

Issue No. 45- Week of 12/12/2012

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Playoff - Round 3- Quarterfinals recap

Who's your Daddy?

Where Old Dominion and Montana State looked for sweet revenge by meeting their 2011 post-season nemesis in Georgia Southern and Sam Houston State, respectively, what thought to be sweet turned out to be quite bitter. ODU led the FCS just about all season in total offense and have a star-player in QB, Taylor Heinicke. But the Monarchs could not adjust to the FCS' #1 ground-attack and GSU's triple-option threat. Similar dreams were shattered in Bozeman, Montana where the low & cold temperatures of the great northwest wasn't enough to stop the many weapons of SHSU.

Georgia Southern defeated Old Dominion, 49-35

- FB, Dominique Swope rushed for a season-high 186 yds on 22 carries for the Eagles.
- Georgia Southern rushed for 602 total yds.
- Last game for ODU in the FCS. They will be an FBS Independent in 2013.

Sam Houston State thumped Montana State, 34-16

- Saturday was the 9th time this season that SHSU's RB, Tim Flanders has rushed for 100+ yds in a game.
- Since winning the FCS Championship in 1984, Montana State is 0-5 in the post-season against "State" teams.

Business as Usual

North Dakota State rose to the occasion once again. The Bison held the nation's 2nd best rushing offense and Walter Payton Award contender, Eric Breitenstein to no offensive scoring for the game. Eastern Washington kept the game interesting with Illinois State, but never looked back after the first quarter. The Eagles scored the most points in their post-season history.

North Dakota State beat Wofford, 14-7

- Wofford's fewest points scored against an FCS opponent since 2009.
- The Bison have yet to lose an FCS playoff game at home and have not allowed an offensive touchdown through their first two playoff games this season.

Eastern Washington defeated Illinois State, 51-35

- The Eagles are back in the national semifinals for the second time in three seasons.
- First time in over a decade that an FCS team scored 35 or more points against EWU and loss.

Game with highest attendance: Georgia Southern at Old Dominion- 20,068

Heinicke for Heisman

For those of you who saw the ODU/Ga Southern game on ESPN last Saturday, several fans adorned t-shirts that read, "Heinicke for Heisman". Certainly, the distinguished Heisman Trophy goes to the best on the FBS level, where the Walter Payton Award is the FCS' equivalent. But, just as FCS fans usually do, we debate and argue our points of view as "the underdog" to our FBS counterparts. Well, here's a quick comparison of the numbers from 2012 for ODU's QB, Taylor Heinicke, and Texas A&M's Heisman Trophy winner, QB Johnny Manziel (through 12 games):

Taylor Heinicke (So., 6'1, 195 lbs.)- 4,655 yds passing; 68.18% completion rate; 44 TD's; 14 Int's.
Johnny Manziel (Fr., 6'1, 200 lbs.)- 3,419 yds passing; 68.25% completion rate; 24 TD's; 8 Int's.

I'm just saying...

**** The Underdawg went 4-0 in Round 3 of the playoffs and is 12-3 overall. For the Round 4 Semi-Finals, we predict a home win for North Dakota State and road win for Sam Houston State....leaning towards a repeat of last year's championship game ****

[Here's the lineup for Round 4 Semi-Finals](#)

#6 Georgia Southern (10-3) at #1 North Dakota State (12-1) - Friday, Dec 14th at 8:05pm ET on ESPN2

Rematch of last year's semi's- same teams, same place, and practically same players. Another similarity should be the outcome. Coach Craig Bohl and the Bison are familiar with containing the triple-option. They stopped Wofford's rushing threat last week and shouldn't be rattled by the Eagles on Friday night.

- NDSU is 3-0 against the Southern Conference and 2-0 against Georgia Southern.
- NDSU has a home playoff win streak of 7.

#5 Sam Houston State (10-3) at #4 Eastern Washington (11-2) - Saturday, Dec 15th at 4pm ET on ESPNU

The Bearkats are 2nd in the FCS in total scoring with over 500 cumulative points scored this season. Eastern Washington is ranked in the bottom half of total rushing defense in the FCS. If the Eagles don't flex their home-field muscles on Saturday, karma will have its way with SHSU running the show- literally and figuratively speaking.

- The only matchup between these 2 took place on EWU's turf in the playoffs 8 years ago- Sam Houston won, 35-34.
- EWU is 0-2 in the playoffs against Texas teams.

[Click here to see the full playoff bracket](#)

SWAC Championship Game results

Arkansas-Pine Bluff beat Jackson St in overtime, 24-21

The Golden Lions came back from 14 pts down and forced overtime with a late 95-yd pass for a TD to take Jackson State into an extra session and win with a 26-yd FG.

- Arkansas-Pine Bluff's first SWAC Championship Game win and their second conference title.
- First overtime game in SWAC Championship Game history
- Game attendance: 32,480



Arkansas-Pine Bluff enjoys their first 10-win season

Trivia Results: Dan O'Connell from Towson, MD answered last week's trivia. The only winless FCS team for the 2012 season was Rhode Island of the Colonial Athletic Association.

Trivia Question: Which conference in the FCS had the highest scoring average (per game) in 2012?

[Enter your trivia answer](#) here. Trivia answer and winner will be announced on the next digest. 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](#)