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2012 Allstate Sugar Bowl Overview

The Sugar Bowl is likely to be a great matchup. A pair of the more decorated schools in history, and a pair of the toughest defensive units in the nation this year, will face off in New Orleans when Michigan of the Big Ten takes on ACC runner-up Virginia Tech.

This bowl will be the first-ever played between the teams.

Our [Sugar Bowl odds](#) have Michigan as a 2.5-point spread favorite, while the over/under has been set at 50.5 points.

Michigan

Michigan ended their regular season with three consecutive victories, the last a 40-34 rivalry win against Ohio State to win 10 games under first-year coach Brady Hoke, ending up second in the Big Ten Legends Division (6-2). The Wolverines were 2-2 as a visitor, getting beat by Michigan State and Iowa.

The Wolverines rate seventh in the country in points against (17 points per contest) and surrender 318 yards per contest (189 via the pass, 129 via the run) while recording 28 sacks and enticing 27 turnovers – three of which were taken back for scores (Brandon Herron and Courtney Avery, fumbles; Herron, pick).

Kenny Demens anchors the defense with 86 stops (22 more than any other player), while Ryan Van Bergen has five sacks and three fumble recoveries. Thomas Gordon has four fumble recoveries, and Avery and J.T. Floyd each have two picks.

Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech reached the conference title game once again (7-1, won Coastal Division), but had their seven-game victory streak broken with a 38-10 defeat to Clemson. Virginia Tech is 6-1 as a visitor, winning the first six such games. Both of Tech's defeats this season came versus Clemson.

The Hokies rate eighth in the nation in points against (17 ppg) and allows 314 yards per contest (206 through the air, 108 on the ground) while recording 38 sacks and generating 22 turnovers.

Antone Exum anchors the defense with 85 stops and two forced fumbles, while James Gayle has a team-high seven sacks. Jayron Hosley has three picks and two forced fumbles.

The Hokies rate 55th in the nation in scoring (28 ppg) while generating 416 yards per game (227 through the air, 189 on the ground).

David Wilson anchors the running game with 1,627 yards and nine TDs on 6.1 yards per carry, while Logan Thomas completes 59 percent of his passes for 2,799 yards and 19 TDs with nine interceptions. The offensive line has given up 15 sacks. Jarrett Boykin leads the receivers with 57 catches for 731 yards and five TDs, while Danny Coals has 52 grabs for 787 yards and three scores.

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