



2026 MAC FOOTBALL RELEASE

2026 STANDINGS

	MAC						OVERALL							
	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	W	L	Pct.	Stk	H	A	N	Next Opp.
Eastern Michigan	1	0	1.000	W1	1-0	0-0	1	1	.500	L1	1-1	0-0	0-0	at Michigan State (9/12)
Buffalo	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	1	0	1.000	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0	at FIU (9/12)
UMass	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	1	0	1.000	W1	0-0	1-0	0-0	vs. Sacred Heart (9/12)
Sacramento State	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	1	1	.500	L1	1-0	0-1	0-0	at Fresno State (9/12)
Akron	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Robert Morris (9/12)
Ball State	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Stony Brook (9/12)
Bowling Green	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	0-0	at Nebraska (9/12)
Central Michigan	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Colgate (9/12)
Kent State	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Wofford (9/12)
Miami	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Holy Cross (9/12)
Ohio	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Jacksonville State (9/12)
Toledo	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. CCSU (9/12)
Western Michigan	0	0	.000	--	0-0	0-0	0	1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0	vs. Monmouth (9/12)

WEEK 2 SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 12

Wofford at Kent State	Noon ET (ESPN+)
Colgate at Central Michigan	1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Holy Cross at Miami	1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Stony Brook at Ball State	2 PM ET (ESPN+)
Robert Morris at Akron	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sacred Heart at UMass	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
CCSU at Toledo	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Eastern Michigan at Michigan State	3:30 PM ET (Big Ten Network)
Jacksonville State at Ohio	6 PM ET (ESPN+)
Buffalo at FIU	6 PM ET (ESPN+)
Monmouth at Western Michigan	6:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Bowling Green at Nebraska	7 PM ET (FS1)
Sacramento State at Fresno St.	10:30 PM ET (CBS Sports Network)

RECENT RESULTS

Thursday, September 3

UMass at Rutgers	UMass, 37-21
Akron at Wake Forest	Wake Forest, 38-16
Albany at Buffalo	Buffalo, 21-17

Friday, September 4

San Jose State at Eastern Michigan	San Jose State, 27-21
Toledo at Michigan State	Michigan State, 30-20

Saturday, September 5

Tarleton State at Bowling Green	Tarleton State, 20-13
Ohio at Nebraska	Nebraska, 49-21
Miami at Pitt	Pitt, 59-14
Ball State at Ohio State	Ohio State, 56-3
Kent State at South Carolina	South Carolina, 57-0
Western Michigan at Michigan	Michigan, 13-12
MVSU at Sacramento State	Sacramento State, 52-0
Central Michigan at New Mexico	New Mexico, 38-7

2 MINUTE DRILL

• UMass opened the 2026 season with a 37-21 Fly the Flag victory over Rutgers, scoring 30 unanswered points after falling behind 7-0. William "Pop" Watson III threw for 197 yards and three touchdowns, while the Minutemen rushed for 200 yards and forced four turnovers. The victory marked UMass' first over an FBS opponent since 2023 and its largest road win over an FBS opponent since 2014. For their performance, the Minutemen were named the Pop-Tarts Bowl Crazy Good Team of the Week. Additionally, head coach Joe Harasymiak (Dodd Trophy Coach of the Week), Watson (Davey O'Brien Great 8 Quarterback List) and Derek Morris (Lou Groza Star of the Week) earned individual honors for their contributions.

• Sacramento State earned its first victory as a member of the MAC and an FBS program with a dominant 52-0 win over Mississippi Valley State on Saturday night. Jackson Sharman threw for 247 yards and four touchdowns in his first start as a Hornet, while Matt Coleman caught six passes for 141 yards and three scores. Sacramento State finished with 453 yards of offense while limiting Mississippi Valley State to 147 total yards in its largest shutout victory since 1988.

• Buffalo opened its 2026 season with a 21-17 victory over Albany on Thursday night, scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 4:53 remaining before making a goal-line stand to preserve the win. Elijah Holmes threw for 189 yards and three touchdowns in his first career start for the Bulls, with all three scores going to Chance Morrow. Morrow finished with a career-high seven receptions and three touchdowns, becoming the first Buffalo player with three touchdown catches in a game since Anthony Johnson in 2018.

• Western Michigan head football coach Lance Taylor was named the Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach of the Week following the Broncos' impressive performance at No. 16 Michigan on Saturday.

• The MAC is well represented across NFL rosters, with 70 former MAC student-athletes earning spots on teams' initial rosters. The New England Patriots lead the league with five MAC representatives, while 18 other franchises have multiple players from MAC institutions.



MAC MEDIA SERVICES

GetSomeMACtion.com

The official Mid-American Conference website is hosted by SIDE-ARM Sports. Live stats & streaming information will be available for each game, and box scores will be posted on GetSomeMACtion.com following the conclusion of each contest. You can also find:

- MAC Football Standings
- Team-by-Team Statistics and Results
- Overall and Conference-Only Statistics (PDF available)
- Weekly Release (PDF available)
- Players of the Week

Statistics/Weekly Releases

The MAC will post updated statistics to the Conference website no later than the morning following every game. The MAC Players of the Week will be announced each Monday, while the weekly release will be published each Thursday. You may obtain this information either on the Conference website or via email.

Players of the Week

Mid-American Conference Players of the Week will be released every Monday from August 31 - November 30. Nominations are submitted by the institutional sports information offices and the winners are selected by the MAC staff. Weekly award winners are selected for offense, defense and special teams.

CollegePressBox.com

Collegepressbox is the official media website for Division I football. Access and download game notes, quotes, statistics, media guides, headshots, logos and more for all FBS schools, conferences, postseason games, awards and the College Football Playoff. For access, please register for an account at collegepressbox.com/register.

Weekly Press Conferences

The Conference office will compile & provide weekly head coach press conference footage via YouTube. A weekly playlist of these press conferences will be sent to the media. If you would like to be included on the weekly release/weekly press conference e-mail, please reach out via e-mail to Jeremy Guy (jguy@mac-sports.com)

Social Media

The best way to stay on top of all the #MACtion is to follow the Mid-American Conference online. Visit the Conference's official website (GetSomeMACtion.com) and follow the MAC's official social media channels:



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2026 MAC FOOTBALL RELEASE

WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE

All times listed ET | *Conference game

Saturday, August 29

*Sacramento State at Eastern Michigan Eastern Michigan, 28-17

Thursday, September 3

UMass at Rutgers UMass, 37-21
Akron at Wake Forest Wake Forest, 38-16
Albany at Buffalo Buffalo, 21-17

Friday, September 4

San Jose State at Eastern Michigan San Jose State, 27-21
Toledo at Michigan State Michigan State, 30-20

Saturday, September 5

Tarleton State at Bowling Green Tarleton State, 20-13
Ohio at Nebraska Nebraska, 49-21
Miami at Pitt Pitt, 59-14
Ball State at Ohio State Ohio State, 56-3
Kent State at South Carolina South Carolina, 57-0
Western Michigan at Michigan Michigan, 13-12
MVSU at Sacramento State Sacramento State, 52-0
Central Michigan at New Mexico New Mexico, 38-7

Saturday, September 12

Wofford at Kent State Noon ET (ESPN+)
Colgate at Central Michigan 1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Holy Cross at Miami 1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Stony Brook at Ball State 2 PM ET (ESPN+)
Robert Morris at Akron 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sacred Heart at UMass 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
CCSU at Toledo 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Eastern Michigan at Michigan State 3:30 PM ET (Big Ten Network)
Jacksonville State at Ohio 6 PM ET (ESPN+)
Buffalo at FIU 6 PM ET (ESPN+)
Monmouth at Western Michigan 6:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Bowling Green at Nebraska 7 PM ET (FS1)
Sacramento State at Fresno State 10:30 PM ET (CBS Sports Network)

Saturday, September 19

Bowling Green at Iowa State Noon ET (ESPN+)
Kent State at Ohio State Noon ET (FOX)
Buffalo at Penn State Noon ET (Big Ten Network)
Akron at Minnesota Noon ET (Big Ten Network)
Eastern Michigan at Wisconsin 12:30 PM ET (Peacock)
Wyoming at Central Michigan 1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Temple at Toledo 3 PM ET (CBS Sports Network)
Stonehill at UMass 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Miami at Cincinnati 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Ball State at Liberty 4 PM ET (ESPN+)
Western Michigan at Rice 7 PM ET (ESPN+)
Ohio at South Alabama 7 PM ET (ESPN+)
North Dakota State at Sacramento State 10:30 PM ET (ESPN)

Saturday, September 26

Lindenwood at Eastern Michigan 1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Robert Morris at Buffalo 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Stonehill at Ohio 3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Central Michigan at Miami (FL) 6:30 PM ET (The CW)
UNLV at Akron TBD
*Ball State at Kent State TBD
South Florida at Bowling Green TBD
UConn at Miami TBD
*UMass at Sacramento State TBD
San Diego State at Toledo TBD
Boise State at Western Michigan TBD

Saturday, October 3

*Akron at Central Michigan TBD
*Toledo at Ball State TBD
*Bowling Green at Miami TBD
*Western Michigan at Buffalo TBD
*Eastern Michigan at UMass TBD
*Ohio at Kent State TBD

Saturday, October 10

*Eastern Michigan at Akron TBD
*Sacramento State at Bowling Green TBD
*Buffalo at Toledo TBD
*Central Michigan at Ohio TBD
*Kent State at Western Michigan TBD
*Miami at UMass TBD
Ball State at Northwestern TBD

Saturday, October 17

*Akron at Miami TBD
*Ball State at Bowling Green TBD
*UMass at Buffalo TBD
*Western Michigan at Central Michigan TBD
*Toledo at Eastern Michigan TBD
Kent State at South Florida TBD
*Ohio at Sacramento State TBD

Friday, October 23

UMass at UConn 7:00 PM ET (CBS Sports Network)

Saturday, October 24

*Akron at Kent State TBD
*Sacramento State at Ball State TBD
*Bowling Green at Buffalo TBD
*Miami at Central Michigan TBD
*Eastern Michigan at Ohio TBD
*Western Michigan at Toledo TBD

Friday, October 30

*Kent State at Sacramento State 10:30 PM ET (ESPN2)

Saturday, October 31

*Bowling Green at Western Michigan 12 PM ET (CBS Sports Network)

Tuesday, November 3

*Ohio at Akron 7 PM ET (TBD)
*Buffalo at Miami 7 PM ET (TBD)

Wednesday, November 4

*Ball State at UMass TBD
*Central Michigan at Eastern Michigan TBD
*Toledo at Sacramento State TBD

Tuesday, November 10

*Western Michigan at Akron 7 PM ET (TBD)
*Kent State at Bowling Green 7 PM ET (TBD)
*Ohio at Miami 7 PM ET (TBD)

Wednesday, November 11

*Buffalo at Ball State TBD
*Sacramento State at Central Michigan TBD
*UMass at Toledo TBD

Tuesday, November 17

*Ball State at Ohio TBD
*Eastern Michigan at Western Michigan TBD
*Miami at Kent State TBD

Wednesday, November 18

*Akron at UMass TBD
*Central Michigan at Buffalo TBD

Friday, November 20

*Bowling Green at Toledo TBD

Tuesday, November 24

*Kent State at Eastern Michigan TBD
*Miami at Western Michigan TBD

Friday, November 27

*Buffalo at Akron Noon ET (TBD)
*Toledo at Ohio Noon ET (TBD)

Saturday, November 28

*Central Michigan at Ball State Noon ET (TBD)
*UMass at Bowling Green Noon ET (TBD)
Sacramento State at Hawaii TBD

Saturday, December 5

MAC Football Championship Game Noon ET (ESPN)



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

MAC Football Offensive Player of the Week: Pop Watson III, UMass, QB



Leading UMass to a 37-21 win at Big Ten foe Rutgers on September 3, Watson totaled 197 passing yards on an efficient 19-for-22 night (86.36%) while throwing for three touchdowns, including a 31-yard strike to Joseph Griffin Jr. Watson III also rushed six times for 40 yards (6.7 yards per rush) and did not take a sack as the Minutemen snapped a 16-game losing streak and beat a current P4 opponent for the first time since joining FBS. Watson III became the first UMass quarterback with three passing touchdowns and an 80% completion rate in a game in the FBS era, and the first since current Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Liam Coen in 2008. The win was the first for UMass since beating Wagner on October 26, 2024, and marked the program's first FBS win since winning at Army on Oct. 28, 2023.

MAC Football Defensive Player of the Week: Jahmad Harmon, UMass, S



Harmon had a pair of second-half interceptions to help seal UMass' 37-21 win at Big Ten foe Rutgers on September 3. It marked the first two interceptions of his career. A native of Indianapolis, Ind., Harmon also had three tackles (two solo) as the Minutemen snapped a 16-game losing streak.

MAC Football Special Teams Player of the Week: Derek Morris, UMass, K



Morris helped lead UMass to a 37-21 win at Big Ten foe Rutgers on September 3, going 3-for-3 on field goal attempts and 4-for-4 on extra points to account for 13 points in the win, which helped the Minutemen snap a 16-game losing streak and beat a current P4 opponent for the first time since joining the FBS ranks. Morris hit field goals of 52, 31 and 30 yards. Also handling kickoff duties, he went 8-for-8 on forcing touchbacks.



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2026 PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Monday, August 31

Offensive: Noah Kim, Eastern Michigan, QB
Defensive: Zach Mowchan, Eastern Michigan, LB
Special Teams: Nick Devereaux, Eastern Michigan, WR

Monday, September 7

Offensive: William "Pop" Watson, UMass, QB
Defensive: Jahmad Harmon, UMass, S
Special Teams: Derek Morris, UMass, K

Monday, September 14

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, September 21

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, September 28

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, October 5

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, October 12

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, October 19

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, October 26

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, November 2

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, November 9

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, November 16

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, November 23

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:

Monday, November 30

Offensive:
Defensive:
Special Teams:



MAC NOTES

• FLY THE FLAG! UMass Defeats Rutgers in Week 1

UMass opened the 2026 season with a 37-21 victory over Rutgers on Thursday night at SHI Stadium in Piscataway, N.J. The Minutemen erased an early 7-0 deficit by scoring 30 unanswered points to take a 30-7 lead in the fourth quarter and secure their first victory over the Scarlet Knights since 1973.

For its performance, UMass earned Pop-Tarts Bowl Crazy Good Team of the Week honors.

The Minutemen controlled the ground game, rushing for 200 yards while limiting Rutgers to just 27. Curtis Kimmons IV led UMass with 78 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries. In total, the Minutemen finished with a 397-346 advantage in total offense.

Defensively, UMass forced four turnovers with three interceptions and a fumble recovery. Jahmad Harmon recorded two interceptions, becoming the first Minuteman with multiple picks in a game since Isaiah Rodgers had two against Rutgers in 2019.

- The victory was UMass' first season-opening win since defeating New Mexico State, 41-30, in 2023.
- It was the Minutemen's first win over an FBS opponent since a 21-14 victory at Army West Point on Oct. 28, 2023.
- The 16-point margin was UMass' largest against an FBS opponent since a 55-20 win over Georgia Southern on Oct. 21, 2017.
- It was UMass' largest road margin of victory over an FBS opponent since a 40-17 win at Kent State on Oct. 11, 2014.
- The victory was Joe Harasymiak's first as UMass head coach. Harasymiak previously served as Rutgers' defensive coordinator from 2022-24.
- UMass rushed for 200 yards, its first 200-yard rushing performance since recording 226 against No. 10 Georgia on Nov. 23, 2024.

• UMass' Joe Harasymiak Earns Dodd Trophy Coach Of The Week

UMass head coach Joe Harasymiak was selected as The Dodd Trophy Coach of the Week, as announced by officials from the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation and each Bowl, Inc., on Wednesday afternoon.

Opening the season against a power conference opponent in Rutgers, Harasymiak's squad took a 24-7 lead at halftime and held on for a decisive 37-21 victory over the Scarlet Knights.

The victory marked a successful homecoming for Harasymiak, a New Jersey native who was twice nominated for the Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant coach while serving as the defensive coordinator at Rutgers.

It also marked the team's first win since October of 2024, and their first win over an FBS opponent since defeating Army on Oct. 28, 2023. The 16-point margin of victory was the program's largest against an FBS team on the road since defeating Kent State 40-17 during the 2014 season.

• UMass' Watson III Placed On Davey O'Brien Great 8 Quarterback List

UMass' William "Pop" Watson III was selected to the Davey O'Brien Great 8 quarterbacks list for the first week of the 2026 regular season, as announced by the Davey O'Brien Foundation.

The Davey O'Brien National Quarterback of the Week, tabbed from the Great 8 list, will be revealed Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 12 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. CT.

Leading UMass to a 37-21 win at Big Ten foe Rutgers on September 3, Watson III totaled 197 passing yards on an efficient 19-for-22 night (86.36%) while throwing for three touchdowns, including a 31-yard strike to Joseph Griffin Jr.

Watson III also rushed six times for 40 yards (6.7 yards per rush) and did not take a sack as the Minutemen snapped a 16-game losing streak and beat a current P4 opponent for the first time since joining FBS.

Watson III became the first UMass quarterback with three passing touchdowns and an 80% completion rate in a game in the FBS era, and the first since current Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Liam Coen in 2008. The win was the first for UMass since beating Wagner on October 26, 2024, and marked the program's first FBS win since winning at Army on Oct. 28, 2023.

• UMass' Morris Tabbed A Lou Groza Star Of The Week

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award presented by the Orange Bowl named junior kicker Derek Morris of the University of Massachusetts football team as a Star of the Week.

Morris is one of three top kickers from the FBS division teams to be recognized this week, alongside Liam Boyd of Michigan State and fellow Mid-American Conference kicker Dieter Kelly of Western Michigan.

Morris helped lead UMass to a 37-21 win at Big Ten foe Rutgers, going 3-for-3 on field goal attempts and 4-for-4 on extra points to account for 13 points in the win, which helped the Minutemen snap a 16-game losing streak and beat a current power conference opponent for the first time since joining the FBS ranks.

The Dayton, Ohio, native connected from 52, 31, and 30 yards out, marking the first time a UMass kicker made three field goals in one game since Jacob Lurie at Toledo on Sept. 7, 2024. Also handling kickoff duties, Morris was 8-for-8 on forcing touchbacks. His 52-yarder was a season-long in the year's first contest, having twice broken the program record for long field goals with a 53-yard and then a 55-yard field goal last season.

• Sacramento State Earns First FBS-Era Victory

Sacramento State earned its first victory of the FBS era with a dominant 52-0 win over Mississippi Valley State on Saturday night. The Hornets scored in all four quarters, including 31 points in the first half, and improved to 1-1 on the season.

Sacramento State controlled the game on both sides of the ball, compiling 453 yards of total offense while limiting Mississippi Valley State to just 147. The Hornets rushed for 203 yards and threw for 250 while holding the Delta Devils to 43 passing yards and six first downs.

Quarterback Jackson Sharman made his first career start as a Hornet and completed 18-of-28 passes for 247 yards and four touchdowns. Wide receiver Matt Coleman was his top target, finishing with six receptions for 141 yards and three touchdowns, including a 63-yard score in the third quarter.

Defensively, Sacramento State held Mississippi Valley State to 2.8 yards per play and a 2-of-15 mark on third down. The Hornets also recorded four sacks and seven tackles for loss, while Boogie Silvera led the team with seven tackles. Sacramento State also made an impact on special teams, blocking a punt and recovering an onside kick.

- The victory marked Sacramento State's first win as an FBS program.
- The 52-point margin was Sacramento State's largest in a shutout since a 60-0 victory over Cal Lutheran in 1988.
- The shutout was the Hornets' first since a 34-0 victory at East Texas A&M in 2024 and their first at home since a 44-0 win over Northern Arizona in 2021.



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- Sharman matched the Sacramento State record with four touch-down passes in a player's first start for the Hornets.
- Coleman became the first Sacramento State player with three receiving touchdowns in a game since Pierre Williams against Southern Oregon in 2019.
- The game was played in front of 18,523 fans, marking the largest season-opening crowd and fifth-largest overall crowd in Sacramento State history.
- Freshman Chakai Scott blocked a punt for the second consecutive game, with the play setting up Sacramento State's first touch-down.

• WMU's Lance Taylor Named Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach of the Week

Western Michigan head football coach Lance Taylor has been named the Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach of the Week following the Broncos' impressive performance at No. 16 Michigan on Saturday.

Western Michigan went toe-to-toe with the nationally ranked Wolverines at Michigan Stadium, taking a 12-7 lead into the final seconds before ultimately falling, 13-12, on a Hail Mary as time expired.

The Broncos delivered a standout defensive performance, forcing three turnovers and keeping Michigan off the scoreboard for nearly the entire game following the Wolverines' opening touch-down drive. From the end of that opening possession until the game's final play, Western Michigan held Michigan to just 122 yards of total offense.

Sophomore junior college transfer kicker Dieter Kelly was a perfect 4-for-4 in his Western Michigan debut, connecting from 52, 45, 39 and 33 yards. His 39-yard field goal gave the Broncos a 9-7 fourth-quarter lead, while his 33-yarder with 35 seconds remaining extended WMU's advantage to 12-7.

Taylor, a member of the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians, was a three-year letterwinner at Alabama from 1999-2002 and is a second-generation member of the Crimson Tide. His father, James, played on three Southeastern Conference championship teams under legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, including the 1973 UPI national championship team.

• Going Bowling

Five MAC teams received and accepted bowl invitations following the 2025 regular season:

- Western Michigan (10-4, 7-1 MAC)
- Ohio (9-4, 6-2 MAC)
- Central Michigan (7-6, 5-3 MAC)
- Toledo (8-5, 6-2 MAC)
- Miami (7-7, 6-2 MAC)

MAC Programs and Years Invited to Bowl Games Since 2011

Ohio (12): 2011; 2012; 2013; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025
 Toledo (12): 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025
 Western Michigan (9): 2011; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2018; 2019; 2021; 2024; 2025

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Central Michigan (8): 2012; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2019; 2021; 2025
 Miami (7): 2016; 2019; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025
 Bowling Green (7): 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2022; 2023; 2024
 Buffalo (6): 2013; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2022; 2024
 Eastern Michigan (6): 2016; 2018; 2019; 2021; 2022; 2023
 Ball State (4): 2012; 2013; 2020; 2021
 Kent State (3): 2012; 2019; 2021
 Akron (2): 2015; 2017

Year: MAC Programs Invited to Bowl Games

2011 (5): Northern Illinois; Ohio; Toledo; Western Michigan; Temple
 2012 (7): Northern Illinois; Kent State; Ohio; Bowling Green; Ball State; Central Michigan; Toledo
 2013 (5): Northern Illinois; Bowling Green; Ball State; Ohio; Buffalo
 2014 (5): Northern Illinois; Bowling Green; Toledo; Central Michigan; Western Michigan
 2015 (7): Bowling Green; Northern Illinois; Toledo; Western Michigan; Central Michigan; Ohio; Akron
 2016 (6): Western Michigan; Ohio; Toledo; Eastern Michigan; Central Michigan; Miami
 2017 (5): Toledo; Akron; Ohio; Central Michigan; Northern Illinois
 2018 (6): Northern Illinois; Buffalo; Ohio; Toledo; Western Michigan; Eastern Michigan
 2019 (7): Buffalo; Kent State; Central Michigan; Eastern Michigan; Western Michigan; Ohio; Miami
 2020 (2): Buffalo; Ball State
 2021 (8): Toledo; Northern Illinois; Eastern Michigan; Kent State; Miami; Ball State; Western Michigan; Central Michigan
 2022 (6): Miami; Eastern Michigan; Toledo; Bowling Green; Buffalo; Ohio
 2023 (6): Ohio; Miami; Northern Illinois; Eastern Michigan; Bowling Green; Toledo
 2024 (7): Western Michigan; Ohio; Northern Illinois; Toledo; Bowling Green; Miami; Buffalo
 2025 (5): Ohio; Western Michigan; Central Michigan; Toledo; Miami

• Bowling for Wins

The MAC continues to make its mark during bowl season, with Ohio and Buffalo owning two of the longest active bowl-winning streaks in the nation.

Ohio enters the 2026 season riding a seven-game bowl-winning streak, the second-longest active streak in the country behind only Minnesota's nine consecutive victories. The Bobcats' streak dates back to 2017 and includes bowl victories in each of their last seven postseason appearances.

Consecutive Bowl Wins

School	Bowl Wins	Length of Streak
1. Minnesota	9	2015-2025
2. Ohio	7	2017-2025
3. Northwestern	6	2016-2025
4. Air Force	5	2016-2023
TCU	5	2017-2025
6. Buffalo	4	2019-2024
Navy	4	2017-2025

Buffalo also ranks among the nation's best, sitting tied for sixth with four consecutive bowl victories dating back to 2019. The Bobcats and Bulls make the MAC one of the few conferences with multiple programs among the national leaders in consecutive bowl wins.



MAC NOTES

• Ready for Takeoff (To a Winning Season)

Toledo has posted a winning season for 16 straight years, the third-longest streak in the FBS:

Longest Streaks Without a Losing Season

School	Years	Streak Began
1. Boise State	28	1997
2. Alabama	18	2007
3. Toledo	16	2009
4. Georgia	15	2010
Clemson	15	2010
6. Ohio State	14	2011
7. Iowa	13	2012

Additionally, the Rockets kept their bowl-eligibility streak alive for the 16th straight season in 2025, which is the sixth-longest streak in the nation:

FBS Bowl Eligibility Streaks

School	Years	Streak Began
1. Georgia	29	1997
2. Boise State	28	1998
3. Oklahoma	27	1999
Clemson	27	1999
5. Alabama	22	2004
6. Toledo	16	2010
7. Ohio State	13	2013
Iowa	13	2013
9. Memphis	12	2014

• Running It Back

2025 MAC champion and preseason favorite Western Michigan ranks 10th in the nation in returning touchdowns at an 85.4 percent clip.

In total, the Broncos' 35 touchdowns rank 21st in the nation and lead the MAC by nine touchdowns (Bowling Green, 26).

The Broncos are just one of four schools in the conference to return at least 50 percent of their production from last season:

Returning Production in MAC

1. Western Michigan	85.4%
2. Akron	80.0%
3. Ball State	78.8%
4. Bowling Green	73.5%

Additionally, the majority of the team's returning touchdowns come via the ground game (26 of 35).

Returning WMU Rushing Touchdowns

1. Broc Lowry	14 (53.8%)
2. Jalen Buckley	9 (34.7%)
3. Ofa "Lolo" Mataele	3 (11.5%)

Those 26 returning rushing touchdowns tie the Broncos for fifth in the nation.

• No Place Like Home

The Ohio Bobcats posted their 13th straight home win with a midweek victory over the UMass Minutemen on Nov. 18, 2025, marking the longest streak in program history.

The Bobcats have finished the last two seasons with a perfect 6-0 record at Frank Solich Field at Peden Stadium.

Ohio's home winning streak is currently the second-longest streak in the FBS:

Longest Active Home Winning Streaks:

1. Indiana	16 wins
2. Ohio	13 wins
3. Ole Miss	12 wins
4. Texas	10 wins
5. UConn	9 wins
Ohio State	9 wins
Texas Tech	9 wins
USC	9 wins

Overall, the Bobcats are 23-1 at home since 2022.

• #MAcAction on Group of Five All-Time Wins List

Miami (third) and Central Michigan (sixth) rank among the top 10 Group of Five programs in all-time wins:

Group of Five All-Time Wins (According to CFB Home):

1. Navy	759 wins
2. Army	746 wins
3. Miami	740 wins
4. Appalachian State	674 wins
5. Fresno State	661 wins
6. Central Michigan	658 wins
7. Tulsa	655 wins
8. Louisiana Tech	654 wins
9. Marshall	644 wins
10. Western Kentucky	630 wins

As of Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026

• MAC Championship Game History

App.	School	W-L (Win %)	Year(s) Won
9	NIU	5-4 (.556)	2011, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2021
6	Marshall	5-1 (.833)	1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002
8	Miami	4-4 (.500)	2003, 2010, 2019, 2023
8	Toledo	4-4 (.500)	2001, 2004, 2017, 2022
4	WMU	2-2 (.500)	2016, 2025
4	CMU	3-1 (.750)	2006, 2007, 2009
4	BGSU	2-2 (.500)	2013, 2015
3	Buffalo	1-2 (.333)	2008
2	Akron	1-1 (.500)	2005
2	Ball State	1-1 (.500)	2020
6	Ohio	1-5 (.167)	2024
2	Kent State	0-2 (.000)	-----

MAC Football Championship Game Results (Since 2010)

2025: Western Michigan 23, Miami 13
2024: Ohio 38, Miami 3
2023: Miami 23, Toledo 14
2022: Toledo 17, Ohio 7
2021: Northern Illinois 41, Kent State 23
2020: Ball State 38, Buffalo 28
2019: Miami 26, Central Michigan 21
2018: Northern Illinois 30, Buffalo 29
2017: Toledo 45, Akron 28
2016: Western Michigan 29, Ohio 23
2015: Bowling Green 34, Northern Illinois 14
2014: Northern Illinois 51, Bowling Green 17
2013: Bowling Green 47, Northern Illinois 27
2012: Northern Illinois 44, Kent State 37 (2OT)
2011: Northern Illinois 23, Ohio 20
2010: Miami 26, Northern Illinois 21



2026 MAC FOOTBALL RELEASE

MACTION ON PRESEASON WATCH LISTS

• MACtion on the 2026 Preseason Watch Lists

The Mid-American Conference was represented by 31 selections across 15 preseason watch lists recognizing the nation's top student-athletes entering the 2026 season.

Western Michigan quarterback Broc Lowry and Ohio safety DJ Walker received a conference-high three preseason nods.

Maxwell Award

Jordan Gant, Akron
Broc Lowry, Western Michigan
Jalen Buckley, Western Michigan

Outland Trophy

Evan Malcore, Miami
Chad Schuster, Western Michigan

Bronko Nagurski

Bryce Llewellyn, Eastern Michigan
Josh Franklin, Western Michigan

John Mackey Award

Terik Mulder, Kent State
Joshua Long, Eastern Michigan

Rimington Trophy

Nicholas Gallegos, Eastern Michigan

Paul Hornung Award

Keith Reynolds, Miami

Wuerffel Trophy

Caden Britton, Ball State
Stevie Bracey, Buffalo
Angel Flores, Central Michigan
Dennis Strey Jr., Eastern Michigan
Wayne Harris, Kent State
Riley Bloch, UMass
DJ Walker, Ohio
Derek Houston, Sacramento State
Matt Hofer, Toledo
Dakari Frazier, Western Michigan

Lombardi Award

Chad Schuster, Western Michigan

Jim Thorpe Award

DJ Walker, Ohio

Butkus Award

Blayne Myrick, Miami

Ray Guy Award

Pierse Stainton, Miami

Walter Camp Award

Broc Lowry, Western Michigan

Doak Walker Award

Braydon Bennett, Eastern Michigan
Vaughn Blue, Central Michigan
CJ Miller, Toledo

Davey O'Brien Award

Broc Lowry, Western Michigan

Chuck Bednarik Award

DJ Walker, Ohio



MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

2026 MAC FOOTBALL RELEASE

TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

AKRON ZIPS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Thurs., Sept. 3	at Wake Forest	L, 16-38
Sat., Sept. 12	Robert Morris	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Minnesota	12 PM ET (BTN)
Sat., Sept. 26	UNLV	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Central Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*Eastern Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Miami	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Kent State	TBD
Tues., Nov. 3	*Ohio	TBD
Tues., Nov. 10	*Western Michigan	TBD
Wed., Nov. 18	*at UMass	TBD
Fri., Nov. 27	*Buffalo	12 PM ET

BUFFALO BULLS (1-0, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Thurs., Sept. 3	Albany	W, 21-17
Sat., Sept. 12	at FIU	6 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Penn State	12 PM ET (BTN)
Sat., Sept. 26	Robert Morris	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Oct. 3	*Western Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Toledo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*UMass	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*Bowling Green	TBD
Tues., Nov. 3	*at Miami	TBD
Wed., Nov. 11	*at Ball State	TBD
Wed., Nov. 18	*Central Michigan	TBD
Fri., Nov. 27	*at Akron	12 PM ET

BALL STATE CARDINALS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	at Ohio State	L, 3-56
Sat., Sept. 12	Stony Brook	2 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Liberty	4 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 26	*at Kent State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*Toledo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	at Northwestern	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Bowling Green	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*Sacramento State	TBD
Wed., Nov. 4	*at UMass	TBD
Wed., Nov. 11	*Buffalo	TBD
Tues., Nov. 17	*at Ohio	TBD
Sat., Nov. 28	*Central Michigan	12 PM ET

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	at New Mexico	L, 7-38
Sat., Sept. 12	Colgate	1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	Wyoming	1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 26	at Miami	6:30 PM ET (The CW)
Sat., Oct. 3	*Akron	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Ohio	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*Western Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*Miami	TBD
Wed., Nov. 4	*vs. Eastern Michigan	TBD
Wed., Nov. 11	*Sacramento State	TBD
Wed., Nov. 18	*at Buffalo	TBD
Sat., Nov. 28	*at Ball State	12 PM ET (TBD)

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	Tarleton State	L, 13-20
Sat., Sept. 12	at Nebraska	7 PM ET (FS1)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Iowa State	12 PM ET (ESPNU)
Sat., Sept. 26	South Florida	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Miami	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*Sacramento State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*Ball State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Buffalo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 31	*at Western Michigan	12 PM ET (CBSSN)
Tues., Nov. 10	*Kent State	TBD
Fri., Nov. 20	*at Toledo	7:30 PM ET (TBD)
Sat., Nov. 28	*UMass	12 PM ET (TBD)

EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES (1-1, 1-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Aug. 29	*Sacramento State	W, 28-17
Fri., Sept. 4	San Jose State	L, 21-27
Sat., Sept. 12	at Michigan State	3:30 PM ET (BTN)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Wisconsin	12:30 PM ET (Peacock)
Sat., Sept. 26	Lindenwood	1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Oct. 3	*at UMass	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Akron	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*Toledo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Ohio	TBD
Wed., Nov. 4	*vs. Central Michigan	TBD
Tues., Nov. 17	*at Western Michigan	TBD
Tues., Nov. 24	*Kent State	TBD



2026 MAC FOOTBALL RELEASE

TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	at South Carolina	L, 0-57
Sat., Sept. 12	Wofford	12 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Ohio State	12 PM ET (FOX)
Sat., Sept. 26	*Ball State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*Ohio	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Western Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	South Florida	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*Akron	TBD
Fri., Oct. 30	*at Sac State	10:30 PM ET (TBD)
Tues., Nov. 10	*at Bowling Green	TBD
Tues., Nov. 17	*Miami	TBD
Tues., Nov. 24	*at Eastern Michigan	TBD

UMASS MINUTEMEN (1-0, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Thu., Sept. 3	at Rutgers	W, 37-21
Sat., Sept. 12	Sacred Heart	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	Stonehill	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 26	*at Sacramento State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*Eastern Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*Miami	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Buffalo	TBD
Fri., Oct. 23	at UConn	7 PM ET (CBSSN)
Wed., Nov. 4	*Ball State	TBD
Wed., Nov. 11	*at Toledo	TBD
Wed., Nov. 18	*Akron	TBD
Sat., Nov. 28	*at Bowling Green	12 PM ET (TBD)

MIAMI REDHAWKS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	at Pitt	L, 14-59
Sat., Sept. 12	Holy Cross	1 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Cincinnati	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 26	UConn	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*Bowling Green	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*at UMass	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*Akron	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Central Michigan	TBD
Tues., Nov. 3	*Buffalo	TBD
Tues., Nov. 10	*Ohio	TBD
Tues., Nov. 17	*at Kent State	TBD
Tues., Nov. 24	*at Western Michigan	TBD

OHIO BOBCATS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	at Nebraska	L, 21-49
Sat., Sept. 12	Jacksonville State	6 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at South Alabama	7 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 26	Stonehill	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Kent State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*Central Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Sac State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*Eastern Michigan	TBD
Tues., Nov. 3	*at Akron	TBD
Tues., Nov. 10	*at Miami	TBD
Tues., Nov. 17	*Ball State	TBD
Fri., Nov. 27	*Toledo	TBD

SAC STATE HORNETS (1-1, 0-1 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Aug. 29	*at Eastern Michigan	L, 17-28
Sat., Sept. 5	Miss. Valley State	W, 52-0
Sat., Sept. 12	at Fresno State	10:30 PM ET (CBSSN)
Sat., Sept. 19	North Dakota St.	10:30 PM ET (ESPN)
Sat., Sept. 26	*UMass	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*at Bowling Green	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*Ohio	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Ball State	TBD
Fri., Oct. 30	*Kent State	10:30 PM ET (TBD)
Wed., Nov. 4	*Toledo	TBD
Wed., Nov. 11	*at Central Michigan	TBD
Sat., Nov. 28	Hawaii	11 PM ET (MW+)

TOLEDO ROCKETS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Fri., Sept. 4	at Michigan State	L, 20-30
Sat., Sept. 12	Central Conn. St.	3:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	Temple	3 PM ET (CBSSN)
Sat., Sept. 26	San Diego State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Ball State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*Buffalo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Eastern Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*Western Michigan	TBD
Wed., Nov. 4	*at Sac State	TBD
Wed., Nov. 11	*UMass	TBD
Fri., Nov. 20	*Bowling Green	TBD
Fri., Nov. 27	*at Ohio	TBD

WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS (0-1, 0-0 MAC)



Date	Opponent	Time/TV
Sat., Sept. 5	at Michigan	L, 12-13
Sat., Sept. 12	Monmouth	6:30 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 19	at Rice	7 PM ET (ESPN+)
Sat., Sept. 26	Boise State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 3	*at Buffalo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 10	*Kent State	TBD
Sat., Oct. 17	*at Central Michigan	TBD
Sat., Oct. 24	*at Toledo	TBD
Sat., Oct. 31	*Bowling Green	12 PM ET (CBSSN)
Tues., Nov. 10	*at Akron	TBD
Tues., Nov. 17	*Eastern Michigan	TBD
Tues., Nov. 24	*Miami	TBD