

## 2023 STANDINGS

	CUSA LEAGUE PLAY						OVERALL						
	W-L	Pct.	H	A	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	H	A	N	Pts	Opp.
xy-No. 25 Liberty	7-0	1.000	4-0	3-0	263	146	9-0	1.000	5-0	4-0	0-0	352	197
Jax State*	5-1	.833	2-1	3-0	171	136	7-3	.700	4-1	3-2	0-0	285	207
New Mexico State	5-1	.833	3-0	2-1	146	101	7-3	.700	4-1	3-2	0-0	278	200
WKU	3-2	.600	1-1	2-1	133	113	5-4	.556	3-1	2-3	0-0	260	249
Louisiana Tech	2-4	.333	1-2	1-2	151	176	3-7	.300	2-3	1-4	0-0	267	303
UTEP	2-4	.333	0-3	2-1	108	138	3-7	.300	1-4	2-3	0-0	181	266
Middle Tennessee	1-4	.200	1-1	0-3	113	154	2-7	.222	2-2	0-5	0-0	197	278
FIU	1-5	.167	0-3	1-2	103	189	4-5	.444	2-3	2-2	0-0	187	257
Sam Houston*	0-5	.000	0-3	0-2	118	153	1-8	.111	1-4	0-4	0-0	152	239

x - clinched a spot in the 2023 CUSA Championship Game, y - will host the 2023 CUSA Championship Game

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

^ - Liberty ranks No. 25 in the *Associated Press* Top 25

### WEEK 10 RESULTS

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

South Carolina 38, Jax State 28  
 Sam Houston 24, Kennesaw State 21  
**New Mexico State 13, MTSU 7**  
**Liberty 56, LA Tech 30**  
**WKU 21, UTEP 13**

### UPCOMING GAMES (ALL TIMES CT)

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Old Dominion at No. 25 Liberty (ESPN+) 12 p.m.  
**Sam Houston at LA Tech (ESPN+) 2 p.m.**  
**FIU at MTSU (ESPN+) 2:30 p.m.**  
**New Mexico State at WKU (ESPN+) 2:30 p.m.**

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

UMass at No. 25 Liberty (ESPN+) 12 p.m.  
**LA Tech at Jax State (ESPN+) 1 p.m.**  
**UTEP at MTSU (ESPN+) 1 p.m.**  
**Sam Houston at WKU (ESPN+) 2:30 p.m.**  
 New Mexico State at Auburn (SEC Net) 3 p.m.  
 FIU at Arkansas (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**MTSU at Sam Houston (ESPN+) 11 a.m.**  
**WKU at FIU (ESPN+) 2 p.m.**  
**No. 25 Liberty at UTEP (CBSSN) 2:30 p.m.**  
**Jax State at New Mexico State (ESPN+) 3 p.m.**

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**CUSA Championship (CBSSN) 6 p.m.**  
**TBD at No. 25 Liberty**

#### 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 10)

#### OFFENSE

##### RB QUINTON COOLEY, LIBERTY

Junior, Bailey, North Carolina

Cooley led Liberty's rushing attack with a career-high 179 rushing yards on 23 carries (7.8 yards per carry) and a pair of touchdowns in the Flames' 56-30 win over LA Tech on Saturday. The Bailey, North Carolina, native has scored two or more rushing touchdowns in three of the last four game and this marked his sixth 100-yard rushing game of the season, which are the most 100-yard rushing games by a Liberty player in a single season since 2014. The junior is the driving force behind Liberty being ranked second in the country in rushing offense (283.3 yards per game). Cooley leads all running backs in CUSA in rushing yards (109.0 per game) and scoring (54 points/nine TDs) on the season.

#### DEFENSE

##### DB DA'MARCUS CROSBY, SAM HOUSTON

Junior, Houston, Texas

Crosby led the Bearkats' defense Saturday against Kennesaw State, helping the Kats get their first win as an FBS program. The Sam Houston defensive back led the team with 10 total tackles, his second consecutive 10-stop game, but his biggest play came when he picked off an Owl pass with 2:59 to play in the game at the Bearkats' 46-yard line. It would be the final offensive play of the game for Kennesaw State as the Kats went down the field and kicked a walk-off, 35-yard field goal as time expired for the win. Crosby's performance led the Kats' defensive effort that was outstanding in the second half, holding KSU to only 56 yards, 2 first downs and only 16 total plays, and marked Sam Houston's third second-half shutout of the year.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

##### K COLBY SESSUMS, SAM HOUSTON

Redshirt Sophomore, Haslet, Texas

Sessums nailed a 35-yard field goal as time expired to give the Bearkats a 24-21 win over Kennesaw State on Saturday, the Kats' first-ever win as an FBS program. The Haslet, Texas, native was also 3-3 on PATs, and he is now 17-for-17 on the year. Sessums is now 7-10 on field goals this season, including a perfect 5-5 on tries between 30-39 yards.



## QUICK HITTERS

### CUSA'S FOUR NEW MEMBERS

Conference USA entered 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 11

Seven Conference USA teams are in action again in Week 11, though only six are set to play in league contests, while No. 25 Liberty continues its non-conference schedules.

No. 25 Liberty (9-0) hosts Old Dominion (4-5) at 12 p.m. CT on **ESPN+**, as the Flames look to remain unbeaten in their quest for the New Years Six spot from the College Football Playoff. The Flames, one of just seven undefeated teams remaining in the FBS, dominated LA Tech at home last week with a 56-30 win, while Old Dominion fell narrowly at home, 28-24, to Coastal Carolina. Liberty clinched hosting duties last week for the 2023 CUSA Championship Game.

Sam Houston (1-8, 0-5 CUSA) travels to Ruston, Louisiana, to take on LA Tech (3-7, 2-4 CUSA) at 2 p.m. CT on **ESPN+**. The Bearkats picked up their first win as an FBS program last week at home, 24-21 over Kennesaw State, while LA Tech was defeated on the road at unbeaten Liberty, 56-30.

New Mexico State (7-3, 5-1 CUSA) is set to travel to Bowling Green, Kentucky, to battle WKU (5-4, 3-2 CUSA) in a massive game at 2:30 p.m. CT on **ESPN+**. The Aggies, who knocked off MTSU 13-7 last week, can clinch a spot in the CUSA Championship Game with a win on Saturday. WKU can't clinch a spot on Saturday, but a win puts them firmly in the driver's seat to do so. The Hilltoppers held on to beat UTEP in El Paso last week, 21-13.

The final CUSA tilt of the day also kicks off at 2:30 p.m. CT on **ESPN+**, in Murfreesboro, as MTSU (2-7, 1-3 CUSA) welcomes FIU (4-5, 1-5 CUSA) to Floyd Stadium. The Blue Raiders fell 13-7 on the road at New Mexico State last week, while FIU was idle. The Panthers fell 41-16 at home against Jax State back on Oct. 25, in their last game.

### 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

### LIBERTY ONE OF SEVEN UNBEATEN

AP No. 25 Liberty (9-0, 7-0 CUSA) is one of just seven unbeaten teams remaining in the FBS. The Flames, under first-year head coach **Jamey Chadwell**, are

atop the Conference USA standings, will host the 2023 CUSA Championship Game and are in contention for the Peer Conference spot in the New Year's Six. Other undefeated teams are: No. 1 Georgia (9-0), No. 2 Michigan (9-0), No. 3 Ohio State (9-0), No. 4 Florida State (9-0), No. 5 Washington (9-0), and No. 21 James Madison (9-0). Note: All rankings are from the AP top 25.

### SENSATIONAL SALTER

Liberty **QB Kaidon Salter** has had a tremendous start to his 2023 season for the 9-0 and AP No. 25 Flames. The sophomore has completed 114-192 passes for 1,959 yards with 23 touchdowns and three interceptions, while also carrying 104 times for 664 yards and seven more touchdowns.

He completed 16-25 passes for 297 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions to go along with six carries for 60 yards in a 56-30 league win over LA Tech last week.

Through Week 10 of the season, Salter leads the nation in passing yards per completion (17.18), ranks third in passing efficiency (181.5), ranks fourth in points responsible for per game (20.0), fourth in total points responsible for (180), fourth in yards per pass attempt (10.20), fourth among QBs in rushing yardage (664), sixth in passing touchdowns (23), tied for eighth among QBs in rushing TDs (7), 14th in yards per carry (6.38), which is second among QBs in the country and 20th in total offense per game (291.4).

### REED ALL ABOUT IT!

Through nine games in 2023, WKU **QB Austin Reed** has completed 215-358 passes for 2,398 yards with 21 touchdowns and six interceptions, while also carrying 33 times for 93 yards and three additional scores.

He was 11-20 for 102 yards with a touchdown and one interception in the Hilltoppers' win at UTEP last week.

Reed enters Week 11 tied for 10th nationally in passing touchdowns (21), ranked 14th in completions per game (23.89), 16th in points responsible for (146), 18th in points responsible for per game (16.2), 26th in passing yards (2,398) and 31st in passing yards per game (266.4).

### PROLIFIC PAVIA

Entering Week 11, New Mexico State **QB Diego Pavia** has been electric for the 7-3 Aggies. Pavia is 143-239 for 2,116 yards with 17 passing touchdowns and six interceptions. He has also carried 116 times for 661 yards and five more rushing scores.

He was 16-31 for 220 yards and carried 15 times for 67 yards in a win over MTSU last week.

Pavia through 10 games ranks ninth in FBS in passing yards per completion (14.80), 21st in yards per pass attempt (8.85), 27th in points responsible for (132), 30th in passing touchdowns (17), 30th in passing efficiency (152.7). Among QBs, Pavia is fifth in rushing yardage (661), third in yards per carry (5.63).

### TACKLING MACHINES

Through Week 10 of the season, CUSA boasts three of the top-15 and four in the top-30 in the country in tackles per game.

6. Tyrice Knight, LB, UTEP	11.6
7. Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	11.1
15. Donovan Manuel, LB, FIU	10.0
27. Tyren Dupree, LB, Liberty	9.1

### WHY THE RUSH?

Liberty enters Week 11 ranking second in the country in rushing offense, averaging 283.3 yards per game, trailing just Air Force for the national lead.

Jax State is tied for seventh in FBS at 218.0 yards per game and New Mexico State is 15th at 202.9 yards per game.

### HOT TAKE(AWAYS)

Liberty enters Week 11 as the national leader in interceptions, as the Flames have a total of 16 through its first nine games of the season. Liberty's 19 turnovers forced is also fifth-best in the nation.

WKU is tied for fifth in the nation in takeaways with 18 (and also ranks 20th nationally with 10 interceptions), while Jax State is tied with WKU for fifth nationally with 18 turnovers gained (and ranks seventh nationally in interceptions with 12).

### ON THE (TURNOVER) MARGINS

Entering Week 11 Liberty is +1.00 in turnover margin, which is tied for sixth nationally, while WKU is tied for 10th at +0.89 per game. Jax State's +0.60 turnover margin ranks 24th. The Hilltoppers are +8 for the season, while Liberty is +9 and Jax State is +6.

### RECOVERY IS KEY

WKU is fifth in the nation in fumble recoveries entering Week 11, with nine. Jax State ranks 21st nationally with seven.

### 9-0 LIBERTY WILL HOST CUSA TITLE GAME

Liberty (9-0, 7-0 CUSA) clinched hosting duties for the 2023 CUSA Championship Game with its 56-30 win at home Saturday night over LA Tech (3-7, 2-4 CUSA). The Flames also sealed their first 9-0 start in program history and are one of just seven undefeated teams at the FBS level. **QB Kaidon Salter** was scintillating yet again, completing 16-25 passes for 297 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions, to go along with 50 yards rushing on six carries (8.3 yards per carry). **RB Quinton Cooley** posted his fifth straight 100-yard performance for the Flames, carrying 23 times for 179 yards and two scores in the win. Defensively, **LB Tyren Dupree** had 12 total tackles, a tackle for loss and a pass breakup in the victory.

### NM STATE SECURES BOWL ELIGIBILITY

New Mexico State (7-3, 5-1 CUSA) held on to defeat MTSU (2-7, 1-4 CUSA) Saturday night in Las Cruces to secure bowl eligibility. The Aggies are now set to go bowling in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1959 and 1960. It also marked the first time the Aggies have won five consecutive conference games in program history. **QB Diego Pavia** was 16-31 for 220 yards and 15 carries for 67 yards in the win. **S Jordan Vincent** led the Aggies with 10 tackles. NM State



## QUICK HITTERS

inched closer to a spot in the CUSA Championship Game with its win, and has an opportunity to clinch a spot with a win at WKU next week.

### WKU STAYS IN RACE FOR TITLE GAME SPOT

WKU (5-4, 3-2 CUSA) defeated UTEP (3-7, 2-4 CUSA) 21-13 on Saturday night in El Paso to remain in contention for a spot in the CUSA Championship Game. The Hilltoppers were shut out in the first half, but scored 21 second half points to knock off the Miners and move within one game of bowl eligibility for the fifth straight season. **RB Elijah Young** was key for the Hilltoppers, carrying 12 times for 139 and two touchdowns in the win. Defensively, WKU was led by **DB Takulve Williams**, who recorded a team-high 12 tackles and one tackle for loss, **LB Desmyn Baker**, who had nine stops and 1.5 tackles for loss and **LB Sebastian Benjamin**, who recorded 1.5 sacks in the victory.

### SAM HOUSTON PICKS UP FIRST FBS WIN

Sam Houston (1-8) came from 14 down at home to pick up its first-ever win as an FBS program, beating future conference-mate Kennesaw State (2-6) 24-21, thanks to a game-winning 35-yard field goal by **Colby Sessums** as time expired. **QB Keegan Shoemaker** finished 30-38 for 242 yards with three touchdowns and one interception, while **WR Noah Smith** caught seven passes for 78 yards and a touchdown, and also added 13 yards on the ground in the win. Defensively, **LB DaMarcus Crosby** led the Bearkats in tackles with 10, and also had a key fourth quarter interception that helped set up the game-winning field goal. Kennesaw State is set to join Conference USA on July 1, 2024 and become the league's 10th member.

### JAX STATE FALLS SHORT AT SOUTH CAROLINA

Jax State (7-3) was marching in the red zone inside the final two minutes with a chance to take a late lead at SEC foe South Carolina (3-6), however a late pick-six doomed the Gamecocks from Jacksonville, Alabama, as they ultimately fell 38-28. **WR Perry Carter** caught five passes for 106 yards and a touchdown, while **QB Zion Webb** finished 12-23 for 183 yards with two scores and an interception, in addition to 65 yards rushing on 16 carries. Defensively, **DL Chris Hardie** recorded four tackles, two sacks and a quarterback hurry.

### WEEKDAY CUSA WAS ENTHRALLING

In Conference USA's first season with a midweek October schedule on national television, 14 of the 19 games played in this window were decided by two scores or less, while nine of those were one-score games, including a pair in overtime.

### NCAA LEADERS (TEAM)

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

**3rd Down Conversion Percentage**  
Liberty 50.0% 9th

**3rd Down Conversion Percentage (Defense)**  
Jax State 31.7% 19th

**4th Down Conversion Percentage**  
New Mexico State 71.4% T-13th  
Liberty 66.7% T-21st

**4th Down Conversion Percentage (Defense)**  
Liberty 36.4% T-21st

### Blocked Kicks

New Mexico State 2 T-13th  
UTEP 2 T-13th

### Completion Percentage

MTSU 67.1% 18th

### Defensive TDs

WKU 2 14th

### Fewest Penalties

WKU 43 19th  
Sam Houston 46 T-29th

### Fewest Penalties Per Game

WKU 4.78 19th  
Jax State 4.90 26th  
Sam Houston 5.11 T-30th

### Fewest Penalty Yards

WKU 357 15th

### Fewest Penalty Yards Per Game

WKU 39.67 15th  
Jax State 42.00 24th

### First Downs (Offense)

Liberty 225 T-9th  
Jax State 212 20th  
LA Tech 205 T-28th

### Fumbles Lost

New Mexico State 3 T-20th  
Sam Houston 3 T-20th  
UTEP 3 T-20th

### Fumbles Recovered

WKU 9 T-5th  
Jax State 7 T-21st

### Kickoff Return Defense (yards per return)

LA Tech 11.67 2nd  
Liberty 14.93 11th  
WKU 15.80 14th  
UTEP 16.42 23rd

### Kickoff Returns

UTEP 23.00 T-30th

### Punting

Jax State 40.62 30th

### Passes Had Intercepted

Liberty 3 T-6th

### Passes Intercepted

Liberty 16 1st  
Jax State 12 T-7th  
WKU 10 T-22nd

### Passing Yards Allowed (per game)

LA Tech 184.9 22nd  
Sam Houston 187.9 23rd  
UTEP 194.6 26th

### Passing Yards Per Completion

Liberty 17.18 2nd  
New Mexico State 15.07 7th  
UTEP 14.48 11th

### Punt Return Defense (yards per attempt)

FIU 1.00 8th  
Liberty 2.20 11th  
New Mexico State 3.67 21st  
Jax State 3.91 T-25th

### Punt Returns (yards per attempt)

MTSU 12.38 24th  
FIU 12.30 25th

### Red Zone Defense

New Mexico State 73.0% 14th

### Red Zone Offense

WKU 96.4% T-4th  
LA Tech 91.4% T-23rd  
Sam Houston 90.9% 27th

### Rushing Defense (yards per game)

Jax State 112.8 23rd  
Liberty 113.7 25th

### Rushing Offense (yards per game)

Liberty 283.3 2nd  
Jax State 218.0 T-7th  
New Mexico State 202.9 15th

### Sacks Allowed (per game)

WKU 0.67 T-3rd  
Liberty 0.89 T-6th  
Jax State 1.33 25th

### Scoring Defense (points per game)

New Mexico State 20.0 30th

### Scoring Offense (points per game)

Liberty 39.1 T-12th

### Tackles for Loss Allowed (per game)

Liberty 2.89 1st  
New Mexico State 4.00 T-10th  
WKU 4.00 T-10th

### Team Passing Efficiency

Liberty 178.70 5th  
New Mexico State 154.03 27th

### Team Sacks (per game)

Jax State 3.30 12th

### Team Tackles for Loss (per game)

Jax State 7.7 T-9th

### Time of Possession

Liberty 34:03 2nd  
UTEP 32:10 18th

### Total Offense (yards per game)

Liberty 501.0 5th

### Turnover Margin

Liberty +1.00 T-6th  
WKU +0.89 T-10th  
Jax State +0.60 24th

### Turnovers Gained

Jax State 19 T-5th  
Liberty 19 T-5th  
WKU 19 T-5th

### Turnovers Lost

New Mexico State 9 T-25th

### NCAA LEADERS (INDIVIDUAL)

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

**Completion Percentage**  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 66.8% 21st

**Completions Per Game**  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 24.56 11th  
Austin Reed, WKU 23.89 14th

**Field Goal Percentage**  
Lucas Carneiro, WKU 88.9% 18th



## QUICK HITTERS

<b>Forced Fumbles (per game)</b>		
Donovan Manuel, FIU	0.44	T-3rd
Kendrick Simpkins, WKU	0.38	T-6th
Fred Perry, Jax State	0.30	T-23rd
Kobe Hylton, UTEP	0.25	T-28th
<b>Fumbles Recovered</b>		
Jeff Marks, Jax State	2	T-8th
J-Rock Swain, Jax State	2	T-8th
Jevon Leon, Sam Houston	2	T-8th
JaQues Evans, WKU	2	T-8th
<b>Interceptions</b>		
Bryan Green, Liberty	5	T-2nd
Kobe Singleton, Liberty	4	T-8th
CJ Christian, FIU	3	T-25th
Kekoura Tarnue, Jax State	3	T-25th
Tra Fluellen, MTSU	3	T-25th
Da'Marcus Crosby, Sam Houston	3	T-25th
<b>Passes Defended (per game)</b>		
Willie Roberts, LA Tech	1.2	22nd
<b>Passing Efficiency</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	181.5	3rd
Diego Pavia, NM State	152.7	30th
<b>Passing TDs</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	23	T-6th
Austin Reed, WKU	21	T-10th
Diego Pavia, NM State	17	T-30th
<b>Passing Yards</b>		
Austin Reed, WKU	2,398	25th
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU	2,334	29th
<b>Passing Yards Per Completion</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	17.18	1st
Diego Pavia, NM State	14.80	9th
Keyone Jenkins, FIU	13.50	25th
<b>Points Responsible For</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	180	4th
Austin Reed, WKU	146	16th
Diego Pavia, NM State	132	27th
<b>Points Responsible For Per Game</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	20.0	4th
Austin Reed, WKU	16.2	18th
<b>Punt Return TDs</b>		
Smoke Harris, LA Tech	1	T-2nd
<b>Punt Returns (per return)</b>		
Smoke Harris, LA Tech	8.7	26th
<b>Punting</b>		
Blake Ochsendorf, LA Tech	45.3	17th
<b>Receiving TDs</b>		
Malachi Corley, WKU	8	14th
<b>Receiving Yards</b>		
Kris Mitchell, FIU	820	15th
Kelly Akharaiyi, UTEP	786	19th
<b>Receiving Yards (per game)</b>		
Kris Mitchell, FIU	91.1	15th
<b>Receptions Per Game</b>		
Smoke Harris, LA Tech	6.7	13th
Malachi Corley, WKU	6.6	17th
<b>Rushing Yards Per Carry</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	6.38	14th
Quinton Cooley, Liberty	6.06	28th
<b>Rushing TDs</b>		
Quinton Cooley, Liberty	9	19th

<b>Rushing Yards</b>		
Quinton Cooley, Liberty	981	10th
<b>Rushing Yards Per Game</b>		
Quinton Cooley, Liberty	109.0	9th
<b>Solo Tackles (per game)</b>		
Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	7.2	1st
Tyrice Knight, UTEP	7.1	2nd
Tyren Dupree, Liberty	5.2	T-17th
Donovan Manuel, FIU	5.2	T-17th
<b>Tackles For Loss (per game)</b>		
Donovan Manuel, FIU	1.4	T-11th
<b>Total Offense (per game)</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	291.4	20th
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU	288.6	21st
<b>Total Tackles (per game)</b>		
Tyrice Knight, UTEP	11.6	6th
Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	11.1	7th
Donovan Manuel, FIU	10.0	15th
Tyren Dupree, Liberty	9.1	27th
<b>Yards Per Pass Attempt</b>		
Kaidon Salter, Liberty	10.20	4th
Diego Pavia, NM State	8.85	21st
<b>Yards Per Reception</b>		
Treon Sibley, Liberty	22.58	4th
CJ Daniels, Liberty	21.83	6th
Kelly Akharaiyi, UTEP	21.24	8th

10	Ole Miss	8-1	SEC	11
11	Louisville	8-1	ACC	15
12	Oregon State	7-2	P12	16
13	Utah	7-2	P12	18
14	Tennessee	7-2	SEC	19
15	Oklahoma State	7-2	B12	NR
16	Missouri	7-2	SEC	14
17	Oklahoma	7-2	B12	10
18	LSU	6-3	SEC	13
19	Kansas	7-2	B12	22
20	Tulane	8-1	AAC	21
21	James Madison	9-0	SUNBELT	23
22	Notre Dame	7-3	FBS IND.	12
23	Arizona	6-3	P12	NR
24	North Carolina	7-2	ACC	NR
<b>25</b>	<b>Liberty</b>	<b>9-0</b>	<b>CUSA</b>	<b>NR</b>

**Others Receiving Votes:** Fresno State 73, Kansas State 73, USC 46, Air Force 26, Toledo 25, UCLA 11, Iowa 6, SMU 5, Duke 4, West Virginia 3, Texas A&M 1, NC State 1, Clemson 1.

## 2023 CUSA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

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

### 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
- O9 - WR Malachi Corley, WKU
- O16 - QB Diego Pavia, New Mexico State
- O23 - QB Zion Webb, Jax State
- O30 - QB Kaidon Salter, Liberty
- N6 - RB Quinton Cooley, Liberty

### Defensive Player of the Week

- A28 - S Jeremiah Harris, Jax State
- S4 - LB JaQues Evans, WKU
- S11 - LB Tyrice Knight, UTEP
- S18 - LB Sam Brumfield, MTSU
- S25 - DL Chris Hardie, Jax State
- O2 - LB Bryson Washington, WKU
- O9 - DL Chris Hardie, Jax State
- O16 - DL Maurice Westmoreland, UTEP
- O23 - LB Reggie Peterson, FIU
- O30 - DL J-Rock Swain, Jax State
- N6 - DB Da'Marcus Crosby, Sam Houston

### 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
- O9 - P Max Morgan, Liberty
- O16 - P Joshua Sloan, UTEP
- O23 - K Alen Karajic, Jax State
- O30 - K Buzz Flabiano, UTEP
- N6 - K Colby Sessums, Sam Houston

## 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

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RANKINGS (AS OF TUESDAY, 10/31/23)

Rk	Team	Rec.	Conf.	LW
1	Ohio State	9-0	B10	-
2	Georgia	9-0	SEC	-
3	Michigan	9-0	B10	-
4	Florida State	9-0	ACC	-
5	Washington	9-0	P12	-
6	Oregon	8-1	P12	-
7	Texas	8-1	B12	-
8	Alabama	8-1	SEC	-
9	Oklahoma	7-2	B12	-
10	Ole Miss	8-1	SEC	-
11	Penn State	8-1	B10	-
12	Missouri	7-2	SEC	-
13	Louisville	8-1	ACC	-
14	LSU	6-3	SEC	-
15	Notre Dame	7-3	FBS IND.	-
16	Oregon State	7-2	P12	-
17	Tennessee	7-2	SEC	-
18	Utah	7-2	P12	-
19	UCLA	6-3	P12	-
20	USC	7-3	P12	-
21	Kansas	7-2	B12	-
22	Oklahoma State	7-2	B12	-
23	Kansas State	6-3	B12	-
24	Tulane	8-1	AAC	-
25	Air Force	8-1	MWC	-

## AP TOP 25

Rk	Team	Rec.	Conf.	LW
1	Georgia (49)	9-0	SEC	1
2	Michigan (9)	9-0	B10	2
3	Ohio State (3)	9-0	B10	3
4	Florida State (2)	9-0	ACC	4
5	Washington	9-0	P12	5
6	Oregon	8-1	P12	8
7	Texas	8-1	B12	7
8	Alabama	8-1	SEC	8
9	Penn State	8-1	B10	9



## QUICK HITTERS/BROADCAST INFORMATION

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)

### WATCH THIS!

2023 National watch lists 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)

Kris Mitchell, WR, Jr., FIU  
Kelly Akharaiyi, WR RS Jr., UTEP  
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

#### 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)

Kaidon Salter, QB, So., Liberty  
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 Jr., 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  
JaQués 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)

Kaidon Salter, QB, So., Liberty  
Austin Reed, QB, RS Sr., WKU

#### Maxwell Award (Nation's Most Outstanding Player)

Diego Pavia, QB, Sr., New Mexico State  
Kaidon Salter, QB, So., Liberty  
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)

Jeramy 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  
JaQués 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  
FIU 33, Sam Houston 27 (2OT) - 10/18/2023

#### Overtime Records 1996-2023

Teams	All Games	CUSA Games
FIU	8-6	3-2
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%	3-9	0-2
UTEP	6-3	5-3
WKU&	13-5	4-2

\* - all but one game as an FCS program

% - all but two games 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 television 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)





# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (November 6, 2023)

Contact: Jordan Stepp | jstepp@conferenceusa.com | 805.551.8648

## BROADCAST/CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

### 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, ESPNplus.com or on the ESPN App (mobile and connected devices).



### 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.

Liberty has already clinched a spot in the 2023 CUSA Championship Game, and can clinch hosting duty with a win on Nov. 4 against LA Tech, or a loss by New Mexico State to Middle Tennessee.

### 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.



**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**

(Charlotte, North Carolina) - due to ongoing renovations at Thomas A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas.

[www.bahamasbowl.com](http://www.bahamasbowl.com)

**R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl**

(New Orleans, Louisiana)

[www.neworleansbowl.org](http://www.neworleansbowl.org)

**Guaranteed selections selected seasons:****Easypost Hawai'i Bowl**

(Honolulu, Hawai'i) - 2024

[www.thehawaiibowl.com](http://www.thehawaiibowl.com)

**Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl**

(Shreveport, Louisiana) - 2025

[www.radiance technologies independence bowl.com](http://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](http://www.armedforcesbowl.com)

**TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl**

(Birmingham, Alabama)

[ticketsmarterbirminghambowl.com](http://ticketsmarterbirminghambowl.com)

**Roofclaim.com Boca Raton Bowl**

(Boca Raton, Florida)

[thebocaratonbowl.com](http://thebocaratonbowl.com)

**Camellia Bowl**

(Montgomery, Alabama)

[camelliabowl.com](http://camelliabowl.com)

**Cure Bowl**

(Orlando, Florida)

[curebowl.com](http://curebowl.com)

**Wasabi Fenway Bowl**

(Boston, Massachusetts)

[mlb.com/redsox/fenway-bowl](http://mlb.com/redsox/fenway-bowl)

**SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**

(Dallas, Texas)

[firstresponderbowl.com](http://firstresponderbowl.com)

**Scooter Coffee Frisco Bowl**

(Frisco, Texas)

[thefriscobowl.com](http://thefriscobowl.com)

**Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl**

(Tampa, Florida)

[gasparillabowl.com](http://gasparillabowl.com)

**68 Ventures Bowl**

(Mobile, Alabama)

[68venturesbowl.com](http://68venturesbowl.com)

**Myrtle Beach Bowl**

(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

[myrtlebeachbowlgame.com](http://myrtlebeachbowlgame.com)

**Isleta New Mexico Bowl**

(Albuquerque, New Mexico)

[newmexicobowl.com](http://newmexicobowl.com)

There is no set selection order among CUSA'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.





# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (November 6, 2023)

Contact: Jordan Stepp | jstepp@conferenceusa.com | 805.551.8648

## 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	@BearthatsFB
UTEP	@UTEPFB
WKU	@WKUFootball

### WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCES

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

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

### CUSA FOOTBALL SID CONTACTS

Here is the information for each CUSA football SID:

Conference USA League Office: Jordan Stepp  
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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  
 E-Mail: ..... twetmore@liberty.edu  
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 Cell Phone: ..... (913) 689-8407  
 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  
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 Cell Phone: ..... (915) 525-8627  
 E-Mail: ..... micnav@nmsu.edu  
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Sam Houston Ben Rikard  
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 Cell Phone: ..... (936) 554-2077  
 E-Mail: ..... ben.rikard@shsu.edu  
 Secondary E-Mail: ..... cstark@shsu.edu

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

WKU Jared MacDonald  
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 E-Mail: ..... jared.macdonald@wku.edu  
 Secondary E-Mail: ..... jack.todd@wku.edu  
 Tertiary E-Mail: ..... scott.swegan@wku.edu



## TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

### FIU (4-5, 1-5 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)	L, 34-17
O11 (Wed.)	UTEP (ESPN2)	L, 27-14
O18 (Wed.)	at Sam Houston (CBSSN)	W, 33-27 (2OT)
O25 (Wed.)	JAX STATE (CBSSN)	L, 41-16
N11	at MTSU (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.
N18	at Arkansas (ESPN)	6:30 p.m.
N25	WKU (ESPN Platforms)	2 p.m.

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

### JACKSONVILLE STATE (7-3, 5-1 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)	W, 45-30
O10 (Tues.)	LIBERTY (ESPNU)	L, 31-13
O17 (Tues.)	WKU (ESPNU)	W, 20-17
O25 (Wed.)	at FIU (CBSSN)	W, 41-16
N4	at South Carolina (ESPNU)	L, 38-28
N18	LA TECH (ESPN+)	1 p.m.
N25	at New Mexico State (ESPN+)	3 p.m.

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

### LOUISIANA TECH (3-7, 2-4 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 (ESPN)	L, 35-28
O10 (Tues.)	at MTSU (CBSSN)	L, 31-23
O24 (Tues.)	NEW MEXICO STATE (CBSSN)	L, 27-24
N4	at Liberty (CBSSN)	L, 56-30
N11	SAM HOUSTON (ESPN+)	2 p.m.
N18	at Jax State (ESPN+)	1 p.m.

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

### NO. 25 LIBERTY (9-0, 7-0 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)	W, 21-16
O10 (Tues.)	at Jax State (ESPNU)	W, 31-13
O17 (Tues.)	MTSU (CBSSN)	W, 42-35
O24 (Tues.)	at WKU (ESPNU)	W, 42-29
N4	LA TECH (CBSSN)	W, 56-30
N11	OLD DOMINION (ESPN+)	12 p.m.
N18	UMASS (ESPN+)	12 p.m.
N25	at UTEP (CBSSN)	2:30 p.m.
D1	vs. TBD (CBSSN)*	6 p.m.

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

\*2023 CUSA Championship Game

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE (2-7, 1-4 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)	L, 45-30
O10 (Tues.)	LA TECH (CBSSN)	W, 31-23
O17 (Tues.)	at Liberty (CBSSN)	L, 42-35
N4	at New Mexico State (ESPN+)	L, 13-7
N11	FIU (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.
N18	UTEP (ESPN+)	1 p.m.
N25	at Sam Houston (ESPN+)	11 a.m.

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



## TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

### NEW MEXICO STATE (7-3, 5-1 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)	W, 34-17
O11 (Wed.)	SAM HOUSTON (CBSSN)	W, 27-13
O18 (Wed.)	at UTEP (ESPN2)	W, 28-7
O24 (Tues.)	at LA Tech (CBSSN)	W, 27-24
N4	MTSU (ESPN+)	5 p.m.
N11	at WKU (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.
N18	at Auburn (SEC Net)	3 p.m.
N25	JAX STATE (ESPN+)	3 p.m.

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

### SAM HOUSTON (1-8, 0-5 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)	L, 21-16
O11 (Wed.)	at New Mexico State (CBSSN)	L, 27-13
O18 (Wed.)	FIU (CBSSN)	L, 33-27 (2OT)
O25 (Wed.)	UTEP (ESPN2)	L, 37-34
N4	KENNESAW STATE (ESPN+)	W, 24-21
N11	at LA Tech (ESPN+)	2 p.m.
N18	at WKU (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.
N25	MTSU (ESPN+)	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 (3-7, 2-4 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)	W, 27-14
O18 (Wed.)	NEW MEXICO STATE (ESPN2)	L, 28-7
O25 (Wed.)	at Sam Houston (ESPN2)	W, 37-34
N4	WKU (ESPN+)	L, 21-13
N18	at MTSU (ESPN+)	1 p.m.
N25	No. 25 LIBERTY (CBSSN)	2:30 p.m.

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

### WKU (5-4, 3-2 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 (ESPN)	W, 35-28
O17 (Tues.)	at Jax State (ESPNU)	L, 20-17
O24 (Tues.)	LIBERTY (ESPNU)	W, 42-29
N4	at UTEP (ESPN+)	W, 21-13
N11	NEW MEXICO STATE (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.
N18	SAM HOUSTON (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.
N25	at FIU (ESPN+)	2 p.m.

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





# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (November 6, 2023)

Contact: Jordan Stepp | jstepp@conferenceusa.com | 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 45, MTSU 30**

New Mexico State 34, FIU 17

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Liberty 21, Sam Houston 16

WKU 35, LA Tech 28

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

MTSU 31, LA Tech 23

Liberty 31, Jax State 13

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

UTEP 27, FIU 14

New Mexico State 27, Sam Houston 13

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Liberty 42, MTSU 35

Jax State 20, WKU 17

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

FIU 33, Sam Houston 27 (2OT)

New Mexico State 28, UTEP 7

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

New Mexico State 27, LA Tech 24

Liberty 42, WKU 29

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Jax State 41, FIU 16

UTEP 37, Sam Houston 34

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

South Carolina 38, Jax State 28

Sam Houston 24, Kennesaw State 21

New Mexico State 13, MTSU 7

Liberty 56, LA Tech 30

WKU 21, UTEP 13

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Old Dominion at No. 25 Liberty (ESPN+) 12 p.m.

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

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

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

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

UMass at No. 25 Liberty (ESPN+) 12 p.m.

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

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

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

New Mexico State at Auburn (SEC Net) 3 p.m.

FIU at Arkansas (ESPNU) 6:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

MTSU at Sam Houston (ESPN+) 11 a.m.

WKU at FIU (ESPN+) 2 p.m.

**No. 25 Liberty at UTEP (CBSSN) 2:30 p.m.**

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

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**CUSA Championship (CBSSN)**

**6 p.m.**

**TBD at No. 25 Liberty**

**Conference games in bold.**

All times are listed in CT

All dates are subject to change based upon television selections.

