Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn men's basketball team warms up before their game against Wagner University on Nov. 9, 2026 at M&T Bank Center at Gampel Pavilion. This was the men's team's first game in the renovated stadium.

PHOTO BY JACOB BLACKWELL/THE DAILY AMPUS

ELLIOTS SATURDAY SLATE:

Two weeks remain in the regular season with CFP rankings on the line



Jaivian "Jet" Thomas of the UCLA Bruins celebrating during a game against the Illinois Fighting Illini. The Bruins won 22-14 against the Illini on Nov. 13, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCLAFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM



Matthew McConaughey interacting with the Texas Longhorn Mascot at a football game. The Longhorns won 22-21 against LSU on Nov. 14, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TEXASLONGHORNS ON INSTAGRAM

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The College Football Playoffs grow near as programs make their final case for why they belong in the postseason. For some, a glimmer of hope in the remaining weeks; for others, all opportunities are lost.

Jumping back a week, teams on the chopping block found themselves in difficult matchups with some coming up short. Standing atop the rest, none other than LSU. The No. 21 Tigers were in a final second battle with No. 8 Texas. The Longhorns quarterback, Arch Manning led Texas down the field with 2:19 left on the clock from their own 42-yard line. The team needed a touchdown to win, finding themselves down five.

Manning converted three third downs before finding Raleek Brown for a four-yard score. The Longhorns escaped infamous Tiger Stadium with a 22-21 win, improving to 5-0 against ranked opponents this season. The Longhorns remained No. 8 in the rankings, according to the AP poll. Meanwhile, LSU dropped out completely. The CFP committee selects its rankings on Tuesday, drawing more attention this late in the season.

Another notable SEC school that fell was No. 13 Kentucky. The Wildcats (7-2) hosted the Florida Gators, where the two exchanged scores before a fourth-quarter touchdown prevailed Florida for the win. Gators quarterback Aaron Philo rushed in the two-yard score with nine minutes remaining, which was enough to pull off the upset. Kentucky awaits the CFP rankings, but their second straight loss coming this late in the season will not help their chances.

No. 20 South Carolina fell to an unranked Arkansas side 34-6, likely erasing any chance of a playoff appearance. No. 15 Southern California similarly fell to No. 6 Indiana, giving the Trojans their third loss of the season. The newest AP poll placed Southern California at No. 18, but they end their season against No. 4 UCLA, with an opportunity to make a statement during rivalry weekend.

No. 19 Ole Miss and Oklahoma had their matchup postponed to Sunday due to Friday's nationwide ground stop ordered by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Sooners came ready to play, defeating the ranked Rebels 24-17, becoming bowl eligible while knocking Ole Miss down to No. 25.

Two Big 12 teams competed in an all-out brawl Saturday night as the lights glistened down on No. 2 Utah and No. 22 Arizona. The Wildcats jumped out to a first-quarter lead before the Utes responded with 17 in the second. The two exchanged the lead five more times before a 70-yard Creed Whittemore touchdown catch in the final three minutes secured the win for Utah.

Moving into this week's matchups, LSU faces No. 9 Tennessee in both teams' final test of the season. The game could solidify the Volunteers' spot in the playoffs while hosting the Tigers.

Top-ranked Georgia travels to South Carolina, who are coming off their loss to Arkansas. The Gamecocks are realistically eliminated from the playoffs unless they pull off the biggest win in school history Saturday night. The Bulldogs aim to keep rolling following a top-25 win against Missouri last week.

No. 17 Kentucky travels to face the Tigers of Missouri following their defeat, as both look to rebound following a loss. The SEC continues to grow more competitive, with only a few weeks remaining and only so many slots open.

The SEC has seen the majority of votes when it comes to the AP poll, along with CFP rankings. The highest on the list of controversy revolves around Alabama, who are ranked above ACC and Big 12 teams that have a better record than the Tide.

As the weeks unfold ahead of us, the playoff picture should reveal itself with programs separating themselves from the pack. If there is anything this season has taught us about college football, however, it is that nothing is certain and anything can happen.