ESPN College Football Scores: A Comprehensive Recap of Week 8 Action

College football fans were treated to another thrilling weekend of action as Week 8 delivered upsets, nail-biters, and standout performances across the nation. From top-ranked teams battling for playoff positioning to underdogs making their mark, ESPN's coverage brought every touchdown, interception, and game-winning drive to life. Here's a detailed breakdown of the <u>espn college football scores</u> highlights, and key takeaways from this week's games.



Top 25 Showdowns: Playoff Contenders Make Their Case

#1 Georgia vs. Florida

The Georgia Bulldogs continued their dominant run with a convincing 34-7 victory over the Florida Gators. Quarterback Carson Beck threw for 315 yards and two touchdowns, while the Bulldogs' defense held Florida to just 253 total yards. Georgia remains undefeated and firmly in control of the SEC East.

#2 Michigan vs. Michigan State

In a lopsided rivalry game, Michigan rolled past Michigan State 49-0. The Wolverines' defense was suffocating, forcing four turnovers, and Blake Corum rushed for 177 yards and three

touchdowns. Michigan's playoff hopes remain alive as they head into a crucial stretch of their schedule.

#3 Ohio State vs. Penn State

Ohio State edged out Penn State in a defensive battle, winning 20-12. Marvin Harrison Jr. was the star of the game, hauling in 11 receptions for 162 yards and a touchdown. The Buckeyes' defense stepped up in the second half, shutting down Penn State's offense to secure the win.

#4 Florida State vs. Duke

Florida State survived a scare against Duke, winning 38-20. Jordan Travis threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns, while Trey Benson rushed for 115 yards and a score. The Seminoles remain unbeaten and are looking like serious ACC title contenders.

#5 Washington vs. Arizona State

Washington narrowly escaped an upset bid by Arizona State, winning 15-7. Michael Penix Jr. struggled at times but managed to throw for 275 yards and a touchdown. The Huskies' defense came up big in the fourth quarter to preserve the win.

Upsets of the Week: Shaking Up the Rankings

Oklahoma vs. UCF

In one of the biggest surprises of the weekend, UCF stunned #6 Oklahoma 31-29. The Knights' offense was explosive, with quarterback John Rhys Plumlee accounting for three touchdowns. Oklahoma's playoff hopes took a major hit with this loss.

Tennessee vs. Alabama

Alabama's playoff hopes were dealt a blow as Tennessee pulled off a 34-28 upset in a thrilling SEC matchup. Joe Milton III threw for 271 yards and two touchdowns, and the Volunteers' defense came up with a crucial stop in the final minutes to seal the win.

Close Calls: Games That Went Down to the Wire

USC vs. Utah

USC survived a late rally by Utah to win 34-32. Caleb Williams threw for 356 yards and three touchdowns, but it was the Trojans' defense that made the game-winning stop on a two-point conversion attempt in the final minute.

LSU vs. Ole Miss

LSU outlasted Ole Miss in a high-scoring affair, winning 45-38. Jayden Daniels was spectacular, throwing for 325 yards and four touchdowns while also rushing for 100 yards. The Tigers' offense proved too much for the Rebels to handle.

Standout Performances: Players Who Shined

- **Michael Penix Jr., Washington**: Despite the close game, Penix Jr. showed why he's a Heisman contender with his poise and precision.
- Blake Corum, Michigan: Corum's three-touchdown performance was a reminder of his elite talent.
- Marvin Harrison Jr., Ohio State: Harrison Jr. was unstoppable, making big plays when his team needed them most.
- John Rhys Plumlee, UCF: Plumlee's dual-threat ability was on full display in UCF's upset win over Oklahoma.

Conference Breakdown: Who's Leading the Pack?

- **SEC**: Georgia and Alabama remain the teams to watch, but Tennessee's upset has shaken things up.
- **Big Ten**: Michigan and Ohio State are on a collision course for a massive showdown later this season.
- ACC: Florida State is the clear favorite, but teams like Clemson and Louisville are still in the mix.
- **Pac-12**: Washington and Oregon are leading the charge, but the conference remains wide open.
- **Big 12**: Oklahoma's loss has opened the door for Texas and others to make a push for the title.

Conclusion: What's Next in College Football?

Week 8 of the college football season provided plenty of drama and excitement, setting the stage for an even more intense November. With the College Football Playoff picture starting to take shape, every game matters. ESPN will continue to bring fans all the action, analysis, and highlights as the season progresses. Stay tuned for more unforgettable moments in what is shaping up to be one of the most exciting seasons in recent memory.

Final Thoughts

Whether you're a fan of a powerhouse program or a rising underdog, college football never fails to deliver heart-stopping moments. As we head into the final stretch of the season, the stakes are higher than ever. Keep checking ESPN for the latest scores, updates, and expert analysis as the race for the playoff heats up!