

## Issue No. 25 - Week of 12/24/2011

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

The Underdawg was 2-0 in semifinal predictions and 14-4 overall in the playoffs. The clash of the titans is here with the only undefeated, Sam Houston State Bearkats and the 1-loss Missouri Valley power, North Dakota State Bison!

Here's a brief recap of the semifinal games:

**Sam Houston State 31, Montana 28....**The Bearkats avenged their last playoff appearance loss from 2004 as the home-team showed that they not only belonged, but wanted to win. Tim Flanders rushed for 287 yds on 26 carries and 1 TD to lead the Bearkats to victory. Barring a second-half surge by the Grizzlies, SHSU practically put the game away after taking a 21-0 lead after the first quarter. Did I mention the 287 yds rushing by Tim Flanders? The 5'9, 210 lbs. Sophomore RB broke school records on Saturday. If you watched the game, there were some flashbacks of another mid-westerner who adorned orange in the college ranks, Barry Sanders (OSU). Montana QB, Jordan Johnson's 54 yd TD run early in the 4th quarter kept all 12,000+ on their seats' edge as the Grizzlies pulled within 3. But, did I mention Tim Flanders? He made some crucial first down plays that advanced the ball and wore time off the clock to conceal the "W".

Facts on Tim Flanders:

- Holds the school record for most 100-yard rushing games in a season by a freshman
- Holds the most consecutive games with 100 yards or more from his play last season
- Has the most career 100-yard games, the most points in a season and the most single-season rushing touchdowns in Sam Houston State history

**North Dakota State 35, Georgia Southern 7...**The Bison proved that they are not a fluke, as some critics have reported over the last week. The 28 point romp was the Eagles worst lost to an FCS opponent since 2000 (lost to Furman 45-10). Where do I begin...ok...offense. RB's Ojuri and McNorton rushed for 194 yds and two 4th quarter TD's to put the game out of reach. Not to mention QB, Brock Jensen's 94 yds on the ground including a 55 yd TD scamper in the 2nd quarter. Alright...defense. Strong safety, Colten Heagle was arguably the MVP of the game, leading the defensive unit with a career high 15 tackles. Bison Coach Bohl described him as a "heat-seeking missile". Georgia Southern averaged 37.1 pts and 334.1 yds rushing per game this season, however, managed 7 pts and 186 yds on Saturday. The 3 fumbles did not help either as NDSU capitalized on each mistake by effectively moving the ball and scoring via air and ground attack.

2011 FCS Championship Teams quick facts:

- There's been only 2 Southland/ Missouri Valley title clashes: 2002, Western Kentucky (MVC) defeated McNeese State (Southland), 34-14; 1997, Youngstown State (MVC) beat McNeese State (Southland), 10-9.
- All-time, the Missouri Valley Conference has 6 titles; Southland Conference has 1 title
- This will be the first FCS title appearance for both Sam Houston State and North Dakota State
- Both teams are 1-1 all-time head-to-head with 2007 & 2009 contests ending in 3 pt winning margins.
- North Dakota State is 9-4-1 all-time against teams from Texas
- Prior to joining the FCS in 2008, North Dakota State has the most Division II championships at 5.
- This will be the 2nd time ever that NCAA teams from North Dakota and Texas will play in a

football championship game (first time was SW Texas State beat North Dakota State in 1981, 42-13)

- Sam Houston State will travel the shortest distance to an FCS, neutral site championship game than any other team- 200 miles from Huntsville, TX to Frisco, TX.

Largest attendance: North Dakota State vs. Georgia Southern- 18,108

Smallest attendance: Sam Houston State vs. Montana- 12,367

### **FCS Championship prediction:**

#### **North Dakota State vs. Sam Houston State, Friday 1/7/2012 at 1pm ET on ESPN2.**

This title game will be fast and furious as the gridiron will be lit up with FCS All-Stars. From Tim Flanders to D.J. McNorton this game should provide the average fan with a nail-biting finish. As it is hard to undermine the league's only undefeated team in Sam Houston State, the well-balanced and historical championship experience of North Dakota State will prevail. Although Pizza Hut Park will be adorned in orange & blue with well-attended Bearkat fans being close-by, and not to mention the homeland of the Southland Conference to add to the mix- the Bison have played and won in more fierce atmospheres this season. **North Dakota State 28, Sam Houston State 21.**

#### **Here are the top FCS teams in cumulative scoring for 2011:**

Sam Houston State- 548 pts (still playing)

Stony Brook - 494 pts

Georgia Southern - 492 pts

Old Dominion - 477 pts

Montana - 474 pts

North Dakota State- 453 pts (still playing)

### **LIGHTING-UP THE SCOREBOARD**

Last week's "OCCUPY 500" clip outlined FCS teams' scoring of 500+ points in a season. The Underdawg would like to note that the reporting and accumulation of such information was inspired by Tex Noel of the Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association. He provides divisional small college statistics, including the 500+ list. [Check out "Lighting Up the Scoreboard" report](#)

### **HBCU ALL-STAR BOWL**

The East All-stars defeated the West All-stars, 23-13 in the Georgia Dome last Sunday. Justin Babb of Savannah State was the game hero as his 100 yd failed FG return helped seal the deal for the East. North Carolina Central, Florida A&M, and Delaware State had key players to boost the East to victory, as well.

[Read more about the 2011 HBCU All-Star Bowl](#)

### **FROM THE BOILERROOM TO THE LOCKEROOM**

Coastal Carolina is moving in a rather odd direction with new coaching hires. The school chose TD Ameritrade Chairman and former CEO, Joe Moglia, to lead the future of the Chanticleers football program. Does he have the tenacity to win games, yet the finesse to connect with the players and fans?

[Check out this article out of Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

**Trivia Results:** Craig Haley of Philadelphia, PA answered last week's trivia. The FCS team with the toughest schedule overall in 2011 was Lafayette. Their opponents had a .619% winning percentage.

**Trivia Question:** In 2011, what FCS team scored the highest single-game points in a contest against another FCS team?

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