

## AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL REPORT 2021 Season • Week 1

@American\_FB

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SCHOOL <small>AP/Coaches</small>	AMERICAN						OVERALL							
	W-L	PCT	PF	PA	H	A	W-L	PCT	PF	PA	H	A	N	STREAK
UCF <small>rv/rv</small>	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 1
CINCINNATI <small>B/10</small>	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 1
EAST CAROLINA	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Won 2
HOUSTON <small>rv/rv</small>	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 2
MEMPHIS	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Won 2
NAVY	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 5
SOUTH FLORIDA	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 8
SMU <small>-rv</small>	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 2
TEMPLE	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 5
TULANE	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 1
TULSA <small>-rv</small>	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	—	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	Lost 2

## THIS WEEK

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

#### Temple at Rutgers

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Series: Rutgers leads, 20-16

Last Meeting: Nov. 2, 2013 (Rutgers, 23-20)



#### Boise State at UCF

Time: 7 p.m.

Series: First meeting



#### East Carolina vs. Appalachian State Duke's Mayo Classic

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Series: Appalachian State, 19-12

Last Meeting: Sept. 1, 2012 (East Carolina, 35-13)



#### South Florida at NC State

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Series: NC State leads, 2-1

Last Meeting: Sept. 13, 2014 (NC State, 49-17)



#### UC Davis at Tulsa

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Series: First meeting



### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

#### Oklahoma at Tulane

Time: Noon

Series: Oklahoma leads, 1-0

Last Meeting: Sept. 16, 2017 (Oklahoma, 56-14)



#### Marshall at Navy

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Series: First meeting



#### Miami (Ohio) at Cincinnati The Victory Bell

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Series: Miami (Ohio) leads, 59-58

Last Meeting: Sept. 15, 2018 (Texas Tech, 63-49)



#### Texas Tech vs. Houston

##### Texas Kickoff

Time: 7 p.m.

Series: Houston leads, 18-13-1

Last Meeting: Oct. 19, 2019 (UCF, 41-28)



#### Nicholls at Memphis

Time: 7 p.m.

Series: Memphis leads, 1-0

Last Meeting: Sept. 20, 2008 (Memphis, 31-10)



#### Abilene Christian at SMU

Time: 7 p.m.

Series: SMU leads, 1-0

Last Meeting: Oct. 3, 1925 (SMU, 52-7)



All times Eastern

## THE AMERICAN TODAY

A busy slate awaits American Athletic Conference teams in Week 1 of the 2021 college football season as five squads kick things off Thursday night and six play on Saturday.

The Thursday ledger is highlighted by one of the better nonconference matchups nationally as UCF and new head coach Gus Malzahn welcome Boise State to the Bounce House for a 7 p.m. ET game on ESPN.

East Carolina faces Appalachian State on ESPNU in the first game of the Duke's Mayo Classic in Charlotte, North Carolina, while South Florida heads to Raleigh to visit NC State. Temple gets the night started with a short road trip to Rutgers, while Tulsa is at home against UC Davis.

The Saturday ledger features a long-anticipated home date for Tulane against No. 2 Oklahoma at Yulman Stadium on ABC. Houston gets the ESPN prime time window for its Texas Kickoff matchup against Texas Tech, while Navy welcomes Marshall to Annapolis.

No. 8 Cincinnati looks to extend a pair of streaks in its season-opener against Miami (Ohio) in the 125th Battle for the Victory Bell. The Bearcats have won 20 straight games at Nippert Stadium and have a 14-game series winning streak against the RedHawks.

Memphis brings a 15-game winning streak at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium into its opener against Nicholls, while SMU hosts Abilene Christian.

# AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

## Rank And File

Cincinnati finished the 2020 season ranked No. 8 nationally, marking the fourth time in the American Athletic Conference's eight seasons that the league finished with a top-10 team.

### Top-10 Finishes by American Athletic Conference Teams

2013	UCF (No. 10 AP)
2015	Houston (No. 8 AP, No. 8 USA Today)
2017	UCF (No. 6 AP, No. 7 USA Today)
2020	Cincinnati (No. 8 AP, No. 8 USA Today)

## Bowling Lane

Cincinnati's appearance in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl marked the fifth time in seven seasons of the current College Football Playoff format that the American Athletic Conference was represented in the New Year's Six.

## Big Time

American Athletic Conference teams have gone 3-3 in New Year's Six/BCS bowls since the formation of the conference in 2013.

2013	UCF 52, Baylor 42 (Fiesta Bowl)
2015	Houston 38, Florida State 24 (Peach Bowl)
2017	UCF 34, Auburn 27 (Peach Bowl)
2018	LSU 40, UCF 32 (Fiesta Bowl)
2019	Penn State 53, Memphis 39 (Cotton Bowl)
2020	Georgia 24, Cincinnati 21 (Peach Bowl)

## Defend This House

Cincinnati will take a 20-game winning streak at Nippert Stadium into the 2021 season, while Memphis brings a 15-game winning streak at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium into the season.

### Active Home Winning Streaks Entering 2021

28	Clemson
24	Notre Dame
23	Ohio State
20	Cincinnati
15	Memphis

## Feels Like The First Time

Tulsa went 6-0 in conference play for the first time as a member of The American. Tulsa has won its last seven regular-season conference games, dating to 2019.

## On A Roll

Cincinnati has gone 31-6 since the start of the 2018 season. UCF is 41-8 since the beginning of the 2017 season. Memphis is 20-5 and SMU is 17-6 since the start of the 2019 campaign.

## Bullies

Cincinnati has won 27 consecutive games against unranked teams.

## Consistency

Cincinnati has been ranked in 28 consecutive national polls, dating to the rankings of Oct. 6, 2019. The Bearcats would have to be ranked in the first five polls of the 2021 season to tie UCF's American Athletic Conference record of 33 straight national rankings.

## Variety Show

Nine of the 11 American Athletic Conference schools have been ranked in the top 25 since the start of the 2018 season.

## Welcome Aboard

The American's top two rushing leaders in 2020 were freshmen. SMU UB Ulysses Bentley led the league with 91.3 rushing yards per game, while East Carolina RB Rahji Harris was second at 78.0 ypg.

## Veterans Day

Tulsa lost only eight letterwinners from last year's team. The Golden Hurricane has 14 'super seniors' who elected to return for 2021 with an extra year of eligibility.

## Believe The Hype

The following American Athletic Conference players have been named to preseason All-America teams by college football's leading presenters.

### Athlon Sports

Ahmad Gardner, DB, Cincinnati - First Team  
Marcus Jones, PR, Houston - First Team  
Myjai Sanders, DL, Houston - Second Team

### Sporting News

Ahmad Gardner, DB, Cincinnati - First Team

### Walter Camp Football Foundation

Ahmad Gardner, DB, Cincinnati - First Team  
Marcus Jones, KR, Houston - First Team  
Myjai Sanders, DL, Houston - Second Team

### 247 Sports

Ahmad Gardner, DB, Cincinnati - First Team  
Marcus Jones, PR, Houston - First Team  
Myjai Sanders, DL, Houston - Second Team

### Phil Steele

Ahmad Gardner, CB, Cincinnati - First Team  
Marcus Jones, PR, Houston - First Team  
Myjai Sanders, DL, Houston - Third Team  
Diego Fagot, LB, Navy - Third Team  
Calvin Austin III, WR, Memphis - Fourth Team  
Tyler Sneed, AP, East Carolina - Fourth Team  
Adam Higuera, LS, Tulsa - Fourth Team

### College Football News

Dillon Gabriel, QB, UCF - Honorable Mention  
Matthew Lee, C, UCF - Honorable Mention  
Cole Schneider, OG, UCF - Honorable Mention  
Coby Bryant, CB, Cincinnati - Honorable Mention  
Desmond Ridder, QB, Cincinnati - Honorable Mention  
Myjai Sanders, Edge, Cincinnati - Honorable Mention  
Ulysses Bentley IV, RB, SMU - Honorable Mention

## Top Of The Charts

QB Dillon Gabriel finished the 2020 season as the national leader in passing (357.0 ypg) and ranked second nationally in total offense (373.9 ypg)

## Active Claims

UCF QB Dillon Gabriel will enter 2021 as the NCAA active career leader in passing yards per game. Gabriel has averaged 314.0 yards in his first two seasons.

## Familiar Faces

The American Athletic Conference returns 10 of its 11 head coaches from last season. The only new head coach in The American in 2021 will be UCF's Gus Malzahn.

## Behind Center

Cincinnati QB Desmond Ridder and East Carolina QB Holton Ahlers both enter the 2021 season as likely four-year starters. Houston QB Clayton Tune and UCF QB Dillon Gabriel will be third-year starters in 2021. Five American Athletic Conference teams (Memphis, SMU, Temple, Tulsa, South Florida) will look to replace their respective starting quarterbacks from 2020.

## Great Eight

Cincinnati is the first American Athletic Conference team with a preseason top-10 ranking since Louisville was ranked No. 9 to start the 2013 season. The Bearcats' No. 8 preseason rank is the highest for an American Athletic Conference team in the league's history.

## Draft Class

The American Athletic Conference saw 19 players selected in the 2021 NFL Draft, the most in conference history. Former Tulsa LB Zaven Collins (16th to Arizona) and former Houston DE Payton Turner (28th to New Orleans) were both first-round selections.

## 2021 COLLEGE FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

### Overtime

Teams will be required to run a 2-point conversion play after a touchdown when a game reaches a second overtime period. Previously, a 2-point attempt was required after the third overtime period.

Also, if the game reaches a third overtime, teams will run alternating 2-point plays, instead of starting another drive at the opponent's 25-yard line. This is a change from the previous rule, which started to use 2-point plays in the fifth overtime period.

This rules change is being made to limit the number of plays from scrimmage and bring the game to a quicker conclusion. Teams can still choose whether to kick the point after touchdown or run a 2-point conversion play during the first overtime period.

### Team Area

The Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved the team area being permanently extended to the 20-yard lines, starting in the 2021 season. Previously, the team area extended to the 25-yard lines, but this area was expanded to the 15-yard lines last season to create more spacing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Unsportsmanlike Tactics

In an editorial change to the rules book, video board and lighting system operators have been included in those personnel who may not create any distraction that obstructs play.

### Feigning Injuries

The panel supported the Football Rules Committee proposal to provide a framework to allow a school or conference to request a postgame video review about questionable actions through the NCAA secretary-rules editor/national coordinator of officials

### Points Of Emphasis

- For the 2021 season, it will be a point of emphasis for officials to penalize any taunting action directed toward an opponent. Committee members think these actions reflect poorly on the game and can lead to unnecessary confrontations.

- Officials are directed to be alert to players who are significantly in violation of uniform rules and to send violators out of the game to correct the issue. This will include specifically the pants, jerseys and T-shirts that extend below the torso.

- Coaches should not enter the field of play or leave the team area to debate officiating decisions. Those who do so will have committed an automatic unsportsmanlike conduct foul.

# TALKING POINTS

## UCF 0-0, 0-0 American



@UCF\_Football

Next: Sept. 2 vs. Boise State (ESPN)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	568.1	1st
Total Defense	491.8	11th
Scoring Offense	42.2	1st
Scoring Defense	33.2	8th

- QB Dillon Gabriel has surpassed 7,000 career passing yards in only two seasons (7,006).
- Gabriel finished the 2020 season as the national leader in passing (357.0 ypg) and ranked second nationally in total offense (373.9 ypg).
- UCF has scored a rushing touchdown and a passing touchdown in 49 consecutive games, the longest streak in the nation.
- Head coach Gus Malzahn makes his UCF debut in the opener against Boise State. Malzahn is the only new head coach in The American in 2021.
- The Knights are 41-8 since the start of the 2017 season.
- UCF's three losses last season were by a total of 12 points. The six wins were by an average of 21.3 points.

## CINCINNATI 0-0, 0-0 American



@BearcatsFB

Next: Sept. 4 vs. Miami (Ohio) (ESPN+)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	467.2	3rd
Total Defense	314.4	1st
Scoring Offense	39.3	2nd
Scoring Defense	16.0	1st

- Cincinnati is 31-5 since the start of the 2018 season. The Bearcats are 13-1 all-time as a top-10 team.
- Cincinnati takes a 20-game winning streak at Nippert Stadium into the 2021 season.
- CB Ahmad Gardner was chosen as a preseason Associated Press All-America First Team selection.
- The Bearcats ranked third nationally in pass efficiency defense last season (101.25). Cincinnati was eighth in scoring defense (16.8 ppg).
- QB Desmond Ridder was the 2020 American Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year. Luke Fickell was The American's Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons.
- Cincinnati has won its last 14 matchups against Miami (Ohio) in the Victory Bell series.

## EAST CAROLINA 0-0, 0-0 American



@ECUPiratesFB

Next: Sept. 2 vs. Appalachian State (ESPNU)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	402.7	7th
Total Defense	447.3	9th
Scoring Offense	30.2	7th
Scoring Defense	35.4	9th

- RB Rahjai Harris was named as The American's Rookie of the Year last season after he had 624 rushing yards and four TDs as a freshman.
- The Pirates closed the 2020 season with wins against Temple and SMU.
- CB Ja'Quan McMillian was one of four American Athletic Conference players with four interceptions in the 2020 season. McMillian was second in The American with 0.44 interceptions per game.
- QB Holton Ahlers enters his senior season in 11th place on The American's career passing list (7,093 yards). Ahlers is second among active American Athletic Conference players in career yards.
- The season-opener against Appalachian State is the first game of the Duke's Mayo Classic at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte. Clemson and Georgia complete the series Saturday.

## HOUSTON 0-0, 0-0 American



@UHCougarFB

Next: Sept. 4 vs. Texas Tech (ESPN)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	408.9	6th
Total Defense	398.5	4th
Scoring Offense	30.0	7th
Scoring Defense	32.0	7th

- The Cougars had eight games postponed, canceled or rescheduled during the 2020 season.
- CB Marcus Jones was named an FWA first-team All-America selection as a punt returner. Jones led the nation with 19.8 yards per return. Jones had more punt return yards (337) than all other FBS teams.
- K Dalton Witherspoon has not missed a PAT in his collegiate career (132-of-132). Witherspoon ranks third on The American's career chart for consecutive made PATs and needs 22 to tie former UCF kicker Matthew Wright for second place.
- Houston's season-opener against Texas Tech will be played at NRG Stadium in Houston. The Cougars' last game at NRG Stadium was a 33-23 win against No. 3 Oklahoma to start the 2016 season.

## MEMPHIS 0-0, 0-0 American



@TigersAthletics

Next: Sept. 4 vs. Nicholls (ESPN+)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	453.1	3rd
Total Defense	434.3	8th
Scoring Offense	31.0	5th
Scoring Defense	27.9	3rd

- Memphis enjoyed its third consecutive season with eight wins or more with last year's 8-3 campaign that ended with a win against Florida Atlantic in the Montgomery Bowl.
- Memphis has had a program-record seven consecutive winning seasons.
- Memphis will have a player other than Brady White start at quarterback for the first time since the final game of the 2017 season. White had made 39 consecutive starts for the Tigers.
- WR Calvin Austin III led The American with 1,053 receiving yards and 11 touchdown catches in 2020.
- Head coach Ryan Silverfield matched Memphis' program record for wins by a first-year head coach, while his .727 winning percentage was the best in program history by a first-year coach.

## NAVY 0-0, 0-0 American



@NavyAthletics

Next: Sept. 4 vs. Marshall (CBSSN)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	275.0	11th
Total Defense	385.5	3rd
Scoring Offense	16.6	11th
Scoring Defense	30.3	5th

- Navy's schedule is the third-toughest nationally based on opponents' winning percentage from 2020. The Midshipmen's 12 opponents were a combined 72-42 last season (.632). Only Arkansas (.644) and Massachusetts (.644) have tougher schedules.
- The Midshipmen had 26 players make their first career starts last season, tying for the most in the nation.
- Navy begins the 2021 season with a streak of three consecutive games in which the Midshipmen held their opponent to fewer than 300 yards of offense.
- Head coach Ken Niumatalo is the winningest coach in program history. Niumatalo is 101-67 entering the 2021 season.
- Navy has ranked among the national top 10 in fewest penalties in each of Niumatalo's 14 seasons as head coach.

# TALKING POINTS

## SOUTH FLORIDA 0-0, 0-0 American



@USFFootball

Next: Sept. 2 at NC State (ACC Network)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	365.3	9th
Total Defense	441.4	8th
Scoring Offense	23.1	9th
Scoring Defense	39.9	11th

- USF opened the 2020 season with a win against The Citadel, but closed the year with eight consecutive losses.
- The Bulls closed the 2020 season by scoring a season-high 46 points and gaining 646 yards in a loss to UCF.
- LB Antonio Grier was named to the all-conference second team. Grier led USF in tackles (59), tackles for loss (5.5), sacks (3.0) and forced fumbles (2).
- The Bulls ranked second in The American with 10 defensive interceptions in 2020.
- QB Cade Fortin will make his first start as South Florida's signal-caller in the opener against NC State. Fortin's last career start came as the quarterback for North Carolina Nov. 24, 2018, also against NC State.

## SMU 0-0, 0-0 American



@SMU\_Football

Next: Sept. 4 vs. Abilene Christian (ESPN+)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	494.5	2nd
Total Defense	422.2	5th
Scoring Offense	38.6	3rd
Scoring Defense	30.9	5th

- RB Ulysses Bentley IV was selected as The American Rookie of the Year in 2020 after he rushed for 913 yards and 11 touchdowns in 10 games.
- The Mustangs are 9-1 in their last 10 games at Gerald J. Ford Stadium.
- Head coach Sonny Dykes takes a 22-14 record into his fourth season. He is the fourth coach in program history with 20 wins in his first three seasons at SMU.
- The Mustangs were ranked as high as No. 16 nationally during the 2020 season. SMU was ranked for five weeks in 2020 and for six weeks in the 2019 season.
- K Blake Mazza was a 2019 Lou Groza Award finalist at Washington State before transferring to SMU.

## TEMPLE 0-0, 0-0 American



@Temple\_FB

Next: Sept. 2 at Rutgers (Big Ten Network)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	348.3	10th
Total Defense	433.0	6th
Scoring Offense	19.9	10th
Scoring Defense	37.1	10th

- Temple was limited to only seven games in 2020 due to COVID-19 issues. The Owls lost 215 man-games due to COVID protocols, injuries, opt-outs, transfers or suspensions.
- Only five players started all seven games for the Owls. Temple had 40 different starters during the course of the season.
- DE Arnold Ebiketie had 42 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, 4.0 sacks, three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery in six games. Ebiketie was chosen as an all-conference second team pick.
- WR Jadan Blue was an honorable mention all-conference selection.
- QB D'Wan Mathis, who was the Opening Day starter for Georgia last season, has been tabbed as Temple's starting signal-caller for Thursday's game at Rutgers.

## TULANE 0-0, 0-0 American



@GreenWaveFB

Next: Sept. 4 vs. Oklahoma (ABC)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	392.7	8th
Total Defense	424.8	6th
Scoring Offense	34.7	4th
Scoring Defense	28.1	4th

- Tulane closed the 2020 regular season with four wins in its last five games. The Green Wave finished at .500 or better for the third consecutive season.
- QB Michael Pratt finished the 2020 season with 1,806 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes as a true freshman. He added eight rushing touchdowns.
- Tulane played in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, marking the Green Wave's third consecutive appearance in a bowl game.
- Tulane led the American Athletic Conference with 37 sacks in 2020.
- The Green Wave returns 10 of its 11 offensive starters from last season.

## TULSA 0-0, 0-0 American



@TulsaFootball

Next: Sept. 2 vs. UC Davis (ESPN+)

### American Ranks

Total Offense	410.4	5th
Total Defense	333.6	2nd
Scoring Offense	27.1	8th
Scoring Defense	21.6	2nd

- Tulsa was picked ninth in the 2020 American Athletic Conference preseason poll and ended up tying for first in the final standings.
- Tulsa was ranked in the Associated Poll for six consecutive weeks during the season. The Golden Hurricane was ranked as high as No. 18.
- The Golden Hurricane returns 12 all-conference players from 2020.
- Tulsa has won its last seven American Athletic Conference regular-season games, which marks the longest active conference winning streak in The American.
- Tulsa has nine returning starters on offense from last year in addition to RB Shamari Brooks, who has 2,700 career rushing yards and 23 career rushing touchdowns. Brooks missed the 2020 season due to injury.



# WEEK 1 PREVIEWS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2 • 6:30 P.M. • BIG TEN NETWORK



## TEMPLE at RUTGERS



SHI Stadium (52,484/FieldTurf)  
Piscataway, New Jersey

### Television

Big Ten Network

Joe Beninati, James Laurinaitis and Michelle McMahon

### Radio

WPEN-FM 97.5 (Temple flagship)  
SiriusXM 382/972

### THE GAME

Thursday's game will be the 37th meeting between Temple and Rutgers in a series that dates to 1948 ... Rutgers holds a 20-16 series lead and has won the last four matchups, most recently a 23-20 decision in 2013, when the Scarlet Knights were members of the American Athletic Conference ... Temple's last win in the series was in 2002 (20-17).

## TEMPLE O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Rod Carey (Indiana '93)

9-11, third season at Temple

61-41, ninth season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Rich Burg

(215) 356-3952, rich.burg@Temple.edu

### Notes

Temple struggled through a 1-6 season in 2020 as the Owls were beset with an untimely confluence of injuries and opt-outs due to the pandemic ... The Owls were 8-5 in 2019, Rod Carey's first season in Philadelphia ... Temple had 22 players make their first career starts during the 2020 season ... The Owls expect to field a more experienced squad in 2021, thanks in large part to the addition of several key transfers ... QB D'Wan Mathis was the Opening Day starter for Georgia last season and is expected to get the start against the Scarlet Knights ... WR Jadan Blue had 41 catches for 371 yards and five touchdowns in the Owls' six games last season and became Temple's first 1,000-yard receiver in 2019 (1,067 yards) ... WR Randle Jones had 31 catches for 270 yards and two TDs last year.

## RUTGERS O-O, O-O Big Ten

### Head Coach

Greg Schiano (Bucknell '88)

71-73, 13th season

### Information Contact

Hasim Phillips

(732) 445-6069, hphillips@scarletknights.com

### Notes

Rutgers went 3-6 last year in the first season of Greg Schiano's second head coaching tenure in Piscataway, and the Scarlet Knights return 21 starters for 2021 ... Rutgers is looking for its first winning season since the Scarlet Knights went 8-05 in 2014 ... Schiano had taken Rutgers to bowl games in six of his last seven years in his first go-around with the Scarlet Knights, including the 2006 season, when Rutgers finished the year ranked No. 12 ... QB Noah Verdal threw for 1,253 yards and nine touchdowns against eight interceptions in 2020 ... RB Isaih Pacheco had a team-high 515 rushing yards with three touchdowns, while WR Bo Melton had team highs with 47 receptions, 638 receiving yards and six touchdown catches ... The defense is led by All-Big Ten LB Olakunle Fatukasi, who had 101 tackles with 11.0 tackles for loss.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2 • 7 P.M. • ESPN



## BOISE STATE at UCF



The Bounce House (44,206/Natural Grass)  
Orlando, Florida

### Television

ESPN

Matt Barrie, Roddy Jones and Harry Lyles Jr.

### Radio

WYGM-FM 96.9 (UCF flagship)  
SiriusXM 132/201/964

### THE GAME

Thursday's game will be the first meeting between UCF and Boise State ... This year's game is the first in a home-and-home series that ends with a 2023 game in Boise ... The Knights' lone victory against a current Mountain West team was a 38-6 win against New Mexico in 1998, while the Broncos are 10-1 against current American schools.

## rv/rv BOISE STATE O-O, O-O Mountain West

### Head Coach

Andy Avalos (Boise State '05)

O-O, first season

### Information Contact

Joe Nickell

(208) 631-5483, joenickell@boisestate.edu

### Notes

Boise State has been one of the most consistent teams in college football as the Broncos have registered 23 consecutive winning seasons ... Andy Avalos, a standout linebacker as an undergraduate at Boise State, makes his head coaching debut after serving as defensive coordinator at Oregon from 2019-20 ... Avalos has 17 returning starters from last year's squad that went 5-2 in an abbreviated season ... The only losses were to then-No. 9 BYU and to then-No. 25 San Jose State in the Mountain West championship game ... QB Hank Bachmeier threw for 1,150 yards and six touchdowns in five games as a freshman ... RB Andrew Van Buren led the Mountain West with eight rushing touchdowns in 2020 ... WR Khalil Shakir earned All-Mountain West honors after he had 52 catches for 719 yards and six TDs.

## rv/rv UCF O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Gus Malzahn (Henderson State '90)

O-O, first season at UCF

77-38, 10th season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Dan Forcella

(407) 823-2142, dforcella@athletics.ucf.edu

### Notes

UCF saw a streak of three consecutive seasons with double-digit wins come to an end last year as the Knights went 6-4 ... The three regular-season losses were by a combined 12 points ... Head coach Gus Malzahn begins his first season with the Knights after spending eight years at Auburn, where he reached the 2013 BCS National Championship Game ... QB Dillon Gabriel led FBS in passing last season (357.0 ypg) ... Gabriel had 3,570 passing yards and 32 touchdown passes as he completed 248 of 413 attempts with only four interceptions ... WR Jaylon Robinson had 55 receptions for 979 yards and six TDs ... The Knights will be without their top three rushing leaders from last season ... The defense expects a boost from the arrival of DE Big Kat Bryant, an All-SEC pick at Auburn last year.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2 • 7:30 P.M. • ESPNU



## EAST CAROLINA vs. APPALACHIAN STATE



Bank of America Stadium (75,412/FieldTurf)  
Charlotte, North Carolina

### Television

ESPNU

Mike Couzens and Dustin Fox

### Radio

WNCT-FM 107.9 (East Carolina flagship)  
SiriusXM 380/970

### THE GAME • DUKE'S MAYO CLASSIC

Thursday's game will be the 32nd meeting between East Carolina and Appalachian State in a series that dates to 1932 ... The Mountaineers hold a 19-12 series lead, though the Pirates have taken the last six ... This year's game is the first in a four-game series that sees the teams play in Boone in 2023 and in Greenville in 2024 and 2026.

## EAST CAROLINA O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Mike Houston (Mars Hill '94)

7-14, third season at ECU

87-39, 11th season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Tom McClellan

(252) 737-1274, mcclellant@ecu.edu

### Notes

East Carolina went 3-6 last year, but the Pirates finished 2020 with back-to-back victories by an average of 19.5 points ... The return of 20 starters has made the Pirates a trendy sleeper pick in The American this season ... After the neutral-site season-opener against Appalachian State, East Carolina plays three of its next four games at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium ... QB Holton Ahlers is a veteran who threw for 1,921 yards and 18 touchdowns in eight games last season ... RB Rahjai Harris shared American Rookie of the Year honors after he rushed for 624 yards and four touchdowns ... WR Tyler Sneed led the squad with 53 receptions to go with 524 yards and five touchdowns ... CB Ja'Quan McMillian earned all-conference honors thanks to a league-leading four interceptions.

## -/rv APPALACHIAN STATE O-O, O-O Sun Belt

### Head Coach

Shawn Clark (Appalachian State '98)

9-3, second season

### Information Contact

Joey Jones

(828) 964-7183, jones7@appstate.edu

### Notes

Appalachian State has been tabbed as one of the favorites in the Sun Belt Conference as the Mountaineers tied with Coastal Carolina for first in the league's preseason coaches' poll ... The Mountaineers have won at least nine games in six consecutive seasons, spanning three head coaches ... App State was 9-3 last year, falling to Marshall, Coastal Carolina and Louisiana ... The Mountaineers topped North Texas 56-28 to win the 2020 Myrtle Beach Bowl ... Head coach Shawn Clark was the only first-year head coach in FBS to win at least nine games last season ... RB Cameron Peoples ranked 10th nationally in rushing last season with 1,124 yards, giving the Mountaineers a 1,000-yard rusher for the ninth consecutive season ... QB Chase Brice, who was Duke's starter last season, is expected to take over behind center in 2021.

# WEEK 1 PREVIEWS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2 • 7:30 P.M. • ACC NETWORK



## **SOUTH FLORIDA at NC STATE**



Carter-Finley Stadium (57,600/Natural Grass)  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### **Television**

ACC Network

Dave O'Brien, Tim Hasselbeck and Kelsey Riggs

### **Radio**

WDAE-FM 95.3 (South Florida flagship)  
SiriusXM 133/193/955

### **THE GAME**

Thursday's game will be the fourth meeting between South Florida and NC State in a series that dates to the 2005 season ... The Bulls are 1-2 against the Wolfpack, having scored a 41-10 win in Raleigh in 2008 ... NC State won in 2005 (14-0 in the Meineke Car Care Bowl) and 2014 (49-17 in Tampa).

## **SOUTH FLORIDA O-O, O-O American**

### **Head Coach**

Jeff Scott (Clemson '03)  
1-8, second season

### **Information Contact**

Brian Siegrist  
(813) 293-3897, siegrist@usf.edu

### **Notes**

South Florida won its season-opener last season, but the Bulls dropped their last eight games of the 2020 campaign in Jeff Scott's first season in Tampa ... Scott looks for a turnaround in his second season thanks to the return of 18 starters and 54 letterwinners from last year ... QB Cade Fortin, who was limited by injuries to only two appearances last year, has been named as the starter for the season-opener ... A transfer from North Carolina, Fortin made two starts for the Tar Heels as a freshman in 2018, including a 276-yard showing with a passing touchdown and a rushing TD against NC State in a 34-28 loss ... WR Bryce Miller had 33 receptions for 327 yards and three touchdowns in 2020 ... The defense is led by LB Antonio Grier, who earned second-team all-conference honors last year and led the Bulls with 59 tackles and 3.0 sacks.

## **rv/rv NC STATE O-O, O-O ACC**

### **Head Coach**

Dave Doeren (Drake '94)  
55-46, ninth season at NC State  
78-50, 11th season as collegiate head coach

### **Information Contact**

Annabelle Myers  
(919) 819-8302, annabelle\_myers@ncsu.edu

### **Notes**

NC State closed the 2020 regular season with four straight wins before the Wolfpack fell to Kentucky in the Gator Bowl ... NC State has won at least eight games three times in the last four seasons ... The Wolfpack has 19 starters returning from last year's squad and was picked behind only Clemson in the Atlantic Division in the ACC's preseason media poll ... NC State plays four of its first five games at home, where the Wolfpack went 5-1 last season ... QB Devin Leary played in four games last season and threw for 890 yards and eight touchdowns with two interceptions ... RB Zonovan Knight had 10 rushing touchdowns and 788 rushing yards as a true freshman ... LB Payton Wilson, who earned first-team All-ACC honors, had an ACC-high 108 tackles last season.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2 • 7:30 P.M. • ESPN+



## **UC DAVIS at TULSA**



H.A. Chapman Stadium (30,000/FieldTurf)  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

### **Television**

ESPN+

Ted Emrich and Stanford Routt

### **Radio**

KXBL-FM 99.5 (Tulsa flagship)  
SiriusXM 381/971

### **THE GAME**

Thursday's season-opener will be the first meeting on the gridiron between Tulsa and UC Davis ... The game will be Tulsa's first against an FCS opponent since a 38-27 win against Central Arkansas to start the 2018 season ... The Golden Hurricane has won its last 11 contests against FCS opponents.

## **UC DAVIS O-O, O-O Big Sky**

### **Head Coach**

Dan Hawkins (UC Davis '84)  
23-18, fifth season at UC Davis  
139-79-1, 20th season as collegiate head coach

### **Information Contact**

Mark Honbo  
(530) 752-8050, mwhonbo@ucdavis.edu

### **Notes**

UC Davis returns to the gridiron for the second time in 2021 as the Aggies played a five-game spring season through March and April, going 3-2 ... Head coach Dan Hawkins is in his third year as head coach at his alma mater after previous stops as head coach at Willamette (1993-97), Boise State (2001-05) and Colorado (2006-10) ... UC Davis was picked sixth in the Big Sky preseason coaches and media polls ... The Aggies had three players named to the preseason All-Big Sky team as C Connor Pettek, DT Bryce Rodgers and P Daniel Whelan were so chosen ... QB Hunter Rodrigues threw for 931 yards and eight touchdowns against four interceptions in the abbreviated spring season ... Whelan is one of the top punters in FCS with an average of 47.9 yards per punt last spring.

## **-rv TULSA O-O, O-O American**

### **Head Coach**

Philip Montgomery (Tarleton State '95)  
31-40, seventh season

### **Information Contact**

Don Tomkalski  
(918) 640-0683, donald-tomkalski@utulsa.edu

### **Notes**

Tulsa enjoyed an outstanding season in 2020 as the Golden Hurricane went 6-1 in the regular season and was ranked as high as No. 20 in the Associated Press poll on its way to an appearance in The American Championship Game ... Tulsa finished the year 6-3 and has 18 returning starters from last year ... Tulsa will look to replace the production of LB Zaven Collins, who won the Nagurski Trophy and Bednarik Award as the national defensive player of the year ... DT Jaxon Player is a returning all-conference first team pick ... QB Davis Brin is expected to take over as the Opening Day starter ... RB Shamari Brooks, who rushed for 1,081 yards in 2019, returns after missing all of last season with a knee injury ... WR Keylon Stokes led a deep group of receivers with 46 receptions for 644 yards and three touchdowns last year.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 • NOON • ABC



## **OKLAHOMA at TULANE**



Yulman Stadium (30,000/UBU Speed Series 55-M)  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### **Television**

ABC

Dave Pasch, Dusty Dvoracek and Tom Luginbill

### **Radio**

KVDU-FM 104.1 (Tulane flagship)  
SiriusXM 380/970

### **THE GAME**

Saturday's game will be the second meeting between Tulane and Oklahoma ... The Sooners were 56-14 winners in Norman in the first matchup during the 2017 season as QB Baker Mayfield (four) and QB Kyle Murray (one) combined for five touchdown passes ... The schools will return to Norman for a 2024 matchup.

## **2/3 OKLAHOMA O-O, O-O Big 12**

### **Head Coach**

Lincoln Riley (Texas Tech '06)  
45-8, fifth season

### **Information Contact**

Mike Houck  
(405) 249-5892, mhouch@ou.edu

### **Notes**

Oklahoma enters the 2021 season as a projected national championship contender as the Sooners are ranked No. 2 in the preseason Associated Press poll and No. 3 in the USA Today coaches' poll ... The Sooners have been ranked in the preseason top 10 19 times in the last 21 seasons ... Oklahoma went 9-2 last season, rebounding from early losses to Kansas State and Iowa State to close the season with eight straight wins ... QB Spencer Rattler is the preseason Heisman Trophy favorite after he threw for 3,031 yards and 28 touchdowns with seven interceptions last year ... Well know for its offense under coach Lincoln Riley, the Sooner defense allowed only 21.7 points per game in 2020 and was ninth nationally in rushing defense (105.1 ypg) ... LB Nik Bonitto was an AP second-team All-America pick who had 10.5 TFL and 8.0 sacks.

## **TULANE O-O, O-O American**

### **Head Coach**

Willie Fritz (Pittsburg State '83)  
29-33, sixth season at Tulane  
183-102, 25th season as collegiate head coach

### **Information Contact**

Tom Symonds  
(504) 862-8249, tsymonds@tulane.edu

### **Notes**

Tulane has played in a bowl game in each of the last three seasons after the Green Wave went 6-6 during the 2020 campaign ... Tulane started last season at 2-4, but closed with four wins in its final five regular-season games ... Head coach Willie Fritz enters his sixth year in New Orleans with 16 returning starters from last season, including 10 on offense ... The offense is led by QB Michael Pratt, who threw for 1,806 yards and 20 touchdowns as a true freshman ... RB Cameron Carroll led The American with 12 rushing touchdowns last season ... RB Tyjae Spears averaged 7.4 yards per carry in three games before suffering a season-ending injury ... WR Duece Watts tied for the team lead with 31 catches for 512 yards and six TDs ... LB Dorian Williams had 97 tackles and 15.5 TFL in 2020.

# WEEK 1 PREVIEWS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 • 3:30 • CBSSN



## MARSHALL at NAVY



Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000/FieldTurf)  
Annapolis, Maryland

### Television

CBS Sports Network

Chick Hernandez, Randy Cross and Sheehan Stanwick-Burch

### Radio

WBAL-AM 1090 (Navy flagship)  
SiriusXM 85

### THE GAME

Saturday's game will be the first meeting between Navy and Marshall ... The Midshipmen have gone 14-10 all-time against current members of Conference USA, while the Thundering Herd is 30-39-1 all-time against current members of The American ... The schools will play in Huntington, West Virginia, to start the 2023 season.

## -/rv MARSHALL O-O, O-O Conference USA

### Head Coach

Charles Huff (Hampton '05)  
O-O, first season

### Information Contact

Jason Corriher  
(740) 331-1497, corriher@marshall.edu

### Notes

Marshall played in a bowl game for the fourth straight season after the Thundering Herd went 7-3 overall, was ranked as high as No. 15 nationally and reached the Conference USA Championship Game ... Charles Huff, most recently an assistant at Alabama, begins his first season in Huntington ... Marshall has 15 returning starters from last year, including QB Grant Wells, who earned first-team all-conference honors and was the Conference USA Freshman of the Year in 2020 ... Wells threw for 2,091 yards and 18 touchdowns in his rookie season ... WR Corey Gammage had 35 catches for 409 yards and four touchdowns, while WR Xavier Gaines had 28 receptions for 404 yards and four TDs as well ... LB Eli Neal had 75 tackles to lead all returning players, while DT Jamare Edwards earned second-team all-conference honors.

## NAVY O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Ken Niumatalolo (Hawaii '89)  
101-67, 14th season

### Information Contact

Scott Strasemeier  
(410) 293-8775, sstrasem@usna.edu

### Notes

Navy dropped its last five games of the 2020 season to finish 3-7 on the year ... The Midshipmen started 3-0 in American Athletic Conference play, but fell in its last four conference games ... Navy tied a school record with 11 wins in the 2019 season ... The Midshipmen struggled to find consistency at the quarterback position last year and the position was considered wide open at the start of fall camp ... QB Xavier Arline, who made three starts last year, and QB Tai Lavatai, who did not play in 2020, are considered the leading candidates ... WR Mychal Cooper had a team-high 199 receiving yards and two touchdown catches ... The defense is led by stalwart LB Diego Fagot, a two-time all-conference selection who had 72 tackles with 11.0 tackles for loss and 3.0 sacks in 2020 ... S Kevin Brennan had 68 stops and five pass breakups.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 • 3:30 P.M. • ESPN+



## MIAMI (OHIO) at CINCINNATI



Nippert Stadium (40,000/UBU Speed Series 55-M)  
Cincinnati, Ohio

### Television

ESPN+

Connor Onion and Bobby Carpenter

### Radio

WLW-AM 700 (Cincinnati flagship)  
SiriusXM 211/202/965

### THE GAME • THE VICTORY BELL

Saturday's game will be the 125th meeting between Cincinnati and Miami (Ohio) in a series that dates to 1888, marking the oldest current nonconference rivalry in college football ... Miami leads holds a 59-58-7 advantage in the rivalry, though Cincinnati has won the last 14 contests and would tie the all-time series with a win this season.

## MIAMI (OHIO) O-O, O-O MAC

### Head Coach

Chuck Martin (Millikin '90)  
32-46, eighth season at Miami  
106-53, 14th season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Dave Meyer  
(419) 265-0284

### Notes

Miami was scheduled to play seven games last season, but the RedHawks saw four games canceled due to the pandemic, leaving the squad with only three games ... The RedHawks opened their season with a 38-31 win against Ball State, handing the Cardinals their only loss of the year ... The RedHawks return 19 starters from last season ... Miami was picked third in the East Division in the MAC preseason poll, trailing Kent State and Ohio ... The RedHawks have won 25 of their last 34 conference games and claimed the league title in 2019 ... QB Brett Gabbert threw for 384 yards and four touchdowns without an interception in the three games last year ... WR Jack Sorenson had 18 receptions for 354 yards and four touchdowns.

## 8/10 CINCINNATI O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Luke Fickell (Ohio State '97)  
35-14, fifth season at Cincinnati  
41-21, sixth season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Ryan Koslen  
(513) 556-5186, ryan.koslen@uc.edu

### Notes

Cincinnati enters the 2021 season ranked No. 8 in the Associated Press preseason poll, the highest preseason ranking by an American Athletic Conference team in the league's first nine seasons ... The Bearcats return 14 starters from last year's team, which went 9-1, won The American Championship Game and saw its only loss come on a late field goal against Georgia in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl ... The Bearcats have won 20 consecutive home games and have not lost at Nippert Stadium since 2017 ... QB Desmond Ridder is a preseason Heisman Trophy candidate after he accounted for 31 touchdowns (19 passing, 12 rushing) last season ... The defense is led by All-America CB Ahmad Gardner, who had three interceptions and nine passes defended in 2020.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 • 7 P.M. • ESPN



## TEXAS TECH vs. HOUSTON



NRG Stadium (72,220/Hellas Matrix Helix)  
Houston, Texas

### Television

ESPN

Mark Jones, Quint Kessenich and Robert Griffin III

### Radio

KPRC-AM 950 (Houston flagship)  
SiriusXM 386/976

### THE GAME • THE TEXAS KICKOFF

Saturday's game will be the 33rd meeting between Houston and Texas Tech in a series that dates to the 1951 season ... Houston holds an 18-13-1 series lead, but looks to snap a three-game slide against the Red Raiders ... Houston's last win in the series was a 29-28 decision in 2009.

## TEXAS TECH O-O, O-O Big 12

### Head Coach

Matt Wells (Utah State '96)  
8-14, third season at Texas Tech  
52-48, ninth season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Matthew Dowdy  
(806) 928-5190, matthew.dowdy@ttu.edu

### Notes

Texas Tech looks to break a stretch of five consecutive sub-.500 seasons as the Red Raiders went 4-6 last season, though four of the losses came to nationally ranked opponents ... The Red Raiders will play nine of their 12 games in the state of Texas this season ... QB Tyler Shough, who made seven starts for Oregon last year to help the Ducks to the Pac-12 title, has been named the Week 1 starter ... Shough threw for 1,559 yards and 13 touchdowns last season ... RB SaRodrick Thompson rushed for 653 yards and eight touchdowns last year ... The top receiver is WR Erik Ezukanma, an All-Big 12 pick who had 46 catches for 748 yards and six touchdowns ... The defense is paced by LB Krishon Merriweather, who had 75 tackles with 6.5 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks in 2020.

## rv/rv HOUSTON O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Dana Holgorsen (Iowa Wesleyan '93)  
7-13, third season at Houston  
68-54, 11th season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Andrew Pate  
(713) 387-9119, arpate@central.uh.edu

### Notes

Houston battled through an unconventional season to go 3-5 last year as the Cougars look to return to the form that produced winning seasons from 2013-18 ... Houston returns 18 starters from last year and expects to see a number of impact transfers in the lineup in 2021 ... The Cougars do not face Cincinnati or UCF – the top two teams in The American's preseason media poll ... The top player is CB Marcus Jones, who earned All-America status as a return specialist last season and had four interceptions ... QB Clayton Tune enters his third year as a starter and completed 170 of 285 passes for 2,048 yards and 15 touchdowns last season ... Tune added five rushing TDs as well ... WR Nathaniel Dell led the team with 29 catches for 428 yards and three touchdowns.

# WEEK 1 PREVIEWS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 • 7 P.M. • ESPN+



## NICHOLLS at MEMPHIS



Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium (58,318/AstroTurf)  
Memphis, Tennessee

### Television ESPN+

Richard Cross and Leger Douzable

### Radio

WKIM-FM 98.9 (Memphis flagship)  
SiriusXM 383/973

### THE GAME

Saturday's game will be the second meeting between Memphis and Nicholls ... The only previous matchup was the Tigers' 31-10 win in 2008 at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium as QB Arkelon Hall passed for 173 yards and a touchdown and had a rushing TD ... Memphis limited Nicholls to 164 total yards and 29 yards in the second half.

## NICHOLLS O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Tim Rebowe (LSU '87)  
38-30, seventh season

### Information Contact

Jamie Bustos  
(985) 448-4281, jamie.bustos@nicholls.edu

### Notes

Nicholls went 4-3 in its spring season as the Colonels won their first three games before dropping three of the last four ... This year's season-opener against Memphis is the first of back-to-back games against FBS opponents for Nicholls, which faces Louisiana in Week 2 ... The Colonels, who are ranked No. 23 in the AFCA FCS preseason coaches' poll, have 22 starters returning, including all 11 players on offense ... QB Lindsey Scott threw for 1,684 yards and 18 touchdowns with seven interceptions in the abbreviated spring season ... Scott was the leading rusher with 557 yards and six touchdowns on the ground as well ... WR DaiJean Dixon had team highs with 35 receptions, 514 receiving yards and seven touchdown catches ... Dixon joins OG P.J. Burkhalter as FCS preseason All-America selections.

## MEMPHIS O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Ryan Silverfield (Hamden-Sydney '03)  
8-6, second season at Memphis

### Information Contact

Scott Burns  
(812) 322-5285 scott.burns@memphis.edu

### Notes

Memphis continued its most successful stretch in program history as the Tigers went 8-3 last season ... The Tigers capped Ryan Silverfield's first season as head coach with a 25-10 win against Florida Atlantic in the Montgomery Bowl ... Memphis returns 16 starters from last year, but will need to replace veteran QB Brady White, who had a school-record 10,690 passing yards in his career ... QB Grant Gunnell, a transfer from Arizona who started seven games with the Wildcats is expected to take over ... The top four leading rushers from last year return, as does WR Calvin Austin III, an all-conference receiver who had 1,053 yards and 11 touchdowns in 11 games ... The defensive leader is S Quindell Johnson, who earned second-team all-conference honors and led the Tigers with 81 tackles and three interceptions.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 • 7 P.M. • ESPN+



## ABILENE CHRISTIAN at SMU



Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000/FieldTurf)  
Dallas, Texas

### Television ESPN+

Ted Emrich and Stanford Rount

### Radio

KTKC-FM 96.7 (SMU flagship)  
SiriusXM 385/975

### THE GAME

Saturday's game will be the second meeting between SMU and Abilene Christian, but only the first meeting in the last 96 years ... The only previous matchup was Oct. 3, 1925, when the Mustangs scored a 52-7 victory at Fair Park Stadium in Dallas ... SMU holds a 70-28-7 all-time record against teams that are not current FBS members.

## ABILENE CHRISTIAN O-O, O-O WAC

### Head Coach

Adam Dorrel (Northwest Missouri State '98)  
14-26, fifth season at Abilene Christian  
90-34, 11th season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Jordan Herrod  
(325) 674-6171, jordan.herrod@acu.edu

### Notes

Abilene Christian was limited to six games in the 2020 season as the Wildcats went 1-5 against a schedule that included three FBS opponents ... ACU was one of only 15 FCS schools to play a fall schedule in 2020 ... Abilene Christian begins its first season as a member of the Western Athletic Conference, which resumes operation as an FCS league this year ... ACU was projected to finish fifth in the WAC preseason poll ... QB Payton Mansell, a transfer from Iowa, completed 104 of 167 passes for 1,237 yards and five touchdowns against four interceptions last season ... The top receivers are WR Lionell McConnell, who had 36 catches for 366 yards, and WR Kobe Clark, who had 26 catches for 362 yards and a team-high four touchdowns ... RB Jeremiah Dobbins had 227 yards and five rushing TDs.

## -/rv SMU O-O, O-O American

### Head Coach

Sonny Dykes (Texas Tech '93)  
22-14, fourth season at SMU  
63-59, 11th season as collegiate head coach

### Information Contact

Lindsey Olsen  
(214) 768-4970, lolsen@smu.edu

### Notes

SMU has gone a combined 17-6 in the last two seasons after the Mustangs finished 7-3 in 2020 ... SMU was ranked as high as No. 16 in the Associated Press poll last year ... SMU was 7-1 to start last season, but looks to snap a two-game slide entering 2021 ... The Mustangs will have a new signal-caller this season as either QB Tanner Mordecai, a transfer from Oklahoma, or freshman QB Preston Stone gets the Opening Day start ... RB Ulysses Bentley IV was The American's offensive rookie of the year in 2020 after he rushed for 913 yards and 11 touchdowns on 170 carries ... WR Reggie Roberson Jr. was limited to four games, but still had 22 catches for 474 yards and five touchdowns ... K Blake Mazza was a Lou Groza Award finalist at Washington State in 2019.



# NATIONAL POLLS

Associated Press Poll				USA Today Coaches' Poll				American Preseason Media Poll	
Preseason Poll				Preseason Poll				School (First-Place Votes) ..Points	
School	Record	Pts		School	Record	Pts			
1. Alabama (47)	0-0	1,548		1. Alabama (63)	0-0	1,621		1. Cincinnati (22) .....	262
2. Oklahoma (6)	0-0	1,462		2. Clemson	0-0	1,508		2. UCF (2) .....	241
3. Clemson (6)	0-0	1,447		3. Oklahoma (2)	0-0	1,481		3. SMU.....	188
4. Ohio State (1)	0-0	1,393		4. Ohio State	0-0	1,435		4. Houston .....	181
5. Georgia (3)	0-0	1,364		5. Georgia	0-0	1,386		5. Memphis.....	168
6. Texas A&M	0-0	1,223		6. Texas A&M	0-0	1,286		6. Tulsa .....	153
7. Iowa State	0-0	1,160		7. Notre Dame	0-0	1,139		7. Tulane .....	132
8. Cincinnati	0-0	1,014		8. Iowa State	0-0	1,131		8. East Carolina .....	85
9. Notre Dame	0-0	1,009		9. North Carolina	0-0	999		Navy .....	85
10. North Carolina	0-0	999		10. Cincinnati	0-0	979		10. Temple .....	46
11. Oregon	0-0	968		11. Florida	0-0	870		11. South Florida.....	43
12. Wisconsin	0-0	743		12. Oregon	0-0	842			
13. Florida	0-0	728		13. LSU	0-0	664			
14. Miami (Fla.)	0-0	663		14. USC	0-0	655			
15. USC	0-0	680		15. Wisconsin	0-0	654			
16. LSU	0-0	631		16. Miami (Fla.)	0-0	575			
17. Indiana	0-0	549		17. Indiana	0-0	573			
18. Iowa	0-0	513		18. Iowa	0-0	554			
19. Penn State	0-0	456		19. Texas	0-0	427			
20. Washington	0-0	449		20. Penn State	0-0	422			
21. Texas	0-0	350		21. Washington	0-0	404			
22. Coastal Carolina	0-0	232		22. Oklahoma State	0-0	216			
23. Louisiana	0-0	208		23. Louisiana	0-0	153			
24. Utah	0-0	176		24. Coastal Carolina	0-0	150			
25. Arizona State	0-0	125		25. Ole Miss	0-0	149			

**Receiving votes:** Oklahoma State 107, Ole Miss 106, TCU 40, Liberty 36, Auburn 32, NC State 14, Michigan 12, Northwestern 8, Boise State 7, Nevada, BYU 6, Ball State 6, **Houston 5**, Boston College 5, **UCF 5**, West Virginia 3, UAB 2, Army 2, UCLA 2

**Receiving votes:** Utah 145, Northwestern 120, Arizona State 90, Auburn 84, Liberty 68, BYU 53, TCU 48, Michigan 30, **UCF 29**, NC State 27, Boise State 27, Kentucky 20, San Jose State 18, Army 13, Virginia Tech 9, Missouri 8, UCLA 7, Pittsburgh 6, **Tulsa 6**, Boston College 6, Ball State 5, **Houston 5**, **SMU 4**, Appalachian State 4, West Virginia 4, Arkansas 3, UAB 3, Nevada 2, Air Force 2, Mississippi State 2, Marshall 1, Florida State 1, California 1, Stanford 1

## WEEK-BY-WEEK IN THE NATIONAL POLLS

Below is a weekly look at each American Athletic Conference team's spot in the Associated Press and USA Today Coaches polls in 2021. Rankings are listed as AP/Coaches.

	UCF	Cincinnati	East Carolina	Houston	Memphis	Navy	USF	SMU	Temple	Tulane	Tulsa
Preseason	rv/rv	8/10	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/rv	-/-	-/-	-/rv
Sept. 5											
Sept. 12											
Sept. 19											
Sept. 26											
Oct. 3											
Oct. 10											
Oct. 17											
Oct. 24											
Oct. 31											
Nov. 7											
Nov. 14											
Nov. 21											
Nov. 28											
Dec. 5											
Final											

# THE 2021 SEASON

## 2021 HOME ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL (Capacity)	GP	TOTAL	AVG.	LARGEST CROWD
UCF (44,206)				
Cincinnati (40,000)				
ECU (50,000)				
Houston (40,000)				
Memphis (58,862)				
Navy (34,000)				
South Florida (65,897)				
SMU (32,000)				
Temple (68,532)				
Tulane (30,000)				
Tulsa (30,000)				
2021 TOTALS				

## 2021 TOP PERFORMANCES

### 100-YARD RUSHING GAMES

Player, School, Year	2021	Career
Shamari Brooks, Tulsa, Sr.		12
Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati, Sr.		5
Mulbah Car, Houston, Sr.		4
Ulysses Bentley IV, SMU, Fr.		4
Rahjai Harris, East Carolina, Fr.		3
Rodrigues Clark, Memphis, So.		3
TJ McDaniel, SMU, So.		3
Charles McClelland, Cincinnati, Jr.		2
Keaton Mitchell, East Carolina, Fr.		2
Clayton Tune, Houston, Jr.		2
Kylan Watkins, Memphis, Sr.		2
Cameron Carroll, Tulane, So.		2
Tyjae Spears, Tulane, Fr.		2
Kelley Joiner, South Florida, Jr.		2
Jerome Ford, Cincinnati, Jr.		1
Holton Ahlers, East Carolina, Jr.		1
Demetrius Mauney, East Carolina, So.		1
Xavier Arline, Navy, So.		1
Brian Battie, South Florida, So.		1
Deneric Prince, Tulsa, So.		1

### 300-YARD PASSING GAMES

Player, School, Year	2021	Career
Dillon Gabriel, UCF, Jr.		11
Holton Ahlers, East Carolina, Jr.		10
Clayton Tune, Houston, Jr.		5
Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati, Sr.		4

### 100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

Player, School, Year	2021	Career
Reggie Roberson Jr., SMU, Sr.		9
Jaylon Robinson, UCF, Jr.		6
Calvin Austin III, Memphis, Sr.		6
Jadan Blue, Temple, Jr.		6
Keylon Stokes, Tulsa, Sr.		6
Tyler Sneed, East Carolina, So.		5
C.J. Johnson, East Carolina, So.		4
Rashee Rice, SMU, So.		4
Alec Pierce, Cincinnati, Sr.		2
Jeremy Singleton, Houston, Jr.		2
Sean Dykes, Memphis, Sr.		2
CJ Williams, Navy, Sr.		2
Sam Crawford Jr., Tulsa, Jr.		2
Ryan O'Keefe, UCF, Jr.		1
Bryson Smith, Houston, Jr.		1
Bryce Miller, South Florida, Sr.		1
Danny Gray, SMU, Jr.		1
Randle Jones, Temple, Sr.		1
Duece Watts, Tulane, So.		1
Josh Johnson, Tulsa, Jr.		1
JuanCarlos Santana, Tulsa, Jr.		1

## THE RECORD BOOK

The American's single-game records  
(through 2020 season):

### Most Rushing Yards

1. Malcolm Perry, Navy vs. Army (12/14/19)	304
2. Jordan Cronkrite, South Florida at Massachusetts (10/6/18)	302
3. Malcolm Perry, Navy vs. SMU (11/11/17)	282

### Most Rushing Touchdowns

1. Ryquell Armstead, Temple at Houston (11/10/18)	6
2. Keenan Reynolds, Navy vs. ECU (9/19/15)	5
James Flanders, Tulsa at Memphis (10/29/16)	5
Zach Abey, Navy vs. Virginia (12/28/17)	5
Kevin Mensah, UConn at Massachusetts (10/26/19)	5
Jamale Carothers, Navy at Houston (11/30/19)	5

### Longest Rush

1. Adrian Killins, UCF vs. Memphis (9/30/17)	96 yds
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### Most Passing Yards

1. Dillon Gabriel, UCF at Memphis (10/17/20)	601
2. Hayden Moore, Cincinnati vs. Memphis (9/24/15)	557
3. Garrett Gilbert, SMU vs. Temple (10/26/13)	538

### Most Pass Completions

1. Gardner Minshew, East Carolina at Houston (11/4/17)	52
2. Greg Ward Jr., Houston at Memphis (11/25/16)	47
3. Garrett Gilbert, SMU, vs. Rutgers (10/5/13)	45

### Most Touchdown Passes

1. Paxton Lynch Memphis vs. SMU (11/28/15)	7
Riley Ferguson, Memphis at UConn (10/6/17)	7
3. Gunner Kiel, Cincinnati vs. Toledo (9/12/14)	6
Riley Ferguson, Memphis vs. Bowling Green (9/24/16)	6
Riley Ferguson, Memphis vs. UCLA (9/16/17)	6
Shane Buechele, SMU vs. Temple (10/19/19)	6
Holton Ahlers, East Carolina at SMU (11/9/19)	6
Brady White, Memphis vs. UCF (10/17/20)	6

### Most Receiving Yards

1. C.J. Johnson, East Carolina vs. Cincinnati (11/2/19)	283
2. Trevon Brown, East Carolina vs. Cincinnati (11/18/17)	270
3. Keyarris Garrett, Tulsa vs. Memphis (10/24/15)	268

### Most Receptions

1. Zay Jones, East Carolina at South Carolina (9/7/16)	22
2. Zay Jones, East Carolina vs. UConn (10/29/16)	19
Tyler Sneed, East Carolina at SMU (11/9/19)	19

### Most Touchdown Receptions

1. Courtland Sutton, SMU vs. North Texas (9/9/17)	4
Anthony Miller, Memphis at UConn (10/6/17)	4

### Longest Reception

1. Marquez Stevenson, Houston vs. SMU (10/24/19)	96 yds
2. Three players	95 yds

### Most Points

1. Keenan Reynolds, Navy vs. East Carolina (9/19/15)	30
James Flanders, Tulsa at Memphis (10/29/16)	30

### Most Field Goals

1. Riley Patterson, Memphis vs. Penn State (12/28/19)	6
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### Longest Field Goal

1. Jake Elliott, Memphis vs. USF (11/17/03)	56 yds
Riley Patterson, Memphis at SMU (10/3/20)	56 yds

### Longest Punt Return

1. Otis Anderson, UCF at Pitt (9/21/19)	87 yds
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### Longest Kickoff Return

1. Eight times, most recent Tyler Sneed, East Carolina vs. USF (10/26/19)	100 yds
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### Most All-Purpose Yards

1. Antonio Gibson, Memphis vs. SMU (11/2/19)	386
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### Most Tackles

1. Tyler Matakevich, Temple at Idaho (9/28/13)	24
2. Austin Robinson, Houston at Navy (10/20/18)	21
3. Michael Mudoh, Tulsa vs. Florida Atlantic (9/5/15)	20
Domenic Spencer, UCF at Tulsa (11/7/15)	20
D'Juan Hines, Houston at Tulsa (10/14/17)	20

### Most Tackles For Loss

1. Quincy Roche, Temple vs. Tulane (11/16/19)	6.0
2. Montese Overton, East Carolina at SMU (10/3/15)	5.0
Haason Reddick, Temple at Memphis (10/6/16)	5.0
Bryce Huff, Memphis at Tulane (9/28/18)	5.0
Ed Oliver, Houston at East Carolina (10/13/18)	5.0

### Most Sacks

1. Montese Overton, East Carolina at SMU (10/3/15)	4.0
Justin Lawler, SMU vs. UConn (9/30/17)	4.0

# THE 2021 SEASON

## AWARD WINNERS

### OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Sept. 6  
Sept. 13  
Sept. 20  
Sept. 27  
Oct. 4  
Oct. 11  
Oct. 18  
Oct. 25  
Nov. 1  
Nov. 8  
Nov. 15  
Nov. 22  
Nov. 29

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Sept. 6  
Sept. 13  
Sept. 20  
Sept. 27  
Oct. 4  
Oct. 11  
Oct. 18  
Oct. 25  
Nov. 1  
Nov. 8  
Nov. 15  
Nov. 22  
Nov. 29

### SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Sept. 6  
Sept. 13  
Sept. 20  
Sept. 27  
Oct. 4  
Oct. 11  
Oct. 18  
Oct. 25  
Nov. 1  
Nov. 8  
Nov. 15  
Nov. 22  
Nov. 29

### ACTIVE CAREER WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

5 – Desmond Ridder (QB, Cincinnati) Brady White (QB, Memphis)

4 – Dillon Gabriel (QB, UCF)

2 – Daniel Obarski (K, UCF); Holton Ahlers (QB, East Carolina); Tyler Snead (WR, East Carolina); Dalton Witherspoon (K, Houston); Bijan Nichols (K, Navy)

1 – Ja'Von Hicks (S, Cincinnati); Myjai Sanders (DE, Cincinnati); Cole Smith (K, Cincinnati); Marcus Jones (CB/PR, Houston); Jaylen Allen (LB, Memphis); Quindell Johnson (S, Memphis); Gabriel Rogers (DB, Memphis); Terrell Adams (LB, Navy); Diego Fagot (LB, Navy); Spencer Shrader (K, South Florida); Reggie Roberson Jr. (WR, SMU); Arnold Ebiketie (DE, Temple); Merek Glover (K, Tulane); Michael Pratt (QB, Tulane); Davis Brin (QB, Tulsa); Zack Long (K, Tulsa); Jaxon Player (DT, Tulsa); Lachlan Wilson (P, Tulsa)

## 2020 STATISTICAL RANKINGS

Team	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				KR	PR	Int.	Sacks	TFL	T/O
	Rush	Pass	Total	Score	Rush	Pass	Total	Score						
UCF	3	1	1	1	7	10	11	7	4	8	11	3	3	1
Cincinnati	1	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	7	5	4	4	3
East Carolina	6	7	7	7	8	8	9	9	7	2	7	8	8	9
Houston	8	4	5	5	5	7	4	8	2	1	8	6	7	11
Memphis	10	3	4	6	3	11	10	4	9	5	10	5	5	5
Navy	4	11	11	11	9	1	3	5	5	11	6	11	9	7
South Florida	9	8	9	9	11	5	8	11	6	6	2	10	10	10
SMU	5	2	2	3	6	6	6	6	8	3	9	2	2	4
Temple	11	9	10	10	10	4	7	10	10	9	4	9	11	7
Tulane	2	10	8	4	2	9	5	3	3	4	3	1	1	2
Tulsa	7	5	6	8	4	2	2	2	11	10	1	7	6	6

## AGAINST THE CONFERENCES

### ATLANTIC COAST (0-0)

South Florida at NC State (9/2)  
UCF at Louisville (9/17)  
Boston College at Temple (9/18)

### BIG 12 (0-0)

Oklahoma at Tulane (9/4)  
Texas Tech vs. Houston (9/4)  
Tulsa at Oklahoma State (9/11)  
SMU at TCU (9/25)

### BIG SKY (0-0)

UC Davis at Tulsa (9/2)

### BIG SOUTH (0-0)

Charleston Southern at East Carolina (9/25)

### BIG TEN (0-0)

Temple at Rutgers (9/2)  
Cincinnati at Indiana (9/18)  
Tulsa at Ohio State (9/18)

### CONFERENCE USA (0-0)

Marshall at Navy (9/4)  
Houston at Rice (9/11)  
North Texas at SMU (9/11)  
SMU at Louisiana Tech (9/18)  
East Carolina at Marshall (9/18)  
UTSA at Memphis (9/25)  
UAB at Tulane (9/25)

### MID-AMERICAN (0-0)

Miami (Ohio) at Cincinnati (9/4)  
Temple at Akron (9/11)

### MID-EASTERN (0-0)

Morgan State at Tulane (9/11)

### MOUNTAIN WEST (0-0)

Boise State at UCF (9/2)  
Air Force at Navy (9/11)

### NORTHEAST (0-0)

Wagner at Temple (9/25)

### OHIO VALLEY (0-0)

Murray State at Cincinnati (9/11)

### SOUTHEASTERN (0-0)

South Carolina at East Carolina (9/11)  
Florida at South Florida (9/11)  
Mississippi State at Memphis (9/18)  
Tulane at Ole Miss (9/18)

### SOUTHLAND (0-0)

Nicholls at Memphis (9/4)

### SOUTHWESTERN (0-0)

Bethune-Cookman at UCF (9/11)  
Grambling State at Houston (9/18)  
Florida A&M at South Florida (9/18)

### SUN BELT (0-0)

East Carolina vs. Appalachian State (9/2)  
Memphis at Arkansas State (9/11)  
Arkansas State at Tulsa (9/25)

### WESTERN ATHLETIC (0-0)

Abilene Christian at SMU (9/2)

### INDEPENDENTS (0-0)

South Florida at BYU (9/25)  
Cincinnati at Notre Dame (10/2)  
Navy at Notre Dame (11/6)  
UConn at UCF (11/20)  
Houston at UConn (11/27)  
Navy vs. Army (12/11)

### TOTAL NONCONFERENCE RECORDS

All Games ..... 0-0  
FBS Opponents ..... 0-0  
FCS Opponents ..... 0-0  
AP Top 25 ..... 0-0  
USA Today Top 25 ..... 0-0  
Bowl Games ..... 0-0

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

## Every Game Counts

The College Football Playoff (CFP) is a postseason event to determine college football's national champion on the field, while emphasizing the significance of college football's unique regular season where every game counts.

## Rankings

The selection committee ranks the teams based on the members' evaluation of the teams' performance on the field, using conference championships won, strength of schedule, head-to-head results, and comparison of results against common opponents to decide among teams that are comparable.

## Tradition

The New Year's holiday period belongs to college football, with two semifinal games rotating annually among the Cotton Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, Peach Bowl, Rose Bowl Game and Sugar Bowl.

## Championship Monday

The two teams that win the Playoff Semifinals compete for the College Football Playoff National Championship. The national championship game is in a different city each year, always on a Monday night.

## Universal Access

Every FBS team has equal access to the College Football Playoff based on its performance. No team automatically qualifies.

## Governance

University presidents and chancellors from all 10 FBS conferences and Notre Dame serve on the CFP Board of Managers and govern the administrative operations, with commissioners (the Management Committee) managing the event. A small staff in the playoff office in Irving, Texas, carries out the detailed responsibilities.

## Selection Committee

A talented group of 13 high-integrity individuals with experience as coaches, student-athletes, college administrators and journalists, along with sitting athletics directors, comprise the selection committee. Members of the committee are Mitch Barnhart, Gary Barta (chair), Paola Boivin, Tom Burman, Charlie Cobb, Boo Corrigan, Chris Del Conte, Rick George, Will Shields, Joe Taylor, John Urschel, Rod West and Tyrone Willingham.

## Selection Committee Responsibilities

- Rank the top 25 teams and assign the top four to semifinal sites.
- Assign teams to New Year's bowls
- Create competitive matchups
- Attempt to avoid rematches of regular-season games and repeat appearances
- Consider geography

## Participants In New Year's Bowls

Both participants in the Orange, Rose and Sugar Bowls are contracted outside the playoff arrangement (Big Ten and Pac-12 to Rose Bowl; SEC and Big 12 to Sugar Bowl; ACC to Orange Bowl against the highest ranked available team from the SEC, Big Ten and Notre Dame). If a conference champion qualifies for the playoff, then the bowl will choose a replacement from that conference. When those bowls host the semifinals and their contracted conference champions do not qualify, then the displaced champion(s) will play in one of the other New Year's bowls.

When not hosting semifinals, the Cotton, Fiesta and Peach Bowls will welcome displaced conference champions and the top-ranked champion from a non-contract conference. The highest-ranked available teams will fill any other berths. The selection committee will make the pairings.

## 2021-22 College Football Playoff and New Year's Six Schedule

### SEMIFINAL

#### Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic

December 31, 2021

3:30/7:30 p.m. ET • ESPN

AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas

### SEMIFINAL

#### Capital One Orange Bowl

December 31, 2021

3:30/7:30 p.m. ET • ESPN

Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla.

#### Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl

December 30, 2021

7 p.m. ET • ESPN

Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga.

#### PlayStation Fiesta Bowl

January 1, 2022

1 p.m. ET • ESPN

University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.

#### Rose Bowl Game

#### presented by Northwestern Mutual

January 1, 2022

5 p.m. ET • ESPN

Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, Calif.

#### Allstate Sugar Bowl

January 1, 2022

8:45 p.m. ET • ESPN

Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, La.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### presented by AT&T

January 10, 2022

8 p.m. ET, ESPN

Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Ind.



**COLLEGE FOOTBALL  
PLAYOFF**



# BOWL PARTNERSHIPS

## The American Bowl Lineup

American Athletic Conference teams are guaranteed at least seven bowl appearances annually as part of the conference's new postseason lineup, which began in the 2020 season and is in place through 2025..

The American, as it has done four times in the first six years of the current bowl cycle, will continue to send its champion to a New Year's Six bowl if that team finishes higher than the champions of four other conferences in the final College Football Playoff rankings. American Athletic Conference teams are also eligible for the College Football Playoff if they are among the top four teams in the final CFP rankings.

As part of the new bowl cycle, The American will annually send teams to the Military Bowl presented by Peraton against an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent, the Fenway Bowl in Boston, also against an ACC team, and a third annual spot which will alternate between the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl and the EasyPost Hawaii Bowl.

Additionally, The American will annually have four appearances in a group of eight bowls. The American extended its existing partnerships with the TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl, the Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl, the RoofClaim Boca Raton Bowl, the Tropical Smoothie Cafe Frisco Bowl and the Cure Bowl.

New to The American's lineup are the SERVPRO First Responder Bowl, the New Mexico Bowl and the Myrtle Beach Bowl.



## Annual Appearances (2020-25)



2020, 2022, 2024



2021, 2023, 2025



## Four Selections Annually From



# THE AMERICAN ON TELEVISION

The American and ESPN reached agreement on a 12-year media rights extension that began with the 2020-21 academic year.

With the current agreement, The American has a stronger and more extensive presence on ESPN's primary TV networks - ABC, ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU - than at any point in its history. The Conference will also be a valuable part of ESPN+, ESPN's industry-leading direct-to-consumer sports streaming service.

In football, a minimum of 40 regular-season telecasts per season will be televised on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU, including at least 20 across ABC, ESPN and ESPN2, which represents increased annual exposure across those ESPN networks. The American Championship game will be televised each year on ABC or ESPN.

Beyond select Navy football games, all conference controlled football games from The American will air on an ESPN network or ESPN+.

## 2021 NATIONALLY TELEVIEWED GAMES

### ABC

Sat., Sept. 4	Oklahoma at Tulane	Noon
Sat., Sept. 11	Florida at South Florida	1 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 4	American Football Championship	TBD

### ESPN

Thu., Sept. 2	Boise State at UCF	7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 4	Texas Tech vs. Houston	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 17	UCF at Louisville	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 1	Houston at Tulsa *	7:30 p.m.
Thu., Oct. 7	Houston at Tulane *	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 8	Temple at Cincinnati *	7 p.m.
Thu., Oct. 14	Navy at Memphis *	7:30 p.m.
Thu., Oct. 21	Tulane at SMU *	7:30 p.m.
Thu., Oct. 28	South Florida at East Carolina *	7:30 p.m.

### ABC or ESPN

Sat., Sept. 17	Cincinnati at Indiana	Noon
Fri., Nov. 26	South Florida at UCF *	3:30/7 p.m.

### ESPN2

Sat., Sept. 11	South Carolina at East Carolina	Noon
Sat., Sept. 17	Mississippi State at Memphis	4 p.m.
	Tulane at Ole Miss	8 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 29	Navy at Tulsa *	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 19	Memphis at Houston *	9 p.m.

### ABC, ESPN or ESPN2

Sat., Oct. 23	Cincinnati at Navy *	Noon
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### ESPNU

Thu., Sept. 2	East Carolina vs. Appalachian State	7:30 p.m.
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### ESPN2 or ESPNU

Sat., Sept. 17	Boston College at Temple	Noon
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### ESPN+

Thu., Sept. 2	UC Davis at Tulsa	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 4	Miami (Ohio) at Cincinnati	3:30 p.m.
	Nicholls at Memphis	7 p.m.
	Abilene Christian at SMU	7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 11	Murray State at Cincinnati	3:30 p.m.
	Temple at Akron	3:30 p.m.
	Bethune-Cookman at UCF	6:30 p.m.
	Memphis at Arkansas State	7 p.m.
	North Texas at SMU	7 p.m.
	Morgan State at Tulane	7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17	Grambling State at Houston	7 p.m.
	Florida A&M at South Florida	7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 25	Wagner at Temple	Noon
	Charleston Southern at East Carolina	6 p.m.

### CBS

Sat., Sept. 11	Air Force at Navy	3:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 11	Navy vs. Army	3 p.m.

### CBS Sports Network

Sat., Sept. 4	Marshall at Navy	3:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 11	Houston at Rice	6:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17	SMU at Louisiana Tech	3:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 2	UCF at Navy *	3:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 9	SMU at Navy *	3:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 20	East Carolina at Navy *	3:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 27	Houston at UConn	Noon

### NBC

Sat., Oct. 2	Cincinnati at Notre Dame	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 6	Navy at Notre Dame	3:30 p.m.

### FS1

Sat., Sept. 11	Tulsa at Oklahoma State	Noon
Sat., Sept. 18	Tulsa at Ohio State	3:30 p.m.

### ACC Network

Thu., Sept. 2	South Florida at NC State	7:30 p.m.
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### Big Ten Network

Thu., Sept. 2	Temple at Rutgers	6:30 p.m.
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All times Eastern and subject to change.

\* American Athletic Conference game

# MEDIA SERVICES

## TheAmerican.org

The official website of the American Athletic Conference features up-to-date information on all facets of the league and serves as the central point of distribution for live video and statistics of conference games.



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](http://collegepressbox.com/register).

## Social Media

Fans and media members are invited to follow the latest American Athletic Conference football news through social media. The American Twitter feed may be accessed @American\_FB and the conference's official Facebook page is available @AmericanConf. The American's Instagram handle is @Amercan\_Conf.



@American\_FB



American\_Conf



AmericanConf



AmericanAthleticConf

## Media Hub

The American Athletic Conference maintains a comprehensive online hub designed to assist members of the media in their coverage of The American and its member football programs.

The media hub will be updated daily and will contain links to the most recent media sessions of coaches and student-athletes as they are made available. The hub will also list the weekly media schedule for each American team and will link to media guides and weekly game notes.

## American Athletic Conference Media Hub

[www.TheAmerican.org/FootballMedia](http://www.TheAmerican.org/FootballMedia)



The American Athletic Conference has partnered with StatBroadcast to provide media members with live, real-time statistics of all conference-controlled football games.

## American Athletic Conference Media Stats Central

[aac.statbroadcast.com](http://aac.statbroadcast.com)



The American Digital Network is the home of all live and on-demand video coverage of all 22 American Athletic Conference sports. The ADN will provide in-depth coverage of the 2020 American football season.

## Weekly Release & Statistics

Media members may access PDF versions of the complete weekly release, including conference and team-by-team statistics, on TheAmerican.org or via CollegePressBox.com. Regular updates of the weekly release will be distributed via e-mail from the conference office. To be included on the distribution list, send an e-mail request to Chuck Sullivan at [csullivan@theamerican.org](mailto:csullivan@theamerican.org).

## Weekly Football Highlights

The American Athletic Conference offers video highlights and clips of selected press conferences on a weekly basis to members of the media.

Website [aacvideo.mediashuttle.com](http://aacvideo.mediashuttle.com)

Username [digital@theamerican.org](mailto:digital@theamerican.org)

Password AACMedia2018

## Annual Awards

The American Athletic Conference will name first and second all-conference teams, players of the year on offense, defense and special teams, rookie of the year and coach of the year. The awards are chosen by a vote of the league's 11 head coaches at the conclusion of the regular season. The American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team is comprised of players who have an overall grade-point average of 3.00 or better over the previous academic year and completed at least two semesters of academic work. The team is announced in July. The American Athletic Conference Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year was established to recognize student-athletes who have achieved success in the classroom and on the field. The winner receives a scholarship which may be applied to graduate or professional studies.

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# 2021 RESULTS AND SCHEDULES

## UCF (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				UCF	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/2	Boise State <sup>(7 p.m., ESPN)</sup>			rv/rv	rv/rv									
9/11	Bethune-Cookman <sup>(6:30 p.m., ESPN+)</sup>													
9/17	at Louisville <sup>(7:30 p.m., ESPN)</sup>													
10/2	at Navy * <sup>(3:30 p.m., CBSSN)</sup>													
10/9	East Carolina *													
10/16	at Cincinnati * <sup>(7 p.m., ESPN2)</sup>													
10/22	Memphis * <sup>(7 p.m., ESPN)</sup>													
10/30	at Temple *													
11/6	Tulane *													
11/13	at SMU *													
11/20	UConn													
11/26	South Florida * <sup>(3:30/7 p.m., ABC/ESPN)</sup>													

## CINCINNATI (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Cin	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/4	Miami (Ohio) <sup>(3:30 p.m., ESPN+)</sup>			8/10	-/-									
9/11	Murray State <sup>(3:30 p.m., ESPN+)</sup>													
9/18	at Indiana <sup>(Noon, ABC/ESPN)</sup>													
10/2	at Notre Dame <sup>(2:30 p.m., NBC)</sup>													
10/8	Temple *													
10/16	UCF *													
10/23	at Navy * <sup>(Noon, ABC/ESPN/ESPN2)</sup>													
10/30	at Tulane *													
11/6	Tulsa *													
11/12	at South Florida * <sup>(6 p.m., ESPN2)</sup>													
11/20	SMU *													
11/27	at East Carolina * <sup>(or 11/26)</sup>													

## EAST CAROLINA (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				ECU	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/2	vs. Appalachian State <sup>1 (7:30 p.m., ESPN)</sup>			-/-	-/rv									
9/11	South Carolina <sup>(Noon, ESPN2)</sup>													
9/18	at Marshall <sup>(6 p.m., CBSSN on Facebook)</sup>													
9/25	Charleston Southern <sup>(6 p.m., ESPN+)</sup>													
10/2	Tulane *													
10/9	at UCF *													
10/23	at Houston *													
10/28	South Florida *													
11/6	Temple *													
11/13	at Memphis *													
11/20	at Navy * <sup>(3:30 p.m., CBSSN)</sup>													
11/27	Cincinnati * <sup>(or 11/26)</sup>													

<sup>1</sup> Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.

## HOUSTON (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Hou	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/4	vs. Texas Tech <sup>1 (7 p.m., ESPN)</sup>			rv/rv	-/-									
9/11	at Rice <sup>(6:30 p.m., CBSSN)</sup>													
9/18	Grambling State <sup>(7 p.m., ESPN+)</sup>													
9/25	Navy *													
10/1	at Tulsa * <sup>(7:30 p.m., ESPN)</sup>													
10/7	at Tulane * <sup>(7:30 p.m., ESPN)</sup>													
10/23	East Carolina *													
10/30	SMU *													
11/6	at South Florida *													
11/13	at Temple *													
11/19	Memphis * <sup>(9 p.m., ESPN)</sup>													
11/27	at UConn <sup>(Noon, CBSSN)</sup>													

<sup>1</sup> NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas



# 2021 RESULTS AND SCHEDULES

## MEMPHIS (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Mem	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/4	Nicholls (7 p.m., ESPN+)			-/-	-/-									
9/11	at Arkansas State (7 p.m., ESPN+)													
9/18	Mississippi State (4 p.m., ESPN2)													
9/25	UTSA													
10/2	at Temple *													
10/9	at Tulsa *													
10/14	Navy * (7:30 p.m., ESPN)													
10/22	at UCF * (7 p.m., ESPN2)													
11/6	SMU *													
11/13	East Carolina *													
11/19	at Houston (9 p.m., ESPN)													
11/27	Tulane * (or 11/26)													

## NAVY (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Navy	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/4	Marshall (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)			-/-	-/rv									
9/11	Air Force (3:30 p.m., CBS)													
9/25	at Houston *													
10/2	UCF * (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)													
10/9	SMU * (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)													
10/14	at Memphis * (7:30 p.m., ESPN)													
10/23	Cincinnati * (Noon, ABC/ESPN/ESPN2)													
10/29	at Tulsa * (7:30 p.m., ESPN2)													
11/6	at Notre Dame (3:30 p.m., NBC)													
11/20	at East Carolina * (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)													
11/27	at Temple *													
12/12	vs. Army <sup>1</sup> (3 p.m., CBS)													

<sup>1</sup> MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.

## SOUTH FLORIDA (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				USF	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/2	at NC State (7:30 p.m., ACC Network)			-/-	rv/rv									
9/11	Florida (1 p.m., ABC)													
9/18	Florida A&M (7 p.m., ESPN+)													
9/25	at BYU													
10/2	at SMU *													
10/16	Tulsa *													
10/23	Temple *													
10/28	at East Carolina * (7:30 p.m., ESPN)													
11/6	Houston *													
11/12	Cincinnati * (6 p.m., ESPN2)													
11/20	at Tulane *													
11/26	UCF * (3:30/7 p.m., ABC/ESPN)													

## SMU (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				SMU	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/4	Abilene Christian (7 p.m., ESPN+)			-/rv	-/-									
9/11	North Texas (7 p.m., ESPN+)													
9/18	at Louisiana Tech (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)													
9/25	at TCU													
10/2	South Florida *													
10/9	at Navy *													
10/21	Tulane * (7:30 p.m., ESPN)													
10/30	at Houston *													
11/6	at Memphis *													
11/13	UCF *													
11/20	at Cincinnati *													
11/27	Tulsa * (or 11/26)													

# 2021 RESULTS AND SCHEDULES

## TEMPLE (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Temple	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/2	at Rutgers (6:30 p.m., Big Ten Network)			-/-	-/-									
9/11	at Akron (3:30 p.m., ESPN+)													
9/18	Boston College (Noon, ESPN2/ESPNU)													
9/25	Wagner (Noon, ESPN+)													
10/2	Memphis *													
10/8	at Cincinnati * (7 p.m., ESPN)													
10/23	at South Florida *													
10/30	UCF *													
11/6	at East Carolina *													
11/13	Houston *													
11/20	at Tulsa *													
11/27	Navy *													

## TULANE (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Tulane	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/4	Oklahoma (Noon, ABC)			-/-	2/3									
9/11	Morgan State (7 p.m., ESPN+)													
9/18	at Ole Miss (8 p.m., ESPN2)													
9/25	UAB													
10/2	at East Carolina *													
10/7	Houston * (7:30 p.m., ESPN2)													
10/21	at SMU * (7:30 p.m., ESPN)													
10/30	Cincinnati *													
11/6	at UCF *													
11/13	Tulsa *													
11/20	South Florida *													
11/27	at Memphis (or 11/26)													

## TULSA (0-0, 0-0 American)

Date	Opponent	Result	Attend.	Rank		Offense					Defense			
				Tulsa	Opp	Rush	Pass	Total	Passing	TO	Rush	Pass	Total	TO
9/2	UC Davis (7:30 p.m., ESPN+)			-/rv	-/-									
9/11	at Oklahoma State (Noon, FS1)													
9/18	at Ohio State (3:30 p.m., FS1)													
9/25	Arkansas State													
10/1	Houston * (7:30 p.m., ESPN)													
10/9	Memphis *													
10/16	at South Florida *													
10/29	Navy * (7:30 p.m., ESPN2)													
11/6	at Cincinnati *													
11/13	at Tulane *													
11/20	Temple *													
11/27	at SMU * (or 11/26)													

# 2021 COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

## Thursday, September 2

Temple at Rutgers (6:30 p.m., Big Ten Network)  
Boise State at UCF (7 p.m., ESPN)  
East Carolina vs. Appalachian State <sup>1</sup> (7:30 p.m., ESPN)  
South Florida at NC State (7:30 p.m., ACC Network)  
UC Davis at Tulsa (7:30 p.m., ESPN+)

## Saturday, September 4

Oklahoma at Tulane (Noon, ABC)  
Marshall at Navy (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)  
Miami (Ohio) at Cincinnati (3:30 p.m., ESPN+)  
Texas Tech vs. Houston <sup>2</sup> (7 p.m., ESPN)  
Nicholls at Memphis (7 p.m., ESPN+)  
Abilene Christian at SMU (7 p.m., ESPN+)

## Saturday, September 11

South Carolina at East Carolina (Noon, ESPN2)  
Tulsa at Oklahoma State (Noon, FS1)  
Florida at South Florida (1 p.m., ABC)  
Murray State at Cincinnati (3:30 p.m., ESPN+)  
Air Force at Navy (3:30 p.m., CBS)  
Temple at Akron (3:30 p.m., ESPN+)  
Bethune-Cookman at UCF (6:30 p.m., ESPN+)  
Houston at Rice (6:30 p.m., CBSSN)  
Memphis at Arkansas State (7 p.m., ESPN+)  
North Texas at SMU (7 p.m., ESPN+)  
Morgan State at Tulane (7 p.m., ESPN+)

## Friday, September 17

UCF at Louisville (7:30 p.m., ESPN)

## Saturday, September 18

Cincinnati at Indiana (Noon, ABC/ESPN)  
Boston College at Temple (Noon, ESPN2/ESPN)  
SMU at Louisiana Tech (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)  
Tulsa at Ohio State (3:30 p.m., FS1)  
Mississippi State at Memphis (4 p.m., ESPN2)  
East Carolina at Marshall (6 p.m., CBSSN on Facebook)  
Grambling State at Houston (7 p.m., ESPN+)  
Florida A&M at South Florida (7 p.m., ESPN+)  
Tulane at Ole Miss (8 p.m., ESPN2)

## Saturday, September 25

Wagner at Temple (Noon, ESPN+)  
Charleston Southern at East Carolina (6 p.m., ESPN+)  
Navy at Houston \*  
UTSA at Memphis  
South Florida at BYU  
SMU at TCU  
UAB at Tulane  
Arkansas State at Tulsa

## Friday, October 1

Houston at Tulsa \* (7:30 p.m., ESPN)

## Saturday, October 2

Memphis at Temple \* (Noon)  
Cincinnati at Notre Dame (2:30 p.m., NBC)  
UCF at Navy \* (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)  
Tulane at East Carolina \*  
SMU at South Florida \*

## Thursday, October 7

Houston at Tulane \* (7:30 p.m., ESPN)

## Friday, October 8

Temple at Cincinnati \* (7 p.m., ESPN)

## Saturday, October 9

SMU at Navy \* (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)  
East Carolina at UCF \*  
Memphis at Tulsa \*

## Thursday, October 14

Navy at Memphis \* (7:30 p.m., ESPN)

## Saturday, October 16

UCF at Cincinnati \*  
Tulsa at South Florida \*

## Thursday, October 21

Tulane at SMU \* (7:30 p.m., ESPN)

## Friday, October 22

Memphis at UCF \* (7 p.m., ESPN2)

## Saturday, October 23

Cincinnati at Navy \* (Noon, ABC/ESPN/ESPN2)  
East Carolina at Houston \*  
Temple at South Florida \*

## Thursday, October 28

South Florida at East Carolina \* (7:30 p.m., ESPN)

## Friday, October 29

Navy at Tulsa \* (7:30 p.m., ESPN2)

## Saturday, October 30

UCF at Temple \*  
Cincinnati at Tulane \*  
SMU at Houston \*

## Saturday, November 6

Navy at Notre Dame (3:30 p.m., NBC)  
Tulane at UCF \*  
Tulsa at Cincinnati \*  
Temple at East Carolina \*  
Houston at South Florida \*  
SMU at Memphis \*

## Friday, November 12

Cincinnati at South Florida \* (6 p.m., ESPN2)

## Saturday, November 13

UCF at SMU \*  
East Carolina at Memphis \*  
Houston at Temple \*  
Tulsa at Tulane \*

## Friday, November 19

Memphis at Houston \* (9 p.m., ESPN2)

## Saturday, November 20

East Carolina at Navy \* (3:30 p.m., CBSSN)  
UConn at UCF  
SMU at Cincinnati \*  
South Florida at Tulane \*  
Temple at Tulsa \*

## Friday, November 26

South Florida at UCF \* (3:30 or 7 p.m., ABC/ESPN)

## Saturday, November 27

Houston at UConn (Noon, CBSSN)  
Cincinnati at East Carolina \* ^  
Tulane at Memphis \* ^  
Navy at Temple \*  
Tulsa at SMU \* ^

## Saturday, December 4

American Athletic Conference Championship (ABC)

## Saturday, December 11

Navy vs. Army <sup>3</sup> (3 p.m., CBS)

^ or Friday, Nov. 26

<sup>1</sup> Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.

<sup>2</sup> NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas

<sup>3</sup> MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.

\* American Athletic Conference game

All times Eastern; all dates and times subject to change.