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## Weekly

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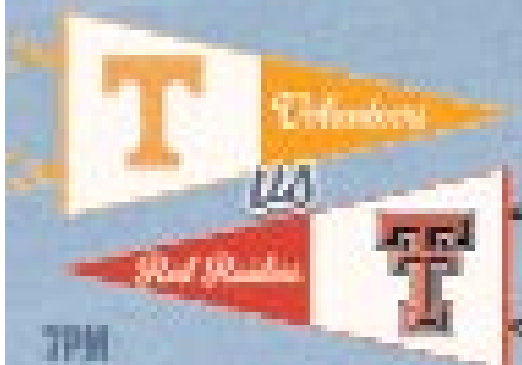
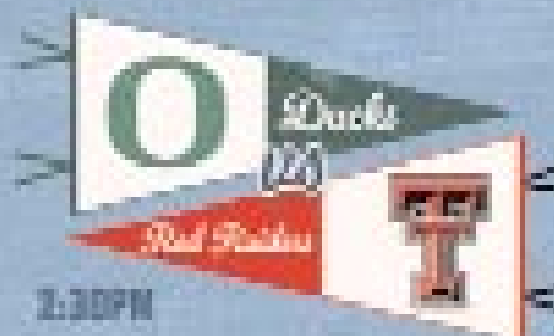
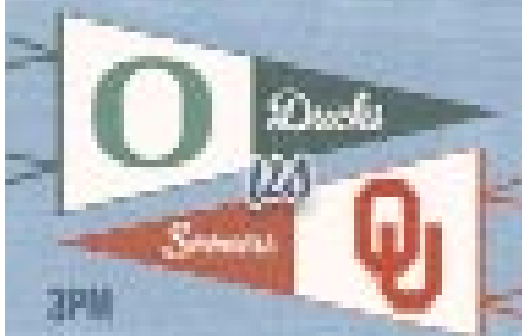
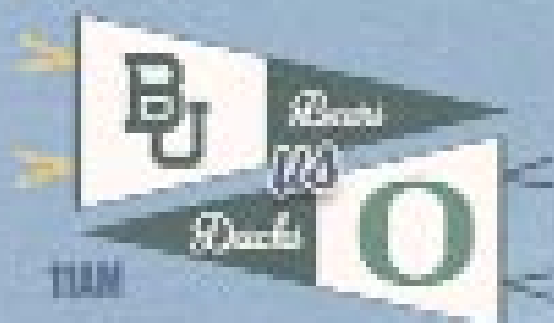
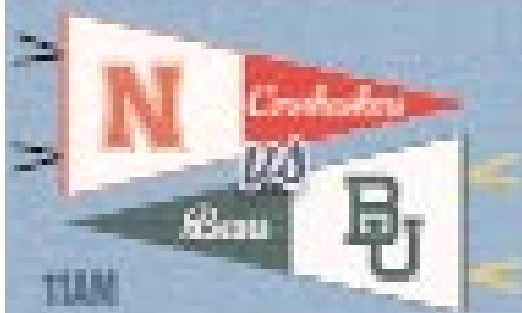


Presented by

February 16

February 17

February 18



LIVE ON  
FLOBASEBALL





2023-24 SMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# SCHEDULE




 11.1 EXHIBITION	 11.6	 11.11	 11.14	 11.18	 11.24 SD CLASSIC	 11.25 SD CLASSIC	 11.30	 12.4
 12.14	 12.18	 12.21	 12.30	 1.4	 1.7	 1.11	 1.14	 1.17
 1.20	 1.24	 1.27	 1.31	 2.3	 2.10	 2.14	 2.18	 2.24
			 2.28	 3.2	 3.5			
<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>							#PONYUPDALLAS




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# AROUND THE AREA LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

## DAC completes Gold Course renovation



### Renovated DAC Gold Adds Luster to Dallas Powerhouse 36-Hole Golf Club

By Art Stricklin

The recent reopening of the Dallas Athletic Club Gold Course, gives the long-time Dallas private club powerhouse two outstanding courses, both of championship caliber for a fast-growing North Texas membership.

The Gold Course, along with the adjacent Blue course which hosted the 1963 PGA Championship, originally opened in 1989 as a Jack Nicklaus layout.

The multi-million dollar renovation which reopened Feb. 1 to limited play, came from longtime Nicklaus associate Chet Williams, who has operated his own Texas architectural firm for more than a decade.

"I always felt this was a good course, but now it feels and acts like a championship course," said DAC head professional Lance Patterson.

"The movement on the course feels outstanding and the finishing stretch is simply great."

The Gold Course remains a par 72 test of golf, stretching 7,085 yards from the back tees, but Williams totally redesigned seven holes, 3,5-7 and 16-18, while adding bent grass 007 XL grass to all the greens.

He refurbished the bunkers, added 11 trees to the property while taking away others plus restoring a sense of challenge and strategy to the entire layout.

"We wanted to have a championship feel to the course, changing some holes, renovating others and really giving members and their guests a chance for enjoyment and challenge," said Williams, who is the designer of the No. 1 private course in Texas, Whispering Pines in Trinity, along with several other award-winning designs.

While the championship tees were moved back on several of the holes, the biggest changes come on several of the greens with added slope and movement.

There is also water on nine of the holes with some of the watery features shrunk or enhanced. In addition a new cart path was installed to the entire Gold layout, the tees were leveled, and bunkers filled with Arkansas Premium Play sand.

"We are so pleased with what Chet did as a testament to the championship character here," said DAC general manager Brent Burkhart.

Starting with the sunken Biarritz green on the par 4 14th hole and the sneaky short, but dangerous par 3 15th, the redesigned layout turns especially memorable for the finish.

The 16th is a long par 5 with bunkers, hidden from view off the tee, to the right of the landing area. There is water on the right side of the fairway with a large pond in front of the green and the bank in front it shaved down to repel any short shots into the water, much like No. 15 at Augusta National.

The par 3 17th has a running creek slicing along the right side with a large lake behind the green. The 18th is a par 4, 455 yards from the back tees, with water visible from the tee on both sides and with large greenside bunkers.

"We finally have the tools to maintain the course the way we should to showcase it," said DAC superintendent Travis Moore.

---






### Mavericks acquire P.J. Washington from Charlotte

The Dallas Mavericks have acquired forward P.J. Washington and two second-round picks from the Charlotte Hornets in exchange for forward Grant Williams, guard Seth Curry and a top-two protected 2027 first-round pick.

Washington (6-7, 230) has appeared in 44 games (17 starts) with the Hornets this season and is averaging 13.6 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.2 assists, 0.9 steals and 0.7 blocks per game while shooting 44.6% from the field. In his 17 starts, he averaged 14.7 points, 5.2 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 0.7 steals and 0.6 blocks per game.

The Louisville, Kentucky native recorded 43 points off the bench against Utah on Jan. 27, the most points by a non-starter in a game in Hornets history and the most points by a player off the bench in the NBA this season. He is one of three players in Hornets history to record at least 43 points in a game multiple times. In his debut game with the Hornets, he set a franchise record for the most points scored in a debut (27) and a league record for most 3-pointers made in a debut in NBA history.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR						
	FEBRUARY 9 FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 10 SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 11 SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 12 MONDAY	FEBRUARY 13 TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 14 WEDNESDAY
	Mavs vs Oklahoma City 2:00 / Bally's			Mavs vs Washington 7:30 / Bally's		Mavs vs San Antonio 7:30 / Bally's
	TCU at Iowa State 1:00 / ESPN2			TCU vs West Virginia 7:00 / WBAP		
			SMU vs North Texas 1:00 / KTCK			SMU at Tulane 6:00 / ESPN+
		Stars at Montreal 12:00 / KTCK			Stars vs Carolina 7:00 / KTCK	Stars at Nashville 7:00 / KTCK
	Allen vs Tulsa 7:10	Allen vs Tulsa 7:10				Allen vs Wichita 7:10

# NCBWA preseason All-America teams



Texas Tech's Kevin Bazzell was selected as pre-season, first team, All America at catcher

**Nation's best featured as NCBWA reveals 23rd annual 2024 NCAA Division I pre-season All-America teams presented by The Game Head Wear**

In times when the NCAA transfer portal and NIL sometimes cause confusion in Division I athletics, the 2024 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Preseason All-America teams, presented by The Game Headwear, reflect loyalty to contending universities and some of the nation's most talented diamond standouts.

West Virginia's J.J. Wetherholt, Preseason Big 12 Conference Player of the Year, and Jac Caglianone, Southeastern Conference standout and fellow 2023 Dick Howser Trophy presented by The Game Headwear finalist, head a solid list of returning post-2023 NCBWA All-America selections

Wetherholt earned consensus DI A-A laurels with a nation-leading .449 batting average, 101 hits in 225 times at-bat, 24 doubles, 16 home runs, 60 runs-batted-in and 36 stolen bases (tied for 10th nationally).

Caglianone posted similarly exceptional numbers with a .323 batting average, 738 slugging percentage, 91-for-282 plate work with 33 home runs (tops nationally), two triples, 14 doubles, 90 RBI, 74 runs, and four stolen bases. The 2023 ABCA Position Player of the Year also was a weekend starting hurler for the Gators with 18 starts, a 7-4 mound mark, 4.34 ERA, .190 opponents' batting average, and 87 strikeouts over 74-2/3 innings pitched for

the 2023 NCAA runnerup to LSU.

Pitcher Josh Hartle of NCBWA-No. 1-ranked for 2024 Wake Forest, leads the first team starting pitchers with an 11-2 mound mark, 2.81 earned run average, 102-plus innings pitched over 17 starts, 140 strikeouts, 91 hits allowed and just 24 walks for just 2.1 walks per nine innings.

The five starting pitchers on the NCBWA first team had a combined record of 43-9 with 536 strikeouts in 443-plus innings while the exemplary relief corps compiled a composite 36 saves and average over one strikeout per inning pitched.

Some other returnees of note on the NCBWA dream team are Texas Tech catcher Kevin Bazzell with a .348 average, 10 homers and 62 RBI; Hartle's Wake Forest teammate 1B Nick Kurtz with a .353 hitting norm, 24 dingers and 69 RBI; Oregon State 2B Travis Bazzana with a .374 average, 11 homers. 55 RBI and 36 stolen bases; and outfielder Charlie Condon (2023 SEC Freshman of the Year) with a .386 average, 25 homers (tops among all NCAA Division I freshmen in 2023) and 67 RBI.

Defending NCAA champion LSU suffered some extensive player losses from '23 but still boasts returning All-America 3B Tommy White with a nation-co-leading 105 RBI, 198 total bases (third nationally) 102 hits (sixth in DI) and 24 home runs (tied for 11th in the country).

In all, there are 45 different schools and 16 DI conferences represented on the 2024 DI All-America teams, which also have

individuals honored from 22 teams ranked in various preseason polls.

Previous NCBWA postseason All-America teams from 1996-2023 have featured the likes of several Dick Howser Trophy presented by The Game Headwear recipients: RHP Paul Skenes of LSU, 3B Kris Bryant of San Diego, P Stephen Strasburg of San Diego State, 1B Mark Teixeira of Georgia Tech, RHP Mark Prior of USC, SS-2B Rickie Weeks of Southern U., 3B Alex Gordon of Nebraska, P David Price of Vanderbilt, C Buster Posey of Florida State, catcher Mike Zunino of Florida, OF Andrew Benintendi of Arkansas and 1B-P Brendan McKay of Louisville, among others.

2024 NCBWA Division I Preseason All-America Team			
FIRST TEAM			
Pos.	Name	School	Class
C	Kevin Bazzell	Texas Tech	So.
1B	Nick Kurtz	Wake Forest	Jr.
SS	JJ Wetherholt	West Virginia	Jr.
3B	Tommy White	LSU	Jr.
OF	Braden Montgomery	Texas A&M	(Stanford), Jr.
OF	Ethan Petry	South Carolina	So.
OF	Nolan Schubart	Oklahoma State	So.
DH	Derek Bender	Coastal Carolina	Jr.
UT	Jac Caglianone	Florida	Jr.
SP	Drew Beam	Tennessee	Jr.
SP	Brody Brecht	Iowa	Jr.
SP	Josh Hartle	Wake Forest	Jr.
SP	Dominic Niman	Kentucky	Gr.
SP	Trey Yesavage	East Carolina	Jr.
RP	Brandon Neely	Florida	Jr.
RP	Tyson Neighbors	Kansas State	Jr.
RP	Fran Oschell III	Duke	Jr.
RP	James Tallon	Duke	So.
SECOND TEAM			
Pos.	Name	School	Class
C	Caden Bodine	Coastal Carolina	So.
C	Ike Irish	Auburn	So.
1B	Ethan Anderson	Virginia	Jr.
1B	Anthony Martinez	UC Irvine	So.
2B	Chase Mora	Texas State	So.
3B	Billy Amick	Tennessee	Jr.
3B	Carson DeMartini	Virginia Tech	Jr.
SS	Wehiwa Aloy,	Arkansas	So.
SS	Griff O'Ferrall	Virginia	Jr.
OF	Lawson Harrill	Campbell	r-Sr.
OF	Anthony Donofrio	UNC	Gr. (Quinnipiac)
OF	Cam Cannarella	Clemson	So.
OF	Porter Brown	Texas	Sr.
OF	Mike Sirota	Northeastern	Jr.
DH	Alex Lane	Northeastern	r-Sr.
DH	Slade Wilks	Southern Miss	Sr.
UT	Justin Murray	Houston	Sr.
UT	Payton Tolle	TCU	Jr.
SP	Chase Burns	Wake Forest	Jr.
SP	Reese Dutton	Kansas	Sr.
SP	Sebastian Gongora	Louisville	Sr.
SP	Kole Klecker	TCU	So.
SP	Hagen Smith	Arkansas	Jr.
RP	Austin Anderson	Oregon	Sr.
RP	Hudson Barrett	UC Santa Barbara	So.
RP	Joshua Romero	CSUN	Sr.
RP	AJ Russell	Tennessee	So.



# Introduced to America 60 years ago



**TOM WARD**  
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Beatles first appearance on American TV, performing live on the widely popular Ed Sullivan show. The date was February 9th, 1964 and it was one of the most watched moments in television history at the time.

The event introduced four lads from Liverpool, England named John, Paul, George and Ringo launching Beatlemania—as well as the wider British Invasion of American pop music.

In honor of their anniversary, I have two friends named Tommy Roe and Joe Sinnott who had a unique connection to all the hoopla surrounding the Beatles back then.

Tommy Roe was a popular singer/songwriter back in 1962 and had a big hit with the song Sheila. Along with fellow singer Chris Montez they were headliners touring England in 1963. Their opening act were the Beatles. Roe recalled,

“I knew from the beginning of our tour these guys, the Beatles, were on their way. The boys along with their manager Brian Epstein, had talked to me about how they wanted to release their records in the U.S. I told them I would try to get them a deal with my record label, ABC Paramount. When I got back to New York, I set up a meeting with my producer and the president of the label. The president put the record on “Please, Please Me” and preceded

ed to tell me that this is garbage. I was shocked and devastated by their reaction. About 6 months later the Beatles got their record deal, and every time the executives at my label would see me coming, they would run for the exit.”

Tommy Roe would go on to become a best-selling artist with hits like Sweet Pea, Dizzy and many others. Roe officially retired in 2018.

Joltin’ Joe Sinnott was one of the top illustrators/inkers in the comic book industry in the those days mostly working for his friend Stan Lee at Marvel comics. When it became known that the Beatles were coming to America in 1964, the US agent for the Beatles management granted the rights to produce a 64 page color comic book biography of the Beatles to Dell publishing company. The call went out for a top notch illustrator and Sinnott had the honor of being chosen to illustrate the comic book. Sinnott told me the Beatles book was 64 pages and took him 30 days to finish. I asked Joe if he knew who the Beatles were? He said,

“They were so new it was hard to any reference to them. There were hardly any photos of them. Fortunately, someone found a picture magazine of them from England. After I started drawing, it was pretty easy for me to capture their images and I had them down pat.”

The book cost a whopping .35 cents, back in a time when normal comic books cost .12 cents. That book is now a rare collectable. Sinnott would go on for decades drawing all the great superheroes that we know and love today. Joe Sinnott passed away at age 93 in 2020.

The Beatles would go on to unprecedented success as a group and individually for decades, while influencing other musicians along the way.

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This week on TOUR: WM Phoenix Open



Back to back winner Scottie Scheffler is looking for a third straight win

Waste Management Phoenix Open  
February 8 - 11, 2024  
TPC Scottsdale  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
Purse - \$20,000,000  
Winners share - \$3,600,000  
Defending Champ - Scottie Scheffler

By Adam Stanley

The PGA TOUR heads from the picturesque Pacific Ocean vistas of Torrey Pines and Pebble Beach to the electric desert setting that is TPC Scottsdale for the year's WM Phoenix Open.

And there could be some history in the making. With two-time defending champion Scottie Scheffler looking for a three-peat, along with the final spots for The Genesis Invitational up for grabs via the Aon Swing 5, this is set to be another special week in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Here's everything you need to know.

**FIELD NOTES:** Scottie Scheffler is looking to become the first golfer since Steve Stricker to win the same PGA TOUR event three years in a row. Stricker won the John Deere Classic from 2009-11. Viktor Hovland, Sam Burns, Rory McIlroy and K.H. Leeall tried for three-peats last season but fell short. Scheffler also finished seventh at TPC Scottsdale the year prior to rattling off back-to-back victories. Only four players have won three WM Phoenix Open events in the tournament's 90-plus-year history (Arnold Palmer did so in three consecutive years, 1961-63). Hideki Matsuyama had his own shot at three-peating at the WM Phoenix Open in 2018 but was forced to withdraw due to injury...

Competing on a major medical extension, Bud Cauley will make his first start on TOUR since the 2020 Fortinet Championship. Cauley has been on the sidelines for most of the last half decade after suffering injuries in a car accident in 2018. He played in back-to-back events on the Korn Ferry Tour earlier this year to shake the competitive rust off and finished T21-T35. He has 27 starts left on his Major Medical Exemption and needs to earn just over 391 points to keep his card... Justin Thomas is back in action coming off two consecutive top 10s with the Aon Swing 5 within grasp. He's currently 50 points back of the magic number to automatically qualify for The Genesis Invitational via the Aon Swing 5. If Thomas doesn't qualify via the Aon Swing 5, he will have to rely on his OWGR standing (the top 30 qualify for all Signature Events; Thomas currently sits at No. 19)... Wyndham Clark is back in action after his win at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. He made the most significant jump in the FedExCup standings of anyone so far this season with his Signature Event victory... Clark is one of six top-10-ranked golfers who are set to tee it up in the desert including Scheffler, Max Homa, Matt Fitzpatrick and Brian Harman.

**HIGHEST-RANKED PLAYERS IN THE FIELD**

World Ranking	FedExCup Standings
1. Scottie Scheffler	3. W. Clark
6. Wyndham Clark	4. B. Hun An
8. Max Homa	5. S. Scheffler
9. Matt Fitzpatrick	7. G. Murray
10. Brian Harman	8. JT Poston
16. Jordan Spieth	9. S. Theegala

17. Tom Kim  
19. Justin Thomas  
20. Sam Burns

13. C. Bezuid.  
14. J. Thomas  
15. J. Spieth

**SIGNATURE EVENT STORYLINES:**

This is the final event to try to earn a spot in The Genesis Invitational via the Aon Swing 5. Matthieu Pavon, Grayson Murray, Christiaan Bezuidenhout, Kevin Yu and Stephan Jaeger are the current top five... Jake Knapp is No. 6 and trails Jaeger by 48 points. Nate Lashley and Thomas are tied with 145 points and trail Jaeger by 50 points... Yu is an ASU grad and lives about 10 minutes from TPC Scottsdale. He's off to his best career start on the PGA TOUR and is inching closer to achieving his biggest dream of 2024 — representing Chinese Taipei at the Olympics... The Aon Next 10 for The Genesis Invitational was determined via the standings in the FedExCup Fall.

**COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 UPDATES:** On the back of his victory at the weather-shortened AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Clark made a massive jump to No. 3 in the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 from No. 61. This was the biggest jump of any golfer this season in the ranking... Pavon continued his fine play in the early part of this season, backing up his win at Torrey Pines with a third-place finish at Pebble Beach. He is now No. 1 on the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 and becomes the first Frenchman to do so. Three other golfers made a move into the top 10 after Pebble Beach: Scheffler went from No. 11 to No. 5, Ludvig Åberg zipped from No. 41 to No. 6 after his runner-up result at Pebble Beach, and Jason Day went from No. 22 to No. 10... This is Åberg's first time in the TOUR TOP 10 in his career... Keegan Bradley is just one point back of Day at No. 11... Five different countries are represented in the

Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10.

**FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

**COURSE:** TPC Scottsdale, par 71, 7,261 yards. Opened in 1986, the Jay Morrish/Tom Weiskopf design has been the host club of the WM Phoenix Open every year since 1987.

**72-HOLE RECORD:** 256, Mark Calcavecchia (2001), Phil Mickelson (2013)

**18-HOLE RECORD:** 60, Grant Waite (Final round, 1996), Mark Calcavecchia (Round 2, 2001), Phil Mickelson (Round 2, 2005; Round 1, 2013).

**LAST TIME:** Scheffler successfully defended his WM Phoenix Open title after a 6-under 65 in the final round. Nick Taylor kept pace with Scheffler until an ill-timed mishit on the rambunctious par-3 16th led to a late bogey. Scheffler saved his own par with a clutch 15-footer on the same hole and would go on to birdie No. 17. Taylor's birdie on the 72nd hole of the tournament wasn't enough as Scheffler won by two shots and returned to No. 1 in the world. It was Scheffler's fifth TOUR title. He became the seventh person in tournament history to go back-to-back. Jon Rahm finished third, Thomas was fourth and Day was fifth.

HOW TO WATCH  
(all times ET)

Television:

- Thursday-Friday: 4-8 p.m. (Golf Channel)
- Saturday-Sunday: 1-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3-6 p.m. (NBC)

PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and free on PGATOUR.COM/liveaudio:

- Thursday-Friday: 2-8 p.m.
- Saturday-Sunday: 1-6 p.m.

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# TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course



The par-4 11th hole at TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course. (PGA TOUR)

By Bradley S. Klein  
PGATOUR.COM

They come out in droves for the WM Phoenix Open, which hosts more than 700,000 spectators annually and close to 200,000 for Saturday's third round alone. This year, the stakes are even higher in the PGA TOUR's most raucous environment. In addition to a Sunday finish just hours before and miles from the Super Bowl, this year's WM Phoenix Open is a designated event with a star-studded field competing for a \$20 million purse. The winner will earn \$3.6 million.

Here are five things to know about TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course, which has been the tournament's venue since 1987.

## 1. AN ODE TO THE HOHOKAM

That's the name of the Native American

people who created a network of canals here more than 500 years ago, their engineered effort to bring agricultural life to the desert. Now many of those same water-courses form part of the 336-mile Central Arizona Project, which also borders the Stadium Course's 15th, 16th and 17th holes.

The life brought to this arid ground has been thriving of late. In 1960, Scottsdale's population was only 10,000. Now it's 250,000. Without that canal connecting metro Phoenix (and 80% of the state's people) with the Colorado River, there would be no lush, green turfgrass for the many courses that have helped make the region a booming resort destination.

TPC Scottsdale, the sixth club built in the TPC network, is at the center of that, geographically and figuratively, with

43,000 rounds notched on the Stadium Course last year and 57,000 on its adjacent Champions Course.

## 2. IT'S GOT HISTORY

The WM Phoenix Open is one of the PGA TOUR's oldest events, dating to 1933. It's been played continuously since 1944 and landed at its current TPC Scottsdale site in 1987, where it has grown into the most well-attended golf event in the world. It's also arguably the cleanest, because tournament sponsor Waste Management, which took over the event in 2010, has been committed to cleaning up and recycling all of the trash from the grounds – including all of those beer cups.

The par-71 course, measuring 7,354 yards, has proven vulnerable to hot streaks – none more impressive than Mark Calcavecchia's wins in 1989, 1992 and

2001 by seven, five and eight strokes, respectively. But given the compression of talent on the PGA TOUR, the course has also seen a recent trend toward nail-biting finishes, including sudden-death playoffs in five of the last seven events. He shot 65-60-64 to tie the TOUR record for lowest score in a tournament's opening 54 holes (Justin Thomas, at the 2017 Sony Open in Hawaii, and Steve Stricker, at the 2010 John Deere Classic, have since lowered the mark by a stroke). Calcavecchia closed with a 67 to then set the TOUR's 72-hole scoring record (256, -28).

"I just don't see how I could top this," Calcavecchia said after winning the 11th of his 13 PGA TOUR titles. His record has since been bettered three times. Justin Thomas now holds the mark with his 27-under 253 at the 2017 Sony Open.





The WM Phoenix Open is one of the PGA TOUR's oldest events, dating to 1933

### 3. OCEAN'S 11TH

With an average score of 4.24 at last year's WM Phoenix Open, the 484-yard, par-4 11th hole is by far the hardest on the course. It doesn't get much airtime, but it certainly gets the attention of players. That's because it requires the most demanding tee shot of the round. It's called a "reverse camber" hole, which means it doglegs one way while sloping the other. In this case the hole turns modestly to the right while the ground slopes from right to left – toward a flanking pond.

Reverse camber means that gravity and topography are working against the golfers, who face water left, trees right, and a vertical slope of 4-5 feet from the high-side (right) to the low-side (left). The tendency in fighting a draw here is to over-compensate and block it right off the tee. Even elite players get into trouble when they have to steer a shot, especially on the drive.

This hole also was the site of a unique ruling that led to a recent change in the Rules of Golf. Rickie Fowler won the 2019 WM Phoenix Open despite making triple-bogey in the final round. After taking a drop from the water, his ball rolled back into the penalty area while he was surveying his next shot. This necessitated another drop and penalty stroke. That rule was changed in 2023, however. Under the new rule, Fowler would not have been penalized for his ball rolling back into the water after he had taken a drop. He would have been allowed to replace his ball without penalty.

### 4. THE RIVETING 17TH

The short par-3 16th and its stadium setting gets all that attention, but don't let that overshadow the next hole, which adds another element to a thrilling finish. The 332-yard 17th hole has a lot going on, all of it evident from the tee. It's a terrific place for spectators to watch the action because anything can happen. In short, the hole makes the best players in the world think. The green is readily reachable for most, but a slight tug left brings water into play, as we saw from Sahith Theegala as he was pursuing his first PGA TOUR title in 2022. A slight push and the ball will trickle into a fairway bunker or steep grass swale that present one of the hardest shots in golf, a medium-range pitch to a green guarded by water not only left but also long.

The smart play is to leave it just short and follow up with a chip shot, but even that requires properly navigating a small bunker in the center of the fairway that torments those seeking to play safe. There is a lot going on in the form of a green so artfully cut that it seems the approaching ball is always moving away from the center of it. The 47-yard-long putting surface also features a narrow tier on the back-left that is squeezed between sand and water. The subtle shot-making skills required here evoke the nature of classic links golf. The hole draws inspiration from the 12th hole at St. Andrews, fitting because the course architect, Tom Weiskopf, was a past cham-

pion of The Open (winning in 1973 at Royal Troon.).

### 5. A SPECIAL SHOWCASE

Ultimately, the appeal of watching golf at TPC Scottsdale is simply the pure power and consistency of the players treading upon perfectly manicured, overseeded fairways. The course was renovated in 2014, only enhancing its ability to recognize the best players. Seven of the past eight winners of the WM Phoenix Open are major champions; the lone exception in that span is Rickie Fowler, winner of the 2015 PLAYERS.

There's science behind the distances they achieve here at an average elevation on the course of 1,530 feet above sea level.

At an industry-standard reference point of 1.7% yards gained per 1,000 feet of elevation, they benefit from the thinner air to the tune of precisely 2.6%. That means an additional 7.5 yards per 300-yard drive, plus the bonus roll from these traditionally firm, fast-running fairways. The data confirm this.

The average PGA TOUR drive traveled 299.8 yards last season. Add in the elevation premium and the effect of close-cropped, dry fairways and the average drive spanned 313.6 yards at last year's WM Phoenix Open. The numbers don't lie. These guys are good, and they are especially fun to watch at TPC Scottsdale.

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# The top 5 aces at TPC Scottsdale's 16th



No. 16 at TPC Scottsdale is the only fully-enclosed hole on the PGA TOUR

## *From Tiger Woods to a robot, a collection of memorable shots at golf's craziest hole*

By Jeff Eisenband  
PGATOUR.COM

It holds as many fans as most NBA arenas and sounds like a college football stadium. No. 16 at TPC Scottsdale is the only fully-enclosed hole on the PGA TOUR, and the only one where traditional golf etiquette is, well, not part of the traditions.

Fans cheer when balls hit the green. They boo when they miss. And the people absolutely lose their minds when the ball goes in the hole.

Since the WM Phoenix Open moved to TPC Scottsdale in 1987, nine TOUR players (and one robot) have aced the 16th. You've likely seen one of these aces more than once. So, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the time Tiger Woods raised the roof at TPC Scottsdale's 16th hole, here is my list of the top five aces from golf's rowdiest hole.

### **TIGER WOODS (1997)**

"They're gonna go nuts when he hits this thing" is the best way to describe every tee shot at No. 16 at the WM Phoenix Open.

In 1997, the rowdy crowd at TPC Scottsdale hit new decibels as a 21-year-old Tiger Woods made his WM Phoenix Open debut. Woods had already won three times since turning pro five months earlier and was coming off a win at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, where he beat the reigning PGA TOUR Player of the Year, Tom Lehman, in a playoff.

By Saturday, Woods was 10 shots behind eventual winner Steve Jones and his title hopes were mostly out of reach. But no one remembers that. They just remember his shot at No. 16.

Woods' playing partner that day, Omar Uresti, hit first and put his ball 3 feet behind the pin.

"As soon as it landed, I made the mistake of thinking to myself, 'Let's see you hit it closer than that,'" Uresti told PGA-TOUR.COM in 2015.

Tiger did. Using a 9-iron on the 152-yard hole, Woods took dead aim and his ball took two soft bounces before falling into the hole. The Arizona crowd went bonkers, chucking beer all over the tee box.

"I think I broke Fluff's hand," Woods said of his high five for then-caddie Mike Cowan. He proceeded to whiff on Uresti's high five before famously raising the roof.

Woods eventually finished the tournament at 9-under, good for a T18 finish. The shot might be Woods' most memorable from a tournament he did not win. It's also a mainstay on his highlight reels and gave the world a glimpse of the Tiger Mania that would define the PGA TOUR for the next 20-plus years.

### **JARROD LYLE (2011)**

It had been nine years since No. 16 had seen a hole-in-one before Jarrod Lyle stepped up to the tee box during the second round in 2011. The big Australian played a draw with enough spin to pull the ball left upon landing and allow it to slide into the front portion of the hole.

Lyle threw his arms up in the air and even-

tually got the crowd going with some windmills.

The hole-in-one would serve as a trademark moment for a player gone too soon. Lyle had battled acute myeloid leukemia as a teenager. He was diagnosed with the disease a second time in 2012. He fought back to play in 20 PGA TOUR events from 2014-2016, but his leukemia would return again in 2017, and in 2018 he passed away at age 36.

At the 2019 WM Phoenix Open, a memorial was placed on the No. 16 tee box, along with an honorary yellow plaque.

### **LDRIC Robot**

Just 19 years after Eldrick Woods, better known as Tiger, had his hole-in-one at No. 16, a new LDRIC, a golf robot, made one of its own. Unlike most golfers who've made holes-in-one at No. 16, LDRIC played a baby fade with a one-handed finish onto the green.

The swing did feel a bit robotic though, if you ask me.

While LDRIC made the ace on its fifth try, the dynamics are impressive considering Golf Laboratories' Gene Parente gave the robot the wrong club. The San Diego-based creator of the 750-pound contraption thought LDRIC would be hitting a 158-yard shot during the Wednesday practice round but LDRIC was actually asked to play a shot from 20 yards closer. Parente had armed LDRIC with a 7-iron, and rather than change clubs, Parente re-calibrated LDRIC's swing.

LDRIC's first shot went over the pin, but Parente was able to adjust the swing

formula enough to go pin-seeking by the fifth shot.

"There was no science at this point, it was pure intuition," Parente said.

LDRIC stands for "launch directional robot intelligent circuitry." Or, in golf terms, Robot Tiger.

### **FRANCESCO MOLINARI (2015)**

Want to see Francesco Molinari get pumped up? Yes, the famously stoic Francesco Molinari. Watch his hole-in-one highlight at No. 16 in 2015.

Playing in soft conditions from just 133 yards out on Saturday, Molinari sent a pitching wedge past the pin on the right side of the hole and spun it back for the bucket. A grinning Molinari raised his arms, gave high fives to Harris English and Brian Davis and even waved to the crowd to get them more hyped up. By this point, the gallery was already throwing bottles onto the hole, making it look like an updated version of Woods' hole-in-one in 1997.

Davis had to wait 10 minutes for tournament officials to pick up the foreign objects before he could hit his tee shot. And that was before they got to the green. Upon getting to the hole, Molinari tossed his ball into the stands (Who did he think he was, Mike Evans?), but a fan responded by throwing it back.

"They nearly hit Brian Davis," Molinari said. "A volunteer just raked it out of the bunker and gave it to me at the end of the round. It was nice to get it back. I don't know if I will keep it or give it to someone. I wasn't expecting to see it coming back from the stands."

Somehow, Davis did manage to par the hole. And he got to witness greatness in the process.

Molinari carded an eight-under 64 during that third round, tied for the second-lowest score of the day, but a 72 on Sunday dropped him into a T22 finish.

### **HAL SUTTON (1988)**

He's the trailblazer they're all trying to copy. Sutton is the man credited with the first ace on No. 16 in the WMPO. He did it in 1988, after winning the event in 1986 and finishing second the following year, in TPC Scottsdale's debut as the host venue.

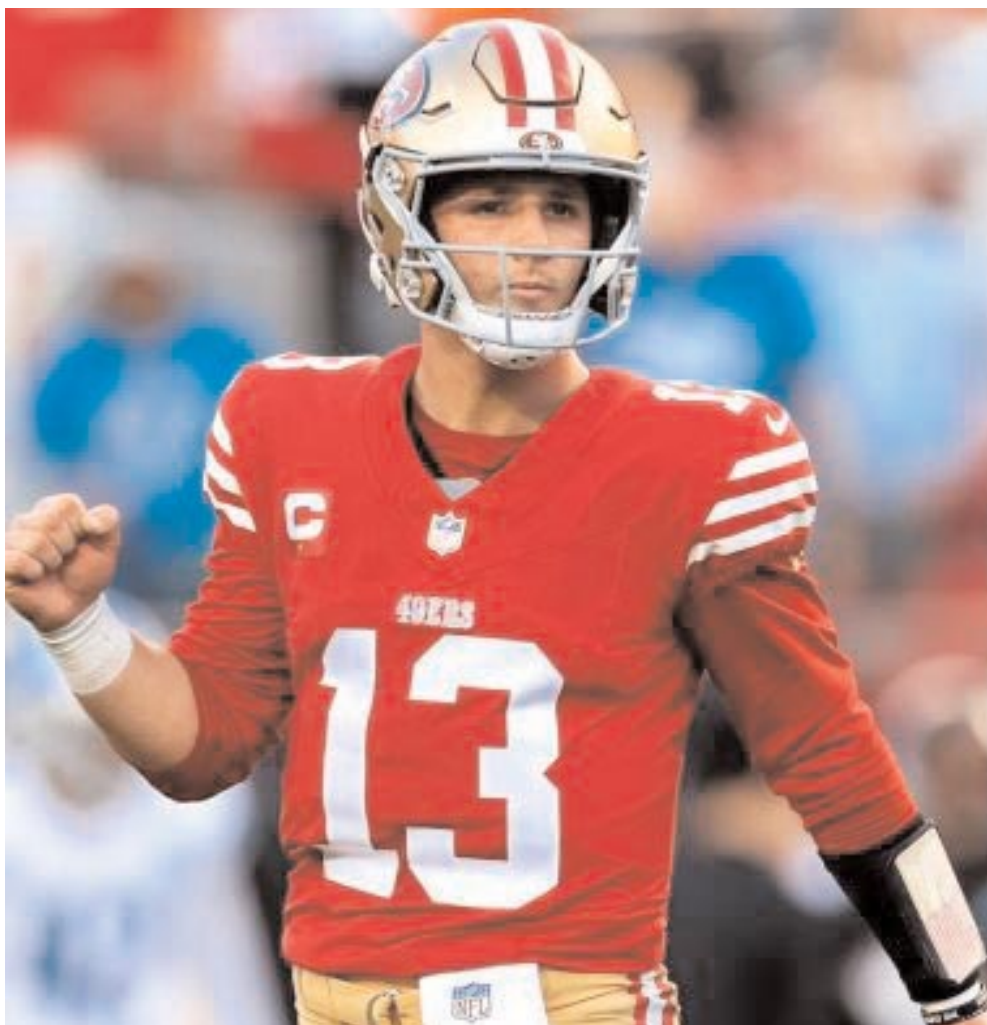
Sutton played a slight draw into a third-round back pin location. Correctly judging a stiff wind, he rode the right-to-left green contours into the hole.

The cheer sounded loud for a standard hole-in-one, foreshadowing the future of the iconic hole. Sutton, who opened 68-66, went 74-73 on the weekend to finish T26.

While Sutton didn't get the beer shower his successors did, he is the first name on the statue beside the tee box that honors the aces. There's a first time for everything, and Sutton was the first to give the fans at golf's rowdiest hole something to scream about.



# Chiefs have the edge in Super Bowl LVIII



The battle between two former Big 12 quarterbacks should be fun to watch

**Chiefs (14-6) vs 49ers (14-5)**  
**Allegiant Stadium**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**Sunday, 5:30 / FOX**  
**Line: 49ers -2 / 49.5**

Super Bowl LVIII matchups, analysis and prediction: And the winner is ...

By Sam Farmer  
 LAS VEGAS — Los Angeles Times NFL writer Sam Farmer breaks down the Super Bowl LVIII matchup between the San Francisco 49ers and the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs. Kickoff is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sunday and will be televised by CBS:

## **49ers pass offense vs. Chiefs pass defense**

The 49ers are all about precision and play calling, which presents a different challenge than the Chiefs saw from AFC championship game opponent Baltimore, whose quarterback, Lamar Jackson could break a big play at any time. Kansas City cannot be overly aggressive with cool-under-pressure quarterback Brock Purdy because the 49ers have so many places they can go with the ball — George Kittle,

Brandon Aiyuk, Deebo Samuel and Christian McCaffrey out of the backfield. So the Chiefs have to make sure that 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan's formations and camouflage don't mess up their coverages. Look for more conservative zone coverages than the Baltimore game.

## **EDGE: 49ers**

## **49ers run offense vs. Chiefs run defense**

San Francisco can grind out those yards on the ground with McCaffrey, who is so versatile and dangerous. The Chiefs did a really good job of shutting down the run against Baltimore, but the Ravens were complicit in that too. The big problem defenses have with the 49ers is San Francisco has so many ways to go with the ball, so committing to stop the run means all sorts of receiving options pop open. The 49ers were third in rushing yards per game this season, whereas the Chiefs were 17th when it came to stopping the run — and 26th in giving up yards after contact.

## **EDGE: 49ers**

## **Chiefs pass offense vs. 49ers pass defense**

Everybody knows the ball is going to Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce often, and rookie receiver Rashee Rice has stepped up

in a big way. Now, who is the third option? That has been a mixed bag for quarterback Patrick Mahomes. That might be receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and the Chiefs could test the 49ers by taking some deep shots with him. If the 49ers can mitigate the damage of Kelce and Rice, they will force Kansas City to rely on someone else. The wild card is Mahomes. He turns broken plays into big gains and can take off running at any point. The Chiefs have been more conservative with him this season, in part because their defense has improved.

## **EDGE: Chiefs**

## **Chiefs run offense vs. 49ers run defense**

Kansas City doesn't have an overpowering run game but the Chiefs can use the ground game effectively at times. They did that in the divisional round in Buffalo, where Isiah Pacheco gained 97 yards against the Bills. The 49ers are so-so against the run and have been punished in the playoffs: Green Bay and Detroit averaged a combined 5.6 yards per carry. The Chiefs would love those numbers. CBS analyst Charles Davis said the 49ers need to focus on clogging the middle. "To me, it's got to be muddy up front," he said. "That defensive front has got to give their

linebackers a chance. If they're meeting Pacheco four yards downfield, it's a lost cause and the chains are going to keep moving."

## **EDGE: Chiefs**

## **Special Teams**

Both teams have to applaud the fact this game is being played indoors and weather won't be a factor. The Chiefs have a seasoned veteran in kicker Harrison Butker, who has been in this situation before. That gives him a significant leg up on the 49ers' rookie kicker, Jake Moody. There are aspects to like about both punters, San Francisco's Mitch Wishnowsky and Kansas City's Tommy Townsend, but neither team plans to do much punting.

## **EDGE: Chiefs**

## **Coaching**

This matchup features Kansas City's Andy Reid and San Francisco's Shanahan, two exceptional play callers. Reid broke through with his first Super Bowl victory four years ago, then won again last season. He's Canton-bound. Shanahan has a chance to redefine his legacy after epic fourth-quarter Super Bowl collapses to New England and the Chiefs. **EDGE: Chiefs**





Brock Purdy must take care of the football this week

**Three 49ers you should know**  
**DRE GREENLAW, Inside Linebacker:**

Greenlaw and Fred Warner form one of the NFL's best linebacker tandems. Although Warner has been a three-time All-Pro, Greenlaw has not received those accolades. Still, they have great chemistry working the middle of the field and that will be key in slowing Kelce.

**JAKE BRENDDEL, Center:**

Brendel is a solid, under-the-radar player whose challenge will be keeping the offensive line on the same page to counter the blitzes of Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo. Brendel also will need to help to neutralize Chris Jones so the Chiefs lineman doesn't wreck San Francisco's plans the way he did in the Super Bowl four years ago.

**DEOMMODORE LENOIR, Cornerback:**

Charvarius Ward is the more decorated of 49ers corners, but Lenoir is a young player who continues to improve. He isn't big but Lenoir can make those big hits and game-changing plays. He starts on the outside but moves inside to the slot in clear passing situations.

**Three 49ers who must come through**  
**BROCK PURDY, Quarterback:**

This one is obvious. Purdy needs to take care of the football and be a distributor, making the right decisions and taking advantage of all his playmakers. He's done that for most of the season, although he had four interceptions against Baltimore and has been somewhat hit-and-miss during the playoffs.

**NICK BOSA, Defensive End:**

The 49ers already are planting the seed that the Chiefs hold on the offensive line and, in truth, that has been a problem at the tackle position for Kansas City. Bosa is a dangerous pass rusher, and the Chiefs will need to account for him at all times. He's

fast enough to catch Mahomes.

**JAKE MOODY, Placekicker:**

Moody was a controversial pick in the third round — early to take a kicker. He has had a decent rookie season, although he has missed two kicks in the playoffs. He also missed a 41-yarder that cost San Francisco the game at Cleveland. Key for the 49ers is to make sure he's kicking extra points, not field goals.

**Three Chiefs you should know**  
**MARQUEZ VALDES-SCANTLING, Wide Receiver:**

The Chiefs have searched for that deep threat and appear to have found one in Valdes-Scantling, who has had receptions of 32 yards in each of the last two playoff games. He averaged 15 yards per catch this season.

**JAWAAN TAYLOR, Right Tackle:**

Taylor and left tackle Donovan Smith are hoping not to hear their numbers called in the Super Bowl, because that would mean something went wrong. Both have had holding issues, particularly Taylor, and that could be an issue against a ferocious San Francisco pass rush.

**L'JARIUS SNEED, cornerback:**

If Sneed doesn't put up eye-catching numbers Sunday, it's probably because the 49ers are throwing away from his side of the field. He's a smothering corner and that is critical against a team with so many receiving weapons. He made a key strip at the goal line in the win over Baltimore.

**Three Chiefs who must come through**  
**PATRICK MAHOMES, quarterback:**

A no-brainer. Mahomes, playing in his fourth Super Bowl in five years, already has two rings at age 28 and could one day eclipse Tom Brady as the greatest quarterback in NFL history. His ability to scramble and throw off all sorts of platforms and with so many arm angles make every snap a potential huge play. Just as dangerous

with his legs.

**TRAVIS KELCE, tight end:**

Even if he weren't dating Taylor Swift, Kelce would be squarely in the spotlight. Baltimore couldn't stop him, and that's not unusual considering the trail of wreckage the sure-handed Kelce has left in his wake. There figures to be a lot of action in the middle of the field.

**CHRIS JONES, defensive tackle:**

Jones is a terror in the middle, just as he was against the 49ers four years ago when he tipped three passes at the line of scrimmage. Despite missing training camp and the season opener because of a contract dispute, he earned All-Pro honors and finished with 10½ sacks, second-most in the league for an interior defensive lineman.

**Super Bowl LVIII prop bets: Put your money on Travis Kelce**

*The non-Mahomes, Purdy players to watch in Super Bowl LVIII*

The big players holding the sharp money frequently wait to see the crush of public money on Super Bowl Sunday and react accordingly, finding value in the adjusted numbers.

We can't wait, so we are offering our three best Super Bowl prop bets

BetRivers shows only 30 percent of the money and 27 percent of the tickets on the 49ers moneyline, and 28 percent of money and tickets on the Niners spread.

**People can't quit believing in Patrick Mahomes.**

Mahomes is 14-3 straight up and 12-5 against the spread (ATS) as a starter in playoff games.

For his career, he is 10-3 straight up and 11-1-1 ATS as an underdog.

Playing the total? It's been bet up to 47.5, but ...eleven of the 49ers' past 14 postseason games have gone under the total points line. Six of the Chiefs' past eight games have gone under the total points line.

Finally, still thinking about betting against Mahomes? The Chiefs have covered the spread in five straight games.

**Side note:** We're ignoring strange props such as these (available at BetOnline):

How many patties will be on Andy Reid's postgame burger?  
Over/Under 1.5

How many planes will be seen during the national anthem flyover?  
Over/Under 4.5

Our three best stabs at the props menu keep things pretty football-centric.

**PROP BET 1**

Brandon Aiyuk, 49ers wide receiver over/under 12.5 yards with his first reception.

San Francisco quarterback Brock Purdy doesn't need a safety-valve target so much as he needs a guy who catches intermediate routes well.

In his past three games, Aiyuk has nine catches for 125 yards (13.9 yards per catch). In the two games prior to that, he averaged 16.3 and 18.8 yards per catch.

The Chiefs will plan to stop Deebo Samuel's runs and receptions as well as wheel routes to Christian McCaffrey. They will hope to flex their newfound toughness in shutting down the middle of the field — Aiyuk's specialty.

The thought here is that there aren't enough defenders to blanket everyone and

that Purdy will find Aiyuk early for a tone-setting completion of 13-plus yards.

**The bet:** Aiyuk's first catch over 12.5 yards (-105 at BetMGM).

**PROP BET 2**

Starting QBs alternate passing yards over/under.

The game script for these teams is likely for both to establish the run.

Strong lead ball carriers McCaffrey of the 49ers and Isiah Pacheco of the Chiefs will have a busy first half trying to grab the upper hand.

The clock will run.

Is there a world in which a Patrick Mahomes-led team is blown out in a post-season game? Leaning no. Therefore, here's the way this prop will work:

Kansas City succeeds in pounding Pacheco; San Francisco stubbornly stays with McCaffrey — running and receiving. Mahomes doesn't need to throw downfield to keep the Chiefs close, or in front.

Purdy will have more pass plays in the second half and should have no problem reaching 200 yards by early in the fourth quarter.

In a close matchup, the quarterbacks should both settle in around 230-250 yards passing.

**The bet:** Same-game parlay, alternate passing yards. Purdy over 214.5; Mahomes under 293.5 (-120 at DraftKings).

**PROP BET 3**

Travis Kelce catching the football. We know 13 is a lucky number for Taylor Swift. And we know that "49" is part of 49ers. And 4+9 is 13.

And we know that this is Super Bowl 58, and 5+8 is 13.

But Kelce is No. 87. And 8+7 is 15. And 15 is Mahomes' number.

Is there a world in which Mahomes ignores Kelce? No.

This 7/70 same-game parlay is largely predicated on Kelce's postseason resurgence after looking very old (think Nick Nolte in "North Dallas Forty" ... Google it) in December.

But his past three playoff games have been a revelation. Kelce has 23 catches for 262 yards in those games.

Kansas City will need him to be great again. No cold hands, no Super Bowl cold feet.

Hot bet, people.

**The bet:** Same-game parlay: Travis Kelce over 6.5 receptions and 70-plus yards (+114 at DraftKings).



# NFL teams with most Super Bowl wins



**The Vince Lombardi Trophy is awarded to the victor of the Super Bowl. What franchise has the most trophies?**

*By Charlotte Edmonds*

If it feels like the playoffs this season are packed with underdogs and up-and-coming teams, you'd be correct.

While some of the traditional powerhouses made it past Week 18, many of the teams in the playoffs were part of the new era of the NFL, from smaller markets and with younger histories.

What makes a traditional powerhouse? Hardware, and there's no bigger or brighter trophy than the Vince Lombardi trophy awarded to the Super Bowl Champion. Still, some teams stay in the conversation of contenders but struggle to win on the biggest stage.

**What NFL teams have the most Super Bowl wins?**

The Patriots and Steelers are the bluest of the blue bloods thanks to a record six Super Bowl trophies apiece.

All six victories for New England came in the 21st century under the leadership of Tom Brady and Bill Belichick. In the two seasons since Brady's departure, the Patriots missed the playoffs last year and were routed by the Buffalo Bills in the wild card round this season.

Steelers fans haven't been as fortunate recently. Four of their six Super Bowl titles came in the 1970s, followed by a 26-year drought. In 2005, rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger led Pittsburgh to its fifth

trophy in a win over the Seahawks. They returned to the Super Bowl in 2008 in a showdown between Roethlisberger and Kurt Warner, beating the Cardinals 27-23 behind 131-receiving yards from game MVP Santonio Brown.

Closely behind the Patriots and Steelers, sits the Cowboys and 49ers with five Super Bowls each. San Francisco will have a chance to move into sacred ground with a win in Super Bowl LVI.

There are thirteen teams in total who have won two or more Super Bowls. Check out the list below to see what teams are in the multiple-win club.

**NFL teams with six wins**

- New England Patriots
- Pittsburgh Steelers

**NFL teams with five wins**

- San Francisco 49ers
- Dallas Cowboys

**NFL teams with four wins**

- Green Bay Packers
- New York Giants

**NFL teams with three wins**

- Denver Broncos
- Las Vegas Raiders
- Washington Football Team

**NFL teams with two wins**

- Miami Dolphins
- Indianapolis Colts
- Kansas City Chiefs
- Baltimore Ravens

**What NFL teams have the most Super Bowl appearances?**

It's simple statistics -- the more chances you have at the Super Bowl, the more like-

ly you are to win. And boy, have the Patriots had chances. Eleven, to be exact. In 20 seasons with the Patriots -- one of which he missed entirely due to a knee injury -- Brady made it to the Super Bowl a staggering nine times. He's already maintained that average in Tampa Bay, winning a Super Bowl in his first season with the Bucs.

**Top 10 teams with the most Super Bowl appearances:**

1. New England Patriots (11)
- T-2. Pittsburgh Steelers (8)
- T-2. Dallas Cowboys (8)
- T-2. Denver Broncos (8)
5. San Francisco 49ers (7)
- T-6. Green Bay Packers (5)
- T-6. New York Giants (5)
- T-6. Washington Redskins (5)
- T-6. Oakland/Los Angeles/Las Vegas Raiders (5)
- T-6. Miami Dolphins (5)

**What NFL teams have the most Super Bowl losses?**

These are the real heartbreakers. The teams that are so close, yet never able to close the deal.

With the exception of the Patriots, who have five losses to their name as a result of the sheer number of times they've made it, many of these teams have struggled to move into the upper echelon of the NFL.

**NFL teams with five losses**

- New England Patriots
- Denver Broncos

**NFL teams with four losses**

- Minnesota Vikings

- Buffalo Bills

**NFL teams with three losses**

- Dallas Cowboys
- Miami Dolphins
- Los Angeles Rams

**Have any NFL teams never made the Super Bowl?**

Fans of the Houston Texans, Jacksonville Jaguars, Detroit Lions and the Cleveland Browns are part of a club everyone's desperately trying to leave.

These four teams have never appeared in a Super Bowl. In fact, the Texans have the distinction of being the only team in the NFL to never make a conference championship. To give them the benefit of the doubt, they also happen to be the newest franchise, formed in 2002.

**What NFL teams have never won a Super Bowl?**

When you account for teams that have made the Super Bowl, but haven't won, the club gets a little bigger with the addition of eight more teams.

From the NFC, the Minnesota Vikings, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers and Arizona Cardinals have all made the Super Bowl but have never won. Meanwhile, the Tennessee Titans, Los Angeles Chargers, Cincinnati Bengals and Buffalo Bills have never won a Super Bowl.

The Titans seemed poised as ever to break that streak this season with a 12-5 record to earn the top seed in the AFC. However, as fate would have it, a costly interception by Tennessee quarterback Ryan Tannehill in the divisional round brought their season to a disappointing end.

**How many teams have won back-to-back Super Bowls?**

While some teams would do anything to have one Super Bowl win to their name, others have the fortune of winning back-to-back titles.

Consecutive Super Bowl victories have occurred eight times in NFL history by seven different teams.

**Teams that have won consecutive Super Bowls:**

- Green Bay Packers (Super Bowls I and II)
- Miami Dolphins (Super Bowls VII and VIII)
- Pittsburgh Steelers (Super Bowls IX and X; Super Bowls XIII and XIV)
- San Francisco 49ers (Super Bowls XXIII and XXIV)
- Dallas Cowboys (Super Bowls XXVII and XXVIII)
- Denver Broncos (Super Bowls XXXII and XXXIII)
- New England Patriots (Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX)

The three-peat remains a Super Bowl unicorn as no team has successfully pulled it off.



# SMU Announces 2024 Signing Class



SMU is counting on the transfer portal in first ACC class

By SMU Athletics

SMU Football celebrated the signing of its incoming class on Wednesday for the 2024 season.

All incoming student-athletes from high school have officially signed their National Letter of Intent (NLI) while transfers have signed their athletic aid grant to continue their academic and athletic careers with the Mustangs.

## TRANSFER SIGNEES

**Omari Abor | 6-3 | Sophomore | DL | Duncanville HS | Ohio State**

**AT OHIO STATE:** Appeared in five games as true sophomore in 2023 ... did not play as a freshman in 2022.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** A top-100 prospect regardless of position and the nation's No. 6-ranked defensive end ... selected to the Under Armour All-America Game...named to the 2021 Whataburger Super Team by Dave Campbell's Texas Football ... was a finalist for the Maxwell Football Club Defensive National High School Player of the Year ... helped Duncanville to a 13-2 record and Class 6A Division I state runner-up finish ... had seven tackles, 2.5 sacks for loss and 1.5 sacks against nationally ranked Galena Park North Shore in the state title game.

**Nate Anderson | 6-4 | RS Junior | OL | Frisco | Oklahoma / Rick Reedy HS**

**AT OKLAHOMA:** Saw action in all 12 games, primarily on special teams and in a reserve role on the offensive line ... An Academic All-Big 12 First Team honoree and played in four games in 2022 ... did not play in 2021 ... redshirted in 2020.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Four-star prospect by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals ... an Under Armour All-American ... invited to The Opening ... rated as the No. 66 recruit in the country by 247Sports, No. 67 by ESPN and No. 169 by Rivals ... touted as the No. 2 offensive guard by 247Sports ... rated as the No. 9 offensive tackle by ESPN and No. 17 by Rivals.....ranked the No. 9 prospect in the state of Texas by 247 Sports, No. 13 by ESPN and No. 23 by Rivals.

**Anthony Booker Jr. | 6-4 | Redshirt Senior | DL | Cincinnati, Ohio | Arkansas / Maryland / Winton Woods HS**

**AT ARKANSAS:** Appeared in 11 games in 2023 at Arkansas ... recorded 19 tackles (seven solo)....notched two TFLs on the year...has played in 41 career games at two schools ... has 65 career tackles.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Consensus three-star recruit across all recruiting outlets...Second-team all-state selection.....Cincinnati Enquirer Division II Defensive Player of the Year as a senior ... As a sophomore racked up 40 tackles and 3.5 sacks ... Chose Maryland over Rutgers, Pitt, Kentucky and Indiana.

**Blake Burris | 6-5 | Sophomore | DL | Irving, Texas | Texas Tech / Parish Episcopal**

**AT TEXAS TECH:** Played two seasons with the Red Raiders ... had two tackles in three games in 2023 ... appeared in all 13 games as a redshirt freshman in 2022 primarily on special teams.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Parish Episcopal High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex ... honors included

TAPPS State Champion in 2019 and TAPPS First Team all-state selection ... previously attended Irving MacArthur High School prior to his senior season ... considered a three-star prospect by 247Sports, On3 and ESPN as part of the 2020 class ... attended Air Force Prep out of high school.  
**Savion Byrd | 6-5 | Redshirt Sophomore | OL | Cedar Hill, Texas | Oklahoma / Duncanville HS**

**AT OKLAHOMA:** Played in nine games and made four starts at left guard in 2023 ...started each of season's first three games vs. Arkansas, SMU, and Tulsa (9/16)...saw limited action over next four games after injury in game at Tulsa and returned to starting lineup at Kansas.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Consensus four-star recruit and top-125 national prospect ... rated by ESPN as the No. 29 overall player in the 2020 class, No. 81 by 247Sports and No. 116 by Rivals ... ranked as the nation's No. 4 offensive guard by 247Sports ... the No. 5 offensive tackle by ESPN and No. 15 by Rivals ... regarded as the No. 4 player in Texas by ESPN, No. 12 by 247Sports and No. 17 by Rivals ... a 2021 Under Armour All-America Game and Polynesian Bowl selection ... helped Duncanville to 10-2 record and Class 6A Division I semifinals as a senior in 2020 ... Panthers posted 15-1 records and state-runner-up finishes his sophomore and junior seasons ... played offensive tackle as a sophomore before being used predominantly as a defensive lineman as a junior ... moved back to offensive tackle as a senior ... born in Atlanta and moved to Texas in eighth grade ... didn't start playing football until ninth grade.  
**Ashton Cozart | 6-3 | Redshirt Freshman | WR | Flower Mound, Texas | Oregon / Marcus HS**

**AT OREGON:** Did not play in 2023 at Oregon.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Rated the No. 93 player in the class of 2023 by Sports Illustrated ... A four-star prospect by 247Sports, ESPN and in the 247Sports composite and a three-star prospect by Rivals ... Ranked a top-100 player nationally by ESPN (No. 94), a top-200 player in the 247Sports composite (No. 163), and a top-250 player by 247Sports (No. 208) ... Rated a top-30 wide receiver in the country by ESPN (No. 18), in the 247Sports composite (No. 26) and by 247Sports (No. 27) and top-75 at the position by Rivals (No. 64) ... Rated a top-20 player in Texas by ESPN (No. 16), a top-50 player in the state in the 247Sports composite (No. 34) and 247Sports (No. 37) and a top-100 player by Rivals (No. 87) ... A consensus top-15 wide receiver in Texas, peaking as the fifth-ranked player at the position by ESPN.

**Deuce Harmon | 5-10 | Junior | DB | Corinth, Texas | Texas A&M / Denton Guyer HS**

**AT TEXAS A&M:** Appeared in 27 games, making 11 starts in three seasons at Texas A&M ... Has played in 11 games, making six starts in 2023... Broke up a pass in the season-opening win over New Mexico ... Had three tackles and broke up a pass in his first start of the season while helping the defense hold the War Hawks to less than 100 passing yards ... Broke up a pass in the win over Auburn ... Made a pair of tackles against Alabama ... Had four take-downs at Tennessee ... Made a pair of tackles and picked off a pass in the win over Mississippi State ... Had three tackles and two breakups against ACU ... Tallied three tackles and broke up a pass at LSU.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Was a two-sport athlete, playing football and running track ... Was a first-team all-district selection at both cornerback and returner as a senior ... First-team all-district as a junior as Guyer went 14-2 and was the Texas 6A D-II state runner-up ... Named the District 5-6A Defensive Newcomer of the Year as a sophomore ... Named a consensus 4-star recruit by 247 Sports, Rivals & ESPN.

**Jahfari Harvery | 6-4 | Redshirt Junior | DL | Port St. Lucie, Fla. | Miami / Vero Beach HS**

**AT MIAMI:** Has recorded 10.5 career sacks in 50 games for Miami, started in 18 ... recorded one interception and one defensive touchdown in 2021.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Consensus four-star prospect by ESPN.com, Rivals.com and 247Sports.com...Rated No. 11 defensive end and No. 23 player in Florida by Rivals.com...Listed as No. 17 player at position and No. 36 in Florida by 247Sports.com...No. 212 on Top247 by 247Sports.com...Ranked No. 47 at position and No. 56 in Florida by ESPN.com... ...Helped lead Vero Beach to 2018 Class 6A regional semifinal.

**Jonathan Jefferson | 6-3 | Redshirt Junior | DL | Douglasville, Ga. | Georgia / Douglas County HS**

**AT GEORGIA:** Appeared in seven games for Georgia in 2023 and 13 in threesasons.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** 247Sports.com composite four-star prospect...ranked as the #13 strong side defensive end in the country, the #15 prospect in Georgia, and the #149 overall prospect nationally...PrepStar Magazine four-star prospect, Top 150 Dream Team...ranked as the #10 SDE prospect, #10 prospect in Georgia, and #95 prospect nationally...rivals.com four-star prospect...ranked as the #13 defensive tackle nationally, and the #17 prospect in Georgia...ESPN.com four-star prospect



...ranked as the #16 defensive end in the nation, the #19 prospect in Georgia, and the #150 prospect in the nation... as a senior in 2020, he led Douglasville HS with 19 tackles for loss, and 10 sacks in just 11 games...in his four-year varsity career he has recorded 254 total tackles, 51 tackles for loss, and 41 sacks.

**Mike Lockhart | 6-4 | Redshirt Sophomore | DL | Birmingham | West Virginia / Georgia Tech / Huffman HS**

**AT WEST VIRGINIA:** Appeared in 24 games the past two seasons at West Virgini ... had 2.5 sacks in 2023 ... finished with a season-high two tackles four times this year ... played at Ga. Tech from 2019-21.

**AT GEORGIA TECH:** Played in 25 games in three seasons from 2019-21 ... recorded 28 tackles ... had 0.5 sacks.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Rated as a three-star prospect by 247Sports and Rivals and No. 17 player in the state of Alabama by Rivals ... A basketball standout for much of his high-school career, did not begin playing football until senior season ... recorded 37 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and four sacks during his lone season of football, en route to all-city recognition.

**Justin Medlock | 6-0 | Redshirt Freshman | LB | Missouri City, Texas | Utah / Manvel HS**

**AT UTAH:** Appeared in 15 games over two seasons at Utah ... recorded seven tackles as a redshirt freshman in 2023.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Three-star linebacker and three-year starter at Manvel HS ... helped Manvel to the Class 5A Division I regional semifinal in 2021 ... finalist for the 2021 Whataburger Super Team ... earned all-district first-team honors following his sophomore season ... as a senior in 2021, recorded 97 tackles (12 TFL), 3.5 sacks, two PBU and a forced fumble ... Tallied 21 tackles (five TFL), two sacks and a pick-six during an injury-shortened junior campaign ... had 117 tackles (eight TFL), 3.5 sacks, five PBU and two fumble recoveries as a sophomore in 2019.

**Isaac Pearson | 6-2 | Redshirt Freshman | P | Newcastle, Australia | Texas / University of Newcastle**

**AT TEXAS:** Played in one game in 2022 ... a four-time member of the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll (spring 2021, fall 2021, spring 2022, fall 2022).

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Rated as the No. 3 punter in the 2021 class by 247Sports and No. 1 in Australia ... previously played Australian rules football until 19 years old then moved to Melbourne, Australia, to train in American football ... trained with Prokick Australia ... joins former punter Ryan Bujcevski and 2017 Ray Guy Award winner Michael Dickson as Prokick Australia alums to sign with Texas ... completed an apprenticeship as a mechanic in a coal mine ... plans to major in psychology after studying it at the University of Newcastle ... a member of the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll (spring 2021).

**Brashard Smith | 5-10 | Junior | ATH | Richmond Heights, Fla. | Miami / Miami**

**Palmetto HS**

**AT MIAMI:** Appeared in 35 games at Miami ... 2023 All-ACC Second Team as a specialist ... recorded 69 receptions for 770 yards and four touchdowns ... has 18 rushes for 177 yards and one touchdown with the Hurricanes ... has one kick return for a touchdown ... finished with 1946 all-purpose yards in three seasons at Miami.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** A consensus four-star prospect by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals.. ...Ranked the No. 158 overall player in the Rivals Top 250... Rated the No. 24 wide receiver nationally and No. 25 player in Florida by Rivals...Listed as the No. 193 player in the 247Sports Top247...Ranked the No. 29 wide receiver in the country and No. 24 player in Florida by 247Sports.... ...Rated the No. 62 wide receiver nationally and No. 64 player in Florida by ESPN.. ...Selected to the Under Armour All-America Game and the U.S. Army All-American Bowl...As a junior, caught 36 passes for 628 yards and 13 touchdowns... ...High school teammate of fellow signee Leonard Taylor...Chose Miami over offers from Alabama, Auburn, Boston College, Cincinnati, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, LSU, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Penn State, Pitt, South Carolina, USF, Syracuse, Tennessee, Washington State and West Virginia, among others.

**HIGH SCHOOL SIGNEES**

**Tyler Aronson | 6-2 | QB | Vero Beach, Fla. Vero Beach HS.**

Rated a four-star prospect by Rivals, three-star prospect by ESPN, 247 Sports and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

Four-year varsity starter at QB, led team to the playoffs all four seasons, threw for over 7,000 yards during high-school career.

**SENIOR (2023):** Helped lead team to 9-3 record...passed for 2,077 yards ... finished with 23 passing touchdowns ... rushed for 234 yards and four touchdowns ... averaged 173.1 yards passing.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Participated in the FBU Freshman All-American Bowl ... Adidas Freshman All-American. Chose SMU over Appalachian State, Eastern Kentucky, Florida A&M and Florida Atlantic.

**Brandon Booker | 6-1 | LB | DeSoto, Texas | DeSoto HS**

A consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247 Sport and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

**SENIOR (2023):** Helped lead team to Class 6A Division II State Championship ... recorded 117 total tackles (51 solo) ... averaged 7.8 tackles per game ... notched 16 TFLs ... finished with four sacks ... tallied two interceptions ... had one defensive touchdown.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

2023 Whataburger Super Team selection ... two-time State Champion ... 2022 Texas District 11-6A First-Team selection ...

Texas Sportswriters Association (TSWA) Class 6A First Team All-State selection. Chose SMU over Stanford, Baylor, Arkansas and Auburn.

**Ka'Davion Dotson-Walker I 5-11 | DB | Duncanville, Texas | Duncanville HS**

A consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247 Sport and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

**SENIOR (2023):** Helped lead Duncanville to back-to-back Class 6A Division I State Titles...recorded 72 total tackles (46 solo) ...had three TFLs ... broke up five passes ... hauled in an interception ... recovered one fumble.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

2023 Whataburger Super Team selection ... two-time State Champion.Chose SMU over Texas, LSU, Oklahoma State, Arizona, Arizona State, Arkansas among others.

**King Large I 6-5 I OT I Bellflower, Calif. I St. John Bosco HS**

Rated a three-star prospect by 247 Sports, Rivals, On3, and ESPN.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

Played snaps at multiple offensive lineman spots ... helped St. John Bosco to a 13-1 record, and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Division 1 Championship and a CIF bowl victory as a junior in 2022.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Three-time All-State First Team selection from sophomore to senior year ... 2022 Undisputed National Champion ... 2023 Trinity League Champion. Chose SMU over Oregon, California, South Florida, Colorado State among others.

**Derrick McFall I 5-11 | WR/RB | Tyler, Texas I Tyler HS**

Rated a four-star prospect by 247 Sports and ESPN, three-star prospect by Rivals and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

**SENIOR (2023):** Had 1,225 all-purpose yards ... recorded 818 yards receiving ... ran for 128 yards ... scored 12 touchdowns ... passed for 92 yards and one touchdown.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

2022 Texas District 7-5A First-Team Selection as a utility player ...2021 First-Team All-District at wide receiver. Also plays basketball and runs track ... experience in a variety of offensive roles, including running back, receiver,and quarterback. Chose SMU over Alabama, Louisville, UCLA, Arkansas, among others.

**Jaylen Moses I 5-10 | S I Carrollton, Texas I Newman Smith HS**

Rated a three-star prospect by ESPN, 247 Sports, and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

**SENIOR (2023):** Had eight tackles in two games.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Chose SMU over Washington State, Tulane, and others.

**William "Speedy" Nettles I 6-0 | WR/DB I Mesquite, Texas I Dallas Christian School**

Rated a three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247 Sports, and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

Experience playing multiple positions including wide receiver and cornerback. Recorded 141 tackles, nine tackles for loss, 10 interceptions, and 18 pass break ups in three seasons.

**SENIOR (2023):** Recorded 1,784 yards receiving and 18 touchdowns at receiver ... averaged 127.4 receiving ... caught 83 passes ... had 32 total tackles (28 solo) as a defensive back ... notched two interceptions ... one caused fumble and fumble recovery.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Three-time State Champion ... three-time All -State selection at defensive back and wide receiver.. named district MVP as a junior.

Chose SMU over Nebraska, Purdue, Baylor, and Boston College.

**Alexander Rodgers I 5-10 I DB | Dallas, Texas I Cedar Hill HS**

Rated a three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247 Sports, and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

**SENIOR (2023):** Transferred from Kimball High School to Cedar Hill ... Tallied 10 total tackles ... had three pass breakups.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Chose SMU over Baylor, Texas Tech, Kansas State, and Oklahoma State.

**Zach Smith I 6-1 | LB I Red Oak, Texas I Red Oak HS**

Rated a three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247 Sports, and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

**SENIOR (2023):** Finished with 76 total tackles (52 solo) ... had 13 TFLs ... recorded one sack ... notched three interceptions ... forced five fumbles ... broke up seven passes ... scored one defensive touchdown.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Chose SMU over Arizona State, Baylor, Ole Miss, Florida State, and Utah among others.

**Graham Uter I 6-5 I OT I Daphne, Ala. I Bayside Academy**

Rated a three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247 Sports, and On3.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER**

Played on the offensive and defensive lines at Bayside Academy ... helped lead team to an 8-3 record in 2023.

**HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

2023 MBAP Senior Bowl Leadership Council Member ... 2023 Alabama North vs. South All Star Game selection ... 2022 All-State Team ... 2022 All-Region Team.



# College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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NFF College Hall of Fame All-America wideout at Auburn Terry Beasley passed away Jan. 30 in Moody, Alabama. He was 73. Beasley was one half of one of college football's greatest pass combinations. He was a unanimous All-America choice and the primary target for late quarterback Pat Sullivan, the 1971 Heisman Trophy winner and a fellow member of the NFF Hall of Fame. That season Beasley finished eighth in the Heisman voting as he caught 55 Sullivan spirals, with an even dozen going for touchdowns. That fall the Auburn campus was flooded with "Super Sully and Terry Terrific" bumper stickers. The Tigers contended for the national championship in 1971, winning the first nine games of the season before losing to equally undefeated Alabama in the final game of the regular season. While Beasley is best remembered for his 1971 senior season, yardage-wise he was a better player as a junior for Coach Shug Jordan, as he gained 1051 yards exceeding his senior total by over 200 yards. His 20.2 yards per catch average tied an NCAA record. As a junior he won the first of two consecutive All-Conference honors and was recognized nationally as a second team All-America. His career average of 17.8 yards per catch and his per-game average of 83.9 yards receiving were

SEC records. Beasley was also the holder of numerous Auburn marks for career receiving yards, touchdown receptions and 100-yard receiving games.

The participants in the 58th annual Super Bowl LVIII in Paradise/Las Vegas, Nev. are set for Sunday, with AFC winner Kansas City (fourth time in the last five seasons) tangling with NFC champ San Francisco at Allegiant Stadium with a 3:25 (PST) kickoff. Three former NFF National Scholar-Athletes are on Super Bowl rosters with OL Jake Brendel (UCLA) of SF, and OL Mike Caliendo (Western Michigan) and LB Drue Tranquill (Notre Dame) both with the Chiefs. Also, in a first for Super Bowls, Father and son Steve and Brad Freeman of Mississippi State will be the first father-son duo ever to officiate the title tussle (Steve in 2014 and Brad in 2024 – both as back judges).

Veteran publicist (45 years in this role at Georgia and seven previous years at Georgia Southern with two NCAA World Series teams with ABCA Hall of Fame baseball coach Ron Polk) and winner of multitudinous national awards (including College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame) Claude Felton is retiring after a half-century-plus career in college athletics. From a personal friendship standpoint, Claude was one of the true Southern gentlemen throughout the world of college athletics.

The NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas (NFF Dallas) is partnering with the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the NFL Alumni Association for the club's second annual charity golf tournament. 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. "This partnership brings a new and exciting dynamic to the event where a current or former pro-athlete will serve as the fifth player on each team that signs up for the tournament." The tourney is set for Monday, May 6, on the King's Course at Gleneagles Country Club in Plano, Texas, and will be emceed by award-winning sportscaster Scott Murray. For additional information, please access: [www.nffdallas.golf](http://www.nffdallas.golf).

The NFF also has denoted the 56 state winners of the 2023-24 NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards presented by the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, which go to the top academic football teams from each level of play within each state. The initiative is designed to inspire and foster a culture of academic excellence in high school football teams throughout the nation. The 56 teams will now vie as finalists for the NFF Hatchell Cup. Presented by "The Original" Bob's Steak & Chop House. The Hatchell Cup winner will be announced Tuesday to recognize the top individual high school football team in the nation for excellence in the classroom, on the field and in the community. The Hatchell Cup, named in honor of NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell comes with a \$10,000 donation to the top recipient.

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](http://Footballfoundation.org).

## NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

**Some notable birthdates in NFF**  
College Hall of Fame annals in the Feb. 5-11 time period are Feb. 5 (1903) Morley Drury, Midland, Ontario, Canada; (1915) Walter Gilbert, Fairfield, Ala.; (1933) Bill Manlove, Barrington, N.J.; (1942) Roger Staubach, Cincinnati, Ohio; (1943) Craig Morton, Flint, Mich.; (1947) Ron Sellers, Jacksonville, Fla.; (1950) Terry Beasley, Montgomery, Ala.; (1951) Charles Young, Fresno, Calif.; Feb. 6 (1886) Jack Hubbard, Hatfield, Mass.; (1889) Bill Alexander, Mud River, Ky.; (1948) Major Harris, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (1948) Dennis Onkotz, Northampton, Pa.; (1950) Rich Glover, Bayonne, N.J.; Feb. 7 (1905) Wally Butts, Milledgeville, Ga.; (1917) Banks McFadden, Ft. Lawn, S.C.; (1922) Paul Cleary, North Loop, Neb.; (1933) Calvin Jones, Steubenville, Ohio; (1934) Ron Beagle, Hartford, Conn.; (1959) Neal Lomax, Portland, Ore.; Feb. 8 (1920) Bruce Smith (Minn.), Faribault, Minn.; (1925) Rod Franz, San Francisco, Calif.; (1942) George Bork, Mt. Prospect, Ill.; Feb. 9 (1950) Rod Cason, San Angelo,

Texas; (1952) Danny White, Mesa, Ariz.; (1957) Dan Ross, Malden, Mass.; Feb. 10 (1946) Dick Anderson (Colorado), Midland, Mich.; Feb. 11 (1882) John Tigert, Nashville, Tenn.; (1938) Jim Sochor, Oklahoma City, Okla.; (1949) Jim Stillwagon, Mt. Vernon, Ohio...

**Some anniversary passing dates of NFF Hall of Fame members** are Feb. 5 (1969) Dick Romney, Salt Lake City, Utah; (1994) George Sauer, Waco, Texas; (2021) Charlie Krueger, Clayton, Calif.; (2021) Aurelius Thomas, Columbus, Ohio; Feb. 7 (1932) Forrest Geyer, Norman, Okla.; Feb. 8 (1994) Bobby Reynolds (Stanford), San Rafael, Calif.; (2000) Derrick Thomas, Kansas City, Mo.; (2016) Willie Richardson, Jackson, Miss.; Feb. 9 (1994) Bud Wilkinson, St. Louis, Mo.; (1998) George Cafego, Knoxville, Tenn.; Feb. 10 (1992) Doyt Perry, Bowling Green, Ohio...

**Happy birthdays** to NFF Hall of Fame members born Feb. 5 Roger Staubach (a spry 82), Craig Morton (a spry 81), Ron Sellers, Terry Beasley, Charles Young, Feb. 6 Major Harris, Dennis Onkotz, Rich Glover, Feb. 7 Neal Lomax, Feb. 8 George Bork (a spry 82), Feb. 9 Rod Cason, Danny White, Dan Ross, Feb. 10 Dick Anderson (Colorado)...

## Schedules:

The Army West Point-Lehigh skirmish to open the season has been moved up to Friday, Aug. 30, with telecast opportunities...The BYU at SMU game has been moved up one day to Friday, Sept. 6, in Dallas...Boston College completed its upcoming slate with a Sept. 7 home test against Duquesne...2024 home and road opponents for Big 12 Conference squads will include: Arizona - home: Arizona State, Colorado, Texas Tech, Houston, West Virginia; road: BYU, Utah, TCU, UCF (three of the alphabet schools); Arizona State - BYU, UCF, Kansas, Utah; road: Arizona, Cincinnati, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech; and Baylor - home: BYU, Kansas, Oklahoma State, TCU; road: Colorado, Houston, Iowa State, Texas Tech, West Virginia. There will be seven members with five home conference contests and seven with four home clashes...UAPB is looking forward to its second all-time meeting with SEC power Arkansas in Fayetteville on Aug. 31...Southern Illinois similarly is anticipating its first trek in history on Aug. 31 to face Big 12 Conference contender BYU in Provo, Utah...St. Thomas (Minn.) completed its upcoming slate with a contest against Sioux Falls (S.D.).

## Good Works:

Dr. Yette Brown-Shirley is a neurologist at the Barrow Brain Injury and Sports



Neurology Center in Phoenix, Ariz., and was featured as one of the first Native American Navajo female sports neurologists in the country. She also has delved into the area of neurological sports injuries and advanced treatment...

Missouri DL Darius Robinson was saluted for opening the Helping Hands Foundation and to help secure underserved youngsters with backpacks, supplies, snacks, and haircuts. He is a member of the 2023 Southeastern Conference Community Service Team.

#### **Football Coaches:**

Florida A&M has made James Colzie III permanent head coach after he had served on an interim basis...New Michigan head coach Sherrone Moore has promised full cooperation with NCAA compliance personnel visiting the UM campus in recent and coming months...Former Middle Tennessee head coach and Florida State Athletics Hall of Fame QB Rick Stockstill is returning to FSU as director of football scouting for offense...Tommy Moffitt is the new director of athletics performance for Texas A&M football...Boston College is continuing its search for a 2024 head coach while new Arizona head coach Brent Brennan (from San Diego State) is in the midst of completing his staff before spring workouts...Colorado head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame player Deion Sanders of Florida State is seeking a new defensive coordinator and special teams coach...New Washington head coach Jedd Fisch is in the midst of locating a defensive coordinator. Hometowns of more 2024 college head coaches – Tennessee: Josh Heupel, Aberdeen, S.D.; Tennessee State: Eddie George, Philadelphia, Pa.; Chattanooga: Rusty Wright, Aiken, S.C.; Texas: Steve Sarkisian, Torrance, Calif.; Texas A&M: Mike Elko, So. Brunswick, N.J.

#### **Directors of Athletics:**

Oklahoma director of athletics and NFF Board member Joe Castiglione predicts the next six months could be the most integral to the future fate of college football and athletics in NCAA history...North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham delved into the philosophy of running a NCAA Division I athletics department and how almost-hourly decisions can affect UNC for years to come...Ohio State and 2007 NFF William V. Toner Award recipient AD Gene Smith will not make definitive decisions about the men's basketball says he's not ready to make any big-picture decisions about the men's basketball team's leadership as he prepares to retire in coming months...USC AD Jennifer Cohen related her ideas about the NIL, the transfer portal, USC construction dates for the new football operations center and other facility projects, and clarity on new NCAA enforcement procedures...Loyola Marymount AD Craig Pintens recalled the factors after meeting with consultants, financial advisers, fund raisers, and university administrators about cutbacks in the athletics program...East Carolina AD Jon

Gilbert had a briefing about the Pirates football scheduling philosophy with four non-conference clashes and at least one Power Five conference foe...Morehead State AD Kelly Wells related how the Eagles are seeking national championships and needed funds and technologies in today's landscape for mid-major football and additional programs...Iowa State AD Jamie Pollard dismissed allegations that ISU personnel were recording bench meetings and conversations of an opposing basketball team last month...Colorado State AD Joe Parker and the AthleticDirectorU podcast remembered the early days of Parker's time at CSU starting in 2015 and times working at Texas Tech as assistant AD in the Big 12 Conference...Kansas State AD Gene Taylor explained measures the department has taken to keep former Big 12 Coach of the Year Chris Klieman (overall head coaching record of 111-37 win-loss record at Kansas State and North Dakota State) on board and how the program has enjoyed continued success in the conference...Virginia Tech AD Whit Babcock noted that head coach Brett Pry has the Hokies pointed in the right football direction and faces some rugged opponents such as Alabama, Arizona, BYU, Maryland, Ole Miss, South Carolina, and Wisconsin in coming campaigns. VT also is looking at major renovations to historic Cassell Coliseum on campus...James Madison president Jonathan Alger and outgoing Jeff Bourne mentioned the mostly highs and some lows of converting from NCAA FCS to FBS and the excitement of going to the Armed Forces Lockheed Martin Bowl in the Dukes first year of FBS postseason competition...Norfolk State men's basketball head coach Robert Jones is not a fan of the NIT's decision not to offer automatic bids to conference regular-season titlist who do not receive NCAA Championship bids...Clemson baseball head coach Erik Bakich is looking for \$1 million to complete Tigers baseball NIL needs...Texas A&M men's basketball head coach Buzz Williams pointed out areas of improvement the Aggies need to make postseason play...Former Miami (Fla.) associate AD Holdyn Halperinis the new client services manager for strategy and data analytics with the NBA Miami Heat...San Jose State tabbed Michael Smoose as associate AD for marketing, licensing and creative services...Nebraska interim president Dr. Chris Kabourek is emphasizing membership in the Amateur Athletic Union is as important as the Huskers belonging to the potent Big Ten Conference. To date, 17 of the 18 Big Ten members (as of July 1) are AAU and collegiate-affiliated members...Outgoing North Carolina chancellor Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz spoke of uncertainty about college athletics and how management of certain challenges could make an immediate difference – especially within the Power Five conferences...Massachusetts tabbed Drew St. Aubin as senior executive

director of development and chief development officer...Cincinnati added John Matsko as assistant vice president for development for athletics and director of UCATS fundraising...Fairfield selected Krystian Witkowski as its men's soccer head coach...Auburn women's tennis head coach Caroline Lilley is leaving the department...Vanderbilt School of Engineering dean Dr. Krish Roy continues the university's longtime association with his department and VU athletics...Arizona president Dr. Robert Robbins and interim chief financial officer John Arnold denoted that a projected \$240 million university-wide shortfall may be closer to \$177 after a re-examination of finances. UA also has an emergency cash reserve of \$510 million if needed, and that 5-15 percent cutbacks across the campus board will help alleviate the debt in coming months...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are American, Arizona State, Auburn, Ball State, FCGU, Illinois State, James Madison, Johnson C. Smith, Little Rock, Louisiana Tech, Monmouth, UNI, Pepperdine, San Diego, Stetson, Tarleton State, Auburn, Conference Carolinas, St. Mary's (Texas), Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Tulane, Wheaton (Mass.), Wyoming, and Wofford.

#### **The Conferences:**

The Big Ten and Southeastern Conferences have formed a group to study NCAA FBS football and other governance and met with NCAA president Charlie Baker along with Atlantic Coast and Big 12 Conference administrators last week about multiple topics...The Big 12 Conference designated its game dates for the '24 season with the conference lidlifter featuring Baylor at Utah on Sept. 7. Three non-conference tussles take place Thursday, Aug. 29, as Southern Utah visits Utah, New Hampshire is at UCF, and Lindenwood travels to Kansas for a first-ever gridiron meeting. It is the first football clash for the Utes as a Big 12 member...The Mid-American Conference has approved its 2024-26 football schedule with opponents and site with dates to be determined...The American Athletic Conference will re-connect with Turnkey-ZRG to aid in the search for a replacement for retiring commissioner Mike Aresco...Horizon League commissioner Julie Roe Lach visited with media about how financial and competitive pressures are impacting mid-major Division I conferences...The Missouri Valley Conference will conduct its eighth Moline, Ill.-based Women's Basketball Championship at Vibrant Arena at The MARK March 14-17. Sydney Aird of UNI and Christian Bradley were MVC Student-Athlete Spotlights presented by State Farm last week...Legal online sports wagering begins in North Carolina – the 30th state to adopt legal wagering – March 11 – one day prior to the Atlantic Coast Conference Men's Basketball Championship...The Big East Conference Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion Working Group has gathered in New York City to go over conference policies and ways that the Big East can remain a national trendsetter in DEI measures...Florida State athletics has new jurisprudence filings with the Atlantic Coast Conference to seek to correct possible chronic fiduciary mismanagement and other maladies. The filing contends that there may have been an average of \$82 million for second and third tier media rights in recent years under ACC contracts with Raycom Sports.

#### **The Bowls:**

The historic, 99th East-West Shrine All-Star Bowl at the Star at Ford Center in Frisco, Texas (home of the NFL Dallas Cowboys headquarters) featured Maryland QB Taulia Tagovailova completing 9-of-14 passes for 142 yards and RB Frank Gore Jr. of Southern Miss rushing six times for 87 yards to lead the West to a 26-11 verdict over the East. Gore was named offensive Most Valuable Player while Tulane CB Jarius Monroe earned Defensive MVP honors after a key interception. West teams now lead the all-time series 55-39-5, and actual East-West collegiate geographical selections for the teams ended in 2008. There now have been 318 members of the NFF College Hall of Fame competing in this all-star classic for the benefit of hospitalized youngsters...The 75th annual Reese's Senior Bowl All-Star Game in Mobile, Ala., also grabbed headlines as last Saturday as Washington State DB Chau Smith-Wade had an 83-yard interception return for a TD in the fourth quarter to pace the National squad over the Americans 16-7. Stanford kicker but Joshua Karty provided the Nationals' margin of victory with nine points on field goals of 19, 37 and 52 yards...Eighteen players from Big 12 Conference schools were selected for the 2024 NFL Pro Bowl on Orlando, Fla....Heisman Trophy finalist Michael Penix Jr. opted out of the Reese's Senior Bowl late last Friday before the Feb. 3 contest.

#### **The Players:**

Former Alabama starting center Seth McLaughlin has moved to Ohio State for '24...Former Washington OL Geirean Hatchett has made his way to the Oklahoma Sooners, which was a favorite of his Oklahoma-based grandparents and several relatives...Michigan lineman Reece Atteberry has entered the transfer portal...Florida A&M LB Allen Smith Jr., Temple safety Muheem McCargo, Boise State WR Shea Whiting, Miami (Fla.) DL Jamil Burroughs, and Arizona OLB Isaiah Ward also are recent transfer portal entries...Washington LB Khmori House has withdrawn from the portal and will remain with the Huskies...West Virginia baseball All-America 1B J.J. Wetherholt is getting a lion's share of preseason laurels and some National Player of the Year mentions. He also has been tabbed as '24 Big 12 Conference Preseason Player of the Year

*(continued on page 18)*



...Colorado State sports a unique three 2023-24 youngsters with 2,000-plus career points: transfer forward Joel Scott from Black Hills State (S.D.), transfer forward Patrick Cartier from Hillsdale (Mich.) and Rams four-year senior guard Isaiah Stevens ...Ole Miss senior men's basketball student-athlete Cole McGrath is the first transfer from NAIA Blue Mountain Christian (Miss.) U. to transfer into a Power Five conference program...LSU gymnastics' student-athlete Olivia Dunne, women's basketball's Angel Reese and Flau'jae Johnson and 2023 Heisman Trophy winner QB and Jayden Daniels are starring in a new docuseries from Amazon Prime - The Money Game – focusing on massive NIL arrangements at LSU.....

...Houston area 2025 freshman prospect and sterling long snapper Tate Deitz attended Florida Gators Junior Day ceremonies last week in Gainesville.

#### **Around the Gridiron and Campus:**

LSU athletics had \$200.4 million in 2023 revenue via public records with \$105.7 million generated by the Tigers football program. The football program managed a net gain of \$54,083,343 in '23 ...Air Force's Blue and Silver Booster Club has been credited with major financing for the re-development and upgrades at picturesque Falcon Stadium..Chattanooga's Mocs Club has launched All Aboard: The Drive for UTC Women's Athletics to achieve \$100,000 with an anonymous matching donation of \$100,000 when the initial goal is reached...The Iowa women's basketball program gained \$3.8 million in 2023 revenue to double the total from any previous year in UI annals. Iowa athletics overall intake for fiscal year was \$167.4 million while expenses totaled \$160.3 million...The salary of the 2024 Arkansas football staff will increase 4.4 percent over 2023 figures after several staff replacements...Kansas will play four home games at Arrowhead Stadium and two at the Kansas City soccer complex while Memorial Stadium is undergoing a complete revitalization in 2024 and most of '25 ...The Mississippi Board of Institutions of Higher Learning Trustees group has approved the \$30 million expansion plan for Oxford-University Baseball Stadium on the Ole Miss campus...Nevada athletics has added to its list of brands to help tally a school-record \$2.75 million in royalties for the department in 2023...UTRGV athletics opened its \$3 million, 4,200-square-foot Vaqueros Golf Center at Champion Lakes Golf Course in Edinburg ...North Texas athletics had \$49.2M million in 2023 revenue with \$49.7 million in expenses as well as \$20 million in direct institutional support and \$15.3 million in student fees for athletics...UCF athletics' \$84.6 million in 2023 revenue was slightly less than \$89.2 million in 2022 earnings..

...WKU now is contracted with D1.relocation for employee convenience and replacement enhancement...Nebraska athletics has taken additional steps to try and focus

on branding and marks to keep an eye on copyrights and usage of NU marks...North Texas athletics is celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the UNT Coliseum, amicably known as the Super Pit for its design, with basketball fan tailgates and other events ...Mount St. Mary's is planning to upgrade its inside concourse at Knott Arena with a dedication to retired AD Lynne Phelan Robinson...Wake Forest baseball is edging toward a consensus No. 1 in preseason Division I baseball polls...

...SMU men's and women's basketball has posted special values on a February 4\_Pack of selected encounters, and the teams helped host a special photo session for fans with the American Athletic Conference 2023 football trophy inside Moody Coliseum...The Alabama Board of Trustees committee and UA athletics continue to explore a replacement or massive renovations for 56-year-old Coleman Coliseum...Melissa Kean is author of the Rice University History Corner and celebrated the life of Dr. Ron Sass, who was Master of the Hanzsen Residential College for four decades at RU and an award-winning instructor...Colorado high schools will not experiment with shot clocks in the immediate future after rulings from the state high school athletics association...

...The Ironman Group chose former Equinox president Scott DeRue as its CEO ...Florida Atlantic continues to have sell-outs for home men's basketball games at 2,900-seat Baldwin Arena on campus, and administrators are seeking to help students get admission to as many contests as possible. FAU has had to turn away dozens of students at the door each game because of massive interest after the Owls 2023 NCAA Final Four® appearance...The Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame Class will be inducted at two home basketball games in Memorial Gymnasium March 2-3...Mississippi State historians marked the 65-year anniversary of the fire that destroyed legendary Old Main Hall residence building, which was one of the oldest original structures on campus. Some residents from the earlier 20th Century recalled freshmen students building fires to cook or for warmth on the far ends of the sprawling men's dormitory...Iowa and Iowa State athletics administrators and coaches continue to examine allegations about possible wagering by both universities' student-athletes and how state gaming commissions might have made some errors in earlier investigations...Rice athletics and Collegiate Sports Connect will combine for RU searches for administrative talent, networking, identification, and hiring possibilities...No. 3 Oklahoma State edged No. 5 nationally Iowa State in a dual match preview for the March NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships ...Two major bidders are working to fund and continue publication of Sports Illustrated - Front Office Sports and Minute Media, the owner of Fansided and Mental Floss...Centennial Authority,

the overseer of NC State's PNC Arena, continues to examine architectural and design forms for a \$300 million update for the arena...Air Force athletics will utilize the Levy Group for all on-campus food and beverage concessions...The North Carolina Board of Trustees noted that its requirement that UNC System schools provide advance notice to the board of governors before moving to different conferences would not have a direct effect on North Carolina's Chapel Hill campus.

**NFF College Hall of Fame, Other Notables:**

NFF College Hall of Fame member Dr. Tom Osborne of Hastings and Nebraska coaching fame remembered his Hastings center Bill Olson, a championship American Legion Baseball coach in the Cornhusker State and father of Auburn and MLB pitching great Gregg Olson...Star WR Steve Smith of Utah and BYU quarterback standout and current Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian were named to the East-West Shrine Game Hall of Fame last Wednesday night...The hometown of NFF College Hall of Fame star Jim Thorpe of Carlisle made the national news last Friday as the epicenter of a 5.1 Richter Scale earthquake. The tremblor struck Prague, Okla., at 11:54 p.m. (CST)...Boise State's DeMarcus Lawrence of the NFL Dallas Cowboys has replaced Nick Boas of Ohio State and San Francisco in this week's NFL Pro Bowl in Orlando after Bosa's squad made Super Bowl LVIII against Kansas City...Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame member and NBA great Bailey Howell of Mississippi State has been an avid sideline observer of Bulldogs men's and women's basketball at recent home games at the young age of 87 (in January). He also is the father-in-law of esteemed Florida AD Scott Stricklin...New York Yankees manager and former USC and MLB standout Aaron Boone addressed St. John's (N.Y.) head coach Mike Hampton and a rapt audience at the annual SJU baseball banquet on Long Island last week..

...Former DePaul standout Javan Johnson has been invited to the NBA G League Up Next All-Star Game presented by AT&T in Indianapolis...Sports Business Journal's Bruce Schoenfeld highlighted Wake Forest's competitive success as the university with the smallest undergraduate enrollment of any NCAA Division I school at 5,400-plus to start the 2023-24 academic year. By contrast, NCAA Division III member UT Dallas boasts an undergrad enrollment for the competitive year of 32,000-plus but does not have similar budgets for athletics. There also are challenges with WFU's smaller overall alumni base...

#### **Media Musings:**

Mike Reis, who retired in 2023 after 44 years as the radio play-by-play announcer at Southern Illinois (his alma mater) is the 2024 National Sports Media Association's recipient of the 2024 Woody Durham Voice of College Sports Award...Esteemed

broadcasters and radio leads NFF Chris Schenkel Award winner Bill Hillgrove (55 years) of Pittsburgh and Ray Goss (58 years) of Duquesne were saluted as the longest active college radio play-by-play legends nationally. Their campus locations are just two miles from one another; must be something in the water...Collegiate Sports Connect surveyed 2015-23 FBS head coaching turnover and indicated that the 2023 postseason had a heavy influx of new head coaches at 28 of the 133 FBS members. Only four percent of current FBS mentors remain at the same school here they guided teams in 2012...Google data and searches found that the three-most highly-rated football analysts on television are 1998 NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® recipient and NFF College Hall of Fame QB Peyton Manning of Tennessee, former Louisiana Tech and NFL QB star Terry Bradshaw and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Michael Strahan of Texas Southern...NewsGuild, representing the Sports Illustrated staff, has initiated jurisprudence against SI controlling entity Arena Group for causing employees to be terminated due to union activities against management...Lincoln (La.) Parish Journal newspaper columnist Doug Strickel outlined the traits for a new AD at Louisiana Tech and the challenges facing ADs at Group of Five conference programs...

...ExtraPoints.com has been purchased by THE Media Group...A Los Angeles Times newspaper's Chuck Schilken chronicled Loyola Marymount's recent decision to drop six varsity sports due to continued financial challenges...JohnCanzano.com called for some accountability from conference administrators as jurisprudence continues and Pac-12 Conference day-to-day dealings begin to wind down toward the July official departure of 10 members..

...Yahoo Sports' columnist Ross Dellenger updated readers on the topic of NCAA Project D1 and how it might impact Power Five and Group of Five conferences...The U.S.-based news and sports website The Messenger has ceased operations after eight months due to financial challenges...

...Sports Business Journal's Bret McCormick outlined the increased construction of facilities geared specifically for women's collegiate athletics and women's professional squads...ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski and other major outlets are pointing to a long-term contract extension for NBA commissioner Adam Silver...

...On3.com's Eric Prisbell got together with Altius Sports Partners principals to discuss how revenue sharing might affect Power Five football conferences and the Big Esat Conference in men's and women's basketball.

**FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:**

Veteran sportswriter and columnist Kirk Bohls of the Austin American-Statesman is the 50th annual winner of the FWAA Bert McGrane Award for excellence in sports journalism...Cade Huffman, a senior at Auburn Riverside (Wash.) High School, is



the 27th awardee of the Volney Meece Scholarship by the Football Writers Association of America. The FWAA gives the scholarship annually in the name of the late Volney Meece, who served as the FWAA's executive director for 22 years and was the organization's president in 1971. The scholarship comes with a four-year annual grant of \$1,000. The FWAA awards it to the child of an FWAA member or College Sports Communicator who is already in college or ready to start college or any student FWAA member...NACDA's Mid-Winter Meetings occurred in Marco Island, Fla., and produced extensive dialogue on NCAA reforms, the NCAA Di Project, the transfer portal, and NIL developments...

College Sports Communicators members featured in the news and on social media posts in recent days are Jeremy Sharpe of North Carolina, Annabelle Myers of NC State, Taylor Bryan of North Texas, Tom Riordan of UNC Wilmington, and Donna Turner of Northern Illinois...Arizona State, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Iowa State, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Tennessee, UCLA, USC, and Virginia have been conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The NFL Baltimore Ravens have named former North Texas standout Zach Orr as defensive coordinator...Las Vegas, Nev., airports are gearing up for 1,000-plus private charters for Super Bowl LVIII week...The NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee discussed numerous issues relating to a comprehensive review of membership requirements and the proposed Di Project...The 2024 USA Women's Basketball Team tryouts for the 2024 Olympics and world exhibitions were held Friday-Sunday at Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. Members chosen for the USA squad are Ariel Atkins, Aliyah Boston, Napheesa Collier, Kahleah Copper, Rhyne Howard, Sabrina Ionescu, Jewell Loyd, Kelsey Plum, Breanna Stewart, Diana Taurasi, Alyssa Thomas, and Jackie Young...LaKeisha Marsh, who heads Akerman LLP's collegiate athletics' division, explained some of the particulars of the proposed NCAA Project DI...New York's Met Life Stadium has been chosen as championship match location for the 2026 FIFA World Cup over such venues as Arlington (Texas) AT&T Stadium, which will host nine matches from June 14-27 and the semifinals. Miami's Hard Rock Stadium will be the venue for the bronze medal consolation match...The PGA may be vending a stake in its commercial business to Strategic Sports Group with major administrators such as MLB Boston Red Sox owner John Henry, MLB New York Mets owner Steve Cohen and NFL Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank.



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