



# Mid-American Conference 2017 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.getsomemaction.com

Become a fan of the Mid-American Conference on Facebook.  
Follow the MAC On Twitter @MACSports, Snapchat (MACSports) and Instagram (MACSports)

## MAC Standings

	Conference						Overall						
	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	N
<b>WEST DIVISION</b>													
!^*Toledo	7	1	.875	W2	4-0	3-1	11	2	.846	W3	6-0	4-2	1-0
*Northern Illinois	6	2	.750	L1	4-0	2-2	8	4	.667	L1	5-1	3-3	
*Central Michigan	6	2	.750	W5	2-2	4-0	8	4	.667	W5	3-2	5-2	
*Western Michigan	4	4	.500	L2	2-2	2-2	6	6	.500	L2	4-2	2-4	
Eastern Michigan	3	5	.375	W2	2-2	1-3	5	7	.417	W2	3-2	2-5	
Ball State	0	8	.000	L8	0-4	0-4	2	10	.167	L9	2-4	0-6	
<b>EAST DIVISION</b>													
#*Akron	6	2	.750	W2	4-0	2-2	7	6	.539	W2	5-1	2-4	0-1
*Ohio	5	3	.625	L2	3-1	2-2	8	4	.667	L2	5-1	3-3	
*Buffalo	4	4	.500	W3	2-2	2-2	6	6	.500	W3	4-2	2-4	
Miami	4	4	.500	W1	2-2	2-2	5	7	.417	W1	3-3	2-4	
Bowling Green	2	6	.250	L3	0-4	2-2	2	10	.167	L3	0-5	2-5	
Kent State	1	7	.125	L5	1-3	0-4	2	10	.167	L5	2-3	0-7	

! MAC Champion ^ West Champion; # East Champion \* Bowl Eligible

### MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE 2017 BOWL SCHEDULE

#### Dec. 19: Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl – Boca Raton, Fla.;

#### 7:00 pm ET (ESPN); Akron (7-6, 6-2) vs. Florida Atlantic (10-3, 8-0, C-USA)

Note: Akron won the MAC East Division with a 7-6 overall record, 6-2 in the MAC and made its first trip to the Marathon MAC Championship Game in Detroit since 2005. Akron suffered a 45-28 loss to Toledo on Dec. 2nd in the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game. Six-year head coach Terry Bowden will be leading his Zips to the program's second bowl appearance in the last three seasons, which is a program best. Bowden led the Zips to the program's first-ever bowl win in 2015 with a 23-21 win over Utah State in the 2015 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

#### Dec. 22: Bahamas Bowl – Nassau, Bahamas 12:30 pm ET (ESPN)

#### Ohio (8-4, 5-3) vs. UAB (8-4, 6-2, Conference USA)

Note: Ohio ended the regular season second in the MAC East Division with a 5-3 league-record, 8-4 overall. Bobcats head coach Frank Solich is in his 13th year leading the Ohio football program and is the third-winningest head coach in MAC history with an 96-71 record at Ohio. Last season Ohio suffered a 28-23 loss to Troy in the Dollar General Bowl. The Bobcats have been bowl eligible in 11 of the 13 years under Solich and will be making their ninth bowl appearance during his coaching tenure. Ohio will be making its 11th bowl appearance in school history.

#### Dec. 22: Famous Idaho Potato Bowl – Boise, Ida. 4:00 pm ET (ESPN)

#### Central Michigan (8-4, 6-2) vs. Wyoming (7-5, 5-3, Mountain West)

Note: Central Michigan wrapped up the 2017 season on a five-game winning streak to finish 8-4 overall, 6-2 in the MAC West Division. Third-year head coach John Bonamego led the Chippewas this season to a non-conference win over Kansas. The program will be making its fourth consecutive bowl appearance, its fifth in the last six years and the ninth in the last 12 seasons.

#### Dec. 23: Dollar General Bowl – Mobile, Ala. 7:00 pm ET (ESPN)

#### Toledo (11-2, 7-1) vs. Appalachian State (8-4, 7-1, Sun Belt Conference)

Note: Toledo won the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game with a 45-28 win over Akron on Dec. 2, its first MAC Championship since 2004. Toledo completed the season with a 11-2 overall record, 7-1 in the MAC West. Second-year head coach Jason Candle led Toledo to another successful season and will be leading the Rockets to his third-bowl game. Toledo will be making its fourth consecutive bowl appearance and its seventh bowl game in the last eight years. Toledo will be making a MAC-best 17th bowl appearance (11-5 record).

#### Dec. 26: Quick Lane Bowl – Detroit, Mich. 5:15 pm ET (ESPN)

#### Northern Illinois (8-4, 6-2) vs. Duke (6-6, 3-5, Atlantic Coast Conference)

Note: Northern Illinois finished the 2017 season in second-place in the MAC West Division with a 6-2 league record, 8-4 overall. The Huskies return to the bowl season after missing a bowl appearance last year, which snapped a MAC record streak of eight consecutive bowl appearances (2008-15). Fifth year head coach Rod Carey and the Huskies defeated Nebraska from the Big Ten earlier this season. NIU is making its 12th bowl appearance (4-7 record in bowl games).

## MAC Storylines

- Toledo won the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game with a 45-28 win over Akron on Dec. 2. The win was Toledo's first championship since 2004 and the 11th football title in program history. The Rockets have been a model of consistency in winning as Toledo has won at least nine games in six of the last seven years, and this year's record of 11-2 is the ninth time in Toledo history to win at least 10 games in a season.

- Five MAC programs received bowl invitations this 2017 bowl season -- Toledo (11-2), Akron (7-6), Ohio (8-4), Central Michigan (8-4) and Northern Illinois (8-4). The MAC record for bowl invitations in a single-season is seven in both the 2012 and 2015 bowl seasons.

- Toledo (Dollar General Bowl), Akron (Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl), Ohio (Bahamas Bowl), Central Michigan (Famous Idaho Potato Bowl) and Northern Illinois (Quick Lane Bowl) will represent the MAC this 2017 bowl season.

- This marks the 10th time in MAC history to have five or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017) in a single-season.

- In the previous six bowl seasons, the MAC has a record of 11-24 in 35 bowl games – 2016 (0-6); 2015 (3-4); 2014 (2-3); 2013 (0-5); 2012 (2-5); 2011 (4-1) as all 12 MAC programs have appeared in a bowl game during this span (2011-16).

- Akron (7-6, 6-2) won the MAC East Division for the first time since 2005. Akron secured its third MAC East Division title as the Zips are bowl eligible for the second time in the last three years, also a program record.

- Over the last three seasons, the MAC has witnessed six different programs participate in the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game. In 2015 Bowling Green defeated NIU, 34-14, while 2016 witnessed Western Michigan with a 29-23 win over Ohio and Toledo defeated Akron, 45-28 in the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game.

- This year the MAC has 11 FBS wins, including four wins over Autonomous Conferences with two wins vs. Big Ten opponents (Nebraska, Rutgers) and two wins over Big 12 opponents (both wins over Kansas).



Follow MAC football with the MAC Digital Network at [www.mac-sports.com](http://www.mac-sports.com).



The MAC has partnered with collegepressbox.com to continue media services and provide access to information on the conference and our membership including rosters, bios, game notes, depth charts, stats, quotes, flipcards, media schedules and more.

**MAC BOWL HISTORY**

Since the conference inception in 1946, the MAC has played in 106 bowl games with a 42-64 (.396) 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. Then 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, GoDaddy Bowl and now Dollar General Bowl) and Boise in 2010 (Humanitarian, 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 set a Conference record with seven bowl invitations in both the 2012 and 2015 bowl seasons.

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 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.

In 2014, the MAC announced primary bowl partnerships with the newly created Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.), Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas) and the Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.). In addition, the MAC secured a secondary bowl partnership with the Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit) during this span.

In 2016, Western Michigan's invitation to the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic to face Wisconsin on Jan. 2nd was the MAC's second New Year's Six Bowl Game appearance.

In the last six bowl seasons, the MAC has an 11-24 overall bowl record in 35 bowl games -- 2016 (0-6); 2015 (3-4); 2014 (2-3); 2013 (0-5); 2012 (2-5); 2011 (4-1). In 2011 the MAC won the ESPN Challenge Cup with a 4-1 record for the best FBS Conference record in bowl games.

**MAC Bowl Records**

Team	W	L	T	PCT.	Last Appearance
Akron	1	1	0	.500	2015 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Ball State	0	7	0	.000	2014 GoDaddy Bowl
Bowling Green	5	8	0	.385	2015 GoDaddy Bowl
Buffalo	0	2	0	.000	2013 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Central Michigan	3	7	0	.300	2016 Miami Beach Bowl
Eastern Michigan	1	1	0	.500	2016 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl
Kent State	0	3	0	.000	2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl
Miami	7	4	0	.636	2016 St. Petersburg Bowl
Northern Illinois	4	7	0	.364	2015 S.D. Poinsettia Bowl
Ohio	2	8	0	.200	2016 Dollar General Bowl
Toledo	11	5	0	.688	2016 Raycom Media Camellia Bowl
Western Michigan	1	7	0	.125	2017 Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic
Current Members	35	60	0	.368	

**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	35	60	0	.368
Past Members	7	4	0	.636
Overall	42	64	0	.396

**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 21
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	Plains Capital 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
2015	Raycom Media Camellia Bowl - Appalachian State 31, Ohio 29
2015	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl - Akron 23, Utah State 21
2015	Marmot Boca Raton Bowl - Toledo 32, Temple 17
2015	San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl - Boise St. 55, NIU 7
2015	GoDaddy Bowl - Georgia Southern 58, Bowling Green 27
2015	Popeyes Bahamas Bowl - Western Michigan 45, Middle Tennessee 31
2015	Quick Lane Bowl - Minnesota 21, Central Michigan 14
2016	Raycom Media Camellia - Appalachian State 31, Toledo 28
2016	Miami Beach Bowl - Tulsa 55, Central Michigan 10
2016	Popeyes Bahamas Bowl - Old Dominion 24, Eastern Michigan 20
2016	Dollar General Bowl - Troy 28, Ohio 23
2016	St. Petersburg Bowl - Mississippi State 17, Miami 16
2017	Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic - No. 8 Wisconsin 24, No. 12 WMU 16

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



### TOLEDO WINS MARATHON MAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The Toledo Rockets capped an historic season with a resounding 45-28 victory over Akron at Ford Field in Detroit on Saturday to claim their 11th Mid-American Conference Championship and first since 2004.

In the 100th anniversary season of their founding as a football program, and the two-year anniversary of the hiring of Jason Candle as head coach, the Rockets (11-2) dominated the game from start to finish, scoring three times in the second quarter to take a 28-0 lead into the locker room at halftime. The Rockets outgained the Zips, 561-396, holding them to just 98 yards of total offense in the first half. The 561 yards of total offense are the third-most by a team in a MAC Championship Game.

Senior quarterback Logan Woodside, who threw for 307 yards and four touchdowns, was named the Offensive Player of the Game. Sophomore Diontae Johnson led the receiving corps with nine receptions for 118 yards and two scores, followed by junior Jon'Vea Johnson (six receptions, 103 yards, and a touchdown). Senior running back Terry Swanson piled up 180 yards and two TDs

On the other side of the ball, senior defensive end Zach Quinn led the Rockets with 10 tackles, junior defensive end Olanokanmi Adeniyi added three tackles for loss and a forced fumble, and senior cornerback Trevon Mathis came up with an interception and a key pass breakup.

### FOUR MAC STUDENTS TOPS IN THE NATION IN SACKS

The MAC is home to four of the top students in the nation in quarterback sacks. Northern Illinois sophomore **Sutton Smith** leads the nation with 14.0 sacks (1.17 per game), while Central Michigan senior **Joe Ostman** ranks third in the country with 12.0 sacks (1.20 per game). Ball State senior **Anthony Winbush** ranks tied for fourth in the nation with 11.5 sacks (0.96 per game) and Eastern Michigan sophomore **Maxx Crosby** is tied for sixth in the country with 11.0 sacks (0.92 per game).

In addition, NIU's Smith leads the nation with 28.5 tackles for loss for an average of 2.4 per game. Toledo defensive end **Ola Adeniyi** ranks tied for seventh in the country with 19.5 tackles for loss for 1.5 per game.

### THREE MAC STUDENTS CLIMB CAREER RECORD BOOK

Three MAC seniors continue to climb up the MAC career record book this 2017 season. Quarterback Logan Woodside (Toledo), along with running back Jarvion Franklin (Western Michigan) and defensive back Darius Phillips (Western Michigan) rank among career leaders in league history.

#### Toledo QB Logan Woodside

- Career Passing TDs – 93 (5th MAC history)
- Career Pass Completion Percentage - 65.3% (743-1,137) (7th MAC)
- Career Yards Passing – 10,390 (12th MAC history)
- Career Completions – 743 (20th MAC history)
- Career Attempts – 1,137 (23rd MAC history)

#### Western Michigan RB Jarvion Franklin

- Career Yards Rushing – 4,867 (5th MAC history)
- Career Rushing TDs – 52 (tied for 4th MAC history)
- Career Most TDs – 56 (52 rush; 4 rec.) (4th MAC history)
- Career Rushing Attempts – 942 (3rd MAC history)
- Career Points – 336 (11th MAC history)

#### Western Michigan DB Darius Phillips

- Career Kickoff Return Yards - 3,145 (1st MAC history)
- Career Kickoff Returns for Touchdowns - 5 (1st MAC history)
- Career Interceptions Returned For TDs – 5 (1st MAC history)

### 2017 MAC Specialty Award Winners

Coach of the Year: Jason Candle, Toledo

Offensive Player of the Year: QB Logan Woodside, Toledo

Defensive Player of the Year: DE Sutton Smith, Northern Illinois

Special Teams Player of the Year: KR Darius Phillips, Western Michigan

Freshman of the Year: QB Marcus Childers, Northern Illinois

Vern Smith Leadership Award Winner: QB Logan Woodside, Toledo

### KENT STATE CHANGE IN FOOTBALL LEADERSHIP

On Nov. 22, 2017 Kent State University Director of Athletics Joel Nielsen announced that football head coach Paul Haynes' contract will not be renewed. Haynes completed his fifth season as head coach and finished his tenure with an overall record of 14-45, 9-30 in MAC play. A national search has begun.

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

#### **Rushing Yards:**

22nd **Terry Swanson-Toledo**: 1,319 yards, 231 attempts, 14 TDs

26th **Jarvion Franklin-Western Michigan**: 1,228 yards, 235 attempts, 11 TD

#### **Rushing Touchdowns:**

2nd **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 21 TDs, 882 yds., 134 attempts

t-15th **Terry Swanson-Toledo**: 14 TDs, 1,319 yds., 231 attempts

t-30th **Shakif Seymour-Toledo**: 12 TDs, 704 yds., 113 attempts

t-36th **Jarvion Franklin-Western Michigan**: 11 TD, 1,228 yds., 235 attempts

#### **Total Passing Yards:**

8th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 3,758 yds., 248-382 passing, 28 TDs

29th **Shane Morris-Central Michigan**: 2,908 yds., 226-407 passing, 26 TDs

30th **Brogan Roback-Eastern Michigan**: 2,890 yds., 245-409 passing, 19 TD

#### **Passing Touchdowns:**

t-12th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 28 TDs, 3,758 yds., 248-382 passing

t-16th **Shane Morris-Central Michigan**: 26 TD, 2,908 yds., 226-407 passing

#### **Passing Efficiency:**

5th **Logan Woodson-Toledo**: 169.1 rating; 248-382 pass, 3,758 yds, 28 TDs

#### **Receiving Yards Per Game:**

3rd **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 76 rec., 1,356 yds., 14 TDs, (113.0 avg.)

13th **Diontae Johnson-Toledo**: 72 rec., 1,257 yds., 13 TDs, (96.7 avg.)

39th **James Gardner-Miami**: 47 rec., 927 yds., 11 TDs, (77.3 avg.)

#### **Total Receiving Yards**

3rd **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 1,356 yds., 76 rec., 14 TDs

7th **Diontae Johnson-Toledo**: 1,257 yds., 72 rec., 13 TDs

32th **James Gardner-Miami**: 927 yds., 47 rec., 11 TDs

#### **Receiving Touchdowns**

3rd **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 14 TDs

t-4th **Diontae Johnson-Toledo**: 13 TDs

t-9th **James Gardner-Miami**: 11 TDs

t-20th **Sergio Bailey II-Eastern Michigan**: 9 TDs

t-20th **Corey Willis-Central Michigan**: 9 TDs

#### **Receptions Per Game:**

14th **Justin Hall-Ball State**: 78 rec., 801 yds., 3 TDs, (6.5 per game)

16th **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 76 rec., 1,356 yds., 14 TDs, (6.3 per game)

#### **Scoring:**

t-3rd **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 132 points, (11.0 ppg)

8th **Jameson Vest-Toledo**: 131 points, (10.1 ppg)

t-31st **Louie Zervos-Ohio**: 101 points, (8.4 ppg)

#### **Points Responsible For:**

t-9th **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 222 points

t-25th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 178 points

t-27th **Shane Morris-Central Michigan**: 176 points

#### **Total Tackles:**

2nd **Khalil Hodge-Buffalo**: 173 tackles, 13.3 tackles per game

18th **Ulysees Gilbert - Akron**: 127 tackles, 9.8 tackles per game

#### **Interceptions:**

t-4th **Josh Cox-Central Michigan**: 6 interceptions

t-8th **Sean Bunting-Central Michigan**: 5 interceptions

t-8th **Demetrius Monday-Kent State**: 5 interceptions

t-8th **Jawuan Johnson-Northern Illinois**: 5 interceptions

t-8th **Jordan George-Akron**: 5 interceptions

#### **Passes Defensed:**

t-2nd **Bradd Ellis-Ohio**: 20 passes defensed, 1.7 per game

30th **Clint Stephens-Bowling Green**: 12 passes defensed, 1.2 per game

#### **Total Sacks:**

1st **Sutton Smith-NIU**: 14.0 sacks, 1.17 per game

3rd **Joe Ostman-Central Michigan**: 12.0 sacks, 1.20 per game

t-4th **Anthony Winbush-Ball State**: 11.5 sacks, 0.96 per game

t-6th **Maxx Crosby-Eastern Michigan**: 11.0 sacks, 0.92 per game

#### **Tackles For Loss Per Game:**

1st **Sutton Smith-NIU**: 28.5 tackles for loss, 2.4 per game

t-7th **Olanokanmi Adeniyi-Toledo**: 19.5 tackles for loss, 1.5 per game

t-9th **Joe Ostman-Central Michigan**: 18.5 tackles for loss, 1.9 per game

t-16th **Anthony Winbush-Ball State**: 16.5 tackles for loss, 1.4 per game

t-16th **Maxx Crosby-Eastern Michigan**: 16.5 tackles for loss, 1.4 per game

**MAC PROGRAMS IN BOWL GAMES**

In the last seven bowl seasons, every MAC football program will have received a bowl invitation. Leading the way are Toledo, Ohio and Northern Illinois with bowl invitations in six of the last seven bowl seasons.

**2011-17 MAC Programs and Years Invited to Bowl Games**

Northern Illinois (6): 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2017

Ohio (6): 2011; 2012; 2013; 2015; 2016; 2017

Toledo (6): 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017

Central Michigan (5): 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017

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

Western Michigan (4): 2011; 2014; 2015; 2016

Ball State (2): 2012; 2013

Akron (2): 2015; 2017

Buffalo (1): 2013

Kent State (1): 2012

Eastern Michigan (1): 2016

Miami (1): 2016

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; Akron

**2016:** Western Michigan; Ohio; Toledo; Eastern Michigan; Central Michigan; Miami

**2017:** Toledo; Akron; Ohio; Central Michigan; Northern Illinois.

**2017 MAC ALL-AMERICANS**

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

**The Associated Press:**

- Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

**USA Today:**

- First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

**Sports Illustrated:**

- Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

**CBS Sports:**

- Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

**Walter Camp Football Foundation:**

- First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

- Second-Team All-American: Western Michigan OT Chukwuma Okorafor

**The Sporting News:**

- Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

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

- First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

- First-Team All-American: Western Michigan OT Chukwuma Okorafor

**American Football Coaches Association (AFCA):**

- Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

**146 STUDENTS NAMED TO ACADEMIC ALL-MAC TEAM**

The MAC announced its 2017 Football Academic All-MAC team as a total of 146 students were named to the 2017 Academic All-MAC team. Eastern Michigan topped the 2017 Academic All-MAC squad with 18 selections. Western Michigan was second with 16 selections, while Ohio was third with 14 selections.

There were 11 students named as four-time selections with Vinnie Palazeti (Ball State), Joseph Davidson (Bowling Green), Ryan Hunter (Bowling Green), Nate Locke (Bowling Green), Mark Chapman (Central Michigan), Jeff Perry (Central Michigan), Randy Heideman (Miami), Shane Wimann (Northern Illinois), Dorian Brown (Ohio), Cody Grilliot (Ohio) and Quentin Poling (Ohio).

There were 16 students named as three-time selections, while 43 students were named as two-time Academic All-MAC selections.

**SMITH MOST DECORATED DEFENSIVE PLAYER AT NIU**

The All-America honors continue to pile up for Northern Illinois' sophomore Sutton Smith, making the defensive end one of the most decorated All-Americans in NIU football's major college history.

Smith was named a second team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA), becoming just the second Huskie ever honored by the AFCA, after LeShon Johnson in 1993. On Dec. 12, Smith became just the third Huskie, and the first since Michael Turner in 2003, to earn first or second team All-America recognition from The Sporting News when he was named to the magazine's second team.

Smith, who leads the nation and set NIU school records for both tackles for loss and quarterback sacks, has now been named a first or second team All-American by each of the five organizations considered for NCAA consensus status. The only previous NIU player named to the All-America team of the Walter Camp Football Foundation, the Associated Press, the Football Writer's Association of America, The Sporting News and the AFCA is Johnson, a tailback who was a unanimous first team selection in 1993.

USA Today and Bleacher Report placed Smith on their first team All-America teams, and he was named to CBS Sports' second team, giving him 11 total first or second team All-America honors this year.

In 2017, he broke an NIU school record for single season tackles for loss that stood at 20 since 1984 and finished the regular season with 28.5 TFLs. NIU's single season mark for quarterback sacks also fell by the wayside with the old mark of 12 held by Scott Kellar (1984) and Larry English (2006), surpassed by Smith's 14 sacks in 2017.

The 2017 MAC Defensive Player of the Year, who was also a finalist for the Ted Hendricks Award as the nation's best defensive end, Smith is 3.5 tackles for loss away from the NCAA single season record of 32, set by Western Michigan's Jason Babin in 2003. He and the Huskies will close out the season in the 2017 Quick Lane Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit when they take on Duke on Tuesday, Dec. 26.

More than half of Smith's 56 total tackles in 2017 went for losses. He scored on a 16-yard strip, sack and fumble return versus Bowling Green on October 21 and picked up a fumble and ran 58 yards for a score versus Western Michigan to break the NIU record for fumble return touchdowns in a season. He also ranks fourth nationally in fumble recoveries with three on the year and his 73 quarterback pressures lead the nation.

**WESTERN MICHIGAN'S OKORAFOR GARNERS AWARDS**

Western Michigan senior left tackle Chukwuma Okorafor was named by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) First-Team All-American and Walter Camp Second Team All-American.

The 6-6, 330-pound Okorafor has been a three-year starter for Western Michigan. Prior to this season he was named the No. 4 tackle to watch in the nation by Mel Kiper. Towards the end of the 2017 season he was named one of six semifinalists for the Outland Trophy. Okorafor is a two-time Mid-American Conference First Team selection.

The Broncos have had one of the top rushing offenses over the last three years. WMU ranked 29th in the nation in 2015, 24th in 2016 and 23rd in the nation this season, averaging 224.8 yards per game.

It is the second year in the row that Western Michigan has produced FWAA and Walter Camp recognition. Last season Western Michigan wide receiver Corey Davis was named FWAA First Team All-American. For the Walter Camp award, Okorafor becomes the third Bronco ever to earn the honor. Wide receiver Corey Davis was a second team selection last season and wide receiver Jordan White was a second team pick in 2012.

Western Michigan finished the season 6-6 overall, 4-4 in the MAC, however were one of three bowl eligible teams not selected for a bowl game. Okorafor and Bronco teammate, defensive back/kick returner Darius Phillips, have both officially accepted invitations to play in the 2018 Reese's Senior Bowl on Jan. 27, 2018 in Mobile, Ala.

## 2017 BAHAMAS BOWL

Ohio (8-4, 5-3 MAC) vs. UAB (8-4, 6-2 Conference USA)

Friday, December 22, 2017 • 12:30 pm ET • Nassau, Bahamas • Thomas A. Robinson Stadium (15,000)

ESPN Announcers: Steve Levy (play-by-play), Desmond Howard (analyst), Laura Rutledge (sideline)

**Ohio****Head Coach: Frank Solich**

Career: 154-90 (19th year)  
at Ohio: 96-71 (13th year)

**UAB****Head Coach: Bill Clark**

Career: 25-14 (3rd year)  
at UAB: 14-10 (2nd year)

**Ohio Bobcats Notes:**

- Ohio became bowl eligible for the ninth straight year and will make its eighth bowl appearance in that span with a trip to the 2017 Bahamas Bowl to face UAB.
- This marks the first meeting between Ohio and UAB.
- Ohio sophomore quarterback Nathan Rourke set the single-season record with 21 rushing touchdowns for the Bobcats.
- Rourke needs one more touchdown to tie the Ohio record for touchdowns responsible for.
- Ohio RS senior cornerback Bradd Ellis recorded his 18th pass breakup to tie the Ohio single-season record with T.J. Wright.
- With his four solo tackles against Miami, Ohio RS senior linebacker Quentin Poling became the all-time leader in solo tackles at Ohio. Poling ranks 10th on the Ohio single-season tackle chart with 370 career tackles. He needs 18 more to move into a tie with Scott Zele (1990-92) with 388.
- Ohio has had a 100-plus yard rusher in eight of its last nine games (Rourke vs. CMU, BG, Toledo, Akron - Ouellette vs. UMass, EMU, Kansas - Brown vs. Kent State, Toledo).
- Rourke ranks second in the country in rushing touchdowns and is the top ranked QB on the list. He ranks third nationally with 20 total touchdowns (rushing+receiving).
- RS junior running back A.J. Ouellette needs 20 yards to become the first Ohio rusher to reach 1,000 -yards since Beau Blankenship in 2012.
- Head Coach Frank Solich is third in All-Time career MAC wins with 96. He will need 14- more wins to tie Bill Hess for No. 2 on the list.
- Ohio has 467 total points this season which set the single-season record. The previous record of 427 was set during the 2011 season in 14 games.
- Ohio landed 12 players on the All-MAC list led by RS senior LB Quentin Poling on the first team.
- Head Coach Frank Solich is the third-longest tenured head coach in the NCAA behind Kirk Ferentz (1999, Iowa) and Gary Patterson (2000, TCU).
- Ohio is the only program in the NCAA to have had the same head coach, offensive and defensive coordinator over the last 12 years.

**Ohio Bowl History:** This marks the 11th bowl appearance for the Ohio football program and the ninth under head coach Frank Solich. Ohio is 2-8 in those bowl games with its first bowl win coming in a 24-23 win over Utah State at the 2011 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. Ohio's last bowl win was in 2012, 45-14, over Louisiana-Monroe at the Advocare V100 Independence Bowl. In last year's bowl Ohio dropped a 28-23 loss to Troy at the 2017 Dollar General Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

**Bobcats Vs. C-USA:** Ohio is 36-22-6 against the current membership of C-USA having played Marshall the most with a 33-20-6 record against the Thundering Herd. Ohio is 2-0 against North Texas, 0-1 against Southern Miss and 1-1 against Western Kentucky. Ohio has been paired up with a C-USA team three times facing Marshall, Southern Miss and Eastern Carolina. Ohio is 0-3 against the C-USA in bowl appearances including a 37-20 loss to Eastern Carolina at the 2013 Beef O'Brady Bowl.

**Record Year For Poling:** Ohio RS senior linebacker Quentin Poling has set two career records this season setting new marks with 219 solo tackles and 45.0 tackles for loss. Poling ranks 10th on the career tackle chart (370) and needs 18 more to move into ninth.

**Rourke's Records:** Ohio sophomore quarterback Nathan Rourke set the Ohio single-season record with 21 rushing touchdowns this season. The previous mark was held by Ohio hall of famer Calvin McRae. Rourke needs one more touchdowns to move into a tie with Tyler Tettleton with 38 touchdowns responsible for.

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

**UAB Notes:**

**Blazers Cap Historic 2017 In The Bahamas:** In one of college football's biggest stories this season, the UAB football team will cap off its historic 2017 season by playing Ohio University in the 2017 Bahamas Bowl. The Blazers are playing in just their second bowl game in program history along with the 2004 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl. If UAB wins, it will be its first bowl victory ever.

**A Year To Remember:** Led by Conference USA Coach of the Year Bill Clark, not only did UAB return to the field after a two year hiatus, but the Blazers re-wrote the record books, highlighted by setting a program record for single season FBS wins (8) and Conference USA wins (6). UAB led Conference USA in attendance with a school record average of 26,375. The Blazers finished 6-0 at home for the first time ever.

**Williams Among Nations Elite:** Senior cornerback Darius Williams put together an All-American worthy season as a lockdown corner. The Jacksonville native finished the regular season ranking second nationally in passes defended with 20 (1.7/game). He led Conference in both interceptions (5) and pass breakups (15). His five interceptions is tied for seventh nationally. Williams had a career-high four pass breakups at Florida. He was named a First Team All-American by Pro Football Focus and a First Team All-Conference USA performer.

**Brown Named C-USA Freshman of the Year:** Conference USA Freshman of the Year Spencer Brown shattered the UAB record books in his first collegiate season. Brown is the nation's third leading rusher among freshmen averaging 107.7 yards per game. His rushing total of 1,292 yards ranks third in a single season and UAB and he needs 97 yards to set the C-USA freshman rushing record held by Damien Fletcher of Southern Miss in 2006 (1,388 yards). Brown has six 100-yard rushing games this year with a career high of 209 yards coming at Southern Miss.

**Erdely Has Record Setting Year:** Quarterback A.J. Erdely accounted for 29 total touchdowns in the regular season with 16 through the air and 13 on the ground. He needs three total touchdowns to tie and four to pass Joe Webb for the most touchdowns accounted for in a single season (Webb, 32 in 2009).

**Redzone Efficient:** The Blazers have made 45 trips to the redzone this season and have come away with points on 41 of those trips, good for an 91 percent conversion rate. Of those 45 trips, 34 have resulted in touchdowns. UAB ranks 18th nationally in redzone offense.

Conversely, the UAB defense has also been very good in the redzone and ranks 25th nationally in that category. Opponents have made 37 trips to the red zone have scored on touchdowns on 19 of those trips.

**Moving The Chains:** UAB has done a tremendous job moving the chains on third down this season, converting 48 percent of its attempts. The Blazers are tied for 7th nationally in third down conversion percentage and are 81-for-170 overall. UAB leads Conference USA in that category and was 10-of-16 in its last game out vs. UTEP.

**30+ Points:** The UAB offense is on pace to put together one of its most prolific offensive seasons in program history. The Blazers are averaging 29.6 points per game and have scored at least 30 points in six of 12 games. The 2014 team has the record for averaging 33.2 points per game.

**Contact:** Ted Feeley, 205-934-0722, tfeeley@uab.edu



## SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FORMER MAC STUDENTS ON NFL ROSTERS

<b>Arizona (2)</b> LB Bryson Albright-PS 1 Miami DB Ronald Zamort-IR 1 Western Michigan	<b>Indianapolis (3)</b> DE Tarell Basham R Ohio DB Rashaan Melvin 5 Northern Illinois OL Isaiah Williams 1 Akron	<b>Philadelphia (2)</b> OL Brandon Brooks 6 Miami (Ohio) DE Steven Means 3 Buffalo
<b>Atlanta (1)</b> DE JT Jones-PS R Miami	<b>Jacksonville (2)</b> LB Blair Brown R Ohio DB Barry Church 8 Toledo	<b>Pittsburgh (7)</b> LB Keion Adams-IR R Western Michigan WR Antonio Brown 8 Central Michigan LB James Harrison 15 Kent State FS Mike Mitchell 9 Ohio FB Roosevelt Nix 3 Kent State QB Ben Roethlisberger 14 Miami (Ohio) DL L.T. Walton 3 Central Michigan
<b>Carolina (1)</b> OL Taylor Moton R Western Michigan	<b>Kansas City (3)</b> OL Eric Fisher 5 Central Michigan RB Kareem Hunt R Toledo LB Frank Zombo 8 Central Michigan	<b>San Francisco (3)</b> DT Chris Jones-IR 4 Bowling Green OT Joe Staley 11 Central Michigan DB Jimmie Ward 4 Northern Illinois
<b>Chicago (1)</b> OL Josh Sitton 10 Central Florida	<b>Los Angeles Chargers (4)</b> DB Jahleel Addae 5 Central Michigan LB Jatavis Brown 2 Akron TE Antonio Gates 15 Kent State RB Branden Oliver 4 Buffalo	<b>Seattle (1)</b> RB Thomas Rawls 3 Central Michigan
<b>Cincinnati (1)</b> TE Mason Schreck-IR R Buffalo	<b>Minnesota (1)</b> RB Bronson Hill-PS 1 Eastern Michigan	<b>Tampa Bay (2)</b> WR Bernard Reedy 1 Toledo DL Pat O'Connor-PS R Eastern Michigan
<b>Cleveland (2)</b> RB Darius Jackson-IR 2 Eastern Michigan OL Andrew Wylie-PS R Eastern Michigan	<b>New England (1)</b> WR Julian Edelman-IR 9 Kent State	<b>Tennessee (6)</b> WR Corey Davis R Western Michigan RB David Fluellen 1 Toledo P Brett Kern 10 Toledo OL Josh Kline 5 Kent State TE Tim Semisch-PS 1 Northern Illinois WR Tajae Sharpe-IR 2 UMass
<b>Dallas (4)</b> DT Richard Ash-PS 2 Western Michigan S Kavon Frazier 2 Central Michigan LB Justin March-Lillard 3 Akron QB Cooper Rush R Central Michigan	<b>New Orleans (4)</b> OL John Greco 10 Toledo WR Tommylee Lewis 2 Northern Illinois WR Willie Snead 2 Ball State OL Martin Wallace-IR 2 Temple	PS - Practice Squad; IR - Injured-Reserve List (As of NFL Rosters on Oct. 17, 2017) Currently there are 75 former MAC students on rosters across the National Football League.
<b>Denver (1)</b> K Brandon McManus 4 Temple	<b>N.Y. Giants (3)</b> LB Cap Capi 1 Akron WR Roger Lewis 2 Bowling Green WR Brandon Marshall-IR 12 Central Florida	In the 2017 NFL Draft, Western Michigan WR Corey Davis was selected as the fifth overall selection in the 1st round by Tennessee. Davis marks the third time in the last five years to have a MAC student selected in the top five overall of the first round.
<b>Detroit (8)</b> LB Nick Bellore 7 Central Michigan WR Kenny Golladay R Northern Illinois OL Zac Kerin-IR 3 Toledo OL T.J. Lang 9 Eastern Michigan DB Rolan Milligan-PS 1 Toledo K Matt Prater 11 Central Florida TE Michael Roberts R Toledo LB Tahir Whitehead 6 Temple	<b>N.Y. Jets (4)</b> LB Freddie Bishop 2 Western Michigan WR JoJo Natson-PS 1 Akron DT Muhammad Wilkerson 7 Temple OL Brian Winters 5 Kent State	Buffalo LB Khalil Mack was the fifth overall selection by Oakland in the 2014 NFL Draft. Central Michigan OT Eric Fisher became the first MAC football player to be selected as the overall No. 1 selection in the NFL Draft. Kansas City selected Fisher as No.1 choice in the 2013 NFL Draft.
<b>Green Bay (3)</b> DL Izaah Lunsford-PS R Bowling Green DB Quinten Rollins-IR 3 Miami (Ohio) P Jacob Schum - IR 3 Buffalo	<b>Oakland (3)</b> DB Travis Carrie 4 Ohio DL Treyvon Hester R Toledo LB Khalil Mack 4 Buffalo	
<b>Houston (2)</b> DB Bryce Jones-PS R Akron OL Greg Mancz 2 Toledo	<b>Philadelphia (2)</b> OL Brandon Brooks 5 Miami (Ohio) DE Steven Means 2 Buffalo	

**MAC EAST VS. MAC WEST**

In 2017, the East and West Divisions faced each other in 18 crossover regular season games as the West Division holds a 11-7 advantage.

Over the previous 10 years (2008-2017), 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 nine of the last 10 years. The West holds a 120-60 (.667%) regular season record in crossover games over the East during that span.

The West Division has a 5-4 lead in the last nine Marathon MAC Football Championship Games. From the West Division, Western Michigan (2016), Northern Illinois (2011, 2012, 2014) and Central Michigan (2009) have won the Conference Championship five times, 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**

2017 West 11-7; Championship Game -- TBD  
2016 West 12-6; Western Michigan (West) def. Ohio (East), 29-23.  
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: Jason Knavel, jknavel@bgsu.edu (419.372.7075)  
Buffalo: Jon Fuller, jfuller3@buffalo.edu (716.645.6762)  
Kent State: Aaron Chimenti, achiment@kent.edu (330.672.8468)  
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: Jim Knight, knigh2je@cmich.edu (989.774.3277)  
Eastern Michigan: Greg Steiner, greg.steiner@emich.edu (734.487.0318)  
Northern Illinois: Donna Turner, donnaturner@niu.edu (815.753.9513)  
Toledo: Paul Helgren, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu (419.530.4918)  
Western Michigan: Kristin Keirns, kristin.keirns@wmich.edu (269-387-4123)



### 2017 Akron Zips (7-6, 6-2)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 2	at No. 6 Penn State	Noon ET	ABC	L, 0-52
Sat., Sept. 9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	6:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 52-3
Sat., Sept. 16	Iowa State	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 14-41
Sat., Sept. 23	at Troy	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-22
Sat., Sept. 30	*at Bowling Green	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 34-23
Sat., Oct. 7	*Ball State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 31-3
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Western Michigan	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 14-13
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Toledo	Noon ET	ESPN3/WTOL Toledo/WUAB Cleveland	L, 21-48
Sat., Oct. 28	*Buffalo	11:30 am ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 21-20
Tue., Nov. 7	*at Miami	7:30 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 14-24
Tue., Nov. 14	*Ohio	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 37-34
Tue., Nov. 21	*Kent State	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 24-14
Sat., Dec. 2	vs. Toledo - Marathon MAC Football Championship		ESPN	L, 28-45



### 2017 Ball State Cardinals (2-10, 0-8)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat, Sept. 2	at Illinois	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	L, 21-24
Sat., Sept. 9	UAB	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 51-31
Sat., Sept. 16	Tennessee Tech	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 28-13
Sat., Sept. 23	at Western Kentucky	7:00 pm ET	Stadium/C-USA TV	L, 21-33
Sat., Sept. 30	*at Western Michigan	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 3-55
Sat., Oct. 7	*at Akron	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 3-31
Sat., Oct. 21	*Central Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 9-56
Thur., Oct. 26	*Toledo	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-58
Thur., Nov. 2	*at Eastern Michigan	6:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 14-56
Thur., Nov. 9	*at NIU	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 17-63
Thur., Nov. 16	*Buffalo	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 24-40
Tue., Nov. 21	*Miami	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 7-28

\*Mid-American Conference game



### 2017 Bowling Green Falcons (2-10, 2-6)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 2	at Michigan State	Noon ET	ESPNU	L, 10-35
Sat., Sept. 9	South Dakota	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 27-25
Sat., Sept. 16	at Northwestern	7:30 pm ET	Big Ten Network	L, 7-49
Sat., Sept. 23	at Middle Tennessee	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 13-24
Sat., Sept. 30	*Akron	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 23-34
Sat., Oct. 7	*at Miami	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 37-29
Sat., Oct. 14	*Ohio	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 30-48
Sat., Oct. 21	*NIU	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-48
Tue., Oct. 31	*at Kent State	8:00 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 44-16
Tue., Nov. 7	*at Buffalo	7:30 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 28-38
Wed., Nov. 15	*Toledo	8:00 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 37-66
Tue., Nov. 21	*at Eastern Michigan	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 31-34

\*Mid-American Conference game



### 2017 Buffalo Bulls (6-6, 4-4)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Aug. 31	at Minnesota	7:00 pm ET	Big Ten Network	L, 7-17
Sat., Sept. 9	at Army	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 17-21
Sat., Sept. 16	Colgate	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 33-10
Sat., Sept. 23	Florida Atlantic	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 34-31
Sat., Sept. 30	*at Kent State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 27-13
Sat., Oct. 7	*Western Michigan	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 68-71 (7OT)
Sat., Oct. 14	*Northern Illinois	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 13-14
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Miami	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 14-24
Sat., Oct. 28	*at Akron	11:30 am ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 20-21
Tue., Nov. 7	*Bowling Green	7:30 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 38-28
Thur., Nov. 16	*at Ball State	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 40-24
Fri., Nov. 24	*Ohio	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 31-24

\*Mid-American Conference game



### 2017 Central Michigan Chippewas (8-4, 6-2)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Aug. 31	Rhode Island	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 30-27 (3OT)
Sat., Sept. 9	at Kansas	4:00 pm ET	FSN	W, 45-27
Sat., Sept. 16	at Syracuse	3:30 pm ET	ACC Network Extra	L, 17-41
Sat., Sept. 23	*Miami	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 14-31
Sat., Sept. 30	at Boston College	1:00 pm ET	ACC Network Extra	L, 8-28
Sat., Oct. 7	*at Ohio	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 26-23
Sat., Oct. 14	*Toledo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 10-30
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Ball State	3:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 56-9
Wed., Nov. 1	*at Western Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 35-28
Wed., Nov. 8	*Eastern Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 42-30
Tue., Nov. 14	*at Kent State	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 42-23
Fri., Nov. 24	*Northern Illinois	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 31-24

\*Mid-American Conference game



### 2017 Eastern Michigan Eagles (5-7, 3-5)

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Fri., Sept. 1	Charlotte	6:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 24-7
Sat., Sept. 9	at Rutgers	3:30 pm ET	Big Ten Network	W, 16-13
Sat., Sept. 23	*Ohio	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 20-27 (2OT)
Fri., Sept. 30	at Kentucky	4:00 pm ET	SEC Network	L, 20-24
Sat., Oct. 7	*at Toledo	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 15-20
Sat., Oct. 14	at Army	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 27-28
Sat., Oct. 21	*Western Michigan	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 17-20 (OT)
Thur., Oct. 26	*at Northern Illinois	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 27-30 (OT)
Thur., Nov. 2	*Ball State	6:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 56-14
Wed., Nov. 8	*at Central Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 30-42
Wed., Nov. 15	*at Miami	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 27-24
Tue., Nov. 21	*Bowling Green	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 34-31

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2017 Kent State Golden Flashes (2-10, 1-7)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 2	at No. 5 Clemson	12:00 pm ET	ESPN	L, 3-56
Sat., Sept. 9	Howard	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 38-31
Sat., Sept. 16	at Marshall	6:30 pm ET	Stadium	L, 0-21
Sat., Sept. 23	at No. 19 Louisville	Noon ET	ACC Reg. Sports Network	L, 3-42
Sat., Sept. 30	*Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 27-13
Sat., Oct. 7	*at Northern Illinois	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 3-24
Sat., Oct. 14	*Miami	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 17-14
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Ohio	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 3-48
Tue., Oct. 31	*Bowling Green	8:00 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 16-44
Wed., Nov. 8	*at Western Michigan	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 20-48
Tue., Nov. 14	*Central Michigan	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 23-42
Tue., Nov. 21	*at Akron	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 14-24

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2017 Miami RedHawks (5-7, 4-4)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 2	at Marshall	6:30 pm ET	Stadium	L, 26-31
Sat., Sept. 9	Austin Peay	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 31-10
Sat., Sept. 16	Cincinnati	8:00 pm ET	WXIX TV; WUAB TV/ESPN3	L, 17-21
Sat., Sept. 23	*at Central Michigan	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 31-14
Sat., Sept. 30	at No. 22 Notre Dame	5:00 pm ET	NBCSN	L, 17-52
Sat., Oct. 7	*Bowling Green	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 29-37
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Kent State	3:30 PM ET	ESPN3	L, 14-17
Sat., Oct. 21	*Buffalo	2:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 24-14
Tue., Oct. 31	*at Ohio	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 28-45
Tue., Nov. 7	*Akron	7:30 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 24-14
Wed., Nov. 15	*Eastern Michigan	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 24-27
Tue., Nov. 21	*at Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 28-7

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2017 Northern Illinois Huskies (8-4, 6-2)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Fri., Sept. 1	Boston College	9:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 20-23
Sat., Sept. 9	Eastern Illinois	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 38-10
Sat., Sept. 16	at Nebraska	Noon ET	Fox Sports 1	W, 21-17
Sat., Sept. 30	at No. 19 San Diego State	10:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 28-34
Sat., Oct. 7	*Kent State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 24-3
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 14-13
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Bowling Green	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-17
Thur., Oct. 26	*Eastern Michigan	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 30-27 (OT)
Thur., Nov. 2	*at Toledo	6:00 pm ET	ESPNU	L, 17-27
Thur., Nov. 9	*Ball State	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 63-17
Wed., Nov. 15	*Western Michigan	7:00 pm ET/6:00 pm CT	ESPN2	W, 35-31
Fri., Nov. 24	*at Central Michigan	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 24-31

\*Mid-American Conference game

### 2017 Ohio Bobcats (8-4, 5-3)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 2	Hampton	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 59-0
Fri., Sept. 8	at Purdue	8:00 pm ET	Fox Sports Net	L, 21-44
Sat., Sept. 16	Kansas	Noon ET	ESPNU	W, 42-30
Sat., Sept. 23	*at Eastern Michigan	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 27-20 (2OT)
Sat., Sept. 30	at UMass	3:30 pm ET	Eleven Sports	W, 58-50
Sat., Oct. 7	*Central Michigan	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 23-26
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Bowling Green	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-30
Sat., Oct. 21	*Kent State	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 48-3
Tue., Oct. 31	*Miami	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 45-28
Wed., Nov. 8	*Toledo	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2	W, 38-10
Tue., Nov. 14	*at Akron	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 34-37
Fri., Nov. 24	*at Buffalo	1:00 pm ET	ESPN3	L, 24-31

### 2017 Toledo Rockets (11-2, 7-1)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Aug. 31	Elon	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 47-13
Sat., Sept. 9	at Nevada	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 37-24
Sat., Sept. 16	Tulsa	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 54-51
Sat., Sept. 23	at No. 14 Miami (Fla.)	3:30 pm ET	ACC Reg. Sports Network	L, 30-52
Sat., Oct. 7	*Eastern Michigan	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 20-15
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Central Michigan	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 30-10
Sat., Oct. 21	*Akron	Noon ET	ESPN3/WTOL Toledo/WUAB Cleveland	W, 48-21
Thur., Oct. 26	*at Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 58-17
Thur., Nov. 2	*NIU	6:00 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 27-17
Wed., Nov. 8	*at Ohio	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 10-38
Wed., Nov. 15	*at Bowling Green	8:00 pm ET	ESPNU	W, 66-37
Fri., Nov. 24	*Western Michigan	11:30 am ET	ESPNU	W, 37-10
Sat., Dec. 2	vs. Akron - Marathon MAC Football Championship		ESPN	W, 45-28

### 2017 Western Michigan Broncos (6-6, 4-4)



Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 2	at No. 4 USC	5:15 pm ET	PAC-12 Network	L, 31-49
Sat., Sept. 9	at Michigan State	3:30 pm ET	BigTen Network	L, 14-28
Sat., Sept. 16	Idaho	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 37-28
Sat., Sept. 23	Wagner	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 49-14
Sat., Sept. 30	*Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 55-3
Sat., Oct. 7	*at Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 71-68 (7OT)
Sat., Oct. 14	*Akron	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	L, 13-14
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Eastern Michigan	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	W, 20-17 (OT)
Wed, Nov. 1	*Central Michigan	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 28-35
Wed., Nov. 7	*Kent State	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	W, 48-20
Sat., Nov. 15	*at Northern Illinois	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2	L, 31-35
Fri., Nov. 25	*at Toledo	11:30 am ET	ESPNU	L, 10-37

\*Mid-American Conference game



## 2017 Non-Conference Opponents

### ACC (6): (0-6)

Boston College (2) (NIU; Central Michigan): (0-2; L, 20-23; L, 8-28)  
 Clemson (Kent State): (0-1, L, 3-56)  
 Louisville (Kent State): (0-1, L, 3-42)  
 Miami (Toledo): (0-1, L, 30-52)  
 Syracuse (Central Michigan): (0-1; L, 17-41)

### American Athletic (2): (1-1)

Cincinnati (Miami): (0-1; L, 17-21)  
 Tulsa (Toledo): (1-0), W, 54-51

### Big Ten (9): (2-7)

Illinois (Ball State): (0-1, L, 21-24)  
 Michigan State (2) (BGSU; WMU): (0-2, L, 10-35; L, 14-28)  
 Minnesota (Buffalo): (0-1, L, 7-17)  
 Nebraska (NIU): (1-0), W, 21-17  
 Northwestern (Bowling Green): (0-1, L, 7-49)  
 Penn State (Akron): (0-1, L, 0-52)  
 Purdue (Ohio): (0-1, L, 21-44)  
 Rutgers (Eastern Michigan): (1-0, W, 16-13)

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

Iowa State (Akron): (0-1, L, 14-41)  
 Kansas (2) (Central Michigan; Ohio): (2-0, W, 45-27; W, 42-30)

### Conference USA (7): (3-4)

Charlotte (Eastern Michigan): (1-0, W, 24-7)  
 Florida Atlantic (Buffalo): (1-0, W, 34-31)  
 Marshall (2) (Miami; Kent State): (0-2, L, 26-31; L, 0-21)  
 Middle Tennessee (Bowling Green): (0-1, : L, 13-24)  
 UAB (Ball State): (1-0, W, 51-31)  
 Western Kentucky (Ball State): (0-1, L, 21-33)

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

Nevada (Toledo): (1-0, W, 37-24)  
 San Diego State (NIU): (0-1, L, 28-34)

### Pac 12 (1): (0-1)

USC (Western Michigan): (0-1, L, 31-49)

### SEC (1): (0-1)

Kentucky (Eastern Michigan): (0-1, L, 20-24)

### Sun Belt (2): (1-1)

Idaho (Western Michigan): (1-0, W, 37-28)  
 Troy (Akron): (0-1, L, 17-22)

### Independent (3): (0-3)

Army (2) (Buffalo; Eastern Michigan): (0-2, L, 17-21; L, 27-28)  
 Notre Dame (Miami): (0-1, L, 17-52)

### FCS Opponents (I-AA)

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

Elon (Toledo): (1-0, W, 47-13)  
 Rhode Island (Central Michigan): (1-0, W, 30-27 (3OT))

#### MEAC (2): (2-0)

Hampton (Ohio): (1-0, W, 59-0)  
 Howard (Kent State): (1-0, W, 38-31)

#### Missouri Valley (1): (0-1)

South Dakota (Bowling Green): (0-1, L, 27-35)

#### Northeast (1): (1-0)

Wagner (Western Michigan): (1-0, W, 49-14)

#### Ohio Valley (3): (3-0)

Austin Peay (Miami): (1-0, W, 31-10)  
 Eastern Illinois (NIU): (1-0), W, 38-10  
 Tennessee Tech (Ball State): (1-0, W, 28-13)

#### Patriot League (1): (1-0)

Colgate (Buffalo): (1-0, W, 33-10)

#### Southwestern Athletic Conference (1): (1-0)

Arkansas Pine-Bluff (Akron): (1-0, W, 52-3)

## MAC Students on 2017 Preseason Watch Lists

### **WALTER CAMP AWARD (Best College Football Player)**

RB Jarvion Franklin (Western Michigan)

### **MAXWELL AWARD (Outstanding College Football Player)**

RB James Gilbert (Ball State)  
 QB Logan Woodside (Toledo)

### **CHUCK BEDNARIK AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)**

DB Heath Harding (Miami)  
 DE Joe Ostman (Central Michigan)  
 DE John Sutton (Northern Illinois)

### **BILETNIKOFF AWARD (Top Wide Receiver)**

Sergio Bailey II (Eastern Michigan)  
 James Gardner (Miami)  
 Anthony Johnson (Buffalo)  
 Diontae Johnson (Toledo)  
 Jon'Vea Johnson (Toledo)  
 Scott Miller (Bowling Green)  
 Cody Thompson (Toledo)  
 Corey Willis (Central Michigan)

### **BRONKO NAGURSKI AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)**

DB Shawun Lurry (NIU)  
 DB Heath Harding (Miami)  
 LB Ulysees Gilbert III (Akron)

### **LOU GROZA AWARD (Outstanding Kicker)**

Louie Zervos (Ohio)

### **PAUL HORNUNG AWARD (Most Versatile Player)**

DB Darius Phillips (Western Michigan)

### **MANNING AWARD (Best Quarterback)**

Logan Woodside, Toledo  
 Brogan Roback, Eastern Michigan  
 Nathan Rourke, Ohio

### **JOHN MACKEY AWARD (Best Tight End)**

Tyler Conklin (Central Michigan)  
 Donnie Ernsberger (Western Michigan)  
 Troy Mangen (Ohio)  
 Ryan Smith (Miami)  
 Shane Wimann (NIU)

### **DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (Top Quarterback)**

Logan Woodside (Toledo)

### **OUTLAND AWARD (Top Interior Lineman)**

C John Keenoy (Western Michigan)  
 C Jake Pruehs (Ohio)  
 RG Jimmy Leatiota (Eastern Michigan)  
 RT Elijah Nkansah (Toledo)  
 LT Chukwuma Okorafor (Western Michigan)  
 OL Max Scharping (NIU)

### **RIMINGTON TROPHY (Most Outstanding Center)**

LaVonne Gauthney (Akron)  
 Tim McAuliffe (Bowling Green)  
 James O'Hagan (Buffalo)  
 Austin Doan (Central Michigan)  
 Dakota Tallman (Eastern Michigan)  
 Nathan Puthoff (Kent State)  
 Danny Godlevske (Miami)  
 Luke Shively (NIU)  
 Jake Pruehs (Ohio)  
 John Keenoy (Western Michigan)

### **RAY GUY AWARD (Best College Punter)**

Joseph Davidson, Bowling Green  
 Derek Adams (Kent State)

### **JIM THORPE AWARD (Best Defensive Back)**

Shawun Lurry (NIU)  
 Amari Coleman (Central Michigan)  
 Heath Harding (Miami)

### **DOAK WALKER AWARD (Top Running Back)**

Jarvion Franklin (Western Michigan)  
 Jamauri Bogan (Western Michigan)  
 James Gilert (Ball State)  
 Terry Swanson (Toledo)  
 Shaq Vann (Eastern Michigan)

### **WUERFFEL TROPHY (Best Community Service)**

WR A.J. Coney (Akron)  
 DB Zach Guiser (Akron)  
 OL Vinnie Palazeti (Ball State)  
 DL Joe Ostman (Central Michigan)  
 DL Jeremiah Harris (Eastern Michigan)  
 LB Matt Bahr (Kent State)  
 WR James Gardner (Miami)  
 OL Max Scharping (NIU)  
 WR Cody Thompson (Toledo)