

2013 Ohio Valley Conference Football Report

Austin Peay | Eastern Illinois | Eastern Kentucky | Jacksonville State | Murray State | Southeast Missouri | Tennessee State | Tennessee Tech | UT Martin

August 26, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OVC STANDINGS

(Through games played on August 25)

	OVC					OVERALL									SINCE 1948			
	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	Home	Away	Neutral	Streak				
Austin Peay	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Eastern Kentucky	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Jacksonville State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Murray State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Southeast Missouri	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Tennessee State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
Tennessee Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				
UT Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-				

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 29

Robert Morris at #19 Eastern Kentucky, 6:00 p.m. (OVC Digital Network)

UT Martin at #24 Chattanooga, 6:30 p.m. (CSS)

Cumberland at Tennessee Tech, 7:00 p.m. (OVC Digital Network)

Southeast Missouri at Southeastern Louisiana, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 31

Austin Peay at Tennessee, 5:00 p.m. (PPV/ESPN3)

Jacksonville State at Alabama State, 5:00 p.m. (CSS)

Murray State at Missouri, 6:00 p.m. (PPV/ESPN3)

#21 Eastern Illinois at San Diego State, 7:00 p.m. (Mtn. West Network)

Sunday, September 1

#20 Bethune-Cookman at Tennessee State, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN3)

* Indicates OVC Contest

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

None

THIS WEEK'S OVC HIGHLIGHTS/STORYLINES

The 66th season of football in the Ohio Valley Conference will get underway on Thursday night as four OVC schools will take to the field; four other OVC schools will play their first games on Saturday while Tennessee State opens the season on Sunday... Thursday's set of games features Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee Tech hosting games (both of which will be available on the OVC Digital Network), while Southeast Missouri and UT Martin will go on the road to battle Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) opponents... Three of four contests on Saturday will feature OVC teams at Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponents, as Austin Peay plays at Tennessee, Murray State is at Missouri and Eastern Illinois is at San Diego State... The other game on Saturday is Jacksonville State at Alabama State... The week concludes on Sunday as Tennessee State hosts nationally-ranked Bethune-Cookman in the annual John Merritt Classic at LP Field; that game will air on ESPN3 as part of the "OVC Game of the Week" nine-game package produced by WebStream Sports this season and is the only non-conference game part of the package... Eastern Illinois begins the season ranked 21st in the Sports Network Top 25 and No. 23 in the FCS Coaches Poll while Eastern Kentucky is 19th in the FCS Coaches Poll; other teams receiving votes in at least one poll include Jacksonville State, Murray State, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and UT Martin... The OVC begins the season with three players (EIU's Erik Lora and Jimmy Garoppolo and MSU's Walter Powell) on the Walter Payton Award Watch List and one player (TSU's Steven Godbolt III) on the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List.

THIS WEEK'S adidas® OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



The first OVC Players of the Week will be announced on Monday, Sept. 2. Following that week the winners for the remainder of the season will be announced on Sundays.



OVC MEDIA INFORMATION

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ONLINE PRESS BOX: The OVC Football Online Press Box is a one-stop shop for gathering information about the OVC and its member schools. Media can access it at www.OVCSports.com/football/pressbox or through links at OVCSports.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Get breaking news about the OVC by following the OVC through Social Media. Check out the OVC sites at <http://www.twitter.com/OVCSports> and <http://www.facebook.com/ovcsports>. Also check out www.YouTube.com/ohiovalley-conference and the league's blog at ovcinsider.blogspot.com.

WEEKLY NOTES: The OVC will release its Players of the Week each Sunday afternoon throughout the season. The full weekly notes report will be released each Monday throughout the season by 5 p.m. CT. The report is available via e-mail, and is posted on the league's Web site in text and PDF versions. Statistics are updated after each gameday on the OVC Web site.

2013 adidas® PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE

Sept. 2
Sept. 8
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29
Oct. 6
Oct. 13
Oct. 20
Oct. 27
Nov. 3
Nov. 10
Nov. 17
Nov. 24

DEFENSIVE

Sept. 2
Sept. 8
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29
Oct. 6
Oct. 13
Oct. 20
Oct. 27
Nov. 3
Nov. 10
Nov. 17
Nov. 24

SPECIALIST

Sept. 2
Sept. 8
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29
Oct. 6
Oct. 13
Oct. 20
Oct. 27
Nov. 3
Nov. 10
Nov. 17
Nov. 24

NEWCOMER

Sept. 2
Sept. 8
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29
Oct. 6
Oct. 13
Oct. 20
Oct. 27
Nov. 3
Nov. 10
Nov. 17
Nov. 24

Bold indicates player went on to be named National Player of the Week (Sports Network or College Sporting News).

NOTES FROM AROUND THE GRIDIRON

Let's Get It Started: The 66th season of the Ohio Valley Conference football will get underway on Thursday, August 29 when four OVC schools take to the gridiron. Four other OVC schools will play on Saturday with the final team playing on Sunday. The OVC is made up of nine football-playing schools. Since its beginning 15 of the 18 total schools that have played football in the league have claimed at least one championship.

OVC Teams Versus FBS Foes: OVC schools will play 12 games against teams from the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) this season with three of those games occurring this week. Last season UT Martin topped Memphis during the first week of the season, making them one of only 10 FCS schools to top a FBS school in 2012. Overall OVC teams are 19-159-1 all-time against FBS foes.

OVC Teams in the Top 25: In the preseason Top 25 polls, Eastern Illinois was ranked 21st in the Sports Network and 23rd in the FCS Coaches poll. Eastern Kentucky was ranked 19th in the FCS Coaches poll. In total six OVC team were among the "others receiving votes" in the Sports Network poll while four others received votes in the FCS Coaches Poll.

Three OVC Players on Walter Payton Watch List: Three Ohio Valley Conference players were among the 20 players nationally named to the initial Walter Payton Award Watch List as announced by the Sports Network. The players were Eastern Illinois senior quarterback **Jimmy Garoppolo**, Eastern Illinois senior wide receiver **Erik Lora** and Murray State wide receiver/return specialist **Walter Powell**. The Walter Payton Award was established in 1987 and is presented annually to the most outstanding college football player on the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level. Last season the OVC has four finalists for the award with Lora finishing fourth, the highest finish for an OVC player since EIU's Tony Romo won the award in 2002. The three selections this preseason for the OVC ranked tied for second (along with the Southern Conference) among FCS conferences; the Missouri Valley Football Conference had four total selections on the list. The Payton Award Watch List can undergo revision during the 2013 season. Ballots will be sent to a panel of about 175 sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries following the regular season. The top three vote-getters will be invited to The Sports Network FCS Awards Presentation.

TSU's Godbolt on Buck Buchanan Award Watch List: Tennessee State junior cornerback **Steven Godbolt III** is one of 20 players nationally named to the initial Buck Buchanan Award Watch List as announced by the Sports Network. The Buchanan Award, established in 1995, is presented annually to the top defensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). The Buchanan Award Watch List can undergo revision during the 2013 season. Ballots will be sent to a panel of about 175 sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries following the regular season. The winner will be invited to The Sports Network FCS Awards Presentation on Dec. 16.

NCAA Division I Playoff Information: This season marks the first of an expanded 24-team playoff for NCAA Division I teams. In 2010 the FCS Playoffs expanded from 16 teams to 20 teams, the first expansion since the field grew from 12 to 16 teams in 1997. This year the top eight seeds will receive byes to the second round while the first round will feature 16 teams in eight total matchups. For the first time the Pioneer League will receive an automatic bid to the playoffs (bringing the number of auto bids to 11). For the fourth-straight year the championship game will be played in Frisco, Texas at FC Dallas Stadium. The Southland Conference will serve as the host of the championship, which will be held on Saturday, January 4 (1 p.m. CT, ESPN2). The playoff field will be announced on Sunday, Nov. 24.

Sgt. York Trophy Enters Seventh Season in 2013: The Sgt. York Trophy is a challenge trophy which goes to the annual winner of the quadrangular season series between the four football-playing OVC institutions in the state of Tennessee (Austin Peay, Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech and UT Martin). In July 2007, the Nashville Sports Council and the OVC announced the creation of the trophy, which is only the second traveling trophy involving more than two schools nationwide (the other is the Commander in Chief's Trophy). It is named after Sgt. Alvin C. York, a native of Pall Mall, Tenn. and a Soldier who was one of the most honored of World War I. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor after the war and returned to his home state to dedicate his life to improving education and facilitating educational opportunities for children in the state of Tennessee. The trophy goes to the team with the best record against the other schools (in case of a tie there will be co-champions and the actual trophy will be retained by the defending champion if they are involved in the tie or if the defending champion is not involved in the tie it will go to the institution that has gone the most seasons without winning the trophy). In 2007 Tennessee State and Austin Peay finished in a tie for the trophy with identical 2-1 records; both shared the award but Tennessee State went home with the hardware due to a 1-point win in the head-to-head meeting during the season (that was the tiebreaker used only for the first year of the trophy series). Tennessee State went 3-0 in Sgt. York play in 2008 to claim its second trophy. In 2009 Tennessee Tech claimed the trophy after going undefeated in Sgt. York games and in 2010 UT Martin became the third-straight OVC team to go 3-0 and

COACHES TELECONFERENCE

During the regular season a weekly teleconference featuring the league's nine head coaches will be held every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. Central Time. The first teleconference will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 28. A schedule of what times coaches will appear weekly is below. For information on how to access the call, please contact Kyle Schwartz in the OVC Office (615-690-6685 or kschwartz@ovc.org).

10:00 - Chris Hatcher, Murray State
10:07 - Watson Brown, Tennessee Tech
10:14 - Dino Babers, Eastern Illinois
10:21 - Bill Clark Jacksonville State
10:28 - Tony Samuel, Southeast Missouri
10:35 - Kirby Cannon, Austin Peay
10:42 - Jason Simpson, UT Martin
10:49 - Rod Reed, Tennessee State
10:56 - Dean Hood, Eastern Kentucky

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win the trophy in claiming its first title. In 2011 Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech shared the title (TSU went home with the trophy) while Tennessee State and UT Martin shared the title in 2012 (TSU once again took home the actual trophy). The trophy is presented at the Pepsi Celebration of Champions hosted by the Nashville Sports Council in the spring.

A Look at the Coaches: Seven of the nine head coaches from last season return to their schools in the Ohio Valley Conference this season. The only newcomers are Austin Peay's **Kirby Cannon** and Jacksonville State's **Bill Clark**. Southeast Missouri's **Tony Samuel** and UT Martin's **Jason Simpson** are now the longest tenured active coaches, each entering the eighth seasons at their respective schools. Clark and TSU's **Rod Reed** are currently the only OVC football coaches serving as head coaches at their alma maters.

A Brother Coaching Duo: This season Tennessee Tech head coach **Watson Brown** and his brother Mack Brown (the head coach at Texas) could become the winningest set of brothers in NCAA Division I history. The duo enters the 2013 season with 352 victories (230 by Mack, 122 by Watson) which trails only Bill and Vince Dooley (362 total wins) on the all-time list.

Preseason Forecasts: For the first time since 2007, Eastern Illinois was picked as the preseason favorite in the OVC. The defending champion Panthers picked up 12 of a possible 18 first-place votes to top the poll with 122 points. Eastern Kentucky was second (114 points, 4 first-place votes) while Tennessee State ranked third (90 points, 2 first-place votes). The poll was rounded out by Jacksonville State (87), UT Martin (78), Murray State and Tennessee Tech (tied with 53 points), Southeast Missouri (35) and Austin Peay (16). Is being picked first in the preseason poll necessarily a good thing? In the past 35 years of preseason polls (all that were available), the preseason predicted champion has only gone on to win the OVC Championship 13 times (37.1%). After eight years of not picking the champion right (2003-2010), the 2011 preseason poll picked the right champion after the league finished in a three-way tie.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Predicted Champion</u>	<u>Actual Champion</u>
2002	Eastern Illinois	Eastern Illinois
2003	Southeast Missouri	Jacksonville State
2004	Eastern Kentucky	Jacksonville State
2005	Jacksonville State	Eastern Illinois
2006	Eastern Kentucky	Eastern Illinois/UT Martin
2007	Eastern Illinois	Eastern Kentucky
2008	Jacksonville State	Eastern Kentucky
2009	Eastern Kentucky	Eastern Illinois
2010	Jacksonville State	Southeast Missouri
2011	Jacksonville State	Jax State/Eastern Ky./Tennessee Tech
2012	Eastern Kentucky	Eastern Illinois
2013	Eastern Illinois	TBD

EIU's Lora and TSU's Godbolt Headline Preseason All-OVC Team: Eastern Illinois senior wide receiver **Erik Lora** was named 2013 Ohio Valley Conference Preseason Offensive Player of the Year while Tennessee State junior cornerback **Steven Godbolt III** was tabbed OVC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year in a vote of by the league's head football coaches and sports information directors. Tennessee State led the way with seven selections on the preseason team while Eastern Illinois had six and Eastern Kentucky had four. Returning players who were first-team All-OVC selections last season (11 in total) were automatic selections to the preseason team this year. The squad also included 10 players who were second-team selections in 2012. Of the 27 total selections, 19 were seniors and eight were juniors.

NFL Connections: As of August 26, there are 25 former Ohio Valley Conference players are on NFL rosters. Those players include former Eastern Illinois standout Tony Romo, a three-time Pro

NATIONAL POLLS

SPORTS NETWORK

<u>No.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
1.	North Dakota State (127)	0-0	3,340
2.	Montana State (1)	0-0	3,079
3.	Sam Houston State (5)	0-0	2,941
4.	Eastern Washington	0-0	2,873
5.	Villanova	0-0	2,334
6.	South Dakota State	0-0	2,268
7.	Central Arkansas	0-0	2,244
8.	Wofford	0-0	2,089
9.	Georgia Southern (1)	0-0	2,002
10.	New Hampshire	0-0	1,920
11.	Towson	0-0	1,871
12.	Appalachian State	0-0	1,696
13.	Illinois State	0-0	1,657
14.	Cal Poly	0-0	1,646
15.	Richmond	0-0	1,384
16.	Stony Brook	0-0	1,178
17.	Northern Iowa	0-0	1,106
18.	Northern Arizona	0-0	988
19.	James Madison	0-0	964
20.	Montana	0-0	813
21.	Eastern Illinois	0-0	686
22.	Lehigh	0-0	587
23.	Bethune-Cookman	0-0	514
24.	Chattanooga	0-0	505
25.	Coastal Carolina	0-0	489

Others (OVC Only): Eastern Kentucky (468), Tennessee State (151), UT Martin (29), Tennessee Tech (6), Jacksonville State (3), Murray State (2).

FCS COACHES POLL

<u>No.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
1.	North Dakota State (23)	0-0	645
2.	Montana State (1)	0-0	591
3.	Eastern Washington	0-0	549
4.	Sam Houston State (1)	0-0	534
5.	Wofford	0-0	450
6.	Central Arkansas	0-0	428
7.	South Dakota State	0-0	410
8.	New Hampshire	0-0	386
9.	Villanova	0-0	381
10.	Illinois State	0-0	379
11.	Cal Poly	0-0	348
12.	Towson	0-0	347
13.	Stony Brook	0-0	326
14.	Richmond	0-0	274
15.	James Madison	0-0	235
16.	Northern Iowa	0-0	218
17.	Lehigh	0-0	198
18.	Northern Arizona	0-0	196
19.	Eastern Kentucky (1)	0-0	188
20.	Bethune-Cookman	0-0	159
21.	Coastal Carolina	0-0	140
22.	Montana	0-0	135
23.	Eastern Illinois	0-0	120
24.	Youngstown State	0-0	107
25.	Chattanooga	0-0	104

Others (OVC Only): Tennessee State (52), Jacksonville State (11), Tennessee Tech (5), UT Martin (4).

OVC IN THE POLLS WEEK-BY-WEEK (SPORTS NETWORK/FCS COACHES)

	<u>AP</u>	<u>EIU</u>	<u>EKU</u>	<u>JSU</u>	<u>MUR</u>	<u>SEMO</u>	<u>TTU</u>	<u>TSU</u>	<u>UTM</u>
Preseason	-/-	21/23	RV/19	RV/RV	RV/-	-/-	RV/RV	RV/RV	RV/RV
Sept. 2									
Sept. 9									
Sept. 16									
Sept. 23									
Sept. 30									
Oct. 7									
Oct. 14									
Oct. 21									
Oct. 28									
Nov. 4									
Nov. 11									
Nov. 18									
Nov. 25									
Final									



Bowl pick, Cortland Finnegan (Samford), who has been a Pro Bowl defensive back selection and Tennessee State's Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, who was a starter for the Arizona Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII, has been a Pro Bowl selection and is now with the Denver Broncos. Eight of the nine current OVC football schools have at least one player in the NFL.

I-AA No More: Although some people may accidentally still refer to it as I-AA football, the term that represents the level of Division I football in which the Ohio Valley Conference competes has been long retired. Beginning with the 2006 National Championship game, the term Football Championship Subdivision (or FCS) is to be used. FCS is the only Division I football rank to host a NCAA-sponsored national championship (one of 89 championships the NCAA sponsors). The division formerly known as I-A was changed to Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and those teams compete for the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) national championship. Teams who play at the FCS level can offer a maximum of 63 scholarships (FBS teams can offer 85) and compete in a 24-team playoff at the end of the season to determine the national champion.

OVC Digital Network: The OVC launched the OVC Digital Network (OVCDN) in August 2012. The OVCDN is the exclusive home for live web streamed athletic contests involving OVC schools. This marks the eighth year the OVC has streamed live events, but second year the events will be offered free of charge and in an HD format. Fans will also find it easier to log onto OVCDigitalNetwork.com and access the streams and can do so without any registration. The events will be available on any computer, tablet or smart phone without needing any special downloads or apps thanks new streaming technology.

OVC CAREER RECORD BOOK WATCH

OVC Career Total Offense

1. Casey Brockman, MUR (2009-12)	10,502
2. Michael Proctor, MUR (1986-89)	9,886
3. Chris Swartz, MOR (1987-90)	8,648
4. Derek Carr, UTM (2009-12)	8,484
5. T.J. Pryor, ECU (2009-12)	8,341
6. Tony Romo, EIU (1999-02)	8,059
7. Jimmy Garoppolo, EIU (2010-present)	7,977
8. Stewart Childress, MUR (2000-03)	7,803
9. Matt Scheible, SEMO (2008-11)	7,436
10. Brady Wahlberg, UTM (2002-05)	7,387

OVC Career Completions

1. Casey Brockman, MUR (2009-12)	938
2. Chris Swartz, MOR (1987-90)	774
3. Jimmy Garoppolo, EIU (2010-present)	672
4. Derek Carr, UTM (2009-12)	665
5. Stewart Childress, MUR (2000-03)	649
6. Lee Sweeney, TTU (2006-09)	625
7. Tony Romo, EIU (1999-02)	584
Brady Wahlberg, UTM (2002-05)	584
9. Jeff Ehrhardt, MUR (2007-10)	582
10. Michael Proctor, MUR (1986-89)	578

OVC Career Yards Passing

1. Casey Brockman, MUR (2009-12)	9,990
2. Chris Swartz, MOR (1987-90)	9,028
3. Michael Proctor, MUR (1986-89)	8,682
4. Derek Carr, UTM (2009-12)	8,428
5. Tony Romo, EIU (1999-02)	8,212
6. Jimmy Garoppolo, EIU (2008-present)	8,106
7. Stewart Childress, MUR (2000-03)	7,581
8. T.J. Pryor, ECU (2009-12)	7,300
9. Leon Murray, TSU (1997-99)	7,201
10. Lee Sweeney, TTU (2006-09)	7,157

OVC Career Touchdown Passes

1. Tony Romo, EIU (1999-02)	85
2. Casey Brockman, MUR (2009-12)	71
3. Derek Carr, UTM (2009-12)	69
4. Jimmy Garoppolo, EIU (2010-present)	65
5. Leon Murray, TSU (1997-99)	56
6. Chris Swartz, MOR (1987-90)	55
7. Michael Proctor, MUR (1986-89)	52
8. T.J. Pryor, ECU (2009-12)	51
9. Justin Fuente, MUR (1998-99)	50
10. Lee Sweeney, TTU (2006-09)	49

OVC Career Pass Attempts

1. Chris Swartz, MOR (1987-90)	1,407
2. Casey Brockman, MUR (2009-12)	1,405
3. Michael Proctor, MUR (1986-89)	1,148
4. Stewart Childress, MUR (2000-03)	1,118
5. Derek Carr, UTM (2009-12)	1,110
6. Jimmy Garoppolo, EIU (2010-present)	1,100

OVC Career Receptions

1. Harold Roberts, APSU (1967-70)	232
2. Tim Benford, TTU (2008-11)	217
3. Marcus Harris, MUR (2007-10)	216
4. Erik Lora, EIU (2009-10, '12-present)	209
5. Taurean Stephens, UTM (2003-06)	201
6. Larry Shipp, TTU (2004-07)	195
7. C.J. Johnson, TSU (2000-03)	194
8. Jeff Moore, SAM (2004-07)	193
9. Jerome Williams, MOR (1987-90)	166
10. Andre Ralston, ECU (2002-05)	165

OVC Career Receiving Yards

1. C.J. Johnson, TSU (2000-03)	3,903
2. Tim Benford, TTU (2008-11)	3,104
3. Andre Ralston, ECU (2002-05)	3,095
4. Harold Roberts, APSU (1967-70)	3,005
5. Larry Shipp, TTU (2004-07)	2,950
6. Rondel Menendez, ECU (1995-98)	2,902
7. Craig Rolle, TTU (1975-78)	2,813
8. Jeff Moore, SAM (2004-07)	2,759
9. Willie Ponder, SEMO (2001-02)	2,543
10. Corey Sullivan, TSU (1996-99)	2,488
- Erik Lora, EIU (2009-10, '12-present)	2,462

OVC Career Receiving Touchdowns

1. Chris Wright, EIU (2009-12)	32
C.J. Johnson, TSU (2000-03)	32
3. Harold Roberts, APSU (1967-70)	31
4. Rondel Menendez, ECU (1995-98)	27
Tim Bedford, TTU (2008-11)	27
Larry Shipp, TTU (2004-07)	27
7. Quentin Sims, UTM (2011-12)	26
Terrance Tillman, MUR (1998-00)	26
Willie Ponder, SEMO (2001-02)	26
10. Will Bumphus, EIU (1999-02)	25
- Erik Lora, EIU (2009-10, '12-present)	16

2013 PRESEASON HONORS/AWARDS

OVC PRESEASON HONORS (COACHES/SID'S)

Predicted Order of Finish

1. Eastern Illinois (12)	122
2. Eastern Kentucky (4)	114
3. Tennessee State (2)	90
4. Jacksonville State	87
5. UT Martin	78
6. Murray State	53
Tennessee Tech	53
8. Southeast Missouri	35
9. Austin Peay	16

Preseason All-OVC Team

Preseason Offensive Player of the Year:

Erik Lora (WR), Eastern Illinois

Preseason Defensive Player of the Year:

Steven Godbolt III (DB), Tennessee State

Offense

QB Jimmy Garoppolo, Eastern Illinois
 RB DaMarcus James, Jacksonville State
 RB Jaamal Berry, Murray State
 WR Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois
 WR Walter Powell, Murray State
 TE A.C. Leonard, Tennessee State
 C Demetrius Rhaney, Tennessee State
 OG Kadeem Edwards, Tennessee State
 OG Collin Seibert, Eastern Illinois
 OT Ben Stansfield, Austin Peay
 OT Tarik Milner, Jacksonville State
 OT Wesley Sherrill, Tennessee Tech

Defense

DL Pat Wertz, Eastern Illinois
 DL Shawn Shupperd, Eastern Kentucky
 DL Antonio Harper, Tennessee State
 DL DJ Roberts, UT Martin
 LB Anthony Brown, Eastern Kentucky
 LB Ben Johnson, UT Martin
 LB Ichiro Vance, Eastern Kentucky
 LB Nick Thrasher, Tennessee State
 DB Nick Beard, Eastern Illinois
 DB Steven Godbolt III, Tennessee State
 DB Brandon Stanley, Eastern Kentucky
 DB Daniel Fitzpatrick, Tennessee State

Special Teams

K Cameron Berra, Eastern Illinois
 P Chad Zinchini, Tennessee Tech
 RS Walter Powell, Murray State

LINDY'S MAGAZINE

Preseason National Offensive POTY

Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois

Preseason First-Team All-American

WR Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois
 TE A.C. Leonard, Tennessee State
 AP Walter Powell, Murray State
 DB Steven Godbolt III, Tennessee State

Preseason Second-Team All-American

LB Ben Johnson, UT Martin

OVC Preseason Players of the Year

Offensive: Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois

Defensive: Ben Johnson, UT Martin

Predicted Order of Finish

	<u>National Rank</u>
1. Eastern Illinois	18
2. Tennessee State	25
3. Eastern Kentucky	
4. UT Martin	
5. Murray State	
6. Jacksonville State	
7. Tennessee Tech	
8. Southeast Missouri	
9. Austin Peay	

ATHLON MAGAZINE

Preseason Top 25

20. Eastern Illinois
 21. Tennessee State

SPORTS NETWORK

Preseason All-American First-Team

WR Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois
 TE A.C. Leonard, Tennessee State
 AP Walter Powell, Murray State
 DB Steven Godbolt III, Tennessee State

Preseason All-American Third-Team

OL Kadeem Edwards, Tennessee State
 LB Anthony Brown, Eastern Kentucky
 LB Ben Johnson, UT Martin
 P Chad Zinchini, Tennessee Tech

PHIL STEELE

Preseason All-American First-Team

WR Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois
 TE A.C. Leonard, Tennessee State
 OL Kadeem Edwards, Tennessee State
 DB Steven Godbolt III, Tennessee State
 K Cameron Berra, Eastern Illinois
 PR Walter Powell, Murray State

Preseason All-American Second-Team

WR Walter Powell, Murray State

Preseason All-American Third-Team

QB Jimmy Garoppolo, Eastern Illinois
 P Chad Zinchini, Tennessee Tech

Preseason All-American Fourth-Team

OL Dominic Pagliara, Eastern Illinois
 LB Anthony Brown, Eastern Kentucky
 LB Ben Johnson, UT Martin

SPORTING NEWS

Preseason All-American Team

WR Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois
 TE A.C. Leonard, Tennessee State
 DB Steven Godbolt III, Tennessee State
 RS Walter Powell, Murray State

OVC Preseason Players of the Year

Offensive: Erik Lora, Eastern Illinois

Defensive: Anthony Brown, Eastern Kentucky

Predicted Order of Finish

	<u>National Rank</u>
1. Eastern Illinois	19
2. Eastern Kentucky	
3. Jacksonville State	
4. Murray State	
5. UT Martin	
6. Tennessee Tech	
7. Southeast Missouri	
8. Tennessee State	
9. Austin Peay	

OVC COACHING RECORDS

<u>Coach, School</u>	OVC-Only Games				All Games*			Overall Career Record			
	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Kirby Cannon, Austin Peay	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	12	35	86	.xxx
Dino Babers, Eastern Illinois	2	6	1	.857	7	5	.583	2	7	5	.583
Dean Hood, Eastern Kentucky	6	29	10	.744	34	23	.596	6	34	23	.596
Bill Clark, Jacksonville State	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	1	0	0	.000
Chris Hatcher, Murray State	4	14	10	.583	18	15	.545	14	112	42	.727
Tony Samuel, Southeast Missouri	8	17	38	.309	28	51	.354	16	62	108	.365
Rod Reed, Tennessee State	4	8	14	.364	16	17	.485	4	16	17	.485
Watson Brown, Tennessee Tech	7	19	29	.396	28	39	.418	29	122	190	.391 **
Jason Simpson, UT Martin	8	35	20	.636	45	34	.570	8	45	34	.570

*Indicates overall record while at current OVC school in years school was a member of the Conference.

**Brown's career record also include a tie.

Note: Brown's two years at Austin Peay (1979-80) are not figured into his OVC totals (14-8/7-6); those years are only figured into his overall career totals.

TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



AUSTIN PEAY GOVERNORS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

31 at Tennessee (ESPN3) 5:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 at Vanderbilt (CSS) 6:30 p.m.
14 at Chattanooga 5:00 p.m.
21 at Ohio 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 at Eastern Kentucky* (OVC Digital Network) 5:00 p.m.
10 **Eastern Illinois* (OVC Digital Network)** 6:00 p.m.
19 at Murray State* (ESPN3) 3:00 p.m.
26 **UT Martin* (HC) (OVC Digital Network)** 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 **Jacksonville State* (OVC Digital Network)** 1:00 p.m.
9 at Tennessee State* (OVC Digital Network) 2:00 p.m.
16 **Southeast Missouri* (OVC Digital Network)** 1:00 p.m.
23 at Tennessee Tech* (OVC Digital Network) 1:30 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

31 at San Diego State 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 at Southern Illinois 6:00 p.m.
14 **Illinois State (WEIU/OVC Digital Network)** 6:00 p.m.
21 at Northern Illinois 6:00 p.m.
28 **Eastern Kentucky* (ESPN3)** 1:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

10 at Austin Peay* (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.
19 **Southeast Missouri* (HC) (WEIU/OVCDN)** 1:30 p.m.
26 at Tennessee State* (OVC Digital Network) 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 **Tennessee Tech* (WEIU/OVC Digital Network)** 12:00 p.m.
9 at Murray State* (OVC Digital Network) 12:00 p.m.
16 **Jacksonville State* (ESPN3)** 12:00 p.m.
23 at UT Martin* (ESPN3) 1:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



EASTERN KENTUCKY COLONELS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

29 **Robert Morris (OVC Digital Network)** 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 at Louisville (ESPN3) 11:00 a.m.
14 **Coastal Carolina (OVC Digital Network)** 5:00 p.m.
21 at Morehead State (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.
28 at Eastern Illinois* (ESPN3) 1:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 **Austin Peay* (OVC Digital Network)** 5:00 p.m.
19 **Tennessee Tech* (HC) (OVC Digital Network)** 2:00 p.m.
26 at Southeast Missouri* (ESPN3) 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 **Tennessee State* (ESPN3)** 12:00 p.m.
9 at Jacksonville State* (OVC Digital Network) 3:00 p.m.
16 **UT Martin* (OVC Digital Network)** 12:00 p.m.
23 at Murray State* (OVC Digital Network) 12:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



JACKSONVILLE STATE GAMECOCKS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

31 at Alabama State (CSS) 5:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 **Jacksonville Univ. (WJXS/OVC Digital Network)** 6:00 p.m.
14 **North Alabama (WJXS/OVC Digital Network)** 7:00 p.m.
21 at Georgia State 1:00 p.m.
28 **Murray State* (WJXS/OVC Digital Network)** 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 at UT Martin* (ESPN3) 2:00 p.m.
12 **Tennessee State* (HC) (WJXS/OVCDN)** 3:00 p.m.
26 at Tennessee Tech* (OVC Digital Network) 1:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 at Austin Peay* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
9 **Eastern Kentucky* (WJXS/OVC Digital Network)** 3:00 p.m.
16 at Eastern Illinois* (ESPN3) 12:00 p.m.
23 **Southeast Missouri* (WJXS/OVC Digital Network)** 3:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change

TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



MURRAY STATE RACERS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

31 at Missouri (ESPN3) 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 Campbellsville (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.
14 Missouri State (OVC Digital Network) 7:00 p.m.
21 at Bowling Green 2:30 p.m.
28 at Jacksonville State* (OVC Digital Network) 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 Tennessee Tech* (OVC Digital Network) 3:00 p.m.
12 at Southeast Missouri* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
19 Austin Peay* (HC) (ESPN3) 3:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 at UT Martin* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
9 Eastern Illinois* (OVC Digital Network) 12:00 p.m.
16 at Tennessee State* (OVC Digital Network) 2:00 p.m.
23 Eastern Kentucky* (OVC Digital Network) 12:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REDHAWKS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

29 at Southeastern Louisiana 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 at Ole Miss 6:00 p.m.
21 vs. Southern Illinois # 1:00 p.m.
28 UT Martin* (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 at Tennessee State* (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.
12 Murray State* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
19 at Eastern Illinois* (OVC Digital Network) 1:30 p.m.
26 Eastern Kentucky* (HC) (ESPN3) 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 Urbana University (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
9 Tennessee Tech* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
16 at Austin Peay* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
23 at Jacksonville State* (OVC Digital Network) 3:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

- Game played at Busch Stadium (St. Louis, Mo.)

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



TENNESSEE STATE TIGERS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

SEPTEMBER

1 Bethune-Cookman # (ESPN3) 7:00 p.m.
7 at Florida A&M 1:00 p.m.
14 vs. Jackson State \$ 6:00 p.m.
21 at Tennessee Tech* (ESPN3) 7:00 p.m.
28 vs. Central State ! 2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 Southeast Missouri* (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.
12 at Jacksonville State* (OVC Digital Network) 3:00 p.m.
19 at UT Martin* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
26 Eastern Illinois* (HC) (OVC Digital Network) 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 at Eastern Kentucky* (ESPN3) 12:00 p.m.
9 Austin Peay* @ (OVC Digital Network) 2:00 p.m.
16 Murray State* (OVC Digital Network) 2:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

- John Merritt Classic (LP Field - Nashville, Tenn.)

\$ - Southern Heritage Classic (Liberty Bowl - Memphis, Tenn.)

! - St. Louis Gateway Classic (Edward Jones Dome - St. Louis, Mo.)

@ - Game played at Hale Stadium on TSU campus (Nashville, Tenn.)

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



TENNESSEE TECH GOLDEN EAGLES (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

29 Cumberland (WCTE/OVC Digital Network) 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 at Wisconsin (BTN) 11:00 a.m.
14 at Hampton 5:00 p.m.
21 Tennessee State* (ESPN3) 7:00 p.m.
28 Indiana State (WCTE/OVC Digital Network) 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 at Murray State* (OVC Digital Network) 3:00 p.m.
10 UT Martin* (WCTE/OVC Digital Network) 7:00 p.m.
19 at Eastern Kentucky* (OVC Digital Network) 2:00 p.m.
26 Jacksonville State* (HC) (WCTE/OVCDN) 1:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 at Eastern Illinois* (OVC Digital Network) 12:00 p.m.
9 at Southeast Missouri* (OVC Digital Network) 1:00 p.m.
23 Austin Peay* (WCTE/OVC Digital Network) 1:30 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change

TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



UT MARTIN SKYHAWKS (0-0, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

29 at Chattanooga (CSS) 6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7 at Boise State (ESPN3) 2:00 p.m.

14 **Central Arkansas (WLJT/OVC Digital Network)** 6:00 p.m.

28 at Southeast Missouri* (OVC Digital Network) 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 **Jacksonville State* (HC) (ESPN3)** 2:00 p.m.

10 at Tennessee Tech* (OVC Digital Network) 7:00 p.m.

19 **Tennessee State* (WLJT/OVC Digital Network)** 1:00 p.m.

26 at Austin Peay* (OVC Digital Network) 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 **Murray State* (WLJT/OVC Digital Network)** 1:00 p.m.

9 at Memphis 3:30 p.m.

16 at Eastern Kentucky* (OVC Digital Network) 12:00 p.m.

23 **Eastern Illinois* (ESPN3)** 1:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold

All Times Central/Subject to Change



INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

SINCE 1948

2013 COMPOSITE SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Thursday, August 29

Robert Morris at Eastern Kentucky, 6:00 p.m.
UT Martin at Chattanooga, 6:30 p.m. (CSS)
Cumberland (Tenn.) at Tennessee Tech, 7:00 p.m.
Southeast Missouri at Southeastern Louisiana, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 31

Austin Peay at Tennessee, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
Jacksonville State at Alabama State, 5:00 p.m. (CSS)
Murray State at Missouri, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
Eastern Illinois at San Diego State, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

Bethune-Cookman at Tennessee State, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN3)

Saturday, September 7

Eastern Kentucky at Louisville, 11:00 a.m. (ESPN3)
Tennessee Tech at Wisconsin, 11:00 a.m. (BTN)
Tennessee State at Florida A&M, 1:00 p.m.
UT Martin at Boise State, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
Eastern Illinois at Southern Illinois, 6:00 p.m.
Jacksonville at Jacksonville State, 6:00 p.m.
Campbellsville at Murray State, 6:00 p.m.
Southeast Missouri at Ole Miss, 6:00 p.m.
Austin Peay at Vanderbilt, 6:30 p.m. (CSS)

Saturday, September 14

North Alabama at Jacksonville State, 3:00 p.m.
Austin Peay at Chattanooga, 5:00 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at Eastern Kentucky, 5:00 p.m.
Tennessee Tech at Hampton, 5:00 p.m.
Illinois State at Eastern Illinois, 6:00 p.m.
Missouri State at Murray State, 6:00 p.m.
Central Arkansas at UT Martin, 6:00 p.m.
Tennessee State vs. Jackson State, 6:00 p.m. (Memphis, Tenn.)

Saturday, September 21

Austin Peay at Ohio, 1:00 p.m.
Southern Illinois vs. Southeast Missouri, 1:00 p.m. (in St. Louis)
Jacksonville State at Georgia State, 1:00 p.m.
Murray State at Bowling Green, 2:30 p.m.
Eastern Illinois at Northern Illinois, 6:00 p.m.
Eastern Kentucky at Morehead State, 6:00 p.m.
*Tennessee State at Tennessee Tech, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN3)

Saturday, September 28

*Eastern Kentucky at Eastern Illinois, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN3)
Tennessee State vs. Central State, 2:00 p.m. (St. Louis, Mo.)
*Murray State at Jacksonville State, 3:00 p.m.
*UT Martin at Southeast Missouri, 6:00 p.m.
Indiana State at Tennessee Tech, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 5

*Jacksonville State at UT Martin, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
*Tennessee Tech at Murray State, 3:00 p.m.
*Austin Peay at Eastern Kentucky, 5:00 p.m.
*Southeast Missouri at Tennessee State, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 10

*Eastern Illinois at Austin Peay, 6:00 p.m.
*UT Martin at Tennessee Tech, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 12

*Murray State at Southeast Missouri, 1:00 p.m.
*Tennessee State at Jacksonville State, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 19

*Tennessee State at UT Martin, 1:00 p.m.
*Southeast Missouri at Eastern Illinois, 1:30 p.m.
*Tennessee Tech at Eastern Kentucky, 2:00 p.m.
*Austin Peay at Murray State, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN3)

Saturday, October 26

*Eastern Kentucky at Southeast Missouri, 1 p.m. (ESPN3)
*Jacksonville State at Tennessee Tech, 1:30 p.m.
*UT Martin at Austin Peay, 4:00 p.m.
*Eastern Illinois at Tennessee State, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 2

*Tennessee Tech at Eastern Illinois, 12:00 p.m.
*Tennessee State at Eastern Kentucky, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
*Murray State at UT Martin, 1:00 p.m.
Urbana University at Southeast Missouri, 1:00 p.m.
*Jacksonville State at Austin Peay, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 9

*Eastern Illinois at Murray State, 12:00 p.m.
*Tennessee Tech at Southeast Missouri, 1:00 p.m.
*Austin Peay at Tennessee State, 2:00 p.m.
*Eastern Kentucky at Jacksonville State, 3:00 p.m.
UT Martin at Memphis, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16

*Jacksonville State at Eastern Illinois, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
*UT Martin at Eastern Kentucky, 12:00 p.m.
*Southeast Missouri at Austin Peay, 1:00 p.m.
*Murray State at Tennessee State, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 23

*Eastern Kentucky at Murray State, 12:00 p.m.
*Eastern Illinois at UT Martin, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN3)
*Austin Peay at Tennessee Tech, 1:30 p.m.
*Southeast Missouri at Jacksonville State, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 30

FCS Playoffs First Round (campus sites)

Saturday, December 7

FCS Playoffs Second Round (campus sites)

Friday, December 13/Saturday, December 14

FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals (campus sites)

Friday, December 20/Saturday, December 21

FCS Playoffs Semifinals (campus sites)

Saturday, January 4

FCS National Championship, TBA (Frisco, Texas)

* - Denotes OVC contest

All Times CENTRAL; dates and times subject to change

All Conference games and home non-conference games featuring OVC schools will be available live and on-demand via the OVC Digital Network at OVCDigitalNetwork.com.

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



Robert Morris Colonials (0-0, 0-0 NEC)
at #19 Eastern Kentucky Colonels (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Thursday, Aug. 29 • 6:00 p.m. CT
Roy Kidd Stadium (20,000) • Richmond, Ky.

TV: OVC Digital Network
Live Stats: <http://www.sidearmstats.com/eku/football/index.htm>
Series Record: First meeting
Last Meeting: n/a
Joe Walton at Robert Morris: 109-86-1 (19 yrs.)
Joe Walton Overall: same
Dean Hood at Eastern Kentucky: 34-23 (5 yrs.)
Dean Hood Overall: same
Robert Morris Last Week: n/a
Eastern Kentucky Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: Eastern Kentucky will begin the 2013 season by hosting Robert Morris on Thursday night. It marks the first time in eight years (2005) that the Colonels have opened the season at home. It is also the first Thursday night home opener for the program in 20 years. It marks the first-ever meeting between the two programs and the first time ECU has played a team from the Northeast Conference. Eastern Kentucky is scheduled to return the game at Robert Morris in 2014.

SCOUTING ROBERT MORRIS: Robert Morris, located in Moon Township, Pa., finished last season 4-7 overall and 3-5 in the Northeast Conference. The team returns 36 letterwinners and 14 starters from that season. This year the program was picked fourth in the NEC preseason poll. Among the team's top returnees is sophomore cornerback Marcelis Branch who was the NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year last season after tallying three interceptions and forcing two fumbles. Senior linebacker Mike Cook returns after leading the team with 88 tackles a season ago. The season will mark the 20th and final for legendary head coach Joe Walton who will retire after the season. Walton was named head coach in 1993 and helped create the Robert Morris program from scratch. Along the way his teams have won five NEC titles and 109 total games. In 2005 RMU named its stadium after Walton.

SCOUTING EASTERN KENTUCKY: Eastern Kentucky ranked second nationally in turnover margin (+19) last season and compiled an 8-3 overall record and 6-2 OVC mark but was left out of the FCS Playoffs after finishing second in the OVC race. The Colonels do return 11 starters this season but must fill key starters at quarterback, running back and wide receiver. The team should once again be strong on defense with the return of linebackers Anthony Brown (60 tackles, 12.5 TFL) and Ichiro Vance (56 tackles) and defensive linemen David Carter (5.0 TFL) and Shawn Shupperd (56 tackles). On offense junior Jared McClain will replace four-year starter T.J. Pryor at quarterback; in limited action last year McClain passed for 460 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 201 yards and two additional scores. The running back depth chart is topped by redshirt freshman Jared Sanders who had 102 rushing yards during ECU's spring game. Eastern Kentucky begins the season ranked 19th in the FCS Coaches poll; the team was just outside the Top 25 in the Sports Network poll, coming in at 26th.



UT Martin Skyhawks (0-0, 0-0 OVC)
at #24 Chattanooga Mocs (0-0, 0-0 Southern)

Thursday, Aug. 29 • 6:30 p.m. CT
Finley Stadium (20,668) • Chattanooga, Tenn.

TV: CSS
Live Stats: <http://bit.ly/19xYJUJ>
Series Record: Chattanooga leads 3-0
Last Meeting: Chattanooga won 26-7 (9/2/93)
Jason Simpson at UT Martin: 45-34 (7 yrs.)
Jason Simpson Overall: same
Russ Huesman at Chattanooga: 23-21 (4 yrs.)
Russ Huesman Overall: same
UT Martin Last Week: n/a
Chattanooga Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: In-state foes UT Martin and Chattanooga square off for the first time since 1993 on Thursday night. Chattanooga leads the all-time series 3-0 including a 26-7 victory in that 1993 contest. All three games in the series were played between 1991 and 1993. The game marks a return to Chattanooga for UTM head coach Jason Simpson who served as the Mocs offensive coordinator from 2003-05.

SCOUTING UT MARTIN: UT Martin finished last season with an 8-3 record and 6-2 OVC mark and topped Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) foe Memphis during the year but were left out of the FCS Playoffs. This year the team returns 61 letterwinners and six starters on each side of the ball. Head coach Jason Simpson enters his eighth season with the program which ties him for the longest tenure among active OVC coaches (with Southeast Missouri coach Tony Samuel). Last season the Skyhawks had a high-powered offense led by senior quarterback Derek Carr who ranked seventh nationally in passing yards/game. As a team UTM was 10th nationally in passing offense (299.55 yards/game) and 18th nationally in scoring offense (33.55 points/game). This year it is a three-way race to replace Carr and the team may not name a starter until Thursday. Among those competing are redshirt sophomore Jarod Neal, redshirt sophomore Tyler Rice and junior transfer Dylan Favre (nephew of Brett Favre). Whoever wins the job will have the luxury of throwing to senior wideout Jeremy Butler who was an OVC All-Newcomer selection after catching 10 touchdowns a season ago. On defense the team returns senior linebacker Ben Johnson who was sixth nationally in tackles/game (11.91).

SCOUTING CHATTANOOGA: Chattanooga starts the season ranked 24th in the Sports Network Top 25 and 25th in the FCS Coaches poll. The team returns 21 starters from last year's team that was 6-5 overall. It marked the third winning season in the last four years for the Mocs, the first time that has happened for the program since 1984-87. The team had five players on the various preseason All-American lists including senior linebacker Wes Dothard who begins the year on the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List. Junior defensive lineman Davis Tull also begins the year on the Buchanan Watch List. UTC was 18th nationally a season ago in scoring defense (20.4 points/game allowed) and 10th in total defense (301.9 yards/game allowed). Chattanooga is 72-30-3 all-time in home openers, including 10-5 at Finley Stadium. Two of the six largest crowds in Finley Stadium history have come on a Thursday night.

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



Cumberland Bulldogs (0-0, 0-0 Mid-South) at Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Thursday, Aug. 29 • 7:00 p.m. CT
Tucker Stadium (16,500) • Cookeville, Tenn.



Southeast Missouri State Redhawks (0-0, 0-0 OVC) at Southeastern Louisiana Lions (0-0, 0-0 Southland)

Thursday, Aug. 29 • 7:00 p.m. CT
Strawberry Stadium (7,408) • Hammond, La.



TV: WCTE/OVC Digital Network
Live Stats: <http://livestats.prestosports.com/ttusports/fball>
Series Record: Series tied 6-6-1
Last Meeting: Tennessee Tech won 45-21 (9/6/07)
Donnie Suber at Cumberland: 0-0 (1st season)
Donnie Suber Overall: same
Watson Brown at Tennessee Tech: 28-39 (6 yrs.)
Watson Brown Overall: 122-190-1 (28 yrs.)
Cumberland Last Week: n/a
Tennessee Tech Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: Tennessee Tech will kick off the 2013 season by hosting in-state foe Cumberland on Thursday night. The two teams, separated by just 53 miles, are meeting for the 14th time on the gridiron and first time since the 2007 season. That season the Golden Eagles rolled to a 45-21 victory behind 213 rushing yards by Derek White and two touchdown passes from Lee Sweeney. The game also saw three touchdowns from wide receiver Larry Shipp, who returned a kickoff 87 yards for a score, caught a 34-yard touchdown pass and rushed six yards for a score.

SCOUTING CUMBERLAND: Cumberland currently competes at the NAIA level in the Mid-South Conference but is in the beginning stages of exploring a move to NCAA Division II. The team returns 12 starters and 32 letterwinners for first-year head coach Donnie Suber, who was previously the team's defensive coordinator. The Bulldogs were 8-3 a season ago and finished in second place in the West Division of its conference. The squad is ranked 25th nationally in the NAIA Coaches Preseason Top 25. The team will be led by redshirt junior quarterback Reed Gurchiek who is starting his fourth-straight season opener; Gurchiek started as a true freshman before suffering a season-ending knee injury in that game against Austin Peay. He has passed for 604 yards and nine touchdowns during his career.

SCOUTING TENNESSEE TECH: Tennessee Tech battled injuries all of the 2012 season, slipping from the OVC Championship in won in 2011 to eighth in the OVC standings a year ago (3-8 overall, 1-7 OVC). Head coach Watson Brown returns for his seventh season in Cookeville and 29th overall as a head coach. Brown and his brother Mack (head coach at Texas) have a chance to become the winningest set of brothers at the Division I level this season, as the two need to combine for 11 wins to break the mark of Bill and Vince Dooley. Brown has 23 total starters back this year with junior quarterback Darian Stone leading the offense. Stone started the final four games of the 2012 campaign and averaged 188 passing and 124 rushing yards/game over that time period. Included in that time period was a 467 yards of total offense output against UT Martin that earned him National Player of the Week honors. Tech also return senior All-American punter Chad Zinchini who ranked fifth nationally in punting (44.77 yards/punt) a season ago.

TV: none
Live Stats: <http://www.sidearmstats.com/selu/football>
Series Record: First meeting
Last Meeting: n/a
Tony Samuel at Southeast Missouri: 28-51 (7 yrs.)
Tony Samuel Overall: 62-108 (15 yrs.)
Ron Roberts at Southeastern Louisiana: 5-6 (1 yrs.)
Ron Roberts Overall: 52-22 (6 yrs.)
Southeast Missouri Last Week: n/a
Southeastern Louisiana Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: Southeast Missouri will travel to Hammond, La. to face off with Southeastern Louisiana for the first time in school history. The game is the start of a home-and-home series with the teams (Southeastern Louisiana previously played a home-and-home series with OVC foe UT Martin).

SCOUTING SOUTHEAST MISSOURI: Southeast Missouri begins the season with a young roster, as only 11 seniors are listed on its roster. Among its returning players is junior wide receiver/return specialist Spencer Davis who is 494 yards away from breaking Southeast's all-time kickoff return yardage record. Davis made 20 catches last season and also carried the ball 13 times. Davis will be catching passes from a new quarterback this year as redshirt junior Kyle Snyder won the starting job. Snyder, a transfer from Ohio, was scheduled to be the starter a year ago but suffered a season-ending injury in the preseason. In his place Scott Lathrop was named OVC Freshman of the Year after passing for 1,025 yards and seven touchdowns and rushing for 824 yards and seven additional scores; Lathrop will start this season as the backup. Also back is fullback Ron Coleman who scored a pair of rushing touchdowns last season. Southeast is 7-9-1 all-time against teams from the Southland Conference and 3-4 in season openers under head coach Tony Samuel. Samuel begins his eighth season with the Redhawks, tying him for the longest active coach in the OVC (with UTM's Jason Simpson).

SCOUTING SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA: Southeastern Louisiana was picked to finish fourth in the Southland preseason poll by the SID's and fifth by the coaches. The Lions were 5-6 last season but were 5-2 in the Southland race. This year the team has 49 letterwinners and 18 starters returning to the field. Southeastern will turn to junior quarterback Bryan Bennett who joined the program after two years at Oregon. Bennett played in 18 career games with the Ducks as a backup. The team also has a trio of quality running backs (including Wyoming transfer Kody Sutton) and All-Southland wide receiver Tony McCrea. On the defensive side of the ball SLU returns leading tackler Kaleb Muse as well as All-Southland secondary picks Todd Washington and Tyler Stoddard.

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



**Austin Peay Governors (0-0, 0-0 OVC)
at Tennessee Volunteers (0-0, 0-0 SEC)**



**Saturday, Aug. 31 • 5:00 p.m. CT
Neyland Stadium (102,455) • Knoxville, Tenn.**

TV: PPV/ESPN3 (blackout possible)
Live Stats: <http://bit.ly/16E1oYH>
Series Record: First meeting
Last Meeting: n/a
Kirby Cannon at Austin Peay: 0-0 (1st season)
Kirby Cannon Overall: 35-86 (11 yrs.)
Butch Jones at Tennessee: 0-0 (1st season)
Butch Jones Overall: 50-27 (6 yrs.)
Austin Peay Last Week: n/a
Tennessee Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: In-state foes Austin Peay and Tennessee will meet on the gridiron for the first time on Saturday. The game features a matchup of head coaches who begin the first year at their respective schools. Kirby Cannon now heads up the APSU program after 11 years as head coach at Missouri S&T (and the past three years as an assistant coach at Central Michigan) while Butch Jones takes over at UT after stints at Central Michigan and Cincinnati. Austin Peay is 2-17 all-time against teams from the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). If the game is played in front of a capacity or near capacity crowd of 102,455, it would be the second-biggest crowd to ever see an OVC team play (the largest is 104,488 in 2009 when Eastern Illinois played at Penn State).

SCOUTING AUSTIN PEAY: Austin Peay returns 58 letterwinners from last year's team that was 2-9 overall and capped the season with a victory over OVC foe Tennessee Tech. The Governors have seven offensive and nine defensive starters back but will replace key players at quarterback and running back. With the departure of quarterback Jake Ryan, Jacob Sexton steps into the signal caller roll after seeing limited action as a backup a season ago. Among the players he will be throwing the ball to is Darryl Clack who caught 19 passes for 174 yards and a touchdown in 2012. Among the team's top defensive returnees are Craig Salley (72 tackles) and Steven Rich (68 tackles).

SCOUTING TENNESSEE: After a 5-7 record and 1-7 SEC mark a season ago the Volunteers replace Derek Dooley with Cincinnati head coach Butch Jones. Jones has five offensive and eight defensive starters returning this season but will start a new quarterback as junior Justin Worley takes over for Tyler Bray who departed for the NFL. The team does have four NFL-caliber offensive linemen returning to boost the offensive attack and block for senior Rajion Neal who rushed for 741 yards a season ago. Defensively 6'8, 360 pound defensive tackle Daniel McCullers will create havoc for opponent's blocking schemes up front.



**Jacksonville State Gamecocks (0-0, 0-0 OVC)
at Alabama State Hornets (0-0, 0-0 SWAC)**



**Saturday, Aug. 31 • 5:00 p.m. CT
ASU Stadium (26,500) • Montgomery, Ala.**

TV: CSS
Live Stats: <http://www.sidearmstats.com/alasu/football>
Series Record: Alabama State leads 2-1
Last Meeting: Alabama State won 24-19 (9/1/07)
Bill Clark at Jacksonville State: 0-0 (1st season)
Bill Clark Overall: same
Reggie Barlow at Alabama State: 34-33 (6 yrs.)
Reggie Barlow Overall: same
Jacksonville State Last Week: n/a
Alabama State Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: Jacksonville State will open the 2013 season by taking the two and a half hour trip to Montgomery to challenge Alabama State. It will mark the fourth all-time meetings for the schools who have not played since the 2007 season. That year the meeting also opened the season for both team as ASU scored with three minutes to play to pull off the 24-19 victory. The Hornets outgained the Gamecocks 409 to 281 in total offense as JSU did not score an offensive touchdown. Jax State scored with four field goals from Gavin Hallford and got an 18-yard interception return from T.J. Heath in the second quarter to go up 13-0. The two other meetings in the series took place in 1980 and 1981. JSU is 47-48-7 all-time in season openers.

SCOUTING JACKSONVILLE STATE: Jacksonville State begins its first season under Bill Clark, a JSU alum, who was previously the defensive coordinator at South Alabama. He makes his coaching debut against ASU, who saw its head coach Reggie Barlow make his coaching debut against the Gamecocks in 2007. Clark will debut a new quarterback for the Gamecocks on Saturday although who will start is still to be determined. The starter will be Minnesota transfer Max Shortell, redshirt freshman Eli Jenkins or redshirt freshman Kyle West. Shortell played in eight games for Minnesota last year, passing for 853 yards and six touchdowns. The starting quarterback will be one of 10 players on JSU's team slated to make their first career starts on Saturday. The JSU offense does return its top rusher from last season in preseason All-OVC selection DaMarcus James. James rushed for 867 yards and six touchdowns last season. Also back is sophomore Troymaine Pope who had 240 yards in seven games last season. On defense senior linebacker Rashad Smith, who had 89 tackles in 2012, is back to anchor the JSU defensive unit. Jax State is 21-5-2 all-time against teams from the SWAC.

SCOUTING ALABAMA STATE: After a 7-4 record in 2012, Alabama State returns six offensive and five defensive starters this season and has been picked either first or second in the East Division of the SWAC in three different preseason polls. Head coach Reggie Barlow will look to running back Isaiah Crowell to lead the offensive attack. Crowell, who started his career at Georgia, led the Hornets with 842 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns last season. After the graduation of signal caller Greg Jenkins, ASU will start redshirt sophomore Daniel Duhart at quarterback this season. Duhart saw limited action last season, passing for 288 yards and four touchdowns and rushing for 29 yards and another score. Senior kicker Bobby Wenzig returns after connecting on eight field goals and 38-of-42 point after attempts and also averaged 45.6 yards/punt in 2012.

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



**Murray State Racers (0-0, 0-0 OVC)
at Missouri Tigers (0-0, 0-0 SEC)**



**#21 Eastern Illinois Panthers (0-0, 0-0 OVC)
at San Diego State Aztecs (0-0, 0-0 Mountain West)**



**Saturday, Aug. 31 • 6:00 p.m. CT
Faurot Field/Memorial Stadium (67,124) • Columbia, Mo.**

**Saturday, Aug. 31 • 7:00 p.m. CT
Qualcomm Stadium (54,000) • San Diego, Calif.**

TV: PPV/ESPN3 (blackout possible)
Live Stats: <http://bit.ly/15pVAWD>
Series Record: Missouri leads 1-0
Last Meeting: Missouri won 47-7 (9/2/06)
Chris Hatcher at Murray State: 18-15 (3 yrs.)
Chris Hatcher Overall: 112-42 (13 yrs.)
Gary Pinkel at Missouri: 90-61 (12 yrs.)
Gary Pinkel Overall: 163-98-3 (22 yrs.)
Murray State Last Week: n/a
Missouri Last Week: n/a

TV: Mountain West Network
Live Stats: <http://stats.statbroadcast.com/statmonitr/?id=23172>
Series Record: San Diego State leads 1-0
Last Meeting: San Diego State won 40-7 (10/6/01)
Dino Babers at Eastern Illinois: 7-5 (1 yr.)
Dino Babers Overall: same
Rocky Long at San Diego State: 17-9 (2 yrs.)
Rocky Long Overall: 82-78 (12 yrs.)
Eastern Illinois Last Week: n/a
San Diego State Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: Murray State will travel to Columbia, Mo. to battle Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) foe Missouri to open the 2013 season. The meeting is the second all-time between the schools but first since the Tigers became a member of the SEC. In the 2006 meeting between the schools Mizzou raced out to a 47-0 lead as the team out-gained the Racers 589 to 150 in total offense for the game. MSU is 2-20-1 all-time against FBS teams, having lost 19 games in a row; the Racers two wins all-time against FBS foes came against Louisville (1980 and 1984). Missouri is 12-0 all-time against teams from the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and has won seven-straight home openers.

SCOUTING MURRAY STATE: After graduating All-American Casey Brockman, who owns nearly every MSU passing record and most OVC ones as well, the Racers look to a new signal caller to lead the team this season. The starting job will go to Ole Miss transfer Maikhaill Miller who enters his sophomore season in 2013. Last season Miller appeared in two games for the Rebels, rushing for 23 yards on six attempts. In high school he was named a PrepStar All-American after passing for 1,636 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior and rushing for 1,148 yards and 22 additional scores. He was listed as the No. 23 pre-style quarterback coming out of high school by Rivals.com. Miller will have a valuable weapon at his disposal in senior wide receiver/return specialist Walter Powell. Powell, a candidate for the Walter Payton Award, ranked second among FCS players in all-purpose yards a season ago, racking up 193.0 yards/game. Powell caught 94 passes (the second-most in OVC history) for 1,213 yards and 10 touchdowns and averaged 26.3 yards/kickoff return and 15.8 yards/punt return (including two touchdowns). This season begins year number four under head coach Chris Hatcher who installed his "Hatch Attack" offense when he arrived in Murray. Last season the team ranked fifth nationally in total offense (484.36 yards/game) and scoring offense (39.18 points/game).

SCOUTING MISSOURI: Missouri is coming off an injury-filled season that saw the Tigers finish 5-7 overall in its first year as a member of the Southeastern Conference. That campaign snapped a seven-year streak of bowl appearances for the program. This year's team returns eight offensive and six defensive starters. On offense the team will look to senior quarterback James Franklin who passed for 1,562 yards and seven touchdowns in nine games a season ago. The team also gets a boost with the return of junior tailback Henry Josey who missed all of last season with an injury. Murphy rushed for 1,168 yards and nine touchdowns as a sophomore in 2011. He will be paired with junior Marcus Murphy who broke a MU record with four kick returns for touchdowns a season ago; Murphy also rushed for 251 yards and a touchdown.

GAME NOTES: The defending OVC champions will travel to meet the defending Mountain West champions to kick off the 2013 season on Saturday. The two teams have played once before as SDSU picked up a 40-7 victory in the 2001 season, the first game for the Panthers after 9/11. The Panthers were led by quarterback Tony Romo in that game who passed for 199 yards including a 65-yard touchdown to Andre Raymond in the second quarterback; Romo is now the starting quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys. That was the lone regular season loss for EIU that season as the team climbed as high as No. 3 in the FCS before losing in the FCS Playoffs. EIU is 4-27 all-time against members of the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), last winning in the 2004 season (Eastern Michigan). SDSU lost to an FCS opponent (Cal Poly) in 2008 but have beaten the last four FCS teams on their schedule. The game marks the first time since 2010 that EIU has opened the season on the road.

SCOUTING EASTERN ILLINOIS: Last season Eastern Illinois took the league and FCS by surprise as they were coming off back-to-back 2-9 seasons and picked near the bottom of the OVC in the preseason. But the Panthers went from last to first in claiming its sixth OVC championship and making its first appearance in the playoffs since 2009. First-year head coach Dino Babers was named OVC Coach of the Year after installing a high-octane spread offense that ranked the team seventh nationally in total offense (470.92 yards/game) and eighth nationally in scoring (36.5 points/game). Wide receiver Erik Lora finished fourth in balloting for the Walter Payton Award after smashing the NCAA FCS record for receptions in a season (136). Lora racked up 1,664 yards (fifth-most in FCS history) and was named both OVC Offensive Player of the Year as well as OVC Male Athlete of the Year (all sports). Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo ranked sixth nationally in passing yards/game (318.58) to help lead the offensive attack. Lora and Garoppolo begin this season as two of the 20 candidates for the Payton Award. EIU also has eight defensive starters back this season as well as All-OVC kicker Cameron Berra.

SCOUTING SAN DIEGO STATE: San Diego State compiled a 9-4 record last season including an appearance in the Poinsettia Bowl against BYU. This season the team was picked second (behind Fresno State) in the Mountain West Conference West Division preseason poll. The Aztecs returns 17 starters from a year ago including running back Adam Muema who rushed for 1,458 yards (112.2/game) and 16 touchdowns a season ago. Ryan Dingwell will be the team's starting quarterback after passing for 939 yards a season ago. Defensively the team returns its top four tacklers including linebackers Nat Berhe (94 tackles) and Jake Fely (90 tackles). Muema, Berhe and Fely were all Preseason MWC selections. San Diego State is 10-5 at home under now third-year head coach Rocky Long. Long has helped continue a rebuilding program for the Aztecs who did not have a winning season from 1999-2009.



#20 Bethune-Cookman Wildcats (0-0, 0-0 MEAC) at Tennessee State Tigers (0-0, 0-0 OVC)

Sunday, Sept. 1 • 7:00 p.m. CT
LP Field (69,143) • Nashville, Tenn.

TV: ESPN3 (OVC Game of the Week)
Live Stats: www.TSUTigers.com
Series Record: Tennessee State leads 6-1
Last Meeting: Tennessee State won 21-14 (9/22/12)
Brian Jenkins at Bethune-Cookman: 27-8 (3 yrs.)
Brian Jenkins Overall: same
Rod Reed at Tennessee State: 16-17 (3 yrs.)
Rod Reed Overall: same
Bethune-Cookman Last Week: n/a
Tennessee State Last Week: n/a

GAME NOTES: Tennessee State and Bethune-Cookman will be the only Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) teams to take to the field on Sunday to kick off the 2013 season. Both teams are coming off successful 2012 season as BC was 9-3 overall, won the MEAC Championship and advanced to the FCS Playoffs (where they lost to Coastal Carolina in the first round). Tennessee State is coming off an 8-3 season overall and return seven offensive and 11 defensive starters. The game is the kickoff of the "OVC Game of the Week" package on ESPN3 this season; the league will broadcast nine games as part of the package in 2013. The two teams played in Daytona Beach last year with TSU bringing home a 21-14 victory. All the scoring took place in the first half as the Tigers held on to win and improve to 4-0 on the season; it was the last loss of the year for BC during the regular season as the team would start a seven-game winning streak after the loss. Trabis Ward rushed for 154 yards and two scores for Tennessee State while BC had 196 yards on the ground with Isidore Jackson leading the way with 65 yards. The game marks the 15th annual John Merritt Classic (JMC); TSU is 10-4 all-time in John Merritt Classic games including have won three in a row and fourth of the last five in the Classic. This marks the first time Bethune-Cookman has been TSU's opponent in the game.

SCOUTING BETHUNE-COOKMAN: In three years under head coach Brian Jenkins the Wildcats have won 27 games and compiled an impressive 21-3 record in the MEAC. The team returns seven offensive and seven defensive starters from last year's playoff squad and begins the year ranked 20th in the FCS Coaches Top 25 and 23rd in the Sports Network Top 25. The team returns leading rusher Isidore Jackson who gained 1,069 yards on the ground last season and scored 11 rushing touchdowns, as well as quarterback Quentin Williams who completed 59.9 percent of his passes for 1,173 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2012. Defensively linebacker Jarkevis Fields, who tallied a team-best 103 tackles last year, returns to buoy the attack.

SCOUTING TENNESSEE STATE: Tennessee State won its first seven games last season to jump into the national rankings before dropping three of its final four games. The team, however, returns 11 defensive starters from a unit that was first in the OVC in total defense. Among those returning players is junior defensive back Steven Godbolt III, a candidate for the Buck Buchanan Award and the Preseason OVC Defensive Player of the Year. Godbolt led all FCS players in interceptions/game (0.60). Offensively the team returns All-American tight end A.C. Leonard who caught 51 passes for 733 yards and six touchdowns last year. Last year's starting quarterback Michael German is also back, but must serve a two-game suspension to start the season and will not be available for the Bethune-Cookman contest. German passed for 2,751 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2012.

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