2024 SUN BELT FOOTBALL

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME · DECEMBER 7, 2024

APP STATE · ARKANSAS STATE · COASTAL CAROLINA · GEORGIA SOUTHERN · GEORGIA STATE · JAMES MADISON
LOUISIANA · ULM · MARSHALL · OLD DOMINION · SOUTH ALABAMA · SOUTHERN MISS · TEXAS STATE · TROY

2024 SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE					OVERALL							
EAST DIVISION	**W-L**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**	**Streak**	**W-L**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**	**H**	**A**	**N**	**Streak**
Marshall	7-1	.875	283	194	Won 6	9-3	.750	383	297	6-0	3-3	0-0	Won 6
Georgia Southern	6-2	.750	218	189	Won 2	8-4	.667	338	328	4-2	4-2	0-0	Won 2
James Madison	4-4	.500	230	179	Lost 2	8-4	.667	406	249	5-1	3-3	0-0	Lost 2
Old Dominion	4-4	.500	256	229	Won 1	5-7	.416	336	336	2-4	3-3	0-0	Won 1
Coastal Carolina	3-5	.375	211	256	Won 1	6-6	.500	358	367	3-3	3-3	0-0	Won 1
App State	3-5	.375	214	267	Lost 1	5-6	.455	293	362	4-1	1-5	0-0	Lost 1
Georgia State	1-7	.125	187	284	Lost 1	3-9	.250	286	406	2-4	1-5	0-0	Lost 1
WEST DIVISION													
Louisiana	7-1	.875	279	174	Won 2	10-2	.833	427	273	4-2	6-0	0-0	Won 2
Texas State	5-3	.625	295	183	Won 1	7-5	.583	445	291	4-3	3-1	0-1	Won 1
Arkansas State	5-3	.625	211	252	Lost 1	7-5	.583	298	387	5-1	2-4	0-0	Lost 1
South Alabama	5-3	.625	262	173	Lost 1	6-6	.500	417	304	3-3	3-3	0-0	Lost 1
ULM	3-5	.375	173	226	Lost 5	5-7	.416	252	345	4-2	1-5	0-0	Lost 6
Troy	3-5	.375	214	225	Won 1	4-8	.333	312	341	3-3	1-5	0-0	Won 1
Southern Miss	0-8	.000	117	319	Lost 9	1-11	.083	183	453	1-5	0-6	0-0	Lost 10

HERCULES TIRES CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Saturday, Dec. 7
Marshall at Louisiana — 7:30 p.m. ET/6:30 p.m. CT — ESPN

All Time Results

2018	App State def. Louisiana, 30-19
2019	App State def. Louisiana, 45-38
2020	Louisiana at Coastal Caroilna, DNP
2021	Louisiana def. App State, 24-16
2022	Troy def. Coastal Carolina, 45-26
2023	Troy def. App State, 49-23



IN THE POLLS

Associated Press Top 25 Poll
RV Louisiana

US LBM Coaches Poll
RV Louisiana

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HOW THEY GOT HERE - MARSHALL

Marshall (9-3, 7-1 SBC) is seeking its first Sun Belt football championship in Saturday's Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game at Cajun Field in Lafayette, La. The game is set for 7:30 p.m. ET/6:30 p.m. CT and will be broadcast nationwide on ESPN. A first-time championship game qualifier in their third year as a Sun Belt Conference member, the Thundering Herd will aim to become the first-ever road victor in the contest. Home teams are 5-0 all-time in the championship game and Marshall is 3-3 on the road this season and 12-12 on the road in four seasons under head coach Charles Huff. A Marshall win over Louisiana (10-2, 7-1 SBC) would also be the first championship game victory for a Sun Belt East Division team since App State won back-to-back titles in 2018 and 2019. A Thundering Herd win would secure the program's first 10-win season since a string of three-straight from 2013-15.

Marshall is no stranger to the postseason, owning the ninth-longest active bowl streak in the country at eight-straight years, trailing only Memphis (10 years) among non-autonomy conference programs. The Thundering Herd is 13-6 in 19 all-time Bowl Season appearances. The Thundering Herd last played for a conference title in 2020 as a member of Conference USA and won its last conference championship in 2014.

Marshall opened its season with a 45-3 victory over Stony Brook, before dropping a pair of road games to autonomy conference foes—a 31-14 loss to a bowl-bound Virginia Tech program and a 49-14 loss to an Ohio State team that is No. 6 in the latest College Football Playoff rankings. Marshall added a 27-20 home win over a bowl-bound Western Michigan club to close its non-conference slate. In his first start in a Marshall uniform, redshirt junior quarterback Braylon Braxton had a coming-out party in the Thundering Herd's conference opener against App State. Braxton accounted for 269 yards and five touchdowns to lead Marshall to a convincing 52-37 win over the Sun Belt East Division preseason favorite Mountaineers. On the road in its second conference contest, Marshall fell victim to a 21-point fourth-quarter comeback in a 24-23 loss to Georgia Southern—its lone blemish in conference action. Since a 3-3 start, the Thundering Herd has rattled off six-straight conference wins to claim the Sun Belt East Division crown and earn the date with Sun Belt West Division champion Louisiana Saturday. Three of those victories have been by multiple possessions—35-20 over Georgia State, 37-3 at Southern Miss and 31-19 over Coastal Carolina—with Marshall pulling away with multi-touchdown fourth quarters in a 28-23 win over ULM and a 42-35 victory at Old Dominion.

The Thundering Herd clinched its spot in the 2024 Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game by virtue of a 35-33 double-overtime win at James Madison in the regular-season finale, arguably the statement win of Marshall's season. After erasing a 17-0 halftime deficit, Marshall failed to convert a potential game-winning field goal as time expired in regulation, forcing overtime. There, the Thundering Herd sealed the victory in the second overtime period with a two-point conversion on a pass from Braxton to redshirt junior wide receiver Charles Montgomery on a flip from senior running back Ethan Payne, who received the direct snap in the backfield. Marshall's six-game winning streak entering the championship game paces the Sun Belt and is tied for the sixth-longest in the country, trailing only Oregon (13), Boise State (10), Notre Dame (10) and Miami (OH) (7).

Marshall has protected the football the season, ranking second in the country having conceded just four interceptions, 15th in the nation with just 10 turnovers and 17th in the FBS with a +0.75 turnover margin. The Thundering Herd has also dominated the battle in the trenches, conceding just 4.08 tackles for loss (19th in the country) and 1.33 sacks (30th in the country) per game while producing 6.80 tackles for loss (24th in the country) and 2.83 sacks (20th in the country) per game. The offensive line has propelled a Top 20 rushing offense that is averaging 200.4 rushing yards per contest.

Despite starting just eight games, Braxton has thrown for 1,431 yards and 17 touchdowns, while rushing for 544 yards and four scores. He ranks among the Top 50 nationally in passing efficiency (17th, 154.6), passing yards per completion (21st, 13.50), yards per pass attempt (33rd, 7.95), points responsible for per game (44th, 13.0) and passing touchdowns (50th, 17). Braxton's top targets have been redshirt senior wide receiver Christian Fitzpatrick—with 32 catches for 569 yards and six touchdowns; Montgomery—with 28 catches for 343 yards and three touchdowns; and redshirt sophomore tight end Toby Payne with 16 catches for 163 yards and six touchdowns. The running back trio of redshirt sophomore A.J. Turner—104 carries for 864 yards and six touchdowns; redshirt senior Jordan Houston—94 carries for 475 yards and a touchdown; and Ethan Payne—56 carries for 284 yards and six touchdowns—have provided Marshall with a balanced attack.

On the defensive side of the ball, sophomore linebacker Jaden Yates has compiled a team-high 114 tackles and ranks 17th in the country at 9.5 tackles per game. Redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Mike Green has tallied a team-high 21 tackles for loss and leads the nation with 1.8 tackles for loss per game, while adding 16 sacks and ranking second in the country at 1.33 sacks per game. In the secondary, redshirt senior defensive back J.J. Roberts (14) and redshirt sophomore defensive back Jacobie Henderson (10) have double-digit pass breakups, while junior defensive back Josh Moten owns four interceptions, a total that ranks 15th in the country. Redshirt freshman return specialist Ian Foster leads the nation, averaging 33.4 yards per kickoff return and ranks 11th in the country with 501 combined kick return yards.

A win Saturday would secure the first Sun Belt title for the Thundering Herd and would be the first victory by the road team in the seven-year history of the event. Louisiana is a perfect 2-0 in the all-time series with Marshall with a 36-21 victory in the 2021 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl in its first game under head coach Michael Desormeaux and a 23-13 win in the first-ever Sun Belt Conference meeting in Huntington, W.Va., in 2022. Saturday's Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams in Lafayette, La.

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WEEKLY AWARDS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Monarchs freshman quarterback Quinn Henicle accounted for 349 yards and four touchdowns in Old Dominion's 40-32 win over Arkansas State in his first collegiate start. The Downingtown, Pa., product rushed 19 times for 206 yards and two touchdowns and completed 9-of-12 passes for 143 yards and two scores. On the first play from scrimmage, Henicle rushed for a program-record 92-yard touchdown, which is tied for the longest run on the season by a quarterback in NCAA Division I.

Sept. 2	Ethan Vasko, Coastal Carolina (RS So., QB)
Sept. 9	Jordan McCloud, Texas State (RS Sr., QB)
Sept. 16	Joey Aguilar, App State (Sr., QB)
Sept. 23	Alonza Barnett III, James Madison (RS So., QB)
Sept. 30	Alonza Barnett III, James Madison (RS So., QB)
Oct. 7	Braylon Braxton, Marshall (RS Jr., QB)
Oct. 14	Jordan McCloud, Texas State (RS Sr., QB)
Oct. 21	A.J. Turner, Marshall (RS So., RB)
Oct. 28	Colton Joseph, Old Dominion (RS Fr., QB)
Nov. 4	Damien Taylor, Troy (Jr., RB)
Nov. 11	Dre'lyn Washington, Louisiana (RS Jr., RB)
Nov. 18	Matthew Caldwell, Troy (Jr., QB)
Nov. 25	Braylon Braxton, Marshall (RS Jr., QB)
Dec. 2	Quinn Henicle, Old Dominion (Fr., QB)

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Chanticleers senior defensive back Tobias Fletcher recorded a pair of interceptions to help Coastal Carolina to a 48-27 win over Georgia State to clinch bowl eligibility for the fifth-straight season. The Atlanta, Ga., native returned his fourth-quarter interception 39 yards for a touchdown and amassed 77 interception return yards across his two picks. Fletcher's first interception led to a Chanticleer score in the first quarter, as did his fumble recovery in the second quarter.

Sept. 2	Wydett Williams Jr., ULM (Jr., DB)
Sept. 9	Jahron Manning, Old Dominion (Jr., DB)
Sept. 16	Kevin Swint, Georgia State (Sr., LB)
Sept. 23	Jordan Scruggs, South Alabama (RS Jr., DB)
Sept. 30	J.J. Roberts, Marshall (RS Sr., DB)
Oct. 7	Cameron Whitfield, Louisiana (RS Jr., LB)
Oct. 14	M. Watson-Trent, Georgia Southern (RS Sr., LB)
Oct. 21	Jayden Jones, Arkansas State (RS Jr., DL)
Oct. 28	Jacob Dobbs, James Madison (RS Sr., LB)
Nov. 4	Mike Green, Marshall (RS So., DL)
Nov. 11	Clev Lubin, Coastal Carolina (RS So., DL)
Nov. 18	Bryan Whitehead, Arkansas State (Sr., DL)
Nov. 25	Keyon Martin, Louisiana (Sr., DB)
Dec. 2	Tobias Fletcher, Coastal Carolina (Sr., DB)

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Trojans junior kicker Scott Taylor Renfroe booted a career-long 50-yard field goal in Troy's 52-20 win over Southern Miss to finish the season winning three of their final four contests. The Troy, Ala., native went a perfect 7-for-7 on kicks on the day, adding six extra points to his career-best field goal to amass nine points.

Sept. 2	Clune Van Andel, Arkansas State (So., K)
Sept. 9	Courtney Jackson, Arkansas State (RS Sr., RS)
Sept. 16	Devonte Ross, Troy (Jr., RS)
Sept. 23	Terrence Spence, James Madison (Sr., DB)
Sept. 30	Kenneth Almendares, Louisiana (RS Sr., K)
Oct. 7	Clune Van Andel, Arkansas State (So., K)
Oct. 14	Kenneth Almendares, Louisiana (RS Sr., K)
Oct. 21	Rece Verhoff, Marshall (Jr., K)
Oct. 28	Cam Ross, James Madison (RS Sr., RS)
Nov. 4	Kenneth Almendares, Louisiana (RS Sr., K)
Nov. 11	Kenneth Almendares, Louisiana (RS Sr., K)
Nov. 18	J.J. Roberts, Marshall (RS Sr., DB)
Nov. 25	Robert Williams, Louisiana (RS Jr., RS)
Dec. 2	Scott Taylor Renfroe, Troy (Jr., K)

HOW THEY GOT HERE - LOUISIANA

Louisiana (10-2, 7-1 SBC) is seeking its fourth Sun Belt football championship (2005, 2020 & 2021) in Saturday's Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game at Cajun Field in Lafayette, La. The game is set for 7:30 p.m. ET/6:30 p.m. CT and will be broadcast nationwide on ESPN. A conference-record five-time championship game qualifier in the seven-year history of the event, the Ragin' Cajuns will aim to keep the home team unbeaten in the contest. Home teams are 5-0 all-time in the championship game and Louisiana is 4-2 at home this season and 12-6 at home in three seasons under head coach Michael Desormeaux. A Louisiana win over Marshall (9-3, 7-1 SBC) would be the fourth-straight championship game victory by a Sun Belt West Division team (Louisiana in 2021, Troy in 2022 & 2023). Louisiana has already clinched its fourth 10-win campaign over the past six seasons after reaching the 10-win plateau for the first time in program history in 2019.

In addition to appearing in 5-of-7 Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Games since the event's inception in 2018, Louisiana is in the midst of a string of seven-straight bowl appearances, trailing only fellow championship game participant Marshall (8) among Sun Belt programs. The Ragin' Cajuns own an official 5-4 record in 11 all-time Bowl Season appearances. The Ragin' Cajuns last played for—and won—the Sun Belt title in 2021 with a 24-16 win over App State at Cajun Field in Lafayette, La., in the last of a string of four-straight championship game berths.

Louisiana opened its season with consecutive victories over in-state foe Grambling, 40-10, and at Kennesaw State, 34-10. After dropping a one-possession game to American Athletic Conference championship game qualifier Tulane, 41-33, at home, Louisiana went on the road and took down autonomy conference foe Wake Forest, 41-38, to close its non-conference slate. The win was 1-of-3 over autonomy conference opposition for the Sun Belt this season and the conference's 22nd such win since 2016—with 11 of those victories coming since 2022, when the league expanded to its current 14-member configuration.

Louisiana opened conference play with three-straight double-digit victories—23-13 at Southern Miss, 34-24 over App State and 34-24 at Coastal Carolina. The Ragin' Cajuns then prevailed, 23-17, over Sun Belt West Division preseason favorite Texas State in a nationally-televised Tuesday night showdown on the road. A 55-19 win over Arkansas State back at home at Cajun Field extended Louisiana's winning streak to six games. The Ragin' Cajuns trailed 24-3 at halftime against South Alabama—and lost starting quarterback redshirt senior Ben Wooldridge to injury. Entering in relief, fellow redshirt senior quarterback Chandler Fields led Louisiana on four-straight scoring drives to close the game. The Ragin' Cajuns scored 19 unanswered points, but South Alabama's defense stopped Fields just short of the goal line on a potential game-tying two-point conversion attempt with 1:16 to play. The ensuing Ragin' Cajuns onside kick bounced out of bounds, allowing the Jaguars to kneel out the game clock and hand Louisiana its lone blemish in conference action, 24-22. Since, Louisiana owns multi-possession wins over Troy, 51-30, and at in-state rival ULM, 37-23, with Fields at quarterback. The victory over the Warhawks—behind a 228-yard rushing day from the running back tandem of redshirt sophomore Zylan Perry and redshirt freshman Bill Davis—helped the Ragin' Cajuns clinch their spot in the 2024 Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game, as well as hosting rights for the postseason event.

Louisiana has protected the football this season, ranking second in the country with just two fumbles lost, third in the nation with just eight turnovers lost and ninth in the FBS with a +1.00 turnover margin. The Ragin Cajuns' have also performed in key situations, with a .464 third-down conversion percentage (18th in the country), .684 fourth-down conversion percentage (16th in the country) and a .947 red zone offense (2nd in the country). The high-powered Louisiana offense averages 445.7 yards and 35.6 points per game, which both rank among the Top 20 in the nation.

Over the final three games of the regular season, Fields threw for 696 yards and five touchdowns. The Ragin' Cajuns top targets have been redshirt senior wide receiver Lance LeGendre—with 44 catches for 733 yards and six touchdowns; redshirt sophomore tight end Terrance Carter—with 48 catches for 689 yards and four touchdowns; and sophomore wide receiver Harvey Broussard—with 27 catches for 406 yards and three touchdowns. Three different running backs have accumulated over 450 rushing yards for Louisiana—Davis with 150 carries for 777 yards and nine touchdowns; Perry with 95 carries for 621 yards and four touchdowns; and redshirt junior Dre'lyn Washington with 65 carries for 459 yards and five touchdowns.

Defensively, senior linebacker K.C. Ossai has accumulated a team-high 103 tackles and ranks 31st in the country with 8.6 tackles per game. Redshirt junior defensive lineman Jordan Lawson has tallied a team-high 9.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks. In the secondary, redshirt senior defensive back Tyrone Lewis and redshirt junior defensive back Tyree Skipper each own four interceptions, a total that ranks 15th in the country, while senior defensive back Keyon Martin leads the team with six pass breakups. On special teams, Louisiana is led by Lou Groza Award Finalist redshirt senior kicker Kenneth Almendares. He leads the nation averaging 2.17 field goals per game and ranks among the Top 10 in points scored (8th, 124), points per game (9th, 10.3) and field goal percentage (9th, .929). As a return specialist, Perry ranks 16th in the county averaging 24.9 yards per kickoff return and 31st with 423 combined kick return yards.

A win Saturday would secure the fourth all-time Sun Belt title for the Ragin' Cajuns and would keep the home team undefeated in the championship game. Louisiana is a perfect 2-0 in the all-time series with Marshall with a 36-21 victory in the 2021 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl in the first game under head coach Michael Desormeaux and a 23-13 win in the first-ever Sun Belt Conference meeting in Huntington, W.Va., in 2022. Saturday's Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams in Lafayette, La.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Marshall redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Mike Green was named the Sun Belt Player of the Year to headline the 2024 Sun Belt football postseason awards and All-Sun Belt teams announced Thursday. The honors were voted upon by the conference's 14 head coaches and select media representatives.

Louisiana redshirt senior quarterback Ben Wooldridge was named the Offensive Player of the Year, while Georgia Southern redshirt senior linebacker was selected as the Defensive Player of the Year. Marshall redshirt junior quarterback Braylon Braxton was picked as the Newcomer of the Year, ULM freshman running back Ahmad Hardy was dubbed the Freshman of the Year and Louisiana head coach Michael Desormeaux was honored as the Coach of the Year.

Green leads the nation with 21.0 tackles for loss—tied for the most in the Sun Belt since 2010—and ranks second in the country with a Sun Belt single-season record 16.0 sacks. The Williamsburg, Va., native also leads the country with 150 tackle for loss yards and 139 sack yards. The redshirt sophomore defensive lineman registered a tackle for loss in 11-of-12 regular-season games this year and a sack in 9-of-12 contests.

Wooldridge ranks 11th in the country with a 159.42 passing efficiency and 12th with a .683 completion percentage. The Pleasanton, Calif., product threw for 2,392 yards and 17 touchdowns in 10 games, before suffering an injury against South Alabama and missing the final two games of the regular season. The redshirt senior quarterback ranks third in the Sun Belt averaging 239.20 passing yards per game and fourth in the conference averaging 258.40 yards of total offense per game.

Watson-Trent ranks fifth in the nation with four forced fumbles and eighth with 110 tackles on the season, despite missing a game due to illness. The Pittsburgh, Pa., native posted three-straight 100-tackle seasons for the Eagles. The redshirt senior linebacker had 7.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks to go along with six double-digit tackle outings on the year.

Braxton ranks 17th in the nation with a 154.61 passing efficiency and 21st with an average of 13.50 yards per completion. The Frisco, Texas, product threw for 1,431 yards and 17 touchdowns and rushed for 544 yards and four scores in 10 games, including just seven as the Thundering Herd's starting quarterback. The redshirt junior is the lone quarterback and 1-of-3 Sun Belt student-athletes with multiple 140-yard rushing outings this season.

Hardy ranks 10th in the nation with 1,351 rushing yards and 23rd with 13 rushing touchdowns. The Monticello, Miss., native rushed for 277 more yards than any other freshman in the country and was tied for the national freshman lead in rushing touchdowns and total touchdowns. The freshman running back was the lone Sun Belt student-athlete with multiple 200-yard rushing performances. He ranked second in the conference with 1,423 all-purpose yards and co-led the league with 78 points by a non-kicker.

Desormeaux led Louisiana to its fourth 10-win season in six years and its conference-leading fifth berth to the Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship in the seven-year history of the event. The Ragin' Cajuns ranked second in the country in red zone offense (.947), second in fumbles lost (2), third in turnovers lost (8), ninth in turnover margin (+1.00), 11th in team passing efficiency (161.98), 15th in scoring offense (35.6), 16th in 4th down conversion percentage (.684), 18th in 3rd down conversion percentage (.464) and 18th in total offense (445.7).

Louisiana paced the conference with 11 All-Sun Belt honorees, followed closely by nine apiece from James Madison and Marshall and eight from South Alabama. Also boasting five-or-more All-Sun Belt selections were Arkansas State (7), Georgia Southern (6), Old Dominion (6), Troy (6), App State (5), ULM (5) and Texas State (5).

Louisiana's offense, James Madison's defense, Louisiana's defense and Marshall's defense were the most decorated units with five selections each. App State's offense, Texas State's offense and ULM's defense earned four All-Sun Belt honors. James Madison, South Alabama and Troy's special teams units paced the conference with two All-Sun Belt picks apiece.

Louisiana (6), Marshall (5) and James Madison (4) were the only programs to claim more than two All-Sun Belt First Team nods. All 14 teams produced at least one All-Sun Belt pick.

The Hercules Tires Sun Belt Football Championship Game will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. ET/6:30 p.m. CT at Cajun Field in Lafayette, La., and will be nationally televised on ESPN.













POSTSEASON AWARDS

2024 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL POSTSEASON AWARDS

Player of the Year
Mike Green, Marshall (RS So., DL – Williamsburg, Va.)

Offensive Player of the Year
Ben Wooldridge, Louisiana (RS Sr., QB – Pleasanton, Calif.)

Defensive Player of the Year
Marques Watson-Trent, Georgia Southern (RS Sr., LB – Pittsburgh, Pa.)

Newcomer of the Year
Braylon Braxton, Marshall (RS Jr., QB – Frisco, Texas)

Freshman of the Year
Ahmad Hardy, ULM (Fr., RB – Monticello, Miss.)

Coach of the Year
Michael Desormeaux, Louisiana

All-Sun Belt First Team Offense
QB – Ben Wooldridge, Louisiana (RS Sr., QB – Pleasanton, Calif.)
RB – Ahmad Hardy, ULM (Fr., RB – Monticello, Miss.)
RB – Ismail Mahdi, Texas State (Jr., RB – Murphy, Texas)
OL – Pat McMurtrie, James Madison (RS Sr., OL – Verona, N.J.)
OL – Cole Potts, James Madison (Sr., OL – Johnstown, Ohio)
OL – Landon Burton, Louisiana (RS Sr., OL – Lafayette, La.)
OL – AJ Gillie, Louisiana (RS Sr., OL – Natchitoches, La.)
OL – Logan Osburn, Marshall (RS Sr., OL – Ona, W.Va.)
TE – Terrance Carter, Louisiana (RS So., TE – Killeen, Texas)
WR – Kaedin Robinson, App State (RS Sr., WR – Asheville, N.C.)
WR – Jamaal Pritchett, South Alabama (Sr., WR – Jackson, Ala.)
WR – Devonte Ross, Troy (Jr., WR – Cartersville, Ga.)

All-Sun Belt First Team Defense
DL – Santana Hopper, App State (RS So., DL – Shelby, N.C.)
DL – Clev Lubin, Coastal Carolina (RS So., DL – Suffern, N.Y.)
DL – Eric O'Neill, James Madison (RS Jr., DL – Staten Island, N.Y.)
DL – Mike Green, Marshall (RS So., DL – Williamsburg, Va.)
LB – Marques Watson-Trent, Georgia Southern (RS Sr., LB – Pittsburgh, Pa.)
LB – K.C. Ossai, Louisiana (Sr., LB – Conroe, Texas)
LB – Jaden Yates, Marshall (So., LB – Columbus, Ohio)
DB – Trevian Thomas, Arkansas State (Sr., DB – Americus, Ga.)
DB – Matthew McDoom, Coastal Carolina (Jr., DB – Winter Garden, Fla.)
DB – Terrence Spence, James Madison (Sr., DB – Ringwood, N.J.)
DB – J.J. Roberts, Marshall (RS Sr., DB – Ona, W.Va.)
DB – Jaden Voisin, South Alabama (RS Sr., DB – Crestview, Fla.)

All-Sun Belt First Team Special Teams
K – Kenneth Almendares, Louisiana (RS Sr., K – Clute, Texas)
P – Bryce Lofton, Southern Miss (Gr., P – Sand Hill, Miss.)
RS – Ian Foster, Marshall (RS Fr., RS – Brundidge, Ala.)
AP – Devonte Ross, Troy (Jr., AP – Cartersville, Ga.)

SBC IN THE NFL

App State
Akeem Davis-Gaither – LB, Cincinnati Bengals (1 G, 1 GS, 13 Tackles)
* Darrynton Evans – RB, Chicago Bears
Tyrek Funderburk – CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers (DNP)
Nick Hampton – LB, Los Angeles Rams (1 G)
^ Cooper Hodges – OL, Jacksonville Jaguars
Shemar Jean-Charles, DB, New Orleans Saints (1 G, 1 Tackle)
* Shaun Jolly – CB, Los Angeles Rams
D'Marco Jackson – LB, New Orleans Saints (1 G)
Kendall Lamm – OL, Miami Dolphins (1 G, 1 GS)
Sam Martin – P, Buffalo Bills (1 G, 1 GS, 3 Punts, 140 Yards)
Ryan Neuzil – OL, Atlanta Falcons (1 G)
Jalen Virgil – WR, Buffalo Bills (1 G, 1 Fumble Recovery)
^ Bucky Williams – OL, Los Angeles Chargers

Arkansas State
Demario Davis – LB, New Orleans Saints (1 G, 1 GS, 3 Tackles)
Blake Grupe – K, New Orleans Saints (1 G, 1 GS, 2-for-3 FG, 1 Tackle)

Coastal Carolina
C.J. Brewer – DL, Tampa Bay Buccaneers (DNP)
* Tarron Jackson – DL, Philadelphia Eagles
Isaiah Likely – TE, Baltimore Ravens (1 G, 5 Receptions, 38 Yards, 1 TD)
* Sam Pinckney – WR, Carolina Panthers

Georgia Southern
Darrell Baker Jr. – CB, Tennessee Titans (1 G, 1 GS, 5 Tackles)
Shemar Bartholomew – CB, Carolina Panthers (DNP)
Tyler Bass – K, Buffalo Bills (1 G, 1 GS, 0-for-1 FG, 5-for-5 XP, 1 Tackle)
* Raymond Johnson III – DE, Cincinnati Bengals
Younghoe Koo – K, Atlanta Falcons (1 G, 1 GS, 2-for-3 FG, 1-for-1 XP)
^ NaJee Thompson – CB, Minnesota Vikings
Kindle Vildor – CB, Detroit Lions (1 G, 1 GS, 3 Tackles)

Georgia State
Travis Glover – OL, Green Bay Packers (1 G)
Wil Lutz – K, Denver Broncos (1 G, 1 GS, 2-for-2 FG, 5-for-5 XP)

James Madison
* Liam Fornadel – OL, New England Patriots
* Jamree Kromah, DE, Chicago Bears
Aaron Stinnie – OL, New York Giants (1 G)
* Isaac Ukwu – DE, Detroit Lions
* Mike Greene – DE, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Louisiana
Percy Butler – S, Washington Commanders (1 G)
Kevin Dotson – OL, Los Angeles Rams (1 G, 1 GS)
Robert Hunt – OL, Carolina Panthers (1 G, 1 GS)
* Andre Jones Jr. – DE, Washington Commanders
* Jacob Kibodi – RB, New Orleans Saints
^ Elijah Mitchell – RB, San Francisco 49ers
Max Mitchell – OL, New York Jets (DNP)
^ John Stephens Jr. – TE, Dallas Cowboys
^ Nathan Thomas – OL, Dallas Cowboys

Marshall
* Micah Abraham – CB, Cincinnati Bengals
Rasheen Ali – RB, Baltimore Ravens (1 G, 2 Kickoff Returns, 62 Yards)
* Josh Ball – OL, Dallas Cowboys
* Abraham Beauplan – LB, Detroit Lions
Ethan Driskell – OL, Kansas City Chiefs (DNP)
Neville Hewitt – LB, Houston Texans (1 G, 9 Tackles)
Nazeeh Johnson – S, Kansas City Chiefs (1 G, 1 GS, 3 Tackles)
* Elias Neal – LB, Los Angeles Rams
Dalton Tucker – OL, Indianapolis Colts (1 G)

Old Dominion
Tre Hawkins III – CB, New York Giants (DNP)
* Marcus Haynes – DE, Cleveland Browns
Taylor Heinicke – QB, Los Angeles Chargers (DNP)
* Zack Kuntz – TE, New York Jets
Rick Lovato – LS, Philadelphia Eagles (1 G)
Zach Pascal – WR, Arizona Cardinals (1 G)
Nick Saldiveri – OL, New Orleans Saints (1 G, 1 GS)
Stone Smartt – TE, Los Angeles Chargers (1 G, 1 Reception, 3 Yards)
* Blake Watson – RB, Denver Broncos
^ Oshane Ximines – LB, New England Patriots

South Alabama
* Carter Bradley – QB, Las Vegas Raiders
Gerald Everett – TE, Chicago Bears (1 G)
^ Darrell Luter Jr. – CB, San Francisco 49ers
Jeremy Reaves – S, Washington Commanders (1 G, 3 Tackles)
* Jamie Sheriff – LB, Seattle Seahawks
Jalen Tolbert – WR, Dallas Cowboys (1 G, 1 GS, 2 Receptions, 41 Yards)
Corliss Waitman – P, Pittsburgh Steelers (1 G, 1 GS, 1 Punt, 38 Yards)

Southern Miss
* Swayze Bozeman – LB, Kansas City Chiefs
Natrone Brooks – CB, Atlanta Falcons (1 G)
* Jason Brownlee – WR, New York Jets
* Frank Gore Jr. – RB, Buffalo Bills
Tim Jones – WR, Jacksonville Jaguars (1 G, 1 Kickoff Return, 20 Yards)
Tarvarius Moore – S, Chicago Bears (1 G, 1 Tackle)
Nick Mullens – QB, Minnesota Vikings (DNP)
Rakeem Nunez-Roches – DL, New York Giants (1 G, 1 GS, 4 Tackles, 1 Pass Defended)
* Cameron Tom – C, Cleveland Browns
* Quez Watkins – WR, Pittsburgh Steelers

Texas State
Jake Bates – K, Detroit Lions (1 G, 1 GS, 3-for-4 FG, 2-for-2 XP)
Aaron Brewer – OL, Miami Dolphins (1 G, 1 GS)
Kyle Hergel – OL, New Orleans Saints (1 G)

Troy
^ Jake Andrews – OL, New England Patriots
* Shakel Brown – DL, Miami Dolphins
Dell Pettus – S, New England Patriots (1 G, 2 Tackles)
Javon Solomon – EDGE, Buffalo Bills (DNP)
* Reddy Steward – CB, Chicago Bears
Kimani Vidal – RB, Los Angeles Chargers (1 G, 4 Rushes, 20 Yards)

* Practice Squad | ^ Injured & Other Reserve

POSTSEASON AWARDS

All-Sun Belt Second Team Offense
QB – Braylon Braxton, Marshall (RS Jr., QB – Frisco, Texas)
RB – A.J. Turner, Marshall (RS So., RB – Hampton, Va.)
RB – Damien Taylor, Troy (Jr., RB – Northport, Ala.)
OL – Jack Hollifield, App State (RS Jr., OL – Shelby, N.C.)
OL – Jacob Bayer, Arkansas State (Sr., OL – Grandview, Texas)
OL – Mehki Butler, Arkansas State (RS Sr., OL – Omaha, Neb.)
OL – Bryson Broadway, Georgia Southern (5th Yr., OL – Dawsonville, Ga.)
OL – Daniel King, Troy (Sr., OL – Cairo, Ga.)
TE – Dorian Fleming, Georgia State (So., TE – Henrico, Va.)
WR – Corey Rucker, Arkansas State (RS Jr., WR – Bentonia, Miss.)
WR – Ted Hurst, Georgia State (Jr., WR – Savannah, Ga.)
WR – Joey Hobert, Texas State (Sr., WR – San Clemente, Calif.)

All-Sun Belt Second Team Defense
DL – Khairi Manns, James Madison (RS Sr., DL – New Rochelle, N.Y.)
DL – Jordan Lawson, Louisiana (RS Jr., DL – Brandon, Miss.)
DL – Kevontay Wells, ULM (Jr., DL – Jackson, Miss.)
DL – Wy'Kevious Thomas, South Alabama (RS Sr., DL – Riverdale, Ga.)
LB – Jacob Dobbs, James Madison (RS Sr., LB – Macomb, Mich.)
LB – Koa Naotala, Old Dominion (RS So., LB – Newport News, Va.)
LB – Blayne Myrick, South Alabama (RS So., LB – Fairhope, Ala.)
DB – Chance Gamble, Georgia Southern (RS Jr., DB – Fitzgerald, Ga.)
DB – Marc Stampley II, Georgia Southern (Jr., DB – Peachtree City, Ga.)
DB – Jacob Thomas, James Madison (Jr., DB – Ashburn, Va.)
DB – Tyrone Lewis, Louisiana (RS Sr., DB – Hammond, La.)
DB – Tyree Skipper, Louisiana (RS Jr., DB – New Orleans, La.)

All-Sun Belt Second Team Special Teams
K – Laith Marjan, South Alabama (RS Jr., K – Raleigh, N.C.)
P – James Allen, Georgia State (RS Jr., P – Australia)
RS – Devonte Ross, Troy (Jr., RS – Cartersville, Ga.)
AP – Ismail Mahdi, Texas State (Jr., AP – Murphy, Texas)

All-Sun Belt Third Team Offense
QB – Jordan McCloud, Texas State (RS Sr., QB – Tampa, Fla.)
RB – Ahmani Marshall, App State (Sr., RB – Winston-Salem, N.C.)
RB – Fluff Bothwell, South Alabama (Fr., RB – Oneonta, Ala.)
OL – Caleb Cook, Georgia Southern (RS Jr., OL – Brunswick, Ga.)
OL – Pichon Wimbley, Georgia Southern (Jr., OL – Newnan, Ga.)
OL – Zach Barlev, Old Dominion (Jr., OL – Bolingbrook, Ill.)
OL – Jordan Davis, South Alabama (RS Jr., OL – Fairburn, Ga.)
OL – Alex Harkey, Texas State (RS Jr., OL – Austin, Texas)
TE – Pat Conroy, Old Dominion (RS Sr., TE – Reading, Mass.)
WR – Makai Jackson, App State (Jr., WR – Levittown, Pa.)
WR – Lance LeGendre, Louisiana (RS Sr., WR – New Orleans, La.)
WR – Isiah Paige, Old Dominion (Sr., WR – Richmond, Va.)

All-Sun Belt Third Team Defense
DL – Bryan Whitehead, Arkansas State (RS Jr., DL – Bartlett, Tenn.)
DL – Billy Pullen, ULM (Jr., DL – Kaufman, Texas)
DL – Deeve Harris, Marshall (RS Sr., DL – St. Louis, Mo.)
DL – Kris Trinidad, Old Dominion (RS Jr., DL – Richmond, Va.)
LB – Marvin Ham, Arkansas State (RS Sr., LB – Belleville, Mich.)
LB – Kevin Swint, Georgia State (Sr., LB – Carrollton, Ga.)
LB – Carl Glass Jr., ULM (Sr., LB – Monroe, La.)
LB – Brendan Jackson, Troy (Sr., LB – Statesboro, Ga.)
DB – Keyon Martin, Louisiana (Sr., DB – Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
DB – Wydett Williams Jr., ULM (Jr., DB – Lake Providence, La.)
DB – Jacobie Henderson, Marshall (RS So., DB – Charlotte, N.C.)
DB – Jahron Manning, Old Dominion (Jr., DB – New Orleans, La.)

All-Sun Belt Third Team Special Teams
K – Clune Van Andel, Arkansas State (So., K – Grand Rapids, Mich.)
P – Ryan Hanson, James Madison (RS Sr., P – Elgin, Texas)
RS – Cam Ross, James Madison (RS Sr., RS – Newark, Del.)
AP – Jamaal Pritchett, South Alabama (Sr., AP – Jackson, Ala.)

All-Sun Belt Honorable Mentions

App State
QB – Joey Aguilar (Sr., QB – Antioch, Calif.)
OL – Markell Samuel (RS Jr., OL – Fayetteville, N.C.)
TE – Eli Wilson (Sr., TE – Piedmont, S.C.)
LB – Brendan Harrington (RS Sr., LB – Pittsboro, N.C.)

Arkansas State
RB – Zak Wallace (RS Sr., RB – Benton, Ark.)
LB – Justin Parks (Sr., DB – Gardendale, Ala.)
P – Ryan Heicher (Sr., P – Walled Lake, Mich.)
LS – Jack Bullard (Sr., LS – Chandler, Ariz.)

Coastal Carolina
RB – Braydon Bennett (RS Sr., RB – Greenville, S.C.)
OL – Nick Del Grande (RS So., OL – Lancaster, Pa.)
LB – Shane Bruce (RS Sr., LB – Carrollton, Ga.)
DB – Juan Powell (Gr., DB – Atlanta, Ga.)

Georgia Southern
RB – Jalen White (5th Yr., RB – Daleville, Ala.)
WR – Derwin Burgess Jr. (Sr., WR – Riverdale, Ga.)
LB – Davin Gilmore (6th Yr., LB – North Charleston, S.C.)
P – Alex Smith (So., P – Melbourne, Australia)

Georgia State
DL – Henry Bryant (RS Jr., DL – Delray Beach, Fla.)
LB – Damaine Wilson (Fr., LB – Pompano Beach, Fla.)
DB – Gavin Pringle (RS Sr., DB – Baltimore, Md.)
DB – Kenyatta Watson (RS Sr., DB – Loganville, Ga.)

James Madison
QB – Alonza Barnett III (RS So., QB – Whitsett, N.C.)
TE – Taylor Thompson (Sr., TE – Prattville, Ala.)
WR – Omarion Dollison (Sr., WR – Columbia, S.C.)
DL – Immanuel Bush (RS Jr., DL – Lancaster, S.C.)

Louisiana
RB – Zylan Perry (RS So., RB – Franklin, La.)
OL – Jax Harrington (RS Sr., OL – Erath, La.)
DL – Mason Narcisse (Sr., DL – Reserve, La.)
LB – Carmycah Glass (RS So., LB – Monroe, La.)

ULM
OL – Elijah Fisher (Jr., OL – Allen, Texas)
TE – Rylan Green (Jr., TE – West Monroe, La.)
TE – Julian Nixon (Jr., TE – Atlanta, Ga.)
DB – David Godsey Jr. (Jr., DB – Mansfield, Texas)

Marshall
OL – Jeremy Jones (Sr., OL – Lewisville, Texas)
TE – Toby Payne (RS So., TE – Poca, WVa.)
WR – Christian Fitzpatrick (RS Sr., WR – Southfield, Mich.)
DB – Josh Moten (Jr., DB – Waldorf, Md.)

Old Dominion
QB – Colton Joseph (RS Fr., QB – Newport Beach, Calif.)
RB – Aaron Young (Sr., RB – Coatesville, Pa.)
DL – Denzel Lowry (RS Jr., DL – Virginia Beach, Va.)
LB – Mario Thompson (So., LB – Richmond, Va.)

South Alabama
QB – Gio Lopez (RS Fr., QB – Madison, Ala.)
OL – Reed Buys (RS Sr., OL – Vicksburg, Miss.)
TE – DJ Thomas-Jones (Sr., TE – Mobile, Ala.)
DL – Maurice Strong Jr. (Gr., DL – Raiford, Fla.)

Southern Miss
RB – Rodrigues Clark (Gr., RB – Starkville, Miss.)
DL – Kristin Booth (Sr., DL – Oxford, Ala.)
DL – Brodarius Lewis (Gr., DL – Prattville, Ala.)
LB – Tre Pinkney (RS Sr., LB – Atlanta, Ga.)

Texas State
OL – Nash Jones (Sr., OL – Nacogdoches, Texas)
WR – Kole Wilson (Jr., WR – Katy, Texas)
DL – Steven Parker (RS Sr., DL – Dallas, Texas)
DB – Jordan Polk (RS Sr., DB – Arlington, Texas)

Troy
OL – Eli Russ (Jr., OL – Ardmore, Okla.)
DL – Luis Medina (Jr., DL – Summerville, Ga.)
LB – Jordan Stringer (Jr., LB – Augusta, Ga.)
DB – Devin Lafayette (Jr., DB – Brunswick, Ga.)

CONFERENCE RESULTS

WEEK 1
Coastal Carolina def. Jacksonville State, 55-27
ULM def. Jackson State, 30-14
App State def. ETSU, 38-10
Boise State def. Georgia Southern, 56-45
South Carolina def. Old Dominion, 23-19
North Texas def. South Alabama, 52-38
Marshall def. Stony Brook, 45-3
Nevada def. Troy, 28-26
Arkansas State def. Central Arkansas, 34-31
Louisiana def. Grambling, 40-10
Georgia Tech def. Georgia State, 35-12
James Madison def. Charlotte, 30-7
Texas State def. Lamar, 34-27
Kentucky def. Southern Miss, 31-0

WEEK 2
Memphis def. Troy, 38-17
Texas State def. UTSA, 49-10
Virginia Tech def. Marshall, 31-14
James Madison def. Gardner-Webb, 13-6
Ohio def. South Alabama, 27-20
East Carolina def. Old Dominion, 20-14
Louisiana def. Kennesaw State, 34-10
Arkansas State def. Tulsa, 28-24
Georgia State def. Chattanooga, 24-21
ULM def. UAB, 32-6
Southern Miss def. Southeastern Louisiana, 35-10
Georgia Southern def. Nevada, 20-17
Coastal Carolina def. William & Mary, 40-21
No. 25/22 Clemson def. App State, 66-20

WEEK 3
South Alabama def. Northwestern State, 87-10
Arizona State def. Texas State, 31-28
No. 17/16 Michigan def. Arkansas State, 28-18
Coastal Carolina def. Temple, 28-20
Iowa def. Troy, 38-21
App State def. East Carolina, 21-19
Georgia Southern def. South Carolina State, 42-14
Virginia Tech def. Old Dominion, 37-17
Georgia State def. Vanderbilt, 36-32
South Florida def. Southern Miss, 49-24

WEEK 4
South Alabama def. App State, 48-14
Tulane def. Louisiana, 41-33
No. 3/3 Ohio State def. Marshall, 49-14
James Madison def. North Carolina, 70-50
No. 20/21 Iowa State def. Arkansas State, 52-7
Virginia def. Coastal Carolina, 43-24
Jacksonville State def. Southern Miss, 44-7
Troy def. Florida A&M, 34-12
No. 5/5 Ole Miss def. Georgia Southern, 52-13
No. 1/2 Texas def. ULM, 51-3

WEEK 5
James Madison def. Ball State, 63-7
Sam Houston def. Texas State, 40-39
Marshall def. Western Michigan, 27-20
Georgia Southern def. Georgia State, 38-21
Louisiana def. Wake Forest, 41-38
Old Dominion def. Bowling Green, 30-27
ULM def. Troy, 13-9
No. 14/13 LSU def. South Alabama, 42-10

WEEK 6
Texas State def. Troy, 38-17
Marshall def. App State, 52-37
Louisiana def. Southern Miss, 23-13
Arkansas State def. South Alabama, 18-16
ULM def. James Madison, 21-19
Coastal Carolina def. Old Dominion, 45-37

WEEK 7
James Madison def. Coastal Carolina, 39-7
Old Dominion def. Georgia State, 21-14
ULM def. Southern Miss, 38-21
Texas State def. Arkansas State, 41-9
Louisiana def. App State, 34-24
Georgia Southern def. Marshall, 24-23

WEEK 8
South Alabama def. Troy, 25-9
Marshall def. Georgia State, 35-20
Louisiana def. Coastal Carolina, 34-24
Old Dominion def. Texas State, 24-14
Georgia Southern def. James Madison, 28-14
Arkansas State def. Southern Miss, 44-28

WEEK 9
Old Dominion def. Georgia Southern, 47-19
App State def. Georgia State, 33-26
James Madison def. Southern Miss, 32-15
South Alabama def. ULM, 46-17
Arkansas State def. Troy, 34-31

WEEK 10
Louisiana def. Texas State, 23-17
UConn def. Georgia State, 34-27
App State def. Old Dominion, 28-20
Marshall def. ULM, 28-23
Troy def. Coastal Carolina, 38-24
Georgia Southern def. South Alabama, 34-30

WEEK 11
Coastal Carolina def. App State, 38-24
Texas State def. ULM, 38-17
Marshall def. Southern Miss, 37-3
James Madison def. Georgia State, 38-7
Louisiana def. Arkansas State, 55-19

WEEK 12
Auburn def. ULM, 48-14
Marshall def. Coastal Carolina, 31-19
Troy def. Georgia Southern, 28-20
James Madison def. Old Dominion, 35-32
Arkansas State def. Georgia State, 27-20
Texas State def. Southern Miss, 58-3
South Alabama def. Louisiana, 24-22

WEEK 13
App State def. James Madison, 34-20
Arkansas State def. ULM, 28-21
South Alabama def. Southern Miss, 35-14
Georgia Southern def. Coastal Carolina, 26-6
Louisiana def. Troy, 51-30
Georgia State def. Texas State, 52-44
Marshall def. Old Dominion, 42-35

WEEK 14
Texas State def. South Alabama, 45-38
Louisiana def. ULM, 37-23
Coastal Carolina def. Georgia State, 48-27
Troy def. Southern Miss, 52-20
Old Dominion def. Arkansas State, 40-32
Georgia Southern def. App State, 29-20
Marshall def. James Madison, 35-33 in 2OT

SUN BELT AGAINST

CONFERENCES

All Non-Conference	28-27
American	6-5
ACC	2-5
Big 12	0-2
Big Ten	0-3
Conference USA	2-2
Independent	0-1
MAC	3-1
Mountain West	1-2
Pac-12	0-0
SEC	1-6
FCS	13-0

RANKED TEAMS

AP Top 25 Poll	0-7
US LBM Coaches Poll	0-7

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SBC Football 365—the Sun Belt's around-the-clock source for all things football—will promote the conference's 14 football programs year-round through video and written content in conjunction with the conference's football-specific X account @SunBeltFB. The SBC Football 365 page on SunBeltSports.org includes highlights, stadium tours, studio shows, game day central, statistics and media resources—including every game link and every game note from around the conference.

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