

# WYOMING COWBOYS

Mountain West



## WYOMING BIO

National Championships - 0



Mountain West Championships: 0

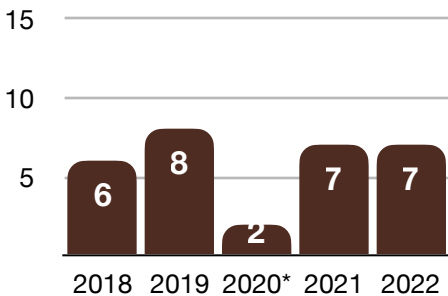
Location: **Laramie, WY**

All-Time Record: **532-580-26**

2022 Results: **7-6**  
**Lost in Arizona Bowl**

Head Coach: **Craig Bohl**  
10th Year (47-56)

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



War Memorial Stadium (29,181)

## Can Cowboys Crash Party of Contenders?

Craig Bohl has somewhat quietly built a consistent program in Laramie. He has helped Wyoming reach bowl eligibility in each of the last six full seasons and he has a 3-2 record in those games with both losses (BYU in 2016 and Ohio in 2022) coming by just a combined six points. He hasn't quite put the Cowboys into full-on contention for a conference title but could that be on the horizon this season with ten returners on a defense that is almost always strong under Bohl's tutelage? It's certainly not a given with both the leading rusher and receiver gone from last season and there are potholes throughout the schedule, but it's certainly not impossible.

If the Cowboys really do want to move from the middle of the pack to true Mountain West contenders, scoring more points is an irrefutable requirement. There were only four returning starters last year and the Cowboys had to replace not just one, but two starting quarterbacks. A Week 0 meeting against Illinois showed just how far the offense had to go, although facing the top scoring defense in the country is probably an unfair litmus test. Still, they connected on only 5 of 20 passes against the Illini which was a picture of what was to come the rest of the season. The Cowboys finished in the bottom ten in the country in passing yards, had more interceptions than touchdowns, and completed under 50% of their pass attempts in Mountain West play.

**Andrew Peasley** played sparingly for the Utah State Aggies for four seasons and transferred to Laramie prior to the 2022 season. He was named the starter and while he was somewhat inconsistent as a thrower, he did add 339 yards and a pair of touchdowns on the ground and the year of experience should only help as he gets set to run the offense again in 2023. Leading receiver Joshua Cobbs is gone but **Trenton Welch** and **Wyatt Wieland** put up similar numbers to Cobbs last season. Welch is now the leading returner out of the tight end position (22 catches for 308 yards, team-best five touchdowns). A couple of transfers should provide Peasley additional targets including **Ayir Asante** (Holy Cross) and **Devin Boddie** (Vanderbilt). The passing game is still a work in progress but I expect improvement from last season.


Titus Swen topped 1,000 yards on the ground for the Cowboys and had over half of the team's rushing touchdowns. Luckily for Wyoming and offensive coordinator Tim Polasek, the Cowboys there are several quality options on the roster at running back. Even if a back doesn't emerge as the clear cut favorite, it's possible that Wyoming could replicate Swen's production by committee. **Dawaiian McNeely** and **D.Q. James** both topped 300 yards. James had a mind boggling 8.7 yards per carry last season thanks to a 74-yard run against Hawaii in what turned into a breakout 179 yard performance. The week before he put up his first career 100-yard game against Utah State in a victory. Don't let his size at 5'7" fool you, he's as quick and fast as they come. The Cowboys also brought in Northern Illinois transfer **Harrison Waylee** who was just shy of a 1,000 yard season. There are only two offensive linemen returning but both tackle **Frank Crum** and center **Nofoafia Tulafono** were fourth-team All-Mountain-West. The Wyoming offense will be understandably run-centric again as they have been in the past under Bohl.

There are some stars on this Wyoming defense. Defensive tackle **Jordan Bertagnole** might be the best at his position in the conference and plays a big role on what should be a ferocious defensive line. **Braden Siders** had seven sacks as a true freshman and **DeVonne Harris** and **Cole Godbout** are also highly experienced. **Easton Gibbs** wracked up 121 tackles at linebacker and was first-team All-Mountain-West. If there's a unproven unit on the defense it's probably the secondary but corners **Isaac White** and **Jakorey Hawkins** both return and this unit did rebound after a tough start last season.













**The Bottom Line:** You'll see some old school, smashmouth football from Wyoming in 2023. Bohl's teams have typically been characterized by a dominant run game and strong defense and both groups appear to be poised for a strong year. The first half of the schedule is tough but if the Cowboys can emerge 4-3 before the bye week (admittedly, a tall task), they'll have a real chance to do some damage in the Mountain West this season.

## Projection: 7-5 (5th in Mountain West)

### 2022 Statistics

| Points Scored  | Rush Yards       | Pass Yards       | Turnover Margin   |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>21.2</b>    | <b>181.4</b>     | <b>132.2</b>     | <b>-2</b>   |
| 110th in FBS   | 44th in FBS      | 125th in FBS     | T-80th in FBS   |
| Points Allowed | Rush YDS Allowed | Pass YDS Allowed |   |
| <b>23.9</b>    | <b>153.5</b>     | <b>217.0</b>     |  |
| 47th in FBS    | 73rd in FBS      | 51st in FBS      |   |

## 2023 Wyoming Schedule

| Week | Date         | Team  |
|------|--------------|---|
| 1    | Sat, Sept 2  |  vs. Texas Tech            |
| 2    | Sat, Sept 9  |  vs. Portland State        |
| 3    | Sat, Sept 16 |  @ Texas                   |
| 4    | Sat, Sept 23 |  vs. App State             |
| 5    | Sat, Sept 30 |  <b>vs. New Mexico</b>     |
| 6    | Sat, Oct 7   |  <b>vs. Fresno State</b>   |
| 7    | Sat, Oct 14  |  <b>@ Air Force</b>        |
| 8    | Bye Week     |   |
| 9    | Sat, Oct 28  |  <b>@ Boise State</b>      |
| 10   | Fri, Nov 3   |  <b>vs. Colorado St.</b> |
| 11   | Fri, Nov 10  |  <b>@ UNLV</b>           |
| 12   | Sat, Nov 18  |  <b>vs. Hawaii</b>       |
| 13   | Sat, Nov 25  |  <b>@ Nevada</b>         |

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 23: vs. Appalachian State** - App State moves from one mountain range to another when they face the Cowboys in Laramie for just the second time (2004). The Mountaineers are always tough and with two already challenging non-conference foes in Texas Tech and Texas this game could have a must-win feel for the Cowboys.

**Sat, Oct 14: @ Air Force** - Wyoming shocked the Falcons 17-14 last season as 16 point underdogs but haven't won at Air Force since 2017.

**Sat, Nov 4: vs. Colorado State** - The "Border War" has been played 114 times and Colorado State leads the all-time series 59-50-5 although the Cowboys have claimed the last two meetings.

## KEY PLAYERS

### Jordan Bertagnole - DT

Bertagnole started several games in 2020 and 2021 but he took his game to an entirely different level in 2022. He recorded 50 tackles and five sacks in just 11 games from the tackle position and was appropriately awarded second-team All-Mountain-West honors. He also forced a fumble against both Tulsa and San Jose State. A former walk on, Bertagnole has transformed himself into one of the conference's premier defenders.



### Easton Gibbs - LB

Gibbs was second in the Mountain West with 121 tackles. His return to Laramie means that he is not only one of the conference's best linebackers but one of college football's best. He's a consistent, dynamic presence on defense and hasn't missed a game the past two seasons. He's on the preseason watch list for the Badnarik and should get plenty of attention from NFL scouts.



## 2022 RESULTS (7-6)

@ Illinois (L 6-38)

**Tulsa (W 40-37)**

**Northern Colorado (W 33-10)**

**Air Force (W 17-14)**

@ BYU (L 24-38)

San Jose State (L 16-33)

**@ New Mexico (W 27-14)**

**Utah State (W 28-14)**

**@ Hawaii (W 27-20)**

**@ Colorado State (W 14-13)**

Boise State (L 17-20)

@ Fresno State (L 0-30)

Ohio (L 27-30)

# WYOMING

## RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 112th

(Via 24/7 Sports)