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Weekly



BYRON NELSON

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May 3 - May 9, 2024

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2024 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				28 CHC	29	30 CHC
31 CHC	1 TB	2 TB	3 TB	4	5 HOU	6 HOU
7 HOU	8 HOU	9 OAK	10 OAK	11 OAK	12 HOU	13 HOU
14 HOU	15 DET	16 DET	17 DET	18 DET	19 ATL	20 ATL
21 ATL	22	23 SEA	24 SEA	25 SEA	26 CIN	27 CIN
28 CIN	29	30 WSH				

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 SD	3 SD	4 SD	5 TB	6 TB
7 TB	8 LAA	9 LAA	10 LAA	11	12 HOU	13 HOU
14 HOU	15	16 2024 ALL-STAR WEEK	17	18	19 BAL	20 BAL
21 BAL	22 CWS	23 CWS	24 CWS	25 CWS	26 TOR	27 TOR
28 TOR	29 STL	30 STL	31 STL			

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WSH	2 WSH	3 KC	4 KC
5 KC	6 OAK	7 OAK	8 OAK	9	10 COL	11 COL
12 COL	13 CLE	14 CLE	15 CLE	16	17 LAA	18 LAA
19 LAA	20	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 MIN	25 MIN
26 MIN	27	28 AZ	29 AZ	30	31 MIA	

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 BOS	3 BOS
4 BOS	5 HOU	6 HOU	7 HOU	8	9 NYY	10 NYY
11 NYY	12 BOS	13 BOS	14 BOS	15 MIN	16 MIN	17 MIN
18 MIN	19 PIT	20 PIT	21 PIT	22	23 CLE	24 CLE
25 CLE	26	27 CWS	28 CWS	29 CWS	30 OAK	31 OAK

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 MIA
2 MIA	3 DET	4 DET	5 DET	6	7 SF	8 SF
9 SF	10	11 LAD	12 LAD	13 LAD	14 SEA	15 SEA
16 SEA	17 NYM	18 NYM	19 NYM	20	21 KC	22 KC
23 KC	24 MIL	25 MIL	26 MIL	27 BAL	28 BAL	29 BAL
30 BAL						

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 OAK	2 NYY	3 NYY	4 NYY	5 LAA	6 LAA	7 LAA
8 LAA	9	10 AZ	11 AZ	12 SEA	13 SEA	14 SEA
15 SEA	16	17 TOR	18 TOR	19 TOR	20 SEA	21 SEA
22 SEA	23	24 OAK	25 OAK	26 OAK	27 LAA	28 LAA
29 LAA	30					

Schedule subject to change. Times to be announced at a later date.

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Big East Battle schedule announced



2024 Big 12-BIG EAST Battle Schedule Announced

The BIG EAST and Big 12 Conferences have announced the 2024 schedule for the Big 12-BIG EAST Battle, the men's basketball non-conference scheduling alliance which is in its sixth year. Games for the upcoming season will be played December 3-8.

Each conference has added member schools since the start of the original agreement. The Battle will include 11 matchups for the second straight season. The BIG EAST will host six games in 2024-25 while the Big 12 will host five. The 2024 matchups will feature seven teams ranked in the final AP poll of the 2023-24 season, including defending national champion Connecticut. Five of the 11 participant teams made it to the Sweet 16 in the 2024 NCAA Tournament.

The Battle matchups are jointly determined by the two conferences, with the home team choosing the venue of its game. Broadcast arrangements for the contests will be determined by the national television rights holder of the home team, which is FOX Sports for the BIG EAST and ESPN for the Big 12.

Game times and television networks will be announced when available.

**Big 12-BIG EAST Battle Schedule
December 3**

Cincinnati at Villanova
BYU at Providence

December 4

Baylor at Connecticut
Kansas at Creighton
DePaul at Texas Tech
Marquette at Iowa State

December 6

Georgetown at West Virginia
Xavier at TCU

December 7

Kansas State at St. John's
Butler at Houston

December 8

Oklahoma State at Seton Hall

Frimodt will compete as an individual along with Iowa State's Luke Gutschewski and K-State's Cooper Schultz.

No. 3 seed Texas Tech and No. 9 seed Houston were selected to the Baton Rouge Regional. The Red Raiders will make their seventh consecutive NCAA Regional appearance while the Cougars prepare for their 24th appearance since regional play was established. Houston holds the record for most NCAA Championship titles (16).

No. 6 seed Baylor will make its second appearance in the last three seasons after receiving a bid to the Chapel Hill Regional in North Carolina.

Four Big 12 teams will be heading to California to compete in the Rancho Santa Fe Regional: No. 3 seed Oklahoma, No. 5 seed Oklahoma State, No. 10 seed West Virginia and No. 11 seed Kansas. This will be the Mountaineers' second overall NCAA appearance while the Jayhawks, Sooners and Cowboys have all qualified for regional play for the last eight seasons.

Cincinnati's Ty Gingerich was selected as an individual at the West Lafayette Regional (Indiana) to round out Big 12 representation at this year's regional play.

Golfers will compete Monday, May 13-Wednesday, May 15 at six regional locations. Three locations will have 13 teams while the other three will have 14. The five teams with the lowest scores and the lowest-scoring individual not on those teams will advance to the Championship.

The 2024 national championship will be held May 24-29 at Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, California.






Big 12 Men's Golf Programs Earn 2024 NCAA Regionals Bids

Thirteen Big 12 teams will be represented in the regional rounds of the 2024 NCAA DI Men's Golf Championship, announced this week by the NCAA Selection Committee. Nine teams along with four individual golfers received bids, marking the second consecutive season that more than 90% of the league qualified for the postseason event.

The 2024 Big 12 champs, Texas received the No. 3 seed and will stay at home for regional play as the host of the Austin Regional. The Longhorns will also serve as the host for the NCAA Championship. No. 8 seed BYU will make its 28th NCAA Regional appearance in its debut season in the league.

Co-Big 12 medalist, TCU's Gustav

NCAA Basketball Poll		
Coaches Poll	FINAL	AP Poll
1. Houston	1. Houston	1. Houston
2. UConn	2. UConn	2. UConn
3. Purdue	3. Purdue	3. Purdue
4. Iowa State	4. Iowa State	4. Iowa State
5. North Carolina	5. North Carolina	5. North Carolina
6. Tennessee	6. Tennessee	6. Tennessee
7. Auburn	7. Auburn	7. Auburn
8. Marquette	8. Marquette	8. Marquette
9. Arizona	9. Arizona	9. Arizona
10. Illinois	10. Illinois	10. Illinois
11. Creighton	11. Creighton	11. Creighton
12. Kentucky	12. Kentucky	12. Kentucky
13. Duke	13. Illinois	13. Illinois
14. Baylor	14. Baylor	14. Baylor
15. Saint Mary's	15. South Carolina	15. South Carolina
16. South Carolina	16. Kansas	16. Kansas
17. Kansas	17. Gonzaga	17. Gonzaga
18. Gonzaga	18. Utah State	18. Utah State
19. Alabama	19. Alabama	19. Alabama
20. Utah State	20. BYU	20. BYU
21. BYU	21. Saint Mary's	21. Saint Mary's
22. Texas Tech	22. Washington State	22. Washington State
23. Wisconsin	23. Nevada	23. Nevada
24. San Diego State	24. Dayton	24. Dayton
25. Washington State	25. Texas Tech	25. Texas Tech

WEEKLY CALENDAR							
	MAY 3 FRIDAY	MAY 4 SATURDAY	MAY 5 SUNDAY	MAY 6 MONDAY	MAY 7 TUESDAY	MAY 8 WEDNESDAY	MAY 9 THURSDAY
	Mavs vs LA Clippers 8:30 / ESPN		Mavs at LA Clippers 2:30 / ABC				
	Rangers at Royals 6:40 / Bally's	Rangers at Royals 6:10 / Bally's	Rangers at Royals 1:10 / Bally's	Rangers at Athletics 8:40 / Bally's	Rangers at Athletics 2:37 / Bally's	Rangers at Athletics 2:37 / Bally's	
		FC Dallas at Toronto 6:30			FC Dallas vs Memphis 7:30		
	Stars at Golden Knights 9:30 / TBS		Stars vs Golden Knights 2:30 / TBS				
	Roughriders at Corpus Christi 7:05	Roughriders at Corpus Christi 3:05	Roughriders at Corpus Christi 5:05		Roughriders vs San Antonio 11:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 6:35	Roughriders vs San Antonio 6:35

MLB All-Star fan festival unveiled



Capital One All-Star Village will be in the heart of the Arlington Entertainment District

Here's a look at what the MLB All-Star game fan festival, Capital One All-Star Village, will look like

Legendary players and baseball-themed attractions will spread across Choctaw Stadium, the North Lawn and Esports Stadium in the heart of the entertainment district.

Major League Baseball (MLB) unveiled the first look at the fan festival coming to Arlington when the Texas Rangers host the 2024 All-Star Game.

For the first time, Capital One All-Star Village, which includes the youth participation-focused Capital One PLAY BALL PARK, will take place in a former Major League Ballpark – Choctaw Stadium. The fan festival will also spread across Esports Stadium and the North Lawn to create a uniquely one-of-a-kind baseball theme park in the heart of the Arlington Entertainment District.

Games and attractions at Capital One All-Star Village include:

- Diamond Clinics with Softball Legends and Coaches from USA Baseball & USA Softball
- Live Panel Discussions with Former Players
- Autograph Signings and Photo Opportunities with Former Players
- MLB The Show 24 Gaming Kiosks and Giveaways
- Home Run Derby VR Interactive

Batting Cages

- SwingMatch, an interactive setup that enables kids to see which MLB All-Star they swing like
- Capital One Ferris Wheel
- Batting Cages & Pitching Tunnels
- T-Mobile Home Run Derby Attractions
- Curated Exhibit from the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum
- Interactive Display from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
- Women in Baseball Exhibit
- Live Cleat Customizations and Design Sessions
- Mascot Home Run Derbies and photo opportunities
- Major League Trophy Displays
- Minor League Baseball attraction with mascots, giveaways and virtual batting cages
- Shopping Experiences with Exclusive All-Star Merchandise
- Food Truck Row featuring Local Diverse Businesses

Here's what the fan festival will look like:

2024 MLB All-Star Weekend Schedule: Friday, July 12

- HBCU Swingman Classic: An annual All-Star experience for baseball student-athletes from Division-I programs at Historically Black Colleges & Universities to showcase their talent on a national stage.
- Saturday July 13 through July 16**

Saturday, July 13

- Celebrity Softball Game and the All-Star Futures Game: Two great games featuring superstars of tomorrow, legends of the game and some of the biggest celebrities, all in one day.

Sunday, July 14

- 2024 MLB Draft: The opening night of the Draft will take place at the historic Cowtown Coliseum in the heart of Fort Worth Stockyards and be open to the public.

Monday, July 15

- Gatorade All-Star Workout Day: The first chance for fans to see the 2024 All-Stars live and in action at Globe Life Field
- Home Run Derby

Tuesday, July 16

- MLB All-Star Game

MLB All-Star Experience

The MLB All-Star Experience Pass is a digital program contained in the MLB Ballpark app that further enhances the experience for fans attending All-Star Village. With the MLB All-Star Experience Pass, fans can make reservations for autograph signings, MLB video game stations, youth clinics, and engage with participating sponsors. The MLB All-Star Experience Pass also includes the schedule of events throughout All-Star Village, an interactive map, real-time alerts, and chances to win prizes.

Registration is required to participate in the All-Star Experience Pass for those 18 and older; anyone younger must be registered by someone 18+ to participate in the features of the program. Fans can download the Ballpark app from their device's app store or by visiting mlb.com/apps/ballpark.



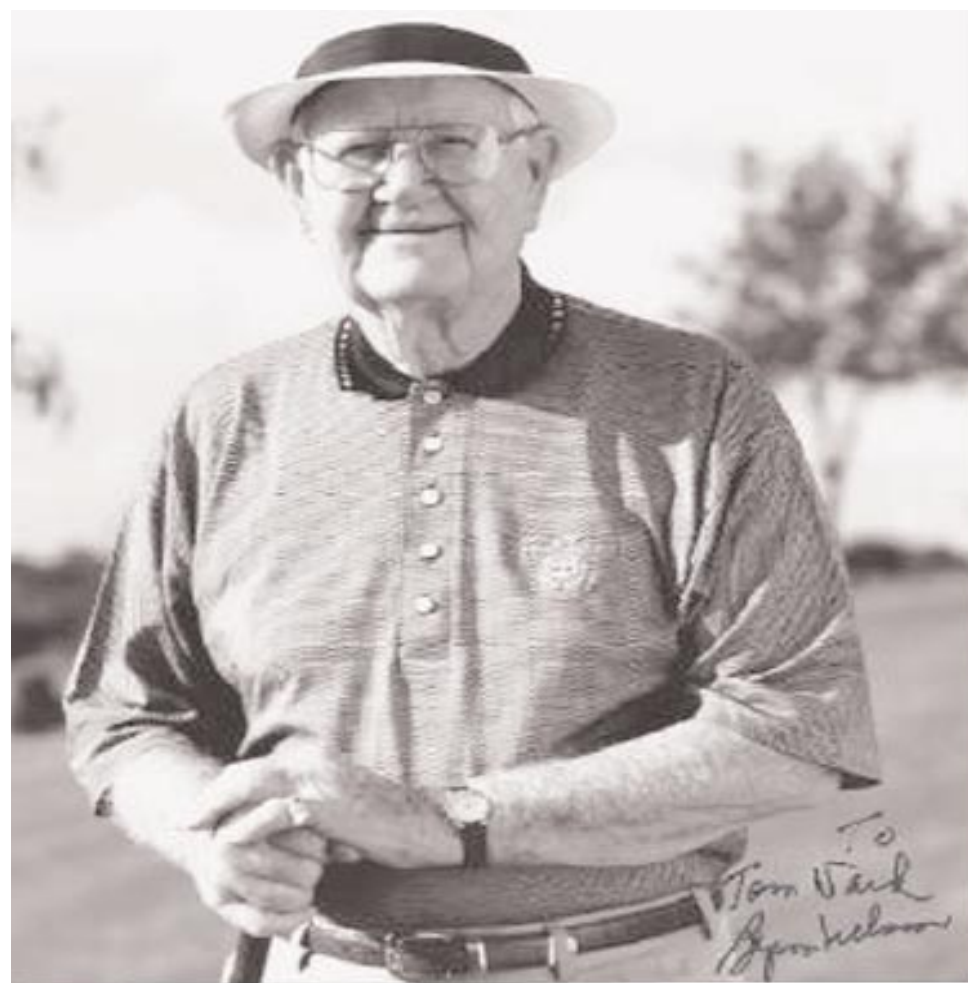
Remembering the great Byron Nelson



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Next week, the annual AT&T Byron Nelson golf tournament tees off. When hearing that name I immediately flashback to personal encounters with the legendary golfer.

Mr. Nelson passed away in 2006, but as a golfer what he did in 1945, winning 18 times including 11 straight, is a record that will never be broken. He was the first professional golfer to have a PGA TOUR tournament named in his honor.



As great as those accomplishments were, it was humanitarian causes for things he believed in that has had the greatest influence. Mr. Nelson teamed with the Salesmanship Club of Dallas in 1968, lending his name to help raise money for children and numerous families in the community. The annual AT&T tournament bearing his name does a wonderful job celebrating his life and the immense impact he's had in north Texas for decades.

Since moving to the DFW area, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and interact with Mr. Nelson at various golf tournaments he supported. I found him to be very cordial and kind.

Back in the early-mid 2000's, I suddenly found myself entering Mr. Nelson's Roanoke home alongside my buddy, renowned syndicated cartoonist, Guy Gilchrist. A few months earlier Gilchrist, who drew the comic strip "Nancy", had done a week long strip honoring Byron Nelson, which he forwarded the originals to Las Colinas Country Club in Irving. Guy called to let me know he was coming to town to promote his new book and wanted to get together. I left a voice message for the Nelson's to alert them about Guy visiting Dallas. While Guy was doing a live on-air interview on one of the local TV stations, I received a call from Peggy Nelson. It turns out they were watching Gilchrist on the live broadcast and wanted to invite us both to their home to visit. When Guy finished the interview, I gave him the news and we excitedly drove to Roanoke at breakneck speed.

We were greeted at their front door by Mrs. Nelson who invited us in. As Guy and I walked into their living room here comes Byron Nelson. He shook hands with both of us and Mrs. Nelson offered us some beverages as we anxiously sat down. It was

a surreal experience sitting in the home of the great man. Above their fireplace next to the lounge chair where he was sitting was a Masters scoreboard from one of the years we won the tournament (I believe it was 1942). My eyes kept darting around the room looking at all the wonderful pieces of memorabilia. In vivid detail, Mr. Nelson regaled both of us with wonderful stories about his golfing exploits. I was impressed with his sharp memory of the events. When the time came to leave we took a few photos together and Byron was so gracious that he gave us both a signed photo.

I came away from that experience having even greater respect for the man that I had admired from afar for years. It was obvious from the moment you met him that this was a special person. He was the shining example of how a professional athlete (past or present) should handle themselves on and off the golf course. I think I echo the sentiments of anyone who was ever fortunate to spend time in his presence that being around him made you want to be a better person.

Guy and I were high-fiving each other while driving away. It was hard to believe we had just spent nearly 2 hours visiting with Mr. Nelson and his wife.

I think another great golfer, Tom Watson, who Mr. Nelson mentored said it best when describing Byron's most endearing advice.

"It's not how you play, it's how you conduct yourself and how you treat people that counts."

This upcoming week at the AT&T Byron Nelson will have some of the best players in golf entertaining fans with their shot making while the tournament will raise lots of monies for needy charities. That's something I know Byron Nelson would take great pride in.

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This week on Tour: CJ Cup Byron Nelson



Jason Day ended a five-year winless drought here last year and is back to defend his title

THE CJ Cup Byron Nelson
May 2 - May 5, 2024
TPC Craig Ranch
McKinney, Texas
Purse - \$9,500,000
Winners share - \$1,710,000
Defending Champs - Jason Day

By Adam Stanley

The TOUR returns to Texas this week for THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson at TPC Craig Ranch. Jason Day ended a five-year winless drought here last year. He's back to defend, highlighting a field that also includes local favorites Jordan Spieth, Tom Kim and Will Zalatoris.

There's a lot to play for this week at TPC Craig Ranch. It's the last opportunity for players to qualify for the next Signature Event, the Wells Fargo Championship, via the Aon Swing 5 and Aon Next 10, and players also will be keeping an eye on the standings for the FedExCup, Olympics and Presidents Cup. With Day in the field alongside a strong contingent of Korean players who call Dallas home, the International Presidents Cup Team is gathering for another team-building dinner this week.

No matter what you're playing for this week, THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson is a perfect opportunity to make a big splash.

Here's everything else you need to know as the TOUR returns to the Dallas metro-

plex.

FIELD NOTES: Jason Day returns to TPC Craig Ranch looking to go back-to-back. K.H. Lee repeated as champion in 2022-23. Day, who also won this event in 2010, has three top-10s so far this season... Jordan Spieth is the highest-ranked player in the world teeing it up at THE CJ CUP. Spieth finished runner-up here in 2022, finished T10 at the Valero Texas Open earlier this month and is hoping that a hometown event will kickstart his springtime. In his last five starts, He has three missed cuts (including at the Masters) and is coming off a wrist injury at the RBC Heritage... Tom Kim returns to action after a pair of solid results in his last two starts. He finished T30 at the Masters after shooting the low round of the day, a 66, in the final round. He also notched his second top-20 of the season at the RBC Heritage... Will Zalatoris will tee it up again as his comeback season continues after back surgery last year. Zalatoris has two top-five results in 2024, and it appears his top-tier ball striking has returned as he sits ninth in Strokes Gained: Approach-the-Green this season... Zalatoris and Spieth will be amongst the locals trying to break a long-standing curse, as no one Texan has won this event since Scott Verplank in 2007... Other notables to tee it up at TPC Craig Ranch include 2024 winners Jake Knapp, Nick Dunlap and Stephan Jaeger along

with Adam Scott, Sungjae Im, Min Woo Lee and Byeong Hun An. An is one of just two players to be inside the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 every week so far this season.

HIGHEST-RANKED PLAYERS IN THE FIELD

World Ranking

20. Jordan Spieth
 22. Jason Day
 23. Tom Kim
 30. Will Zalatoris
 32. Min Woo Lee
 37. Sungjae Im
 41. Byeong Hun An
 43. Stephan Jaeger
 45. Si Woo Kim
 47. Adam Schenk

FedExCup

9. B. Hun An
 16. W. Zalatoris
 17. S.Jaeger
 19. Tom Hoge
 25. Jake Knapp
 26. Jason Day
 29. Si Woo Kim
 35. T. Detry
 37. P. Rodgers
 43. M. Hubbard

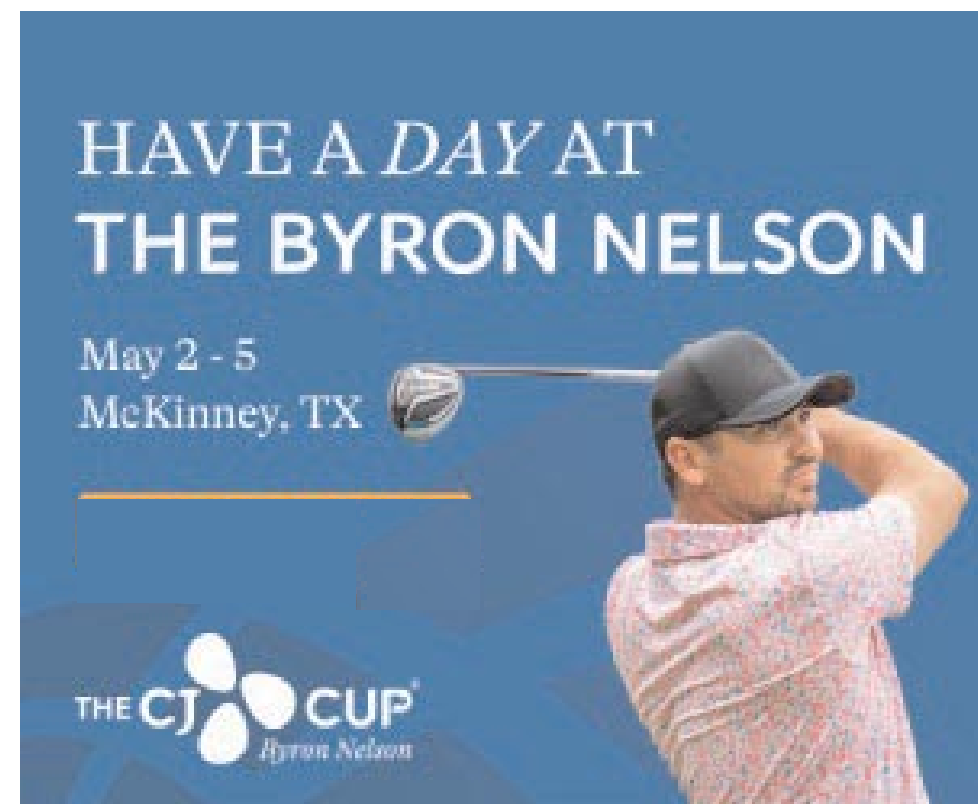
SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS: Sixteen-year-old Kris Kim of England is set to make his TOUR debut. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) calls Kim "the outstanding teenage prospect in English men's golf." He went unbeaten in four matches at the Junior Ryder Cup last year in Rome –defeating phenom Miles Russell, 5 and 4, in Singles – and is a proven winner across the Atlantic. He is the son of former LPGA Tour player Ji-Hyun Suh... Former world No. 1 amateur Taiga Semikawa of Japan will make his fifth start on TOUR this season. Semikawa has found the weekend three times already in 2024 on TOUR. He's a four-time winner on the Japan Golf Tour – including twice as an amateur. He also finished second on last year's Order of Merit behind Keita

Nakajima... David Nyfjall won the 2023 Byron Nelson Award from the Salesmanship Club of Dallas and Golf Coaches Association of America. The recipient, a graduating senior, is recognized for his achievement in the classroom, on the course and in his community. Nyfjall was the 2019 Big Ten Freshman of the Year and won the 2022 Big Ten individual championship... Other sponsor exemptions were given to TOUR winners Cody Gribble, Jimmy Walker and Ryan Palmer... Kelly Kraft, Zecheng Dou and Austin Smotherman round out the sponsor invites.

SIGNATURE EVENT STORYLINES:

THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson is the final event for players to qualify for next week's Wells Fargo Championship, the next Signature Event on the calendar, via the Aon Swing 5 and Aon Swing 10... Fresh off his victory at the Corales Puntacana Championship, Billy Horschel remains atop the Aon Swing 5 but Chad Ramey and Martin Trainer – on the back of their play-off loss at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans – made significant moves onto the list. Trainer moved all the way from No. 65 to No. 4, while Ramey moved from No. 48 to No. 2... Wesley Bryan dropped one spot to No. 3 while Kevin Tway moved from No. 3 to No. 5... Peter Malnati was bumped from the Aon Next 10 with Shane Lowry's victory alongside Rory McIlroy at TPC Louisiana. Lowry moved from No. 14 to No. 3 in the Aon Next 10 with the win.

(continued on page 8)



COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10

UPDATES: The whole of the TOUR TOP 10 remained the same after the Zurich Classic with Scottie Scheffler remaining on top... Lowry zipped all the way from No. 41 to No. 12 in the standings, just 60 points back of the 10th spot after his win at TPC Louisiana while McIlroy moved from No. 44 to No. 15... An and The Sentry champion Chris Kirk remain the only golfers to be inside the TOUR TOP 10 every week so far this season.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: TPC Craig Ranch, par 72, 7,414 yards. Boasting Zoysia fairways and bentgrass greens, golfers will have to navigate the Rowlett Creek, which crosses the course on 14 of the 18 holes, on the Tom Weiskopf (with D.A. Weibring as consultant) design. The course opened in 2004.

72-HOLE RECORD: 259, Steven Bowditch (2015 at TPC Four Seasons). Aaron Wise, Sung Kang and Jason Day's 23-under-par 261 in 2018, 2019 and 2023, respectively, are the lowest against par; Bowditch was 18-under after heavy rain turned TPC Four Seasons into a par-69 layout for the final three rounds. Wise and Kang shot their scores at Trinity Forest, while Day did so at TPC Craig Ranch.

TPC Craig Ranch record: 261, Jason Day (2023)

18-HOLE RECORD: 60, Arron Oberholser (Round 2, 2006 at Cottonwood Valley GC), Keegan Bradley (Round 1, 2013 at TPC Four Seasons), Sebastian Munoz (Round 1, 2022 at TPC Craig Ranch), S.Y. Noh (Round 1, 2023 at TPC Craig Ranch)

LAST TIME: Day won for the first time on the PGA TOUR in five years after a 9-under 62 in the final round at TPC Craig Ranch. He topped Si Woo Kim and Austin Eckroat by one and broke a 105-event drought on TOUR. Day's first TOUR title came at the same event in 2010. Kim made birdie on the 72nd hole to briefly tie Day, but Day had hit his third shot, a wedge from 79 yards, to just 2 feet and rolled in the birdie of his own to seal the victory. C.T. Pan, whose 62 tied Day for the low round of day, finished fourth while hometown hero Scheffler was amongst the trio tied for fifth and three shots back of Day's 20-under winning total.

HOW TO FOLLOW (all times ET)

Television:

- Thursday-Friday: 4-7 p.m. (Golf Channel)
 - Saturday-Sunday: 1-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3-6 p.m. (CBS)
- PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and free on PGATOUR.COM/liveaudio:
- Thursday-Friday: 1-7 p.m.
 - Saturday-Sunday: 1-6 p.m.

Quick Look at TPC Craig Ranch



Hole #18 is a reachable Par 5

By Stacy Urban

In general, TPC courses leave me wanting more. The facilities are always great but the individual holes and terrain often lack the creativity. TPC courses are designed for tournament play which often leads to straight forward architecture rather than featuring compelling design elements. While I thought Weiskopf did well with what he was handed, the relatively flat terrain and focus on residential development keeps TPC Craig Ranch from being a top tier course in the Lone Star State though it manages to be one of the better offerings in the greater Dallas area. Grade B-

Quick Facts

Designer: Tom Weiskopf in 2004

Cost: Private

Directions: Get here! - 8000 Collin McKinney, McKinney, Texas 75070.

What to Expect: TPC Craig Ranch is located in McKinney. The course features an impressive 63,000 square foot clubhouse and one of the finest practice facilities around with a double sided driving range and a short game area; staple features at a TPC facility. Conditions are superb throughout the course though the fairways and rough tend to give off a monotone green shade that blends with the surrounding trees. The front nine can get a bit noisy due to the property abutting the freeway and the housing located on much of the back nine is a quick reminder of the course's residential setting. One of my favorite aspects of Tom Weiskopf's designs is the implementation of a driveable par four however I found his effort at TPC Craig Ranch to be a bit forgettable compared to his other efforts. Weiskopf did a commendable job for the relatively flat property he had to work with here, but his design style is clearly better suited for mountainous terrain. The course offers a

nice walk though electric carts are available.

By the Numbers

Tees	Par	Yardage	Rating	Slope
Tour	71	7438	77.5	147
Tourney	72	6978	75.4	142
CR	72	6702	74.4	137
Players	72	6513	73.3	134
Club	72	5924	70.4	128
Women	72	5145	71.5	136

Individual Hole Analysis

Signature Hole: 14th Hole

330/302 Yard Par 4

The staple feature at every Tom Weiskopf designed course is a driveable par four and the TPC Craig Ranch it emerges as the 14th hole. Players are presented with a slightly downhill tee shot that boasts water on the left and a half dozen bunkers around the green. In Dallas' heavy air and low elevation it will be difficult for most players to reach the green, but there is a good chance someone is your foursome will walk away with a birdie.

Best Par 3: 15th Hole – 216/197 Yards

The pond that was on your left for the 14th hole is on your left again for the 15th but is a bigger factor to contend with. The only bailout is short right since the left is flanked by water and the right protected by sand. Finishing in one of the bunkers on the right leaves you a dreaded sand shot back towards the water.

Best Par 4: 3rd Hole – 420/408 Yards

The 3rd hole offers an intriguing split fairway design where players can test their driver skills early in the round. The short-cut to the green is up the bunkerless left side where a 270 yard carry will be required to carry the river ravine and land in the short grass with a perfect angle to the hole. Players taking the safer route to the right will still contend with a trio of

bunkers and then face an uphill shot over the river to the green with boasts a false front from this angle.

Best Par 5: 18th Hole – 552/514 Yards

A reachable par five, the finishing hole is one of Craig Ranch's best offerings. Nine bunkers are found in the landing zone and must be avoided if you want to take a rip at the green which is protected by a creek and three additional bunkers. With the clubhouse in the background and members likely spectating your result, this is a good time to come up big.

Birdie Time: 6th Hole

361/330 Yard Par 4

Though nearly a dozen bunkers come into play on the 6th hole, it is still a great birdie opportunity and fun driving hole. A creek crosses the fairway but shouldn't come into play unless players smack one of the neighboring trees with their drive. The hole doglegs slightly to the left and features a receptive, nearly square green. Any tee shot in the fairway should leave players with an opportunity to go pin seeking and thus a great chance at taking a stroke back from old man par.

Bogey Beware: 12th Hole

493 Yard Par 4

You know a hole is going to be difficult when it is a par four from the tips and a par five for everyone else which is exactly what you'll discover at the 12th. While it's true that a couple of the tee boxes are located over 500 yards, the tips plays from there ever was one. While no bunkers come into play off the tee, the approach shot must carry the river fronting the green while also avoiding the bunker flanking the entire right side of the putting surface. As a par four there are very few greens in regulation here; as a par five it is still no walk in the park.

Inside the Field: CJ CUP Byron Nelson



Jordan Spieth made his PGA TOUR debut at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson at just 16 years old

By Staff

The PGA TOUR returns to Texas after three weeks in the Southeast. TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney will be hosting for the fourth consecutive season after moving THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson there in 2021. K.H. Lee won the first two editions of the tournament at TPC Craig Ranch only for Jason Day to spoil his attempt at a three-peat in 2023. Jason Day also won the event in 2010 when it was contested at Las Colinas Four Seasons, the same year Jordan Spieth made his PGA TOUR debut at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson at just 16 years old. TPC Craig Ranch is a par 71 and plays to 7,414 yards.

The PGA TOUR uses a standardized system for determining event fields based on the current season's Priority Ranking while also including additional exemption and qualifying categories.

Field sizes can vary by event, as can the number of event-specific exemptions. Fully exempt PGA TOUR members are guaranteed entry into all full-field events, with various conditional categories subject to periodic reshuffles based upon FedExCup Points accrued throughout the season. Categories with "reshuffle" notation indicate that a reshuffle period has occurred. **Note:** An additional year of eligibility was granted to some categories because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sunday, April 28

Christiaan Bezuidenhout (out, W-W/D after deadline)

Zecheng Dou (in, Q-Sponsor-Qualifying Tournament)

Austin Smotherman (in, Q-Sponsor-Qualifying Tournament)

Friday, April 26

Matt Kuchar (in, commit)

Winner of the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday or The Genesis Invitational (three-year exemption)

Adam Scott

PGA TOUR tournament winner (two-year exemption)

Daniel Berger

Ryan Brehm

Cameron Champ

Stewart Cink

Jason Day

Nick Dunlap

Nico Echavarria

Brice Garnett

Nick Hardy

Tom Hoge

Mackenzie Hughes

Sungjae Im

Stephan Jaeger

Si Woo Kim

Tom Kim

Kevin Kisner

Jake Knapp

K.H. Lee

Luke List

Vincent Norrman

Seamus Power

Chad Ramey

Chez Reavie

Davis Riley

J.J. Spaun

Jordan Spieth

Camilo Villegas

Matt Wallace

Will Zalatoris

Career money exemption

Charley Hoffman

Zach Johnson

Sponsor exemption (members not otherwise exempt)

Ryan Palmer

Jimmy Walker

Sponsor exemption (unrestricted)

Cody Gribble

Kris Kim

Kelly Kraft

Taiga Semikawa

PGA Section Champion/Player of the Year

Jarred Jeter

Past champion

Sung Kang

Byron Nelson Collegiate Golf Award Winner

David Nyfjall

Top 30 in FedExCup Points List

Adam Schenk

Top 70 in prior year's FedExCup Points List through the FedExCup Playoffs

Byeong Hun An

Patrick Rodgers

Taylor Montgomery

Alex Smalley

Thomas Detry

Brandon Wu

Beau Hossler

Hayden Buckley

Sam Ryder

Ben Griffin

Keith Mitchell

Samuel Stevens

Matt Kuchar

Mark Hubbard

Aaron Rai

Matthew NeSmith

Top 125 in prior season's FedExCup

Points List through the FedExCup Fall

Alex Noren

S.H. Kim

Justin Suh

Davis Thompson

Joel Dahmen

Michael Kim

Ben Taylor

Garrick Higgo

Robby Shelton

Taylor Pendrith

Callum Tarren

Dylan Wu

Harry Hall

Nate Lashley

Greyson Sigg

David Lipsky

Justin Lower

Carson Young

Tyson Alexander

Kevin Streelman

Chesson Hadley

Christiaan Bezuidenhout

Zac Blair

Aaron Baddeley

Joseph Bramlett

Kevin Yu

Martin Laird

Ben Martin

Ryan Moore

Matti Schmid

Andrew Novak

Doug Ghim

Troy Merritt

Carl Yuan

Top 125 (Prior season non-member)

Min Woo Lee

Major Medical Extension

Maverick McNealy

C.T. Pan

Lanto Griffin

Brandt Snedeker

Jhonattan Vegas

Bud Cauley

Vince Whaley

Leading Points Winner from Korn Ferry

Ben Kohles

Top 10 and ties from previous event

Wesley Bryan

Kevin Tway

Chan Kim

Parker Coody

Peter Kuest

Players 2-30 from prior year's Korn

Ferry Tour Points List, Top 10 from

prior year's DP World Tour and Top 5

and ties from PGA TOUR Q-School pre-

sented by Korn Ferry

Sami Valimaki

Chandler Phillips

Erik Barnes

Jimmy Stanger

David Skinnis

Alejandro Tosti

Ben Silverman

Ryo Hisatsune

Max Greyserman

Joe Highsmith

Robert MacIntyre

Hayden Springer

McClure Meissner

Alexander Björk

Jacob Bridgeman

Rafael Campos

Tom Whitney

Richard Hoey

Bronson Burgoon

Adrien Dumont de Chassart

Jorge Campillo

Thorbjørn Olesen

Norman Xiong

Kevin Dougherty

Chris Gotterup

Trace Crowe

Ryan Fox

William Furr

Harrison Endycott

Roger Sloan

Pierceson Coody

Ryan McCormick

Paul Barjon

Raul Pereda

Patrick Fishburn

Josh Teater

Scott Gutschewski

Nicholas Lindheim

Blaine Hale, Jr.

Reorder Category - Cat. 37 thru 44.

Henrik Norlander

Patton Kizzire

Martin Trainer

Austin Cook

Kevin Chappell

Latest medical extension information can

be found here.

Power Rankings: CJ CUP Byron Nelson



Tom Hoge ranks second in this power rankings

By Rob Bolton

The last lap of any race should feature an all-out sprint or pedals to the floor. In more ways than one, that describes the expectation at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson.

A full field of 156 is ready to go at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, Texas. For what's at stake, how the course will test in its fourth year as the host and more can be found beneath the ranking of those projected to contend for the title.

While THE CJ CUP sits in the heart of the PGA TOUR season, it is the final checkpoint for position to qualify for next week's Wells Fargo Championship. Golfers via the Aon Next 10 and Aon Swing 5 will be determined for the sixth Signature Event of 2024 when THE CJ CUP concludes.

Of course, winning opens the most doors, but the lunge for the latest tape will require a scorer's mentality throughout the tournament.

After its first two editions as one of the easiest par 72s on the schedule, TPC Craig Ranch transitioned into one of the easiest par 71s last year when the 12th hole was shortened and modified to a par 4. While it evolved from the easiest hole on the course in 2022 to the second-hardest in relation to par a year later, it still didn't register as

among the toughest 20 percent of par 4s played all season. Overall, the field averaged 68.913 on the 7,414-yard test.

As is the case with every shootout, leading the field in scoring opportunities isn't enough. The putts need to drop as well. TPC Craig Ranch sets a stage for guys to find a groove and ride it across multiple rounds. Decent-sized putting surfaces blanketed with bentgrass are governed to just 11 ? feet on the Stimpmeter – they need to prepare to withstand quintessential Texas wind – so flagsticks will be in crosshairs more than usual.

Breezes do a fair job of inflating measurements from holes on approach, but the ground game at TPC Craig Ranch is rewarded. Last year, the field's average in salvaging pars from off greens nearly two-thirds of the time, ranking second-easiest among 58 courses played.

Storms are almost as guaranteed as the wind this week. There's a reasonable threat during every round. Because the invisible force will flex at times, native Texans always have an edge because they find the strongest pulse. Daytime highs might not touch 80 degrees, so these will not be sweltering conditions.

Power Rankings

Rank	Players	Comment
15	Matti Schmid - Germany	After opening the season 0-for-6, he's 6-for-6 with 15 red numbers and four top 25s in individual competition. It's the kind of consistently strong form with which he closed out last fall. It will be rewarded once more at TPC Craig Ranch.
14	Seamus Power - Ireland	From Texans to Aussies to natives of the U.K., managing wind is in their DNA. The 37-year-old Irishman's loyalty to TPC Craig Ranch has been rewarded with a T9 (2021), a T17 (2022) and a T19 (2023). A T12 in his last start at Harbour Town.
13	Brice Garnett - USA	The recent winner of the Puerto Rico Open has a track record of success when the wind blows because of phenomenal ball-striking. Modestly, it includes a 3-for-3 slate at TPC Craig Ranch with a T15 in 2022. T18-T11 the last two weeks.
12	Sungjae Im - South Korea	Just successfully defended his title at the Woori Financial Group Championship in South Korea. Missed the cut at the PGA Championship the week after the 2023 win, but it's a softer landing as he debuts at TPC Craig Ranch.
11	Jason Day - Australia	The bad news for the Aussie is that he arrives having fallen a little off the stronger pace with which he opened the season. The good news is that he's the defending champion and TPC Craig Ranch is a test on which he can rekindle form.
10	Jordan Spieth - USA	This is the 14th anniversary of his PGA TOUR debut (at TPC Four Seasons Resort). He's learned how to manage the injured left wrist that prevented him from competing last year. T9 (2021) and second (2022) at TPC Craig Ranch.
9	Tom Kim - South Korea	Still just 21 years of age, he's in search of his first top-15 finish of the year. It makes sense for the drought to end in his adopted backyard of Dallas. He's cashed in both prior trips and returns rested since a T18 at the RBC Heritage.
8	K.H. Lee - South Korea	Finally didn't win at TPC Craig Ranch last year after taking the first two titles. Sarcasm aside, he still scored 11-under

Rank	Players	Comment
7	Adam Scott - Australia	The tournament champion in 2008 and finished T50 in 2023. That's the epitome of a shootout, but as long as he's not slumping, he's a force here.
7	Adam Scott - Australia	The tournament champion in 2008 has been a some-timer over the years, but he's 2-for-2 at TPC Craig Ranch. That includes a T8 last year during which he opened and closed with a 63. Two top 10s among six top 25s worldwide in 2024.
6	Si Woo Kim - South Korea	The local resident has been a regular at TPC Craig Ranch since it took over as host, but he didn't capitalize in earnest until sharing runner-up honors last year. This season, he's perfect in 11 starts with top 20s in five of his last eight.
5	Byeong Hun An - South Korea	His skill set plays way up in shootouts, so he's always one to watch, especially if trailing entering a finale. Inside the top 20 on TOUR in distance of all drives, greens in regulation and converting GIR into par breakers. T14 here last year.
4	Stephan Jaeger - Germany	It's been a month since he broke through at the Texas Children's Houston Open and he's still the only golfer to beat Scottie Scheffler in the latter's last five starts. Jaeger finished T18 at the RBC Heritage two weeks ago. T11 here in 2023.
3	Alex Noren - Sweden	Continues to boast the wild tandem of ranking second on TOUR in greens in regulation and first in scrambling. He's also fourth in adjusted scoring with five consecutive top 25s upon arrival. T21 (2021) and T12 (2022) at TPC Craig Ranch.
2	Tom Hoge - USA	He's done what he does best in beating 70 in nine of 10 rounds at TPC Craig Ranch. Hasn't missed an edition with a personal best of T17 in 2022. Couldn't ask to be performing better in 2024 with two top 10s among seven top 20s.
1	Will Zalatoris - USA	The local resident has been a bit of all or nothing this season, and that's just fine, particularly in the context of his comeback from back surgery. Three top 10s and a T13 in his last eight starts. Debuted at TPC Craig Ranch with a T17 in 2021.

Schwab Champion's prize revealed



The 2024 Charles Schwab Challenge champion will be awarded a fully restored and modernized 1975 Schwab Stingray (Photo courtesy of Schwab).

2024 Charles Schwab Challenge Champion's prize is a 1975 Stingray
Schwab honors its longstanding support for golf and the Dallas-Fort Worth community with a one-of-a-kind champion's prize

By Staff

Embargoed until 11:00 CT on May 1, 2024 — Today, almost five decades since "May Day", a pivotal moment in the history of Wall Street and Schwab when brokerage firms were first allowed to set their own commission rates, Schwab unveiled this year's one-of-a-kind Champion's Prize, a fully restored and modernized 1975 Schwab Stingray. The company also announced several new and returning programming elements for the upcoming 2024 Charles Schwab Challenge PGA TOUR event, which is set for Memorial Day Weekend, May 23—26, in Fort Worth, Texas.

"This year's champion's prize pays homage to 1975, the year that helped reshape Wall Street, when regulated stock trading commissions came to an end and Chuck Schwab opened the doors to investing wider for individuals by reducing commissions. Chuck's foresight ushered in a new era, making investing more accessible," said Stacy Hammond, Managing Director and Chief Marketing Officer of Charles Schwab.

"We are proud to be the title sponsor of this storied tournament in our company's home in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and to continue to redefine what a Champion's Prize can be — just like how Schwab, redefined our industry, nearly 50 years ago on May Day."

Honoring this year's Champion with a

1975 Schwab Stingray

The winner of the Charles Schwab Challenge will drive off with an exclusive champion's prize — the 1975 Schwab Stingray — along with Colonial's Leonard Trophy and Scottish Royal Tartan Plaid jacket.

Customized by County Corvette out of West Chester, Pa., the 1975 Schwab Stingray is fully restored, modernized and loaded with cutting-edge technology as a symbol of the firm's commitment to innovation in service of its clients.

The 1975 Schwab Stingray features a:

- One-off 1975 body and custom LT1 hood
- Modern GM LS3 V-8 motor generating more than 450 horsepower
- GM 6L90 6-speed automatic transmission
- One-of-a-kind Schwab badging on the trunk of the car
- Custom console featuring an engraved champion's nameplate
- Hand-stitched interior upholstery with the Colonial's signature Tartan Plaid trim

This 2024 Champion's Prize continues the tradition that began five years ago in 2019 with the fully renovated and customized 1973 Schwab Challenger, then the 1946 Schwab Power Wagon in 2021, the 1979 Schwab Firebird in 2022, and most recently the 1973 Schwab Bronco which was won by 2023 Charles Schwab Challenge Champion, Emiliano Grillo.

Honoring our Heroes on Memorial Day Weekend

Schwab is proud to be an employer of choice for many who have served in the military and those who continue to serve. Over Memorial Day Weekend, Schwab will

once again honor our heroes at the 2024 Charles Schwab Challenge.

As part of its support for The Simpson Cup, an annual golf tournament between teams of injured servicemen and veterans, Schwab will once again host a work experience event during tournament week, with the organization's On Course Foundation. The Foundation helps injured and disabled veterans build confidence and self-determination by opening doors to meaningful employment opportunities in the golf industry. Participants in the program will be onsite at the Colonial, working throughout the week and participate in a golf skills clinic on Tuesday, May 21. Schwab has served as a proud partner of the On Course Foundation and The Simpson Cup since 2022.

Continuing a tradition that started in 2019 when Schwab took over sponsorship of the tournament, there will once again be a stop in play on Sunday, May 26 for PGA TOUR players, caddies and fans, to take time to reflect on those individuals in the military who lost their lives while serving our country. The moment of silence will conclude with a military flyover as a reminder of the significance of Memorial Day.

The Challengers Film Series

Schwab's award winning digital content series, "The Challengers," returns for the sixth straight year to recognize and celebrate those individuals in golf who, like the firm, challenge the status quo. Episodes feature:

- Golfer and content creator Gabriella DeGasparis, who leads with positivity on and off the course
- Fried Egg Golf founder Andy Johnson,

who is working to make the golf architecture more approachable

- Former golf-writer turned country club operator Tom Coyne, who is helping revitalize a storied course in the Catskills.
- PGA Teaching Professional Michael Block, who won the hearts of golf fans and became a household name after his history-making play at the 2023 PGA Championship at Oak Hill.

The 5 Performance Center

Onsite at Colonial, the state-of-the-art fan engagement zone, "The 5: Schwab Performance Center," will return, inspired by tournament legend Ben Hogan's "Five Lessons, The Modern Fundamentals of Golf" and Schwab's approach to thematic investing, which helps individuals discover and invest in trends and new opportunities that align with their interests and values.

"The 5" features several interactive elements providing fans with an opportunity to get their golf swing analyzed by a PGA Teaching Professional, a chance to putt with one of Ben Hogan's original putters and golf simulators that let fans digitally tee off on Colonial's new 8th hole. Fans with tickets to the Charles Schwab Challenge can visit the Schwab Performance Center from May 23-26.

Charles Schwab & Co. signed on as title sponsor of the annual event at Colonial Country Club for the 2019 Charles Schwab Challenge. Already a major sponsor of the PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions, the firm's initial four-year agreement, which has been extended through 2026, marked its first-ever title sponsorship of a PGA TOUR event. Schwab continues as a vital part of the DFW Metroplex financial community where its 70-acre campus in Westlake is home to the firm's corporate headquarters.

For more information on the tournament and this year's initiatives, visit www.schwabgolf.com and www.charlesschwabchallenge.com. The tournament will be broadcast nationally to a televised audience on CBS and the Golf Channel.

Since 1946, Colonial Country Club has been home to the longest running PGA tournament, the Colonial National Invitational, known today as the Charles Schwab Challenge. Every May, Colonial hosts the world's greatest golfers who compete to add their name to the Wall of Champions, the Leonard Trophy and the Bright red and tailored with pride, the Tartan Jacket has become an iconic symbol of champions. Year after year, golfers compete to wear the tournament's famous plaid blazer, which has cloaked the shoulders of icons like Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, and more.

Mavs bring one game lead back to town



Luka Dončić grinds through a dominant performance, while Dallas' defense stifles LA to take a 3-2 series lead

Clippers-Mavericks: 5 takeaways as Luka Dončić fuels Game 5 win

By Jon Thomas

Luka Dončić ambled off the floor for the night, untucking his jersey with 5:39 left and his team leading by 30.

That lopsided margin remained at the end, as the Dallas Mavericks captured Game 5 on Wednesday with a decisive 123-93 win against the LA Clippers. The victory provides the visitors an 82.5% chance to take this series as it heads back to Dallas on Friday for Game 6 (8:30, ESPN).

Historically, Game 5 winners of a 2-2 series advance at that 82.5% clip.

Dallas handed LA its worst loss in franchise postseason history.

Dončić scored 20 points of his 35 points in the second half.

“In the playoffs, it doesn’t matter if you win by one or you win by 50,” Dončić told TNT during his postgame interview. “It’s still a good win. But the job is not done. We need to win one more.”

Here are five takeaways from the matchup:

1. Banged up Dončić is battling

Dončić led Dallas with 35 points, seven rebounds and 10 assists. But his overall series numbers indicate he’s struggled.

Don’t discount the eye test, though,

because that points to a franchise leader grinding hard to get it done.

Dončić shot terribly from 3-point range in Game 5. He’s done that all series.

But remember, Dončić sprained his right knee in the opening quarter of Game 3. The setback has restricted his movement ever since, despite him taking in extensive treatment sessions during the break between Games 4 and 5.

Dončić admitted he’d “probably not” continue to play on the knee if the Mavs were still in the regular season.

This is the playoffs, though.

Dončić has responded accordingly on both ends of the floor.

The injury has affected the five-time All-Star’s production. Despite tallying his fourth career postseason triple-double in Game 4, Dončić entered Game 5 shooting 38.6% from the field and 27.1% from deep. Dončić didn’t hit his first 3 in Game 5 until 2:22 remained in the third after missing his first six attempts from distance. We saw at least three instances in the first half where Dončić struggled defensively to stay in front of his man.

Ultimately, he produced his fourth career postseason outing against the Clippers with 35 points and 10 assists. Oscar Robinson is the only other player in league annals with that stat line in four games against a single opponent (Boston).

2. Mavericks improve on slow starts

Dallas bucked its trend of slow starts, taking a 25-24 lead in the first quarter that swelled to 10 points at intermission.

Remember: the Mavs hadn’t scored more than 23 points in the opening frame of the first four contests, averaging 19.8 points on 35.9% from the field and 15.6% from deep. The Mavs entered this one sitting at minus-36 in the first quarters of the series.

Credit Dončić and Maxi Kleber with the boost. The duo combined for nearly half of Dallas’ points before halftime. Dončić reeled off 15 points on 15 field-goal attempts, while Kleber contributed 12 points, shooting 4-for-6 from 3-point range.

Dončić scored eight points in the first quarter and dished three dimes to go with four rebounds. Derrick Jones Jr. contributed seven points over that span, making 3-of-4 attempts with two blocks.

The matchup featured 12 lead changes in the first half.

The Clippers surrendered 10 points off five turnovers.

Interestingly, the usual suspects in LA didn’t provide much scoring punch. Ivica Zubac and Terrance Mann did that with 13 and 11 points, respectively, over the first two quarters.

Stars James Harden and Paul George combined to shoot 4-for-15.

Dallas embarked on a 13-4 run to close the first half. Meanwhile, LA missed 14 3s in a row to start.

3. Shooting woes sink Clippers

You’d expect LA’s shooting to improve with the series moving to Crypto.com Arena, where the Clippers were 31-23 entering Game 5.

It didn’t. In fact, it worsened.

That’s probably frustrating for LA, considering it is 30-3 this season when it shoots 50% or better. You could say the 3-ball has been key for the Clippers up to this point in the postseason.

LA knocked down 18 3-pointers in each of its wins in this series.

4. Maybe LA isn’t better off without Kawhi Leonard

The two LA wins this series without Leonard amounted to fool’s gold, in part because of James Harden’s decline in Game 5.

Harden had established himself as the Clippers’ most consistent performer through the first four contests. In Game 5, the 2017-18 Kia MVP disappeared, scoring seven points on 2-for-12 shooting with four turnovers.

Harden’s teams are now 4-8 all-time in the playoffs when he scores fewer than 10 points.

“He didn’t shoot the ball well,” LA coach Tyrone Lue said. “They tried to get up and pressure a little bit, which we didn’t handle like we have.”

No disagreement here.

In the two wins without Leonard, Harden averaged 30.5 points on 58.5% from the field and 62.5% from 3-point range. In the two losses without the two-time Finals MVP, Harden averaged 21.5 ppg on 48.1% shooting (38.9% on 3-pointers).

Harden led the Clippers in ppg (26.0), made 3s (17 total), apg (7.0) and bpg (1.3) over the first four games.

Dallas held LA to fewer than 95 points for the third time this series. The Clippers scored fewer than 95 just three times in the regular season.

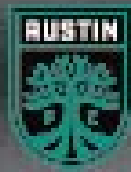
5. Maxi Kleber caught 3-point fever

No. 7 in postseason minutes for the Mavericks going into Game 4, Kleber proved to be the top dog from deep in Game 5. The seventh-year veteran scored 15 points over the first four games of this series, draining 4-of-8 from 3-point range. Kleber matched his playoff total in Game 5 with 15 points on 5-for-7 shooting from 3-point range while the rest of the team was 9-for-32.

Kleber was 4-for-5 from deep in the second quarter as Dallas built a 12-point lead.



VS



MAY 11 | 7:30PM | PRESENTED BY WILD TURKEY | TORONIA STADIUM | AT&T | FOX SPORTS



Big 12 Baseball Power Rankings



By Stacy Urban

The Oklahoma baseball team had a chance to keep a tight grip on the Big 12 baseball race. The Sooners went into last weekend with a three-game lead, a home series against Texas and remaining conference series against Texas Tech, Baylor and Cincinnati.

Putting a stranglehold on the standings was there for the taking, but would have been no fun for any Big 12 fans except the ones in Norman. Leave it to Texas to keep everyone interested.

The Longhorns swept a Sunday double-header at L. Dale Mitchell Park to win the series, and with three weeks left in the regular season, plenty of possibilities remain. Five teams are within three games of first in the Big 12, and No. 23 Oklahoma's lead is back down to one game over No. 16 Oklahoma State and West Virginia. Texas sits two games back, and Kansas scrambled back into contention with a sweep of Texas Tech and a favorable remaining schedule.

1. Oklahoma (26-16, 15-6)

Last week: 1

What to know: Leadoff batter John Spikerman and Big 12 on-base percentage leader Jackson Nicklaus returned to the lineup last week. Spikerman missed five weeks after hamate surgery, Nicklaus four games with a hamstring injury.

2. Oklahoma State (30-14, 14-7)

Last week: 2

What to know: You can convince us the Cowboys belong at the top of these rankings based on better pitching than the Sooners and series victories over Oklahoma and West Virginia.

3. Texas (27-18, 13-8)

Last week: 3

What to know: We get the feeling 2024 is being viewed as a down year in Austin with the pitching staff's inconsistencies and the RPI sitting at No. 58. Still, the

Longhorns lead the Big 12 with 90 home runs and six conference series victories.

4. West Virginia (26-16, 14-7)

Last week: 4

What to know: The Mountaineers are set up for a strong finish. They recovered from an 0-3 trip to Texas Tech by sweeping Baylor, and their remaining conference opponents are Cincinnati, Kansas State and TCU.

5. Kansas (25-15, 12-9)

Last week: 9

What to know: Pitching-strong Kansas swept Texas Tech for the first time since 2014. And with Kansas State and Houston next up on the schedule, that might not be the last you hear of the Jayhawks.

6. Texas Tech (29-17, 12-12)

Last week: 5

What to know: The Red Raiders have one of the toughest remaining conference schedules with Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. That gives them a chance to improve a No. 41 RPI.

7. Kansas State (26-17, 10-11)

Last week: 7

What to know: K-State strengthened its schedule this season, hoping for an edge come NCAA tournament time. Now the RPI's healthy at No. 31, but the Wildcats have dropped four of their past five Big 12 series after going 1-2 at TCU.

8. Cincinnati (25-19, 11-10)

Last week: 8

What to know: We keep tipping our caps to Cincinnati and first-year head coach Jordan Bischel. Did anyone outside of moms, wives and girlfriends predict the Bearcats above .500 in the Big 12 going into May?

9. Central Florida (26-15, 9-12)

Last week: 6

What to know: With a home series loss to Cincinnati, UCF is 2-6 in its past eight Big 12 games. The Knights' lofty RPI has dropped from top-five in the nation not too

long ago to a still-solid No. 33.

10. TCU (26-16, 10-14)

Last week: 10

What to know: TCU remains an NCAA tournament bubble team based on its No. 37 RPI. But the Horned Frogs are 11th place in a Big 12 that will take 10 teams to the conference tournament.

11. Baylor (19-23, 9-12)

Last week: 11

What to know: Bears went 10-1 from March 29 to April 19, their best stretch of the season. Now Kansas and West Virginia have put them on a five-game conference losing streak.

12. Brigham Young (16-24, 6-18)

Last week: 12

What to know: Talk about outcomes that foreshadowed nothing. BYU won two of three at Texas on the first weekend of April and has since been swept by Baylor, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

13. Houston (22-22, 6-15)

Last week: 13

What to know: Right fielder Cary

Arbolida, second baseman Harold Coll and catcher Jonathan French have slugged 12, 11 and 10 home runs, respectively, helping Houston rank fourth in the Big 12 in that category.

Big 12 Baseball Standings

(as of April 25)

Team	Conf.	Overall
Oklahoma	15-6	26-17
Oklahoma St	14-7	31-14
West Virginia	14-7	27-16
Texas	13-8	28-18
Kansas	12-9	26-15
Cincinnati	11-10	25-20
Texas Tech	12-12	30-17
Kansas State	10-11	26-18
UCF	9-12	27-15
Baylor	9-12	20-23
TCU	10-14	26-16
Houston	6-15	23-22
BYU	6-18	17-24



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College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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The 89th annual NFL Draft (formally known as the NFL Annual Player Selection Meeting) included dozens of members of the 2024 NFF Hampshire Honor Society and several members of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete program. Some of the more notable selections were No. 1 pick and 2022 Heisman Trophy winner Caleb Williams of USC and Oklahoma along with 2023 Heisman Trophy recipient No. 2 choice Jayden Daniels of LSU and Arizona State. North Carolina QB Drake Maye of the basketball-famed Maye family was the third selection and a cagey protégé of NFF College Hall of Fame head coach Mack Brown of the Tar Heels.

NFF College Hall of Fame RB Barry Sanders of Oklahoma State and the NFL Detroit Lions and NFF National Scholar-Athlete Aiden Hutchinson of Michigan and the NFL Lions also were celebrity greeters to the gathered throng of 600,000-plus fans over three days. Numerous other NFF College Hall of Fame standouts were recognized during special presentations and choices' announcements.

Notes: NFF National Scholar-Athletes Zach Frazier of West Virginia and Cooper Beebe (reunited with former Kansas State teammate RB Deuce Vaughn for the NFL Dallas Cowboys) were two notable selec-

tions last weekend...Four times quarterbacks have gone 1-2-3 in the NFL draft, and one memorable instance was 1971 when the first trio was Jim Plunket of Stanford, NFF chairman Archie Manning of Ole Miss and Dan Pastorini of Santa Clara...Marvin Harrison Jr. of Ohio State is the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Marvin Harrison Sr. of Syracuse and the fifth son of a Pro Football Hall of Fame member to be taken in the first round with the No. 4 choice...NFF College Hall of Fame WR Jerry Rice of Mississippi Valley State also helped celebrate the drafting of his son Brenden Rice of Colorado and USC...The NFL Chicago Bears chose first for the initial time since the common NFL Draft began in 1967...The NFL Draft also saluted Michigan, whose players displayed the title trophy, as 2023 College Football Playoff champion...Washington led all schools with 10 total draftees. Some of the often unsung programs that had draftees in '24 were Eastern Kentucky, Holy Cross, Houston Christian, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Southeast Missouri State, Texas A&M-Commerce, and Yale...Alabama and UAB safety Jaylen Key was tabbed as Mr. Irrelevant in the draft after the being the final pick – No. 257 in the seventh round – by the New York Jets.

Bob Casciola, who served as the president of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame from 1995-January 2005 and executive director of the organization from 1991-95, passed away April 25 after a brief illness in New Jersey. He was 89 and served as football head coach at Connecticut from 1971-72 and Princeton from 1973-77 before taking over at the NFF in '91 after working in private business.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Casciola, who so ably led our organization during an amazing period

of growth and modernization in the 1990s and early 2000s," said NFF chairman Archie Manning. "Nobody cared more intensely about the game and its power to change lives than Bob. He credited football with opening doors for him to attend Princeton, which launched his successful banking career, and he worked tirelessly to protect the game for future generations. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's wife Janet, his children, and the many people he touched over the years, and we are extremely grateful for his enormous impact on the National Football Foundation."

"Bob Casciola was enormously respected and a man of great integrity," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "He became a great source of counsel for me, and we worked seamlessly together in 2005 when I succeeded him. As a former coach, he knew how to build a great team at the NFF, which included a blue-chip board and a top-flight staff. He left a great legacy at the NFF for us to build upon, and I have always been deeply appreciative of his support over the years. We are all saddened by his passing and want his family to know how grateful we are for his many contributions to our organization."

Upcoming NFF Chapter scholar-athlete recognition banquets are Monday, April 29 - Corrigan/Faircloth Chapter (N.C.)

The NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas is partnering with the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the NFL Alumni Association for the club's second annual charity golf tournament on Monday, May 6. The tournament will focus on raising funds for college scholarships to benefit high school scholar-athletes recognized at its annual awards banquet each spring. "We are excited to partner with the DFW NFL Alumni Association for our tournament this year," said NFF Dallas vice president and tournament director Gary Peek. The tourney is set for the King's Course at award-winning Gleneagles Country Club in Plano, Texas, and will be emceed by award-winning sportscaster Scott Murray. For additional information, please access: www.nffdallas.golf

Featured speaker at the post-tourney banquet is NFF College Hall of Fame, NFL standout and award-winning broadcaster Gary Reasons of Northwestern State and the NFL Golf professional Mitch Dobbyn of Fort Worth will offer entertainment as one of the world's longest drivers (record competitive drive of 442 yards) as the 10-time qualifier for the World Championship Long Drive contest continues to participate in 300-plus charity golf events with \$1 million-plus generated for charities and scholarships.

The 66th NFF Awards Dinner is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas, Nev. For NFF membership, ticket information and additional data, please access Footballfoundation.org.

The NIL INFLCR Summit is scheduled for June 22-24 at the NFF Chick-Fil-A College Hall of Fame in Atlanta. There will be an anticipated 500-plus student-athletes and nationally known speakers will help share ideas and conduct seminars. Some of the top speakers already secured for the 440-capacity conference are Sam Acho, 2010 William V. Campbell Trophy® recipient, former Texas and NFL defensive end, ESPN Analyst; Tom Bratton, Medallion Partners CEO, business consultant; Greg Johnson, McAfee President and CEO, former Intuit executive VP, and former Air Force halfback; and Joe Moglia, former TD Ameritrade Chairman and CEO, former Coastal Carolina head football coach. Nominees for the 2024 NIL Awards powered by Influencer at the NIL Summit include such categories as Female Athlete of the Year, Male Athlete of the Year, Innovator of the Year, the Hustle Award, Scholar Athlete of the Year, Athlete Advocate of the Year, Breakthrough Athlete of the Year, Athlete Creator of the Year, Best Institutional Program, and Brand of the Year. Some of the top institutional program nominees include Cincinnati, Florida, Grand Canyon, Ole Miss, Nebraska, Ohio State, Saint Joseph's (Pa.), and UCLA. Student-athlete and coach/administrator registration also remains open for the NIL Summit in upcoming weeks.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the April 29-May 5 time period are April 29 (1914) Darrell Lester, Jacksboro, Texas; (1920) David Nelson, Detroit, Mich.; April 30 (1871) Fielding Yost, Fairview, W.Va.; (1887) Doc Fenton, Scranton, Pa.; (1895) Bernie Moore, Jonesboro, Tenn.; (1918) Augie Lio, East Boston, Mass.; (1935) Jon Arnett, Los Angeles, Calif.; (1941) Jerry Stovall, West Monroe, La.; May 1 (1900) Stan Barnes, Baraboo, Wis.; (1905) Chris Cagle, DeRidder, La.; (1907) Erby Pinckert, Medford, Wis.; (1910) Cliff Battles, Akron, Ohio; (1925) Chuck Bednarik, Bethlehem, Pa.; (1930) Ollie Matson, Trinity, Texas; (1937) Roger Brown, Surry County, Va.; (1950) Carlos Alvarez, Havana, Cuba; May 2 (1887) Joe Utay, St. Louis, Mo.; (1955) Richard Ritchie, Mineral Wells, Texas; May 3 (1919) Gil Steinke, Brenham, Texas; (1927) Bobby Davis, Columbus, Ga.; (1941) Dave Robinson, Mt. Holly, N.J.; May 4 (1903) Elmer Layden, Davenport,

(continued on page 16)

Iowa; (1910) Barry Wood, Milton, Mass.; (1928) Don Coleman, Ponca City, Okla.; (1938) Wayne Harris, Hampton, Ark.; May 5 (1921) Eddie Talboom, Delphos, Ohio; (1927) Al DeRogatis, Newark, N.J.; (1941) Terry Baker, Pine River, Minn.; (1947) Bob Babich, Youngstown, Ohio. Wayne Harris, Hampton, Ark.; May 5 (1921) Eddie Talboom, Delphos, Ohio; (1927) Al DeRogatis, Newark, N.J.; (1941) Terry Baker, Pine River, Minn.; (1947) Bob Babich, Youngstown, Ohio.

Notable Anniversaries of Passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are April 29 (2005) Bob Ward, Annapolis, Md.; April 30 (2012) Billy Neighbors, Huntsville, Ala.; May 2 (1983) Norm Van Brocklin, Social Circle, Ga.; May 3 (1971) Scrappy Moore, Chattanooga, Tenn.; (1976) Ernie Nevers, San Rafael, Calif.; (2007) Alex Agase, Tarpon Springs, Fla.; May 4 (1991) Don Whitmire, Annandale, Va.; May 5 (1989) Earl "Red" Blaik, Colorado Springs, Colo.; (2005) Skip Minisi, Paoli, Pennsylvania.

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born May 1 Carlos Alvarez, May 2 Richard Ritchie, May 3 Dave Robinson (a spry 83), May 5 Terry Baker (a spry 83), Bob Babich...

Schedules:

Colgate will open the '24 season Aug. 30 at Maine and will host Villanova Sept. 7...Iowa State and Kansas State will make their first-ever trip to Dublin, Ireland, to open the 2025 season...The Colorado-North Dakota State season opener has been switched to Thursday, Aug. 29, for a national telecast...Morehead State will host Kentucky Christian as its 11th opponent for the upcoming outing...Final NCAA Division I spring football clashes are set for Friday with Washington (and a Pac-12 Network telecast) and Saturday with St. Thomas (Minn.) and Indiana State slated. Air Force, Appalachian State, Brown, Kansas State, and Wisconsin are not holding spring football contests or scrimmages.

Good Works:

Auburn assistant director of athletics Shelly Poe has been named 2024 West Virginia U. Department of Communication Studies Alumna of the Year...Via Live Nation, Mississippi State will host the Hardy's QUIT!! Music tour at Polk-Dement Stadium on Friday, Sept. 13, with special guest performers Randy Houser and Travis Denning prior to the Bulldogs football bout with Toledo...The University of North Texas is set for May 1-2 Giving Days with special emphasis on donations to Mean Green athletics. The North Texas Alumni Association also is offering special rates for Metropolitan Life dental insurance for UNT Alumni Association members this spring...It was Texas Woman's U. night at the April 23 MLB Texas Rangers-Seattle Mariners contest in Arlington, Texas, The TWU pep band played the pregame National Anthem, and special TWU-themed maroon Rangers jerseys were on sale and prominent throughout the

crowd...Vanderbilt had admitted students for the Class of 2028 on campus last month and tied the annual Anchor Day ceremonies with the Vandy MOSAIC Weekend festivities...The ECHL Allen (Texas) Americans hockey team continues to promote free tickets for college students, teachers and school administrators for playoff games via the team's website.

Football Coaches:

Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun has his contract extended through the 2029 season, which would be his 23rd campaign at the helm...University of Calgary (Canada) head coach Ryan Sheahan held his first spring training sessions April 23-28 at McMahon Stadium after finalizing his assistant coaching staff...Five new offensive coordinators who just completed their first rounds of spring practice at their respective schools are Akron's Taylor Housewright, Alabama's Nick Sheridan, Arizona's Dino Babers, Arizona State's Marcus Arroyo, and Army West Point's Cody Worley...Longtime college head coach and current Arkansas offensive coordinator and quarterback coach Bobby Petrino was mentioned in a national story about head coaches who have non-compete clauses written into their contracts...Muleshoe, Texas, the boyhood home of USC head coach Lincoln Riley, was attacked by Russian computer hackers who disrupted the West Texas town's water system.

Hometowns of more 2024 college head coaches - Arizona Christian: Jeff Bowen, Phoenix, Ariz.; Arizona State: Kenny Dillingham, Phoenix, Ariz.; Arkansas: Sam Pittman, El Reno, Okla.; Arkansas Baptist: Richard Wilson, Fayetteville, Ark.; Arkansas-Pine Bluff: Alonzo Hampton, Warren, Arkansas.

Directors of Athletics:

Missouri named former Memphis AD Laird Veatch director of athletics. Veatch told media members that the opportunity to direct a Southeastern Conference program was a major incentive in his move to Mizzou...Michael McBroom is the new AD at Stephen F. Austin...Idaho director of athletics Terry Gawlik told national media about her philosophies for hiring head coaches and senior administrators and lessons she learned from NFF College Hall of Fame coach and retired Wisconsin AD Barry Alvarez...Jacksonville State AD Greg Seitz has been appointed to the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee from 2024-28...Outgoing Ohio State AD and 2007 NFF John V. Toner Award recipient Gene Smith dislikes the proposition that the Buckeyes football program might separate from university governance. He continues to be a big believer in the education and campus experience for all student-athletes...Portland State AD John Johnson will finish his time in the position Tuesday after two years in that role...Coastal Carolina AD Matt Hogue is leaving his post to accept another administrative role at CCU...Howard AD Kery Davis gave

thoughts about the state of college football, the challenges still facing many HBCU schools, the unique position of HBCU members, and how working with HBO as an executive gave him key insights into day-to-day business operations...Vermont AD Jeff Schulman, Hockey East commissioner Steve Metcalf, Minnesota-Duluth men's hockey head coach Scott Sandelin, and North Dakota Deputy AD Erik Martinson were featured guests at the NCAA State of the Game news conference during the NCAA Frozen Four® Men's DI Hockey Championship...East Tennessee State AD Richard Sander has set a goal of \$200,000-plus for NIL agreements for 2024-25 men's basketball...Vanderbilt AD Dr. Candice Storey Lee outlined VU initiatives in ongoing NIL possibilities and financing...Portland State AD John Johnson is finishing his tenure due to family issues after two years...Kansas AD Travis Goff explained the continued funding and tentative timetables for the KU Gateway Project and upgrades at Booth Memorial Stadium with challenge grants, private funding and other means of financing the dual construction projects...Nebraska AD Troy Dannen told alumni and friends that he is doing major fact-finding and inside information about the \$450 million updates at Memorial Stadium/Dr. Tom Osborne Field...Former Notre Dame AD Jack Swarbrick expounded on possible reasons for Notre Dame not drawing a bye in the new, 12-team College Football Playoff format even when the Fighting Irish were not among the Top Four in the final CFP rankings...New Stetson director of athletics Ricky Ray had his introductory news conference on campus with emphasis on fundraising and keeping the Hatters competitive in the Atlantic Sun Conference...Jacksonville State assistant AD Josh Underwood is leaving athletics after 19 years to become director of university media relations at JSU...Dr. Liz Darger, senior associate at BYU, was queried about bridging gaps between diverse groups and faith-based communities in college sports, understanding the impact of college leadership, inclusiveness, and encouraging student-athletes, coaches, and community members in joint endeavors with emphasis on faith, values and beliefs...Maryland selected Omari DeBerry as its director of NIL operations...Recent Colbert County (Ala.) Sports Hall of Fame inductee Jason Pruitt is the new women's basketball head coach at Elmhurst...Northern Kentucky named Jeff Hans women's basketball head coach...Green Bay tabbed Kayla Karius as its women's basketball head coach...Stetson men's basketball head coach Donnie Jones reached agreement for a contract through the 2029-30 season...Tulsa women's basketball head coach Angie Nelp has a new personal pact through the 2029-30 campaign...Former Xavier and Louisville men's basketball coach Chris Mack will head the College of Charleston's program in 2024-25...Murray

State women's tennis head coach Jorge Caetano gained a one-year contract upgrade...Monmouth chose Cait Wetmore as women's basketball head coach...Oakland tabbed Paul Doroh as men's soccer head coach...Chicago State selected Scott Spinelli as men's basketball head coach...Mount St. Mary's added Donny Lind as men's basketball head coach...Isaiah Austin has accepted a post as assistant men's basketball coach at Florida Atlantic...Gonzaga president Dr. Thayne McCulloh is retiring in May 2025...Toledo president Gregory Postel is retiring from his current position...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are at Air Force, Army, Blueprint Sports, Middle Tennessee, Texas Tech, Arizona State, Cleveland State, Colorado State, Illinois State, Indiana State, Iowa, UNI, Missouri, Northern Iowa, St. Bonaventure, SMU, Stephen F. Austin, UMass Lowell, Valparaiso, VMI, Fresno State, and Washington State.

The Conferences:

The Big 12 Conference is using the fabled Trackman system this season for improvement and evaluation of baseball umpires...The schedule for the Big East-Big 12 Conferences men's basketball scheduling alliance Dec. 5-8 has been denoted...The America East Conference has emphasized increased crowd control and sportsmanship relationships throughout its spring sports seasons...Southeastern Conference commissioner Greg Sankey praised the energy and leadership skillset of new Missouri AD Laird Veatch...Missouri Valley Conference Baseball Players of the Week were Missouri State's Cody Kelly (player) and Indiana State's Luke Hayden (pitcher)...Oklahoma's Bryce Madron (co-player), Texas Tech's Austin Green (co-player), Kansas State's Cade McGee (newcomer), and K-State's Jackson Wentworth (pitcher) were Big 12 Conference Baseball Players of the Week...San José State's Hunter Dorraugh (player), Nevada's Jason Doktorczyk (pitcher) and San Diego State's Jake Jackson (freshman) were Mountain West Baseball Players of the Week...FIU outfielder Armando Becerra and Louisiana Tech pitcher Turner Swistak were Conference USA Baseball Players of the Week presented by Blenders Eyewear...

The Bowls:

The Goodyear Cotton Bowl will finalize its 2025 ticket renewals Wednesday...Bowlseason.com presented special kudos earlier this month with the Champions Award for support of bowls and student-athlete welfare to former conference commissioners Bob Bowlsby and Chuck Neinas and Bowl Season Leadership Hall of Fame inductions to Pete Derzis, ESPN Events; Dr. Morrison Warren, Vrbo Fiesta Bowl; Fred Smith (founder of the FedEx Corp.), AutoZone Liberty Bowl; and Keith Tribble, Capitol One Orange Bowl...Several college bowl games in post-2024 are in the midst of certification, but these old reliables

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remain as part of the College Football Playoff semifinals or the continuing New Year's Six Bowls - Dec. 31 Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz.; Jan. 1 - Chick Fil-A Peach, Atlanta, Ga.; Rose Bowl presented by Prudential, Pasadena, Calif.; Allstate Sugar, New Orleans; Jan. 9 Capital One Orange Bowl, Miami Lakes, Fla., CFP semifinal; Jan. 10 (latest date in GCB annals) Goodyear Cotton Bowl, Arlington, Texas, CFP semifinal.

The Players:

Alabama QB Jalen Milroe joined Basketball Hall of Fame member Michael Jordan as interested infield spectators at the Talladega 500 on April 21...Tyshun Willis has offered a verbal commitment to Mississippi State for 2025. MSU wideouts transfers Kelly Akharaiyi and Kevin Coleman Jr. appear to be in line for '24 starting positions after standout spring showings...Texas QB Quinn Ewers feels his performance for 2024 in the Southeastern Conference has an opportunity to surpass his 2023 All-Big 12 Conference. One '24 tough SEC road test will occur at Vanderbilt on Oct. 26... Auburn acquired defensive line stalwarts Philip Bliidi and Isaiah Raikes via the NCAA transfer portal...Nebraska TE Thomas Fidone was lauded for his spring practice work ethic and pass catching.... West Virginia has added nine standouts from the April 15-30 NCAA transfer portal, and they are CB Garnett Hollis, safety Jaheem Joseph; WR Jaden Bray, DL T.J. Jackson, CB Ayden Garnes, CB TJ Crandall, LB Reid Carrico, OLB Ty French, and OL Xavier Bausley. WVU athletics communications also issued a comprehensive game day guide for last week's Blue-Gold spring encounter and saluted Iron Mountaineer Award winners Wyatt Milum, Sean Martin, Preston Fox, Garrett Greene, and Austin Brinkman for top off-season performances in the WVU strength and conditioning programs...Arizona State QB Jaden Rashada is taking his talents to national contender Georgia for 2024.... Florida Atlantic's Alijah Martin has transferred to Florida...Former Mississippi State and Vanderbilt QB Mike Wright has entered the transfer portal for a third college assignment along with '24 Bulldogs teammate OL Zay Alexander...San Diego State's Lamont Butler is taking his talents to Kentucky...Auburn has added Penn State WR KeAndre Lambert-Smith via the portal...Brock Vice is taking his talents from Creighton to North Texas...Colorado had three running backs available for the Gold-Black spring game with Micah Welch, Charlie Offerdahl and Christian Sarem in the fold and hopes to gain essential depth from signees and the transfer portal. CU rusher Sy'Veon Wilkerson has joined the '24 portal after managing 1,500-plus all-purpose yards at Jackson State and CU in 2022 and '23. The Buffaloes did add depth with the transfer of Miami (Ohio) RB Rashad Amos...Belmont's Cade Tyson has transferred for North

Carolina...Tennessee's DJ Jefferson is switching to Longwood in the transfer portal while teammate Freddie Dilione is moving to Penn State. 2023-24 Volunteers teammates Jonas Aidoo and Tobe Awaka are in the portal but uncommitted....

...Undrafted CB Quinton Newsome of Nebraska has inked a free agent contract with the NFL Denver Broncos estimated to be in the \$100,000 range...Mississippi State WR Tolu Griffin is joining dozens of others as NFL free agents. He has joined the Las Vegas Raiders after not being drafted last week...Indiana State's Robbie Avila has committed to Saint Louis U. starting this fall...Kaitlyn Chen has transferred from Yale to Connecticut...Auburn gained former Texas standout DeYona Gaston from the transfer portal...Oakland U's Trey Townsend has transferred to Arizona...Baylor's Jalen Bridges, Connecticut's Stephen Castle and Colorado's Cody Williams have declared for the '24 NBA Draft...Former Louisville and LSU star Hailey Van Lith is in the fold for TCU as a fall 2024 transfer.

Around the Gridiron and Campus:

Michigan State dedicated the Tom Izzo Football Building, which was built for \$67.75 million and included adjacent updates for the Skandalaris Football Center and Duffy Daugherty Football Building. The Spartans Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame member starred in high school football and has been a major benefactor of MSU football during his 29-year career as MSU's men's basketball head coach...Rice set a school giving day mark with \$276,000-plus from 1,021 donors during its 24-Hour Challenge with 100 percent donation participation from the RU athletics staff...Wisconsin athletics provided new architectural views for the Badgers \$285 million indoor football practice facility, which could open as soon as August 2027...Altius Sports Partners is working with Michigan and Oklahoma athletics for planning and future opportunities in several areas...Arizona athletics opened its \$14.8 million Bill Clements Golf Center last week with a generous donation from the Clements family...Connecticut athletics allotted a \$2.83 million insurance premium to cover bonus clauses for men's and women's basketball head coaches and their staffs in 2024...Notre Dame athletics has received a donation of a non-public amount from the Jack Shield Family for the new Fighting Irish's football facility...Wichita State athletics has employed DI relocation to help situate and make relocation more convenient for incoming and outgoing staff members...Louisiana Tech athletics and Collegiate Sports Connect will work together for foundational strategy and to identify individuals seeking positions at Tech and in college athletics...The Tennessee state legislature has appropriated additional funds for FedExForum upgrades and the Memphis Tourism office. Last October the state also allotted \$350 million for major Memphis

projects including renovations at Simmons Bank Liberty Bowl Stadium...College football teams in Canada are allowed to have special Prospect Days, and the University of Calgary just entertained 140-plus high school juniors and sophomores for future scholarship evaluations....

...Davidson occupied its new, 5,000-seat Davidson College Stadium with multi-purpose uses and comfortable chairback seating...Humphrey (Neb.) St. Francis High School has implored people from neighboring rural communities to come together and offer financial assistance to save the school, which opened in 1918, from merging with another area private high school and to remain independent...Birmingham-Southern, which is scheduled to close after 158 years May 31, continues to receive votes in the NCAA Division III baseball polls. Endicott (Mass.) held down the No. 1 ranking in DIII with a 28-2 start this spring... Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado, and Utah needed a composite \$34.1 million to balance their 2023 fiscal year budgets, according to federal tax records...Kentucky baseball established a school record at Kentucky Proud Park with 7,304 fans for a series single game against Tennessee....

...The Texas A&M 12th Man Store will have free shipping on items over the next few days via its website...Stanford's final Pac-12 Conference women's lacrosse team racked up an undefeated record in conference contests...The Virginia Athletics Foundation has inaugurated the Sabre Society to allow those making gifts an opportunity to become exclusive donors with opportunities for more recognition with enhanced giving...Texas A&M has not renewed 12 staff member' contracts due to financial considerations not related to the reported buyout of \$76 million for former football head coach Jimbo Fisher... DBU athletics is hoping to benefit from DBU Giving Day Thursday...Colorado football has 33 incoming transfers as of April 28 and has had 31 student-athletes from the '23 squad opt to transfer.

NFF College Hall of Fame, Other Notables:

NFF College Hall of Fame running back Reggie Bush was re-presented his 2005 Heisman Trophy last week...The RESTORE HAIR group and NFF College Hall of Fame member and Colorado head coach Deion Sanders held a joint event to promote men's hair growth and restoration. Sanders had a restoration procedure in 2017...The Jacksonville State NCAA team bowling champion will have its victory parade Sept. 21 prior to the JSU-Southern Miss football clash...Toyota Motor North America worked with former Iowa State QB and NFL star Brock Purdy on an advertising campaign around both 2024 NFL Draft and the all-new 2025 Toyota Crown Signia vehicle...The oldest living player with MLB experience turned 100 last Thursday as Art Schallock (his career spanned 1951-55 and he is a U.S. Navy veteran in World War II) celebrated the event

with family in Sonoma, Calif....The inaugural Nebraska Sports Hall of Fame has had 500-plus nominations for the first class of a maximum 50 standouts when it opens in 2024...Former Kentucky swimming student-athlete Riley Gaines is continuing her nationwide to encourage fair competition in NCAA single-sex sports....

...Late Jacksonville State football head coach Clarkie Mayfield was remembered in a recent sports column. He passed away in the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in Newport, Ky., while trying to save his mother during the 1977 blaze...Author and Southwest Conference historian Jay Shelton has penned a new book - Life on the Sidelines of the Southwest Conference - featuring his late father Wendell Shelton and several other SWC game officials. The book is available via Amazon...The SMU Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2024 Induction will be Friday, September 20.

Media Musings:

Collegepresbox.com is celebrating its 20-year anniversary with a re-design of its various sites and insider media coverage of the 2024 NFL Draft...CBS Sports' award-winning columnist Dennis Dodd (who appeared on the nationally-syndicated Sidelines podcast with host Rob Browne) questioned the academic repercussions of NIL and transfer portal rulings and how discipline has to figure into the equation for successful student-athletes...The Athletic's Austin Meek, Seth Emerson and Mitch Sherman examined the NCAA FBS 85-player scholarship limit and how it has fluctuated almost daily for most schools since the COVID-19 pandemic and the NCAA transfer portal...ESPN's Heather Dinich gained knowledge of a possible Group of Five conference postseason play-off of sorts if the Power Five conferences dominate selections in the revamped, 12-team College Football Playoff. Former Louisiana Tech and Tennessee head coach Derek Dooley has been looking into the possibility of a possibly G5 postseason joust...Yahoo Sports' Ross Dellenger interviewed various commissioners about why the NCAA FBS group could not come to a consensus on future formats for the College Football Playoff during 2022 discussions. Mid-American Conference commissioner Jon Steinbrecher and Big 12 Conference commissioner Brett Yormark indicated that conference membership changes were major factors in the debates... Extra Points publisher Matt Brown recorded that 12,300-plus football student-athletes have agreed to be represented in the EA Sports College Football 25 game with both scholarship and non-scholarship youngsters featured...The Tulsa (Okla.) World newspaper columnist Bill Haisten recommends in-city Oral Roberts AD Tim Johnson for the same post at the University of Tulsa...Sportico's Michael McCann glanced at how new Title IX interpretations by the U.S. government will differentiate investigations of Title IX claims....

The Athletic's Max Olson looked at five

NCAA FBS gridiron via five categories and their approaches to the transfer portal and NIL opportunities. The schools interviewed were Alabama, Georgia, Ole Miss, Northwestern, and Stanford...Deloitte circulated a 2024 higher education trends' report indicating that presidents and chancellors need to become more involved in the conversations around athletics because of the financial considerations and public persona offered by that department... Famed New York Yankees radio broadcaster for 36 seasons and voice of Morgan State football from 1971-78 John Sterling has retired from broadcasting. His total career in broadcasting has spanned Adidas and Nike have been in recent discussions about outbidding one another for marketing and apparel agreements with professional and college squads...ESPN chief technology officer Aaron LaBerge is becoming CTO at Penn Entertainment... DraftKings and the State of New York are involved in a recent jurisprudence action...TurnkeyZRG now will be known as ZRG Partners for its NIL and other operations... he Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal's Mark Giannotto is calling for a person of color to become Memphis' next AD to fit in with the demographics of the Tigers multicultural alumni base and student body...The combination of firms U.S. Integrity and Odds On Compliance is now known as Integrity Compliance 360...Nationally rated TCU (second) and Oklahoma State (fell in semifinals) were among the Top Four teams in the recent National Collegiate Equestrian Association Championship at Ocala, Fla....Dallas Independent School District communications director Todd Lamb presented a special seminar to DISD coaches about maximizing their social media presence in a positive manner... **FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:**

Arkansas head coach John Calipari will serve as president of the American Basketball Coaches Association for 2024-25 ...Some of the standouts on the NCBWA Stopper of the Year midseason watch list are Joe Vogatsky of James Madison, Nathan Ward of Grand Canyon, Jacob Weatherley of Little Rock, Jackson Wentworth of Kansas State, Grant Wood of South Alabama, and Brian Zeldin of Georgia...College Sports Communicators members featured in the news and on social media posts in recent days are Jordie Lindley of Utah, Doug Huffman of Utah State, Drew Bonney of UTEP, Kyle Stephens of UTSA, and Mike Scholl of Vanderbilt...Florida, Kansas, LSU, Michigan State, Nebraska, Stanford, Tennessee, UCLA, and USC are convening with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The NCAA selected UCLA as the top seed in the 54th NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball Championship...The states of Mississippi and Nebraska joined Virginia in amending or passing new NIL legisla-

tion...The MLB New York Yankees introduced the public to their new team clubhouse with the Pinstripe Diner, several pools, training areas, and "futuristic" areas via computer design - a long way from the single nails and uniform hanging areas of the old Yankee Stadium clubhouse.... Arizona State has received NCAA sanctions and is making some additional appeals for future student-athletes' eligibility...The city of Dallas, Texas, has offered a \$19 million incentive for the WNBA Dallas Wings to move their franchise from Arlington, Texas, to downtown Dallas...A Leon County (Fla.) judge has called for mediation for the Florida State jurisprudence against the Atlantic Coast Conference ...The NCAA Competition Oversight Committee has discussed championship licensing, NIL updates, member institutions guidelines, compliance with NCAA regulations, enforcement, and the possibility of adding women's wrestling as a NCAA championship sport...NHL Dallas Stars business strategy and analytics senior analyst Jed Buchholz spoke with Sports Business Journal talks about building ticket practices and increases in sales through some artificial intelligence methods... NCAA attorney Christopher Deubert outlined some of the practical points in the NCAA v. Johnson case regarding student-athletes as university employees...The NCAA Competition Committee's proposal for all staff members to provide coaching instruction in practices and games has been altered somewhat for 2024-25...The NHL completed regular-season activity with a season-record 22,560,634 fans and 97 percent arena capacity...Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody is requesting assistance from additional states in the state and Florida State jurisprudence against the Atlantic Coast Conference...NCAA managing director of enterprise risk management Clint Hangebrauck gauged the influence of sports wagering, the importance of student-athlete education, monitoring officiating, efforts to protect student-athletes from online threats, and the possibility of appointing a lay risk management NCAA committee in coming months...The U.S. Senate passed legislation last week to remand ByteDance to sell the TikTok social media platform or have TikTok banned in the U.S. Hundreds of collegiate student-athletes utilize the current TikTok mobile application...Former Arizona State head coach Herm Edwards accepted a five-year show-cause violation from NCAA infractions as part of ASU's sanctions last week...The Federal Trade Commission has made additional rulings for non-competing executive appointments that may affect staffs of both DraftKings and Fanatics...Athlete Ally penned an open letter to the NCAA Board of Governors to support transgender inclusion in NCAA competition in conjunction with Champion Women and Concerned Women for America.

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Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

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