

Auburn Football News: 8-18-2026

See Where Auburn Football Stacks Up In Preseason AP Poll:

<https://www.si.com/college/auburn/football/see-where-auburn-football-stacks-up-in-preseason-ap-poll-unranked>

It's official: Auburn playing six opponents ranked in AP preseason top 25 poll:

<https://flywareagle.com/official-auburn-playing-six-opponents-ranked-ap-preseason-top-25-poll>

Did Auburn football receive any votes in the preseason AP Poll?:

<https://auburnwire.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/auburn/football/2026/08/17/auburn-football-ap-poll-preseason-top-25-2026/91340078007/>

Auburn football has one big problem during fall practice:

<https://flywareagle.com/auburn-football-one-big-problem-fall-practice>

How Auburn's last five head coaches fared in their first game:

<https://auburnwire.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/auburn/football/2026/08/17/auburn-football-head-coach-season-opener-result-alex-golesh/91337880007/>

Alex Golesh delivers reality check after Auburn's fall scrimmage:

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Jason Caldwell's Monday morning quarterback column:

<https://247sports.com/college/auburn/article/talking-auburn-football-and-auburn-futbol-on-this-monday-morning-288988490/>

Auburn Lands Receiver in Late Transfer Portal Addition:

<https://www.si.com/college/auburn/football/auburn-lands-receiver-in-late-transfer-portal-addition-tray-taylor>

Auburn adds veteran wide receiver transfer Tray Taylor:

<https://auburnwire.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/auburn/football/2026/08/17/auburn-football-transfer-portal-tray-taylor/91346790007/>

Auburn adds 'work ethic guy' from the transfer portal in an Alex Golesh masterstroke:

<https://flywareagle.com/auburn-adds-work-ethic-guy-transfer-portal-alex-golesh-masterstroke>

Auburn legend Cam Newton rocks Mizzou colors at fall camp in Columbia:

<https://flywareagle.com/auburn-legend-cam-newton-rocks-mizzou-colors-fall-camp-columbia>

College Football Playoff committee announces dates of CFP rankings:

<https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/college-football-playoff-committee-announces-025008453.html>

College football fans can now vote for the Heisman Trophy:

<https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/college-football-fans-now-vote-165706310.html>

See Where Auburn Football Stacks Up In Preseason AP Poll

By Griffin Barfield
Auburn Tigers on SI

Auburn football is expected to grow under head coach Alex Golesh in his first season, but the Tigers will have work to do if they want an eventual ranking in the AP Poll.

The preseason metric came out on Monday afternoon, and Auburn was not one of the 25 teams mentioned at the top of the list. However, Golesh's group received three votes of consideration to begin the 2026 season.

https://x.com/On3/status/2089382520932405690?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E2089382520932405690%7Ctwgr%5E2668979292168547c82d69140bbc9514b28d845%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.si.com%2Fcollege%2Fauburn%2Ffootball%2Fsee-where-auburn-football-stacks-up-in-preseason-ap-poll-unranked

One thing is for sure, however: Auburn will have its fair share of chances to move up quickly in the rankings with its difficult schedule. Although the Tigers will begin the year in Atlanta with Baylor on Sept. 5, then Southern Miss a week later, they will face teams that are all ahead of them in the AP Poll to begin the year.

Golesh will begin his SEC slate with Florida at Jordan-Hare Stadium. The Gators were the second team out of the top 25 with 51 votes. Then, Auburn hosts Vanderbilt, another unranked team, but holds more votes of consideration than the Tigers do.

Then, four ranked matchups. Auburn travels to No. 20 Tennessee and No. 3 Georgia before going back to the Plains to host No. 11 LSU. A week later, on Halloween, Golesh will travel to Oxford to face another top 10 team, No. 9 Ole Miss.

The Tigers' rival, Alabama, is at No. 13 to start the year. Of course, with that game being played at the end of November, that number could fluctuate before the two kick off at Bryant-Denny Stadium to close Auburn's regular season.

Overall, the 2026 season will be a true test in Golesh's first season, but Auburn will have opportunities to put a stamp on the SEC schedule with opportunities to take signature games from some of the top teams that are expected to perform in the conference. The Tigers aren't expected to win most of their SEC contests, but that could mean they play spoiler, as Golesh did with USF in previous seasons.

Especially if the program starts the year with wins over Baylor, Southern Miss, Florida and Vanderbilt, with three of those four games at home, it could mean that Golesh has his team ranked before going into the SEC gauntlet that lasts until Halloween. It would be a notable morale boost on the program that could keep the new head coach around for seasons to come.

It's official: Auburn playing six opponents ranked in AP preseason top 25 poll

By Mary Kate Hughes
Fly War Eagle

The 2026 college football season is mere weeks away, and today the first AP top 25 poll dropped, the preseason rankings. Now that the list is out, the Auburn football team will officially be facing off against five opponents who are already ranked in the top 25.

The first of those opponents is Georgia, who came in at No. 3 in the preseason rankings. The Dawgs will host the Tigers this October for another rendition of the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry. Auburn has not won a game in Athens since 2005, but Golesh will be trying to break the streak on October 17.

The next ranked opponent the Tigers will go up against is Ole Miss. The Rebels, in their first year under Pete Golding, landed at spot No. 9 in the preseason poll. With Trinidad Chambliss returning at the quarterback spot, the Rebels are expected to have a big year. The Tigers will travel to Oxford to face No. 9 Ole Miss on October 31.

Lane Kiffin and the LSU Tigers were slotted in at spot No. 11, and Auburn will face the Bayou Bengals for the first time in two seasons again in 2026. It will be a tiger-on-tiger battle in Jordan-Hare Stadium on October 24, and the kickoff time has already been announced as 11 a.m.

Auburn's final game of the regular season will be the Iron Bowl, as usual, and the Tide is just outside the top 10 heading into the fall. Ranked at spot No. 13, Kalen DeBoer and his team will host Auburn on November 28 in Tuscaloosa. The Tigers haven't won an Iron Bowl in Tuscaloosa since 2010, and they haven't beat Alabama since 2019. Can Golesh grab a signature win in his first season?

The Tigers' final preseason ranked opponent is Tennessee. The Volunteers landed at spot No. 20, and will host Auburn football on October 3 for the first time since 2013.

Several other SEC schools that Auburn will not face this season were also ranked in the top 25. Texas is ranked No. 5, Texas A&M is No. 8, Oklahoma is No. 10 and Missouri is ranked No. 25. The Auburn Tigers did not make the list, but received 3 votes. See the full list below:

1. Ohio State
2. Oregon
3. Georgia
4. Notre Dame
5. Texas
6. Indiana
7. Miami (FL)
8. Texas A&M
9. Ole Miss
10. Oklahoma
11. LSU
12. Texas Tech
13. Alabama
14. BYU
15. USC

16. Michigan
17. Washington
18. Penn State
19. SMU
20. Tennessee
21. Utah
22. Iowa
23. Houston
24. Louisville
25. Missouri

Did Auburn football receive any votes in the preseason AP Poll?

By Jac Myrick
Auburn Wire

College football is right around the corner and with that is the releases of preseason polls. Auburn football received 29 votes in the preseason US LBM Coaches Poll released earlier this month. Now the AP has released their preseason top-25, and the Tigers received three votes.

A total nine teams from the SEC made it into the top-25 being Georgia (No.3), Texas (No. 5), Texas A&M (No. 8), Ole Miss (No. 9), Oklahoma (No. 10), LSU (No. 11), Alabama (No. 13), Tennessee (No. 20) and Missouri (No. 25). While Florida (51), South Carolina (10) and Vanderbilt (8) all received votes.

The Tigers will play five of the ranked SEC teams and the highest ranked one, Georgia, this season. Auburn, with a three game win streak to start the season, should be able to crack the AP Top-25 Poll.

Last season the Tigers did make it in at No. 24 after week three and got to No. 22 a week later. Only time will tell if the Tigers get back in this year. Auburn opens up against the Baylor Bears in week one in Atlanta for the Aflac Kickoff game on Saturday, Sept. 5.

Auburn football has one big problem during fall practice

By Jake Mitchell
Fly War Eagle

If there has been a bright spot for Auburn football in recent years, it has been the defense. While the offense has squandered games with key turnovers and bouts of ineptitude, DJ Durkin's defense has held opponents to low scores and kept the Tigers in striking distance week after week.

Now, though, it looks like that unit has forgotten how to do the most important part of its job: tackle.

Even during a strong 2025 season, tackling was an issue for Tiger defenders. They missed 130 a year ago, and one shudders to think of just how much better the unit could have been if they'd shored up that problem.

This fall, head coach Alex Golesh is shouldering some of the blame for that issue. He told the media on Friday, "I would tell you I'm leaving the scrimmage today and telling you that I'm all in. And I'll take some ownership there. We've tackled once so far leading up to this in a limited way, practice 7-on-7, and I thought we tackled just OK then. I thought Friday we tackled just OK at best."

So, sure, it's disheartening to hear that the defense is struggling with fundamentals, especially when the offense is having similarly basic problems, but at least Golesh's comments leave some room for optimism. This has clearly been identified as an issue, and it should be a big area of focus for this team as the season draws closer.

It's not all negatives for Auburn's defense

It wasn't all bad for Auburn's defense last week. Heading into a season where the pass rush is an area of worry for many observers, it looks like sophomore Darrion Smith is stepping up and into a big role on the Tiger front. He showed some serious potential as a pass-rusher in limited action a year ago, but reports indicate that he has put on weight and is rounding out his game. As fall practice has progressed, he has looked more and more like an every-down defender, and that is huge for this defense.

Another sign that calls for optimism on defense is, ironically, the offensive scheme. The plan for this offense is to run the ball heavily, and do so at such a high rate that four or five running backs get significant action. After two seasons of stop-start offensive playcalling and an offense that was 65th nationally in time of possession, the hope is that the Auburn defense will be much more well-rested this season.

There are more question marks for this defense than Auburn fans are comfortable with, and that is understandable. However, even if the group takes a small step back, it should still be a really effective unit. In his last two seasons as defensive coordinator, Durkin has coached defenses to 23 and 21 points allowed per game in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

While there may be transitions up front, this is still expected to be a reliable defense in 2026.

How Auburn's last five head coaches fared in their first game

By Taylor Jones
Auburn Wire

Auburn head coach Alex Golesh will lead the Tigers on to the field for the first time as head coach on Saturday, Sept. 5 when Auburn faces Baylor in the Aflac Kickoff Game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. Will history be on his side?

Golesh became a head coach before the 2023 season, taking over the USF program after serving as an offensive coordinator under Josh Heupel at both UCF and Tennessee, with the Bulls dropping the first game, 41-24, to Western Kentucky in Bowling Green.

He hopes to change his fate as the next head coach of the Auburn Tigers, a program hungry for success after losing seven games in each of the last four seasons. How likely is it that he gets the season started on a high note with a win?

Here is a look at how each of Auburn's last five head coaches fared in their first games as head coach.

Hugh Freeze

The Hugh Freeze era began with a massive 59-14 win over UMass at Jordan-Hare Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023. Auburn was tested by UMass in the first quarter, escaping the first 15 minutes with just a 10-7 lead. The Tigers would then turn on the jets by outscoring the Minutemen, 21-0 in the second quarter, all on Robby Ashford touchdown runs.

Auburn started the season with a 3-0 record before ending the season with a 6-7 record, and a loss to Maryland in the Music City Bowl. It would be the only time in the Freeze era that Auburn qualified for a bowl game.

Bryan Harsin

Auburn football's offense performed at a high level in the season-opener for Bryan Harsin by posting 60 points and 613 total yards in a 50-point win over Akron. Bo Nix tossed three touchdown passes and Tank Bigsby added two more scores on the ground in the win.

Auburn dropped 60 points again the following week, defeating Alabama State, 62-0. As was the case with Freeze, Auburn started hot before ending the season with a bowl loss and a 6-7 record. Auburn lost to Penn State and escaped a homecoming heartbreak against Georgia State before defeating LSU in Baton Rouge, its first win over the Bayou Bengals inside Tiger Stadium since 1999. Auburn lost its final five games of the season, including a 17-13 loss to Houston in the Birmingham Bowl.

Gus Malzahn

Gus Malzahn, the offensive mastermind behind Auburn's 2010 BCS National Championship, returned to the Plains in 2013 to take over the Tigers program. He set the tone for the season by leading Auburn to a 31-24 win over Washington State at Jordan-Hare

Stadium on Aug. 31, 2013. Corey Grant rushed for 146 yards and a score in the win while Cody Parkey solidified the win with four made field goals.

The win was the first of 12 for Auburn that season. Auburn won the SEC by defeating Missouri in an offensive slugfest, 59-42, and was mere seconds away from claiming its second BCS National Title in four seasons before Florida State ruined the fun.

Gene Chizik

The 2009 season was strange, as it would be the first time in 10 years that the Auburn Tigers were led by someone other than Tommy Tuberville. Chizik returned to Auburn as head coach in 2009 after serving as the Tigers defensive coordinator under Tuberville from 2002-04, and would lead the Tigers for 3 1/2 seasons.

His tenure began with a 37-13 win over Louisiana Tech on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009. Auburn outgained Louisiana Tech, 556-245 behind two 100 yard efforts by Ben Tate and Onterio McCalebb, and a 255-yard passing performance from Chris Todd. Zac Etheridge, Craig Stevens, and Josh Byner all logged eight tackles in the win.

The win over Louisiana Tech was a refreshing sight for Auburn fans, who just experienced a 5-7 season the year before. Auburn won eight games that season, including a thrilling overtime win over Northwestern in the Outback Bowl.

Tommy Tuberville

“They’ll have to carry me out of here in a pine box.”

Those famous words were uttered by Tommy Tuberville days before he left Ole Miss to take the Auburn job before the 1999 season. The pine box later carried him to the Plains, where he led Auburn to a 5-6 record as the next man up for Terry Bowdon, who resigned during a 1998 season that resulted in a 3-8 record for Auburn.

However, his tenure began with a 22-15 win over Appalachian State on Sept. 4, 1999. The Tigers were outgained in the game, 323-288, but Auburn managed to squeak out a win thanks to a 33-yard touchdown pass from Ben Leard to Ronney Daniels with 0:38 remaining.

Auburn earned two conference wins that season, against LSU and Georgia, and missed a bowl game in Tuberville's first season.

Alex Golesh delivers reality check after Auburn's fall scrimmage

By Mary Kate Hughes
Fly War Eagle

After eight days of fall camp, the Auburn Tigers played their first scrimmage last Friday, and head coach Alex Golesh confirmed to the media that major change does not happen overnight and the Tigers are still not quite where they want to be heading into the 2026 season.

While the defense was certainly the strongest unit of last year's team, and they are expected to be just as formidable this year with DJ Durkin still in the driver's seat, questions remain after the first scrimmage.

"I would tell you I'm leaving the scrimmage today and telling you that I'm all in. And I'll take some ownership there. We've tackled once so far leading up to this in a limited way, practice 7-on-7, and I thought we tackled just OK then. I thought Friday we tackled just OK at best," Golesh said, per AL.com.

Several of the offensive players who were previously out or limited due to injury were able to return for Friday's scrimmage, but on the other side of the ball, several defensive players missed out. Safeties Kaleb Harris, AnQuan Fegans and Sylvester Smith-Reed were all held out of the scrimmage.

Golesh went on to say that tackling has been and will continue to be a major focus for the Tigers' defense as he prepares for his first season on the Plains.

"My thought is you've got to tackle as much as you have to, to make sure, one, the offensive guys feel it and are able to work through getting through tackles and going plus-two pad under pad," Golesh said. "I think defensively we work tackling daily. We have all summer. But the hardest thing to do in football is tackle in open space. That truly is. That's the entirety of our offense, is getting people in space one-on-one, and it's the hardest thing to do defensively. So, we need so much more work at it. You can rep it without taking bodies to the ground, but no matter how you rep it, you still need to do it. I would tell you we need as much work as imaginably possible there."

The Tigers are just under three weeks away from their 2026 debut with a new head coach and new quarterback Byrum Brown. They will face off against the Baylor Bears on September 5 in the Aflac Kickoff Game in Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium at 2:30 p.m.

Jason Caldwell's Monday morning quarterback column

By Jason Caldwell
Auburn 247

Young DL group continuing to improve

One of the keys for Auburn's success on defense this season will likely be just how well the group of second-year linemen play for coach DJ Durkin's group. Last season guys like Malik Autry, Jourdin Crawford, Jared Smith and Darrion Smith all got some playing time, but weren't called on to play big roles quite yet.

That's going to change this season with all expected to be in the mix for a much bigger role in the 2026 season. Despite dealing with a thumb injury early in camp, Autry has been a guy that looks like he has taken his game to another level with Darrion Smith, a player the Tigers could use a whole lot more in pass rush situations this year.

Crawford is a physical brute that could be an interesting guy to plug into the middle behind Dallas Walker IV. Jared Smith may be one of the most important players on the entire defense because of his pass rush ability and just natural talent. Unlocking that could change the game for this Auburn defense.

Auburn also added Walter Mathis Jr. from LSU as part of the sophomore class. After a slow start in the spring making the move to a new system, he has been much better in the preseason and could push for some playing time behind starter Cody Sigler.

While there are some older guys that the Tigers need to play well, this group of sophomores may hold the key to just how well Auburn's defense does this fall.

Melendez ready to become a big name

Last season, Auburn linebacker Elijah Melendez made some plays for the Tigers while playing at around 225 pounds as a true freshman. Now at 240 and probably even faster, he looks like he's ready to take some big strides while playing alongside Auburn All-American Xavier Atkins.

He brings a punch to the middle of the defense with his size and strength, but he's not just a plugger. This is an athlete that can make plays in space (2 interceptions last season and 4 as a senior in high school). That's what Durkin is looking for in his defense and Melendez should be a great fit in year two alongside Atkins, Bryce Deas and De'Marcus Riddick.

Women's soccer rolls in opener

The Tigers got two goals from Hannah Bell in just her second game on the Plains as the Auburn soccer offense exploded in a 5-0 victory over Jacksonville State on Sunday evening at the Auburn Soccer Complex. In addition to Bell's two goals and an early score from Dylan Driver, Fizz Hutton and Chloe Taylor each recorded their first career goals in the one-sided victory.

"I saw a top-team performance tonight," Auburn head coach James Armstrong said after the game. "Everybody that was available to play played tonight, and I think a lot of those players took the opportunity to show what they've got. We didn't go as deep against Clemson, so it was really important to rest some of our key players. Jacksonville State is a really possession-oriented team, so to score five goals and concede zero is something we'll take for our first win of the season."

Auburn dominated possession on Sunday, outshooting Jacksonville State 23-4. Of those 23 shots, the Tigers put 11 on target. Auburn has not allowed a goal in its first two games of the season.

Auburn (1-0-1 after a tie with Clemson to open the season) will stay at home for its third and final game of the season-opening homestand Thursday evening against Southern Illinois. The match is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CT, and fans in attendance will receive a free Auburn soccer bucket hat while supplies last.

The game will be streamed on SEC Network+, while radio coverage will be available terrestrially on WEGL 91.1 and via streaming at AuburnTigers.com. Live stats will also be available at AuburnTigers.com.

Auburn Lands Receiver in Late Transfer Portal Addition

By Brooks Crew
Auburn Tigers on SI

The Auburn Tigers certainly made a run in the transfer portal back when Alex Golesh was hired, but few expected him to still be making additions to his roster this late in the preseason. However, Golesh's tenacity in the portal seems to know no bounds, as on Monday night, the Tigers added Tray Taylor to their 2026 roster.

Taylor, who was recently granted a fifth year of eligibility, spent his 2024 season at Coastal Carolina and his 2025 season at Troy after transferring in from junior college. Standing at 5-foot-8 and weighing in at 160 pounds, Taylor brings a veteran presence and versatility at the slot position to the Plains.

The Tigers have faced several questions about their receiving core over the past few months, especially after the monumental transfer portal losses that followed Hugh Freeze's firing. Almost every receiver Freeze recruited left with him, from top names like Cam Coleman and Malcolm Simmons to even unproven potential stars like Perry Thompson.

Golesh did not seem to hesitate at these losses, especially after keeping on a lone member of the "Freeze Four," Bryce Cain, as he immediately went to work in the transfer portal to build a receiving core Tiger fans could be proud of.

Now, most of that core is built of former USF receivers, including Jeremiah Koger and Keshawn Singleton, two of the Bulls' leading receivers last year, as well as other, younger talent like Chas Nimrod and Christian Neptune. However, contrary to what many seem to believe about this group, which now adds Taylor, their experience in smaller conferences may not be as much of a hamper on the Tigers' offense as some say it will be.

After all, it is rare that a new-look football program such as Auburn's is given a roster of players that already know the offensive scheme, understand Golesh's expectations and have proven to mesh well, but that is exactly what the Tigers have on their hands this year with the aforementioned receiving core and, of course, the Tigers' signal-caller for 2026: Byrum Brown.

There has been quite a lot of concern as to how this group will operate under the duress of a true SEC defense, but, in fairness, they have been practicing against one of the best defenses in the conference every day for the last few weeks, and even back to spring camp.

Taylor will certainly have a steep learning curve if he is looking to make an immediate impact on the Tigers' game, especially with the familiarity that already resides in most of Auburn's core, but if he is able to overcome his late start on the Plains, Taylor could very well be a dangerous slot threat that could easily wreak havoc on opposing defenses all year.

Auburn adds veteran wide receiver transfer Tray Taylor

By JD McCarthy
Auburn Wire

The Auburn Tigers have made a last-minute addition to their roster, signing former Troy wide receiver Tray Taylor. He is already listed on their online roster.

Taylor recently received a fifth year of eligibility and is another veteran presence for first-year head coach Alex Golesh. He was a contributor at Troy last year, catching 30 passes for 499 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed for 55 yards and another touchdown on 10 carries.

He started his career at Tyler Junior College, spending two years at the JUCO level before joining the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers ahead of the 2024 season. He was named a Second-Team JUCO All-American as a sophomore after leading Tyler with 39 catches for 850 yards and nine touchdowns in 2023.

Taylor caught 18 passes for 262 yards and one touchdown in his only season at Coastal Carolina. He also carried the ball six times for 58 yards. He handled punt and kick return duties for the Chanticleers as well, averaging 13.5 yards per return on punts and 14.1 yards on kickoffs.

While he returned just one punt last season at Troy, he could also factor in the return game at Auburn. He is listed at 5-foot-6, 150 pounds and is from Shreveport, Louisiana.

Auburn adds 'work ethic guy' from the transfer portal in an Alex Golesh masterstroke

By Andrew Hughes
Fly War Eagle

Alex Golesh shook up the Auburn Tigers' roster with the addition of Troy transfer receiver Tray Taylor on Monday. The Shreveport (LA) native stands at five-foot-eight and is a natural slot receiver, though he figures to be in the mix for special teams opportunities as well.

Taylor played for the Trojans in 2025, Coastal Carolina for two seasons before that, and went the JUCO route at Tyler Junior College in 2022. As a member of the 2022 high school class, Taylor just received extra eligibility along with his classmates. U.S. District Judge Charlotte Sweeney granted an injunction in a filed class action lawsuit (Wisne et al v. NCAA) from members of the class that gave them eligibility for 2026.

Golesh cautioned that there'd be some patience before diving into the portal class, but he clearly saw a need in the slot during fall camp and pounced. He lost the versatile Duke Smith earlier in this offseason for reasons that are still unclear, so the room needed more depth in some form.

That form is Troy's "work ethic guy" from a season ago, in Taylor's words.

Tray Taylor, the self-proclaimed 'work ethic guy'

"I'm a small guy that's been counted out a lot and really came from nothing – just a work ethic guy," Taylor said to describe himself. "Whatever I set my mind to or if there's something I want to chase, I go get it. ... Everything that you're going through or that you want is not going to be as easy as you thought it would be or how people make it seem – you're going to have a different path."

Taylor is humble about his beginnings, coming from a place where 23.5% of residents live below the federal poverty line. That's double the national average. Over 50% of Shreveport households qualify as living in poverty or as asset-limited, working poor.

He's worked for everything he's had. This opportunity to provide a spark in the WR room is one he can't take for granted. Then again, Taylor has never taken a thing for granted in his life. That's how he's risen from the JUCO ranks to the Sun Belt ranks, and now, the SEC.

Alex Golesh brought in the perfect kind of transfer

Just genius on Golesh's part to land Taylor. If there were ever to be a recruit to push the rest of his teammates, it's someone who was never guaranteed to be playing for a program like Auburn. Taylor doesn't have typical size, but he has the other traits that should be motivational fuel for teammates who were given more in life.

For Golesh to bring a hard worker like this with fall camp already in full swing is a major cultural challenge for his locker room. Imagine the scoldings players will receive for being outworked by a new player who doesn't have the same caliber of physical traits.

Golesh is pushing his players with this addition. Beyond that, Golem might've just brought on a difference-maker. He definitely added a great story.

Auburn legend Cam Newton rocks Mizzou colors at fall camp in Columbia

By Andrew Hughes
Fly War Eagle

The official Mizzou Football account tweeted something Auburn fans wish they never saw on Monday: Cam Newton rocking Missouri gear while at fall camp in Columbia. While Newton was present at Alex Golesh's spring practices, where he gave words of wisdom to transfer quarterback Byrum Brown, he hasn't yet appeared at fall camp on the Plains.

Newton was at Mizzou to see receiver Cayden Lee, a fellow Georgia native whom Newton mentors, who transferred to Missouri from Ole Miss this past offseason. The 2010 Heisman winner also has connections to Mizzou head coach Eli Drinkwitz and RB coach Curtis Luper, who were both on Auburn's national championship team's coaching staff.

Missouri wasn't in the SEC when Newton was executing Gus Malzahn's play-calling on Gene Chizik's national championship team. Those Tigers joined the conference in 2012, when Newton was already a year into his NFL career with the Carolina Panthers. There's no personal history between Newton and Mizzou.

Still, Auburn and Missouri famously battled for the 2013 SEC Championship. Mizzou got the better of the past two matchups in 2024 and 2025, and the past three matchups were all decided by one score. No Auburn fan wants to see the greatest player in program history don another school's colors. Especially one in the SEC.

Auburn must put Cam Newton on its payroll at some point

If Newton wants to wear Missouri's colors to support one of his mentees, he's got every right to. It's not until he denounces his alma mater that there should be any concern about what he's doing. With that said, there's an easy answer to the question of how to get him to rep only orange and blue: put Newton on Auburn's payroll.

Newton should be an ambassador to AU athletics just like active ambassador Bruce Pearl, and paid similarly, if not even more. After all, Cam actually won a national championship. Newton was working with more, absolutely, but there is no replicating getting to the top. In 2010, Auburn was on top of the sports world. In 2019 and 2025, Pearl's teams were in the Final Four but fell short. Then, Pearl got his son the head coaching job and now still gets paid over a year after retiring.

Why can't the athletics department pay a player who left it all on the field and brought back the greatest season the university has ever seen in either of the two major revenue sports? The return on investment doesn't get greater than Newton's one-and-done campaign in Lee County, Alabama.

Whoever has the power to make it happen, make Auburn University Special Assistant to the Athletics Director Cam Newton happen.

Otherwise, Newton doesn't need to hear a thing from fans who are upset at this picture from Mizzou's fall camp.

College Football Playoff committee announces dates of CFP rankings

By Phil Harrison
Buckeyes Wire

The 2026 college football season hasn't even kicked off yet, and that means it'll be quite a while until we see the College Football Playoff committee do a song and dance in the media when the CFP rankings are unveiled. As a reminder, the committee doesn't even rank teams until well into the season, so we'll let Ohio State and all the other teams in college do some of their best work before the throng descends on Grapevine, Texas, to try and sort things out.

However, what we do know, thanks to a release from the committee, are the dates and times on which we will see the rankings unveiled each week. From the first set of rankings all the way through the last rankings after the conference championship games that determine the CFP participants.

Here's how things line up for the CFP rankings reveals that will undoubtedly come to us on a screen thanks to ESPN.

Date	Time
Tuesday, November 3	7-8 p.m. ET
Tuesday, November 10	9-9:30 p.m. ET
Tuesday, November 17	9-9:30 p.m. ET
Tuesday, November 24	7:30-8 p.m. ET
Tuesday, December 1	7-7:30 p.m. ET
Sunday, December 6	Noon - 3 p.m. ET

And if you needed a reminder, the folks who will be deciding which teams get the at-large bids for the playoff at the end of the 2026 season are a varied bunch. Here are all of the CFP committee members for this year.

School	Selection Committee Member
Appalachian State	Doug Gillin, Hunter Yurachek
Arizona	Mark Harlan (partial)
Arizona State	Randall McDaniel (partial)
Arkansas	Hunter Yurachek
Auburn	Gus Malzahn (partial)
California	Jeff Tedford (partial)
Fresno State	Jeff Tedford (partial)
Michigan State	Mark Dantonio
Middle Tennessee State	Chris Massaro
Nebraska	Troy Dannen
Ole Miss	Wesley Walls (partial)
Oregon State	Mike Riley
SMU	Gus Malzahn (partial)
Stanford	Ivan Maisel
Utah	Mark Harlan
Virginia	Carla Williams

Since the first set of CFP rankings won't occur until Tuesday, November 3, we have plenty of time to talk about things and let it all sort out. However, that won't stop us from taking a stab at what those rankings might look like before all the fun happens in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

College football fans can now vote for the Heisman Trophy

By Andrew Pistone
College Sports Wire

A new platform will now allow fans to cast the first official vote for the Heisman Trophy.

"We surveyed college football fans, and they told us clearly that they want more data on more players and more ways to engage with the Heisman Trophy throughout the season," Heisman CEO Jeff Price said to ESPN.

The new platform will refresh throughout the season to capture player data that will initially be limited to basic statistics rather than advanced analytics for this year. The centralized statistics and voting platform is meant to give fans one centralized place to look when considering who is most worthy of the Heisman Trophy.

https://x.com/ESPN_BillC/status/2089359931195457745?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E2089359931195457745%7Ctwgr%5E04902090a0d11d84a884a3ffa2e6aa1974b80038%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fcollegesportswire.usatoday.com%2Fstory%2Fsports%2Fcollege%2Fcollege-football%2F2026%2F08%2F17%2Fheisman-trophy-college-football-fans-vote%2F91338069007%2F

"Every player who steps onto the field this fall begins the season as a Heisman Hopeful with the chance to earn the award on the field of play," Price said. "This platform, working hand in hand with the schools, helps us shine a light on those players and bring their stories forward all season long."

While the weight of the fan vote will change dynamically throughout the season, the players that finish first, second and third in fan voting will count towards the first official Heisman ballot.

Voters have the ability to cast votes on a daily basis on the platform.

<https://hopefuls.heisman.com/>