



Mid-American Conference Football Weekly Release October 23, 2017



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MAC Standings

| | Conference | | | | | | Overall | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | W | L | Pct. | Stk | H | A | W | L | Pct. | Stk | H | A |
| WEST DIVISION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Toledo | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | W3 | 2-0 | 1-0 | 6 | 1 | .857 | W3 | 4-0 | 2-1 |
| Northern Illinois | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | W3 | 1-0 | 2-0 | 5 | 2 | .714 | W3 | 2-1 | 3-1 |
| Western Michigan | 3 | 1 | .750 | W1 | 1-1 | 2-0 | 5 | 3 | .625 | W1 | 3-1 | 2-2 |
| Central Michigan | 2 | 2 | .500 | W1 | 0-2 | 2-0 | 4 | 4 | .500 | W1 | 1-2 | 3-2 |
| Eastern Michigan | 0 | 3 | .000 | L3 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 2 | 5 | .286 | L5 | 1-2 | 1-3 |
| Ball State | 0 | 3 | .000 | L3 | 0-1 | 0-2 | 2 | 5 | .286 | L4 | 2-1 | 0-4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Conference | | | | | | Overall | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct. | Stk | H | A | W | L | Pct. | Stk | H | A |
| EAST DIVISION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Ohio | 3 | 1 | .750 | W2 | 1-1 | 2-0 | 6 | 2 | .750 | W2 | 3-1 | 3-1 |
| Akron | 3 | 1 | .750 | L1 | 1-0 | 2-1 | 4 | 4 | .500 | L1 | 2-1 | 2-3 |
| Miami | 2 | 2 | .500 | W1 | 1-1 | 1-1 | 3 | 5 | .375 | W1 | 2-2 | 1-3 |
| Buffalo | 1 | 3 | .250 | L3 | 0-2 | 1-1 | 3 | 5 | .375 | L3 | 2-2 | 1-3 |
| Kent State | 1 | 3 | .250 | L1 | 1-1 | 0-2 | 2 | 6 | .250 | L1 | 2-1 | 0-5 |
| Bowling Green | 1 | 3 | .250 | L2 | 0-3 | 1-0 | 1 | 7 | .125 | L2 | 0-4 | 1-3 |
| *Bowl Eligible | | | | | | | | | | | | |

MIDWEEK MACTION FEATURED IN WEEK NINE

• Midweek MACTION returns as the Conference will begin to showcase midweek games on national television this Thursday, Oct. 26th at 7:00 pm ET with Eastern Michigan at Northern Illinois (CBS Sports Network) and Toledo at Ball State (ESPN3). **The MAC began midweek football in 1999 and this season marks the 19th year of playing during the week.** This season the MAC will have 22 games nationally televised on Tuesday, Wednesday or a Thursday during the last five weeks of the regular season.

MAC WEEKLY NOTES

- Ohio quarterback **Nathan Rourke** led the Bobcats to a 48-3 win over Kent State as he passed for 132 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 59 yards and another score. Rourke leads the MAC and is tied for third in the nation with 13 rushing touchdowns.
- Central Michigan rolled to a 56-9 win at Ball State and were led by defensive end **Joe Ostman**, who collected four sacks and a forced fumble. The four sacks tied for seventh most in a single game in MAC history. Central Michigan quarterback **Shane Morris** was an efficient 16-21 passing for 199 yards and four touchdowns.
- Toledo quarterback **Logan Woodside** threw for 304 yards and five touchdowns, while running back **Terry Swanson** rushed for 123 yards in a 48-21 win over Akron. For Woodside, he completed a pass to 10 different receivers and this marked the 14th 300-yard passing game of his career. For Swanson, it marked his 11th career 100-yard rushing performance and moved into seventh place on the school's all-time career rushing yards list with 2,861 career rushing yards.
- Toledo held Akron to 42 yards rushing, the third straight game to hold an opponent under 100 yards rushing. Toledo is off to a 3-0 league record for the fourth straight season and the Rockets are bowl eligible for the eighth straight year.
- NIU's 48-17 win at Bowling Green marked the 23rd win in the last 24 outings for the Huskies against MAC East Division opponents. Quarterback **Marcus Childers** accounted for 312 yards of total offense on 21-33 passing for 239 yards and three touchdowns, along with 73 yards rushing. NIU had a season-high 577 yards of offense and the defense forced five Falcons turnovers.
- Eastern Michigan suffered a 20-17 (OT) loss to Western Michigan on Saturday. For the Eagles, this marked the fifth consecutive one-possession defeat this season.

MAC TRIO LEADS THE NATION IN QUARTERBACK SACKS

MAC defensive ends have left a mark on quarterbacks already this season. Central Michigan senior **Joe Ostman** leads the nation with 10 sacks (1.25 per game), while Ball State senior **Anthony Winbush** ranks second with 9.5 sacks (1.36 per game). Also in the mix is Northern Illinois sophomore **Sutton Smith** with 8.5 sacks (1.21 per game) to rank third in the country.

MAC Storylines

• **MAC already with two teams bowl eligible -- Toledo (6-1) and Ohio (6-2).** For Ohio this marks the ninth consecutive year for the program to be bowl eligible, while Toledo is bowl eligible for the eighth straight year.

• Week Nine features three games as we begin the transition to midweek football. On Thursday, Oct. 26 will feature Eastern Michigan at Northern Illinois at 7 pm ET (CBS Sports Network) and Toledo at Ball State at 7 pm ET (ESPN3). The MAC will host one game on Saturday, Oct. 28 with Buffalo at Akron at 11:30 am ET on the CBS Sports Network.

• Western Michigan running back **Jarvion Franklin** set two school records in a 20-17 (OT) win at Eastern Michigan on Oct. 21. Franklin rushed for 104 yards and one touchdown and set the program's career rushing yards record with 4,281 career rushing yards (4,219, Robert Sanford, 1997-2000). Franklin currently ranks 10th in MAC history in career rushing yards. Franklin's touchdown was also his 52nd career touchdown, which tied Corey Davis (52, 2013-16) for the school's all-time career touchdowns record. Franklin is tied with Davis for fifth in MAC history for career touchdowns.

This Week's MAC Schedule

Thursday, October 26

Eastern Michigan at NIU, 7:00 pm ET (CBS Sports Network)
Toledo at Ball State, 7:00 pm ET (ESPN3)

Saturday, October 28

Buffalo at Akron, 11:30 am ET (CBS Sports Network)

Tuesday, October 31

Miami at Ohio, 8:00 pm ET (ESPN2)
Bowling Green at Kent State, 8:00 pm ET (ESPNU)

Wednesday, November 1

Central Michigan at Western Michigan, 8:00 pm ET (ESPN2)

Last Week's MAC Games

Toledo 48, Akron 21
Ohio 48, Kent State 3
NIU 48, Bowling Green 17
Western Michigan 20, Eastern Michigan 17 (OT)
Miami 24, Buffalo 14
Central Michigan 56, Ball State 9



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MARATHON MAC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ON DEC. 2ND

Tickets are on sale for the 21st annual Marathon MAC Football Championship Game on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Ford Field in Detroit. Kick time and television will be announced in mid-November. The matchup features the champions of the MAC East and West Divisions, and will be the 14th hosted by Ford Field since 2004. Tickets are available at fordfield.com, by phone at (877) 212-8898 and at the Ford Field Ticket Office Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Prices for the lower bowl are \$20 sideline, \$15 corner and \$10 general admission end zone.

MAC GRADUATE PATCHES DEBUT IN 2017

The 2017 football season will witness 56 MAC football student athletes that have already earned their undergraduate degrees provided with a new and unique 'MAC Graduate Patch' on their football jersey.

Every MAC football program is represented with a MAC graduate and Toledo led the Conference and ranked fifth among FBS football programs with 13 graduates this season. Kent State was second in the MAC with 10 graduates and ranked tied for 15th nationally. During this upcoming 2017-18 season, all MAC graduates across the Conference's 23 sponsored sports will be provided the 'MAC Graduate Patch'.

MAC-CFP FOUNDATION PROVIDE FUNDING FOR MEMBERSHIP

The MAC is providing funding for its entire 12-member institutions to establish a community-based program to continue to build positive relationships within each campus community. The funding for the grant is provided through the MAC's partnership with the College Football Playoff (CFP) Foundation.

During the 2017-18 academic year, the MAC is providing \$60,000 -- \$5,000 for each athletic program -- for academic initiatives at elementary and/or secondary schools. This is the first year of the MAC's community program and will become an annual event.

"I am extremely pleased to see the diversity of community programs our athletic programs have partnered for this upcoming season," said MAC Commissioner, Dr. Jon A. Steinbrecher. "Our students, coaches and athletic administrators support their campus communities with events throughout the year and this opportunity only enhances our support within each community."

MAC SECURES \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR CLEVELAND SCHOOLS

The MAC announced on Sept. 18 that it has secured a \$1 million-dollar grant to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) over a five-year period for TEACHing Cleveland, a program to focus on teacher recruitment, mentoring and retention.

The MAC secured funding for this program from the College Football Playoff (CFP) Foundation through its Extra Yard for Teachers platform with a \$500,000 contribution toward TEACHing Cleveland. The MAC also secured \$250,000 from The George Gund Foundation over the next five years and \$150,000 from the Cleveland Foundation over the next three years. The MAC will reapply for additional funding from the Cleveland Foundation in three years.

"The Mid-American Conference is proud to partner with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to provide funding for this important initiative," said MAC Commissioner Dr. Jon Steinbrecher. "Teachers are a critical factor in a child's educational success. Through TEACHing Cleveland we will facilitate greater retention of quality teachers to the betterment of the students and to the betterment of Cleveland. I want to thank and applaud the collaborative efforts of the College Football Playoff Foundation, the Cleveland Foundation and The George Gund Foundation in sharing our vision in support Cleveland schools."

This grant provides the CMSD and the Cleveland Teachers Union an opportunity to collaborate in recruiting, developing and retaining new teachers to best support the Cleveland area students and community.

"Increasingly, we are seeing the most talented and dedicated teachers electing to teach in urban school districts, and this funding will be instrumental in our efforts to support and retain those teachers in Cleveland," said Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon. "While the choice to educate disadvantaged children is enormously challenging, our goal is to ensure teaching in Cleveland is equally rewarding."

TEACHing Cleveland will develop programs to assist in the recruitment of highly skilled teachers, foster new teacher development, focusing on culture, exposure to successful practitioners and as a result increasing retention rates.

MAC Players of the Week**East Division**

Kenny Young, Offensive Player of the Week
Miami, Junior, Running Back

Miami junior running back Kenny Young (Tallahassee, Fla.) had a career high 125 rushing yards and two touchdowns in a 24-14 win over Buffalo. Young added three catches for 29 yards to record a career best 154 all-purpose yards vs. the Bulls.



Chad Moore, Defensive Player of the Week;
Ohio, Senior, Linebacker

Ohio senior linebacker Chad Moore (Grove City, Ohio) recorded his third interception and his second forced fumble of the season in a 48-3 win over Kent State. Moore ranked second on the team with five tackles, all of which were solo in the outing. Moore ranks third on the Bobcats with 46 tackles and leads the team in interceptions and is second with two forced fumbles.



Louie Zervos, Special Teams Player of Week;
Ohio, Sophomore, Kicker

Ohio sophomore kicker Louie Zervos (Tarpon Springs, Fla.) connected on field goals of 43 and 34 yards and went 6-6 on PAT in a 48-3 win over Kent State on Saturday. Ohio became bowl eligible for the ninth straight season. Zervos has connected on 10 field goals and 38 PAT this season. Zervos ranks third in the MAC with 68 points and second amongst kickers.

West Division

Logan Woodside, Offensive Player of the Week
Toledo, Senior, Quarterback

Toledo senior quarterback Logan Woodside (Frankfort, Ky.) threw for 304 yards and five touchdowns in a 48-21 win over Akron. Woodside completed 17-of-24 passes, including eight of at least 20 yards. He completed passes to 10 different receivers, including three different receivers who caught TD passes in the first quarter. Woodside recorded the 14th 300-yard passing game of his career.



Joe Ostman, Defensive Player of the Week
Central Michigan, Senior, Defensive End

Central Michigan senior defensive end Joe Ostman (St. Ignace, Mich.) had four solo sacks among his five tackles and forced a fumble in a 56-9 victory at Ball State. Ostman leads the FBS with 10 sacks this season. He has 24 for his career, third-best in Central Michigan program history.



Jameson Vest, Co-Special Teams Player of Week;
Toledo, Junior, Kicker

Toledo junior Jameson Vest (Peachtree City, Ga.) made field goals of 29 yards and 40 yards in a 48-21 win over Akron. This was Vest's fifth game this season with at least two field goals. Vest also averaged 64.3 yards per kickoff.



Christian Hagan, Co-Special Teams Player of Week;
Northern Illinois, Senior, Kicker

Northern Illinois senior Christian Hagan (Omaha, Neb.) made field goals of 29 and 32 yards and converted on all six of his PATs, accounting for 12 of the Huskies points in a 48-17 win at Bowling Green. Hagan has now made 69 consecutive PATs.

Statistical Leaders (TOP 25) -- Where they rank Nationally in Bowl Subdivision (FBS)

Rushing Yards:

20th **A.J. Ouellette-Ohio**: 747 yards, 120 attempts, 6 TDs

Rushing Touchdowns:

t-3rd **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 13 TDs, 499 yds., 79 attempts

t-33th **Terry Swanson-Toledo**: 7 TDs, 655 yds., 120 attempts

t-33th **Jarvion Franklin-Western Michigan**: 7 TDs, 642 yds., 145 attempts

Total Passing Yards:

16th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 2,028 yds., 138-215 passing, 16 TDs

20th **Shane Morris-Central Michigan**: 1,966 yds., 170-300 passing, 16 TDs

Passing Touchdowns:

t-17th **Shane Morris-Central Michigan**: 16 TDs, 1,966 yds., 170-300 passing

t-17th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 16 TDs, 2,028 yds., 138-215 passing

t-26th **Jon Wassink-Western Michigan**: 14 TDs, 1,411 yds., 124-193 passing

Passing Efficiency:

8th **Logan Woodson-Toledo**: 166.1 rating; 138-215 pass, 2,028 yds, 16 TDs

Receiving Yards Per Game:

9th **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 49 rec., 827 yds., 6 TDs, (103.4 avg.)

28th **James Gardner-Miami**: 32 rec., 681 yds., 6 TDs, (85.1 avg.)

Total Receiving Yards

4th **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 827 yds., 49 rec., 6 TDs

14th **James Gardner-Miami**: 681 yds., 32 rec., 6 TDs

29th **Mark Chapman-Central Michigan**: 590 yds., 43 rec., 3 TDs

Receiving Touchdowns

t-16th **James Gardner-Miami**: 6 TDs

t-16th **Diontae Johnson-Toledo**: 6 TDs

t-16th **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 6 TDs

t-16th **Keishawn Watson-Western Michigan**: 6 TDs

Receptions Per Game:

t-20th **Justin Hall-Ball State**: 46 rec., 490 yds., 2 TDs, (6.6 per game)

26th **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 49 rec., 827 yds., 6 TDs, (6.1 per game)

Scoring:

7th **Jameson Vest-Toledo**: 74 points, (10.6 ppg)

t-18th **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 78 points, (9.8 ppg)

Points Responsible For:

7th **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 138 points

t-20th **Jon Wassink-Western Michigan**: 114 points

29th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 106 points

Total Tackles:

t-1st **Khalil Hodge-Buffalo**: 115 tackles, 14.4 tackles per game

t-19th **Ulysees Gilbert - Akron**: 76 tackles, 9.5 tackles per game

Interceptions:

t-5th **Demetrius Monday-Kent State**: 4 interceptions

t-5th **Josh Cox-Central Michigan**: 4 interceptions

t-16th **Jawuan Johnson-Northern Illinois**: 3 interceptions

t-16th **Kahlil Robinson-Toledo**: 3 interceptions

t-16th **Chad Moore-Ohio**: 3 interceptions

Passes Defensed:

3rd **Bradd Ellis-Ohio**: 13 passes defensed, 1.6 per game

18th **Jamal Parker-Kent State**: 11 passes defensed, 1.4 per game

Sacks:

1st **Joe Ostman-Central Michigan**: 10.0 sacks, 1.25 per game

2nd **Anthony Winbush-Ball State**: 9.5 sacks, 1.36 per game

3rd **Sutton Smith-NIU**: 8.5 sacks, 1.21 per game

Tackles For Loss:

1st **Sutton Smith-NIU**: 17.0 tackles for loss, 2.4 per game

t-4th **Anthony Winbush-Ball State**: 13.5 tackles for loss, 1.9 per game

t-10th **Joe Ostman-Central Michigan**: 13.5 tackles for loss, 1.7 per game

t-21st **Bobby Jones-NIU**: 10.0 tackles for loss, 1.4 per game

Other Top Performers (WEEK EIGHT)

OFFENSE

• Central Michigan **QB Shane Morris** was 16-of-21 passing for four touchdowns, including 63-yard scoring pass to Corey Willis in the third quarter, in a 56-9 win at Ball State. Morris finished with a passer rating of 218.6.

• Western Michigan **RB Jarvion Franklin** broke the Western Michigan all-time career rushing record in a 20-17 OT win at Eastern Michigan. Franklin had 24 carries for 104 yards, including a touchdown in the third quarter.

• NIU **QB Marcus Childers** accounted for a career and team season high 312 yards of total offense in his second career start in a 48-17 win at Bowling Green. He threw for 239 yards on 21-of-33 passing with three touchdowns and no interceptions, while running for 73 yards on 19 carries. He hit three different receivers with touchdown passes of eight, 15 and 73 yards.

• Ohio **QB Nathan Rourke** rushed for 59 yards and passed for 132 yards with two passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown in a 48-3 win over Kent State. Rourke rushed for his 13th touchdown and his 23 touchdowns responsible for is third most in Ohio history and leads the MAC and ranks seventh in the country while his 13 rushing touchdowns ranks third.

• Eastern Michigan **WR Antoine Porter** set career highs in both catches (10) and yards (93) in a 20-17 OT loss to Western Michigan.

DEFENSE

• Eastern Michigan **DE Maxx Crosby** tied a career-high with seven tackles, and added one sack and a forced fumble in a 20-17 (OT) loss to Western Michigan.

• Toledo **DE Olanukanmi Adeniyi** had four tackles, one tackle for loss, one forced fumble and two QB hurries in a 48-21 win over Akron.

• NIU **DB Trayshon Foster** collected three tackles, one interception, one forced fumble and two sacks in a 48-17 win at Bowling Green. With NIU leading 14-7 early in the second quarter, Foster had his first career interception. On Bowling Green's first possession of the third quarter, he sacked quarterback Grant Loy and forced a fumble recovered by NIU at the 43-yard line. His second sack came with Bowling Green facing first and goal on NIU's eight-yard line, pushing the Falcons back nine yards and forcing them into a field goal try.

• Western Michigan **LB Caleb Bailey** had nine tackles in a 20-17 (OT) win at Eastern Michigan. Late in the fourth quarter, he had two big tackles on a goal line stand on both second and third downs.

• Miami **DB Cedric Asseh** made his second career start had three tackles and five passes defensed in a 24-14 win over Buffalo. His five pass breakups are a season-high for Miami this season as the RedHawks defense held Buffalo to just 271 yards of total offense.

• Bowling Green **LB Nate Locke** led with 10 tackles, two tackles for loss and one sack in a 48-17 loss to NIU. Locke's biggest play came on a fourth-and-one at the Bowling Green 37-yard line, he came up with a sack that kept the Falcons within a single touchdown.

SPECIAL TEAMS

• Bowling Green **P Joseph Davidson** pinned Northern Illinois deep all day in a 48-17 loss. Two of his three punts were downed inside the six yard line. In the first quarter, Davidson shot a 39-yard punt that was downed at the NIU one yard line. On his next punt, his 43-yard punt was downed at the Huskie's five. In total, Davidson punted the ball three times for 128, averaging 42.7 yards per punt.

• Central Michigan's **Jarrod Davis** blocked a punt in a 56-9 win at Ball State. Davis' block came deep in Ball State territory and Central Michigan scored two plays later to take a 28-6 lead.

MAC BOWL NOTES AND 2016 SEASON

• Western Michigan won the 2016 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game with a 29-23 win over Ohio on Dec. 2. The win was Western Michigan's first championship since 1988 and the second football title in program history.

• Western Michigan entered the bowl season ranked No. 12 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll and No. 14 in the Amway/USA Today Coaches Poll. The No. 12 AP ranking was the highest in the MAC since Ball State was ranked No. 12 on Nov. 30, 2008 after a 12-0 start.

• Western Michigan lost a 24-16 decision to No. 8 Wisconsin in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic on Jan. 2. Western Michigan ended the season ranked No. 15 in the AP Poll with a 13-1 record.

• The Broncos were also ranked No. 15 in the sixth and final College Football Playoff ranking on Dec. 4.

• Western Michigan's 13-0 mark after the Marathon MAC Football Championship was the first for the MAC since former member Marshall finished the 1999 season with a 13-0 record and a No. 10 ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll.

• Six MAC programs received bowl invitations during the 2016 bowl season -- Western Michigan (13-1), Toledo (9-4), Ohio (8-6), Eastern Michigan (7-6), Central Michigan (6-7) and Miami (6-7). The MAC record for bowl invitations in a single-season is seven in both the 2012 and 2015 bowl seasons.

• Western Michigan (Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic), Ohio (Dollar General Bowl), Toledo (Raycom Media Camellia Bowl), Eastern Michigan (Popeyes Bahamas Bowl), Central Michigan (Miami Beach Bowl) and Miami (St. Petersburg Bowl) represented the MAC in bowl games in 2016.

• This marked the ninth time in MAC history to have five or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016) in a single-season.

• In the previous six bowl seasons, the MAC has a record of 11-24 in 35 bowl games -- 2016 (0-6); 2015 (3-4); 2014 (2-3); 2013 (0-5); 2012 (2-5); 2011 (4-1) as every MAC football program (13 total -- all 12 plus former member, Temple) has appeared in a bowl game during this span (2011-16).

• Ohio (8-6, 6-2 MAC) won the MAC East Division for the fourth time in the last 11 seasons under head coach Frank Solich. The Marathon MAC Football Championship Game with Western Michigan and Ohio ended a streak of the previous three games (2013-2015) featuring Northern Illinois vs. Bowling Green.

MAC 2016-17 BOWL RESULTS

- Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.)
Appalachian State 31, Toledo 28
- Miami Beach Bowl (Miami, Fla.) Tulsa 55, Central Michigan 10
- Popeyes Bahamas Bowl (Nassau) ODU 24, Eastern Michigan 20
- Dollar General Bowl (Mobile, Ala.) Troy 28, Ohio 23
- St. Petersburg Bowl (St. Petersburg, Fla.)
Mississippi State 17, Miami 16
- Goodyear Cotton Bowl (Arlington, Texas)
No. 8 Wisconsin 24, No. 12 Western Michigan 16

2016 MAC NON-CONFERENCE WINS

Last season, the MAC concluded its non-conference regular season schedule with 14 FBS wins, which tied for second most for the MAC since 2000. The MAC posted 16 FBS wins in 2012, while the 14 FBS wins in 2016 matched the 2008 mark.

In 2016, the MAC had four 'Power Five' wins over Northwestern and Illinois (Big Ten) and Oklahoma State and Kansas (Big 12). Among peer Conferences, the MAC posted a 3-2 regular season record vs. Conference USA and Sun Belt Conference, a 3-3 record vs. Mountain West and 0-3 vs. the American Athletic Conference.

MAC WITH ONE NEW HEAD COACH FOR 2017

Western Michigan named Tim Lester as head coach on Jan. 13, 2017. Lester was a four-year starter at quarterback at Western Michigan from 1996-99, leading the Broncos to a Marathon MAC Football Championship game appearance his senior season. Lester also made a stop as an assistant coach at his alma mater in 2005-06.

Lester began his coaching career in 2003 and most recently was the quarterbacks coach at Purdue in 2016. Lester came to the Boilermakers from Syracuse, where he served as quarterbacks coach from 2013 to 2015 and doubled as offensive coordinator in 2014-15.

Prior to working at Syracuse, Lester was the head coach at Division III Elmhurst (Illinois) College from 2008 to 2012. Over five seasons, he posted a 33-19 record for a .635 winning percentage, second highest in school history. In his final season in 2012, he led the Blue Jays to a 10-2 record and a CCIW conference championship as well as Elmhurst's first-ever NCAA playoff appearance. It was just the third championship in school history and the first title since 1980. Lester was named the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin Coach of the Year that season.

Lester finished his Western Michigan career ranked fourth in FBS history in passing yards (11,299) and sixth in touchdown passes (89). Lester set 17 school passing records and eight MAC records. Following his senior season, in which he threw for 3,639 yards and 34 touchdowns, Lester participated in the 1999 Blue-Gray Classic.

As an assistant coach at Western Michigan he coached quarterback Tim Hiller to MAC Freshman of the Year accolades in 2005. Lester was Western Michigan's first QB to throw for over 11,000 career yards and Hiller went on to become the second.

MAC PROGRAMS IN BOWL GAMES

In the last six bowl seasons, every MAC football program received a bowl invitation. Leading the way are Northern Illinois, Ohio and Toledo with bowl invitations in five of the last six bowl seasons.

2011-16 MAC Programs and Years Invited to Bowl Games

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northern Illinois (5): | 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015 |
| Ohio (5): | 2011; 2012; 2013; 2015; 2016 |
| Toledo (5): | 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016 |
| Bowling Green (4): | 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015 |
| Western Michigan (4): | 2011; 2014; 2015; 2016 |
| Central Michigan (4): | 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016 |
| Ball State (2): | 2012; 2013 |
| Akron (1): | 2015 |
| Buffalo (1): | 2013 |
| Kent State (1): | 2012 |
| Eastern Michigan (1): | 2016 |
| Miami (1): | 2016 |
| former: Temple (1): | 2011 |

2016 MAC ALL-AMERICANS

The MAC was represented in 2016 with All-American honors.

The Associated Press:

• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

USA Today:

• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

Sports Illustrated:

• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

CBS Sports:

• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

Walter Camp Football Foundation:

• Second-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

The Sporting News:

• Second-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

Football Writers Association of America (FWAA):

• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

• First-Team All-American: Toledo TE Michael Roberts

• Second-Team All-American: Western Michigan OL Taylor Moton

American Football Coaches Association (AFCA):

• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan WR Corey Davis

• Second-Team All-American: Western Michigan OL Taylor Moton

OHIO'S SOLICH THIRD ON MAC CAREER WINS LIST

Ohio head coach Frank Solich and his Bobcats finished 2016 with an 8-6 overall record and won the East Division Crown and this season is off to a 6-2 start after a 48-3 win over Kent State. Solich continues to rise up the MAC career head coaching win list with 94 wins, which ranks third most in MAC history.

Solich has been the recent model for consistency in coaching in the MAC. Solich arrived in Athens, Ohio in 2005 and now in his 13th season running the Bobcats program has garnered a bowl appearance in seven of the last eight seasons and eight of his 12 seasons at Ohio. Solich has a 94-69 career coaching record at Ohio.

Most MAC Head Coaching Wins, Career

1. 110, Herb Deromedi, Central Michigan, 1978-93
2. 108, Bill Hess, Ohio, 1958-77
3. **94, Frank Solich, Ohio, 2005-present**

MAC VS BIG TEN OPPONENTS

With Eastern Michigan's 16-13 win at Rutgers and NIU's 21-17 win at Nebraska, the MAC has won a regular season game vs. a Big Ten opponent in each of the last 12 consecutive seasons (2006-17), the longest streak in MAC history.

During this 12-year span, MAC teams have defeated 12 different Big Ten teams—Illinois (3); Indiana (5); Iowa (3); Maryland (1); Michigan (1); Michigan State (1); Minnesota (2); Nebraska (1); Northwestern (2); Penn State (1); Purdue (5) and Rutgers (1) -- for a total of 26 wins during this span.

2006: Ohio beat Illinois
 2007: BGSU beat Minnesota; WMU defeated Iowa
 2008: WMU beat Illinois; CMU beat Indiana; Toledo beat Michigan; Ball State beat Indiana
 2009: NIU beat Purdue; Central Michigan beat Michigan State
 2010: Toledo beat Purdue; NIU beat Minnesota
 2011: Ball State beat Indiana
 2012: Ohio beat Penn St.; Ball State beat Indiana; CMU beat Iowa
 2013: NIU beat Purdue; NIU beat Iowa
 2014: BGSU beat Indiana; NIU beat NW; CMU beat Purdue
 2015: BGSU beat Maryland and Purdue
 2016: WMU beat Northwestern and Illinois
 2017: EMU beat Rutgers; NIU beat Nebraska

WMU WINS 2016 MARATHON MAC CHAMPIONSHIP

Western Michigan linebacker Robert Spillane intercepted a pass with 51 seconds remaining, and No. 13 Western Michigan remained undefeated at 13-0, holding off Ohio 29-23 on Dec. 2 at Ford Field to win its first MAC title in football since 1988. The Broncos led 23-7 at halftime, but Ohio rallied and had the ball in Western Michigan territory in the final minute when Spillane intercepted Greg Windham's pass over the middle.

Ohio never led but didn't do much on offense until the final quarter, but still came close to their first MAC Championship since 1968. Instead, Western Michigan became the first undefeated team to win the MAC title since Marshall in 1999. The crowd of 45,615 set a Marathon MAC Football Championship game record.

Western Michigan's Corey Davis had eight catches for 144 yards, including a 70-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter. Butch Hampton kicked five field goals to set a Marathon MAC Football Championship game record, the last a 34-yarder for a 29-23 lead with 1:24 left.

NFF HONOR SOCIETY HONORS 30 MAC STUDENTS

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced the members of the 2017 NFF Hampshire Honor Society, which is comprised of college football players from all divisions of play who each maintained a cumulative 3.2 GPA or better throughout their college careers. The MAC was represented with 30 students honored by the National Football Foundation, including three-time All-MAC quarterback Zach Terrell of Western Michigan, who also was honored with the 2016 William V. Campbell Trophy recipient.

FBS HEAD COACHES LEADING THEIR ALMA MATER

The MAC has four of the 21 FBS head coaches that are leading their alma mater's football programs this 2017 season.

Western Michigan first-year head coach Tim Lester comes to Kalamazoo after serving as quarterbacks coach at Purdue. Lester was a four-year starter at quarterback at Western Michigan from 1996-99, leading the Broncos to a Marathon MAC Football Championship game appearance his senior season.

Central Michigan third-year head coach John Bonamego was named the 28th head coach on Feb. 9, 2015. He led the Chippewas to a 6-7 record last season, and has compiled a 13-13 record. Bonamego was a wide receiver/quarterback as a walk-on who earned varsity letters in 1985-86 and twice earned the Iron Man Award as the defensive scout team player of the year. He brings 27 years of coaching experience, with 16 years in the NFL.

Kent State fifth-year head coach Paul Haynes has a 12-35 overall record since being named the program's 21st head coach on Dec. 18, 2012. Haynes walked on at Kent State in 1987 and played four seasons for the Golden Flashes (1987-91) and ended his career with 440 tackles, seventh-best in school history.

Ball State second-year head coach Mike Neu led the Cardinals to a 4-8 record last year and returns to Muncie where he played quarterback for four seasons (1990-93) and was the 1993 MAC Offensive Player of the Year. Neu has 15 years of coaching experience with stops in the NFL, Division I FBS football and the arena leagues. Most recently, Neu served the previous two seasons as the quarterback coach for the New Orleans Saints.

FBS Head Coaches Leading Their Alma Mater

Troy Calhoun, Air Force; Bryan Harsin, Boise State; **Mike Neu, Ball State; John Bonamego, Central Michigan; Paul Haynes, Kent State; Tim Lester, Western Michigan;** Jim Harbaugh, Michigan; Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern; Mike Gundy, Oklahoma State; David Shaw, Stanford; Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech; Matt Wells, Utah State; Sean Kugler, UTEP; Paul Chryst, Wisconsin; Bary Odom, Missouri; Mark Richt, Miami; Nick Rolovich, Hawaii; Scott Satterfield, App State; Kalani Sitake, BYU; Kirby Smart, Georgia and Jeff Tedford, Fresno State.

MAC HISTORY IN TOP 25 RANKINGS NATIONAL POLLS

Western Michigan ended the 2016 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game with a 13-0 record and an invitation to the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. Entering the bowl season, Western Michigan was ranked No. 12 (AP), No. 14 (Amway/USA Today Coaches Poll) and No. 15 in the College Football Playoff Ranking.

Western Michigan's No. 12 (AP) ranking on Dec. 4, 2016 was the highest ranking since Ball State was ranked No. 12 (AP) after finishing in 2012 (Nov. 30) with a 12-0 record. Western Michigan finished with a 13-1 record and ranked No. 15 in the AP Poll.

MAC Highest Ever Ranking (Top 10) in National Polls:

- No. 10 (AP) – Miami – Jan. 2 end of the 1974 season (10-0-1).
- No. 10 (AP) – Miami – Jan. 5 end of the 2003 season (13-1).
- No. 10 (BCS) – NIU – Oct. 19 after a 7-0 start in 2003.
- No. 10 (AP) – Marshall -- on Jan. 5 end of 1999 (13-0).

MAC 2017 BOWL PARTNERS:

- Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl/PlayStation Fiesta Bowl/Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic (College Football Playoff)
- Dollar General Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)
- Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)
- Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)
- Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas; vs. Conference USA)
- Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)
- Secondary to Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.)
- Secondary to Frisco Bowl (Frisco, Texas)

The Dollar General Bowl (Mobile) has the first selection after CFP/Host Bowls. Montgomery, Boise, Bahamas have no predetermined selection order.

MAC 2017 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2017 football schedule will feature 22 nationally televised games during late October and November on ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN3 and CBS Sports Network as the conference race unfolds in both the East and West divisions.

The regular season will conclude with the 21st Marathon MAC Football Championship game on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at a time to be determined from Ford Field in Detroit. This will mark the 14th Marathon MAC Football Championship game at Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions, Super Bowl XL, and the 2009 NCAA Men's Final Four.

For the 10th year in a row, league schools will face a formidable non-conference slate of opponents from the following Football Bowl Subdivision conferences – ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC and Notre Dame. In addition, the Conference will also face opponents from the American Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Mountain West Conference, Sun Belt Conference and Independent Notre Dame and Army.

Last year's MAC champion Western Michigan was ranked No. 15 in the final Associated Press Top 25 Poll. MAC programs will face six non-conference foes that finished in the final AP Top 25 poll: Clemson (1), USC (3), Penn State (7), Miami (20), Louisville (21) and San Diego State (25).

A total of nine non-conference games will feature a Big Ten opponent (Illinois; Michigan State (2); Minnesota; Nebraska; Northwestern; Penn State; Purdue; Rutgers). The MAC will face foes from the ACC (6—Boston College (2), Clemson, Louisville, Miami, Syracuse), SEC (1—Kentucky), Pac-12 (1-USC), Big 12 (3—Iowa State; Kansas (2)); and Independent Notre Dame & Army (2).

The MAC will also face opponents from the American Athletic Conference (2—Cincinnati, Tulsa), Mountain West (2—Nevada, San Diego State), Conference USA (7—Charlotte, Florida Atlantic, Marshall (2), Middle Tennessee, UAB, Western Kentucky) and Sun Belt Conference (2—Idaho, Troy). This season the MAC will host nine games against FBS non-conference opponents.

MAC TIES DRAFT RECORD WITH 11 IN 2017 NFL DRAFT

The MAC had 11 draft selections in the 2017 NFL Draft to tie a MAC modern era (seven rounds) record for the most students drafted in an NFL Draft (2005 NFL Draft). Highlighting the 2017 NFL Draft was Western Michigan wide receiver Corey Davis selected as the fifth overall selection in the first round by the Tennessee Titans. Davis' selection marks the third time in the last five years to have a MAC student selected in the top five overall of the first round.

In 2014, Buffalo Bulls linebacker Khalil Mack was the fifth overall selection by the Oakland Raiders in the 2014 NFL Draft. Mack's selection was the highest ever for the Buffalo program and the second-highest ever selection for a MAC student-athlete.

In 2013, Central Michigan offensive tackle Eric Fisher became the first MAC football player to be selected as the overall No. 1 selection in the NFL Draft. The Kansas City Chiefs selected Fisher as No.1 choice in the 2013 NFL Draft. The previous highest player drafted from the MAC was Marshall quarterback Byron Leftwich, who was selected No. 7 overall by Jacksonville in 2003.

MAC Students Selected In 2017 NFL Draft

1st rd (5th) WR Corey Davis (Western Michigan) by Tennessee
2nd rd (64th) OL Taylor Moton (Western Michigan) by Carolina
3rd rd (80th) DE Tarell Basham (Ohio) by Indianapolis
3rd rd (86th) RB Kareem Hunt (Toledo) by Kansas City
3rd rd (96th) WR Kenny Golladay (Northern Illinois) by Detroit
4th rd (127th) TE Michael Roberts (Toledo) by Detroit
5th rd (148th) LB Blair Brown (Ohio) by Jacksonville
7th rd (244th) DT Treyvon Hester (Toledo) by Oakland
7th rd (248th) LB Keion Adams (Western Michigan) by Pittsburgh
7th rd (250th) DL Pat O'Connor (Eastern Michigan) by Detroit
7th rd (251st) TE Mason Schreck (Buffalo) by Cincinnati

WINS OVER NON-CONFERENCE FBS OPPONENTS

This season the MAC has 11 FBS wins, including two wins each over programs from the Big Ten (Nebraska, Rutgers) and Big-12 (Kansas twice).

In 2016 the MAC earned 14 non-conference FBS wins and topped the 2015 season total of 12 FBS wins. The 14 wins in 2016 tied for second-most since the 2000 season. The MAC set the Conference single-season record with 16 wins over FBS opponents during the 2012 season.

Regular Season Wins vs. non-conference FBS opponents:

Year: Wins: FBS Opponents Defeated:

2017: 11; Nebraska; Kansas (2); Rutgers; Tulsa; Nevada; UAB; Charlotte; Idaho; Florida Atlantic; UMass

2016: 14; Northwestern, Arkansas State, Georgia State, Oklahoma State, Kansas, Illinois, Fresno State, UNLV, Marshall, Charlotte, Army, Florida Atlantic, Georgia Southern, Wyoming.

2015: 12; Arkansas; Maryland; Iowa State; Purdue; FAU; Marshall; Wyoming; UNLV; Idaho; Arkansas State; Louisiana; FIU

2014: 8; Purdue; Northwestern; Indiana; Idaho (2); UNLV, Pitt; Army

2013: 10; Iowa; Purdue; Virginia; UConn; Tulsa; Marshall; Army; North Texas; Idaho; Navy

2012: 16; Penn State; Wyoming; Idaho; New Mexico St.; Army (4); UConn; Marshall; Indiana; Iowa; South Florida; Kansas; Cincinnati; Rutgers

2011: 10; Indiana; Army (4); UConn; Idaho; New Mexico State; Marshall; Maryland

2010: 7; Minnesota; Purdue; Marshall; Colorado State; UConn; Army; Louisiana-Lafayette

2009: 9; Michigan State; Purdue; Colorado; Florida International; Troy; UTEP; North Texas; Army; Navy

2008: 14; Navy; Indiana (2); Western Kentucky; Michigan; Idaho; Illinois; Syracuse; Army (3); Pittsburgh; Wyoming; UTEP

2007: 10; Navy; Army (2); Idaho; Iowa State (2); Iowa; Minnesota; Syracuse; La-Lafayette

2006: 11; Temple (5); Kansas; Virginia; North Carolina State; North Texas; FIU; Illinois

2005: 9; Army; Louisiana-Lafayette; Temple (4); Pittsburgh; Middle Tennessee State; Cincinnati

2004: 3; Temple (2); Kentucky

2003: 9; Kansas State; Northwestern; Colorado State; Cincinnati; Purdue; Maryland; Alabama; Iowa State; Pittsburgh

2002: 10; Rutgers; Troy; North Carolina; Cincinnati; UConn; Missouri; Kansas; Wyoming; Wake Forest; UNLV

2001: 11; UConn (2); Army; Cincinnati; Missouri; Temple (2); Minnesota; Northwestern; South Florida; Navy

2000: 9; Central Florida (2); Vanderbilt; Minnesota; UConn (2); Navy; Penn State; Iowa

MAC HEAD COACHES IN HIGH DEMAND

Football programs continue to take notice of MAC head coaches. There are 12 former head coaches from the MAC in a current FBS head coaching position—including two of the last three National Champion's with 2015 Alabama's Nick Saban (Toledo) and 2014 Ohio State's Urban Meyer (Bowling Green), and nearly one-third of the ACC (four total).

For the 2017 season, 24 of the 130 FBS coaches (18.5%) will be either current or former MAC head coaches. The 24 current FBS coaches include the current 12 MAC head football coaches and 12 former MAC head football coaches.

ACC – Steve Addazio-Boston College (Temple), Dave Doeren-NC State (Northern Illinois), Dave Clawson-Wake Forest (Bowling Green), Dino Babers-Syracuse (Bowling Green).

Big Ten – Urban Meyer-Ohio State (Bowling Green), P.J. Fleck-Minnesota (Western Michigan).

Big 12 – Matt Campbell-Iowa State (Toledo).

Ind. – Brian Kelly-Notre Dame (Central Michigan), Mark Whipple (UMass).

SEC-Nick Saban-Alabama (Toledo), Butch Jones-Tennessee (Central Michigan)

Sun Belt – Doug Martin-New Mexico State (Kent State).

MAC MEDIA 2017 FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL

Earlier this summer members of the media selected Toledo and Ohio to win the West and East Divisions respectfully in the 2017 MAC Football Media Preseason Poll. Toledo was selected to win the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game.

In the East Division, defending East Division Champion Ohio was selected first with 131 total points, only two points greater than second-place selection Miami RedHawks with 129 total points. Bowling Green finished third with 88 points, followed by Akron with 79 points, then Buffalo and Kent State.

In the West Division, Toledo was selected first in the Division and led the entire poll with 142 total points. Following the Rockets, defending West Champion Western Michigan finished second with 107 points, while the NIU Huskies were third with 89 points. Eastern Michigan ranked fourth with 74 points, followed by Central Michigan and Ball State.

2017 MAC MEDIA Football Preseason Poll**MAC East Division**

| Team (First Place Votes) | Points |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Ohio (11) | 131 |
| 2. Miami (12) | 129 |
| 3. Bowling Green (1) | 88 |
| 4. Akron | 79 |
| 5. Buffalo | 41 |
| 6. Kent State | 36 |

MAC West Division

| Team (First Place Votes) | Points |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Toledo (22) | 142 |
| 2. Western Michigan (1) | 107 |
| 3. Northern Illinois (1) | 89 |
| 4. Eastern Michigan | 74 |
| 5. Central Michigan | 62 |
| 6. Ball State | 30 |

MAC FOOTBALL COACHES PRESEASON POLL

MAC Head Football Coaches have provided their own 2017 Preseason Poll and based upon voting by all 12 head coaches Ohio and Toledo have been selected to win the East and West Divisions respectfully.

In the East Division, a margin of only eight points separated first-place and second-place. Ohio was selected first with 69 total points followed by second-place Miami with 61 points. Bowling Green was selected third followed by Akron, Buffalo and Kent State.

In the West Division, the margin was also only eight points as Toledo was selected in first with 66 points followed by second-place Western Michigan with 58 points. Northern Illinois was picked third followed by Eastern Michigan, Central Michigan and Ball State.

2017 MAC HEAD COACHES Football Preseason Poll**MAC East Division**

| Team (First Place Votes) | Points |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Ohio (9) | 69 |
| 2. Miami (3) | 61 |
| 3. Bowling Green | 45 |
| 4. Akron | 41 |
| 5. Buffalo | 20 |
| 6. Kent State | 16 |

MAC West Division

| Team (First Place Votes) | Points |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Toledo (7) | 66 |
| 2. Western Michigan (2) | 58 |
| 3. Northern Illinois (1) | 45 |
| 4. Eastern Michigan | 35 |
| 5. Central Michigan (1) | 31 |
| 6. Ball State (1) | 17 |

AKRON'S JASON TAYLOR INDUCTED INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN CANTON, OHIO

Former Akron Zips defensive lineman Jason Taylor was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2017 on Aug. 5, 2017 in Canton, Ohio. Taylor, who spent 13 of his 15 seasons in the NFL with the Miami Dolphins, is the first Zips player elected to the Hall of Fame and the second in the history of the MAC, joining Kent State linebacker Jack Lambert of Pittsburgh.

Taylor was selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. A third-round pick out of Akron in the 1997 NFL draft, Taylor ended his career in 2011 as the Miami Dolphins' all-time leader in sacks and forced fumbles. A six-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time AP All-Pro first-team choice, Taylor was named the 2006 NFL Defensive Player of the Year and was selected as the Walter Payton Man of the Year in 2007.

MAC & CBS SPORTS NETWORK MULTI-YEAR DEAL

In June of 2015, the MAC and CBS Sports Network announced a multi-year deal to televise college football and basketball games from the Mid-American Conference. The deal, which begins this season and continues through 2018-19, is through a sublicense agreement with ESPN.

CBS Sports Network will air up to 12 football and 12 basketball games per year. CBS Sports Network, the 24-hour home of CBS Sports, is available across the country through local cable, video and telco providers and via satellite on DirecTV Channel 221 and Dish Network Channel 158.

MAC AND ESPN ANNOUNCE HISTORIC 13-YEAR RIGHTS EXTENSION DEAL THROUGH 2016-27 SEASON

In 2014, the MAC and ESPN announced a 13-year rights agreement that will be the largest and most extensive agreement in the history of the Conference. The extension, which adds provisions to the remaining three years of the original national rights agreement and adds an additional 10 years to the deal with ESPN, brings long-term security to the MAC through the 2026-27 academic year.

This agreement provides ESPN with exclusive television and digital distribution rights for all MAC sporting events, and guarantees coverage of every football game, and select men's and women's basketball and Olympic sporting events through the 2026-27 academic season.

The MAC Football Championship Game and the MAC football regular season is the foundation for the national deal with ESPN. The 2017 MAC football regular season will be highlighted by national coverage of 22 mid-week games during the month of November on ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN3. The Marathon MAC Football Championship Game is Saturday, Dec. 2.

MAC PART OF NEW COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ERA

The 2017 college football season enters the fourth year of the current four-team playoff era with the College Football Playoff. The two College Football Playoff Semifinals will be played in bowl games this year (Allstate Sugar Bowl; Rose Bowl presented by Northwestern Mutual) and the College Football Playoff National Championship will be played in Atlanta on Jan. 8.

The two Semifinals and four other premier bowl games Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic (Dec. 29), Capital One Orange Bowl (Dec. 30), PlayStation Fiesta Bowl (Dec. 30) and the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (Jan. 1) highlight the annual bowl season calendar. The Semifinal games will rotate among these six different bowls. All MAC programs will join every FBS team in college football with equal access to the playoff based upon its performance. No team will qualify automatically.

The College Football Playoff Selection Committee will choose four teams for the playoffs based on body of work, strength of schedule, head-to-head results, comparison of results against common opponents, championships won and other factors.

MAC Week Eight Quick Recaps:

Western Michigan 20, Eastern Michigan 17 (OT) -- Western Michigan improved to 5-3 overall and 3-1 in the MAC with a 20-17 overtime win on the road at Eastern Michigan Saturday. After missing what would have been a game-winning 37-yard field goal at the end of regulation freshman Josh Grant got a shot at redemption and nailed a 21-yarder through the goalposts in overtime.

Switching over to defense up 20-17 in overtime the Broncos were called for a pair of penalties that helped Eastern Michigan (2-5, 0-3 MAC) reach the two before Caleb Bailey and Robert Spillane stuffed Eastern Michigan on back-to-back tackles. Eagles' kicker Paulie Fricano's field goal try just shaved the outside of the right goalpost, cementing Western Michigan's win.

Western Michigan senior running back Jarvion Franklin had his third straight 100-yard rushing game with 104 yards on 24 carries. He became Western Michigan's all-time career rusher with 4,281 yards, breaking Robert Sanford's previous record of 4,219. Franklin had a 7-yard touchdown run that put Western Michigan up 17-10 in the third quarter for his 52nd career touchdown.

NIU 48, Bowling Green 17 -- Northern Illinois put together its most complete performance of the year, defeating Bowling Green 48-17 Saturday at Doyt Perry Stadium. The win improved NIU's record to 3-0 in the MAC and 5-2 overall as NIU moved within one win of bowl eligibility. Bowling Green fell to 1-7, 1-3 in the MAC.

NIU has now won 23 of its last 24 regular season meetings with MAC East Division opponents after collecting wins over Kent State, Buffalo and Bowling Green in the last three weeks.

In his second career start, freshman quarterback Marcus Childers accounted for 312 yards of total offense, passing for career high 239 yards on 21-of-33 passing and rushing for 73 yards on 19 carries. Childers threw three touchdown passes, including a career-long 73-yard scoring pass to Chad Beebe, and was not intercepted.

Beebe caught six passes for 124 yards to record the first 100-yard receiving game of his career while Chicago product Tommy Mister ran for 115 yards on 17 carries for his first 100-yard rushing game, to lead a 338-yard rushing attack by NIU.

The Huskies took advantage of five turnovers with interceptions by Trayshon Foster, Jackson Abresch and Mycial Allen, a fumble recovery by Jawuan Johnson caused by a Foster sack, and a strip, steal and score by sophomore defensive end Sutton Smith.

Miami 24, Buffalo 14 -- Miami running back Kenny Young enjoyed a career day while the Miami defense allowed just 271 yards as the RedHawks topped Buffalo 24-14 at Yager Stadium on Saturday. Saturday's win snaps Miami's (3-5, 2-2 MAC) three-game skid while evening its MAC record.

The RedHawks aired it out on the first play with Billy Bahl hitting James Gardner over the top for a 57 yard gain into Bull territory. That big gain led to a 37-yard field goal attempt that Samuel Sloman drilled to give Miami a 3-0 lead before the game was two minutes old.

A Brad Koenig sack stuffed out Buffalo's (3-5, 1-3 MAC) opening drive in three-and-out fashion and gave Miami's offense a short field to work with on its second possession. Miami took advantage, driving 61 yards in just five plays with big plays including a 17-yard Young rush and a 28-yard completion from Bahl to Sam Martin. Young concluded the drive with a seven-yard touchdown scamper to put the Red and White on top 10-0 with 8:48 left in the quarter.

Miami outgained Buffalo 349-271 and forced a pair of turnovers. Young led all players with a career-high 125 yards on the ground along with two scores while Bahl hit 13-of-20 passes for 177 yards.

MAC Week Eight Quick Recaps:

Toledo 48, Akron 21 -- Toledo senior quarterback Logan Woodside threw for 304 yards and five touchdowns, including three in the first quarter, to lead Toledo to a 48-21 victory over Akron at the Glass Bowl on Saturday afternoon. Woodside, who completed 17-of-24 passes, hit 10 different receivers on the day.

Junior Jon'Vea Johnson led the way with five catches and two scores. Senior Terry Swanson led the ground attack with 123 yards on 20 carries.

Toledo's defense held Akron to just 333 yards of total offense, including just 119 in the first half when Toledo held a 24-7 lead. The Zips, who had just 42 yards rushing on 24 attempts, never got any closer as the Rockets scored two more times in the third quarter to take an insurmountable 38-7 lead.

Sophomore safety Kahlil Robinson led Toledo with nine tackles. Junior defensive end Olasunkanmi Adeniyi had four tackles, a tackle for loss and two quarterback hurries.

Ohio 48, Kent State 3 -- Ohio senior running back Dorian Brown ran for a touchdown and broke 100 yards for the first time this season while sophomore quarterback Nathan Rourke passed for two touchdowns as Ohio defeated Kent State 48-3 on Saturday at Peden Stadium.

Brown finished with 108 yards on 13 carries, the highlight being a 39-yard touchdown run up the middle late in the third quarter.

For the second straight week, Ohio ran for over 300 yards, finishing with 336 yards. Along with Brown, redshirt junior running back A.J. Ouellette had 91 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown. With that, Ouellette cracked the top ten in career rushing yards at Ohio with 2,264 yards.

The win made Ohio 6-2 on the year and 3-1 in the Mid-American Conference. With the six wins, it becomes bowl eligible for the ninth consecutive year. The Bobcats offense as a whole finished with 474 yards and scored over 40 points for the fifth time this season, a record in the Solich era.

Starting his fifth game at Ohio, Rourke ran 59 yards and a touchdown in the first half, his 13th rushing touchdown of the year, which ranks first in the country.

Central Michigan 56, Ball State 9 -- Central Michigan football coach John Bonamego said his team re-committed itself to the run this week in practice. The Chippewas rushed for a season-high 256 yards in dominating Ball State, 56-9, to spoil the Cardinals' homecoming at Scheumann Stadium on Saturday.

The win lifted the Chippewas to 4-4, 2-2 in the Mid-American Conference and it came one week after a 30-10 loss at home to Toledo, during which Central Michigan was held to a season-low 62 yards on the ground. Ball State is 2-5, 0-3.

Jonathan Ward ran for 97 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries to lead the Central Michigan ground game, which was perfectly complemented by an efficient aerial attack triggered by quarterback Shane Morris.

Morris threw for 199 yards and four touchdowns on 16-of-21 passing. Corey Willis was his top target, finishing with five receptions -- three of them for a career-high three touchdowns -- for 98 yards.

The Central Michigan defense recorded eight sacks, four of them by senior defensive end Joe Ostman and two each by Michael Dana and Nate Brisson-Fast.

Eastern Michigan (2-5, 0-3; MAC) at Northern Illinois (5-2; 3-0 MAC)

Thursday, October 26, 2017 • 7:00 pm ET • DeKalb, Ill. • Bringham Field at Huskie Stadium (23,595)
CBS Sports Network
Series: NIU leads 31-14-2



Head Coach: Chris Creighton
Career: 151-78 (21st year) at Eastern Michigan: 12-32 (4th year)
Football Contact: Greg Steiner, 734-487-0317, gsteiner2@emich.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Ian Eriksen (83 att., 340 yds., 4 TDs)
Pass: QB Brogan Robach (165-267 passing, 1,817 yards, 10 TDs)
Rec.: WR Sergio Bailey II (41 rec., 559 yds., 4 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: DB Vince Calhoun (53 tackles)
Sacks: DL Maxx Crosby (35 tackles, 8.5 tfl, 6.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Brody Hoying (43 tackles, 2.0 tfl, 2 INT)

Notes: Eastern Michigan lost 20-17 (OT) to Western Michigan on Oct. 21...It was the fifth-straight one-possession defeat for the Eagles...RB Ian Eriksen led with 93 yards on 23 carries...QB Brogan Robach was 28-44 passing for a season-high 308 yards and one touchdown, the ninth 300+ passing game of his career.



Head Coach: Rod Carey
Career: 41-21 (5th year) at NIU: 41-21 (5th year)
Football Contact: Donna Turner, 815-753-9513, donnaturner@niu.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Jordan Huff (85 att., 450 rushing yds., 1 TD)
Pass: QB Marcus Childers (55-87 passing, 594 yds., 7 TDs)
Rec.: WR Christian Blake (26 rec., 296 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Bobby Jones (63 tackles, 10.0 tfl, 5.0 sacks)
Sacks: DL Sutton Smith (36 tackles, 17.0 tfl, 10.0 sacks)
Int.: LB Jawuan Johnson (55 tackles, 9.0 tfl, 1.0 sack, 3 INT)

Notes: NIU won 48-17 at Bowling Green on Oct. 21...NIU has won 23 of its last 24 regular season meetings with MAC East Division opponents...Defense forced five turnovers...RB Tommy Mister ran for 115 yards on 17 carries for his first 100-yard rushing game of his career...QB Marcus Childers accounted for 312 yards of offense.

Toledo (6-1, 3-0; MAC) at Ball State (2-5, 0-3; MAC)

Thursday, October 26, 2017 • 7:00 pm ET • Muncie, Ind. • Scheumann Stadium (22,500)
ESPN3
Series: Toledo leads 22-19-1



Head Coach: Jason Candle
Career: 16-5 (2nd year) at Toledo: 16-5 (2nd year)
Contact: Paul Helgren, 419-530-4918, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Terry Swanson (120 att., 655 yds., 7 TDs)
Pass: QB Logan Woodside (138-215 passing, 2,028 yards, 16 TDs)
Rec.: WR Diantae Johnson (32 rec., 523 yds., 6 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: S Jordan Williams (33 tackles, 1.0 tfl)
Sacks: LB Ja'Wuan Woodley (28 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks, 1 INT)
Int.: DB Khalil Robinson (21 tackles, 3 INT)

Notes: Toledo won 48-21 over Akron on Oct. 21...Defense held Akron to 42 rushing yards, the third straight game an opponent has rushed for fewer than 100 yards...RB Terry Swanson finished with 123 rushing yards, his 11th 100-yard rushing game of his career, and tied with Roland Moss, Jalen Parmele and Adonis Thomas for seventh place.



Head Coach: Mike Neu
Career: 6-13 (2nd year) at Ball State: 6-13 (2nd year)
Contact: Mike Clark, 765-285-8904, maclark4@bsu.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Caleb Huntley (97 att., 467 yards rushing, 3 TDs)
Pass: QB Jack Milas (79-148 passing, 731 yds., 0 TDs)
Rec.: WR Justin Hall (46 rec., 490 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Damon Singleton (41 tackles, 5.0 tfl, 1.0 sack)
Sacks: DE Anthony Winbush (34 tackles, 13.5 tfl, 10.0 sacks, 4 ff)
Int.: DB Bryce Crosby (36 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Cardinals lost 56-9 to Central Michigan on Oct. 21...DE Anthony Winbush collected two sacks and has 9.5 sacks on the season and 23 career sacks, which is two shy of the program record...K Morgan Hagee tied a career-high with three field goals -- all from 40+ yards -- and has now made his last five consecutive attempts.

Buffalo (3-5, 1-3; MAC) at Akron (4-4, 3-1; MAC)

Saturday, October 28, 2017 • 11:30 am ET • Akron, Ohio • InfoCision Stadium - Summa Field (27,881)
CBS Sports Network
Series: Buffalo leads 10-6



Head Coach: Lance Leipold
Career: 119-28 (10th year) at Buffalo: 10-22 (3rd year)
Football Contact: Jon Fuller, 716-645-6762, jfuller3@buffalo.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Emmanuel Reed (122 att., 495 yds., 5 TDs)
Pass: QB Drew Anderson (66-106 passing, 1,039 yards, 10 TDs)
Rec.: WR Anthony Johnson (49 rec., 827 yds., 6 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Khalil Hodge (115 tackles, 3.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Sacks: DL Chuck Harris (45 tackles, 3.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Ryan Williamson (50 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Buffalo lost 24-14 at Miami on Oct. 21...QB Kyle Vantrease made his first career start for the Bulls becoming the first true freshman to start for UB since Drew Willy in 2005...Vantrease finished 17-41 passing for 202 yards, two touchdowns and an interception...WR Anthony Johnson led with five catches for 56 yards.



Head Coach: Terry Bowden
Career: 168-103-2 (24th year) at Akron: 28-41 (6th year)
Contact: Cathy Bongiovi, 330-972-6106, cathyb@akron.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Warren Ball (75 att., 332 rushing yds., 4 TDs)
Pass: QB Thomas Woodson (133-235 passing, 1,456 yards, 11 TDs)
Rec.: WR Tra'Von Chapman (32 rec., 278 yds., 1 TD)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Ulysses Gilbert (76 tackles, 4.5 tfl, 4.0 sacks, 2 INT)
Sacks: LB Ulysses Gilbert (76 tackles, 4.5 tfl, 4.0 sacks, 2 INT)
Int.: LB John Lako (43 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 2 INT)

Notes: Akron lost 48-21 at Toledo on Oct. 21...WR Tra'Von Chapman led with six receptions for a career-high 70 yards and one touchdown...QB Thomas Woodson was 18-33 passing for 205 yards and two touchdowns...LB Ulysses Gilbert and DE Jamal Davis each led with eight tackles.

Bowling Green (1-7, 1-3; MAC) at Kent State (2-6, 1-3; MAC)

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 • 8:00 pm ET • Kent, Ohio • Dix Stadium (25,319)

ESPN2

Series: Bowling Green leads 59-19-6



Head Coach: Mike Jinks
Career: 5-15 (2nd year) at Bowling Green: 5-15 (2nd year)
Football Contact: Jason Knavel, 419-372-7075, jknavel@bgsu.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Josh Cleveland (99 att., 504 rushing yds., 2 TDs)
Pass: QB James Morgan (96-212 passing, 1,260 yards, 9 TDs)
Rec.: WR Scott Miller (40 rec., 450 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Brandon Harris (62 tackles, 3.0 tfl)
Sacks: DL Kyle Junior (29 tackles, 5.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Clint Stephens (17 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Falcons lost 48-17 to NIU on Oct. 21...RB Andrew Clair rushed for 108 yards on 15 carries...Clair has rushed for 100-plus yards in three-consecutive games...QB Grant Loy threw for 104 yards on 6-11 passing and rushed for 29 yards on 11 carries and one touchdown...LB Nate Locke led with 10 tackles, one sack and two tackles for loss.



Head Coach: Paul Haynes
Career: 13-40 (5th year) at Kent State: 13-40 (5th year)
Football Contact: Aaron Chimenti, 330-672-8468, achimenti@kent.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Justin Rankin (63 att., 244 rushing yds; 0 TDs)
Pass: QB George Bollas (42-84 passing, 537 yards, 2 TDs)
Rec.: RB Justin Rankin (20 rec., 144 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Jim Jones (65 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Jim Jones (65 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Demetrius Monday (19 tackles, 4 INT)

Notes: Kent State lost 48-3 at Ohio on Oct. 21...DT Jon Cunningham made three tackles for loss along with a forced fumble...Kent State totaled nine tackles for loss for the game...K Shane Hynes made the 29th field goal of his career and ranks in fifth place among program leaders.

Miami (3-5, 2-2; MAC) at Ohio (6-2, 3-1; MAC)

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 • 8:00 pm ET • Athens, Ohio • Peden Stadium (24,000)

ESPN2

Series: Miami leads 52-39-2



Head Coach: Chuck Martin
Career: 88-38 (10th year) at Miami: 14-31 (4th year)
Football Contact: Dave Meyer, 513-529-4329, meyerd@miamioh.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Kenny Young (107 att., 566 yds., 4 TDs)
Pass: QB Gus Ragland (96-180 passing, 1,398 yds., 12 TDs)
Rec.: WR James Gardner (32 rec., 681 yds., 6 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB De'Andre Montgomery (58 tackles, 3.0 tfl, 1 INT)
Sacks: LB Brad Koenig (63 tackles, 7.0 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Tony Reid (43 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Miami lost 24-14 to Buffalo on Oct. 21...Defense held Buffalo to 271 yards of offense and forced two turnovers...RB Kenny Young rushed for a career-high 125 yards and two touchdowns...QB Billy Bahl was 13-20 passing for 177 yards...Miami snapped a three-game losing streak...Miami gained 349 yards of total offense.



Head Coach: Frank Solich
Career: 152-88 (19th year) at Ohio: 94-69 (13th year)
Contact: Anthony Reynolds, 740-593-1298, reynola1@ohio.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB AJ Ouellette (120 att., 747 yds., 6 TDs)
Pass: QB Nathan Rourke (97-174 passing, 1,210 yds., 10 TDs)
Rec.: WR Brendan Cope (26 rec., 347 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Quentin Poling (70 tackles, 7.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Evan Crouch (48 tackles, 5.0 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Int.: LB Chad Moore (46 tackles, 3 INT)

Notes: Ohio won 48-3 over Kent State on Oct. 21...Ohio had a season-high 335 rushing yards and a season-low 105 passing yards...It was the most rushing yards since Ohio put up 329 at Kansas last season...Ohio's 21 points in the second quarter was the most points scored in a second quarter this season by the Bobcats.

Central Michigan (4-4, 2-2; MAC) at Western Michigan (5-3, 3-1; MAC)

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 • 8:00 pm ET • Kalamazoo, Mich. • Waldo Stadium (30,200)

ESPN2

Series: Western Michigan 48-37-2



Head Coach: John Bonamego
Career: 17-17 (3rd year) at Central Michigan: 17-17 (3rd year)
Football Contact: Jim Knight, 989-774-3277, jim.knight@cmich.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Jonathan Ward (96 att., 460 rushing yds., 4 TDs)
Pass: QB Shane Morris (170-300 passing, 1,966 yards, 16 TDs)
Rec.: WR Mark Chapman (43 rec., 590 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: LB Alex Briones (59 tackles, 4.5 tfl, 1.0 sack, 2 INT)
Sacks: DL Joe Ostman (45 tackles, 13.5 tfl, 10.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Josh Cox (55 tackles, 4 INT)

Notes: Chippewas won 56-9 at Ball State on Oct. 21...Central Michigan finished with 455 total yards of offense, including a season-high 253 yards rushing...QB Shane Morris was 16-21 passing for 199 yards and four touchdowns...Defense recorded eight sacks and nine tackles for loss.



Head Coach: Tim Lester
Career: 44-26 (7th year) at Western Michigan: 5-3 (1st year)
Contact: Kristin Keirns, 269-387-4123, kristin.keirns@wmich.edu

Offense:
Rush: RB Jarvion Franklin (145 att., 642 yards, 7 TDs)
Pass: QB Jon Wassink (124-193 passing, 1,411 yards, 14 TDs)
Rec.: WR Keishawn Watson (33 rec., 288 yards, 6 TDs)

Defense:
Tackles: DL Asantay Brown (61 tackles, 5.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Robert Spillane (58 tackles, 6.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Darius Phillips (27 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Western Michigan won 20-17 (OT) at Eastern Michigan on Oct. 21...RB Jarvion Franklin had his third consecutive 100+ yard rushing effort with 104 yards on 24 carries and one touchdown...QB Jon Wassink was 16-24 passing for 190 yards and one touchdown before leaving in the second half with an injury.

SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FORMER MAC STUDENTS ON NFL ROSTERS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arizona (2) LB Bryson Albright-PS 1 Miami DB Ronald Zamort-IR 1 Western Michigan | Indianapolis (3) DE Tarell Basham R Ohio DB Rashaan Melvin 5 Northern Illinois OL Isaiah Williams 1 Akron | Philadelphia (2) OL Brandon Brooks 6 Miami (Ohio) DE Steven Means 3 Buffalo |
| Atlanta (1) DE JT Jones-PS R Miami | Jacksonville (2) LB Blair Brown R Ohio DB Barry Church 8 Toledo | Pittsburgh (7) LB Keion Adams-IR R Western Michigan WR Antonio Brown 8 Central Michigan LB James Harrison 15 Kent State FS Mike Mitchell 9 Ohio FB Roosevelt Nix 3 Kent State QB Ben Roethlisberger 14 Miami (Ohio) DL L.T. Walton 3 Central Michigan |
| Carolina (1) OL Taylor Moton R Western Michigan | Kansas City (3) OL Eric Fisher 5 Central Michigan RB Kareem Hunt R Toledo LB Frank Zombo 8 Central Michigan | San Francisco (3) DT Chris Jones-IR 4 Bowling Green OT Joe Staley 11 Central Michigan DB Jimmie Ward 4 Northern Illinois |
| Chicago (1) OL Josh Sitton 10 Central Florida | Los Angeles Chargers (4) DB Jahleel Addae 5 Central Michigan LB Jatavis Brown 2 Akron TE Antonio Gates 15 Kent State RB Branden Oliver 4 Buffalo | Seattle (1) RB Thomas Rawls 3 Central Michigan |
| Cincinnati (1) TE Mason Schreck-IR R Buffalo | Minnesota (1) RB Bronson Hill-PS 1 Eastern Michigan | Tampa Bay (2) WR Bernard Reedy 1 Toledo DL Pat O'Connor-PS R Eastern Michigan |
| Cleveland (2) RB Darius Jackson-IR 2 Eastern Michigan OL Andrew Wylie-PS R Eastern Michigan | New England (1) WR Julian Edelman-IR 9 Kent State | Tennessee (6) WR Corey Davis R Western Michigan RB David Fluellen 1 Toledo P Brett Kern 10 Toledo OL Josh Kline 5 Kent State TE Tim Semisch-PS 1 Northern Illinois WR Tajae Sharpe-IR 2 UMass |
| Dallas (4) DT Richard Ash-PS 2 Western Michigan S Kavon Frazier 2 Central Michigan LB Justin March-Lillard 3 Akron QB Cooper Rush R Central Michigan | New Orleans (4) OL John Greco 10 Toledo WR Tommylee Lewis 2 Northern Illinois WR Willie Snead 2 Ball State OL Martin Wallace-IR 2 Temple | PS - Practice Squad; IR - Injured-Reserve List (As of NFL Rosters on Oct. 17, 2017) Currently there are 75 former MAC students on rosters across the National Football League. |
| Denver (1) K Brandon McManus 4 Temple | N.Y. Giants (3) LB Cap Capi 1 Akron WR Roger Lewis 2 Bowling Green WR Brandon Marshall-IR 12 Central Florida | In the 2017 NFL Draft, Western Michigan WR Corey Davis was selected as the fifth overall selection in the 1st round by Tennessee. Davis marks the third time in the last five years to have a MAC student selected in the top five overall of the first round. |
| Detroit (8) LB Nick Bellore 7 Central Michigan WR Kenny Golladay R Northern Illinois OL Zac Kerin-IR 3 Toledo OL T.J. Lang 9 Eastern Michigan DB Rolan Milligan-PS 1 Toledo K Matt Prater 11 Central Florida TE Michael Roberts R Toledo LB Tahir Whitehead 6 Temple | N.Y. Jets (4) LB Freddie Bishop 2 Western Michigan WR JoJo Natson-PS 1 Akron DT Muhammad Wilkerson 7 Temple OL Brian Winters 5 Kent State | Buffalo LB Khalil Mack was the fifth overall selection by Oakland in the 2014 NFL Draft. Central Michigan OT Eric Fisher became the first MAC football player to be selected as the overall No. 1 selection in the NFL Draft. Kansas City selected Fisher as No.1 choice in the 2013 NFL Draft. |
| Green Bay (3) DL Izaah Lunsford-PS R Bowling Green DB Quinten Rollins-IR 3 Miami (Ohio) P Jacob Schum - IR 3 Buffalo | Oakland (3) DB Travis Carrie 4 Ohio DL Treyvon Hester R Toledo LB Khalil Mack 4 Buffalo | |
| Houston (2) DB Bryce Jones-PS R Akron OL Greg Mancz 2 Toledo | Philadelphia (2) OL Brandon Brooks 5 Miami (Ohio) DE Steven Means 2 Buffalo | |

MAC EAST VS. MAC WEST

In 2017, the East and West Divisions will face each other in 18 crossover regular season games. So far this season the West Division holds a 6-4 advantage.

Over the previous nine years (2008-2016), the MAC West has had the upper hand in crossover regular season games against the MAC East, winning the head-to-head regular season series in eight of the last nine years as the West holds a 109-53 (.673%) regular season record in crossover games over the East during that span.

The West Division has a 5-4 lead in the last nine Marathon MAC Football Championship Games. From the West Division, Western Michigan (2016), Northern Illinois (2011, 2012, 2014) and Central Michigan (2009) have won the Conference Championship five times, while the East Division has won four crowns with Bowling Green (2015, 2013), Miami (2010) and Buffalo (2008).

Year: Regular Season East vs. West: MAC Champion

- 2016 West 12-6; Western Michigan (West) def. Ohio (East), 29-23.
- 2015 West 11-7; Bowling Green (East) def. NIU (West), 34-14.
- 2014 West 15-3; NIU (West) def. Bowling Green (East), 51-17.
- 2013 West 12-6; Bowling Green (East) def. NIU (West), 47-27.
- 2012 West 12-6; NIU (West) def. Kent State (East) 44-37 in 2 OT.
- 2011 West 14-4; NIU (West) def. Ohio (East), 23-20.
- 2010 West 12-6; Miami (East) def. NIU (West), 26-21.
- 2009 East 11-7; Central Michigan (West) def. Ohio (East), 20-10.
- 2008 West 14-4; Buffalo (East) def. Ball State (West), 42-24.

MAC ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Mid-American Conference:
Ken Mather, kmather@mac-sports.com (216-566-4622)

East Division

- Akron: Cathy Bongiovi, cathyb@uakron.edu (330.972.6106)
- Bowling Green: Jason Knavel, jknavel@bgsu.edu (419.372.7075)
- Buffalo: Jon Fuller, jfuller3@buffalo.edu (716.645.6762)
- Kent State: Aaron Chimenti, achiment@kent.edu (330.672.8468)
- Miami: Dave Meyer, meyerd@miamioh.edu (513.529.4329)
- Ohio: Anthony Reynolds, reynola1@ohio.edu (740.593.1298)

West Division

- Ball State: Michael Clark, maclark4@bsu.edu (765.285.8904)
- Central Michigan: Jim Knight, knigh2je@cmich.edu (989.774.3277)
- Eastern Michigan: Greg Steiner, greg.steiner@emich.edu (734.487.0318)
- Northern Illinois: Donna Turner, donnaturner@niu.edu (815.753.9513)
- Toledo: Paul Helgren, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu (419.530.4918)
- Western Michigan: Kristin Keirns, kristin.keirns@wmich.edu (269-387-4123)



2017 Akron Zips (4-4, 3-1)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | at No. 6 Penn State | Noon ET | ABC | L, 0-52 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 6:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 52-3 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Iowa State | Noon ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 14-41 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | at Troy | 6:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 17-22 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | *at Bowling Green | 6:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 34-23 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *Ball State | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 31-3 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *at Western Michigan | 3:30 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | W, 14-13 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *at Toledo | Noon ET | ESPN3/WTOL Toledo/WUAB | Cleveland L, 21-48 |
| Sat., Oct. 28 | *Buffalo | 11:30 am ET | CBS Sports Network | Buffalo leads 10-6 |
| Tue., Nov. 7 | *at Miami | 7:30 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU | Miami leads 16-9-1 |
| Tue., Nov. 14 | *Ohio | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU | Ohio leads 20-12-1 |
| Tue., Nov. 21 | *Kent State | 7:00 pm ET | ESPNU/ESPN3 | Akron leads 33-24-2 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Ball State Cardinals (2-5, 0-3)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | at Illinois | Noon ET | Big Ten Network | L, 21-24 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | UAB | 3:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 51-31 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Tennessee Tech | 3:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 28-13 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | at Western Kentucky | 7:00 pm ET | Stadium/C-USA TV | L, 21-33 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | *at Western Michigan | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 3-55 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *at Akron | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 3-31 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *Central Michigan | 3:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 9-56 |
| Thur., Oct. 26 | *Toledo | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | Toledo leads 22-19-1 |
| Thur., Nov. 2 | *at Eastern Michigan | 6:00 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | BSU leads 34-22-1 |
| Thur., Nov. 9 | *at NIU | 7:00 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | NIU leads 22-20-2 |
| Thur., Nov. 16 | *Buffalo | 7:00 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | BSU leads 9-1 |
| Tue., Nov. 21 | *Miami | 7:00 pm ET | ESPNU/ESPN3 | Miami leads 17-12-1 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Bowling Green Falcons (1-7, 1-3)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | at Michigan State | Noon ET | ESPNU | L, 10-35 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | South Dakota | 6:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 27-25 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | at Northwestern | 7:30 pm ET | Big Ten Network | L, 7-49 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | at Middle Tennessee | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 13-24 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | *Akron | 6:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 23-34 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *at Miami | 2:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 37-29 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *Ohio | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 30-48 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *NIU | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 17-48 |
| Tue., Oct. 31 | *at Kent State | 8:00 pm ET | ESPNU | BGSU leads 59-19-6 |
| Tue., Nov. 7 | *at Buffalo | 7:30 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU | BGSU leads 11-3 |
| Wed., Nov. 15 | *Toledo | 7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBS Sports Network | BGSU leads 39-38-4 |
| Tue., Nov. 21 | *at Eastern Michigan | 7:00 pm ET | ESPNU/ESPN3 | BGSU leads 25-12-1 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Buffalo Bulls (3-5, 1-3)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Thur., Aug. 31 | at Minnesota | 7:00 pm ET | Big Ten Network | L, 7-17 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | at Army | Noon ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 17-21 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Colgate | 6:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 33-10 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | Florida Atlantic | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 34-31 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | *at Kent State | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 27-13 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *Western Michigan | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 68-71 (TOT) |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *Northern Illinois | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 13-14 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *at Miami | 2:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 14-24 |
| Sat., Oct. 28 | *at Akron | 11:30 am ET | CBS Sports Network | Akron leads 10-6 |
| Tue., Nov. 7 | *Bowling Green | 7:30 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU | BGSU leads 11-3 |
| Thur., Nov. 16 | *at Ball State | 7:00 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | BSU leads 9-1 |
| Fri., Nov. 24 | *Ohio | TBA | ESPNU/CBS Sports Network/ESPN3 | Ohio leads 14-9 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Central Michigan Chippewas (4-4, 2-2)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Thur., Aug. 31 | Rhode Island | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 30-27 (3OT) |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | at Kansas | 4:00 pm ET | FSN | W, 45-27 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | at Syracuse | 3:30 pm ET | ACC Network Extra | L, 17-41 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | *Miami | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 14-31 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | at Boston College | 1:00 pm ET | ACC Network Extra | L, 8-28 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *at Ohio | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 26-23 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *Toledo | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 10-30 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *at Ball State | 3:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 56-9 |
| Wed., Nov. 1 | *at Western Michigan | 8:00 pm ET | ESPN2 | WMU leads 48-38-2 |
| Wed., Nov. 8 | *Eastern Michigan | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBS Sports Network | CMU leads 59-29-6 |
| Tue., Nov. 14 | *at Kent State | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU | CMU leads 23-11 |
| Fri., Nov. 24 | *Northern Illinois | TBA | ESPNU/CBS Sports Network/ESPN3 | CMU leads 28-23-1 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Eastern Michigan Eagles (2-5, 0-3)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fri., Sept. 1 | Charlotte | 6:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 24-7 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | at Rutgers | 3:30 pm ET | Big Ten Network | W, 16-13 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | *Ohio | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 20-27 (2OT) |
| Fri., Sept. 30 | at Kentucky | 4:00 pm ET | SEC Network | L, 20-24 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *at Toledo | Noon ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 15-20 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | at Army | Noon ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 27-28 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *Western Michigan | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 17-20 (OT) |
| Thur., Oct. 26 | *at Northern Illinois | 7:00 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | NIU leads 31-14-2 |
| Thur., Nov. 2 | *Ball State | 6:00 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | BSU leads 34-22-2 |
| Wed., Nov. 8 | *at Central Michigan | 7:00 pm or 7:30 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSN | CMU leads 59-29-6 |
| Wed., Nov. 15 | *at Miami | 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSN | MIA leads 19-4 |
| Tue., Nov. 21 | *Bowling Green | 7:00 pm ET | ESPNU/ESPN3 | BGSU leads 25-12-1 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Kent State Golden Flashes (2-6, 1-3)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | at No. 5 Clemson | 12:00 pm ET | ESPN | L, 3-56 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | Howard | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 38-31 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | at Marshall | 6:30 pm ET | Stadium | L, 0-21 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | at No. 19 Louisville | Noon ET | ACC Reg. Sports Network | L, 3-42 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | *Buffalo | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 27-13 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *at Northern Illinois | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 3-24 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *Miami | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 17-14 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *at Ohio | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 3-48 |
| Tue., Oct. 31 | *Bowling Green | 8:00 pm ET | ESPNU | BGSU leads 59-19-6 |
| Wed., Nov. 8 | *at Western Michigan | 7/7:30/8 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN | WMU leads 34-20-1 |
| Tue., Nov. 14 | *Central Michigan | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU | CMU leads 23-11 |
| Tue., Nov. 21 | *at Akron | 7:00 pm ET | ESPNU/ESPN3 | UA leads 33-24-2 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Miami RedHawks (3-5, 2-2)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | at Marshall | 6:30 pm ET | Stadium | L, 26-31 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | Austin Peay | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 31-10 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Cincinnati | 8:00 pm ET | WXIX TV; WUAB TV/ESPN3 | L, 17-21 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | *at Central Michigan | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 31-14 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | at No. 22 Notre Dame | 5:00 pm ET | NBCSN | L, 17-52 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *Bowling Green | 2:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 29-37 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *at Kent State | 3:30 PM ET | ESPN3 | L, 14-17 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *Buffalo | 2:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 24-14 |
| Tue., Oct. 31 | *at Ohio | 8:00 pm ET | ESPN2 | Miami leads 52-39-2 |
| Tue., Nov. 7 | *Akron | 7:30 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU | Miami leads 16-9-1 |
| Wed., Nov. 15 | *Eastern Michigan | 7/8 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN | Miami leads 19-4 |
| Tue., Nov. 21 | *at Ball State | 7:00 pm ET | ESPNU/ESPN3 | Miami leads 17-11-1 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Northern Illinois Huskies (5-2, 3-0)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Fri., Sept. 1 | Boston College | 9:30 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 20-23 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | Eastern Illinois | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 38-10 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | at Nebraska | Noon ET | Fox Sports 1 | W, 21-17 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | at No. 19 San Diego State | 10:30 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 28-34 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *Kent State | 3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT | ESPN3 | W, 24-3 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *at Buffalo | 3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT | ESPN3 | W, 14-13 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *at Bowling Green | 2:00 pm ET/1:00 pm CT | ESPN3 | W, 48-17 |
| Thur., Oct. 26 | *Eastern Michigan | 7:00 pm ET/6:00 pm CT | CBS Sports Network | NIU leads 31-14-2 |
| Thur., Nov. 2 | *at Toledo | 6:00 pm ET/5:00 pm CT | ESPNU | UT leads 30-14 |
| Thur., Nov. 9 | *Ball State | 7:00 pm ET/6:00 pm CT | CBSSN | NIU leads 22-20-2 |
| Wed., Nov. 15 | *Western Michigan | 6:00/7:00 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN | WMU leads 24-18 |
| Fri., Nov. 24 | *at Central Michigan | TBA | ESPNU/ESPN3/CBSSN | CMU leads 28-23-1 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Ohio Bobcats (6-2, 3-1)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|----------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | Hampton | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 59-0 |
| Fri., Sept. 8 | at Purdue | 8:00 pm ET | Fox Sports Net | L, 21-44 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Kansas | Noon ET | ESPNU | W, 42-30 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | *at Eastern Michigan | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 27-20 (2OT) |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | at UMass | 3:30 pm ET | Eleven Sports | W, 58-50 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *Central Michigan | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | L, 23-26 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *at Bowling Green | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 48-30 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *Kent State | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 48-3 |
| Tue., Oct. 31 | *Miami | 8:00 pm ET | ESPN2 | Miami leads 52-39-2 |
| Wed., Nov. 8 | *Toledo | 6:00 pm ET | ESPN3/ESPNU | UT Leads 31-20-1 |
| Tue., Nov. 14 | *at Akron | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU | Ohio leads 19-13-1 |
| Fri., Nov. 24 | *at Buffalo | TBA | ESPNU/ESPN3/CBSSN | Ohio leads 13-10 |



2017 Toledo Rockets (6-1, 3-0)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Thur., Aug. 31 | Elon | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 47-13 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | at Nevada | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 37-24 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Tulsa | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 54-51 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | at No. 14 Miami (Fla.) | 3:30 pm ET | ACC Reg. Sports Network | L, 30-52 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *Eastern Michigan | Noon ET | CBS Sports Network | W, 20-15 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *at Central Michigan | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 30-10 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *Akron | Noon ET | ESPN3/WTOL Toledo/WUAB Cleveland | W, 48-21 |
| Thur., Oct. 26 | *at Ball State | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | Toledo leads 22-19-1 |
| Thur., Nov. 2 | *NIU | 6:00 pm ET | ESPNU | Toledo leads 30-14 |
| Wed., Nov. 8 | *at Ohio | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBS Sports Network | Toledo 31-20-1 |
| Wed., Nov. 15 | *at Bowling Green | TBA | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBS Sports Network | BGSU leads 39-38-4 |
| Fri., Nov. 24 | *Western Michigan | TBA | ESPNU/CBS Sports Network/ESPN3 | Toledo leads 40-30 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |



2017 Western Michigan Broncos (5-3, 3-1)

| Date | Opponent | Time | Television | Series/Results |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sat., Sept. 2 | at No. 4 USC | 5:15 pm ET | PAC-12 Network | L, 31-49 |
| Sat., Sept. 9 | at Michigan State | 3:30 pm ET | BigTen Network | L, 14-28 |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Idaho | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 37-28 |
| Sat., Sept. 23 | Wagner | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 49-14 |
| Sat., Sept. 30 | *Ball State | 7:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 55-3 |
| Sat., Oct. 7 | *at Buffalo | 3:30 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 71-68 (7OT) |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | *Akron | 3:30 pm ET | CBS Sports Network | L, 13-14 |
| Sat., Oct. 21 | *at Eastern Michigan | 2:00 pm ET | ESPN3 | W, 20-17 (OT) |
| Wed., Nov. 1 | *Central Michigan | 8:00 pm ET | ESPN2 | WMU leads 48-37-2 |
| Wed., Nov. 7 | *Kent State | 7/7:30/8 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN | WMU leads 34-20-1 |
| Sat., Nov. 15 | *at Northern Illinois | 7/8:00 pm ET | ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN | WMU leads 24-17 |
| Fri., Nov. 25 | *at Toledo | TBA | TBA | Toledo leads 42-30 |
| *Mid-American Conference game | | | | |

2017 Non-Conference Opponents

ACC (6): (0-6)

Boston College (2) (NIU; Central Michigan): (0-2; L, 20-23; L, 8-28)
 Clemson (Kent State): (0-1, L, 3-56)
 Louisville (Kent State): (0-1, L, 3-42)
 Miami (Toledo): (0-1, L, 30-52)
 Syracuse (Central Michigan): (0-1; L, 17-41)

American Athletic (2): (1-1)

Cincinnati (Miami): (0-1; L, 17-21)
 Tulsa (Toledo): (1-0), W, 54-51

Big Ten (9): (2-7)

Illinois (Ball State): (0-1, L, 21-24)
 Michigan State (2) (BGSU; WMU): (0-2, L, 10-35; L, 14-28)
 Minnesota (Buffalo): (0-1, L, 7-17)
 Nebraska (NIU): (1-0), W, 21-17
 Northwestern (Bowling Green): (0-1, L, 7-49)
 Penn State (Akron): (0-1, L, 0-52)
 Purdue (Ohio): (0-1, L, 21-44)
 Rutgers (Eastern Michigan): (1-0, W, 16-13)

Big 12 (3): (2-1)

Iowa State (Akron): (0-1, L, 14-41)
 Kansas (2) (Central Michigan; Ohio): (2-0, W, 45-27; W, 42-30)

Conference USA (7): (3-4)

Charlotte (Eastern Michigan): (1-0, W, 24-7)
 Florida Atlantic (Buffalo): (1-0, W, 34-31)
 Marshall (2) (Miami; Kent State): (0-2, L, 26-31; L, 0-21)
 Middle Tennessee (Bowling Green): (0-1, : L, 13-24)
 UAB (Ball State): (1-0, W, 51-31)
 Western Kentucky (Ball State): (0-1, L, 21-33)

Mountain West (2): (1-1)

Nevada (Toledo): (1-0, W, 37-24)
 San Diego State (NIU): (0-1, L, 28-34)

Pac 12 (1): (0-1)

USC (Western Michigan): (0-1, L, 31-49)

SEC (1): (0-1)

Kentucky (Eastern Michigan): (0-1, L, 20-24)

Sun Belt (2): (1-1)

Idaho (Western Michigan): (1-0, W, 37-28)
 Troy (Akron): (0-1, L, 17-22)

Independent (3): (0-3)

Army (2) (Buffalo; Eastern Michigan): (0-2, L, 17-21; L, 27-28)
 Notre Dame (Miami): (0-1, L, 17-52)

FCS Opponents (I-AA)

Colonial Athletic (2): (2-0)

Elon (Toledo): (1-0, W, 47-13)
 Rhode Island (Central Michigan): (1-0, W, 30-27 (3OT))

MEAC (2): (2-0)

Hampton (Ohio): (1-0, W, 59-0)
 Howard (Kent State): (1-0, W, 38-31)

Missouri Valley (1): (0-1)

South Dakota (Bowling Green): (0-1, L, 27-35)

Northeast (1): (1-0)

Wagner (Western Michigan): (1-0, W, 49-14)

Ohio Valley (3): (3-0)

Austin Peay (Miami): (1-0, W, 31-10)
 Eastern Illinois (NIU): (1-0), W, 38-10
 Tennessee Tech (Ball State): (1-0, W, 28-13)

Patriot League (1): (1-0)

Colgate (Buffalo): (1-0, W, 33-10)

Southwestern Athletic Conference (1): (1-0)

Arkansas Pine-Bluff (Akron): (1-0, W, 52-3)

MAC Students on 2017 Preseason Watch Lists

WALTER CAMP AWARD (Best College Football Player)

RB Jarvion Franklin (Western Michigan)

MAXWELL AWARD (Outstanding College Football Player)

RB James Gilbert (Ball State)
 QB Logan Woodside (Toledo)

CHUCK BEDNARIK AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)

DB Heath Harding (Miami)

BILETNIKOFF AWARD (Top Wide Receiver)

Sergio Bailey II (Eastern Michigan)
 James Gardner (Miami)
 Anthony Johnson (Buffalo)
 Jon'Vea Johnson (Toledo)
 Scott Miller (Bowling Green)
 Cody Thompson (Toledo)
 Corey Willis (Central Michigan)

BRONKO NAGURSKI AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)

DB Shawun Lurry (NIU)
 DB Heath Harding (Miami)
 LB Ulysees Gilbert III (Akron)

LOU GROZA AWARD (Outstanding Kicker)

Louie Zervos (Ohio)

PAUL HORNUNG AWARD (Most Versatile Player)

DB Darius Phillips (Western Michigan)

MANNING AWARD (Best Quarterback)

Logan Woodside, Toledo
 Brogan Roback, Eastern Michigan
 Nathan Rourke, Ohio

JOHN MACKEY AWARD (Best Tight End)

Tyler Conklin (Central Michigan)
 Donnie Ernsberger (Western Michigan)
 Troy Mangen (Ohio)
 Ryan Smith (Miami)
 Shane Wimann (NIU)

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (Top Quarterback)

Logan Woodside (Toledo)

OUTLAND AWARD (Top Interior Lineman)

C John Keenoy (Western Michigan)
 C Jake Pruehs (Ohio)
 RG Jimmy Leatiota (Eastern Michigan)
 RT Elijah Nkansah (Toledo)
 LT Chukwuma Okorafor (Western Michigan)
 OL Max Scharping (NIU)

RIMINGTON TROPHY (Most Outstanding Center)

LaVonne Gauthney (Akron)
 Tim McAuliffe (Bowling Green)
 James O'Hagan (Buffalo)
 Austin Doan (Central Michigan)
 Dakota Tallman (Eastern Michigan)
 Nathan Puthoff (Kent State)
 Danny Godlevske (Miami)
 Luke Shively (NIU)
 Jake Pruehs (Ohio)
 John Keenoy (Western Michigan)

RAY GUY AWARD (Best College Punter)

Joseph Davidson, Bowling Green
 Derek Adams (Kent State)

JIM THORPE AWARD (Best Defensive Back)

Shawun Lurry (NIU)
 Amari Coleman (Central Michigan)
 Heath Harding (Miami)

DOAK WALKER AWARD (Top Running Back)

Jarvion Franklin (Western Michigan)
 Jamauri Bogan (Western Michigan)
 James Gilert (Ball State)
 Terry Swanson (Toledo)
 Shaq Vann (Eastern Michigan)

WUERFFEL TROPHY (Best Community Service)

WR A.J. Coney (Akron)
 DB Zach Guiser (Akron)
 OL Vinnie Palazeti (Ball State)
 DL Joe Ostman (Central Michigan)
 DL Jeremiah Harris (Eastern Michigan)
 LB Matt Bahr (Kent State)
 WR James Gardner (Miami)
 OL Max Scharping (NIU)
 WR Cody Thompson (Toledo)
 RB Jamauri Bogan (Western Michigan)