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Weekly

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Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2021

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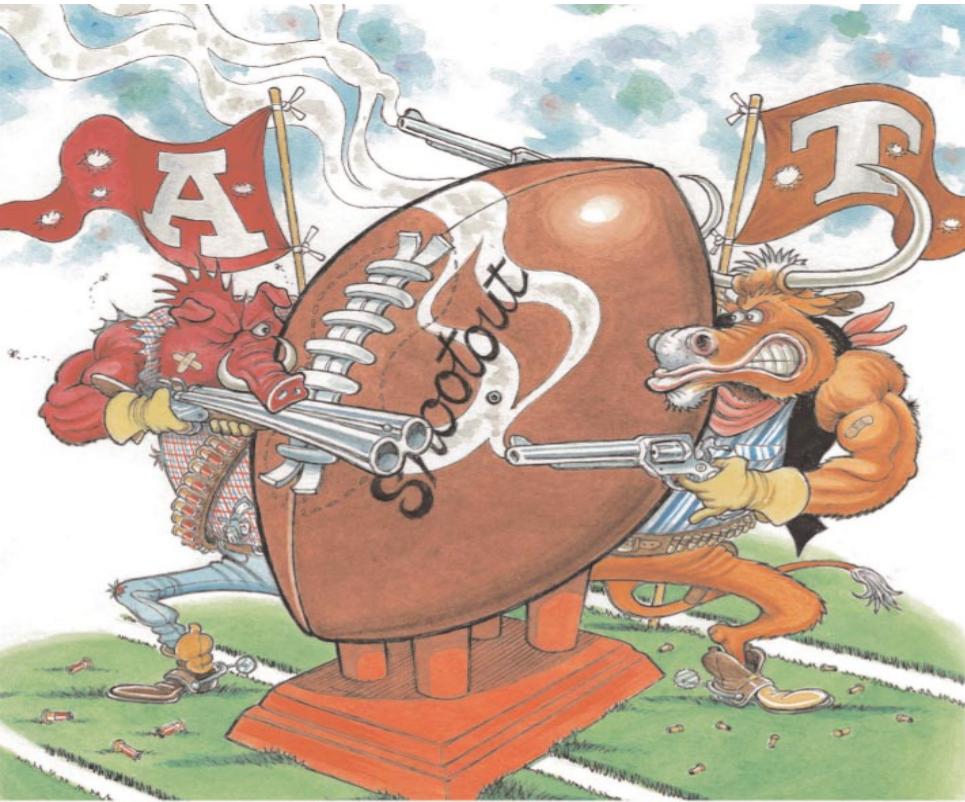


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BY MIKE LOONEY

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

TMS dirt track roars to life in 2021



With an unprecedented 18-date schedule capped by a \$50,000-To-Win super late model crown jewel

Texas Motor Speedway has reached agreement with motorsports promotor X.CELERATED of Silver Bay, Minn.-based for 18 nights of sprint car, Super Late Model and Modified racing in 2021 at the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track.

The exciting schedule includes The Revival in February for Modified cars, a NASCAR All-Star Race sprint car companion event in June, a Monday night summer series, and a \$50,000-to-win Super Late Model extravaganza in September.

"The Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track is an incredible opportunity" stated X.CELERATED CEO Barry Braun. "Dirt track racers, teams, and fans love this facility and yearn to race at this mecca. We believe our commitment to a robust schedule with grassroots sensibilities and customer service will help this place thrive."

X.CELERATED, which revitalized the Duel in the Desert at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in November 2020 and launched the upcoming March 15-20 Bristol Dirt Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway, has committed to a multi-year strategic business agreement with the half-mile Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track.

"The Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track has hosted some of the best dirt racing in Texas since the first race in 2000 so we're

proud to be working with Barry Braun and everyone at X.CELERATED to bring local fans a full schedule of competition in 2021," said Texas Motor Speedway President and General Manager Eddie Gossage.

The 2021 schedule kicks off Feb. 18-20 with "The Revival". Open (Outlaw) Modifieds, Limited Modifieds, Factory Stocks, Hornets, and Eco Mods will race with complete shows on Friday and Saturday. Tickets go on sale Feb. 1 at <https://racexr.com/>. Additional information, including entry and parking, will be released at that time.

The Dirt Track will fire off NASCAR All-Star Weekend with the All Star Sprint Car Showdown, June 10-11, featuring the Bandits Outlaw Sprint Series and supporting classes.

A major commitment for local racers will be take place from June through August with the Texas Monday Series. Working as a good neighbor by not booking on top of local schedules, the Texas Monday Series seeks to highlight the best of the area with an aggressive production and unprecedented promotion of the series racers. Open Modifieds, Limited Modifieds, and Factory Stocks will be the regulars highlighted with a once-a-month invitational class. The dates for the Texas Monday Series are June 21, 28, July 5, 19, 26, and August 9, 16, and 23.

The 2021 schedule will conclude with a bang as the Texas Dirt Nationals, scheduled for September 13-18, 2021, rock the Fort Worth facility featuring a number of grassroots classes and capped by a \$50,000-to-WIN Super Late Model crown jewel event on September 18, 2021.

Information on these events will be released in the coming weeks via texasdirt-track.com and facebook.com/texasdirt-track.

All of the X.CELERATED promoted events from the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track will be streamed on raceXR.com and the raceXR Apps, available on a number of devices, under the Monthly + Subscription.



WESTLAKE VILLAGE, Calif.- SMU men's golf team finished third at the Southwestern Invitational, as three Mustangs finished in the top 20 in a field that featured four ranked teams and five others receiving votes.

The Mustangs shot a 13-over 301 in the final round at North Ranch Country Club, with SMU closing to within three strokes of the tournament lead down the stretch. SMU finished with an 18-over 882, as San Diego St. won the event with a 10-over 874.

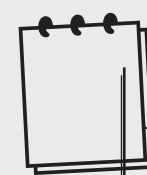
"It was a very tough day, as it was extremely windy and cold with tough pins," head coach Chris Parra said. "We had a couple of guys get off to rough starts, but I am proud of the way they fought back to make a comeback. We know what we need to work on before our next tournaments."

The Mustangs return to action Saturday, facing TCU in a match play event at Vaquero C.C in Westlake. The event is closed to the general public.

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. Michigan	5. Iowa
6. Creighton	6. Kansas
7. Kansas	7. Michigan
8. Iowa	8. Creighton
9. Wisconsin	9. Wisconsin
10. Tennessee	10. Tennessee
11. Houston	11. Houston
12. Clemson	12. Clemson
13. Illinois	13. West Virginia
14. West Virginia	14. Illinois
15. Texas Tech	15. Texas Tech
16. Missouri	16. Louisville
17. Oregon	17. Missouri
18. Louisville	18. Virginia
19. Minnesota	19. Duke
20. Virginia Tech	20. Virginia Tech
21. UCLA	21. Ohio State
22. Virginia	22. Oregon
23. Duke	23. Minnesota
24. Alabama	24. Saint Louis
25. Saint Louis	25. Uconn



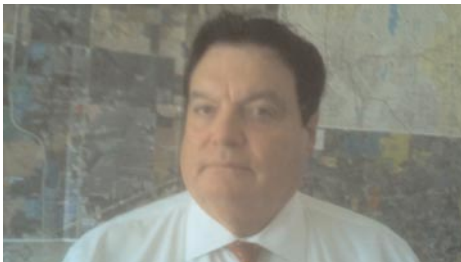
WEEKLY CALENDAR

	JANUARY 29 FRIDAY	JANUARY 30 SATURDAY	JANUARY 31 SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 1 MONDAY	FEBRUARY 2 TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 3 WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 4 THURSDAY
	Mavs at San Antonio 7:30 / FSSW	Mavs vs Rockets 7:30 / FSSW		Mavs vs Golden State 7:30 / FSSW		Mavs at Utah 8:00 / FSSW	
	Dallas vs Nashville 7:30 / KTCK		Dallas vs Nashville 7:00 / KTCK		Dallas vs Detroit 7:30 / KTCK		Dallas vs Detroit 7:30 / KTCK
		SMU at UCF 1:00 / KTCK			SMU at Memphis 7:00 / KTCK		SMU vs Memphis 6:00 / KTCK
		TCU vs Texas 5:00 / ESPN2			TCU at Kansas 7:00 / WBAP		

Mustangs tied for third in the AAC



The Mustangs are 5-3 in Conference play and tied with Memphis for third place in the AAC



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

The SMU Men's basketball team beat the Memphis Tigers Thursday night in Moody Coliseum to get a split this week after losing Tuesday night in Tennessee. Feron Hunt spearheaded the Mustangs' offense with 17 points on 7-9 shooting.

SMU led for most of the game and was able to withstand Memphis's late charge for a 67-65 win. The Mustangs go to 9-3 for the season and 5-3 in American Athletic Conference play. Memphis is 9-6 for the season and is tied with SMU for third place at 5-3 in the AAC.

The Mustangs played without Head Coach Tim Jankovich in attendance for the third straight game as he recovers from the Wuhan Virus. Assistants John Cooper and Yaphett King again assumed Jankovich's head coaching role. Cooper met with the media after the game and summarized the win by saying,

"We did a much better job of taking care of the basketball; and of course, I thought we did a solid job on the boards."

SMU turned the ball over 11 times Thursday night and forced 17 Memphis turnovers. The rebound contest was a draw with each team gathering 31, but SMU beat Memphis 11-7 on offensive rebounds to extend four additional possessions. Also, there was not the free throw disparity as there was in Tuesday's game when

Memphis shot 25 and SMU shot just six. SMU made 12 of 13 attempts Thursday night, while Memphis went 10-15 at the line.

SMU opened the game as they did Tuesday night with a 7-0 run. Unlike Tuesday night, the Ponies never relinquished the lead in the first half and went to the locker room ahead by double digits at 33-23. Hunt scored 13 first half points.

The Mustangs looked to make this an easy win with a good second half start. The 10 point halftime lead grew to 16 with 11:56 remaining. At that point, Memphis went on a 21-4 run to take their first lead of the game at 60-59 with 3:23 left in regulation. The largest lead for either team the rest of the way was four points, and there were four lead changes in the final four minutes of the game.

It came down to the Tigers' last possession with SMU leading 67-64. Boogie Ellis missed a three point shot to tie the game with three seconds left, but he was fouled on the shot giving him the opportunity to tie the game from the free throw line. He hit the first one but missed the second forcing a time out. He intentionally missed the third attempt, Hunt retrieved the rebound, and Memphis tied him up. The possession arrow gave the ball to Memphis presenting the Tigers one last opportunity to win or tie with 1.1 seconds on the clock. The Mustangs defended the in-bounds pass well such that Memphis never took a shot.

Hunt led SMU with 17 points. Emmanuel Bandoumel had 15 points and Ethan Chargois with 13 were the Mustangs' other double digit scorers. Tyson Jolly playing just his third game of the season grabbed six rebounds to lead the Mustangs. Memphis keyed on Kendrick Davis to hold him down to six points on 2-13 shooting, but he dished out eight assists.

Yor Anei turned in his usual two blocks protecting the rim.

Cooper commented on Bandoumel's recent play, which has put him in the conversation for All-Conference recognition.

"He's playing with confidence. He's not hesitating, and his teammates have confidence in him."

Bandoumel compared Thursday's win over Memphis to Tuesday's loss saying, "We played harder. I think we did a great job of being consistent."

Landers Nolley, II led the Tigers in scoring as he did Tuesday night in Memphis. He put in 19 points and was joined in double digit scoring by Deandre Williams with 17 points. Williams turned in a double-double with 11 rebounds, and Alex Lomax came off the bench to lead the Tigers with eight assists.

Getting at least a split with Memphis this week was crucial to the Mustangs chances of making the NCAA Tournament. Had Memphis won Thursday, the Tigers would have not only been one game ahead of SMU in the standings but would have given the Tigers the head-to-head tie breaker. Houston has all but mathematically locked up the regular season league championship. They are the only team in the AAC ranked in the Top 25. The AAC is likely just a two or three bid conference this season. The Memphis games were head-to-head competition for second place in the conference. Wichita State is certainly firmly in the race. The Shockers are in second place with a 4-2 conference record. Tulsa at 5-4 including a win over UH is in the NCAA Tournament picture too, and South Florida at 3-3 is not to be ruled out.

There is no question that the Mustangs got a shot in the arm with Jolly coming back. He played 29 minutes Thursday night, as his minutes total has increased

from game to game. Jolly admitted,

"I'm still trying to get used to it, especially coming off the bench. I'm still trying to get my wind and my legs underneath me."

He thought he needed another 10 days or so to get back to or very close to 100% conditioning-wise.

The Mustangs now go on the road to face the sixth ranked Houston Cougars in their on campus arena – the Fertitta Center. Houston is one of the top defensive and rebounding ballclubs in the nation. That is a major reasons why the Cougars have a 14-1 record, including 9-1 in AAC play. Game time is 12:00 noon (Central), and ESPN will televise.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: The South Florida at SMU game scheduled for Saturday, February 6 has been postponed because of contact tracing protocols in the USF program. SMU's game at Tulsa originally scheduled for Saturday, February 13 has been moved up to next Wednesday, February 3. Game time will be 8:00 PM (Central), and will be televised on ESPNU.

FOOTBALL: Jim Leavitt joined the SMU coaching staff this week as Defensive Coordinator. Leavitt has coached for more than 40 years in the NCAA and NFL. He comes to SMU from Florida Atlantic University, where he was also Defensive Coordinator. He replaces Kevin Kane, who left the Mustangs after three seasons to be Associate Head Coach at Illinois under Bret Bielema.

NOTABLE:

- Darius McNeill was out of Thursday's game with plantar fasciitis. Everett Ray was back and available to play but did not see action in the game.

- SMU has had the same starting five for all 12 games this season: Kendrick Davis, Feron Hunt, Emmanuel Bandoumel, Isiah Jasey and Ethan Chargois.

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Cliché Your Way around the Course



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

I always make it a priority to help golfers improve the golf swing and lower their scores. However, golf is a sport that lends itself to humor and a lot of times it can be self-deprecating.

Sometimes, a timely remark at the right moment can help break the ice, or put into perspective a poorly played shot. Let's be honest, no matter how good you are at the game, there will be times when you hit a gawd awful shot. Saying something that is funny, yet poignant, can really make a difference. So, this week I'm providing you with some ammunition next time you tee it up.

Some of these clichés, sayings, quotes, and one-liners can help you and your playing partners realize that golf is just a game and it should be played for fun.

Golf is a game in which the slowest people are in front of you, and the fastest are behind you most of the time.

Oxymoron: An easy par three.

Golf: A five mile walk punctuated by disappointment.

Golf is a game, invented by God to punish people who retire early.

Golf balls are like eggs. They're white. Sold by the dozen. And a week later you have to buy some more.

The man who takes up golf to get his mind off work soon takes up work to get his mind of golf.

Fairway: An unfamiliar tract of closely mown grass running directly from the tee to the green. Your ball can usually be found immediately to the left or right of it.

He claims it's no sin to play golf on Sunday, but the way he plays, it's a crime.

What must the golfer shoot to assure a tournament victory? - the rest of the players.

What's the difference between a bad golfer and a bad skydiver? A bad golfer goes WHACK! "Damn". A bad skydiver goes, "Damn". WHACK!

Many a golfer prefers a golf cart to a caddy because it cannot count, criticize or laugh.

Real golfers have two handicaps: One for braggin' and one for betting'.

Your golf game is so bad, you had to re-grip your ball retriever.

There is no game like golf: You go out with three friends, play 18 holes, and return with three enemies.

You spend more time on the beach than David Hasselhoff.

Homesick Gopher - A ball that goes straight in without using the lip.

Grow hair....Grow fangs....hit a house.... Deploy the chute...what you yell at a putt that needs to slow down.

Write when you get work - spoken to a putt that has just passed the whole and is still going hard.

Acne scars / Lunar landscape - unrepaired ball marks on the green.

Good punt - Hitting a shot straight up into the air.

Touch 'em all - Hitting your drive out of bounds.

Real golfers don't cry when they line up for their fourth putt.

When your shot has to carry over a water hazard, you can hit either one more club or two more balls.

These are from some famous faces that put their own spin on the game of golf.

1). *It took me 17 years to get 3,000 hits in baseball. It took one afternoon on the golf course.*— Hank Aaron

2). *If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.* — Jack Lemmon

3). *Playing golf today, I hit two good balls. I stepped on a rake* - Henny Youngman

4). *The only sure rule in golf is he who has the fastest cart never has to play the bad lie* — Mickey Mantle

5). *If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play at it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf* — Bob Hope

6). *Golf is a game in which you yell "fore," shoot six, and write down five* - Paul Harvey

7). *There are two things in life that don't exist very long. A dog that chases cars, and a pro who putts for par.*- Lee Trevino

These next few are bad golf shots named after some well-known personalities

- **A Vin Sculley** - When you hit a golf shot that is a skulled shot.

- **A Willie Nelson** - On the road again. When you hit a golf ball onto a road or path.

- **A Ted Kennedy** - When you hit a golf ball off a bridge into the water.

- **A O.J. Simpson** - When you hit a bad golf shot and somehow get away with it.

- **A Humphrey Bogart** - Here's lookin' at you, kid....refers to a bogey.

So next time you're out playing try some of these with your playing partners and 'may the course be with you'.

Tom Ward can be contacted at www.teetimetwithtom.com



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The First Look: Farmers Insurance Open



Marc Leishman won his fifth PGA TOUR title last year at Torrey Pines

By Adam Stanley
PGATOUR.COM Follow

The Farmers Insurance Open features a star-studded field -- including two-time FedExCup winner Rory McIlroy and past champion Jon Rahm -- from San Diego's scenic Torrey Pines Golf Course.

Marc Leishman, who won last year's Farmers Insurance Open for his fifth PGA TOUR title, returns to defend as golfers will once again take on Torrey Pines' North and South Courses.

FIELD NOTES: After withdrawing from The American Express last week with a tweaked back, Rahm is back in action at Torrey Pines. He won the Farmers Insurance Open in 2017 and was runner-up in 2020... McIlroy makes his first TOUR start of the calendar year after teeing it up in Abu Dhabi last week. He finished T3 at Torrey Pines a year ago... Three golfers in the top 10 of the FedExCup standings (as of Jan. 23) will tee it up at Torrey Pines: Harris English, Viktor Hovland, and Carlos Ortiz... Count Will Zalatoris as one of the sponsor exemptions this week. Zalatoris earned enough non-member FedExCup points in the fall to notch Special Temporary Membership, which allows him to accept unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the season. He currently leads the Korn Ferry Tour's Regular Season Points List... The past two U.S. Amateur

champions -- Tyler Strafaci (2020) and Andy Ogletree (2019) -- are in the field on sponsor exemptions. The two were teammates at Georgia Tech... Kamaiu Johnson, winner of last year's APGA Tour Championship, is making his TOUR debut. **FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Torrey Pines GC (South), 7,765 yards, par-72. Torrey Pines GC (North), 7,258 yards, par-72 (yardages subject to change). The North Course will once again be used for the first two rounds before golfers play their weekend rounds on only the South Course, which is set to host the U.S. Open later this year.

STORYLINES: Tiger Woods, a seven-time winner of this event, is sidelined after having back surgery... Two-time Farmers champion Jason Day will make his calendar-year debut this week. The 12-time TOUR winner is an equipment free agent this year and, per a report from The Australian, Day has begun working with Woods' former swing coach Chris Como... Jordan Spieth will also make his first start of 2021 at the Farmers Insurance Open. The former FedExCup champion is still searching for his previous form, having not won on TOUR since 2017... Leishman looks to become the event's fourth back-to-back winner. Only Woods, Phil Mickelson, and J.C. Snead have pulled the double... There's a robust group of local products

teeing it up at Torrey Pines, led by multi-time TOUR winner Xander Schauffele (who went to San Diego State), and of course, Mickelson -- who is coming to Torrey Pines after hosting The American Express.

72-HOLE RECORD: 266, George Burns (1987), Tiger Woods (1999).

18-HOLE RECORD: North Course record: 61, Mark Brooks (2nd round, 1990), Brandt Snedeker (1st round, 2007). Redesigned North Course record: 62, Jon Rahm (1st round, 2019), Ryan Palmer (2nd round, 2020).

South Course record: 62, Tiger Woods (3rd round, 1999)

LAST TIME: Leishman captured his fifth PGA TOUR title thanks to a sizzling Sunday 65 -- tied for the round of the day -- at the South Course. The Australian made things interesting late after he bogeyed the par-4 17th Sunday, but he knocked a wedge from 83 yards to just six feet on the 72nd hole and nailed the birdie to pull ahead of Rahm. Leishman made five birdies on the front nine Sunday to start to pull away

from all challengers, but Rahm did himself no favors going 4 over for his first five holes in the final round. Two-time Farmers Insurance Open winner Brandt Snedeker finished T3 alongside McIlroy. Tom Hoge finished fifth.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Friday, 3-7 p.m. ET (Golf Channel). Saturday, 1-3 p.m. ET (Golf Channel), 3-6 p.m. ET (CBS). Sunday, 1-3 p.m. ET (Golf Channel), 3-6:30 p.m. ET (CBS).

PGA TOUR LIVE: Thursday-Friday, 12 p.m.-7 p.m. (Featured Groups), Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Featured Groups), 3 p.m.-6 p.m. (Featured Holes), Sunday, 11:15 a.m.-3 p.m. (Featured Groups), 3 p.m.-6 p.m. (Featured Holes)

Radio: Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m.-7 p.m. ET. Saturday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. Sunday, 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m. ET (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGATOUR.com/liveaudio).

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Tales from Tiger's wins at Torrey Pines



First-hand memories from Woods' seven victories at the Farmers Insurance Open

By Ben Everill, Cameron Morfit and Sean Martin
PGATOUR.COM

Tiger Woods will not be in the field this week, but his presence still looms large at Torrey Pines. Few courses have done more to define his legendary career than the annual venue for the Farmers Insurance Open.

Woods has won at this scenic San Diego course since he was an amateur. His eight PGA TOUR wins here tie his own record for most at one course (he also has eight wins at Bay Hill, site of the Arnold Palmer Invitational Presented by Mastercard, and Firestone, the former venue for the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational).

He has won the Farmers Insurance Open seven times and authored that memorable playoff victory over Rocco Mediate in the 2008 U.S. Open. He was undefeated at Torrey Pines from 2005-08, winning five tournaments in a four-year span.

So, even with Woods sidelined after back surgery, let's relive his seven wins in the Farmers Insurance Open.

2013 Chasing 82 Tiger Woods wins 2013 Farmers Insurance Open

Final score: 68-65-69-72 (-14)

Position after 54 holes: 4-shot lead over Brad Fritsch

Winning margin: 4 strokes over Brandt Snedeker, Josh Teater

FRITSCH: "Fog rolled in Saturday and I think one group played one hole. I was in

the second-to-last group. We came back Sunday and played 25 holes and then finished Monday. Tiger and his group finished the seventh hole, as well, on Sunday so we were all going to start on the eighth tee. Admission was free Monday, so anyone could watch. We were driven to the tee in a van. We're coming down the hill and I'm like, 'Whoa, that's a lot of people.' It was 10 deep from tee to green and the grandstands were still up. I would have to guess there were 15,000 people on that par-3.

"The van is going really slow down the cart path and beeping its horn, but people aren't paying attention and they don't want to move. They wanted to get a good vantage point. They dropped us off at the tee box, and the six of us are waiting on the tee for 10-15 minutes for play to resume. I remember hitting first. This was the third event of my rookie year. So I get up there, I'm in contention and I'm just shaking. And, of course, Tiger is watching. It was my first experience with him. I just closed my eyes and swung as hard as I could. I hit a great shot to 4 feet. My birdie putt didn't even touch the hole.

"I birdied 17 and 18 just to make it respectable. (Fritsch shot 75 in the final round to finish T9.)"

2008 Final score:

67-65-66-71 (-19)
Position after 54 holes: 8-shot lead over Stewart Cink

Winning margin: 8 strokes over Ryuji Imada

CINK: "I played with Tiger in final rounds where he had a big lead a handful of times and it was always the same. It seemed like he was playing a Tuesday practice round –

he didn't seem too intense, but he was focused and that's the beauty of how he played back in those days. He just treated every shot the same whether it was a four-footer for par on the fourth hole of the first round or if it was a 20-footer that meant winning or getting into a playoff. He treated them all the same and it takes mental toughness to do that because your mind and your body, your hormones – everything starts to flood into your system and to control that and still be meticulously the same – it was what helped him beat a lot of people."

"It was a golf course that was just made for him. It was long, there was a lot of rough, it was a physical challenge, and he was physically superior to anyone else playing golf at that time. I don't remember thinking that I had any chance at all but if something weird happened like by some miracle he was four over through four or something I knew I had to be ready for that, but you just didn't feel even a glimmer of hope when we teed off. He just had everything going. He was driving it long and straight and was in complete control of his game.

"Fans loved to see Tiger really romp and smash us and win by a lot. Most tournaments when someone was winning by near double digits then TV ratings are down and the fans aren't all that excited by it. But when Tiger did it the ratings were always up, and the fans were electrified. It was no different on that week."

2007

Final score: 66-72-69-66 (-15)

Position after 54 holes: 2 shots behind Brandt Snedeker and Andrew Buckle

Winning margin: 2 strokes over Charles Howell III

HOWELL III: "We were paired together in the final round. On the ninth hole, he hit two incredible shots – a monstrous drive followed by a just as monstrous 3-wood on to the green probably about 40 feet long and right of the hole. Then on his putt the ball was probably still 10 feet from the hole when the left arm went up in the air and then the ball disappeared for eagle. I think that was when I got a real taste of Tiger Woods on a Sunday at Torrey Pines. The place went crazy.

"The crowds are clearly behind him but another factor that gets you as a player is you find yourself sucked in to watching him play. You are like, 'What's he going to do here?'" He would drive it in the rough and you knew he was going to make par, but you wanted to see how he was going to do it. Sure enough, he'd find a way.

"You feel like you are hopping in the ring with Mike Tyson and there is a pre-understood outcome. But at the same time, what an experience."

2006

Final score: 71-68-67-72 (-10)

Position after 54 holes: 1 shot behind Sergio Garcia and Rod Pampling

Winning margin: Won playoff over Jose Maria Olazabal and Nathan Green

GREEN: "It was my rookie year and just my second event. I was fifth in Hawaii and got to play with Vijay Singh in the final round and then at Torrey I was paired with Sergio Garcia and Olazabal in the third round. Then I was with Phil Mickelson in the final round. It was a bit of a baptism by fire and people were certainly saying, 'Who is this bloke?' I had just a few family members and there were a few Aussies in the crowd but on 17 when I missed my par putt I heard someone in the crowd say, 'You just lost the tournament.'

"Tiger was the final group behind us so with Phil in my group and him behind – it was chaos. I remember Phil's chip shot on 11 to get up-and-down for par from off the green was the best shot I'd ever seen. I holed out from 70-odd yards on 13 for eagle to either take the lead or join the lead. But I bogeyed 15 and 17 so I needed a birdie on the last.

"I knocked it on in two on 18. My approach was one of the best shots I ever hit. I had about 220 meters to the front of the green and I hit a good 3-wood and made a good two-putt after hitting the eagle putt 4 feet or so past. Tiger then needed birdie to join me and Olazabal and of course he did it.

"In the playoff I got a bit greedy. They



Woods had an eight shot lead over Stewart Cink after 54 holes

"In the playoff I got a bit greedy. They both missed the fairway and were going to lay up and I hit it pretty similar to regulation play. I didn't want to hit it back right again because that putt was quick down the hill and hard to get it within 5 feet, so I tried to get to the right section of the green, but I pulled it into the grandstand. I made a judgement call thinking one of them would make birdie after their layups, so I tried to get my chip really close and flubbed it. Then I chilly-dipped another one at that was the end of me. It was a really good chance had I not got greedy, but I guess I was trying to win. Olazabal then missed a really short putt on the next hole and Tiger won again."

2005

Final score: 69-63-72-68 (-16)

Position after 54 holes: 2 shots behind Luke Donald and Tom Lehman

Winning margin: 3 strokes over Howell III, Donald and Lehman

PETER LONARD: "We had a bunch of fog delays that week and I ended up paired with Tiger for the last 36 holes – I think we had to play about 31 of them on Sunday with no re-pairing after the third round. He probably wasn't even at his best, but he was clearly unbelievable at times, especially out of the rough."

"We started on the 10th in the third round and both hit driver and mine was 30 yards in front of him – I don't know if it hit something – but we were looking for it and the crowd was motioning further up and I couldn't believe it. I had a chuckle but felt like I was 50 yards behind him the rest of the way."

"I always got on great with Tiger. Maybe because I met him in the 1997 Australian Masters when I was still a club pro and I played with him on the Saturday."

"I remember Tiger hit it in the left rough on the par-5 13th at one point where everyone was just hacking it out from. He gouged it out to get it up near the green, which was incredible. I walked away from

that shot thinking not many guys in the history of the game could gouge it out from that rough and move it that far. It wouldn't matter how strong I was I didn't have that ability and not many did."

"No one really knew me out there - for 12 years people called me Justin Leonard – and I ended up a spectator as the tournament became between Tiger and Tom Lehman, who was also in the group. They were pretty neck-and-neck from memory until Tom bogeyed 17 to be one back. I remember Tom couldn't reach 18 in two but got to a good spot to wedge from. Tiger ripped it down the last but then mishit his iron and it landed between the pond and the rough so he had this really tight lie off a bit of a downslope and he just hit this unbelievable shot to maybe 10 or 15 feet. He was likely going to win with a two-putt but he didn't leave it to chance and knocked it home."

"The thing about Tiger – you could tell when it was really game on. He would have a different look. The best I saw was the World Golf Championship at Akron when Rory Sabbatini had said some things about Tiger being beatable or something like that. I was on the range that day when Tiger walked out and you just knew he was going to bury him and beat him by 20. It was like he had a 'Do not Disturb' sign around his neck – do not talk to me, I'm busy. And of course he did bury him – and everyone else."

2003

Final score: 70-66-68-68 (-16)

Position after 54 holes: 1-shot lead over Brad Faxon, 2-shot lead over Phil Mickelson

Winning margin: Beat Carl Pettersson (69) by 4

FAXON: "We had a lot of people, and I think because it was Phil's hometown, they were pulling for Phil over Tiger. As much as I was a competitor, I was a fan that day, too. I watched every shot both of them hit. It was exciting for me."



Beat Billy Ray Brown by two strokes in 1999

"Tiger was just starting back after knee surgery, and Phil had made the comments about his Nike equipment not being up to snuff. There was some animosity between them – I don't think it was noticeable while you were playing – but I went on Golf Channel and they asked me to wear a referee's shirt and be neutral because I knew them both."

"It took forever for the guy to announce Tiger's accomplishments on the first tee, and then it was just, 'Brad Faxon.' Nothing more. It was pretty funny. The technology was changing, but Tiger still teed the ball down, had a smaller-headed driver, and hit this laser that cut about five yards and split the bunkers and stopped in the middle of the fairway. Slight tip of the cap, if any."

"Throughout the round, he and Phil talked to me separately, felt like they had my confidence. It was kind of neat, really. Phil was talking about the birth of Sofia, and then Tiger comes to me, after half-listening, to tell me how irrelevant that story was. He was always good to play with, but there was a difference in Tiger that day. He had his game face on."

"My caddie was Tommy Lamb in the early 2000s; we called him Chop, Lamb Chop. He loved golf so much. We were on the 11th tee; this was a 225-yard shot downhill into the wind to that top-left pin, there was a tier. Tiger hit this 4-iron, and my caddie groaned. The sound was that good – like something he'd never heard before. The ball started 5 or 10 feet right of the flag, barely dropped to the left, and landed softly six inches from the hole for a tap-in birdie. It was the most perfect shot you've ever seen. Perfect, thin, bacon-strip divot. I've never had a divot look like that. Ever. It took the top of the grass and left the roots sort of growing. You wouldn't have even had to put sand on it. And it was the exact width of the club for about four or five inches. Tiger looked at Tommy and sort of smiled under his breath, if that's an expression."

"He made us look like amateurs that day, and by us, I mean Phil, too. Phil had ignited this equipment controversy, and Tiger just silenced him."

1999

Final score: 68-71-62-65 (-22)

Position after 54 holes: 1-shot lead over Billy Ray Brown

Winning margin: 2 strokes over Brown

BROWN: "I birdied the 16th to tie him. We both missed the green on 17, but he was over the green in this cabbage lie. I'm thinking I'm going to be up one shot coming into 18. I felt confident in that. He hits this shot that you would play Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday but you certainly wouldn't play Thursday, let alone Sunday. He had the nerve and the confidence and every intangible that you would want to pull that shot off. It was a terrible lie. He hit it to a foot. I was like, 'You have to be kidding me.'"

"I had the honor at 18. He hit a tee shot that made a different sound. We had been separated by 5-10 yards all day. This one was, 'See ya.' I was well over 200 yards away. He hit 7-iron for his second shot. I almost lost the ball in the air, it was that high. I walked past him and he just gave me a grin like, 'You like that, don't you, old man?'"

"Everyone talks about horses for courses. I certainly believe that. At Torrey, you have to hit every shot. You have to be able to move it both directions. You have to control your trajectory. He is phenomenal at controlling his distance. When you're around there at Nos. 10 and 11 and then 12, the distance changes once you get closer to the water. The weather will fluctuate. You have to get dialed in. He knew exactly how far he was going to hit those shots. And he's comfortable doing that and working the ball both ways off the tee. He is very, very good at formatting a gameplan off the tee based on where the hole location is."

NHL 2021 preview and predictions



By Sean Leahy

NHL 2021 season preview: Examining every team and the new divisions

Let's look at where every team stands heading into the condensed 2021 season

We're on the verge of a new NHL season, one that carries a lot of mystery and unknown as we approach opening night. Not only is it easy to forget a lot of the things that happened this offseason considering there's been months of inactivity, but there's also a temporary league realignment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With that in mind, it's a great time to take a look at teams and these new divisions to examine where every team stands heading into the condensed 2021 season.

CENTRAL DIVISION

Dallas Stars (37-24)

Last season: 82 PTS, 3rd in Central

At a glance: After finishing as runner-up in the Stanley Cup Final last season, the Stars will be looking to make another strong run in 2021. Their defense and goaltending remains excellent (especially considering they re-signed Anton Khudobin) but they still have question marks up front. A team that finished 26th in scoring will be without one of their best forwards, Tyler Seguin, until April as he recovers from a torn labrum.

Nashville Predators (35-26)

Last season: 78 PTS, 4th in Central

At a glance: Last year was a disappointing mess for the Predators, but they finished the regular season relatively strong before being eliminated by the Coyotes in the postseason play-in round. This year they're going to need to find more stability (especially in net) and it'll be interesting to see what they can accomplish in John

Hynes' first full year behind the bench.

Detroit Red Wings

Last season: 39 PTS, 8th in Atlantic

At a glance: Well, things can only go up, right? After a historically awful season, Detroit will be pushing forward with their rebuild. They're still a ways away from being relevant, but the hope is that their younger pieces will continue to develop and Steve Yzerman can continue to shape this roster with a long-term vision. They did take a flier on Bobby Ryan this offseason, so maybe he can find some redemption in Detroit.

Tampa Bay Lightning (43-21)

Last season: 92 PTS, 2nd in Atlantic

At a glance: The reigning Stanley Cup champs are returning most of their roster, including some pieces that we thought they'd have trouble re-signing (Mikhail Sergachev and Anthony Cirelli). However, they'll be without their best offensive player for the entire regular season, as Nikita Kucherov underwent hip surgery this offseason. Overcoming the loss of Kucherov will be challenging, but Tampa still has one of the deepest teams in the league and should be considered a favorite to win the Cup again.

Florida Panthers (35-26)

Last season: 78 PTS, 4th in Atlantic

At a glance: It was yet another frustrating season for the Panthers and they were ultimately bounced in the postseason play-in round. They finished 6th in the league in offense last season but they'll have a new-look group up front this year, adding Alexander Wennberg, Anthony Duclair, Patric Hornqvist, Vinnie Hinostroza and 2018 first-round pick Grigori Denisenko. That's nice and all, but the more pressing

question is whether they can play better in their own end and get better goaltending from Sergei Bobrovsky.

Columbus Blue Jackets (33-22)

Last season: 81 PTS, 6th in Metro

At a glance: CBJ always seems to play hard and tough under John Tortorella, so it's important to keep that in mind despite their underwhelming roster. They added Max Domi to their front end and Liam Foudy is making a push to be an integral part of the lineup, but the biggest story out of Columbus this offseason is the drama and trade rumors surrounding Pierre-Luc Dubois. Nobody seems to want to stay in Columbus.

Carolina Hurricanes (38-25)

Last season: 81 PTS, 4th in Metro

At a glance: Last year's first-round playoff exit was a disappointment but the Canes are still a fun team with a lot of exciting pieces. The ascent of Sebastian Aho / Andrei Svechnikov should continue to be a blast to watch. The defense is deep and impressive, but goaltending is still a question mark.

Chicago Blackhawks (32-30)

Last season: 72 PTS, 7th in Central

At a glance: The Blackhawks snuck into the postseason last year as the 24th seed in the expanded playoff and they actually won their play-in series against Edmonton, but it was a frustrating year on the whole. Unfortunately, things aren't shaping up to be much better this year. They've got some talent up front, but the roster is underwhelming, especially with the indefinite absence of Jonathan Toews (illness). That defense is still pretty brutal and now they've got a major question mark in net following the departure of Corey Crawford.

EAST DIVISION

Philadelphia Flyers (41-21)

Last season: 89 PTS, 2nd in Metro

At a glance: The Flyers took a big step forward last season and established some momentum with their current group. They were one of the most dominant teams in the league in the latter half of the year and they're bringing back pretty much the same group this year, though they'll have Oskar Lindblom and Nolan Patrick back in the mix. This is a strong team that may only get stronger as they continue playing together.

Pittsburgh Penguins (40-23)

Last season: 86 PTS, 3rd in Metro

At a glance: All things considered, the Penguins had a pretty good year for all the bad luck they suffered. They've still got an impressive front six that features Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin leading a solid supporting cast, but the depth is a concern. On the back end they finally got rid of Jack Johnson, but then replaced him with... Cody Ceci? Not great.

Washington Capitals (41-20)

Last season: 90 PTS, 1st in Metro

At a glance: The Caps came out on top in an ultra-tough Metro division last year before losing to the Islanders in the first round of the playoffs. Washington is returning most of its roster, but they did make some notable additions on the back end (Justin Schultz and Zdeno Chara) in an effort to clean up some of their defensive issues. The most intriguing storyline around the Caps might be Ilya Samsonov's first season pulling full-time duties in net.

Boston Bruins (44-14)

Last season: 100 PTS, 1st in Atlantic

At a glance: The Bruins won the Presidents' Trophy last year but eventually lost to the Lightning in the second round of the playoffs and didn't do a whole lot to get better this offseason. Their only significant addition was signing Craig Smith, who should be a nice depth piece, but they lost both Torey Krug and Zdeno Chara on the back end. That means they'll have some big-time question marks with unproven players on the left side of their defense this year. They'll also be without David Pastrnak for a least a month as he recovers from hip surgery. It seems fair to expect them to take a step backward this year.

Buffalo Sabres (30-31)

Last season: 68 PTS, 6th in Atlantic

At a glance: With patience running low and frustrations running high in Buffalo, the Sabres showed a little bit of urgency this offseason. They made a big splash by signing Taylor Hall to a one-year deal while also bringing in Eric Staal and Cody Eakin. Their top six looks pretty solid but they've got major depth concerns, the

defense is still in rough shape and goaltending is a bit iffy.

New Jersey Devils (28-29)
Last season: 68 PTS, 8th in Metro
At a glance: There was a lot of excitement and promise in New Jersey heading into last season but that didn't last long. This year, expectations are pretty low but the Devils do have some young players that will be looking to prove themselves -- and Jack Hughes, who had a tough rookie campaign, is probably at the top of that list. They did add Ryan Murray and and Corey Crawford in an attempt to solidify their back end a bit more this offseason.

New York Islanders (35-23)
Last season: 80 PTS, 5th in Metro
At a glance: The Islanders emerged as a Cinderella story in the playoffs last year, but will they be able to continue that magic into this season? They've thrived under the leadership and defensive system of Barry Trotz and they'll be bringing back most of their lineup (minus Devon Toews), so you certainly can't write them off -- even in a tough division.

New York Rangers (37-28)
Last season: 79 PTS, 7th in Metro
At a glance: The Rangers' rebuild is heading in the right direction, especially after landing Alexis Lafreniere with the top overall pick in the 2020 draft. Things are promising, but let's not get too ahead of ourselves -- they're still young and have some questionable, unproven players that are going to crack the opening night lineup, especially in the bottom six and on defense.

WEST DIVISION

Las Vegas Golden Knights (39-24)
Last season: 86 PTS, 1st in Pacific
At a glance: Vegas had an outstanding second half last season and entered the playoffs as a strong Stanley Cup favorite. They were ultimately knocked off by Dallas in the WCF, but the Golden Knights were aggressive this offseason, signing Alex Pietrangelo to a big deal in free agency and re-signing Robin Lehner . As such, the Knights carry one of the league's most complete rosters into this season and are a serious contender for the Cup.

St. Louis Blues (42-19)
Last season: 94 PTS, 1st in Central
At a glance: The Blues had a strong season last year, especially considering they went without their best offensive forward, Vladimir Tarasenko . They'll be without Tarasenko again to start this season, but they've added some reinforcements (Mike Hoffman , Torey Krug) to help beef up offensive production. Though they lost captain Alex Pietrangelo in free agency, the roster is still solid and they're almost guaranteed a playoff spot in the weakest division.

Colorado Avalanche (42-20)
Last season: 92 PTS, 2nd in Central
At a glance: The Avs have been trending upwards for a few years thanks to their high-end talent and budding young stars. This year they enter the season as odds-on

favorites to win the Stanley Cup. They have an outstanding group of forwards led by perennial Hart contender Nathan MacKinnon and a very strong defensive group led by reigning Calder winner Cale Makar . That defensive group added Devon Toews and could also see the addition of promising prospect Bowen Byram this year. This is indisputably one of the best teams in the NHL, top-to-bottom.

Anaheim Ducks (29-33)
Last season: 67 PTS, 6th in Pacific
At a glance: The Ducks are still very much rebuilding and transitioning to a new core, but they have some exciting young pieces in the system and they could start seeing the future come clearer into focus this season. Trevor Zegras is coming off another outstanding performance at the World Juniors and, while there's no guarantee he makes the opening night roster, he may have an opportunity to be an impact player this year.

Phoenix Coyotes (33-29)
Last season: 74 PTS, 5th in Pacific
At a glance: "Going for it" didn't exactly work out for Arizona last year and they lost Taylor Hall to free agency. They've got a new leadership group in place after the sudden departure of GM John Chayka, so this could be somewhat of a transition/bridge season for the Yotes. They may very well compete for a playoff spot in this division, but the roster doesn't exactly scream serious contender.

San Jose Sharks
Last season: 63 PTS, 8th in Pacific
At a glance: Last season was a disappointing mess for the Sharks , who were expecting to be Cup contenders but instead finished with the 3rd-worst record in the league. It's tough to gauge where this team is at -- they've still got talent but there's not a lot of depth and things could easily go south fast, especially in a season with so much unpredictability. Goaltending has been a complete disaster for this team in recent years and it'll be interesting to monitor if Devan Dubnyk helps at all ... but I wouldn't bank on that.

Minnesota Wild (35-27)
Last season: 77 PTS, 6th in Central
At a glance: Minnesota has been an unspectacular, middling team for a while now and that's probably not going to change this year. That being said, there is some reason to be optimistic about the direction in which this team is headed, and we may start seeing that come into picture this season with the arrival of Kirill Kaprizov. The forward group is solid, but the strength of the team still lies in the defensive group. Goaltending could be a mess, though.

Los Angeles Kings (29-35)
Last season: 64 PTS, 7th in Pacific
At a glance: The Kings are still too old and have too many holes to be taken seriously but they have a very good prospect pool --- including newcomer Quinton Byfield, the No. 2 overall pick in last year's draft. If there's anything to keep an eye on,

it's which of those prospects cracks the lineup and how they perform/develop this year. The future is the only thing that matters for this team right now.

NORTH DIVISION

Toronto Maple Leafs (36-25)
Last season: 81 PTS, 3rd in Atlantic
At a glance: It was a disappointing regular season followed by another first-round exit for the Maple Leafs last year, and now patience is really running thin for this core to accomplish something. That being said, there's still hope and promise heading into this year. The forward group remains very strong and T.J. Brodie has been added to the back end. But expectations and hype mean nothing if they're not followed by results, and nobody knows that more than Toronto at this point. It'll be interesting to keep an eye on how they deploy Joe Thornton, especially considering he's been slotted in as a top-line winger beside Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner early in camp.

Calgary Flames (36-27)
Last season: 79 PTS, 4th in Pacific
At a glance: It's tough to gauge exactly where Calgary stands at this point. They've got a lot of nice pieces both up front and on the blue line, and they addressed a big need at the goaltender position with the addition of Jacob Markstrom this offseason. They could be somewhat of a dark horse, but this is a team that has a tendency to be really hot or really cold, so...

Edmonton Oilers (37-25)
Last season: 83 PTS, 2nd in Pacific
At a glance: Despite getting unreal seasons from Connor McDavid and reigning Hart-winner Leon Draisaitl, the Oilers were once again bit by their lack of depth and a weak back end. That being said, Kailer Yamamoto emerged as a solid ancillary piece on the wing and Edmonton's addition of Dominik Kahun could provide another support winger. Keep an eye on Kyle Turris and Tyson Barrie too, as they're two players looking for a fresh start in Edmonton.

Montreal Canadiens (31-31)
Last season: 71 PTS, 5th in Atlantic
At a glance: The Habs are an intriguing team in this division, especially after putting together a surprisingly exciting playoff run last year. A few of their young pieces down the middle (Nick Suzuki and Jesperi Kotkaniemi) are starting to bud, and Montreal has added some support pieces in Josh Anderson, Tyler Toffoli, Corey Perry and Michael Frolik. This team could take a step forward this year, especially if Carey Price returns to top form.

Winnipeg Jets (37-28)
Last season: 80 PTS, 5th in Central
At a glance: Sort of the same old story for Winnipeg here this year -- they've got a stacked top-six up front (the Paul Stastny re-acquisition was a nice move) but the depth is shaky and the defense is suspect, at best. They're probably going to need Connor Hellebuyck to remain in Vezina form if they want to make noise.

Vancouver Canucks (36-27)
Last season: 78 PTS, 3rd in Pacific
At a glance: Vancouver emerged as a very fun, albeit imperfect, young team last season. They're led by one of the most promising superstars in the league in Elias Pettersson, who could be a Hart candidate this year, and they could see another exciting youngster (Nils Hoglander) crack the lineup this year. The defense also improved with the addition of Nate Schmidt, but there are some unproven pieces that they're going to lean on, including goaltender Thatcher Demko. Behind Demko is Braden Holtby, who's hoping for a bit of new life after some down years in Washington.

Ottawa Senators (25-34)
Last season: 62 PTS, 7th in Atlantic | **At a glance:** They're probably still going to be pretty bad but the silver lining is that the rebuild is looking promising. They continue to add young prospects to the pipeline and we could see a few new faces have an impact this season, including Tim Stuetzle, Erik Brannstrom and Josh Norris. The addition of Matt Murray in net could help them out too, but they better hope the change of scenery helps him rediscover his old self because that contract they gave him was a little generous.

NHL Predictions for 2021	
East Division	1. Philadelphia Flyers
	2. New York Islanders
	3. Washington Capitals
	4. New York Rangers
	5. Boston Bruins
	6. Pittsburgh Penguins
	7. Buffalo Sabres
	8. New Jersey Devils
	Central Division
	1. Tampa Bay Lightning
West Division	2. Dallas Stars
	3. Carolina Hurricanes
	4. Columbus Blue Jackets
	5. Nashville Predators
	6. Florida Panthers
	7. Detroit Red Wings
	8. Chicago Blackhawks
	West Division
	1. Colorado Avalanche*
	2. Vegas Golden Knights
North Division	3. St. Louis Blues
	4. Minnesota Wild
	5. Arizona Coyotes
	6. Los Angeles Kings
	7. San Jose Sharks
	8. Anaheim Ducks
	North Division
	1. Toronto Maple Leafs
	2. Calgary Flames
	3. Montreal Canadiens
Stanley Cup Final	4. Vancouver Canucks
	5. Edmonton Oilers
	6. Ottawa Senators
	7. Winnipeg Jets
	*Presidents' Trophy: Avalanche
	Series: Flyers vs. Golden Knights
	Winner: Golden Knights
	Conn Smythe Trophy
	Robin Lehner

Stars will make another run in 2021



There is no reason to think that the Stars cannot get back into the postseason

Dallas Stars 2020-21 NHL season preview

By Mike McFee

The 2020-21 NHL season is almost here so it's time to preview the Dallas Stars.

Dallas Stars 2019-20 Rewind

Record: 37-24-8 (82 pts.); third in Central Division; fourth in Western Conference

Leading scorer: Denis Gurianov (20 goals); Tyler Seguin (50 points)

It was an eventful season for the Stars. They opened by losing eight of nine, then won 14 of their next 16 games. In December, head coach Jim Montgomery was unexpectedly fired for "unprofessional conduct." Interim head coach Rick Bowness steered the ship the rest of the way, but Dallas entered the March pause on a six-game losing streak.

Despite the ups and downs, the Stars' points percentage put them fourth in the West and earned a spot in the Return to Play Round-Robin.

Dallas began the postseason losing four of their first six, and an injury to Ben Bishop opened the door for Anton Khudobin to step in. A comeback was on against Calgary in the First Round, then they ended up knocking out the favored Avalanche in seven games. During the Western Conference Final, they needed just five games to eliminate the Golden Knight. In the Stanley Cup Final, the Stars took Game 1 against the Lightning, but would ultimately drop three straight before falling in six games.

In November, the Stars learned that Bishop and Tyler Seguin would be out until around April. The off-season surgery to Bishop made re-signing Khudobin a wise, wise move by GM Jim Nill.

Additions

Mark Pysyk (signed as free agent), Julius Honka (returns after a season in Finland)

Subtractions

Roman Polak (signed with Vitkovice HC of Czech Republic), Martin Hanzal (retired), Corey Perry (signed with Montreal), Mattias Janmark (signed with Chicago)

3 Most Interesting Dallas Stars

- **Anton Khudobin:** A great playoffs led to the netminder signing a three-year, \$10M extension in October. After posting a .945 even strength save percentage in the regular season, he went .929 in the playoffs during the team's run to the Cup Final. With seven back-to-backs this season, Khudobin will get plenty of rest as he shares the crease with Jake Oettinger until Bishop gets healthy. He's shown since arriving in Dallas he can handle a split load, but he will certainly be the go-to starter and leaned upon heavily in meaningful games.

- **Joel Kiviranta:** He played only 11 games during the regular season but made his presence felt in the playoffs. The 24-year-old netted a hat trick, including the overtime winner, in Game 7 against the Avalanche, and followed up with two more goals in limited ice time. With Bowness a big admirer, Kiviranta will likely have an increased role in 2021. "He's undaunted by anything out there," Bowness said during the playoffs. "He's not intimidated by one thing. He's a great little competitor. Is it nice to see him get rewarded with goals? Yes. Are we surprised at that? Yes. Did we expect that kind of effort? Yeah, that's what we saw when we played him earlier in the year."

- **Jamie Benn:** The captain's production has decrease in the last two season and with Seguin out for a while, he'll need to find his old form. While Denis Gurianov and Roope Hintz stepped up with 39 combined goals last season, Benn will get the spotlight if the goals are slow to come. (You wonder, even though he's moved from CEO to chairman, will that prevent Jim Lites from speaking out again?) Only

Detroit scored fewer goals (91) at even strength last season than Dallas (109). Benn and Seguin had 25 together at even strength, while Miro Heiskanen (8) and John Klingberg (4) led the way from the back. Dallas was a very strong defensive team last season. Will a mediocre offense prevent them from taking another step forward?

Best-Case Scenario

There is a new look to the Central Division this year with Tampa, Carolina, Columbus, Florida, and Detroit joining and Colorado, Minnesota, and St. Louis moving to the West, while Winnipeg plays in the North. The schedule makes banking points an important factor and there is no reason to think, despite the injuries to Seguin and Bishop, that the Stars cannot get back into the postseason. Bowness' approach worked with a team that needed an injection of positivity. With more familiarity between the players and coach, that can only lead to more progress.

Worst-Case Scenario

Khudobin regresses and throws the goaltending situation into flux, the offense struggles to find goals and even Seguin's return isn't enough to save them. A 56-game schedule doesn't allow for much time for slumping, and with only four teams in each division making the postseason there's not a lot of time to "find chemistry" or "figure things out," something many teams use early season action to do.

The lineup consists of 23 active players, as well as six players on the Taxi Squad

by Dallas Stars Communications

Dallas Stars General Manager Jim Nill announced this week the team's roster for opening night. The 2020-21 roster consists of 23 active players, as well as six players on the Taxi Squad, three players on injured non-roster and one player on the non-roster list. The opening night roster includes 13 forwards, eight defensemen and two goaltenders, while the Taxi Squad consists of three forwards, two defensemen and one goaltender.

For the 10th consecutive season, the Stars will open their campaign at American Airlines Center as the club faces the Nashville Predators on Friday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The Stars are scheduled to play their first four games at American Airlines Center before traveling to Carolina to open their road portion of the schedule against the Hurricanes on Jan. 30.

Prior to the start of Friday's game, the 2020-21 Dallas Stars team will take part in an on-ice banner raising ceremony, recognizing the team's 2019-20 Western Conference Championship. The banner raising ceremony will pay tribute to the club's success in the Edmonton bubble dur-

ing the 2020 Stanley Cup Playoffs, in which the Stars reached the Stanley Cup Final for the fifth time in franchise history, and the third time since the club moved to Dallas in 1993-94.

FOX Sports Southwest Plus will provide complete coverage of the opening night festivities beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Stars Live, featuring host Brien Rea and analyst Brent Severyn. Color analyst Daryl "Razor" Reaugh and play-by-play announcer Josh Bogorad will call the action on FOX Sports Southwest Plus and Sportsradio 1310 and 96.7 FM The Ticket as the Stars begin the 2020-21 NHL season.

Forwards (13)

Jamie Benn, Nicholas Caamano, Andrew Cogliano, Ty Dellandrea, Jason Dickinson, Justin Dowling, Radek Faksa, Denis Gurianov, Roope Hintz, Joel Kiviranta, Joe Pavelski, Alexander Radulov, Jason Robertson

Defensemen (8)

Taylor Fedun, Joel Hanley, Miro Heiskanen, John Klingberg, Esa Lindell, Jamie Oleksiak, Mark Pysyk, Andrej Sekera

Goaltenders (2)

Anton Khudobin, Jake Oettinger

Taxi Squad (6)

Landon Bow, Rhett Gardner, Thomas Harley, Julius Honka, Tanner Kero, Joel L'Esperance

Injured Non-Roster (2)

Ben Bishop, Stephen Johns, Tyler Seguin

Non-Roster List (1)

Blake Comeau

Experience

The Stars roster entering the 2020-21 season has a combined 9,229 regular-season games of experience. The 23 skaters on the active roster comprise 6,866 of those games, having a combined 3,382 points (1,302-2,080=3,382). The two goaltenders have a combined record of 99-76-25 in 218 career games. Pavelski is the most experienced player on the team, sitting at 1,030 games played in his career. Forward Ty Dellandrea (0 GP) and goaltender Jake Oettinger (0 GP) have the fewest NHL games played on the opening night roster as both yet to skate in an NHL regular-season contest.

Opening Night Roster By Country

Canada - 10, Finland - 4, United States - 3, Russia - 2, Czech Republic - 1, Kazakhstan - 1, Slovakia - 1, Sweden - 1

Opening Night Roster By Size

Average Height: 74 inches - 6'2", Tallest:

Oleksiak (79 inches - 6'7"), Shortest:

Cogliano and Dowling (70 inches - 5'10")

Average Weight: 201.7 pounds, Heaviest:

Oleksiak (255-pounds); Lightest: Cogliano (175-pounds)

Average Age: 27.5, Oldest: Pavelski (36),

Youngest: Dellandrea (20)

College Football News and Notes



The Chiefs will be seeking back to back SB titles after winning in 2020 over the 49ers



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The field for Super Bowl LV is set for Feb. 7 in Tampa, Fla. Tampa Bay will be playing in its second Super Bowl after winning Super Bowl XXXVII in 2002 in its only previous appearance. The Buccaneers also will be first team to host a Super Bowl in the 55-year history of the contest. The Kansas City Chiefs will be seeking their first back-to-back SB titles after winning the 2020 extravaganza over the San Francisco 49ers. The Chiefs almost had a rematch of Super Bowl I against the Green Bay Packers before Tampa Bay upended the Packers 31-26 in Green Bay. The Chiefs are 2-1 all-time in Super Bowls after downing Minnesota in the 1970 contest in New Orleans, La. The game pits 43-year-old veteran and 10-time Super Bowl

QB Tom Brady of Tampa Bay and Michigan against 2019 NFL MVP and 25-year-old phenom QB Patrick Mahomes of KC and Texas Tech. Chiefs head coach Andy Reid and the Chiefs are seeking to become the first NFL squad and coach to win back-to-back Lombardi Trophies since the Pittsburgh Steelers and head coach Chuck Noll captured the Super Bowl in 1978 and '79.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell activated a Zoom call last week to notify administrators and leaders of approximately 7,500 frontline healthcare workers that they would be attending Super Bowl LV Feb. 7 in Tampa, Fla., with complimentary tickets. The state of Florida is allowing 14,500 additional spectators for the Super Bowl to bring the sellout tally to 22,000 tickets distributed.

Austin (Texas) College and Trinity (Texas) are less than two weeks from starting the 2021 college spring regulation season in San Antonio, Texas.

The NFF saluted all those who played a critical role in 2020 during the pandemic to ensure that the players, coaches and fans had the opportunity to experience the game in safe environments.

"The college football community just concluded the most challenging football season in our lifetimes as the global pandemic has impacted every aspect of life,"

said NFF chair Archie Manning. "This summer, the college football season appeared uncertain, but as fall approached the leaders of our sport rallied. They found ways to address health and safety concerns, and thanks to their herculean efforts and many sleepless nights, the season happened, albeit with a few twists and turns.

"It's been truly remarkable, and everybody has had to make sacrifices," he continued. "The players, the coaches, administrators, parents, fans, bowl organizers, medical staff, all top a truly endless list of people who made the season happen. We especially want to salute the 10 commissioners in the FBS and the leadership of the College Football Playoff and the bowl games for all they did to create experiences for the student-athletes who play our game, many for their coveted final senior seasons, while realizing there were countless others who had to sit on the sidelines because of the pandemic."

Specifically, the NFF would like to salute NCAA FBS conference commissioners Mike Aresco (American), John Swofford (ACC), Bob Bowlsby (Big 12), Kevin Warren (Big Ten), Judy MacLeod (C-USA), Dr. Jon A. Steinbrecher (Mid-American), Craig Thompson (Mountain West), Larry Scott (Pac-12), Greg Sankey (SEC), Keith Gill (Sun Belt), and the leaders at the four independents (Army, BYU, Liberty, and Massachusetts) who played this season, as well as College Football Playoff executive director Bill Hancock, whose staff just staged its seventh successful CFP National Championship, and the leaders of the 25 postseason bowl games that concluded the 2020 season. The CFP has been an important addition to the college football landscape the past seven years.

Former Delaware Blue Hens freshman team wide receiver and U.S. President Joe Biden is now the fifth president to attend or graduate from a school that sported a future NFL Super Bowl-winning quarterback, according to a USA Today report. President Biden joins fellow Super Bowl connections – Delaware (Mr. Biden and QB Joe Flacco), Michigan (star football center Gerald Ford and QB Tom Brady), Navy (Jimmy Carter and NFF College Hall of Fame QB Roger Staubach), Stanford (football manager Herbert Hoover and Jim Plunkett, John Elway), and Miami (Ohio) (Benjamin Harrison and Ben Roethlisberger). Mr. Biden also attended Super Bowl LII between the winning Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots as well as the 2011 NCAA Division I Football Championship as a special guest of Delaware, which lost a 20-19 squeaker at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas, to Eastern Washington.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Jan. 26-Feb 1 time period are Jan. 26 (1899) Marty Below, Oshkosh, Wis.; (1905) Allyn McKeen, Fulton, Ky.; (1906) Fred Miller, Milwaukee, Wis.; (1926) John Merritt, Falmouth, Ky.; (1948) Mike Kelly, Troy, Ohio; (1950) Jack Youngblood, Jacksonville, Fla.; (1960) Jeff Davis, Greensboro, N.C.; Jan. 27 (1894) Fritz Pollard, Chicago, Ill.; (1907) Peter Pund, Augusta, Ga.; (1920) Frankie Albert, Chicago, Ill.; Jan. 28 (1937) Charlie Krueger, Caldwell, Texas; Jan. 29 (1896) Edwin "Goat" Hale, Jackson, Miss.; (1927) Arnold Galiffa, Donora, Pa.; (1945) Jim Donnan, Laurens, S.C.; Jan. 30 (1925) Bump Elliott, Detroit, Mich.; (1923) Frank "Muddy" Waters, Chico, Ga.; Jan. 31 (1909) Bert Metzger, Chicago, Ill.; (1913) Don Hutson, Pine Bluff, Ark.; (1913) Wayne Millner, Roxbury, Mass.; (1938) Chris Burford, Oakland, Calif.; (1953) Roosevelt Leaks, Brenham, Texas; Feb. 1 (1908) Albie Booth, New Haven, Conn.; (1915) Gaynell "Gus" Tinsley, Ruple, La.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Jan. 26 (1965) Harry Stuhldreher, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (1983) Paul "Bear" Bryant, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; (1996) Frank Howard, Clemson, S.C.; Jan. 27 (2008) Mike Holovak, Ruskin, Fla.; (2011) Vaughn Mancha, Tallahassee, Fla.; Jan. 28 (1991) Red Grange, Lake Wales, Fla.; (2004) Elroy Hirsch, Madison, Wis.; Jan. 28 (2013) Doug Kenna, No. Palm Beach, Fla.; Jan. 30 (2017) Don Coleman, East Lansing, Mich.; (2018) Clyde Scott, Little Rock, Ark.; Jan. 31 (1945) Al Blozis, Vosges Mountains, France; (1992) Mel Hein, San Clemente, Calif.; Feb. 1 (1928) Joe Thompson, Beaver Falls, Pa.; (1989) Everett Bacon, Southampton, N.Y.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Jan. 26 Mike Kelly, Jack Youngblood, Jeff Davis, Jan. 28 Charlie Krueger, Jan. 29 Jim Donnan (a spry 75), Jan. 31 Chris Burford (a spry 83), Roosevelt Leaks...

Tarleton State will travel to Portland State for an Oct. 9 skirmish...SMU and TCU will continue their DFW Metroplex Battle for the Iron Skillet through the 2024 season. The 2020 meeting between the teams was cancelled due to COVID-19 situations...Ohio will host Duquesne in 2021...North Carolina Central, Marist and Dayton have postponed their football seasons until the fall semester..Texas Wesleyan will open the spring portion of its 2020-21 slate on Friday, Feb. 19, at Southwestern Assemblies of God. The Rams closed the fall outing at 1-1 and rescheduled fall

(Continued on page 14)

opponent Wayland Baptist for Saturday, March 6, in Plainview, Texas.

Sacred Heart athletics publicist Aaron Gaberman, a childhood cancer survivor, is working through his personal Berni & Murcer Foundation, to help young cancer patients with comfort dolls and encouragement messages. Gaberman became friends with former New York Yankees and fellow brain cancer patient Bobby Murcer (who signed a football scholarship with Oklahoma before inking a baseball bonus contract out of high school with the Yankees; he also later served in the U.S. Army) before Murcer passed away from cancer in 2008 and dedicated the B&M Foundation in Murcer's memory...Southern Miss athletics inaugurated the #McNelis Strong Campaign with special silicone wristbands for student-athletes, staff, fans and teams nationwide to encourage head women's basketball coach Joye Lee-McNelis who has been diagnosed with a recurrence of breast cancer...The Miami Heat will utilize special sniffing dogs to check on possible COVID-19 cases among attending fans, players, coaches, and staff.

New Marshall head coach Charles Huff has inked a four-year contract with the Thundering Herd...Idaho State head coach Rob Phenicie had his contract extended through Jan. 20, 2023, with an updated base salary...Purdue has tabbed former Charlotte head coach Brad Lambert as co-defensive coordinator...Liberty head coach Hugh Freeze and former Tennessee standout TE and current active NFL star Jason Witten have been mentioned as some possibilities for the Tennessee Volunteers new head coach...LSU's new defensive coordinator is former NFL New Orleans Saints assistant coach Ryan Nielsen...Cincinnati has chosen former Michigan State assistant coach Mike Tressel as its defensive coordinator...Tennessee head coach Jeremy Pruitt has been relieved of his duties. Former Baylor head coach and 2020 Auburn interim head coach Kevin Steele has been appointed as interim Volunteers head coach...Tennessee assistant coaches Brian Niedermeyer and Shelton Felton have left the program...SMU offensive coordinator Garrett Riley is the younger brother of Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley and a proud native of famed **Muleshoe, Texas**...Alabama chose former NFL Jacksonville Jaguars head Doug Marrone as its new offensive line coach...Boise State added former Utah State co-defensive coordinator Stacy Collins as special teams coordinator...Marshall offensive coordinator Tim Cramsey will be retained on the 2021 staff...Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian almost has completed his 2021 assistant coaching staff with the appointments of defensive coordinator Pete Kwiatkowski, offensive line coach Kyle Flood, quarterbacks coach A.J. Milwee, special teams/tight ends coach Jeff Banks, running backs coach Stan Drayton, and receivers coach Andre Coleman. Another linebackers coach's hire still is in the offing, and former Arizona

head coach Mike Stoops was considered but decided to follow another coaching path. Former Montana State head coach Jeff Choate has become the Longhorns inside linebackers coach and co-defensive coordinator...The updated LSU defensive coordinator's position is to be determined, and Minnesota Vikings defensive backfield coach Daronte Jones is noted as a leading candidate...North Texas has hired former SMU head coach, Baylor, Arizona State, Texas A&M defensive coordinator Phil Bennett as its new defensive coordinator...Former Notre Dame assistant director of football strength and conditioning Robert Stiner is moving to Southern California as director of football sports performance...Jackson State head coach Deion Sanders asked the help of Jackson, Miss., area police and neighborhood watch groups after having his truck robbed and vandalized last week...South Carolina athletics and former head coach Will Muschamp have settled on the payout amount and timetable for his severance agreement.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches – Texas Tech: Matt Wells, Columbia, S.C.; UTEP: Dana Dimel, Columbus, Ohio; UTSA: Jeff Traylor, Gilmer, Texas; Toledo: Jason Candle, Salem, Ohio; Trinity (Conn.): Jeff Devanney, Hartford, Conn.

Former UCF director of athletics Danny White is the new AD at Tennessee....Tennessee standout and NFF College Hall of Fame QB Peyton Manning and former UT assistant/Duke head coach David Cutcliffe had a solid impact on White's ascension to the AD's post...Some of the leading early candidates to replace Fulmer at Tennessee in communications with UT administrators and media were East Carolina AD Jon Gilbert, UAB AD Mark Ingram, Austin Peay AD Gerald Harrison, and Middle Tennessee senior associate AD David Blackburn...Some additional candidates mentioned early in the hiring process for Tennessee's new AD position were Virginia Tech AD Whit Babcock, Texas Tech AD Kirby Hocutt, North Texas AD Wren Baker, Arkansas State AD Terry Mohajir, Florida Atlantic AD Brian White, New Mexico AD Eddie Nunez, Clemson deputy AD Graham Neff, Georgia State AD Charlie Cobb, East Tennessee State AD Dr. Daryl Carter, and South Carolina deputy AD Chance Miller, among others...Tennessee deputy AD and chief operation officer Reid Sigmon (formerly an executive with the College Football Playoff) is serving as acting AD, and the Parker Executive Search Firm assisted in the location of new AD Danny White as well as the Volunteers new head coach....White's five-year compensation package as AD is the fourth-highest among public colleges and carries an annual five percent incentive raise...Georgia AD Josh Brooks has pledged \$100,000 for need-based financial aid scholarship fund for students from the Athens-Clarke County area...UNLV AD Desiree Reed-Francois and

Kentucky AD Mitch Barnhart also were under consideration, according to published reports, for two recent NCAA FBS AD's openings...Texas Tech named former UCF deputy AD for student-athlete success Brandi Stuart as executive senior associate AD and senior women administrator...The Duke Chronicle added UCF AD Danny White (who accepted the same position at Tennessee), Louisville AD Vince Tyra and Texas Tech AD Kirby Hocutt to the growing list of possible candidates for the vacant Duke AD's position before White accepted the Tennessee's AD post...Boise State AD Jeremiah Dickey inked a five-year contract with a two percent annual raise plus performance bonuses...Washington State AD Pat Chun spoke of ways to finish the college basketball season without additional delays and ways WSU is coping with the health and safety of student-athletes for football and all other sports...Ohio State AD Gene Smith spoke of how the Buckeyes plan to implement the delayed NCAA names, images and likenesses' compensation packages. Sportico also featured Smith on its list of dignitaries for its research story How AD's Calendars Logged College Sports' Season of Disruption with daily remembrances of the Ohio State AD's 2020 calendar from March 15-Sept. 27...Monmouth AD Marilyn McNeil will retire at the 2020-21 academic year with 28 years of leading Hawks athletics...Ole Miss AD Keith Carter is working with various publics to help finance capital improvements and a new capital campaign primarily for football but to assist the department sports-wide.....Utah AD Mark Harlan observed that Utes athletics had completed most of its necessary staff furloughs and was awaiting the continued results of COVID-19 vaccinations and the progress of the virus to dictate remaining winter and spring sports activities as well as the completion of renovations at Rice-Eccles Stadium with a projected July finish...Arkansas AD Hunter Yurachek estimates that his the department will have a 2020-21 shortfall of \$25-30 million due to COVID-19 conditions. He also approved of No. 1 nationally Connecticut replacing opt-out Vanderbilt Thursday on the women's basketball schedule...Kent State's AD vacancy has procured several candidates from leading college athletics' circles such as Golden Flashes deputy AD of external operations Casey Cegles, Lynn (Fla.) AD Devin Crosby, Texas Tech senior associate AD for academic services Greg Glaus, Norfolk State senior associate AD for external affairs Mike Hermann, National Youth Sports Nevada vice president Justin Phelps, Old Dominion senior associate AD for sport administration and student-athlete welfare Randal Richmond, Mid-American Conference senior associate commissioner for championships and sport development Jeff Bacon, Case Western assistant vice president for global development and principal gifts Matt Geis, SIU Edwardsville AD

Tim Hall, KSU executive director of philanthropy and alumni engagement Jennifer Kulics, and UCF executive associate AD for revenue generation Patrick Ransdell, and former Towson AD Mike Waddell...Tennessee chancellor Dr. Donde Plowman was credited with taking quick action in responding to NCAA football recruiting allegations earlier this month...Mississippi State athletics has advertise for an assistant coordinator of creative video...Xavier (Ohio) athletics is seeking an assistant director of compliance...UCLA has posted a position for a new senior associate AD for communications...The Illinois State Board of Trustees approved a \$46,000 bonus for retiring president Dr. Larry Dietz for his academic and leadership performance....Washington State president Dr. Kirk Schulz spoke of some of the challenges awaiting the new Pac-12 Conference commissioner and opportunities for the circuit to advance among the Power Five conferences.

Pac-12 Conference commissioner Larry Scott will be completing his 11-year tenure in summer 2021 with a search committee ready to look at candidates for the post. Oregon president and Pac-12 CEO Group chair Dr. Michael Schill is working with a committee to move expeditiously to choose a successor. To date, there is no search firm employed for the circuit...Some of the possible successors for the Pac-12's top slot are Stanford AD Dr. Bernard Muir, Alabama's Greg Byrne, Ohio State AD Gene Smith, West Coast Conference commissioner Gloria Nevarez, Fox Sports president of national networks Mark Silverman, Clemson AD Dan Radakovich, former NCAA executive and West Virginia AD Oliver Luck, ESPN's Burke Magnus, Arizona State AD Ray Anderson, UCLA AD Martin Jarmond, former U.S. Secretary of State and Herbert Hoover Distinguished Professor at Stanford Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and NFL International chief operating officer Damani Leech...Abilene Christian, Lamar, Sam Houston State, and Stephen F. Austin will join the WAC July 1, 2021 - a year earlier than the previous 2022-23 academic year. The WAC is expected to resume football competition in autumn 2021 as well...CBS Sports noted there is a chance that the Big Ten Conference might be considering moving its postseason tournament from Chicago to Indianapolis...Big Ten commissioner Kevin Warren was applauded for taking actions for sportsmanship issues in men's basketball and men's hockey...Montana, Montana State, Northern Colorado, and Portland State have opted out of the spring 2021 football season, and eight teams will compete in six conference contests to determine the Big Sky Conference title....The Big 12 Conference released its 2021 league-only baseball schedule with 24 conference-only encounters and up to 32 non-circuit clashes...The Southern Conference baseball schedule will include 10 three-game series with a March 19-21 and two

divisions...West Coast Conference commissioner Gloria Nevarez addressed how her league considered a possible bubble in the Las Vegas, Nev., area to complete men's and women's basketball.

The Mercari Houston Bowl is hoping to continue its sponsorship agreement beyond last month's contest in Houston, Texas, between Mercari and the HB staff...Cricket Wireless is the new title sponsor of MEAC/SWAC Kickoff Challenge and 2021 Celebration Bowl...Offerpad and the Arizona Bowl are seeking to extend the group's sponsorship for the contest..... Memphis WR Javon Ivory had one of the top five showings for receiving yards during the 2020-21 bowl season with 126 yards in the Montgomery Bowl...Coastal Carolina QB Grayson McCall (named to the FWAA Freshman All-America Team) just missed leading the Chanticleers back during a comeback effort against Liberty with 318 passing yards in the FBC Mortgage Cure Bowl.

Alabama extended its all-time victories' (44) and bowl games played (73) NCAA records with a pair of College Football

Playoff triumphs and its 12th Associated Press national championship since AP began college football ratings in 1936 ...The Football Reference website recalled several present or defunct bowls, which were not played in post-2020. Among these postseason tussles are the original Alamo (last played in 1947), All-American/Hall of Fame Classic (1990), Aloha Classic (2000), Aviation (1961), Baccardi (1937), and Makers Bahama Bowl (2019, scheduled again in 2021).

Some leading members of the 2020 FWAA All-America team are QB Spencer Rattler, Oklahoma; RB Ulysses Bentley IV, SMU; RB Kyren Williams, Notre Dame; WR Kayshon Boutte, LSU; WR Marvin Mims, Oklahoma; WR Tahj Washington, Memphis; OL Matt Goncalves, Pittsburgh; and OL Jeremy James, Ole Miss, among others...Former North Texas standout RB Tre Siggers is coming to SMU as a graduate transfer for '21...Former South Carolina QB Ryan Hilinski has transferred to Northwestern...Texas A&M received 2022 verbal signing commitments from state Class 6A champions Katy (Texas) HS defensive end Malick Sylla and from Austin (Texas) Westlake QB Cade Klubnick ...Former Tennessee offensive lineman Wanya Morris has transferred to Oklahoma...St. Louis, Mo., rising high school junior WR standout Christopher Brooks is the son of standout Nebraska and NFL wideout Chris Brooks...Texas Tech QB Alan Bowman has entered the '21 NCAA transfer portal...Former LSU linebacker Ray Thornton is transferring in graduate status to Texas...Penn State sports four 2021 transfers who may figure prominently in some areas of the Nittany Lions game plans. They are RB Johnny Dixon of South Carolina, DE Arnold Ebiketie of Temple, grad transfer RB John Lovett of Baylor, and grad transfer DT Derrick

Tangelo of Duke...Canadian Football League media mentioned the draftability of the University of Calgary's (Canada) Logan Bandy and 2020 Ole Miss transfer LB Deane Leonard who started his career at Calgary...The 247Sports website reports 1,467 NCAA FBS football student-athletes utilizing the NCAA Transfer portal since Aug. 1, 2020. Some recent notables are former Penn State QB Micah Bowens to Oklahoma, former Nebraska WR Wan'Dale Robinson to Kentucky, former Georgia AB Tyrique Stevenson to Miami (Fla.), and Memphis grad transfer DB TJ Carter to TCU.

NFF College Hall of Fame coach Philip Fulmer is seeking another career path as he will retire in coming days from Tennessee as director of athletics. He had served as UT AD for four years after retiring as the Vols head coach in 2008. He also was special assistant to the president in helping bring back varsity football at East Tennessee State in 2015. His current compensation contract runs through Dec. 31, 2023...Former Air Force, Ohio State and NFL linebacker Anthony Schlegel will serve as the new strength and conditioning coach for head coach Urban Meyer with the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars...Former Texas A&M and NFL standout Dan Campbell now heads the NFL Detroit Lions coaching staff...Former Pacific, NFL quarterback and pro head coaching great Tom Flores was highlighted for his head coaching record with the Oakland Raiders against NFL Professional Hall of Fame mentors Don Shula, 6-1; Chuck Noll, 3-1; Bill Parcells, 3-1; Marv Levy, 3-5; Bill Walsh, 2-1; Bill Cowher, 2-1; and Tom Landry, 2-1, among others. Flores also is featured in a Coors Light commercial with his grandson and a likeness of Flores on the beverage's cans...Connecticut head women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma spoke of passing late and fellow Naismith Hall of Fame coach Pat Summitt of Tennessee-Martin and Tennessee for second place on the all-time women's coaching victories' list with 1,100 wins and counting – all at UConn.

The \$65 million Gary and Barbara Rodkin Academic Success Center opened at Rutgers last week with support for 700-plus student-athletes with offices and workout facilities for multiple sports in addition to the academic areas...UCLA athletics gained a \$1 million donation from an anonymous and longtime philanthropic couple with funds earmarked for the football program...Murray State athletics received a \$100,000 donation for the Clear the Track campaign to assist the Racers football from alumnus and former football student-athlete student-athlete Scotty Crump and his wife Debi...In spite of COVID-19 devastation, Auburn athletics posted its largest surplus since 2008 because of some solid, early management techniques...Some multiple, three-dimensional architectural renderings for a rebirthed Houston Astrodome, former home

of the Houston Cougars, the NFL Houston Oilers and MLB Houston Astros, were demonstrated as Houston city officials are looking at several proposals for new usages ...Vanderbilt's women's basketball team has opted out of the rest of the 2020-21 season due to COVID-19 contact tracing and multiple contact tracing challenges ...There have been 19 men's and women's basketball and winter sports teams affected by COVID-19 contact tracing or positive testing...Detroit Mercy's women's basketball team scrubbed the remainder of the season for the same reasons last week ...Wyatt, Dunagan and Williams, Inc. is producing new commemorative Texas A&M Aggies ceramic football helmet savings' banks...The Illinois men's gymnastics conducted what is believed to be the first virtual meet in NCAA history against Northern Illinois with each team competing in its own facilities and livestreaming to the meet's judges. In the early 1980s the Southwest Conference held its Swimming and Diving Championships in similar fashion at campus settings as members blindly faxed (in the days before social media) swimmers' times and divers' marks to the conference office in Dallas for compilation and meet scoring. A massive ice storm that remained intact for three days prevented essentially all plane and bus or van travel prior to and during the meet...Connecticut athletics reported a fiscal year 2020 deficit of \$43.5 million budget primarily because of finances lost with the cancelation of the American Athletic Conference and NCAA tournaments...Dozens of commissioners and ADs from all five levels of college athletics told AthleticDirectorU about their favorite books read in 2020 and suggestions for further reading...North Carolina athletics will lay off personnel to delete three percent of its annual budget and slice operating expenses by 15 from 2021-23 to alleviate COVID-19 related expenses. The university estimates a total loss of \$200 million for all departments during 2020-21 because of the pandemic...The California Interscholastic Section, governing body for high school sports in the Golden Gate State, has cancelled all fall sports activities already postponed until spring 2021 until August...Duke athletics' fiscal year revenue setback due to COVID-19 conditions now is estimated at \$36 million-plus, but fundraising activities and updates on the operating budget will create a final budgetary gap of \$5-7 million.

Former ESPN commentator Trey Wingo has moved over to an announcing position with the PGA Tour Live Network...Mississippi Today online newspaper opined about board members, administrators and athletics' personnel of publicly-funded chartered schools needing to follow statewide ethics and legal policies in making their decisions...Learfield IMG College has selected former Bandai Namco vice president for marketing Eric Hartness as its vice president for eSports...The Athletic spoke of some possible solutions to NCAA

FBS governance outside the NCAA model. Suggested candidates for a designated commissioner for the new super group are former Big Ten Conference commissioner Jim Delany, Stanford head coach David Shaw, ESPN vice president Stephanie Druley, SEC commissioner Greg Sankey, Alabama head coach Nick Saban, and Ohio State AD and 2007 NFF John L. Toner Award recipient Gene Smith...The Athletic also spoke of the continued challenges to winter sports seasons and how the NCAA and conferences are working on short-notice scheduling, postponements and cancellations...Sports Illustrated did a research and speculation story about how the presidency of former Delaware Blue Hens wideout Joe Biden and the new configuration of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate might affect future NCAA names, images and likenesses' compensation and enforcement policies. Florida already has a state NIL law, which takes effect in July ...The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel newspaper spoke of former UCF AD Danny White's rejection of previous AD departure offers from Southern California and Georgia and how he has helped the Knights grow as a department of athletics through the years ...Yahoo Sports recalled some of the glory days of Western Athletic Conference football with national stars such as NFF College Hall of Fame All-America RBs Marshall Faulk of San Diego State and LaDainian Tomlinson of TCU along with QB Ty Detmer of BYU...The Chicago Tribune newspaper had a front page story about the impact of former Northwestern AD and incoming Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner Jim Phillips on the program for the last 13 years...The Athletic mentioned that the Pac-12 Conference needs a school like Alabama, Ohio State or Michigan in football, Duke or North Carolina in baseball and continues to be at a bit of a disadvantage because of late evening (and early morning) telecasts from the Pacific Time Zone in all sports ...The Athletic also spoke of a possible split by Power Five football conferences and possibly the Group of Five loops from the NCAA to establish continuity and a broad-based profitable financial model for their respective universities through the girdiron sport. The online publication also mentioned a combination of governance by NCAA and NFL executives for rules and enforcement purposes...The Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star had its most extensive and in-depth interview with Nebraska head coach Scott Frost for a story series last Friday...Former ESPN show hosts John Skipper and Dan Le Batard are working with investors to start a new, sports-centered Meadowlark Media Network...The NBC Sports Network will close later this year with such sports as the NHL, NASCAR and the Tokyo Olympics moving to programming on the USA Network and the Peacock webstream...Opendorse surveyed FBS schools and found that Penn State had the

(continued on page 16)

largest athletics joint communications, creative, graphics, and video office with 25 employees followed by Texas A&M (24), Virginia Tech (23), Alabama (21), and Ohio State (21). Georgia leads all communications' offices nationally with 16 dedicated employees for media relations and related areas.

The FWAA is starting the year with an active membership drive via its official website FWAA.com. Potential members also can sign up for the basketball writers' organization at USBWA.com and baseball writers via NCBWA.com with special discounts for multiple memberships on these groups...Maurice Williams of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Cody Linn of Marshall, Ryan Bjork of Sacramento State, Wes Bloomquist of Texas Tech, and Nancy Yasharoff of the Sun Belt Conference were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter...Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Maryland, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Purdue-Fort Wayne, Southern California, Tennessee, and UCLA are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship indicated its play-in contests will begin March 18 in the Indianapolis, Ind., with First Four games at Purdue's Mackey Arena and Indiana's Assembly Hall. The Sweet 16 will be March 27-28 with Elite Eight contests on March 29-30 prior to the Final Four April 3 and 5 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis...Nationally known economist Dr. Andrew Zimbalist of Forbes magazine has called for a possible NCAA limited and conditional antitrust exemption to help the organization financial stability similar to the old Major League Baseball antitrust exemptions, which were overturned in the late 1960s...The Indianapolis Star wrote about the NCAA's dedication to playing the 2021 Men's Division I Basketball Championship and how the NCAA's projected \$868 million in television rights for '21 and an anticipated \$178 million through championship sponsorships, attendance and the NIT, which the NCAA owns...NCAA vice president for enforcement Jon Duncan addressed several recent investigations, some of which began just over three years ago, and spoke of some of the frustration in the slowness of the overall process. Presently, there are at least 11 schools working with NCAA enforcement on these allegations...The NCAA told media groups that there will be a NIT and WNIT played this year with dates and sites to be determined...The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee is allowing a one-year waiver for non-.500 overall percentage candidates for the 64-team postseason tournament as at-large selections due to dozens of COVID-19 pauses, game and season cancellations...The postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympics are set to begin tentatively in late July if COVID-19 conditions will allow

spectators, meet officials and media...The NCAA's Social Series interviews featured the Center for Disease Control's Dr. Erin Sauber-Schatz on the latest developments in the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of nationwide vaccinations. Dr. Sauber-Schatz also has two degrees from Texas A&M and is a solid supporter of Aggies athletics.

2020-21 College Football Playoff Bowl Schedule with New Year's Six Games

(All Games Televised by ESPN, Eastern)

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 (CFP Semifinals) – EST start times

Rose Bowl presented by Capital One
CFP Semifinal

Alabama 31, Notre Dame 14
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas

Allstate Sugar Bowl

Ohio State 42, Clemson 28
New Orleans, La.

Monday, Jan. 11

CFP Championship

Alabama 52, Ohio State 24

Miami, Florida

Wednesday, Dec. 30-Jan. 2 (Other New Year's Six Bowls)

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Goodyear Cotton Bowl

Oklahoma 55, Florida 20

AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas,

Friday, Jan. 1-Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl

Georgia 24, Cincinnati 21

Atlanta, Georgia

Sat., Jan. 2 - PlayStation Fiesta Bowl

Iowa State 34, Oregon 17

Glendale, Ariz.,

Capital One Orange Bowl

Texas A&M 42, North Carolina 28,

Miami Lakes, Florida

2021-22 College Football Playoff Bowl

Schedule with New Year's Six Games

(All Games Televised by ESPN, Eastern)

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021 (CFP Semifinals & Championship Jan. 10) – Tentative EST

Goodyear Cotton Bowl

AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas,

4 or 8 p.m.

Capital One Orange Bowl

Hard Rock Stadium

Miami Lakes, Fla., 4 or 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 10 - CFP Championship,

Semifinal Winners

Lucas Oil Stadium

Indianapolis, Ind., 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 30. 2021-Jan. 1, 2022

(Other New Year's Six Bowls)

Thurs., Dec. 30 – Chick Fil-A Peach

Bowl Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Atlanta, Ga., TBD

Fri., Jan. 1 – PlayStation Fiesta Bowl

State Farm Stadium

Glendale, Ariz. TBD

Friday, Jan. 1 –

Allstate Sugar Bowl

Mercedes-Benz Superdome

New Orleans, La., TBD

Friday, Jan. 1 – Rose Bowl presented by

Capital One

Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, Calif.

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Between Crossover SUV and Hatchback



By kbb.com

The Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 straddles that vague ground between crossover SUV and hatchback. This subcompact vehicle has the much-loved raised driving position and offers all-wheel drive. But whereas most crossover SUVs tend to be a bit more (or a lot more) imposing, the GLA 250 makes a little less of a splash.

Overall, the GLA 250 is charming, credibly representing affordable luxury as it competes against rivals like the Audi Q3, BMW X2, Infiniti QX30, Lexus UX and Volvo XC40. However, a redesigned Mercedes GLA is just months away, and if you can wait, we recommend doing so.

Driving the Mercedes-Benz GLA Given the modest width and length of the GLA 250, it feels about as stable and planted as it's possible to be. These dimensions make it easy to park, helped by the light steering, and the GLA feels perfectly at home in towns and suburbs.

On the freeway, it's about as quiet as a good mainstream car, but a little more sound insulation wouldn't go amiss in a premium vehicle like this. Similarly, the ride quality is comfortable and connected, but not quite convincing as a luxury car. Our thoughts on the dual-clutch automatic transmission's shift action run along the same lines.

The turbocharged engine, however, is eager and punchy, a pleasant complement to the GLA's nimble handling. Some drivers might not like the noticeable way the engine's fuel-saving stop/start feature kicks back in, but they can easily turn it off if they can't get used to it.

Even with the best of intentions, there are times when your concentration wavers. Or you just might not notice something.

Annoyingly, those occasions often occur at the worst possible time, and that's why it's great to have another unblinking eye on the road ahead, and with the ability to apply the brakes if necessary.

This technology is perfect for traffic jams on your daily commute. Pressing a button keeps the brake applied, such as when stopped at a red light. So the driver can relax that foot a little before stepping on the accelerator pedal.

The usual elegance Mercedes-Benz displays in its cabins is certainly evident in the GLA 250, but look a little closer and some of the plastics used are more mainstream than premium in terms of quality. For the GLA to be the company's least expensive crossover SUV, some cost-cutting has to happen somewhere. Besides, everything seems to be built well enough.

Being a subcompact, the 2020 GLA 250 is far from roomy, but space for rear passengers is acceptable for average-sized adults providing those in front aren't above average in height. With the rear seats flipped down, total cargo space is 43.6 cubic feet. For some context, the VW Golf compact hatchback has 52.7.

Whether or not you think the GLA 250 is a real SUV, it certainly has some of the same attitude with a chunky grille and fake skidplates on the lower front and rear fascias of the all-wheel-drive version. Clearly, the GLA is sleeker than a typical SUV, too, especially in comparison to the new boxy Mercedes-Benz GLB.

Crossover SUV? High-riding hatchback? Whatever it is, it's arguably easy on the eye. The GLA is also unmistakably a Mercedes-Benz, with the prestige that accompanies the name.

Despite the GLA's status as an "entry-

level crossover SUV," it still comes with plenty of premium equipment as standard. The long list includes a power liftgate, automatic dual-zone climate control, 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, selectable driving modes, 14-way power-adjustable front seats with memory settings, a high-resolution 8-inch infotainment display, and keyless entry/ignition. Standard safety features include forward-collision warning with automatic emergency braking and driver-attention monitoring.

All-wheel drive (known as "4Matic" in Mercedes jargon) costs an extra \$2,000, bringing an Off-road driving mode, a dedicated display and downhill-speed regulation.

Additional options include leather seats, lane-keeping assist, blind-spot monitoring, adaptive cruise control, a 360-degree camera system, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto smartphone integration, Wi-Fi, ambient LED cabin lighting, a hands-free tailgate, a panoramic sunroof, LED headlights, heated front seats, a Harman Kardon audio system upgrade, remote start/lock/unlock, and a semi-autonomous parking feature. In other words, many of the items offered for larger, truly luxurious vehicles are available for the GLA 250.

A turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine provides a healthy 208 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque when burning premium unleaded gasoline. This is sent to the front wheels in standard form (FWD), or all four with the 4Matic system (AWD), through a 7-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Steering-wheel-mounted shift paddles give the driver manual control over the transmission.

In performance terms, the sprint from standstill to 60 mph takes 7.2 seconds, or

7.1 seconds with all-wheel drive. These numbers provide no reason to make new entries in the record books, but represent satisfactory performance for most people on most roads.

For greater enjoyment, the Sport driving mode sharpens throttle response and delays transmission upshifts to give the GLA 250 a little extra verve.

2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4
208 horsepower @ 5,500 rpm
258 lb-ft of torque @ 1,200-4,000 rpm
EPA city/highway fuel economy: 24/34 mpg (FWD), 23/31 mpg (AWD)

The Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 has a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$34,250. Add the \$995 destination charge for \$35,245. The 4Matic AWD system runs another \$2,000.

For a premium vehicle, the GLA is priced attractively. Fight the urge to be impulsive, though, when consulting the options list. It's possible to spend close to \$3,500 on supplemental driver aids alone. Throw in a few comfort and convenience amenities, and the bottom line easily zips past the \$40,000 mark and well on the way toward \$50,000.

Compared to other vehicles like the GLA, the Audi Q3 and BMW X2 cost a little more, while the Lexus UX and Volvo XC40 cost a little less. The Infiniti QX30, which shares a platform and powertrains with the GLA, as well as many interior parts, costs several thousand dollars less than the Mercedes.

Before buying, check the KBB.com Fair Purchase Price to see what others in your area are paying for their new GLA 250. According to KBB, resale value is not as favorable as the Lexus UX and Volvo XC40.

Which Mercedes-Benz GLA Model is Right for Me?

Mercedes-Benz GLA 250
18-inch aluminum wheels
MB-Tex simulated-leather upholstery
Dual-zone automatic climate control
14-way-power front seats
Forward-collision warning w/automatic emergency braking
Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 AMG-Line
19-inch AMG-design aluminum-alloy wheels
AMG-design body kit
Perforated front-brake discs
Painted front-brake calipers
Black interior headliner
Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 Premium Package
Satellite radio w/free 6-month trial period
Passive keyless entry system
Hands-free power liftgate
Heated front seats
Blind-spot-monitoring system



TICKET WINDOW



DALLAS MAVERICKS COVERAGE



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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