



# WEEKLY RELEASE

WEEK 1 AUG. 31-SEPT. 2, 2017

2017 Bahamas Bowl • December 22, 2017; 12:30pm ET **ESPN**

## BAHAMAS BOWL COMMUNICATIONS

**Chris Pika**  
 Director of Communications  
[chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com](mailto:chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com)  
 678-908-4853 (cell)

## BAHAMAS BOWL IMPORTANT MEDIA DATES

- Oct. 30** ..... Online media credential applications begin at:  
[sportsystems.com/bahamasbowl](http://sportsystems.com/bahamasbowl)
- Nov. 1** ..... Press Conference (Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium):  
 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8** ..... Credential applications close
- Dec. 18** ..... Team Arrivals
- Dec. 19** ..... Team Practices (TAR Stadium & Roscow A.L. Davies Field)
- Dec. 20** ..... Team Practices (TAR Stadium & Roscow A.L. Davies Field)
- Dec. 21** ..... Team Walkthroughs (Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium)
- Dec. 21** ..... Press Conference (Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium):  
 11 a.m.-Noon
- Dec. 22** ..... Bahamas Bowl (12:30 p.m. ET; Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium - ESPN)

## #PASSPORTKICKOFF

#PassportToKickoff is our hashtag and a reminder that all U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to travel to the Bahamas & the Bahamas Bowl. For U.S. passport info, go to:

[passports.state.gov](http://passports.state.gov)

## BAHAMAS BOWL WEEK 1 NOTEBOOK

**SINCE WE LAST VISITED:** The Bahamas Bowl begins the road to its' 2017 game this weekend. As with the first three editions of the bowl, this year's game will feature teams from Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference on Friday, Dec. 22 at 12:30 p.m. ET in Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. The game will be televised for the fourth straight year on ESPN. Old Dominion won the 2016 game, 24-20 over Eastern Michigan.

**BOWL GAMES ARE BETTER IN THE BAHAMAS:** *In the first three years, the Bahamas Bowl has ...*

- *Become the bowl of future champions.* The first two champs - WKU (2014) and Western Michigan (2015) - won their respective league titles the next year. WKU won C-USA in 2015 & 2016, while WMU won the MAC in 2016 with an undefeated regular season and played in a New Year's Six bowl.
- *Been a springboard to the next level.* A total of 14 alumni have been selected in the NFL Draft, including Western Michigan WR Corey Davis (2015 alumni), who went No. 5 overall to the Tennessee Titans in the 2017 NFL Draft. Six alumni were taken in the 2017 Draft and seven in 2016.

**C-USA NOTES:** In a vote of the conference's media, WKU (East) and Louisiana Tech (West) were selected to win their respective divisions. Louisiana Tech received votes in the preseason *Amway Coaches Poll*. WKU QB **Mike White** was selected as the C-USA preseason Offensive Player of the Year by the media. There are three new head coaches in C-USA: **Butch Davis** (FIU), **Lane Kiffin** (Florida Atlantic) and **Mike Sanford** (WKU).

**WELCOME BACK UAB:** A positive story in college football for 2017 is the return of the UAB Blazers to the football field after the program was shutdown for six months after the 2014 season. Head coach **Bill Clark**, who coached UAB in 2014 and spoke at the 2015 Bahamas Bowl Kickoff event, brings the Blazers back to the FBS and Conference USA as a full member this year.

**MAC NOTES:** Ohio (East) and Toledo (West) were selected to win their divisions by both the media and the league's head coaches. Western Michigan and Toledo received votes in the preseason Coaches Poll. The MAC has one new head coach at Western Michigan (**Tim Lester**). In 2016, the MAC had four 'Power Five' victories -- two each against the Big Ten and the Big 12.

## C-USA STANDINGS



### EAST DIVISION

	C-USA	Overall
Charlotte	0-0	0-0
FIU	0-0	0-0
Florida Atlantic	0-0	0-0
Marshall	0-0	0-0
Middle Tennessee	0-0	0-0
Old Dominion	0-0	0-0
WKU	0-0	0-0

### WEST DIVISION

	C-USA	Overall
Louisiana Tech	0-0	0-0
North Texas	0-0	0-0
Southern Miss	0-0	0-0
UAB	0-0	0-0
UTEP	0-0	0-0
UTSA	0-0	0-0
Rice	0-0	0-1

## MAC STANDINGS



### EAST DIVISION

	MAC	Overall
Akron	0-0	0-0
Bowling Green	0-0	0-0
Buffalo	0-0	0-0
Kent State	0-0	0-0
Miami	0-0	0-0
Ohio	0-0	0-0

### WEST DIVISION

	MAC	Overall
Ball State	0-0	0-0
Central Michigan	0-0	0-0
Eastern Michigan	0-0	0-0
Northern Illinois	0-0	0-0
Toledo	0-0	0-0
Western Michigan	0-0	0-0

**WEEK 1 SCHEDULE**

**CONFERENCE USA**

**Saturday, Aug. 26**

Stanford 62, Rice 7 (Australia)

**Thursday, Aug. 31**

FIU at UCF (CBSSN)

**Friday, Sept. 1**

Charlotte at Eastern Michigan (ESPN3)

Navy at Florida Atlantic (ESPNU)

**Saturday, Sept. 2**

Alabama A&M at UAB (STAD)

UTEP at Oklahoma (FOX)

Kentucky at Southern Miss (CBSSN)

Albany at Old Dominion (ESPN3)

Miami (Ohio) at Marshall (STAD FB)

Northwestern St. at LA Tech (ESPN3)

Lamar at North Texas (ESPN3)

Houston at UTSA (STAD) 6 pm

Eastern Kentucky at WKU (FloSports)

Vanderbilt at Middle Tennessee (CBSSN)

**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**Thursday, Aug. 31**

Buffalo at Minnesota (BTN)

Elon at Toledo (ESPN3)

Rhode Island at Central Michigan (ESPN3)

**Friday, Sept. 1**

Charlotte at Eastern Michigan (ESPN3)

Boston College at NIU (CBSSN)

**Saturday, Sept. 2**

Akron at Penn State (ABC)

Ball State at Illinois (BTN)

Bowling Green at Michigan State (ESPNU)

Kent State at Clemson (ESPN)

Western Michigan at USC (P12N)

Miami at Marshall

Hampton at Ohio (ESPN3)

\* - conference games

**BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA PROJECTIONS**

**Media Organization (Reporter) - Date: ..... Predicted Matchup**

**10thYearSeniors.com (John Marc Nutt) - Aug. 29:** ..... Southern Miss vs. Ohio

**SI.com (Eric Single) - Aug. 29:** ..... Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois

**CBSSports.com (Jerry Palm) - Aug. 28:** ..... Middle Tennessee vs. Western Michigan

**The Sporting News (Bill Bender) - Aug. 26:** ..... UTSA vs. Bowling Green

**CollegeFootballNews.com (Pete Fiutak) - Aug. 26:** ..... WKU vs. Toledo

**SB Nation (Jason Kirk) - Aug. 26:** ..... Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois

**Sports on Earth (Matt Brown) - Aug. 21:** ..... Southern Miss vs. Miami (Ohio)

**Bleacher Report (David Kenyon) - Aug. 23:** ..... Louisiana Tech vs. Western Michigan

**ESPN.com (Mark Schlabach) - Aug. 29:** ..... UTSA vs. Western Michigan

**Orlando Sentinel (Brant Parsons) - Aug. 21:** ..... Southern Miss vs. Miami (Ohio)

**Athlon Sports (Steven Lissan) - July 5:** ..... UTSA vs. Ohio

**Phil Steele Magazine (Phil Steele) - Magazine:** ..... Louisiana Tech vs. Miami (Ohio)

**ESPN EVENTS**

ESPN Events, a division of ESPN, owns and operates a large portfolio of 31 collegiate sporting events worldwide. The roster includes three Labor Day weekend college football games; FCS opening-weekend game; 14 college bowl games, 11 college basketball events and two college award shows, which accounts for approximately 300-plus hours of programming, reaches almost 64 million viewers and attracts over 700,000 attendees each year. With satellite offices in Albuquerque, Birmingham, Boca Raton, Boise, Dallas-Fort Worth, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Montgomery and St. Petersburg, ESPN Events builds relationships with conferences, schools and local communities, as well as providing unique experiences for teams and fans.

ESPN Events also manages the Big 12 Corporate Partner Program.

**Collegiate Football**

AdvoCare Texas Kickoff (Houston); Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl (St. Petersburg, Fla.); Bahamas Bowl (Nassau); Birmingham Bowl (Alabama); Boca Raton Bowl (Florida); Camping World Kickoff (Orlando, Fla.); Celebration Bowl (Atlanta); Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise); Frisco Bowl (Frisco, Texas); Gildan New Mexico Bowl (Albuquerque); Guardian Credit Union FCS Kickoff (Montgomery, Ala.); Hawai'i Bowl (Honolulu); Las Vegas Bowl (Nevada); Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl (Dallas-Fort Worth); MEAC/SWAC Challenge (Baton Rouge, La.); Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.); STexas Bowl (Houston); The Home Depot College Football Awards (Atlanta) and Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl (Dallas-Fort Worth)

**Collegiate Basketball**

AdvoCare Invitational (Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla.); Armed Forces Classic (Ramstein Air Base, Germany); College Basketball Awards Presented by Wendy's (Los Angeles); Gildan Charleston Classic (South Carolina); Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic (Honolulu); Jimmy V Men's Classic presented by Corona (New York City); Jimmy V Women's Classic presented by Corona (TBD); NIT Season Tip-Off (Brooklyn, N.Y.); PK80 (Portland, Ore.); Puerto Rico Tip-Off (San Juan); State Farm Champions Classic (Chicago) and Wooden Legacy (Fullerton, Calif.)

