CFB Analysis

Last updated: 12/15/2022 09:46:02 am

Download PDF Version

Key Releases

Date	Event	Play
12-17-22	Fresno State @ Washington State	**Fresno State**

December 16th, 2022

201/202	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS
Miami Ohio	20	45	38		38	38	3-3 / 3-3	2-4
UAB	24	-11	31(3)	-10	31	46	5-1 / 1-5	4-2

Both of these teams finished 6-6 and in the universe of college bowls, anyone with a .500
case there's a dichotomy of motivation and expectation involving these two. This is a "sta
the schedule, lowest paying in terms of team payouts at $225,000) and UAB came to the
Ohio team 41-6. Since then, the Blazers and former HC Bill Clark worked up the bowl foo
Orleans ($925,000, but it is a trip to New Orleans), and last season Independence ($1,24
reasons in June and assistant Bryant Vincent was tabbed to continue what Clark had beg
three bowl games). But UAB wound up losing more games than it had in any season sinc
2014-15 seasons. There's also the fact that players can't help but be distracted as many
Dilfer was named as the head coach going forward a few weeks ago. The UAB offense w
ranked fifth in the country in rushing led by the C-USA offensive player of the year DeWa
and had 19 rushing TDs, and Jermaine Brown added a hefty 832 YR (5.9 ypc) and six TD
and suffered minimal injury losses during the season, was an above average 56th in tota
conversely is happy to qualify for this bowl at all, beating Northern Illinois in Week 11 and
against Ball State to become bowl eligible (BSU finished 5-7 and out of the bowl picture).
yardage, 121st in passing) as the attack was without injured vet starting QB Brett Gabbe
frosh Aveon Smith, who led the team in rushing (503 YR, 5.0 ypc) and threw for 1137 yar
only completed 48% of his passes. Sr. wideout Mac Hippenhammer was the main target
with eight TDs, all team-highs. The defense was the best in the MAC, allowing just 20.9 p
ypg) and allowed just 3.9 ypc. Miami has bowl experience as well, as this iteration of play
team and in last season's Frisco Classic win over North Texas. This one should be more
Miami Ohio.

Last 3 Games		PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Avg
Miami Ohio		22.7 / 25.7	-3	40	37	
UAB		29.3 / 29.7	-0.3	30	29	

Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Opp
Miami Ohio	11-22-22	Ball State	-2.5	44.5	18-17	UAB	11-26-22	@ Lou
	11-16-22	@ No Illino.	PK	44	29-23		11-19-22	@
	11-08-22	Ohio	+2.5	52	21-37		11-12-22	Nort

203/204	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (
Troy	31	-1.5	25		29	32	7-0 /
Tex San Antonio	30	55.5	24(2)	-3	26	32	6-1 /

The Cure Bowl in Orlando has seen some really good games in recent years, and we sho
teams in the country this season. This is the only matchup during bowl season that featur
Cure Bowl have all been decided by one score with Liberty beating Coastal Carolina in o
Northern Illinois in a 47-41 thriller last season. The biggest question on the Troy side is, "
season was built on their defense, as their offense failed to eclipse 20 points on five occa
Arkansas State then 45 (all scored in the first three quarters) in the Sun Belt championsh
offensive improvement at the end of the season, or did the Trojans just face two teams th
has not been to a bowl game since 2018, so you don't have to worry about any motivatio
Traylor's UTSA squad. Unlike Troy, the Roadrunners have been to a bowl game the last t
first bowl win in program history despite having some really good teams in recent season
Antonio next season for his seventh (yes, seventh) year on campus. UTSA's defense sho
inclined to believe that Troy's two-game offensive outburst can continue for one more gar
few ticks too low. The average closing total in UTSA's games this season was 62.8, and
full touchdown under that mark. UTSA has scored 30+ points in ten straight games. This
Over.

Last 3 Games			PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. (
Troy			42.3 / 20.3	+22	27	39
Tex San Antonio			41 / 21.7	+19.3	24	37

Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Da
Troy	12-03-22	Coastal C.	-7	49	45-26	**Tex San Antonio**	12-02
	11-26-22	@ Arkansas .	-13.5	44	48-19		11-26
	11-19-22	UL Monroe	-15	48.5	34-16		11-19

December 17th, 2022

205/206	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	AT
Louisville	23	-2	20	-2	21	20	5-1 / 2-4	5-
Cincinnati U	17	40	25(3)		23	23	5-1 / 4-2	2-

Lots going on in this one on top of the fact it's a bowl game being played at Fenway Poar
season before Virginia and SMU had to cancel their date in Boston. (Fenway has hosted
the Patriots from 1963-68). But that's tame stuff compared to the coaching dynamics here
Scott Satterfield then moving from the 'Ville to the Bearcats before Jeff Brohm landed at I
having a field day, wondering what info Satterfield (who likely brings some of the Cardina
about the team he coached this season, though Satterfield will be staying clear until after
coaches at Fenway will be DB coach Kerry Coombs for the Bearcats and former NFL Pa
serving as Satterfield's player development director this season). Frankly, all of the periph
(no surprise) several opt-outs, including the Cards' "Lamar Jackson Lite" QB Malik Cunni
that wasn't enough for the 'Ville, top wideout Tyler Hudson (69 catches TY) and RB Tiyor
Brock Domann, however, got significant work this season when Malik was hurt and helpe
rarely impressed despite its 9-3 SU mark, covering the spread only three times in severa
midway last season. The Bearcats are also down to their backup QB, too, after Ben Brya
Evan Prater did not show badly in the final regular-season game vs. Tulane. The fact Do
'Ville's penchant for big plays from its defense and special teams, make the argument for
peripherals seem the real attraction here.

Play Louisville.

Last 3 Games			PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	A
Louisville			18 / 22.3	-4.3	19	19	
Cincinnati U			24.7 / 18.3	+6.3	25	29	
Results	**Date**	**Opponent**	**Line**	**Total**	**Score**	**Results**	**Date**	**Op**
Louisville	11-26-22	@ Kentucky	+3.5	42.5	13-26	**Cincinnati U**	11-25-22	
	11-19-22	NC State	-4	43	25-10		11-19-22	@
	11-12-22	@ Clemson	+7	52	16-31		11-11-22	Ea

209/210	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/
BYU	28	64	26		23	36	4-2 / 3-3	1-5 / 3-
SMU	39	-3.5	26(2)	-2	25	29	4-2 / 3-3	2-4 / 3-

Rest assured there is going to be some mention of the last time BYU and SMU squared o
Holiday Bowl featuring Jim McMahon at QB for the Cougs and the Pony Express backfie
Meyer's Mustangs. It looked like a big night for SMU as the Dickerson and James were r
ahead, 45-25, inside of three minutes to play. But an unbelievable sequence ensued, fue
recovery, plus a blocked punt, and on the last play of the game McMahon lofted a 41-yar
Brown caught between multiples of defenders before Kurt Gunther's PAT gave BYU a me
in Albuquerque and we're not expecting those sorts of fireworks. As is customary for bow
part of the routine; the most notable players who will surely miss in New Mexico are SMU
fourth best in the country, for 1355 yards and 10 TDs), and BYU's second-leading tackler
Cougar QB Jaren Hall (31 TDP and only 6 picks), who injured an ankle in the reg-season
accompanied the team to Albuquerque. If Hall can't go (as it appears) it would seem a ba
threw all of two passes this season; Boise State transfer Cade Fennegan, recently runnir
entered the portal, will start if Hall can't go. The attack would thus likely a bit more to RB
with a pair of 100+ YR+ rushing efforts vs. Utah Tech and Stanford. But with no indication
TDP) will skip the event, it could be advantage SMU, even though the Rice absence is no
availability, the Cougs have been a notorious money-burner lately and are only 4-11 their
Rhett Lashlee's first taste of a bowl game as a head coach, but he's got some experience
on Gus Malzahn's former staff at Auburn. And the ability to win a game by a 77-63 score
whatever the QB dynamics, this one could go "over" in Albuquerque. Play SMU and the O

Last 3 Games		PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Avg. L
BYU		39.3 / 26.7	+12.7	27	34	-12
SMU		33 / 37.7	-4.7	24	31	-6

Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Oppone
BYU	11-26-22	@ Stanford	-6.5	57.5	35-26	SMU	11-26-22	Memphi
	11-19-22	Dixie Sta.	-38.5	64.5	52-26		11-17-22	@ Tulan
	11-05-22	@ Boise Sta.	+9.5	54.5	31-28		11-12-22	@ South F

211/212	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUF
Fresno State	33	-3.5	23		27	25	5-1
Washington State	23	52.5	20(3)	-6	24	17	4-3

Even the Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl is not immune to the dreaded bowl opt-outs, which see
Mountain West Fresno for this duel in Inglewood. The Cougs' defense will be missing its
bowl not because of Kimmel but rather to prep for the NFL Draft. That's after the Wazzu
transfer portal, which claimed Francisco Mauigoa and Travion Brown – co-starters at mid
coaches, as d.c. Brian Ward left the program recently to take the same job at Arizona Sta
as well. Moreover, top wideouts De'Zhaun Stribling and Donovan Ollie, who combined fo
have entered the transfer portal. Even at full strength, however, not sure we'd be too inte
with wins in eight straight, all but one of those after QB Jake Haener returned from an an
was part of a slow 1-4 break from the gate, but once he was back it was full stream ahea
for HC Jeff Tedford, who stepped down from his alma mater after the 2019 season due to
DeBoer left the Central Valley for Washington after last season. With most hands on deck
games, while Haener's final stats showed 2616 YP and 18 TDP against just 3 picks. The
YP & 23 TDs) , the Incarnate Word transfer who mostly shined, though Wazzu was bothe
in the second half of the last three games. WSU also has a recent history of underachiev
years (and including a Sun Bowl loss to CMU under Jake Dickert last season), while note
covered impressively in their bowls.

Play Fresno State.

Last 3 Games		PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg
Fresno State		33 / 10	+23	25	
Washington State		30.7 / 29.7	+1	20	

Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	
Fresno State	12-03-22	@ Boise Sta.	+3	54.5	28-16	**Washington State**	11
	11-25-22	Wyoming	-14	50.5	30-0		11
	11-19-22	@ Nevada	-22.5	54	41-14		11

213/214	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR
Rice	16	45.5	40		41	31	4-2
So Mississippi	27	-6	34(2)	-8	35	40	3-3

With all due respect to the Golden Eagles and Owls, if you were creating power ratings b
quite a bit before you came across this one. Southern Miss earned its sixth win on the las
still searching for that sixth win. The Owls were invited to the Lending Tree Bowl despite
teams. These foes know each other quite well, splitting their prior 12 meetings at six wins
over Southern Miss in Houston last year. It's been almost a decade since the Owls last m
Rice will be limping into this one. Rice lost four of its last five games, with three of those l
McMahon was missing at the end of the regular season due to injury, and practice report:
go for this one. Freshman AJ Padgett is expected to get the start after making two appea
20-of-40 for 339 yards, two touchdowns and one interception against North Texas and U
the Owls' offense because no team has turned the ball over more this season. Rice is av
the country. Yards per point allowed is an interesting stat in this matchup. It's a metric tha
earn their points. Southern Miss' defense is top-40 in the country in yards per point allowe
down in the redzone. Rice's defense is dead last in the country in yards per point allowed
and those offenses have not had to work very hard for their points. The line may drift clos
Southern Miss early in the week looks appealing.Play So Mississippi.

Last 3 Games		PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg.
Rice		11.3 / 35.7	-24.3	39	2
So Mississippi		21 / 21	0	35	3

Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Da
Rice	11-26-22	@ North Tex.	+14.5	57	17-21	So Mississippi	11-2
	11-19-22	Tex San A.	+14	56	7-41		11-1
	11-12-22	@ Western K.	+13	61	10-45		11-1

Recent meetings					
Date	Team	Score	Line	FD	
10-02-21	So Mississippi	19	45	21	
	Rice	24	-1.5	15	

215/216	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	A
Florida	20	52.5	21		23	11	5-2 / 1-4	
Oregon State	34	-10	17(2)	-6	20	13	6-1 / 3-2	

The major news in this game is the outflow of players depleting the Florida roster. The big
himself for the NFL and projected by some as one of the top QBs available, but WR Justi
Torrence (first team All-American) are also going to the NFL and Torrence's backup, Josh
Ventrell Miller (75 tackles), soph DT Gervon Dexter (50 stops) are also going to the NFL.
players who have entered the transfer portal as well, most unhappy with their playing tim
collegiate start in this game. Oregon State in much better shape in terms of players stayir
not only got a nice contract extension, but it appears the Beaver recruiting efforts are me
as far away as Florida and Hawaii and steering players away from the SEC, Big Ten and
10th win in this bowl, which would be only the third time in the school's 62-year football h
stepped in and has done a solid job, apparently wresting the job from Chance Nolan and
injuries and performance issues for the other two. Nolan had a head/neck injury, lost the ,
Gebbia is listed as the backup for this game. The Beavers' RB group is deep, with frosh I
Deshaun Fenwick (446, 4.8, 7) and soph Jam Griffin (486, 5.8, 3) all ready and that does
ypc last season but was injured early this season. Lowe is again listed as a co-starter wit
ranked 20th against the run and 12th in pass efficiency D this season, allowing only 21 p
Louisiana clubs to and won three bowls, covered 10 of 12 games this season and deserv
Play Oregon State.

	Last 3 Games			PE/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	
Results	**Date**	**Opponent**	**Line**	**Total**	**Score**	**Results**	**Date**	
Florida	11-25-22	@ Florida S.	+9.5	58	38-45	**Oregon State**	11-26-22	
	11-19-22	@ Vanderbilt	-14	58	24-31		11-19-22	
	11-12-22	South Car.	-8	58	38-6		11-12-22	

217/218	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS
Boise State	27	-10.5	25	-4	27	23	5-2 / 4-2	4-
North Texas	23	59.5	32(3)		34	24	5-1 / 2-5	3-

It wouldn't be bowl season without some peripheral storylines, and while the transfer port
too much, there's already been a shakeup as North Texas fired HC Seth Littrell after the
Bennett (also a former SMU HC) serving as the bowl interim for the Mean Green. Some
home-field edge in Frisco for North Texas, it's a short 35-40 minute ride from Denton and
Tollway. It's also a return engagement at Toyota Stadium for the Mean Green who lost to
Meanwhile, Boise seemed to get past its own wild gyrations in late September when sec
replaced him with former HC Dirk Koetter, who began the whole Boise dynasty thing in th
football and the NFL before thinking he was settled into a nice retirement lifestyle near Bo
the o.c. change, three-year starter QB Hank Bachmeier decided to transfer out at about t
ground-and-pound thereafter with frosh QB Taylen Green more of a runner than a passer
Holani (1133 YR) and Ashton Jeanty (643 YR). North Texas would prefer to go the groun
year ago and still running for 202 ypg this season, though there was a bit sharper edge in
former minor league baseball player whose 32 TDP were ten more than his combined tot
our season-long questions about the Mountain West are valid; the Broncos' 0-4 spread m
As we suspect the veteran Bennett can keep the Mean Green focused, and Boise conter
us interested in the Metroplex flavor (UNT).
Play North Texas and the Under.

Last 3 Games			PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Av
Boise State			26 / 22.7	+3.3	25	33	-
North Texas			23 / 35.3	-12.3	30	32	
Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Op
Boise State	12-03-22	Fresno St.	-3	54.5	16-28	North Texas	12-02-22	@ T
	11-25-22	Utah State	-16.5	52	42-23		11-26-22	
	11-19-22	@ Wyoming	-14.5	44.5	20-17		11-12-22	@

December 19th, 2022

219/220	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS
Connecticut	16	41	39		45	31	5-1 / 1-5	5-1
Marshall	23	-10	26(3)	-16	29	31	4-2 / 4-2	2-4

Connecticut definitely piques our interest in this one, as the Huskies haven't been to a bo
Peterburg, as it happens), as HC Jim Mora has rescued the program from a very dark pla
last three years. Mind you, things didn't look so rosy for Mora and the Huskies at the end
victory coming against Central Connecticut State and had been outscored 45-11 in the fo
best offensive players plus assorted others to injuries within the first few weeks. Then tru
facing Syracuse, Michigan and NC State and emerged in October with the lights turning o
Victor Rosa stepped in when workhorse vet RB Nate Carter was KO'd for the season by
ypc and 12 TDs. Now, the Huskies ranked 124th in total offense (302 ypg) and 115th in s
stretch, scoring 23 ppg with 326 ypg including 211 ypg on the ground and 5.3 ypc in the l
and prize for the Connecticut players and coaches, who should be excited about the app
with wins over Old Dominion (12-0), Appalachian State (28-21), Georgia Southern (23-10
8-4. RS frosh Cam Fancher (1450 YP, 56%, 8-5 ratio) eventually took over the QB job thr
Colombi and Peter Zamora, and last year's star RB Rasheen Ali played in only the final t
carries for 181 yards, but Khalan Labom was the big gun on the ground for the Thunderin
rushing touchdowns. The numbers might not quite jibe with Marshall's Sun Belt oppositio
one true quality win (at Notre Dame 26-21). Psychological factors favor Mora's Huskies, v
positive pointspread play (9-3 TY; 15-6 last 21 results). Heavy trends both side to the "un
run, while UConn 7-4-1 "under" this season.

Play Connecticut and the Under.

Last 3 Games		PF/PA	Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Av
Connecticut		26.7 / 25.7	+1	39	37	
Marshall		26.3 / 18	+8.3	27	32	-

Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Op
Connecticut	11-19-22	@ Army	+10.5	45	17-34	**Marshall**	11-26-22	Ge
	11-12-22	Liberty	+13.5	45	36-33		11-19-22	@ G
	11-04-22	Massachus.	-15	40	27-10		11-12-22	App

KEY	
Score	The predicted score for an event
PR	The team's Power Rating
GS Line	The GoldSheet line, calculated using each team's Power Rating.
Avg. PR	The average Power Rating of a team over the course of the season.
Avg. OPR	The average of a team's opponent Power Rating on the day that they played.
SUR (H/A)	The team's straight-up-record, both at home and on the road.
ATS (H/A)	The team's record against-the-spread.
O/U (H/A)	The team's over-under record.
Pts. Diff. (H/A)	The team's +/- point differential.
Avg. Ln. (H/A)	The average line the team has had over the course of the season.
PF/PA	The average points a team has scored and allowed.
FD	The total number of first downs.
RA/RY	The number of rushing attempts and yards.
PC/PA/I/PY	The number of passing completions, attempts, interceptions and yards.
RA/RY	The number of fumbles and fumbles lost.