

## Las Vegas Bowl II Watch

# BIG WEST AND MAC CONFERENCE MATCHUPS BEGINNING TO HEAT UP

As the weeks progress, and the bowl games draw nearer, the title chase in the Big West and Mid-American Conferences are beginning to heat up immensely. Defending BWC and MAC champions, Nevada and Bowling Green, are clearly still in the hunt, but neither is leading their respective leagues at the moment.

The New Mexico State Aggies, a team that Sports Illustrated tabbed as the worst in the nation last season, are 2-0 in the

BWC following last Saturday's 24-17 win over previous league leader Northern Illinois.

Ball State is 3-0 in MAC play, after upending Toledo 31-30. The Cardinals moved into first place when pre-season favorite Central Michigan topped previous MAC frontrunner Western Michigan, 23-18. The Cardinals won't see league action until October 23, when they play host to defending Las Vegas Bowl champion, the Bowling Green Falcons.

Also in the MAC, Eastern Michigan, as well as Bowling Green, are both 2-0, while Western Michigan and Akron are both sitting at 3-1 in conference play.

In the BWC, Louisiana Tech and Utah State are both 1-0 and Northern Illinois is now 2-1.

Four league games are on slate for Saturday, in both the MAC and the BWC.

In the Big West, frontrunning

New Mexico State (3-2 overall, 2-0 BWC) will host San Jose State (0-5, 0-0). Arkansas State (1-5, 0-3) will play host to SW Louisiana (3-2, 0-1). Pacific (1-4, 0-0) hits the road to Northern Illinois (3-3, 2-1). And in the most exciting game, defending champ Nevada (3-2, 1-1) will head to Utah to face pre-season favorite Utah State (1-4, 1-0).

As mentioned, Ball State won't see MAC action for two

weeks, but will have their hands full with Cincinnati. The biggest game of the weekend will match Bowling Green (3-2 overall, 2-0 MAC) on the road against Akron (3-2, 3-1). Central Michigan (2-4, 2-2) will host Eastern Michigan (3-2, 2-0); Toledo (2-3, 1-2) will travel to Miami of Ohio (1-4, 0-3). And finally, Kent (0-5, 0-3) will host Ohio (0-6, 0-4).

UNLV is idle this weekend, and must prepare for Utah State

in two weeks. It'll be homecoming weekend, and the Aggies will invade the Silver Bowl on Saturday October 23.

The Rebels are coming off of a humiliating 24-18 loss to Division I-AA school Cal-St. Northridge.

The Matadors' Robert Trice ran roughshod through the Rebels, breaking a Northridge record with 278 yards and three touchdowns on 35 carries.

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BIG WEST STANDINGS		MID-AMERICAN STANDINGS	
N. Mexico St.	2-0 3-2	Ball St.	3-0 4-1
La. Tech	1-0 1-3	Bowling Green	2-0 3-2
Utah St.	1-0 1-4	E. Michigan	2-0 3-2
N. Illinois	2-1 3-3	Akron	3-1 3-2
Nevada	1-1 3-2	W. Michigan	3-1 3-3
Pacific	0-0 1-4	C. Michigan	2-2 2-4
San Jose St.	0-0 0-5	Toledo	1-2 2-3
SW Louisiana.	0-1 3-2	Miami, Ohio	0-3 1-4
UNLV	0-1 1-5	Kent	0-3 0-5
Arkansas St.	0-3 1-5	Ohio, U.	0-4 0-6

**Willie's BEST BETS**

**THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS:**  
 N.Y. Giants -8 v. Philadelphia  
 Cleveland -5 v. Cincinnati  
 Houston -6 v. New England

**THE BEST DOGS ON THE BOARD**  
 S.F. 49ers +6 v. Dallas  
 L.A. Rams +1 v. Atlanta

**OVERALL: 18-16-2 - .529%**

**A LOOK AHEAD**  
 The Giants are pumped right now, and this could be a game that LT gears up for - a classic Giants-Eagles game. A matchup of two big rivals from the AFC Central, not ot mention for the bragging rights of Ohio. The Browns will crush Cincinnati. Cody Carlson has had a week to prepare with the offense and should surprise some folks. Here is your preview for the NFC Championship, a game that definitely should not see a line higher than 4-1/2. This will be a high offensive game with both air attacks in effect. To play this game properly, you should bet the Cowboys straight, (unless you parlay them), then hedge with Frisco on the Money Line. Los Angeles will sneak this one out, as Atlanta struggles at QB. Make a small OVER bet. The Oilers D will give up at least two TDs, even to N.E., but will still cover with QB Cody.

**THE BEST TOTAL-4-THE WEEK**  
 Houston v. New England  
**OVER the 37**

**LAST WEEK: 3-3 - .500%**

**A LOOK BACK**  
 Pittsburgh -3 v. San Diego  
 Phoenix -10 v. New England  
 Dallas -11 v. Indianapolis  
 Cleveland +2 v. Miami  
 N.Y. Jets +3 v. L.A. Raiders  
 N.Y. Jets v. L.A. Raiders  
**OVER the 37**

Once again, I split out, losing juice money, thanks to a collapse on Cleveland and New York's part. The Total came through in the Jets game, but the New York just gave the game away - with the points. I don't know, you explain it, Phoenix crushes Washington, but loses to New England. Hmmm?????

### ERK DICKERSON SHUFFLED OFF TO GREEN BAY

The winless Atlanta Falcons, 0-5, dealt the NFL's No. 2 all-time career rusher, Eric Dickerson, to Green Bay for running back John Stephens.

Last week, Dickerson was under the assumption that he had been cut by the Falcons. One day later, it turned out that Dickerson was wrong, but still had feelings that he was not needed by Atlanta.

While Head Coach Jerry Glanville said that Dickerson was only considered a to be a backup RB, the 11-year veteran insisted that assistant coaches June Jones and Ollie Wilson stated he had been cut.

Green Bay will be Dickerson's fourth team in three years.



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