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Weekly



College Football Weekend!

Nov. 17 - Nov. 23, 2023

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2023-24 SMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SCHEDULE



 11.1 EXHIBITION	 11.6	 11.11	 11.14	 11.18	 11.24 SD CLASSIC	 11.25 SD CLASSIC	 11.30	 12.4
 12.14	 12.18	 12.21	 12.30	 1.4	 1.7	 1.11	 1.14	 1.17
 1.20	 1.24	 1.27	 1.31	 2.3	 2.10	 2.14	 2.18	 2.24
			 2.28	 3.2	 3.5			
HOME	AWAY							#PONYUPDALLAS

Cover Photo:

4 AROUND THE AREA

5 CARROL AND GUNNAR WIN ROOKIES OF THE YEAR
BY JON THOMAS

6 GOLF, ETC
BY TOM WARD

7 THE RSM CLASSIC PREVIEW
BY ADAM STANLEY

8 IMPLICATIONS AS FALL PGA TOUR COMES TO A CLOSE
BY ADAM BURKE

9 VAQUERO GOLF CLUB REDESIGN COMPLETE
BY STAFF

10 COWBOYS SHOULD HAVE IT EASY THIS WEEK
BY STACY URBAN

11 NFL WEEK 11 PREDICTIONS
BY BILL BENDER

12 SEC FOOTBALL - WEEK 12
BY ROBERT CORTINEZ

13 BIG 12 FOOTBALL - WEEK 12
BY BARRY LEWIS

14 TOUGHEST TEST YET FOR SMU AT MEMPHIS
BY ROB MIECH

15 COLLEGE FOOTBALL NEWS AND NOTES
BY BO CARTER

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

AT&T Stadium to host final CNL match



AT&T Stadium to host final match of Concacaf Nations League

FIFA is still waiting to announce the location of the final match of the World Cup, but at least one major soccer tournament will hold its championship match in Arlington. AT&T Stadium was selected as the home of the 2024 Concacaf Nations League final, semifinals and third-place match.

The Concacaf Nations League tournament includes some of the best teams in North and Central America, including the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

The tournament's semifinals will be held on Thursday, March 21 and the third-place match and final will be held on Sunday, March 24.

There will also be two games played at Toyota Stadium in Frisco. The quarterfinal losers will play in Frisco on Saturday, March 23 to determine the last two Concacaf guest national teams qualifying for the CONMEBOL Copa America 2024.

"We are honored to host decisive matches at AT&T Stadium for the Concacaf Nations League, including the Final," said Dallas Cowboys Owner and General Manager Jerry Jones in a statement. "North Texas has proven to be an incredible region for international soccer,

and we look forward to providing another world class experience for each one of the matches played at AT&T Stadium."

The tournament could be an opportunity to show off AT&T Stadium as a potential location for the World Cup final in 2026. Arlington is considered a finalist for the final match, but no official announcement has been made.

Heimo Schirgi, FIFA's chief operating officer for the World Cup visited Arlington in October to tour the stadium and other facilities. An official announcement on which matches will be played in Dallas is expected by the end of the year.

Bally Sports Southwest getting out of the baseball broadcasting business after the 2024 season

The parent company of Bally Sports Southwest said this week after a court filing that it is absolutely, positively getting out of the baseball broadcasting business after the 2024 season. What wasn't said is what will happen during the 2024 season.

Meaning: It would kind of be nice to know what they have coming in from TV revenue for 2024. You know, for planning and all that. Never mind that this deal was originally supposed to run through 2034.

If it sounds a lot like you've heard this before, well, we've got news for you: You have. This is pretty close to the same situation the Rangers and a host of other teams faced a year ago as Diamond Sports, the parent company, approached filing bankruptcy. The Rangers got off lucky. They were lucrative enough that after a little arm-twisting and motion-filing, Diamond was compelled to pay them their full TV

rights for 2023. San Diego and Arizona, for example, weren't as fortunate.

Diamond simply rejected rights to both teams. MLB took over production of the broadcasts.

According to a flurry of documents filed in the 10 days since the World Series ended, Diamond is prepared to drop more clubs for 2024, as it transitions out of baseball. According to the documents, MLB has been informed of Diamond's plans about which clubs it intends to retain and which it intends to drop. A Rangers official, on Tuesday, said only that no final decision has been rendered. There is another hearing scheduled for Wednesday.

If Diamond is going to stick around baseball in any way for another year, holding on to the Rangers' rights, if possible, makes too much sense. The Southwest territory is huge. The Rangers are going to be more watched, providing fans can access Bally, than ever before.

If the Rangers and other clubs are prepared to take less there could be a deal to be had. The other option would be going with MLB which likely means taking even less. The Rangers and MLB still need to find a way forward to broadcast games to the largest audience possible, which is what you care about, and to secure the most money possible, which is what they care about most.

There is no easy answer. There hasn't been for going on more than a year now. And even on a day when it became clear that Diamond won't be an issue after 2024, it was still painfully obvious there isn't a solution yet.

NCAA Football Poll

Coaches Poll	Week 12	AP Poll
1. Georgia	1. Georgia	1. Georgia
2. Michigan	2. Michigan	2. Michigan
3. Ohio State	3. Ohio State	3. Ohio State
4. Florida State	4. Florida State	4. Florida State
5. Washington	5. Washington	5. Washington
6. Oregon	6. Oregon	6. Oregon
7. Texas	7. Texas	7. Texas
8. Alabama	8. Alabama	8. Alabama
9. Louisville	9. Louisville	9. Louisville
10. Oregon State	10. Oregon State	10. Oregon State
11. Missouri	11. Missouri	11. Missouri
12. Penn State	12. Penn State	12. Penn State
13. Oklahoma	13. Ole Miss	13. Ole Miss
14. Ole Miss	14. Oklahoma	14. Oklahoma
15. LSU	15. LSU	15. LSU
16. Utah	16. Utah	16. Utah
17. Tulane	17. Tulane	17. Tulane
18. Notre Dame	18. James Madison	18. James Madison
19. Tennessee	19. Arizona	19. Arizona
20. UNC	20. Notre Dame	20. Notre Dame
21. James Madison	21. Tennessee	21. Tennessee
22. Arizona	22. USC	22. USC
23. Iowa	23. K-State	23. K-State
24. K-State	24. Oklahoma State	24. Oklahoma State
25. Oklahoma State	25. Liberty	25. Liberty

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	NOVEMBER 17 FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 18 SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 19 SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 20 MONDAY	NOVEMBER 21 TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 22 WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBER 23 THURSDAY
		Mavs at Milwaukee 7:00 / Bally's	Mavs vs Kings 6:30 / Bally's			Mavs at Lakers 9:30 / Bally's	
			Cowboys at Carolina Noon / FOX				
		SMU at Memphis 11:00 / ESPN					
		Stars vs Colorado 7:00 / KTCK		Stars vs New York 7:00 / KTCK		Stars vs Vegas 8:30 / TNT	
	Allen at Idaho 7:10	Allen at Idaho 7:10				Allen at Wichita 6:05	

Carroll, Gunnar win Rookies of the Year



Corbin Carroll and Gunnar Henderson contributed considerably to the rise in relevance of their teams

Written by Jon Thomas

The leadoff man and center fielder was a Seattle speedster named Corbin Carroll. The third baseman was a tall, athletic kid from small-town Alabama named Gunnar Henderson.

It was the American team at the 2018 Under Armour All-America Game. And as it turns out, it was a preview of the 2023 Jackie Robinson Rookie of the Year class in MLB.

When the D-backs' Carroll and the Orioles' Henderson were announced Monday night on MLB Network as unsurprising -- and as it turns out, unanimous -- winners of the Baseball Writers' Association of America rookie honors in the American and National Leagues, it was the second time they were paired together. The first was back when they were amateur prospects in a showcase game at Wrigley Field in which Carroll's two hits and Henderson's two RBIs helped lead their squad to victory.

"We got to spend time together there," Henderson said. "Being able to then take it to the big leagues and both winning Rookie of the Year is pretty special."

There was also no doubt about it. This marked the fifth time that both Rookie of the Year winners were unanimous and the first since the Dodgers' Cody Bellinger and the Yankees' Aaron Judge in 2017.

"For [the writers] to view me in that way, that means a lot to me, especially in a year like this, where, even beyond the three nominees, there were so many really talented rookie players this year," Carroll said in a call with reporters. "It means a lot to me that you guys view me as valuable."

MLB's new rules environment fostered a faster-paced and more athletically dynamic

version of the sport, with several budding ballclubs taking advantage of the context and conditions to surge up the standings with the help of their young blood.

That theme was particularly potent for Henderson's AL East-winning Orioles and Corbin Carroll's National League pennant-winning D-backs. These fresh faces contributed considerably to the rise in relevance of their teams and were rightly recognized for it.

Henderson finished ahead of Guardians right-hander Tanner Bibee and Red Sox first baseman Triston Casas, while Carroll beat out Mets right-hander Kodai Senga and Dodgers outfielder James Outman.

Henderson, an infielder, and Carroll, an outfielder, debuted within days of each other in August 2022 and entered 2023 as the top two prospects in the game, per MLB Pipeline. But while their fortunes were forecast by many an evaluator, it would be safe to say they each exceeded expectations for the level of impact they could make on the league's playoff picture. Would the Orioles, who entered the season with just a 1.3% chance of winning their division in the FanGraphs-calculated odds, have run away with the best record not only in the AL East, but in the AL as a whole, without Henderson's heroics?

In a word, no.

Splitting his time between third base and shortstop, the 22-year-old Henderson was a dynamic defender at two infield positions while providing extra-base impact at the plate. He led both his entire team and all AL rookies in bWAR (6.2) and fWAR (4.6) while banging out 28 homers, nine triples, 82 RBIs and scoring 100 runs.

All told, Henderson slashed .255/.325

/.489, despite a slow start that left him with a .170 average through May 12. He hit .320 with a .994 OPS in the month of June to win AL Rookie of the Month and never looked back. Henderson's 66 extra-base hits were the most ever by an Orioles rookie, topping Cal Ripken Jr.'s 65 in his Rookie of the Year season in 1982.

Appropriately, it was Ripken himself who announced Henderson as the award winner.

"I felt for you early in the season," Ripken told Henderson on air. "In my rookie year in '82, 3-for-5 on Opening Day and then 4-for-my-next-63. The batboy was telling me how to hit. Everybody was telling me how to hit."

Henderson said he focused on the process, not the results, when mired in that early slump.

"It's something everybody goes through at some point or another," he said. "It just so happened that mine was at the beginning of the year. It just felt like we were putting in the right process. In the beginning, I was hitting some balls hard and nothing was falling. I felt like it was just a couple weeks' process of sticking to it. Eventually [hits] started falling, and it just took off from there."

He also played strong defense, ranking third among AL shortstops with 10 defensive runs saved in 64 starts, to go with his three DRS at third base in 68 starts.

Henderson is Baltimore's seventh winner of the rookie prize and the first since reliever Gregg Olson in 1989.

Would the D-backs, who finished 14 games under .500 and 13 back of a playoff spot in 2022, have made their first postseason appearance since 2017 and then shockingly advanced to the World Series if not for Carroll's contributions?

Another easy no.

With elite speed and a shocking power profile for a player listed at 5-foot-10, 165 pounds, the 23-year-old Carroll went where no rookie had gone before. His 25 homers and 54 steals made him the first 25-50 rookie ever. The last 20-40 rookie had been the Angels' Mike Trout in 2012. And though the BBWAA voting took place prior to the start of the postseason, Carroll only cemented his status as one of the game's brightest young lights in October. His three-hit, two-steal night in Game 7 of the NLCS in Philadelphia propelled the D-backs past the heavily favored Phillies and into their first World Series since 2001.

"It wasn't an easy season for us," Carroll said. "We had plenty of tough moments. To be able to find a way to fight through those and come out on the other side made us a much more connected and dangerous team. I think what you saw in the playoffs was that continue."

Carroll, who led NL rookies with a 5.4 bWAR and all MLB rookies with a 6.0 fWAR, is Arizona's first winner of this award. He's also a player the D-backs plan to build around for a very long time, as they signed him to an eight-year, \$111 million contract in Spring Training.

"A contract in that way may speed up a lot of things," Carroll said. "What remained important for me is it didn't speed up my learning process. I was going through this year the same as anyone else, as a rookie trying to keep an open mind, trying to learn. I think keeping that mindset helped me keep things in perspective."

It wasn't that long ago that Carroll and Henderson were teenagers playing together on a showcase squad. They formed a bond from that experience and exchanged jerseys when their clubs faced each other earlier this year. Now they are forever paired as unanimous Rookies of the Year.

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JFK 60th Anniversary Remembrance



TOM WARD

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On November 22, 1963 people listened and watched in disbelief as the news reports came out of Dallas that our 35th President, John F. Kennedy, had been assassinated. It was one of those seminal moments in history when the world collectively gasped and stood still in shock and horror.

If you were alive 60 years ago, you remember exactly where you were at the moment the tragic news broke. One such person was a dear friend of mine named Al Plastino (Plastino passed away in 2013), and his story is an interesting one that would ultimately have a historic significant tie-in with the late President.

Back in 1963, Al was one of the top comic book artists in the industry and was best known for drawing the man of steel, Superman, for DC comics. Prior to Kennedy's untimely death, Al had been working on a special Superman story involving President Kennedy. I vividly recall when speaking to Al about what he remembered about that terrible day and where he was when he heard the news? Plastino said,

"I was living in Jersey and my kids were little and I was sitting down taking a break from drawing and watching TV when the news bulletin came over that Kennedy had been killed in Dallas. I was mesmerized and horrified at the same time as I continued to watch the telecasts and they showed as much as they could at the time and I just couldn't believe it was happening as it didn't seem real. I don't think anybody could believe it because it seemed like a staged movie. Then all this information started coming out about how Oswald shot the police officer before he was captured. A few days later, we were watching when we saw on live TV as this guy in a hat (Jack Ruby) shot Oswald walking to the car with a police escort in the basement. It was incredible and scary at the same time. I'll never forget Ruby and the officer accompanying Oswald with their hats on during all the commotion. I was so conscious of the hats."

I asked Al what was the plan to do with the Superman story he was drawing about Kennedy after his murder? He stated,

"I was pretty well into the story of Superman helping President Kennedy with his new physical fitness program geared towards the youngsters when I heard the news. I stopped drawing after I saw what happened down in Texas. The new President Lyndon B. Johnson not too long after he was sworn in as President had his office contact DC comics and told them to continue finishing the story to honor his late predecessor. I don't think it was more than a few days later when the editor at DC called and asked me to make a new splash page. They sent me some new text that was to be included on that page and I went ahead and drew the one that is now identified with that comic book which is Superman issue # 170."

Al told me he came up with the idea of Superman flying over the capitol saluting an image of the late President on his own. Plastino said,

"I thought what the hell am I going to do here? I didn't want to have Superman standing over the grave of Kennedy which I thought was too morbid and sad."

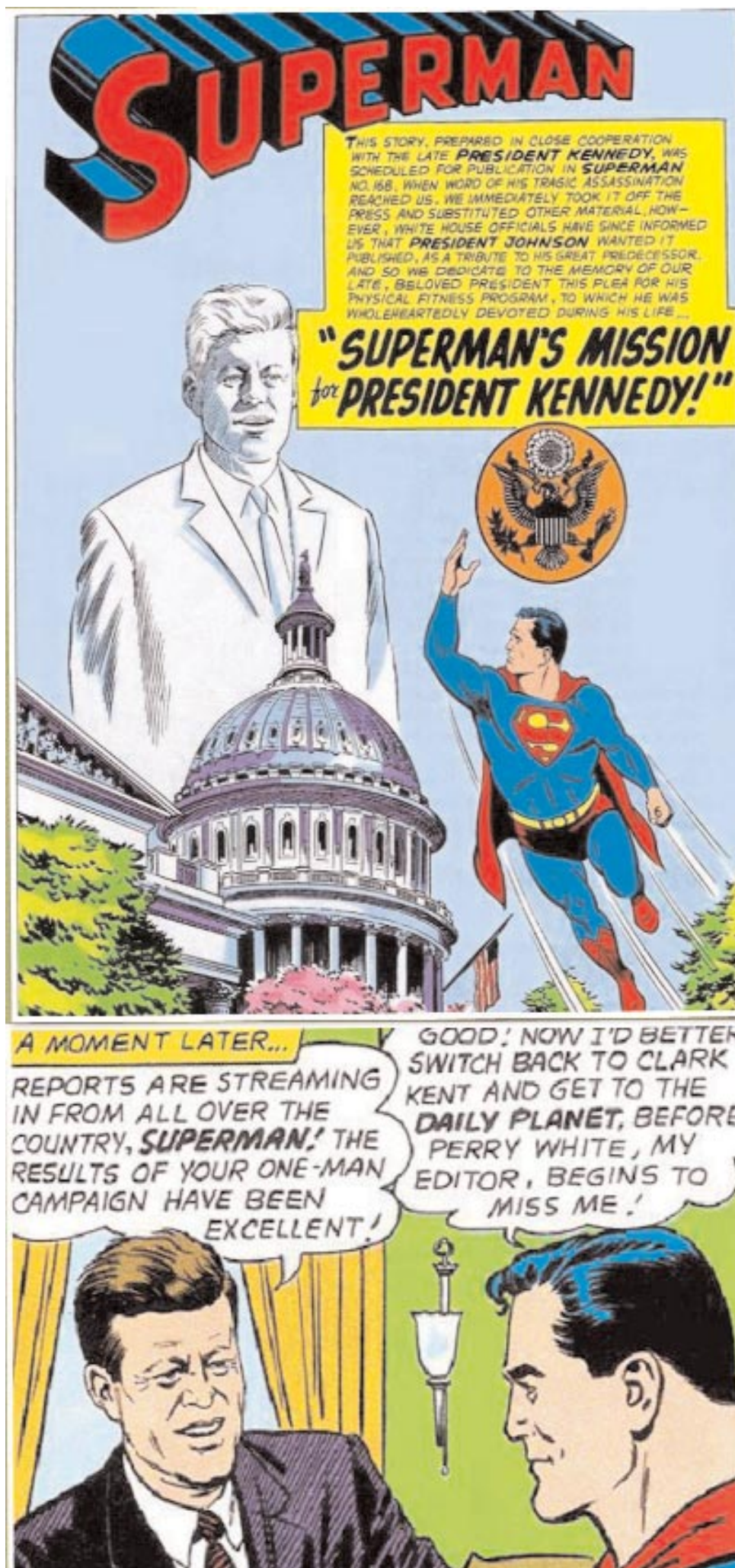
DC Comics Superman comic book, issue #170, July 1964, featured Plastino's story entitled "Superman's Mission for President Kennedy." The storyline involved President Kennedy's Youth Physical Fitness Program. Developed in consultation with the Kennedy White House, this story was to have been published as issue #168, but following the assassination, it was put on hold and printed as a memorial tribute to the late president in July 1964. That particular Superman issue has become a highly prized collectable in the comic book industry.

In Dallas, the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza has been gearing up for the 60th anniversary. Inside the museum, there is a section that showcases how the assassination has influenced film, art, music, and other forms of personal expression, including the work of Andy Warhol, Oliver Stone, and others. The artifact case speaks to the legacy of the assassination in popular culture. Al Plastino's Superman splash page and comic book that he drew are prominently featured there.

To learn more about the museum and the upcoming events surrounding the 60th anniversary please visit their website at www.jfk.org.

Tom Ward at www.teetimewithtom.com

the **SPORTS**page
Weekly



This week on TOUR: The RSM Classic



Adam Svensson looks to successfully defend this week at Sea Island

By Adam Stanley

The 2022-23 PGA TOUR season ends at The RSM Classic, the final event of the FedExCup Fall. In contrast to a historically tranquil vibe in coastal Georgia, the tension will be palpable this week as players jockey to improve (or keep) TOUR status for the 2024 season.

St. Simons Island, Georgia, is home to several TOUR stars – including tournament host Davis Love III – and while the event previously slotted as the last event of the calendar year before the wraparound schedule resumed in January, this year it will mark the season finale before the TOUR returns to a calendar-year cadence. There are plenty of pearls for the Sea Island winner, of course. But this year brings heightened implications up and down the leaderboard.

The top 125 on the FedExCup Fall standings after this week will secure 2024 PGA TOUR exempt membership, earning spots in each Full-Field Event plus THE PLAYERS Championship. Those who finish Nos. 51-60 will get into two Signature Events in 2024 – The Genesis Invitational and the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am – via The Next 10.

FIELD NOTES: Adam Svensson looks to successfully defend at Sea Island. Svensson, who hasn't missed a cut on TOUR since the Travelers Championship in June, will make his fifth start of the FedExCup Fall. There has never been a back-to-back winner at The RSM Classic... Ludvig Åberg is back in action

on TOUR as he looks to continue his fine global play over the last few months. In his last seven worldwide starts, Åberg, chasing a top-50 spot in the Official World Golf Ranking by the end of the year for a Masters invite, hasn't finished worse than a tie for 14th... Open Championship winner Brian Harman tees it up for the first time since the TOUR Championship. Harman, who finished second last year at The RSM Classic, has two other top-10 finishes at Sea Island, where he is a resident... There are plenty of St. Simons Island, Georgia, residents in the field including Love III, Zach Johnson, Harris English, Keith Mitchell and Patton Kizzire. Despite the hearty number of TOUR players who live in the area, none have actually won The RSM Classic. Kevin Kisner won in 2015 but he was living in Sea Island only because his home in South Carolina was being renovated at the time... Kisner, who also lost in a playoff in 2020 at Sea Island to go along with his 2015 title, is teeing it up... Padraig Harrington, who won his sixth title on PGA TOUR Champions two weeks ago at Boca Raton is playing The RSM Classic for the first time since 2017... Billy Horschel is back in action on TOUR for the first time since his season-best fourth-place result at the Wyndham Championship. Horschel notched three top-20 finishes in four starts on the DP World Tour across September and October. Horschel lost in a playoff at Sea Island in 2016... Other notables in the field at Sea Island who made it to the TOUR

Championship but haven't played since include Russell Henley and Corey Connors. Both Connors and Henley have five top-10 results this season including a victory. **SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS:** Twins David and Maxwell Ford will tee it up together at a PGA TOUR event for the first time, becoming the third pair of twins to compete on TOUR this season after Nicolai and Rasmus Hojgaard and Pierceson and Parker Coody. David earned a spot in the field after winning the 2023 Jones Cup in January (a big-time amateur event annually hosted at Sea Island Golf Club). Maxwell, ranked 30th in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, initially wanted to try to Monday Qualify but received a sponsor invite shortly before the event. This will be his TOUR debut. David, ranked fifth in the world, made his TOUR debut at the Barbasol Championship earlier this year. They're both juniors at the University of North Carolina... U.S. Amateur runner-up Ben Carr will make his first PGA TOUR start as a pro. He played the Puerto Rico Open, the Masters and the U.S. Open earlier in the year and turned pro after making the cut at Los Angeles Country Club. Carr made six of seven cuts this summer on PGA TOUR Canada... Fred Biondi will make his fourth start on TOUR during the FedExCup Fall. He made the cut for the first time on TOUR at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship. Biondi was part of the University of Florida's NCAA Championship-winning squad earlier in 2023 and was also the NCAA Individual National Champion for 2023... Ben Kohles, who won twice on the Korn Ferry Tour this year and who topped the Korn Ferry Tour Points List, is back in action on the PGA TOUR... Josh Teater, who zipped into the top 30 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points list thanks to back-to-back top-10 finishes in the last two events of the season, will make his third TOUR start of the season.

Highest Ranked Players in the Field

OWGR	* FedExCup
9. Brian Harman	52. Matt Kuchar
18. Cameron Young	53. M. Hughes
25. Russell Henley	54. Ben Griffin
33. Corey Connors	55. T. Montgomery
36. Denny McCarthy	56. Nick Hardy
39. Harris English	57. A. Smalley
40. J.T. Poston	58. Luke List
41. Si Woo Kim	59. J.J. Spaun
45. Adam Schenk	60. Sam Ryder
48. Eric Cole	61. M. Hubbard

STORYLINES:

1) Chase for the top 125

With The RSM Classic marking the final event of the FedExCup Fall, there are two key numbers to monitor. The first is

No. 125, as those who finish inside that mark on the FedExCup Fall standings will be exempt into all Full-Field Events and THE PLAYERS Championship next season. (Nos. 126-150 on the FedExCup Fall standings will retain conditionally exempt status for 2024.)

2) Chase for The Next 10

Also of note, those who finish Nos. 51-60 in the standings at the conclusion of The RSM Classic will qualify for two Signature Events in 2024 via The Next 10 (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, The Genesis Invitational).

There are plenty of opportunity for movement in the final event of the 2022-23 season.

New & Used Clubs from the Top Brands in Golf

2nd Swing

3) Talking about playoffs

The precedent has been set: It’s fairly likely The RSM Classic will head into a playoff come Sunday. There have been six playoffs in the 13 events at Sea Island, including three in a row from 2018-2020. **FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 FedExCup points. **COURSE:** Sea Island Resort (Seaside), 7,005 yards, par 70; Sea Island Resort (Plantation), 7,060 yards, par 72. Golfers will once again tee it up on the Plantation and the Seaside courses for the first two days before the Seaside takes on hosting duties through the weekend. The Plantation Course was re-done by tournament host Davis Love III and his brother Mark in 2019, with changes inspired by Walter Travis’ 1928 original. Tom Fazio, in 1999, was charged with the redesign of the Seaside Course which is a links-style layout adjacent to the ocean. The previous three winners of this event have all be inside the top 10 in Strokes Gained: Putting at the end of the week, with last year’s winner, Adam Svensson, topping the category. **72-HOLE RECORD:** 260, Kisner (2015), Talor Gooch (2021) **18-HOLE RECORD:** 60, Tommy Gainey (4th round, 2012), Sebastian Munoz (1st round, 2021), Tyler McCumber (4th round, 2021) **LAST TIME:** Svensson held off plenty of notable chasers to capture his first PGA TOUR title, winning The RSM Classic last year by two shots after finishing at 19 under. Svensson fired a final-round 64 and while he was in a four-way tie for the lead late into the back nine, he rolled in an 18-footer for birdie on No. 16 and followed that up with another birdie on the penultimate hole of the championship after knocking his tee shot on the par-3 to just 10 feet. Both Harman and Sahith Theegala missed their own birdie tries from about 25 feet on the closing hole and Svensson just needed a par on No. 18 to claim victory. Svensson started the tournament with a 73 and he was 108th on the leaderboard after 18 holes, and after his first job was completed – making the cut – he ended up holding the trophy come Sunday. Harman, Theegala and Callum Tarren (who tied Svensson, amongst others, for the Sunday round-of-the-day, 6 under) finished tied for second while five others finished tied for fifth. **Denotes all players outside the top 50 in the FedExCup standings at the conclusion of the Playoffs who are still actively earning points.*

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Friday: noon-3 p.m. ET (Golf Channel). Saturday-Sunday, 1-4 p.m. (Golf Channel) **Radio:** Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. ET; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGATOUR.com/liveaudio)

Top 125, other competitive implications at stake during the final week of the FedExCup Fall

Written by Staff
The 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season comes to a conclusion this week at The RSM Classic, marking the final event of the FedExCup Fall. For the first time, the top 125 for the following PGA TOUR season will be finalized at The RSM Classic, among other competitive consequences set to be determined at week’s end – including The Next 10, DP World Tour Top 10 and PGA TOUR Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year nominations.
The RSM Classic is the seventh and final official PGA TOUR event of the FedExCup Fall, all seven featuring winner’s benefits – a two-year PGA TOUR exemption, 500 FedExCup points and invitations to The Sentry, THE PLAYERS Championship, Masters Tournament and PGA Championship in 2024 – as well as the opportunity for players to lock up or improve positions in the priority ranking for the 2024 FedExCup Season. Players who finished Nos. 1-50 through the FedExCup Playoffs locked their position in the FedExCup, earned full exempt status for 2024 and qualified for all eight Signature Events in 2024. All players ranked No. 51 and beyond carried FedExCup points and continued to accumulate points through the FedExCup Fall.
Concurrently, the DP World Tour Championship, the final event in the 2023 Race to Dubai, will be played Thursday-Sunday at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai. As part of the Strategic Alliance with the PGA TOUR and DP World Tour, the top 10 players, not otherwise exempt, in the final 2023 Race to Dubai Rankings will earn PGA TOUR cards for the first time, earning dual membership on both Tours in ‘24.
With 30 TOUR cards already awarded from the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Season, which concluded in October, the last opportunity for PGA TOUR membership after The RSM Classic is the Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry, at which the final TOUR cards will be distributed to the top five players (and ties). Contested in December, Q-School is a direct pathway to the TOUR for the first time in over a decade.
A look at what’s on the line this week: Top 125
The RSM Classic, the 54th and final event of the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season, is the last opportunity for players to secure top-125 status, which gives players access to all Full-Field Events and THE PLAYERS Championship next season. Nos. 126-150 will earn conditional status, unless otherwise exempt.
All 20 players from Nos. 121-140 in the FedExCup Fall standings entering the week are in the field: Doug Ghim(No. 121), Nico Echavarria (122), Troy Merritt (123), Andr Novak (124), Carl Yuan (125), Henrik Norlander (126), Maverick McNealy (127),

Ryan Moore (128), C.T. Pan (129), Patton Kizzire (130), Ryan Palmer (131), Zecheng Dou (132), Scott Piercy (133), Kramer Hickok (134), Cameron Champ (135), Austin Smotherman (136), MJ Daffue (137), Adam Long (138), Jimmy Walker (139) and Harrison Endycott (140).
Non-members can earn PGA TOUR cards for 2024 with a win or by finishing the season with as many or more points as No. 125 in the FedExCup Fall standings, currently 437 (Carl Yuan). Special Temporary Members Nicolai Hojgaard and Min Woo Lee, who are competing at the DP World Tour Championship, will earn PGA TOUR membership for next season via non-member points. Fellow Special Temporary Members Ryan Gerard (112 points shy of No. 125) and Peter Kuest (155 points), who are in The RSM Classic field, are among those attempting to equal or better No. 125.
The Next 10
New in 2024, The Next 10 is an eligibility pathway to earn access into Signature Events (outside of The Sentry), recognizing the top 10 players, not otherwise exempt, from the FedExCup standings. Nos. 51-60 in the final FedExCup Fall standings at the conclusion of The RSM Classic will serve as The Next 10 for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and Genesis Invitational. Signature Events are limited-field tournaments with increased prize money and FedExCup points, and include players who finished in the top 50 in the 2022-23 FedExCup standings, with remaining spots determined by players who play their best in the weeks leading up to the next Signature Event.
Nine of the 10 players currently in position for one of the spots in The Next 10 are in the field: Matt Kuchar (No. 52), Mackenzie Hughes (53), Ben Griffin (54), Taylor Montgomery (55), Nick Hardy (56), Alex Smalley (57), Luke List (58), J.J. Spaun (59) and Sam Ryder (60); Beau Hossler, No. 51, has secured a place in The Next 10. Seven of the players between Nos. 61-70 are in the field: Mark Hubbard (61), Stephan Jaeger (62), Thomas Detry (63), Alex Noren (64), Brandon Wu (67), Keith Mitchell(69)and Hayden Buckley(70) **DP World Tour**
The 2023 DP World Tour Season concludes this week at the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. For the first time, PGA TOUR cards are available to the top 10 finishers on the DP World Tour’s final Race to Dubai Rankings who are not otherwise exempt. These players will be eligible for the 2024 PGA TOUR Season and have dual membership on the PGA TOUR and DP World Tour.
Players who earn PGA TOUR cards via the DP World Tour have until Dec. 1, 2023, to accept membership. If any of the 10 players declines or is ineligible for PGA TOUR membership, the next highest-ranked player, not otherwise exempt, would become eligible.
The No. 1 player among the 10 that earn

PGA TOUR cards will earn two additional eligibility benefits for the 2024 season. He will earn a spot in THE PLAYERS Championship and the Charles Schwab Challenge and be exempt from reshuffles during the 2024 season, along with the top player on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023 (Ben Kohles). The remaining nine players will be placed at the top of the same category as Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry graduates, with the first reshuffle taking place the Monday of the Masters Tournament. A spot in two Signature Events in 2024 – the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational – is available to the top finisher in the Race to Dubai Rankings who did not finish in the top 50 in this season’s FedExCup standings. Currently, that position is held by Adrian Meronk. (Note: This is not guaranteed to be the leading player from the top 10 that earn PGA TOUR cards.) **Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry**
Players who finish outside the top 125 in the FedExCup standings can earn or improve their status for 2024 through Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry, with the top five players (and ties) earning PGA TOUR cards for 2024. Exempt categories for Final Stage include the top 40 available players below No. 125 in the FedExCup Fall standings and non-members whose FedExCup points are greater than are equal to No. 150 in the FedExCup Fall standings. Players in the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking published on Monday, Nov. 13, are also exempt for Final Stage.
Final Stage of Q-School will be contested Thursday, Dec. 14, through Sunday, Dec. 17, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, at Dye’s Valley at TPC Sawgrass and Sawgrass Country Club. The top five finishers (and ties) will earn TOUR cards, giving players without status an opportunity to earn or re-gain TOUR membership and players in the 126-150 category or below a chance to improve their status.
The next 40 finishers (and ties) will earn exempt status through multiple reshuffles on the Korn Ferry Tour, and all remaining competitors at Final Stage will have Korn Ferry Tour membership. **Last week for consideration for PGA TOUR Player of the Year and PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year**
The RSM Classic is the final event of consideration for the Jack Nicklaus Award (Player of the Year) and Arnold Palmer Award (Rookie of the Year). Eric Cole will make his 37th start of the season and is the only rookie in the 2022-23 class who qualified for the BMW Championship, finishing No. 43 in the FedExCup standings. Cole has two runner-up finishes this season and leads all rookies in top 10s (6), Strokes Gained: Total (1.026 per round), Scoring Average (69.832) and Official Money (\$4,961,430). He has made 526 birdies this season, the most of any player on TOUR.

Vaquero Golf Club redesign complete



Vaquero's redesign incorporates its unique landforms, including a majestic hill on the front nine that offers unparalleled vistas of the surrounding area

Photo by Bill Hornstein

The "New" Vaquero Golf Club Course is unveiled

Noted Golf Course Architect Andrew Green Transformed Classic Course

The Vaquero Club, located on former ranch land west of the DFW airport in the affluent Westlake community, has reopened following a stunning transformation by golf course architect Andrew Green. The renovation has breathed new life into this iconic course, and according to Green has "uncovered the potential of the property and utilized the amazing topography."

Vaquero's redesign incorporates its unique landforms, including a majestic hill on the front nine that offers unparalleled vistas of the surrounding area, making it a distinct focal point of the course: The 3rd and 7th greens, along with the 4th and 8th tees, showcase these views. The remainder of the layout features rolling terrain with dramatic edges and slopes, adding variety and a distinctive character to each hole.

"As the Club President, I am delighted to announce the triumphant completion of our new golf course, a masterpiece crafted in collaboration with the visionary Andrew Green. The course stands as a testament to our commitment to excellence, and we take

pride in providing our esteemed membership with a world-class golfing experience," said Mike Bevill, Club President.

Calling the result a "brand-new golf course," Green aimed to make it enjoyable for a wider range of players, challenging the many low handicappers who've made it a local favorite, while welcoming beginners, higher handicap, and experienced golfers.

The redesign has introduced more variety off the tees, added width, and rerouted some holes to provide increased flexibility. The acreage of the bunkers was reduced from 6.95 acres to 2.58 acres, but the total number of bunkers was increased from 61 to 92. These changes will encourage players to carefully consider shot placement and strategy for each hole.

The greens have been entirely redesigned, adding unique contours and shapes that give each putting surface a distinct personality. Most of the greens are now accessible along the ground, allowing players to bounce the ball on and recover by putting, chipping, and using a hybrid or other clubs.

Green said, "The goal was to encourage members to play the golf course more than they ever did previously, while making

them better players." Members will constantly face different types of shots and will have to find new and different ways to navigate the golf course. Each day, the course should be "a wonderland of variety, fun, and challenge, so even if their score doesn't reflect it, they'll have a ton of fun," he added.

Among the notable hole changes are an

entirely new first hole, playing in the opposite direction from its previous design. Golfers are welcomed by a wide fairway with a challenging line down the right side, which shortens the hole significantly. The left side offers more room but extends the approach.

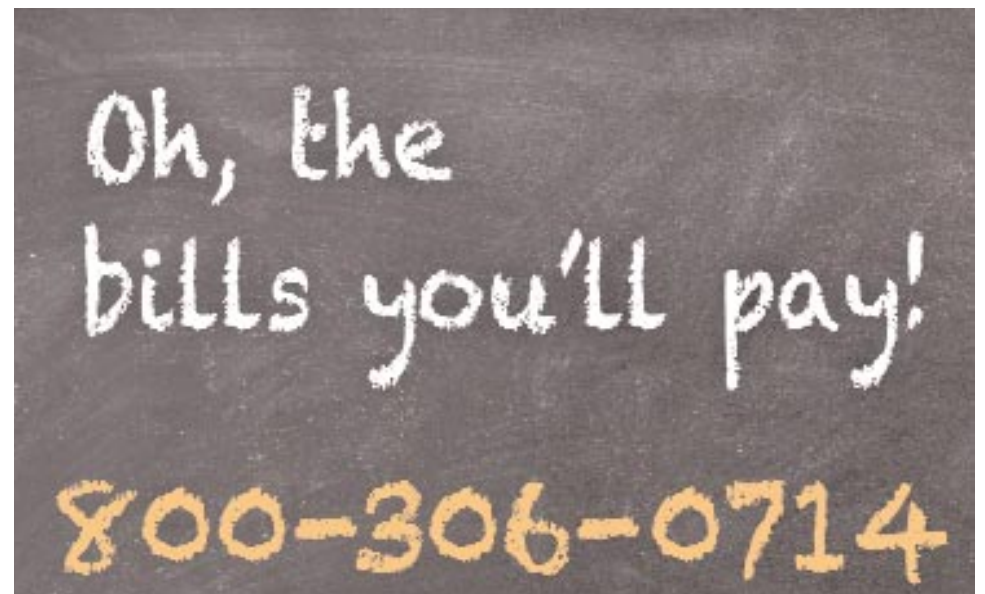
The par-four fourth hole, at around 330 yards from the back tees, is drivable for those who can carry the ball over a series of bunkers and use the rolling fairway to push it onto the putting surface.

On the par-five seventh hole, approximately 70% of the existing sand has been removed. The remaining bunkers have been strategically relocated, providing a more visually appealing and challenging experience.

The all-new short par-3, 16th hole—labeled "devilish" by Green—is only around 130 yards or less for most players. But it plays slightly uphill between two post oaks, with a green featuring different levels and contours, offering a challenge for those who aim for the flag.

The work at Vaquero represents a significant milestone for this prestigious golf course, promising a fresh experience for its active and engaged membership. The course's transformation emphasizes diversity, fun, and challenge, ensuring that every visit is a memorable adventure.

Vaquero is currently ranked in the top 20 courses in Texas by Golf Digest. The club occupies 525 acres of what was once the Hunt brothers' Circle T Ranch in Westlake, one of the most sought-after communities for residents, businesses, and visitors in Texas. An impressive 42,000 square foot clubhouse was renovated and expanded in 2018. Vaquero is located 15 minutes from the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and offers ample shopping and dining in the neighboring towns of Southlake, Trophy Club and Roanoke.



Lay the points on the Cowboys this week



The week the Cowboys have big advantages on both sides of the football

By Jay Horne

Dallas (6-3) at Carolina Panthers (1-8)
Sunday, 12 p.m., Fox
Line: Cowboys -10.5 / 42.5

Last Thursday, the Carolina Panthers dropped to 1-8 SU on the season with a disappointing 16-13 loss to the Chicago Bears. For the 3rd straight game, the Panthers offense was held to 15 points or less. Against a subpar defense in Chicago, the Panthers' offense produced just 213 total yards of offense. Rookie QB Bryce Young, who was the No.1 pick in the NFL Draft, was sacked three times and hit just 21 of 38 passing for 185 yards as his struggles continued. On Sunday, the struggling Panthers offense will be faced with a daunting match-up when they host the Dallas Cowboys at Bank of America Stadium.

The visiting Cowboys are coming off another blowout victory over the New York Giants. Last week, I urged bettors to lay the points with the Cowboys despite one of

the most lopsided betting lines of the season. The Cowboys covered the 17-point spread with ease in a 49-17 blowout led by a dominant defensive effort combined with QB Dak Prescott's best performance of the season, which resulted in 5 combined touchdowns. For this week's road trip to Charlotte, both the Cowboys defense and Prescott face advantageous match-ups yet again. Once again, the Cowboys will be relatively large 10.5-point favorites, and, once again, bettors have a lot of reasons to lay the points!

In the last few weeks, the Cowboys offense has emphasized making WR CeeDee Lamb the focal point of the offense. Earlier this year, I would argue that the offense was attempting to make RB Tony Pollard the centerpiece. With that said, the Cowboys' passing attack has shown tremendous success in recent weeks by peppering Lamb. Not only has Lamb been sensational with the extra opportunities, but the Cowboys' passing attack has opened up, which has produced multiple

big performances from TE Jake Ferguson and WR Brandin Cooks.

In this week's match-up, the Cowboys can literally choose their poison. The Panthers' defense has simply been equally bad against the run and the pass. RB Tony Pollard will have opportunities in the run-game. More importantly, Dak Prescott and the emerging passing attack will have the best match-up through the air. Simply put, I don't believe the Panthers have the personnel to slow down Dallas this week barring a multi-turnover type of game. Meanwhile, the Cowboys' defensive success has been well-documented this season. The Cowboys' defense is the best in the league towards creating pressure on opposing quarterbacks and generating turnovers. The pressure and the turnovers have both been a struggle for rookie QB Bryce Young. Needless to say, I don't think there is any way that Young exceeds expectations in this match-up!

Cowboys vs. Panthers Betting Trends

- The Cowboys are 6-3 ATS in the last nine games.

- The Cowboys have hit the "over" in four of the last five games.

- The Cowboys are 13-6 SU in the last 19 games.

- The Cowboys are 10-3 SU in the last 13 games against the Panthers.

- The Panthers are 2-5 ATS in the last seven games.

- The Panthers have hit the "under" in seven of the last ten games.

- The Panthers are 1-8 SU on the season.

- The Panthers have hit the "under" in four of the last six games against the Cowboys.

Similar to last week's match-up, the Cowboys have big advantages on both sides of the football with similar upside. Based on the pressure the Cowboys' defense generates upfront and from what I have seen throughout the season from Bryce Young, I don't think there are many scenarios where the Panthers' offense can keep this one within reach. Lay the points with confidence!

Pick: Cowboys 27 Panthers 13



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INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

NFL week 11 preview and predictions



Will Taylor Swift and Donna Kelce be in attendance for Monday Night Football?

By Stacy Urban

It's a good bet, right? After all, the Monday Night Football matchup between the Chiefs and Eagles is a Super Bowl LVII rematch of last year's 38-35 shootout. Both teams are on top of their respective conferences heading into the home stretch of the season, and home-field advantage is always a plus. Expect Patrick Mahomes II and Jalen Hurts to put on a show.

That's one of three matchups featuring two teams with winning records in Week 11. The other two are head-to-head matchups in the same division. Cincinnati takes on Baltimore on Thursday Night Football. The fact the Ravens are in first place is not a huge surprise. The fact the Bengals are in last place in a division where all four teams have winning records is a shocker, however.

Which leads to Pittsburgh at Cleveland. This classic AFC North rivalry is a matchup between 6-3 teams who have come a long way since Week 1. The Browns finally have Deshaun Watson settling in at quarterback, and the Steelers continue to find ugly ways to win with Kenny Pickett. This game will not be an exception either way.

Straight up: 95-55 (8-6 in Week 10)
ATS: 78-68-4 (8-6 in Week 10)

Cincinnati (5-4) at Baltimore (7-3)
Thursday, 7:20 p.m., Prime Video
Line: Ravens -4 / 46

All the pressure is on the Bengals here. Or is it? Baltimore won the first meeting while Burrow was still working back from a calf injury. Baltimore has two home losses this season, and this short week makes this a true toss-up game between division rivals. It's worth knowing Jackson is 7-1 S/U against the Bengals as a starter. Will Burrow reverse that trend? If Cincinnati wants to stay in the AFC North hunt, then he better.

Pick: Bengals 24, Ravens 21

Pittsburgh (6-3) at Cleveland (6-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Cleveland -1 / 33.5

Here is the other huge AFC North show-

down. The Browns rallied past Baltimore with 16 unanswered points, and they have a chance to get a split with the Steelers – who have won four of their last five games in one-score fashion. Cleveland is 2-1 S/U at home against Pittsburgh under Kevin Stefanski, and they are 4-1 S/U at home. Deshaun Watson is out, and the QB situation likely turns to P.J. Walker. Somehow, the Browns pull the upset.

Pick: Browns 22, Steelers 17

Chicago (3-7) at Detroit (7-2)
Sunday, 12 p.m., Fox
Line: Lions -9 / 47.5

Will the Bears get Justin Fields back for this one? It would give them a better shot in this NFC North rivalry. Chicago is 1-4 S/U on the road this season, and they average more than two turnovers per game in those losses. The Bears also allow 298.2 yards per game on the road. This could be another huge game for Jared Goff. Detroit is 5-1 ATS as a single-digit favorite. They are reliable under Dan Campbell.

Pick: Lions 31, Bears 15

L.A. Chargers (4-5) at Green Bay (3-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m., Fox
Line: Chargers -3 / 44

Somebody has to win a close game here. The Chargers are 2-4 S/U in games decided by one score or less, but they should be able to get the running game against a Packers' defense that has allowed 200-plus rushing yards three times this season. Green Bay is 1-4 S/U in games decided by three points or less. Jordan Love has thrown eight of 10 interceptions in the second half. It's yet another

Pick: Chargers 26, Packers 20

Las Vegas (5-5) at Miami (6-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Dolphins -13.5 / 46.5

The Raiders are riding a two-game winning streak under interim coach Antonio Pierce. The Raiders average 33 rushing attempts and 149 rushing yards per game the last two weeks, but the Dolphins have a decent run defense. Miami also has an offense that can pull a team out of their comfort zone quickly. The Dolphins are 3-0 ATS at home, and that includes two double-digit lines.

Pick: Dolphins 34, Raiders 23

N.Y. Giants (2-8) at Washington (4-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m., Fox
Line: Washington -9.5 / 37

Didn't we just watch this game? The Giants are a full-blown mess, but they did beat Washington 14-7 in Week 7. Sam Howell has taken a league-high 47 sacks,

and that has disrupted The Commanders' stop-and-start offense. Tommy DeVito has taken 11 sacks in two blowout losses. Still, that's a lot of points between two struggling division rivals. Six of their last seven meetings have been one-score games.

Pick: Commanders 23, Giants 16

Dallas (6-3) at Carolina Panthers (1-8)
Sunday, 12 p.m., Fox
Line: Cowboys -10.5 / 42.5

There is another giant spread. The Cowboys erupted for 640 total yards against the Giants, and the Panthers had a few extra days after the loss to Chicago. The Panthers average 14.5 points per game at home. That will not be nearly enough against Dallas. The Cowboys are 2-3 ATS on the road, and that is a lot of points. We'll play it right under that line.

Pick: Cowboys 29, Panthers 17

Tennessee (6-3) at Jacksonville (3-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Jaguars -7 / 40

Will Levis has completed 52.5% of his passes the last two weeks, and the Titans averaged 11 points per game in those losses. That won't do on the road against the Jaguars, who are coming off a reality check against San Francisco. Jacksonville shakes that off ahead of next week's huge AFC South matchup with Houston.

Pick: Jaguars 24, Titans 17

Arizona (2-8) at Houston (5-4)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Texans -5 / 48.5

This line has dropped a point from its open – a nod to the return of Kyler Murray in Arizona. Houston's C.J. Stroud continues to be a game-changer for the Texans. He's 3-1 S/U at home with a 113.9 passer rating. The Texans are 0-3 ATS as a favorite, but Stroud keeps the good times rolling in another thriller.

Pick: Texans 31, Cardinals 25

Tampa Bay (4-5) at San Francisco (6-3)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m., Fox
Line: 49ers -12 / 41

The 49ers emerged as a much different team out of the bye week, and the defense totaled five sacks and 10 quarterback hits. The pass-rushing tandem of Nick Bosa and Chase Young is quite literally, a hit. Tampa Bay ranks 31st in the league in rushing offense (78.1). That is going to cost them in this one, even if Baker Mayfield makes it interesting for three quarters.

Pick: 49ers 27, Buccaneers 17

N.Y. Jets (4-5) at Buffalo (5-5)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m., CBS

Line: Buffalo -7 / 39

The Jets' offensive woes continue, and the Bills will be looking for payback after losing this game in Week 1. Josh Allen is 6-4 S/U with nine TDs and 10 interceptions in 10 career starts against the Jets, but they have won the last three home meetings by an average of 11 points per game. Still, New York is 4-2 ATS as an underdog. That defense still travels.

Pick: Bills 22, Jets 17

Seattle (6-3) at L.A. Rams (3-6)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m., CBS
Line: Seahawks -1 / 46

The Seahawks have quietly won three of their last four games, and they are 2-2 S/U on the road this season. Matthew Stafford is still dealing with a UCL injury in his thumb, and if he cannot go it might be a Carson Wentz production against Seattle. Geno Smith is coming off his best game of the season against Washington. The Rams did win this matchup 30-13 in Week 1, but the QB situation is less than ideal.

Pick: Seahawks 27, Rams 19

Minnesota (6-4) at Denver (4-5)
Sunday, 7:20 pm., NBC
Line: Broncos -2.5 / 43.5

The Joshua Dobbs story is incredible to this point, and the key is the veteran quarterback does not turn the ball over. Denver still has the worst statistical defense in the league, and they struggle most against the run. Will these teams keep winning with role players such as Ty Chandler and T.J. Hockenson? Why not?

Pick: Vikings 24, Broncos 23

Philadelphia (8-1) at Kansas City (7-2)
Monday, 7:15 p.m., ESPN
Line: Chiefs -2.5 / 45.5

This could be a preview of this year's Super Bowl. Hurts has struggled with interceptions on the road, where he has a passer rating of 87.8. Mahomes II keeps the Chiefs rolling at home with Travis Kelce. Kansas City is 4-1 ATS when favored by six points or less. This one will come down to the wire again, but it's Kansas City's defense that delivers with the huge stop this time.

Pick: Chiefs 30, Eagles 22

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SEC Football Predictions - Week 12



ROBERT CORTINEZ
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This week is a non-conference cupcake bonanza for week 12 in the SEC. Alabama and Georgia have locked down their entries in the SEC Championship on December 2nd. Missouri, Ole Miss and LSU are hoping for a New Year's Six bowl with Ole Miss and Missouri owning the inside track.

Two SEC coaches were fired, Texas A&M's Jimbo Fisher and Mississippi State's Zach Arnett who was fired before he finished his first season. Arkansas's head coach Sam Pittman is favored to go to the unemployment line next but all three will get multi-million dollar buy-outs. Go figure, get paid to leave, must be nice.

Last week results: Straight 6-1; ATL 5-2
Season results: Straight: 72-20; ATL 43-39

Southern Miss (3-7) @ Miss. State (4-6)
11:00 a.m.; SECN+
Line: Mississippi State -14; O/U 46.5

Southern Miss got its third win against Louisiana, 34-31. State got beat by 41

points against A&M and then fired their head coach Zach Arnett. Not sure why the line is two touchdowns but the Bulldogs should win at home, even with an interim head coach.

Pick: Miss. State 20 Southern Miss 10

Chattanooga (7-3) @ #8 Alabama (9-1)
11:00 a.m.; SECN+
Line: Alabama -44.5; O/U 50.5

Alabama flexed its muscle, kicking the tail off the Kentucky Wildcats 49-21. The Chattanooga Mocs, a Tennessee FCS school, were off last week to rest up for the beat-down they'll get in Tuscaloosa. Tide may relax and let the Mocs cover the line.

Pick: Alabama 52 Chattanooga 10

ACU (5-5) @ Texas A&M (6-4)
11:00a.m.; SECN+
Line: no line

The A&M hierarchy finally fired head coach Jimbo Fisher who had winning seasons but never fulfilled the Aggies lofty expectation of making the College Football Playoffs. A&M still has LSU left so this will be their last win of 2023.

Pick: Texas A&M 41 ACU 9

La. Monroe (2-8) @ #13 Ole Miss (8-2)
11:00 a.m.; SECN
Line: Ole Miss -37; O/U 61.5

Ole Miss is two wins away from Lane Kiffin's second 10 win season in his fourth year as head coach of the Rebels. The man can coach but is still looking to get over the Georgia and Alabama speed bumps. Monroe is terrible and the Rebs will roll in

the Grove.

Pick: Ole Miss 44 La. Monroe 13

#1 Georgia (10-0) @ #18 Tennessee (7-3)
2:30 pm.; CBS
Line: Georgia -10; O/U 58.5

The best SEC game of the week may be setting up for an upset in Knoxville. Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel was blown out by Missouri 36-7 last week. Georgia blew out Ole Miss, 52-17. The Dawgs are adamant on their 3-peat quest but it should be close.

Pick: Georgia 33 Tennessee 30

New Mexico St. (8-3) @ Auburn (6-4)
3:00 p.m.; SECN
Line: Auburn -24; O/U 48.5

Auburn absolutely knee-capped Arkansas 48-10, which should hasten Sam Pittman's firing. New Mexico State is having its best season in 65 years with 8 wins. Auburn played its most complete game of the year in Fayetteville, but might play a little too loose on the Plains to cover the spread.

Pick: Auburn 31 New Mexico State 17

Fl. International (4-6) @ Arkansas (3-7)
6:30 p.m.; ESPNU
Line: Arkansas -29.5; O/U 49.5

The Razorbacks officially let go of the rope last week for the 2023 season. The Hogs were down 21-3 in the 1st quarter and 48-3 at the start of the 4th quarter. The game was over early. Arkansas will win this one but it's too little too late for head Hog Sam Pittman.

Pick: Arkansas 37 Fl. International 13

Florida (5-5) @ #9 Missouri (8-2)
6:30 p.m.; ESPN
Line: Missouri -11.5; O/U 58.5

The second best SEC matchup will be a battle of the East's old guard stalwart, Florida, against the new kid on the block, Missouri. The Tiger's only losses are to #1 Georgia and at #15 LSU. Head coach Eli Drinkwitz has perched #9 Missouri at its highest CFP ranking ever. The Gators led LSU in the third quarter last week but gave up 702 yards of offense to Jayden Daniels and got beat 52-35. Black and Gold rolls.

Pick: Missouri 43 Florida 27

Kentucky (6-4) @ South Carolina (4-6)
6:30 p.m.; SECN
Line: South Carolina +1; O/U 54.5

South Carolina has to beat Kentucky and then beat Clemson in the season finale to get a bowl game, which is doable. Kentucky needs to beat the Gamecocks and then #10 Louisville to get a good bowl destination. More motivation on the "Cocks at home.

Pick: South Carolina 31 Kentucky 30

Georgia State (6-4) @ #15 LSU
7:00 p.m.; ESPN2
Line: LSU -31; O/U 71.5

This line should be bigger in a night game in Baton Rouge. LSU's Jayden Daniels solidified his Heisman chances when he became the first player in FBS history to throw for 350 yards and rush for 250 yards. Amazing athleticism and he makes good decisions. He'll be on the bench for most of the second half of this one.

Pick: LSU 49 Georgia State 17

SEC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
WEST		
Alabama	7-0	9-1
Ole Miss	5-2	8-2
LSU	5-2	7-3
Texas A&M	4-3	6-4
Auburn	3-4	6-4
Miss State	1-6	4-6
Arkansas	1-6	3-7
EAST		
Georgia	7-0	10-0
Missouri	4-2	8-2
Tennessee	3-3	7-3
Kentucky	3-4	5-5
Florida	3-4	6-4
S. Carolina	2-5	4-6
Vanderbilt	0-7	2-9

Big 12 football predictions - Week 12



Iowa State has won three of the last four games against Texas at home in Ames

By Barry Lewis

It's crunch time. With two games left, five teams still hope to be bowl eligible.

We've made it to Week 12. There are two weeks left in the regular season and there's still a lot to be worked out. These next two weeks are critical to postseason discussions.

In the last three weeks, Texas has let their opponent get back into the game in the 4th quarter. Will they do it again in Week 12 against Iowa State?

No team has secured a spot in the Big 12 Championship game. Texas has the most straightforward path but needs a win this week to secure the spot. Oklahoma State still controls its destiny, as it holds the tiebreaker over Oklahoma and Kansas State. However, Iowa State has the tiebreaker over the Pokes, and if the Cyclones can beat Texas this week, it creates all sorts of intriguing bits of chaos.

2023 Big 12 Predictions Results

On the season, I am 57-34 (.626). Last week, I went 5-2. I thought Kansas could beat Tech. And I certainly thought Cincinnati would remain winless in Big 12 play. I was wrong on both accounts.

BYU (5-5) vs. #14 Oklahoma (8-2) Saturday, 11 a.m., ESPN Line: Oklahoma -24.5 / 57

BYU needs to win one more game to go bowling. It's either this week or next in Stillwater. They may not make it to six wins. Oklahoma, after losing two straight, steamrolled West Virginia last week. The 24.5-point line in OU's favor is by far the

largest line in any Big 12 game this week-end. Sooners win big and keep hopes alive for a rematch with Texas or OSU. Pick: Oklahoma 38 BYU 17

West Virginia (6-4) vs. Cincinnati (3-7) Saturday, 1:30 p.m., ESPN+ Line: West Virginia -6.5 / 54.5

Remember when the Mountaineers were at the top of the standings and thought the only thing between them and a berth in the championship was the Oklahoma game? That game was last week and didn't do the Mountaineers much good. Instead, the Sooners eliminated West Virginia from contention in the championship game. Cincinnati, on the other hand, got their first-ever conference win over Houston. This might be a close game, but it's in Morgantown. West Virginia pulls out the win.

Pick: West Virginia 31 Cincinnati 14

TCU (4-6) vs. Baylor (3-7) Saturday, 2:30 p.m., ESPN+ Line: TCU -13.5 / 58.5

Welcome to the inaugural Bluebonnet Battle. TCU is in a must-win situation. They need to beat Baylor and somehow beat Oklahoma in Norman to secure a post-season bowl. If they don't, they will become the first team not in a COVID-19-shortened year to make the CFP one year and miss out on a bowl game the next. Baylor would like nothing more than to send the Frogs packing. These games always seem dramatic, no matter how good or bad these teams are. Both teams are having off years. TCU finally stops its skid

and wins this one by only one possession. Pick: TCU 33 Baylor 24

Houston (4-6) vs. #23 Oklahoma St.(7-3) Saturday, 3 p.m., ESPN2 Line: Oklahoma State -7 / 60

The Pokes got spanked last weekend in Fantasyland. However, despite two losses, they still own the tiebreaker over Kansas State and Oklahoma. Look for OSU to rebound after that loss and ensure Houston won't go bowling this year. Pick: Oklahoma State 42 Houston 38

Texas Tech (5-5) vs. UCF (5-5) Saturday, 4 p.m., FS2 Line: Texas Tech -2.5 / 60

Tech was a pre-season favorite to be a spoiler in the league. Now, they must beat UCF or Texas (in Austin) to go bowling. The good news is they get the Knights in Lubbock. UCF had a big win last week over OSU but probably ran out of gas afterward. Look for Tech to take care of business and become bowl-eligible this week.

Pick: Texas Tech 30 UCF 28

#25 Kansas (7-3) vs. #21 Kansas St (7-3) Saturday, 6 p.m., FS1 Line: K-State -8 / 56.5

Now, the Big 12 has two in-state rivalry games named after a state flower. The Sundown Showdown was the original. After its loss to Tech last week, Kansas is no longer in contention for a trip to Arlington. But give Lance Leipold credit – it took until Week 11 to say Kansas would not be in the championship game. That's impressive. Kansas State, though, still has a pathway to make a repeat appearance in Arlington. They need to win out, and OSU needs to lose one more. Both are quite possible. Look for the Cats to claim victory

once again in the Sunflower Showdown. Pick: Kansas State 24 Kansas 21

Iowa State (6-4) vs. #7 Texas (9-1) Saturday, 7 p.m., Fox Line: Texas -7.5 / 47

Iowa State became bowl-eligible last week. Texas is in the driver's seat to be the home team in Arlington but needs to win out to do that. It's a night game in Ames, and that can be tricky. The forecast shows it could be windy and chilly, both factors that could play into an upset. Iowa State has won three of the last four games against Texas in Ames, so there might be some hope for that upset. But with Quinn Ewers back, look for Texas to get a fast start. This time, unlike their last three games, the Longhorns don't let the other team get back into the game in the second half.

Pick: Texas 24 Iowa State 22

Big 12 STANDINGS		
TEAM	Conf.	Overall
Texas	6-1	9-1
Oklahoma St	5-2	7-3
Oklahoma	5-2	8-2
Iowa State	5-2	6-4
Kansas State	5-2	7-3
Kansas	4-3	7-3
Texas Tech	4-3	5-5
WestVirginia	4-3	6-4
TCU	2-5	4-6
Houston	2-5	4-6
Baylor	2-5	3-7
BYU	2-5	5-5
UCF	2-5	5-5
Cincinnati	1-6	3-7

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION
65TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

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SMU vs. Memphis game of the week



This should be the Mustangs' most challenging game this week against Memphis

By Marc Narducci

SMU (8-2) at Memphis (8-2)
Saturday, 11:00a.m / ESPN2
Line: SMU -7.5 / 67.5

Two teams very much in contention for one of the two AAC Championship berths meet when Memphis hosts SMU. No team got a bigger break with the AAC schedule than SMU, and this should be the Mustangs' most challenging game.

Both teams are bowl-eligible, but each is looking for much more.

SMU-Memphis Last Meeting
Last meeting: Nov. 26, 2022, SMU won 34-31 at home.

Brandon Crossley preserved the win by intercepting a Seth Henigan pass in the back of the end zone with two seconds left. Henigan completed 27 of 44 passes for 287 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. Rashee Rice, now with the Kansas City Chiefs, was the offensive star for SMU with 13 receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown.

SMU-Memphis Implications
With two games to play, there are four AAC teams in contention for the two conference title berths, and Memphis and SMU are two of those teams. Realistically, this is a mini-playoff game to get into the championship. The other teams in contention, Tulane and UTSA, are like SMU, 6-0 in AAC play.

The Mustangs have won six in a row, all against AAC competition. SMU's two losses have been on the road against Big 12 teams, Oklahoma and TCU.

The Mustangs lead the AAC in both scoring offense (40.5 points per game) and scoring defense (16.4 points per game allowed) and rank seventh nationally in scoring offense and are tied for ninth in scoring defense.

Preston Stone has completed 58.6% of his passes for 2,589 yards, 23 touchdowns, and six interceptions. Miami transfer Jaylan Knighton has rushed for 640 yards and five touchdowns. SMU has a balanced receiving unit, with 10 players having recorded 16 or more receptions. R.J. Maryland has 25 catches for 355 yards and a team-high six receiving touchdowns. Linebacker Kobe Wilson, a Temple transfer, leads the Mustangs with 53 tackles. SMU is coming off a 45-21 home win over North Texas as Knighton rushed for 129 yards and a touchdown.

The Tigers are second in the AAC in scoring offense, averaging 39.7 points per game. Where they differ from SMU is on defense. Memphis is eighth in the AAC in scoring defense, allowing 28.9 points per game. Since losing 31-21 at home to Tulane, Memphis has won four in a row. But in those games, the Tigers allowed an average of 37.7 points per contest. None of those four teams have a winning record, so

the recent defensive performance of Memphis is a concern.

Henigan has completed 66.3% of his passes for 2,834 yards, 22 touchdowns, and eight interceptions. Blake Watson has rushed for 909 yards and 12 touchdowns. Roc Taylor has 50 receptions for 779 yards and four touchdowns. Linebacker Chandler Martin is tied for second in the AAC with 78 tackles.

Last week, Memphis needed a fourth-quarter comeback to win 44-38 in overtime against a 3-7 Charlotte team. Trailing by 10 points with less than eight minutes left in regulation, the Tigers got an 8-yard touchdown run by Watson and a 41-yard field goal by Tanner Gillis to tie the score with 35 seconds left. Watson's 2-yard touchdown run in overtime was the game-winner after Charlotte missed a 37-yard field goal attempt.

I'm predicting SMU will win and cover the spread at -7.5. The Mustangs have been steamrolling by opponents, while Memphis has struggled to beat sub .500 teams. The fact that SMU has a much better defense will be key.

That is not to say that Memphis isn't capable of covering or winning outright, but the difference could be the ground game. SMU is third in the AAC in rushing, averaging 188.5 yards per game. Memphis is 11th in the conference in rushing defense, allowing 174 yards per game. The Tigers are allowing 4.8 yards per carry, third worst in the AAC.

SMU can use the run to set up the pass, and the Mustangs are capable of scoring big, which they should be able to do against Memphis.

Pick SMU 38 Memphis 28

Other games around the AAC:

South Florida (5-5) at UTSA (7-3)

Friday, 8:00a.m / ESPN2

Line: UTSA -16 / 67

Pick: UTSA 33 USF 20

#24 Tulane (9-1) at FL Atlantic (4-6)

Saturday, 11:00a.m / ESPN+

Line: Tulane -9.5 / 47

Pick: Tulane 28 FAU 17

Rice (4-6) at Charlotte (3-7)

Saturday, 1:00 / ESPN+

Line: Rice -2.5 / 47.5

Pick: Rice 24 Charlotte 21

North Texas (3-7) at Tulsa (3-7)

Saturday, 2:00 / ESPN+

Line: UNT -2 / 68.5

Pick: Tulsa 40 UNT 39

Temple (3-7) at UAB (3-7)

Saturday, 2:00 / ESPN+

Line: UAB -7 / 64.5

Pick: UAB 32 Temple 24

American Athletic Conference		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Tulane	6-0	9-1
SMU	6-0	8-2
UTSA	6-0	7-3
Memphis	5-1	8-2
FL Atlantic	3-3	4-6
USF	3-3	5-5
Navy	3-3	4-5
Rice	2-4	4-6
Charlotte	2-4	3-7
UAB	2-4	3-7
UNT	1-5	3-7
Tulsa	1-5	3-7
Temple	1-5	3-7
EastCarolina	1-5	2-8

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College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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Hundreds of colleges and NFL teams commemorated the 105-year anniversary of Veterans Day (previously Armistice Day on Nov. 11, 1918, at 11:11 a.m., Paris, France, time on the 11th day of the 11th month) with special recognition such as CBS' NFL Game Day crew on the campus of Air Force in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Louisiana College at Texas Wesleyan football contest last Saturday with the ceremonial coin toss pregame performed by U.S. Army veteran (1993-2000), helicopter pilot and 2017 Rams football walkon Sgt. (ret.) Jason Spangler, who made the Rams squad at the age of 50 and was the oldest player in college football in '17.

There are now seven undefeated NCAA FBS schools entering Nov. 14 contests. Air Force (8-1) was the latest team to fall from the ranks of the undefeated after losing to rival Army West Point 24-7, and FBS newcomers unbeaten James Madison (10-0) and Liberty (10-0) continue to astound the experts. There also are 83 FBS members with five or more victories (57 with six victories or more) and one triumph or less away from clinching eligibility for one of the NCAA-record 44 bowls and 82 bids outside the College Football Playoff realm in December and January. There are 34 schools with seven or more losses among

133 members of NCAA FBS and eliminated at this point for postseason FBS activity. Of note, Georgia downed Ole Miss for the Bulldogs 27th consecutive win – the third-longest streak in Southeastern Conference annals and one off two 28-contest winning skeins by Alabama's program from 1978-80 and 1991-93. The third College Football Playoff rankings are set for Tuesday with the four semifinalists denoted and the final survey scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3.

Upcoming NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes presented by Fidelity Investments are Saturday for Corey Moore, Virginia Tech (vs. NC State) and On-Campus Salutes are pending for Reggie Bush, USC; Luke Kuechly, Boston College; and Tim Tebow, Florida.

The NFF is gearing up for the denotation on Wednesday of the 2023 NFF National Faculty Athletics Representative Honorees presented by Fidelity Investments.

The NFF also released the five sterling recipients of the 2023 NFF Chapter Leadership Awards last week. First presented in 1988, the NFF Chapter Leadership Awards annually recognize five chapters' individuals, one from each region of the country, for their commitment, generosity and leadership at the local level in fulfilling the NFF's mission of preserving, promoting and protecting the game of football. This year's awardees are Branan Allison – NFF Bill Ireland/Las Vegas, Nev., Chapter (West Region); Jay Fallon – NFF Joe Yukica/New Hampshire Chapter (Northeast Region); Keith Kilgore – NFF Touchdown Club of Houston Chapter (South Region); Bob Mancuso – NFF Nebraska Chapter (Midwest Region); and Matt May – NFF Greater Baltimore Chapter (East Region).

The current longest NCAA FBS member streaks without a shutout are Florida with a NCAA-record 448 since 1988, TCU with 393 since 1991, Georgia with 369

since 1995, Virginia Tech with 368 since 1995, Nebraska with 349 since 1996 (the only Big Ten Conference team that has scored in every game in the 21st Century), Boise State with 335 since 1997, Alabama with 286 since 2001, and Clemson with 278 since 2003.

The 2023 65th NFF Awards Dinner will be hosted by the ARIA Resort and Casino and City of Las Vegas on Tuesday, Dec. 5. For ticketing and additional information, please access Footballfoundation.com. As the official airline of the NFF, Delta Air Lines is offering special airfares to attendees of the Awards Dinner with the meeting code NM2GQ when booking on via the Delta Meeting Network at 800-328-1111. The NFF also denoted award-winning CBS Sports analyst and former Tennessee standout Charles Davis as master of ceremonies for the Dec. 5 confab. The annual Sports Business Journal Athletics Forum also takes place in and around the Las Vegas ceremonies from Dec. 5-7 and has 36 major administrators and national leaders in sports on its speakers' list.

Quarterback Tyler Huff of Furman is the 12th recipient of the Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the FWAA. Coordinated by the staff at the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl, the Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the FWAA was created in June 2012 to honor an individual and/or a group with a military background, or involvement with the military that has made an impact on college football. ESPN also featured Huff on a national SportsCenter telecast on Nov. 9. Huff was selected from a list of 46 nominations (41 individuals and five programs) as the 2023 recipient by a nine-person committee made up of FWAA members and Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl officials. He was commissioned from Presbyterian into the U. S. Army Reserves on May 13, 2022. He will depart Jan. 8, 2024, to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for active duty training through May 7, 2024. Through games of Nov. 10, Huff paced the Paladins to an 8-1 record this season and a No. 2 ranking in the NCAA FCS national poll with 1,977 total offense yards - 488 yards rushing with five TDs and 1,489 yards passing with nine TD. He opened his Furman career by leading the Paladins to the 2022 FCS playoffs and a 10-3 mark with 694 yards rushing and eight TDs and 2,199 yards passing with 15 TDs.

The NFF also is offering a special 76th anniversary membership appreciation package for the Protector of the Game Project with the countless NFF supporters who have advanced football since 1947. As part of its celebration, the NFF has created a special commemorative 76th anniversary T-

shirt. Fans can join as a Silver Member and receive a high-performance commemorative two-color "Spirit of 76 Years" T-shirt with or as a Gold Member to receive the T-shirt with a four-color logo. Please access the membership offer via Footballfoundation.org and go to the membership link.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Nov. 13-19 time period are Nov. 13 (1900) Eddie Anderson, Oskaloosa, Iowa; (1934) Bob Pellegrini, Williamsport, Pa.; (1963) Vinny Testaverde, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Nov. 14 (1871) Charles Wharton, Magnolia, Del.; (1926) Tubby Raymond, Flint, Mich.; (1972) Aaron Taylor (Notre Dame), San Francisco, Calif.; Nov. 15 (1890) Shorty Miller, Harrisburg, Pa.; (1898) Frank Thomas, Muncie, Ind.; (1907) Volney Ashford, Chicago, Ill.; (1950) Otis Armstrong, Chicago, Ill.; (1981) Boomer Grigsby, Canton, Ill.; Nov. 16 (1965) Gordie Lockbaum, Medina, Pa.; (1978) Eric Crouch, Omaha, Neb.; Nov. 17 (1908) John Cain, Montgomery, Ala.; (1939) Willie Richardson, Clarksdale, Miss.; Nov. 18 (1896) Slip Madigan, Ottawa, Ill.; (1934) Paul Wiggin, Modesto, Calif.; (1948) Jack Tatum, Cherryville, N.C.; (1969) Raghib Ismail, Elizabeth, N.J.; Nov. 19 (1947) Mike Phipps, Shelbyville, Ind.; (1949) Ahmad Rashad (nee' Bobby Moore), Portland, Oregon.

Some notable anniversaries of passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are Nov. 13 (1967) George McLaren, Towson, Md.; (1978) Allyn McKeen, Montgomery, Ala.; (2020) Paul Hornung, Louisville, Ky.; (2021) Sam Huff, Winchester, Va.; Nov. 14 (1995) Les Horvath, Glendale, Calif.; (2016) Bob Gain, Willoughby, Ohio; Nov. 15 (1974) Johnny Mack Brown, Beverly Hills, Calif.; (1992) Carl Hinkle, Little Rock, Ark.; Nov. 17 (2001) Billy Vessels, Coral Gables, Fla.; (2006) Bo Schembechler, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Nov. 18 (1977) Davey O'Brien, Ft. Worth, Texas; Nov. 19 (1982) Ray Morrison, Miami Springs, Fla.; (2020) Jake Scott, Atlanta, Georgia.

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born Nov. 13 Vinny Testaverde, Nov. 14 Aaron Taylor Nov. 15 Boomer Grigsby, Nov. 16 Gordie Lockbaum, Eric Crouch, Nov. 17 Willie Richardson, Clarksdale, Miss.; Nov. 18 Raghib Ismail, Nov. 19 Ahmad Rashad...

Schedules:

Pittsburgh and Syracuse played at historic Yankee Stadium last week to help celebrate the first college contest at the historic site on Oct. 20, 1923, between the same two schools. The initial meeting was

(continued on page 16)

3-0 Syracuse verdict...Northwestern State will meet Southeast Missouri State in 2024 and will travel to Minnesota in 2025...Cal Poly will visit Arizona State in '27....
...Virginia Tech will host Liberty in 2027..
...Rutgers and Howard will face off at East Brunswick, N.J., in '24...Connecticut will open the 2026 outing at home against Lafayette on Sept. 5...The Louisiana at Troy contest Saturday will be a special NFL Network national telecast at 2:30 p.m. (CST)...Two of the SEC's closest all-time series took place in November as Auburn edged ahead of Vanderbilt 22-21-1 and Kentucky took a one-game lead over Mississippi State 26-25 after wins...North Texas and SMU apparently have completed their 43-game series for the time being as SMU starts an Atlantic Coast Conference slate in all sports as a new member in July 2024...5-5 Texas Tech and 5-5 UCF tangle Saturday in Lubbock, Texas, to give the Big 12 Conference at least eight bowl eligible outfits and a chance for more. Both teams pulled solid upsets over Top 25 teams last week (Tech winning 16-13 at Kansas and UCF thumping then-Big 12-co-No. 1 Oklahoma State 45-3).

Good Works:

Butler U. and the Come To Believe Network have created a new two-year college program to assist underserved students in eventual four-year college funding and attendance...Northwestern U. has proposed a \$100 million civic support package to the city of Evanston, Ill., through surcharges on ticket sales and other means...Vanderbilt alumni classes at Reunion 2023 (1973-2018 classes) raised \$704,000-plus for scholarships and the Vandy United 150 Fund...VU athletics also has initiated a Future Fund to help raise needed dollars for the revival of Commodores women's volleyball in August 2025...

Football Coaches:

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh has been suspended for the final three regular-season games by the Big Ten Conference. Harbaugh has said publicly he feels that sign stealing allegations are a NCAA matter rather than Big Ten Conference jurisdiction...Ohio State head coach Ryan Day told reporters he remains focused on getting the Buckeyes back into the College Football Playoffs (OSU was the first winner of that title in January 2015) and trying to avoid everyday distractions...Head coaches Jimbo Fisher (Texas A&M), Andy Avalos (Boise State) and Gerard Wilcher (Morehouse) were relieved of their duties last week. Interim head coaches will be at BSU defensive coordinator Spencer Danielson and at A&M associate head coach Elijah Robertson, Morehouse has finished its '23 season...Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz intends to return for the 2024 season and beyond as he reassures administrators and alumni that his health, vim and vigor still are at high levels for performance in coaching...Former Ole Miss, LSU and USC head coach Ed Orgeron is a spokesperson for sportswear group

Rhoback in an advertising campaign generating nationwide interest...Central Michigan offensive line coach Tavita Thompson and director of recruiting Michael McGee were saluted for their roles in the Chippewas 5-5 mark and possible drive toward bowl eligibility in the Mid-American Conference...

Hometowns of more 2023 college head coaches – Northeastern Oklahoma State: J.J. Eckert, Tahlequah, Okla.; Northern Arizona: Chris Ball, St. Louis, Mo.; Northern Michigan: Shane Richardson, Marquette, Mich.; Northern State: Mike Schmidt, Menomonie, Wis.; Northwestern: David Braun (interim), Wales, Wisconsin.

Directors of Athletics:

Butler director of athletics Barry Collier will retire in 2024 after 18 years at the helm ...Florida Gulf Coast AD Ken Kavanagh will retire in June after 15 years at the university...UAB gave a June 2028 contract extension to AD Mark Ingram...
...UC Davis AD Rocko DeLuca explained rewards and challenges in his first two years as AD, challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, managing finances for 25 varsity sports, and other key day-to-day items...Montana AD and NCAA FCS Selection Committee chair Kent Haslam spoke about the committee's choosing process, the revelation of rankings in fewer weeks this season and all the moving parts almost hourly in a typical FCS season...
...Oregon AD Rob Mullens had recollections about his service as chair of the College Football Playoff Selection Committee, the move to the Big Ten Conference, data analysis, and budgeting proper amounts for the success of student-athletes in playing conditions and in the classroom...Michigan AD Warde Manuel did not travel to Grapevine, Texas, for the Nov. 5-6 College Football Playoff selection committee meetings and attended via a Zoom link because of pressing matters in Ann Arbor...Arkansas State AD Jeff Purinton addressed leadership qualities that he gained from working with Alabama head coach Nick Saban for 15 seasons...
...AL.com highlighted the accomplishments of Auburn John Cohen in his first full year on the job...BYU AD Brother Tom Holmoe continues to come with an interesting array of Halloween costumes, including one with a Harry Potter motif this year...The U. of South Carolina Public Relations Student Society of America chapter place the Alumni Spotlight on USC executive associate AD Charles Bloom for his leadership and accomplishments last week...Former Chicago State AD Elliott Charles has taken over as deputy AD at Long Island...Former Buffalo deputy AD Nate Willis is moving to the UB campus business office as unit officer for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences...Nebraska added Derek Freeman as senior associate AD for development...
...Alabama A&M selected Ruben Perez as associate AD for external affairs...Kansas men's basketball head coach Bill Self has

received in essence a lifetime contract every five years with a base compensation contract of \$11-13 million annually plus incentives...Florida State women's basketball head coach Brooke Wyckoff had surgery for breast cancer last week, is recovering and awaiting continued treatment...
....Texas State president Dr. Kelly Damp-housse dipped his feet into the waters of the San Marcos River to celebrate the Bobcats post-2023 bowl eligibility for the first time in TSU history...Washington State president Dr. Kurt Schulz notified the Cougar Nation about developments within the department, the future of the SWU-Washington Apple Cup series and Pac-12 Conference last week...Bryant men's basketball head coach Jared Grasso is seeking to return to full duties after a recent suspension...Cleveland State, Bradley, Boston College, Illinois State, and Jacksonville U. are looking for new women's soccer head coaches for the 2024-25 season...D1Ticker.com has other listings for positions in athletics for Clemson, Memphis, Penn State, Southeastern, West Virginia, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Kansas, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Washington, and Wyoming.

The Conferences:

Two of the newest members of Conference USA will tangle in the CUSA title game at Lynchburg, Va., on Friday, Dec. 1, as Liberty will host New Mexico State. Both teams are bowl eligible and playing in the grid championship game for the initial time after clinching first and second place last week...Atlantic 10 Conference commissioner Bernadette McGlade professed some opinions about the changes in the selection process for the 2024 NIT, television ratings and A-10 basketball progress in 2023-24. She also acknowledged the history of A-10 football before the CAA assumed A-10 football playing members in 2007-08...Five Big 12 Conference members were undefeated at home through games of Nov. 8. They are BYU, Kansas, Kansas State, Texas, and Oklahoma...The Ivy League inks has an extension in its membership with WeCOACH for the complete 2023-24 academic year...Big Ten Conference head coaches have urged ethical practices and strict following of league off-field rules after recent investigations...Mountain West Conference commissioner Gloria Nevarez and former BYU and Virginia head coach Bronco Mendenhall visited on the podcast HeadCoachU about MWC-Pac-12 Conference merger possibilities, recent NIT berth regulations concerning Group of Five conferences and student-athletes being regarded as university employees due to NIL agreements or other monetary considerations...Former Big Ten Conference commissioner Jim Delany was on the Navigating Sports Business podcast and discussed how numerous factors and feedback from members go into every major decision made on the FBS conference level...Current Big Ten Conference commissioner Tony Petitti had a 90-minute

conference call with circuit head coaches to discuss developments related to ethical practices and on-field conduct...Big West Conference commissioner Dan Butterly acknowledges that he often attends Big West events incognito and has been impressed with league-wide sportsmanship and game management...AJ Chastonay of Belmont and Jaclyn Oblena of UIC were featured athletes in the Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete Spotlight presented by State Farm...The Big 12 Conference started gridiron competition on Nov. 11 with seven teams within one game of its top placement and eight schools qualified or within one victory of bowl eligibility...Benedict (S.C.) closed at 11-0 after downing Tuskegee in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game nationally-televised on ESPN ...Louisiana Christian clinched the NAIA Championship Series bid for the Sooner Athletic Conference on a last-second field to down homestanding Texas Wesleyan 34-24 to break a tri-championship tiebreaker with Wesleyan and Ottawa (Ariz.) by downing the Rams by nine points or higher last Saturday. Wesleyan again was within one point of making its first trek to postseason football play in school history with a combined overall record of 24-7 over the last three seasons under head coach Joe Prud'homme and shares of the last two SAC crowns.

The Bowls:

Avocados From Mexico will be the new title sponsor for the Cure Bowl in Orlando, Fla., Dec. 16...The Top 10 teams in College Football Playoff appearances (56 total from 2014-23) are Alabama 56, Ohio State 56, Clemson 51, Oklahoma 48, Notre Dame 45, Georgia 44, Utah 44, LSU 41, Oklahoma State 40, and Michigan 39...
....Ohio State was CFP No. 1 in the second rankings for back-to-back weeks last Tuesday on the merits of the Buckeyes strength of schedule...Teams achieving their highest rankings in the 2023 CFP Top 25 are Ohio State (1st, tied), Texas (7th), Missouri (12th), Louisville (11th), Kansas (16th), and Air Force (25th)...There were 30 undefeated teams in the final Bowl Championship Series rankings from 1998-2013 while there have been 23 unbeaten schools in the final CFP calculations from 2014-22...Most NCAA FBS football conference championships (won or shared) all-time by current respective conferences through the 2022 season are: American: UCF 4; ACC: Clemson 22; Big Ten: Michigan 44; Big 12: Oklahoma 14; Conference USA: 2 by seven teams – last with two: UTSA, 2021-22; MAC: Toledo 12; MWC: Boise State 4; Pac-12: USC 39; SEC: Alabama 29; Sun Belt: Troy 7...James Madison administrators and the governor's office in Virginia are seeking relief from the two-year transition period from FCS to NCAA FBS to allow 10-0 JMU play in a post-2023 bowl tussle...Clemson has qualified for its 24th consecutive bowl contest after winning last week.

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The Players:

Oklahoma QB Dillon Gabriel tossed a school-record eight TD passes against West Virginia...Liberty RB Quinton Cooley rushed for a career-most 179 yards on 23 attempts to lead the undefeated Flames past Louisiana Tech, Sam Houston DB Da'Marcus Crosby had 10 total stops and one interceptions in the Bearkats victory over Kennesaw State, and Sam Houston kicker Colby Sessums made a game-winning field goal from 35 yards against KSU to tally top showings in Conference USA clashes. Liberty QB Kaiden Salter paced the Flames past Old Dominion with three TD aerials to run LU's record to 10-0 last weekend...James Madison QB Jordan McCloud passed for a career-most 457 yards and four TDs in a triumph over Connecticut...NC State LB Payton Wilson remains strongly in the running for ACC Defensive Players of the Year and other national laurels...Iowa State safety Jeremiah Cooper has been rated by one publication as the top sophomore defensive back nationally...Penn State OL Junior Olumuyiwa Fashanu continues to show why he is one of the most dependable blockers in the Big Ten with 10 consecutive starts this fall...UAB quarterback Jacob Zeno threw for a school-record 484 yards in a win over Florida Atlantic The Palm Beach County Sports Commission Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award presented by the Orange Bowl's Stars of the Week were Texas' Bert Auburn's with a fourth field goal to give the Longhorns a 33-30 overtime victory over Kansas State, Arkansas' Cam Little with a career-high four three-pointers in a 39-36 extra stanzas' triumph at Florida, SMU's Collin Rogers with a decisive, personal-best 51-yard field goal to seal a 36-31 victory at Rice to keep SMU 5-0 in the American Athletic Conference...Omaha World-Herald sportswriter and retired sports editor Steve Sinclair is looking forward to viewing his grandson Jackson Williams play for his '24 pledge and FCS power North Dakota State...Will Putnam of Clemson had the highest grade on the offensive line in a key win over Notre Dame to net FWAA Outland Trophy National Player of the Week honors...Clemson LB Jeremiah Trotter Jr. was the FWAA Bronko Nagurski Award Player of the Week after making a game-best 11 tackles with 2.5 TFL and a pair of QB sacks in a triumph over Notre Dame....Alabama QB Jalen Milroe was the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week after rushing for a school-QB-record four touchdowns and passing for 219 yards in a win over then-No. 14 LSU. Milroe also became the first Bama signal caller to rush for three TDs and pass for a trio of scores in one game against Kentucky last Saturday...The Augusta Sports Council and the Ray Guy Award tabbed Porter Wilson of Duke as the Ray Guy Award Punter of the Week for Week after he punted seven times for a

45.4 average against Wake Forest...Washington RB Dillon Johnson rushed for 256 yards and four touchdowns on 26 carries against USC to gain Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week...Michigan RB Blake Corum has stated that he has had no NIL or other relationships with former UM football staffer Connor Stalions...Arkansas' Trevon Brazile is back at full speed this month...Cedar Hill (Texas) QB Anthony Edwards recovered from a rare muscle disorder to lead his squad to a '23 playoff berth.

Around the Gridiron and Campus:

The U.S. Air Force service branch and the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are in a joint project with Air Force athletics for updates to Air Force's Cadet Field House with new flooring, ice rink improvements and replacing the air control system at the facility. It is a \$133 million upgrade to be completed in 2025...Wyoming is set to start its Restore the War renovation project for the West Side of War Memorial Stadium in late November with \$20 million in private funding and grants from the Wyoming legislature...UNI athletics received \$1 million from the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors for new construction on the UNI-Dome...Rhode Island athletics will undertake a \$20 million fundraising appeal to update facilities along with the \$65.8 million Rhode Island Capital Plan funding from the 2024 state budget...UCF athletics will remain with Nike for apparel and marketing considerations through the 2028-29 competitive year...Iowa's defense led all FBS schools through Nov. 9 games with a yield of 4.8 yards per opposing team pass attempts and 8.5 yards per pass completion...Michigan football did not attempt a pass in the second half of last week's 24-15 win at Penn State Nebraska football parked its traveling equipment truck with ample logos outside Logan-Magnolia High School in Iowa last week to encourage All-State OL Grant Brix of the school to keep Nebraska on his go-to verbal commitment list...Tennessee State has introduced the Tigers Forward strategic plan with commitment to quality competition, community involvement and assisting student-athletes to excel in the classroom...Last Thursday was the 100-year anniversary of the first meeting of Louisiana and Southern Miss during the 1923 campaign...William & Mary athletics has a new nine-display, center court LED scoreboard system at Kaplan Arena...Omaha athletics continues to make headway against financial setbacks from the early 2000s thanks to more promotions for home attendance and donor contributions...Cincinnati athletics is remaining with the Nike/Jordan Brand for apparel and marketing resources...The city of Omaha, Neb., also is preparing several wagering parlors after the state legalized sports mutuel activity outside horse racing...West Virginia and the Big 12 Conference released complete 2024 baseball schedules...SMU athletics has introduced a wide

variety of ticket plans for the 2023-24 home season...The Pasadena (Calif.) Police Department has helped return several items stolen from Colorado's locker room when the Buffaloes played UCLA at Rose Bowl Stadium...San Diego State athletics celebrated its 2022-23 men's basketball success in its 2023-24 opener and is using that Final Four® squad model as a paradigm for success in other Aztecs programs...The wireless network at Syracuse's JMA Dome is being re-fashioned as Orange athletics transitions from football to men's and women's basketball...Morgan State football and Norfolk State band officials are looking into a brief scuffle that occurred prior to their Nov. 4 contest in Norfolk, Va...A similar episode happened when a Texas Southern band member and Jackson State fan tangled on Nov. 4 at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson, Miss., with no major injuries. The band member jumped right back to work after the brief altercation and played his sousaphone...Where was the defense? Two opening-round Texas University Inter-scholastic League high school playoff contests last Friday resulted in monster outputs on the scoreboard – Panhandle downed Tahoka 93-54 while Wolfforth Frenship outscored El Paso Eastwood 87-58 in what might have been mistaken for basketball scores...Kentucky athletics has new designs for the Rupp Arna upgrades with new floor, Kentucky Wildcats and state logos and continued commemorations to legendary late UK equipment manager Bill Keightley and Hall of Fame Wildcats radio broadcaster Cawood Ledford...Vanderbilt's Band of Gold marching band has taken to playing Anchors Aweigh (the Navy fight song) to commemorate Vandy's Anchor Down slogan first promoted by now-Penn State head coach James Franklin when he was guiding the Commodores to school-record-setting bowl appearances. Some of the older and long-suffering VU alumni have noted that the Anchor Down slogan also might indicate that a team or ship has dropped anchor in the harbor and is not moving. At any rate, Navy and veterans of the U.S. Navy appreciate the seaworthy song. Also, Vanderbilt Naval ROTC cadets join the Commodores in pregame activities at home games to drop a ceremonial anchor at midfield and to Anchor Down...ExtraPoints.com examined an entity called the Cobblestone Consulting Group, with might be involved in investigating allegations about the Michigan football program...Michigan athletics filed a 10-page response letter to the Big Ten Conference's notice of disciplinary action against head coach Jim Harbaugh...Iowa athletics has plans for a \$27.4 million upgrade at historic Duane Banks Baseball Field...

NFF College Hall of Fame, Other Notables:

Fabled NFF College Hall of Fame coach Fielding Yost was remembered in a recent story for his overall head coaching

record of 198-35-12 (.833 winning percentage) over 27 seasons at Ohio Wesleyan, Nebraska, Kansas, Stanford, San Jose State, and Michigan...Hall of Famer Roger Staubach of Navy has been lending his assistance to several Dallas area charities and football initiatives along with longtime friend and fellow NFF College Hall of Fame player Troy Aikman of UCLA and Oklahoma...One of the American Athletic Conference's top-rated referees Kevin Randall had a good excuse to take one Saturday off this season. He escorted his daughter Freshman Homecoming Maid Katie during ceremonies at Mississippi State. Randall is the son of late highly-regarded defensive line coach at LSU, Mississippi State and Air Force - Craig Randall...Former Boise State quarterback and offensive coordinator Mike Sanford Jr. raised the Blue Chaos flag before Boise State hosted New Mexico on the fabled blue artificial turf at Albertsons Stadium...**Media Musings:**

James Madison will host Appalachian State and ESPN GameDay built by Home Depot this week in a crucial Sun Belt Conference showdown at Harrisonburg, Va. GameDay officials also notified viewers that it would appear in Foxborough, Mass., Dec. 8-9 for the always-competitive and traditional Army West Point-Navy game at Gillette Stadium...With the 2023-24 NCAA transfer coming in less than a month, On3.com's Pete Nakos noted how football programs have been making adjustments to work with current student-athletes on scholarship and balance position needs for the 2024 campaign...USA Today's Steve Berkowitz outlined updated football bonus pacts already secured for head coaches Ole Miss' Lane Kiffin, Coastal Carolina's Tim Beck, Kentucky's Mark Stoops, Arkansas' Sam Pittman, Florida State's Mike Norvell, Army West Point's Jeff Monken, Kansas' Lance Leipold, West Virginia's Neal Brown, Oregon State's Jonathan Smith (including a one-year contract extension), and James Madison's Curt Cignetti....Disney CEO Bob Iger has told shareholders and employers that ESPN will move to discrete cosine transformation format by no later than 2025 and is seeking at least one or two strategic partners during the process...Associated Press surveyed college athletics nationally and found that 80 percent of Power Five conference members has public alcohol sales. Wisconsin still does not sponsor public malt beverage sales for football but is allowing sales at men's and women's basketball and hockey events...ESPN and SEC Network reporter and analyst Andraya Carter is moving to ESPN's College GameDay powered by Home Depot for the remainder of '23...The Georgia-Florida contest in Jacksonville, Fla., was one of the most-watched football games in 2023 with 5.95 million viewers to on CBS-TV...Excel Sports Management has purchased the football division of Rep 1 Sports with the combined new entity Excel Football...The

NBA and Diamond Sports have a new contract for one season to guarantee that Bally Sports Regional Sports Networks will air NBA contests through the end on 2023-24 with the NHL still in negotiations with Bally Sports...The WeWork office group, once valued at \$47 billion, has declared bankruptcy...The Disney Co. has tabbed Hugh Johnston as chief financial officer...USA Today's Dan Wolken had thoughts about how much longer March Madness can continue without making major changes in several areas in sponsorships, financial considerations and diversity decisions...Altius Sports Partners has been purchased by marketing group Underdog & Company with private equity provided by NewSpring Holdings....The Action Network's Brett McMurphy detailed Big Ten Conference activity and investigation of possible sideline sign identification...ESPN's College GameDay powered by Home Depot visited Athens, Ga., last weekend for the Top 10 Ole Miss at Georgia tussle while FOX's Big Noon Kickoff featured Michigan at Penn State in a Big Ten Conference headliner...The new Selloutcrowd.com website includes major insight on Oklahoma area and college sports with the likes of national award-winning columnists Berry Tramel and Jenni Carlson...The Michigan Insider's Sam Webb related that Michigan athletics may file jurisprudence proceedings to protect UM football coaches or the team from Big Ten Conference or NCAA sanctions in '23...The Athletic surmised about possible repercussions involving allegations about stealing other teams' signs and signals in college football...Insight Sports Advisors' Debbie Spander wrote an editorial for Sportico.com essentially about NCAA self-governance policies for 117 years...HBCU Gameday's Steven Gaither updated the AD's search at South Carolina State and possibilities for interim AD Keshia Campbell...The Nov. 5 women's volleyball doubleheader with Michigan, Ohio State, Minnesota, and Wisconsin on FOX Sports had 1.659 million Nielsen Ratings' viewers an all-time record for that sport's telecasts...Sports Illustrated's Richard Johnson told of a one-hour discussion with U.S. president Joe Biden and former LSU/ Pittsburgh Steelers safety Ryan Clark, Rod Gilmore of Stanford, NFF College Hall of Fame member Desmond Howard of Michigan, and Kevin Negandhi of Temple to discuss various and sundry current even topics in college football...The Athletic noted that there are allegations that Ohio State, Rutgers and Purdue may have shared possibilities with NCAA enforcement about Michigan sign stealing prior to the 2022 Big Ten championship contest...

FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:

The national fan voting for the Bear Bryant Coach of the Year Award presented by Accenture is available through Dec. 16 via this link: <https://bryantawards.org/fan-vote/>...The Nov. 12 FWAA NFF Grantland Rice Super 16 FBS poll has Nos. 1-5

Georgia, Michigan, Ohio State, Florida State. and Washington...Oklahoma State was the Cheez-It FWAA National Team of the Week after downing rival Oklahoma in the 119th holding of the fabled Bedlam Series...The recent AFCA FCS Coaches' Top 25 poll features Top Five honorees South Dakota State (winner of 23 consecutive contests), Furman, Montana, Idaho, and Montana State...The AFCA Division II coaches poll rated these teams as Top Five - Colorado School of Mines, (tie) Pittsburg State and Harding, Slippery Rock, and Benedict (S.C.)...The AFCA Division III Top 25 poll has Top Five members North Central (Ill.), Mount Union, Wartburg (Iowa), Linfield (winner of a school-record 34 consecutive conference crowns), and Trinity (Texas) - the same order for the last five weeks...The final NAIA Top Five schools nationally prior to 2023 NAIA playoffs are Montana-Western, College of Idaho, Northwestern (Iowa), Carroll (Mont.), and Indiana Wesleyan. Northwestern is the No. 1 seed in the 20-team NAIA Championship Series, which starts Saturday and concludes with the NAIA title contest Dec. 18 in Durham, N.C....College Sports Communicators members featured in the news and on social media posts in recent days are Bryan Johnson of Georgia Southern, Allison George of Georgia State, Mike Flynn of Georgia Tech, Derek Inouchi of Hawai'i, and Andrew Pate of Houston...Arizona State, Iowa, Louisville, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Montana, New Mexico State, Northwestern, UCLA, and USC have been conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The NCAA revealed lesser penalties for involvement with sports wagering during enactments last week...The NCAA is looking into possible sign stealing during a Central Michigan contest earlier this year by a currently unidentified sideline observer. CMU officials stated that the observer was not part of the school's football staff...NCAA president Charlie Baker again expressed surprise and some angst about the dissolution of the Pac-12 Conference as 12 members are leaving the loop. Baker also has growing concern about "prop" wagers in college football (estimated to be in the \$10 million range) where people can wager on which team wins the toss, who completes the first pass, particular individual game statistics for football student-athletes as well as point spreads and over-under teams' final combined point totals...Nine Republican state governors composed a joint letter to the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports concerning the NCAA's transgender student-athlete policy and how it might cause injuries and competitive advantages...The 42nd annual NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship has top seeds Florida State, Clemson, UCLA, and BYU are first-time entries Idaho, Maine, Ohio, and Towson.



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