

Key Releases		
Date	Event	Play
10-02	<u>Penn State @ Northwestern</u>	Under
10-03	<u>Syracuse @ Connecticut</u>	Syracuse
10-03	<u>Auburn @ Tennessee U</u>	Auburn
10-03	<u>California @ UNLV</u>	Under
10-03	<u>Fresno State @ Washington State</u>	Fresno State

Tech Plays		
Date	Event	Play
10-03	<u>Navy @ Air Force</u>	Under

October 1st

103/104	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/A)	O/U (H/A)	Pts. Diff. (H/A)	Avg. Ln. (H/A)
Western Kentucky	29	56	44		41	55	1-0 / 0-3	1-0 / 1-2	1-0 / 2-1	+45 / -41	-40 / +28.5
New Mexico State	24	-2	45(2)	-1	46	28	1-1 / 0-2	1-1 / 1-1	2-0 / 0-2	+6.5 / -13.5	-9 / +19.5

Back properly among the welterweights after suffering a couple of painful beatdowns at top five-ranked heavyweights Georgia and Indiana in September, Tyson Helton’s Hilltoppers can get back to business in Conference USA and take aim at their normal minor bowl berth. It was a big drop from the Hoosiers down to the FCS Mercyhurst Lakers last week, but Western Kentucky did regain a bit of swagger with its 52 points and near 600-yard onslaught. QB Rodney Tisdale in particular appreciated more favorable opposition while passing for over 300 yards and three TDs. Granted, New Mexico State represents a step up from Mercyhurst, but the Aggies are also a far cry from Georgia and Indiana, and the skittery Tisdale might continue his recent feel-good against the same Tony Sanchez defense he burned for 301 passing yards and four TDs in a 35-16 Hilltopper romp last November 1 in Bowling Green. In fact, Helton has beaten Sanchez like a drum the past two seasons with WKU winning each matchup by comfy double-digit margins. Further, not to compare results vs. Mercyhurst, but Sanchez and his Aggies had a lot more trouble vs. the NEC Lakers in September, trailing late in the first half before a late three-TD flurry in the fourth quarter provided a more-flattering scoreline. Sanchez might have other concerns on Thursday, too, after pulling scattershot Furman transfer QB Trey Hedden last weekend at home vs. rival New Mexico thanks to Hedden’s latest mistake-filled effort (two picks and a fumble) that prompted a switch to backup Adam Damante - a move that I-10 sources suggest will likely result in a QB switch to start this game at midweek. As Sanchez has also only won one of those last five outright at home vs. C-USA foes since late 2024, any Las Cruces edge also seems negligible at best.

Play Western Kentucky

Last 3 Games			PF/PA		Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Avg. Ln.	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/A)	O/U (H/A)
Western Kentucky			24 / 38.3		-14.3	41	21	+15	1-0 / 0-2	1-0 / 1-1	1-0 / 1-1
New Mexico State			29.3 / 28.3		+1	45	40	-3.5	1-1 / 0-1	1-1 / 0-1	2-0 / 0-1
Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score
Western Kentucky	09-26	Mercyhurst	-40	58.5	52-7	New Mexico State	09-26	New Mexico	+11.5	47.5	18-42
	09-19	@ Indiana	+44.5	58	0-38		09-12	@ Hawaii	+7.5	50.5	19-29
	09-12	@ Georgia	+40.5	55.5	20-70		09-05	Mercyhurst	-29	52.5	51-14
Recent meetings											
Date	Team		Score		Line	FD	RA/RY		PC/PA/I/PY		F/FL
11-01-25	New Mexico State		16		53.5	14	26/66		13/40/1/110		0/0
	Western Kentucky		35		-7.5	24	38/128		30/41/1/301		2/1
11-09-24	Western Kentucky		41		-18	17	34/117		19/28/2/297		0/0
	New Mexico State		28		53.5	24	55/331		10/22/2/129		4/3

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October 2nd

107/108	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/A)	O/U (H/A)	Pts. Diff. (H/A)	Avg. Ln. (H/A)
Pittsburgh U	27	53	22		19	55	4-0 / 0-0	3-1 / 0-0	1-3 / 0-0	+30.8 / -	-22 / -
Virginia Tech	28	-1	18(3)	-7	18	34	2-0 / 2-0	2-0 / 1-1	2-0 / 1-1	+46.5 / +8	-36.5 / -8.5

This will be the first meeting between these regional foes since Virginia Tech's 38-21 home win over the Panthers in September 2023. For what it's worth, now-Virginia Tech head coach James Franklin went 3-1 against Pitt when he coached in Happy Valley, winning the last three meetings by an average of 23.7 points per game. The Hokies were forced to battle both Boston College and Mother Nature last week. Virginia Tech eventually earned a 21-14 win, but never came close to covering the lofty two-touchdown spread against the feisty Eagles. We've seen quite the change in scoring in Pitt's games through the first month of the season. The over went 9-3 in the Panthers' regular season games last year, but Pitt's defense has allowed an average of 8.5 points per game thus far (3-1 to the under). Lane Stadium will be rockin' for this one and our power ratings are in line with where this game has opened, but we're inclined to take the points with Pitt. Panthers head coach Pat Narduzzi can't be compared to Lane Kiffin when it comes to troll antics, but Narduzzi loves to push a button or two when given the opportunity. Pitt essentially had an extra week to prep for this one after beating FCS-level Bucknell 59-0 last week. Narduzzi will have something up his sleeve in this one. It appears that Hokies' QB Ethan Grunkemeyer made a good decision following Coach Franklin to Blacksburg, but let's not forget that this is a guy who entered his senior year of high school with one scholarship offer (Miami-Ohio) and was Penn State's third-string quarterback behind Drew Allar and Beau Pribula. Again, he's performed great in maroon-and-orange thus far, but we're not too far removed from Grunkemeyer throwing for 93 yards with two interceptions against Iowa or getting sacked four times against Ohio State.

Play Pitt

Last 3 Games			PF/PA		Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Avg. Ln.	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/A)	O/U (H/A)	
Pittsburgh U			32.7 / 6.7		+26	18	37	-24	3-0 / 0-0	2-1 / 0-0	0-3 / 0-0	
Virginia Tech			33.3 / 20.3		+13	18	31	-11.5	1-0 / 2-0	1-0 / 1-1	1-0 / 1-1	
Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	
Pittsburgh U	09-26	Bucknell	-54.5	63.5	59-0	Virginia Tech	09-26	@ Boston Co.	-14.5	45.5	21-14	
	09-17	Syracuse	-10.5	51	27-13			09-19	@ Maryland	-2.5	53.5	35-26
	09-12	Central F.	-7	55	12-7			09-12	Old Domin.	-18	47.5	44-21

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October 3rd

Key Release										Updated: 09/29 11:11 pm	
113/114	Score	Line	PR	GS Line	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/A)	O/U (H/A)	Pts. Diff. (H/A)	Avg. Ln. (H/A)
Syracuse	34	-6.5	30.5	-8	29	18	1-1 / 0-1	1-1 / 0-1	1-1 / 0-1	+30 / -14	-20 / +10.5
Connecticut	23	51.5	39.5(1)		41	35	1-1 / 1-1	1-1 / 1-1	1-1 / 1-1	+12.5 / +12.5	-5.5 / -0.5

Syracuse has won each of the last six meetings, but UConn has stayed within the number each of the last two years. The Orange earned a 27-20 win in overtime last season after the Huskies blew a two-score lead in the fourth quarter. Syracuse is coming off a much-needed bye after dropping back-to-back games against Cal and Pitt. The Orange averaged 12.0 penalties and 109.7 penalty yards per game through their first three games, which both ranked as the worst marks in the country. UConn returns home after splitting back-to-back road games at Southern Miss (win) and Miami-Ohio (loss). Syracuse has been such a tough team to trust this season because of the penalty issues, but after a week to figure stuff out, we can only look toward the Orange. Against Cal, Syracuse held a 437-249 edge in total yards with a 27-17 advantage in first downs but they turned the ball over three times. Against Pitt, they were almost dead-even in yards (368-347) and first downs (23-22), but Syracuse couldn't overcome ten penalties for 94 yards. The Orange are capable of playing some quality football if they can get out of their own way.

Play Syracuse

Last 3 Games			PF/PA		Pts. Diff.	Avg. PR	Avg. OPR	Avg. Ln.	SUR (H/A)	ATS (H/A)	O/U (H/A)	
Syracuse			32.3 / 17		+15.3	29	33	-9.5	1-1 / 0-1	1-1 / 0-1	1-1 / 0-1	
Connecticut			27.7 / 27.3		+0.3	41	35	+3.5	0-1 / 1-1	0-1 / 1-1	0-1 / 1-1	
Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	Results	Date	Opponent	Line	Total	Score	
Syracuse	09-17	@ Pittsburg.	+10.5	51	13-27	Connecticut	09-26	@ Miami Ohio	+2.5	52.5	21-24	
	09-12	California	-4	57	18-21			09-19	@ So Missis.	-3.5	54.5	48-20
	09-05	New Hamps.	-35.5	56.5	66-3			09-12	Maryland	+11	52.5	14-38
Recent meetings												
Date	Team		Score		Line	FD	RA/RV		PC/PA/I/PY		F/FL	
09-06-25	Connecticut		20		57.5	20	33/154		25/44/0/274		0/0	
	Syracuse		27		-7	24	28/46		33/53/1/417		1/1	
11-23-24	Connecticut		24		53	16	17/124		27/48/0/228		0/0	
	Syracuse		31		-10	25	33/68		37/47/0/470		1/0	

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KEY	
Score	The predicted score for an event
PR	The team's Power Rating
GS Line	The GoldSheet line, calculated using each team's Power Rating.
Avg. PR	The average Power Rating of a team over the course of the season.
Avg. OPR	The average of a team's opponent Power Rating on the day that they played.
SUR (H/A)	The team's straight-up-record, both at home and on the road.
ATS (H/A)	The team's record against-the-spread.
O/U (H/A)	The team's over-under record.
Pts. Diff. (H/A)	The team's +/- point differential.
Avg. Ln. (H/A)	The average line the team has had over the course of the season.
PF/PA	The average points a team has scored and allowed.
FD	The total number of first downs.
RA/RY	The number of rushing attempts and yards.
PC/PA/I/PY	The number of passing completions, attempts, interceptions and yards.
RA/RY	The number of fumbles and fumbles lost.

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