CONFERENCE USA
BETTING PREVIEW *by Adam Burke*

 # OF TIMES SELECTED BY VSIN EXPERTS TO WIN CONFERENCE

16

College football season is nearly upon us, so it is time to take a dive into Conference USA, which has become the FCS transition league over the last couple of years. Jacksonville State and Sam Houston joined the league last year and Kennesaw State joined this year to make 134 FBS teams (Delaware is waiting for next year to make 135), as the conference lost several members from a few years ago to the AAC and Sun Belt.

Conference champion Liberty returns as the heavy favorite to repeat with Jacksonville State and Western Kentucky in the mix, followed by a slew of pretty bad teams who all are rated two touchdowns below FBS average, according to the T Shoe Index. New Mexico State and UTEP are breaking in new offensive-minded head coaches in Tony Sanchez and Scotty Walden, respectively, while Middle Tennessee went the defensive route with former Vanderbilt head coach Derek Mason.

Conference players to keep an eye out for are Liberty QB Kaidon Salter, transfer QB TJ Finley of Western Kentucky, RB Quinton Cooley of Liberty (whom EA Sports deemed a top 100 player in America), and DE Maurice Westmoreland of UTEP. Top transfers this year include Auburn WR transfer Omari Kelly (Middle Tennessee), Arizona State safety Josiah Cox (New Mexico State) and Alabama State WR Kisean Johnson (Western Kentucky).

The two biggest questions facing this conference this year are 1. Can anyone truly challenge Liberty for the conference title? 2. Can Liberty remain unscathed through a weak schedule to claim a College Football Playoff spot?

2024 PROJECTED STANDINGS *(BASED ON STEVE MAKINEN RATINGS)*

TEAM	2024 SM PR	HOME FIELD ADV.	ROAD FIELD ADV.	SCHEDULE STRENGTH (RANK)	ALL GAMES PRJW'S	PRJL'S	CONFERENCE PRJW'S	PRJL'S	DRAFTKINGS O/U
LIBERTY	46.0	3.3	0.5	27.35 (133)	10.5	1.5	7.2	0.8	10.5
JACKSONVILLE ST	37.5	2.2	0.6	30.87 (116)	8.1	3.9	5.8	2.2	8
W KENTUCKY	36.0	2.6	0.1	33.03 (100)	7.1	4.9	5.4	2.6	7
MIDDLE TENN ST	28.0	2.9	0.0	32.29 (110)	5.1	6.9	3.8	4.2	5
SAM HOUSTON ST	27.0	2.8	0.3	32.6 (108)	4.5	7.5	3.7	4.3	4.5
NEW MEXICO ST	26.5	2.2	0.3	32.29 (113)	4.7	7.3	3.2	4.8	4.5
LOUISIANA TECH	23.5	2.9	-0.5	30.58 (120)	4.3	7.7	3.2	4.8	5
FLA INTERNATIONAL	23.5	1.9	-0.5	30.23 (122)	4.3	7.7	3.1	4.9	4.5
UTEP	22.5	2.4	-0.1	33.34 (95)	3.6	8.4	2.9	5.1	4
KENNESAW ST	17.5	2.2	-0.2	32.5 (111)	2.1	9.9	1.5	6.5	2.5

FIU
PANTHERS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 5-7 ATS
Head Coach: Mike MacIntyre (3rd)

The FIU Panthers are gearing up for an important 2024 football season under head coach Mike MacIntyre. After a rebuilding 2023 campaign, the question surrounding the Panthers is whether last season was an outlier or if they are trending upward as a program.

OFFENSE
Sophomore QB Keyone Jenkins is set to lead the Panthers' offense. Jenkins showed promise last season with 2,400 yards through the air and he did have six rushing touchdowns, although he was credited with 117 carries for just 50 yards. Jenkins was sacked 37 times, a byproduct of holding the ball too long and having a lackluster offensive line.

The running game will be spearheaded by Shomari Lawrence, a junior transfer known for his agility and speed. He had 4.5 yards per carry last season and Kejon Owens, a redshirt junior, had 5.7. The receiving corps is led by Eric Rivers, but the loss of Kris Mitchell is enormous. He had 1,118 yards, a 17.5 average, and seven of the team's 12 receiving scores.

DEFENSE
FIU finished last season with just 17 sacks, as they failed to generate negative plays. They also only had six interceptions. They did allow fewer than six yards per play for the first time since 2020 and actually ranked in the top 25 in red-zone TD% against.

MacIntyre attacked the transfer portal in hopes of finding some edge rushers and this will be a mash-up of returnees and newcomers for DC Jovan Dewitt in his third season with the program. For a team that was outscored by an average of nearly 12 points per game, a lot of work has to be done here.

OUTLOOK
I would understand any enthusiasm Panthers' fans have after last season's better-than-anticipated performance, but TSI is not as optimistic, projecting just 3.9 wins and rating them last in the conference with the eighth-rated offense and ninth-rated defense.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at INDIANA	22	42.5
9/7	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	3.5	29
9/14	at FLORIDA ATLANTIC	14.5	34.5
9/21	MONMOUTH NJ	-4.5	21
9/28	LOUISIANA TECH	-2.5	23.5
10/8	at LIBERTY	26.5	46
10/16	at UTEP	2	22.5
10/22	SAM HOUSTON	2	27
10/29	NEW MEXICO STATE	1.5	26.5
11/16	at JACKSONVILLE STATE	16.5	37.5
11/23	at KENNESAW STATE	-3.5	17.5
11/30	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	2.5	28

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **32.07** #122 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.9/0.5** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 8 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	20.6	104	33.6	115
YARDS PER POINT	15.6	91	13.2	95
PLAYS PER GAME	68.4	71		
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:43	119		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	28.7%	130	40.5%	81
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	320.9	102	443.4	120
YARDS PER PLAY	4.7	111	6.1	107
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.4	100		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	97.3	120	194.5	124
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3	124	4.8	107
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.1	62		
COMPLETION %	58.1%	84	63.8%	103
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	223.6	65	248.8	99
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7	77	7.9	100
TURNOVERS	1.6	93	1	112

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
100-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

JACKSONVILLE STATE
GAMECOCKS

2023 Record: 9-4 SU & 9-4 ATS
Head Coach: Rich Rodriguez (3rd)

The Gamecocks are gearing up for an exciting 2024 football season under the experienced leadership of head coach Rich Rodriguez. Following a successful 9-4 record in 2023, the Gamecocks are looking to take a step forward and be a contender in Conference USA.

OFFENSE

Senior Logan Smothers will be the driving force behind the Gamecocks' offense. Smothers, known for his dual-threat capability, passed for 2,300 yards and 20 touchdowns while rushing for 600 yards and eight touchdowns last season. His ability to make plays both through the air and on the ground will be crucial for Jacksonville State's success.

Junior Anwar Lewis and senior Malik Jackson lead the backfield. Lewis had a breakout year with 900 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns, while Jackson added 600 yards and five touchdowns. This tandem provides a balanced and potent rushing attack that can wear down defenses. The receiving corps is spearheaded by redshirt senior Brannon Spector and junior Jarod Bowie. Spector led the team with 700 receiving yards and six touchdowns, while Bowie added 500 yards and four touchdowns. The ability to stretch the field will be key for the Gamecocks' offensive potency.

DEFENSE

Senior Chris Hardie and junior Larry Worth are pivotal to the Gamecocks' defensive scheme. Hardie led the team with 85 tackles and five sacks, while Worth contributed 70 tackles and three sacks. Their leadership and playmaking ability will anchor the defense.

The defensive front is fortified by senior Jaylen Swain and junior Ricky Samuel. Swain recorded seven sacks and 12 tackles for loss, demonstrating his prowess in disrupting the backfield. Samuel adds strength and depth, contributing significantly to the pass rush and run defense. The secondary features senior cornerback Marco Baker and junior safety Fred Perry. Together, they aim to improve the team's ability to prevent big plays, which hurt them a season ago.

OUTLOOK

The 2024 season will be interesting to see if the Gamecocks can take the next step after a surprisingly positive year 1 in FBS. The T Shoe Index projects the Gamecocks second in the conference, with the fourth-best offense and best defense in the conference, amounting to 8.4 wins.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	COASTAL CAROLINA	-6	33.5
9/7	at LOUISVILLE	19.5	54.5
9/14	at EASTERN MICHIGAN	-11	25.5
9/21	SOUTHERN MISS	-10.5	29.5
10/4	at KENNESAW STATE	-18.5	17.5
10/9	NEW MEXICO STATE	-13	26.5
10/23	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	-11.5	28
10/30	at LIBERTY	11	46
11/9	at LOUISIANA TECH	-11.5	23.5
11/16	FIU	-16.5	23.5
11/23	SAM HOUSTON	-12.5	27
11/30	at WESTERN KENTUCKY	0.5	36

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **32.70** #116 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.2/0.6** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 9
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	28.6	55	22.7	31
YARDS PER POINT	14.4	69	16.1	26
PLAYS PER GAME	78	4		
TIME OF POSSESSION	26:23	129		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	36.6%	83	33.9%	27
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	411.3	38	365.2	47
YARDS PER PLAY	5.3	77	4.7	13
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	49.3	2		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	236.7	3	113.5	18
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.8	27	2.8	4
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.5	101		
COMPLETION %	51.2%	126	58.6%	34
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	174.7	115	251.7	102
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.4	104	7.3	65
TURNOVERS	1.6	86	1.8	21

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+550

MAKE PLAYOFF
60-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

KENNESAW STATE

OWLS

2023 Record: 3-6 SU & 2-3-1 ATS
Head Coach: Brian Bohannon (9th)

The Kennesaw State Owls are poised for a program-changing 2024 football season as they transition from FCS to FBS and join Conference USA in hopes of having the same early success as Jacksonville State had last year in year one of FBS membership.

OFFENSE
The Owls may have a bit of a QB conundrum at the start. Jonathan Murphy racked up nearly 1,600 total yards and 15 touchdowns last season, but Davis Bryson will be pushing for opportunities. He was just 2-of-11 last season and Murphy got the bulk of the work, but the jump to FBS could be significant.

Murphy was second in net rushing yards to Michael Benefield, who is among the returning starters on offense for Kennesaw State. Benefield had 6.3 yards per carry, but only had 87 carries, as the Owls were limited to nine games. They did have 22 rushing touchdowns against nine for the opposition and were +1.6 in yards per carry differential.

DEFENSE
Garland Benyard, a senior, and Evan Thompson, a junior, are pivotal to the defense. Benyard led the team with 90 tackles and four sacks last season, while Thompson added 75 tackles and three sacks, providing strength and leadership.

Kennesaw State actually had 10 interceptions last year and four players had two or more. Not everybody has come along for the FBS ride, but the defense was very effective last season against a pretty weak schedule. Even though Conference USA isn't very good, this is still a step up in class and reading into last year's data points doesn't say much for 2024.

OUTLOOK
As Kennesaw State transitions to the FBS level, the 2024 season is filled with anticipation, and TSI projects 3.5 wins in year one, projecting them ninth in Conference USA with the worst offense and eighth-rated defense.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 2.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at UTSA	29	43
9/7	LOUISIANA	19.5	39
9/14	at SAN JOSE STATE	19	34
9/28	TENN-MARTIN	5	24.5
10/4	JACKSONVILLE STATE	18.5	37.5
10/15	at MIDDLE TENNESSEE	13.5	28
10/23	LIBERTY	27	46
10/30	at WESTERN KENTUCKY	21.5	36
11/9	at UTEP	7.5	22.5
11/16	SAM HOUSTON	7.5	27
11/23	FIU	3.5	23.5
11/30	at LOUISIANA TECH	9	23.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.25** #111 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.2/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **16**
OFFENSIVE: 7
DEFENSIVE: 9

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME				
YARDS PER POINT				
PLAYS PER GAME				
TIME OF POSSESSION				
3RD DOWN CONV. %				
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME				
YARDS PER PLAY				
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME				
RUSH YARDS PER GAME				
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT				
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME				
COMPLETION %				
PASSING YARDS PER GAME				
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT				
TURNOVERS				

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
NA

MAKE PLAYOFF
NA

CFP CHAMPION
NA

LIBERTY
FLAMES

2023 Record: 13-1 SU & 9-5 ATS
Head Coach: Jamey Chadwell (3rd)

The Flames are gearing up for the 2024 football season with high expectations under head coach Jamey Chadwell. Coming off a remarkable 2023 season where they posted an undefeated 13-0 record and clinched the C-USA Championship, the Flames are looking to build on their success as they prepare for another year in the conference.

OFFENSE
Junior Kaidon Salter returns as the dynamic leader of the Flames' offense. Salter's impressive 2023 campaign included 2,876 passing yards, 32 touchdowns, and 1,089 rushing yards, breaking the school record for rushing yards by a quarterback. He was named the HERO Sports G5 National Player of the Year and earned several other accolades for his outstanding performance.

The Flames actually had two 1,000-yard rushers. Salter was one, but RB Quinton Cooley was an absolute stud with 1,401 yards and 16 rushing touchdowns. He's back in the mix this season and Chadwell may lean more on the run with 1,000-yard receiver CJ Daniels at LSU.

DEFENSE
The defense will be anchored by senior Jahmar Brown and junior Maurice Freeman III now that leading tackler Tyren Dupree is gone. Brown, a transfer, brings experience and leadership, plus he's familiar with Chadwell as a transfer from Coastal Carolina.

Seniors Jay Hardy and Rod Daniels will lead the defensive line unit. The secondary is highlighted by junior Eldric Griffin and senior Domnick Hill, with sophomore Dexter Ricks Jr. also expected to contribute significantly. Liberty was susceptible to the pass last season, but also led comfortably in a lot of games. They were 119th in passing yards allowed per game, but still finished in the top 50 in scoring defense.

OUTLOOK
The Flames are poised for another strong season in 2024, driven by a balanced and explosive offense led by Salter and a robust defense with experienced leaders. Liberty's schedule is ranked near the bottom of FBS, so as long as they navigate that, they should be in contention for a CFP spot. The T Shoe Index projects Liberty atop the conference, with the top offense and second-best defense, getting the Flames to 10 wins this season.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 10.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	CAMPBELL	-35.5	14
9/7	at NEW MEXICO STATE	-18	26.5
9/14	UTEP	-27	22.5
9/21	EAST CAROLINA	-14.5	34.5
9/28	at APPALACHIAN STATE	2.5	46
10/8	FIU	-26.5	23.5
10/23	at KENNESAW STATE	-27	17.5
10/30	JACKSONVILLE STATE	-11	37.5
11/9	at MIDDLE TENNESSEE	-15.5	28
11/16	at MASSACHUSETTS	-21.5	23
11/23	WESTERN KENTUCKY	-13	36
11/29	at SAM HOUSTON	-16.5	27

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **29.18** #133 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.3/0.5** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 6 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	38.3	6	24.3	50
YARDS PER POINT	13	27	15.4	40
PLAYS PER GAME	70.1	47		
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:04	6		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	49.4%	5	38.0%	52
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	499.1	4	372.8	56
YARDS PER PLAY	7.1	3	5.6	69
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	47.9	4		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	293.3	1	118	22
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	6.1	2	4.1	53
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	21.6	129		
COMPLETION %	58.8%	81	59.0%	38
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	205.9	89	254.8	107
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9.5	4	7	50
TURNOVERS	1.3	52	1.8	19

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
-200

MAKE PLAYOFF
+470

CFP CHAMPION
500-1

LOUISIANA TECH
BULLDOGS

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 3-9 ATS
Head Coach: Sonny Cumbie (3rd)

The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs are set for an intriguing 2024 season under head coach Sonny Cumbie. Building on a challenging 3-9 record from 2023, the Bulldogs have made significant roster adjustments and are looking to turn things around in 2024.

OFFENSE
Cumbie's offense is heavily reliant on the QB and Jack Turner, a redshirt junior transfer, is slated to lead the Bulldogs' high-powered Air Raid offense. He took over for Hank Bachmeier last season and posted a 5/5 TD/INT ratio with a 57.1% completion rate. There is a lot of room for improvement here, but that may be hard to come by.

Leading receivers Smoke Harris and Cyrus Allen are both gone, leaving Tru Edwards as the top returnee with 284 yards. Donerio Davenport transferred in from Texas State and he'll have the first crack at replacing Tyre Shelton, who has also moved on. Cumbie's offense has gotten a huge facelift this season.

DEFENSE
The defensive unit is light on returnees and returning production as well. In total, Louisiana Tech only has five returning starters. This was a good defense statistically against the pass, but teams rushed for over 230 yards per game against them, so they didn't really need to throw the football.

New DC Jeremiah Johnson has a blank slate here after the defense only had eight takeaways last season. He'll have to replace standout corner Willie Roberts, but Michael Richard was second in pass breakups and will be the de facto leader in the secondary.

OUTLOOK
Last season was not kind to the Bulldogs, and 2024 doesn't seem much more promising based on early T Shoe Index projections, which have Tech just eighth in Conference USA with the third-best offense, but the worst projected defense in the league. TSI expects around five wins for the Bulldogs.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	NICHOLLS STATE	-6	20.5
9/14	at NC STATE	31.5	51.5
9/21	TULSA	3.5	29.5
9/28	at FIU	2.5	23.5
10/10	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	1.5	28
10/15	at NEW MEXICO STATE	5.5	26.5
10/22	UTEP	-4	22.5
10/29	at SAM HOUSTON	7	27
11/9	JACKSONVILLE STATE	11.5	37.5
11/16	at WESTERN KENTUCKY	15.5	36
11/23	at ARKANSAS	25.5	46.5
11/30	KENNESAW STATE	-9	17.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **32.42** #120 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.9/0.5** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	23.6	86	34.5	118
YARDS PER POINT	16	103	12.4	117
PLAYS PER GAME	69.5	56		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:53	68		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	30.3%	121	41.0%	89
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	377.4	71	426.7	112
YARDS PER PLAY	5.4	68	6.2	116
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	31	106		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	102.8	117	237.2	132
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.3	115	5.7	132
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.5	20		
COMPLETION %	64.1%	31	55.5%	11
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	274.5	26	189.5	18
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.5	52	7.2	59
TURNOVERS	1.5	72	0.5	130

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
25-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
BLUE RAIDERS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 4-8 ATS
Head Coach: Derek Mason (1st)

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders are preparing for the 2024 season under new head coach Derek Mason, aiming to improve upon their 4-8 record from last year. Former head coach Rick Stockstill had been with the team since 2006, so this truly is a new era in Murfreesboro.

OFFENSE
Redshirt junior Nicholas Vattiato is expected to lead the Blue Raiders' offense. Vattiato showed promise last season, passing for 1,620 yards and 10 touchdowns. His growth and consistency will be essential for the team's success in 2024.

Redshirt senior Frank Peasant returns as the leading rusher after accumulating 700 rushing yards and five touchdowns last season. Some really good wide receivers have come through this program, including Richie James and Ty Lee, but the Blue Raiders are lacking standouts. The leading receiver last year was TE Holden Willis and he'll be called upon a lot again, though Auburn transfer Omari Kelly is an interesting prospect.

DEFENSE
Mason went to the XFL to get his defensive coordinator, as Brian Stewart will inherit a mostly blank slate on that side of the ball. The Blue Raiders only have two starters back on defense. He's been a DC for the majority of the last 15 years and has a lot to replace thanks to the transfer portal.

Of course, as the wheel spins in college football, talent comes in and talent goes out and Stewart has some promising guys and maybe more talent than last year's group had. The Blue Raiders allowed under 5.5 yards per play and actually did pretty well against the run. It was everything else that they struggled with, especially third-down defense, where opponents were at 45%.

OUTLOOK
Middle Tennessee has the potential to make significant strides in the 2024 season. Their schedule includes challenging non-conference games against Ole Miss and Memphis, and key conference matchups such as Western Kentucky and Liberty. The T Shoe Index projects the Raiders fourth in the conference, with the fifth-best offense and seventh-best defense, getting the Blue Raiders to 5.3 wins.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	TENNESSEE TECH	-23.5	8
9/7	at OLE MISS	35	60.5
9/14	WESTERN KENTUCKY	5	36
9/21	DUKE	11	42.5
9/28	at MEMPHIS	21	46
10/10	at LOUISIANA TECH	-1.5	23.5
10/15	KENNESAW STATE	-13.5	17.5
10/23	at JACKSONVILLE STATE	11.5	37.5
11/2	at UTEP	-3	22.5
11/9	LIBERTY	15.5	46
11/23	NEW MEXICO STATE	-4	26.5
11/30	at FIU	-2.5	23.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.38** #110 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.9/0** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 7

OFFENSIVE: 4 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 3

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	23.3	88	29.4	83
YARDS PER POINT	16.3	108	13.5	87
PLAYS PER GAME	72.2	33		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:55	90		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	39.4%	57	45.2%	115
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	380.5	66	395.1	75
YARDS PER PLAY	5.3	78	5.3	53
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.5	99		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	116.7	104	140.5	43
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.6	104	3.9	39
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.7	17		
COMPLETION %	66.1%	19	61.7%	85
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	263.7	37	254.5	106
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.2	66	7.1	51
TURNOVERS	1.8	113	1.2	96

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
30-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 5

NEW MEXICO STATE

AGGIES

2023 Record: 10-5 SU & 11-4 ATS
Head Coach: Tony Sanchez (1st)

Under new head coach Tony Sanchez, the Aggies will try to follow up a successful 2023 campaign with a 10-5 record and a victory in the C-USA Championship Game. They'll do so without former head coach Jerry Kill, who stepped down due to his health. He took the program to some new heights and Sanchez, who was pretty much a massive failure at UNLV, comes in with a little bit of pressure.

The Aggies only made one bowl game under Doug Martin and zero under DeWayne Walker and Hal Mumme. Kill was 17-11 over two seasons. Martin won 25 games in nine seasons. There are goals within this program now and Sanchez has to find a way to meet them.

OFFENSE
Arguably the biggest loss in this conference is Diego Pavia. Not only did he lead the team with 2.973 yards passing, but he also led the team by nearly 300 rushing yards with 928. In total, he accounted for 33 touchdowns. The Aggies were fifth in the nation in rushing yards. That was some unheard of offensive production in Las Cruces.

But, now, Pavia is at Vanderbilt. Kentucky transfer Deuce Hogan seems to be in line to get the first crack, though UTEP transfer Jake McNamara is in the running as well. Apparently most of the roster wasn't on board with Sanchez, as a mass exodus of transfers took place in the spring, including the top remaining rushers and receivers. The offensive line stuck together, but the skill guys said "Deuces" to Las Cruces.

DEFENSE
The losses are heavy on the defensive side as well. This was actually a top-50 defense by a lot of metrics last year, but leading tackler Keyshaun Elliott is now at Arizona State. Only three returning starters are back and this was another part of the team hit hard by the post-spring transfer portal.

All-name team member Buddha Peleti was tied for the team lead in sacks with 4.5 and he stuck around to see if the vision from Sanchez and DC Joe Morris is worth the risk. This defense looks ripe for some massive steps back, not only because of lost talent, but also because the offense is going to crater as well.

OUTLOOK
It will be tough to replicate what Kill accomplished at New Mexico State, and losing Diego Pavia to Vanderbilt is a huge loss at quarterback. I'd expect a step back this year for the Aggies, as TSI projects them seventh in the conference, with a top-seven offense and top-five defense. However, the win total projection is 4.7 for the Aggies, just above the current DraftKings line by virtue of the schedule.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	SE MISSOURI STATE	-12	16.5
9/7	LIBERTY	18	46
9/14	at FRESNO STATE	19	43.5
9/21	at SAM HOUSTON	3	27
9/28	NEW MEXICO	-4	25.5
10/9	at JACKSONVILLE STATE	13	37.5
10/15	LOUISIANA TECH	-5.5	23.5
10/29	at FIU	-1.5	23.5
11/9	WESTERN KENTUCKY	7.5	36
11/16	at TEXAS A&M	34.5	58.5
11/23	at MIDDLE TENNESSEE	4	28
11/30	UTEP	-6.5	22.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.04** #113 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.2/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **8**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 3

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	25.3	69	22.9	38
YARDS PER POINT	15.7	93	17.6	11
PLAYS PER GAME	62.5	127		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:23	31		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.9%	40	36.2%	38
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	395.9	49	402.9	84
YARDS PER PLAY	6.3	16	6.1	104
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.4	78		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	194	16	151.9	58
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.6	4	4.6	91
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.5	111		
COMPLETION %	58.8%	80	64.7%	110
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	201.9	91	251.1	101
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.6	50	7.9	96
TURNOVERS	1.1	23	0.9	118

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
50-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 4.5

SAM HOUSTON
BEARKATS

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: K.C. Keeler (11th)

The Bearkats are ready for an impactful 2024 football season under the seasoned leadership of head coach K.C. Keeler. Following a transitional 2023 season, the Bearkats are hoping to make significant strides in Conference USA with a mix of returning talent and key newcomers in Year 2 of FBS membership.

This was a team that seemed to adjust to life as an FBS member rather well. After starting the season with eight straight losses, the Bearkats won three of their final four games to go into the offseason with a little bit of momentum.

OFFENSE
Grant Gunnell, a graduate transfer, brings a wealth of experience from previous stints at Arizona, Memphis, and North Texas. He couldn't beat out incumbent Keegan Shoemaker last season, but got a feel for the offense with 22 pass attempts. Competing for snaps is Jase Bauer, a redshirt junior from Central Michigan known for his dual-threat capabilities, providing depth at the quarterback position.

The backfield features John Gentry, a junior transfer who showcased his versatility with 600 all-purpose yards last season. Unfortunately, Gentry also only had 3.3 yards per carry, as the Bearkats saw a leader with 391 yards and had just 2.9 yards per carry. Only five teams had fewer rushing yards. The receiving corps is led by Noah Smith, a redshirt senior who emerged as a reliable target with 783 receiving yards and six touchdowns in 2023.

DEFENSE
Better offense would help the defense. SHSU had 4.58 yards per play last season to rank 127th. They played at a very slow pace and actually finished +4 in turnover margin, but the defense was simply lacking negative plays. The Bearkats had 17 sacks for just 93 yards. They only had 55 tackles for loss.

On the whole, the Bearkats were weak in the trenches. That isn't something that changes overnight with the transition from FCS to FBS and depth is always a concern for those teams that now have more scholarships and resources available.

OUTLOOK
The 2024 season could be a turning point for Sam Houston State. With Gunnell's seasoned arm leading the offense, supported by a deep backfield and a dynamic receiving corps, the Bearkats have the potential to take a step forward offensively, which is what held them back in most close games last year. The T Shoe Index projects Sam Houston in the middle of the pack in Conference USA, with the second-to-worst offense and the third-best defense. TSI indicated that the 'Kats should be between 4 and 5 wins (4.6), right in line with the DraftKings odds.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at RICE	13.5	38.5
9/7	at UCF	24.5	49
9/14	HAWAII	1.5	31.5
9/21	NEW MEXICO STATE	-3	26.5
9/28	vs TEXAS STATE	14	41.5
10/3	at UTEP	-2.5	22.5
10/16	WESTERN KENTUCKY	6.5	36
10/22	at FIU	-2	23.5
10/29	LOUISIANA TECH	-7	23.5
11/16	at KENNESAW STATE	-7.5	17.5
11/23	at JACKSONVILLE STATE	12.5	37.5
11/29	LIBERTY	16.5	46

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.68** #108 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.8/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **12**
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	19.6	111	26.6	61
YARDS PER POINT	15.7	94	15.2	44
PLAYS PER GAME	68.2	74		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:08	85		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	33.5%	107	37.0%	44
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	308.3	116	403.9	87
YARDS PER PLAY	4.5	122	5.7	85
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.4	118		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	87.5	126	155.4	65
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3	126	4.2	63
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37.3	14		
COMPLETION %	61.5%	60	64.9%	112
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	220.8	68	248.5	96
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	5.9	124	7.8	92
TURNOVERS	1.2	40	1.7	23

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
28-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
130-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

UTEP
MINERS

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: Scotty Walden (1st)

Dana Dimel was handed a carabiner from Dollar Tree and a partially torn rope to try and climb out of the hole that the UTEP football program has been in for a long time. Former Austin Peay head coach Scotty Walden is now the guy staring up looking for a solution, but maybe the fresh-faced 34-year-old has some out-of-the-box thinking to bring to the table.

Dimel did lead the Miners to a bowl game in 2021 — their first bowl appearance since 2014 and just their fifth since 2000. They haven't won a bowl game since 1967. So, this is a good spot for Walden to get his feet wet because, frankly, it's hard for things to really get any worse.

OFFENSE
Walden very much gets a clean slate here. He has a QB in Cade McConnell if he wants to use him and keep him atop the depth chart. McConnell had a 6/4 TD/INT ratio and threw for 1,437 yards last season. But, he is the only true returning starter on the roster. Honestly, Walden may go with the guy he knows in Skylar Locklear, who was his QB for the Governors last season.

Kam Thomas will be getting the ball in as many ways as possible, but the 5-foot-7 spark plug may have a hard time with all the abuse. As bad as things were on offense last season, and they were bad for the 119th-ranked scoring offense, the Miners did muster a 1,000-yard receiver in Kelly Akharaiyi. Unfortunately, he's gone and so are the top two leading rushers.

DEFENSE
Not surprisingly, Walden brought his DC with him in J.J. Clark and nearly all of his defensive coaching staff. The Miners have some Austin Peay transfers to work with here, which is good because there are only three returning starters from UTEP's defense. Sadly, leading tackler Tyrice Knight is not among them, as he took 140 stops to the NFL in hopes of making it with the Seahawks.

Leading sack man Maurice Westmoreland is a good starting point with 7.5 sacks and corner AJ Odums led the team with eight pass breakups. If the Austin Peay guys are legit, this could be a decent defense. The Miners were good against the pass last year, but were also one of six teams to give up more than 200 rushing yards per game.

OUTLOOK
TSI projects just 4.9 wins for the Miners, projecting them sixth in the conference with the sixth-best offense and fourth-best defense. A five-win debut for Walden should actually be considered a win given the exodus of talent and the lack of it to begin with. The betting market is clearly very low on this team and the continuity between the coaching staff and Austin Peay transfers might help the overachieve.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 4

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at NEBRASKA	27	47.5
9/7	S UTAH	1.5	26.5
9/14	at LIBERTY	27	46
9/21	at COLORADO STATE	14.5	35
10/3	SAM HOUSTON	2.5	27
10/10	at WESTERN KENTUCKY	16	36
10/16	FIU	-2	23.5
10/22	at LOUISIANA TECH	4	23.5
11/2	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	3	28
11/9	KENNESAW STATE	-7.5	17.5
11/23	at TENNESSEE	38	57.5
11/30	at NEW MEXICO STATE	6.5	26.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH
35.18
#95 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS
2.4/0.1
(HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **9**
OFFENSIVE: 4 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	19.2	115	29.8	92
YARDS PER POINT	18.6	127	13.2	94
PLAYS PER GAME	67.5	81		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:03	42		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	30.5%	120	42.9%	102
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	356.5	83	393.9	73
YARDS PER PLAY	5.3	76	5.9	95
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.1	65		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	127.5	96	214.7	128
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.5	108	5.6	130
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	28.8	89		
COMPLETION %	53.0%	120	56.4%	15
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	228.9	60	179.2	10
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.9	37	7	47
TURNOVERS	1.6	93	1	112

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
60-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

WESTERN KENTUCKY
HILLTOPPERS

2023 Record: 8-5 SU & 6-7 ATS
Head Coach: Tyson Helton (6th)

The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers are preparing for a competitive 2024 season under head coach Tyson Helton. Building on their 8-5 record from 2023, which included a 6-2 conference record and a New Orleans Bowl victory over South Alabama, the Hilltoppers aim to leverage their returning talent and key additions to make a strong push in Conference USA.

We know that they're going to throw and throw a lot, which is why it was critically important to replace Austin Reed. Reed actually dropped off dramatically from 2022 to 2023, but this is a team that threw the ball almost 200 more times than they ran it.

OFFENSE
Enter T.J. Finley, who had a monster season for Texas State last year. The one-time Auburn QB spearheaded a resurgent Bobcats offense with 3,439 passing yards and 24 touchdowns. Now he'll test out the endurance of his arm in Helton's West Coast Air Raid Chuck-It-Everywhere offense. Sadly, Finley will do it without WKU star Malachi Corley, who will be catching passes in the NFL.

But, this offense creates opportunities for wideouts and somebody will emerge. What is interesting this season is that Helton upgraded his offensive line coach with Troy's Joe Bernardi, who became available when he wasn't invited to join the party at Tulane. Elijah Young could be the benefactor after leading the team with 474 yards this past season.

DEFENSE
Defensively, the Hilltoppers took a huge step back last season. They finished 86th in yards per play with 5.81 after finishing in the top 50 last season. Tyson Summers does have four returning starters to work with, but that is a deceiving number. The leading tackler last season for WKU had just 54 tackles. There were eight players with at least 40 and five more with 30.

This was a team that battled injuries, but also one that rotated a ton of guys in with the hopes of staying fresh. That may have hurt continuity, though, as the Hilltoppers gave up 190 yards per game on the ground and had just 25 sacks. That said, they also had 15 interceptions, led by returnee Anthony Johnson Jr. with four.

OUTLOOK
The Hilltoppers have trended down in the TSI ratings each of the last two years, so they will look to get back to the high-flying, conference-dominant team they've been in the past. TSI projects them second in the league with the second-best offense and sixth-best defense, but just short of their season win total Over/Under with 6.7 wins.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 7

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at ALABAMA	32	65
9/7	E KENTUCKY	-15.5	23
9/14	at MIDDLE TENNESSEE	-5	28
9/21	TOLEDO	-1.5	37
9/28	at BOSTON COLLEGE	8.5	42.5
10/10	UTEP	-16	22.5
10/16	at SAM HOUSTON	-6.5	27
10/30	KENNESAW STATE	-21.5	17.5
11/9	at NEW MEXICO STATE	-7.5	26.5
11/16	LOUISIANA TECH	-15.5	23.5
11/23	at LIBERTY	13	46
11/30	JACKSONVILLE STATE	-0.5	37.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **34.86** #100 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.6/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 13
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	28.7	54	29.3	81
YARDS PER POINT	13.9	53	14.5	60
PLAYS PER GAME	70.3	46		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:28	77		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	43.4%	28	38.3%	58
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	399.2	46	424.3	108
YARDS PER PLAY	5.7	52	5.7	76
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.6	127		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	106.5	113	193.2	123
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.9	89	4.9	109
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	41.7	6		
COMPLETION %	62.0%	52	58.1%	29
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	292.7	16	231.1	69
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7	72	6.9	42
TURNOVERS	1.9	123	1.9	8

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+450

MAKE PLAYOFF
50-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

INDEConEPENDENTS
BETTING PREVIEW *by Adam Burke*

The number of independent teams continues to dwindle. In 2022, there were seven independent teams, but BYU (Big 12), Liberty (C-USA), and New Mexico St. (C-USA) all joined conferences in 2023. Army joins the American Athletic Conference in 2024, filling the void left by SMU. UMass will head to the MAC in 2025, leaving just a pair of independent teams after this season.

Notre Dame continues its life as an independent and recently renewed its television deal with NBC. Will the Irish ever join a conference? Notre Dame Athletic Director Pete Bevacqua told ESPN "...I think our position as being independent in football quite frankly is certainly more unique than ever, but also more valuable than ever." There could come a day when Notre Dame's hand is forced to join a conference but, as of now, the Irish have a clear path to the College Football Playoff this year. The schedule is quite favorable and if the Irish beat Texas A&M in Week 1, they will become an overwhelming favorite to reach the CFP (Notre Dame is currently -165 to make the CFP).

UConn basketball won another national championship this spring, but the football program will have slightly less lofty goals. If Jim Mora's squad reaches a bowl game for the second time in three years, that should be looked at as a massive accomplishment.

UMass joining the MAC next year should be helpful for the football program. Coming off its best season since 2018, the Minutemen play five MAC teams and three SEC teams this year. UMass will host nationally ranked Missouri on Oct. 12, but don't expect UMass to be very competitive when the reigning Cotton Bowl champs come to Amherst. If the Minutemen can upset a couple of their future conference foes this season, they could eclipse last year's win total.

2024 PROJECTED STANDINGS *(BASED ON STEVE MAKINEN RATINGS)*

TEAM	2024 SM PR	HOME FIELD ADV.	ROAD FIELD ADV.	SCHEDULE STRENGTH (RANK)	ALL GAMES PRJW'S	PRJL'S	CONFERENCE PRJW'S	PRJL'S	DRAFTKINGS O/U
NOTRE DAME	61.5	2.8	0.6	43.42 (59)	10.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	10
CONNECTICUT	27.0	2.5	-0.1	31.77 (126)	4.7	7.3	0.0	0.0	4.5
MASSACHUSETTS	23.0	1.9	-0.4	33.97 (106)	3.7	8.3	0.0	0.0	3.5

CONNECTICUT
HUSKIES

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: Jim L. Mora (3rd)

After a surprising run to a bowl game in 2022, UConn came back down to Earth with a 3-9 record in 2023. Jim Mora is entering his third year as the head coach of the Huskies and will have a pair of new coordinators on his staff. OC Nick Charlton left for the Cleveland Browns after one season, but Mora stayed in-house promoting OL coach and run game coordinator Gordon Sammis.

After calling the defensive plays the previous two seasons, Mora hired Matt Brock as DC. Brock spent the past four years on the Mississippi State staff and was promoted to DC prior to the 2023 season. UConn faced three ranked teams last year, but is unlikely to face any in 2024. Mora has a 9-16 record at UConn, but is 15-10 ATS with three wins as a double-digit underdog.

OFFENSE
Like most teams outside the top conferences, UConn was hit hard by the transfer portal. Starting QB Ta'Quan Roberson transferred to Kansas State, and TE Justin Joly and WR Cam Ross also transferred, taking over 1,100 total yards with them. Additionally, RG Christian Haynes was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks and C Yakiri Walker transferred.

The Huskies do return their top two rushers, Cam Edwards and Victor Rosa. Edwards and Rosa combined to rush for 1,168 yards and seven touchdowns last season. Joe Fagnano is expected to be the starting quarterback in 2024. Fagnano transferred to UConn from FCS Maine in 2023 and won the starting job out of camp last year, but only played two games before getting sidelined due to injury. The Huskies added a handful of wide receivers from the portal including TJ Sheffield (Purdue), Skyler Bell (Wisconsin), and Jasaiah Gathings (Akron). Gathings led the Zips in receiving yards and was All-MAC second team last year.

DEFENSE
In his first season not calling defensive plays, Mora hit a home run in his defensive coordinator hire. Brock has nine years of Power Five coaching experience.

The Huskies will have to replace LB and leading tackler Jackson Mitchell. Mitchell, who signed as an undrafted free agent with the Panthers, led UConn with 113 tackles. According to SP+, the Huskies return 58% of their defensive production from last season. DE Pryce Yates led UConn with 4.5 sacks last year and returns this year. The secondary returns three starters. In all, with an easier schedule, the defense could improve with eight starters returning and a number of additions from the transfer portal.

OUTLOOK
The Huskies offense lost a lot of production from last year, but returned both starting running backs and Mora was busy in the portal to add more targets for Fagnano. The schedule softens up quite a bit from last year and includes a stretch of six straight home games. The addition of Brock to pair with a defensive-minded head coach should lead to success. The regular season finale at UMass could determine if the Huskies go Over their win total.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at MARYLAND	22.5	47
9/7	MERRIMACK	-21.5	7.5
9/14	at DUKE	17.5	42.5
9/21	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	4.5	34.5
9/28	BUFFALO	-5.5	24
10/5	TEMPLE	-10.5	20
10/19	WAKE FOREST	10.5	40
10/26	RICE	9	38.5
11/1	GEORGIA STATE	2.5	31.5
11/9	at UAB	9.5	34
11/23	at SYRACUSE	20	44.5
11/30	at MASSACHUSETTS	-2	23

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **31.77** #126 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.5/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	18	120	32.3	106
YARDS PER POINT	17.8	122	13.2	98
PLAYS PER GAME	65.2	103		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:09	39		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.6%	101	44.4%	113
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	319.6	104	425.3	111
YARDS PER PLAY	4.9	98	6.2	114
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.7	98		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	130.3	94	156.2	68
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4	85	4.4	79
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	31.5	66		
COMPLETION %	56.9%	98	67.9%	127
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	189.4	99	269.1	123
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6	118	8.4	120
TURNOVERS	1.5	80	1.2	96

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
NA

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
10000-1

MASSACHUSETTS
MINUTEMEN

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 5-7 ATS
Head Coach: Don Brown (3rd)

Veteran coach Don Brown is entering his third season back in Amherst as the UMass head coach. Brown served as the Minutemen's head coach from 2004-08 before departing to serve as a DC at numerous Power Five programs.

UMass won three games last year, which was their most in a season since 2018. This will be the Minutemen's final season as an independent before they head to the MAC in 2025. The schedule will include five games against MAC teams as well as three games against SEC foes including a trip to Georgia on Nov. 23.

OFFENSE
QB Taisun Phommachanh returns for his second season at UMass. The former four-star recruit started his college career at Clemson (2019-21) before playing one year at Georgia Tech (2022). Phommachanh played in nine games last year and rushed for a career-high 96 yards in the 41-30 upset over New Mexico State in Week 0 last year. Phommachanh did not practice during the spring as he rehabbed a knee injury.

The best player from last year, RB Kay'Ron Lynch-Adams, transferred after rushing for 1,157 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. Additionally, UMass lost second-leading rusher Greg Desrosiers and second-leading receiver George Johnson. The offensive line has to replace three starters from last year. Leading WR Anthony Simpson returns after hauling in 57 receptions for 792 yards and three touchdowns and UMass was busy in the portal bringing in two Power Five receivers. According to SP+, UMass returns just 54% offensive production from last year, which is 91st nationally.

DEFENSE
Prior to his return to UMass, Don Brown spent over a decade at various stops including Michigan. Last year, however, the defense had a tough time slowing down its opposition allowing 37.8 PPG (130th nationally).

Leading tackler LB Nahji Logan transferred to Indiana and DT Billy Wooden (6.5 sacks) graduated. The Minutemen added DE Etinosa Reeuben (Clemson/Ga Tech) and DE Jaylen Hudson (Wake Forest) from the portal to help bolster the defensive line. The secondary returns three starters and added depth via the portal, including CB Ryan Barnes (Notre Dame). Additionally, UMass added a pair of Dartmouth transfers that could start, LB Macklin Ayers and S Leonard St Gourdin. Both Ayers and Gourdin earned postseason Ivy League honors last year.

OUTLOOK
Don Brown led UMass to an appearance in the FCS championship game back in 2006, but his second tenure with the Minutemen has been more challenging now that they are in the FBS ranks. They'll host a pair of FCS opponents this year, likely the only two games where the Minutemen are favored. Last year, UMass won a pair of games as a touchdown (or more) underdog and they will need to do that again to surpass their win total. With three SEC opponents on the schedule as well as C-USA favorite Liberty, it will be a challenge for UMass to get to four wins.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 3.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1	25.5
9/7	at TOLEDO	17.5	37
9/14	at BUFFALO	4.5	24
9/21	C CONN STATE	-30.5	-5.5
9/28	at MIAMI OH	21.5	41
10/5	at NORTHERN ILLINOIS	12.5	33.5
10/12	MISSOURI	34.5	59.5
10/26	WAGNER	-30.5	-5
11/2	at MISSISSIPPI STATE	24.5	44.5
11/16	LIBERTY	21.5	46
11/23	at GEORGIA	53.5	73.5
11/30	CONNECTICUT	2	27

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.97** #106 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.9/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **11**
OFFENSIVE: 5 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	22.5	94	39.4	132
YARDS PER POINT	15.9	98	11.3	131
PLAYS PER GAME	64.2	115		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:26	81		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	36.0%	90	46.6%	123
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	356	84	445.3	121
YARDS PER PLAY	5.5	60	6.9	133
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.1	104		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	131.9	91	232.3	131
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.1	74	5.9	133
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.8	77		
COMPLETION %	61.9%	55	58.3%	30
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	224.1	64	213	41
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.5	53	9	130
TURNOVERS	1.5	80	1.5	56

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
NA

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
10000-1

NOTRE DAME
FIGHTING IRISH

2023 Record: 10-3 SU & 9-3-1 ATS
Head Coach: Marcus Freeman (3rd)

Expectations are high in South Bend as Marcus Freeman enters his third year as the head coach of the Irish. Coming off a 10-3 season in 2024, Notre Dame is expected to have one of the top defenses in the country.

Offensively, the Irish brought in Duke QB Riley Leonard via the transfer portal and hired offensive coordinator Mike Denbrock away from LSU. With the College Football Playoff expanded to 12 teams, it would be a disappointing season if Marcus Freeman's squad does not reach the CFP.

OFFENSE
The biggest offseason move by Notre Dame was not bringing Leonard; it was hiring Denbrock. This is his third stint in South Bend (2002-04 & 2010-16) after leading LSU to the No. 1 scoring offense in the country in 2023, as QB Jayden Daniels won the Heisman Trophy. Denbrock was a finalist for the Broyles Award last year, given to the nation's top assistant coach.

Leonard dealt with an ankle injury last season at Duke and missed most of spring as well. However, he is expected to be fully healthy at the start of training camp. Leonard's best season came in 2022 when he had 31 touchdowns as a true dual-threat QB.

The Irish lost RB Audric Estime to the NFL, but there is excitement in South Bend over the duo of Jadarian Price and Jeremiyah Love. The receivers were underwhelming in 2023, so the Irish added three pieces in the portal this offseason — Kris Mitchell, Beaux Collins, and Jayden Harrison, who combined for 130 catches and over 2,000 yards for their respective teams. TE Mitchell Evans was emerging as one of the nation's best before tearing his ACL. The biggest concern this season is the offensive line. Joe Alt and Blake Fisher went to the NFL, so the tackles could be a weakness, but the interior of the line is expected to be solid.

DEFENSE
Veteran coach Al Golden enters his third season as the DC of Notre Dame and this should be his best unit yet. On the defensive line, the Irish will be led by tackles Howard Cross and Rylie Mills, along with Duke transfer RJ Oben. Of the three defensive units, the linebackers have the most concerns. The Irish lost JD Bertrand and Marist Liufau to the NFL, but LB Jack Kiser is back.

The secondary has a chance to be one of the best units in the country. Benjamin Morrison was a Freshman All-American in 2022 and had a team-high 10 PBU in 2023. Xavier Watts led the nation with seven interceptions and won the Bronco Nagurski Award last year. Jordan Clark, son of former NFL DB Ryan Clark, transferred in and is expected to be the starting nickelback.

OUTLOOK
Notre Dame has gone "all-in" this season. Both of Freeman's coordinators are among the highest paid in the sport, the roster is littered with veteran players, and the schedule is very manageable. The Irish open the season at Texas A&M and that could be the only time this season when they are not the favorite. After a Week 3 visit to Purdue, the Irish will not play another true road game until their season finale at USC on Nov. 30.

In Marcus Freeman's first season, Notre Dame lost to Marshall (+20) and Stanford (+16). Last year, the Irish were 9-3-1 ATS, but did lose a pair of road games as the favorite (Louisville & Clemson). If Notre Dame can avoid multiple bad losses, they are more likely to win 11 games than nine in 2024.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 10

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at TEXAS A&M	-0.5	58.5
9/7	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	-30.5	33.5
9/14	at PURDUE	-19	41
9/21	MIAMI OH	-23	41
9/28	LOUISVILLE	-10	54.5
10/12	STANFORD	-25	39.5
10/19	vs GEORGIA TECH	-16	46
10/26	vs NAVY	-30	31.5
11/9	FLORIDA STATE	-3.5	60.5
11/16	VIRGINIA	-24.5	40
11/23	vs ARMY	-30	32
11/30	at USC	-4.5	55.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **43.42** #59 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.8/0.6** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 9

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	37.8	8	17	9
YARDS PER POINT	11.2	3	16.9	15
PLAYS PER GAME	63.4	119		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:10	61		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.5%	44	34.9%	33
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	421.8	29	288	7
YARDS PER PLAY	6.7	10	4.4	6
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.3	74		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	182.8	28	123.2	27
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.2	15	3.7	28
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.8	109		
COMPLETION %	63.2%	37	53.4%	3
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	239.1	54	164.8	3
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.9	14	5.7	3
TURNOVERS	1.3	60	1.8	11

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
NA

MAKE PLAYOFF
-170

CFP CHAMPION
25-1

MID-AMERICAN
BETTING PREVIEW *by Adam Burke*

Most college football conferences will be undergoing a fair number of transformations this year, but the MAC is not one of them. In fact, the conference will add a program next season, as the UMass Minutemen become the 13th member. The only change in the conference from last season is a new coach in Buffalo as former Ball State coach Pete Lembo takes over the Bulls program in place of Maurice Linguist, who left to take a co-defensive coordinator position at Alabama.

Another thing that unfortunately stays the same in the MAC is that its member football programs continue to get picked apart in the transfer portal. Ohio QB Kurtis Rourke is now at Indiana and Toledo QB Dequan Finn is heading to Baylor.

One change that is in effect is that for the first time since 1996, there will be no East and West divisions in the MAC.

Miami (Ohio) is the conference favorite after winning the conference title last season and senior QB Brett Gabbert is coming back healthy. Toledo, who lost to the RedHawks in that title game, only brings back eight starters but the Rockets usually are one of the more talented groups in the conference.

Behind the two conference championship game participants lurk Northern Illinois, widely regarded as the most physical team in the conference, Western Michigan, Bowling Green, and Ohio.

Eastern Michigan, Central Michigan, and Ball State will be fighting for bowl eligibility while Akron, Buffalo, and Kent State are still early in the process of big-time rebuilding projects.

OF TIMES SELECTED BY VSIN EXPERTS TO WIN CONFERENCE

TOLEDO 10

M 6

2024 PROJECTED STANDINGS *(BASED ON STEVE MAKINEN RATINGS)*

TEAM	2024 SM PR	HOME FIELD ADV.	ROAD FIELD ADV.	SCHEDULE STRENGTH (RANK)	ALL GAMES PRJW'S	ALL GAMES PRJL'S	CONFERENCE PRJW'S	CONFERENCE PRJL'S	DRAFTKINGS O/U
MIAMI OHIO	41.0	3.1	0.1	33.68 (109)	8.1	3.9	6.2	1.8	8
TOLEDO	37.0	2.9	0.1	29.38 (130)	8.1	3.9	5.5	2.5	8.5
BOWLING GREEN	36.5	2.2	0.2	34.38 (103)	6.9	5.1	5.3	2.8	6.5
WESTERN MICHIGAN	32.0	2.6	0.2	31.89 (123)	6.4	5.6	5.0	3.0	6.5
OHIO U	31.5	1.9	0.1	30.95 (128)	6.2	5.8	4.6	3.4	6.5
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	33.5	1.8	0.4	31.8 (125)	6.3	5.7	4.4	3.6	6.5
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	29.0	3.2	0.1	29.21 (132)	5.5	6.5	3.3	4.7	5.5
BUFFALO	24.0	3.3	0.1	29.34 (131)	4.8	7.2	3.2	4.8	5.5
EASTERN MICHIGAN	25.5	1.7	0.4	30.31 (129)	4.7	7.3	3.1	4.9	4.5
BALL ST	27.0	2.4	0.0	34.86 (99)	3.9	8.1	3.1	4.9	4
AKRON	23.5	1.5	-0.1	35.48 (92)	3.5	8.5	2.5	5.5	3.5
KENT ST	18.5	3.4	-0.2	34.92 (98)	2.7	9.3	1.9	6.1	2.5

AKRON
ZIPS

2023 Record: 2-10 SU & 4-6-2 ATS
Head Coach: Joe Moorhead (3rd)

Joe Moorhead is in his third season at Akron and has a 4-20 record, which is a slight improvement over the 3-27 mark for the previous three seasons.

Moorhead, a former head coach at Mississippi State and offensive coordinator with Oregon, Penn State, and UConn, will likely be serving in both roles this season as several offensive assistants have departed. Moorhead received some interest from the NFL in the offseason as well for some position coach jobs but elected to stay at Akron.

The lack of victories is likely to continue with the Zips making road trips to Ohio State, Rutgers, and South Carolina in the non-conference portion of the schedule.

OFFENSE
There is plenty of roster attrition for this group as QB DJ Irons, plus leading rusher Lorenzo Lingard and the Zips top three receivers, must be replaced. Ben Finley, who has four combined starts at NC State and Cal, comes in to compete for the quarterback job with Tahj Bullock, who started the final two games last year. Bullock is the more mobile of the two quarterbacks for Moorhead's RPOs, but the Zips could play both with regularity.

The running game ranked 131st in the nation last season and slot receiver Alex Adams is the leading returning rusher (188 yards). Plus, the Zips replace three offensive starters. If the running game does not improve, you could see this unit rely more on Bullock who finished 2024 with 62 rushes, 165 yards and four touchdowns on the ground, but completed just 39.6 percent of his passes for 271 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

DEFENSE
DC Tim Tibesar (DC stops at Oregon State, Purdue, and Kansas State) had a unit that was the team's strength last season and probably will be again. The Zips rated 32nd nationally in yards allowed last season but just 81st largely due to an anemic offense leading to a minus-9 turnover margin.

Three starters are back on the defensive line, led by All-MAC first-team defensive end CJ Nunnally IV (7 sacks). The linebacker corps is also a strength with Bryan McCoy (95 tackles) and Antavious Fish (94 tackles) back.

Akron's top four tacklers return including Nunnally, but the secondary is primarily all new and will rely on transfers who could not break through as starters at their previous programs like former four-star safety Daymon David (mainly a special teamer at Oregon), Aman Greenwood (Syracuse), and Elijah Reed (Kentucky).

OUTLOOK
Akron was not good last season but did lose three overtime games (29-27 at Indiana in 4 OT, 13-10 vs. Buffalo, and 30-27 at Eastern Michigan in 2 OT). Even if the Zips get a couple of due breaks, this schedule is one of the tougher slates in conference play, plus the three non-conference games on the road will be sure losses. The defense should be solid up front and the team will be slightly improved, but there are too many questions on offense to see much of a jump.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 3.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at OHIO STATE	49	69
9/7	at RUTGERS	25	46.5
9/14	COLGATE	-14.5	10.5
9/21	at SOUTH CAROLINA	29	49.5
9/28	at OHIO	10	31.5
10/5	BOWLING GREEN	11.5	36.5
10/12	at WESTERN MICHIGAN	11	32
10/26	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1	25.5
11/2	BUFFALO	-1	24
11/13	at NORTHERN ILLINOIS	12	33.5
11/19	at KENT STATE	-1.5	18.5
11/26	TOLEDO	12	37

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **35.48** #92 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.5/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **9**
OFFENSIVE: 3
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	15.5	129	28.6	76
YARDS PER POINT	18.1	124	12.1	126
PLAYS PER GAME	68.1	77		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:45	70		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	33.3%	109	38.8%	64
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	281.2	128	345.1	37
YARDS PER PLAY	4.1	130	5.3	44
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.2	119		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	89.8	124	154.6	63
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.1	120	4.2	64
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.5	28		
COMPLETION %	59.7%	76	57.0%	21
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	191.4	97	190.5	20
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	5.4	129	7	46
TURNOVERS	1.5	72	0.7	126

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
70-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
10000-1

BALL STATE
CARDINALS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 7-4-1 ATS
Head Coach: Mike Neu (9th)

Mike Neu is in his ninth season in Muncie and has one winning season, which was the COVID season during 2020 where the Cardinals went 7-1 and finished No. 23 in the national rankings. Ball State elected to bring him back through at least this 2024 season (contract expires in 2025) largely because the buyout will decrease substantially, so Neu does not exactly have the 'vote of confidence' per se.

Neu also has new coordinators/play callers — Jared Elliott (offense) and Jeff Knowles (defense) — on both sides of the ball. There are clearly more questions than answers for Ball State heading into the 2024 campaign.

OFFENSE
The Cardinals struggled to score points last season, averaging a meager 10.8 points per game in five contests vs. FBS opponents and rated just 122nd in scoring offense.

Ball State started three quarterbacks last season and its most effective of the three was Kiael Kelly, who went 3-3 in his starts, but now moves to cornerback. Redshirt freshman Kadin Semonza started two games last year and appears to have the inside track for the job. Kelly was more of a runner (724 rush yards vs. 577 pass yards), so the Cardinals likely will go back to a more traditional passing attack.

Receiver Ty Robinson was hurt two games into the season and will be expected to be the leading pass catcher for a team that loses three of its top four. 1000-yard rusher Marquez Cooper transferred to San Diego State and we'll now see a running back by committee for the Cardinals.

DEFENSE
Jeff Knowles comes up I-69 from FCS Butler University to rebuild a defense that held its final six opponents to only 16.7 PPG. Only one starter, leading tackler LB Keionte Newson, returns from last year's group.

To try and combat the lack of proven options, the Cardinals bring in several transfers including George Udo (44 tackles, six tackles-for-loss, and three sacks at BYU from 2019-22) and Myles Norwood (Iowa State via New Mexico), while also converting Kelly from QB to cornerback.

With essentially the entire defensive line and secondary groups either graduating or hitting the portal, this unit is clearly taking a step back from a group that ranked 14th in the nation (112 YPG) last year at stopping the run.

OUTLOOK
Ball State has non-conference road trips to Miami (FL), Vanderbilt, and James Madison. However, they do avoid Toledo and get conference favorite Miami (OH) at home. Even with some attrition, the offense is likely to be improved and more dynamic, but the defense has a great deal of unproven personnel. Neu might win one or two more games this season, but it may not be enough to earn him a 10th season in Muncie.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 4

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
9/7	MISSOURI STATE	-1.5	28
9/14	at MIAMI FL	32	57
9/21	at CENTRAL MICHIGAN	5	29
9/28	at JAMES MADISON	19	42.5
10/5	WESTERN MICHIGAN	3	32
10/12	at KENT STATE	-5	18.5
10/19	at VANDERBILT	11.5	37
10/26	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	4.5	33.5
11/5	MIAMI OH	11.5	41
11/12	at BUFFALO	0.5	24
11/23	BOWLING GREEN	7.5	36.5
11/29	at OHIO	6.5	31.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **34.86** #99 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.4/0** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 9
OFFENSIVE: 8 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 1

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	15.8	128	26	56
YARDS PER POINT	18.8	129	12.3	118
PLAYS PER GAME	66.7	87		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:22	11		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	37.2%	75	34.8%	32
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	297.5	124	321.1	16
YARDS PER PLAY	4.5	124	5	33
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	39.2	29		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	160.9	57	112.5	17
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.1	75	3.6	25
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	25.5	117		
COMPLETION %	57.9%	89	61.3%	76
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	136.5	127	208.5	34
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	5.4	131	6.8	36
TURNOVERS	1.5	72	0.7	126

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
35-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

BOWLING GREEN
FALCONS

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 8-5 ATS
Head Coach: Scot Loeffler (6th)

Scot Loeffler had his first winning season in his fifth year in the program last season and got Bowling Green its first winning record since 2015. The Falcons ended their season with a defeat in the Quick Lane Bowl for the second year in a row, but clearly there appears to be upward momentum.

Prior to that loss to Minnesota in the Quick Lane Bowl, Bowling Green lost five games to opponents with a combined 60-10 record (Michigan 15-0, Liberty 13-1, Miami (OH) 11-3, Toledo 11-3, and Ohio 10-3). The 2024 schedule appears slightly less daunting.

OFFENSE
Connor Bazelak (Indiana, Missouri) is in his sixth year of college football and returns for a second season with Bowling Green. Due to a leg injury last season which kept him out of spring ball, Bazelak (1935 yards, 12/7 TD/INT) shared duties with Camden Orth (486, 5/5; 5 rushing TDs) and may do the same this season for an offense that rated 108th nationally but returns leading rusher Terion Stewart (762 yards, 8 TD) and leading receiver Harold Fannin (623 yards, 6 TD).

Fannin is the only receiver of note that returns, but the group adds Malcolm Johnson Jr (Auburn) and RJ Garcia (Kansas State) and four offensive line starters are back for an offense that wants to be evenly balanced with the run and pass.

DEFENSE
Bowling Green finished tied for first in the nation (Clemson, Cal) for most turnovers forced with 28. Seven starters return for this group including the entire defensive line.

The Falcons were an aggressive defense that put good pressure on opposing quarterbacks but could occasionally give up big pass plays. The loss of edge rusher Cashius Howell and his 10 sacks will hurt, but the line is senior-laden and experienced.

The secondary will be led by Northern Illinois transfer C.J. Brown (2021 1st Team All-MAC), safety Darius Lorfils and corner Jordan Oladokun (4 INT).

OUTLOOK
Bowling Green faced a tough schedule last year but did have a highlight of beating a Power Four school on the road as they defeated Georgia Tech 38-27 as three-touchdown underdogs starting a 6-2 run to finish the regular season.

This year, they have to face Penn State and Texas A&M on the road and have one of the tougher schedules in the MAC. However, they will not face the national champion or the Group of 5 New Year's Six representative like last season.

Nevertheless, this club looks to be heading for either a six or seven-win season again.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	FORDHAM	-24	14.5
9/7	at PENN STATE	30	64
9/21	at TEXAS A&M	24.5	58.5
9/28	OLD DOMINION	-6.5	32
10/5	at AKRON	-11.5	23.5
10/12	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	-5	33.5
10/19	KENT STATE	-20.5	18.5
10/26	at TOLEDO	3	37
11/5	at CENTRAL MICHIGAN	-4.5	29
11/12	WESTERN MICHIGAN	-6.5	32
11/23	at BALL STATE	-7.5	27
11/29	MIAMI OH	2.5	41

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **34.38** #103 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.2/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **15**
OFFENSIVE: 8 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	25.2	70	24.8	53
YARDS PER POINT	12.3	15	13.2	97
PLAYS PER GAME	62.6	125		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:27	54		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	32.4%	114	40.6%	82
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	310.7	114	326.2	20
YARDS PER PLAY	5	96	5	31
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.9	95		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	137.3	80	152.2	59
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.2	65	4.1	55
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.3	106		
COMPLETION %	57.6%	91	59.2%	41
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	173.4	116	174	7
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.3	105	6.8	35
TURNOVERS	1.6	86	2.3	1

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+700

MAKE PLAYOFF
110-1

CFP CHAMPION
3000-1

BUFFALO
BULLS

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 5-7 ATS
Head Coach: Pete Lembo (1st)

A familiar face returns to the MAC as Pete Lembo takes over as head coach for the departing Maurice Linguist, who is now the co-defensive coordinator and cornerbacks coach at Alabama. Lembo went 33-29 in five seasons (2011-2015) at Ball State. In recent years, Lembo has been assistant head coach/special teams coach at Maryland, Rice, Memphis, and South Carolina in the last several years. The Bulls went 4-8, 7-6, and 3-9 in Linguist's three seasons and are hoping Lembo brings some stability.

OFFENSE
Dave Patenaude will serve as Lembo's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach and has had tenures in these roles at Coastal Carolina, Temple, Georgia Tech, and Old Dominion, and spent last season as an analyst with Virginia.

He will not inherit the services of two-year starting quarterback Cole Snyder as he transferred to Eastern Michigan. CJ Ogbonna returns as a rushing quarterback and likely will share time with Jack Shields, who made two starts at Old Dominion last year.

The Bulls lost their top five pass catchers and top two running backs and will have to rely on transfers Taji Johnson (Boston College) and JJ Jenkins (Columbia).

DEFENSE
Joe Bowen worked with Lembo in 2021 and was most recently the linebackers coach at Miami (OH) and will be a first-time coordinator.

More personnel returns on this side of the ball 2022 1st Team All-MAC LB Shaun Dolac returning after spending the spring at Utah State. Red Murdock (60 tackles) also returns along with DL CJ Bazile and George Wolo (3.5 sacks).

Western Michigan transfer SaVeon Brown and sixth-year player Marcus Fuqua man a veteran secondary that also returns starting corners Jayden Oliver, Solomon Brown, Charles McCatherens, and Michigan State redshirt transfer Eddie Pleasant.

OUTLOOK
Lembo is an upgrade at head coach here at Buffalo but comes in with an all-new staff and not a lot to work with especially on offense. He also got a late start in recruiting having not been hired until late January.

While the non-conference schedule is not all that daunting save for a road trip to Missouri, this will be a rebuilding year in Buffalo, but Lembo is highly proven in the MAC and should start turning this program back around in years to come.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	LAFAYETTE	-5	22.5
9/7	at MISSOURI	38.5	59.5
9/14	MASSACHUSETTS	-4.5	23
9/21	at NORTHERN ILLINOIS	11	33.5
9/28	at CONNECTICUT	5.5	27
10/12	TOLEDO	10	37
10/19	WESTERN MICHIGAN	5	32
10/26	at OHIO	9.5	31.5
11/2	at AKRON	1	23.5
11/12	BALL STATE	-0.5	27
11/20	at EASTERN MICHIGAN	3	25.5
11/26	KENT STATE	-9	18.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **29.34** #131 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.3/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 10
OFFENSIVE: 3
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	19.5	112	26.3	59
YARDS PER POINT	16.2	106	13.7	82
PLAYS PER GAME	71.3	38		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:46	47		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	33.5%	108	30.2%	10
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	314.9	110	358.7	40
YARDS PER PLAY	4.4	125	5.7	77
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.8	57		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	136.9	82	182.6	113
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.7	97	5.2	120
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.1	52		
COMPLETION %	51.7%	125	63.2%	99
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	178	111	176.1	8
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	5.4	130	6.7	24
TURNOVERS	1.6	93	1.7	23

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
30-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
CHIPPEWAS

2023 Record: 5-7 SU & 3-9 ATS
Head Coach: Jim McElwain (6th)

Jim McElwain returns for his sixth season hoping to reinvigorate a program off consecutive losing seasons for the first time since 2010-2011. The defense has been relatively consistent under defensive coordinator Robb Akey, who has been with McElwain dating back to his final year at Florida. On the other hand, the offense has lacked an identity and a passing game. It also currently lacks an offensive coordinator as Paul Petrino was let go and his position has yet to be filled.

OFFENSE
Bert Emanuel Jr. is in his third year with the program, and he has been much more of a runner than passer, with 117 career rushing attempts (for 716 yards) and just 45 pass attempts. As one of the best athletes in the MAC, he needs to be on the field, but can he play quarterback? Jase Bauer shared time with him last year but transferred to Sam Houston State, so Iowa transfer Joey Labas comes in to challenge for the starting job.

The Chips are still likely to be run-heavy with Marion Lukes and Miles Bailey (combined 1213 yards, 8 TD) returning to the backfield, but all top five pass catchers are back as well along with three offensive line starters led by 2nd Team All-MAC RT Brayden Swartout.

Run game coordinator and offensive line coach Tavita Thompson could be the play caller unless someone is hired prior to the season.

DEFENSE
The defensive line got hit hard in graduation and through the portal, but the linebacker corps has depth with Justin Whiteside and Dakota Cochran returning and Notre Dame transfer Nolan Ziegler entering the fold.

In the secondary, second-team All-MAC performer Donte Kent, the leading returning tackler with 58, is back along with two other starters, but the Chips were dead last against the pass in the MAC last season.

McElwain has been loyal to longtime assistant Akey, but this unit has slipped in the last two seasons.

OUTLOOK
Central Michigan does have a road trip to Illinois, but none of their four non-conference opponents made the postseason last year. However, they play four games against teams off bye weeks and drew the Top 5 MAC teams from last year and three of those (Miami OH, Toledo, and Northern Illinois) are on the road. The defense has been slipping and the offense still has no idea what it wants to be nor has figured out how to properly use Emanuel.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	C CONN STATE	-38	-5.5
9/7	at FIU	-3.5	23.5
9/14	at ILLINOIS	14.5	40.5
9/21	BALL STATE	-5	27
9/28	SAN DIEGO STATE	1	33
10/12	OHIO	-0.5	31.5
10/19	at EASTERN MICHIGAN	-2	25.5
10/26	at MIAMI OH	15	41
11/5	BOWLING GREEN	4.5	36.5
11/12	at TOLEDO	11	37
11/19	WESTERN MICHIGAN	0	32
11/30	at NORTHERN ILLINOIS	6	33.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **29.21** #132 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.2/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 7
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	21.2	101	30.1	97
YARDS PER POINT	15.8	97	13.1	100
PLAYS PER GAME	66.5	90		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:08	63		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.0%	105	36.2%	37
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	335.4	96	395.2	76
YARDS PER PLAY	5	91	6	101
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.6	60		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	152.5	69	170.3	99
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.2	67	4.7	100
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.7	100		
COMPLETION %	57.4%	92	62.0%	89
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	182.9	104	224.9	58
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.6	93	8	108
TURNOVERS	1.2	40	0.5	130

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
14-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

EASTERN MICHIGAN

EAGLES

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 6-6-1 ATS
Head Coach: Chris Creighton (11th)

Chris Creighton and Eastern Michigan have gone to three consecutive bowl games but were blown out 59-10 against South Alabama last year in the Ventures Bowl. Just nine starters return for the Eagles; however, the quarterback play could potentially be elevated with Buffalo transfer Cole Snyder who started 25 games for the Bulls and threw for over 5100 yards combined the last two seasons. This team has had a penchant for starting a bit slow but finishing the season strong as they won two in a row to finish 2023 and three in a row in the 2022 regular season.

OFFENSE
Snyder threw 31 touchdown passes (17 INT) during his two seasons in Buffalo and can only be an upgrade for a team that only threw for nine touchdowns last season.

The Eagles do lose their top three running backs but add Delbert Mimms III from NC State where he rushed for eight touchdowns last season. JB Mitchell (35 catches, 398 yards) should be Snyder's main target at receiver. TE Jonathan Odom also transfers in from Florida and will pair with fellow TE Jere Getzinger who emerged late last season.

The offensive line has three starters back, but the group will have to improve as it allowed 32 sacks last season and only opened holes for a 3.4 YPC average in the running game.

DEFENSE
The Eagles defense gets a big boost this season in the middle with LB JT Killen coming in from Coastal Carolina, where he made 65 tackles last season and arrives with 55 games of experience. Zach Mowchan was lost for the season after three games and is back healthy.

On the defensive line, nose tackle Peyton Price (47 tackles, 4 sacks, 7 QB hurries) and Justin Jefferson (46 tackles, 11 QB hurries, 7.5 TFLs) return 11 QB hurries. Carter Evans missed all last year but should return to the starting DL spot.

In the secondary, Joshua Scott (30 tackles, 3 INT) returns after missing all last season, as will Daiquan White, who had a stellar true freshman season in which he led the team with 12 PBUs.

OUTLOOK
The Eagles have a trip to Washington and host Sun Belt contender Jacksonville State in the non-conference portion of the schedule. The back end of the league schedule also has three of the last five games against teams off bye weeks, so it is a bit of a tougher slate, but Eastern Michigan should be able to improve an offense that averaged just 19.5 PPG with the addition of Snyder at quarterback, plus should be deeper defensively with the return of three injured starters.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at MASSACHUSETTS	-1	23
9/7	at WASHINGTON	30	53.5
9/14	JACKSONVILLE STATE	11	37.5
9/21	ST FRANCIS-PA	-16.5	10.6
9/28	at KENT STATE	-4	18.5
10/12	MIAMI OH	14	41
10/19	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	2	29
10/26	at AKRON	-1	23.5
11/2	TOLEDO	10	37
11/13	at OHIO	7.5	31.5
11/20	BUFFALO	-3	24
11/30	at WESTERN MICHIGAN	8.5	32

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **30.31** #129 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.7/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	18.4	118	27	67
YARDS PER POINT	14.2	63	14.9	54
PLAYS PER GAME	63.3	120		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:55	91		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.5%	103	39.1%	66
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	262.3	131	401.8	82
YARDS PER PLAY	4.1	129	5.7	83
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.2	92		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	112.3	107	187.2	118
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.4	112	4.8	105
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.5	101		
COMPLETION %	53.9%	116	59.9%	51
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	150.1	124	214.6	42
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	5.5	128	7.3	63
TURNOVERS	1.4	68	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
30-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

KENT STATE
GOLDEN FLASHES

2023 Record: 1-11 SU & 3-7-2 ATS
Head Coach: Kenni Burns (3rd)

Kenni Burns took over last year with a completely bare cupboard as he returned zero offensive starters. Predictably, the Golden Flashes struggled and were the only team in FBS that failed to earn a victory over a fellow FBS program.

This year, both coordinators are new but promoted from within the staff as Mark Carney goes from tight ends coach to offensive coordinator while Kody Morgan goes from safeties coach to defensive coordinator.

Kent State looks a bit improved just with more roster continuity, but they will get a baptism by fire early with road games at Pitt, Tennessee, and Penn State.

OFFENSE
Quarterback Tommy Ulatowski saw playing time in 10 games last season, including three late season starts. He threw for more than 200 yards in his first two starts and finished the season with seven touchdowns and two interceptions and goes into the fall as the starter but is being challenged by Devin Kangman (one start) and Troy transfer JD Sherrod.

Running back Gavin Garcia, who led the Golden Flashes with 544 yards and two touchdowns, will share time with Kansas transfer Ky Thomas, who played for and was recruited by Burns at Minnesota in 2021. They will run behind an offensive line that gave up 41 sacks and started three true freshmen but returns all five starters.

Receiver Chrishon McCray (41 catches, 610 yards, 4 TD) is the star of the offense and was 1st Team All-MAC. Luke Floriea (39 catches, 405 yards, 4 TD) also returns.

DEFENSE
The Flashes ranked 50th nationally against the pass last year but must replace both starting corners. Alex Branch returns at free safety and Kent brings in Xavier Coxley (James Madison) and Dallas Branch (San Diego State) to replace those starting corners.

Khalib Johns returns at middle linebacker after missing the better part of two seasons. Rocco Nichol was the spring standout at linebacker.

On the defensive line, Stephen Daley and Oliver Billotte combined for 78 tackles.

OUTLOOK
While the non-conference schedule does not provide many victories, Kent State will get one vs. FCS St. Francis. The Flashes avoid Toledo and Northern Illinois and do get games against fellow rebuilding teams Akron and Buffalo.

This is still a massive undertaking to get this program competitive, but the Flashes might be able to steal an unexpected win in a conference game as there is not much separation talent-wise other than the top couple teams in this conference.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 2.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at PITTSBURGH	26	42
9/7	ST FRANCIS-PA	-11	10.6
9/14	at TENNESSEE	42	57.5
9/21	at PENN STATE	48	64
9/28	EASTERN MICHIGAN	4	25.5
10/12	BALL STATE	5	27
10/19	at BOWLING GREEN	20.5	36.5
10/26	at WESTERN MICHIGAN	16.5	32
11/6	OHIO	9.5	31.5
11/13	at MIAMI OH	26	41
11/19	AKRON	1.5	23.5
11/26	at BUFFALO	9	24

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **34.92** #98 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.4/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 9 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	12.5	133	36.8	124
YARDS PER POINT	20.1	132	11.2	133
PLAYS PER GAME	64.8	107		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:22	109		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	28.4%	131	49.0%	130
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	252.6	132	412.2	96
YARDS PER PLAY	3.9	132	6.2	113
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.1	75		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	89.5	125	182.7	114
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	2.6	132	4.7	102
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.3	113		
COMPLETION %	51.2%	127	59.7%	48
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	163.1	121	229.5	67
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.2	112	8.5	123
TURNOVERS	1	17	0.6	128

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
250-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
10000-1

MIAMI OH
REDHAWKS

2023 Record: 11-3 SU & 11-3 ATS
Head Coach: Chuck Martin (11th)

Chuck Martin and Miami won their second MAC Championship in five years last season despite losing quarterback Brett Gabbert to a leg injury eight games into the season. Martin, a conservative coach by nature, played it close to the vest offensively, and won with defense and special teams led by Ray Guy Award (nation's best punter) semifinalist Alec Bevelheimer and Lou Groza Award winner (nation's best kicker) Graham Nicholson and his 27-for-28 field goal mark. Even kickers get pilfered in the portal from the MAC as Nicholson transferred to Alabama. Martin will not be able to rely on his kicker as much this year but may not have to with Gabbert returning from injury, which makes Miami the favorite to repeat in the MAC.

OFFENSE
Gabbert (7,714 career yards, 59 passing TDs) has 38 career starts as the RedHawks QB and is back for his sixth year in the program. His backup last year Aveon Smith led them to five straight regular season wins, but is more of a runner and transferred to Alabama A&M.

Up front, four of the five starting offensive linemen return from the MAC champs. Including left tackle Will Jados and right tackle Reid Holskey who were both second-team All-MAC last season.

Top rusher Rashad Amos (Ole Miss) and leading receiver Gage Larvadain (South Carolina) both entered the portal. Running back Kenny Tracy will see a significant uptick from his 46 carries and 250 yards. Purdue transfer Dylan Downing will also be in the rotation. At receiver, Kenny's brother Javon Tracy (22 catches, 348 yards) and Cade McDonald (28 catches, 355 yards) are experienced, and veteran tight end Jack Coldiron returns after missing most of 2023 with a knee injury.

DEFENSE
The RedHawks ranked seventh nationally last season with 15.9 points allowed per game and pitched two shutouts.

MAC Defensive Player of the Year Matt Salopek is the star of the unit with 392 career tackles (144 in 2023). Salopek and Ty Wise (122 tackles, eight sacks) make up the best linebacker corps in the MAC.

Defensive end Brian Ugwu had 62 tackles and eight sacks last year. It is still a solid group up front, but they will have to fill the void left by 1st Team All-MAC end Caideon Woullard, who transferred to Oklahoma.

In the secondary, two starters return including freshman All-American cornerback Raion Strader (57 tackles, 13 PBUs) and safety Eli Blakey (46 tackles).

OUTLOOK
Miami will be tested early with non-conference games at Northwestern and at Notre Dame plus the annual Victory Bell game against Cincinnati, who the RedHawks defeated for the first time in 16 years last season. However, they could potentially start 0-3 and need to play catch up in order to reach eight wins. They also travel to Toledo and Bowling Green. With Gabbert back, they are the rightful favorite, but the schedule is tougher and they no longer have Nicholson to bail them out when the offense sputters.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 8

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at NORTHWESTERN	4	43.5
9/14	CINCINNATI	-1	43
9/21	at NOTRE DAME	23	61.5
9/28	MASSACHUSETTS	-21.5	23
10/5	at TOLEDO	-1	37
10/12	at EASTERN MICHIGAN	-14	25.5
10/19	OHIO	-12.5	31.5
10/26	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	-15	29
11/5	at BALL STATE	-11.5	27
11/13	KENT STATE	-26	18.5
11/19	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	-10	33.5
11/29	at BOWLING GREEN	-2.5	36.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.68** #109 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.1/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **12**
OFFENSIVE: 6 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	22.8	91	15.6	5
YARDS PER POINT	13.1	30	21.1	3
PLAYS PER GAME	58.2	132		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:51	69		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	33.1%	112	29.4%	8
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	298.7	123	328.8	23
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	84	4.7	14
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.4	73		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	134.4	85	136.5	39
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.8	95	3.7	27
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	20.9	130		
COMPLETION %	55.2%	111	58.5%	33
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	164.3	119	192.4	24
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.9	42	6.4	15
TURNOVERS	1.2	44	1.4	63

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+230

MAKE PLAYOFF
25-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
HUSKIES

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 6-7 ATS
Head Coach: Thomas Hammock (6th)

Thomas Hammock's five seasons at Northern Illinois have certainly provided a good amount of variance. The Huskies went 3-9 in 2019, 0-6 during the COVID 2020 season, then a 9-5 MAC title campaign in 2021, back to 3-9 in 2022, then 7-6 last season. One thing that does not change though is that Northern Illinois is one of, if not the most physical teams in the conference and plays the game in a phone booth. The Huskies need to find a QB to have consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 2017-2018.

OFFENSE
In Rocky Lombardi's three years in DeKalb, he threw for 5,516 yards and 31 touchdowns while completing 58.9 percent of his throws and also added 602 yards and 17 TDs on the ground as well. Ethan Hampton has six starts over the last three seasons and has the slight edge for the job, but is being challenged by juco transfer Kenny Leuth and Arkansas-Pine Bluff transfer Jalen Macon.

1st Team All-MAC running back Antario Brown (1296 yards, 10 TD) is back for his senior season. Gavin Williams also returns, and he had 488 rushing yards and 24 catches out of the backfield. Northern Illinois was second in the MAC in rushing and was a run-heavy team even with a three-year starter at QB and should continue as such with lack of experience under center.

Four OL starters and the top two pass catchers — Trayvon Rudolph (51 catches, 531 yards) and Grayson Barnes (23 catches, 422 yards) — are also back. Wesley Beschomer, former head coach at D-III Wisconsin-Eau Claire, took over as offensive coordinator for the final five games of last season and now takes over the full-time gig.

DEFENSE
Northern Illinois lost 18 players to the transfer portal, half on offense and half on defense, but the defense took the larger hit depth wise and has a new defensive coordinator with Nick Benedetto coming in from FCS Samford to take on the same role.

The secondary is the strength of the unit that led the MAC in passing defense last season. Javaughn Byrd and Amariyun Knighten are the best corner combination in the MAC. Nickelback Jashon Prophete and free safety Nate Valcarel also return as starters.

Up front, the Huskies should be solid at linebacker with Jaden Dolphin (61 tackles) back to man one of the spots along with FCS Southeast Missouri State grad transfer Christian Fuhrman. On the line, Raishien Thomas is the leading returning tackler with 74 and Devonte O'Malley is a two-year starter at tackle, but this group has to do a better job controlling the line of scrimmage.

OUTLOOK
Northern Illinois has two tough non-conference road games at Notre Dame and at NC State. The Huskies opened at 1-4 last year but won five of their last seven. Hammock has 30 seniors on this roster, and this should be the best team he has had despite the inexperience at QB. Three of their final four opponents will come off bye weeks, but this team is a dark horse for a MAC Championship and is able to win games at times by just being a bit more physical than its opponents.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	W ILLINOIS	-42.5	-6.5
9/7	at NOTRE DAME	30.5	61.5
9/21	BUFFALO	-11	24
9/28	at NC STATE	20.5	51.5
10/5	MASSACHUSETTS	-12.5	23
10/12	at BOWLING GREEN	5	36.5
10/19	TOLEDO	2	37
10/26	at BALL STATE	-4.5	27
11/6	at WESTERN MICHIGAN	0.5	32
11/13	AKRON	-12	23.5
11/19	at MIAMI OH	10	41
11/30	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	-6	29

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **31.80** #125 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.8/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **16**
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	26.1	64	21.6	26
YARDS PER POINT	14.2	62	15.3	43
PLAYS PER GAME	64.4	112		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:10	37		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	40.6%	48	42.5%	100
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	370.4	75	329.5	24
YARDS PER PLAY	5.8	45	5.1	37
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.1	66		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	189.6	21	156.8	69
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.3	12	4.3	73
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.4	104		
COMPLETION %	57.1%	96	56.1%	13
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	180.8	108	172.8	6
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.6	94	6.3	12
TURNOVERS	1.3	45	1.3	88

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+700

MAKE PLAYOFF
80-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

OHIO
BOBCATS

2023 Record: 10-3 SU & 6-6-1 ATS
Head Coach: Tim Albin (3rd)

Ohio has won five consecutive bowl games dating back to the 2017 season. The rest of the MAC combined has six bowl victories during that same timeframe. So Ohio has been the model of consistency in this conference, but perhaps no roster has more turnover than the Bobcats. They not only lose 34 lettermen to either graduation or the transfer portal (39 new players in the program this year), but also replace both coordinators as Tim Albin promoted Brian Smith from assistant head coach to offensive coordinator and John Hauser from safeties coach to defensive coordinator. The schedule does not give them many breaks either, so it will be an impressive feat to win 10 games for the third season in a row.

OFFENSE
Three-year starting quarterback and former MAC Offensive Player of the Year Kurtis Rourke transferred to Indiana taking 34 career starts, more than 7,500 passing yards and 50 touchdown passes out of Athens. The attrition does not stop there as leading rusher Sieh Bangura (811 yards, seven TDs) transfers to Minnesota and the Bobcats also must replace their top seven pass catchers and three offensive line starters from 2023.

Parker Navarro led Ohio in the Myrtle Beach Bowl victory and is probably a better schematic fit for Albin's spread option, but there is little experience around him.

Chase Hendricks (11 catches, 108 yards) is the leading returning wide receiver and no one else has more than three career catches as a Bobcat. Redshirt freshman Ricky Hunt had five TDs in last year's bowl victory but will likely split time at RB with Northwestern transfer Anthony Tyus.

DEFENSE
The roster attrition also is prevalent on the other side of the ball as the transfer portal decimates this group and defensive coordinator Spence Nowinsky left to take the same job at Memphis during spring practice. This group was the nation's sixth-ranked scoring defense (15.8 PPG) last season.

Ohio already had to replace its top three tacklers but did catch a break with DE Bradley Weaver (34 tacklers, 6 sacks) withdrawing from the portal and returning.

Zero starters return at linebacker but Shay Taylor had a breakout showing in the Myrtle Beach Bowl, with six tackles, a sack and a fumble recovery.

Both safety starters — Austin Brawley (39 tackles, 2 INT) and Adonis Williams (39 tackles, INT) — return for a group that was Top 20 in passing defense last season.

OUTLOOK
Ohio has been the steadiest program in the MAC over the last two seasons, but they are anything but this season with all the roster turnover. The Bobcats play at Syracuse and at Kentucky in the non-conference plus host South Alabama. While they avoid Northern Illinois and Bowling Green in conference play, they do play four teams off bye weeks including three of the last four games, so the schedule is tougher. There is still enough talent to return to a third straight bowl game, but that looks to be the ceiling for a program that has to rebuild its roster.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at SYRACUSE	15.5	44.5
9/7	SOUTH ALABAMA	3	36.5
9/14	MORGAN STATE	-26	7.5
9/21	at KENTUCKY	22	50.5
9/28	AKRON	-10	23.5
10/12	at CENTRAL MICHIGAN	0.5	29
10/19	at MIAMI OH	12.5	41
10/26	BUFFALO	-9.5	24
11/6	at KENT STATE	-9.5	18.5
11/13	EASTERN MICHIGAN	-7.5	25.5
11/20	at TOLEDO	8.5	37
11/29	BALL STATE	-6.5	27

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **30.95** #128 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.9/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 6
OFFENSIVE: 2
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.1	81	16.3	8
YARDS PER POINT	14.6	74	17.1	13
PLAYS PER GAME	68.6	69		
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:25	5		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	45.4%	18	31.1%	15
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	351.8	88	279.4	4
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	85	4.7	11
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.7	59		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	139.8	77	96.2	9
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.8	93	3.4	17
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	30.7	70		
COMPLETION %	61.7%	57	62.8%	96
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	211.9	79	183.3	13
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.9	78	6.5	17
TURNOVERS	0.9	12	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
10-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
110-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6.5

TOLEDO
ROCKETS

2023 Record: 11-3 SU & 7-7 ATS
Head Coach: Jason Candle (9th)

The Rockets went 8-0 in the MAC regular season before losing to Miami in the MAC Championship Game and then losing in the Arizona Bowl. Nevertheless, Toledo won double-digit games for the first time since 2017. In order to repeat that feat, Jason Candle has to replace his starting QB (Dequan Finn - Baylor), 1,400-yard rusher (MAC Offensive POY Peny Boone - Louisville), and the entire offensive line. Nevertheless, there is plenty of skill position talent remaining and a solid defense for what still may be the most talented roster in the MAC.

OFFENSE
Quarterback Tucker Gleason takes over for Finn after throwing 177 passes the last two years as a backup, and Jacquez Stuart, an All-MAC kick returner, will be the primary back after rushing for 574 yards and eight touchdowns last season.

Five of the top six pass-catchers return, led by 1st Team All-MAC WR Jerjuan Newton (52 catches, 696 yards, 9 TD) and Junior Vandeross III (47 catches, 664 yards, 4 TD). At tight end, Lenny Kühl was a projected starter last season but missed the year with an injury. He is back, along with Anthony Torres (26 catches, 464 yards 3 TD).

Jakob James transfers in from Ohio State and will be one of five new starters on a rebuilt offensive line.

DEFENSE
The defensive line has plenty of depth and experience led by tackle Darius Alexander (36 tackles, 4 sacks). The two edges are Jeremiah Peters (22 tackles, 3.5 sacks) and D'Andre Ragin (41 tackles, 5 sacks).

At linebacker, Daniel Bolden, who missed two full seasons with injuries prior to 2023, returns after finishing second on the team in tackles with 94. Jackson Barrow and West Virginia transfer Lance Dixon are competing for the other starting position.

Toledo was nationally elite (16th) against the pass which will happen when you have a first-round draft pick manning one of the corner spots like Quinyon Mitchell did last season. First Team All-MAC strong safety Maven Hook (69 tackles, 3 INT) and free safety Emmanuel McNeil-Warren (69 tackles, 2 INT) return for a group with a great deal of talent but can only take a step back losing an elite talent like Mitchell.

OUTLOOK
The Rockets blew a late lead at Illinois, and then proceeded to win 11 games in a row before their defeat in the MAC Championship Game. The non-conference slate is manageable despite trips to Mississippi State and Western Kentucky. They draw Miami in the Glass Bowl for the revenge game and the only conference road game vs. a team with a winning record is at Northern Illinois. Despite the talent loss at highly key positions, the Rockets have continuity on the coaching staff and depth on the roster and should return to the MAC Championship Game for the third consecutive year.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	DUQUESNE	-30.5	9
9/7	MASSACHUSETTS	-17.5	23
9/14	at MISSISSIPPI STATE	10	44.5
9/21	at WESTERN KENTUCKY	1.5	36
10/5	MIAMI OH	1	41
10/12	at BUFFALO	-10	24
10/19	at NORTHERN ILLINOIS	-2	33.5
10/26	BOWLING GREEN	-3	36.5
11/2	at EASTERN MICHIGAN	-10	25.5
11/12	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	-11	29
11/20	OHIO	-8.5	31.5
11/26	at AKRON	-12	23.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **29.38** #130 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.9/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 8
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.3	49	21.6	27
YARDS PER POINT	14	55	15.7	36
PLAYS PER GAME	64.4	113		
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:37	121		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.1%	47	36.9%	42
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	409.7	40	339	30
YARDS PER PLAY	6.4	15	4.9	21
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37	54		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	201.1	12	149.4	53
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.4	8	4	47
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.5	110		
COMPLETION %	59.4%	79	54.0%	5
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	208.6	85	189.6	19
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.9	41	6.3	13
TURNOVERS	1.6	92	1.2	93

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+280

MAKE PLAYOFF
28-1

CFP CHAMPION
800-1

WESTERN MICHIGAN
BRONCOS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 7-5 ATS
Head Coach: Lance Taylor (3rd)

Lance Taylor took over here in Kalamazoo last year as a first-time head coach after a stint as offensive coordinator at Louisville. He is having to replace both coordinators in his second season as offensive coordinator Billy Cosh takes over as head coach at Stony Brook and defensive coordinator Lou Esposito is now the DL coach at Michigan. Walt Bell has had numerous offensive coordinator stints but was fired at Indiana five weeks into last season. Scott Power was let go at Louisiana Tech last year but comes to Western Michigan in the same role. The Broncos do return 17 starters, and many are pointing to this club as the sleeper in the MAC this season.

OFFENSE
Quarterback Hayden Wolff will be the starter as a fifth-year senior. Wolff, who played three years at Old Dominion before coming to Western Michigan last year, started the final five games (1505 yards, 65.5% completions, 8 TD passes).

MAC Freshman of the Year Jalen Buckley ran for just over 1,000 yards in his first campaign. He will likely be part of a 1-2 punch with Keishawn King, formerly at Virginia Tech, who missed eight games last season. They will run behind a line returning three starters including 1st Team All-MAC C Jacob Gideon.

At wide receiver, three of the top four pass catchers are back including Kenneth Womack, whose 76 receptions led the MAC. Also returning are Anthony Sambucci who had a team-high five touchdowns. In addition, transfers Devaughn "Bugs" Mortimer (UL Monroe) and Jordin Parker (New Mexico State) add speed to the position.

DEFENSE
Of the 15 players that played 250 or more snaps last season, 12 return but are back for a unit that was 10th overall in a 12-team MAC. Up front, three of four defensive line starters return plus transfers Popeye Williams (Louisville) and Anterio Thompson (Iowa) will contribute immediately.

Former Purdue transfer Jacob Wahlberg leads the linebacker corps after making 65 tackles a year ago. Former Minnesota transfer Donald Willis (40 tackles, 3.5 sacks) and Damari Roberson (68 tackles) also return.

Tate Hallock, a former Michigan State transfer, led the team in tackles with 75. Free safety Aaron Wofford was just behind with 71. The corner jobs remain up for grabs heading to fall camp.

OUTLOOK
Western Michigan's schedule starts out about as difficult as can be with road trips to Wisconsin and Ohio State in the first two weeks. However, they get a break in the conference slate without having to play Miami (OH) or Toledo. The turnover is more on the coaching staff than on the actual player roster. Both coordinators were fired at their previous gigs, so they are surely even more motivated and have something to prove. Plus, this group returns the most starters in a conference where transfer portal roster turnover, particularly on the departures side, is the new normal.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/30	at WISCONSIN	22.5	52
9/7	at OHIO STATE	40	69
9/14	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	-30.5	4
9/28	at MARSHALL	4.5	35
10/5	at BALL STATE	-3	27
10/12	AKRON	-11	23.5
10/19	at BUFFALO	-5	24
10/26	KENT STATE	-16.5	18.5
11/6	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	-0.5	33.5
11/12	at BOWLING GREEN	6.5	36.5
11/19	at CENTRAL MICHIGAN	0	29
11/30	EASTERN MICHIGAN	-8.5	25.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **31.89** #123 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.6/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **17**
OFFENSIVE: 9 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	22.6	92	33.1	112
YARDS PER POINT	15.5	90	12.2	122
PLAYS PER GAME	73.5	28		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:16	82		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	33.3%	109	45.6%	117
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	351.9	87	403.5	86
YARDS PER PLAY	4.8	107	5.9	94
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37.5	50		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	137	81	168.5	94
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.7	101	4.8	104
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.4	50		
COMPLETION %	62.4%	49	61.1%	73
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	214.9	74	235	75
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.4	100	7.7	86
TURNOVERS	1.1	33	1.5	46

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+800

MAKE PLAYOFF
130-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 6.5

MOUNTAIN WEST
BETTING PREVIEW *by Adam Burke*

Change is the theme for the Mountain West in 2024.

Seven new head coaches joined the conference in the offseason. Long-tenured coaches Jeff Tedford and Craig Bohl are gone. New Mexico, San Diego State, Nevada, San Jose State and Utah State all replaced their previous coaches. New systems and coaching tendencies will need to be learned by bettors used to following the conference.

There are also some new members. Kind of.

Oregon State and Washington State – left standing when the music stopped playing during conference realignment – entered into a scheduling agreement with the conference. The Pac-2 programs will play a "conference schedule" of Mountain West opponents (eight games), but none will count toward the conference standings and neither are eligible for a Mountain West title.

Despite all of these changes, the conference is set up for a strong year.

Boise State – the favorite to win the championship game – is expected by many to compete for the Group of Five spot in the College Football Playoff. Fresno State has the best quarterback in the conference – Mikey Keene – and should be in contention for the title despite Tedford's departure. UNLV – the best ATS team in the Mountain West last season – returns quite a bit of production from a team that lost in the Mountain West championship game.

The league might be different in many facets, but the Mountain West still figures to be one of the most entertaining conferences in the country.

14

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2024 PROJECTED STANDINGS *(BASED ON STEVE MAKINEN RATINGS)*

TEAM	2024 SM PR	HOME FIELD ADV.	ROAD FIELD ADV.	SCHEDULE STRENGTH (RANK)	ALL GAMES PRJW'S	PRJL'S	CONFERENCE PRJW'S	PRJL'S	DRAFTKINGS O/U
BOISE ST	49.0	3.1	0.0	36.75 (83)	9.3	2.7	5.9	1.1	9
FRESNO ST	43.5	2.1	0.3	36.17 (86)	8.3	3.7	5.4	1.6	8
WYOMING	38.0	3.0	-0.3	36.23 (84)	6.6	5.4	4.2	2.8	6.5
UNLV	39.5	2.2	0.3	37.35 (77)	6.4	5.6	4.2	2.8	7.5
AIR FORCE	35.5	3.3	0.3	32.43 (119)	6.7	5.3	3.9	3.1	6.5
COLORADO ST	35.0	1.8	-0.2	35.83 (89)	5.9	6.1	3.7	3.3	6
UTAH ST	34.5	1.8	0.2	35.76 (91)	5.4	6.6	3.3	3.7	5
SAN DIEGO ST	33.0	2.4	0.2	35.06 (96)	5.1	6.9	2.9	4.1	5.5
HAWAII	31.5	2.5	-0.4	31.69 (118)	5.4	6.6	2.8	4.2	4.5
SAN JOSE ST	34.0	2.4	0.2	36.06 (78)	5.2	6.8	2.8	4.2	5
NEW MEXICO	25.5	2.1	-0.7	39.71 (69)	2.2	9.8	1.5	5.5	2
NEVADA	25.5	2.7	0.2	38.22 (73)	2.8	10.2	1.4	5.6	2.5
OREGON ST	44.0	3.3	-0.1	37.88 (74)	7.6	4.4			7.5
WASHINGTON ST	41.5	3.0	0.3	37.13 (79)	7.2	4.8			7.5

AIR FORCE
FALCONS

2023 Record: 9-4 SU & 5-8 ATS
Head Coach: Troy Calhoun (18th)

It is a rebuilding year for Troy Calhoun, but despite the fewest number of returning starters in the conference, Air Force is expected to compete. The Falcons have won 29 games over the last three seasons, much of that due to Calhoun's coaching. As long as the fourth-longest tenured coach in the country is in Colorado Springs, Air Force will be a threat in the Mountain West.

Air Force's option attack will always make it one of the deadliest ground games in the country. Still, with so much departing from last season, it will be hard to replicate the output of a unit which finished 36th in EPA per rush.

OFFENSE
The biggest losses for this unit are along the offensive line. Four starters departed, including three All-Mountain West members. In total, the Falcons lost all seven OL who started a game last season. Offensive line play is massive for any team, but especially for an option attack. The fact this team is rebuilding to this point could hold this unit back in a big way.

Dylan Carson is the most experienced rusher returning for the Falcons. The junior fullback ran for 493 yards on 7.3 yards per attempt in 2023. The program's top three receivers from last season all return as well. Quarterback figures to be a three-way battle, but only John Busha has any experience. Busha appeared in four games last season and played 54 snaps. He figures to be the leader for the job, but will compete with sophomores Quentin Hayes and Josh Johnson for the gig.

DEFENSE
This is the most experienced unit, but only four starters from last season return. Air Force was a veteran group last season, and it showed in the production. The Falcons finished 20th in opponent EPA per play and they allowed just 4.8 yards per play. This season, some slippage should be expected.

The top six tacklers from last season all departed in the offseason. Interior DL Payton Zdroik returns and he was the fourth-highest graded defender for Air Force last season by PFF. Camby Goff returns from a season-ending injury suffered in Week 1 last season as well, so the Falcons do have top-tier defenders to build around, but it is safe to say Air Force will not be as good as it was on defense last season. However – much like its offense – the Falcons defense tends to outperform expectations. It would not be a shock to see better than expected production this season.

OUTLOOK
The market seems to believe Air Force will be fine despite the complete roster overhaul the program is experiencing. DraftKings has the Falcons as the fourth-most probable Mountain West champion, and their win total is 6.5 shaded to the Over. Air Force does have winnable contests with lesser opponents like Merrimack, San Jose State, Navy, New Mexico and Nevada. But, to surpass this win total the Falcons will need to be perfect in those games while also stealing two of the games against stiffer competition. Perhaps it would be foolish to doubt Calhoun, but the turnover is too great to ignore.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	MERRIMACK	-31	7.5
9/7	SAN JOSE STATE	-4.5	34
9/14	at BAYLOR	12	44.5
9/28	at WYOMING	5	38
10/5	NAVY	-7	31.5
10/12	at NEW MEXICO	-8	25.5
10/19	COLORADO STATE	-4	35
11/2	at ARMY	-1.5	32
11/9	FRESNO STATE	5	43.5
11/16	OREGON STATE	5	44
11/23	at NEVADA	-7.5	25.5
11/30	at SAN DIEGO STATE	-0.5	33

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **32.43** #119 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.3/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **6**
OFFENSIVE: 2
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	26.7	61	19.1	13
YARDS PER POINT	13.4	40	15.1	48
PLAYS PER GAME	64.7	109		
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:33	3		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	45.6%	17	35.8%	35
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	358	82	287.8	6
YARDS PER PLAY	5.5	61	4.8	20
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	55.3	1		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	273.8	2	95.6	8
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5	22	3.2	11
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	8.5	133		
COMPLETION %	52.0%	123	60.7%	62
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	84.2	133	192.3	23
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9.9	3	7.1	55
TURNOVERS	1.3	60	1	112

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
12-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
60-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

BOISE STATE
BRONCOS

2023 Record: 8-6 SU & 7-6-1 ATS
Head Coach: Spencer Danielson (3rd)

Spencer Danielson took the program over on Nov. 12 last season after the firing of Andy Avalos. Under Danielson the Broncos went 3-1 SU and ATS and won the Mountain West; an achievement that was enough to get him the full-time job.

Danielson now enters his first full season with massive expectations. Boise State has 17 starters back from last season. That includes the entire starting defense. The Broncos brought in a former five-star recruit in Malachi Nelson at quarterback, and they have the best player in the conference in running back Ashton Jeanty.

There are many – including the Bronco Nation faithful – that believe a playoff team resides in southwest Idaho.

OFFENSE
Any conversation about Boise State's offense begins not at the quarterback position, but at running back. Ashton Jeanty is the best player in the Mountain West. He totaled 1,916 yards from scrimmage last season and scored 19 touchdowns. Jeanty will run behind an offensive line that brings back four players that started at least seven games in 2023.

Quarterback is undecided as of now, but the talent at the position is solid. Malachi Nelson is a former five-star recruit that transferred in from USC. Many believe it is his job to lose, but the scuttlebutt out of Boise is that offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter loves Maddux Madsen. The redshirt sophomore appeared in nine games last season, and accounted for 1,355 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Wide receiver is the position that faces the biggest turnover. Three of their top four receivers from 2023 are gone. The big transfer to watch: former Texas A&M WR Chris Marshall. The program also added Cam Camper from Indiana.

DEFENSE
Boise State brings back the entire starting unit from 2023. That would seemingly be a strength, but this unit had its issues last season. The Broncos allowed 6.1 yards per play. They finished 71st in opponent EPA per play (0.057) and 82nd in opponent EPA per play on early downs. The 25.8 points per game allowed by this unit was the second-most allowed in the last seven years.

Erik Chinander comes in to serve as defensive coordinator under Danielson. The continuity is a positive, but it is important to not overrate a unit which was statistically below average last season.

OUTLOOK
Boise State has the potential to serve as the Group of Five representative in the College Football Playoff. However, this team is hardly perfect. An undecided quarterback position and a defense which was average at best in some categories could hold this team back. The Broncos draw some challenges on the schedule as well. Road trips to Oregon, UNLV and Wyoming will be difficult. The home schedule is soft enough to get this team to nine wins, but to lay such a price on 10 or more wins is too much.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 9

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-12.5	33
9/7	at OREGON	23	69
9/21	PORTLAND STATE	-33.5	19
9/28	WASHINGTON STATE	-10.5	41.5
10/5	UTAH STATE	-17.5	34.5
10/12	at HAWAII	-15	31.5
10/25	at UNLV	-7.5	39.5
11/1	SAN DIEGO STATE	-19	33
11/9	NEVADA	-26.5	25.5
11/16	at SAN JOSE STATE	-12.5	34
11/23	at WYOMING	-8	38
11/29	OREGON STATE	-8	44

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **36.75** #83 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.1/0** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **17**
OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 11

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	31.4	33	26.2	58
YARDS PER POINT	14	56	15.3	42
PLAYS PER GAME	67.5	82		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:27	29		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	43.9%	26	39.3%	68
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	439.2	23	400.7	81
YARDS PER PLAY	6.5	11	6.1	106
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	40.3	18		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	221.1	6	142	46
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.5	7	4.4	83
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.1	114		
COMPLETION %	57.2%	95	61.2%	74
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	218.2	71	258.7	116
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.4	23	8.2	112
TURNOVERS	1.4	67	1.3	81

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE +100

MAKE PLAYOFF +490

CFP CHAMPION 400-1

COLORADO STATE

RAMS

2023 Record: 5-7 SU & 4-8 ATS
Head Coach: Jay Norvell (3rd)

Colorado State was a dark horse candidate to win the Mountain West last season, but the team failed to meet that expectation. This season, Jay Norvell has 14 starters back, including quarterback Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi. Perhaps expectations for this program were a year too early, as the Rams look primed to be a nuisance in the Mountain West this season.

OFFENSE

Fowler-Nicolosi is one of the better returning starters in the conference, but he does have some flaws. The redshirt sophomore threw for 3,446 yards and 22 touchdowns last season. However, he committed a turnover-worthy play on 5% of his pass attempts. That was third-most among qualified signal-callers in the Mountain West.

Tory Horton returns at wide receiver for Colorado State, giving the Rams one of the best skill position players in the conference. Horton – a highly projected NFL prospect – led the Mountain West in receptions (96) and had the second-highest PFF receiving grade among wide receivers (86.9). Three of the top four rushers return as well.

Colorado State finished 74th in EPA per play and 120th in EPA per rush last season. The continuity at each skill position should help this group climb the offensive rankings. However, if Fowler-Nicolosi does not limit his penchant for putting the ball in danger this could be a poorer offensive season than anticipated.

DEFENSE

Seven starters are back on this side of the ball as well, but the talent that departs is massive for the Rams. The defensive line is essentially being rebuilt. Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year Mohamed Kamara and Second Team All-Mountain West defensive tackle Grady Kelly are gone. So, too, is starter Tony Pierce. Even with that talent up front, Colorado State finished 91st in EPA per rush on defense last season.

In the defensive backfield the Rams bring back two All-Conference players in Jack Howell and Henry Blackburn. That was the strength of this unit, as they finished the highest in EPA metrics in both opponent dropback and early downs. Howell and Blackburn combined for four pass breakups and four interceptions last season. They should be the backbone of this group again.

OUTLOOK

Colorado State saw its odds to win the Mountain West grow rapidly in the offseason last year due to sharp support. That same hunger does not seem to be there, but this group should be better than the five-win team from 2023. The Rams do draw some challenging road trips to Texas, Oregon State, Air Force and Fresno State this season. But, they avoid Boise State and UNLV on the conference schedule. Can they find themselves on the right side of most of the coin flip spots on this schedule? If Fowler-Nicolosi does not improve, it's hard to believe they will, especially when laying a price.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at TEXAS	37	69
9/7	N COLORADO	-29	8.5
9/14	COLORADO	11	48.5
9/21	UTEP	-14.5	22.5
10/5	at OREGON STATE	12.5	44
10/12	SAN JOSE STATE	-2.5	34
10/19	at AIR FORCE	4	35.5
10/26	NEW MEXICO	-12	25.5
11/2	at NEVADA	-6.5	25.5
11/15	WYOMING	1	38
11/23	at FRESNO STATE	11	43.5
11/29	UTAH STATE	-2	34.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **35.83** #89 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.8/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 7 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.7	73	30.5	99
YARDS PER POINT	15.5	89	13.9	78
PLAYS PER GAME	71.2	39		
TIME OF POSSESSION	26:31	128		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.3%	45	43.9%	111
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	382.4	63	421.8	105
YARDS PER PLAY	5.4	70	5.6	68
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.5	128		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	91.1	123	166.3	90
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.3	116	4.1	52
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	42.5	5		
COMPLETION %	60.8%	67	72.2%	133
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	291.3	17	255.5	111
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.9	80	7.9	98
TURNOVERS	2	125	1.6	39

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
12-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
60-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6

FRESNO STATE
BULLDOGS

2023 Record: 9-4 SU & 5-8 ATS
Head Coach: Jeff Tedford (6th)

Fresno State experienced a bit of turmoil late in the offseason when head coach Jeff Tedford stepped away from the program due to health issues. Assistant head coach Tim Skipper takes over the program in the interim, but the loss of Tedford is huge. Unlike many coaches, Tedford is one that adds wins at the margins. There have been no impactful transfers since his departure, but the expectations for the Bulldogs could be dampened by the loss of their head coach.

OFFENSE
Fresno State brings back eight starters on offense, but the most important piece is Mikey Keene. The redshirt sophomore is considered the best quarterback in the conference. Keene completed 66.7% of his passes for 23 touchdowns last season and committed a turnover-worthy play on just 2.4% of his attempts.

Behind him is Malik Sherrod, a Third Team All-Mountain West running back who rushed for 967 yards and nine touchdowns. Sherrod is a threat to run for 1,000 yards, and he is part of a running back room which brings back its top three rushers from last season.

Offensive line is a massive strength as well for Fresno State. Four starters return from 2023, and among them is First Team All-Mountain West guard Mose Vavao. This group not only paved the way for Sherrod, but it protected Keene at a high level, as he was pressured on just 22.4% of his dropbacks.

DEFENSE
This is the group which has the most questions for Fresno State. The Bulldogs bring back just five starters from last season. It was an average group which finished 69th in opponent EPA per play, but it was among the best in the Mountain West in yards per play allowed (5.3).

The position group hit the hardest is linebacker. Levelle Bailey and Morice Norris – both All-Conference players – depart this season. On the backend the Bulldogs lose First Team All-Mountain West cornerback Carlton Johnson.

Defensive line should be a strength with six of the top eight returning this season. Fresno State allowed just 4.3 yards per carry last season, and the team should be able to reach those figures again. Defensive coordinator Kevin Coyle is back for his third season as well, giving this unit continuity at the top.

OUTLOOK
There were some adjustments in the future market when Tedford announced his resignation, but this team still remains firmly entrenched as one of the favorites in the Mountain West. It should have one of the better offenses in the conference, and they have a schedule that should lead to success. The Bulldogs only have three road trips in conference play: New Mexico, Air Force and UNLV. They avoid Boise State and face four opponents with a win total of 4.5 or lower.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at MICHIGAN	22.5	63
9/7	SACRAMENTO STATE	-17	28
9/14	NEW MEXICO STATE	-19	26.5
9/21	at NEW MEXICO	-16	25.5
9/28	at UNLV	-2	39.5
10/12	WASHINGTON STATE	-4	41.5
10/18	at NEVADA	-15.5	25.5
10/26	SAN JOSE STATE	-11.5	34
11/2	HAWAII	-14.5	31.5
11/9	at AIR FORCE	-5	35.5
11/23	COLORADO STATE	-11	35
11/30	at UCLA	5	46

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **36.17** #86 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.1/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 8 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	30.2	35	22.8	36
YARDS PER POINT	12.9	22	16.3	24
PLAYS PER GAME	69.8	52		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:30	76		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	49.4%	4	39.7%	73
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	389.7	59	371.3	55
YARDS PER PLAY	5.6	57	5.3	49
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.7	126		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	103.3	116	168.9	97
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.7	96	4.4	81
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	39.9	9		
COMPLETION %	65.6%	22	55.1%	8
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	286.3	20	202.3	30
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.2	67	6.8	34
TURNOVERS	1.1	26	1.8	21

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE +400

MAKE PLAYOFF 20-1

CFP CHAMPION 800-1

HAWAII
RAINBOW WARRIORS

2023 Record: 5-8 SU & 5-8 ATS
Head Coach: Timmy Chang (3rd)

Timmy Chang enters his third season as head coach of Hawaii with his most experienced roster. Fifteen starters are back in a Rainbow Warriors uniform, and the former Hawaii signal-caller has his program primed to surprise some teams in the Mountain West.

OFFENSE
Brayden Schager is among the best returning quarterbacks in the conference. The senior was the fourth-highest graded quarterback in the Mountain West last season (76.1). He threw for 3,525 yards and led the league in touchdown passes (26). Schager is an excellent deep-ball thrower who completed the most passes of 20 or more yards downfield in the Mountain West.

The big question for Hawaii will be the status of leading returning receiver Steven McBride. McBride caught 63 passes for 1,024 yards last season. He was arrested and suspended from the team in July, and could miss the season. Other than McBride, the other five leading from last season return, making this one of the most experienced wide receiver groups in the country.

Schager will play behind an offensive line with three starters back, and his backfield returns its top rusher – Landon Sims – from last season. Hawaii averaged just 5.1 yards per play and finished 67th in EPA per play (0.039). With all of this returning experience, the Rainbow Warriors should be better in 2024.

DEFENSE
Seven starters are back for this group, but the losses are heaviest along the defensive line. All four starters from last season are gone. This was already a group which allowed 4.6 yards per carry on the ground and 6.2 yards per play. With a brand new defensive line, these numbers could be static for 2024.

On the backend Hawaii brings back most of its defense from last season. The problem is that this was not a particularly effective group. The Rainbow Warriors were 113th in opponent EPA per dropback. Only Jojo Forest and Caleb Brown – two backup corners – posted a PFF coverage grade over 70 last season.

Dennis Thurman comes in as defensive coordinator this season. A change in scheme could help Hawaii improve, and Thurman has NFL experience. Still, reasonable improvement would still put this unit at average at best this season.

OUTLOOK
If there was a season in which Chang would exceed expectations, it would be this one. The Rainbow Warriors should have one of the better offenses in the conference. They have a schedule that is extremely manageable. Opponents like UCLA, Boise State and UNLV will be challenging, but there are five or more wins out there if Hawaii plays up to its standards this season. The market has pushed this win total up, but the protection of a push at five wins makes this win total an option still.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/24	DELAWARE STATE	-43	-9
8/31	UCLA	12.5	46
9/14	at SAM HOUSTON	-1.5	27
9/21	N IOWA	-6.5	27.5
10/5	at SAN DIEGO STATE	4.5	33
10/12	BOISE STATE	15	49
10/19	at WASHINGTON STATE	13.5	41.5
10/26	NEVADA	-8.5	25.5
11/2	at FRESNO STATE	14.5	43.5
11/9	UNLV	6	39.5
11/16	at UTAH STATE	5	34.5
11/30	NEW MEXICO	-9	25.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **32.44** #118 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.5/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **15**
OFFENSIVE: 8 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	20.6	106	33.3	113
YARDS PER POINT	17	115	12	128
PLAYS PER GAME	68.2	76		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:00	88		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	36.8%	82	46.3%	121
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	350.4	90	397.5	78
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	83	6.3	119
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	23.9	133		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	73.2	131	174.8	101
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.1	121	4.7	99
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	41.4	7		
COMPLETION %	63.2%	39	64.6%	108
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	277.3	23	222.7	53
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.7	87	8.9	128
TURNOVERS	1.7	101	0.9	119

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
55-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 5

NEVADA
WOLF PACK

2023 Record: 2-10 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: Jeff Choate (1st)

Nevada enters a new era as Jeff Choate takes over as head coach of the program for 2024. The former Texas defensive coordinator served as head coach of Montana State from 2016-2020 and led the program to the playoffs in consecutive years. The rebuild is massive in Reno, but Choate has the experience to get the job done.

OFFENSE
Nevada made a splash in the transfer portal when it brought in Nebraska quarterback Chubba Purdy. Purdy – the brother of 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy – is expected to compete with returner Brendon Lewis for the job. Lewis appeared in 12 games and started 10 of them for the Wolf Pack. He accounted for just six touchdowns and 1,941 yards despite turning the ball over 12 times. Lewis is a dual-threat, but Purdy is the favorite to win the job.

Running back is the strongest position on paper for Nevada. The top two rushers at the position are back. Sean Dollars ran for 566 yards and averaged 3.5 yards per carry. AJ Bianco ran for 257 yards and averaged 4.4 per rush. Pat Garwo – a Boston College transfer – joins the room as well.

The wide receivers are mostly new for Nevada, as the top four from last season departed in the offseason. Cortez Braham transfers in from West Virginia, but this will be an extremely thin group. Nevada was 123rd in the country in EPA per dropback, and this team does not look like one that will be much farther up than that ranking this season.

DEFENSE
With Choate's defensive background this group should play better than the sum of its parts, but this unit is hurting for talent. The front seven should be a strength for the Wolf Pack. Two starters are back along the interior of the defensive line, and Wisconsin transfer Kaden Johnson increases the talent level. At linebacker, all starters from last year's team are back in the fold. Nevada was 119th in opponent EPA per rush and 120th on early downs, but given the experience this team should improve here.

The secondary is the biggest question for Nevada. It ranked 90th in opponent EPA per dropback, but their best talent from this group is gone. KK Meier is expected to be one of the team's top defensive backs. Meier was 19th on the team in PFF coverage grade (53.0) and gave up 25 catches on 36 targets last season. If he is the best this group has, the results could be disastrous.

OUTLOOK
Nevada has the lowest win total in the Mountain West, and for good reason. The quarterback position is a mess, and the team is devoid of high-caliber talent. The schedule also provides an insane challenge for a team of this level. Nevada must go to Troy, Minnesota, Boise State and UNLV this season. SMU, Oregon State, Fresno State, Colorado State and Air Force all make the trip to Reno. Contests against Georgia Southern and Eastern Washington are the program's best shots at victories this season. Beyond that, this looks like a rough season.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/24	SMU	25	53.5
8/31	at TROY	15	38.5
9/7	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	4.5	33
9/14	at MINNESOTA	21.5	44.5
9/21	E WASHINGTON	-7.5	21
10/5	at SAN JOSE STATE	10.5	34
10/12	OREGON STATE	15.5	44
10/18	FRESNO STATE	15.5	43.5
10/26	at HAWAII	8.5	31.5
11/2	COLORADO STATE	6.5	35
11/9	at BOISE STATE	26.5	49
11/23	AIR FORCE	7.5	35.5
11/30	at UNLV	16	39.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **38.22** #73 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.7/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **12**
OFFENSIVE: 6 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	18.4	119	33.5	114
YARDS PER POINT	16.5	109	13.2	96
PLAYS PER GAME	69.7	55		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:43	49		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	29.8%	123	43.0%	104
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	303.1	119	440.9	118
YARDS PER PLAY	4.3	127	6.7	131
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	38	42		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	125.5	98	192.4	122
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.3	117	5.5	129
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.9	98		
COMPLETION %	55.7%	106	64.7%	111
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	177.6	113	248.5	96
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.4	103	8.4	118
TURNOVERS	1.5	80	1.4	65

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
200-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
3000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 2.5

NEW MEXICO
LOBOS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: Bronco Mendenhall (1st)

Bronco Mendenhall is back in the saddle after two seasons out of football. His first job back is a massive challenge. New Mexico has won more than four games in a season just twice since 2007. The Lobos return just nine starters from last season, and one of their best players is punter Aaron Rodriguez. Mendenhall has had plenty of success in his career, but the job in Albuquerque is daunting.

OFFENSE
The Lobos ranked 11th in EPA per rush last season, but that was mostly due to the presence of Jacory Croskey-Merritt. Croskey-Merritt transferred to Arizona, but the two other leading rushers – including quarterback Devon Dampier – are back. This unit probably won't finish 11th in the country in rushing again, but it can be average on the ground this season.

Quarterback is the biggest question for this unit. Dampier played in nine games last season for New Mexico; he started just one. On 70 dropbacks he averaged 8.2 yards per attempt and threw six touchdowns without an interception. Dampier is also a dual-threat who averaged 6.2 yards per rush as well. He should be the starter when the season begins.

All five starters are gone from the offensive line, and just two of the top six receivers return as well. However, Mendenhall offset some of the losses with a litany of transfers at both positions. Play in both groups could drop off this season.

DEFENSE
Defense could actually be much better off this season than one would believe. Mendenhall has a long history with the 3-3-5 defense which was run here last season by Danny Gonzales. The six starters back on defense should transition to Mendenhall's scheme smoothly.

Having said that, this group was not great in 2023. The Lobos were 127th in opponent EPA per play, 130th in EPA per dropback and 132nd in EPA on early downs. The returning personnel help make the transition smoother, but if the level of play remains the same this group could be just as poor as last season.

Mendenhall did go to the portal to improve the talent level. The secondary has two TCU transfers and another from Nebraska. Power Five transfers were also brought into the front seven. The unit should be better this season, but it is hard to be worse than last.

OUTLOOK
New Mexico is one of the bottom-tier programs in the Mountain West, but the situation does not seem as dire as that of San Jose State or Nevada. Dampier had some moments as quarterback last season, and Mendenhall is a good defensive coach. Having said that, this team might be better for bettors to back from an ATS standpoint. Finding five wins on the schedule the Lobos have for 2024 is a difficult task.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/24	MONTANA STATE	13	40.5
8/31	at ARIZONA	30.5	53.5
9/14	at AUBURN	31	53
9/21	FRESNO STATE	16	43.5
9/28	at NEW MEXICO STATE	4	26.5
10/12	AIR FORCE	8	35.5
10/19	at UTAH STATE	11.5	34.5
10/26	at COLORADO STATE	12	35
11/2	WYOMING	10	38
11/8	at SAN DIEGO STATE	10.5	33
11/16	WASHINGTON STATE	14	41.5
11/30	at HAWAII	9	31.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **39.71** #69 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.1/0.7** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 9
OFFENSIVE: 3
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.6	75	37.4	126
YARDS PER POINT	16	105	11.2	132
PLAYS PER GAME	68.7	67		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:22	11		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	39.7%	52	34.8%	31
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	394.5	52	419.2	103
YARDS PER PLAY	5.7	48	6.9	132
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.7	58		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	183.3	27	179	108
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5	19	5.3	125
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	30.3	72		
COMPLETION %	55.0%	114	61.8%	86
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	211.3	81	240.2	83
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7	76	9.3	133
TURNOVERS	1.2	40	0.5	130

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
350-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

SAN DIEGO STATE
AZTECS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 7-5 ATS
Head Coach: Sean Lewis (1st)

Sean Lewis takes over the program after a tumultuous season in Boulder in which he was demoted from play-calling duties by Deion Sanders. Lewis – the former Kent State head coach – is known for his up-tempo offense which leans on its passing attack. His style will be a shock to the system for an Aztec program which has known ground-and-pound offense with little production from the quarterback position.

OFFENSE
The starter at quarterback is unknown as we head into the fall. Sophomore AJ Duffy was brought in from Florida State, and he is expected to compete with true freshman Danny O'Neil, a former three-star recruit out of Indianapolis. Two others – Javance Tupou'ata-Johnson and Kyle Crum – are expected to have a chance to win the job as well.

Regardless of who wins the job, wide receiver will be key in this passing attack. Two of the top three receivers from last season departed, but Lewis rebuilt the receiver room in the portal. Four transfers came in from different programs, and all are more suited for Lewis' offense. The offensive line and running back rooms are mostly intact. All four leading rushers from last season return and three of the five starting linemen are back as well.

Bettors can project what the Aztecs will look like on offense by looking back on Lewis' previous stops. San Diego State will likely be up-tempo with a dynamic passing attack. Lewis also had a 1,200-yard rusher in his last two seasons at Kent State, so expect big things from the starter – likely Marquez Cooper who transferred in and played under Lewis.

DEFENSE
This figures to be the unit which struggles the most in Lewis' first season at the helm. Only four starters return from last season, and Lewis also brought in a new defensive coordinator: Eric Schmidt who was Washington's defensive ends coach and special teams coordinator last season. SDSU will be transitioning from the 3-3-5 scheme it has run to a 4-2-5 formation under Schmidt.

Nose tackle Tupu Alualu will be playing a new position, but he is still a Third Team All-Mountain West defender. He will also likely be the Aztecs' best defender heading into the season, as most of the losses are on the backend of the unit.

Having said that, this group can't be much worse than last season. SDSU finished 97th in opponent EPA per play in 2023. They allowed 4.9 yards per carry and 6.1 yards per play. As a result, the team was 112th in opponent EPA per rush. The changes are numerous, but under Schmidt's new scheme this unit could actually be much better.

OUTLOOK
With so much change it is hard to predict an outcome, but the schedule does make the projection a bit easier. SDSU avoids Fresno State in its conference schedule, but it must make trips to Boise State, Wyoming and UNLV. Non-conference opponents include Oregon State and Washington State at home, and road trips to Central Michigan and Cal. There are some things to like about this roster, but the challenging schedule likely leads to another disappointing season in San Diego.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	TEXAS A&M-COMM	-30	5
9/7	OREGON STATE	8.5	44
9/14	at CALIFORNIA	17	48
9/28	at CENTRAL MICHIGAN	-1	29
10/5	HAWAII	-4.5	31.5
10/12	at WYOMING	8	38
10/26	WASHINGTON STATE	6.5	41.5
11/1	at BOISE STATE	19	49
11/8	NEW MEXICO	-10.5	25.5
11/16	at UNLV	8.5	39.5
11/23	at UTAH STATE	3	34.5
11/30	AIR FORCE	0.5	35.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **35.06** #96 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.4/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**

OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	19.1	116	26.6	61
YARDS PER POINT	16.8	112	15.5	37
PLAYS PER GAME	65.9	97		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:29	10		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.8%	99	40.9%	86
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	320.3	103	412.6	98
YARDS PER PLAY	4.9	102	6.2	117
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37	54		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	140.6	75	178.8	107
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.8	94	5.1	118
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.2	107		
COMPLETION %	63.2%	38	58.1%	28
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	179.6	109	233.8	74
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.6	92	7.8	93
TURNOVERS	1.3	49	1.4	65

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
28-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
130-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

SAN JOSE STATE
SPARTANS

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 9-4 ATS
Head Coach: Ken Niumataolo (1st)

After a year off Ken Niumatalolo has returned to coaching, but on the opposite coast of his old stomping ground in Annapolis. San Jose State is undergoing a massive rebuild after an offseason that saw its head coach and 14 starters depart in some fashion or another. Niumatalolo is in for a massive undertaking at a school not known for attracting talent.

OFFENSE
Niumatalolo ran the option at Navy out of necessity. Those expecting it in San Jose will be sorely disappointed, as the Spartans will run the "Spread and Shred" offense under coordinator Craig Stutzmann.

The best player on offense is wide receiver Nick Nash. The one-time quarterback returns after a strong season in which he caught 48 balls for 728 yards and eight touchdowns. SJSU's next leading receiver is Malakhi Miller who had just 24 receptions for 290 yards and a touchdown. Justin Lockhart was a 500-yard receiver in 2022 and returns after a season lost to injury.

At quarterback, Niumatalolo will choose between Washington State transfer Emmett Brown or Walker Eget, a junior who appeared in a game for Western Michigan three years ago. The position is a complete unknown, and the Spartans will be lucky to get above average play from the group this season.

SJSU will have a starter return along the offensive line, but the position is being entirely rebuilt. Some FCS transfers are expected to compete for starting jobs across the unit. At running back, the top rushers from last season are gone. In their place is likely Floyd Chalk, a transfer from Grambling.

DEFENSE
Through all of the upheaval, defensive coordinator Derrick Odum returns for his eighth season. Odum has four starters back on this unit, so while there is continuity, much should not be expected from this group. SJSU finished 93rd in opponent EPA per play and 130th in opponent EPA per rush last season. Similar output should be expected this season.

Soane Toia is a former First Team All-Mountain West defensive lineman, but he received a 57.1 defensive grade from PFF. Fourth Team All-Mountain West linebacker Jordan Pollard is back along the front seven, and three players with starting experience return in the secondary. The Spartans finished 43rd in the country in opponent EPA per dropback, so the defensive backfield could be a strength once more this season.

OUTLOOK
It's not great. Nuimatalolo is a professional, and he will have his players ready every time they step onto the field. However, this team is devoid of talent. The Spartans take on the top three teams on the oddsboard to win the conference – Boise State, Fresno State and UNLV – and they get Air Force and Colorado State as well. Sacramento State, Kennesaw State and Nevada are on the schedule, but it's hard to go Over five wins here.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	SACRAMENTO STATE	-8	28
9/7	at AIR FORCE	4.5	35.5
9/14	KENNESAW STATE	-19	17.5
9/20	at WASHINGTON STATE	10.5	41.5
10/5	NEVADA	-10.5	25.5
10/12	at COLORADO STATE	2.5	35
10/19	WYOMING	1.5	38
10/26	at FRESNO STATE	11.5	43.5
11/9	at OREGON STATE	13	44
11/16	BOISE STATE	12.5	49
11/22	UNLV	3.5	39.5
11/29	STANFORD	3	39.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **37.14** #78 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.4/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 7 OFFENSIVE: 3 DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.6	44	27.5	70
YARDS PER POINT	13.4	39	13.4	89
PLAYS PER GAME	63.1	122		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:05	66		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	45.1%	20	47.5%	125
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	397.1	48	369.3	53
YARDS PER PLAY	6.3	17	5.5	62
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.2	101		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	177.2	33	177.2	104
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.5	6	4.7	94
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.3	82		
COMPLETION %	61.1%	64	61.5%	79
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	219.9	70	192.1	22
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.5	56	6.9	40
TURNOVERS	0.8	10	1.5	49

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
50-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5

UNLV
REBELS

2023 Record: 9-5 SU & 10-4 ATS
Head Coach: Barry Odom (3rd)

Barry Odom's first season in Las Vegas was a wild success. UNLV went 9-5 SU/10-4 ATS and made it to a bowl game for the first time since 2014. The Rebels were also one of the best cover teams in the country. Odom returns for a second season with the same staff. There are some questions at position groups like quarterback, but UNLV is considered – and should be – one of the best teams in the Mountain West.

OFFENSE
The quarterback room is brand new for UNLV this season. Jayden Maiava – who started 11 games – transferred to USC. Doug Brumfield medically retired. In their place are a pair of FCS transfers in Matthew Sluka (Holy Cross) and Hajj-Malik Williams (Campbell). Both could be considered downgrades on the surface, but both should fit much better in offensive coordinator Brennan Marion's Go-Go offense.

Wide receiver is the strongest skill position group for UNLV. Ricky White was First Team All-Mountain West after catching 88 balls for 1,487 yards and eight touchdowns. Jacob De Jesus was not charged with a single drop last season, and was a Third Team All-American on special teams.

Three starters return along the offensive line, including Second Team All-Mountain West right tackle Tiger Shanks.

The Rebels finished 23rd in EPA per play last season (0.183) and 19th in EPA per dropback. Marion's scheme played a large part in this unit being so successful. With a better fit at quarterback UNLV should be just as productive this season.

DEFENSE
This was UNLV's weakest link last season, and that could be the case once more in 2024. However, Odom made it a goal to bring in more size across the board, so a leap in production could be in the cards.

In the middle, the Rebels are led by First Team All-Mountain West linebacker Jackson Woodard. The senior had 79 tackles and 27 pressures last season. He was a key piece for a UNLV defense which finished 33rd in opponent EPA per rush. Six of the top eight return along the defensive line, so it is likely run defense is a strength for this group again.

The big question for the Rebels is the secondary. Only two players last season posted a PFF coverage grade over 70 and one of those players – Fred Thompkins – is gone. Odom brought some size in the defensive backfield in the offseason – Arkansas transfer Malik Chavis and Texas transfer Jalen Catalon – so this unit does have upside.

OUTLOOK
UNLV has expectations for the first time in a long time, and this team could meet those expectations. Quarterback is fair to question, but if either Sluka or Williams hit, this team will be dangerous. The Rebels must face both Boise State and Fresno State, but they get both teams at home. Road trips to Utah State, Hawaii and San Jose State are winnable away games. It would not be a shock to see UNLV surpass its win total and find its way into the conference championship game for a second straight year.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 7.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at HOUSTON	5	43
9/7	UTAH TECH	-29	12.5
9/13	at KANSAS	16	54
9/28	FRESNO STATE	2	43.5
10/4	SYRACUSE	2.5	44.5
10/11	at UTAH STATE	-3.5	34.5
10/19	at OREGON STATE	7.5	44
10/25	BOISE STATE	7.5	49
11/9	at HAWAII	-6	31.5
11/16	SAN DIEGO STATE	-8.5	33
11/22	at SAN JOSE STATE	-3.5	34
11/30	NEVADA	-16	25.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH
37.35
#77 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS
2.2/0.3
(HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **11**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	33.7	17	29.7	90
YARDS PER POINT	12.3	13	14	74
PLAYS PER GAME	69.1	64		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:45	96		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	48.2%	10	37.1%	46
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	414	35	416	100
YARDS PER PLAY	6	35	6.1	111
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	38.3	37		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	166.2	50	160.5	78
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.3	57	4.3	69
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.3	83		
COMPLETION %	62.2%	50	61.4%	78
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	247.8	50	255.5	110
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.5	21	9	129
TURNOVERS	1.3	54	2	3

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+550

MAKE PLAYOFF
33-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

UTAH STATE
AGGIES

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 6-7 ATS
Head Coach: Nate Dreiling (1st)

Utah State was thrown into a bit of turmoil in the middle of the summer when head coach Blake Anderson was suddenly fired. Nate Dreiling – hired to be the defensive coordinator this season – will take over in the interim. The program did not suffer any high-profile transfers after Anderson's firing, so the Aggies come into the season with a new staff, but a roster loaded with experience.

OFFENSE
Anderson was the play-caller for Utah State in his time at the helm. Offensive coordinator Kyle Cefao remains, but it is unclear how the play-calling duties will be handled after new assistant Troy Morrell was added to the staff as associate head coach and senior offensive analyst.

There will be a new starting quarterback this season, but they have a trio of high-profile transfers in Spencer Petras (Iowa), Bryson Barnes and CJ Tiller competing for the job. Petras was the leader coming out of spring, according to local media.

The skill positions are in good shape. Leading rusher from 2023 Davon Booth departed, but the next rushers in Rahsul Faison and Robert Briggs are back. Jalen Royals (71 receptions and 1,080 yards) is back, as is Micah Davis (36 receptions and 628 yards). Six offensive linemen who started a game last season are also in the fold.

DEFENSE
Utah State was statistically best against the pass last season. It ranked 37th in opponent EPA per dropback, and opposing quarterbacks completed just 58.6% of their passes. This could be a similar strength this season with Avante Dickerson and Ike Larsen – the team's highest graded defender by PFF last season – back with the program.

Where the Aggies will need to improve is against the run. Utah State allowed 5.1 yards per carry in 2023 and ranked 110th in opponent EPA per rush. Four starters return in this front seven, but there are plenty of transfers that could take playing time. Run defense could be an issue again, but the Aggies could improve under new leadership with new faces making up some of the depth.

OUTLOOK
It will be easy to dismiss Utah State after the firing of Anderson, as some will point to the dysfunction as a reason to disqualify this team from competing. However, it is hard to ignore the talent this team has, especially on offense. The Aggies will have to navigate a difficult schedule. USC and Utah are part of their non-conference schedule. Utah State also has to go to Boise State, Wyoming and Colorado State. UNLV also makes the trip to Logan. Still, there are plenty of opportunities for wins on this schedule, and the Aggis could surprise some of the lesser defenses it faces in conference play.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	ROBERT MORRIS	-35	1.5
9/7	at USC	23	55.5
9/14	UTAH	20	56.5
9/21	at TEMPLE	-12	20
10/5	at BOISE STATE	17.5	49
10/11	UNLV	3.5	39.5
10/19	NEW MEXICO	-11.5	25.5
10/26	at WYOMING	6.5	38
11/9	at WASHINGTON STATE	10	41.5
11/16	HAWAII	-5	31.5
11/23	SAN DIEGO STATE	-3	33
11/29	at COLORADO STATE	2	35

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **35.76** #91 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.8/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **15**
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.4	47	35.3	120
YARDS PER POINT	14.5	72	12.3	119
PLAYS PER GAME	75.5	12		
TIME OF POSSESSION	26:52	127		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	35.2%	96	42.3%	97
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	425.9	28	433.8	115
YARDS PER PLAY	5.6	53	5.7	80
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37.9	43		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	168.1	46	222.8	129
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.4	49	5.2	121
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34	38		
COMPLETION %	60.5%	68	57.8%	27
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	257.8	42	211	38
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.6	51	6.8	33
TURNOVERS	2.1	126	1.4	58

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
28-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
200-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

WYOMING
COWBOYS

2023 Record: 9-4 SU & 7-5-1 ATS
Head Coach: Jay Sawvel (1st)

Craig Bohl retired after last season, so in his stead Wyoming promoted defensive coordinator Jay Sawvel. The former Wake Forest defensive coordinator has never served as head coach before, but there are worse situations to be in. The Cowboys bring back 13 starters this season, a majority of which come on Sawvel's side of the ball. If Wyoming can take advantage of its schedule, the Pokes could be competing for a conference championship.

OFFENSE
Running the ball will be Wyoming's strength one again this season. The Cowboys finished 2023 ranked 44th in the country in EPA per rush. Their leading rusher Harrison Waylee is back after running for 947 yards and 5.8 yards per carry, including 3.64 yards per carry after contact. In front of Waylee is an offensive line which brings back four of five starters, one of which is Third Team All-Mountain West guard Jack Walsh.

The biggest question for the Cowboys will be at quarterback, but there is faith in Evan Svoboda – the presumed starter for Wyoming. Svoboda is reminiscent of Josh Allen – 6-foot-5 and 245 pounds – and started one game for the team last season. How he evolves as a passer will be a question, but he ran for 65 yards and two touchdowns on 13 attempts in his three appearances last season.

The top receivers from last season do depart, but Wyoming will be a running team. If Svoboda can keep the team on track when it comes to downfield passing, this is going to be a dangerous group.

DEFENSE
As previously mentioned, Sawvel gets most of the talent back from his defense last season. The Cowboys were among the best groups in the conference in 2023. They finished 46th in opponent EPA per play (0.003), 30th in opponent EPA per rush and the unit allowed just 5.2 yards per play.

That run defense should be a strength once again, as only two starters depart from this front seven. Shae Suiaunoa made it to the All-Mountain West Third Team last season at linebacker, and he could take a step forward in his senior season.

Sawvel has been the architect of this unit the previous four seasons. He will relinquish play-calling duties, but will still have his hand in guiding this group. There is no reason not to believe this defense will improve this season and be one of the best in the Mountain West once again.

OUTLOOK
Wyoming is not only a candidate to surpass its win total, but to win the Mountain West as well. The Cowboys get both Air Force and Boise State at home. They only make three road trips in conference play this season; Colorado State being the most challenging trip. Wyoming surprised some with nine wins last season, and they could do so again in Sawvel's first year as head coach.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at ARIZONA STATE	4.5	40
9/7	IDAHO	-6	34.5
9/14	BYU	0.5	41.5
9/21	at NORTH TEXAS	-3.5	32
9/28	AIR FORCE	-5	35.5
10/12	SAN DIEGO STATE	-8	33
10/19	at SAN JOSE STATE	-1.5	34
10/26	UTAH STATE	-6.5	34.5
11/2	at NEW MEXICO	-10	25.5
11/15	at COLORADO STATE	-1	35
11/23	BOISE STATE	8	49
11/30	at WASHINGTON STATE	7	41.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **36.23** #84 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.8	72	22.8	32
YARDS PER POINT	13	25	15.8	32
PLAYS PER GAME	61.9	129		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:26	56		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	36.1%	87	43.3%	108
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	323.4	100	359.1	41
YARDS PER PLAY	5.2	80	5.2	41
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.7	70		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	157.6	64	149.3	52
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.4	51	4.3	75
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	24	120		
COMPLETION %	61.8%	56	58.4%	31
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	165.8	118	209.8	36
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.9	79	6.4	14
TURNOVERS	0.8	8	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
14-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
80-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 6.5

OREGON STATE
BEAVERS

2023 Record: 8-5 SU & 6-7 ATS
Head Coach: Trent Bray (1st)

Oregon State enters a complete rebuild after a pair of strong seasons that saw the program win 18 games. Jonathan Smith left for Michigan State in the offseason, and most of the team that went 8-5 departed in some form or fashion. Trent Bray – last season's defensive coordinator – has just five players back from last season. Needless to say, the Beavers are building from the ground up in 2024.

OFFENSE
The Beavers will be a complete enigma in 2024. The top two from each major offensive category – passing, rushing and receiving – are gone. Ben Gulbranson returns at quarterback after a season in which he attempted five passes for Oregon State. He will compete with transfers Gabarri Johnson (Missouri) and Gevani McCoy (Idaho) for the starting job.

Bray hit the portal at almost every position. At running back he brought in Anthony Hankerson from Colorado. Hankerson ran for 319 yards and averaged 4.1 yards per attempt in his time at Colorado and will likely take the starting job. The top four receivers departed in the offseason as well. Michigan transfer Darrius Clemons is expected to be the team's top target.

Oregon State was a top 30 offense last season. It finished 28th in EPA per play (0.171) and 18th in EPA per rush. New offensive coordinator Ryan Gunderson does not have much at his disposal, and it is safe to assume a massive dropoff from Oregon State this season.

DEFENSE
The defense was not as effective as the offense last season, but the Beavers still finished 43rd in opponent EPA per play. While the architect of that unit remains on as head coach, the personnel does not. In fact, only a single starter from that group returns this season.

Defensive line is being completely rebuilt. Bray brought in five transfers to bolster the position. Josh Griffis, Tevita Pome'e and Tygee Hill are the high-profile names that come in from Power Five programs. The same goes for the linebacker position, which lost its four starters from last season as well. An entirely new front seven does not bode well for this team's rush defense in 2024.

Noble Thomas is the lone returning player in the secondary for Oregon State. The nickel corner posted a 63.8 PFF coverage grade last season. He is the only piece with familiarity of Bray's system.

OUTLOOK
Things are not always as bad as they seem in college football, but the state of Oregon State's football program seems bleak. The Beavers could be better than expected though, and that is due to their schedule. They do face Oregon, UNLV and Boise State, but two of the three – Oregon and UNLV – will make the trip to Corvallis. Road trips for the team are at San Diego State, Nevada, Cal and Air Force as well. If Bray can get the most out of this squad a bowl is possible. However, eight wins seems like a big ask for a team with this many changes on the roster.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 7.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	IDAHO STATE	-36	12
9/7	at SAN DIEGO STATE	-8.5	33
9/14	OREGON	22	69
9/21	PURDUE	-6	41
10/5	COLORADO STATE	-12.5	35
10/12	at NEVADA	-15.5	25.5
10/19	UNLV	-7.5	39.5
10/26	at CALIFORNIA	6.5	48
11/9	SAN JOSE STATE	-13	34
11/16	at AIR FORCE	-5	35.5
11/23	WASHINGTON STATE	-5.5	41.5
11/29	at BOISE STATE	8	49

SCHEDULE STRENGTH
37.88
#74 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS
3.3/0.1
(HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **5**
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 1

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.9	39	24.3	49
YARDS PER POINT	13.6	42	15	50
PLAYS PER GAME	65.1	104		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:27	55		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	37.7%	69	40.1%	77
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	405.8	42	364.4	46
YARDS PER PLAY	6.2	20	5.4	55
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34	84		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	158.6	62	119.6	24
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.7	34	3.7	33
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.5	79		
COMPLETION %	57.9%	87	62.4%	92
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	247.3	51	244.8	90
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.4	22	7.4	72
TURNOVERS	1.1	26	1.4	58

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
NA

MAKE PLAYOFF
20-1

CFP CHAMPION
500-1

WASHINGTON STATE
COUGARS

2023 Record: 5-7 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: Jake Dickert (3rd)

Jake Dickert does not enter 2024 on a hot seat, but the chair could start to get warm if the season gets away from Washington State. The Cougars are just 15-14 under Dickert and they have not won more than seven games in a season. This year, only 10 starters are back and a competition is underway at quarterback. Washington State plays a Mountain West schedule, but it is not far and away better than the competition it faces this season.

OFFENSE
Cam Ward transferred to Miami, leaving a hole at the most important position. Last year's backup – John Mateer – will compete with Bryant transfer Zevi Eckhaus for the job. Mateer appeared in six contests last season for the Cougars. He threw for 235 yards on 20 dropbacks and averaged 13.8 yards per attempt. Eckhaus accounted for 3,260 total yards and 28 touchdowns last season at Bryant. Neither had a real lead for the job coming out of spring, according to local media.

The strength of this unit will be the offensive line with four starters back at the position. It is the position group with the most continuity. The top two receivers from last season and the leading rusher departed in the offseason.

Despite having a coveted quarterback like Ward under center this team was very poor on offense last season. The Cougars ranked 100th in EPA per play and averaged 5.9 yards per play. Their running game was non-existent, as the team totaled less than 800 yards rushing for the season. Given the loss of production from that group, it is hard to see much improvement from Washington State on this side of the ball in 2024.

DEFENSE
Washington State quietly put together a strong season in 2023 on defense. The team finished 42nd in opponent EPA per play and 25th in opponent EPA per dropback. This year figures to be a down year for the Cougars, as only four starters are back.

The biggest weakness for Washington State this season is most likely going to be its pass defense. The team's two best pass rushers – Brennan Jackson and Ron Stone – are gone. So too is the entire starting secondary. Dickert added some pass rushers in the portal, but what was this team's biggest strength last season will take a massive step back.

Five of the top six players at linebacker return, but with the losses along the defensive line this team won't improve much – if at all – against the run. Washington State allowed 4.3 yards per carry and 151 yards per game in 2023 and will likely give up similar figures this season.

OUTLOOK
The win total for Washington State is 7.5 shaded to the Over, but that seems strong for a team losing as much as it did from a five-win team a season ago. The Cougars are playing a Mountain West schedule, but this schedule is hardly a cakewalk. Washington State must host Texas Tech and go to Seattle to face Washington in the non-conference portion of its schedule. The Cougars also draw road trips to Boise State, Fresno State and Oregon State. They must also host Wyoming. Perhaps the market perceives a gap between the former Pac-12 team and the Mountain West, but if it does that would be a flawed way to look at this season for Wazzu.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 7.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	PORTLAND STATE	-26	19
9/7	TEXAS TECH	3	48
9/14	vs WASHINGTON	11.5	53.5
9/20	SAN JOSE STATE	-10.5	34
9/28	at BOISE STATE	10.5	49
10/12	at FRESNO STATE	4	43.5
10/19	HAWAII	-13.5	31.5
10/26	at SAN DIEGO STATE	-6.5	33
11/9	UTAH STATE	-10	34.5
11/16	at NEW MEXICO	-14	25.5
11/23	at OREGON STATE	5.5	44
11/30	WYOMING	-7	38

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **37.13** #79 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**
OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	28.7	53	28.7	78
YARDS PER POINT	13.8	47	13.6	84
PLAYS PER GAME	74	19		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:33	72		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	40.0%	51	41.4%	91
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	395.2	50	391.5	68
YARDS PER PLAY	5.3	72	5.5	64
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.5	129		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	72.5	132	150.2	56
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	2.6	131	4.2	61
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	43	3		
COMPLETION %	66.0%	21	60.4%	58
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	322.6	6	241.4	85
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.5	55	7.2	60
TURNOVERS	1.8	113	1.4	65

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
NA

MAKE PLAYOFF
40-1

CFP CHAMPION
800-1

SEC
BETTING PREVIEW *by Adam Burke*

This will be a very interesting year in the SEC. Last season, Alabama ended up winning the conference and going to the College Football Playoff, but legendary head coach Nick Saban retired after the year. He was replaced by Washington head coach Kalen DeBoer, who many believe is a top-five coach in the nation. However, Kirby Smart and Georgia are the betting favorites to win the SEC in 2024.

When looking at Georgia's roster, it isn't hard to figure out why people love the Bulldogs. They're stacked on both sides of the ball. However, like most of the teams in the SEC, Georgia has a very difficult schedule. So, even if the Dawgs are the most talented team in the conference — and possibly the nation — we could see a lot of squads hovering right around the 10-win mark in 2024.

Texas, which is new to the SEC in 2024, is one of the teams that will challenge Georgia for the crown. The Longhorns have a lot of talent back from a team that made the College Football Playoff last year. Ole Miss, Alabama, LSU and Texas A&M will also have opportunities to steal that top spot. The Rebels are as good as any team in the country offensively. The Crimson Tide are still loaded with talent. LSU is in Year 3 under Brian Kelly and hoping to break through. And the Aggies hired Mike Elko to straighten out a talented roster. Elko worked some magic for Duke and could do special things in College Station.

Of course, Tennessee and Missouri also need to be taken seriously, and Oklahoma is hoping to make a splash in its new conference. There's also Auburn, Florida and Arkansas, who are all rebuilding and looking to get back to the glory days.

OF TIMES SELECTED BY VSIN EXPERTS TO WIN CONFERENCE

11

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2024 PROJECTED STANDINGS *(BASED ON STEVE MAKINEN RATINGS)*

TEAM	2024 SM PR	HOME FIELD ADV.	ROAD FIELD ADV.	SCHEDULE STRENGTH (RANK)	ALL GAMES PRJW'S	ALL GAMES PRJL'S	CONFERENCE PRJW'S	CONFERENCE PRJL'S	DRAFTKINGS O/U
GEORGIA	73.5	2.5	0.4	48.53 (15)	10.6	1.4	6.7	1.3	10.5
TEXAS	69.0	2.9	0.0	47.93 (20)	10.2	1.8	6.7	1.3	10.5
ALABAMA	65.0	3.1	0.0	49.04 (8)	9.3	2.7	5.6	2.4	9.5
MISSOURI	59.5	2.9	-0.2	42.25 (62)	9.3	2.7	5.4	2.6	9.5
LSU	61.0	3.2	-0.2	48.22 (18)	8.9	3.1	5.4	2.6	9
OLE MISS	60.5	2.7	-0.1	47.24 (24)	9.0	3.0	5.1	2.9	9.5
TENNESSEE	57.5	2.9	0.1	44.44 (51)	8.5	3.5	4.8	3.2	8.5
TEXAS A&M	58.5	2.9	-0.1	46.28 (31)	8.2	3.8	4.8	3.2	8.5
OKLAHOMA	60.0	2.6	-0.1	48.63 (14)	7.8	4.2	4.0	4.0	7.5
AUBURN	53.0	2.7	-0.4	45.01 (46)	7.0	5.0	3.3	4.7	7.5
FLORIDA	53.5	3.0	-0.4	54.58 (1)	5.4	6.6	3.0	5.0	4.5
KENTUCKY	50.5	3.3	-0.1	46.95 (25)	6.3	5.7	2.9	5.1	6.5
SOUTH CAROLINA	49.5	3.0	-0.3	47.63 (22)	5.6	6.4	2.6	5.4	5.5
ARKANSAS	46.5	2.0	0.4	46.6 (28)	4.8	7.2	1.8	6.2	4.5
MISSISSIPPI ST	44.5	2.4	0.1	49.74 (4)	4.7	7.3	1.4	6.6	4
VANDERBILT	37.0	1.5	0.2	48.86 (11)	3.2	8.8	0.6	7.4	3

ALABAMA
CRIMSON TIDE

2023 Record: 12-2 SU & 9-5 ATS
Head Coach: Kalen DeBoer (1st)

Nick Saban won the SEC nine times with the Crimson Tide. The future Hall of Famer also won six national championships with Alabama. With that in mind, this might be the biggest pair of shoes that anybody has ever had to fill. However, if anybody is up for it, it's Kalen DeBoer.

DeBoer has been a winner at every stop. Under DeBoer, Sioux Falls dominated the Great Plains Athletic Conference. He also went 9-3 in his final year at Fresno State. It wasn't long after that DeBoer led Washington to the College Football Playoff National Championship. Getting to that game, with that program, would have seemed impossible a short time ago. The Huskies went 0-12 in 2008 and were below .500 as recently as 2021.

Saban was a bit more defensive-minded than DeBoer, who has an offensive background. But Alabama's offenses have been more explosive in recent seasons, and the team didn't lose its defensive edge. DeBoer will look to carry that over.

There's some uncertainty heading into this season, but this roster is better than what DeBoer had at Washington — even if Alabama did lose a lot of talent to the transfer portal.

OFFENSE
The Crimson Tide originally thought they were getting offensive coordinator Ryan Grubb, but he was offered the chance to call plays for the Seattle Seahawks. So, DeBoer quickly pivoted to Nick Sheridan, the tight ends coach at Washington who was previously Indiana's offensive coordinator.

Alabama's offense might not look exactly like Washington's, as Jalen Milroe isn't as accurate as Michael Penix Jr. But Milroe is one of the best running quarterbacks in the country, and he also throws a great deep ball. So, Sheridan should be able to build a potent offense around Milroe, who finished sixth in the 2023 Heisman Trophy voting after throwing for 2,834 yards with 23 touchdowns while also rushing for 531 yards and 12 scores.

The Tide also have an elite running back in Justice Haynes, who will be running behind an improved offensive line. Alabama just needs some pass catchers to rise to the occasion, but it's not like the Tide are lacking in talent in the wide receiver room. Most of these guys are unproven, but they were also blue-chip recruits.

DEFENSE
Saban consistently churned out elite defenses and last year's group was 16th in the nation in scoring defense (19.0 PPG allowed). So, losing him is biggest on that side of the ball. But the Crimson Tide brought in Kane Wommack as defensive coordinator. He's a tremendous coach and apparently wants to work off what Alabama was already doing.

The Crimson Tide are going to be loaded on the defensive line, with Tim Smith and Tim Keenan back. They also have a lot of talent in the linebacking corps, including star Deontae Lawson. Alabama just faces some questions in the secondary, but it's big that Malachi Moore is back. He'll be paired with Michigan transfer Keon Sabb to make up a good duo in the back of the defense. At corner, USC transfer Domani Jackson joins a bunch of inexperienced former five-stars that Wommack is capable of coaching up.

OUTLOOK
A home game against Georgia is the biggest challenge on the schedule, and road games against Tennessee and LSU will also be extremely tough. But I like Alabama's chances of winning two of those three contests, and it'll be hard for them not to reach double-digit wins if they do. Alabama might have a new man on the sidelines, but this should be the same dangerous squad. A spot in the expanded College Football Playoff is in play.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	WESTERN KENTUCKY	-32	36
9/7	SOUTH FLORIDA	-28.5	40
9/14	at WISCONSIN	-10.5	52
9/28	GEORGIA	6	73.5
10/5	at VANDERBILT	-26.5	37
10/12	SOUTH CAROLINA	-19	49.5
10/19	at TENNESSEE	-4.5	57.5
10/26	MISSOURI	-9	59.5
11/9	at LSU	-1	61
11/16	MERCER	-49	19
11/23	at OKLAHOMA	-2.5	60
11/30	AUBURN	-15.5	53

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **49.04** #8 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.1/0** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 7 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	31.5	31	19.7	16
YARDS PER POINT	12	9	16.4	23
PLAYS PER GAME	67.5	83		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:03	41		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	43.9%	24	33.3%	24
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	379.2	69	322.4	18
YARDS PER PLAY	5.6	54	4.8	19
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	40.6	16		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	161.7	56	124.8	31
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4	84	3.7	31
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	23.2	126		
COMPLETION %	62.8%	44	60.0%	52
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	217.5	72	197.5	26
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9.4	6	6.6	20
TURNOVERS	0.8	11	1.4	63

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+800

MAKE PLAYOFF
+100

CFP CHAMPION
14-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 9.5

ARKANSAS
RAZORBACKS

2023 Record: 4-8 SU & 5-7 ATS
Head Coach: Sam Pittman (5th)

It feels like yesterday that people were talking about how good of a job Sam Pittman was doing in Fayetteville. The hire was originally met with a lot of skepticism, but Arkansas went 9-4 and won the Outback Bowl in his second season as head coach. However, that year brought expectations for the Razorbacks, who followed it up with a 7-6 season. Then, things spiraled in a 4-8 season in 2023. Pittman now enters the new season on the hot seat.

A struggling offense was one of the things that tore the Razorbacks down last year, so Pittman shocked the world by hiring Bobby Petrino as offensive coordinator. Petrino is a remarkable offensive mind and had a lot of success as Arkansas' head coach from 2008 to 2011. But he also came with a ton of off-field baggage, and it was that notable motorcycle incident that cost him his job. It'll be interesting to see if he can rewrite his narrative. If he can fix the Arkansas offense, this team will be competitive in 2024.

OFFENSE
Which version of Taylen Green is Arkansas getting? As a freshman, the 6-foot-6 specimen threw for 2,042 yards with 14 touchdowns and six picks and also rushed for 586 yards and 10 touchdowns for Boise State. He then struggled mightily in his second year under center for the Broncos. But Green did light up UNLV in the Mountain West Championship, and he's a player who can impact games with both his arm and his legs. So, it's not hard to figure out why Pittman prioritized adding him in the portal.

The problem is that Arkansas had a miserable offensive line in 2023, and there's no guarantee that a slew of portal additions will change things. If the Razorbacks can't block, Green will struggle to beat SEC defenses with his arm, and Arkansas won't be able to fix its disaster of a running game from a year ago.

DEFENSE
Arkansas was better than expected defensively last season. The Razorbacks gave up 27.9 points per game, which is better than you might think, considering how often the unit was on the field. Arkansas should be solid again defensively in Year 2 under defensive coordinator Travis Williams, but it'll be up to the offense for that to matter.

Arkansas brings back eight starters from last year's group, including defensive end Landon Jackson. He had 6.5 sacks last year and should be in for a big 2024 season. Returners Cameron Ball and Eric Gregory are trustworthy defensive linemen, and the Razorbacks added some talent to the linebacker and defensive back rooms — in addition to having some guys who are developing.

OUTLOOK
Arkansas will beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff and should win home games against UAB and Louisiana Tech. But finding two more wins on the Razorbacks schedule is rather tough. They have road games against Oklahoma State, Auburn, Mississippi State and Missouri, and they also play a neutral-field game against Texas A&M. I don't see it happening with a shaky offense.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	AK-PINE BLUFF	-59	-10
9/7	at OKLAHOMA STATE	10.5	54.5
9/14	UAB	-14.5	34
9/21	at AUBURN	9	53
9/28	vs TEXAS A&M	11.5	58.5
10/5	TENNESSEE	9	57.5
10/19	LSU	12.5	61
10/26	at MISSISSIPPI STATE	0	44.5
11/2	OLE MISS	12	60.5
11/16	TEXAS	20.5	69
11/23	LOUISIANA TECH	-25.5	23.5
11/30	at MISSOURI	15.5	59.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **46.60** #28 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **16**
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	23.9	83	29.3	82
YARDS PER POINT	13.5	41	12.4	115
PLAYS PER GAME	70.9	43		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:51	46		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	37.7%	71	38.5%	59
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	321.7	101	363.2	43
YARDS PER PLAY	4.5	121	5.6	73
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	39.6	25		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	142.1	74	162.6	84
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.6	106	4.4	80
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.1	108		
COMPLETION %	62.8%	45	60.1%	53
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	179.6	109	200.5	28
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.6	91	7.9	101
TURNOVERS	1.6	93	1.1	106

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
200-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
28-1

CFP CHAMPION
500-1

AUBURN
TIGERS

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 6-7 ATS
Head Coach: Hugh Freeze (3rd)

Hugh Freeze inherited an Auburn team that went 5-7 in 2022 and he led the Tigers to a 6-7 season. That really should have been a 7-6 season, too. Auburn inexplicably lost by 21 points in a home game against New Mexico State before facing Alabama in the Iron Bowl the following week. If that game wasn't played in a trap week, the Tigers probably go over .500. But either way, Auburn picked up an extra win 2023 and also played Georgia, Ole Miss and Alabama extremely close. That makes it hard not to view Freeze's first year as a success.

Freeze will now look to turn in a winning season with the Tigers, which will be a difficult task in a loaded SEC. But the Tigers do have a very favorable schedule, especially when it comes to home games. And even if things don't turn around immediately, the future is bright for Auburn. Freeze landed a top-10 recruiting class in 2024, giving him high-level talent to develop. He's holding his own against the class of the SEC in the recruiting department, and doing that consistently will yield results eventually.

OFFENSE
Auburn's offense was a nightmare in the first half of the 2023 season, but things got a lot crisper once Freeze took back play-calling duties. This year, the group should be able to take a sizable step forward. Payton Thorne is an experienced quarterback who should build on what was an up-and-down campaign in his first year with the Tigers. He improved as last season went along and should benefit from improved offensive line play.

Thorne is also going to be working in a system that should be a good fit for him. The option will be a staple for Auburn in 2024, and that's not a bad thing with a good run-blocking line and a star in the backfield in Jarquez Hunter.

Thorne will also have some absolute studs at the wide receiver position this year. There are some returners in the mix, but Cam Coleman is a 6-foot-3 stud and should be an NFL player someday. There's a lot of hype surrounding him and the rest of the freshmen wideouts on this team.

DEFENSE
Ron Roberts didn't end up doing a good job with last year's group, so Freeze went out and hired DJ Durkin. Last year, Durkin's defense gave up only 21.3 points per game at Texas A&M. He has been a productive coordinator and defensive mind for his entire coaching career, and he'll have a very talented group to work with at Auburn.

Jalen McLeod can really get after the quarterback and the Tigers have a solid group of pass-rushers to prevent him from seeing consistent double teams. Honestly, Auburn's entire group of linebackers looks awesome on paper. Also, corners Keionte Scott and Kayin Lee headline a secondary that should be a lot sturdier in 2024. Auburn gave up a ton of big plays over the top last year, but that shouldn't be the case this season.

OUTLOOK
The Tigers have a real shot at winning seven games at Jordan-Hare Stadium. Their toughest of eight home games will be against Oklahoma and Texas A&M, but I trust them to win one of those two. That makes it hard not to like the Over on their team total. I think the offense will be a lot better in 2024, and this defense has some dudes. This play could come down to whether or not Auburn wins at Kentucky on October 26th.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 7.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	ALABAMA A&M	-51.5	4
9/7	CALIFORNIA	-8	48
9/14	NEW MEXICO	-31	25.5
9/21	ARKANSAS	-9	46.5
9/28	OKLAHOMA	4	60
10/5	at GEORGIA	23.5	73.5
10/19	at MISSOURI	10	59.5
10/26	at KENTUCKY	1	50.5
11/2	VANDERBILT	-18.5	37
11/16	ULM	-35	21
11/23	TEXAS A&M	2.5	58.5
11/30	at ALABAMA	15.5	65

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **45.01** #46 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.7/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **17**
OFFENSIVE: 9 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.6	76	23.4	40
YARDS PER POINT	13.6	43	15.8	33
PLAYS PER GAME	65.3	102		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:30	104		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	30.9%	119	31.3%	17
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	333.7	98	368.8	51
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	86	5.6	72
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	39.2	30		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	186.3	24	161.8	83
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.8	30	4.5	86
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	23.4	124		
COMPLETION %	57.7%	90	59.0%	39
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	147.4	125	207	33
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.3	107	7.6	82
TURNOVERS	1.4	68	1.3	74

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
60-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
+650

CFP CHAMPION
110-1
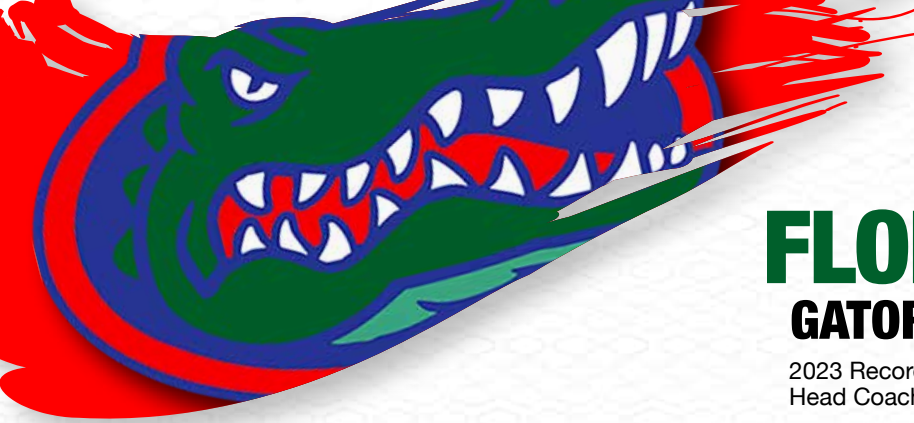
FLORIDA
GATORS

2023 Record: 5-7 SU & 4-8 ATS
Head Coach: Billy Napier (3rd)

It's going to be interesting to see what happens with Florida this year. This team looks like it will be better on both sides of the ball, but the Gators face a nightmare of a schedule. If Florida doesn't find a way to reach the .500 mark, would that mean the end of the Billy Napier era? Napier was hired because his coaching style reminded people of Nick Saban, and he had a lot of success at Louisville. However, Florida is just 11-14 in his two seasons in Gainesville and the Gators aren't holding their own in the recruiting wars.

The good news for Florida fans is that it's almost DJ Lagway time in The Swamp. Lagway is a five-star dual-threat quarterback who was ranked eighth in the 2024 ESPN 300. Lagway likely won't unseat Graham Mertz this year, but Florida's fortunes should change once the electric signal caller gets his shot.

OFFENSE
Last season, Mertz threw for 2,903 yards with 20 touchdowns and only three picks. The former five-star recruit flamed out at Wisconsin, so there wasn't much expected of him when he arrived in Gainesville. But Mertz looked re-energized in his new surroundings, showing great command of the offense and showing that he can make all the throws. Now, there's high hopes for the Florida passing game in 2024, as he'll be tossing passes to talented wideout Eugene Wilson again. Florida also brought in former Wisconsin receiver Chimere Dike, who had a good connection with Mertz in Madison. And the Gators also added Arizona State transfer Elijhah Badger, who was one of the best wideouts in the Pac 12.

If Florida's offensive line holds up, the Gators will move the ball. Mertz has a good group of weapons and running back Montrell Johnson Jr. is coming off a season in which he rushed for 817 yards and averaged 5.4 yards per carry.

DEFENSE
The defensive side of the ball is where things got really ugly for Florida last year. The Gators gave up 27.6 points per game in 2023, and they also were 122nd in college football in yards per play allowed (6.4). Florida didn't discriminate in how it struggled defensively, either. The Gators gave up 4.8 yards per carry on the ground, which was good for 111th in the nation. They also had an opposing QB Rating of 146.0, which was also 111th.

Florida did bring in a good amount of talent to compete for starting positions, and the team also happened to play a lot of young guys last year. So, the Gators should look a little more organized, especially with Ron Roberts coming in to help. But this is likely going to remain one of the worst defenses in the SEC.

OUTLOOK
This is an extremely low number for a team with a brand this big. However, I'm not sure I see four wins on the schedule, and Florida would need five to go Over. Realistically, the only team I'm certain Florida will beat is Samford. This Under is one of my favorite plays you can make this season.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	MIAMI FL	1	57
9/7	SAMFORD	-35	21
9/14	TEXAS A&M	2	58.5
9/21	at MISSISSIPPI STATE	-6	44.5
10/5	UCF	-8	49
10/12	at TENNESSEE	7.5	57.5
10/19	KENTUCKY	-6	50.5
11/2	vs GEORGIA	21	73.5
11/9	at TEXAS	19	69
11/16	LSU	4.5	61
11/23	OLE MISS	4	60.5
11/30	at FLORIDA STATE	10.5	60.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **54.58** #1 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 8 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	26.5	62	29.5	85
YARDS PER POINT	15	80	13.8	79
PLAYS PER GAME	69.9	51		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:11	16		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.7%	100	37.0%	45
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	398	47	406.7	91
YARDS PER PLAY	5.7	51	6.5	124
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.1	93		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	136.4	83	165.5	88
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.1	72	5.1	117
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.4	50		
COMPLETION %	71.9%	4	60.5%	59
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	261.6	38	241.3	84
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.8	43	8.5	124
TURNOVERS	1	17	0.6	128

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
120-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
20-1

CFP CHAMPION
250-1

GEORGIA
BULLDOGS

2023 Record: 13-1 SU & 5-8-1 ATS
Head Coach: Kirby Smart (9th)

Kirby Smart's team is the betting favorite to win the national championship this year. Georgia missed out on the College Football Playoff last season, with a loss to Alabama in the SEC Championship being the reason for that. But the Bulldogs return most of their key starters from a year ago, including quarterback Carson Beck. There might not be a team in college football with as much talent as the Dawgs, and they'll undoubtedly play with some edge after last season.

The issue for Georgia is that this year's schedule is absolutely brutal. The Bulldogs will play road games against Alabama, Texas and Ole Miss. They'll also host Tennessee and play a neutral-field game against Clemson. The expanded playoff should mean that Georgia can slip up, but what if it happens twice — or three times?

OFFENSE
Not only is Beck back after throwing for 3,941 yards with 24 touchdowns, but he'll be protected by an offensive line that returns four starters. So, Beck should have all the time in the world to pick opposing defenses apart. And Georgia also happened to add Florida transfer Trevor Etienne, who is one of the best running backs in college football. With those two in the mix, along with a talented group of wide receivers, this offense is going to be hard to stop.

Last year, Georgia was fifth in the nation in scoring offense (40.1 PPG). The Bulldogs should flirt with that number again, as they're going to light up some of their weaker opponents. But it will be interesting to see how Georgia does against some of the big guns. Last year, the Tide held the Bulldogs to 24 points in the SEC Championship and shut the lights out on their season. Georgia needs to be able to move the ball and score against elite competition, as the Dawgs will face a few stout defenses in 2024.

DEFENSE
Georgia only allowed 16.6 points per game in 2023, giving the Bulldogs a top-10 scoring defense for the third year in a row. With seven starters returning, including some talented defensive linemen and linebackers, there's no denying this unit will be a strength for Georgia in 2024. The only real concern for the Bulldogs is in the secondary, but corner Daylen Everette and safety Malaki Starks can both play. Georgia also has some crazy-talented underclassmen who are expected to play big roles in the back of the defense.

There really won't be any reason to panic about this unit until Smart leaves, or he stops recruiting. It doesn't feel like either will be happening anytime soon.

OUTLOOK
Georgia might be the best team in the country, but I don't think the gap is that wide between the Bulldogs and some of the other elite teams in college football. That makes it hard to like Georgia to win 11 games this year. The Bulldogs would have to win two games out of these four: vs. Clemson (neutral), at Alabama, at Texas and at Ole Miss. It's not fair to expect any team to do that, and Georgia also hosts an up-and-coming Tennessee team on November 16th.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 10.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	vs CLEMSON	-15.5	58.5
9/7	TENNESSEE TECH	-68.5	8
9/14	at KENTUCKY	-20	50.5
9/28	at ALABAMA	-6	65
10/5	AUBURN	-23.5	53
10/12	MISSISSIPPI STATE	-31.5	44.5
10/19	at TEXAS	-2	69
11/2	vs FLORIDA	-21	53.5
11/9	at OLE MISS	-10.5	60.5
11/16	TENNESSEE	-18.5	57.5
11/23	MASSACHUSETTS	-53.5	23
11/29	GEORGIA TECH	-29.5	46

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **48.53** #15 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.5/0.4** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 7(RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 7

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	39.5	5	16.3	7
YARDS PER POINT	12.4	18	17.9	9
PLAYS PER GAME	69.3	59		
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:43	1		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	55.6%	1	26.7%	3
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	491.6	6	291.3	8
YARDS PER PLAY	7.1	4	4.7	10
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.2	61		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	193.6	17	112.2	16
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.3	9	3.7	30
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.1	63		
COMPLETION %	72.4%	2	55.0%	7
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	298	12	179.1	9
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9.3	9	5.9	6
TURNOVERS	1.1	24	1.2	104

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+200

MAKE PLAYOFF
-600

CFP CHAMPION
3-1

KENTUCKY
WILDCATS

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 7-6 ATS
Head Coach: Mark Stoops (12th)

It seemed like Mark Stoops was leaving Lexington for the Texas A&M job, but he ultimately decided to stay with Kentucky. Stoops hasn't been able to break through and get this team into the top tier in the SEC, but those really aren't the expectations with this program. As long as Stoops has the Wildcats in bowl games, people will be happy. And Kentucky has finished above .500 in seven of the last eight seasons.

This season, a successful year would once again mean eight or so wins. And while Kentucky is starting over at the quarterback position, there's no reason to doubt this group. The Wildcats have a lot of experience and a very reasonable schedule. And they rarely lose games they're expected to win, so they tend to have a high floor and be a trustworthy team to bet on.

OFFENSE
Devin Leary struggled to replace Will Levis last year. He did throw for 2,746 yards with 25 touchdowns, but he also struggled with his accuracy and turned the ball over a bunch. Now, Kentucky is turning to Georgia transfer Brock Vandagriff under center. Once a highly-regarded recruit, Vandagriff chose the Bulldogs over the likes of Alabama, Florida, Florida State, LSU, Miami, Michigan, Oklahoma, Ole Miss and Penn State. He never ended up getting a shot in Athens, but he's a talented kid and offensive coordinator Bush Hamdan should get the most out of him.

Vandagriff will have the luxury of throwing to a talented group of wideouts. Dane Key and Barion Brown are both back after turning in solid seasons last year, and they should be one of the toughest duos to cover in college football. North Texas transfer Ja'Mori Maclin could also play a big role after having 57 catches for 1,004 yards and 11 touchdowns last year.

Kentucky lost star running back Ray Davis to the NFL, but the Wildcats are replacing him with a proven commodity in Ohio State transfer Chip Trayanum. And what's most important is that Kentucky should have a decent offensive line this season. That's big, considering Hamdan likes to lean on the running game.

DEFENSE
Kentucky will have 10 players with starting experience on the defense this year. So, this group should only improve after allowing 25.8 points per game last season. The Wildcats will be especially tough in the front seven. This was one of the best rushing defenses in the conference last year and could be even stronger in 2024.

The talent behind the big guys up front just pops. Defensive end Deone Walker is a flat-out stud, and he joins J.J. Weaver and D'Eryk Jackson as impact returners. Kentucky also made a huge addition to the linebacking corps by adding Georgia transfer Jamon Dumas-Johnson.

Kentucky just needs to hold up in the secondary. Maxwell Hairston is an extremely reliable corner, but the rest of the defensive backs are question marks.

OUTLOOK
I was a little surprised to see this total down at 6.5. The only way Kentucky doesn't hit this mark is if Vandagriff is a huge disappointment. The Wildcats have four can't-miss games on the schedule and then a handful of toss-ups. With the overall talent and experience on this roster, you can trust Stoops to make lemonade with that.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	SOUTHERN MISS	-24.5	29.5
9/7	SOUTH CAROLINA	-4.5	49.5
9/14	GEORGIA	20	73.5
9/21	OHIO	-22	31.5
9/28	at OLE MISS	13	60.5
10/12	VANDERBILT	-16.5	37
10/19	at FLORIDA	6	53.5
10/26	AUBURN	-1	53
11/2	at TENNESSEE	10	57.5
11/16	MURRAY STATE	-44.5	10
11/23	at TEXAS	21.5	69
11/30	LOUISVILLE	0.5	54.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **46.95** #25 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.3/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **18**
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 10

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.2	50	26.6	60
YARDS PER POINT	11.4	5	13.4	90
PLAYS PER GAME	56.1	133		
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:20	125		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	37.3%	74	43.1%	106
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	333.3	99	356.4	39
YARDS PER PLAY	5.9	38	5	29
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.3	132		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	129	95	114.8	19
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.9	24	3.3	12
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	28.1	95		
COMPLETION %	55.5%	107	67.9%	128
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	204.3	90	241.7	87
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.3	65	7.2	61
TURNOVERS	1.6	86	1.3	74

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
100-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
11-1

CFP CHAMPION
300-1

LSU
TIGERS

2023 Record: 10-3 SU & 7-6 ATS
Head Coach: Brian Kelly (3rd)

Brian Kelly is losing a lot of what made the LSU offense special last season, with Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels now playing for the Washington Commanders. Daniels' top targets, Malik Nabers and Brian Thomas Jr., also heard their names called in the first round of the 2024 NFL Draft. However, Kelly has recruited like an animal in Baton Rouge, and this offense should hum once again.

The question will be whether the defense can figure things out. The Tigers were one of the worst units in the SEC on that side of the ball, but they hired Missouri defensive coordinator Blake Baker to stabilize things. The unit also has some impressive talent at all three levels.

LSU could take a little bit to really start playing well, but the sky's the limit if things come together quickly. The Tigers play most of their toughest games in Death Valley.

OFFENSE
Jayden Daniels threw for 3,812 yards with 40 touchdowns and only four picks last year, and he also rushed for 1,134 yards with 10 touchdowns. Replacing his production, along with a combined 2,746 yards and 31 touchdowns from Nabers and Thomas, will be tough. But Garrett Nussmeier proved that he's up for the challenge, as he threw for 395 yards with three touchdowns in a win over Wisconsin in LSU's bowl game. And the receiver room is still pretty damn good, with Kyren Lacy back after hauling in 30 catches for 558 yards and seven touchdowns last year. Lacy will be joined by a few other players who will be asked to step into bigger roles, along with transfers CJ Daniels and Zavion Thomas. On top of that, Mason Taylor is a legit pass-catching weapon at tight end.

The Tigers could also feature the running game a bit more with Daniels gone, as Kaleb Jackson looks like an absolute star out of the backfield. This will be something of a committee, but Jackson should rise to the top. And LSU's offensive line should be great.

DEFENSE
The Tigers will have one of the better groups of linebackers in the country, as Harold Perkins Jr. is one of the best defensive players in the SEC and will be working alongside Greg Penn III. LSU also happens to have some studs in the secondary, so this passing defense should take a step forward after allowing 256.0 yards per game in 2023. Opponents also had a QB Rating of 144.0 against LSU, and that simply has to go down.

The biggest question mark on this group will be the defensive line. Opponents picked up chunk yardage against LSU far too frequently in 2023. However, the Tigers have some trustworthy contributors along the defensive line, and they added some rotational bodies in the transfer portal. That should be enough for Baker to work with.

OUTLOOK
The Tigers will play eight games in which they're clearly the more talented team. That leaves LSU in a situation in which it needs to win two out of the following three contests: vs. Ole Miss, at Texas A&M and vs. Alabama. I think it's more likely they win two of those than lose two, so I'm going with the Over. But I'd be pretty surprised if this doesn't end in a push.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 9

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
9/1	vs USC	-5.5	55.5
9/7	NICHOLLS STATE	-44	20.5
9/14	at SOUTH CAROLINA	-8.5	49.5
9/21	UCLA	-18	46
9/28	SOUTH ALABAMA	-27.5	36.5
10/12	OLE MISS	-4	60.5
10/19	at ARKANSAS	-12.5	46.5
10/26	at TEXAS A&M	0.5	58.5
11/9	ALABAMA	1	65
11/16	at FLORIDA	-4.5	53.5
11/23	VANDERBILT	-27	37
11/30	OKLAHOMA	-4.5	60

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **48.22** #18 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.2/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **12**
OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	43.3	1	29.5	86
YARDS PER POINT	12.4	17	14.4	61
PLAYS PER GAME	65	105		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:29	105		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	51.7%	2	46.3%	120
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	537	1	424.7	110
YARDS PER PLAY	8.3	1	6	99
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	31.8	105		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	196.3	14	160.5	79
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	6.2	1	4.4	84
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	31.4	67		
COMPLETION %	69.5%	6	65.0%	117
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	340.7	3	264.2	121
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	10.8	1	8.1	111
TURNOVERS	0.7	5	1	112

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
10-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
+125

CFP CHAMPION
18-1

MISSISSIPPI STATE

BULLDOGS

2023 Record: 5-7 SU & 3-8-1 ATS
Head Coach: Jeff Lebby (1st)

The last few years have been strange for this program. The Bulldogs were doing well with Mike Leach at the helm, but the legendary offensive mind — and captivating human being — passed in 2022. Defensive coordinator Zach Arnett, who many were high on, ended up getting the opportunity to lead the program. That ultimately didn't work out, so the Bulldogs moved on and brought in offensive guru Jeff Lebby. His high-powered offense will be welcomed after years of Leach running the show.

The problem is that Lebby only has a handful of starters returning from last year, and that was a miserable team to begin with. It's going to take some time for him to get the right talent in place, so a few seasons in the basement of the SEC should be expected.

OFFENSE
Lebby has churned out elite offenses at UCF, Ole Miss and Oklahoma, so there's no reason to believe he can't do it in Starkville. The biggest concern heading into Year 1 will be the offensive line. Lebby will have five new starters up front, with most of them coming from the transfer portal. If that group can't figure things out quickly, this offense won't operate at a high level. However, if the offensive line can just be decent, Mississippi State will score a lot of points.

Lebby did well to add Baylor transfer Blake Shapen as his quarterback. Shapen can make all the throws, including the downfield shots that will be staples in Lebby's system. He's also rather good with his legs, and he'll be throwing the ball to a talented group of wide receivers. However, Mississippi State's ground game will be a bit of a question mark, as it's an unproven group of backs running behind an inexperienced offensive line. And the Bulldogs will be asking a lot of Shapen if they can't get the running game going.

DEFENSE
The defensive side of the ball is where things could get really ugly. Coleman Hutzler, who has spent the last four seasons with Texas, Ole Miss and Alabama, will get a shot at running this thing. Hutzler has never called plays, but there's something to be said about spending so much time around winning programs. He should have a good understanding of what it takes to win games. However, the talent isn't going to be there in Year 1.

This unit only returns five starters and lost most of its best players. Lebby did try to add some talent in the transfer portal, but he didn't bring in any legitimate game-changers. So, Mississippi State could really struggle against some of the elite offenses in this conference.

OUTLOOK
This is a play that feels like it'll end in a push, but I feel a little better about playing the Under than I do the Over. Mississippi State should win home games against Eastern Kentucky and UMass, but the Bulldogs don't have any other clear wins. They'll like their chances against Toledo, Arizona State, Florida and Arkansas, but I'd be stunned if they win three of those four. And I wouldn't be shocked if they only win one. I think Mississippi State's defense is going to be a disaster.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	E KENTUCKY	-24	23
9/7	at ARIZONA STATE	-2.5	40
9/14	TOLEDO	-10	37
9/21	FLORIDA	6	53.5
9/28	at TEXAS	27.5	69
10/12	at GEORGIA	31.5	73.5
10/19	TEXAS A&M	11.5	58.5
10/26	ARKANSAS	0	46.5
11/2	MASSACHUSETTS	-24.5	23
11/9	at TENNESSEE	16	57.5
11/23	MISSOURI	12.5	59.5
11/29	at OLE MISS	18.5	60.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **49.74** #4 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.4/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **9**
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	19.5	112	28.4	75
YARDS PER POINT	16	104	12.8	106
PLAYS PER GAME	64.2	115		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:31	103		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	29.7%	124	34.0%	28
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	310.7	113	363.5	44
YARDS PER PLAY	4.8	105	5.3	48
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.9	96		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	133	89	151.6	57
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4	80	3.9	45
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29	85		
COMPLETION %	56.7%	102	68.9%	130
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	177.7	112	211.9	39
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.1	114	7.5	76
TURNOVERS	1.3	49	1	112

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
300-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
50-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

MISSOURI
TIGERS

2023 Record: 11-2 SU & 9-4 ATS
Head Coach: Eliah Drinkwitz (5th)

Last year marked head coach Eliah Drinkwitz's breakthrough in Columbia. After being hired by Missouri after a 12-1 season at Appalachian State, things started rather slowly for Drinkwitz. He went 5-5 in 2020 and then 6-7 in both 2021 and 2022. But the Tigers ended up going 11-2 last season, finishing 6-2 in SEC play and winning their Cotton Bowl game against Ohio State. Now, Missouri is firmly on the map and expectations are high.

The Tigers do return quite a bit of talent from last year's group, including quarterback Brady Cook and most of last year's high-powered offense. However, Missouri did lose a very bright defensive mind in Blake Baker, who left to become the LSU defensive coordinator. The Tigers also lost a lot of talent on that side of the ball. If Missouri is going to replicate last season's success, the defense will need to outperform expectations and the Tigers will need to run through a very difficult schedule.

OFFENSE
There were some concerns about how Cook would perform last season, as he was coming off shoulder surgery. But Cook ended up throwing for 3,317 yards with 21 touchdowns and only six picks, and he improved on all of his passing numbers from 2022. Cook also added 319 yards and eight touchdowns. Cook is one of the best dual-threat quarterbacks in the country and should only be better in his third year running this offense.

Cook also happens to have an elite wide receiver core, headlined by future NFL star Luther Burden III. Last season, Burden had 86 receptions for 1,212 yards and nine touchdowns. He's as tough a cover as anybody in college football.

The only real issues here are that Missouri lost a bit on the offensive line and it's going to sting not having running back Cody Schrader back. But as long as Drinkwitz pieces together a solid line, this running game will be fine.

DEFENSE
Missouri's defense was quite good last year. The Tigers were torched by LSU, but who wasn't? And they did play a pretty miserable game against Florida in November. But Missouri gave up 21 or fewer points in eight of its 13 games, and the team should be able to build on that in 2024. The Tigers did lose some key contributors from last year's team, but they did a good job in the transfer portal. Former Florida tackle Chris McClellan should be a stud immediately, and Clemson corner Toriano Pride Jr. is extremely talented. Those two should help make up for some of the bigger losses on this side of the ball.

It does hurt that Baker left for LSU, but Corey Batoon did a great job as the defensive coordinator for South Alabama. He was a nominee for the Broyles Award in 2021, so he should be up for the challenge of getting something out of this talented group.

OUTLOOK
I'm not expecting a significant drop off from Missouri, but the team does face a difficult schedule this year. Road games against Texas A&M and Alabama will likely be losses, and a home game against Oklahoma won't be easy. I'm also not sure the Tigers will win at South Carolina. So, while Drinkwitz deserves a ton of credit for building a great roster, I'm not sure double-digit wins will be realistic in the regular season.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 9.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	MURRAY STATE	-53	10
9/7	BUFFALO	-38.5	24
9/14	BOSTON COLLEGE	-20	42.5
9/21	VANDERBILT	-25	37
10/5	at TEXAS A&M	2	58.5
10/12	at MASSACHUSETTS	-34.5	23
10/19	AUBURN	-10	53
10/26	at ALABAMA	9	65
11/9	OKLAHOMA	-2.5	60
11/16	at SOUTH CAROLINA	-7	49.5
11/23	at MISSISSIPPI STATE	-12.5	44.5
11/30	ARKANSAS	-15.5	46.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **42.25** #62 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.9/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 9 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	32.3	25	21.8	28
YARDS PER POINT	13.4	38	16	28
PLAYS PER GAME	69.2	61		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:32	52		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.5%	43	38.1%	53
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	432.6	26	347.8	38
YARDS PER PLAY	6.3	19	5.2	40
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	38.1	40		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	168.5	45	129.1	34
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.4	50	4	48
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.1	84		
COMPLETION %	65.0%	24	61.7%	84
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	264.1	36	218.7	46
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9.1	10	6.9	41
TURNOVERS	0.6	4	1.6	41

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
18-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
+180

CFP CHAMPION
40-1

OKLAHOMA
SOONERS

2023 Record: 10-3 SU & 8-5 ATS
Head Coach: Brent Venables (3rd)

Brent Venables' first year in Norman was a bit of a nightmare, as the Sooners went 6-7. Last year was a lot better, as Oklahoma went 10-3 and picked up a big win over Texas. However, the Sooners are now in the SEC, so they're going to need to turn things up a notch in every way imaginable. Venables needs to recruit like hell to keep up with some of the elite programs in this conference.

Oklahoma should be really strong defensively this season, as Venables returns a lot of key pieces and they're all going to know exactly how to execute his system. The Sooners also have a very talented quarterback in Jackson Arnold. However, Oklahoma's offensive line is shaky and the schedule is tough.

OFFENSE
Losing Dillon Gabriel is never a good thing, but it is exciting that we'll see a full season of Arnold under center. The former five-star recruit started Oklahoma's bowl game against Arizona, throwing for 361 yards with two touchdowns and three interceptions in the loss. It was an up-and-down performance, but his talent was on full display. Arnold has a good arm and can really put the ball down and run.

Oklahoma also brings back a stud in running back Gavin Sawchuk, who was electric to end the 2023 season. Now, the question will be whether or not the Sooners can block. If they can, Oklahoma will have a real shot at exceeding expectations in 2024. But I have my doubts, as this team will be starting five new players up front.

DEFENSE
Last season, Oklahoma gave up only 23.5 points per game. The Sooners had their struggles against some elite offenses, but they showed a lot of progress after a difficult Year 1 under Venables. Now, Oklahoma brings back eight players with starting experience, and that includes stars Billy Bowman Jr. and Danny Stutsman. The Sooners also picked up a massive transfer portal addition in tackle Damonic Williams.

If Venables can find a way to patch up the secondary a little, the Sooners will be one of the best defensive teams in the conference. He's really starting to make this look a lot like a defense he'd have at Clemson, so things are moving in the right direction here.

OUTLOOK
Nobody is going to be excited about playing Oklahoma this year, as Arnold is a big-time talent at quarterback and the defense is going to be superb. But I don't know how you can look at this schedule and find eight wins. Even some of the early-season home games are dicey. I don't think the Tulane game is a surefire win, and the Sooners would pretty much need to beat Tennessee in order to win eight games.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 7.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/30	TEMPLE	-43.5	20
9/7	HOUSTON	-19.5	43
9/14	TULANE	-18.5	44
9/21	TENNESSEE	-5	57.5
9/28	at AUBURN	-4	53
10/12	vs TEXAS	9	69
10/19	SOUTH CAROLINA	-13.5	49.5
10/26	at OLE MISS	3.5	60.5
11/2	MAINE	-54	8.5
11/9	at MISSOURI	2.5	59.5
11/23	ALABAMA	2.5	65
11/30	at LSU	4.5	61

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **48.63** #14 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.6/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **15**
OFFENSIVE: 7
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	41.7	3	23.5	41
YARDS PER POINT	12.2	10	16.6	18
PLAYS PER GAME	76.2	9		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:03	87		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	48.9%	8	31.0%	14
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	507.2	3	389.7	67
YARDS PER PLAY	6.7	9	5.3	51
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	39.9	20		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	182.3	29	138.9	42
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.6	41	3.9	43
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.8	31		
COMPLETION %	68.4%	8	56.8%	20
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	324.8	5	250.8	100
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9.3	8	6.9	39
TURNOVERS	1.5	78	2	3

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
30-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
+490

CFP CHAMPION
65-1

OLE MISS
REBELS

2023 Record: 11-2 SU & 7-4-2 ATS
Head Coach: Lane Kiffin (5th)

Ole Miss is coming off an 11-2 season (the first 11-win season in Rebels history) in which the team finished the year with a 38-25 win over Penn State in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. Lane Kiffin has been a revelation since taking this job, and things could turn up in 2024. Ole Miss has 20 players with starting experience back, including a majority of an offense that averaged 35.1 points per game. Jaxson Dart is the leader of the pack. He's a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate. Ole Miss should also continue to get better defensively, where defensive coordinator Pete Golding is working with an experienced group.

The Rebels do have a few tough spots on their schedule, including a road game against LSU and home games against Oklahoma and Georgia. But overall, they have one of the easier schedules among the elite teams in this conference. Anything but a trip to the College Football Playoff would be a disappointment.

OFFENSE
Last year, Ole Miss was 16th in the nation in scoring offense. The Rebels were pretty balanced in their approach, as they were 40th in rushing yards per game (176.0) and 19th in passing yards per game (286.0). Well, don't expect things to get any worse in 2024. Ole Miss is only losing three starters from last year, with two coming on the offensive line. But Washington transfer Nate Kalepo will play a big role in making sure the blocking doesn't drop off from 2023. He was a big-time addition for Kiffin.

Dart is back under center after a year in which he threw for 3,364 yards with 23 touchdowns and only five picks, and he also rushed for 391 yards and eight scores. Dart will also have his top pass-catching targets back, headlined by Tre Harris. And if this wasn't already an embarrassment of riches, the Rebels also added South Carolina transfer Antwane "Juice" Wells Jr.

This just might be the best offense in all of college football. Putting 38 on Penn State's elite defense in last year's bowl game was the ultimate statement.

DEFENSE
Last year's Rebels team was mediocre defensively, but Kiffin addressed it in the transfer portal. The additions of Walter Nolen, Princely Umanmielen, Chris Paul Jr. and Trey Amos are going to be huge for Ole Miss. That's four high-level starters who will immediately make plays for Golding's defense. The Rebels also brought back some of their best players from a year ago.

If Ole Miss can just be an average unit on this side of the ball, the ceiling is the roof for the Rebels. And I don't think there's any reason to doubt what Golding can do with legitimate talent in place. He spent four years at Alabama and is creative in finding ways to throw off opposing offenses.

OUTLOOK
Winning at LSU is going to be tough. And beating Georgia at home might be tougher. But the Rebels really should win every other game on their schedule, which is why I like them to finish the regular season with at least 10 victories. I don't think there are many teams in college football that have this type of top-to-bottom talent, and Ole Miss also has good coaching and experienced leaders on both sides of the ball.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	FURMAN	-32.5	30.5
9/7	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	-35	28
9/14	at WAKE FOREST	-17	40
9/21	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-30.5	33
9/28	KENTUCKY	-13	50.5
10/5	at SOUTH CAROLINA	-8	49.5
10/12	at LSU	4	61
10/26	OKLAHOMA	-3.5	60
11/2	at ARKANSAS	-12	46.5
11/9	GEORGIA	10.5	73.5
11/23	at FLORIDA	-4	53.5
11/29	MISSISSIPPI STATE	-18.5	44.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **47.24** #24 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.7/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **20**
OFFENSIVE: 10 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 10

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	31.9	28	23.8	42
YARDS PER POINT	13.9	54	16.6	19
PLAYS PER GAME	73.5	26		
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:59	114		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.6%	102	40.0%	74
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	445	20	394.8	74
YARDS PER PLAY	6.1	30	5.4	57
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	41.8	11		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	179.3	31	158.1	71
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.3	60	4.1	56
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.5	79		
COMPLETION %	64.1%	30	61.4%	77
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	265.8	34	236.8	77
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	9	12	7.4	71
TURNOVERS	0.5	1	1.3	88

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+600

MAKE PLAYOFF
-125

CFP CHAMPION
15-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 9.5

SOUTH CAROLINA
GAMECOCKS

2023 Record: 5-7 SU & 6-6 ATS
Head Coach: Shane Beamer (4th)

Shane Beamer looked like he was going to be the guy to turn South Carolina around. The Gamecocks went 7-6 in his first year at the helm. They then followed it up with an 8-5 season in 2022. However, South Carolina slipped to 5-7 in 2023, and things are looking rather bleak heading into 2024.

The Gamecocks have some real talent and athleticism at two important offensive positions in quarterback LaNorris Sellers and running back Rocket Sanders. But Sellers is a first-year starter who will experience some growing pains, and he doesn't have much to throw to. And this defense was a mess in 2023, making it hard to believe in the group in 2024.

OFFENSE
People were pretty harsh on Spencer Rattler last season, despite the fact that he was often making chicken salad out of chicken poo. The Gamecocks had one of the worst offensive lines in the SEC, with injuries playing a major part in that. And they were not able to run the football, so Rattler was often in terrible situations. With Rattler now in the NFL, I wouldn't be surprised if this is the worst offensive team in the SEC.

Sellers definitely has a lot of upside and Sanders is one of the most electric running backs in college football. But I'm not a big believer in the Gamecocks receivers. They're going to really miss Antwane Wells Jr. And I don't think Sanders is going to have a lot of running room. Beamer is confident that his offensive line will be better in 2024, but I don't see it improving to a middle-of-the-pack SEC level.

DEFENSE
The Gamecocks are bringing back six starters from last year's defense, including linebacker Debo Williams. South Carolina also has a pretty reliable secondary, and there is some young talent that can inject a little life into the pass rush. However, the Gamecocks are pretty weak along the defensive line and they play five defensive backs at a time. So, they're going to get absolutely shredded on the ground against some of the better SEC offenses.

This defense could also spend a lot of time on the field with how mediocre the offense looks. That might lead to a higher points per game allowed than last year's 26.3.

OUTLOOK
South Carolina will probably pick up a big home win at some point in the season, and I have a feeling it'll come against Missouri on November 16th. But the Gamecocks will probably lose four of their five road games, and I don't see enough surefire home wins on the schedule to expect six victories.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	vs OLD DOMINION	-17	32
9/7	at KENTUCKY	4.5	50.5
9/14	LSU	8.5	61
9/21	AKRON	-29	23.5
10/5	OLE MISS	8	60.5
10/12	at ALABAMA	19	65
10/19	at OKLAHOMA	13.5	60
11/2	TEXAS A&M	6	58.5
11/9	at VANDERBILT	-10.5	37
11/16	MISSOURI	7	59.5
11/23	WOFFORD	-43.5	9.5
11/30	at CLEMSON	12	58.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **47.63** #22 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **15**
OFFENSIVE: 7
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.1	80	26.8	65
YARDS PER POINT	14.3	65	15.2	45
PLAYS PER GAME	67.6	79		
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:49	116		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	31.0%	118	43.4%	110
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	344.4	93	406.5	90
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	88	5.5	67
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.9	115		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	83.2	128	160.5	80
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	2.8	128	4.1	59
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34	38		
COMPLETION %	67.1%	14	61.5%	80
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	261.2	40	245.9	91
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.7	48	7.4	74
TURNOVERS	1.1	33	1.4	65

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
120-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
20-1

CFP CHAMPION
400-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5.5

TENNESSEE
VOLUNTEERS

2023 Record: 9-4 SU & 7-6 ATS
Head Coach: Josh Heupel (4th)

Josh Heupel is building something spectacular in Knoxville. Over the last two years, the Volunteers are 20-6 and have won two bowl games. Heupel consistently pumps out explosive offenses, and that's not changing with Nico Iamaleava under center. The first-year starter was a five-star recruit with offers from every top school in the nation. He's viewed as a program-changing talent, and he should lift up an offense that looks like it's missing a playmaker on paper.

If Tim Banks can find a way to get this defense to outperform expectations, the Volunteers will flirt with one of the final spots in the College Football Playoff. But even if he doesn't, this is a team with the potential to win nine or 10 games. And there are a lot of players on this roster that should be around next year, so the future is insanely bright on Rocky Top.

OFFENSE
Iamaleava threw for 151 yards with a touchdown and no picks against Iowa in the Citrus Bowl, and he also added 27 yards and three scores on the ground. That was a Hawkeyes defense that was amongst the best in the nation in 2023. That's a good sign of things to come for Iamaleava, who many believe will be the best quarterback in the SEC rather quickly. He can make every throw that Heupel will ask of him, and he's also a good runner. Iamaleava also has a good group of wideouts, with Bru McCoy now healthy and Squirrel White poised to make a leap. Tennessee also added Tulane transfer Chris Brazzell II, who should be reliable immediately. And the Vols also have some stud underclassmen.

If the Tennessee offensive line holds up, there's no reason this can't be one of the best offenses in college football. That's no guarantee with a decent amount of turnover up front, but it was massive that the team brought in left tackle Lance Heard. If he can live up to his potential, the line will be just fine. And that would mean another solid year running the football as well.

DEFENSE
James Pearce Jr. might be the best defensive player in the conference. Last season, he had 10 sacks for this Volunteers defense and he should continue to live in the backfield. Tennessee also returns Omari Thomas and Bryson Eason, so there's a good amount of production coming back along the defensive line. That should be a nightmare for opposing quarterbacks and running backs.

The issue on defense is that Tennessee is working in entirely new groups at linebacker and defensive back. This is a big-name brand and people want to play here, so the Vols did load up in the transfer portal. But it could take them a while to find their footing defensively, as they won't have any continuity to work with. Fortunately, the early-season schedule will allow them to work through things.

OUTLOOK
I think the Volunteers are probably a year or two away from reaching their full potential, even if Pearce ends up going to the NFL after the season. However, I still think Tennessee is going to win at least nine games in 2024. Even if I do think there's room for improvement on both sides of the ball, the schedule isn't that daunting.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	CHATTANOOGA	-37	23.5
9/7	vs NC STATE	-6.5	51.5
9/14	KENT STATE	-42	18.5
9/21	at OKLAHOMA	5	60
10/5	at ARKANSAS	-9	46.5
10/12	FLORIDA	-7.5	53.5
10/19	ALABAMA	4.5	65
11/2	KENTUCKY	-10	50.5
11/9	MISSISSIPPI STATE	-16	44.5
11/16	at GEORGIA	18.5	73.5
11/23	UTEP	-38	22.5
11/30	at VANDERBILT	-19	37

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **44.44** #51 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.9/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **11**
OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	31.9	28	20.9	22
YARDS PER POINT	14	57	16	27
PLAYS PER GAME	71.5	36		
TIME OF POSSESSION	25:17	132		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	43.3%	30	37.6%	49
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	447.4	17	334.8	27
YARDS PER PLAY	6.3	18	4.8	17
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	38.1	40		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	202.8	8	116.6	20
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.3	10	3.3	13
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	31.5	65		
COMPLETION %	64.0%	32	64.6%	109
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	244.6	52	218.3	45
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.8	45	7	48
TURNOVERS	0.9	12	1.3	74

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
16-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
+175

CFP CHAMPION
35-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8.5

TEXAS
LONGHORNS

2023 Record: 12-2 SU & 7-7 ATS
Head Coach: Steve Sarkisian (4th)

Texas is coming off a trip to the College Football Playoff. Steve Sarkisian's team ended up losing to Washington in the semifinals, but he's going to feel pretty good about getting back — even with his team moving to the SEC. Quinn Ewers is back under center and Sarkisian did a good job of piecing together talent around him. The Longhorns also have eight players with starting experience back on defense.

The Longhorns are undoubtedly facing tougher competition throughout the year now, as they'll take on Oklahoma, Georgia and Texas A&M as part of their SEC schedule. That will take some getting used to. Texas also has to play Michigan on September 7th. But this team is absolutely loaded on both sides of the ball.

OFFENSE
Last year, Texas averaged 35.8 points per game and averaged 478.0 yards of total offense. Things shouldn't be all that different with Ewers back under center. Last year, Ewers threw for 3,479 yards with 22 touchdowns and only six picks. This season, Sarkisian will be expecting bigger numbers. Sure, Xavier Worthy and Adonai Mitchell are gone, but Texas brought in transfers Isaiah Bond, Silas Bolden and Matthew Golden. DeAndre Moore Jr., a high-level recruit who didn't play much last year, will also be expected to step up as a sophomore. There's no reason this group can't turn into a strength.

The Longhorns also return four starters along the offensive line, which should help Jaydon Blue and CJ Baxter run wild out of the backfield.

Realistically, with Sarkisian scheming things up and Ewers knowing the system like the back of his hand, nobody will feel good about stopping this offense.

DEFENSE
Not only was Texas' offense explosive last year, but the Longhorns also gave up only 18.9 points per game. They were elite on both sides of the ball. This year, Sarkisian will have eight players with starting experience on defense. That should give defensive coordinator Pete Kwiatkowski what he needs to build another great unit.

The Longhorns did lose quite a bit along the defensive line, so they might not be as impenetrable against the run. But they did add some transfer bodies and should be solid in that regard. Texas also happens to be rather loaded at linebacker, and the Longhorns like their defensive backs. Malik Muhammad looks like a shutdown corner in the making, Jahdae Barron has already played good football for them and Clemson transfer Andrew Mukuba will be an instant-impact safety.

OUTLOOK
There's really no reason to believe that Texas can't compete with anybody, but the Longhorns have a gauntlet of a schedule. Games against Michigan, Oklahoma, Georgia and Texas A&M will all pose challenges. Do you really want to bet that Texas will go 3-1 in those games? The Longhorns are also playing the Wolverines in Michigan. With that game being early in the season, Texas might not be playing its best football yet.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 10.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	COLORADO STATE	-37	35
9/7	at MICHIGAN	-2.5	63
9/14	UTSA	-28.5	43
9/21	ULM	-51.5	21
9/28	MISSISSIPPI STATE	-27.5	44.5
10/12	vs OKLAHOMA	-9	60
10/19	GEORGIA	2	73.5
10/26	at VANDERBILT	-30.5	37
11/9	FLORIDA	-19	53.5
11/16	at ARKANSAS	-20.5	46.5
11/23	KENTUCKY	-21.5	50.5
11/30	at TEXAS A&M	-7.5	58.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH
47.93
#20 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS
2.9/0
(HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS
17
OFFENSIVE: 7 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	35.8	13	18.9	12
YARDS PER POINT	13.3	37	17.8	10
PLAYS PER GAME	73.5	26		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:13	34		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	38.4%	65	26.0%	1
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	477.5	9	336.9	28
YARDS PER PLAY	6.5	12	5.1	35
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37.6	47		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	188.4	23	82.6	3
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5	18	2.9	5
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.9	41		
COMPLETION %	66.7%	16	60.9%	66
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	289.1	18	254.4	105
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.5	18	7.1	54
TURNOVERS	1.3	52	1.7	26

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+320

MAKE PLAYOFF
-230

CFP CHAMPION
8-1

TEXAS A&M
AGGIES

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 6-6-1 ATS
Head Coach: Mike Elko (1st)

The Aggies definitely tried their best to hire Mark Stoops, but they ended up bringing in Mike Elko. That might have been their second choice, but I think they'll be better off with him leading the way. Elko took over a lifeless Duke program and went 16-9 in two seasons. He also helped Duke score a program-making win over Clemson. Elko also knows exactly what it takes to win in College Station, as he was a stellar defensive coordinator for A&M from 2018 to 2021.

Now that Elko has proven he can win at this level, there should be extremely high hopes for this program. Elko delivers on the field in a way that Jimbo Fisher couldn't. So, if he's able to have half the success that Fisher did as a recruiter, things will be just fine and A&M will compete in the SEC for a long time. But don't sleep on the Aggies in Year in 1.

OFFENSE
Elko is turning to Kansas State offensive coordinator Collin Klein to get this offense going. Klein was in charge of some dynamic offenses in Manhattan, and he should be able to get a lot out of Conner Weigman. The sophomore has an NFL future with his ability to accurately throw the ball to every part of the field, and he's also good at making plays with his legs. Weigman did suffer a broken foot last season. If his movement is compromised early in the season, the Aggies could slip up somewhere.

Weigman isn't alone on offense. Running backs Rueben Owens, Le'Veon Moss and Stanford transfer EJ Smith are all capable of making plays out of the backfield, and the Aggies have good playmakers at wideout and tight end. But the reality is that Texas A&M desperately needs better offensive line play. That was a major weakness last year. The Aggies do have three starters back, and transfers Kolinu'u Faaiu and Ar'maj Reed-Adams could help a bunch. Perhaps a new coaching staff can fix things up.

DEFENSE
The Aggies ended up losing a lot of talent from last year's defense, but they did a good job of patching things together and also have a lot of underclassmen who will be ready to step up. This defensive line could be tremendous in 2024, and Purdue transfer Nic Scourton is going to show out as a pass-rusher in the SEC. Texas A&M also has some good linebackers that will fill the void of Edgerrin Cooper.

The secondary will be the main concern entering the year. Tyreek Chappell and Bryce Anderson are back from last year, and the rest of the starting positions will be filled by transfers or underclassmen. The Aggies gave up a lot of big plays over the top in 2023. Can they stop that in 2024? I think Elko can be trusted to figure it out.

OUTLOOK
This Over is one of my absolute favorites heading into the season. Perhaps I'm a little too high on Elko, but he's a proven leader and ended up taking over a program with a lot of talent already in place. The Aggies also happen to face an extremely easy schedule. I like their chances of beating Notre Dame in Week 1, and I honestly wouldn't be shocked if they start the season 7-0. That said, I think 10 wins is a realistic goal for this program. We only need nine.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	NOTRE DAME	0.5	61.5
9/7	MCNEESE STATE	-59.5	2
9/14	at FLORIDA	-2	53.5
9/21	BOWLING GREEN	-24.5	36.5
9/28	vs ARKANSAS	-11.5	46.5
10/5	MISSOURI	-2	59.5
10/19	at MISSISSIPPI STATE	-11.5	44.5
10/26	LSU	-0.5	61
11/2	at SOUTH CAROLINA	-6	49.5
11/16	NEW MEXICO STATE	-34.5	26.5
11/23	at AUBURN	-2.5	53
11/30	TEXAS	7.5	69

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **46.28** #31 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.9/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **18**
OFFENSIVE: 9 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 9

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	32.9	21	23.1	39
YARDS PER POINT	12.3	11	14	75
PLAYS PER GAME	70	49		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:34	25		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	43.6%	27	32.7%	20
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	403.5	44	322.5	19
YARDS PER PLAY	5.8	44	5	32
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.4	79		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	132.9	90	110.3	13
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.9	88	3.3	16
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.5	46		
COMPLETION %	63.9%	34	59.8%	50
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	270.6	29	212.3	40
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.1	29	7.7	89
TURNOVERS	1.2	37	1.1	108

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
14-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
+240

CFP CHAMPION
45-1

VANDERBILT
COMMODORES

2023 Record: 2-10 SU & 2-10 ATS
Head Coach: Clark Lea (4th)

This feels like it might be a make-or-break season for Clark Lea. There aren't massive expectations at Vanderbilt, but 9-27 in three seasons isn't what anybody wants. And things feel like they're on the brink of spiraling in Nashville. Vanderbilt does have a lot of starting experience on this year's team, but it's not exactly SEC-level talent.

The Commodores are also going to be at the mercy of their offensive line play. Tim Beck was hired as Vanderbilt's offensive coordinator, which means the Commodores are going to spam run-pass option plays. Well, that won't be viable unless the boys up front can block. And the other side of the ball might be Lea's calling card, but the unit won't be good enough to make up for a poor offense.

OFFENSE
Vanderbilt is going to let Beck run this show and he brought Diego Pavia with him. Last season, Pavia threw for 2,973 yards with 26 touchdowns and nine interceptions, and he rushed for 928 yards with seven touchdowns. He's not the biggest or most talented quarterback, but he's comfortable in this system and he's competitive. So, he might look really bad against good competition, but he should give Vanderbilt a shot against some of its inferior opponents.

As previously mentioned, the offensive line play will decide a lot here. Vanderbilt's line was a disaster in 2023 and improved play up front is not a guarantee in 2024. If the Commodores can't run the football effectively, this offense simply won't be able to move the football. And whoever ends up starting under center will suffer, too.

All in all, there's not much to like about this unit. And the defense isn't good enough for this group to be below average.

DEFENSE
A lot of people are excited about Lea taking control of this unit again, and there's more talent on defense than there is on offense. But Vanderbilt did give up 36.2 points per game in 2023, so how much can things really get better in 2024?

Vanderbilt did hit the portal pretty hard and Lea feels good about some younger players from last year stepping into bigger roles. But the Commodores weren't able to get after the passer last year, and I don't see any game-changing pass-rushers on the roster this year. And Vanderbilt's secondary leaves a lot to be desired.

Realistically, the linebackers are the only above-average group on this defense.

OUTLOOK
For as bad as things might be in Vanderbilt, I still think four wins would be a more likely outcome than two. The Commodores should beat Alcorn State, Georgia State and Ball State. Those games feel like enough to go with the Over here. You'd be looking at a push and hoping for an upset somewhere along the way.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	VIRGINIA TECH	11	50
9/7	ALCORN STATE	-28	10.5
9/14	at GEORGIA STATE	-3	31.5
9/21	at MISSOURI	25	59.5
10/5	ALABAMA	26.5	65
10/12	at KENTUCKY	16.5	50.5
10/19	BALL STATE	-11.5	27
10/26	TEXAS	30.5	69
11/2	at AUBURN	18.5	53
11/9	SOUTH CAROLINA	10.5	49.5
11/23	at LSU	27	61
11/30	TENNESSEE	19	57.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **48.86** #11 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.5/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **14**
OFFENSIVE: 6
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	20.6	104	38.3	130
YARDS PER POINT	14.9	79	12.3	120
PLAYS PER GAME	63.5	118		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:24	107		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	29.9%	122	48.3%	127
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	307.5	117	471	132
YARDS PER PLAY	4.8	104	6.6	127
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	28.5	122		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	85.8	127	179	108
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3	123	5.2	122
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.6	57		
COMPLETION %	55.7%	105	70.3%	132
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	221.6	67	292	132
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.8	84	8.3	115
TURNOVERS	1.6	93	1.4	65

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE **1000-1**

MAKE PLAYOFF **150-1**

CFP CHAMPION **2000-1**

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 3

SUN BELT
BETTING PREVIEW *by Adam Burke*

There are 10 conferences (plus Independents) in college football and the Sun Belt is the only conference still using divisions. The 14 teams in the league are grouped East and West and the East Division has been substantially deeper than the West Division. That may not be the case to the same degree this season.

Teams like Texas State and Arkansas State really showed signs of life last season to bolster the profile of the West, but a division with Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia Southern, and James Madison still looks to be the stronger side. But, unlike other conferences, it is solely about winning your division and trying to punch a ticket to the conference championship game.

The expanded playoff is unlikely to have any bearing on the Sun Belt this season, as it seems like a long shot that any of these teams will be ranked higher than other Group of Five programs, but it is shaping up to be another interesting year in what I lovingly refer to as the "Fun Belt".

With 30 new head coaches in college football, every conference is represented and Georgia State (Dell McGee), James Madison (Bob Chesney), Louisiana-Monroe (Bryant Vincent), South Alabama (Major Applewhite), and Troy (Gerad Parker) are the ones for the Sun Belt as we head into the 2024 season.

Even though the East has been deeper than the West, Troy is the reigning two-time champion and Louisiana won in 2021. We'll never know what would have happened in 2020 due to Coastal Carolina's COVID issues, but App State is the only winner from the East and the conference has only had three different title game winners since the championship game's inception in 2018.

Will somebody new join the party this year?

7

6

3

2024 PROJECTED STANDINGS *(BASED ON STEVE MAKINEN RATINGS)*

TEAM	2024 SM PR	HOME FIELD ADV.	ROAD FIELD ADV.	SCHEDULE STRENGTH (RANK)	ALL GAMES PRJW'S	PRJL'S	CONFERENCE PRJW'S	PRJL'S	DRAFTKINGS O/U
EAST DIVISION									
APPALACHIAN ST	46.0	2.8	-0.3	35.97 (87)	8.6	3.4	6.2	1.8	7.5
JAMES MADISON	42.5	3.5	0.1	31.86 (124)	8.9	3.1	6.0	2.0	8
MARSHALL	35.0	1.9	0.5	35.33 (94)	6.0	6.0	4.2	3.8	6
COASTAL CAROLINA	33.5	2.3	0.3	34.51 (102)	5.6	6.4	3.2	4.8	6.5
GA SOUTHERN	33.0	3.3	-0.3	36.18 (85)	4.9	7.1	3.1	4.9	5.5
GEORGIA ST	31.5	2.5	0.5	35.8 (90)	4.7	7.3	2.9	5.1	4.5
OLD DOMINION	32.0	2.0	0.3	38.9 (70)	3.9	8.1	2.9	5.1	5
WEST DIVISION									
TEXAS ST UNIV	41.5	2.5	-0.1	31.83 (117)	8.7	3.3	5.8	2.2	8
LA LAFAYETTE	39.0	3.4	0.2	31.93 (114)	7.7	4.3	4.9	3.1	7.5
TROY	38.5	2.1	0.3	34.81 (101)	7.0	5.0	4.9	3.1	7
S ALABAMA	36.5	3.0	0.1	33.93 (107)	6.5	5.5	4.2	3.8	6.5
ARKANSAS ST	35.5	2.2	-0.3	37.53 (76)	5.8	6.2	4.2	3.8	5.5
SOUTHERN MISS	29.5	2.1	-0.2	36.88 (81)	3.9	8.1	2.5	5.5	4.5
LA MONROE	21.0	2.7	-0.5	38.7 (71)	2.1	9.9	1.0	7.0	2.5

APPALACHIAN STATE
MOUNTAINEERS

2023 Record: 9-5 SU & 6-7-1 ATS
Head Coach: Shawn Clark (5th)

One of the most consistent Group of Five programs resides in picturesque Boone, North Carolina. App State joined the FBS ranks in 2014 and has not had a losing season. The 2022 Mountaineers went 6-6 and the 2014 version went 7-5. Otherwise, this is a program that has won at least nine games every other season and has also found a whole lot of bowl game success with a 7-1 record.

Some believed that the one-year blip in '22 was a sign that the tide might have been turning for the team that plays at the highest elevation east of the Mississippi, but last year's team won six of the last seven games after getting off to an uncharacteristically slow start. Instead, we just have the usual high expectations for Shawn Clark's crew, including a fifth appearance in the Sun Belt Championship Game.

OFFENSE
This is always a good team on both sides of the ball. Joey Aguilar has only spent one season with the program and is already the fifth-most productive passer with 3,757 yards and is back for more with all of his top targets from last season on the roster. Aguilar is one of five career App State passers with at least 30 TD tosses after racking up 33 last season.

Leading rusher Nate Noel took his talents to the SEC, but Kanye Roberts was more productive on a per-carry basis with 5.7 yards per pop and actually led the team with seven touchdowns. The Mountaineers are always stout in the trenches, as Clark served as an offensive line coach from 2003-19 before getting the head coaching gig at his alma mater where, you guessed it, he played offensive line.

DEFENSE
This is a big season for second-year DC Scot Sloan. The Mountaineers were gashed on the ground last season to the tune of 4.98 yards per carry and over 178 yards per contest. They finished 117th in YPC and allowed 28 rushing scores. By effectively slowing down the opponents' passing game, App State was 75th in yards per play allowed, but that was their worst showing in FBS history.

In fact, it was the first time that the Mountaineers finished outside the top 50 in YPP. The closest they came was 48th in 2022. So, it is entirely possible that the defensive well may be running a little dry, but Sloan, who was on staff from 2010-17, returns most of the front seven. Whether or not that is good or bad remains to be seen. App State did lose two guys with 100+ tackles.

OUTLOOK
A road tilt with Clemson in Week 2 should shed a little light on how the defense and the offense look, but the crossover games are against South Alabama and Louisiana, so the Mountaineers avoid Troy and Texas State. I will say that I think 7-5 would be an extremely bad year for this team, so there's some push protection at 8-4 and 9-3 is way likelier than 7-5.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	E TENN STATE	-42	7
9/7	at CLEMSON	15.5	58.5
9/14	at EAST CAROLINA	-8.5	34.5
9/19	SOUTH ALABAMA	-12	36.5
9/28	LIBERTY	-2.5	46
10/5	at MARSHALL	-9	35
10/12	at LOUISIANA	-3.5	39
10/26	GEORGIA STATE	-17	31.5
11/2	OLD DOMINION	-16.5	32
11/7	at COASTAL CAROLINA	-10	33.5
11/23	JAMES MADISON	-6	42.5
11/30	at GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-9.5	33

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **35.97** #87 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.8/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **11**
OFFENSIVE: 5 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	32.3	26	27.2	68
YARDS PER POINT	13.9	52	14	76
PLAYS PER GAME	73.7	23		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:40	50		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	42.9%	33	39.6%	72
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	449.8	15	380.3	60
YARDS PER PLAY	6.1	27	5.6	71
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	37.8	46		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	174.2	37	181.6	111
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.6	36	5	113
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.5	33		
COMPLETION %	63.0%	41	60.6%	60
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	275.6	25	198.7	27
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8	36	6.9	38
TURNOVERS	1.7	104	1.7	27

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+300

MAKE PLAYOFF
14-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

ARKANSAS STATE
RED WOLVES

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 6-6-1 ATS
Head Coach: Butch Jones (4th)

Major turnaround in conferences like the Sun Belt don't really get a whole lot of attention, but Butch Jones put together one of the best stories of 2023. While the Red Wolves didn't exactly put forth an impressive performance in the 21-19 loss to Northern Illinois in the Camellia Bowl, the fact that they got to a bowl game was a massive win.

Arkansas State lost 73-0 to Oklahoma, leading Jones to cry on the sidelines. A week later, Arkansas State lost 37-3 to Memphis. Then Jaylen Raynor took over and everything was suddenly different. The defense improved here and there, but Raynor kickstarted a major offensive boon and led Arky State to their first bowl berth since 2019. And they're hungry for more.

OFFENSE
Raynor made some freshman mistakes and got pressured a lot, but his 8.9 yards per attempt ranked in the top 15 and his average depth of target was among the nation's best. He only wound up with 17 TD passes, but he stayed in Jonesboro and will run an offense that features a lot of returning production and one fascinating newcomer. Raynor will have top rusher Ja'Quez Cross and backup Zak Wallace, who combined for just under 1,300 yards. Raynor himself chipped in another 373.

Top WRs Corey Rucker and Courtney Jackson are both back, but they'll be joined by an elite athlete in Malik Hornsby, who looks to be making the transition to wideout. He may also serve as the backup QB, which is a big deal with how often Raynor gets hit. He had 123 rushing attempts last year. The offensive line is mostly intact as well.

DEFENSE
This is where Arkansas State really needs to improve. This was the 111th-ranked defense by yards per play and a group that allowed 57 opponents' trips into the red zone. That was only the third-fewest in the Sun Belt, despite ranking 126th, in case you're wondering about defense as a whole in this league.

A lot of returning production is back here as well. Jones noted in the spring that Arkansas State was among the youngest teams in the country last season, so a lot of players experienced a lot of growing pains while learning on the job. The top two tacklers and the leading sack man are back, plus Arkansas State is one of the few Sun Belt teams that was able to entice some transfers to join the party.

OUTLOOK
A lot of people seem bullish on this team because of the youth that grew up on the fly last season and the fact that Raynor is clearly the top returning QB in the division. They'll take some lumps at Michigan and Iowa State, but the crossover games are Georgia State and Old Dominion, which is a pretty kind schedule. My projections call for 6.41 wins and the win total is only 5.5, albeit with heavy Over juice.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 5.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	C ARKANSAS	-9	28.5
9/7	TULSA	-8	29.5
9/14	at MICHIGAN	31	63
9/21	at IOWA STATE	21.5	54
10/5	SOUTH ALABAMA	-1	36.5
10/12	at TEXAS STATE	9	41.5
10/19	at SOUTHERN MISS	-3.5	29.5
10/26	TROY	1	38.5
11/9	at LOUISIANA	7	39
11/16	at GEORGIA STATE	-1	31.5
11/23	ULM	-17	21
11/30	OLD DOMINION	-5.5	32

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **37.53** #76 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.2/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **16**
OFFENSIVE: 10 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	26.8	60	32.3	107
YARDS PER POINT	13.6	44	14.1	73
PLAYS PER GAME	65.6	98		
TIME OF POSSESSION	26:08	130		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	34.2%	104	40.9%	87
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	364.3	77	454.7	126
YARDS PER PLAY	5.6	58	6.1	109
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.4	79		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	131.8	92	192.1	121
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.8	92	4.8	108
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	28.9	86		
COMPLETION %	56.8%	99	69.1%	131
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	232.6	57	262.6	120
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8	31	7.9	99
TURNOVERS	1.1	26	1.3	74

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
15-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
80-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

COASTAL CAROLINA
CHANTICLEERS

2023 Record: 8-5 SU & 9-4 ATS
Head Coach: Tim Beck (3rd)

The good times in Conway might be coming to an end. The titans of the teal turf are missing their leader, as star QB and record-setter Grayson McCall transferred to NC State, leaving a massive hole at the most important position on the field. Even with McCall, the Chanticleers lacked the same panache under Tim Beck after Jamey Chadwell bolted for Liberty. They had a solid record, but every facet of the team took a step back.

Now, amidst heavy losses in the transfer portal, another big step back is expected. Bowl eligibility is a real question mark and this could be the year where the questionable hire of Beck rears its ugly head.

OFFENSE
Holdover Ethan Vasko and Michigan State transfer Noah Kim have been duking it out for reps throughout the spring and summer. Vasko obviously knows the offense and led the bowl win over San Jose State with McCall sidelined. He also posted a 7/1 TD/INT ratio overall with a 62.3% completion rate last season. There might be something there with the former Kansas recruit, who originally committed to Old Dominion to stay close to home.

Unfortunately, star WR Sam Pinckney is trying to make the Carolina Panthers and second-leading receiver Jared Brown transferred to South Carolina. Vasko was the second-leading rusher with 368 yards and trailed the leader by fewer than 40 yards. This offense is lacking skill-position talent and more players left after spring practice. Incredibly, the Chanticleers were 127th in TD% in the red zone last season.

DEFENSE
The defense has several regression signs. They were 80th in yards per play allowed, but 50th in scoring defense. This group was 101st in third-down defense last year, but finished +6 in turnover margin, so there were some metrics that offset. The Chants are missing a lot of impact players from last year's defense. Their top three tacklers, including top sack man Micheal Mason, are gone.

Mason had seven sacks. Nobody else had more than three. The transfer portal was unkind on defense as well, so this group has taken a major step back on the talent front.

OUTLOOK
Like I mentioned, bowl eligibility is definitely hanging in the balance. Coastal does have winnable roadies at Jacksonville State and Temple and going 3-1 or better in the non-conference may be the easiest path to a bowl, as Troy and Louisiana are tough crossover contests. Their win total line sits at 6.5 and I have 6.04 wins. The vig is a tad cost-prohibitive for me, but I think even 6-6 might be a stretch.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	at JACKSONVILLE STATE	6	37.5
9/7	WILLIAM & MARY	-15.5	20.5
9/14	at TEMPLE	-11	20
9/21	VIRGINIA	4	40
10/5	OLD DOMINION	-3.5	32
10/10	at JAMES MADISON	12	42.5
10/19	LOUISIANA	3.5	39
11/2	at TROY	7	38.5
11/7	APPALACHIAN STATE	10	46
11/16	at MARSHALL	3	35
11/23	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-3	33
11/30	at GEORGIA STATE	0	31.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **34.51** #102 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.3/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **12** OFFENSIVE: 6 DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	24.5	77	25.3	55
YARDS PER POINT	16.7	110	15.2	46
PLAYS PER GAME	69.8	54		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:17	14		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	42.7%	35	42.6%	101
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	408	41	382.6	62
YARDS PER PLAY	5.8	42	5.7	79
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.8	69		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	147.4	71	166.8	92
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.1	73	4.7	101
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.5	59		
COMPLETION %	66.2%	18	57.5%	26
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	260.6	41	215.8	44
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8	33	7.1	56
TURNOVERS	1.3	60	1.6	41

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
14-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
80-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
EAGLES

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 4-8-1 ATS
Head Coach: Clay Helton (3rd)

It was a tale of two seasons for Georgia Southern last year. Clay Helton's crew secured bowl eligibility with a win in "Modern Day Hate" over Georgia State in a 44-27 win that came on October 26. They didn't win another game after that, including a rather embarrassing 20-point loss to Ohio in the Myrtle Beach Bowl.

The Eagles scored over 30 points per game, yet got outscored on the season, as the defense was putrid and the one-dimensional offense gave the ball away too much. Georgia Southern's 31 turnovers tied for the most in the nation and they were one of seven teams with a TO differential of -10 or higher. On one hand, that could mean positive regression. On the other hand, who is playing quarterback?

OFFENSE
In Helton's first two seasons at the helm, transfers have been his go-to guys. First it was Kyle Vantrease from Buffalo, who threw for over 4,200 yards, but also threw 16 interceptions. Next it was Tulsa's Davis Brin, who threw for almost 3,800 yards, but had 19 interceptions. The biggest difference between Vantrease and Brin is that the former was only sacked six times and the latter was sacked 31 times.

This season, Helton has Indiana transfer Dexter Williams II, who has 38 career pass attempts with 13 completions, and JC French, who was 13-of-16 last season. It is entirely possible that somebody comes out of nowhere, but for a team with 8,218 passing yards and 3,302 rushing yards during the Helton era, figuring out a QB seems rather important.

DEFENSE
This was not a good defense by nearly any metric last season. The Eagles allowed over six yards per play, more than 30 points per game, only had 23 sacks, and finished 114th in red-zone TD% against. They allowed 58 red-zone attempts, tied for the sixth-most in the nation. It is entirely possible that second-year DC Brandon Bailey, whose Buffalo Bulls beat Georgia Southern in the 2022 Camellia Bowl, gets more out of this group this season.

There are a lot of returnees here and one positive about being positively awful on defense is that teams don't poach your players in the transfer portal. Of course, that also means you don't entice a whole lot of players to come and try for more exposure or a fresh start.

OUTLOOK
Bowl eligibility is seriously in question for Georgia Southern. They've made bowl games with the bare minimum six victories each of the last two years, but they're a dog to get there this season with plus money on Over 5.5. I'm right at 5.5 with my projection, but the early-season game against Nevada might be a swing game, as I have them favored, but they may not have a full-fledged QB going into a winnable contest in Reno. I don't foresee a good conference record.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	BOISE STATE	12.5	49
9/7	at NEVADA	-4.5	25.5
9/14	S CAROLINA STATE	-30.5	6
9/21	at OLE MISS	30.5	60.5
9/28	at GEORGIA STATE	1.5	31.5
10/12	MARSHALL	-1	35
10/19	JAMES MADISON	6.5	42.5
10/24	at OLD DOMINION	1.5	32
11/2	at SOUTH ALABAMA	7	36.5
11/16	TROY	2.5	38.5
11/23	at COASTAL CAROLINA	3	33.5
11/30	APPALACHIAN STATE	9.5	46

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **36.18** #85 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.3/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **13**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.8	41	33	111
YARDS PER POINT	13.9	51	12.5	114
PLAYS PER GAME	76	10		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:05	40		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	46.6%	15	40.3%	78
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	415	34	411.4	94
YARDS PER PLAY	5.5	65	6	102
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	28.6	121		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	110.3	108	158.5	72
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.9	90	4.6	90
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	44.8	1		
COMPLETION %	64.3%	29	63.7%	101
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	304.7	9	252.9	103
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.8	83	7.8	94
TURNOVERS	2.4	132	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE 22-1

MAKE PLAYOFF 200-1

CFP CHAMPION 2000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 5.5

GEORGIA STATE
PANTHERS

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 7-6 ATS
Head Coach: Dell McGee (1st)

One of the more fascinating trends of the offseason was the exodus of head coaches to take coordinator or position coach roles. A lot of guys are turned off by what college football has become — an endless fight to keep your players and get your athletic department to pony up dollars to bring in new ones. I don't know if that is why Shawn Elliott went back to South Carolina to be the run game coordinator and tight ends coach, but I bet it had something to do with it.

He spent seven years leading the Panthers and actually went 4-1 in bowl games, including a Potato Bowl triumph just last year. But, he's gone and longtime pro and longtime assistant coach Dell McGee takes over for his first attempt at being a full-time head coach.

McGee served as the interim for Georgia Southern in the GoDaddy Bowl back in 2015 and was a high school coach for eight years in Georgia.

OFFENSE
And that is why McGee is here. He has remarkably deep ties in the Peach State, where he grew up and has coached his entire life except for a year as an analyst at Auburn, where he played from 1992-95. Whether McGee can make the right third-down decisions isn't as important to Georgia State as bringing in dudes who can ball. So, that's the hope, but he's got a long way to go to get there.

That's because the two best players on offense bolted. RB Marcus Carroll and WR Robert Lewis potentially have NFL futures and they are now in the SEC. Top OL Montavious Cunningham left for Virginia Tech. Oh, and longtime starting QB Darren Grainger ran out of eligibility. McGee brought in some decent transfers, but nothing to match what was lost.

DEFENSE
With no head coaching experience and only three seasons coaching defense, McGee tabbed veteran DC Kevin Sherrer to run that unit. It wasn't a very good one last season, as the Panthers allowed 6.3 yards per play and finished in the bottom 20 nationally in that department. Over the final five regular season games last year, Georgia State allowed 209 points, including 11 to Old Dominion in the final 1:37 of game play to give the Monarchs an improbable 25-24 win.

McGee and Sherrer actually managed to keep a lot of last year's starting squad around, but, as I mentioned in my write-up of rival Georgia Southern, that just means your defense wasn't good enough and your talent wasn't desired enough to transfer anywhere else.

OUTLOOK
I think McGee could really work out long-term. Dudes who aren't good enough to get on the field at Georgia, Auburn, and other SEC schools might make their way to Georgia State based on his influence. It just won't happen this year. I have Georgia State with 3.91 wins, so an easy Under suggestion on their win total of 4.5, but be prepared to pay some vig.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at GEORGIA TECH	15.5	46
9/7	CHATTANOOGA	-10.5	23.5
9/14	VANDERBILT	3	37
9/28	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-1.5	33
10/12	OLD DOMINION	-1.5	32
10/17	at MARSHALL	5	35
10/26	at APPALACHIAN STATE	17	46
11/1	at CONNECTICUT	-2.5	27
11/9	at JAMES MADISON	14	42.5
11/16	ARKANSAS STATE	1	35.5
11/23	at TEXAS STATE	12	41.5
11/30	COASTAL CAROLINA	0	33.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH
35.80
#90 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS
2.5/0.5
(HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS
10
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	26	65	29.7	88
YARDS PER POINT	15	81	14.1	72
PLAYS PER GAME	70.1	48		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:05	65		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	45.2%	19	42.0%	95
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	391.1	56	417.4	102
YARDS PER PLAY	5.6	56	6	103
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	39.6	26		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	184.5	26	148.7	50
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.7	35	4.4	78
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	28.9	86		
COMPLETION %	67.2%	13	65.5%	121
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	206.6	88	268.8	122
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.1	68	8.1	110
TURNOVERS	1.3	45	1.3	88

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
50-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
200-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

JAMES MADISON
DUKES

2023 Record: 11-2 SU & 8-5 ATS
Head Coach: Bob Chesney (1st)

There are a lot of layers to returning production and the debate surrounding how much it matters. There is no debate with James Madison. And it isn't just the loss of production on the field. It is also the loss of an incredible head coach in Curt Cignetti. Cignetti is 119-35 in his career, including a 33-5 FCS record with James Madison and a 19-4 FBS record that finished with a spot in the Top 25.

Cignetti is now at Indiana and Bob Chesney takes over after accumulating a 111-46 record, including a 44-21 mark and a 28-4 record at Holy Cross. The 46-year-old Chesney takes over with 14 years of head coaching experience under his belt. Here's the thing, though. He's now coaching at a place with very high expectations, as opposed to being the guy setting the bar.

OFFENSE
Returning starters are hard to find on James Madison's depth chart, but it is possible that the numbers QB Jordan McCloud put up are repeatable. That's because former Washington starter Dylan Morris looks to be in line to usher the Dukes into a new era. McCloud came a little short of 4,000 total yards, including 3,657 as a passer. He accounted for 43 total touchdowns. It is a high bar for Morris to reach, but the returning starters all come from the offensive line.

The tough part is replacing two 1,000-yard receivers in Elijah Sarratt and Reggie Brown, but Morris has weapons. Ayo Adeyi from North Texas will help balance out the offense and it is my belief that Chesney will look to run a bit more often than Cignetti did. Adeyi ripped off 7.2 yards per carry and George Pettway is also in from North Carolina, along with Holy Cross's Tyler Purdy.

DEFENSE
If the ground-and-pound, ball-control offense works, that should help the defense withstand some very heavy losses. This was an elite defense last season that allowed just 19.5 points per game to rank 20th and just 4.96 yards per play to rank 16th. Chesney brought OC Dean Kennedy with him, but turns to former Duke co-DC Lyle Hemphill.

Pulling from the Mike Elko coaching tree for defensive help is probably a good idea. Hemphill also worked under Dave Clawson, another fine mentor. We'll see if Hemphill is an instant miracle worker because James Madison loses most of their 45 sacks and 21 takeaways.

OUTLOOK
This is arguably one of the hardest teams in the nation to rate. This is a well-run program that has picked another proven winner to captain the ship. But, there is an immense amount of talent and depth that has exited Harrisonburg, Virginia. My projections call for 8.77 wins, but, admittedly, I'm banking a lot on Morris and the running game. The defense could be a major work in progress.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at CHARLOTTE	-10	30.5
9/7	GARDNER WEBB	-26.5	19.5
9/21	at NORTH CAROLINA	9	48.5
9/28	BALL STATE	-19	27
10/5	at ULM	-19	21
10/10	COASTAL CAROLINA	-12	33.5
10/19	at GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-6.5	33
10/26	SOUTHERN MISS	-16.5	29.5
11/9	GEORGIA STATE	-14	31.5
11/16	at OLD DOMINION	-8.5	32
11/23	at APPALACHIAN STATE	6	46
11/30	MARSHALL	-10.5	35

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 31.86 #124 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS 3.5/0.1 (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 17
OFFENSIVE: 8
DEFENSIVE: 9

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	33.8	16	20.8	21
YARDS PER POINT	12.4	16	16.5	20
PLAYS PER GAME	69.2	61		
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:34	27		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	36.2%	86	37.8%	51
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	417.5	33	344.3	36
YARDS PER PLAY	6	31	4.8	18
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.7	85		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	124.3	99	85.6	5
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.7	99	2.7	3
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.7	43		
COMPLETION %	68.3%	9	60.3%	55
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	293.2	15	258.7	115
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.7	16	7.1	57
TURNOVERS	1.2	37	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE +750

MAKE PLAYOFF 22-1

CFP CHAMPION 500-1

LOUISIANA
RAGIN' CAJUNS

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 6-7 ATS
Head Coach: Michael Desormeaux (3rd)

While I wouldn't go so far as to say that this is a make-or-break year for head coach Michael Desormeaux, the Ragin' Cajuns have not had a winning season in his two years at the helm. The swing game in both seasons has been the bowl game, as Louisiana lost to Houston in 2022 and Jacksonville State in 2023. Both times by seven points.

And that has been the issue for Desormeaux. The Ragin' Cajuns were 2-5 in games decided by seven or fewer points last season and 0-4 in 2022. On one hand, a 2-9 record in one-score games over two seasons feels like something ripe for a little regression to the mean. On the other hand, you can point to coaching in close games and Desormeaux's been unable to push the right buttons.

OFFENSE
To be fair, QB injuries took a toll last season, as three guys started games. One transferred out, as Zeon Chriss went to Houston, leaving behind Chandler Fields and Ben Wooldridge. Collectively, Louisiana QBs had a 23/9 TD/INT ratio and took just 25 sacks, with a 12/4 ratio and 16 sacks from the returnees. Regardless of who gets the Week 1 start against Grambling or the Week 2 start against Kennesaw State, both guys project to play.

Chriss was far and away the best runner of the bunch, so there's more pressure on top holdover Dre'lyn Washington, who was very inconsistent week to week. The top two receivers are gone, but this was a catch-by-committee situation anyway, as six guys had at least 24 catches and those guys had between 255 and 476 yards. The OL did lose a draft pick (Nathan Thomas), but returns everybody else from a group that finished in the top 50 in yards per play and averaged 32 points per game.

DEFENSE
The defense, like so many in the Sun Belt, is unremarkable, but actually graded very well in yards per play allowed with 5.22. Unfortunately, they finished 89th in scoring defense. Louisiana gave up 58 red-zone attempts, tied for the sixth-most in the nation and ranked in the bottom 20 in third-down defense.

The Ragin' Cajuns only allowed 45 plays of 20+ yards, which ranked 25th, but teams were able to march methodically down the field against a very porous run defense. There are a lot of returning starters here, including Cameron Whitfield and Jordan Lawson, who combined for 15 sacks.

OUTLOOK
The strength of schedule is a big reason why my projections have Louisiana down for 7.27 wins, but I will say that I did adjust their Power Rating down two points after going through my write-up. I think the West Division has closed the gap and this is a team that has had problems finishing games. I don't want to be too high on them as a result. That said, I don't think Under 7.5 is a bet right now, but I'm really thinking about it.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 7.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	GRAMBLING	-36	7
9/7	at KENNESAW STATE	-19.5	17.5
9/21	TULANE	1.5	44
9/28	at WAKE FOREST	4	40
10/5	at SOUTHERN MISS	-7.5	29.5
10/12	APPALACHIAN STATE	3.5	46
10/19	at COASTAL CAROLINA	-3.5	33.5
10/29	at TEXAS STATE	5	41.5
11/9	ARKANSAS STATE	-7	35.5
11/16	SOUTH ALABAMA	-6	36.5
11/23	TROY	-3.5	38.5
11/30	at ULM	-15.5	21

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.02** #114 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3.4/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **15**
OFFENSIVE: 7 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 8

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	31.7	30	29.9	95
YARDS PER POINT	12.3	14	13.4	88
PLAYS PER GAME	66	93		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:15	84		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.8%	41	48.4%	128
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	390.3	58	402.3	83
YARDS PER PLAY	5.9	39	5.2	42
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.2	62		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	174.2	38	178.5	106
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.8	26	4	46
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.9	97		
COMPLETION %	66.9%	15	63.0%	98
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	216.2	73	223.8	57
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.7	46	7.5	78
TURNOVERS	1.4	68	1.8	11

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+600

MAKE PLAYOFF
20-1

CFP CHAMPION
300-1

ULM
WARHAWKS

2023 Record: 2-10 SU & 5-7 ATS
Head Coach: Bryant Vincent (1st)

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/29	JACKSON STATE	-15	9
9/7	UAB	10.5	34
9/21	at TEXAS	51.5	69
9/28	at TROY	20	38.5
10/5	JAMES MADISON	19	42.5
10/12	SOUTHERN MISS	5.5	29.5
10/26	at SOUTH ALABAMA	19	36.5
11/2	at MARSHALL	16.5	35
11/9	TEXAS STATE	17.5	41.5
11/16	at AUBURN	35	53
11/23	at ARKANSAS STATE	17	35.5
11/30	LOUISIANA	15.5	39

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **38.70** #71 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.7/0.5** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **7**
OFFENSIVE: 2
DEFENSIVE: 5

Life for Louisiana-Monroe football has been a challenge. The program hasn't made a bowl game since 2012, despite a 6-6 record in 2018. A new era of Warhawks football begins with Bryant Vincent, who was highly-regarded by his players when he was the OC and a candidate to be the head coach at UAB when Bill Clark stepped down due to medical reasons. He didn't get the job, but had a remarkably successful season as the OC at New Mexico.

Now he gets his first crack at being the head coach sans the interim tag. He filled in for Clark in 2022 and led the Blazers to a 7-6 record and a Bahamas Bowl win. That would be considered a tremendously successful season for the Warhawks. But, it may take some time to get there.

OFFENSE
This is one of the worst rosters in the nation and Terry Bowden didn't exactly leave Vincent with much to work with on either side of the ball. That said, New Mexico's offense was 131st in the nation with 3.94 yards per play in 2022 and 35th with 6.21 YPP in 2023. So, Vincent is used to working with limited resources. This is basically a brand-new roster, as only one returning starter on offense stuck around.

But, that's not a bad thing, given that ULM was 106th in YPP and had a 15/13 TD/INT ratio as a team with a leading rusher that only had 507 yards. Hunter Herring is the only returnee at QB with experience, but the Warhawks have all-name-team member General Booty from Oklahoma on the roster. I trust Vincent to find a QB and put together a respectable offense.

DEFENSE
The offense was bad, but so was the defense. The Warhawks allowed over six yards per play and nearly 35 points per game. Opponents converted nearly 51% of their third-down attempts against ULM and provided little help to the inept offense in the field position game. Vincent will call his own plays as the HC/OC, but he tabbed Earnest Hill as the DC. Hill was with Vincent as UAB and was kept on by the Dilfer regime as a position coach.

There are more returning starters and more experience on this side of the ball, but the back seven lost four key contributors to the transfer portal. I'm not sure this defense improves much, but I think the offense will, making the Warhawks a good Over bet in games.

OUTLOOK
Vincent has a pretty bare cupboard for Year 1, but his persistence at UAB shows that he is up for a challenge. What he did at New Mexico on offense was nothing short of miraculous and I think he can field an improved offense here, but the defense will likely be in shambles. The win total of 2.5 is accurate, even with the heavy Under juice, as I have 2.49 wins. I don't see three upsets, but like I said, I think they'll be a good in-season Over team.

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	16.7	127	36.8	124
YARDS PER POINT	18.9	130	12.5	113
PLAYS PER GAME	66.5	88		
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:07	126		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	31.5%	117	51.3%	133
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	315.4	109	459.2	127
YARDS PER PLAY	4.7	109	6	98
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.1	82		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	133.6	86	176.5	103
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.9	87	4.3	70
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	29.4	81		
COMPLETION %	51.1%	128	64.2%	105
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	181.7	106	282.6	129
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.2	113	8.4	117
TURNOVERS	1.6	93	1.5	46

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
500-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
10000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 2.5

MARSHALL
THUNDERING HERD

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 4-9 ATS
Head Coach: Charles Huff (4th)

The story for Marshall feels like a similar tale to a lot of teams in the conference. The Thundering Herd started last season 4-0, including a thoroughly impressive win over Virginia Tech. They went 2-6 the rest of the way and got beaten by a UTSA team without Frank Harris in the Frisco Bowl. Promising starts gave way to nightmare endings in this conference quite a bit and I think we could see more of the same, as the transfer portal just strips so much depth from Group of Five schools.

Anyway, Marshall will likely fight for bowl eligibility again this season, but this is not a team with a high ceiling for 2024.

OFFENSE
Marshall QBs combined for a 12/18 TD/INT ratio last season. Presumptive starter Cole Pennington had zero TD passes… but he had six interceptions. Pennington had 112 pass attempts and threw for just under 700 yards, so I'd call this passing game anything but dynamic. The leading receiver last season had just 410 yards. He's at Notre Dame now.

More importantly, the loss of Rasheen Ali stands out in a big way. Ali accounted for 15 of the team's 21 rushing touchdowns and had 1,135 of the 1,720 yards. Oh, by the way, departed QB Cam Fancher had four rushing touchdowns. Wide receiver Caleb McMillan had one. Marshall returns one rushing TD this season and six total offensive touchdowns, including the only passing one from WR Chuck Montgomery.

DEFENSE
The success of Ali gave the defense a little bit of a breather, but this unit truly deserves some flowers for last season. They were 61st in yards per play allowed and 93rd in scoring defense, but some context is important. As I mentioned, the Herd had 18 interceptions and were one of seven teams to finish in the double-digit negatives in TO margin. In all, Marshall turned the ball over 29 times.

The defense managed 18 takeaways and 13 were interceptions. The field position battle was a lost cause more often than not, so Jason Senore's defense did what they could, especially with a high-risk, high-reward scheme that yielded 35 sacks, but also created a lot of single coverage. Sadly, the 4-2-5 defense did lose some of the talent it had and didn't really get it back in the portal.

OUTLOOK
Charles Huff will find a running back and former Air Raid QB Seth Doege will find a QB. Don't be surprised if it's Tulsa transfer Braylon Braxton. But, this is a dramatic scheme change on offense with a lot of lost talent and the defense did everything it could to hold up last year. I think this is a tough year for Marshall. The schedule isn't bad, so I have 5.59 wins, but six seems optimistic.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	STONY BROOK	-35.5	2
9/7	at VIRGINIA TECH	16.5	50
9/21	at OHIO STATE	37	69
9/28	WESTERN MICHIGAN	-4.5	32
10/5	APPALACHIAN STATE	9	46
10/12	at GEORGIA SOUTHERN	1	33
10/17	GEORGIA STATE	-5	31.5
11/2	ULM	-16.5	21
11/9	at SOUTHERN MISS	-4	29.5
11/16	COASTAL CAROLINA	-3	33.5
11/23	at OLD DOMINION	-1.5	32
11/30	at JAMES MADISON	10.5	42.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **35.33** #94 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **1.9/0.5** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**
OFFENSIVE: 5
DEFENSIVE: 5

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	OFFENSE RANK	DEFENSE STAT	DEFENSE RANK
POINTS PER GAME	22.9	89	29.7	88
YARDS PER POINT	15.4	88	12.9	103
PLAYS PER GAME	71	40		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:32	74		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	32.1%	115	33.3%	24
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	353.9	85	383.2	63
YARDS PER PLAY	5	94	5.5	60
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.5	72		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	131.3	93	160	77
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.7	98	4.5	85
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.6	58		
COMPLETION %	61.4%	61	59.0%	37
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	222.7	66	223.2	56
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.8	81	7	43
TURNOVERS	2.3	130	1.5	49

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
16-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
95-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

OLD DOMINION
MONARCHS

2023 Record: 6-7 SU & 7-6 ATS
Head Coach: Ricky Rahne (4th)

Old Dominion's sixth win of last season is still an absolute mystery, even to those who saw it happen live. The Monarchs scored 11 points in the final 1:37 against Georgia State, including a walk-off rushing TD on fourth down. They kicked a game-winning field goal at the buzzer the week prior to get to five wins. Say what you will about ODU, but this is a team that downright battles for head coach Ricky Rahne.

Thanks to some heavy losses via the portal, the Monarchs face an uphill battle to return to a bowl game. The schedule is also unkind to a rebuilding roster with only two home games prior to October 19.

OFFENSE
QB and leader Grant Wilson is back at the helm, but he won't see a whole lot of familiar faces in the offensive meetings. Wilson wasn't that great last season, as he had a 17/8 TD/INT ratio, but was sacked 52 times and only threw for 2,149 yards on 312 attempts. ODU relied heavily on the run with 474 carries. Leading rusher Kadarius Calloway hit the portal after ripping off 7.1 yards per carry. Keshawn Wicks and Obie Sanni are gone too, leaving Wilson, who had 2.2 yards per carry, as the leading returnee.

The wide receiver room had some losses as well. So did the offensive line, but after giving up a nation-high 62 sacks, that might not be a bad thing. Second-year OC Kevin Decker doesn't really have a lot to work with here.

DEFENSE
You actually have to give the defense a ton of credit. Last year's group actually finished in the top 40 in yards per play allowed, despite facing the second-most plays against. Only Washington faced more and they played two more games. ODU's defense faced 977 plays in 13 games, or an average of 75.2 snaps against. That would explain how Jason Henderson was able to rack up 170 tackles to lead the nation in tackles per game with over 14.

Wayne Matthews III wasn't far behind with 135 tackles and over 10 per game, but he's now at Michigan State. Terry Jones Jr. also had over 100 tackles, but he's at Indiana. The entire secondary needs to be rebuilt for the Monarchs and the pass rush only generated 19 sacks last season, so those guys will be under fire.

OUTLOOK
ODU has a puncher's chance in the majority of their games this season, but I only have them favored in four games and by nothing bigger than 1.5 points. I have them down for 4.07 wins, as they are only higher than a touchdown dog three times. They'll need some games to fall their way to have any hopes of getting back to a bowl and I don't trust them, even in a weaker Sun Belt Conference this season.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	vs SOUTH CAROLINA	17	49.5
9/7	EAST CAROLINA	0.5	34.5
9/14	VIRGINIA TECH	15.5	50
9/28	at BOWLING GREEN	6.5	36.5
10/5	at COASTAL CAROLINA	3.5	33.5
10/12	at GEORGIA STATE	1.5	31.5
10/19	TEXAS STATE	7.5	41.5
10/24	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-1.5	33
11/2	at APPALACHIAN STATE	16.5	46
11/16	JAMES MADISON	8.5	42.5
11/23	MARSHALL	1.5	35
11/30	at ARKANSAS STATE	5.5	35.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **38.90** #70 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**
OFFENSIVE: 6 (RETURNING QB)
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	25	71	28.7	77
YARDS PER POINT	14	58	14.1	70
PLAYS PER GAME	68.8	65		
TIME OF POSSESSION	24:48	133		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	36.6%	84	38.8%	63
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	350.8	89	404.5	88
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	87	5.3	45
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.9	56		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	167.1	48	143.4	48
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.5	43	3.5	24
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	27.5	101		
COMPLETION %	56.1%	103	66.1%	124
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	183.7	103	261.1	119
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.7	89	7.4	73
TURNOVERS	1.1	26	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
28-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
200-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1
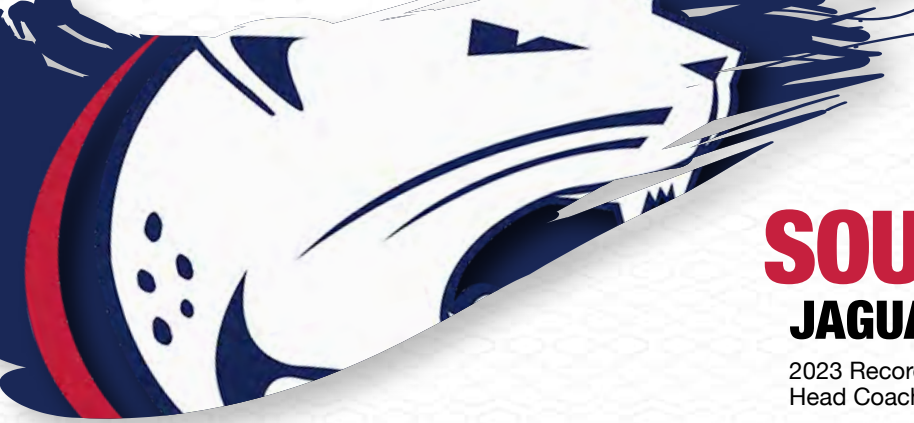
SOUTH ALABAMA
JAGUARS

2023 Record: 7-6 SU & 5-8 ATS
Head Coach: Major Applewhite (1st)

I've been wrong before and I'll be wrong again, but South Alabama has gone from Kane Wommack to Major Applewhite and that feels like a huge step down. Wommack joined Kalen DeBoer on Alabama's staff as the defensive coordinator and Applewhite was promoted from OC to HC. DC Corey Batoon also hopped to the SEC, leaving South Alabama with a big brain drain on the sidelines.

This is Applewhite's second kick at the coaching can, as he was the head man at Houston in 2017-18 and, honestly, maybe he's grown a bit, as he's now a 45-year-old head coach instead of a guy rushed into the role when the Tom Herman hire failed miserably. In a conference where few teams play defense, the Jaguars had one of the best. I'm not sure that'll be the case now.

OFFENSE
Applewhite has spent time as the OC at both Alabama and Texas, so he's a guy that should be able to keep up the standards of this offense. He'll have to do it with a lot of new personnel, though, as star RB La'Damian Webb and future NFL standout Caullin Lacy both transferred out, taking over 2,300 yards worth of production with them. QBs Carter Bradley and Desmond Trotter are also gone.

That leaves undersized lefty Gio Lopez in charge of the offense. The 5-foot-11 and change QB was a three-star recruit that was pursued by Rob Ezell, who is now the OC. Lopez was 14-of-19 for 192 yards and three touchdowns in the 68 Ventures Bowl. The Jags do get back 2022 leading receiver Devin Voisin and 2023 runner-up Jamaal Pritchett is back after having 15.5 yards per catch and a team-high eight touchdown snags. Like I said, I'm not terribly worried about the offense.

DEFENSE
The departures on defense are enormous. South Alabama finished 22nd in yards per play and 27th in scoring defense. This group was strong against both the pass and the run and gave up just a hair over five yards per play. The cupboard isn't totally bare, with leaders Ricky Fletcher and Jaden Voisin back in the secondary after combining for 17 pass breakups.

However, a lot of sacks and tackles for loss are gone. This wasn't a sack-happy defense with 27, but South Alabama was tied for 28th in tackles for loss. We'll see how much linebackers coach Will Windham took from Wommack, a brilliant defensive mind in his own right, and Batoon, as he was elevated to DC.

OUTLOOK
It is entirely possible that I am too low on Applewhite, whose work history is thoroughly impressive, and the coordinators were both in-house promotions, so the Jaguars may not drop off at all. I am concerned about the loss of impact talent on both sides of the ball, though. My projections put the Jaguars at 5.97 wins and the plus-money price on Under 6.5 is very attractive.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	NORTH TEXAS	-7	32
9/7	at OHIO	-3	31.5
9/12	NORTHWESTERN STATE	-37.5	2
9/19	at APPALACHIAN STATE	12	46
9/28	at LSU	27.5	61
10/5	at ARKANSAS STATE	1	35.5
10/15	TROY	-0.5	38.5
10/26	ULM	-19	21
11/2	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-7	33
11/16	at LOUISIANA	6	39
11/23	at SOUTHERN MISS	-5	29.5
11/29	TEXAS STATE	2	41.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **33.93** #107 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **3/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS 7
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 3

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	32.9	21	21.3	23
YARDS PER POINT	13.2	34	14.3	65
PLAYS PER GAME	72.1	35		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:44	48		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	42.6%	36	33.1%	22
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	434.8	24	304.6	10
YARDS PER PLAY	6	33	4.7	15
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	36.2	62		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	166	51	118	22
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.6	39	3.3	14
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.4	48		
COMPLETION %	67.6%	12	57.4%	24
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	268.8	33	186.6	15
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8	32	7.1	53
TURNOVERS	1.6	86	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+850

MAKE PLAYOFF
22-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

SOUTHERN MISS
GOLDEN EAGLES

2023 Record: 3-9 SU & 4-8 ATS
Head Coach: Will Hall (4th)

A big season begins for Southern Miss head coach Will Hall with a new starting QB and a new starting RB. The Golden Eagles are just 13-24 on Hall's watch with two 3-9 seasons and one 7-6 year that ended with a LendingTree Bowl victory. Expectations aren't terribly high in Hattiesburg, but they are obviously higher than going 3-9, so it'll be interesting to see if Hall's seat starts to warm as the season goes along.

Hall has surrendered OC duties to Chip Long, who is at his fifth school as the OC, even though he is only 41 years old. Clay Bignell is the new DC after the Golden Eagles ranked among the worst units in the nation. The athletic department has committed some money to the program in hopes of turning it around, so now it is up to Hall and his new staff to get it done.

OFFENSE
Some of that money went to Tate Rodemaker, the Florida State transfer who took over when Jordan Travis went down before he suffered his own injury. He's played sparingly over four years of college football, but was good enough to get recruited to FSU, so we'll see if it's him or Ethan Crawford at the helm. Crawford was 17-of-36 last season for 240 yards and a 3/0 TD/INT ratio. The QB play was quite bad here last season and has been for a while, so the bar is low.

Frank Gore Jr. is out, but Rodrigues "Dreke" Clark had 5.6 yards per carry on his 76 tries. It was just that Gore was a true workhorse back with 231 carries. We never fully saw Dreke's potential, but we might now. The WR room is in shambles, though, and the offensive line has to make some changes. This was a group that was 113th in yards per play last season and I'm not expecting a big leap.

DEFENSE
And if there's no big leap on offense, the defense is under the microscope again. Southern Miss was 131st in yards per play allowed, finishing better than only UMass and Nevada. The scoring defense rank was almost as bad as 128th, allowing nearly 36 points per game. The crazy thing is that the Golden Eagles were 58th in third-down defense, so their complete lack of early-down success was evident. They only faced 145 third downs, the third-fewest in the nation.

They also ranked 119th in red-zone TD% against, allowing 33 TDs in 47 trips. So, those are the tasks at hand for Bignell, whose defense will be littered with transfers, especially in the back seven. This was also a defense that should have benefitted from an offense that finished sixth in time of possession, but it did not.

OUTLOOK
The Golden Eagles are only favored twice by my numbers, including only one of their 11 games against FBS opponents. Maybe the coordinator changes will spark something and Hall was a rapid riser in the coaching ranks, but it continues to be a question of talent. Most importantly, the QB position. The Under vig looks right to me with a projection of 3.82 wins.

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	at KENTUCKY	24.5	50.5
9/7	SE LOUISIANA	-11.5	20
9/14	SOUTH FLORIDA	8	40
9/21	at JACKSONVILLE STATE	10.5	37.5
10/5	LOUISIANA	7.5	39
10/12	at ULM	-5.5	21
10/19	ARKANSAS STATE	3.5	35.5
10/26	at JAMES MADISON	16.5	42.5
11/9	MARSHALL	4	35
11/16	at TEXAS STATE	14.5	41.5
11/23	SOUTH ALABAMA	5	36.5
11/30	at TROY	11.5	38.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **36.88** #81 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.1/0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **10**
OFFENSIVE: 4
DEFENSIVE: 6

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	21.6	99	37.7	128
YARDS PER POINT	16	100	11.6	129
PLAYS PER GAME	73.6	24		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:43	9		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	38.5%	64	38.2%	56
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	345.3	92	438.5	117
YARDS PER PLAY	4.7	112	6.6	128
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	40.7	14		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	164.2	54	178.5	105
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4	81	5	111
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	30.2	74		
COMPLETION %	49.4%	130	59.2%	42
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	181.1	107	260	117
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6	119	9.2	131
TURNOVERS	1.4	65	1.4	65

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
40-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
300-1

CFP CHAMPION
5000-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

TEXAS STATE
BOBCATS

2023 Record: 8-5 SU & 7-6 ATS
Head Coach: G. J. Kinne (3rd)

The hype train is flying down the tracks for the Bobcats, who took San Marcos by storm last season by posting the program's first winning record since 2014 and first bowl win in program history. Second-year head coach GJ Kinne is probably only there for one more season after the team went from four wins to eight wins and had an incredible offensive turnaround.

Interestingly, Texas State saw a lot of players hit the portal, but Kinne and his staff worked quickly to replace them, as nearly 40 players came in or out of the program. Hopes are very high with this team, but it takes a different mindset to reach new goals.

OFFENSE
Normally, you would look at a situation like Texas State's and expect some regression. QB TJ Finley transferred to Western Kentucky after putting up a 24/8 TD/INT ratio with 3,439 yards and a 67.4% completion rate. But, Kinne moved quickly and secured a commitment from former James Madison QB Jordan McCloud, who is in his fifth season of college football and racked up 43 total touchdowns and nearly 4,000 yards with the Dukes.

So, the QB position is fine and leading rusher Ismail Mahdi is back with 1,331 yards to his name last season. The WR room is mostly back, though Ashtyn Hawkins transferred to Baylor. Texas State was 35th in yards per play and fell 73 rushing yards short of being one of five teams with 2,500 rushing yards and 3,500 passing yards. The teams that achieved it? Oregon, LSU, Georgia, and Texas.

DEFENSE
A guy like Kinne, who played QB and rapidly rose up the coaching ranks on the offensive side, turning the offense around was expected, though maybe not to the degree that it happened. But, it was going to take time on the defensive side and that was certainly the case. Texas State actually gave up 77 points to Arkansas State late in the year. That game was an outlier that pushed the Bobcats to a 114th-place finish in scoring defense, but illustrated all sorts of issues.

Kinne plucked from the portal and also made a change with safeties coach Dexter McCoil promoted to defensive coordinator. McCoil is only in his third year of coaching, as he is just 32 years old, but that may give him a greater rapport with the players. He certainly has Kinne's ear, as he gave him a job in 2022 at Incarnate Word and was a teammate of GJ's at Tulsa.

OUTLOOK
It is hard not to be excited about Texas State because they play an exciting brand of football. The offense has the chance to be one of the best in the nation, but the defense will establish the ceiling for the program. A shot at revenge against UTSA and a Power Four opponent in Arizona State will give us a "State of the Defensive Union" early on. I do like this team, but I don't know that there's betting value either way on the win total of 8. I have 8.55 and lean Over.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 8

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	LAMAR	-29.5	14.5
9/7	UTSA	-0.5	43
9/12	ARIZONA STATE	-4	40
9/28	vs SAM HOUSTON	-14	27
10/3	at TROY	-1	38.5
10/12	ARKANSAS STATE	-9	35.5
10/19	at OLD DOMINION	-7.5	32
10/29	LOUISIANA	-5	39
11/9	at ULM	-17.5	21
11/16	SOUTHERN MISS	-14.5	29.5
11/23	GEORGIA STATE	-12	31.5
11/29	at SOUTH ALABAMA	-2	36.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH	**32.58** #117 TOUGHEST OF 134	FIELD RATINGS	**2.5/0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **11**
OFFENSIVE: 7
DEFENSIVE: 4

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	33.3	20	32.8	108
YARDS PER POINT	13.2	32	12.1	123
PLAYS PER GAME	76.7	7		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:31	75		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	43.3%	31	46.8%	124
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	439.8	22	397.4	77
YARDS PER PLAY	5.7	49	5.5	66
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	40.7	15		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	170	42	155.2	64
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.2	64	4.1	58
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.7	43		
COMPLETION %	66.3%	17	65.1%	118
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	269.8	32	242.3	88
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8	34	7.6	85
TURNOVERS	1.8	119	1.7	30

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
+500

MAKE PLAYOFF
16-1

CFP CHAMPION
2000-1

TROY
TROJANS

2023 Record: 11-3 SU & 8-6 ATS
Head Coach: Gerad Parker (1st)

As far as Sun Belt programs are concerned, no program and no roster looks more different than Troy's for the 2024 season. Head coach Jon Sumrall took the job at Tulane and took most of his staff, and a handful of players, with him. Notre Dame OC Gerad Parker, who is a branch of the Neal Brown coaching tree, gets his first crack as a full-time head coach. He was 0-6 as Purdue's interim HC in 2016.

Historically, Troy overcomes challenges. The loss of a head coach is nothing new and the revolving door of talent is commonplace. However, the degree of turnover is much, much higher than usual and it happens within an improving division for a team that is 23-5 over the first two seasons.

OFFENSE
The Sumrall/Parker swap isn't all of the news here. QB Gunnar Watson, RB Kimani Vidal, and WR Jabre Barber are all gone and all of them were the leaders at their respective positions. WR Chris Lewis is out after undergoing cancer treatment. Troy was 32nd with 6.23 yards per play and 20th in total yardage with 5,872. Watson had 3,569 of the 3,724 passing yards. Vidal had 1,661 of the 2,148 rushing yards. Barber and Lewis had 1,734 of the 3,724 receiving yards. Third-leading WR Deshon Stoudemire is also gone with 569 yards.

So, this is a total rebuild on offense for Parker. It starts with Goose Crowder, who was 9-of-13 for 94 yards and a touchdown last season. Troy usually finds a back and Damien Taylor had 346 yards on 67 attempts, but only found paydirt once. The Trojans scored 48 touchdowns last season and a small handful of those are back.

DEFENSE
The defense is also thin because Greg Gasparato got a lot of his players to head with him to Tulane, where he will serve as the DC. This was an outstanding defense to say the least. The Trojans allowed just 17.1 points per game and were 10th in scoring defense. They were also 10th in yards per play allowed. Javon Soloman and Richard Jibunor combined for 26 sacks and both are gone. Troy had 47 as a team.

The next leading sack man had 3.5 in T.J. Jackson and guess what? He's moved on, too, joining Brown at West Virginia. Only three starters are back on each side of the ball and an offensive downturn could negatively impact the defense as well. DC Dontae Wright is another branch of the Brown coaching tree and he could do well here, but it'll take some time.

OUTLOOK
I may be selling Parker and this staff really short, but this kind of feels like the start of the Chip Lindsey years. When Brown left for WVU, Lindsey took over as a promising offensive mind and the team went 15-20 over three seasons and missed bowls every year. Add in the tremendous loss of talent and it could be a long year. I've downgraded Troy a ton in my Power Ratings and still have 6.55 wins, but I think I'll lower them before the season some more.

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 6.5

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	ESTIMATED LINE	OPPONENT'S POWER RATING
8/31	NEVADA	-15	25.5
9/7	at MEMPHIS	10	46
9/14	at IOWA	17	53
9/21	FLORIDA AM	-20	20.5
9/28	ULM	-20	21
10/3	TEXAS STATE	1	41.5
10/15	at SOUTH ALABAMA	0.5	36.5
10/26	at ARKANSAS STATE	-1	35.5
11/2	COASTAL CAROLINA	-7	33.5
11/16	at GEORGIA SOUTHERN	-2.5	33
11/23	at LOUISIANA	3.5	39
11/30	SOUTHERN MISS	-11.5	29.5

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **34.81** #101 TOUGHEST OF 134

FIELD RATINGS **2.1/0.3** (HOME/ROAD)

RETURNING STARTERS **4**
OFFENSIVE: 2
DEFENSIVE: 2

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE STAT	RANK	DEFENSE STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	28.2	56	16.2	6
YARDS PER POINT	14.5	73	19.4	4
PLAYS PER GAME	69.5	58		
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:54	44		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	39.6%	53	33.2%	23
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	409.8	39	313.5	13
YARDS PER PLAY	5.9	40	4.6	9
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.1	83		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	139.4	78	107.5	12
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.1	77	3.2	10
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.4	49		
COMPLETION %	61.1%	65	62.8%	95
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	270.4	30	206	32
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.1	28	6.6	22
TURNOVERS	1.1	24	1.7	27

2024 ODDS

CONFERENCE
10-1

MAKE PLAYOFF
28-1

CFP CHAMPION
1000-1

STEVE MAKINEN'S
4-YEAR EFFECTIVE STATS

Everything in the VSiN College Football Betting Guide is in there for a reason. One of the areas that draws questions every year is the 4-YEAR EFFECTIVE STATS charts on each team's page. The stats shown on here are what I refer to as my Effective Stats. In other words, they are raw stats weighted against schedule strength and other in-game adjustment I make to my ratings sets. In my opinion, these provide a clearer picture of a team's strength of lack thereof than raw statistics.

As far as how to get the best usage out of these EFFECTIVE STATS, for me, I use them to spot teams that

are 1) trending upward or downward 2) showing unusual patterns. You might look for one-year flashes in Effective Offensive Points, or unusually low of high Effective Yards Per Point totals. These types of things can result from unusual circumstances, like head coach or coordinator changes, bad turnover luck, or seasons impacted by key injuries.

In general, teams that are trending upward offensively or defensively, and have stable coaching situations tend to make for the most optimal picks to do well, and vice versa.

AIR FORCE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		40	12.7	1.1	-14.2	5	28.6	5.87	12.94	8	17.3	4.77	15.78
2022		44	16	0.9	-11.4	8 QB	30.3	5.91	13.23	7, DC	15.3	5	16.52
2021		46	17.8	1.25	-16	7-QB	35.8	6.08	12.52	7	17.9	4.83	15.24
2020		41.5	18	0.58	2.9	4-QB	23.8	5.93	15.53	5	20.7	5.35	15.52

AKRON

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		22.5	-8.4	-0.66	4.4	8 QB, OC	19.6	4.42	14.43	7	29.3	5.08	11.25
2022	Yes	24.5	-4.3	-0.22	6.9	8, OC	24.1	5.4	16.39	8, DC	29.6	5.63	12.93
2021		17	-12.4	-1.08	11.1	10-QB	22.3	5.65	16.51	10	35.2	6.73	12.48
2020		15.5	-17.8	-3.6	25.5	7-QB	10	4.43	26.55	6	40.9	8.03	11.95

ALABAMA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		68.5	37.4	3.64	-36.9	5, OC	43.5	7.81	11.32	5, DC	7.3	4.17	36.14
2022		69.5	42	4.2	-39.4	5 QB	48.7	8.08	11.62	7	8.2	3.89	32.8
2021		71	39.5	3.87	-41.2	4, OC	50.6	7.94	11.56	8	11.1	4.07	23.73
2020		80	53.9	3.96	-36.2	7	54.9	8.58	10.85	5	14.1	4.62	22.83

APPALACHIAN ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		42.5	13	1.1	-12.9	7, OC	37.2	6.64	12.79	4, DC	25.4	5.54	14.53
2022		42	12.4	1.54	-16.3	7 QB, OC	38.5	6.76	12.17	5	27.1	5.22	12.56
2021		48	21.1	1.84	-18.3	7, OC	37.2	6.55	12.23	10	16.1	4.71	19.1
2020	Yes	45.5	15.6	0.18	-6	8-QB, OC	26.4	5.57	15.16	5, DC	23.9	5.4	14.43

ARIZONA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		58	31.1	3.33	-24.5	8 QB	40.3	7.95	13.11	3	11.9	4.62	25.04
2022		42.5	14	2.63	-11.1	7 QB	37.9	8.25	14.71	8, DC	25	5.63	16
2021	Yes	31.5	1.5	0.63	-6.3	7, OC	25.7	5.76	16.18	8, DC	24.2	5.13	13.33
2020		35	-0.2	-0.97	1.5	7-QB	20	5.33	19.84	6, DC	34.7	6.29	12.74

ARIZONA ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	38	6.5	0.75	-11.7	7, OC	25	5.79	15.7	5, DC	20	5.04	16.79
2022		40.5	10.3	1.5	-13.1	3, OC	30.9	6.8	14.47	4, DC	21.6	5.3	17.19
2021		50	18.4	2.47	-20.3	9-QB	34.5	7.03	12.78	11	16.1	4.56	18.7
2020		53.5	34.6	2.37	-8.5	4-QB, OC	40.5	7.57	11.77	8, DC	19.1	5.21	21.98

ARKANSAS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		43.5	15.8	0.87	-19.7	4 QB, OC	33.1	5.81	11.63	6, DC	18.5	4.93	16.77
2022		53	22.9	2.06	-23.2	7 QB	40.2	7.52	13.71	4	19	5.46	20.29
2021		55	23.8	2.86	-25.1	9	38.5	7.57	13.5	10	14.7	4.71	21.99
2020	Yes	46	18.7	1.62	-6.1	8, OC	31.5	6.63	14.25	6, DC	26.2	5.01	15.29

ARKANSAS ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		32.5	2.4	0.18	-3.6	5, OC	27.4	6.11	14.33	6	26.2	5.92	16.29
2022		26	1.2	-0.33	1.6	5 QB	29.5	5.17	11.33	5	29.3	5.5	13.03
2021	Yes	25	-6.4	-0.98	2.8	6	28.7	5.8	14.73	9, DC	35.1	6.78	13.51
2020		33.5	2.7	-0.64	10.4	9-QB	29.6	6.02	15.68	4	40.1	6.66	12.41

ARMY

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		33.5	3.6	-0.5	0.4	9, OC	21.4	5.32	15.3	8	19	5.82	18.85
2022		41	9.8	0.55	-8.3	8 QB	31.1	6.28	12.67	6	22.3	5.73	16.03
2021		42	14.4	0.3	-11.8	6-QB	36.8	5.94	11.1	8	20.4	5.64	15.39
2020		40.5	12.6	-1.34	4.9	5	22.7	4.38	12.78	7, DC	23.1	5.73	13.33

AUBURN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	52	23.5	1.86	-22.5	8 QB, OC	33.9	6.74	12.48	9, DC	11.6	4.88	26.74
2022		50.5	18.5	2.57	-19.2	7, OC	35.8	7.16	13.27	6, DC	18.4	4.59	17.83
2021	Yes	54	24.7	2.4	-22.8	9-QB, OC	38.5	6.92	12.45	7, DC	14.4	4.52	22.31
2020		52.5	25.8	1.03	-12	5-QB, OC	30.3	6.21	14.04	5, DC	17.6	5.17	20.83

BALL ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		30.5	-0.3	0.03	0.7	6	21.5	4.99	15.03	7	23	4.96	13.18
2022		29.5	1.4	0.47	-0.2	6	24.6	5.34	16.08	5	24.2	4.87	15.73
2021		36.5	4.1	-0.15	-6.6	10-QB	26.4	5.32	13.48	10	22.3	5.47	17.59
2020		41.5	14.4	-0.8	6.1	7-QB, OC	27.9	5.56	15.56	7, DC	26.6	6.36	17.44

BAYLOR

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		38	6.3	0.36	-9.1	7 QB	29.1	6.15	15.04	5, DC	25	5.79	14.81
2022		54.5	25	2.27	-28.5	6	39.9	6.94	12.74	6	15.9	4.67	20.16
2021		56	27.2	2.54	-24.8	7, OC	37.7	7.26	13.03	10	10.9	4.72	28.29
2020	Yes	44	15.6	-0.34	-3.4	7-QB, OC	26.8	4.8	12.51	2, DC	24.3	5.14	14.7

BOISE ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		49.5	19	1.82	-15.1	9 QB, OC	35.3	7.24	13.78	5	17.9	5.42	19.25
2022		45.5	16.2	1.52	-17.8	8 QB	33.8	5.98	11.75	9	18.6	4.47	14.47
2021	Yes	48	21.4	0.89	-16.5	9-QB, OC	36.1	5.86	11.77	8, DC	14.7	4.97	22.5
2020		47.5	16.7	-0.15	-8.1	5-QB	36	5.26	9.42	6	32.4	5.42	11.88

BOSTON COLLEGE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		36	8.6	0.26	-12.6	9, OC	31.2	6.12	13.85	6, DC	23.9	5.86	14.67
2022		36	4.2	0.43	-8.3	6 QB, OC	26.6	5.39	13.53	8	24.5	4.96	13.61
2021		43	13	0.78	-15	9-QB	28.5	5.83	13.25	8	17.8	5.05	17.98
2020	Yes	46.5	17.7	0.04	-4.3	6-QB, OC	29	5.9	13.91	9, DC	24.7	5.87	16.22

BOWLING GREEN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		37	10.3	0.72	-1.4	7, OC	31.1	5.73	11.16	5, DC	22.4	5.01	13.96
2022		28	-1.6	-0.15	-1.0	9 QB	26.9	5.34	13.34	9	29.9	5.49	13.29
2021		27	-3.1	0.2	2.7	5-QB	23.3	5.19	14.4	8, DC	26.5	4.99	13.36
2020		11	-27.5	-2.15	26.7	5	4.5	4.92	68.94	6	45.1	7.07	11.17

BUFFALO

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		26	-2.5	-0.89	-2	5 QB, OC	23.7	4.75	13.81	5, DC	27.4	5.64	13.03
2022		32	5	-0.89	-3.4	3	30.1	5.01	12.75	6, DC	26.1	5.89	14.69
2021	Yes	31.5	1.4	-0.77	-5.7	7-QB, OC	28.7	5.48	14.41	8, DC	28	6.25	14.65
2020		46.5	22.4	0.85	-5.9	8-QB	37	7	12.21	7	27.6	6.15	15.74

BYU

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		41	13	0.8	-13	7	30.4	5.89	12.18	7, DC	19.9	5.08	18.06
2022		45.5	13.3	2.03	-14.6	8 QB	36	7.52	13.51	11	23.7	5.49	15.79
2021		48.5	20.1	2.31	-18.9	7, OC	39	7.49	13.01	3	18.9	5.18	18.64
2020		57.5	34.7	2.12	-16.6	8-QB	41.5	7.29	11.57	7	19.9	5.16	16.55

C MICHIGAN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		28	-0.9	-0.42	0.6	4	27.7	5.6	13.11	9	30	6.02	12.88
2022		29.5	-0.1	0.34	-4.1	7 QB, OC	26.5	5.43	14.24	4	27.6	5.08	13.28
2021		41.5	10.4	0.74	-8.9	11-QB, OC	33	6.28	14.15	10	22.6	5.54	16.8
2020		36	9.2	-0.62	3.5	5	25.5	5.54	15.71	7	30.1	6.16	14.96

CALIFORNIA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48	19.4	1.8	-15.6	8, OC	38.8	6.7	12.46	9	20.6	4.9	17.1
2022		40	13	1.44	-12.4	3	29.5	6.53	14.49	5	17.5	5.09	21.42
2021		45.5	15.1	2.01	-15.9	10-QB	30.2	6.74	14.59	9	15.4	4.73	21.27
2020		46	14.7	-0.54	-4.3	10-QB, OC	22.4	4.78	15.35	8, DC	20.8	5.32	16.54

CHARLOTTE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	26	-3.3	-0.45	-0.9	4, OC	20	5.05	16.66	6, DC	24.5	5.5	14.36
2022		22.5	-7.5	-0.61	5.8	8 QB	25.8	6.12	15.85	6, DC	35	6.73	13.13
2021		24	-5.6	-1.08	3.3	9-QB	25.8	5.94	15.8	5	31.4	7.02	14.58
2020		28.5	-0.6	-2.09	11.2	7-QB, OC	24.2	5.04	14.47	6, DC	38.8	7.13	11.75

CINCINNATI

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	38.5	9.7	0.89	-13.6	2, OC	30	6.75	16.46	6, DC	21.5	5.86	16.51
2022		48.5	20.1	2.23	-18.5	8, OC	33.7	6.43	12.55	5	15	4.21	20.43
2021		59.5	30.2	3.35	-24.9	7-QB	42	7.4	10.9	7, DC	11.9	4.05	24.15
2020		58.5	33.8	2.23	-19.4	6-QB	36.6	6.71	12.45	9	16	4.48	20.17

CLEMSON

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		58.5	26.3	2.31	-28.5	7, OC	37.3	6.22	12.74	8	12.3	3.91	19.78
2022		59.5	29.9	2.42	-26.9	9 QB, OC	42	6.89	11.12	6, DC	13	4.48	22.53
2021		56	24.4	1.95	-22.5	5	32.9	5.94	12.49	10	8.4	3.99	32.86
2020		74.5	45.8	2.45	-30	5-QB	47.9	6.93	10.93	6	16.5	4.48	17.55

COASTAL CAROLINA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	38	12.2	1.25	-12	8 QB, OC	29.8	6.68	14.98	6, DC	20.9	5.43	17.25
2022		35.5	7.4	0.42	-10.9	4 QB	32.7	6.47	13.37	3	27.1	6.06	14.36
2021		46.5	18.7	2.05	-18.5	9-QB	38.3	7.42	12.54	10	20.3	5.37	16.46
2020		49.5	25.2	0.53	-6.3	8-QB	33.5	6.25	12.55	6, DC	21.9	5.72	16.64

COLORADO

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	42	14.5	1.1	-14.8	5, OC	36.6	6.4	12.14	3, DC	24.2	5.31	15.84
2022		23.5	-5.8	-0.33	-0.4	7 QB, OC	24.1	5.66	14.64	5	31.6	5.99	13.43
2021		39	7.8	-0.16	-7.7	9-QB	27.7	5.12	10.87	8, DC	19.9	5.28	18.46
2020	Yes	45.5	19.1	0.53	-4.6	6, OC	31.7	5.79	13.7	8	25.7	5.26	14.24

COLORADO ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		33	5	0.58	-6.5	7 QB	27.1	6.04	15.48	8	25.6	5.46	15.52
2022	Yes	26	-5.2	0.35	5.6	6, OC	18.6	5.19	16.45	6, DC	25.3	4.84	13.18
2021		34	4.5	0.93	-9.4	10, OC	29.6	5.98	15.36	10	25.1	5.05	13.93
2020	Yes	35	-0.6	-0.06	6.4	7-QB, OC	24.6	4.76	13.16	8, DC	38.2	4.82	9.39

CONNECTICUT

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		25.5	-4.3	-0.51	4.9	9 QB	21	5.33	16.41	8	26.4	5.84	14.7
2022	Yes	28.5	-0.7	-0.19	2.2	7, OC	24.2	5.16	13.03	8	25.9	5.35	14.32
2021		15	-14.5	-1.09	13.2	7-QB	20.8	4.4	13.82	8	35.4	5.49	11.85
2020		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

DUKE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		49	27.2	2.27	-18	10 QB	36.5	6.73	11.36	8, DC	12.1	4.46	25.35
2022	Yes	47	20.3	1.59	-16.5	6, OC	38.7	6.76	11.85	5, DC	19.4	5.17	18.21
2021		25	-5.1	-0.39	-2.8	6, OC	25.8	6.03	18.19	6	31.2	6.42	14.94
2020		34	4.2	-0.79	1.1	7	25.7	5.23	15.31	7	34.6	6.01	12.4

E MICHIGAN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		27	-3.7	-1.14	5.4	4	20.9	4.48	12.93	7, DC	25.8	5.62	15.02
2022		33	2.6	-0.13	-1.6	8	29.5	5.31	12.39	6	28.2	5.43	12.88
2021		35	6.4	-0.27	-4.8	10-QB, OC	32.7	5.7	11.99	10	26.4	5.97	15.84
2020		32	5	-1.22	13.4	5, OC	25	5.49	15.32	6, DC	33.1	6.71	15.56

EAST CAROLINA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		29.5	5.9	-0.07	-0.3	4	22.6	4.7	13.42	6	17.9	4.78	17.4
2022		42	14.3	1.53	-16.1	7 QB	34.7	7.22	14.49	8	21.4	5.68	17.68
2021		40.5	12.2	0.78	-12.2	10-QB	33.5	6.32	14.1	10	21.3	5.54	17.13
2020		37.5	8.6	-0.6	9.3	8-QB	29	5.58	13.98	4, DC	33.5	6.18	13.27

FLA ATLANTIC

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	34	6.3	0.38	-5.4	7, OC	27	5.42	13.08	10, DC	22.1	5.05	16.9
2022		36	8	0.05	-5.3	8 QB, OC	30	5.88	14.22	6, DC	23	5.83	17.87
2021		31	2.9	0.29	-8.8	10-QB, OC	25.6	5.95	16.21	10, DC	22.7	5.66	17.5
2020	Yes	33	3.2	-1.05	1.5	4, OC	15.9	4.52	18.52	3, DC	25.8	5.56	14.35

FLA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		20	-8.9	-0.75	8.3	5 QB	20.1	5.15	16.31	7	30.1	5.9	14.25
2022	Yes	14	-17.1	-1.27	13.4	4, OC	17.7	4.73	18.32	5, DC	35.8	6	12.53
2021		11.5	-17.4	-0.58	8.9	8-QB, OC	19.9	5.99	18.78	9, DC	37.4	6.57	12.93
2020		23.5	-7.4	-2.16	15.5	4	22.1	4.19	11.6	6	42.6	6.35	10.94

FLORIDA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		50.5	19.9	1.73	-23.2	6	36.1	7.26	13.57	5	17.7	5.52	18.44
2022	Yes	53	23	3.11	-22.8	6	39.9	8.19	13.37	7, DC	18	5.07	19.71
2021		49	19.4	2.92	-21.5	5, OC	37.3	7.71	14.52	5	17.9	4.79	17.82
2020		64.5	33.9	2.62	-24.1	6-QB	44.4	7.95	12.3	6	23.6	5.33	16.04

FLORIDA ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		62.5	36.2	3.2	-30.2	8 QB	43.2	7.36	11.05	9	9	4.16	30.27
2022		60	31.5	3.65	-28.9	8 QB, OC	44.7	7.85	12.18	8	14.2	4.19	19.25
2021		48	16.4	2.21	-17	10-QB	34.3	6.75	12.91	6	17.8	4.54	18.55
2020	Yes	40.5	7.7	-0.43	1.9	7-QB, OC	27.4	5.77	15.07	10, DC	33.1	6.21	13.24

FRESNO ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		37.5	10.4	0.42	-14.2	4, OC	29.9	5.74	13.08	7	21.1	5.32	17.68
2022	Yes	47.5	16.3	1.01	-15.4	8 QB, OC	34.6	6.1	11.82	7, DC	20.5	5.09	16.5
2021		46	17.4	1.63	-15.1	9-QB	36.4	6.57	13.2	11	19	4.94	17.39
2020	Yes	34.5	2.8	-1.4	4.5	7	27.9	5.55	15.41	7, DC	38.2	6.95	12.74

GA SOUTHERN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		32	5.6	-0.07	-7	8	31.9	5.85	13.63	4, DC	27.5	5.92	14.11
2022	Yes	35	8.8	0.23	-5.9	8, OC	38.2	6.54	13.05	5, DC	30.4	6.31	15.49
2021		28.5	-4.8	-0.75	3.6	7, OC	23	5.36	15.76	7	27.8	6.11	15.08
2020		37.5	6.9	-0.49	7.3	8-QB	22.4	5.35	14.78	6	29.7	5.84	12.48

GEORGIA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		69.5	39.3	4.24	-42.3	6, OC	45.6	8.42	12.52	7	7.5	4.18	33.86
2022		74.5	47	4.4	-47.1	7 QB	48	8.45	12.42	3	2.1	4.05	118.26
2021		72	46.3	4.6	-43.2	8-QB	47.6	8.1	10.87	5	1.3	3.5	174.57
2020		65.5	35.5	2.16	-22.7	3-QB, OC	38.1	6.66	12.05	8, DC	15.7	4.5	19.02

GEORGIA ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		31.5	4	0.04	-7.5	7 QB	28.3	5.97	14.2	5, DC	25.5	5.93	15.77
2022		38.5	8.1	0.86	-9.8	8 QB, OC	33.2	6.21	13.65	7	26.1	5.35	14.19
2021		38.5	6.8	0.79	-5.6	11-QB	29.2	5.93	14.13	8	22.4	5.14	16.86
2020		37	7.3	-0.59	7.8	8	30.6	5.4	13.03	8	36.3	5.98	12.3

GEORGIA TECH

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		46	17.4	2.04	-16.2	5, OC	38.8	7.5	12.98	7	22.6	5.47	16.87
2022		40.5	9	0.93	-7.9	5 QB, OC	26.6	5.95	14.8	3	19.1	5.02	17.94
2021		37.5	9	1.16	-11.2	7-QB	32.1	6.8	13.88	9	23.1	5.64	16.83
2020		39.5	6.1	0.4	5.2	9-QB	25.9	5.96	15.93	10	32.9	5.56	13.24

HAWAII

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		24.5	-3.2	-0.12	6	5 QB	23.9	5.67	15.77	9	28.3	5.79	12.82
2022	Yes	20.5	-10.1	-1.22	9.9	4, OC	23.7	5.15	14.97	2	35	6.37	12.1
2021		33.5	4	0.79	-0.4	8-QB, OC	30.9	6.24	13.88	10	27.5	5.45	15.35
2020	Yes	34	4.6	-1.03	6.7	6, OC	25.4	5.23	15.01	5, DC	33.9	6.26	13.03

HOUSTON

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		39.5	10.1	1.56	-10.1	5, OC	30.5	6.72	14.02	7	21.6	5.16	16.91
2022		44	15	1.91	-15.9	7 QB	38.5	7.35	13.31	6	24.5	5.45	16.01
2021		48.5	20.4	1.45	-19.6	6-QB	38.2	6.18	11.28	9	17.8	4.73	16.14
2020		45	16.6	0.31	-6	10-QB, OC	32.6	6.02	13.45	9, DC	29.1	5.71	13.89

ILLINOIS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		44.5	11.8	2.12	-17	6	34.9	6.75	13.07	6, DC	24.8	4.63	13.34
2022		54.5	28.1	2.31	-22.3	6, OC	35.6	6.08	12.44	6	8.5	3.77	27.4
2021	Yes	42	13.5	1.16	-10.1	9-QB, OC	29	5.75	13.07	9, DC	15.8	4.59	20.33
2020		40.5	8.9	-0.14	-2.6	9-QB	28.9	5.88	13.23	5	33.9	6.02	12.7

INDIANA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		39	9.9	0.97	-10.1	5	33.5	5.93	11.8	3	24.8	4.96	13.61
2022		38	10.9	0.59	-6.5	4, OC	34.4	5.54	11.76	7, DC	24.5	4.95	15.41
2021		36	6.2	0.52	-11.7	8-QB	27.8	5.26	12.91	9, DC	23.5	4.74	13.77
2020		59.5	33.6	0.6	-9.8	8-QB, OC	35.4	5.61	10.96	9, DC	15.6	5.01	21.42

IOWA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		46	19.2	1.19	-15.5	9 QB	25.1	4.69	11.09	7	7.2	3.49	33.58
2022		50	21	1.46	-21.8	7 QB	28.3	5	10.68	7	8.3	3.54	29.04
2021		50	20.4	1.2	-20.8	6-QB	33.5	5.32	10.39	7	13.1	4.12	21.82
2020		60	35.2	1.62	-12	7	38	5.73	10.27	4	15.9	4.12	18.71

IOWA ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		55.5	24.3	3.08	-23.1	9 QB, OC	34.9	7.36	12.34	6	12.6	4.28	23.74
2022		47.5	20.6	2.2	-22.8	5	28.6	6.21	15.76	3	9.1	4.01	26.69
2021		58	28	3.26	-27.6	10-QB	40.5	7.73	12.68	9	12.5	4.47	21.69
2020		60	30.7	1.95	-16.8	5-QB	35.5	6.94	13.21	8	17.9	4.99	18.16

JACKSONVILLE ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		38	11	0.54	-6.8	9 QB	30.1	5.4	13.26	7	20.3	4.86	17.74
2022	Yes	33	1.9	-0.11	2.7		27.7	5.86	13.86		25.8	5.98	16.84
2021		21.5	-9.7	-0.69	8.8		19.7	5.27	17.76		29.4	5.96	13.78
2020		29.5	-4.6	-0.15	-2.7		20.3	5.36	15.89		25	5.51	15.22

JAMES MADISON

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48.5	21	1.72	-17	6	35.3	6.47	12.56	7	15.5	4.75	20.65
2022		47.5	18.6	1.59	-14.1	5	37.7	6.27	12.17	4	20.1	4.68	14.26
2021		45.5	17.2	0.91	-11.1	9-QB	37.8	5.75	10.71	11	22.2	4.83	13.58
2020		34	10.5	0.68	-3.2	N/A	37	6.11	11.02	N/A	26.2	5.01	13.38

KANSAS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		58.5	29.8	3.52	-23.9	10 QB	40.7	8.4	12.78	7	15.4	4.89	21.08
2022		47.5	22	3.48	-23.7	9 QB	41.3	8.52	12.49	8	21.6	5.04	17.72
2021	Yes	30.5	-3.4	-0.01	5.4	8-QB, OC	28.3	6.19	13.73	9, DC	31.7	6.2	13.18
2020		24.5	-8.8	-2.19	16.2	6, OC	20.7	3.96	13.57	5, DC	42.6	6.16	10.01

KANSAS ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		59	34.7	2.24	-31.1	8 QB	45.1	7.16	11.76	5	11.7	4.92	27.35
2022		62	34.7	3.02	-31.0	6, OC	41.7	7.53	12.27	7	8.8	4.51	35.25
2021		51.5	21.5	2.59	-22.8	10-QB	32.5	7.24	12.71	6	12.2	4.65	25.07
2020		44	16.7	0.18	-8.5	3-QB	28.8	5.96	12.43	6, DC	28	5.78	15.02

KENNESAW ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		13.5	-16	-1.2	16.1		14.5	4.49	18.4		31.7	5.69	12.23
2022		17.5	-13.1	-2.53	13.5		21.3	4.6	16.32		35.7	7.13	12.51
2021		30	1.8	-0.74	0.7		24.6	5.35	14.54		21.2	6.09	14.88
2020		22	-7.6	-0.18	8.5		28.6	5.67	12.84		28.9	5.85	12.34

KENT ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	14.5	-16.2	-1.46	10.2	0, OC	18.2	4.46	15.18	4, DC	35.7	5.91	10.71
2022		36.5	7.7	0.77	-5.5	4	31	6.19	14.43	6, DC	24.5	5.42	16.6
2021		34	3.7	1.11	-6.3	10-QB	34.2	6.83	14.94	9	30.5	5.72	14.48
2020		39.5	9.6	-0.97	4.1	7-QB	37.8	6.55	14.14	6	41.3	7.52	11.89

KENTUCKY

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		51	20.9	2.55	-21.6	9, OC	36.6	7.12	10.79	5	16.8	4.57	18.15
2022		50.5	21.4	1.85	-20.9	6 QB, OC	29.9	6.41	13.29	5	10.3	4.56	27.04
2021		53.5	22.8	2.41	-19.4	7, OC	38.5	7.33	12.48	6	15.7	4.92	19.37
2020		48	18.9	0.46	-6	8-QB	25.7	5.57	13.27	7	20.7	5.11	17.2

LA LAFAYETTE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		39.5	8.7	1.13	-6	6 QB	31.5	6.34	12.99	3	26.5	5.2	13.97
2022	Yes	40.5	11.8	0.54	-7.3	6	30.2	5.56	12.81	5, DC	20.6	5.02	16.74
2021		46.5	17.1	1.35	-13.6	9-QB, OC	32.4	6.25	13.16	11	15.3	4.9	21.55
2020		49	20.7	1.11	-0.2	7-QB	32	6.07	12.73	7, DC	24.4	4.96	14.86

LA MONROE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		20.5	-7.6	-0.04	3.9	5	20.2	5.54	17.38	5	29	5.58	14.24
2022		28	-0.9	0.1	-0.7	8 QB, OC	28.5	5.76	12.64	4, DC	30.4	5.66	12.86
2021	Yes	28.5	-3.2	-0.85	3.2	7-QB, OC	25.6	5.01	13.94	10, DC	29.8	5.86	14
2020		13	-19.3	-2.65	23.2	5, OC	14.4	4.59	20.04	8, DC	46.9	7.23	10.46

LIBERTY

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	45	18.6	1.64	-15.1	5 QB, OC	41.2	7.21	12.4	3	23.8	5.56	15.13
2022		38.5	10.8	1.07	-17.8	7	31.4	5.92	13.31	4, DC	23.7	4.84	14
2021		43	14.4	1.89	-18.4	11-QB	33.6	6.49	13.29	9	19.2	4.6	15.77
2020		43.5	15.4	-0.04	-1.1	5	31.3	5.84	13.46	4	29	5.88	12.23

LOUISIANA TECH

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		24.5	-2.6	0	-3.2	7	27.3	5.91	14.49	4	31.9	5.9	12.74
2022	Yes	25	-1.8	-0.24	2.6	6, OC	30.2	5.95	13.71	8, DC	33.3	6.19	13.38
2021		29	1.3	0.24	-2.5	6-QB	29.7	5.96	13.87	10	28.4	5.72	14.33
2020		30.5	2.1	-2.04	11.4	6-QB, OC	25.7	4.37	12.01	2, DC	36.7	6.41	12.22

LOUISVILLE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	54	26.5	2.74	-27	5, OC	37.9	7.24	12.78	7, DC	12.6	4.5	21.53
2022		52	25.7	2.53	-23.6	7 QB, OC	36.3	7.07	13.25	7	12.2	4.54	24.58
2021		49.5	20	2.72	-17.9	6-QB, OC	38.5	7.77	13.61	6	18.4	5.05	19.15
2020		50.5	20.1	1.28	-6.3	8-QB	31.4	6.87	14.63	8	24.7	5.59	14.46

LSU

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		65.5	36.6	4.9	-34.2	8 QB	54.6	10.14	11.93	7	19.2	5.24	18.34
2022	Yes	55	29.5	2.91	-28.4	5, OC	42.2	7.57	12.84	5, DC	13.7	4.67	22.39
2021		50	20.5	1.87	-19.8	9-QB, OC	35.6	6.46	12.69	9, DC	15.2	4.59	20.92
2020		52	21	-0.7	-7.1	3	35	6.01	13.49	5, DC	28.7	6.71	15.87

MARSHALL

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		34.5	4.4	0.6	-2.6	7 QB	27.3	5.77	14.18	4, DC	24.1	5.17	14.56
2022		43	14.3	1.35	-12.2	5, OC	26.4	5.69	16.15	6	13.1	4.34	21.26
2021	Yes	43	14.9	1.69	-14.6	9-QB	34.8	6.61	13.97	7, DC	20	4.92	18.85
2020		44	18.4	0.41	-7.7	8-QB	27.7	5.4	13.19	4	22.5	4.99	13.93

MARYLAND

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		50.5	22.1	2.51	-19.6	5 QB, OC	39.7	6.85	11.52	6	18.8	4.34	15.77
2022		50.5	22	2.39	-18.6	9 QB	36.8	6.81	12.9	7	16.2	4.42	19.6
2021		43	9.4	1.75	-13.1	8-QB, OC	36.1	6.94	14.02	9, DC	26.7	5.19	13.66
2020		41.5	14.8	2.35	1.2	5	31.4	7.26	14.39	5	29.7	4.91	13.16

MASSACHUSETTS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		23	-6.5	-0.21	5.6	7 QB	27.3	6.19	13.94	8	35.5	6.4	11.3
2022	Yes	16	-12.8	-1.64	12.6	8 QB, OC	16	4.18	17.32	8, DC	29.8	5.82	11.9
2021		10	-20.2	-1.84	18.3	6-QB, OC	18	5.09	17.66	8	39.3	6.93	11.67
2020		10.5	-24.3	-3.44	36.5	7-QB, OC	9	3.45	20.76	7, DC	46.4	6.89	10.36

MEMPHIS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		42.5	17.4	0.91	-11.5	6 QB	40.6	6.79	11.77	6	24.3	5.88	16.51
2022		43.5	16.8	1.32	-12.7	7 QB, OC	36.1	6.27	12.63	6, DC	20.3	4.95	17.06
2021		43	11.6	1.47	-14.4	7	31.8	6.52	14.7	8	23.2	5.05	16.79
2020	Yes	43	11	-0.14	-0.6	4-QB	27.6	5.92	16.1	8, DC	29.7	6.06	15.64

MIAMI FL

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		53	25.4	2.9	-20.6	9 QB, OC	38.8	7.49	13.07	10, DC	14.9	4.59	19.19
2022	Yes	41	9.5	0.63	-13.9	7 QB, OC	30.3	5.98	13.58	7, DC	22.2	5.36	15.33
2021		56	23.4	2.38	-24.6	10-QB	39.4	7.12	13.24	9, DC	18.7	4.74	18.27
2020		54	28.2	1.04	-11.3	8, OC	36.1	6.37	12.78	5, DC	21	5.33	18.3

MIAMI OHIO

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		40	12.2	0.86	-5	7 QB, OC	27.9	5.79	11.89	9	16.9	4.92	19.26
2022		31	0.5	-0.4	-0.3	9 QB	22.1	4.92	14.09	5, DC	23.4	5.32	15.75
2021		39.5	8.9	1.2	-7.6	8-QB	30	6.6	14.7	10	21.1	5.4	17.05
2020		36.5	8	-0.89	4.2	10-QB	22.2	5.57	15.48	7	27.3	6.46	15.38

MICHIGAN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		70.5	42.7	3.3	-39.6	8 QB	47.2	7.07	9.31	7	5.7	3.77	36.81
2022		69	41.6	3.64	-39.8	9 QB, OC	50	7.58	10.44	4, DC	9.3	3.94	26.27
2021		66.5	36.9	3.42	-31.6	8	46.3	7.54	11.36	8, DC	9.4	4.12	29.47
2020		49.5	14.8	1.14	-9.6	5	35.2	6.37	11.62	5	33.5	5.23	12.11

MICHIGAN ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		37.5	7.3	0.59	-11.3	6	27.8	5.53	12.48	7	21.7	4.94	15.27
2022		46.5	17.2	1.71	-16.0	5 QB	35.6	6.65	12.05	9	19.4	4.93	18.29
2021		52.5	23.7	2.92	-22.1	10	40.4	7.79	12.73	7	16.7	4.87	23.45
2020	Yes	41	9	0.7	-0.6	5, OC	26.5	5.43	14.09	2, DC	30.6	4.72	11.63

MIDDLE TENN ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		30	2.5	0.76	-0.8	5	26.4	6	15.56	8	25.1	5.24	15.05
2022		32	5.1	-0.06	-2.8	5 QB, OC	30.3	5.4	13.26	6	26.4	5.45	15.26
2021		36.5	7.8	0.3	-1.6	9, OC	29.9	5.24	12.19	10	23.3	4.94	15.39
2020		27	-7.6	-1.81	13.8	8-QB	21.6	4.71	14.87	5	42.3	6.52	11.4

MINNESOTA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		40.5	10.9	0.54	-14.8	7 QB	31.3	5.74	11.58	6	21.6	5.2	14.98
2022		54	26.6	2.07	-22.3	6 QB	36.1	6.56	12.32	6	11.3	4.49	22.73
2021		51.5	21.8	1.85	-17.6	10-QB	35	6.25	11.84	10	13.1	4.4	19.21
2020		49	17.3	-0.5	-2.6	8-QB, OC	33.2	6.02	12.48	4, DC	29.6	6.52	13.27

MISSISSIPPI ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	45	15.4	1.74	-15.9	8 QB, OC	29.2	6.31	13.51	4, DC	16.4	4.57	18.28
2022		56	27.9	2.1	-26.1	8 QB	41.1	6.56	11.47	9	14.3	4.46	21.01
2021		51.5	21.2	2.28	-23.1	8-QB	38.4	7	13.68	8	17.2	4.72	16.86
2020	Yes	45.5	16.6	0.49	-2.3	6, OC	25.5	5.49	15.11	5, DC	22	4.99	15.78

MISSOURI

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		60.5	30.9	3.33	-26.2	7 QB, OC	41.1	7.95	12.91	8	11.4	4.62	26.1
2022		47	18.8	2.05	-21.1	6	33.3	6.59	13.24	8, DC	15.5	4.53	18.79
2021		41.5	9.8	1.04	-8.8	8-QB	37.1	6.76	12.85	8, DC	27.5	5.72	14.28
2020	Yes	45.5	15.5	0.36	-4.9	4, OC	30.4	6.06	14.25	7	28	5.7	13.63

N ILLINOIS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		35.5	6.8	0.84	-6.2	8 QB	28.5	5.84	13.03	7	22.8	4.99	13.75
2022		28	-1.1	-0.06	-4.4	9 QB	29.4	5.69	13	9	32.4	5.75	11.95
2021		35.5	6.7	0.18	-3.4	8	33.8	6.43	13.36	10	27.3	6.25	15.31
2020		26.5	-3.7	-1.96	15.6	6-QB	19	4.86	18.86	4	35.7	6.81	12.04

NAVY

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	30.5	0.3	-0.44	-3.4	8 QB, OC	18.9	5	16.45	9, DC	19.8	5.44	17.69
2022		40.5	11	-0.14	-5.9	5 QB, OC	27.5	5.32	13.61	6	17.5	5.46	18.26
2021		37	5.6	-0.51	-7.7	5	26.6	4.89	12.3	8	21.5	5.4	14.75
2020		33.5	-0.1	-1.41	9.3	6	17.1	4.55	16.1	7	30.4	5.96	12.63

NC STATE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		52.5	21.6	1.29	-17.1	6, OC	34.3	6	11.58	5	13.9	4.71	20.59
2022		48.5	19.4	0.91	-16.0	7 QB	31.5	5.47	12.25	10	13.5	4.56	21.7
2021		54	26.7	2.54	-23.2	8-QB	38.5	6.95	12.26	10	11.8	4.41	24.96
2020		47	17.7	0.32	-6.7	10-QB	30.3	5.7	13.16	5	27	5.38	15.24

NEBRASKA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	43.5	15.1	1.77	-17.7	7, OC	26.3	5.86	13.67	8, DC	12.9	4.09	20.87
2022		45.5	12.6	1.59	-11.9	6, OC	33	6.37	12.24	5	21.9	4.78	16.48
2021		51	23.7	3.23	-23.2	7-QB	37.7	7.77	14.27	10	14.3	4.54	21.87
2020		47.5	15.5	1.1	-7.2	9-QB, OC	28.2	6.11	15.27	5, DC	25.8	5.01	13.76

NEVADA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		21.5	-7.6	-1.57	7.2	5	18.1	4.9	17.75	8	26.9	6.47	15.41
2022	Yes	20	-5	-0.82	8.0	2, OC	25.1	4.7	12.84	4, DC	31.1	5.52	12.01
2021		44.5	17.6	1.37	-11.2	11-QB	40.9	6.5	11.33	11	23.2	5.13	16.31
2020		39	10.7	0.1	0.7	10-QB	27.7	5.94	14.54	7, DC	30.1	5.84	13.73

NEW MEXICO

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		27	-1.5	0.14	5.1	7, OC	28.5	6.55	15.15	2, DC	31.2	6.41	12.45
2022		19	-5.4	-0.96	6.4	5	18.6	4.16	12.97	7	25	5.12	13.36
2021		20.5	-9.9	-0.96	4.8	8-QB	16.2	4.1	15.33	8	26.6	5.06	12.93
2020	Yes	28.5	0.5	-1.83	16.4	8, OC	25.1	5.26	15.07	4, DC	38.3	7.09	12.16

NEW MEXICO ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		36	8	0.97	-4.1	9 QB	27.4	6.96	15.56	4	20.6	5.99	18.73
2022	Yes	28	-1.7	0.32	8.1	4, OC	26	5.46	12.03	9, DC	28.7	5.13	12.28
2021		16	-11.1	-1.6	9.1	1-QB	26.1	5.33	15.11	1	37.4	6.93	12.35
2020		20.5	-10.8	-0.58	14.7	4-QB	23.6	5.59	16.39	6	35.6	6.17	12.61

NORTH CAROLINA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		51	23.4	2.8	-25.5	9 QB, OC	42.8	7.73	13.39	8	20.6	4.92	17.55
2022		47	19.9	2.03	-20.7	5	43.9	7.39	12.49	8, DC	25	5.36	15.4
2021		50	18.6	2.5	-22.6	8-QB	40.4	7.79	13.56	9	22.2	5.29	16.32
2020		59.5	28.1	2.18	-13.5	10-QB	41.6	7.83	13.41	7	26.6	5.65	14.84

NORTH TEXAS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	34	3.4	0.59	-5.7	8, OC	34.4	6.85	15.12	7, DC	32.2	6.26	14.14
2022		36	8	1.22	-10.3	8 QB	33.4	7.05	14.46	5	26.5	5.83	16.72
2021		36.5	4.3	0.08	0.9	7	28.8	5.62	15.76	10, DC	24.5	5.54	14.97
2020		26.5	-8.4	-1.64	12.3	6	26.1	5.97	17.42	6, DC	47.6	7.61	12.37

NORTHWESTERN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		42.5	14.2	0.66	-11.2	4 QB	32.8	5.4	10.65	8, DC	20.6	4.74	15.31
2022		36	7	0.86	-9.7	9 QB	26.2	5.55	15.65	5	21	4.69	15.06
2021		32.5	1.5	0	-7.5	4	26.1	5.43	14.18	5, DC	24.6	5.43	15.48
2020		54	30.1	0.53	-10.5	9, OC	28.9	5.04	12.92	9, DC	11.9	4.52	26.7

NOTRE DAME

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		65	36	3.91	-32.2	5, OC	46.1	7.88	10.55	8	11.3	3.97	22.35
2022	Yes	56	25.4	2.21	-25.0	7	38.1	6.74	11.66	8, DC	13.9	4.53	20.69
2021		61.5	32.5	2.65	-25.4	3	42.5	7.14	11.4	6, DC	10	4.49	29.53
2020		62	35	1.53	-22.9	7-QB, OC	36.7	6.66	12.99	5, DC	14.8	5.13	21.61

OHIO ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		69	39.9	4.29	-38.7	7, OC	42.5	7.85	11.91	7	3.8	3.55	59.62
2022		70	41.4	4.2	-46.6	6 QB	55.1	8.48	10.39	8, DC	14.7	4.29	18.1
2021		70	40.5	4.43	-40.6	7	55.3	9.01	11.54	5	15.1	4.58	21.26
2020		71	42.9	2.63	-30.3	6-QB	49.8	7.74	11.29	4	20.8	5.11	16.15

OHIO U

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		39	9.3	0.49	-9	9 QB	24.8	5.17	14.05	6	16.9	4.68	15.54
2022		37	10.5	0.65	-8.4	5 QB	34.7	6.59	12.92	9, DC	25.3	5.94	16.42
2021		30.5	-4.3	0.39	-3.4	9-QB	23.8	6.17	16.09	8	28.1	5.78	14.82
2020		36.5	8.7	-1.52	5.5	7	23.4	5.32	12.95	8	27.8	6.84	17.47

OKLAHOMA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		62	40	3.5	-31.5	7 QB	50.4	8.1	12	6	11.5	4.6	28.94
2022	Yes	53.5	23.5	2.83	-25.3	5, OC	40.9	7.58	13.97	5, DC	18.7	4.74	20.59
2021		58	27.2	2.84	-29.5	7-QB	43.4	7.8	11.69	8	16.2	4.96	20.8
2020		65.5	36.9	1.96	-20.8	8	43.8	6.87	11.08	8	20	4.92	16.44

OKLAHOMA ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48	18.9	1.46	-21	7	36.7	6.97	13.71	6, DC	19	5.51	19.95
2022		47	18.4	1	-18.2	7 QB	37.1	6.08	12.88	4, DC	20.4	5.09	19.1
2021		58	31.3	2.65	-29.5	5-QB	38.3	6.39	12.48	8	7.3	3.74	32.27
2020		55.5	27.3	0.99	-11.6	7-QB, OC	32.6	5.9	13.88	10, DC	19.1	4.92	18.15

OLD DOMINION

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		32.5	4	0.78	-3.4	4, OC	24.7	5.72	15.1	3	21.9	4.94	16.69
2022		32.5	3.2	0.84	-3.3	10 QB, OC	24.3	6.13	15.3	7	22.1	5.28	18.43
2021	Yes	34.5	3.3	0.25	1.2	6-QB	27.3	5.46	14.44	3	24	5.21	15.2
2020		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OLE MISS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		57.5	30.3	3.13	-28.3	9 QB	42.1	7.71	12.85	7, DC	13	4.58	24.79
2022		54.5	28	3.04	-26.5	5, OC	43.2	7.62	13.45	7	16.2	4.58	20.28
2021		57	28.5	3.05	-25	8-QB	43.8	7.8	13.8	10	15.2	4.75	24.25
2020	Yes	50.5	21.4	1.09	-8.6	8-QB, OC	43.9	7.6	13.77	5, DC	35.7	6.5	14.03

OREGON

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		68	43.2	4.73	-39.4	8 QB	48.9	9.05	12.55	8	6.8	4.32	40.97
2022	Yes	57.5	29.2	2.96	-31.2	7, OC	45	8.11	13.19	7, DC	16.7	5.15	20.17
2021		52	22	2.75	-27.8	10	40.1	7.32	12.26	7, DC	18.1	4.57	17.81
2020		57	26.3	1.98	-15.9	3, OC	35.8	7.18	12.78	5, DC	22.6	5.2	17.09

OREGON ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		57.5	30.6	3.28	-27	8 QB	41	7.83	12.43	5	11.6	4.55	25.17
2022		57	29.2	2.57	-24.0	6 QB	38.4	7.18	12.18	9, DC	11.5	4.6	25.95
2021		47.5	20.1	2.22	-15.6	9-QB	40.3	7.35	12.18	9	20.2	5.13	17.11
2020		44	16.8	0.16	-3.4	5	32.1	6.25	13.67	9	29	6.08	14.31

PENN ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		66	40.8	2.87	-32.6	8	45.8	6.32	9.87	8	6.2	3.45	31.87
2022		63	35.4	3.12	-29.0	7 QB	45.3	7.11	11.22	4	10.9	4	25.24
2021		55.5	27.4	2.36	-25.6	8-QB, OC	36.4	6.36	12.54	7	9.3	4	31.85
2020		55	21.8	1.04	-11.4	8-QB, OC	34.3	5.81	13.35	4, DC	25.6	4.77	12.12

PITTSBURGH

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		40	9.3	1.51	-11.5	6	27.9	6.21	13.26	5	20.1	4.7	15.79
2022		51	21.1	2.15	-18.8	7, OC	37.9	6.61	11.96	7	18.1	4.46	15.9
2021		58.5	29.9	2.43	-26	8-QB	45.9	7.09	12.05	6	16	4.66	19.97
2020		50.5	21.8	0.64	-6.3	8-QB	30.7	5.34	12.86	7	22	4.71	14.89

PURDUE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	42	12.2	1.51	-11.5	6, OC	36.6	6.41	12.48	5, DC	25.5	4.91	12.83
2022		49.5	21.5	1.69	-21.6	7 QB	40.1	6.49	12.09	7, DC	19.9	4.8	15.27
2021		51.5	24.1	2.12	-19.1	9-QB	37.7	6.82	13.36	8, DC	13.6	4.7	21.66
2020		45.5	16.2	0.87	-8.3	9-QB	33.5	6.01	12.28	8	30.4	5.13	12.49

RICE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		39	11.7	0.97	-7.3	7	33.1	6.29	12.06	7	23.6	5.32	14.85
2022		28	-0.4	0.09	0.4	7 QB	25.8	5.97	15.26	7	27.7	5.88	12.84
2021		25	-7.6	-0.6	4.8	9, OC	22.5	5.69	17.24	10	30.2	6.29	13.58
2020		34	10.6	-1.54	13.7	7	20.1	4.53	15.75	10	22.6	6.07	16.13

RUTGERS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		44	17.4	1.31	-18.3	6 QB, OC	32.7	5.7	10.91	8	16.5	4.39	16.68
2022		34	4.8	0.66	-10.6	6 QB	27	5.16	12.17	6, DC	23.2	4.49	13.1
2021		36	10.2	-0.03	-8.1	11-QB	29.3	5.22	12.35	9	19.1	5.25	18.15
2020	Yes	40.5	15.4	-0.54	1.8	8-QB, OC	31	4.96	11.63	8, DC	28.7	5.5	14.67

S ALABAMA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		42.5	16	1.58	-13.7	9 QB	32.4	6.53	13.84	9	17.9	4.95	17.32
2022		43.5	15.6	1.2	-14.4	8	33.1	5.93	13.02	8	18.5	4.73	16.2
2021	Yes	32	2.4	0.13	-2.9	7-QB, OC	26.3	5.38	14.4	9, DC	24.7	5.25	13.94
2020		27.5	0	-1.85	11.6	8-QB	16.6	4.93	20.7	6	29.7	6.78	15.45

SAM HOUSTON ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		26	-2.5	-1.03	5.8	7 QB, OC	21.4	4.69	14.91	9	25.1	5.72	15.27
2022		19.5	-12.3	-1.17	5.0		12.8	4.31	23.76		25.1	5.48	15.27
2021		35.5	10.7	0.4	-6.8		36.3	5.98	12.18		25.6	5.58	15.37
2020		34	4.7	0.47	-4.7		27.4	5.25	13.54		22.7	4.76	14.88

SAN DIEGO ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		32.5	1.7	-0.37	-0.9	6 QB, OC	23.3	5.4	14.89	6	22.8	5.77	16.71
2022		37.5	6.3	0.45	-5.7	4	24.5	5.43	13.62	7	19.2	4.98	16.82
2021		41	12.2	0.86	-13.8	9	29.5	5.29	11.85	8	17.5	4.43	17.46
2020	Yes	43.5	15.1	0.24	0.3	6-QB, OC	23.5	4.82	14.3	8, DC	21.5	4.58	13.83

SAN JOSE ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		45	16	1.8	-12.1	9 QB	34.3	6.96	12.69	5	19.5	5.16	17.06
2022		34.5	8.4	0.59	-6.9	6	29.8	5.58	11.99	8	22.4	4.99	14.86
2021		34.5	0.2	0.74	-10.2	9-QB	21.6	5.66	16.47	11	23.4	4.92	15.22
2020		45	21	1.45	0.8	6	30.9	6.51	13.72	7	23	5.06	15.38

SMU

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		57.5	29.8	2.44	-22.2	8	42.1	6.73	11.6	8	13.7	4.29	20.86
2022	Yes	44.5	16.1	1.45	-19.5	6 QB, OC	40.7	6.97	13.11	7, DC	25.9	5.52	15.62
2021		45.5	18.3	1.32	-18.9	8	40.7	6.8	12.4	9, DC	22.4	5.48	17.21
2020		44.5	15.4	0.22	-8.9	7-QB, OC	35.1	6.27	13.45	6, DC	32.8	6.04	13.8

SOUTH CAROLINA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48	20.8	2.24	-18.5	6 QB, OC	35.5	6.88	12.6	4	16	4.64	20.85
2022		49	20.6	2.14	-17.0	8	38.7	7	11.49	5	19	4.87	18.03
2021	Yes	42.5	13.1	1.02	-15.6	8, OC	29.5	5.89	12.65	5, DC	17.5	4.87	17.91
2020		38.5	9.2	-0.29	2.6	7-QB, OC	27.2	5.8	14.16	6, DC	31.1	6.09	13.47

SOUTH FLORIDA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	33	5.1	0.09	-1.5	4 QB, OC	33	6.1	14.67	9, DC	31.1	6.01	13.84
2022		30.5	1	0.31	1.7	10 QB, OC	32	6.94	13.89	9, DC	32.5	6.64	14.22
2021		30.5	1.5	-0.55	-3	9	28.7	5.69	13.92	8	27.2	6.24	15.45
2020	Yes	30.5	-1.9	-0.81	11.8	7-QB, OC	23.8	5.14	15.61	7, DC	38.8	5.96	11.19

SOUTHERN MISS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		27	-3	-0.71	-1.2	9 QB	26.7	5.41	14.35	6, DC	30.9	6.12	12.36
2022		35	6.7	0.33	-2.8	9 QB, OC	27.1	5.44	12.86	7	21.4	5.1	16.4
2021	Yes	26	-6.1	-1.25	10	8, OC	18.8	4.37	14.59	10, DC	26	5.62	13.4
2020		28	-5.2	-1.17	17.8	7-QB, OC	21.9	5.25	15.39	4, DC	40.5	6.42	11.05

STANFORD

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	32	4.6	0.8	-9.8	3, OC	27.7	6.27	15.83	3, DC	24.3	5.47	15.85
2022		36.5	9.1	0.8	-10.0	10 QB	28.9	6.38	15.18	7	20.8	5.59	17.76
2021		36.5	6.9	0.75	-10	7	30	6.3	12.19	8	23.6	5.55	16.35
2020		49.5	18.7	0.31	-1.7	8-QB	32.9	6.46	13.71	6	27.4	6.15	14.98

SYRACUSE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		42	14.6	1.37	-10.6	7 QB, OC	31	6.19	12.97	7, DC	17.9	4.82	19.04
2022		45	19.5	2.36	-18.6	9 QB, OC	36	6.8	11.45	8	18	4.44	16.88
2021		42	12	1.91	-16.3	9-QB	32.1	6.45	13.02	9	20.2	4.54	14.56
2020		35.5	7.9	-0.6	9.5	7-QB, OC	20.9	4.81	13.7	4, DC	27.2	5.41	15.84

TCU

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		52	23	2.52	-22.6	3	38.2	7.37	14.61	7	17.4	4.85	20.14
2022	Yes	61.5	35.2	3.66	-32.3	9, OC	46.8	8.28	12.22	8, DC	12.7	4.61	25.88
2021		41	10.1	1.52	-18.3	9-QB, OC	35.9	7.78	14.13	8	25.8	6.26	15.54
2020		52.5	24.5	1.16	-8.1	5	32.4	6.27	13.23	7	21	5.11	16

TEMPLE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		23.5	-7.2	-0.37	1.6	7 QB	21.9	5.62	17.98	9, DC	31	5.99	13.54
2022	Yes	30	-0.1	0.23	0.8	7 QB, OC	24.9	5.56	14.94	7, DC	26	5.33	14.24
2021		17.5	-16	-0.36	8.7	7	18.6	4.97	16.1	6	34.9	5.33	10.87
2020		29	-2.7	-1.78	12.2	7-QB	16.9	4.64	20.62	4	34.3	6.42	12.64

TENNESSEE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		57	28.3	3.5	-31.6	5, OC	39.3	7.9	13.82	7	12.2	4.39	24.55
2022		67.5	41.7	3.94	-35.4	8 QB	55.6	8.62	11.36	7	15.3	4.68	22.7
2021	Yes	54	25.5	2.84	-24.9	4, OC	45.2	7.46	11.65	7, DC	19.7	4.62	18.13
2020		46	16.1	0.54	-2.9	9-QB	27.3	5.83	14.09	8	24.3	5.29	15.2

TEXAS

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		67	39.5	3.8	-32.6	10 QB	44.1	8.08	13.13	6	6.6	4.28	41.66
2022		63	36.9	3.69	-31.8	7	43.5	7.81	12.13	7	8.6	4.12	35.56
2021	Yes	49	21.3	2.33	-21.2	8, OC	43.1	7.55	11.72	6, DC	21.7	5.22	16.94
2020		59	30.8	1.56	-12.2	7-QB, OC	44.8	6.62	10.78	9, DC	27.4	5.06	14.13

TEXAS A&M

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		57	29.9	2.56	-27	10 QB, OC	40.8	6.92	11.63	10	12.1	4.36	21.24
2022		49	18.5	2.16	-16.7	5	30.5	6.69	13.84	5, DC	13.3	4.52	24.07
2021		56.5	26.8	2.59	-26.6	5	35.5	6.76	12.47	9	9.5	4.17	30.8
2020		62.5	31.5	1.8	-20	8-QB	35	6.85	13.41	9	16.6	5.05	17.82

TEXAS ST UNIV

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	36	6	0.72	-7.5	7, OC	35.9	6.43	13.22	4, DC	31.1	5.7	13
2022		27.5	-1	-0.28	-1.8	9, OC	23.1	4.85	14.45	5	25.1	5.13	13.99
2021		26.5	-4.8	-0.4	2.2	8-QB	24.6	5.17	14.54	8	29.8	5.57	13.87
2020		27.5	0.1	-0.87	13.4	8-QB, OC	27.2	5.59	13.32	4, DC	40.2	6.45	12.57

TEXAS TECH

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		49	22.1	1.85	-27.2	11 QB	34.3	6.53	13.74	6	15.6	4.68	21.35
2022	Yes	52	23.7	1.53	-18.2	6 QB, OC	40.4	6.52	13.55	6, DC	18.8	5	19.02
2021		46.5	14	2.3	-15.8	7, OC	36	7.56	13.11	8	23.5	5.26	15.38
2020		41.5	9.7	0.55	-3.4	6-QB	29.9	6.07	14.93	8	33.3	5.52	12.88

TOLEDO

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		42	15.8	1.75	-16.6	8 QB	35.5	6.63	12.17	8	20.9	4.87	15.54
2022		40	9.2	1.03	-10.6	7 QB	33.2	5.71	12.4	8	25.2	4.68	13
2021		44.5	14.7	1.92	-11.3	11-QB	33.7	6.71	13.11	11	19	4.79	17.78
2020		39.5	12.1	-0.15	-0.3	7-QB, OC	25.8	5.82	17.33	7, DC	26.8	5.97	15.05

TROY

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48.5	20.5	2.12	-18.2	6 QB	31.8	6.65	14.11	6, DC	12.5	4.53	23.32
2022	Yes	45	15.5	1.76	-11.4	9 QB, OC	29.6	6.21	13.42	9, DC	15.1	4.45	20.43
2021		30.5	1.1	0.49	-6.3	10-QB, OC	25.7	5.37	13.68	11	24.6	4.88	13.18
2020		37	8.1	-0.68	7.7	7	23.9	5.2	15.5	6	29.1	5.88	14.82

TULANE

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		46.5	16.9	1.47	-18.2	6 QB, OC	28.7	6.27	14.15	8, DC	13.7	4.8	22.81
2022		52.5	24.6	2.43	-18.2	9 QB, OC	37.8	6.9	12.41	9	14.7	4.47	21.68
2021		38.5	6.4	1.18	-6.2	10-QB, OC	32.2	6.38	13.56	7, DC	26.2	5.2	14.71
2020		46	18.6	-0.16	-2.4	5	33.8	5.56	11.46	7	28.3	5.72	15.18

TULSA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	30	-1.9	-0.4	-0.4	4, OC	26.4	5.76	15.66	5, DC	29.8	6.16	13.99
2022		38.5	9.1	1.11	-8.0	6 QB	33.7	6.47	13.49	6, DC	25.7	5.36	14.72
2021		43	10.3	1.88	-11.8	9	30.3	6.8	16.07	10	20	4.92	17.2
2020		48.5	23	1.25	-5.7	9-QB	27.3	5.82	15.3	4	17.5	4.57	18.91

TX-SAN ANTONIO

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		44	14.7	1.18	-16.1	8 QB, OC	33	6.07	13.62	8	20.2	4.88	17.32
2022		45.5	16.4	1.08	-13.2	8 QB, OC	37.8	6.69	13.24	5	22.4	5.62	17.54
2021		43.5	16.8	0.83	-14.9	10-QB	38.1	6.26	11.89	11, DC	21.3	5.43	16.61
2020	Yes	33.5	6.7	-0.78	13.8	8-QB, OC	23.8	5.24	16.07	5, DC	30.2	6.02	13.16

UAB

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	32.5	0.5	0.9	-3.9	3, OC	30.9	6.72	15.46	4, DC	31.6	5.82	13.01
2022	Yes	42.5	12.5	1.79	-13.6	6 QB	30.2	7.02	15.17	8	19.1	5.23	18.62
2021		44.5	14	2.13	-12.1	8-QB	32.8	6.73	12.52	9	19.2	4.6	15.84
2020		43.5	14.7	0.63	-1.6	9-QB	28.1	5.62	13.56	9	27.1	5	12.19

UCF

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		51	24	3.21	-17.9	8 QB, OC	37.8	8.28	15.1	7	16.1	5.07	21.46
2022		47.5	22	1.62	-22.4	9 QB, OC	38.4	6.87	13.68	8	17.8	5.25	19.82
2021	Yes	45	14.3	1.48	-16.5	8-QB, OC	33	6.33	12.62	7, DC	21.7	4.85	16.34
2020		54.5	26.4	0.91	-12.2	8-QB, OC	43	6.83	13.61	8, DC	29.7	5.92	15.96

UCLA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		50.5	21.6	2.52	-21.9	7	30.4	6.58	15.74	9, DC	9.9	4.06	26.88
2022		53	22.7	2.52	-26.2	6 QB, OC	42.8	7.73	13.14	2, DC	21	5.2	17.35
2021		55	23.9	2.27	-20.8	10-QB	44.7	7.13	11.35	10	21.1	4.86	16.13
2020		51	26	1.42	-11.6	7-QB	38.6	6.54	12.56	6	26.9	5.13	14.36

UNLV

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	39	14.1	0.72	-12.5	6 QB, OC	36.6	6.47	12.03	7, DC	23.6	5.76	16.14
2022		30	3.8	0.58	-4.5	6 QB, OC	31.4	5.85	11.83	6, DC	29	5.27	12.71
2021		29	-0.5	0.23	1.3	6	26.3	5.78	13.28	10	26.8	5.55	13.79
2020	Yes	18.5	-11.2	-2.8	20.5	8-QB, OC	18.8	4.58	17.09	4, DC	43.1	7.38	11.53

USC

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		53	26.5	3.57	-26.1	8 QB	49.1	8.82	11.56	9	23.8	5.25	15.7
2022	Yes	58.5	31.1	3.05	-32.0	7, OC	48	8.5	12.33	3, DC	17.8	5.46	20.15
2021		42	13.7	1.41	-15	8-QB	37.8	6.96	13.79	8	24.4	5.55	14.54
2020		56.5	26.9	0.71	-12.6	8-QB	34.7	5.91	12.75	9, DC	20.8	5.19	16.78

UTAH

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		53	24.2	1.8	-27.6	7 QB	31.8	6.33	13.7	9	8.8	4.53	30
2022		63	35.4	2.73	-27.1	8 QB	44.8	7.68	12.15	6	10.8	4.95	26.65
2021		60.5	28.5	2.91	-25.4	9	42.5	7.24	11.51	9	14	4.33	20.08
2020		53	21.8	0.87	-10.5	7	31.3	6.15	13.63	2	22.6	5.28	15.51

UTAH ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		34	6.9	1.2	-8	4 QB, OC	36.7	6.48	12.76	5, DC	31.5	5.28	12.59
2022		33	0.6	-0.28	-3.5	7 QB	29.3	5.17	13.12	5	30.5	5.45	12.33
2021	Yes	41.5	13.5	0.76	-8.2	8, OC	37.9	6.24	12.57	8, DC	24.4	5.48	15.24
2020		21.5	-11.2	-2.42	20.2	8, OC	15.6	4.4	16.99	5, DC	39.9	6.82	12.66

UTEP

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		27	-1.3	0.07	3	8 QB, OC	22	5.86	17.29	7	25.5	5.79	14.47
2022		32	1.3	-0.22	-0.6	7 QB	24.4	5.5	15.81	8	24.5	5.72	14.04
2021		31	0.3	0.78	-5.3	11-QB, OC	24.9	5.92	15.7	8, DC	24.6	5.14	13.79
2020		20.5	-7.3	-2.21	20.3	5	15.5	4.66	20.24	5	35.9	6.87	11.93

VANDERBILT

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		34.5	5.7	0.51	-7.6	7 QB	30.3	6.15	12.5	8	27	5.65	14.51
2022		37.5	9.4	0.52	-13.0	7 QB, OC	33.2	6.42	12.73	7, DC	25.2	5.9	15.52
2021	Yes	28	-5.3	-0.72	3	8-QB, OC	22.2	5.24	16.27	6, DC	28	5.96	14.42
2020		28	-1.9	-1.76	10	5-QB, OC	17.5	5.06	20.2	11, DC	32.6	6.82	14.04

VIRGINIA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		38.5	8.5	0.97	-12.7	5	31.6	6.19	13.87	8	25.3	5.22	13.97
2022	Yes	38.4	7.1	1.38	-8.9	4 QB, OC	25.3	5.81	15.49	6, DC	19.2	4.44	16.66
2021		46.5	18	2.22	-21.7	8-QB	40	8.03	14.91	7	22.3	5.81	18.35
2020		46	19.2	-0.18	-6.7	7	31	5.94	14.27	8	24.9	6.12	17.01

VIRGINIA TECH

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48.5	20.4	2.19	-15.9	7 QB	36.7	6.78	12.08	7	18.8	4.59	15.18
2022	Yes	37	5.9	0.27	-7.5	4, OC	25.3	5.21	13.75	7, DC	20.4	4.94	16.6
2021		45	15.9	1.56	-12.2	7	30.6	6.54	13.92	6	14.7	4.98	23.18
2020		50	21.3	1.41	-10.5	8-QB	33.4	7.18	14.24	9, DC	26.1	5.77	15.94

W KENTUCKY

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		34.5	6.5	0.5	-5.8	7 QB	31.7	6.13	12.94	4	26.4	5.63	15.73
2022		44	17.5	1.79	-15.0	4, OC	36.7	6.84	13.68	7, DC	20.2	5.05	18.14
2021		47.5	18.5	2.1	-15.5	6-QB, OC	43.4	7.36	12.69	5	24.9	5.26	16.35
2020		32	2.2	-0.87	12.3	7	19.1	4.36	14.52	9	30	5.24	11.77

W MICHIGAN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	28	-1	-0.48	-1.9	7, OC	30.6	5.31	12.62	2	32.8	5.79	11.38
2022		29	-0.6	-0.63	4.5	4	20.6	4.64	14.92	7	22.4	5.27	15.05
2021		41	10.4	1.23	-12.2	9-QB, OC	33.5	6.73	14.94	10	23.1	5.5	13.6
2020		39	9.8	0.51	-1.6	5	33.4	6.7	13.13	6	36.7	6.19	12.05

WAKE FOREST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		40	9.7	0.72	-15.4	5	28.5	5.82	13.44	6	20	5.1	16.87
2022		51	21.2	1.45	-21.0	7 QB	43.7	6.67	11.54	6, DC	23.8	5.22	15.53
2021		51.5	23.9	1.54	-23.2	11-QB	45.8	6.86	11.63	8	21.9	5.32	17.31
2020		48	22.1	0.06	-8.9	3-QB	36.5	5.97	12.33	8	27.5	5.91	16.12

WASHINGTON

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		63	34.6	4.11	-30.4	7 QB	45.2	8.81	12.66	8	11.8	4.69	28.59
2022	Yes	55.5	26.2	2.75	-21.3	8 QB, OC	43.9	7.78	13.17	5, DC	18.7	5.03	17.92
2021		42	13.1	1.31	-15.3	10-QB	29	5.74	12.85	8	15.9	4.43	18.73
2020	Yes	50	18.2	0.69	-12.1	4, OC	29.5	6.04	13.68	6	24.3	5.34	14.23

WASHINGTON ST

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48	20	1.98	-18	7 QB, OC	38.2	6.93	12.88	5, DC	19.4	4.96	17.51
2022		48.5	22	1.51	-19.1	4, OC	34.2	6.52	12.82	6, DC	13.2	5.01	26.11
2021		48.5	17.4	1.74	-13.4	8-QB	34.7	6.73	12.74	10	17.8	4.99	19.08
2020	Yes	43.5	13.6	0.47	-3.3	6, OC	31.6	6.53	13.52	8, DC	31.2	6.07	13.43

WEST VIRGINIA

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		48	20.2	2.08	-19.4	6, OC	37.3	7.23	13.6	7	18.7	5.15	18.03
2022		45.5	17.2	1.46	-14.4	7, OC	38.8	6.61	12.37	4	22.7	5.16	15.56
2021		46	16	1.33	-18.4	9-QB	32.5	6.26	13.5	7, DC	16.4	4.93	18.89
2020		50	20.1	0.81	-12.3	8-QB, OC	26.7	5.55	15.93	6, DC	19.7	4.74	15.02

WISCONSIN

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023	Yes	48.5	18.5	1.53	-18.8	9, OC	31.2	5.95	13.48	8, DC	14.7	4.42	20.07
2022		50.5	22.8	2.54	-24.1	5 QB, OC	38.3	6.73	11.07	3	16.5	4.2	16.18
2021		57	27.6	3.13	-28.6	7-QB	37.1	6.7	12.17	8	9.6	3.57	21.54
2020		56	28.5	0.99	-19.1	6-QB	28.8	5.41	13.49	9	13.4	4.42	18.31

WYOMING

Season	New HC?	SM PR	Eff Strg	EffYPP+/-	SM BR	Off RS	EffOffPPG	EffOffYPP	EffOffYPPT	Def RS	EffDefPPG	EffDefYPP	EffDefYPPT
2023		39	11.6	1.06	-7.1	5 QB	28.1	5.93	12.4	10	17.9	4.87	18.89
2022		32	2.8	0.32	-4.8	4, OC	25.1	5.47	13.09	4	23.5	5.15	15.13
2021		37	5.1	0.92	-9.9	10-QB, OC	26.5	5.82	14.21	11	21.3	4.9	15.6
2020		41.5	11.7	-0.27	1.6	7	22.3	5.07	15.49	5, DC	25.8	5.35	13.8