

AUBURN

HEAD COACH
GUS MALZAHN
Second Year at Auburn
Overall (2 years): 21-5
At Auburn: 12-2
Bowl Record at AU: 0-1
Bowl Record Overall: 0-1

OFFENSIVE COACH
RHETT LASHLEE (QB)
Second Year at Auburn
DEFENSIVE COACH
ELLIS JOHNSON (LB)
Second Year at Auburn

OTHER COACHES
RODNEY GARNER (DL)
CHARLIE HARBISON (S)
MELVIN SMITH (CB)
DAMEYUNE CRAIG (WR)
SCOTT FOUNTAIN (ST/TE)
JB GRIMES (OL)
TIM HORTON (RB)
RYAN RUSSELL (S&C)

2013 RECORD
12-2 (7-1)
FOUNDED
1856
STADIUM/CAPACITY
Jordan-Hare Stadium
(87,451)
LOCATION
Auburn, Alabama

2014 AUBURN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 30		Arkansas	Oct. 25		South Carolina
Brewing into a new rivalry due to the friction b/t Malzahn and Bielema. Ark held it tight last season but Aub took advantage of three Ark TOs. (Mason, Aub-4 TDs)			In the 11 game series Aub is 9-1-1 and SC hasn't won since 1933! In the past five meetings Aub has outgained SC 2,134-1,570 (Avg=426-314). Last meeting in '11.		
Sep. 6		San Jose State	Nov. 1		at Mississippi
This will be the first meeting in history. SJSU returns 14 starters with nine on defense. SJSU loses QB David Fales in 2014. (66 TD 8,382 yards, SJSU records!)			Aub never trailed in last season's 30-22 victory knocking off their first Top 25 opponent of the year before defeating 4 more! (7-TAMU, 25-UGA, 1-ALA, 5-MIZ)		
Sep. 18		at Kansas State	Nov. 8		Texas A&M
Aub is 3-0 in this series with the last win coming in 2007 at Aub. Outside of bowl games, Aub is 5-5 versus AQ non-conference opponents in the last 10 seasons.			The victory over the Aggies last season started the unpredicted run for the Tigers. In this 4 game series TAMU averages 39 points per game and Aub just 20.		
Sep. 27		Louisiana Tech	Nov. 15		at Georgia
Auburn has faced Louisiana Tech 12 times going 11-0-1 dating back to 1941. Auburn wins by an average score of 33-14. In last meeting Auburn won 37-13.			UGA leads the rivalry 52-51-6 and has won six of the last eight meetings. The last two times Aub has beaten UGA they have played for the NC (2010 & 2013).		
Oct. 4		LSU	Nov. 22		Samford
Auburn was a 17 pt underdog in last year's game losing in a monsoon 21-35. Auburn rebounded after being down 21-0 at half to a convincing 14 point loss.			These two have faced each other 27 times and Aub is 26-0-1. In 2011 Aub won 35-14 edging out Samford 415-338. Former Aub QB Pat Sullivan is head coach.		
Oct. 11		at Mississippi State	Nov. 29		at Alabama
Aub has won 13 of the last 15 games in this series winning on a last second TD in '13 w/ Marshall going 6-8 for 66 yds. Aub's only game in '13 w/ 300 pass yards.			The best rivalry in football didn't disappoint last season with Aub's one-second play to end the game. Aub is 7-2 versus Bama in Tuscaloosa.		

2013 Recap

At best, the 2013 Tigers were picked to finish fourth in the SEC West. The expectations were not high in Gus Malzahn's first year as head coach at Auburn. Auburn started off the season with uncertainty at quarterback, receiver, linebacker, and in the secondary and things were still unsettled or from a fan's perspective comfortable after a week one victory over Washington State in which the Tigers gave up 464 yards and 28 first downs. Things began to click in week three as Auburn, led by Nick Marshall, put together a fourth quarter game winning drive to defeat Mississippi State giving the Tigers their first SEC win since Ole Miss in 2011. Auburn then went down to Baton Rouge and played in a monsoon and came up 14 points short to a hot LSU team that has had Auburn's number these past few seasons. After the road loss to LSU, Auburn finished the rest of the regular season unbeaten with road wins against Texas A&M, Arkansas and Tennessee while defeating five ranked teams including an SEC title over fifth ranked Missouri giving the Tigers their second SEC title in four years. Auburn then traveled to California to take on the Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston and the top ranked Seminoles. Auburn jumped out to a 21-3 lead but then Florida State went on a 31-10 run to become college football's champion. In 2013, Auburn showed that their time at the bottom of the SEC would not last long as they went from 3-9 to 12-2!

Preseason Player Predictions



#14
QB
Sr.

OFFENSIVE MVP

NICK MARSHALL



#55
DE
So.

DEFENSIVE MVP

CARL LAWSON



#17
LB
Jr.

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER

KRIS FROST



#1
WR
Jr.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

D'HAQUILLE WILLIAMS

Recent Yearly Results

2013 (Overall: 12-2; SEC: 7-1)
Washington St W 31-24
Arkansas State W 38-9
Mississippi State W 24-20
at LSU L 21-35
Mississippi W 30-22
Western Carolina W 62-3
at Texas A&M W 45-41
Florida Atlantic W 45-10
at Arkansas W 35-17
at Tennessee W 55-23
Georgia W 43-38
Alabama W 34-28
*Missouri W 59-42
**Florida State L 31-34

2012 (Overall: 3-9; SEC: 0-8)
vs. Clemson L 19-26
at Mississippi St L 10-28
W 31-28 (OT)
LSU L 10-12
Arkansas L 7-24
at Mississippi L 20-41
at Vanderbilt L 13-17
Texas A&M L 21-63
New Mexico State W 42-7
Georgia L 0-38
Alabama A&M W 51-7
at Alabama L 0-49
**No Bowl in 2012

2011 (Overall: 8-5; SEC: 4-4)
Utah State W 42-28
Mississippi State W 41-34
at Clemson L 24-38
Florida Atlantic W 30-14
at South Carolina W 16-13
at Arkansas L 14-38
Florida W 17-6
at LSU L 10-45
Mississippi W 41-23
at Georgia L 7-45
Samford W 35-16
Alabama L 14-42
**Virginia W 43-24

2010 (Overall: 14-0; SEC: 8-0)
Arkansas State W 52-26
at Mississippi St W 17-14
W 27-24 (OT)
South Carolina W 35-27
Louisiana Monroe W 52-3
at Kentucky W 37-34
Arkansas W 65-43
LSU W 24-17
at Mississippi W 51-31
Chattanooga W 62-24
Georgia W 49-31
at Alabama W 28-27
*South Carolina W 56-17
**Oregon W 22-19

2009 (Overall: 8-5; SEC: 3-5)
Louisiana Tech W 37-13
Mississippi State W 45-24
West Virginia W 41-30
Ball State W 54-30
at Tennessee W 26-22
at Arkansas L 23-44
Kentucky L 14-21
at LSU L 10-31
Mississippi W 33-20
Furman W 63-31
at Georgia L 24-31
Alabama L 21-26
**Northwestern W 38-35 (OT)

2008 (Overall: 5-7; SEC: 2-6)
Louisiana Monroe W 34-0
Southern Miss W 27-13
at Mississippi St W 3-2
LSU L 21-26
Tennessee W 14-12
at Vanderbilt L 13-14
Arkansas L 22-25
at West Virginia L 17-34
at Mississippi L 7-17
Tennessee-Martin W 37-20
Georgia L 13-17
Alabama L 0-36
**No Bowl in 2012

2007 (Overall: 9-4; SEC: 5-3)
Kansas State W 23-13
South Florida L 23-26 (OT)
Mississippi State L 14-19
New Mexico State W 55-20
at Florida W 20-17
Vanderbilt W 35-7
at Arkansas W 9-7
at LSU L 24-30
Mississippi W 17-3
Tennessee Tech W 35-3
at Georgia L 20-45
Alabama W 17-10
**Clemson W 23-20 (OT)

Projected Offensive Depth Chart

Returning Starter

QB	<p>14 Nick Marshall (Sr. 6'1 210) 6 Jeremy Johnson (Soph. 6'5 219) 12 Jonathan Wallace (Jr. 6'2 206)</p>
RB	<p>44 Cameron Artis-Payne (Sr. 5'11 210) 25 Peyton Barber (rFr. 5'11 217) 20 Corey Grant (Sr. 5'11 205) NA Racean Thomas (Fr. 5'11 195)</p>
WR	<p>18 Sammie Coates (Sr. 6'2 201) 5 Ricardo Louis (Jr. 6'2 215) 82 Melvin Ray (Jr. 6'3 213) 3 Dominic Walker (rFr. 6'1 211)</p>
WR	<p>1 D'haquille Williams (Jr. 6'3 213) 89 Jaylon Denson (Jr. 6'3 219) 84 Tony Stevens (Soph. 6'4 190)</p>
WR	<p>4 Quan Bray (Sr. 5'10 186) 80 Marcus Davis (Soph. 5'9 176) 10 Stanton Truitt (Fr. 5'10 185)</p>
TE/HB	<p>81 CJ Uzomah (Sr. 6'4 258) 11 Brandon Fulse (Sr. 6'4 263) 35 Ricky Parks (Soph. 6'4 264)</p>
RT	<p>56 Avery Young (Soph. 6'6 304) 51 Patrick Miller (Jr. 6'7 283) NA Braden Smith (Fr. 6'6 290)</p>
RG	<p>62 Chad Slade (Sr. 6'5 313) 76 Jordan Diamond (Soph. 6'6 315) 53 Devonte Danzey (Jr. 6'4 282)</p>
C	<p>50 Reese Dismukes (Sr. 6'3 300) 65 Tunde Fariyike (Sr. 6'2 305) 52 Xavier Dampeer (Jr. 6'4 300)</p>
LG	<p>63 Alex Kozan (Soph. 6'4 297) 53 Devonte Danzey (Jr. 6'4 282) 75 Deon Mix (rFr. 6'4 310)</p>
LT	<p>72 Shon Coleman (Soph. 6'6 299) 56 Avery Young (Soph. 6'6 304) 74 Will Adams (rFr. 6'5 297)</p>
K	<p>38 Daniel Carlson (rFr. 6'4 205) 39 Alex Kviklys (Jr. 6'1 189)</p>
KR	<p>4 Quan Bray (Sr. 5'10 186) 20 Corey Grant (Sr. 5'11 205)</p>

OFFENSIVE POSITION WRITE-UPS

Quarterbacks: For the first time in his coaching tenure, head coach Gus Malzahn will have the luxury of coaching a returning starting quarterback. Last season the Tigers knew how the quarterback situation would shake out but didn't know how long it would take for newcomer Nick Marshall to learn the playbook in only five weeks. Marshall was an all-star JUCO quarterback out of Garden City Community College in Mississippi in which he totaled for 37 touchdowns in 2012. Marshall had steady games to open the season, which was expected. Marshall threw his first touchdown pass in an Auburn uniform in the first quarter to Marcus Davis against Arkansas State. Marshall evolved as a passer throughout the year but his impressive read-option ability is what made him flourish under the unique Malzahn offense. Marshall finished the year passing for 1,976 yards with 14 touchdowns, but the magic came from his running ability as he totaled for 1,068 yards and 12 touchdowns on the ground. Marshall will be on many short lists for the Heisman Trophy. The big armed, and big framed, Jeremy Johnson will back up the senior after showing glimpses of potential in minimal playing time even though starting against Western Carolina when Marshall was nursing a knee (17-21 201 yards 4 TD 1 INT). Johnson should be used more this season in passing situations to help better prepare him for a starting role while also being a key component in this season's offense. Jonathan Wallace (four career starts) will most likely be the reliable third string quarterback being accompanied by an Under Armour All-American (MVP of game) and Elite 11 winner Sean White. *I expect Marshall's passing numbers to improve (better completion percentage) while also seeing more of talented sophomore Jeremy Johnson.*

Running Backs: Auburn has produced a 1,000-yard rusher now in each of the last five seasons (SEC record). Tre Mason wasn't the sure fired go-to at the beginning of the season. Mason only received 39 carries in the first three games of the season while splitting carries with JUCO transfer Cameron Artis-Payne (25). Mason took over after the Tigers' loss in Baton Rouge and took off from there. Mason ended the season with 1,816 rushing yards, (AU record) 23 touchdowns, (AU record) and a 5.7-yard per carry average. Mason moved on to the NFL and Auburn has a heap of talented runners in line to fill his shoes. The spring favorite will be senior Artis-Payne but redshirt freshman Peyton Barber is said to be the most talented back on the roster according to former teammate Mason and companion Artis-Payne. Barber has a bruiser style of running ability with a stout frame at 5'11 217 drawing comparisons to former Auburn running back Ben Tate. Speedster Corey Grant was third in rushing on the team last season with 647 rushing yards an a 9.8 average that ranked first in the country (unqualified). Freshman Roc Thomas (#6 rated RB) should see the field this season. This running attack will be once again be tough to stop for opposing defenses with a loaded running back corps with the addition of Marshall's running ability. *I will call for at least two runners, including Marshall, to have 1,000-yard seasons and Peyton Barber will get the bulk of the carries.*

Receivers: Auburn returns every wide receiver from the 2013 roster. Sammie Coates led the team with 42 receptions and 902 yards and a 21.5 average (third nationally). Ricardo Louis returns after having an inconsistent year but showed glimpses of what how he could impact the offense on every play. Sophomore Marcus Davis showed promise last season and Quan Bray returns for his senior season and will start in the slot. Newcomer D'haquille "Duke" Williams (talk of spring) will give Marshall a big-framed possession receiver. Williams has big play ability with spectacular hands. Look for Marshall's focus to shift from Coates to Williams in 2014. Jaylon Denson returns after suffering from a knee injury and plenty of depth is added with the additions of Stanton Truitt, Myron Burton, and redshirt freshman Dominic Walker. CJ Uzomah will line up at H-back and tight end with senior Brandon Fulse. *With an experienced group and a great receivers coach Auburn should look crisper and should be more consistent. Too many drops in 2013.*

Offensive Line: The offensive line was one of the most improved units on the 2013 team after an ugly showing in 2012. First round draft choice Greg Robinson was the anchor of the group and is the only starter Auburn must replace. In the projected starting five, Auburn has nearly 70 career starts not including the 36 starts by projected backup guard Chad Slade. This spring the Tigers' coaching staff moved 2013 starting right tackle Avery Young inside to right guard and Patrick Miller back at right tackle after starting the whole 2012 season. Shon Coleman (battled cancer successfully) has been highly talked about this spring with high praises from his teammates and looks to be the starter at left tackle. Coleman was a five star recruit in 2010. *This line will continue to thrive in this offense and shouldn't miss a beat even with the departure of All-SEC offensive tackle Robinson.*



CJ Uzomah

DEFENSIVE POSITION WRITE-UPS

Defensive Line: In Auburn's championship run in 2010 the Tigers had four players with at least seven tackles for loss, most notably Nick Fairley's 24. The Tigers had only one lineman with seven in 2012 (Angelo Blackson) but last season had two players with more than seven along with five with at least five tackles for loss. The Tigers ranked second in tackles for loss (90) in the SEC while also ranking third in team sacks (32). Dee Ford departs after showing his full potential in 2013 in his first full season. Ford led the team in sacks in 2012 (6) and last season with 10.5. Highly touted freshman Carl Lawson filled in nicely in Auburn's eight-man rotation finishing his rookie season with four sacks, 7.5 tackles for loss, and freshman All-America team honors. Lawson looks to fill the shoes of Ford with other highly touted recruit Elijah Daniel. The interior line is one of the more impressive units on the Auburn roster. Senior Gabe Wright and Ben Bradley anchor a solid defensive line with a bright future. Sophomore Montravious Adams is in the mold of another solid Auburn defensive tackle as he was just getting his feet wet in 2013. One of the 2012 starters, Jeffrey Whitaker, returns after receiving a medical redshirt in 2013. Freshmen ends Andrew Williams and Justin Thornton and tackles Dontavious Russell and Devonte Lambert have the potential to have an immediate impact like the freshman class last season. *Auburn should improve on their poor rushing yards per game numbers (10th in SEC in 2013) and should stay near the top in the SEC in tackles for loss and sacks.*

Linebackers: The linebacking corps has been one of Auburn's weakest units in past seasons. Auburn returns five out of its top six tacklers at the position not including the "star" position. Three-year starter Jake Holland departs after starting at middle linebacker for the past three seasons. Potential star Cassanova McKinzy moves from Will to Mike to fill the void of Holland and Kris Frost is on the other end of the switch finding a starting role at the weakside position. Justin Garrett was the talk of spring in 2013 but faced injuries throughout the season and now will move back to the outside after spending last spring at star. *Consistency has been the big issue for this group in recent years and with Auburn only losing one starter the unit should improve and be more consistent and reliable in 2014.*

Projected Defensive Depth Chart

Returning Starter

DE	10 LaDarius Owens (Sr. 6'2 250) 97 Elijah Daniel (Soph. 6'2 264) NA Davaroe Lawrence (Soph. 6'3 275)
DT	1 Montravius Adams (Soph. 6'4 305) 98 Angelo Blackson (Sr. 6'4 310) 54 Jeffrey Whitaker (Sr. 6'4 310)
DT	90 Gabe Wright (Sr. 6'3 296) 50 Ben Bradley (Sr. 6'1 295) NA DaVonte Lambert (Soph. 6'3 280)
DE	55 Carl Lawson (Soph. 6'2 258) 42 Gimel President (Soph. 6'4 248) NA Justin Thornton (Fr. 6'5 225) NA Andrew Williams (Fr. 6'4 245)
WLB	17 Kris Frost (Jr. 6'2 238) 39 Anthony Swain (Jr. 6'2 239) 26 Justin Garrett (Jr. 6'1 218)
MLB	8 Cassanova McKinzy (Jr. 6'3 246) NA Tre' Williams (Fr. 6'2 235) 47 Cameron Toney (rFr. 6'1 236)
STAR	27 Robensen Therezie (Sr. 5'9 204) 26 Justin Garrett (Jr. 6'1 218) 21 Mackenro Alexander (Soph. 5'11 192)
SS	24 Derrick Moncrief (Jr. 6'3 225) 15 Joshua Holsley (Jr. 5'11 197) 23 Johnathan Ford (rFr. 6'0 186) NA Stephen Roberts (Fr. 6'0 177)
FS	9 Jermaine Whitehead (Sr. 5'11 201) 22 Khari Harding (Soph. 6'0 223) 29 Brandon King (Sr. 6'1 210)
CB	6 Jonathon Mincy (Sr. 5'10 200) 37 Kamryn Melton (rFr. 5'10 173) NA Joseph Turner (Soph. 6'2 190)
CB	3 Jonathan Jones (Jr. 5'10 180) 28 TJ Davis (Soph. 6'1 191) NA Nick Ruffin (Fr. 6'0 180)
P	28 Jimmy Hutchinson (6'2 190 rFr.)
PR	4 Quan Bray (Sr. 5'10 196) 25 Trovon Reed (Sr. 6'0 190)

Defensive Backs: The stats may not prove this statement, but the Auburn secondary showed strides of improvement last season. In 2010 and 2011 the Tigers ranked last in passing defense in the SEC followed by an eighth ranked passing defense in 2012. This was undoubtedly a group that needed improvement due to the inconsistent play resulting in poor numbers. The passing defense numbers in 2013 were identical to those of 2010, opponents completion percentage was much better (or worse, however you want to phrase it) at 58% as opposed to 63% in 2010. Free safety Jermaine Whitehead is the best of the group and started 27 games in the past three seasons. Strong safety Derrick Moncrief was a highly coveted JUCO recruit and will alternate with junior Joshua Holsley (ACL in 2013). Jonathon Mincy had a fine 2013 with 56 tackles and a team high 14 passes defended. The opposite of Mincy is the biggest question for the secondary. Jonathan Jones has shown potential the past two seasons, but senior Trovon Reed moved from receiver to cornerback to possibly replace the void left by the departed Chris Davis. The unit as a whole is not as experienced as it was in 2013, but still should be better. *In 2007 and 2008 the Auburn defensive pass numbers were at an all-time low at 179 and 173 yards per game. I am not saying Auburn will get that low, but the numbers should improve and we should see an all-around higher level of play from the unit as a whole.*

SPECIAL TEAMS POSITION WRITE-UP

Special teams have been a strength of Auburn's even in 2012 when the Tigers went 3-9. In 2012, Cody Parkey hit 11-14 field goals with a total of 60 points. Steven Clark led the team in punting with a 39.8 average with 15 kicks inside the twenty-yard line. Last season, the Tigers had one of their best units in years with solid numbers and game-changing abilities. Cody Parkey was solid hitting 15-21 field goals and an astounding 69 touchbacks (70% of his kickoffs)! Steven Clark has a 42.6 average and the team net was 40.5! Clark was surprisingly not a finalist for the Ray Guy Award after top-notch performances in the final four games. The returning game as a whole was much better with the return numbers (kick & punt combined) increasing from 15.6 average per return to 17.5 per return. The unit scored four touchdowns in 2013 with the most publicized "Kick Six" being the last. This unit has to replace ALL four primary starters. Redshirt freshmen Daniel Carlson and Jimmy Hutchinson will pick up the kicking duties with no experience in previous seasons. Quan Bray and Corey Grant will continue to handle the kickoff duties, but the punt returner is still in question. *Obviously, this unit will be demoted in every aspect, but will gain valuable experience for the future. Auburn relied heavily on this unit in 2013, with Parkey, Clark, Mason, and Davis all making significant impacts.*

COACHING STAFF WRITE-UP



Gus Malzahn

Gus Malzahn spent six seasons as a division one offensive coordinator jumping straight to Arkansas right out of his high school coaching stint. Malzahn then found success at Tulsa averaging 44.1 points per game, while averaging over 550 total yards per game in his two years there as offensive coordinator. Tulsa went to back-to-back Conference USA championships in Malzahn's short stay. First year Auburn coach, Gene Chizik, hired Malzahn to run his offense in 2009. Auburn went from 17.3 points per game and 302 yards per game in 2008 to 33.3 yards per game and 431 yards per game in 2009. Malzahn then left for Arkansas State after a coaching vacancy, then returned to The Plains when the job opened again. Malzahn once again improved the Auburn offense in 2013 with help from offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee. Lashlee has been Malzahn's right hand man since his playing days at Shiloh Christian where Malzahn coached high school. Defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson came over from an unsuccessful one year as head coach at Southern Miss to become Auburn defensive coordinator. Johnson is still incorporating his unique 4-2-5 defensive scheme. Rodney Garner has been very successful in improving the defensive line play and has been solid on the recruiting trail. Dameyune Craig has done well with the receivers and has a great group returning in 2014. *Auburn has one of the best staffs in the nation!*

2014 OUTLOOK

Auburn had the worst season in school history in 2012 with a 3-9 (0-8) record and all-time season yardage lows. Shortly after the Iron Bowl, Gene Chizik was shown the door. Gus Malzahn was the next man in with just one season as a college head coach at Arkansas State. As said in the previous article, Malzahn transformed the very poor offensive numbers of 2012 to national highs in 2013. The Tigers improved from three wins to 12 with an SEC championship and a trip to the national championship game falling short to Florida State in :13 seconds. The 2014 team is hungry to get back to capture another SEC title (will be fourth in ten years) and is even more hungry to take a stab at the new college playoff and get back to the national title game. This is a very seasoned group with very few positions that lack depth and need help. The defensive line is a definite strength with the best depth in the SEC and the offensive line is also another group with great talent. The biggest concern for Auburn, roster wise, is special teams as already mentioned. A couple of highly recruited kickers will fill the vacancies and will be relied on as soon as the first second rolls off in the opening game. The schedule is tough for the Tigers with road games at Kansas State, Ole Miss, Georgia, and Alabama, but this is the strongest and most talented team Auburn has had since winning the title in 2010.

NATIONAL RANK:

4

SEC RANK:

1

SEC WEST RANK:

1

RECORD PREDICTION:

11-1

BOWL PICK:

Playoff



Montravius Adams

