



# Mid-American Conference Football Weekly Release October 2, 2017



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## MAC Standings

	Conference						Overall					
	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A
<b>WEST DIVISION</b>												
Western Michigan	1	0	1.000	W1	1-0	0-0	3	2	.600	W3	3-0	0-2
Toledo	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	3	1	.750	L1	2-0	1-1
Northern Illinois	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	2	2	.500	L1	1-1	1-1
Eastern Michigan	0	1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	2	2	.500	L2	1-1	1-1
Ball State	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	2	3	.400	L2	2-0	0-3
Central Michigan	0	1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	2	3	.400	L3	1-1	1-2
<b>EAST DIVISION</b>												
Ohio	1	0	1.000	W1	0-0	1-0	4	1	.800	W3	2-0	2-1
Buffalo	1	0	1.000	W1	0-0	1-0	3	2	.600	W3	2-0	1-2
Miami	1	0	1.000	W1	0-0	1-0	2	3	.400	L1	1-1	1-2
Akron	1	0	1.000	W1	0-0	1-0	2	3	.400	W1	1-1	1-2
Kent State	0	1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	1	4	.200	L3	1-1	0-3
Bowling Green	0	1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	0	5	.000	L5	0-2	0-3

## MAC Storylines

- Week Six features all 12 MAC programs in league-play this Saturday, Oct. 7th for the first time this 2017 season. Among the six MAC games, four feature cross-over games with the East vs. West Divisions: Central Michigan at Ohio; Ball State at Akron; Kent State at NIU and Western Michigan at Buffalo.
- The Eastern Michigan at Toledo contest at the Glass Bowl was selected by CBS Sports Network and will kickoff at Noon ET. Toledo (3-1) is coming off a bye week, while Eastern Michigan (2-2) is coming off a four-point loss on the road at SEC's Kentucky.
- A battle of three-game winning streaks is on the line as Western Michigan (3-2) travels to Buffalo (3-2) for a 3:30 pm ET kickoff at UB Stadium on ESPN3.
- The MAC went 1-4 in non-conference play during Week Five and picked up its 11th FBS win during the 2017 campaign. Ohio defeated UMass, 58-50, while Central Michigan dropped a 28-8 decision at Boston College and Eastern Michigan fell, 24-20, at Kentucky. The MAC lost to two ranked teams as NIU dropped a 34-28 loss at No. 19 San Diego State, and Miami lost at No. 22 Notre Dame, 52-17.

## MAC WEEKLY NOTES

- Ohio head coach **Frank Solich** won his 150th career victory last Saturday as the Bobcats earned a 58-50 road win at UMass. Solich, who ranks third all-time with 92 wins in the MAC, has his Bobcats off to a 4-1 start and will play four of their next five games in Athens at Peden Stadium. Ohio QB **Nathan Rourke** accounted for four touchdowns, rushing for 113 yards and two touchdowns, and 181 yards passing and two scores in the win at UMass.
- Akron earned a 34-23 win at Bowling Green, which snapped an eight-game skid against the Falcons. Zips quarterback **Thomas Woodson** threw for 168 yards and two touchdowns. Defensive back **Kyron Brown** sealed the victory with an interception returned 38 yards for a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter.
- Buffalo won its third-straight game with a 27-13 win at Kent State. The three game winning streak is the first for the program since the 2015 season. Bulls running back **Emmanuel Reed** rushed for three touchdowns in the first half and totaled 144 yards on the day, while quarterback **Drew Anderson** threw for 142 yards and one score.
- Western Michigan also won its third straight game, including its third straight at Waldo Stadium, with a 55-3 win over Ball State. Bronco quarterback **Jon Wassink** threw for 240 yards and three touchdowns as the offense racked up 414 yards of total offense. Six different Broncos scored on the night and wide receiver **Keishawn Watson** had a career-high 93 yards on five receptions and two touchdowns.

## EIGHT MAC STUDENTS SEMIFINALISTS FOR CAMPBELL TROPHY

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced the semifinalists for the 2017 William V. Campbell Trophy, to recognize the best football scholar-athlete in the nation. Included in this list of semifinalists are eight students from the MAC. The NFF will announce 12-14 finalists on Nov. 1, and each of them will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class. Last year, Western Michigan quarterback Zach Terrell was the winner of the 2016 Campbell Trophy.

- Akron – defensive back Zach Guiser
- Ball State – offensive guard Vinnie Palazeti
- Bowling Green State – linebacker Nate Locke
- Buffalo – safety Tim Roberts
- Central Michigan – defensive lineman Joe Ostman
- Eastern Michigan – linebacker Jason Beck
- Northern Illinois – tight end Shane Wimann
- Toledo – wide receiver Cody Thompson

## This Week's MAC Schedule

### Saturday, October 7

- \*Eastern Michigan at Toledo, Noon ET (CBS Sports Network)
- \*Central Michigan at Ohio, 2:00 pm ET (ESPN3)
- \*Bowling Green at Miami, 2:30 pm ET (ESPN3)
- \*Ball State at Akron, 3:30 pm ET (ESPN3)
- \*Kent State at NIU, 3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT (ESPN3)
- \*Western Michigan at Buffalo, 3:30 pm ET (ESPN3)

\* Mid-American Conference contest

### Last Week's MAC Games

Boston College 28, Central Michigan 8  
 \*Buffalo 27, Kent State 13  
 Ohio 58, UMass 50  
 Kentucky 24, Eastern Michigan 20  
 No. 22 Notre Dame 52, Miami 17  
 \*Akron 34, Bowling Green 23  
 \*Western Michigan 55, Ball State 3  
 No. 19 San Diego State 34, NIU 28  
 Bye: Toledo



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**TOLEDO'S THOMPSON EXTENDS RECEPTION STREAK**

Toledo senior wide receiver Cody Thompson ranks tied for eighth in the nation for the longest current reception streak in the nation. Thompson had five receptions for 114 yards in a 52-30 loss at No. 14-ranked Miami (Fla.) on Sept. 23 to extend his streak to 29 consecutive games.

**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.

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."

The funding for the grant is provided through the MAC's partnership with the College Football Playoff (CFP) Foundation.

**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."

The TEACHing Cleveland program 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**

**Emmanuel Reed, Offensive Player of the Week**  
Buffalo, Sophomore, Running Back

Buffalo sophomore running back Emmanuel Reed (Crestview, Fla.) rushed for a career-high 144 yards and three touchdowns in a 27-13 win at Kent State. Reed scored all of his touchdowns in the first half to pace the Bulls' offensive attack. On Buffalo's second drive of the game he ripped off a career-long 55-yard run. He scored on an 18-yard run on the very next play.



**Kyron Brown, Defensive Player of the Week;**  
Akron, Junior, Defensive Back

Akron junior defensive back Kyron Brown (Boyn-ton Beach, Fla.) scored the game-winning touchdown in a 34-23 win at Bowling Green, snapping the Falcons' eight-game series winning streak over the Zips. Brown, who finished with four tackles and a break-up, intercepted a Bowling Green pass in the fourth quarter and returned it 38 yards for the winning score.



**Derek Adams, Special Teams Player of Week;**  
Kent State, Sophomore, Punter

Kent State sophomore punter Derek Adams (Man-heim, Pa.) averaged 48.5 yards on four punts in a 27-13 loss to Buffalo. He placed three of his four punts inside the 20. Adams now ranks eighth in the nation in punting average.

**West Division**

**Christian Blake, Offensive Player of the Week**  
Northern Illinois, Senior, Wide Receiver

NIU senior wide receiver Christian Blake (Ft. Lau-derdale, Fla.) had a career day in a 34-28 loss at San Diego State as he caught 13 passes for 160 yards with two touchdowns. Blake's 13 catches rank tied for fifth on NIU's all-time single game list and are the most since Kenny Golladay caught 14 passes versus Toledo a year ago, while his 160 receiving yards are the most since Golladay's 184 yards at Ball State last year.



**Jeremiah Harris, Defensive Player of the Week**  
Eastern Michigan, Junior, Defensive Lineman

Eastern Michigan junior defensive lineman Jeremi-ah Harris (Lambertville, Mich.) registered career-highs with 3.5 tackles for loss and two sacks in a 24-20 loss at Kentucky. Harris racked up a team-best 3.5 TFL for a total of 15 yards, while he added in two sacks, including a strip sack on the first play from scrimmage. The forced fumble was Harris' fifth of his career.



**Matt Ference, Special Teams Player of Week;**  
Northern Illinois, Freshman, Punter

NIU freshman punter Matt Ference (St. Louis, Mo.) had another big day in a 34-28 loss at San Diego State as he and NIU controlled field position, especially in the second half. Ference punted eight times for a 36.4 average in the game, but his game was more about placement as four of his eight punts forced San Diego State to start inside their 20.



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

### Rushing Touchdowns:

t-18th **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 6 TDs, 187 yds., 48 attempts

### Total Passing Yards:

20th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 1,346 yds., 88-139 passing, 11 TDs

21st **Shane Morris-Central Michigan**: 1,336 yds., 112-207 passing, 9 TDs

### Passing Touchdowns:

t-17th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 11 TDs, 1,346 yds., 88-139 passing

t-21st **Gus Ragland-Miami**: 10 TDs, 1,143 yds., 80-154 passing

### Passing Efficiency:

10th **Logan Woodson-Toledo**: 169.3 rating; 88-139 pass, 1,346 yds, 11 TDs

### Receiving Yards Per Game:

4th **Cody Thompson-Toledo**: 27 rec., 505 yds., 4 TDs, (126.3 avg.)

27th **Diontae Johnson-Toledo**: 20 rec, 363 yds, 5 TDs, (90.8 avg.)

### Total Receiving Yards

10th **Cody Thompson-Toledo**: 505 yds., 27 rec., 4 TDs

23rd **Anthony Johnson-Buffalo**: 436 yds., 26 rec., 3 TDs

t-24th **Justin Hall-Ball State**: 431 yds., 25 rec., 2 TDs

27th **Mark Chapman-Central Michigan**: 419 yds., 28 rec., 3 TDs

28th **James Gardner-Miami**: 409 yds., 21 rec., 4 TDs

### Receiving Touchdowns

t-8th **Diontae Johnson-Toledo**: 5 TDs

t-18th **Cody Thompson-Toledo**: 4 TDs

t-18th **James Gardner-Miami**: 4 TDs

t-18th **Keishawn Watson-Western Michigan**: 4 TDs

### Receptions Per Game:

t-22nd **Justin Hall-Ball State**: 35 rec., 431 yds., 2 TDs, (7.0 per game)

25th **Cody Thompson-Toledo**: 27 rec., 505 yds., 4 TDs, (6.8 per game)

### Scoring:

t-4th **Jameson Vest-Toledo**: 48 points, (12.0 ppg)

### Points Responsible For:

t-15th **Nathan Rourke-Ohio**: 78 points

t-22nd **Gus Ragland-Miami**: 72 points

29th **Logan Woodside-Toledo**: 70 points

### Total Tackles:

3rd **Khalil Hodge-Buffalo**: 64 tackles, 12.8 tackles per game

16th **Bobby Jones - NIU**: 40 tackles, 10.0 tackles per game

### Interceptions:

t-3rd **Demetrius Monday-Kent State**: 4 interceptions

t-6th **Josh Cox-Central Michigan**: 3 interceptions

t-22nd **Amari Coleman-Central Michigan**: 2 interceptions

t-22nd **Alex Briones-Central Michigan**: 2 interceptions

t-22nd **Brody Hoying-Eastern Michigan**: 2 interceptions

t-22nd **Darius Phillips-Western Michigan**: 2 interceptions

t-22nd **Bryce Crosby-Ball State**: 2 interceptions

### Passes Defensed:

t-2nd **Bradd Ellis-Ohio**: 10 passes defensed, 2.0 per game

t-16th **Tatum Slack-Ohio**: 8 passes defensed, 1.6 per game

t-27th **Demetrius Monday-Kent State**: 7 passes defensed, 1.4 per game

t-27th **Jalen Fox-Ohio**: 7 passes defensed, 1.4 per game

### Sacks:

1st **Anthony Winbush-Ball State**: 7.5 sacks, 1.50 per game

t-12th **Sutton Smith-NIU**: 4.0 sacks, 1.0 per game

t-21st **Jeremiah Harris-Eastern Michigan**: 3.5 sacks, 0.88 per game

### Tackles For Loss:

1st **Sutton Smith-NIU**: 10.5 tackles for loss, 2.6 per game

t-4th **Anthony Winbush-Ball State**: 10.5 tackles for loss, 2.1 per game

t-13th **Jeremiah Harris-Eastern Michigan**: 7.0 tackles for loss, 1.8 per game

### Forced Fumbles:

t-1st **Brody Hoying- Eastern Michigan**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.67 per game

t-4th **Anthony Winbush- Ball State**: 3 forced fumbles, 0.60 per game

t-23rd **Asantay Brown-Western Michigan**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.40 per game

t-23rd **De'Andre Montgomery-Miami**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.40 per game

t-23rd **Quentin Poling-Ohio**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.40 per game

t-23rd **Armani Posey-Bowling Green**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.40 per game

t-23rd **D'Andre Dill-Central Michigan**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.40 per game

t-23rd **Alex Grace-Western Michigan**: 2 forced fumbles, 0.40 per game

## Other Top Performers (WEEK FIVE)

### OFFENSE

• Western Michigan **QB Jon Wassink** threw three touchdowns and a career-high 240 yards in a 55-3 win over Ball State. Wassink completed 14 passes and had a career long pass of 52 yards over the top for a touchdown strike.

• Ohio **QB Nathan Rourke** was responsible for four touchdowns in a 58-50 win at UMass. Rourke rushed for two scores and threw for two more while reaching 100-yards rushing for the first time with 113. Rourke also went 13-24 for 181 yards connecting with Brendan Cope and A.J. Ouellette for passing touchdowns.

• Eastern Michigan **QB Brogan Roback** threw for 256 yards on 26 completions and a touchdown in a 24-20 loss at Kentucky.

• Akron **WR Austin Wolf** scored his first touchdown of the season on a 43-yard pass from Thomas Woodson in a 34-23 win at Bowling Green. Wolf finished the game with three receptions for a game-high 68 yards.

### DEFENSE

• NIU **LB Bobby Jones** led a defensive effort at No. 19 San Diego State as the NIU defense held SDSU to 20 offensive points and just two touchdowns in a 34-28 loss. The Huskies held an San Diego State team averaging nearly 400 (396.2) yards per game to 263 total yards, and to 100 rushing yards below its season average. San Diego State converted just one of 14 third downs and were held to 104 total yards in the second half. Jones made a team-leading seven tackles, five solo.

• Buffalo **LB Jordan Collier** had a career-high nine tackles, including three tackles for loss and a sack in a 27-13 win at Kent State. Eight of Collier's tackles were of the solo variety. With the Bulls leading 27-13 and the Golden Flashes threatening, Collier had consecutive big hits to silence the Kent State threat. First he drilled quarterback George Bollas after a short gain then followed with a 5-yard tackle for loss on running back Kavious Wright on the very next play.

• Western Michigan **DB Malik Rucker** had a career high six tackles and his first career interception in a 55-3 win over Ball State. Rucker returned the interception 87 yards, setting up a Bronco score.

• Ohio **LB Quentin Poling** racked up a career-high 19 tackles in a 58-50 win at UMass. Poling had nine solo stops and a half-tackle for loss in the outing. It was the most tackles for an Ohio player since 2000 when Chris London had 19 tackles.

• Kent State **DB Mandela Lawrence-Burke** made his first career interception in a 27-13 loss to Buffalo and led the Flashes with nine tackles, including seven solo stops and 2.0 tackles for loss.

• Central Michigan **LB Alex Briones** recovered two fumbles and 10 tackles in a 28-8 loss at Boston College.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

• Western Michigan's **Obbie Jackson** scored a special teams touchdown in a 55-3 win over Ball State. It took the Broncos just 10 seconds to get on the board as Jackson grabbed a loose ball out of the air following a fumble on the opening kickoff and returned the ball 21 yards to set the tone for the game and to give the Broncos a very early 7-0 lead. It was Jackson's first career score.

• Ohio **K Louie Zervos** hit field goals of 23, 25 and 34 yards and was 7-7 on extra points to record 16-points in a 58-50 win at UMass.

• Bowling Green **KOR Andrew Clair** racked up 130 return yards on five returns in a 34-23 loss to Akron. Clair also had a career-best 50-yard kick return in the first quarter, which was Bowling Green's best return on the season, and second-longest play of the entire season. Clair now leads the Falcons in all-purpose yards with 384 on the season.

## **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 to replace P.J. Fleck, who accepted the Minnesota head coaching position.

**Western Michigan: Tim Lester:** Lester was named head football coach in Kalamazoo 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 during the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

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 and 2015 as well.

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

## **MIAMI SETS FBS MARK**

Miami ended the 2016 regular season riding a six-game winning streak to end the regular season bowl eligible with a 6-6 overall record, 6-2 in the MAC for a tie for first place in the MAC East Division. Miami set the record as the only program in FBS history to begin a season 0-6, then win six consecutive games to finish 6-6 overall and receive a bowl invitation.

Miami was bowl eligible for the first time since the 2010 season. Miami ended the year with a 17-16 loss to Mississippi State in the St. Petersburg Bowl on Dec. 26, 2016.

**WOODSIDE RISING AMONG UT CAREER RECORDS**

Toledo senior quarterback Logan Woodside had an impressive 2016 as a starting quarterback and has set several school passing records at the University of Toledo. Last season, Woodside was 289-418 passing (69.1%) for 4,129 yards passing and 45 touchdowns as the Rockets finished with a 9-4 overall record, 6-2 in the MAC and an invitation to the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl.

Woodside's 45 touchdown passes ranked second among MAC all-time leaders and set the school record, while his 4,129 yards passing ranked as sixth-best in MAC single season history and ranked fourth overall in the nation last season. A native of Frankfurt, Ky., Woodside threw for 505 yards at BYU last season, which ranks tied for seventh highest in a single-game in MAC history.

Woodside's accuracy as a passer during his career (65.6%) ranks third among the MAC all-time passing list and his 69.1% last season ranked tied for eighth-best in MAC single season completion percentage. Already this season, Woodside and the Rockets are off to a 3-1 start and he has thrown for 1,346 yards and 11 touchdowns.

**PHILLIPS SETS MAC RECORD FOR INT'S FOR TDS**

Western Michigan senior defensive back Darius Phillips had a historic season last year with his four interceptions for 263 yards, including three returned for touchdowns. Phillips led the team and was tied for the lead in the MAC with his four interceptions. His 263 interceptions return yards last season was second-most in MAC history and increased his career interception yards total to 313 yards, which ranks tied for second in MAC all-time annals.

A native of Detroit, Mich., Phillips' three interceptions returned for a touchdown is tied for the MAC single-season record and increased his career total to four interceptions returned for a touchdown, which also ranks tied for first in the MAC all-time history.

**YOUNG KICKERS SET MAC RECORDS IN 2016**

The 2016 season was a record setting performance by placekickers, let alone freshmen placekickers, as two first-year kickers rewrote the MAC record book. Ohio's Louie Zervos set the MAC record with 29 field goals made as a freshman.

Western Michigan's Butch Hampton set the MAC record for most points in a single season by a kicker with 128 total points. Hampton (128 points) and Zervos (122 points) were the top two leading scorers in the MAC as Hampton converted 19-24 field goals and 71-73 PATs, while Zervos connected on 29-35 field goals and 35-38 PATs.

Both Hampton and Zervos made five field goals in a single-game last season, which tied for fourth in MAC history, as Hampton converted five field goals in a 29-23 win over Ohio in the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game on Dec. 2, 2016 at Ford Field, also a Championship Game record, and Zervos nailed five field goals in a 37-21 win at Kansas on Sept. 10, 2016.

**EASTERN MICHIGAN TIED FBS RECORD TURNAROUND**

For the first time since the 1987 season, Eastern Michigan headed to a bowl game as the Eagles accepted an invitation to the 2016 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. Eastern Michigan dropped a 24-20 decision to Conference USA opponent Old Dominion on Dec. 23 at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas.

This was EMU's second Division I bowl appearance in the history of the program. Eastern Michigan's last appearance in a bowl game was in 1987 when it traveled to Fresno, Calif. and defeated San Jose State, 30-27, handing the Spartans their only loss of the season.

The Eagles entered the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl following one of the most successful seasons in its 125-year history. Eastern Michigan finished with a winning record for the first time since 1995, most wins (seven) since 1989, and its first bowl appearance since 1987. The Eagles tied the FBS mark for biggest turnarounds in 2016, improving on its win total from one win in 2015, to its seven wins during the 2016 season.

**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

**DAVIS SETS FBS CAREER RECEIVING YARDS RECORD**

Last year, Western Michigan wide receiver Corey Davis posted his third straight 1,400-yard season as he finished 2016 with a career-high 97 catches for 1,500 yards and 19 touchdowns, which led all FBS in receiving touchdowns.

Davis is the all-time leading FBS receiver in history with 5,285 yards in four seasons and is the first receiver in FBS history with four seasons of 900+ yards. Davis ended 2016 as the all-time leading receiver in FBS history with 5,285 yards. He ended his college career with 332 receptions for 5,285 and 52 touchdowns. He is the only player in FBS history with 300 catches, 5,000+ yards and 50+ TDs.

Davis was named the MAC Offensive Player of the Year. Davis was a four-time All-MAC player and is the first Bronco wide receiver to be named MAC Offensive Player of the Year since Greg Jennings in 2005. Davis led Western Michigan to a 13-1 record in 2016 and the first New Year's Six Bowl berth in program history, playing in the 2017 Goodyear Cotton Bowl.

**DAVIS FIRST BRONCO CONSENSUS ALL-AMERICAN**

Western Michigan wide receiver Corey Davis earned the title of NCAA Consensus All-American in 2016 after being named to the first team in three of the five official organizations used to determine the honor. Davis became the first player in Western Michigan history and the first from the MAC since Dri Archer (Kent State, 2012) to earn the honor and the eighth league selection in MAC history.

Davis earned Consensus All-American status after receiving first team all-america honors from the Associated Press, American Football Coaches Association and Football Writers Association of America. He was named Second-Team All-American from the Sporting News and the Walter Camp Football Foundation, the other two official organizations in the pool. To be considered a Consensus All-American one must receive three first-team honors from the above mentioned organizations.

Davis posted his third straight 1,400-yard season as he finished 2016 with a career-high 97 catches for 1,500 yards and 19 touchdowns, which led all FBS in receiving touchdowns. Davis is the all-time leading FBS receiver in history with 5,285 yards in four seasons and is the first receiver in FBS history with four seasons of 900+ yards.

Davis ended his college career with 332 receptions for 5,285 and 52 touchdowns. He is the only player in FBS history with 300 catches, 5,000+ yards and 50+ TDs. Davis was selected by the Tennessee Titans as the fifth overall selection of the 2017 NFL Draft.

**MAC Consensus All-Americans**

1971 Mel Long, Toledo, DT      2000 Dwight Smith, Akron, DB

1995 Brad Maynard, Ball State, P      2010 Eric Page, Toledo, KR/AP

1996 Brad Maynard, Ball State, P      2012 Dri Archer, Kent St., KR/AP

1997 Randy Moss, Marshall, WR      2016 Corey Davis, WMU, WR



**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 4-1 start after a 58-50 win at UMass, the 150th of his career. Solich continues to rise up the MAC career head coaching win list with 92 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 92-68 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. 92, 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 program's 28th head coach on Feb. 9, 2015. Bonamego led the Chippewas to a 6-7 overall record last season, and has compiled a 13-13 overall record at Central Michigan. 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 National Football League, 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 the 2012 season (Nov. 30) with a 12-0 record. Western Michigan finished the season with a 13-1 overall record and ranked No. 15 in the AP Top 25 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 (former member) on Jan. 5 end of 1999 (13-0).

**MAC 2017 BOWL PARTNERS****2017 Bowl Season:**

- 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)

### **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 already 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 Five Quick Recaps:**

**Ohio 58, UMass 50** -- Behind two rushing touchdowns from redshirt senior running back Dorian Brown the Ohio football team defeated the UMass Minutemen 58-50 on Saturday afternoon at Warren McGuirk Alumni Stadium. Along with the touchdowns, Brown rushed for 73 yards, his long of 42 coming late in the fourth quarter, which put the game too far out of reach.

The Bobcats (4-1) offense finished the game with 473 yards on the day, scoring seven touchdowns. Sophomore quarterback Nathan Rourke accounted for 294 yards of Ohio's offense, passing for two touchdowns and running for two.

Redshirt senior linebacker Quentin Poling led the defensive effort, finishing the game with 19 tackles, a career-high. The Bobcats reached the UMass quarterback two times and forced seven pass break ups.

An interception from linebacker Chad Moore and a fumble recovery from redshirt junior defensive end Andrew Payne resulted in 10 points for the Bobcats. The win also marked head coach Frank Solich's 150th career win.

**Boston College 28, Central Michigan 8** -- An inability to move the ball with consistency, untimely penalties and failure to neutralize a dangerous Boston College punt return man spelled doom for the Central Michigan football team on Saturday.

Michael Walker set up three Boston College touchdowns with long punt returns on Saturday as the Eagles handed the Chippewas a 28-8 nonconference loss before 27,030 at the Eagles' Alumni Stadium. The loss, CMU's third straight, left the Chippewas at 2-3.

Boston College intercepted CMU quarterback Shane Morris three times as the Chippewas offense struggled for the third consecutive week. Morris threw for 171 yards on 21-of-42 passing.

**Western Michigan 55, Ball State 3** -- Western Michigan football head coach Tim Lester earned his first career MAC win on Saturday night as the Broncos routed the Ball State Cardinals, 55-3, in front of 18,216 fans at Waldo Stadium.

Six different Broncos scored on the night, while WMU (3-2, 1-0 MAC) racked up 414 yards of total offense. Sophomore quarterback Jon Wassink put up his biggest numbers of the year with a career-high 240 yards and three touchdowns on 14-of-20 passing. Wide receiver Keishawn Watson had a stellar night with five receptions for 93 yards, also a career-high, and two touchdowns. Senior tight end Donnie Ernsberger had career-highs in receptions, four, and yards, 67, on the night along with a touchdown reception. Western Michigan gained 169 yards on the ground with Jamauri Bogan leading the way with 69 on 13 carries. Jarvion Franklin, Davon Tucker and LeVante Bellamy all had rushing touchdowns.

**Akron 34, Bowling Green 23** -- Akron led all but 2:36 en route to a 34-23 win over Bowling Green in the MAC opener on Saturday evening at Doyt Perry Stadium. With the win, Akron snapped Bowling Green's eight-game series winning streak while moving to 1-0 in league play and 2-3 overall. Bowling Green fell to 0-1 in the conference standings and 0-5 on the season.

The Zips reached the end zone five times as senior QB Thomas Woodson led the offense with 168 yards in the air, completing 13-of-24 passes with two touchdowns. He added an 11-yard touchdown run and totaled 24 yards on the ground on eight attempts.

Woodson's main target was senior WR A.J. Coney who caught five passes for 42 yards with a touchdown. Senior WR Austin Wolf followed three catches and 68 yards receiving, including a 43-yard long touchdown reception. On the ground, junior RB Van Edwards, Jr. carried the load. Edwards gained 70 yards on 14 attempts with a touchdown, while senior RB Manny Morgan picked up 51 yards on 11 rushing attempts.

**MAC Week Five Quick Recaps:**

**Kentucky 24, Eastern Michigan 20** -- Eastern Michigan battled hard, but ultimately fell in a 24-20 defeat at Kentucky Saturday evening, Sept. 30, at Kroger Field. Eastern Michigan and Kentucky were deadlocked at 14 going into the half, but the Eagles were unable to overcome second half miscues in the four-point loss.

Eastern's (2-2, 0-1 MAC) defense carried the day for the fourth consecutive game, limiting UK's (4-1, 1-1 SEC) offense to 228 yards of total offense, including just 53 on the ground. The Eagles actually out-gained the Wildcats by a final tally of 312-228.

It was Eastern's immense defensive pressure that was the catalyst, as EMU finished with 10 tackles for loss, including five sacks, both of which were season highs. Senior Ike Spearman led with eight tackles, while junior Jeremiah Harris and sophomore Maxx Crosby combined for two sacks each, both career-highs, while Harris also tallied a career-best 3.5 tackles for loss. One of the juniors' sacks was a strip sack on the first play from scrimmage, the fifth forced fumble of his career.

**No. 19 San Diego State 34, NIU 28** -- A valiant second-half comeback by the Northern Illinois University Huskies fell short against 19th-ranked San Diego State Aztecs as NIU dropped a 34-28 decision at SDCCU Stadium in San Diego Saturday night.

Senior Christian Blake caught 13 passes for 160 yards, Spencer Tears had 105 yards on five catches, tailback Jordan Huff ran for 148 yards on 25 carries and quarterback Daniel Santacaterina completed 24-of-39 passes for 269 yards and three touchdowns to lead a Huskie offense that outgained SDSU 429-263. Defensively, NIU held San Diego State to just three points in the second half and allowed them to convert only one of 14 third downs.

However, four turnovers, including three interceptions by Santacaterina, two in the fourth quarter, doomed NIU's upset chances and left the Huskies at 2-2 entering Mid-American Conference play. San Diego State improved to 5-0 on the year.

**No. 22 Notre Dame 52, Miami 17** -- The Miami football team's offense showed some poise in hostile territory, but Notre Dame's rushing attack proved too much as the RedHawks fell 52-17 on Saturday night.

Miami (2-3) posted 377 yards of offense and held the ball for over 35 minutes, but early turnovers proved costly as Notre Dame (4-1) won the second all-time meeting between the schools.

The Fighting Irish took two plays to score as Josh Adams took a handoff and rushed 73 yards for a touchdown to make it 7-0 just 25 seconds in. Miami countered by getting into Notre Dame territory on its first drive on a 22-yard Gus Ragland pass to Ryan Smith that had 15 yards tacked on due to a personal foul. Working in plus territory, that MU drive came to an end two plays later when Ragland had his pass intercepted by Greer Martini, which was returned to the Miami 36.

**Buffalo 27, Kent State 13** -- Buffalo opened MAC play with a 27-13 victory at Kent State on Saturday afternoon at Dix Stadium. It was the Bulls' third straight win to improve to 3-2 on the season.

Drew Anderson made his first career start under center for the Bulls and did a great job managing the offense. The junior quarterback finished the game 11-of-18 for 142 yards and a touchdown. He added 76 yards on the ground, including a 64-yard scamper in the third quarter.

Emmanuel Reed got the start at running back for the second straight week and for the third straight game eclipsed the century mark in rushing yards. The sophomore back finished with 144 yards and a career-high three touchdowns, all of which he scored in the first half.

# Eastern Michigan (2-2, 0-1; MAC) at Toledo (3-1, 0-0; MAC)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • Noon ET • Toledo, Ohio • Glass Bowl (26,038)

CBS Sports Network  
Series: Toledo leads 33-11



Head Coach: Chris Creighton  
Career: 151-75 (21st year) at Eastern Michigan: 12-29 (4th year)  
Football Contact: Greg Steiner, 734-487-0317, gsteiner2@emich.edu

Offense:  
Rush: RB Shaq Vann (49 att., 186 yds., 0 TD)  
Pass: QB Brogan Robach (95-157 passing, 1,054 yards, 3 TDs)  
Rec.: WR Sergio Bailey II (25 rec., 347 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:  
Tackles: DB Brody Hoying (21 tackles, 1.0 tfl, 2 INT)  
Sacks: DL Jeremiah Harris (19 tackles, 7.0 tfl, 4.0 sacks)  
Int.: DB Brody Hoying (21 tackles, 1.0 tfl, 2 INT)

Notes: Eastern Michigan lost 24-20 at Kentucky on Sept. 30...Defense limited Kentucky to 228 yards of total offense, including just 53 yards rushing, and added five sacks....Eastern Michigan posted 312 yards of offense...QB Brogan Robach threw for 256 yards and one touchdown...WR Sergio Bailey II led with eight catches for 80 yards and one score.



Head Coach: Jason Candle  
Career: 13-5 (2nd year) at Toledo: 13-5 (2nd year)  
Contact: Paul Helgren, 419-530-4918, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu

Offense:  
Rush: RB Terry Swanson (77 att., 355 yds., 5 TDs)  
Pass: QB Logan Woodside (88-139 passing, 1,346 yards, 11 TDs)  
Rec.: WR Cody Thompson (27 rec., 505 yds., 4 TDs)

Defense:  
Tackles: S Jordan Williams (25 tackles, 1.0 tfl)  
Sacks: LB Ja'Wuan Woodley (21 tackles, 2.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks, 1 INT)  
Int.: DB Khalil Robinson (8 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Toledo had a bye week on Sept. 30...Toledo lost 52-30 at No. 14 Miami (Fla.) on Sept. 23...WR Cody Thompson has caught a pass in 29 consecutive games, as he racked up 114 yards, his 14th-career 100-yard receiving game...QB Logan Woodside threw for 342 yards, the 13th 300-yard passing game of his career.

# Central Michigan (2-3, 0-1; MAC) at Ohio (4-1, 1-0; MAC)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • 2:00 pm ET • Athens, Ohio • Peden Stadium (24,000)

ESPN3

Series: Central Michigan leads 24-5



Head Coach: John Bonamego  
Career: 15-16 (3rd year) at Central Michigan: 15-16 (3rd year)  
Football Contact: Jim Knight, 989-774-3277, jim.knight@cmich.edu

Offense:  
Rush: RB Jonathan Ward (66 att., 326 rushing yds., 1 TD)  
Pass: QB Shane Morris (112-207 passing, 1,336 yards, 9 TDs)  
Rec.: WR Mark Chapman (28 rec., 419 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense:  
Tackles: LB Alex Briones (41 tackles, 2.0 tfl, 1.0 sack, 2 INT)  
Sacks: DL Joe Ostman (26 tackles, 5.0 tfl, 3.0 sacks)  
Int.: DB Josh Cox (28 tackles, 3 INT)

Notes: Chippewas lost 28-8 at Boston College on Sept. 30...QB Shane Morris was 21-42 passing for 171 yards...Backup QB Tony Poljan added three receptions for 61 yards as a receiver...S Darwyn Kelly led with a career-high 13 tackles, while LB Carlos Clark had 11 tackles and LB Alex Briones added 10 tackles and two recovered fumbles.



Head Coach: Frank Solich  
Career: 150-87 (19th year) at Ohio: 92-68 (13th year)  
Contact: Anthony Reynolds, 740-593-1298, reynola1@ohio.edu

Offense:  
Rush: RB AJ Ouellette (70 att., 468 yds., 3 TDs)  
Pass: QB Nathan Rourke (65-104 passing, 813 yds., 7 TDs)  
Rec.: WR Brendan Cope (19 rec., 283 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:  
Tackles: LB Quentin Poling (45 tackles, 4.0 tfl, 1.0 sack)  
Sacks: LB Evan Crouch (26 tackles, 3.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)  
Int.: DB Jalen Fox (23 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Ohio won 58-50 at UMass on Sept. 30...Bobcats offense totaled 473 yards of offense and seven touchdowns...QB Nathan Rourke accounted for four scores -- two rushing and 113 yards and 294 yards passing and two touchdowns...LB Quentin Poling led the 19 tackles...Win marked the 150th career victory for head coach Frank Solich.

# Bowling Green (0-5, 0-1; MAC) at Miami (2-3, 1-0; MAC)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • 2:30 pm ET • Oxford, Ohio • Yager Stadium (24,286)

ESPN3

Series: Miami leads 43-23-5



Head Coach: Mike Jinks  
Career: 4-13 (2nd year) at Bowling Green: 4-13 (2nd year)  
Football Contact: Jason Knavel, 419-372-7075, jknavel@bgsu.edu

Offense:  
Rush: RB Josh Cleveland (62 att., 289 rushing yds., 1 TD)  
Pass: QB James Morgan (62-134 passing, 785 yards, 4 TDs)  
Rec.: WR Scott Miller (29 rec., 293 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:  
Tackles: LB Nathan Locke (39 tackles, 2.0 tfl)  
Sacks: DL Kyle Junior (21 tackles, 4.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)  
Int.: DB Marcus Milton (17 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Falcons lost 34-23 to Akron on Sept. 30...RB Josh Cleveland led all rushers with 20 carries and 94 yards and is 58 yards shy of 1,000 for his career...QB James Morgan was 17-28 passing for 163 yards and two touchdowns...WR Scott Miller had 10 catches for 60 yards.



Head Coach: Chuck Martin  
Career: 87-36 (10th year) at Miami: 13-29 (4th year)  
Football Contact: Dave Meyer, 513-529-4329, meyerd@miamioh.edu

Offense:  
Rush: RB Kenny Young (57 att., 245 yds., 2 TDs)  
Pass: QB Gus Ragland (80-154 passing, 1,143 yds., 10 TDs)  
Rec.: WR James Gardner (21 rec., 409 yds., 4 TDs)

Defense:  
Tackles: LB De'Andre Montgomery (37 tackles, 3.0 tfl, 1 INT)  
Sacks: LB Brad Koenig (35 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks)  
Int.: DB Tony Reid (26 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Miami lost 52-17 at No. 22 ranked Notre Dame on Sept. 30...QB Gus Ragland was 19-37 passing for 262 yards and two touchdowns...WR James Gardner led with five catches for 115 yards and two touchdowns...RB Alonzo Smith rushed for 66 yards on 10 carries...RedHawks totaled 377 yards of offense.



# Ball State (2-3, 0-1; MAC) at Akron (2-3, 1-0; MAC)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • 3:30 pm ET • Akron, Ohio • InfoCision Stadium - Summa Field (27,881)

ESPN3

Series: Akron leads 12-10-1



Head Coach: Mike Neu

Career: 6-11 (2nd year) at Ball State: 6-11 (2nd year)

Contact: Mike Clark, 765-285-8904, maclark4@bsu.edu

Offense:

Rush: RB James Gilbert (48 att., 207 yards rushing, 3 TDs)

Pass: QB Riley Neal (67-99 passing, 659 yds., 6 TDs)

Rec.: WR Justin Hall (35 rec., 431 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense:

Tackles: LB Damon Singleton (31 tackles, 4.0 tfl)

Sacks: DE Anthony Winbush (25 tackles, 10.5 tfl, 8.0 sacks, 3 ff)

Int.: DB Bryce Crosby (28 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Cardinals lost 55-3 at Western Michigan on Sept. 30...Marks the third consecutive road game for Ball State...WR Justin Hall had a career high 13 receptions for 121 yards...QB Jack Milas was 22-40 passing for 170 yards...RB Caleb Huntley rushed for 33 yards.



Head Coach: Terry Bowden

Career: 166-102-2 (24th year) at Akron: 26-40 (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 (85-148 passing, 913 yards, 6 TDs)

Rec.: WR Tra'Von Chapman (22 rec., 171 yds., 0 TD)

Defense:

Tackles: LB Ulysses Gilbert (45 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks, 1 INT)

Sacks: LB Ulysses Gilbert (45 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks, 1 INT)

Int.: DB Zach Guiser (16 tackles, 1.0 tfl, 1 INT)

Notes: Akron won 34-23 at Bowling Green on Sept. 30...Win snapped an eight-game skid against Bowling Green...QB Thomas Woodson was 13-24 passing for 168 yards and two touchdowns...WR A.J. Coney had five receptions for 42 yards and one touchdown, while Austin Wolf added three catches for 68 yards.

# Kent State (1-4, 0-1; MAC) at Northern Illinois (2-2, 0-0; MAC)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • 3:30 pm ET • DeKalb, Ill. • Brigham Field at Huskie Stadium (23,595)

ESPN3

Series: NIU leads 20-7



Head Coach: Paul Haynes

Career: 12-38 (5th year) at Kent State: 12-38 (5th year)

Football Contact: Aaron Chimenti, 330-672-8468, achiment@kent.edu

Offense:

Rush: RB Justin Rankin (34 att., 136 rushing yds; 0 TDs)

Pass: QB George Bollas (23-43 passing, 308 yards, 0 TDs)

Rec.: RB Justin Rankin (11 rec., 108 yds., 1 TD)

Defense:

Tackles: DB Jamal Parker (39 tackles, 6 pbu)

Sacks: LB Jim Jones (36 tackles, 1.0 sack)

Int.: DB Demetrius Monday (13 tackles, 4 INT)

Notes: Kent State lost 27-13 to Buffalo on Sept. 30...Kent State out-gained Buffalo 444-377 in total offense...QB Dustin Crum made his first career start and threw a 75-yard touchdown pass to Kavious Price...QB George Bollas was 17-26 passing for 242 yards...K. Shane Hynes converted two field goals, his 26th and 27th career field goals.



Head Coach: Rod Carey

Career: 38-21 (5th year) at NIU: 38-21 (5th year)

Football Contact: Donna Turner, 815-753-9513, donnaturner@niu.edu

Offense:

Rush: RB Jordan Huff (57 att., 350 rushing yds., 1 TD)

Pass: QB Daniel Santacaterina (62-95 passing, 649 yds., 6 TDs)

Rec.: WR Christian Blake (21 rec., 261 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense:

Tackles: LB Bobby Jones (40 tackles, 4.0 tfl)

Sacks: DL Sutton Smith (18 tackles, 10.5 tfl, 4.0 sacks)

Int.: DB Shawun Lurry (8 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: NIU lost 34-28 at No. 19 San Diego State on Sept. 30...Defense held San Diego St. to 263 yards of offense and 1-14 on 3rd downs...WR Christian Blake had 13 catches for 160 yards and two touchdowns...RB Jordan Huff had 148 yards on 25 carries...QB Daniel Santacaterina was 24-39 passing for 269 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

# Western Michigan (3-2, 1-0; MAC) at Buffalo (3-2, 1-0; MAC)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 • 3:30 pm ET • Buffalo, N.Y. • UB Stadium (29,013)

ESPN3

Series: Western Michigan leads 6-2



Head Coach: Tim Lester

Career: 42-25 (7th year) at Western Michigan: 3-2 (1st year)

Contact: Kristin Keirns, 269-387-4123, kristin.keirns@wmich.edu

Offense:

Rush: RB Jamauri Bogan (70 att., 355 yards, 2 TDs)

Pass: QB Jon Wassink (68-111 passing, 763 yards, 7 TDs)

Rec.: WR D'Way Eskridge (13 rec., 255 yards, 1 TD)

Defense:

Tackles: DL Asantay Brown (38 tackles, 3.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks)

Sacks: LB Robert Spillane (30 tackles, 3.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks)

Int.: DB Darius Phillips (16 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Western Michigan won 55-3 over Ball State on Sept. 30...Broncos had 414 yards of total offense...QB Jon Wassink was 14-20 passing for 240 yards and three touchdowns...WR Keishawn Watson had five receptions for 93 yards...Held Ball State to only 238 yards of offense.



Head Coach: Lance Leipold

Career: 119-25 (10th year) at Buffalo: 10-19 (3rd year)

Football Contact: Jon Fuller, 716-645-6762, jfuller3@buffalo.edu

Offense:

Rush: RB Emmanuel Reed (88 att., 384 yds., 4 TDs)

Pass: QB Tyree Jackson (51-92 passing, 733 yards, 3 TDs)

Rec.: WR Anthony Johnson (26 rec., 436 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense:

Tackles: LB Khalil Hodge (64 tackles, 2.0 tfl, 1.0 sack)

Sacks: DL Demone Harris (22 tackles, 2.5 tfl, 1.0 sack)

Int.: DB Cameron Lewis (15 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Buffalo won 27-13 at Kent State on Sept. 30...RB Emmanuel Reed rushed for three touchdowns - all in the first half -- and totaled 144 yards...QB Drew Anderson was 11-18 passing for 142 yards and one score...Win was the third consecutive for the Buffalo program...LB Jordan Collier led with nine tackles and three tackles for loss.

SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) FORMER MAC STUDENTS ON NFL ROSTERS

<b>Arizona (2)</b> LB Bryson Albright-PS 1 Miami DB Ronald Zamort-IR 1 Western Michigan	<b>Indianapolis (3)</b> DE Tarell Basham R Ohio DB Rashaan Melvin 5 Northern Illinois OL Andrew Wylie-PS R Eastern Michigan	<b>Philadelphia (2)</b> OL Brandon Brooks 6 Miami (Ohio) DE Steven Means 3 Buffalo
<b>Atlanta (1)</b> DE JT Jones-PS R Miami	<b>Jacksonville (2)</b> LB Blair Brown R Ohio DB Barry Church 8 Toledo	<b>Pittsburgh (7)</b> 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
<b>Carolina (1)</b> OL Taylor Moton R Western Michigan	<b>Kansas City (3)</b> OL Eric Fisher 5 Central Michigan RB Kareem Hunt R Toledo LB Frank Zombo 8 Central Michigan	<b>San Francisco (3)</b> DT Chris Jones 4 Bowling Green OT Joe Staley 11 Central Michigan DB Jimmie Ward 4 Northern Illinois
<b>Chicago (1)</b> OL Josh Sitton 10 Central Florida	<b>Los Angeles Chargers (4)</b> DB Jahleel Addae 5 Central Michigan LB Jatavis Brown 2 Akron TE Antonio Gates 15 Kent State RB Branden Oliver 4 Buffalo	<b>Seattle (1)</b> RB Thomas Rawls 3 Central Michigan
<b>Cincinnati (1)</b> TE Mason Schreck-IR R Buffalo	<b>Miami (1)</b> LB Justin March 3 Akron	<b>Tampa Bay (2)</b> WR Bernard Reedy 1 Toledo
<b>Cleveland (2)</b> RB Darius Jackson-IR 2 Eastern Michigan DB Najee Murray-PS R Kent State	<b>Minnesota (1)</b> RB Bronson Hill-PS 1 Eastern Michigan	<b>Tennessee (6)</b> FB Joe Bacci-IR R Central Michigan WR Corey Davis R Western Michigan RB David Fluellen 1 Toledo P Brett Kern 10 Toledo OL Josh Kline 5 Kent State WR Tajae Sharpe-IR 2 UMass
<b>Dallas (4)</b> DT Richard Ash-PS 2 Western Michigan LB Jayrone Elliott 4 Toledo S Kavon Frazier 2 Central Michigan QB Cooper Rush R Central Michigan	<b>New England (2)</b> WR Julian Edelman-IR 9 Kent State OL Willie Beavers-PS 2 Western Michigan	PS - Practice Squad; IR - Injured-Reserve List (As of NFL Rosters on Sept. 6, 2017) Currently there are 77 former MAC students on rosters across the National Football League.
<b>Denver (1)</b> K Brandon McManus 4 Temple	<b>New Orleans (4)</b> WR Tommylee Lewis 2 Northern Illinois OL Kristjan Sokoli-PS 2 Buffalo WR Willie Snead 2 Ball State OL Martin Wallace 2 Temple	In the 2017 NFL Draft, Western Michigan WR Corey Davis was selected as the fifth overall selection in the first 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.
<b>Detroit (10)</b> LB Nick Bellore 7 Central Michigan WR Kenny Golladay R Northern Illinois OL Zac Kerin 3 Toledo OL T.J. Lang 9 Eastern Michigan DB Rolan Milligan-PS 1 Toledo OL Storm Norton-PS R Toledo DL Pat O'Connor-PS R Eastern Michigan K Matt Prater 11 Central Florida TE Michael Roberts R Toledo LB Tahir Whitehead 6 Temple	<b>N.Y. Giants (3)</b> LB Cap Capi 1 Akron WR Roger Lewis 2 Bowling Green WR Brandon Marshall 12 Central Florida	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.
<b>Green Bay (2)</b> DL Izaah Lunsford-PS R Bowling Green DB Quinten Rollins 3 Miami (Ohio)	<b>N.Y. Jets (4)</b> LB Freddie Bishop-PS 2 Western Michigan WR JoJo Natson-PS 1 Akron DT Muhammad Wilkerson 7 Temple OL Brian Winters 5 Kent State	
<b>Houston (2)</b> DB Bryce Jones-PS R Akron OL Greg Mancz 2 Toledo	<b>Oakland (3)</b> DB Travis Carrie 4 Ohio DL Treyvon Hester R Toledo LB Khalil Mack 4 Buffalo	

MAC EAST VS. MAC WEST

In 2017, the East and West Divisions will face each other in 18 cross-over regular season games. So far the East holds an early 2-0 lead.

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 (2-3, 1-0)

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	Akron leads 12-10-1
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Western Michigan	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	Akron leads 13-5
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Toledo	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 10-9
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 (2-3, 0-1)

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	Series tied 11-11-1
Sat., Oct. 21	*Central Michigan	3:00 pm ET	TBA	Series tied 24-24-1
Thur., Oct. 26	*Toledo	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network/ESPN3	Toledo leads 22-19-1
Thur., Nov. 2	*at Eastern Michigan	6:00 pm ET	ESPNU/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 (0-5, 0-1)

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	Miami leads 42-24-5
Sat., Oct. 14	*Ohio	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	BGSU leads 40-26-2
Sat., Oct. 21	*NIU	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 12-8
Tue., Oct. 31	*at Kent State	7:30 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/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 (3-2, 1-0)

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	WMU leads 6-2
Sat., Oct. 14	*Northern Illinois	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	NIU leads 10-1
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Miami	TBA	TBA	Miami leads 13-6
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 (2-3, 0-1)

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	CMU leads 24-5-2
Sat., Oct. 14	*Toledo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	Toledo leads 24-18-3
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Ball State	3:00 pm ET	TBA	Series tied 24-24-1
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 (2-2, 0-1)

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	Toledo leads 33-11
Sat., Oct. 14	at Army	Noon ET	CBS Sports Network	Army leads 6-1
Sat., Oct. 21	*Western Michigan	2:00 pm ET	TBA	WMU leads 32-18-2
Thur., Oct. 26	*at Northern Illinois	7:00 pm ET	CBSSN/ESPN3	NIU leads 31-14-2
Thur., Nov. 2	*Ball State	7:00 pm ET	CBSSN	BSU leads 34-22-2
Wed., Nov. 8	*at Central Michigan	7:00 pm or 7:30 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN	CMU leads 59-29-6
Wed., Nov. 15	*at Miami	7:00 pm or 8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSSN	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 (1-4, 0-1)

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	NIU leads 20-7
Sat., Oct. 14	*Miami	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	Miami leads 48-16
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Ohio	TBA	TBA	Ohio leads 42-25-1
Tue., Oct. 31	*Bowling Green	7:30/8 pm ET	ESPN2/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 (2-3, 1-0)

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	Miami leads 43-23-5
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Kent State	3:30 PM ET	ESPN3	Miami leads 48-16
Sat., Oct. 21	*Buffalo	TBA	TBA	Miami leads 13-6
Tue., Oct. 31	*at Ohio	7:30/8 PM ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	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 (2-2, 0-0)

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	NIU leads 20-7
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Buffalo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	NIU leads 10-1
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Bowling Green	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 12-9
Thur., Oct. 26	*Eastern Michigan	7:00 pm ET/6:00 pm CT	CBSSN/ESPN3	NIU leads 31-14-2
Thur., Nov. 2	*at Toledo	6:00 pm ET/5:00 pm CT	ESPNU/CBSSN	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 (4-1, 1-0)

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	CMU leads 24-5-0
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Bowling Green	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	BGSU leads 40-26-0
Sat., Oct. 21	*Kent State	TBA	TBA	Ohio leads 42-25-2
Tue., Oct. 31	*Miami	7:30 or 8 pm ET	ESPN3/ESPNU	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 (3-1, 0-0)

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	Toledo leads 33-11
Sat., Oct. 14	*at Central Michigan	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	Toledo leads 24-18-3
Sat., Oct. 21	*Akron	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 10-9
Thur., Oct. 26	*at Ball State	7:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network/ESPN3	Toledo leads 22-19-1
Thur., Nov. 2	*NIU	6:00 pm ET	ESPNU/CBS Sports Network	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 (3-2, 1-0)

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	WMU leads 6-2
Sat., Oct. 14	*Akron	3:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	WMU leads 14-4
Sat., Oct. 21	*at Eastern Michigan	2:00 pm ET	TBA	WMU leads 32-17-2
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): (0-2)

Army (2) (Buffalo; Eastern Michigan): (0-1, L, 17-21)  
 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)  
 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

### **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)