

Issue No. 23 - Week of 12/10/2011

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THE FRISCO ROAD

The Underdawg was 4-4 in second round predictions and 8-4 overall. Much excitement across the FCS last Saturday. One upset; the Colonial is down to one; Sam Houston State survives a scare; Big Sky and Missouri Valley are victorious at home; Lehigh makes a statement.

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

Georgia Southern 55, Old Dominion 48....The Eagles posted their highest score of the season against an FCS opponent and put up 607 total net yards. 15 total TD's, 56 first downs, and only 2 punts between the two teams. GSU came up with the W!

Maine 34, Appalachian State 12....Maine's last playoff win was in 2002 against, yep, App State. Saturday was a repeat as the Bears stay perfect in Boone, NC. The Maine defense held star WR, Brian Quick to 41 receiving yards and allowed the Mountaineers to only 3 total rushing yards.

Montana 41, Central Arkansas 14....The most lopsided game amongst FCS games on Saturday as the Grizzlies took control from the start and maintained. Turnovers were costly for Central Arkansas with 5 fumbles, three of which were losses. Montana scored on pass and run plays early and went up 31-0 by the half and never looked back.

North Dakota State 26, James Madison 14... What appeared to be a solid, fundamentally played contest between the two, NDSU's rushing kept them ahead. DJ McNorton rushed for 154 yds on 19 carries and 1 TD to lead the Bison. JMU averaged 23 pts a game this season but managed to score only twice in the Fargo Dome on Saturday.

Sam Houston State 34, Stony Brook 27...RB, Tim Flanders rushed for 102 yds and the winning TD with just over one minute in regulation for the Kats. Pretty even stats across the board with 376 & 343 total yds for Stony Brook and SHSU, respectively. First playoff win since 2004 for Sam Houston State.

Montana State 26, New Hampshire 25....DeNarius McGhee rushed for 96 yards and two TD's on 12 carries for MSU and escaped a late surge by visiting UNH. The Wildcats got into the end zone off a 29-yd pass play, but failed to make the extra point to tie the game. Every point matters and it certainly counted in this matchup.

Lehigh 40, Towson 38...Chris Lum passed for 351 yds which assisted Lehigh to the school's biggest FCS win by defeating the Colonial champ. The game met expectations of high powered offenses as both teams combined for 722 yds. Lehigh defensive end, Tom Bianchi sacked Towson QB Grant Enders in the end zone for a safety with just over five minutes in regulation which accounted for the 2 point difference. Big win for the Mountain Hawks.

Northern Iowa 28, Wofford 21...Wofford rushed for a whopping 457 yds- 131 from RB, Eric Breitenstein for 3 TD's. However, the Terriers' three fumbles assisted UNI with the win. After a 14-7 halftime lead, Wofford gave up 21 straight points and ran out of time.

Second round facts:

- Montana is 14-4 against the Southland Conference

- Deja Vu: Maine's last playoff win against App St in 2002, they went on to play Ga Southern next
- Lehigh is 11-1 all-time vs. Towson
- Ga Southern had no punts in Saturday's game vs. Old Dominion. The last time a team had no punts in a game was Ga Southern (vs. South Dakota St.) in 2004
- Northern Iowa's first playoff win against a SOCON team.
- Largest attendance: Central Arkansas at Montana- 22,005
- Smallest attendance: Wofford at Northern Iowa- 6,915

Quarterfinal FCS Conference representation....

Big Sky & Missouri Valley- 2
 Southland, Southern, Colonial, Patriot- 1



Apparently, Montana State fans mean business! The Bobcats face Sam Houston State on Saturday.

Here's the Quarterfinal Round and predictions:

QUARTERFINAL ROUND

Saturday, December 10, 2011 (all games on ESPN3)
 Times are TBA

#13 Maine at #3 Georgia Southern...If history holds true, the Eagles will get the best of Maine as the Bears have never beat GSU. Maine turned heads last week with a big win against App State but will fall short in another high scoring contest. Georgia Southern 42, Maine 35.

#2 Northern Iowa at #5 Montana...The Griz are at home in the playoffs in December- the right chemistry here. Montana is 4-0 all-time and 2-0 in the playoffs against the Panthers. UNI QB, Tirrell Rennie will give Montana all they can handle but won't overcome the balance attack from the home team. Montana 22, Northern Iowa 20.

#6 Lehigh at #4 North Dakota State...This should turn out to be a dandy. Lehigh shocked MVC champs, Northern Iowa, on the road in 2010 and are coming off a huge road win against 2011 CAA champ, Towson, last week. NDSU's run attack will be the difference. North Dakota State 27, Lehigh 21

#7 Montana State at #1 Sam Houston State...Toss up game. SHSU's edge will be home field advantage, and that the Bearkats tend to find a way to win. Sam Houston State 20, Montana State 14.

SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP

Grambling State and Alabama A&M will square off at Legion Field in Birmingham, AL on Saturday, 12/10/2011 at 1pm ET on ESPNU. The winner takes the SWAC crown!

Trivia Results: Congrats to Sterling McDonald of Bristol, CT. The non-playoff FCS team who had the highest average home attendance during 2011 was Yale- 23,730.

Trivia Question: In 2011, what FCS teams played the most overtimes and how many overtime periods did they play?

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