



For Immediate Release

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Air Force Falcons Defeat South Alabama Jaguars in Second Annual NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl

TUCSON, Ariz., December 30, 2016 – In a tough fought game that delighted fans of both teams at various times, the Falcons of the United States Air Force Academy played a spectacular game after a rocky start to defeat the Jaguars of the University of South Alabama 45-21 in the second annual NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. The Jaguars came out strong scoring a touchdown on the first play of the game and led the Falcons 21-3 early in the second quarter. The Falcons flew back and evened up the game at 21 a piece by halftime before coming out to score a touchdown in the first play of the second half. Air Force would ride the ground game all the way to the trophy from there.

After a week worth of fun and festivities, the football game turned out to be the pinnacle it deserved to be. South Alabama showed it deserved its spot in the postseason, and Air Force lived up to the reputation it has earned as fighters until the final whistle. Post-game honors were handed to Air Force running back Arion Worthman who collected 99 yards rushing, and Falcons All-American Safety Weston Steelhammer who cemented the win with a diving interception. Air Force finishes the season with a 10-3 mark, while the upstart Jaguars will head back to Mobile at 6-7.

Nearly 34,000 fans attended the Bowl which included a pre-game tailgate featuring Arizona's own Gin Blossoms and a Nacho Average Tailgate party showcasing 30 gourmet nacho purveyors from Southern Arizona among other fun activities for fans and families. And in a unique tribute to heroes from Southern Arizona, the Bowl handed out more than 12,000 sponsored tickets to active military members, first responders, police, firemen, teachers and others to ensure that they had an opportunity to attend and enjoy the game. All tickets provided through the Heroes Tribute Program were sponsored by local companies and individuals.

"We're thrilled that the greater Tucson community supported this game in their attendance, their enthusiasm, and their cheering on of both teams," said Mike Feder, executive director of the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. "We want to thank our fans, volunteers, and the many backers who supported this game through their time and their sponsorship, making this the success that it was and is."

About the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl

Owned and operated by TD4Tucson, a Tucson-based non-profit organization, the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl kicked off on December 30, 2016, at 3:30 pm MST at Arizona Stadium. In its debut last year, the bowl raised more than \$85,000 for local charities and contributed \$16 million in local economic impact. This year's game featured the United States Air Force Academy Falcons from the Mountain West Conference and the University of South Alabama Jaguars from the Sun Belt Conference, with partnership support from the American Sports Network, Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission and Campus Insiders. For more information visit NOVAArizonaBowl.com.

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