Mid-American Conference
Football Weekly Release
August 27, 2018

Football Contact: Ken Mather, Associate Commissioner for Media & Public Relations (kmather@mac-sports.com)
Mid-American Conference, 24 Public Square, 15th Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, 216-566-4622, GetSomeMACtion.com

Become a fan of the Mid-American Conference on Facebook (GetSomeMACtion).
Follow the MAC On Twitter @MACSports, Snapchat (MACSports) and Instagram (MACSports)

MAC Standings

WEST DIVISION	Conference						Overall					
	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A
Ball State	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Central Michigan	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Eastern Michigan	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Northern Illinois	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Toledo	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Western Michigan	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0

EAST DIVISION	Conference						Overall					
	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A
Akron	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Bowling Green	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Buffalo	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Kent State	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Miami	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0
Ohio	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0	0	0	.000	-	0-0	0-0

MAC Storylines

• MAC football continues its 72nd season of competition and will hold its 22nd championship game in 2018. This year's Marathon MAC Football Championship game will be Friday, Nov. 30 at 7:00 pm ET on ESPN2 at Ford Field in Detroit. Toledo is the defending MAC Champion as the Rockets defeated Akron, 45-28, last December.

• The 2018 football season will bring the transition of one new head coach into the Conference. Kent State named former Syracuse co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach **Sean Lewis** as head coach on Dec. 21, 2017. Lewis is the youngest FBS head coach at the age of 31.

• The MAC will open the season by hosting seven games and playing on the road in five others. Ball State opens the season on Thursday, Aug. 30 by hosting Central Connecticut (ESPN+). On Friday, August 31, Western Michigan hosts Syracuse (CBS Sports Network) and Eastern Michigan welcomes Monmouth (ESPN+). MAC programs will play nine others on Saturday, Sept. 1.

• MAC programs will face opponents from the Big Ten (Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska), ACC (Syracuse), Pac-12 (Oregon), SEC (Kentucky) and Conference USA (Marshall) in Week One. The MAC will also face five FCS opponents.

MAC TO FACE TOP RANKED NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS
Earlier in August the 2018 Associated Press Top 25 Poll was released and the MAC will face seven of the top ranked teams this season in the country during non-conference play (AP ranking ranking):

No. 8   Miami (Fla.) at Toledo on Sat., Sept. 15 at Noon ET;
No. 10   Penn State vs. Kent State on Sat., Sept. 15 at Noon ET;
No. 11   Michigan State vs. Central Michigan on Sat., Sept. 29 (time TBA);
No. 12   Notre Dame vs. Ball State on Sat., Sept. 8 at 3:30 pm ET;
No. 14   Michigan vs. Western Michigan on Sat., Sept. 8 at Noon ET;
No. 19   Florida State vs. NIU on Sat., Sept. 22 (time TBA);
No. 24   Oregon vs. Bowling Green on Sat., Sept. 1 at 8:00 pm ET

MAC VS. BIG TEN OPPONENTS
This opening week the MAC will face three Big Ten opponents -- Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. The MAC has won a regular season game vs. Big Ten opponents in each of the last 12 consecutive seasons (2006-2017), the longest streak in MAC history. Last year, the MAC had two road wins at Big Ten opponents as NIU defeated Nebraska, 21-17, on Sept. 16, 2017 and Eastern Michigan defeated Rutgers, 16-13, on Sept. 9, 2017.

During this 12-year stretch, MAC teams have defeated 12 different Big Ten programs—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 stretch.

Miami (13), Bowling Green (8), Toledo (6), Central Michigan (6) and Northern Illinois (6) have the most wins vs. Big Ten opponents.

OHIO'S FRANK SOLICH THIRD LONGEST ACTIVE FBS HEAD COACH
Ohio head football coach Frank Solich is entering his 14th season at the helm of the Ohio Bobcat football program and currently ranks third all-time among MAC head coaches with 97 career wins. Solich also ranks tied for third among active FBS head coaches as the longest tenured current head coaches.

Only Kirk Ferentz of Iowa (1999-2018 -- 20th season), Gary Patterson of TCU (2000-18 -- 18th season) and Kyle Whittington of Utah (2004-18 -- 14th season) have held their current head coaching positions longer than Solich. Ohio is also the only FBS football program in the country that has kept its head coach, offensive coordinator (Tim Albin) and defensive coordinator (Jimmy Burrow) in place for the past 14 seasons. Solich and his Bobcats open the season on Saturday, Sept. 1 as they host Howard at 2:00 pm ET at Peden Stadium on ESPN+.

This Week's MAC Schedule

Thursday, August 30
Central Connecticut State at Ball State, 7:00 pm ET (ESPN+)

Friday, August 31
Syracuse at Western Michigan, 6:00 pm ET (CBS Sports Network)
Monmouth at Eastern Michigan, 6:30 pm ET (ESPN+)

Saturday, September 1
Kent State at Illinois, Noon ET (Big Ten Network)
Howard at Ohio, 2:00 pm ET (ESPN+)
Central Michigan at Kentucky, 3:30 pm ET (ESPNU)
Marshall at Miami, 3:30 pm ET (ESPN+)
NIU at Iowa, 3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT (Big Ten Network)
Delaware State at Buffalo, 6:00 pm ET (ESPN3)
VMI at Toledo, 7:00 pm ET (ESPN3)
Akron at Nebraska, 8:00 pm ET (FOX)
Bowling Green at Oregon, 8:00 pm ET (Pac-12 Network)

Next Week's MAC Schedule

Saturday, September 8
Eastern Michigan at Purdue, Noon ET (Big Ten Network)
Western Michigan at Michigan, Noon ET (FS1)
Kansas at Central Michigan, 3:00 pm ET (ESPN+)
Ball State at Notre Dame, 3:30 pm ET (NBC)
Buffalo at Temple, 3:30 pm ET (ESPN3)
Howard at Kent State, 3:30 pm ET (ESPN+)
Morgan State at Akron, 3:30 pm ET (ESPN+)
Maryland at Bowling Green, 6:00 pm ET (ESPN+)
Utah at NIU, 7:30 pm ET/6:30 pm CT (ESPNews)
Cincinnati at Miami, 8:00 pm ET (Raycom/ESPN3)
(at Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati, Ohio)
Bye: Ohio; Toledo

MAC BOWL NOTES AND 2017 SEASON

• Toledo won the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game with a 45-28 win over Akron on Dec. 2, 2017. The win was Toledo's first championship since 2004 and the 11th football title in program history. The Rockets have been a model of consistency in winning as Toledo has won at least nine games in six of the last seven years, and the 2017 record of 11-3 is the ninth time in Toledo history to win at least 10 games in a season.

• Five MAC programs received bowl invitations in the 2017 bowl season -- Toledo (11-3), Akron (7-7), Ohio (9-4), Central Michigan (8-5) and Northern Illinois (8-5). The MAC record for bowl invitations in a single-season is seven in both the 2012 and 2015 bowl seasons.

• Toledo (Dollar General Bowl), Akron (Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl), Ohio (Bahamas Bowl), Central Michigan (Famous Idaho Potato Bowl) and Northern Illinois (Quick Lane Bowl) represented the MAC in the 2017 bowl season.

• This marked the 10th time in MAC history to have five or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017) in a single-season.

• In the previous seven bowl seasons, the MAC has a record of 12-28 in 40 bowl games – 2017 (1-4); 2016 (0-6); 2015 (3-4); 2014 (2-3); 2013 (0-5); 2012 (2-5); 2011 (4-1) as all 12 MAC programs have appeared in a bowl game during this span (2011-17).

• Akron (7-7, 6-2) won the MAC East Division for the first time since 2005. Akron secured its third MAC East Division title as the Zips were bowl eligible for the second time in the last three years, also a school record.

• Over the last three seasons, the MAC has witnessed six different programs participate in the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game. In 2015 Bowling Green defeated NIU, 34-14, while 2016 witnessed Western Michigan with a 29-23 win over Ohio and Toledo defeated Akron, 45-28 in the 2017 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game.

• In 2017 the MAC had 11 FBS wins, including four wins over Autonomous Conferences with two wins vs. Big Ten opponents (Nebraska, Rutgers) and two wins over Big 12 opponents (both wins over Kansas).

MAC 2017 BOWL RESULTS

• Cheribundi Tart Bowl Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.) Florida Atlantic 50, Akron 3
• Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.) Wyoming 37, Central Michigan 14
• Bahamas Bowl (Nassau) Ohio 41, UAB 6
• Dollar General Bowl (Mobile, Ala.) Appalachian State 34, Toledo 0
• Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.) Duke 36, Northern Illinois 14

MAC NON-CONFERENCE WINS

The MAC concluded its non-conference regular season schedule last season with 11 FBS wins. The MAC record is 16 FBS wins in 2012, while the Conference posted 14 FBS wins in both the 2016 and 2008 seasons.

In 2017, the MAC also has four 'Autonomous Conference' wins over Nebraska and Rutgers (Big Ten) and Kansas twice (Big 12). Among peer Conferences during the 2017 regular season, the MAC posted a 1-1 record against the American Athletic, Mountain West and Sun Belt Conferences, along with a record 3-4 vs. Conference USA.

MAC WITH ONE NEW HEAD COACH FOR 2018

Kent State named Sean Lewis as head coach on Dec. 21, 2017 to replace Paul Haynes, who was Kent State's head coach for five seasons (2013-17).

Kent State: Sean Lewis: Kent State named Sean Lewis to lead the Golden Flashes on Dec. 21, 2017. Lewis became the 22nd head football coach at Kent State after serving as the co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Syracuse. His background stretches from his four-year playing career at Wisconsin under Barry Alvarez, to winning the 2015 Marathon MAC Championship as the co-offensive coordinator at Bowling Green.

Lewis' ascension has led him to become the youngest Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) head coach in the nation at the age of 31. That distinction was previously held by Oklahoma's Lincoln Riley at age 34. Lewis has spent his last six seasons alongside head coach Dino Babers at Syracuse (2016-17), Bowling Green (2014-15) and Eastern Illinois (2012-13).

Lewis' coaching career began as the offensive coordinator for his alma mater Richards High School in Illinois. He transitioned to the college level in 2010 as tight ends coach at Division II University of Nebraska Omaha. He made his first MAC stop in 2011 as a graduate assistant for the University of Akron. Lewis earned a bachelor's degree from Wisconsin in agricultural sciences in 2007.

MAC PROGRAMS IN BOWL GAMES

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

2011-17 MAC Programs and Years Invited to Bowl Games

Program	Years
Northern Illinois (6):	2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2017
Ohio (6):	2011; 2012; 2013; 2015; 2016; 2017
Toledo (6):	2011; 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017
Central Michigan (5):	2012; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017
Bowling Green (4):	2012; 2013; 2014; 2015
Western Michigan (4):	2011; 2014; 2015; 2016
Akron (2):	2015; 2017
Ball State (2):	2012; 2013
Buffalo (1):	2013
Kent State (1):	2012
Eastern Michigan (1):	2016
Miami (1):	2016
former: Temple (1):	2011

Year; MAC Programs Invited to Bowl Games

2011: Northern Illinois; Ohio; Toledo; Western Michigan; Temple
2012: Northern Illinois; Kent State; Ohio; Bowling Green; Ball State; Central Michigan; Toledo
2013: Northern Illinois; Bowling Green; Ball State; Ohio; Buffalo
2014: Northern Illinois; Bowling Green; Toledo; Central Michigan; Western Michigan
2015: Bowling Green; Northern Illinois; Toledo; Western Michigan; Central Michigan; Ohio; Akron
2016: Western Michigan, Ohio, Toledo, Eastern Michigan, Central Michigan, Miami
2017: Toledo, Akron, Ohio, Central Michigan; Northern Illinois.

ROURKE TO CONTINUE TO LEAD OHIO OFFENSE
Ohio quarterback **Nathan Rourke** had a breakout sophomore season in leading the Ohio Bobcats to a 9-4 overall record, including a 5-3 second-place finish in the MAC East Division. Rourke led the Bobcats to a 41-6 win over UAB in the Bahamas Bowl to finish the 2017 on a high note. In 2017, Rourke was a dual threat with 912 yards rushing and 21 touchdowns on the ground, while passing for 2,203 yards and 17 touchdowns on 161-292 passing for 169.5 yards per game.

Rourke was part of the Ohio offensive engine that tied a MAC single season record as Ohio totaled 44 rushing touchdowns, which tied with NIU in 2012 as the most in MAC history. Rourke's 21 rushing touchdowns led the MAC and ranked seventh most in a single-season in MAC history. His 38 total offensive touchdowns ranked tied for 16th best in a single season in MAC history and his 132 total points ranks tied for ninth best in MAC history.

MAC WIDE RECEIVERS CONTINUE TO SHINE
The depth of the MAC at the wide receiver position continues to blossom with plenty of playmakers at this skill position. In 2017, Toledo's **Diontae Johnson**; Buffalo's **Anthony Johnson**; Miami's **James Gardner** and Ball State's **Justin Hall** all had breakout seasons.

Buffalo's Anthony Johnson was the top target by both Tyree Jackson and Drew Anderson last season for the Bulls. Buffalo finished with a 6-6 overall record, 4-4 in the MAC, and Johnson opened plenty of eyes within the MAC and the entire country. Johnson led the MAC with 1,356 yards receiving (17.8 avg.) and 14 touchdowns, while his 76 catches ranked second in the league. Johnson collected four touchdown receptions in a win at Ball State on Nov. 16, 2017, which tied for third most in MAC single-game history. Johnson's 14 touchdowns ranks tied for 11th best in MAC single-season history and his 1,356 yards receiving is 19th most in MAC single-season history.

Toledo's Diontae Johnson as a sophomore last season became Logan Woodside's top target after the season ending injury to Cody Thompson. Johnson led the Rockets with 74 receptions for 1,278 yards (17.3 avg.) and 13 touchdowns. Johnson ranked second in the MAC with his 1,278 yards and 13 touchdowns, while his 74 catches ranked third in the league. Johnson's 13 touchdowns is tied for 17th most in a single-season in MAC history, while his 1,278 yards receiving ranks tied for 22nd most in MAC history.

Miami's James Gardner led the RedHawks last season with his 47 receptions for 927 yards (19.7 avg.) and 11 touchdowns. Gardner had perhaps his finest game of the year on the road at No. 22 ranked Notre Dame on Sept. 30, 2017 with five catches for 115 yards and two touchdowns. Gardner's 11 receiving touchdowns ranked third in the MAC and are tied for 29th most in single-season in MAC history.

Ball State's Justin Hall had an impressive freshman season as he led the MAC with 78 receptions. However, the fact that Ball State had to start four different quarterbacks during the 2017 season due to injury makes it even more impressive. Hall had 78 catches for 801 yards and three touchdowns.

MAC Among Sack & TFL Leaders In The Nation Last Season
In 2017, the MAC witnessed four different defensive players rank among the leaders in college football in sacks and tackles for loss – NIU's Sutton Smith, Ball State's Anthony Winbush, Central Michigan's Joe Ostman and Eastern Michigan's Maxx Crosby. Winbush and Ostman are currently in NFL camps, while Smith and Crosby enter the 2018 campaign as redshirt juniors.

The MAC had four of the top six defensive players in total sacks last season as Smith's 16 led the nation, while Ostman's 14 sacks ranked second, Winbush's 11.5 ranked fourth and Crosby's 11 sacks ranked tied for sixth most in the country. All four also ranked among the nation's best in tackles for loss as Smith's 29.5 tackles for loss led the nation, Ostman's 20.5 tackles for loss ranked seventh, while Winbush and Crosby each had 16.5 tackles for loss.

Smith led the nation and the MAC with 16 sacks and 29.5 tackles for loss on his way to consensus All-American status last season. Smith's 16 sacks tied for second most in a single-season in MAC history.

2017 MAC ALL-AMERICANS
The MAC was represented in 2017 with All-American honors.

The Associated Press:
• Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
USA Today:
• First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
Sports Illustrated:
• Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
CBS Sports:
• Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
Walter Camp Football Foundation:
• First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
• Second-Team All-American: Western Michigan OT Chukwuma Okorafor
The Sporting News:
• Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
Football Writers Association of America (FWAA):
• First-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith
• First-Team All-American: Western Michigan OT Chukwuma Okorafor
American Football Coaches Association (AFCA):
• Second-Team All-American: Northern Illinois DE Sutton Smith

NIU'S SUTTON SMITH CONSENSUS ALL-AMERICAN
Northern Illinois defensive end **Sutton Smith** was a 2017 Consensus All-American, as determined by the NCAA. Smith became the ninth MAC player earn Consensus All-American status.

To be selected as a Consensus All-American, a player must be named to the first team of at least two of the five selected All-America teams, announced over the last week by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA), Associated Press, Football Writers Association of America (FWAA), The Sporting News and Walter Camp Foundation. Second team selections are used to break ties. Players who earned the honor were listed on the most first team All-America teams, competing against players at that position only.

Smith is actually one of five defensive linemen on the 2017 Consensus All-America team as he and Maurice Hurst of Michigan tied for the final spot. The St. Charles, Mo. native was named a first team All- American by Walter Camp and the FWAA, and was a second team selection on the AP, AFCA and Sporting News teams.

Smith is the fourth NIU player – joining Jordan Lynch, Jimmie Ward and Shuwan Lurry – to garner first team All-America recognition in the last five seasons, surpassing the total number of Huskie All-Americans in the school's FBS history.

Smith is the most decorated defensive player in NIU football history and in addition to the five All-America teams mentioned above, was selected to six more All-America teams by media organizations.

Smith was the 2017 MAC Defensive Player of the Year was also a finalist for the Ted Hendricks Award as the nation's best defensive end. He finished the season and led the MAC with 29.5 tackles for loss and 16 sacks. He was 2.5 tackles for loss shy of the NCAA single season record of 32, set by Western Michigan's Jason Babin in 2003.

MAC Consensus All-Americans
1971 Mel Long, Toledo, DT
1995 Brad Maynard, Ball State, P
1996 Brad Maynard, Ball State, P
1997 Randy Moss, Marshall, WR
2000 Dwight Smith, Akron, DB
2010 Eric Page, Toledo, KR/AP
2012 Dri Archer, Kent State, KR/AP
2016 Corey Davis, Western Michigan, WR
2017 Sutton Smith, Northern Illinois, DE

OHIO'S SOLICH THIRD ON MAC CAREER WINS LIST

Ohio head coach Frank Solich and his Bobcats finished 2017 with a 9-4 overall record and a second-place finish in the East Division. Solich continues to rise up the MAC career head coaching win list with 97 wins, which ranks third most in MAC history.

Solich has been the model for consistency in coaching in the MAC. Solich arrived in Athens, Ohio in 2005 and now is in his 14th season running the Bobcats program. Solich and the Ohio Bobcats have garnered a bowl appearance in eight of the last nine seasons and nine of his 13 seasons at Ohio. Solich has a 97-71 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. **97, Frank Solich, Ohio, 2005-present**
4. 79, Bob Pruett, Marshall, 1997-03
5. 77, Doyt Perry, Bowling Green, 1955-64

MAC VS BIG TEN OPPONENTS

With two wins last year vs. Big Ten opponents -- NIU's 21-17 win at Nebraska on Sept. 16, 2017 and Eastern Michigan's 16-13 win at Rutgers on Sept. 9, 2017 -- the MAC has won a regular season game vs. Big Ten opponents in each of the last 12 consecutive seasons (2006-2017), the longest streak in MAC history.

During this 12-year stretch, **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 of time.

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: NIU beat Nebraska; Eastern Michigan beat Rutgers

TOLEDO WINS 2017 MARATHON MAC CHAMPIONSHIP

The Toledo Rockets capped an historic season with a resounding 45-28 victory over Akron at Ford Field in Detroit on Dec. 2, 2017 to claim their 11th MAC Championship and first since 2004. In the 100th anniversary season of their founding as a football program, and the two-year anniversary of the hiring of Jason Candle as head coach, the Rockets (11-2) dominated the game from start to finish, scoring three times in the second quarter to take a 28-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Toledo outgained the Zips, 561-396, holding them to just 98 yards of total offense in the first half. The 561 yards of total offense are the third-most by a team in a MAC Championship Game.

Toledo quarterback Logan Woodside, who threw for 307 yards and four touchdowns, was named the Offensive Player of the Game. Receiver Diontae Johnson led the receiving corps with nine receptions for 118 yards and two scores, followed by Jon'Vea Johnson (six receptions, 103 yards, and a touchdown).

Running back Terry Swanson piled up 180 yards and two TDs. On the other side of the ball, defensive end Zach Quinn led the Rockets with 10 tackles, defensive end Olasunkanmi Adeniyi added three tackles for loss and a forced fumble, and cornerback Trevon Mathis came up with an interception and a key pass breakup.

FBS HEAD COACHES LEADING THEIR ALMA MATER

The MAC has three of the 22 FBS head coaches that are leading their alma mater's football programs this 2018 season.

Western Michigan second-year head coach Tim Lester posted a 6-6 overall record during his first season in Kalamazoo. Lester joined Western Michigan 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 fourth-year head coach John Bonamego was named the program's 28th head coach on Feb. 9, 2015. Bonamego led the Chippewas to an 8-5 overall record last season, and has compiled a 21-18 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.

Ball State third-year head coach Mike Neu led the Cardinals to a 2-10 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. Neu served two seasons as the quarterback coach for the New Orleans Saints (2014-15).

FBS Head Coaches Leading Their Alma Mater

Troy Calhoun, Air Force; Bryan Harsin, Boise State; **Mike Neu, Ball State; John Bonamego, Central Michigan; 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; Scott Frost, Nebraska; Mate Luke, Ole Miss; Jonathan Smith, Oregon State; Paul Chryst, Wisconsin; Bary Odom, Missouri; Mark Richt, Miami; Nick Rolovich, Hawaii; Scott Satterfield, App State; Kalani Sitake, BYU; Kirby Smart, Georgia; Jeff Tedford, Fresno State.

OHIO'S ZERVOS ONE OF MAC'S MOST ACCURATE

Ohio junior placekicker Louie Zervos has been a key figure in the success of the Ohio Bobcats during the last two seasons. Zervos in two seasons had converted 44-of-53 field goal attempts for an 83.0% percentage which ranks second best in MAC history.

In 2017, Zervos converted 15-of-18 field goal attempts and totaled 106 total points. Zervos already holds the MAC record with 29 field goals made set during his freshman year in 2016 when he connected on 29-of-35 field goal attempts for 122 total points.

MAC 2018 BOWL PARTNERS

2018 Bowl Season:

• Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl/PlayStation Fiesta Bowl (College Football Playoff Host Bowls)
• Dollar General Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)
• Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)
• Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)
• Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl (Nassau, Bahamas; vs. Conference USA)
• Frisco Bowl (Frisco, Texas; vs. American Athletic Conference)
• Secondary to Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.)
• Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)
• Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games

2019 Bowl Season:

• College Football Playoff Host Bowls
• Dollar General Bowl (Mobile, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)
• Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Boise, Ida.; vs. Mountain West)
• Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.; vs. Sun Belt)
• Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl (Boca Raton, Fla.; vs. American Athletic Conference)
• Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl (vs. Conference USA)
• Secondary to Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit, Mich.)
• Secondary to ESPN owned and operated bowl games

MAC 2018 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 football schedule will feature 16 nationally televised games during late October and November on ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN+, ESPN3 and CBS Sports Network as the conference race unfolds in both the East and West divisions.

The regular season will conclude with the 22nd Marathon MAC Football Championship game on Friday, Nov. 30 at 7:00 pm ET (ESPN2) in Detroit. This will mark the 15th Marathon MAC Football Championship game at Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions, Super Bowl XL, and 2009 NCAA Men's Final Four.

For the 11th 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, Notre Dame and BYU. In addition, the Conference will also face opponents from the American Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Mountain West Conference, Sun Belt Conference and Independents Army and UMass.

MAC programs will face five non-conference foes that finished in the final AP Top 25 poll: Penn State (9), Notre Dame (11), Miami-Fla. (13), Michigan State (15) and Northwestern (17).

A total of 12 non-conference games will feature a Big Ten opponent (Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Maryland; Michigan; Michigan State; Minnesota; Nebraska; Northwestern; Penn State; Purdue; Rutgers). The MAC will face foes from the ACC (5—Florida State, Georgia Tech, Miami (Fla.), Syracuse, Virginia), SEC (2—Kentucky, Ole Miss), Pac-12 (2-Oregon, Utah), Big 12 (2—Iowa State; Kansas); and Independent Notre Dame, BYU, Army (3 games) and UMass.

The MAC will also face opponents from the American Athletic Conference (3— Cincinnati (2), Temple), Mountain West (3—Fresno State, Nevada, San Diego State), Conference USA (2—Marshall, Western Kentucky) and Sun Belt Conference (1—Georgia State). The MAC will host 10 games against FBS non-conference opponents.

MAC WITH SIX STUDENTS PICKED IN 2017 NFL DRAFT

The MAC had six draft selections in the 2018 NFL Draft. Western Michigan OT Chukwuma Okorafor was the highest player selected as the Pittsburgh Steelers made him a third-round selection, 92nd overall. Also from the Broncos, DB Sam Beal was selected by the New York Giants during the July NFL Supplemental Draft.

In recent years the MAC had students selected among the top five overall in the NFL Draft. In the last six years (2013-18), the MAC has had three players selected in the top five in the NFL Drafts.

In the 2017 NFL Draft, Western Michigan wide receiver Corey Davis was selected as the fifth overall selection in the first round by the Tennessee Titans. Davis' selection was the highest ever for Western Michigan and tied the second-highest in MAC history.

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 2018 NFL Draft
3rd (92) OL Chukwuma Okorafor (Western Mich.) by Pittsburgh
5th (157) TE Tyler Conklin (Central Michigan) by Minnesota
5th (170) DB/KR Darius Phillips (Western Mich.) by Cincinnati
7th (227) LB Quentin Poling (Ohio) by Miami
7th (249) QB Logan Woodside (Toledo) by Cincinnati
MAC Students Selected In 2018 NFL Supplemental Draft
3rd DB Sam Beal (Western Michigan) by the New York Giants

WINS OVER NON-CONFERENCE FBS OPPONENTS

In 2017 the MAC earned 11 non-conference FBS wins. The MAC set the Conference single-season record with 16 wins over FBS opponents during the 2012 season, and also posted 14 wins in both the 2008 and 2016 seasons.

Regular Season Wins vs. non-conference FBS opponents:
Year: Wins; FBS Opponents Defeated:
2017: 11; Nebraska, Rutgers, Kansas (2); Charlotte, UAB; Nevada; Tulsa; 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 11 former head coaches from the MAC in a current FBS head coaching position–including three of the last four National Champion's with 2017 and 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 2018 season, 23 of the 131 FBS coaches (17.6%) will be either current or former MAC head coaches. The 23 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).
Sun Belt – Doug Martin-New Mexico State (Kent State).

MAC MEDIA 2018 FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL
Earlier this summer members of the media selected Ohio and Northern Illinois to win the East and West Divisions respectfully in the 2018 MAC Football Media Preseason Poll. Ohio was selected to win the 2018 Marathon MAC Football Championship Game.

In the East Division, Ohio was selected first with a league-best 140 total points. Following the Bobcats, the Buffalo Bulls finished second with 112 points, while the Miami RedHawks finished third with 95 points. Defending MAC East Champion Akron Zips finished fourth with 74 points, followed by Bowling Green and Kent State.

In the West Division, Northern Illinois was selected first in the Division with 133 total points. Following the Huskies, defending West Champion Toledo finished second with 125 points, while the Western Michigan Broncos were third with 87 points. Eastern Michigan ranked fourth with 67 points, followed by Central Michigan and Ball State.

2018 MAC MEDIA Football Preseason Poll
MAC East Division

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Ohio (21)	140
2. Buffalo (1)	112
3. Miami (2)	95
4. Akron	74
5. Bowling Green	58
6. Kent State	25

MAC West Division

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Northern Illinois (15)	133
2. Toledo (7)	125
3. Western Michigan (1)	87
4. Eastern Michigan	67
5. Central Michigan (1)	58
6. Ball State	34

MAC FOOTBALL COACHES PRESEASON POLL
MAC Head Football Coaches have provided their own 2018 Preseason Poll and based upon voting by all 12 head coaches Ohio and NIU have been selected to win the East and West Divisions respectfully, with Ohio winning the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game.

In the East Division, a margin of 11 points separated first-place and second-place. Ohio was selected first with 70 total points followed by second-place Buffalo with 59 points. Miami was selected third followed by Akron, Bowling Green and Kent State.

In the West Division, the margin was also only one point as Northern Illinois was selected in first-place with 61 points followed by second-place Toledo with 60 points. Western Michigan was picked third followed by Eastern Michigan, Central Michigan and Ball State.

2018 MAC HEAD COACHES Football Preseason Poll
MAC East Division

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Ohio (10)	70
2. Buffalo (2)	59
3. Miami	42
4. Akron	36
5. Bowling Green	29
6. Kent State	16

MAC West Division

Team (First Place Votes)	Points
1. Northern Illinois (5)	61
2. Toledo (3)	60
3. Western Michigan (1)	45
4. Eastern Michigan (1)	35
5. Central Michigan (1)	33
6. Ball State (1)	18

ESPN+ TO FEATURE MAC EVENTS IN 2018
ESPN+ is the premium multi-sport, direct-to-consumer video service from The Walt Disney Company's Direct-to-Consumer and International (DTCI) segment in conjunction with ESPN. It offers fans thousands of additional live events, on-demand content and original programming not available on ESPN's linear TV or digital networks.

Fans subscribe to ESPN+ for just $4.99 a month (or $49.99 per year) through the ESPN App or ESPN.com. The ESPN App also provides fans separate access to all of ESPN's "TV Everywhere" streaming of its linear television networks (ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, etc.) and ESPN3 – to fans with a pay TV subscription. ESPN+ and ESPN's authenticated streaming is also available on ESPN.com.

MAC fans who have any questions about the new ESPN App or ESPN+, may contact ESPN customer care:

- Online: support.espn.com
- Phone: 1-888-549-ESPN
- ESPN App: Live Chat Feature
- ESPN Customer Support Available: 9am-1am ET, 7 days a week

FORMER MAC ALUM RANDY MOSS INDUCTED INTO PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
Joining the list of MAC alum heading to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, former Marshall wide receiver Randy Moss will increase this number to three, as Moss will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a member of the 2018 Hall of Fame Class. Moss, who was named MAC Offensive Player of the Year in 1997, posted 78 catches for 1,709 yards and 28 touchdowns with Marshall in 1996 and added 96 receptions for 1,820 yards and 26 touchdowns in 1997.

Moss was selected in the first round, 21st overall, of the 1998 NFL Draft by the Minnesota Vikings. Moss spent 14 seasons in the NFL with Minnesota, Oakland, New England, Tennessee and San Francisco and amassed 982 career receptions for 15,292 yards and 156 touchdowns and was selected to five Pro Bowls. Moss becomes the third former MAC football standout to be selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Moss joins Jason Taylor of Akron and former Kent State linebacker Jack Lambert of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Moss was a member of the Marshall Thundering Herd, who competed in the MAC before departing after the 2004 season.

MAC PART OF NEW COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ERA
The 2018 college football season enters the fifth 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 (Capital One Orange Bowl; Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic) and the College Football Playoff National Championship will be played in the Bay Area (Levi Stadium) on Jan. 7.

The two Semifinals and four other premier bowl games AllState Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1), Rose Bowl presented by Northwestern Mutual (Jan. 1), PlayStation Fiesta Bowl (Jan. 1) and the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (Dec. 29) 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.

The highest ranked program by the Selection Committee from either the MAC, American Athletic, Conference USA, Mountain West or Sun Belt Conferences will play annually in one of the premier bowl games.

Central Connecticut State (0-0, 0-0; Northeast) at Ball State (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Thursday, August 30, 2018 • 7:00 pm ET • Muncie, Ind. • Scheumann Stadium (22,500)
ESPN+
Series: First Meeting

Head Coach: Pete Rossomando
Career: 59-42 (10th year)   at CC State: 17-29 (5th year)
Media Contact: Thomas Pincince, 860-832-3089, pincincet@ccsu.edu

Notes: Blue Devils made their first NCAA FCS Playoffs appearance last year after winning the Northeast Conference title with a perfect 6-0 record...CC State had an eight-game winning streak, a program record for a single season and finished with an 8-4 overall record.

Central's offense, which is slated to return eight starters, had four play-ers named to the Preseason All-NEC Team...Senior QB Jacob Dolegala, a three-year starter, became the program's all-time leading passer last season and has thrown for 5,908 yards and 32 touchdowns.

Senior defensive lineman Chris Tinkham, senior linebacker Kenneth Keen and junior defensive back Tajik Bagley represented the CCSU defense on the NEC Preseason Team...Tinkham, an All-NEC Second Team pick in 2017, had 40 tackles, 5.5 tackles for a loss and 3.5 sacks last season...Keen ranked second on the team in tackles with 85 on the season, including 9.5 for a loss and three pass break-ups.

Head Coach: Mike Neu
Career: 6-18 (3rd year)   at Ball State: 6-18 (3td year)
Contact: Mike Clark, 765-285-8904, maclark4@bsu.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
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 (78 rec., 801 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Jacob White (72 tackles, 5.0 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Christian Albright (26 tackles, 4.0 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Bryce Crosby (59 tackles, 3.0 tfl, 2 INT)

Notes: Cardinals return 19 starters (9 off./7 def./3 spec.) and 51 letter-winners from last year's team that went 2-10 overall, 0-8 in the MAC...Ball State has only nine seniors on the roster, second fewest among all FBS programs...WR Justin Hall had a breakout freshman year with 801 yards receiving and three TDs, despite 4 starting quarterbacks last year.

Syracuse (0-0, 0-0; ACC) at Western Michigan (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Friday, August 31, 2018 • 6:00 pm ET • Kalamazoo, Mich. • Waldo Stadium (30,200)
CBS Sports Network
Series: First Meeting

Head Coach: Dino Babers
Career: 45-32 (7th year)   at Syracuse: 8-16 (3rd year)
Football Contact: Mike Morrison, 315-443-2608, mdmorris@syr.edu

Notes: Syracuse finished 4-8 overall, including 2-6 in the ACC last season...Last season, QB Eric Dungey led the ACC in completions per game (25.0) and ranked second in the conference in total offense (343.3 ypg) and passing (277.2 ypg)...In nine games, Dungey completed 225-of-377 (59.3 pct.) passes for 2,495 yards and 14 touchdowns, and also rushed for 595 yards and nine scores.

Dungey is the only FBS signal caller with 6,000+ passing yards and 1,000+ rushing yards...Dungey holds or shares 12 Syracuse records and ranks fourth in conference history in total offense yards per game (296.6)...Dungey is the ACC active career leader in quarterback rushing yardage (1,239), touchdown passes (40), total offense (7,711 yards) and rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (20)...DL Chris Slayton is Syracuse's active leader in games started (29), tackles for loss (24.5), sacks (6) and forced fumbles (4)...Slayton totaled 28 tackles a season ago, including 8.5 for losses, one sack, one forced fumble and one blocked kick...For his career, Slayton has 83 tackles in 36 games.

Head Coach: Tim Lester
Career: 46-29 (8th year)   at Western Michigan: 6-6 (2nd year)
Contact: Kristin Keirns, 269-387-4123, kristin.keirns@wmich.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Jamauri Bogan (112 att., 589 yards, 3 TDs)
Pass: QB Jon Wassink (124-193 passing, 1,411 yards, 14 TDs)
Rec.: WR Keishawn Watson (41 rec., 374 yards, 7 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: DB Stefan Claiborne (64 tackles, 1.5 tfl)
Sacks: DL Eric Assoua (18 tackles, 5.5 tfl, 2.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Obbie Jackson (23 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Western Michigan returns 14 starters (9 off./4 def./1 spec.) and 29 letterwinners from last year's team that finished 6-6 overall, 4-4 in the MAC...Broncos are returning four starters on the offensive line for starting QB Jon Wassink and RB tandem of Jamauri Bogan and LeVante Bellamy -- LG Make Caliendo (10 games), RG Luke Juriga (12 games), C John Keenoy (12 games) and RT Zach Novoselsky (12 games).

Monmouth (0-0, 0-0; Big South) at Eastern Michigan (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Friday, August 31, 2018 • 6:30 pm ET • Ypsilanti, Mich. • Rynearson Stadium (30,200)
ESPN+
Series: First Meeting

Head Coach: Kevin Callahan
Career: 144-118 (26th year) at Monmouth: 144-118 (26th year)
Contact: Greg Viscomi, 732-571-4447, gviscomi@monmouth.edu

Notes: Hawks went 9-3 overall last year, 4-1 in the Big South, and lost in the first round of the FCS playoffs...Sophomore RB Pete Guerriero became the first Monmouth back since 2013 to eclipse the 1,000 yard plateau in his breakout freshman year, one which saw him lead the Big South in all-purpose yards with 1,408...Guerriero was named First Team All-Big South at both the kick returner and running back positions...

Guerriero set the Monmouth mark for all-purpose yardage in a game with 263 against Lehigh while wrapping up his first year with Second Team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches' Association...Senior OL Ryan Wetzel, a three-year starter, was named First Team All-Big South as a junior and was a preseason all-conference se-lection and is a AFCA AllState GoodWorks Team nominee.

Junior DB Tymere Berry, a two year starter, was a second team all-confer-ence selection in 2017 after leading the Big South in passes defended with 14 breakups...Berry was selected as a preseason all-conference selection.

Head Coach: Chris Creighton
Career: 154-80 (22nd year) at Eastern Michigan: 15-34 (5th year)
Football Contact: Greg Steiner, 734-487-0317, gsteiner2@emich.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Ian Eriksen (179 att., 810 yds., 8 TDs)
Pass: QB -- NA --
Rec.: WR Mathew Sexton (26 rec., 367 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: R Vince Calhoun (78 tackles, 1.0 tfl)
Sacks: DE Maxx Crosby (57 tackles, 16.5 tfl, 12.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Brody Hoying (78 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Eastern Michigan returns 17 starters (6 off./ 7 def./ 4 sp.) and 46 letterwinners from last year's squad that finished 5-7 overall, 3-5 in the MAC...Nine of the Eagles 12 games last year were decided by seven points or less, including six of Eastern Michigan's seven losses coming down to one possession, and a school-record three losses' in overtime...Seven of Eastern Michigan losses were by a combined 35 points.

Kent State (0-0, 0-0; MAC) at Illinois (0-0, 0-0; Big Ten)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • Noon ET • Champaign, Ill. • Memorial Stadium (69,249)
Big Ten Network
Series: Illinois leads 1-0

Head Coach: Sean Lewis
Career: 0-0 (1st year)   at Kent State: 0-0 (1st year)
Football Contact: Aaron Chimenti, 330-672-8468, achiment@kent.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Justin Rankin (123 att., 490 rushing yds; 3 TDs)
Pass: QB Dustin Crum (16-30 passing, 232 yards, 1 TD)
Rec.: RB Justin Rankin (42 rec., 311 yds., 2 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Jim Jones (98 tackles, 8.0 tfl, 8.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Jim Jones (98 tackles, 8.0 tfl, 8.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Mandela Lawrence Burke (76 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Kent State returns 14 starters (6 off./ 6 def./ 2 spec.) and 49 letterwinners from last year's squad that finished 2-10 overall, 1-7 in the MAC...DE Theo Eboigbe (39 tackles, 5 tackles for loss) and DE Nick Faulkner (28 tackles) bolster the defense, while WR Mike Carrigan (281 yards, 2 TDs) is an offensive target.

Head Coach: Lovie Smith
NFL Career: 92-90 (11 years in NFL w/ Chicago/Tampa Bay)
      at Illinois: 5-19 (3rd year)
Contact: Kent Brown, 217-244-6533, kwbrown3@illinois.edu

Notes: Fighting Illini finished 2-10 overall last year, including 0-9 in the Big Ten...For the second straight year, Illinois will put one of the youngest teams in the nation on the field as the 2018 Illinois roster includes just eight seniors and 24 total upperclassmen (8 seniors, 16 juniors).

Illinois played (22) and started (16) more true freshmen than any team in the country in 2017...The Illini forced 17 fumbles in 2017 to rank second in the nation in forced fumbles per game (1.42), behind only Wyoming (1.69)...The total of 17 forced fumbled tied for fourth-most overall...Sophomore S Stanley Green has six forced fumbles in his two-year Illini career which is tied for seventh-most in program history (dating back to 1990), and is T-1st in the Big Ten and T-10th in FBS over the last two seasons.

Howard (0-0, 0-0; MEAC) at Ohio (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 2:00 pm ET • Athens, Ohio • Peden Stadium (24,000)
ESPN+
Series: First Meeting

Head Coach: Mike London
Career: 58-55 (10th year)   at Howard: 7-4 (2nd year)
Contact: Derek W. Bryant, 202-806-7184, derek.bryant@howard.edu

Notes: Bison finished 7-4 overall and 6-2 in league play last sesason...Howard returns six starters from last year's offense, led by All-MEAC WR Kyle Anthony and WR Jequez Ezzard and 2017 MEAC Freshman of the Year QB Caylin Newton...Last season, the Bison averaged nearly 30 points per game while displaying the league's top balanced offense...

On the ground, Howard led the conference in rushing (215.5 ypg) and finished second in air behind reigning MEAC champions North Carolina A&T State (230.5 ypg).

Defensively, Howard returns seven starters from last season, including All-MEAC selection DB Bryan Cook, sophomore DBs Tye Freeland and DB Aaron Walker...Last season, DE Aaron Motley led the squad with five sacks while registering 39 tackles, 35 solo, six pass breakups, and three forced fumbles.

Head Coach: Frank Solich
Career: 155-90 (20th year)   at Ohio: 97-71 (14th year)
Contact: Sara Legarsky, 740-597-1837, legarsky@ohio.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB AJ Ouellette (192 att., 1,006 yards, 7 TDs)
Pass: QB Nathan Rourke (161-292 passing, 2,203 yards., 17 TDs)
Rec.: WR Papi White (36 rec., 631 yds., 3 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Evan Croutch (70 tackles, 6.0 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Evan Croutch (70 tackles, 6.0 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Jalen Fox (42 tackles, 2 INT)

Notes: Return 15 starters (8 off./4 def./3 sp.) and 49 letterwinners from last year's team that finished 9-4 overall, including 6-2 in the MAC...Posted a 41-6 win over UAB in the 2017 Bahamas Bowl...Head coach Frank Solich took over the program in 2005...Under Solich, Bobcats have been bowl eligible in each of the last nine consective years.

Central Michigan (0-0, 0-0; MAC) at Kentucky (0-0, 0-0; SEC)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 3:30 pm ET • Lexington, Ky. • Commonwealth Stadium (67,606)
ESPNU
Series: Kentucky leads 6-0

Head Coach: John Bonamego
Career: 21-18 (4th year)   at Central Michigan: 21-18 (4th year)
Football Contact: Jim Knight, 989-774-3277, jim.knight@cmich.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Jonathan Ward (178 att., 1,019 rushing yds., 10 TDs)
Pass: QB --NA--
Rec.: WR Brandon Childress (5 rec., 42 yds., 1 TD)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Malik Fountain (89 tackles, 2.5 tfl)
Sacks: DL Nate Brisson-Fast (37 tackles, 9.5 tfl, 6.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Sean Bunting (49 tackles, 5 INT)

Notes: Chippewas return 16 starters (6 off./ 7 def./3 spec.) and 38 letterwinners from last year's team that went 8-5 overall, 6-2 in the MAC to finish in second place in the West Division...Suffered a 37-14 loss to Wyoming in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl...Chippewas have three offensiv line starters returning Joe Austin, Shakir Carr and Steve Eipper.

Head Coach: Mark Stoops
Career: 26-36 (6th year)   at Kentucky: 26-36 (6th year)
Football Contact: Susan Lax, 859-257-3838, slax0@email.uky.edu

Notes: Kentucky finished 7-6 overall last season, 4-4 in the SEC, and lost a 24-23 decision to Northwestern in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl.

LB Josh Allen, who is on the watch lists for the Bednarik Award and the Butkus Award, earned first-team defense honors after totaling 65 tackles, which ranked fourth on the team, last season...Allen also had a team-high 9.5 tackles for loss, 7.0 sacks, a team-high four quarterback hurries, three pass breakups, two forced fumbles and one interception.

RB Benny Snell Jr., was named first team after leading the SEC in rushing touchdowns (19) and ranked third in total rushing yardage (1,333) and rushing yards per game (102.5) in 2017...Snell's 1,333 rushing yards set a school record for most rushing yards by a sophomore and he also became the first player in school history to record 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons.

Marshall (0-0, 0-0; C-USA) at Miami (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 3:30 pm ET • Oxford, Ohio • Yager Stadium (24,286)
ESPN+
Series: Miami leads 30-13-1

Head Coach: Doc Holliday
Career: 61-42 (9th year)   at Marshall: 61-42 (9th year)
Contact: Jason Corriher, 304-696-4660, corriher@marshall.edu

Notes: Thundering Herd went 8-5 overall last season, including 4-4 in C-USA...Marshall defeated Colorado State 31-28 in the New Mexico Bowl...Last season, WR Tyre Brady led the team in receptions (62), receiving yards (942) and was second in receiving touchdowns (eight), while being named first team Conference USA all-conference honors, shared team Offensive MVP honors with QB Chase Litton and was

named the New Mexico Bowl Offensive MVP...QB Alex Thomson, who transferred from Wagner in the spring, has been named to the 2018 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Watch List...Five Marshall students were named to C-USA preseason honors -- C Levi Brown, WR Tyre Brady, LB Chase Hancock, S Malik Gant and LS Matt Beardall... S Malik Gant last season had 100 tackles, including 6.5 for loss, with five pass breakups and three quarterback hurries and was named C-USA Second Team selection...DE Juwon Young last season amassed 41 tackles, including 3.0 for loss with a sack, and was named C-USA second team selection.

Head Coach: Chuck Martin
Career: 90-40 (11th year)   at Miami: 16-33 (5th year)
Football Contact: Dave Meyer, 513-529-4329, meyerd@miamioh.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Kenny Young (145 att., 781 yds., 6 TDs)
Pass: QB Gus Ragland (150-269 passing, 2,032 yds., 19 TDs)
Rec.: WR James Gardner (47 rec., 927 yds., 11 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Brad Koenig (102 tackles, 10.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Sacks: DL Doug Costin (48 tackles, 8.5 tfl, 6.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Josh Allen (53 tackles, 3 INT)

Notes: Miami returns 19 starters (8 off./8 def./3 spec.) and 47 letterwinners from last year's team that went 5-7 overall, 4-4 in the MAC...All five starting offensive linemen return: RT Tommy Doyle (4 games), RG Jarett LaRubbio (8 games), C Danny Godlevski (1 game, due to injury), LG Sam McCollum (12 games) and LT Jordan Rigg (12 games).

Northern Illinois (0-0, 0-0; MAC) at Iowa (0-0, 0-0; Big Ten)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 3:30 pm ET • Iowa City, Iowa • Kinnick Stadium (70,397)
Big Ten Network
Series: Iowa leads 8-1

Head Coach: Rod Carey
Career: 44-24 (6th year)   at NIU: 44-24 (6th year)
Football Contact: Donna Turner, 815-753-9513, donnaturner@niu.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: QB Marcus Childers (473 rushing yds., 5 TDs)
Pass: QB Marcus Childers (152-265 passing, 1,674 yds., 16 TDs)
Rec.: WR Spencer Tears (43 rec., 528 yds., 4 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: DB Mykelti Williams (73 tackles, 1.0 tfl, 1 INT)
Sacks: DE Sutton Smith (63 tackles, 29.5 tfl, 14.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Mykelti Williams (73 tackles, 1.0 tfl, 1 INT)

Notes: NIU returns 17 starters (9 off./6 def./2 sp.) and 54 letterwinners from last year's team that finished 8-5 overall, 6-2 in the MAC...NIU suffered a 36-14 loss to Duke in the 2018 Quick Lane Bowl...NIU is one of just three teams (Boise State and Navy) from a non-autonomous conference, to play in nine bowl games in the last 10 seasons.
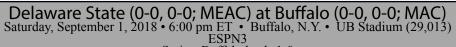
Head Coach: Kirk Ferentz
Career: 155–118 (18th year) at Iowa: 143-97 (20th year)
Contact: Steven Roe, 319-335-9411, steven-roe@uiowa.edu

Notes: Last season Iowa finished 8-5 overall, including 4-5 in Big Ten, and a 27-20 win over Boston College in the Pinstripe Bowl...Iowa returns 15 starters from last year's team (7 offense, 6 defense, 2 specialists) and 45 lettermen...Ferentz is tied for fifth all-time in the Big Ten in overall wins (143) and ranks sixth in conference wins (86)...He is also tied for first all-time at Iowa in coaching victories (Hayden Fry, 143)

and is one of just seven Big Ten coaches ever to guide a team to 10 wins or more in three straight seasons...QB Nate Stanley started all 13 games as a sophomore in 2017, tossing 26 touchdown passes with six interceptions while passing for 2,437 yards...Top returning targets include WR Nick Easley, with 51 receptions for 530 yards and 4 TDs and TE Noah Fant with 30 receptions for 494 yards and 11 TDs...Iowa led the nation in 2017 with 21 interceptions...The Hawkeyes ranked 17th in the nation in scoring defense (19.9 points per game), allowing less than 20 points per game for the third consecutive season...Iowa matched a school record with four interception returns for touchdowns.

Delaware State (0-0, 0-0; MEAC) at Buffalo (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 6:00 pm ET • Buffalo, N.Y. • UB Stadium (29,013)
ESPN3
Series: Buffalo leads 1-0

Head Coach: Rod Milstead
Career: 0-0 (1st year)   at Delaware State: 0-0 (1st year)
Football Contact: Dennis Jones, 302-857-6068, djones@desu.edu

Notes: Delaware State returns 12 starters (5 off./ 6 def./ 1 spec.) and 45 letterwinners from last year's squad that finished 2-9 overall, 2-6 in the MEAC...Milstead was appointed as head coach at his alma mater on Jan. 30. 2018. Milstead was a standout offensive lineman for the Hornets from 1988 to '91 before an eight-year career in the National Football League.

Offensively, QBs Keenan Black, 1,169 yards and 13 TDs last season, and QB Jack McDaniels, added 1,139 yards and 3 TDs, under center... Main targets include WR Taronn Selby, 35 receptions for 521 yards and 2 TDs, and WR Trey Gross, 27 catches for 428 yards and 7 TDs... RB Brycen Alleyn had 60 carries for 240 yards last season...Defensively, DB Jahad Niebauer led with 78 tackles, while LB Brian Cavicante, added 74 tackles, with 10 tackles for loss, 2 passes defensed... DB Keyjuan Selby led with two interceptions for 30 yards last season.

Head Coach: Lance Leipold
Career: 122-29 (11th year)   at Buffalo: 13-23 (4th year)
Football Contact: Jon Fuller, 716-645-6762, jfuller3@buffalo.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Emmanuel Reed (840 yds., 9 TDs)
Pass: QB Tyree Jackson (143-237 passing, 2,096 yards, 12 TDs)
Rec.: WR Anthony Johnson (76 rec., 1,356 yds., 14 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Khalil Hodge (154 tackles, 6.5 tfl, 3.0 sacks)
Sacks: DL Chuck Harris (73 tackles, 7.0 tfl, 4.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Brandon Williams (43 tackles, 1 INT)

Notes: Buffalo returns 16 starters (8 off./ 7 def./ 1 sp.) and 51 letterwinners from last year that finished 6-6 overall, 4-4 in the MAC...Last year Bulls set a school-record 5,183 yards of total offense on the season and led the MAC in passing offense (291.0 ypg)...LB Khalil Hodge led the nation in tackles with an FBS-era school-record 154 stops.

VMI (0-0, 0-0; Southern) at Toledo (0-0, 0-0; MAC)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 7:00 pm ET • Toledo, Ohio • Glass Bowl (26,038)
ESPN3
Series: First Meeting

Head Coach: Scott Wachenheim
Career: 5-28 (4th year)   at VMI: 5-28 (4th year)
Contact: Wade Branner, 540-464-7515, brannerwh@vmi.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Tyain Smith (54 att., 191 yards, 0 TDs)
Pass: QB Reece Udinski (51-94 passing, 432 yds., 2 TDs)
Rec.: WR Kris Thornton (33 rec., 340 yards, 2 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: DB Kaleb Tucker (54 tackles, 1.0 tfl)
Sacks: LB A.J. Smith (48 tackles, 2.0 tfl)

Notes: Keydets return 14 starters (7 off./5 def./ 2 spec.) and 60 letterwinners from last year's team that finished 0-11 overall, 0-8 in the Southern Conference...Head coach Scott Wachenheim is entering his fourth season in leading the VMI football program...OT Brad Davis was named to the 2018 preseason second team All-SoCon squad on offense.

Head Coach: Jason Candle
Career: 21-7 (3rd year)   at Toledo: 21-7 (3rd year)
Contact: Paul Helgren, 419-530-4918, paul.helgren@utoledo.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Shakif Seymour (116 att., 702 yds., 12 TDs)
Pass: QB -- NA --
Rec.: WR Diontae Johnson (74 rec., 1,278 yds., 13 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: DB Khalil Robinson (67 tackles, 4 INT)
Sacks: DL Nate Childress (29 tackles, 2.0 tfl, 1.0 sack)
Int.: DB Khalil Robinson (67 tackles, 4 INT)

Notes: Rockets return 14 starters (6 off./6 def./2 sp.) and 53 letterwinners from last year's 11-3 squad, 7-1 in the MAC...Rockets won the MAC Championship for the first time since 2004...Suffered a 34-0 loss to Appalachian State in the Dollar General Bowl...WR Cody Thompson returns after missing nine games last year due to leg injury.

Akron (0-0, 0-0; MAC) at Nebraska (0-0, 0-0; Big Ten)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 8:00 pm ET • Lincoln, Neb. • Memorial Stadium-Osborne Field (81,067)
FOX
Series: Nebraska leads 1-0

Head Coach: Terry Bowden
Career: 171-106-2 (25th year)   at Akron: 31-44 (7th year)
Contact: Cathy Bongiovi, 330-972-6106, cbongiovi@akron.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Van Edwards (94 att., 343 rushing yds., 2 TDs)
Pass: QB Kato Nelson (70-40 passing, 989 yards, 8 TDs)
Rec.: WR Kwadarrius Smith (34 rec., 726 yds., 7 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Ulysees Gilbert (140 tackles, 9.5 tfl, 6.0 sacks)
Sacks: LB Ulysees Gilbert (140 tackles, 9.5 tfl, 6.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Jordan George (71 tackles, 5 INT)

Notes: Akron returns 15 starters (6 off./9 def./3 sp.) and 58 letterwinners from last year's squad that finished 7-7 overall, 6-2 in MAC to win the East Division...Suffered a 50-3 loss to Florida Atlantic in the Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl...Won MAC East Division for the first time since 2005...LB Ulysees Gilbert was named All-MAC First Team.

Head Coach: Scott Frost
Career: 19-7 (3rd year)   at Nebraska: 0-0 (1st year)
Contact: Keith Mann, 402-472-2263, kmann@huskers.com

Notes: Cornhuskers return 50 lettermen and 15 starters from last year's team that finished 4-8 overall, 3-6 in the Big Ten...Last year head coach Scott Frost's offense at UCF led the nation in scoring and ranked fifth in total offense...WR Stanley Morgan Jr. returns after setting a Nebraska season record with 986 receiving yards in 2017...WR JD Spielman led all freshmen with 830 receiving yards en route to freshman All-America honors

last season... Nebraska's returning offensive linemen have combined for 60 career starts, the Huskers' highest total to begin a season since 2013.

Nebraska's returning defensive linemen have combined for 67 career starts, the Huskers' highest position total to begin a season since 2012... LB Dedrick Young II owns a team-high 201 career tackles and is the fourth Husker to record 200 tackles before his senior season..Young's 201 tackles are the most by a Husker entering his senior season since 2004.

Bowling Green (0-0, 0-0; MAC) at Oregon (0-0, 0-0; Pac-12)
Saturday, September 1, 2018 • 8:00 pm ET • Eugene, Ore. • Autzen Stadium (54,000)
Pac-12 Network
Series: First Meeting

Head Coach: Mike Jinks
Career: 6-18 (3rd year)   at Bowling Green: 6-18 (3rd year)
Football Contact: Jason Knavel, 419-372-7075, jknavel@bgsu.edu

Offense: (top returnees listed)
Rush: RB Andrew Clair (107 att., 725 rushing yds., 4 TDs)
Pass: QB Jarret Doege (120-188 passing, 1,381 yards, 12 TDs)
Rec.: WR Scott Miller (63 rec., 722 yds., 4 TDs)

Defense: (top returnees listed)
Tackles: LB Brandon Harris (92 tackles, 3.5 tfl, 3 forced fumbles)
Sacks: DL Kyle Junior (36 tackles, 6.5 tfl, 4.0 sacks)
Int.: DB Marcus Milton (60 tackles, 3 INT)

Notes: Return 15 starters (6 off./7 def./2 sp.) and 38 letterwinners from last year's team that finished 2-10 overall, 2-6 in the MAC...QB Jarret Doege started the final five games of last season and posted one of the two greatest statistical seasons by a true freshman QB in program history, and he threw for at least 250 yards four times.

Head Coach: Mario Cristobal
Career: 27-48 (7th year)   at Oregon: 0-1 (1st year)
Contact: Patrick Pierson, 541-346-2253, ppierson@uoregon.edu

Notes: Oregon finished last season 7-6 overall, 4-5 in the Pac-12, and a 38-28 loss to Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl...Mario Cristobal was named Oregon head coach after spending the 2017 season as Oregon's co-offensive coordinator, run-game coordinator and offensive line coach...He had previously been named Oregon's interim head coach for the Dec. 16 Las Vegas Bowl against Boise State.

Last year QB Justin Herbert completed 139-of-206 passes (67.5%) for 1,983 yards and 15 touchdowns, with five interceptions and a passer rating of 167.52...In 2017, DL Jalen Jelks led the team with 15 tackles for loss and 6.0 sacks, and ranked tied for fourth on the team with 59 total tackles...Also tied for fourth in tackles was LB Justin Hollins, who added 11.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks...DT Jordan Scott added 34 tackles in the middle and 4.5 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks.

2018 Akron Zips

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	at Nebraska	8:00 pm ET	FOX	Nebraska leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 8	Morgan State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Akron leads 2-0
Sat., Sept. 15	at Northwestern	7:30 pm ET	Big Ten Network	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 22	at Iowa State	TBA	TBA	Iowa State leads 1-0
Sat., Oct. 6	* Miami	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Miami leads 17-9-1
Sat., Oct. 13	*at Buffalo	TBA	TBA	Buffalo leads 10-7
Sat., Oct. 20	*at Kent State	TBA	TBA	Akron leads 34-24-2
Sat., Oct. 27	*Central Michigan	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 16-9-1
Thur., Nov. 1	*NIU	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU/CBS Sports Network	NIU leads 9-5
Sat., Nov. 10	*at Eastern Michigan	TBA	TBA	Akron leads 19-12
Sat., Nov. 17	*Bowling Green	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 16-8
Fri., Nov. 23	*at Ohio	TBA	TBA	Ohio leads 20-13-1

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Ball State Cardinals

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Thur., Aug. 30	Central Connecticut State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN+	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 8	at Notre Dame	3:30 pm ET	NBC	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 15	at Indiana	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	Indiana leads 5-3
Sat., Sept. 22	Western Kentucky	TBA	TBA	Series tied 2-2
Sat., Sept. 29	*Kent State	TBA	TBA	BSU leads 20-7
Sat., Oct. 6	*NIU	TBA	TBA	NIU leads 23-20-2
Sat., Oct. 13	*at Central Michigan	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 25-24-1
Sat., Oct. 20	*Eastern Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	BSU leads 34-23-1
Thur., Oct. 25	*at Ohio	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2/CBS Sports Network	BSU leads 15-9
Wed., Oct. 31	*at Toledo	7:30 pm ET	ESPN2	Toledo leads 23-19-1
Tue., Nov. 13	*Western Michigan	6:00 pm ET	ESPN2	WMU leads 25-19
Tue., Nov. 20	*at Miami	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU/ESPN+	Miami leads 18-12-1

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Bowling Green Falcons

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	at Oregon	8:00 pm ET	Pac-12 Network	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 8	Maryland	6:00 pm ET	ESPN+	BGSU leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 15	Eastern Kentucky	4:00 pm ET	ESPN3	EKU leads 3-1
Sat., Sept. 22	*Miami	TBA	TBA	Miami leads 43-24-5
Sat., Sept. 29	at Georgia Tech	TBA	TBA	First Meeting
Sat., Oct. 6	*at Toledo	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Series tied 39-39-4
Sat., Oct. 13	*Western Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	BGSU leads 32-18-3
Sat., Oct. 20	*at Ohio	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	BGSU leads 40-27-2
Tue., Oct. 30	*Kent State	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	BGSU leads 60-19-6
Sat., Nov. 10	*at Central Michigan	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 21-19
Sat., Nov. 17	*at Akron	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 16-8
Fri., Nov. 23	*Buffalo	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 11-4

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Buffalo Bulls

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	Delaware State	6:00 pm ET	ESPN3	Buffalo leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 8	at Temple	3:30 pm ET	ESPN3	Buffalo leads 12-4
Sat., Sept. 15	*Eastern Michigan	6:00 pm ET	ESPN+	EMU leads 6-1
Sat., Sept. 22	at Rutgers	TBA	TBA	Rutgers leads 5-1
Sat., Sept. 29	Army	TBA	TBA	Series tied 3-3
Sat., Oct. 6	*at Central Michigan	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 7-1
Sat., Oct. 13	*Akron	TBA	TBA	Akron leads 11-6
Sat., Oct. 20	*at Toledo	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 7-2
Tue., Oct. 30	*Miami	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Miami leads 14-6
Tue., Nov. 6	*Kent State	7:30 pm ET	ESPNU	Buffalo leads 12-11
Wed., Nov. 14	*at Ohio	7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Ohio leads 14-10
Fri., Nov. 23	*at Bowling Green	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 11-4

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Central Michigan Chippewas

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	at Kentucky	3:30 pm ET	ESPNU	Kentucky leads 6-0
Sat., Sept. 8	Kansas	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	Kansas leads 2-1
Sat., Sept. 15	*at NIU	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	CMU leads 29-23-1
Sat., Sept. 22	Maine	TBA	TBA	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 29	at Michigan State	TBA	TBA	MSU leads 7-3
Sat., Oct. 6	*Buffalo	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 7-1
Sat., Oct. 13	*Ball State	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 25-24-1
Sat., Oct. 20	*Western Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	WMU leads 48-39-2
Sat., Oct. 27	*at Akron	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 16-9-1
Sat., Nov. 3	*at Eastern Michigan	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 60-29-6
Sat., Nov. 10	*Bowling Green	TBA	TBA	BGSU leads 22-18
Fri., Nov. 23	*at Toledo	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 25-18-3

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Eastern Michigan Eagles

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Fri., Aug. 31	Monmouth	6:30 pm ET	ESPN+	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 8	at Purdue	Noon ET	Big Ten Network	Purdue leads 2-0
Sat., Sept. 15	*at Buffalo	6:00 pm ET	ESPN+	EMU leads 6-1
Sat., Sept. 22	at San Diego State	10:30 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 29	*NIU	6:00 pm ET	ESPN+	NIU leads 32-14-2
Sat., Oct. 6	*at Western Michigan	Noon ET	TBA	WMU leads 33-18-2
Sat., Oct. 13	*Toledo	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 34-11
Sat., Oct. 20	*at Ball State	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	BSU leads 34-23-2
Sat., Oct. 27	Army	TBA	TBA	Army leads 7-1
Sat., Nov. 3	*Central Michigan	TBA	TBA	CMU leads 60-29-6
Sat., Nov. 10	*Akron	TBA	TBA	Akron leads 19-12
Fri., Nov. 23	*at Kent State	TBA	TBA	Kent State leads 17-13

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Kent State Golden Flashes

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	at Illinois	12:00 pm ET	Big Ten Network	Illinois leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 8	Howard	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	KSU leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 15	at Penn State	Noon ET	FS1	Penn State leads 5-0
Sat., Sept. 22	at Ole Miss	TBA	TBA	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 29	*at Ball State	TBA	TBA	BSU leads 20-7
Sat., Oct. 6	*Ohio	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Ohio leads 43-25-2
Sat., Oct. 13	*at Miami	TBA	TBA	Miami leads 48-17
Sat., Oct. 20	*Akron	TBA	TBA	Akron leads 34-24-2
Tue., Oct. 30	*at Bowling Green	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	BGSU leads 60-19-6
Tue., Nov. 6	*at Buffalo	7:30 pm ET	ESPNU	Buffalo leads 12-11
Thur., Nov. 15	*Toledo	6:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	Toledo leads 25-21
Fri., Nov. 23	*Eastern Michigan	TBA	TBA	KSU leads 17-13

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Miami RedHawks

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	Marshall	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Miami leads 30-13-1
Sat., Sept. 8	Cincinnati (at Paul Brown Stadium)	8:00 pm ET	Raycom/ESPN3	Miami lead 59-56-7
Sat., Sept. 15	at Minnesota	3:30 pm ET	Big Ten Network	Minnesota leads 3-0
Sat., Sept. 22	*at Bowling Green	TBA	TBA	Miami leads 43-24-5
Sat., Sept. 29	*Western Michigan	3:30 pm ET	TBA	Miami leads 37-21-1
Sat., Oct. 6	*at Akron	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Miami leads 17-9-1
Sat., Oct. 13	*Kent State	TBA	TBA	Miami leads 48-17
Sat., Oct. 20	at Army	Noon ET	TBA	Miami leads 3-2
Tue., Oct. 30	*at Buffalo	8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Miami leads 14-6
Wed., Nov. 7	*Ohio	7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Miami leads 52-40-2
Wed., Nov. 14	*at NIU	7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	NIU leads 9-7
Tue., Nov. 20	*Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU/ESPN+	Miami leads 18-11-1

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Northern Illinois Huskies

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	at Iowa	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	Big Ten Network	Iowa leads 8-1
Sat., Sept. 8	Utah	7:30 pm ET/6:30 pm CT	ESPNews	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 15	*Central Michigan	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	ESPN+	CMU leads 29-23-1
Sat., Sept. 22	at Florida State	TBA	TBA	FSU leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 29	*at Eastern Michigan	6:00 pm ET/5:00 pm CT	ESPN+	NIU leads 32-14-2
Sat., Oct. 6	*at Ball State	TBA	TBA	NIU leads 23-20-2
Sat., Oct. 13	*Ohio	3:30 pm ET/2:30 pm CT	ESPN Networks	NIU leads 11-10
Sat., Oct. 27	at BYU	TBA	TBA	First Meeting
Thur., Nov. 1	*at Akron	7:00 pm ET/6:00 pm CT	ESPNU/CBS Sports Network	NIU leads 9-5
Wed., Nov. 7	*Toledo	TBA	ESPN2/ESPNU	Toledo leads 31-14
Wed., Nov. 14	*Miami	TBA	ESPN2/ESPNU	NIU leads 9-8
Tue., Nov. 20	*at Western Michigan	7:00 pm ET/6:00 pm CT	ESPNU/ESPN+	WMU leads 24-19

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Ohio Bobcats

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	Howard	2:00 pm ET	ESPN+	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 15	at Virginia	3:00 pm ET	ACC Network Extra	Virginia leads 1-0
Sat., Sept. 22	at Cincinnati	TBA	TBA	Series tied 23-23-4
Sat., Sept. 29	UMass	TBA	TBA	Ohio leads 3-0
Sat., Oct. 6	*at Kent State	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Ohio leads 43-25-2
Sat., Oct. 13	*at NIU	3:30 pm ET	ESPN Networks	NIU leads 11-10
Sat., Oct. 20	*Bowling Green	2:00 pm ET	ESPN3	BGSU leads 40-27
Thur., Oct. 25	*Ball State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2/CBS Sports Network	BSU leads 15-9
Thur., Nov. 1	*at Western Michigan	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU/CBS Sports Network	WMU leads 33-28-1
Wed., Nov. 7	*at Miami	7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Miami leads 52-40-2
Wed., Nov. 14	*Buffalo	7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Ohio leads 13-11
Fri., Nov. 23	*Akron	TBA	TBA	Ohio leads 19-14-1

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Toledo Rockets

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Sat., Sept. 1	VMI	7:00 pm ET	ESPN3	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 15	Miami (Fla.)	Noon ET	ABC/ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU	Miami (Fla.) leads 2-0
Sat., Sept. 22	Nevada	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 4-0
Sat., Sept. 29	at Fresno State	TBA	ESPN Networks	Fresno State leads 2-1
Sat., Oct. 6	*Bowling Green	3:30 pm ET	ESPN+	Series tied 39-39-4
Sat., Oct. 13	*at Eastern Michigan	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 34-11
Sat., Oct. 20	*Buffalo	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 7-3
Thur., Oct. 25	*at Western Michigan	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2/CBS Sports Network	Toledo leads 41-30
Wed., Oct. 31	*Ball State	7:30 pm ET	ESPN2	Toledo leads 23-19-1
Wed, Nov. 7	*at NIU	7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm ET	ESPN2/ESPNU	Toledo leads 31-14
Thur., Nov. 15	*at Kent State	6:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	Toledo leads 25-21
Fri., Nov. 23	*Central Michigan	TBA	TBA	Toledo leads 25-18-3

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Western Michigan Broncos

Date	Opponent	Time	Television	Series/Results
Fri., Aug. 31	Syracuse	6:00 pm ET	CBS Sports Network	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 8	at Michigan	Noon ET	FS1	Michigan leads 6-0
Sat., Sept. 15	Delaware State	7:00 pm ET	ESPN+	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 22	at Georgia State	TBA	TBA	First Meeting
Sat., Sept. 29	*at Miami	3:30 pm ET	TBA	Miami leads 37-21-1
Sat., Oct. 6	*Eastern Michigan	Noon ET	TBA	WMU leads 33-17-2
Sat., Oct. 13	*at Bowling Green	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	BGSU leads 32-18-3
Sat., Oct. 20	*at Central Michigan	3:00 pm ET	ESPN+	WMU leads 48-38-2
Thur., Oct. 25	*Toldo	7:00 pm ET	ESPN2/CBS Sports Network	Toledo leads 43-30
Thur., Nov. 1	*Ohio	7:00 pm ET	ESPNU/CBS Sports Network	WMU leads 33-28-1
Tue., Nov. 13	*at Ball State	6:00 pm ET	ESPN2	WMU leads 25-19
Tue., Nov. 20	*NIU	TBA	TBA	WMU leads 24-18

*Mid-American Conference game

2018 Non-Conference Opponents

ACC (5)
Florida State (NIU)
Georgia Tech (Bowling Green)
Miami (Toledo)
Syracuse (Western Michigan)
Virginia (Ohio)

American Athletic (3)
Cincinnati (Miami; Ohio)
Temple (Buffalo)

Big Ten (12)
Illinois (Kent State)
Indiana (Ball State)
Iowa (NIU)
Maryland (Bowling Green)
Michigan (Western Michigan)
Michigan State (Central Michigan)
Minnesota (Miami)
Nebraska (Akron)
Northwestern (Akron)
Penn State (Kent State)
Purdue (Eastern Michigan)
Rutgers (Buffalo)

Big 12 (2)
Iowa State (Akron)
Kansas (Central Michigan)

Conference USA (2)
Marshall (Miami)
Western Kentucky (Ball State)

Mountain West (3)
Fresno State (Toledo)
Nevada (Toledo)
San Diego State (Eastern Michigan)

Pac-12 (2)
Oregon (Bowling Green)
Utah (NIU

SEC (2)
Kentucky (Central Michigan)
Ole Miss (Kent State)

Sun Belt (1)
Georgia State (Western Michigan)

Independent (6)
Army (3) (Buffalo; Eastern Michigan; Miami)
BYU (NIU)
Notre Dame (Ball State)
UMass (Ohio)

FCS Opponents (I-AA)

Big South (1)
Monmouth (Eastern Michigan)

Colonial Athletic (1)
Maine (Central Michigan)

MEAC (5)
Delaware State (Buffalo; Western Michigan)
Howard (Kent State; Ohio)
Morgan State (Akron)

Northeast (1)
Central Connecticut (Ball State)

Ohio Valley (1)
Eastern Kentucky (Bowling Green)

Southern (1)
VMI (Toledo)

MAC Students on 2018 Preseason Watch Lists

WALTER CAMP AWARD (Best College Football Player)
WR Diontae Johnson (Toledo)

MAXWELL AWARD (Outstanding College Football Player)
RB James Gilbert (Ball State)
WR Anthony Johnson (Buffalo)
WR James Gardner (Miami)
QB Nathan Rourke (Ohio)

CHUCK BEDNARIK AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)
LB Ulysees Gilbert III (Akron)
LB Khalil Hodge (Buffalo)
DE Maxx Crosby (Eastern Michigan)
LB Sutton Smith (Northern Illinois)

BILETNIKOFF AWARD (Top Wide Receiver)
James Gardner (Miami); Justin Hall (Ball State);
Anthony Johnson (Buffalo); Diontae Johnson (Toledo);
Scott Miller (Bowling Green); Kwadarrius Smith (Akron);
Cody Thompson (Toledo)

BRONKO NAGURSKI AWARD (Defensive Player of the Year)
DE Maxx Crosby (Eastern Michigan)
LB Ulysees Gilbert III (Akron)
LB Khalil Hodge (Buffalo)
DE Sutton Smith (Northern Illinois)

DICK BUTKUS AWARD (Best Linebacker)
Khalil Hodge (Buffalo)

EARL CAMPBELL TYLER ROSE AWARD (Top Offensive Player)
QB Jarret Doege (Bowling Green)

LOU GROZA AWARD (Outstanding Kicker)
Jameson Vest (Toledo)
Louie Zervos (Ohio)

TED HENDRICKS AWARD (Top Defensive End)
Maxx Crosby (Eastern Michigan)
Sutton Smith (Northern Illinois)

PAUL HORNUNG AWARD (Most Versatile Player)
RB Andrew Clair (Bowling Green)
RB Malik Dunner (Ball State)
WR Diontae Johnson (Toledo)

MANNING AWARD (Best Quarterback)
Nathan Rourke (Ohio)
Gus Ragland (Miami)

JOHN MACKEY AWARD (Best Tight End)
Nate Becker (Miami)
Nolan Givan (Ball State)
Tyler Mabry (Buffalo)
Giovanni Ricci (Western Michigan).

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (Top Quarterback)
Tyree Jackson (Buffalo)
QB Nathan Rourke (Ohio)

OUTLAND AWARD (Top Interior Lineman)
OG Luke Juriga (Western Michigan); C John Keenoy (Western Michigan);
OG Jimmy Leatiota (Eastern Michigan); OT Joe Lowery (Ohio);
OT Max Scharping (NIU)

RIMINGTON TROPHY (Most Outstanding Center)
Andrew Poenitsch (Ball State); James O'Hagan (Buffalo);
Dakota Tallman (Eastern Michigan); Danny Godlevske (Miami);
Luke Shively (Northern Illinois); John Keenoy (Western Michigan)

RAY GUY AWARD (Best College Punter)
Derek Adams (Kent State)

JIM THORPE AWARD (Best Defensive Back)
S Kyron Brown (Akron)
S Javon Hagan (Ohio)

JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD (Top Quarterback)
Tyree Jackson (Buffalo)
Gus Ragland (Miami)

DOAK WALKER AWARD (Top Running Back)
LeVante Bellamy (Western Michigan); Jamauri Bogan (Western Michigan);
Andrew Clair (Bowling Green); Ian Eriksen (Eastern Michigan);
Emmanuel Reed (Buffalo); Kenny Young (Miami)

WUERFFEL TROPHY (Best Community Service)
QB Riley Neal (Ball State); DL Mitch Stanitzek (Central Michigan);
OL Jeremy Hickey (Eastern Michigan); LB Matt Bahr (Kent State);
WR James Gardner (Miami); OL Max Scharping (NIU);
WR Cody Thompson (Toledo); RB Jamauri Bogan (Western Michigan);
DB Justin Tranquill (Western Michigan)