

2023 College Football Bowl Game Binge • SECOND SEASON Football Game

Here's everything you need to create your own personal college football bowl season with SECOND SEASON Football Game! The 2023 College Football Bowl Binge is designed to integrate with our vision to create a unique "blue sky" fictional college sports universe. The College Hoops PLAAAY-Down card set for HIGHLIGHT MAKER HOOPS is the first installment in that franchise, and a half dozen of the football bowl game schools are drawn from the schools included in the hoops set. We're working on a comprehensive conference arrangement that will include between 150 and 200 fictional colleges and universities!

Many thanks to PLAAAY Gamer Judah Williams who helped immensely with this project during his visit to Denver in early November. We outlined the projected records, national rankings and ratings scheme for each of our sixteen bowl teams and then created rosters and individual player ratings. Similar to our college hoops collection, there are no "bad teams" in this set: you don't get invited to a bowl game after a bad season. We've come up with a proposed schedule of games, patterned after the classic college football bowl game structure of the better teams being invited to the bigger bowl games. We went back to our 2020 online convention for the bowl game names and sponsors. Our suggested line-up of games is ranked in descending order of importance. Of course, you're free to play games in any order, or even switch up the opponents to get different match-ups.

Lit Energy Drink Nitro Bowl Los Angeles, CA • #1 Old Alabama Maroon (11-0) vs. #4 Michigan Union Knights (10-1)

The biggest bowl game of the series, with national championship implications. Both squads feature top-ranked defenses and explosive play-makers on offense. Alabama's award-winning QB Bo Van Dyne will have his work cut out for him facing Michigan CBs David Harris and Peyton Irish, especially if edge rusher Herc Hutchinson can get in the Maroon backfield to apply pressure. The Knights will have a similar struggle against an array of talented Alabama defenders, sparked by DE Matt Arroyo, LBs Jaden Campbell and Jack Lee. This game could be won in the trenches--advantage, Old Alabama.

Hub Lite Punch Bowl,) New Orleans, LA • #2 Georgia Northern Roosters (10-1) vs. #8 Nebraska A&M Aggies (9-3)

A compelling match-up featuring the powerful Nebraska ground game led by award-winning RB Marcus Merlette hoping to control the clock and keep the high-powered Georgia Northern passing attack off the field. Both teams have solid defenses, with Georgia Northern especially well-stocked to stop the run, but it'll be important for both defenses to keep the other team from sustaining drives. The Roosters tandem of QB Carson Vaughns and record-breaking pass-catcher Stevan Jones, Jr. combined for over 20 touchdowns in 2022.

Sack Way Foods Mega Bowl, Chicago, IL • #5 California-Pacific Leatherbacks (9-2) vs. #6 Iowa A&I Barnstormers (8-2)

A dominant winner in this game could possibly shake up the national championship picture. Cal-Pac's run-first offense is led by QB Lamar Lutwin, and the Leatherbacks' defense is anchored by all-American CB Jake Mathis, Jr. The Barnstormers will try to find ways to get shifty RB Montreal Etienne into space, while the likes of DE Coy Grubbs and CB Trazon Jayne slow the Cal-Pac attack. Both teams feature tight ends as their prime pass-catching targets, Kingsley Rex (Iowa A&I) and Ryan Brockermeier (Cal-Pac).

Lone Star Financial Astro Bowl, Houston, TX • #4 Texas Houston GulfHawks (9-2) vs. #15 Arizona Desert University Xolos (8-4)

The hometown favorite GulfHawks are particularly tough to run against, which will most likely force Xolos QB Kyler Hockett to the air. Conversely, ADU's defense has shown some vulnerability so it'll be up to Texas Houston's offense, led by QB Hunter McCracken, to take advantage. The GulfHawk offensive line, anchored by OT A'Varius Chisholm, is one of the best in the nation and stacks up favorably against the Arizona Desert front seven.

Altitude Bowl, presented by Eversport Outdoor, Denver, CO • #7 Mississippi Tech Tricksters (9-3) vs. #12 West Kansas Trail Bosses (9-3)

Mississippi Tech is led by multi-dimensional QB Jalen Firkser, a true "trickster" if there ever was one. Firkser has been known to take over a game, especially in a spotlight situation. The Trail Boss defense, led by CB Mason Ray and LB Tyson Pope, will try to limit Firkser's damage. West Kansas relies on senior QB Luke Hoskins to make its attack go, but Hoskins will be facing one of the best secondaries in college football, Mississippi Tech's Julian Daly, Abe McCarty, Desmond Cox and Marquez Jennings.

Onyx Bowl, presented by A to Z Auto Parts, San Diego, CA • #10 Carolina University (8-3) vs. #11 Oregon Union (8-4)

Another match-up featuring teams with contrasting offensive approaches. Carolina QB Spencer Howse leads a run-oriented offense that piled up nearly 3000 rushing yards, while OU QB Chris Rhome led the nation in passing yards and touchdowns. The Blue Heelers will need to get pressure on Rhome, or create turnovers; if they do, Howse has the horsepower to deliver a bowl game win. Defensively, the Heelers are top-rated with LBs Adyn Diabate and Colin Rucker among America's best.

Signal Health Care Valor Bowl, Atlanta, GA • #9 Old Minnesota (8-3) vs. #13 National Naval Institute (8-4)

A match-up of marquee running backs that should produce plenty of big plays. Minnesota RB Nahjee Abraham led the nation in rushing yardage and will be looking to churn out big chunks of yardage against a Naval Institute defense that has had some trouble stopping high-profile running attacks. The Aquanauts will counter with a high-percentage offense designed to get speedy RB Khian'Dre Kamara in open space with perimeter runs and passes. The squads are similar on special teams and defense--this one will be all about the offensive backfield. Emotion will be running high for the sailors, as this is Naval Institute's first bowl game appearance in over 20 years.

Snooze-Inn presents the Daffodil Bowl, Boston, MA • #14 Maryland Union (8-3) vs. #16 Roynell University (7-4)

This could be one of the higher-scoring bowl games of the season, both squads feature capable passing attacks facing only-better-than-average defenses. Roynell's Bryce Eschenbach will look to connect deep with WR Keleki Vatikani, and will get help setting up the pass from RB Lamont Spiller. QB Danny Munson directs the Redbird attack and has a similar deep threat in WR Armand Conroy. Defensively, Maryland's DE Boogsie Cates will try to get the heat on Munson, while the Rams defense is spearheaded by MLB Nick Plummer. If it comes down to the kicking game, Maryland gets the nod, although PK Steve Ericsson missed a couple of chip shot field goals during the season.

National Championship Game • Rubicon Wireless Platinum Bowl, Charlotte, NC • Teams TBA

We've scheduled the final "national championship" game open to whomever you'd like to feature. In our view, it would likely feature the winners of the Nitro and Punch bowls, with a possible dark horse entrant from the Mega Bowl.