



WEEKLY RELEASE

WEEK 13 NOVEMBER 24-25, 2017

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BAHAMAS BOWL COMMUNICATIONS

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BAHAMAS BOWL IMPORTANT MEDIA DATES

- Nov. 23** 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 13 NOTEBOOK

PASSPORT STAMPED (BOWL-ELIGIBLE TEAMS): C-USA (8): FIU (6-4), Florida Atlantic (8-3), Marshall (7-4), North Texas (8-3), Southern Miss (7-4), UAB (7-4), UTSA (6-4), WKU (6-5); MAC (6): Akron (7-5), 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 (3): Louisiana Tech (5-6), Middle Tennessee (5-6), Old Dominion (5-6); MAC (1): Buffalo (5-6).

There are a combined 18 teams either bowl eligible (14) or one victory away from eligibility (four; maximum of three can qualify) from Conference USA and the MAC. This is the deepest pool of teams by number to be bowl eligible in the four years of the Bahamas Bowl. C-USA can have a maximum of 10 teams qualify, while the MAC could have as many as seven teams eligible.

THIS WEEKEND: The final weekend of regular-season play in the MAC takes place with three games Friday. Up for grabs is the West Division crown, and Toledo (9-2, 6-1) can clinch outright with a victory at home over Western Michigan (6-5, 4-3). Northern Illinois (8-3, 6-1) can win the division with a victory at Central Michigan (7-4, 5-2) and a Toledo loss. The other MAC game Friday has bowl eligibility on the line as Buffalo (5-6, 3-4) needs a victory over Ohio (8-3, 5-2) at home. Akron has clinched the East Division title, and will play in the MAC Championship Game on Dec. 2 at Detroit's Ford Field.

The Conference USA Championship Game is set for Dec. 2 in Boca Raton as Florida Atlantic (8-3, 7-0), the East Division champion, will host West champ North Texas (8-3, 6-1). Three teams still have bowl dreams to play for Saturday, two of which will play for the all-important sixth victory as 2016 Bahamas Bowl champion Old Dominion (5-6, 3-4) is at Middle Tennessee (5-6, 3-4). Louisiana Tech (5-6, 3-4) would also reach bowl eligibility with a home victory over UTSA (6-4, 3-4). The division champs will be in action as North Texas is at Rice (1-10, 1-6) and Florida Atlantic is at Charlotte (1-10, 1-6).

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

C-USA STANDINGS



EAST DIVISION		
	C-USA	Overall
#* Florida Atlantic	7-0	8-3
* Marshall	4-3	7-4
* FIU	4-3	6-4
* WKU	4-3	6-5
Middle Tennessee	3-4	5-6
Old Dominion	3-4	5-6
Charlotte	1-6	1-10
WEST DIVISION		
	C-USA	Overall
#* North Texas	6-1	8-3
* UAB	5-2	7-4
* Southern Miss	5-2	7-4
* UTSA	3-4	6-4
Louisiana Tech	3-4	5-6
Rice	1-6	1-10
UTEP	0-7	0-11

* - bowl eligible # - clinched division

MAC STANDINGS



EAST DIVISION		
	MAC	Overall
#* Akron	6-2	7-5
* Ohio	5-2	8-3
Miami	4-4	5-7
Buffalo	3-4	5-6
Bowling Green	2-6	2-10
Kent State	1-7	2-10
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	3-5	5-7
Ball State	0-8	2-10

* - bowl eligible # - clinched division

WEEK 13 SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE USA

Friday, Nov. 24

* WKU at FIU (beIN)

Saturday, Nov. 25

* North Texas at Rice (ESPN3)

* UTEP at UAB (CUSA TV)

* Florida Atlantic at Charlotte (STAD FB)

* Southern Miss at Marshall (STAD)

* ODU at Middle Tennessee (ESPN3)

* UTSA at Louisiana Tech (ESPNU)

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Friday, Nov. 24

* Western Michigan at Toledo (ESPNU)

* Northern Illinois at Central Michigan (CBSSN)

* Ohio at Buffalo (ESPN3)

* - conference games

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)



WEEK 12 RESULTS

CONFERENCE USA

Friday, Nov. 17

* WKU 41, Middle Tennessee 38 (3 ot)

Saturday, Nov. 18

* Florida Atlantic 52, FIU 24

* UTSA 9, Marshall 7

* Old Dominion 24, Rice 21

* Southern Miss 66, Charlotte 21

* Louisiana Tech 42, UTEP 21

North Texas 52, Army 49

Florida 36, UAB 7

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Thursday, Nov. 16

* Buffalo 40, Ball State 24

Tuesday, Nov. 21

* Akron 24, Kent State 21

* Miami 28, Ball State 7

* Eastern Michigan 34, Bowling Green 31

* - conference games

AROUND THE CONFERENCES

• In Conference USA, Florida Atlantic's 52-24 win over FIU in the Shula Bowl last Saturday night meant that the Owls (7-0 in C-USA) had clinched the East Division Championship and the right to host the 2017 Dynacraft Conference USA Football Championship Game on Saturday, Dec. 2. North Texas (6-1 in C-USA) punched its ticket as West Division Champion back on Nov. 11. The C-USA title game is on ESPN2 at Noon ET.

• In the MAC, Akron (6-2) has clinched the East Division and will play in the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship game on Saturday, Dec. 2 at Noon ET at Detroit's Ford Field on ESPN. In the West Division, both Toledo (6-1) and NIU (6-1) are tied for first, with Toledo holding the tiebreaker. A Toledo victory over Western Michigan on Nov. 24 or a Northern Illinois loss at Central Michigan (5-2) the same day clinches the West for the Rockets. If Toledo and NIU both lose, there would be a three-way tie for the division. Toledo would win the tiebreaker with a 2-0 record among tied teams.

• Florida Atlantic RB **Devin "Motor" Singletary** has been named one of 11 semifinalists for the Doak Walker Award, given annually to the nation's top running back. He has a nation-leading 24 rushing TDs this season.

• Western Michigan senior offensive tackle **Chukwuma Okorafor** is one of six semifinalists for the Outland Trophy, given to the nation's best interior lineman.

WEEK 12 INDIVIDUAL HONORS

CONFERENCE USA

Offensive Player of the Week

WKU QB RB **Mike White**: The senior threw for 485 yards and five touchdowns in a 41-38 three-overtime victory over Middle Tennessee.

Defensive Player of the Week

Southern Miss DB **Kelsey Douglas**: The senior picked off two passes and returned both for touchdowns in a 66-21 victory over Charlotte.

Special Teams Player of the Week

UTSA K **Jared Sackett**: The freshman kicked three field goals, including the game-winning 40-yarder in a 9-7 victory over Marshall.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East Division Offensive Player of the Week

Akron QB **Kato Nelson**: The redshirt freshman threw for 322 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for 45 more in a 37-34 victory over Ohio.

East Division Defensive Player of the Week

Buffalo DE **Chuck Harris**: The junior had 13 tackles, three quarterback hurries and a sack in a 40-24 victory over Ball State.

East Division Special Teams Player of the Week

Akron P/K **Nick Gasser**: The junior made a field goal and four PATs and punted seven times for a 39.6 average in a 37-34 victory over Ohio.

West Division Offensive Player of the Week

Toledo RB **Terry Swanson**: The senior rushed for for 192 yards on 23 attempts in a 66-37 victory over Bowling Green.

West Division Defensive Player of the Week

Northern Illinois DE **Sutton Smith**: The sophomore had six tackles, 2.5 sacks, 5.5 tackles for loss and returned a fumble for a TD in a 35-31 victory over Western Michigan.

West Division Special Teams Player of the Week

Eastern Michigan K **Paulie Fricano**: The sophomore made a pair of field goals and three PATs in a 27-24 victory over Miami.

"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 STALEY (CENTRAL MICHIGAN)



Current San Francisco 49ers offensive tackle **Joe Staley** was an All-MAC performer during his college career at Central Michigan from 2003-06.

Staley worked on the Chippewas offensive line that produced a 1,000-yard rusher during three of his four seasons at CMU.

As a senior in 2006, he started all 14 games and was a consensus All-MAC at left tackle. He was one of three co-captains that helped lead the Chippewas to their first MAC title in 12 seasons and the 2006 Motor City Bowl title, the school's first bowl victory.

In his junior season of 2005, he did not allow a sack in 11 starts at left tackle and helped CMU average 418.8 yards per game of offense.

After playing the 2007 Senior Bowl, he posted the fastest 40-yard dash time (4.7) by any offensive lineman at the 2007 NFL Combine.

Staley was drafted in the first round of the 2007 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers in 2007. He became the first Central Michigan player to be selected in the first round.

He played right tackle in his rookie season with the 49ers and became the first San Francisco rookie offensive lineman to start every game in a season since 1968.

He moved back to left tackle in 2008, and he has started all 152 games he has been available to play in his 11-season career.

A five-time Pro Bowler (2011-15), Staley was selected All-NFL in 2013 by the Pro Football Writers of America.

BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA PROJECTIONS

Media Organization (Reporter) - Date:	Predicted Matchup
10thYearSeniors.com (John Marc Nutt) - Nov. 22:	FIU vs. Ohio
Nassau Tribune (Renaldo Dorsett) - Nov. 22:	FIU vs. Akron
The Sporting News (Bill Bender) - Nov. 21:	Florida Atlantic vs. Ohio
The Score (Brett McMurphy) - Nov. 21:	FIU vs. Northern Illinois
USA Today (Erick Smith) - Nov. 21:	Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois
SB Nation (Jason Kirk) - Nov. 20:	FIU vs. Ohio
Bleacher Report (Kerry Miller) - Nov. 20:	North Texas vs. Central Michigan
ESPN.com (Kyle Bonagura) - Nov. 19:	FIU vs. Northern Illinois
ESPN.com (David M. Hale) - Nov. 19:	North Texas vs. Central Michigan
Athlon Sports (Steven Lissan) - Nov. 19:	FIU vs. Ohio
CollegeFootballNews.com (Pete Fiutak) - Nov. 19:	Southern Miss vs. Ohio
CBSsports.com (Jerry Palm) - Nov. 19:	WKU vs. Akron
SI.com (Eric Single) - Nov. 19:	Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois
Orlando Sentinel (Brant Parsons) - Nov. 19:	Marshall vs. Northern Illinois
College Sports Madness (CSM Staff) - Nov. 12:	Florida Atlantic vs. Toledo
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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