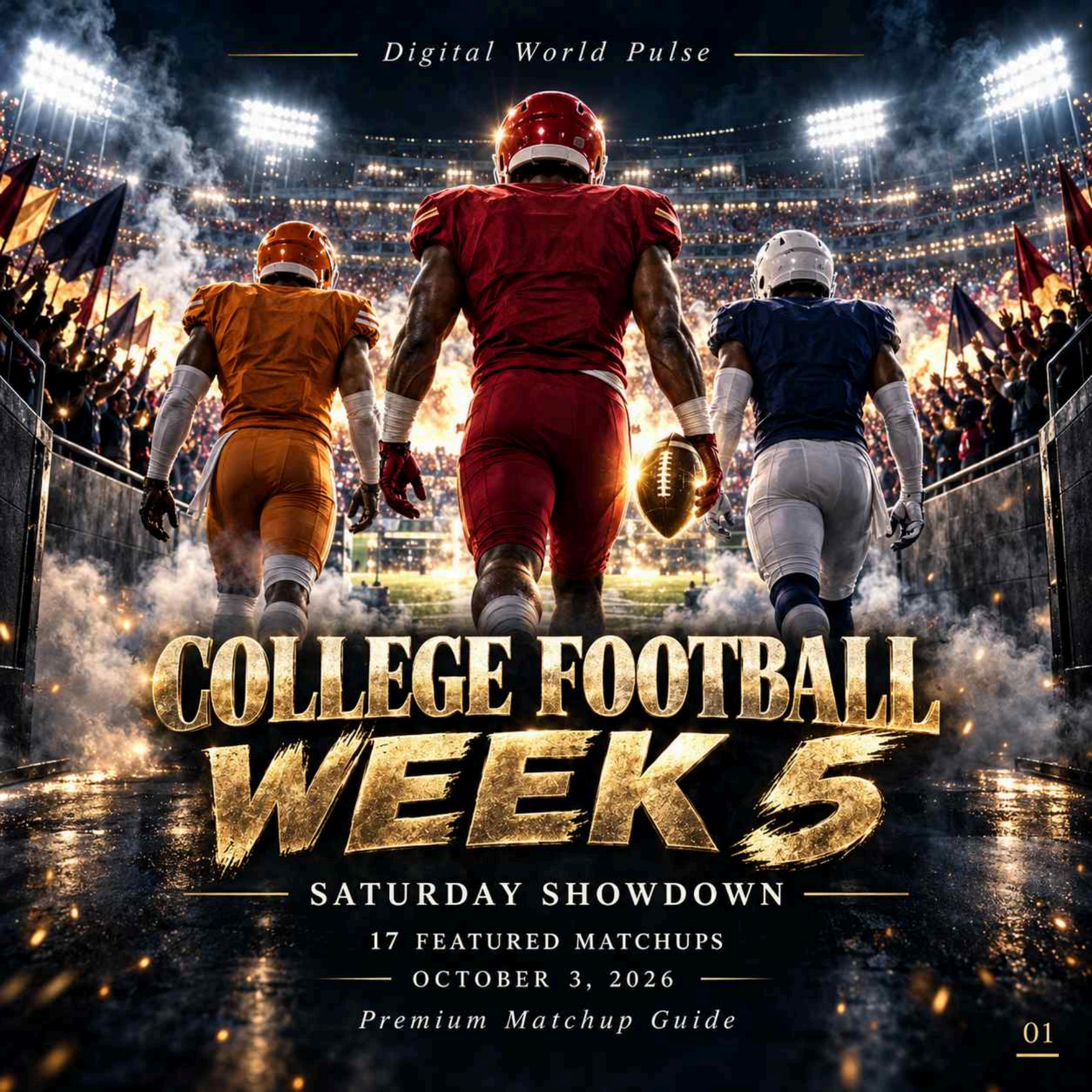


COLLEGE FOOTBALL WEEK 5

SATURDAY SHOWDOWN

17 FEATURED MATCHUPS

OCTOBER 3, 2026

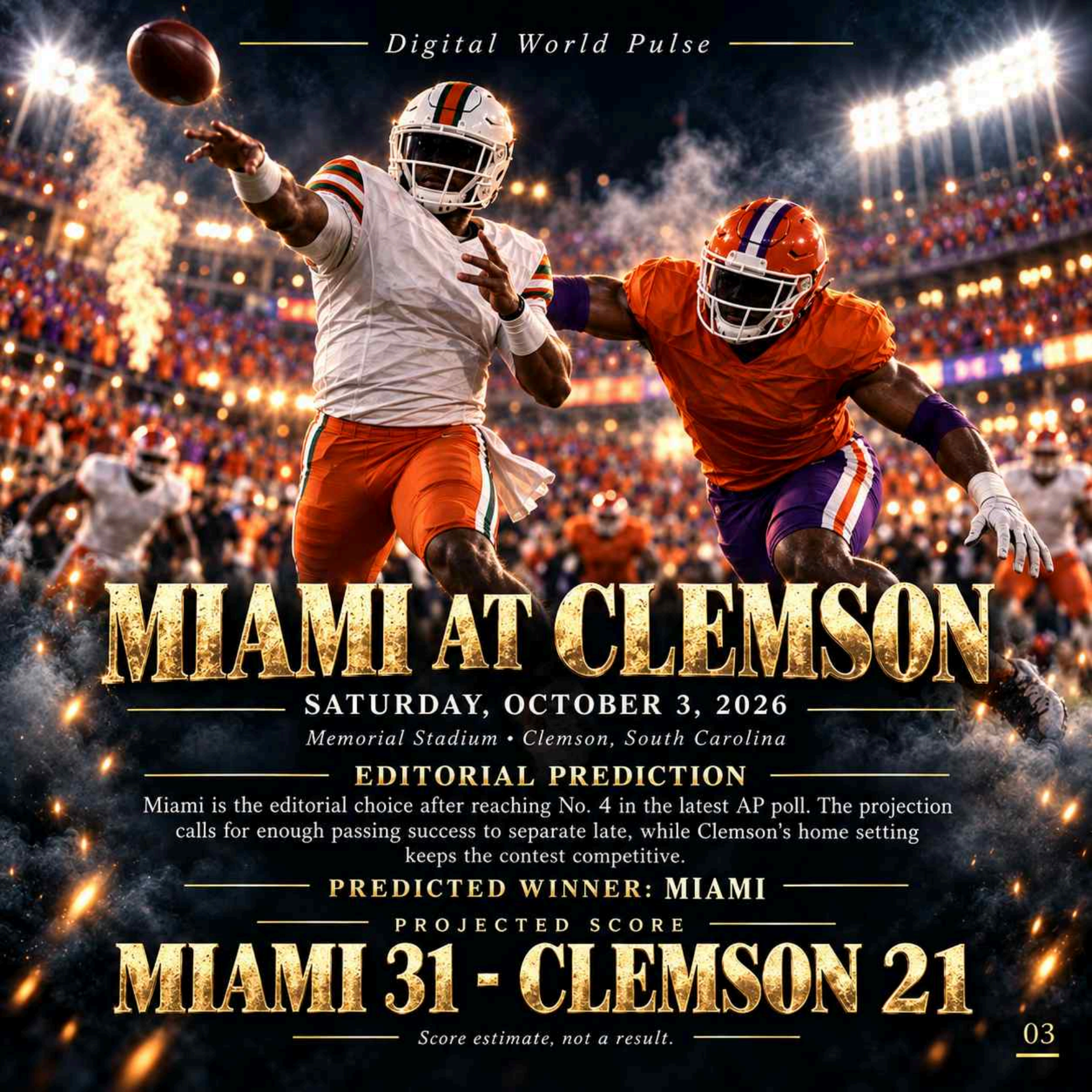
Premium Matchup Guide

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MIAMI AT CLEMSON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Memorial Stadium • Clemson, South Carolina

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Miami is the editorial choice after reaching No. 4 in the latest AP poll. The projection calls for enough passing success to separate late, while Clemson's home setting keeps the contest competitive.

PREDICTED WINNER: MIAMI

PROJECTED SCORE

MIAMI 31 - CLEMSON 21

Score estimate, not a result.



OHIO STATE AT IOWA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Kinnick Stadium • Iowa City, Iowa

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Ohio State gets a narrow projected win, but Iowa's rise to No. 14 after beating Michigan makes this a demanding road assignment. The deciding stretch could come through field position and third-down execution.

PREDICTED WINNER: OHIO STATE

PROJECTED SCORE

OHIO STATE 27 - IOWA 20

Score estimate, not a result.



FLORIDA AT MISSOURI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Memorial Stadium • Columbia, Missouri

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

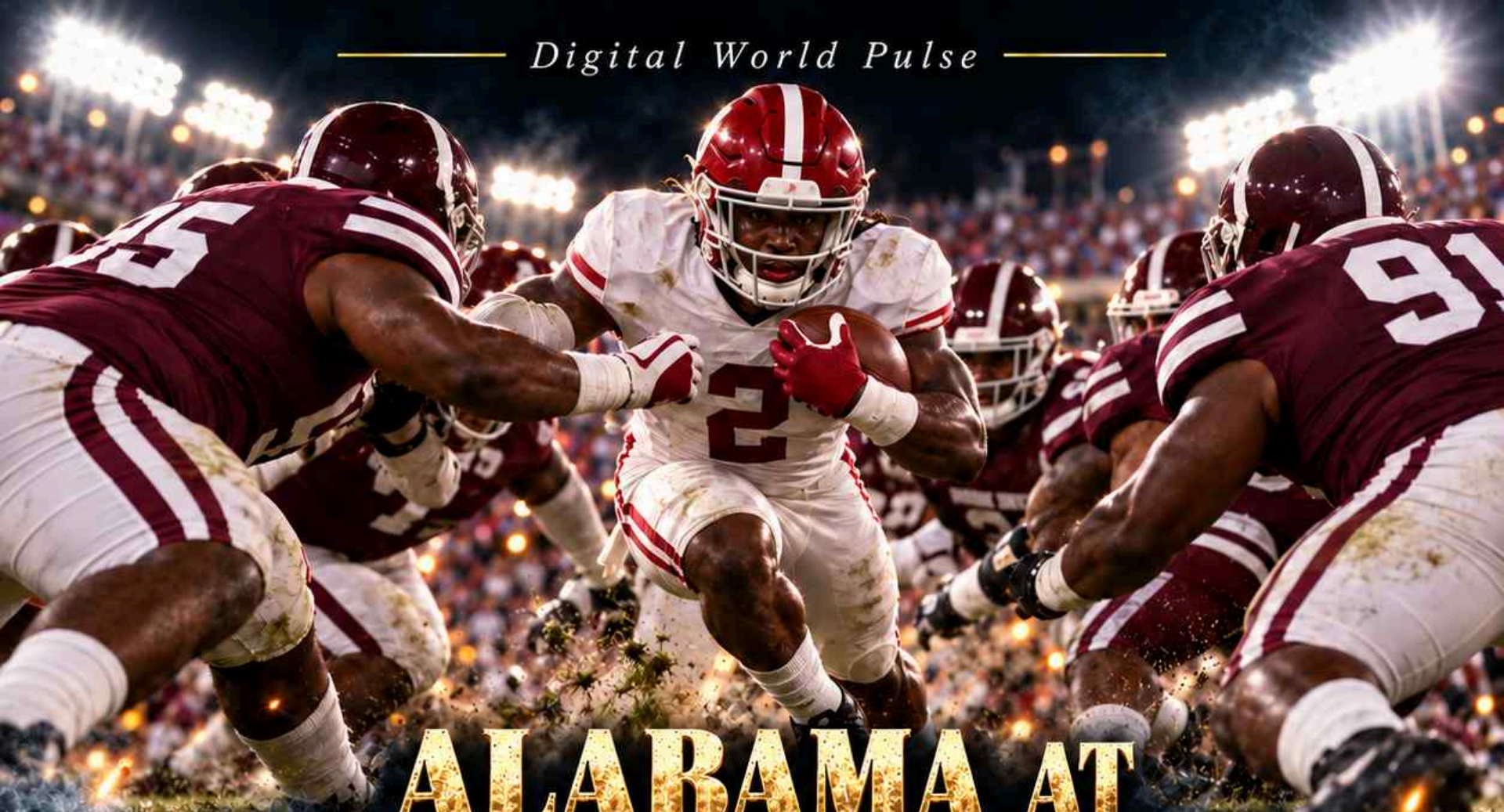
Florida's victory over Ole Miss and climb to No. 8 support the editorial choice here. Missouri's home advantage keeps the projected margin to one score; clean red-zone possessions are the key condition.

PREDICTED WINNER: FLORIDA

PROJECTED SCORE

FLORIDA 31 - MISSOURI 24

Score estimate, not a result.



ALABAMA AT MISSISSIPPI STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Davis Wade Stadium • Starkville, Mississippi

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Alabama is the projected winner in a meeting of ranked SEC teams. Mississippi State's No. 16 position argues against expecting an easy road game. The forecast depends on Alabama protecting possessions and finishing drives.

PREDICTED WINNER: ALABAMA

PROJECTED SCORE

ALABAMA 34 - MISSISSIPPI STATE 27

Score estimate, not a result.



WASHINGTON AT USC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum • Los Angeles, California

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

USC receives the home-field edge in this editorial projection. Its No. 18 AP position provides context, but Washington can challenge if its passing game sustains drives. The projection expects one decisive late possession.

PREDICTED WINNER: USC

PROJECTED SCORE

WASHINGTON 28 - USC 34

Score estimate, not a result.



TEXAS TECH AT COLORADO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Folsom Field • Boulder, Colorado

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Texas Tech's current Top 25 position supports the road selection. The score projection assumes the visitors protect their quarterback and convert extended drives. Colorado's best response is to disrupt that rhythm before halftime.

PREDICTED WINNER: TEXAS TECH

PROJECTED SCORE

TEXAS TECH 38 - COLORADO 24

Score estimate, not a result.



BYU AT TCU

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Amon G. Carter Stadium • Fort Worth, Texas

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

BYU is the narrow editorial choice in Fort Worth. Its Top 10 position provides the starting point, while TCU's home setting liimits the projected gap. A late defensive stop could be the difference.

PREDICTED WINNER: BYU

PROJECTED SCORE

BYU 31 - TCU 27

Score estimate, not a result.



MICHIGAN AT MINNESOTA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Huntington Bank Stadium • Minneapolis, Minnesota

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

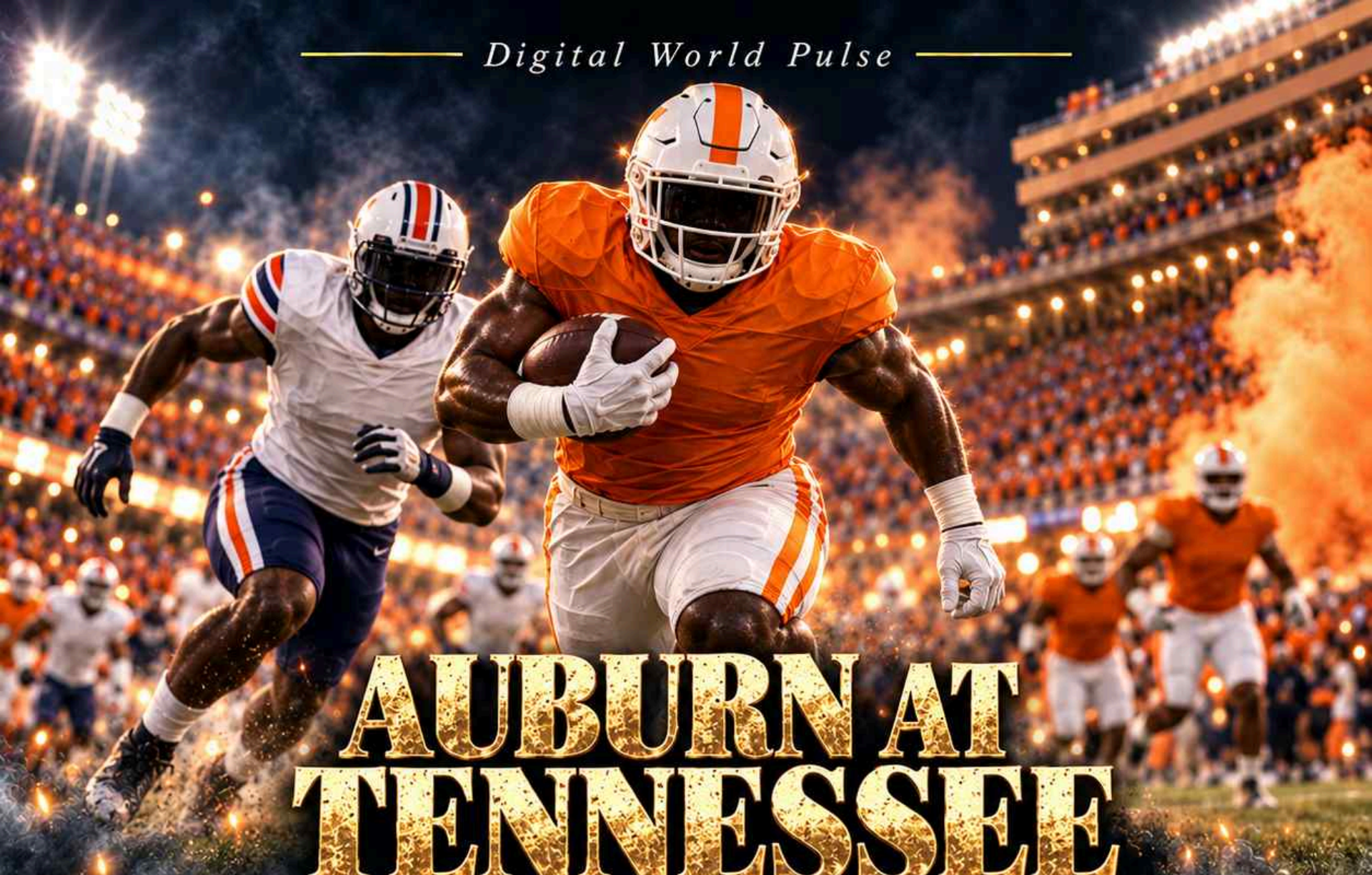
Michigan gets a cautious road selection after losing to Iowa. The projection expects a close, lower-scoring game, with Minnesota able to challenge throughout. Rushing efficiency and avoiding long passing downs are central.

PREDICTED WINNER: MICHIGAN

PROJECTED SCORE

MICHIGAN 24 - MINNESOTA 20

Score estimate, not a result.



AUBURN AT TENNESSEE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Neyland Stadium • Knoxville, Tennessee

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

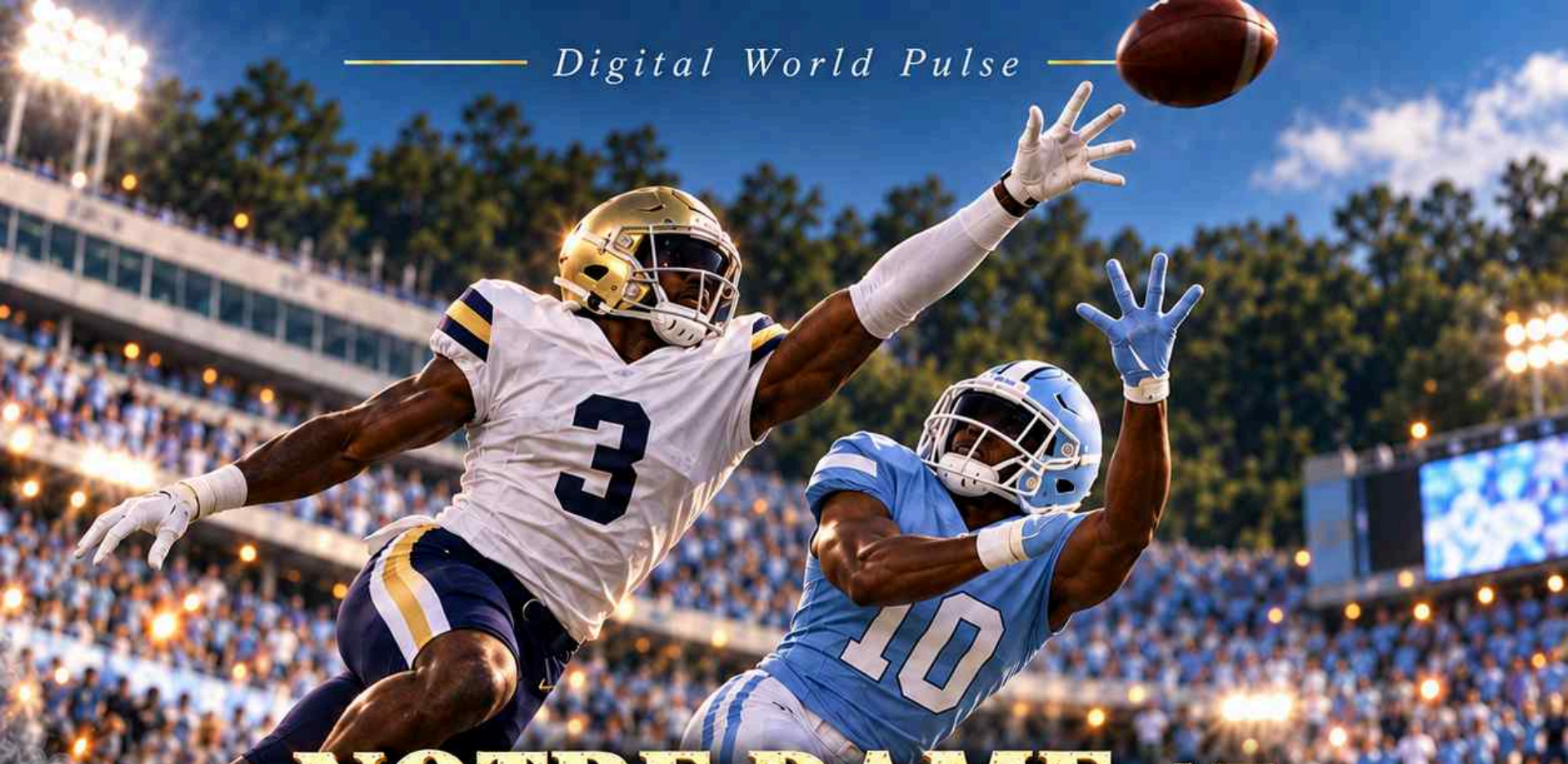
Tennessee is the editorial choice at home. Its No. 17 AP position supports a cautious edge, while Auburn can make this close by sustaining possessions. The projection assumes Tennessee converts its best scoring opportunities.

PREDICTED WINNER: TENNESSEE

PROJECTED SCORE

AUBURN 24 - TENNESSEE 34

Score estimate, not a result.



NOTRE DAME AT NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Kenan Stadium • Chapel Hill, North Carolina

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Notre Dame's No. 3 standing supports the strongest separation in this group of projections. North Carolina needs to protect the ball and finish early chances; otherwise, repeated short possessions could widen the gap.

PREDICTED WINNER: NOTRE DAME

PROJECTED SCORE

NOTRE DAME 38 - NORTH CAROLINA 17

Score estimate, not a result.



ARKANSAS AT TEXAS A&M

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Kyle Field • College Statiion, Texas

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Texas A&M gets a cautious home selection, despite falling out of the AP Top 25. This forecast relies on improved execution rather than a rankings advantage. Arkansas stays within reach if it avoids short fields.

PREDICTED WINNER: TEXAS A&M

PROJECTED SCORE

ARKANSAS 24 - TEXAS A&M 31

Score estimate, not a result.



LOUISVILLE AT NC STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Carter-Finley Stadium • Raleigh, North Carolina

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Louisville is a narrow editorial selection in Raleigh, despite dropping out of the latest AP poll. The projection assumes a response on offense, while NC State's home setting keeps the outcome in doubt late.

PREDICTED WINNER: LOUISVILLE

PROJECTED SCORE

LOUISVILLE 28 - NC STATE 24

Score estimate, not a result.



KENTUCKY AT SOUTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Williams-Brice Stadium • Columbia, South Carolina

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Kentucky's entry into the AP Top 25 after consecutive wins supports a narrow road selection. South Carolina's home atmosphere keeps this close. The projected difference is one late scoring opportunity rather than sustained control.

PREDICTED WINNER: KENTUCKY

PROJECTED SCORE

KENTUCKY 27 - SOUTH CAROLINA 24

Score estimate, not a result.



INDIANA AT RUTGERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

SHI Stadium • Piscataway, New Jersey

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Indiana's No. 6 AP position supports the visiting-team selection. The projection calls for a more comfortable finish if Indiana sustains drives and limits turnovers. Rutgers needs early stops to prevent the game from opening up.

PREDICTED WINNER: INDIANA

PROJECTED SCORE

INDIANA 38 - RUTGERS 20

Score estimate, not a result.



BAYLOR AT ARIZONA STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Mountain America Stadium • Tempe, Arizona

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Arizona State gets a modest home-field edge in this editorial forecast. This is a low-conviction selection between unranked teams, with the projected finish remaining close. Late-down execution could overturn the call in either direction.

PREDICTED WINNER: ARIZONA STATE

PROJECTED SCORE

BAYLOR 27 - ARIZONA STATE 31

Score estimate, not a result.



NAVY AT AIR FORCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Falcon Stadium • USAFA, Colorado

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Navy is a narrow editorial selection in the service-academy meeting. The forecast is deliberately conservative¦: field position, assignment discipline and ball security could outweigh any early momentum. Air Force's home setting keeps the margin small.

PREDICTED WINNER: NAVY

PROJECTED SCORE

NAVY 24 - AIR FORCE 20

Score estimate, not a result.



UCF AT HOUSTON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

TDECU Stadium • Houston, Texas

EDITORIAL PREDICTION

Houston's No. 20 AP position supports the home selection. The projection expects sustained offense to create separation. UCF can challenge that view by limiting gains after contact and extending its own possessions.

PREDICTED WINNER: HOUSTON

PROJECTED SCORE

UCF 24 - HOUSTON 34

Score estimate, not a result.

DISCLAIMER

For information and entertainment only.

This independent guide covers 17 selected matchups scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2026. Selection order is editorial, not an official ranking.

Predicted winners and projected scores are editorial estimates, not results or guarantees. They reflect a qualitative reading of current rankings, recent form and venue context, not a calibrated statistical model.

Information checked September 28, 2026. Rankings refer to the September 27 AP poll. Dates follow the U.S. schedule. Fixtures and venues may change.

Sources: CFBTrack weekly schedule; LSU Athletics, Sept. 27 Football National Rankings; official host-school schedules.
cfbtrack.com/schedule/2026/week-5
lsusports.net

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