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CREDITS

The 2024 68 Ventures Bowl game program is a publication of the 68 Ventures Bowl.

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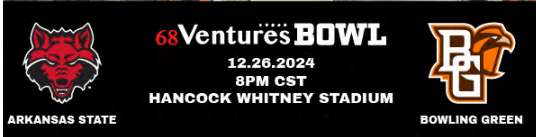


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MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA



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Commissioner, District 1



CONNIE HUDSON
Commissioner, District 2



RANDALL DUEITT
Commissioner, District 3

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 68 Ventures Bowl. Congratulations to the Red Wolves and the Falcons on your successful seasons. We are thrilled you could join us here in Alabama's Port City, and I hope you're as excited about the game as we are!

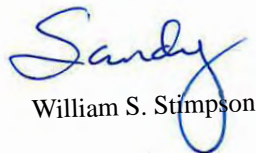
The beautiful campus at the University of South Alabama is one of many places where you can see Mobile's storied past and bright future come together. You're enjoying today's game a few hundred feet from where tomorrow's doctors, nurses and surgeons are learning to save lives and change the world. You are also only a few miles from Downtown Mobile — the heart of our historic city.

If you don't know Mobile, let me introduce you. We are the oldest city in Alabama, and our history predates the founding of the United States. You can explore that history in the streets of our community or in one of our many nationally recognized museums, such as the Mobile Museum of Art, the History Museum of Mobile, the National Maritime Museum of Gulf of Mexico or the Africatown Heritage House.

For those focused on the present, Mobile offers an array of incredible things to see, do and experience while you're here. Our cuisine, culture and recreational offerings are second to none. Before you head home, why not take a boat into the Mobile Delta, tour the USS Alabama at Battleship Memorial Park, try some fresh Gulf seafood, or end the day in our entertainment district downtown? Those are all great options, but regardless of your interests, you'll find something to love about Mobile.

As mayor, it is an honor to welcome you to our city and my hometown. As the home of the first Mardi Gras in the nation, we like to say that Mobile was "Born to Celebrate." I hope you have an opportunity to celebrate with your team and your fellow fans while you're here. Good luck today and come back to see us again soon!

Sincerely,



William S. Stimpson

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ARKANSAS STATE & BOWLING GREEN MEET IN 26TH ANNUAL 68 VENTURES BOWL

By Brian Henry

Arkansas State and Bowling Green will meet in the 26th annual 68 Ventures Bowl December 26th at Hancock Whitney Stadium.

BGSU is playing in the 68 Ventures Bowl for the fourth time. A-State is playing in the game for the fifth time but the first since 2015.

The game will be televised by ESPN with kickoff set for 8:00 p.m. (CT). Clay Matvick (play-by-play), Roddy Jones (analyst) and Ashley Stroehlein (sideline reporter) will call the game to a national audience.

The game will also air on the 68 Ventures Bowl Radio Network with Mike Grace calling his first 68 Ventures Bowl. Terry Harvin will serve as the analyst and Randy Kennedy will be on the sidelines for his sixth national broadcast of the game. Grace will be the executive producer for the 25th season.

SERIES HISTORY

Bowling Green leads the all-time series against Arkansas State, 1-0, after a 17-0 win in 1974. Arkansas State was an NCAA DII team playing in the Southland Conference in 1974.

ARKANSAS STATE BOWL HISTORY

Arkansas State is 7-10-1 all-time in bowl games, 4-7 in FBS bowl matchups. Last year at the Camellia Bowl, the Red Wolves were dealt a 21-19 setback against Northern Illinois. The 68 Ventures Bowl marks A-State's fifth appearance in the Mobile-based bowl sporting a 2-2 record in the previous four appearances.

A-State played in seven bowl games from 1951-70, including the Pecan Bowl (1968, 1969, 1970), Tangerine Bowl (1952, 1954) and Refrigerator Bowl (1951, 1952). In the FBS era, the Red Wolves played in the New Orleans Bowl (2005, 2015), the GoDaddy Bowl (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014), Cure Bowl (2016), Camellia Bowl (2017, 2019, 2023) and Arizona Bowl (2018).

SUN BELT BOWLING IN 2024

Seven Sun Belt programs will participate in Bowl Season in 2024, marking the third-straight year that it paces all non-autonomy conferences in bowl representation (Marshall was the eighth team invited to a bowl before opting out). The Sun Belt produced seven Bowl Season participants in 2022 and a conference-record and national-best 12 in 2023.

With Marshall's 31-3 win over Louisiana in the 2024 Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game, the conference boasts multiple 10-win teams for the seventh-straight season and for the fourth-straight year had multiple teams reach the mark prior to Bowl Season.

SUN BELT BOWL HISTORY

Prior to the start of 2024 Bowl Season, SBC schools own a .571 Bowl Season winning percentage during the College Football Playoff era, trailing only the SEC (.584).

SUN BELT IN MOBILE

14 different Sun Belt member schools have played in the 68 Ventures Bowl. The conference is 10-4 all-time with Appalachian State,



Mid-American Standings

	Conf.	Pct.	All	Pct.
Ohio	7-1	.875	10-3	.769
Miami	7-1	.875	8-5	.615
Buffalo	6-2	.750	8-4	.667
Bowling Green	6-2	.750	7-5	.583
Western Michigan	5-3	.625	6-6	.500
Northern Illinois	4-4	.500	7-5	.583
Toledo	4-4	.500	7-5	.583
Akron	3-5	.375	4-8	.333
Eastern Michigan	2-6	.250	5-7	.417
Central Michigan	2-6	.250	4-8	.333
Ball State	2-6	.250	3-9	.250
Kent State	0-8	.000	0-12	.000



Sun Belt Standings

WEST	Conf.	Pct.	All	Pct.
Louisiana	7-1	.875	10-3	.769
Arkansas State	5-3	.625	7-5	.583
Texas State	5-3	.625	7-5	.583
South Alabama	5-3	.625	6-6	.500
ULM	3-5	.375	5-7	.417
Troy	3-5	.375	4-8	.333
Southern Miss	0-8	.000	1-11	.083
EAST	Conf.	Pct.	All	Pct.
Marshall	7-1	.875	10-3	.769
Georgia Southern	6-2	.750	8-4	.667
James Madison	4-4	.500	8-4	.667
Old Dominion	4-4	.500	5-7	.417
Coastal Carolina	3-5	.375	6-6	.500
App State	3-5	.375	5-6	.455
Georgia State	1-7	.125	3-9	.250



Arkansas State, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Louisiana, Middle Tennessee, South Alabama, Southern Miss and Troy representing the league since the partnership began in the 2009 season (Jan. 6, 2010 game date).

BOWLING GREEN BOWL HISTORY

BGSU is playing in the 68 Ventures Bowl for the fourth time. The Falcons previously appeared in Mobile in 2004 and 2008 when it was the GMAC Bowl. Most recently, BGSU faced Georgia Southern in 2015 when it was the GoDaddy Bowl.

The 68 Ventures Bowl marks BGSU's 16th all-time bowl appearance.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE BOWLING IN 2023

The Mid-American Conference (MAC) will have seven institutions for the 2024 bowl season.

This marks the ninth time in MAC history to have six or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) in a single-season. This also marks the 15th 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, 2024) in a single-season.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE BOWL HISTORY

Current members of the MAC have combined for 133 bowl appearances entering 2024 Bowl Season. The teams have gone 47-80 all-time.

MAC IN MOBILE

The MAC representative has gone 9-12 all-time in Mobile. The nine victories are one behind the Sun Belt Conference for the most by any single conference in the previous 25 68 Ventures Bowls.

Three 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 seven-consecutive losses.

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.

Harold Fannin Jr. Officially Named BGSU's First Consensus All-American

The NCAA officially announced its record book and recognized Bowling Green's tight end Harold Fannin Jr. as the consensus All-American tight end for 2024. This is not an original team but compiled from the five All-America teams that make up Consensus All-America team. Fannin is the first football consensus All-American in BGSU program history.

To be a consensus All-American in college football a player must be named to a first team on three or more of the following All-America teams: Walter Camp Football Foundation, AFCA, Associated Press, Football Writers Association of America and The Sporting News. Fannin earned first-team accolades on all the teams except for The Sporting News, where he was named to the second team.

Only one other student-athlete in BGSU history was named a consensus All-American and it was in men's basketball. Fannin joins BGSU men's basketball's Wyndol Gray (1945). Gray and Don Otten led BGSU to the NIT final in 1945 where the Falcons fell to George Mikan and DePaul. Gray later played in the NBA for the Boston Celtics. Gray was from Akron, Ohio, which is near Fannin's hometown of Canton.

Fannin (Jr., Canton, Ohio) was a finalist for the John Mackey Award and was the only tight end to be a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award. Fannin ranks No. 2 in the nation with 1,342 receiving yards and leads all tight ends nationally in 21+ offensive categories, including receptions (100), yards after catch (750), first downs (64), broken tackles (31), and receiving touchdowns (9). According to Pro Football Focus, Fannin also ranks No. 1 in pass routes grade (96.1) among all receivers. Nationally, he is additionally ranked No. 2 in receptions, No. 2 in broken tackles, No. 2 in first downs, and No. 2 in yards after catch.

Fannin ranks second all-time in FBS history for single-season receiving yards by a tight end. He needs just 11 yards to surpass the FBS record of 1,352 yards, set by Texas Tech's Jace Amaro in 2013. Fannin set the regular-season receiving yards record by a tight end at Ball State in game No. 11, while Amaro set the current record in his bowl game. With 100 receptions this season, Fannin is third all-time in single-season catches by a tight end. He needs 12 more receptions to break the record held by Rice's James Casey, who totaled 111 in 2008.

Fannin joins Mark Dowdell as the only Falcon tight ends to be named first-team All-MAC multiple times. Dowdell earned the accolades in 1983 and 1984. Fannin also earned the honor last season. BGSU has had four first-team All-MAC tight ends in head coach Scot Loeffler's six seasons.

Fannin was also named the MAC's Vern Smith Leadership Award winner, the MAC Offensive Player of the Year and first-team All-MAC. Fannin is the first tight end in FBS history to be named an overall Player of the Year for a conference. He is only the second tight end in FBS history to be named a league's Offensive Player of the Year, joining Rutgers' Marco Battaglia, who in 1995 was the Big East Offensive Player of the Year and a unanimous All-American. The 1995 Big East Defensive Player of the Year opposite Battaglia was current Bowling Green defensive line coach Cornell Brown (Virginia Tech).





SHUTOUTS RARE IN LOWER ALABAMA

There has been just one shutout in the 25 previous 68 Ventures Bowls, with that occurring seven 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 68 Ventures Bowl history. Arguably the most exciting contest in the 25-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

SWEET HOME ALABAMA

A-State has 13 players listed on its roster

who attended high school in Alabama, including five who hail from within two hours of Mobile.

Two Falcons call Alabama home. All-MAC cornerback Jacorey Benjamin hails from Mobile, though his family later moved to the Houston, Texas, area where he attended high school. RB Justin Pegues is from Birmingham and attended Thompson HS.

BACK IN PRIME TIME FOR SECOND-CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The 26th 68 Ventures Bowl kicks off in primetime for the 21st time overall.

THE WORLDWIDE LEADER

For the 26th 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.

Clay Matvick will serve as the play-by-play commentator, with Roddy Jones as the analyst and Ashley Stroehlein providing sideline commentary. This will be the first visit to Mobile for all three.

HANCOCK WHITNEY STADIUM

This 2024 68 Ventures Bowl marks the fourth year the game has been played at Hancock Whitney Stadium on the University of South Alabama campus.

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
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
IS4S Salute To Veterans	2014
GameAbove Sports	2014
Bahamas	2014
Arizona	2015
Cure	2015
Frisco	2017
Myrtle Beach	2020
Art of Sport LA Bowl	2021
Fenway	2022

SUN BELT VS. MAC

Entering the 2024 Bowl Season, the Sun Belt Conference and Mid-American Conference have met in a bowl game 30 times, with the SBC holding a 17-13 head-to-head lead.

Prior to Buffalo's win over Georgia Southern in the 2022 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 Arkansas State-Bowling Green matchup is one of just two during 2024 Bowl Season pitting a Sun Belt Conference school against one from the Mid-American Conference.

Bowl	Date	Sun Belt school	MAC school
IS4S Salute To Veterans	Dec. 14	South Alabama	Western Michigan
68 Ventures	Dec. 26	Arkansas State	Bowling Green

cock 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.



In May 2023, 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.

The subsequent name change marked 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.





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68 VENTURES BOWL CONTINUES TO SHINE A LIGHT ON THE PORT CITY

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 originators 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 the Arkansas State and Bowling Green celebrates the

The bowl game has been a great one which has been embraced by the city and is known for its great student-athlete and fan experience.

The bowl folks and the people in the community have capitalized on the rich history of the city of Mobile and the options for entertainment for everyone involved during the week. That history will be on display this year as the teams will ride on Mardi Gras parade

floats from their hotels to the stadium on game day.

Speaking of entertainment, the 68 Ventures Bowl game is the grand finale of multiple events in four days, from when the teams arrive on December 22. As always, the week will feature the one-of-a-kind Mardi Gras style parade, sponsored by Greer's Markets and AL.com, which has



26th anniversary of bowl history in Mobile on December 26 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."

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

been the signature public event before the game in downtown Mobile.

The ultra-popular parade featuring both teams 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. 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. So, that brings a little nostalgia and a history element, and the players get to experience a 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. It has been a huge hit."

The 68 Ventures Bowl holds special distinc

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.



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.

tion 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 most exciting 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 two years 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 featured TCU's LaDainian 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 few years ago we looked at this and we had 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."

When Silverstein and Gottfried teamed up 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 42 bowl games from Dec. 14 through the College Football Playoff.

"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 the 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 was growing, new conferences were formed, and other conferences expanded.

Conference USA became 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 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 to see what it was going to take. We went at it, formed it and put it together, said Silverstein.”

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

The bowl’s community involvement includes the Mobile County Spelling Bee, Art Contest, Big Day of Giving, Extra Yard for Teachers and a give-back day for the participating institutions where players serve at local food banks, participate in a Flight Works Alabama museum tour and classroom lesson

with Team Focus members, and visit children in the hospital. “There is a lot to this bowl game beyond football. We provide a year-round community impact,” said Silverstein.

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 will be,” 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).” Erdmann continued, “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

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- LendingTree – 2019-2022
- 68 Ventures – 2023-present

2023 68 VENTURES BOWL RECAP

HOMETOWN JAGS WIN FIRST-EVER BOWL GAME IN FIRST-EVER 68 VENTURES BOWL APPEARANCE

MOBILE, Ala.— A record-tying first half proved more than enough to pace South Alabama in a 59-10 win over Eastern Michigan in the 25th Annual 68 Ventures Bowl on Saturday.

The Jaguars (7-6), who were playing as the visitors on their home field at Hancock Whitney Stadium, matched two 68 Ventures Bowl records in the first half. They scored 38 points, a feat East Carolina achieved in 2001, and held a 35-point halftime advantage, equal to the lead enjoyed by Tulsa in 2008.

By game's end, the Jags had amassed the most points they'd scored since moving to the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2012, logged an all-time program high of 627 yards of total offense and posted the second-largest margin of victory in 68 Ventures Bowl history. The 49-point win was the seventh-most-lopsided win all-time in NCAA bowl history.

"A lot of work goes into a moment like this," South Alabama coach Kane Wommack said. "There were young men over a decade ago [who] came here to do something special. They came with nothing and built a foundation of what we have become. This has been an opportunity that we took advantage of ... The City of Mobile and the University of South Alabama are doing special things together."

South Alabama's offense was dynamic. Quarterbacks Gio Lopez and Desmond Trotter, playing in place of an injured Carter Bradley (knee), combined for 307 yards and four touchdowns on 23-of-36 passing.

Lopez was the more productive of the pair with 192 yards and three touchdowns on 14-of-19 passing. He added a fourth touchdown on the ground — a 27-yard effort in the third quarter — and led South Alabama with 88 rushing yards. For his effort, Lopez was named Bowl MVP.

"It was awesome to have a positive ending to the season heading into January," Lopez said. "It means a lot to the city and the team and it means a lot to come out with a win."

By comparison, Trotter completed 9-of-17 passes for 115 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 27 yards and a 3-yard score.

The South Alabama rushing attack was solid on the night, with seven ball carriers combining for 320 yards and four touchdowns. In addition to the quarterbacks' touchdown runs, Kentrell Bullock scored on a 17-yard rush in the second quarter and PJ Martin scored from 6 yards out in the third.

But it was wide receiver Jamaal Pritchett who earned the game's offensive MVP with 8 catches for 127 yards and two touchdowns, including a diving snag of a 42-yard pass from Lopez late in the first half. Seven of Pritchett's receptions, 111 yards and both touchdowns came in the first half.

"Staying alive. Just made myself available for our QB," Pritchett said of the catch. "We are headed [in] a positive way and it means a lot to get this win."

Eastern Michigan (6-7) struggled mightily on offense. At half-time, the Eagles had just 27 total yards and a single first down.



An aggressive South Alabama defense kept the Eagles befuddled most of the night, and Eastern Michigan finished with just 150 yards of total offense (77 rushing, 73 passing).

"This was going to be a battle with the run," Eastern Michigan coach Christ Creighton said. "We wanted to start the run game and knew they were going to crowd the box. They are 6-0 when outrushing and 0-6 when they don't. They got us both ways with that."

South Alabama defensive lineman Jamie Sheriff was voted defensive player of the game after finishing with four tackles, two quarterback hurries and a pair of tackles for loss.

Eastern Michigan quarterback Cam'Ron McCoy — playing in place of normal starter Austin Smith, who entered the transfer portal — was the Eagles' leading rusher with 73 yards on 13 carries, including a 10-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

However, McCoy's passing performance was an anemic 12-of-27 for 73 yards with a pair of first-half interceptions, one apiece to Jaguar safety Jalen Jordan and cornerback Marquise Robinson.

One of the few bright spots for Eastern Michigan's defense was linebacker Joe Sporacio, whose late-first-quarter interception set up the Eagles' first score, a 49-yard field goal by Jesús Gómez early in the second quarter. Sporacio finished with five tackles, one of which was for a loss.

"Congrats to USA," Creighton said. "They were certainly the better team tonight in every way. I know Coach Wommack and want to congratulate them and his team. I do want to thank the Bowl. The time we had here was fantastic. I'm really sorry we didn't perform like we would have wanted to perform."

It was the first meeting between the Eagles and Jaguars. Jamie Sheriff earned the Defensive MVP award after finishing with four tackles, two for loss and a pair of quarterback hurries. Diego Guajardo made all eight extra points and a 46-yard field goal to open the contest to garner Special Teams MVP.



68 VENTURES BOWL SCORES



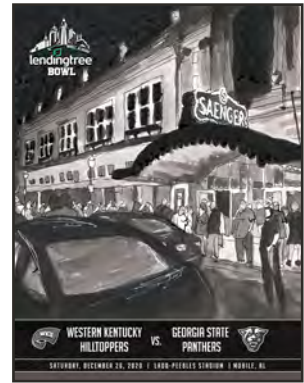
—2023—
South Alabama 59
Eastern Michigan 10



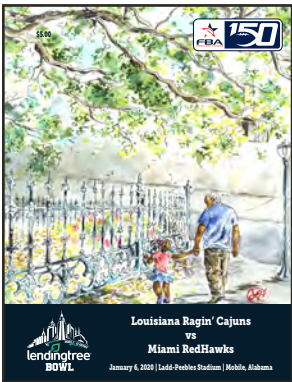
—2022—
Southern Miss 38
Rice 24



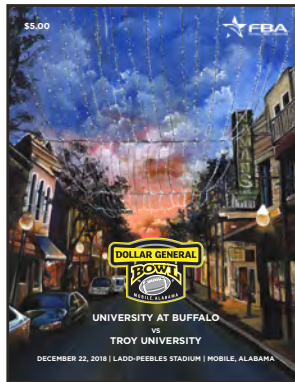
—2021—
Liberty 56
Eastern Michigan 20



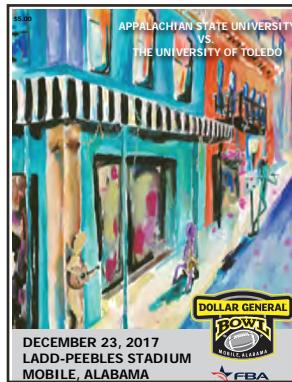
—2020—
Georgia State 39
Western Kentucky 21



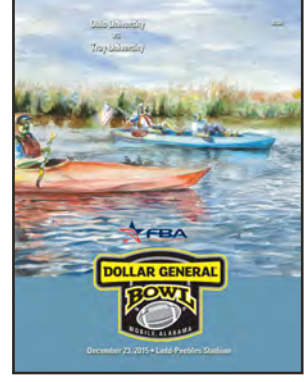
—2020—
Louisiana 27
Miami (Ohio) 17



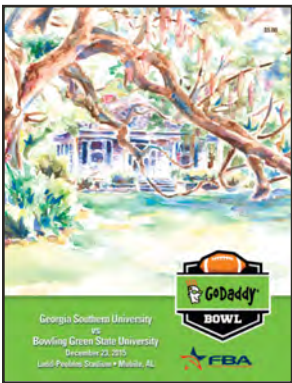
—2018—
Troy 42
Buffalo 32



—2017—
Appalachian State 34
Toledo 0



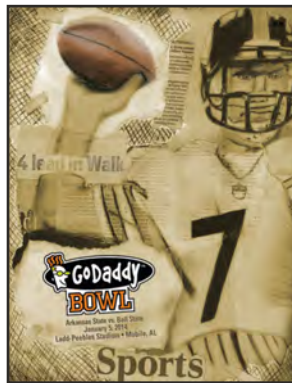
—2016—
Troy 28
Ohio 23



—2015—
Georgia Southern 58
Bowling Green 27



—2015—
Toledo 38
Arkansas State 20



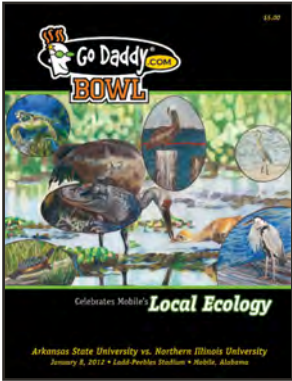
—2014—
Arkansas State 23
Ball State 20



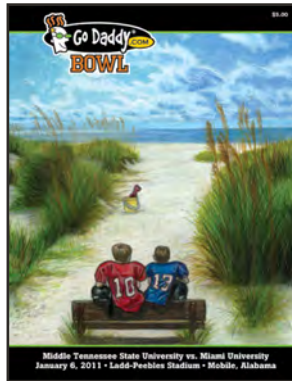
—2013—
Arkansas State 17
Kent State 13



68 VENTURES BOWL SCORES



—2012—
NIU 38
Arkansas State 20



—2011—
Miami (Ohio) 35
MTSU 21



—2010—
Central Michigan 44
Troy 41



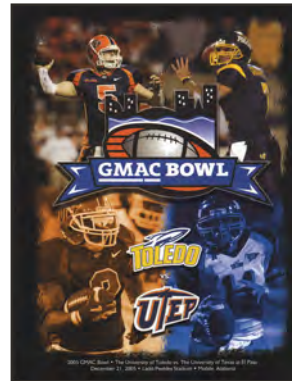
—2009—
Tulsa 45
Ball State 13



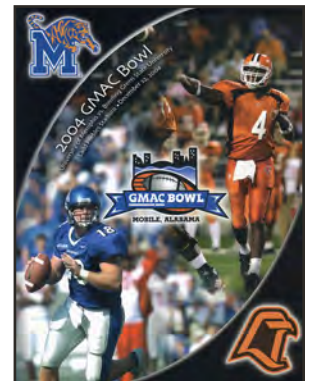
—2008—
Tulsa 63
Bowling Green 7



—2007—
Southern Miss 28
Ohio 7



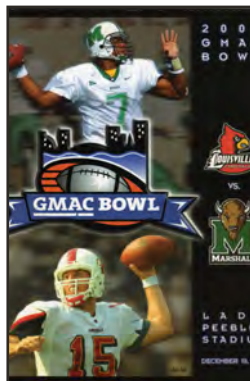
—2005—
Toledo 45
UTEP 13



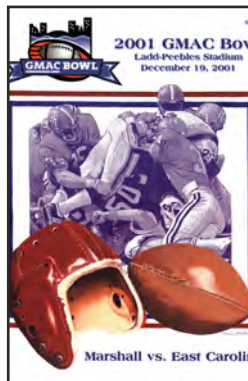
—2004—
Bowling Green 52
Memphis 35



—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
Dec. 23, 2023	South Alabama 59, Eastern Michigan 10	20,926

RECORDS BY CONFERENCE

Conf.	Record	Conf.	Record
Independents	1-0 (.1000)	MAC	9-12 (.429)
Sun Belt	10-4 (.714)	C-USA	4-7 (.364)
WAC	1-1 (.500)	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
68 Ventures Bowl	Hancock-Whitney Stadium	South Alabama
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
Liberty Bowl	Liberty Bowl	Memphis
Military Bowl	Navy Marine Corps Stadium	Navy
Myrtle Beach Bowl	Brooks Stadium	Coastal Carolina
Rose Bowl	Rose Bowl	UCLA

NEVER QUIT

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride, and never quit, you will be a winner.

~ Bear Bryant

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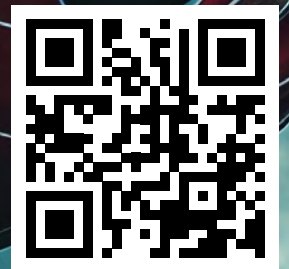
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ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

A Carnegie Research 2 university, Arkansas State University is the second-largest university in the state, and a leader in innovation and collaboration. A-State hosts the first osteopathic medical school in Arkansas, the New York Institute of Technology's College of Osteopathic Medicine, and opened the first U.S.-style residential campus in Mexico in fall of 2017. With its Discover 2025 Strategic Plan as its guide, A-State is engaged in creating new collaboration opportunities including the Center for No-Boundary Thinking, the recently established Institute for Rural Initiatives, and exploring a public-private partnership to bring the first College of Veterinary Medicine to the state. A-State is home to more than 13,000 current students from across America and around the world, and proud to have over 100,000 alumni who are #ASStateMade.

Undergraduate experiences are highlighted for the last decade with the Create@State spring conference. Create@State participants have an advantage in achieving the graduate school of their choice, including continuing to advanced degrees at A-State. Research opportunities alongside our faculty are common at A-State with a student-driven research project launched by NASA to the International Space Station in 2022.

A-State begins its second decade offering online curriculum and course work, and remains the largest provider of 100% online degree programs based in the state with 99 degree programs and 18 more set to launch in the upcoming academic year.

Combined with hosting the region's first convention center, the Red Wolf Convention Center and Embassy Suites hotel, a one-mile radius on the A-State campus serves as the cultural hub of the region with the largest concert venue, First National Bank Arena, as well as the largest concert hall and theatre located at Fowler Center.

The Bradbury Art Museum is the region's leading visual arts facility. Arkansas State's Heritage Sites program operates four nationally or internationally known museum locations including the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home and the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum. And, the Arkansas State Museum located adjacent to the Dean B. Ellis Library is home to the only accredited natural history museum on a university campus in our state.

Among our academic divisions, the Neil Griffin College of Business is the first named college, and is home to the Delta Center for Economic Development, the Bob Wood Sales Leadership Center, the Women's Leadership Center, and one of the top rated online MBA programs in the region.



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ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Jeff Purinton, a highly-respected, veteran athletics administrator, was announced as Arkansas State's Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics on May 4, 2022, becoming the 12th all-time athletics director in school history.

Purinton's positive impact on the Red Wolves' athletics department during his first two years at the helm has been evident, reflecting the same energetic and passionate approach to intercollegiate athletics he has applied throughout his career.

Following a 15-year stint at the University of Alabama, where he served in various administrative roles and eventually was promoted to Executive Deputy Director of Athletics, Purinton arrived in Jonesboro and immediately began establishing a culture of success and transparent communication while building his administration and addressing major multimedia and apparel contracts that required prompt attention.

He successfully navigated the transition, hiring key personnel to fill executive and senior-level positions within the development, marketing, finance and compliance areas while restructuring internally to create more effective and efficient work flow and production. During the same time, he renegotiated lucrative agreements with multimedia rights holder LEARFIELD and adidas while also entering a partnership with Amplify to create a holistic revenue solution designed to serve Red Wolves fans.

This past year, Red Wolves continued their rise under Purinton in 2023-24, scoring 213.0 points in the final Learfield Director's Cup to finish 89th in the nation – the second best in school history and second highest among all Sun Belt members this past year. A-State also led the conference in the women's Capital One Cup standings for the second consecutive year, placing No. 46 in the country.

A-State has claimed the most Sun Belt championships among all league members each of the last two years, winning a combined nine titles – three more than the second closest school. Including the women's bowling team winning the Southland Bowling League in 2023, the Red Wolves accumulated 10 combined conference championships in 2022-23 and 2023-24 for their second most over any two-year stretch in school history.

The 2023-24 year also saw A-State score a school-record 118 points to place fourth among 14 programs in the Bubas Cup, the Sun Belt's all-sports standings. The Red Wolves claimed their best finish for a full athletics year since 2015-16 and third best this century. Making the finish even more impressive, the league's 14 members the last two years are the most in the history of the league and 11 of those schools compete in more sports that count towards the standings than A-State.

Purinton's second year at the helm saw a school-record 10 different Arkansas State teams compete in the postseason. Since



JEFF PURINTON
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

2022-23, there have been 16 A-State teams participate in postseason competition for the most over any two-year span in school history. The 2023-24 year featured football appearing in its first bowl game since 2019, women's golf making its first postseason appearance in school history, men's basketball returning to postseason play for the first time since 1999, men's golf advancing to an NCAA Regional and women's bowling finishing as the national runner-up for the second straight season.

In addition to committing resources and implementing new initiatives to improve competitive and academic performance, Purinton achieved his goal to strengthen communication and relationships with new and existing fans, donors and alumni through strategic plans by both the Athletics Department and the Red Wolves Foundation. He created monthly "State of the Pack" newsletters and then expanded it to include the Red Wolves' first live and interactive web event open to the public.

Purinton also brought back A-State's coaching caravan tour and rebranded it "Howl on Wheels," spearheaded improved communication by the Red Wolves Foundation and reimagined special donor events and fan-engagement opportunities, such as turning the football team's spring game into an all-day "Pack Day" celebration. Under his direction, A-State continues to formulate new ways to enhance the game-day experience for all its sports. That commitment is reflected by increased attendance in multiple sports, including football (up 49.4 percent since 2021) and men's and women's basketball (increase of at least 200 percent since 2021-22).

Since launching a new major-giving program – the Scarlet Society – in November 2023, membership has over doubled in households investing philanthropically across different initiatives in the department. Projects supported through these efforts have included the St. Bernard's Training Room at First National Bank Arena, an updated film room for the men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams, an indoor golf studio for the men's and women's golf teams, and new computers for the Pack Pride Hall study area for all student-athletes.

His emphasis on the student-athlete experience has been just as strong, meeting both traditional needs and those associated with the Cost of Attendance (COA), Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and transfer-portal era. Not only did he create A-State's first position with a designated "NIL Initiatives" component, he has given the Red Wolves' Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) more ownership and flexibility to improve annual events such as the student-athlete "Welcome Back" and "State Awards" events, which were met with enthusiasm.

During his first year alone at A-State, the Red Wolves earned six conference championships, collected a top-50 finish in the women's Capital One Cup standings, posted the second highest



finish among all Sun Belt Conference schools in the LEARFIELD Director's Cup standings, and claimed national runner-up honors in women's bowling. A-State made multiple NCAA postseason appearances on its way to recording its sixth highest finish in the history of the Director's Cup.

Purinton has responded well to coaching transitions as well. Carrying out one of his first major acts as VCAA, he tabbed Bryan Hodgson, regarded as one of the top recruiters and assistant coaches in the nation with 15-plus years of experience at the collegiate level, to lead the Red Wolves' men's basketball program. The hire proved to be one of the best in the country as Hodgson's squad was one of just five Division I programs under a coach in his first year at a school to go from 20-plus losses in 2022-23 to 20-plus victories in 2023-24. The team reached the championship game of the Sun Belt tournament for the first time since 2007 after being picked to finish ninth in the preseason.

Most recently, his hire of Mike Silva to lead the baseball program has gained positive reviews from highly respected figures around the college baseball world. Silva comes to Jonesboro after turning around a Nicholls State program the last three years, leading it to a pair of consecutive NCAA Regionals and multiple conference championships.

The Red Wolves have continued to excel academically under Purinton and his academic-support staff with over 200 student-athletes earning a spot on three of the last four Athletics Director's Honor Rolls. A-State posted at least a 3.02 all-department GPA for both the fall and spring semesters in 2023-24.

Arkansas State also increased its Graduation Success Rate (GSR) to a department-wide 85 percent in 2023, tying the school record previously set in 2018. Additionally, the NCAA's most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) data from 2022-23 reflected a single-year 968 score for the Red Wolves, which was a 12-point improvement over the previous year. A-State had 12 sports either match or top their single-year score from the year before, including eight programs that achieved a perfect 1,000 to tie the most since 2019-20.

Purinton has and continues to serve on many prestigious committees, acting as a strong voice for student-athletes and intercollegiate athletics at the national, conference and campus levels. His first year at Arkansas State saw him appointed to the Sun Belt Conference's Women's Basketball Strategic Communications Committee, and he also serves on multiple Arkansas State University strategic planning committees. Most recently, Purinton was named Vice Chair of the Sun Belt Athletic Directors and was selected to represent the league at the 2024 College Football Playoff mock selection.

Purinton served as Alabama's Executive Deputy Director of Athletics after being elevated to the position in 2021, but also held Deputy AD (2019-21), Executive Associate AD (2018-19), Senior Associate AD (2015-18) and Associate Athletics Director for Football Communications (2007-15) titles during his time with the Crimson Tide.

While operating as Executive Deputy Director of Athletics, Purinton was the sport administrator for football as well as the men's and women's golf programs after previously overseeing men's basketball. Additionally, he supervised several departments within athletics, including human resources, marketing and trademark licensing and was the liaison to Crimson Tide Sports Marketing, Alabama's LEARFIELD property.

When current Alabama Director of Athletics Greg Byrne was hired to lead the Crimson Tide in 2017, Purinton was charged with the creation and implementation of the department's new strategic plan. He served on the leadership group that helped develop and launch the department's new fundraising initiative (The Crimson Standard) with a 10-year goal of raising \$600 million. The first phase of the campaign included renovations to both football locker rooms, the Sports Science Center at the Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility, Rhoads Softball Stadium, as well as recruiting and premium areas at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Alabama football won six national championships in Purinton's time at UA and took home numerous team and individual national awards. Widely known

as one of the best venues in college football, Purinton oversaw the revision of the football game-day production in 2017, improving the overall atmosphere and interaction from the crowd at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Part of that process included the implementation of new LED stadium lighting in 2019, which received positive reviews from both the players and fans.

In March of 2019, Purinton assisted Byrne in the search for a new head men's basketball coach that resulted in the hiring of Nate Oats from Buffalo. In Oats' second season at Alabama (and first full season), the 2020-21 team won both the regular-season and Southeastern Conference Tournament championships for the first time in 30 years and later advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 and finished No. 5 in the final national rankings. Herb Jones was named SEC Player of the Year and earned All-America honors, while Oats was voted the SEC Coach of the Year. The 2021-22 squad once again advanced to the NCAA Tournament. In 2018, the Tide men's basketball team received an NCAA Tournament bid for the first time since 2012 and earned its first NCAA win since 2006.

In addition to working with several of Alabama's successful athletics teams, Purinton was the department oversight to one of the top LEARFIELD/IMG College groups in the nation in Crimson Tide Sports Marketing. CTSM was selected as the 2017 LEARFIELD Property of the Year after setting record-highs in revenue generation. Alabama has also ranked in the top two in royalties generated among the Collegiate Licensing Company's partner institutions each of the last 11 years and was No. 1 in five of the last six seasons.

A native of Palatka, Fla., Purinton received his bachelor's degree in sports management and master's in athletics administration at Florida State University. He and his wife Julie have two daughters, Jillian and Josie.



HEAD COACH BUTCH JONES

Butch Jones was announced as the Red Wolves' 31st all-time head football coach on December 12, 2020.

Jones not only brought 11 years of head-coaching experience at the NCAA FBS level with him to Jonesboro after previous stops leading the football programs at Tennessee (2013-17), Cincinnati (2010-12) and Central Michigan (2007-09), but he also spent three seasons (2018-20) working as part of Nick Saban's staff at national-power Alabama.

One of just three all-time FBS head coaches to lead four different programs to multiple bowl games, he claimed his 100th career victory this season to make him one of just 15 active FBS head coaches to achieve the milestone mark. The Red Wolves' overall record has improved each of the last three seasons under Jones,

currently making A-State one of just three programs in the country to increase its win total each year since 2022.

During Jones' 15 seasons serving as a head coach, his teams have combined to win four conference championships, play in 10 bowl games and finish ranked in the AP Top 25 six times. He has coached a total of 116 all-conference honorees, over 89 NFL players and 33 NFL Draft picks, including All-Pro selections Alvin Kamara, Jalen Reeves-Maybin, Jason and Travis Kelce, Nick Bellore and Antonio Brown.

The Red Wolves win total has increased each of Jones' first three seasons at the helm, including 2023 when they claimed six victories and were among seven FBS teams that made a bowl appearance after winning three or fewer games in 2022. The squad ended the year tied for second

in the Sun Belt's West Division after being picked to finish sixth in the league's preseason coaches poll.

Led by nine all-conference picks, including quarterback and Sun Belt Freshman of the Year Jaylen Raynor, A-State won six of its final 10 regular-season games on its way to the Camellia Bowl. The Red Wolves became bowl eligible after knocking off Texas State 77-31, establishing a Sun Belt record for most points scored in a game between conference opponents. It was also the third-most points scored in a conference match-up in FBS history.

Jones saw eight players combine for nine all-conference selections in 2022, including four offensive players, two defensive players and two specialists. The squad boasted a Lou Groza Award



semifinalist at kicker and ranked among the top 35 teams in the country in kickoff returns, kickoff return defense and net punting.

Jones guided 10 players to 11 all-conference selections in 2021, led by Alan Lamar's first team selection as a kick returner after posting a school and Sun Belt Conference-record 1,333 kickoff return yards. Among the 11 All-Sun Belt picks were five offensive players who helped the Red Wolves rank 11th in the country in passing yards per game.

Since his arrival in Jonesboro, Jones has made an immediate impact on the recruiting trail. The last three recruiting classes, 2022-24, not only ranked among the four best in school history, but was also listed No. 1 in the Sun Belt by both 247Sports and Rivals and among the top-10 in the Group of Five all three years. The 2024 class was the first in school history to include multiple ESPN300 recruits.

In 2020, Jones served as the Special Assistant to the Head Coach at Alabama, helping the Crimson Tide post an unblemished 13-0 record on their way to claiming the National Championship. He was also an offensive analyst for the program in 2018 and 2019 as it compiled a combined 25-3 record. The 2018 team played in the CFP national championship game, while the 2019 squad capped off the year with a 35-16 win over Michigan in the Citrus Bowl to finish ranked No. 8 in the final AP Top 25 poll.

Prior to Alabama, Jones spent a five-year stint at the University of Tennessee, collecting 34 wins and leading the Volunteers to bowl wins three times. He inherited a program that hadn't won a bowl game since 2007 and proceeded to direct the Vols to three consecutive bowl game victories for the first time in over 20 years (1994-96).

While Tennessee didn't have any Top-25 finishes the five seasons prior to Jones' arrival, he led the program to a pair of Top-25 rankings in both the final AP Poll and Coaches Poll in 2015 and 2016. Following the 2016 campaign, which saw Tennessee defeat both Florida and Georgia in the same season for the first time in 15 years, the Vols had six NFL Draft selections taken within the first four rounds for the first time since the 2001 season.



During his time in Knoxville, Jones was one of just three SEC head coaches to post back-to-back seasons with at least nine victories. Heading into his final season at Tennessee, he had the second most wins by a head coach in the conference behind only Saban.

Focusing on the complete student-athlete, Jones helped mentor over 200 academic all-conference winners and 100-plus academic honor roll recipients while in Knoxville. Under his direction, every academic record in Tennessee history was broken with 85-plus players earning their degrees. In addition to Tennessee, both Cincinnati and Central Michigan also posted the highest graduation rates and team GPAs in school history while under Jones' leadership as head coach.

Jones took over the Tennessee program after spending the 2010-12 seasons as Cincinnati's head coach. The Bearcats compiled a 23-14 record in his three seasons while also winning the Big East title in 2011 and 2012. Jones was named the league's Coach of the Year after Cincinnati's 10-win season in 2011, while also earning the same honor from CBSsports.com in 2012 after his squad captured its second consecutive bowl victory and finished in the Top 25.

Jones was also the head coach at Central Michigan from 2007-09, winning 27 contests and leading the Chippewas to the 2007 and 2009 Mid-American Conference (MAC) titles. His three-

year stint in Mount Pleasant saw Central Michigan compile a 22-3 MAC record, make three consecutive bowl-game appearances and post a No. 23 postseason ranking in 2009. Jones was the only head coach to lead the program to consecutive bowl games, as well as the first in the history of the MAC to do so in his first three seasons.

Prior to making his second stop at Central Michigan, Jones was the wide receivers coach at West Virginia from 2005-06. While coaching in Morgantown, WVU combined to post a 22-3 record, including a Sugar Bowl win over Georgia and Gator Bowl victory against Georgia Tech.

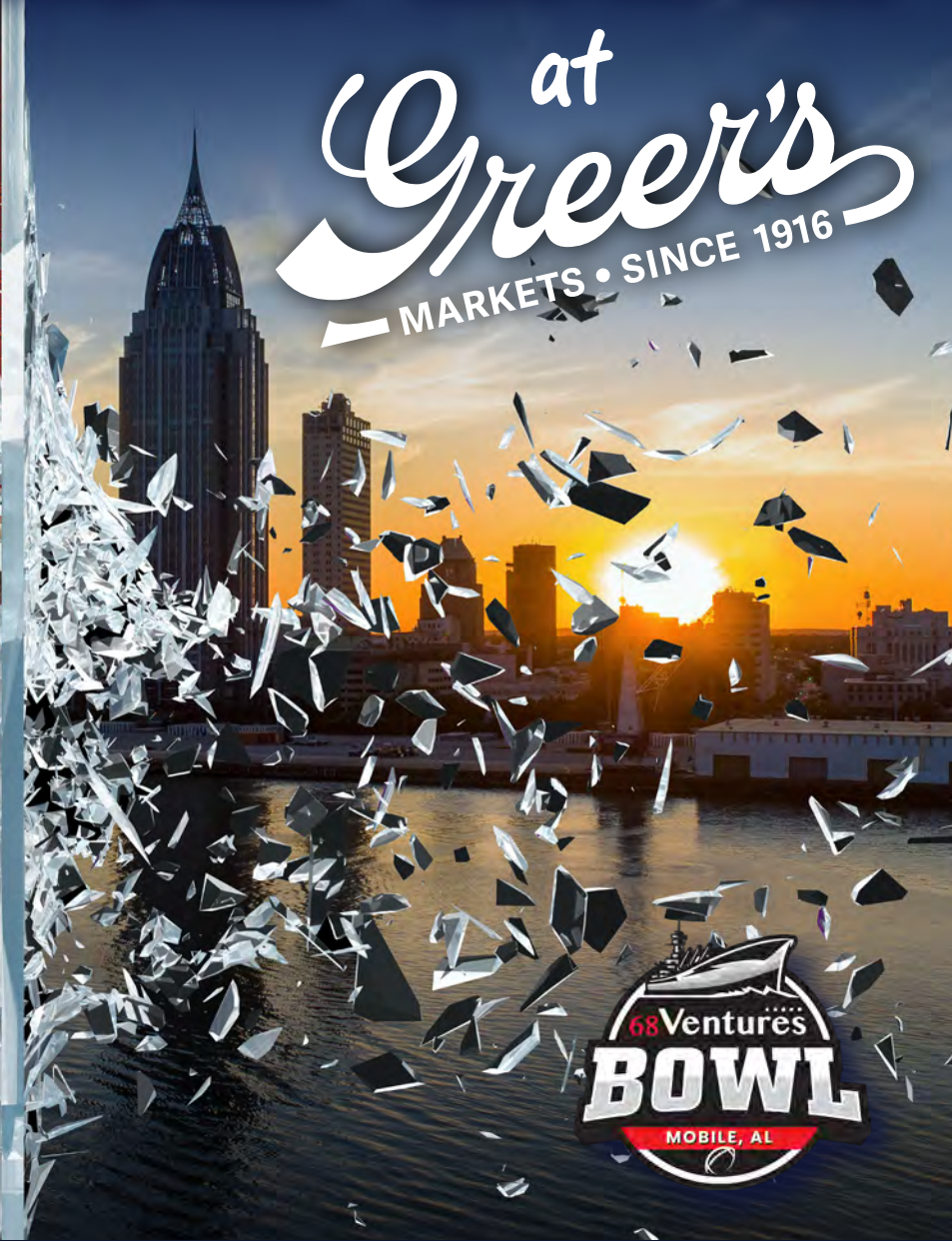
Jones served as an assistant at Central Michigan for seven years from 1998-2004. During that time, he served as offensive coordinator (2002-04), running backs coach (1999-2004) and as tight ends coach (1998).

He was also the offensive coordinator at his alma mater, Ferris State, from 1995-97 and at Wilkes University from 1993-94 while also serving as an assistant at Rutgers from 1990-92. His original entry into the coaching ranks was as an intern with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1987-89.

Jones is a 1990 graduate of Ferris State University in Michigan. Jones and his wife, Barb, are the parents of three sons – Alex, Adam and Andrew.

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REYNOLDS**



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ARKANSAS STATE STATISTICS

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
08/31/2024	Central Ark.	W	34-31	21708
09/07/2024	Tulsa	W	28-24	19316
09/14/2024	at Michigan	L	18-28	110250
09/21/2024	at Iowa St.	L	7-52	55428
* 10/05/2024	South Alabama	W	18-16	21427
* 10/12/2024	at Texas St.	L	9-41	28000
* 10/19/2024	at Southern Miss.	W	44-28	24542
* 10/26/2024	Troy	W	34-31	17162
* 11/09/2024	at Louisiana	L	19-55	16451
* 11/16/2024	at Georgia St.	W	27-20	14047
* 11/23/2024	ULM	W	28-21	14029
* 11/30/2024	Old Dominion	L	32-40	13584

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Zak Wallace	12	139	634	12	622	4.5	10	57	51.8
Ja'Quez Cross	12	107	612	12	600	5.6	2	49	50.0
Jaylen Raynor	12	130	578	186	392	3.0	2	40	32.7
Devin Spencer	8	40	214	8	206	5.2	0	23	25.8
Malik Hornsby	12	5	92	6	86	17.2	1	73	7.2
Timmy McClain	4	19	67	28	39	2.1	1	18	9.8
Mike Sharpe II	11	4	22	0	22	5.5	0	9	2.0
Damon Sisa	1	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1	1.0
Cedric Hawkins	3	2	0	6	-6	-3.0	0	0	-2.0
Team	12	9	0	50	-50	-5.6	0	0	-4.2
Total	12	456	2220	308	1912	4.2	16	73	159.3
Opponents	12	459	2919	213	2706	5.9	32	92	225.5

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Jaylen Raynor	12	124.2	241-390-9	61.8	2562	14	58	213.5
Timmy McClain	4	179.0	14-21-0	66.7	163	3	27	40.8
Total	12	127.0	255-411-9	62.0	2725	17	58	227.1
Opponents	12	142.6	212-339-14	62.5	2818	19	75	234.8

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Corey Rucker	12	65	946	14.6	5	58	78.8
Courtney Jackson	12	38	445	11.7	2	44	37.1
Ja'Quez Cross	12	30	198	6.6	1	20	16.5
Manny Stevenson Jr.	12	27	195	7.2	1	29	16.3
Adam Jones	12	21	255	12.1	3	46	21.3
Reagan Ealy	12	20	239	12.0	0	22	19.9
Zak Wallace	12	14	96	6.9	0	49	8.0
Miller McCrumby	10	11	79	7.2	0	13	7.9
Hunter Summers	12	9	116	12.9	2	32	9.7
Malik Hornsby	12	7	39	5.6	0	21	3.3
Tyler Little	9	4	20	5.0	1	7	2.2
Reginald Harden Jr.	12	3	52	17.3	2	24	4.3
Devin Spencer	8	3	14	4.7	0	8	1.8
Tennel Bryant	12	2	26	13.0	0	17	2.2
Mike Sharpe II	11	1	5	5.0	0	5	0.5
Total	12	255	2725	10.7	17	58	227.1
Opponents	12	212	2818	13.3	19	75	234.8

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	7-5	5-1	2-4	0-0
CONFERENCE	5-3	3-1	2-2	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	2-2	2-0	0-2	0-0

Team Statistics

	ASU	OPP
First Downs	264	275
Rushing	106	132
Passing	134	121
Penalty	24	22
Rushing Yardage	1912	2706
Rushing attempts	456	459
Average per rush	4.2	5.9
Average per game	159.3	225.5
TDs Rushing	16	32
Passing Yardage	2725	2818
Comp-Att-Int	255-411-9	212-339-14
Average per pass	6.6	8.3
Average per catch	10.7	13.3
Average per game	227.1	234.8
TDs Passing	17	19
Total offense	4637	5524
Average per play	5.3	6.9
Average per game	386.4	460.3
Kick returns: #-Yards	29-587	28-451
Punt returns: #-Yards	14-217	13-144
Int returns: #-Yards	14-107	9-45
Fumbles-Lost	13-8	13-5
Penalties-Yards	66-622	88-706
Punts-Avg	55-42.7	45-42.3
Time of possession / game	29:11	30:48
3rd-down conversion	74/184	69/145
4rd-down conversion	15/20	11/17
PAT-attempts	(28-28) 100%	(48-50) 96%
2-point conversion-attempts	(3-6) 50%	(0-1) 0%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Trevian Thomas	5	17	3.4	0	11
Justin Parks	2	6	3.0	0	6
Websley Etienne	2	10	5.0	0	10
Dontay Joyner	2	34	17.0	0	20
Charles Willekes	1	30	30.0	0	30
Jayden Jones	1	10	10.0	0	10
Jordan Mahoney	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	14	107	7.6	0	30
Opponents	9	45	5.0	0	38





ARKANSAS STATE STATISTICS

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Clune Van Andel	20-23	87.0	1-1	10-10	3-4	5-6	1-2	52	1
Opponents	11-11	100.0	0-0	2-2	3-3	6-6	0-0	48	0

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT						pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	
Clune Van Andel	-	20-23	28-28	-	-	-	-	-	88
Zak Wallace	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Corey Rucker	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	34
Courtney Jackson	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Adam Jones	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Ja'Quez Cross	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Reginald Harden Jr.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Hunter Summers	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Jaylen Raynor	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	12
Timmy McClain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	8
Malik Hornsby	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Manny Stevenson Jr.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tyler Little	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	34	20-23	28-28	1	2	2	0	0	298
Opponents	51	11-11	48-50	0	0	0	0	0	387

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Arkansas St.	74	56	85	83	0	298
Opponents	83	96	116	92	0	387



Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ryan Heicher	54	2315	42.9	57	2	26	20	9	0
Team	1	34	34.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	55	2349	42.7	57	2	26	20	9	1
Opponents	45	1902	42.3	58	2	11	14	8	0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Courtney Jackson	14	217	15.5	1	77
Total	14	217	15.5	1	77
Opponents	13	144	11.1	0	34

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Ja'Quez Cross	21	431	20.5	0	33
Malik Hornsby	6	129	21.5	0	28
Cam Jeffery	1	1	1.0	0	1
Reagan Ealy	1	26	26.0	0	26
Total	29	587	20.2	0	33
Opponents	28	451	16.1	0	48

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Ja'Quez Cross	12	600	198	0	431	0	1229	102.4
Corey Rucker	12	0	946	0	0	0	946	78.8
Zak Wallace	12	622	96	0	0	0	718	59.8
Courtney Jackson	12	0	445	217	0	0	662	55.2
Jaylen Raynor	12	392	0	0	0	0	392	32.7
Reagan Ealy	12	0	239	0	26	0	265	22.1
Adam Jones	12	0	255	0	0	0	255	21.3
Malik Hornsby	12	86	39	0	129	0	254	21.2
Devin Spencer	8	206	14	0	0	0	220	27.5
Manny Stevenson Jr.	12	0	195	0	0	0	195	16.3
Hunter Summers	12	0	116	0	0	0	116	9.7
Miller McCrumby	10	0	79	0	0	0	79	7.9
Reginald Harden Jr.	12	0	52	0	0	0	52	4.3
Timmy McClain	4	39	0	0	0	0	39	9.8
Dontay Joyner	12	0	0	0	0	34	34	2.8
Charles Willekes	12	0	0	0	0	30	30	2.5
Mike Sharpe II	11	22	5	0	0	0	27	2.5
Tennel Bryant	12	0	26	0	0	0	26	2.2
Tyler Little	9	0	20	0	0	0	20	2.2
Trevian Thomas	12	0	0	0	0	17	17	1.4
Jayden Jones	8	0	0	0	0	10	10	1.3
Websley Etienne	12	0	0	0	0	10	10	0.8
Justin Parks	12	0	0	0	0	6	6	0.5
Cam Jeffery	12	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
Damon Sisa	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
Cedric Hawkins	3	-6	0	0	0	0	-6	-2.0
Total	12	1912	2725	217	587	107	5548	462.3
Opponents	12	2706	2818	144	451	45	6164	513.7

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Jaylen Raynor	12	520	392	2562	2954	246.2
Zak Wallace	12	139	622	0	622	51.8
Ja'Quez Cross	12	107	600	0	600	50.0
Devin Spencer	8	40	206	0	206	25.8
Timmy McClain	4	40	39	163	202	50.5
Malik Hornsby	12	5	86	0	86	7.2
Mike Sharpe II	11	4	22	0	22	2.0
Damon Sisa	1	1	1	0	1	1.0
Cedric Hawkins	3	2	-6	0	-6	-2.0
Total	12	867	1912	2725	4637	386.4
Opponents	12	798	2706	2818	5524	460.3



ARKANSAS STATE STATISTICS

Team Defense

##	Player	gp	Tackles				Sacks		Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf	
5	Marvin Ham	12	45	45	90	9.5-38	1.5-13	.	1	1	2-0	1	.	.	
29	Justin Parks	12	49	38	87	4.5-9	.	2-6	3	3	.	1	.	.	
36	Charles Willekes	12	40	41	81	7.5-17	1-7	1-30	2	2	.	1	.	.	
9	Trevian Thomas	12	41	32	73	.	.	5-17	3	.	1-0	.	.	.	
6	Dontay Joyner	12	33	17	50	0.5-1	.	2-34	7	1	.	.	.	.
12	Websley Etienne	12	31	18	49	1.5-3	.	2-10	4	.	.	.	.	.
0	Justin Hodges	12	23	9	32	1-2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
90	Tim Hardiman	12	15	13	28	1.5-3	0.5-2	.	.	5	.	.	.	.
22	Jayden Jones	8	16	9	25	7-28	4-23	1-10	.	4	.	1	.	.	
50	Noah Collins	10	12	13	25	3.5-10	2-8	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
45	Nate Martey	9	12	13	25	1-3	.	.	1	4	.	.	.	.
4	Bryan Whitehead	12	16	6	22	10-28	4-18	.	.	14	1-4	1	.	.	
33	Cam Jeffery	12	12	8	20	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
40	Ian Jeffries	12	11	9	20	3.5-20	2.5-14	.	.	5	.	1	.	.	
7	Jordan Mahoney	10	12	5	17	0.5-1	.	1-0	3	.	.	.	.	.
15	Brandon Greil	12	7	10	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
80	Kamari Stephens	9	7	7	14	2-12	1-7	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
23	Dane Motley	12	8	4	12	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
17	Blayne Toll	12	3	6	9	0.5-3	0.5-3	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
19	James Reed III	3	1	6	7	0.5-1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
1	Marcus Bradley	10	3	3	6	1-3	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
20	Kyle Taylor	12	1	5	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Chris Pearson	11	2	4	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	Brandon Barnes	8	5	1	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Adrian Cole	6	4	1	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Ethan Hassler	2	3	1	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
84	Reed Linder	12	.	3	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	Jordan Sample	12	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10	Tennel Bryant	12	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
95	Micaiah Overton	3	2	.	2	1-3	1-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	Adam Jones	12	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
47	Lucas Banks	8	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	DeAubry Hood	4	.	2	2	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7	Corey Rucker	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Malik Hornsby	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
71	Mehki Butler	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
65	Noah Smith	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Manny Stevenson Jr.	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
37	AJ Beale	9	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
58	Cameron Ambrose	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52	Mason Myers	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
81	Takare Lipscomb	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
82	Ezra Burgess	11	1	.	1	1-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
34	Clune Van Andel	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Totals		12	429	334	763	58-193	18-98	14-107	30	46	5-4	7	0	0	
Opponents		12	511	332	843	65-273	31-181	9-45	56	25	8-34	8	2	0	





SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 1

ARKANSAS STATE 34, CENTRAL ARKANSAS 31

Aug. 31, 2024 | Centennial Bank Stadium | Jonesboro, Ark.

Corey Rucker hauled in nine catches, but none bigger than a catch in the back of the end zone with three seconds left to lift Arkansas State to a 34-31 season-opening win over Central Arkansas at Centennial Bank Stadium.

Rucker's nine receptions amounted to 179 yards receiving to lead A-State past the Bears, who took a 31-27 lead with 55 seconds left in the contest. A-State quarterback Jaylen Raynor then guided the offense 63 yards in 52 seconds before finding Rucker, who logged his eighth career 100-yard receiving outing and moved to sixth in program history in career receiving yards (2,163).

The Red Wolves outgained UCA 457-432 and held a 24-19 lead in first downs, while converting 11 of 22 third-down opportunities.

Raynor completed 24 of 47 passes for 317 yards, and also rushed 15 times for 49 yards and a score. Zak Wallace scored twice on the ground, rushing for 41 yards. Defensively, Dontay Joyner tallied a career-high 8 tackles (5 solo), while Jayden Jones had a sack.

GAME 2

ARKANSAS STATE 28, TULSA 24

Sept. 7, 2024 | Centennial Bank Stadium | Jonesboro, Ark.

Arkansas State outscored Tulsa 21-7 in the third quarter to improve to 2-0 for the first time since 2008 in a 28-24 win Saturday night at Centennial Bank Stadium.

The Red Wolves battled back from a 17-7 halftime deficit, but scored through the air, on the ground and on special teams to upend the Golden Hurricane. A-State's 2-0 start is not only its first since 2008, but also the program's second since it joined the FBS level in 1992.

A-State outgained Tulsa 401-362 and limited the visitors to just 92 total yards in the second half. The Red Wolves also converted 8-of-16 third-down opportunities while Tulsa went 5-for-13.

Jaylen Raynor completed 21 of 32 passes for 255 yards and two scores and rushed for 73 yards with a touchdown. Zak Wallace added 78 yards on the ground, while Reagan Ealy led the way with career bests in catches (six) and yardage (68). Corey Rucker (4 catches, 60 yards) and Adam Jones (3 catches, 43 yards) hauled in touchdowns from Raynor.

Defensively, Justin Parks amassed a career-high 12 tackles along with his first career forced fumble, while Bryan Whitehead had a career-best 1.5 tackles for loss.

GAME 3

NO. 17/16 MICHIGAN 28, ARKANSAS STATE 18

Sept. 14, 2024 | Michigan Stadium | Ann Arbor, Mich.

Arkansas State football battled back with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns, but ultimately dropped a hard-fought 28-18 decision to No. 17/16 Michigan Saturday at Michigan Stadium.

The Red Wolves (2-1) rallied from a 28-3 deficit and scored twice in the final six minutes on touchdown passes by Timmy McClain to Reginald Harden Jr., outscoring the Wolverines (2-1) 15-7 in the fourth. A-State forced Michigan into three interceptions thrown by UM quarterback Davis Warren – the most by an A-State team since 2017.

McClain completed 7-of-11 passes for 82 yards, while Jaylen Raynor was 19-of-33 for 140 yards. Twelve different players caught passes for A-State, led by Courtney Jackson's five receptions for 41 yards. Harden led in yardage with 52 on three catches.

Marvin Ham and Trevian Thomas recorded a game-high nine tackles each, while Thomas, Dontay Joyner and Charles Willekes recorded interceptions. The picks by Willekes and Joyner were the first of their careers.

GAME 4

NO. 20 IOWA STATE 52, ARKANSAS STATE 7

Sept. 21, 2024 | Jack Trice Stadium | Ames, Iowa

Facing a top-20 opponent on the road for the second week in a row, Arkansas State dropped a 52-7 to 20th-ranked Iowa State on Saturday.

A-State (2-2) could not overcome a strong offense and tough defense of the Cyclones (3-0), but forced a pair of interceptions in the contest. Iowa State went 8-for-8 in the red zone and relied on a balanced offense of 253 passing yards to 237 rushing yards.

Freshman Devin Spencer led the Scarlet and Black in rushing with 52 yards, while Timmy McClain tossed a fourth-quarter touchdown strike to Hunter Summers.

The Red Wolves had interceptions by Dontay Joyner and Websley Etienne – their second consecutive game with multiple picks. A-State has at least one interception in three straight outings, while recording multiple picks in four of the last seven contests.

Trevian Thomas recorded a game-high nine tackles, including five solo stops. Marvin Ham had eight tackles – 0.5 for loss. Noah Collins recorded a sack among his five stops.



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 5

ARKANSAS STATE 18, SOUTH ALABAMA 16

Oct. 5, 2024 | Centennial Bank Stadium | Jonesboro, Ark.

Clune Van Andel booted a 34-yard field goal with 10 seconds left to propel Arkansas State to an 18-16 Homecoming victory over South Alabama Saturday night inside Centennial Bank Stadium.

Van Andel went a career-best 4-for-4 kicking, and then A-State (3-2, 1-0 SBC) held strong on defense for the final two plays to move past the Jaguars (2-4, 1-1). The Red Wolves have now won back-to-back SBC openers and 12 of the last 14 Homecoming games.

Jaylen Raynor completed a career-best 30-of-39 passes for 345 yards, with Corey Rucker hauling in eight of those passes for 172 yards. Tyler Little hauled in Raynor's touchdown strike from five yards out in the fourth quarter, Little's first score of his career.

Defensively, Charles Willekes paced the Scarlet and Black with a dozen tackles, including seven solo stops and 1.5 for loss. He also broke up the Jaguars' final pass of the game to seal the victory. Justin Parks added 11 tackles and an interception – the first of his career – while Marvin Ham had 10 tackles, two for loss.

GAME 6

TEXAS STATE 41, ARKANSAS STATE 9

Oct. 12, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | San Marcos, Texas

Ja'Quez Cross led all players with 175 all-purpose yards, but the Arkansas State football team ultimately fell 41-9 at Texas State Saturday night at UFCU Stadium.

A-State (3-3, 1-1 SBC) trailed by one possession at intermission, but was shut out by the Bobcats (4-2, 2-0) in the second half. Clune Van Andel accounted for all nine of the Red Wolves' points, improving to 7-for-7 in the last two contests.

Cross rushed for 117 yards on just nine carries and added a team-high 48 yards receiving on six catches. It was his third career game with 100-plus rushing yards. Jaylen Raynor completed 24-of-38 for 207 yards through the air.

Marvin Ham led all players defensively with nine tackles, including two for loss for the second outing in a row, while A-State had a season-high four pass break-ups for the second straight game.

GAME 7

ARKANSAS STATE 44, SOUTHERN MISS 28

Oct. 19, 2024 | M.M. Roberts Stadium | Hattiesburg, Miss.

A dynamic ground game paved the way for the Arkansas State football team, which churned out a season-high 281 rushing yards in a 44-28 victory over Southern Miss Saturday night at M.M. Roberts Stadium.

In addition to its stellar rushing attack, A-State (4-3, 2-1 SBC) also generated three takeaways on defense to earn its first win over the Golden Eagles (1-6, 0-3) in Hattiesburg since 1977.

Ja'Quez Cross led the way with 127 yards on 18 carries and scored twice – once on the ground and another through the air, as he hauled in a team-high five receptions for 34 yards. Malik Hornsby also scored in the rushing game, scampering 73 yards on his lone carry.

Through the air, Jaylen Raynor completed 20-of-31 for 186 yards and three touchdown passes to Cross, Corey Rucker (four catches, 37 yards) and Adam Jones (3 catches, 31 yards). Courtney Jackson led all receivers with 55 yards on three grabs.

Defensively, the Red Wolves totaled 11 tackles for loss and six sacks, the most in a conference game since Nov. 13, 2021, at ULM (14 TFLs, 6 sacks). Jayden Jones had eight tackles, three for loss, and two sacks – all career highs – while also tallying his first interception and first career forced fumble.

GAME 8

ARKANSAS STATE 34, TROY 31

Oct. 6, 2024 | Centennial Bank Stadium | Jonesboro, Ark.

Zak Wallace scored three times on the ground Saturday, but his final touchdown proved to be the most important, as his 1-yard score pushed the Arkansas State football team past Troy, 34-31, at Centennial Bank Stadium.

Wallace's score capped a successful 2-minute drill by A-State (5-3, 3-1 SBC) after Troy (1-7, 0-4) moved ahead 31-26. The Trojans moved into Red Wolves' territory on the ensuing drive, but a clutch interception in the end zone by Trevian Thomas seal the win – Butch Jones' 100th in his career as a head coach.

With the win, the Red Wolves also improved to 4-0 at home this season and extended their home winning streak to six games dating back to last season – the longest since 2016-17 (8).

A-State outgained Troy 534-466, including 349 yards passing by Jaylen Raynor, who completed 25 of 40 passes. Corey Rucker hauled in a career-high 12 receptions for a game-high 193 yards – his 10th career 100-yard game. With his 12 catches, he moved into a tie for fifth in career receptions with 158, matching Robert Kilow's (1998-00) career total.

The Red Wolves' defense forced four turnovers on the day, including three interceptions by Thomas, Jordan Mahoney and Websley Etienne. Charles Willekes forced a fumble in the first quarter, recovered by Marvin Ham. Justin Parks recorded a team-high 10 tackles, including seven solo stops.

Clune Van Andel started the contest with back-to-back field goals from 22 and 19 yards out to put A-State ahead 6-0. He would connect on all four of his tries, running his streak to 14 consecutive makes – the longest streak since Josh Arauco made 15 in a row in 2008.





SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 9

LOUISIANA 55, ARKANSAS STATE 19

Nov. 9, 2024 | Cajun Field | Lafayette, La.

Arkansas State could not overcome an early deficit on Saturday night at Cajun Field, falling 55-19 to Louisiana.

The Red Wolves (5-4, 3-2 SBC) totaled 401 yards of offense, including 209 on the ground, but could not overtake the Ragin' Cajuns' (8-1, 5-0) balanced attack of 301 yards passing and 278 rushing.

Ja'Quez Cross rushed for 81 yards on the ground, while Zak Wallace (5 rushes, 51 yards) and Timmy McClain (3 rushes, 21 yards) recorded rushing scores. Jaylen Raynor passed for 167 yards and a touchdown pass to Adam Jones, completing 23 of 35 pass attempts. Corey Rucker led the way in receiving with six catches for 73 yards.

Defensively, Dontay Joyner tallied a team-high seven tackles, including a career-high six solos..

GAME 10

ARKANSAS STATE 27, GEORGIA STATE 10

Nov. 16, 2024 | CenterParc Stadium | Atlanta, Ga.

Arkansas State churned out 261 yards rushing on Saturday at CenterParc Stadium and achieved bowl eligibility for the second straight season, topping Georgia State 27-20.

The Red Wolves (6-4, 4-2 SBC) also had seven tackles for loss on the defensive side of the ball and forced the Panthers (2-8, 0-6) into a pair of interceptions – including one by Trevian Thomas with 1:32 to play. A-State's defense also limited the hosts to just 73 yards on the ground.

Jaylen Raynor led the ground assault with a career-high 114 yards on 16 carries, becoming the first A-State quarterback with 100-plus rushing yards since Justice Hansen had 121 against Louisiana on Oct. 19, 2017. Ja'Quez Cross had 76 yards and a touchdown on 14 attempts, while Zak Wallace scored twice on 14 carries for 62 yards. Through the air, Raynor completed 10-of-17 passes for 97 yards.

Websley Etienne led the Red Wolves defensively with six tackles – five solos. Bryan Whitehead had 3.5 tackles for loss and two sacks as part of five stops. In addition to Thomas' fourth-quarter pick, Justin Parks recorded an interception in the second quarter.

GAME 11

ARKANSAS STATE 28, UL MONROE 21

Nov. 23, 2024 | Centennial Bank Stadium | Jonesboro, Ark.

Jaylen Raynor tossed three touchdown passes on Saturday afternoon, leading Arkansas State to a 28-21 victory over ULM at Centennial Bank Stadium – the program's 15th straight win in the series.

The Red Wolves (7-4, 5-2 SBC) eclipsed seven wins for the first time since 2019 with the win over the Warhawks (5-6, 3-4) and improved to 5-0 at home. A-State has won seven straight home bouts, the longest since an eight-game stretch spanning the 2016-17 seasons.

Raynor completed 18 of 26 pass attempts for 170 and scores to Corey Rucker, Hunter Summers and Courtney Jackson. Jackson led all players with six catches for 69 yards, while Rucker had 49 yards on three grabs.

Zak Wallace led the A-State ground game with 130 yards on 18 carries, scoring on a 2-yard rush in the first quarter.

A-State forced a pair of turnovers on the night, both takeaways involving Trevian Thomas, who recovered a fumble and intercepted a deep pass late in the fourth quarter to end the Warhawks' hopes. His pick was the fifth of the year and third game ender. Charles Willekes tied all players with nine stops, including six solos and a sack.

GAME 12

OLD DOMINION 40, ARKANSAS STATE 32

Nov. 30, 2024 | Centennial Bank Stadium | Jonesboro, Ark.

Arkansas State rallied late, but the offensive firepower from Old Dominion was too much in a 40-32 defeat on Saturday afternoon at Centennial Bank Stadium.

Jaylen Raynor finished the contest with 22 completions for 261 yards and three touchdowns while Corey Rucker led the team with 115 yards receiving. Following a 12-yard reception at the 13:28 mark in the first quarter, Rucker passed J.D. McKissic (2012-15) to become A-State's all-time leading receiver.

On the ground, Zak Wallace posted a team-leading 89 yards on 15 carries along with a touchdown. Ja'Quez Cross was not far behind at 52 yards on nine attempts, averaging 5.8 yards per carry.

Justin Parks and Charles Willekes registered 11 tackles on the night, which is the former's fourth of the season and the latter's third double-digit tackle performance, respectively. Bryan Whitehead recorded a sack for the third consecutive game and had multiple tackles for loss for the third time this season.



ARKANSAS STATE ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Exp.	Hometown / Previous School / High School
0	Justin Hodges	CB	6-2	184	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / UCF
1	Marcus Bradley	DE	6-3	242	rJr.	Gaithersburg, Md. / UMass / Vanderbilt
1	Jaylen Raynor	QB	6-0	201	So.	Kernersville, N.C. / East Forsyth HS
2	Ja'Quez Cross	RB	5-9	197	rJr.	Hampton, Ark. / Purdue
2	Chris Pearson	LB	6-2	201	So.	Orange Beach, Ala. / Houston
3	Hunter Summers	WR	6-3	170	rFr.	Prosper, Texas / Tulane
4	Malik Hornsby	WR	6-2	198	rSr.	Missouri City, Texas / Texas State/Arkansas
4	Bryan Whitehead	DE	6-1	252	rJr.	Bartlett, Tenn. / Liberty
5	Marvin Ham	LB	6-1	231	rSr.	Belleville, Mich. / Colorado
7	Jordan Mahoney	CB	6-0	183	Sr.	Rock Hill, S.C. / UMass
7	Corey Rucker Jr.	WR	6-0	214	rJr.	Benton, Miss. / Yazoo County HS
8	Brandon Barnes	S	6-1	180	Fr.	Dallas, Texas / Skyline HS
8	Josh Flowers	QB	6-3	205	Fr.	Mobile, Ala. / Baker HS
9	Courtney Jackson	WR	5-11	189	rSr.	Monroeville, Pa. / Syracuse
9	Trevian Thomas	S	5-11	196	Sr.	Americus, Ga / Americus Sumter County South HS
10	Tennel Bryant	WR	5-7	163	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio / Archbishop Moeller HS
11	Drew Collins	DE	6-4	230	Fr.	Adamsville, Ala. / Minor HS
11	Adam Jones	WR	6-2	187	rSr.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Central Michigan
12	Websley Etienne	S	5-11	191	rSo.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / Western HS
12	Manny Stevenson Jr.	TE	6-3	243	Sr.	Honolulu, Hawai'i / Eufala (Ala.) HS
14	AJ Wallace	S	6-1	177	Fr.	Chattanooga, Tenn. / South Pittsburg HS
15	Reagan Ealy	WR	5-9	178	Sr.	Plant City, Fla. / Plant City HS
15	Brandon Greil	S	5-11	180	So.	Little Rock, Ark. / Joe T. Robinson HS
16	Chauncy Cobb	WR	5-6	161	rFr.	Clewiston, Fla. / Clewiston HS
16	Deaubry Hood	CB	5-11	185	rFr.	Harker Heights, Texas / Harker Heights HS
17	Jabari Bush	TE	6-4	218	Fr.	Katy, Texas / Paetow HS
17	Blayne Toll	DT	6-6	270	Sr.	Hazen, Ark. / Hazen HS/Colorado/Arkansas
18	James Rexroat	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Republic, Mo. / Republic HS
18	Kyle Williams	CB	6-0	184	Fr.	Slidell, La. / Northshore HS
19	James Reed III	S	5-10	192	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Father Ryan HS
20	Kyle Taylor	LB	6-1	240	rJr.	The Colony, Texas / Tarleton State
21	Braden Jackson	CB	6-0	181	Fr.	Gulf Shores, Ala. / Gulf Shores HS
21	Zak Wallace	RB	6-0	226	rSr.	Benton, Ark. / UT Martin
22	Cedric Hawkins	RB	5-7	196	So.	Stuttgart, Ark. / Stuttgart HS
23	Caleb Donaldson	WR	5-9	221	Fr.	Eads, Tenn. / Briarcrest Christian HS
23	Dane Motley	LB	5-11	221	rSr.	Alpharetta, Ga / Alpharetta HS
24	Devin Spencer	RB	5-8	183	Fr.	Riverview, Fla. / Summer HS
24	Josh Stone	CB	6-0	181	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Carver HS
25	Clayton Amaya	K	5-10	194	Fr.	Spring Branch, Texas / Smithson Valley HS
25	TJ Hill	LB	6-2	196	Fr.	Bradenton, Fla. / IMG Academy
26	Kemari Nix	S	6-1	208	Fr.	Kennesaw, Ga. / Kell HS
26	Kiandre Terry	WR	6-0	171	Fr.	Byram, Miss. / Jackson Academy
27	Jamil Williams	LB	5-11	223	So.	Palmetto, Fla. / Palmetto HS
28	Carter Salzman	WR	5-10	157	rFr.	Platte City, Mo. / Platte County HS
29	Justin Parks	S	6-0	197	Sr.	Gardendale, Ala. / Gardendale HS
30	Andrew Agapos	LB	6-0	228	rJr.	Cordova, Tenn. / Evangelical Christian School
30	Damon Sisa	RB	5-8	169	Fr.	Germantown, Tenn. / Houston HS
31	RJ Kelly	LB	6-1	234	rFr.	Lakeland, Fla. / Lakeland HS
31	Xavier Ross	DS	6-0	210	Fr.	Reidsville, Ga. / Tattall County HS
32	Aidan Ellison	K	5-11	189	rJr.	Naperville, Ill. / Naperville Central HS
32	Ethan Hassler	DE	6-2	245	Sr.	Collierville, Tenn. / Collierville HS
33	Cam Jeffery	LB	5-11	199	Sr.	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / American Christian Academy
33	Kameron Thomas	RB	5-10	186	Fr.	Zachary, La. / Zachary HS
34	Clune Van Andel	K	6-0	202	So.	Grand Rapids, Mich. / Forest Hills Eastern HS
35	Spencer Makell	CB	6-2	165	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. / Providence HS
36	Charles Willekes	LB	6-1	225	rSr.	Rockford, Mich. / Michigan State
37	AJ Beale	LB	5-11	200	rSo.	Cherry Valley, Ark. / Cross County HS
37	Payton Greer	RB	5-10	180	Fr.	League City, Texas / Clear Falls HS





ARKANSAS STATE ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Exp.	Hometown / Previous School / High School
38	Jack Bullard	DS	5-11	211	Sr.	Chandler, Ariz. / Corona Del Sol HS
39	Kanon LaRusso	S	6-2	182	Fr.	Eads, Tenn. / Briarcrest Christian School
40	Jaxson Dunn	P	6-1	173	Fr.	Bensalem, Pa. / Bensalem HS
40	Ian Jeffries	DT	6-4	288	rFr.	Southaven, Miss. / Southaven HS
41	Drew Nicolson	DS	6-0	226	So.	Tempe, Ariz. / Akron
42	Magnus Haines	P	5-11	193	rJr.	Massillon, Ohio / Kent State
43	Chase Bogle	LB	6-2	207	Fr.	Lucas, Texas / Lovejoy HS
44	Ben Karlsson	TE	6-5	243	Fr.	Southlake, Texas / Southlake Carroll HS
44	Jordan Sample	LB	6-2	214	rFr.	Missouri City, Texas / Fort Bend Marshall HS
45	Nate Martey	DT	6-1	288	Sr.	Ottawa, Ontario / Princeton
46	David Paglianite	TE	6-2	251	Fr.	Bryant, Ark. / Bryant HS
47	Lucas Banks	DT	6-2	287	Jr.	Houston, Texas / Mississippi Valley State
47	Ryan Heicher	P	6-4	226	Sr.	Walled Lake, Mich. / Saginaw Valley State
48	Palmer Harris	DS	5-11	230	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Memphis University School
50	Noah Collins	DE	6-5	248	Sr.	Loganville, Ga. / Georgia Tech
52	Gideon Herbert	DE	6-3	239	Fr.	Rabun Gap, Ga. / Rabun Gap-Nacoochee HS
52	Mason Myers	OL	6-4	293	rFr.	Moody, Ala. / Moody HS
54	Walker Davis	OL	6-3	293	rFr.	Benton, Ark. / Benton HS
55	Aleric Watson	OL	6-4	312	rSo.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Middle Tennessee Christian
58	Cameron Ambrose	OL	6-4	294	rSo.	Pinson, Ala. / Pinson Valley HS
60	Tyler Montgomery	OL	6-1	275	Fr.	Greenville, Miss. / St. Joseph HS
62	Jacob Pequeno	OL	6-3	278	Fr.	Dallas, Texas / Parish Episcopal HS
64	Brock Simmons	OL	6-3	286	Fr.	Harrison, Ark. / Harrison HS
65	Noah Smith	OL	6-7	316	rJr.	Locust Fork, Ala. / Locust Fork HS
67	Graham McLelland	OL	6-3	270	Fr.	Rabun Gap, Ga. / Rabun Gap-Nacoochee HS
68	Tristian Smith	OL	6-3	315	rJr.	Crossett, Ark. / Trinity Valley (TX) CC
70	Royce Baucom	OL	6-5	305	Fr.	Guntersville, Ala. / Guntersville HS
71	Mehki Butler	OL	6-3	320	rSr.	Omaha, Neb. / Iowa Western CC
73	Jacob Bayer	OL	6-3	310	Sr.	Grandview, Texas / Lamar
74	Elijah Zollicoffer	OL	6-5	345	Jr.	Covington, Ga. / Newton HS
75	Ej Ndoma-Ogar	OL	6-3	323	rJr.	Allen, Texas / Missouri/Oklahoma
76	Trason Hunt	OL	6-5	290	Fr.	Bentonville, Ark. / Bentonville HS
77	Makilan Thomas	OL	6-3	315	rJr.	Little Rock, Ark. / Central HS
78	Riley McGehee	OL	6-6	298	Fr.	New Hope, Ala. / New Hope HS
79	Baker North	OL	6-3	307	Fr.	Mission, Kan. / Bishop Miege HS
80	Kamari Stephens	DE	6-3	250	rSr.	Jacksonville, Fla. / Jacksonville State/Florida A&M
82	Ezra Burgess	TE	6-4	253	Fr.	Rabun Gap, Ga. / Rabun Gap-Nacoochee HS
84	Reed Linder	WR	5-10	181	So.	Memphis, Tenn. / Briarcrest Christian HS
85	TJ Starks	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Jonesboro, Ark. / Valley View HS
86	Skylar Purifoy	TE	6-5	224	Fr.	Hot Springs, Ark. / Lakeside HS
87	Tyler Little	TE	6-4	242	So.	Galena, Kan. / Galena HS
88	Calen Presser	DE	6-7	215	rFr.	Liberty, Mo. / Liberty North HS
88	Jayvion Showers	WR	6-2	184	Fr.	Pensacola, Fla. / Pensacola Catholic HS
90	Tim Hardiman	DT	5-11	294	rJr.	Spring, Texas / Westfield HS
91	Austin Woods	OL	6-5	302	rJr.	Claremore, Okla. / Verdigris HS
92	Obi Udom	DT	6-3	275	Fr.	Frisco, Texas / Heritage HS
93	Braxton Nixon-Snell	DT	6-0	265	Fr.	Conway, Ark. / Conway HS
95	Micaiah Overton	DT	6-4	304	Sr.	Bessemer, Ala. / Texas A&M/Liberty
98	Alex Martin	DT	6-2	291	Fr.	Little Rock, Ark. / Parkview HS
99	Timothy Gulley	DT	6-1	298	rFr.	Pensacola, Fla. / Pensacola Catholic HS



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DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Position No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	1 Jaylen Raynor	6-0	201	So.
	8 Josh Flowers	6-3	205	Fr.
RB	2 Ja'Quez Cross	5-9	197	R-Jr.
or 21	Zak Wallace	6-0	226	R-Sr.
	24 Devin Spencer	5-8	183	Fr.
TE	12 Manny Stevenson Jr.	6-3	243	Sr.
	87 Tyler Little	6-4	242	So.
WR	7 Corey Rucker Jr.	6-0	214	R-Jr.
	3 Hunter Summers	6-3	170	R-Fr.
WR	9 Courtney Jackson	5-11	189	R-Sr.
	11 Adam Jones	6-2	187	R-Sr.
WR	15 Reagan Ealy	5-9	178	Sr.
	4 Malik Hornsby	6-2	198	R-Sr.
LT	65 Noah Smith	6-7	316	R-Jr.
	78 Riley McGehee	6-6	298	Fr.
LG	71 Mehki Butler	6-3	320	R-Sr.
	68 Tristian Smith	6-3	315	R-Jr.
C	73 Jacob Bayer	6-3	310	Sr.
	52 Mason Myers	6-4	293	R-Fr.
RG	74 Elijah Zollicoffer	6-5	345	Jr.
	75 Ej Ndoma-Ogar	6-3	323	R-Sr.
RT	77 Makilan Thomas	6-3	315	R-Jr.
	55 Aleric Watson	6-4	312	
R-So.				

DEFENSE

Position No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
DE	50 Noah Collins	6-5	248	Sr.
	1 Marcus Bradley	6-3	242	R-Jr.
DT	45 Nate Martey	6-1	288	Sr.
	17 Blayne Toll	6-6	270	Sr.
DT	90 Tim Hardiman	5-11	294	R-Jr.
	40 Ian Jeffries	6-4	288	R-Fr.
DE	4 Bryan Whitehead	6-1	252	R-Jr.
	32 Ethan Hassler	6-2	245	Sr.
	80 Kamari Stephens	6-3	251	R-Sr.
LB	36 Charles Willekes	6-1	225	R-Sr.
	20 Kyle Taylor	6-1	240	R-Jr.
LB	5 Marvin Ham	6-1	231	Sr.
	23 Dane Motley	5-11	221	R-Sr.
STAR	29 Justin Parks	6-0	197	Sr.
	33 Cam Jeffery	5-11	199	Sr.
CB	0 Justin Hodges	6-2	184	Sr.
	16 Deaubry Hood	5-11	185	R-Fr.
S	9 Trevian Thomas	5-11	196	Sr.
	15 Brandon Greil	5-11	180	So.
S	12 Websley Etienne	5-11	195	
R-So.				
	8 Brandon Barnes	6-1	165	Fr.
CB	7 Jordan Mahoney	6-0	183	Sr.
	24 Josh Stone	6-0	181	Fr.



SPECIALISTS

Position No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
P	47 Ryan Heicher	6-4	226	Sr.
	86 Brook Honore	6-0	190	rSo.
LS	38 Jack Bullard	5-11	211	Sr.
	41 Drew Nicholson	6-0	226	So.
H	47 Ryan Heicher	6-4	226	Sr.
	86 Brook Honore	6-0	190	rSo.
FG	32 Clune Van Anandel	6-0	202	So.
	25 Clayton Amaya	5-10	194	Fr.
KO	25 Clayton Amaya	5-10	194	Fr.
	47 Ryan Heicher	6-4	226	Sr.
KR	2 Ja'Quez Cross	5-9	197	rJr.
	15 Reagan Ealy	5-9	178	Sr.
	or 4 Malik Hornsby	6-2	198	rSr.
PR	9 Courtney Jackson	5-11	189	rSr.
	15 Reagan Ealy	5-9	178	Sr.



PLAYERS



Andrew Agapos 30
LB 6-0 228 R.Jr.



Clayton Amaya 25
K 5-10 194 Fr.



Cameron Ambrose 58
OL 6-4 294 R.So.



Lucas Banks 47
DT 6-2 287 Jr.



Brandon Barnes 8
S 6-1 180 Fr.



Royce Baucom 70
OL 6-5 305 Fr.



Jacob Bayer 73
OL 6-3 310 Sr.



AJ Beale 37
LB 5-11 200 R.So.



Chase Bogle 43
LB 6-2 207 Fr.



Marcus Bradley 1
DE 6-3 242 R.Jr.



Tennel Bryant 10
WR 5-7 163 So.



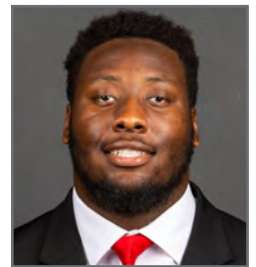
Jack Bullard 38
DS 5-11 211 Sr.



Ezra Burgess 82
TE 6-4 253 Fr.



Jabari Bush 17
TE 6-4 218 Fr.



Mehki Butler 71
OL 6-3 320 R.Sr.



Chauncy Cobb 16
WR 5-6 161 R.Fr.



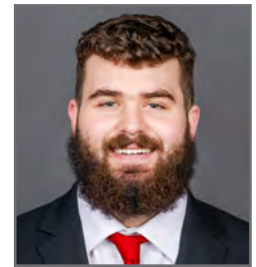
Drew Collins 11
DE 6-4 230 Fr.



Noah Collins 50
DE 6-5 248 Sr.



Ja'Quez Cross 2
RB 5-9 197 R.Jr.



Walker Davis 54
OL 6-3 293 R.Fr.



Caleb Donaldson 23
WR 5-9 221 Fr.



Jaxson Dunn 40
P 6-1 173 Fr.



Reagan Ealy 15
WR 5-9 178 Sr.



Aidan Ellison 32
K 5-11 189 R.Jr.



Websley Etienne 12
S 5-11 191 R.So.





Josh Flowers **8**
QB 6-3 205 Fr.



Payton Greer **37**
RB 5-10 180 Fr.



Brandon Greil **15**
S 5-11 180 So.



Timothy Gulley **99**
DT 6-1 298 R.Fr.



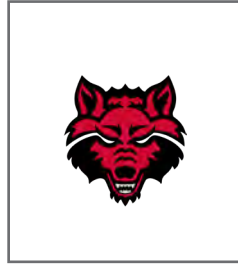
Magnus Haines **42**
P 5-11 193 R.Jr.



Marvin Ham **5**
LB 6-1 231 R.Sr.



Tim Hardiman **90**
DT 5-11 294 R.Jr.



Palmer Harris **48**
DS 5-11 230 Fr.



Ethan Hassler **32**
DE 6-2 245 Sr.



Cedric Hawkins **22**
RB 5-7 196 So.



Ryan Heicher **47**
P 6-4 226 Sr.



Gideon Herbert **52**
DE 6-3 239 Fr.



TJ Hill **25**
LB 6-2 196 Fr.



Justin Hodges **0**
CB 6-2 184 Sr.



Deaubry Hood **16**
CB 5-11 185 R.Fr.



Malik Hornsby **4**
WR 6-2 198 R.Sr.



Trason Hunt **76**
OL 6-5 290 Fr.



Braden Jackson **21**
CB 6-0 181 Fr.



Courtney Jackson **9**
WR 5-11 189 R.Sr.



Cam Jeffery **33**
LB 5-11 199 Sr.



Ian Jeffries **40**
DT 6-4 288 R.Fr.



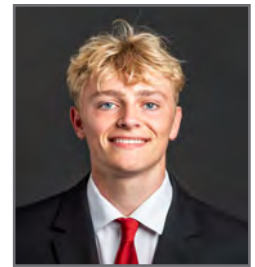
Adam Jones **11**
WR 6-2 187 R.Sr.



Ben Karlsson **44**
TE 6-5 243 Fr.



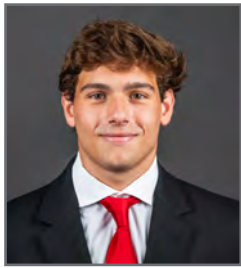
RJ Kelly **31**
LB 6-1 234 R.Fr.



Kanon LaRusso **39**
S 6-2 182 Fr.



PLAYERS



Reed Linder 84
WR 5-10 181 So.



Tyler Little 87
TE 6-4 242 So.



Jordan Mahoney 7
CB 6-0 183 Sr.



Spencer Makell 35
CB 6-2 165 Fr.



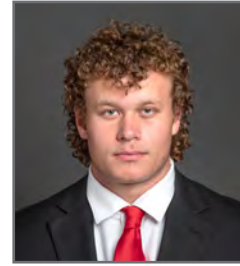
Nate Martey 45
DT 6-1 288 Sr.



Alex Martin 98
DT 6-2 291 Fr.



Riley McGehee 78
OL 6-6 298 Fr.



Graham McLelland 67
OL 6-3 270 Fr.



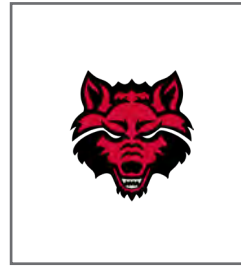
Tyler Montgomery 60
OL 6-1 275 Fr.



Dane Motley 23
LB 5-11 221 R.Sr.



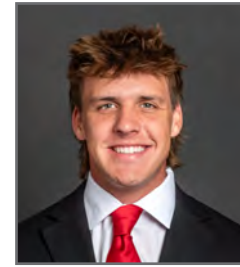
Mason Myers 52
OL 6-4 293 R.Fr.



Braxton Nixon-Snell 93
DT 6-0 265 Fr.



EJ Ndoma-Ogar 75
OL 6-3 323 R.Jr.



Drew Nicolson 41
DS 6-0 226 So.



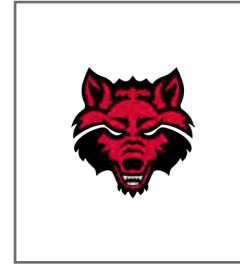
Kemari Nix 26
S 6-1 208 Fr.



Baker North 79
OL 6-3 307 Fr.



Micaiah Overton 95
DT 6-4 304 Sr.



David Paglianite 46
TE 6-2 251 Fr.



Justin Parks 29
S 6-0 197 Sr.



Chris Pearson 2
LB 6-2 201 So.



Jacob Pequeno 62
OL 6-3 278 Fr.



Calen Presser 88
DE 6-7 215 R.Fr.



Skylar Purify 86
TE 6-5 224 Fr.



Jaylen Raynor 1
QB 6-0 201 So.



James Reed III 19
S 5-10 192 Jr.





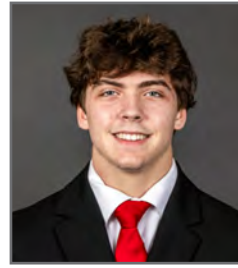
James Rexroat 18
TE 6-4 235 Fr.



Xavier Ross 31
DS 6-0 210 Fr.



Corey Rucker Jr. 7
WR 6-0 214 R.Jr.



Carter Salzman 28
WR 5-10 157 R.Fr.



Jordan Sample 44
LB 6-2 214 R.Fr.



Jayvion Showers 88
WR 6-2 184 Fr.



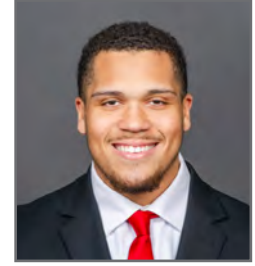
Brock Simmons 64
OL 6-3 286 Fr.



Damon Sisa 30
RB 5-8 169 Fr.



Noah Smith 65
OL 6-7 316 R.Jr.



Tristian Smith 68
OL 6-3 315 R.Jr.



Devin Spencer 24
RB 5-8 183 Fr.



TJ Starks 85
WR 6-1 170 Fr.



Kamari Stephens 80
DE 6-3 251 R.Sr.



Manny Stevenson Jr. 12
TE 6-3 243 Sr.



Josh Stone 24
CB 6-0 181 Fr.



Hunter Summers 3
WR 6-3 170 R.Fr.



Kyle Taylor 20
LB 6-1 240 R.Jr.



Kiandre Terry 26
WR 6-0 171 Fr.



Kameron Thomas 33
RB 5-10 186 Fr.



Makilan Thomas 77
OL 6-3 315 R.Jr.



Trevian Thomas 9
S 5-11 196 Sr.



Blayne Toll 17
DT 6-6 270 Sr.



Obi Udom 92
DT 6-3 275 Fr.



Clune Van Andel 34
K 6-0 202 So.



AJ Wallace 14
S 6-1 177 Fr.



PLAYERS



Zak Wallace **21**
RB 6-0 226 R.Sr.



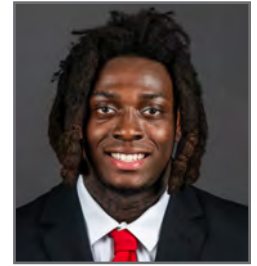
Aleric Watson **55**
OL 6-4 312 R.So.



Bryan Whitehead **4**
DE 6-1 252 R.Jr.



Charles Willekes **36**
LB 6-1 225 R.Sr.



Jamil Williams **27**
LB 5-11 223 So.



Kyle Williams **18**
CB 6-0 184 Fr.



Austin Woods **91**
OL 6-5 302 R.Jr.



Elijah Zollicoffer **74**
OL 6-5 345 Jr.

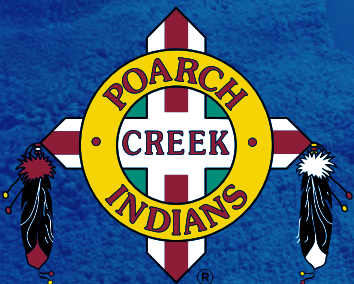




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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

For more than 111 years, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) has been a public university for the public good, always moving forward. Founded by the state, for the state, as a teacher-training institution, the University's history is defined by an educational pursuit for more. Today, BGSU is a high-research, nationally ranked, comprehensive university, always proud to be public.

Located in Bowling Green, Ohio, BGSU is home to a vibrant community of students, faculty, and staff dedicated to advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and making a meaningful impact on society.

BGSU offers nationally recognized programs across a diverse range of disciplines, including education, arts, business, health and wellness, and more. With a strong emphasis on contributing to the public good, the University provides its students with opportunities to engage in cutting-edge research,

experiential learning, and community outreach. These efforts prepare students to thrive as leaders in their chosen fields.

The University competes at the NCAA Division I level as a member of the Mid-American Conference (MAC). Known as the Bowling Green Falcons, BGSU's 18 varsity sports programs represent the Orange and Brown with pride and determination. With over 400 student-athletes, the Falcons embody the values of teamwork, perseverance, and integrity, striving for success both on and off the field.

Beyond academics and athletics, BGSU emphasizes community engagement and personal growth. The campus environment fosters a sense of belonging, encouraging students to explore their passions and develop their potential. The University's commitment to student success is evident in its robust support services, leadership programs, and career readiness initiatives.



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BGSU's impact extends far beyond its campus. The University's research and outreach programs are designed to address societal challenges, contribute to economic development, and enhance quality of life in Ohio and beyond.



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BOWLING GREEN ATHLETICS

Derek van der Merwe was named BGSU's 15th director of athletics and recreation on Oct. 25, 2022. Van der Merwe comes to BGSU from the University of Arizona, where he has served as the associate vice president and chief operations officer since 2018 for the Wildcat athletics department.

"We are thrilled to welcome Derek van der Merwe as the University's next director of athletics," BGSU President Rodney K. Rogers said. "Derek is a committed leader within the NCAA with significant Power Five Conference and athletics experience. He has a deep understanding of how to leverage the holistic role athletics has on a comprehensive institution. He will embrace our mission to create public good and he will position BGSU Athletics for a strong future."

BGSU launched a national search for the director of athletics position in late August, and on Tuesday, Oct. 25, President Rogers introduced van der Merwe as the University's 15th director of athletics during a live announcement at the Stroh Center.

"It is an honor for me and my family to join Bowling Green State University, a community rich in tradition and history," van der Merwe said. "I feel a great sense of responsibility to serve the people, history and legacy here at BGSU and I will work tirelessly every day to honor and live up to its legacy."

Van der Merwe has worked in higher education for more than 25 years, serving in leadership roles in both athletics and university-wide positions. He has held leadership positions in the Pac-12 Conference, the Ohio Valley Conference and the Mid-American Conference.

Prior to his role at the University of Arizona, van der Merwe was the vice president of Advancement, Communication and Strategic Initiatives at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, where he also previously served as director of intercollegiate athletics. He started his career as an academic advisor at Central Michigan University and worked his way up to chief operating officer and deputy athletics director.



DEREK VAN DER MERWE
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
AND RECREATION

With broad professional experience, van der Merwe has led numerous strategic planning initiatives within athletics departments and across universities that have focused on developing strong planning vehicles for program success. In 2019, he led the creation of the University of Arizona Athletics' first-ever comprehensive strategic plan, "The Wildcat Way," which supports the department's mission of the holistic development of student-athletes.

"Division I Athletics is experiencing transformational change including name, image and likeness, the need to diversify resources, an increased emphasis on student-athlete well-being, conference realignment, the transfer portal, and the need to engage fans, communities and, most importantly, our students," President Rogers said. "Derek is uniquely positioned to navigate this landscape because of his experience in both athletics and across universities, providing a forward-thinking, holistic experience for our student-athletes, supporters and students."

Born and raised in South Africa to missionary parents, van der Merwe attended Central Michigan University, where he was a student-athlete and earned Academic All-MAC honors as a co-captain of CMU football in 1995. He earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree from CMU.

The official start date for van der Merwe will be determined in the coming weeks. He will be joined in Bowling Green with his wife Stephanie Paris, a former collegiate softball player and coach. The couple has four children: Emily, Lauren, Ian, and Patton.



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HEAD COACH SCOT LOEFFLER

Scot Loeffler is in his sixth season as the head coach at Bowling Green State University, where he has overseen a significant turnaround for the Falcons football program. Coming to BGSU in 2019 after serving as deputy head coach and offensive coordinator at Boston College, Loeffler inherited one of the most challenging rebuilding projects in the nation. Both the offense and defense ranked near the bottom nationally prior to his arrival, but under his leadership, the program has returned to relevance.

By 2022, the Falcons were back in a bowl game for the first time since 2015, participating in the Quick Lane Bowl. That success continued into the 2023 and 2024 seasons, with BGSU earning its third consecutive bowl bid to the 68 Ventures Bowl in 2024, the longest streak since 2012-15.

The 2024 season has been highlighted by the meteoric rise of tight end Harold Fannin Jr. Fannin made history by becoming the first tight end in FBS history to be named a conference's player of the year, earning the MAC's Vern Smith Leadership Award and Offensive Player of the Year honors. Fannin, BGSU's first consensus All-American, leads all tight ends nationwide in 20+ offensive categories and ranks among the top five players overall in over a dozen categories.

The 2023 campaign was another step forward for the Falcons. BGSU finished the regular season with 28 takeaways, the most in the nation. Notably, the defense forced four turnovers against eventual national champion Michigan, including intercepting quarterback J.J. McCarthy three times — half of the total offensive turnovers Michigan surrendered all season. BGSU's performance on both sides of the ball has continued to improve under Loeffler's leadership, marking a consistent upward trajectory since his arrival.

Loeffler's tenure has also prioritized academic success. In 2023, BGSU placed 15 players on the Academic All-MAC team, tying a program record set in 2022. Across his first five seasons, the Falcons have achieved five of the program's top six outputs for Academic All-MAC honorees.

One of the most impactful seasons came in 2022 when BGSU's win total improved by two games, placing them among just four



SCOT LOEFFLER

programs nationwide to have consecutive years of 2+ win improvements. Defensive lineman Karl Brooks was a standout, earning first-team All-America honors from Pro Football Focus after leading the nation in total pressures. His 10 sacks ranked 11th nationally and third in BGSU history for a single season. Offensively, quarterback Matt McDonald finished his career ranked ninth all-time in passing yards at BGSU.

The turnaround truly began in 2021, as the Falcons notched signature wins, including a 14-10 victory at Minnesota. That season, the defense recorded its best performance since BGSU's 2013 MAC Championship year, holding opponents to just 373.7 yards per game. Kicker Nate Needham earned first-team All-America honors after leading the nation in field goal percentage.

Loeffler's early seasons included building a foundation during the challenging COVID-19-shortened 2020 campaign. His first year in 2019, though marked by a 3-9 record, was notable for BGSU's victory over rival Toledo in the Battle of I-75, ending a nine-game losing streak in the series. In those three wins, BGSU outscored its opponents 101-16, showcasing glimpses of what the program would become.

Loeffler's success at Bowling Green comes after a decorated career as an assistant coach. He began his coaching career as a student assistant and graduate assistant at Michigan, where he worked with Tom Brady and Brian Griese during the Wolverines' 1997 national championship season. Loeffler then moved to Central Michigan as quarterbacks coach (2000-01) before returning to Michigan as quarterbacks coach from 2002-07. During this time, he

mentored standout quarterbacks John Navarre and Chad Henne.

In 2008, Loeffler spent a year coaching quarterbacks for the Detroit Lions in the NFL before joining Urban Meyer's staff at Florida (2009-10). At Florida, he guided Tim Tebow to a successful senior season and helped the Gators finish No. 1 nationally in passing efficiency in 2009. Loeffler then served as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Temple in 2011, where his offense ranked seventh nationally in rushing, powered by Bernard Pierce.

Loeffler moved to Auburn in 2012 as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, where he mentored Tre Mason, who became the first non-quarterback to lead Auburn in total offense since Bo Jackson. He later joined Virginia Tech (2013-15) under Frank Beamer as offensive coordinator, where his offense helped defeat Ohio State in 2014, marking the Buckeyes' only loss during their national championship season.

At Boston College (2016-18), Loeffler served as offensive coordinator and deputy head coach. His offenses were known for explosive rushing attacks, highlighted by AJ Dillon, who ranked 12th nationally in rushing yards per game in 2018 and was later drafted by the Green Bay Packers.

Loeffler's professional journey includes stops at some of the nation's most storied programs, and his experience working under legendary coaches has helped shape his success at Bowling Green. Over his career, he has coached eight NFL quarterbacks, including Tom Brady, Brian Griese, Tim Tebow, and Chad Henne. Those quarterbacks have combined for 10 Super Bowl titles, led primarily by Brady's seven championships.

A native of Barberton, Ohio, Loeffler played quarterback at Michigan before transitioning into coaching. He graduated from Michigan in 1998 with a degree in history and a minor in political science. His Ohio roots and experience in the Mid-American Conference make his success at BGSU particularly meaningful.

Loeffler's ties to Bowling Green run even deeper through his family. His wife, Amie, is a two-time BGSU graduate, earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in chemistry. Together, the couple has three children: Luke, Alexis, and Mary Elizabeth.



ASSISTANT COACHES



**ROBERT
ARMAND**



**ALEX
BAYER**



**CORNELL
BROWN**



**ERIK
CAMPBELL**



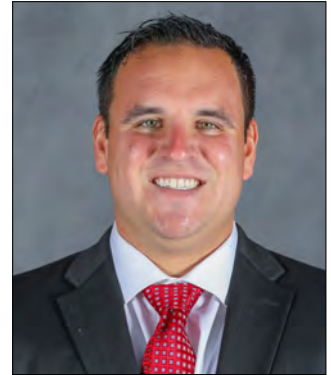
**DERRICK
JACKSON**



**SAMMY
LAWANSON**



**STEVE
MORRISON**



**GREG
NOSAL**



**MAX
WARNER**



**BRIANAC
WHITE**



BOWLING GREEN STATISTICS

Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
	08/29/2024	Fordham	W	41-17	12786
	09/07/2024	at Penn St.	L	27-34	103861
	09/21/2024	at Texas A&M	L	20-26	99523
	09/28/2024	Old Dominion	L	27-30	19140
*	10/05/2024	at Akron	W	27-20	9337
*	10/12/2024	NIU	L	7-17	9559
*	10/19/2024	Kent St.	W	27-6	20858
*	10/26/2024	at Toledo	W	41-26	29697
*	11/05/2024	at Central Mich.	W	23-13	7832
*	11/12/2024	Western Mich.	W	31-13	8461
*	11/23/2024	at Ball St.	W	38-13	7116
*	11/29/2024	Miami (OH)	L	12-28	9345

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Terion Stewart	10	160	935	45	890	5.6	6	73	89.0
Jaison Patterson	12	94	440	29	411	4.4	5	41	34.3
Jamal Johnson	12	23	176	2	174	7.6	1	41	14.5
Rahkeem Smith	12	18	122	3	119	6.6	3	40	9.9
Lucian Anderson III	8	19	85	18	67	3.5	2	19	8.4
Harold Fannin Jr.	12	8	57	0	57	7.1	1	31	4.8
Justin Pegues	12	10	52	1	51	5.1	0	14	4.3
John Henderson	12	3	52	6	46	15.3	0	29	3.8
Mar'Kel Porter	2	4	12	1	11	2.8	0	8	5.5
Chris Edmonds	2	2	8	0	8	4.0	0	5	4.0
Malcolm Johnson Jr.	12	1	0	4	-4	-4.0	0	0	-0.3
Connor Bazalak	12	45	104	183	-79	-1.8	2	19	-6.6
Team	12	14	0	19	-19	-1.4	0	0	-1.6
Total	12	401	2043	311	1732	4.3	20	73	144.3
Opponents	12	411	2065	296	1769	4.3	12	44	147.4

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Connor Bazalak	12	141.5	237-353-5	67.1	2654	15	66	221.2
Lucian Anderson III	8	74.9	5-12-1	41.7	32	1	16	4.0
Harold Fannin Jr.	12	87.8	1-2-0	50.0	9	0	9	0.8
Justin Pegues	12	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Team	12	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	12	138.3	243-369-6	65.9	2695	16	66	224.6
Opponents	12	119.6	195-339-11	57.5	2178	15	75	181.5

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Harold Fannin Jr.	12	100	1342	13.4	9	65	111.8
Malcolm Johnson Jr.	12	47	500	10.6	2	50	41.7
Jamal Johnson	12	28	220	7.9	1	36	18.3
Rahkeem Smith	12	18	252	14.0	2	66	21.0
Finn Hogan	11	15	145	9.7	0	33	13.2
Justin Pegues	12	11	44	4.0	0	7	3.7
Jaison Patterson	12	10	93	9.3	0	18	7.8
Levi Gazarek	12	8	62	7.8	2	17	5.2
Jacob Harris	9	2	5	2.5	0	3	0.6
Terion Stewart	10	1	12	12.0	0	12	1.2
Trey Johnson	11	1	7	7.0	0	7	0.6
Jared Merk	12	1	15	15.0	0	15	1.3
Elijah Boyd	12	1	3	3.0	0	3	0.3
Total	12	243	2695	11.1	16	66	224.6
Opponents	12	195	2178	11.2	15	75	181.5

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	7-5	3-3	4-2	0-0
CONFERENCE	6-2	2-2	4-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	1-3	1-1	0-2	0-0

Team Statistics

	BGSU	OPP
First Downs	236	207
Rushing	96	94
Passing	125	98
Penalty	15	15
Rushing Yardage	1732	1769
Rushing attempts	401	411
Average per rush	4.3	4.3
Average per game	144.3	147.4
TDs Rushing	20	12
Passing Yardage	2695	2178
Comp-Att-Int	243-369-6	195-339-11
Average per pass	7.3	6.4
Average per catch	11.1	11.2
Average per game	224.6	181.5
TDs Passing	16	15
Total offense	4427	3947
Average per play	5.7	5.3
Average per game	368.9	328.9
Kick returns: #-Yards	25-553	26-510
Punt returns: #-Yards	22-104	8-34
Int returns: #-Yards	11-142	6-64
Fumbles-Lost	15-4	10-2
Penalties-Yards	63-539	60-522
Punts-Avg	48-40.8	57-40.5
Time of possession / game	31:48	28:12
3rd-down conversion	60/161	54/165
4th-down conversion	13/22	17/28
PAT-attempts	(35-36) 97%	(22-23) 96%
2-point conversion-attempts	(1-2) 50%	(1-5) 20%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jordan Oladokun	4	134	33.5	1	61
Jacorey Benjamin	2	8	4.0	0	5
Todd Bumphis	2	0	0.0	0	0
Patrick Day	1	0	0.0	0	0
CJ Brown	1	0	0.0	0	0
Edward Rhambo	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	11	142	12.9	1	61
Opponents	6	64	10.7	0	42



BOWLING GREEN STATISTICS

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Zach Long	12-15	80.0	0-0	1-2	5-6	5-6	1-1	50	1
Jackson Kleather	6-9	66.7	0-0	1-2	3-3	2-3	0-1	45	0
Opponents	17-20	85.0	0-0	7-8	4-4	4-4	2-4	54	1

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT				dxp	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Harold Fannin Jr.	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Zach Long	-	12-15	18-18	-	-	-	-	-	54
Terion Stewart	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Jackson Kleather	-	6-9	17-18	-	-	-	-	-	35
Jaison Patterson	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Rahkeem Smith	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Jamal Johnson	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14
Connor Bazalak	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12
Malcolm Johnson Jr.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Levi Gazarek	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Lucian Anderson III	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Jordan Oladokun	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Justin Pegues	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	38	18-24	35-36	0	1	1	0	1	321
Opponents	28	17-20	22-23	0	1	1	0	0	243

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Bowling Green	88	93	70	70	0	321
Opponents	58	72	33	80	0	243



Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
John Henderson	48	1958	40.8	66	1	20	21	6	0
Total	48	1958	40.8	66	1	20	21	6	0
Opponents	57	2307	40.5	61	1	16	23	9	2

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Justin Pegues	19	85	4.5	0	24
Rahkeem Smith	2	0	0.0	0	0
Trey Johnson	1	19	19.0	0	19
Total	22	104	4.7	0	24
Opponents	8	34	4.3	0	12

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Rahkeem Smith	12	238	19.8	0	32
Justin Pegues	9	263	29.2	1	100
Jaison Patterson	2	41	20.5	0	22
Patrick Day	1	4	4.0	0	4
Bam Booker	1	7	7.0	0	7
Total	25	553	22.1	1	100
Opponents	26	510	19.6	0	49

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Harold Fannin Jr.	12	57	1342	0	0	0	1399	116.6
Terion Stewart	10	890	12	0	0	0	902	90.2
Rahkeem Smith	12	119	252	0	238	0	609	50.8
Jaison Patterson	12	411	93	0	41	0	545	45.4
Malcolm Johnson Jr.	12	-4	500	0	0	0	496	41.3
Justin Pegues	12	51	44	85	263	0	443	36.9
Jamal Johnson	12	174	220	0	0	0	394	32.8
Finn Hogan	11	0	145	0	0	0	145	13.2
Jordan Oladokun	12	0	0	0	0	134	134	11.2
Lucian Anderson III	8	67	0	0	0	0	67	8.4
Levi Gazarek	12	0	62	0	0	0	62	5.2
John Henderson	12	46	0	0	0	0	46	3.8
Trey Johnson	11	0	7	19	0	0	26	2.4
Jared Merk	12	0	15	0	0	0	15	1.3
Mar'Kel Porter	2	11	0	0	0	0	11	5.5
Jacorey Benjamin	12	0	0	0	0	8	8	0.7
Chris Edmonds	2	8	0	0	0	0	8	4.0
Bam Booker	8	0	0	0	7	0	7	0.9
Jacob Harris	9	0	5	0	0	0	5	0.6
Patrick Day	12	0	0	0	4	0	4	0.3
Elijah Boyd	12	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.3
Nate Pabst	12	0	-5	0	0	0	-5	-0.4
Connor Bazalak	12	-79	0	0	0	0	-79	-6.6
Total	12	1732	2695	104	553	142	5226	435.5
Opponents	12	1769	2178	34	510	64	4555	379.6

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Connor Bazalak	12	398	-79	2654	2575	214.6
Terion Stewart	10	160	890	0	890	89.0
Jaison Patterson	12	94	411	0	411	34.3
Jamal Johnson	12	23	174	0	174	14.5
Rahkeem Smith	12	18	119	0	119	9.9
Lucian Anderson III	8	31	67	32	99	12.4
Harold Fannin Jr.	12	10	57	9	66	5.5
Justin Pegues	12	11	51	0	51	4.3
John Henderson	12	3	46	0	46	3.8
Mar'Kel Porter	2	4	11	0	11	5.5
Chris Edmonds	2	2	8	0	8	4.0
Malcolm Johnson Jr.	12	1	-4	0	-4	-0.3
Total	12	770	1732	2695	4427	368.9
Opponents	12	750	1769	2178	3947	328.9





BOWLING GREEN STATISTICS

Team Defense

##	Player	gp	Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
3	Joseph Sipp Jr.	12	38	37	75	10.5-33	6-27	.	2	1	1-0	.	.	.
2	Brock Horne	12	28	46	74	5-30	1.5-8	.	1	2	.	2	.	.
6	CJ Brown	12	39	28	67	2.5-10	.	1-0	1	1	.	.	.	.
13	Charles Rosser	12	27	32	59	8.5-59	5.5-52	.	.	4	.	2	.	.
5	Anthony Hawkins	12	14	28	42	7.5-37	5-34	.	3	2	.	1	.	.
99	Ali Saad	12	17	20	37	8-41	3.5-23	.	.	2	.	2	1	.
1	Jordan Oladokun	12	27	8	35	0.5-2	.	4-134	7	1	.	.	.	.
12	Tracy Revels	12	14	20	34	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.
0	Darius McClendon	12	14	15	29	2-18	1.5-17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Avi McGary	12	17	10	27	3-10	0.5-4	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
7	Jacorey Benjamin	12	17	9	26	2-2	.	2-8	6	.	.	.	.	.
8	Trent Simms	12	11	15	26	1-2	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
9	Darius Lorfilis	8	12	12	24	1-3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
60	Dontrez Brown	12	3	19	22	2-8	1-6	.	2	4	.	.	.	.
4	Edward Rhambo	8	14	8	22	1-1	.	1-0	2	.	1-0	.	.	.
23	Myles Bradley	12	10	11	21	2-11	1-10	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
32	Patrick Day	12	9	11	20	0.5-1	.	1-0	3	.	.	.	.	.
16	Chace Davis	11	6	14	20	3-21	1.5-18	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
33	Jordan Porter	12	7	12	19	1.5-11	1.5-11	.	1	2	.	.	.	.
55	Evan Branch-Haynes	12	4	14	18	1.5-1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
24	Justin Eklund	12	6	9	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Kal-El Pascal	11	9	4	13	1-1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
90	Davonte Miles	10	.	10	10	1-0	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
10	Donny Stephens	6	3	4	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
21	Todd Bumphis	8	4	2	6	1-5	0.5-4	2-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
42	Chris Williams	11	.	4	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
57	DayIn White	5	.	3	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
18	Jalen Burton	4	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Jamal Johnson	12	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
87	Jared Merk	12	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	Dorian Pringle	10	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
65	Jake Burns	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Jaison Patterson	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
38	Dierre Kelly	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	Trey Johnson	11	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
0	Harold Fannin Jr.	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Rahkeem Smith	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
20	Justin Pegues	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	David Afogho	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
54	Brody Bolyn	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
19	Alijah Williams	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Malik Moses	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
45	Bam Booker	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
46	Zach Long	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Totals		12	362	412	774	66-307	29-214	11-142	33	32	2-0	8	3	1
Opponents		12	404	410	814	82-302	26-178	6-64	38	35	4-17	6	1	0

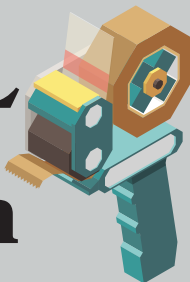
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SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 1

BOWLING GREEN 41, FORDHAM 17

Aug. 29, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | Bowling Green, Ohio

Justin Pegues returned the game's opening kickoff for a touchdown, and the Bowling Green State University football team never looked back. The Falcons opened the 2024 season with a 41-17 win over Fordham University on Thursday night (Aug. 29) at Doyt L. Perry Stadium.

Terion Stewart ran for 161 yards and three touchdowns for the Falcons, who scored on three-straight possessions after the Pegues kickoff return. BGSU scored the game's first 27 points, and the Falcons were never headed.

The win was the program's 175th-ever victory inside Perry Stadium.

BGSU scored 20 first-quarter points, rolling up 171 yards of offense in that quarter alone.

Connor Bazelak threw for 168 yards in the game, and ran for a score. Harold Fannin Jr. caught six passes for a game-high 67 yards, while Jamal Johnson had four receptions for 54 yards in the win.

GAME 2

NO. 8 PENN STATE 34, BOWLING GREEN 27

Sept. 7, 2024 | Beaver Stadium | University Park, Pa.

The Bowling Green football team put up a valiant effort in Happy Valley against No. 8 Penn State but fell short 34-27. The Falcons took a 24-20 lead into the half after an electric first half. However, the second half saw Penn State reclaim the advantage for the 34-27 final. BGSU moves to 1-1 on the young season with a bye next weekend.

Bazelak located Fannin into the end zone on a six-yard touchdown for a 7-0 Bowling Green lead. Penn State answered on the ensuing drive to knot the game up at 7-7.

BG's next drive carried down to the Penn State 15, resulting in a 33-yard field goal off the foot of Jackson Kleather for a 10-7 lead.

Bazelak found Johnson going towards the back left pylon of the end zone for a 15-yard touchdown for a 17-7 BGSU lead.

The Penn State answer came on the next drive to bring the score to 17-14. The Nittany Lions later added a 43-yard field goal to tie the game at 17-17.

The Falcons were quick to respond. Jamal Johnson carried it into the end zone from 41-yards out to put BGSU back on top 24-17, marking his first rushing touchdown of his career.

Penn State drove down the field, but an Avi McGary tackle for loss halted the drive on third down, forcing a PSU field goal for the 24-20 halftime tally.

The first score of the second half came on a 14-yard pass to swing the lead to Penn State, 27-24.

Penn State added a score with just over four minutes remaining in the fourth to push their lead to 34-24. The Falcons authored a nine-play drive on the ensuing possession, capped off by a Jackson Kleather 42-yard field goal with 47 seconds left to make it a one score game. BG tried for an onside kick but was unsuccessful.

GAME 3

NO. 25/24 TEXAS A&M 26, BOWLING GREEN 20

Sept. 21, 2024 | Kyle Field | College Station, Texas

The Bowling Green football team traveled down to Texas to take on the No. 25 Texas A&M Aggies, playing to a 26-20 finish. Texas A&M came out swinging with a first drive score, taking a 13-3 tally into the halftime locker room. BGSU blasted open the second half with a 65-yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage to bring the score within three at 13-10. The Aggies and Falcons traded blows through the second half to the 26-20 final.

Texas A&M found the end zone on their opening drive after a fourth-down conversion to move out to a 7-0 lead in the game.

After trading punts, the Falcons worked the ball downfield, crossing over the end of the first quarter, before putting points on the board with a 33-yard field goal off the foot of Jackson Kleather for a 7-3 score.

Texas A&M answered with a field goal of their own on the following drive, hitting from 28 out to move their lead back to a touchdown at 10-3. The Aggies added a late field goal from 29-yards to push their lead to 13-3 with two seconds left in the first half.

The Falcons opened the second half with a 65-yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage. Connor Bazelak located Harold Fannin Jr. downfield on a corner route with Fannin using multiple cut moves to find the end zone and cut into the lead 13-10.

Texas A&M answered, finding the end zone for a 5-yard score to make it 20-10.

Bowling Green immediately gave their response. Lining up at the Texas A&M 40, Lucian Anderson III checked in at quarterback. Anderson handed off to Terion Stewart, who flipped the ball in reverse to Rahkeem Smith for a 40-yard touchdown, cutting into the Aggie lead, 20-17.

Texas A&M added a field goal from 34-yards out to bring the score to 23-17 early in the fourth quarter. They added a 42-yarder with just over seven minutes remaining for a 26-17 score.

Kleather converted a 23-yard field goal to chip away at the lead, 26-20, with 38 seconds remaining in the game.



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 4

OLD DOMINION 30, BOWLING GREEN 27

Sept. 28, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | Bowling Green, Ohio

Aaron Young's short touchdown run with 24 seconds remaining lifted Old Dominion to a 30-27 win over the Bowling Green at Doyt L. Perry Stadium.

The Falcons (1-3) fell despite a monster game from tight end Harold Fannin Jr., who had 12 receptions for 192 yards and two touchdowns. Connor Bazalak threw for 303 yards and those two scores, going 27-of-36 through the air.

Terion Stewart and Jaison Patterson each scored a touchdown on the ground for the Orange and Brown, but Pat Conroy had 99 receiving yards and a pair of touchdowns for the Monarchs (1-3), who played South Carolina, East Carolina and Virginia Tech prior to meeting the Falcons on Saturday.

BGSU had a 23-16 advantage in first downs and a 399-333 lead in total offense.

GAME 5

BOWLING GREEN 27, AKRON 20

Oct. 5, 2024 | InfoCision Stadium–Summa Field | Akron, Ohio

Harold Fannin Jr. streaked 31 yards on 4th-and-2 with 2:39 left for his first rushing touchdown of the season, elevating the Bowling Green Falcons to a 27-20 triumph over the Akron Zips. It was the program's 300th all-time win in MAC play, which ranks No. 3 all-time in league history.

Fannin finished with 172 all-purpose yards and extended his Bowling Green tight end record for consecutive games with 100+ receiving yards to four games. The junior from Canton, Ohio caught nine passes for 135 and 78 yards after catch. His 63-yard reception on Bowling Green's first drive set up Jaison Patterson's first rushing touchdown of the game.

Patterson punched in his second rushing touchdown with 22 seconds left in the second quarter to give the Falcons a 17-10 lead heading into the intermission.

The Zips made a push after Fannin's touchdown. The Falcon defense held strong after Akron made it down to the BGSU 18-yard line with a minute to play. A rush for no gain and three incomplete passes gave the ball back to the Falcons with 54 seconds left.

Connor Bazalak was exquisite from the pocket, going 24-of-30 for 268 yards. It is the fourth-straight game Bazalak has thrown for over 200 yards. Bowling Green won its conference opener for the first time since 2022 when the Falcons also won at Akron to open league play.



GAME 6

NORTHERN ILLINOIS 17, BOWLING GREEN 7

Oct. 12, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | Bowling Green, Ohio

The Bowling Green football team hosted Northern Illinois for Kids Day, falling 17-7. The first points of the game came via a field goal by NIU. Bowling Green answered with a Bazalak-Fannin touchdown, but Northern Illinois went on to score 14 unanswered to move in front 17-7 for the final.

GAME 7

BOWLING GREEN 27, KENT STATE 6

Oct. 19, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | Bowling Green, Ohio

Bowling Green took on Kent State in front of 20,850 fans at Doyt Perry Stadium. A beautiful day in Bowling Green was only made better by a 27-6 victory for the Falcons, pushing BGSU to 3-4 on the season and 2-1 within the Mid-American Conference.

Offensively, Terion Stewart ran for 124 yards, while Connor Bazalak completed 23 of his 27 passes for 313 yards and two touchdowns.

Harold Fannin Jr. caught 10 of those passes for 171 yards.

Defensively, the Falcons held Kent State to just 204 yards of total offense. KSU quarterbacks combined to go just 7-for-29, and BGSU came up with three interceptions in the win.

KSU wide receiver Chrishon McCray had a combined 401 yards and five touchdowns in the Golden Flashes' last two games, against Eastern Michigan and Ball State. But, on Saturday, Jordan Olodokun and the BGSU defense held McCray to just three catches for 21 yards.





SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 8

BOWLING GREEN 41, TOLEDO 26

Oct. 26, 2024 | Glass Bowl | Toledo, Ohio

Bowling Green left no doubt in the Battle of I-75 against rival Toledo, as they prevailed, 41-26, at the Glass Bowl. They have now won two of their last three matchups vs. the Rockets, and both have come on the road. The Falcons move to 4-4 (3-1 MAC) on the season and led the entire contest.

BGSU scored touchdowns on three of their first four possessions and outrushed Toledo, 215-102, while forcing two turnovers (both on Jordan Oladokun interceptions) in the game. In the second half, the Falcon defense held the Rockets to just 168 total yards, including 44 on the ground.

Bowling Green won at the Glass Bowl in consecutive trips (2022 and 2024) for the first time in 30 years (1992 and 1994). The Falcons have scored 83 points in the last two trips to the Glass Bowl. Scot Loeffler is 3-3 all-time in the Battle of I-75, including winning two of the last three.

GAME 9

BOWLING GREEN 23, CENTRAL MICHIGAN 13

Nov. 5, 2024 | Kelly/Shorts Stadium | Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Seventeen-mile an hour winds and driving rain could not stop Bowling Green, as they slugged their way to a 23-13 victory over Central Michigan, on Tuesday night, at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

In a MACtion game on ESPN2 that took place in front of a national television audience, the Falcons showcased their strength upon the Chippewas by possessing the ball for 35:53, forcing three fumbles and piling up 388 yards of total offense.

The Falcons forced a turnover on a strip sack by Anthony Hawkins on Central Michigan's first drive of the second half and Levi Gazarek scored his second career touchdown in as many games, while Jaison Patterson put the game away with a one-yard plunge in the fourth quarter.

GAME 10

BOWLING GREEN 31, WESTERN MICHIGAN 13

Nov. 12, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | Bowling Green, Ohio

The Bowling Green football team secured a 31-13 MACtion win over Western Michigan on Tuesday night at Doyt L. Perry Stadium. The Falcons fell behind 7-3 early in the second quarter, but rattled off 28 unanswered points with two touchdowns in both the second and third quarters. The win clinches bowl eligibility for the Falcons with their sixth victory of the season and propels the Orange and Brown to 5-1 within the Mid-American Conference.

Harold Fannin Jr. paced the Falcons with 10 catches for 137 yards and two scores, breaking the program's career record

for touchdown receptions by a tight end. The yardage also put Fannin at the top of the nation's receivers list for receiving yardage. On the ground, Terion Stewart added 15 carries for 150 yards and a touchdown.

GAME 11

BOWLING GREEN 38, BALL STATE 13

Nov. 23, 2024 | Scheumann Stadium | Muncie, Ind.

The Bowling Green football team handled business at Ball State, as they grounded the Cardinals, 38-13.

Rahkeem Smith led the way with three total touchdowns, and Harold Fannin Jr. posted 125 receiving yards on nine catches, including a score.

The Falcons handled Ball State in the run game, as the unit allowed a season-low 43 yards on the ground. They also registered four sacks.

BGSU won its seventh game of the year. It is the second year in a row the Falcons have won at least seven games. BGSU won its fifth game in a row. It is BGSU's longest winning streak since winning seven in row during the 2015 season. BGSU secured its sixth MAC win of the year. It is the most MAC wins by the Falcons since going 7-1 in league play in 2015.

GAME 12

MIAMI (OH) 28, BOWLING GREEN 12

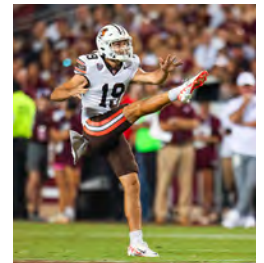
Nov. 29, 2024 | Doyt Perry Stadium | Bowling Green, Ohio

Miami University got a first-quarter touchdown to take an early lead, and the RedHawks were able to hold off every comeback effort by Bowling Green Friday afternoon. The RedHawks picked up a 28-12 win in Mid-American Conference action at Doyt Perry Stadium.

BGSU cut that early deficit to just two points on two occasions, getting within 7-5 midway through the second quarter and 14-12 early in the fourth. But, the RedHawks responded with touchdown drives in each case, and MU salted the game away with a late score.

Brett Gabbert threw for 255 yards and three scores for the visitors. Only three Miami players caught passes, but that trio combined for 28 receptions.

For the Falcons, Connor Bazalak was 26-of-41 for 201 yards through the air, while Malcolm Johnson Jr. and Harold Fannin Jr. each had eight catches.



Jaison Patterson scored BGSU's touchdown on a fourth-quarter run, while Patrick Day and Anthony Hawkins combined to tackle a Miami runner in the end zone for a second-quarter safety.

Zach Long made his only field-goal attempt on the day, connecting from 41 yards away.

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BOWLING GREEN ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown	High School/Previous School
0	Harold Fannin Jr.**	TE	6-4	230	Jr.	Canton, Ohio	McKinley
0	Darius McClendon	CB	6-2	190	Sr.*	Boynton Beach, Fla.	Forest Hill/FAU
1	Malcolm Johnson Jr.	WR	6-1	195	Sr.*	Bryans Road, Md.	St. Stephen's and St. Agnes/Auburn
1	Jordan Oladokun**	CB	6-0	190	Sr.	Tampa, Fla.	Gaither/Samford
2	RJ Garcia II	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Tampa, Fla.	Berkeley Prep/Kansas State
2	Brock Horne****	ILB	6-1	235	Sr.*	Romeo, Mich.	Romeo
3	Lucian Anderson III	QB	6-3	200	R-Fr.	Athens, Ga.	Clarke Central
3	Joseph Sipp Jr.**	ILB	6-0	225	Jr.	Tampa, Fla.	Hillsborough
4	Terion Stewart***	RB	5-9	220	Jr.	Memphis, Tenn.	Sandusky (Ohio)
5	Anthony Hawkins****	DL	6-2	295	Sr.*	Mansfield, Ohio	Mansfield Senior
6	CJ Brown	S	5-11	195	Jr.	Canton, Mich.	Walled Lake Western/NIU
6	Jamal Johnson***	RB	5-10	200	Sr.	Frankford, Ill.	Lincoln-Way East
7	Connor Bazelak*	QB	6-3	225	Sr.*	Dayton, Ohio	Archbishop Alter/Indiana
7	Jacorey Benjamin	CB	5-11	185	Sr.*	Mobile, Ala.	Alief Hastings (Texas)/Texas Southern
8	Trent Simms****	S	6-0	225	Sr.	Toledo, Ohio	Sylvania Northview
9	Isaac Hill	TE	6-4	215	Fr.	Steubenville, Ohio	Steubenville
9	Darius Lorfilis**	S	6-2	190	Jr.	Germantown, Md.	Northwest
10	Levi Gazarek***	TE	6-5	250	Sr.	North Baltimore, Ohio	North Baltimore
10	Donny Stephens	ILB	6-0	230	Jr.	Del City, Okla.	Del City/Oklahoma State
11	Demetrius Hardamon**	OLB	6-4	245	Sr.*	Beavercreek, Ohio	Beavercreek/Georgetown College (Ky.)
11	Finn Hogan*	WR	6-5	220	Jr.	Maple City, Mich.	Glen Lake/Central Michigan
12	Tracy Revels	S	6-1	185	R-Fr.	Texarkana, Texas	Liberty-Eylau
13	Cynceir McNeal	WR	6-4	210	R-Fr.	Canton, Ohio	McKinley
13	Charles Rosser***	OLB	6-3	230	Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio	Benedictine
14	Jackson Kleather*	K	5-10	175	So.	Tipp City, Ohio	Tippecanoe
14	Jonny Sorensen	QB	6-2	195	Fr.	Hobart, Ind.	Hobart
15	Caleb Goodloe	WR	6-1	205	Fr.	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Clearwater Central Catholic
15	Avi McGary***	OLB	6-2	195	Sr.*	Cincinnati, Ohio	Lakota East
16	Chace Davis*	DL	6-4	275	Sr.	Whittier, Calif.	La Serna/UTSA
16	Rahkeem Smith	WR	5-9	175	Jr.	Baltimore, Md.	Calvert Hall/Delaware St.
17	Trey Johnson	WR	6-0	195	So.	Frankfort, Ill.	Lincoln-Way East
18	Baron May	QB	6-0	195	Jr.	New Philadelphia, Ohio	New Philadelphia/East Tennessee State
18	Winn Sharp	WR	6-5	195	Fr.	Whitehouse, Ohio	Anthony Wayne
19	John Henderson	P	6-1	180	Jr.	Acton, Calif.	Desert Christian/Antelope Valley College
19	Shawn Thigpen	WR	6-4	180	R-Fr.	Springfield, Ohio	Springfield
20	TJ Nelson	S	6-0	200	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Anderson
20	Justin Pegues	RB	5-9	175	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala.	Thompson/Tennessee Tech
21	Todd Bumphis	CB	6-0	200	Sr.*	Toledo, Ohio	St. Francis De Sales/Cincinnati
22	Nakai Amachree	RB	5-10	195	Fr.	Haslett, Mich.	Haslett
22	Kal-El Pascal	CB	6-0	190	Fr.	Miami, Fla.	Dr. Michael Krop Senior
23	Myles Bradley*	OLB	6-0	235	So.	Mansfield, Ohio	Mansfield
23	Jaden Copening	RB	6-0	205	Fr.	East Hartford, Conn.	St. Thomas More School
24	Bryce DeFalco	RB	5-10	195	R-Fr.	Pemberville, Ohio	Eastwood
24	Justin Eklund	OLB	6-2	225	So.	Rocklin, Calif.	Folsom/San Jose State
25	Jace Henry	CB	6-0	180	R-Fr.	Pataskala, Ohio	Watkins Memorial
25	Mar'Kel Porter	RB	6-1	220	Fr.	Dallas, Texas	Lancaster
26	Cameron Pettaway	RB	5-10	175	Fr.	Farmington Hills, Mich.	Farmington
27	Coleman Teasdale	S	6-1	185	R-Fr.	Louisville, Colo.	Centaurus/East Coast Prep
28	Jaison Patterson***	RB	6-0	220	Sr.	Jacksonville, Fla.	Edward H. White
28	Victor Vazquez	S	5-10	185	Jr.	Miami, Fla.	Florida Christian
30	Dorian Pringle	ILB	6-0	225	Fr.	Massillon, Ohio	Massillon Washington
30	PaSean Wimberly***	RB	5-10	180	Sr.*	Toledo, Ohio	Whitmer
31	D'kyah Banks	S	6-5	175	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga.	Grayson
32	Patrick Day****	S	5-11	195	Sr.*	Hilliard, Ohio	Bradley
33	Jordan Porter****	DL	6-4	270	Sr.*	Muskegon, Mich.	Muskegon
34	Elias Owens	OLB	6-5	210	Fr.	Mansfield, Ohio	Mansfield Senior
36	Jabari Mitchell	ILB	6-3	230	R-Fr.	Reynoldsburg, Ohio	Reynoldsburg



BOWLING GREEN ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown	High School/Previous School
37	Garrison Blair	CB	5-10	175	Fr.	Carrollton, Texas	Hebron
38	Dierre Kelly***	DL	6-2	275	Sr.	Gary, Ind.	Merrillville
39	Henry Reifschneider	ILB	6-0	210	Fr.	Waynesville, Ohio	Archbishop Alter
40	Ethan Warner	PK	5-9	180	So.	Bowling Green, Ohio	Bowling Green
41	Josira Andrews	S	5-10	170	Fr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Erasmus Hall
41	Quillan Jimenez	LS	6-2	230	R-Fr.	Tampa, Fla.	Sickles/Houston
42	Chris Williams**	ILB	6-2	235	Sr.	Alpharetta, Ga.	King's Ridge Christian
43	Martreece Dillard	DL	6-5	275	Fr.	Buford, Ga.	Buford
44	David Afogho	ILB	6-3	235	R-Fr.	Boston, Mass.	Catholic Memorial
45	Bam Booker*	DL	6-3	275	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Winton Woods/Maryland
46	Zach Long	K	6-3	190	Jr.	Tampa, Fla.	Hillsborough/Troy
46	Devin Taborn	ILB	5-10	220	So.	Sidney, Ohio	Sidney/Mount Union
47	George Carlson**	LS	6-1	225	Jr.	Woodstock, Ill.	Marian Central
50	Alex Wollschlaeger***	OT	6-7	305	Sr.	Aurora, Ill.	Oswego East
51	Dillon Robinson	OT	6-3	280	Fr.	Whitehouse, Ohio	Anthony Wayne
54	Brody Boly	C	6-3	305	R-Fr.	Uniondale, Ind.	Norwell
55	Evan Branch-Haynes*	DL	6-2	300	Jr.	Richmond, Calif.	Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep/Arizona
55	Tunde Fatukasi**	OT	6-5	320	Sr.	Far Rockaway, N.Y.	Erasmus Hall/Rutgers
56	Ian van der Merwe	DL	6-1	260	So.	Tucson, Ariz.	Ironwood Ridge
57	Alex Padgett**	C	6-6	330	Jr.	Avon Lake, Ohio	Avon Lake
57	DayIn White	DL	6-4	295	R-Fr.	Lewisville, Texas	Hebron
60	Dontrez Brown****	DL	6-3	300	Sr.*	Fremont, Ohio	Fremont Ross
65	Jake Burns*	C	6-2	305	Sr.	Akron, Ohio	Archbishop Hoban/Cincinnati
70	Alex Harris	OT	6-5	305	Fr.	Cleveland, Ohio	Rhodes
71	Rico Steele	OT	6-4	305	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	West Mifflin Area
72	Cade Zimmerly**	C/OG	6-1	295	Jr.	Perrysburg, Ohio	Perrysburg
75	Nate Pabst*	OT	6-5	310	Jr.	Springdale, Ohio	Archbishop Moeller
77	James Thomas Jr.	OG	6-5	300	R-Fr.	Fairfield, Ohio	Fairfield
80	Ocean Brabbs	TE	6-3	195	Fr.	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Pioneer
81	Elijah Boyd	TE	6-4	250	Jr.	Fairfield, Calif.	Armijo/UTEP
82	Eli Jacon-Duffy	TE	6-4	230	Fr.	Pleasant Plain, Ohio	Archbishop Moeller
83	Pierce St Geme	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	San Francisco, Calif.	St. Ignatius Prep
84	Dom Grguric*	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Cuyahoga Fall, Ohio	Walsh Jesuit/Valparaiso
85	Caden Campbell	TE	6-4	260	Fr.	Rochester, Mich.	De La Salle
85	Travis Kenner	PK	5-10	180	R-Fr.	Toledo, Ohio	St. Francis de Sales
86	Ian Drummond*	TE	6-4	250	Sr.*	Lewis Center, Ohio	Olentangy/Elon
87	Jared Merk	WR	6-2	190	R-Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Archbishop Moeller
88	Jacob Harris	TE	6-4	245	R-Fr.	Westerville, Ohio	Westerville Central
89	Blane Cleaver	TE	6-2	240	Jr.	Berwick, Pa.	Berwick Area/Army
90	Davonte Miles*	DL	6-5	275	So.	River Rouge, Mich.	River Rouge
95	Joe Shimko	DL	6-4	270	Fr.	Stuart, Fla.	Martin County
97	Darius Gaddy	DL	6-9	350	Jr.	Atlanta, Ga.	Meadowcreek/SW Ohio Prep
98	Malik Moses	DL	6-4	270	Fr.	Snellville, Ga.	South Gwinnett
99	Ali Saad***	DL	6-3	280	Sr.	Windsor, Ont.	Dearborn (Mich.)/Minnesota

Key:

Yr* = utilizing COVID year, *** beside name indicates letters won





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BOWLING GREEN DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Position No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
WR (X) 11	Finn Hogan	6-5	220	Jr.
18	Winn Sharp	6-5	195	Fr.
LT 55	Tunde Fatukasi	6-5	320	Sr.
75	Nate Pabst	6-5	310	Jr.
LG 75	Nate Pabst	6-5	310	Jr.
72	Cade Zimmerly	6-1	295	Jr.
C 57	Alex Padgett	6-6	330	Jr.
54	Brody Bolyn	6-3	305	R-Fr.
RG 65	Jake Burns	6-2	305	Sr.
55	Tunde Fatukasi	6-5	320	Sr.
RT 50	Alex Wollschlaeger	6-7	295	Sr.
77	James Thomas Jr.	6-5	300	R-Fr.
TE (A) 0	Harold Fannin Jr.	6-4	230	Jr.
88	Jacob Harris	6-4	245	R-Fr.
QB 7	Connor Bazelak	6-3	225	Sr.
3	Lucian Anderson III	6-3	200	R-Fr.
or 12	Camden Orth	6-3	225	Sr.
TB 4	Terion Stewart	5-9	220	Jr.
28	Jaison Patterson	6-0	220	Sr.
6	Jamal Johnson	5-10	200	Sr.
or 20	Justin Pegues	5-9	175	Jr.
TE (Y) 10	Levi Gazarek	6-5	250	Sr.
81	Elijah Boyd	6-4	250	Jr.
WR (Z) 1	Malcolm Johnson Jr.	6-1	195	Sr.
2	RJ Garcia II	6-0	180	Jr.

DEFENSE

Position No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
DT 60	Dontrez Brown	6-3	300	Sr.
90	Davonte Miles	6-5	275	So.
NG 5	Anthony Hawkins	6-2	295	Sr.
55	Evan Branch-Haynes	6-2	300	Jr.
DE 99	Ali Saad	6-3	280	Sr.
33	Jordan Porter	6-4	270	Sr.
16	Chace Davis	6-4	275	Sr.
RLB 11	Demetrius Hardamon	6-4	245	Sr.
23	Myles Bradley	6-0	235	So.
WLB 3	Joseph Sipp Jr.	6-0	225	Jr.
8	Trent Simms	6-0	225	Sr.
MLB 2	Brock Horne	6-1	235	Sr.
10	Donny Stephens	6-0	230	Jr.
SLB 13	Charles Rosser	6-3	230	Sr.
15	Avi McGary	6-2	195	Sr.
BC 7	Jacorey Benjamin	5-11	185	Sr.
21	Todd Bumphis	6-0	200	Sr.
BS 6	CJ Brown	5-11	195	Sr.
32	Patrick Day	5-11	195	Sr.
FS 9	Darius Lorfils	6-2	190	Jr.
12	Tracy Revels	6-1	185	R-Fr.
FC 1	Jordan Oladokun	6-0	190	Sr.
0	Darius McClendon	6-2	190	Sr.
NICKEL 0	Darius McClendon	6-2	190	Sr.
15	Avi McGary	6-2	195	Sr.



SPECIALISTS

Position No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
P 19	John Henderson	6-1	180	Jr.
14	Jackson Kleather	5-10	175	So.
PK 14	Jackson Kleather	5-10	175	So.
or 46	Zach Long	6-3	190	Jr.
KO 46	Zach Long	6-3	190	Jr.
40	Ethan Warner	5-9	180	So.
HOLD 85	Travis Kenner	5-10	180	R-Fr.
LS 47	George Carlson	6-1	225	Jr.
41	Quillan Jimenez	6-2	230	R-Fr.
PR 20	Justin Pegues	5-9	175	Jr.
16	Rahkeem Smith	5-9	175	Jr.
KOR 20	Justin Pegues	5-9	175	Jr.
1	Malcolm Johnson Jr.	6-1	195	Sr.





David Afogho **44**
ILB 6-3 235 R-Fr.



Nakai Amachree **22**
RB 5-10 195 Fr.



Lucian Anderson III **3**
QB 6-3 200 R-Fr.



Josira Andrews **41**
S 5-10 170 Fr.



D'kyah Banks **31**
S 6-5 175 Fr.



Connor Bazalak **7**
QB 6-3 225 Sr.



Jacorey Benjamin **7**
CB 5-11 185 Sr.



Garrison Blair **37**
CB 5-10 175 Fr.



Brody Bolynd **54**
C 6-3 305 R-Fr.



Bam Booker **17**
DL 6-3 275 So.



Elijah Boyd **81**
TE 6-4 250 Jr.



Ocean Brabbs **80**
TE 6-3 195 Fr.



Myles Bradley **23**
OLB 6-0 235 So.



Evan Branch-Haynes **55**
DL 6-2 300 Jr.



CJ Brown **6**
S 5-11 195 Jr.



Dontrez Brown **60**
DL 6-3 300 Sr.



Todd Bumphis **21**
CB 6-0 200 Sr.



Jake Burns **65**
C 6-2 305 Sr.



Caden Campbell **85**
TE 6-4 260 Fr.



George Carlson **47**
LS 6-1 225 Jr.



Blane Cleaver **89**
TE 6-2 240 Jr.



Jaden Copening **23**
RB 6-0 205 Fr.



Chase Davis **16**
DL 6-4 275 Sr.



Patrick Day **32**
S 5-11 195 Sr.



Bryce DeFalco **24**
RB 5-10 195 R-Fr.

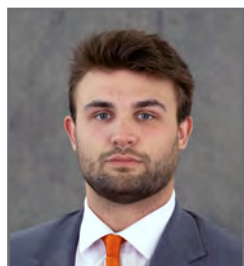


PLAYERS



Martreece Dillard **43**

DL 6-5 275 Fr.



Ian Drummond **86**

TE 6-4 250 Sr.



Justin Eklund **24**

OLB 6-2 225 So.



Harold Fannin Jr. **0**

TE 6-4 230 Jr.



Tunde Fatukasi **55**

OT 6-5 320 Sr.



Darius Gaddy **97**

DL 6-9 350 Jr.



RJ Garcia II **2**

WR 6-0 180 Jr.



Levi Gazarek **10**

TE 6-5 250 Sr.



Caleb Goodloe **15**

WR 6-1 205 Fr.



Dom Grguric **84**

WR 6-0 180 Jr.



Demetrius Hardamon **11**

OLB 6-4 245 Sr.



Alex Harris **70**

OT 6-5 305 Fr.



Jacob Harris **88**

TE 6-4 245 R-Fr.



Anthony Hawkins **5**

DL 6-2 295 Sr.



John Henderson **19**

P 6-1 180 Jr.



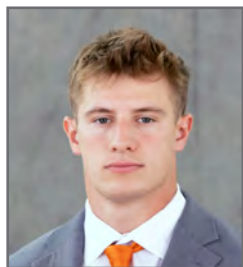
Jace Henry **25**

CB 6-0 180 R-Fr.



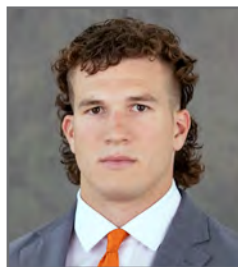
Isaac Hill **9**

TE 6-4 215 Fr.



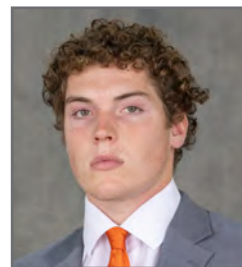
Finn Hogan **11**

WR 6-5 220 Jr.



Brock Horne **2**

ILB 6-1 235 Sr.



Eli Jacon-Duffy **82**

TE 6-4 230 Fr.



Quillan Jimenez **41**

LS 6-2 230 R-Fr.



Jamal Johnson **6**

RB 5-10 200 Sr.



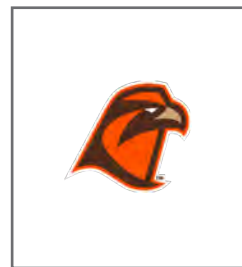
Malcolm Johnson Jr. **1**

WR 6-1 195 Sr.



Trey Johnson **17**

WR 6-0 195 So.



Dierre Kelly **38**

DL 6-2 275 Sr.





Travis Kenner **85**
PK 5-10 180 R-Fr.



Jackson Kleather **14**
K 5-10 175 So.



Zach Long **46**
K 6-3 190 Jr.



Darius Lorfils **9**
S 6-2 190 Jr.



Baron May **8**
QB 6-0 195 Jr.



Darius McClendon **0**
CB 6-2 190 Sr.



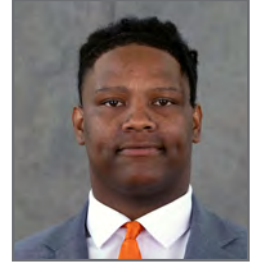
Avi McGary **15**
OLB 6-2 195 Sr.



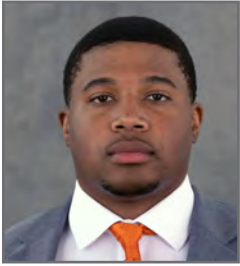
Cynceir McNeal **13**
WR 6-4 210 R-Fr.



Jared Merk **87**
WR 6-2 190 R-Fr.



Davonte Miles **90**
DL 6-5 275 So.



Jabari Mitchell **36**
ILB 6-3 230 R-Fr.



Malik Moses **98**
DL 6-4 270 Fr.



TJ Nelson **20**
S 6-0 200 Fr.



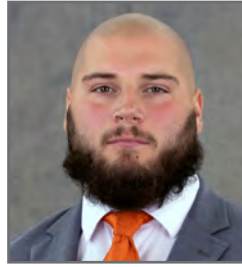
Jordan Oladokun **1**
CB 6-0 190 Sr.



Elias Owens **34**
OLB 6-5 210 Fr.



Nate Pabst **75**
OT 6-5 310 Jr.



Alex Padgett **5**
C 6-6 330 Jr.



Kal-El Pascal **22**
CB 6-0 190 Fr.



Jaison Patterson **28**
RB 6-0 220 Sr.



Justin Pegues **20**
RB 5-9 175 Jr.



Cameron Pettaway **26**
RB 5-10 175 Fr.



Jordan Porter **33**
DL 6-4 270 Sr.



Mar'Kel Porter **25**
RB 6-1 220 Fr.



Dorian Pringle **30**
ILB 6-0 225 Fr.



Henry Reifschneider **39**
ILB 6-0 210 Fr.



PLAYERS



Tracy Revels 12
S 6-1 185 R-Fr.



Dillon Robinson 51
OT 6-3 280 Fr.



Charles Rosser 13
OLB 6-3 230 Sr.



Ali Saad 99
DL 6-3 280 Sr.



Winn Sharp 18
WR 6-5 195 Fr.



Joe Shimko 95
DL 6-4 270 Fr.



Trent Simms 8
S 6-0 225 Sr.



Joseph Sipp Jr. 3
ILB 6-0 225 Jr.



Rahkeem Smith 16
WR 5-9 175 Jr.



Jonny Sorensen 14
QB 6-2 195 Fr.



Pierce St Geme 83
WR 5-11 170 Fr.



Rico Steele 71
OT 6-4 305 Fr.



Donny Stephens 10
ILB 6-0 230 Jr.



Terion Stewart 4
RB 5-9 220 Jr.



Devin Taborn 46
ILB 5-10 220 So.



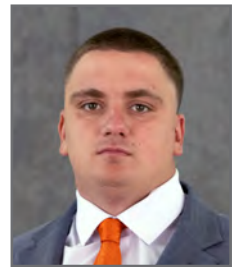
Coleman Teasdale 27
S 6-1 185 R-Fr.



Shawn Thigpen 19
WR 6-4 180 R-Fr.



James Thomas Jr. 77
OG 6-5 300 R-Fr.



Ian van der Merwe 56
DL 6-1 260 So.



Victor Vazquez 28
S 5-10 185 Jr.



Ethan Warner 40
PK 5-9 180 So.



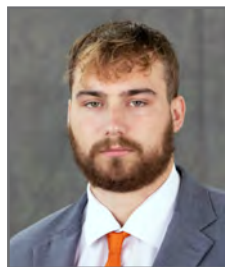
Dayln White 57
DL 6-4 295 R-Fr.



Chris Williams 42
ILB 6-2 235 Sr.



PaSean Wimberly 30
RB 5-10 180 Sr.



Alex Wollschlaeger 50
OT 6-7 305 Sr.



Cade Zimmerly 72
C/OG 6-1 295 Jr.





18TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST

The 18th annual 68 Ventures Bowl's art contest came to an end on October 23rd. This year's theme, "What does Mobile mean to you?" aimed to capture how the artists uniquely viewed our city. The contest was open to broad interpretations to allow students creativity in their designs. Contestants chose to create artwork that depicted cultural events, celebrated holidays, or individuals who have made an impact on the port city.

Each student will receive a cash donation to their schools' art program. The total contribution for the art competition will be \$1200. Since 2007, the 68 Ventures Bowl has contributed \$31,800 to local schools' art programs. Art Contest sponsors will award the winning students' gift cards from Southern Arts & Framing and Foonsackly's. They will also receive a cash prize, and bowl game tickets for themselves and family members from the 68 Ventures Bowl. Winners will be announced at the Bowl's award banquet on November 18th, where each student's artwork will be acknowledged.

The competition was divided into two categories to allow various ages to compete amongst their peers. Among each category, the top artists were selected based on the originality, creativity, quality, and relation to the theme.

The winning artworks can be viewed on our social media. The bowl is grateful to create a community event geared towards the young adults in our region, and providing a foundation for students to showcase their art talents.

We received submissions from 10 schools in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. The submissions contained various perspectives and interpretations of this year's theme. Winners were selected on Oct. 30th from judges, Mrs. Nancy Raia the American Sport Art Museum & Archives and Ms. Madison Corl from Mary's Shelter. The selected winners are as follows:

6TH-8TH GRADE WINNERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1st Place | Charlotte Peek, <i>Floretta P. Carson</i> |
| 2nd Place | Kelsey Scott, <i>Causey Middle School</i> |
| 3rd Place | Mariah Leggins, <i>Dunbar Magnet School</i> |
| Honorable Mention | Bryce Zirlott, <i>Grand Bay Middle School</i> |

9TH- 12TH GRADE WINNERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1st Place | Yufei Zhao, <i>Saraland High School</i> |
| 2nd Place | Evania Murphy, <i>Saraland High School</i> |
| 3rd Place | Elin Backman, <i>Bayside Academy</i> |
| Honorable Mention | GG Webb, <i>St. Paul's Episcopal School</i> |
| Honorable Mention | Lyda Holmes, <i>Alma Bryant High School</i> |

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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

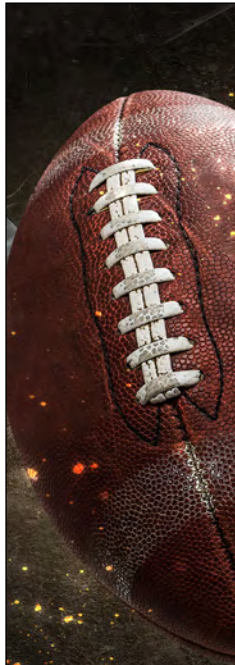
Cody Thompson
Toledo
Kansas City Chiefs
Brynden Trawick
Troy
Baltimore Ravens

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.



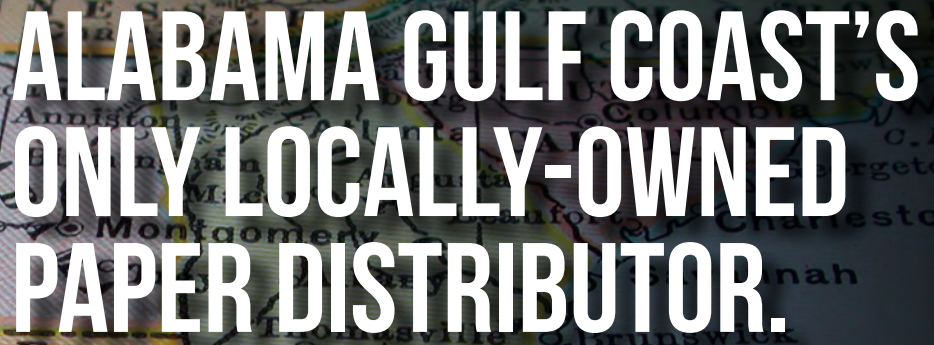
KAREEM HUNT

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.



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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.



**LEXIE CANTIN, STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS & OPERATIONS**

Lexie Cantin is in her fifth season with the 68 Ventures Bowl, and her third 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.



**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.



**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.



68 VENTURES BOWL STAFF



HUNTER PRIEST, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & OPERATIONS

Hunter is in his first year on staff with the 68 Ventures Bowl office as Community Partnerships & Operations. He is responsible for Community Service Day; Extra Yard for Teachers grant program, as well as the annual

Art Contest. He previously served as an intern for the 68 Ventures Bowl in 2021. Previously Priest worked Game Day Ops for the Mobile Bay Bears, and then worked two years at Regions Bank as their Financial Relationship Consultant. As a Mobile native, Hunter graduated from the University of South Alabama with a degree in Business Administration, with a focus on management and operations in 2022.



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

John "JT" Clark currently serves as the Director of Operations and Integrated Communications. He is responsible for all communication aspects of the 68 Ventures Bowl as well as ticket operations. Clark is a founder 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.



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2024 SPELLING BEE WINNERS

MOBILE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT WINS 97th ANNUAL MOBILE COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Mobile, Ala. (February 2, 2024) - The 97th Annual Mobile County Spelling Bee presented by the 68 Ventures Bowl and the Mobile County Public School System was held this morning, Friday, Feb. 2nd, at the Davidson High School Auditorium. 58 elementary and middle school students from public, private, and parochial schools competed in the contest.

Ethan Spottswood from Mobile Christian School spelled “Darnel” to claim the title of this year’s spelling bee. Gavin Nguyen of Alba Middle School placed second, and James Colleli from Clark-Shaw Magnet School placed third. These three contestants made it through 200 words in 20 rounds to win today’s Spelling Bee. Spottswood will advance to the state spelling bee in Birmingham, Alabama in March. The winner of the Alabama State Spelling Bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland in May.

To learn more about the 68 Ventures Bowl, please visit www.68VenturesBowl.com, or call 251-635-0011. Connect with us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/68VenturesBowl/> and on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat @68VenturesBowl.



From left to right: Sherrie Dyal (68 Ventures Bowl), James Colleli (3rd place), Gavin Nguyen (2nd place), Ethan Spottswood (1st place), Lexie Cantin (68 Ventures Bowl), and Renee McManus (MCPSS).

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THE 68 VENTURES BOWL

“NOMINATE A TEACHER” SELECTION

Mobile, Ala. (November 13, 2024)-The 68 Ventures Bowl is giving \$10,000 in grants to MCPSS teachers through the “Nominate a Teacher” program. Nominations ran from September 17th to November 1st receiving over 1400 submissions over the span of two years.

Through this program, the 68 Ventures Bowl chose 10 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 2024 recipients are:

- Jessica Dennis, Dawes Intermediate School
- Ashton Gibbs, J. E. Turner Elementary School
- Christina Milburn, Pearl Haskew Elementary School
- Krissy Brown, Gilliard Elementary School
- Shisheria Rankins, Burns Middle School
- Racheal Battles, Mobile County Training Middle
- Patty O’Quinn, Phillips Preparatory School
- Laura Hollins, Blount High School
- Nicole Landry, Mary G. Montgomery High School
- Deshawn Sewer, Williamson High School



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