

## 2023 STANDINGS

	CUSA LEAGUE PLAY						OVERALL						
	W-L	Pct.	H	A	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pct.	H	A	N	Pts	Opp.
xy-No. 22 Liberty	7-0	1.000	4-0	3-0	263	146	11-0	1.000	7-0	4-0	0-0	439	232
x-New Mexico State	6-1	.857	3-0	3-1	184	130	9-3	.750	4-1	5-2	0-0	347	239
Jax State*	6-1	.857	3-1	3-0	227	153	8-3	.727	5-1	3-2	0-0	341	224
WKU	4-3	.571	2-2	2-1	190	174	6-5	.545	4-2	2-3	0-0	317	310
Middle Tennessee	3-4	.429	3-1	0-3	187	190	4-7	.364	4-2	0-5	0-0	271	314
UTEP	2-5	.286	0-3	2-2	138	138	3-8	.273	1-4	2-4	0-0	211	300
Louisiana Tech	2-6	.250	1-3	1-3	195	274	3-9	.250	2-4	1-5	0-0	311	401
FIU	1-6	.143	0-3	1-3	109	229	4-7	.364	2-3	2-4	0-0	213	341
Sam Houston*	1-6	.143	0-3	1-3	183	208	2-9	.182	1-4	1-5	0-0	217	294

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. 22 in the Associated Press Top 25 and US LBM Coaches Poll

### WEEK 12 RESULTS

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

No. 25 Liberty 49, UMass 25

Jax State 56, LA Tech 17

MTSU 34, UTEP 30

New Mexico State 31, Auburn 10

WKU 28, Sam Houston 23

Arkansas 44, FIU 20



#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

CUSA Championship (CBSSN)

New Mexico State at No. 22 Liberty

6 p.m.

Conference games in bold.

All times are listed in CT

All dates are subject to change based upon television selections.

### UPCOMING GAMES (ALL TIMES CT)

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

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

No. 22 Liberty at UTEP (CBSSN) 2:30 p.m.

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

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK, PRESENTED BY BLENDERS EYEWEAR (WEEK 12)

#### OFFENSE

##### QB DIEGO PAVIA, NEW MEXICO STATE

Junior, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Pavia led New Mexico State to arguably its best win in program history as he threw for 201 yards and three touchdowns in a 31-10 road victory over Auburn after entering the game as 26-point underdogs. Pavia helped lead an Aggie offense which became just the second team this season to score more than 30 points against Auburn. This also marks the ninth time this season that Pavia has thrown multiple touchdown passes. The win over the Tigers marked the Aggies first win over an SEC program in its long history. With the win, NM State became the first non-Power Five program to defeat Auburn in Jordan-Hare Stadium since 2007. With Saturday's performance, Pavia now ranks 18th in the nation in passing touchdowns (22), 12th in the nation in passing yards per completion (12) and 33rd in the nation in total offense per game (266.3).

#### DEFENSE

##### LB GABE PETERSON, NEW MEXICO STATE

Sophomore, Overland Park, Kansas

Peterson tied for the team lead in tackles with six in Saturday's historic win over Auburn. This included four solo tackles, two tackles for loss and one sack. Peterson led a defensive charge that limited the ninth-ranked rushing attack in the country to 65 yards on the ground and just 15 rushing yards in the second half. The output from the Auburn rushing attack marked just the second time in the last two seasons that the Tigers have been held to fewer than 100 rushing yards in a game and the 65-yard total is the fewest by an Auburn team since Nov. 27, 2021, when Alabama held them to 22 yards on the ground.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

##### DB KEKOURA TARNUE, JAX STATE

Junior, Monrovia, Liberia

Tarnue had the biggest special teams play of the day for the Gamecocks and set the tone for Jax State's blowout win over LA Tech on Saturday. With a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, Tarnue blocked a LA Tech punt, recovered it and scored from 21 yards out. It was Jax State's first blocked punt return for a score this season.



## 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 13

Eight Conference USA teams are in action again in Week 13, the final week of the regular season. All four games this week are league contests.

Middle Tennessee (4-7, 3-4 CUSA) travels to Huntsville, Texas, to battle Sam Houston (2-9, 1-6 CUSA) at 11 a.m. CT on **ESPN+** to kick the week of CUSA action off. MTSU is coming off a 34-30 win at home over UTEP last week, while Sam Houston was once again in a one-score game, but ultimately fell 28-23 on the road at WKU. The Bearkats have been involved in seven one-score games in 2023 (2-5 in such games).

WKU (6-5, 4-3 CUSA) makes the trip to Miami to take on FIU (4-7, 1-6 CUSA) at 2 p.m. CT on **ESPN+**. The Hilltoppers held on to beat Sam Houston at home, 28-23, to become bowl eligible for the 10th time in the past 12 seasons, while FIU fell 44-20 at Arkansas in Fayetteville.

No. 22 Liberty (11-0, 7-0 CUSA) is seeking an undefeated regular season when the Flames travel to El Paso to face UTEP (3-8, 2-5 CUSA) at 2:30 p.m. CT on **CBSN** at the Sun Bowl. Liberty was dominant yet again in its 49-25 win at home over UMass last week to close its non-conference schedule, while UTEP dropped a tight one in Murfreesboro, 34-30, to MTSU.

The final CUSA game of the 2023 regular season kicks off at 3 p.m. CT, as Jax State (8-3, 6-1 CUSA) travels to Las Cruces to take on New Mexico State (9-3, 6-1 CUSA) on **ESPN+**. Though Jax State is ineligible for the CUSA title game due to their transition from the FCS, the Gamecocks have been an incredible story in their first season in the league and at the FBS level. They dismantled LA Tech last week 56-17 at home while setting a new league single game rushing record (522 yards), while New Mexico State controlled play in an impressive 31-10 win at Auburn to win its ninth game of the season.

### 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 SIX UNBEATEN

AP and US LBM Coaches Poll No. 22 Liberty (11-0, 7-0 CUSA) is one of just six 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 (11-0), No. 2 Michigan (11-0), No. 3 Ohio State (11-0), No. 4 Florida State (11-0) and No. 5 Washington (11-0). Note: All rankings are from the AP top 25.

The Flames are the only 11-0 G5 regular season champion and have victories over 9-win New Mexico State, 8-win Jacksonville State, 6-win Bowling Green (who defeated Georgia Tech earlier this season) and 6-win Western Kentucky. All 11 Liberty wins are versus FBS competition and the Flames rank 15th nationally in ESPN's Strength of Record metric (College Football Power Index), which is first among G5 teams (Tulane is 18, James Madison is 21, SMU is 25, Toledo is 27 and Troy is 34).

### NM STATE NAMED CHEEZ-IT NATIONAL TEAM OF THE WEEK

The New Mexico State Aggies outgained Auburn by a near two-to-one margin while rushing for 213 yards in a 31-10 upset at Jordan-Hare Stadium, the Aggies' first win over a Southeastern Conference opponent in program history. The Aggies scored on all four trips to the red zone while preventing the Tigers from getting inside their own. The win earned the Cheez-It National Team of the Week for games the weekend of Nov. 18, as selected by the All-America Committee of the Football Writers Association of America. This is the first time the Aggies have earned this honor from the FWAA.

### SENSATIONAL SALTER

Liberty **QB Kaidon Salter** has had a tremendous start to his 2023 season for the 11-0 and AP and US LBM Coaches Poll No. 22 Flames. The Maxwell Award semifinalist has completed 138-230 passes for 2,409 yards with 28 touchdowns and five interceptions, while also carrying 128 times for 823 yards and 11 more touchdowns.

He completed 11-16 passes for 225 yards with two touchdowns and one interception to go along with 13 carries for 118 yards and two more scores in a 49-25 win over UMass last week.

Through Week 12 of the season, Salter leads the nation in passing yards per completion (17.46), ranks third in passing efficiency (183.8), ranks third in points responsible for per game (21.3), third in yards per pass attempt (10.47), third among QBs in rushing yardage (823), fourth in total points responsible for (234), sixth in passing touchdowns (28), tied for second among QBs (20th among all players) in rushing TDs (11), 12th in yards per carry (6.43), which is second among QBs in the country, behind only LSU's Jayden Daniels and 17th in total offense per game (293.8).

### PROLIFIC PAVIA

Entering Week 13, New Mexico State **QB Diego Pavia** has been electric for the 9-3 Aggies. Pavia is 176-291 for 2,458 yards with 22 passing touchdowns and six interceptions. He has also carried 134 times for 740 yards and five more rushing scores.

He was 19-28 for 201 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions and carried eight times for 35 yards in a win at Auburn last week.

Pavia through 12 games ranks 12th in FBS in passing

yards per completion (13.97), 18th in passing touchdowns (22), 20th in points responsible for (162) and 27th in yards per pass attempt (8.45). Among QBs, Pavia is tied for fifth in rushing yardage (740), third in yards per carry (5.51).

### REED ALL ABOUT IT!

Through 11 games in 2023, WKU **QB Austin Reed** has completed 263-435 passes for 3,060 yards with 27 touchdowns and 11 interceptions, while also carrying 41 times for 106 yards and four additional scores.

He was 28-41 for 392 yards with three touchdowns and four interceptions in the Hilltoppers' win at home over Sam Houston last week.

Reed enters Week 13 tied for seventh nationally in passing touchdowns (27), ranked ninth in points responsible for (190), 10th in points responsible for per game (17.3), 11th in completions per game (23.91), 16th in passing yards (3,060), 18th in passing yards per game (278.2) and 21st in total offense per game (287.8).

### TACKLING MACHINES

Through Week 12 of the season, CUSA boasts three of the top-16 and four in the top-21 in the country in tackles per game.

T-4. Tyrice Knight, LB, UTEP	11.4
T-6. Trevor Williams, Sam Houston	11.2
16. Donovan Manuel, LB, FIU	10.1
21. Tyren Dupree, LB, Liberty	9.4

### WHY THE RUSH?

Liberty enters Week 13 leading the nation in rushing offense, averaging 282.2 yards per game.

Jax State ranks third in FBS at 245.6 yards per game and New Mexico State is 11th at 206.2 yards per game.

### HOT TAKE(AWAYS)

Liberty enters Week 13 as the national leader in interceptions, as the Flames have a total of 19 through their first 11 games of the season. Liberty's 23 turnovers forced is also fourth-best in the nation.

WKU is tied for sixth in the nation in takeaways with 22 and 15th nationally in interceptions with 12, while Jax State is tied for 10th nationally with 21 turnovers gained (and ranks sixth nationally in interceptions with 14).

### ON THE (TURNOVER) MARGINS

Entering Week 13 Liberty is +0.91 in turnover margin, which is tied for seventh nationally, while Jax State's +0.64 turnover margin ranks 20th and WKU is tied for 24th at +0.45 per game. The Hilltoppers are +5 for the season, while Liberty is +10 and Jax State is +7.

### RECOVERY IS KEY

WKU is eighth in the nation in fumble recoveries entering Week 12, with 10.

### NO. 25 LIBERTY IMPROVES TO 11-0

AP No. 25 Liberty (11-0) was dominant yet again in a 49-25 win over UMass on Saturday to stay unbeaten. The Flames are off to their best start in program his-



## QUICK HITTERS

tory and are the only team in the country with wins over 11 FBS teams in 2023, and are one of just six undefeated teams remaining, after JMU's home loss to App State. The Flames pulled their starters at the beginning of the fourth quarter, on top 49-10. **QB Kaidon Salter** was again a difference-maker for the Flames, completing 11-16 passes for 225 yards with two touchdowns and also ran 13 times for 118 yards and two more scores in the win. **RB Quinton Cooley** had eight carries for 102 yards and a touchdown as well, as the nation's leading rushing team finished with 324 yards on the ground. **TE Austin Henderson** caught both of Salter's touchdown passes for Liberty. Defensively, the Flames, who lead the country in interceptions (now with 19), picked off a pair on Saturday, including a pick-six by **DB Preston Hodge**. **LB Tyren Dupree** led all tacklers with 14, a tackle for loss and a quarterback hurry in the win.

### NM STATE DOMINATES AUBURN, 31-10

New Mexico State (9-3) was dominant in a 31-10 win at Jordan Hare Stadium over Auburn (6-5), the program's first-ever win over an SEC opponent (previously 0-27). **QB Diego Pavia** finished 19-28 for 201 yards with three touchdowns, no interceptions and carried eight times for 35 more yards in the win. The Aggies outgained Auburn 414-213 in the victory. The Aggies ground game ran for 213 yards collectively, led by **RB Star Thomas**, who carried seven times for 67 yards and also had a 17-yard touchdown reception. Defensively, **LB Gabe Peterson** recorded six tackles, 2.0 tackles for loss and a sack. The Aggies, winners of seven straight, conclude their regular season next week at home against CUSA newcomer Jax State (8-3, 6-1 CUSA) at 3 p.m. CT in Las Cruces. The win marked New Mexico State's first against a P5 opponent since 2011 (at Minnesota), and it was the first by a CUSA team in 2023.

### JAX STATE RUNS OVER LA TECH, SETS NEW CUSA SINGLE GAME RUSHING RECORD

Jax State (8-3, 6-1 CUSA) set a new CUSA single game team rushing record with 522 yards in a 56-17 win at home over LA Tech on Saturday afternoon. **RB Malik Jackson** carried nine times for 193 yards and two touchdowns, while **QB Zion Webb** carried 10 times for 122 yards with three scores and **RB Anwar Lewis** finished with 14 carries for 122 yards and a touchdown in the win. The Gamecocks defense intercepted a pair of passes in the win, giving them 14 on the season.

### WKU BOWL ELIGIBLE WITH 28-23 WIN OVER SAM HOUSTON

WKU (6-5, 4-3 CUSA) became bowl eligible for the 10th time in the past 12 seasons with a 28-23 win over Sam Houston (2-9, 1-6 CUSA) at home on Saturday afternoon. **WR Malachi Corley** caught 10 passes for 171 yards and a touchdown, while **WR Dalvin Smith** hauled in seven catches for 125 yards and another touchdown. **QB Austin Reed** was up and down, but did enough to help lead the Hilltoppers to the win, completing 28-41 passes for 392 yards and three touchdowns, but also threw four interceptions. The WKU defense forced three Sam Houston turnovers on the Bearkats' last three fourth quarter possessions, including an interception by **DB Desmyn Baker** in the end zone to seal the win.

### MTSU HOLDS ON, BEATS UTEP 34-30

MTSU (4-7, 3-4 CUSA) knocked off UTEP (3-8, 2-5

CUSA) at home on Saturday afternoon. **QB Nicholas Vattiato** completed 18-35 passes for 242 yards with three touchdowns and also had 14 carries for 100 yards in the win. **WR Holden Willis** caught six passes for 105 yards and two touchdowns for the Blue Raiders. Defensively **S Parker Hughes** recorded seven tackles, 2.0 tackles for loss and a sack in the win.

### FIU FALLS AT ARKANSAS

FIU (4-7) held an early 13-7 lead at Arkansas (4-7), but ultimately fell 44-20 on Saturday night. FIU **WR Kris Mitchell** led the way for the Panthers with six catches for 157 yards and a touchdown and freshman **QB Keyone Jenkins** finished 21-36 for 265 yards with two touchdowns, two interceptions and a rushing score. Defensively, **LB Reggie Peterson** recorded a game-high 13 tackles and a sack, while **LB Donovan Manuel** had 12 stops and a tackle for loss.

### 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%	7th
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#### 3rd Down Conversion Percentage (Defense)

Jax State	30.1%	14th
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#### 4th Down Conversion Percentage

New Mexico State	75.0%	6th
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#### 4th Down Conversion Percentage (Defense)

Jax State	40.7%	29th
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#### Blocked Kicks

New Mexico State	2	T-22nd
UTEP	2	T-22nd

#### Completion Percentage

MTSU	66.2%	20th
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#### Defensive TDs

Liberty	2	T-22nd
WKU	2	T-22nd

#### Fewest Penalties

WKU	50	T-16th
Jax State	52	T-21st

#### Fewest Penalties Per Game

WKU	4.55	T-16th
Jax State	4.73	T-21st

#### Fewest Penalty Yards

WKU	417	11th
Jax State	455	22nd
Sam Houston	465	24th

#### Fewest Penalty Yards Per Game

WKU	37.91	11th
Jax State	41.36	21st
Sam Houston	42.27	23rd

#### First Downs (Offense)

Liberty	274	T-9th
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#### Fumbles Lost

New Mexico State	3	T-12th
Sam Houston	4	T-21st

#### Fumbles Recovered

WKU	10	T-8th
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#### Kickoff Return Defense (yards per return)

LA Tech	11.67	2nd
Liberty	15.38	12th
WKU	16.36	21st
UTEP	16.52	23rd
MTSU	16.66	24th

#### Kickoff Returns

UTEP	23.00	T-25th
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#### Punting

Jax State	40.62	27th
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#### Passes Had Intercepted

Liberty	5	T-11th
New Mexico State	6	T-21st

#### Passes Intercepted

Liberty	19	1st
Jax State	14	T-6th
WKU	12	T-14th

#### Passing Offense (yards per game)

WKU	283.8	22nd
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#### Passing Yards Allowed (per game)

LA Tech	185.3	18th
UTEP	198.9	28th

#### Passing Yards Per Completion

Liberty	17.46	2nd
UTEP	14.58	10th
New Mexico State	14.21	15th

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

FIU	1.00	5th
Liberty	3.43	17th
Jax State	4.62	28th

#### Punt Returns (yards per attempt)

FIU	12.30	22nd
UTEP	12.00	24th

#### Red Zone Defense

New Mexico State	73.2%	11th
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#### Red Zone Offense

WKU	93.9%	T-6th
LA Tech	89.7%	T-30th

#### Rushing Defense (yards per game)

Jax State	106.5	19th
Liberty	111.3	22nd

#### Rushing Offense (yards per game)

Liberty	282.2	1st
Jax State	245.6	3rd
New Mexico State	206.3	11th

#### Sacks Allowed (per game)

WKU	0.64	T-2nd
Liberty	0.73	T-4th
Jax State	1.18	T-15th

#### Scoring Offense (points per game)

Liberty	39.9	8th
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#### Tackles for Loss Allowed (per game)

Liberty	2.64	1st
WKU	3.82	T-8th
New Mexico State	3.92	T-14th

#### Team Passing Efficiency

Liberty	175.42	3rd
New Mexico State	153.41	27th



## QUICK HITTERS

### Team Passing Efficiency Defense

Liberty 120.39 3rd

### Team Sacks (per game)

Jax State 3.09 T-8th

### Team Tackles for Loss (per game)

Jax State 7.4 T-13th

### Time of Possession

Liberty 33:50 2nd  
UTEP 32:08 15th

### Total Offense (yards per game)

Liberty 501.2 5th

### Turnover Margin

Liberty +0.91 T-7th  
Jax State +0.64 T-21st  
WKU +0.45 T-24th

### Turnovers Gained

Liberty 23 T-4th  
WKU 22 T-6th  
Jax State 21 T-10th

### Turnovers Lost

New Mexico State 9 T-9th

## NCAA LEADERS (INDIVIDUAL)

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

### Blocked Kicks

Gabe Peterson, NM State 2 T-3rd  
Praise Amaewhule, UTEP 2 T-3rd

### Completion Percentage

Hank Bachmeier, LA Tech 67.7% 15th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 65.7% 28th

### Completions Per Game

Austin Reed, WKU 23.91 11th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 23.36 15th

### Forced Fumbles (per game)

Donovan Manuel, FIU 0.36 T-4th  
Kendrick Simpkins, WKU 0.30 T-11th  
Sam Brumfield, MTSU 0.27 T-14th

### Fumbles Recovered

Jeff Marks, Jax State 2 T-17th  
J-Rock Swain, Jax State 2 T-17th  
Jevon Leon, Sam Houston 2 T-17th  
Tyrice Knight, UTEP 2 T-17th  
JaQués Evans, WKU 2 T-17th

### Interceptions

Brylan Green, Liberty 5 T-2nd  
Kobe Singleton, Liberty 4 T-11th

### Kickoff Returns (per attempt)

Easton Messer, WKU 22.2 28th

### Passing Efficiency

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 183.8 3rd

### Passing TDs

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 28 T-6th  
Austin Reed, WKU 27 T-7th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 23 T-16th  
Diego Pavia, NM State 22 T-18th

### Passing Yards

Austin Reed, WKU 3,060 16th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 2,851 26th

### Passing Yards (per game)

Austin Reed, WKU 278.2 18th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 259.2 30th

### Passing Yards Per Completion

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 17.46 1st  
Diego Pavia, NM State 13.97 12th

### Points Responsible For

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 234 4th  
Austin Reed, WKU 190 9th  
Diego Pavia, NM State 162 20th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 156 27th

### Points Responsible For Per Game

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 21.3 3rd  
Austin Reed, WKU 17.3 10th  
Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 14.2 30th

### Punt Return TDs

Kekoura Tarnue, Jax State 1 T-2nd  
Smoke Harris, LA Tech 1 T-2nd  
Michael Richard, LA Tech 1 T-2nd  
Torrance Burgess, Jr., UTEP 1 T-2nd

### Punt Returns (per return)

Smoke Harris, LA Tech 8.4 24th

### Punting

Blake Ochsendorf, LA Tech 45.7 15th

### Receiving TDs

Malachi Corley, WKU 10 11th  
CJ Daniels, Liberty 8 24th

### Receiving Yards

Kris Mitchell, FIU 1,002 12th  
Kelly Akharaiyi, UTEP 924 24th  
Malachi Corley, WKU 906 27th

### Receiving Yards (per game)

Kris Mitchell, FIU 91.1 13th  
Malachi Corley, WKU 90.6 15th  
Kelly Akharaiyi, UTEP 84.0 25th

### Receptions Per Game

Smoke Harris, LA Tech 6.9 11th  
Malachi Corley, WKU 6.9 14th

### Rushing TDs

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 11 20th  
Quinton Cooley, Liberty 10 30th

### Rushing Yards Per Carry

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 6.43 12th  
Quinton Cooley, Liberty 6.18 20th

### Rushing Yards

Quinton Cooley, Liberty 1,168 9th

### Rushing Yards Per Game

Quinton Cooley, Liberty 106.2 11th

### Solo Tackles (per game)

Trevor Williams, Sam Houston 7.3 1st  
Tyrice Knight, UTEP 7.1 2nd  
Donovan Manuel, FIU 5.5 T-12th  
Tyren Dupree, Liberty 5.0 T-21st

### Tackles For Loss (per game)

Donovan Manuel, FIU 1.4 T-12th  
Tyrice Knight, UTEP 1.4 T-12th

### Total Offense (per game)

Nicholas Vattiato, MTSU 295.0 14th  
Kaidon Salter, Liberty 293.8 17th  
Austin Reed, WKU 287.8 21st

### Total Tackles (per game)

Tyrice Knight, UTEP 11.4 T-4th

Trevor Williams, Sam Houston 11.2 T-6th  
Donovan Manuel, FIU 10.1 16th  
Tyren Dupree, Liberty 9.4 21st

### Yards Per Pass Attempt

Kaidon Salter, Liberty 10.47 3rd  
Diego Pavia, NM State 8.45 27th

### Yards Per Reception

Treon Sibley, Liberty 22.58 4th  
CJ Daniels, Liberty 21.55 7th  
Kelly Akharaiyi, UTEP 21.49 8th  
Kyle Maxwell, LA Tech 18.15 26th  
Kris Mitchell, FIU 17.89 30th

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RANKINGS (AS OF TUESDAY, 11/14/23)

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

## AP TOP 25

Rk	Team	Rec.	Conf.	LW
1	Georgia (61)	11-0	SEC	1
2	Ohio State (1)	11-0	B10	3
3	Michigan	11-0	B10	2
4	Washington	11-0	P12	5
5	Florida State	11-0	ACC	4
6	Oregon	10-1	P12	6
7	Texas	10-1	B12	7
8	Alabama	10-1	SEC	8
9	Louisville	10-1	ACC	9
10	Missouri	9-2	SEC	11
11	Penn State	9-2	B10	12
12	Ole Miss	9-2	SEC	13
13	Oklahoma	9-2	B12	14
14	LSU	8-3	SEC	15
15	Oregon State	8-3	P12	10
16	Arizona	8-3	P12	19
17	Notre Dame	8-3	FBS IND.	20
18	Tulane	10-1	AAC	17
19	Kansas State	8-3	B12	23
20	Iowa	9-2	B10	NR
21	Oklahoma State	8-3	B12	24
22	Liberty	11-0	CUSA	25
23	Toledo	10-1	MAC	NR
24	James Madison	10-1	SUNBELT	18
25	Tennessee	7-4	SEC	21



## QUICK HITTERS/BROADCAST INFORMATION

**Others Receiving Votes:** Utah 69, NC State 66, UNLV 56, SMU 49, North Carolina 26, Clemson 20, Kansas 7, Fresno State 6, **New Mexico State 3**, UCLA 1, Miami (OH) 1, Texas A&M 1.

### US LBM COACHES POLL

Rk	Team	Rec.	Conf.	LW
1	Georgia (61)	11-0	SEC	1
2	Ohio State (1)	11-0	B10	3
3	Michigan (1)	11-0	B10	2
4	Florida State	11-0	ACC	4
5	Washington	11-0	P12	5
6	Oregon	10-1	P12	6
7	Texas	10-1	B12	7
8	Alabama	10-1	SEC	8
9	Louisville	10-1	ACC	9
10	Missouri	9-2	SEC	11
11	Penn State	9-2	B10	12
12	Ole Miss	9-2	SEC	14
13	Oklahoma	9-2	B12	13
14	LSU	8-3	SEC	15
15	Oregon State	8-3	P12	10
16	Arizona	8-3	P12	22
17	Notre Dame	8-3	FBS IND.	18
18	Tulane	10-1	AAC	17
19	Iowa	9-2	B10	23
20	Kansas State	8-3	B12	24
21	Oklahoma State	8-3	B12	25
<b>22</b>	<b>Liberty</b>	<b>11-0</b>	<b>CUSA</b>	<b>NR</b>
23	Tennessee	7-4	SEC	19
24	NC State	8-3	ACC	NR
25	SMU	9-2	AAC	NR

**Others Receiving Votes:** North Carolina 79, UNLV 76, Utah 75, Toledo 49, James Madison 48, Clemson 25, Troy 17, Texas A&M 6, UCLA 5, Kansas 4, Fresno State 3, West Virginia 2, UTSA 1, Air Force 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  
 N13 - QB Kaidon Salter, Liberty  
 N20 - QB Diego Pavia, New Mexico 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  
 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  
 N13 - LB Kavian Gaither, Sam Houston  
 N20 - LB Gabe Peterson, New Mexico State

#### 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  
 N13 - K Ethan Albertson, New Mexico State  
 N20 - DB Kekoura Tarnue, Jax State

### 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)

### WATCH THIS!

2023 National watch lists and semifinalist 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)

#### 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 Class of 2023 (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

#### Manning Award (Nation's Best QB)

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

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

Kaidon Salter, QB, So., Liberty

#### 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





# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (November 20, 2023)

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

## BROADCAST/CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

### 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  
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)

### 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, AP and US LBM Coaches Poll No. 22 Liberty will serve as host for the game in Lynchburg, Virginia.

The 2023 CUSA Championship Game will feature the top two finishers in the league's regular season - Liberty and New Mexico State. 12 different schools have hosted the first 19 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)





# FOOTBALL

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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:

##### **Famous Toastery 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

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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 AP and US LBM Coaches Poll No. 22 Liberty (Jamey Chadwell) and New Mexico State (Jerry Kill) ahead of 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 PRESSBOX.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	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:

Conference USA League Office: Jordan Stepp  
 Cell Phone: ..... (805) 551-8648  
 E-Mail: ..... jstepp@conferenceusa.com  
 Secondary E-Mail: ..... jyonis@conferenceusa.com

FIU Randy Press  
 Office Phone: ..... (305) 348-3164  
 Cell Phone: ..... (303) 908-0439  
 E-Mail: ..... rpress@fiu.edu

Jacksonville State Josh Underwood  
 Office Phone: ..... (256) 782-5915  
 Cell Phone: ..... (256) 453-0545  
 E-Mail: ..... underwood@jsu.edu

Liberty Todd Wetmore  
 Office Phone: ..... (434) 582-2293  
 Cell Phone: ..... (434) 841-8974  
 E-Mail: ..... twetmore@liberty.edu  
 Secondary E-Mail: ..... rbomberger@liberty.edu

Louisiana Tech Hunter Corneliusen  
 Office Phone: ..... (318) 257-5071  
 Cell Phone: ..... (913) 689-8407  
 E-Mail: ..... hunter@latech.edu

Middle Tennessee Mark Owens  
 Office Phone: ..... (615) 898-2450  
 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 Ben Rikard  
 Office Phone: ..... (936) 294-1764  
 Cell Phone: ..... (936) 554-2077  
 E-Mail: ..... ben.rikard@shsu.edu  
 Secondary 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  
 Office Phone: ..... (270) 745-5388  
 Cell Phone: ..... (207) 462-0269  
 E-Mail: ..... jared.macdonald@wku.edu  
 Secondary E-Mail: ..... jack.todd@wku.edu  
 Tertiary E-Mail: ..... scott.swegan@wku.edu





# FOOTBALL

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## TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

### FIU (4-7, 1-6 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+)	L, 40-6
N18	at Arkansas (ESPN)	L, 44-20
N25	WKU (ESPN Platforms)	2 p.m.

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

### JACKSONVILLE STATE (8-3, 6-1 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+)	W, 56-17
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 (3-9, 2-6 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+)	L, 42-27
N18	at Jax State (ESPN+)	L, 56-17

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

### NO. 22 LIBERTY (11-0, 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+)	W, 38-10
N18	UMASS (ESPN+)	W, 49-25
N25	at UTEP (CBSSN)	2:30 p.m.
D1	NEW MEXICO STATE (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 (4-7, 3-4 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+)	W, 40-6
N18	UTEP (ESPN+)	W, 34-30
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 (9-3, 6-1 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+)	W, 13-7
N11	at WKU (ESPN+)	W, 38-29
N18	at Auburn (SEC Net)	W, 31-10
N25	JAX STATE (ESPN+)	3 p.m.
D1	at No. 22 LIBERTY (CBSSN)*	6 p.m.

All times CT and along with dates, are subject to change based upon television selections.  
\*2023 CUSA Championship Game

### SAM HOUSTON (2-9, 1-6 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+)	W, 42-27
N18	at WKU (ESPN+)	L, 28-23
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 (3-8, 2-5 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+)	L, 34-30
N25	No. 22 LIBERTY (CBSSN)	2:30 p.m.

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

### WKU (6-5, 4-3 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+)	L, 38-29
N18	SAM HOUSTON (ESPN+)	W, 28-23
N25	at FIU (ESPN+)	2 p.m.

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# FOOTBALL

2023 Football Media Release (November 20, 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

Liberty 38, Old Dominion 10

**Sam Houston 42, LA Tech 27**

**MTSU 40, FIU 6**

**New Mexico State 38, WKU 29**

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

No. 25 Liberty 49, UMass 25

**Jax State 56, LA Tech 17**

**MTSU 34, UTEP 30**

New Mexico State 31, Auburn 10

**WKU 28, Sam Houston 23**

Arkansas 44, FIU 20

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**MTSU at Sam Houston (ESPN+)**

11 a.m.

**WKU at FIU (ESPN+)**

2 p.m.

**No. 22 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.

**New Mexico State at No. 22 Liberty**

**Conference games in bold.**

All times are listed in CT

All dates are subject to change based upon television selections.

