

Ole Miss at Texas A&M? How about Texas Tech at Indiana?



Ross D. Franklin | Associated Press
Mississippi head coach Pete Golding directs his players before the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football playoff semi-final game against Miami on Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

What if the CFP bracket was based on the preseason AP Top 25?

BY ERIC OLSON
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

Ohio State, Oregon, Georgia and Notre Dame would be the top four seeds in the College Football Playoff based on the preseason AP Top 25 poll with Texas, Indiana, Miami and Texas A&M hosting first-round games.

The five highest-ranked conference champions — from the Power Four and one from the Group of Six — will qualify for the CFP. The other seven spots will be filled by the next highest-ranked teams. One of those at-large teams will be Notre Dame if the Irish

are among the top 12 in the CFP's final rankings.

The first poll-based bracket includes five teams from the Southeastern Conference, three from the Big Ten, one from Atlantic Coast Conference, one from the Big 12, one from the Pac-12 and one independent.

Teams seeded Nos. 5-12 by the CFP will play in the first round, with the higher seeds hosting the lower either on campus or at other sites designated by the higher-seeded school.

With the removal of historic tie-ins from the bowl assignment process begin-

ning this season, the CFP Management Committee approved a format in which the top three seeds, in rank order, select their bowl path in the playoff.

First-round games are Dec. 18 and 19, quarterfinals Dec. 30 and Jan. 1, semifinals Jan. 14 and 15 and the championship game is Jan. 25 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

Based on the AP rankings, the CFP would open like this:

- No. 9 seed Mississippi at No. 8 Texas A&M. Winner vs. No. 1 Ohio State.
- No. 12 seed Boise State at No. 5 Texas. Winner vs. No. 4 Notre Dame.
- No. 10 seed Oklahoma at No. 7 seed Miami. Winner vs. No. 2 Oregon.

- No. 11 seed Texas Tech at No. 6 Indiana. Winner vs. No. 3 Georgia.

The first three teams outside the bracket: LSU, Alabama and BYU.

The Tigers are ranked No. 11 by the AP but would get bumped by Texas Tech and Boise State. Texas Tech, at No. 12 in the AP poll, is the highest-ranked Big 12 team. Boise State of the revamped Pac-12 would be the automatically qualifying Group of Six champion. Boise State is not in the AP Top 25 but is the Group of Six team that received the most votes.

The AP will publish brackets based on the weekly Top 25 until the CFP selection committee unveils its initial rankings Nov. 3.

MESS

FROM **PAGE B1**

The 1981 Kansas City Royals (50-53) qualified for the postseason thanks to a split-season format caused by a players' strike during the middle of the summer. In 2020, the Houston Astros and Milwaukee Brewers both squeezed into the playoff bracket with a 29-31 record during the pandemic-shortened season that

had an expanded playoff field of 16 teams.

THE WORKHORSE RETURNS

Miami Marlins ace Sandy Alcantara has had a great bounce-back season with a 13-7 record and 3.43 ERA after struggling last year following Tommy John surgery that caused him to miss the 2024 season.

He's also doing what he does best — pitch deep into games.

The 2022 National League Cy Young winner has already

thrown 170 ²/₃ innings this year, which leads the big leagues by a large margin. If he continues at this pace, he'll throw roughly 220 innings in 2026.

Throwing more than 200 innings has become increasingly rare over the past few decades as teams lean more on their bullpens. Only three pitchers reached the mark last season — Logan Webb, Garrett Crochet and Cristopher Sanchez.

Just 20 years ago in 2006,

there were 45 pitchers who hit 200 innings.

If Alcantara manages to make it to 220 this season, that will be most in the big leagues since — Sandy Alcantara. He threw 228 ²/₃ innings during 2022 when he won the Cy Young.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Joshua Báez became the first player to hit three home runs in his big-league debut, leading the Cardinals to an 8-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday.

Only seven players have hit even two homers in their first regular-season game in the majors since 1900.

Who are they?

TRIVIA ANSWER

Jose Fernandez (D-backs, 2026), Chase DeLauter (Guardians, 2026), Trevor Story (Rockies, 2016), J.P. Arenecibia (Blue Jays, 2010), Mark Quinn (Royals, 1999), Bert Campaneris (Kansas City Athletics, 1964), Bob Nieman (Browns, 1951)

OREGON

FROM **PAGE B1**

Pete Golding's first full season as Mississippi head coach starts with the No. 9 Rebels in the preseason top 10 for the second time in three years and third time since 1970. No. 10 Oklahoma is in the preseason top 10 for the first time since 2022, when it was in the Big 12.

WHAT ABOUT THE HOOSIERS?

Indiana is the seventh returning national champion in 40 years, and second in three years, to be ranked outside the top five in the preseason (Michigan went into the 2024 season ranked No. 9 after winning the national title).

The Hoosiers became the first team in the modern era to go 16-0, and they return lots of talent and signed a top-10 transfer class.

The move from Heisman Trophy winner and No. 1 NFL draft pick Fernando Mendoza to TCU transfer Josh Hoover at quarterback apparently put doubts in the minds of voters.

POLL NUGGETS

- Ohio State will try to become the 12th team to start and finish No. 1 since the AP preseason poll debuted in 1950. The last team to do it was Alabama in 2017.
- Notre Dame has its highest preseason ranking since it was No. 2 in 2006. The Fighting Irish, who have a Heisman candidate in quarterback CJ Carr, bring a 10-game

winning streak into the season and are still smarting from being left out of the playoff.

- Lane Kiffin's first LSU team is No. 11 after finishing 7-6 and unranked under Brian Kelly and Frank Wilson.
- Ten of the 12 CFP teams last season are ranked. The two that aren't are James Madison and Tulane from the Group of Six.
- No. 23 Houston has its first preseason ranking in four years and third since 1991.

TRIVIA

FROM **PAGE B1**

- b. Nebraska
- c. Notre Dame
- d. Oklahoma

6. Which team was the last to be ranked No. 1 from start to finish during a season?

- a. BYU, 1984
- b. Florida State, 1999
- c. Nebraska, 1995
- d. USC, 2004

7. Which school holds the all-time record for consecutive appearances

(348) in the poll?

- a. Alabama
- b. Florida State
- c. Nebraska
- d. Penn State

8. Which coach led six teams to a No. 1 ranking in the final poll?

- a. Tom Osborne
- b. Joe Paterno
- c. Nick Saban
- d. Bud Wilkinson

9. Which team opened a season No. 1 and finished that season unranked?

- a. Florida State, 2017
- b. Penn State, 1997
- c. USC, 2012
- d. Texas A&M, 2022

10. Which of these schools has never appeared in the AP poll?

- a. Akron
- b. Central Michigan
- c. UTEP
- d. Temple

ANSWERS

- 1. a
- 2. b
- 3. b
- 4. c
- 5. d
- 6. d
- 7. c
- 8. c
- 9. c
- 10. a

APOLLO

FROM **PAGE B1**

Apollo will again host the annual Summer Slam event on August 28 and August 29 at various sites in OBKY.

The Varsity Division will be played at Apollo, KWC, Brescia, and the Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club: Mike Horn Unit. The JV division will be held at Burns and College View Middle Schools.

"We've got a total of 40 teams participating this year, which is the largest it's ever been," Howard said. "It will be a great event that will showcase some of the best talent from the surrounding area competing in it."

Apollo opens at home against Greenwood on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Owensboro Catholic (21-16) reached the regional semifinals in Brian Hardison's final year as head coach. Eric Hagan was named the new Catholic head coach in the offseason.

Catholic had seven seniors graduate from last year's team. Emma Castlen is a senior on the roster who had 183 kills and 131 blocks last season, and she was ace leader from last season. Emmy Roberts is a junior who had 107 kills and 56 blocks last season. Payton Arnold is a senior who had 266 digs last season.

Sadie Blair is a freshman and Quinn Best is a sophomore who have stood out in practices.

"Everybody is working hard in practice," Hagan said. "They're motivat-

ed when they come into practice. In the Bluegrass Games we did really well, we finished 5-2. That was our first official competition, and really good competition. I feel good, we had a good practice today."

Owensboro Catholic hosts Daviess County to open the season Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Daviess County went 18-12 for coach Tyla Bailey last season. Haylee Clark is a senior on the roster who had 218 kills for DC last season. Maddie Chinn is a senior who had 118 blocks last season. Maya Pollard is a senior who had 117 kills last season. Reese Whiteside is a junior who had 149 kills last year. Jenna Lawson is a senior who had 221 assists.

Owensboro finished 10-17 for coach Mitchell Johnson last season. Ayrish Barksdale is a junior on the roster who had 313 kills last season. Anna Travis is a senior who had 572 assists. Carsyn Cecil is a senior who had 230 kills last year. June Larsen is a junior who had 478 digs last season.

Whitesville Trinity went 10-21 for coach Adam Huff last year.

Trinity will replace five graduated seniors who put up most of the big numbers last season. Lilly Goetz is a junior on the roster who had 122 kills last season. Ella Morris is a junior who had 264 digs last year.

Trinity opens at Ohio County on Tuesday.

Breckinridge County had one of the best records in the region at 28-8 a year ago and fell to Apollo in the regional semifinals.



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT

SECOND READING NOTICE:
The Daviess County Fiscal Court at their meeting to be held on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Daviess County Courthouse, Room 201, 212 St. Ann Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, will have summary second reading of the following ordinance & consider same for passage:

10-2026 KOC 921.693 (2026) – An Ordinance Amending KOC 921.685 (2025) 02-2025 and KOC 921.689 (2026) 01-2026 Section Four

Copies of the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection in the County Judge/Executive's Office, Courthouse, Room 202, 212 St. Ann Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. & on-line at www.daviessky.org.

The Daviess County Fiscal Court certifies that the summary above is true, correct & written in a way calculated to inform the public of their content.

Daviess County Fiscal Court
By: Brooke Hagan
Fiscal Court Clerk

PREPARED BY:
John Burlew
Daviess County Attorney



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Daviess County Fiscal Court gave first reading of Ordinance KOC A.111(2026); 09-2026 on August 13, 2026. The second reading and adoption will be held August 27, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the regular meeting at the Daviess County Courthouse, 212 St. Ann Street; Owensboro, KY. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the County Judge/Executives' Office Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT
ORDINANCE NO. KOC A.111(2026)09-2026**

AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Adoption of the 2026 Daviess County Tax Rates:

WHEREAS, the property assessment has been certified and permissible ad valorem tax revenue for 2026 established for Daviess County in accordance with KRS 68.245 through 68.249,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF THE COUNTY OF DAVIESS, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY:

Section I:	That the following tax rates be and are hereby considered for the calendar year 2026.																																										
	<table><tr><th></th><th>Rate</th><th>Revenue</th></tr><tr><td>Real Property</td><td>12.20</td><td>\$10,885,272</td></tr><tr><td>Tangible Personal Property</td><td>12.92</td><td>\$ 922,441</td></tr><tr><td>Public Service Companies (Real Estate)</td><td>12.20</td><td>\$ 244,525</td></tr><tr><td>Public Service Companies (Tangible)</td><td>12.92</td><td>\$ 456,595</td></tr><tr><td>Distilled Spirits</td><td>12.92</td><td>\$ 166,267</td></tr><tr><td>Motor Vehicles (County Clerk)</td><td>17.00</td><td>\$ 1,791,065</td></tr><tr><td>Watercraft (County Clerk)</td><td>17.00</td><td>\$ 39,183</td></tr><tr><td>Agricultural Products (Tobacco in Storage)</td><td>01.50</td><td>\$ 5,687</td></tr><tr><td>Other Agricultural Products</td><td>04.50</td><td>\$ 4,371</td></tr><tr><td>Aircraft (Recreational & Non-Commercial)</td><td>12.92</td><td>\$ 11,430</td></tr><tr><td>Large Non-Commercial Documented Watercraft</td><td>12.92</td><td>\$ 80</td></tr><tr><td>Inventory in Transit</td><td>NR</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Bank Deposit Tax</td><td>02.50</td><td></td></tr></table>		Rate	Revenue	Real Property	12.20	\$10,885,272	Tangible Personal Property	12.92	\$ 922,441	Public Service Companies (Real Estate)	12.20	\$ 244,525	Public Service Companies (Tangible)	12.92	\$ 456,595	Distilled Spirits	12.92	\$ 166,267	Motor Vehicles (County Clerk)	17.00	\$ 1,791,065	Watercraft (County Clerk)	17.00	\$ 39,183	Agricultural Products (Tobacco in Storage)	01.50	\$ 5,687	Other Agricultural Products	04.50	\$ 4,371	Aircraft (Recreational & Non-Commercial)	12.92	\$ 11,430	Large Non-Commercial Documented Watercraft	12.92	\$ 80	Inventory in Transit	NR		Bank Deposit Tax	02.50	
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Note: Rates are expressed as cents per \$100 of value.

Section II: This ordinance shall be published by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

Section III: This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon passage and publication.

Introduced and publicly read on first reading on the 13th day of August, 2026.

Publicly read and adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2026.



LEGAL NOTICE

DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

After having summary second reading at its meeting on August 13, 2026, the Daviess County Fiscal Court adopted:

08-2026 KOC A.110.01 (2026) - An Ordinance amending the Daviess County Fiscal Court budget for fiscal year 2026/2027, to include:

Increase/ (Decrease) the following revenue accounts to include unbudgeted receipts from:		
01-4510-000-00	State Grants	\$1,000,000.00

Increase/ (Decrease) expenditure accounts:

01-9500-902-00	Payments to Government Agencies	\$1,000,000.00
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Adopted by the Daviess County Fiscal Court on August 13, 2026. Copies of the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection in the County Judge/Executive's Office, Courthouse, Room 202, 212 St. Ann Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. & on-line at www.daviessky.org.

The Daviess County Fiscal Court certifies that the summary above is true and correct and written in a way calculated to inform the public of their content.

Daviess County Fiscal Court
By: Brooke Hagan
Fiscal Court Clerk

PREPARED BY:
John Burlew
Daviess County Attorney



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DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT

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11-2026 KOC A.110.02 (2026) - An Ordinance amending the Daviess County Fiscal Court budget for fiscal year 2026/2027, to include:

Increase/ (Decrease) the following revenue accounts to include unbudgeted receipts from:		
01-4510-000-00	State Grants	\$622,000.00
02-4506-000-00	State Reimbursement/ Refund	\$316,000.00

Increase/ (Decrease) expenditure accounts:

01-8099-741-36	Public Safety Facility Project	\$622,000.00
02-6105-405-04	Road Improvements – State Reimbursement	\$316,000.00

Copies of the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection in the County Judge/Executive's Office, Courthouse, Room 202, 212 St. Ann Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. & on-line at www.daviessky.org.

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