

Phil Steele Inside the Pressbox

★ = Phil's Best Bet ★ = Computer Best Bet Bowl Games

	Computer	Phil		Computer	Phil
Saturday, December 13th			Monday, December 22nd		
Army			IDAHO POTATO Bowl		
3:00 pm. ET			Washington St		
Navy			2:00 pm. ET		
LA Bowl			Utah St		
Boise St			Tuesday, December 23rd		
8:00 pm. ET			BOCA RATON Bowl		
Washington			Toledo		
CELEBRATION Bowl			2:00 pm. ET		
South Carolina St			Louisville		
12:00 pm. ET			NEW ORLEANS Bowl		
Prairie View A&M			WKU		
Tuesday, December 16th			5:30 pm. ET		
VETERANS Bowl		★	Southern Miss		
Troy			FRISCO Bowl		
9:00 pm. ET			UNLV		
★Jax State			9:00 pm. ET		
Wednesday, December 17th			Ohio		
CURE Bowl			Wednesday, December 24th		
Old Dominion			HAWAII Bowl	★	
5:00 pm. ET			California		
South Florida			8:00 pm. ET		
68 VENTURES Bowl			★Hawaii		
Louisiana			Friday, December 26th		
8:30 pm. ET			GAMEABOVE SPORTS Bowl		
Delaware			Central Michigan		
Thursday, December 18th			1:00 pm. ET		
XBOX Bowl			Northwestern		
Missouri St			RATE Bowl		
9:00 pm. ET			New Mexico		
Arkansas St			4:30 pm. ET		
Friday, December 19th			Minnesota		
MYRTLE BEACH Bowl	★		FIRST RESPONDER Bowl		
Kennesaw St			FIU		
11:00 am. ET			8:00 pm. ET		
★Western Michigan			UTSA		
GASPARILLA Bowl		★	Saturday, December 27th		
Memphis			MILITARY Bowl		
2:30 pm. ET			Pittsburgh		
★NC State			11:00 am. ET		
PLAYOFF 1st ROUND			East Carolina		
Alabama			PINSTRIFE Bowl		
8:00 pm. ET			Penn St		
Oklahoma			12:00 pm. ET		
Saturday, December 20th			Clemson		
PLAYOFF 1st ROUND			FENWAY Bowl		
James Madison			Connecticut		
7:30 pm. ET			2:15 pm. ET		
Oregon			Army		
PLAYOFF 1st ROUND			POP-TARTS Bowl		
Tulane			Georgia Tech		
3:30 pm. ET			3:30 pm. ET		
Mississippi			BYU		
PLAYOFF 1st ROUND			ARIZONA Bowl		
Miami, FL		★	Miami, OH		
12:00 pm. ET			4:30 pm. ET		
★Texas A&M			Fresno St		

Computer	Phil
Friday, January 2nd	
ARMES FORCES Bowl	
Rice	
1:00 pm. ET	
Texas St	
LIBERTY Bowl	
Navy	
4:30 pm. ET	
Cincinnati	
MAYO Bowl	
Wake Forest	
8:00 pm. ET	
Mississippi St	
HOLIDAY Bowl	
Arizona	
8:00 pm. ET	
SMU	
Thursday, January 8th	
FIESTA Bowl PLAYOFF	
TBD	
7:30 pm. ET	
TBD	
Friday, January 9th	
PEACH Bowl PLAYOFF	
TBD	
7:30 pm. ET	
TBD	
Monday, January 19th	
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	
TBD	
7:30 pm. ET	
TBD	

FCS Playoffs- 12/20


Saturday, December 20th	
★Montana vs★Montana St (over 56)	HIGH SCORE
Illinois St vs Villanova	

Pressbox Bowl Release Schedule

Thursday 12/11 - Release #1
Bowls from 12/13 to 12/18
Thursday 12/18 - Release #2
Bowls from 12/19 to 12/24
Tuesday 12/23 - Release #3
Bowls from 12/26 to 12/30

NEW MEXICO Bowl		
North Texas		
5:45 pm. ET		
San Diego St		
GATOR Bowl		
Virginia		
7:30 pm. ET		
Missouri		
TEXAS Bowl		
LSU		
9:15 pm. ET		
Houston		
Monday, December 29th		
BIRMINGHAM Bowl		
Georgia Southern		
2:00 pm. ET		
Appalachian St		
Tuesday, December 30th		
INDEPENDENCE Bowl		
Coastal Carolina		
2:00 pm. ET		
Louisiana Tech		
MUSIC CITY Bowl		
Tennessee		
5:30 pm. ET		
Illinois		
ALAMO Bowl		
USC		
9:00 pm. ET		
TCU		
Wednesday, December 31st		
RELIAQUEST Bowl		
Iowa		
12:00 pm. ET		
Vanderbilt		
SUN Bowl		
Arizona St		
2:00 pm. ET		
Duke		
CITRUS Bowl		
Michigan		
3:00 pm. ET		
Texas		
LAS VEGAS Bowl		
Nebraska		
3:30 pm. ET		
Utah		
COTTON Bowl PLAYOFF		
TBD		
7:30 pm. ET		
Ohio St		
Thursday, January 1st		
ORANGE Bowl PLAYOFF		
TBD		
12:00 pm. ET		
Texas Tech		
ROSE Bowl PLAYOFF		
TBD		
4:00 pm. ET		
Indiana		
SUGAR Bowl PLAYOFF		
TBD		
8:00 pm. ET		
Georgia		

Boise St Broncos															OVERALL: 9-4 vs. MTW		OVERALL: 8-4 vs. PAC 12		Washington Huskies														
Broncos Logs															Huskies Logs																		
TM	REC	FOE	REC	TM	CONF	FOE	CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L			



Computer Forecast



Boise St	PROJECTED	Washington
122	Rush Yards	172
201	Pass Yards	219
323	Total Yards	391
20.7	Score	31.7
76	EXP	41
Washington 32 Boise St 21		

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Foe	Score	Tot	Def	Off	Rush	Att-Yds	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sk	Tot	Def	Off	Rush	Att-Yds	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sk	Net	Net	Off	Def	Off	Gm
Colorado St	38-21	509	26	51-283	5.5	18-24	226	3	365	17	27-45	3.1	17-33	180	2	244	0	17	9	#4	91	#2	65	100.2	
UC Davis	70-10	628	34	46-324	7.0	19-30	304	0	218	13	24-76	3.2	14-28	142	3	410	1	60	21	#1	235	#1	243	129.2	
at Washington St	59-24	471	23	33-173	5.2	16-19	298	3	304	21	28-27	1.0	25-36	277	3	167	3	35	2	#1	181	#6	12	125.0	
Ohio St	6-24	234	15	30-41	2.0	18-23	173	6	357	23	34-149	4.4	22-28	208	1	-123	1	-18	-8	#3	33	#3	89	112.0	
at Maryland	24-20	390	28	36-115	3.2	28-41	275	3	274	19	20-55	2.8	30-49	219	0	116	0	4	9	#8	-13	#1	95	110.6	
Rutgers	38-19	579	26	32-177	5.5	21-27	402	1	493	25	27-107	4.0	31-50	386	3	86	0	19	1	#2	159	#9	-94	113.4	
at Michigan	7-24	249	14	23-40	1.7	20-32	209	2	417	23	40-187	4.7	21-28	230	1	-168	-3	-17	-9	#10	-69	#7	-20	99.5	
Illinois	42-25	449	27	33-157	4.8	27-34	292	0	337	22	29-138	4.8	22-34	199	0	112	2	17	5	#4	107	#5	36	117.3	
at Wisconsin	10-13	251	15	36-117	3.3	20-32	134	4	205	12	47-157	3.3	6-18	48	2	46	-2	-3	3	#9	-73	#4	52	108.9	
Purdue	49-13	506	24	40-212	5.3	18-22	294	1	267	14	30-100	3.3	17-34	167	3	239	0	36	10	#5	90	#2	84	121.1	
at UCLA	48-14	426	25	39-212	5.4	18-28	214	1	207	10	22-57	2.6	21-37	150	1	219	1	34	15	#5	42	#2	123	131.6	
Oregon	14-26	283	18	33-154	4.7	15-30	129	4	392	17	42-106	2.5	20-29	286	2	-109	-2	-12	1	#4	34	#5	80	111.8	
TOTALS	405-233	4975	275	432-2025	4.7	238-342	2950	28	3736	216	370-1244	3.4	246-404	2492	21	1239	1	172	59	#80	577	#32	523	115.0	
AVERAGES	34-19	415	22.9	36-169	4.7	69.6%	246	8.2%	311	18.0	31-104	3.4	60.9%	208	5.2%	103	0.1	14	5	#80	52	#32	48	#19	
HOME	37-20	455	24.3	38-195	5.2	71.6%	260	15	333	18.7	30-109	3.6	60.8%	224	14	123	2	17	6	#22	86	#49	43	115.0	
AWAY	30-19	357	21.0	33-131	3.9	67.1%	226	13	281	17.0	31-97	3.1	61.3%	185	7	76	-1	11	4	#59	12	#22	53	115.1	
CONF	26-30	374	21.3	34-138	4.1	68.8%	236	22	328	18.3	32-117	3.6	61.9%	210	13	46	-8	7	3	#47	34	#33	50	114.0	
NON-CONF	56-18	536	27.7	43-260	6.0	72.6%	276	6	262	17.0	25-43	2.4	57.7%	200	8	274	4	37	11	#14	90	#48	26	118.1	
Last 4 Weeks	30-17	367	20.5	37-174	4.7	63.4%	193	2.5	268	13.3	35-105	2.9	54.2%	163	20	99	-1	14	7		22		85	118.3	

This Weeks Numbers


VEGAS LINE	Washington By 9.5	L4W Game Grade	Washington By 14.1
VEGAS TOTAL	52.5 Points	Last Met Line	N/A
+ / - Rating	Washington By 16.0	Last Met Score	N/A
Game Grade	Washington By 7.9	Points per Yards	31.579375 By 4.9



Phil's Forecast:

Boise St trails all-time series 4-2 incl ATS losses in '12 & '19 Las Vegas Bowl. Last mtg in '23, Washington (-14) won 56-19. Michael Penix threw 5 td passes and the Huskies held Ashton Jeanty and the ground gm to 138 yds. UW playing in a bowl for the 4th straight yr and 2nd under HC Jedd Fisch. They lost 35-34 in LY's Sun Bowl to Louisville (+1*). They outgained the Cards 472-371 and QB Demond Williams had breakout 5 td gm. Since '02, the only time Boise St missed bowl was when gm was cancelled in '18, '20 & '21. Broncos on 0-4 ATS bowl slide incl 0-2 under HC Spencer Danielson ('23 LA Bowl/'24 Fiesta Bowl) and last covered a bowl in '17. After making the CFP last yr, Boise took a step back in '25 and really missed Heisman finalist Jeanty. They opened with a 34-7 loss to USF, won 3 straight as a DD favorite then lost to ND 28-7. Broncos rallied for 3 more wins, but third year starting QB Maddux Madsen (58%, 21-7) was injured and the offense tanked in b2b losses to Fresno St and SD St. With Max Cutforth filling in and getting more comfortable, Boise closed the reg ssn with 3 wins in a row to qualify for the MW championship gm vs UNLV. Madsen returned and Boise rolled, 38-21, for their 3rd straight league title over the Rebs. There's no one of Jeanty's caliber, but Dylan Riley and Sire Gaines have combined for 1886 yds (5.6) and 18 td's. The D holds opp 64 ypg below their avg (#26 FBS) and the pass D ranks 17th in the country with ratio of 13-14. Washington was far more experienced in Fisch's 2nd ssn and improved from 6 reg ssn wins to 8. The Huskies won gms they were supposed (6-3 ATS as fav) but couldn't break through as a dog (SU & ATS losses to Ohio St, Michigan, Oregon) and fell at Wisconsin Nov. 8, 13-10. Williams had a breakout 1st ssn as a starter (70%, 21-8, 595 rush) and UW has the better skill talent. But RB Jonah Coleman & WR Denzel Boston are banged up juniors with NFL futures which could mean more reps for RB Adam Mohammed (517, 5.0) and WR Dezmen Roebuck (554, 13.5). Huskies hold opp 48ypg below their avg and have a big edge in run D (104 ypg, 3.4 ypc). Michigan & Wisconsin are the only tms to rush for more than 100 yds against UW. Boise is 0-2 ATS as a dog this year and 1-2 under Danielson. My computer has Washington 32-21 and my AGG has the Huskies by 7.9. Washington has played the tougher schedule (#41 vs #76) and has the better STs (#63 vs #105). Against the toughest opponents on the schedule, both of these tms came up short in '25. However, the Broncos did well to win another MWC and are a better overall team with Madsen under center. Williams and the tough run defense will lead Washington to a win, but the veteran Broncos will keep the game within single digits.

Washington 30 Boise St 22



Computer Forecast

S Carolina St

PROJECTED

PV A&M

186

Rush Yards

176

214

Pass Yards

206

400

Total Yards

383

25.0

Score

30.6

89

EXP

89

Prairie View A&M 31 South Carolina St 25

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Foe	Score	Tot Off	FD	Rush Att-Yds	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sls Vs	Tot Def	FD	Rush Att-Yds	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sls By	Net Yds	Net TD's	Off vs Foe	Def vs Foe	Off vs Def	Grade			
at Texas Southern	22-21	453	23	36-152	4.2	24-40	301	0	267	18	33-135	4.1	12-21	132	0	186	1	1	5	#2	107	91	74.8	
UTRGV	21-27	300	15	38-163	4.3	15-27	137	0	408	24	35-145	4.1	19-31	263	2	-108	-1	-6	-9	#9	-57	#7	-170	65.3
at Rice	17-38	251	18	32-100	3.1	13-28	151	2	481	28	60-347	5.8	12-19	114	1	-210	0	-21	-10	#11	-164	#11	-169	65.8
Northwestern St	27-24	494	19	44-346	7.9	15-23	148	1	320	14	32-164	5.1	12-21	156	1	174	0	3	5	#4	39	#10	-96	58.2
† Grambling St	28-13	346	20	37-224	6.1	11-24	122	1	266	17	33-105	3.2	21-43	161	1	80	2	15	3	#6	9	#4	56	72.2
at Alcorn St	13-12	348	21	34-163	4.8	23-33	185	0	270	16	32-94	2.9	11-25	176	5	78	1	1	5	#6	-3	#9	92	73.3
at Southern	24-3	361	18	31-137	4.4	19-31	224	0	247	16	43-166	3.9	12-21	81	1	114	3	21	2	#10	-39	#2	72	68.6
Lincoln (CA)	38-0	423	17	22-165	7.5	12-21	258	1	63	4	14-21	1.5	4-11	42	4	360	2	38	13					64.8
Alabama St	28-31	437	26	45-248	5.5	16-35	189	1	334	18	41-213	5.2	9-16	121	0	103	-3	18	8	#6	70	#2	140	74.3
at Alabama A&M	48-5	607	27	38-213	5.6	17-23	304	1	204	15	33-103	3.1	18-39	101	0	403	-1	43	12	#9	209	#3	157	99.8
Ark Pine Bluff	56-9	644	30	41-238	7.0	22-26	356	0	253	10	37-173	4.7	9-16	80	1	391	1	47	20	#1	231	#1	93	92.2
Miss Valley St	59-6	500	22	35-234	6.7	15-23	266	0	142	8	35-62	1.8	9-20	80	2	358	1	53	14	#1	121	#1	153	91.0
at Jackson St	23-21	424	19	50-130	2.6	17-29	294	1	244	10	27-84	3.1	8-15	160	1	180	-2	2	9	#2	106	#1	236	62.8
† South Carolina St																								
TOTALS	404-210	5588	275	483-2563	5.3	219-363	3025	8	3479	198	455-1812	4.0	156-298	1667	19	2109	4	194	77	#20	630	#6	660	74.1
AVERAGES	31-16	430	21.2	37-197	5.3	60.3%	233	2.2%	268	15.2	35-139	4.0	52.3%	128	6.4%	162	0.3	15	6	#18	53	#6	55	83.9
HOME	38-16	466	21.5	38-241	6.4	61.3%	226	3	253	13.0	32-130	4.0	53.0%	124	10	213	0	22	9	#16	101	#12	30	74.8
AWAY	35-16	389	20.9	37-160	4.5	59.0%	229	5	260	17.1	37-168	4.0	51.4%	132	9	119	4	9	4	#24	32	#4	77	73.9
CONF	33-13	458	22.9	39-199	5.2	62.1%	259	0	247	14.2	35-126	3.6	50.5%	121	0	230	3	20	9	#13	90	#2	121	78.9
NON-CONF	22-30	348	17.3	38-203	5.3	55.1%	145	1	396	22.0	42-219	5.2	60.6%	178	1	-48	-1	-8	-5	#78	-45	#105	-107	63.5
Last 4 Weeks	47-10	544	24.5	41-216	5.5	70.3%	328	0.5	211	10.8	33-106	3.2	48.0%	105	1.0	333	0	36	14		158	136	86.4	

This Weeks Numbers

VEGAS LINE	South Carolina St By 1.5	L4W Game Grade	N/A
VEGAS TOTAL	51.5 Points	Last Met Line	N/A
+/- Rating	Prairie View A&M By 0.0	Last Met Score	N/A
Game Grade	South Carolina St By 1.1	Points per Yards	28.39875 By 1.0

Prairie View A&M 31 South Carolina St 28

Old Dominion Monarchs															OVERALL: 9-3 vs. SUN 6-2		OVERALL: 9-3 vs. American 6-2		USF Bulls																									
Monarchs Logs															NCAA RANKINGS					Bulls Logs																								
TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	DEF	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	FOE	TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	DEF	ST	OFF	DEF	ST										
0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	114	137	20	8/30	at Indiana	14-27	L	94	93	55	17	14	119		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	115	122	25	8/23	OPEN			49	61	107													
0-1	0-0			115	#N/A		9/6	NC Central	54-6	W	92	91	55					0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	120	139	13	9/30	Boise St	34-7	W	50	63	107	28	63	40										
1-1	0-2	0-0	0-0	119	118		9/13	at Virginia Tech	45-26	W	73	86	24	63	54	33		1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	120	139	13	9/30	at Florida	18-16	W	49	55	107	16	12	114										
2-1	0-0			122			9/20	Bye			57	81	31					2-0	2-0	0-0	0-0	125	127	18	5	9/13	at Miami, FL	12-49	L	56	50	78	6	33	71									
2-1	1-3	0-0	0-1	122	100		9/27	Liberty	21-7	W	55	81	27	102	76	30		2-1		0-0	0-0	121	#N/A		9/20	South Carolina St	63-14	W	72	53	79													
3-1	2-2	0-0	1-0	122	100		10/4	Coastal Carolina	47-7	W	53	76	22	111	96	4		3-1	1-3	0-0	0-1	123	92		9/27	Bye			63	56	116													
4-1	2-3	1-0	0-1	125	100		10/11	at Marshall	24-48	L	41	72	25	109	100	63		4-1	5-0	1-0	1-0	123	116	24	10/4	Charlotte	54-26	W	60	56	119	122	117	89										
4-2	5-1	1-1	3-0	120	115		10/18	at James Madison	27-63	L	44	81	33	98	32	88		5-1	3-3	2-0	2-1	127	101	19	10/11	at North Texas	63-36	W	55	59	123	43	96	94										
4-3	4-3	1-2	1-2	115	100		10/25	Appalachian St	24-21	W	50	99	32	78	88	101		6-1	6-1	3-0	2-1	128	119	18	10/18	Florida Atlantic	48-13	W	34	58	126	62	126	129										
5-3	3-5	2-2	1-3	113	91		11/1	at ULM	31-6	W	52	96	30	114	109	1		6-2		3-1		125			10/25	at Memphis	31-34	L	25	48	114	56	57	86										
6-3		3-2		113			11/8	Bye			54	96	27					6-2	4-4	3-1	2-2	125	115		11/1	Bye			18	47	110													
6-3	6-3	3-2	4-1	113	107		11/15	Troy	33-0	W	53	89	22	109	82	99		7-2	7-2	4-1	5-1	129	109	25	11/8	UTSA	55-23	W	18	47	112	51	103	44										
7-3	5-5	4-2	3-3	117	105		11/22	at GA Southern	45-10	W	46	76	25	70	127	77		7-3	3-7	4-2	1-5	124	95		11/15	at Navy	38-41	L	19	46	117	54	97	89										
8-3	1-10	5-2	0-7	121	92		11/29	Georgia St	27-10	W	44	60	16	85	132	4		8-3	5-6	5-2	2-5	124	97		11/22	at UAB	48-18	W	18	53	108	80	129	15										
9-3	9-3	6-2	6-2	119	128		12/6	+ USF			49	58	19	13	50	106		9-3	9-3	6-2	6-2	128	119		11/29	Rice	52-3	W	16	48	108	128	93	44										
																														12/6 + Old Dominion														



Computer Forecast

ODU	PROJECTED	USF
180	Rush Yards	211
213	Pass Yards	259
394	Total Yards	471
22.4	Score	36.0
97	EXP	73
USF 36 Old Dominion 22		

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Foe	Score	Tot Off	Rush	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sk	Tot Def	Rush	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sk	Net	Net	Offvs	Defvs	Gm
Boise St	34-7	372	15	28-117	4.2	17-25	255	4	378	25	38-122	3.2	27-48	256	4	-6	3	112.7
at Florida	18-16	391	20	29-128	4.4	23-36	263	1	355	20	31-133	4.3	23-33	222	1	36	1	112.5
at Miami, FL	12-49	332	15	27-40	1.5	24-41	292	2	576	27	38-205	5.4	25-30	371	1	-244	0	95.9
South Carolina St	63-14	504	20	28-252	9.0	18-26	252	0	305	20	38-70	1.8	25-42	235	5	199	0	105.1
Charlotte	54-26	631	36	62-407	6.0	20-35	224	0	279	15	33-130	3.9	16-29	149	1	352	0	131.7
at North Texas	63-36	580	32	57-306	5.4	23-29	274	3	423	26	29-97	3.3	30-49	326	2	157	2	113.7
FAU	48-13	522	26	51-259	5.1	15-25	263	1	312	25	30-23	0.8	41-58	289	5	210	1	116.5
at Memphis	31-34	564	29	38-295	7.8	26-44	269	2	450	30	34-129	3.8	28-45	321	3	114	-1	109.3
UTSA	55-23	471	20	32-238	7.4	16-18	233	1	381	25	38-72	1.9	29-44	309	6	90	1	119.7
at Navy	38-41	556	23	36-200	5.6	24-33	356	1	524	21	53-338	6.4	10-19	186	1	32	-1	104.7
at UAB	48-18	544	24	34-191	5.6	19-25	353	2	382	27	43-131	3.0	21-40	251	2	162	2	117.3
Rice	52-3	553	30	49-272	5.6	18-28	281	0	257	13	40-153	3.8	9-18	104	1	296	1	120.6
TOTALS	516-280	6020	290	471-2705	5.7	243-365	3315	17	4622	274	445-1603	3.6	284-455	3019	32	1398	9	113.3
AVERAGES	43-23	502	24.2	39-225	5.7	66.6%	276	4.7%	385	22.8	37-134	3.6	62.4%	252	7.0%	117	0.8	81.1
HOME	51-14	509	24.5	42-258	6.2	66.2%	251	6	319	20.5	36-95	2.6	61.5%	224	22	190	6	114.7
AWAY	35-32	495	23.8	37-193	5.2	66.8%	301	11	452	25.2	38-172	4.5	63.4%	280	10	43	3	111.9
CONF	49-24	553	27.5	45-271	6.0	67.9%	282	10	376	22.8	38-134	3.6	60.9%	242	21	177	5	116.7
NON-CONF	32-22	400	17.5	28-134	4.8	64.1%	266	7	404	23.0	36-133	3.7	65.4%	271	11	-4	10	106.5
Last 4 Weeks	48-21	531	24.3	38-225	6.0	74.0%	306	1.0	386	21.5	44-174	3.8	57.0%	213	2.5	145	1	115.5

VEGAS LINE

Usf By 6

VEGAS TOTAL

56 Points

+/- Rating

Usf By 11.0

Game Grade

Usf By 7.9

L4W Game Grade

Last Met Line



N/A

Last Met Score

N/A

Points per Yards

35.90125 By 5.6




Phil's Forecast:

First meeting. Old Dominion is back in the postseason after going 5-7 and missing last year. Monarchs are after their 2nd bowl win and first since '16. They beat EMU (+5'), 24-20, in the Bahamas Bowl. Under HC Ricky Rahne, they're 0-2 SU & ATS losing the '21 Myrtle Beach Bowl to Tulsa (-8'), 30-17, and the '23 Famous Toastery Bowl to WKU (+6'), 38-35, in OT. This is USF's 3rd straight bowl gm. Bulls won and covered in '23 & '24 with wins over Syracuse & San Jose St. This is interim HC Kevin Patrick's 1st gm at the helm. He's been the team's DL coach since '23. After b2b 7-6 seasons, USF exploded out of the gate in '25 with upsets of Boise St at home and Florida in the Swamp to rise to #18 in the AP. After a loss to #5 Miami, Bulls got back on track with 4 straight blowouts and were heavily favored to grab the G5 playoff berth. However, they stumbled twice on the road down the stretch, at Memphis and at Navy, and didn't even qualify for the league title gm. After going 9-3 (best ssn since '17) and averaging 43ppg, 3rd yr HC Alex Golesh took the Auburn job. The star and catalyst was QB Byrum Brown (67%, 32-7, 1008 rush) but he is sitting this game out. Senior Gaston Moore (14-20-54-1/0) will start and he's been in Golesh's system his entire career from UCF to Tennessee and here. They also have touted frosh Lockian Hewlett (PS #64). The defense is solid in the front 7 (3.6 ypc, 32 sacks) but beatable through the air against better passers. Miami, North Texas, Memphis & UTSA dinged the DB's for more than 300 yds. ODU is also off a breakout season, going 9-3 for its most wins since '16. Rahne's 6th team in Norfolk was by far his best and most experienced. Monarchs only lost by 13 to Big Ten champ Indiana in the opener and then ripped off 4 straight wins by DD including at Va Tech which got Brent Pry fired. They hit a midseason snag with b2b blowout road losses to Marshall and JMU (-7 combined TO's) but rebounded for 5 wins in a row. ODU's version of Brown was QB Colton Joseph (60%, 21-10, 1007 rush) but he has opted out and is looking to transfer. Redshirt frosh Quinn Henicle gets his 2nd career start. In his 1st start in '24, he was the SBC POW after rushing for 206 yds and accounting for 4 td's in a 40-32 win at Arkansas St. The defense held the last 5 reg ssn opp below their avg and gave up just 9ppg in those wins. My computer has USF 36-22 and my AGG favors the Bulls by 7.8 but those projections don't factor opt outs and coaching changes. Bulls have faced the tougher schedule (#73 vs #97) and have a huge STs edge (#28 vs #119). As a favorite this year, USF 5-2-1 ATS. As a dog, ODU is 2-1 this year and 23-14-1 under Rahne. Both teams are after 10 wins, a particularly big deal for ODU. USF lost its coach, OC and QB while ODU lost their QB but Henicle won't be the drop-off many expect him to be, and this could be his big showcase chance before '26. With Brown out ODU is a live dog considering the QB edge would actually shift to Henicle and the Monarchs.

Old Dominion 27 (+) USF 24


Delaware Blue Hens														Louisiana Ragin Cajuns													
Blue Hens Logs														Ragin Cajuns Logs													
TM	REC	TM	CONF	FOE	CONF	TM	+/-	FOE	+/-	AP	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	OFF	DEF	ST	PS RANK--	FOE	OFF	DEF	ST		
0-0		0-0		94	#N/A			8/30		Delaware St	35-17	W	136	103	27				136	103	27						
1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	90	122			9/6		at Colorado	7-31	L	136	98	27				136	98	27	55	54	66			
1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	91	111			9/13		Connecticut	44-41	W	136	113	10	47	84	84	136	113	10	47	84	84			
2-1	2-1	0-0	0-0	96	100			9/20		at FIU	38-16	W	136	114	16	109	109	134	136	114	16	109	109	134			
3-1		1-0		101				9/27		Bye			135	109	22				135	109	22						
3-1	4-1	1-0	2-0	101	105			10/4		WKU	24-27	L	134	110	24	89	112	109	134	110	24	89	112	109			
3-2		1-1		101				10/11		Bye			134	108	28				134	108	28						
3-2	3-3	1-1	2-0	101	99			10/18		at Jax State	25-38	L	131	95	23	93	123	20	131	95	23	93	123	20			
3-3	1-5	1-2	0-2	97	92			10/25		Middle Tennessee	31-28	W	132	96	17	128	122	31	132	96	17	128	122	31			
4-3	3-4	2-2	2-1	97	101			11/1		at Liberty	30-59	L	126	100	15	116	77	86	126	100	15	116	77	86			
4-4	5-3	2-3	3-2	93	107			11/8		Louisiana Tech	25-24	W	127	100	22	126	64	125	127	100	22	126	64	125			
5-4	1-8	3-3	0-5	96	88			11/15		at Sam Houston St	23-26	L	125	88	27	76	111	57	125	88	27	76	111	57			
5-5	7-3	3-4	4-3	93	119			11/22		at Wake Forest	14-52	L	120	92	32	84	43	76	120	92	32	84	43	76			
5-6	2-9	3-4	1-6	91	94			11/29		UTEP	61-31	W	117	104	27	127	117	23	117	104	27	127	117	23			
6-6	6-6	4-4	5-3	96	103			12/6		+ Louisiana			117	105	42	99	120	65	117	105	42	99	120	65			




Computer Forecast

Delaware	PROJECTED	Louisiana
126	Rush Yards	191
293	Pass Yards	210
418	Total Yards	400
31.0	Score	34.9
89	EXP	109
Louisiana 35 Delaware 31		

Image too small? Find this on the teampages of Phil Steele Plus																											
Foe	Score	Tot Off	FD	Rush Att-Yds	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Skis	Tot Def	FD	Rush Att-Yds	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Skis	Net Yds	Net TDs	Off vs FBS	Def vs FBS	Off vs FBS	Def vs FBS	Off vs FBS	Def vs FBS	Off vs FBS	Def vs FBS	Gm Grade	
Rice	12-14	239	16	31-151	4.9	10-28	88	3	251	18	55-206	3.7	7-9	45	2	-12	-2	-12	-177	85	66	80.6					
McNeese St	34-10	401	25	45-315	7.0	14-22	86	1	238	14	26-47	1.8	19-30	191	1	163	2	24	11	86	28	154	87.7				
at Missouri	10-52	121	4	22-117	5.3	2-14	4	2	606	32	62-427	6.9	17-24	179	2	-485	1	-42	-28	812	-165	812	-206	75.7			
at Eastern Michigan	31-34	441	21	32-214	6.7	21-35	227	1	409	20	36-183	5.1	21-31	226	1	32	-1	-3	1	87	30	110	-35	92.3			
Marshall	54-51	461	29	46-264	5.7	14-28	197	1	503	27	48-245	5.1	24-31	258	3	-42	-1	3	2	85	55	812	-106	86.2			
at James Madison	14-24	288	11	28-45	1.6	14-29	243	2	477	21	41-187	4.6	26-40	290	0	-189	2	-10	-10	84	38	87	-28	103.5			
Southern Miss	10-22	352	19	48-217	4.5	14-27	135	2	370	14	41-133	3.2	13-18	237	0	-18	-1	-12	5	89	-55	84	37	82.6			
at Troy	23-35	371	18	42-184	4.4	12-23	187	4	345	21	39-165	4.2	16-24	180	3	26	-2	-12	-3	85	-7	86	-21	89.4			
at South Alabama	31-22	393	23	46-161	3.5	14-17	232	1	368	20	36-165	4.6	20-33	203	1	25	1	9	3	87	14	87	8	99.9			
Texas St	42-39	384	27	52-192	3.7	17-27	192	0	528	22	24-168	7.0	26-33	360	0	-144	0	3	5	89	-16	88	-57	93.5			
at Arkansas St	34-30	349	16	46-202	4.4	18-25	147	5	394	24	35-138	3.9	25-43	256	1	-45	1	4	-8	89	-74	87	-9	92.9			
ULM	30-27	338	17	38-212	5.6	16-30	126	0	516	29	49-205	4.8	19-33	311	3	-178	2	3	-12	89	-52	812	-212	75.1			
TOTALS	325-360	4138	228	476-2274	4.8	166-905	1864	22	5005	262	486-2269	4.7	233-949	2736	17	467	2	-35	-36	8109	-410	8120	-563	88.3			
AVERAGES	27-30	345	18.8	40-190	4.8	14-6.4	155	7.2%	417	21.8	41-189	4.7	16-6.8	228	4.9%	32	0.2	3	-8	8109	-37	8120	-51	88.19			
HOME	30-27	369	22.2	43-225	5.2	12-5.6	137	7	401	20.7	40-167	4.2	70-13	234	9	-39	0	3	2	8117	-40	8124	-55	86.3			
AWAY	24-33	327	15.5	36-154	4.3	56-6.6	173	15	433	23.0	42-211	5.1	64-13	222	8	-106	2	-9	-8	892	-28	8108	-48	92.3			
CONF	30-31	367	20.0	43-185	4.3	57-8.8	182	15	438	22.3	38-176	4.6	66-3.6	162	11	-71	2	-2	-2	894	-12	8116	-49	90.4			
NON-CONF	22-28	301	16.5	33-159	6.1	47-5.8	101	7	376	21.0	45-216	4.8	68-13	160	6	-76	0	-4	-5	8122	-78	8116	-44	86.1			
Last 4 Weeks	34-30	366	20.8	46-192	4.3	65.7%	174	1.5	452	23.8	35-169	5.1	63-4%	283	13	86	1	5	-3	-32	-58	804	6				
This Weeks Numbers																											
VEGAS LINE				Louisiana By 3				L4W Game Grade				Louisiana By 3.5															
VEGAS TOTAL				58 Points				Last Met Line				N/A															
+/- Rating				Louisiana By 8.5				Last Met Score				N/A															
Game Grade				Louisiana By 0.2				Points per Yards				34.64625 By 1.3															



DELAWARE
BLUE HENS



LAGIN'
CAJUNS

Phil's Forecast:


First meeting between these schools. This is Louisiana's 2nd trip to the 68 Ventures Bowl, a game they won in '20 over UTSA. The Cajuns have lost all 3 bowl games under HC Michael Desormeaux (0-1-2 ATS). Delaware is playing in a bowl in its FBS debut. Blue Hens were supposed to be ineligible in Year 1 but that was waived when not enough schools were bowl eligible. This game is a big deal for the entire program and the fan base. Delaware does have postseason experience, though, having reached the FCS playoffs under HC Ryan Carter in '21, '22 and '23. Louisiana won 10 games last season before losing the Sun Belt title game and the New Mexico Bowl to TCU (-10), 34-3. They returned just 7 starters this season. Cajuns overcame a 2-6 start to win the final 4 games and qualify for this trip to Mobile. The clincher was a 30-27 win over instate rival ULM in which they allowed 516 total yards. QB Lunch Winfield was injured in the game but is expected to be okay. He's provided a spark since coming off the bench in the Marshall win and has accounted for 18 td's and 1,951 yards. Cajuns are -.72ypp for the year and were -.71ypp during the winning streak. They've found ways to get to 6-6 despite yielding 51ypp more than the opp average (#120 FBS). None of their regular season wins were over a team with a winning record. Under Carter, Delaware has made a smooth transition to CUSA. They're also 6-6 and were +37ypp and +1ypp in conference play. Those wins included upsets of UConn, FIU and Louisiana Tech. QB Nick Minicucci threw for 3,495 (63%, 22-7) and added 10 td's on the ground. They are +14 ypp against our #124 sked. The D allows 40 ypp and 33 ppg. They are allowing 29 ypp more than their foes avg (#98 FBS) but the offense puts up 19 ypp more than their foes allow (#61 FBS). RB Jo Silver (536, 5.1) has missed time with injuries, but he played 23 snaps in the finale and could be healthy after having a few weeks off. My computer has Louisiana 35-31 and my AGG has the Cajuns by 0.2 and 3.5 over the last 4 weeks. As a favorite this yr, Louisiana is 1-3 ATS and 8-14 ATS over the last 3 years. Delaware was 3-2-1 ATS as a favorite this year including those 3 outright upsets. I expect a close game, and I agree with the computer's call for plenty of points after Delaware finished the season with 61 points and Louisiana allowed 516 yards to a bad ULM offense. I'll go with my computer with a lean to the over.

Louisiana 35 Delaware 31

[illegible]

First meeting. This is a battle between the MAC and CUSA Champs. HC Jerry Mack did a phenomenal job turning KSU around in his 1st year on the job and the school's 2nd in the FBS. This is their first FBS bowl game. Western Michigan is making their first trip to the Myrtle Beach Bowl. The Broncos are just 2-8 SU but 5-5 ATS in bowls. Last year was HC Lance Taylor's first bowl and they lost to South Alabama 30-23 (+9*). KSU was picked to finish 11th in the preseason by the CUSA coaches. HC Mack built the roster with experienced lower-level guys, and it paid off. They nearly upset Wake Forest in the opener, losing 10-9, and after an 0-2 start they won 10 of their next 11 games. KSU lost at Jax ST in the reg ssn meeting but rebounded and beat them in the CUSA Title game, 19-15. They are 10-3 SU/ATS but only +2 ypg despite playing our #133 ked. QB Amari Odom, who did not begin the year as the starter, came on to throw for 2385 with an 18-6 ratio (376, 7 t'd, 2 rushing). Odom has a solid WR corps led by Gabriel Benyard (898, 16.3) and a location edge for fans who want to watch their first bowl game. The D allows 249p above opp average (#90 FBS) and gave up 236 rush ypg (.57) over the final 4 weeks, a big concern against an opponent that rushed for 284 (.45) in its final 4. Taylor has WMU bowling in b2b years. They were picked in the preseason to finish 7th but wound up winning their first MAC title since '16. Broncos opened 0-3 and trailed Toledo 13-0 in the 3Q but rallied for 14-13 upset win that turned the season around. They won 9 of their last 10 games including the MAC Title game in a revenge spot vs Miami, OH. They're 9-4 SU and 10-3 ATS and 4 straight ATS wins to close out the regular season. WMU has a powerful ground game, led by RB Jalan Buckley (829, 4.8) and QB Brock Lowmy who has rushed for 940 (4.8) and 14 t'ds. They have played the #108 ked and are +37 ypg. The defense has been outstanding all year. They hold opp 57ypg below their average (+29 FBS) and allow just 18pg. They're #6 in FBS with 38 sacks, and DE Nadame Tucker leads the country with 14.5. WMU has a higher rated D at all 3 levels than KSU. My computer favors the Broncos in a low-scoring game, 22-17. AGG also gives the edge to WMU by 1.5 and 5.6 over the last 4 weeks. WMU has the better ST's (#49 vs #79) and has faced the tougher schedule (+105 vs +133). Under Taylor, Broncos are 16-4 ATS as a favorite (-6-1 this yr)! KSU is 11-8 ATS as a dog since '23 and 3-1 this year with 2 outright upsets under Mack. WMU is the stronger overall team, and I like their physicality on both sides of the ball. They'll ride the ground game and the pass rush to a win and a cover over KSU.

James Madison Dukes															OVERALL: 12-1 vs. SUN 9-0					OVERALL: 11-1 vs. PAC 12 8-1					Oregon Ducks																			
Dukes Logs																									Ducks Logs																			
TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	DEF	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	FOE	ST	TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	DEF	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	FOE	ST		
0-0		0-0		114	74			8/30	Weber St	45-10	W	75	56	44									0-0		0-0		134	82	7		8/30	Montana St	59-13	W	18	18	126							
1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	114	129			9/6	at Louisville	14-28	L	75	57	44	6		52				74		1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	134	105	6		9/6	Oklahoma St	69-3	W	19	17	126	89	93	94				
1-1		0-0		114				9/13	Bye			74	59	44									2-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	137	112	4		9/13	at Northwestern	34-14	L	13	18	126	87	47	50				
1-1	1-2	0-0	0-1	114	101			9/20	at Liberty	31-13	W	87	49	83	86		75				25		3-0	0-3	1-0	0-0	141	103	6		9/20	Oregon St	41-7	W	2	18	123	78	79	1				
2-1	2-2	0-0	0-0	114	107			9/27	GA Southern	35-10	W	87	46	73	77		123				104		4-0	3-0	1-0	0-0	140	142	6	3	9/27	at Penn St	30-24	W	3	19	113	9	6	118				
3-1	1-3	1-0	0-0	115	93			10/4	at Georgia St	14-7	W	86	45	81	99		131				3		5-0		2-0		140		2		10/4	Bye			3	11	111							
4-1	2-3	2-0	1-0	118	101			10/11	Louisiana	24-14	W	88	35	79	90		119				51		5-0	5-0	2-0	2-0	142	141	3	7	10/11	Indiana	20-30	L	2	9	93	3	16	126				
5-1	4-2	3-0	1-1	115	120			10/18	Old Dominion	63-27	W	98	32	88	44		81				33		5-1	3-3	2-1	0-3	142	120	8		10/18	at Rutgers	56-10	W	3	8	96	43	98	67				
6-1		4-0		115				10/25	Bye			94	28	83									6-1	2-5	3-1	0-4	139	116	6		10/25	Wisconsin	21-7	L	4	10	90	113	51	40				
6-1	3-4	4-0	0-3	120	105			11/1	at Texas St	52-20	W	74	29	76	30		106				94		7-1		4-1		143		6		11/1	Bye			2	4	85							
7-1	4-4	5-0	2-2	120	102			11/8	at Marshall	35-23	W	71	28	80	96		93				78		7-1	6-2	4-1	4-1	141	138	6		11/8	at Iowa	18-16	L	3	4	81	68	10	130				
8-1	4-5	6-0	1-4	123	101	24		11/15	Appalachian St	58-10	W	72	27	77	79		91				100		8-1	6-3	5-1	4-2	141	120	7		11/15	Minnesota	42-13	W	3	4	84	97	24	38				
9-1	5-5	7-0	0-1	122	112	21		11/22	Washington St	24-20	W	65	31	73	123		80				37		9-1	8-2	6-1	6-1	141	136	6	16	11/22	USC	42-27	W	4	4	80	1	33	76				
10-1	6-5	7-0	5-2	126	102	20		11/29	at Coastal Carolina	59-10	W	60	24		95		122				59		10-1	8-3	7-1	5-3	142	136	5		11/29	at Washington	26-14	W	2	5	82	25	21	84				
11-1	8-4	8-0	6-2	125	103	19		12/6	Troy	31-14	W	61	33	88	125		85				100		11-1		8-1		144		4		12/6	Bye			2	4	96							
12-1	11-1	9-0	8-1	129	144	19	5	12/6	at Oregon			55	25	89	3		4				108		11-1	12-1	8-1	9-0	144	129	5	19	12/14	James Madison			3	4	108	55	25	89				



Computer Forecast

JMU	PROJECTED	Oregon
142	Rush Yards	169
81	Pass Yards	261
223	Total Yards	429
14.7	Score	37.4
102	EXP	16

Oregon 37 James Madison 15



Image too small? Find this on the teampages of Phil Steele Plus

Foe	Score	Tot Off	Rush FD	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sks V/s	Tot Def	Rush FD	Avg	Co-Att	Yds	Sks	Net Yds	Net Pts	Offs FBS	Defvs FBS	Gm Grade	
Montana St	59-13	506	29	39-253	6.5	19-25	253	0	244	17	27-46	1.7	23-31	198	3	262	0	46	12
Oklahoma St	69-3	631	24	37-312	8.4	18-25	319	0	211	9	42-144	3.4	7-19	67	2	420	2	66	15
at Northwestern	34-14	373	21	30-176	5.9	19-26	197	0	313	15	37-178	4.8	11-22	135	2	60	1	20	6
Oregon St	41-7	585	29	46-280	6.1	21-31	305	1	147	8	26-67	2.6	7-22	80	0	438	1	34	21
at Penn St	30-24	424	20	39-176	4.5	29-39	248	0	276	15	35-139	4.0	14-25	137	2	148	1	6	5
Indiana	20-30	267	14	30-81	2.7	21-34	186	6	326	23	37-111	3.0	20-31	215	1	-59	-1	-10	-9
at Rutgers	56-10	750	29	36-415	11.5	18-24	335	0	202	12	42-123	2.9	8-27	79	3	548	0	46	17
Wisconsin	21-7	335	19	45-203	4.5	13-19	132	4	196	11	29-110	3.8	7-21	86	1	139	1	14	8
at Iowa	18-16	373	19	36-261	7.3	13-21	112	0	239	18	43-101	2.3	10-18	138	2	134	1	2	1
Minnesota	42-13	510	27	30-179	6.0	30-33	331	1	200	13	24-62	2.6	19-33	138	2	310	-1	29	14
USC	42-27	436	26	41-179	4.4	22-30	257	0	382	23	28-52	1.9	26-44	390	1	54	1	15	3
at Washington	26-14	392	17	42-106	2.5	20-29	286	2	283	18	33-154	4.7	15-30	129	4	109	2	12	-1
TOTALS	458-178	5582	274	451-3621	5.8	249-336	2961	14	3019	182	403-1287	3.2	167-323	1732	23	2563	8	280	92
AVERAGES	38-15	465	22.8	38-218	5.8	72.3%	247	4.2%	252	15.2	34-107	3.2	51.7%	144	7.1%	214	0.7	23	8
HOME	42-14	467	24.0	38-212	5.5	73.1%	255	12	244	14.9	30-85	2.8	54.2%	159	10	223	3	28	9
AWAY	33-16	462	21.2	37-227	6.2	71.2%	236	2	263	15.6	38-139	3.7	47.5%	124	13	200	5	17	6
CONF	32-17	429	21.3	37-197	5.4	72.5%	232	13	269	16.4	34-114	3.3	51.8%	154	18	160	5	15	5
NON-CONF	56-8	574	27.3	41-282	6.9	71.6%	292	1	201	11.3	32-86	2.7	51.4%	115	5	373	3	49	16
Last 4 Weeks	32-18	428	22.3	37-181	5.0	75.2%	247	0.8	276	18.0	32-82	2.9	56.0%	184	23	152	1	15	4

This Weeks Numbers

VEGAS LINE	Oregon By 21	L4W Game Grade	Oregon By 13.9
VEGAS TOTAL	47.5 Points	Last Met Line	N/A
+/- Rating	Oregon By 21.3	Last Met Score	N/A
Game Grade	Oregon By 20.1	Points per Yards	36.16 By 14.8


Oregon 37 James Madison 15




Phil's Forecast:

First meeting. James Madison is in the College Football Playoff in just its 4th season as an FBS member. This is their 3rd straight year qualifying for the postseason. They lost to Air Force (+11) in '23, 31-21, and beat Western Kentucky (+7), 27-17, LY in HC Bob Chesney's debut. Chesney took Holy Cross to the FCS playoffs from '19-'23 so he has experience preparing teams for win or go home games. Oregon has missed the postseason just 2 times this century, '04 under Mike Bellotti and '16 under Mark Helfrich. Top-ranked Ducks lost in the CFP quarterfinals (Rose Bowl) last yr to eventual national champ Ohio St, 41-21. HC Dan Lanning is 2-1 SU & 1-2 ATS in the postseason. JMU is 12-1 SU & 8-5 ATS after steamrolling through the Sun Belt. Ducks only loss was at the ACC's Louisville, 28-14, in a game they led in the 2H and could have won. Cards had just 264 yds and were +1 yd. JMU has outscored its opponents by an avg of 37-16 and 201ypg. However, their best wins are over Old Dominion and Washington St, so this is a massive step up in weight class. Chesney built this team on defense and the rushing attack. RB Wayne Knight is an all-purpose star who's rushed for 1263 yds (6.6) and has 37 rec for 379 yds. QB Alonza Barnett is a dual threat with 2533 passing (60%, 21-8) and 544 rushing (4.7). The passing gm ranks 94th and the offense will struggle when the run gm stumbles. The D, on the other hand, is elite. JMU holds opp 137 ypg below their avg (#2 FBS!) and have not allowed more than 28 pts in a gm all year. Ducks allow just 2.5 ypc and 49.5% completions which is #3 in the FBS. This is an SBC defense that plays at a P4 level. Chesney has accepted the UCLA job but will remain with JMU until their playoff run ends. #5 Oregon is the highest rated at-large team. They're also 12-1, only losing to #1 Indiana in Eugene, 30-20. At home, Ducks win by average of 42-14 and 223 ypg. QB Dante Moore has had a solid debut with 2733 yds and 24-6 ratio. His receivers have been banged up all year, but TE Kenyon Sadiq (490, 12.6) is a star and a future high NFL draft pick. The trio of RB's Noah Whittington, Jordan Davison, and Dierre Hill all avg over 6 ypc. The Oregon D is the best unit JMU will see all yr. Ducks hold opp 121ypg below their avg (#4 FBS) and give up only 3.2 ypc. The pass D is also terrific, ranking #4 with a 12-13 ratio. There are no areas of Lanning's D that JMU can exploit. Both Oregon coordinators have taken HC jobs but will coach in the CFP. Under Lanning, Ducks 18-9 ATS at home and 14-7 ATS when laying 20+ pts. JMU has covered 3 straight as an AD, the last 2 under Chesney. The Ducks have not been this big of a dog since '16. My computer calls for Oregon to win 36-14. My AGG has the Ducks by 20.1. Oregon has the better ST's (#26 vs #45) and a massive edge in schedule strength (#13 vs #102). JMU has been a great story, and they might be this year's best G5 team. But Oregon at Autzen is completely out of their league. With a big size and physicality advantage, Ducks will stack the box to stop Knight and Barnett, and from there it'll be lights out for the offense. The JMU defense will keep things from getting completely out of control, but I agree with my computer that the Ducks will overpower the Dukes and win going away.

Oregon 37 James Madison 13






Phil's Forecast:



These schools will compete as Pac-12 foes beginning next season. Washington St leads the series 3-2, losing 26-23 in '21 and winning 49-28 in '24 behind 5 TD's from current Oklahoma QB John Mateer. The Cougars are on a 4-game bowl losing skid but did cover LV's Holiday Bowl in a 52-35 loss to Syracuse. Interim HC Jesse Bobbit has taken over for Jimmy Rogers who has replaced Matt Campbell at Iowa St. Utah St played in the '23 Potato Bowl and lost to Georgia St 45-22. This is HC Bronco Mendenhall's first bowl game since '19. He's 7-7 SU and 8-6 ATS going back to his days at BYU and Virginia.

Mendenhall is off to a good start at Utah St, adding 2 wins to a team that was 4-8 in '24. The Aggies are also 10-2 ATS (4-1 as fav), covering against Texas A&M and Vandy and losing by just 1 to MWC champ Boise St. Their only ATS losses were road games at Hawaii and New Mexico. This year's improvement has been led by an offense that averages 32 ppg and gains 449ppg above opp avg (#37 FBS). The sparkplug is QB Bryson Barnes who leads with 23 rushing and has thrown for 2687 (60%, 18-4). However, his top target Brandon Pegan is in the portal which means an even bigger role for Brady Boyd (644, 15.3). The defense allows 46vpg more than opp avg (#117 FBS) and gave up 23 td passes but did shave 10ppg and 46vpg off last year's numbers. Rogers also had a solid 1st season but used that success to land the Iowa St job. This is Bobbit's 1st gm at the helm. His D is a huge reason Wazzu is 6-6 and 8-4 ATS (5-2 as a dog). Cougars lost by just 9 combined pts to Ole Miss, Virginia and SBC champ JMU, and did not lose a gm by more than 4pts over the final 2 months of the reg sn. In stark contrast to Utah St, they win with defense. WSU holds opp 99vpg below their avg (#12 FBS) and has allowed just 12.5 ppg over the last 8 weeks! However, the offense ranks 121st at 315vpg and averages just 22ppg. Cougs have just 36 plays of 20+ yds (#128 FBS) so they're unlikely to stretch the Aggie defense. The offense runs through QB Zevi Eckhaus who's thrown for just 1760 (12-9 ratio, 337 rush). My computer has Washington St 23-21. AGG favors Wazzu by 2.9 but Utah St by 2.0 over the last 4 weeks. Cougars have the edge in ST's (#69 vs #108) and schedule (#24 vs #75). Utah St's offense vs Bobbit's D is a very good early bowl matchup. Both trms are battle-tested vs the P4 and looking to finish this sn over .500. Aggies have the edge and stability in the 2 most important areas, QB and HC. This is Mendenhall's 15th bowl as HC and Bobbit's 1st. Barnes will engineer the 2H drives to pull out an Aggie win in a close and competitive game.

Washington St 26 Utah St 21

<div></div> <div>Computer Forecast</div>			Image too small? Find this on the teampages of Phil Steele Plus																														<div></div> <div></div>	
Illinois St	PROJECTED	Villanova																															Phil's Forecast:	
173	Rush Yards	167																															<p>Villanova is the #12 seed and gets to host a semifinal after pulling 3 straight upsets to get here. Illinois St is the Missouri Valley's last hope. They are unseeded and they've also pulled 3 straight upsets to get here. ISU was just 4-3 but their losses were to Oklahoma, #1 NDSU and YSU. They won at South Dakota as part of a 4 game winning streak and made the playoffs despite getting trounced by Southern Illinois 37-7 in the reg season finale. ISU upset SELA 21-3 then pulled perhaps the FCS' largest upset in playoff history when they beat North Dakota St 29-28 (+23'). They even had a 422-179 yd edge against NDSU. Last week they were +3 at UC Davis. ISU trailed 10-7 1Q. It was 21-17 end of 1Q, no points scored in 2Q. ISU went 75/9 td, 11/80 td and 94/10 td, led 42-17. UC Davis had 25 yd td drive with 2:11 left and added garbage time td, as ISU won 42-31. ISU QB Tommy Rittenhouse has a 34-11 ratio and his top target, Daniel Sobkowicz has 992 (14.0) and 16 td's. Nova has won 11 straight. They destroyed Harvard 52-7 in the first round, escaped vs Lehigh despite getting outgained 339-235 then upset Tarleton St on the road last week. Nova trailed 14-0 1Q. It was 21-12 3Q. Nova got a 47 yd td run from RB Mace then went 78/12 td and led 26-21. Tarleton appeared to score the go-ahead td on 4th down late but the play was overturned and Nova won, with a 426-266 yd edge. QB Pat McQuaide has a 24-3 ratio. They have 3 RB's with over 680 rush yards! ISU has been gashed for over 200 rush in 3 games but also held NDSU to 59 rush (2.2). The computer has ISU by 1, but AGG has Nova by 5.7. Nova has the edge on offense and defense and they are at home and I'll take them in this spot to win and advance to the Title game.</p>	
203	Pass Yards	202																																
377	Total Yards	368																																
22.2	Score	20.8																																
89	EXP	89																																
Illinois St 22 Villanova 21																																	Villanova 27 Illinois St 24	

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