



August 23, 2016

# 2016 FOOTBALL

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## FINAL 2015 BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Team	Big South					Overall								
	W	L	PCT	PF	PA	W	L	PCT	PF	PA	Home	Road	L10	Streak
xy-Charleston Southern	6	0	1.000	173	76	10	3	.769	368	282	6-0	4-3	8-2	L1
Coastal Carolina *	4	2	.667	184	107	9	3	.750	421	241	6-1	3-2	7-3	L2
Monmouth	3	3	.500	107	125	5	6	.455	226	277	3-2	2-4	5-5	W2
Liberty	3	3	.500	151	154	6	5	.545	285	296	5-0	1-5	5-5	W1
Kennesaw State	2	4	.333	103	152	6	5	.545	318	233	5-1	1-4	5-5	L3
Gardner-Webb	2	4	.333	64	145	4	7	.364	141	227	3-3	1-4	4-6	L1
Presbyterian College	1	5	.167	77	96	2	9	.182	138	223	2-3	0-6	2-8	W1

x - Big South Regular-Season Champion  
y - Big South FCS Playoff automatic qualifier

\* - final season in Big South

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## 2016 PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

### OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 5

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 5

### SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 5

### THE CRONS BRAND FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

Begins Monday, Sept. 5

## WEEK 1 SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

#6/7 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN at #1/1 North Dakota State  
.....7:30pm (ESPN)

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 1

PRESBYTERIAN at Central Michigan.....7:00pm (ESPN3)

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

Kentucky State at CHARLESTON SOUTHERN .....11:45am  
LIBERTY at Virginia Tech.....12:30pm  
MONMOUTH at Lehigh.....12:30pm  
GARDNER-WEBB at Elon.....3:30pm  
East Tennessee State at KENNESAW STATE.....7:00pm



### ..... Relevant Hashtags:

#FCS  
#FearTheFCS (vs. FBS opponent)  
#FCSFacts  
#SCTop10  
#FCSPlayoffs  
#FCSChamp

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## BIG SOUTH KICKS OFF 15TH SEASON SATURDAY NIGHT

The Big South Conference begins Year 15 of its football history Saturday night with its first-ever appearance in the third edition of the national season-opening college football game. Charleston Southern will travel to #1/1 North Dakota State for a match-up with the five-time defending National Champions in Fargo on ESPN. Big South football teams are a combined 40-43 in season openers since 2002, including a League-best four wins in 2005, 2006, 2010 and 2015. Twenty-one of the 43 losses (=48.8 percent) have been against FBS members. Charleston Southern has the current longest season-opening win streak in the conference at three games, while Gardner-Webb has won eight season openers since the Conference began football.

## TEAM-BY-TEAM OPENERS

Charleston Southern is opening the campaign on the road for the 20th time in its history, but the first time since 2013 ... Gardner-Webb is opening on the road for the third-straight season ... Second-year program Kennesaw State is opening the season at home for the first time ... Liberty will play its season opener at an FBS member for the fifth time in six years ... Monmouth is opening the season with a road contest for the 17th time in the program's 24-year history ... Presbyterian College is opening its season at an FBS foe for the fourth-straight year. Below is a team-by-team look at season openers:

Team	Record	Last Season Opening Win	Season Opener Notes
Charleston Southern	8-17	2015 (North Greenville, 41-14)	6-0 at home, 2-17 on road
Gardner-Webb	23-21-2	2013 (Furman, 28-21)	8-6 in openers since 2002
Kennesaw State	1-0	2015 (East Tennessee St., 56-16)	First time opening at home
Liberty	20-23	2016 (Delaware State, 32-13)	18-7 at home, 2-16 on road
Monmouth	5-18	2014 (Delaware State, 52-21)	3-4 at home, 2-14 on road
Presbyterian College	33-65-5	2012 (Brevard, 45-10)	11 season-opening shutout wins

## CHARLESTON SOUTHERN PICKED TO WIN IT ALL IN 2016

For the first time, defending conference champion Charleston Southern University has been tabbed the favorite in the Big South Conference's annual preseason football poll for the 2016 campaign, as voted by the league's head coaches and media panel. The Buccaneers won their first outright title last season and were co-champs in 2005.

## BIG SOUTH CONTINUES PRESEASON TREND OF RANKED TEAMS

Charleston Southern is ranked No. 6 in the preseason FCS Coaches poll and No. 7 in the preseason STATS ranking, the third consecutive year a Big South member has opened the season ranked inside the Top 10. The conference has had a member appear in the preseason rankings now seven consecutive seasons and 10 times overall.

## SPEAKING OF NATIONAL RANKINGS

The Big South has had a football squad nationally-ranked for 65 consecutive weeks now, dating back to Week 9 of the 2011 season (Oct. 24). The conference has had two teams nationally-ranked in the same week 36 times overall in league history -- including 14 consecutive weeks during the 2015 season and 31 times since the start of the 2013 campaign.

## BIG SOUTH ENJOYS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NON-CONFERENCE SEASON

The Big South went 14-8 in 22 regular-season games against non-conference FCS opponents last season, the third consecutive year the league posted at least a .500 winning percentage against non-league foes. In 2014, the Big South was 22-5 in the regular-season (24-7 through the postseason) after going 16-9 in regular-season games in 2013 (18-10 overall). The three-year total stands at 52-22 (=70.2) in regular-season competition and 57-27 when including postseason games in that span.

## SIXTH SENSE

The Big South had six players named preseason All-American by STATS LLC, just one shy of the league record. Charleston Southern led the conference with four honorees -- First-Teamer **ERIK AUSTELL** and Second-Team selections **ANTHONY ELLIS**, **JOSEPH SMITH** and **DARIUS HAMMOND**. Monmouth's **MIKE BASILE** was a Second-Team honoree, while Gardner-Webb linebacker **CHAD GETER** was named to the Third-Team.

## GOOD WORK YOUNG MAN

The Big South Conference is once again represented among the national candidates for the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®, as Liberty's **DEXTER ROBBINS** is among the 165 candidates from every subdivision and classification. Gardner-Webb LB **CHAD GETER** was a 2015 nominee. The Big South has had one honoree named to the team -- Charleston Southern's **JORDAN LANCASTER** in 2010.

## BIG SOUTH vs. DIVISION I OPPONENTS

### vs. FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION (0-0, .000)

Colonial.....	0-0
Elon	
Mid-Eastern Athletic.....	0-0
Delaware State	
Howard	
Missouri Valley.....	0-0
North Dakota State	
Northeast.....	0-0
Duquesne	
Robert Morris	
Ohio Valley.....	0-0
Jacksonville State	
Patriot League.....	0-0
Bucknell	
Fordham	
Lehigh	
Pioneer.....	0-0
Campbell	
Jacksonville	
Southern.....	0-0
Chattanooga	
East Tennessee State	
Furman	
The Citadel	
Western Carolina	
Independents.....	0-0
Coastal Carolina	



### vs. FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION

American Athletic.....	0-0
SMU	
Atlantic Coast.....	0-0
Florida State	
Virginia Tech	
Mid-American.....	0-0
Central Michigan	
Kent State	
Ohio	
Southeastern.....	0-0
Florida	



## CSU'S HAMMOND VOTED PRESEASON OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Charleston Southern senior running back **DARIUS HAMMOND** was voted the Big South's 2016 Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. Hammond was the 2015 National FCS All-Purpose Performer of the Year by the College Football Performance Awards after finishing the campaign with 1,865 all-purpose yards and 143.5 yards per game. He earned First-Team All-Big South honors as a punt returner and Second-Team All-Conference accolades as a running back a year ago, and was the league's First-Team punt return selection as a sophomore in 2014. Hammond led Charleston Southern with 856 rushing yards with seven rushing touchdowns last season, and also recorded eight catches for 90 yards and two scores. In addition, he averaged 25.1 yards on his 28 kickoff returns and 15.5 yards on his 15 punt returns. He tallied three 100-yard rushing games in 2015, including a career-high 161 yards on 23 carries at Troy in Week 2. Hammond rushed for 129 yards and a score in CSU's Week 4 win over The Citadel, and hauled in a critical fourth down catch that led to his go-ahead TD in the fourth quarter. Hammond, who is the first CSU player to be voted Preseason Offensive Player of the Year since **COLLIN DRAFTS** in 2006, is the first running back to be the preseason selection since 2012. He also opens the season among the first official candidates for the STATS National Offensive Player of the Year award.

## BUCS' ELLIS PICKED AS PRESEASON DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Charleston Southern junior defensive lineman **ANTHONY ELLIS** was tabbed the Big South's 2016 Preseason Defensive Player of the Year. Ellis emerged as one of the dominant defensive linemen in all of FCS last season as he led the Big South with 17.5 tackles-for-loss and tied for second with 7.0 sacks en route to First-Team All-Big South honors. He tallied 54 tackles (33 solo, 21 assisted) with two forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries, two pass break-ups, one interception and one defensive touchdown. Ellis earned Big South Defensive Player of the Week after a dominant effort in the Bucs' Big South title-clinching contest at Kennesaw State, as he posted 4.0 TFL, one sack and a forced fumble that he returned 61 yards for a score. He recorded five tackles, 0.5 TFL and an interception on the last play of the game in CSU's regular-season win over The Citadel, notched two sacks in CSU's win over Monmouth, had 3.0 TFL plus a crucial fourth quarter sack in a victory over Liberty, and forced two fumbles with one tackle-for-loss and eight stops in Charleston Southern's playoff victory over The Citadel. The first CSU player to be voted Preseason Defensive Player of the Year since current Houston Texan **CHARLES JAMES** in 2012 and the third overall, Ellis collected a season-high 12 tackles, had 3.0 TFL and one sack in the Bucs' FCS quarterfinal appearance at Jacksonville State. He also opens the season among the first official candidates for the STATS National Defensive Player of the Year award.

## GEE-WIZ

Gardner-Webb LB **CHAD GETER** opens the 2016 season as one of 34 FCS players named to the 2017 Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List. He is 73 tackles away from becoming the 14th player with 300 career tackles, and would be the fifth linebacker on the all-time list. Geter has accumulated 136 solo tackles and needs 22 to enter the league's Top 10 in that category. Meanwhile, Geter has amassed 27.5 career tackles-for-loss as well as 9.5 sacks. He needs 10.5 TFL to match the Big South career TFL record among linebackers (38.0 - **MARTY PATTERSON**, Gardner-Webb), and 4.5 sacks to equal the linebacker sack record of 14.0, which is held by **MAURICE SIMPKINS** (Coastal Carolina, 2003-05).

## THREE'S COMPANY

Charleston Southern will have three active players with 1,000 career rushing yards when **DARIUS HAMMOND** reaches the milestone this season. Hammond needs 37 yards to join **BEN ROBINSON** (1,247) and **MIKE HOLLOWAY** (1,742). The three players have rushed for a combined 3,952 yards and 36 touchdowns on 630 carries -- a combined average of 6.27 yards per carry.

## RUSH WEEK

Gardner-Webb QB **TYRELL MAXWELL** enters the season eighth all-time in Big South history for rushing yards by a quarterback with 1,049, while Kennesaw State's **TREY WHITE** is ninth at 964. Both players could eclipse the Big South's career QB rushing record this year, as Maxwell gained 794 on the ground in 2015 while White tallied 964. The league's QB rushing record is 1,785, which was set by VMI's **TIM MAYPRAY**. Maxwell is 736 yards from catching Maypray, while White is 821 yards back.

## WHITE-WASHING

Kennesaw State QB **TREY WHITE** collected four 100-yard rushing games last season, and is just two away from matching the Big South career record for quarterbacks. White is one rushing score shy of becoming the 13th Big South signal-caller with 10 career rushing TDs, and is already the only quarterback in league annals with two 3-TD rushing games. White narrowly became the first quarterback in Big South history with 1,000 rushing yards and 1,000 passing yards in the same season in 2015, and will attempt to become the Big South's first QB to rush for at least 800 yards twice.

## 2016 BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL BROADCAST COVERAGE:

ESPN NETWORKS	BSN	OTHER TV	TOTAL
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<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 27</b>			
			ESPN
Charleston So. at North Dakota State			
<b>THURSDAY, SEPT. 1</b>			
			ESPN3
Presbyterian at Central Michigan			
<b>SATURDAY, SEPT. 3</b>			
	BSN		
Kentucky State at Charleston Southern			
		ACC	
Liberty at Virginia Tech			
		ASN	
Gardner-Webb at Elon			
		PTV, BSN	
East Tennessee St. at Kennesaw State			
<b>SATURDAY, SEPT. 10</b>			
			RSN
Charleston Southern at Florida State			
			PTV, BSN
Point at Kennesaw State			
			LFSN, BSN
Jacksonville at Liberty			
<b>SATURDAY, SEPT. 17</b>			
			ESPN3
Monmouth at Kent State			
			BSN
The Citadel at Gardner-Webb			
			BSN
Presbyterian at Campbell			
			ESPN3
Liberty at SMU			

### Key:

- ACC - ACC Network
- ASN - American Sports Network
- BSN - Big South Network
- LFSN - Liberty Flames Sports Network
- PTV - Peachtree TV



## #6/7 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV/LIVE VIDEO
Aug. 27	at #1/1 North Dakota State	7:30pm	ESPN
Sept. 3	KENTUCKY STATE	11:45am	BSN
Sept. 10	at Florida State	12:30pm	RSN
Sept. 24	at Monmouth*	1:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 1	at Coastal Carolina	6:00pm	
Oct. 8	ALBANY STATE	11:45am	BSN
Oct. 22	PRESBYTERIAN*	6:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 29	BUCKNELL	11:45am	BSN
Nov. 5	GARDNER-WEBB*	12:00pm	ASN
Nov. 12	at Liberty*	3:30pm	ESPN3
Nov. 19	KENNESAW STATE*	11:45am	^^

## GARDNER-WEBB (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV/LIVE VIDEO
Sept. 3	at Elon	3:30pm	ASN
Sept. 10	at Western Carolina	6:00pm	
Sept. 17	THE CITADEL	6:00pm	BSN
Sept. 24	at Ohio	TBA	
Oct. 1	BENEDICT	6:00pm	BSN
Oct. 8	PRESBYTERIAN*	6:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 15	COASTAL CAROLINA	1:30pm	BSN
Oct. 22	KENNESAW STATE*	12:00pm	ASN
Oct. 29	at Liberty*	3:30pm	BSN Exclusive
Nov. 5	at Charleston Southern*	12:00pm	ASN
Nov. 19	MONMOUTH*	1:30pm	^^

## KENNESAW STATE (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV/LIVE VIDEO
Sept. 3	EAST TENNESSEE STATE	7:00pm	Peachtree TV / BSN
Sept. 10	POINT	7:00pm	Peachtree TV / BSN
Sept. 24	at Duquesne	1:00pm	
Oct. 1	at Furman	3:00pm	
Oct. 8	MISSOURI S&T	1:00pm	Peachtree TV / BSN
Oct. 15	LIBERTY*	7:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 22	at Gardner-Webb*	12:00pm	ASN
Oct. 29	at Monmouth*	1:00pm	ESPN3
Nov. 5	CLARK-ATLANTA	1:00pm	Peachtree TV / BSN
Nov. 12	PRESBYTERIAN*	12:00pm	ASN
Nov. 19	at Charleston Southern*	11:45am	^^

## LIBERTY (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV/LIVE VIDEO
Sept. 3	at Virginia Tech	12:30pm	ACC Network
Sept. 10	JACKSONVILLE	7:00pm	LFSN
Sept. 17	at SMU	7:00pm	ESPN3
Sept. 24	JACKSONVILLE STATE	7:00pm	LFSN
Oct. 1	ROBERT MORRIS	7:00pm	LFSN
Oct. 15	at Kennesaw State*	7:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 22	MONMOUTH*	3:30pm	LFSN
Oct. 29	GARDNER-WEBB*	3:30pm	BSN Exclusive
Nov. 5	at Presbyterian*	2:00pm	ESPN3
Nov. 12	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN*	3:30pm	ESPN3
Nov. 17	at Coastal Carolina	7:00pm	

## MONMOUTH (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV/LIVE VIDEO
Sept. 3	at Lehigh	12:30pm	
Sept. 10	at Delaware State	5:00pm	
Sept. 17	at Kent State	3:30pm	ESPN3
Sept. 24	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN*	1:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 1	FORDHAM	1:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 8	at Howard	1:00pm	
Oct. 13	at Presbyterian*	7:00pm	BSN Exclusive
Oct. 22	at Liberty*	3:30pm	LFSN / BSN
Oct. 29	KENNESAW STATE*	1:00pm	ESPN3
Nov. 5	at Coastal Carolina	2:00pm	
Nov. 19	at Gardner-Webb*	1:30pm	BSN

## PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV/LIVE VIDEO
Sept. 1	at Central Michigan	7:00pm	ESPN3
Sept. 10	at Chattanooga	2:00pm	
Sept. 17	at Campbell	6:00pm	BSN
Sept. 24	FLORIDA TECH	7:00pm	BSN
Oct. 8	at Gardner-Webb*	6:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 13	MONMOUTH*	7:00pm	BSN Exclusive
Oct. 22	at Charleston Southern*	6:00pm	ESPN3
Oct. 29	COASTAL CAROLINA	2:00pm	BSN
Nov. 5	LIBERTY*	2:00pm	ESPN3
Nov. 12	at Kennesaw State*	12:00pm	ASN
Nov. 19	at Florida	TBA	

^^ - ESPN3 Wildcard Selection (14-21 days in advance)

\* - Big South Conference game  
All Times ET and subject to change