



# Mid-American Conference 2015 Bowl Season Football Release



Football Contact: Ken Mather, Assistant Commissioner for Media & Public Relations (kmather@mac-sports.com)  
Mid-American Conference, 24 Public Square, 15th Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, 216-566-4622, www.mac-sports.com

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## MAC Standings

	Conference						Overall						
	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	N
<b>WEST DIVISION</b>													
#*Northern Illinois	6	2	.750	L1	3-1	3-1	8	5	.615	L2	5-1	3-3	0-1
*Toledo	6	2	.750	L1	2-2	4-0	9	2	.818	L1	4-2	5-0	--
*Western Michigan	6	2	.750	W1	3-1	3-1	7	5	.583	W1	4-2	3-3	--
*Central Michigan	6	2	.750	W2	3-1	3-1	7	5	.583	W2	4-2	3-3	--
Ball State	2	6	.250	L3	1-3	1-3	3	9	.250	L3	2-4	1-5	--
Eastern Michigan	0	8	.000	L8	0-4	0-4	1	11	.083	L10	0-6	1-5	--
<b>EAST DIVISION</b>													
^#*Bowling Green	7	1	.875	W1	3-1	4-0	10	3	.769	W2	3-2	6-1	1-0
*Ohio	5	3	.625	W3	3-1	2-2	8	4	.667	W3	5-1	3-3	--
*Akron	5	3	.625	W4	2-2	3-1	7	5	.583	W4	3-3	4-2	--
Buffalo	3	5	.375	L3	1-3	2-2	5	7	.417	L3	3-4	2-3	--
Kent State	2	6	.250	L5	1-3	1-3	3	9	.250	L5	2-4	1-5	--
Miami	2	6	.250	W1	1-3	1-3	3	9	.250	W1	2-4	1-5	--
UMass	2	6	.250	W1	0-4	2-2	3	9	.250	W1	1-5	2-4	--

^ MAC Champion; # Division Champion; \* Bowl Invitation

## MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE 2015 BOWL SCHEDULE

**Dec. 19: Raycom Media Camellia Bowl -- Montgomery, Ala.; 5:30 pm ET (ESPN); Ohio (8-4, 5-3 MAC) vs. Appalachian State (10-2, 7-1, Sun Belt)**  
Ohio ended the regular season by winning its final three games to finish with an 8-4 overall record, and a 5-3 record for second place in the MAC East. Bobcats head coach Frank Solich is in his 11th year leading the Ohio football program.

**Dec. 22: Famous Idaho Potato Bowl -- Boise, Ida.; 3:30 pm ET (ESPN) Akron (7-5, 5-3 MAC) vs. Utah State (6-6, 5-3, Mountain West)**  
Akron finished by winning its final four games to post a 7-5 overall record, 5-3 in the MAC East, and bowl eligible for the first time since 2005. Fourth-year head coach Terry Bowden will lead his Zips to its first bowl game under his leadership.

**Dec. 22: Marmot Boca Raton Bowl -- Boca Raton, Fla. 7:00 pm ET (ESPN) Toledo (9-2, 6-2 MAC) vs. Temple (10-3, 7-1, American Athletic)**  
Toledo completed the regular season as MAC West Division Co-Champions with a 9-2 overall record, 6-2 in the MAC West. Jason Candle was named head coach as Toledo will be making its second consecutive bowl appearance and its fifth bowl game in the last six years.

**Dec. 23: San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl --San Diego, Calif. 4:30 pm ET (ESPN); NIU (8-5, 6-2 MAC) vs. Boise St (8-4, 5-3, Mountain West)**  
Northern Illinois won the MAC West Division Title for the sixth consecutive year and will be heading to a bowl game for a MAC record eighth consecutive season. The Huskies suffered a 34-14 loss to Bowling Green in the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game on Dec. 4.

**Dec. 23: GoDaddy Bowl -- Mobile, Ala. 8:00 pm ET (ESPN) Bowling Green (10-3, 7-1 MAC) vs. Georgia Southern (8-4, 6-2, Sun Belt)**  
Bowling Green won its third consecutive MAC East Division title with a 9-3 overall record, 7-1 in the MAC, and defeated Northern Illinois, 34-14, to win the 2015 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game on Dec. 4. The win was the programs second MAC Championship in the last three seasons.

**Dec. 24: Popeyes Bahamas Bowl -- Nassau, Bahamas, Noon ET (ESPN) Western Michigan (7-5, 6-2 MAC) vs. Middle Tennessee (6-5, 5-2, C-USA)**  
Western Michigan received a bowl invitation for the second consecutive year for the first time in program history. The Broncos ended the season with the program's first ever Top 25 win with a 35-30 win at Toledo to claim a share of the West title.

**Dec. 28: Quick Lane Bowl -- Detroit, Mich., 5:00 pm ET (ESPN2) Central Michigan (7-5, 6-2 MAC) vs. Minnesota (5-7, 2-6, Big Ten)**  
Central Michigan finished with a 7-5 overall record, 6-2 in the MAC, and a share of the MAC West Division title. First-year head coach John Bonamego led the Chippewas as they ended the regular season by winning their final two games and five of the last six regular season games.

## MAC Storylines

• **The MAC tied a conference record with seven teams bowl eligible this 2015 bowl season.** The seven MAC bowl invitations for Bowling Green (10-3), Northern Illinois (8-5), Toledo (9-2), Ohio (8-4), Central Michigan (7-5), Western Michigan (7-5) and Akron (7-5) matches the Conference record for programs receiving a bowl invitation in a single season, which also occurred during the 2012 bowl season.

• Bowling Green (GoDaddy), Northern Illinois (San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia), Toledo (Marmot Boca Raton), Ohio (Raycom Media Camellia), Central Michigan (Quick Lane), Western Michigan (Popeyes Bahamas) and Akron (Famous Idaho Potato) will represent the MAC this 2015 bowl season.

• This marks the eighth time in MAC history for the Conference to have five or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) in a single-season.

• In the previous four bowl seasons, the MAC has a record of 8-14 in 22 bowl games – 2014 (2-3); 2013 (0-5); 2012 (2-5); 2011 (4-1) – as ten different MAC programs have appeared in a bowl game in that span (2011-14).

• Bowling Green won the 2015 Marathon MAC Football Championship with a 34-14 win over NIU on Dec. 4 at Ford Field in Detroit. This marked the second MAC Championship for Bowling Green in the last three seasons and the programs 12th overall Conference Championship (2015, 2013, 1992, 1991, 1985, 1982, 1965, 1964, 1962, 1961, 1959 and 1956). Bowling Green (10-3, 7-1 in the MAC) also clinched the East Division title for the program's third consecutive East Division crown.

• Northern Illinois (8-5, 6-2) won its sixth consecutive MAC West Division title as the Huskies won the tie-breakers in the four-way tie for first place in the West with NIU, Toledo, Western Michigan and Central Michigan. All four teams are considered Co-West Division Champions, however, NIU won the tie-breaker to represent the West Division in the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game against Bowling Green.

• This was the third consecutive season that Bowling Green faced NIU in the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game. In 2013, Bowling Green upset No. 14 ranked NIU, 47-27. Last year NIU defeated Bowling Green, 51-17, while the Falcons won the 2015 Championship with a 34-14 win over NIU.



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**MAC BOWL HISTORY**

Since the conference inception in 1946, the MAC has played in 93 bowl games with a 39-54 (.419) overall bowl record. In the early years, bowl games were few and far between before the consistency of a single-bowl game became into existence in 1981. However, over the last decade the MAC has witnessed a significant increase in the number of bowl invitations both from primary and secondary bowl partnerships, but also several at-large bowl selections as well.

From 1946 to 1980, the MAC appeared in a total of 17 bowl games in the first 35 years of the Conference in operation.

From 1981 to 2000, the MAC witnessed twenty consecutive years of receiving only one bowl invitation each football season.

The MAC forged a bowl partnership with Detroit from 1997-2013 (Motor City Bowl and Little Caesars Pizza Bowl). The MAC added Mobile in 2001 (GMAC Bowl, now named GoDaddy Bowl) and Boise in 2010 (Humanitarian Bowl, now named Famous Idaho Potato Bowl) as primary bowl partners.

Beginning in 2004, the Conference witnessed increased bowl participation in at-large selections as the 2004 bowl season witnessed five MAC programs receive a bowl invitation and that number was matched during the 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014 bowl seasons. The Conference sent four programs to bowls in 2006 and 2010. The MAC tied a Conference record with seven programs receiving a bowl invitation this season (2015), which matched the 2012 bowl season.

MAC Commissioner Dr. Jon Steinbrecher joined the Conference in 2009 and added Boise as a primary bowl partner in 2010, while adding secondary bowl agreements over the last several seasons ranging from Gildan New Mexico; St. Petersburg and the Birmingham Bowl in order to provide MAC members the opportunity to represent the Conference and receive additional bowl invitations.

The 2012 bowl season witnessed the conference earn its first BCS Bowl invitation with Northern Illinois gaining a No. 15 BCS ranking and an invite to the Discover Orange Bowl to face Florida State.

During the 2013-14 academic year, the MAC announced primary bowl partnerships with the newly created Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.), along with the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas), Marmot Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.) and Miami Beach Bowl (Miami Beach, Fla.). In addition, the MAC secured a six-year partnership with the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl as a primary and secondary partner over the span.

In the last four bowl seasons, the MAC has an 8-14 overall bowl record. Last year the MAC went 2-3 in bowl games; 0-5 in the 2013 bowl season and 2-5 during the 2012 bowl season. The 2011 season witnessed a MAC record of 4-1 in five bowl games to win the ESPN Challenge Cup for the best FBS Conference record in bowl games.

**MAC Bowl Records**

Team	W	L	T	PCT.	Last Appearance
Akron	0	1	0	.000	2005 Motor City Bowl
Ball State	0	7	0	.000	2014 GoDaddy Bowl
Bowling Green	5	7	0	.417	2014 Raycom Media Camellia Bowl
Buffalo	0	2	0	.000	2013 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Central Michigan	3	5	0	.375	2014 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl
Eastern Michigan	1	0	0	1.000	1987 California Raisin Bowl
Kent State	0	3	0	.000	2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl
Miami (Ohio)	7	3	0	.700	2011 GoDaddy.com Bowl
Northern Illinois	4	6	0	.400	2014 Boca Raton Bowl
Ohio	2	6	0	.250	2013 Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
Toledo	10	4	0	.714	2015 GoDaddy Bowl
Western Michigan	0	6	0	.000	2014 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
UMass	0	0	0	.000	--
Current Members	32	50	0	.390	

**Former MAC Members**

Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	1951 Sun Bowl
Marshall	5	2	0	.714	2004 Plains Capital
Temple	1	1	0	.500	2011 Gildan New Mexico Bowl
Former Members	7	4	0	.636	

Totals	W	L	T	PCT.
Current Members	32	50	0	.390
Past Members	7	4	0	.636
Overall	39	54	0	.419

**MAC Year-By-Year Bowl Results**

1947	Sun - Cincinnati 18, Virginia Tech 8
1948	Sun - Miami 13, Texas Tech 12
1950	Salad - Miami 34, Arizona State 21
1951	Sun - West Texas State 14, Cincinnati 13
1954	Refrigerator Bowl - Delaware 19, Kent State 7
1961	Aviation Bowl - New Mexico 28, Western Michigan 12
1961	Mercy - Fresno State 36, Bowling Green 6
1962	Tangerine - Houston 49, Miami 21
1962	Sun - West Texas State 15, Ohio 14
1968	Tangerine - Richmond 49, Ohio 42
1969	Tangerine - Toledo 56, Davidson 33
1970	Tangerine - Toledo 40, William & Mary 12
1971	Tangerine - Toledo 28, Richmond 3
1972	Tangerine - Tampa 21, Kent State 18
1973	Tangerine - Miami 16, Florida 7
1974	Tangerine - Miami 21, Georgia 10
1975	Tangerine - Miami 20, South Carolina 7
1981	California Raisin - Toledo 27, San Jose State 25
1982	California Raisin - Fresno State 29, BGSU 28
1983	California Raisin - NIU 20, Cal State Fullerton 13
1984	California Raisin - UNLV 30, Toledo 13*
1985	California Raisin - Fresno State 51, BGSU 7
1986	California Raisin - San Jose State 37, Miami 7
1987	California Raisin - EMU 30, San Jose State 27
1988	California Raisin - Fresno State 35, WMU 30
1989	California Raisin - Fresno State 27, Ball State 6
1990	California Raisin - San Jose State 48, CMU 24
1991	California Raisin - BGSU 28, Fresno State 21
1992	Las Vegas - BGSU 35, Nevada 24
1993	Las Vegas - Utah State 42, Ball State 33
1994	Las Vegas - UNLV 52, CMU 24
1995	Las Vegas - Toledo 40, Nevada 37 OT
1996	Las Vegas - Nevada 18, Ball State 15
1997	Motor City - Ole Miss 34, Marshall 31
1998	Motor City - Marshall 48, Louisville 29
1999	Motor City - Marshall 21, BYU 3
2000	Motor City - Marshall 25, Cincinnati 14
2001	GMAC - Marshall 64, East Carolina 61 2OT
2001	Motor City - Toledo 23, Cincinnati 16
2002	GMAC - Marshall 38, Louisville 15
2002	Motor City - Boston College 51, Toledo 25
2003	GMAC - Miami 49, Louisville 28
2003	Motor City - BGSU 28, Northwestern 24
2004	Motor City - Connecticut 39, Toledo 10
2004	GMAC - Bowling Green 52, Memphis 35
2004	Silicon Valley Football Classic - NIU 34, Troy 21
2004	Independence Bowl - Iowa State 17, Miami 13
2004	PlainsCapital Forth Worth Bowl - Cincinnati 32, Marshall 14
2005	Motor City Bowl - Memphis 38, Akron 31
2005	GMAC - Toledo 45, UTEP 13
2006	Motor City - Central Michigan 31, MTSU 14
2006	Poinsettia - TCU 37, Northern Illinois 7
2007	GMAC - Southern Miss 28, Ohio 7
2007	International - Cincinnati 27, Western Michigan 24
2007	Motor City - Purdue 51, Central Michigan 48
2008	International Bowl - Rutgers 52, Ball State 30
2008	GMAC - Tulsa 63, Bowling Green 7
2008	Motor City - FAU 24, Central Michigan 21
2008	Independence - La. Tec. 17, Northern Illinois 10
2008	Texas - Rice 38, Western Michigan 14
2009	International - Connecticut 38, Buffalo 20
2009	GMAC - Tulsa 45, Ball State 13
2009	Little Caesars Pizza - Marshall 21, Ohio 17
2009	EagleBank - UCLA 30, Temple 21
2009	Roady's Humanitarian - Idaho 43, Bowling Green 42
2010	International - South Florida 27, Northern Illinois 3
2010	GMAC - Central Michigan 44, Troy 41 (2OT)
2010	uDrove Humanitarian - Northern Illinois 40, Fresno State 17
2010	R+L Carriers New Orleans - Troy 48, Ohio 21
2010	Little Caesars Pizza - Florida International 34, Toledo 32
2011	GoDaddy.com - Miami 35, Middle Tennessee 21
2011	Gildan New Mexico - Temple 37, Wyoming 15
2011	Famous Idaho Potato - Ohio 24, Utah State 23
2011	Little Caesars Pizza Bowl - Purdue 37, Western Michigan 32
2011	Military Bowl - Toledo 42, Air Force 41
2012	GoDaddy.com Bowl - Northern Illinois 38, Arkansas State 20
2012	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl - Utah State 41, Toledo 15
2012	Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl St. Petersburg - UCF 38, Ball State 17
2012	Little Caesars Pizza Bowl - Central Michigan 24, W. Kentucky 21
2012	Military Bowl - San Jose State 29, Bowling Green 20
2012	Advocare V100 Independence - Ohio 45, Louisiana-Monroe 14
2013	Discover Orange Bowl - Florida State 31, Northern Illinois 10
2013	GoDaddy.com Bowl - Arkansas State 17, Kent State 13
2013	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl - San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24
2013	Beef 'O' Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl - East Carolina 37, Ohio 20
2013	Little Caesars Pizza Bowl - Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27
2013	S. D. County Credit Union Poinsettia-Utah State 21, NIU 14
2013	GoDaddy Bowl - Arkansas State 23, Ball State 20
2014	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl - Air Force 38, Western Michigan 24
2014	Raycom Media Camellia Bowl - Bowling Green 33, South Alabama 28
2014	Boca Raton Bowl - Marshall 52, Northern Illinois 23
2014	Popeyes Bahamas Bowl - Western Kentucky 49, Central Michigan 48
2015	GoDaddy Bowl - Toledo 63, Arkansas State 44

\*1984 game was forfeited to Toledo because of ineligible players by UNLV

## Statistical Leaders (TOP 25) -- Where they rank Nationally in Bowl Subdivision (FBS)

### Rushing Yards:

23rd **Joel Bouagnon-Northern Illinois**: 1,269 yards, 275 att., 18 TDs

### Rushing Touchdowns:

t-5th **Joel Bouagnon-Northern Illinois**: 18 TDs, 1,269 yds., 275 attempts  
t-17th **Travis Greene-Bowling Green**: 14 TDs, 1,219 yds., 212 attempts  
t-17th **Darius Jackson-Eastern Michigan**: 14 TDs, 1,088 yds., 208 attempts

### Total Passing Yards:

1st **Matt Johnson-Bowling Green**: 4,700 yds., 368-535 passing, 43 TDs  
10th **Cooper Rush-Central Michigan**: 3,703 yds., 309-460 passing, 25 TDs  
22nd **Zach Terrell-Western Michigan**: 3,229 yds., 244-365 passing, 27 TDs

### Passing Touchdowns:

2nd **Matt Johnson-Bowling Green**: 43 TDs, 4,700 yds., 368-535 passing  
t-15th **Zach Terrell-Western Michigan**: 27 TDs, 3,229 yds., 244-365 passing  
t-20th **Cooper Rush-Central Michigan**: 25 TDs, 3,703 yds., 309-460 passing

### Passing Efficiency:

6th **Matt Johnson-BGSU**: 166.1 rating; 368-535 pass, 4,700 yds, 43 TDs  
10th **Zach Terrell-WMU**: 161.2 rating; 244-365 pass, 3,229 yds, 27 TDs

### Receiving Yards Per Game:

4th **Roger Lewis-Bowling Green**: 82 rec., 1,476 yds., 15 TDs, (113.5 avg.)  
6th **Tajae Sharpe-UMass**: 111 rec., 1,319 yds., 5 TDs, (109.9 avg.)  
8th **Daniel Braverman-WMU**: 103 rec., 1,270 yds., 12 TDs, (105.8 avg.)  
10th **Corey Davis-WMU**: 82 rec., 1,253 yds., 11 TDs, (104.4 avg.)  
25th **Kenny Golladay-NIU**: 71 rec., 1,122 yds., 10 TDs, (86.3 avg.)

### Total Receiving Yards

1st **Roger Lewis-Bowling Green**: 1,476 yds., 82 rec., 15 TDs  
8th **Tajae Sharpe-UMass**: 1,319 yds., 111 rec., 5 TDs  
9th **Daniel Braverman-Western Michigan**: 1,270 yds., 103 rec., 12 TDs  
10th **Corey Davis-Western Michigan**: 1,253 yds., 82 rec., 11 TDs  
20th **Kenny Golladay-Northern Illinois**: 1,122 yds., 71 rec., 10 TDs

### Receiving Touchdowns

3rd **Roger Lewis-Bowling Green**: 15 TDs  
t-8th **Daniel Braverman-Western Michigan**: 12 TDs  
t-10th **Corey Davis-Western Michigan**: 11 TDs  
t-14th **Kenny Golladay-Northern Illinois**: 10 TDs  
t-24th **Gehrig Dieter-Bowling Green**: 9 TDs

### Receptions Per Game:

1st **Tajae Sharpe-UMass**: 111 rec., 1,319 yds., 5 TDs, (9.3 per game)  
2nd **Daniel Braverman-WMU**: 103 rec., 1,270 yds., 12 TDs, (8.6 per game)  
t-11th **Gehrig Dieter-Bowling Green**: 89 rec., 957 yd, 9 TDs, (6.8 per game)  
t-14th **Corey Davis-WMU**: 82 rec., 1,253 yds., 11 TDs, (6.8 per game)  
23rd **Roger Lewis-Bowling Green**: 82 rec., 1,476 yd, 15 TDs, (6.3 per game)

### Scoring:

20th **Jameson Vest-Toledo**: 100 points, (9.1 ppg)

### Points Responsible For:

2nd **Matt Johnson-Bowling Green**: 282 points  
t-20th **Zach Terrell-Western Michigan**: 182 points

### Total Tackles:

3rd **Great Ibe-Eastern Michigan**: 131 tackles, 11.9 tackles per game  
4th **Nate Holley-Kent State**: 141 tackles, 11.8 tackles per game  
7th **Jovan Santos-Knox-UMass**: 131 tackles, 10.9 tackles per game  
11th **Austin Valdez-Bowling Green**: 133 tackles, 10.2 tackles per game  
t-22nd **Nick Gilbo-Buffalo**: 113 tackles, 9.4 tackles per game

### Interceptions:

1st **Shawun Lurry-Northern Illinois**: 9 interceptions  
t-5th **Alphonzo Mack-Bowling Green**: 6 interceptions  
t-5th **Demetrius Monday-Kent State**: 6 interceptions  
t-5th **Deandre Scott-Akron**: 6 interceptions  
t-17th **Darius Phillips-Western Michigan**: 5 interceptions

### Passes Defensed:

2nd **Shawun Lurry-Northern Illinois**: 23 passes defensed, 1.8 per game  
t-5th **Boise Ross-Buffalo**: 20 passes defensed, 1.7 per game  
t-5th **Darius Phillips-Western Michigan**: 20 passes defensed, 1.7 per game  
t-16th **Cheatham Norrils-Toledo**: 16 passes defensed, 1.5 per game  
t-18th **Ronald Zamort-Western Michigan**: 17 passes defensed, 1.4 per game  
t-20th **Deandre Scott-Akron**: 16 passes defensed, 1.3 per game

### Sacks:

8th **Terence Waugh-Kent State**: 9.0 sacks, 0.90 per game  
t-9th **Jatavis Brown-Akron**: 10.5 sacks, 0.88 per game

## 2015 ANOTHER HISTORIC OFFENSIVE YEAR IN THE MAC

The 2015 season witnessed several special historical accomplishments in league history, including the prolific Bowling Green offense that set a new MAC single-season record with 7,293 yards of total offense (previous mark was 7,277 by NIU in 2013), while the 564 points scored by the Falcons ranks second most in a single-season in MAC history (602, Miami, 2003).

Also consider the following individual statistical accomplishments:

Bowling Green senior quarterback Matt Johnson offensive numbers:

- 4,700 yards passing: 1st in MAC history (4,486, Roethlisberger, MIA, 2003)
- 43 passing touchdowns: 1st in MAC history (41, Omar Jacobs, BG, 2004)
- 4,857 yards of offense: 2nd in MAC history (4,953, Jordan Lynch, NIU, 2012)
- 368 completions: 2nd in MAC history (373, Tyler Sheehan, BG, 2009)
- 535 passing attempts - 3rd in MAC history (575, Tyler Sheehan, BG, 2009; 543, Dan LeFevour, CMU, 2007)

Bowling Green sophomore wide receiver Roger Lewis offensive numbers:

- 1,476 yards receiving - 7th in MAC history
- 15 receiving touchdowns - tied for 6th most in MAC history

Northern Illinois junior running back Joel Bouagnon offensive numbers:

- 18 rushing touchdowns - tied for 21st in MAC history

UMass senior wide receiver Tajae Sharpe offensive numbers:

- 111 receptions - 4th most in MAC history
- 1,319 receiving yards - 16th most in MAC history

## TOLEDO NAMES JASON CANDLE AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Jason Candle has been named head football coach at the University of Toledo, vice-president and athletic director Mike O'Brien announced on Dec. 2. Candle, who previously served as Toledo's associate head coach/offensive coordinator, replaces Matt Campbell, who resigned his post after four seasons as the Rockets' leader to become the head coach at Iowa State. Candle becomes the 27th head football coach in the 95-year history of Toledo football.

Candle, 36, has been on the Rocket staff since 2009, when he was hired by former Toledo head coach Tim Beckman to coach the receivers. Candle was named the team's offensive coordinator in 2012 shortly after Campbell assumed the head coaching position. Candle assumed the title of associate head coach in 2014.

Under Candle's guidance, the Toledo offense has been prolific. This season, the Rockets are 9-2 and rank second in the Mid-American Conference in scoring offense (35.3) and third in total offense (463.3 yards per game). In 2014, Toledo led the MAC in just about every major offensive category, including scoring offense (36.6), total offense (490.5) and rushing offense (256.4). The season culminated with a nine-touchdown outburst in a 63-44 victory over Arkansas in the GoDaddy Bowl for the 9-4 Rockets.

## FALCONS NAME MIKE JINKS AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Bowling Green tabbed Texas Tech Associate Head Coach Mike Jinks to lead the defending Mid-American Conference Champion football program. Jinks, who also coaches running backs for the Red Raiders, will become the 19th head coach in program history.

Jinks spent the 2015 season as Associate Head Coach and had coached the Red Raiders' running backs for the past three seasons. Prior to his time at Texas Tech, he was a National Coach of the Year finalist while winning the 2010 Texas State Championship and compiling a record of 43-4 in his final three seasons at San Antonio powerhouse, Steele High School.

Texas Tech has seen great success this 2015 season with Jinks. The Red Raiders own the second-best offense in the country, totaling 7,134 yards in 12 games (594.5 yards per game). Texas Tech also has the second-best passing offense. The Red Raiders are averaging 46.6 points per game (second in FBS) and have had 33 touchdown drives under two minutes this season. Texas Tech also ranks inside the top five nationally for third-down conversions (.519), first downs offense (346), and plays run (1,002).

Under Jinks, Texas Tech has seen incredible success in the running game. In just his second season, Jinks tutored DeAndre Washington, who became the first Red Raiders' running back since Ricky Williams in 1998 to surpass 1,000 yards rushing in a single season. Washington finished the season with 1,103 rushing yards and was named second team All-Big 12.

**FALCONS WIN 2015 MARATHON MAC CHAMPIONSHIP**

Behind senior Travis Greene's career-high 183 rushing yards and two touchdowns, senior Matt Johnson's 235 passing yards and two touchdowns, and three interceptions and two fumble recoveries from the defense, the Falcons controlled the game from start to finish in a 34-14 win over Northern Illinois to win the 2015 Marathon Mid-American Conference Championship Game on Dec. 4 at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich.

The 2015 conference title is the second MAC Championship over the last three years for the Falcons and is the 12th MAC Championship in school history. Bowling Green nearly doubled NIU in total yards with 501 yards compared to the Huskies' 259 yards, as the Falcons had a balance attack with 266 rushing yards and 235 passing yards for the game.

The Falcons' defense forced five Huskie turnovers – two fumbles and three interceptions – and held NIU to just 2-of-13 overall on third down attempts and 1-of-5 on fourth down tries for the contest.

Greene led Bowling Green with two scores on a new career-high 183 yards rushing on 29 attempts, while Fred Coppet added 85 yards on 16 carries and one touchdown. Johnson finished 25-of-37 for 235 yards and two touchdowns, and became the MAC single-season passing leader surpassing Ben Roethlisberger's 4,486 yards in 2003. Johnson also surpassed Omar Jacobs for the MAC record for touchdown passes in a single season. Jacobs threw 41 in 2004 – Johnson has 43 touchdowns in 2015.

Junior Gehrig Dieter led the Falcon receivers with a team-high seven catches for 75 yards, while sophomore Roger Lewis totaled six catches for 75 yards, including a 45-yard touchdown catch and run in the third quarter.

Defensively, Bowling Green was led by linebacker Austin Valdez's 13 total tackles, while defensive back Alfonso Mack finished with seven total stops and an interception.

For the Huskies, quarterback Tommy Fielder was 12-of-28 overall with one touchdown and three picks in the air, while on the ground he rushed 14 times for 22 yards. Desroy Maxwell registered a team-high 68 yards on three receptions and one score.

**2015 MAC ALL-AMERICANS**

Since the conclusion of the regular season, the MAC has been represented with several post-season All-American honors.

**Walter Camp Football Foundation:**

- Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DB Shawun Lurry
- Second-Team All-American: UMass WR Tajae Sharpe

**The Associated Press:**

- Third-Team All-American: Bowling Green WR Roger Lewis
- Third-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DB Shawun Lurry

**Football Writers Association of America (FWAA):**

- First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DB Shawun Lurry
- Second-Team All-American: Bowling Green WR Roger Lewis

**Sports Illustrated.com:**

- Honorable Mention: Bowling Green QB Matt Johnson;
- Honorable Mention: Bowling Green WR Roger Lewis;
- Honorable Mention: Northern Illinois DB Shawun Lurry

Lurry, who leads the nation with nine interceptions in 2015, set the NIU modern day (FBS) school record for interceptions in a season, and broke both the NIU and single season records for interception return yards with 273. He averaged 30.3 yards per interception return, another school record, scored on a 64-yard interception return in the MAC Championship game. Lurry broke up 14 passes to lead NIU. He ranks second nationally in passes defended (1.8/game) and first in both total interceptions (9) and interceptions per game (0.7). He made 41 tackles on the season.

Lewis leads the country with 1,476 yards and is third in the nation with 15 receiving touchdowns. He has had seven 100-yard games this season, three of them going for more than 200 yards. After just 27 career games, Lewis' 2,569 receiving yards are fifth in school history for a career. He has 22 career touchdown catches.

Sharpe is UMass' first All-American since 2011, led the nation in receptions per game (9.3) and total receptions (111) during the regular season. He set UMass records for single-game receptions (15), single-season receptions (111), career receptions (277) and career receiving yards (3,486).

**MAC VS BIG TEN OPPONENTS**

With Bowling Green's 35-28 win at Purdue on Sept. 26, 2015 and the Falcons 48-27 win at Maryland on Sept. 12, 2015, the MAC has won a regular season game vs. Big Ten opponents in each of the last 10 consecutive seasons (2006-2015), the longest streak in MAC history.

During this 10-year span, MAC teams have defeated 10 different Big Ten teams—Illinois (2); Indiana (5); Iowa (3); Maryland (1); Michigan (1); Michigan State (1); Minnesota (2); Northwestern (1); Penn State (1) and Purdue (5)-- for a total of 22 wins during this span.

2006: Ohio beat Illinois

2007: Bowling Green beat Minnesota; Western Michigan defeated Iowa

2008: Western Michigan beat Illinois; Central Michigan beat Indiana; Toledo beat Michigan; Ball State beat Indiana

2009: NIU beat Purdue; Central Michigan beat Michigan State

2010: Toledo beat Purdue; NIU beat Minnesota

2011: Ball State beat Indiana

2012: Ohio beat Penn State; Ball State beat Indiana; Central Michigan beat Iowa

2013: NIU beat Purdue; NIU beat Iowa

2014: Bowling Green beat Indiana; NIU beat Northwestern; Central Michigan beat Purdue

2015: Bowling Green beat Maryland and Purdue

In 2015, the MAC finished with a 2-10 overall record against Big Ten opponents -- with two wins by Bowling Green over Purdue and Maryland. In 2014, the MAC had three wins vs. Big Ten opponents — Purdue, Northwestern and Indiana, which marked the fourth time in MAC history with three wins vs. Big Ten opponents (2000, 2003, 2012 and 2014). The most wins in a single season by the MAC over Big Ten opponents is four games (2008).

**MAC WITH FOUR 'POWER FIVE' WINS IN 2015**

In 2015 the MAC has four wins over 'Power Five' Conference opponents with wins over Arkansas (SEC), Iowa State (Big-12); Maryland (Big Ten) and Purdue (Big Ten). MAC East Champion Bowling Green defeated both Maryland and Purdue from the Big Ten, while Toledo recorded its first ever win over an SEC opponent with a win at Arkansas. The Rockets also defeated Iowa State from the Big 12.

Overall, this season the MAC earned 12 wins vs. FBS non-conference opponents, which ranks third most for the Conference going back to 2000. The MAC's top two years for FBS non-conference wins came in 2012 (16) and 2008 (14).

**MAC PROGRAMS IN BOWL GAMES**

In the last five bowl seasons, 11 different MAC programs have received a bowl invitation, as Northern Illinois leads the Conference with five invitations during this span, while both Bowling Green, Ohio and Toledo have received four invitations during this five year period.

**2011-15 MAC Programs and Years Invited to Bowl Games**

Northern Illinois (5): 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015

Bowling Green (4): 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015

Ohio (4): 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014

Toledo (4): 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Central Michigan (3): 2012; 2014; 2015

Western Michigan (3): 2011; 2014; 2015

Ball State (2): 2012; 2013

Akron (1): 2015

Buffalo (1): 2013

Kent State (1): 2012

former member Temple (1): 2011

**Year; MAC Programs Invited to Bowl Games**

2011: Northern Illinois; Ohio; Toledo; Western Michigan; Temple

2012: Northern Illinois; Kent State; Ohio; Bowling Green; Ball State; Central Michigan; Toledo

2013: Northern Illinois; Bowling Green; Ball State; Ohio; Buffalo

2014: Northern Illinois; Bowling Green; Toledo; Central Michigan; Western Michigan

2015: Bowling Green; Northern Illinois; Toledo; Western Michigan; Central Michigan; Ohio and Akron

**THREE MAC RECEIVERS LEAD NATION IN RECEPTION STREAK**

The MAC is home to three of the top five wide receivers with the longest current reception streak in the nation. Toledo wide receiver Alonzo Russell (49 games) ranks second in the country followed by UMass wide out Tajae Sharpe (47 games), who is third in the nation. Northern Illinois wide receiver Tommylee Lewis (36 games) ranks tied for ninth in the country.

**NIU HUSKIES A LEADER FOR MOST WINS SINCE 2003**

Northern Illinois has built an impressive resume over the last decade. Specifically, NIU has won the MAC West Division for the last six consecutive years, winning three Marathon MAC Football Championship Games (2011, 2012, 2014) and extending its MAC record with eight consecutive bowl invitations. Since 2003, **NIU ranks tied for 16th in the nation with 113 wins** among the current 129 FBS football programs.

Ranking: 1. Boise State (145); 2. Ohio State (140); 3. Oklahoma (136); 4. LSU (132); 5. USC (130); 6. Alabama (129); Oregon (128); 8. TCU (126); 9. Wisconsin (124); Florida State (124); Georgia (124); 12. Virginia Tech (120); 13. Florida (119); 14. Texas (118); 15. Clemson (117); 16. **Northern Illinois (114)**; Auburn (114); Utah (114); 19. BYU (112); 20. West Virginia (111); 21. Missouri (109); Nebraska (109); Navy (109); 24. Cincinnati (108); Louisville (108).

In addition, the Huskies have earned wins against non-conference opponents from the larger conferences, or so-called 'Power Five' Conferences.

**Since 2003, NIU, along with the Toledo Rockets, have each won nine games against opponents from the 'Power Five' Conferences, which ranks tied for seventh most among FBS Conferences.**

1. Navy (21); 2. BYU (18); 3. Fresno State (14); 4. Boise State (12); East Carolina (12); 6. Hawaii (10); **7. Northern Illinois (9); Toledo (9)**.

NIU has won a game vs. the 'Power Five' programs in the last three consecutive years and five of the last six years. NIU wins vs. 'Power Five' programs since 2003: 2014 at Northwestern; 2013 at Iowa; at Purdue; 2012 vs. Kansas; 2010 at Minnesota; 2009 at Purdue; 2003 vs. Maryland; at Alabama; vs. Iowa State.

Toledo had a stretch of five consecutive years with wins over 'Power Five' Conference opponents from 2006-2010. This season Toledo has already defeated Arkansas and Iowa State. Toledo wins vs. 'Power Five' programs since 2003: 2015 vs. Arkansas and Iowa State; 2012 vs. Cincinnati; 2010 at Purdue; 2009 vs. Colorado; 2008 at Michigan; 2007 vs. Iowa State; 2006 vs. Kansas; 2003 vs. Pittsburgh.

**MAC WITH TWO NAMED CAMPBELL TROPHY FINALISTS**

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced finalists for the 2015 William V. Campbell Trophy, which recognizes an individual as the absolute best football scholar-athlete in the nation. Two of the 12 finalists are MAC students as Kent State senior defensive back **Jordan Italiano** and UMass graduate quarterback **Blake Frohnapfel** were named.

The 12 finalists will each receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class. The finalists will travel to New York City for the 58th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 8. At the event, one member of the class will be declared the winner of the 26th William V. Campbell Trophy and have his postgraduate scholarship increased to \$25,000.

**MAC WITH SEVEN NOMINATED FOR WUERFFEL TROPHY**

The Wuerffel Trophy announces its list of nominees with a record number of 93 players from college football's Football Bowl Subdivision being considered for the 2015 award, and included in this list are seven MAC students: senior center **Jacob Richard** (Ball State); senior offensive lineman **Chrisitan Piazza** (Bowling Green); senior kicker **Dylan Mulder** (Eastern Michigan); senior defensive back **Jordan Italiano** (Kent State); senior quarterback **Blake Frohnapfel** (UMass); senior tight end **Alex Zmolik** (Toledo) and junior quarterback **Zach Terrell** (Western Michigan).

The Wuerffel Trophy, known as "College Football's Premier Award for Community Service,". Named after 1996 Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Danny Wuerffel, from the University of Florida, the Wuerffel Trophy is awarded to the FBS player who best combines exemplary community service with athletic and academic achievement.

**MAC BOWL PARTNERS (2015-19)**

In 2014 the MAC announced the creation of newly created bowl games in Boca Raton, Fla., Nassau, Bahamas and Miami Beach, Fla. for a six-year period (2014-2019), in addition to the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.

**These new bowl games increase the guaranteed bowl invitations for the MAC to five each football season.**

The Marmot Boca Raton Bowl, Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and Raycom Media Camellia Bowl join MAC bowl partners GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.) and Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.) as primary bowl partners.

The MAC is a partner with the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl as a primary partner in 2017 and 2019, and a secondary partner in 2015, 2016 and 2018 bowl seasons. The MAC will play the Mountain West in both the 2017 and 2019 bowl seasons, played at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

In the fall of 2014, the MAC announced a six-year (2014-9) backup agreement with the newly-formed Quick Lane Bowl, owned and operated by the Detroit Lions and Ford Field. The MAC also is a backup to various ESPN owned and operated bowl games (St. Petersburg, Fla.; Birmingham, Ala.).

**2015 Bowl Season:**

GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)  
Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Marmot Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.; vs. American)  
Popeyes Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas; vs. Conference USA)  
\*Secondary in San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl  
\*Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games  
\*Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)

**2016 Bowl Season:**

GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)  
Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Popeyes Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas; vs. American Ath.)  
Miami Beach Bowl (Miami, Fla.; vs. American Athletic)  
\*Secondary in San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl  
\*Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games  
\*Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)

**2017 Bowl Season:**

GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)  
Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Popeyes Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas; vs. Sun Belt)  
San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl (San Diego, Calif.; vs. Mountain West)  
\*Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games  
\*Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)

**2018 Bowl Season:**

GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)  
Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Marmot Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.; vs. Conference USA)  
Miami Beach Bowl (Miami, Fla.; vs. American Athletic)  
\*Secondary in San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl  
\*Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games  
\*Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)

**2019 Bowl Season:**

GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)  
Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)  
Marmot Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.; vs. American)  
San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl (San Diego, Calif.; vs. Mountain West)  
\*Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games  
\*Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)

**HUSKIES EXTEND MAC CONSECUTIVE BOWL MARK**

Northern Illinois extended its MAC record for consecutive bowl appearances by a member of the Conference. The Huskies are now bowl eligible for the eighth straight year and will play Boise State in the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

Their current eight consecutive bowl appearances is the best-ever in the 70-year history of the MAC. Beyond appearing in eight consecutive bowl games, the Huskies will have done so with four different head coaches-- Jerry Kill (2008, 2009), interim Tom Matukewicz (2010), Dave Doeren (2011) and current Head Coach Rod Carey (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015).

**Eight (8) Northern Illinois Consecutive Bowl Appearances:**

2008: Independence Bowl: 17-10 loss to Louisiana Tech  
 2009: International Bowl: 27-3 loss to South Florida  
 2010: Humanitarian Bowl: 40-17 win over Fresno State  
 2011: GoDaddy.com Bowl: 38-20 win over Arkansas State  
 2012: Discover Orange Bowl: 31-10 loss to Florida State  
 2013: S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia: 21-14 loss to Utah St.  
 2014: Boca Raton Bowl: 52-23 loss to Marshall  
 2015: S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia: vs. Boise State

**OHIO'S SOLICH THIRD ON MAC CAREER WINS LIST**

Ohio head coach Frank Solich and his Bobcats are bowl eligible with a 8-4 overall record. Solich continues to rise up the MAC career head coaching wins list with 80 wins, which ranks third most in MAC history. Earlier this year he surpassed former Toledo head coach, Gary Pinkel (73 career victories), former Bowling Green head coach Doyt Perry (77 career wins) and former Marshall head coach Bob Pruett (79 career wins) on this list.

Solich has been the recent model for consistency in coaching in the MAC. Solich arrived in Athens, Ohio in 2005 and now in his 11th season running the Bobcats program has garnered a bowl appearance in six of the previous 10 seasons. During his coaching career at Ohio, Solich has a record of 80-60.

**Most MAC Head Coaching Wins, Career**

1. 110, Herb Deromedi, Central Michigan, 1978-93
2. 108, Bill Hess, Ohio, 1958-77
3. **80, Frank Solich, Ohio, 2005-present**
4. 79, Bob Pruett, Marshall, 1997-03
5. 77, Doyt Perry, Bowling Green, 1955-64
6. 73, Gary Pinkel, Toledo, 1991-00

**FBS HEAD COACHES LEADING THEIR ALMA MATER**

The MAC has two of the 13 FBS head coaches that are leading their alma mater's football programs this 2015 season. The MAC is tied with the Big-12 with two head coaches each, trailing the Big Ten and Mountain West Conference with three coaches leading their alma mater.

Central Michigan first year head coach John Bonamego was named the program's 28th head coach on Feb. 9, 2015. Bonamego was a wide receiver/quarterback as a walk-on who earned varsity letters in 1985-86 and twice earned the Iron Man Award as the defensive scout team player of the year. He brings 27 years of coaching experience, including 16 years in the NFL and led the Chippewas to a 7-5 overall record in his first year.

Kent State third-year head coach Paul Haynes has a 9-26 overall record since being named the program's 21st head coach on Dec. 18, 2012. Haynes walked on at Kent State in 1987 and played four seasons for the Golden Flashes (1987-91) and ended his career with 440 tackles, seventh-best in school history.

**FBS Head Coaches Leading Their Alma Mater**

Troy Calhoun, Air Force; Bryan Harsin, Boise State; **John Bonamego, Central Michigan; Paul Haynes, Kent State;** Jim Harbaugh, Michigan; Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern; Mike Gundy, Oklahoma State; David Shaw, Stanford; Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech; Matt Wells, Utah State; Sean Kugler, UTEP; Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech; Paul Chryst, Wisconsin.

**FOUR STUDENTS NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN**

The 2015 Academic All-America Division I football team as selected by the College of Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) on Dec. 3. From the MAC, Buffalo senior tight end **Matt Weiser** and Kent State senior safety **Jordan Italiano** were named Academic All-America First-Team, while Kent State junior safety **Nick Cuthbert** and Bowling Green sophomore punter **Joe Davidson** were named Academic All-America Second-Team.

Weiser, a native of Womelsdorf, Pa., is the first football player in the Bulls FBS era (since 1999) to earn the honor. A communication major with a 3.49 grade point average, Weiser had a breakout season with 63 receptions for 625 yards and three touchdowns. He shattered the single-season school record for receptions and receiving yards by a tight end. In addition, his 63 catches tied for eighth in school history for a single season. Weiser ranks second among all tight ends nationally in receptions and receiving yards. Weiser is the fifth Buffalo football player to be named an Academic All-American. He joins Gerry Philbin (1963), Gerry Quinlivan (1984), James Dunbar (1985 & 1986) and Dan Poulsen (1998).

Italiano was also recently named a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, which will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 8, in New York City. The pre-med/biochemistry major carries a 3.98 as a senior. On the field, he finished second on the team with 62 tackles. He was named MAC Male Scholar Athlete of the Week following his performance against Bowling Green. Italiano is the only three-time selection on this year's team and became the only three-time Academic All-American in program history. He is also the only two-time first team selection in program history.

Kent State was one of only five FBS schools with two members selected to the 2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America Team. The safeties gave the Golden Flashes two Academic All-Americans in the same season for the first time in program history.

Cuthbert claimed his spot on the second team just a few weeks after his second straight selection to the Academic All-District Team. A criminal justice major with a 3.96 cumulative GPA, Cuthbert was also named Mid-American Conference East Defensive Player of the Week earlier this season. A junior from Chesterland, Ohio, Cuthbert plans to earn his undergraduate degree this December and begin graduate school in January. He was also a nominee for the Burlsworth Trophy, honoring the nation's best player to start their career as a walk-on. Cuthbert was named MAC Male Scholar Athlete of the Week twice this season.

Davidson, a native of Findlay, Ohio, has excelled all season averaging a MAC-best 45.5 yards per punt on 44 attempts. A redshirt sophomore with a 3.95 GPA in mathematics, Davidson has landed 13 punts inside the 20-yard line, 14 have traveled over 50 yards, and just three go for touchbacks. Davidson's honor marks just the school's 15th-ever Academic All-America® award.

**NIU WINS NCAA'S DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD**

Northern Illinois University's athletics department has earned the NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association's 2016 Award for Diversity and Inclusion. The department will receive the honor at the NCAA Convention in January in San Antonio.

The award is a partnership between the NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association to recognize and celebrate the initiatives, policies and practices of colleges, universities and/or athletic conference offices that embrace diversity and inclusion. Past honorees have been recognized for efforts which include community service, professional development, hiring practices and programming activities that enhance opportunities for people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and experiences.

Northern Illinois athletics earned the award for its campus programs and partnerships in the DeKalb, Illinois, community. The athletics department recently revised its vision statement and strategic plan to reflect a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The department also dedicated one of its core values to inclusion.

**2015 ACADEMIC ALL-MAC TEAM WITH 127 STUDENTS**

The Mid-American Conference announced its 2015 Football Academic All-MAC team as a total of 127 students were named to the 2015 Academic All-MAC team.

Central Michigan topped the 2015 Academic All-MAC squad with 17 selections. Kent State ranked second with 14 selections, while Northern Illinois and Western Michigan were tied for third with 12 selections. Bowling Green and Eastern Michigan each had 11 selections for a fifth-place tie.

Three students were named as four-time selections: Robert Stein (Akron), Jacob Richard (Ball State) and Tyler Tate (Bowling Green).

**FLECK YOUNGEST HEAD COACH IN THE NATION**

For the third consecutive year, Western Michigan's P.J. Fleck, 35, is the youngest head coach in NCAA Division I (FBS). Fleck is entering his third year at the helm of the Broncos with a 16-21 record as head coach. Western Michigan is bowl eligible for the second consecutive year with a 7-5 overall record, 6-2 in the MAC.

In 2014, Western Michigan posted an impressive turnaround season with an 8-5 overall record, including an invitation to the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, after a 1-11 record in 2013.

Previously, former Toledo head coach Matt Campbell, 36, was the youngest head coach in FBS when he took over the Rockets program in December of 2011. This season Campbell was the third youngest head coach in FBS and in his fourth year in leading the Rockets football program with a 35-15 record (70.0%).

<b>Coach</b>	<b>Age (Date of Birth)</b>
<b>P.J. Fleck, Western Michigan</b>	<b>35 (11-29-80)</b>
Neal Brown, Troy	35 (3-11-80)
<b>Matt Campbell, former Toledo</b>	<b>36 (11-29-79)</b>
Kliff Klingsbury, Texas Tech	37 (8-9-79)
Bryan Harsin, Arkansas State	39 (11-1-76)
Willie Taggart, South Florida	39 (8-27-76)
Justin Fuente, Memphis	39 (9-30-76)
Matt Rhule, Temple	40 (1-31-75)

**MAC 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS**

The 2015 football schedule featured 16 midweek nationally televised games during October and November on national television on ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN3 and CBS Sports Network. The regular season will conclude with the 19th Marathon MAC Football Championship game on Friday, Dec. 4 at 8:00 pm ET at Ford Field in Detroit on ESPN2.

For the eighth year in a row, league schools faced a formidable non-conference slate of opponents from FBS conferences – ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC and Notre Dame.

A total of 12 non-conference games featured a Big Ten opponent (Illinois; Maryland; Michigan State (2); Minnesota (2); Northwestern; Ohio State (2); Penn State; Purdue; Wisconsin). The MAC faced foes from the ACC (3—Boston College, Pittsburgh, Syracuse), SEC (4—Arkansas, LSU, Tennessee, Texas A&M), Big 12 (3—Iowa State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State); Pac-12 (1—Colorado) and Independent Notre Dame.

The MAC also faced opponents from the American Athletic Conference (3—Cincinnati, Memphis, Temple), Mountain West (3—Nevada, UNLV, Wyoming), Conference USA (6—Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Marshall (2), Old Dominion, Western Kentucky) and Sun Belt Conference (5—Arkansas State, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Idaho, Louisiana-Lafayette), along with Independent Army.

MAC programs continue to increase the number of home or neutral site games against FBS Conference opponents. This season the MAC hosted 16 games against FBS non-conference foes, including Oklahoma State (Big 12); Michigan State (Big Ten); Pittsburgh (ACC) and Iowa State (Big 12).

**WINS OVER NON-CONFERENCE FBS OPPONENTS**

This season the MAC has 12 non-conference FBS wins and topped last season's wins (8) vs. FBS opponents during the regular season. The MAC set the Conference single-season record with 16 wins over FBS opponents during the 2012 season. Dating back to the 2000 season, the previous mark for MAC's number of wins vs. FBS opponents was 14 regular season wins in the 2008 season.

**Regular Season Wins vs. non-conference FBS opponents:****Year: Wins; FBS Opponents Defeated:**

**2015:** 12; Arkansas, Maryland Iowa State, Purdue, FAU, Marshall, Wyoming, UNLV, Idaho, Arkansas State, Louisiana, FIU

**2014:** 8; Purdue; Northwestern; Indiana; Idaho (2); UNLV, Pitt, Army

**2013:** 10; Iowa; Purdue; Virginia; UConn; Tulsa; Marshall; Army; North Texas; Idaho; Navy

**2012:** 16; Penn State; Wyoming; Idaho; New Mexico St.; Army (4); UConn; Marshall; Indiana; Iowa; South Florida; Kansas; Cincinnati; Rutgers

**2011:** 10; Indiana; Army (4); UConn; Idaho; New Mexico State; Marshall; Maryland

**2010:** 7; Minnesota; Purdue; Marshall; Colorado State; UConn; Army; Louisiana-Lafayette

**2009:** 9; Michigan State; Purdue; Colorado; Florida International; Troy; UTEP; North Texas; Army; Navy

**2008:** 14; Navy; Indiana (2); Western Kentucky; Michigan; Idaho; Illinois; Syracuse; Army (3); Pittsburgh; Wyoming; UTEP

**2007:** 10; Navy; Army (2); Idaho; Iowa State (2); Iowa; Minnesota; Syracuse; La-Lafayette

**2006:** 11; Temple (5); Kansas; Virginia; North Carolina State; North Texas; FIU; Illinois

**2005:** 9; Army; Louisiana-Lafayette; Temple (4); Pittsburgh; Middle Tennessee State; Cincinnati

**2004:** 3; Temple (2); Kentucky

**2003:** 9; Kansas State; Northwestern; Colorado State; Cincinnati; Purdue; Maryland; Alabama; Iowa State; Pittsburgh

**2002:** 10; Rutgers; Troy; North Carolina; Cincinnati; UConn; Missouri; Kansas; Wyoming; Wake Forest; UNLV

**2001:** 11; UConn (2); Army; Cincinnati; Missouri; Temple (2); Minnesota; Northwestern; South Florida; Navy

**2000:** 9; Central Florida (2); Vanderbilt; Minnesota; UConn (2); Navy; Penn State; Iowa

**MAC HEAD COACHES IN HIGH DEMAND**

Football programs continue to take notice of MAC head coaches. There are 13 former head coaches from the MAC in a current FBS head coaching position—including one-third of the Big Ten (four total); last year's National Champion Ohio State's Urban Meyer (Bowling Green) and both coaches from the 2013 BCS Championship Game – Alabama's Nick Saban (Toledo) and Notre Dame's Brian Kelly (Central Michigan). **For the 2015 season, 26 of the 129 FBS coaches (20.1%) will be either current or former MAC head coaches.**

**Big Ten** – Urban Meyer-Ohio State (Bowling Green), Jerry Kill-former Minnesota (Northern Illinois), Bill Cubit-Illinois (Toledo), Darrell Hazell-Purdue (Kent State)

**Ind.** – Brian Kelly-Notre Dame (Central Michigan)

**SEC**-Nick Saban-Alabama (Toledo), Gary Pinkel-Missouri (Toledo), Butch Jones-Tennessee (Central Michigan)

**ACC**-Al Golden-former Miami head coach (Temple), Steve Addazio-Boston College (Temple), Dave Doeren-NC State (Northern Illinois), Dave Clawson-Wake Forest (Bowling Green).

**Sun Belt** – Doug Martin-New Mexico State (Kent State).

Since the end of the 2015 regular season, two more MAC head coaches have accepted positions with 'Power Five' Conferences. Bowling Green's Dino Babers accepted the Syracuse head coaching position on Dec. 5th. Babers coached Bowling Green for two seasons and led the Falcons to two consecutive MAC East Division titles and the 2015 MAC Championship.

Toledo's Matt Campbell accepted the Iowa State head coaching position on Nov. 29. Campbell served Toledo for four seasons with a 35-15 overall record as Rockets head coach.

**MAC MEDIA 2015 FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL**

Earlier this summer members of the media selected Toledo and Bowling Green to win the West and East Divisions respectfully in the 2015 MAC Football Media Preseason Poll. Toledo was selected to win the 2015 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game.

In the East Division, two-time defending East Champion Bowling Green was selected first with 160 total points followed by three teams separated by only five points. Ohio and Akron tied for second with 118 points, while UMass placed fourth with 113 points.

In the West Division, Toledo was selected first in the Division in a narrow race by only one point over Western Michigan and only nine points separated the top three teams including five-time defending West Champion Northern Illinois. Toledo placed first with 121 points, while Western Michigan was second with 120 points and Northern Illinois third with 113 points.

**2015 MAC MEDIA Football Preseason Poll****MAC East Division**

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Bowling Green (18)	160
T2. Ohio (1)	118
T2. Akron (2)	118
4. UMass (3)	113
5. Buffalo	70
6. Miami	47
7. Kent State	46

**MAC West Division**

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Toledo (11)	121
2. Western Michigan (8)	120
3. Northern Illinois (4)	113
4. Ball State	66
5. Central Michigan (1)	56
6. Eastern Michigan	28

**MAC FOOTBALL COACHES PRESEASON POLL**

MAC Head Football Coaches have provided their own 2015 Preseason Poll and based upon voting by all 13 head coaches Bowling Green and Northern Illinois have been selected to win the East and West Divisions respectfully.

In the East Division, Bowling Green was selected first with 89 total points followed by second-place Ohio with 64 points. A narrow margin of only seven points separated the second, third and four place teams as Akron was third with 60 points and fourth-place UMass with 57 points.

In the West Division, only three points separated the top two spots with NIU gathering 70 points, followed by second-place Toledo with 67 points.

**2015 MAC HEAD COACHES Football Preseason Poll****MAC East Division**

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Bowling Green (11)	89
2. Ohio	64
3. Akron	60
4. UMass (2)	57
5. Buffalo	43
6. Miami	30
7. Kent State	21

**MAC West Division**

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Northern Illinois (7)	70
2. Toledo (5)	67
3. Western Michigan (1)	55
4. Ball State	36
5. Central Michigan	32
6. Eastern Michigan	13

**MAC AND CBS SPORTS NETWORK REACH MULTI-YEAR DEAL THROUGH 2018-19**

In June of 2015, the MAC and CBS Sports Network announced a multi-year deal to televise college football and basketball games from the Mid-American Conference. The deal, which begins this season and continues through 2018-19, is through a sublicense agreement with ESPN.

CBS Sports Network will air up to 12 football and 12 basketball games per year, with the first year calling for six football games and up to seven basketball games. In 2015, the six football games will include two Thursday and three Saturday games, as well as one game on the Friday after Thanksgiving. CBS Sports Network, the 24-hour home of CBS Sports, is available across the country through local cable, video and telco providers and via satellite on DirecTV Channel 221 and Dish Network Channel 158.

**MAC AND ESPN ANNOUNCE HISTORIC 13-YEAR RIGHTS EXTENSION DEAL THROUGH 2016-27 SEASON**

In 2014, the MAC and ESPN announced a 13-year rights agreement that will be the largest and most extensive agreement in the history of the Conference. The extension, which adds provisions to the remaining three years of the original national rights agreement and adds an additional 10 years to the deal with ESPN, brings long-term security for the Conference through the 2026-27 academic year.

This agreement provides ESPN with exclusive television and digital distribution rights for all MAC sporting events, and guarantees coverage of every football game, and select men's and women's basketball and Olympic sporting events through the 2026-27 academic season.

The Marathon MAC Football Championship Game and the MAC football regular season is the foundation for the national deal with ESPN. The 2014 MAC football regular season will be highlighted by national coverage of 14 mid-week games during the month of November on ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN3 as the Conference race unfolds in both the East and West divisions. The Marathon MAC Football Championship Game on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 pm ET will be televised nationally on ESPN2.

The agreement also follows the recent trend of several of the most successful athletic seasons in the MAC combined with record television audiences on ESPN. The success by MAC athletic programs is a collective effort by MAC membership across multiple sports.

**MAC PART OF NEW COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ERA**

Last year college football entered a new four-team playoff era with the new College Football Playoff. The two College Football Playoff Semifinals will be played in bowl games this year (Capital One Orange Bowl; Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic) and the College Football Playoff National Championship will be played in Arizona on Jan. 11.

The two Semifinals and four other premier bowl games (Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl; Vizio Fiesta Bowl; Allstate Sugar Bowl; Rose Bowl) will be played on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The Semifinal games will rotate among these six different bowls. All MAC programs will join every FBS team in college football with equal access to the playoff based upon its performance. No team will qualify automatically.

The College Football Playoff Selection Committee will choose four teams for the playoffs based on body of work, strength of schedule, head-to-head results, comparison of results against common opponents, championships won and other factors.

The highest ranked program by the Selection Committee from either the MAC, American Athletic, Conference USA, Mountain West or Sun Belt Conferences will play annually in one of the premier bowl games.



## 2015 RAYCOM MEDIA CAMELLIA BOWL

Ohio (8-4, 5-3 MAC) vs. Appalachian State (10-2, 7-1 Sun Belt)

Saturday, December 19, 2015 • 5:30 pm ET • Montgomery, Ala. • Cramton Bowl (25,000)  
ESPN Announcers: Dave Neal (play-by-play), Anthony Becht (analyst), Paul Carcaterra (sideline)**Ohio****Head Coach: Frank Solich**Career: 138-79 (17th year)  
at Ohio: 80-60 (11th year)**Appalachian State****Head Coach: Scott Satterfield**Career: 21-15 (3rd year)  
at Appalachian State: 21-15 (3rd year)**Ohio Notes:**

- This marks the sixth bowl game in the last seven years for the Bobcats and their ninth all-time bowl appearance. Ohio is 2-6 in bowl games.
- Ohio's last trip to a bowl game was in 2013 to the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl where they lost to Eastern Carolina 20-37.
- This marks the first meeting between Appalachian State and the Bobcats. Ohio holds a 5-3 record over the Sun Belt Conference collectively.
- Head coach Frank Solich will enter his 35th bowl game as a player or a coach.
- Ohio is coming off a big 26-21 win over MAC West Champion Northern Illinois, it was the first win over NIU for the Bobcats since 2009 and first win in DeKalb since 2006. Entering the game NIU was on a 22-0 win streak in the month of Nov. extending back to 2009.
- The Bobcats held NIU to a season-low 73 rushing yards in the game.
- Ohio has been all about explosive plays this season logging 73 plays of 20 yards or more.
- Ohio returns 20 starters including 10 starters on offense, seven on defense and three specialists. They also return all five starters on the offensive line.

**Scouting Ohio:**

- Ohio finished the season with an 8-4 overall with a 5-3 MAC finishing second in the East Division and winning three-straight to close the regular season.
- The Bobcats are averaging 424.8 yards per game of total offense including 237.8 yards through the air and 187.0 on the ground.
- Senior quarterback Derrius Vick leads the Bobcats passing game with a 133.99 passer efficiency, averaging 180.9 yards per game. Vick has gone 158-247 with 10 touchdowns and six picks.
- Junior Sebastian Smith leads the team with 61 catches this season averaging 12.2 yards per reception and 62.2 yards per game. Smith has seven touchdowns on the season and hauled in a career high 10 catches at Bowling Green.

**Ohio Bowl History:** Ohio made its first appearance in a bowl game in 1962 playing in the Sun Bowl against West Texas State. Ohio dropped that game 15-14. Ohio returned to a bowl in 1968 at the Tangerine Bowl losing to Richmond 48-42. The Bobcats then had a 39-year hiatus from a bowl appearance before they returned to the GMAC Bowl in 2007 facing off against Southern Miss., but dropped a 28-7 decision. Ohio then made five straight bowl appearances before snapping that skid in 2014 when the Bobcats were eligible but not chosen to participate in a game.

**Explosive Plays:** The Bobcats have been racking up explosive plays this season with 73 plays over 20 yards. The Bobcats have three plays of 60-yards plus and six over 50. RS freshman running back Papi White leads the squad with nine 20-plus yard plays while RS sophomore wide receiver Brendan Cope leads the team with longest plays of the year. A 67-yard pass from Derrius Vick against Southeastern Louisiana and a 65-yard pass from JD Sprague against Idaho. White has the longest rush of the season, a 58-yarder against Southeastern Louisiana.

**Finishing Strong:** Ohio wrapped up the regular season with a three-game winning streak. Ohio, which started the season 5-1, then went on a five game slide midway through the campaign. Ohio rattled off wins over Kent State (27-0), Ball State (48-31) and NIU (26-21).

**Strong Opening Frame:** Ohio has seen the most success this season when starting strong and has outscored opponents 98-44 in the first quarter. Ohio gave up its first offensive touchdown of the season in the opening frame against Buffalo.

**SID Contact:** Anthony Reynolds, 740-593-1298, reynola1@ohio.edu

**Appalachian State Notes:**

- Appalachian State football participates in its first NCAA bowl game when it battles Ohio in the 2015 Raycom Media Camellia Bowl at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.
- Of the 27 teams that have made the transition from FCS/Division I-AA to FBS/Division I-A, Appalachian State is one of only four to make a bowl appearance in its first season of full-fledged FBS/I-A eligibility, joining Nevada (1992), Marshall (1997) and Sun Belt Conference rival Georgia Southern (2015).
- While playing in its first NCAA bowl game, Appalachian State is no stranger to postseason football. The Mountaineers own a 28-23 record in 51 all-time postseason games.
- Most notably, App State was 24-17 in 20 appearances in the NCAA Division I-AA/FCS playoffs from 1986-2012. The Mountaineers won three-straight I-AA/FCS national championships from 2005-07.
- Appalachian also appeared in 10 bowl games at NAIA level from 1931-55. The Mountaineers are 4-6 in bowl games.
- Appalachian State has already matched the Sun Belt single-season record with 10 wins. The Mountaineers are one of only four Sun Belt teams to ever win 10 games in a season and one of two to accomplish the feat in the regular season.
- Appalachian reached double-digit victories in the regular season for only the fourth time in the program's 86-year history. The Mountaineers previously had double-digit regular-season victories in 1995 (11-0), 2006 (10-1) and 2008 (10-2).

**Offense Notes:**

- With 464 yards of total offense in its regular-season finale at South Alabama, Appalachian State has gained at least 400 yards in eight-straight games and 10 times in 12 games this season.
- However, Appalachian State also matched a season high with four turnovers in the 34-27 win at South Alabama. Two of the four turnovers were fumbles at USA's one yard line, which likely cost the Mountaineers 14 points.
- Prior to the first fumble at South Alabama, Appalachian had scored on 19-straight possessions that finished inside the opponent's red zone. The Mountaineers had scored on every red-zone possession since they took a knee inside Georgia Southern's 10 yard line to close out a 33-13 win on Oct. 22.
- Beginning with its 55-48 overtime loss to Liberty on Oct. 11 of last season, Appalachian State is averaging 38.9 points and 483.6 yards per game over the last 19 contests. The gaudy numbers over the last 19 games come after the Mountaineers averaged just 27.0 points and 399.4 yards per game through the first five contests of last season.
- Appalachian State has scored 44 points or more nine times over the last 19 games after doing so only eight times in its previous 60 games.
- The Mountaineers have also tallied at least 550 yards of offense five times in the last 19 games after doing so only six times in the previous 60 games.

**Defense Notes:**

- During a three-game stretch from Sept. 26-Oct. 10 of this season (at Old Dominion, vs. Wyoming, at Georgia State), Appalachian State's defense scored more touchdowns (3) and accounted for more points (21) than it allowed (two touchdowns and 16 points, respectively).
- Appalachian State's most impressive defensive showings of the season in Sun Belt play came against bowl qualifiers Georgia Southern (Oct. 22) and Georgia State (Oct. 10).
- In its 31-13 triumph over Georgia Southern, Appalachian State limited GS to 13 points, 252 total yards and 188 rushing yards, all well below the Eagles' season averages coming into the game.

**Football Contact:** Mike Flynn, 828-262-2845, flynnmh@appstate.edu

## 2015 FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL

Akron (7-5, 5-3 MAC) vs. Utah State (6-6, 5-3 Mountain West)

Tuesday, December 22, 2015 • 3:30 pm ET • Boise, Ida. • Bronco Stadium (32,000)

ESPN Announcers: Mark Neeley (play-by-play), Mike Bellotti (analyst), Kevin Weidl (sideline reporter)

**Akron****Head Coach: Terry Bowden**

Career: 158-92-2 (22nd year)  
at Akron: 18-30 (4th year)

**Utah State****Head Coach: Matt Wells**

Career: 25-15 (3rd year)  
at Utah State: 25-15 (3rd year)

**Akron Notes:**

- Akron finished second in the MAC East in 2015 and won seven games in a season for the first time since 2005.
- The Zips had a winning season for the first time since 2005 and now have won at least five games for three consecutive seasons (2013-2015).
- Akron won four consecutive MAC games to close out the regular season to earn bowl eligibility for the first time since 2005.

**2015 Akron Zips:** Under the guidance of fourth-year head coach Terry Bowden, the Zips stand 7-5 overall (finished second in Mid-American Conference play at 5-3) after a 20-0 shutout of Kent State on Nov. 27 for their fourth consecutive win. Akron, which is bowl eligible for the first time since 2005, returns 47 lettermen, including 12 starters. The Zips utilize a spread offense and a 4-3 defense.

After 12 games, senior RB Conor Hundley is the team's leading rusher with 883 yards and 10 touchdowns on 188 carries. Under center, sophomore QB Thomas Woodson leads the Zips completing 148-of-278 attempts for 2,034 yards and 16 touchdowns. Senior WR Imani Davis is the top receiver with 46 catches for 593 yards and three touchdowns. Senior LB Jatavis Brown is the top defender with 108 tackles, a team-best 17.5 TFL, a team-best 10.5 sacks, six hurries, three forced fumbles, and an interception.

In this week's national rankings, Akron is ranked No. 3 in rushing defense (89.8), No. 9 in blocked punts (2), No. 17 in total defense (328.5), and No. 18 in turnover margin (0.67). Individually, sophomore WR Jerome Lane (Akron, Ohio) is No. 4 nationally in yards per reception (21.43). Junior CB DeAndre Scott (Frederick, Md.) is No. 5 in total interceptions (6), No. 9 in interceptions per game (0.5) and No. 20 in passes defended (1.3). Senior LB Jatavis Brown is No. 9 in sacks (0.88) and No. 37 in total tackles (9.0).

**Akron's Bowl History:** Since jumping to Division I-A (FBS) in 1987, the Zips made just one prior bowl appearance. The 2005 squad, under head coach J.D. Brookhart, won the 2005 Mid-American Conference championship (with a 31-30 victory over Northern Illinois) and advanced to the Motor City Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit. The Zips, who finished the season at 7-6 overall (5-3 MAC, East Division champions), fell to Memphis 38-31 on Dec. 26, 2005. Ironically, this season the Zips celebrated the 10th anniversary of the 2005 bowl team.

Prior to 1987, the Zips played Division I-AA (from 1980 to 1986) and Division II (from 1974 to 1979) football. Additional postseason play included the 1968 Grantland Rice Bowl [Louisiana Tech 33, Akron 13], the 1976 Division II Playoffs [Akron 27, UNLV 6], Knute Rockne Bowl [Akron 29, Northern Michigan 26 (ot)], Pioneer Bowl [Montana State 24, Akron 13]; and the 1985 Division I-AA Playoffs [Rhode Island 35, Akron 27].

**Akron Staff Is Bowl Experienced:** Strolling the Akron sidelines this fall is a very experienced coaching staff. Led by fourth-year head coach Terry Bowden, the Zips' coaching staff boasts 143 combined bowl appearances, including 34 bowl appearances by defensive coordinator Chuck Amato alone. All of the Zip coaches are former college football players.

**Brown Named MAC Defensive Player of the Year:** Senior LB Jatavis Brown was been tabbed the 2015 Mid-American Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Brown led the team with 108 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks in 12 games this year. He also added one interception, three forced fumbles and one pass break up.

**SID Contact:** Cathy Bongiovi, 330-972-6108, cathyb@uakron.edu

**Utah State Notes:**

- Utah State is playing a bowl game in Boise, Idaho, for the fourth time in program history, including its third in the last five years as it defeated Toledo (41-15) in the 2012 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl and lost to Ohio (24-23) in 2011. USU also played in the 1997 Humanitarian Bowl, where it lost to Cincinnati (35-19). Overall, USU's four bowl appearances in Boise are tied with Boise State for the most-ever by one team. All-time, USU is 1-2 in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.
- All four of Utah State's opponents in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl have been from the state of Ohio as it faced Cincinnati in 1997; played Ohio in 2011; faced Toledo in 2012; and is playing Akron this year.
- Utah State is playing in its fifth-straight bowl game for the first time in school history and its 11th bowl all-time. USU is 4-6 in its previous 10 bowl game appearances.
- Utah State is looking for its fourth-straight bowl win as it competes in its fifth-straight bowl game. USU's current run of three straight bowl wins is a school record as it defeated UTEP (21-6) in the 2014 Gildan New Mexico Bowl; defeated No. 24 Northern Illinois (21-14) in the 2013 San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl; and defeated Toledo (41-15) in the 2012 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.
- Utah State ranks 14th nationally in pass defense (180.4 ypg) and 22nd nationally in total defense (336.7 ypg), while Akron ranks third in the nation in rushing defense (89.8 ypg), 17th nationally in total defense (328.5 ypg) and 27th nationally in scoring defense (21.5 ppg). USU also ranks 14th in the nation in kickoff returns (25.5 ypr), while Akron ranks ninth nationally in kickoff return defense (17.18 ypr).

**A Look At Utah State:** Utah State is 6-6 on the season and finished tied for second in the Mountain Division of the Mountain West with a 5-3 record. USU concluded its regular season with a 51-28 home loss to BYU. Offensively, USU is led by sophomore QB Kent Myers, who is 107-of-179 (.598) passing for 1,470 yards (183.8 ypg) with 14 touchdowns and three interceptions. Junior RB Devante Mays leads the team in rushing with 842 yards on 153 carries (5.5 ypc/70.2 ypg) with nine touchdowns, and senior WR Hunter Sharp has a team-best 60 receptions for 746 yards (12.4 ypr/74.6 ypg) with eight touchdowns. Defensively, junior LB Nick Vigil leads the team with 140 tackles, which includes 3.0 sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss, while senior LB Kyler Fackrell has 76 tackles, which includes 4.0 sacks and 13.5 tackles for loss. As a team, Utah State is averaging 29.7 points and 370.8 yards of total offense (202.9 passing, 167.9 rushing) and allowing 27.0 points and 336.7 yards of total offense (180.4 passing, 156.2 rushing).

**Utah State Has 18 Players With Touchdowns This Season:** Utah State has a school-record 18 players with touchdowns this year, breaking last year's record of 17, while 11 players have forced fumbles, the most since 1999.

**Utah State Closing In On School Records:** Utah State is averaging 25.5 yards on 29 kickoff returns this year, which ranks second all-time in school history behind the 25.6-yard average set in 2007. USU has returned 41 punts for 398 yards (9.7 ypr) this year, which ranks second all-time in school history behind the 44 punt returns during the 1998 season.

**Wells' 25 Wins Most By Any Aggie Coach In First Three Years:** Utah State head coach Matt Wells already ranks as the seventh-winningest coach in school history with his 25 wins, along with Tony Knap (1963-66), while his 62.5 winning percentage (25-15) ranks sixth all-time in school history with a minimum of 15 games coached. Furthermore, Wells' 25 wins is a school record for a coach in his first three seasons, bettering the 23 wins John Ralston produced from 1959-61.

**Contact:** Doug Hoffman, 435-797-3714, doug.hoffman@usa.edu

## 2015 MARMOT BOCA RATON BOWL

Toledo (9-2, 6-2 MAC) vs. Temple (10-3, 7-1 American Athletic)

Tuesday, December 22, 2015 • 7:00 pm ET • Boca Raton, Fla. • FAU Stadium (30,000)

ESPN Announcers: Allen Bestwick (play-by-play), Dan Hawkins (analyst), Tiffany Greene (sideline reporter)

**Toledo****Head Coach: Jason Candle**

Career: 0-0 (1st year)  
at Toledo: 0-0 (1st year)

**Temple****Head Coach: Matt Rhule**

Career: 18-19 (3rd year)  
at Temple: 18-19 (3rd year)

**Toledo Notes:**

- Jason Candle will be debuting as Toledo's head coach in The Marmot Boca Raton Bowl. Candle assumed the head coaching position on Dec. 2 following the departure of Matt Campbell to Iowa State at the conclusion of the regular season. Candle had been an assistant at Toledo for the past seven years, the last four as the offensive coordinator.
- The Rockets (9-2, 6-2 MAC) are co-champions of the West Division of the Mid-American Conference, sharing the crown with Northern Illinois, Western Michigan and Central Michigan.
- Toledo was ranked in the Top 25 for six weeks this season, rising to No. 19 in the AP poll on Oct. 18. The Rockets defeated two teams from Power Five conferences in successive weeks, then-No. 18 Arkansas on Sept. 12 and Iowa State on Sept. 19.
- The Rockets will be playing in their 15th bowl and fifth in the last six years. Toledo is 10-4 all-time in bowl games, including a 63-44 victory over Arkansas State at the GoDaddy Bowl in Mobile last January.
- The last time Toledo played in a bowl game in Florida was the 1971 Tangerine Bowl in Orlando. The Rockets beat Richmond, 28-3, the final victory in the Rockets' famous 35-0 run from 1969-71.
- Toledo leads the all-time series with Temple, 7-3, including a 1-1 record when the Owls were a member of the Mid-American Conference from 2007-11. The two teams last faced in Philadelphia in 2011, a 36-13 Rocket victory.
- Toledo won every road game on its schedule (5-0) for the first time since it went 12-0 in 1971. The Rockets were undefeated on the road in 1995, but had one tie (5-0-1).
- Toledo ranks No. 1 in the MAC in scoring defense (21.1) and rushing offense (213.2), and No. 2 in scoring offense (35.3) and rushing defense (115.5).

**Kareem Hunt Rocketing Up The Record Book:** Junior Kareem Hunt's 139 yards vs. Western Michigan on Nov. 27 gives him 3,391 career rushing yards, moving him into fourth place on the Rockets' all-time rushing list. He moved past former Rocket teammate David Fluellen (2010-13), who ranks fifth with 3,336 yards. Hunt also scored one touchdown vs. WMU to give him 32 career rushing touchdowns, tying Roland Moss (1966-68) for fourth place on Toledo's all-time list. Hunt topped the 100-yard mark for the 20th time in his career, the second-most century outings in Toledo history. Hunt is now seven 100-yard games behind the Rockets' all-time leading rusher Chester Taylor (27 from 1998-2001).

**'Justice League' Keys Rockets At Running Back:** Star running back Kareem Hunt isn't the only weapon in Toledo's backfield. The rushing attack has versatility, thanks to what sophomore Terry Swanson dubbed "The Justice League." Hunt, a junior, leads the committee with 894 yards and 10 touchdowns in eight games played. A second-team all-league pick this year, Hunt leads the MAC with 111.8 yards per game and has gained over 100 yards in each of Toledo's last four games.

Swanson is right behind Hunt with 870 yards. Also a second-team All-MAC selection, Swanson averages 6.6 yards per carry, tops in the MAC and 12th in the nation.

Toledo's other two members of the Justice League played big roles early in the season, especially when Hunt and Swanson were out with injuries. Junior Damion Jones-Moore was the starter vs. Arkansas State and Ball State. He led the team in rushing with 68 yards in Toledo's 16-12 upset of Arkansas on Sept. 12. He is third on the team with 404 yards and also has scored five touchdowns. Junior Marc Remy got the starting nod in the Arkansas game. He has rushed for 171 yards and is second among the running backs with nine receptions.

**SID Contact:** Paul Helgren, 419-530-4918, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu

**Temple Notes:**

- Temple, bowl eligible for the fifth time in seven seasons, will play in its first bowl game since a 37-15 win over Wyoming in the 2011 Gildan New Mexico Bowl. The 2015 Owls won the American Athletic Conference East Division, posting a 7-1 conference mark, but fell 24-13, to No. 17 Houston in the inaugural American Championship Game.
- Series History: Toledo holds a 5-3 advantage in the all-time series against Temple.
- Bowl History: This is Temple's fifth bowl appearance. The Owls have been in the 1935 Sugar Bowl (20-14 loss to Tulane), 1979 Garden State Bowl (28-17 win over California), 2009 Eagle Bank Bowl (30-21 loss to UCLA), and 2011 Gildan New Mexico Bowl (37-15 win over Wyoming).
- In just his third season, Rhule brought Temple to new heights in the 2015 campaign. The Owls' 10 wins tied for the most in school history, a 7-0 start was the program's best ever, and a signature opening day win against Penn State was the first over the in-state rivals in 74 years. Temple was ranked in the Top 25 for a total of seven weeks, including a stretch of four straight – a first for the Temple football program.

**Young Guns:** The Owls and Rockets will have the youngest coaching match-up of the bowl season. Matt Rhule and Jason Candle are 40 and 36, respectively, but both are familiar with this rivalry. Both Rhule and Candle were assistant coaches during the last two meetings between Temple and Toledo, when the teams were MAC rivals. While Rhule has been with Temple every season but one since 2006, Candle has served at Toledo since 2009.

**Sunshine State Squad:** When the Owls travel to Florida for the Marmot Boca Raton Bowl, 13 players on the active roster will be returning to their home state. Redshirt senior WR Robby Anderson played high school ball down I-95 at Plantation High School in Fort Lauderdale, while he and Ormond Beach native WR, John Christopher, will play their last collegiate games close to home. Five receivers on the Temple roster are Florida natives, including redshirt freshman Ventell Bryant, who has rewritten rookie receiver records at Temple. Playing at FAU Stadium will also be a special homecoming for Temple's Deputy Director of Athletics, Craig Angelos. He served as Athletic Director for the FAU Owls when the stadium was opened in 2011.

**Renewing The Rivalry:** Temple and Toledo have squared off eight times since the rivalry began in 1984. As MAC opponents, the teams have met three times, with Toledo winning two of the three match-ups. Toledo has been an opponent on the Owls' schedule the last two times Temple has appeared in a bowl game. The Owls won 40-24 in 2009 at Toledo, while the Rockets took a 36-13 victory in Philadelphia in 2011. Owls head coach Matt Rhule was an assistant for both of those meetings. Overall, Toledo holds a 5-3 advantage in the rivalry.

**Poll Position:** For the first time in team history, the Owls were ranked for four-consecutive weeks in the AP and Amway Coaches' Poll. After defeating No. 21 Memphis, the Owls returned to the polls and spent a total of seven weeks being ranked in the Top 25. In addition, Temple spent two weeks in the College Football Playoff Ranking, dropped out for one, and returned for the final three weeks following a win over Memphis.

**Poll Position:** Owls Coach Matt Rhule vowed a return to Temple's power running style of previous seasons and junior RB Jahad Thomas has answered the challenge. Against UCF, he set career highs with 31 carries, 199 yards, and three scores. His 1,257 yards this season ranks second in the American Athletic Conference and has already tripled his 2014 output. Thomas is also second in the conference with over 128 all-purpose yards per game.

**Football Contact:** Rich Burg, 215-204-0876, rich.burg@temple.edu

## 2015 SAN DIEGO COUNTY CREDIT UNION POINSETTIA BOWL

Northern Illinois (8-5, 6-2 MAC) vs. Boise State (8-4, 5-3 MAC)

Wednesday, December 23, 2015 • 4:30 pm ET • San Diego, Calif. • Qualcomm Stadium (70,561)  
ESPN Announcers: Beth Mowins (play-by-play), David Diaz-Infante (analyst), Shelly Smith (sideline reporter)**Northern Illinois****Head Coach: Rod Carey**Career: 31-11 (3rd year)  
at Northern Illinois: 31-11 (3rd year)**Boise State****Head Coach: Bryan Harsin**Career: 27-11 (3rd year)  
at Boise State: 20-6 (2nd year)**NIU Notes:**

- The Northern Illinois University Huskies, champions of the MAC West Division, make their third appearance in the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl when they travel to California to take on Boise State on December 23rd.
- NIU is playing in a postseason bowl game for the eighth consecutive season, extending its own MAC record, and for the ninth time in the last 10 years.
- NIU scored another victory earlier this season with the release of the NCAA Graduation Success Rate report for 2015. The Huskie football team's 86 percent GSR leads the MAC by 12 percentage points over Ohio (74 percent) and is tied for 11th nationally among all FBS programs.
- No FBS team in the country has played more games than NIU over the last six seasons. With six straight appearances in the Marathon MAC Championship game, the Poinsettia Bowl will mark the Huskies' 84th game since the beginning of the 2010 season.
- After making an NCAA FBS record 55 consecutive starts beginning on Sept. 1, 2012, Huskie offensive linemen Aidan Conlon (guard) and Andrew Ness (center) line up together for the final time Dec 23.
- Sophomore cornerback Shawun Lurry, the national leader in interceptions and interception return yards, became the fourth NIU player all-time, and the third in the last three seasons, to garner first team All-America honors when he was named to the 2015 AutoNation FWAA team.
- NIU led the league with eight first-team All-MAC players in 2015, including kickoff return man Aregeros Turner, who was named the MAC Special Teams Player of the Year after breaking the NIU single season records for kickoffs and kickoff return yards in 2015.
- NIU Head Coach Rod Carey (31-11) has averaged 10-plus wins per year in three seasons as the Huskies' head man and leads NIU into a bowl game for the fourth time.
- The Huskies have played in Boise, but have never met Boise State on the football field. NIU won the 2010 Humanitarian (now Famous Idaho Potato) Bowl on the famous "blue turf."
- NIU looks for its first Poinsettia Bowl win after falling to TCU (37-7) and Utah State (21-14) in 2006 and 2013, respectively.

**Series History:** This is the first meeting between NIU and Boise State.**NIU vs. The Mountain West:** The Huskies 38-30 victory over UNLV in the 2015 season opener improved their record to 10-9 versus teams that currently comprise the Mountain West Conference. NIU owns winning records against UNLV, Fresno State and San Jose State. NIU is scheduled to play San Diego State in 2016 & 2017 and Wyoming in 2016 & 2021.**Bowl Experience:** A total of 40 players on the 2015 NIU roster have played in at least one bowl game. Nine Huskie seniors will be playing in their fourth bowl game, while eight more on the trip has seen action in NIU's two previous bowl games. Center Andrew Ness and Aidan Conlon will be starting their fourth consecutive bowl game, a streak that dates back to the 2013 Discover Orange Bowl. There are at least 17 players total with at least two games of bowl experience and 19 active players that will be participating in their second bowl game.**Successful Programs:** The 2015 San Diego County Credit Union matchup is up of two of the most successful FBS teams of the last six years. Since 2010, NIU has amassed a 65-18 record for a .783 winning percentage, while Boise State has compiled a 63-15 mark for a .808 winning percentage. NIU and Boise State are the last two BCS/ New Year's Six Bowls busters. NIU faced off against Florida State in the 2013 Orange Bowl, while Boise State took on Arizona in the 2014 Fiesta Bowl. Boise State also competed in the 2007 and 2010 Fiesta Bowls.**SID Contact:** Donna Turner, 815-753-9513, donnaturner@niu.edu**Boise State Bowl Streak:** Boise State will appear in a bowl game for the 14th-consecutive season, tied for the sixth-longest streak in the country. The Poinsettia Bowl will mark the first meeting all-time between the Broncos and Huskies.**14 Years In The Rankings:** Boise State debuted at No. 23 and No. 24 in the preseason edition of the 2015 Associated Press and USA Today Coaches Polls, respectively, and moved up to Nos. 20 and 22 in week two before falling out with a loss to BYU. The Broncos' highest ranking in 2015 was 20 in each poll. The Broncos have been ranked for at least one week in both the AP and Coaches Polls in each of the last 14 seasons.**Bowling Again:** This year's Poinsettia Bowl matchup against Northern Illinois will mark Boise State's 14th-straight bowl appearance and the 16th over the last 17 years. Since the Broncos joined FBS in 1996, they have failed to make the postseason just four times (1996-98, 2001). In 2001, the last season in which the Broncos did not go bowling, Boise State was bowl-eligible with an 8-4 record but was not selected for a game. Since 2001, Boise State's run of 14-straight bowl games ranks just one back of the 15 consecutive appearances of Florida State, Georgia, LSU, and Virginia Tech. Along with the Broncos, Clemson, Florida, Georgia Tech, Oregon and Wisconsin have each reached a bowl game 14 times as well.**Streak of Winning Seasons:** Boise State has cemented a winning season for the 18th consecutive season, the nation's second-longest active streak and 23rd longest all-time. Virginia Tech, currently 6-6, has the longest streak in the country (21 seasons), but that could be snapped should the Hokies fall to Tulsa in the Independence Bowl on Dec. 26.**Bowl Streak:** Since joining FBS in 1996 and reaching its first FBS bowl game in 1999, Boise State has enjoyed success in the postseason, boasting a 10-5 record heading into Dec. 23rd's Poinsettia Bowl matchup with Northern Illinois.

The matchup against the Huskies will be the first in a bowl against a MAC team. Over Boise State's previous 15 bowl appearances, its records against specific conferences are: 2-0 against the Big 12, 1-0 against the WAC, 3-1 against the Pac-12, 2-1 against the Mountain West, 2-2 against Conference USA and 0-1 against the ACC.

**Thompson An All-American Again:** Redshirt senior safety Darian Thompson has picked up three All-America honors this season (as of Dec. 14). Thompson, named to CBSSports.com's All-America Second Team in 2014, was named All-America honorable mention by Sports Illustrated on Dec. 10, to the Associated Press All-America Third Team Dec. 13 and to the FWAA's All-America Second Team Dec. 14.

Thompson leads the Broncos with five interceptions in 2015, a figure that ranks tied for 17th in the FBS, four behind national leader Shawun Lurry of Northern Illinois. It is also tied for third in the Mountain West. On Oct. 31 at UNLV, Thompson picked off his fifth pass of the season and 19th of his career, passing Eric Weddle as the Mountain West's all-time leader. He is also second on the team with 63 tackles (team-high 35 solo) and tied for third with 7.5 tackles-for-loss.

**The Touchdown Machine:** Running back Jeremy McNichols is tied for the FBS lead in touchdowns (23) with Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry of Alabama. McNichols' total of 18 rushing touchdowns is tied for fifth in the FBS, five behind Henry (23), the national leader.**Contact:** Joe Nickell, 208-426-3868, joenickell@boisestate.edu

## 2015 GODADDY BOWL

Bowling Green (10-3, 7-1 MAC) vs. Georgia Southern (8-4, 6-2 Sun Belt)

Wednesday, December 23, 2015 • 8:00 pm ET • Mobile, Ala. • Ladd-Peebles Stadium (40,646)

ESPN Announcers: Tom Hart (play-by-play), Andre Ware (analyst), Laura Rutledge (sideline reporter)

**Bowling Green****Interim Head Coach: Brian Ward**

Career: 0-0 (1st year)

at Bowling Green: 0-0 (1st year)

**Georgia Southern****Interim Head Coach: Dell McGee**

Career: 0-0 (1st year)

at Georgia Southern: 0-0 (1st year)

**Bowling Green Notes:**

- For the 13th time in school history, and the fourth consecutive season, Bowling Green is going bowling. The Falcons, fresh off their 34-14 win over Northern Illinois in the MAC Championship Game, will head to Mobile, Ala. on Dec. 23 to play Georgia Southern in the GoDaddy Bowl.
- For Bowling Green, it is their third appearance all-time in the bowl game. For Georgia Southern, who finished the season 8-4 overall, it is their first bowl appearance in school history after making the move to the FBS prior to the 2014 season. The matchup marks the first all-time between the Falcons and Eagles.
- With their 34-14 win, Bowling Green won their 12th Mid-American Conference Championship in school history.
- With his 15-yard completion to Gehrig Dieter, Matt Johnson surpassed Ben Roethlisberger (Miami, 2003) as the Mid-American Conference's all-time single-season passing leader.
- With his touchdown pass to Derek Lee in the second quarter, Johnson set the new MAC single-season record for passing touchdowns with 42. He now has 43 TDs on the season through the air.
- Travis Greene led the Falcons in rushing with a career-high 183 yards and two touchdowns. Greene was named MAC East MVP for the effort. It was his 19th-career 100-yard game, just one shy of Dave Preston's career record of 20 100-yard games.
- With their 34 points, BGSU has now scored a school-record 564 points this season. The previous school record was 532 points in 2004.
- The senior class won their 36th game during their careers and their second MAC Championship. They are the second-winningest class in school history.

**Lighting Up The Scoreboard:**

- Bowling Green has scored 564 points this season, averaging 43.4 points per game. The 43.4 points per game are fifth-best in the country and tops in the Mid-American Conference and the most ever scored in program history in a single-season, which covers 96 years of football.
- So far through 13 games this season, Bowling Green has scored 40 points in eight games and at least 50 points three times.
- The most 40-point games in a season came in 2004, when the Falcons did so nine times. The school record for 50-point performances in the same season was four, which the 2004 team did.

**Greene New Rushing King:** With his carry in the first quarter against Toledo on Nov. 17, Travis Greene set Bowling Green's new record for most rushing yards in a career. He surpassed Dave Preston (1973-76) on the all-time list. Greene is in his third season at running back for the Falcons in 2015, after coming to Bowling Green and playing wide receiver his first two years on campus. Greene owns the all-time career rushing record with 3,773 yards.

**Johnson Sets MAC Single-Season Passing Marks:** Quarterback Matt Johnson became the Mid-American Conference's new passing (4,700 yards; 43 touchdowns) king in the MAC Championship Game, surpassing Ben Roethlisberger's record for passing yards and Omar Jacobs' record for passing touchdowns in a season. Johnson also set the school record for both yards and touchdowns this season. He has surpassed quarterbacks such as Roethlisberger, Chad Pennington, and Byron Leftwich this season in the MAC record books.

Johnson sits just 300 yards shy from becoming the 13th quarterback in NCAA history to surpass 5,000 yards in a single season. Additionally, Johnson is just 401 yards shy of surpassing 9,000 yards passing in his career. Johnson has passed for 70 career touchdowns, one shy of tying the school record for a career.

**SID Contact:** Scott Swegan, 419-372-7105, swegan@bgsu.edu

**Georgia Southern Notes:**

- Georgia Southern resurrected its program in 1982 and thrived at the FCS level, winning six national titles. After deciding to make the move to the FBS, the Eagles have a 17-7 record in two seasons.
- Last year, Georgia Southern won the Sun Belt with an 8-0 mark, but was ineligible for a bowl game as the program was in the second year of the NCAA's mandatory transition phase.
- So after 34 seasons, 11 conference titles and six national championships, this will be Georgia Southern's first NCAA postseason bowl game. The three FBS programs appearing in their first bowl game in program history this year - Georgia Southern, Appalachian State and Georgia State - all hail from the Sun Belt Conference.
- This will be the first meeting between Georgia Southern and Bowling Green on the football field.
- Georgia Southern is 16-4 all-time at neutral sites, including six games in FCS National Championship games, four of which the Eagles won. The program's last neutral site game came in 2000 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the Eagles beat Montana 27-25 for a national title.
- The Eagles are 7-8 all-time in games played in the state of Alabama, including 1-0 in Mobile and in Ladd-Peebles Stadium, home of the GoDaddy Bowl. The Eagles beat South Alabama 28-6 in 2014 for the program's first-ever Sun Belt Conference victory.

**Impressive Offensive Output:**

- After getting shut out in its opener, Georgia Southern has rushed for 47 touchdowns in the past 11 games. Matt Breida (16) and L.A. Ramsby (12) have combined for 28 of those scores. The Eagles average 6.47 yards per carry, tops in the country and their 47 rushing touchdowns are second behind Navy (48) for the national lead.
- Georgia Southern, which leads the nation with an average of 355.6 yards rushing per game, has averaged 439.8 yards rushing in its eight wins. The Eagles have averaged 188.0 yards in their four losses.
- The Eagles have done a good job of controlling the ball this season and stand ninth in the nation in average time of possession with a mark of 33:26 per game.
- Georgia Southern has three of the top single-game rushing totals in the FBS this season: 507 vs. New Mexico State (3rd), 503 vs. Texas State (4th) and 489 vs. South Alabama (7th). Army's 556 yards rushing against Eastern Michigan is the top FBS total in 2015.

**All While Playing A Tough Schedule:** All three of the Eagle's FBS non-conference opponents in 2015 - West Virginia (Cactus Bowl), Western Michigan (Bahamas Bowl) and Georgia (TaxSlayer Bowl) - are playing in a bowl this postseason. The fourth non-conference team, The Citadel, advanced to the second round of the FCS Playoffs. In all, six of the 12 teams on Georgia Southern's 2015 schedule played or will play in some form of NCAA postseason.

**Eagles Running Back Matt Breida Part of 2,000-yard Rushing Club:**

- Running Back Matt Breida became the 16th member of the 2,000-yard rushing club at Georgia Southern with his 179-yard performance at Idaho. He now has 3,040 career yards for his career and sits in ninth place all-time at Georgia Southern.
- Breida is one of only four players with two of rushes of 80 yards or longer this year. He leads the FBS lead in 60-yard runs (5) and is tied with Florida State's Dalvin Cook in 70-yard runs (4).
- On the season, he has racked up 1,540 yards rushing and a Sun Belt-leading 16 rushing touchdowns. He has had big games against Western Michigan (176 yards), The Citadel (164 yards) Idaho (184 yards), ULM (149 yards), Texas State (205 yards) and South Alabama (187 yards) with long scoring runs of 70, 34, 25, 87, 83, 66, 37, 48 and 75 yards.

**Contact:** Bryan Johnston, 912-478-5448, bjohnston@georgiasouthern.edu

## 2015 POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL

Western Michigan (7-5, 6-2 MAC) vs. Middle Tennessee (6-5, 5-2 Conference USA)

Thursday, December 24, 2015 • Noon ET • Nassau, Bahamas • Thomas A. Robinson Stadium (15,000)

ESPN Announcers: Steve Levy (play-by-play), Mark May, Mack Brown (analysts), Kaylee Hartung (sideline reporter)

**Western Michigan****Head Coach: P. J. Fleck**

Career: 16-21 (3rd year)  
at Western Michigan: 16-21 (3rd year)

**Middle Tennessee****Head Coach: Rick Stockstill**

Career: 64-60 (10th year)  
at Middle Tennessee: 64-60 (10th year)

**Western Michigan Notes:**

- Western Michigan will take on Middle Tennessee State in the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl on Thursday, Dec. 24 at noon on ESPN. This marks the first time in school history the Broncos have played in bowl games in consecutive seasons and just their seventh appearance overall.
- A win would give the Broncos their first bowl win in program history as well as the first time having eight wins in back-to-back seasons.
- Western Michigan is coming off its first win over a ranked opponent in program history, beating No. 24 Toledo 35-30 in the regular season finale.
- The Broncos had 11 All-MAC selections including three first-team selections. Jamauri Bogan became the fourth straight Bronco to earn MAC Freshman of the Year honors.
- The Broncos rank second in the country in time of possession after winning the time of possession battle in every game this season.
- Junior receivers Corey Davis and Daniel Braverman each went over the 1,200 receiving yards mark for the season, becoming the first duo in the country since 2010 to do so.
- WR Corey Davis now has six straight games with at least 100+ yards receiving and is second place all-time at Western Michigan with 3,602 yards. Davis is first among active FBS players in receiving yards and second in the country with 32 career TDs. Davis has 227 catches in his career, just one of five players in program history to eclipse the 200-catch mark.
- WR Daniel Braverman is the only player in the country inside the top-eight in receptions (2nd-103), yards (8th-1,270) and receiving TDs (8th-12). He is third in program history in a single season with 103 receptions, and is also third place in a single season with 12 TDs. Braverman ranks eighth in the country with an average of 105.8 yards per game.
- RB Jamauri Bogan ran for his 12th touchdown of the year against No. 24 Toledo. Earlier this year, his four TDs at Eastern Michigan made him the first Bronco to achieve that feat since Phil Reed accomplished the feat on Oct. 19, 2002. He is the first Bronco to score four touchdowns of any kind in a game since Greg Jennings did so Oct. 8, 2005.
- Sophomore cornerback Darius Phillips recorded his fifth interception of the year against Northern Illinois. Phillips ranks in the top-25 in the country in interceptions and is fifth in the nation in total pass breakups with 20.
- QB Zach Terrell has four 300-yard passing games this season and 27 passing TDs, second most in the MAC. Terrell now has 8,274 career passing yards, becoming the fifth player in Western Michigan history to throw for over 8,000 yards.

**Big Foot:** Senior kicker Andrew Haldeman has been money for the Broncos the last five weeks going 11-of-11 on field goals including four over 40 yards and a season-high of 48 yards against Bowling Green. His four 40-yard field goals are a career-high. For his career he has 56 made field goals, the most in Western Michigan history and 328 points for his career, second most by a Bronco kicker in history.

**Top Arm:** Junior quarterback Zach Terrell continued his climb up the charts as one of the best players in the MAC and one of the all-time greats at Western Michigan. He has 27 touchdowns this season, good for second in the MAC and 15th in the country. He now has 61 touchdown passes for his career, good for fourth in program history. Terrell has also accumulated some of the best yardage totals in program history, as he has already moved into fifth all-time at Western Michigan, becoming one of just five players in program history to eclipse the 8,000 yard mark. Another sign of his growth, has been the ability to take on more of the offense on himself. Terrell has improved his passing yards per game each season and is currently 30th in the country at 277.7 yards in 2015.

**SID Contact:** Robert Beuerlein, 269-387-4138, robert.beuerlein@wmich.edu

**Middle Tennessee Notes:**

- The Blue Raiders have been bowl eligible seven times in 10 years and the Bahamas Bowl will be the fifth bowl game in the FBS era.
- Middle Tennessee has 20 players on its roster with a degree in hand for the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.
- This will be the first football game Middle Tennessee has ever played on the date of December 24.
- In Middle Tennessee's seven wins it is averaging 529.7 yards of total offense and allowing just 324.1.
- Middle Tennessee is averaging 44.3 points a game at home and 24.2 on the road.
- TE Terry Pettis ranks 6th nationally in yards per catch at 21.2. That total would also rank 6th best for a single-season at Middle Tennessee.
- WR Richie James has 45 receptions in his last five games combined.
- WR Richie James is averaging 8.3 receptions a game this season as a freshman to rank 3rd nation-ally and ranks 1st among freshmen.
- Cody Clark's consecutive made PAT streak of 144 ranks as the third longest nationally.
- Middle Tennessee's 73 points scored in the conference opener against Charlotte went down as the second most scored in school history and came on the heels of a 70-point outing in game one.
- Middle Tennessee had 42 points in the first quarter in win over Charlotte which was a school record for points in a quarter.
- In their last 32 conference games, Middle Tennessee has a mark of 23-9.
- Kevin Byard is 2nd among NCAA's active players in interceptions per game at 0.40. He also ranks 1st in total interceptions with 19.
- Over the last 42 games, the Blue Raider defense has come up with 53 interceptions. The team had 15 picks in 2013 by eight different players, 13 in 2014 and 16 so far in 2015.
- Under Head Coach Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders have been involved in 18 games that were decided in the final minute of regulation or overtime. The team is 11-7 in those games and have won seven of the last eight.
- Head Coach Rick Stockstill is third on the school's all-time wins list with 64 victories.
- In 124 games under Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders are +23 in turnover margin.
- Middle Tennessee has scored 30 or more points 51 times under Rick Stockstill. The most 30-point games in a season under Stockstill is nine (2009).

**Bowl History:** The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl marks the ninth bowl Middle Tennessee has participated in during its football history but the fifth in the FBS era. The Blue Raiders faced Central Michigan in the 2006 Motor City Bowl (lost 31-14), then defeated Southern Miss (42-32) in the 2009 New Orleans Bowl to cap a 10-3 season. MT went on to the 2011 GoDaddy.com Bowl where they fell to Miami, OH (35-21) before falling to Navy in the 2013 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl (24-6). Prior to the FBS era, the Blue Raiders competed in the 1956 Refrigerator Bowl, the 1960 and 1961 Tangerine Bowl, and the 1964 Grantland Rice Bowl.

**James An All-American:** Receiver Richie James earned First Team USA Today Freshman All-America honors after posting a school record 100 receptions for 1,220 yards in 2015. James becomes the fourth freshman all-american in school history and the third under Rick Stockstill.

**Strong Seniors:** The 2015 Senior Class enters the bowl game with 29 victories the past four years, which goes down as the most ever by a class in MT's FBS era (since 1999). It's also the most since the 1995 class won 30 games. The class has also been bowl eligible all four years.

**Contact:** Mark Owens, 615-898-5057, owens@goblueraiders.edu

## 2015 QUICK LANE BOWL

Central Michigan (7-5, 6-2 MAC) vs. Minnesota (5-7, 2-6 MAC)

Monday, December 28, 2015 • 5:00 pm ET • Detroit, Mich. • Ford Field (65,000)

ESPN2 Announcers: Dave Neal (play-by-play), Matt Stinchcomb (analyst), Kayce Smith (sideline reporter)

**Central Michigan****Head Coach: John Bonamego**

Career: 7-5 (1st year)

at Central Michigan: 7-5 (1st year)

**Minnesota****Head Coach: Tracy Claeys**

Career: 1-4 (1st year)

at Minnesota: 1-4 (1st year)

**Central Michigan Notes:**

- Central Michigan (7-5, 6-2 MAC) faces Minnesota (5-7, 2-6 Big Ten) in the Quick Lane Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich.
- Kavon Frazier will wear the No. 21 in the bowl game. Frazier is the first player to wear the number twice, also donning the jersey against Monmouth. The senior earned second team All-MAC honors and was named CMU's Defensive MVP. He led CMU in tackles with 103 including 69 solo stops. Frazier ranks second in the Mid-American Conference in solo tackles and ninth in tackles per game.
- Central Michigan captured a share of the Mid-American Conference West Division title with a 6-2 record in conference play. This is CMU's first division crown since 2009 and the most MAC wins since that same year. The Chippewas have won four West Division titles (2006, 2007, 2009 and 2015).
- Central Michigan is 5-3 all-time in games played at Ford Field. This is the ninth bowl game in Central Michigan history. The Chippewas are 3-5 after winning two of their last three postseason games.
- Head coach John Bonamego has secured a winning season in his first year. Since CMU became a Division I program in 1975, Herb Deromedi, Dick Flynn and Butch Jones are the only other coaches to accomplish that at CMU. Bonamego would be the first CMU coach to win a bowl game in his first season as both Flynn and Jones lost in their bowl games.
- Central Michigan is bowl eligible for the eighth time in the last 10 years, including four-straight seasons.

**Central Michigan-Minnesota Series:** Minnesota won the lone meeting between these two teams, 30-10, in the Metrodome in 1987. That game was CMU's first against a Big Ten opponent. The Chippewas are 6-23 all-time against the Big Ten. CMU has beaten a team from the Big Ten two of the last three seasons with a 32-31 victory over Iowa in 2012 and a 38-17 win against Purdue last year.

**Honorary Captain:** The honorary captain for the bowl game is Hall of Fame head coach Herb Deromedi. Deromedi took over the CMU program in 1978 and he is the winningest coach (110-55-10 overall) in both CMU and MAC history. His 90 MAC wins are also a conference record. He guided the Chippewas to three MAC titles (1979, 1980 & 1990) during his 16-year tenure and was twice named MAC Coach of the Year. Deromedi is a member of three prestigious Hall of Fames. He was elected to the CMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000, the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2004 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007. Deromedi coached current CMU head coach John Bonamego from 1983-86.

**Cooper Steps Up:** Quarterback Cooper Rush is having one of the best seasons by a quarterback in program history. The junior has thrown for a school-record 3,703 yards this season. He ranks 10th nationally and second in the MAC behind national leader Matt Johnson of Bowling Green.

Rush also ranks sixth in the country in completions per game (25.8), 12th in completion percentage (67.2 percent) and 20th in passing touchdowns (25). The junior also ranks highly among the NCAA active career leaders. He is sixth in total passing yards (9,209), eighth in completion percentage (63.2 percent), ninth in passing touchdowns (67), 10th in passing yards per game (255.9), 13th in completions per game (20.3), and 17th in total TDs responsible for (70).

**Dominating The Red Zone:** Central Michigan has been one of the MAC's best teams in the red zone this season. The Chippewas are second in the MAC and rank 31st nationally in red zone offense. CMU has scored on 45-of-51 red zone opportunities, a mark of 88.2 percent. It has scored 33 touchdowns and Brian Eavey is 12-for-14 on field goal attempts.

**SID Contact:** Rob Wyman, 989-774-7614, [wymn1rd@cmich.edu](mailto:wymn1rd@cmich.edu)

**Minnesota Notes:**

- Minnesota, which owns a 5-7 record, earned a bid into the Quick Lane Bowl this year based on the team's high APR mark of 975.
- The Quick Lane Bowl is the 18th bowl game that Minnesota will play in and is the fourth-straight bowl game for the Gophers. The four straight bowl games is the second longest stretch in team history, as Minnesota played in five straight bowl games spanning the 2002-06 seasons.
- Minnesota is 6-11 all-time in bowl games but has lost its last seven bowl games (five by four points or less). Minnesota's last win in a bowl game was a 20-16 victory against Alabama in the 2004 Music City Bowl where both Marion Barber III and Laurence Maroney rushed for more than 100 yards.
- Minnesota has played one of the toughest schedules in the nation this year. The Gophers have faced (AP rankings at time of the game) No. 1 Ohio State, No. 2 TCU, No. 8 Iowa, No. 15 Michigan and No. 16 Northwestern. Minnesota also played Wisconsin, who ended the season ranked No. 23. The Gophers faced three top-15 teams in Michigan, Ohio State and Iowa in three straight weeks. The last time Minnesota played three straight games against top 15 teams was 2002 when it played No. 6 Ohio State, No. 13 Michigan and No. 6 Iowa. Baylor was the only other team in the regular season to play three straight top-15 opponents, as it played No. 12 Oklahoma and No. 4 Oklahoma State and No. 15 TCU.
- Nine of Minnesota's 12 regular season opponents will play in a bowl game this year. Those nine opponents have a combined record of 81-28 and all won at least seven games. Minnesota posted a home win against Ohio (Bobcats ended season at 8-4) and ended Colorado State's school record nine-game home winning streak (Rams finished the season at 7-5). Minnesota's regular season opponents will play in the Rose Bowl (Iowa), Fiesta Bowl (Ohio State), Outback Bowl (Northwestern), Citrus Bowl (Michigan), Alamo Bowl (TCU), Holiday Bowl (Wisconsin), Foster Farms Bowl (Nebraska), Camellia Bowl (Ohio) and Arizona Bowl (Colorado State).

**Done This Before:** On Oct. 28, 2015, Tracy Claeys was named Interim Head Coach after Jerry Kill resigned due to health reasons. Claeys was named Minnesota's Head Coach on Nov. 11, 2015, after leading the Gophers against No. 15 Michigan and No. 1 Ohio State. Claeys has been in this position before, as he served as Acting Head Coach for in 2013 when Kill took time away to focus on his health. In 2013, Claeys led Minnesota to a 4-3 record and wins at Northwestern, versus No. 25 Nebraska, at Indiana and against Penn State. The three defeats were to No. 16 Wisconsin (20-7), at No. 11 Michigan State (14-3) and to Syracuse (34-31) in the Texas Bowl. Kill was still the team's head coach, so that 4-3 mark is reflected on Kill's all-time record at Minnesota.

**Young Skill:** Minnesota is one of 13 schools that has three or fewer seniors at offensive skill positions (QB, RB, WR, TE). Minnesota's three seniors are receiver KJ Maye (65 catches for 706 yards and nine rushes for 46 yards), tight end Lincoln Plsek (injured, has not played this year) and running back Rodrick Williams (33 carries for 108 yards and four catches for 58 yards).

**Right Direction:** Minnesota is 26-23 in its last 49 games. In its previous 49 games, Minnesota was 18-31. The Gophers have won 11 of their last 24 Big Ten games (2013-present). Minnesota won 11 of 38 conference games from Oct. 11, 2008 - Nov. 24, 2012.

**Under Center:** Quarterback Mitch Leidner has played in 34 games (19-15 record) and started 28 (15-13 record). He has passed for 4,895 career yards (seventh most in school history) and 27 touchdowns (eighth most in school history).

**Football Contact:** Paul Rovnak, 612-625-9379, [psrovnak@umn.edu](mailto:psrovnak@umn.edu)

# MAC Announces 2015 Post Season Awards

## Bowling Green QB Matt Johnson Honored As MAC Offensive Player of the Year and Vern Smith Leadership Award

A total of 27 repeat selections from last year's All-MAC teams highlight this year's postseason football awards in the Mid-American Conference. Bowling Green senior quarterback **Matt Johnson** was tabbed as the winner of the 34th Vern Smith Leadership Award and was named the MAC Offensive Player of the Year. Toledo Head Coach **Matt Campbell** was named MAC Head Coach of the Year, while Western Michigan true freshman running back **Jamauri Bogan** was honored as the MAC Freshman of the Year. Akron senior linebacker **Jatavis Brown** was named MAC Defensive Player of the Year and Northern Illinois kick returner **Aregeros Turner** was named MAC Special Teams Player of the Year.

A native of Harrisburg, Pa, Johnson was voted by the Conference head coaches as the 34th Vern Smith Leadership Award winner. The award is presented annually to the conference's top football player in honor of Vern Smith, the former University of Toledo Athletic Director. Johnson was also named MAC Offensive Player of the Year as he was the architect of the Falcons offense as he threw for a 4,465 yards and 41 touchdowns in only 12 regular season games. Johnson led the Bowling Green offense to average 566.0 yards per game and 44.2 points per game. Johnson completed 343-of-498 passing and averaged 372.1 yards passing per game.

Campbell, who led the Rockets for the last four seasons as head coach at Toledo was 35-15 in four seasons as head coach of the Rockets, including 24-8 in MAC play. Campbell, who turned 36 on Nov. 29, was named the new head coach at Iowa State. Campbell led the Rockets to a 9-2 overall record this season, 6-2 in the MAC as co-West Division Champions and were ranked as high as No. 19 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll at one point in the season.

Bogan, a redshirt freshman led the Broncos rushing attack with 836 yards on 143 carries (5.8 avg.) and 12 touchdowns. Bogan appeared in all 12 games this season as Western Michigan finished with a 7-5 overall record, including a 6-2 league mark as co-West Division Champions. A native of Union, N.J., Bogan ranked ninth in the MAC with an average of 69.7 yards rushing per game.

Brown, a native of Belle Glade, Fla., played in all 12 games this past year and led the Zips to the teams first year of bowl eligibility since 2005 with a 7-5 overall record. Brown led Akron with 108 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks. Brown also added one interception, two passes defensed and three forced fumbles for the Zips. Among the MAC, Brown led the league in sacks, tackles for loss and ranked seventh in total tackles. His 10.5 sacks ranks tied for eighth in the nation and his 17.5 tackles for loss ranks tied for 13th in the country.

Turner, a native of Akron, Ohio, collected 37 kick returns this past season for 948 yards for a 25.6 average and one touchdown. Turner led the MAC with his 948 kickoff return yards, was tied for the league-lead with one touchdown and ranked second with his 25.6 return average.

Northern Illinois led the way in 2015 with eight First-Team selections, followed by Bowling Green with five First-Team selections and Toledo with four honorees. Overall, Bowling Green, Northern Illinois and Western Michigan set the pace with 11 All-MAC honorees, followed by Toledo with 10 honorees, while Central Michigan had eight honorees.

Akron's Jatavis Brown was the only three-time First Team All-MAC honoree in this year's honors. There were a total of seven students named to their second consecutive First-Team selection: offensive lineman Andrew Ness (Northern Illinois), offensive lineman Nick Beamish (Central Michigan), wide receiver Roger Lewis (Bowling Green), wide receiver Corey Davis (Western Michigan), wide receiver Tajae Sharpe (UMass) and defensive back Nate Holley (Kent State).

Central Michigan led the way in 2014 with five First-Team selections, followed by Northern Illinois and UMass with four and Toledo and Western Michigan with three each. Overall, Toledo and Western Michigan set the pace with 11 All-MAC honorees, followed by Northern Illinois with 10 honorees, while Ball State and Central Michigan each had eight honorees. There were a total of four student-athletes named to their second consecutive First-Team selection: offensive lineman Tyler Loos (Northern Illinois), wide receiver Titus Davis (Central Michigan) and outside linebackers Jatavis Brown (Akron) and Junior Sylvestre (Toledo).

### 2015 MAC Specialty Award Winners

Coach of the Year: Matt Campbell, Toledo

Freshman of the Year: RB Jamauri Bogan, Western Michigan

Offensive Player of the Year: QB Matt Johnson, Bowling Green

Defensive Player of the Year: LB Jatavis Brown, Akron

Special Teams Player of the Year: KR Aregeros Turner, Northern Illinois

Vern Smith Leadership Award Winner: QB Matt Johnson, Bowling Green

### All-MAC First Team Offense

#### Position – Name – School

QB – Matt Johnson, Bowling Green  
 OL – Storm Norton, Toledo  
 OL – Andrew Ness, Northern Illinois &  
 OL – Willie Beavers, Western Michigan +  
 OL – Nick Beamish, Central Michigan &  
 OL – Aidan Conlon, Northern Illinois  
 TE – Matt Weiser, Buffalo  
 WR – Roger Lewis, Bowling Green &  
 WR – Corey Davis, Western Michigan &@  
 WR – Tajae Sharpe, UMass &  
 WR – Daniel Braverman, Western Michigan %  
 RB – Joel Bouagnon, Northern Illinois  
 RB – Travis Greene, Bowling Green  
 K – Christian Hagan, Northern Illinois

### All-MAC First Team Defense

#### Position – Name – School

OLB – Jatavis Brown, Akron &  
 OLB – Sean Wiggins, Ball State  
 ILB – Boomer Mays, Northern Illinois +  
 ILB – Austin Valdez, Bowling Green  
 DL – Orion Jones, Toledo +  
 DL – Perez Ford, Northern Illinois +  
 DL – Josh Posley, Ball State  
 DL – Terrence Waugh, Kent State  
 DB – Shawun Lurry, Northern Illinois  
 DB – Nate Holley, Kent State &  
 DB – Cheatham Norrils, Toledo  
 DB – Demetrius Monday, Kent State  
 P – Joe Davidson, Bowling Green

### All-MAC First Team Specialists

#### Position – Name – School

KR – Aregeros Turner, Northern Illinois  
 PR – Corey Jones, Toledo

& 2014 First-Team All-MAC  
 + 2014 Second-Team All-MAC  
 % 2014 Third-Team All-MAC

### All-MAC Second Team Offense

#### Position – Name – School

QB – Cooper Rush, Central Michigan  
 OL – Alex Huettel, Bowling Green +@  
 OL – Jake Richard, Ball State %#  
 OL – Levon Myers, Northern Illinois  
 OL – Jacob Bennett, Bowling Green  
 OL – Aidan Kling, Buffalo  
 TE – Ben McCord, Central Michigan  
 WR – Jordan Williams, Ball State +#  
 WR – Kenny Golladay, Northern Illinois  
 WR – Gehrig Dieter, Bowling Green  
 WR – Alonzo Russell, Toledo %#!  
 RB – Kareem Hunt, Toledo &  
 RB – Terry Swanson, Toledo  
 K – Brian Eavey, Central Michigan

### All-MAC Second Team Defense

#### Position – Name – School

OLB – Trent Greene, Bowling Green  
 OLB – Brandon Berry, Buffalo  
 ILB – Great Ibe, Eastern Michigan +  
 ILB – Jovan Santos-Knox, UMass &  
 DL – Allen Covington, Toledo  
 DL – Blake Serpa, Central Michigan  
 DL – Bryson Albright, Miami  
 DL – Cody Grice, Akron &  
 DB – Darius Phillips, Western Michigan  
 DB – Kavon Frazier, Central Michigan  
 DB – Ian Wells, Ohio  
 DB – Ronald Zamorti, Western Michigan %  
 P – Anthony Melcher, Kent State &@

### All-MAC Second Team Specialists

#### Position – Name – School

KR – Darius Phillips, Western Michigan %  
 PR – Trey Dudley-Giles, UMass

^ 2013 First-Team All-MAC  
 @ 2013 Second-Team All-MAC  
 # 2013 Third-Team All-MAC

### All-MAC Third Team Offense

#### Position – Name – School

QB – Zach Terrell, Western Michigan +  
 OL – Taylor Moton, Western Michigan  
 OL – Ramadan Ahmeti, Central Michigan  
 OL – Mike McQueen, Ohio  
 OL – Lucas Powell, Ohio %  
 OL – Isaiah Williams, Akron  
 TE – Rodney Mills, UMass  
 WR – Jesse Kroll, Central Michigan  
 WR – Ronnie Moore, Bowling Green  
 WR – Sebastian Smith, Ohio  
 WR – KeVonn Mabon, Ball State %  
 RB – Jamauri Bogan, Western Michigan  
 RB – Darius Jackson, Eastern Michigan  
 K – Andrew Haldeman, Western Michigan

### All-MAC Third Team Defense

#### Position – Name – School

OLB – Okezie Alozie, Buffalo  
 OLB – Trey Seals, UMass  
 ILB – Matt Dellinger, Kent State  
 ILB – Quentin Poling, Ohio  
 DL – Jamal Marcus, Akron  
 DL – Rodney Coe, Akron  
 DL – JT Jones, Miami  
 DL – Trent Voss, Toledo  
 DB – Asantay Brown, Western Michigan  
 DB – Marlon Moore, Northern Illinois  
 DB – Boise Ross, Buffalo  
 DB – DeJuan Rogers, Toledo  
 P – Logan Laurent, UMass

### All-MAC Third Team Specialists

#### Position – Name – School

KR – KeVonn Mabon, Ball State  
 PR – Ryan Burbrink, Bowling Green &@

! 2012 Third-Team All-MAC



## EIGHTY-FOUR (84) FORMER MAC STUDENTS ON NFL ROSTERS

<b>Arizona (1)</b> LB Gabe Martin - PS	R	Bowling Green	<b>Kansas City (5)</b> WR Da'Ron Brown-PS OL Eric Fisher LB Justin March-IR OL Jarrod Pughsley-PS LB Frank Zombo	R	Northern Illinois 3 Central Michigan R Akron 1 Akron 6 Central Michigan	<b>San Diego (5)</b> DB Jahleel Addae TE Alex Bayer - PS TE Antonio Gates RB Branden Oliver - IR WR Donte' Foster - PS	3 2 13 2 1	Central Michigan Bowling Green Kent State Buffalo Ohio
<b>Chicago (1)</b> WR Nathan Palmer-PS	2	Northern Illinois	<b>Miami (2)</b> DB Louis Delmas-IR WR Greg Jennings	6 10	Western Michigan Western Michigan	<b>San Francisco (3)</b> LB Nick Bellore OT Joe Staley DB Jimmie Ward	5 9 2	Central Michigan Central Michigan Northern Illinois
<b>Cincinnati (1)</b> QB Keith Wenning-PS	1	Ball State	<b>Minnesota (1)</b> OL Zac Kerin	1	Toledo	<b>Seattle (3)</b> OL Drew Nowak RB Thomas Rawls DL Kristjan Sokoli	4 R R	Western Michigan Central Michigan Buffalo
<b>Cleveland (2)</b> OL John Greco WR Andrew Hawkins	8 5	Toledo Toledo	<b>New England (4)</b> WR Julian Edelman DL Chris Jones-PUP OL Josh Kline DB Rashaan Melvin	7 3 3 2	Kent State Bowling Green Kent State Northern Illinois	<b>St. Louis (1)</b> DB Eric Patterson - PS	R	Ball State
<b>Dallas (2)</b> S Barry Church OT Doug Free	6 9	Toledo Northern Illinois	<b>New Orleans (2)</b> WR Willie Snead DT Austin Brown-IR	1 R	Ball State Miami (Ohio)	<b>Tampa Bay (4)</b> DB Jude Adjei-Barimah-PR DE Larry English-IR DE T.J. Fatinikun P Jacob Schum	R 7 2 1	Bowling Green Northern Illinois Toledo Buffalo
<b>Denver (1)</b> K Brandon McManus	2	Temple	<b>N.Y. Giants (2)</b> DB Justin Currie-IR DL Cullen Jenkins	R 12	Western Michigan Central Michigan	<b>Tennessee (2)</b> RB David Fluellen-PS P Brett Kern	1 8	Toledo Toledo
<b>Detroit (7)</b> DE Jason Jones OL Darren Keyton -IR WR Lance Moore TE Casey Pierce-PS K Matt Prater TE Jordan Thompson-IR LB Tahir Whitehead	8 1 10 R 9 1 4	Eastern Michigan Central Michigan Toledo Kent State Central Florida Ohio Temple	<b>N.Y. Jets (4)</b> DB Jaiquawn Jarrett-IR WR Brandon Marshall DT Muhammad Wilkerson OL Brian Winters	4 10 5 3	Temple Central Florida Temple Kent State	<b>Washington (2)</b> DL Terrance Knighton OL Kory Lichtensteiger	7 7	Temple Bowling Green
<b>Green Bay (6)</b> LB Jayrone Elliott OL T.J. Lang DL Andy Mulumba DB Quinten Rollins OL Josh Sitton RB James Starks	2 7 3 R 8 6	Toledo Eastern Michigan Eastern Michigan Miami (Ohio) Central Florida Buffalo	<b>Oakland (3)</b> DB Travis Carrie LB Khalil Mack WR Rod Streater	2 2 4	Ohio Buffalo Temple	PS - Practice Squad; IR - Injured-Reserve List (As of NFL Rosters on Nov. 28, 2015)		
<b>Houston (3)</b> OL Brandon Brooks LB Steven Means OL Greg Manz	4 R R	Miami (Ohio) Buffalo Toledo	<b>Philadelphia (1)</b> DB E.J. Biggers	7	Western Michigan	When the NFL opened its regular season on Sept. 15, 2015, a total of 90 former MAC students were on rosters across the National Football League, currently there are 84 players on rosters.		
<b>Indianapolis (5)</b> RB Ahmad Bradshaw DE Jonathan Newsome OT Joe Reitz LB Junior Sylvestre DB Josh Thomas	9 2 5 R 5	Marshall Ball State Western Michigan Toledo Buffalo	<b>Pittsburgh (9)</b> TE Rob Blanchflower -IR WR Antonio Brown QB Bruce Gradkowski-IR LB James Harrison FS Mike Mitchell FB Roosevelt Nix QB Ben Roethlisberger K Shaun Suisham-IR DL L.T. Walton	1 6 10 13 7 1 12 11 R	UMass Central Michigan Toledo Kent State Ohio Kent State Miami (Ohio) Bowling Green Central Michigan	In the 2014 NFL Draft, the MAC had two former students selected in the first round for only the second time in MAC history. Former Buffalo LB Khalil Mack was picked No. 5 overall by Oakland, while former Northern Illinois S Jimmie Ward was picked No. 30 overall by San Francisco. The last time the MAC had two selected in the first round was 2004 when former Miami QB Ben Roethlisberger was picked No. 11 overall by Pittsburgh, and former Western Michigan DE Jason Babin was taken 27th overall by the Houston Texans.		
<b>Jacksonville (2)</b> DL Richard Ash-PS RB Bernard Pierce	R 4	Western Michigan Temple						

**MAC EAST VS. MAC WEST**

This season featured 18 crossover games between the East and West Divisions and the MAC West finished 11-7 against the MAC East. Over the previous eight years (2008-2015), the MAC West has had the upper hand in crossover regular season games against the MAC East, winning the head-to-head regular season series in seven of the last eight years as the West holds a 101-43 (.701%) regular season record in crossover games over the East.

However, the East and West Division has each won four Marathon MAC Football Championship games during this eight-year span. From the West Division, Northern Illinois (2011, 2012, 2014) and Central Michigan (2009) have won the Conference Championship, while the East Division has won four crowns with Bowling Green (2015, 2013), Miami (2010) and Buffalo (2008).

**Year, Regular Season East vs. West, MAC Champion**

2015 West 11-7; Bowling Green (East) def. NIU (West), 34-14.  
2014 West 15-3; NIU (West) def. Bowling Green (East), 51-17.  
2013 West 12-6; Bowling Green (East) def. NIU (West), 47-27.  
2012 West 12-6; NIU (West) def. Kent State (East) 44-37 in 2 OT.  
2011 West 14-4; NIU (West) def. Ohio (East), 23-20.  
2010 West 12-6; Miami (East) def. NIU (West), 26-21.  
2009 East 11-7; Central Michigan (West) def. Ohio (East), 20-10.  
2008 West 14-4; Buffalo (East) def. Ball State (West), 42-24.

**MAC ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS**

Mid-American Conference: Ken Mather, kmather@mac-sports.com (216-566-4622)

**East Division**

Akron: Cathy Bongiovi, cathyb@uakron.edu (330.972.6106)  
Bowling Green: Scott Swegan, swegans@bgsu.edu (419.372.7105)  
Buffalo: Jon Fuller, jfuller3@buffalo.edu (716.645.6762)  
Kent State: Aaron Chimenti, achiment@kent.edu (330.672.8468)  
UMass: Molly O'Mara, momara@umass.edu (413-545-2439)  
Miami: Dave Meyer, meyerd@miamioh.edu (513.529.4329)  
Ohio: Anthony Reynolds, reynola1@ohio.edu (740.593.1298)

**West Division**

Ball State: Michael Clark, maclark4@bsu.edu (765.285.8904)  
Central Michigan: Rob Wyman, wyman1rd@cmich.edu (989.774.3277)  
Eastern Michigan: Greg Steiner, greg.steiner@emich.edu (734.487.0317)  
Northern Illinois: Donna Turner, donnaturner@niu.edu (815.753.9513)  
Toledo: Paul Helgren, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu (419.530.4918)  
Western Michigan: Robert Beuerlein, robert.beuerlein@wmich.edu (269.387.4138)



2015 Akron Zips (7-5, 5-3)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 5	at Oklahoma	7:00 pm ET	Fox Sports Net	L, 3-41
Sat., Sept. 12	Pittsburgh	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 7-24
Sat., Sept. 19	Savannah State	Noon ET	ESPN3	W, 52-9
Sat., Sept. 26	at Louisiana-Lafayette	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 35-14
Sat., Oct. 3	*Ohio	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 12-14
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Eastern Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 47-21
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Bowling Green	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 10-59
Sat., Oct. 31	*Central Michigan	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 6-14
Sat., Nov. 7	*at UMass	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 17-13
Sat., Nov. 14	*at Miami	Noon ET American Sports Network/ESPN3		W, 37-28
Sat., Nov. 21	*Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 42-21
Fri., Nov. 27	*Kent State	Noon ET American Sports Network/ESPN3		Akron leads 31-24-2
Tue., Dec. 22	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl vs. Utah State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN	

\*Mid-American Conference game

2015 Ball State Cardinals (3-9, 2-6)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Sept. 3	Virginia Military Institute	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-36
Sat., Sept. 12	at Texas A&M	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 23-56
Sat., Sept. 19	*at Eastern Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 28-17
Sat., Sept. 26	at Northwestern	8:00 pm ET	Big Ten Network	L, 19-24
Sat., Oct. 3	*Toledo	3:00 pm ET	Am Sports Network/ESPN3	L, 10-24
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Northern Illinois	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 41-59
Sat., Oct. 17	Georgia State	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 19-31
Sat., Oct. 24	*Central Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 21-23
Sat., Oct. 31	*UMass	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 20-10
Thur., Nov. 5	*at Western Michigan	7:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 7-54
Tue., Nov. 17	*at Ohio	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 31-48
Tue., Nov. 24	*Bowling Green	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 10-48

\*Mid-American Conference game

2015 Bowling Green Falcons (10-3, 7-1)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat, Sept. 5	at Tennessee (in Nashville)	4:00 pm ET	SEC Network	L, 30-59
Sat., Sept. 12	at Maryland	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	W, 48-27
Sat., Sept. 19	Memphis	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 41-44
Sat., Sept. 26	at Purdue	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	W, 35-28
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	BCSN/TWCS/ESPN3	W, 28-22
Sat., Oct. 10	*UMass	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 62-38
Sat., Oct. 17	*Akron	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 59-10
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Kent State	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-0
Wed., Nov. 4	*Ohio	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 62-24
Wed., Nov. 11	*at Western Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 41-27
Tue., Nov. 17	*Toledo	6:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 28-44
Tue., Nov. 24	*at Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-10
Fri., Dec. 4	Marathon MAC Championship Game vs. NIU		ESPN2	L, 14-34
Wed., Dec. 23	GoDaddy Bowl vs. Georgia Southern	8:00 pm ET	ESPN	

2015 Buffalo Bulls (5-7, 3-5)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 5	Albany	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 51-14
Sat., Sept. 12	at Penn State	Noon ET	ESPN2 or ESPN3	L, 14-27
Sat., Sept. 19	at Florida Atlantic	Noon ET	American Sports Network	W, 33-15
Sat., Sept. 26	Nevada	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 21-24
Sat., Oct. 3	*Bowling Green	3:30 pm ET	BCSN/TWCS/ESPN3	L, 22-28
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Central Michigan	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 14-51
Sat., Oct. 24	*Ohio	3:30 pm ET	American Sports Network/ESPN3	W, 41-17
Thur., Oct. 29	*at Miami	7:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 29-24
Thur., Nov. 5	*at Kent State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 18-17
Wed., Nov. 11	*Northern Illinois	8:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 30-41
Sat., Nov. 21	*at Akron	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 21-42
Fri., Nov. 28	*UMass	4:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 26-31

\*Mid-American Conference game

2015 Central Michigan Chippewas (7-5, 6-2)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Sept. 3	Oklahoma State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 13-24
Sat., Sept. 12	Monmouth	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 31-10
Sat., Sept. 19	at Syracuse	12:30 pm ET	ACC RSN	L, 27-30 (OT)
Sat., Sept. 26	at Michigan State	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	L, 10-30
Sat., Oct. 3	*Northern Illinois	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 29-19
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Western Michigan	Noon ET	American Sports Network/ESPN3	L, 39-41
Sat., Oct. 17	*Buffalo	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 51-14
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Ball State	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 23-21
Sat., Oct. 31	*at Akron	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 14-6
Tue., Nov. 10	*Toledo	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 23-28
Wed., Nov. 18	*at Kent State	8:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 27-14
Fri., Nov. 27	*Eastern Michigan	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 35-28
Mon., Dec. 28	Quick Lane Bowl vs. Minnesota	5:00 pm ET	ESPN2	

\*Mid-American Conference game

2015 Eastern Michigan Eagles (1-11, 0-8)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 5	Old Dominion	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 34-38
Sat., Sept. 12	at Wyoming	4:00 pm ET	Root Sports	W, 48-29
Sat., Sept. 19	*Ball State	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-28
Sat., Sept. 26	Army	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 36-58
Sat., Oct. 3	at LSU	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 22-44
Sat., Oct. 10	*Akron	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 21-47
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Toledo	Noon ET	BCSN/TWCS/ESPN3	L, 20-63
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Northern Illinois	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 21-49
Thur., Oct. 29	*Western Michigan	7:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 28-58
Sat., Nov. 7	*at Miami	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 13-28
Sat., Nov. 14	*UMass	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-28
Fri., Nov. 27	*at Central Michigan	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 28-35

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2015 Kent State Golden Flashes (3-9, 2-6)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Fri., Sept. 4	at Illinois	9:00 pm ET	Big Ten Network	L, 3-52
Sat., Sept. 12	Delaware State	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 45-13
Sat., Sept. 19	at Minnesota	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	L, 7-10
Sat., Sept. 26	Marshall	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3/ASN	L, 29-36 (2OT)
Sat., Oct. 3	*Miami	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 20-14
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Toledo	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 7-38
Sat., Oct. 17	*at UMass	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 15-10
Sat., Oct. 24	*Bowling Green	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 0-48
Thur., Nov. 5	*Buffalo	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-18
Tue., Nov. 10	*at Ohio	8:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 0-27
Wed., Nov. 18	*Central Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 14-27
Fri., Nov. 27	*at Akron	Noon ET	American Sports Network/ESPN3	L, 0-20

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2015 Massachusetts Minutemen (3-9, 2-6)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 12	at Colorado	2:00 pm ET	PAC 12 Network	L, 14-48
Sat., Sept. 19	Temple	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 23-25
Sat., Sept. 26	at Notre Dame	3:30 pm ET	NBC	L, 27-62
Sat., Oct. 3	Florida International	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 24-14
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Bowling Green	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 38-62
Sat., Oct. 17	*Kent State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 10-15
Sat., Oct. 24	*Toledo	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 35-51
Sat., Oct. 31	*at Ball State	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 10-20
Sat., Nov. 7	*Akron	Noon ET	ESPN3	L, 13-17
Sat., Nov. 14	*at Eastern Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 28-17
Sat., Nov. 21	*Miami	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 13-20
Fri., Nov. 27	*at Buffalo	4:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 31-26

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2015 Miami RedHawks (3-9, 2-6)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 5	Presbyterian	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 26-7
Sat., Sept. 12	at Wisconsin	Noon ET	ESPN2 or ESPN3	L, 0-58
Sat., Sept. 19	Cincinnati	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 33-37
Sat., Sept. 26	at Western Kentucky	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 14-56
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Kent State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 14-20
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Ohio	2:00 pm ET	BCSN/TWCS/ESPN3	L, 3-34
Sat., Oct. 17	*Northern Illinois	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 12-45
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Western Michigan	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 13-35
Thur., Oct. 29	*Buffalo	7:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 24-29
Sat., Nov. 7	*Eastern Michigan	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 28-13
Sat., Nov. 14	*Akron	Noon ET	American Sports Network/ESPN3	L, 28-37
Sat., Nov. 21	*at UMass	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 20-13

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2015 Northern Illinois Huskies (8-5, 6-2)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 5	UNLV	7:30 pm ET/6:30 pm CT	CBS Sports Network	W, 38-30
Sat., Sept. 12	Murray State	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	ESPN3	W, 57-26
Sat., Sept. 19	at No. 1 Ohio State	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	ABC/ESPN2	L, 13-20
Sat., Sept. 26	at Boston College	1:00 pm ET/Noon CT	ESPN3	L, 14-17
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Central Michigan	3:00 pm ET/2:00 pm CT	ESPN3	L, 19-29
Sat., Oct. 10	*Ball State	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	ESPN3	W, 59-41
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Miami	2:30 pm ET/1:30 pm CT	ESPN3	W, 45-12
Sat., Oct. 24	*Eastern Michigan	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	ESPN3	W, 49-21
Tue., Nov. 3	*at Toledo	8:00 pm ET/7:00 pm CT	ESPN2	W, 32-27
Wed., Nov. 11	*at Buffalo	8:00 pm ET/7:00 pm CT	ESPN3	W, 41-30
Wed., Nov. 18	*Western Michigan	8:00 pm ET/7:00 pm CT	ESPN2	W, 27-19
Tue., Nov. 24	*Ohio	7:30 pm ET/6:30 pm CT	ESPN3	L, 21-26
Fri., Dec. 4	Marathon MAC Championship Game vs. Bowling Green			4:30 pm ET
Wed., Dec. 23	San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl vs. Boise State			4:30 pm ET ESPN

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2015 Ohio Bobcats (8-4, 5-3)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Sept. 3	at Idaho	9:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 45-28
Sat., Sept. 12	Marshall	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 21-10
Sat., Sept. 19	Southern Louisiana	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 35-14
Sat., Sept. 26	at Minnesota	3:30 pm ET	Big Ten Network	L, 24-27
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Akron	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 14-12
Sat., Oct. 10	*Miami	2:00 pm ET	BCSN/TWCS/ESPN3	W, 34-3
Sat., Oct. 17	*Western Michigan	Noon ET	American Sports Net./ESPN3	L, 14-49
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	American Sports Net./ESPN3	L, 17-41
Wed., Nov. 4	*at Bowling Green	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 24-62
Tue., Nov. 10	*Kent State	8:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 27-0
Tue., Nov. 17	*Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-31
Tue., Nov. 24	*at Northern Illinois	7:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 26-21
Sat., Dec. 19	Raycom Media Camelia Bowl vs. Appalachian State			5:30 pm ET ESPN

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2015 Toledo Rockets (9-2, 6-2)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Sept. 3	Stony Brook	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	game suspended
Sat., Sept. 12	at Arkansas	4:00 pm ET	SEC Network	W, 16-12
Sat., Sept. 19	Iowa State	8:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 30-23 (2OT)
Sat., Sept. 26	Arkansas State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 37-7
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Ball State	3:00 pm ET	American Sports Network/ESPN3	W, 24-10
Sat., Oct. 10	*Kent State	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 38-7
Sat., Oct. 17	*Eastern Michigan	Noon ET	BCSN/TWCS/ESPN3	W, 63-20
Sat., Oct. 24	*at UMass	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 51-35
Tue., Nov. 3	*Northern Illinois	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 27-32
Tue., Nov. 10	*at Central Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 28-23
Tue., Nov. 17	*at Bowling Green	6:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 44-28
Fri., Nov. 27	*Western Michigan	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 30-35
Tue., Dec. 22	Marmot Boca Raton Bowl vs. Temple			7:00 pm ET

\*Mid-American Conference game



## 2015 Western Michigan Broncos (7-5, 6-2)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Fri., Sept. 4	Michigan State	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 24-37
Sat., Sept. 12	at Georgia Southern	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-43
Sat., Sept. 19	Murray State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 52-20
Sat., Sept. 26	at Ohio State	3:30 pm ET	ABC/ESPN2	L, 12-38
Sat., Oct. 10	*Central Michigan	Noon ET	American Sports Net./ESPN3	W, 41-39
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Ohio	Noon ET	American Sports Net./ESPN3	W, 49-14
Sat., Oct. 24	*Miami	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 35-13
Thur., Oct. 29	*at Eastern Michigan	7:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 58-28
Thur., Nov. 5	*Ball State	7:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 54-7
Wed., Nov. 11	*Bowling Green	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 27-41
Wed., Nov. 18	*at Northern Illinois	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 19-27
Fri., Nov. 27	*at Toledo	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 35-30
Thur., Dec. 24	Popeyes Bahamas Bowl vs. Middle Tennessee	Noon ET	ESPN	
	*Mid-American Conference game			

## 2015 Non-Conference Opponents

## ACC (3 games: 0-3)

Boston College (NIU): L, 14-17  
 Pittsburgh (Akron): L, 7-24  
 Syracuse (Central Michigan): L, 27-30 (OT)

## American Athletic (3 games: 0-3)

Cincinnati (Miami): L, 33-37  
 Memphis (Bowling Green): L, 41-44  
 Temple (UMass): L, 23-25

## Big Ten (12 games: 2-10)

Illinois (Kent State): L, 3-52  
 Maryland (Bowling Green): W, 48-27  
 Michigan State (WMU; CMU): L, 24-37; L, 10-30  
 Minnesota (Kent State; Ohio): L, 7-10; L, 24-27  
 Northwestern (Ball State): L, 19-24  
 Ohio State (NIU; Western Michigan): L, 13-20; L, 12-38  
 Penn State (Buffalo): L, 14-27  
 Purdue (Bowling Green): W, 35-28  
 Wisconsin (Miami): L, 0-58

## Big 12 (3 games: 1-2)

Iowa State (Toledo): W, 30-23 (2OT)  
 Oklahoma (Akron): L, 3-41  
 Oklahoma State (Central Michigan): L, 13-24

## Conference USA (6 games: 3-3)

Florida Atlantic (Buffalo): W, 33-15  
 Florida International (UMass): W, 24-14  
 Marshall (Ohio, Kent State): W, 21-10; L, 29-36 (2OT)  
 Old Dominion (Eastern Michigan): L, 34-38  
 Western Kentucky (Miami): L, 14-56

## Mountain West (3 games: 2-1)

Nevada (Buffalo): L, 21-24  
 UNLV (Northern Illinois): W, 38-30  
 Wyoming (Eastern Michigan): W, 48-29

## PAC-12 (1 game: 0-1)

Colorado (UMass): L, 14-48

## SEC (4 games: 1-3)

Arkansas (Toledo): W, 16-12  
 LSU (Eastern Michigan): L, 22-44  
 Tennessee (Bowling Green): L, 30-59  
 Texas A&M (Ball State): L, 23-56

## Sun Belt (5 games: 3-2)

Arkansas State (Toledo): W, 37-7  
 Georgia Southern (Western Michigan): L, 17-43  
 Georgia State (Ball State): L, 19-31  
 Idaho (Ohio): W, 45-28  
 Louisiana-Lafayette (Akron): W, 35-14

## Independent (2)

Army (1) (Eastern Michigan): L, 36-58  
 Notre Dame (1) (UMass): L, 27-62

## FCS Opponents (I-AA)

Big South (2 games: 2-0)  
 Monmouth (Central Michigan): W, 31-10  
 Presbyterian (Miami): W, 26-7

## Colonial Athletic (2 games: 1-0)

Albany (Buffalo): W, 51-14  
 Stony Brook (Toledo) -- game suspended

## MEAC (2 games: 2-0)

Delaware State (Kent State): W, 45-13  
 Savannah State (Akron): W, 52-9

## Ohio Valley (2 games: 2-0)

Murray State (2) (NIU; Western Michigan): W, 57-26; W, 52-20

## Southern (1 game: 1-0)

Virginia Military Institute (Ball State): W, 48-36

## Southland (1 game: 1-0)

Southeastern Louisiana (Ohio): W, 35-14

## MAC Students on Preseason Watch Lists

WALTER CAMP AWARD (Best College Football Player)  
 RB Jarvion Franklin, Western Michigan

MAXWELL AWARD (Outstanding College Football Player)  
 RB Jarvion Franklin, Western Michigan  
 RB Kareem Hunt, Toledo

CHUCK BEDNARIK AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year): LB Jovan Santos-Knox (UMass)

BILETNIKOFF AWARD (Top Wide Receiver)

WR Jordan Williams, Ball State  
 WR Ryan Burbrink, Bowling Green  
 WR Roger Lewis, Bowling Green

WR Ron Willoughby, Buffalo

WR Kenny Golladay, Northern Illinois

WR Corey Jones, Toledo

WR Alonzo Russell, Toledo

WR Tajae Sharpe, UMass

WR Daniel Braverman, Western Michigan

WR Corey Davis, Western Michigan

BRONKO NAGURSKI AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)

DL Pat O'Connor, Eastern Michigan

LB Jovan Santos-Knox, UMass

DB Ronald Zamort, Western Michigan

PAUL HORNUNG AWARD (Most Versatile Player)

WR Corey Jones, Toledo

WR Ronnie Moore, Bowling Green

WR Daz Mond Patterson, Ohio

MANNING AWARD (Best Quarterback)

QB Blake Frohnapfel, UMass

QB Joe Licata, Buffalo

QB Zach Terrell, Western Michigan

JOHN MACKEY AWARD (Best Tight End)

TE Ben McCord, Central Michigan

TE Matt Weiser, Buffalo

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (Top Quarterback)

QB Blake Frohnapfel, UMass

QB Zach Terrell, Western Michigan

OUTLAND AWARD (Top Interior Lineman)

OG Jimmy Kristof, Western Michigan

C Andrew Ness, Northern Illinois

DT Joe Ostman, Central Michigan

C Matt Sparks, UMass

RIMINGTON TROPHY (Most Outstanding Center)

C Jacob Richard, Ball State

C Tim McAuliffe, Bowling Green

C Nick Beamish, Central Michigan

C Jake Hurcombe, Eastern Michigan

C Matt Sparks, UMass

C Andrew Ness, Northern Illinois

C Lucas Powell, Ohio

ROTARY LOMBARDI TROPHY (Down Linemen)

LB Jatavis Brown, Akron

DL Cody Grice, Akron

C Alex Huettel, Bowling Green

DE Joe Ostman, Central Michigan

OL Ramadan Ahmeti, Central Michigan

DL Blake Serpa, Central Michigan

DL Pat O'Connor, Eastern Michigan

LB Great Ibe, Eastern Michigan

LB Jovan Santos-Knox, UMass

DE Perez Ford, Northern Illinois

C Andrew Ness, Northern Illinois

LB Boomer Mays, Northern Illinois

OL Storm Norton, Toledo

DE Trent Voss, Toledo

OL James Kristof, Western Michigan

OL Willie Beavers, Western Michigan

LOU GROZA AWARD (Best College Place Kicker)

K Andrew Haldeman, Western Michigan

K Robert Stein, Akron

K Tyler Tate, Bowling Green

RAY GUY AWARD (Best College Punter)

P Tyler Grassman, Buffalo

P Anthony Melchiori, Kent State

P J. Schroeder, Western Michigan

JIM THORPE AWARD (Best Defensive Back)

Tony Anness, Central Michigan

Nate Holley, Kent State

Randall Jette, UMass

Paris Logan, Northern Illinois

DOAK WALKER AWARD (Top Running Back)

RB Jarvion Franklin, Western Michigan

RB Kareem Hunt, Toledo

RB Anthony Taylor, Buffalo

RB Travis Greene, Bowling Green

RB Darius Jackson, Eastern Michigan

WUERFEL TROPHY (Best Community Service)

OL Christian Piazza, Bowling Green

QB Jordan Italiano, Kent State

QB Blake Frohnapfel, UMass

QB Zach Terrell, Western Michigan