



2015 SUN BELT FOOTBALL

For Immediate Release: August 31, 2015

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- Appalachian State - Arkansas State - Georgia Southern - Georgia State - Idaho - UL Lafayette - UL Monroe - New Mexico State - South Alabama - Texas State - Troy -

2015 Sun Belt Conference Football Standings

	Conference			Points			Overall			Points			Pct	Home	Away	Neut	Streak
	W	L	For	Opp	Pct	W	L	For	Opp	For	Opp						
T-1. Appalachian State	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. Arkansas State	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. Georgia Southern	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. Georgia State	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. Idaho	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. New Mexico State	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. UL Lafayette	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. UL Monroe	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. South Alabama	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. Texas State	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			
T-1. Troy	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-			

Upcoming Schedule

Thursday, September 3

Ohio at Idaho - 8 p.m. (ESPN3)

September 4

Charlotte at Georgia State - 2:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, September 5

UL Monroe at Georgia - 11 a.m. (SEC Network)
 Howard at Appalachian State - 2:30 p.m. (ESPN3/App State TV)
 Troy at NC State - 5 p.m. (ESPN3)
 Gardner-Webb at South Alabama - 5 p.m. (ESPN3)
 UL Lafayette at Kentucky - 6 p.m. (ESPNU)
 Georgia Southern at West Virginia - 6:30 p.m. (FSN/Root Sports)
 New Mexico State at Florida - 6:30 p.m. (SEC Network)
 Texas State at Florida State - 7 p.m. (ESPNEWS)
 Arkansas State at Southern California - 10 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)

Let the Games Begin

The 2015 season gets underway in the Sun Belt this week with all 11 teams in action. Games will be spread out from Thursday evening to late Saturday night with a number of different viewing options available to fans.

Idaho officially opens the Sun Belt's 2015 slate with a Thursday home contest against Ohio. The game is scheduled for 8 p.m. (CT) and is available on ESPN3.

A rare mid-afternoon Friday game opens up the Labor Day weekend as Georgia State hosts Charlotte at 2:30 p.m. (CT). The game will be aired on ESPNU. Georgia State enters its third season of Sun Belt play while Charlotte begins its inaugural year of competition in Conference USA.

Saturday's nine games begin with a morning contest as UL Monroe plays at Georgia. The afternoon and evening contests feature the only two Sun Belt home games as both Appalachian State and South Alabama host FCS opponents.

Saturday's games against FBS competition add up to three games against the Southeastern Conference,

two games against the Atlantic Coast Conference, and one opponent each from the Big 12 and Pac-12.

League teams play 45 non-conference games this season, with 35 of them against the other nine FBS conferences. Nineteen of those 35 games are against the power five conferences and 16 are against peer conferences.

Sun Belt members will also play games outside of the conference in the post-season, with the league now boasting a record four guaranteed bowl tie-ins. The league adds the new AutoNation Cure Bowl in Orlando to a lineup that includes the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl (for the 15th season), the GoDaddy Bowl in Mobile (seventh year) and the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (second year).

Six of the Sun Belt's 11 football-playing institutions were bowl-eligible last year, with UL Lafayette winning the R-L Carrier New Orleans Bowl, Arkansas State playing in the GoDaddy Bowl and South Alabama making its first-ever bowl appearance in the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.

SUN BELT STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

The advantages of competing in college sports in the Sun Belt Conference are both immediate and lifelong. Sun Belt student-athletes are provided with unique opportunities to learn, compete and succeed. Sun Belt student-athletes have access to career services counselors assisting with writing resumes and identifying internships and summer jobs, career workshops, preparation for interviews/mock interviews, and etiquette classes. Sun Belt members have on average over 20 tutors for academic support and employ full-time academic advisors. During the 2014-15 academic year, Sun Belt member institutions awarded \$48,393,375.06 in scholarships to over 3,084 student-athletes. Sun Belt student-athletes have life experiences such as team building, domestic and foreign travel, community service, mentoring, and recognition through honors and awards.

MEMBERSHIP

The Sun Belt Conference consists of 13 total institutions – two (Idaho and New Mexico State) are football only members and two (Little Rock and UT Arlington) are non-football members. For the second consecutive year, there is total stability in Sun Belt membership. All 11 football playing members of the Sun Belt are full FBS members – there are no transitioning members.

College Football Playoff – Opportunity to select Sun Belt Champion for one of six bowls or semifinals

R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl

1st Selection (vs. CUSA)

GoDaddy Bowl (Mobile, Ala.)

2nd Selection (vs. MAC)

Raycom Media Camellia Bowl (Montgomery, Ala.)

3rd Selection (vs. MAC)

AutoNation Cure Bowl (Orlando, Fla.)

Fourth Selection (vs. American)

In the last two years alone the Sun Belt Conference has doubled its primary bowl partnerships from two in 2013 to four in 2015. From 2001 to 2009 the Sun Belt Conference had only one bowl partner.



2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE PRESEASON POLL

Eagles Tabbed to Repeat as League Champions in 2015

NEW ORLEANS – Georgia Southern was picked as the favorite to repeat and win the conference championship in the 2015 Sun Belt Conference Football Preseason Poll, voted on by the league’s 11 head coaches.

The Eagles received six of the 11 first-place votes and tallied 110 points, narrowly surpassing the UL Lafayette Ragin’ Cajuns who tallied 108 points and three first-place votes. The Eagles claimed the 2014 Sun Belt regular season title with a perfect 8-0 conference record. The Cajuns finished 7-1 in league play and won their fourth consecutive R+L New Orleans Bowl.

Arkansas State was chosen third with 96 points and one first-place vote and was followed by Appalachian State in fourth with 82 points. The Red Wolves made their fourth consecutive appearance in the GoDaddy Bowl in 2014 as they look for yet another stellar campaign. The Mountaineers closed out 2014 with six consecutive victories – one of the five longest win streaks in the country heading into the 2015 season.

Texas State, with 78 points, was picked to finish fifth to round out the top five. South Alabama was picked to finish sixth and received the final first-place vote; UL Monroe was seventh followed by Troy in eighth. Georgia State was picked ninth, New Mexico State tenth and Idaho 11th.

The Eagles return 13 total starters to the team that finished 9-3 a year ago. A few key returners are dual-threat quarterback Kevin Ellison, All-Conference running back Matt Breida, running back L.A. Ramsby and All-Conference defensive back Matt Dobson.

2015 SBC Coaches Predicted Order of Finish (first place votes)

1. Georgia Southern (6) - 110 pts
2. UL Lafayette (3) - 108 pts
3. Arkansas State (1) - 96 pts
4. Appalachian St. - 82 pts
5. Texas State - 78 pts
6. South Alabama (1) - 68 pts
7. UL Monroe - 59 pts
8. Troy - 39 pts
9. Georgia State - 32 pts
10. New Mexico St. - 30 pts
11. Idaho - 24 pts



Georgia Southern's Willie Fritz



UL Lafayette's Elijah McGuire

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE PRESEASON TEAM

UL Lafayette's McGuire, Texas State's Mims Highlight Preseason All-Sun Belt Teams

NEW ORLEANS – The Sun Belt announced its 2015 All-Conference football teams on Monday, as selected by the league's 11 head football coaches and selected members of the media. All 11 schools were represented between the first- and second-teams with at least one selection while ten schools placed at least one representative on the first-team.

UL Lafayette's Elijah McGuire was named the Preseason Sun Belt Conference Offensive Student-Athlete of the Year while Texas State's David Mims was named the Preseason Sun Belt Conference Defensive Student-Athlete of the Year.

McGuire, the reigning Sun Belt Player and Offensive Player of the Year, returns for his junior season at UL-L as he looks to build upon the ground success from a year ago. McGuire ran for 1,264 yards and 14 touchdowns last season as he guided the Cajuns to their fourth consecutive R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl win. His yardage totals ranked fourth in school history while his touchdowns tied for fourth overall in Cajuns lore. He became only the fourth Ragin' Cajun to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season and the first since Michael Desormeaux and Tyrell Fenroy in 2008.

McGuire has been named to the following Preseason Watch Lists: 2015 Doak Walker Award, 2015 Maxwell Award, and the 2015 Paul Hornung Award.

Mims, a senior defensive back, is arguably one of the most talented defenders in the Sun Belt. A Preseason All-Conference selection for many of the top collegiate publications, Mims ranked 19th nationally and third among Sun Belt leaders with an average of 0.42 interceptions per game. He was sixth on the team in tackles with 48 and all five of his interceptions came in the final seven games of the season. Mims was a 2014 All-Sun Belt first-team selection.

Arkansas State led all teams with 11 All-Conference selections, six on the first-team and five on the second-team. Leading the charge were offensive standouts, quarterback Fredi Knighten and wide-receiver J.D. McKissic. McKissic holds the most career receptions in the nation (237) amongst active NCAA players in his final season in Jonesboro. Knighten, a Johnny Unitas Gold Arm Award Watch List member, averaged over 300 yards per contest last year, both through the air and on the ground for an offense that averaged 36 points per game and 477 yards per game.

Joining Knighten and McKissic on the first-team were teammates Ja'Von Rolland-Jones (So., DL), Chris Stone (Sr., DL), Xavier Woodson (Jr., LB) and Blaise Taylor (So., DB/RS). A-State also had five on the second-team as senior running back Michael Gordon, senior tight end Darion Griswold, junior offensive lineman Colton Jackson, senior defensive back Rocky Hayes and senior punter Luke Ferguson were all named to the team.

Appalachian State had four players named to the first-team and five overall. Senior offensive lineman, Jesse Chapman, senior defensive lineman Ronald Blair, junior linebacker John Law and senior defensive back Doug Middleton were all named to the first-team. Junior running back Marcus Cox was the fifth and final selection for the Mountaineers as he was named to the second team.

The Mountaineers head into the 2015 season with some momentum as they closed out 2014 with six consecutive wins and enter this season with one of the five longest winning streaks in the country. The Mountaineers only lost four starters from a season ago.

UL Monroe, Georgia State and South Alabama each placed three student-athletes on the first-team with Georgia Southern and the Bobcats placing two apiece on the first-team.

The Ragin' Cajuns placed the most student-athletes on the second-team as they led the way with six selections in addition to McGuire's first-team nod. The Cajuns placed three student-athletes on offensive and defensive second-teams.

The 2015 Sun Belt Conference football season kicks-off on September 3 with Ohio and Idaho set to square off on ESPN3.

First Team Offense

Fredi Knighten (Arkansas State, Sr., QB, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Matt Breida (Georgia Southern, Jr., RB, Finance)
Elijah McGuire (UL Lafayette, Jr., RB, General Studies)
J.D. McKissic (Arkansas State, Sr., WR, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Donovan Harden (Georgia State, WR, Sr., Sociology)
Rashon Ceaser (UL Monroe, Sr., WR, Kinesiology)
Joel Ruiz (Georgia State, TE, Sr., Criminal Justice)
Jesse Chapman (App. State, Sr., OL, Exercise Science)
Darien Foreman (Georgia Southern, Sr., OL, General Studies)
Chris May (South Alabama, Sr., OL, Physical Education)
Joseph Scelfo (South Alabama, Jr., OL, Leisure Studies)
Adrian Bellard (Texas State, Sr., OL, Criminal Justice)

First Team Defense

Ronald Blair (App. State, Sr., DL, Health Promotion)
Ja'Von Rolland-Jones (Arkansas State, So., DL, Sports Management)
Chris Stone (Arkansas State, Sr., DL, Sports Management)
Gerrard Johnson (UL Monroe, Gr., DL, Communication)
John Law (App. State, Jr., LB, Health Promotion)
Xavier Woodson (Arkansas State, Jr., LB, Sports Management)
Joseph Peterson (Georgia State, LB, Sr., Speech)
Doug Middleton (App. State, Sr., DB, Business Management)
Mitch Lane (UL Monroe, Sr., DB, Kinesiology)
David Mims II (Texas State, Sr., DB, Philosophy)
Montres Kitchens (Troy, Sr., DB, Social Science)

First Team Special Teams

Aleem Sunanon (South Alabama, Jr., PK, Biomedical Sciences)
Austin Rehkow (Idaho, Jr., P, Exercise Science and Health)
Blaise Taylor (Arkansas State, So., RS, Business Administration)

Second Team Offense

Kevin Ellison (Georgia Southern, Jr., QB, General Studies)
Marcus Cox (App. State, Jr., RB, Management)
Michael Gordon (Arkansas State, Sr., RB, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Jamal Robinson (UL Lafayette, Sr., WR, Criminal Justice)
Ajalen Holley (UL Monroe, Jr., WR, Kinesiology)
Teldrick Morgan (NM State, RS-Jr., WR, Criminal Justice)
Darion Griswold (Arkansas State, Sr., TE, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Colton Jackson (Arkansas State, Jr., OL, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Octravian Anderson (UL Lafayette, Sr., OL, Criminal Justice)
Mykhael Quave (UL Lafayette, Sr., OL, Industrial Technology)
Ryan Melton (Texas State, Jr., OL, Agriculture)
Dalton Bennett (Troy, Sr., OL, Criminal Justice)

Second Team Defense

Jay Ellison (Georgia Southern, Jr., DL, General Studies)
Quinton Bradley (Idaho, Sr., DL, Psychology)
Darzil Washington (UL Lafayette, Sr., DL, General Studies)
Tyler Roberts (Troy, Sr., DL, Accounting)
Marc Millan (Idaho, Sr., LB, Organizational Sciences)
Dominique Tovell (UL Lafayette, Sr., LB, Exercise Science)
Hunter Kissinger (UL Monroe, Gr., LB, MBA)
Rocky Hayes (Arkansas State, Sr., DB, Finance)
Matt Dobson (Georgia Southern, Sr., DB, History)
Tracy Walker (UL Lafayette, So., DB, Sports Management)
Roman Buchanan (South Alabama, Jr., DB, Exercise Science)

Second Team Special Teams

Wil Lutz (Georgia State, PK, Sr., Criminal Justice)
Luke Ferguson (Arkansas State, Sr., P, Marketing)
Derek Keaton (Georgia Southern, Sr., RS, Justice Studies)

Preseason Sun Belt Offensive Student-Athlete of the Year

Elijah McGuire (UL Lafayette, Jr., RB, General Studies)

Preseason Sun Belt Defensive Student-Athlete of the Year

David Mims II (Texas State, Sr., DB, Philosophy)

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 3

Ohio at Idaho - 8 p.m. (ESPN3)

September 4

Charlotte at Georgia State - 2:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, September 5

UL Monroe at Georgia - 11 a.m. (SEC Network)
Howard at Appalachian State - 2:30 p.m. (ESPN3/App State TV)
Troy at NC State - 5 p.m. (ESPN3)
Gardner-Webb at South Alabama - 5 p.m. (ESPN3)
UL Lafayette at Kentucky - 6 p.m. (ESPNU)
Georgia Southern at West Virginia - 6:30 p.m. (FSN/Root Sports)
New Mexico State at Florida - 6:30 p.m. (SEC Network)
Texas State at Florida State - 7 p.m. (ESPNEWS)
Arkansas State at Southern California - 10 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)

Saturday, September 12

Appalachian State at Clemson - 11:30 a.m. (ESPN3)
Western Michigan at Georgia Southern - 5 p.m. (ESPN3)
Northwestern State at UL Lafayette - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
Nicholls State at UL Monroe - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
Prairie View A&M at Texas State - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
Charleston Southern at Troy - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
Missouri at Arkansas State - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
* Georgia State at New Mexico State - 7 p.m. (ESPN3/AggieVision)
Idaho at Southern California - 7 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)
South Alabama at Nebraska - 7 p.m. (Big Ten Network)

Saturday, September 19

Georgia State at Oregon - 1 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)
Troy at Wisconsin - 2:30 p.m. (Big Ten Network)
Wofford at Idaho - 4 p.m. (ESPN3)
The Citadel at Georgia Southern - 5 p.m. (ESPN3)
Southern Mississippi at Texas State - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
Missouri State at Arkansas State - 6 p.m. (ESPN3)
UTEP at New Mexico State - 7 p.m. (ESPN3/AggieVision)
South Alabama at San Diego State - 7 p.m. (Mountain West Network)

Saturday, September 26

Appalachian State at Old Dominion - 2:30 p.m. (American Sports Network)
* Georgia Southern at Idaho - 8 p.m.
Arkansas State at Toledo - TBA
Akron at UL Lafayette - TBA
UL Monroe at Alabama - TBA
NC State at South Alabama - TBA
Texas State at Houston - TBA

Saturday, October 3

* Georgia Southern at UL Monroe - 6 p.m.
UL Lafayette at Louisiana Tech - 6 p.m. (American Sports Network)
* South Alabama at Troy - 6 p.m.
New Mexico State at New Mexico - 7 p.m. (Root Sports)
Wyoming at Appalachian State - TBA
* Idaho at Arkansas State - TBA
Liberty at Georgia State - TBA

Saturday, October 10

* Appalachian State at Georgia State - TBA
* Texas State at UL Lafayette - TBA
UL Monroe at Tulsa - TBA
New Mexico State at Ole Miss - TBA
Troy at Mississippi State - TBA

Tuesday, October 13

* Arkansas State at South Alabama - 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, October 17

* Idaho at Troy - 2:30 p.m. CT
* New Mexico State at Georgia Southern - 5 p.m.
* Appalachian State at UL Monroe - 6 p.m.
Georgia State at Ball State - TBA

Tuesday, October 20

* UL Lafayette at Arkansas State - 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Thursday, October 22

* Georgia Southern at Appalachian State - 6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, October 24

* UL Monroe at Idaho - 4 p.m.
* Troy at New Mexico State - 7 p.m.
* South Alabama at Texas State - TBA

Thursday, October 29

* Texas State at Georgia Southern - 6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, October 31

* Idaho at New Mexico State - 7 p.m.
* Troy at Appalachian State - TBA
* Georgia State at Arkansas State - TBA
* UL Monroe at UL Lafayette - TBA

Thursday, November 5

* Arkansas State at Appalachian State - 6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, November 7

* UL Monroe at Troy - 2:30 p.m.
* UL Lafayette at Georgia State - TBA
* Idaho at South Alabama - TBA
* New Mexico State at Texas State - TBA

Thursday, November 12

* UL Lafayette at South Alabama - 6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, November 14

* Arkansas State at UL Monroe - 2 p.m.
* Georgia Southern at Troy - 2:30 p.m.
* Appalachian State at Idaho - 4 p.m.
* Georgia State at Texas State - TBA

Thursday, November 19

* UL Monroe at Texas State - 8:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

Saturday, November 21

Georgia Southern at Georgia - TBA
* South Alabama at Georgia State - TBA
Idaho at Auburn - TBA
* New Mexico State at UL Lafayette - TBA

November 27

* Troy at Georgia State - TBA

Saturday, November 28

UL Monroe at Hawaii - 11 p.m. (TWC Oceanic/Mountain West Network)
* South Alabama at Georgia Southern - 1 p.m.
* Texas State at Idaho - 4 p.m.
* UL Lafayette at Appalachian State - TBA
* Arkansas State at New Mexico State - TBA

Saturday, December 5

* Georgia State at Georgia Southern - 1 p.m.
* New Mexico State at UL Monroe - 2 p.m.
* Texas State at Arkansas State - 2 p.m.
* Appalachian State at South Alabama - TBA
* Troy at UL Lafayette - TBA

* denotes Sun Belt Conference game
Schedule is subject to change

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Boone, North Carolina
Founded	1899
Enrollment	18,026
Nickname	Mountaineers
Colors	Black & Gold
Athletics Website	www.appstatesports.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple Spread
Primary Defense	3-4
All-Time Record.....	575-326-28
All-Time SBC Record	6-2
2014 Record	7-5
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	6-2 (3rd)
SBC Championships	0
Bowl Appearances	10
Bowl Record.....	4-6
Lettermen Returning.....	46
Lettermen Lost	15
Starters Returning.....	22
Starters Lost	4
Stadium.....	Kidd Brewer Stadium
Capacity.....	23,150
Playing Surface	FieldTurf
Record	225-72-5
First Game.....	Sept. 15, 1962
Largest Crowd:.....	31,531
Media Contact	Mike Flynn
Phone:	(828) 262-2845
E-mail:.....	flynnmh@appstate.edu
Facebook:.....	/AppalachianStateMountaineers
Twitter:	@appstatesports

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
SEPT. 05	HOWARD	BOONE, N.C.	2:30 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 12	at Clemson	Clemson, S.C.	11:30 a.m. (ESPN3)
Sept. 26	at Old Dominion	Norfolk, Va.	2:30 p.m. (American Sports Network)
OCT. 03	WYOMING	BOONE, N.C.	TBA
Oct. 10	* at Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
Oct. 17	* at UL Monroe	Monroe, La.	6 p.m.
OCT. 22	* GEORGIA SOUTHERN	BOONE, N.C.	6:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
OCT. 31	* TROY	BOONE, N.C.	TBA
NOV. 05	* ARKANSAS STATE	BOONE, N.C.	6:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Nov. 14	* at Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	TBA
NOV. 28	* UL LAFAYETTE	BOONE, N.C.	TBA
Dec. 05	* at South Alabama	Mobile, Ala.	TBA

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Mountaineer News and Notes

Appalachian State carries the nation's fifth-longest winning streak into Saturday's season opener versus Howard.

After winning six-straight games to close out the 2014 campaign, only Ohio State (13-straight wins), Boise State (9), TCU (8) and Memphis (7) bring longer winning streaks into the 2015 campaign than Appalachian State.

The Mountaineers return 20 offensive and defensive starters (10 offense, 10 defense) from last year's squad, which finished 7-5 overall and 6-2 (third place) in Sun Belt Conference play in their first season in the Sun Belt and NCAA Division I FBS.

Appalachian State is opening the season at home for the first time in 14 years. The Mountaineers have not opened at home since Sept. 1, 2001, when it defeated Liberty, 46-26.

Appalachian State is 47-35-3 (.571) all-time in season openers but just 3-10 in its last 13 openers, which were all played on the road.

Appalachian State is 62-20-2 (.750) all-time in home openers, including a 25-5 all-time mark when it opens the season at home.

Appalachian State and Howard are meeting for the first time in football.

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Jonesboro, Arkansas
Founded	1909
Enrollment	13,144
Nickname	Red Wolves
Colors	Scarlet & Black
Athletics Website	www.astatedredwolves.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple
Primary Defense.....	Multiple
All-Time Record.....	441-468-37
All-Time SBC Record.....	52-42
2014 Record	7-6
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	5-3 (T-4th)
SBC Championships	3
Bowl Appearances	12
Bowl Record.....	5-6-1
Lettermen Returning.....	54
Lettermen Lost	21
Starters Returning.....	14
Starters Lost	8
Stadium.....	Centennial Bank Stadium
Capacity.....	30,406
Playing Surface	ProGreen
Record	130-73-1
First Game.....	September 28, 1974
Largest Crowd:.....	31,243
Media Contact	Jerry Scott
Phone:	(870) 972-3405
E-mail:.....	jscott@astate.edu
Facebook:.....	/AStateRedWolves
Twitter:.....	@astatedredwolves

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at USC	Los Angeles, Calif.	10 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)
SEPT. 12	MISSOURI	JONESBORO, ARK.	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
SEPT. 19	MISSOURI STATE	JONESBORO, ARK.	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 26	at Toledo	Toledo, Ohio	TBA
OCT. 03	* IDAHO	JONESBORO, ARK.	TBA
Oct. 13	* at South Alabama	Mobile, Ala.	7 P.M. (ESPN2)
OCT. 20	* UL LAFAYETTE	JONESBORO, ARK.	7 P.M. (ESPN2)
OCT. 31	* GEORGIA STATE	JONESBORO, ARK.	6 P.M.
Nov. 05	* at Appalachian State	Boone, N.C.	6:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Nov. 14	* at UL Monroe	Monroe, La.	2 p.m.
Nov. 28	* at New Mexico State	Las Cruces, N.M.	TBA
DEC. 05	* TEXAS STATE	JONESBORO, ARK.	2 P.M.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Red Wolf News and Notes

A-State will begin its 2015 campaign with the same head coach (Blake Anderson) as it had the season prior for the first time since 2010 . . . The Red Wolves open the season with back-to-back games against top-25 teams (No. 8 USC, No. 23 Missouri) for the first time since 2004 when it faced then-ranked No. 17 Missouri and No. 4 LSU . . . A-State's lone victory over a top-25 program since joining the FBS in 1992 came against No. 25 Kent State in the 2013 GoDaddy Bowl . . . No. 8 USC is the highest ranked opponent Arkansas State has faced since playing at No. 5 Oregon to open the 2012 season . . . A-State has won its last two season openers, but the last time the Red Wolves won three consecutive season openers was 1979-81 . . . Out of 30 all-time A-State head coaches, Blake Anderson became just the 11th to claim a victory in his first game at the school. Larry Lacewell is the last A-State head coach win season openers in back-to-back years to start their career at the school . . . The Red Wolves have won the Sun Belt Conference three of the last four years (2011, 2012, 2013) and put together four consecutive winning seasons and bowl-game appearances. Prior to the last four seasons, the last time A-State had four consecutive winning seasons was 1984-87 when it was a member of the NCAA FCS. The last time A-State strung together five straight winning seasons was 1949-53 . . . The Red Wolves' 35 victories over the last four seasons ranks among the 30th most in the nation . . . Arkansas State was picked to finish third in the 2015 Sun Belt Conference Preseason Coaches Poll, and placed a league-high 11 players on the 2015 Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Team.

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Statesboro, Georgia
Founded	1906
Enrollment	20,517
Nickname	Eagles
Colors	Blue & White
Athletics Website	www.gseagles.com
Primary Offense.....	Spread Option
Primary Defense.....	4-3
All-Time Record.....	303-118-1
All-Time SBC Record.....	8-0
2014 Record	9-3
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	8-0 (1st)
SBC Championships	1
Bowl Appearances	0
Bowl Record.....	n/a
Lettermen Returning.....	58
Lettermen Lost	25
Starters Returning.....	13
Starters Lost	9
Stadium.....	Paulson Stadium
Capacity.....	25,000
Playing Surface .	Natural Grass (Bermuda Tift)
Record	176-33
First Game.....	Sept. 29, 1984
Largest Crowd:.....	25,725
Media Contact	TBA
Phone:	(912) 478-5448
E-mail:.....	TBA
Facebook:.....	/GSAthletics
Twitter:	@gsathletics

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at West Virginia	Morgantown, W. Va.	6:30 p.m. (FSN/Root Sports)
SEPT. 12	WESTERN MICHIGAN	STATESBORO, GA.	5 P.M. (ESPN3)
SEPT. 19	THE CITADEL	STATESBORO, GA.	5 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 26	* at Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	8 p.m.
Oct. 03	* at UL Monroe	Monroe, La.	6 p.m.
OCT. 17	* NEW MEXICO STATE	STATESBORO, GA.	5 P.M.
Oct. 22	* at Appalachian State	Boone, N.C.	6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)
OCT. 29	* TEXAS STATE	STATESBORO, GA.	6:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Nov. 14	* at Troy	Troy, Ala.	2:30 P.M.
Nov. 21	at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	TBA
NOV. 28	* SOUTH ALABAMA	STATESBORO, GA.	1 P.M.
DEC. 05	* GEORGIA STATE	STATESBORO, GA.	1 P.M.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Eagle News and Notes

This will be the first meeting between Georgia Southern University and West Virginia University.

Georgia Southern has held its own against current "Power 5" schools in recent history. Last year, the Eagles led ACC opponents Georgia Tech and NC State late on the road, but fell 42-38 and 24-23, respectively. The program's biggest moment against a "Power 5" school came in 2013 when the Eagles beat SEC power Florida 26-20 in The Swamp.

This will be the Eagles' first meeting against a current member of the Big 12 Conference. GS will travel to Athens, Georgia, later this season to take on the Georgia Bulldogs of the Southeastern Conference, as well.

With 192 years of combined full-time coaching experience, this Georgia Southern coaching staff is the most experienced in the history of the program. Head coach Willie Fritz and both his coordinators, Jack Curtis (Defense) and Doug Ruse (Offense), have more than two decades on the sidelines.

All 10 full-time coaches from last year's 9-3 squad return for 2015.

Georgia Southern posted a perfect 8-0 mark in Sun Belt Conference action last season, its first as a member of the FBS. The Eagles became just the third team - Nevada (1992) and Marshall (1997) - to win a conference title in its first year of FBS play.

GS was one of three FBS teams to go undefeated in conference play last year, joining national champion Ohio State (8-0 Big Ten) and College Football Playoff participant Florida State (8-0 ACC).

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Atlanta, Georgia
Founded	1913
Enrollment	32,000
Nickname.....	Panthers
Colors.....	Blue & White
Athletics Website .	www.georgiastatesports.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple
Primary Defense.....	3-4
All-Time Record.....	11-46
All-Time SBC Record.....	0-15
2014 Record	1-11
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	0-8 (11th)
SBC Championships	0
Bowl Appearances	0
Bowl Record.....	n/a
Lettermen Returning.....	50
Lettermen Lost	14
Starters Returning.....	19
Starters Lost	5
Stadium.....	Georgia Dome
Capacity.....	28,155 (Lower Bowl)
Playing Surface	Field Turf
Record	9-23
First Game.....	Sept. 2, 2010
Largest Crowd:.....	30,237
Media Contact	Allison George
Phone:	(404) 413-4032
E-mail:.....	ageorge@gsu.edu
Facebook:.....	/GeorgiaStateAthletics
Twitter:	@gsupanthers

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
SEPT. 4	CHARLOTTE	ATLANTA, GA.	2:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Sept. 12	* at New Mexico State	Las Cruces, N.M.	7 p.m. (ESPN3)
Sept. 19	at Oregon	Eugene, Ore.	1 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)
OCT. 03	LIBERTY	ATLANTA, GA.	TBA
OCT. 10	* APPALACHIAN STATE	ATLANTA, GA.	TBA
Oct. 17	at Ball State	Muncie, Ind.	TBA
Oct. 31	* at Arkansas State	Jonesboro, Ark.	6 p.m.
NOV. 07	* UL LAFAYETTE	ATLANTA, GA.	TBA
Nov. 14	* at Texas State	San Marcos, Texas	TBA
NOV. 21	* SOUTH ALABAMA	ATLANTA, GA.	TBA
NOV. 27	* TROY	ATLANTA, GA.	TBA
Dec. 05	* at Georgia Southern	Statesboro, Ga.	1 p.m.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Panther News and Notes

Georgia State opens the 2015 season by hosting Charlotte in a nationally-televised (ESPNU) game at the Georgia Dome on Friday at 3:30 p.m.

The Panthers return all but five starters and have added a number of impact newcomers. Headlining the Panthers are five returning All-Sun Belt Conference players, led by receiver Donovan Harden and tight end Joel Ruiz on offense and linebacker Joseph Peterson on defense. Record-setting quarterback Nick Arbuckle and talented receiver Robert Davis also return for a prolific passing attack. Arbuckle led the Sun Belt in passing yards per game (273.6) and was second in touchdown passes. Harden (60 receptions, 885 yards, 7 TDs), who will miss the opener due to injury, and Davis (50-732-2) lead a receiving corps that is the strength of the team. GSU also returns Glenn Smith, Todd Boyd and Avery Sweeting while adding transfers Nyiakki Height and Kam Myers and freshman Penny Hart. To bolster the running back position, Tyler Neal returns after a season-ending knee injury to join junior college transfers Taz Bateman and Kendrick Dorn and senior Marcus Caffey. Peterson, the Panthers' top tackler the last three years, leads a defense that looks to be much deeper with key additions on the line, at linebacker and in the secondary. Senior placekicker Wil Lutz is one of the best in the Sun Belt.

Three Panthers enter the season on watch lists for major college football awards. Tight end Joel Ruiz was tabbed to the John Mackey Watch List, wide receiver Donovan Harden earned a spot on the Biletnikoff Award Watch List, and linebacker Joseph Peterson is on the Rotary Lombardi Award Watch List. All three are also on the Preseason All-Sun Belt first team, while placekicker Wil Lutz was named to the second team.

In his first season at Georgia State, quarterback Nick Arbuckle set or tied nearly every GSU single-game, season and career passing mark. After just one season, Arbuckle is already Georgia State's career leader in passing yards, completions, touchdown passes and touchdowns responsible for. Arbuckle has 3,293 yards of total offense (rushing and passing) and needs just six yards to break that career record (3,298 by Ronnie Bell).

For the sixth time in six seasons of football, Georgia State is opening the season on a weekday at the Georgia Dome. Last year, the Panthers kicked off their seasons on Wednesday, following two Thursday openers and two Fridays. Georgia State is 3-2 in season openers, all in the Georgia Dome.



2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

IDAHO VANDALS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Moscow, Idaho
Founded	1889
Enrollment	12,493
Nickname	Vandals
Colors	Silver & Gold
Athletics Website	www.GoVandals.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple
Primary Defense.....	Multiple
All-Time Record.....	420-559-23
All-Time SBC Record.....	8-26 (2001-04; 2014-)
2014 Record	1-10
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	1-7 (T-9th)
SBC Championships	0
Bowl Appearances	2
Bowl Record.....	2-0
Lettermen Returning.....	34
Lettermen Lost	22
Starters Returning.....	13
Starters Lost	9
Stadium.....	Kibbie Dome
Capacity.....	16,000
Playing Surface	RealGrass Pro
Record	119-73-1
First Game.....	Sept. 27, 1975
Largest Crowd:.....	17,600
Media Contact	Becky Paull
Phone:	(208) 669-0411
E-Mail:	bpaul@uidaho.edu
Facebook:.....	/VandalAthletics
Twitter:.....	@idaho_vandals

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
SEPT. 03	OHIO	MOSCOW, IDAHO	8 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 12	at USC	Los Angeles, Calif.	7 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)
SEPT. 19	WOFFORD	MOSCOW, IDAHO	4 P.M. (ESPN3)
SEPT. 26	* GEORGIA SOUTHERN	MOSCOW, IDAHO	8 P.M.
Oct. 03	* at Arkansas State	Jonesboro, Ark.	TBA
Oct. 17	* at Troy	Troy, Ala.	2:30 p.m.
OCT. 24	* UL MONROE	MOSCOW, IDAHO	4 P.M.
Oct. 31	* at New Mexico State	Las Cruces, N.M.	7 p.m.
Nov. 07	* at South Alabama	Mobile, Ala.	TBA
NOV. 14	* APPALACHIAN STATE	MOSCOW, IDAHO	4 P.M.
Nov. 21	at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	TBA
NOV. 28	* TEXAS STATE	MOSCOW, IDAHO	4 P.M.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Vandal News and Notes

The Vandals will have seven team captains after, for the first time, they voted for their fall leaders. Coach Paul Petrino is excited about the seven – but as excited about the number of other players who received votes. Representing the Vandals will be seniors Quinton Bradley (defensive end, San Antonio, Texas), Dallas Sandberg (offensive lineman, Prescott Valley, Ariz.), Elijah Penny (running back, Lakewood, Calif.), and Broc Westlake (linebacker, Sparks, Nev.); juniors Tueni Lupeamanu (defensive tackle, Herriman, Utah) and Russell Siavii (safety, Wahiawa, Hawai`i), and sophomore Matt Linehan (quarterback, Orchard Lake, Mich.).

Idaho's opener is its eighth Thursday night season-starter since 1990. The most recent was in 2012 when the Vandals played Eastern Washington on Aug. 30.

Thursday's opener is Idaho's Tackle Cancer game. The Vandals will recognize the late Mark Vaught, their Assistant AD/Football Operations, who died last November from cancer at the age of 31. Idaho junior receiver will be recognized as the recipient of the first Mark Vaught Leadership Scholarship, which will be presented at halftime by Mark's widow Bailey. Idaho also will honor February signee Jace Malek as an honorary captain. The day before National Letter of Intent signing day, Malek was diagnosed with cancer. To combat the disease, his right leg was removed over the summer. He remains on scholarship at Idaho as he continues his cancer treatment. Jace continues to be involved with the football program as a student assistant.

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

UL LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Lafayette, Louisiana
Founded	1898
Enrollment	18,796
Nickname.....	Ragin' Cajuns
Colors.....	Vermilion and White
Athletics Website	www.RaginCajuns.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple
Primary Defense.....	Hybrid 4-3
All-Time Record.....	517-530-34
All-Time SBC Record.....	57-44
2014 Record	9-4
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	7-1
SBC Championships	2
Bowl Appearances	6
Bowl Record.....	5-1
Lettermen Returning.....	53
Lettermen Lost	21
Starters Returning.....	11
Starters Lost	14
Stadium.....	Cajun Field
Capacity.....	41,426
Playing Surface	Pro Grass Synthetic Turf
Record	128-100-2
First Game.....	Sept. 25, 1971
Largest Crowd:.....	41,357
Media Contact	Matt Sullivan
Phone:	(337) 482-6331
E-Mail:.....	matt.sullivan@louisiana.edu
Facebook:.....	/RaginCajunAthletics
Twitter:	@ULRaginCajuns or @RaginCajunsFB

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	6 p.m. (ESPNU)
SEPT. 12	NORTHWESTERN STATE	LAFAYETTE, LA.	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
SEPT. 26	AKRON	LAFAYETTE, LA.	TBA
Oct. 03	at Louisiana Tech	Ruston, La.	6 p.m. (American Sports Network)
OCT. 10	* TEXAS STATE	LAFAYETTE, LA.	TBA
Oct. 20	* at Arkansas State	Jonesboro, Ark.	7 p.m. (ESPN2)
OCT. 31	* UL MONROE	LAFAYETTE, LA.	TBA
Nov. 07	* at Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
Nov. 12	* at South Alabama	Mobile, Ala.	6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)
NOV. 21	* NEW MEXICO STATE	LAFAYETTE, LA.	TBA
Nov. 28	* at Appalachian State	Boone, N.C.	TBA
DEC. 05	* TROY	LAFAYETTE, LA.	TBA

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Ragin' Cajun News and Notes

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns football team will kick off its 114th season of intercollegiate football on Saturday (Sept. 5) when it travels to Lexington, Ky., to face Southeastern Conference member Kentucky at newly refurbished Commonwealth Stadium.

Kickoff is scheduled for 6:02 CDT. The game will be aired nationally on ESPNU with Anish Shroff (play-by-play) and Ahmad Brooks (color) providing the commentary. The season-opener can also be heard on the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Radio Network with Jay Walker (play-by-play), former Ragin' Cajuns letterwinner Richie Falgout (color) and Travis Webb (sideline) calling the action.

Entering its fifth season under head coach Mark Hudspeth, UL Lafayette looks to build off a fourth consecutive 9-4 record that was culminated by a victory in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. The Ragin' Cajuns, one of only five schools in the country with a four-game win streak in bowl games, return 52 letterwinners and 13 starters.

A pair of juniors - Brooks Haack and Jalen Nixon - will look replace three-year starter Terrance Broadway at quarterback with junior Elijah McGuire set to replace former Cajun Alonzo Harris at running back. UL Lafayette's passing game will be aided by the return of wide receiver Jamal Robinson, who was limited to four games last season due to injury, while returning letterwinner Al Riles and Gabe Fuselier will look to build off a solid 2014 campaign.

A new defensive staff, led by veteran SEC coaches Melvin Smith (defensive coordinator) and Charlie Harbison (co-defensive coordinator) will look to mold a unit that returns five starters from last season, including preseason All-Sun Belt Conference linebacker Dominique Tovell and All-Sun Belt Freshman member Tracy Walker.

A pair of true freshmen - kicker Stevie Artigue and punter Steven Coutts - will look to replace departed seniors Hunter Stover and Daniel Cadona as the Ragin' Cajuns specialists with Fuselier, McGuire and newcomer Jeryl Brazil expected to see the majority of time as return specialists.

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

UL MONROE WARHAWKS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Monroe, Louisiana
Founded	1931
Enrollment	8,517
Nickname.....	Warhawks
Colors.....	Maroon & Gold
Athletics Website	www.ulmwarhawks.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple
Primary Defense.....	3-3-5
All-Time Record.....	294-386-8
All-Time SBC Record.....	49-52
2014 Record	4-8
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	3-5 (T-7th)
SBC Championships	1
Bowl Appearances	4
Bowl Record.....	2-2
Lettermen Returning.....	32
Lettermen Lost	21
Starters Returning.....	17
Starters Lost	9
Stadium.....	JPS Field at Malone Stadium
Capacity.....	30,427
Playing Surface	FieldTurf Revolution
Record	118-72-1
First Game.....	Sept. 16, 1978
Largest Crowd.....	31,175
Media Contact	Alex Edwards
Phone:	(318) 342-5463
E-mail:.....	edwards@ulm.edu
Facebook:.....	/Warhawks
Twitter:	@ulmwarhawks

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	11 a.m. (SEC Network)
SEPT. 12	NICHOLLS STATE	MONROE, LA.	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 26	at Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	TBA
OCT. 03	* GEORGIA SOUTHERN	MONROE, LA.	6 P.M.
Oct. 10	at Tulsa	Tulsa, Okla.	TBA
OCT. 17	* APPALACHIAN STATE	MONROE, LA.	6 P.M.
Oct. 24	* at Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	4 p.m.
Oct. 31	* at UL Lafayette	Lafayette, La.	TBA
Nov. 07	* at Troy	Troy, Ala.	2:30 p.m.
NOV. 14	* ARKANSAS STATE	MONROE, LA.	2 P.M.
Nov. 19	* at Texas State	San Marcos, Texas	8:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Nov. 28	at Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	11 p.m. (TWC Oceanic/MWN)
DEC. 05	* NEW MEXICO STATE	MONROE, LA.	2 P.M.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Warhawk News and Notes

ULM opens its 85th season of football as the Warhawks travel to Athens, Ga., to battle Georgia at Noon (ET) on Saturday, September 5, 2015.

ULM's trip to Georgia marks the second-straight game for the Warhawks in the Peach State. ULM wrapped up the 2014 season with a Sun Belt Conference game at Georgia Southern.

ULM is 3-1 in games played on September 5th (W, 38-8, Indiana State, 1981; W, 38-10, at Nicholls State, 1992; W, 44-14, Nicholls State, 1998; L, 20-59, at No. 2 Texas, 2009).

ULM is 3-6 all-time against teams from the state of Georgia (1-0 vs. Georgia State; 2-3 vs. Georgia Southern; 0-3 vs. Georgia).

ULM and Georgia have met three times on the gridiron, with the most recent meeting taking place on September 17, 2005.

Saturday's road contest at Georgia marks the first time since the 2012 season that the Warhawks open their season against an SEC Opponent (vs. No. 8 Arkansas, W, 34-31, OT, Little Rock, Ark., September 8).

During the FBS-era (1994-pres.), ULM has opened the season against the SEC a total of six times (at Ole Miss, 2002; at No. 14 LSU, 2003; at No. 17 Auburn, 2004; at No. 10 Auburn, 2008; vs. No. 14 Arkansas (Little Rock), 2010; vs. No. 8 Arkansas (Little Rock), 2012).

Saturday's contest at Georgia marks the first time the Warhawks have opened the season against a team from the SEC East. The Warhawks have played a total of four teams in the SEC East (Kentucky, five times; Georgia, three times; Florida, twice; Tennessee, once).

During the FBS-era, the Warhawks have opened the season on the road a total of 12 times, most recently in 2013 (at No. 16 Oklahoma, August 30).

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Founded	1888
Enrollment	16,428
Nickname	Aggies
Colors	Crimson & White
Athletics Website	www.nmstatesports.com
Primary Offense.....	Spread
Primary Defense	4-3
All-Time Record.....	419-609-30
All-Time SBC Record	16-18 (2001-04; 2014-)
2014 Record	2-10
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	1-7 (T-10th)
SBC Championships	0
Bowl Appearances	3
Bowl Record.....	2-0-1
Lettermen Returning.....	48
Lettermen Lost	21
Starters Returning.....	22
Starters Lost	7
Stadium.....	Aggie Memorial
Capacity.....	30,343
Playing Surface	Field Turf
Record	69-129
First Game.....	Sept. 16, 1978
Largest Crowd:.....	32,993
Media Contact	Cari Gold
Phone:	(575) 646-3269
E-mail:.....	gold@nmsu.edu
Facebook:.....	/NMSUAthletics
Twitter:	@nmstateaggies

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	6:30 p.m. (SEC Network)
SEPT. 12	* GEORGIA STATE	LAS CRUCES, N.M.	7 P.M. (AGGIEVISION/ESPN3)
SEPT.19	UTEP	LAS CRUCES, N.M.	7 P.M. (AGGIEVISION/ESPN3)
Oct. 03	at New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	7 P.M. (Root Sports)
Oct. 10	at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.	TBA
Oct. 17	* at Georgia Southern	Statesboro, Ga.	5 p.m.
OCT. 24	* TROY	LAS CRUCES, N.M.	7 P.M.
OCT. 31	* IDAHO	LAS CRUCES, N.M.	7 P.M.
Nov. 07	* at Texas State	San Marcos, Texas	TBA
Nov. 21	* at UL Lafayette	Lafayette, La.	TBA
NOV. 28	* ARKANSAS STATE	LAS CRUCES, N.M.	TBA
Dec. 05	* at UL Monroe	Monroe, La.	2 p.m.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Aggie News and Notes

The NM State football team opens the 2015 season on Saturday as they take on the Florida Gators in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at 5:30 p.m. (MT) in a nationally-televised game on the SEC Network. Brent Musburger, Jesse Palmer and Maria Taylor will be on the call for the SEC Network.

The game, which will also be broadcast on AM570 in Las Cruces, marks the second time the Aggies and the Gators have met on the gridiron. The two teams first squared off in Gainesville on Sept. 3, 1994 when the Gators captured a 70-21 victory.

In 2014, junior quarterback Tyler Rogers had a career-high 2,779 passing yards on 436 attempts to rank sixth in NM State's all-time individual single season high passing yardage. Rogers will lead the Aggies again this season.

Also returning on offense is sophomore running back Larry Rose III, who rushed for 1,102 yards in 2014. With this, Rose III became the first 1,000-yard rusher for NM State since 2011 and the first true freshman to accomplish the feat since 1995.

Despite NM State's youth, the Aggies have 22 starters returning with nine on offense, 10 on defense and three on special teams. Four of the starting offensive linemen will return to block for Rogers.

Defensively, the Aggies are one of three schools in the nation to have at least three starting linebackers returning for the 2015 season. Rodney Butler, Derek Ibekwe and Dalton Herrington led the team in 2014 as they amassed 119 tackles, 102 tackles and 85 tackles, respectively.

NM State will open the season on the road for the first time since 2013 when they met Texas in Austin. This is just the second time the Aggies have opened the season on the road since 2008.

NM State begins the season with two of its first three games at home. Following the contest in Gainesville, the Aggies will host Georgia State in the Stuff the Stadium campaign on Sept. 12. They will then host the Battle of I-10 rivalry game against the UTEP Miners on Sept. 19.

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

SOUTH ALABAMA (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Mobile, Ala.
Founded	1963
Enrollment	16,055
Nickname	Jaguars
Colors	Blue, Red and White
Athletics Website	www.usajaguars.com
Primary Offense.....	Multiple Spread
Primary Defense	4-2-5
All-Time Record	37-28
All-Time SBC Record	10-13
2014 Record	6-7
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	5-3 (T-4th)
SBC Championships	0
Bowl Appearances	1
Bowl Record	0-1
Lettermen Returning	40
Lettermen Lost	28
Starters Returning	7
Starters Lost	17
Stadium.....	Ladd-Peebles Stadium
Capacity	33,471
Playing Surface	FieldTurf
Record	25-7
First Game.....	Sept. 5, 2009
Largest Crowd:.....	26,783
Media Contact	Brian Fremund
Phone:	(251) 414-8032
E-mail:.....	bremund@southalabama.edu
Facebook:.....	/USAJaguarSports
Twitter:	@USAJaguarSports

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
SEPT. 05	GARDNER WEBB	MOBILE, ALA.	5 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 12	at Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	7 p.m. (Big Ten Network)
Sept. 19	at San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	7 p.m. (Mountain West Network)
SEPT. 26	NC STATE	MOBILE, ALA.	TBA
Oct. 03	* at Troy	Troy, Ala.	6 p.m.
OCT. 13	* ARKANSAS STATE	MOBILE, ALA.	7 P.M. (ESPN2)
Oct. 24	* at Texas State	San Marcos, Texas	TBA
NOV. 07	* IDAHO	MOBILE, ALA.	TBA
NOV. 12	* UL LAFAYETTE	MOBILE, ALA.	6:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Nov. 21	* at Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
Nov. 28	* at Georgia Southern	Statesboro, Ga.	1 p.m.
DEC. 05	* APPALACHIAN STATE	MOBILE, ALA.	TBA

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Jaguar News and Notes

Coming of its first-ever bowl appearance — the fastest an NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision program has earned an invitation — South Alabama begins the 2015 campaign with just seven starters back from that team. The Jaguars are tied with Central Michigan at 126th among 128 NCAA FBS teams with seven starters returning from a year ago, with the two trailing just Texas-San Antonio (six). ... The Jags will be looking to end a three-game losing streak, which is tied for the third-longest in the program's first six seasons of competition; their last win was a 24-20 decision over Texas State on Nov. 15 in last fall's Sun Belt Conference finale. ... USA dropped both non-conference home contests a season ago, with their last win at Ladd-Peebles Stadium — a 38-21 Homecoming defeat of Kent State — coming on Oct. 19, 2013. ... The Jaguars are 4-2 all-time on opening day, with all but one of those contests played in Mobile. Last year, USA started the season with a 23-13 win at Kent State for their first victory to begin the campaign since 2011. ... Both of the Jaguars' returning starters on the offensive line — senior Chris May and junior Joseph Scelfo — were preseason first-team all-conference selections as voted on by the league's head coaches and selected members of the media last month. Both were named to the Rotary Lombardi Watch List over the summer, with the latter also among the candidates for the Rimington Trophy as well. May enters the season having started the last 32 contests, the longest active streak on the team. ... Junior PK Aleem Sunanon, also a preseason first-team all-SBC honoree, comes into 2015 as the active career leader in the Sun Belt with 33 field goals, a total that is already the highest in USA history. He needs just two extra points to set the school record in a second statistical category, beginning the campaign only 14 points behind Kendall Houston on the program's career scoring list as well. ... No Jag on the defensive side of the ball has received as many preseason accolades as junior Roman Buchanan, who has been named second-team all-conference from the league's coaches and media as well as two other publications. The only player on the roster with a triple-figure tackle total coming into the year — he has accumulated 109 in his first two seasons on the collegiate level — the safety already stands sixth on the school's all-time list with 10 passes defended. ... USA brings back just three starters on offense, but the unit will be aided by the addition of several transfers from UAB prior to the start of the spring semester. The Jaguars are projected to have five former Blazers start in the opener, including seniors Cody Clements (QB), D.J. Vinson (WR) and Cameron Blankenship (OL). ... WR Danny Woodson II enters his final season on the collegiate level having amassed 56 catches for 821 yards, both totals that rank sixth on USA's career record list, as well as eight touchdowns receiving, the fourth-highest total in school history. Last time out at the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl Woodson II set career highs with six catches for 122 yards, while in the regular-season finale the wideout caught five balls against Navy.



2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

TEXAS STATE BOBCATS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	San Marcos, Texas
Founded	1899
Enrollment	36,790
Nickname	Bobcats
Colors	Maroon & Gold
Athletics Website	www.txstatebobcats.com
Primary Offense.....	Spread
Primary Defense.....	Multiple
All-Time Record.....	508-428-26
All-Time SBC Record.....	7-8
2014 Record	7-5
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	5-3 (T-4th)
SBC Championships	0
Bowl Appearances	1
Bowl Record.....	0-1
Lettermen Returning.....	45
Lettermen Lost	26
Starters Returning.....	12
Starters Lost	11
Stadium.....	Bobcat Stadium
Capacity.....	30,000
Playing Surface	FieldTurf Duraspine Pro
Record	117-83
First Game.....	Sept. 5, 1981
Largest Crowd.....	33,006
Media Contact	Rick Poulter
Phone:	(512) 245-2966
E-mail:.....	rpoulter@txstate.edu
Facebook:.....	/TXStateBobcats
Twitter:	@TxStateBobcats

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at Florida State	Tallahassee, Fla.	7 p.m. (ESPNNews)
SEPT. 12	PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	SAN MARCOS, TEXAS	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
SEPT. 19	SOUTHERN MISS	SAN MARCOS, TEXAS	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 26	at Houston	Houston, Texas	TBA
Oct. 10	* at UL Lafayette	Lafayette, La.	TBA
OCT. 24	* SOUTH ALABAMA	SAN MARCOS, TEXAS	TBA
Oct. 29	* at Georgia Southern	Statesboro, Ga.	6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)
NOV. 07	* NEW MEXICO STATE	SAN MARCOS, TEXAS	TBA
NOV. 14	* GEORGIA STATE	SAN MARCOS, TEXAS	TBA
NOV. 19	* UL MONROE	SAN MARCOS, TEXAS	8:30 P.M. (ESPNU)
Nov. 28	* at Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	4 p.m.
Dec. 05	* at Arkansas State	Jonesboro, Ark.	2 p.m.

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Bobcat News and Notes

Texas State enters its 108th season of playing intercollegiate football in 2015 with an all-time record of 503-421-26.

The Bobcats began playing football in 1904 when they posted a 5-1 record. Texas State did not play football in 1942, 1945 and 1946. The Bobcats have won 13 conference championships during their history.

The Bobcats enter the Florida State game looking to win their 60th season-opening game. Texas State owns a 59-32-2 record in season-openers dating back to the 1919 season after winning their last three season-opening contests at Houston (30-13 in 2012), Southern Miss (22-15 in 2013) and against Arkansas-Pine Bluff (65-0 in 2014). The three wins give Texas State eight wins in their last 10 season-opening games. The school's longest winning streak in season openers is seven games in 1962-68 and 1978-84. The Bobcats are 5-1 in season-opening games under Dennis Franchione.

Texas State posted a 4-2 record in 2014 road games to mark the first time since 2008 that the Bobcats won four road contests in a season. Three of the wins came against Sun Belt Conference games, marking the third time the Bobcats won three conference road games in the last 31 years.

Texas State plays a nationally-ranked FBS opponent in a season opener for the first time in school history when the Bobcats travel to Florida State (No. 8-coaches/No. 10-AP). The Seminoles are the highest ranked FBS team that Texas State has ever played. The last time the Bobcats played against a nationally-ranked opponent was Sept. 21, 2013 against No. 25-ranked Texas Tech. The Bobcats also played No. 18-ranked Louisiana Tech on Nov. 10, 2012 when both schools were in the WAC and at No.15-ranked TCU on Sept. 19, 2009.

After recording a 7-5 record in 2014, Texas State enters 2015 looking for its second straight winning season in the NCAA Division I ranks. If the Bobcats win seven or more games in 2015, it would mark just the third time since 1984 that the Bobcats have had two winning seasons. The only other two times came in 1990 and 1991 when Dennis Franchione was serving a head coach for the third time and in 2008 and 2009.

2015 SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

TROY TROJANS (0-0, 0-0 SBC)



Quick Facts

Location.....	Troy, Alabama
Founded	1887
Enrollment	20,000
Nickname	Trojans
Colors	Cardinal, Silver & Black
Athletics Website	www.troytrojans.com
Primary Offense.....	Spread
Primary Defense	4-2-5
All-Time Record.....	504-388-28
All-Time SBC Record.....	52-30
2014 Record	3-9
2014 SBC Record (Finish)	3-5 (T-7th)
SBC Championships	5
Bowl Appearances	5
Bowl Record.....	2-3
Lettermen Returning.....	54
Lettermen Lost	28
Starters Returning.....	14
Starters Lost	16
Stadium.....	Veterans Memorial Stadium
Capacity.....	30,000
Playing Surface	Surface ProGrass
Record	205-84-3
First Game.....	September 16, 1950
Largest Crowd.....	29,013
Media Contact	Adam Prendergast
Phone:	(334) 670-3832
E-mail:.....	adamp@troy.edu
Facebook:.....	/TroyAthletics
Twitter:	@troyathletics

2015 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)
Sept. 05	at NC State	Raleigh, N.C.	5 p.m. (ESPN3)
SEPT. 12	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	TROY, ALA.	6 P.M. (ESPN3)
Sept. 19	at Wisconsin	Madison, Wisc.	2:30 p.m. (Big Ten Network)
OCT. 03	* SOUTH ALABAMA	TROY, ALA.	6 P.M.
Oct. 10	at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	TBA
OCT. 17	* IDAHO	TROY, ALA.	2:30 P.M.
Oct. 24	* at New Mexico State	Las Cruces, N.M.	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	* at Appalachian State	Boone, N.C.	TBA
NOV. 07	* UL MONROE	TROY, ALA.	2:30 P.M.
NOV. 14	* GEORGIA SOUTHERN	TROY, ALA.	2:30 P.M.
Nov. 27	* at Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
Dec. 05	* at UL Lafayette	Lafayette, La.	TBA

All times central and subject to change; Home games in **BOLD CAPS**; * denotes Sun Belt game

Trojan News and Notes

Troy opens its first season under head coach Neal Brown, who is the 21st head coach in school history ... Neal Brown is the second-youngest head coach at the FBS level. Brown turned 35 on March 11; only Western Michigan's P.J. Fleck is younger (turns 35 on Nov. 29) ... The Trojans are 53-17 at home since moving to the FBS level in 2001 ... True freshman Deontae Crumitie is expected to start at right guard for the Trojans, he will be the first true freshman to start a season opener on the offensive line in Troy's recorded history ... Defensive coordinator Vic Koenning has coached six defenses (one at Troy and five at Clemson) that ranked in the top 20 in the country in total defense; his two North Carolina defense's ranked in the top 12 in tackles for loss ... Troy has appeared in five bowls games in its NCAA history, which is tied for the most by a Sun Belt team ... Troy has the highest all-time winning percentage in Sun Belt games in league history; 52-30, .634. Middle Tennessee is second (.575) and UL Lafayette is third (.559) (among schools that have been in the league for multiple seasons) ... Troy averaged 326.7 yards per game on the ground in its three victories last season, but managed to gain just 110.4 yards per game on the ground in its nine losses ... Troy adopted the motto #RebuildTheWall this season. The saying is crafted from Greek mythology and the Iliad. The city of Troy had a mighty wall that surrounded the city before it was eventually destroyed thanks to the Trojan Horse — Troy Football build a wall around the Sun Belt with five straight conference titles (2006-10) and are now looking to #RebuildTheWall under Neal Brown ... Sophomore quarterback Brandon Silvers returns after breaking the NCAA record for completion percentage by a freshman. Silvers completed 70.5 percent of his passes to break Sam Bradford's mark of 69.5 percent ... 5 - Combined career starts by Troy's linebackers entering the season, which is the third-lowest total in the country ... 8 - Current Trojans who have already received their undergraduate degree ... 9 - Active players in NFL rosters, which is the second most in the Sun Belt Conference ... 10 - Freshmen listed on Troy's offensive and defensive depth chart heading into the opener at NC State; eight of the 10 are true freshmen ... 21 - Teams, including Troy, that have averaged at least 400 yards of total offense in six of the past eight seasons ... 21 - Neal Brown is the 21st head coach in Troy football history; new coaches are 9-7-4 in their debuts ... 43 - Percent of the games that Neal Brown led offenses have scored at least 35 points (38-of-88) ... 52 - Sun Belt victories for Troy since joining the league in 2004; Troy reached 50 SBC wins in just 76 games, which was the fastest in league history (MTSU, 87; ASU, 90) ... 88 - Games coached by Neal Brown as an offensive coordinator at Troy, Texas Tech and Kentucky; Brown's offenses have never been shutout in that span ... 133 - Consecutive pass attempts by the Trojans over five-plus games without an interception thrown. Troy had a streak of 176 attempts with an interception earlier in the 2014 season.