



WEEKLY RELEASE

WEEK 12 NOVEMBER 16-22, 2017

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BAHAMAS BOWL COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Pika
 Director of Communications
chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com
 678-908-4853 (cell)

BAHAMAS BOWL IMPORTANT MEDIA DATES

- Nov. 20** Online media credential applications begin at: sportsystems.com/bahamasbowl
- Dec. 1** Press Conference (Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium): 11:30 a.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)

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#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

BAHAMAS BOWL WEEK 12 NOTEBOOK

PASSPORT STAMPED (BOWL-ELIGIBLE TEAMS): C-USA (6): FIU (6-3), Florida Atlantic (7-3), Marshall (7-3), North Texas (7-3), Southern Miss (6-4), UAB (7-3); MAC (6): Akron (6-5), Central Michigan (7-4), Northern Illinois (8-3), Ohio (8-3), Toledo (9-2), Western Michigan (6-5). **AT CUSTOMS (ONE VICTORY SHY):** C-USA (2): UTSA (5-4), WKU (5-5).

There are a combined 14 teams either bowl eligible or one victory away from eligibility from Conference USA and the MAC. If all 14 reached eligibility, it would mark the largest pool of bowl candidates in the four years of the Bahamas Bowl. Two other C-USA teams and one additional MAC school remain in contention for bowl-eligible status.

THIS WEEK: #MACtion begins Thursday as Buffalo (4-6, 2-4) goes to Ball State (2-8, 0-6). The Bulls need victories in their final two games to be bowl eligible. The following Tuesday (Nov. 21), Kent State (2-9, 1-6) goes to East leader Akron (6-5, 5-2), Miami (4-7, 3-4) is at Ball State and Bowling Green (2-9, 2-5) visits Eastern Michigan (4-7, 2-5).

Conference USA has a single game on Friday as Middle Tennessee (5-5, 3-3) plays at WKU (5-5, 3-3). The winner of the rivalry game will be bowl eligible. Saturday, there are five conference and a pair of non-league games. The biggest game is in Boca Raton where Florida Atlantic (7-3, 6-0) will try to wrap the East Division title and the host spot in the C-USA title game with a victory over FIU (6-3, 4-2) in the Shula Bowl rivalry game. Three league games have bowl implications as Marshall (7-3, 4-2) goes to UTSA (5-4, 2-4). The Roadrunners need a victory for bowl eligibility. Rice (1-9, 1-5) heads to Old Dominion (4-6, 2-4), which needs a pair of victories to be bowl eligible. The same situation is in place for Louisiana Tech (4-6, 2-4), which is at UTEP (0-9, 0-5). Charlotte (1-9, 1-5) is at Southern Miss (6-4, 4-2) in the other conference game. West Division champ North Texas (7-3) hosts Army, and UAB (7-3) is at SEC foe Florida.

POLLING PLACE: Ohio is receiving votes in the USA Amway Coaches poll.

C-USA STANDINGS



EAST DIVISION

	C-USA	Overall
* Florida Atlantic	6-0	7-3
* FIU	4-2	6-3
* Marshall	4-2	7-3
WKU	3-3	5-5
Middle Tennessee	3-3	5-5
Old Dominion	2-4	4-6
Charlotte	1-5	1-9

WEST DIVISION

	C-USA	Overall
#* North Texas	6-1	7-3
* UAB	5-2	7-3
* Southern Miss	4-2	6-4
UTSA	2-4	5-4
Louisiana Tech	2-4	4-6
Rice	1-5	1-9
UTEP	0-5	0-9

* - bowl eligible # - clinched division

MAC STANDINGS



EAST DIVISION

	MAC	Overall
* Akron	5-2	6-5
* Ohio	5-2	8-3
Miami	3-4	4-7
Buffalo	2-4	4-6
Bowling Green	2-5	2-9
Kent State	1-6	2-9

WEST DIVISION

	MAC	Overall
* Toledo	6-1	9-2
* Northern Illinois	6-1	8-3
* Central Michigan	5-2	7-4
* Western Michigan	4-3	6-5
Eastern Michigan	2-5	4-7
Ball State	0-6	2-8

* - bowl eligible

WEEK 12 SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE USA

Friday, Nov. 17

* Middle Tennessee at WKU (CBSSN)

Saturday, Nov. 18

* Rice at Old Dominion (ESPN3)

* Charlotte at Southern Miss (CUSA TV)

* Louisiana Tech at UTEP (CUSA TV)

UAB at Florida (SECN)

Army at North Texas (beIN)

* FIU at Florida Atlantic (STAD)

* Marshall at UTSA (STAD FB)

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Thursday, Nov. 16

* Buffalo at Ball State (CBSSN)

Tuesday, Nov. 21

* Kent State at Akron (ESPNU)

* Miami at Ball State (ESPN3)

* Bowling Green at Eastern Michigan (ESPN3)

* - conference games

WEEK 11 RESULTS

CONFERENCE USA

Saturday, Nov. 11

* Florida Atlantic 48, Louisiana Tech 23

* North Texas 45, UTEP 10

* Middle Tennessee 35, Charlotte 21

* Southern Miss 43, Rice 34

* Marshall 30, WKU 23

* Old Dominion 37, FIU 30

* UAB 24, UTSA 19

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Thursday, Nov. 9

* Northern Illinois 63, Ball State 17

Tuesday, Nov. 14

* Akron 37, Ohio 34

* Central Michigan 42, Kent State 23

Wednesday, Nov. 15

* Toledo 66, Bowling Green 37

* Eastern Michigan 27, Miami 24

* Northern Illinois 35, Western Michigan 31

* - conference games

WEEK 11 INDIVIDUAL HONORS

CONFERENCE USA

Offensive Player of the Week

Old Dominion RB **Ray Lawry**: The senior rushed for 168 yards and two TDs and added a pair of receiving TDs in a 37-30 victory over FIU.

Defensive Player of the Week

Southern Miss LB **Racheem Boothe**: The freshman had 14 tackles (two for loss), a sack and a forced fumble in a 43-34 victory at Rice.

Special Teams Player of the Week

Florida Atlantic KR **Kerrith Whyte**: The junior returned a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown in a 48-23 victory over Louisiana Tech.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East Division Offensive Player of the Week

Buffalo QB **Tyree Jackson**: The sophomore threw for 406 yards and three touchdowns in a 38-28 victory over Bowling Green.

East Division Defensive Player of the Week

Ohio LB **Quentin Poling**: The senior had 12 total tackles, three sacks and a fumble recovery in a 38-10 victory over Toledo.

East Division Special Teams Player of the Week

Ohio K **Louie Zervos**: The sophomore made his only field goal attempt and five PATs in a 38-10 victory over Toledo.

West Division Offensive Player of the Week

Western Michigan RB **Jarvion Franklin**: The senior rushed for 191 yards and a touchdown in a 48-20 victory over Kent State.

West Division Defensive Player of the Week

Eastern Michigan DE **Maxx Crosby**: The sophomore had three sacks and a forced fumble in a loss at Central Michigan.

West Division Special Teams Player of the Week

Northern Illinois S **Jackson Abresch**: The senior scored a pair of touchdowns off of two blocked punts in a 63-17 victory over Ball State.

C-USA VS. MAC

The 2017 Bahamas Bowl will be contested between Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference. C-USA won the 2017 season series vs. the MAC 4-3. Conference USA is 2-1 vs. the MAC all time in the Bahamas Bowl.

Sept. 1

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

Sept. 2

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

Sept. 9

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

Sept. 16

Marshall (C-USA) 21, Kent State (MAC) 0

Sept. 23

WKU (C-USA) 33, Ball State (MAC) 21

Middle Tennessee (C-USA) 24, Bowling Green (MAC) 13

Buffalo (MAC) 34, Florida Atlantic (C-USA) 31

SATURDAYS TO SUNDAYS

Eight players who played in the Bahamas Bowl have seen action for NFL clubs in 2017.

S **Kevin Byard** - Tennessee (Middle Tennessee)

WR **Corey Davis** - Tennessee (Western Michigan)

S **Kavon Frazier** - Dallas (Central Michigan)

TE **Tyler Higbee** - Los Angeles Rams (WKU)

G **Taylor Moton** - Carolina (Western Michigan)

QB **Cooper Rush** - Dallas Cowboys (Central Michigan)

WR **Taywan Taylor** - Tennessee (WKU)

DE **Leterrius Watson** - Pittsburgh (Central Michigan)



AROUND THE CONFERENCES

• In Conference USA, Florida Atlantic (6-0) controls its destiny to win the East Division and host to the C-USA Championship Game. The Owls can clinch the East crown with a victory over FIU or Charlotte on Nov. 25. In the West, FIU needs a victory over Florida Atlantic and WKU on Nov. 25, and a loss by Florida Atlantic at Charlotte to clinch the East. North Texas (6-1) has clinched the West Division title. The Mean Green could host the C-USA title game with a victory over Rice on Nov. 25 and a pair of Florida Atlantic losses.

• Western Michigan senior CB **Darius Phillips** tied the all-time FBS record with his fifth career interception return for a TD in a 48-20 win over Kent State.

• UAB true freshman RB **Spencer Brown** recorded his sixth 100-yard rushing game of the season and his third straight with 27 carries for 128 yards against C-USA's No. 1 rush defense at UTSA Saturday night. He is the nation's second-leading rusher among freshmen with 1,177 yards and ranks third all-time at UAB in single-season rushing yards..

• Northern Illinois S **Jackson Abresch** tied the NCAA record for most touchdowns scored on blocked punts in a game when he scored two touchdowns on blocked punt returns in a 63-17 win over Ball State. Abresch is just the third player all-time to score two touchdowns in a game off of blocked punts, and the first to do so since Nov. 1, 1997.

"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).

Sept. 9

Central Michigan (MAC) 45, Kansas (Big 12) 27

Eastern Michigan (MAC) 16, Rutgers (Big Ten) 13

Middle Tennessee (C-USA) 30, Syracuse (ACC) 23

UTSA (C-USA) 17, Baylor (Big 12) 10

Sept. 16

Northern Illinois (MAC) 21, Nebraska (Big Ten) 17

Ohio (MAC) 42, Kansas 30 (Big 12) 30

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

During 2017, the Bahamas Bowl will spotlight an alumni player from our partner conferences: Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference.

JOE GREENE (NORTH TEXAS)



Pro Football and College Football Hall of Famer **Joe Greene**, a 1968 consensus All-American, played his college career at North Texas from 1966-68.

Greene, whose iconic nickname of "Mean Joe" referenced the Mean Green nickname of the then-North Texas State, was part of a 23-5-1 record by the school in his three seasons as a defensive tackle.

In his 29 games at defensive tackle, North Texas held the opposition to 2,507 yards gained on 1,276 rushes, a per-carry average of less than two yards per attempt.

A consensus All-American in his senior season of 1968, Greene was selected No. 4 overall by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1969 NFL Draft.

Greene was the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1969, and was selected to the Pro Bowl that same season.

A dominant defensive tackle, Greene became the lynchpin of the Steelers' famed Steel Curtain defense during the 1970s.

He was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1972 as the Steelers advanced to the AFC Championship Game. In 1974, he won the honor again as Pittsburgh won the first of four Super Bowls with Greene, beating Minnesota in Super Bowl IX. He was also part of the Steelers' title teams in Super Bowls X, XIII and XIV.

He was a five-time All-NFL performer, 11-time All-Conference pick and a 10-time Pro Bowler.

The 13-year pro (1969-81), a 1970s NFL All-Decade Team and NFL 75th Anniversary Team selection, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987.

BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA PROJECTIONS

Media Organization (Reporter) - Date:	Predicted Matchup
10thYearSeniors.com (John Marc Nutt) - Nov. 15:	FIU vs. Ohio
Nassau Tribune (Renaldo Dorsett) - Nov. 15:	FIU vs. Akron
The Sporting News (Bill Bender) - Nov. 15:	Florida Atlantic vs. Ohio
The Score (Brett McMurphy) - Nov. 14:	FIU vs. Ohio
USA Today (Erick Smith) - Nov. 14:	Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois
Athlon Sports (Steven Lissan) - Nov. 13:	FIU vs. Ohio
SB Nation (Jason Kirk) - Nov. 13:	FIU vs. Ohio
Bleacher Report (Kerry Miller) - Nov. 13:	Marshall vs. Western Michigan
CollegeFootballNews.com (Pete Fiutak) - Nov. 12:	Marshall vs. Northern Illinois
ESPN.com (Kyle Bonagura) - Nov. 12:	FIU vs. Western Michigan
ESPN.com (David M. Hale) - Nov. 12:	Marshall vs. Central Michigan
CBSsports.com (Jerry Palm) - Nov. 12:	WKU vs. Central Michigan
SI.com (Eric Single) - Nov. 12:	Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois
College Sports Madness (CSM Staff) - Nov. 12:	Florida Atlantic vs. Toledo
Orlando Sentinel (Brant Parsons) - Nov. 9:	Marshall vs. Northern Illinois
Sports on Earth (Matt Brown) - Oct. 18:	Ohio vs. Marshall
The Athletic (Stewart Mandel) - Oct. 17:	FIU vs. Ohio
Phil Steele Magazine (Phil Steele) - Magazine:	Louisiana Tech vs. Miami

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

Academy Sports & Outdoors Texas Bowl (Houston); 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); DXL Frisco Bowl (Frisco, Texas); Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise); 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.); 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 (Hartford, Conn.); NIT Season Tip-Off (Brooklyn, N.Y.); PK80 presented by State Farm (Portland, Ore.); Puerto Rico Tip-Off (San Juan); State Farm Champions Classic (Chicago) and Wooden Legacy (Fullerton, Calif.)

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