

Issue No. 15 - Week of 10/15/2011

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Week 6 "Game of the Week" recap....

The Bison's top 10 ranked defense wasn't enough to stop the 416 total net yards led by QB, Chris Lum, who threw for 368 yds and 4 TD's in Lehigh's cruise pass Bucknell, 30-6. What appeared to be the looks of a tight game after just a 3-0 lead for Lehigh after the 1st quarter, turned out to be a warm-up for the Mountain Hawks with 20, second quarter points. Discipline was the name of the game as Lum completed 31 of 38 passes and only succumbing to 2 penalties for 11 yds. The defending Patriot champs sit back on the throne and moved up to #8 in FCS polls. What we considered to have been a close one turned into another Saturday for Lehigh.

The Underdawg "Game of the Week" #17 Towson vs #18 Old Dominion

Who would have thought that anyone would choose these 2 teams as a spotlight game. Well, with all the craziness in the CAA and other conferences...why not? These squads are proving that they belong in (arguably) the toughest conference in FCS- the CAA. Towson's #17 ranking is the highest ever and the first time ranked since 1993. Old Dominion is in their 3rd season as a program and has shown tenacity while posting 9-2 and 8-3 consecutive seasons (2009 & 2010 respectively). This first meeting should be an interesting matchup of high scoring offenses...Towson has put up 149 pts in 5 games (29.8 pts/game) and Old Dominion with 222 pts in 6 games (37 pts/game). Sit tight...Foreman Field will be rockin' on Saturday!

Bonus:

- Towson's highest rank previously was #24 in 1993.
- Old Dominion has the record for most kick return yardage in a game, 362 (vs. Cal Poly in 2010)
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FCS LEADERBOARD

Here are the category leaders for Week 6 of FCS Football (Source: NCAA.com)

Total Offense (total yds/game)

1	Chris Lum	Lehigh	375.00
2	Kevin Decker	New Hampshire	336.20
3	Mike Brown	Liberty	333.60

Passing (completions/game)

1	Kevin Yost	Idaho St.	29.67
2	Jonathan Carkhuff	Davidson	29.60
3	Casey Brockman	Murray St.	29.17

Total Team Offense (total yds/game)

1	UT Martin	511.60
2	Morehead St.	508.83
3	Ga. Southern	475.00

Total Team Defense (opp total yds/game)

1	Texas Southern	214.40
2	N.C. A&T	253.00
3	North Dakota St.	273.20

[See the Top 50 FCS Teams in these categories](#)



Texas Southern has led the FCS in defense the past 3 weeks

SHIFT POTENTIAL FOR TSU

TSPNsports.com recently polled readers posing the question: Should Tennessee State leave the OVC to become a member of the SWAC?

Here's an outlook for TSU that we view either way:

Reasons to move to SWAC

- A competitive pickup for a relatively weak conference...already rival with Jackson State...could renew traditional rivalries with Grambling and other HBCU's.
- TSU would be the only SWAC team in state of Tennessee, which would expand exposure for SWAC recruiting and allow TSU recruitment growth in SWAC footprint (TX, MS, AL, AR, and LA).
- SWAC has highest attendance numbers in FCS and with similar marching band fan-base, should improve attendance for TSU.
- TSU is more successful against SWAC opponents versus their own OVC opponents: .647 winning percentage against SWAC; .468 against OVC (through 2010). Statistical confidence booster.

Reasons to stay in OVC

- Chance to participate in post-season play as the OVC is an automatic-bid conference.
- OVC schools are more centrally located to Nashville, which would benefit travel for team, alumni/fans, and students.
- OVC provides more competition than SWAC, as they've competed against all but 2 conferences of the FCS (Northeast and Ivy) and holds a .552% winning percentage against such conferences. (comparatively, SWAC competes against 8 FCS conferences with .345% winning percentage).
- OVC has had 3 teams transition into FBS level play (W.Kentucky, Akron, Middle TN State) and has added 10 teams to the conference since 1979 (SWAC has added 4 teams and has had no teams move to other conferences or to the FBS). This denotes growth and involvement between OVC and its members.

What do you think? [Tweet us](#) or [comment](#)

TSU Facts:

- TSU is the only HBCU that is a member of a non-HBCU conference.
- Since entering FCS in 1981, TSU has appeared 5 times in the playoffs: 1981, 1982, 1986, 1998, & 1999.
- Playoff record in FCS is 2-5 with wins against E. Illinois and Jackson State.
- TSU plays in the FCS' largest stadium, LP Field in Nashville, TN; seats 67,500.

- TSU was the 2nd FCS team to go 11-0 (1984 season)
- TSU holds NCAA record for most yards penalized per game in a season (125.5 avg yds, 1982)
- TSU is the 6th winning FCS team all-time (.657)

UPSET COUNTER

6 FCS/FBS upsets this season thus far:

Sacramento State over Oregon State

Richmond over Duke

Indiana State over Western Kentucky

North Dakota State over Minnesota

Sam Houston State over New Mexico

Southern Utah over UNLV

VENOM-LESS

As if there was not enough drama in the FCS this past weekend...N.C. A&T defeating defending MEAC champs, 22-3....Maine beating James Madison and sitting in second place in the CAA. The Rattlers of Florida A&M dropped the ball against MEAC punching-bag, Howard, 29-28. Clearly Head Coach Joe Taylor and his staff eased off the sidelines to indulge into homecoming festivities, as FAMU enjoyed a 21-0 lead entering the 4th quarter. Howard not only scored 29 pts in the final period, but 16 pts in final 1:27 seconds. What is going on in Tallahassee? The FCS is giving its fans a season full of thrills...more to come!

Bonus: The most pts scored in the 4th quarter in an FCS game was by Montana...put 39 pts on South Dakota State (9/4/1993)

Trivia Results: Congrats to Fred Lamb of Winston-Salem, NC. The FCS teams who faced each other with no pass completions the entire game were Wofford vs N.C. A&T (11/29/2003)

Trivia Question: What is the only year (since 1981) that no FCS teams played an overtime game?

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