

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

WEEK 3

PREDICTIONS 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

Premium Preview



CONTENTS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

1		Cover	1
2		Contents	2
3		ACC Headliners + SEC Showcase	3
4		Big Ten Power Picks I	4
5		Big Ten Power Picks II	5
6		Big Ten Power Picks III	6
7		Featured Matchups	7
8		Big 12 Spotlight I	8
9		Big 12 Spotlight II	9
10		SEC Feature Picks	10
11		Saturday Slate Continuation I	11
12		Saturday Slate Continuation II	12
13		Saturday Slate Continuation III	13
14		Saturday Slate Continuation IV	14
15		Saturday Slate Continuation V	15
16		Saturday Slate Continuation VI	16
17		Saturday Slate Continuation VII	17
18		Saturday Slate Continuation VIII	18
19		Saturday Slate Continuation IX	19
20		Disclaimer	20

Pages 11–19 continue the remaining Saturday matchups.

ACC HEADLINERS + SEC SHOWCASE

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

TRADITION DRIVES TOMORROW

MORE
THAN
A GAME

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
LIVES HERE

GREATNESS
BUILDS
HERE

Miami at Wake Forest

Pick: Miami

Projected Score: Miami 34 - 20 Wake Forest

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Miami has the stronger playmakers and more explosive upside.

North Carolina at Clemson

Pick: Clemson

Projected Score: Clemson 31 - 20 North Carolina

Confidence: High

Why: Clemson's home edge and defensive pressure give them control.

Maine at Boston College

Pick: Boston College

Projected Score: Boston College 38 - 10 Maine

Confidence: High

Why: Boston College should dominate the trenches and tempo.

Florida State at Alabama

Pick: Alabama

Projected Score: Alabama 27 - 23 Florida State

Confidence: Medium

Why: Alabama's balance and home environment create a narrow edge.

BIG TEN POWER PICKS I

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026



Kent State at Ohio State

Pick: Ohio State

Projected Score: Ohio State 45 - 10 Kent State

Confidence: High

Why: Ohio State should overwhelm with talent, pace, and field position.

Buffalo at Penn State

Pick: Penn State

Projected Score: Penn State 41 - 13 Buffalo

Confidence: High

Why: Penn State's defense and rushing attack should set the tone.

Akron at Minnesota

Pick: Minnesota

Projected Score: Minnesota 31 - 14 Akron

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Minnesota has the stronger trenches and steadier offensive balance.

UTEP at Michigan

Pick: Michigan

Projected Score: Michigan 42 - 10 UTEP

Confidence: High

Why: Michigan's depth and physicality should control all four quarters.

BIG TEN POWER PICKS II

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

TOUGHER
TEAMS
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

*Same
Rivalry Spirit.
A Bigger Stage.*

USC at Rutgers

Pick: USC

Projected Score: USC 30 - 24 Rutgers

Confidence: Medium

Why: USC's explosiveness gives them the edge in a close road test.

Northern Iowa at Iowa

Pick: Iowa

Projected Score: Iowa 31 - 10 Northern Iowa

Confidence: High

Why: Iowa's defense and field-position game should wear them down.

Western Kentucky at Indiana

Pick: Indiana

Projected Score: Indiana 34 - 21 Western Kentucky

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Indiana should dictate the game with superior efficiency and home energy.

North Dakota at Nebraska

Pick: Nebraska

Projected Score: Nebraska 38 - 13 North Dakota

Confidence: High

Why: Nebraska's speed and size advantage should take over early.

BIG TEN POWER PICKS III

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

TRADITION
RIVALS
BIGGER
TOMORROW

MORE
THAN
A GAME

GREAT
PLAYERS
BIGGER
FUTURES

Eastern Washington at Washington

Pick: Washington

Projected Score: Washington 45 - 14 Eastern Washington

Confidence: High

Why: Washington's firepower should create separation quickly.

Michigan State at Notre Dame

Pick: Notre Dame

Projected Score: Notre Dame 31 - 20 Michigan State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Notre Dame should win the line-of-scrimmage battle and finish stronger.

Virginia Tech at Maryland

Pick: Maryland

Projected Score: Maryland 27 - 23 Virginia Tech

Confidence: Medium

Why: Maryland's home edge and offensive balance give them a slight advantage.

Colorado at Northwestern

Pick: Colorado

Projected Score: Colorado 28 - 24 Northwestern

Confidence: Medium

Why: Colorado's playmakers can tilt a tight matchup late.

FEATURED MATCHUPS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

RIVALRIES
FUEL
GREATNESS



Purdue at UCLA

Pick: Purdue

Projected Score: Purdue 27 - 23 UCLA

Confidence: Medium

Why: Purdue can exploit UCLA's transition phase and protect the ball.

Arizona State vs. Kansas

Pick: Arizona State

Projected Score: Arizona State 30 - 27 Kansas

Confidence: Medium

Why: Arizona State's tempo and athleticism can swing a close neutral-site game.

Bowling Green at Iowa State

Pick: Iowa State

Projected Score: Iowa State 35 - 17 Bowling Green

Confidence: High

Why: Iowa State should own the trenches and control possession.

Tulane at Kansas State

Pick: Kansas State

Projected Score: Kansas State 31 - 17 Tulane

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Kansas State's physicality and home control create a clear edge.

BIG 12 SPOTLIGHT I

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

CONFERENCE
RIVALRIES
FUEL BRIGHTER
SATURDAYS

BIGGER
PLAYS
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



Miami (Ohio) at Cincinnati

Pick: Cincinnati

Projected Score: Cincinnati 30 - 20 Miami (Ohio)

Confidence: Medium

Why: Cincinnati's roster depth and home crowd should make the difference.

Utah State at Utah

Pick: Utah

Projected Score: Utah 33 - 16 Utah State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Utah's physical front should control the tempo.

Louisiana Tech at Baylor

Pick: Baylor

Projected Score: Baylor 38 - 17 Louisiana Tech

Confidence: High

Why: Baylor's offensive balance should steadily open the gap.

Georgia State at UCF

Pick: UCF

Projected Score: UCF 36 - 20 Georgia State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: UCF's speed and home rhythm give them a strong edge.

BIG 12 SPOTLIGHT II

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Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
LIVES HERE

MORE
THAN
A GAME

Murray State at Oklahoma State

Pick: Oklahoma State

Projected Score: Oklahoma State 45 - 13 Murray State

Confidence: High

Why: Oklahoma State should have too much pace, depth, and field position.

Arkansas State at TCU

Pick: TCU

Projected Score: TCU 34 - 17 Arkansas State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: TCU's speed and offensive ceiling should create separation.

Northern Illinois at Arizona

Pick: Arizona

Projected Score: Arizona 31 - 20 Northern Illinois

Confidence: Medium

Why: Arizona's home setting and skill talent should carry them through.

Kentucky at Texas A&M

Pick: Texas A&M

Projected Score: Texas A&M 24 - 20 Kentucky

Confidence: Medium

Why: Texas A&M's balance and home environment provide a narrow edge.

SEC FEATURE PICKS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

BIGGER
RIVALRIES
BRIGHTER
SATURDAYS

THE
SOUTHEAST
LIVES
FOOTBALL



Georgia at Arkansas

Pick: Georgia

Projected Score: Georgia 31 - 17 Arkansas

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Georgia's defensive depth and efficiency should take over by the second half.

LSU at Ole Miss

Pick: Ole Miss

Projected Score: Ole Miss 34 - 31 LSU

Confidence: Medium

Why: Ole Miss can turn explosive possessions into the difference at home.

Troy at Missouri

Pick: Missouri

Projected Score: Missouri 35 - 13 Troy

Confidence: High

Why: Missouri should control the trenches and dictate the pace.

NC State at Vanderbilt

Pick: NC State

Projected Score: NC State 27 - 24 Vanderbilt

Confidence: Medium

Why: NC State's experience and late-game composure could be the separator.

ACC & ATLANTIC SPOTLIGHT

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

TRADITION
BUILDS
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
LIVES
HERE



Stanford at Duke

Pick: Duke

Projected Score: Duke 31 - 20 Stanford

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Duke's home-field edge and more balanced offense should create separation.

Ball State at Liberty

Pick: Liberty

Projected Score: Liberty 34 - 17 Ball State

Confidence: High

Why: Liberty should control the line of scrimmage and create more explosive plays.

Mississippi State at South Carolina

Pick: South Carolina

Projected Score: South Carolina 30 - 24
Mississippi State

Confidence: Medium

Why: South Carolina's home environment and late-game defense can decide a close SEC matchup.

Florida at Auburn

Pick: Florida

Projected Score: Florida 27 - 24 Auburn

Confidence: Medium

Why: Florida's offensive ceiling gives the Gators a slight edge in a physical SEC game.

SUN BELT & COASTAL MATCHUPS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

DIFFERENT
CONFERENCES
SAME PASSION
BIGGER
SATURDAYS

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
BELONGS
EVERYWHERE



SE Louisiana at UL Monroe

Pick: UL Monroe

Projected Score: UL Monroe 31 - 20 SE Louisiana

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: UL Monroe's size and home-field rhythm should be enough to control key drives.

East Carolina at Old Dominion

Pick: Old Dominion

Projected Score: Old Dominion 27 - 24 East Carolina

Confidence: Medium

Why: Old Dominion gets the slight edge in a matchup that could stay tight into the fourth quarter.

Florida International at Florida Atlantic

Pick: Florida Atlantic

Projected Score: Florida Atlantic 31 - 24
Florida International

Confidence: Medium

Why: FAU's offensive balance and home setting give the Owls a narrow advantage.

Charlotte at App State

Pick: App State

Projected Score: App State 35 - 21 Charlotte

Confidence: High

Why: App State's rushing attack and home-field intensity should dictate the pace.

SOUTHERN & REGIONAL SHOWDOWNS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026



Marshall at Missouri State

Pick: Marshall

Projected Score: Marshall 28 - 24 Missouri State

Confidence: Medium

Why: Marshall's experience and defensive front should matter most in a close road test.

UConn at Southern Miss

Pick: Southern Miss

Projected Score: Southern Miss 27 - 20 UConn

Confidence: Medium

Why: Southern Miss can use home energy and a steadier run game to grind this out.

Georgia Southern at Jacksonville State

Pick: Jacksonville State

Projected Score: Jacksonville State 30 - 27
Georgia Southern

Confidence: Medium

Why: Jacksonville State's physicality and home edge make the difference late.

UAB at Louisiana

Pick: Louisiana

Projected Score: Louisiana 31 - 23 UAB

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Louisiana's speed and offensive rhythm should create separation in the second half.

AMERICAN & REGIONAL BATTLES

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026



UT Martin at Memphis

Pick: Memphis

Projected Score: Memphis 42 - 14 UT Martin

Confidence: High

Why: Memphis has too much pace, depth, and talent for the full four quarters.

Delaware State at South Florida

Pick: South Florida

Projected Score: South Florida 41 - 13
Delaware State

Confidence: High

Why: USF's speed and athleticism should overwhelm early.

East Texas A&M at Tulsa

Pick: Tulsa

Projected Score: Tulsa 38 - 17 East Texas A&M

Confidence: High

Why: Tulsa's passing game and roster depth should control the night.

Ohio at South Alabama

Pick: South Alabama

Projected Score: South Alabama 30 - 23 Ohio

Confidence: Medium

Why: South Alabama's home edge and special teams should tilt a balanced matchup.

MIDWEST & WESTERN VALUE PICKS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

DIFFERENT
REGIONS
SAME
PASSION

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
BRINGS US
FURTHER



Nevada at Middle Tennessee

Pick: Middle Tennessee

Projected Score: Middle Tennessee 28 - 21 Nevada

Confidence: Medium

Why: MTSU's home setting and steadier passing attack give them the edge.

Western Michigan at Rice

Pick: Rice

Projected Score: Rice 27 - 24 Western Michigan

Confidence: Medium

Why: Rice's discipline and defensive consistency should be enough in a tight game.

Nicholls at Sam Houston

Pick: Sam Houston

Projected Score: Sam Houston 34 - 16 Nicholls

Confidence: High

Why: Sam Houston's overall talent and depth should take over quickly.

South Dakota at Boise State

Pick: Boise State

Projected Score: Boise State 38 - 14 South Dakota

Confidence: High

Why: Boise State's home environment and explosive offense should set the tone.

LATE WINDOW SHOWCASE I

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

MORE
GAMES
BIGGER
STORIES

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
NEVER
STOPS



New Mexico at Oklahoma

Pick: Oklahoma

Projected Score: Oklahoma 44 - 13 New Mexico

Confidence: High

Why: Oklahoma's speed and offensive firepower should create an early runaway.

BYU at Colorado State

Pick: BYU

Projected Score: BYU 31 - 20 Colorado State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: BYU's physical front and greater balance should travel well.

West Virginia at Virginia

Pick: Virginia

Projected Score: Virginia 26 - 23 West Virginia

Confidence: Medium

Why: Virginia's defense and cleaner offensive execution provide the edge in a close game.

Kennesaw State at Tennessee

Pick: Tennessee

Projected Score: Tennessee 45 - 10 Kennesaw State

Confidence: High

Why: Tennessee's tempo and depth should overwhelm from the opening quarter.

LATE WINDOW SHOWCASE II

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

MORE
THAN
A GAME

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
BRINGS US
TOGETHER



UTSA at Texas

Pick: Texas

Projected Score: Texas 38 - 20 UTSA

Confidence: High

Why: Texas owns the talent advantage and should control both lines.

Wyoming at North Texas

Pick: North Texas

Projected Score: North Texas 30 - 24 Wyoming

Confidence: Medium

Why: North Texas can push tempo and make more explosive plays at home.

San Diego State at Washington State

Pick: Washington State

Projected Score: Washington State 29 - 20
San Diego State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Washington State's passing attack should stretch the field.

Air Force at New Mexico State

Pick: Air Force

Projected Score: Air Force 27 - 17 New Mexico State

Confidence: Medium

Why: Air Force's rushing identity and ball control should dictate possession.

WESTERN & PRIME-TIME PICKS

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

DIFFERENT
TIME ZONES
SAME
PASSION

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
BRINGS US
TOGETHER



Sacramento State at Fresno State

Pick: Fresno State

Projected Score: Fresno State 37 - 16
Sacramento State

Confidence: High

Why: Fresno State's superior speed and roster depth should show.

Idaho State at UNLV

Pick: UNLV

Projected Score: UNLV 40 - 14 Idaho State

Confidence: High

Why: UNLV's tempo and athleticism should break the game open early.

Portland State at Oregon State

Pick: Oregon State

Projected Score: Oregon State 41 - 13
Portland State

Confidence: High

Why: Oregon State's line play and efficiency should control every quarter.

New Hampshire at UMass

Pick: UMass

Projected Score: UMass 28 - 17
New Hampshire

Confidence: Medium

Why: UMass has the better balance and should make the key plays at home.

CLOSING SATURDAY SLATE

College Football Week 3 Predictions 2026

Saturday Games • September 19, 2026

DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS
SAME
PASSION

COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
BRINGS US
TOGETHER



Navy at Temple

Pick: Navy

Projected Score: Navy 31 - 20 Temple

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Navy's discipline and ground game should control the flow.

Army at Wake Forest

Pick: Wake Forest

Projected Score: Wake Forest 27 - 21 Army

Confidence: Medium

Why: Wake Forest's offensive balance gives the Demon Deacons a narrow late edge.

San Jose State at California

Pick: California

Projected Score: California 30 - 17 San Jose State

Confidence: Medium-High

Why: Cal's defense and stronger skill talent should set the tone at home.

Boston College at Clemson

Pick: Clemson

Projected Score: Clemson 34 - 17 Boston College

Confidence: High

Why: Clemson's depth, speed, and home-field energy should take over by halftime.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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