

## 2023 STANDINGS

	CUSA LEAGUE PLAY						OVERALL						
	W-L	Pct.	H	A	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	H	A	N	Pts	Opp.
Liberty	2-0	1.000	1-0	1-0	71	23	4-0	1.000	2-0	2-0	0-0	160	74
Jax State	2-0	1.000	1-0	1-0	52	42	4-1	.800	3-0	1-1	0-0	138	75
Louisiana Tech	2-0	1.000	1-0	1-0	46	27	3-3	.500	2-1	1-2	0-0	162	154
WKU	1-0	1.000	1-0	0-0	31	10	3-2	.600	3-0	0-2	0-0	158	146
New Mexico State	0-1	.000	0-0	0-1	17	33	2-3	.400	1-1	1-2	0-0	149	132
Middle Tennessee	0-1	.000	0-0	0-1	10	31	1-4	.200	1-1	0-3	0-0	94	155
Sam Houston	0-1	.000	0-1	0-0	28	35	0-4	.000	0-2	0-2	0-0	38	100
FIU	0-2	.000	0-1	0-1	23	60	3-2	.600	2-1	1-1	0-0	107	128
UTEP	0-2	.000	0-1	0-1	24	41	1-5	.167	1-2	0-3	0-0	97	169

\* Jax State and Sam Houston are ineligible for the 2023 CUSA Championship Game and bowl games due to their transition from FCS

### WEEK 5 RESULTS

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

WKU 31, MTSU 10  
Jax State 35, Sam Houston 28 (OT)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

LA Tech 24, UTEP 10

### UPCOMING GAMES (ALL TIMES CT)

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Jax State at MTSU (ESPNU) 7 p.m.  
FIU at New Mexico State (CBSSN) 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Sam Houston at Liberty (CBSSN) 6 p.m.  
WKU at LA Tech (ESPNU) 7 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

LA Tech at MTSU (CBSSN) 6 p.m.  
Liberty at Jax State (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

UTEP at FIU (ESPN2) 6:30 p.m.  
Sam Houston at New Mexico State (CBSSN) 8 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

MTSU at Liberty (CBSSN) 6 p.m.  
WKU at Jax State (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

FIU at Sam Houston (CBSSN) 6 p.m.  
New Mexico State at UTEP (ESPN2) 8 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

New Mexico State at LA Tech (CBSSN) 6 p.m.  
Liberty at WKU (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Jax State at FIU (CBSSN) 6 p.m.  
UTEP at Sam Houston (ESPN2) 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Kennesaw State at Sam Houston (ESPN Platforms) 12 p.m.  
**LA Tech at Liberty (CBSSN) 5 p.m.**  
MTSU at New Mexico State (ESPN Platforms) 5 p.m.  
**WKU at UTEP (ESPN Platforms) 8 p.m.**  
Jax State at South Carolina TBD

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Old Dominion at Liberty (ESPN Platforms) 12 p.m.  
**Sam Houston at LA Tech (ESPN Platforms) 2 p.m.**  
**FIU at MTSU (ESPN Platforms) 2:30 p.m.**  
**New Mexico State at WKU (ESPN Platforms) 2:30 p.m.**

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

UMass at Liberty (ESPN Platforms) 12 p.m.  
**LA Tech at Jax State (ESPN Platforms) 1 p.m.**  
**UTEP at MTSU (ESPN Platforms) 1 p.m.**  
**Sam Houston at WKU (ESPN Platforms) 2:30 p.m.**  
FIU at Arkansas TBD  
New Mexico State at Auburn TBD

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

MTSU at Sam Houston (ESPN Platforms) 11 a.m.  
**WKU at FIU (ESPN Platforms) 2 p.m.**  
Jax State at New Mexico State (ESPN Platforms) 3 p.m.  
**Liberty at UTEP (CBSSN) 2:30 p.m.**

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**CUSA Championship (CBSSN) TBD**  
**Conference games in bold.**  
All times are listed in CT  
All dates are subject to change based upon television selections.

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK, PRESENTED BY BLENDERS EYEWEAR (WEEK 5)

#### OFFENSE

##### QB LOGAN SMOTHERS, JAX STATE

Junior, Muscle Shoals, Alabama

After struggling through a first half that saw his Gamecocks fall behind 21-7 at Sam Houston on Thursday night, Smothers turned it on after the half to lead Jax State to a thrilling win. After the half, Smothers was 13-16 passing for 181 yards and three touchdowns, while also running the ball seven times for 17 yards and a score. He threw a 37-yard score to Michael Pettway to make it a 21-14 game and then scampered in from 16 yards out to cut the deficit to 21-20 midway through the fourth quarter. Facing a 28-20 deficit with 1:11 to play, Smothers drove the Gamecocks 75 yards in eight plays and just 58 seconds, going 6-8 passing for 75 yards with a 28-yard touchdown strike to Perry Carter with 11 seconds to play. That set up his scramble and pass to find Quinton Lane in the back of the end zone on the two-point conversion that sent the game into overtime, when he connected with tight end Sean Brown on a 24-yard scoring pass that ended up being the game winner.

#### DEFENSE

##### LB BRYSON WASHINGTON, WKU

Redshirt Senior, Louisville, Kentucky

Washington, a sixth-year linebacker at WKU, made the most of his first start with the program in WKU's 31-10 win over Middle Tennessee on Thursday at Houchens-Smith Stadium. Washington posted seven tackles, had two pass breakups, recorded one interception and came away with one fumble recovery in the victory to lead the defensive effort against the Blue Raiders.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

##### PR, SMOKE HARRIS, LA TECH

Redshirt Senior, St. Francisville, Louisiana

Harris returned a punt 67 yards for a touchdown during the first quarter of the Bulldogs' 24-10 win at UTEP on Friday. His punt return touchdown was the first by a LA Tech player since Teddy Veal accomplished the feat on Sept. 2, 2017, in a win over Northwestern State. As a result of Harris' efforts, Tech snapped a 16-game road losing streak as the Bulldogs' victory over UTEP was the first road win since Dec. 3, 2020.



## QUICK HITTERS

### CUSA ADDS FOUR NEW MEMBERS

Conference USA enters 2023 with a new composition, having added four new members - Jacksonville State, Liberty, New Mexico State and Sam Houston.

The quartet brings the 2023 membership to nine teams, joining FIU, Louisiana Tech, Middle Tennessee, UTEP and WKU.

Kennesaw State will join CUSA on July 1, 2024.

### A LOOK AT WEEK 6

Eight Conference USA teams are in action in Week 6, as midweek conference matchups take center stage in front of a national television audience with a pair of doubleheaders on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

Jax State (4-1, 2-0 CUSA) travels to Murfreesboro to take on Middle Tennessee (1-4, 0-1 CUSA) on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. CT on **ESPNU**. The Gamecocks enter play following a thrilling 35-28 overtime comeback victory at Sam Houston last week, and look to stay unbeaten in league play. Middle Tennessee fell 31-10 on the road last week in its rivalry game at WKU and are looking to get the season back on track.

Also on Wednesday night, FIU (3-2, 0-2 CUSA) makes the long journey to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to battle New Mexico State (2-3, 0-1 CUSA) at 8 p.m. CT on **CBS Sports Network**. Both teams were off last week, and both are looking to rebound following losses their last time out. FIU was beaten 38-6 at Liberty, while New Mexico State fell 20-17 at Hawai'i back in Week 4.

Thursday night's action gets underway at 6 p.m. CT in Lynchburg, Virginia, as Liberty (4-0, 2-0 CUSA) hosts fellow league newcomer Sam Houston (0-4, 0-1 CUSA) on **CBS Sports Network**. Liberty was off last week, but won 38-6 at home over FIU back in Week 4, while Sam Houston dropped a heartbreaker at home in its inaugural league contest, falling 35-28 in overtime to Jax State.

The fourth and final CUSA game of the week kicks off on Thursday night at 7 p.m. CT, as WKU (3-2, 1-0 CUSA) travels to Ruston, Louisiana, to take on LA Tech (3-3, 2-0 CUSA) on **ESPNU** in a battle of conference unbeatens. WKU dispatched rival Middle Tennessee 31-10 last week at home, while LA Tech ended its 16-game road winless streak with a 24-10 triumph in El Paso over UTEP.

### 2023 ROUND ROBIN SCHEDULE

Conference USA's nine-team configuration in 2023 allows for a true round robin schedule format to decide the participants of the CUSA Championship game on Friday, Dec. 1.

### NEW FACES IN CUSA

With four new teams in Conference USA in 2023, that means the league has four new head coaches: **Rich Rodriguez** is in year two at Jacksonville State, **Jamey Chadwell** is in the first year of his tenure at Liberty, **Jerry Kill** is in his second year at New Mexico State and **K.C. Keeler** is in his 10th season at Sam Houston

### 2023 MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

Conference USA's new television deal with partners CBS Sports Network and ESPN, features a new mid-week scheduling model for beginning this fall. 19 CUSA games will take place on weeknights throughout the month of October, enhancing linear exposure for the league and its programs.

### REED ALL ABOUT IT!

WKU **QB Austin Reed** has opened his 2023 season by completing 131-212 passes for 1,368 yards with 11 touchdowns and two interceptions, while also carrying 23 times for 67 yards and three additional scores.

He was 30-52 for 297 yards with three total touchdowns (two passing) and one interception in last week's win at home over rival Middle Tennessee.

Reed enters Week 6 ranking seventh nationally in completions per game (26.20), 16th in passing touchdowns (11), 16th in points responsible for (86), 19th in points responsible per game (17.2), 24th in passing yards (1,368), 25th in passing yards per game (273.6) and 30th in total offense per game (287.0).

### SALTER KEEPS DOMINATING

Liberty **QB Kaidon Salter** has had a tremendous start to his 2023 season for the 4-0 Flames. The sophomore has completed 53-92 passes for 919 yards with 11 touchdowns and one interception, while also carrying 47 times for 268 yards and five more touchdowns.

He was named CUSA Offensive Player of the Week for the second consecutive week in Week 4, completing 11-21 passes for 156 yards, two passing touchdowns and an interception to go along with nine carries for 77 yards and another two scores in the league win at FIU, 38-6 on Sept. 23.

Through Week 5 of the season, Salter ranks second nationally in points responsible for per game (24.0) behind only last year's Heisman Trophy winner, Caleb Williams. Salter is fourth in passing yards per completion (17.34), eighth in total points responsible for (96), 13th in passing efficiency (178.8), 16th in passing touchdowns (11), 17th in yards per pass attempt (9.99), 24th in rushing touchdowns (five) and 27th in total offense per game (296.8).

### TACKLING MACHINES

Through Week 5 of the season, CUSA boasts three of the top-11 and five of the top-27 in the country in tackles per game.

2. Tyrice Knight, LB, UTEP	12.7
5. Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	12.0
11. Donovan Manuel, LB, FIU	10.8
16. Myles Heard, DB, LA Tech	10.0
27. Tyren Dupree, LB, Liberty	9.2

### WHY THE RUSH?

Liberty enters Week 6 ranking second in the country in rushing offense, averaging 271.2 yards per game, trailing just Air Force for the national lead.

Jax State ranks eighth in FBS at 224.4 yards per game.

### HOT TAKE(AWAYS)

Liberty enters Week 6 tied as the national leader in interceptions (with Oklahoma), as the Flames have a total of 10 through its first four games of the season. Liberty's 12 turnovers forced is also best in the nation.

WKU leads the nation in takeaways with 14, while Jax State is ninth with 11 (and ranks third nationally in interceptions with eight).

### ON THE (TURNOVER) MARGINS

Entering Week 6 Liberty is third in turnover margin in the FBS at +1.75 per game. Jax State and WKU are both tied for seventh nationally (+1.40 per game). The Flames, Hilltoppers and Gamecocks are each +7 for the season.

### PROTECTIVE

Jax State enters Week 6 tied for 18th nationally in turnovers lost, with just four turnovers lost through the first five games of the season. The Gamecocks and Liberty are each tied for fifth nationally with just one interception thrown apiece.

### RECOVERY IS KEY

WKU is tied for the national lead in fumble recoveries entering Week 6, with eight. FIU isn't far behind, ranking seventh nationally with five.

### LA TECH PICKS UP ROAD CUSA WIN, 24-10

LA Tech (3-3, 2-0 CUSA) snapped a 16-game road losing streak that dated back to 2020 (a 42-31 win at North Texas on Dec. 3, 2020) with a 24-10 league win at UTEP (1-5, 0-2 CUSA) on Friday night. Bulldogs **RB Tyre Shelton** carried 16 times for 104 yards and a touchdown in the win, which moved LA Tech into a three-way tie atop the CUSA standings at 2-0. **DB Myles Heard** led the way for the Bulldogs with a team-high 10 tackles, as the LA Tech defense held the Miners to just three second half points and 10 overall, the third time this season that UTEP has scored 10 or fewer.

### JAX STATE COMPLETES WILD COMEBACK

Jax State (4-1, 2-0 CUSA) stormed back to shock Sam Houston (0-4, 0-1 CUSA) 35-28 in overtime in Huntsville on Thursday night. The Gamecocks trailed 28-20 with 1:11 to play and with no timeouts, marched 75 yards in eight plays in just 58 seconds to tie the game and force overtime, courtesy of a **Logan Smothers** 28-yard touchdown pass to **WR Perry Carter** with 13 seconds remaining. Smothers then hit **TE Quinton Lane** in the back of the end zone for the game-tying two-point conversion. To open overtime, Smothers connected with **TE Sean Brown** on a 24-yard touchdown that ended up being the difference in a wild win for Jax State in Huntsville. Smothers finished 16-28 for 197 yards and four total touchdowns (three passing) with no interceptions. **RB Malik Jackson** carried 13 times for 129 yards and a score in the win as well. Defensively, **S Fred Perry** finished with a game-high 14 tackles (12 solo) and a tackle for loss, while **LB Quae Drake** recorded 10 stops with 2.5 tackles for loss in the win. The Bearcats entered play averaging just 3.3 points per game, scoring 10 total points through its first three games, and exploded for 21 points in the first half,



### QUICK HITTERS

but despite a late touchdown that put them up eight in the final 1:11, it wasn't enough as they fell at home in their first-ever CUSA contest.

#### WKU WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT OVER MTSU

WKU (3-2, 1-0 CUSA) opened league play with a comfortable 31-10 win in the 73rd edition of the rivalry dubbed "100 Miles of Hate" over Middle Tennessee (1-4, 0-1 CUSA). It marked the Hilltoppers' fifth-consecutive win in the series dating back to 2019, and now lead the overall series 37-35-1. **QB Austin Reed** completed 30-52 passes for 297 yards with three total touchdowns (two passing and one rushing) and one interception in the win. He completed passes to 11 different receivers, who were led by **Malachi Corley**, who hauled in eight catches for 81 yards. Defensively the #TakeawayTops forced three more turnovers and individually were led by **DB Takulve Williams**, who finished with a game-high 12 tackles, a half tackle for loss and an interception.

#### NCAA LEADERS (TEAM)

Below is a list of NCAA leaders among Conference USA programs:

##### 3rd Down Conversion Percentage

Liberty	48.9%	19th
New Mexico State	47.8%	25th

##### 3rd Down Conversion Percentage (Defense)

Jax State	26.7%	9th
Liberty	30.8%	16th

##### 4th Down Conversion Percentage

New Mexico State	66.7%	T-28th
Sam Houston	66.7%	T-28th

##### 4th Down Conversion Percentage (Defense)

Sam Houston	20.0%	T-5th
Jax State	30.0%	T-13th
Liberty	33.3%	T-16th

##### Blocked Kicks

New Mexico State	1	T-21st
UTEP	1	T-21st

##### Completion Percentage

MTSU	68.6%	24th
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##### Defensive TDs

WKU	2	4th
FIU	1	T-22nd
Liberty	1	T-22nd
LA Tech	1	T-22nd

##### First Downs (Defense)

Liberty	68	14th
Sam Houston	77	T-20th

##### First Downs (Offense)

UTEP	116	28th
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##### Fumbles Lost

Sam Houston	1	T-11th
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##### Fumbles Recovered

WKU	8	T-1st
FIU	5	T-7th

##### Kickoff Return Defense (yards per return)

Liberty	11.64	2nd
Sam Houston	13.33	4th
WKU	15.38	14th
LA Tech	15.40	16th

##### Passes Had Intercepted

Jax State	1	T-5th
Liberty	1	T-5th
WKU	3	T-29th

##### Passes Intercepted

Liberty	10	T-1st
Jax State	8	T-3rd
WKU	6	T-22nd

##### Passing Offense (yards per game)

WKU	286.0	26th
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##### Passing Yards Allowed (per game)

LA Tech	152.0	6th
Sam Houston	177.0	19th
Liberty	182.2	22nd

##### Passing Yards Per Completion

New Mexico State	17.76	3rd
Liberty	17.34	5th
FIU	15.42	11th

##### Punt Return Defense (yards per attempt)

FIU	0.00	7th
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##### Red Zone Defense

FIU	66.7%	12th
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##### Red Zone Offense

WKU	100%	1st
LA Tech	94.1%	15th

##### Rushing Offense (yards per game)

Liberty	271.2	2nd
Jax State	224.4	8th
New Mexico State	201.4	23rd

##### Sacks Allowed (per game)

WKU	0.60	T-4th
Liberty	0.75	T-12th
Jax State	1.20	27th

##### Scoring Defense (points per game)

Jax State	15.0	19th
Liberty	17.0	23rd

##### Scoring Offense (points per game)

Liberty	40.0	13th
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##### Tackles for Loss Allowed (per game)

Liberty	3.00	3rd
New Mexico State	3.20	5th

##### Team Passing Efficiency

New Mexico State	183.57	9th
Liberty	173.15	15th

##### Team Passing Efficiency Defense

Liberty	95.48	5th
LA Tech	104.67	14th
Jax State	113.96	28th

##### Team Sacks (per game)

Jax State	2.8	T-29th
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##### Team Tackles for Loss (per game)

Jax State	7.4	T-17th
Liberty	7.2	21st

##### Time of Possession

Liberty	33:08	8th
UTEP	32:23	19th

##### Total Defense (yards per game)

Liberty	310.2	26th
Jax State	310.8	27th

##### Total Offense (yards per game)

Liberty	501.0	10th
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##### Turnover Margin

Liberty	+1.75	3rd
Jax State	+1.40	T-7th
WKU	+1.40	T-7th

##### Turnovers Gained

WKU	14	T-1st
Liberty	12	T-3rd
Jax State	11	T-9th
FIU	9	T-23rd

##### Turnovers Lost

Jax State	4	T-18th
Liberty	5	T-29th

#### NCAA LEADERS (INDIVIDUAL)

Below is a list of NCAA leaders among Conference USA individuals:

##### Completion Percentage

Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU	68.1%	27th
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##### Completions Per Game

Austin Reed, WKU	26.20	7th
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU	25.60	11th

##### Field Goal Percentage

Lucas Carneiro, WKU	100.0%	T-1st
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##### Forced Fumbles (per game)

Donovan Manuel, FIU	0.80	1st
Kendrick Simpkins, WKU	0.50	7th
Jamal Potts, FIU	0.40	T-16th
Fred Perry, Jax State	0.40	T-16th
Curley Young, Jr., Jax State	0.40	T-16th
Sam Brumfield, MTSU	0.40	T-16th

##### Fumbles Recovered

JaQués Evans, WKU	2	T-2nd
Jeff Marks, Jax State	2	T-2nd
23 players	1	T-22nd

##### Interceptions

CJ Christian, FIU	2	T-22nd
Tyren Dupree, Liberty	2	T-22nd
Brylan Green, Liberty	2	T-22nd
Jerome Jolly, Jr., Liberty	2	T-22nd
Kobe Singleton, Liberty	2	T-22nd

##### Passes Defended (per game)

Da'Veawn Armstead, Sam Houston	1.3	T-20th
Willie Roberts, LA Tech	1.3	T-20th
Brian Blades, FIU	1.2	T-22nd

##### Passing Efficiency

Diego Pavia, NM State	182.6	10th
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	178.8	13th

##### Passing TDs

Kaidon Salter, Liberty	11	T-16th
Austin Reed, WKU	11	T-16th
Diego Pavia, NM State	10	T-28th

##### Passing Yards

Austin Reed, WKU	1,368	24th
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##### Passing Yards Per Game

Austin Reed, WKU	273.6	25th
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##### Passing Yards Per Completion

Kaidon Salter, Liberty	17.34	4th
Diego Pavia, NM State	17.31	5th
Keyone Jenkins, FIU	16.95	7th

##### Points Responsible For

Kaidon Salter, Liberty	96	8th
Austin Reed, WKU	86	15th



## QUICK HITTERS

### Points Responsible For Per Game

Kaidon Salter, Liberty	24.0	2nd
Austin Reed, WKU	17.2	18th

### Punt Return TDs

Smoke Harris, LA Tech	1	T-1st
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### Punt Returns (per return)

Dean Patterson, FIU	11.4	17th
Smoke Harris, LA Tech	9.5	21st

### Punting

Blake Ochsendorf, LA Tech	44.8	21st
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### Receiving TDs

Kris Mitchell, FIU	4	28th
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### Receiving Yards

Kris Mitchell, FIU	459	18th
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### Receiving Yards (per game)

Kris Mitchell, FIU	91.8	18th
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### Receptions Per Game

Malachi Corley, WKU	7.2	10th
Smoke Harris, LA Tech	6.2	24th

### Rushing Yards Per Carry

Malik Jackson, Jax State	6.56	18th
Quinton Cooley, Liberty	6.09	26th

### Rushing TDs

Logan Smothers, Jax State	5	T-25th
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	5	T-25th

### Rushing Yards

Malik Jackson, Jax State	505	13th
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### Rushing Yards

Malik Jackson, Jax State	101.0	16th
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### Sacks (per game)

Kendrick Simpkins, WKU	0.88	20th
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### Solo Tackles (per game)

Tyrice Knight, UTEP	8.8	1st
Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	8.5	2nd
Donovan Manuel, FIU	6.0	T-8th
Myles Heard, LA Tech	5.2	20th
Sam Brumfield, MTSU	5.0	T-21st
D'Verik Daniel, FIU	5.0	T-21st
Tra Fluellen, MTSU	5.0	T-21st

### Tackles For Loss (per game)

Tyrice Knight, UTEP	1.4	21st
Donovan Manuel, FIU	1.4	22nd
Kendrick Simpkins, WKU	1.4	27th
Brevin Randle, LA Tech	1.4	30th

### Total Offense (per game)

Kaidon Salter, Liberty	296.8	27th
Austin Reed, WKU	287.0	30th

### Total Tackles (per game)

Tyrice Knight, UTEP	12.7	2nd
Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	12.0	5th
Donovan Manuel, FIU	10.8	11th
Myles Heard, LA Tech	10.0	16th
Tyren Dupree, Liberty	9.8	27th

### Yards Per Pass Attempt

Diego Pavia, NM State	11.06	3rd
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	9.99	17th
Keyone Jenkins, FIU	9.09	26th

### Yards Per Reception

Jonathan Brady, NM State	25.20	4th
Treon Sibley, Liberty	24.00	7th
CJ Daniels, Liberty	23.91	8th
Kris Mitchell, FIU	19.96	25th

### AP TOP 25

Rk	Team	Rec.	Conf.	LW
1	Georgia (35)	5-0	SEC	1
2	Michigan (12)	5-0	B10	2
3	Texas (10)	5-0	B12	3
4	Ohio State (1)	4-0	B10	4
5	Florida State (4)	4-0	ACC	5
6	Penn State	5-0	B10	6
7	Washington	5-0	P12	7
8	Oregon	5-0	P12	9
9	USC	5-0	P12	8
10	Notre Dame	5-1	FBS IND.	11
11	Alabama	4-1	SEC	12
12	Oklahoma	5-0	B12	14
13	Washington State	5-0	P12	16
14	North Carolina	4-0	ACC	15
15	Oregon State	4-1	P12	19
16	Ole Miss	4-1	SEC	20
17	Miami (FL)	4-0	ACC	18
18	Utah	4-1	P12	10
19	Duke	4-1	ACC	17
20	Kentucky	5-0	SEC	NR
21	Missouri	5-0	SEC	23
22	Tennessee	4-1	SEC	21
23	LSU	3-2	SEC	13
24	Fresno State	5-0	MWC	25
25	Louisville	5-0	ACC	NR

**Others Receiving Votes:** Maryland 81, Kansas State 44, Texas A&M 31, UCLA 19, Tulane 8, Air Force 7, Wisconsin 6, Clemson 5, West Virginia 5, Kansas 3, James Madison 3, Colorado 1.

### 2023 CUSA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Here's a look at CUSA's players of the week for the 2023 season, as selected by a panel of the league's media members:

#### Offensive Player of the Week

- A28 - WR Smoke Harris, LA Tech
- S4 - WR Kris Mitchell, FIU
- S11 - RB Kejon Owens, FIU
- S18 - QB Kaidon Salter, Liberty
- S25 - QB Kaidon Salter, Liberty
- O2 - QB Logan Smothers, Jax State

#### Defensive Player of the Week

- A28 - S Jeremiah Harris, Jax State
- S4 - LB JaQués Evans, WKU
- S11 - LB Tyrice Knight, UTEP
- S18 - LB Sam Brumfield, MTSU
- S25 - DL Chris Hardie, Jax State
- O2 - LB Bryson Washington, WKU

#### Special Teams Player of the Week

- A28 - P Jack Dawson, Jax State
- S4 - K Lucas Carneiro, WKU
- S11 - K Jacob Barnes, LA Tech
- S18 - K Ethan Albertson, New Mexico State
- S25 - P Jack Dawson, Jax State
- O2 - PR Smoke Harris, LA Tech

### 2023 SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

Here's a look at CUSA's non-league FBS opponents by conference during the 2023 season:

ACC: none

American: North Texas (2), SMU, South Florida

Big 12: BYU, Houston

Big Ten: Nebraska, Northwestern, Ohio State

MAC: Bowling Green, Buffalo, Eastern Michigan

Mountain West: Air Force, Colorado State, Hawai'i, New Mexico, UNLV

Pac-12: Arizona

SEC: Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Missouri, South Carolina

Sun Belt: Coastal Carolina, Old Dominion, Troy

Independent: UCONN, UMass (2)

### PRESEASON AWARDS

(as selected by the league's nine head coaches)

#### OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Austin Reed, RS Sr., QB, WKU

#### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JaQués Evans, Jr., LB, WKU

#### SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Smoke Harris, RS Sr., KR/PR, Louisiana Tech

### PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

(as selected by a panel of the league's media)

- WKU (18)
- Liberty (4)
- Middle Tennessee
- Louisiana Tech
- New Mexico State
- UTEP
- Jacksonville State
- FIU

Sam Houston  
(First place votes in parentheses)

### WATCH THIS!

2023 National watch lists are beginning to make their rounds, and include several CUSA standouts.

#### AFCA Good Works Team (Community Service)

X'Zauvea Gadlin, OL, Sr., Liberty  
Richard Kinley, DE, RS Jr., MTSU  
JaQués Evans, LB, Jr., WKU

#### Athlon Preseason All-American

Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU (Fourth Team)

#### Bednarik Award (Nation's Best Defensive Player)

Tyrice Knight, LB, RS Sr., UTEP  
JaQués Evans, LB, Jr., WKU

#### Biletnikoff Award (Nation's Best Receiver)

Tyrin Smith, WR, Sr., UTEP  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU

#### Bronko Nagurski Trophy (Nation's Best Defensive Player)

Kendy Charles, DL, Sr., Liberty  
Tra Fluellen, S, Sr., MTSU  
Praise Amaewhule, DE, RS Sr., UTEP  
Tyrice Knight, LB, RS Sr., UTEP  
JaQués Evans, LB, Jr., WKU

#### Butkus Award (Nation's Best LB)

Tyrice Knight, LB, RS Sr., UTEP  
JaQués Evans, LB, Jr., WKU





# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (October 2, 2023)

Contact: Jordan Stepp | jstepp@c-usa.org | 805.551.8648

## QUICK HITTERS/BROADCAST INFORMATION

**College Football News Preseason All-American**  
Teldrick Ross, DB, RS Sr., MTSU (Honorable Mention)  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU (Honorable Mention)  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU (Honorable Mention)

**Dave Campbell's Texas Football All-Texas Team**  
Tyrice Knight, LB, RS Sr., UTEP (First Team)  
Markel Perry, DL, GS, Sam Houston (Second Team)  
Joshua Sloan, P, Jr., UTEP (Second Team)

**Davey O'Brien Award (Nation's Best QB)**  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

**Doak Walker Award (Nation's Best RB)**  
Marquis Crosby, RB, RS So., Louisiana Tech  
Frank Peasant, RB, Jr., MTSU  
Deion Hankins, RB, RS Jr., UTEP  
Davion Ervin-Pointdexter, RB, RS Jr., WKU

**Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award (Offensive Player of the Year with a Texas Connection)**

Grayson James, QB, Jr., FIU  
X'Zauvea Gadlin, OL, Sr., Liberty  
Nate Jones, TE, Jr., Louisiana Tech  
Kordell David, WR, RS Jr., New Mexico State  
Ife Adeyi, WR, RS Jr., Sam Houston  
Deion Hankins, RB, RS Jr., UTEP

**East-West Shrine Bowl 1000**  
Lexington Joseph, RB, Sr., FIU (expected to miss '23)  
Donovan Manuel, LB, Sr., FIU  
Kolbi Fuqua, S, RS Jr., Jax State  
Clay Webb, OL, RS Jr., Jax State  
X'Zauvea Gadlin, OL, Sr., Liberty  
Kobe Singleton, DB, Jr., Liberty  
Hank Bachmeier, QB, Sr., Louisiana Tech  
Deshon Hall, DL, Sr., Louisiana Tech  
Smoke Harris, WR, RS Sr., Louisiana Tech  
Willie Roberts, DB, Sr., Louisiana Tech  
Tra Fluellen, S, Sr., MTSU  
Teldrick Ross, DB, RS Sr., MTSU  
Zaylin Wood, DE, RS Sr., MTSU  
Ife Adeyi, WR, RS Jr., Sam Houston  
Praise Amaewhule, DE, RS Sr., UTEP  
Gavin Hardison, QB, RS Sr., UTEP  
Elijah Klein, OL, RS Sr., UTEP  
Tyrice Knight, LB, RS Sr., UTEP  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU  
Wes Dorsey, OL, RS Jr., WKU  
JaQues Evans, LB, Jr., WKU  
Quantavious Leslie, OL, Jr., WKU

**John Mackey Award (Nation's Best TE)**  
Josiah Miamen, TE, Jr., FIU  
Sean Brown, TE, RS Jr., Jax State

**Lombardi Award (Best OL/DL)**  
Marley Cook, DL, RS Jr., MTSU

**Manning Award (Nation's Best QB)**  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

**Maxwell Award (Nation's Most Outstanding Player)**  
Diego Pavia, QB, Sr., New Mexico State  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

**Outland Trophy (Nation's Best Interior Lineman)**  
Kendy Charles, DL, Sr., Liberty  
X'Zauvea Gadlin, OL, Sr., Liberty  
Keyland Rutledge, OL, So., MTSU  
Quantavious Leslie, OL, Jr., WKU

**Paycom Jim Thorpe Award (Nation's Best DB)**  
Willie Roberts, DB, Sr., Louisiana Tech  
Tra Fluellen, S, Sr., MTSU  
Teldrick Ross, DB, RS Sr., MTSU  
Upton Stout, DB, RS So., WKU

**Phil Steele Preseason All-American**  
Smoke Harris, AP, RS Sr., Louisiana Tech (First Team)  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU (Fourth Team)

**Ray Guy Award (Nation's Best P)**  
Daton Montie, P, RS Jr., FIU  
Joshua Sloan, P, Jr., UTEP

**Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List**  
Clay Webb, OL, RS Jr., OL  
X'Zauvea Gadlin, OL, Sr., Liberty  
Kobe Singleton, DB, Jr., Liberty  
Devonta Lee, WR, RS Jr., Louisiana Tech  
Tra Fluellen, S, Sr., MTSU  
Trevor Williams, LB, Gr., Sam Houston  
Praise Amaewhule, DE, RS Sr., UTEP  
Gavin Hardison, QB, RS Sr., UTEP  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

**Rimington Trophy (Nation's Best C)**  
Andrew Meyer, C, Sr., UTEP

**Walter Camp Award (Nation's Most Outstanding Player)**  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

**Wuerffel Trophy (Community Service)**  
Jeremy Passmore, DL, RS Jr., FIU  
X'Zauvea Gadlin, OL, Sr., Liberty  
Abraham Delfin, OL, Gr., Louisiana Tech  
Teldrick Ross, DB, RS Sr., MTSU  
Canaan Yarro, OL, RS Jr., New Mexico State  
Trevor Williams, LB, Gr., Sam Houston  
Malachi Corley, WR, Jr., WKU  
JaQues Evans, LB, Jr., WKU  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

### WORKING OVERTIME

Here's a look at CUSA overtime games in 2023 and all-time.

#### 2023 CUSA Overtimes

Jax State 35, Sam Houston 28 (OT) - 9/28/2023

#### Overtime Records 1996-2023

Teams	All Games	CUSA Games
FIU	7-6	2-2
Jax State*	10-8	1-0
Liberty^	8-9	0-0
Louisiana Tech	4-10	2-4
Middle Tennessee	6-6	4-2
New Mexico State	2-5	0-0
Sam Houston*	3-8	0-1
UTEP	6-3	5-3
WKU&	13-5	4-2

\* - all but one game as an FCS program

^ - Liberty is 2-1 in OT games since its move to FBS

& - WKU is 8-4 since its move to FBS

### CUSA BROADCAST INFORMATION

Conference USA has announced its initial broadcast schedule for the 2023 football season. The current confirmed schedule features games to air nationally by the league's primary partners and every CUSA football game is expected to be available on traditional linear television or streaming via ESPN+.

CUSA games will be available this fall via CBS Sports Network and ESPN Platforms. The majority of these exposures will take place on Saturday, with select Thursday and Friday night telecasts also being featured in addition to the new midweek scheduling model for the month of October.

Some non-conference CUSA games will also be made available as part of other conferences televi-

sion agreements. Those games will continue to be added to the schedule this fall as part of those agreements.

The 2023 CUSA Championship game, slated for Friday, December 1, will be broadcast live on CBS Sports Network.

Additional Conference USA football broadcast exposures will be released as soon as they are finalized. Please note that all dates and times are subject to change.

#### ABOUT CBS SPORTS NETWORK

CBS Sports Network, the 24-hour home of CBS Sports, is available through all major cable, satellite and telco distributors as well as via OTT streaming service providers YouTube TV, fuboTV, DirecTV and Hulu. Additionally, a live CBS Sports Network stream is available through CBSSports.com and the CBS Sports App with select providers. For more information, including a full programming schedule, go to [www.cbssportsnetwork.com](http://www.cbssportsnetwork.com)

#### ABOUT ESPN AND ESPN+

ESPN, Inc. is the leading multinational, multimedia sports entertainment brand featuring the broadest portfolio of multimedia sports assets. Based in Bristol, Conn., ESPN launched on September 7, 1979, and is 80 percent owned by ABC, Inc., an indirect subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company. Hearst holds a 20 percent interest.

ESPN+ is the industry-leading sports streaming service that offers fans in the U.S. thousands of live sports events, original programming not available on ESPN's linear TV or digital networks and exclusive editorial content from dozens of ESPN writers and reporters. Launched in April 2018, ESPN+ has grown to more than 24.3 million subscribers. Fans sign up to ESPN+ for just \$9.99 a month (or \$99.99 per year) at [ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com), [ESPNplus.com](http://ESPNplus.com) or on the ESPN App (mobile and connected devices).





# FOOTBALL

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Contact: Jordan Stepp | jstepp@c-usa.org | 805.551.8648

## CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION



### 2023 CONFERENCE USA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Conference USA will host its 19th annual football championship game in 2023.

The event, slated for Friday, December 1, will be televised by CBS Sports Network. The team with the highest league winning percentage will serve as host site for the game.

The title game will feature the top two finishers in the league's regular season. Eleven different schools have hosted the first 18 championship games.

#### Year Champion (CUSA Record)

2022	UTSA (8-0)
2021	UTSA (7-1)
2020	UAB (3-1)
2019	Florida Atlantic (7-1)
2018	UAB (7-1)
2017	Florida Atlantic (8-0)
2016	WKU (7-1)
2015	WKU (8-0)
2014	Marshall (7-1)
2013	Rice (7-1)
2012	Tulsa (7-1)
2011	Southern Miss (7-1)
2010	UCF (7-1)
2009	East Carolina (6-2)
2008	East Carolina (6-2)
2007	UCF (7-1)
2006	Houston (7-1)
2005	Tulsa (6-2)

#### CUSA TIEBREAKER

Home field for the CUSA Championship Game will be awarded to the team that posts the highest regular season winning percentage against conference opposition. The first tiebreaker is the winner of a head-to-head match-up. Additional tiebreakers are in place in the event of a tie of three or more teams.





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## CONFERENCE USA BOWL PARTNERS

### CUSA BOWL SYNOPSIS

Conference USA is in year four the league's six-year cycle of the bowl lineup, concluding with the 2025 season. The conference is guaranteed seven bowl appearances in each year of the cycle and will have associations with up to 16 different bowls.

As part of the new bowl cycle, CUSA will annually send teams to the Bahamas Bowl against a Mid-American Conference opponent, and to the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, against a Sun Belt Conference school. The league has participated in all eight Bahamas Bowls and has placed a team in the New Orleans Bowl 18 times in its first 22 years.

The league continues its relationship with the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl. CUSA is guaranteed to send a team to the Shreveport, Louisiana-based bowl in 2025, while holding a secondary agreement with the bowl in the other years of the cycle.

CUSA also continues its long-standing relationship with the easypost Hawai'i Bowl. The league is set to participate in the Honolulu-based game in 2024.

The conference's remaining guaranteed selections in the cycle (either four or five per season) will include the 68 Ventures Bowl (Mobile, Alabama) or from among 11 games which are owned and operated by ESPN Events. A backup opportunity also exists for the Quick Lane Bowl after ESPN and/or Independence Bowl slots have been filled.

#### Guaranteed selections each season:

##### **Hometown Lenders Bahamas Bowl**

(Nassau, Bahamas)  
www.bahamasbowl.com

##### **R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl**

(New Orleans, Louisiana)  
www.neworleansbowl.org

#### Guaranteed selections selected seasons:

##### **Easypost Hawai'i Bowl**

(Honolulu, Hawai'i) - 2024  
www.thehawaiibowl.com

##### **Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl**

(Shreveport, Louisiana) - 2025  
www.radiance technologies independence bowl.com

#### Remaining selections (4-5 per season) from this group:

##### **Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl**

(Fort Worth, Texas)  
www.armedforcesbowl.com

##### **TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl**

(Birmingham, Alabama)  
ticketsmarterbirminghambowl.com

##### **Roofclaim.com Boca Raton Bowl**

(Boca Raton, Florida)  
thebocaratonbowl.com

##### **Camellia Bowl**

(Montgomery, Alabama)  
camelliabowl.com

##### **Cure Bowl**

(Orlando, Florida)  
curebowl.com

##### **Wasabi Fenway Bowl**

(Boston, Massachusetts)  
mlb.com/redsox/fenway-bowl

##### **SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**

(Dallas, Texas)  
firstresponderbowl.com

##### **Scooter Coffee Frisco Bowl**

(Frisco, Texas)  
thefriscobowl.com

##### **Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl**

(Tampa, Florida)  
gasparillabowl.com

##### **68 Ventures Bowl**

(Mobile, Alabama)  
68venturesbowl.com

##### **Myrtle Beach Bowl**

(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)  
myrtlebeachbowlgame.com

##### **New Mexico Bowl**

(Albuquerque, New Mexico)  
newmexicobowl.com

There is no set selection order among C-USA's bowl partners.

### CUSA and the College Football Playoff

As a member of the College Football Playoff, Conference USA will be a part of one of the CFP bowls if it produces the highest rated champion from among the American Athletic, CUSA, Mid-American, Mountain West and Sun Belt Conferences.

#### The Playoff

During the 2014-15 season, college football entered a new era when postseason playoffs began. The format is simple: top four teams, two semifinals played in bowl games, and a national championship game played in a different city each year. Each semifinal will be played during the New Year's holiday with the national championship game in prime time on a Monday night at least a week later.

#### The Selection Committee

A selection committee will choose the four teams for the playoff based on their performance during the regular season, including, strength of schedule, head-to-head results, championships won, and other factors. The teams will be seeded so that No. 1 will play No. 4 in one semifinal and No. 2 will meet No. 3 in the other, with the two winners advancing to the national championship game.

#### The Rotation

The semifinals rotate among six different bowls, extending the experience to more fans. In the years when the bowls are not hosting semifinals, the bowls will feature eight other teams in four compelling matchups.

For the 2023-24 season, the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic (Dec. 29), Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl (Dec. 30) the Capital One Orange Bowl (Dec. 30) and VRBO Fiesta Bowl (Jan. 1), will host its regular bowl games, while the Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) and Allstate Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1) will host semifinals. The College Football Championship will be held on Monday, Jan. 8 in Houston, Texas.





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## MEDIA INFORMATION

### WEEKLY FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Video highlights from all nine Conference USA Football teams will be available this season through Box, a video exchange service. Each school will update 5 minutes of footage per week by late Monday morning for media outlets to download and use. Schools may also post additional footage at times during the week.

Please contact the CUSA media relations department for more information.

### COACHES' TELECONFERENCE

The only scheduled CUSA Coaches teleconference during the 2023 season will be held on Tuesday, November 28, and will feature the head coaches of the two teams participating in the 2023 CUSA Football Championship Game.

Some Conference USA schools will be making their weekly press conferences available to media members via video calls. Please contact each individual school for links and more information.

### E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION

Media may contact the Conference USA office by phone (214-774-1300) or e-mail to be included on the league's e-mail lists for releases and information.

Statistics are updated on Sundays, weekly releases on Mondays, and press conference quotes on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Please contact Jordan Stepp (jstepp@c-usa.org) or Josh Yonis (jyonis@c-usa.org) in the conference office with requests or questions.

### COLLEGE PRESS BOX.COM

collegepressbox is the official media website for Division I football. Access and download game notes, quotes, statistics, media guides, headshots, logos and more for all FBS schools, conferences, postseason games, awards and the College Football Playoff. For access, please register for an account at collegepressbox.com/register.

### FLAGSHIP RADIO STATIONS

Below is the flagship radio station for each Conference USA football school:

School	Station	Signal	PxP
FIU	WQBA-AM	1140	AJ Ricketts
Jax State	WIJLS	91.9	Mike Parris
Liberty	WRVL-FM	88.3	Alan York
Louisiana Tech			Malcolm Butler
Middle Tenn.	WGNS	100.5, 101.9, 1450 AM	
	WQZQ-FM (Nashville)	93.1	Chip Walters
NM State	KXPZ-FM	91.5	Jack Nixon
Sam Houston	KSAM-FM	101.7	Carlos Zimmerman
UTEP	KLAQ-FM	95.5	
	ESPN Radio	600	Jon Teicher
WKU	WWKU-FM	102.7	Randy Lee

### CUSA WEBSITES

Here are the official websites for each CUSA school:

FIU	www.FIUSports.com
Jacksonville State	www.jaxstatesports.com
Liberty	www.libertyflames.com
Louisiana Tech	www.LATechSports.com
Middle Tennessee	www.GoBlueRaiders.com
New Mexico State	www.nmstatesports.com
Sam Houston	www.gobearkats.com
UTEP	www.UTEPathletics.com
WKU	www.WKUSports.com

### CUSA X FEEDS

Here are the X feeds for each CUSA school:

FIU	@FIUFootball
Jacksonville State	@JaxStateFB
Liberty	@LibertyFootball
Louisiana Tech	@LATechFB
Middle Tennessee	@MT_FB
New Mexico State	@NMStateFootball
Sam Houston	@BarkatsFB
UTEP	@UTEPFB
WKU	@WKUFootball

### WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCES

Here are the weekly schedules for each CUSA school: (schedules subject to change on short weeks)

FIU	Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. CT
for midweek games	Fridays at 12:00 p.m. CT
Jax State	Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. CT
Liberty	Tuesdays at 7:10 a.m. CT
Louisiana Tech	Tuesdays at 12 p.m. CT
Middle Tennessee	Mondays at 10:30 a.m. CT
New Mexico State	Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. CT
Sam Houston	Mondays at 2 p.m. CT
UTEP	Mondays at 3:30 p.m. CT
WKU	Mondays at 11 a.m. CT

### CUSA FOOTBALL SID CONTACTS

Here is the information for each CUSA football SID:

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Jacksonville State Josh Underwood  
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 Cell Phone: ..... (256) 453-0545  
 E-Mail: ..... underwood@jsu.edu

Liberty Todd Wetmore  
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 Cell Phone: ..... (434) 841-8974  
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Louisiana Tech Hunter Corneliusen  
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 E-Mail: ..... hunter@latech.edu

Middle Tennessee Mark Owens  
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 Cell Phone: ..... (615) 631-9520  
 E-Mail: ..... MarkR.Owens@mtsu.edu

New Mexico State Michael Navarrette  
 Office Phone: ..... (575) 646-1823  
 Cell Phone: ..... (915) 525-8627  
 E-Mail: ..... micnav@nmsu.edu  
 Secondary E-Mail: ..... jopiela@nmsu.edu

Sam Houston Cody Stark  
 Office Phone: ..... (936) 294-2682  
 Cell Phone: ..... (979) 229-3722  
 E-Mail: ..... cstark@shsu.edu

UTEP Drew Bonney  
 Office Phone: ..... (915) 747-7447  
 Cell Phone: ..... (915) 309-4478  
 E-Mail: ..... arbonney@utep.edu

WKU Jared MacDonald  
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## TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

### FIU (3-2, 0-2 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
A26	at LA Tech (CBSSN)	L, 22-17
S2	MAINE (ESPN+)	W, 14-12
S9	NORTH TEXAS (ESPN+)	W, 46-39
S16	at UCONN (CBSSN)	W, 24-17
S23	LIBERTY (ESPN+)	L, 38-6
O4 (Wed.)	at New Mexico State (CBSSN)	8 p.m.
O11 (Wed.)	UTEP (ESPN2)	6:30 p.m.
O18 (Wed.)	at Sam Houston (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O25 (Wed.)	JAX STATE (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
N11	at MTSU (ESPN Platforms)	2:30 p.m.
N18	at Arkansas	TBD
N25	WKU (ESPN Platforms)	2 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.

### LIBERTY (4-0, 2-0 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
S2	BOWLING GREEN (CBSSN)	W, 34-24
S9	NEW MEXICO STATE (ESPN+) W, 33-17	
S16	at Buffalo (CBSSN)	W, 55-27
S23	at FIU (ESPN+)	W, 38-6
O5 (Th.)	SAM HOUSTON (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O10 (Tues.)	at Jax State (ESPNU)	6:30 p.m.
O17 (Tues.)	MTSU (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O24 (Tues.)	at WKU (ESPNU)	6:30 p.m.
N4	LA TECH (CBSSN)	5 p.m.
N11	OLD DOMINION (ESPN Platforms)	12 p.m.
N18	UMASS (ESPN Platforms)	12 p.m.
N25	at UTEP (CBSSN)	2:30 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.

### JACKSONVILLE STATE (4-1, 2-0 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
A26	UTEP (CBSSN)	W, 17-14
S2	EAST TENN. STATE (ESPN+)	W, 49-3
S9	at Coastal Carolina (ESPN+)	L, 30-16
S23	EASTERN MICHIGAN (ESPN+)	W, 21-0
S28 (Th.)	at Sam Houston (ESPNU) W, 35-28 (OT)	
O4 (Wed.)	at MTSU (ESPNU)	7 p.m.
O10 (Tues.)	LIBERTY (ESPNU)	6:30 p.m.
O17 (Tues.)	WKU (ESPNU)	6:30 p.m.
O25 (Wed.)	at FIU (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
N4	at South Carolina	TBD
N18	LA TECH (ESPN Platforms)	1 p.m.
N25	at New Mexico State (ESPN Platforms)	3 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE (1-4, 0-1 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
S2	at No. 4 Alabama (SEC Net)	L, 56-7
S9	at Missouri (SEC Net+)	L, 23-19
S16	MURRAY STATE (ESPN+)	W, 35-14
S23	COLORADO STATE (ESPN+)	L, 31-23
S28 (Th.)	at WKU (CBSSN)	L, 31-10
O4 (Wed.)	JAX STATE (ESPNU)	7 p.m.
O10 (Tues.)	LA TECH (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O17 (Tues.)	at Liberty (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
N4	at New Mexico State (ESPN Platforms)	5 p.m.
N11	FIU (ESPN Platforms)	2:30 p.m.
N18	UTEP (ESPN Platforms)	1 p.m.
N25	at Sam Houston (ESPN Platforms)	11 a.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.

### LOUISIANA TECH (3-3, 2-0 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
A26	FIU (CBSSN)	W, 22-17
S2	at SMU (ESPNU)	L, 38-14
S9	NORTHWESTERN STATE (ESPN+)	W, 51-21
S16	NORTH TEXAS (ESPN+)	L, 40-37
S23	at Nebraska (Big Ten Net)	L, 28-14
S29 (Fri.)	at UTEP (CBSSN)	W, 24-10
O5 (Th.)	WKU (ESPNU)	7 p.m.
O10 (Tues.)	at MTSU (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O24 (Tues.)	NEW MEXICO STATE (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
N4	at Liberty (CBSSN)	5 p.m.
N11	SAM HOUSTON (ESPN Platforms)	2 p.m.
N18	at Jax State (ESPN Platforms)	1 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.



## TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

### NEW MEXICO STATE (2-3, 0-1 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
A26	UMASS (ESPN)	L, 41-30
S2	WESTERN ILLINOIS (ESPN+)	W, 58-21
S9	at Liberty (ESPN+)	L, 33-17
S16	at New Mexico (MWN)	W, 27-17
S23	at Hawai'i (Spectrum PPV)	L, 20-17
O4 (Wed.)	FIU (CBSSN)	8 p.m.
O11 (Wed.)	SAM HOUSTON (CBSSN)	8 p.m.
O18 (Wed.)	at UTEP (ESPN2)	8 p.m.
O24 (Tues.)	at LA Tech (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
N4	MTSU (ESPN Platforms)	5 p.m.
N11	at WKU (ESPN Platforms)	2:30 p.m.
N18	at Auburn	TBD
N25	JAX STATE (ESPN Platforms)	3 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.

### SAM HOUSTON (0-4, 0-0 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
S2	at BYU (FS1)	L, 14-0
S9	AIR FORCE (CBSSN)*	L, 13-3
S23	at Houston (Big 12 Now)	L, 38-7
S28 (Th.)	JAX STATE (ESPNU)	L, 35-28 (OT)
O5 (Th.)	at Liberty (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O11 (Wed.)	at New Mexico State (CBSSN)	8 p.m.
O18 (Wed.)	FIU (CBSSN)	6 p.m.
O25 (Wed.)	UTEP (ESPN2)	7 p.m.
N4	KENNESAW STATE (ESPN Platforms)	12 p.m.
N11	at LA Tech (ESPN Platforms)	2 p.m.
N18	at WKU (ESPN Platforms)	2:30 p.m.
N25	MTSU (ESPN Platforms)	11 a.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.  
\* - game to be played at NRG Stadium in Houston

### UTEP (1-5, 0-2 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
A26	at Jax State (CBSSN)	L, 17-14
S2	INCARNATE WORD (ESPN+)	W, 28-14
S9	at Northwestern (Big Ten Net)	L, 38-7
S16	at Arizona (Pac-12 Net)	L, 31-10
S23	UNLV (ESPN+)	L, 45-28
S29 (Fri.)	LA TECH (CBSSN)	L, 24-10
O11 (Wed.)	at FIU (ESPN2)	6:30 p.m.
O18 (Wed.)	NEW MEXICO STATE (ESPN2)	8 p.m.
O25 (Wed.)	at Sam Houston (ESPN2)	7 p.m.
N4	WKU (ESPN Platforms)	8 p.m.
N18	at MTSU (ESPN Platforms)	1 p.m.
N25	LIBERTY (CBSSN)	2:30 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.

### WKU (3-2, 1-0 CUSA)

DATE	OPPONENT (TV)	TIME
S2	SOUTH FLORIDA (CBSSN)	W, 41-24
S9	HOUSTON CHRISTIAN (ESPN+)	W, 52-22
S16	at No. 6 Ohio State (FOX)	L, 63-10
S23	at Troy (ESPNU)	L, 27-24
S28 (Th.)	MTSU (CBSSN)	W, 31-10
O5 (Th.)	at LA Tech (ESPNU)	7 p.m.
O17 (Tues.)	at Jax State (ESPNU)	6:30 p.m.
O24 (Tues.)	LIBERTY (ESPNU)	6:30 p.m.
N4	at UTEP (ESPN Platforms)	8 p.m.
N11	NEW MEXICO STATE (ESPN Platforms)	2:30 p.m.
N18	SAM HOUSTON (ESPN Platforms)	2:30 p.m.
N25	at FIU (ESPN Platforms)	2 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.





# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (October 2, 2023)

Contact: Jordan Stepp | jstepp@c-usa.org | 805.551.8648

## COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

**Jax State 17, UTEP 14**

UMass 41, New Mexico State 30

**LA Tech 22, FIU 17**

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

SMU 38, LA Tech 14

Liberty 34, Bowling Green 24

Jax State 49, East Tennessee State 3

WKU 41, South Florida 24

FIU 14, Maine 12

No. 4 Alabama 56, MTSU 7

UTEP 28, Incarnate Word 14

New Mexico State 58, Western Illinois 21

BYU 14, Sam Houston 0

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Northwestern 38, UTEP 7

**Liberty 33, New Mexico State 17**

FIU 46, North Texas 39

Missouri 23, MTSU 19

WKU 52, Houston Christian 22

LA Tech 51, Northwestern State 21

Air Force 13, Sam Houston 3

Coastal Carolina 30, Jax State 16

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Liberty 55, Buffalo 27

FIU 24, UConn 17

No. 6 Ohio State 63, WKU 10

MTSU 35, Murray State 14

North Texas 40, LA Tech 37

New Mexico State 27, New Mexico 17

Arizona 31, UTEP 10

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Troy 27, WKU 24

Nebraska 28, LA Tech 14

Jax State 21, Eastern Michigan 0

**Liberty 38, FIU 6**

Colorado State 31, MTSU 23

Houston 38, Sam Houston 7

UNLV, 45 UTEP 28

Hawai'i 20, New Mexico State 17

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

**WKU 31, MTSU 10**

**Jax State 35, Sam Houston 28 (OT)**

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

**LA Tech 24, UTEP 10**

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

**Jax State at MTSU (ESPNU) 7 p.m.**

**FIU at New Mexico State (CBSSN) 8 p.m.**

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

**Sam Houston at Liberty (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**

**WKU at LA Tech (ESPNU) 7 p.m.**

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

**LA Tech at MTSU (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**

**Liberty at Jax State (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.**

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

**UTEP at FIU (ESPN2) 6:30 p.m.**

**Sam Houston at New Mexico State (CBSSN) 8 p.m.**

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

**MTSU at Liberty (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**

**WKU at Jax State (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.**

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

**FIU at Sam Houston (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**

**New Mexico State at UTEP (ESPN2) 8 p.m.**

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

**New Mexico State at LA Tech (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**

**Liberty at WKU (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.**

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

**Jax State at FIU (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**

**UTEP at Sam Houston (ESPN2) 7 p.m.**

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Kennesaw State at Sam Houston (ESPN Platforms) 12 p.m.

**LA Tech at Liberty (CBSSN) 5 p.m.**

**MTSU at New Mexico State (ESPN Platforms) 5 p.m.**

**WKU at UTEP (ESPN Platforms) 8 p.m.**

Jax State at South Carolina TBD

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Old Dominion at Liberty (ESPN Platforms) 12 p.m.

**Sam Houston at LA Tech (ESPN Platforms) 2 p.m.**

**FIU at MTSU (ESPN Platforms) 2:30 p.m.**

**New Mexico State at WKU (ESPN Platforms) 2:30 p.m.**

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

UMass at Liberty (ESPN Platforms) 12 p.m.

**LA Tech at Jax State (ESPN Platforms) 1 p.m.**

**UTEP at MTSU (ESPN Platforms) 1 p.m.**

**Sam Houston at WKU (ESPN Platforms) 2:30 p.m.**

FIU at Arkansas TBD

New Mexico State at Auburn TBD

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**MTSU at Sam Houston (ESPN Platforms) 11 a.m.**

**WKU at FIU (ESPN Platforms) 2 p.m.**

Jax State at New Mexico State (ESPN Platforms) 3 p.m.

**Liberty at UTEP (CBSSN) 2:30 p.m.**

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**CUSA Championship (CBSSN) TBD**

**Conference games in bold.**

All times are listed in CT

All dates are subject to change based upon television selections.

