



2005 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Kim Melcher
Phone: (615) 371-1698

Ohio Valley Conference
215 Centerview Drive, Suite 115
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
www.ovcsports.com

2005 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

THE SPORTS NETWORK PRESEASON POLL

1. James Madison
2. Furman
3. Montana
4. Eastern Washington
5. Southern Illinois
6. Georgia Southern
7. New Hampshire
8. Western Kentucky
9. William & Mary
10. Delaware
11. Northwestern State
12. Northern Iowa
13. Hampton
14. Lehigh
15. Massachusetts
16. Sam Houston State
17. Cal Poly
18. Montana State
19. Harvard
20. **Jacksonville State**
21. Wofford
22. North Dakota State
23. Texas State
24. Hofstra
25. Grambling State

OVC GAMES

	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	Strk.
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Eastern Kentucky	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Jacksonville State	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Murray State	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Samford	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Southeast Missouri	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Tennessee-Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Tennessee State	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Tennessee Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	--

ALL GAMES (Season begins Sept. 1)

	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	Strk.
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Eastern Kentucky	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Jacksonville State	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Murray State	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Samford	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Southeast Missouri	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Tennessee-Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Tennessee State	0	0	.000	0	0	--
Tennessee Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	--

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

So. Illinois at **Southeast Missouri** - 6:00 p.m.
Central Arkansas at **UT Martin** - 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Illinois at Indiana State - 7:00 p.m.
Furman at **Jacksonville St.** - 7:00 p.m. (CSTV)
Edward Waters at **Samford** - 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Tennessee Tech at Chattanooga - 5:00 p.m.
Appalachian St. at **Eastern Kentucky** - 5:30 p.m.
Murray State at Mississippi State - 6:00 p.m.
Alabama A&M at **Tennessee St.** - 6:00 p.m. (CSS)
All Times Central

OTHER PRESEASON POLLS

ESPN / USA TODAY PRESEASON POLL

1. James Madison
2. Furman
3. Montana
4. Eastern Washington
5. Southern Illinois
6. Georgia Southern
7. Western Kentucky
8. New Hampshire
9. Williams & Mary
10. Delaware
11. Northwestern State
12. Northern Iowa
13. Hampton
14. Lehigh
15. Sam Houston State
16. Massachusetts
17. Cal Poly
18. Montana State
19. Wofford
20. Harvard
21. **Jacksonville State**
22. North Dakota State
23. Grambling
24. South Carolina State
25. Alabama State

LINDY'S

1. Montana
2. Southern Illinois
3. James Madison
4. Georgia Southern
5. Eastern Washington
6. William & Mary
7. Northwestern State
8. Furman
9. Delaware
10. Western Kentucky
11. Massachusetts
12. Wofford
13. Hampton
14. Villanova
15. New Hampshire
16. Bethune-Cookman
17. Harvard
18. Northern Iowa
19. South Carolina State
20. Northeastern
21. Lehigh
22. Cal Poly
23. **Jacksonville State**
24. Grambling State
25. Montana State

STREET & SMITH'S

1. Furman
2. James Madison
3. Montana
4. New Hampshire
5. Southern Illinois
6. Eastern Washington
7. Delaware
8. Georgia Southern
9. Grambling State
10. Western Kentucky
11. Hampton
12. Northwestern State
13. William & Mary
14. Lehigh
15. Alabama State
16. Cal Poly
17. Wofford
18. Lafayette
19. Texas State
20. Appalachian State
21. **Jacksonville State**
22. Penn
23. Drake
24. Coastal Carolina
25. LaSalle

2005 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS - SEPT. 1/3



Eastern Illinois Panthers (0-0) at Indiana State Sycamores (0-0)

Thursday, Sept. 1 • 7:00 p.m. CT • Memorial Stadium (12,764)



THE MATCHUP: Long-time rivals Eastern Illinois and Indiana State are squaring off for the 80th time in a series that dates back to 1902...EIU holds a 38-37-4 edge in the series; however, ISU boasts a 16-15-2 lead in games played at home...The Sycamores have won the last two meetings, including a 33-30 overtime contest last year in Charleston...The Panthers' last victory in Terre Haute was a 42-24 decision in the 2000 season opener...Both teams have assistant coaches that have worked for the opposing institution in past years. EIU quarterbacks coach **Steve Brickey** and defensive line assistant **Shannon Jackson** worked at ISU in 2004, while Sycamore offensive coordinator **Charley Molnar** spent the 2001 season with the Panthers.

EIU OFFENSE: Nine starters return from a 2004 offensive unit that averaged 26.5 points a game...Head coach **Bob Spoo** will be looking for those veterans to rally around sophomore and projected starting QB **Mike Donato**, who steps in after receiving only a handful of snaps last season...Junior RB **Vincent Webb** (1,106 yds., 12 TD) will head up the Panthers' ground game after averaging nearly five yards a carry a year ago, while junior TE **Ryan Voss** (46 rec., 784 yds., 7 TD) hopes to continue the success that earned him first team All-OVC honors last season...Senior C **Pascal Matla** anchors an experienced offensive line that brings back four of five starters.

EIU DEFENSE: The Panthers welcome back eight defensive starters, including one of the league's top secondary threats in junior All-OVC CB **Ben Brown**, who ranked 5th nationally in pass defense in '04, intercepting five passes and knocking down 16 more...All-OVC senior DE **Kory Lothe** also returns after a solid junior campaign in which he registered 9.5 tackles for loss and tied for the league lead in sacks (6.0)...Junior FS **Tristan Burge** emerged as a strong defender during his sophomore year, ranking second on the squad with 91 tackles.

SCOUTING ISU: Former Toledo defensive coordinator **Lou West** returns 13 starters as he takes over the reins of an Indiana State program looking to bounce back from a disappointing 4-7 effort in 2004 that saw the Sycamores drop their final six games...Junior QB **Phillip Johnson** (155-308, 1,946 yds.) was one of three signal-callers who helped ISU pass for a school-record 2,307 yards last season...Junior WR **Sam Logan** (760 yds., 2 TD) should benefit from West's new wide-open offense after hauling in a school-record 55 passes in 2004...Senior linebackers and top tacklers **Doc Gooden** (106 tackles) and **LaDrelle Bryant** (101 tackles) are expected to play a key role in ISU's new 4-2 defensive alignment.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

EIU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

ISU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 Gateway

LAST WEEK

EIU: Season opener

ISU: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

EIU leads, 38-37-4

LAST MEETING

2004: ISU 33, EIU 30 (OT)

HEAD COACHES

EIU: Bob Spoo

Purdue, '60

110-95-1 at EIU, 19th Yr.

ISU: Lou West

Cincinnati, '76

0-0 at ISU, 1st Yr.



Furman Paladins (0-0) at Jacksonville State Gamecocks (0-0)

Thursday, Sept. 1 • 7:00 p.m. CT • Paul Snow Stadium (15,000)



THE MATCHUP: Two-time defending OVC champion Jacksonville State and defending SoCon champ Furman face off for just the second time following last year's first-ever meeting, a 49-7 victory by Furman in the first round of last year's I-AA Playoffs...The Paladins enter the 2005 campaign ranked No. 2 in *The Sports Network's* pre-season poll, while the Gamecocks are No. 20...Both teams are preseason favorites to win their respective leagues in 2005...JSU will be putting a nine-game home win streak on the line...Thursday's game will be televised on CSTV, with **Carter Blackburn** calling the play-by-play and **Frank Stams** providing color commentary.

JSU OFFENSE: Head coach **Jack Crowe** has a proven quarterback in senior **Maurice Mullins** (94-151, 1,376 yds., 6 TD), who resumes control of an offense that racked up league-highs of 444.5 yards and 37.5 points per game last season...Mullins will be taking snaps from a new set of hands as senior All-OVC guard **Rod Olds** takes over for former All-American John Pettus at center...For the third straight season, the Gamecocks' run-oriented offense takes the field with an inexperienced running back, although junior **Clay Green** (84 att., 484 yds., 5 TD) is expected to get the lion's share of the touches.

JSU DEFENSE: Jax State's defensive unit is down to six returning starters following the departure of senior CB **Dexter Sistrunk**, who recently left the team to concentrate on his studies...Junior All-American **Craig Agee**, the nation's top punt returner a year ago (20.5 ypr), has been moved from wide receiver to corner...Three of the Gamecocks' top six stoppers from '04 are back for another go-round, led by junior FS **Kenny Brown** (66 tackles)...Also back are senior rover **Haneef Haqq** (56 tackles) and senior LB **Derrick Sistrunk** (48 tackles).

SCOUTING FURMAN: Head coach **Bobby Lamb** welcomes back 13 starters from last year's squad, including 2004 SoCon Defensive Player of the Year and All-American **William Freeman** (100 tackles, 11 TFL, 4.5 sacks)...Freeman, a Buchanan Award candidate, helped key a Paladin defense that held opponents to just 16.6 points a game last season...Senior QB and Payton Award candidate **Ingle Martin** (198-320, 2,792 yds., 22 TD) may also take over full-time punting duties for Furman this season...The senior trio of guards **Patrick Covington** and **Brian Laggis** and center **Corey Stewart** have combined for 64 starts and 4,102 snaps.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

JSU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

FUR: 0-0 overall, 0-0 SoCon

LAST WEEK

JSU: Season opener

FUR: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

Furman leads, 1-0

LAST MEETING

Furman, 49-7

HEAD COACHES

JSU: Jack Crowe

UAB, '70

31-24 at JSU, 6th Yr.

FUR: Bobby Lamb

Furman, '87

24-12 at Furman, 4th Yr.

2005 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS - SEPT. 1/3



Edward Waters Tigers (0-1) at Samford Bulldogs (0-0)

Thursday, Sept. 1 • 7:00 p.m. CT • Seibert Stadium (6,700)



THE MATCHUP: Samford takes on an NAIA opponent for the first time in nine years, playing host to Edward Waters in the first-ever meeting between the two teams...The Bulldogs are 26-12-2 in season-openers at home, including 3-0 under head coach **Bill Gray**...The Tigers are hoping to rebound from last week's 70-12 season-opening loss to North Carolina Central.

SAMFORD OFFENSE: Seven starters return on the offensive side of the ball, but the key to the Bulldogs' success in 2005 will be finding replacements for the record-setting duo of quarterback Ray Nelson and wide receiver Efrem Hill...Sophomore signal-callers **Parker Gargis** and **Jefferson Adcock** are the top candidates to run the Bulldogs' spread offense, while senior **Ossie Buchannon** (43 rec., 400 yds.), junior **Freddy Young** (38 rec., 316 yds.) and sophomore **Jeff Moore** (30 rec., 426 yds.) put in their bid to fill Hill's shoes...Junior **Justin Ray** should provide Samford with a speedy alternative on the ground after switching from defensive back to running back.

SAMFORD DEFENSE: The Bulldogs' top four tacklers from a year ago return among eight starters on defense, including head stopper and senior FS **Cortland Finnegan** (86 tackles), who has been the squad's top tackler in each of the last two seasons. Also back are senior FS **Brad Booth** (63 tackles) and junior linebackers **Calvin Hodge** (69 tackles) and **Steve Tennin** (78 tackles, 9.0 TFL).

SCOUTING EWC: Head coach **Lamonte Massie** re-started the Tiger program in 2001 after a 34-year hiatus...With just two returning starters on each side of the ball, Edward Waters is in rebuilding mode following an 8-3 campaign in 2004...The top offensive returnee is junior TE **Victor Jones** (10 rec., 158 yds., 2 TD)...Defensively, the Tigers' strength lies in the secondary behind junior All-American **Antwan Nicolas** and senior **Leonard Ellis**, who combined for 11 interceptions and 272 return yards in 2004 while collecting 54 and 55 tackles, respectively.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

EWC: 0-1 overall

SAM: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

LAST WEEK

EWC: NCCU 70, EWC 12

SAM: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

First meeting

LAST MEETING

First meeting

HEAD COACHES

EWC: Lamonte Massie

Tuskegee, '90

21-18 at EWC, 5th Yr.

SAM: Bill Gray

Mississippi College, '83

19-19 at Samford, 4th Yr.



Southern Illinois Salukis (0-0) at Southeast Missouri Redhawks (0-0)

Thursday, Sept. 1 • 6:00 p.m. CT • Houck Stadium (10,000)



THE MATCHUP: The 74th meeting between Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri marks the longest series for either team, having started in 1913. Southeast holds a 36-28-8 advantage in the series, but has dropped two straight to the Salukis, including a 42-3 decision last year in Carbondale...SIU is ranked No. 5 in *The Sports Network's* preseason poll...The 2005 season marks the 75th anniversary of Houck Stadium.

SEMO OFFENSE: Despite some key losses that included All-American tight end Ray Goodson, seven offensive starters return for the Redhawks in '05, including senior WR **Jamel Oliver**, who ranked among OVC leaders in all-purpose yardage (918 yds.) a year ago...Joining Oliver in the receiving corps will be seniors **Oge Oge** (33 rec., 426 yds., 3 TD), **Brian Matthews** (39 rec., 446 yards, 5 TD) and **T.J. Milcic** (37 rec., 533 yds., 2 TD)...Senior QB **Mike Haley** takes over the offense after seeing limited playing time last year behind record-setting signal-caller Andrew Goodenough...Starting sophomore OG **Francisco Perez** will miss the SIU game due to a shoulder injury.

SEMO DEFENSE: With assistant coach **Damon Bradford** still on active military duty in Iraq, head coach **Tim Billings** will once again act as defensive coordinator...After an injury-plagued 2004 season, the secondary hales the return of a healthy **Mike Miller**, who recorded 86 tackles and three interceptions last year despite still feeling the effects of a 2003 leg injury...Two Division I-A transfers, **Sam Scroggins** (Minnesota) and **Aaron McKenzie** (Wake Forest) are expected to add some depth on the defensive front...Also returning is All-American punter **David Simonhoff**, who ranked second nationally and set an OVC record with his 46.0 punting average in '04.

SCOUTING SIU: The Saluki offense is guided by senior QB and Payton Award candidate **Joel Sambursky**, who has started 36 consecutive games while leading SIU to back-to-back Gateway Conference titles under head coach **Jerry Kill**...Junior TB **Arkee Whitlock** ran for 959 yards and a healthy 6.4 average in 2004, while senior WR **Brent Little** was a big-play threat through the air, averaging a Gateway-best 23.5 yards per catch...Senior LB **Royal Whitaker** heads a list of seven starters returning from a Saluki defensive unit that ranked first in the nation in scoring defense (13.1 ppg) last season while also finishing among the Top 10 in run, pass and total defense.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

SIU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 Gateway

SEMO: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

LAST WEEK

SIU: Season opener

SEMO: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

SEMO leads, 36-28-8

LAST MEETING

2004: SIU, 42-3

HEAD COACHES

SIU: Jerry Kill

Southwestern, '83

25-22 at SIU, 5th Yr.

SEMO: Tim Billings

SE Oklahoma, '79

23-34 at SEMO, 6th Yr.

2005 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS - SEPT. 1/3



Central Arkansas Bears (0-0) at Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks (0-0)

Thursday, Sept. 1 • 6:30 p.m. CT • Hardy Graham Stadium (7,500)



THE MATCHUP: Tennessee-Martin kicks off the 2005 campaign at home, playing host to Division II Central Arkansas...The Bears are coming off a 51-0 rout of Eastern New Mexico last Thursday, marking the largest margin of victory for UCA in a season opener since 1919.

UTM OFFENSE: After missing four games in each of the last two seasons, senior QB **Brady Wahlberg's** biggest challenge may be staying healthy...He leads a group of 10 returning starters from last year's offense that also includes sophomore RB **Donald Chapman**, whose school-record 1,084 yards as a rookie earned him 2004 OVC Freshman of the Year honors...Wahlberg will also have the luxury of throwing to last year's favorite target, All-OVC junior WR **Taurean Stephens**, who finished second in the league with 67 receptions.

UTM DEFENSE: On defense, head coach **Matt Griffin** lost his second and third leading tacklers from a year ago in linebackers John Castillo and Russell Gambrell...However, junior LB **Markeseo Jackson**, who led the Conference with both 116 tackles and four forced fumbles in 2004, returns along with senior FS **Jason Coleman** (56 tackles, 4 INT) and junior DL **Andre Plummer** (46 tackles, 10 TFL)...Coleman heads a Skyhawk secondary that led the OVC in pass defense in 2004, surrendering 179.8 yards per game.

SCOUTING UCA: Head coach **Clint Conque** returns 18 starters and 41 lettermen from last year's squad...Senior QB **Chris Reil** completed 11 of 15 passes for 227 yards and three touchdowns last week as the Bears racked up 553 yards of offense en route against ENMU...Senior WR **Michael Norvell** hauled in four catches for 68 yards to set a new school record for career receptions (174)...Senior RB **Kentrel Rogers** had 112 yards and a TD on 17 carries, while sophomore and fellow 1,000-yard rusher **Willie Hopson** had nine totes for 81 yards and a score...UCA's defensive unit held ENMU to just 125 yards with junior DE **Jacob Ford** earning Defensive Player of the Game honors after finishing with four tackles, one sack and two forced fumbles.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

UCA: 1-0 overall, 0-0 Gulf South

UTM: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

LAST WEEK

UCA 51, ENMU 0

UTM: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

N/A

LAST MEETING

N/A

HEAD COACHES

UCA: Clint Conque

Nicholls State, '82

34-23 at UCA, 6th Yr.

UTM: Matt Griffin

New Hampshire, '92

4-19 at UTM, 3rd Yr.



Appalachian State Mountaineers (0-0) at Eastern Kentucky Colonels (0-0)

Saturday, Sept. 3 • 5:30 p.m. CT • Roy Kidd Stadium (20,000)



THE MATCHUP: Eastern Kentucky will be looking to snap a four-game losing streak in season openers when the Colonels play host to Southern Conference foe Appalachian State on Saturday...The home team has won each of the past four games in the series and eight all-time, with ASU holding a 7-3 lead in the 10 meetings...EKU hasn't lost at home to the Mountaineers since ASU recorded the series' only shutout in a 19-0 victory in 1998...Saturday marks the first time EKU has opened at home since a 41-0 rout of Glenville State in 2000...Colonel offensive line coach **Shawn Clark** was a two-time All-American at Appalachian State.

EKU OFFENSE: Injuries to the Colonels' top three quarterbacks in 2004 sent QB **Josh Greco** (91-174, 1,048 yds., 4 TD) into a starting role as a true freshman...Along with all five starters on the offensive line, Greco welcomes back his top two pass catchers in All-OVC senior WR **Andre Ralston** (36 rec.) and All-OVC junior TE **Patrick Bugg** (29 rec.), who combined for 1,000 yards and nine scores a year ago...The Colonels' backfield was hardest hit with the graduation of 4,000-yard rusher C.J. Hudson. Looking to step up will be sophomore RB **Mark Dunn**, who ran for 141 yards and three TD's as a true freshman in '04.

EKU DEFENSE: The Colonels have some holes to fill on defense heading into the 2005 campaign after losing 2003 OVC Defensive Player of the Year Justen Rivers, All-American FS Pierre Wright and three D-line players...The return of All-OVC senior LB and Buck Buchanan Award candidate **Jerome Jones** (113 tackles, 15.0 TFL), tabbed by *The Sports Network* as the second-best linebacker in I-AA football this year, should help ease the loss of Rivers...The bulk of the Colonels' secondary also returns in junior CB **James Gaines** (51 tackles), senior CB **Tremayne Perkins** (30 tackles, 3 INT) and senior SS **Carl Hayden** (43 tackles, 3 INT).

SCOUTING ASU: Head coach **Jerry Moore's** offense has big shoes to fill with the loss of All-American DaVon Fowlkes, who led the nation in most receiving categories last season...However, the Mountaineers return senior QB and Payton Award candidate **Richie Williams**, who was the league leader in total offense with 3,393 yards...Williams will have coverage set by All-SoCon linemen **Grant Oliver** and **Matt Isenhour**...Senior WR **Zach Johnson** (20 rec., 231 yds.) will step into Fowlkes' shoes...The defense returns eight starters to the field with S **Corey Lynch** and CB **Dominick Dingle** leading the defensive effort.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

ASU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 SoCon

EKU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

LAST WEEK

ASU: Season opener

EKU: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

ASU leads, 7-3-0

LAST MEETING

2004: ASU, 49-21

HEAD COACHES

ASU: Jerry Moore

Baylor, '61

128-64 at ASU, 17th Yr.

EKU: Danny Hope

Eastern Kentucky, '81

13-10 at EKU, 3rd Yr.

2005 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS - SEPT. 1/3



Murray State Racers (0-0) at Mississippi State Bulldogs (0-0)

Saturday, Sept. 3 • 6:00 p.m. CT • Davis Wade Stadium (55,082)



THE MATCHUP: Murray State and Southeastern Conference member Mississippi State meet for the first time since 1946, a 69-0 decision won by the Bulldogs...The Racers' head athletic trainer, **Alan Lollar**, is a Mississippi State graduate and former Bulldog trainer...Saturday's game marks a homecoming of sorts for Murray State junior QB **Ken Topps**, senior RB **Nick Turner** and redshirt freshman TE **Linzy Patterson**, all of whom began their collegiate careers at Mississippi State...Murray State enters the 2005 season with a four-game win streak.

MUR OFFENSE: Offensively, head coach **Joe Pannunzio** will have seven familiar faces returning from the '04 squad, including one of the league's top tailback tandems in Turner (746 yds., 7 TD) and junior **Chad Cook** (834 yds., 11 TD)...Last year's leading receiver, **Daniel Rumley** (36 rec., 578 yds., 6 TD) returns with plans to head the team's aerial assault, while senior All-OVC G **Eugene Russell** and senior OT **Richard Deutch** will anchor the offensive line...Newcomer junior QB **Ken Topps** will get the start on Saturday with **Ryne Salyer** providing backup.

MUR DEFENSE: The Racers' defense is completely retooled after losing nearly every starter from a 2004 unit that held opponents to league-lows of 20 points and 301 yards per game...Senior **Tony Ryan** is the lone experienced veteran after ranking as the team's third-leading tackler a year ago while playing at the strong safety and rover linebacker positions...Expected to provide immediate help on the D-line are Division I-A transfers **Jeremy Breedlove** (TCU) and **Fabian Bean** (Missouri).

SCOUTING MSU: Second-year head coach **Sylvester Croom** welcomes back 17 starters looking for improvement from last year's 3-8 campaign...The Bulldogs' offensive line is anchored by senior center and Rimington Award candidate **Chris McNeil**...All-SEC senior HB **Jerious Norwood** returns after a 1,000-yard 2004 campaign in which he averaged 95.5 yards per game...On the defensive side of the ball, senior DE **Willie Evans** collected 47 solo tackles among 67 total stops while junior **Quinton Culberson** has played in 19 games for the Bulldogs, earning starts at both outside linebacker and in the secondary.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

MUR: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC
MSU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 SEC

LAST WEEK

MUR: Season opener
MSU: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

MSU leads, 1-0-0

LAST MEETING

1946: MSU 69, MUR 0

HEAD COACHES

MUR: Joe Pannunzio
Southern Colorado, '82
28-28 at MUR, 6th Yr.
MSU: Sylvester Croom
Alabama, '75
3-8 at MSU, 2nd Yr.



Alabama A&M Bulldogs (0-0) at Tennessee State Tigers (0-0)

Saturday, Sept. 3 • 7:00 p.m. CT • The Coliseum (67,500)



THE MATCHUP: The **James Webster** era officially kicks off at Tennessee State as the Tigers play host to long-time Southwestern Athletic Conference rival Alabama A&M in the seventh annual John Merritt Classic...The Bulldogs finished the 2004 campaign with a 7-4 mark and carry a four-game win streak into their season-opener, while the Tigers are looking to rebound from last year's 4-7 effort...Saturday's game will be a live telecast on CSS...**Barry Gresham** calls the play-by-play while **Bubba Miller** provides analysis and **Alysiah Bond** reports from the sidelines.

TSU OFFENSE: Webster has left little doubt about who his starting quarterback will be, tapping senior **Bryson Rosser** (101-209, 1,219 yds.) to direct the Tigers' offense...Senior WR **Fred Burnette** stepped into a starting role last season and responded with 37 receptions for 624 yards and six TD's...The offensive line returns several key players, including **Chris Ham**, who has been granted an additional year of eligibility...With the graduation of All-American and Payton Award finalist Charles Anthony, the running back position is wide open.

TSU DEFENSE: The Tigers also return a solid group of individuals on the defensive side of the ball, headed up by junior **Almonte Duncan**, who is a preseason All-OVC pick along the defensive front...Sophomore **Jonathan Edwards** is making his bid for a defensive end position, while the linebacker corps is bolstered by the return of **Wesley Holmes** in the middle...The secondary features a number of veterans, including **Justin Williams**, who has also been granted an additional year of play.

SCOUTING AAMU: Sophomore **Kelcy Luke** (46-100, 528 yds., 7 TD) appears to have the inside track on the starting QB job after splitting time there last season with senior **Johnny Keith** (74-189, 1,110 yds., 8 TD)...Luke's brother, **Nic** (129 att., 614 yds., 5 TD), leads a deep Bulldog backfield...Defense has been a strong point for AAMU in the past, and this season should be no different...Linebacker **Johnny Baldwin** (103 tackles, 13.0 TFL) was the team's top tackler a year ago, while DE **Chris Traylor** was the squad's sack leader...Head coach **Anthony Jones** loses a pair of All-SWAC performers in the secondary, but welcomes the return of veteran FS **Marcus Black**.

QUICK FACTS

RECORDS

AAMU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC
TSU: 0-0 overall, 0-0 OVC

LAST WEEK

AAMU: Season opener
TSU: Season opener

SERIES HISTORY

TSU leads, 17-6-0

LAST MEETING

2004: TSU 42, AAMU 7

HEAD COACHES

TSU: James Webster
North Carolina, '72
0-0 at TSU, 1st Yr.
AAMU: Anthony Jones
Wichita State, '84
23-12 at AAMU, 4th Yr.

[illegible]

2005 OVC SCHEDULE / RESULTS

Eastern Illinois (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/1	at Indiana State	
9/10	at BYU	
9/17	ILLINOIS STATE	
9/24	SAMFORD*	
10/1	OPEN	
10/8	at Southeast Missouri*	
10/15	EASTERN KENTUCKY*	
10/22	at Murray State*	
10/29	TENNESSEE-MARTIN*	
11/5	at Tennessee State*	
11/12	TENNESSEE TECH*	
11/19	at Jacksonville State*	



Murray State (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/3	at Mississippi State	
9/10	OPEN	
9/17	INDIANA STATE	
9/24	at Illinois State	
10/1	at Tennessee Tech*	
10/8	JACKSONVILLE STATE*	
10/15	at Samford*	
10/22	EASTERN ILLINOIS*	
10/29	at Southeast Missouri*	
11/5	EASTERN KENTUCKY*	
11/12	AUSTIN PEAY	
11/19	at Tennessee-Martin*	



Tennessee-Martin (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/1	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
9/10	at Arkansas State	
9/17	TENNESSEE STATE*	
9/24	at Gardner-Webb	
10/1	OPEN	
10/8	TENNESSEE TECH*	
10/15	at Jacksonville State*	
10/22	SAMFORD*	
10/29	at Eastern Illinois*	
11/5	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI*	
11/12	at Eastern Kentucky*	
11/19	MURRAY STATE*	



Eastern Kentucky (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/3	APPALACHIAN STATE	
9/10	at Western Kentucky	
9/17	at North Carolina State	
9/24	TENNESSEE TECH*	
10/1	at Jacksonville State*	
10/8	SAMFORD*	
10/15	at Eastern Illinois*	
10/22	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI*	
10/29	OPEN	
11/5	at Murray State*	
11/12	TENNESSEE-MARTIN*	
11/19	at Tennessee State*	



Samford (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/1	EDWARD WATERS	
9/10	at Baylor	
9/17	at Furman	
9/24	at Eastern Illinois*	
10/1	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI*	
10/8	at Eastern Kentucky*	
10/15	MURRAY STATE*	
10/22	at Tennessee-Martin*	
10/29	TENNESSEE STATE*	
11/5	at Tennessee Tech*	
11/12	JACKSONVILLE STATE*	
11/19	OPEN	



Tennessee State (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/3	ALABAMA A&M	
9/10	vs. Jackson State	
9/17	at Tennessee-Martin*	
9/24	vs. Florida A&M	
10/1	vs. North Carolina A&T	
10/8	OPEN	
10/13	at Tennessee Tech*	
10/22	JACKSONVILLE STATE*	
10/29	at Samford*	
11/5	EASTERN ILLINOIS*	
11/12	at Southeast Missouri*	
11/19	EASTERN KENTUCKY*	



Jacksonville State (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/1	FURMAN	
9/10	CHATTANOOGA	
9/17	at UAB	
9/24	at Southeast Missouri*	
10/1	EASTERN KENTUCKY*	
10/8	at Murray State*	
10/5	TENNESSEE-MARTIN*	
10/12	at Tennessee State*	
10/19	TENNESSEE TECH*	
11/5	OPEN	
11/12	at Samford*	
11/19	EASTERN ILLINOIS*	



Southeast Missouri (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/1	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	
9/10	at Kent State	
9/17	at Missouri State	
9/24	JACKSONVILLE STATE*	
9/29	at Samford*	
10/8	OPEN	
10/15	EASTERN ILLINOIS*	
10/22	at Eastern Kentucky*	
10/29	MURRAY STATE*	
11/5	at Tennessee-Martin*	
11/12	TENNESSEE STATE*	
11/19	at Tennessee Tech*	



Tennessee Tech (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Date	Opponent	Results
9/3	at Chattanooga	
9/8	LAMBUTH	
9/17	at Northern Illinois	
9/24	at Eastern Kentucky*	
10/1	MURRAY STATE*	
10/8	at Tennessee-Martin*	
10/13	TENNESSEE STATE*	
10/22	OPEN	
10/29	at Jacksonville State*	
11/5	SAMFORD*	
11/12	@Eastern Illinois*	
11/19	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI*	



2005 OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE:

9/4
9/11
9/18
9/25
10/2
10/9
10/16
10/23
10/30
11/6
11/13
11/20

DEFENSIVE:

9/4
9/11
9/18
9/25
10/2
10/9
10/16
10/23
10/30
11/6
11/13
11/20

SPECIAL TEAMS:

9/4
9/11
9/18
9/25
10/2
10/9
10/16
10/23
10/30
11/6
11/13
11/20

NEWCOMER:

9/4
9/11
9/18
9/25
10/2
10/9
10/16
10/23
10/30
11/6
11/13
11/20

2005 OVC FOOTBALL TELEVISION SCHEDULE

DATE	GAME	TIME	TV
Sept. 1	Central Arkansas at Tennessee-Martin	6:30 p.m.	WLJT-TV%^
Sept. 1	Furman at Jacksonville State	7:00 p.m.	CSTV
Sept. 3	Alabama A&M at Tennessee State	6:00 p.m.	CSS
Sept. 8	Lambuth at Tennessee Tech	7:00 p.m.	WCTE-TV
Sept. 10	Eastern Illinois at Brigham Young	12:00 p.m.	SWP-KSL
Sept. 10	Chattanooga at Jacksonville State	6:00 p.m.	WJXS-TV
Sept. 10	Tennessee State vs. Jackson State	6:00 p.m.	BET
Sept. 17	Tennessee State at Tennessee-Martin*	12:00 p.m.	WLJT-TV%#
Sept. 17	Tennessee Tech at Northern Illinois	3:05 p.m.	CSN
Sept. 17	Illinois State at Eastern Illinois	6:00 p.m.	WEIU-TV
Sept. 17	Indiana State at Murray State	6:00 p.m.	MSU-TV 11%~
Sept. 24	Samford at Eastern Illinois*	1:30 p.m.	WEIU-TV
Sept. 24	Tennessee State vs. Florida A&M	3:00 p.m.	Turner South
Sept. 29	Southeast Missouri at Samford*	6:30 p.m.	ESPNU
Oct. 1	Murray State at Tennessee Tech*	1:00 p.m.	WCTE-TV%#
Oct. 1	Tennessee State vs. North Carolina A&T	4:00 p.m.	BET
Oct. 1	Eastern Kentucky at Jacksonville State*	6:00 p.m.	WJXS-TV
Oct. 8	Tennessee Tech at Tennessee-Martin*	2:00 p.m.	WLJT-TV%#
Oct. 8	Jacksonville State at Murray State*	6:00 p.m.	MSU-TV 11%~
Oct. 13	Tennessee State at Tennessee Tech*	7:00 p.m.	WCTE-TV
Oct. 15	Eastern Kentucky at Eastern Illinois*	1:30 p.m.	WEIU-TV
Oct. 15	Tennessee-Martin at Jacksonville State*	4:00 p.m.	WJXS-TV
Oct. 22	Samford at Tennessee-Martin*	12:00 p.m.	WLJT-TV%#
Oct. 22	Eastern Illinois at Murray State*	3:00 p.m.	MSU-TV 11%~
Oct. 29	Tennessee Tech at Jacksonville State*	4:00 p.m.	WJXS-TV
Oct. 29	Tennessee-Martin at Eastern Illinois*	6:00 p.m.	WEIU-TV
Nov. 5	Southeast Missouri at Tennessee-Martin*	12:00 p.m.	WLJT-TV%#
Nov. 5	Samford at Tennessee Tech*	1:30 p.m.	WCTE-TV%#
Nov. 5	Eastern Kentucky at Murray State*	3:00 p.m.	MSU-TV 11%~
Nov. 5	Eastern Illinois at Tennessee State*	6:00 p.m.	CSS
Nov. 12	Tennessee Tech at Eastern Illinois*	1:30 p.m.	WEIU-TV
Nov. 12	Austin Peay at Murray State	3:00 p.m.	MSU-TV 11%~
Nov. 19	Murray State at Tennessee-Martin*	12:00 p.m.	WLJT-TV%#
Nov. 19	Eastern Illinois at Jacksonville State*	1:00 p.m.	WJXS-TV
Nov. 19	Southeast Missouri at Tennessee Tech*	1:00 p.m.	WCTE-TV%#

All Times Central – Unless otherwise noted, telecasts are live

% - Tape-delay

~ - Log on to www.goracers.com for airing schedule

^ - Log on to www.utmsports.com for airing schedule

- Log on to www.tntech.edu/athletics for airing schedule

I-AA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

The 2005 I-AA football playoffs will begin with first round games November 26 and conclude with the championship contest December 16. The OVC is one of eight conferences nationwide to receive an automatic bid to the tournament.

Eastern Kentucky, which won the I-AA national championship in 1979 and 1982, has been to the playoffs an unprecedented 17 times in the 25-year history of the event. OVC members Eastern Illinois, Jacksonville State, Murray State and Tennessee State have also been in the field during the past five years.

Here are the dates for the 2005 I-AA playoffs:

Nov. 26	First Round (@ campus sites)
Dec. 3	Quarterfinals (@ campus sites)
Dec. 10	Semifinals (@ campus sites)
Dec. 16	Championship Game (@ Chattanooga, Tenn.)



2005 OVC FOOTBALL PRESEASON PREDICTIONS

2005 PRESEASON ALL-OVC TEAMS

OFFENSE

QB - Maurice Mullins, Sr., Jacksonville State
 RB - Donald Chapman, So., Tennessee-Martin
 RB - Vincent Webb, Jr., Eastern Illinois
 WR - Ryan Voss, Jr., Eastern Illinois
 WR - Taurean Stephens, Jr., Tennessee-Martin
 TE - Patrick Bugg, Jr., Eastern Kentucky
 OL - Sean Dumford, So., Eastern Kentucky
 OL - Pascal Matla, Sr., Eastern Illinois
 OL - Rod Olds, Sr., Jacksonville State
 OL - Steve Sobolewski, Jr., Eastern Illinois
 OL - Eugene Russell, Murray State
 PK - Josh Foster, Sr., Tennessee Tech
 RS - Craig Agee, Jr., Jacksonville State

DEFENSE

DL - Almonte Duncan, Jr., Tennessee State
 DL - Kory Lothe, Sr., Eastern Illinois
 DL - Yusuf Sharif, Sr., Tennessee Tech
 DL - Andre Plummer, Jr., Tennessee-Martin
 LB - Jerome Jones, Sr. Eastern Kentucky
 LB - Markeseo Jackson, Jr., Tennessee-Martin
 LB - Rick Schultz, Sr., Murray State
 LB - Craig Simonton, Jr., Tennessee Tech
 DB - Onsha Whittaker, Sr., Murray State
 DB - Cortland Finnegan, Sr., Samford
 DB - Ben Brown, Jr., Eastern Illinois
 DB - Jason Coleman, Sr., Tennessee-Martin
 P - David Simonhoff, Jr., Southeast Missouri

THE SPORTS NETWORK PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

1st Team Defense

LB - Jerome Jones, Eastern Kentucky
 P - David Simonhoff, Southeast Missouri

Honorable Mention Offense

C - Pascal Matla, Eastern Illinois
 OL - Rod Olds, Jacksonville State

Honorable Mention Defense

CB - Ben Brown, Eastern Illinois

I-AA.ORG PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

1st Team Special Teams

P - David Simonhoff, Southeast Missouri

2nd Team Defense

LB - Jerome Jones, Eastern Kentucky

3rd Team Offense

OG - Rod Olds, Jacksonville State

3rd Team Defense

CB - Ben Brown, Eastern Illinois
 FS - Cortland Finnegan, Samford

COLLEGE SPORTS REPORT PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

1st Team Defense

LB - Jerome Jones, Eastern Kentucky

2nd Team Offense

OL - Rod Olds, Jacksonville State

2nd Team Defense

DB - Ben Brown, Eastern Illinois

3rd Team Defense

LB - Markeseo Jackson, Tennessee-Martin

LINDY'S PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

1st Team Defense

P - David Simonhoff, Southeast Missouri

2nd Team Offense

OL - Rod Olds, Jacksonville State

2nd Team Defense

DB - Ben Brown, Eastern Illinois

STREET & SMITH'S PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Defense

P - David Simonhoff, Southeast Missouri

OVC COACHES/SIDS POLL

1. Jacksonville State
2. Eastern Kentucky
3. Murray State
4. Eastern Illinois
5. Tennessee Tech
6. Samford
7. Tennessee State
8. Southeast Missouri
9. Tennessee-Martin

I-AA.ORG CONFERENCE PREDICTION

1. Eastern Kentucky
2. Jacksonville State
3. Murray State
4. Eastern Illinois
5. Tennessee Tech
6. Samford
7. Tennessee State
8. Southeast Missouri
9. Tennessee-Martin

LINDY'S CONFERENCE PREDICTION

1. Jacksonville State
2. Eastern Illinois
3. Eastern Kentucky
4. Tennessee Tech
5. Murray State
6. Southeast Missouri
7. Tennessee State
8. Tennessee-Martin
9. Samford

STREET & SMITH'S CONFERENCE PREDICTION

1. Jacksonville State
2. Eastern Kentucky
3. Murray State
4. Eastern Illinois
5. Tennessee Tech
6. Samford
7. Southeast Missouri
8. Tennessee State
9. Tennessee-Martin