



December 4, 2022

Coastal Carolina University and East Carolina University Selected to Play in the 16th TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Coastal Carolina University (9-3), representing the Sun Belt Conference, and East Carolina University (7-5), representing The American Athletic Conference, will meet in the 16th TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl on Tuesday, Dec. 27. The game will kick off at 5:45 p.m. CST at Birmingham's Protective Stadium and will air on ESPN and Bowl Season Radio.

"As we prepare for the 16th TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl, we look forward to building on the amazing atmosphere and success of last year's first game at our new venue, Protective Stadium," said Mark Meadows, TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl executive director. "We know that Coastal Carolina, East Carolina and their fans will enjoy the unique brand of southern hospitality that Birmingham offers while in town for the holidays."

This is the first match-up between Coastal Carolina and East Carolina.

The Coastal Carolina Chanticleers are currently ranked second in the Sun Belt. This will be Coastal Carolina's first appearance in the TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl.

"We are excited to be playing in the TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl this season, a place with great football history in Birmingham, Alabama. Our team is excited to represent our University and the Sun Belt Conference once again on a national level. We will get back to work and look forward to playing in another postseason bowl game, especially one that has such a great impact on the local community and has a great relationship with TicketSmarter, ESPN Events, and several charities," said Coastal Carolina Interim Head Coach Chad Staggs.

"We are honored and excited to accept an invitation to the prestigious TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl. The opportunity for our program to play in the football capital of the south and to be associated with the city's rich football history is special, and all of Teal Nation looks forward to a great bowl experience in the Magic City," said Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and University Recreation Matt Hogue.

The East Carolina Pirates are currently tied for sixth in the AAC. This will be East Carolina's third appearance in the TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl, participating in the first Birmingham Bowl game in

TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl
ESPN Events
2 Riverchase Office Plaza, suite 110
Birmingham, AL 35244



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2006 against the University of South Florida and then again in 2015 playing against the University of Florida.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the young men in our program who have shown an exemplary commitment and dedication to moving our football program forward in a positive direction. Playing in back-to-back bowl games is another step in our journey to restoring the prominence of Pirate Football. I know our young men will be prepared, focused and enthusiastic to represent the Purple and Gold in Birmingham,” said East Carolina Head Coach Mike Houston.

“We are honored to accept an invitation to the Birmingham Bowl and play in the postseason for the second consecutive year under head coach Mike Houston,” East Carolina Director of Athletics Jon Gilbert said. “I am excited for our student-athletes, coaches and staff to represent East Carolina University, our community and all of eastern North Carolina. In conjunction with Mark Meadows and the Birmingham Bowl, I know our young men will have a first-class bowl experience. We have a dedicated group including a special group of seniors that have worked to rebuild our football program. We are looking forward to Pirate Nation joining us in Birmingham,” said East Carolina Athletic Director Jon Gilbert.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#). All seating is reserved, with ticket prices starting at \$30. For information on premium seating, hospitality and branding opportunities, contact Mark Meadows at mark.r.meadows@espn.com. All tickets will be delivered digitally.

The TicketSmarter Birmingham bowl logo can be downloaded [here](#) for media usage.

The TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl is one of 17 college football bowl games owned and operated by ESPN Events. For more information, please visit TicketSmarterBirminghamBowl.com. For up-to-the-minute information, please follow our social handles on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

TicketSmarter

[TicketSmarter](#) is a proud member of the Digital Ally Companies (NASDAQ: DGLY). With more than 48 million tickets for sale, TicketSmarter enables customers to experience the power and excitement of live events. TicketSmarter also works alongside numerous charitable partners, including St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the V Foundation, and the Quarterbacking Children’s Health Foundation.

TicketSmarter is the title sponsor of the TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl with ESPN Events and the official ticket resale partner of Rose Bowl Stadium. Additionally, TicketSmarter is the official ticket resale partner of over 35 collegiate conferences, 300+ universities, and hundreds of events and venues nationally.

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ESPN Events

[ESPN Events](#), a division of ESPN, owns and operates a portfolio of collegiate sporting events nationwide. In 2022, the 32-event schedule includes three early-season college football kickoff games, 17 college bowl games, 11 college basketball events, and a college softball event, which account for approximately 400 hours of live programming, while reaching nearly 64 million viewers and attracting over 800,000 annual attendees. With satellite offices in more than 10 cities across the country, ESPN Events builds relationships with conferences, schools and local communities, as well as providing unique experiences for teams and fans.

For more information, visit the official [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#) pages.

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