

Published based on [2012 GoDaddy Bowl Overview](#)

2012 GoDaddy Bowl Overview

The final game in this bowl postseason before the main event – the Allstate BCS Championship Game on Jan. 9th – two of the best squads in the non-BCS leagues will square off in the GoDaddy.com Bowl in Mobile, Ala., when Sun Belt Conference champion Arkansas State plays MAC champ Northern Illinois. Both teams enter this bowl with a combined 17-game winning streak.

These two teams have met seven times before between 1990 and 1996, with Northern Illinois winning six of the seven meetings. The last meeting in 1995 was a 31-30 NIU win – the only win in a 1-10 campaign. The lone ASU win was a 28-21 decision in 1995. Three of the meetings came when the two schools were part of the Big West Conference.

The current [GoDaddy Bowl odds](#) show Arkansas State -1.5 and the total placed at 62.5 points.

Arkansas State

Other than LSU, Arkansas State just might be the hottest team in America coming into the bowl season, as they have won nine games in a row and a Sun Belt Conference championship (8-0) coming into this bowl. Most recently, Arkansas State won its final two games by a combined 90-33 over Middle Tennessee and Troy. The Red Wolves are 4-2 as a visitor, winning the last four – the only defeats were at Illinois and Virginia Tech.

On defense, Arkansas State rates a stellar 15th in the nation in points against (19 points per game) and allows 325 yards per contest (219 through the air, 107 on the ground) while recording 32 sacks and generating 28 turnovers – two of which were taken back for scores (Darryl Feemster, fumble; Sterling Young, pick).

Demario Davis anchors the defense with 65 tackles, while Kelcie McCray has 62 tackles and a team-best four picks. Darron Edwards has three forced fumbles and three picks.

Offensively, the Red Wolves rate 28th in the nation in offense (33 ppg) while generating 454 yards per game (289 throwing, 165 via the run).

Ryan Aplin has hit on 66 % of his attempts for 3,235 yards and 18 scores with 13 picks, while the offensive line has given up 24 sacks. Dwayne Frampton paces the receivers with 90 grabs (38 more than any other player) for 1,125 yards and six scores, while Aplin and Derek Lawson pace the rushing attack with a total of 1,064 yards with 12 touchdowns on 4.0 yards per attempt.

Northern Illinois

Northern Illinois, like Arkansas State, finished their regular season on a winning run. After a 48-41 defeat to Central Michigan left the Huskies at 2-3, it won the next eight meetings, including a 23-20 win over Ohio in the MAC Title Game to get to this bowl versus the Sun Belt champ. The Huskies were 4-3 as a visitor, but has won the last four road games, three of them by a total of seven points.

On offense, Northern Illinois rates 13th in the country in offense (38 ppg) while gaining 482 yards per contest (248 via the run, 234 throwing).

Chandler Harnish anchors the running game with 1,382 yards and 11 TDs on 7.5 yards per carry, while Jasmin Hopkins has 932 yards and 15 TDs on 5.2 yards per carry. Harnish completes 63 percent of his passes for 2,942 yards and 26 TDs with five interceptions, while the offensive line has allowed nine sacks. Nathan Palmer leads the receiving corps with 46 receptions for 683 yards and seven TDs.

The Huskies don't do well on defense, ranking 90th in the country in scoring (31 ppg) and surrendering 418 yards per contest (240 throwing, 178 via the run) while recording 25 sacks and enticing 20 turnovers – with one taken back for a score (Nabal Jefferson, pick).

Pat Schiller leads this unit with 108 tackles, while Sean Progar has 5.5 sacks. Rashaan Melvin and Dechane Durante each have two picks.

The experts at BetFirms offer [college bowl picks](#) on each game. If you have struggled to beat the [college bowl odds](#) then you should check out their opinions first.

You can also find this article published on [2012 GoDaddy Bowl Overview](#), and on the tag pages [arkansas state](#), [College Football](#), [godaddy](#), [northern illinois](#).