



2014 SCHEDULE

S. 6	at Kent State
S.13	Miss. State
S.20	Ga. Southern
S.27	at Idaho
O.4	at App. State
O.18	Ga. State
O.24	Troy
N.1	at Louisiana
N.8	at Ark. State
N.15	Texas State
N.22	at S. Carolina
N.26	Navy



In the second season of official members of the Sun Belt conference, South Alabama finished third in the league in total offense, fourth in scoring offense, and second in both total and scoring defense. Despite the 6-6 record, Joey Jones was awarded the Sun Belt coach of the year. The Jags return eight starters on an offense that averaged 425 yards per game and an average of 29 points per game, but lose the Sun Belt's leader in individual total offense Ross Metheny. Entering spring practice there was no clear-cut replacement and the competition ended that way as well. Junior Brandon Bridge (6'5 220) will be the media favorite to win the job, but will battle with a handful of contenders consisting of Trey Fetner, Grant Powell, and Brett Sheehan. Whomever the quarterback may be, he will have a solid group of receivers to throw to headlined by NFL Draft prospect Wes Saxton at tight end (50 catches 635 yards in 2013). Junior Shavarez Smith is the leading returning receiver and is accompanied by Jereme Jones, Danny Woodson, and Alabama transfer (former four star recruit) Marvin Shinn. The offensive line is very deep and talented as the unit returns a couple of 2013 All-Sun Belt team selections in Ucambre Williams and Chris May. This is the best offensive line unit in the Sun Belt Conference.

The defense was solid in 2013 ranking second in both total and scoring defense in the Sun Belt and a tremendous amount of sacks (38) led by key departures Alex Page and Romelle Jones. The defense returns six starters, but will need to rebuild upfront losing three starters. Jesse Kelly is the lone returning starter at defensive tackle and has All-Sun Belt potential. Middle linebacker Enrique Williams departs after posting 210 total tackles over the past two seasons. Despite the loss, the defensive backfield will still be strong and stingy with the return of Maleki Harris at linebacker and defensive backs Antonio Carter, Quadarius Ford, Montell Garner, and Terrell Brigham. The secondary brings a light 43 career starts into 2014, but this group is crazy talented and is full of potential All-Conference players.

South went 6-6 with five losses coming by a combined 12 points! With 15 returning starters and a very underrated head coach, this team is a serious threat to win the Sun Belt title if the quarterback position shakes out in their favor.

SBC Finish	2	Record Prediction	8-4	Bowl Pick	GoDaddy.com
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2014 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

QB	Brandon Bridge, Jr.	DE	Jimmie Gipson III, So.
RB	Jay Jones, Jr.	DT	Jesse Kelly, Jr.
WR	Shavarez Smith, Jr.	DT	Jerome McClain, Jr.
WR	Danny Woodson II, So.	DE	Theo Rich, Jr.
WR	Jereme Jones, Jr.	LB	Maleki Harris, Jr.
TE	Wes Saxton, Jr.	LB	Desmond LaVelle, Jr.
C	Joseph Scelfo, So.	NB	Antonio Carter, So.
RG	Shaun Artz, Jr.	CB	Quadarius Ford, Jr.
LG	Drew Dearman, Jr.	CB	Montell Garner, Jr.
RT	Chris May, So.	FS	Terrell Brigham, Jr.
LT	Ucambre Williams, Jr.	SS	Roman Buchanan, So.
K	Aleem Sunanon, So.	P	Brandon McKee, So.



2014 SCHEDULE

A. 30	at UAB
S. 6	Duke
S.13	Ab. Christian
S.20	at Georgia
S.27	at ULM
O.11	New Mexico St
O.18	App. State
O.24	at So. Alabama
O.30	at Ga. Southern
N.8	Georgia State
N.15	at Idaho
N.26	Louisiana



Getting back to one of the elites of the Sun Belt Conference will be no easy task. Working on finding a replacement for the departed Corey Robinson will be difficult as well. Corey Robinson leaves Troy as the all-time passing leader with 13,477 yards destroying the old record by roughly 5,000 yards! After a solid spring, freshman Brandon Silvers is penciled as the starter, but Troy has some nice options if deciding to go a different direction. Kenny Edenfield's unique high-powered offense rolled last year by being on the top of the conference in points per game, while racking up an average of 463 yards per game. Quarterback is not the only area of concern on the Trojan offense. Even with a few key guys returning at wide receiver, the unit will still need to fill some holes left by Eric Thomas (third in Troy history with 2,655 yards) and Chris Williams. The offensive line will need to continue to stay consistent with a couple of departing seniors.

The Troy defense was dreadful last season giving up, on average, 483 yards per game and nearly 36 points per game (107th in nation). The defense is highlighted by a couple of All-Sun Belt teamers in defensive end Tyler Roberts and linebacker Mark Wilson. Roberts had a fine 2013 leading the team in sacks with 5.5 and in quarterback hurries with eight. Wilson is the team's leading returning tackler after posting 58 total stops in 2013. These two bright spots will need tremendous help if the Trojans become legitimate contenders for a Sun Belt title. The defensive line was a fine last season, but now it will have to replace three starters. The secondary was a mess. The unit entered the season with only a very slim amount of career starts with 12 and it showed as the pass defense numbers were the worst in the Sun Belt and one of the worsts Troy has had in recent memory. The Trojans will once again reload the group with minimal experience only having 24 career starts in its projected two-deep depth chart and will bank on a couple of JUCO transfers for some rehabilitation.

The Trojans entered last season with only seven returning starters and managed a 6-6 season with possibilities of pulling three upsets coming up short by a combined 19 points! This team returns 12 starters and should be much more improved all around and is still one of the more talented teams in the Sun Belt Conference.

SBC Finish	4	Record Prediction	6-6	Bowl Pick	NONE
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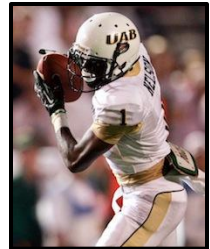
2014 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

QB	Brandon Silvers, rFr.	DE	Deon Lee, Jr.
RB	Brandon Burks, Jr.	DT	Billy Dobbs, Sr.
WR	Jarvis Bentley, Jr.	DT	Lonnie Gosha, Jr.
WR	KD Edenfield, Jr.	DE	Tyler Roberts, Jr.
WR	Bryan Holmes, Jr.	LB	W. Coleman-Dancer, Sr.
WR	Chandler Worthy, Sr.	LB	Jeremy Spikner, Sr.
C	Dalton Bennett, Jr.	LB	Mark Wilson, Sr.
RG	Tommy Stephens, Sr.	CB	Keion Payne, Sr.
LG	Ethan Houston, Jr.	CB	Jacquez Young, Sr.
RT	Terrence Jooness, Sr.	FS	Montres Kitchens, Jr.
LT	Antonio Garcia, So.	SS	Darrin Reddick, Jr.
K	Jed Solomon, Jr.	P	Ryan Kay, So.



2014 SCHEDULE

A.30	Troy
S. 6	at Miss. State
S.13	Alabama A&M
S.27	FIU
O.4	at W. Kentucky
O.11	North Texas
O.18	at Middle Tenn.
O.25	at Arkansas
N.1	at FAU
N.8	Louisiana Tech
N.22	Marshall
N.29	at Southern Miss



After a short stint with the Blazers (two years 5-19), Garrick McGee moved on to become the offensive coordinator at Louisville reuniting with his former boss from Arkansas. McGee inherited a nice bunch in his first two seasons, but underachieved only winning three conference games in two seasons. After a great first year at Jacksonville State (11-4-playoffs), Bill Clark steps in to take over for McGee and, like McGee did, he inherits a nice group with 15 returning starters. Clark served as defensive coordinator at South Alabama before Jacksonville State and that should help boost this defense (399+ yards per game in each of last seven seasons).

The offense showed some potential last season averaging just under 400 yards per game and 26 points per game. Quarterback play was inconsistent alternating from Jonathan Perry to Austin Brown. Both depart in 2014. Washington State transfer Cody Clements should fill the void at quarterback. Junior College transfer Pat Thomas could be highly considered as well. A bright spot for this offense is the receiving corps. Veteran Jamarcus Nelson (42 receptions, 846 yards, 8 TDs) returns after a fine 2013 and is accompanied by Jamari Staples and Darius Powell. Jordan Howard is the top returning rusher gaining 881 yards in his freshman year (second most among freshmen), but I still expect the rushing numbers to drop in 2014.

The offensive line loses a couple of multi-year starters with the departures of Kaycee Ike and Billy Autry. Even with the loss of 24 career starts, the unit brings 57 career starts back and adds in plenty of boom or bust junior college players headlined by Justin Brown and Kelepi Folau. The Blazer defense ranked 116th in total defense (497ypg) and 120th in scoring defense (43.8ppg). There is nowhere to go but up! The defense returns eight starters and returns 12 of its top 15 tacklers from 2013. The strongest unit on defense is the secondary with all four starters returning (including Calvin Jones from 2012) with 61 career starts in the projected two-deep rotation.

Since making its first and only bowl game in 2004 the Blazers have compiled nine straight losing seasons, with only two seasons threatening postseason play. UAB has a tough away schedule and will only be favored in two games. Bill Clark could have a rough first season even though benefiting from 15 returning starters. Unfortunately, this looks like another rebuilding year for UAB.

C-USA Finish	10	Record Prediction	3-9	Bowl Pick	NONE
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2014 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

QB	Cody Clements, Jr.	DE	Chris Rabb, Jr.
RB	Jordan Howard, So.	DT	Chris Walton, Sr.
WR	Maudrecus Humphrey, Sr.	DT	Jontavious Morris, Jr.
WR	Jamarcus Nelson, Sr.	DE	Diaheem Watkins, Sr.
WR	Jamari Staples, So.	LB	Destin Challenger, Jr.
TE	Kennard Backman, Sr.	LB	Jake Ganus, Jr.
C	Dominic Sylvester, Jr.	LB	Derek Slaughter, Jr.
RG	Brian O'Leary, Sr.	CB	Kelton Brackett, Jr.
LG	Roscoe Byrd, Jr.	CB	Lamarcus Farmer, Jr.
RT	Cameron Blankenship, Jr.	FS	Calvin Jones, Sr.
LT	Victor Salako, So.	SS	Nick Jackson, So.
K	Ty Long, Sr.	P	Hunter Mullins, Sr.