



# WEEKLY RELEASE

WEEK 3 SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2017

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

## BAHAMAS BOWL COMMUNICATIONS

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## 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 3 NOTEBOOK

**THIS WEEKEND:** Week 3 gets underway on Friday night as Arizona visits UTEP. Saturday, Louisiana Tech visits WKU in a rematch of the 2016 Conference USA Championship Game, won by WKU 58-44, the highest scoring conference title game in FBS history. In the regular season, Louisiana Tech won at home 55-52. Also in C-USA, Middle Tennessee visits Minnesota in a game that is a reunion of 2015 Bahamas Bowl head coaches, **Rick Stockstill** (MTSU) and **P.J. Fleck** (Minnesota/former Western Michigan head coach). Old Dominion (2-0), C-USA's lone undefeated team, hosts North Carolina. In the MAC on Saturday, Central Michigan (2-0) visits Syracuse and Toledo (2-0) hosts Tulsa. There is one C-USA vs. MAC matchup as Kent State (1-1) travels to Marshall (1-1). The MAC has pair of games vs. the Big 12 as Akron (1-1) hosts Iowa State and Ohio (1-1) hosts Kansas and one game against the Big Ten as Northern Illinois (1-1) goes to Nebraska.

**WEEK 2 REVIEW:** It was a big weekend for both the MAC and Conference USA as both leagues notched a pair of victories over Power 5 conferences. The MAC got victories over the Big Ten (Eastern Michigan over Rutgers) and the Big 12 (Central Michigan over Kansas). C-USA had victories over the ACC (Middle Tennessee over Syracuse) and the Big 12 (UTSA over Baylor). In the only league game in either conference, Rice beat UTEP 31-14 in C-USA action.

**MAC WEEK 2 NOTES:** Eastern Michigan's 16-13 victory over Rutgers extended the MAC's streak of a regular-season victory over the Big Ten to 12 consecutive seasons, the longest such streak in MAC history. During the 12-year streak against the Big Ten, MAC teams have defeated 11 different teams and have 25 victories. Central Michigan took control in the second quarter and rolled over Kansas 45-27 in Lawrence. Toledo picked up a 37-24 road victory at Nevada behind 426 yards of total offense.

**C-USA WEEK 2 NOTES:** UTSA notched its' first-ever victory over a Power 5 conference with a 17-10 victory at Baylor, thanks to four sacks and 10 tackles for loss. Middle Tennessee scored three second-half TDs for a 30-23 win at Syracuse, the Blue Raiders fifth win against a Power 5 team under head coach **Rick Stockstill**. FIU head coach **Butch Davis** got his first victory at the school with a 17-10 win over Alcorn State in Birmingham. Southern Miss posted the first shutout of the season for C-USA in a 45-0 victory over Southern, behind a defensive effort that held the Jaguars to 140 total yards.

## C-USA STANDINGS



### EAST DIVISION

	<u>C-USA</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Old Dominion	0-0	2-0
FIU	0-0	1-1
Marshall	0-0	1-1
Middle Tennessee	0-0	1-1
WKU	0-0	1-1
Charlotte	0-0	0-2
Florida Atlantic	0-0	0-2

### WEST DIVISION

	<u>C-USA</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Rice	1-0	1-1
UTSA	0-0	1-0
Louisiana Tech	0-0	1-1
North Texas	0-0	1-1
Southern Miss	0-0	1-1
UAB	0-0	1-1
UTEP	0-1	0-2

## MAC STANDINGS



### EAST DIVISION

	<u>MAC</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Akron	0-0	1-1
Kent State	0-0	1-1
Miami	0-0	1-1
Ohio	0-0	1-1
Bowling Green	0-0	0-2
Buffalo	0-0	0-2

### WEST DIVISION

	<u>MAC</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Central Michigan	0-0	2-0
Eastern Michigan	0-0	2-0
Toledo	0-0	2-0
Ball State	0-0	1-1
Northern Illinois	0-0	1-1
Western Michigan	0-0	0-2

**WEEK 3 SCHEDULE**

**CONFERENCE USA**

**Friday, Sept. 15**

Arizona at UTEP (ESPN)

**Saturday, Sept. 16**

Coastal Carolina at UAB (RAY)

FIU at Indiana (BTN)

Middle Tennessee at Minnesota (BTN)

North Texas at Iowa (ESPN2)

North Carolina at Old Dominion (STAD)

North Carolina A&T at Charlotte (WCCB)

\* Louisiana Tech at WKU (STAD)

Southern Miss at La.-Monroe (ESPN3)

Southern at UTSA (KCWX)

Kent State at Marshall

Rice at Houston (ESPN3)

Bethune-Cookman at Fla. Atlantic (beIN)

**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, Sept. 16**

Iowa State at Akron (CBSSN)

Nothorn Illinois at Nebraska (FS1)

Kansas at Ohio (ESPN3)

Tennessee Tech at Ball State (ESPN3)

Central Michigan at Syracuse (ACCN)

Colgate at Buffalo (ESPN3)

Kent State at Marshall

Idaho at Western Michigan (ESPN3)

Tulsa at Toledo (ESPN3)

Bowling Green at Northwestern (BTN)

Cincinnati at Miami (ESPN3)

\* - conference games

**WEEK 2 RESULTS**

**CONFERENCE USA**

**Friday, Sept. 8**

FIU 17, Alcorn State 10

**Saturday, Sept. 9**

Kansas State 55, Charlotte 7

Wisconsin 31, Florida Atlantic 14

Ball State 51, UAB 31

Middle Tennessee 30, Syracuse 23

Old Dominion 17, Massachusetts 7

NC State 37, Marshall 20

SMU 54, North Texas 32

Southern Miss 45, Southern 0

Mississippi State 57, Louisiana Tech 21

\* Rice 31, UTEP 14

UTSA 17, Baylor 10

Illinois 20, WKU 7

**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**Friday, Sept. 8**

Purdue 44, Ohio 21

**Saturday, Sept. 9**

Army 21, Buffalo 17

Ball State 51, UAB 31

Miami 31, Austin Peay 10

Northern Illinois 38, Eastern Illinois 10

Eastern Michigan 16, Rutgers 13

Kent State 38, Howard 31

Michigan State 28, Western Michigan 14

Central Michigan 45, Kansas 27

South Dakota 35, Bowling Green 27

Akron 52, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 3

Toledo 37, Nevada 24

\* - conference games

**WEEK 2 INDIVIDUAL HONORS**

**CONFERENCE USA**

**Co-Offensive Player of the Week**

Marshall WR **Tyre Brady**: The junior had 11 receptions for 248 yards and a 75-yard TD in a loss at NC State.

**Co-Offensive Player of the Week**

Middle Tennessee QB **Brent Stockstill**: The junior completed 22-of-36 passes for 269 yards and three TDs in a 30-23 victory at Syracuse.

**Defensive Player of the Week**

Middle Tennessee LB **Khalil Brooks**: The sophomore had eight tackles and 1.5 sacks in a 30-23 victory at Syracuse.

**Special Teams Player of the Week**

Marshall K/P **Kaare Vedvik**: The junior averaged 44.5 yards on four punts, including a long of 57 yards in a loss at NC State.

**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East Division Offensive Player of the Week**

Kent State QB **Nick Holley**: The senior rushed for 119 yards and a TD and threw for 105 yards and two scores in a 38-31 victory over Howard.

**East Division Defensive Player of the Week**

Akron LB **Ulysees Grant III**: The junior had 10 tackles and returned an interception for a TD in a 52-3 victory over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

**East Division Special Teams Player of the Week**

Bowling Green K **Jake Suder**: The junior was 4-for-4 on field goals in a loss to South Dakota.

**West Division Offensive Player of the Week**

Central Michigan QB **Shane Morris**: The senior was 28-of-37 passing for 467 yards and five touchdowns in a 45-27 victory at Kansas.

**West Division Defensive Player of the Week**

Eastern Michigan DL **Jeremiah Harris**: The junior had a sack, an interception and a pass defense in a 16-13 victory at Rutgers.

**West Division Special Teams Player of the Week**

Western Michigan KR **Darius Phillips**: The senior returned a kickoff 100 yards for touchdown in a loss at Michigan State.

**C-USA VS. MAC**

The 2017 Bahamas Bowl will be contested between Conference USA and the MAC. The MAC leads the season series, 2-1. Teams from the two conferences will play each other four more times this season.

**Sept. 1**

Eastern Michigan (MAC) Charlotte (C-USA) 24-7

**Sept. 2**

Marshall (C-USA) Miami (MAC) 31-26

**Sept. 9**

Ball State (MAC) UAB (C-USA) 51-31

**Sept. 16**

Kent State (MAC) at Marshall (C-USA)

**Sept. 23**

Ball State (MAC) at WKU (C-USA)

Bowling Green (MAC) at Middle Tennessee (C-USA)

Florida Atlantic (C-USA) at Buffalo (MAC)

**AROUND THE CONFERENCES**

• 2016 Bahamas Bowl champion ODU leads the FBS with 15 sacks, nearly halfway to its 2016 season total of 34. The Monarchs have the top three individuals in C-USA in sacks: **Miles Fox** (5), **Bunmi Rotimi** (4) and **Pat Toal** (3).

• 2016 Bahamas Bowl participant Eastern Michigan got a solid performance from QB **Brogan Roback** in the Eagles' 16-13 win at Rutgers. He completed 19 passes for 260 yards and a TD without an interception. He completed passes to nine different receivers.

• Florida Atlantic has three plays of 60 yards or more in the Owls' first two games. Only Oklahoma State (4) has more in FBS this season.

• Conference USA quarterbacks have the two longest active streaks in the FBS in consecutive games with at least one TD pass: Marshall's **Chase Litton** (23 games) and Middle Tennessee's **Brent Stockstill** (18).

• Ball State scored 51 points in a win vs. UAB, the most for the Cardinals since a 55-point outburst vs. Miami (Ohio) on Nov. 29, 2013.

**"POWER FIVE" VICTORIES**

A list of Conference USA and MAC victories over "Power Five" opponents (teams from the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC).

Team (Conference)	Opponent	Score
<b>Sept. 9</b>		
Central Michigan (MAC)	Kansas (Big 12)	45-27
Eastern Michigan (MAC)	Rutgers (Big Ten)	16-13
Middle Tennessee (C-USA)	Syracuse (ACC)	30-23
UTSA (C-USA)	Baylor (Big 12)	17-10

**BOWL GAMES ARE BETTER  
IN THE BAHAMAS™**

**2017 BAHAMAS BOWL PARTICIPANT SELECTION**

The highest-ranked conference champion by the College Football Playoff Selection Committee from the American Athletic, Conference USA, Mid-American, Mountain West or Sun Belt will play annually in one of the College Football Playoff bowls (Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic, PlayStation Fiesta Bowl or Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl for the 2017 season) if it is not selected for the Playoff Semifinals.

Conference USA has secured guaranteed commitments with six bowl partners for the 2017 season, as well as one secondary agreement: **Bahamas, Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla, Boca Raton, Gildan New Mexico, R+L Carriers New Orleans** and **Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowls** are primary agreements. The **Independence Bowl** in Shreveport, La., is a secondary agreement, should the ACC or SEC not be able to provide a bowl-eligible team. There is no set selection order among C-USA's bowl partners.

The MAC has 2017 primary bowl tie-ins with **Bahamas, Dollar General, Famous Idaho Potato** and **Raycom Media Camellia Bowls**. The MAC has secondary 2017 bowl agreements with **Boca Raton, Frisco** and **Quick Lane Bowls**. The Dollar General Bowl has first selection in 2017, and there is no order of selection for the remaining three primary MAC tie-ins.

The **2017 Bahamas Bowl** participants – selected from among bowl-eligible teams in Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference – will be announced by the bowl, ESPN Events and conference partners once finalized.



**BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA PROJECTIONS**

<b>Media Organization (Reporter) - Date:</b>	<b>Predicted Matchup</b>
<b>10thYearSeniors.com (John Marc Nutt) - Sept. 13:</b>	Southern Miss vs. Ohio
<b>Nassau Tribune (Renaldo Dorsett) - Sept. 13:</b>	Louisiana Tech vs. Toledo
<b>USA Today (Erick Smith) - Sept. 13:</b>	Marshall vs. Northern Illinois
<b>SI.com (Eric Single) - Sept. 12:</b>	Louisiana Tech vs. Eastern Michigan
<b>The Sporting News (Bill Bender) - Sept. 12:</b>	UTSA vs. Central Michigan
<b>SB Nation (Jason Kirk) - Sept. 11:</b>	Southern Miss vs. Bowling Green
<b>ESPN.com (Kyle Bonagura) - Sept. 10:</b>	Middle Tennessee vs. Miami (Ohio)
<b>ESPN.com (David M. Hale) - Sept. 10:</b>	Southern Miss vs. Miami (Ohio)
<b>CBSsports.com (Jerry Palm) - Sept. 10:</b>	Middle Tennessee vs. Western Michigan
<b>College Sports Madness (CSM Staff) - Sept. 10:</b>	Old Dominion vs. Toledo
<b>Orlando Sentinel (Brant Parsons) - Sept. 10:</b>	Southern Miss vs. Miami (Ohio)
<b>CollegeFootballNews.com (Pete Fiutak) - Sept. 10:</b>	WKU vs. Toledo
<b>Bleacher Report (David Kenyon) - Aug. 23:</b>	Louisiana Tech vs. Western Michigan
<b>Sports on Earth (Matt Brown) - Aug. 21:</b>	Southern Miss vs. Miami (Ohio)
<b>Athlon Sports (Steven Lissan) - July 5:</b>	UTSA vs. Ohio
<b>Phil Steele Magazine (Phil Steele) - Magazine:</b>	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.); Texas 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.)

