



2012 MIAA Football

Josh Slaughter, Director of Communications
 114 West Eleventh Street, Suite 105 | Kansas City, MO | 64105
 O: (816) 421-6422 | C: (816) 695-2826 | F: (816) 421-6423
 jslaughter@themiaa.com | www.themiaa.com

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Through Aug. 27, 2012

| | MIAA GAMES | | | | OVERALL | | | | Home | Road | Neutral | Streak | Top 25 |
|--------------------|------------|------|----|----|---------|------|----|----|------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| | W-L | Pct. | PF | PA | W-L | Pct. | PF | PA | | | | | |
| Central Missouri | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Central Oklahoma | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Emporia State | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Fort Hays State | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Lincoln | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Lindenwood | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Missouri Southern | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Missouri Western | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Nebraska-Kearney | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Northeastern State | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Northwest Missouri | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Pittsburg State | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Truman | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |
| Washburn | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | WO | 0-0 |

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Week One

Thursday, August 30

- *#1 PSU at NSU 6 p.m.
- *TSU at SBU 6 p.m.
- *UNK at #20 WU 6 p.m.
- *UCM at #18 MWSU 6 p.m.
- *FHSU at ESU 7 p.m.
- *MSSU at UCO 7 p.m.
- East Central at #3 NWMSU 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 1

- *LWU at LU 2 p.m.

Week Two

Saturday, September 8

- *#3 NWMSU at UCM 1:30 p.m.
- *ESU at UNK 2 p.m.
- *UCO at #1 PSU (MIAA TV Network) 6 p.m.
- *SBU at LWU 6 p.m.
- *NSU at MSSU 6 p.m.
- William Jewell at #18 MWSU 6 p.m.
- *LU at TSU 7 p.m.
- *#20 WU at FHSU 7 p.m.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS WEEK'S GAMES



#1 Pittsburg State (0-0) at Northeastern State (0-0)
 Thursday, Aug. 30 • 6 p.m. CT • Tahlequah, Okla.



The Gorillas will begin their national title defense on the road against conference newcomer Northeastern State, who played in last year's mineral water bowl. PSU comes into the game after leading the MIAA in defense last season allowing only 308.9 yards and 20.1 points per game last season. Johnny Deaton, quarterback for the Riverhawks, returns the second most passing yards of any MIAA quarterback after throwing for 2,520 yards and 26 touchdowns last year. He must overcome one of the toughest pass defenses in the league as Pittsburg State allowed just 192.8 yards through the air and had a league leading 26 interceptions. On offense the Gorillas must replace quarterback Zac Dickey who helped them to have the top rushing offense in the MIAA a season ago. On the defensive side of the ball for the Riverhawks they return eight members of what would have been the leagues second best pass defense.



Truman (0-0) at Southwest Baptist (0-0)
 Thursday, Aug. 30 • 6 p.m. CT • Bolivar, Mo.



Southwest Baptist will make their return to MIAA football at home as they face Truman in both team's season opener. The two teams will be facing each other for the second straight game though they come months apart after Truman defeated Southwest Baptist 24-8 to end the 2011 season. This will be the 23rd meeting between the two teams with TSU holding the overall series record 19-4 and have won nine of the last ten meetings. On offense the Bulldogs must replace J.B. Clark under center but return Dallas Grier who had 47 catches for 599 yards last season. On defense leading tackler Richie Schumacher returns after making 130 tackles last season which ranked second in the MIAA. The Bearcats will look to returning quarterback Dan Conners on offense after he threw for 2,179 yards and 14 TD's last year. On defense Chris Muhammad will anchor the secondary.



Nebraska-Kearney (0-0) at #20 Washburn (0-0)
 Thursday, Aug. 30 • 6 p.m. CT • Topeka, Kan.



Two NCAA Division II Playoff teams will face off under the lights in Topeka, Kan. as league newcomer Nebraska-Kearney takes on #20 Washburn. Both teams lost to the two eventual national championship teams as Nebraska-Kearney fell to Wayne State (MI) in the playoffs and Washburn lost to eventual National Champion Pittsburg State. This will be the first meeting between the teams since 1988 with UNK leading the series 14-6-0. Both teams must replace Harlan Hill candidates at quarterback, WU's top offensive returner is Dejaun Beard who made 62 catches for 1,029 yards while UNK returns Tommy Flanagan who caught 45 passes for 704 yards. On defense the Ichabods return Jamill Taylor who had 112 tackles (9.5 for loss) while the Lopers return Sam Kuck who had 76 tackles and three interceptions.

**2012 American Football Coaches Association
Preseason Division II Coaches' Poll**
(Aug. 13, 2012)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|-----|----|
| 1. Pittsburg St. (Kan.) (21) | 13-1 | 720 | 1 |
| 2. Minnesota-Duluth (5) | 11-3 | 661 | 6 |
| 3. Northwest Missouri St. (1) | 11-3 | 613 | 5 |
| 4. Midwestern St. (Texas) (1) | 10-1 | 582 | 7 |
| 5. Wayne St. (Mich.) (1) | 12-4 | 502 | 2 |
| 6. Colorado St.-Pueblo | 11-1 | 481 | 9 |
| 7. Grand Valley St. (Mich.) | 8-3 | 473 | NR |
| 8. Valdosta St. (Ga.) | 6-4 | 415 | NR |
| 9. Winston-Salem St. (N.C.) (1) | 13-1 | 386 | 3 |
| 10. Abilene Christian (Texas) | 8-3 | 367 | 16 |
| 11. California (Pa.) | 10-3 | 347 | 15 |
| 12. Kutztown (Pa.) | 11-2 | 329 | 13 |
| 13. New Haven (Conn.) | 11-2 | 322 | 8 |
| 14. Delta St. (Miss.) | 11-3 | 290 | 4 |
| 15. West Alabama | 8-4 | 274 | 23 |
| 16. St. Cloud State (Minn.) | 9-3 | 266 | 17 |
| 17. Hillsdale (Mich.) | 8-3 | 228 | NR |
| 18. Missouri Western St. | 9-3 | 218 | 18 |
| 19. Shepherd (W.Va.) | 9-2 | 199 | 22 |
| 20. Washburn (Kan.) | 10-3 | 187 | 11 |
| 21. Humboldt St. (Calif.) | 9-1 | 183 | 20 |
| 22. Albany St. (Ga.) | 8-4 | 149 | NR |
| 23. North Greenville (S.C.) | 11-3 | 139 | 12 |
| 24. West Texas A&M | 8-3 | 132 | 25 |
| 25. Bloomsburg (Pa.) | 9-2 | 129 | 21 |

Others Receiving Votes: Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.), 128; North Alabama, 128; Nebraska-Kearney, 122; Saginaw Valley St. (Mich.), 100; Ouachita Baptist (Ark.), 96; Central Missouri, 72; Indianapolis (Ind.), 70; Mars Hill (N.C.), 57; Indiana (Pa.), 49; North Carolina-Pembroke, 47; Elizabeth City St. (N.C.), 44; Minnesota St.-Mankato, 41; Colorado School of Mines, 40; East Central (Okla.), 33; Texas A&M-Kingsville, 32; Slippery Rock (Pa.), 18; Miles (Ala.), 15; Concord (W.Va.), 9; Tarleton St. (Texas), 9; West Georgia, 9; Morehouse (Ga.), 7; Ashland (Ohio), 6; Michigan Tech, 6; Southern Connecticut St., 6; Central Washington, 4; Henderson St. (Ark.), 3; Assumption (Mass.), 2; West Virginia Wesleyan, 2; Azusa Pacific, 1; Carson-Newman (Tenn.), 1; Harding (Ark.), 1.



Central Missouri (0-0) at #18 Missouri Western (0-0)
Thursday, Aug. 30 • 6 p.m. CT • St. Joseph, Mo.



Two teams who made trips to the post-season last year will face off in St. Joseph, Mo. as #18 Missouri Western who made the NCAA Division II Playoffs will take on Kanza Bowl participant Central Missouri. MWSU leads the overall series 14-13-1 and are 7-6-1 when playing at their home stadium. The Griffons return the MIAA's leading rusher on offense in Michael Hill who ran for 1,305 yards last season and 12 touchdowns. On defense they return All-American David Bass who led the MIAA with 14.5 sacks and had 20 tackles for a loss. Central Missouri returns one the of league's best tight ends in David Cannon who caught 60 passes for 810 yards and nine touchdowns. On defense Patrick Lewis had 104 tackles to lead the Mules secondary.



Fort Hays State (0-0) at Emporia State (0-0)
Thursday, Aug. 30 • 7 p.m. CT • Emporia, Kan.



Emporia State and Fort Hays State will face off for the second straight time in the season opener after the Tigers defeated the Hornets 27-17 in the 2011 kickoff in Hays. Fort Hays State will, however, be looking for their first win in Welch Stadium since the 2000 season. The Tigers have won five straight season openers while the Hornet are 4-1 in their last five openers. ESU leads the overall series 49-34-2 as the two teams face off for the 86th time. On offense the Hornets return the league's leading passer in quarterback Tyler Eckenrode while the Tigers bring back running back tandem Andre and Edward Smith. On defense ESU features Pre-Season All-American Derek Lohmann who led the league with eight interceptions while FHSU brings back Kyle Perry who had 6.5 sacks on the defensive line.



Missouri Southern (0-0) at Central Oklahoma (0-0)
Thursday, Aug. 30 • 7 p.m. CT • Edmond, Okla.



Missouri Southern will welcome Central Oklahoma to the MIAA as the two teams face off in the season opener from Edmond, Okla. Both teams will be lead onto the field by first year head coaches as Darryl Day takes over the helm for the Lions and Nick Bobeck enters his first season with Bronchos. On offense the Lions return wide receiver Landon Zerkel who led the league in receiving yards per game. On defense they return Brandon Williams who was 13th in the nation in tackles for a loss. For the Bronchos Joshua Birmingham returns to the UCO running game. On defense Sam Moses had 68 tackles last year including nine tackles for a loss.



East Central (0-0) at #3 Northwest Missouri (0-0)
Thursday, Aug. 30 • 7 p.m. CT • Maryville, Mo.



Northwest Missouri will put their #3 ranking on the line as they are the only MIAA team stepping out of the conference this week. They will face East Central who finished 8-3 and in third place in the Great American Conference last season. Northwest Missouri enters the 2012 campaign after falling to eventual National Champion Pittsburg State in the regional final in 2011. They return quarterback Trevor Adams who threw for 2,202 yards last season and 21 touchdowns. Collin DeBuysere led the team with 73 tackles in the defensive backfield. The Tigers averaged 392.1 yards per game on offense and allowed an average of 329.7 yards on defense last season.



Lindenwood (0-0) at Lincoln (0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 1 • 2 p.m. CT • Jefferson City, Mo.



Lindenwood will open both their NCAA and MIAA campaigns in the only Saturday game on the docket when they travel to Lincoln. The Lions went 8-3 last season and went 1-1 against current MIAA opponents during the 2011 campaign. The two teams will be facing each other for the first time when they meet on Sept. 1. Lindenwood's top returner on offense is Andrew Helmick who caught 56 passes for 901 yards and 12 touchdowns. Cody Fogle led the team with 65 tackles and two fumble recoveries. For the Blue Tigers Deon Brock returns at running back after carrying 115 times for 509 yards last year. Herman Hopson had 75 tackles and two interceptions at free safety last year.

2012 MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll

- 1. Pittsburg State (12) 192
- 2. Northwest Missouri (2) 184
- 3. Missouri Western (1) 165
- 4. Washburn 154
- 5. Central Missouri 153
- 6. Nebraska-Kearney 122
- 7. Emporia State 103
- 8. Lindenwood 95
- 9. Northeastern State 85
- 10. Missouri Southern 82
- 11. Fort Hays State 74
- 12. Central Oklahoma 54
- 13. Southwest Baptist 49
- 14. Truman 43
- 15. Lincoln 18

2012 MIAA Preseason Media Poll

- 1. Pittsburg State (24) 538
- 2. Northwest Missouri (11) 524
- 3. Missouri Western (1) 456
- 4. Washburn 447
- 5. Central Missouri 393
- 6. Nebraska-Kearney 390
- 7. Emporia State 286
- 8. Lindenwood 268
- 9. Fort Hays State 241
- 10. Northeastern State 233
- 11. Missouri Southern 194
- 12. Truman 155
- 13. Southwest Baptist 150
- 14. Central Oklahoma 121
- 15. Lincoln 42

BEST OF THE BEST

The MIAA is the best football conference in the nation as they are the only league with four teams ranked in the American Football Coaches Association. They are also the only conference with two teams ranked in the top five as defending National Champion Pittsburg State is ranked #1 and Northwest Missouri is ranked #3. They had five current members make the NCAA Division II National Playoffs last year in Northwest Missouri, Nebraska-Kearney, Washburn, Pittsburg State and Missouri Western. Seven teams in total that are members of the MIAA played in a post-season game last year. Only the MIAA and NSIC has seven total teams ranked between the AFCA an AVCA polls.

THE NEWBIES

This will mark the first competition in the MIAA for four school as Central Oklahoma, Lindenwood, Nebraska-Kearney and Northeastern State will all play their first football games as members of the MIAA. Southwest Baptist will also play their first MIAA game in four years as they rejoin the MIAA as a football school.

MIAA BROADCASTING NETWORK

The MIAA enters year three partnered with Kansas City-based Niles Media Group to showcase the MIAA Broadcasting Network. The schedule for the 2012 season includes the following matchups:

2011 MIAA Football Television Schedule

- September 8: Central Oklahoma at Pittsburg State, 6:00pm
- September 15: Nebraska-Kearney at Missouri Western, 6:00pm
- September 22: Washburn at Central Oklahoma, 2:30pm
- September 29: Northeastern State at Northwest Missouri, 2:30pm
- October 6: Truman at Nebraska-Kearney, 2:30pm
- October 13: Fort Hays State at Southwest Baptist, 2:30pm
- October 20: Lincoln at Fort Hays State, 2:30pm
- October 25: Missouri Western at Emporia State, 6:00 pm
- October 27: Missouri Southern at Lindenwood, 2:30pm
- November 3: TBA, 2:30pm
- November 10: TBA, 2:30pm

MIAA FOOTBALL ON AMERICA ONE

All MIAA conference football games and select non-conference games can be watched live on America One, the exclusive home for broadband broadcasts of all MIAA athletics.

MIAA IN 2012 AFCA RANKINGS

| WEEK | UCM | UCO | ESU | FHSU | LU | LWU | MSSU | MWSU | UNK | NSU | NWMSU | PSU | SBU | TSU | WU |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Aug. 13 | RV | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | 18 | RV | NR | 3 | 1 | NR | NR | 20 |