

2021 Ohio Valley Conference Football Report

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

September 6, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Kyle Schwartz
Phone: (615) 690-6685
Email: kschwartz@ovc.org

Ohio Valley Conference
215 Centerview Drive, Suite 115
Brentwood, TN 37027
OVCSports.com
Twitter: @OVCSports



OVC STANDINGS

(In games through September 5)

	OVC					OVERALL								
	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	Home	Away	Neutral	Streak
Austin Peay	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	30	20	0-0	1-0	0-0	W1
Murray State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	35	0	1-0	0-0	0-0	W1
Southeast Missouri	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	21	47	0-1	0-0	0-0	L1
Tennessee State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	10	16	0-0	0-0	0-1	L1
Tennessee Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	14	52	0-0	0-1	0-0	L1
UT Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	21	59	0-0	0-1	0-0	L1
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	0	2	.000	21	72	0-0	0-2	0-0	L2

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 11

Eastern Illinois at Dayton, 12:00 p.m. (Facebook Live)
Furman at Tennessee Tech, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
Murray State at #8 Cincinnati, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
Southeast Missouri at #1 Sam Houston, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Tennessee State vs. Jackson State, 6 p.m. (Memphis, TN) (ESPN3)
Samford at UT Martin, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
#17 Austin Peay at Ole Miss, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Thursday, September 2

@Samford 52, **Tennessee Tech 14**
#20 Austin Peay 30, @#18 Chattanooga 20
#7 Southern Illinois 47, @**Southeast Missouri 21**
@Western Kentucky 59, **UT Martin 21**
@Murray State 35, Mississippi Valley State 0

Saturday, September 4

@South Carolina 46, **Eastern Illinois 0**

Sunday, September 5

Grambling 16, **Tennessee State 10** (Canton, Ohio)

* Indicates OVC Contest
ALL TIMES CENTRAL

THIS WEEK'S OVC HIGHLIGHTS/STORYLINES

All seven OVC teams have now seen action in the 2021 season, which is the 74th in the history of the OVC...This week all seven games will take place on Saturday...The highlight of Week 1 was a 30-20 win by No. 20 Austin Peay over No. 18 Chattanooga...It marked APSU's first-ever win over UTC and the Govs have now won three-straight against ranked FCS opponents and are 7-3 against ranked FCS teams over the past three seasons...Murray State recorded a shutout in its opener against Mississippi Valley State, the first for the program since the 2011 season...Austin Peay moved up three spots in the Stats Perform Top 25 to No. 17 while Murray State remained the first team outside the poll, unofficially at No. 26...Every current OVC team has been ranked at least one week in the Top 25 over the past five years (2016-20)...As of September 5, there are 14 former Ohio Valley Conference players on NFL rosters (8 active, 5 practice squad, 1 injured reserve)...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...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 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

OFFENSIVE

Preston Rice, QB • 6-2, 227, R-Jr. • Waynesboro, Tenn. • Murray State

Rice rushed for four touchdowns and accounted for 238 yards of total offense as Murray State blanked Mississippi Valley State in its season-opener. The redshirt junior completed 10-of-16 passes for 157 yards and carried the ball 11 times for 81 yards, scoring on runs of 28, 1, 5 and 1 yards. His four rushing touchdowns tied the Murray State single-game record, accomplished 10 times previously. The four rushing scores were the most by a FCS player during Week 1.

Others Nominated: Baniko Harley, Austin Peay; Devon Starling, Tennessee State; Davis Shanley, Tennessee Tech; Keon Howard, UT Martin.

DEFENSIVE

Johnathon Edwards, DB • 6-2, 192, Grad. • Philadelphia, Miss. • Austin Peay

Edwards netted two interceptions to go along with two tackles and a pass breakup as Austin Peay began the season with a win at No. 18 Chattanooga. His first interception came early in the second quarter deep in UTC's own territory, and set up a Governors touchdown two plays later. His final pick of the game came at midfield on the Mocs final possession, allowing Austin Peay to regain possession and run out the clock. For his career Edwards has four interceptions, all of which have come against nationally-ranked FCS opponents.

Others Nominated: Kaelin Drakeford, Eastern Illinois; Jahsun Bryant, Tennessee State; Josh Reliford, Tennessee Tech; Deven Sims, UT Martin

SPECIALIST

Tyler Larco, P/K • 5-9, 155, R-Fr. • Miami, Fla. • UT Martin

Serving as both UT Martin's kicker and punter against Western Kentucky, Larco averaged 46.3 yards per punt, made three PATs and averaged 52.2 yards on four kickoffs. The redshirt freshman had six punts that totaled 278 yards, with a career-long of 67 yards in the second quarter. That marked the 10th-longest punt in program history and best since 2012. Larco also downed one punt inside the 20-yard line.

Others Nominated: Maddux Trujillo, Austin Peay; Zach Haynes, Southeast Missouri; Hayden Olsen, Tennessee Tech.

NEWCOMER

Keon Howard, QB • 6-1, 215, Grad. • Laurel, Miss. • UT Martin

Howard, the transfer from Tulane, tallied 239 yards of total offense and three touchdowns in his debut against Western Kentucky. Howard completed 20-of-43 passes for 195 yards and a 27-yard touchdown, while also rushing for 44 yards and two touchdowns. The graduate student opened the scoring with a two-yard score in the first quarter and capped the Skyhawks offensive attack with a nine-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. Howard became the first UTM quarterback to score a pair of rushing touchdowns in a game since 2007.

Others Nominated: Drae McCray, Austin Peay; Cortez Jones, Murray State; Davis Shanley, Tennessee Tech.

OVC MEDIA INFORMATION

Kyle Schwartz

Asst. Commissioner/Strategic Communications

Phone: (615) 690-6685

Cell: (615) 775-1937

E-mail: kschwartz@ovc.org

Web: <http://www.OVCSports.com>

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 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 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

OFFENSIVE

Sept. 6 Preston Rice, Murray State

Sept. 12

Sept. 19

Sept. 26

Oct. 3

Oct. 10

Oct. 17

Oct. 24

Oct. 31

Nov. 7

Nov. 14

Nov. 21

DEFENSIVE

Sept. 6 Johnathon Edwards, Austin Peay

Sept. 12

Sept. 19

Sept. 26

Oct. 3

Oct. 10

Oct. 17

Oct. 24

Oct. 31

Nov. 7

Nov. 14

Nov. 21

SPECIALIST

Sept. 6 Tyler Larco, UT Martin

Sept. 12

Sept. 19

Sept. 26

Oct. 3

Oct. 10

Oct. 17

Oct. 24

Oct. 31

Nov. 7

Nov. 14

Nov. 21

NEWCOMER

Sept. 6 Keon Howard, UT Martin

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.

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: In the latest Stats Perform Top 25, Austin Peay moved up three spots to No. 17 while Murray State was just outside the Top 25, unofficially at No. 26. The new FCS Coaches Poll will not be released until Tuesday. This marks the fourth-straight season the Governors have been ranked, after never being ranked prior to the 2018 season. Murray State. 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 36-253-1 all-time against FBS opponents with eight games on the 2021 schedule.

OVC Players on NFL Rosters: As of September 5, there are 14 former Ohio Valley Conference players on NFL rosters (8 active, 5 practice squad, 1 injured reserve). Those players include former Eastern Illinois standout quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, who has won two Super Bowl Championships with the Patriots and is now the starter for the San Francisco 49ers, who he led to the Super Bowl in 2019. Six of the seven current OVC football schools have at least one player in the NFL.

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

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

OVC SID DIRECTORY

AUSTIN PEAY

Cody Bush (931) 221-7561
Cell Phone (931) 980-4940
Email bushc@apsu.edu
Web site LetsGoPeay.com
Press Box Number (931) 221-7191

EASTERN ILLINOIS

Rich Moser (217) 581-7480
Cell Phone (217) 508-8317
Email rmoser@eiu.edu
Web site EIUpanthers.com
Press Box Number (217) 581-7770

MURRAY STATE

Parker Griffith (270) 809-3351
Cell Phone (662) 341-0979
Email pgriffith2@murraystate.edu
Web site GoRacers.com
Press Box Number (270) 809-6811

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

Jeff Honza (573) 651-2294
Cell Phone (618) 528-1145
Email redhawk1@me.com
Web site SEMORedhawks.com
Press Box Number (573) 651-2191

TENNESSEE STATE

TBD (615) 963-5922
Cell Phone TBD
Email TBD
Web site TSUTigers.com
Press Box Number (615) 565-4450

TENNESSEE TECH

Thomas Corhern (931) 372-6139
Cell Phone (931) 703-4927
Email tcorhern@tntech.edu
Web site TTUSports.com
Press Box Number (931) 372-6030/6031

UT MARTIN

Alex Boggis (731) 881-7694
Cell Phone (618) 357-1536
Email dboggis@utm.edu
Web site UTMSports.com
Press Box Number (731) 881-7694



Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Croce di Guerra of Italy 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.

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.

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.

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	17	-	RV	-	-	-	-
Sept. 13							
Sept. 20							
Sept. 27							
Oct. 4							
Oct. 11							
Oct. 18							
Oct. 25							
Nov. 1							
Nov. 8							
Nov. 15							
Nov. 22							
Final							

NATIONAL POLLS

STATS PERFORM

No.	Team	Record	Pts.
1.	Sam Houston (32)	1-0	1212
2.	South Dakota State (11)	1-0	1185
3.	James Madison (2)	1-0	1159
4.	Montana (5)	1-0	1087
5.	North Dakota State	1-0	1050
6.	Delaware	1-0	965
7.	Eastern Washington	1-0	880
8.	Southern Illinois	1-0	873
9.	North Dakota	1-0	858
10.	Weber State	0-1	764
11.	Montana State	0-1	598
12.	Villanova	1-0	585
13.	Southeastern Louisiana	1-0	584
14.	UC Davis	1-0	576
15.	ETSU	1-0	442
16.	Jacksonville State	0-1	427
17.	Austin Peay	1-0	417
18.	VMI	1-0	415
19.	Central Arkansas	0-1	407
20.	Monmouth	0-1	290
21.	UNI	0-1	287
22.	Kennesaw State	1-0	208
23.	Missouri State	0-1	187
24.	Holy Cross	1-0	160
25.	Richmond	1-0	135

Others (OVC Only): Murray State (125).

FCS COACHES POLL (PRESEASON)

NOTE: New poll coming on 9/7/21

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.	Austin Peay	0-0	65

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



ance. 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 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.

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.

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	0-2
NEC	0-0
Patriot	0-0
Pioneer	0-0
Southern	1-1
Southland	0-0
SWAC	1-1
WAC	0-0
FCS Total	2-4
FBS Opponents	
American Athletic	0-0
Atlantic Coast	0-0
Big Ten	0-0
Big 12	0-0
Conference USA	0-1
MAC	0-0
Mountain West	0-0
Pac-12	0-0
SEC	0-1
Sun Belt	0-0
FBS Total	0-2
Non-Division I	0-0
Total Non-Conference Record	2-6

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
78	Tennessee State	44-0 vs. Eastern Ky. (11/2/13)
31	Tennessee Tech	24-0 vs. UT Martin (11/18/17)
19	Southeast Missouri	50-0 at Missouri (9/14/19)
18	UT Martin	45-0 at Florida (9/7/19)
17	Murray State	45-0 at Toledo (9/14/19)
9	Austin Peay	55-0 vs. Pittsburgh (9/12/20)
0	Eastern Illinois	46-0 at South Carolina (9/4/21)

Longest All-Time FCS Streaks Without Being Shutout

#	Team	Years
407	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 1 of the 2021 season.

Active OVCer's With 100-Yard Rushing Games

Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri	4
Ahmaad Tanner, Austin Peay	4
Peyton Logan, UT Martin	4
David Gist, Tennessee Tech	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
Cortez Jones, Murray State	1

2021 SUPERLATIVES

100-Yard Rushing Games

107..... Cortezz Jones, Murray State vs. Mississippi Valley State (Sept. 2)
104..... Geno Hess, Southeast Missouri vs. #7 Southern Illinois (Sept. 2)
103..... Ahmaad Tanner, Austin Peay at #18 Chattanooga (Sept. 2)

300-Yard Passing Games

320..... Draylen Ellis, Austin Peay at #18 Chattanooga (Sept. 2)

250-Yard Passing Games

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

100-Yard Receiving Games

132..... Baniko Harley, Austin Peay at #18 Chattanooga (Sept. 2)
116..... Tyler Ringwood, Eastern Illinois at Indiana State (Aug. 28)
102..... Keon Howard, UT Martin at Western Kentucky (Sept. 2)

10-Reception Games

none

200-Yard All-Purpose Games

none

50-Yard Field Goals

none

15-Tackle Games

none

Multiple Defensive Interception Games

1..... Johnathon Edwards, Austin Peay at #18 Chattanooga (Sept. 2)

Multiple Rushing Touchdown Games

1..... Keon Howard, UT Martin at Western Kentucky (Sept. 2)
1..... Preston Rice, Murray State vs. Mississippi Valley State (Sept. 2)

Multiple Receiving Touchdown Games

none

Multiple Passing Touchdown Games

1..... Draylen Ellis, Austin Peay at #18 Chattanooga (Sept. 2)

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

OVC PLAYERS IN THE NFL

There are currently 14 former Ohio Valley Conference football players (8 active, 5 practice squad, 1 injured reserve) on NFL rosters for the 2021 season.

Active Players (8)

Tim Boyle, Detroit Lions (Eastern Kentucky)
Mike Ford, Denver Broncos (Southeast Missouri)
Jimmy Garoppolo, San Francisco 49ers (Eastern Illinois)
Kamu Grugier-Hill, Houston Texans (Eastern Illinois)
Siran Neal, Buffalo Bills (Jacksonville State)
Aaron Patrick, Jacksonville Jaguars (Eastern Kentucky)
Lachavious Simmons, Chicago Bears (Tennessee State)
Quincy Williams, New York Jets (Murray State)

Practice Squad (5)

Anthony Levine, Baltimore Ravens (Tennessee State)
DJ Montgomery, New York Jets (Austin Peay)
Jaylon Moore, Baltimore Ravens (UT Martin)
Noah Spence, Cincinnati Bengals (Eastern Kentucky)
Kristian Wilkerson, New England Patriots (SE Missouri)

Injured Reserve/PUP (1)

Drew Forbes, Cleveland Browns (Southeast Missouri)

Head Coaches (1)

Sean Payton - New Orleans Saints (Eastern Illinois)

General Managers (2)

Ryan Pace - Chicago Bears (Eastern Illinois)
Jon Robinson - Tennessee Titans (Southeast Missouri)

CAREER RECORD BOOK WATCH

Field Goals - Career

1. Jamin Godfrey, TSU (2010-13)	59
2. Kienan Cullen, MUR (2008-11)	58
3. Kelly Potter, MTSU (1981-84)	52
4. Gavin Hallford, JSU (2004-08)	49
Paul Hickert, MUR (1984-87)	49
Dale Dawson, ECU (1980-83)	49
Taylor Long, ECU (2005-08)	49
David Collett, TTU (1998-01)	49
9. Ryan McCrum, SMO (2013-16)	47
Antonio Zita, TSU (2018-present)	47

OVC PLAYERS AMONG NCAA STATISTICAL LEADERS

The below list contains any Ohio Valley Conference players ranked in the Top 50 of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national leaders. **Rankings are through games played on September 4. Updated statistics can always be found here: <http://on.ncaa.com/2aWYpHA>.**

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS (YDS/GAME)

17. Zion Custis, SEMO	148.00
41. Baniko Harley, APSU	132.00

RUSHING (YDS/GAME)

19. Cortez Jones, MUR	107.0
21. Geno Hess, SEMO	104.0
22. Ahmaad Tanner, APSU	103.0
44. Preston Rice, MUR	81.0

RUSHING YARDS/CARRY

4. Cortez Jones, MUR	10.70
21. Preston Rice, MUR	7.36
33. Geno Hess, SEMO	5.78
42. Ahmaad Tanner, APSU	5.42

TOTAL RUSHING YARDS

19. Cortez Jones, MUR	107
21. Geno Hess, SEMO	104
22. Ahmaad Tanner, APSU	103
44. Preston Rice, MUR	81

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

1. Preston Rice, MUR	4
----------------------	---

PASSING EFFICIENCY

9. Draylen Ellis, APSU	179.0
------------------------	-------

TOTAL OFFENSE

18. Draylen Ellis, APSU	322.0
45. Keon Howard, UTM	239.0

PASSING YARDS/GAME

13. Draylen Ellis, APSU	320.0
50. Keon Howard, UTM	195.0

PASSING YARDS/COMPLETION

19. Draylen Ellis, APSU	13.91
31. Preston Rice, MUR	12.89

PASSING YARDS PER ATTEMPT

10. Draylen Ellis, APSU	9.70
33. Preston Rice, MUR	7.73

TOTAL PASSING YARDS

13. Draylen Ellis, APSU	320
-------------------------	-----

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

3. Draylen Ellis, APSU	4
------------------------	---

COMPLETIONS/GAME

25. Draylen Ellis, APSU	23.00
35. Keon Howard, UTM	20.00
40. Davis Shanley, TTU	19.00

COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

14. Draylen Ellis, APSU	69.7%
42. Preston Rice, MUR	60.0%

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

6. Quinton Cross, TTU	8.0
22. Donnell Williams, UTM	7.0
37. Colton Dowell, UTM	6.0
37. Baniko Harley, APSU	6.0

RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME

13. Baniko Harley, APSU	132.0
34. Colton Dowell, UTM	102.0
45. Drae McCray, APSU	87.0

TOTAL RECEIVING YARDS

13. Baniko Harley, APSU	132
34. Colton Dowell, UTM	102
45. Drae McCray, APSU	87

YARDS PER RECEPTION

33. Baniko Harley, APSU	22.00
-------------------------	-------

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

none	
------	--

SCORING (PTS/GAME)

1. Preston Rice, MUR	24.0
13. Keon Howard, UTM	12.0

TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS

1. Preston Rice, MUR	4
10. Keon Howard, UTM	2

POINTS RESPONSIBLE FOR/GAME

5. Draylen Ellis, APSU	24.0
5. Preston Rice, MUR	24.0
17. Keon Howard, UTM	18.0

PUNT RETURNS (YARDS/RETURN)

28. Kam Thomas, APSU	-1.0
----------------------	------

KICKOFF RETURNS (YDS/RETURN)

6. Zion Custis, SEMO	30.8
17. Petyon Logan, UTM	22.0
22. Kam Thomas, APSU	21.3
28. Davis Shanley, TTU	18.7

COMBINED KICK RETURNS

3. Zion Custis, SEMO	123
24. Kam Thomas, APSU	62
30. Davis Shanley, TTU	56
41. Peyton Logan, UTM	44

FIELD GOALS (MADE/GAME)

19. Maddux Trujillo, APSU	1.00
---------------------------	------

FIELD GOALS PERCENTAGE

1. Maddux Trujillo, APSU	100%
--------------------------	------

PUNTING (YDS/PUNT)

10. Tyler Larco, UTM	46.3
25. Zach Haynes, SEMO	41.8
41. Hayden Olsen, TTU	39.6
42. Matthew Rigney, APSU	39.4

INTERCEPTIONS (PER GAME)

1. Johnathan Edwards, APSU	2.0
11. Trai Hodges, SEMO	1.0
11. Mike Matthews, SEMO	1.0
11. DaVontae McKee, MUR	1.0
11. Quinaz Turner, MUR	1.0
11. Jay Woods, UTM	1.0

TACKLES/GAME

23. Josh Reliford, TTU	11.0
38. Deven Sims, UTM	10.0

SACKS/GAME

18. Omark Douglas, SEMO	1.00
18. Scotty Humpich, MUR	1.00
18. Kordell Jackson, APSU	1.00
18. DaVontae McKee, MUR	1.00
18. Koby Perry, APSU	1.00
18. Devin Squires, TTU	1.00

FORCED FUMBLES/GAME

none	
------	--

PASSES DEFENDED/GAME

3. Johnathan Edwards, APSU	3.0
1. Shamari Simmons, APSU	2.0
14. Trai Hodges, SEMO	2.0

TACKLES FOR LOSS/GAME

9. Kordell Jackson, APSU	2.5
21. Scotty Humpich, MUR	2.0

FUMBLES RECOVERED/GAME

2. Blake Ruffin, EIU	1
----------------------	---

BLOCKED KICKS

none	
------	--

OVC TEAMS AMONG NCAA STATISTICAL LEADERS

The below list contains any Ohio Valley Conference teams ranked in the Top 50 of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national leaders. Rankings are through games played on September 4. Updated statistics can always be found here: <http://on.ncaa.com/2aWYpHA>.

RUSHING OFFENSE (YDS/GAME)

7. Murray State	307.0
29. UT Martin	201.0
42. Southeast Missouri	142.0
50. Austin Peay	127.0

PASSING OFFENSE (YDS/GAME)

15. Austin Peay	320.0
-----------------	-------

PASSING YARDS/COMPLETION

15. Murray State	14.80
23. Austin Peay	13.91
45. Eastern Illinois	12.26

TOTAL OFFENSE (YDS/GAME)

28. Murray State	455.0
31. Austin Peay	447.0
45. UT Martin	396.0

SCORING OFFENSE

25. Murray State	35.0
35. Austin Peay	30.0

RUSHING DEFENSE

28. Southeast Missouri	93.0
31. Austin Peay	98.0
32. Murray State	99.0
33. Tennessee Tech	105.0
34. UT Martin	109.0

PASS DEFENSE

3. Murray State	63.0
16. Austin Peay	130.0
17. Eastern Illinois	136.0

TOTAL DEFENSE

7. Murray State	162.0
12. Austin Peay	228.0
35. Eastern Illinois	342.5

SCORING DEFENSE

1. Murray State	0.0
29. Austin Peay	20.0

NET PUNTING

15. Southeast Missouri	41.70
21. UT Martin	41.17
34. Austin Peay	39.29

PUNT RETURNS (YDS/RETURN)

28. Eastern Illinois	4.50
31. Murray State	4.00
50. Tennessee Tech	0.00
50. UT Martin	0.00

KICKOFF RETURNS (YDS/RETURN)

3. Murray State	36.00
7. Southeast Missouri	30.75
39. Austin Peay	20.50
47. Tennessee Tech	18.67
49. Eastern Illinois	18.00

TURNOVER MARGIN (PER GAME)

19. Murray State	+1.00
40. Austin Peay	0.0
40. Southeast Missouri	0.0

FUMBLES RECOVERED

15. Eastern Illinois	1
----------------------	---

PASSES INTERCEPTED

9. Murray State	2
9. Austin Peay	2
9. Southeast Missouri	2
28. UT Martin	1

FUMBLES LOST

1. Austin Peay	0
1. Murray State	0
1. Tennessee Tech	

INTERCEPTIONS THROWN

1. Southeast Missouri	0
47. UT Martin	1
47. Tennessee Tech	1
47. Murray State	1

TURNOVERS GAINED

22. Austin Peay	2
22. Murray State	2
22. Southeast Missouri	2
50. Eastern Illinois	1
50. UT Martin	1

TURNOVERS LOST

26. Murray State	1
26. Tennessee Tech	1

PASSING EFFICIENCY

12. Austin Peay	179.03
-----------------	--------

PASS EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

4. Murray State	64.69
8. Austin Peay	81.62
49. Eastern Illinois	131.47

FEWEST PENALTIES PER GAME

24. Murray State	5.00
50. Eastern Illinois	7.00
50. Tennessee Tech	7.00

FEWEST YARDS PENALIZED PER GAME

40. Murray State	50.00
------------------	-------

PUNT RETURN YARDAGE DEFENSE

4. Murray State	-2.00
47. Austin Peay	1.00
47. Southeast Missouri	1.00

KICKOFF RETURN YARDAGE DEFENSE

15. Tennessee Tech	11.00
29. Murray State	14.50

SACKS/GAME

31. Austin Peay	2.00
31. Murray State	2.00

TACKLES FOR LOSS/GAME

21. Austin Peay	7.0
21. Murray State	7.0
33. Southeast Missouri	6.0
33. Tennessee Tech	6.0

SACKS ALLOWED/GAME

21. UT Martin	1.00
---------------	------

TACKLES FOR LOSS ALLOWED

30. UT Martin	5.00
46. Austin Peay	6.00
46. Southeast Missouri	6.00

BLOCKED KICKS

2. Southeast Missouri	1
-----------------------	---

BLOCKED PUNTS

none

3RD DOWN CONVERSION PERCENTAGE

11. UT Martin	52.6%
13. Murray State	50.0%
39. Austin Peay	38.9%

4TH DOWN CONVERSION PERCENTAGE

1. Eastern Illinois	100%
1. Austin Peay	100%
1. UT Martin	100%
38. Murray State	50.0%

3RD DOWN CONVERSION DEFENSE

5. Austin Peay	16.7%
23. Southeast Missouri	27.3%

4TH DOWN CONVERSION DEFENSE

1. Austin Peay	0.0%
1. Murray State	0.0%
1. Southeast Missouri	0.0%
1. UT Martin	0.0%

TIME OF POSSESSION

24. Murray State	34:03
27. Tennessee Tech	33:53
30. UT Martin	33:30
41. Southeast Missouri	31:41
48. Austin Peay	30:50

RED ZONE OFFENSE

1. Austin Peay	100%
1. Eastern Illinois	100%
1. Southeast Missouri	100%
1. Tennessee Tech	100%

RED ZONE DEFENSE

1. Murray State	0.0%
45. Eastern Illinois	85.7%
45. Southeast Missouri	85.7%
45. Tennessee Tech	85.7%

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS

1. Southeast Missouri	1
-----------------------	---

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

<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>
Scotty Walden, Austin Peay	2	4	2	.667	5	2	.714	3	13	8	.619
Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois	3	2	12	.143	2	18	.100	3	2	18	.100
Dean Hood, Murray State	10	49	21	.700	61	40	.604	10	61	40	.604
Tom Matukewicz, Southeast Missouri	8	29	25	.537	37	43	.463	9	38	43	.469
Eddie George, Tennessee State	1	0	0	.000	0	1	.000	1	0	1	.000
Dewayne Alexander, Tennessee Tech	4	6	17	.207	9	22	.290	10	50	55	.476
Jason Simpson, UT Martin	16	72	46	.610	90	78	.536	16	90	78	.536

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

TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



AUSTIN PEAY GOVERNORS (1-0, 0-0)

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

SEPTEMBER

2	at #18 Chattanooga (ESPN+)	W, 30-20	8,115
11	at Ole Miss (ESPN+)	6:30 p.m.	
18	Morehead State (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.	
25	at Eastern Kentucky	2:00 p.m.	

OCTOBER

2	Tennessee State # (ESPN+)	7:00 pm.	
9	Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)	3:00 p.m.	
23	at Murray State* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.	
30	at UT Martin* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.	

NOVEMBER

6	Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.	
13	at Tennessee State* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.	
20	Tennessee Tech* (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



EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS (0-2, 0-0)

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-2, Neutral: 0-0

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

4	at South Carolina (ESPN+)	L, 0-46	64,868
11	at Dayton	12:00 p.m.	
18	Illinois State (ESPN+)	6:00 p.m.	
25	at Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)	1:30 p.m.	

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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



MURRAY STATE RACERS (1-0, 0-0)

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

SEPTEMBER

2	Mississippi Valley State (ESPN+)	W, 35-0	6,874
11	at Cincinnati (ESPN+)	2:30 p.m.	
18	at Bowling Green (ESPN3)	4:00 p.m.	

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

6	Tennessee Tech* (ESPN+)	1:00 p.m.	
13	Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)	1:00 p.m.	
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 (0-1, 0-0)

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

SEPTEMBER

2	#7 Southern Illinois (ESPN+)	L, 21-47	4,075
11	at #1 Sam Houston	6:00 p.m.	
18	at Missouri (SEC Network+)	11:00 a.m.	
25	Tennessee State* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.	

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

13	at Murray State* (ESPN+)	1:00 p.m.	
20	UT Martin* (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

TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



TENNESSEE STATE TIGERS (0-1, 0-0)

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

SEPTEMBER

5	vs. Grambling % (NFL Network)	L, 10-16
11	vs. Jackson State \$ (ESPN3)	6:00 p.m.
18	Kentucky State (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.
25	at Southeast Missouri* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

6	at UT Martin* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.
13	Austin Peay* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.
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 (0-1, 0-0)

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

SEPTEMBER

2	at Samford (ESPN+)	L, 14-52	3,177
11	Furman (ESPN+)	1:30 p.m.	
18	at Tennessee (SEC Network+)	11:00 a.m.	
25	Eastern Illinois* (ESPN+)	1:30 p.m.	

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

6	at Murray State* (ESPN+)	1:00 p.m.
13	UT Martin* (ESPN+)	1:30 p.m.
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 (0-1, 0-0)

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

SEPTEMBER

2	at Western Kentucky (ESPN+)	L, 21-59	16,236
11	Samford (ESPN+)	6:00 p.m.	
18	at Northwestern State (ESPN+)	6:00 p.m.	
25	at Jacksonville State (ESPN+)	3:00 p.m.	

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

6	Tennessee State* (ESPN+)	2:00 p.m.
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

You've got to  **OVC** it!

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

@Samford 52, **Tennessee Tech 14**

#20 Austin Peay 30, @#18 Chattanooga 20

#7 Southern Illinois 47, **@Southeast Missouri 21**

@Western Kentucky 59, **UT Martin 21**

@Murray State 35, Mississippi Valley State 0

Saturday, September 4

@South Carolina 46, **Eastern Illinois 0**

Sunday, September 5

Grambling 16, **Tennessee State 10** (Canton, Ohio)

Saturday, September 11

Eastern Illinois at Dayton, 12:00 p.m. (Facebook Live)

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. (ESPN+)

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 (A)
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, 25-22 (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 PREVIEW



Eastern Illinois Panthers (0-2, 0-0 OVC) at Dayton Flyers (0-0, 0-0 PFL)

Saturday, September 11 • 12:00 p.m.
Welcome Stadium (11,000) • Dayton, Ohio

Video: <https://bit.ly/2VbEkHZ> (Facebook)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3zJAFjI>
Series Record: First meeting
Last Meeting: n/a
Adam Cushing at Eastern Illinois: 2-18 (3 yrs.)
Adam Cushing Overall: same
Rick Chamberlin at Dayton: 93-41 (13 yrs.)
Rick Chamberlin Overall: same
Eastern Illinois Last Week: L, 46-0 at South Carolina
Dayton Last Week: none

NOTEWORTHY

- Eastern Illinois will be playing its third game of the young season after a Week Zero contest at Indiana State and a Week 1 game against FBS foe South Carolina.
- This will be the first meeting between the schools located four hours apart.
- Eastern Illinois is the first OVC team to play at Dayton since 2017 (when SEMO lost 25-23).
- Eastern Illinois was shutout at South Carolina on Saturday, in its second ever game against a SEC opponent. It marked the first shutout for the team since the 2019 season at Indiana.
- The Panthers tallied just 109 yards of total offense, while South Carolina finished the game with 443 yards.
- Duke transfer Chris Katrenick saw his first action at quarterback for Eastern Illinois. He completed 13 passes for 78 yards.
- Junior Tyler Hamilton, a South Carolina native, had five catches against the Gamecocks while playing in front of a family and friends.
- Panthers superback Jay Vallie was a four-year member of the Dayton team before transferring to EIU prior to last season. He led Eastern in receptions (18) last spring.
- Dayton opted out of the 2020 season; it had been 651 days between games when the Flyers opened the 2021 season last Saturday about Robert Morris.
- Dayton was scheduled to open the 2021 season at home against Robert Morris, but that game was canceled due to a pause of team activities by the Colonials.
- Dayton, who is now in its 113th season of football, has now scored in 488-straight games, the longest active streak in college football



Furman Paladins (1-0, 0-0 SoCon) at Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (0-1, 0-0 OVC)

Saturday, September 11 • 1:30 p.m.
Tucker Stadium (16,500) • Cookeville, Tenn.

Video: <https://es.pn/2Vbt3r7> (ESPN+)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/2VaUP6Z>
Series Record: Series tied 1-1
Last Meeting: Furman won 17-7 (11/9/76)
Clay Hendrix at Furman: 26-18 (4 yrs.)
Clay Hendrix Overall: same
Dewayne Alexander at Tennessee Tech: 9-22 (4 yrs.)
Dewayne Alexander Overall: 50-55 (11 yrs.)
Furman Last Week: W, 29-18 vs. #24 North Carolina A&T
Tennessee Tech Last Week: L, 52-14 at Samford

NOTEWORTHY

- Tennessee Tech will play its second-straight Southern Conference opponent when it has its home opener against Furman on Saturday.
- The two programs have played twice before, coming in the 1975 and 1976 seasons. The teams split, each winning on the other's home field; Tech won 17-5 in 1975 and Furman pulled off a 17-7 decision a year later.
- Tennessee Tech allowed 475 yards of total offense to Samford, while finishing the season-opener with 231 yards (162 through the air).
- Willie Miller made the start under center against Samford but shifted over to receiver, catching two passes and also rushing the ball twice.
- Graduate transfer Davis Shanley saw the majority of the action, completing 19-of-34 passes for 159 yards and a score.
- After being injured last February, David Gist made the return to the backfield and had a team-high 72 yards and 17 carries while adding a three-yard touchdown.
- Furman, picked third in the SoCon preseason poll, was 3-4 in the 2020-21 spring season.
- The Paladins knocked off No. 24 North Carolina A&T to open the 2021 season; its first over a ranked opponent at home since 2018.
- Quarterback Hamp Sisson threw for 362 yards and three touchdowns; it marked the second-most passing yards ever by a Furman quarterback.

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



Murray State Racers (1-0, 0-0 OVC)
#8 Cincinnati Bearcats (1-0, 0-0 AAC)

Saturday, September 11 • 2:30 p.m.
Nippert Stadium (40,000) • Cincinnati, Ohio

Video: <https://es.pn/3yD35Kz> (ESPN+)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3mUVcOD>
Series Record: First meeting
Last Meeting: n/a
Dean Hood at Murray State: 61-40 (10 yrs.)
Dean Hood Overall: 6-2 (2 yrs.)
Luke Fickell at Cincinnati: 36-14 (5 yrs.)
Luke Fickell Overall: 42-21 (6 yrs.)
Murray State Last Week: W, 35-0 vs. Mississippi Valley State
Cincinnati Last Week: W, 49-14 vs. Miami (Ohio)

NOTEWORTHY

- Murray State will travel to Cincinnati for the first-ever meeting between the two schools.
- Murray State is 3-31-1 all-time against Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponents with the three wins and tie all coming between 1978 and 1985. Since then they have lost 30 in a row to FBS foes.
- The Racers have played two nationally-ranked FBS teams over the past five years: No. 17 Louisville in 2017 and No. 3 Georgia in 2018.
- Last week Murray State recorded its first shutout since the 2011 season, when it also bested Mississippi Valley State (39-0), a span of 107 games.
- The Racers defense limited the Delta Devils to only 162 yards, the fewest it had allowed in a game since 2004.
- Quarterback Preston Rice, this week's OVC Offensive Player of the Week, had four rushing touchdowns, becoming just the 11th player in MSU history to achieve that feat. He scored on runs of 28, 1, 5 and 1 yards. Rice finished the contest with 81 rushing yards and 116 passing yards.
- Overall MSU had five rushing touchdowns, only the second time since 2012 the team had five rushing scores against a Division I opponent.
- Murray State finished the game with 307 rushing yards.
- Cincinnati was ranked No. 8 in the Preseason AP Top 25 and No. 10 in the Preseason Coaches Poll (new polls will be released on Tuesday).
- Cincinnati has won 21-straight home games.
- In the team's season-opening win over Miami (Ohio), Desmond Ridder completed 20-of-2 passes for 295 yards and four touchdowns. That included an 81-yard score on the second play from scrimmage.
- Picked to repeat as American Athletic Conference Champions, Cincinnati is coming off a 9-1 campaign in 2020, winning the AAC title and playing in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, a New Year's Six game. AP ranked UC as No. 8 in its preseason poll, the school's best-ever mark. USA TODAY had the Bearcats No. 10 in the pre-season coaches poll.



Southeast Missouri State Redhawks (0-1, 0-0 OVC)
at #1 Sam Houston Bearcats (1-0, 0-0 WAC)

Saturday, September 11 • 6:00 p.m.
Elliott T. Bowers Stadium (12,593) • Huntsville, Texas

Video: <https://es.pn/3kUTbPY> (ESPN+)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3DKiVqz>
Series Record: Sam Houston leads 2-0
Last Meeting: SHSU won 24-4 (9/10/94)
Tom Matukewicz at Southeast Missouri: 37-43 (8 yrs.)
Tom Matukewicz Overall: 38-43 (9 yrs.)
K.C. Keeler at Sam Houston: 70-22 (8 yrs.)
K.C. Keeler Overall: 244-95-1 (28 yrs.)
Southeast Missouri Last Week: ... L, 47-21 vs. #7 Southern Illinois
Sam Houston Last Week: W, 42-16 at Northern Arizona

NOTEWORTHY

- Southeast Missouri and Sam Houston are playing for the third time overall and first since playing in back-to-back seasons in 1993 and 1994. The teams are scheduled to play in Cape Girardeau in 2025.
- This marks the second-straight nationally-ranked opponent for the Redhawks. SEMO is 8-29 against ranked FCS opponents since 2004, and have lost four-straight against ranked foes. The Redhawks last non-conference ranked victory came against Stony Brook in the 2018 Playoffs. SEMO's last win over a Top 10 opponents came in 2018 (No. 4 Jacksonville State).
- 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.
- Geno Hess, who led the FCS in rushing touchdowns in 2020-21 and begins this season on the Walter Payton Award Watch List, had 104 rushing yards against Southern Illinois. That marked his fourth career 100-yard game (tied for the most among active OVC players).
- Junior quarterback CJ Ogbonna, a transfer from Hutchinson Community College, got the start against SIU.
- Sam Houston is coming off the 2020-21 FCS National Championship when it went 10-0 and topped South Dakota State in the title game.
- SHSU has won 12-straight games overall dating back to the 2019 season.
- Sam Houston head coach K.C. Keeler is the only coach at the FCS level to win a National Championship at two different schools (Delaware in 2003 being the other).
- Eric Schmid threw for 268 yards and three touchdowns in the win over Northern Arizona last Thursday, while Ramon Jefferson had 143 rushing yards on just 11 carries.
- SHSU's President is Dr. Alisa White, who previously was the President at OVC school Austin Peay.

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



**Tennessee State Tigers (0-1, 0-0 OVC)
vs. Jackson State Tigers (1-0, 1-0 SWAC)**

**Saturday, September 11 • 6:00 p.m.
Liberty Bowl (61,008) • Memphis, Tenn.**



**Samford Bulldogs (1-0, 0-0 SoCon)
at UT Martin Skyhawks (0-1, 0-0 OVC)**

**Saturday, September 11 • 6:00 p.m.
Graham Stadium (7,500) • Martin, Tenn.**



Video: <https://es.pn/3t86Nei> (ESPN3)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3zK1m7H>
Series Record: Tennessee State leads 29-21-2
Last Meeting: JSU won 49-4 (9/14/19)
Eddie George at Tennessee State: 0-1 (1 yr.)
Eddie George Overall: same
Deion Sanders at Jackson State: 5-3 (2 yrs.)
Deion Sanders Overall: same
Tennessee State Last Week: L, 16-10 vs. Grambling
Jackson State Last Week: W, 7-6 vs. Florida A&M

NOTEWORTHY

- This marks the 31st annual Southern Heritage Classic at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis. Two of the past three Classics have unfortunately been canceled, due to weather (2018) and COVID (2020).
- This marks the 26th straight-time (and 28th overall) that the teams have squared off in this Classic which began in 1990 (the two other games were between TSU and Mississippi Valley State and Grambling). Tennessee State is 17-12 all-time in the event while Jackson State is 10-17.
- The game features two former NFL starts who are now head coaches, in Tennessee State's Eddie George and Jackson State's Deion Sanders. George is in his first season while this marks the second year for Sanders at JSU.
- The all-time series between the two schools is at 29-21-2 in favor of Tennessee State, although Jackson State won the last matchup in 2019.
- Reigning OVC Co-Freshman of the Year Devon Starling rushed for 88 yards and also caught an 18-yard pass in the Tigers loss in the Black College Football Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio.
- Kicker Antonio Zita, who tied the OVC record with a 63-yard field goal last season, made his 47th career field goal against Grambling, moving him into a tie for 9th place in OVC history.
- Jahsun Bryant had nine tackles (eight solo) against Grambling.
- Jackson State opened its season in the Orange Blossom Classic in Miami, besting new SWAC foe Florida A&M 7-6.
- Coach Sanders son Shedeur completed 18-of-24 passes for 221 yards and scored the lone touchdown of a game with his legs early in the second quarter. His brother Shilo Sanders plays in JSU's secondary.

Video: <https://es.pn/3kT3iVr> (ESPN+)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3zEzT2s>
Series Record: Samford leads 15-3-1
Last Meeting: UT Martin won 31-21 (10/13/07)
Chris Hatcher at Samford: 37-29 (7 yrs.)
Chris Hatcher Overall: 158-86 (22 yrs.)
Jason Simpson at UT Martin: 90-78 (16 yrs.)
Jason Simpson Overall: same
Samford Last Week: W, 52-14 vs. Tennessee Tech
UT Martin Last Week: L, 59-21 at Western Kentucky

NOTEWORTHY

- UT Martin will host Samford for the first meeting between the schools since 2007, when Samford completed a five-year run as an OVC member.
- Overall the marks the 20th all-time meeting between the schools dating back to 1958. Samford had won 14 in a row until UT Martin won back-to-back games in 2006 and 2007.
- Tulane grad transfer Keon Howard made his Skyhawk debut against WKU last Thursday, completing 20-of-43 passes for 195 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 44 yards and scoring a pair of rushing touchdowns. Howard was the first UTM quarterback to rush for two touchdowns in the same game since Dexter Anoka against Samford in 2007. Howard was named OVC Newcomer of the Week.
- Against WKU All-OVC specialist Tyler Larco averaged 46.3 yards per punt, including booting a career-long 67 yarder, the 10th-longest punt in school history. He earned OVC Specialist of the Week honors.
- Colton Dowell netted his sixth 100-yard receiving game of his career with six catches for 102 yards. He also scored the 12th touchdown of his career.
- 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. Another former Murray State head coach, Mitch Stewart, is now the Samford offensive coordinator.
- 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 opened the season by passing for 370 yards and four touchdowns in a win against Tennessee Tech.
- Montrell Washington caught eight passes for a career-high 170 yards while also returning a punt 62 yards for a touchdown.
- Samford ranked seventh nationally last year in turnover margin (+8).

WEEKLY MATCHUP PREVIEWS



#17 Austin Peay Governors (1-0, 0-0 OVC) at Ole Miss Rebels (0-0, 0-0 SEC)

Saturday, September 11 • 6:30 p.m.
Vaught–Hemingway Stadium (64,038) • Oxford, Miss.

Video: <https://es.pn/3t9icuh> (ESPN+)
Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3BGzEcJ>
Series Record: First meeting
Last Meeting: n/a
Scotty Walden at Austin Peay: 5-2 (2 yrs.)
Scotty Walden Overall: 13-8 (3 yrs.)
Lane Kiffin at Ole Miss: 5-5 (2 yrs.)
Lane Kiffin Overall: 66-39 (10 yrs.)
Austin Peay Last Week: W, 30-20 at #18 Chattanooga
Ole Miss Last Week: vs. Louisville (Monday)

NOTEWORTHY

- Saturday marks the first matchup in the all-time series between Austin Peay and Ole Miss.
- Austin Peay is 1-27 all-time against Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponents, with its lone victory coming over Kansas State in 1987. Since that game the Gobs have lost 25 in a row to FBS teams. Austin Peay played two FBS opponents during the 2020 Fall season (Pitt and Cincinnati).
- In the only matchup of nationally-ranked FCS foes in Week 1, Austin Peay defeated No. 18 Chattanooga 30-20. The Gobs are now 7-3 against ranked FCS opponents over the past three seasons (2019-present). That includes three-straight wins over ranked teams dating back to last season.
- APSU topped Chattanooga for the first time in seven total meetings.
- Sophomore quarterback Draylen Ellis threw for 320 yards and four touchdowns against Chattanooga. Ellis was named the 2020-21 OVC Co-Freshman of the Year.
- Ahmaad Tanner rushed for 103 yards, his fourth career 100-yard rushing game, which is tied for the most among active OVC players.
- Buck Buchanan Award candidate Kordell Jackson had eight tackles (2.5 for loss) and a pass breakup. He has earned All-American honors each of the past two years.
- Ole Miss opened the 2021 season by competing against Louisville in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on Monday night.
- This year marks the 127th season of football for Ole Miss and second under head coach Lane Kiffin, who was 5-5 against an all-SEC schedule in 2020. Kiffin did not attend the team's game with Louisville after testing positive for COVID-19.
- Ole Miss ranked in the Top 20 in the FBS in nine different offensive categories a year ago. They broke the SEC record for total offense in conference games (562.4 ypg) last year.
- Four Ole Miss players were named to the Preseason All-SEC team by the league head coaches: Matt Corral (QB) and Jerrion Ealy (RS, AP) both earned first-team accolades, while Mac Brown (P) earned second-team honors and Nick Broeker (OL).