

## Issue No. 22 - Week of 12/3/2011

All digest content is protected by copyright © 2011 The Underdawg

### ***THE FRISCO ROAD***

The Underdawg was 4-0 in first round predictions. Home teams went 2-2 Saturday as the Colonial Athletic sends two ahead to the second round; the Southland; and, for the first time, the Big South wins a playoff game. The MEAC still seeks their first playoff win since 1999 and the Ohio Valley's representation in the postseason is depleted.

Here's a brief recap of the first round games:

**Stony Brook 31, Albany 28**...great showing by the Northeast Conf champ who went up 14-0 early and took a halftime lead. The last three scores of the game went to Stony Brook with three TD's and a controlling 4th quarter stand keeping the Great Danes off the scoreboard in the final period. 770 total net yards left on the gridiron. Big win for the Big South!

**Central Arkansas 34, Tennessee Tech 14**...The Bears took advantage of scoring opps in each quarter and played a consistent game against the OVC automatic bid, hosting Tenn Tech squad. With 319 yds passing , 9 of 14 3rd down efficiency, and gain of nearly 7 yds per play, Central Arkansas found a niche in moving the ball effectively and maintained control of the game from start to finish.

**Old Dominion 35, Norfolk State 18**...the battle of the city of Norfolk went to the Monarchs. Norfolk's first post-season appearance was over at halftime. After a school-record 98 yd TD pass to stun the nearly 20,000 in attendance, the Spartans couldn't make it back into the end zone til the 4th quarter. On paper, time of possession, first downs, and net yards gained looked about even. But NSU's 18 penalties for 135 yds, two interceptions, and two missed FG's made it easy for ODU to take advantage of mistakes and miscues. Old Dominion is now 7-0 against the MEAC and has bragging rights of the Chesapeake Bay area.

**James Madison 20, Eastern Kentucky 17**...the home-team Colonels got out to a 17-7 lead with key return yardage that positioned them for TD runs inside the five. The Dukes were dominant with 24 to 8 in first downs, no interceptions or fumbles (lost), and almost doubled Eastern Kentucky in total yardage and time of possession. The hero was Cameron Starke who kicked a 35 yd FG with no time on the clock to seal the victory for JMU.

First round facts:

- First FCS playoff appearance for each team except James Madison and Eastern Kentucky
- Round 2 will be the 2nd time Stony Brook faces a team from Texas ever (both this season)
- The last & only time JMU won a non-conf, 1st round playoff game, they won the championship (2004)
- Last FCS playoff win for Eastern Kentucky was 1994
- Norfolk State's 98 yd pass play for TD against Old Dominion was the longest single pass play in an FCS playoff game
- Largest attendance: Norfolk State at Old Dominion- 19,818
- Smallest attendance: James Madison at Eastern Kentucky- 2,388



The Towson Tigers football team was pumped up by President Obama last week at a home basketball game.  
Photo courtesy of TowsonTigers

Here's the second round games and predictions:

### **SECOND ROUND**

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 (all games are on ESPN3)

**#22 Stony Brook at #1 Sam Houston State, 3pm ET....** The Kats are at home and are confident to keep their undefeated season alive. Won't be easy with the backfield duo of Maysonet and Jackolski for Stony Brook. Yet, the Kats have allowed only five rushing TD's this season and are ranked #2 in the country in defense. Good battle but should end up a home-field advantage. Sam Houston State 28, Stony Brook 17

**#11 New Hampshire at #7 Montana State, 2:05pm ET....**Montana State is 3-1 at home in the playoffs all-time (FCS) and wants to avenge a second round, home game loss from 2010. New Hampshire plays well on the road, particularly in the playoffs. Since 2004, UNH has won 5 of 6 on the road in postseason first games. The battle of the Cats will go to the wild ones. New Hampshire 34, Montana State 27.

**#12 Wofford at #2 Northern Iowa, 5pm ET...**The Terriers are used to hostile environments with recent playoffs road wins at Montana and Jacksonville State. This first ever matchup will be a battle of who can stop who, as both teams have explosive offenses. The Panthers are 0-2 against the SOCON and are looking to change that Saturday. Northern Iowa 23, Wofford 20

**#15 Central Arkansas at #5 Montana, 2:05pm ET...**The Bears haven't played a Big Sky team since 1993, so the trip to the Rockies will be quite exhilarating. The air attack of Central Arkansas should cause havoc with the Grizzly secondary. Given good weather and field conditions, here's your upset. Central Arkansas 24, Montana 17.

**#10 Old Dominion at #3 Georgia Southern, 1pm ET....**ODU has gained much respect as a newcomer in the Colonial, although the Monarchs have not won on the road against a winning team this season. Georgia Southern will not be their first. Georgia Southern 35, Old Dominion 20

**#13 Maine at #9 Appalachian State, 2pm ET...**Maine was one of the surprises this year in the Colonial. Not sure if they have the corners to slow down App's receivers, particularly, Brian Quick. Appalachian State 32, Maine 24

**#6 Lehigh at #8 Towson, 3:30pm ET...**The eye of the tiger will be the theme song for Towson on Saturday. With a stellar season that Lehigh's QB, Chris Lum, has had, the buck will stop here for the Mountain Hawks. Towson is at home and in a zone. Towson 37, Lehigh 27

**#17 James Madison at #4 North Dakota State, 4pm ET....**NDSU is a bit strong on both sides of the ball. First playoff seeding for the Bison. JMU will have to stay in the game early to make it close...they can't afford to depend on any comebacks. North Dakota State 31, James Madison 17.

#### **Second round FCS Conference representation....**

Colonial- 5

Southern- 3

Big Sky, Missouri Valley, Southland- 2

Patriot, Big South- 1

### **UPSET COUNTER**

#### **The 2011 season ended with 6 upsets over FBS opponents:**

Sacramento State over Oregon State, 29-29 OT

Richmond over Duke, 23-21

Indiana State over Western Kentucky, 44-16

North Dakota State over Minnesota, 37-24

Sam Houston State over New Mexico, 48-45 OT

Southern Utah over UNLV, 41-16

**Trivia Results:** The first Southland Conference team to go 11-0 in a regular season was McNeese State in 1995 and 2007.

**Trivia Question:** What non-playoff FCS team had the highest average home attendance during the 2011 season?

**Do you need sports information research to boost your marketing or advertising media? The Underdawg can provide unique solutions to fit your needs. [Click here to inquire](#)**

Visit [TheUnderdawg.com](http://TheUnderdawg.com) and enter your answer in the "Contact Us" section. Trivia answer and winner will be announced on the next digest.