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ACC Schedule™



DECEMBER 7 VIRGINIA	DECEMBER 21 BOSTON COLLEGE	JANUARY 4 DUKE	JANUARY 7 NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 11 GEORGIA TECH	JANUARY 15 VIRGINIA	JANUARY 18 MIAMI	JANUARY 21 LOUISVILLE
JANUARY 25 NC STATE	JANUARY 29 CALIFORNIA	FEBRUARY 1 STANFORD	FEBRUARY 5 VIRGINIA TECH
FEBRUARY 11 PITT	FEBRUARY 15 WAKE FOREST	FEBRUARY 19 NOTRE DAME	FEBRUARY 22 CLEMSON
FEBRUARY 26 CALIFORNIA	MARCH 1 STANFORD	MARCH 4 SYRACUSE	MARCH 8 FLORIDA STATE

HOME AWAY

COWBOYS HSOs

DARYL JOHNSTON
TUESDAY AT 5:30 PM

TROY AIKMAN
THURSDAY AT 7:55 AM

THE TICKET SPORTSRADIO
96.7fm / 1510am



MONSTER JAM

AT&T STADIUM OCT 26

Competitors shown are subject to change © 2024 Feld Motor Sports

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Broadcast talent announced



Dallas Mavericks announce TV, radio broadcast talent for 2024-25 season

The Mavericks announced details for their TV and radio broadcast teams, as well as the launch of their subscription steaming app, MavsTV.

The service will initially be powered through the NBA's Next Gen platform, inside the NBA app, before the Mavs-specific app launches later this season.

MavsTV also is the name the franchise is branding its entire inaugural local broadcast operation, which replaces Bally Sports Southwest.

There are no significant changes to the talent lineup from recent seasons, other than the offseason retirement of radio broadcaster and franchise great Brad Davis.

The TV broadcast team has a combined 80-plus years of Mavericks' broadcast experience and 40 EMMYS: Mark Followill, Derek Harper, Devin Harris, Dana Larson, Lesley McCaslin and Jeff Wade. The Mavericks say there also will be a rotation of guest analysts and team legends throughout the season.

Back for his 20th season as the Mavericks' radio voice is Chuck

Cooperstein. He will be joined on this season's broadcasts on The Eagle 97.1 FM by analyst Brian Dameris, who is scheduled to work all regular season and postseason games with Cooperstein.

Victor Villalba once again is the team's Spanish radio voice on Zona MX 99.1 FM.

Mavs sign Jaden Hardy to contract extension

The Dallas Mavericks announced this week that they have agreed to a multi-year contract extension with guard Jaden Hardy.

Hardy (6-4, 198) enters his third season after averaging 7.3 points, 1.8 rebounds and 1.5 assists through a career-high 73 games, including seven starts, in 2023-24.

In his sophomore season, he recorded three games with at least seven assists after failing to produce such a game his entire rookie season. On Jan. 5, 2024 against Portland, Hardy produced 19 points, a career-high nine rebounds and a career-high nine assists, one rebound and assist shy from his first career triple-double.

In his rookie season, Hardy notched 8.8 points, 1.9 rebounds and 1.4 assists through 48 games. He recorded five 25-point games as a rookie, the second-most by a Maverick before turning 21 years old (Luka Don'ic, 57) and the fifth-most by a Dallas rookie ever (Jay Vincent, 28; Don'ic, 21; Jamal Mashburn, 20; Mark Aguirre, 8).

The 22-year-old Detroit native played one year for the G League Ignite before being selected with the 37th overall by Sacramento in the 2022 NBA Draft and traded to the Mavericks on draft night.

Hardy owns career averages of 7.9 points, 1.8 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 14.0 minutes over 121 games (12 starts) in his two seasons.



Texas punished by SEC after fans threw debris onto field





The SEC issued penalties to the University of Texas on Sunday after its fans threw objects and trash onto the field during the third quarter of the Longhorns' 30-15 loss to Georgia on Saturday night.

Texas was handed a \$250,000 fine, and the SEC is also requiring the university use all resources to determine which fans were throwing objects. The fans who are identified will be banned from all Texas events during the 2024-25 athletic year, as ruled by the SEC.

The SEC also ruled that Texas must review and update its athletic department game management and alcohol availability policies. Texas and the SEC must come to an agreement on policy to comply with existing SEC standards. Lastly, Texas must conduct a report and submit it to the SEC that summarizes its efforts to find offenders of the rules and how it will prevent future occurrences from happening.

The SEC added it isn't suspending alcohol sales privileges, but reserves the right to do so if Texas doesn't follow the SEC's requirements stated in the announcement.

NCAA Football Poll		
Coaches Poll	Week 9	AP Poll
1. Oregon	1. Oregon	1. Oregon
2. Georgia	2. Georgia	2. Georgia
3. Ohio State	3. Penn State	3. Penn State
4. Penn State	4. Ohio State	4. Ohio State
5. Miami	5. Texas	5. Texas
6. Texas	6. Miami	6. Miami
7. LSU	7. Tennessee	7. Tennessee
8. Tennessee	8. LSU	8. LSU
9. Clemson	9. Clemson	9. Clemson
10. Iowa State	10. Iowa State	10. Iowa State
11. Notre Dame	11. BYU	11. BYU
12. BYU	12. Notre Dame	12. Notre Dame
13. Indiana	13. Indiana	13. Indiana
14. Texas A&M	14. Texas A&M	14. Texas A&M
15. Alabama	15. Alabama	15. Alabama
16. Kansas State	16. Kansas State	16. Kansas State
17. Missouri	17. Boise State	17. Boise State
18. Ole Miss	18. Ole Miss	18. Ole Miss
19. Boise State	19. Pittsburgh	19. Pittsburgh
20. Pittsburgh	20. Illinois	20. Illinois
21. Illinois	21. Missouri	21. Missouri
22. SMU	22. SMU	22. SMU
23. Army	23. Army	23. Army
24. Navy	24. Navy	24. Navy
25. Vanderbilt	25. Vanderbilt	25. Vanderbilt

WEEKLY CALENDAR							
	OCTOBER 25 FRIDAY	OCTOBER 26 SATURDAY	OCTOBER 27 SUNDAY	OCTOBER 28 MONDAY	OCTOBER 29 TUESDAY	OCTOBER 30 WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 31 THURSDAY
			Dallas at San Francisco 7:20 / NBC				
		Mavs at Suns 9:00 / 97.1		Mavs vs Jazz 7:30 / 97.1	Mavs at Timberwolves 6:30 / TNT		Mavs vs Houston 7:30 / 97.1
		Stars vs Black Hawks 7:00 / ESPN+					
	Allen vs Kansas City 7:10	Allen vs Kansas City 7:10				Allen at WIC 7:10	
		SMU at Duke 7:00 / ACCN					

College football playoff projection

2025

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

JANUARY 20 | ATLANTA

College football playoff Georgia new No. 1 in bracket projection

By Wire reports

CFP bracket projection

First round games

Boise State (12) at Texas (5)
Iowa State (11) at Oregon(6)
Notre Dame (10) at Penn State (7)
Miami (9) at LSU (8)

Quarterfinals

Peach Bowl: Clemson (3) vs. Oregon/Iowa State winner
Rose Bowl: Ohio State (2) vs. Penn State/Notre Dame winner
Sugar Bowl: Georgia (1) vs. LSU-Miami winner
Fiesta Bowl: Kansas State (4) vs. Boise State/Texas winner

Georgia's win at Texas returns the Bulldogs to the top overall seed and dumps the Longhorns into an at-large bid in this week's College Football Playoff projection.

While playoff expansion has lessened the impact of these high-profile games, this swap reflects the down-the-road influence of the regular season. Now, the Bulldogs are poised to receive a bye through the playoff's opening round while the Longhorns would have to navigate through another postseason matchup to win the national championship.

The Longhorns are still projected for a rematch with Georgia to decide the SEC. For one, the loss doesn't alter the fact that Texas has looked like one of the nation's best teams; after getting thrown into an early hole on Saturday night, the Longhorns rebounded after the break and largely outplayed the Bulldogs in the second half.

There's also a very manageable schedule that paves the way for the rematch. That's good news and bad: Texas might

have an easier path than other contenders in the SEC, but that fact could come back to hurt the Longhorns' postseason credentials if they stumble before December.

In fact, there is a chance that Texas could lose just once yet fail to notch a single win against a team that finishes the regular season in the US LBM Coaches Poll. The Longhorns don't have a ranked win through seven games – Michigan and Oklahoma were ranked at the time but have since dropped off the map – and would need Texas A&M to keep winning to ensure that remains a ranked-on-ranked matchup in the season finale.

Bracket projection

There are several unexpected contenders lurking in the playoff picture.

One is A&M, which has won six in a row after dropping the opener to Notre Dame. While they could take care of this problem by reaching the SEC championship game, the Aggies are rooting for the Fighting Irish to lose at least once and preferably twice to remove that potential roadblock from the equation.

Indiana continues to impress over in the Big Ten, most recently dismantling Nebraska in a 56-7 win. Off to the program's best start since 1967, the Hoosiers end the regular season with Washington, Michigan State, Michigan, Ohio State and Purdue, with the Spartans and Buckeyes coming on the road.

In the Big 12, Brigham Young remains tied with Iowa State as the league's two unbeaten contenders. The Cougars miss the Cyclones during the regular season but do take on road trips against Central Florida, Utah and Arizona State.

Four teams to watch

SMU: The Mustangs are only an 18-15 loss against BYU from being undefeated. Amazingly, they've defied the skeptics to rise to stand as one of three teams still per-

fect in ACC play, along with Miami and Clemson.

Those two heavyweights are projected to represent the conference in the playoff, but SMU has played well enough to warrant a place among the crowded group of Power Four teams hanging around just outside the bracket.

Illinois: Like Indiana, Illinois is a surprising contender in the Big Ten as the regular season passes the midway point.

On Saturday, the Illini manhandled Michigan in a 21-7 win that should put the team back on track after losing to Penn State and barely escaping against Purdue. This weekend's matchup with Oregon will make or break Illinois' playoff chances.

UNLV: UNLV owned the second half against Oregon State to win 33-25 and stay at just one loss entering Friday night's enormous Mountain West pairing with Boise State.

While the Broncos are the Group of Five representative in our bracket, ahead of

teams such as Army and Navy, the Rebels can climb back into the driver's seat with a win.

They'll have to slow down Boise running back Ashton Jeanty, the nation's leading rusher (1,248 yards) and a Heisman Trophy favorite.

Louisiana-Lafayette: Another team rising up the Group of Five rankings is ULL, which moved to 6-1 overall and stayed perfect in the Sun Belt with a 34-24 win at Coastal Carolina.

The Ragin' Cajuns have a solid loss to Tulane, a road win against Wake Forest and the chance to two or three wins down the stretch against potential bowl teams in Texas State, Arkansas State and rival Louisiana-Monroe.

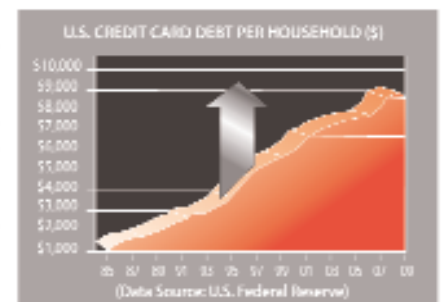
Louisiana-Lafayette needs a few things: to win out, for Georgia Southern to win out and create the best possible Sun Belt championship game matchup, and for some teams in the American Athletic Conference to take down Army and Navy.

Credit Card Debt?

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

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



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This week: ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP



Collin Morikawa's victory at the 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP meant so very much to him



Zozo Championship
October 24 - 27, 2024
Narashino Country Club
Inzai, Chiba, Japan
Purse - \$8,500,000
Winners share - \$1,530,000
Defending Champ - Colin Morikawa

By Adam Stanley

"There are only a few places around the world where you hope to win before the end of your career and for me, Japan is one of those places," Morikawa wrote in a recent blog. "Winning the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP last October meant the world to me."

Morikawa is looking to become the first person to go back-to-back at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP. He returns to action at ACCORDIA GOLF Narashino Country Club – his first stroke-play event on TOUR since the TOUR Championship. Morikawa was part of the U.S. Team that saw victory at the Presidents Cup this fall in Montreal.

There is significant star power heading across the Pacific Ocean to Japan for this year's ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, headlined

by world No. 2 Xander Schauffele. And there is plenty of drama still left to unfold around the top 60 bubble in the FedExCup Fall standings (as players look ahead to the Aon Next 10 and the 2025 Signature Events) along with the ever-important top 125 to secure full status next season.

Here's everything else you need to know as the TOUR returns to Japan.

FIELD NOTES: Morikawa returns to defend his ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP title from a year ago – a drought-busting victory after more than two years without one. Morikawa has eight top-10 finishes this season with two runners-up (including at the TOUR Championship)... World No. 2 Schauffele is also back in action for the first time since Royal Montreal Golf Club. Schauffele has been a model of consistency this season, finishing inside the top 25 in 20 of the 21 events he's played. He has won twice – both major championships – and amassed 15 top 10s. Schauffele has two top 10s in four starts at Narashino Country Club... Hideki Matsuyama returns to action in Japan after a two-win season. Matsuyama, who played for the International Team at the Presidents Cup, finished runner-up at the inaugural ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP and won the event when it returned to Japan in 2021 after a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19... There are plenty of other top-ranked golfers teeing it

up in Japan, including Sahith Theegala, Sungjae Im, Max Homa and Justin Thomas ... Kevin Yu holds the No. 60 spot in the FedExCup Fall standings – and the final spot in the Aon Next 10 – and is back in action. He missed the cut in at the Shriners Children's Open after his maiden TOUR title at the Sanderson Farms Championship ... The bubble watch for the top 125 on the FedExCup standings is firmly on. S.H. Kim holds the No. 123 spot and is the closest man inside the bubble who is playing the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP. He will look to pad his points total this week... There are numerous homegrown talents in the field via their performance on the Japan Golf Tour, led by Ryo Ishikawa, who finished T4 last year at Narashino Country Club.

HIGHEST-RANKED PLAYERS IN THE FIELD

World Ranking	FedExCup
2. Xander Schauffele	2. C. Morikawa
4. Collin Morikawa	3. S. Theegala
7. Hideki Matsuyama	T4. X. Schauffele
13. Sahith Theegala	7. Sungjae Im
22. Sungjae Im	T9. H. Matsuyama
27. Max Homa	T14. J. Thomas
32. Justin Thomas	T29. Tom Hoge
42. Min Woo Lee	32. Si Woo Kim
52. Max Greyserman	38. W. Zalatoris
55. Si Woo Kim	46. Max Homa

SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS: Gary Woodland notched his first top-10 finish since undergoing brain surgery at the end of last year at the Shriners Children's Open, finishing T9 in Las Vegas. He's back in action in Japan, where he finished fifth in 2019... Satoshi Kodaira returns to the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP for the sixth time. He's recorded top 20 results in his last two starts at Narashino Country Club. This will be his second TOUR start this season... Zac Blair and Joel Dahmen look to earn some very valuable FedExCup

points this week, with Blair sitting 118th in the FedExCup Fall standings and Dahmen 129th... Takahiro Hataji rounds out the sponsor exemptions. Hataji is a two-time winner on the Japan Golf Tour this season.

SIGNATURE EVENT STORYLINES: As part of the Aon Next 10, players ranked Nos. 51-60 through the FedExCup Fall will earn their way into two early season 2025 Signature Events – the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational ... With his T9 at the Shriners Children's Open, Harris English jumped from No. 54 to No. 52 in the standings. His result in Vegas was his second consecutive top 10 in the FedExCup Fall... Mackenzie Hughes continues to hold onto the No. 51 spot. No players jumped inside the Nos. 51-60 group last week in Las Vegas...

Doug Ghim, who finished runner-up to J.T. Poston (who was already inside the top 50 in the standings after the FedExCup season), jumped from No. 93 to No. 70 in the standings and is now about 150 points back of the No. 60 spot.

FEDEXCUP:

- Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.
- The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP is the fifth event of the FedExCup Fall.
- At the end of the FedExCup Fall, those that rank from Nos. 126-150 on the final FedExCup Fall Points List will have conditional status for the 2025 PGA TOUR Season.

- All players outside the top 125 can improve or regain TOUR status via PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.

COURSE: ACCORDIA GOLF Narashino Country Club, par 70, 7,079 yards. Just east of Tokyo, it's a stunning parkland layout designed by Kinya Fujita. Opened in 1965, it first hosted the Japan PGA Championship just three years later. The club welcomed the PGA TOUR in 2019 after playing host to plenty of other high-level golf events in its history. The layout for the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP mixes nine holes each from the club's King Course and Queen Course, the result being five par 3s and three par 5s.

72-HOLE RECORD:

- 261, Tiger Woods (2019)

18-HOLE RECORD:

- 61, John Huh (Second round, 2023)
- 61, Richy Werenski (Second round, 2020 @ Sherwood)

LAST TIME: Morikawa broke a 27-month winless drought on the PGA TOUR, capturing the 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in dominating fashion. Morikawa broke through Sunday in Japan with a tidy 7-under 63 – the round of the day – to win by six shots. Morikawa – who is half Japanese and said this victory was extra

special – started the day two shots back of the 54-hole leader, Justin Suh, but ripped off four birdies in his first nine holes to take control of the tournament as Suh faded. This marked Morikawa's first TOUR title since winning The Open Championship in 2021. Eric Cole and Beau Hossler finished tied for second, while Robby Shelton and Japan's Ryo Ishikawa finished tied for fourth.

How to follow (all times ET)

Television:

- Wednesday-Saturday: 11 p.m.-3 a.m. (Golf Channel)

Power Rankings: ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP



Xander Schauffele has never finished better than a T9 here in 2022

By Rob Bolton

The second half of the FedExCup Fall is about to begin, and the next tournament is ready to receive the kick ... on the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

Four stops down, four to go during the series to conclude the 2024 season. The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in Chiba, Japan, is unique among them as it's the only competition without a cut. See details of what the field of 78 can expect and analysis.

Rank Players

15 Kurt Kitayama USA

Putting faith in the bump of a T9 at the Shriners Children's Open in his backyard. Led the field in Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green and ranked third in greens hit, proximity and scrambling. Third look at Narashino (T29, T16).

14 Rico Hoey Philippines

Got back after it at TPC Summerlin, where his signature balanced game was on display. En route to a T3, led the field in proximity and ranked third in converting greens hit into par breakers. Four top 10s in his active 10-for-10.

13 Matt Kuchar USA

Concluded the regular season with a T12-T3 surge but missed the FedExCup Playoffs for the first time. Undeterred and still motivated, he's added a pair of top 15s in the FedExCup Fall to fortify position at 104th in points.

12 Andrew Putnam USA

Presents on paper as consistently strong but can get lost in the mix on longer tracks. No such worry this week. Rode a second-round 62 to a T2 at Narashino last year. Top 25s in last two starts worldwide; four in his last six.

11 Takumi Kanaya Japan

Sits second on the Japan Golf Tour money list with two wins and leads in greens hit and scoring, but his 2nd-Win-4th on-ramp to the ZOZO clinches this attention. Debuted at Narashino with a T7.

10 Justin Thomas USA

This is his first visit since finishing T17 in the inaugural edition in 2019, and it's his first start anywhere since finishing T14 in

the FedExCup for a nice bounce-back season. Short-range accuracy remains elite.

9 Tom Hoge USA

Caught up in the wrong side of the draw at the Shriners and missed the cut. For that he's excused despite his terrific fit for TPC Summerlin. Still leads the PGA TOUR with 64 red numbers. Personal-best T9 here two years ago.

8 Kensei Hirata Japan

If you were searching for a Matt McCarty comp based on form alone, look no further than the 23-year-old from Japan who leads his circuit in earnings thanks in large part to four wins since July. Also placed T6 here last year.

7 Beau Hossler USA

Outstanding form of late has piled onto sites where he'd made noise. Narashino already is included with a T16 (2022) and a T2 (2023) in his only trips, scoring 8-under 272 in both. Led outright at least year's midpoint.

6 Min Woo Lee Australia

Turned the page after going just 0-1-1 in his Presidents Cup debut with a T9 in his title defense of the Asian Tour's SJM Macao Open. The week after last year's win, he rose for a T6 in his debut at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 Sungjae Im South Korea

Got knocked around at the Presidents Cup, so he's ready to reconnect with a red-hot six-month stretch that's featured eight top 10s and another three top 15s worldwide. In three tries at Narashino, he's finished T3, T29 and T12.

4 Sahith Theegala USA

He's rapidly become a fixture and a force at Narashino with a T5 and a T19 in the tournament last season. Prior to the Presidents Cup, he finished third in the FedExCup and T7 in his title defense of the Procore Championship.

3 Xander Schauffele USA

Although it's been personally fulfilling to work a PGA TOUR start into his family reunion, the two-time major champion still is in pursuit of the best of outcomes here. No better than a T9 here in 2022.

2 Colin Morikawa USA

Given his torrid pace that's most recently included finishing second in the FedExCup and contributing four points to the winning cause at the Presidents Cup, it's almost a coincidence that he's the defending champion.

1 Hideki Matsuyama Japan

Although he didn't win a major this year, outstanding form that's yielded two victories is similar to what was a career year in 2021 when he won at Narashino. In his prime at 32 and home, it's time to plug-and-replay.

With a scheduled off-week following the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, the rank and file of PGA TOUR membership is treated to a fortnight to reset and recharge for the flourish to the finish line that will stretch from Mexico to Bermuda to Sea Island, Georgia.

The ZOZO is the only invitational of the FedExCup Fall, and it caps entry at 60 using the FedExCup standings at the conclusion of the TOUR Championship. As of Monday afternoon, the last man in via this conduit is Carson Young, who finished 112th, so it's a bonus start for the guys who are feeling the pressure to perform to finish inside the top 125 at the conclusion of the season. Young currently is 115th and guaranteed to contribute to his total points.

The other 18 in the field at Narashino consist primarily of members of the Japan Golf Tour, but four sponsor exemptions are reserved for PGA TOUR members.

This is the fourth consecutive edition of the ZOZO at Narashino and fifth overall, so the portion of the field that has been here before is through the learning curve. The stage is a par 70, measuring just 7,079 yards with five par 3s and three par 5s. Contrary to most courses, the par 3s are pushovers as a set, so pars on some of them will feel disappointing.

Scoring hovers around par overall. Last year's field average of 70.508 is a tournament high, but a wind-influenced 72.455 in the second round was all it took. (All of the other three rounds checked in under par.) And that's the primary challenge at Narashino. Breezes shouldn't be too bad this week, so the course is poised to present its best self. Daytime temperatures will climb into the mid 70s. The threat of rain – omnipresent as it is in these climes – doesn't foretell much trouble.

Cooperating conditions will allow the bentgrass greens to touch the intended 12-1/2 feet on the Stimpmeter. If Narashino is new to you, at some point you'll be introduced to the fact that there are two greens on every hole of the composite routing of the King and Queen Courses. Double greens are commonplace in Japan so that

golf can be played year-round with weather-resistant strains. When seasonally appropriate, the other set of greens will replace the current targets. When a ball lands on the wrong green, to protect it, a free drop off that surface and no closer to the intended hole will be allowed.

Lush zoysia rough has been allowed to grow to 3-1/2 inches, which is customary for the tournament. It can be a deterrent off the tee, but muscle steps aside for accuracy on the shorter course, so Narashino doesn't set up as much as a second-shot test as it is a requirement to contend. Pouring in par breakers will define those in position to prevail.

New & Used Clubs from the Top Brands in Golf

2nd Swing

TGL's inaugural season schedule



Six teams of PGA TOUR stars will be featured on prime time ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN+

Written by Staff

TGL presented by SoFi, the new tech-infused, team golf league founded by Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy's TMRW Sports in partnership with the PGA TOUR, announced this week its inaugural season schedule, which will premiere Tuesday, Jan. 7, on ESPN and ESPN+. The schedule includes 15 regular season matches followed by a four-team semifinals, and culminating with the top two teams competing to win the SoFi Cup in a best-of-three Finals Series on Monday, March 24, and Tuesday, March 25.

"TGL presented by SoFi represents a giant leap forward in innovation and sports entertainment," said Rosalyn Durant, executive vice president, programming and acquisitions, ESPN. "We have tremendous respect for the work that the TMRW Sports team has put into launching TGL, and we're confident that our viewers are going to enjoy both the competition and unique presentation."

Mike McCarley, CEO and founder of TMRW Sports, added: "TGL presented by SoFi will combine teams of world-class PGA TOUR stars with the energy fans have become familiar with in other team sports – a live, courtside experience for golf on an unprecedented scale. The six TGL teams will go head-to-head in a season of matches from January through March, bringing team golf to prime time for the first time on a consistent basis."

"In partnership with ESPN, our season will complement the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Season with a fast-paced team competition that aims to captivate a wide range of sports fans with elements, like a shot clock, that are familiar to fans of other sports. TGL's two-hour matches are perfect for prime time and will help bring more fans closer to some of the biggest names in golf."

TGL presented by SoFi season highlights:

Kicking off in concert with the PGA TOUR's "Opening Drive" of the 2025 FedExCup season, TGL's schedule begins Tuesday, Jan. 7, and ends Tuesday, March 25, with matches primarily in prime time on Mondays and Tuesdays. Each match is scheduled for approximately two hours and features three of the four players from each roster. All matches air on ESPN or ESPN2 and stream on ESPN+.

Highlights from the inaugural TGL season schedule include (all times ET):

- The first seven matches on the schedule will air on ESPN.
- Sixteen TGL matches will air in prime time.
- On Monday, Feb. 17, fans will enjoy a Presidents' Day tripleheader on ESPN and ESPN2.

Preview the season (all times ET)

Match 1: New York Golf Club vs. The Bay Golf Club

Tuesday, Jan 7, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

- With the PGA TOUR fresh off The Sentry, its first Signature Event of 2025, TGL's first-ever match is Tuesday, Jan. 7, in prime time on ESPN and ESPN+.

- Coming off a career season that included two major championship victories, Xander Schauffele leads New York Golf Club (Matt Fitzpatrick, Rickie Fowler, Schauffele and Cameron Young) to face The Bay Golf Club (Ludvig Åberg, Wyndham Clark, Min Woo Lee and Shane Lowry) as the two youngest teams in TGL square off.

Match 2: Los Angeles Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links Golf Club

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

- The second match of the season will pit Tiger Woods' Jupiter Links Golf Club (Woods, Max Homa, Tom Kim and Kevin Kisner) against Los Angeles Golf Club

(Collin Morikawa, Sahith Theegala, Tommy Fleetwood and Justin Rose).

- This match is the night following ESPN's "Monday Night Football" NFL Wild Card game, traditionally ESPN's most-watched event every year.

Match 3: New York Golf Club vs. Atlanta Drive GC

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

- Atlanta Drive GC's (Justin Thomas, Patrick Cantlay, Billy Horschel and Lucas Glover) first match will be against New York Golf Club on the night following the highly rated College Football National Championship Game on ESPN, a game that will be played at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, owned by Atlanta Drive GC owner, Arthur Blank.

Match 4: Jupiter Links Golf Club vs. Boston Common Golf

Monday, Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

- Boston Common Golf (McIlroy, Keegan Bradley, Adam Scott and Hideki Matsuyama) makes its debut against Woods' Jupiter Links Golf Club in a matchup of two of golf's biggest superstars.

Match 5: Boston Common Golf vs. Los Angeles Golf Club

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

- The two teams with the best current average Official World Golf Ranking square off. Boston Common Golf's roster features the best average World Ranking at 11, while L.A. Golf Club follows at 17.
- Both cities have a rich history of championships in sports, with Boston winning 39 titles combined in professional football, baseball, hockey and basketball, compared to Los Angeles' 24 titles.

Matches 6-8: Presidents' Day Tripleheader Monday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m. (ESPN), 4 p.m. (ESPN), 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

- As the PGA TOUR wraps its West Coast Swing with The Genesis Invitational, TGL will host a tripleheader on Presidents' Day, starting with Atlanta Drive GC vs. Los Angeles Golf Club, Atlanta Drive GC vs. The Bay Golf Club, and The Bay Golf Club vs. Boston Common Golf.

- While the 1 p.m. ET start of the tripleheader allows for afternoon viewing on the East Coast of the United States, the early start also allows for evening and prime time in other markets around the globe.

Match 9: Jupiter Links Golf Club vs. New York Golf Club

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

- Following the Presidents' Day tripleheader, a fourth match will be played Tuesday night on ESPN.

Matches 10-12: Monday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m. (ESPN2), 9 p.m. (ESPN2); Tuesday, Feb. 25, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

- Three matches will be played over two

days with all six teams in action starting with Los Angeles Golf Club vs. New York Golf Club and then Boston Common Golf vs. Atlanta Drive GC on Monday.

Tuesday's match features The Bay Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links Golf Club. The matches precede the PGA TOUR's Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches just down the road from SoFi Center.

- The two days include interesting international team competition storylines with past Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup teammates and memorable opponents set to face each other over the course of the three matches.

Matches 13-15: Monday, March 3, 3 p.m. (ESPN2), 7 p.m. (ESPN2); Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

- The final week of the regular season includes a tripleheader of regions with traditional sports rivalries, including The Bay Golf Club (Northern California) vs. Los Angeles Golf Club (Southern California) in the first match and New York Golf Club vs. Boston Common Golf in the second match. The final match of the regular season is Jupiter Links Golf Club (Florida) vs. Atlanta Drive GC (Georgia) on Tuesday.

- As the final matches of the regular season, playoff berths and seeding will be on the line.

Semifinals: Monday, March 17, 7 p.m. (ESPN2); Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

- The top four teams in the SoFi Cup Standings will advance to the playoffs. The matches follow the TOUR's flagship event, THE PLAYERS Championship.

- The tiebreaker for seeding will be total holes won by each team during the regular season, making all 15 holes of each match important to each team's pursuit of the playoffs.

Finals series: Monday, March 24 (ESPN2); Tuesday, March 25 (ESPN)

- TGL's final two teams will square off for the SoFi Cup in a best-of-three finals series across two nights in prime time on ESPN.



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Players that could decide the World Series



By Will Leitch

In baseball, no one player can win or lose a championship: This isn't the NBA. Every roster spot is its own cog, every matchup is just one man against another man -- you can't hit a six-run homer. Neither Ted Williams nor Barry Bonds, we remind you, won a World Series.

But one player still can make a huge difference in a series -- and it's not always the guys who are the headliners. We all know that the Dodgers need Shohei Ohtani and Mookie Betts to perform, and the same goes for the Yankees with Aaron Judge and Juan Soto. But it's the other guys, the ones who don't show up in every game promo, who will be the players on which this series hinges.

World Series Game 1, presented by Capital One: Friday, 7 p.m. on FOX

Here's a look at four players on each team who could prove the most important in this series, and we've broken them down into four categories.

Category 1: The Stars

Dodgers: 1B Freddie Freeman

There probably isn't anyone on either of these teams more appreciative of having this time off between series than Freeman. The 2020 NL MVP clearly hasn't been himself since spraining his right ankle back on Sept. 26, and for good reason: That's an injury that typically takes about four weeks to heal. He's 7-for-32 this postseason, with no extra-base hits, though he does have one very scary stolen base.

Obviously, having one of the best hitters in baseball in the lineup and healthy would be a big deal, particularly against the Yankees, who aren't flush with left-handed starters and are not exactly stacked with lefty monsters in their bullpen, either. But more than that: It just feels wrong not to see a player of Freeman's caliber at his best and healthiest with all these stars

around. Keep that thing elevated, Freddie: We all want to see you back.

Yankees: DH Giancarlo Stanton

Stanton is pretty awesome! It's perhaps understandable that this has been somewhat forgotten over the past few years. He has struggled mightily with injuries since coming to the Bronx from Miami, and as big and unmissable as he is, this is still New York City. There's a lot going on, and if you're not on the field, people will turn their attention elsewhere -- perhaps, most notably, toward Judge and Soto.

But Stanton has always been an excellent postseason hitter, and when healthy, he's as terrifying as anyone in baseball. So combine "health" with "October" and you've got a monster. Stanton is a bit one-dimensional at this point in his career, but what a dimension it is: He had only four hits in the ALCS, but all of them were homers, and every single one of them was crucial. He's not a superstar at the level of Soto and Judge, not anymore, but he can hit the ball every bit as far and hard as either of them. Hitting behind them, he'll get plenty of opportunities to launch. How much advantage he takes of them may decide this whole series.

Category 2: The Starting Pitchers

Dodgers: RHP Walker Buehler

There are big question marks about Jack Flaherty and Yoshinobu Yamamoto, too, but there is no more fascinating pitcher for the Dodgers right now than Buehler. The two-time All-Star had an absolutely miserable season and is only in the rotation because the Dodgers have no other options, thanks to an avalanche of pitching injuries. It sure looked like the postseason was going to be more of the same for Buehler, after he gave up six runs against the Padres in the NLDS without getting a single strikeout.

The Dodgers had no choice but to send him back out for NLCS Game 3 against the

Mets ... and he was actually terrific. He threw only four innings, but he struck out six, gave up only three hits and held the Mets scoreless. The Dodgers might want a few more innings out of him this series, but all told, Buehler picked a great time to have his best start of the year. The Dodgers would love a couple more of those.

Yankees: RHP Luis Gil

You may not remember now, but over the first two months of this season, when Gerrit Cole was hurt and the Yankees were scrambling for pitching, there was no better story in the Bronx than Luis Gil. He was 6-0 with a 0.70 ERA in May and looked like a shoo-in for the AL Rookie of the Year Award. Gil then endured a rough June, but still: He settled in as a key rotation fixture, someone the Yankees generally felt they could count on more than a typical rookie.

But then came injuries, as you might expect from a guy who has thrown 155 2/3 innings this year, including the postseason (his previous high was 96, back in Single-A in 2019). Gil ended up not pitching for three weeks after his final regular-season start, and he got through only four innings against the Guardians in his lone postseason appearance so far, in ALCS Game 4. With Cole and Carlos Rodón, the Yankees have a significant top-of-the-rotation advantage over the Dodgers. If Gil can give them anything resembling what he did in May, the Dodgers will be scrambling.

Category 3: The Relievers

Dodgers: LHP Anthony Banda

There may be no hitter more important to get out in this series, particularly late in games, than Soto. The best way to do that is to have a wipeout lefty in the 'pen. The Dodgers have one of them in Banda, who has given up just one run in six postseason appearances and held left-handed batters to a .218/.282/.269 line during the regular season. The problem is that they only have Banda -- at least if Alex Vesia remains out with an injured intercostal muscle.

That means Banda may end up being almost exclusively on Soto duty in this series, coming in to face him at the biggest moments. You may remember, though, that there is now a three-batter minimum, which means he may get some Judge duty too. One thing seems clear: We're going to see a massive late-inning at-bat with Banda facing Soto in this series. We may see several.

Yankees: RHP Luke Weaver

Over the final month or so of the season and the first week of the postseason, it looked like the Yankees had stumbled into their next Mariano Rivera. After the team struggled with the closer spot all year, it

was Weaver, of all people, who solidified things. This was a guy who hadn't recorded a save in his nine-year career prior to Sept. 6 and was a year removed from getting released by the Reds. But suddenly he was a shutdown closer, even throwing multiple innings! Forget Mariano Rivera -- this guy was Andrew Miller, too!

Then came the ALCS. Weaver gave up a run in one inning in Game 2, but that was just the canary in the coal mine for what Cleveland's Jhonkensy Noel would do to him in Game 3, smacking a game-tying two-run shot. Weaver recovered to throw two scoreless innings (and earn the win) in the ALCS clincher, but we now see that he is, in fact, mortal. Can the Yankees keep using him as they have for the last month? What do they do if they can't?

Category 4: The Wild Cards

Dodgers: SS Tommy Edman

It should be said: The NLCS MVP has a much tougher assignment at the plate this series. Edman is a vastly better hitter when swinging from the right side of the plate than he is from the left; he put up MVP numbers in the NLCS largely because he got to face too many lefties. The Yankees don't have nearly that many -- just Rodón, Nestor Cortes (who has a chance at making the roster) and a couple of stray relievers. It's fair to say you'll only see him batting cleanup against Rodón.

But Edman is still exactly what the Dodgers needed when they acquired him from the Cardinals at the Trade Deadline: a versatile defender (crucial, given the injury to shortstop Miguel Rojas) and a smart, savvy, talented player who fits in wherever you need him and does whatever needs to be done. He just had a series that will make sure Dodgers fans love him forever. One more would make him a legend.

Yankees: 3B Jazz Chisholm Jr.

Chisholm was one of the happiest stories for the Yankees after coming over from Miami before the Trade Deadline, locking down third base, coming up with several late-game clutch hits and launching 11 homers in 46 games. (His 24 this season are a career high.) He, for the first time in a couple of years, looked like the All-Star and video game cover man we once knew. But in the postseason, Chisholm has mostly vanished. He's 5-for-34 (.147) so far, and if you add in his previous October experience with the Marlins in 2020 and '23, he's now 6-for-45 (.133) with a .449 OPS. Chisholm is incredibly talented and the sort of big personality that would seem likely to thrive in both pinstripes and the postseason. The Yankees would very much appreciate it if he began doing so.

AAC football predictions - Week 9



SMU travels to Durham this weekend to take on the 6-1 Blue Devils

By Ryan Haley

The Week 9 slate of the ACC football season might not include the Clemson Tigers, but there's no shortage of electricity on the weekend schedule.

The California Golden Bears, after losses in their first four conference games as members of the ACC, won't get a conference game to break the streak, but the former Pac-12 member will welcome a familiar West Coast foe. The Miami Hurricanes have won three straight one-score games against unranked teams, and now they host a Florida State Seminoles squad that shockingly needs to win out just to reach a bowl game. And, if any fans can't wait until Saturday for dramatics, the Syracuse Orange and Pittsburgh Panthers face off on Thursday night with a combined record of 11-1.

To top it all off, the last game on the schedule takes place in Durham. The Blue Devils, winners of six of their first seven games, host an SMU Mustangs team that also sits 6-1 thanks to one of the most productive offenses in the Power Four.

Here are our picks and predictions for the ACC schedule this weekend.

Syracuse (5-1) at #19 Pittsburgh (6-0)
Thursday, 6:30 / ESPN
Line: Pitt -5.5 / 62.5

The Pittsburgh Panthers refuse to lose in 2024, overcoming double-digit leads against Cincinnati and West Virginia in the

non-conference schedule before beating California in a 17-15 rock fight two weeks ago. While it may be foolish to bet against a team that's shown it can win in multiple ways, there's a looming sense of borrowed time for it all, and I have a little more faith in the way that Kyle McCord and the Orange have been winning this season. The former Ohio State Buckeye will stack another 350-yard, multi-touchdown performance in a shootout.

Pick: Syracuse 45, Pittsburgh 41

Louisville (4-3) at Boston College (3-4)
Friday, 6:30 / ESPN2
Line: Louisville -7.5 / 53.5

The Cardinals have lost three of their last four games, but when you consider that all three of those came against ranked teams, the sky suddenly stops falling. That same optimism cannot be shared as emphatically for Boston College as the Eagles have now lost three of their last five. Louisville is averaging 33.3 points and 441.3 yards against FBS opponents this season, a far cry from Boston College's 21.3 and 321.5.

Pick: Louisville 35, Boston College 20

Georgia Tech (5-3) at Virginia Tech (4-3)
Saturday, 11:00a.m / ACCN
Line: Virginia Tech -10.5 / 53.5

The Yellow Jackets couldn't hang with the Notre Dame Fighting Irish last week without star quarterback Haynes King, and

his status for this game remains to be seen. While his availability (or lack thereof) would swing the odds heavily in either direction, this still presents a fascinating battle. Virginia Tech running back Bhayshul Tuten has 871 yards and an ACC-leading 12 rushing touchdowns, and edge rusher Antwaun Powell-Ryland leads the FBS with 11 sacks. Georgia Tech is averaging 3.73 yards allowed per carry, the fifth-best mark in the ACC, and the Yellow Jackets have given up just three sacks this season. I'm betting on the Hokies' star power.

Pick: Virginia Tech 31, Georgia Tech 30

North Carolina (3-4) at Virginia (4-3)
Saturday, 11:00 a.m / CW Network
Line: Virginia -3.5 / 59.5

The North Carolina Tar Heels are one of two ACC teams without a conference victory after four straight losses, but they'll have a strong chance to get back on track for a bowl appearance this weekend. The UNC offense is good enough to win games, scoring 50 points against James Madison and building a 20-point lead over Duke, but the Tar Heels have surrendered 500 yards in three of their last four games. The Cavaliers have averaged 414.8 yards over the last four games, including a 449-yard game against Louisville. Expect another high-flying offensive game as Virginia finally gets national attention.

Pick: Virginia 38, North Carolina 35

Wake Forest (3-4) at Stanford (2-5)
Saturday, 2:30 / ACCN
Line: Wake Forest -2.5 / 52.5

Since their stunning upset of Syracuse, the Cardinal have lost to Clemson, Virginia Tech, Notre Dame, and SMU by a combined 122 points. The Demon Deacons, for their part, have won two of their 11 conference games since the beginning of last season. Wake Forest's porous defense (472.3 yards allowed per game against FBS opponents) will give Stanford every opportunity to get back on track, but I think the Wake offense is good enough to win them another game.

Pick: Wake Forest 31, Stanford 24

Oregon State (4-3) at California (3-4)
Saturday, 3:00 / ESPN2
Line: Cal -10.5 / 49.5

The Golden Bears have to feel like 2024 has gone down as a what-if season. California missed two field goals in a five-point loss to FSU, blew a 25-point lead against Miami, lost to Pittsburgh by two points after two failed 2-point conversions,

and couldn't hang on to a 13-point lead against NC State. There's a reasonable reality in which this team is undefeated. Instead, they get back to .500 with a win over their former conference member.

Pick: California 28, Oregon State 20

Florida State (1-6) at Miami (7-0)
Saturday, 6:00 / ESPN
Line: Miami -21 / 54.5

The Hurricanes seem to keep playing with fire, beating their last three opponents by one score, but the Miami offense has still put 500 yards together in all seven games. Quarterback Cam Ward leads the country in passing yards and touchdowns, and while the game management errors might come back to haunt their playoff chances some week soon, it won't be against this 1-6 Florida State team.

Pick: Miami 35, Florida State 13

SMU (6-1) at Duke (6-1)
Saturday, 7:00 / ACCN
Line: SMU -11.5 / 48.5

The battle between this SMU offense and the Blue Devils' secondary might be the best thing on television in the ACC this week. SMU quarterback Kevin Jennings is averaging more than 11 yards per pass attempt against conference opponents, but Duke defensive coordinator Jonathan Patke has his unit giving up just 4.9 yards per pass attempt. Regardless of who wins that battle, however, a Duke offense averaging 284.3 yards and 19.3 points against conference foes won't be enough against the Mustangs, who are averaging 40.7 points per game this season.

Pick: SMU 28, Duke 10

ACC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Clemson	5-0	6-1
Miami	3-0	7-0
SMU	3-0	6-1
Pittsburgh	2-0	6-0
Duke	2-1	6-1
Syracuse	2-1	5-1
Virginia Tech	2-1	4-3
Georgia Tech	3-2	5-3
Louisville	2-2	4-3
Virginia	2-2	4-3
Boston Col.	1-2	3-4
Wake Forest	1-2	3-4
N.C State	1-3	4-4
Stanford	1-3	2-5
Florida State	1-5	1-6
UNC	0-3	3-4
California	0-4	3-4

SEC football predictions - Week 9



LSU travels to College Station this weekend to face the 6-1 Aggies

By Brandon Marcello

Only one team will enter November unbeaten in the SEC, and the usual suspects are not on top.

No. 8 LSU and No. 14 Texas A&M face off Saturday in College Station as the lone SEC programs with unblemished conference records. Their trajectories to this showdown have not necessarily been alike, though their paths have mirrored each other: six straight wins following nail biters against nationally ranked opponents in their season openers. Clemson is the only other team in the country to win six straight since opening the year with a loss.

LSU believes it belongs in the national conversation as a contender. It quietly pieced together its first, full performance this season in a 34-10 win at Arkansas. Texas A&M has already drilled one preseason contender, Missouri, at Kyle Field. The stage is set for a potential thriller on the Saturday before Halloween.

Elsewhere across the SEC, it's a buffet of big matchups for college football betting. Five ranked-against-ranked matchups are on the schedule in the country, and three are in the SEC: No. 5 Texas at No. 25 Vanderbilt; No. 21 Mizzou at No. 8 Alabama; and the aforementioned showdown at Kyle Field.

Straight up: 61-14

Against the spread: 38-30-2

Oklahoma (4-3) at #18 Ole Miss (5-2)
Saturday, 11:00a.m / ESPN
Line: Ole Miss -20 / 48.5

Things aren't great at Ole Miss, but things are downright bad -- historically bad -- at Oklahoma. The Sooners are in danger of losing four of their last eight games for the first time since the John Blake era (1998) following its second-largest home loss to an unranked team since 1936 (35-9 to South Carolina). Jackson Arnold will start at quarterback for Oklahoma, and you should expect an improved performance on offense, but the Rebels have regrouped and still have one of the SEC's upper-tier defensive units. Much like Tennessee did earlier this season, expect Ole Miss' Jaxson Dart to hit a couple of big passes downfield to open up the running game, which will be more than enough to cover the spread against an offense that shouldn't score more than 17 on the road.

Pick: Ole Miss 32 Oklahoma 10

Arkansas (4-3) at Mississippi State (1-6)
Saturday, 11:45a.m / SECN
Line: Arkansas -6 / 56.5

Mississippi State hasn't beaten an FBS team and is hobbling through one of the roughest patches in school history, but progress has been made in the last three weeks, particularly with quarterback Michael Van Buren. The freshman has thrown six touchdown passes against two

interceptions in the last two weeks, a pair of 10-point losses against nationally-ranked Georgia and Texas A&M. For all the stats Arkansas puts up on offense, it doesn't score points in bunches and that's a bad combo against a Bulldogs team that is able to score in the 30s and is, more importantly, hungry for a breakthrough moment under first-year coach Jeff Leiby. The Bulldogs pull off the upset in Starkville.

Pick: Arkansas 35 Mississippi State 30

#21 Missouri (6-1) at #15 Alabama (5-2)
Saturday, 2:30 / ABC
Line: Alabama -16.5 / 51.5

Missouri has teetered on the edge of the top 25 with its performances all season. The Tigers had to rally to beat Vanderbilt and Auburn at home, and they were exposed in a blowout at Texas A&M. If anything, a 13.5-point spread is low for Alabama. If the Tide have a pulse, they're red with anger after the loss to Tennessee, and returning home against Mizzou is the perfect "ranked" team to unleash their frustration. You also have to wonder just how healthy quarterback Brady Cook is after his quick return from the hospital to rally Mizzou the second half last week against Auburn.

Pick: Alabama 33 Missouri 24

#5 Texas (6-1) at #25 Vanderbilt (5-2)
Saturday, 3:15 / SECN
Line: Texas -18.5 / 51.5

I don't buy that Texas is in a dangerous spot traveling to Nashville this week. The Longhorns are better built -- and much more consistent defensively -- than previous Vanderbilt victims like Alabama and Virginia Tech. Texas still leads the nation in scoring and total defense after the 30-15 loss to Georgia, which the Longhorns held to one touchdown in the second half last week. The Longhorns also co-own the nation's longest road winning streak (8). Diego Pavia will make a few plays to score and keep it close for a bit, but Texas rolls as the Commodores peek out a cover.

Pick: Texas 32 Vanderbilt 24

LSU (6-1) at Texas A&M (6-1)
Saturday, 6:30 / ABC
Line: Pick / 54.5

The battle between the only undefeated SEC teams in College Station should be a doozy. LSU has hit its stride in recent weeks, prompting Brian Kelly to finally say last week the Tigers finally played "LSU football" for four quarters in a 24-point win at Arkansas. Texas A&M has already drilled one SEC challenger, Mizzou, at home and the night crowd will

be brutal for LSU to handle.

That said, this game will be decided up front. Texas A&M's defensive line is stellar but LSU's offensive line has been fantastic this season, and if Garrett Nussmeier gets time in the pocket, he will deliver with Mason Taylor and Kyren Lacy. LSU's defense is underrated, and has seemingly improved without Harold Perkins in the lineup. Whit Weeks last week was all over the field, picking off his own tipped pass to set up a touchdown, and Bradyn Swinson is second in the SEC with seven sacks. LSU snaps the seven-game winning streak by home teams in the series and takes over the top spot in the SEC (for now).

Pick: LSU 30 Texas A&M 27

Auburn (2-5) at Kentucky (3-4)
Saturday, 6:45 / SECN
Line: Kentucky -2.5 / 43.5

I never believed it could get worse than the Byran Harsin days at Auburn, but here are the Tigers, challenging every preconceived notion about Hugh Freeze. He was supposed to turn average quarterbacks into stars, and with a top-tier running back (Jarquez Hunter) and a handful of blue-chip receivers, improvement was expected in Year 2. That hasn't happened. In fact, Auburn is somehow worse -- and frustrating, at the rate it's blown fourth-quarter leads (Oklahoma and Mizzou). Kentucky's defense is still strong despite the performance in a loss last week at Florida, ranking 12th nationally in yards allowed (283.6 yards per game), and beating the Tigers this week is crucial for their bowl hopes. Kentucky gets it done and covers -- barely -- in a low-scoring win.

Pick: Kentucky 24 Auburn 21

SEC Standings

Team	Conf.	Overall
Texas A&M	4-0	6-1
LSU	3-0	6-1
Georgia	4-1	6-1
Tennessee	3-1	6-1
Missouri	2-1	6-1
Texas	2-1	6-1
Vanderbilt	2-1	5-2
Alabama	2-2	5-2
Arkansas	2-2	4-3
Florida	2-2	4-3
S. Carolina	2-3	4-3
Ole Miss	1-2	5-2
Oklahoma	1-3	4-3
Kentucky	1-4	3-4
Auburn	0-4	2-5
Mississippi St	0-4	1-6

Big 12 Football predictions - Week 9



BYU travels to Orlando this week to face tough UCF team

Big 12 Score Predictions for Week 9 Predicting every game on this week's Big 12 slate

By Stacy Urban

It wasn't perfect last week, but our predictions were much better than the previous two weeks as we went 6-2, bringing the overall record to 52-28. The two I got wrong? TCU beating Utah and Baylor taking down Texas Tech. Let's see if we can build off a strong Week 8.

#11 BYU (7-0) at UCF (3-4)

Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN

Line: UCF -2 / 55.5

I'm calling for the upset in Orlando this weekend. BYU has had a great start to the season and they'll win more games, but they won't go unbeaten in the regular season. This is their first trip to the east coast this season and that will play a role in this one. Plus, UCF should have won last week at Iowa State.

Pick: UCF 28, BYU 27

Oklahoma State (3-4) at Baylor (3-4)

Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN+

Line: Baylor -7 / 65.5

I can't even believe what I'm seeing with this Oklahoma State team. I have zero faith in that thing getting turned around anytime soon and with the way Sawyer Robertson and the Baylor Bears went into Lubbock last week and crushed the Red

Raiders. shoot...give me Baylor.

Pick: Baylor 33, Oklahoma State 23

Texas Tech (5-2) at TCU (4-3)

Saturday, 2:30 / FOX

Line: TCU -6.5 / 66.5

The Horned Frogs are coming off a 13-7 win over Utah on Saturday evening, while Texas Tech is trying to regroup after getting its doors blown off by Baylor with a 59-35 loss in Lubbock.

The Red Raiders and Horned Frogs have met 66 times in their history, with Texas Tech holding a slight advantage in the all-time series, 33-30-3. TCU had won seven of nine meetings entering last season's matchup, but Texas Tech has the winning streak coming into this weekend's matchup after a 35-28 win. The rivalry known as the "West Texas Championship" or "The Battle for the Saddle."

Texas Tech has proven that scoring points isn't going to be an issue — but keeping their opponents out of the endzone is. The Red Raiders' defense has been suspect throughout the season, and Josh Hoover and the Horned Frogs can put up points in a hurry.

While the record suggests that Texas Tech should be the favorite here, Vegas has the Horned Frogs by a score, I don't even see how they are the favorite. I know Tech just got their tail kicked at home, but that one got away from them and fast. TCU's offense is an eyesore at times and I get

their defense has played well at times, but I have very little faith they can keep up in this matchup.

Pick: Texas Tech 34, TCU 20

West Virginia (3-4) at Arizona (3-4)

Saturday, 6:00 / FS1

Line: Arizona -3.5 / 53.5

The Wildcats are coming off a 34-7 loss to Colorado on Saturday, while West Virginia hopes to regroup after getting its doors blown off by Kansas State with a 45-18 loss in Morgantown.

These two teams have been up and down through the first eight weeks of the 2024 season. West Virginia appeared to be rolling with a 2-0 start in Big 12 play but has dropped each of their last two games by double digits. Arizona, on the other hand, picked up its first Big 12 win a few weeks ago over Utah but has lost three games in a row, and each of the last two were by 20+ points.

Both teams enter this game with 3-4 overall records, while West Virginia is 2-2 in Big 12 play and Arizona checks in with a 1-3 record in Big 12 play.

If Garrett Greene is unable to go in this game, it severely hinders West Virginia's chances of picking up a win on the road — even if Arizona has vastly underwhelmed to this point in the year. The Wildcats have the offensive talent to score with just about anyone, but they haven't been able to get out of their own way to this point. Since

Greene wasn't able to log a practice earlier in the week, I'm operating under the assumption that he's going to miss this game.

Pick: Arizona 28, West Virginia 24

Utah (4-3) at Houston (2-5)

Saturday, 6:00 / ESPN+

Line: Utah -3.5 / 36.5

Before the season, this looked like a sure win for the Utes. Now, I don't know. The Cougars have been really competitive at times this year and with Utah's struggles offensively, they may be able to hang around and win. This one, believe it or not, is a toss-up for me, but I'll still side with the more talented team in Utah.

Pick: Utah 20, Houston 17

Kansas (2-5) at Kansas State (6-1)

Saturday, 7:00 / ESPN2

Line: K-State -10 / 55.5

I have a weird feeling this game is going to be extremely close in the first half, only for Kansas State to pile it on in the third quarter. It's a rivalry game, so you never know what to expect. Plus, Kansas finally found some confidence last week with a win over Houston. The Wildcats win comfortably after a slow start.

Pick: Kansas State 38, Kansas 17

Cincinnati (5-2) at Colorado (5-2)

Saturday, 9:15 / ESPN

Line: Colorado -5 / 57.5

Cincinnati is a much-improved football team, but I just don't see a way where they go on the road and take one from a red-hot Colorado. Very similar to the game above, I do expect a tightly contested game toward the beginning before the Buffs turn it on in the second half to pull away.

Pick: Colorado 30, Cincinnati 16

Big 12 STANDINGS

TEAM	Conf.	Overall
BYU	4-0	7-0
Iowa State	4-0	7-0
Kansas State	3-1	6-1
Texas Tech	3-1	5-2
Cincinnati	3-1	5-2
Colorado	3-1	5-2
Arizona St.	2-2	5-2
TCU	2-2	4-3
West Virginia	2-2	3-4
Arizona	1-3	3-4
Utah	1-3	4-3
Kansas	1-3	2-5
Baylor	1-3	3-4
UCF	1-3	3-4
Houston	1-3	2-5
Oklahoma St	0-4	3-4

NFL picks, predictions for Week 8



The 6-0 Chiefs travel to Las Vegas Sunday

Commanders halt Bears' win streak; 49ers take down Cowboys

By Bill Bender

The best matchup by combined winning percentage in Week 8 is between two NFC contenders.

No, we're not talking about the San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys on Sunday Night Football.

The Chicago Bears against the Washington Commanders are those winning teams — the same teams who had the first two picks in the 2024 NFL Draft. This is why the NFL rules. Of course, Caleb Williams, the No. 1 pick, and Jayden Daniels, the No. 2 pick, have played a significant role in those turnarounds. Williams has keyed a three-game winning streak, and the Bears are coming off a bye. He still is taking too many sacks, but that is a learning curve for every young quarterback.

Daniels suffered a rib injury against the Panthers in Week 6, and his availability for the matchup is in question. If Daniels cannot go, then Marcus Mariota will get the start. Either way, it is a fun matchup between surprise NFC playoff contenders.

There are three other matchups between teams with winning records in Week 7, including Indianapolis at Houston, Atlanta at Tampa Bay, and Buffalo at Seattle.

Each week, we will pick NFL matchups straight up and against the spread. A look at our track record this season:

- Straight up: 75-32 (13-2 in Week 7)
- ATS: 62-40-5 (11-4 in Week 7)

Here are our picks for Week 8:

Minnesota (5-1) at L.A Rams (2-4)

Thursday, 7:15 p.m. / Amazon Prime
Line: Vikings -2.5 / 48

The Vikings allowed a season-high 144 rushing yards in Week 7 against Detroit, and the Rams will try to run the ball with Kyren Williams. Minnesota should be able to force a few turnovers, and Sam Darnold has a 119.3 passer rating in two road starts. Look for the California native to throw multiple TDs in a bounce-back win for Minnesota.

Pick: Vikings 28, Rams 18

Philadelphia (4-2) at Cincinnati (3-4)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Bengals -2.5 / 47.5

The Bengals have built a two-game win streak, and Joe Burrow will try to lead Cincinnati to its first home victory of the season. Burrow owns a 75.5-percent completion percentage with eight TDs and one interception in those games. Can the Bengals slow down a Philadelphia rushing attack led by Saquon Barkley that ranks second in the NFL with 166.7 yards per game? This could turn into a shootout in the second half.

Pick: Eagles 31, Bengals 28

Baltimore (5-2) at Cleveland (1-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Ravens -9.5 / 44

Deshaun Watson is out for the season with a torn Achilles, and the Browns will either turn to Dorian Thompson-Robinson or Jameis Winston against the division rival. Nick Chubb had 11 carries for 22 yards and a TD in his return from a devastating leg injury. The Ravens are coming off a tough Monday night game, and they

bring the dynamic tag-team rushing attack of Lamar Jackson and Derrick Henry. Baltimore is 0-2 ATS when favored by seven points or more this season.

Pick: Ravens 26, Browns 19

Tennessee (1-5) at Detroit (5-1)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox
Line: Lions -11 / 46

This is the largest spread this season — and an indictment of how rough it's been for Tennessee through six games. The Titans' season-long bout with turnovers continues, and that minus-9 ratio will be tough to overcome against the Lions' hot offense. Jared Goff has an 85.3-percent completion percentage and averages 295.7 passing yards per game with seven TDs and no interceptions. There is some potential for a letdown after the last-second win at Minnesota, but not at home. Teams favored by 10 or more points are 2-0 S/U and 2-0 ATS this season.

Pick: Lions 31, Titans 17

Arizona (3-4) at Miami (2-4)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox
Line: Dolphins -3 / 46.5

Will Tua Tagovailoa (head) return for this matchup? That could influence the line and would jump-start an offense that has 10 ppg in its past four games. The Cardinals are operating off a short week, and it's one of those early kickoff games for a West Coast-ish team. Arizona is 2-5 S/U in games at 1 p.m. ET games under second-year coach Jonathan Gannon, but three of those games are one-score losses.

Pick: Dolphins 27, Cardinals 24

N.Y Jets (2-5) at New England (1-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS

Line: Jets -7 / 41.5

This line could tick up to a full touchdown before kickoff. The Jets are in desperation mode now after a Sunday Night Football flop at Pittsburgh. New York has lost four straight games, and it's going to take a few weeks to re-establish the Aaron Rodgers-Davante Adams connection. New England has failed to cover in six straight losses since the opener. Drake Maye has played well despite a running game that has averaged just 60 yards over the past two weeks. Will this be a mirror image of the Jets' 24-3 victory in Week 3?

Pick: Jets 23, Patriots 13

Atlanta (4-3) at Tampa Bay (4-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox
Line: Falcons -2.5 / 46

NFC South rivals will revisit the 36-30 shootout in Week 5 where Kirk Cousins passed for 509 yards. The Buccaneers were in position to win that game in the fourth quarter. Tampa Bay is operating on a short week, and the Falcons are coming off a 20-point loss to Seattle. Can Kirk Cousins improve to 3-0 S/U on the road as Atlanta's starting quarterback? We'll trust Baker Mayfield at home in the rematch.

Pick: Buccaneers 31, Falcons 27

Green Bay (5-2) at Jacksonville (2-5)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox
Line: Packers -4.5 / 49.5

There is a little trap-game vibe here for
(continued on page 14)



the Packers, who have the Lions in Week 9. Jordan Love needs to cut down on the interceptions, but the defense has allowed just 16.5 points in its past two road victories. The Jaguars rank 30th in scoring defense at 27.7 points per game and are returning from a two-week stay in London. Green Bay has the chance to complete the season sweep of the AFC South.

Pick: Packers 30, Jaguars 18

Indianapolis (4-3) at Houston (5-2)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS

Line: Texans -5.5 / 46.5

The Texans beat the Colts 29-27 in Week 1 in an entertaining duel between C.J. Stroud and Anthony Richardson. The rematch should be fun, too, and the Colts are 1-2 S/U on the road this season with a pair of one-score losses. Stroud is so much better at home this season with a 103.8 QB rating, nine TDs, and two interceptions. Richardson has a 50-percent completion percentage and 41.8 passer rating on the road. The Texans get the season sweep.

Pick: Texans 24, Colts 17

New Orleans (2-5) at L.A. Chargers (3-3)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / Fox

Line: Chargers -7 / 39.5

The Saints could get Derek Carr (oblique) back as early as Week 9, but that won't help in a road game against the Chargers. The Saints' defense has allowed an average 42 points per game in its last two losses. The Chargers are working on a short week, and they have not allowed more than 20 points in a game under Jim Harbaugh. Can Spencer Rattler, who has taken 11 sacks in two starts, get enough protection to keep it close?

Pick: Chargers 22, Saints 17

Buffalo (5-2) at Seattle (4-3)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / Fox

Line: Bills -3 / 47

The Bills are on a two-game winning streak, and Josh Allen has 12 TDs and no interceptions. That should pay off on the road, where Buffalo is 2-2 S/U this season. Seattle is coming off an impressive road victory at Atlanta. The Seahawks are 0-1 S/U as a home underdog this season, and if Allen avoids mistakes, that will be a problem for the home team here. Look for James Cook to get back on track against a Seahawks' run defense that allows 146.1 yards per game.

Pick: Bills 28, Seahawks 21

Carolina (1-6) at Denver (4-3)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS

Line: Broncos -9 / 43.5

The Panthers have a league-worst minus-133 point differential, and they have suffered three road blowouts this season by an average of 32 points per game. There is an upset win at Las Vegas mixed in, but that is borderline-uncharted futility. The Broncos had extra time to prepare after taking care of the Saints on Thursday Night Football. Will rookie quarterback Bo

Nix take care of business at home?

Pick: Broncos 29, Panthers 20

Kansas City (6-0) at Las Vegas (2-5)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS

Line: Chiefs -10 / 41

The Raiders are going back to Gardner Minshew, but will it matter? Las Vegas has a minus-9 turnover ratio in its past three games, a stretch in which the Raiders average 15.3 points per game. Yes, the Raiders beat Kansas City 20-14 last season, but the Chiefs have won the past four meetings in Las Vegas by 15.3 points per game. Remember when the Raiders trolled Patrick Mahomes in the preseason with a Kermit puppet? Kansas stays unbeaten in impressive fashion.

Pick: Chiefs 34, Raiders 18

Chicago (4-2) at Washington (5-2)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS

Line: Bears -2.5 / 44

Will Jayden Daniels (ribs) play? That unknown makes this game difficult to pick. Marcus Mariota showed he was competent with offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury, but the Commanders will have to lean more on their defense — one that's allowed an average of 178.5 rushing yards to Arizona and Baltimore. Chicago is 0-2 S/U on the road this season. This would be the kind of victory that shows the Bears are ready for the playoff race, but we'll operate for now as if Daniels will suit up.

Pick: Commanders 27, Bears 20

Dallas (3-3) at San Francisco (3-4)
Sunday, 7:20 p.m. / NBC Peacock

Line: 49ers -6 / 46.5

Who had the Cowboys at 3-3 and the 49ers at 3-4 in this classic NFC matchup? Will Micah Parsons (ankle) return for the Cowboys in a Sunday Night Football matchup against the 49ers? Brock Purdy threw three interceptions in the loss to Kansas City, and he will be on the spot against Dallas. Dak Prescott threw two interceptions in the blowout loss to Detroit before the bye week. Which quarterback can avoid those critical turnovers? That is the question that matters most. Dallas is 3-0 S/U on the road this season, and the 49ers are 2-4 ATS as a single-digit favorite

Pick: 49ers 26, Cowboys 24

N.Y.Giants (2-5) at Pittsburgh (5-2)
Monday, 7:15 p.m. / ABC/ESPN

Line: Steelers -6.5 / 36.5

Russell Wilson proved Mike Tomlin right in Week 7. Wilson passed for 264 yards and two TDs while taking one sack, and a resurgent running game around Najee Harris should have success against the Giants. New York will stick with Daniel Jones at quarterback, but answers might be difficult to come by against a Pittsburgh defense that allows just 14.4 points per game. Look for Pittsburgh to continue building momentum as a run of AFC North games looms on the schedule.

Pick: Steelers 24, Giants 13

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College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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Friday, Oct. 18, marked a famed day in college football and the 100-year anniversary of two major developments in the game's history.

Last Friday the GameDay Theatre of the Chick-Fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta honored the legendary 1924 Army West Point-Notre Dame game, coach Knute Rockne, the famed Four Horseman origination by National Association of Sportswriters and Sportscasters Newspapers Hall of Fame member Grantland Rice, and the Fighting Irish team and season. Rockne's 1924 Notre Dame squad was the first football team to play games in New York City, Chicago and southern California (the 1925 Rose Bowl) in the same season while sweeping to a 10-0 record and the school's first consensus national championship. It was the 100-year anniversary of the naming of the Horsemen for their 13-7 win over Army West Point at New York's Polo Grounds on Oct. 18, 1924.

Oct. 18 also was the 100-year anniversary of Red "The Galloping Ghost" Grange's six-touchdown spectacular day again Michigan and the dedication of Illinois' Memorial Stadium. Illinois also wore special throwback design uniforms

fashioned after the 1924 squad, and they have gone viral in internet transactions. NFF College Hall of Fame on-campus salutes presented by Fidelity Investments® continues to feature several NFF College Hall of Fame inductees with this week's salutes honoring 2024 Hall of Fame class members Thursday with Larry Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh (vs. Syracuse); and Saturday with Coach Frank Solich, Ohio (vs. Buffalo); Oct. 26: Coach Danny Hale, West Chester (Pa.) (vs. Millersville, Pa.). On Saturday, Nov. 2, there will be an on-campus salute for Justin Blackmon, Oklahoma State (vs. Arizona State). The 66th NFF Awards Dinner is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas with sponsorship by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Bureau. For ticketing, scheduling information and special discount hotel and flight arrangements, please access FootballFoundation.org.

Also on the NFF calendar:

Wednesday, Oct. 23 - Announcement of the 2024 Campbell Trophy® Finalists and the 2024 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments. On-campus salutes to 2024 NFF College Hall of Fame inductees presented by Fidelity Investments are being scheduled and will be revealed in coming days; Monday, Nov. 5 - First College Football Playoff rankings revealed; Dec. 10 - Winner of the 35th NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® during the Annual Awards; Dec. 16 - Presentation of the Asa S. Bushnell Cup to the Ivy League Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year at the historic Rainbow Room at the NBC Rockefeller Center in New York City; January 2025 date TBD - Denotation of the 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Class.

The current longest NCAA FBS mem-

ber streaks without a shutout through Oct. 21 are Florida with a NCAA-record 456 since 1988, TCU with 401 since 1991, Georgia with 380 since 1995, Virginia Tech with 378 since 1995, Nebraska with 358 since 1996 (the only Big Ten Conference team that has scored in every game in the 21st Century), Boise State with 345 since 1997, Alabama with 297 since 2001, and Clemson with 287 since 2003.

The American Heart Association Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach of the Year sponsored by Accenture public voting is now available online through Jan. 10, 2025, via the URL: <https://bryantawards.org/fan-vote/?College Football Coach Of The Year Fan Vote>

The Paul "Bear" Bryant Awards Fan Vote is back! YOU, the fans, will have the chance to determine which coach will win the Fan Vote. Tell us which coach you bryantawards.org. Former Georgia and Miami (Fla.) head coach Mark Richt has been named as 2024 Bear Bryant Award Heart of a Champion awardee, and Boise State head coach Spencer Danielson has been added to the public voting list this month.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Oct. 22-28 time period are Oct. 22 (1923) Pete Pihos, Orlando, Fla.; (1989) LaMichael James, New Boston, Texas; Oct. 23 (1869) John Heisman, Cleveland, Ohio; (1894) Edward Mylin, Leaman Place, Pa.; (1914) Bruiser Kinard, Pelahatchie, Miss.; (1937) Frank Cignetti, Washington Township, Pa.; (1951) Tom Brahaney, Midland, Texas; (1962) Doug Flutie, Manchester, Md.; Oct. 24 (1932) Johnny Lattner, Chicago, Ill.; (1932) J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma City, Okla.; (1962) Jay Novacek, Martin, S.D.; Oct. 25 (1878) Bill Reid, San Francisco, Calif.; (1917) Marshall Goldberg, Elkins, W.Va.; (1921) Bob Steuber, Wenonah, N.J.; (1954) Giff Nielsen, Provo, Utah; (1964) Pat Swilling, Toccoa, Ga.; Oct. 26 (1911) Sid Gillman, Minneapolis, Minn.; (1913) Sam Francis, Dunbar, Neb.; (1929) Jim Weatherall, Graham, Texas; (1963) Tony Casillas, Tulsa, Okla.; Oct. 27 (1927) Kyle Rote, Bellevue, Texas...

Note: There have been no NFF Hall of Fame members who were born or passed away on Oct. 21.

Notable anniversaries of passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are Oct. 22 (1975) Dan McMillan, USC/Cal, Los Gatos, Calif.; (1990) Frank Sinkwich, Athens, Ga.; Oct. 23 (2004) Hub Bechtol, Austin, Texas; (2020) W.C. Gorden, Jackson, Miss.; Oct. 25 (1990) Bernie Oosterbaan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; (1992) Wilson Whitley, Marietta, Ga.; Oct. 27

(1924) Percy Haughton, New York City; Oct. 28 (2022) Vince Dooley, Athens, Ga. Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born Oct. 22 LaMichael James, Oct. 23 Tom Brahaney, Doug Flutie, Oct. 24 Jay Novacek, Oct. 25 Giff Nielsen, Pat Swilling, Oct. 26 Tony Casillas...

Schedules:

It can't get much closer: Purdue led Illinois 48-45-6 over 99 meetings prior to their recent Big Ten matchup. Illinois eked out a 50-49 win to move the series mark even closer at 48-46=6 for the Boilermakers...Massachusetts has its kick-off times for the final two contests of '24 - Nov.23 at Georgia with a 12:45 p.m. (EST) airing on the SEC Network and Nov. 30 hosting Connecticut at noon (EST) on ESPN+...Georgia Tech will host Georgia in 2025 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta...The 2025 Apple Cup spectacular between Washington and Washington State will be played in Pullman on the WSU campus...The two bastions of education for the Methodist Church - Duke and SMU - face off with identical 6-1 overall marks Saturday in Durham, N.C., in their third meeting overall and first encounter since 1956. Duke leads the series 2-0.

Good Works:

Auburn athletics is hosting its 31st annual Beat Bama Food Drive for underserved families in The Plains' area... Auburn U. admissions' staff members are working to gain more rural area applications through the AU STARS Network initiative...Memphis men's and women's basketball squads competed in a special exhibition doubleheader with North Carolina and defending NCAA champ South Carolina, respectively, in Memphis, Tenn., and all proceeds went to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital...West Virginia is hosting Military Appreciation Day for its Nov. 16 skirmish against Baylor...The Southern Conference will move its 2024 Women's Volleyball Championship from Asheville, N.C., to the Wofford campus in Spartanburg, S.C., due to Hurricane Helene damage and recovery efforts.

Football Coaches:

Indiana head coach Curt Cignetti was praised for his team's turnaround from a 3-9 mark in 2023 after he took over the program prior to 2024 and started this year at 7-0. The Hoosiers were a combined 7-17 during the 2022 and '23 campaigns... Hampton named Trent Boykin fulltime head coach...Texas A&M first-year head coach Mike Elko at 6-1 has the best record in his first season at the Aggies helm since NFF College Hall of Fame coach D.X.

(continued on page 16)

Bible went 8-0 in 1917. The Aggies outscored their opponents 270-0 that autumn – still a NCAA record for fewest points allowed... Washington head coach Jedd Fisch is a proponent of revenue sharing with student-athletes but agrees that they should be entitled to upgrades in Locker rooms, nutrition and mental health assistance, which might cut into athletics profits and revenue... UNLV head coach Barry Odom has been tabbed as the most underpaid football head coach in FBS along with Toledo's Jason Candle, San Jose State's Ken Niumatalolo, Indiana's Curt Cignetti, and Utah's Kyle Whittingham in a survey by one national publication... UCLA head coach DeShaun Foster received encouraging word last week from Bruins AD Martin Jarmond about seeking to build a winning culture through recruiting, teamwork and tradition at the Westwood university... Some of the longest current-tenured head coaches in FBS conferences are American – Jeff Monken (11 seasons) of Army West Point, ACC – NFF College Hall of Fame Mack Brown (36 total seasons at four colleges) of North Carolina, Big 12 – Mike Gundy of Oklahoma State and Kyle Whittingham (20 seasons apiece) of Utah, Big Ten – Kirk Ferentz (most currently consecutive at one school – 26 seasons) of Iowa, Conference USA – Rich Rodriguez (27 seasons at six colleges) of Jacksonville State, MAC – Chuck Martin (11 seasons) of Miami (Ohio), MWC – Bronco Mendenhall (18 seasons at three schools) of New Mexico, Pac-12 – Jake Dickert (four seasons) of Washington State, SEC – Brian Kelly (35 seasons at five schools), of LSU, and Sun Belt – Butch Jones (12 seasons at three schools)... Arkansas defensive coordinator Travis Williams was praised for his game preparation for such upsets as the Hogs downing of Tennessee... The saga continues about former Colorado assistant coach Trevor Reilly and several attempts gain NIL contributions from nations in the Middle East for the Buffaloes. More details are expected in coming weeks.

Hometowns of more 2024 college head coaches – Northeastern State: Darrin Chiaverini, Corona, Calif.; Northern Arizona: Brian Wright, Goldsboro, N.C.; Northern Colorado: Ed Lamb, Castro Valley, N.C.; Northern Illinois: Thomas Hammock, Jersey City, N.J.; Northwestern: David Braun, Lake Forest, Ill.

Directors of Athletics:

Pittsburgh named former Buffalo and Auburn AD Allen Greene as its director of athletics... Texas director of athletics Chris Del Conte figures that the House v. NCAA settlement will require another \$11.5 million annually for the Longhorns budget... Austin Peay AD Gerald Harrison expressed happiness about the Karen Edwards Indoor Golf Facility on the third floor of the Gov. Winfield Dunn Center... Michigan State AD Alan Haller estimates a possible \$25-30 million increase

in 2025-26 budgeting to meet House v. NCAA settlement awards... Rochester Institute of Technology AD Jacqueline Nicholson spoke of associations with compatriots in athletics going back for several years and how these friendships and main-currents can help foster ideas exchanges and such developments as future scheduling for all parties... Tulane AD David Harris has made recent direct appeals to the athletics donor base for NIL funding... Tennessee AD Danny White covered reasons for the 2025 Tennessee football 10 percent levy for talent fees and how athletics expenses only continue to climb... Brown AD Grace Calhoun and Cornell AD Nicki Moore enjoyed hashing out several ideas in a national podcast with thoughts about facility projects, expressing university ideals through established programs such as the Ivy League and creating ideas that reflect the joy, high energy and sensitivity of college athletics in all areas... UCLA AD Martin Jarmond visited with regional media about having to “modernize” rather than “romanticize” in working with athletics and dealing with challenges of student-athletes and other concerns... ULM AD John Hartwell has requested a \$10 per credit hour student fee for athletics to help build a new football practice facility, new LED boards and upgrades at other Warhawks facilities... FGCU AD Colin Hargis believes that the House v. NCAA settlement could enlarge the divide between the colleges with the largest budgets and the mid-majors and that the estimated \$20-30 million payouts to the settlement could cause major budget chaos in athletics nationally... Stanford deputy AD and chief operating officer Alden Mitchell looked at the House v. NCAA settlement and continuing repercussions with respect to financial impact as well as keeping Olympic sports competitive... UCLA selected Daniel Cruz as deputy AD and chief revenue officer... Vanderbilt women's basketball head coach and former UConn standout Shea Ralph gained contract years without a public length declaration... Virginia men's basketball head coach Tony Bennett has retired prior to 2024-25 activity and will be replaced by interim head coach Ron Sanchez. Gonzaga men's basketball head coach Mark Few remarked about how NIL and transfer portal pressures might have hastened the retirement of Bennett... North Alabama men's basketball head coach Tony Pujol now is on board by personal pact through April 2027... Wake Forest women's tennis head coach Jeff Wuyshner has acquired a long-term extension of unknown length for the Deacons... Santa Clara women's basketball head coach Bill Carr has left the program and will be spelled by interim head coach Michael Floyd... Ohio State added executive vice president and provost Dr. Ravi Bellamkonda... Wichita State associate AD for marketing and tickets Russell Wilkins accepted a new post with Sinclair Media... Penn State women's volleyball head

coach Katie Schumacher-Cawley is undergoing treatment for breast cancer... Tennessee chancellor Dr. Donde Plowman continues to oppose NCAA enforcement officials about alleged NIL infractions against the Volunteers and promoted UT's 2024 NCAA baseball title as a unifying factor for the university... Lehigh will utilize the Korn Ferry Group to locate its new AD... Texas president Dr. Jay Hartzell cites the Georgia-Texas Nos. 1 and 4 national showdown and major economic factors as primary reasons for the Longhorns joining the SEC last July... Hawai'i is hosting its two presidential finalists – Western Michigan provost Dr. Julian Vasquez Heilig and CUNY provost Dr. Wendy Hensel with the finalist to be determined in short order... New U. of North Texas president Dr. Harrison Keller was lauded for connecting with hundreds of UNT students, faculty, staff, and alumni in his early tenure and strong support for Mean Green athletics... Miami (Fla.) elevated acting president Dr. Joe Echevarria to the fulltime position... Clemson's Board of Trustees okayed a five-year contract extension for president Dr. Jim Clements... Binghamton president Dr. Harvey Stenger is retiring after 12 years at the BU helm... The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are at Columbia, Washington, South Carolina, Cleveland State, Fordham, Illinois State, Le Moyne, Marquette, Mississippi Valley State, New Mexico, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Portland State, Rutgers, UIC, Villanova, Lehigh, Ball State, and The Citadel.

The Conferences:

Hawai'i will become a full-sport member of the Mountain West Conference after being a football-only affiliate and member of the Big West Conference in all other sports by July 1, 2026... Big Ten Conference commissioner Tony Petitti believes that the quality of college football in November and resultant conference championship clashes will help decide potential expansion of the 12-team College Football Playoff... American Athletic Conference commissioner Tim Perneti commented on numerous recent developments in college athletics at AAC Basketball Media Days Oct. 13-14 in Irving, Texas. Some of the major topics included the probable lengthy timetable for NIL and transfer portal control, challenges if private equity groups seek to pour financing into college athletics, incentives for American members, seeking increased areas of financing for the AAC, and rewards in performance for universities making budget investments in programs such as Florida Atlantic and UAB men's basketball, Army West Point and Navy football, and East Carolina baseball, among others... ACC commissioner Jim Phillips mentioned how the conference office and member schools are working together to find sensible solutions to expenditures associated with the House v. NCAA settlement... The Western Athletic Conference

chose deputy commissioner Rebekah Ray as interim commissioner following after the close of the tenure of WAC commissioner Brian Thornton... Teams traveling across two time zones for the Big Ten Conference started the year at 3-10 against homestanding Big Ten foes... The Big 12 Conference added Brian Thornton as vice president for men's basketball... The Big 12 also made league history with a record five teams in the preseason Top 25 national Top 10 teams, and eight of the 16 Big 12 football-playing members are bowl eligible or within two wins of making the postseason grid field... The Big 12 will have a record, eight women's gymnastics squads competing in 2024-25... Dragon Seats has contracted with the SEC and Big Ten to provide climate-controlled benches for both visiting team sidelines in 2024 in both hot and cold conditions.

The Bowls:

Army West Point, BYU and Indiana are the first teams to reach 7-0 overall records in '24 and became bowl eligible last week. They were joined by eight other squads with six victories in recent tests to make 20 schools with the minimum six victories required for post-2024 bowl eligibility through Oct. 21 (82 total invitations forthcoming, including the 12 College Football Playoff competitors). There also are another 29 schools who are just one victory away from the prerequisite six triumphs for postseason play. There are 10 unbeaten schools as teams enter week nine of the '24 slate... The former Guaranteed Rate Bowl Dec. 23 in Phoenix, Ariz., now is known as the Rate Bowl... The Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic will employ REV-ELXP as the contest's official hospitality provider... The ESPN Allstate Predictor for the CFP shows Oregon, Ohio State, Penn State, Miami (Fla.), and Georgia as five of the most likely competitors to make some of the 12 teams selected.

The Players:

The four Mitchell brothers are making a national impact on college and high school football this season with Mississippi State's Nic Mitchell, brother Justin as a senior defensive lineman at Harvard and freshman WR Kris at FIU along with standout high school CB Jonathan at Jacksonville (Fla.) Mandarin HS... Arizona State linebacker Caleb McCullough starred on several key stands against then-16th-ranked Utah to nail down Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week honors... The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week was Army West Point QB Bryson Daily after he accounted for five TDs in the Black Knights victory over UAB... Lou Groza National Place-Kicker Award Stars of the Week presented by the Capital One Orange Bowl are Ryan Barker of Penn State who kicked the decisive field goal in a 33-30 win at USC, David Olano who made decisive field goals and PATs in Illinois' 50-49 overtime win over Purdue and Iowa's Drew Stevens who kicked four field goals and scored 16



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points in the Hawkeyes Big Ten verdict over Washington...The Augusta (Ga.) Sports Council and the Ray Guy Award named Ivan Mora of Wake Forest National Punter of the Week after he averaged 47.7 yards on six punts against nationally ranked Clemson...The FWAA Outland Trophy National Player of the Week was Texas OT Kelvin Banks Jr. after a stellar performance against 120-game rival Oklahoma...Six Big 12 Conference quarterbacks started last week among the Top 20 nationally in individual passing yards per game - Colorado's Shedeur Sanders, TCU's Josh Hoover, Cincinnati's UC's Brendan Sorsby, Oklahoma State's Alan Bowman, Texas Tech's Behren Morton, and Arizona's Noah Fifita...Utah RB Micah Bernard is approaching 2,000 career yards in his sixth season with the Utes thanks to the COVID-19 additional eligibility year and two redshirt campaigns... Arizona State RB Cam Skattebo and defender Caleb McCullough joined Cincinnati's Jake Golday and Utah's Cole Becker as recognized Big 12 Conference standouts in recent tests...Two U. of Calgary (Canada) standouts recently netted Canadian collegiate players of the week - Deakon Taylor-Young and Vince Triumbari - for their efforts in a tight victory at the U. of Regina (Canada)...Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty became the first rusher to reach 1,000 yards after just five contests in '24 and continues to pace NCAA FBS with 1,248 yards in six games for a 208 yards' game average. He has been a virtual Mountain West Conference Player of the Week with five awards this fall...Freshmen QB Michael Van Buren of Mississippi State and (Halloween appropriate) DB Boo Carter of Tennessee garnered SEC co-Freshmen of the Week laurels for showings against Georgia and Florida, respectively...Colorado RB Micha Welch was saluted for his improvement in bolstering the Buffaloes running game to offset a national-ranked passing attack paced by QB Shedeur Sanders...Bowling Green TE Harold Fannin Jr. looks like a shoo-in for All-Mid-American Conference laurels after solid contests throughout '24... Louisiana kicker Kenneth Almendares has been Sun Belt Conference Special Teams Player of the Week twice in '24 and was the SBC scoring leader with 58 points through Oct. 17...Shreveport (La.) Evangel Christian Academy fell to Shreveport Captain Shreve HS 77-76 in overtime on Oct. 11 but not without a state-record performance by ECHS soph QB Peyton Houston with 53-of-68 passing for 817 yards and eight touchdowns; 88 yards rushing and two additional TDs (10 scores accounted for) for 905 yards of total offense...Missouri wideouts Luther Burden III and Theo Wease combined for 805 receiving yards in the Tigers first six tussles and are in the mix for possible Fred Biletnikoff Award kudos...Penn State RBs Kaytron Allen and Nicholas Singleton are the second set of 2,000-yard career rush-

ers in the same Nittany Lions backfield along with Lydell Mitchell (2,934; 1969-71) and Franco Harris (2,002; 1969-71)... Penn State TE Tyler Warren racked up multiple national honors for his performance against USC with Associated Press National Player of the Week, the Maxwell Award, Mackey Award, and the Paul Hornung Award... Auburn RB Jarquez Hunter is having a breakout year for the Tigers while CB Kayin Lee has performed workhorse duties against some of the country's top passing offenses...Boise State's Latrell Caples is on the 2024 Comeback Player of the Year Award watch list through College Sports Communicators AP and the Fiesta Bowl Organization...Mississippi State added a 2025 oral pledge from Jamarion Davis-Fleming.

Around the Campus:

Army West Point continues to carry the longest current winning streak in NCAA FBS with 11 consecutive victories...Yale held the re-opening of the \$38 million, updated Lapham Field House at the Smilow Field Center at the (NFF College Hall of Fame member) Carmen Cozza Complex with new locker facilities, meeting rooms and a Yale Bowl dedication to Cozza, who guided Elis football from 1965-96...St. Thomas (Minn.) athletics gained a \$20 million pledge from family of alumnus Joe Ryan as well as alumnus Pat and wife Ann Ryan for the planned Lee and Penny Anderson Arena...Maine athletics received a \$16 million windfall from the estates of UM Pierre "Pete" Labat and his wife Catherine Clair Labat for the new Pierre D. Labat and Catherine C. Labat Athletic Leadership Fund...Penn State athletics netted a \$5 million pledge from Frank and Jennifer Marzano for the Beaver Stadium Revitalization project...Texas Southern athletics had a ribbon-cutting last week for its \$3.5 million, 6,600-square-foot strength and conditioning facility adjacent to Alexander Durley Stadium... Boise State and Learfield have closed an 11-year extension of their multimedia rights contract through the 2038-39 academic year. BSU also revealed a \$1 million donation from Dennis M. and Matthew J. Baker for North End Zone Project renovations at Albertsons Stadium. The Idaho State Board of Education also okayed a bond package to finance the remainder of the cost for this project...The Clemson Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee supported Phase II of improvements to Swann Pavilion and Littlejohn Coliseum for a total price tag of \$40 million...Illinois is off to a 6-1 start for the first season since 2000 and is bowl eligible for the 21st time in school annals and for the second time in three years...Tennessee has played the fewest overtimes by a FBS member with a 2-0 record in a pair of extra-period wins over Florida - 20-17 during the Vols 1998 Bowl Championship Series triumph season and 23-17 this year (both games in Knoxville) over the Gators... Texas Tech athletics has received \$14.71

million in institutional operating and debt support for fiscal year 2025 in anticipation of upcoming House v. NCAA settlement options and revenue sharing with student-athletes...East Carolina athletics has signed ticket resale and marketing agreements with the TicketSmarter Group...Buffalo athletics has opened the Brittany Murchie Mulla Sports Performance Center within the Murchie Family Fieldhouse with new free-weight training racks., a unique turf training incline, a cardio mezzanine, and nutrition area...Mississippi State celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Bulldogs first No. 1 national ranking in football history in 2014 with former MSU quarterback Dak Prescott, then-head coach Dan Mullen and several other standouts returning to campus for the MSU-Texas A&M clash. The Bulldogs were the first top-ranked squad in the College Football Playoff rankings of '14...Vanderbilt football had a 48-hour flash sale for tickets to the Vandy-Ball State game on Oct. 19 to celebrate the team's best start since 2013, and Commodores football continued to auction game-used items from the major upset win over Alabama...BYU wore special 1996 season throwback uniforms to commemorate its Goodyear Cotton Bowl season title on Jan. 1, 1997, over Kansas State with GCB MVP and current Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian piloting the Cougars offense...Louisiana scored its first win over Southern Miss in Hattiesburg since 1989 earlier this fall...SMU's women's volleyball team has downed the Nos. 1 (Pittsburgh) and 2 (Nebraska) volleyball teams nationally for the first time in school history...The Joe Moore Award for the Most Outstanding Offensive Line Unit in college football identified Louisiana as one of the 22 team on its midseason watch list... Virginia Tech featured its popular Orange Effect theme for last week's game against Boston College as most fans wore Tech orange apparel. Tech also posted a flash sale for four days on the popular VY mini-helmets...UTEP athletics will feature GECU logos at Sun Bowl Stadium and Don Haskins Center...The large Boys from Oklahoma concert at Oklahoma State for NIL fundraising is now four days in length instead of the earlier one-day slate... Pittsburgh athletics is enjoying some of its greatest overall success in fall sports with the No. 1 ranked women's volleyball team, ranked men's soccer squad and a 6-0 start (best in 33 years) in football...West Virginia fans may have been singing the Country Roads song a little louder last Saturday when the Mountaineers brought many of them home for its annual Homecoming bash against Kansas State... The Nike Group is resetting some goals from past years as competition becomes tougher and as more colleges and universities are looking for possible Nike sponsorships and NIL agreements...USF athletics has been struggling with power outages and damage to campus in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton...LSU has joined the

parade of SEC members with a \$250,000 fine for fans rushing the football field after the Tigers win over Ole Miss. Formally, these fines were paid to the SEC office, but recent bylaws' changes now have the offending schools make payments to the team they faced when the field rushes occurred...Arkansas football is hoping to settle into a routine after playing in five different venues in its first six outings this fall...The Northwestern TrueNU NIL collective is in a new partnership with Dropback, which has provided capital for several startup companies and has been involved in other fund-securing efforts... Creighton basketball has installed a unique new court at its downtown CHI Health Arena... A Penn State fan paid \$1,800 to accompany the Nittany Lions team onto the field before the USC-PSU game as part of a Trojans marketing promotion. The fan called it a lifetime experience for his wife and him...Georgia baseball's Foley Field construction is progressing toward a February 2025 finish line... Duke will upgrade historic Jack Coombs Baseball Field with construction beginning Aug. 12, 2025...Virginia athletics and EvoShield are creating numerous uniform combinations for 2025 UVa baseball and other sports...Tennessee athletics is seeking a \$9.3 million funding increase for legendary Lindsey Nelson Stadium due to some underlying necessities found in soil samples and utility additions (not the fault of the life-saving Tennessee Valley Authority)...The Tennessee Volunteer Club NIL collective inaugurated Rock Media to allow student-athletes, sponsors and fans to connect via major social media networks...NIL compensation in recent months has given rise to coaches in all sports fining student-athletes who are receiving NIL funds for being late to practice and violating various team rules...Campbell athletics is deleting six of its wrestling grants-in-aid while anticipating some budget cuts from upcoming NCAA jurisprudence...Charlotte athletics will be associated with the Legends Group for fan experience, concessions, sales, strategy, execution, and seating arrangements at Jerry Richardson Stadium starting in 2025...The Vanderbilt NIL collective Anchor Impact added Paul Grindstaff as executive director... Washington athletics has opened the Dawgs Unleashed NIL collective and joint marketing arm to assist in NIL acquisitions and business support...The Nevada women's volleyball team as a group voted to forfeit its match against San Jose State on Oct. 26 due to safety and competition concerns, but UN administrators agreed to conduct the match...

Other Notables:

The NFF Good in the Game video segment last week honored the only two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy in 1973 and '74 legendary NFF College Hall of Fame RB Archie Griffin of Ohio State...Former Notre Dame AD Jack Swarbrick explained that one possible solution to opening wide

doors for additional college athletics revenue is taking college football into a separate governing division outside NCAA borders and making a national multimedia rights' pact much like the NCAA had with various networks from 1950-83 before the advent of the College Football Association...Former Michigan, Stanford and U. of San Diego head coach Jim Harbaugh of the NFL Los Angeles Chargers is being treated for an irregular heartbeat and may be sidelined for several days...Football standout Dan Federkeil is set for induction into the University of Calgary Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 28.

Media Musings:

CBS sports columnist Dennis Dodd highlighted new College Football Playoff executive director Gen. (ret.) Richard Clark, a former Air Force student-athlete and superintendent of the Air Force Academy. Clark pointed out that the human element must be observed in the CFP selection process and that strength of schedule should not be the overriding factor in final choices...ExtraPoints.com provided updates on possible memberships in the Pac-12 Conference by Sacramento State and Hawai'i (before UH officially joined the MWC for all sports) and other realignment rumblings. EP publisher Matt Brown also provided an insightful glance at various branding strategies for NIL agreements and compensation...Sports Business Journal Ethan Joyce researched 100-plus brands and clients that Notre Dame, Clemson and LSU athletics have gained through association with the WMT marketing company...The New York Times newspaper's award-winning writer Joe Drape explained how state laws allow Missouri athletics to create and fund the NIL marketing agency Every True Tiger...On3.com speculated about the nature of future National Signing dates in football and expected bidding wars without the National Letter of Intent...JohnWallStreet.com finds through interviews that some of the "must-see" college football contests such as Nos. 2 and 3 Ohio State at Oregon on Oct. 12 or Nos. 4 and 1 Georgia at Texas last Saturday need to have better broadcast time slots or additional pregame hype for maximum exposure...Peak Events and Sports and Entertainment Travel have formed pacts for Peak Events Classics - Jacksonville (Fla.) College Baseball Classic, Karbach Round Rock (Texas) Classic, Las Vegas (Nev.) College Baseball Classic, and Frisco (Texas) College Baseball Classic...ESPN's Pete Thamel opined about reasons for the continuance of FBS head coaching positions through Oct. 14 after some posts had been relieved or altered at a similar time in 2023...Business Insider's Peter Kafka and Puck's John Ourand examined the latest developments on sports media landscapes with emphasis on recent streaming contracts and alternative video...Awful Announcing's Ben Koo wrote a humorous column about which college football

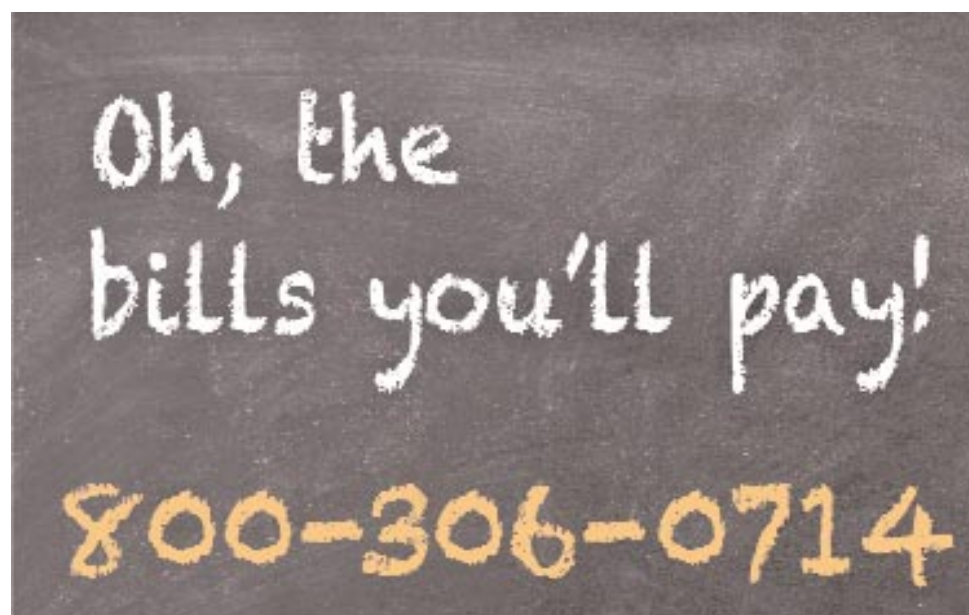
teams fans want to lose or the most disliked and how television Nielsen Ratings might indicate teams that fans do not enjoy viewing...@1QLeadership.com queried Central Michigan deputy AD Tangela Cheatham about such topics as supported autonomy by ADs, how to handle ample daily responsibilities and understanding how to learn on the job specialty techniques in athletics...College sports news distributor and historian Mike Burrow issued this report last week - Onto Hawai'i: Former St. John Bosco (Calif.) HS QB Matai Fuiava started for JBHS on a recent Friday night and then flew to Honolulu to enroll at Kahuku HS where he was immediately eligible to play and practice. Incidentally, Fuiava's father was an assistant coach for St. John Bosco HS until both left for the Island State...ESPN's College GameDay had a big weekend in Austin, Texas, on Oct. 18-19 while FOX Sports' Big Noon Kickoff journeyed to Bloomington, Ind., for the Indiana-Nebraska game...The Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette newspaper's Christopher Carter and Stephen Thompson commented on top leadership developments at Pittsburgh with prospective loans from the general university fund, the Alliance 412 NIL collective or private equity firm Collegiate Athletic Solutions...Puck's John Ourand interviewed Creative Arts Agency sports co-director Matt Kramer on why high-profile media members and/or college sports officials decide to change careers suddenly as was the case for ESPN's Wojnarowski who became St. Bonaventure's general manager for basketball...Front Office Sports' Daniel Roberts was part of a panel evaluating the positives and challenges on the NIL during Advertising Week New York earlier this month...Sports Business Journal's Ben Portnoy revisited the crossover ties among Kansas City Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes of Texas Tech, adidas and Tech athletics after Tech signed with adidas (previously under contract with Under Armour). Mahomes' likeness also appears on the front of 2024 Tech jerseys as a special proponent of the new agreements...Sportico.com's Michael McCann related more insight on the proposed New Mexico State athletics' request for a \$137 million with interest and investments providing between \$5-6 million annually for the women's athletics budget. McCann also reviewed the House v. NCAA settlement as a combination of resolution on three main cases with more jurisprudence to come and large legal fees on both sides...ESPN's College GameDay powered by Home Depot has hit a peak a Nielsen Ratings' viewership of 972,000-plus...The St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch newspapers will begin publishing its editions in Columbia, Mo., after printing the paper on presses in St. Louis for the past 146 years. It joins such major dailies as the Nashville Tennessean, Kansas City Star, Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram,

and Des Moines (Iowa) Press-Register as printing their dailies at sites outside their major office locales...The RedBird IMI Group has gained a majority ownership portion of Front Office Sports...Turnkey ZRG Group CEO Len Perna detailed the association of College Sports Tomorrow and a potential super league of college football powers...New Jersey Advance Media's Steve Politi and Brian Fonseca looked into the timetable and circumstances surrounding the exit of Rutgers AD Pat Hobbs earlier this year. At that time Hobbs had served for the longest time at one school among Big Ten Conference ADs (with the retirement of Ohio State AD Gene Smith) over nine years...Oct. 19 marked the 88-year anniversary of the first Associated Press then-Top 20 national poll in 1936 with Top 10 entries Minnesota, Duke, Army West Point, Northwestern, Purdue, USC, Notre Dame, Washington, Pittsburgh, and Yale.

FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:

Navy's Kush'i Abraham, who came from a homeless background to become an honor student at his high school in Cincinnati and at the academy, is the latest 2024 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award nominee...The FWAA-NFF Grantland Rice Super 16 FBS poll continues throughout the season and ends with the final survey after the College Football Playoff championship encounter on Jan. 20, 2025 and the Nos. 1-5 selections this week are Oregon, Georgia, Penn State, Ohio State, and Miami (Fla.). UO is the third different school to hold down the No. 1 placement in the last four weeks...Oregon was the recent FWAA Cheez-It National Team of the Week after a last-minute verdict over then-No. 2 nationally Ohio State...Penn State supplied the Pop-Tarts, FWAA and Florida Citrus Sports Crazy Good Play of the Week on a trick play that featured PSU tight end Tyler Warren snapping the oval and catching a pass on the same

play to aid a key win for the Nittany Lions over USC...College Sports Communicators featured in major online or social media posts in recent days are Jeff Sutton of Houston Christian, Todd Lamb of the Dallas Independent School District, several colleges, and the Southland Conference, Alexa Low of Incarnate Word, James Dixon of Lamar, and Matthew Connette of McNeese...Florida, Kentucky, LSU, Michigan State, Rutgers, Tennessee, UCLA, and USC are conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible challenges and probes at their respective schools...FBS Athletics Directors Association's executive director and CEO Heather Lyke discussed embracing sudden change in athletics and bouncing back from adversity...The NCAA has begun vending season tickets and hospitality packages for the 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball World Series in Omaha, Neb...Super Bowl LXII (62) is set for February 2028 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Ga...The NCAA Football Rules Committee closed the penalty loophole that Oregon used in its win over Ohio State by intentionally drawing a penalty with 12 student-athletes on the field and causing a 10-second clock runoff in the final minute of regulation...Latest deadlines for legal briefs in jurisprudence among Florida State, Clemson and the ACC are Nov. 14 and responses by Jan. 3, 2025...House v. NCAA plaintiffs' attorney Steve Berman anticipates an appeal by the NCAA to a higher federal court on the current settlement provisions...The South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota State and U. of South Dakota have continued their legal case against the NCAA v. House settlement as an unfair financial burden to mid-major universities...The NCAA has established a former student-athletes' website to allow the start of filing claims in the House v. NCAA settlement





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