

## Issue No. 46- Week of 12/20/2012

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### Playoff - Round 4- Semi-Finals recap

#### North Dakota State defeated Georgia Southern, 23-20

Coach Craig Bohl had his hands full as the Bison gave up 271 yds on the ground and 2 rushing TD's to a determined Eagle squad. In a game where Ga Southern controlled the clock, net yardage, and # of first downs, they couldn't control the score. North Dakota State made the right plays at the right time and escaped any last minute comeback that GSU could muster. A blocked 50 yd FG sealed the win and their second straight FCS title appearance.

- First time NDSU has given up a rushing TD in the post-season
- GSU QB, Jerick McKinnon rushed for 100+ yds in 7 consecutive games
- NDSU QB, Brock Jensen had his highest rushing avg of the season of 5.8 yds (58 yds, 10 carries, 1 TD).
- Georgia Southern had the most FG's blocked this year in the FCS (5 blocked).

#### Sam Houston State beat Eastern Washington, 45-42

What appeared to be a clean runaway in the first half with Sam Houston State leading 35-0 at halftime on the road, Eastern Washington didn't leave the game without making it interesting. The Eagles kept what few fans they had at the edge of their seats. Perhaps reminiscent of their 19 pt deficit to Delaware in the FCS title game in 2010, fans witnessed 20 unanswered points in the second half to win the ring. Fast-forward to now, that comeback fell short and put Sam Houston State back into the FCS title game for the second straight year.

- Both teams combined for 1,026 total net yards
- Third time this season that SHSU scored 30 or more points in the first half
- 4th time EWU scored 42 or more points in a losing effort.
- SHSU RB, Tim Flanders has rushed over 100 yds in 10 games this season

Game with highest attendance: Georgia Southern at North Dakota State- 18,484

**\*\* The Underdawg went 2-0 in Round 4 of the playoffs and is 14-3 overall. For the FCS Championship Game, we predict the Bearkats of Sam Houston State to get the revenge from last year's title game defeat and bring the banner home to the Southland Conference! \*\***

#### [Here's the lineup for the FCS Championship Game](#)

**#1 North Dakota State** (13-1) vs. **#5 Sam Houston State** (11-3)

Saturday, January 5th, 2013 at 1pm ET on ESPN

Ok, clearly the best 2 teams in the FCS. What are the odds that they'd meet in the title game again? Well, SHSU RB, Tim Flanders had an inkling. Reports from last year's game depicted Flanders staring over at the Bison from the sideline as North Dakota State raised the trophy in celebration. He supposedly took in their victory with motivation to get another shot at the championship. Well, that time has arrived and FCS Dallas Stadium is already sold out. North Dakota State is #1 in scoring defense & Sam Houston St is #2 in scoring offense in the FCS. Something's gotta give.

- 1st time in FCS history that the same teams will meet in the championship game in consecutive years
- There's been only 3 Missouri Valley/Southland FCS title clashes (2002, W. Kentucky beat McNeese St, 34-14; 1997, Youngstown St beat McNeese S, 10-9; North Dakota St beat Sam Houston St, 17-6.)
- All-time, the Missouri Valley Conference has 7 titles; Southland Conference has 1 title

- North Dakota State is 2-1 against Sam Houston State all-time
- Sam Houston State will travel the shortest distance to an FCS, neutral site title game than any other team- 200 miles from Huntsville, TX to Frisco, TX.



**Site of the 2012 FCS Championship Game- FCS Dallas Stadium, Frisco, Texas**

### **FCS AWARD WINNERS**

The Sports Network's FCS Awards Banquet was held recently and awarded the [2012 FCS most outstanding leaders of offense, defense, coaching, and rookie honors](#).

Walter Payton Award (Most Outstanding Player) - Sophomore QB, Taylor Heinicke- Old Dominion

- Finished season with an FCS- record 5,076 passing yds, threw for 44 TD's (rushed for 11) & 5,546 yds of total offense.
- Second sophomore to ever win the award (first sophomore was Adrian Peterson of Ga. Southern in 1999)
- Stony Brook RB, Miguel Maysonet and Wofford RB, Eric Breitenstein were 2nd and 3rd placers, respectively.

Buck Buchanan Award (Most Outstanding Defensive Player) - Senior DE, Caleb Schreibeis- Montana State

- 59 tackles (24 solo), 15 tackles for loss, 12.5 sacks, 7 QB hurries, 4 pass breakups, and 8 forced fumbles.
- He joined the team as a walk-on as a potential special teams player.
- Jeremy Kimbrough of Appalachian St and Brandon Thurmond of Arkansas-Pine Bluff were 2nd & 3rd placers, respectively.

Eddie Robinson Award (Most Outstanding Coach) - Craig Bohl, North Dakota State

- Led the #1-ranked team for much of the 2012 regular season, winning 10 of 11 games with the best defense in the FCS.
- 9 of his 10 teams have had winning records and 4 have won at least 10 games since he started at NDSU in 2003.
- Andy Talley of Villanova and Dino Babers of Eastern Illinois were 2nd and 3rd placers, respectively.

Jerry Rice Award (Freshmen of the Year)- Freshmen, QB John Robertson - Villanova

- Finished the season rushing for 1,021 yards and 14 touchdowns and passing for 1,965 yards
- Led team to the best turnaround in FCS reg season (6 wins) and shared the CAA conference title & automatic playoff bid.
- Sawyer Kollmorgen of Northern Iowa and Sean Price of Appalachian St were 2nd and 3rd placers, respectively.

**Trivia Results:** The FCS conference with the highest scoring average (per game) in 2012 was the Ohio Valley Conference with 30.8 points scoring average.

**Trivia Question:** What team lead the FCS in punt return yardage (avg) this season?

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

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