

ESPN College Game Day headed to Houston

Written by Yolande Lezine

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by Yolande Y. Lezine
Sports Editor

The Houston Cougars are 10-0 for the first-time in school history and they are catching the eyes of people across the nation.

As the Cougars prepare to return home this weekend for their regular-season home finale vs. the SMU Mustangs, they will accomplish another first in the 2011 season.

ESPN's College Game Day is coming to the University of Houston campus for the first time in school history this week. They will arrive in town and be live in front of the Cullen Performance Center on Saturday, November 19th starting at 8:00 a.m. Game time kicks off at 2:30 p.m.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the nation to see what is taking place at the University of Houston," Director of Athletics Mack Rhoades said. "We thank ESPN and Home Depot for this outstanding event and we salute the work of our student-athletes, our coaches, our staff and our fans for making this event a reality."

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The Houston Cougars, who are ranked #11 in the BCS Standings are just one of five undefeated teams remaining in college football. They are coming off a 73-17 victory over the Tulane Green Wave last week.

Houston is scoring points and racking up yardage at record rates. The 2011 Cougars are averaging 628.8 yards per game this season, the most in NCAA history. The team is scoring 54.7 points per game, the most since Army (56.0 ppg) in 1944.

“This is part of the championships culture we are building here at the University of Houston,” Head Coach Kevin Sumlin said. “Not just on the field, but for our student-athletes in the classroom, in the community and the involvement of our fans and alumni, this is what we have all worked towards. This is an opportunity to show the country what UH Athletics is all about.”

The Saturday morning show gets started at 8:00 a.m. on ESPNU and continues on ESPN from 9:00-11:00 a.m. There are two primary locations for fans to watch Game Day on Saturday. ESPN will open a “Pit” right behind the stage, which can accommodate approximately 300 fans. This area will be opened to fans at 6:00 a.m., two hours before the start of the show.

The second area is just behind the ESPN “Pit” and is the large area of fans often seen on Game Day telecasts. Fans are encouraged to bring signs in support of Houston Cougars football and fans will have free access to move throughout the Cullen Circle and surrounding areas.