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YOUR
PULL-OUT
GUIDE TO

COLLEGE BOWL SEASON

Rankings shown:
AP: Associated Press
CP: American Football
Coaches Association Poll

By Charles Apple
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Dec. 13	Noon ABC	Celebration Bowl Atlanta	S.C. State 9-3	 	Prairie View A&M 10-3	S.C. State returns to this HBCU national title game for the second straight season. This is Prairie View A&M's first appearance.
	8 p.m. ABC	LA Bowl Inglewood, California	Boise State 9-4	 	Washington 8-4	Two-time Bear Bryant Award winner Chris Petersen coached Boise State for eight seasons before moving to Washington in 2014.
Dec. 16	9 p.m. ESPN	Veterans Bowl Montgomery, Alabama	Troy 8-5	 	Jacksonville State 8-5	This will be a showdown between tough second-place finishers in Conference USA and the Sun Belt Conference.
Dec. 17	5 p.m. ESPN	Cure Bowl Orlando, Florida	South Florida 9-3	 	Old Dominion 9-3	South Florida will be without coach Alex Golesh, who departed for Auburn while ODU QB Colton Joseph has entered the transfer portal.
	8:30 p.m. ESPN	68 Ventures Bowl Mobile, Alabama	Delaware 6-6	 	Louisiana 6-6	Louisiana makes its eighth straight bowl appearance while Delaware earned a spot in its first year in the FBS (the old Division I-A).
Dec. 18	9 p.m. ESPN2	XBox Bowl Frisco, Texas	Arkansas State 6-6	 	Missouri State 7-5	Missouri State also earned a bowl game in its very first season in the FBS. Arkansas State makes a third consecutive bowl appearance.
Dec. 19	11 a.m. ESPN	Myrtle Beach Bowl Conway, South Carolina	Kennesaw State 10-3	 	Western Michigan 9-4	Western Michigan won nine of its last 10 games and the MAC title while Kennesaw State won the Conference USA championship.
	2:30 p.m. ESPN	Gasparilla Bowl Tampa, Florida	N.C. State 7-5	 	Memphis 8-4	Memphis won its last three bowl games while State is hoping for its first bowl win in eight years under coach Dave Doeren.
	8 p.m. ABC	First-round playoff Norman, Oklahoma	Alabama AP: 11 CP: 11 10-3	 	Oklahoma 10-2 AP: 8 CP: 8	The Sooners beat 'Bama earlier this year in Tuscaloosa. The winner of the rematch takes on No. 1-ranked Indiana in the Rose Bowl.
Dec. 20	Noon ABC	First-round playoff College Station, Texas	Miami AP: 10 CP: 10 10-2	 	Texas A&M 11-1 AP: 7 CP: 7	A&M lost its final regular-season game to rival Texas, which prevented the Aggies from qualifying for the SEC title game.
	3:30 p.m. TNT	First-round playoff Oxford, Mississippi	Tulane AP: 17 CP: 18 11-2	 	Ole Miss 11-1 AP: 6 CP: 6	Ole Miss beat Tulane 45-10 in September, lost only one game and finished in the Top 10 but then lost coach Lane Kiffin to LSU.
	7:30 p.m. TNT	First-round playoff Eugene, Oregon	James Madison AP: 19 CP: 19 12-1	 	Oregon 11-1 AP: 5 CP: 5	JMU won its final 11 games, but in a weak Sun Belt conference. Oregon hopes to avenge its loss to Ohio State in last year's Rose Bowl.
Dec. 22	2 p.m. ESPN	Idaho Potato Bowl Boise, Idaho	Washington State 6-6	 	Utah State 6-6	The amazing ,Utah State QB Bryson Barnes, threw for 2,686 yards and 18 TDs and rushed for 733 yards and 9 TDs this season.
Dec. 23	2 p.m. ESPN	Boca Raton Bowl Boca Raton, Florida	Louisville 8-4	 	Toledo 8-4	Louisville coach Jeff Brohm has won 27 games in three seasons. Toledo won four in a row but then lost coach Jason Candle to UConn.
	5:30 p.m. ESPN	New Orleans Bowl New Orleans	Western Kentucky 8-4	 	Southern Miss 7-5	Southern Miss ended its season with three straight losses and then lost head coach Charles Huff to Memphis.
	9 p.m. ESPN	Frisco Bowl Frisco, Texas	UNLV 10-3	 	Ohio 8-4	Two of the Rebels' three losses under first-year coach Dan Mullen were to Boise State, including the Mountain West title game.
Dec. 24	8 p.m. ESPN	Hawaii Bowl Honolulu	Hawaii 8-4	 	California 7-5	Cal coach Justin Wilcox was fired after a disappointing loss to Stanford. Former Hawaii coach Nick Rolovich is filling in.
Dec. 26	1 p.m. ESPN	Sports Bowl Detroit	Northwestern 6-6	 	Central Michigan 7-5	Northwestern has won five straight bowl games. Plus, all six losses this season were against bowl teams, including two in the playoff.
	4:30 p.m. ESPN	Rate Bowl Phoenix	New Mexico 9-3	 	Minnesota 7-5	New Mexico finished the season with six straight wins. Minnesota makes its fifth straight postseason appearance under coach P.J. Fleck.
	8 p.m. ESPN	First Responder Bowl Dallas	UTSA 6-6	 	Florida International 7-5	FIU enjoyed its first winning season since 2018 and will play in its first bowl game in six seasons against a former Conference USA rival.
Dec. 27	11 a.m. ESPN	Military Bowl Annapolis, Maryland	Pittsburgh 8-4	 	East Carolina 8-4	ECU coach Blake Harrell is now 13-5 after taking over midway through the 2024 season. His team played in this same bowl last year.
	Noon ABC	Pinstripe Bowl Bronx, New York	Penn State 6-6	 	Clemson 7-5	Penn State won three straight after the departure of coach James Franklin to become bowl-eligible. Terry Smith will coach this game.
	2:15 p.m. ESPN	Fenway Bowl Boston	UConn 9-3	 	Army 6-5	All three of UConn's losses this year came in overtime. But then head coach Jim Mora bolted for Colorado State.
	3:30 p.m. ABC	Pop-Tarts Bowl Orlando, Florida	BYU AP: 12 CP: 13 11-2	 	Georgia Tech 9-3 AP: 24 CP: 22	BYU's only two losses were to Texas Tech, the No. 4 seed in the playoff bracket. Notre Dame declined to play in this bowl game.
	4:30 p.m. The CW	Arizona Bowl Tucson, Arizona	Fresno State 8-4	 	Miami (Ohio) 7-6	Miami QB Dequan Finn is leaving for the NFL draft. The highlight of this game might be a meet-and-greet with sponsor Snoop Dogg.
	5:45 p.m. ESPN	New Mexico Bowl Albuquerque, New Mexico	San Diego State 9-3	 	North Texas 11-2 AP: 23	North Texas coach Eric Morris is hoping for his team's first bowl win in its last eight tries before he departs for Oklahoma State.
	7:30 p.m. ABC	Gator Bowl Jacksonville, Florida	Virginia AP: 20 CP: 21 10-3	 	Missouri 8-4 AP: 25	Virginia's heart was broken with an overtime loss to Duke that cost it a playoff berth. Missouri is hoping for a third straight bowl win.
	9:15 p.m. ESPN	Texas Bowl Houston	LSU 7-5	 	Houston 9-3 CP: 24	Frank Wilson will coach his last game for LSU before Lane Kiffin takes over. This is LSU's third time in five years in NRG Stadium.
	2 p.m. ESPN	Birmingham Bowl Birmingham, Alabama	Georgia Southern 6-6	 	Appalachian State 5-7	Auburn, Florida State, Baylor, Kansas, Central Florida and Temple all turned down invitations to Birmingham to take on Georgia Southern.
Dec. 30	2 p.m. ESPN	Independence Bowl Shreveport, Louisiana	Louisiana Tech 7-5	 	Coastal Carolina 6-6	Coastal finished third in the Sun Belt Conference but then coach Tim Beck was fired. Tech enjoyed its first winning season since 2019.
	5:30 p.m. ESPN	Music City Bowl Nashville, Tennessee	Illinois 8-4	 	Tennessee 8-4 CP: 23	Illinois' playoff hopes were crushed by a 53-point loss at Indiana. Tennessee's defense ranks 91st nationally — <i>EW!</i> — in points allowed.
	9 p.m. ESPN	Alamo Bowl San Antonio	Southern Cal AP: 16 CP: 16 9-3	 	TCU 8-4	USC receiver Makai Lemon caught 79 passes for 1,156 yards and 11 touchdowns, but most observers think he'll opt out of this game.
Dec. 31	Noon ESPN	ReliaQuest Bowl Tampa, Florida	Iowa 8-4	 	Vanderbilt 10-2 AP: 13 CP: 12	Vandy QB and strong Heisman contender Diego Pavia completed 71.2% of his passes, threw 9.4 yards per attempt and threw 27 TDs.
	2 p.m. CBS	Sun Bowl El Paso, Texas	Arizona State 8-4	 	Duke 8-5	After losing to Georgia Tech, UConn and Virginia, Duke amazed the football world by winning the ACC title game against Virginia.
	3 p.m. ABC	Citrus Bowl Orlando, Florida	Michigan AP: 18 CP: 17 9-3	 	Texas 9-3 AP: 14 CP: 14	Worth watching if even just for the matchup of first-year quarterbacks: Texas' Arch Manning vs. Bryce Underwood of Michigan
	3:30 p.m. ESPN	Las Vegas Bowl Las Vegas	Nebraska 7-5	 	Utah 10-2 AP: 15 CP: 15	Nebraska started strong but then lost three straight after QB Dylan Raiola was hurt. The Utes won their last five, scoring 47 points per game.
	7:30 p.m. ESPN	Cotton Bowl Arlington, Texas	Miami or Texas A&M	 	Ohio State 12-1 AP: 3 CP: 3	Ohio State's domineering offensive line allowed six sacks all year but then gave up five to Indiana in the Big Ten title game Saturday.
Jan. 1	Noon ESPN	Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Florida	James Madison or Oregon	 	Texas Tech 12-1 AP: 4 CP: 4	Texas Tech's defense is one of the nation's best — it shut down No. 12-ranked BYU 34-7 on Saturday. Good luck against that.
	4 p.m. ESPN	Rose Bowl Pasadena, California	Alabama or Oklahoma	 	Indiana 13-0 AP: 1 CP: 1	The Hoosiers are riding high with their first Big Ten football title since 1945 and their first No. 1 ranking in program history.
	8 p.m. ESPN	Sugar Bowl New Orleans	Tulane or Ole Miss	 	Georgia 12-1 AP: 2 CP: 2	Georgia coach Kirby Smart will try to avoid a repeat of last year's Sugar Bowl: Just 10 points and 62 rushing yards against Notre Dame.
Jan. 2	1 p.m. ESPN	Armed Forces Bowl Fort Worth, Texas	Rice 5-7	 	Texas State 6-6	Kansas State declined to play this game, but Rice — with a losing record — took its place, thanks to its Academic Progress Rate.
	4:30 p.m. ESPN	Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tennessee	Navy AP: 22 CP: 25 9-2	 	Cincinnati 7-5	Cincinnati had earned a 6-1 record before dropping its last four games. Navy has one game left: Against Army on Saturday.
	8 p.m. ESPN	Mayo Bowl Charlotte, North Carolina	Mississippi State 5-7	 	Wake Forest 8-4	MSU is yet another 5-7 bowl fill-in team, going up against Wake RB Demond Claiborne, who ran for 170 yards vs. Oregon State.
	8 p.m. Fox	Holiday Bowl San Diego	Arizona AP: 21 CP: 20 9-3	 	SMU 8-4	Arizona QB Noah Fifita ended the season winning five straight and hopes to win 10 games for only the third time in the school's history.
Jan. 8	7:30 p.m. ESPN	Fiesta Bowl Glendale, Arizona	Winner of quarterfinal games	 	Winner of quarterfinal games	National championship semifinal games
Jan. 9	7:30 p.m. ESPN	Peach Bowl Atlanta	Winner of quarterfinal games	 	Winner of quarterfinal games	
Jan. 19	7:30 p.m. ESPN	National Championship Miami Gardens, Florida	Winner of semifinal games	 	Winner of semifinal games	

All times are Eastern

Sources: NCAA, ESPN, Sporting News, CBS Sports, BowlSeason.com, On3.com, Yahoo Sports, Fox Sports