

Published based on [2011 Sun Bowl Preview](#)

2011 Sun Bowl Preview

El Paso has been a venue for a bowl game for more than 75 years. Utah played in one of the very first Sun Bowls, and now the Utes come back as a member of one of the BCS conferences for the first time. On December 31st, Utah will square off against Georgia Tech of the ACC in the 78th annual Hyundai Sun Bowl.

The only previous meeting between the schools came in the 2005 Emerald Bowl in Seattle, with Utah posting a 38-10 win over a nationally ranked Georgia Tech squad. The Utes' only other Sun Bowl appearance came in 1939 with a 26-0 win over New Mexico.

Our latest [Sun Bowl odds](#) has Georgia Tech as a 3-point favorite, while the over/under has been set for 51 points.

Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech began the year 6-0, but limped in with a 2-4 finish, ending with a 31-17 defeat to in-state rival Georgia in the last game. The Yellow Jackets did beat Duke, 38-31, in its ACC finale to end up tied for second in the ACC Coastal Division (5-3). Georgia Tech was 3-2 as a visitor this season.

On offense, Georgia Tech ranks 19th in the nation in scoring (35 points per contest) while generating 462 yards of offense per contest (319 on the ground, 143 through the air).

The spread-option ground attack is led by three players – quarterback Tevin Washington with 890 yards and 14 touchdowns (4.0 yards per tote), David Sims with 698 yards and seven touchdowns (5.2 ypc) and Orwin Smith with 616 yards and 11 touchdowns (10.3 ypc). Washington connects on 57 % of his throws for 1,515 yards and 10 touchdowns with eight picks. His best receiver is Stephen Hill with 26 receptions for 785 yards and four touchdowns.

Defensively, Georgia Tech ranks 60th in points allowed (26 ppg) and allows 361 yards per game (198 passing, 163 rushing) while compiling 20 sacks and forcing 20 turnovers – two of which were returned for TDs (Rod Sweeting and Isaiah Johnson, interceptions).

Julian Burnett leads the defensive unit with 113 tackles (44 more than anyone else), adding a sack, a forced fumble and a recovery, while Jeremiah Attaochu has six sacks, 52 tackles, a pick, forced fumble and fumble recovery.

Utah

The Utes' first season as a Pac-12 member started unevenly, but steadied with a late four-game win streak that ended with a 17-14 loss to Colorado to close the season tied for third in the Pac-12 South Division (4-5). Utah did post a 4-2 record away from home, winning the last two and three of four.

The Utes are one of the better defensive squads in the nation, rating 18th nationally in scoring (20 ppg) and giving up 343 yards per contest (246 through the air, 97 on the ground) while totaling 30 sacks and generating 32 turnovers – four of which were taken back for touchdowns (V.J. Fehoko and Derrick Shelby, fumbles; Shelby and Conroy Black, picks).

Chaz Walker paces the defensive unit with 103 tackles (27 more than anyone else), adding two forced fumbles, while Black has four interceptions, 35 tackles and a fumble recovery. Shelby and Trevor Reilly each have five sacks and combined for 87 tackles, four forced fumbles, three recoveries and an interception.

If you want to beat the [college bowl odds](#) this season then make sure you sign up for the [college bowl picks](#) provided by our experts.

You can also find this article published on [2011 Sun Bowl Preview](#), and on the tag pages [College Football](#), [georgia tech](#), [sun bowl](#), [utah](#).