

Published based on [2011 Music City Bowl Game Notes](#)

# **2011 Music City Bowl Game Notes**

Nashville, Tennessee is recognized as Music City, and the center of country music. In Nashville, Dec. 30 will showcase two up-and-coming college football programs in the Music City Bowl as Mississippi State of the SEC takes on the Wake Forest Demon Deacons of the ACC.

This will be the first-ever meeting between the schools on the football field.

A quick look at the latest [Music City Bowl odds](#) shows Mississippi State favored by 7 points, while the total (over/under) has been listed at 48 points.

### **Mississippi State**

The Bulldogs had one of the more brutal schedules in the country, but managed to win six games to become bowl eligible. The team faced five teams ranked in the most recent top-25 polls, including No. 1 LSU and No. 2 Alabama, losing all five games. Most recently, MSU won the Egg Bowl vs. Ole Miss, 31-3. Overall, the Bulldogs were 3-3 away from home this year.

Defensively, the Bulldogs rank 19th nationally in points allowed (20 ppg), surrendering 356 yards per game (195 passing, 161 rushing) while recording 21 sacks and forcing 20 turnovers – two of which returned for touchdowns (Johnathan Banks and Darius Slay, picks).

Cameron Lawrence paces the defense with 114 stops (22 more than any other player), chipping in two sacks, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and a recovery, while Fletcher Cox has four sacks, 49 stops, a forced fumble, a blocked kick and a fumble recovery. Banks has five interceptions, three forced fumbles and 64 stops.

On offense, the Bulldogs rank 73rd nationally in points scored (25 ppg) while compiling 355 yards per game (186 passing, 169 rushing). Chris Relf and Tyler Russell have combined to complete 57 percent of their passes for 2,117 yards and 17 TDs with 11 picks.

Chris Smith and Arceto Clark pace the receivers with 58 combined receptions for 687 yards and five scores, while Vick Ballard leads the ground attack with 1,009 yards and eight touchdowns on 5.6 yards per tote.

### **Wake Forest**

The Demon Deacons started the season 4-1, but staggered to a 1-4 finish to the season, capped by a 41-7 home loss to Vanderbilt in the regular-season finale. Wake tied for second in the ACC Atlantic Division (5-3). Overall, Wake was 2-3 away from home this year.

The Deacons rate 62nd in the nation in points (27 ppg) while gaining 375 yards per contest (256 through the air, 119 on the ground). Tanner Price has connected on 61 % of his throws for 2,803 yards and 20 touchdowns with six interceptions. The offensive line has given up 29 sacks.

Chris Givens paces the receivers with 74 catches for 1,276 yards and nine touchdowns, with Michael Campanaro adds 63 receptions for 705 yards and two touchdowns. Brandon Pendergrass paces the running attack with 750 yards and eight touchdowns on 4.6 yards per tote.

Defensively, Wake Forest ranks 70th nationally in points allowed (28 ppg), allowing 399 yards per game (236 passing, 163 rushing) while recording 10 sacks and forcing 17 turnovers.

Cyhl Quarles leads the defense with 96 tackles (31 more than anyone else), adding two fumble recoveries, while Josh Bush has six picks with 56 tackles. Kyle Wilber has 3.5 sacks and three forced fumbles, adding 65 tackles, a blocked kick and a fumble recovery.

To find out who is going to win this game check out the [free college bowl picks](#) at BetFirms. We have some of the [top college football handicappers](#) in the nation who offer their advice.

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