



Aug. 28, 2023

2023 FOOTBALL

@BigSouthOVCFB | www.BigSouthOVCFootball.com

2023 Big South-OVC Football Association Standings

Team	Big South-OVC					Overall								
	W	L	PCT	PF	PA	W	L	PCT	PF	PA	Home	Road	L10	Streak
Bryant	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	W1
Charleston Southern	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	L1
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	L6
Gardner-Webb	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	L1
Lindenwood	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	W1
Robert Morris	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	L11
Southeast Missouri	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	L1
Tennessee State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	W1
Tennessee Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	L1
UT Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	W2

SLANT ROUTES

* **BRYANT:** The Bulldogs are playing five first-time opponents this season ... Bryant is opening the season against an FBS foe for the second-straight year.

* **CHARLESTON SOUTHERN:** The Bucs are opening the season at home for the second-straight year, and are looking to start 1-0 for the first time since 2021 ... New head coach **GABE GIARDINA** was a CSU assistant from 2008-11 and 2013-16.

* **EASTERN ILLINOIS:** The series vs. Indiana State is the second-longest in EIU history ... The Panthers are looking to start 1-0 for the first time since 2017, which was a 22-20 triumph over the Sycamores.

* **GARDNER-WEBB:** The Runnin' Bulldogs are facing App State for the first time since 2018 ... Last season, GWU played three FBS games, and lost two by a combined 5 points ... Gardner-Webb is opening a season at an FBS foe for the third time since 2019.

* **LINDENWOOD:** The Lions are playing seven first-time opponents in 2023 ... Lindenwood is looking to open the season 1-0 for the second consecutive season.

* **ROBERT MORRIS:** The Colonials are opening the season against an FBS member for the first time since 2019 (Buffalo) ... RMU is playing five first-time opponents this season.

* **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI:** The Redhawks are facing three first-time opponents this season ... SEMO is opening the campaign against an FBS member for the second-straight year (2022 at Iowa State).

* **TENNESSEE STATE:** The Tigers are playing six first-time foes in 2023 ... Saturday's game vs. Notre Dame marks TSU's third FBS contest under head coach **EDDIE GEORGE**.

* **TENNESSEE TECH:** The Golden Eagles are opening the season on the road for the third-straight year ... TTU last opened 1-0 during the Spring 2021 season.

* **UT MARTIN:** Georgia marks the Skyhawks' lone first-time opponent of the season ... UTM is opening against an FBS foe for second time in three years.

WEEK 1 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

	TIME	WATCH	SERIES
North Greenville at CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	6:00pm ET	ESPN+	CSU leads series, 11-1
EASTERN ILLINOIS at Indiana State	6:00pm ET	ESPN+	EIU leads series, 43-40-4
TENNESSEE TECH at #6/6 Furman	7:00pm ET	ESPN+	FUR leads series, 2-1
Wisconsin-Stevens Point at LINDENWOOD	7:00pm CT	ESPN+	1st meeting

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

	TIME	WATCH	SERIES
ROBERT MORRIS at Air Force	1:00pm ET	Altitude Sports	1st meeting
TENNESSEE STATE at Notre Dame (#13)	3:30pm ET	NBC/Peacock	1st meeting
#24/25 GARDNER-WEBB at Appalachian State	3:30pm ET	ESPN+	APP leads series, 3-0
BRYANT at UNLV	4:00pm ET	MWN	1st meeting
UT MARTIN at Georgia (#1)	6:00pm ET	ESPN+	1st meeting
#11/12 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI at Kansas State (#16/17)	6:00pm CT	ESPN+	1st meeting

All Times subject to change

Big South-OVC Association member in ALL CAPS

2-MINUTE OFFENSE

OPENING KICKOFF: The inaugural season of the Big South-OVC Football Association kicks off Thursday, Aug. 31 ... The league schedule begins in Week 2 and features six games, as prior scheduling commitments prevented opportunities for additional games this first year ... League games will be played during 10 of the 12 weeks in 2023, with the first-ever contest slated for Sept. 9 with Lindenwood at 2022 OVC Co-Champion Southeast Missouri ... The first cross-over game features 2022 Big South Champion Gardner-Webb at Tennessee State in Week 3 on Sept. 16 ... Two of the three November dates have the maximum five conference games on the schedule.

1st DOWN: Big South-OVC Association members will play 10 FBS games this season -- with six of the contests this Saturday. Three FBS games are on the docket in Week 2.

2nd DOWN: With Southeast Missouri (#11/12) and Gardner-Webb (#24/25) beginning the season nationally-ranked, the Big South-OVC Association is one of six conferences with multiple Top 25 programs ... GWU is nationally-ranked for the first time since 2003, while SEMO is in the national Top 25 for the 11th-straight week.

3rd DOWN: Five non-conference FCS opponents are ranked in the preseason Top 25 polls -- William & Mary, Furman, Samford, Rhode Island and Eastern Kentucky.

4th DOWN: The Association will play 11 non-conference games this season against "State"-named FCS schools, and 13 total when including FBS members ... Eastern Illinois will play the most with five (including Association foes Southeast Missouri State and Tennessee State).

ABOUT THE BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

This year marks the first season of the Big South-OVC Football Association. On Feb. 22, 2022, the Big South Conference and Ohio Valley Conference announced the creation of an association of their football member institutions, to begin with the 2023 NCAA Division I football season and have an initial term of at least four years. The unique agreement combines the two conferences' football membership to ensure NCAA championship access and stability for the multisport conferences. In creating the association, presidents from each of the multisport conferences pointed to the similarities of the OVC and the Big South, with their complementary geographies and intercollegiate athletic philosophies, as key to making this association possible. The first year is comprised of 10 members. Western Illinois will join the Association beginning with the 2024 season, while Bryant will depart after this season for CAA Football.



2023 BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2023 ASSOCIATION PRESEASON POLL

(as voted by head coaches; first-place votes in parentheses)

1.	Setheast Missouri State (6)	96
2.	Gardner-Webb (2)	86
3.	UT Martin (1)	85
4.	Tennessee Tech (1)	58
5.	Tennessee State	57
6.	Bryant	48
7.	Lindenwood	47
8.	Eastern Illinois	33
9.	Charleston Southern	30
10.	Robert Morris	12

2023 NATIONAL POLLS - PRESEASON

STATS PERFORM

RK	TEAM	RECORD	PTS
1	South Dakota State (56)	0-0	1,400
2	North Dakota State	0-0	1,329
3	Montana State	0-0	1,294
4	William & Mary	0-0	1,172
5	Holy Cross	0-0	1,113
6	Furman	0-0	1,035
7	UIW	0-0	935
8	Idaho	0-0	932
9	Samford	0-0	885
10	Sacramento State	0-0	881
11	New Hampshire	0-0	798
12	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	0-0	768
13	Weber State	0-0	744
14	Montana	0-0	711
15	Southeastern Louisiana	0-0	710
16	UC Davis	0-0	513
17	North Dakota	0-0	479
18	Richmond	0-0	387
19	N.C. Central	0-0	330
20	Mercer	1-0	293
21	Rhode Island	0-0	169
22	Delaware	0-0	166
23	Northern Iowa	0-0	155
24	Eastern Kentucky	0-0	137
25	GARDNER-WEBB	0-0	129

Others (Big South-OVC Only): UT Martin (65)

AFCA FCS COACHES POLL

RK	TEAM	RECORD	PTS
1	South Dakota State (24)	0-0	624
2	North Dakota State (1)	0-0	596
3	Montana State	0-0	567
4	William & Mary	0-0	510
5	Holy Cross	0-0	459
6	Furman	0-0	438
7	UIW	0-0	424
8	Sacramento State	0-0	421
9	Samford	0-0	414
10	Weber State	0-0	325
11	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	0-0	322
12	New Hampshire	0-0	304
13	Idaho	0-0	288
14	Montana	0-0	285
15	Southeastern Louisiana	0-0	259
16	Richmond	0-0	235
17	UC Davis	0-0	226
18	North Dakota	0-0	188
19	N.C. Central	0-0	139
20	Northern Iowa	0-0	137
21	Delaware	0-0	124
22	Mercer	1-0	123
23	Rhode Island	0-0	73
24	GARDNER-WEBB	0-0	72
25	Florida A&M	0-0	70

Others (Big South-OVC Only): UT Martin (23), Tennessee Tech (6)

BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IN THE NATIONAL POLLS

Week of	BRY	CSU	FIU	GWU	LIN	RMU	SEMO	TSU	TTU	UTM
Preseason	-- / --	-- / --	-- / --	25 / 24	-- / --	-- / --	12 / 11	-- / --	-- / RV	RV / RV
Sept. 4										
Sept. 11										
Sept. 18										
Sept. 25										
Oct. 2										
Oct. 9										
Oct. 16										
Oct. 23										
Oct. 30										
Nov. 6										
Nov. 13										
Nov. 20										
Final										

The Stats Perform FCS poll is listed first, followed by the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll RV - Received Votes

BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION VS. DIVISION I OPPONENTS

vs. FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION (0-0, .000)

CAA Football	0-0
Elon	
Rhode Island	
William & Mary	
Independent	0-0
Kennesaw State	
Ivy	0-0
Brown	
Princeton	
Mid-Eastern Athletic	0-0
Howard	
Norfolk State	
South Carolina State	
Missouri Valley Football	0-0
Illinois State	
Indiana State	
Missouri State	
Southern Illinois	
Western Illinois	
Youngstown State	
Northeast	0-0
Long Island	
Saint Francis	
Southern	0-0
Furman	
Samford	
Western Carolina	
Southland	0-0
Houston Christian	
McNeese	
Nicholls	
Northwestern State	
Southwestern Athletic	0-0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	
United Athletic	0-0
Austin Peay	
Central Arkansas	
Eastern Kentucky	
North Alabama	

vs. FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION

American Athletic	0-0
East Carolina	
Atlantic Coast	0-0
Clemson	
Big 12	0-0
Kansas State	
Independent	0-0
Notre Dame	
Mid-American	0-0
Bowling Green	
Mountain West	0-0
Air Force	
New Mexico	
UNLV	
Southeastern	0-0
Georgia	
Sun Belt	0-0
Appalachian State	



2023 BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



COACHES WEEKLY ZOOM

Big South-OVC Football Association head coaches will hold a weekly video conference via Zoom. The sessions will be on Tuesday (beginning Aug. 29) between 8:30am CT / 9:30am ET to 12:00pm CT / 1:00pm ET, with each head coach appearing for a maximum of 10 minutes. For information on how to access the Zoom, please contact **KYLE SCHWARTZ** (615-690-6685 or kschwartz@ovc.org). The schedule of coach appearances is below.

8:30 CT / 9:30 ET - Tre Lamb, GWU
9:50 CT / 10:50 ET - Chris Wilkerson, EIU
10:00 CT / 11:00 ET - Bernard Clark Jr., RMU
10:30 CT / 11:30 ET - Gabe Giardina, CSU
10:40 CT / 11:40 ET - Jason Simpson, UTM

10:50 CT / 11:50 ET - Chris Merritt, BRY
11:10 CT / 12:10 ET - Dewayne Alexander, TTU
11:20 CT / 12:20 ET - Tom Matukewicz, SEMO
11:30 CT / 12:30 ET - Jed Stugart, LIN
11:50 CT / 12:50 ET - Eddie George, TSU

WATCH "FCS ALL IN" ON ESPN+

The Big South-OVC Football Association is proud to partner with the 13 other FCS Conferences in developing the third full season of the weekly "FCS All-In" television show that highlights the Football Championship Subdivision. The program moved to ESPN+ in 2022 after airing on YouTube since its debut in the Spring of 2021.

The show -- produced by Big Sky Conference staff in collaboration with communications directors and video managers at all FCS Conferences -- features **CRAIG HALEY** (Stats Perform) and **SAM HERDER** (HERO Sports), with host **ALEX ESCHELMAN**. It airs every Friday at 12:00pm ET / 11:00am CT throughout the season on ESPN+. Again this year, the show features a "guest picker" segment each week, with the participating conferences recommending the special guests that will participate in picking the winner of the Game of the Week, as well as any other games of interest.

FCS ALL-IN

FRIDAYS AT 12PM ET ON ESPN+



FOOTBALL SID CONTACTS

Big South-OVC _____ **Kyle Schwartz**
kschwartz@ovcs.org
615-690-6685
Mark Simpson
marks@bigsouth.org
704-341-7990

Bryant _____ **Max Slomiak**
mslomiak@bryant.edu
401-232-6000, ext. 20761
@BryantUFootball

Charleston Southern _____ **Taylor Chitwood**
tchitwood@csuniv.edu
843-863-7853
@csusports

Eastern Illinois _____ **Rich Moser**
rlmoser@eiu.edu
217-581-7480
@EIU_FB

Gardner-Webb _____ **Richard Martin**
rmartin7@gardner-webb.edu
704-406-3523
@GWUFootball

Lindenwood _____ **Andrew Honerkamp**
AHonerkamp@lindenwood.edu
636-627-4358
@Lindenwood FB

Robert Morris _____ **Jim Duzyk**
duzyk@rmu.edu
412-397-4919
@RMU_Football

Southeast Missouri _____ **Jeff Honza**
jhonza@semo.edu
573-651-2933
@SEMOFootball

Tennessee State _____ **Nick Guerriero**
nguerrie@tnstate.edu
615-963-6638
@TSUTigersFB

Tennessee Tech _____ **Thomas Corhern**
tcorhern@tntech.edu
931-372-6139
@TNTechFootball

UT Martin _____ **Alex Boggis**
dboggis@utm.edu
731-881-7694
@UTM_Football

FCS Football on X (formerly Twitter):
@NCAA_FCS
@ESPNCFB
@FCS_Insider
@HEROSportsNews
@FCS_STATS
@FCS_Football

Relevant Hashtags:
#FCS
#FCSonGameDay
#FearTheFCS (vs. FBS opponent)
#FCSFacts
#FCSPlayoffs
#FCSChamp



2023 BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2023 PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Ahead of its inaugural season, the Big South-OVC Football Association developed a Preseason Watch List from both conferences entering the 2023 campaign. The Watch List is comprised of top returnees by position most of which are returning All-Conference and All-America honorees, plus 2023 Preseason All-Americans.

OFFENSE

QB – Zevi Eckhaus, Jr, BRY
QB – Draylen Ellis, Sr, TSU
QB – Paxton DeLaurent, Jr, SEMO
RB – Juwon Farri, Sr, EIU
RB – Sam Franklin, R-Soph., UTM
RB – Narii Gaither, R-Sr, GWU
RB – Geno Hess, Gr, SEMO
RB – JD Moore, R-Jr, CSU
WR – Ryan Flournoy, Sr, SEMO
WR – Brennan McGuire, Gr, GWU
WR – Landon Ruggieri, Jr, BRY
WR – DeVonte Tanksley, R-Jr, UTM
WR – Justin Thomas, Gr, EIU
TE – Jihad Edmond, Sr, BRY
TE – DJ Nelson, R-Soph., UTM
OL – Zack Gieg, Sr, SEMO
OL – Nathan Hodnett, Jr, TTU
OL – Ethan Johnson, Jr, LIN
OL – Lamar Morgan, Sr, UTM
OL – Gavin Olson, Sr, UTM
OL – Chad Strickland, Sr, EIU
OL – Gabe Thompson, R-Sr, GWU
OL – Gareth Warren, Jr, LIN
OL – Jamichael Watts, Sr, BRY

DEFENSE

DL – Terrell Allen, Sr, TSU
DL – Kail Dava, Gr, TTU
DL – Daylan Dotson, R-Jr, UTM
DL – Kenny Dyson, Sr, BRY
DL – Ty French, Sr, GWU
DL – Steven Lewis, Sr, SEMO
DL – Kobe McLendon, Soph., LIN
LB – Ty Anderson, Soph, GWU
LB – Keandre Booker, Sr, SEMO
LB – Joe Casale, R-Sr, RMU
LB – James Green, Gr, TSU
LB – Jacquez McGowan, Soph, TTU
LB – William McRaney, Sr, GWU
LB – Bryce Norman, Jr, SEMO
LB – K'Vaughan Pope, Gr, TSU
LB – Jamar Shogog, R-Sr, RMU
LB – Elijah Tolbert, Jr, EIU
DB – Darion Bolden, Sr, LIN
DB – Jamari Brown, Gr, GWU
DB – Nick Coates, Jr, EIU
DB – Russell Dandy, 5th, EIU
DB – Josh Green, Sr, TSU
DB – Jamel Johnson, Soph, CSU
DB – Lawrence Johnson, Gr, SEMO
DB – Ty Leonard, Sr, SEMO
DB – Raequan Ousley, Sr, GWU
DB – Bryce Phillips, Soph., TSU
DB – AJ Thomas, Gr, GWU

SPECIALISTS

PK – Stone Galloway, Sr, EIU
PK – Ethan Gettman, Sr, BRY
PK – Ian Sauter, Gr, GWU
PK – Logan Seibert, Jr, LIN
P – Nick Bigelow, Jr, TTU
P – George Souders III, Gr, RMU
LS – Jack Valente, Jr, EIU
LS – Jamie Wilson, R-Soph., GWU
RS – Mark Aitken, Jr, EIU
RS – Anthony Frederick, Sr, BRY
RS – Dalyn McDonald, Sr, SEMO
RS – Cooper Willman, Jr, EIU

NATIONAL HONORS & AWARDS

WALTER PAYTON AWARD WATCH LIST (3)

Zevi Eckhaus, Bryant
Narii Gaither, Gardner-Webb
Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri

BUCK BUCHANAN AWARD WATCH LIST (4)

Daylan Dotson, UT Martin
Ty French, Gardner-Webb
Bryce Norman, Southeast Missouri
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri

STATS PERFORM PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA (12)

Zack Gieg, Southeast Missouri (1st Team)
Ty French, Gardner-Webb (1st Team)
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri (1st Team)
Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Daylan Dotson, UT Martin (2nd Team)
Bryce Norman, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Ethan Gettman, Bryant (2nd Team)
Anthony Frederick, Bryant (2nd Team)
Ryan Flournoy, Southeast Missouri (3rd Team)
Gavin Olson, UT Martin (3rd Team)
Raequan Ousley, Gardner-Webb (3rd Team)
Narii Gaither, Gardner-Webb (3rd Team)

THE BLUEBLOODS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA (10)

Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri (1st Team)
Ty French, Gardner-Webb (1st Team)
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri (1st Team)
Ethan Gettman, Bryant (1st Team)
Ryan Flournoy, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Daylan Dotson, UT Martin (2nd Team)
Bryce Norman, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Raequan Ousley, Gardner-Webb (2nd Team)
Anthony Frederick, Bryant (2nd Team)
William McRaney, Gardner-Webb (3rd Team)

PHIL STEELE PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA (12)

Ryan Flournoy, Southeast Missouri (1st Team)
Daylan Dotson, UT Martin (1st Team)
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri (1st Team)
Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Zack Gieg, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Ty French, Gardner-Webb (2nd Team)
Bryce Norman, Southeast Missouri (2nd Team)
Ethan Gettman, Bryant (2nd Team)
Raequan Ousley, Gardner-Webb (3rd Team)
Anthony Frederick, Bryant (3rd Team)
DJ Nelson, UT Martin (4th Team)
Gavin Olson, UT Martin (4th Team)

HERO SPORTS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA (3)

Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri
Zack Gieg, Southeast Missouri
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri

ATHLON SPORTS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA (4)

Zack Gieg, Southeast Missouri
Ty French, Gardner-Webb
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri
Ethan Gettman, Bryant

REESE'S SENIOR BOWL WATCH LIST (3)

Ty French, Gardner-Webb
Ryan Flournoy, Southeast Missouri
Daylan Dotson, UT Martin

SHRINE BOWL WATCH LIST (4)

Narii Gaither, Gardner-Webb
Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri
Lawrence Johnson, Southeast Missouri
Daylan Dotson, UT Martin

FRED MITCHELL AWARD WATCH LIST (3)

Stone Galloway, Eastern Illinois
Ethan Gettman, Bryant
Logan Seibert, Lindenwood

BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD WATCH LIST (2)

Terrell Allen, Tennessee State
Draylen Ellis, Tennessee State

2023 BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 4

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 4

SPECIAL TEAMS OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 4

FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 4

2023 PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE

Sept. 4
Sept. 11
Sept. 18
Sept. 25
Oct. 2
Oct. 9
Oct. 16
Oct. 23
Oct. 30
Nov. 6
Nov. 13
Nov. 20

DEFENSIVE

Sept. 4
Sept. 11
Sept. 18
Sept. 25
Oct. 2
Oct. 9
Oct. 16
Oct. 23
Oct. 30
Nov. 6
Nov. 13
Nov. 20

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sept. 4
Sept. 11
Sept. 18
Sept. 25
Oct. 2
Oct. 9
Oct. 16
Oct. 23
Oct. 30
Nov. 6
Nov. 13
Nov. 20

FRESHMAN

Sept. 4
Sept. 11
Sept. 18
Sept. 25
Oct. 2
Oct. 9
Oct. 16
Oct. 23
Oct. 30
Nov. 6
Nov. 13
Nov. 20

Bold italics indicates player went on to be name National Player of the Week (STATS, HERO Sports or NCAA.com)



2023 BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



BRYANT BULLDOGS (0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Chris Merritt (5th year)
BRY Record: 17-21; Overall Record: 17-21



CHARLESTON SOUTHERN BUCCANEERS (0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Gabe Giardina (1st year)
CSU Record: 0-0; Overall Record: 37-17

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Sept. 2	at UNLV	4:00pm	MWN
Sept. 9	LONG ISLAND	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	BROWN	4:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	at Princeton	3:00pm	
Sept. 30	at Rhode Island	1:00pm	FloSports
Oct. 14	ROBERT MORRIS *	4:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	at Eastern Illinois *	3:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	at Charleston Southern *	4:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	GARDNER-WEBB *	1:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	at Lindenwood *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI *	1:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times ET and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Aug. 31	NORTH GREENVILLE	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	at Clemson	2:15pm	ACCN
Sept. 16	WILLIAM & MARY	4:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	at Western Carolina	2:30pm	
Sept. 30	KENNESAW STATE	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	LINDENWOOD *	4:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	at UT Martin *	3:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	BRYANT *	4:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	TENNESSEE STATE *	4:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	at Robert Morris *	12:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	at Gardner-Webb *	1:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times ET and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS



EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS (0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Chris Wilkerson (2nd year)
EIU Record: 2-9; Overall Record: 53-36



#24/25 GARDNER-WEBB RUNNIN' BULLDOGS (0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Tre Lamb (4th year)
GWU Record: 13-15; Overall Record: 13-15

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Aug. 31	at Indiana State	5:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	at Bowling Green	1:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	ILLINOIS STATE	2:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	McNEESE	2:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 30	at Northwestern State	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	UT MARTIN *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	at Southeast Missouri *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	BRYANT *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	at Lindenwood *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	TENNESSEE STATE *	12:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	at Robert Morris *	11:00am	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times CT and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Sept. 2	at Appalachian State	3:30pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	ELON	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	at Tennessee State *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	at East Carolina	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	ROBERT MORRIS *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	at Austin Peay	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	EASTERN KENTUCKY	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	UT MARTIN *	1:30pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	at Bryant *	1:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	at Tennessee Tech *	2:30pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN *	1:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times ET and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS



LINDENWOOD LIONS (0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Jed Stugart (7th year)
LIN Record: 33-24; Overall Record: 124-48



ROBERT MORRIS COLONIALS (0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Bernard Clark Jr. (6th year)
RMU Record: 13-34; Overall Record: 13-34

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Aug. 31	WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT	7:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	at Southeast Missouri *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	at Western Illinois	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	at Illinois State	12:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 30	AUSTIN PEAY	1:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	TENNESSEE TECH *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	at Charleston Southern *	3:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	at Tennessee State *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	EASTERN ILLINOIS *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	BRYANT *	1:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times CT and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Sept. 2	at Air Force	1:00pm	Altitude Sports
Sept. 9	SAINT FRANCIS	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	at Youngstown State	2:00pm	
Sept. 23	LYNCHBURG	3:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 30	HOWARD	12:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	at Gardner-Webb *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	at Bryant *	4:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	TENNESSEE TECH *	12:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	at Southeast Missouri *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN *	12:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	EASTERN ILLINOIS *	12:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times ET and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

2023 BIG SOUTH-OVC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



#11/12 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REDHAWKS

(0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Tom Matukewicz (10th year)

SEMO Record: 50-52; Overall Record: 51-52



TENNESSEE STATE TIGERS

(0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Eddie George (3rd year)

TSU Record: 9-13; Overall Record: 9-13

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Sept. 2	at Kansas State (#16/17)	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	LINDENWOOD *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	at Eastern Kentucky	5:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	at Central Arkansas	4:00pm	
Oct. 14	EASTERN ILLINOIS *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	at Tennessee Tech *	1:30pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	at Nicholls	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	ROBERT MORRIS *	1:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	at UT Martin *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	at Bryant *	12:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times CT and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Sept. 2	at Notre Dame (#13)	2:30pm	NBC/Peacock
Sept. 9	vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff ^	6:00pm	HBCUGO Sports
Sept. 16	GARDNER-WEBB *	5:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 30	at UT Martin *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	at Kennesaw State	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	NORFOLK STATE	5:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	LINCOLN	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	LINDENWOOD *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	at Charleston Southern *	3:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	at Eastern Illinois *	12:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	TENNESSEE TECH *	2:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times CT and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS ^ - at Memphis, Tenn.



TENNESSEE TECH GOLDEN EAGLES

(0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Dewayne Alexander (6th year)

TTU Record: 16-36; Overall Record: 57-69



UT MARTIN SKYHAWKS

(0-0, 0-0 Big South-OVC)

Head Coach: Jason Simpson (18th year)

UTM Record: 107-84; Overall Record: 107-84

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Aug. 31	at #6/6 Furman	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	at New Mexico	7:00pm	MWN
Sept. 16	NORTH ALABAMA	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	KENNESAW STATE	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	at Lindenwood *	1:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 14	at South Carolina State	12:30pm	
Oct. 21	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI *	1:30pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	at Robert Morris *	11:00am	ESPN+
Nov. 4	UT MARTIN *	1:30pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	GARDNER-WEBB *	1:30pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	at Tennessee State *	2:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times CT and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

2023 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV
Sept. 2	at Georgia (#1)	5:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 9	MISSOURI STATE	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 16	HOUSTON CHRISTIAN	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 23	at North Alabama	6:00pm	ESPN+
Sept. 30	TENNESSEE STATE *	6:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 7	at Eastern Illinois *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 21	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Oct. 28	at Gardner-Webb *	12:30pm	ESPN+
Nov. 4	at Tennessee Tech *	1:30pm	ESPN+
Nov. 11	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI *	2:00pm	ESPN+
Nov. 18	at Samford	12:00pm	ESPN+

* - Big South-OVC game All times CT and subject to change
HOME GAME IN BOLD CAPS

TIEBREAKER PROCEDURE

1. TRANSITIONING SCHOOLS

- To be eligible for the conference's automatic bid to the FCS Football Championship, a school must be a full Division I member.
- Transitioning schools will be utilized in the tiebreaker process.
- If a transitioning school is involved in a two-way tie, the tied team that is eligible for postseason competition shall be the league's recipient of the automatic bid.
- If a transitioning school wins the multi-team tiebreaker, the procedure would start over with the remaining teams.

2. TWO-WAY TIE

- If the two teams played each other during the conference season, the winner of the head-to-head contest shall be the league's recipient of the automatic bid.
- If the tied teams did not play each other during the conference season, each team's head-to-head record against all common opponents in the league will be used to determine the automatic bid.
- If a tie still exists, then each team's record against the next highest common opponent in the league standings will be used to determine the automatic bid. When arriving at a group of tied teams that each team has played, composite records between the tied teams shall be utilized to determine if one of the tied teams has won more games against the group of tied teams.
- If the teams are still tied, a point system will be utilized based on a complete schedule and wins using Sagarin rankings entering the final day of the regular season, as indicated on the next page.
- Should the points system finish in a tie, the tied team with the best Sagarin rating on the final day of the regular season (i.e., Saturday morning) will receive the automatic bid.

3. MULTIPLE TIES

- If at any point, a tie is broken using the multiple-tie tiebreaker procedures and only two teams remain, the remaining teams will revert to the two-way tiebreaker (head-to-head).
- If the tied teams all played each other during the conference season, the team with the best cumulative record involving games with the tied teams shall be declared champion. For example, if a team is 2-0 against two other tied teams, that team will be declared champion.
- If the tied teams all played one another and have identical records against the other tied teams, then each team's record against all common opponents in the league will be used to determine the automatic bid. If teams are still tied, then each team's record against the next highest common opponent in the league standings will be used to determine the automatic bid.
- If the tied teams did not play each other, then each team's record against all common opponents in the league will be used to determine the automatic bid. If the teams are still tied, and they did not play each other, then each team's record against the next highest common opponent in the league standings will be used to determine the automatic bid.
- If the teams are still tied, a point system will be utilized based on a complete schedule and wins using Sagarin rankings entering the final day of the regular season, as indicated below.
- Should the points system finish in a tie, the tied team with the best Sagarin rating on the final day of the regular season (i.e., Saturday morning) will receive the automatic bid.

Ranking	Schedule		Outcome	
Sagarin	FCS Oppt.	FBS Oppt.	Win	Loss
1-50	5	0	10	0
51-100	4	0	8	0
101-150	3	0	6	0
151-200	2	0	4	0
201+	1	0	2	0

Note: Points will be determined based on the Sagarin rating on the final day of the regular season (i.e., Saturday morning).