

The Classic Preview

NEW
YEAR'S
SIX



No. 17 Memphis (12-1, 7-1)

Aug. 31	Ole Miss.....	W 15-10
Sept. 7	Southern.....	W 55-24
Sept. 14	at South Alabama.....	W 42-6
Sept. 26	Navy.....	W 35-23
Oct. 5	at Louisiana Monroe.....	W 52-33
Oct. 12	at Temple.....	L 28-30
Oct. 19	Tulane.....	W 47-17
Oct. 26	at Tulsa.....	W 42-41
Nov. 2	SMU.....	W 54-48
Nov. 16	at Houston.....	W 45-27
Nov. 23	at USF.....	W 49-10
Nov. 29	Cincinnati.....	W 34-24
Dec. 7	vs. Cincinnati (A).....	W 29-24

(A) AAC Championship, Memphis, Tenn.

No. 10 Penn State (10-2, 7-2)

Aug. 31	Idaho.....	W 79-7
Sept. 7	Buffalo.....	W 45-13
Sept. 14	Pittsburgh.....	W 17-10
Sept. 21	at Maryland.....	W 59-0
Oct. 5	Purdue.....	W 35-7
Oct. 12	at Iowa.....	W 17-12
Oct. 19	Michigan.....	W 28-21
Oct. 26	at Michigan State.....	W 28-7
Nov. 9	at Minnesota.....	L 26-31
Nov. 16	Indiana.....	W 34-27
Nov. 23	at Ohio State.....	L 17-28
Nov. 30	Rutgers.....	W 27-6

LOCAL BROADCASTS

Television - ESPN - 11:00 a.m.
Radio - ESPN 103.3 FM - 11:00 a.m.
Satellite Radio - SiriusXM - Channel 80

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

- Dec. 21** - Penn State Arrival News Conference (*Hilton Anatole*)
- Dec. 23** - Memphis Arrival News Conference (*AT&T Stadium*)
- Dec. 26** - Media Day (*AT&T Stadium*)
 Penn State: 11:50 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
 Memphis: 1:05-2:00 p.m.
- Dec. 27** - News Conference (*Omni*)
 Head Coaches

CBA Media Information

VP of Communications.....Charlie Fiss
 Chief Marketing Officer.....Michael Konradi
 Media Operations Manager.....Cathy Luetje
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THE 84th CLASSIC.....

The spotlight shines on Arlington and North Texas as No. 17 Memphis takes on No. 10 Penn State in the 84th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. It's been a while since Penn State has been in the Cotton Bowl Classic. The Nittany Lions last played here on New Year's Day 1975, a 41-20 victory over Baylor. Penn State is 2-0-1 in the Classic, while Memphis is making its maiden voyage to the Classic. This is Penn State's 50th bowl appearance, while Memphis will play in a bowl game for the 13th time. Both teams will play in AT&T Stadium for the first time in their histories, and Memphis is the 50th different school to play in the Cotton Bowl Classic. The December 28 date is the earliest in Classic history. Game time on ESPN is 11:00 a.m. (Central) on Saturday, December 28 at AT&T Stadium. The kick time is set for 11:05 a.m.

THE MATCHUP - NO. 17 MEMPHIS VS. NO. 10 PENN STATE.....

The 84th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic will mark the first time the Tigers and the Nittany Lions will play each other in football. Penn State returns to the Cotton Bowl Classic for the fourth time, and the three previous times, the Nittany Lions also played their opponent for the first time (SMU - 1948; Texas - 1972 and Baylor - 1975). Memphis qualified for the Classic by being the highest-ranked Group of Five team in the College Football Playoff final rankings. Memphis won the American Athletic Conference title 29-24 on December 7 over Cincinnati at home in Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. Penn State is in a New Year's Six game for the 24th time and for the third time in the last four seasons, while Memphis is making its first New Year's Six appearance.

GO TIGERS GO.....

The Memphis Tigers come to Arlington with a new head coach in charge. Deputy head coach Ryan Silverfield was named head football coach on December 13, replacing former coach Mike Norvell, who was named Florida State's head coach on December 8. Silverfield will try to keep the Memphis magic going as the Tigers come into the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic on a seven-game win streak. Memphis beat Cincinnati in consecutive weeks, once to secure home field in the AAC championship game, and then in the conference title get-together. The Tigers won 12 games for the first time in school history, after winning 10 games in 1938, 2014 and 2017. Memphis ended SMU's hopes of a undefeated season with a 54-48 victory in Memphis on November 2, and that victory over the Mustangs was one of three victories over ranked teams (the back-to-back victories over Cincinnati being the other two). The Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic matchup with Penn State will be the Tigers' first game against a Big Team since facing Minnesota in 1998. An explosive offense (32 plays of 40-plus yards - the most in FBS) and 19 plays of over 50 yards awaits the Nittany Lions.

WE ARE PENN STATE.....

The Nittany Lions are no strangers to the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic as Penn State has played in the Classic three previous times - all as an independent. In 1948, the Nittany Lions and SMU tied 13-13 on New Year's Day in the first Cotton Bowl played between two undefeated teams. Penn State defeated Texas 30-6 on New Year's Day 1972. New Year's Day 1975 was another dominating performance for Penn State, 41-20 over Baylor, as the 41 points was a then-Cotton Bowl scoring record (still sixth in the Classic's record book today). Penn State's 2-0-1 Classic record (.833) is the best among teams that have played in the game three or more times. In 2019, Penn State rolled to a 8-0 record, including victories over ranked Iowa and Michigan in Big Ten play, before suffering a 31-26 defeat at Minnesota. The Nittany Lions won two of their final three games, including a 34-27 victory over a ranked Indiana squad. Penn State has won 10 games in three of the last four seasons. A stout Penn State defense awaits Memphis, as the Nittany Lions are seventh nationally in FBS in scoring defense (17.1 points per game) and fifth in rushing defense (97.7 yards per game). Penn State also leads FBS with 20 forced fumbles.

ELVIS HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING.....

Elvis Presley was one of Memphis' most-famous residents, and with the Memphis Tigers in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic for the first time, it is worth noting that Elvis was a huge fan of the state of Texas. He performed 138 shows in the Lone Star State, according to the official Graceland blog - the most outside of his Las Vegas residency - including 12 in Dallas. Elvis even showcased "The Yellow Rose of Texas" and "The Eyes of Texas" in his 1964 movie, "Viva Las Vegas". Cotton Bowl Athletic Association President/CEO Rick Baker, in the tradition of former NFL coach Jerry Glanville, has left a ticket for Elvis at the AT&T Stadium's will-call booth for the Cotton Bowl Classic. Should the King decide to show to root on the Tigers, we promise to make room for him in the halftime show!

THE AMERICAN AT THE CLASSIC.....

The American Athletic Conference is making its first appearance in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic as the Memphis Tigers make their way to Arlington. Teams that are in the American now have been in the Classic before, but with other conference affiliations (or as independents) over the years: Houston (2-2; all Southwest Conference), Navy (1-1; all independent) and SMU (2-1-1; all Southwest Conference). So, teams that are American-affiliated today are 5-4-1 all-time in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic.

BIG TEN AT THE CLASSIC.....

Penn State is participating in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic for the fourth time (2-0-1), but this will be the first time that the Nittany Lions will take the field in North Texas as a member of the Big Ten Conference. All three previous PSU appearances was as an independent. Officially, the Nittany Lions will be the fourth Big Ten squad to play in the Classic, joining Michigan State (1-1), Ohio State (2-0) and Wisconsin (1-0). Additionally, current Big Ten members Maryland (0-1) and Nebraska (1-4) played in the Classic before joining the conference. The Big Ten is 4-1 in the previous five games in the Classic, starting with a 28-12 Ohio State victory over Texas A&M on New Year's Day 1987. The Buckeyes are also the last Big Ten team to play in the Cotton Bowl Classic (a 24-7 victory over USC in the 2018 game, played December 29, 2017). In fact, Big Ten teams have played in five of the last six Classics. This year's game moves the Big Ten to fourth for all-time Classic games played (six) among all conferences behind the Southwest Conference (58 games), Southeastern Conference (39 games) and and independents (25 games).

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES.....

One of the highlights of bowl week is the presentation of the Dan S. Petty Scholar-Athlete Award to two deserving young men from the Classic's participating institutions. This year's honorees are Memphis quarterback Brady White and Penn State punter Blake Gillikin. Both student-athletes have achieved so much during their collegiate careers in both the classroom and on the gridiron. The award places an emphasis upon the combination of academics and athletics. Selected by their head coaches and athletic directors, White and Gillikin exemplify a combination of outstanding athletic ability, high academic standing, good citizenship, leadership and sportsmanship. The award is named in honor of former CBAA team selection chairman Dan S. Petty, a remarkable man who played in the 1960 Classic for the University of Texas. Mr. Petty was an inspiration to all. He excelled in education, community service, governmental processes and filling his life with friendships. Football was his game and the Cotton Bowl Classic was his passion.

POST-SEASON HONORS & RECOGNITION.....

No doubt about it, the 84th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic is going to be a fun and interesting game to watch with so many award winners on the field. For Memphis, running back Kenneth Gainwell was named the American Athletic Conference's Rookie of the Year, while return specialist Antonio Gibson was the conference's Co-Special Teams Player of the Year. Gainwell and Gibson were first-team All-Conference selections along with kicker Riley Patterson. For Penn State, linebacker Micah Parsons was a second-team All-American by the Football Writers Association of America and Walter Camp. Parsons was also a first-team selection by Bleacher Report, Pro Football Focus, Sports Illustrated and USA Today along with second-team honors from The Athletic. Tight end Pat Freiermuth was second team All-American by The Athletic, and linebacker Jan Johnson was an honorable mention All-American by Pro Football Focus. In Big Ten Conference honors, Parsons was named the Butkus-Fitzgerald Linebacker of the Year, and he was also first team All-Big Ten with defensive end Yetur Gross-Matos.

TIRE ART - IT'S ONE OF A KIND.....

To celebrate the 84th Classic, Goodyear has commissioned artist Blake McFarland to create replicas of the Memphis and Penn State mascots made almost exclusively from Goodyear tires. This is the fourth consecutive year McFarland has produced these one-of-a-kind pieces for the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. These sculptures will be unveiled at the Big Play Luncheon at the Hilton Anatole on December 27, and then the sculptures move to AT&T Stadium where they will be displayed on Saturday morning prior to kickoff as part of the Goodyear Huddle Up fan activities in the end zone plazas. After the game, the tire mascots will hit the road where they will find a campus home at Memphis and Penn State.

IT'S THE GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL.....

On November 7, 2014, Goodyear announced that it had reached an agreement with ESPN and the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association to become the bowl game's title sponsor. Founded in 1898, Goodyear has much in common with the Classic in terms of history, tradition and name recognition. With the announcement, the post-season bowl game's official name changed to the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. Goodyear renewed a multi-year agreement to remain the Classic's title sponsor on December 27, 2018.

AT&T STADIUM.....

Construction began on AT&T Stadium in April, 2006, and was completed in June, 2009, at a cost of \$1.3 billion. As one of the largest domed structures in the world, the stadium has a seating capacity that is expandable to more than 100,000. AT&T Stadium is the home of one of the largest High-Definition video boards on earth that measures nearly 60 yards in length, stretching from one 20-yard line to the other. Suspended 90 feet above the playing field, the video board weighs 1.2 million pounds. The venue's retractable roof soars 320 feet above the field and emulates that of Texas Stadium, the Dallas Cowboys previous home. The roof has the ability to open or close in just 10 minutes. The stadium's two end zone doors can be opened or closed in six minutes. They, too, rank among the largest in the world. The exterior of the stadium is covered with more than a half-million square feet of glass and stone. The amenities the stadium has to offer include more than 300 suites, 3,500 television monitors distributed throughout the nine-story structure, eight acres of outside entertainment space in the two end zone plazas, as well as the six end zone platforms that

MEMPHIS BOWL RECORD-

(12 Bowl Appearances, Record is 5-7-0)

BOWL	GAMES	W	L	T	PCT.
Birmingham	2	0	2	0	.000
Boca Raton	1	0	1	0	.000
Burley	1	1	0	0	1.000
GMAC	1	0	1	0	.000
Liberty	1	0	1	0	.000
Miami Beach	1	1	0	0	1.000
Motor City	1	1	0	0	1.000
New Orleans	2	1	1	0	.500
Pasadena	1	1	0	0	1.000
St. Petersburg	1	0	1	0	.000

PENN STATE BOWL RECORD

(49 Bowl Appearances, Record is 29-18-2)

BOWL	GAMES	W	L	T	PCT.
Alamo	2	2	0	0	1.000
Aloha	1	1	0	0	1.000
Blockbuster	2	0	2	0	.000
Citrus/Capital One	6	2	4	0	.333
Cotton	3	2	0	1	.833
Fiesta	7	7	0	0	1.000
Gator/TaxSlayer	5	1	3	1	.300
Holiday	1	1	0	0	1.000
Liberty	3	3	0	0	1.000
Orange	5	4	1	0	.800
Outback	4	3	1	0	.750
Pinstripe	1	1	0	0	1.000
Rose	4	1	3	0	.250
Sugar	4	1	3	0	.250
TicketCity	1	0	1	0	.000

THE AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE:

The final 2019 standings in the AAC:

WEST DIVISION

SCHOOL	CONF.	PCT.	FULL	PCT.
Memphis	7-1	.875	12-1	.923
Navy	7-1	.875	10-2	.833
SMU	6-2	.750	10-3	.769
Tulane	3-5	.375	6-6	.500
Houston	2-6	.250	4-8	.333
Tulsa	2-6	.250	4-8	.333

EAST DIVISION:

SCHOOL	CONF.	PCT.	FULL	PCT.
Cincinnati	7-1	.875	10-3	.769
UCF	6-2	.750	10-3	.769
Temple	5-3	.625	8-4	.667
USF	2-6	.250	4-8	.333
ECU	1-7	.125	4-8	.333
UConn	0-8	.000	2-10	.167

THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE:

The final 2019 standings in the Big Ten:

EAST DIVISION

SCHOOL	CONF.	PCT.	FULL	PCT.
Ohio State	9-0	1.000	13-0	1.000
Penn State	7-2	.778	10-2	.833
Michigan	6-3	.667	9-3	.750
Indiana	5-4	.556	8-4	.667
Michigan State	4-5	.444	6-6	.500
Maryland	1-8	.111	3-9	.250
Rutgers	0-9	.000	2-10	.167

WEST DIVISION:

SCHOOL	CONF.	PCT.	FULL	PCT.
Wisconsin	7-2	.778	10-3	.769
Minnesota	7-2	.778	10-2	.833
Iowa	6-3	.667	9-3	.750
Illinois	4-5	.444	6-6	.500
Nebraska	3-6	.333	5-7	.417
Purdue	3-6	.333	4-8	.333
Northwestern	1-8	.111	3-9	.250

TEAM INFORMATION.....

As the home team in the Cotton Bowl Classic, Penn State will wear dark uniforms (blue jerseys and white pants) and will occupy the south sideline of AT&T Stadium.

Memphis is the Classic's visiting team and will dress in light uniforms (gray jerseys, gray pants) and will occupy the north sideline.

can host pre-game functions or increase the stadium's seating capacity. One of the featured attractions at AT&T Stadium is the Dallas Cowboys Art Collection which is comprised of 86 works of art from 56 established and emerging artists.

SANFORD'S DREAM.....

It all started 84 years ago as the dream of Dallas oilman J. Curtis Sanford. In January of 1936, Mr. Sanford traveled by train to California to attend the Rose Bowl to watch his SMU Mustangs take on Stanford. Upon his return to North Texas from Pasadena, he decided it was time to create a bowl game for Dallas and all of North Texas. Sanford established the Cotton Bowl Classic and applied for a copyright to the name. He then entered into an agreement with the State Fair of Texas for the rental of its stadium the following January 1, 1937. Sanford officially extended an invitation to Marquette on December 10, 1936, as the Classic's first team. TCU, the runner-up in the Southwest Conference, was selected to meet the Golden Avalanche in the inaugural Cotton Bowl Classic. Slingin' Sammy Baugh, TCU's legendary quarterback, was the driving force in the game, guiding the Frogs to a 16-6 victory. Marquette QB Ray "Buzz" Buivid was another one of college football's most prolific passers in the 1930s. He finished third in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy that season while Baugh was fourth. Sanford continued to underwrite the bowl game through the 1940 Classic. Then, beginning in 1941, the Cotton Bowl Classic launched its long-standing partnership with the Southwest Conference, a relationship that spanned 55 years.

GAME OFFICIALS.....

Atlantic Coast Conference, assigned by the NCAA.

CLASSIC ATTENDANCE RECORDS.....

Cotton Bowl Stadium: 88,175, Ole Miss vs. Texas Tech, 2009

AT&T Stadium: 87,025, Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma, 2013

STADIUM CAPACITY.....

Stadium capacity in the college configuration for the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic is 72,088. AT&T Stadium's all-time attendance record for a college game is 90,413 and was established by Alabama and Michigan in the 2012 AdvoCare Classic.

WORLDWIDE LEADER IN SPORTS.....

The 84th Classic will be televised for the sixth consecutive year by ESPN. With its extensive array of networks and digital platforms, ESPN provides an enormous global presence for the Classic. At ESPN it's often said that "college football lives here." The Goodyear Cotton Bowl is honored to be a member of ESPN's bowl lineup. Mark Jones will serve as the play-by-play commentator at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. Dusty Dvoracek is the color analyst with Olivia Dekker reporting from the sideline. Producing the ESPN telecast is Kim Belton and directing is Steve Turnberger. Airtime is 11:00 a.m. (Central), with kickoff slated for 11:05 a.m.

NETWORK RADIO.....

For the eighth consecutive year, ESPN serves as the national radio partner of the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. Veteran play-by-play commentator Brad Sham will call the action with Jordan Rodgers serving as the analyst and Kris Budden roaming the sideline. Sham will call his 26th Classic broadcast. Producing for ESPN Radio is Justin Ware. Reporting the action on the Memphis Tigers Network are Dave Woloshin, Jarvis Green and Greg Gaston. Steve Jones and Jack Ham are set to describe the action on the Penn State Radio Network.

SURF'S UP.....

Football fans surfing the Internet will have the opportunity to obtain up-to-date information on the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic, Memphis and Penn State. The Classic's website address is <http://goodyearcottonbowl.com>. It offers volumes of information about the bowl at the click of a mouse. Highlights on the web include game day information, bowl history, as well as practice notes and quotes from daily news conferences with coaches and student-athletes. On game day, fans and media can track statistical information while the game is in progress, listen to post-game interviews, and obtain written interview transcripts from Caption Pros. Fans wishing to follow the game statistically may use this URL address: <http://statb.us/b/271725>

THE RECORD BOOK

TOP RUSHING PERFORMANCES - YARDS

- 281 Tony Temple, Missouri vs. Arkansas, 2008
- 265 Dicky Maegle, Rice vs. Alabama, 1954
- 250 Chuck Webb, Tennessee vs. Arkansas, 1990
- 229 Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M vs. OU, 2013
- 203 Ricky Williams, Texas vs. Mississippi St., 1999

TOP RUSHING AVERAGE

- 24.1 Dicky Maegle, Rice vs. Bama, 1954 (11-265)
- 13.5 Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M vs. OU, 2013
- 11.7 Tony Temple, Missouri vs. Ark., 2008 (24-281)
- 10.6 Travis Henry, Tenn. vs. K-State, 2001 (17-180)
- 10.2 Spencer Ware, LSU. vs. Tx A&M, 2011 (10-102)

LONGEST RUSH

- 95 Dicky Maegle, Rice vs. Alabama, 1954
- 86 Dexter McCluster, Ole Miss vs. Okla. St., 2010
- 81 Travis Henry, Tennessee vs. K-State, 2001
- 79 Dicky Maegle, Rice vs. Alabama, 1954
- 78 Chuck Webb, Tennessee vs. Arkansas, 1990

TOP PASSING PERFORMANCES - YARDS

- 550 Bryce Petty, Baylor vs. Michigan State, 2015
- 377 Clint Chelf, Oklahoma State vs. Missouri, 2014
- 364 Graham Harrell, Texas Tech vs. Ole Miss, 2009
- 356 Sam Darnold, USC vs. Ohio State, 2018
- 327 Trevor Lawrence, Clemson vs. Notre Dame, 2019

MOST PASS COMPLETIONS

- 36 Graham Harrell, Texas Tech vs. Ole Miss, 2009
- 36 Bryce Petty, Baylor vs. Michigan State, 2015
- 35 Landry Jones, Oklahoma vs. Texas A&M, 2013
- 33 Clint Chelf, Oklahoma State vs. Missouri, 2014
- 27 Trevor Lawrence, Clemson vs. Notre Dame, 2019

LONGEST PASS COMPLETION

- 87 Ger Schwedes to Ernie Davis, Syracuse, 1960
- 86 Brad Otton to Keyshawn Johnson, USC, 1995
- 84 Andy Kelly to Anthony Morgan, Tennessee, 1990
- 79 James Street to Cotton Speyrer, Texas, 1969
- 78 James Street to Cotton Speyrer, Texas, 1969

TOP RECEIVING PERFORMANCES - YARDS

- 223 Rashaun Woods, Okla. State vs. Ole Miss, 2004
- 222 Keyshawn Johnson, USC vs. Texas Tech, 1995
- 197 KD Cannon, Baylor vs. Michigan State, 2015
- 161 Cotton Speyrer, Texas vs. Tennessee, 1969
- 157 Phil Harris, Texas vs. Navy, 1964

MOST PASS RECEPTIONS

- 12 Deontay Burnette, USC vs. Ohio State, 2018
- 11 Rashaun Woods, Okla. State vs. Ole Miss, 2004
- 10 Bobby Crockett, Arkansas vs. LSU, 1966
- 10 Eric Morris, Texas Tech vs. Ole Miss, 2009
- 9 Ed Orr, Navy vs. Texas, 1964
- 9 Quentin Griffin, Oklahoma vs. Arkansas, 2002
- 9 Jalen Saunders, Oklahoma vs. Texas A&M, 2013
- 9 Antwan Goodley, Baylor vs. Michigan St. 2015

TOTAL OFFENSE - YARDS

- 516 Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M vs. OU, 2013
- 514 Bryce Petty, Baylor vs. Michigan State, 2015
- 429 Clint Chelf, Oklahoma State vs. Missouri, 2014
- 407 Graham Harrell, Texas Tech vs. Ole Miss, 2009
- 363 Eddie Phillips, Texas vs. Notre Dame, 1971

MOST SOLO TACKLES

- 15 Dat Nguyen, Texas A&M vs. UCLA, 1998
- 11 Seven Players

MOST QUARTERBACK SACKS

- 6 Shay Muirbrook, BYU vs. K-State, 1997
- 3 Russell Maryland, Miami vs. Texas, 1991
- 3 Antonio Shorter, TX A&M vs. Notre Dame, 1994
- 3 Travis Ochs, K-State vs. BYU, 1991
- 3 Damon Smith, UCLA vs. Texas A&M, 1998

SOCIAL MEDIA.....

Current information on the 84th Classic will be available to fans and media around the clock via Facebook (/cottonbowlgame), Twitter (@cottonbowlgame), Instagram (@cottonbowl), and the official hashtags (#GoodyearCottonBowl or #LikeNoOther). Be sure to connect with the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic on these platforms for real-time behind-the-scenes features during bowl week. Additionally, there is an exclusive mobile application for credentialed media that can be downloaded on iPhone and Android phones. Search 'PressPass' in your app store. Media will receive an email with login instructions.

THE COIN TOSS.....

Presiding over the ceremonial coin toss just minutes before kickoff of the 84th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic will be Cotton Bowl Athletic Association Chairman of the Board Carl R. Ice.

TEAM HOSPITAL VISITS.....

Memphis and Penn State student-athletes will take a break from practice, media obligations and the many other events that occupy their time during bowl week to pay a special visit to two area hospitals. On Monday morning, December 27, Memphis will load up the bus and travel to the Children's Medical Center of Dallas to get everyone in a football frame of mind. Later in the day, Penn State team members and coaches will go from room-to-room to visit patients and share the holiday spirit at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas. Coaches and players from both teams will present patients with gifts, posters, autographs, and lots of smiles and memories.

MEMPHIS VS. THE BIG TEN IN BOWLS.....

The Tigers have faced Big Ten competition once in bowl game play. Memphis took on Auburn in the 2015 Birmingham Bowl in a matchup of Tigers. The Auburn version defeated the Memphis version 31-10. Auburn got out to a 10-0 lead, and Memphis managed to tie the game 10-10 at halftime. Auburn scored 21 second-half points to pull away for the victory. Overall, the Tigers are 5-7 in bowl appearances.

PENN STATE VS. THE AMERICAN IN BOWLS.....

The 84th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic will mark the first time Penn State will play a team currently affiliated with the American Athletic Conference. The Nittany Lions have played teams currently in the American in bowls, but before those institutions moved to the AAC. The Nittany Lions defeated Tulane 9-6 in the 1979 Liberty Bowl, and Penn State lost to Houston 30-14 in the 2012 TicketCity Bowl, played at the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas.

TROPHIES LOADED WITH TRADITION.....

In the beginning there were three individuals who combined efforts to create one of college football's greatest traditions...the Goodyear Cotton Bowl. J. Curtis Sanford and Felix R. McKnight plotted strategy way back in 1936 to put the wheels in motion for the Classic's grand debut on January 1, 1937. Sanford returned home from the 1936 Rose Bowl intent upon creating a "football extravaganza" of his own. To get his game off the drawing board and into production he turned to McKnight of the Associated Press for advice. Obviously, the decisions these two men made 79 years ago worked out in grand fashion. Field Scovell is another leader who had a profound impact upon the success of the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic through the years. The patriarch of the Dallas sporting community, Scovell carried the title of "Mr. Cotton Bowl." From 1963-1992, he served as Chairman of Team Selection and opened countless doors in the athletic world. To honor the memory of these three great men, the CBAA Board of Directors authorized that The Field Scovell Trophy be presented to the championship team. The Offensive MVP receives The Sanford Trophy, and the Defensive MVP is awarded The McKnight Trophy.