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Weekly



WORLD ²⁰₂₀ SERIES

Oct. 16 - Oct. 22, 2020

Vol. 19, Issue 8

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Big 12 to host NCAA Tournaments



Big 12 Conference To Host March Madness In 2023, 2024, 2026

The Big 12 will continue to host NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship competition in 2023, 2024 and 2026, the NCAA has announced.

The Conference will join forces with Kansas City to host a 2023 Regional, with Dallas for a 2024 Regional and with Oklahoma City for 2026 first and second

rounds. These three upcoming events will increase the Big 12's NCAA men's basketball hosting opportunities to 17 since the Conference began competition in 1997. The league is also hosting 2021 men's first and second rounds as well as the 2023 NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four in Dallas. As part of the Women's Final Four, the Big 12 will host the championship games for Division II and Division III in addition to the Division I semifinals and final.

"The Big 12 and its host organizations have a long, rich history of hosting NCAA championship events," said Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby. "The cities and arenas have been exceptional partners and we look forward to remaining a part of March Madness in the upcoming years."

BIG 12 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP HOST HISTORY

2001	Kansas City, Mo	Kemper Arena	First/Second Rounds
2002	Dallas, Texas	American Airlines Center	First/Second Rounds
2003	Oklahoma City, Okla	Ford Center	First/Second Rounds
2004	Kansas City, Mo	Kemper Arena	First/Second Rounds
2005	Oklahoma City, Okla	Ford Center	First/Second Rounds
2006	Dallas, Texas	American Airlines Center	First/Second Rounds
2009	Kansas City, Mo	Sprint Center	First/Second Rounds
2010	Oklahoma City, Okla	Ford Center	First/Second Rounds
2013	Arlington, Texas	AT&T Stadium	South Regional
2014	Arlington, Texas	AT&T Stadium	Final Four
2016	Oklahoma City, Okla	Chesapeake Energy Arena	First/Second Rounds
2017	Kansas City, Mo	Sprint Center	Midwest Regional
2018	Dallas, Texas	American Airlines Center	First/Second Rounds
2021	Dallas, Texas	American Airlines Center	First/Second Rounds
2023	Kansas City, Mo	T-Mobile Center	Regional
2024	Dallas, Texas	American Airlines Center	Regional
2026	Oklahoma City, Okla	Chesapeake Energy Arena	First/Second Rounds



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National Open, October 14-15

Hundreds of sportsman racers from across the country will be competing in a unique two-day event.

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The Friday Night Live event will begin with a round of Grudge Match Racing followed by a qualifying session from the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Top Alcohol Dragster division.

AAA Texas Fall Nationals, October 17-18

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Chris Kyle Frog Foundation Event, October 18

Once again the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation will offer military and first responders free tickets to the annual NHRA national event

To purchase tickets, call 800-668-6775

NCAA Football - Top 25

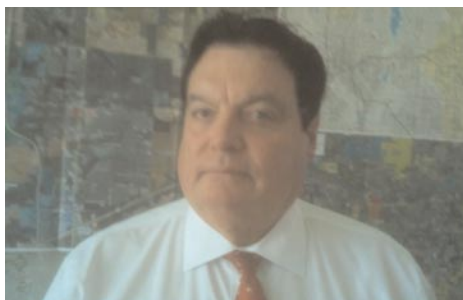
Coaches	(Week of 10/12/20)	AP
1. Clemson	1. Clemson	
2. Alabama	2. Alabama	
3. Georgia	3. Georgia	
4. Notre Dame	4. Notre Dame	
7. Ohio State	5. North Carolina	
6. North Carolina	6. Ohio State	
7. Oklahoma State	7. Oklahoma State	
8. Penn State	8. Cincinnati	
9. Florida	9. Penn State	
10. Cincinnati	10. Florida	
11. Texas A&M	11. Texas A&M	
12. Miami	12. Oregon	
13. BYU	13. Miami	
14. Auburn	14. Auburn	
15. Wisconsin	15. BYU	
16. Oregon	16. Wisconsin	
17. Tennessee	17. SMU	
18. SMU	18. Tennessee	
19. Michigan	19. Michigan	
20. Iowa State	20. Iowa State	
21. Louisiana	21. Louisiana	
22. Kansas State	22. Kansas State	
23. Virginia Tech	23. Virginia Tech	
24. USC	24. Minnesota	
25. Minnesota	25. USC	

	OCTOBER 16 FRIDAY	OCTOBER 17 SATURDAY	OCTOBER 18 SUNDAY	OCTOBER 19 MONDAY	OCTOBER 20 TUESDAY	OCTOBER 21 WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 22 THURSDAY
★				Dallas vs Cardinals 7:25 / ESPN			
SMU	SMU at Tulane 5:00 / ESPN						
TCU		NEXT: vs OU 11:00 / ABC					
WORLD 2020 SERIES		UNT at Middle Tennessee 4:00					
FC DALLAS					FC Dallas vs Nashville 7:30		

Braves and Rays one win away



Houston has rallied with a pair of wins to force a game six Friday in San Diego



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM

AMERICAN LEAGUE

The Tampa Bay Rays go into the weekend leading Houston three games to two needing one more win to punch their ticket to the World Series next week in Arlington. They sprinted out to a 3-0 lead to start the series, but the Astros aren't going home easily. Houston has rallied with a pair of wins to force a game six Friday in San Diego.

Here's a summary of the first five games:

Jose Altuve homered in the first inning of game one to put the Astros in front 1-0. Randy Arozarena homered in the fourth inning to tie the game, and the Rays manufactured a run in the fifth inning with a leadoff walk scoring on Mike Zunino's two out single.

The Astros out-hit the Rays 9-6, and Framber Valdez pitched exceedingly well, but Houston and Tampa Bay never scored again after the fifth inning making the final

score 2-1. Valdez took the loss but has almost certainly pitched his way into next season's Astros starting rotation.

In game two, a throwing error by Jose Altuve in the first inning led to three unearned runs off Lance McCullers, Jr. The error came with two outs leaving the Rays still up to bat, and Manuel Margot made the Astros pay by hitting a three-run home run. Carlos Correa hit a solo home run in the sixth inning, but Zunino matched it with a solo home run in the seventh inning. The Astros twice loaded the bases in the ninth inning but managed to score just once making the final score 4-2.

Houston again out-hit the Rays 10-4 but went 1-8 with runners in scoring position. McCullers took the loss.

In Tuesday's game three, Altuve again homered in the first inning. Jose Urquidy was the Astros starting pitcher and turned in five shutout innings as the Astros nursed that 1-0 lead. Urquidy gave up a single to start the sixth inning. Urquidy then coaxed a potential double play ground ball to Altuve, who made his third error of the series on his throw to second base. That put runners at first and third with no outs, and Astros Manager Dusty Baker then went to his bullpen. Enoli Parades relieved and gave up hits to the first two batters he faced scoring both inherited runners. That put the Rays ahead for good at 2-1.

The Rays scrambled to push three more runs across the plate to take a commanding

5-1 lead. Michael Brantley hit another solo home run in the Astros' sixth inning, but that was all the scoring. The final score was 5-2 with Urquidy taking the loss despite allowing one earned run in five innings plus innings.

The Astros looked dead in the water down 3-0. They had not hit with men in scoring position and had given up runs with shoddy fielding. However, they aren't dead until they lose four games and they didn't lose game four.

Altuve again homered in the first inning to give the Astros a quick 1-0 lead. In his next at bat in the third inning, Altuve doubled home another run to push the lead to 2-0. That lead didn't last long. Arozarena (him again!) homered with a runner on base to tie the game in the fourth inning. George Springer then matched Arozarena with a two run home run for Houston in the fifth inning to stake Houston to a 4-2 lead.

Old pro Zack Greinke started and gave the Astros six innings allowing the two runs on five hits. Cristian Javier shut out Tampa in the seventh and eighth innings, but when he walked the leadoff hitter in the ninth inning, manager Dusty Baker summoned closer Ryan Pressly, the Flower Mound Marcus graduate, to finish the game. He gave up a run scoring double but retired the other three hitters he faced to earn the save in the 4-3 game. Greinke was the winning pitcher.

On Thursday, it was George Springer

that hit the first inning home run. Brandon Lowe tied it with a solo home run in the third inning. Michael Brantley put the Astros back in front 3-1 with a two run single in the bottom of the third inning. Arozarena (again!) and Ji-Man Choi hit solo shots in the fifth and eighth innings to send the game to the ninth inning tied at three. It was the Astros' Carlos Correa that walked it off for Houston with another solo home run. Astros 4 – Rays 3 final with five of the runs scoring on five home runs with no one on base.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The Atlanta Braves are also one win away from reaching the World Series. The young, but very talented Braves have continued their playoff run against the heavily favored Los Angeles Dodgers. Atlanta came into the series with a 5-0 record in this post-season with four of those wins being shutouts. The Braves have three solid starting pitchers and a strong bullpen to match up with the Dodger starters and solid bullpen.

They were still given little chance to beat Los Angeles, a team that had won their division for eight straight years and reached the World Series twice in the past three years. It was presumed that this would be their year to finally win it all, but they find themselves in a 3-1 hole going into the weekend.

Here's a summary of the first four games:

Monday night's game 1 of the Braves – Dodgers series was the first Major League game this year with paying customers sitting in the stands. They were treated to a marvelous game. Atlanta took the early 1-0 lead on Freddie Freeman's first inning home run. Enrique Hernandez tied it with a fifth inning home run for Los Angeles.

It was still tied 1-1 going to the ninth inning, but the teams took different paths to get there. LA's starting pitcher Walker Buehler gave up just the one run on three hits, but he was in constant trouble as he walked five batters. That ran up his pitch count such that he finished just five innings. The Dodgers needed three relievers to get to the ninth inning.

Atlanta's Max Fried was almost perfect. He gave the Braves six solid innings and needed just 96 pitches to do so. Chris Martin and Will Smith blanked the Dodgers in the seventh and eighth innings, retiring all six batters they faced.

Austin Riley led off the top of the ninth inning with a home run. A double, flyout and single followed to push across a third Atlanta run, which chased Dodger reliever Blake Treinen from the mound. Jake McGee followed Treinen, and he gave up a two run home run to Ozzie Albies making

(continued on page 6)



The Dodgers scored 11 runs in the first inning, the most runs in an inning since 1954 when they were the Brooklyn Dodgers

the score 5-1.

The Dodgers went quietly on three groundouts in the ninth inning to end the game.

The bad news for Los Angeles began early on Tuesday when starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw, a Highland Park High School grad, was scratched with back spasms. His replacement, Tony Gonsolin looked good for three innings, retiring all nine Braves he faced. Braves starting pitcher Ian Anderson was almost as good shutting out the Dodgers over the first three innings.

Atlanta turned the game around quickly in the fourth inning. A leadoff walk was followed by a Freeman home run to put the Braves in front 2-0. The Braves chased Gonsolin in the fifth inning upping their lead to 6-0 and pushed across a seventh inning run to make the score 7-0 going to the bottom of the seventh inning.

It looked like a lock for Atlanta at that point, but it wasn't. Corey Seager hit a three run homer in the Dodgers' seventh to make the score 7-3. Albies got one of those runs back in the ninth inning with a solo home run, but the ninth inning was still scary for the Braves.

Josh Tomlin took the mound for Atlanta and struck out the first batter he faced. A single and a double followed scoring a run for the Dodgers. Another strikeout put the Braves an out away for a win, but a Max Muncy (Keller High School and Baylor University) home run cut the lead to 8-6. That was all for Tomlin.

Mark Melancon relieved and coaxed a ground ball to second base that should have ended the game. Albies fumbled the ball, and the Dodgers' Will Smith was safe at first. Cody Bellinger followed with a triple bringing the Dodgers to within a run at 8-7 with the tying run perched just 90 feet away from home plate. However, A. J. Pollock

grounded out to end the game.

Wednesday's game three started with a marvelous play on the first pitch. Mookie Betts grounded to third. Braves' third baseman Johan Camargo went to his right to catch the ball and his momentum moved him well into foul territory to make an off balance throw to try to catch the speedy Betts. First baseman Freddie Freeman made a marvelous play to catch the wide throw, stay on the base and avoid contact with Betts. First base umpire Dan Iassonga called Betts out, but the call was overturned on replay. Betts was safe with an infield single.

It was a sign of how the night was going to go for the Braves. Not good! Seager followed with a run scoring double. Two groundouts followed moving Seager to third base, such that the Braves were one out away from heading to the dugout with a 1-0 deficit. That third out proved to be extremely elusive.

A double scored Seager. A walk set up Joc Pederson for a three run home run moving the score to 5-0. Edwin Rios also homered, and Chris Taylor walked to chase Braves' starting pitcher Kyle Wright. A walk, single and hit by pitch followed to score another run and load the bases. Muncy then capped off the scoring with a grand slam home run making the score 11-0.

It was the most runs ever scored in an inning in post season play. All nine Dodger starters scored a run. It was the first time the Dodgers had scored 11 runs in an inning since 1954 when they were the Brooklyn Dodgers.

L. A. scored a single run in the second inning and three more in the third to run the lead to 15-0. The final score was 15-3, and the Dodgers looked to be back in the series.

Kershaw was finally available to start

game four for Los Angeles. He went out for the sixth inning with the game tied at 1-1 but gave up base hits to the first three batters before being relieved. All three scored, and the carnage didn't stop there. Atlanta added three more runs off Dodger

relievers to take control of the game at 7-1.

The final score was 10-2 with Kershaw taking the loss. After the big night Wednesday, the Dodgers mustered just three hits in game four.

Houston's Framber Valdez makes his second start of the series Friday against Tampa Bay's Blake Snell. Dustin May is going for the Dodgers; but as of Friday morning, the Braves were still undecided on a game five starter.

NOTEABLE:

- All four games in the Dodgers-Braves series have been played with the Globe Life Field roof open. With the cool front that blew in Thursday, there were claims that the wind was a factor keeping some well hit balls in the ballpark.
- During the regular season, Globe Life Field was thought to "play big". However, in the first four games of the Braves – Dodgers' series, the teams have managed to hit 17 home runs.
- The order of selection in next year's amateur draft was announced this week, and the Rangers will be picking second, as the draft order was the usual reverse order of the 2020 regular season standings. The Pittsburgh Pirates have the number one pick in the draft, which will be held in July in conjunction with All-Star Weekend rather than June.

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GCOA featured in new Borat Film



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

He's back! That's right British actor and comedian Sacha Baron Cohen is back with more hi-jinx's in his latest movie called Borat Subsequent Moviefilm: It's his follow-up film to the 2006 comedy hit centering on the real-life adventures of a fictional Kazakh television journalist named Borat.

Fourteen years after release of the original Borat film about his journey to America, Borat returns from Kazakhstan to America and this time he reveals more about the American culture, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the political elections.

The film is quite secretive, however we do know that the Borat character brilliantly portrayed by Sacha Baron Cohen does make a few appearances in north Texas. One of the locations where a short segment of the movie was shot is the Golf Center of Arlington. It's a top-notch practice facility that I have used over the years for teaching that has everything a golfer could need.

Earlier this week I spoke with Larissa Vilela who along with her husband, Mauricio Galante, are the owners of the Golf Center of Arlington. The Brazilian couple filled me in about the circumstances on how a major film was shot at their facility.

TW: Take me back to when you received a message about someone wanting to book your place for a few hours to shoot some video?

LG: I don't remember the exact date as it was over a year ago. We received an e-mail last fall from someone who told us they wanted to shoot a video at our driving range. They wanted to rent the driving range for a few hours and we agreed to that. It wasn't unusual for us because we've rented out the driving range for numerous groups and companies over the years. I made all the arrangements and signed the contract with them to come out when they were ready. When they finally showed up to film it was a weekday in the morning a few weeks later. The main stipulation was we couldn't be there to watch what they were filming which was fine with us. They ended up putting big thick covers up over the driving range building so no one could see in to what they were doing. We weren't even that curious either

so we just let them do their stuff. My husband Mauricio was inside the clubhouse while they were filming and glanced outside, but couldn't see anything because of the big covers over the building where they were shooting.

TW: How long were they at your driving range?

LG: They were here for more than half a day. I know they stayed longer than they had planned. Later that day what was funny was Mauricio was cleaning up after they left with some of our staff and they found pieces of one of the transcripts in the trash can. Some of the dialogue in the script was really awkward and weird. We were thinking Jesus what type of movie were they recording here? We thought is this a porn movie? Now that we learned it was a Borat film it makes more sense. After they left we never thought about it again.

TW: How did you learn that your driving range was going to be in the film?

LG: It wasn't until one of our customers told us. He saw the trailer for the film and recognized our driving range in the new Borat movie. We were like what are you talking about?

TW: So the people associated with the film never let you know your place was going to be in their movie?

LG: Oh no, never! It was like top secret. Imagine if we knew a year ago that they would be filming Borat 2 here I can tell you my husband Mauricio wouldn't be able to keep his mouth shut. We had no idea it was Borat here at our driving range or what type of movie this was. We never asked and they never volunteered to tell us. They just wanted to shoot some images for a video at our place. It's kind of like when someone throws a party and invites you to attend you don't go there and start asking them all kinds of questions about their party. Over the years we have done this with everyone that has rented our place out for private functions. We never saw Borat (Sacha Baron Cohen) while he was here. We did see someone wearing a black cap, but we never knew who it was.

TW: Do you and Mauricio plan on watching the movie when it comes out?

LG: Of course. It will be fun to see shots of the driving range and to see exactly what Borat did practicing golf here. It should be quite interesting. We have no idea why they chose us. We are looking forward to it as it should be fun.

TW: Do you think this kind of exposure for your driving range will be a good thing?

LG: I hope so. I know a lot of people like Sacha Baron Cohen's comedic style and some don't care for him at all. He is always making fun of people and situations



and a lot of people love it. I hope the feedback will be positive. Mauricio thinks it will be good and I do too. Everyone that I've talk to thinks it's so cool that our place will be in the movie and it will be so funny.

TW: Are you doing anything to prepare for the film when it comes out?

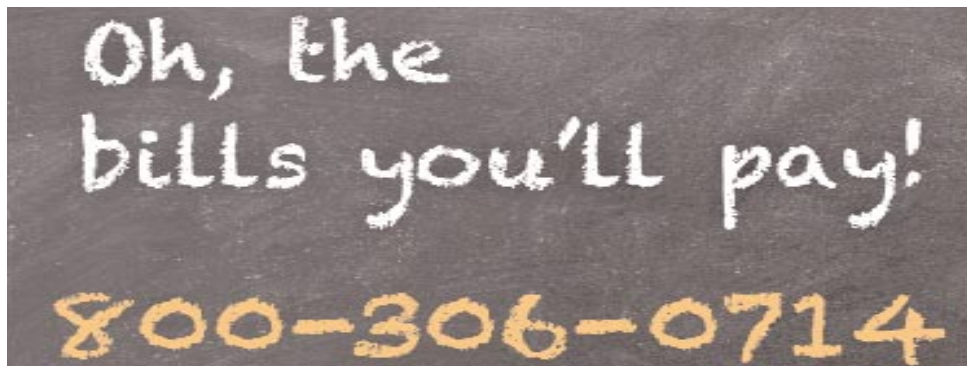
LG: Mauricio has already made some koozies along with some shirts. He wanted to hire someone to dress like Borat and walk around the range while people are here. He has a shirt from the first movie from like 15 years ago and he put it on the other day and was talking to people with

the Borat accent saying "I like. Very nice!" I told him you can talk exactly like Borat so you should do it yourself.

The new Borat 2 movie is coming out October 23rd and will be available to stream on Amazon Prime starting on that date. You can watch by subscribing to Amazon Prime.

To learn more about the Golf Center of Arlington visit their website at www.golf-centerofarlington.com.

Tom Ward can be contacted at www.teetimetwithtom.com.



This week: The CJ Cup@Shadow Creek



CJ Cup@Shadow Creek
October 15 - October 18, 2020
Shadow Creek Golf Course
North Las Vegas, Nevada
Purse - \$9,750,000
Winners share: \$1,700,000
Defending Champ - Justin Thomas

By Adam Stanley
 PGATOUR.COM

Played annually on South Korea's Jeju Island, THE CJ CUP will make a one-year move to Shadow Creek in Las Vegas before returning to Asia in 2021.

THE CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK will once again feature a 78-player field highlighted by reigning FedExCup champion Dustin Johnson and fellow FedExCup winners Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy.

FIELD NOTES: Brooks Koepka, winner of the 2018 CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, is scheduled to make his return after a two-month layoff due to injury... All of the top five golfers in the Official World Golf Ranking will tee it up at Shadow Creek including Johnson, Thomas, McIlroy, Jon Rahm and Collin Morikawa... Sponsor exemptions into the limited-field event include Tommy Fleetwood, Rickie Fowler, Sergio Garcia, Shane Lowry, Ian Poulter, and past FedExCup winners Justin Rose and Jordan Spieth... Tony Finau will return

to action after testing positive for COVID-19... Joo-Hyung Kim is among the Korean contingent who earned spots into THE CJ CUP. The 18-year-old has played two PGA TOUR events thus far this season, making the cut in both. He already has four professional wins on his resume.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Shadow Creek, par 72, 7,527 yards (yardage subject to change). The Tom Fazio-designed desert oasis, which opened in 1990, has been long known as one of the world's most exclusive clubs. It played host to the first made-for-TV match between Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, giving fans a glimpse of the layout. Dustin Johnson has the course record (66), while Woods and Fred Couples shared the record prior to Fazio's restoration in 2008 (60). About 30 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip, the course feels far from your usual desert golf experience with its rolling mounds, creeks, waterfalls, peaks and valleys.

STORYLINES: Thomas has won two of the three CJ CUPS in South Korea and will look to see if that success will transfer over to the United States... This is the second of two events in Las Vegas after the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open... Koepka has been on the shelf for the last two months after withdrawing from both the opening event of the FedExCup Playoffs and the U.S. Open as he rehabbed an injury. This will be his first start on the PGA TOUR since a missed cut at the Wyndham Championship... Patrick Cantlay will look

to continue his Las Vegas heater at Shadow Creek. Cantlay has finished 1-2-2 at the Shriners the last three seasons and shared the 36-hole lead heading into the weekend in 2020.

72-HOLE RECORD: 267, Brooks Koepka (2018)

18-HOLE RECORD: 62, Ryan Palmer (Fourth round, 2018)

LAST TIME: Thomas shot a 5-under 67 Sunday to top Danny Lee, who was born in South Korea, by two shots at the 2019 CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES. Thomas held the 54-hole lead and despite making a bogey on the par-3 17th hole, he bounced back with a closing birdie to win his 11th PGA TOUR title. It was also his second CJ CUP

victory after winning the inaugural event in 2017. Lee's runner-up result was his best in the 2019-20 PGA TOUR season. Hideki Matsuyama, Gary Woodland, and Cameron Smith finished at 15-under and rounded out the top five.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Sunday, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. ET (Golf Channel)

PGA TOUR Live: Thursday-Sunday, 12:45 p.m.-8 p.m. ET (Featured Groups)

Radio: Thursday-Friday, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 3 p.m.-8 p.m. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGA-TOUR.com/liveaudio).

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SEC football weekend picks - Week 7



Georgia and Alabama do battle in Tuscaloosa to determine which one makes it to the CFP



ROBERT CORTINEZ
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Dammit man, this Covid is turning wannabe's into contenders and champs into after-thoughts. Not to mention, the Covid-19 has now infected three SEC programs bringing this pandemic and the SEC's preventive measures into the spotlight. The infections have resulted in two postponements...Vanderbilt @ Missouri, and LSU @ Florida, and one bad-ass head coach catching the virus, Alabama's Nick Saban.

The 2020 SEC football season is in a precarious spot, as is the NFL, since both leagues are dealing with multiple pauses, postponements and public relations nightmares. The players and staff have access to medical treatment and quarantine protocol not available to regular Jane's and Joes' so the leagues' infected athletes and staff will undoubtedly recover. The question is, at what cost to family, friends or contacts who the players may unwittingly pass the virus to? Real world issues in a universe obsessed with sports.

Two more upsets last week, the most shocking being the LSU Tigers loss to Missouri. This came about after LSU graciously agreed to move the game from Baton Rouge to Columbia due to Hurricane Delta. The other big upset was the Aggies defeat of #4 Florida coming two weeks after A&M barely beat Vandy at home. The rest of the slate went about as expected.

Interesting note, for the first time since this column began about 15 years ago, my

season against-the-line picks are better than my straight picks. Covid time, go figure. Last week results: Straight:4-3; ATS: 5-2 Season results: Straight: 14-7; ATS: 15-6

M&M broke out of his betting mini-slump and went 5-2 on his seven picks last week for a season total of 8-7. His picks this week are as follows: BYU -5, Clemson -27, W. Virginia -22, Notre Dame -16, Troy -28, Liberty/Syracuse over 53, Clemson/ G-Tech under 63, and Baylor/Ok.State over 52.5.

#15 Auburn (2-1) at S. Carolina (1-2)

Line: Tigers -3.5 / 51.5

Time/TV: 11:00 a.m / ESPN

The Auburn Tigers beat the Razorbacks on a botched backward pass call that should have been a recovered fumble by the Hogs. The SEC officially announced after the game that it was an "erroneous" call but that since the whistle had blown and the fumble recovery was not "immediate", the call couldn't be overturned. Auburn had jumped out to a 17-point first quarter lead but trailed 28 -27 going into the final minute of this game when the bad call was made, allowing a game winning field goal. South Carolina dominated Vanderbilt last week 41-7. The Gamecock defense looked impenetrable and their offense finally heated up under RB Kevin Harris who had 171 yards and 2 TD's on 21 carries. The Gamecocks had 300 yards rushing against the Commodores. Auburn's Gus Malzahn may be in for a rough ride on this road trip.

Pick: South Carolina 27 Auburn 26

Kentucky (1-2) at #18 Tennessee (2-1)

Line: Vols -6 / 46

Time/TV: 11:00 / SECN

The Kentucky Wildcats borrowed the 3-8 defensive scheme from Arkansas and successfully duplicated a win against Mississippi State 28-2. HC Mark Stoops did not allow an offensive point by the

Bulldogs. Tennessee was the better team at Georgia for a half, leading 21-17, but failed to score a point in the second half, losing 44-17. Tennessee turned the ball over three times in the second half, all inside their own 30-yard line. The Vols shot themselves in the foot in Athens but QB Jarrett Guarantano made some NFL worthy throws in the first half. This alone will give the Big Orange high hopes for a comeback win in Knoxville.

Pick: Tennessee 34 Kentucky 22

Ole Miss (1-2) at Arkansas (1-2)

Line: Rebels -3 / 77

Time/TV: 2:30 / ESPN2

The Arkansas Razorbacks had won their second SEC game in a row as double-digit underdogs and then had it stolen away by the men in stripes. Auburn's QB, Bo Nix, fumbled the snap with a minute left in the game, then panicked and spiked the ball backwards which should have been another fumble. The Hogs recovered the ball, but Refs said no deal, gave Auburn an intentional grounding call, loss of down, kick your field goal, Hogs lose, 30-28. Oh, the agony for the Razorback faithful. Ole Miss on the other hand, feels pretty legit this week after hanging 48 points on the Alabama defense before losing at home, 63-48. The worry for the Rebs is their defense allowing 63 points. Ole Miss HC Lane Kiffin has an emerging star in QB Matt Corral, 1080 yds, 9 TD's, one interception in three games. The Reb running attack is also getting better every week with two backs, Snoop Connor and Jerrion Ealy, gaining over 100 yards on the vaunted Tide defense. Razorback HC Sam Pittman's team has bested expectations so far, can they do it again?

Pick: Arkansas 38 Ole Miss 31

#11 Texas A&M (2-1) at Miss State (1-2)

Line: Aggies -6.5 / 54.5

Time/TV: 3:00 / ESPN

The Aggies thrilling 41-38 victory over previous #4 Florida in the swamp was the first road win by HC Jimbo Fisher over a top 10 team as the Aggies coach. This is the kind of result A&M's powerful regents were looking for when they hired Fisher away from Florida State three years ago. A&M QB Kellen Mond finally played up to his potential with 338 yds and 2 TD's, while tailback Isaiah Spiller contributed 174 rush yards and 2 T.D's. Still the Gators were driving to midfield in a tie game with three minutes left before fumbling allowing the Aggies to kick the game winning field goal as time expired. Luck is better than skill. Mississippi State is in total chaos as HC Mike Leach declared every position is an open competition after losing to Kentucky, 28-2. The Bulldogs

benched starting QB, KJ Costello after he threw 4 first half interceptions and his replacement came in and threw three oskies. Leach went on to double down and declare that he'll be kicking malcontents off this team in the near future. Bulldogs are done.

Pick: Texas A&M 42 Mississippi State 34

#3 Georgia (3-0) at #2 Alabama (3-0)

Line: Tide -6 / 57

Time/TV: 7:00 / ESPN

The biggest game of the year pits the Best of the West against the Beast in the East. Georgia and Alabama do battle in Tuscaloosa to determine which one of these teams make it to the CFP. Bama HC, Nick Saban, caught Covid on Tuesday and has been coaching via Zoom. The reins have been temporarily handed over to assistant HC Steve Sarkisian who was fired from his head coaching job at USC and has been somewhat murky since joining Saban's staff. Tide QB Mac Jones continues to impress, throwing for 417 yds and 2 Td's in the Tides 63-48 win over Ole Miss. However, the absolute stud in that victory was junior tailback Najee Harris who turned in a career game with 206 rushing yards and 5 TD's. Georgia is doing quite well with former walk-on Stetson Bennett leading the Bulldogs to 20-point victories in each of his first three games. While Bennett's overall stats don't jump out at you, he won't make mistakes and throws an accurate ball, hence the mailman delivery nickname. One of the reasons Georgia is winning is the Dawg defense which only allowed #14 Auburn two field goals, and held #8 Tennessee scoreless in the second half last week. It will be a coaching win for Georgia' HC Kirby Smart.

Pick: Georgia 31 Alabama 27

SEC Standings

Team	Conf.	Overall
WEST		
Alabama	3-0	3-0
Auburn	2-1	2-1
Texas A&M	2-1	2-1
Arkansas	1-2	1-2
LSU	1-2	1-2
Ole Miss	1-2	1-2
Mississippi St	1-2	1-2
EAST		
Georgia	3-0	3-0
Florida	2-1	2-1
Tennessee	2-1	2-1
Kentucky	1-2	1-2
Missouri	1-2	1-2
S. Carolina	1-2	1-2
Vanderbilt	0-3	0-3

Big 12 football weekend - Week 7



Junior QB Jarret Doege averages seven yards per pass with five touchdowns

By Jeff Bartl

Kansas (0-3) at West Virginia (2-1)
Line: Mountaineers -22.5 / 51
Time/TV: 11:00 AM / FOX

So what is Kansas doing right?

It's been a rough run all the way around over the first three games, but there is a running game there that has to keep being fed. It's not hitting four yards per carry, but there's talent in the backfield with Velton Gardner and Pooka Williams who need the ball in their hands.

Run, keep running, and try to control the clock. Kansas isn't getting hammered in the time of possession battle and it's not turning the ball over enough to matter, butthe Kansas lines have been awful.

The offensive front isn't consistently doing enough for the excellent backs, it's not doing much of anything in pass protection, and the defensive front isn't getting into the backfield. The Jayhawks have generated just three sacks and 15 tackles for loss so far – they're just not generating enough big plays.

KU is dead-last among all Big 12 teams in total offense, West Virginia leads the conference in total defense. The pass rush is solid, the secondary has been great, and there won't be the passing game from the Jayhawks to be a problem.

Kansas hasn't had any fun, with the biggest problem the health of head coach Les Miles after he tested positive for COVID-19. He's doing okay, but he obviously has had more important things to

deal with.

On the field, Kansas doesn't have enough pop to the offense to push through a Mountaineer defense that's 2-0 when allowing 75 rushing yards or fewer and gave up 203 yards in the loss to Oklahoma State.

Kansas isn't getting to 200 yards and it's not going to be able to control the game like it'll need to.

Pick: West Virginia 41, Kansas 17

Texas Tech football: Henry Colombi announced as starting QB for West Virginia game

Texas Tech football head coach Matt Wells announced that junior QB Henry Colombi will replace Alan Bowman as the Red Raiders' starter against West Virginia.

Typically one to play it close to the vest during the season, Matt Wells broke character on Wednesday and made an announcement that just about everyone saw coming. Speaking to the media, Wells announced that junior Henry Colombi, who transferred to Tech this offseason from Utah State, will replace Alan Bowman as the team's starting QB. The news was broken on Twitter by a number of media members including Don Williams of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.

The move comes in the middle of Texas Tech's by week and on the heels of a truly dreadful showing against Iowa State by Bowman in a 31-15 loss. Playing three quarters against the Cyclones, Bowman completed just 13-22 passes for 97 yards as



Henry Colombi brings a dual-threat element to the Red Raider offense

he struggled to handle the complex ISU coverage scheme.

But when Colombi replaced Bowman in the fourth quarter, he immediately led his team to what would be its only TD drive of the game. In all, he would finish the day completing 10-12 passes for 115 yards and a touchdown in only two drives.

It was the second-straight solid showing for the Florida native. Against Kansas State, Colombi completed 30-42 passes for 244 yards and two TDs while being picked off once after he entered the game for an injured Bowman.

Colombi also brings a dual-threat element to the offense. As a Red Raider, he's run for 51 yards on 14 carries over the course of the last two games. While he isn't the next coming of Lamar Jackson, he is able to keep plays and drives alive with his feet, something that Bowman is not equipped to do.

Prior to coming to Tech, Colombi went 53-69 for 460 yards and two TDs with one interception in two seasons for the Aggies. Overall, he's appeared in 15 games but has never made a start.

As for Bowman, he's become a liability in the offense with his inability to read defenses and his insistence on throwing to his first option or checking down to his safety valve out of the backfield.

In the last 10 drives with Bowman at the helm, the Red Raider offense has failed to score a point. Meanwhile, in the last 10 drives with Colombi leading the way, he's led Tech to 29 points with two of those drives ending in missed field goals.

When Colombi makes his first career start, he will be facing a tall task against the West Virginia defense. Allowing just 19.3 points per game, the Mountaineers are ranked No. 2 in the Big 12 in points allowed.

Additionally, they are No. 1 in the league against the pass by allowing just 166.3 yards per game through the air. They also are adept at getting after the passer ranking second in the Big 12 with 3.6 sacks per contest.

While we don't know what Colombi will bring to the table next weekend in his first career start, it was becoming painfully obvious that what Bowman was giving his team simply wasn't going to cut it. Thankfully, Wells has pulled the trigger and turned to a new QB. Now, we wait to see if this move will help turn around a season that is meeting on the brink of disaster.

Big 12 STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Iowa State	3-0	3-1
Kansas State	3-0	3-1
Oklahoma St	2-0	3-0
West Virginia	1-1	2-1
Baylor	1-1	1-1
Oklahoma	1-2	2-2
Texas	1-2	2-2
TCU	1-2	1-2
Texas Tech	0-3	1-3
Kansas	0-2	0-3

Ponies try to keep streak alive at Tulane



Ulysses Bentley, IV is ranked third in rushing touchdowns, seventh in rushing yards, and seventh in yards per carry nationally

BY DIC HUMPHREY
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UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The SMU Mustangs are set to face the Tulane Green Wave Friday night in New Orleans at Tulane's Yulman Stadium. SMU is a 6.5 point favorite. The game has an unusual 5:00 PM (CDT) start time as it is part of an American Athletic Conference Friday night doubleheader. Houston hosts Brigham Young at 8:30 PM in the nightcap.

Despite being off last weekend, the Mustangs moved up in both polls this week. They are now ranked 17th in the AP and 18th in the Amway Coaches Poll. Three other ranked teams have joined SMU at 4-0 for the best record in the country. As for the AAC, Cincinnati at eight in the AP and ten in the Amway Coaches poll is the only other team in the Top 25; but Tulsa, Memphis, Central Florida and Houston are receiving votes.

The bad news that was anticipated became a reality Monday afternoon, when SMU Head Football Coach Sonny Dykes told the media that T. J. McDaniel (ankle) and Reggie Roberson, Jr. (knee) would be undergoing season ending surgeries soon. Both were injured in the Memphis game and did not return.

Dykes said that he will be looking for T. Q. Jackson and Calvin Williams to get the wide receiver playing time that would have gone to Roberson.

"Both have a high talent level," he said.

He also is looking for the other three top receivers - Danny Gray, Kylan Granson and Rashee Rice to step up their game.

As for running back, Dykes said he likes using three. Ulysses Bentley, IV and Tyler Levine are the two that have shared the running back position with McDaniel. Sophomore TeMerik Williams will become the third back with McDaniel out.

The Green Wave comes into the game with a 2-2 overall record, but an 0-2 record in conference play. They lost to the Houston Cougars last weekend 49-31 in Houston's first game of the season. They had earlier lost to Navy 27-24. Tulane is coached by Willy Fritz, who is in his fifth season with the program. Fritz had previously been the head coach at Georgia Southern, Sam Houston State and Central Missouri. He has led the Green Wave to two straight bowl wins, a first in Tulane football history.

Dykes talked about Tulane saying, "They're always going to be a solid team." He noted that SMU – Tulane games in recent years have been closely contested. "They have good players. A lot of speed on offense. We're pretty similar teams in terms of talent and makeup."

It was noted that Cincinnati, ranked eighth and tenth in this week's polls will be coming to Ford Stadium next week, but Dykes was not worried about that making the Tulane game a trap game. "We know we have to play really well to win. Our guys know that if we don't play well against Tulane, we'll lose."

He did note that last weekend's off week came at a good time. "It was a good open week. I think our guys were comfortable with what we did. We had some good practices." Dykes also noted that this team

usually plays like it practices.

SMU and Tulane have a recent history of close games. SMU has won the last five meetings against the Green Wave, including a 37-20 win last year. The three wins in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were decided by four points or less. This is the 27th time SMU and Tulane have squared off, and the series is all even at 13 games apiece going into Friday's game. The game will be televised on ESPN.

NOTABLE:

- The Mustangs are ranked fourth in total offense, fifth in scoring offense and seventh in first down offense **NATIONALLY!**
- Ulysses Bentley, IV is ranked third in rushing touchdowns, seventh in rushing yards, and seventh in yards per carry **NATIONALLY!**

- Shane Buechele is ranked second in passing yards, fifth in passing touchdowns, and seventh in total offense **NATIONALLY!**
- The Mustangs are 14-1 in games played at Ford Stadium since the start of the 2018 season, including wins in their last eight home games.
- SMU has won the first quarter this season 60-3 and has not trailed at any point in the first four games.
- Former SMU quarterback Garrett Gilbert was signed by the Dallas Cowboys this week in the wake of Dak Prescott's season ending injury.
- Defensive tackle Mike Williams opted back into the program after opting out over Coronavirus concerns in August. Williams is a graduate transfer from Stanford that is listed on the roster at 6'-2", 290 pounds. He's a welcome addition to an area of the team that lacks the size it had last season, and he saw action in the Memphis game.
- The start time for next week's game against Cincinnati was announced at 8:00 PM (CDT) on Saturday, October 24.
- The SMU Equestrian team is ranked fifth in the nation in the National Collegiate Equestrian Association preseason rankings,

AAC Standings

Team	Conf.	Overall
Navy	2-0	2-2
SMU	1-0	4-0
Cincinnati	1-0	3-0
Houston	1-0	1-0
Tulsa	1-0	1-1
UCF	1-1	2-1
East Carolina	1-1	1-2
Memphis	0-1	1-1
Temple	0-1	0-1
Tulane	0-2	2-2
South Florida	0-2	1-3

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College Football News and Notes



After 21 years, longtime Norman Hotel and Bar has closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic



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The historic Sooner Legends Inn and Suites in Norman, Okla., will be sold at auction along with Oklahoma athletics memorabilia in each of the inn's 167 rooms. Two of the hotel's most popular attractions were rooms dedicated to NFF College Hall of Fame members and Oklahoma greats coach Barry Switzer and RB Joe Washington.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Oct. 13-19 time period are Oct. 13 (1962) Jerry Rice, Starkville, Miss.; Oct. 14 (1896) Tom Davies, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (1901) Harry Stuhldreher, Massillon, Ohio; (1940) Billy Joe, Ayner, S.C.; (1963) Keith Byars, Dayton, Ohio; (1964) Paul Palmer, Bethesda, Md.; Oct. 15 (1873) Ed "Robbie" Robinson, Lynn, Mass.; (1886) Jonas Ingram, Jeffersonville, Ind.; (1892) Huntington Hardwick, Quincy, Mass.; (1917) Bob MacLeod, Glen Ellyn, Ill.; (1931) Donn Moomaw, Santa Ana, Calif.; (1943) James "Boots" Donnelly, Nashville, Tenn.; (1885) Hunter Scarlett, Erie, Pa.; Oct. 16 (1893) Harold Ballin, New York, N.Y.; (1945) D.D. Lewis, Knoxville, Tenn.; (1946) Chris Gilbert, Houston, Texas; Oct. 17 (1923) Charlie McClendon, Lewisville, Ark.; (1924) Don Coryell, Seattle, Wash.; (1943) Bill Bowes, Blanchard, Pa.; (1946) Herb Orvis, Petoskey, Mich.; (1947) Ron Johnson, Detroit, Mich.; (1957) Steve McMichael,

Houston, Texas; Oct. 18 (1902) Charlie Berry, Phillipsburg, N.J.; (1914) Joe Routt, Chapel Hill, Texas; (1939) Mike Ditka, Carnegie, Pa.; (1946) Frank Beamer, Mt. Airy, N.C.; Oct. 19 (1889) Dick Harlow, Philadelphia, Pa.; (1911) Max Starcevic, Centerville, Iowa; (1963) Jim Dombrowski, Williamsville, N.Y.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Oct. 14 (1973) Volney Ashford, Marshall, Mo.; Oct. 17 (1967) Don Hollender, In Combat in Vietnam; (1977) Cal Hubbard, St. Petersburg, Fla.; (2000) Leo Nomellini, Stanford, Calif.; (2003) Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice, Cherryville, N.C.; Oct. 18 (1895) Winchester Osgood, In Combat in Cuba; Oct. 19 (1995) Don Faurot, Columbia, Mo.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Oct. 13 Jerry Rice, Oct. 14 Keith Byars, Paul Palmer, Oct. 15 James "Boots" Donnelly, Oct. 16 D.D. Lewis (a spry 75), Chris Gilbert (a spry 74), Oct. 17 Bill Bowes, Herb Orvis, Steve McMichael, Oct. 18 Mike Ditka (a spry 81), Frank Beamer (a spry 74), Oct. 19 Jim Dombrowski...

The LSU-Missouri game last Saturday was moved to Columbia, Mo., due to the threat of Hurricane Delta over the weekend in South Louisiana and Gulf of Mexico areas. Mizzou then pulled a 45-41 upset over the Top 25-ranked Bayou Bengals...The Louisiana-Coastal Carolina skirmish has been postponed until Wednesday in Lafayette, La., because of last weekend's approach of Hurricane Delta...Georgia Southern will host Massachusetts in a recently scheduled game Saturday...The Florida Atlantic at Southern Miss contest scheduled for Oct. 10 was postponed until a future date to be determined...Houston was able to start its season last Thursday on ESPN with an American Athletic Conference clash in Houston with Tulane and a 49-31 victory while overcoming five interceptions. Crosstown rival Rice hopes to start the football year Oct. 24 against the Middle Tennessee – the last member of

Conference USA to begin '20 activity...The Southeast Missouri at Southern Illinois football skirmish has been moved back from Oct. 23 to Oct. 30 with a capacity limited to 20 percent in Carbondale, Ill....Southern Miss and Florida Atlantic made alternate provisions last Saturday if Hurricane Delta had changed its final path of landfall...Memphis football will allow 12,000 fans when the Tigers host UCF Oct. 17...Houston Baptist has finished its 2020 fall schedule with a 1-3 mark after downing Eastern Kentucky 33-30 on Oct. 3. The Huskies will open their 2021 Southland Conference slate around Feb. 20...Six different Kentucky players intercepted passes last Saturday as the Wildcats held Mississippi State without a touchdown in a 24-2 triumph. Bulldogs quarterbacks K.J. Costello and Will Rogers attempted 70 passes vs. UK...Nevada has decided not to allow fans when it opens at home against Wyoming Oct. 24 in Mountain West Conference activity...The popular Bayou Classic between Grambling and Southern U. at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome since 1975 will be moved to Independence Stadium in Shreveport, La., April 17, 2021...Texas Wesleyan and Southwestern Assemblies of God have moved their season openers until Oct. 24 (from Oct. 17) in Fort Worth, Texas, because of recent COVID-19 reports at Wesleyan...Oklahoma and Texas played the longest game in the 115-game history of the two teams with a four-overtime extravaganza and 53-45 OU win last weekend in Dallas at Cotton Bowl Stadium. Ironically, the teams competed in one of the last ties in NCAA FBS (then Division I-A) in 1995 when the teams knotted at 24-24 in Dallas.

The Tyler Hilinski's Hope Foundation opened Mental Health Awareness week with "3Day" on Oct. 3 with numerous teams wearing a green ribbon sticker on helmets, holding up three fingers during the first play of the third quarter, and participating in an internal assessment to evaluate how their schools are following best practices for mental health programs. The Foundation upholds the memory of late Washington State quarterback Tyler Hilinski...Washburn University's Alumni Association is hosting a Mississippi River cruise in March 2021 with football- and tourist-famous stops at Memphis, Tenn., New Orleans, La., Baton Rouge, La., Vicksburg, Miss., and Natchez, Mississippi...Texas Tech athletics recently provided a series of statewide billboards with the safety message "Mask up, Red Raiders" – a reference to Tech's famed Masked Rider mascot (inaugurated at the 1953 Gator Bowl by late head coach DeWitt Weaver) at football contests...The Vanderbilt Alumni Association will host a virtual Texas Trivia Night for all Texas VU alumni chapters on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Some of the questions may be concerning famed Vanderbilt student-athletes from the Lone Star State such as current starting quarterback Ken Seals of Weatherford, RB Kyle Rote (NFF College

Hall of Fame member who later transferred to SMU) of San Antonio, OL Dr. John Boldt of San Antonio, kicker Hawkins Golden of Dallas, and RB Jack Jenkins of Texarkana, among others.

Kansas State head coach Chris Kliemann received a contract extension through the 2026 season with a solid compensation boost...Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz, the longest current active-tenure head football coach in NCAA FBS, told media what a thrill it was last week to go into full-scale practice drills...Kansas head coach Les Miles tested positively for COVID-19 last week but hopes to return to the sidelines for Saturday's tussle with West Virginia...Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher recalled Florida State's 29-game winning streak from 2012-14 when he was head coach and the Seminoles 2013 national championship season. Texas offensive coordinator Mike Yurich and defensive coordinator Chris Ash were featured in a recent newspaper account...FIU head coach Butch Davis indicated that 45 football student-athletes have missed between 25-55 days of practice, conditioning workouts or other activities because of a COVID-19, contact tracing and quarantine protocols with just three available offensive linemen for one practice date...Ole Miss athletics has produced a new bobblehead doll celebrating head coach Lane Kiffin.

Hometowns of more 2020 college head coaches – McMurry: Jordan Neal, Abilene, Texas; Murray State: Dean Hood, Ashtabula, Ohio; Navy: Ken Niumatalolo, Laie, Hawai'i; Nebraska: Scott Frost, Lincoln, Neb.; Nebraska Wesleyan: Brian Keller, Seward, Neb.

Florida director of athletics Scott Stricklin has been named Sports Business Journal's 2020 Director of Athletics of the Year. He has survived a summer bout with COVID-19 and remains on the College Football Playoff selection committee....

....Several national ADs have signed the Collegiate Coaching Diversity Pledge in recent days with Lamar's Marco Born, Washington's Jennifer Cohen, Arkansas' Hunter Yurachek, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Jon Palombo, Monmouth's Dr. Marilyn McNeil, and Minnesota's Mark Coyle inking the pact...North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham congratulated several fellow ADs and schools for being adaptable and answering communications promptly when it comes to 2020 scheduling challenges...Illinois State AD Larry Lyons will retire in December after 33 years of service with Redbirds athletics. ISU president Dr. Larry Dietz is working on a national search for Lyons' replacement...Florida Gulf Coast AD Ken Kavanaugh survived a head-on auto collision last week with an oncoming pickup truck...UC Davis AD Kevin Blue spoke of various solutions for saving budget items other than eliminating varsity sports – only utilized as a last resort...Iowa AD Gary Barta spoke of the Big Ten Conference's ruling for no fans in attendance when the season begins

but hopes there may be some adjustments later to allow some attendees...Indiana AD Scott Dolson spoke of procedures the Hoosiers are putting in place for future names, images and likenesses revenue streams in 2023 for college student-athletes...Georgia State AD Charlie Cobb clarified some statements he made about possible human error in COVID-19 testing and the postponement of GSU's recent game with Charlotte. Cobb also noted that 2,500-plus COVID-19 tests had produced a positivity rate of 1.7 percent among student-athletes, coaches and staff...William & Mary Interim AD Jeremy Martin held a virtual public meeting to discuss financial issues facing the department...Maryland AD Damon Evans and 13 Terrapins head coaches have taken a voluntary 10 percent pay decrease...North Carolina senior associate AD/strategic communications Steve Kirschner listed dozens of duties performed daily by athletics' communications offices – especially while working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kirschner is in his 36th year with Tar Heels athletics ...William & Mary AD Samantha Huge has left the program, and the school is eliminating seven varsity sports...Massachusetts chancellor Dr. Kumble R. Subbaswamy and AD Ryan Bamford addressed possible athletics profitably challenges during the 2020 campaign and remaining competitive in NCAA FBS as an independent...California AD Jim Knowlton noted the department is close to hiring an associate AD for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging from a field of 120 applicants...North Carolina Central AD Ingrid Wicker-McCree indicated that her has undergone an intricate assessment of all departments and will cut \$2.8 million from the 2020-21 budget ...Duke vice president/general counsel Pamela J. Bernard explained the Blue Devils administration's decisions not to allow fans at 2020 home football contests for health and safety sake. There is planning for possible attendance for basketball and spring sports if conditions improve ...Washburn selected Kirby Ronning as head men's and women's tennis coach ...Lafayette College president Dr. Alison Byerly and Lehigh president Dr. John Simon will be finishing their tenures at the end of the 2020-21 academic year ...Pittsburgh women's soccer head coach Randy Waldrum is the new head coach of the Nigerian women's national team ...Guilford publicist and CoSIDA board member Dave Walters has been furloughed due to economic conditions after 24 years at the school...St. Thomas (Minn.) men's ice hockey head coach Jeff Boeser will retire at the end of the 2020-21 season before STU moves to NCAA Division I in August 2021.

The Southland Conference has reached a multiyear media rights agreement extension with ESPN and ESPN+ with 1,500-plus SLC events in the next five years ...Iowa State and Kansas State stand alone atop Big 12 Conference standings at 3-0 after last week's victories, and ISU is 3-0 to start Big 12 activity for the first time since 2002...Mid-American Conference commissioner Dr. Jon Steinbrecher spoke about his more rapid COVID-19 testing results and state protocols concerning crowds' admission caused the

MAC to re-mount its 2020 football outing...The Big Ten Conference is utilizing Biodesix, Inc., a diagnostic company with a focus on lung disease; and Quidel, which manufactures rapid antigen COVID-19 tests; on 2020 fall sports' testing...The Pac-12 and Fulgent Genetics, which will provide reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction testing capabilities to supplement existing PCR and antigen testing capabilities for each athletics department, are working together for better COVID-19 testing results and student-athlete/coach/fan safety...Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott addressed television obligations for the 2020 season to ESPN and FOX and rationale to return to conference-only football activity...The Big Ten Conference will begin 2020-21 men's and women's hockey season on Nov. 13 ...The Patriot League will cancel its non-conference men's and women's basketball outings in November and December and start an 18-game conference slate on Jan. 1...The Big 12 Conference is promoting a unity message before each event hosted by a Big 12 school, and these can include messages about inclusion, equality, sportsmanship, oneness in purpose, and similar concerns...Conference USA is considering a regular season men's and women's basketball scheduling model where teams would play the same opponent in the same location twice in the same week on Thursdays and Saturdays to help limit travel and possible health contacts. The America East and Northeast Conferences also are looking at these solutions. C-USA also hopes to play its full schedule of six games without postponements Saturday for the first time in '20...Southeastern Conference commissioner Greg Sankey relayed cautionary memos to members for masking and social distancing particularly in light of NFL and White House COVID-19 outbreaks...The Pac-12 Network is working with the conference office to promote and expand football coverage with the abbreviated 2020 schedule. The network also is hoping to be back some previously furloughed employees from spring and summer...The Ohio Valley Conference will play an eight-game spring schedule between Feb. 21-April 11, 2021, with the option to play a Feb. 13-14 non-conference contest. Eastern Kentucky of the OVC is playing a nine-game fall schedule with two matchups home-and-home against Central Arkansas on Oct. 24 and Nov. 14. That will give ECU either 17 or 18 official contests from Sept. 5-April 11...The Women's Collegiate Hockey Association is completing testing methods and protocols to determine when the 2020-21 season may start.

The College Football Playoff Management Committee did not approve a proposal by Pac-12 Conference commissioner Larry Scott to expand the CFP to eight teams this season. CFP executive director Bill Hancock indicated that the timing of the request at this point in the 2020 season would present too many challenges to the current, four-team format ...Former Allstate Sugar Bowl executive director, Grambling director of athletics and Dallas Independent School District director of athletics Troy Mathieu has returned to Grand Prairie (Tx) Independent School District as AD...The Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic will honor the bowl-

record six FWAA Outland Trophy winners who have played in the Classic prior to the 85th annual GCB in December.

UTSA jumped out to a 3-0 start behind the performance of then-NCAA FBS-leading rusher Spencer McCormick with 527 rushing yards and four touchdowns prior to a first-ever meeting with BYU, which edged the Roadrunners last Saturday ...Alabama QB Mac Jones squared off with Ole Miss QB Matt Corral to produce 782 passing yards out of the teams' combined 1,370 yards of total offense and 111 points in the Crimson Tide's 63-48 win at Oxford, Miss. The two QBs remain among the Top Five nationally in passing yards per game ...North Carolina QB Sam Howell has passed for 4,418 yards and 44 touchdowns in his first 16 career games for No. 8 North Carolina and NFF College Hall of Fame coach Mack Brown of the Tar Heels ...Florida star QB Kyle Trask indicated that his parents named their son after Kyle Field at Texas A&M. Both his parents are Texas A&M graduates, and Trask grew up in Manvel, Texas, near both Houston and College Station, Texas. A&M and UF met last week in College Station...RB Khalil Herbert of Virginia Tech is coming off a 207-yard rushing game against Duke and a 138-yard afternoon against North Carolina to being his season's total to 450 net yards and a 10.2 average...West Virginia's All-Big 12 DT Darius Stills continues to move toward school career records in tackles for loss after making 3.5 TFL in the Mountaineers win over Baylor...Austin Aune jumped to the starting slot for North Texas against Charlotte after alternating with Jason Bean through the Mean Green's first three games...Iowa State QB Brock Purdy passed for 302 yards and two touchdowns against Texas Tech in a win last Saturday, has 4,894 passing yards in his last 17 games since 2019 and has been intercepted just 10 times in his last 600 aerial attempts...Arkansas LB and well-named Bumper Pool came off a 20-tackle game in a victory at Mississippi State to keep the Razorbacks in contention before falling to No. 14 Auburn 30-28 on a last-second field goal. Pool also was the Bronko Nagurski Award National Defender of the Week after his stellar showing at MSU...Auburn LB K.J. Britt has undergone thumb surgery and is out indefinitely...Texas DL Keondre Coburn was celebrated as a key leader on the Longhorns defensive front...Oklahoma WR Charleston Rambo was highlighted in a newspaper article about the Sooners high-powered passing attack...After playing against Central Arkansas on Oct. 3, North Dakota State QB Trey Lance has opted out of the rest of the 2020 fall and 2021 spring seasons and enter the 2021 NFL draftSMU hopes to regain the talents of injured WR Reggie Roberson and RB T.J. McDaniel before to Mustangs travel to Tulane Saturday in AAC action...TCU wide receiver JD Spielman spoke of getting into a comfort zone with TCU after transferring to the Big 12 school from Nebraska ...Texas Tech backup QB Henry Colombi has seen his most extensive career action after an injury to Red Raiders starter Alan Bowman...Texas QB Sam Ehlinger made a school-record fourth start against Oklahoma last week, and the first three were against Heisman Trophy recipients

or Heisman 2019 runnerup QB Jalen Hurts ...Boston College tight end Hunter Long and QB Phil Jurkovec were featured on the John Mackey Award website..Texas A&M's two-position (DE and DT) defender De Marvin Leal was credit with key stops in the Aggies upset of No. 4 Florida last week. A&M kicker Seth Small booted a 26-yard field goal on the final play of the contest to produce the 41-38 verdict...The Davey O'Brien Foundation named SMU's Shane Buechele National Quarterback of the Week after he passed for a career-best 474 yards with three TDs to keep the Mustangs undefeated (4-0) with a triumph over Memphis...The Burlsworth Trophy for national NCAA FBS walkon player of the year has moved its nomination deadline to Nov. 18 with 10 finalists being selected by Dec. 1...Oklahoma wide receiver Drake Stoops made the winning catch in the Sooners 53-45 quadruple overtime win over Texas on Dec. 10 on a 25-yard reception. Stoops is the son of former Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops (1999-2016)...North Texas WR Jaelon Darden and Florida TE Kyle Pitts – playing with UF QB Kyle Trask at Texas A&M's Kyle Field last weekend – entered Oct. 8 games tied for the NCAA FBS national lead with six touchdowns receptions each...Texas OT Sam Cosmi has started at either right or left tackle in the Longhorns last 31 contests...SMU WR Reggie Roberson Jr. was he Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Player of the Week for his recent performance against Tulane...UTSA punter The Augusta Sports Council and the Ray Guy Award are proud to announce Lucas Dean was the Ray Guy National Punter of the Week through games of Oct. 7. NFF College Hall of Fame coach Bobby Bowden contracted COVID-19 last week but reported a mild strain and said he was recuperating. Bowden will turn 91 years old on Nov. 8...Former Penn State head coach Bill O'Brien has left the NFL Houston Texans as head coach and general manager...The NFL Carolina Panthers are using Xenex LightStrike robots, which are priced at \$125,000 each, to disinfect Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte...Former Mississippi State head coach Sylvester Croom, the first Black FB HC in SEC history and a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for his playing career at Alabama, spoke about the lack of hiring minority head coaches on all levels of football...NFL executive vice president of communications Jeff Miller has denoted intensive protocols with no in-person meetings, no team or player gatherings outside the facility, two COVID-19 tests per person, per day, and PPE and/or face masks worn by all personnel on the field at all times. The NFL office levied some fines earlier this season for personnel not following protocols...Famed college and NFL head coach Howard Schnellenberger continues his long road to recovery after suffering a brain injury due to a fall at his home in Boynton Beach, Fla., in August and appears to be progressing...Former All-SEC quarterback at Mississippi State and All-Pro standout with the Dallas Cowboys Dak Prescott suffered a broken ankle and is out for the remainder of the 2020 season...Former Southland, Lone Star Conference and North Texas publicist

(continued on page 14)

Brian Briscoe was part of an exclusive panel concerning careers in strategic communications at the TCU Bob Schieffer College of Communication last week ...Standout lineman Kyle Hinton of Washburn was featured for his rookie season impact with the NFL Minnesota Vikings ...Former South Carolina and NFL New England Patriots standout DB Stephon Gilmore had a positive COVID-19 test and is in restricted quarantine ...University of Calgary standouts OL Logan Bandy, DB Deane Leonard (transferred to Ole Miss in '20) and LB Grant McDonald are among the Top 20 projected Canadian Football League draftees by the CFL Central Scouting Bureau...The National Hockey League is shooting for a Jan. 1, 2021, opening of the upcoming campaign...Major League Baseball allowed a maximum of 11,500 fans/game for the natural-site National League playoffs at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. Attendance for the Oct. 30-Nov. 8 World Series is to be determined...The NFL Tennessee Titans recorded no new positive COVID-19 tests for two consecutive days on Oct. 6-7 after encountering as many as 19 positives in previous days. The Titans were unable to use their Nashville, Tenn., practice facility for several days due to the occurrences. The NFL also has rescheduled the Titans-Buffalo Bills contest for Tuesday night. The NFL Denver Broncos-New England Patriots game scheduled for Oct. 11 has been moved back a week to Oct. 18 due to several positive COVID-19 cases among the Patriots...NFF College Hall of Fame TE Mike Ditka of Pittsburgh was coached in high school basketball in Aliquippa, Pa., by Press Maravich (later head coach at LSU) – father of Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame standout the late Pete Maravich...The Texas Sports Hall of Fame will host its annual Legends Golf Tournament to raise funds for the Waco facility on Monday, Nov. 9, at The Clubs of Kingwood, Texas. For registration and additional information, please access tshof.org...Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has not issued an edict on how many fans may be allowed at TIAA Bank Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla., for the Nov. 7 Florida-Georgia contest – held annually in Jacksonville since 1933. The City of Jacksonville has postponed several public dinners and events prior to the key SEC matchup due to COVID-19 protocols...Former North Texas QB Damon West has been making the national motivational lecture tour and speaking about his book “Coffee Bean” about hanging lives in challenging circumstances...The NFL Dallas Cowboys have a first-year deep snapper in Joe Fortunato of Delaware – not related to the ate Mississippi State NFF College Hall of Fame great and NFF Mississippi-Louisiana Fortunato Chapter namesake Joe Fortunato.

LSU’s athletics marketing department captured the 2020 Best Social Media Award for colleges by Sports Business Journal...Florida A&M athletics is nearing completion of a marketing and apparel

agreement with adidas. The new pact will provide necessary funds for athletics as well as the FAMU Student Government Association in a unique contract...USF athletics has eliminated 30 and major administrators will be taking 15 percent pay reductions. These moves will help alleviate a possible \$2.5 million deficit for the Bulls in the 2020-21 academic year. Senior administrators at USF also will take a \$600,000 reduction in salaries over the next nine months...Memphis athletics has completed furloughs for 19 members of the department, including three in the communications office, and a retirement of longtime publicist and Memphis area sports writer Phil Stukenborg...Gonzaga men’s basketball team is looking at a possible mini-bubble for practice and games in Spokane, Wash...Notre Dame men’s basketball is the latest team to opt out of the 2020 Legends Classic due to health concerns...Texas Tech athletics has completed a completed review of women’s basketball and softball programs and personnel changes in recent days...Iowa and Michigan classes shifted into hybrid mode in recent days after neighboring states expected rises in COVID-19 cases...Minnesota’s men’s gymnastics’ team has submitted a 26-page update on why the program should continue in spite of budget reductions. Minnesota athletics also is seeking to have 98 fewer student-athletes on Olympic sports teams in 2021-22...Attorneys in a group lawsuit against the NCAA are seeking to use the monetary figure \$15,415 as the maximum student-athletes can receive per year for academic achievements. This figure is based on tuition, fees, books, and recent high-profile student-athletes who recently entered the professional sports ranks...All Hawai’i team activities have been placed on temporary hold after four positive COVID-19 tests among football student-athletes...Five Wyoming football student-athletes have opted out in '20 with two starters and pass rusher deluxe Solomon Byrd...San Jose State football will practice initially at Humboldt State's campus in Arcata - 232 miles away from San Jose, Calif. – because of Santa Clara County health regulations...Several national health and media agencies have urged NCAA football teams and administrators to enforce wearing masks at games more strictly. SMU security recently moved students at a game from the student section because of lack of social distancing and 100 percent mask usage...North Texas continues to have limited single-game home ticket sales as space warrants...The Citadel is re-scheduling three prominent non-conference games for the 2021-22 season after changes to the 2020-21 campaign mandated by the NCAA...The Knight Commission has proposed some changes for NCAA March Madness® revenue streams and distribution...Florida athletics denoted one positive COVID-19 test last week and 113 positive results since May 26 out of 3,054 total tests...Virginia’s volleyball matches against North Carolina last weekend were postponed

to a later date to be determined due to injury- and COVID-related issues at Virginia...Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has determined that the state will allow 15 percent seating capacity at outdoor venues this fall with a cap of 7,500 fans...Elevate Hoops and Nebraska will host a men’s basketball tourney including the Huskers, LSU, Northern Iowa, Nevada, Illinois State, and Cleveland State initially with more teams to come up to a possible 16 entries in the tourney...Buffalo athletics is spending nearly \$30,000 COVID-19 testing through Quest Diagnostics at a cost per test of \$51 ...Florida Atlantic athletics is eliminating 19 positions through layoffs and unfilled positions for 2020...Nike is making workforce reductions for 7-10 percent of its full-time positions. This may result in as many as 7,500-plus total terminations...Delaware athletics suspended 19 student-athletes for not following department protocol for wearing of masks, social distancing and large public gatherings...San Diego State men’s basketball had “live” drills for the first time last week...Stanford football will travel to Woodside (Calif.) High School in San Mateo County to start football workouts this week after the Cardinal’s home Santa Clara County continued its ban on larger public gatherings such as practices ...Oregon State’s Reser Stadium is on schedule with 2020 renovations and will be ready for the Beavers home lidlifter on Nov. 7 against Washington State...The full Marist campus, including athletics training sessions, is on a pause/lockdown after a recent outbreak of COVID-19 among MU students...All non-union employees at Delaware will endure salary reductions and nine furlough days in coming weeks, and athletics will be affected. There are 138 non-union employees who have taken early retirement at DU...A new advisory & education firm, Altius Sports Partners, will work with several leading athletics departments in solving student-athletes names, images and likenesses challenges, and the new clients include such schools as LSU, Arizona State. Former West Virginia AD and NCAA vice president Oliver Luck and former Vanderbilt and Washington AD Todd Turner are special advisers to the new group.

High school sports guru Callie Caplan of the Dallas Morning News reported on several steps taken by Duncanville (Texas) HS and Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy to prevent interstate illness contagion when they played last week...ESPN and AT&T are offering the new AT&T 5G SkyCast application for several games this autumn ...Sports Illustrated's Pat Forde touched base on Notre Dame's joining the Atlantic Coast Conference for 2020 football after 133 years as an independent and its measures against COVID-19 spread. The team returned to workouts last week after a 10-day break for recovery and testing... Long-time Houston sportscaster Bill Brown has compiled a new book – Broadcasting 101 – with noted radio and television voices Brad Sham, Bill Schoening and Craig Way con-

tributing useful chapters and pointers..... Athlon Sports reported on several developments and possible changes in NCAA names, images and likenesses future legislation...The Kansas State Legislature honored veteran broadcaster and former Kansas Sportscaster of Year (multiple times) Tom Hedrick after he ended a 62-year broadcasting career with the Kansas Jayhawks, Baker U. (Kansas), the Missouri Valley Conference and numerous other pro, college and high school groups... Extra Points featured the Colonial Athletic Association and its intricate workings around one of the most diverse memberships in NCAA FCS.

The FWAA was reminded by College Pressbox.com about airline and motel rewards’ programs associated with multiple FWAA members...CoSIDA president Sam Atkinson of Gallaudet, Laurie Bollig of CoSIDA, Gene Cassell of Washburn, Steve Fink of South Carolina, and CoSIDA Hall of Fame member Dave Plati of Colorado were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter ...The 2021 CoSIDA Academic Hall of Fame includes Stacey Dales of OU, Bruce Furniss of Southern California, Michelle Johannes of Mt. Holyoke, Alex Smith of Utah, and Amy Privette Perko of Wake Forest. Smith returned to NFL activity last Sunday with the Washington Redskins two years after suffering a severe leg injury...Arizona State, California, Colorado State, Kansas, Louisville, Miami (Ohio), Michigan State, Minnesota, Penn State, Texas State, UCLA, and Wichita State are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and reports at their respective schools...The NCAA Eligibility Committee has approved immediate transfers for 77 of the 98 FBS student-athletes making requests in '20...Greensboro, N.C., appears to be solidly in the running to host the delayed 2020 NCAA Men’s Division I Swimming and Diving Championships after they were moved from Iowa City, Iowa...The NCAA Division I Council is anticipating a vote this week to add the one-time transfer rule into the legislative cycle...The NAIA has passed names, images and likenesses legislation to allow student-athletes to receive compensation for promoting any commercial product, enterprise, or for any public or media appearance. The NAIA legislation will take effect in January 2023 at the same time as NCAA NIL allowances begin...The U.S. Olympic Paralympic Committee and USOPC Collegiate Advisory Council have formed the USOPC College Sports Sustainability Think Tank to look at “broad-based college sports programming initiatives focused on vulnerabilities facing varsity-level Olympic and Paralympic sports” with Florida AD Scott Stricklin as chair of the think tank...The NCAA's deadline for an requests for proposals for future championships’ sites ended last week...One national publication has reported that Ticketmaster Global chair Jared Smith will complete his tenure in December.

NFL Picks and Predictions: Week 6



By Mike McFee

Week 6 of the NFL season features great quarterback matchups — and the focus will be on the Tom Brady-Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Mahomes-Josh Allen quarterback duels in the big spotlight games.

Dallas' Andy Dalton also will be making his first start with his new team on "Monday Night Football" against Kyler Murray and the Cardinals.

Five divisional games, however, have our attention. The Titans-Texans matchup is interesting with Tennessee coming off a short week. The Jets are looking for their first win against the Dolphins, and the Giants are looking for their first win against Washington. San Francisco faces pressure heading into a "Sunday Night Football" matchup against the Rams.

The big game, however, is the Browns-Steelers matchup in Pittsburgh. Cleveland has a chance to knock off an unbeaten team, and this AFC North rivalry has a little more meaning now. That's the best game of the week.

- Last Week: 9-4 (Before Tuesday's game)
- Season: 17-9 (Before Tuesday's game)

With that in mind, below are our picks and predictions for Week 6 of the NFL season.

Denver (1-3) at New England (2-2)
Sunday, 12:00 p.m., CBS
Line: Patriots -8.5 / 45.5

The Patriots are another team whose

schedule continues to change by the day because of COVID-19, and we have no idea who will be their starting quarterback at this point. We're sticking to the same prediction as last week.

Pick: Patriots 28, Broncos 19

Houston (1-4) at Tennessee (4-0)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Titans -5.5 / 43

We have no idea what to expect from the Titans at this point given the COVID-19 issues surrounding the team. The Texans have lost three of the last four at Tennessee, but it depends on how the Titans respond to a short week. We're going to take Deshaun Watson in the upset.

Pick: Texans 28, Titans 26

Cleveland (4-1) at Pittsburgh (4-0)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Steelers -3.5 / 51

Emotions should be high because this is the first matchup with big implications in this rivalry in a while. The Steelers' defense showed holes in the secondary last week, and Baker Mayfield will make some big plays in the passing game. Cleveland will lead at halftime, but the Steelers will rally in the fourth quarter for another big victory at the Browns' expense.

Pick: Steelers 29, Browns 27

Baltimore (4-0) at Philadelphia (1-3-1)

Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS

Line: Ravens -7.5 / 46.5

The Ravens' defense has found its footing since the loss to the Chiefs, and they have allowed just 10 points per game in victories against Washington and Cincinnati. The Eagles present a stiffer challenge, but Baltimore's offense is just too efficient right now.

Pick: Ravens 24 Eagles 20

Washington (1-4) at NY Giants (0-5)
Sunday, 12 p.m., FOX
Line: Giants -3 / 43

Speaking of the No. 1 pick, this NFC East rivalry features two teams still looking for a superstar quarterback. New York's offense showed up in the loss to Dallas, but the Redskins make it ugly. Chase Young comes up with a late sack to seal the victory.

Pick: Washington 19, Giants 17

Atlanta (0-5) at Minnesota (1-4)
Sunday, 12 p.m., FOX
Line: Vikings -3.5 / 55.5

The Falcons fired Dan Quinn after a 0-5 start, and the Vikings might be without Dalvin Cook (groin). Both defenses give up more than 30 points per game, but the Vikings ride Alexander Mattison to victory here in a close one.

Pick: Vikings 29, Falcons 27

Detroit (1-3) at Jacksonville (1-4)
Sunday, 12 p.m., FOX
Line: Lions -3.5 / 54.5

This game appears to have more implications for the 2021 NFL Draft than anything else. The Lions had a bye week to shore up the protection around Matthew Stafford, but Detroit must squeak out another one-score victory on the road.

Pick: Lions 27 Jaguars 20

Cincinnati (1-3-1) at Indianapolis (3-2)
Sunday, 12 p.m., FOX
Line: Colts -7.5 / 46.5

Rookie quarterback Joe Burrow took eight sacks against Philadelphia and seven more in the loss to the Ravens last week. Indianapolis will be coming next, and their defense will be motivated after giving up 32 points to the Browns last week.

Pick: Colts 23, Bengals 17

Chicago (4-1) at Carolina (3-2)
Sunday, 12 p.m., FOX
Line: Panthers -2.5 / 44

The Bears are underdogs for the second straight week, but the offense has changed direction with Nick Foles. Carolina is a hot team with Teddy Bridgewater, who has thrown just one interception and taken two sacks through a three-game win streak. He

will be under more heat in this one.

Pick: Bears 26, Panthers 23

N.Y. Jets (0-5) at Miami (2-3)

Sunday, 3:05 p.m., CBS

Line: Dolphins -8 / 48

The Dolphins have won two of their last three behind Ryan Fitzpatrick, who has a pair of 300-yard games in that stretch. The Jets haven't been able to stop the pass.

They will join the Giants in the 0-6 club.

Pick: Dolphins 31, Jets 23

Green Bay (4-0) at Tampa Bay (3-2)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m., FOX
Line: Packers -1.5 / 54

The marquee showdown features Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. The Packers are coming off the bye week, and the Buccaneers had extra rest after the "Thursday Night Football" loss to the Bears. This is another prove-it game for Brady, and the Buccaneers will lead for three quarters before Rodgers leads a fourth-quarter comeback. You can flip the script and take Tampa Bay if you want.

Either way, the game lives up to the hype.

Pick: Packers 33, Buccaneers 31

L.A. Rams (4-1) at San Francisco (2-3)
Sunday, 7:20 p.m., NBC
Line: Rams -3.5 / 50.5

The Rams and 49ers both have top-five defenses when it comes to yards allowed, and that should lead to a grind-it-out game, and Jimmy Garoppolo faces more pressure than anyone else here. At home, San Francisco delivers.

Pick: 49ers 23, Rams 20

Kansas City (4-1) at Buffalo (4-1)
Monday, 4:00 p.m., FOX
Line: Chiefs -3.5 / 55

This game got pushed back from its "Thursday Night Football" spotlight, and it's Buffalo's chance to shine on the national stage. The Chiefs were upset by the Raiders in Week 5, but they are more accustomed to this prime-time spot. Patrick Mahomes and Josh Allen put on a show, but the Chiefs come out on top.

Pick: Chiefs 33, Bills 24

Arizona (3-2) at Cowboys (2-3)
Sunday, 7:15 p.m., ESPN
Line: Cardinals -2.5 / 54.5

Andy Dalton is the next man up at quarterback for the Cowboys, and the offense can still function with him at quarterback. This is a homecoming of sorts for Kyler Murray, a Texas high-school legend who has the Cardinals in the playoff hunt. Some might want to write Dallas off. We just think this is the next roller-coaster ride.

Pick: Cowboys 34, Cardinals 31

Cowboys vs Cardinals bold prediction



By Mike McFee

It's a battle of former NFC East rivals who now just share bitterness as conference rivals taking center stage on Monday Night Football. The Arizona Cardinals are on the road as they make the trip to face the Dallas Cowboys to close out week six on Monday night. Arizona comes in off an emphatic 30-10 whipping of the Jets on the road last Sunday to snap a two-game skid. Dallas managed to pull out a wild 37-34 win at home over the Giants last Sunday to snap a two-game slide of their own. The Cowboys lead the all-time regular season series 56-31-1, including a 28-17 road win in the most recent matchup between the teams on September 25, 2017.

Arizona comes into this game with a 3-2 record, leaving them third in the NFC West behind the 5-0 Seahawks and the 4-1 Rams in the standings. The Cardinals are looking to make it back to back wins here to get to 4-2 on the season as they make the trip on the road. Arizona opened the season with a divisional win as they beat the 49ers (24-20) on the road. The Cardinals followed that up with a solid home win over the Washington Football Team (30-15) in week two. Things went sideways the next two weeks as Arizona was defeated at home by the Lions (26-23) in week three and then on the road by Carolina (31-21) in week four. Arizona bounced back with a solid showing in dismantling the Jets to get back over the .500 mark. Now, the Cardinals get a chance to bolster their resume after six games with a win here.

Against the Jets, Arizona came up with critical plays at key times to thwart New

York from getting back in the game en route to the victory. The Cardinals led 7-0 after the opening quarter and scored the final 10 points of the first half after New York got on the board to take a 17-3 lead at intermission. Those 10 points came in the final 2:41 of the half. After seeing the Jets get within seven early in the third quarter, the defense shut New York down the rest of the game en route to the win. Arizona rolled up a 496-285 edge in total offense, held a 28-21 advantage in first downs and owned a 32:15 to 27:45 advantage in time of possession. The Cardinals committed the game's lone turnover but had a huge stop midway through the second quarter, thwarting a 14-play, 79-yard drive that chewed up 7:57 by stuffing Le'Veon Bell on fourth and one from the Arizona 13.

Dallas managed to rally to earn the win at the final gun for the second time this season as they knocked off the winless Giants. The Cowboys enter this one 2-3, which, sadly, puts them atop the NFC East standings after five weeks. Their victory came with a stiff price as quarterback Dak Prescott suffered a compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle in the third quarter of the game. He underwent surgery on Sunday and his season is reportedly over, meaning Andy Dalton will take over the reins of the offense. Dallas opened the season with a 20-17 road loss to the Rams in week one. That was followed by a massive comeback in a 40-39 win over the Falcons in week two. Dallas was then beaten by Seattle (38-31) on the road in week three and were gouged by the Browns in a home loss (49-38) in week four. That set up a NFC East battle with the winless Giants.

The Cowboys had their ups and downs against the winless Giants, who hadn't

scored a touchdown since the fourth quarter of week two but piled up 34 points Sunday. Dallas led 3-0 before giving up 17 unanswered points to trail 17-3 early in the second quarter. The Cowboys tied the game at 17 and took a 24-20 halftime lead when Cedrick Wilson hit Dak Prescott on an 11-yard touchdown pass on the Dallas version of the "Philly Special" just before intermission. Dallas led 31-23 after three quarters but trailed 34-31 with late in the fourth quarter before Dalton got the team moving. The Cowboys tied the game on a 40-yard Greg Zuerlein field goal with 1:56 to play and, after the defense got a stop, Dalton moved Dallas 72 yards in five plays. That set up Zuerlein's game-winning 34-yard kick as time expired. Dallas owned a 402-300 edge in total offense and picked up 28 first downs while allowing 20. The Cowboys turned the ball over twice, including a pick-six, while forcing one takeaway, which was a scoop-six. Dallas also lost the time of possession battle by a 32:22 to 27:38 margin. The Cowboys' two wins are over teams that are a combined 0-10 so they try to beat a team with actual wins on the ledger here.

Pick: Cardinals 38 Cowboys 24

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VW Atlas midsize-crossover SUV



By Matt Degen

The Volkswagen Atlas is a midsize-crossover SUV with three rows of seating. In its usual form, it has accommodation for seven. An optional pair of captain's chairs for the second row brings that down to six. Volkswagen designed and developed the Atlas especially for North America, and builds it in the company's factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Atlas is therefore a specialized machine that still has to have a broad appeal. And it succeeds with family-friendly space and costs, smart ergonomics, decent-quality materials, and a pleasant driving experience with standard driver aids.

As with almost anything that looks like an SUV, though, this is a hotly contested arena. Principal rivals like the Honda Pilot, Toyota Highlander and Ford Explorer have been joined recently by the excellent Kia Telluride and Hyundai Palisade. Let's not forget the Chevrolet Traverse, either. At least the Atlas is strong enough to be in the game, rather than being left on the sidelines.

The Atlas has a comfortable ride quality approaching that of a luxury vehicle, yet still displays control and composure when the corners come along. That's the European influence in a vehicle designed and built for Americans.

The basic 4-cylinder engine (paired only with front-wheel drive) is adequate for suburban duties, but anyone planning longer drives might want to consider the V6. Then again, the Atlas is not light (around 4,500 pounds) and it's the largest

vehicle VW sells in the United States, so even this option is hardly a powerhouse. But it can come with all-wheel drive (AWD), a system that includes Snow and Off-road modes.

Eight inches of ground clearance means the Atlas can cope with a rural trail, but not the really rough stuff.

Yes, a third seating row is good enough to warrant a special mention. The way the second row slides forward to make the seats behind so easily accessible is just one aspect. Passengers will also find plenty of headroom and decent legroom, with space under the second row to place their feet.

Even if the Atlas isn't exactly breathtaking, there's still some VW spirit to be found. Clicking the driving modes over to Sport sharpens up the steering and throttle responses, and raises the transmission shift points. It even works with the adaptive cruise control engaged.

Because the Atlas is aimed at American buyers, there are 17 cup holders. However, the cabin still mixes simplicity with class. The high-quality plastics help in this regard.

The second row can fold and slide forward even when child seats are fitted, enabling accommodation for seven occupants, or six if the optional 2nd-row captain's chairs are selected.

In versions of the Atlas without the captain's chairs, the rearmost two rows of seats can fold to create a flat load-space floor. Behind the third row is a still-generous 20.6 cubic feet of cargo area, which expands to an impressive maximum of 96.8 cubic feet.

Clever packaging means the VW Atlas

is big on the inside yet capable of fitting within a regular garage. The rear-passenger doors are generously sized and open wide for easy entries and exits. And we like the large cargo-area aperture, especially when it's accessed by the hands-free power tailgate. Touches like these illustrate the detail Volkswagen has gone into when considering the needs of its potential customers. The standard wheel is an 18-inch alloy, going up to 21 inches on the highest trim. The R-Line variants have their own cosmetic additions.

The good news is that the Atlas in entry-level S trim comes with a lot of standard equipment that includes a few advanced driver aids. Other attractions include rain-sensing wipers, automatic LED headlights, heated side mirrors, roof rails, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto smartphone integration, and Wi-Fi.

Safety makes a substantial contribution with six airbags, automatic post-collision braking, and VW's Intelligent Crash Response System, which cuts the fuel supply, unlocks the doors and turns on the hazard lights in the event of a crash.

The not-so-good news is that there's only a 6.5-inch infotainment touch screen and one USB port.

To bring even more features into a new Volkswagen Atlas means heading for higher trims. For example, parking sensors aren't available until the mid-range SE w/Tech R-Line model, while the hands-free power tailgate comes in the SEL model. Those looking to spend more can always order the panoramic sunroof, 20-inch or 21-inch alloy wheels, and 2nd-row captain's chairs. The V6 with all-wheel drive

is available in the S.

Apart from all-wheel drive and the V6 engine (both of which are standard in SEL Premium), the only other main options are a trailer package for the first three trims with the V6, panoramic sunroof (available in the upper two SE variants) and 2nd-row captain's chairs. The first two trims are ineligible for that last feature.

To see which equipment goes where, check our Trims/Features section below.

The basic engine in the VW Atlas is a turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder unit making 235 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque. Front-wheel drive (FWD) is the only configuration.

The alternative is a 3.6-liter V6 generating 276 horsepower and 266 lb-ft of torque, and can drive either the front wheels or all four (AWD) with the 4Motion setup, which has modes for various treacherous conditions. The Atlas also has on-road driving modes of Eco, Normal and Sport.

Both engines connect to an 8-speed automatic transmission.

2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4
235 horsepower @ 4,500 rpm
258 lb-ft of torque @ 1,600 rpm
EPA city/highway fuel economy: 20/24 mpg

3.6-liter V6
276 horsepower @ 6,200 rpm
266 lb-ft of torque @ 2,750 rpm
EPA city/highway fuel economy: 17/23 mpg (FWD), 16/22 mpg (AWD)

The S trim is the lowest of the seven Atlas trim levels, with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$31,545. Add the \$1,020 destination charge to make \$32,565.

Aim for the SE trim at least, from \$35,715, although a good balance of price and equipment is the SE w/Technology for \$38,065 (front-wheel drive). The SEL comes in at \$41,815, while the SEL Premium (with the V6, all-wheel drive and almost everything else as standard) is \$50,215. Adding the 2nd-row captain's chairs would be \$695. Where they're optional, the V6 is \$1,400 and all-wheel drive is an extra \$1,800.

These figures are similar to the Ford Explorer, Honda Pilot, Kia Telluride and Hyundai Palisade. The Chevrolet Traverse starts with a lower price, while a new-for-2020 Toyota Highlander costs more.

Check out KBB.com's Fair Purchase Price to see what other buyers in your area are paying for their new Atlas. The Pilot and Highlander outperform the Atlas in terms of resale values. Although the VW SUV has a transferrable 6-year/72,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty in its favor.



Taco Crush: Madness for the love of Tacos



By Richard Pollak
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It's just maddening to think that the best Tacos in McKinney are the result of a Taco crush. That's when you are so crazy about Tacos, you open the best Taco paradise in McKinney, Texas. Crazy thought, but there's is nothing else in McKinney, that I have tried, that even compares. The menu spans the global of Taco traditions and offers something for all tastes.



They even have IBC Root Beer

As soon as I entered Taco Crush, I was driven towards the Soda display...OMG! When I see the fabulous IBC Root Beer, I have to grab two even if I'm eating breakfast Tacos.

At Taco Crush, starters, breakfast Tacos, Salad bowls and Quesadillas, Burritos and Flautas, all share the menu with 16 Tacos and Desserts



Guacamole served with the Queso starter

The Chips and Queso are blessed with a spicy Avocado Ranch swirl that takes this starter to a whole new level. The

Guacamole was extra firm and robustly flavorful. Also available for starters is Refried Beans, Black Beans, Rice, and Chips and Salsa.



Hot sauce choice are Mango Habenero, Salsa and Tomatillo

The homemade Hot Sauce is available in Mango Habenero, Salsa and Tomatillo and the perfect crowing touch. The Mango Habenero is definately the hottest



Chicken and Waffles Taco, Brisket Taco and Pastor Taco

of the three.

The insane Chicken and Waffles Tacos can't be matched on earth! And the greatest part about it is they are available all day and all night.

A Full Monty Burrito puts everything a breakfast eater could crave in a huge carrying case. Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Potatoes, Beans, Mushrooms, Tomatoes and Cheesebasically the kitchen sink.



The Ruben Taco

I would have to say that it's worth the trip, if for nothing else, for the Rueben Taco.....yes, Taco Crush has literally crushed the concept of putting Corned Beef, Grilled Sauerkraut, Swiss Cheese and

Thousand Island Dressing into a Taco.

There were no complains about the Beef Quasadillas or the Buffalo Chicken Tacos either. Both scored big in competitive taste.



Grilled Chicken Salad Bowl, grilled Fish and Barbacoa

The grilled Chicken Salad Bowl was crowned with Crispy Fried Chicken atop a bed of crisp, shredded Romaine Lettuce, covered in Black Beans, Shredded Cheese and a choice of Salsa, Sour Cream or majestic Spicy Avocado Ranch Dressing. The Fried Fish and Barbacoa Tacos were outstanding as well. You simply can't go wrong with any of Taco Crush's Tacos. The

problem is how to eat them all! It willobviously take multiple visits as there are 16 Tacos to choose from!



The sopapillas are fantastic

The Sopapillas are tiny little pillows of Dessert madness, vs the much larger version available at most Mexican restaurants, and are prepared perfectly with sugar and cinnamon and side of honey. Very traditional. What an outstanding way to end a global trek of Taco madness for the love of Tacos!

Check it out....if you love Tacos you will not be dissappointed.

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