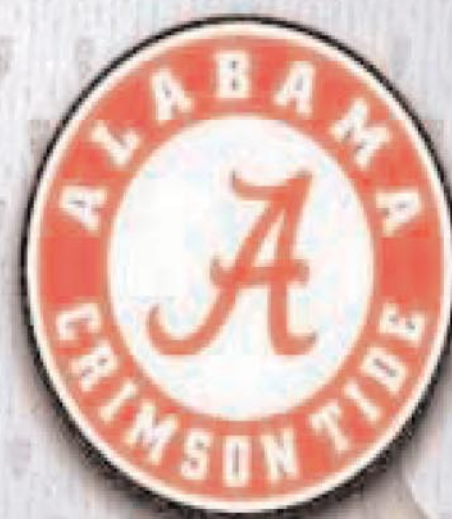


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Weekly



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MIAMI 2021

Jan. 8 - Jan. 14, 2021

Vol. 19, Issue 20

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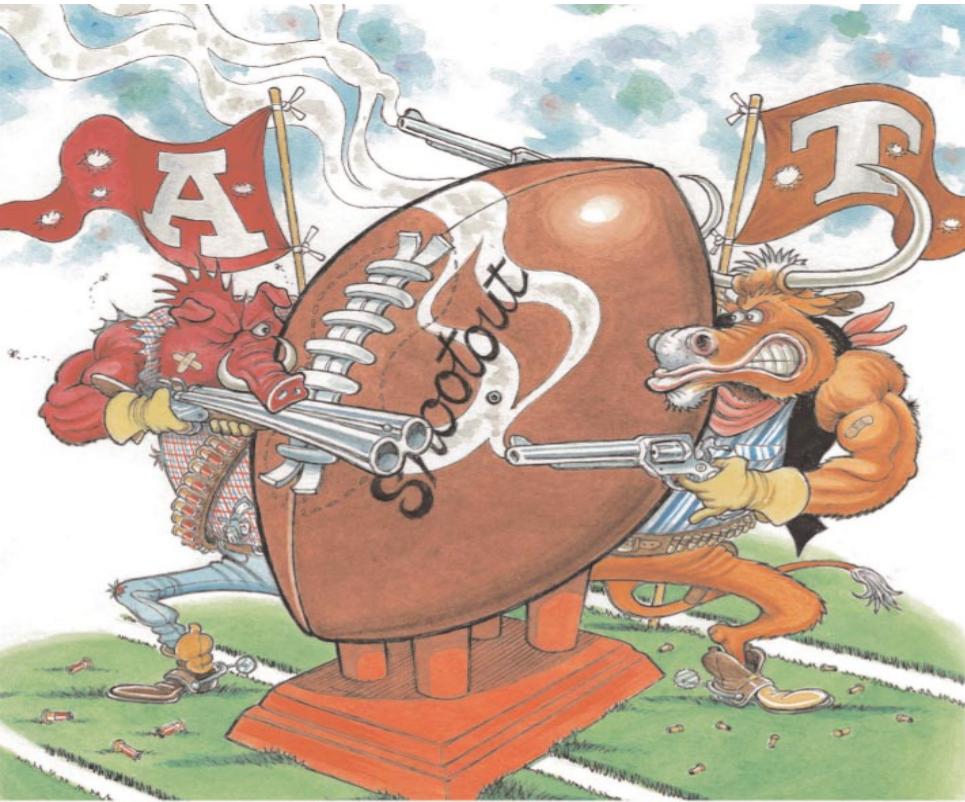
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BY MIKE LOONEY

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

More games postponed for the ponies



Three Additional Big 12 WBB Games Postponed

IRVING, Texas - In accordance with Big 12 Conference women's basketball game interruption guidelines, the Kansas at Oklahoma State (Saturday, Jan. 9), Kansas State at Baylor (Sunday, Jan. 10) and TCU at Kansas State (Thursday, Jan. 14) contests have been postponed. Additionally, the UConn at Baylor non-conference game on Thursday, Jan. 7 has been canceled.

K-State's matchups against Oklahoma (Jan. 2) and West Virginia (Jan. 5) were previously postponed. KU's matchups with West Virginia (Jan. 2) and Iowa State (Jan. 6) were previously postponed.

The Big 12 will work with Conference programs to reschedule the games for later in the season. The SMU home game versus Temple will now be played MONDAY at 2 at Moody Coliseum (moved from Sunday).

All tickets for the game will be valid on the rescheduled date. Digital tickets will update automatically.

The AAC has announced changes to two more men's basketball games. The game between UCF and Tulsa scheduled for Jan. 9 has been postponed due to contact tracing of the student-athletes at UCF. Rescheduling information is TBD.

In addition, the Temple and SMU game scheduled for Jan. 10 has been moved to Monday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. The game will air on ESPN+.



Bassmaster Classic And Outdoors Expo Moved To June 2021

Due to the ongoing public health emergency and associated limits on large gatherings, B.A.S.S. officials announced this week that the Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk and Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo originally scheduled for late March would be moved to June 11-13, 2021.

"It's our hope that this delay will allow us to alleviate many of the challenges — including any potential capacity restrictions and travel complications — related to hosting both the tournament and Outdoors Expo in the current pandemic environment," said B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin.

"We look forward to seeing thousands of fans, along with our partners and industry friends, at the 51st Bassmaster Classic. "Our team will be working with the Fort Worth Sports Commission and Visit Fort Worth to make this historic trip to Texas an incredible and memorable event."

B.A.S.S. Chairman Chase Anderson emphasized the importance of cooperation with the city of Fort Worth. "We are so appreciative of Fort Worth officials and our hosts at Visit Fort Worth for working with us during these unprecedented times to reschedule this exciting event and ensure we have an outstanding Classic."

For more than 50 years, the iconic

Bassmaster Classic has been the premier tournament in sportfishing. Recent Classics held in Birmingham, Ala., and Knoxville, Tenn., have drawn record-breaking crowds of 122,814 and 153,809 fans respectively to Classic Week events, including the Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo.

At least 12 new products were launched during the 2020 Outdoors Expo, which is recognized as fishing's biggest consumer show and annually draws 200 exhibitors ranging from major international brands to local retailers.

The success of the Expo is a major contributing factor to the Classic's overall economic impact which generated a windfall of \$35.9 million according to 2020 host community Birmingham, Ala.

"Hosting the Bassmaster Classic later this spring will bring jobs and much-needed business to our local economy," said Jason Sands, Director of the Fort Worth Sports Commission. "We are looking forward to hosting anglers and the thousands of outdoor enthusiasts and Bassmaster fans this world-class sporting event attracts."

The move from early spring tournament to June is a throwback to previous events. From its inaugural outing in 1971 until 1983, the Bassmaster Classic was held in the fall. The Super Bowl of Bass Fishing became a summer event in 1984 but shifted to February and March in 2006, the first season of the Bassmaster Elite Series.

The Bassmaster Elite at Pickwick Lake, which was originally scheduled for June 10-13, will instead be held on the Florence, Ala., fishery March 18-21.

For more information, visit Bassmaster.com.

NCAA Basketball - Top 25

Coaches (Week 7) AP

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



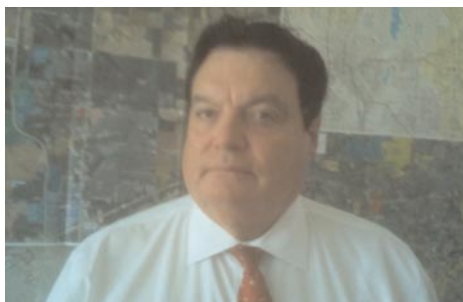
WEEKLY CALENDAR

	JANUARY 8 FRIDAY	JANUARY 9 SATURDAY	JANUARY 10 SUNDAY	JANUARY 11 MONDAY	JANUARY 12 TUESDAY	JANUARY 13 WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 14 THURSDAY
		Mavs vs Orlando 7:30 / FSSW		Mavs vs Pelicans 7:30 / FSSW		Mavs at Hornets 6:00 / FSSW	
							Dallas at Florida TBD
			SMU vs Temple 2:00 / ESPN+				SMU at Memphis 8:00 / ESPN+
		TCU vs Baylor 2:00			TCU at Oklahoma 6:30		

Off season trade activity heating up



Cleveland traded Francisco Lindor to the New York Mets



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

The off season market has been slower than expected, but this week a big name player finally found a new home. The Cleveland Baseball Team traded perhaps the best shortstop in baseball – Francisco Lindor – to the New York Mets. Starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco also went to the Mets, and the pair brought back four players, two infielders with Major League experience and two minor league prospects ranked among the top 10 in the Mets' farm system.

Lindor will be a free agent after the 2021 season, and contract talks between Cleveland and Lindor's representatives have defined the situation. The Cleveland Baseball Club simply cannot afford to keep him. The return Cleveland realized in this deal is far better than playing the season with Lindor and seeing him leave in free agency next off season with just draft choice compensation.

Mets' general manager Jared Porter told MLB.com's Antony DiComo, "It's one of the hardest things in baseball to get – a shortstop, super-star player in his prime, a charismatic personality, a guy who makes his teammates better."

Cleveland received Major League

infielders Andres Gimenez and Amed Rosario.

Rosario was projected to be the Mets' shortstop last year, but Gimenez ended up with the job and hit .263 in 49 games as a rookie in 2020. He is highly regarded both offensively and defensively. Josh Wolf, a pitcher from Houston, and outfielder Isaiah Greene were the two minor league prospects Cleveland received. MLB Pipeline ranked Wolf as the number nine prospect in the Mets' farm system and Greene the 10th. Wolf was drafted in the second round of the 2019 draft out of St. Thomas High School. He saw action in just five games in 2019 and was on the Mets' alternate site squad in 2020 but did not see action in the Major Leagues. Greene was taken in the second round of last year's amateur draft.

The Mets, now under new ownership, wanted to make a splash this off season. The additions of Lindor and Carrasco certainly qualify. Lindor is on the short list of MLB players that are considered the best player in baseball not named Mike Trout. He had an off season in 2020's abbreviated version of a baseball season, but from 2017-2019, he hit .278 and averaged 34 home runs per year. He is just 27, so will most certainly get a monstrous contract by the start of the 2022 season if not sooner.

Carrasco is 33 and is a solid addition to the Mets' starting rotation. He has a career record of 88-73 with a 3.77 ERA in 11 years and is especially admired in Cleveland as a cancer survivor. He is signed for 2021 and 2022 with a team option for 2023.

Cleveland's management is good at making these type of deals. Unfortunately, they have had several similar situations where they were forced to trade a good

player because they could not afford to keep him and have usually done well in these trades.

Carrasco was a player they received in the trade of Cliff Lee a few years ago. They received two players (Rosario and Gimenez) that will likely be on their roster this year, and they received two prospects with high ceilings.

Cleveland is a club that was especially financially distressed from having no fans at games in 2020. Cleveland is not a big TV market, so the income from ticket sales and concessions is especially precious to the franchise. This trade also reduces their payroll significantly for the 2021 season, in addition to adding four promising players.

RANGERS NEWS

While the off season market slowly creeps along, the Texas Rangers continue to be one of the busiest teams in baseball.

This week started Tuesday with the acquisition of outfielder Carl Chester. Chester became the player to be named later in the December 10 trade with Tampa Bay that also brought the Rangers first basemen Nate Lowe and Jake Guenther. Chester is 25 and was originally drafted by the Rays in 2017's 12th round of the amateur draft. He played at the University of Miami and split time between Class High A Charlotte and AA Montgomery in 2019. He has hit .284 with 13 home runs and 145 RBIs in 306 minor league games over the 2017, 2018 and 2019 seasons. Chester was assigned to AA Frisco.

The Rangers also signed free agent pitcher Drew Anderson to a minor league contract with an invitation to Major League Spring Training. He made one Major League appearance in 2020 with the Chicago White Sox. He has pitched in 10 Major League games total since the beginning of 2017, having also pitched for Philadelphia as well as Chicago. One of

those appearances was a starting assignment.

Pitcher Art Warren was designated for assignment and found a new home with Cincinnati. The Rangers traded him Wednesday to the Reds for cash considerations.

The Rangers also announced a significant change on the business side of the organization. Neil Leibman has been named President of business operations. Leibman is one of the largest shareholders in the Rangers' ownership group after Ray Davis and Bob Simpson. He has been the chairman of the ownership committee since 2013 and has been the Chief Operating Officer since 2018.

Major League Baseball sent a memo to minor league owners indicating that the start of the AA and A league seasons would be pushed back. Minor League camps for those teams will open after the Major League camps have departed their spring training sites. This to allow for more social distancing.

NOTABLE:

- Joey Gallo was interviewed Thursday on 105.3 FM, the Fan, which is the flagship station broadcasting Ranger games. He said that he worked on both Ranger management and David Dahl to bring Dahl to the Rangers after he was non-tendered by Colorado. Dahl was taken 10th in the same draft Gallo was selected 39th (2012) and made the National League All-Star team in 2019. He is projected to be the Rangers' left fielder this year.

- Japanese pitcher Tomoyuki Sugano was posted by the Yomiuri Giants and entered serious negotiations with the San Diego Padres. Ultimately though, the 31 year-old returned to Yomiuri on a four-year, \$40 million deal.

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Puerto Vallart Memories: Part 3



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

When we last left off I was about to go off a huge waterfall. My survival instincts kicked in as I managed to spread my legs, using them as a brace against the rocks, to keep me from plunging to my death. I noticed long leafy vines hanging down from some tall trees shading the area and grabbed them with my right arm. I swung over to the side to get away from the rushing water that was pulsating over me and this gave me a momentary respite from the ordeal. I was able to re-group my thoughts and looked for a way out of this nightmare.

I didn't have to climb up very far, maybe a few feet, but the rocks were slippery with moss. By being in the corner, I was able to avoid the oncoming rush of water but the thin vines kept breaking off. I could see gaps in the rocks where I could put my hands and feet. I grabbed a handful of vines for support and inched my way upward. I slipped a few times and scrapped my legs and elbows, but was finally able to extract myself out of this watery prison.

Once out, I looked back at what just happened and it gave me chills. While making my way back down, I was so angry at for letting such a foolish thing happen, almost losing my life over a reckless move.

I wasn't going to tell my companions what happened because it was embarrassing. Suddenly, shame was overtaken by immense pain in my left shoulder. I think the endorphins wore off from all the excitement as it felt like it was separated, but kept quite and rejoined my guests. They noticed all the cuts and abrasions and asked what happened. I told them it was the result of a fall into some bushes while exiting the stream.

Once back in town I went to the local pharmacy to get antibiotics and bandages. The next day I went to the doctor and found out the shoulder was separated. Fortunately, it didn't require surgery, just needed to ice it down. He prescribed some anti-inflammatory painkillers and suggested that I get it looked at upon returning to the states to get it looked at, however, time would be the greatest healer.

Time wasn't on my side as I was a couple of weeks away from heading back to the U.S. I decided not play any golf for the next two weeks and just work on chipping and putting. At least that didn't aggravate

my shoulder. I continued to experiment with numerous ways of taking pressure off the left shoulder and re-adjusted my back-swing to make it more of a one piece take-away. This worked but sacrificed distance. It was a temporary fix, nothing more than a band-aid solution that I hoped would suffice.

I was depressed because all the hard work was in jeopardy because of my foolishness. I took a big risk leaving the U.S. to prepare in Mexico and having it end like this would be devastating.

I was getting more sociable in my spare time. The neighbors who lived on the left side were a lovely older couple from Southern California. They would periodically invite me over for dinner and to play cards with some of their friends.

One evening, there was one older man (that had an oxygen tank) there named John. John told some funny and interesting stories about the movie industry. I figured he must have worked in films. It was pointed out the next day that he was the famous movie director, John Huston. I got to visit with Huston again when he came over to play cards the following week. I found out about his important connection to Vallarta because of a film he directed there back in 1963 called "Night of the Iguana" that helped elevate the town's status globally. The movie starred Richard Burton, Ava Gardner and Deborah Kerr. Also, I got to know the American consulate who helped me with my visa. His name was Phil Ober. Phil was an actor that was once married to Vivian Vance (Ethel of *I Love Lucy*). He starred in a lot of movies and TV shows back in the 1950's and 60's.

I was fortunate, through my golf connections, to meet a number of people who spent their winters in Vallarta that resulted in some good home cooked meals. One evening I went to a beautiful casa in an area called Conchas Chinas. Not much mingling occurred because I was there for the food. There was a voice in the background that was very distinct and couldn't be ignored. Finally, the friends who invited me for dinner introduced me to the familiar voice. As we walked up, I could hear them talking about golf. When he turned around I recognized him immediately, it was actor Richard Burton. He told everyone that he was from Wales and people there played a lot of golf. He said he played some, but he wasn't very good at it. My host told him that I was a golf pro. While thinking of something to say, I offered to give him some pointers and he responded with a sheepish smile and said thanks for the offer.

The following day, I was on the putting green when Fidel (head pro) advised that some people were looking for me. I walked



into the clubhouse grill area and found Richard Burton sitting with three other people sipping drinks. With his booming voice he stood up and said we would take

me up on the offer to give him a golf lesson. Next week: The finale.

Tom Ward can be contacted at www.teetimetwithtom.com



Sentry Tournament of Champions



Justin Thomas wins in playoff at Sentry

By Adam Stanley
PGATOUR.COM Follow

The holiday season is now complete, and the 2021 portion of the PGA TOUR season is set to begin in its traditional tropical locale.

The Sentry Tournament of Champions will kick off the new year once again, but with a unique field. Because of the reduced number of events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all qualifiers for last year's TOUR Championship also are eligible to tee it up in Maui. Dustin Johnson, the reigning FedExCup champion, highlights the field in his first appearance since winning the Masters.

FIELD NOTES: Johnson, a two-time winner of the Sentry Tournament of Champions, looks to keep his momentum going in the new year. Johnson ended 2020 by finishing no worse than T6 in his final seven events, including three wins and three runners-up. ... Sergio Garcia returns to the Sentry Tournament of Champions after his first TOUR victory since the 2017 Masters. Garcia, an 11-time TOUR winner, won the Sentry Tournament of Champions in 2002 but hasn't teed it up at Kapalua since 2006... Justin Thomas looks to defend his Tournament of Champions title after winning in a three-man playoff a year ago... Twenty-eight golfers qualified for the 2021 event via their TOUR victories last season. An additional 17 golfers earned a spot in Hawaii via their appearance at the TOUR Championship... One of those

golfers who earned a spot via the TOUR Championship was Xander Schauffele, winner of the 2019 Sentry Tournament of Champions. Schauffele fell just short in his title defense last year, losing in that playoff that also included former Sentry winner Patrick Reed... There are seven first-timers playing in the Sentry Tournament of Champions this year... Forty-two of the 45 eligible golfers are making the trip to the Tournament of Champions, with just Rory McIlroy, Tyrrell Hatton, and Jim Herman not teeing it up.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 points
COURSE: Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort, 7,596 yards, par 73 (yardage subject to change). Opened in 1991, the Plantation Course at Kapalua has long been ranked as the top course in Hawaii. It was the first Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore design to open. The duo has now, of course, gone on to become one of golf's most sought-after design teams, and the pair did an expansive renovation in 2019. The course features dramatic ocean views, wide fairways, and big-time elevation changes.

STORYLINES: The last four winners of the Sentry Tournament of Champions went on to finish in the top five of the FedExCup standings at season's end, proving that a hot start at the beginning of the calendar year is paramount to season-end success. Justin Thomas finished second in the FedExCup standings in 2017. Dustin Johnson finished fourth in 2018 after winning in Kapalua. Xander Schauffele finished second in 2019, while Justin Thomas

finished second again in 2020... No golfer since Geoff Ogilvy (2009-10) has won the Sentry Tournament of Champions in back-to-back years, although Schauffele came close in 2020... Thomas is looking to build off the momentum from his year-end victory alongside his father Mike at the PNC Championship in mid-December... Golfers who did not find the winner's circle in 2019-20 but are in the field include Rookie of the Year Scottie Scheffler, the highest finisher in last season's FedExCup (fifth) without a win... Eight of the top 10 golfers in the world will be in the field.

72-HOLE RECORD: 261, Ernie Els (2003)

18-HOLE RECORD: 62, K.J. Choi (3rd round, 2003), Graeme McDowell (4th round, 2011), Jason Day (4th round, 2015), Chris Kirk (4th round, 2015), Xander Schauffele (4th round, 2019).

LAST TIME: On the hunt for his second straight Sentry victory, Xander Schauffele eventually fell just short in a playoff to Justin Thomas, who won for the second time at Kapalua. Thomas had a one-shot

lead going into the 72nd hole but made a bogey on the par five to drop into a three-way tie. Patrick Reed, who zipped up the leaderboard in the final round thanks to a sizzling 7-under 66 (the round of the day) made it through two holes of the playoff with Thomas but eventually lost to the former FedExCup champion, who birdied the par-5 18th on the third extra hole to Reed's par. Patrick Cantlay, Rickie Fowler, and Joaquin Niemann rounded out the top five.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Friday 6-10 p.m. ET (Golf Channel); Saturday 6-10 p.m. ET (Golf Channel); Sunday, 4-6 p.m. ET (NBC), 6-8 p.m. ET (Golf Channel)

Radio: Thursday-Friday, 4-10 p.m. ET; Saturday, 5-10 p.m. ET; Sunday, 3-8 p.m. ET. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGATOUR.com/liveaudio)

Note: The weekend TV windows could change based on NFL windows.

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NFL Wild card picks and predictions



By Mike McFee

NFL playoff picks, predictions for wild-card games: Steelers survive Browns scare; Ravens, Buccaneers roll

It's an NFL wild-card weekend like none other.

The 2021 NFL playoffs feature six wild-card matchups over a two-day stretch that should produce an overload of excitement for NFL fans.

Indianapolis and Buffalo open the playoff bracket at 12:05 p.m. on Saturday. Los Angeles and Seattle will meet for the third time in the 3:40 p.m. slot, which sets up a prime-time matchup between Tampa Bay and Washington at 7:15 p.m.

Sunday's schedule features another tripleheader. Baltimore and Tennessee meet in a rematch of last year's AFC divisional playoff game at 12:05 p.m. Chicago faces New Orleans at 3:40 p.m. Cleveland makes its first playoff appearances since 2003 against the rival Steelers at 7:15 p.m. Sporting News wrapped up the regular season with another solid week in our straight-up picks. We like the favorites this weekend, but we know anything can happen.

- Last Week: 13-3, .812
- Regular season: 129-75, .632

With that in mind, below are our picks and predictions for the wild card games:

Indianapolis (11-5) at Buffalo (13-3)
Saturday, 12:05 / CBS
Line: Bills -6.5 / 51.5

The Bills covered the spread in eight straight games to close the season, part of a six-game winning streak that makes them one of the NFL's hottest teams. The Colts have a top-10 defense and Philip Rivers is an experience playoff quarterback, but they were 1-4 against the other AFC playoff teams this season. Buffalo wins its first playoff game since 1995 with another strong performance from Josh Allen.

Pick: Bills 34, Colts 23

L.A Rams (10-6) at Seattle (12-4)
Saturday, 3:40 / FOX
Line: Seahawks -3.5 / 42.5

If Jared Goff (thumb) can't go, then John Wolford will make his first career playoff start against the rival Seahawks. Seattle's offense has been hit-or-miss with Russell Wilson the last few weeks, but the defense is allowing just 12.5 points per game through a four-game win streak. Wilson gets Seattle back in the NFC divisional round. It's hard to pick the Rams – who have the league's top-scoring defense (18.5) – if Goff cannot go.

Pick: Seahawks 27, Rams 16

Tampa Bay (11-5) at Washington (7-9)
Saturday, 7:15 / NBC
Line: Bucs -8.5 / 45

Tampa Bay averaged 37 ppg. in four straight victories to close the season; a remarkable stretch under Tom Brady. Chase Young leads a Washington defense

that allows just 20.6 points per game, and it could get interesting if they stop the run. Alex Smith is a feel-good story in his first playoff start since career-threatening leg injury. The line has jumped 1.5 points; a nod to the confidence in Brady and the Bucs.

Pick: Buccaneers 28, Washington 21

Baltimore (11-5) at Tennessee (11-5)
Sunday, 12:05 / ESPN
Line: Ravens -3 / 55

We flip-flopped on this one for obvious reasons. The Titans beat the Ravens in last year's playoff and won a 30-24 overtime thriller this season. Baltimore found its groove on offense after the 47-42 shootout against Cleveland, and Lamar Jackson was the difference. He finally wins his first playoff start in thrilling fashion.

Pick: Ravens 36, Titans 31

Chicago (8-8) at New Orleans (12-4)
Sunday, 3:40 / CBS
Line: Saints -9.5 / 47

The Bears backed into the playoffs after losing to the Packers, and Mitchell

Trubisky is making his second playoff start. The Saints are optimistic Alvin Kamara will return from the COVID-19 list, and Drew Brees is coming off a three-TD performance in Week 17. New Orleans learns from last year's wild-card loss to Minnesota and returns to the divisional playoffs.

Pick: Saints 31, Bears 21

Cleveland (11-5) at Pittsburgh (12-4)
Sunday, 7:15 / NBC
Line: Steelers -6 / 47.5

The Browns beat the Steelers 26-24, and this is the first matchup between the teams since the 2003 AFC Wild Card thriller. Expect a similar game to break out. Cleveland leads at halftime behind a pair of Nick Chubb TDs. Baker Mayfield plays his best game to date at Heinz Field, much better than the last visit. The Steelers rally in the second half, however, and Ben Roethlisberger – who is 24-2-1 against the Browns – leads the way in the second half. Cleveland has a chance to tie late, but the Steelers come up with the stop this time.

Pick: Steelers 31, Browns 26

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Bearcats win eighth straight over Ponies



Cincinnati outscored SMU 20-6 over the final six minutes to win 76-69

BY: Dic Humphrey

MEMBER: United States Basketball Writers Association

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The SMU Mustangs Men's basketball team let a golden opportunity to beat the Cincinnati Bearcats slip away Thursday night in Moody Coliseum. Cincinnati outscored SMU 20-6 over the final six minutes of the game to overcome a seven point SMU lead and win 76-69. The win ended a five game losing streak for the Bearcats but was their eighth straight win over the Mustangs encompassing four seasons. Cincinnati is 3-6 on the season and 1-3 in American Athletic Conference play. SMU dropped to 6-2 and 2-2.

Cincinnati scored first and held an 8-6 lead in the first four minutes. They never led again until 2:41 remained in the game. The Mustangs led by as many as nine points in the first half, led five at halftime, led for more than 32 minutes, and twice led by eight points in the second half. It was a game that looked well in hand for SMU until those final six minutes.

Mustang center Yor Anei put it succinctly after the game, "We were in a position where we should have won the game."

SMU head basketball coach looked as upset as I have ever seen him after the game. "That was a very frustrating game," he said. "I thought we made so many mental errors, so many poor decisions and took really, really, really poor shots. I didn't like what I saw. I felt like we allowed it. We made it happen for them. (I'm) incredibly disappointed." He did not want to take anything away from Cincinnati, but admitted, "We deserved to lose."

It was a sloppy game throughout. Cincinnati had 10 turnovers in the first half to keep SMU in front. SMU was close behind with eight first half turnovers keeping Cincinnati in the game. It tightened up in the second half with the Bearcats turning

it over five times and the Mustangs six. Both teams shot about the same – 45.9% for Cincinnati and 45.2% for SMU. The Mustangs though really suffered at the free throw line and the three point arc. SMU shot 23.8% on their three point attempts making just five in the game to 10 for Cincinnati. Both teams made the same number of baskets, but the five extra threes the Bearcats made added to two more free throws made accounted for the seven point differential.

Kendric Davis set a new career high with 14 assists, which is a new AAC record. Those assists coupled with 14 points made it a double-double. Feron Hunt led the Mustangs with 10 rebounds but scored just nine points to barely miss his third double-double in four games. Emmanuel Bandoumel with 12 points and Darius McNeill with 10 were the other Mustangs scoring in double digits. Five Bearcats scored in double digits including Jeremiah Davenport making his first start of the year with a game high 18 points.

In many ways, this is the most disappointing loss since Tim Jankovich became the head coach. Cincinnati is not the dominant team they were when Mick Cronin was the head coach. They are scrambling to learn new coach John Brannen's system. The Mustangs clearly have more talent, and for most of the game, they looked like they were just a run away from putting away the game. There were simply too many possessions with ill-advised three point shots taken too early in the shot clock.

The Mustangs next play next Monday afternoon in a re-match with the Temple Owls. SMU beat Temple 79-71 on December 30. The Owls have not played a game since that home loss to SMU. The Owls games on January 2 against Memphis and January 6 against Tulane were postponed due to a positive COVID-19 case on the Temple team. This game was originally

scheduled to be played Sunday afternoon, but was moved to Monday presumably for COVID-19 considerations. The Owls record is 1-2 for the season and 0-2 in American Athletic Conference play. Game time is 2:00 PM Central/3:00 PM Eastern, and it will be televised on ESPN+.

Other News

On the national front, the NCAA announced this week that the NCAA Tournament will be played entirely in the state of Indiana with most of the games in Indianapolis. There is no word yet as to whether fans will be allowed to attend. The hosts will be Indiana University, Purdue University, Butler University, Ball State University, Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI) as well as the Horizon League. Those schools will lend their facilities and staff to assist with tournament operations.

Marriott Properties, an official NCAA corporate partner, will house most of the participating teams. Teams will be housed in dedicated hotel floors with physically distanced meeting and dining rooms. Secure transportation between hotels and competition sites will be provided. Games

will be played on two courts at Lucas Oil Stadium, Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Mackey Arena in West Lafayette, and Simon Skjot Assembly Hall in Bloomington.

NOTABLE:

- SMU's players did not come out to the court for the National Anthem, a rarity, and they admitted the events on Wednesday in Washington, DC was the reason.

AAC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Houston	4-1	9-1
Tulsa	4-1	7-3
Wichita State	2-1	6-3
Memphis	2-1	6-4
SMU	2-2	6-2
South Florida	2-3	6-5
East Carolina	1-2	7-2
Tulane	1-2	6-2
UCF	1-2	3-3
Cincinnati	1-3	3-6
Temple	0-2	1-2

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Matchups are similar in this one



By Mike McFee
mmc@gmail.com

Alabama (12-0) vs Ohio State (7-0)
Monday, January 11
7:00 / ESPN
Hard Rock Stadium
Miami Gardens, Florida
Line: Tide -8 / 75.5

It's really sort of weird that it's Alabama vs Ohio State for the College Football Playoff National championship, and yet it seems sort of ... fresh?

These are hardly two *Little Engine That Could* programs, but Ohio State hasn't been in the national championship since the end of the 2014 season, and Alabama didn't make the CFP last year and got destroyed by Clemson the year before in Santa Clara. Nothing against Clemson, but the idea of Tide vs. Tigers yet again just didn't seem to have a whole lot of national sizzle. This will.

Just a guess ... Nick Saban won't be talking about how Ohio State only played seven games and might be the 11th best team in college football. The seven-game season, though, might be a thing. It shouldn't be – personally, I think it was far more negative for the Buckeye squad that didn't jell until it arrived in New Orleans – but that looked like one fresh team against Clemson. It looked and played way, way faster.

Totally anecdotal and in a for-what-it's-worth sort of way, the Alabama people I know – not with the team, but close to it – are a bit spooked. Clemson was the devil they knew and expected. They knew Bama was better than this Tiger team, and they still think Bama is better than Ohio State. However, the Buckeye team that showed

up against Clemson is a whole different animal.

It's going to be really, really hard for Ohio State to keep that same intensity and energy through January 11th. While everyone says the national championship is and was the goal, beating Clemson was the thing after the way last season ended.

This is written before Indiana plays Ole Miss in the Outback. It shouldn't be this way, but if Indiana wins big – the Rebels pushed Bama a bit earlier in the year – watch for the Ohio State love to start gushing. Wisconsin and Northwestern took care of their respective bowl games – maybe the Big Ten starts to get more respect.

In terms of motivation, watch what happens on Heisman night this Tuesday. It'll be DeVonta Smith or Mac Jones winning it, and Justin Fields might find that extra little bit of juice that seemed to take him to another level against Clemson.

How bad is he hurt? That didn't look like any old shot Fields took to the midsection/ribs, but he was able to play through it and be more than fine.

Lost in the amazing performance by Ohio State was Trevor Lawrence and the 400 yards he bombed away for. They mostly came in comeback/desperation mode, but he also spread the ball around a ton. Mac Jones will need to use all of his options – and will have to use Najee Harris even more as a receiver – after the Buckeyes spend the next ten days figuring out how to stop DeVonta Smith.

Ohio State only came up with two sacks against Clemson, but it provided a whole lot of pressure on Lawrence and battered him around a bit. The Alabama line won't let the Buckeyes get to Jones all that often, but everything will have to go a half-

click faster than it has all year.

Jones didn't force anything against Notre Dame. His job was to not take chances or give the Irish any easy opportunities in a game the Tide had in hand right out of the gate. He's going to have to press a bit more against the Buckeyes.

The Florida game is important. The Gators were able to keep pressing Bama with the deep passes to the NFL-caliber receivers, and Ohio State should be able to do the same. The Tide got into a track meet, and Florida really did have a chance to win if the defense wasn't so completely miserable.

Florida showed potential flaws in Alabama.....defensively. So did Ole Miss. However, there hasn't been so much as a speed bump for this Bama offense all year. **Note:** I almost just typed that Ohio State will have to outscore Alabama. I apologize for the flirtation with disaster. As a warning, that I was even thinking the phrase shows how things might not be working right.

Here's the freaky part about this matchup. Justin Fields can hit 22-of-28 passes for 385 yards and six touchdowns against Bama – just like he did against Clemson – and it still might not be enough.

Honestly, I'm torn. I'll need this entire layoff to try figuring out if the Clemson win was the be-all-end-all for Ohio State, or if that's a sign that this is the hot team at the right time.

Alabama always does this. It always looks and plays in a business-like fashion in the CFP semifinals, going 5-0 in them since losing to Ohio State in the 2015 version. But ...

No one saw the 44-16 clunker in the 2018 season CFP National Championship coming. However, Alabama needed a minor miracle to get out of the SEC Championship alive against Georgia, and it turned the machine off in the 45-34 Orange Bowl win over Kyler Murray and Oklahoma. There were signs that not everything was running right.

The 2017 Bama team was the 4 seed and came into the national championship roaring after a dominant win over Clemson. The 2016 team was a bit off in the 24-7 win over Washington in the Peach, and then lost to Clemson. The 2015 team was humming in a blowout over Michigan State and then got past Clemson. What does any of this mean?

Alabama has struggled in SEC Championships before and went on to win the national title. In the CFP era, when there's been something off in the semis, it has lost the national championship. When it rips through the semis, it wins the title.

There was hardly anything more than a yawn in the go-through-the-motions win

over Notre Dame.

By the way, the Ohio State 42-35 win over Alabama in the 2015 College Football Playoff has NOTHING to do with anything that's about to happen.

Don't get hung up on Ohio State holding Clemson to 44 rushing yards. The Tigers and Travis Etienne struggled a bit all year to get the ground game rolling. When and if Alabama wants to pound away with Najee Harris, it will.

Alabama hasn't faced anyone who's running like Trey Sermon. Texas A&M can run, and Georgia could pound a bit, but Sermon has been otherworldly over the last two games for the Buckeyes.

Alabama has an under-appreciated pass rush, but Clemson came into the Sugar Bowl averaging four sacks per game – the most in the Dabo Swinney era – and it didn't matter all that much against an Ohio State offensive line that was close to flawless.

I know, the College Football Playoff needs to expand. I know, I want there to be a way for everyone to have a shot to play into the tournament, too. However, at the end of the day, no sport takes the fluke factor out of its championship better than college football.

You can't Cinderella your way into this game. You can't get hot from three and get into the Final Four, you can't be one of 14 teams in an any-given-Sunday NFL that finds the right magic, and you can't get here because of a hot pitcher or goalie who stands on his head. There's no such thing as a cheap or questionable College Football Playoff national champion.

As always, I reserve the right to change my mind at least five different times and ways over the next week-plus. This is the knee-jerk, off-the-cuff, cliché-riddled first-thought prediction.

Ohio State has the right mix.

I really don't like feeding into the narrative, but yeah, considering there was next-to-no real lag time between the conference championships and the playoff, only playing seven games really might matter. Even more than that, several Buckeyes didn't even play that many games.

This is one fresh team.

However, Alabama doesn't look at all like it's dragging. The offense isn't going to slow down, but to keep going back to the SEC Championship, Ohio State right now might have a wee bit of a defense to go along with Florida's passing game. Everything in my being goes against picking against Alabama in a national championship game – and again, this might change after doing a far deeper dive – but ... Ohio State wins it.

Pick: Ohio State 45, Alabama 41

Top 10 schools with most championships

The first college football national championship was awarded almost 150 years ago, in 1869.

That season was eight days long and consisted of exactly two games: Princeton at Rutgers (which Rutgers won), and Rutgers at Princeton (which Princeton won). Later, the Billingsley Report and the National Championship Foundation named Yale the first national champion, while in 1933, college football historian Parke H. Davis concluded that both Rutgers and Yale were co-champions.

Since that year, 186 national champions have been named, with some years seeing two or even three teams crowned.

In that span, only 44 teams can claim a college football championship. Here, are the 10 teams who have more than five titles to their names:

10. Minnesota — 6

Championships: 1934, 1935, 1936, 1940, 1941, 1960

Football was slightly different when Minnesota won its first national title in 1934. The Golden Gophers averaged 325 yards per game that year — 295 of which came on the ground.

9. Oklahoma — 7

Championships: 1950, 1955, 1956, 1974, 1975, 1985, 2000

The Sooners won a trio of titles each under Bud Wilkinson and Barry Switzer. Oklahoma leads all FBS programs with four different 100-win coaches in school history.

T8. Ohio State — 8

Championships: 1942, 1954, 1957, 1961, 1968, 1970, 2002, 2014

Ohio State officially formed a football team in 1890, but the Buckeyes wouldn't win a national championship until 1942. That year, after losing dozens of players who left to fight in World War II, Ohio State went 9-1, its only loss coming against No. 6 Wisconsin.

T8. Harvard — 8

Championships: 1875, 1890, 1898, 1899, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1919

Harvard is approaching the 100th anniversary of its most recent championship, giving it the longest title drought of any team on this list.

T6. Southern California — 9

Championships: 1931, 1932, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1974, 1978, 2003, 2004

No USC coach was more successful than John McKay, who in 16 years at the helm, led the Trojans to four national championships between 1960 and 1975.

T6. Michigan — 9

Championships: 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1918, 1923, 1933, 1948, 1997

Michigan famously holds the record for the most wins in college football history, so it naturally follows that the Wolverines have a few titles to their name. Surprisingly, they only have two in the poll era (since 1936).

4. Notre Dame — 13

Championships: 1919, 1924, 1929, 1930,

1943, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1964, 1966, 1973, 1977, 1988

Notre Dame's nine championships in the poll era are the second-most out of all teams. You can thank coach Frank Leahy for four of those, but Leahy also won two titles as a player for the Irish under another famous coach - Knute Rockne.

T2. Princeton — 15

Championships: 1869, 1870, 1872, 1873, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1885, 1889, 1893, 1896, 1903, 1906, 1911, 1922

Princeton claims 28 national championships, though only 15 are recognized by the NCAA. None of them came in the poll era, but there's no denying the Tigers' ridiculous run in the late 19th century, when they won championships in 11 of 28 years, including four in five years from 1869 to 1873.

T2. Alabama — 15

Championships: 1925, 1926, 1930, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1978, 1979, 1992, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017

Alabama can claim the most NCAA titles in the poll era, with only three of its 15 coming prior. With the 15th title — a win in the College Football Playoff in 2017, coach Nick Saban tied the legendary Bear Bryant with five championships recognized by the NCAA. That was Saban's fifth in nine years.

1. Yale — 18

Championships: 1874, 1876, 1877, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1900, 1907, 1909, 1927

Yale football has one of the most impressive resumes in the sport, with two of the first three Heisman winners, 100 All-Americans, 28 Hall of Fame inductees, and 18 national championships recognized by the NCAA — the most all time.

College Football Playoff History (1999-2020)

CFP era

Year	Winner	Score	Loser
2020	LSU	42-25	Clemson
2019	Clemson	44-16	Alabama
2018	Alabama	26-23	Georgia
2017	Clemson	35-31	Alabama
2016	Alabama	45-40	Clemson
2015	Ohio State	42-20	Oregon

BCS era

Year	Winner	Score	Loser
2014	Florida State	34-31	Auburn
2013	Alabama	42-14	N. Dame
2012	Alabama	21-0	LSU
2011	Auburn	22-19	Oregon
2010	Alabama	37-21	Texas
2009	Florida	24-14	Oklahoma
2008	LSU	38-24	Ohio State
2007	Florida	41-14	Ohio State
2006	Texas	41-38	USC
2005	USC*	55-19	Oklahoma
2004	LSU	21-14	Oklahoma
2003	Ohio State	31-24	Miami
2002	Miami	37-14	Nebraska
2001	Oklahoma	13-2	Florida St.
2000	Florida State	46-29	Va. Tech
1999	Tennessee	23-16	Florida St.

*-Vacated

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College Football News and Notes



Three-time All-America halfback Floyd Little passed away January 1 at the age of 78



BO CARTER

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NFF College Hall of Fame member Floyd Little, a three-time All-America halfback for Syracuse from 1964-1966, passed away Jan. 1 in Las Vegas, Nevada at 78. He was a patriotic infant born on July 4, 1942. Little stood 5-11, weighed 195 pounds and was a 9.6 sprinter in track. His longest runs were punt returns - in 1964, 90 yards against UCLA, 71 against Penn State; in 1965, 95 against Pittsburgh, 91 against Penn State. He scored five touchdowns against Kansas in 1964. In rushing, his best games were Jan. 1, 1967, 216 yards in the Gator Bowl against Tennessee; in 1965, 196 against West Virginia; in 1966, 193 against Florida State. In 30 regular-season games he scored 46 touchdowns, averaged 5.4 yards a try on rushing plays, 20 yards on punt returns, 29 on kick-off returns. He caught 50 passes and threw one touchdown pass. Little played with the Denver Broncos 1967-75 and led the pros

in rushing in 1971. He graduated from Syracuse University majoring in history and religion. While playing professionally, he added a master's in judicial administration. He worked three years as an NBC broadcaster, then joined Ford Motor Co. and set up dealerships in Colorado and California. Little made his home in Denver and was involved in many charitable groups. In 1970, he was in a group of athletes who visited American troops in Vietnam. Among the many citations he received were these: 1973 Brian Piccolo Award, 1974 Whizzer White Award, 1979 Walter Camp Foundation Man of the Year, and the 1992 NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. He wore the famed No. 44 at Syracuse and is so far the first and only of 1,248 NFF College Hall of Fame members to pass away in Nevada in the city of Las Vegas.

Though Florida and Oklahoma were unable to visit area children's hospitals for the 36th consecutive year during 85th annual Goodyear Cotton Bowl activities because of COVID-19 protocols, the bowls title sponsor, Goodyear, continued to support Dallas' Scottish Rite for Children and Children's Health Hospitals with a \$20,000 donation and special in-game tribute for pediatric patients and hardworking healthcare heroes at these hospitals.

The four finalists for the 2020 Heisman Trophy are Alabama's DeVonta Smith and Mac Jones, Clemson's Trevor Lawrence, and Florida's Kyle Trask. Smith was the

2020 Associated Press College Football Player of the Year - the first wide receiver to capture the honor since AP inaugurated the award in 1998. The Heisman Trophy will be denoted and presented on ESPN virtually on Jan. 5.

Alabama WR DeVonta Smith and Tulsa LB Zaven Collins headline the 2020 AFCA/FBS Coaches' All-America teams revealed by the American Football Coaches Association in the AFCA's 76th annual A-A selections for all five college football divisions.

The 76th annual FWA Goodyear Cotton Bowl All-America team was highlighted by Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence, Clemson RB Travis Etienne, Ohio State OG Wyatt Davis (a repeat selection with Etienne from the 2019 FWA dream team), Notre Dame OL Liam Eichenberg, LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah and safety Kyle Hamilton along with kicker Jose Borregales of Miami (Fla.) and punter Pressley Harvin III of Georgia Tech.

College football notes' meister and CoSIDA Hall of Fame member Dave Plati of Colorado asked this question and gave the answers: Want yards and points? The Goodyear Cotton Bowl the last two years has had the most combined yards by both teams: 2,276 (the equivalent of 1.3 miles of offense). In the 2019 game Penn State defeated Memphis 53-39 but was outgained by the Tigers 542-529 (1,071 total yards, the two-team high of the '19-20 bowl season). On Dec. 30 Oklahoma bested Florida 55-20 with the Sooners rolling up 684 yards on offense to Florida's 521 -the 1,205 combined yards the high through 16 bowls in '20-21.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Jan. 5-11 time period are Jan. 5 (1891) Hube Wagner, Monaca, Pa.; (1892) John Beckett, Eight Mile, Ore.; (1910) Ed Widseth, Gonvick, Minn.; (1919) Al Blozis, Garfield N.J.; (1921) Paul Governali, New York City; (1924) Arnold Tucker, Miami, Fla.; (1938) E.J. Holub, Schulenburg, Texas; (1926) Buddy Young, Chicago, Ill.; (1965) Tracy Ham, Gainesville, Fla.; Jan. 6 (1910) Doyt Perry, Croton, Ohio; (1913) John Weller, Atlanta, Ga.; (1937) Lou Holtz, Follansbee, W.Va.; (1947) Frank Loria, Clarksburg, W.Va.; (1964) Charles Haley, Lynchburg, Va.; Jan. 7 (1884) Albert Exendine, Bartlesville, Okla.; (1930) Eddie LeBaron, San Rafael, Calif.; Jan. 8 (1909) Ben Ticknor, Canton, Mass.; (1922) Steve Suhey, Janesville, N.Y.; (1927) George Taliaferro, Gates, Tenn.; (1959) Mark Herrmann, Cincinnati, Ohio; Jan. 9 (1916) Brud Holland, Auburn, N.Y.; (1956) Ken MacAfee, Portland, Ore.; (1956) Gary

Spani, Satanta, Kan.; Jan. 10 (1892) Alex Weyand, Jersey City, N.J.; (1909) Harvey Jablonsky, Clayton, Mo.; (1921) John Tavener, Newark, Ohio; Jan. 11 (1895) Paddy Driscoll, Evanston, Ill.; (1973) Dave Dickenson, Great Falls, Montana.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Jan. 5 (1975) Claude "Monk" Simons, New Orleans, La.; Jan. 7 (1979) Andy Gustafson, Coral Gables, Fla.; (1990) Bronko Nagurski, International Falls, Minn.; Jan. 8 (1977) Steve Suhey, State College, Pa.; Jan. 9 (1945) Roland Young, Tokyo, Japan; Jan. 10 (2006) Dave Brown, Lubbock, Texas; (2007) Ray Beck, Rome, Ga.; (2019) Arnold Tucker, Miami, Fla.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Jan. 5 Tracy Ham, Jan. 6 Lou Holtz (a spry 84), Frank Loria, Charles Haley, Jan. 7 (1884) Albert Exendine, Bartlesville, Okla.; (1930) Eddie LeBaron, San Rafael, Calif.; Jan. 8 (1909) Ben Ticknor, Canton, Mass.; (1922) Steve Suhey, Janesville, N.Y.; (1927) George Taliaferro, Gates, Tenn.; (1959) Mark Herrmann, Cincinnati, Ohio; Jan. 9 (1916) Brud Holland, Auburn, N.Y.; (1956) Ken MacAfee, Portland, Ore.; (1956) Gary Spani, Satanta, Kan.; Jan. 10 (1892) Alex Weyand, Jersey City, N.J.; (1909) Harvey Jablonsky, Clayton, Mo.; (1921) John Tavener, Newark, Ohio; Jan. 11 (1895) Paddy Driscoll, Evanston, Ill.; (1973) Dave Dickenson, Great Falls, Montana.

Florida A&M, which opted out of 2020 fall and 2021 spring football, denoted its first three contests in September as Sept. 5, Jackson State (at Miami Lakes, Fla., Hard Rock Stadium); Sept. 11, Fort Valley State; and Sept. 18, at USF...Tulsa will host Duquesne in 2024...The 2020 Mississippi State-Tulane FB series game has been postponed until 2030...Indiana and Idaho will play a two-game series in 2021 and '22...Houston and UTSA will compete in a 2022 and '23 home-and-home rivalry...Oklahoma State has played in a school-best 15 consecutive bowl games under head coach Mike Gundy and is 10-5 over that span. O-State all-time has improved to 20-11-0 in all-time bowls for a .645 winning percentage...Alabama led the nation with six first team selections on the Associated Press All-America squad...Wisconsin advanced to 17-15-0 after its 32nd bowl appearance in a 42-28 win over Wake Forest in the Duke's Mayo Bowl. The Badgers have captured six of their last seven bowl outings since 2014.

Paul Tyson, the great-grandson of NFF College Hall of Fame member Paul "Bear" Bryant, was suited up at quarterback on and cheered on teammates from the sidelines in Alabama's first Rose Bowl presented by Capital One appearance at Arlington,

Texas, Jan. 1. His great-grandfather caught a pass from fellow NFF College Hall of Fame member QB Dixie Howell of Alabama in a 29-13 win over Stanford in the 1935 Rose Bowl – one of ‘Bama’s seven appearances in the Pasadena, Calif., bowl location where he Crimson Tide is 5-1-1 in postseason all-time...Michigan Stadium hosted a large COVID-19 vaccination location for area Michigan Medicine health care workers and other frontline responders...Famed “Candy Bomber” 1948 U.S. Berlin Airlift (Operation Vittles) Air Force pilot Hal Halvorsen was remembered in a recent video for his helping to obtain 21 million pounds of candy via U.S. military planes for starving children in Germany after West Berlin was blockaded by land in 1948. Halvorsen was assistant dean of Student Life at BYU from 1976-86 and remains a big fan of the Cougars at the age of 100.

Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin received a contract extension with automatic raises through the 2023 season...Former Texas head coach Tom Herman now is 5-0 in bowls at Houston and UT over the last six seasons and guided UH into the 2016 Las Vegas Bowl but did not coach the team. Herman left the Longhorns program Jan. 2 and has been replaced by former Washington and USC head coach Steve Sarkisian...Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz spoke of enjoying continuing into his 23rd season at UI in 2021 and how his 2020 squad overcame numerous obstacles to advance to bowl eligibility...Iowa State AD Jamie Pollard mentioned the longest-tenured NCAA FBS head coaches and their schools with Ferentz atop the list...Ohio State head coach Ryan Day sought to analyze last week before the CFP semifinals Clemson's innate defensive ability of anticipating certain plays from the opposition...New South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer is keeping previous offensive coordinator Mike Bobo on his staff. Former Vanderbilt head coach Derek Mason has interviewed for the Gamecocks defensive coordinator's post...Florida head coach Dan Mullen reverberated about the hospitality shown to the Gators student-athletes and staff during UF's first visit to the Goodyear Cotton Bowl last week....Appalachian State offensive coordinator and quarterback coach Tony Petersen is going to Illinois as offensive coordinator...Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher waived his bowl berth bonus from athletics to help ease the 2020-21 department's deficit ...Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney was given kudos for his sixth consecutive appearance in the College Football Playoff – the only head coach with this accomplishment...The Athletic reviewed the hiring process for Missouri head coach Eli Drinkwitz when he accepted the position prior to the '20 season after a successful career at Appalachian State...Houston head coach Dana Holgorsen received his 2021 raise and new salary of \$4 million annually starting Jan. 1. Next year it will

be \$4.2 million and then \$4.3 million in 2023 via Texas public records...Ball State head coach Mike Neu accepted his bowl bonus for guiding the Cardinals to their initial postseason triumph...Alabama offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian captured the coveted Frank Broyles Assistant Coach of the Year Award...Clemson offensive coordinator Tony Elliott had to miss the Tigers CFP semifinal bout with Ohio due to a positive COVID-19 exam...Former Arizona and Texas A&M strength and conditioning coach Brian Johnson has accepted the same position at Arkansas State...Wisconsin and Oklahoma State players pulled out anticipated Gatorade (or other materials) baths for winning head coaches Paul Chryst and Mike Gundy, respectively, but instead revealed ice water (not mayonnaise) and Cheez-Its filled celebratory bowl victories' buckets...Minnesota head coach PJ Fleck has come up in conversations for possible NFL head coaching positions.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches – Southwestern (Kan.): Brad Griffin, Nickerson, Kan.; Southwestern (Texas): Joe Austin, Des Moines, Iowa; Springfield: Mike Cerasuolo, Northboro, Mass.; Stanford: David Shaw, San Diego, Calif.; Syracuse: Dino Babers, Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Boise State named former Baylor associate AD Jeremiah Dickey as its new director of athletics last Saturday...Miami (Fla.) director of athletics Blake James related that it may take several weeks to tally the final financial effects of COVID-19 on 2020-21 football budgets because of monetary factors in bowl and television payouts...Northwestern interim AD Janna Blais has been tasked to make sure NFF Hall of Fame player and ultra-successful Wildcats head coach Pat Fitzgerald stays put at his alma mater...Former BYU AD and head men's basketball coach Dave Rose suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in stable condition last weekend...The Idaho Press noted that Santa Clara AD Renee Baumgartner was a leading candidate for the Boise State AD position. Inside sources are relating that BSU plans to hire the AD (and the Idaho university did just that last Saturday) prior to filling its football head coaching vacancy. The current Boise State AD search also included internal candidate BSU senior associate AD and football chief of staff Greg Larrondo...Towson AD Tim Leonard, who is from Treasure Falls, Idaho was not a finalist for the Boise State AD's opening...Auburn AD Allen Greene emailed key Tigers supporters and alumni with hopes for a better 2021 season and pulling together under new head coach Bryan Harsin...UCLA AD Martin Jarmond expressed his support for head coach Chip Kelly and the direction of the Bruins program...Georgia's former senior deputy AD Josh Brooks is officially interim AD for the Bulldogs and remembered working with current Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher, Michigan State head coach Mel Tucker, former Florida and South Carolina

head coach Will Muschamp, and former Louisiana Tech and Tennessee head coach Derek Dooley in his past administrative assignments...Saint Joseph's (Pa.) AD Jill Bodensteiner and former UC Davis AD Kevin Blue related about the state-of-the-art data collection in college athletics and how that affects daily decision making...Baylor senior associate AD for football operations Austin Thomas appears to be headed back to LSU to replace retiring Tigers assistant AD for football operations Sam Nader who is leaving LSU after 46 years with the gridiron staff in various capacities...Some recent position opening posted on theD1Ticker.com site are general manager for Playfly Sports Properties at Oakland U., director of athletics at West Georgia, assistant AD for sports medicine at Regis (Colo.), and leadership annual giving officer at the University of San Francisco ...Illinois State is advertising for a graduate assistant in its athletic communications' office...Oregon women's basketball head coach Kelly Lee Graves had his contract extended through 2028-29.

The rivalry between Conference USA and Sun Belt Conference teams in football was explored by the Denton (Texas) Record-Chronicle newspaper. North Texas was a former SBC member that matriculated to C-USA in 2013...The Horizon League is taking steps to make sure that all games officials are tested on time and correctly for COVID-19 conditions...The Big 12 Conference has captured the prestigious ESPN Bowl Challenge Cup competition for post-2021 bowls with a 5-0 record and 1.000 winning percentage while the Mid-America Conference always was 2-0 in the postseason but played in fewer bowls...Conference USA won the ESPN Bowl Challenge for top winning percentages by a circuit in post-2018 (4-2, .667), post-2014 (4-1, .800), post-2012 (4-1, .800), and post-2011 (4-1, .800, co-champ, tied with Mid-American Conference. C-USA and the Mountain West Conference have the most ESPN Bowl Challenge awards with four each since competition began in 2002...The Big East Conference revealed its remaining men's and women's basketball telecasts last week...The Ohio Valley Conference is making contingency plans for its winter and summer postseason championships based on how much of a full schedule each school has completed...Mid-American Conference administrators and coaches related the helpful nature of twice-monthly diversity, equality and inclusion Zoom meetings had created a new atmosphere of unity throughout the circuit...Conference USA will use divisional standings to determine eight-team seeding in both its men's and women's basketball championship tournaments...Iona athletics is observing the latest 10-day isolation protocols for COVID-19 in New York State and trying to link them with the longer, 14-day quarantine requirements from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference...The COVID-19 testing procedures of the Pac-12 Conference

for coaches, student-athletes and game officials were reviewed and saluted for timeliness and correct results by a national internet outlet.

The Peach Bowl and Chick-fil-A have renewed their 25-year corporate sponsorship – one of the longest-running in college bowl annals...The College Football Playoff had contingency plans, along with moving the Rose Bowl presented by Capital One to AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, in the event one of the four teams had COVID-19 challenges. Jan. 11 was the semifinal back-up date with the CFP title game contingency on Jan. 18. In the event that both games needed to be rescheduled, the Rose Bowl presented by Capital One would have kicked on Jan. 11 and the Allstate Sugar Bowl on Jan. 12...The top three teams in NCAA FBS bowl history by winning percentage are Utah at .739 (17-6-0), Ole Miss at .658 (25-13-0) and Oklahoma State at .645 (20-11-0)...The Mercari Texas Bowl between TCU and Arkansas was cancelled due to COVID-19 upsurges in the TCU program...Oklahoma scored a school-record 55 points and had a Goodyear Cotton Bowl record 684 yards of total offense in a 55-20 victory over SEC runnerup Florida in the 2020 Goodyear Cotton Bowl. It was OU's 54th bowl bout since the 1938 Capital One Orange Bowl....Wisconsin QB Graham Mertz accidentally dropped and shattered the glass/acrylic Duke's Mayo Bowl trophy in Charlotte in the locker room after the Badgers downed Wake Forest, and bowl officials immediately ordered a replacement...During last week's Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, game attendants cited 10 ticketholders for failure to wear masks in accordance with Texas state COVID-19 protocols...Ball State broke into the win column after seven previous bowl tries going back to the 1989 California Bowl with a 34-13 victory in the Arizona Bowl over Mountain West Conference winner and then-7-0 San Jose State...The Tournament of Roses paid the City of Pasadena \$2 million to let the Rose Bowl presented by Capital One to be used for the College Football Playoff semifinal game in Arlington, Texas. ABC-TV had a two-hour presentation with interviews, entertainer Sheryl Crow and highlights from Tournament of Roses Parades going back to the early 20th Century. The Tournament of Roses and Pasadena are in the midst of a 30-year licensing agreement for the Rose Bowl™ trademark.

Alabama's DeVonta Smith had 20 receiving touchdowns in 2020 to help the Crimson Tide become the first school in FBS annals to post two players with 20 TDs receiving and 20 rushing TDs by RB Najee Harris in the same campaign...Ohio State QB Justin Fields fired for six TD passes against Clemson to lead the Buckeyes into the CFP title contest against Alabama Monday...Tulsa LB and 2020 FWAA Bronko Nagurski Award winner Zaven Collins decided not to play in the

(continued on page 14)

Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl against Mississippi State to prepare for the 2021 NFL Draft... Notre Dame LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah has captured the 2020 Dick Butkus Award... Former Tennessee QB JT ShROUT will transfer to Colorado in '21 and have three seasons of eligibility remaining... Colorado's leading WR La'Tontae Shenault did not play in the Valero Alamo Bowl against Texas after a suspension... Colorado QB Sam Noyer began his career as a defensive back with the Buffaloes and then switched fulltime to QB prior to the 2020 season. He saw activity as both a DB and QB during the 2018 and '18 campaigns... Oklahoma State QB Spencer Sanders copped Cheez-It Bowl MVP honors with a 27-for-40 passing day and four TD flips as well as 12 rushing attempts for 50 yards. He spent earlier portions of the '20 season on the injury list. Three of Sanders' TD passes went to freshman WR Brennan Presley who ended with six total catches for 119 yards. Presley has one reception in the Cowboys first 10 games... Ole Miss QB Matt Corral passed 342 yards and two TDs to pace the Rebels to their 25th bowl win in history over Indiana of the Big Ten... Texas A&M RB Devon Achane earned MVP honors in the Capital One Orange Bowl by rushing for 140 yards on 12 carries with a 76-yard TD jaunt to help the Aggies down North Carolina... Colorado RB Jarek Broussard is the first Buffalo to rush for 100-plus yards in four consecutive skirmishes in '20 with the Buffs. He had a personal-high 301 yards rushing against Arizona... Texas sports the only two quarterbacks in NCAA FBS history to pass for 11,000 career yards and rush for 1,500 yards. 2020 senior Sam Ehlinger followed UT great Colt McCoy with this unique statistical line. Ehlinger also was named Big 12 Conference 2020 co-Football Student-Athlete of the Year with Iowa State's Kene Nwangwu... Iowa State All-America RB Breece Hall has a strong connection to Nebraska football. His stepfather is former Nebraska RB Jeff Smith and cousins are former NU greats RB Roger Craig and WB Curtis Craig... Texas backup QB Casey Thompson who starred in the Longhorns Valero Bowl win over Colorado in the Valero Alamo Bowl. Thompson is the son of former Oklahoma and Central State (Ohio) QB Charles Thompson and brother of Oklahoma WR Kendal Thompson....

...Stanford WR Simi Fehoko will skip his senior season in '21 and enter the 2021 NFL Draft... Some additional, notable players who have declared early for the '21 NFL Draft are Tay Gowan, CB, UCF; Thomas Graham Jr., CB, Oregon; Adrian Hardy, WR, Louisiana Tech; Javian Hawkins, RB, Louisville; Kylin Hill, RB, Mississippi State; Anthony Hines, LB, Texas A&M; Jevon Holland, safety, Oregon; Jaycee Horn, CB, South Carolina; and Chuba Hubbard, RB, Oklahoma State... Texas A&M QB Kellen Mond tied the Aggies career record for touchdown

responsibility with Johnny Manziel at 93... Former Colorado State and Nebraska quarterback Patrick O'Brien is taking his talents to Washington for the '21 campaign... Texas A&M added 2021 signees defensive end Elijah Jeudy and safety Jardin Gilbert to its heady recruiting haul....

...Vanderbilt and North Texas women's soccer and football student-athlete Sarah Fuller praised her teammates for accepting her after she was called into emergency kicking duty. Fuller also gave the squad a stirring pep talk about hanging in during halftime of one of Vandy's later games. She did her part in trying, but the Commodores went 0-9 against rugged SEC opponents in their first winless campaign in 126 years of football.

NFF College Hall of Fame coaches R.C. Slocum of Texas A&M and active head coach Mack Brown of North Carolina spoke of their longtime friendship and cogent advice they had given to one another during parts of the last three decades..

... Some executives of the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars have indicated that former BCS and CFP championship head coach Urban Meyer might be a major desire for the Jags as 2021 head coach... Former UCLA men's basketball student-athlete and NBA standout Baron Davis and music artist Master P have made a reported offer of \$2.4 billion to purchase Reebok... The NFL is seeking to expand its regular season to 17 games in 2021 and will shorten the preseason by at least 2-3 games with one bye week and the Super Bowl moving to the second week in February 2022...

....Former Vanderbilt standout and NFL Houston Texans LB Zach Cunningham was featured in a recent Tweet about his ability to respond to third down-and-short yardage situations... The NFL's updated numbers of most college player by alma mater during the 2020-21 campaign are Alabama, 66; Ohio State, 54; LSU, 49; Florida, 42; Georgia, 38; Miami (Fla.), 36; Michigan, 36; Penn State, 36; Clemson, 34; and Notre Dame, 34... Former Boise State QB standout and NFL Dallas Cowboys offensive coordinator Kellen Moore received a contract extension from the Cowboys and took his name out of consideration for the BSU head coaching post... Becky Hammon became the first women to serve as head coach in a NBA game when San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich was ejected in the second quarter of a game with the Los Angeles Lakers on Dec. 30.

Missouri has received an anonymous \$10 million donation for its proposed indoor football practice facility... Florida's three losses in 2020 SEC games, including the championship against Alabama, came by a scant, 12 points. The Gators also without four receivers who accounted for 174 catches and 34 touchdowns in '20 when they met Oklahoma in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl. These included players opting out and COVID-19 contact tracing challenges. The Gators also entered the GCB with 60 scholarship student-athletes

available due to COVID-19 and opt outs... Tennessee State athletics is re-branding its logo and several other areas with an assist from contracted apparel and marketing sponsor Nike... Texas Woman's U. has emailed volunteer worker forms to help at the TWU Student Union in 2021. The director of the Student Union in Denton, Texas, is former North Texas athletics assistant AD David Sweeten... SMU's women's basketball team has ended its 2020-21 season due to COVID-19 concerns... There are 43 men's and women's basketball teams affected by COVID-19 pauses, quarantining or ending their seasons as of Jan. 3 in all five NCAA and NAIA divisions... Florida's injured men's basketball player Keyontae Johnson is assisting the team as a student coach after collapsing last month at a UF-Florida State game... NFP Sports and Entertainment Group Insurance estimates that policies protecting college football and other athletics' programs may have a 25-50 percent and possibly higher increase per event in 2021 because of the extended COVID-19 pandemic... Iowa State recruiters divulged in a communication about how if a prospective student-athlete was not totally with ISU in the recruiting process, the Cyclones move onto to others more desirous of attending... Montana athletics was rewarded for several recent men's basketball matchups through game guarantees and hopes to keep pursuing those avenues against NCAA FBS gridiron opponents... The Baseline Tennis Club at Minnesota requested a meeting with the university's Board of Regents for solutions to keep the men's and women's tennis teams afloat economically and back on the courts Real-Response's online meetings and chat rooms have been flooded with COVID-10 related questions and requests for advice about protocols and prevention of the disease's spread in college athletics... Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the state's names, images and likenesses' bill, which will go into effect Dec. 31, 2022, for college student-athletes and remuneration..

...Several athletic trainers and medical experts have requested cardiac MRIs for all student-athletes who have tested positive for COVID-19... Louisiana athletics has released an update for its Let's Geaux Ragin' Cajuns strategic plan with 27 key objectives, 15 of which already have been satisfied... North Texas' men's basketball played a first-ever game with 1963 NCAA champion Loyola (Chicago) as a replacement for COVID-19-affected UAB squad... Connecticut basketball season ticket holders have donated \$1.9 million of their ticket packages in 2020-21 to help alleviate the Huskies budget deficit.

Stadium's Jeff Goodman, ESPN analyst Robbie Hummel and ESPN's Jeff Borzello discussed several pertinent topics, including the pandemic and its effect on college sports and how colleges replace head coaching legends... ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit tested positive for COVID-19 and called

the Allstate Sugar Bowl from his home near Nashville. ESPN's Greg McElroy, who starred at Alabama and played at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas during his high school career in Southlake, Texas, also analyzed the Goodyear Cotton Bowl from his home after a positive COVID-19 test last midweek... The Extra Points website extolled the surprising seasons by Cincinnati, Coastal Carolina, Liberty, BYU, Louisiana, and San Jose State and the futures of these programs... Sports Business Journal reflected on the NFL's usage of streaming services for 2020 and '21 games and how ESPN+ and other outlets have streamed college football contests through the years... Yahoo Sports' Pete Thamel examined famed college head coaches with possibilities of heading NFL teams. Among the candidates per Thamel are multiple-team head coach and Fox Sports commentator Urban Meyer, Iowa State's Matt Campbell, Florida's Dan Mullen, Northwestern's Pat Fitzgerald (NFF College Hall of Fame player), Oklahoma's Lincoln Riley (who was eligible for a \$225,000 season performance bonus), Stanford's David Shaw, and Penn State's James Franklin to the listAthletic DirectorU and Carousel Analytics analyzed experience levels for head coaches and minorities with a survey of 1,358 head coaches with a combined 8,379 years as head coaches in college athletics... Sports Business Journal opined about multiple anticipated changes in football season ticket policies in 2021 after COVID-19 uncertainties... Sports Illustrated mentioned the sometimes-tricky situations where football student-athletes were injured during the 2020 season and wanted to visit on the field afterward with parents or family members who may or may not have been on hand due to COVID-19 crowd restrictions... The Wall Street Journal opined that with the advent of at least three vaccines against COVID-19, the pandemic might be closer to ending in spring 2021 than summer 2021 as many have forecast with a hopeful rejuvenation of crowds at athletics' events... Sports Illustrated highlighted the important roles of football and basketball directors of operations and chiefs of staff in this COVID-19-racked year - especially in the areas of testing, traveling and on-the-spot scheduling... Yahoo Sports became the latest to support an expanded, eight-team College Football Playoff. The publication also pointed out that traditional powers and previous mythical national champions such as Florida, Florida State, Miami (Fla.), Texas, USC, Texas A&M, Auburn, Michigan, Wisconsin, Penn State, UCLA, Virginia Tech, and Tennessee could return to prominence with the expansion and new NCAA rules for immediate, one-time transfers... ESPN+ is increasing its annual subscription price from \$49.99 to \$59.99 starting Jan. 8... Sportico spoke about San Jose State's "miracle" season, Mountain West Conference championship and 7-0 record prior to the Arizona Bowl... The

New York Times editorialized that men's, women's basketball and other winter sports should be paused as COVID-19 cases continue to accelerate... Alden Global Capital is looking to purchase more than its current 32 percent share of national media giant Tribune Publishing Co... The New York Times Magazine published an insider's look at the Big Ten Conference's decision and carryout of the 2020 football outing.

The FWA and Capital One Orange Bowl named Midwestern State assistant coach Alex Charlton as the winner of the 2020 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWA Courage Award. Charlton was a football analyst at MSU but joined the front lines of the pandemic as a COVID-19 response team nurse in New York City. In March, Charlton became a graduate assistant at Midwestern State after he attended Kansas where he was as a student assistant for the Jayhawks and stayed on after his 2013 graduation while serving as a player personnel assistant and a graduate assistant. He then enrolled in nursing school at UMKC in 2015 and assisted with several high school football programs in the Kansas City area. During spring football training in Wichita Falls, Texas, he left to move to work as a nurse in New York, which was experiencing nearly 5,000 coronavirus cases a day at the height of the pandemic. Charlton stayed until June when cases had fallen to approximately 1,000 daily, returned home briefly to Kansas and has returned to MSU, which will play football again in spring 2021... The late Beano Cook of Pittsburgh and ABC Sports, Anne Abicht of St. Cloud State, Norm Carlson of Florida, Barry Beal of The College of New Jersey, and Ray Fink of Northwest (Wash.) were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter ... American U., Arizona, Clemson, Iowa, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Michigan State, Texas Tech, and UCLA are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools... The NCAA marketing department has filed a trademark for Mask Madness and will open a public relations campaign to urge the continued use of face masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19... Orlando's Disney Campus appears to be the locale for the resumed NBA G League in a bubble atmosphere with opening games set for Feb. 8... Arizona's self-imposed NCAA penalties for men's basketball were examined by dozens of national news agencies last week... Actress Lori Loughlin was released from incarceration in California on Dec. 28 after serving two months and paying a \$150,000 fine for college admissions' fraud at Southern California.

Former Jacksonville State head coach (winningest in school history with 97 victories) and Alabama's oldest living letterman as a football standout from 1940-42 Don Salls passed away in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Jan. 2. He was 101.

2020 NFF In Memoriam



By National Football Foundation
www.footballfoundation.com

The National Football Foundation remembers those who paved the way in college football

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame remembered today those who passed away since December 2019 and played a role in improving the game of college football for future generations.

"It is always important at this time of year to reflect on those who have left us," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "Part of the mission of the National Football Foundation is to shine a light on the good in the game and to preserve its history. We lost some great ones in 2020, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends and universities. We will work hard to ensure that their contributions are not forgotten."

"We would be remiss if we did not pay special tribute to former NFF Board Members Jesse Arnette and Gene Corrigan, who for nearly a quarter of a century served as chairman of the NFF Honors Court, which annually selects the College Football Hall of Fame Class. We also want to remember Jimmie McDowell, the long-time NFF Executive Director who served the organization for more than 25 years. They all left the NFF and the world a better place, and they will truly be missed."

Click here to view a special "In Memoriam" video honoring those listed below who passed since Dec. 10, 2019 when the college community last gathered at the 62nd NFF Annual Awards Dinner.

Fred Akers
Head Football Coach
Wyoming, Texas, Purdue
March 17, 1938 – Dec. 7, 2020

LaDell Andersen
Athletics Director
Utah State University
Oct. 25, 1929 – Dec. 29, 2019

H. Jesse Arnette

NFF Board Member
Prominent Attorney
Penn State University
Dec. 30, 1933 – Oct. 21, 2020

Edward Aschoff
ESPN College Football Reporter
Dec. 24, 1985 – Dec. 24, 2019

Jim Bartko
Athletics Director
Fresno State
May 13, 1965 – March 16, 2020

Bill Belknap
Athletics Director – Idaho, Wichita State
Commissioner – Southland Conference
March 18, 1939 – July 17, 2020

Ed Biles
Head Football Coach
Xavier University
Oct. 18, 1931 – April 5, 2020

John Blake
Head Football Coach
University of Oklahoma
March 6, 1961 – July 23, 2020

Morgan Burke
Athletics Director
Purdue University
Dec. 17, 1951 – June 15, 2020

*** Marino Casem**
2003 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
1998 NFF Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award
Head Football Coach – Alabama State, Alcorn State, Southern
Athletics Director – Alcorn State, Southern
June 23, 1934 – April 25, 2020

*** Gene Corrigan**
NFF Board Member
NFF Honors Court Chairman
1996 NFF Gold Medal
NCAA President
ACC Commissioner
Athletics Director – Washington and Lee (VA), Virginia, Notre Dame
April 14, 1928 – Jan. 24, 2020

Dick Coury
Head Football Coach
Cal State Fullerton
Sept. 29, 1929 – Aug. 15, 2020

*** Fred Dean**
2009 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
Louisiana Tech University
Feb. 24, 1952 – Oct. 14, 2020

*** Arthur J. Decio**
2000 NFF Distinguished American Award
Skyline Corporation Chairman
DePaul University
Oct. 19, 1930 – Nov. 6, 2020

King Dixon
Athletics Director
University of South Carolina
Dec. 28, 1936 – July 6, 2020

*** Rickey Dixon**
2019 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
University of Oklahoma
Dec. 26, 1966 – Aug. 1, 2020

Chris Dufresne
Los Angeles Times Sports Writer
California State University, Fullerton
April 11, 1958 – May 25, 2020

*** Pat Dye**
2005 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
Head Football Coach – East Carolina, Wyoming, Auburn
Athletics Director – Auburn
Nov. 6, 1939 – June 1, 2020

*** Hayden Fry**
2003 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
Head Football Coach – Southern Methodist, North Texas, Iowa
Athletics Director – SMU, North Texas
Feb. 28, 1929 – Dec. 17, 2019

Phyllis George
Sports Television Pioneer
June 25, 1949 – May 14, 2020

Glenna Goodacre
Renowned Sculptor
Aug. 28, 1939 – April 13, 2020

*** W. C. Gorden**
2008 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
Head Football Coach, Athletics Director
Jackson State University
June 30, 1930 – Oct. 23, 2020

Lee Grosscup
Longtime ABC Sports College Football Broadcaster
Former Utah Football Player
Dec. 27, 1936 – June 1, 2020

Sid Hartman
Legendary Sports Journalist
March 15, 1920 – Oct. 18, 2020

*** Paul Hornung**
1985 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
University of Notre Dame
Dec. 23, 1935 – Nov. 13, 2020

*** Tom Jernstedt**
2010 NFF Legacy Award
NCAA Executive
Nov. 24, 1944 – Sept. 5, 2020

Jim Jones
Athletics Director
Ohio State University
June 23, 1936 – April 22, 2020

T. Jones
Athletics Director
Texas Tech University
Jan. 10, 1931 – Sept. 15, 2020

John Kasser
Athletics Director
California, UC Santa Barbara, Long Beach State
c. 1937 – April 30, 2020

Phil Krueger
Head Football Coach
Fresno State, Utah State
Oct. 6, 1929 – June 22, 2020

Jim Lambright
Head Football Coach
University of Washington
April 26, 1942 – March 29, 2020

Roy Lester
Head Football Coach
University of Maryland
Oct. 3, 1923 – May 3, 2020

*** Johnny Majors**
1987 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee – University of Tennessee
Head Football Coach – Iowa State, Pittsburgh, Tennessee
May 21, 1935 – June 3, 2020

Frank Maloney
Head Football Coach
Syracuse University
Sept. 26, 1940 – March 30, 2020

Jimmie McDowell
Former NFF Executive Director
Sports Writer
2000 FWAA Bert McGrane Award
March 26, 1926 – March 5, 2020

Charlie Moore
Athletics Director
Cornell University
Aug. 12, 1929 – Oct. 8, 2020

Merritt Norvell
Athletics Director
Michigan State University
c. 1941 – Oct. 19, 2020

Murray Olderman
Sports Cartoonist and Writer
1991 FWAA Bert McGrane Award
March 27, 1922 – June 10, 2020

*** Herb Orvis**
2016 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
University of Colorado
October 17, 1946 – August 14, 2020

Ray Perkins
Head Football Coach
Alabama, Arkansas State
Dec. 6, 1941 – Dec. 9, 2020

George Perles
Head Football Coach, Athletics Director
Michigan State University
July 16, 1934 – Jan. 7, 2020

Seaver Peters
Athletics Director
Dartmouth College
Aug. 10, 1932 – Feb. 23, 2020

*** Loyd Phillips**
1992 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
University of Arkansas
May 2, 1945 – Dec. 27, 2020

*** Bob Reade**
1998 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
Head Football Coach
Augustana College (IL)
July 22, 1932 – July 5, 2020

Ken Riley

Head Football Coach, Athletics Director
Florida A&M University
Aug. 6, 1947 – June 7, 2020

Joe Roberson
Athletics Director
University of Michigan
Sept. 22, 1935 – Jan. 13, 2020

*** Bob Robertson**
2004 NFF Schenkel Award
Voice of the Washington State Cougars
March 14, 1929 – Sept. 6, 2020

Pepper Rodgers
Head Football Coach
Kansas, UCLA, Georgia Tech
Oct. 8, 1931 – May 14, 2020

*** Gale Sayers**
1977 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee – University of Kansas
Athletics Director – Southern Illinois, Tennessee State
May 30, 1943 – Sept. 23, 2020

*** Jack Scarbath**
1983 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
University of Maryland
Aug. 12, 1930 – Dec. 6, 2020

*** Jake Scott**
2011 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
University of Georgia
July 20, 1945 – Nov. 19, 2020

Chuck Shelton
Head Football Coach
Drake, Utah State, Pacific (CA)
Aug. 16, 1935 – Feb. 13, 2020

Don Shula
Legendary NFL Coach
John Carroll University (OH)
Jan. 4, 1930 – May 4, 2020

Dick Tamburo
Athletics Director
Texas Tech, Arizona State, Missouri
Feb. 6, 1930 – Feb. 24, 2020

Dick Trachok
Head Football Coach, Athletics Director
University of Nevada
Dec. 27, 1925 – Aug. 2, 2020

David Walker
Athletics Director
University of Louisiana
Sept. 3, 1950 – Dec. 31, 2019

Woody Widenhofer
Head Football Coach
Missouri, Vanderbilt
Jan. 20, 1943 – March 22, 2020

*** Gov. William Winter**
1983 NFF Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award
58th Governor of Mississippi
NFF Central Mississippi Chapter President
Feb. 21, 1923 – Dec. 18, 2020

Sam Wyche
Head Football Coach
Indiana University
Jan. 5, 1945 – Jan. 2, 2020

*** Bill Yeoman**
2001 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee
Head Football Coach
University of Houston
Dec. 26, 1927 – Aug. 12, 2020

** College Football Hall of Fame inductee or NFF Award recipient*

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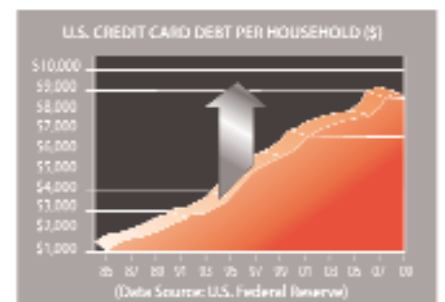
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Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at \$2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.



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The desirability of G-Class holds strong



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

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

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

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

meet driver preference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TICKET WINDOW



Shabu Shabu: A boiling pot of soup bliss



By Richard Pollak
The Traveling Gourmet
dallasentertain@aol.com

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

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



Traditional Japanese starters are elevated at Yoshi Shabu Shabu

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

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

After the Starters, the main experience



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

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

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



Kimberly guided us through the Yoshi Shabu Shabu process

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



The Seafood is fresh and prepares quickly in the Hot Pot

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

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

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



Extremely thin sliced Meats make for extremely fast cooking

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



Rice topped with protein along with vegetables

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



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

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

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