

~LIVE! Buffalo vs Akron 2026 Live Stream NCAA Basketball Game On TV Channel

The 2026 SEC Tournament at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville has reached a fever pitch as the UNLV Tigers (17–15) prepare for a high-stakes rematch against the Utah State Volunteers (21–10). For UNLV, this isn't just a tournament game; it is a fight for survival. For Utah State, it is a chance to reassert dominance and secure a top-four seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

March 12, 2026



MAC Tournament Quarterfinal: No. 7 Buffalo vs. No. 2 Akron

The 2026 Mid-American Conference (MAC) Tournament has officially arrived at Rocket Arena in Cleveland, and the No. 2 seed Akron Zips (26–5) are set to face the No. 7 seed Buffalo Bulls (17–14) in a quarterfinal showdown that feels like a collision of two very different momentums. Akron has spent the season near the top of the conference standings, while Buffalo is looking to erase the memory of a difficult regular-season finish and play the role of the ultimate bracket buster.

Game Information

| Feature | Details |
|--------------|--|
| Matchup | No. 7 Buffalo Bulls vs. No. 2 Akron Zips |
| Event | 2026 MAC Men's Basketball Quarterfinals |
| Location | Rocket Arena, Cleveland, OH |
| Tip-Off | Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 1:00 PM ET |
| TV Channel | ESPN+ |
| Betting Line | Akron -12.5 (O/U 159.5) |
| | The Series: Zips Dominance |

If history is any indication, Buffalo has a mountain to climb. Akron enters today on an 11-game winning streak against the Bulls. They swept the 2025–26 regular-season series in convincing fashion:

Jan. 20 (Akron 82, Buffalo 63): Amani Lyles and Tavari Johnson dominated the glass, holding Buffalo to just 35% shooting.

Feb. 24 (Akron 99, Buffalo 85): In a high-scoring affair at the James A. Rhodes Arena, Akron's backcourt exploded, led by Tavari Johnson's 23 points.

While Buffalo leads the all-time postseason series 4–3, the Zips have become the "Kryptonite" of this Bulls program over the last three seasons.

Tactical Breakdown Akron: The MAC's Assist Kings

Akron doesn't just score; they share. Ranking fourth in the nation with 18.9 assists per game, the Zips play a brand of "unselfish basketball" that is difficult to scout.

The Engine: Tavori Johnson. The league's premier floor general averages 20.2 PPG and 5.2 APG. His ability to manipulate the pick-and-roll often leaves Buffalo's bigs in no-man's land.

The Post Force: Amani Lyles. Averaging a near double-double (14.8 PPG, 7.5 RPG), Lyles is the reason Akron out-rebounds most of the conference.

Three-Point Threat: Shammah Scott. He shoots over 42% from deep, making it impossible for Buffalo to pack the paint against Lyles.

Buffalo: The Underdog's Scoring Punch

The Bulls enter as 12.5-point underdogs, but they possess a backcourt that can score with anyone in the MAC when they are in rhythm.

The Dynamic Duo: Daniel Freitag (19.8 PPG) and Ryan Sabol (18.7 PPG). Sabol recently set a Buffalo school record for three-pointers in a single season (116). If these two combined for 40+ points, the Bulls can hang with the Zips.

The Defensive Anchor: Tim Oboh. With 46 blocks on the season, he is the only player capable of deterring Akron's slashers.

The Strategy: High Volume. Buffalo is at its best when they turn the game into a track meet. They need to force Akron into a shootout rather than a tactical half-court battle.

Key Storylines to Watch

Fresh Legs vs. Fatigue: Akron earned a double-bye and hasn't played since their 39-point blowout of Northern Illinois on March 6. Will they be rusty, or will the rest give them a physical edge over a Buffalo team that has struggled with depth?

The Sabol Factor: Ryan Sabol scored 26 points in the regular-season finale against Toledo. If Akron's Evan Mahaffey (one of the league's best perimeter defenders) can't contain him, Buffalo's confidence will grow early.

Turnover Trouble: In their last meeting, Akron turned 14 Buffalo turnovers into 22 points. The Bulls must value every possession to prevent the Zips from opening a double-digit lead before halftime.

What's Next?

The winner of this game advances to the MAC Semifinals on Friday, March 13, where they will face the winner of the No. 3 Kent State vs. No. 6 Ohio matchup.

For Akron, this is a quest to return to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in three years. For

Buffalo, a win today would be their most significant victory of the decade and a massive statement for head coach George Halcovage III.

Will Akron's 11-game streak continue?

Can Ryan Sabol shoot the Bulls into the semifinals?

Who faces Kent State or Ohio tomorrow?