lexie Cantin is in her fourth season with the 68 Ventures Bowl, and her second season as Strategic Partnerships & Operations. She is responsible for sponsorship contracts, hospitality committees, planning and facilitating Wives Day Out, as well as, game day operations. She previously served as an intern for the 68 Ventures Bowl in 2019. She began her career earning her EMS certificates at the University of South Alabama. A native of Mobile, Cantin graduated from South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management in 2019. She and her husband Ethan, have three children, Leland, Harper, and Vera Katherine.



SARAH THORNTON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Sarah Thornton is in her 17th season with the 68 Ventures Bowl. In her capacity, she is responsible for coordinating the team's community service projects, event planning and game day operations. She is a former intern for the 68 Ventures Bowl, then called the GMAC Bowl. Since 2007, Thornton has served as the Executive Director of Team Focus, an organization founded by former college head football coach, ESPN personality Mike Gottfried. Team Focus serves fatherless young men. A native of Mobile, Thornton graduated from McGill-Toolen Catholic High School and played volleyball for two seasons at Spring Hill College in Mobile. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sport and Event Marketing from South Alabama in 2006. She is the proud mother of two children, Tripp and Molly-Grace.



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2023 SPELLING BEE WINNERS

This past February, the Mobile Alabama Bowl sponsored the 96th Annual Mobile County Spelling Bee at Baker High School. Fifty-one outstanding elementary and middle school students competed from schools public, private, and parochial across the county.

We are pleased to recognize the 2023 winners:

- 1st Place: Elizabeth Finney, UMS-Wright Preparatory School
- 2nd Place: Ethan Spottswood, Mobile Christian
- 3rd Place: Madeline Box, Saraland Middle School
- Staff in photo Lexie Cantin (left) and Frank Modarelli (right)



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EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS



The 68 Ventures Bowl gave away \$9,000 in grants to MCPSS teachers through the “Nominate a Teacher” program. Nominations ran from September 19th to November 1st receiving over 1300 submissions over the span of two years. Through this program, the 68 Ventures Bowl chose 9 teachers to receive recognition and funding for their efforts and commitment to educating our children through the College Football Playoff (CFP) Foundation. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 to utilize in their classroom to improve student learning, and grow their teaching resources. The Grant recipients will be recognized during this year’s game, and their classes will be invited to attend the game as well.

This year’s winners from the “Nominate a Teacher” program are from Elementary, Middle and High School. The 2023 recipients are:

- Krystal Ladnier, Breitting Elementary School
- Cortez Nelson, Meadowlike Elementary School
- Kristal Bush, Holloway Elementary School
- Mashun Johnson, Burns Middle School
- Kim Wakefield, Phillips Preparatory School
- Tammy Loper, Causey Middle School
- Andrew Lipske, Baker High School
- Angela Salamone, Mary G. Montgomery High School
- Alex White, Murphy High School

During this year’s game, additional grants will be awarded thanks to the CFP and ESPN.



Alex White



Cortez Nelson



Krystal Ladnier



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- FusionPoint Media
- Great Southern Wood
- Greer's Markets & CashSavers
- Gulf Coast Tours
- Gulf Distributing Co. of Mobile, L.L.C.
- Gwin's Commercial Printing
- Hampton Inn & Suites (Providence Park)
- Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown
- Holiday Inn (Mobile West I-10)
- Holiday Inn (Airport)
- iHeart Radio
- Jimmy Johns
- Joe Bullard Automotive
- Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
- Lagniappe
- Lamar Outdoor
- LArche Mobile
- Massey Chevrolet
- McConnell Automotive
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- Poarch Band Of Creek Indians
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- Toomey's Mardi Gras
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