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EAST EMERGES VICORIOUS IN 2017 U.S. ARMY ALL-AMERICAN BOWL PRESENTED BY AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Quarterbacks Hunter Johnson and Jake Fromm lead the East to victory

SAN ANTONIO (January 7, 2017) — The East defeated the West, 27-17, in front of a record U.S. Army All-American Bowl presented by American Family Insurance crowd of 40,568 at the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. East QB **Hunter Johnson** (Brownsburg High School/Brownsburg, IN) was named the game's Most Valuable Player, finishing with 91 passing yards and a touchdown.

"It was a blast, so much fun," Johnson said. "I could not have expected a better time."

Scoring Recap: Clemson QB commit **Hunter Johnson** connected with Michigan-bound WR **Donovan Peoples-Jones** on his first pass of the game, and soon found uncommitted wide receiver **Henry Ruggs** deep downfield for a 61-yard catch and run, impressively capping an 80-yard drive early in the second quarter to give the East a 7-0 lead. The West offense, led by Michigan QB commit **Dylan McCaffrey** on this drive, was able to bring the West deep into East territory -- but was halted by a stingy East defense. Alabama kicker commit **Brandon Ruiz** connected on a 26-yard field goal attempt to cut the East's lead 7-3. The East answered right back with future Georgia QB **Jake Fromm** hitting WR **D.J. Matthews** down the left sideline. Matthews outraced everyone but the cameraman on his way to a 76-yard touchdown, celebrating by tossing the ball into the sections of U.S. Army soldiers and providing a 14-3 lead for the East team. The East padded their lead just before the half with couple trick plays to get into field goal range, and **Joseph Bulovas** delivered as time expired. The second half started the same way the first ended, with Georgia Tech K commit Joseph Bulovas drilling a field goal, this one from 49 yards out. The West wouldn't go down easy, as **Deommodore Lenoir** returned the ensuing kick to the East's 18-yard line, and Ohio State QB commit **Tate Martell** converted a read option keeper from 18 yards out to cut the lead to 20-10. Midway through the fourth quarter, U.S. Army Player of the Year running back Florida State Cam Akers punched it in from four yards out to cap an 89-yard drive to give the East a 27-10 lead. With time running out midway through the fourth, Bulovas lined up for a third field goal, but recently-committed DB **Bubba Bolden** leapt over the line with impeccable timing and athleticism to block the field goal. He then picked up the loose ball and went all the way to the end zone for one of the most memorable plays in All-American ball history. The momentum shift to the West was all for naught, as time ran out with the East victorious 27-17.

Notes from Gameday

Attendance record: An attendance record was set at the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, with 40,568 fans in attendance at the Alamodome.

Game ball delivery by WWII vet Richard Overton: Richard Overton, a 110-year old World War II U.S. Army veteran completed the honors of delivering the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl game ball.

Coin toss: Under Secretary of the Army Patrick J. Murphy performed the honorary coin toss.

Seven All-Americans commit to their future universities: Seven All-Americans made their college declaration during the live broadcast on NBC: **West WR Jamire Calvin** (Oregon State University), **West RB Eno Benjamin** (Arizona State University), **West OL Chuck Filiaga** (University of Michigan), **West DB Bubba Bolden** (University of Southern California), **West DB Darnay Holmes** (University of California Los Angeles) and **West OL Foster Sarell** (Stanford University).

East statistical highlights: U.S. Army All-American Bowl MVP QB **Hunter Johnson** needed just three completions for 91 yards and one touchdown. QB **Jake Fromm** completed passes for 89 yards and a touchdown. WR **Henry Ruggs** recorded

79 receiving yards and a touchdown, and fellow WR **D.J. Matthews** took his lone reception 76 yards for the longest scoring play of the game. U.S. Army Player of the Year winner **Cam Akers** rushed for 38 yards and one touchdown for the East, while fellow RB **D'Andre Swift** ran for 28 yards. QB **Tua Tagovailoa** threw for 36 yards, completing all three of his attempts, and added 27 rushing yards. DB Hamsah Nasirildeen totaled four tackles and a pass breakup. DB Devon Hunter also had four tackles. Jacob Phillips recorded four tackles, one behind the line of scrimmage.

West statistical highlights: QB **Tate Martell** rushed for a net of 31 yards and a touchdown. RB **Eno Benjamin** rushed for 24 yards, and fellow RB **Najee Harris** added 23 yards on the ground. QB **Dylan McCaffrey** threw for 40 yards and added 11 on the ground. WR **Devonta Smith** caught two passes for 47 yards. **Deommodore Lenoir** totaled 90 return yards. DL **Jaelan Phillips**, the American Family Insurance Defensive Player of the Year, finished with a game-high five tackles, one for loss. Fellow DL **Marlon Tuipulotu** recorded four tackles, two for loss. DB **Bubba Bolden** blocked a field goal attempt and returned it for a touchdown.

Ministry of Defense: On 37 plays, the East's defense held their opponents to just 155 total yards of offense.

Discipline: The East was penalized just once the entire game.

Gaining ground: The all-time series record was trimmed to 9-8 in favor of the West.

For 17 consecutive years, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl has been the nation's premier high school sporting event, serving as the preeminent launching pad for America's future college and NFL stars. Odell Beckham Jr., Andrew Luck, Patrick Peterson, Adrian Peterson, Ezekiel Elliott, and Christian McCaffrey made their national debuts as U.S. Army All-Americans. A total of 330 U.S. Army All-American Bowl alumni have been selected in NFL Drafts. The 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl drew a crowd of 40,568 to the Alamodome.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl presented by American Family Insurance is owned and produced by All American Games, a New Jersey-based sports marketing and event management company.

For more information on the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and its related events visit usarmyallamericanbowl.com, goarmy.com/events/aab, and allamericangames.com. Connect with all #ArmyBowl activity at [fb.com/ArmyAllAmerican](https://www.facebook.com/ArmyAllAmerican), or at the official Twitter ([@ArmyAllAmerican](https://twitter.com/ArmyAllAmerican)) and Instagram ([@armyallamericanbowl](https://www.instagram.com/armyallamericanbowl)) accounts.

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