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## **2021 College Football Hall of Fame Inductees**

Jan. 15 - Jan. 21, 2021

Vol. 19, Issue 21

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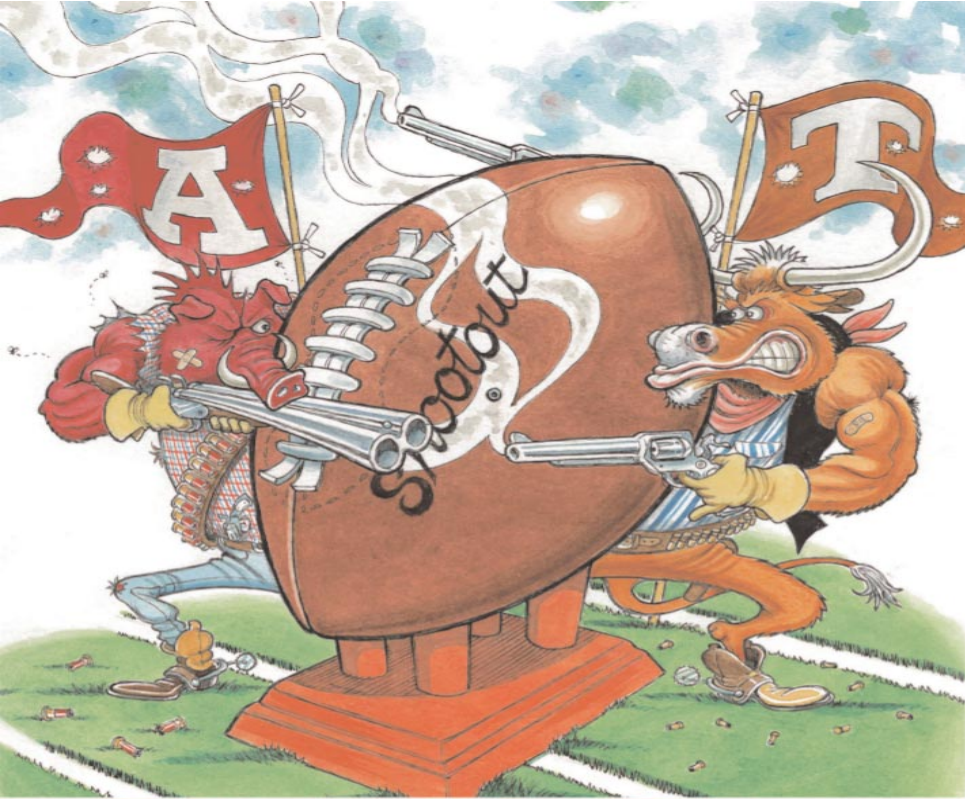
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**BY MIKE LOONEY**

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## AROUND THE AREA

## LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

# SMU Men's Golf schedule released



SMU men's golf has scheduled several of college golf's premier events, including hosting the Trinity Forest Invitational, in the spring of 2021.

The Mustangs begin their spring campaign with a match against TCU at Vaquero Club in Westlake, Texas on January 16 to open the season. After the season-opening match, the Mustangs make the first of three trips to California to participate in the Southwestern Invitational, hosted by Pepperdine. The event at North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, California is broadcast on the Golf Channel.

SMU returns to The Prestige, hosted by UC Davis at PGA West's Norman Course in Palm Desert, California February 15-17. In 2020, Ollie Osborne won American Athletic Conference Golfer of the Week honors after tying for fourth at The Prestige, and teammate Jackson Markham set an SMU 54-hole individual scoring record at the concurrent Prestige Individual Tournament.

The fourth Trinity Forest Invitational takes place March 7-9 in Dallas at the Mustangs' home course, Trinity Forest Golf Club. SMU set a course record in the event in the 2019-20 season, firing a 16-under 268 in the second round to finish second in the event.

SMU closes out the regular season with two more prestigious tournaments, starting with the Valspar Collegiate Invitational at

Floridian National Golf Club in Palm City, Fla., March 15-16. The final event of the regular season is The Goodwin, which takes place March 25-27 at Stanford Golf Course in Palo Alto, California.

The American Athletic Conference Championship takes place April 22-24 at Southern Hills Golf Club in Brooksville, Fla. SMU's Mac Meissner won the individual championship in 2019, the last time the event took place. NCAA Regionals take place May 16-19 at six predetermined sites. The NCAA Championships take place at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. from May 28-June 2.

#### 2021 Men's Golf Schedule

Jan. 16 – vs. TCU – Westlake, Texas – Vaquero Club

Jan. 25-27 – Southwestern Invitational (hosted by Pepperdine) – Westlake Village, Calif. - North Ranch CC

Feb. 15-17 – The Prestige (hosted by UC Davis) – Palm Desert, Calif. - PGA West Norman Course

Mar. 7-9 – Trinity Forest Invitational (hosted by SMU) – Dallas – Trinity Forest Golf Club

Mar. 15-16 – Valspar Collegiate Invitational (hosted by Houston) – Palm City, Fla. - Floridian National Golf Club

Mar. 25-27 – The Goodwin (hosted by Stanford) – Palo Alto, Calif. - Stanford GC  
Apr. 22-24 – American Athletic Conference Championship – Brooksville, Fla. - Southern Hills GC

May 16-19 – NCAA Regionals – Albuquerque, N.M.; Nashville, Tenn.; Stillwater, Okla.; Cle Elum, Wash.; Noblesville, Ill.; Tallahassee, Fla.

May 28-June 2 – NCAA Championships – Scottsdale, Ariz. - Grayhawk Golf West



#### BIG 12 CONFERENCE

#### West Virginia at Baylor Men's Basketball Game Postponed

Irving, Texas - In accordance with Big 12 Conference men's basketball interruption guidelines, the West Virginia at Baylor game scheduled for January 12 has been postponed. The Conference will work with the institutions to reschedule.

In addition, West Virginia's games against TCU (Jan. 16) and Oklahoma State (Jan. 19) have been postponed.



#### Victor Rojas returns to north Texas as President/GM of the Roughriders

The Frisco RoughRiders, the Double A affiliate of the Texas Rangers, announced today that Victor Rojas has agreed to terms on a multiyear deal to become the organization's next President & General Manager. In his role, Rojas will oversee all aspects of the team's day-to-day business & ballpark operations and will report directly to Managing Partner & CEO, Chuck Greenberg. Rojas, 52, joins the RoughRiders after spending the last 11 seasons as the television play-by-play voice of the Los Angeles Angels.

#### NCAA Basketball - Top 25

##### Coaches (Week 8) AP

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Gonzaga        | 1. Gonzaga        |
| 2. Baylor         | 2. Baylor         |
| 3. Villanova      | 3. Villanova      |
| 4. Texas          | 4. Texas          |
| 5. Creighton      | 5. Iowa           |
| 6. Kansas         | 6. Kansas         |
| 7. Iowa           | 7. Michigan       |
| 8. Tennessee      | 8. Creighton      |
| 9. Michigan       | 9. Wisconsin      |
| 10. Wisconsin     | 10. Tennessee     |
| 11. Houston       | 11. Houston       |
| 12. Illinois      | 12. Clemson       |
| 13. Missouri      | 13. West Virginia |
| 14. Rutgers       | 14. Illinois      |
| 15. Oregon        | 15. Texas Tech    |
| 16. West Virginia | 16. Louisville    |
| 17. Minnesota     | 17. Missouri      |
| 18. Clemson       | 18. Virginia      |
| 19. Texas Tech    | 19. Duke          |
| 20. Virginia Tech | 20. Virginia Tech |
| 21. Virginia      | 21. Ohio State    |
| 22. Florida State | 22. Oregon        |
| 23. Saint Louis   | 23. Minnesota     |
| 24. Duke          | 24. Saint Louis   |
| 25. Louisville    | 25. Uconn         |



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

	JANUARY 15 FRIDAY	JANUARY 16 SATURDAY	JANUARY 17 SUNDAY	JANUARY 18 MONDAY	JANUARY 19 TUESDAY	JANUARY 20 WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 21 THURSDAY
			Mavs vs Orlando 2:00 / FSSW	Mavs at Raptors 6:30 / FSSW		Mavs at Pacers 6:00 / FSSW	
	Dallas at Florida PPD		Dallas at Florida PPD		Dallas at Florida PPD		
			SMU vs Wichita State 5:00 / KTCK			SMU at Tulane 8:00 / KTCK	
		TCU at West Virginia 1:00 / WBAP				TCU vs Texas Tech 7:00 / 1190	

# Victor Rojas new GM of the Roughriders



Victor Rojas has been hired as the new GM for the Frisco Roughriders



BY DIC HUMPHREY  
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM  
MEMBER: USBWA

The Frisco Roughriders surprisingly announced this week that Victor Rojas is their new President and General Manager.

Rojas had a brief professional playing career and is the son of noted Major League Player and manager Cookie Rojas. Ranger fans may remember Victor as part of the Rangers' radio announcing team in 2004, replacing Vince Cotroneo. He was paired with Eric Nadel in the radio booth and occasionally filled in on the Rangers' television network for both play-by-play voice Josh Lewin and color commentator Tom Grieve.

Rojas joined the MLB Network in 2009 as one of the first hosts on the newly launched Hot Stove offseason show. He also appeared on the MLB Tonight and called play-by-play for some of the network's Thursday Night Baseball telecasts. He went on to join the Angels television team in 2010 and was partnered with former Major League pitcher Mark Gubicza. They stayed together as a team through the 2020 season.

Rojas interviewed for the Angels General Manager job last fall, which eventually went to Perry Minasian. Recently, Rojas surprisingly announced that he was leaving the Angels' television booth largely to be closer to family in the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

The chance to be general manager of the Angels whetted Victor's interest in being involved running a ball club. He had been in touch with Roughriders' owner

Chuck Greenberg since last fall, but the possibility of taking over this position with the Roughriders ramped up over the past month. Victor's wife Kim was diagnosed with Graves disease and thyroid cancer in 2019. This move will allow him more family time than the announcing job with the Angels demanded.

Rojas may or may not prove to be a good executive. He arrives with no previous experience, however, he knows baseball having been part of professional baseball literally from childhood with his father playing, coaching, and managing. He has a great personality and is very likeable. The bet here is that he will be very effective managing people and should be a great hire for the Riders.

Meanwhile the Rangers have been busy this week signing Drew Butera to a minor league contract with an invitation to Major League Spring Training. Butera is an 11-year Major League veteran catcher with five teams, spending the last two plus seasons with the Colorado Rockies. If he makes the Rangers' ballclub, his salary for the 2021 season will be \$1,000,000 with an additional \$500,000 possible in incentives. It seems likely that Butera will be the Rangers' back-up catcher behind Jose Trevino, which will allow the Rangers to put top prospect Sam Huff in the minor leagues for badly needed minor league seasoning.

Butera, as a member of the Rockies, was part of the first games played at the new Globe Life Field last July. He said this week that he was impressed with the young talent the Rangers are bringing along and is excited to be part of the team.

"Playing against them last year, you could tell the young talent that they had and the bright future moving forward."

Butera and Ranger manager Chris Woodward were teammates on the 2015 World Series winning Kansas City Royals and know each other well.

The Rangers also signed right-handed

pitcher Justin Anderson to a minor league contract with an invitation to Spring Training. Anderson underwent Tommy John surgery last July so will not figure in the Rangers on field plans until late this season or perhaps not until 2022. He made 111 relief appearances with the Angels in 2018-2019 with a 6-3 record and five saves. He averaged an impressive 11.2 strikeouts per nine innings.

On the free agent front, there is still little movement. Often in a sluggish market like this off season, one event can spark activity. There was hope that the trade of Francisco Lindor last week would be such a spark. It has not happened yet.

Financial uncertainty with the Coronavirus pandemic is the most prominent reason for the lack of activity. One aspect of the uncertainty will come into focus this weekend. Friday at noon central was the deadline for teams to work out a deal with their arbitration eligible players, or exchange salary figures, and proceed to the arbitration hearing. The record for arbitration hearings in a year is 35. As of Thursday morning, there were 128 potential arbitration cases. For sure, many of those will get settled prior to Friday's deadline to exchange salary figures, and teams can still negotiate after Friday's deadline up to the hearing date; but the likelihood is, there will be a new record for arbitration hearings this season.

A major problem is valuing players coming off a 60 game season. Luke Vogt is one of those players potentially going to an arbitration hearing. He led the Major Leagues with 22 home runs last year. Do you value him as a player capable of hitting 22 home runs in a season? That home run total prorated over a 162 game season comes out to 59 home runs. Do you value him as a player capable of hitting 59 home runs? What kind of precedents for the future will this year's arbitration decisions have?

There are many questions and few answers. However, when the weekend

arrives, teams will have cost certainty for the salaries of their arbitration eligible players. There is optimism that finalizing the arbitration component of their salary structure will bring more certainty to the situation and perhaps spark the free agent market.

One free agent of interest to Ranger fans is Corey Kluber. The Coppell native threw a showcase bullpen session of 30 pitches this week, and representatives from 25 teams showed up to watch. His fastball registered in the upper 80's to lower 90's, a good number for a pitcher going into spring training. It is still likely that he will attract a contract with a low base and incentive clauses to compensate if he pitches to the level of his past performance. He has after all won the Cy Young Award twice and finished third in the Cy Young Award voting twice. At one time, he was clearly one of the top two or three pitchers in baseball, so there is high potential.

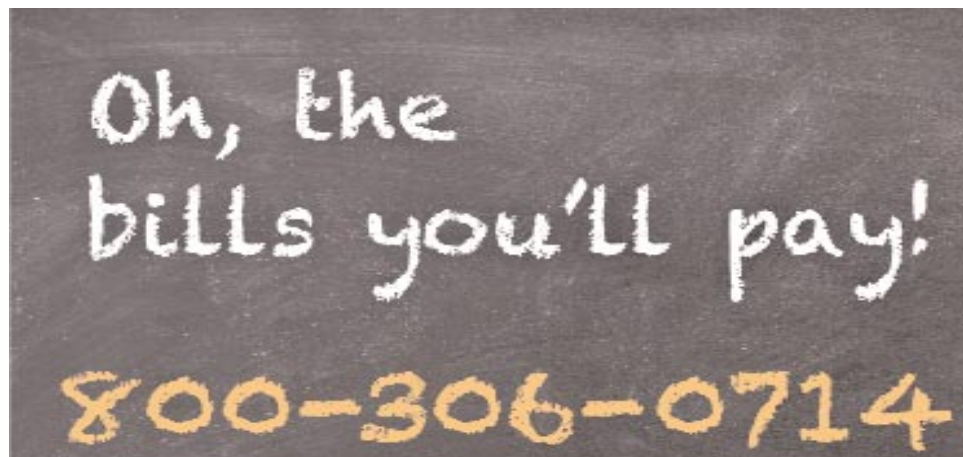
It is probably unlikely though that he returns to the Rangers. He most likely wants to be with a contending team that can support him with a good offense and a solid defense. He now seemingly has little connection to the local area as he lives in the greater Boston area and is more likely to sign with an East Coast team.

## NOTABLE:

- The Rangers announced game times for their home schedule this week. What a difference a retractable roof makes! Texas will play 29 day games, six more than in any previous Ranger season.

- Former Dallas Mustangs' player Archie Bradley, who became a free agent when the Cincinnati Reds non-tendered him, agreed to a one-year, \$6.0 million contract with the Philadelphia Phillies this week. The Phillies had one of if not THE worst bullpens in baseball, so Bradley is a welcome addition.

- Baseball America's top position player eligible for the 2021 Amateur Draft is Justin Lawler, a shortstop at Jesuit High School in Dallas.





# Puerta Vallarta Memories: The Finale



**TOM WARD**  
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

I headed over to the golf shop to pick up a bucket of balls for the impromptu golf lesson with Richard Burton and grabbed some clubs as he didn't have his clubs with him.

While setting up in a shady area of the range I could see him walking over with his friends all laughing. I had played with a few well known professional athletes in the past, but have never given any of them a lesson.

As Burton was loosening up I asked if had any particular questions that I could answer. He said he would like to hit the ball further and more solid. I checked his grip and alignment and adjusted his stance. He started making better contact with the ball which immediately seemed to please him. I demonstrated a few shots which really helped him visualize what I was talking about. His skills as an actor were quite useful because he could mirror what I was doing and then replicate it.

After hitting a few dozen balls I noticed Me Burton was sweating profusely so we took a break. As we were resting, he told me that he first came to Puerto Vallarta to film a movie called "Night of the Iguana." Sadly, at that time I hadn't seen the film and knew nothing about it. He also mentioned that he had purchased a home in town, with his former wife Elizabeth Taylor, called "Casa Kimberly."

Between frequent breaks he mentioned a few more tidbits about his career and life which was interesting. I kept the lesson light and fun and high fived him a few times when he hit a good shot. His friends, who stayed in the shade, would periodically clap on a well stuck shot.

As we wrapped up the lesson I was surprised to see that more than an hour had passed. Burton commented on that too saying he couldn't believe how the time flew by. He waved his friends over and told them that this was the best golf lesson he ever had which was satisfying. One of the men took a photo of us and said he would send a copy (which I never received.)

I reached out to shake hands with Mr. Burton telling him that I was surprised, but happy he accepted my offer. He grabbed my hand and gave me a wad of cash mixed with denominations in pesos and dollars. I explained that he didn't have to pay me as

it was my pleasure. He insisted and wouldn't except no for an answer. He said thank you and wished me luck in my career and said that I was an excellent teacher and communicated my points very concisely which he appreciated.

While heading to the locker room to get cleaned up I counted the money...it added up to about \$200.00. I was thinking that this was surreal. A year ago at this time, I was snowbound in freezing cold weather in Chicago and now I am in sunny, tropical Mexico giving a golf lesson to one of the greatest actors in the world. I would say I could check it off my bucket list, but I didn't even think something like this was within the realm of possibilities.

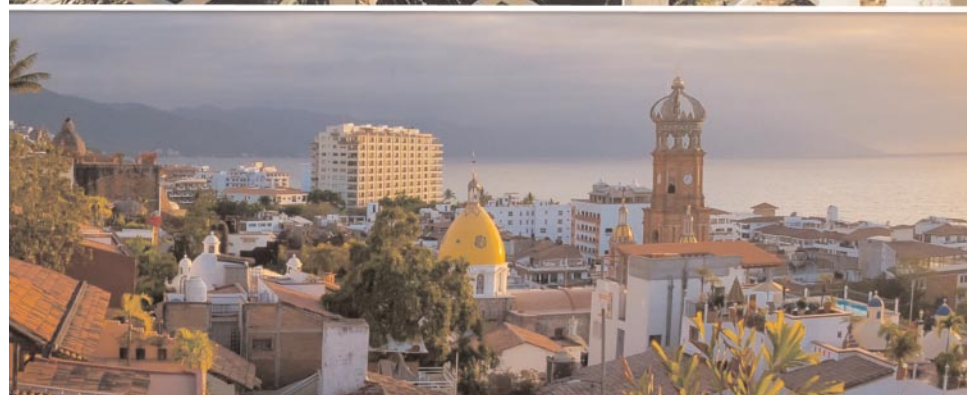
As my time in Vallarta was winding down I spent it at the course and the beach enjoying the final few days. My left shoulder was still giving me problems so I limited my practice to short irons, chipping and putting. I could play, but it inhibited my ability to make the swings I had been diligently practicing. I knew when I got back to the U.S. a visit with an orthopedic doctor was in order to find out how bad it was injured.

The night before my departure a friend that owned a new bar nearby threw a going away party for me. I played pool and had a few beers before heading back to the beach house. I sat outside under the palapa hut and watched the lights of downtown PV off in the distance. I remember thinking how fast time had gone by since I first arrived there. I was planning on leaving early the next morning to get a head start on the long ride back to the Texas border and was restless. One thing I never got used to living so close to the ocean was the loud crash of waves on the beach throughout the night.

After loading up the car, I paid my respects to the couple next door that watched over the house during my stay. I came to really appreciate them and how kind they were to me. I walked out to the water's edge and took one long last look at the place that was my home for the past few months. Outside of getting injured I felt that the gamble to get away from cold weather and work on my game was a success.

As I headed out of town towards Guadalajara I could see PV in my rear view mirror. Looking back I didn't know if or when I would ever return. My mind was now focused on the task at hand which was a long arduous 17 hour drive through Mexico to get to the U.S. border at Nuevo Laredo. Upon my arrival in Texas the next stop would be Houston where I would attempt to open qualify for the PGA Tour's Houston Open.

P.S. I started out missing the first two



PGA qualifiers by the slimmest of margins.

I continued to play through 1981 with an injured shoulder with mixed results. I was able to rebound in the late summer by qualifying for two tour events and two state opens. This happened before shutting down everything because my shoulder required surgery.

Fortunately, I was able to secure sponsorship during this time that would allow me to continue playing once the shoulder healed. It was because of my contacts in Vallarta that led to new sponsors.

I would end up returning to Vallarta in January of 1982 for a month before heading to play on the Asian Golf Tour. It wasn't until December of 1983 that I would start spending my winters there again. Over the years living in Vallarta I got to know a

lot of the wonderful locals and Americans....and Canadians (we called snowbirds) who called PV home during the winter months.

As the first American golf pro there, I would have the opportunity to meet and teach people from all over the world as well as numerous celebrities. Throughout my travels I helped to promote Vallarta and Mexico as an international golf destination when former Mexican President Miguel Aleman designated me as an honorary ambassador.

My years in Puerto Vallarta were unforgettable and the town and the people will always have a special place in my heart.

*Tom Ward can be contacted at [www.tee-timewithtom.com](http://www.tee-timewithtom.com)*



# The First Look: Sony Open in Hawaii



Cameron Smith won the 2020 Sony Hawaii Open

By Adam Stanley  
PGATOUR.COM Follow

Cameron Smith returns to defend last season's Sony Open in Hawaii victory, while past THE PLAYERS champion Webb Simpson and 10 of the top-25 golfers in the world tee it up at Waialae Country Club.

In its longtime spot on the schedule, the Sony Open marks the first full-field event of the calendar year.

**FIELD NOTES:** Collin Morikawa looks to build off his two victories in 2020, including his first major championship, with his second Hawaii start in a row. Morikawa finished T21 at last year's Sony Open after holding the first-round lead... Thirty-two of the 42 golfers who teed it up at the Sentry Tournament of Champions will make the jump over to the Sony Open and complete in both events of the Hawaii swing... Sponsor exemptions include major winners Y.E. Yang and Mike Weir, along with Ryo Ishikawa and Takumi Kanaya, who turned pro last year after reaching No. 1 in the world amateur rankings. Kanaya recently won on the Japan Tour and is already ranked 120th in the world... Five of the top 10 golfers in the FedExCup standings (as of the weekend at the Sentry Tournament of Champions) will be teeing it up at the Sony Open, the highest-ranked being Viktor Hovland at No. 3... Simpson was just one shot out of a playoff between Smith and Brendan Steele a year ago. Steele, who started Sunday with a three-shot lead, returns to try to earn the title that eluded him, while Simpson is on the hunt for his eighth PGA TOUR title.

**FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 points  
**COURSE:** Waialae Country Club, par-70, 7,044 yards (yardage subject to change). The Seth Raynor design, founded 94 years ago, has hosted the Sony Open ever year since 1965. The narrower, flatter layout is a contrast to last week's venue, Kapalua.  
**STORYLINES:** University of San Diego golfer and former Hawaii state champion Evan Kawai will make his PGA TOUR debut this week after winning a qualifier in November. His college coach is TOUR winner Chris Riley... Can Charles Howell III continue his impressive effort at Waialae? He has 13 top-25s, including 10 top-10s, in 19 starts at Waialae. That includes two runners-up and two third-place finishes... Smith's 11-under score was the highest winning total at the Sony Open since 2012. He was 4 over par on his first two holes of the tournament... Smith is looking to become the first golfer to defend his title at the Sony Open since Jimmy Walker in 2014-15. There have been just four golfers to go back-to-back at Waialae... Morikawa has a lot of family that lives on Maui and Oahu and visited the island many times growing up. Although there will be no spectators allowed on site, he'll have plenty of good vibes on the island.

**72-HOLE RECORD:** 253, Justin Thomas (2017)

**18-HOLE RECORD:** 59, Justin Thomas (1st round, 2017)

**LAST TIME:** Smith defeated Steele in a playoff to capture his first PGA TOUR title as an individual (he and Jonas Blixt won the Zurich Classic of New Orleans the first

year it was a team event) with a birdie on the 72nd hole and a matching birdie on the first playoff hole. Steele was 2 over for his final six holes and opened the door for Smith, who had offered to donate \$500 for every birdie and \$1,000 for every eagle on the week to his home country's effort against the raging Australian bushfire crisis. On the 72nd hole, Steele misjudged his approach shot and had to take a drop, but he still nearly dropped a snaking 30-foot birdie try for the win. He missed, and couldn't get it done in the playoff, either. Simpson finished third (missing a 14-foot birdie try on the final hole to get into the playoff) while Graeme McDowell, Ryan Palmer, and Kevin Kisner rounded out the top five.

## HOW TO FOLLOW

**Television:** Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m. ET (Golf Channel). Sunday, 6 p.m.-10 p.m. (Golf Channel)  
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# 2021 NFL Playoffs Divisional Round



By Mike McFee

The massive expanded NFL Wild Card weekend was outstanding from beginning to end. Even when there was a bit of a dud – (cough) Chicago - New Orleans (cough) – it was still relatively entertaining in the glut of all those games that matter.

And now we get even more fun.

Two games Saturday, two games Sunday, and they're going to be loaded. Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen headline Saturday night when Baltimore goes to Buffalo, and we get Round 3 of Brady vs. Brees when Tampa Bay goes to New Orleans to end Sunday night.

Oh yeah, and the Rams going to Green Bay on Saturday and Cleveland taking its show to Kansas City on Sunday isn't bad either.

So what's going to happen?

As we do this for the college side, we go with the first-guess picks and then work from there. Like they tell you in third grade, always go with your first answer. I don't look at the lines, guess at what they are, and then add them at the end.

By the way ... went 6-0 straight up and 5-1 against the spread when doing this for the Wild Card round.

However, when our game previews come out – after the news of the week happens and there's even more of a deep dive happening – these can and might change, but ...

**L.A Rams (10-6) at Green Bay (13-3)**

**Saturday, 3:35 / FOX**  
**Line: Packers -6.5 / 45.5**

The Rams were able to pull it off against a Seattle team that – for some bizarre reason – thought the answer to not being able to hit third down plays was to keep chucking it deep. Green Bay will be sharper all the way around.

That LA D...No. 1 in the NFL...is obviously amazing, but Aaron Donald is banged up, and as good as that performance against the Seahawks was, that's not going to be enough to overcome a still-injured Jared Goff.

Green Bay doesn't turn the ball over enough to matter here, but there's a bigger problem ... Green Bay.

It's still almost a week away, but it's expected to be around 20ish degrees at game time.

**Pick: Green Bay 26, Los Angeles 16**

**Baltimore (11-5) at Buffalo (13-3)**  
**Saturday, 7:15 / NBC**  
**Line: Bills -2.5 / 49.5**

Baltimore is playing its best football of the season at the exact right time.

Lamar Jackson was brilliant against Tennessee, the defense stuffed Derrick Henry, and this was the confident, tough team that rolled through the end of the regular season with five straight wins.

The Colts were always going to be a tough matchup for the Bills – they control the clock and have the great lines and veteran QB – but Josh Allen and the Bill

offense didn't blink. They didn't have the ball all that much, but when they did, they were explosive.

Here's Buffalo's problem – third downs. It lives off of them offensively – leading the league in third down conversions – but Baltimore is second in the NFL in third down stops and Lamar and that attack are fourth in the league at keeping the chains moving.

The Ravens have the defense that's humming, and they have Lamar Jackson, JK Dobbins, and a running game that should rip through a Buffalo run defense that gives up way too many yards per carry.  
**Pick: Baltimore 34, Buffalo 30**

**Cleveland (11-5) at Kansas City (14-2)**  
**Saturday, 2:05 / CBS**  
**Line: Chiefs -10 / 57**

Kansas City isn't going to start the game by snapping the ball over Patrick Mahomes' head.

Give Cleveland all the credit in the world for coming out sharp, roaring, and focused after a rough run, no head coach, and with an offensive line that got banged up throughout the win over Pittsburgh. However, it's not going to be +5 in turnover margin again and a rested Kansas City will come up with a much, much better first quarter.

It won't be 28-0 Cleveland.

That's not to say the Browns can't pull this off as long as Baker Mayfield plays as well as he did in Pittsburgh. He didn't take any chances, he spread the ball around well, and the offensive design that negated the Steeler pass rush can absolutely work against this Chief D.

As good as the Cleveland pass rush is, and as strong as the offense will be to keep making this a ball game, Mahomes will be too fantastic. Expect a shootout, expect this

to be all Chiefs early and in control throughout.

**Pick: Kansas City 34, Cleveland 23**

**Tampa Bay (11-5) at New Orleans (11-5)**  
**Sunday, 5:40 / FOX**  
**Line: Saints -3 / 52**

There's no way New Orleans can make it a threezie that easy, can it?

It had few problems in 34-23 Week 1 win and dominated 38-3 in early November, but this is a stronger, sharper, better Buccaneer team now.

Tom Brady appears to be in sync with all of his high-end fantasy targets, he's getting a whole lot of time to work, and he's getting help from a running game that was without Ronald Jones, but got a huge day against Washington from Leonard Fournette.

And the defense couldn't seem to do much to hold down Taylor Heinecke.

The Football Team was never going to beat the Bucs, but Heinecke and company made it very, very interesting.

Blow it off.

Tampa Bay got the free space game against the NFC East team with the losing record, New Orleans got its own free space matchup against an overmatched Chicago, and now the two get what they wanted in Round 3.

Tampa Bay will start out hot – jacked to prove that this will be a very, very different game this time around – but New Orleans will slowly and steadily keep producing, and then everything will come together early in the fourth.

Michael Thomas is starting to come back. Alvin Kamara is fine. The Saint D appears to have its groove back.

The Drew Brees ride isn't ending quite yet.

**Pick: New Orleans 31, Tampa Bay 26**

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# College Football HoF Class announced

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS



By Mike McFee  
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**11 All-America players and two coaches will be inducted during the 63rd NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 7.**

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class during "SportsCenter" on ESPN.

### 2021 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS

#### PLAYERS:

- Harris Barton – OT, North Carolina (1983-86)
- David Fulcher – DB, Arizona State (1983-85)
- Dan Morgan – LB, Miami [FL] (1997-2000)
- Carson Palmer – QB, Southern California (1998-2002)
- Tony Romo – QB, Eastern Illinois (1999-2002)
- Kenneth Sims – DT, Texas (1978-81)
- C.J. Spiller – RB/KR, Clemson (2006-09)
- Darren Sproles – RB, Kansas State (2001-04)
- Aaron Taylor – OT, Notre Dame (1990-93)
- Andre Tippett – DE, Iowa (1979-81)
- Al Wilson – LB, Tennessee (1995-98)

#### COACHES:

- Rudy Hubbard – 83-48-3 (63.1%); Florida A&M (1974-85)
- Bob Stoops – 190-48-0 (79.8%); Oklahoma (1999-2016)

The 11 First Team All-America players and two standout coaches in the 2021 Class were selected from the national ballot of 78 players and seven coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision and the 99 players and 33 coaches from the divisional ranks.

"We are extremely proud to announce the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class," said Archie Manning, NFF Chairman and a 1989 College Football Hall of Famer from Mississippi. "Each of these men has established himself among the absolute best to have ever played or coached the game, and we look forward to immortalizing their incredible accomplishments."

The 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class will officially be inducted during the 63rd NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 7 alongside the 2020 Hall of Fame Class (the 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19).

The inductees will also be recognized at their respective collegiate institutions with NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes, presented by Fidelity Investments, during the fall. Their accomplishments will be forever immortalized at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, and each inductee will receive a custom ring created by Jostens, the official and

exclusive supplier of NFF rings and awards.

"With two College Football Hall of Fame classes, the NFF Annual Awards Dinner will prove to be one of the biggest events in the NFF's history when it returns this December," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "We are beyond excited to announce the 2021 electees and look forward to making induction worth the wait for the 2020 class."

The announcement of the 2021 Class was made during the Noon edition of "SportsCenter" on ESPN.

"We want to thank ESPN for the opportunity to announce the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class during 'SportsCenter,'" said Hatchell. "Today's announcement shines a light on the accomplishments of some of college football's greatest legends."

### 2021 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS NOTES

#### PLAYERS:

- 1 NFF National Scholar-Athlete (Barton)
- 1 Heisman Trophy winner (Palmer)
- 4 unanimous First Team All-Americans (Morgan, Sims, Spiller, Taylor)
- 6 consensus First Team All-Americans (Fulcher (2), Palmer, Sims, Taylor, Tippett, Wilson)
- 3 multi-year First Team All-Americans (Fulcher (2), Sims (2), Taylor (2))

- 5 winners of college football major awards (Morgan – Butkus, Bednarik, Nagurski; Palmer – Heisman; Romo – Walter Payton; Sims – Lombardi; Taylor – Lombardi)
- 1 member of a national championship team (Wilson)
- 5 conference players of the year (Barton, Morgan, Palmer, Romo (3), Spiller)
- 6 members of conference championship teams (Morgan, Palmer, Romo (2), Sproles, Tippett, Wilson (2))
- 8 players who still hold school records (Morgan, Palmer, Romo, Sims, Spiller, Sproles, Tippett, Wilson)
- 5 played for College Football Hall of Fame coaches (Fulcher – John Cooper, Sproles – Bill Snyder, Taylor – Lou Holtz, Tippett – Hayden Fry, Wilson – Phillip Fulmer)
- 7 first-round NFL draft picks (Barton, Morgan, Palmer, Sims, Spiller, Taylor, Wilson)
- 6 offensive players (Barton, Palmer, Romo, Spiller, Sproles, Taylor)
- 5 defensive players (Fulcher, Morgan, Sims, Tippett, Wilson)
- 3 decades represented: 1980s (4) – Barton, Fulcher, Sims, Tippett; 1990s (3) – Morgan, Taylor, Wilson; 2000s (4) – Palmer, Romo, Spiller, Sproles
- 1 school with its first-ever Hall of Fame player (Eastern Illinois – Romo)

#### COACHES:

- 2 national championships (Hubbard – 1, Stoops – 1)
- 2 Black national championships (Hubbard)
- 12 conference championships (Hubbard – 2, Stoops – 10)
- Most wins in school history (Stoops)
- 23 Bowl/postseason appearances (Hubbard – 5, Stoops – 18)
- 36 First Team All-Americans coached (Stoops)
- 8 national coach of the year honors (Stoops)
- 6 conference coach of the year honors (Stoops)

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

1. First and foremost, a player must have received First Team All-America recognition by a selector recognized by the NCAA and utilized to comprise its consensus All-America teams.
2. A player becomes eligible for consideration by the NFF's Honors Court 10 full seasons after his final year of intercollegiate football played.
3. While each nominee's football achievements in college are of prime consideration, his post football record as a citizen is also weighed. He must have proven himself worthy as a citizen, carrying the ideals of

(continued on page 10)



football forward into his relations with his community. Consideration may also be given for academic honors and whether or not the candidate earned a college degree.

4. Players must have played their last year of intercollegiate football within the last 50 years\*. For example, to be eligible for the 2021 ballot, the player must have played his last year in 1971 or thereafter. In addition, current professional players and/or coaches are not eligible until retirement.

5. A coach becomes eligible three full seasons after retirement or immediately following retirement provided he is at least 70 years old. Active coaches become eligible at 75 years of age. He must have been a head football coach for a minimum of 10 years and coached at least 100 games with a .600 winning percentage.

6. Nominations may only be submitted by the current athletics director, head coach or sports information director (SID) of a potential candidate's collegiate institution. Nominations may also be submitted by the president/executive director of a dues-paying chapter of the National Football Foundation.

*\* Players that do not comply with the 50-year rule may still be eligible for consideration by the Football Bowl Subdivision and Divisional Veterans Committees. Veterans Committee candidates must still meet First Team All-America requirement.*

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME QUICK FACTS**

- Including the 2021 Hall of Fame class, only 1,038 players and 223 coaches have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame from the nearly 5.47 million who have played or coached the game during the past 151 years. In other words, less than two one-hundredths of a percent (.02%) of the individuals who have played the game have earned this distinction.
- Founded in 1947, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame inducted its first class of inductees in 1951. The first class included 32 players and 22 coaches, including Illinois' Red Grange, Notre Dame's Knute Rockne, Amos Alonzo Stagg and Carlisle (PA)'s Jim Thorpe.
- 314 schools are represented with at least one College Football Hall of Famer.
- Induction for the 2021 Class will take place Dec. 7 during the 63rd NFF Annual Awards Dinner. The event will also feature the induction of the 2020 Hall of Fame Class.

**2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class Bios**

**HARRIS BARTON  
University of North Carolina  
Offensive Tackle, 1983-86**

An NFF National Scholar-Athlete in 1986, Barton matched his success in the classroom by becoming one of the most dominant offensive linemen in North Carolina history. The Atlanta native becomes the sixth Tar Heel to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A First Team All-American in 1986, Barton was named the ACC's Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman after helping the Tar Heels finish sixth in the nation and first in the conference with 436 yards of total offense per game. The 1986 First Team All-ACC selection was also part of an offensive unit that finished 10th in the nation with 252.5 rushing yards per game. A four-year starter, Barton began his career at center before being switched to tackle as a sophomore to take better advantage of his skills. After leading UNC to berths in the 1983 Peach Bowl and the 1986 Aloha Bowl, he concluded his stellar collegiate career in the Japan Bowl all-star game.

In addition to being an NFF National Scholar-Athlete, Barton was an Academic All-ACC selection, and he received the 1987 Jim Tatum Award as the conference's top football scholar-athlete. A member of the 2007 ACC Legends Class, he is one of 27 players to have his jersey honored at Kenan Stadium. During his freshman year, Barton played alongside College Football Hall of Famer William Fuller.

Selected in the first round of the 1987 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers, Barton spent his entire career with the franchise from 1987-98. A 1993 Pro Bowler, he led the team to victories in Super Bowls XXIII, XXIV and XXIX.

After both of his parents passed away from brain tumors, Barton founded Champion Charities in 2004 with fellow College Football Hall of Famer and former 49ers teammate Ronnie Lott. The non-profit has contributed significantly to treating and researching brain tumors while helping those afflicted with the disease. Barton is also a board member of the Roberts Enterprise Development Fund, a venture philanthropy that invests exclusively in social enterprises that employ and empower people overcoming barriers to work. He is the founder and managing director of H. Barton Asset Management, where he specializes in providing investment capital to up-and-coming VC-backed technology startups.

**DAVID FULCHER  
Arizona State University  
Defensive Back, 1983-85**

Referred to as "a safety in a linebacker's body" for his rare combination of size and speed, David Fulcher is one of only three Sun Devils to twice earn consensus All-America honors. The L.A. native is the ninth Arizona State player to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

A consensus First Team All-American in 1984 and 1985, Fulcher also earned Second Team All-America laurels as a freshman. The three-time First Team All-Pac-10 selection twice led the Sun Devils in tackles (1983, 1984) and interceptions (1983, 1985). A three-year starter, Fulcher's established himself as a star early – recording 53 tackles, three interceptions, six sacks and six pass deflections just four games into his college career. In his second

collegiate game in 1983, he posted 15 tackles and returned an interception 40 yards against UCLA. Named Arizona State's Most Outstanding Defensive Back in 1985, Fulcher guided the Sun Devils to a berth in the Holiday Bowl.

A 1996 inductee into the Arizona State University Sports Hall of Fame, Fulcher finished his career with 293 tackles and 12 interceptions. During his time in Tempe, "Fo-Rock" played for College Football Hall of Fame Coach John Cooper and alongside Hall of Famer Randall McDaniel.

A third-round pick by the Cincinnati Bengals in the 1986 NFL Draft, Fulcher spent eight years in the league with the Bengals (1986-92) and the Los Angeles Raiders (1993). The three-time Pro Bowl selection guided the Bengals to an appearance in Super Bowl XXIII following the 1988 season.

The founder and director of the David Fulcher Foundation, he is active in fundraising and awareness for multiple sclerosis. Fulcher has also operated his Mentoring Against Negative Actions program for 15 years, working in prisons to help inmates learn life skills. In 2016, he helped launch Cincinnati Christian University's football program, serving as the head coach for two seasons. Fulcher also previously coached at Cincinnati Christian High School. Decades after leaving college early for the NFL, he graduated from Arizona State in May 2020.

**DAN MORGAN  
University of Miami  
Linebacker, 1997-2000**

The first player in history to sweep the three major defensive awards in one season, Dan Morgan is Miami's all-time leading tackler. Part of the Hurricanes' reemergence in the late 90s, he becomes the eighth player in school history to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A unanimous First Team All-American in 2000, Morgan took home the Bednarik, Butkus and Nagurski Awards after leading the Hurricanes to the Big East title, an 11-1 record and a No. 2 final ranking. The 2000 Big East Defensive Player of the Year led Miami in tackles three times, and he holds the school record with 532 career tackles (also a Big East record). A four-time All-Big East selection, Morgan garnered first team honors in 1997, 1999 and 2000 while claiming second team laurels in 1998. The 2000 Football News National Defensive Player of the Year was a four-year starter and a three-time captain, becoming the first sophomore in school history to receive the honor.

The standout linebacker led Miami to three top 20 finishes and three consecutive postseason wins in the 1998 Micron PC Bowl, 2000 Gator Bowl and 2001 Sugar Bowl. Morgan's 45 consecutive starts were a school record at the time, and he was the first player in Hurricane annals to post 100 or more tackles every season of his career. Despite making the switch to linebacker just days prior to the 1997 season opener,

he became a Second Team Freshman All-American and was a finalist for the Butkus and Nagurski Awards as a junior. The 2011 University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame inductee played alongside College Football Hall of Famer Ed Reed during his time in Coral Gables.

The 11th overall pick by the Carolina Panthers in the 2001 NFL Draft, Morgan played for the franchise from 2001-07. The All-Rookie Team and 2004 Pro Bowl selection led the Panthers to an appearance in Super Bowl XXXVIII following the 2003 season.

While with the Panthers, Morgan volunteered with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Coral Springs, Florida, native has contributed time during his post-NFL career working with FEAT (Families for Effective Autism Treatment) and Ben's Fund, which raises money for families with autistic children. Morgan currently serves as the director of player personnel for the Buffalo Bills.

**CARSON PALMER  
University of Southern California  
Quarterback, 1998-2002**

The winner of the 2002 Heisman Trophy, Carson Palmer helped usher in a new era of dominance at USC and finished his career as the Pac-10's all-time leading passer. The Rancho Santa Margarita, California, native becomes the 33rd Trojan player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

A consensus First Team All-American in 2002, Palmer was the first USC quarterback to win the Heisman, and he also received the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, Pop Warner Award and Sporting News National Player of the Year. The Pac-10 Co-Offensive Player of the Year as a senior, he guided the 2002 USC squad to its first 11-win season since 1979, a share of the conference title and a No. 4 national ranking. The 2002 co-captain and team MVP capped his stellar career earning MVP honors in the Trojans' 2003 Orange Bowl victory.

The USC record holder with 1,569 career pass attempts, Palmer finished his time in Los Angeles as the Trojans' all-time leader in career passing yards and career total offense, and he currently ranks second in both categories. His 11,818 passing yards and 11,621 yards of total offense – both also Pac-10 career records at the time – currently rank sixth and eighth in conference history, respectively. A two-time recipient of the Marv Goux Award for efforts in the annual USC-UCLA rivalry game, Palmer ranks second all-time in single-season passing at USC with 309 completions for 3,942 yards in 2002. A teammate of College Football Hall of Famer Troy Polamalu at USC, Palmer is a member of the school's Athletic Hall of Fame, and his No. 3 jersey has been retired.

The first overall pick in the 2004 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals, Palmer played 15 seasons with the Bengals (2003-10), Oakland Raiders (2011-12) and Arizona Cardinals (2013-17). A three-time Pro Bowler, he was named the 2005 AFC



Player of the Year after leading the Bengals to their first winning season and playoff appearance in 15 years. A member of the Arizona Cardinals Ring of Honor, Palmer ranked 12th all-time in both passing yards and passing touchdowns when he retired from the NFL.

Off the field, he established the Carson Palmer Foundation to assist abused and abandoned children. Palmer has provided aid and support to organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Phoenix Children’s Hospital. He and his wife recently pledged to make a challenge gift of \$300,000 for Compassion International’s “Fill the Stadium” initiative, which seeks to provide essential food, medical care and support for children and their families during the Coronavirus pandemic.

**TONY ROMO**  
**Eastern Illinois University**  
**Quarterback, 1999-2002**

The winner of the 2002 Walter Payton Award as the top player in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Tony Romo goes down as one of the greatest players in Eastern Illinois history. He deservedly becomes the first Panther player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame. A First Team All-American in 2002, Romo became the first three-time Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the year in league history. The Walter Payton Award winner led the Panthers to consecutive conference titles (2001,2002) and threestraight FCS Playoff berths. EIU was 25-10 overall and 17-2 in OVC games with Romo starting, and the team was nationally ranked during his final three seasons. A three-time First Team All-OVC selection, Romo set conference and school records for single-season (34 in 2002) and career (85) touchdown passes, which remained unbroken for more than a decade. The 2001 Third Team All-American owns the school record with a 157.5 career passing efficiency, and he ranks third in career passing yards with 8,212. In 2009, Romo was inducted into the EIU Athletic Hall of Fame; the same day, he became the first player to have his number retired by the Panthers.

After going undrafted in 2003, Romo would put together a standout NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys from 2003-16. The four-time Pro Bowl selection holds Cowboy records for career passing yards and passing touchdowns.

Off the field, Romo has annually hosted youth football camps in his hometown of Burlington, Wisconsin. He is also heavily involved with the United Way, Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Since retiring, Romo has served as the lead color analyst for CBS’ NFL telecasts, working alongside Jim Nantz.

**KENNETH SIMS**  
**University of Texas**  
**Defensive Tackle, 1978-81**

Kenneth Sims was so dominant in 1981 that he became Texas’ first-ever winner of

the Lombardi Award... despite being sidelined following the ninth game of the season due to injury. The Groesbeck, Texas, native becomes the 20th Longhorn player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame

A two-time First Team All-American, Sims earned unanimous honors as a senior and consensus laurels as a junior. The 1981 UPI Lineman of the Year finished eighth for the Heisman Trophy, receiving three first-place votes. Sims’ 23 tackles for loss that season were a then-school record. He also led Texas to four wins over top 15 teams during stellar senior campaign, including a 12-tackle performance in a decisive 34-14 win over No. 10 Oklahoma.

The two-time consensus First Team All-Southwest Conference selection led the Longhorns to four consecutive postseason berths, including wins in the 1978 Sun Bowl and the 1982 Cotton Bowl. The 1981 team captain guided Texas to three top 25 finishes: No. 9 in 1978, No. 12 in 1979 and No. 2 in 1981. The two-time team MVP boasts the Longhorn record with 15 career forced fumbles. On the Texas career charts, Sims ranks fourth in sacks (29), fifth in fumble recoveries (seven) and ninth in tackles for loss (50). His other honors include the 1981 Houston Post SWC Defensive MVP Trophy and a 1982 NCAA Today’s Top V Award. Sims was inducted into the University of Texas Athletics Hall of Honor in 1997.

The first overall pick in the 1982 NFL Draft by the New England Patriots, Sims spent his entire pro career with the franchise from 1982-89. He helped guide the team to an appearance in Super Bowl XX following the 1985 season.

A dedicated supporter of UT Athletics, Sims has participated in numerous letterman functions. He is also an annual volunteer for the Grays Harbor Football Camp, a free youth event. Now retired, Sims resides in Round Rock, Texas.

**C.J. SPILLER**  
**Clemson University**  
**Running Back/Kick Returner, 2006-09**

When he had the ball in his hands, C.J. Spiller was one of the most exciting all-purpose players to ever step foot on the college gridiron. The Lake Butler, Florida, native becomes the fourth Tiger player in the College Football Hall of Fame.

A unanimous First Team All-America kick returner in 2009, Spiller finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy voting and was a finalist for the Doak Walker Award. He was named a Second Team All-America running back by Walter Camp in 2009, making him the first player in the organization’s history to earn All-America honors at two positions in the same season. The 2009 ACC Player of the Year set a single-season conference and school record with 2,680 all-purpose yards while also becoming the first player in conference history to gain 1,000 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving in the same season. A three-time All-ACC selection, Spiller garnered first team honors in 2008 and 2009 while receiving

honorable mention laurels in 2007. Despite losing the 2009 ACC Championship Game to Georgia Tech, he earned MVP honors in the game after setting an ACC title game record with 233 rushing yards.

The NCAA record holder with seven career kickoff returns for touchdowns, Spiller ranks third all-time in FBS history with 7,588 career all-purpose yards. He joined USC’s Reggie Bush as the only players in college football history with 3,000 rushing yards, 1,500 kickoff-return yards, 1,000 receiving yards and 500 punt-return yards in a career. Spiller set 31 Clemson records by career’s end, including career all-purpose yards (7,588), kickoff return yards (2,052) and kickoffs returned for a TD (seven). He led the Tigers to four bowl games, earning MVP honors at the 2007 Chick-fil-A and 2009 Music City bowls. Spiller twice led the ACC in all-purpose yards, and he helped Clemson finish in the top 25 in 2007 (No. 21) and 2009 (No. 24). A member of both the Clemson Athletics and State of South Carolina Athletic halls of fame, Spiller’s No. 28 jersey was retired by the Tigers.

The ninth overall pick by the Buffalo Bills in the 2010 NFL Draft (2010-14), Spiller also played for the Saints (2015), Seattle Seahawks (2016), N.Y Jets (2016) and Kansas City Chiefs (2017).

Off the field, Spiller was a First Team Academic All-ACC selection at Clemson. A regular visitor to hospitals and convalescent homes, he also hosts the annual C.J. Spiller Football & Life Skills Camp. In 2020, Spiller returned to Clemson to get his master’s in athletic leadership, and he joined former coach Dabo Swinney’s football staff as an unpaid graduate intern. He is also a board member of IPTAY, the fund raising organization for Clemson Athletics.

**DARREN SPROLES**  
**Kansas State University**  
**Running Back, 2001-04**

One of the most electric and prolific runners in college football history, Darren Sproles ranks as Kansas State’s all-time leading rusher holding more than 20 school and conference records. The Olathe,Kansas native becomes the third Wildcat player in the College Football Hall of Fame.

A First Team All-American in 2003, Sproles finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting after leading the nation with 1,986 rushing yards. A three-time All-Big 12 performer, he earned first team honors in 2003 and 2004 and second team accolades in 2002. In 2003, Sproles led K-State to the Big 12 title, its first conference title since 1934, after posting 345 all-purpose yards, catching a 60-yd touchdown pass and rushing for a Big 12 Championship Game record 235 yards in an upset win over No. 1 Oklahoma. One of three finalists for the 2003 AP Player of the Year, he earned Honorable Mention All-America honors in 2002, and he led the FBS in all-purpose yards (2,067) in 2004. The 2003 Doak Walker Award finalist led the Wildcats to three postseason berths, including a win

in the 2002 Holiday Bowl, and two top-15 finishes in 2002 (No. 7) and 2003 (No. 14).

Playing for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Bill Snyder, Sproles finished his career 11th all-time in rushing and sixth all-time in all-purpose yards in NCAA history. A member of the K-State Football Ring of Honor, he left Manhattan with 28 single-game, single-season or career records, 21 of which are still standing. The senior team captain boasts program career records for rushing yards (4,979), all-purpose yards (6,812), rushing attempts (815), rushing yards per carry (6.11), 100-yard rushing games (24) and consecutive 100-yard rushing games (10). Sproles still holds three of the top five single-season rushing performances in school history, including the top mark of 1,986 in 2003. His 2,735 all-purpose yards in 2003 are a Big 12 and K-State single-season record, and he also holds conference records for career 100-yard games and career all-purpose yards.

A fourth-round pick by the Chargers in the 2005 NFL Draft, Sproles played 15 seasons in the league with the Chargers (2005-10), Saints (2011-13) and Eagles (2014-19). The three-time Pro Bowl selection was a member of the Eagles team that won Super Bowl LII. Currently ranked sixth in NFL history with 19,696 all-purpose yards, Sproles set the single-season league record with 2,696 in 2011.

Giving back to the community, Sproles has funded football and life skills camps for at-risk youth in Kansas and San Diego. He also helped a family in New Orleans rebuild their home. Sproles currently works as a personnel consultant for the Eagles.

**AARON TAYLOR**  
**University of Notre Dame**  
**Offensive Tackle, 1990-93**

At a school with a long history of stellar offensive lineman, Aaron Taylor was one of the best to ever suit up at Notre Dame. A monster in the trenches, is the 48th Fighting Irish player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame, the most of any school.

A two-time First Team All-American, Taylor earned unanimous honors in 1993 and consensus recognition in 1992. The anchor for one of the best stretches of Notre Dame football in the last thirty years the Irish went 40-8-1 and won three major bowl games (1992 Sugar Bowl and the 1993 and 1994 Cotton Bowls) during his career. The 1993 Lombardi Award recipient, Taylor also won the Jim Parker Award from the Touchdown Club of Columbus, and he was a finalist for the Outland Trophy. The senior team captain guided the Fighting Irish to top-15 finishes every year of his career: No. 6 in 1990, No. 13 in 1991, No. 4 in 1992 and No. 2 in 1993.

The 1993 Moose Krause Lineman of the Year, Taylor blocked for consecutive 1,000-yard rushers in Reggie Brooks (1992) and Lee Becton (1993). He burst onto the scene in Notre Dame’s upset of Florida in the 1992 Sugar Bowl when Jerome Bettis scored two of his three touchdowns behind



Taylor's blocks. Starting the final 30-straight games of his career, he helped pave the way for an Irish run game that averaged 275 yards per game and tallied 71 rushing touchdowns from 1992-93. During his time at Notre Dame, the Bay Area native played for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Lou Holtz and alongside Hall of Famers Raghib "Rocket" Ismail and Chris Zorich.

A first-round pick by the Green Bay in the 1994 NFL Draft, Taylor played for the franchise from 1994-97 and helped them win Super Bowl XXXI. He finished his pro career with the Chargers from 1998-99. Taylor spent five months volunteering for Teaching and Projects Abroad, teaching English to high school students in South America. He also funded a project in Sri Lanka that built a community center and 40 temporary houses in the village of Kosgoda after a tsunami. Taylor helped establish The Joe Moore Foundation for Teamwork in honor of his offensive line coach at Notre Dame, and he created the Joe Moore Award, which is given annually to college football's most outstanding offensive line. In 2007, he received the Harvey G. Foster Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association for distinguished civic service. The founder of the Aaron Taylor IMPACT Fund, he can be seen during the fall as a college football analyst for CBS Sports.

#### **ANDRE TIPPETT**

##### **University of Iowa Defensive End, 1979-81**

A terror to offensive backfields, Andre Tippett guided Iowa to its first Big Ten title in over two decades. The Newark, New Jersey, native becomes the 10th Hawkeye player elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

A consensus First Team All-American in 1981, Tippett led Iowa to a share of the Big Ten title and a berth in the 1982 Rose Bowl, the program's first appearance in the game since 1958. The two-time First Team All-Big Ten selection (1980 and 1981) led the conference with 20 tackles for loss during his junior season.

A senior team captain, Tippett holds the Iowa single-season record for tackles for loss yardage with 153 yards on 20 TFL in 1980. Part of the Hawkeyes' initial success under College Football Hall of Fame Coach Hayden Fry, he helped the 1981 team finish with a No. 18 ranking and an 8-4 record, ending a streak of 20 consecutive losing seasons. A member of Iowa's All-Time Team, Tippett was also elected to the National Iowa Varsity Club Hall of Fame.

A second-round selection in the 1982 NFL Draft by the Patriots, Tippett played his entire pro career with the franchise from 1982-93. The five-time Pro Bowler and 1985 NFL Defensive Player of the Year is the Patriots' all-time sacks leader and guided the team to an appearance in Super Bowl XX. Tippett is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the New England Patriots Hall of Fame.

A Pop Warner football coach for seven years, Tippett also served on the organization's board of directors. A certified sixth degree black belt in Uechi-ryu karate, he has studied martial arts for over three decades. Involved in community outreach throughout the Massachusetts region since his NFL career began, Tippett currently serves as the executive director of community affairs for the New England Patriots.

#### **AL WILSON**

##### **University of Tennessee Linebacker, 1995-98**

Acting as the quarterback of Tennessee's defense, Al Wilson capped his career as one of the Vols' greatest linebackers by leading them to the 1998 national championship. The Jackson, Tennessee, native becomes the 21st player in school history to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

A consensus First Team All-America in 1998, Wilson was the only All-America selection from the perfect 13-0 Vols squad that won the inaugural BCS National Championship at the Fiesta Bowl against Florida State. He also guided Tennessee to three other bowl games, including consecutive wins at the Citrus Bowl in 1996 and 1997. During his career in Knoxville, Wilson led the Vols to back-to-back SEC titles and four top 10 finishes (No. 3 in 1995, No. 9 in 1996, No. 7 in 1997 and No. 1 in 1998).

A finalist for the 1998 Nagurski Trophy, Wilson earned First Team All-SEC honors as a senior and second team all-conference laurels as a junior while losing only three conference games in four years. The 1998 team captain posted 12 tackles and a school-record three forced fumbles in the Vols' win over No. 6 Florida that season, which ended Tennessee's five-game losing streak to the Gators. A 1999 Senior Bowl participant, Wilson played for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Phillip Fulmer and alongside Hall of Famer and 1997 Campbell Trophy® recipient Peyton Manning. Finishing his stellar career with 272 total tackles, he is enshrined in both the University of Tennessee Athletics and the State of Tennessee Sports halls of fame.

A first-round pick by the Denver Broncos in the 1999 NFL Draft, Wilson was a five-time Pro Bowl selection while playing for the team from 1999-2006.

Wilson co-founded Project FANchise, which previously established the first-ever fan-controlled professional sports franchise, the Salt Lake Screaming Eagles, and operated the Colorado Crush to play in the Indoor Football League. Off the field, he has annually hosted children's football camps and resides in Atlanta.

#### **RUDY HUBBARD**

##### **Florida A&M University (1974-85) Head Coach, 83-48-3 (63.1%)**

The only HBCU head coach to win the Division I-AA (now FCS) national title, Rudy Hubbard posted 83 wins in his 12 seasons at Florida A&M. He becomes the fourth Rattler coach to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

During his tenure at Florida A&M from 1974-85, Hubbard compiled an 83-48-3 overall record, the third most wins in school history behind fellow College Football Hall of Fame Coaches Jake Gaither (203) and Billy Joe (86). The Rattlers went 6-5, 9-2 and 6-3-2 in his first three seasons. Hubbard's most successful stretch occurred from 1977-79 as the Rattlers compiled a 30-5 record, including a perfect 11-0 mark in 1977. The team won back-to-back Black College Football National Championships and conference titles in 1977 and 1978.

In 1978, Hubbard guided Florida A&M to a 12-1 record and wrapped up the season winning the inaugural NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship as the Rattlers defeated UMass, 35-28. Although a member of NCAA Division II's Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, FAMU successfully petitioned the NCAA for Division I-AA classification, which took effect right before the 1978 season began.

One year after winning the national title, Hubbard's Rattlers claimed another milestone when they defeated Miami (FL), 16-13. From 1974-78, Hubbard won five straight Orange Blossom Classics, which annually pitted Florida A&M against another HBCU. The numerous standout players he coached included College Football Hall of Famer and three-time All-America offensive guard Tyrone McGriff. Hubbard was inducted into the Florida A&M University Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.

A native of Hubbard, Ohio, he played running back at Ohio State from 1965-67. Hubbard then made history as the first Black assistant coach at Ohio State, where he served six seasons and was part of the 1968 and 1970 national championship staffs under College Football Hall of Fame Coach Woody Hayes.

Hubbard ended his collegiate coaching career in 1985, but he returned to the sidelines as head coach at James S. Rickards High School in Tallahassee, Florida, from 2008-11. Now retired, he is collaborating with his son to write a how-to-book on winning, and he is involved with potentially staging an HBCU game in 2021 between rivals Kentucky State and Central State in his native Ohio.

#### **BOB STOOPS**

##### **University of Oklahoma (1999-2016) Head Coach, 190-48-0 (79.8%)**

Oklahoma's all-time winningest coach, Bob Stoops is the only coach in history to win a national championship and all four BCS bowl games. He posted a 79.8 winning percentage during his remarkable 18-year tenure, returning the Sooners to one of the elite programs in college football. Stoops is the sixth Oklahoma coach to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Prior to his arrival at Oklahoma, the proud Sooner program was five years removed from a winning record and hadn't produced double-digit victories since 1987.

Coaching at Oklahoma from 1999-2016, Stoops never had a losing record en route to a school record 190 career wins, including 14 seasons of 10-plus victories (the most of an FBS coach from 2000-16). He led the Sooners to four BCS National Championship Game appearances, winning the 2000 national title after a perfect 13-0 season that culminated with a win over Florida State in the Orange Bowl. Leading OU to a bowl game in each of his 18 seasons (a school record), Stoops claimed nine postseason victories, including wins in the Cotton, Fiesta, Orange, Rose and Sugar bowls. The sixth-fastest coach to ever reach 150 wins (187 games), he guided the Sooners to top 25 finishes in all but three seasons, including seven top five rankings.

A two-time national coach of the year and six-time Big 12 Coach of the Year, Stoops led Oklahoma to 10 Big 12 titles while posting an impressive 121-29 (.807) conference record during his career. His teams averaged 10.6 wins per season, and he owned a 101-9 home record, with wins in each of his first 37 games at Gaylord Family – Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. Stoops' 2008 team went down as the highest scoring team in college football history, scoring a total of 716 points and averaging 51 points per game. A combined 25-11 against the Sooners' biggest rivals Oklahoma State and Texas, he also posted a 66.7 winning percentage vs. AP Top 25 teams, the best in the country during his reign at OU.

Stoops coached 38 First Team All-Americans at Oklahoma, including seven Heisman Trophy finalists and two winners in Jason White (2003) and Sam Bradford (2008). He also coached three NFF National Scholar-Athletes, including 2015 Campbell Trophy® recipient Ty Darlington. In 2019, Stoops was inducted into the OU Sports Hall of Fame.

A four-year starter at Iowa under College Football Hall of Fame Coach Hayden Fry, Stoops excelled in 1982 as a team captain, First Team All-Big Ten selection and Iowa's MVP. The Youngstown, Ohio, native began his coaching career as an assistant under Fry at Iowa, followed by a stint at Kent State. After coaching under Hall of Famer Bill Snyder at Kansas State, he joined Hall of Famer Steve Spurrier's staff and helped the Gators win the 1996 national title as defensive coordinator.

In 2001, he started the Bob Stoops Champions Foundation to provide support to children and families in the Norman and Oklahoma City areas. In 2018, Stoops joined with current OU head coach Lincoln Riley and College Football Hall of Fame Coach Barry Switzer to create the HBC Champions Foundation to supply financial contributions, positive experiences and support to ill or disadvantaged children in Oklahoma. After briefly coming out of retirement in 2020 to coach the Dallas Renegades in the XFL, he now serves as a special assistant to the athletics director at OU.



# College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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Memphis QB Brady White is the 31st recipient of the prestigious NFF William V. Campbell Award® Presented by Mazda. "A doctoral student who ranks as Memphis' all-time leading passer, Brady White is the epitome of what the Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda represents," said NFF Chairman Archie Manning, whose sons, Peyton (Campbell Trophy® recipient) and Eli, were NFF National Scholar-Athletes in 1997 and 2003, respectively. "Working towards one's PhD is a daunting challenge by itself. To do it while excelling at the highest level of college football is truly exceptional. Brady embodies the scholar-athlete ideal, and we are proud to have him as a member of this elite fraternity."

The Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda ranks as one of college football's most sought after and competitive awards, recognizing an individual as the absolute best in the country for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary leadership. The 24-inch, 25-pound bronze trophy, which is prominently displayed at its official home inside the New York Athletic Club, comes with a \$25,000 postgraduate scholarship. Mazda became the presenting sponsor of the

Campbell Trophy® in September 2019. A total of \$223,000 was awarded in 2020 to White and the 11 other members of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class Presented by Fidelity Investments, who comprised the list of finalists for the Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda. Each member of the class (listed below) claimed an \$18,000 scholarship for their postgraduate educations.

The personification of success on and off the field, White became Memphis' all-time leading passer this season while pursuing a doctorate. A grad transfer, White graduated cum laude with a 3.58 GPA in business from Arizona State in 3.5 years. After completing his master's in sports administration at Memphis in just over a year, he is currently pursuing a doctorate in liberal studies.

A 2019 First Team Academic All-District selection, White is a two-time American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team honoree and a member of Memphis' Tiger 3.0 Club and the Dean's List. While at Arizona State, the Santa Clarita, California, native was a First Team Academic All-Pac-12 selection.

This season, White led Memphis to an 8-3 record. He capped his stellar collegiate career earning 2020 Montgomery Bowl MVP honors after completing 22 passes for 284 yards and three touchdowns in the Tigers' win over Florida Atlantic.

His 3,380 passing yards this season rank second in the American Athletic Conference and fifth nationally. The game captain is also second in the conference and fifth nationally with 31 passing touchdowns while his 202 points responsible for are second in the American and tied for fifth nationally.

Just the second Memphis quarterback to reach the 10,000-yard passing mark, White

is the Tigers' all-time leading passer with 10,690 career yards, a total that also ranks second all-time in American Athletic Conference history. He also holds the Memphis and conference record for career passing touchdowns (90). White's 28 wins as a starting quarterback are the most in Tigers history while his 769 completions are second in school annals.

The centerpiece to the NFF's scholar-athlete program, the William V. Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda was first awarded in 1990. It is named in honor of the late Bill Campbell, the former chairman of Intuit, former player and head coach at Columbia University and the 2004 recipient of the NFF's Gold Medal.

An All-Ivy League player and the captain of Columbia's 1961 Ivy League championship team, Bill Campbell found his true calling after an unlikely career change at age 39 from Columbia football coach to advertising executive. His ability to recruit, develop and manage talented executives – all lessons learned on the gridiron – proved to be a critical component of his ability to inspire his business teams to the highest levels of success.

## Past Recipients of The William V. Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda have been:

- Chris Howard (Air Force, 1990 - University President)
- Brad Culpepper (Florida, 1991 - Attorney)
- Jim Hansen (Colorado, 1992- Climatologist)
- Thomas Burns (Virginia, 1993 - Engineering Executive)
- Robert Zatechka (Nebraska, 1994 - Physician)
- Bobby Hoying (Ohio State, 1995 - Real Estate Executive)
- Danny Wuerffel (Florida, 1996 - Non-Profit Executive Director)
- Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997 - TV Personality & Philanthropist)
- Matt Stinchcomb (Georgia, 1998 - Insurance Executive & TV Broadcaster)
- Chad Pennington (Marshall, 1999 - Non-Profit President & High School Football Coach)
- Kyle Vanden Bosch (Nebraska, 2000 - Retired NFL Player)
- Joaquin Gonzalez (Miami [FL], 2001 - Corporate Executive)
- Brandon Roberts (Washington University in St. Louis [MO], 2002 - Physician)
- Craig Krenzel (Ohio State, 2003 - Insurance Executive)
- Michael Munoz (Tennessee, 2004 - Football Executive)
- Rudy Niswanger (LSU, 2005 - Corporate Executive)
- Brian Leonard (Rutgers, 2006 - Real Estate Executive)
- Dallas Griffin (Texas, 2007 - Corporate Executive)
- Alex Mack (California, 2008 - NFL Player)
- Tim Tebow (Florida, 2009 - Non-Profit Chairman, TV Broadcaster & Baseball Player)
- Sam Acho (Texas, 2010 - Humanitarian, Author & Broadcaster)
- Andrew Rodriguez (Army West Point, 2011 - U.S. Army Captain & Graduate Student)
- Barrett Jones (Alabama, 2012 - Financial Advisor & Broadcaster)
- John Urschel (Penn State, 2013 - Ph.D. Candidate, Speaker & Author)
- David Helton (Duke, 2014 - Finance & Business Operations)
- Ty Darlington (Oklahoma, 2015 - College Football Assistant Coach)
- Zach Terrell (Western Michigan, 2016 - Executive Development Associate)
- Micah Kiser (Virginia, 2017 - NFL Player)
- Christian Wilkins (Clemson, 2018 - NFL Player)
- Justin Herbert (Oregon, 2019 - NFL Player – set NFL rookie record for touchdown passes with 28 for the Los Angeles Chargers)

## Finalists for the 2020 NFF Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda and 2020 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class Presented by Fidelity Investments

- Tyler Bradfield, LB - Grand Valley State [MI] (3.99 GPA - Finance)
- Sam Ehlinger, QB - Texas (3.42 GPA - Marketing)
- Jack Gibbens, LB - Abilene Christian (4.00 GPA - Accounting & Financial Mgmt.)
- Ezra Gray, RB - Alabama State (4.00 GPA - Computer Information Systems)
- Tyriq Harris, DE - Charlotte (3.68 GPA - Biology)
- Drew Himmelman, OT - Illinois State (3.82 GPA - Exercise Science)
- Tyler Howerton, OL - Hampden-Sydney [VA] (4.00 GPA - Physics)
- Kekaula Kaniho, DB - Boise State (3.94 GPA - Health Science)
- Brandon Kennedy, OL - Tennessee (3.55 GPA - Sport Management)
- Cameron Kinley, CB - Navy (3.32 GPA - Political Science)
- Elijah Molden, DB - Washington (3.56 GPA - Communications)
- Brady White, QB - Memphis (3.58 GPA - Business)

Alabama's DeVonta Smith became the first wide receiver to capture the 2020 Heisman Trophy since NFF College Hall of Fame member and Michigan WR Desmond Howard in 1991. He was joined by teammates QB Mac Jones (3rd in Heisman voting) and RB Najee Harris (5th in voting) as the first three student-athletes from the same school to close in Heisman Top Five voting since NFF College Hall of



Fame members the late FB Doc Blanchard, RB Glenn Davis, and QB Arnold Tucker from the 1945 Army West Point national champions. Smith was Alabama's third Heisman winner – all in the last 12 years along with RB Mark Ingram in 2009 and RB Derrick Henry in 2015.

The seventh annual College Football Playoff will be played Monday night at Hard Rock Stadium as Alabama meets Ohio State at 7 p.m. (CST) on ESPN and multiple ESPN bandwidths. 'Bama (five times) and OSU (twice) have captured seven of the CFP or BCS crowns since the playoffs were initiated after the 1998 regular season, and Southeastern Conference squads have won 12 of the 22 title games contested since the '98 campaign prior to Monday's bout.

The previous teams won CFP titles: 2014 - Ohio State; 2015 – Alabama; 2016 – Clemson; 2017 – Alabama; 2018 – Clemson; 2019 – LSU.

**Bowl Championship Series champions:** 1998 – Tennessee; 1999 – Florida State; 2000 – Oklahoma; 2001 – Miami (Fla.); 2002 – Ohio State; 2003 – LSU; 2004 – Southern California (vacated); 2005 – Texas; 2006 – Florida; 2007 – LSU; 2008 – Florida; 2009 – Alabama; 2010 – Auburn; 2011 – Alabama; 2012 – Alabama; 2013 – Florida State.

Besides White and DeVonta Smith, other major FBS individual awards on the ESPN Awards Show presented by Home Depot were:

**FWAA Outland Trophy:** Alex Leatherwood, Alabama;

**Rimington Award:** Landon Dickerson, Alabama;

**Lou Groza National Place-Kicker Award:** Jose Borregales, Miami (Fla.);

**Chuck Bednarik Award:** Zaven Collins, Tulsa;

**Biletnikoff and Maxwell Awards:** DeVonta Smith, Alabama;

**Ray Guy Award:** Pressley Harvin III, Georgia Tech;

**Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award:** Mac Jones, Alabama;

**Paycom Jim Thorpe Award:** Trevon Moehrig, TCU;

**Doak Walker Award:** Najee Harris, Alabama;

**John Mackey Award:** Kyle Pitts, Florida;

**Danny Wuerffel Trophy for Community Service:** Teton Saltes, New Mexico.

There are 17 former NFF National Scholar-Athletes on rosters of NFL play-offs teams, and these include: Indianapolis Colts - Rodrigo Blankenship (Georgia – 2019); Anthony Castonzo (Boston College – 2010); Buffalo - Matt Barkley (Southern California – 2012); Los Angeles Rams – Jordan Fuller (Ohio State – 2019); Micah Kiser (Virginia – 2017 Campbell Trophy® recipient); Seattle - Tyler Lockett (Kansas State – 2014); Brad Lundblade (Oklahoma State – 2017); Washington – Casey Toohill (Stanford – 2019); Baltimore - Trace McSorley (Penn State – 2018); Jordan Richards (Stanford – 2014); Tennessee -

Ryan Tannehill (Texas A&M – 2011); Chicago - Manti Te'o (Notre Dame – 2012); New Orleans -Drew Brees (Purdue – 2000); Taysom Hill (BYU – 2016); Jason Vander Laan (Ferris State [Mich.] – 2015) on the Saints roster but opted out of 2020 season; Kansas City - Stefen Wisniewski (Penn State – 2010); Green Bay Packers – Chandon Sullivan (Georgia State – 2017).

Former Baylor football standout and NFL performer Texas U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, Stanford's Cory Booker (U.S. Senator representing New Jersey), Ohio U.S. Rep. Anthony Gonzalez of Ohio State all were uninjured in the recent infiltration of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6...South Carolina men's basketball head coach Frank Martin offered a unique perspective on freedom after the events of Jan. 6 as both his parents fled Havana, Cuba, in 1959 during the Communist Revolution led by the late Fidel Castro.

#### **NFF College Hall of Fame Facts**

**Some notable birthdates** in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Jan. 12-18 time period are Jan. 12 (1895) Bo McMillin, Prairie Hill, Texas; (1899) Fritz Crisler, Earlville, Ill.; (1943) Tucker Frederickson, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; (1977) Cade McNown, Portland, Ore.; Jan. 13 (1907) Gerald Mann, Sulphur Springs, Texas; (1947) Bill Stanfill, Cairo, Ga.; (1958) Tyrone McGriff, Vero Beach, Fla.; Jan. 14 (1908) Vernon Smith, Macon, Ga.; (1929) Darrell Mudra, Omaha, Neb.; (1892) Hobey Baker, Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.; Jan. 15 (1898) Dutch Meyer, Ellinger, Texas; (1953) Randy White, Wilmington, Del.; (1957) Marty Lyons, Takoma Park, Md.; (1959) Ken Easley, Chesapeake, Va.; Jan. 16 (1882) Henry Phillips, Philadelphia Pa.; (1894) Guy Chamberlin, Blue Springs, Neb.; (1914) Monk Simons, New Orleans, La.; (1953) Dave Brown, Akron, Ohio; (1977) Mark Simoneau, Phillipsburg, Kan.; Jan. 17 (1933) J.C. Caroline, Warrenton, Ga.; (1937) Buddy Dial, Ponca City, Okla.; Jan. 18 (1897) Eddie Kaw, Houston, Texas; (1950) Pat Sullivan, Birmingham, Ala.

**Notable anniversary death dates** for Hall of Famers are Jan. 12 (1965) John Tigert, Gainesville, Fla.; (1980) Lawrence "Biff" Jones, Washington, D.C.; Jan. 13 (1985) Brud Holland, New York City; (1987) Matt Hazeltine, San Francisco, Calif.; Jan. 17 (1974) Bill Shakespeare, Cincinnati, Ohio; Jan. 18 (1991) Hamilton Fish, Cold Spring, N.Y.

**Happy birthdays** to NFF College Hall of Fame members Jan. 12 Cade McNown, Jan. 13 Bill Stanfill, Tyrone McGriff, Jan. 15 Randy White, Marty Lyons, Ken Easley, Jan. 16 Mark Simoneau...

Georgia Tech and Louisville will meet in the 2023 Chick-fil-A Classic at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium...Alabama State and Miles (Ala.) will play in the 2021 Labor Day HBCU Classic at Montgomery's Cramton Bowl on Sept. 4 ...Gardner-Webb and Presbyterian have added a March 6 contest at Boiling Springs, N.C....Alabama has taken a 6-2

lead in eight series games with Notre Dame and played for its sixth national football championship under head coach Nick Saban against Ohio State Jan. 11 in the CFP finals...Tulsa's Associated Press rankings for six weeks in succession to close the regular season were the most in one year since the 1945 Golden Hurricane was in the AP national ratings for eight polls ...Mississippi State had the most first-time starters in NCAA FBS in 2020 with 26.The entire 2020 Utah football squad and hundreds of family and friends gave a final salute at a memorial service for late Utes football Pac-12 2020 Newcomer of the Year Ty Jordan at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Jan. 8. Jordan starred at West Mesquite (Texas) HS before signing with Utah for the '20 season...Three years to the day of his leukemia diagnosis, Texas men's basketball player Andrew Jones hit a game-winning, three-point field goal to help the 'horns edge West Virginia 72-70 on Jan. 9...Texas Woman's U. received several doses of Moderna anti-COVID-19 vaccine because many of the university's nursing students and graduates in Denton, Dallas and Houston, Texas, are in the frontline health-care areas. TWU's student-athletes also added to their school record of consecutive 3.0 or higher composite grade point averages (4.0) scale for 77 consecutive semesters over 38-plus years...AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, is placing tickets for the Monster Energy AMA Supercross FIM World Championship – scheduled for March 13, 16 and 20 – on public sale Tuesday through its usual outlets and at the stadium's main ticket office.

Coastal Carolina head coach Jamey Chadwell nabbed Football Writers Association of America Eddie Robinson and Associated Press 2020 Coach of the Year laurels...Boise State chose Oregon defensive coordinator Andy Avalos as its new head coach...Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh has received a four-year contract extension through 2025...Southern U. (Baton Rouge) head coach Dawson Odums has signed a one-year contract extension...Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher was reminded that in his fourth year at Florida State when the Seminoles won the Bowl Championship Series crown in 2013. Fisher is 26-10 in three seasons with the Aggies and has taken 10 of his 11 FSU and A&M teams to postseason tussles with a 8-2 mark over those skirmishes..Marshall head coach Doc Holliday has left the program after 11 seasons, a 85-54 overall record and 6-2 mark in eight bowl tussles...Former Texas head coach Tom Herman thanked his coaches, student-athletes and football staffers for their support during his four seasons with the Longhorns ...Former Missouri head coach and Tigers standout linebacker Barry Odom is staying at Arkansas as a top defensive assistant coach despite other offers....Mississippi State defensive coordinator Zach Arnett has been mentioned as a possible new defen-

sive coordinator at Texas...Former Michigan defensive coordinator will take the same position for the Arizona Wildcats after working at UM for 45 years...Penn State offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich has started his 2021 duties with the Nittany Lions...Auburn named Jeff Pittman strength and conditioning coach for football...Auburn defensive coordinator and acting bowl head coach Kevin Steele is expected to have a chance to remain on the Tigers '21 coaching staff...Marcus Freeman has left the Cincinnati coaching staff to join Notre Dame as linebackers coach....Baylor has added BYU offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes in a similar position for the '21 Bears along with Vic Voloria as director of athletics performance and Chansi Stuckey as wide receivers coach. Ryan Pugh had accepted an assignment as Baylor's new offensive line coach but decided to decline the final offer..Louisiana -Monroe has named former Boise State outside linebackers coach and special teams coordinator Zac Alley as its defensive coordinator under new ULM head coach and 30-year college coaching veteran Terry Bowden...South Carolina has selected former NFL Carolina Panthers assistant offensive line coach Marcus Satterfield as the Gamecocks offensive coordinator and Will Friend as offensive line coach.... 247-Sports director of scouting Barton Simmons has been tapped as general manager for new Vanderbilt football head coach Clark Lea's squad. VU also named former Wake Forest strength and conditioning coach Brandon Hourigan as its new S&C mentor...Florida defensive secondary coaches Ron English and Torrian Gray will not return for the 2021 season...UF athletics also is working to keep head coach Dan Mullen from entertaining possible NFL head coaching offers...Florida Atlantic co-offensive coordinator Clint Trickett and special teams/tight ends coach Jaron Fairman are seeking new assignments for the 2021 season...Miami (Fla.) co-defensive coordinator Ephraim Banda is moving to Utah State in the same position, Former Hurricanes senior quality control analyst Mike Zuckerman is the Aggies new inside linebackers coach while Miami assistant director of player development Alex Devine is making a move to the USU staff as well...Illinois added former Army West Point defensive line coach Tank Wright as UT's director of football strength and conditioning...Former Colorado State head coach and 2020 South Carolina offensive coordinator Mike Bobo was selected as Auburn's new offensive coordinator. Former Vanderbilt head coach Derek Mason is one of the leading candidates for the Tigers defensive coordinator's post.. ...South Carolina has added former WKU defensive coordinator Clayton White for the '21 season...Former Texas student-athlete and 2020 Ole Miss special teams' coordinator Blake Gideon has joined his alma mater as '21 special teams coordinator...Illinois has selected former Missouri



defensive coordinator Ryan Walters for its opening with those duties for 2021..Arizona State senior associate AD Scottie Graham is returning to on-field duties as running backs coach at Arizona...Memphis named Drew Svoboda special teams coach...New LSU offensive coordinator Jake Peetz and passing game coordinator DJ Mangas have finalized their contracts for '21..Chattanooga assistant coach Chris Malone has left the program...Tennessee football is awaiting finalizing assistant coaches' 2021 contracts and adding two new coaches because of current financial conditions...Stories rumored about Texas seeking Alabama's Nick Saban and College Football Playoff winner Urban Meyer as head coaches in recent years were denied by UT athletics as possible wishes only by Longhorns boosters...Wake Forest selected Chad Bari as chief coach and director of football sport performance...Several media sources have noted that 2020 Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year Matt Campbell is not interviewing for the vacant NFL New York Jets head coaching position.

**Hometowns** of more 2021 college head coaches – Temple: Rod Carey, Madison, Wis.; Tennessee: Jeremy Pruitt, Rainsville, Ala.; Tennessee State: Rod Reed, Marshall, Texas; Tennessee Tech: Dewayne Alexander, Cookeville, Tenn.; Chattanooga: Rusty Wright, Aiken, S.C.

Le Moyne (N.Y.) tabbed former Army West Point senior associate AD for strategic initiatives Bob Beretta as its new director of athletics. Beretta is also a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame...Former Georgia senior deputy and interim AD Josh Brooks is the new fulltime AD at UGA. Darrice Griffin now is senior deputy for Georgia athletics as well...New Boise State director of athletics Jeremiah Dickey held a virtual news conference after his appointment and spoke of the importance of servant leadership throughout his career and now at BSU. Dickey and Boise State administrators also reaffirmed their membership in the Mountain West Conference...Alaska Fairbanks School of Management faculty member Peggy Keiper has been appointed interim AD at UAF...UC Riverside AD Tamica Smith Jones is leaving to become the COO for Kennesaw State athletics...Purdue AD Mike Bobinski has been appointed to the 2020-21 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Committee...New Louisiana Tech AD Eric Wood chatted with media about his first 50 days as AD, academic staffing, health and safety concerns, and establishing a continued winning culture at Tech...Ohio State AD and 2006 NFF John L. Toner Award recipient Gene Smith had some fancy celebratory dance moves on social media after the Buckeyes downed Clemson in the CFP semifinals...Washington AD Jennifer Cohen and SMU's Rick Hart gave a review for AthleticDirectorU about the new book *Stillness is the Key* by Ryan Holiday with focus on the book's applications of leader-

ship roles and the brave new worlds of social media and college athletics...

...Mississippi State AD John Cohen addressed major concern about the recent dustups among student-athletes from MSU and Tulsa before and after the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl and core values that need to be followed...Texas A&M senior office associate for communications Jackie Thornton has retired after 30 years of assisting with Aggies athletics...Southland Conference commissioner Tom Burnett now will serve as the committee's vice chair to replace incoming Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner and former Northwestern AD Jim Phillips in that capacity...Longtime TCU associate AD for operations Ross Bailey has retired officially and is consulting for Horned Frogs athletics. He worked fulltime at TCU for 48 years as assistant AD for sports medicine and multiple roles...Long Beach State Deputy AD and senior women administrator Cindy Masner announced her retirement as of Dec. 31, 2020. She served LBSU athletics for 37 years...There are reports in Idaho that Boise State senior associate AD for football and chief of staff Brad Larrondo may be joining head coach Bryan Harsin's new staff at Auburn...UCF has chosen former Pittsburgh executive associate AD for philanthropy and engagement Janice McFarlane as its new deputy AD for competitive excellence...Women's Basketball and CoSIDA Academic Halls of Fame member Baylor head women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey had a positive test for COVID-19 and is continuing her quarantine this week...Northern Illinois head men's basketball coach Mark Montgomery has been released from his duties and replaced by interim head coach Lamar Chapman...Carleton College interim women's soccer head coach Jessica Mueller will guide the team in 2021...Oregon women's basketball head coach Kelly Graves will receive \$1.5 million salary boost over the course of his new contract that runs through the 2028-29 season...Kevin Hart is the new assistant director of sports information at Thiel...Southern Miss woman's basketball head coach Joye Lee-McNelis has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer after she overcame an initial bout with lung cancer in 2017. She has been the head women's basketball coach at Memphis from 1991-2004 and at USM since '04 – a total of 30 seasons.

Multiple sources have confirmed that the Western Athletic Conference will hold a news conference at NRG Stadium on Houston Thursday to announce the addition of seven NCAA FCS members to resume WAC football competition in 2022. The projected new members are Abilene Christian, Lamar, Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, Southern Utah, Tarleton State, and Dixie State. The WAC last competed in football during the 2012 season in NCAA FBS...The Patriot League will begin its spring football schedule in early March and is deciding whether to split into divisions

for 2021 only...SEC commissioner Greg Sankey addressed the awareness that administrators and coaches had to have with daily-changing national health protocols as well as individual team and staff testing for football. Retiring ACC commissioner John Swofford mentioned his opinion that the College Football Playoff selection system and protocols worked in that teams with fewer games (i.e., Big Ten and Pac-12 Conferences) were evaluated for quality wins and strength of schedule. The ACC actually produced 12 teams with 10 or more games, including bowls, in 2020 while the SEC managed to have 13 of its 14 members with at least 10 contests in spite of massive COVID-19 challenges...Mountain West Conference commissioner Craig Thompson and American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco have repeated their calls for expansion of the College Football Playoff's current field of four teams...Both VCU's Siegel Center and Richmond (Va.) Robins Center are possible Atlantic-10 Conference men's basketball tournament sites if the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. The A-10 women's tourney is set at the Siegel Center...Saint Francis (Pa.) has decided to table all its rescheduled spring events from the fall semester will not participate in the rescheduled fall seasons this spring in the Northeast Conference due to COVID-19 concerns.

There was a bit of discussion about alternative dates when Ohio State had a minor outbreak of COVID-19 in the days prior to Monday's College Football Playoff championship encounter...Mississippi State's historic 52-14 win over Michigan to complete the 2010 season was remembered on the 10-year anniversary of the landmark triumph...The COVID-19 regulated attendance of 17,323 for the 2020 Goodyear Cotton Bowl represented the smallest turnout since Jan. 1, 1944, Texas-San Antonio Randolph Field game with 15,000 on hand due to World War II travel restrictions and rationing...The Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, had the largest local community concentration of bowls for 2020-21: the New Mexico Bowl in Frisco, the SERV-PRO First Responder Bowl in Dallas, the Goodyear Cotton Bowl in Arlington, the Rose Bowl presented by Capital One in Arlington, and the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth. The area almost had a sixth postseason game, but the SMU-UTSA Tropical Smoothie Café Frisco Bowl was cancelled Dec. 19 due to excessive COVID-19 cases in the SMU football program. Florida had eight different bowls scheduled in post-2020 before the pandemic forced cancellation of 16 different bowls.

Ohio State QB Justin Fields competed in the CFP championship contest after taking several hard hits and some various injuries while facing Clemson in the CFP semifinals...Alabama's Percy Waddle practiced and was set to return to the field of play against Ohio State in the CFP title clash in

a Monday game night decision about his status. H broke his ankle in the Alabama-Tennessee game Oct. 24...Alabama QB Mac Jones captured the 34th annual 2020 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award. He is third Crimson Tide signal caller to win this honor...Georgia soph kicker Jack Podlesny kicked the second-longest field goal in Bulldogs postseason annals with a 53-yard at the gun to down previously-unbeaten Cincinnati 24-21 in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl...Tulsa All-American Athletic Conference DT Jaxon Player had 4.5 sacks against Navy and ended the year with 7.5 total sacks...Texas Tech CB Zach McPherson has declared for the 2021 NFL Draft...Oklahoma center Creed Humphrey, OL Adrian Ealy and CB Tre' Norwood played in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl against Florida but have declared for the NFL draft instead of competing in '21...Miami (Fla.) QB D'Eriq King has had knee surgery and hope to be back in time for the Hurricanes 2021 season opener Sept. 4 against Alabama in the Chick-fil-A College Classic in Atlanta...Texas rising sophomore Bijan Robinson is coming off a 703-yard season rushing performance and four touchdowns after taking over as a starting running back at midseason...Texas A&M QB Kellen Mond reflected on his four seasons as a stating signal caller in an interview with TexAgs.com...Florida QB and Heisman Trophy finalist Kyle Trask has declared for the '21 NFL Draft...OU QB Spencer Rattler is a semifinalist for the 2020 Davey O'Brien Award and was '20 CBS Sports National Freshman of the Year. The first team All-Big 12 Conference selection and co-Big 12 Newcomer of the Year passed for 2,784 yards on 200-of-294 completions with 25 touchdowns and seven interceptions...Georgia standout QB JT Daniels, RB James Cook and DL Devonte West all are returning for the upcoming campaign. Bulldogs DE Malik Herring and center Trey Hill are ending their college careers to prepare for the NFL Draft...Former Virginia Tech QB Hendon Hooker Tulsa RB Corey Taylor II led all rushers in the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl with 20 carries for 85 yards...Kentucky QB Terry Wilson is entering the NCAA transfer portal...Mississippi State RB Jo' quavious Marks had the Bulldogs longest rush of the season with a 28-yard TD jaunt against Tulsa in the season finale. State averaged 30 net yards rushing as a team through its first 10 outings...Texas QB Sam Ehlinger will pass up an extra year of eligibility and is preparing for the '21 Draft

Oklahoma State QB Spencer Sanders garnered MVP honors win the Cheez-It Bowl with 305 passing yards and four aerial TDs...Tennessee CB Bryce Thompson (eight career interceptions) will leave the team for the '21 NFL Draft...West Virginia QB Austin Kendall has entered the transfer portal after coming to WVU earlier from Oklahoma...Wisconsin backup QB Jack Coan is transferring to Notre Dame....

*(continued on page 16)*



...Kentucky RB A.J. Rose motored for 148 yards in a 23-21 upset of No. 23 NC State in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl...Texas A&M DT Jayden Peevy, safety Leon O'Neal Jr. and WR Cameron Buckley will return for the 2021 season after entertaining NFL Draft possibilities. Aggies center Ryan McCollum made his declaration to enter the '21 draft...Texas A&M CB Myles Jones hopes to be back at full strength for spring workouts after missing the final two games of the '20 campaign with a leg injury...Coastal Carolina WR Jaivon Heiligh paced all postseason receivers in yards gained on catches with 178 in the FBC Mortgage Cure Bowl against Liberty...Southern California safety Talanoa Hufanaga will forgo his senior season and enter the 2021 NFL Draft...Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence and Florida QB Kyle Trask, both Heisman Trophy finalists, will declare for the 2021 NFL draft and skip their senior seasons...Ohio State RB Trey Sermon like former Oklahoma teammate and NFL standout Jalen Hurts of OU and Alabama, had the rare privilege of playing for two schools in the College Football Playoff. Sermon starred for the Sooners from 2017-19 and had a solid season with OSU while racking up 868 rushing yards in seven games with a career-best 331 infantry yards in the Big Ten Championship Game against Northwestern...Mississippi State Freshman All-America CB Emmanuel Forbes had a bowl-record, 90-yard interception return for a TD in the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl during the Bulldogs win over Tulsa – it was his team-high fifth interception of the year...Wisconsin DB Noah Burks had a key turnaround interception in the Badgers Duke's Mayo Bowl victory over Wake Forest and closed the campaign with two pass pilfers and 60 total tackles.... Northwestern QB Payton Ramsey passed for 291 yards and three touchdowns in the Wildcats win over Auburn in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl...North Carolina WR Dazz Newsome made his sixth TD catch of the season against Texas A&M in the Capital One Orange Bowl and ended his senior year with 54 receptions for 864 yards...OU WR Charleston Rambo has entered the 2021 NCAA transfer portal along with teammate RB T.J. Pledger. Sooners RB Kennedy Brooks will return to play in fall '21 as well as OU teammate DL Jalen Redmond...North Texas kicker Zac Williams also entered the '21 transfer portal...SMU QB Shane Buechele will not return to the Mustangs in '21 and is getting ready for the upcoming NFL Draft.... Memphis (Tenn.) Christian Brothers HS standout RB Dallan Hayden has narrowed his list of 2022 possibilities for signing to Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oregon and, Tennessee...South Carolina QB Ryan Hilinski has entered the '21 transfer portal.

Northwestern head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame member Pat Fitzgerald may be a possible head coaching interviewee or replacement for NFL Detroit

and Atlanta franchises...Former North Texas standout QB Mason Fine signed with the CFL Saskatchewan Roughriders...NFF College Hall of Fame QB John Elway has retired from his general manager's post with the NFL Denver Broncos but will retain other team executive duties...Army West Point QB Kelvin Hopkins Jr. retained his Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl record for individual rushing touchdowns with five in 2018 against Houston...St. John's (N.Y.) men's basketball student-athlete David Caraher has been granted a leave of absence for the remainder of the season because of COVID-19 and family concerns...Mississippi high school (Richland) head coach J.J. Plummer spoke of the 56-year year coaching career of his father and former Delta State head coach Johnny Plummer...Nebraska athletics' first Black student-athlete in any sport – Dr. George Flippin – on the 1892-94 football squads was remembered fondly prior to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Jan. 18...Some of the top vote recipients on the 2020 Associated Press NFL All-Pro Team were Kansas City TE Travis Kelce of Cincinnati, Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers of California, Kansas City QB Patrick Mahomes of Texas Tech, and Tennessee Titans RB Derrick Henry of Alabama.... Southlake (Texas) Carroll HS head coach Riley Dodge missed last Saturday's Class 6A state semifinal against Duncanville HS due to COVID-19 concerns. Dodge led Southlake Carroll to the 2006 Texas 6A state crown while quarterbacking the Dragons and later starred at North Texas. Riley Dodge will face his father and former SLCHS and North Texas head coach Todd Dodge and Austin Westlake HS Saturday at AT&T Stadium in Arlington for the Texas 6A title...All-time good guy, father of nine, positive religion activist, former altar boy, and community servant QB Philip Rivers of NC State ended the 2020 NFL season with an 11-5 record, 134 career victories as a starting QB, 63,440 career passing yards, and 421 touchdown passes in 18 NFL seasons.

Tennessee athletics has employed Bond, Schoeneck and King attorneys Mike Glazier and Kyle Skillman to help address an internal investigation into possible NCAA football rules' challenges...There have been 22 men's and women's basketball teams and other winter sports squads involved in game/event postponements, cancellations or pauses in the last seven days. Villanova's 2020-21 men's basketball program has had three different pauses for COVID-19 issues...Vanderbilt alumni, many former student-athletes and parents of current VU students, will be going on a July 9-16 special Alumni Association jaunt for Southeast Asia...Alabama's famed Million Dollar Band performed the 2020 Goodyear Cotton Bowl National Anthem virtually with a stirring musical rendition...Massachusetts and George Washington postponed their men's basketball game Jan. 6 because of conditions in the Washington, D.C. area...The

NBA Cleveland Cavaliers and several college departments are using Armored Things Crowd Intelligence Solution as they ramp up the 2021 portions of multiple seasons...The BoiseDev Group has revealed some Boise State athletics documents with a timeline for possible Albertsons Stadium renovations in the 2022-24 range...Texas State and St. Edward's were commended for their efforts to alleviate possible COVID-19 cases this semester on their campuses as student returned for live and virtual classes...Snodgrass Partners hired Richard C. Coiro to oversee its financial affairs for professional and collegiate sports clients...MarketCast senior vice president and general manager of sports and live events Haynes Hendrickson is now with PlayFly Sports as senior vice president of business development...A new sports agency with several former NFL, NBA and Kansas area business people has been formed and named Par-Lay Sports and Entertainment...Auburn has completed the initial design phase for its new \$60 million Football Performance Center with numerous state-of-the-art amenities...The Arkansas Razorback Foundation is working with court authorities to settle a case with former UA head coach Bret Bielema who has taken over as head coach at Illinois.

ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit was equipped with nine screens in his home studio to cover the Clemson-Ohio State CFP semifinal because he had COVID-19 symptoms. Ironically, Herbstreit had to employ iPhone Facetime the following day for a breaking news story...Sports Business Journal examined the often changing landscape of college athletics – especially in 2020-21 – and the College Athletes Bill of Rights, which may make it to the halls of the U.S. Congress...Sports Ventures Acquisition Corporation had an initial public stock offering of \$200...ESPN's John "Boog" Sciambi will continue calling various Major League Baseball and college sports events for the network as he begins his 2021 association as the MLB Chicago Cubs' play-by-play radio broadcaster...Learfield IMG College president/CEO Cole Gahagan is helping transform the longstanding primarily sponsorship and sales organization to a national collegiate digital, data and content business. Learfield IMG lenders and investors also have assisted with a \$125 million cash infusion in 2020 to cover sponsorship setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic....USA Today pointed out several challenges facing NCAA FBS in coming months such as continuing COVID-19 protocols, logistics of COVID-19 vaccinations, spring football practice schedules, and NCAA transfer rules' adjustments...The Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald newspaper compiled some fast facts about the state of Nebraska and Texas football programs since they met in the 2009 Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship – the next-to-last before Colorado, NU, Missouri, and Texas A&M left the Big 12 for other conferences in

2011. The Huskers are 78-59 overall under three head coaches with three bowl victories since the 2010 season while UT is 78-60 with six bowl victories under four head coaches...SportsGrid's Mike Blewitt has been chosen as Collegiate Sports Management Group's senior vice president of property acquisition and media...MarketCast senior vice president and general manager of sports and live events Haynes Hendrickson is now with PlayFly Sports as senior vice president of business development.

The FWAA presented the annual Volney Meece Scholarship to Sara Shatel, daughter of Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald columnist Tom Shatel and a freshman at Missouri, as the 24th annual winner. The scholarship is awarded annually by the Football Writers Association of America and named for the late Volney Meece. Meece served 22 years as the FWAA's executive director and was the organization's president in 1971. The scholarship is a \$1,000 annual grant for four years. It is awarded to a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member...Hillary Fisher of Anne Arundel CC, Phylcia Short of Queens (N.C.), John Vu of Utah, Sam Schwartz of the America East Conference, and John Paquette of the Big East Conference were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter...The NCAA will play the 2021 Men's Basketball Championships at six venues in and around the Indianapolis area: Indy's Lucas Oil Stadium, Indy's Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Butler's historic Hinkle Fieldhouse (home of the final scene of the movie Hoosiers), Indy's Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Purdue's Mackey Arena, and Indiana's Assembly Hall in Bloomington. NCAA Division I Men's Basketball coordinator Dan Gavitt also is working with NCAA basketball committee members to set the proposed dates' and tentative times' schedule for March Madness®. There will be no back-to-back playing dates at the various Indiana sites...NCAA Women's Basketball Division I chair Nina King of Duke indicated in December that the 2021 women's championship will be played with 64 teams in a close geographical site – possibly the San Antonio area wherethe NCAA women's semis and championship tussles are scheduled tentatively for late March or early April. Both NCAA men's and women's committees also formalized COVID-19 protocols for the bubble tourney locales...LEAD1 inaugurated the Actionable Recommendations to Create More Diverse Senior Leadership in NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision College Sports white paper created by a committee of leading ADs and administrators...NET released its first NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball ratings Monday, and they will be updated regularly on D1 Ticker.com...UCF's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport concluded a study of FBS hiring practices and saw a slight improvement over past years.



# The desirability of G-Class holds strong



There's an all-new Mercedes-Benz G-Class, available as a G550 and an AMG G63, the latter a substantially more powerful model that we cover elsewhere. While the rugged new 2019 G550 retains a boxy profile and looks much the same as before, Mercedes says only three parts are carry-over: the door handles, spare-tire cover and headlight washers. More significant, this go-anywhere Mercedes SUV, still built in Graz, Austria, has a stronger and all-new body-on-frame chassis with independent front suspension replacing the former G's live front axle. Three locking differentials (center, rear, front) ensure that the new G can still tackle legitimately tough terrain. Moreover, the new G550 has lost about 375 pounds, thanks to revised materials and a lighter body. Much of the new body is steel, but the fenders, hood and doors are aluminum. Varied competitors include the Land Rover Range Rover, the Jeep Wrangler, the Lexus LX 570 and the Toyota Land Cruiser.

The Mercedes-Benz G550 cruises comfortably down the highway, with plenty of power for easy passing. At light throttle, the 9-speed automatic shifts smoothly. With more throttle, the shifts get crisper. Electric-assist steering, light at parking-lot

speeds, firms up nicely on the highway, where there's none of the wander you might expect from such a large truck. Even though the Mercedes-Benz G-Class is a high-riding vehicle, body roll is kept in check by its well-damped suspension with anti-roll bars. The flat-plane glass windshield, so much a part of the G's character, makes it easy to see the road ahead, and the prominent fenders, topped by large directional signals, help the driver sense the front corners of the G550. One downside of driving such a blocky-shaped vehicle on the highway is a fair amount of wind noise. Off-road, the G550 unquestionably is one of the most capable SUVs. With three locking differentials, excellent power and stout suspension, it makes light work of tough trails and climbs that would be impossible in a crossover SUV.

Three locking differentials via three buttons on the dash, the G550's center, rear and front differentials can be locked, but only in that order. This gives the G550 an ability to climb hills like a mountain goat. The dynamic select drive system has five modes: Slippery, Individual, Comfort, Sport and Sport+. Basically, the response of the G550's engine, transmission, steering and stability control can be tailored to

meet driver preference.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class Interior Luxury has been heightened considerably in the 2019 G550, thanks largely to the use of top-quality leather and attractive wood veneers. We're glad Mercedes retained the prominent grab bar for the front passenger, and we also like how the traditional instruments have been replaced by an attractive and easy-to-read digital screen. The dashboard, with four prominent circular air vents, also features a push-button starter and an integral analog clock, this last item adding a touch of traditional ambience. The new G550 is 2.8 inches longer and rides on a wheelbase also increased by 2.8 in. As a result, Mercedes has found nearly six inches more rear legroom than before, plus an extra 1.5 inches up front. There's also 4.8 inches more shoulder room inside the new G. All this extra space is much appreciated, as is a new rear bench seat that folds and splits 60/40.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class exterior has succeeded with the look of the new G550. This new Mercedes SUV remains as boxy and upright as ever, still military in appearance and not mistaken for any other vehicle. Items such as the flat glass, exposed door hinges and external spare tire

add a back-to-basics feel, and even though the new G550 is a larger vehicle, it doesn't look that much bigger. A high-mounted tubular grille guard, unique to the G550, adds to the rugged look.

Mercedes-Benz G-Class standard twin-turbo V8, 9-speed automatic transmission and full-time 4-wheel-drive (4WD) system with three locking differentials aren't enough, consider that the Mercedes-Benz G550 is also equipped with LED headlights and taillights, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, a sunroof and a handy 360-degree camera that helps a bunch when parking the G in tight lots. Also standard: Brake Assist, Lane Keep Assist and Dynamic Select with five driving modes (Slippery, Individual, Comfort, Sport and Sport+).

The G550 is available with a \$12,200 Exclusive Interior Package that includes diamond-stitched Nappa leather, a Designo headliner and front seats with active bolsters and built-in massagers. You can also get a \$3,470 AMG kit that includes AMG body styling, flared wheel arches, a sport exhaust and brake calipers emblazoned with the words "Mercedes-Benz." If you're looking for a blacked-out G550, the \$1,990 Night Package should satisfy with exterior mirrors, spare tire cover, grille, brush guard and wheels all done in black, plus black-tinted headlights and directional signals.

The Mercedes-Benz G550 is powered by a twin-turbo 4.0-liter V8 that produces 416 horsepower and 450 lb-ft of torque. That's good for a 0-60-mph sprint of 5.6 seconds. Of note, the powerplant is a bit unusual in that its turbochargers are atop the engine, in the vee of the aluminum block as opposed to outside of it. One transmission is available, a 9-speed automatic that occasionally skips ratios for added efficiency during acceleration.

4.0-liter twin-turbocharged V8  
416 horsepower @ 5,250 rpm  
450 lb-ft of torque @ 6,175 rpm  
EPA city/highway fuel economy: 13/17 mpg

The Mercedes-Benz G550, which takes 100 hours to hand-assemble at the factory in Austria, has a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$124,500, plus a destination charge of \$995. Ordered with several options such as the Exclusive Interior Package, a G550 can touch \$150,000. Take note: That exceeds the base price of the almighty 577-horsepower Mercedes-AMG G63, which starts at \$147,500. Rest easy, though, because the desirability of a G-Class (and therefore its resale value) holds strong and steady over time. Before buying, check the KBB.com Fair Purchase Price to see what others in your area are paying for their new truck.





# TICKET WINDOW





# Shabu Shabu: A boiling pot of soup bliss



By Richard Pollak  
The Traveling Gourmet  
dallasentertain@aol.com

Shabu Shabu is a totally unique dining experience...one that I have never encountered before. I was actually mesmerized by what was in front of me.

Two giant hot pots of boiling bliss preparing to be invaded by the freshest ingredients. A compliment of dipping sauces awaited along with the thinnest slices of prime protein on the planet.



Traditional Japanese starters are elevated at Yoshi Shabu Shabu

A wide variety of Starters from the familiar Gyoza Dumplings, Edamame, Green Beans and a House Salad compete with a very unique Seaweed Salad or Gyudon Beef Ribeye, Karaage Chicken and Oyakodon Chicken which comes on top of a bowl of Rice or Noodles.

Yoshi Shabu Shabu also offers Ramune Japanese Soda available in three flavors; Original, Melon and Strawberry. Japanese children love the challenge of popping the top of the bottle to the Soda. A task that I didn't accomplish on my own

After the Starters, the main experience



The meal begins with an overflowing bowl of fresh cut veggies and Tofu

begins with a Hot Pot full of freshly cut Veggies and Tofu to cultivate the broth. There are a choice of 5 dipping Sauces to accompany the process as well as Rice.

The Sesame Peanut Goma, Citrus Ponzu, Garlic Teriyaki, Rayu Oil and Ichimi Pepper condiments are both traditional yet experimental to the taste and range from smooth to robust to hot as hell!



Kimberly guided us through the Yoshi Shabu Shabu process

When dining at Yoshi Shabu Shabu, one of their token staff members will expertly guide you through the preparation and cooking process. Once the hot pot is prepared, from one of their six signature base broths, its time to enjoy. You can choose from a traditional Kombu Seaweed, very spicy Capsaicin, soybean paste Miso, Tsuyu seasoned Soy Sauce, Tonkotsu is a rich and creamy pork broth and Sukiyaki which is sweet and savory with an Egg (which was expertly held back to add a rich glow to the final bowl of noodle soup.)



The Seafood is fresh and prepares quickly in the Hot Pot

The Seafood is fresh and prepares quickly in the pot. A beautiful presentation of Shrimp, Scallops and Salmon are all ready to dive into the pool. If you are a master of Chopsticks they are available or you can simply plunge these sea morsels or use the custom scoop. Do not over cook the proteins.

The New York Strip, Prime Beef Ribeye, Choice Ribeye come in seven sizes from a small with four pieces to Godzilla with 36 slices.

The Wagyu Beef Ribeye is the most marbled and flavorfull on the menu. It's the art of the quick dip that is so extreme!



Extremely thin sliced Meats make for extremely fast cooking

The protein is the start but certainly not a solo act as Veggies play an important role in the flavoring.



Rice topped with protein along with vegetables

The Chicken, Green Mussels and Berkshire Pork come in three sizes. You can add an additional Vegetarian platter with one of their three Noodles (Udon, Ramen or Maloney). With so many components to this meal everything goes into the pool and with expert guidance, add the remaining veggies to the Hot Pot of Soup to complete the ultimate bowl of bliss.



After mastering the art of the Hot Pot the soup is ready

And the hardest decision of all is dessert with a choice of a hard decision of Nom Nom Ice Cream Bars with flavors ranging from Coffee Oreo to Fruity Pebbles for the kids.

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- 4 (1 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
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