

WASHINGTON HUSKIES (3-2, 1-1): 17g hm W strk on line (2nd FBS to UGA)

SERIES: Mich leads 9-5; 5 postseason meetings, 4 1/2 non-conf home-and-homes
 2020 in SEA canceled (COVID), 2021 game in AnnArbor, beginning of this UM renaissance
 Two home-and-homes prior to the Don James era, Mich won all 4 games; series 5-5 since
 Split 4 Rose Bowls 2-2; sensational home-and-home series in 1983-84, both great games
 1983: one of the great non-conf wins in Husky history. GW TD w/ :34 left + 2 pt conv (25-24)
 2001 in SEA (UW 23-18), Omari Lowe blk'd FG (Roc Alexander TD) & pick 6 w/in a minute!

NOTES ON WASHINGTON

One of 8 programs in CFB w/ multiple CFP appearances; won 3 of L8 Pac-12 titles
 Final decade of P12, champs were: Washington 3, Oregon 3, Utah 2, USC, Stanford

Captains: Will Rogers, Cam Davis, Grady Gross, Tuputala, Bruener, Fabiculanan

STORYLINES (17 straight wins at home ties the Husky Stadium record)

Rematch of last year's CFP Title game (kinda): only 1 returning off starter from last yr's game

SCHEDULE: #10 Mich, at RV Iowa, at #23 Ind, #11 USC, at #7 PennSt, UCLA, at #6 Oregon

First run through the Big Ten Conference (after 108 yrs as a charter member of the Pac 12)

One of 8 P4 programs in CFB that ranks Top 20 in both offensive & defensive yds per play

Phil Steele ranks UW's B1G schedule the toughest of the 18 teams (8 of 9 opps went bowling last

109 players, 50 newcomers, 24 transfers (6 from Ariz), 65 entered yr w/ < 5 gms of CFB experienc

PENALTIES: EMU 100 yds, WSU 135 yds on 16 penalties! 47 yds vs NW, 6-69 at Rutgers, all crucial

JEDD FISCH (3-2 at UW, 1st yr, 20-24 overall, 4th yr)

turned Arizona around in record time; in just 2 yrs, went from 1-11 to 5-7 to 10-3 (won Alamo)

tons of major CFB & NFL experience... OC at Minn, Miami FL & UCLA, QB/PGC at Mich

Jedd Fisch spent the 1st 2 yrs of the Harbaugh era at Michigan coaching QB/WR/PGC

Fisch on Harbaugh: "a lot of what we implemented here in my 1st yr was a lot that I learned

from Jim going there in his first year" (how he implemented his culture shift)

- said he's still very close with Harbaugh, their wives are very close

"We should think of ourselves the same way Mich thinks of itself. Elite academic institution, elite football program, elite athletic dept. And that's the mentality at Mich. That's our mentality"

- Fisch is the playcaller on offense (OC Brennan Carroll coaches the OL from the field)

- brought entire offensive staff w/ him from Arizona + 2 of the coaches on defense

NOTABLE PLAYER/TEAM STATISTICAL RANKINGS

Rogers: 2nd B1G, 4th FBS in cmp%, 11th FBS QB Rating, 4th among players w/ > 25 att/g

Rogers: most attempts in CFB w/o an INT (147), 8 str g w/o an INT, 239 str passes w/o INT

Coleman: 4th B1G, 18th FBS rushing (104.2), 3rd B1G ypc (7.24) for backs w/ 50+ carries

Coleman: leads FBS in most rushes of 10+ yds (21), and most scrimmage plays of 10+ (27)

Boston: 1st B1G/P4, 2nd FBS TD rec (7), 4th B1G rec (30), 4th B1G rec yds/g (82.4)

Boston: 2nd B1G in total TD scored (7), 2nd B1G in recs > 10+ yds (19, Tai Felton, Md 22)

Jackson: 2nd B1G, 9th FBS in rec (34)... 14th FBS in rec/g (6.8)

DeGraaf: leads all B1G TE's w/ 4 catches of 20+ yds

Dixon: 2nd B1G in PBU (5), T-3rd B1G w/ Jabbar Muhammad in passes defended (6)

Durfee: 2.5 sacks in 4 games played (14th B1G)

OFFENSE (4th FBS with 94 plays of 10+ yards on the season)

127th FBS in points scored per 100 yards gained (21st total off, 89th scoring off, gotta get more p

6th FBS in TO rate (2 fumbles, 0 INTs on 50 completed offensive drives)

EXPLOSIVE: 5th FBS in % of rushes that go 10+ yds (21.6), 16th FBS in % of passes > 10+ yds (36.2)

Very balanced offense (49.9% run, 50.1% pass), and efficient (10th FBS in passing efficiency)

One of 6 teams in FBS w/o an INT thrown (and the team w/ the most pass attempts: 163)

10 TDs vs FBS teams this year, 8 of them have been outside the 10 (41, 13, 1, 24, 31, 46, 13, 8, 51, 12)

DEFENSE (3rd FBS pass eff. def, 6th pass D, 8th RZ D, 10th ppg & total D)

3rd str wk playing a physical running team w/ multiple dynamic backs (NW, Rutgers, Iowa next v

Have not allowed a TD in three home games this yr (Weber St 3 pts, EMU 9, Northwestern 5)

Need more TO's, just 4 on yr (92nd FBS)... lost to Rutgers forcing SIX 3&outs (3 TD & 7 punts = 10 p

have held 4 opponents under 300 yards of total offense, have held 3 out of the endzone entirely

- DC Steve Belichick calls the game from the field (only pos coach in booth is QB coach)

Last 2 gms vs NW/Rut, allowed just 27 1stDs on 22 possessions: 12 rushing, 9 passing, 6 by penal

Lost Jayvon Parker for the season last week w/ achilles inj, getting some others back healthy

TRENDS

Low TO activity level in UW games (just 6 all yr, 4 takeaways, 2 giveaways = 4th fewest in CFB)

Since 2015, the last 52xs UW won the TO battle, their record is 49-3 (but lost to WSU going +1 Wk

Since 2009, UW is 64-1 the last 65 times its both outgained the opp & won TO battle (lost to WSU

Since 2015, comebacks unlikely if it ever becomes a 2 poss. game: 72-5 w/ lead, 2-27 w/ deficit

Since 2015, 35-1 when having a +2 or better TO margin in the game, 3-12 when it's -2 or worse

Since 2015, 23-0 when avg starting field pos favors UW by 10.0 or more, 7-17 when opp > 5.0

Since 2014, UW is 35-1 when rushing for 200+ yards (ran for 207 in L at Rutgers, 1st L s/ '14 at Ar

Since 2015, UW is 34-3 when avg'ing > 5.0 yds/carry (6.0 vs Ore '15, 5.03 at OrSt '21, 7.1 at Rut '24)

Since 2015, 31-0 when outrushing opp by 100+ yds, 45-1 when outrushing opp by 50+ yds

#10 MICHIGAN WOLVERINES (4-1, 2-0 in B1G): 27 straight B1G W's

Michigan coming off first national title since it shared the 1997 crown w/ Nebraska

New head coach, new OC and 18 new starters (1 ret on offense, 3 on defense)

Had 13 players selected to the 2024 NFL Draft (most of any school)

Michigan had a Big Ten title dry spell from 2004 to 2021

Only team to make the playoff each of the L3 yrs

Lost a couple nice pieces in the portal: S Keon Sabb (Bama), WR Darrius Clemons (OreSt)

5 straight home games to open season... this is first road game of the year

Winningest pgm in CFB history (1,004 all-time wins heading into season)

Last 3 yrs: 40-3 overall, 29-1 in B1G, 3-0 vs OhioSt, 3 Big 10 titles, 3 str Top 5 finishes

Last yr = 1st team in CFB history to win natty beating 5 ranked tms in final 6 g's

3rd tm All-B1G TE AJ Barner entered draft (picked by Seahawks, 4th Rd, 5 rec last 2 wks)

Were a combined 46-44 over 7 yrs prior to Harbaugh... 2021, not in preseason Top 25

Much less exp in Phil Steele experience ratings: 2023 ranked #7, 2024 ranked #117

AFTER WIN OVER MINNESOTA: 27 straight conf W's! And 31-1 s/ 2021

10 players stepping into starting roles w/ prior experience, either at UM or elsewhere

4 returning starters total, but 3 of them were Preseason 1st team All-Americans

Transfer portal rankings: 1st B1G in '23, 9th in '24 (late jump with Harbaugh, title)

Lost 12 players from last yr's team that were either 1st or 2nd team All-B1G

Looking for 4th str B1G title, would be 1st 4-peat since 1988-92 (met UW in 2 Rose Bowls)

45 Big Ten titles all-time, and 19 outright Big Ten titles (2nd most, Ohio St)

Over 15 g's last yr, they trailed for less than 42 minutes of game time, never trailed vs UW

One of least penalized teams ever last yr: 3 penalties/G = 2nd fewest in B1G since 2000

Fewest miles traveled in B1G this yr: IU/Pur, 3. Michigan (5,194, @JILL, @JIND, @OhioSt)

SHERRONE MOORE (4-1 in 1st full yr, 8-1 overall)

Sherrone Moore takes over: 4-0 as acting HC last yr, Top 10 W's vs PSU, OSU

Moore: promoted after building 2 str Joe Moore Award winning Ols in 2021-22

Moore didn't get the job until Jan 27, not great timing

38 yrs old, on staff since 2018, didn't get into coaching until '09, pos coach in '12

Moore: 7th youngest head coach in D1, 66 days older than Dan Lanning at Oregon

was the OC for 3 of Mich's 4 best O's this century: 40.4 ppg in '22, 35.9 in '23, 35.8 in '21

OFFENSE (OC Kirk Campbell (1st yr): Mich QB coach in '23, analyst in '22)

Had a robust QB battle in camp: 4-5 legitimate options

5 new starters on the OL, replacing 5 guys who were all All-Big Ten selections

Campbell keeping the scheme similar: looked physical as ever in camp

Sent SIX OL'men to the NFL: 4,200 snaps and 5 All Big Ten honorees are gone

Roman Wilson & Cornelius Johnson leave with 74% of receiving yds

LY: Edwards explosive, #2 to Corum, Mullings = short-yardage guy (who avg'd 2 more ypr)

WR: graduated Top 2, multiple transferred out, relying on trio of Morris, Morgan & Moore

hired RB coach Tony Alford away from Ohio St after spring had already started for Buckeyes

120 rush TDs the L3 yrs: most in CFB

Campbell no OC experience at this level: OC at Old Dominion, and a D2 school

DEFENSE (DC Wink Martindale: 3rd str DC from the same Ravens staff 2018-21)

Had #1 FBS scoring D (10.4) & TO margin last yr... this yr: 51st FBS scoring D and 100th TO margin

10.4 PPG allowed LY was 2nd best of the CFP era (2021 Georgia)

highly active secondary: 2nd B1G, 4th FBS in passes defended w/ 30 (5 INTs, 25 pass break ups)

stout against the run: 6th FBS in rushing defense (68.8, Texas ran for 143), 9th ypr allowed (2.75)

need to replace team leaders in tackles, sacks, INT and FF & 2 yr DC Jesse Minter (Chargers w/ J

2 steamrollers at DT: Grant & Graham = 52 pressures, 12.5 TFL, 6.5 sacks

Defense had 5 starters drafted in April in Detroit

Arguably the best defensive line in college football

Every pos coach on D has been a DC before: DL (CMU), LB (USF), DB (Louisiana)

Explosive LB Barham playing behind two NFL DTs in Graham and Grant

WINK MARTINDALE

DC Wink Martindale returns to CFB for the 1st time in 20 yrs (2004-23 NFL)

3rd str DC to come from Ravens staff: architect of disguise-heavy D UM has used s/ '21

Martindale: "our personality is to attack"... will pressure and blitz a ton

New DC Wink Martindale first devised this D in 2018 for the Ravens, perfect guy to take over

Martindale is the "OG" of the defensive system that the Wolverines ran the L3 yrs

Seahawks HC Mike Macdonald, the first Mich DC, worked for Martindale in Baltimore

Martindale: 61 yr old Ohio native... DC for Broncos '10, Ravens '18-21, Giants last 2 yrs

Martindale: was Western Kentucky DC back in 2003

HARBAUGH

Jim Harbaugh went 86-25, 3 Big Ten titles, 3 CFP appearances & 1 natty

Harbaugh took over in 2015 with UM's top 2 rivals (OSU/MSU) at top of their gm

Ohio St won 2014 national championship, MSU went to CFP in 2015

Harbaugh: built best OL in CFB, excelled at development & retention, hired NFL DCs

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