



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL WEEK 8 PREDICTIONS 2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

All 17 matchups involving AP Top 25 teams

AP poll: October 18 | Research snapshot: October 19, 2026

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Every matchup with an AP Top 25 team; away team listed first.



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PITT AT MIAMI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 1 MIAMI

12:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 19:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Miami is 6-0 after a 43-35 double-overtime win over Florida State. Pitt arrives with a changed quarterback picture after losing Mason Heintschel for the season. Watch whether the Panthers can stay out of obvious passing downs and avoid giving Miami short fields. The editorial lean is the Hurricanes at home; a disciplined Pitt running game and fewer self-inflicted errors are the main route to a tighter contest.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Miami

PROJECTED SCORE:

PITT 17 - MIA 35

Editorial forecast, not a result.



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CALIFORNIA AT SMU

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 23 SMU

12:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 19:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

SMU beat Virginia 23-13 and now has another home opportunity to build steady conference form. Watch California's protection on third down and whether the Mustangs turn productive possessions into touchdowns rather than settling for field goals. The editorial pick is SMU, with home advantage reinforcing that lean. California can challenge it by keeping the game on a long field and preventing easy scoring opportunities after mistakes.

EDITORIAL PICK:

SMU

PROJECTED SCORE:

CAL 17 - SMU 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

INDIANA AT MICHIGAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 6 INDIANA

12:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 19:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Indiana's 19-15 loss to Ohio State showed how thin the margin can be when scoring opportunities go unfinished. A road response in Ann Arbor requires cleaner execution after the offense crosses midfield. Watch protection communication, red-zone decisions and the final quarterback availability reports for Michigan. The editorial lean is Indiana, while a patient Michigan ground game and a low-turnover afternoon are the clearest counterargument.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Indiana

PROJECTED SCORE:

IND 27 - MICH 20

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

LSU AT AUBURN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 18 LSU

12:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 19:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Auburn returns home after a 27-24 win at Georgia, decided by Alex McPherson's last-play field goal. The next test is sustaining that execution rather than relying on another dramatic finish. Watch how LSU handles pressure without giving away the run-pass balance. The editorial lean is Auburn in a close game; LSU can overturn it by extending possessions and making the Tigers repeatedly defend in space.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Auburn

PROJECTED SCORE:

LSU 24 - AUB 27

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

RUTGERS AT NORTHWESTERN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 24 NORTHWESTERN

12:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 19:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Northwestern won 24-21 at Michigan State on a late field goal and now returns to Ryan Field. Watch whether the Wildcats can create a more controlled game instead of needing another final-possession escape. Rutgers has a route if its offense avoids long-yardage situations and keeps the crowd out of the game. The editorial lean is Northwestern by a narrow home margin, with ball security central to that view.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Northwestern

PROJECTED SCORE:

RUTG 20 - NW 24

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

TEXAS TECH AT CINCINNATI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 8 TEXAS TECH

12:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 19:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Texas Tech beat Arizona State 53-25, with J'Koby Williams rushing for 165 yards. The road question is whether that balance travels when the early possessions are less comfortable. Watch Cincinnati's tackling after the first contact and whether Tech can keep its passing options open on schedule. The editorial lean is Texas Tech; Cincinnati needs fewer short fields conceded and enough sustained offense to prevent a quick scoring separation.

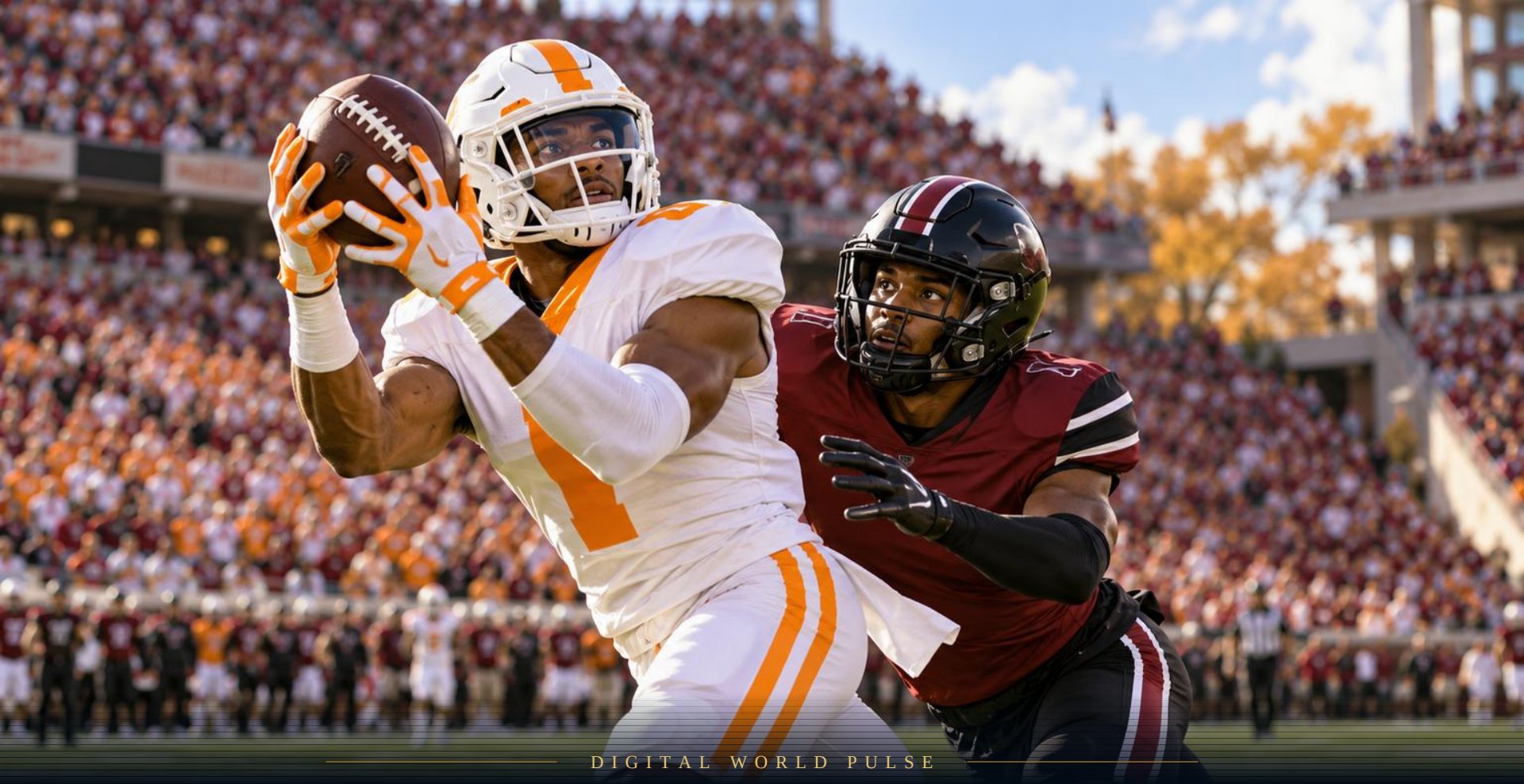
EDITORIAL PICK:

Texas Tech

PROJECTED SCORE:

TTU 38 - CIN 24

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

TENNESSEE AT SOUTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 11 TENNESSEE

15:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 22:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Tennessee comes off a 26-10 win over Alabama, but taking that performance on the road is a separate test. Watch the Volunteers' response if South Carolina extends drives and slows the game early. The editorial lean is Tennessee if it can reproduce disciplined defensive possessions without chasing every big play. South Carolina's route is to protect the ball, maintain favorable field position and turn a close fourth quarter into a home opportunity.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Tennessee

PROJECTED SCORE:

TENN 27 - SC 20

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

TEXAS A&M AT ALABAMA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 13 ALABAMA

15:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 22:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Alabama must respond after losing 26-10 at Tennessee. The first watch point is whether its offense can stay on schedule and avoid repeatedly asking the passing game to rescue a possession. Texas A&M can make that difficult by winning early downs and forcing a patient game. The editorial lean is Alabama at home, while final receiver availability and the quality of protection remain meaningful checks before kickoff.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Alabama

PROJECTED SCORE:

TAMU 24 - ALA 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MICHIGAN STATE AT UCLA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 9 UCLA

15:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 22:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

UCLA stayed unbeaten with a 17-7 win over Wisconsin, while Michigan State lost 24-21 to Northwestern. Watch the Bruins' quarterback availability and the quality of their early-down passing decisions after a change under center last week. The editorial lean is UCLA at home if its defense again keeps the contest controlled. Michigan State can challenge that view with long possessions and a cleaner finish to scoring drives.

EDITORIAL PICK:

UCLA

PROJECTED SCORE:

MSU 17 - UCLA 27

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

IOWA AT MINNESOTA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 15 IOWA

15:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 22:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Iowa returns after a bye, with its last outing a 41-24 win at Washington on October 9. The extra preparation helps frame the pick, but a rivalry road game still demands clean field-position work. Watch special teams, protection and decisions near midfield. The editorial lean is Iowa in a controlled contest; Minnesota can reverse it by limiting explosive plays and making every scoring opportunity count.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Iowa

PROJECTED SCORE:

IOWA 24 - MINN 17

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

BYU AT UCF

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 2 BYU
15:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 24 OCT 22:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

BYU follows a 28-24 win over Notre Dame with a cross-country road test at UCF. Bear Bachmeier scored as a passer, runner and receiver in that victory, but the next task is consistent execution away from Provo. Watch UCF's handling of extended plays and BYU's decisions after early success. The editorial lean is BYU; UCF can tighten the game by controlling possession and preventing quick scoring answers.

EDITORIAL PICK:

BYU

PROJECTED SCORE:

BYU 31 - UCF 23

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

BOISE STATE AT WASHINGTON STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 21 BOISE STATE

18:00 ET | BUCHAREST: 25 OCT 01:00 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Boise State has extra preparation time after a 38-31 win at Fresno State on October 10. Watch whether the Broncos can start cleanly in Pullman and avoid a game built around exchanged explosive plays. The editorial lean is Boise State in a competitive road contest. Washington State can change the picture by keeping its offense on schedule and forcing the visitors to build long drives without short-field help.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Boise State

PROJECTED SCORE:

BSU 30 - WSU 24

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

VANDERBILT AT KENTUCKY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 12 KENTUCKY

19:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 25 OCT 02:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Kentucky won 21-13 at Oklahoma with four interceptions and five sacks. Repeating that pressure matters more than assuming another turnover-heavy afternoon. Watch Vanderbilt's protection adjustments and Kentucky's ability to turn useful field position into touchdowns. The editorial lean is Kentucky at home, with its recent defensive execution the clearest reason. Vanderbilt can challenge the forecast by protecting possession and making the Wildcats sustain their scoring drives.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Kentucky

PROJECTED SCORE:

VAN 21 - UK 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

USC AT WISCONSIN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 16 USC

19:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 25 OCT 02:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

USC returns after a bye following its 31-23 win at Penn State on October 10. Wisconsin is coming off a 17-7 loss at UCLA and needs more reliable scoring possessions. Watch whether the Trojans can settle into a balanced road rhythm before the home crowd influences passing downs. The editorial lean is USC; Wisconsin's route is a patient ground game, strong field position and fewer obvious pressure situations.

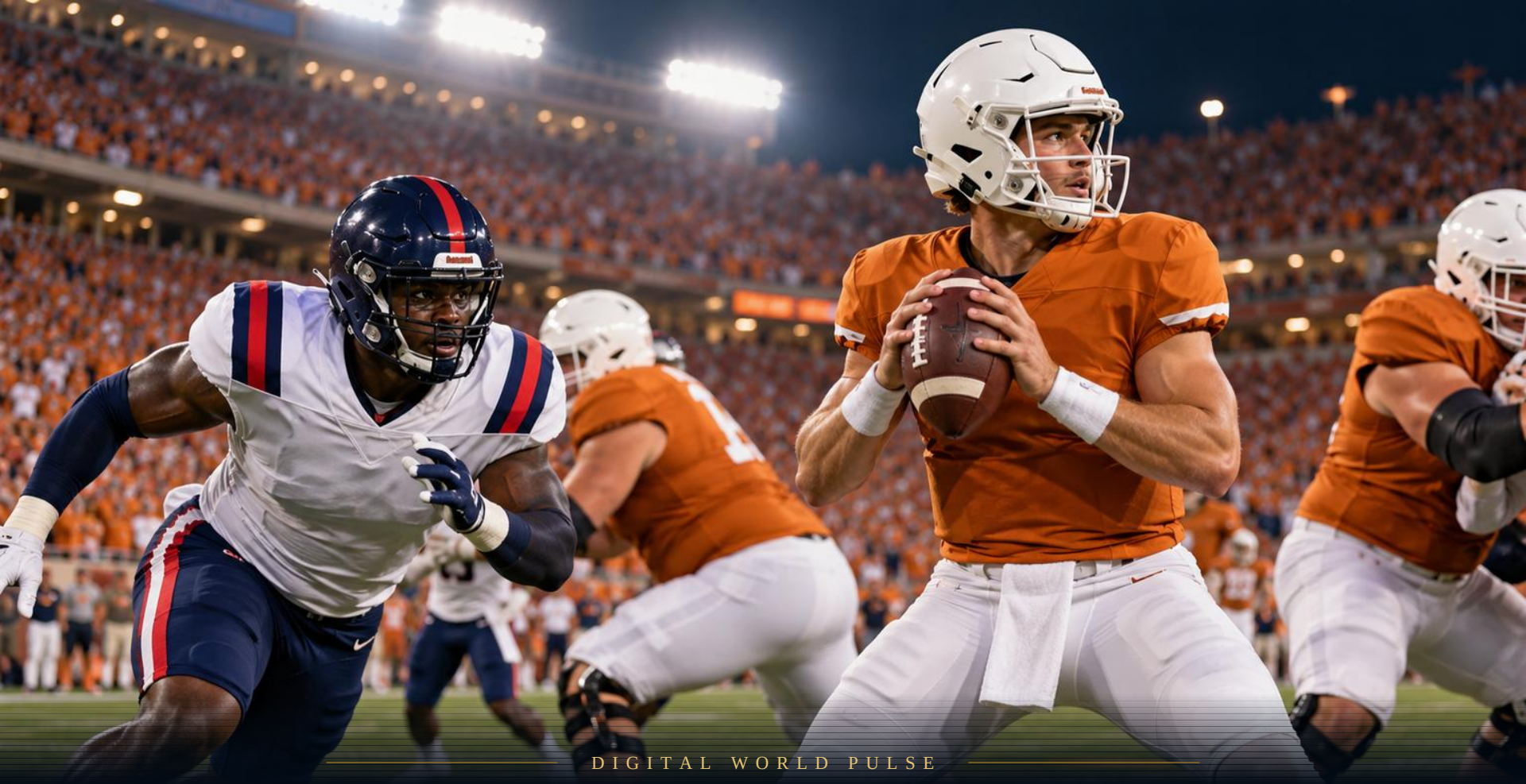
EDITORIAL PICK:

USC

PROJECTED SCORE:

USC 31 - WIS 20

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

OLE MISS AT TEXAS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 7 OLE MISS / NO. 19 TEXAS

19:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 25 OCT 02:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Texas fell 27-24 to Florida and now faces a ranked Ole Miss team in another demanding conference game. Watch Texas' early-down passing decisions and whether its protection gives the offense time to find a rhythm. The editorial lean is Ole Miss in a close road win. Texas' home setting is a real counterargument, especially if the Longhorns can sustain drives and make the visitors defend without short-field assistance.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Ole Miss

PROJECTED SCORE:

MISS 31 - TEX 27

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

IOWA STATE AT ARIZONA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 25 ARIZONA

19:30 ET | BUCHAREST: 25 OCT 02:30 EEST

WHAT TO WATCH

Arizona's 52-31 win at West Virginia earlier this month offers a useful offensive reference for its next home test. Watch whether Iowa State can limit the first explosive play and keep Arizona working through complete possessions. The editorial lean is Arizona at home, but a game with fewer giveaways would make that view more persuasive. Iowa State can challenge it by controlling possession and avoiding a chase from behind.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Arizona

PROJECTED SCORE:

ISU 24 - ARIZ 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

HOUSTON AT UTAH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | AP: NO. 14 HOUSTON / NO. 10 UTAH

22:15 ET | BUCHAREST: 25 OCT 04:15 EET

WHAT TO WATCH

Houston beat Oklahoma State 35-32 with five Conner Weigman touchdown passes. Utah stayed unbeaten with a 27-24 win at Colorado. Watch third-down protection and which defense can make the opposing quarterback hold the ball longer. The editorial lean is Utah at home in the week's late ranked showdown. Houston's passing production is the central counterargument, especially if the Cougars turn early opportunities into touchdowns rather than stalled drives.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Utah

PROJECTED SCORE:

HOU 27 - UTAH 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



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SOURCES & EDITORIAL NOTE

REFERENCE LINKS

- [1] CBS Sports - Week 8 FBS schedule and listed start times
- [2] AP News - October 18 poll report
- [3] Miami - Florida State recap and Pittsburgh briefing
- [4] SMU - October 17 win against Virginia
- [5] Indiana - October 17 recap against Ohio State
- [6] Auburn - October 17 win at Georgia
- [7] Northwestern - October 17 win at Michigan State
- [8] Texas Tech - October 17 win against Arizona State
- [9] Tennessee - October 17 win against Alabama
- [10] UCLA - October 17 win against Wisconsin
- [11] Iowa - official schedule and Washington result
- [12] BYU - October 17 win against Notre Dame
- [13] Boise State - official schedule and Fresno State result
- [14] Kentucky - October 17 win at Oklahoma
- [15] USC - official schedule and Penn State result
- [16] Texas - October 17 recap against Florida
- [17] Arizona - official schedule and West Virginia result
- [18] Utah - October 17 win at Colorado
- [19] Houston - October 17 win against Oklahoma State

All reference titles and source numbers in this guide are clickable.

SCOPE & EDITORIAL NOTE

This guide covers all 17 Week 8 games involving AP Top 25 teams, selected from a 56-game FBS slate. Rankings: October 18 AP poll; research: October 19, 2026. Picks and projected scores are editorial opinions, not results or guarantees. Listed start times are broadcast windows; confirm final kickoff and player availability. AI images are conceptual illustrations, not actual game photographs. Independent Digital World Pulse guide; not affiliated with the NCAA, conferences or schools. For information and entertainment.

Bucharest switches to EET on October 25: 02:30 is EEST; Utah's 04:15 is EET.