



SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOOTBALL



702 North Pine Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303 • 864-591-5100 • Fax: 864-591-3448

Ralan Wardlaw, Director of Communications (FB contact)

facebook.com/SouthernConference • twitter.com/SoConSports • instagram.com/SouthernConference

2024 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Teams ^{rank}	CONFERENCE					OVERALL				
	W-L	Pct	H	A	ST	W-L	Pct	H	A	ST
The Citadel	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
ETSU	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
Furman ^{9/12}	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
Mercer ^{RV/RV}	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
Samford ^{RV/RV}	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
Chattanooga ^{8/9}	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
VMI	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
Western Carolina ^{19/20}	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-
Wofford	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-	0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	-

Rankings listed AFCA FCS Coaches' Top 25/Stats Perform FCS Top 25

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

(all times Eastern)

Aug. 29 (Thursday)	Series	TV/Digital	Time
Presbyterian at Mercer ^{RV/RV}	Mercer leads 10-5	ESPN+	7 p.m.
VMI at William & Mary ^{16/15}	William & Mary leads 53-33-2	FloSports	7 p.m.
Western Carolina ^{19/20} at N.C. State ^{24/22}	N.C. State leads 7-0	ACC Network	7 p.m.
Wofford at Gardner-Webb	Wofford leads 17-7	ESPN+	7 p.m.
Aug. 31 (Saturday)	Series	TV/Digital	Time
Chattanooga ^{8/9} at Tennessee ^{15/15}	Tennessee leads 37-2-2	SEC Network	12:45 p.m.
ETSU at App State	App State leads 5-0	ESPN+	3:30 p.m.
Samford ^{RV/RV} at West Georgia	Samford leads 1-0	ESPN+	6 p.m.
The Citadel at Charleston Southern	The Citadel leads 7-6	ESPN+	6 p.m.
Furman ^{9/12} at Ole Miss ^{6/6}	Furman leads 1-0	ESPN+	7 p.m.

FCS rankings listed AFCA FCS Coaches' Top 25/Stats Perform FCS Top 25

FBS rankings listed Associated Press Top 25/AFCA FBS Coaches' Top 25

STARTERS RETURNING/LOST

The Southern Conference returns 51.5 percent of its starters from last season, with The Citadel, Chattanooga and Wofford leading the way with 64 percent of its starters back.

Team	Offense	Defense	Specialists	Total	Pct.
The Citadel	9/2	6/5	1/2	16/9	.640
ETSU	5/6	5/6	4/2	14/14	.500
Furman	3/8	3/8	2/1	8/17	.320
Mercer	4/7	6/5	2/1	12/13	.480
Samford	6/5	3/8	2/4	11/17	.392
Chattanooga	8/3	7/4	1/2	16/9	.640
VMI	5/6	6/5	3/3	14/14	.500
Western Carolina	5/6	6/5	3/1	14/12	.538
Wofford	7/4	7/4	2/1	16/9	.640
Total	52/47	49/50	20/17	121/114	.515

NOTES

• The Southern Conference football season opens Thursday with four games. The remaining eight SoCon teams open their seasons next week.

• The 2024 campaign is the 103rd season of SoCon football. Founded in 1921, the SoCon is the fifth-oldest Division I conference.

• Three SoCon squads - Furman, Chattanooga and Western Carolina - are ranked in both the AFCA and Stats Perform polls to begin the season. Each team will face off against a ranked FBS opponent to begin the season.

• Mercer and Samford each received votes in the AFCA and Stats Perform polls.

• VMI looks to build on its strong close to the 2023 season beginning its season with ranked CAA opponent William & Mary.

• Chattanooga was picked to win the SoCon in the preseason poll after going 8-5 overall and 6-2 in the league last season. The Mocs top returners are defensive lineman Marlon Taylor, the preseason SoCon Defensive Player of the Year, quarterback Chase Artopoulos and wide receiver Javin Whatley.

• Three SoCon players are on the preseason watch list for the Walter Payton Award and two are on the watch list for the Buck Buchanan Award. Artopoulos, Whatley and Western Carolina quarterback Cole Gonzales are Payton initial list. Samford linebacker Noah Martin and Mercer linebacker Ken Standley are on the Buchanan watch list. Gonzales was a finalist for the Payton a season ago, finishing 17th in the final vote.

• Mercer and ETSU both have new head coaches to begin the 2024 season. Mike Jacobs begins his career in Macon when the Bears host Presbyterian on Thursday, while Tre Lamb begins his tenure with the Bucs at former SoCon member App State on Saturday.

SoCon Stats



NCAA Stats



SoCon Media Guide



AFCA FCS COACHES' TOP 25

Team (1st-place votes)	W-L	PTS
1. South Dakota St. (25)	15-0	649
2. North Dakota St.	11-4	614
3. Montana	13-2	576
4. Montana St.	8-4	518
5. South Dakota	10-3	512
6. Villanova	10-3	502
7. Idaho	9-4	473
8. Chattanooga	8-5	403
9. Furman	10-3	392
10. Sacramento St.	8-5	382
11. Southern Illinois	8-5	370
12. Richmond	9-4	353
13. Central Arkansas	7-4	339
14. UAlbany	11-4	275
15. UIW	9-2	259
16. William & Mary	6-5	196
17. UC Davis	7-4	164
18. Lafayette	9-3	157
19. Western Carolina	7-4	144
20. Illinois St.	6-5	143
21. Tarleton	8-3	137
22. North Dakota	7-5	131
23. Youngstown St.	8-5	97
24. Nicholls	6-5	91
25. Florida A&M (1)	12-1	71

Others receiving votes: Weber St., 66; North Carolina Central, 53; Eastern Illinois, 50; UT Martin, 38; Austin Peay, 35; Northern Iowa, 33; Harvard, 32; Yale, 31; **Mercer**, 27; Holy Cross, 20; Howard, 20; Alabama St., 17; Northern Arizona, 17; Elon, 16; Alcorn St., 9; Duquesne, 7; North Carolina A&T, 6; Fordham, 5; Gardner-Webb, 4; Indiana St., 3; Missouri St., 3; Butler, 2; Eastern Kentucky, 2; Southeast Missouri St., 2; Eastern Washington, 1; Murray St., 1; **Samford**, 1; Utah Tech, 1.

STATS PERFORM FCS TOP 25

Team (1st-place votes)	W-L	PTS
1. South Dakota State (52)	15-0	1396
2. North Dakota State (3)	11-4	1327
3. Montana	13-2	1285
4. Montana State (1)	8-4	1199
5. South Dakota	10-3	1155
6. Villanova	10-3	1151
7. Idaho	9-4	1021
8. Sacramento State	8-5	874
9. Chattanooga	8-5	868
10. Southern Illinois	8-5	832
11. Central Arkansas	7-4	724
12. Furman	10-3	678
13. Richmond	9-4	625
14. UIW	8-2	605
15. William & Mary	6-5	546
16. UAlbany	11-4	527
17. Lafayette	9-3	359
18. UC Davis	7-4	351
19. Illinois State	6-5	350
20. Western Carolina	7-4	318
21. Tarleton State	8-3	302
22. Weber State	6-5	268
23. Nicholls	6-5	201
24. North Dakota	7-5	197
25. Youngstown State	8-5	177

Others receiving votes: Elon (174), UT Martin (169), Eastern Illinois (139), **Mercer (98)**, Florida A&M (65), North Carolina Central (52), Austin Peay (51), Alabama State (17), Holy Cross (17), Eastern Washington (14), Duquesne (8), Drake (8), **Samford (6)**, Harvard (6), UNI (4)

RECORDS VS. RANKED FCS FOES

Team	'23	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	Total	Pct.
CIT	0-2	0-0	1-1	0-2	1-2	0-3	2-10	.167
ETSU	0-3	0-2	3-1	1-1	0-1	1-2	5-11	.313
FUR	4-0	2-1	2-1	0-1	0-2	1-1	9-6	.600
MER	1-3	0-2	1-1	3-1	0-2	1-2	6-11	.353
SAM	1-2	3-1	0-2	2-2	2-1	2-1	10-9	.526
UTC	2-3	0-2	1-1	2-0	0-3	1-1	6-10	.375
VMI	1-2	0-1	1-1	1-1	0-1	0-1	3-7	.300
WCU	2-1	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-2	2-7	.222
WOF	1-3	0-1	0-4	0-1	1-1	2-1	4-11	.267

INGLES SOCON GAME OF THE WEEK

The Ingles SoCon Game of the Week airs on a regional network of Nexstar stations throughout the SoCon's footprint. All times are Eastern.

Aug. 29	Presbyterian at Mercer	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Campbell at Western Carolina	1 p.m.
Sept. 14	North Greenville at The Citadel	Noon
Sept. 28	Portland State at Chattanooga	7 p.m.
Nov. 16	Furman at ETSU	Noon
Nov. 23	ETSU at VMI	Noon



SOCON POINTS OF PRIDE

• Since it began competing in FCS, **the SoCon has amassed the second-most national championships with eight.** Also boasting another eight national championship runner-up finishes, **the league has 16 title-game appearances, the most among FCS conferences.**

• **The SoCon prides itself on quality and depth.**
 • Eight of the nine current SoCon football members have participated in the FCS Playoffs with seven different schools receiving bids since 2016.
 • Overall, current SoCon football members have combined for 52 total FCS playoffs appearances.

• **The SoCon has had seven Walter Payton Award winners, two Buck Buchanan Award winners and five Eddie Robinson Award winners.**

• **Sixty-six former SoCon players and coaches have been enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame, with App State's Armanti Edwards and Marshall's Randy Moss going into the hall this year.**

• **Two former SoCon players participated in the Super Bowl LVII in February. Kansas City Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon played at Georgia Southern from 2010-13, while Philadelphia Eagles cornerback James Bradberry played at Samford from 2012-15.**

• **The SoCon broadcasts all of its home games on ESPN+ or ESPN3 and has an over-the-air television network that will air six games in five southern states in 2024.**

• **The SoCon has been playing Division I FCS football since the 1982 season.** The NCAA created two subdivisions for Division I football beginning in 1978 with the creation of I-A (now FBS) and I-AA (now FCS). The SoCon was shifted from I-A to I-AA along with the Ivy League and Southland Conference following the 1981 season, joining the Mid-Continent, Big Sky, MEAC, SWAC, OVC, and Yankee conferences, along with a number of independents, as I-AA participants.

• **The 2023 season was the 102nd of Southern Conference football.** The SoCon is the fifth-oldest NCAA Division I college athletic association.

PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Offensive Player of the Year

Cole Gonzales, Jr., QB, Western Carolina

Defensive Player of the Year

Marlon Taylor, Sr., DL, Chattanooga

First team offense

QB Cole Gonzales, Jr., Western Carolina
 RB Hunter Rice, Sr., RB, VMI
 RB Ryan Ingram, Sr., Wofford
 OL Luke Smith, Gr., ETSU
 OL Luke Petit, R-Jr., Furman
 OL Xavier Jennings, Gr., Mercer
 OL Reid Williams, Jr., Chattanooga
 OL Tyriq Poindexter, Sr., VMI
 OL Blake Whitmore, R-Sr., Western Carolina
 TE Jordan Davis, Sr., Wofford
 WR Javin Whatley, Jr., Chattanooga
 WR AJ Colombo, Jr., Western Carolina

First team defense

DL Xavier Stephens, Sr., Furman
 DL Marlon Taylor, Sr., DL, Chattanooga
 DL Dorian Starnes, Sr., VMI
 DL Brandon Maina, Sr., Wofford
 LB Ken Standley, Gr., Mercer
 LB Noah Martin, Sr., Samford
 LB David Powers, Sr., Wofford
 DB Chris Hope, Sr., DB, ETSU
 DB Myles Redding, Sr., Mercer
 DB Jordan Walker, Jr., Chattanooga
 DB Maximus Pulley, Jr., Wofford

First team specialists

PK Ian Williams, R-Sr., Furman
 P Nate Brackett, R-Jr., ETSU
 LS Colby Cross, R-Sr., Western Carolina
 RS Colton Hinton, So., Furman

Second team offense

QB Chase Artopoeus, Sr., QB, Chattanooga
 RB Grant Robinson, R-Jr., Furman
 RB Branson Adams, Jr., Western Carolina
 OL Riley Adcock, Gr., Mercer
 OL Chris Noble, Gr., Samford
 OL Dave Monnot III, Sr., Chattanooga
 OL Derek Simmons, Sr., Western Carolina
 OL Anthony Garcia, Sr., Wofford
 OL Quincy Hughes, Jr., Wofford
 TE Jay Gibson, Sr., Chattanooga
 WR Joshua Harris, Sr., Furman
 WR Sam Phillips, Jr., Chattanooga

Second team defense

DL Brayden Manley, So., Mercer
 DL Jordan Swain, Gr., Mercer
 DL Quay Wiggles, Sr., Chattanooga
 DL Curtis Fann Jr., R-Sr., Western Carolina
 LB Luke Clark, 5th, Furman
 LB Evan DiMaggio, R-Sr., Furman
 LB Eric Rankin, Sr., VMI
 DB Josh Battle, Jr., Sr., Chattanooga
 DB Samaurie Dukes, Jr., Western Carolina
 DB Ed Jones IV, Sr., Western Carolina
 DB CJ Williams, Sr., DB, Western Carolina

Second team specialists

PK Bridger Jones, Jr., Wofford
 P James Platte, Jr., The Citadel
 LS Tommy DiLiegro, So., Wofford
 RS Ivan Thorpe, Jr., WR, VMI

SoCon PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Offensive

Sept. 2
 Sept. 9
 Sept. 16
 Sept. 23
 Sept. 30
 Oct. 7
 Oct. 14
 Oct. 21
 Oct. 28
 Nov. 4
 Nov. 11
 Nov. 18

Defensive

Sept. 2
 Sept. 9
 Sept. 16
 Sept. 23
 Sept. 30
 Oct. 7
 Oct. 14
 Oct. 21
 Oct. 28
 Nov. 4
 Nov. 11
 Nov. 18

Special teams

Sept. 2
 Sept. 9
 Sept. 16
 Sept. 23
 Sept. 30
 Oct. 7
 Oct. 14
 Oct. 21
 Oct. 28
 Nov. 4
 Nov. 11
 Nov. 18

PRESEASON SOUTHERN CONFERENCE POLL

Coaches

Team (1st-place votes)	Total
1. Chattanooga (5)	61
2. Furman (3)	56
3. Western Carolina (1)	49
4. Mercer	45
5. Samford	37
6. ETSU	26
7. VMI	23
8. Wofford	19
9. The Citadel	8

COACHING RECORDS

Coach, School	Career Record	School (Yrs.)	SoCon (Yrs.)
Maurice Drayton, The Citadel	0-11 (2nd)	Same	0-8 (2nd)
Tre Lamb, ETSU	20-20 (5th)	0-0 (1st)	0-0 (1st)
Clay Hendrix, Furman	51-29 (8th)	Same	39-16 (8th)
Mike Jacobs, Mercer	74-17 (9th)	0-0 (1st)	0-0 (1st)
Chris Hatcher, Samford	178-100 (25th)	57-43 (10th)	54-39 (13th)
Rusty Wright, Chattanooga	30-22 (6th)	Same	24-12 (5th)
Danny Rocco, VMI	126-71 (18th)	5-6 (2nd)	4-4 (2nd)
Kerwin Bell, Western Carolina	110-54 (16th)	17-16 (4th)	13-10 (4th)
Shawn Watson, Wofford	16-34 (6th)	5-12 (3rd)	5-9 (3rd)

SoCon vs. OTHER CONFERENCES

FBS opponents (0-0)

Aug. 29	Western Carolina at NC State, 7 p.m.
Aug. 31	Chattanooga at Tennessee, 12:45 p.m.
Aug. 31	ETSU at App State, 3:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Furman at Ole Miss, 7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Samford at Florida, 7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Chattanooga Georgia State, 7 p.m.
Sept. 14	VMI at Georgia Tech, 3:30 p.m.
Nov. 16	Mercer at Alabama, 1 p.m.
Nov. 23	The Citadel at Clemson, TBD
Nov. 23	Wofford at South Carolina, 3 p.m.

FCS opponents (0-0)

Aug. 29	Presbyterian at Mercer, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29	VMI at William & Mary, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29	Wofford at Gardner-Webb, 7 p.m.
Aug. 31	Samford at West Georgia, 6 p.m.
Aug. 31	The Citadel at Charleston So., 6 p.m.
Sept. 7	South Carolina State at The Citadel, Noon
Sept. 7	Bucknell at VMI, 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	Campbell at Western Carolina, 2:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	Mercer at Bethune-Cookman, 3 p.m.
Sept. 7	Wofford at Richmond, 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	Charleston Southern at Furman, 6 p.m.
Sept. 14	Alabama State at Samford, 1 p.m.
Sept. 14	Stetson at Furman, 2 p.m.
Sept. 14	North Dakota State at ETSU, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	Western Carolina at Elon, 6 p.m.
Sept. 14	William & Mary at Wofford, 6 p.m.
Sept. 21	Norfolk State at VMI, 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	Western Carolina at Montana, 3 p.m.
Sept. 21	ETSU at Elon, 6 p.m.
Sept. 21	Furman at William & Mary, 6 p.m.
Sept. 28	Portland State at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
Oct. 12	Princeton at Mercer, 3:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	Tennessee Tech at Samford, 3 p.m.
Nov. 23	Chattanooga at Austin Peay, 1 p.m.

Non-Division I opponents (0-0)

Sept. 7	UVA Wise at ETSU, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	North Greenville at The Citadel, Noon

All times Eastern

HOME FIELD RECORDS

Team	W-L-T	Pct.	Years	Stadium name
The Citadel	240-166-3	.590	74th	Johnson Hagood Stadium
ETSU	25-13-0	.658	7th	William B. Greene, Jr. Stadium
Furman	189-64-1	.746	41st	Paladin Stadium
Mercer	43-20-0	.683	11th	Five Star Stadium
Samford	185-90-4	.671	54th	Seibert Stadium
Chattanooga	76-65-0	.539	25th	Finley Stadium
VMI	113-166-3	.406	61st	Foster Stadium
Western Carolina	138-114-2	.547	48th	E.J. Whitmire Stadium
Wofford	103-48-0	.681	26th	Gibbs Stadium

SHUTOUT CHART

Team	Last shutout win	Games ago	Last shutout loss	Games ago
The Citadel	66-0 – Virginia Lynchburg (2022)	14	34-0 – Georgia Southern (2023)	10
ETSU	42-0 – Carson-Newman (2023)	11	38-0 – Vanderbilt (2019)	43
Furman	52-0 – North Greenville (2022)	27	45-0 – Samford (2014)	108
Mercer	17-0 – The Citadel (2022)	23	41-0 – South Dakota State (2023)	1
Samford	43-0 – Clark Atlanta (2015)	92	33-0 – Georgia (2022)	23
Chattanooga	31-0 – Wofford (2022)	25	31-0 – Illinois (2022)	22
VMI	49-0 – St. Francis (Pa.) (2008)	176	23-0 – Robert Morris (2017)	73
Western Carolina	35-0 – Shorter (2008)	178	76-0 – Oklahoma (2021)	33
Wofford	17-0 – VMI (2016)	80	26-0 – Elon (2022)	22

OVERTIME RECORDS

Current Southern Conference teams are 57-68 (.456) all-time in overtime games.

Team	Record	Pct.
The Citadel	11-11	.500
ETSU	6-4	.600
Furman	5-11	.312
Mercer	3-3	.500
Samford	5-6	.455
Chattanooga	7-15	.318
VMI*	10-5	.667
Western Carolina	3-8	.273
Wofford	7-4	.636
Total	57-68	.456

* includes two losses as a member of the Big South Conference

ALL-TIME RECORDS IN SoCON PLAY

Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
The Citadel	86th	223-324-5	.408
ETSU	34th	93-149-0	.384
Furman	86th	298-225-11	.568
Mercer	11th	40-38-0	.513
Samford	17th	71-54-0	.568
Chattanooga	48th	170-167-2	.504
VMI	90th	200-330-23	.382
Western Carolina	48th	129-215-1	.375
Wofford	28th	120-87-0	.580

SoCon MEDIA RELATIONS DIRECTORS

School	Website	Media relations	Email	Office phone	Press box phone
The Citadel	CitadelSports.com	Jay Sullivan	james.sullivan@citadel.edu	843-953-6795	843-953-9957
ETSU	ETSUBucs.com	Kevin Brown	brownk@etsu.edu	423-439-4220	423-747-3877
Furman	FurmanPaladins.com	Hunter Reid	hunter.reid@furman.edu	864-294-2061	864-294-3066
Mercer	MercerBears.com	Todd Anderson	anderson_t02@mercer.edu	478-301-5500	478-943-4355
Samford	SamfordSports.com	Tyler Brain	tbrain@samford.edu	205-726-4350	205-726-2143
Chattanooga	GoMocs.com	Jim Horten	james-horten@utc.edu	423-425-2350	423-757-9322
VMI	VMIKeydets.com	Phil Marcello	marcellopr@vmi.edu	540-464-7523	540-464-7834
Western Carolina	CatamountSports.com	Daniel Hooker	dhooker@email.wcu.edu	828-227-2339	828-227-2116
Wofford	WoffordTerriers.com	Brent Williamson	williamsondb@wofford.edu	864-597-4093	864-597-4487
SoCon	SoConSports.com	Ralan Wardlaw	rwardlaw@socon.org	864-591-5100	

PASSING

HIGHEST PASS COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

Career (minimum 425 attempts)

74.6 (710-953), Michael Hiers (SAM), 2022-24
 69.1 (1,310-1,896), Devlin Hodges (SAM), 2015-18
 67.3 (743-1,104), Jacob Huesman (UTC), 2012-15
 66.4 (566-853), Thomas Wilson (Elon), 2009-12
 66.0 (307-465), Michael Eubank (SAM), 2014-15
 65.7 (1,168-1,779), Scott Riddle (Elon), 2007-10
 65.1 (768-1,180), Armanti Edwards (APP), 2006-09
65.1 (306-471), Cole Gonzales (WCU), 2022-pr.
 64.9 (560-863), Liam Welch (SAM), 2016-21
 64.7 (311-481), Lee Chapple (GSU), 2008-09

FCS Football Central Preseason All-American Team

First team

Offense

WR - Javin Whatley, Chattanooga

Defense

DL - Marlon Taylor, Chattanooga
 LB - Noah Martin, Samford

Second team

Offense

QB - Cole Gonzales, Western Carolina
 OL - Reid Williams, Chattanooga

Defense

LB - Ken Standley, Mercer
 LB - William McRainey, ETSU

Phil Steele Preseason All-America Teams

First team

Defense

DL - Marlon Taylor, Chattanooga
 LB - Noah Martin, Samford

Second team

Offense

QB - Cole Gonzales, Western Carolina

Third team

Defense

LB - Ken Standley, Mercer

Fourth team

Defense

LB - Isaac Dowling, Mercer

Reese's Senior Bowl

Watch list

DL - Marlon Taylor, Chattanooga
 DB - Reuben Lowery III, Chattanooga

Stats Perform FCS Preseason All-America Teams

First team

Defense

LB - Noah Martin, Samford

Second team

Offense

WR - Javin Whatley, Chattanooga

Defense

DL - Marlon Taylor, Chattanooga
 LB - Ken Standley, Mercer

Third team

Offense

QB - Cole Gonzales, Western Carolina

Defense

LB - Isaac Dowling, Mercer
 LB - Luke Clark, Furman
 LB - William McRainey, ETSU

Stats Perform Walter Payton Award

Watch list

Cole Gonzales, Jr., QB, Western Carolina
 Chase Artopoeus, Sr., QB, Chattanooga
 Javin Whatley, R-Jr., WR, Chattanooga

Stats Perform Buck Buchanan Award

Watch list

Noah Martin, Sr., LB, Samford
 Ken Standley, R-Sr., LB, Mercer