

# 2021 Ohio Valley Conference Football Report

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

August 30, 2021  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## OVC STANDINGS

(In games through August 22)

|                    | 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     | -      |            |  |  |  |
| 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     | -      |            |  |  |  |
| Eastern Illinois   | 0   | 0 | .000 | 0  | 0  | 0       | 1 | .000 | 21 | 26 | 0-0  | 0-1  | 0-0     | L1     |            |  |  |  |

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Thursday, September 2

Tennessee Tech at Samford, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
#20 Austin Peay at #18 Chattanooga, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
#7 Southern Illinois at Southeast Missouri, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
UT Martin at Western Kentucky, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
Mississippi Valley State at Murray State, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, September 4

Eastern Illinois at South Carolina, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Sunday, September 5

Tennessee State vs. Grambling, 3:00 p.m. (Canton, Ohio)  
(NFL Network)

\* Indicates OVC Contest  
ALL TIMES CENTRAL

## LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

### Saturday, August 28

@Indiana State 26, Eastern Illinois 21

## THIS WEEK'S OVC HIGHLIGHTS/STORYLINES

The 74th year of OVC football began last week when Eastern Illinois played a Week Zero game at Indiana State...After a loss, OVC teams are now 1-3 all-time in Week Zero games (having played games in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021)...This year the League consists of seven football-playing schools who will play a six-game Conference schedule; additionally, some OVC schools will play other OVC opponents in designated matchups that will not count in the Conference standings (four games total)...Since its beginning, 15 of the 18 total schools that have played football in the league have claimed at least one championship...Austin Peay is ranked in both the Stats Perform (No. 20) and FCS Coaches (No. 25) Top 25 polls; Murray State, who was picked the preseason OVC favorite in a vote of league head coaches, was just outside both polls, unofficially coming in at No. 26...SEMO was also receiving votes in the Stats Perform Poll...Every current OVC team has been ranked at least one week in the Top 25 over the past five years (2016-20)...This week's Austin Peay/Chattanooga matchup is the only FCS game featuring a pair of nationally-ranked teams...Two OVC players were named to each the Walter Payton Award Watch List (Draylen Ellis, Geno Hess) and the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List (Marcis Floyd, Kordell Jackson); the awards are presented by Stats Perform to the National Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year at the FCS level...This season there is one new league head coach, as former Ohio State and Tennessee Titan standout Eddie George has taken over at Tennessee State...This year's FCS Playoffs will include 24 teams and the field will be announced on Sunday, November 21.....The OVC has placed multiple teams in the FCS Playoffs seven times in the past 11 years; OVC teams have 12 playoff wins since 2013, including five Quarterfinal appearances and one National Championship game appearance...In 7 of the past 11 years, an OVC team has defeated a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponent...Last academic year (2020-21), 187 football student-athletes were named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll for achieving a 3.25 GPA or better.

## OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

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The first set of Players of the Week will be announced on next Monday morning (due to TSU's Sunday contest).

## OVC MEDIA INFORMATION

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**DIGITAL PRESS BOX:** The OVC Football Digital 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](http://www.OVCSports.com/football/pressbox) or through links at [OVCSports.com](http://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](http://www.YouTube.com/ohiovalley-conference) and the league's blog at [OVCEXtra.com](http://OVCEXtra.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.

## 2021 PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

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### OFFENSIVE

Sept. 5  
Sept. 12  
Sept. 19  
Sept. 26  
Oct. 3  
Oct. 10  
Oct. 17  
Oct. 24  
Oct. 31  
Nov. 7  
Nov. 14  
Nov. 21

### DEFENSIVE

Sept. 5  
Sept. 12  
Sept. 19  
Sept. 26  
Oct. 3  
Oct. 10  
Oct. 17  
Oct. 24  
Oct. 31  
Nov. 7  
Nov. 14  
Nov. 21

### SPECIALIST

Sept. 5  
Sept. 12  
Sept. 19  
Sept. 26  
Oct. 3  
Oct. 10  
Oct. 17  
Oct. 24  
Oct. 31  
Nov. 7  
Nov. 14  
Nov. 21

### NEWCOMER

Sept. 5  
Sept. 12  
Sept. 19  
Sept. 26  
Oct. 3  
Oct. 10  
Oct. 17  
Oct. 24  
Oct. 31  
Nov. 7  
Nov. 14  
Nov. 21

**Bold indicates player went on to be named National Player of the Week (STATS, HERO Sports or NCAA.com).**

## NOTES FROM AROUND THE GRIDIRON

**Let's Get It Started:** The 74th season of Ohio Valley Conference football got underway on Saturday, August 28 when Eastern Illinois played at Indiana State in a Week Zero game. The OVC is made up of seven football-playing schools in 2021. Since its beginning, 15 of the 18 total schools that have played football in the league have claimed at least one championship.

**Week Zero:** Eastern Illinois began this season with a Week Zero contest at Indiana State. It marked the fourth time an OVC team played during the week (2017, 2018, 2020, 2021). OVC teams are 1-3 all-time in games during Week Zero.

**2021 Schedule:** The 2021 OVC football schedule features a round robin format with the seven teams playing a six-game schedule. Additionally, some OVC schools will play other OVC opponents in designated matchups that will not count in the Conference standings (four games total).

**Top 25 Polls:** Austin Peay enters the 2021 season ranked No. 20 in the Stats Perform Poll and No. 25 in the FCS Coaches Poll. It marks the fourth-straight season the Governors have been ranked, after never being ranked prior to the 2018 season. Murray State is just outside of both polls, coming in unofficially at No. 26 in each Top 25 poll. Additionally, Southeast Missouri picked up votes in the Stats Perform Poll. Every current OVC team has been ranked at least one week in the Top 25 over the past five years.

**Ellis and Hess Named to Walter Payton Award Watch List:** A pair of OVC football players are among the 35 players nationally named to the Walter Payton Award Watch List by Stats Perform. The selections were Austin Peay sophomore quarterback **Draylen Ellis** and Southeast Missouri senior running back **Geno Hess**. Named for the legendary Chicago Bears running back, the award enters its 35th season and is presented to the national offensive player of the year in college football's Division I subdivision. The Payton, first awarded in 1987, has been won by OVC players twice (both Eastern Illinois quarterbacks), Tony Romo in 2002 and Jimmy Garoppolo in 2013.

**Jackson and Floyd Named to Buck Buchanan Award Watch List:** A pair of OVC players are among the 35 players nationally named to the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List by Stats Perform. The picks were Murray State cornerback **Marcis Floyd** and Austin Peay nickelback **Kordell Jackson**. The award, now in its 27th season, is presented to the national defensive player of the year in college football's Division I subdivision, and is named for the legendary defensive lineman. The OVC has had two winners of the award, Jacksonville State's Darius Jackson (2017) and Southeast Missouri's Zach Hall (2018).

**OVC Teams Against FBS Opponents:** In seven of the past 11 seasons an OVC team has knocked off a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponent (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020). OVC teams are 36-252-1 all-time against FBS opponents with eight games on the 2021 schedule.

**NCAA Division I Playoff Information:** In 2010 the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoff field expanded to 20 teams, up from 16 previously, and in 2013 the field increased to 24 for the first time. The expansion in 2010 to 20 teams was the first since the field grew from 12 to 16 teams in 1997. The 24-team field is comprised of 10 automatic bids and 14 at-large berths. There are eight first round matchups (16 total teams), while eight (8) teams receive a bye into the second round. For the 13th time in 2021, the championship game will be played in Frisco, Texas at Toyota Stadium, a 20,500-seat multi-purpose stadium. The Southland Conference will serve as the host of the championship, which will be held on Saturday, January 8.

**Recent Playoff Success:** Beginning with the 2001 season the OVC went until 2013 without a FCS Playoff victory. But over the past eight seasons OVC teams have performed well in the playoffs, winning 12 total games and advancing to the FCS Quarterfinals three times in the past six seasons. In 2013 the OVC placed three teams in the field for the first-time ever (each won a game) and in 2015 the league had a team advance to the National Championship game (the first for the league since 1982). Over the past eight years five different OVC teams have won a playoff game.

**Two OVC Players Named to CFPA FCS Performer of the Year Watch List:** A pair of OVC football players have been named to the College Football Performance Awards (CFPA) FCS National Performer of the Year Trophy Watch List. The duo included Austin Peay sophomore quarterback **Draylen Ellis** and Southeast Missouri senior running back **Geno Hess**. The two were among 44 players nationally named to the list. The 2021 CFPA FCS National Performer of the Year winner will be announced January 12, 2022.

**Two OVC Players Named to FCS Punter of the Year Watch List:** Two OVC players have been named to the 2021 FCS Punter of the Year Award Watch List by the Augusta Sports Council. The OVC picks, who were among the 20 nationally on the list, were Southeast Missouri's **Zach Haynes** and Tennessee State's **Kaleb Mosely**. The 2021 watch list was compiled based on the 2020 FCS Punter of the Year watchlist, the 2020 All-Conference teams, the 2020 All-American Teams and the 2021 pre-season All-Conference Teams. The FCS Punter of the Year Award winner will be voted on by the FCS Punter of the Year Award/Ray Guy Award Committee and will be announced after the regular season.

**Sgt. York Trophy Presented by Delta Dental:** Beginning in 2014 Delta Dental of Tennessee became the presenting sponsor of the Sgt. York Trophy. The trophy (founded in 2007 by the Nashville Sports Council and OVC) goes to the winner of the quadrangular season football series between the four OVC football-playing schools located in the state of Tennessee (Austin Peay, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and UT Martin). The award is the only traveling trophy that involves four teams in college sports; there are three others that involve three teams, including the Commander in Chief's Trophy which has been contested between Air Force, Army and Navy annually since 1972. The award is named in honor of Alvin C. York, the most noted Soldier of World War I. As a corporal in the 2nd battalion, 328th Infantry, in the Battle of the Meuse River-Argonne (Oct. 8, 1918), York and seven other soldiers captured 132 prisoners, was promoted to sergeant and received the Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Croce di Guerra of Italy

## COACHES WEEKLY ZOOM

OVC coaches will hold a weekly video conference via Zoom. The sessions will be on Tuesday (beginning Aug. 31) between 10:10am-12pm CT, with each coach appearing for a maximum of 10 minutes. A schedule of what times coaches will appear weekly is below. For information on how to access the Zoom, please contact Kyle Schwartz in the OVC Office (615-690-6685 or kschwartz@ovc.org).

10:10 - Dean Hood, Murray State  
10:40 - Jason Simpson, UT Martin  
10:50 - Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois  
11:10 - Dewayne Alexander, Tennessee Tech  
11:20 - Tom Matukewicz, Southeast Missouri  
11:30 - Scotty Walden Austin Peay  
11:50 - Eddie George, Tennessee State

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and the War Medal of Montenegro. Upon his return to the United States in 1919, he was bestowed the Congressional Medal of Honor.

**Academic Success:** During the past academic year (2020-21) there were 187 OVC football student-athletes who were named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll for having a 3.25 grade point average or higher. In addition, 17 student-athletes were awarded the OVC Academic Medal of Honor for achieving perfect 4.0 GPAs. The OVC also awards a Team Academic Award for the football program with the highest percentage of players with a 3.25 grade point average or higher; that award went to Austin Peay for 2020-21.

**A Look at the Coaches:** Entering 2021, six of seven head coaches returned to lead their teams from a season ago. The lone new coach is former Heisman Trophy winner and Tennessee Titans standout **Eddie George**, who was named Tennessee State's head coach in April. The former Heisman Trophy winner and member of the College Football Hall of Fame was a four-time Pro Bowl selection and a member of the Tennessee Titans/Houston Oilers Ring of Honor. The longest tenured coach in the league is UT Martin's **Jason Simpson** who is in his 16th season with the Skyhawks in 2021. Simpson has 90 overall victories in his career, sixth-most in OVC history (two away from tying for fifth-place).

**EIU's Cushing on Football Oversight Committee:** Eastern Illinois head football coach **Adam Cushing** is the lone football coach on the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee, and is serving a four-year term until June 30, 2024. The Football Oversight Committee ensures that appropriate oversight of football for both the Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision is maintained, enhances the development of the sport and make recommendations related to regular-season and postseason football. The committee prioritizes enhancement of the student-athlete educational experience (academically and athletically), and in doing so, promotes student-athletes' personal growth and leadership development. It works in conjunction with appropriate governance entities to provide solutions to issues impacting the health and safety of football student-athletes. The committee supervises procedures for licensing of postseason bowls and qualifications and/or selection procedures for the FCS Championship. The committee reviews recommendations from the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee and process other issues related to the administration of the FCS Championship. The committee provides direction to the NCAA Football Rules Committee regarding playing rules governing FBS and FCS football. The committee is comprised of representatives from each divisional subgroup that sponsors football.

**Alexander on NCAA Committee on Ethical Conduct and Sportsmanship:** Beginning this season Tennessee Tech head coach **Dewayne Alexander** is on the NCAA's Committee on Ethical Conduct and Sportsmanship. The committee's mission is to improve the condition of sportsmanship and ethical conduct in all aspects of college athletics by developing and implementing strategies that foster greater acceptance of the value of respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. Since the establishment of the committee, the group has focused on two areas: (1) provide best practices and creative tools (e.g., the RESPECT campaign) for campus and conference implementation and (2) increase the awareness and profile of the NCAA Sportsmanship Awards.

**Carlisle and Horton Named to Division I Football Oversight Committee Student-Athlete Connection Group:** Tennessee Tech junior linebacker **Seth Carlisle** and Tennessee State junior defensive tackle **Raymond Horton** have been selected to participate in the Division I Football Oversight Committee Student-Athlete Connection Group (SACG). The connection group consists of 52 current players and its goal is to gather broad-based feedback from Division I football student-athletes on issues the Football Oversight Committee is reviewing. Among the priorities for the 2020-21 academic year are COVID-19 health and safety measures, transfer policies, name, image and likeness topics and social justice issues. Each Division I football conference has chosen two student-athlete representatives who will serve either one or two-year terms. The committee will meet quarterly to discuss issues and provide feedback to the Football Oversight Committee.

**Murray State Tabbed Preseason OVC Favorite:** Murray State has been picked the preseason football favorites in the OVC for the 2021 season. The Racers picked up seven of a possible 14 first-place votes in a poll of league head coaches and communications directors. It marks only the third time the Racers have been tabbed the preseason favorites and first time since 1996, when Houston Nutt was the head coach and the program was coming off an OVC Championship and NCAA Playoff appearance. The only other year the team was tabbed the favorite (dating back to the first preseason poll in 1978), was in 1980 when Mike Gottfried was head coach, and the team was once again coming off an OVC title and playoff appearance. Murray State totaled 64 points to finish just ahead of Austin Peay and Southeast Missouri, who tied for second-place with 60 points. The Governors and Redhawks were 2019 OVC Co-Champions and both appeared in the FCS Playoffs that season. UT Martin was

## NATIONAL POLLS

### STATS PERFORM

| No. | Team                   | Record     | Pts.       |
|-----|------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1.  | Sam Houston (39)       | 0-0        | 1,228      |
| 2.  | James Madison (8)      | 0-0        | 1,180      |
| 3.  | South Dakota State (3) | 0-0        | 1,156      |
| 4.  | North Dakota State     | 0-0        | 1,116      |
| 5.  | Delaware               | 0-0        | 1,017      |
| 6.  | Weber State            | 0-0        | 927        |
| 7.  | Southern Illinois      | 0-0        | 888        |
| 8.  | North Dakota           | 0-0        | 886        |
| 9.  | Montana                | 0-0        | 778        |
| 10. | Jacksonville State     | 0-0        | 744        |
| 11. | Eastern Washington     | 0-0        | 659        |
| 12. | Montana State          | 0-0        | 654        |
| 13. | Monmouth               | 0-0        | 618        |
| 14. | Central Arkansas       | 0-0        | 561        |
| 15. | Southeastern Louisiana | 0-0        | 559        |
| 16. | Villanova              | 0-0        | 440        |
| 17. | VMI                    | 0-0        | 397        |
| 18. | Chattanooga            | 0-0        | 295        |
| 19. | Kennesaw State         | 0-0        | 255        |
| 20. | <b>Austin Peay</b>     | <b>0-0</b> | <b>227</b> |
| 21. | Northern Iowa          | 0-0        | 219        |
| 22. | Nicholls               | 0-0        | 173        |
| 23. | UC Davis               | 0-0        | 172        |
| 24. | Missouri State         | 0-0        | 168        |
| 25. | North Carolina A&T     | 0-0        | 159        |

**Others (OVC Only):** Murray State (157), Southeast Missouri (3).

### FCS COACHES POLL

| No. | Team                   | Record     | Pts.      |
|-----|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1.  | Sam Houston (18)       | 0-0        | 682       |
| 2.  | James Madison (9)      | 0-0        | 667       |
| 3.  | North Dakota State     | 0-0        | 633       |
| 4.  | South Dakota State (1) | 0-0        | 620       |
| 5.  | Delaware               | 0-0        | 567       |
| 6.  | Weber State            | 0-0        | 552       |
| 7.  | North Dakota           | 0-0        | 475       |
| 8.  | Jacksonville State     | 0-0        | 437       |
| 9.  | Montana                | 0-0        | 436       |
| 10. | Southern Illinois      | 0-0        | 418       |
| 11. | Montana State          | 0-0        | 383       |
| 12. | Monmouth               | 0-0        | 382       |
| 13. | Central Arkansas       | 0-0        | 363       |
| 14. | Eastern Washington     | 0-0        | 287       |
| 15. | Villanova              | 0-0        | 284       |
| 16. | Northern Iowa          | 0-0        | 268       |
| 17. | Southeastern Louisiana | 0-0        | 267       |
| 18. | Chattanooga            | 0-0        | 204       |
| 19. | VMI                    | 0-0        | 167       |
| 20. | Kennesaw State         | 0-0        | 165       |
| 21. | UC Davis               | 0-0        | 135       |
| 22. | Richmond               | 0-0        | 104       |
| 23. | Nicholls               | 0-0        | 88        |
| 24. | North Carolina A&T     | 0-0        | 75        |
| 25. | <b>Austin Peay</b>     | <b>0-0</b> | <b>65</b> |

**Others (OVC Only):** Murray State (62).



### OVC IN THE POLLS WEEK-BY-WEEK (STATS/FCS COACHES)

|           | AP    | EIU | MUR   | SEMO | TSU | TTU | UTM |
|-----------|-------|-----|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Preseason | 20/25 | -/- | RV/RV | RV/- | -/- | -/- | -/- |
| Sept. 6   |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Sept. 13  |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Sept. 20  |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Sept. 27  |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Oct. 4    |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Oct. 11   |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Oct. 18   |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Oct. 25   |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Nov. 1    |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Nov. 8    |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Nov. 15   |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Nov. 22   |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |
| Final     |       |     |       |      |     |     |     |



tabbed fourth (38) and followed by Tennessee State (32), Tennessee Tech (28) and Eastern Illinois (12).

**APSU's Ellis and Jackson Headline Preseason All-OVC Team:** Austin Peay sophomore quarterback **Draylen Ellis** and Austin Peay graduate student nickelback **Kordell Jackson** were named the 2021 OVC Preseason Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year in a vote of by the league's head football coaches and communications directors. Murray State led the way with 10 preseason selections, followed by Tennessee State with eight and Southeast Missouri with seven. Austin Peay and UT Martin had six selections apiece while Eastern Illinois and Tennessee Tech each had two. Returning players who were first-team All-OVC selections last year (25 in total) were automatic selections to the preseason team this year.

**Romo Becomes Sixth College Football Hall of Famer With OVC Connections:** In January 2021 it was announced that former Eastern Illinois quarterback **Tony Romo** had been selected to the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class. Romo is the third player that played in the OVC to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame joining Jim Youngblood from Tennessee Tech and George Floyd Jr., from Eastern Kentucky. Three former head coaches from the OVC have also been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame with Roy Kidd (Eastern Kentucky), James "Boots" Donnelly (Middle Tennessee/Austin Peay) and Frank Beamer (Murray State). At EIU Romo was the winner of the 2002 Walter Payton Award as the top player in the FCS. After going undrafted in 2003, he would put together a standout NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys from 2003-16. The four-time Pro Bowl selection holds Cowboy records for career passing yards and passing touchdowns. Since retiring with the Cowboys, Romo has served as the lead color analyst for CBS' NFL telecasts, working alongside Jim Nantz.

**Four With OVC Connections in the Super Bowl:** At the end of the NFL regular season, there were 11 former OVC players on active rosters and five others on active rosters. For Super Bowl LV, there were four individuals with connections to the OVC taking part in the game. Former Jacksonville State All-American wide receiver **Josh Pearson** was a member of the Tampa Bay practice squad while former Austin Peay head coach and quarterback **Rick Christophel** was the tight ends coach for the Buccaneers. Former Murray State player and OVC official **Jabir Walker** was an alternate on this year's officiating crew and former Eastern Illinois and Dallas Cowboys quarterback **Tony Romo** broadcasted his second Super Bowl for CBS alongside Jim Nantz.

**I-AA No More:** Although some people may 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. Teams who play at the FCS level can offer a maximum of 63 scholarships (Football Bowl Subdivision teams can offer 85) and compete in a playoff at the end of the season to determine the national champion.

**FCS All-In:** Each Saturday during the 2021 football season, "FCS All-In" will debut a new episode at 9am CT and be available on-demand on YouTube. The program is a collaborative effort of the NCAA's 15 Division I FCS Conferences, bringing weekly segments from each league. For more information visit [www.youtube.com/c/FCSAllin](http://www.youtube.com/c/FCSAllin).

**ESPN+:** The season every Conference football game (and select non-conference contests) will be broadcast on ESPN+. This marks the fourth year of the OVC's deal with ESPN+, the multi-sport, direct-to-consumer video service from The Walt Disney Company's Direct-to-Consumer & International segment. Fans can subscribe to ESPN+ for \$6.99 a month (or \$69.99 per year) or as part of a bundle with Disney+ and ad-supported Hulu (\$13.99/month). ESPN+ is an integrated part of the ESPN App and (on mobile and connected devices) and ESPN.com. More information can be found at [www.OVCsports.com/ESPN](http://www.OVCsports.com/ESPN).

## OVC VS. OTHER CONFERENCES

| FCS Opponents                      |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| ASUN                               | 0-0        |
| Big Sky                            | 0-0        |
| Big South                          | 0-0        |
| CAA                                | 0-0        |
| Independent                        | 0-0        |
| Ivy                                | 0-0        |
| MEAC                               | 0-0        |
| Missouri Valley                    | 0-1        |
| NEC                                | 0-0        |
| Patriot                            | 0-0        |
| Pioneer                            | 0-0        |
| Southern                           | 0-0        |
| Southland                          | 0-0        |
| SWAC                               | 0-0        |
| WAC                                | 0-0        |
| <b>FCS Total</b>                   | <b>0-1</b> |
| FBS Opponents                      |            |
| American Athletic                  | 0-0        |
| Atlantic Coast                     | 0-0        |
| Big Ten                            | 0-0        |
| Big 12                             | 0-0        |
| Conference USA                     | 0-0        |
| MAC                                | 0-0        |
| Mountain West                      | 0-0        |
| Pac-12                             | 0-0        |
| SEC                                | 0-0        |
| Sun Belt                           | 0-0        |
| <b>FBS Total</b>                   | <b>0-0</b> |
| Non-Division I                     | 0-0        |
| <b>Total Non-Conference Record</b> | <b>0-1</b> |

## SCORING STREAKS

Below is a list of each OVC school and their current scoring streak; that list is followed by the longest FCS scoring streaks in NCAA history.

| #  | Team               | Last Shutout                   |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 77 | Tennessee State    | 44-0 vs. Eastern Ky. (11/2/13) |
| 30 | Tennessee Tech     | 24-0 vs. UT Martin (11/18/17)  |
| 18 | Southeast Missouri | 50-0 at Missouri (9/14/19)     |
| 18 | Eastern Illinois   | 52-0 at Indiana (9/7/19)       |
| 17 | UT Martin          | 45-0 at Florida (9/7/19)       |
| 16 | Murray State       | 45-0 at Toledo (9/14/19)       |
| 8  | Austin Peay        | 55-0 vs. Pittsburgh (9/12/20)  |

### Longest All-Time FCS Streaks Without Being Shutout

| #   | Team               | Years        |
|-----|--------------------|--------------|
| 406 | Montana*           | 1989-present |
| 293 | Dayton* %          | 1993-present |
| 291 | Hampton            | 1984-2009    |
| 265 | Lehigh             | 1986-2010    |
| 220 | Delaware           | 1996-2014    |
| 199 | Eastern Washington | 1988-2006    |
| 165 | UNI                | 1983-96      |
| 158 | McNeese State      | 1988-01      |
| 156 | Murray State       | 2005-19      |

\* Active Streak

% Overall streak is 487 (194 games were as a DIII team)

## ACTIVE 100-YARD RUSHING GAMES

Below is a list of 100-yard rushing games for active players in the OVC. Totals are for the players careers while in the OVC and are updated through Week Zero of the 2021 season.

### Active OVCer's With 100-Yard Rushing Games

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Peyton Logan, UT Martin            | 4 |
| David Gist, Tennessee Tech         | 3 |
| Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri      | 3 |
| Ahmaad Tanner, Austin Peay         | 3 |
| Devon Starling, Tennessee State    | 3 |
| Jaelin Benefield, Eastern Illinois | 2 |
| Brian Snead, Austin Peay           | 2 |
| Rodney Castille, Murray State      | 1 |
| Zion Custis, Southeast Missouri    | 1 |
| Damonta Witherspoon, Murray State  | 1 |
| Willie Miller, Tennessee Tech      | 1 |

## 2021 SUPERLATIVES

### 100-Yard Rushing Games

none

### 300-Yard Passing Games

none

### 250-Yard Passing Games

253..... Otto Kuhns, Eastern Illinois at Indiana State (Aug. 28)

### 100-Yard Receiving Games

116..... Tyler Ringwood, Eastern Illinois at Indiana State (Aug. 28)

### 10-Reception Games

none

### 200-Yard All-Purpose Games

none

### 50-Yard Field Goals

none

### 15-Tackle Games

none

### Multiple Defensive Interception Games

none

### Multiple Rushing Touchdown Games

none

### Multiple Receiving Touchdown Games

none

### Multiple Passing Touchdown Games

none

## SGT. YORK TROPHY

The 2021 season marks the 15th of competition for the Sergeant York Trophy, an award created by the Nashville Sports Council and the Ohio Valley Conference. The trophy is contested between the four OVC football-playing schools in the state of Tennessee - Austin Peay, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and UT Martin - and goes to the team with the best combined record versus those schools in a given year.

The award is sponsored by Delta Dental of Tennessee.

In the event of a tie, the award will be shared; however, the previous winner will retain the trophy if they are part of the tie. If the tie is between two other institutions, the trophy will go to the institution that has gone the most seasons without winning the trophy.

The award is the only traveling trophy that involves four teams in college sports; there are three others that involve three teams, including the Commander in Chief's Trophy which has been contested between Air Force, Army and Navy annually since 1972. The award is named in honor of Alvin C. York, the most noted Soldier of World War I. Upon his return to the United States in 1919, he was bestowed the Congressional Medal of Honor. Following the war York returned his home in Pall Mall, Tenn. where he dedicated his life to improving education and facilitating educational opportunities for children in the state of Tennessee.

### All-Time Sgt. York Trophy Winners

2007 - Tennessee State\*, Austin Peay  
2008 - Tennessee State  
2009 - Tennessee Tech  
2010 - UT Martin  
2011 - Tennessee State\*, Tennessee Tech  
2012 - Tennessee State\*, UT Martin  
2013 - Tennessee State  
2014 - UT Martin  
2015 - UT Martin  
2016 - UT Martin\*, Tennessee State, Tenn. Tech  
2017 - Austin Peay  
2018 - Austin Peay\*, Tennessee State, UT Martin  
2019 - Austin Peay\*, Tennessee State, UT Martin  
2020 - Tennessee Tech\*, UT Martin

*\*Took home the trophy due to winning the tie-breaker*

### 2021 Sgt. York Trophy Contests

Oct. 16 - Tennessee Tech at Tennessee State  
Oct. 30 - Austin Peay at UT Martin  
Nov. 6 - Tennessee State at UT Martin  
Nov. 13 - UT Martin at Tennessee Tech  
Nov. 13 - Austin Peay at Tennessee State  
Nov. 20 - Tennessee Tech at Austin Peay

### 2021 Sgt. York Trophy Standings

| Team        | AP | TSU | TTU | UTM | Record |
|-------------|----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Austin Peay | -- |     |     |     | 0-0    |
| Tenn. State |    | --  |     |     | 0-0    |
| Tenn. Tech  |    |     | --  |     | 0-0    |
| UT Martin   |    |     |     | --  | 0-0    |

### All-Time Record in Sgt. York Games

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Austin Peay     | 15-27 |
| Tennessee State | 22-20 |
| Tennessee Tech  | 18-24 |
| UT Martin       | 29-13 |

## 2021 PRESEASON HONORS/AWARDS

### OVC PRESEASON HONORS (COACHES/SID'S)

#### **Preseason All-OVC Team**

**Preseason Offensive Player of the Year:**

Draylen Ellis (QB), Austin Peay

**Preseason Defensive Player of the Year:**

Kordell Jackson (NB), Austin Peay

#### **Offense**

QB - Preston Rice, Murray State

QB - Draylen Ellis, Austin Peay

RB - Devon Starling, Tennessee State

RB - Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri

FB - Benjamin Johnson, Tennessee State

WR - Zack Smith, Southeast Missouri

WR - Colton Dowell, UT Martin

WR - LaMarte Brooks, Murray State

WR - Donnell Williams, UT Martin

WR - Cam Wyche, Tennessee State

WR - Jacob Bell, Murray State

TE - Rodney Williams II, UT Martin

OL - Cam Durley, Tennessee State

OL - Bucky Williams, Austin Peay

OL - Jaden Rosenthal, Southeast Missouri

OL - Levi Nesler, Murray State

OL - Jacob Vance, Murray State

OL - Shyron Rodgers, Southeast Missouri

OL - Matthan Hatchie, UT Martin

OL - Colby McKee, Austin Peay

OL - Seth Johnson, Austin Peay

#### **Defense**

DT - Bryson Donnell, Southeast Missouri

DT - Davaon Hawkins, Tennessee State

DE - Chris Tucker, Tennessee Tech

DE - Ethan Edmondson, Murray State

OLB - Omarrick Douglas, Southeast Missouri

OLB - Scotty Humpich, Murray State

OLB - James Green, Tennessee State

ILB - Eric Samuta, Murray State

ILB - Jason Johnson, Eastern Illinois

ILB - Jack McDonald, Austin Peay

CB - Marcis Floyd, Murray State

CB - Jay Woods, UT Martin

S - Deven Sims, UT Martin

S - Josh Reliford, Tennessee Tech

S - Josh Green, Tennessee State

NB - Kordell Jackson, Austin Peay

#### **Specialists**

K - Antonio Zita, Tennessee State

P - Zach Haynes, Southeast Missouri

KR - Matt Judd, Eastern Illinois

PR - Malik Honeycutt, Murray State

### STATS PERFORM

#### **Preseason All-American First-Team**

DB Kordell Jackson, Austin Peay

#### **Preseason All-American Second-Team**

TE Rodney Williams II, UT Martin

PK Antonio Zita, Tennessee State

#### **Preseason All-American Third-Team**

RB Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri

DB Marcis Floyd, Murray State

### ATHLON MAGAZINE

#### **Preseason Top 25**

23. Austin Peay

#### **Preseason All-American**

DB Kordell Jackson

### PHIL STEELE

#### **Preseason First-Team All-American**

DB Kordell Jackson, Austin Peay

#### **Preseason Third-Team All-American**

K Antonio Zita, Tennessee State

### HERO SPORTS

#### **Top 25 Ranking**

18. Austin Peay

22. Murray State

#### **Preseason All-American**

DB Kordell Jackson, Austin Peay

## OVC COACHING RECORDS

| <b>Coach, School</b>               | <b>OVC-Only Games</b> |          |          |             | <b>All Games*</b> |          |             | <b>Overall Career Record</b> |          |          |             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|
|                                    | <b>Yrs.</b>           | <b>W</b> | <b>L</b> | <b>Pct.</b> | <b>W</b>          | <b>L</b> | <b>Pct.</b> | <b>Yrs.</b>                  | <b>W</b> | <b>L</b> | <b>Pct.</b> |
| Scotty Walden, Austin Peay         | 2                     | 4        | 2        | .667        | 4                 | 2        | .667        | 3                            | 12       | 8        | .600        |
| Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois     | 3                     | 2        | 12       | .143        | 2                 | 17       | .105        | 3                            | 2        | 17       | .105        |
| Dean Hood, Murray State            | 10                    | 49       | 21       | .700        | 60                | 40       | .600        | 10                           | 60       | 40       | .600        |
| Tom Matukewicz, Southeast Missouri | 8                     | 29       | 25       | .537        | 37                | 42       | .468        | 9                            | 38       | 42       | .475        |
| Eddie George, Tennessee State      | 1                     | 0        | 0        | .000        | 0                 | 0        | .000        | 1                            | 0        | 0        | .000        |
| Dewayne Alexander, Tennessee Tech  | 4                     | 6        | 17       | .207        | 9                 | 21       | .300        | 10                           | 50       | 54       | .481        |
| Jason Simpson, UT Martin           | 16                    | 72       | 46       | .610        | 90                | 77       | .539        | 16                           | 90       | 77       | .539        |

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

## TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



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

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

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                               |                  |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | at #18 Chattanooga (ESPN+)    | 6:30 p.m.        |
| 11 | at Ole Miss (ESPN+)           | 6:30 p.m.        |
| 18 | <b>Morehead State (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 25 | at Eastern Kentucky           | 2:00 p.m.        |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                    |                  |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | Tennessee State # (ESPN+)          | 7:00 p.m.        |
| 9  | <b>Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>3:00 p.m.</b> |
| 23 | at Murray State* (ESPN+)           | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 30 | at UT Martin* (ESPN+)              | 2:00 p.m.        |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                                  |                  |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 6  | <b>Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 13 | at Tennessee State* (ESPN+)      | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 20 | <b>Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)</b>   | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

**Home Games in Bold**

All Times Central/Subject to Change



### EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS (0-1, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-1, Neutral: 0-0

#### AUGUST

|    |                          |          |       |
|----|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| 28 | at Indiana State (ESPN+) | L, 21-26 | 5,540 |
|----|--------------------------|----------|-------|

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                               |                  |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 4  | at South Carolina (ESPN+)     | 6:00 p.m.        |
| 11 | at Dayton                     | 12:00 p.m.       |
| 18 | <b>Illinois State (ESPN+)</b> | <b>6:00 p.m.</b> |
| 25 | at Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)    | 1:30 p.m.        |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                 |                  |
|----|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | at Murray State # (ESPN+)       | 4:00 p.m.        |
| 16 | <b>UT Martin* (ESPN+)</b>       | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 23 | <b>Tennessee State* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 30 | at Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)  | 1:00 p.m.        |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                              |                   |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6  | at Austin Peay* (ESPN+)      | 2:00 p.m.         |
| 20 | <b>Murray State* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>12:00 p.m.</b> |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

**Home Games in Bold**

All Times Central/Subject to Change



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

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

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 2  | <b>Mississippi Valley State (ESPN+)</b> | <b>7:00 p.m.</b> |
| 11 | at Cincinnati (ESPN+)                   | 2:30 p.m.        |
| 18 | at Bowling Green (ESPN3)                | 4:00 p.m.        |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                   |                  |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | <b>Eastern Illinois # (ESPN+)</b> | <b>4:00 p.m.</b> |
| 9  | at UT Martin* (ESPN+)             | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 16 | at Southeast Missouri # (ESPN+)   | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 23 | <b>Austin Peay* (ESPN+)</b>       | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 30 | at Tennessee State* (ESPN+)       | 5:00 p.m.        |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                                    |                  |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 6  | <b>Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)</b>     | <b>1:00 p.m.</b> |
| 13 | <b>Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>1:00 p.m.</b> |
| 20 | at Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)       | 12:00 p.m.       |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

**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

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                                     |                  |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | <b>#7 Southern Illinois (ESPN+)</b> | <b>6:30 p.m.</b> |
| 11 | at Sam Houston                      | 6:00 p.m.        |
| 18 | at Missouri (SEC Network+)          | 11:00 a.m.       |
| 25 | <b>Tennessee State* (ESPN+)</b>     | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                  |                  |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | at Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)       | 1:30 p.m.        |
| 9  | at Austin Peay* (ESPN+)          | 3:00 p.m.        |
| 16 | <b>Murray State # (ESPN+)</b>    | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 23 | at UT Martin # (ESPN+)           | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 30 | <b>Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>1:00 p.m.</b> |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                           |                  |
|----|---------------------------|------------------|
| 13 | at Murray State* (ESPN+)  | 1:00 p.m.        |
| 20 | <b>UT Martin* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>1:00 p.m.</b> |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

**Home Games in Bold**

All Times Central/Subject to Change



## TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



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

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

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                                |                  |
|----|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 5  | vs. Grambling % (NFL Network)  | 3:00 p.m.        |
| 11 | vs. Jackson State \$ (ESPN3)   | 6:00 p.m.        |
| 18 | <b>Kentucky State (ESPN+)</b>  | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 25 | at Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+) | 2:00 p.m.        |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                |                  |
|----|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | at Austin Peay # (ESPN+)       | 7:00 p.m.        |
| 16 | <b>Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 23 | at Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)   | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 30 | <b>Murray State* (ESPN+)</b>   | <b>5:00 p.m.</b> |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                             |                  |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 6  | at UT Martin* (ESPN+)       | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 13 | <b>Austin Peay* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 20 | at Mississippi State        | TBD              |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

% - Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic (Canton, Ohio)

\$ - Southern Heritage Classic (Memphis, 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

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                                  |                  |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | at Samford (ESPN+)               | 6:00 p.m.        |
| 11 | <b>Furman (ESPN+)</b>            | <b>1:30 p.m.</b> |
| 18 | at Tennessee (SEC Network+)      | 11:00 a.m.       |
| 25 | <b>Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>1:30 p.m.</b> |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                    |                  |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | <b>Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>1:30 p.m.</b> |
| 9  | at North Carolina Central (ESPN+)  | 1:00 p.m.        |
| 16 | at Tennessee State* (ESPN+)        | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 23 | <b>Virginia-Lynchburg (ESPN+)</b>  | <b>1:30 p.m.</b> |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                           |                  |
|----|---------------------------|------------------|
| 6  | at Murray State* (ESPN+)  | 1:00 p.m.        |
| 13 | <b>UT Martin* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>1:30 p.m.</b> |
| 20 | at Austin Peay* (ESPN+)   | 2:00 p.m.        |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

**Home Games in Bold**

All Times Central/Subject to Change



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

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

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                               |                  |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | at Western Kentucky (ESPN+)   | 7:00 p.m.        |
| 11 | <b>Samford (ESPN+)</b>        | <b>6:00 p.m.</b> |
| 18 | at Northwestern State (ESPN+) | 6:00 p.m.        |
| 25 | at Jacksonville State (ESPN+) | 3:00 p.m.        |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                                     |                  |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 9  | <b>Murray State* (ESPN+)</b>        | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 16 | at Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)        | 2:00 p.m.        |
| 23 | <b>Southeast Missouri # (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 30 | <b>Austin Peay* (ESPN+)</b>         | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                                 |                  |
|----|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 6  | <b>Tennessee State* (ESPN+)</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> |
| 13 | at Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)      | 1:30 p.m.        |
| 20 | at Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)  | 1:00 p.m.        |

\* Ohio Valley Conference Game

# - Does Not Count in Conference Standings

**Home Games in Bold**

All Times Central/Subject to Change



#### OVC NOTABLES

- Every current OVC team has been ranked in the Top 25 polls for at least one week over the past five years (2016-20).
- Last year three teams were ranked in the final Stats Perform Top 25, the first time since the 2013 season three OVC teams finished the season ranked in that poll.
- The OVC has placed multiple teams in the FCS Playoffs seven times in the past 11 years.
- OVC teams have 12 playoff wins since 2013, including five Quarterfinal appearances and one National Championship game appearance.
- Since 2013, the OVC has produced one Walter Payton Award Winner, two Buck Buchanan Award Winners, an Eddie Robinson Award Winner and a Deacon Jones Trophy winner. In addition, the league has had two Doris Robinson Award Winners, as the National Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
- In 7 of the past 11 years, an OVC team has defeated a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponent.
- The OVC has produced at least one NFL Draft Pick in 10 of the past 14 years.
- In January 2020, OVC alum Jimmy Garoppolo became just the eighth former FCS quarterback to start a Super Bowl, doing so with the San Francisco 49ers. Last season (2020) 11 former OVC players were on active rosters at the end of the season.
- Former EIU quarterback Tony Romo was selected to the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class. He is the third former OVC player to be inducted (Jim Youngblood, George Floyd Jr.); in addition, there are also three former OVC coaches (Roy Kidd, Boots Donnelly, Frank Beamer) already enshrined.
- Over the previous 73 years, 15 of 18 teams that have competed have claimed at least one league championship.

## 2021 COMPOSITE SCHEDULE/RESULTS

---

### Saturday, August 28

@Indiana State 26, **Eastern Illinois 21**

### Thursday, September 2

**Tennessee Tech** at Samford, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Austin Peay** at Chattanooga, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

Southern Illinois **at Southeast Missouri**, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

**UT Martin** at Western Kentucky, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Mississippi Valley State **at Murray State**, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, September 4

**Eastern Illinois** at South Carolina, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Sunday, September 5

**Tennessee State** vs. Grambling, 3:00 p.m. (Canton, Ohio)

### Saturday, September 11

**Eastern Illinois** at Dayton, 12:00 p.m.

Furman **at Tennessee Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Murray State** at Cincinnati, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Southeast Missouri** at Sam Houston, 6:00 p.m.

**Tennessee State** vs. Jackson State, 6 p.m. (Memphis, TN) (E3)

Samford **at UT Martin**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Austin Peay** at Ole Miss, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, September 18

**Southeast Missouri** at Missouri, 11:00 a.m. (SEC Network+)

**Tennessee Tech** at Tennessee, 11:00 a.m. (SEC Network+)

Morehead State **at Austin Peay**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Kentucky State **at Tennessee State**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Murray State** at Bowling Green, 4:00 p.m. (ESPN3)

Illinois State **at Eastern Illinois**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

**UT Martin** at Northwestern State, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, September 25

\***Eastern Illinois** at **Tennessee Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Tennessee State** at **Southeast Missouri**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Austin Peay** at Eastern Kentucky, 2:00 p.m.

**UT Martin** at Jacksonville State, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 2

\***Southeast Missouri** at **Tennessee Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

#**Eastern Illinois** at **Murray State**, 4:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

#**Tennessee State** at **Austin Peay**, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 9

**Tennessee Tech** at North Carolina Central, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Southeast Missouri** at **Austin Peay**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Murray State** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 16

\***UT Martin** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Tennessee Tech** at **Tennessee State**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

#**Murray State** at **Southeast Missouri**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 23

Virginia-Lynchburg **at Tennessee Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Austin Peay** at **Murray State**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Tennessee State** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

#**Southeast Missouri** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 30

\***Eastern Illinois** at **Southeast Missouri**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Austin Peay** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Murray State** at **Tennessee State**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, November 6

\***Tennessee Tech** at **Murray State**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Eastern Illinois** at **Austin Peay**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Tennessee State** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, November 13

\***Southeast Missouri** at **Murray State**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Austin Peay** at **Tennessee State**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***UT Martin** at **Tennessee Tech**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, November 20

\***Murray State** at **Eastern Illinois**, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***UT Martin** at **Southeast Missouri**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

\***Tennessee Tech** at **Austin Peay**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

**Tennessee State** at Mississippi State, TBA

### Saturday, November 27

FCS Playoffs First Round (campus sites)

### Saturday, December 4

FCS Playoffs Second Round (campus sites)

### Friday, December 10/Saturday, December 11

FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals (campus sites)

### Friday, December 17/Saturday, December 18

FCS Playoffs Semifinals (campus sites)

### Saturday, January 8

Division I National Championship, TBA (Frisco, Texas)

\* - Denotes OVC contest

# - Game Does NOT Count in OVC Standings

All Times CENTRAL; dates and times subject to change

# ALL-TIME CONFERENCE SERIES GAME-BY-GAME

## APSU-EIU

### EIU leads 15-5

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 1958 | APSU, 21-6 (H)  |
| 1959 | APSU, 12-8 (A)  |
| 1988 | EIU, 44-0 (H)   |
| 1989 | EIU, 36-0 (A)   |
| 1992 | EIU, 14-9 (A)   |
| 1995 | EIU, 31-13 (A)  |
| 1996 | EIU, 42-7 (A)   |
| 1997 | EIU, 42-14 (H)  |
| 2008 | APSU, 15-13 (A) |
| 2009 | EIU, 30-20 (A)  |
| 2010 | EIU, 28-10 (H)  |
| 2011 | EIU, 19-10 (A)  |
| 2012 | EIU, 65-15 (H)  |
| 2013 | EIU, 63-7 (A)   |
| 2014 | EIU, 63-7 (H)   |
| 2015 | EIU, 40-16 (A)  |
| 2016 | EIU, 56-35 (H)  |
| 2017 | APSU, 28-13 (H) |
| 2018 | EIU, 52-21 (H)  |
| 2019 | APSU, 35-7 (H)  |

## APSU-MUR

### MUR leads 36-18

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1953 | MUR, 33-13 (A)       |
| 1954 | MUR, 44-7 (H)        |
| 1955 | MUR, 20-13 (A)       |
| 1956 | MUR, 33-27 (H)       |
| 1963 | MUR, 14-0 (H)        |
| 1964 | APSU, 26-10 (H)      |
| 1965 | APSU, 23-6 (A)       |
| 1966 | APSU, 49-0 (H)       |
| 1967 | APSU, 37-20 (A)      |
| 1968 | APSU, 56-35 (H)      |
| 1969 | MUR, 53-41 (H)       |
| 1970 | APSU, 45-7 (H)       |
| 1971 | MUR, 16-6 (H)        |
| 1972 | APSU, 33-20 (H)      |
| 1973 | MUR, 31-19 (H)       |
| 1974 | MUR, 16-8 (A)        |
| 1975 | MUR, 14-10 (H)       |
| 1976 | MUR, 23-13 (A)       |
| 1977 | APSU, 13-0 (A)       |
| 1978 | APSU, 23-17 (H)      |
| 1979 | MUR, 24-10 (H)       |
| 1980 | APSU, 24-0 (H)       |
| 1981 | MUR, 34-29 (H)       |
| 1982 | MUR, 21-7 (A)        |
| 1983 | APSU, 17-16 (H)      |
| 1984 | MUR, 20-13 (2OT) (H) |
| 1985 | MUR, 14-6 (A)        |
| 1986 | MUR, 24-14 (A)       |
| 1987 | MUR, 40-0 (H)        |
| 1988 | MUR, 19-3 (A)        |
| 1989 | MUR, 49-43 (H)       |
| 1990 | MUR, 31-24 (3OT) (A) |
| 1991 | APSU, 27-9 (H)       |
| 1992 | MUR, 27-10 (H)       |
| 1993 | MUR, 38-14 (H)       |
| 1994 | MUR, 29-14 (A)       |
| 1995 | MUR, 45-17 (A)       |
| 1996 | MUR, 51-7 (H)        |
| 1997 | MUR, 51-0 (H)        |
| 2005 | MUR, 42-6 (H)        |
| 2007 | APSU, 23-17 (A)      |
| 2008 | MUR, 32-12 (A)       |
| 2009 | MUR, 27-17 (H)       |
| 2010 | MUR, 61-35 (A)       |
| 2011 | MUR, 56-24 (H)       |
| 2012 | MUR, 52-14 (A)       |
| 2013 | MUR, 31-3 (H)        |
| 2014 | APSU, 20-13 (H)      |
| 2015 | MUR, 34-18 (H)       |
| 2016 | MUR, 45-17 (A)       |
| 2017 | APSU, 27-7 (A)       |
| 2018 | APSU, 48-23 (H)      |
| 2019 | APSU, 42-7 (A)       |
| 2020 | APSU, 34-31 (H)      |

## APSU-SEMO

### SEMO leads 16-9

|      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1953 | SEMO, 19-6            |
| 1965 | APSU, 50-7            |
| 1966 | APSU, 28-27           |
| 1991 | APSU, 24-21 (H)       |
| 1992 | APSU, 21-16 (A)       |
| 1993 | SEMO, 17-7 (A)        |
| 1994 | SEMO, 31-10 (H)       |
| 1995 | SEMO, 38-23 (A)       |
| 1996 | SEMO, 17-13 (H)       |
| 1997 | SEMO, 31-0 (A)        |
| 2006 | SEMO, 38-13 (A)       |
| 2007 | APSU, 34-31 (2OT) (A) |
| 2008 | SEMO, 33-30 (A)       |
| 2009 | APSU, 24-14 (A)       |
| 2010 | SEMO, 41-24 (A)       |
| 2011 | SEMO, 17-13 (H)       |
| 2012 | SEMO, 48-27 (A)       |
| 2013 | SEMO, 36-34 (A)       |
| 2014 | SEMO, 42-7 (H)        |
| 2015 | SEMO, 44-15 (A)       |
| 2016 | SEMO, 41-21 (H)       |
| 2017 | APSU, 38-31 (H)       |
| 2018 | SEMO, 31-27 (H)       |
| 2019 | APSU, 28-24 (H)       |
| 2020 | APSU, 49-42 (2OT) (A) |

## APSU-TSU

### TSU leads 14-9

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1988 | APSU, 16-12 (H)     |
| 1989 | TSU, 38-10 (H)      |
| 1990 | TSU, 33-7 (A)       |
| 1991 | APSU, 31-17 (H)     |
| 1992 | TSU, 35-14 (H)      |
| 1993 | TSU, 21-16 (A)      |
| 1994 | TSU, 26-22 (H)      |
| 1995 | APSU, 28-6 (H)      |
| 1996 | TSU, 38-14 (H)      |
| 2007 | TSU, 33-32 (OT) (A) |
| 2008 | TSU, 37-34 (H)      |
| 2009 | APSU, 24-21 (H)     |
| 2010 | APSU, 26-23 (A)     |
| 2011 | APSU, 37-34 (H)     |
| 2012 | TSU, 34-14 (H)      |
| 2013 | TSU, 31-6 (H)       |
| 2014 | TSU, 31-27 (A)      |
| 2015 | TSU, 20-6 (H)       |
| 2016 | TSU, 41-40 (A)      |
| 2017 | APSU, 21-17 (A)     |
| 2018 | APSU, 49-34 (H)     |
| 2019 | TSU, 26-24 (H)      |
| 2020 | APSU, 27-20 (H)     |

## APSU-TTU

### TTU leads 33-21

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1938 | TTU, 27-0           |
| 1939 | TTU, 25-0           |
| 1954 | TTU, 27-13          |
| 1955 | TTU, 37-6 (H)       |
| 1956 | TTU, 17-7 (A)       |
| 1963 | TTU, 28-13 (H)      |
| 1964 | APSU, 29-0 (H)      |
| 1965 | APSU, 23-13 (H)     |
| 1966 | APSU, 20-15 (H)     |
| 1967 | TTU, 38-13 (H)      |
| 1968 | TTU, 10-0 (A)       |
| 1969 | TTU, 56-20 (H)      |
| 1970 | APSU, 10-6 (H)      |
| 1971 | TTU, 37-17 (H)      |
| 1972 | TTU, 19-7 (A)       |
| 1973 | TTU, 31-12 (H)      |
| 1974 | TTU, 28-7 (A)       |
| 1975 | TTU, 20-0 (H)       |
| 1976 | TTU, 31-13 (A)      |
| 1977 | APSU, 24-21 (A)     |
| 1978 | TTU, 28-14 (A)      |
| 1979 | TTU, 21-14 (H)      |
| 1980 | APSU, 18-10 (H)     |
| 1981 | TTU, 29-24 (H)      |
| 1982 | APSU, 31-27 (H)     |
| 1983 | APSU, 21-7 (A)      |
| 1984 | APSU, 27-7 (H)      |
| 1985 | APSU, 24-20 (A)     |
| 1986 | APSU, 23-13 (A)     |
| 1987 | TTU, 14-9 (A)       |
| 1988 | APSU, 10-6 (A)      |
| 1989 | TTU, 17-15 (A)      |
| 1990 | TTU, 20-14 (OT) (H) |
| 1991 | TTU, 32-7 (H)       |
| 1992 | TTU, 10-0 (A)       |
| 1993 | TTU, 35-17 (A)      |
| 1994 | APSU, 34-27 (A)     |
| 1995 | APSU, 20-7 (A)      |
| 1996 | TTU, 23-17 (A)      |
| 1997 | TTU, 36-3 (A)       |
| 2007 | APSU, 30-27 (A)     |
| 2008 | APSU, 31-28 (H)     |
| 2009 | TTU, 31-23 (H)      |
| 2010 | TTU, 34-21 (A)      |
| 2011 | TTU, 49-7 (H)       |
| 2012 | APSU, 38-31 (H)     |
| 2013 | TTU, 34-0 (H)       |
| 2014 | TTU, 41-15 (A)      |
| 2015 | TTU, 42-24 (H)      |
| 2016 | TTU, 41-7 (A)       |
| 2017 | APSU, 35-28 (A)     |
| 2018 | APSU, 41-10 (H)     |
| 2019 | APSU, 58-21 (A)     |
| 2020 | TTU, 27-21 (H)      |

## APSU-UTM

### UTM leads 40-27-2

|      |                   |
|------|-------------------|
| 1930 | UTM, 32-0 (A)     |
| 1931 | Tie, 0-0 (at UTM) |
| 1932 | Tie, 6-6 (at AP)  |
| 1936 | UTM, 19-0 (H)     |
| 1936 | UTM, 33-0 (A)     |
| 1937 | UTM, 20-12 (H)    |
| 1938 | APSU, 14-13 (H)   |
| 1939 | APSU, 7-0 (A)     |
| 1940 | APSU, 20-0 (H)    |
| 1941 | APSU, 13-0 (A)    |
| 1946 | APSU, 33-0 (H)    |
| 1946 | APSU, 14-6 (A)    |
| 1947 | APSU, 20-7 (H)    |
| 1948 | APSU, 39-0 (A)    |
| 1959 | UTM, 21-10 (A)    |
| 1960 | UTM, 13-7 (H)     |
| 1961 | UTM, 14-7 (A)     |
| 1962 | UTM, 16-0 (H)     |
| 1963 | APSU, 20-6 (H)    |
| 1964 | APSU, 35-0 (A)    |
| 1965 | APSU, 49-0 (H)    |
| 1966 | APSU, 17-3 (A)    |

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1967 | UTM, 47-6 (A)        |
| 1968 | APSU, 9-7 (A)        |
| 1969 | UTM, 7-6 (A)         |
| 1970 | UTM, 22-21 (H)       |
| 1971 | UTM, 17-3 (A)        |
| 1972 | APSU, 28-14 (A)      |
| 1973 | UTM, 26-0 (A)        |
| 1974 | UTM, 31-26 (H)       |
| 1975 | UTM, 24-15 (A)       |
| 1976 | UTM, 24-0 (H)        |
| 1977 | UTM, 23-10 (H)       |
| 1978 | APSU, 21-14 (A)      |
| 1979 | APSU, 24-7 (H)       |
| 1980 | UTM, 24-20 (H)       |
| 1981 | APSU, 28-24 (H)      |
| 1982 | UTM, 17-14 (A)       |
| 1983 | APSU, 45-6 (A)       |
| 1984 | APSU, 13-10 (H)      |
| 1985 | APSU, 13-7 (A)       |
| 1986 | APSU, 36-0 (H)       |
| 1987 | UTM, 30-10 (H)       |
| 1988 | UTM, 21-0 (H)        |
| 1990 | UTM, 24-10 (A)       |
| 1991 | UTM, 34-28 (H)       |
| 1992 | APSU, 32-18 (H)      |
| 1993 | UTM, 39-33 (2OT) (A) |
| 1994 | APSU, 27-21 (A)      |
| 1995 | UTM, 31-28 (H)       |
| 1996 | APSU, 55-24 (H)      |
| 1997 | UTM, 36-26 (A)       |
| 2003 | UTM, 21-20 (H)       |
| 2004 | UTM, 31-14 (A)       |
| 2006 | UTM, 20-10 (A)       |
| 2007 | APSU, 17-14 (H)      |
| 2008 | UTM, 31-17 (H)       |
| 2009 | UTM, 48-38 (H)       |
| 2010 | UTM, 28-12 (A)       |
| 2011 | UTM, 61-23 (H)       |
| 2012 | UTM, 31-6 (A)        |
| 2013 | UTM, 38-14 (A)       |
| 2014 | UTM, 37-7 (H)        |
| 2015 | UTM, 44-14 (A)       |
| 2016 | UTM, 45-31 (H)       |
| 2017 | APSU, 7-0 (H)        |
| 2018 | UTM, 37-7 (H)        |
| 2019 | APSU, 38-24 (H)      |
| 2020 | UTM, 37-34 (A)       |

## EIU-MUR

### EIU leads 19-17

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1946 | MUR, 38-13 (H)       |
| 1974 | MUR, 13-0 (H)        |
| 1975 | EIU, 14-6 (H)        |
| 1977 | MUR, 35-7 (H)        |
| 1978 | EIU, 35-14 (H)       |
| 1986 | EIU, 28-21 (H)       |
| 1990 | MUR, 14-10 (H)       |
| 1991 | MUR, 28-27 (H)       |
| 1992 | EIU, 48-9 (H)        |
| 1993 | EIU, 34-7 (A)        |
| 1994 | MUR, 31-15 (A)       |
| 1996 | MUR, 35-28 (A)       |
| 1997 | MUR, 24-17 (H)       |
| 1998 | MUR, 35-21 (A)       |
| 1999 | MUR, 37-32 (H)       |
| 2000 | EIU, 48-7 (H)        |
| 2001 | EIU, 37-6 (H)        |
| 2002 | MUR, 37-35 (H)       |
| 2003 | EIU, 27-17 (A)       |
| 2004 | EIU, 24-9 (H)        |
| 2005 | EIU, 35-28 (A)       |
| 2006 | EIU, 20-10 (H)       |
| 2007 | EIU, 27-24 (A)       |
| 2008 | EIU, 34-6 (H)        |
| 2009 | EIU, 16-10 (A)       |
| 2010 | MUR, 38-28 (A)       |
| 2011 | MUR, 36-27 (H)       |
| 2012 | EIU, 50-49 (OT) (H)  |
| 2013 | EIU, 37-17 (A)       |
| 2014 | EIU, 48-26 (H)       |
| 2015 | EIU, 34-20 (A)       |
| 2016 | MUR, 40-38 (A)       |
| 2017 | EIU, 27-24 (A) (2OT) |
| 2018 | MUR, 48-41 (A)       |
| 2019 | MUR, 24-17 (H)       |
| 2020 | MUR, 41-27 (H)       |

## EIU-SEMO

### EIU leads 18-10

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 1956 | SEMO, 46-13 (H) |
| 1957 | SEMO, 41-0 (A)  |
| 1995 | EIU, 35-18 (H)  |
| 1996 | EIU, 41-21 (A)  |
| 1997 | EIU, 32-7 (A)   |
| 1998 | EIU, 35-33 (H)  |
| 1999 | SEMO, 45-38 (H) |
| 2000 | EIU, 38-9 (H)   |
| 2001 | EIU, 41-21 (H)  |
| 2002 | EIU, 44-27 (A)  |
| 2003 | SEMO, 30-17 (H) |
| 2004 | EIU, 35-28 (H)  |
| 2005 | EIU, 48-24 (A)  |
| 2006 | EIU, 21-0 (H)   |
| 2007 | EIU, 31-16 (A)  |
| 2008 | EIU, 24-21 (H)  |
| 2009 | EIU, 23-14 (A)  |
| 2010 | SEMO, 28-13 (A) |
| 2011 | SEMO, 37-30 (H) |

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 2012 | EIU, 39-20 (H)  |
| 2013 | EIU, 55-33 (H)  |
| 2014 | EIU, 52-13 (H)  |
| 2015 | EIU, 33-28 (H)  |
| 2016 | SEMO, 21-14 (H) |
| 2017 | EIU, 19-16 (H)  |
| 2018 | SEMO, 38-32 (H) |
| 2019 | SEMO, 26-12 (A) |
| 2020 | SEMO, 47-7 (A)  |

## EIU-TSU

### EIU leads 15-9

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1982 | TSU, 20-19 (H)       |
| 1998 | TSU, 27-21 (A)       |
| 1999 | TSU, 43-25 (H)       |
| 2000 | EIU, 33-19 (H)       |
| 2001 | EIU, 52-49 (H)       |
| 2002 | EIU, 54-48 (A)       |
| 2003 | TSU, 24-14 (H)       |
| 2004 | EIU, 34-24 (H)       |
| 2005 | EIU, 27-3 (A)        |
| 2006 | EIU, 29-3 (H)        |
| 2007 | EIU, 38-35 (A)       |
| 2008 | TSU, 45-24 (H)       |
| 2009 | TSU, 21-10 (A)       |
| 2010 | EIU, 31-28 (OT) (A)  |
| 2011 | TSU, 18-17 (A)       |
| 2013 | EIU, 34-16 (A)       |
|      | EIU, 51-10 (H)       |
| 2014 | EIU, 28-3 (H)        |
| 2015 | EIU, 55-22 (OT) (A)  |
| 2016 | EIU, 35-34 (H)       |
| 2017 | EIU, 19-16 (2OT) (A) |
| 2018 | TSU, 41-40 (A)       |
| 2019 | EIU, 49-38 (A)       |
| 2020 | TSU, 21-20 (H)       |

## EIU-TTU

### EIU leads 20-7

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1975 | TTU, 37-0 (H)       |
| 1976 | TTU, 41-14 (A)      |
| 1996 | EIU, 35-27 (A)      |
| 1997 | EIU, 10-7 (A)       |
| 1998 | EIU, 13-6 (A)       |
| 1999 | TTU, 14-7 (A)       |
| 2000 | EIU, 27-6 (A)       |
| 2001 | EIU, 44-33 (H)      |
| 2002 | EIU, 35-28 (A)      |
| 2003 | EIU, 37-10 (H)      |
| 2004 | TTU, 40-37 (OT) (H) |
| 2005 | EIU, 31-20 (H)      |
| 2006 | EIU, 38-14 (A)      |
| 2007 | EIU, 45-24 (H)      |
| 2008 | EIU, 38-20 (A)      |
| 2009 | EIU, 23-15 (H)      |
| 2010 | TTU, 34-20 (H)      |
| 2011 | TTU, 31-20 (A)      |
| 2012 | EIU, 31-24 (A)      |
| 2013 | EIU, 56-21 (H)      |
| 2014 | EIU, 41-10 (A)      |
| 2015 | EIU, 51-20 (H)      |
| 2016 | EIU, 30-24 (A)      |
| 2017 | EIU, 24-23 (H)      |
| 2018 | EIU, 52-38 (A)      |
| 2019 | TTU, 40-29 (A)      |
| 2020 | EIU, 28-20 (H)      |

## EIU-UTM

### EIU leads 15-11

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 1995 | EIU, 30-22 (H)     |
| 1996 | EIU, 38-0 (A)      |
| 1997 | EIU, 42-6 (H)      |
| 1998 | EIU, 56-35 (A)     |
| 1999 | EIU, 42-21 (H)     |
| 2000 | EIU, 42-7 (A)      |
| 2001 | EIU, 56-16 (A)     |
| 2002 | EIU, 55-43 (H)     |
| 2003 | EIU, 29-12 (H)     |
| 2004 | UTM, 32-14 (H)     |
| 2005 | EIU, 26-7 (H)      |
| 2006 | UTM 15-9 (H)       |
| 2007 | EIU, 29-23 (H)     |
| 2008 | UTM, 29-26 (H)     |
| 2009 | EIU, 49-13 (H)     |
| 2010 | UTM, 20-10 (H)     |
| 2011 | UTM, 24-23 (A)     |
| 2012 | UTM, 51-37 (H)     |
| 2013 | EIU, 70-22 (A)     |
| 2014 | UTM, 37-16 (A)     |
| 2015 | EIU, 23-21 (A)     |
| 2016 | UTM, 33-17 (A)     |
| 2017 | UTM, 27-10 (H)     |
| 2018 | EIU, 24-21 (OT)(H) |
| 2019 | UTM, 27-18 (H)     |
| 2020 | UTM, 28-15 (H)     |

## ALL-TIME CONFERENCE SERIES GAME-BY-GAME

2002 MUR, 42-3 (A)  
 2003 MUR, 41-26 (A)  
 2004 MUR, 38-0 (H)  
 2005 UTM, 49-20 (H)  
 2006 UTM, 42-14 (A)  
 2007 UTM, 76-34 (A)  
 2008 UTM, 63-38 (H)  
 2009 UTM, 38-24 (H)  
 2010 MUR, 52-16 (H)  
 2011 UTM, 48-26 (H)  
 2012 UTM, 66-59 (A)  
 2013 UTM, 45-17 (H)  
 2014 UTM, 62-38 (A)  
 2015 UTM, 52-45 (H)  
 2016 UTM, 38-31 (A)  
 2017 MUR, 13-10 (A)  
 2018 MUR, 45-38 (H)  
 2019 UTM 40-7 (H)  
 2020 MUR, 14-10 (H)

### SEMO-TSU

#### Series tied 14-14

1991 SEMO, 37-34 (H)  
 1992 TSU, 37-27 (H)  
 1993 SEMO, 14-13 (H)  
 1994 SEMO, 17-12 (A)  
 1995 SEMO, 41-24 (H)  
 1996 SEMO, 24-21 (A)  
 1997 TSU, 32-27 (A)  
 1998 TSU, 38-7 (A)  
 1999 TSU, 35-28 (A)  
 2000 TSU, 51-33 (H)  
 2001 TSU, 20-14 (H)  
 2002 SEMO, 49-24 (H)  
 2003 SEMO, 52-35 (H)  
 2004 TSU, 38-36 (H)  
 2005 SEMO, 32-24 (H)  
 2006 TSU, 31-0 (H)  
 2008 SEMO, 27-20 (OT)(H)  
 2009 TSU, 23-17 (H)  
 2010 SEMO, 19-17 (H)  
 2011 TSU, 55-3 (H)  
 2012 TSU, 40-28 (A)  
 2013 TSU, 40-16 (H)  
 2014 SEMO, 28-21 (H)  
 2016 TSU, 32-31 (A)  
 2017 TSU, 23-20 (H)  
 2018 SEMO, 38-21 (H)  
 2019 SEMO, 32-13 (A)  
 2020 SEMO, 46-23 (A)

### SEMO-TTU

#### TTU leads 15-14

1991 SEMO, 34-31 (H)  
 1992 TTU, 49-14 (H)  
 1993 TTU, 24-3 (A)  
 1994 SEMO, 19-14 (A)  
 1995 SEMO, 33-12 (H)  
 1996 TTU, 30-20 (H)  
 1997 TTU, 17-14 (A)  
 1998 SEMO, 29-24 (A)  
 1999 TTU, 21-7 (A)  
 2000 TTU, 31-6 (H)  
 2001 TTU, 41-21 (H)  
 2002 SEMO, 36-30 (H)  
 2003 SEMO, 24-20 (A)  
 2004 SEMO, 31-28 (OT)(H)  
 2005 TTU, 31-24 (H)  
 2006 TTU, 32-29 (A)  
 2008 TTU, 29-27 (A)  
 2009 TTU, 28-16 (H)  
 2010 SEMO, 23-21 (H)  
 2011 TTU, 38-21 (H)  
 2012 SEMO, 41-38 (2OT)(H)  
 2013 TTU, 41-16 (A)  
 2014 TTU, 27-26 (H)  
 2015 SEMO, 38-17 (H)  
 2016 TTU, 21-20 (H)  
 2017 SEMO, 31-3 (H)  
 2018 SEMO, 70-38 (A)  
 2019 SEMO, 43-37 (2OT)(H)  
 2020 SEMO, 24-21 (H)

### SEMO-UTM

#### Series tied 18-18

1966 UTM, 17-14 (A)  
 1967 UTM, 39-0 (H)  
 1984 UTM, 21-7 (H)  
 1985 SEMO, 57-17 (H)  
 1986 SEMO, 37-29 (A)  
 1987 UTM, 25-13 (A)  
 1991 UTM, 36-29 (H)  
 1992 SEMO, 37-13 (H)  
 1993 UTM, 17-14 (H)  
 1994 SEMO, 10-0 (H)  
 1995 SEMO, 38-17 (A)  
 1996 UTM, 7-6 (A)  
 1997 SEMO, 42-7 (A)  
 1998 SEMO, 41-14 (H)  
 1999 SEMO, 36-7 (A)  
 2000 SEMO, 34-14 (H)  
 2001 SEMO, 45-30 (H)  
 2002 SEMO, 50-35 (A)  
 2003 SEMO, 20-7 (A)  
 2004 SEMO, 35-7 (H)  
 2005 UTM, 24-21 (H)  
 2006 UTM, 28-14 (A)  
 2007 UTM, 55-20 (H)

2008 UTM, 31-21 (A)  
 2009 UTM, 29-22 (H)  
 2010 SEMO, 24-17 (H)  
 2011 UTM, 38-30 (H)  
 2012 UTM, 27-17 (A)  
 2013 UTM, 17-7 (A)  
 2014 SEMO, 31-27 (A)  
 2015 UTM, 28-25 (A)  
 2016 UTM, 24-10 (H)  
 2017 UTM, 16-14 (A)  
 2018 SEMO, 56-33 (A)  
 2019 SEMO, 17-10 (H)  
 2020 SEMO, 21-16 (A)

### TSU-TTU

#### TSU leads 20-14

1984 TSU, 33-3 (A)  
 1985 TSU, 26-13 (H)  
 1988 TSU, 27-23 (H)  
 1989 TSU, 21-19 (A)  
 1990 TSU, 36-14 (H)  
 1991 TSU, 14-10 (H)  
 1992 TTU, 26-15 (H)  
 1993 TTU, 24-21 (A)  
 1994 TTU, 28-20 (H)  
 1995 TTU, 28-24 (A)  
 1996 TTU, 21-19 (H)  
 1997 TSU, 28-21 (H)  
 1998 TSU, 42-21 (A)  
 1999 TSU, 25-19 (H)  
 2000 TTU, 56-23 (H)  
 2001 TTU, 63-13 (H)  
 2002 TTU, 20-14 (A)  
 2003 TSU, 27-23 (A)  
 2005 TSU 31-20 (A)  
 2006 TSU, 30-20 (H)  
 2007 TSU, 45-28 (A)  
 2008 TSU, 41-14 (H)  
 2009 TTU, 20-13 (H)  
 2010 TTU, 21-10 (A)  
 2011 TSU, 42-40 (A)  
 2012 TSU, 22-21 (H)  
 2013 TSU, 41-21 (A)  
 2014 TSU, 10-7 (H)  
 2015 TTU, 30-24 (H)  
 2016 TTU, 44-16 (A)  
 2017 TTU, 30-26 (H)  
 2018 TSU, 41-14 (H)  
 2019 TSU, 37-27 (A)  
 2020 TTU, 24-10 (H)

### TSU-UTM

#### TSU leads 18-12

1976 UTM, 26-21 (H)  
 1977 TSU, 55-7 (H)  
 1992 TSU, 23-15 (H)  
 1993 UTM, 21-14 (H)  
 1994 TSU, 20-3 (H)  
 1995 UTM, 28-7 (H)  
 1996 TSU, 37-14 (H)  
 1997 TSU, 27-20 (A)  
 1998 TSU, 76-0 (H)  
 1999 TSU, 43-7 (A)  
 2000 TSU, 33-6 (H)  
 2001 TSU, 55-7 (H)  
 2002 TSU, 26-8 (H)  
 2003 TSU, 41-10 (H)  
 2004 TSU, 27-13 (A)  
 2005 UTM, 42-20 (H)  
 2007 UTM, 43-38 (H)  
 2008 TSU, 30-27 (OT)(A)  
 2009 UTM, 28-7 (A)  
 2010 UTM, 37-0 (H)  
 2011 TSU, 35-30 (H)  
 2012 UTM, 35-26 (H)  
 2013 TSU, 29-15 (A)  
 2014 UTM, 21-16 (A)  
 2015 UTM, 28-14 (H)  
 2016 TSU, 34-30 (H)  
 2017 UTM, 31-16 (H)  
 2018 TSU, 31-28 (OT)(H)  
 2019 UTM, 28-17 (H)  
 2020 TSU, 26-24 (H)

### TTU-UTM

#### TTU leads 22-18-2

1926 TTU, 12-0 (H)  
 1927 Tie, 0-0 (at UTM)  
 1928 TTU, 14-13 (H)  
 1931 TTU, 26-7 (H)  
 1932 Tie, 0-0 (at UTM)  
 1970 TTU, 17-6 (A)  
 1971 TTU, 10-7 (H)  
 1972 TTU, 13-10 (A)  
 1973 TTU, 16-9 (H)  
 1980 TTU, 30-28 (A)  
 1981 UTM, 24-21 (A)  
 1982 UTM, 35-21 (H)  
 1991 UTM, 24-16 (H)  
 1992 TTU, 17-13 (H)  
 1993 TTU, 20-3 (H)  
 1994 UTM, 20-10 (H)  
 1995 UTM, 36-31 (H)  
 1996 TTU, 21-14 (2OT)(H)  
 1997 TTU, 33-2 (H)  
 1998 TTU, 31-24 (OT)(A)  
 1999 TTU, 45-9 (A)  
 2000 TTU, 46-6 (H)

2001 TTU, 41-7 (A)  
 2002 TTU, 68-7 (H)  
 2003 UTM, 30-23 (OT)(A)  
 2004 TTU, 49-20 (H)  
 2005 UTM, 46-16 (H)  
 2006 UTM, 35-16 (A)  
 2007 TTU, 13-10 (A)  
 2008 UTM, 35-7 (A)  
 2009 TTU, 35-28 (A)  
 2010 UTM, 27-24 (A)  
 2011 TTU, 34-31 (A)  
 2012 TTU, 45-44 (OT)(H)  
 2013 UTM, 28-17 (A)  
 2014 UTM, 17-10 (H)  
 2015 UTM, 31-17 (A)  
 2016 UTM, 44-23 (H)  
 2017 UTM, 24-0 (A)  
 2018 UTM, 38-13 (H)  
 2019 UTM, 55-14 (A)  
 2020 UTM, 40-7 (H)



## WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



**Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (0-0, 0-0 OVC)  
at Samford Bulldogs (0-0, 0-0 SoCon)**

**Thursday, September 2 • 6:00 p.m. CT  
Seibert Stadium (6,700) • Birmingham, Ala.**

Video: ..... <https://es.pn/3kB4goT> (ESPN+)  
Live Stats:.... <http://stats.statbroadcast.com/statmonitr/?id=353383>  
Series Record:..... Samford leads 12-11  
Last Meeting:..... TTU won 59-58 in 2OT (8/31/19)  
Dewayne Alexander at Tennessee Tech:..... 9-21 (4 yrs.)  
Dewayne Alexander Overall: ..... 50-54 (11 yrs.)  
Chris Hatcher at Samford: ..... 36-29 (7 yrs.)  
Chris Hatcher Overall: ..... 157-86 (22 yrs.)  
Tennessee Tech Last Week: ..... n/a  
Samford Last Week: ..... n/a

### **NOTEWORTHY**

- Tennessee Tech and Samford are meeting for the 24th time, with the all-time series separated by just one win. Samford was a member of the OVC from 2003-07
- The two teams have had some memorable meetings, including a 59-52 Samford win in 2007 in Cookeville, and a 59-58 Tennessee Tech double overtime victory in Cookeville in 2019. In those two games the teams have combined for over 2,300 yards of total offense.
- This is the first of two-straight games for Tennessee Tech against Southern Conference teams; the Golden Eagles will host Furman next weekend.
- Tennessee Tech is 46-49-5 in season-opening games, including winning two-straight games to open seasons.
- TTU sophomore quarterback Willie Miller had a strong spring season in his first opportunity as a starter. He passed for 879 yards and five touchdowns and rushed for 243 yards (second on the team) and four additional scores in seven games.
- Wide receiver and return specialist Metrius Fleming was injured in the spring, but looks to return to his freshman season (2019) form when he caught a team-best 47 passes for 629 yards and three touchdowns and also returned a kickoff for a touchdown.
- Samford is coached by Chris Hatcher, who was the head coach at Murray State from 2010-14, and is in his seventh season with the Bulldogs this year. He has led the team to playoff appearances in 2016 and 2017.
- Samford graduate student quarterback Liam Welch was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award last season, averaging 373.7 passing yards per contest in seven spring games (six of which he started). He also rushed 71 times for 303 yards and four touchdowns.
- Overall Samford returns 10 offensive and 10 defensive starters from last year's team that was 4-3 in the spring season.
- Samford ranked seventh nationally last year in turnover margin (+8).



**#20 Austin Peay Governors (0-0, 0-0 OVC)  
at #18 Chattanooga Mocs (0-0, 0-0 OVC)**

**Thursday, September 2 • 6:30 p.m. CT  
Finley Stadium (20,668) • Chattanooga, Tenn.**

Video: ..... <https://es.pn/2WHazzg> (ESPN+)  
Live Stats:..... <https://gomocs.com/sidearmstats/football/summary>  
Series Record:..... Chattanooga leads 6-0  
Last Meeting:..... UTC won 42-6 (9/13/14)  
Scotty Walden at Austin Peay: ..... 4-2 (2 yrs.)  
Scotty Walden Overall: ..... 12-8 (3 yrs.)  
Rusty Wright at Chattanooga: ..... 9-8 (3 yrs.)  
Rusty Wright Overall: ..... same  
Austin Peay Last Week: ..... n/a  
Chattanooga Last Week: ..... n/a

### **NOTEWORTHY**

- In-state foes Austin Peay and Chattanooga have played only six previous times, with the Mocs winning every game. Only two of the meetings have come since 1968 (2013, 2014).
- The game is the only FCS contest this week featuring a pair of nationally-ranked opponents.
- Austin Peay is 6-3 against nationally-ranked FCS opponents over the past two seasons, 2-1 in 2020-21 and 4-2 in 2019.
- UTC was 3-0 against nationally-ranked FCS opponents last year (after going 0-3 during the 2019 season).
- Austin Peay has both the OVC Preseason Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year in sophomore quarterback Draylen Ellis and graduate student nickelback Kordell Jackson.
- Ellis took over the starter's role in the spring and finished last year with 1,270 yards and 14 touchdowns (against only four interceptions) in being named OVC Co-Freshman of the Year. He begins this season on the Walter Payton Award Watch List.
- Jackson has been a two-time consensus All-American and Buck Buchanan Award Finalist. He had double-digit tackles for loss (10.5) in 2020 after tallying seven interceptions in 2019.
- Chattanooga played five games last season, one FBS contest in the Fall and four Southern Conference games in the spring (the team's last three games of the spring were canceled).
- UTC was picked to with the Southern Conference in a preseason vote of league head coaches and media. The team has won seven SoCon Championships.
- Four Chattanooga players were picked Preseason All-SoCon, including Cole Strange, Ailym Ford, Devonnsa Maxwell and Brandon Dowdell.



## WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEW



**#7 Southern Illinois Salukis (0-0, 0-0 MVFC)  
at Southeast Missouri State Redhawks (0-0, 0-0 OVC)**

**Thursday, September 2 • 6:30 p.m. CT  
Houck Field (10,000) • Cape Girardeau, Mo.**

Video: ..... <https://es.pn/2WvVLZi> (ESPN+)  
Live Stats: ... <http://stats.statbroadcast.com/broadcast/?id=363371>  
Series Record: ..... SEMO leads 42-38-8  
Last Meeting: ..... Southern Illinois won 20-17 (10/30/20)  
Nick Hill at Southern Illinois: ..... 23-32 (6 yrs.)  
Nick Hill Overall: ..... same  
Tom Matukewicz at Southeast Missouri: ..... 37-42 (8 yrs.)  
Tom Matukewicz Overall: ..... 38-42 (9 yrs.)  
Southern Illinois Last Week: ..... n/a  
Southeast Missouri Last Week: ..... n/a

### NOTEWORTHY

- This marks the 89th meeting between the regional rivals, which is now termed the "War for the Wheel," which features a ship's wheel trophy going to the winner.
- SEMO head coach Tom Matukewicz was an assistant coach under Jerry Kill at Southern Illinois; during that time period SIU head coach Nick Hill was the starting quarterback for the Salukis. All three of Hill's teams advanced to the Playoffs.
- Southern Illinois won last year's meeting, the lone Fall game for both teams in 2020.
- SEMO is 8-28 against ranked FCS opponents since 2004, and have lost three-straight against ranked foes. The Redhawks last non-conference ranked victory came against Stony Brook in the 2018 Playoffs.
- Six of those nationally-ranked wins have come in the past seven years under coach Tom Matukewicz. That is the most among any coach in program history.
- SEMO's last win over a Top 10 opponents came in 2018 (No. 4 Jacksonville State).
- SEMO is 10-20 in season openers during its Division I era and 18-12 in home openers over that time period. This year marks the 15th time that SEMO and SIU have met in the season opener.
- SIU earned a berth in the 16-team FCS Playoffs last year, topping Weber State before falling to eventual national runner-up South Dakota State in the quarterfinals.
- SIU is 63-19 all-time when ranked in the Top 10. The Salukis are 6-5 in its last 11 season openers (2-6 when opening on the road). They program is 5-7 all-time when opening the season against SEMO.
- This will mark the third-straight year SIU has opened the season with a different quarterback, as Nic Baker will be the starting signal caller. Baker was 3-0 as a starter last year, including leading the team to a win over No. 1 North Dakota State on February 27.
- WR Avante Cox begins this season on the Walter Payton Award Watch List. He had nine receptions for 74 yards against SEMO last season.



**UT Martin Skyhawks (0-0, 0-0 OVC)  
at Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (0-0, 0-0 CUSA)**

**Thursday, September 2 • 7:00 p.m.  
L.T. Smith Stadium (22,113) • Bowling Green, Ky.**

Video: ..... <https://es.pn/2V4DpsQ> (ESPN+)  
Live Stats: .. <https://wkusports.com/sidearmstats/football/summary>  
Series Record: ..... WKU leads 4-0  
Last Meeting: ..... WKU won 71-0 (9/9/00)  
Jason Simpson at UT Martin: ..... 90-77 (16 yrs.)  
Jason Simpson Overall: ..... same  
Tyson Helton at WKU: ..... 14-11 (3 yrs.)  
Tyson Helton Overall: ..... same  
UT Martin Last Week: ..... n/a  
Western Kentucky Last Week: ..... n/a

### NOTEWORTHY

- UT Martin and WKU are playing for the first time since the 2000 season. They teams played in four consecutive years (1997-00).
- The 1999 and 2000 matchups were while WKU was a member of the OVC in football. The Hilltoppers were a founding member of the OVC (1948) and in the Conference until 1981, before playing as an affiliate in 1999-00.
- UTM is 1-28 all-time against FBS opponents. The team's lone win came at Memphis in 2012, although the team nearly upset Hawaii in 2016 (falling 41-36).
- UT Martin have nine starters and 73 letterwinners back from last year's team. Among that total are eight players who earned All-OVC honors in 2020.
- The Skyhawks were predicted to finish fourth in the OVC Coaches Preseason Poll.
- UTM head coach Jason Simpson enters his 16th season as head coach at UT Martin. He is one of only five head coaches in OVC history to coach 15 or more seasons at the same school.
- WKU was predicted to finish third in the East Division of the CUSA Preseason Media Poll.
- In the offseason WKU added FCS transfer quarterback Bailey Zappe, who came from Houston Baptist where he passed for 1,833 yards and 15 touchdown in four fall 2020 games. In his HBU career he had 10,004 passing yards and 78 touchdowns in 3.5 years.
- Zappe was named to the Senior Bowl Watchlist along with defensive end teammate DeAngelo Malone.
- WKU head coach Tyson Helton, who played quarterback at Houston, was the offensive coordinator for the Hilltoppers in 2014-15 before coaching at USC and Tennessee and returning as WKU's head coach in 2021.

## WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



**Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils (0-0, 0-0 SWAC)  
at Murray State Racers (0-0, 0-0 OVC)**

**Thursday, September 2 • 7:00 p.m.  
Roy Stewart Stadium (16,800) • Murray, Ky.**

Video: ..... <https://es.pn/3kAvkou> (ESPN+)  
Live Stats:.... <http://stats.statbroadcast.com/broadcast/?id=346407>  
Series Record:.....Murray State won 1-0  
Last Meeting:..... Murray State won 39-0 (9/10/11)  
Vincent Dancy at Mississippi Valley State: .....4-22 (4 yrs.)  
Vincent Dancy Overall: ..... same  
Dean Hood at Murray State:.....60-40 (10 yrs.)  
Dean Hood Overall: .....5-2 (2 yrs.)  
Mississippi Valley State Last Week: ..... n/a  
Murray State Last Week: ..... n/a

### **NOTEWORTHY**

- Murray State, the preseason OVC favorite, kicks off the 2021 season by hosting Mississippi Valley State in the second-ever matchup between the teams.
- The squads other matchup was in 2011 in Itta Bena, when the Racers won 39-0. MSU had double the total offense as MVSU with Casey Brockman throwing for 238 yards and a touchdown for MSU.
- This year marked only the third time that Murray State has been tabbed the OVC preseason favorites (1980, 1996 being the others).
- Murray State head coach Dean Hood became just the second head coach in OVC history to win Coach of the Year honors at multiple institutions when he took home the award following the spring season. He previously won the honor at Eastern Kentucky.
- MSU had a league-high 10 players named to the Preseason All-OVC teams, including quarterback Preston Rice and defensive back Marcis Floyd. Floyd has been named to the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List by Stats Perform after earning All-American honors a season ago.
- This year marks the 97th season of football at Murray State. The Racers return 63 letterwinners and 26 starters combined from offense, defense and special teams.
- MVSU was predicted to finish seventh in the East Division of the SWAC in the league's preseason poll.
- Three Delta Devils were picked to the SWAC Preseason Team, including DB Caleb Brunson, RB Caleb Johnson and DL Jerry Gardner.



**Eastern Illinois Panthers (0-1, 0-0 OVC)  
at South Carolina Gamecocks (0-0, 0-0 SEC)**

**Saturday, September 4 • 6:00 p.m.  
Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250) • Columbia, S.C.**

Video: ..... <https://es.pn/3DnQSNw> (ESPN+)  
Live Stats:.... <http://stats.statbroadcast.com/broadcast/?id=353397>  
Series Record:..... First meeting  
Last Meeting:..... n/a  
Adam Cushing at Eastern Illinois:.....2-17 (3 yrs.)  
Adam Cushing Overall:..... same  
Shane Beamer at South Carolina:.....0-0 (1 yr.)  
Shane Beamer Overall: ..... same  
Eastern Illinois Last Week: ..... L, 26-21 at Indiana State  
South Carolina Last Week: ..... n/a

### **NOTEWORTHY**

- This will be the first-ever meeting between the two schools.
- EIU is 10-38 all-time against FBS opponents, having lost its last three matchups. The Panthers defeated Miami (Ohio) 21-17 in the 2016 season.
- EIU was one of four FCS teams to open the season as part of Week Zero. The Panthers lost 26-21 at rival Indiana State.
- Charlotte transfer Tyler Ringwood had five catches for 116 yards in his EIU debut.
- Second-year quarterback Otto Kuhns passed for 253 yards against Indiana State, but was intercepted twice and sacked five times.
- Shane Beamer is in his first season as head coach at South Carolina; he was previously on the staff from 2007-10 under Steve Spurrier. Since then he had stints at Virginia Tech, Georgia and Oklahoma. He is the son of College Football and OVC Hall of Famer Frank Beamer, who began his coaching career at Murray State (1981-86) before a long run at his alma mater (Virginia Tech).
- South Carolina was predicted to finish sixth in the SEC East by the media (although the Gamecocks did pick up one first-place vote).
- The Gamecocks return 14 starters and 51 letterwinners from 2020.
- Four South Carolina players were named to the SEC Coaches Preseason All-SEC squads. They included DL Kingsley Enagbare, RB Kevin Harris, TE Nick Muse and DL Zacch Pickens.
- USC's offensive coordinator is Marcus Satterfield, who served as head coach at Tennessee Tech for two years (2016-17).

## WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS

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### **Tennessee State Tigers (0-0, 0-0 OVC) vs. Grambling Tigers (0-0, 0-0 SWAC)**

**Sunday, September 5 • 3:00 p.m.**

**Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium (23,000) • Canton, Ohio**

Video: ..... <https://www.nfl.com/network> (NFL Network)  
Live Stats: ..... TBD  
Series Record: ..... Grambling leads 21-20-1  
Last Meeting: ..... Grambling won 49-14 (9/21/02)  
Eddie George at Tennessee State: ..... 0-0 (1 yr.)  
Eddie George Overall: ..... same  
Broderick Fobbs at Grambling: ..... 51-25 (8 yrs.)  
Broderick Fobbs Overall: ..... same  
Tennessee State Last Week: ..... n/a  
Grambling Last Week: ..... n/a

### **NOTEWORTHY**

- Long-time HBCU rivals will meet for the first time in 19 years on Sunday at the Black College Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio. The last matchup was at the Silver Dollar Classic in Las Vegas in 2002.
- Although the teams have played 42 previous times, only one of those meetings has come since 1994. The teams played every season from 1958 through 1993.
- Grambling has won five-straight in the series, with TSU's last win coming in 1989 (15-14).
- Tennessee State begins its first season under head coach Eddie George, who returns to the state where he won a Heisman Trophy as a running back for the Ohio State Buckeyes.
- The Tigers played seven games in the spring and were predicted to finish fifth in the OVC preseason coaches poll.
- Among the Tigers returning players is OVC Co-Freshman of the Year Devon Starling. Starling ran for 648 yards (92.6/game) in the spring.
- Grambling compete in four games in the spring season, the last against Southern on April 17. The Tigers were 0-4 during the campaign.
- In its last full season, Grambling was 6-5 (4-3 SWAC) in 2019. That marked the sixth-straight winning season for head coach Broderick Fobbs with the program (including a pair of 11-win seasons in 2016 and 2017).
- Grambling was predicted to finish second in the SWAC Western Division.
- Among the team's returning players is starting quarterback Elijah Walker. He passed for 332 yards in the spring.