



For Immediate Release

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New Mexico State and Utah State to Play in the NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl, December 29, 2017

Tucson, AZ., December 3, 2017 – The New Mexico State Aggies and Utah State have been invited to play at the 3rd NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl on December 29th at 3:30 pm at Arizona Stadium, the game will be televised on CBS Sports Network.

The Aggies finished the season with a 6-6 record and ranked seventh in the Sun Belt conference. NMSU previously held the record for the longest bowl drought in college football history, with their last appearance being in the 1960 Sun Bowl, where they defeated Utah State 20-13. The Aggies racked up 4954 yards of total offense, led by redshirt junior and Arizona native quarterback Tyler Jones, who threw for 24 touchdowns this season. Redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Cedric Wilcots and senior linebacker Dalton Herrington have combined for 13 sacks in this season and rank third and fourth for sacks overall in the conference.

Capping off the season in fourth place in the Mountain West, Utah State finishes with an overall record of 6-6. The Aggie offense had four games where they produced at least 500 yards, with senior runningback LaJuan Hunt scoring 10 touchdowns, tying a school single-season high. Redshirt freshman Jordan Love had a standout year, with more than 1,000 passing yards on the season. The Aggies defense rank third in the Mountain West in passing yards allowed, with their biggest threat being senior cornerback Jalen Davis, who has 5 interceptions. Utah State collected a total of six all-conference awards, with Davis and placekicker Dominik Eberle garnering first team honors.

CBS Sports Network, the 24-hour home of CBS Sports, is widely available through all major cable, satellite and telco distributors as well as via OTT streaming service providers YouTube TV, fuboTV, PlayStation Vue, DirecTV and Hulu. Additionally, a live CBS Sports Network stream is available through CBSSports.com and the CBS Sports App by authenticating with select providers. For more information, including a full programming schedule, go to www.cbssportsnetwork.com. In Tucson, you can find the game on Direct TV Channel 221, Dish Channel 158, Cox Channel 312 or Comcast Channel 594.

About the NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl

The NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl was sanctioned in March 2015 as the 41st NCAA college football game and the third bowl game staged in Arizona. The 2016 game kicked off on December 30, 2016 and featured Air Force defeating South Alabama, 45 - 21. The NOVA® Home Loans Arizona

Bowl had more than 33,000 people in attendance, a 37% increase from its inaugural year in 2015. The NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl generated \$20 million for Southern Arizona, \$200,000 was donated to local charities. The primary goal of the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl is to award all net proceeds of the game to local charities and game organizers project more than \$200,000 will be donated to local charities as a result of the 2016 game.

About NOVA Home Loans

NOVA® Home Loans has served the needs of homeowners and homebuyers since 1980. NOVA has branches throughout Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and California and was recently named among the Top 50 mortgage lenders in the country. NOVA® is also licensed to originate loans in Alaska, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington. For more information, visit www.novahomeloans.com.

About the Mountain West

From its inception in 1999, the Mountain West has been committed to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, while promoting the academic missions of its member institutions. Progressive in its approach, the Mountain West continues to cultivate opportunities for student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while fostering academic achievement and sportsmanship. Now in its 18th year, the MW has been assertive in its involvement with the NCAA governance structure and has taken a leadership role in the overall administration of intercollegiate athletics. The Mountain West membership is comprised of 11 all-sport members: The United States Air Force Academy, Boise State University, Colorado State University, Fresno State, University of Nevada, University of New Mexico, San Diego State University, San José State University, UNLV, Utah State University and University of Wyoming. In addition, the University of Hawai'i and Colorado College participate in the Mountain West as single-sport members in football and women's soccer, respectively. For more information on the Mountain West, visit www.TheMW.com.

About the Sun Belt

The Sun Belt Conference's "Together We Rise" motto isn't just hyperbole. It's proven fact on many different levels, not the least being its place in the hierarchy of collegiate athletics. As the league celebrates four decades since its founding in 1976, the Sun Belt occupies a "seat at the table" as a permanent part of the NCAA's 24-member Board of Directors. That alone insures that the conference has a voice in determining the future as college sports continues to change and evolve. Opportunities for Sun Belt student-athletes to succeed both on and off the field have never been greater, and the Sun Belt is well positioned in the areas of scholarships, student-athlete welfare and academic success. During the 2014-15 academic year alone, Sun Belt member institutions awarded nearly \$50 million in scholarship funds to over 3,084 student-athletes while also contributing over \$2 million from the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) to over 1,779 student-athletes. The Sun Belt Conference's membership consists of 11 football members – Appalachian State, Arkansas State, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Idaho, UL Lafayette, UL Monroe, New Mexico State, South Alabama, Texas State and Troy. Little Rock and UT Arlington compete in all-sports as non-football members while Idaho and New Mexico State are football only members. Coastal Carolina joined the Sun Belt Conference in all sports but football in 2016. The CCU football program will begin Sun Belt play in 2018. For more information on the Sun Belt Conference, visit www.sunbeltsports.org.

About CBS Sports Network

CBS Sports Network, the 24-hour home of CBS Sports, is widely available through all major cable, satellite and telco distributors as well as via OTT streaming service providers YouTube TV, fuboTV, +PlayStation Vue, DirecTV and Hulu. Additionally, a live CBS Sports Network stream is available through CBSsports.com and the CBS Sports App by authenticating with select providers. For more information, including a full programming schedule, go to www.cbssportsnetwork.com.

About the Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission

The Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission (ASEC) is a non-profit organization created in 1988. The Commission collaborates with hundreds of partners to help fulfill the mission of bringing national and international sporting events to the state; assisting in the promotion of existing events; providing volunteer recruitment and organization for large-scale sporting events; and developing youth sports programs. In 2009, it assumed oversight of the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2012, the Grand Canyon State Games. ASEC was the founding organization and owner of the 2015 NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. For more information about the Commission call 480.517.9700 or visit www.azsportsent.com.

For more information about the NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl visit: www.NOVAArizonaBowl.com

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