

CANADIANS IN 2009 NCAA BOWL GAMES

A total of 19 Canadians will take part in 12 postseason NCAA College Football bowl games, beginning on December 19 and ending on January 6.

Things kick off on December 19 when Jawann Westerman (Brampton, ON) and Rutgers take on the University of Central Florida in the second annual St.Petersburg Bowl and culminate on January 6 when Central Michigan pair Kito Poblah (Montreal, QC) and Eric Fraser (Burnaby, BC) line up for Central Michigan against Troy in the GMAC Bowl.

Canadians will also take part in the following Bowls: MAACO Las Vegas, Sheraton Hawaii, Brut Sun, Insight, Rose Bowl presented by Citi, Allstate Sugar, Papajons.com, Valero Alamo, Tostitos Fiesta and FedEx Orange.

Nevada offensive guard John Bender (Cochrane, AB) will try to hold off Southern Methodist University defenders in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl. The six-foot-eight 325 lbs product from Cochrane High School had an outstanding season as the Wildcats rushed for 4,347 yards (362.2 ypg), and had three 1,000 rushers this season. The full-time starting junior's strong season helped the Wildcats average 40.6 points per game. The game is scheduled for December 24 at 8:00 p.m. airing on ESPN.

Connecticut center Muhammed Petrus (St. Laurent, QC), defensive end Jesse Joseph (Laval, QC), and tight end John Delahunt will face off against South Carolina in the Papajohns.com Bowl. Vanier Prep grad Petrus headed the Huskies line as the offense accumulated 2073 rushing yards (172.8 ypg) and 2,708 passing yards (225.7 ypg) The six-foot-two 288 lbs sophomore took part in 385 points (32.1 ppg) of offense. Also a Vanier Prep grad Joseph had a solid first campaign for the Huskies defense. The six-foot-four 238 lbs freshman finished the season with 33 tackles, five tackles for losses, three sacks, two pass breakups, and three quarterback hurries. Their game will be played on January 2 at 2:00 pm on ESPN.

Central Michigan junior receiver Kito Poblah (Montreal, QC) and senior free safety Eric Fraser (Burnaby, BC) were key cogs in the team's Mid-American Conference Title Championship year. Prembroke Pines Charter alum Poblah was a constant target snatching 50 passes for 631 yards and four touchdowns this year. The six-foot two 203 lbs receiver had his best game against Eastern Michigan, hauling in 5 catches for 126 yards and a touchdown. The Burnaby Central grad Fraser was sixth in tackles collecting 39, and broke up one pass. The six-foot-one 214 lbs safety was part of a defense that held opponents' rushing attacks to just 3.6 yards per carry. The Chippewas will face Troy in the GMAC Bowl on January 6 at 7 pm on ESPN.