



2026 OVC FOOTBALL



COMPETE. GROW. SUCCEED.

Week Zero

OVC STANDINGS

	OVC					OVERALL								
	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	Home	Away	Neutral	Streak
Charleston Southern	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
Gardner-Webb	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
Lindenwood	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	-
UT Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-
Western Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 27

*Charleston Southern at Lindenwood, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Gardner-Webb at #17/18 Austin Peay, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Northwestern College (Iowa) at Western Illinois, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

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

Central Arkansas at #23/22 UT Martin, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, August 29

Southeast Missouri at Indiana State, 5:00 p.m.

Jackson State at Tennessee State, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

(Played at FirstBank Stadium)

* Indicates OVC Contest

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

none

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS AND STORYLINES

The 79th season of OVC football gets underway with five games on Thursday night, including the first League game when Charleston Southern travels to Lindenwood ... Two other teams will play on Saturday ... Thursday's CSU/Lindenwood game marks the first time since 2011 that a Conference game has been played to open the season (that year Jacksonville State beat UT Martin on Thursday, September 1) ... In June a return to the OVC identity (name and logo) for football was beginning with the 2026 season; the past three years the teams played under the terms Big South-OVC Football Association (2023-24) and the OVC-Big South Football Association (2025) ... UT Martin was picked the preseason favorite in a vote of league head coaches; the Skyhawks have won or shared four of the past five OVC Championships (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) and have won FCS Playoff games in each 2021 and 2024 ... UTM is ranked in both FCS Top 25 polls (No. 22/23), while Southeast Missouri is receiving votes in both polls ... For the second year in a row the FCS National Championship game will be played in Nashville at FirstBank Stadium on the campus of Vanderbilt University; the OVC and Nashville Sports Council are serving as hosts for the event along with Vanderbilt.



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OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK PRESENTED BY TICKETSMARTER

First players of the week to be announced on Monday, August 31.

OFFENSIVE

Aug. 31
Sept. 7
Sept. 14
Sept. 21
Sept. 28
Oct. 5
Oct. 12
Oct. 19
Oct. 26
Nov. 2
Nov. 9
Nov. 16
Nov. 23

DEFENSIVE

Aug. 31
Sept. 7
Sept. 14
Sept. 21
Sept. 28
Oct. 5
Oct. 12
Oct. 19
Oct. 26
Nov. 2
Nov. 9
Nov. 16
Nov. 23

SPECIAL TEAMS

Aug. 31
Sept. 7
Sept. 14
Sept. 21
Sept. 28
Oct. 5
Oct. 12
Oct. 19
Oct. 26
Nov. 2
Nov. 9
Nov. 16
Nov. 23

ROOKIE

Aug. 31
Sept. 7
Sept. 14
Sept. 21
Sept. 28
Oct. 5
Oct. 12
Oct. 19
Oct. 26
Nov. 2
Nov. 9
Nov. 16
Nov. 23

OTHER NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

**Bold indicates player went on to be named
National Player of the Week.**

TicketSmarter®



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FCS TOP 25 POLLS

STATS PERFORM

No.	Team	Record	Pts.
1.	Montana State (57)	0-0	1,425
2.	Montana	0-0	1,328
3.	South Dakota State	0-0	1,266
4.	Illinois State	0-0	1,231
5.	Tarleton State	0-0	1,100
6.	UC Davis	0-0	1,063
7.	Rhode Island	0-0	1,048
8.	Villanova	0-0	1,008
9.	Youngstown State	0-0	946
10.	North Dakota	0-0	945
11.	Lehigh	0-0	826
12.	South Dakota	0-0	783
13.	Stephen F. Austin	0-0	773
14.	Tennessee Tech	0-0	594
15.	Abilene Christian	0-0	579
16.	Southern Illinois	0-0	509
17.	Austin Peay	0-0	440
18.	Yale	0-0	418
19.	Southeastern Louisiana	0-0	392
20.	Lamar	0-0	380
21.	Mercer	0-0	306
22.	Monmouth	0-0	200
23.	UT Martin	0-0	144
24.	South Carolina State	0-0	107
25.	Northern Arizona	0-0	103

Others (OVC Only): Southeast Missouri (10)

AFCA FCS COACHES

No.	Team	Record	Pts.
1.	Montana State (25)	0-0	649
2.	Montana	0-0	605
3.	South Dakota State (1)	0-0	591
4.	Illinois State	0-0	553
5.	Tarleton State	0-0	527
6.	UC Davis	0-0	498
7.	Villanova	0-0	448
8.	Rhode Island	0-0	434
9.	Youngstown State	0-0	428
10.	North Dakota	0-0	396
11.	Lehigh	0-0	359
12.	South Dakota	0-0	347
13.	Stephen F. Austin	0-0	313
14.	Abilene Christian	0-0	295
15.	Tennessee Tech	0-0	294
16.	Southern Illinois	0-0	231
17.	Mercer	0-0	189
18.	Austin Peay	0-0	186
19.	Yale	0-0	164
20.	Southeastern Louisiana	0-0	160
21.	Lamar	0-0	133
22.	UT Martin	0-0	123
23.	Monmouth	0-0	105
24.	Northern Arizona	0-0	67
25.	South Carolina State	0-0	63

Others (OVC Only): Southeast Missouri (27)

MEDIA INFORMATION

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WEEKLY NOTES: The OVC will release its Players of the Week on Monday mornings. A full weekly release will be available on Tuesday's following the head coaches weekly Zoom. Statistics are updated after each gameday on the OVC website.

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2026 POLLS WEEK-BY-WEEK

	CSU	EIU	GWU	LIN	SEMO	TSU	UTM	WIU
Preseason	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	RV/RV	-/-	23/22	-/-
Aug. 31								
Sept. 7								
Sept. 14								
Sept. 21								
Sept. 28								
Oct. 5								
Oct. 12								
Oct. 19								
Oct. 26								
Nov. 2								
Nov. 9								
Nov. 16								
Nov. 23								
Final								

Stats Perform Poll listed first, followed by AFCA FCS Coaches Poll.



In June, the OVC announced its football-playing members would once again compete under the OVC name and logo beginning with the 2026 season. The return to the OVC identity follows three successful years of partnership with the Big South Conference under the names Big South-OVC Football Association (2023, 2024) and OVC-Big South Football Association (2025). The move reflects the league's continued evolution and its commitment to providing a unified, streamlined home for its football programs. The decision underscores both the Conference's deep heritage in the sport and its commitment to shaping a modern, future-focused identity. It also strengthens national recognition for the league and its student-athletes while reinforcing long-term stability for all eight football-playing members, including two institutions from the Big South. Read more: <https://bit.ly/FootballBranding>.

WEEKLY MEDIA ZOOM

OVC coaches have a weekly Tuesday Zoom, 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.

9:50am CT - Chris Wilkerson, Eastern Illinois
10:10am CT - Reggie Barlow, Tennessee State
10:30am CT - Gabe Giardina, Charleston Southern
10:40am CT - Jason Simpson, UT Martin
11:10am CT - Kris McCullough, Gardner-Webb
11:20am CT - Tom Matukewicz, Southeast Missouri
11:30am CT - Jed Stugart, Lindenwood
11:40am CT - Joe Davis, Western Illinois



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NOTES FROM AROUND THE GRIDIRON

Let's Get It Started: The 79th season of Ohio Valley Conference football gets underway on Thursday, August 27. The OVC is made up of eight football-playing schools in 2026, with each team playing a seven-game league schedule. Since its beginning, 16 of the 24 total schools that have played football in the league have claimed at least one championship.

Return to OVC Football Brand Identity: Building upon a legacy that spans nearly 80 years and includes national championship teams, All-Americans, National Players of the Year and NFL draft picks, the Ohio Valley Conference in June that its football-playing members will once again compete under the OVC name and logo beginning with the 2026 season. The return to the OVC identity follows three successful years of partnership with the Big South Conference under the names Big South-OVC Football Association (2023, 2024) and OVC-Big South Football Association (2025). The move reflects the league's continued evolution and its commitment to providing a unified, streamlined home for its football programs. The decision underscores both the Conference's deep heritage in the sport and its commitment to shaping a modern, future-focused identity. It also strengthens national recognition for the league and its student-athletes while reinforcing long-term stability for all eight football-playing members, including two institutions from the Big South.

Top 25 Polls: UT Martin begins the season ranked No. 23 in the Stats Perform Top 25 and No. 22 in the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll. Southeast Missouri is receiving votes in both of those polls.

Gresock Named to Walter Payton Award Watch List: Gardner-Webb senior running back **Carson Gresock** is one of 30 players nationally named to the Walter Payton Award Watch List by Stats Perform. The award is given to the top offensive player in the FCS. Gresock earned first-team all-league honors last season after leading the association with 14 rushing touchdowns, including a season-high four against Lindenwood. Overall Gresock carried the ball 120 times for 798 yards (6.7 ypc). The Payton award is now in its 40th season. The award, affectionately known as the Heisman of the FCS, is named for legendary running back Walter Payton, who starred at Jackson State as part of his Hall of Fame career. Two former OVC players have taken home the award, Tony Romo (2002) and Jimmy Garoppolo (2013).

Zayachkowsky Named to Buck Buchanan Award Watch List: Charleston Southern senior linebacker **Steve Zayachkowsky** is one of 30 players nationally named to the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List by Stats Perform. The award is given to the top defensive player in the FCS. Zayachkowsky was selected first-team all-conference last season after leading the league with 109 tackles. He reached double-digit tackles six times during the year, including 19 in a game against William & Mary. The linebacker also added 4.5 tackles for loss, an interception, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. The award, in its 32nd season, is named for legendary defensive lineman Junious "Buck" Buchanan, who starred at Grambling State as part of his Hall of Fame career. The OVC has had three previous winners, including Darius Jackson (2017), Zach Hall (2018) and Terrell Allen (2023).

Simpson Ranks Third in Career Victories for OVC Coaches: UT Martin head coach **Jason Simpson** currently ranks third in OVC history for career victories. Simpson is entering his 21st season with the Skyhawks and has 130 overall wins, trailing only Roy Kidd (315) and Boots Donnelly (154). Simpson has 99 Conference victories, which is also third, just three away from tying Donnelly (Kidd is first with 207 Conference wins).

A Look at the Coaches: Seven of eight league coaches return from last season with the only new face being first-year Gardner-Webb head coach **Kris McCullough**. Eastern Illinois head coach **Chris Wilkerson** is the only current head coach leading his alma mater.

Rivalry Game Traveling Trophies: There are currently three intra-conference rivalry games where the participating teams play for a traveling trophy.

Game Ball Brawl: Lindenwood vs. Southeast Missouri

North/South Barbecue Bowl: Charleston Southern vs. Gardner-Webb

Sgt. York Trophy: Tennessee State vs. UT Martin

OVC Teams Against FBS Opponents: OVC schools are 37-302-1 all-time against FBS opponents with 12 scheduled games against FBS teams this season. OVC teams have won at least one game against a FBS team in eight of the past 16 seasons.

NFL Connections: The OVC has produced at least one NFL Draft Pick in 16 of the past 24 years (2003-26). In January 2020, Eastern Illinois alum Jimmy Garoppolo became just the eighth former FCS quarterback to start a Super Bowl, doing so with the San Francisco 49ers. For Super Bowl LV in February 2021, there were four participants with OVC connections including a player (Josh Pearson), a coach (Rick Christophel), an official (Jabir Walker) and a broadcaster (Tony Romo).

UT Martin Tabbed Preseason OVC Favorite: UT Martin was voted the favorite in the 2026 Ohio Valley Conference preseason football poll by the league's head coaches. The Skyhawks picked up six of the eight first-place votes in topping the poll with 47 points. Southeast Missouri picked up one first-place vote and 38 points, one point ahead of Lindenwood who received the other first-place vote. Gardner-Webb was picked fourth (30) and followed by Charleston Southern (26), Western Illinois (23), Eastern Illinois (14) and Tennessee State (9).

Nashville to Host FCS National Championship Game for Second-Straight Year: The Nashville Sports Council and the Ohio Valley Conference, along with partners Vanderbilt University and the City of Nashville, were awarded the 2026 and 2027 Division I Football Championship games. The games are played at FirstBank Stadium on the campus of Vanderbilt University. The January 2026 game featured



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a thrilling overtime game with Montana State topping Illinois State 35-34. The 2027 game is set for Monday, January 11. Nashville is the 11th city to host the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Championship since 1978. The Championship was previously played in the state of Tennessee from 1997 to 2009 when Chattanooga served as the host.

ESPN+: The OVC has a media rights deal with ESPN to air games on ESPN+, which is a service that features over 30,000 live events across college, international soccer, golf, tennis, combat, and the full ESPN Originals library. Fans have access to ESPN+ content via any ESPN subscription or Disney+, Hulu, ESPN Bundle subscription, as well as certain TV provider offerings. Please check with your TV provider to see if your TV package includes ESPN (Select or Unlimited offerings).

vs. OTHER CONFERENCES

FCS Opponents

Big Sky	0-0
Big South	0-0
CAA	0-0
Independent	0-0
Ivy	0-0
MEAC	0-0
Missouri Valley	0-0
NEC	0-0
Patriot	0-0
Pioneer	0-0
Southern	0-0
Southland	0-0
SWAC	0-0
<u>United</u>	<u>0-0</u>
FCS Total	0-0

FBS Opponents

American	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
<u>Sun Belt</u>	<u>0-0</u>
FBS Total	0-0

Non-Division I 0-0

Total Non-Conference Record 0-0

FCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



The Nashville Sports Council and the Ohio Valley Conference, along with partners Vanderbilt and the City of Nashville, were awarded the 2026 and 2027 Division I Football Championship games. The games are played at FirstBank Stadium on the campus of Vanderbilt University. The January 2026 game featured a thrilling overtime game with Montana State topping Illinois State 35-34. The 2027 game is set for Monday, January 11. Nashville is the 11th city to host the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Championship since 1978. The Championship was previously played in the state of Tennessee from 1997 to 2009 when Chattanooga served as the host. More: [NCAA.com/FCS](https://www.ncaa.com/fcs).

COACHING RECORDS

Coach, School

	OVC-Only Games				All Games*			Overall Career Record			
	Yrs.	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	Yrs.	W	L	Pct.
Gabe Giardina, Charleston Southern	4	6	16	.273	10	25	.286	10	47	42	.528
Chris Wilkerson, Eastern Illinois	5	9	18	.333	16	30	.348	13	67	57	.540
Kris McCullough, Gardner-Webb	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	5	37	13	.740
Jed Stugart, Lindenwood	5	11	15	.423	21	23	.477	20	138	68	.670
Tom Matukewicz, Southeast Missouri	13	50	37	.575	67	71	.486	14	68	71	.489
Reggie Barlow, Tennessee State	2	0	8	.000	2	10	.167	15	85	68	.556
Jason Simpson, UT Martin	21	99	52	.656	130	98	.570	21	130	98	.570
Joe Davis, Western Illinois	3	6	10	.375	8	16	.333	3	8	16	.333

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



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TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



CHARLESTON SOUTHERN BUCCANEERS (0-0, 0-0)

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

AUGUST

27 at Lindenwood* 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 at Georgia Southern 6:00 p.m.
12 at The Citadel 5:00 p.m.
19 Point 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 Gardner-Webb* 5:00 p.m.
10 South Carolina State 5:00 p.m.
17 at Clemson TBA
24 at Tennessee State* 2:30 p.m.
31 Western Illinois* 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 UT Martin* 1:00 p.m.
14 Southeast Missouri* 1:00 p.m.
21 at Eastern Illinois* 12:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



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

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

AUGUST

27 at Murray State 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

3 at Minnesota 7:00 p.m.
12 Indiana State 6:00 p.m.
19 at Illinois State 2:00 p.m.
26 at South Dakota State 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

10 at Gardner-Webb* 2:30 p.m.
17 Lindenwood* 2:00 p.m.
24 Southeast Missouri* 2:00 p.m.
31 at UT Martin* 2:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 Western Illinois* 2:00 p.m.
14 at Tennessee State* 2:30 p.m.
21 Charleston Southern* 12:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



GARDNER-WEBB RUNNIN' BULLDOGS (0-0, 0-0)

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

AUGUST

27 at #17/18 Austin Peay 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 at Wofford 12:30 p.m.
12 at Liberty 5:00 p.m.
19 North Carolina Central 5:00 p.m.
26 at Marshall 2:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 at Charleston Southern* 5:00 p.m.
10 Eastern Illinois* 2:30 p.m.
17 at UT Martin* 2:00 p.m.
31 at Southeast Missouri* 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 Lindenwood* 12:30 p.m.
14 at Western Illinois* 1:00 p.m.
21 Tennessee State* 12:30 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



LINDENWOOD LIONS (0-0, 0-0)

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

AUGUST

27 Charleston Southern* 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

3 at Stony Brook 6:00 p.m.
12 at Missouri State 6:00 p.m.
26 at Eastern Michigan 12:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

10 Southeast Missouri* 1:00 p.m.
17 at Eastern Illinois* 2:00 p.m.
24 Chicago State 2:00 p.m.
31 Tennessee State* 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 at Gardner-Webb* 12:30 p.m.
14 at UT Martin* 2:00 p.m.
21 Western Illinois* 2:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



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TEAM COMPOSITE SCHEDULES



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

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

AUGUST

29 at Indiana State 5:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 at Iowa State 12:00 p.m.
12 at Southern Illinois 6:00 p.m.
19 **Central Arkansas** 6:00 p.m.
26 **West Florida** 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

10 at Lindenwood* 1:00 p.m.
17 **Western Illinois*** 2:00 p.m.
24 at Eastern Illinois* 2:00 p.m.
31 **Gardner-Webb*** 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 at Tennessee State* 2:30 p.m.
14 at Charleston Southern* 1:00 p.m.
21 **UT Martin*** 1:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



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

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

AUGUST

29 Jackson State (at FirstBank Stadium) 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 at Georgia 2:00 p.m.
12 at Alabama A&M 6:30 p.m.
19 at Florida A&M 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 at Western Illinois* 3:00 p.m.
10 **UT Martin*** 2:30 p.m.
17 **Morgan State** 5:30 p.m.
24 **Charleston Southern*** 2:30 p.m.
31 at Lindenwood* 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 **Southeast Missouri*** 2:30 p.m.
14 **Eastern Illinois*** 2:30 p.m.
21 at Gardner-Webb* 12:30 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

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

AUGUST

27 **Central Arkansas** 6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 **Chicago State** 6:00 p.m.
12 at West Virginia 12:00 p.m.
19 at Memphis 6:00 p.m.
26 at Austin Peay 4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

10 at Tennessee State* 2:30 p.m.
17 **Gardner-Webb*** 2:00 p.m.
24 at Western Illinois* 3:00 p.m.
31 **Eastern Illinois*** 2:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 at Charleston Southern* 1:00 p.m.
14 **Lindenwood*** 2:00 p.m.
21 at Southeast Missouri* 1:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



WESTERN ILLINOIS LEATHERNECKS (0-0, 0-0)

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

AUGUST

27 Northwestern College (Iowa) 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 **Illinois State** 6:00 p.m.
12 at Wisconsin 6:15 p.m.
19 **Morehead State** 6:00 p.m.
26 at North Alabama 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 **Tennessee State*** 3:00 p.m.
17 at Southeast Missouri* 2:00 p.m.
24 **UT Martin*** 3:00 p.m.
31 at Charleston Southern* 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 at Eastern Illinois* 2:00 p.m.
14 **Gardner-Webb*** 1:00 p.m.
21 at Lindenwood* 2:00 p.m.

* Ohio Valley Conference Game

Home Games in Bold; All Times Central/Subject to Change



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2026 OVC COMPOSITE SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Thursday, August 27

***Charleston Southern** at **Lindenwood**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Gardner-Webb at Austin Peay, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Northwestern College (Iowa) at **Western Illinois**, 6:00 p.m. (E+)
Eastern Illinois at **Murray State**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Central Arkansas at **UT Martin**, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, August 29

Southeast Missouri at **Indiana State**, 5:00 p.m.
Jackson State at **Tennessee State**, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
(Played at FirstBank Stadium)

Thursday, September 3

Lindenwood at **Stony Brook**, 6:00 p.m. (FloCollege)
Eastern Illinois at **Minnesota**, 7:00 p.m. (Peacock)

Saturday, September 5

Southeast Missouri at **Iowa State**, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Gardner-Webb at **Wofford**, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
Tennessee State at **Georgia**, 2:00 p.m. (SEC Network+)
Chicago State at **UT Martin**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Charleston Southern at **Georgia Southern**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Illinois State at **Western Illinois**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, September 12

UT Martin at **West Virginia**, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Gardner-Webb at **Liberty**, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Charleston Southern at **The Citadel**, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Lindenwood at **Missouri State**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Indiana State at **Eastern Illinois**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Southeast Missouri at **Southern Illinois**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Western Illinois at **Wisconsin**, 6:15 p.m. (BTN)
Tennessee State at **Alabama A&M**, 6:30 p.m. (SWAC TV)

Saturday, September 19

Eastern Illinois at **Illinois State**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Point at **Charleston Southern**, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
North Carolina Central at **Gardner-Webb**, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Tennessee State at **Florida A&M**, 6:00 p.m.
UT Martin at **Memphis**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Morehead State at **Western Illinois**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Central Arkansas at **Southeast Missouri**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, September 26

Lindenwood at **Eastern Michigan**, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Gardner-Webb at **Marshall**, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
Western Illinois at **North Alabama**, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
UT Martin at **Austin Peay**, 4:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Eastern Illinois at **South Dakota State**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
West Florida at **Southeast Missouri**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, October 3

***Tennessee State** at **Western Illinois**, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Gardner-Webb** at **Charleston Southern**, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, October 10

***Southeast Missouri** at **Lindenwood**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Eastern Illinois** at **Gardner-Webb**, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
***UT Martin** at **Tennessee State**, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
South Carolina State at **Charleston Southern**, 5 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, October 17

***Lindenwood** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Gardner-Webb** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Western Illinois** at **Southeast Missouri**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
Morgan State at **Tennessee State**, 5:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
Charleston Southern at **Clemson**, TBA

Saturday, October 24

Chicago State at **Lindenwood**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Southeast Missouri** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Charleston Southern** at **Tennessee State**, 2:30 p.m. (E+)
***UT Martin** at **Western Illinois**, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, October 31

***Western Illinois** at **Charleston Southern**, 1 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Tennessee State** at **Lindenwood**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Gardner-Webb** at **Southeast Missouri**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Eastern Illinois** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, November 7

***Lindenwood** at **Gardner-Webb**, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
***UT Martin** at **Charleston Southern**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Western Illinois** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Southeast Missouri** at **Tennessee State**, 2:30 p.m. (E+)

Saturday, November 14

***Southeast Missouri** at **Charleston Southern**, 1pm (E+)
***Gardner-Webb** at **Western Illinois**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Lindenwood** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Eastern Illinois** at **Tennessee State**, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, November 21

***Charleston Southern** at **Eastern Illinois**, 12 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Tennessee State** at **Gardner-Webb**, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
***UT Martin** at **Southeast Missouri**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)
***Western Illinois** at **Lindenwood**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, November 28

FCS Playoffs First Round (campus sites)

Saturday, December 5

FCS Playoffs Second Round (campus sites)

Friday, December 11/Saturday, December 12

FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals (campus sites)

Friday, December 18/Saturday, December 19

FCS Playoffs Semifinals (campus sites)

January 11, 2026

Division I National Championship (Nashville, TN)

* - Denotes OVC contest

All Times Listed are CENTRAL

Dates and times subject to change



OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

COMPETE. GROW. SUCCEED.



CURRENT CONFERENCE SERIES GAME-BY-GAME

CSU-EIU

Series tied 1-1

2024 EIU, 16-13 (OT) (H)
2025 CSU, 17-16 (H)

CSU-GWU

GWU leads 14-9

1992 GWU, 56-0 (H)
2002 GWU, 57-15 (A)
2003 GWU, 46-0 (H)
2004 GWU, 18-0 (A)
2005 CSU, 38-7 (A)
2006 CSU, 28-14 (H)
2007 GWU, 29-25 (H)
2008 CSU, 13-10 (H)
2009 GWU, 27-20 (H)
2010 GWU, 35-25 (A)
2011 GWU, 14-7 (H)
2012 CSU, 28-10 (H)
2013 GWU, 27-10 (H)
2014 CSU, 44-14 (H) #
2015 CSU, 34-0 (A) #
2016 GWU, 17-10 (A)
2017 CSU, 10-9 (A)
2018 CSU, 16-0 (H)
2019 CSU, 30-27 (A)
2020 CSU, 20-7 (H)
2021 CSU, 32-24 (2OT)(A)
2022 GWU, 28-18 (A)
2023 GWU, 34-10 (H)
2024 GWU, 17-14 (A)
2025 GWU, 30-27 (H)
- CSU wins later vacated

CSU-LWU

LWU tied 2-1

2023 CSU, 24-10 (H)
2024 LWU, 29-14 (H)
2025 LWU, 35-28 (A)

CSU-SEMO

Series tied 1-1

2024 SEMO, 26-13 (A)
2025 CSU, 23-17 (A)

CSU-TSU

CSU leads 2-1

2023 CSU, 35-21 (H)
2024 TSU, 13-9 (H)
2025 CSU, 7-6 (H)

CSU-UTM

UTM leads 4-0

1994 UTM, 42-14 (H)
2023 UTM, 17-0 (H)
2024 UTM, 40-14 (A)
2025 UTM, 17-14 (H)

CSU-WIU

Series tied 1-1

2024 WIU, 31-20 (A)
2025 CSU, 29-24 (A)

EIU-GWU

GWU leads 2-0

2024 GWU, 31-28 (H)
2025 GWU, 21-10 (A)

EIU-LWU

LWU leads 3-1

2022 LWU, 37-34 (2OT) (A)
2023 EIU, 16-10 (A)
2024 LWU, 28-25 (A)
2025 LWU, 42-12 (H)

EIU-SEMO

EIU leads 18-15

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)
2021 SEMO, 38-15 (H)
2022 SEMO, 31-7 (A)
2023 SEMO, 35-28 (H)
2024 SEMO, 38-27 (A)
2025 SEMO, 42-13 (H)

EIU-TSU

EIU leads 17-12

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)
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)
2021 TSU, 28-0 (A)
2022 TSU, 37-17 (H)
2023 EIU, 30-17 (H)
2024 TSU, 41-17 (H)
2025 EIU, 31-7 (H)

EIU-UTM

UTM leads 16-15

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)
2021 UTM, 28-17 (A)
2022 UTM, 34-31 (H)
2023 UTM, 28-27 (OT) (A)

2024 UTM, 52-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 27-20 (OT) (A)

EIU-WIU

WIU leads 42-26-4

1930 EIU, 23-0 (H)
1934 EIU, 7-3 (H)
1935 WIU, 3-0 (H)
1936 WIU, 6-2 (A)
1937 WIU, 31-0 (H)
1938 WIU, 19-0 (A)
1939 WIU, 20-7 (H)
1940 EIU, 20-7 (H)
1941 WIU, 25-0 (H)
1942 WIU, 45-0 (A)
1944 EIU, 12-0 (H)
1945 T, 6-6 (at WIU)
1946 EIU, 20-12 (H)
1947 EIU, 19-0 (H)
1948 EIU, 7-0 (A)
1949 WIU, 14-0 (A)
1950 WIU, 13-0 (A)
1951 T, 21-21 (at EIU)
1952 WIU, 7-6 (A)
1953 WIU, 19-12 (A)
1954 T, 13-13 (at WIU)
1955 WIU, 13-7 (A)
1956 WIU, 58-14 (H)
1957 WIU, 21-13 (A)
1958 WIU, 34-0 (H)
1959 WIU, 28-8 (A)
1960 WIU, 43-6 (A)
1961 EIU, 14-0 (H)
1962 WIU, 44-8 (H)
1963 WIU, 22-7 (A)
1964 WIU, 30-14 (H)
1965 WIU, 28-8 (A)
1966 EIU, 16-6 (A)
1967 EIU, 12-7 (H)
1968 EIU, 14-8 (A)
1969 WIU, 44-6 (H)
1970 WIU, 31-14 (H)
1971 WIU, 14-6 (A)
1972 WIU, 42-13 (H)
1973 WIU, 56-13 (A)
1974 WIU, 28-3 (H)
1974 T, 3-3 (at EIU)
1976 WIU, 14-10 (H)
1977 WIU, 28-14 (H)
1978 EIU, 40-12 (A)
1979 WIU, 10-7 (A)
1980 EIU, 37-7 (A)
1981 EIU, 20-8 (H)
1982 EIU, 31-7 (A)
1983 EIU, 20-0 (H)
1984 EIU, 14-0 (A)
1985 WIU, 34-20 (H)
1986 EIU, 37-3 (A)
1987 WIU, 21-12 (A)
1988 WIU, 45-8 (H)
1989 EIU, 31-5 (H)
1990 EIU, 21-17 (A)
1991 WIU, 16-15 (A)
1992 WIU, 28-24 (H)
1993 WIU, 28-14 (A)
1994 WIU, 23-13 (H)
1995 EIU, 20-17 (H)
1996 WIU, 10-7 (A)
1997 WIU, 41-0 (H)
2002 WIU, 48-9 (H)
2015 WIU, 33-5 (H)
2016 WIU, 38-21 (A)
2024 EIU, 45-38 (H)
2025 EIU, 31-23 (A)

GWU-LWU

GWU leads 2-0

2024 GWU, 42-35 (H)
2025 GWU, 48-20 (A)

GWU-SEMO

Series tied 1-1

2024 SEMO, 30-24 (H)
2025 GWU, 27-24 (H)

GWU-TSU

TSU leads 2-1

2023 TSU, 27-25 (H)
2024 TSU, 23-30 (A)
2025 GWU, 30-14 (A)

GWU-UTM

UTM leads 4-3

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

GWU-WIU

WIU leads 2-0

2024 WIU, 45-38 (H)
2025 WIU, 29-24 (A)

LWU-SEMO

Series tied 2-2

2022 SEMO, 49-28 (A)
2023 SEMO, 45-7 (H)
2024 LWU, 24-12 (H)
2025 LWU, 30-13 (A)

LWU-TSU

TSU leads 2-1

2023 TSU, 43-20 (H)
2024 TSU, 24-20 (A)
2025 LWU, 35-13 (A)

LWU-UTM

UTM leads 2-1

2022 UTM, 56-26 (H)
2024 UTM, 33-26 (OT) (H)
2025 LWU, 30-14 (H)

LWU-WIU

LWU leads 2-1

2023 LWU, 43-40 (A)
2024 LWU, 49-38 (H)
2025 WIU, 24-21 (H)

SEMO-TSU

SEMO leads 17-15

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)
2021 SEMO, 47-14 (H)
2022 SEMO, 42-0 (A)
2024 TSU, 28-21 (H)
2025 SEMO, 28-12 (H)

SEMO-UTM

UTM leads 21-20

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, 56-13 (A)
2019 SEMO, 17-10 (H)
2020 SEMO, 21-16 (A)
2021 UTM, 38-30 (H)
SEMO, 31-14 (H)
2023 UTM, 41-14 (H)
2024 SEMO, 45-42 (2OT)(H)
2025 UTM, 34-10 (H)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H)
2025 UTM, 37-7 (A)

2001 GWU, 45-20 (A)
2002 GWU, 24-0 (H)
2005 UTM, 31-28 (A)
2006 UTM, 35-9 (H)
2023 GWU, 38-34 (H)
2024 UTM, 35-17 (H



OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

COMPETE. GROW. SUCCEED.



WEEKLY PREVIEWS



Charleston Southern Buccaneers (0-0)
at Lindenwood Lions (0-0)
 Thursday, August 27 • 6:00 p.m. CT
 Hunter Stadium (6,000) • St. Charles, Mo.



Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs (0-0)
at #17/18 Austin Peay Governors (0-0)
 Thursday, August 27 • 6:00 p.m. CT
 Fortera Stadium (10,100) • Clarksville, Tenn.



Video:<https://bit.ly/4cUldFE> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats:<https://bit.ly/3BtZfYV>
 Series Record: Lindenwood leads 2-1
 Last Meeting: Lindenwood won 35-28 (9/13/25)

Video:<https://bit.ly/4x7MihP> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats:<https://bit.ly/4xZ6iU9>
 Series Record: Gardner-Webb leads 2-1
 Last Meeting: Austin Peay won 41-14 (10/14/23)

NOTEWORTHY

- For the first time since 2011, a Conference game will open the OVC season when Charleston Southern travels to Lindenwood.
- The two teams have played three times, with Charleston Southern winning in 2023 and Lindenwood coming away with victories each of the past two seasons.
- This marks the first of three road games to begin the season for the Buccaneers. Lindenwood plays its next three games away from Hunter Stadium, including a pair of matchups with FBS opponents.
- Lindenwood won three of its final four Conference games a season ago to finish 5-3 in League play.
- Charleston Southern finished the 2025 season by winning four of its final five league games, with the lone loss coming by three points.

NOTEWORTHY

- Gardner-Webb begins its first season under head coach Kris McCullough. In his four years as a head coach at other stops he has compiled a 37-13 overall record.
- GWU quarterback Cole Pennington tossed six touchdowns over his final five starts a year ago. He threw for 356 yards in last year's season finale against Western Illinois.
- A year ago the Runnin' Bulldogs opened the season with a victory over then No. 18/19 Western Carolina.
- Gardner-Webb and Austin Peay were each in the FCS Playoffs in the 2023 season.
- Austin Peay was 6-0 at home last season and has its highest preseason ranking since the 2020 season.



Northwestern College Red Raiders (0-0)
at Western Illinois Leathernecks (0-0)
 Thursday, August 27 • 6:00 p.m. CT
 Hanson Field (16,368) • Macomb, Ill.



Eastern Illinois Panthers (0-0)
at Murray State Racers (0-0)
 Thursday, August 27 • 6:00 p.m. CT
 Roy Stewart Stadium (16,800) • Murray, Ky.



Video:<https://bit.ly/4zq1vfl> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats:<https://bit.ly/3Pyfr2i>
 Series Record: First meeting
 Last Meeting: n/a

Video:<https://bit.ly/4xiVOib> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats:<https://bit.ly/3UMgqwZm>
 Series Record: Eastern Illinois leads 20-19
 Last Meeting: Eastern Illinois won 35-21 (9/24/22)

NOTEWORTHY

- Western Illinois begins the third year of the Joe Davis Era with a first time opponent in Northwestern College.
- Cason Carswell, the 2025 OVC Offensive Freshman of the Year, returns at quarterback for the Leathernecks. In 10 games (seven starts) he passed for 2,054 yards and 16 touchdowns with only three interceptions.
- Each of WIU's last six games a season ago were decided by one goal or less. Western won three of its final four games to finish the season 4-8 overall for the second-straight season.
- Northwestern College, located in Orange City, Iowa, is a member of the NAIA and plays in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC). The team was predicted third in the GPAC preseason poll after finishing 6-4 a season ago.

NOTEWORTHY

- Eastern Illinois renews an old rivalry when it travels to former OVC foe Murray State. The two teams have played 39 previous times, lastly in the 2022 season.
- Eastern Illinois has won two-straight season openers against FCS-level opponents. The August 27 date is the earliest opener in school history.
- The team is 13-10 all-time in season openers that are played on a Thursday. That includes playing Murray State twice (splitting the games). EIU will also play on Thursday next week when they head to Big Ten foe Minnesota.
- Last season EIU led the OVC in turnovers gained (18), a mark that ranked 34th nationally.
- Murray State is coming off a 1-11 season a year ago, picking up a win over Indiana State in the season finale. The team is coached by Jody Wright, who is in his third season with the Racers.



OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

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WEEKLY PREVIEWS



Central Arkansas Bears (0-0)
at #22/23 UT Martin Skyhawks (0-0)
Thursday, August 27 • 6:30 p.m. CT
Hardy M. Graham Stadium (7,500) • Martin, Tenn.



Southeast Missouri State Redhawks (0-0)
at Indiana State Sycamores (0-0)
Saturday, August 29 • 5:00 p.m. CT
Memorial Stadium (12,764) • Terre Haute, Ind.



Video: <https://bit.ly/46cxL8L> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/4xShykX>
 Series Record: Central Arkansas leads 9-5
 Last Meeting: Central Arkansas won 26-24 (9/6/14)

NOTEWORTHY

• UT Martin opens the 2026 season with two-straight home games against FCS opponents. The Skyhawks are 17-3 in home openers under the direction of head coach Jason Simpson

• UTM and UCA first played in 1958 and Thursday will mark the 15th all-time meeting. The Bears won by two points in the last meeting in 2024.

• UT Martin begins the season ranked No. 22/23, only the third time in program history the Skyhawks have been ranked in both polls to start the year. The program has been ranked at least one week in four of the past five years (they were not ranked a year ago).

• The Skyhawks were picked the OVC preseason favorites. The program has claimed four of the last five Conference championships.

• Central Arkansas returns 11 starters from a season ago. This year is the ninth under head coach Nathan Brown.

Video: <https://bit.ly/4xXqlSL> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3SmeT40>
 Series Record: Indiana State leads 5-4
 Last Meeting: Indiana State won 27-24 (9/19/15)

NOTEWORTHY

• Southeast Missouri begins its 122nd season of college football with a game at Indiana State.

• It marks the 10th all-time meeting between the two teams, who first played in 1935. Indiana State has won the last two in the series, with SEMO's last win coming in Terre Haute in 2008.

• Southeast Missouri was picked second in the OVC preseason poll and is receiving votes in both Top 25 polls to begin the 2026 season.

• This year is the 13th at the helm of the SEMO program for head coach Tom Matukewicz. He is the third-longest tenured coach in program history and has won 67 overall and 50 Conference games.

• Indiana State is in the 10th year under head coach Curt Mallory. A season ago the team knocked off No. 4 ranked South Dakota State in Brookings.



Jackson State Tigers (0-0)
at Tennessee State Tigers (0-0)
Saturday, August 29 • 7:30 p.m. CT
FirstBank Stadium (40,350) • Nashville, Tenn.



Video: <https://bit.ly/4ilOv4K> (ESPN+)
 Live Stats: <https://bit.ly/3b4F8CT>
 Series Record: Tennessee State leads 30-23-2
 Last Meeting: Jackson State won 16-3 (9/10/22)

NOTEWORTHY

• Tennessee State will host Jackson State in the 27th annual John Merritt Classic. It marks the first-ever meetings between the two teams in the JMC; TSU is 17-9 all-time in the event (including the last three games).

• Due to a Titans game at Nissan Stadium, the game will be played at FirstBank Stadium on the campus of Vanderbilt University. That venue is the site of the 2027 FCS National Championship game (January 11) for the second year in a row.

• It marks the 56th overall meeting between the two schools and first since 2022. The programs first played in 1949 and played 27 times as part of the Southern Heritage Classic in Memphis. JSU has won three in a row in the series (TSU won the previous six before that streak started).

• The last meeting featured a coaching matchup of Deion Sanders (now at Colorado) and Eddie George (now at Bowling Green). The two teams are scheduled to play next season in Jackson.

• Jackson State was predicted to finish second in the SWAC East Division this season. The team was 9-3 overall and 7-1 in SWAC play a year ago.