



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL WEEK 9 PREDICTIONS 2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026

All 18 matchups involving AP Top 25 teams

AP poll: October 25 | Research snapshot: October 26, 2026

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18 games | SMU and Wisconsin share page 5 | All picks are editorial forecasts.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

ARIZONA AT TEXAS TECH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 22 ARIZONA | NO. 13 TEXAS TECH

USA: 12:00 EDT | 09:00 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 17:00 CET | UK: 31 OCT 16:00 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Arizona arrives after beating Iowa State 39-3, while Texas Tech must respond to a 37-24 loss at Cincinnati. That makes the Red Raiders a home-response pick rather than an automatic choice based on ranking. Watch whether Tech can finish drives without exposing its defense to short fields. Arizona can reverse the lean by carrying its recent scoring efficiency into a road setting and winning the turnover margin. The editorial forecast is Texas Tech in a one-possession game, with Arizona a credible upset threat.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Texas Tech

PROJECTED SCORE:

ARIZ 27 - TTU 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

NOTRE DAME VS NAVY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 5 NOTRE DAME

USA: 12:00 EDT | 09:00 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 17:00 CET | UK: 31 OCT 16:00 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

This is a neutral-site game in Foxborough, not a trip to Navy's Annapolis home field. Navy allowed 49 points to North Texas in its latest game, making its ability to force stops the main concern in this preview. Notre Dame is the editorial pick if it stays disciplined against the Midshipmen's rushing structure and turns its own possessions into touchdowns. Navy needs sustained drives, clean ball handling and a reduced number of Irish possessions to challenge that forecast.

Early defensive discipline matters more than chasing a statement score.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Notre Dame

PROJECTED SCORE:

ND 38 - NAVY 17

Editorial forecast, not a result.

THE NOON WINDOW

TWO GAMES | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026



SMU AT SYRACUSE

AP: NO. 19 SMU

USA: 12:00 EDT | 09:00 PDT

31 OCT 17:00 CET | 31 OCT 16:00 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

SMU beat California 59-20 and now takes that scoring momentum on the road. Our lean is the Mustangs if protection holds and their early drives finish with touchdowns. Syracuse can tighten the game by forcing longer possessions and avoiding short fields. Watch third-down execution before assuming the previous week's margin will repeat. The projected 34-24 score reflects a closer road test, not a forecast of another runaway.

EDITORIAL PICK: SMU

SMU 34 - SYR 24



WISCONSIN AT IOWA

AP: NO. 25 WISCONSIN

USA: 12:00 EDT | 09:00 PDT

31 OCT 17:00 CET | 31 OCT 16:00 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Wisconsin follows a 24-7 win over USC with a rivalry road test in Iowa City. The editorial lean is the Badgers in a low-scoring game, provided they protect the ball and make Iowa repeatedly earn long drives. The counterargument is home-field pressure and a narrow field-position margin. Watch punts, third-down stops and red-zone finishes: one short field could decide a projected 20-17 contest.

EDITORIAL PICK: Wisconsin

WIS 20 - IOWA 17

Projected scores are editorial forecasts, not results or market lines.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

AUBURN AT OLE MISS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 12 OLE MISS

USA: 12:45 EDT | 09:45 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 17:45 CET | UK: 31 OCT 16:45 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Ole Miss returns home after losing 34-27 at Texas. Its previous home game, a 31-3 win over Missouri, gives a more encouraging reference for this matchup. The editorial lean is the Rebels if they establish control before Auburn can turn the game into a final-possession contest. Watch whether Auburn can protect the ball and keep its defense out of repeated short-field situations. Ole Miss must convert productive drives into touchdowns; settling for field goals would leave the visitors a clear route to an upset.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Ole Miss

PROJECTED SCORE:

AUB 24 - MISS 34

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

NORTHWESTERN AT OREGON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 20 (TIE) NORTHWESTERN

USA: 15:30 EDT | 12:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 20:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 19:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Northwestern travels as a team tied at No. 20 in the AP poll, while Oregon is 4-3 after a 21-10 loss at Illinois. Our close-game lean is the Wildcats, but Autzen makes this one of the less secure selections. Watch whether Oregon can build sustained offense without giving Northwestern favorable field position. The Ducks can overturn the forecast by turning home pressure into early stops and avoiding another scoring shortage. The projected three-point margin expresses uncertainty; it is not a claim about the betting line.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Northwestern

PROJECTED SCORE:

NW 24 - ORE 21

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MINNESOTA AT INDIANA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 4 INDIANA

USA: 15:30 EDT | 12:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 20:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 19:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Indiana comes home after a 13-6 win at Michigan. That result supports a defensive foundation but also argues for a measured scoring projection rather than an assumed offensive breakout. Our pick is the Hoosiers if they protect the football and finish a greater share of their useful possessions. Minnesota can challenge them by keeping the game on a long field and making every third down matter. Watch the final availability reports and early protection before increasing confidence in the forecast; the initial call is a one-score Indiana win.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Indiana

PROJECTED SCORE:

MINN 17 - IND 24

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

FLORIDA VS GEORGIA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 17 FLORIDA | NO. 3 GEORGIA

USA: 15:30 EDT | 12:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 20:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 19:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

The rivalry moves to Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium for this neutral-site meeting. Georgia is coming off its bye after a 27-24 loss to Auburn, so we expect the focus to be cleaner execution in high-leverage situations. The editorial lean is Georgia, but Florida's route is to extend possessions and make the Bulldogs defend a close game deep into the fourth quarter. Watch red-zone decisions and giveaways rather than treating a neutral venue as home advantage. Our projection leaves the rivalry within one touchdown.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Georgia

PROJECTED SCORE:

FLA 24 - UGA 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

ARIZONA STATE AT BYU

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 8 BYU

USA: 15:30 EDT | 12:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 20:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 19:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

BYU returns to Provo after a 39-31 double-overtime loss at UCF. The Cougars remain our pick, with home advantage supporting a response rather than guaranteeing one. Watch their first few defensive series: allowing another opponent to dictate the scoring tempo would make this forecast fragile. Arizona State can challenge BYU by protecting the ball, staying balanced and forcing the hosts to sustain drives instead of giving up quick scores. The editorial projection is a seven-point BYU win, with execution after the UCF setback the central question.

EDITORIAL PICK:

BYU

PROJECTED SCORE:

ASU 24 - BYU 31

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

VIRGINIA AT WAKE FOREST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 14 WAKE FOREST

USA: 15:45 EDT | 12:45 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 20:45 CET | UK: 31 OCT 19:45 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Wake Forest is 6-1 and returns from a bye after a 41-7 win at California. Its recent schedule also includes wins at NC State and Louisville, giving the home side a useful form reference. The editorial lean is Wake if it turns that consistency into a controlled start. Virginia's route is to avoid an early deficit and force longer possessions with fewer explosive plays. Watch how often the Cavaliers can get off the field on third down; repeated extended drives would push the game toward our two-touchdown home margin.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Wake Forest

PROJECTED SCORE:

UVA 20 - WAKE 34

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

UTAH AT CINCINNATI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 6 UTAH

USA: 15:45 EDT | 12:45 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 20:45 CET | UK: 31 OCT 19:45 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Utah protected its unbeaten record with a 21-13 win over Houston. Cincinnati has just beaten Texas Tech 37-24 at Nippert, so the Utes face a host with fresh evidence that it can punish a ranked visitor. Our lean is Utah by a narrow margin, built around consistent possessions and avoiding giveaways. The Bearcats can reverse it by creating the same scoreboard pressure that unsettled Tech. Watch whether Utah can finish drives before Cincinnati turns the home atmosphere into momentum. This is a close-game selection, not an assumption that an unbeaten team cruises.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Utah

PROJECTED SCORE:

UTAH 27 - CIN 23

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

NEVADA AT UCLA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 7 UCLA

USA: 16:15 EDT | 13:15 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 31 OCT 21:15 CET | UK: 31 OCT 20:15 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

UCLA enters unbeaten at 7-0, while Nevada is coming off a 28-13 win over San Jose State. We prefer the Bruins at the Rose Bowl, provided they establish a reliable lead without careless possessions. Nevada's clearest route is to make drives last, limit UCLA's chances and force the hosts to earn points in the red zone. Watch the early turnover margin before treating this as a comfortable result. The projected 38-14 score is an editorial assessment of the matchup, not a market spread or a guaranteed margin.

EDITORIAL PICK:

UCLA

PROJECTED SCORE:

NEV 14 - UCLA 38

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

OKLAHOMA STATE AT IOWA STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 24 OKLAHOMA STATE

USA: 19:00 EDT | 16:00 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 01 NOV 00:00 CET | UK: 31 OCT 23:00 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Oklahoma State scored 57 points against Colorado after a narrow loss at Houston. The Cowboys now need that offensive response to travel to Ames, where our projection is deliberately tighter. Watch whether productive early downs let them remain balanced rather than exposing the passing game to obvious pressure situations. Iowa State can upset the pick by controlling field position and making the visitors settle for field goals. The editorial lean is Oklahoma State by one touchdown; another huge home scoring total should not be assumed on the road.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Oklahoma State

PROJECTED SCORE:

OKST 31 - ISU 24

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

OHIO STATE AT USC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 2 OHIO STATE

USA: 19:30 EDT | 16:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 01 NOV 00:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 23:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Ohio State returns from a bye after winning 19-15 at Indiana. USC must respond to a 24-7 loss at Wisconsin, giving this game a recovery theme for the home offense. The editorial lean is the Buckeyes if their defense can force USC to sustain long drives and their own attack avoids wasted possessions. USC's counterargument is a cleaner start at home that keeps the game balanced. Watch protection and red-zone execution before increasing the margin: our forecast favors Ohio State without assuming the Trojans repeat their previous scoring output.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Ohio State

PROJECTED SCORE:

OSU 30 - USC 20

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MISSISSIPPI STATE AT TEXAS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 11 TEXAS

USA: 19:30 EDT | 16:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 01 NOV 00:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 23:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Texas follows a 34-27 win over Ole Miss with another home SEC test. The result provides a reason to lean toward the Longhorns, but the job is to make this a controlled performance rather than another narrow finish. Watch whether Texas can protect the ball after moving across midfield and turn defensive stops into a meaningful lead. Mississippi State can stay competitive by extending drives and preventing quick replies. The editorial call is Texas by eighteen, with ball security the main condition behind that larger projected margin.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Texas

PROJECTED SCORE:

MSST 20 - TEX 38

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MIAMI AT NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 1 MIAMI

USA: 19:30 EDT | 16:30 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 01 NOV 00:30 CET | UK: 31 OCT 23:30 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Miami remains unbeaten after a 52-23 win over Pitt and takes the No. 1 ranking into Chapel Hill. Our pick is the Hurricanes if they carry that scoring efficiency onto the road while avoiding short fields for North Carolina. The Tar Heels need a patient, low-error game that keeps the ball away from Miami and turns useful possessions into touchdowns. Watch the first quarter for signs that the hosts can force stops without depending on giveaways. The projected 38-20 score favors Miami, but a ranking alone does not settle a road game.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Miami

PROJECTED SCORE:

MIA 38 - UNC 20

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MISSOURI AT ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 23 MISSOURI

USA: 19:45 EDT | 16:45 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 01 NOV 00:45 CET | UK: 31 OCT 23:45 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Both teams return from a bye: Missouri last lost 31-3 at Ole Miss, while Arkansas beat Vanderbilt 31-21. That contrast makes the Tigers a measured road lean rather than a comfortable pick based only on their ranking. Watch whether Missouri turns passing progress into actual scoring and avoids leaving its defense in difficult field position. Arkansas can reverse the forecast with another disciplined game in Fayetteville and a strong fourth quarter. The editorial projection is Missouri by seven in the Battle Line Rivalry, with offensive recovery central to the selection.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Missouri

PROJECTED SCORE:

MIZ 27 - ARK 20

Editorial forecast, not a result.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

TEXAS STATE AT BOISE STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | AP: NO. 20 (TIE) BOISE STATE

USA: 22:00 EDT | 19:00 PDT

CENTRAL EUROPE: 01 NOV 03:00 CET | UK: 01 NOV 02:00 GMT

WHAT TO WATCH

Boise State is 6-1 after a 31-10 win at Washington State and now returns to Albertsons Stadium. The editorial lean is the Broncos if they keep Texas State from dictating a rapid scoring exchange. Watch whether Boise can finish sustained drives and prevent the visitors from answering immediately. Texas State's path is to stay within one possession long enough that the late-game pressure shifts to the home side. Our projected 34-24 score expects a competitive game before Boise creates separation; the ranking is a starting point, not proof of a safe result.

EDITORIAL PICK:

Boise State

PROJECTED SCORE:

TXST 24 - BSU 34

Editorial forecast, not a result.



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SOURCES & EDITORIAL NOTE

REFERENCE LINKS

- [1] AP - October 25 Top 25 poll (syndicated by AOL)
- [2] Arizona - official schedule, results and Texas Tech kickoff
- [3] Navy - official schedule and neutral-site Notre Dame game
- [4] SMU - official schedule, California result and Syracuse time
- [5] Wisconsin - official schedule, USC result and Iowa time
- [6] Ole Miss - official schedule and recent SEC results
- [7] Oregon - official schedule and Illinois result
- [8] Indiana - official schedule, Michigan result and Minnesota time
- [9] Georgia - official 2026 schedule and Florida venue
- [10] Big 12 - BYU schedule, UCF result and Arizona State time
- [11] Wake Forest - official schedule, Cal result and Virginia time
- [12] Utah - official schedule, Houston result and Cincinnati time
- [13] Nevada - official schedule, San Jose State result and UCLA time
- [14] Big 12 - Oklahoma State schedule, Colorado result and Iowa State
- [15] Ohio State - official schedule, results and USC kickoff
- [16] Texas - official schedule, Ole Miss result and Mississippi State
- [17] ACC - Miami schedule, Pitt result and North Carolina time
- [18] Arkansas - Missouri kickoff and Battle Line Rivalry briefing
- [19] Boise State - official schedule, Washington State result and Texas State
- [20] Texas Tech - official schedule and Cincinnati result
- [21] Oregon - Northwestern kickoff announcement, October 19

References are clickable. Every source was checked October 26, 2026.

SCOPE & EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

This guide covers all 18 Week 9 games involving AP Top 25 teams; SMU and Wisconsin share page 5. Rankings: October 25 AP poll, not CFP committee rankings. Research: October 26, 2026. Picks and projected scores are subjective editorial judgments, not results, simulations, bookmaker lines or guarantees. Confirm final kickoff, player availability and conditions. US times are EDT/PDT; Central Europe uses CET and the UK GMT. European dates roll into November 1 for later starts. AI images show fictional athletes and illustrative uniforms, not actual game photographs. Independent Digital World Pulse coverage; no NCAA, conference or school affiliation. For information and entertainment.