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SMU Mens Basketball 2020 Preview

Nov. 20 - Nov. 26, 2020

Vol. 19, Issue 13

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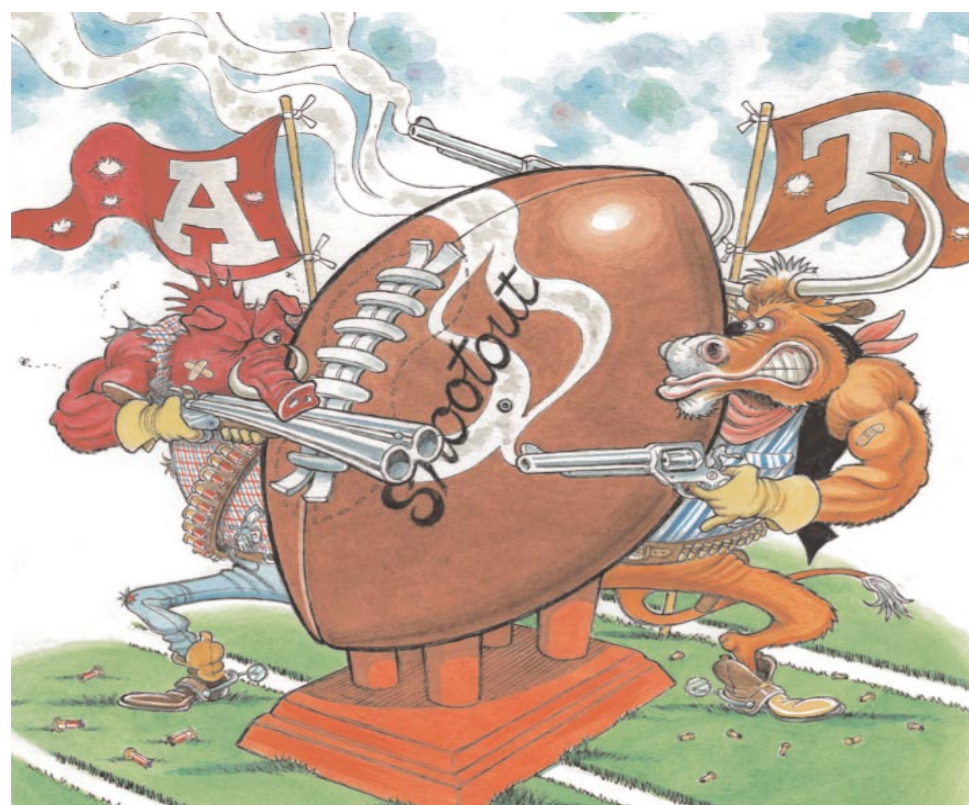
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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Big 12 Championship tickets on sale



Big 12 Football Championship Tickets on Sale Friday

Tickets for the 2020 Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship game will go on sale Friday, November 20, at 10 a.m.

The game will be played Saturday, December 19 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Due to decreased stadium capacity, a limited number of tickets will be available to the public at price ranges of \$65, \$95, \$145 and \$195.

Tickets may be purchased online only via SeatGeek at <https://big12.us/2Uogq7Q>. Tickets will not be sold through the Big 12 Conference office or the AT&T Stadium Ticket Office."

Each participating university will be allotted approximately 4,500 tickets, which will become available upon qualification for the championship and distributed by the respective participants' ticket office. Additionally, 500 student tickets at \$50 each will be sold only through the participants' ticket office.

The championship game will feature the two teams that finish the regular season with the highest winning percentage in conference games. The team that finishes first will be designated as the home team and occupy the South bench.



Major League Cricket to convert Airhogs Stadium in Grand Prairie

Grand Prairie is trying to make the city a premier destination for cricket fans. The city council unanimously approved a project to renovate Airhogs Stadium near Lone Star Park, north of Interstate 30. The stadium was home to a minor league baseball team for about 10 years. But the team never really caught on with fans.

The plan now is to turn the baseball diamond into a Major League Cricket field. Grand Prairie will kick in \$1.3 million for the project and Major League Cricket will spend at least that much to renovate and expand the stadium's current 5,400 seating capacity.

This will be the organization's first major cricket stadium in the United States. The parent company of MLC, American Cricket Enterprises (ACE) -- in cooperation with USA Cricket, the national governing body for cricket in the United States -- has retained the internationally renowned design firm HKS to repurpose and design what will be just the second professional-level cricket stadium ever built in the United States.

One of the best sports performance facilities in minor league baseball during its previous life as the home of the Texas AirHogs, the soon-to-be renamed stadium

will now become a dedicated world-class cricketing facility. The redevelopment of the venue is scheduled to take place throughout 2021 before playing host to the Texas franchise of Major League Cricket that will launch by 2022, as well as a base for the USA Cricket National team and its premier high performance center.

OMNI RESORTS barton creek | austin

Omni Barton Creek Resort and Spa host 2022 PGA Professional Championship

The PGA of America earlier this week announced that the Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa in Austin will host the PGA Professional Championship presented by Cadillac, Club Car and OMEGA, the world's largest all-professional event, on its Fazio Foothills (primary) and Coore-Crenshaw Courses in April of 2022.

The 54th PGA Professional Championship will feature a 312-Member nationwide field

In 2019, Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa hosted the PGA Cup and the Women's PGA Cup...both won by U.S. Teams...as well as the Senior PGA Professional Championship presented by Cadillac. Omni Barton Creek was slated to host the 2020 PGA Professional Championship in April.

Begun in 1968, the PGA Professional Championship is the showcase event for PGA Professionals and offers a \$675,000 purse. The field includes players advancing from Sectional Championships, past Champions and the top 20 players and ties from the previous year's Championship. The low 20 scorers in 2022 at Barton Creek earn a berth in the 2022 PGA Championship.

NCAA Football - Top 25

Coaches (Week of 11/16/20) AP

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Alabama | 1. Alabama |
| 2. Notre Dame | 2. Notre Dame |
| 3. Ohio State | 3. Ohio State |
| 4. Clemson | 4. Clemson |
| 5. Florida | 5. Texas A&M |
| 6. Texas A&M | 6. Florida |
| 7. Cincinnati | 7. Cincinnati |
| 8. BYU | 8. BYU |
| 9. Miami | 9. Indiana |
| 10. Indiana | 10. Wisconsin |
| 11. Georgia | 11. Oregon |
| 12. Wisconsin | 12. Miami |
| 13. Oregon | 13. Georgia |
| 14. Oklahoma State | 14. Oklahoma State |
| 15. Marshall | 15. Marshall |
| 16. Iowa State | 16. Coastal Carolina |
| 17. Oklahoma | 17. Iowa State |
| 18. Coastal Carolina | 18. Oklahoma |
| 19. USC | 19. Northwestern |
| 20. Northwestern | 20. USC |
| 21. Auburn | 21. Liberty |
| 22. Liberty | 22. Texas |
| 23. Texas | 23. Auburn |
| 24. North Carolina | 24. Louisiana |
| 25. Louisiana | 25. Tulsa |

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	OCTOBER 20 FRIDAY	OCTOBER 21 SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 22 SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 23 MONDAY	NOVEMBER 24 TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 25 WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBER 26 THURSDAY
★			Dallas at Minnesota 3:25 / FOX				
SMU		SMU vs Houston 11:00 / ESPN					
TCU		OFF WEEK NEXT: at Kansas					
TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY							
FC DALLAS			FC Dallas vs Portland 9:00 PM				

Mavs take Arizona forward in 18th



**MAVERICKS SELECT FORWARDS
JOSH GREEN AND TYRELL TERRY**

DALLAS— The Dallas Mavericks announced they have selected forward Josh Green with the 18th overall pick and forward Tyrell Terry with the 31st overall pick in the 2020 NBA Draft.

Green (6-6, 210) was an early-entry candidate to this year’s draft after spending one season at Arizona. In his lone season with the Wildcats, the native of Australia started all 30 games he appeared in and averaged 12.0 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.53 steals per game. Green ranked sixth in the PAC-12 in steals last season.

Terry (6-2, 160) was also an early-entry candidate to this year’s draft after spending one season at Stanford. The Minneapolis native played 31 games with the Cardinal, averaging 14.6 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.39 steals per game. Terry’s 14.6 ppg ranked second in scoring average amongst freshman in Stanford history.

They have also signed guard/forward Josh Richardson and the draft rights to Tyler Bey, the 36th overall pick in the 2020 NBA Draft, in exchange for guard Seth Curry.

Richardson (6-5, 200) owns career averages of 12.4 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 30.7 minutes in 314 games (243 starts) over five seasons with Miami and Philadelphia. Last season, as a member of the 76ers, Richardson contributed 13.7 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.9 assists in 55 games (53 starts).

After being drafted by the Heat with the 40th overall pick of the 2015 NBA Draft, Richardson played four seasons in Miami before being dealt to Philadelphia as part of a four-team deal last summer. The Edmond, Oklahoma, native played four years at Tennessee where, following his senior season, he was named First Team All-SEC and to the SEC All-Defensive and

the Defensive All-American teams. Bey (6-7, 216) was an early-entry candidate to the 2020 NBA Draft following his junior season at Colorado. The Las Vegas native averaged 13.8 points, 9.0 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 1.5 steals and 1.0 blocks while shooting 53.0% (140-364 FG) from the field last season for the Buffaloes. Among conference leaders, the 2019-20 Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year ranked first rebounding, fifth in steals, seventh in blocks and ninth in field goal shooting.

Last season, Curry averaged 12.4 points, 2.3 rebounds and 1.9 assists in 64 games in his second stint with the Mavericks.

Another signee is Gastonia, NC-native and University of Houston guard Nate Hinton plans to sign with the Dallas Mavericks. The 6-foot-6, 210-lb and 6’9” wingspan Hinton left the University of Houston early to pursue a professional career after finishing among the top five leaders in offensive and defensive rebounding in the American Athletic Conference.

“I am honored to have been chosen by the Dallas Mavericks. I look forward to my new career in Dallas and contributing to the team. I’ve got my foot in the door, and I was hungry but now I’m hungrier. It will be a true blessing, and I thank the coaching staff and administrators for their faith in my ability.”

Hinton who averaged 10.6 points and 8.7 rebounds per game as a sophomore with the Cougars, also previously has met numerous NBA teams. Known for his unique playing style, Hinton has many analysts proclaiming that he is the best rebounding guard in the 2020 draft.

“We are honored to have our son join the Dallas Mavericks. We are looking forward to seeing his professional career take-off and watching him continue to keep God first,” said Hinton’s parents Dr. Benjamin and Tangela Hinton of Gastonia.



Texas Tech guard Jahmi’us Ramsey went to Sacramento in the second round at No. 43

Four Big 12 Players Selected in NBA Draft

The Big 12 had four players selected in the 2020 NBA Draft, including three in the first round to mark the 13th time since inception in 1996-97 that the Conference has produced three or more first round picks.

The Sacramento Kings chose Iowa State guard Tyrese Haliburton as the 12th overall selection. Haliburton is the 41st Cyclone to be drafted and is the third-highest pick in school history. His sophomore season was cut short after 22 games due to a wrist injury.

Kansas center Udoka Azubuike heard his name called as the 27th selection to the Utah Jazz. The 2019-20 Big 12 Player of the Year is the Jayhawks’ 25th first round pick and 40th overall since the NBA adopted a two round draft in 1989.

Guard Desmond Bane is TCU’s first NBA draft selection in 21 years as he was chosen as the 30th and final pick in the first round by the Boston Celtics in a projected trade to the Memphis Grizzlies. Bane is the 18th player drafted all-time

from TCU and the first since 1999. The Kings took a second Big 12 player when they selected Texas Tech guard Jahmi’us Ramsey in the second round at No. 43. The Red Raiders have produced a draft selection in three consecutive years. This year’s draft is the 23rd time in 24 seasons the Big 12 has had at least one first-round choice. It marks the 15th consecutive year that at least one Big 12 student-athlete has been taken in the NBA Draft lottery as one of the top 14 picks.

Overall, 77 players have been chosen in the past 13 drafts. A total of 124 players from the Big 12 have been selected since the first league season.

KU has registered a total of 34 players chosen since the Big 12 began play, more than any other league school. The Texas Longhorns are next among current members with 20 draftees, followed by Iowa State with 14, Oklahoma at 10, Oklahoma State at nine and Baylor with eight. Texas Tech (7), Kansas State (3), West Virginia (1) and TCU (1) round out the Big 12 team draft totals.

Big 12 Selections in the 2020 NBA Draft			
Rd/Pick	Player, Position	School	Team
1/12	Tyrese Haliburton, G	Iowa State	Sacramento Kings
1/27	Udoka Azubuike, C	Kansas	Utah Jazz
1/30	Desmond Bane, G	TCU	Boston Celtics (projected trade to Memphis Grizzlies)
2/43	Jahmi’us Ramsey, G	Texas Tech	Sacramento Kings

Ways to improve scoring



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

I've been fortunate in my 40 plus year career in golf to have studied and worked under some great PGA and PGA Master pros who are all believers in keeping it simple. There is a great saying that I use in my clinics that goes, "Don't pull up the flowers to see how the roots are doing."

Many time golfers might have something out of whack which can be resolved without tearing the whole swing apart to get to the crux of the issue. It especially applies to scoring.

This week's tip is about using common sense to help lower your scores. Awhile back I joked to a friend who was struggling with his game that he must have a 6th sense because there were no signs of the other five. It turns out he was working too hard on things that didn't even pertain to his game. Sometimes the way we see the problem is the problem.

One way of lowering your scores is to become aware of how far you hit each club in your bag. Club selection is a vitally important component to getting scores to go down. You could hit a perfect shot with the wrong club and turn an easy par into a bogey, double bogey or worse because you hit the wrong club. Knowing the distance you get with each club makes club selection more accurate.

The quickest way to determine these distances is to hit several balls with your 9 iron for example and take the average distance and add 10-15 yards for your 8 iron. Continue this process through all your irons. This is an old school method, yet quick for determining your distance with each club if you don't have the time to put in much practice or you don't play a lot. Pros and low handicap players will use up to date modern technology to their advantage to gauge their distances with every club in their bag.

Another thing golfers can do to improve their scoring chances is learn to project to the target. This will not only help with creating better accuracy, but encourage your body motions to swing the club head to and through towards your target. When the projection is positive, as it is in your mind's eye, on the target it will encourage the correct body motions. The target is not where the ball lies, but where you want the ball to go. It comes down to learning how to aim at the intended target. The club face

is the only thing that makes contact with the ball, therefore the club face should be aimed toward the target first with your shoulders paralleling the target line. Do not take your stance first. The feet do not hit the ball, so line up with the club face first, and then take your stance as shown in the photograph. The target is not always the center of the fairway or the green. Ball



flight differs from player to player. If a player fades the ball, his target would be left of center of the fairway off the tee. If he draws the ball, the target would be right of center. One good thing to remember is to aim and shoot away from trouble. If there is trouble on the right side, tee on the right side of the teeing ground. Do the opposite if trouble is on the left side. In other words, tee the ball on the side where the trouble is. On your shots from the fairway to the green line up to the center of the green. If the ball should fade or draw, you are still on the green. By keeping the ball in play and avoiding penalties along the way will help you cut down strokes on your scorecard.

Swing within yourself is another key to having success on the course. I know these days golfers seemed obsessed with power and that can lead to disappointment in the round if you are not careful. Look at what happened with Bryson DeChambeau at last week's Masters where he was the favorite because of his long drives. He ended up getting beat in the final round when he was paired with 63 year old Bernhard Langer (2-time Masters Champion) who he outdrove on average by 80 yards. Langer played his own game and wasn't intimidated because that's a sure way to ruin a round by trying to swing harder to keep up with a stronger player. Over swinging at the ball will create a loss of accuracy lack of solid contact with the ball and loss of distance. So swing within yourself. Don't play someone else's game.

Remember "human felicity is not produced by periodic pieces of good fortune that seldom happen, as by the little advantages that occur every day".

So go ahead and try these simple tips. It's my way of giving you an advantage over your playing partners. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Tom can be contacted at teetimewithtom.com.

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This week on TOUR: RSM Classic



RSM Classic
November 19 - November 22, 2020
Sea Island Golf Club
Saint Simmons Island, Georgia
Purse - \$6,600,000
Winners share: \$1,188,000
Defending Champ - Tyler Duncan

By Adam Stanley
 PGATOUR.COM

The PGA TOUR heads three hours south of Augusta for The RSM Classic, the second-to-last PGA TOUR event of the calendar year.

Tyler Duncan, coming off his Masters debut, will defend his maiden TOUR title while past FedExCup champions Justin Rose, Brandt Snedeker and Henrik Stenson lead the way along with a collection of major champions and Sea Island residents all looking to lift the trophy come Sunday. **FIELD NOTES:** Plenty of Masters competitors will hit the road from Augusta to Sea Island for The RSM Classic including past Masters winners Danny Willett and Zach Johnson... Each of the past seven winners at Sea Island will look to rekindle some old magic this week including 2019 winner Duncan, who is hoping to become the first golfer to successfully defend his title at The RSM Classic... Davis Love III, the longtime host of the event, will not play in 2020 due to a lingering neck injury

... Last year's runner-up (who lost to Duncan in a playoff) Webb Simpson is back to try to avenge 2019's loss... Stewart Cink, Hudson Swafford, Martin Laird, and Brian Gay are winners from the fall who are in the field... Other notable names teeing it up at Sea Island including Jason Day, Shane Lowry, Justin Rose and Tyrrell Hatton.

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. Yardage subject to change. Tom Fazio redid the Seaside Course in 1999, while tournament host Davis Love III and his brother Mark redesigned the Plantation Course for 2019.

STORYLINES: Davis Thompson, the celebrated amateur, will play on the PGA TOUR for the third time this calendar year. He also played the Puerto Rico Open and the U.S. Open – where he led briefly during the first round. Thompson is the No. 1-ranked amateur in the world and will play for the second straight year in Sea Island... Per usual, there are plenty of Sea Island residents teeing it up at The RSM Classic, all of whom are trying to become the first local to actually win the tournament. Kevin Kisner won in 2015 but was living in Sea Island temporarily due to renovations on his home in South Carolina... Five of the 10 RSM Classic winners made the tournament their first PGA TOUR victory including Duncan in 2019.

72-HOLE RECORD: 260, Kevin Kisner (2015)

18-HOLE RECORD: 60, Tommy Gainey (4th round, 2012)

LAST TIME: Tyler Duncan topped Webb Simpson in a playoff to win his first PGA

TOUR title at The RSM Classic in 2019. Simpson was the highest-ranked golfer in the field and appeared to be the man to beat. But Duncan closed with a 25-foot birdie to force a playoff, which he won on the second extra hole. The pair made pars on the first playoff hole but Duncan nailed a 15-footer for birdie, and the win. Duncan had just re-earned his PGA TOUR card via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals, but his closing 65 was tied for the round of the day. Sebastian Munoz finished third, Brendon Todd finished fourth, and Henrik Norlander, Scottie Scheffler, and KH Lee rounded out the top five.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. ET (Golf Channel)

PGA TOUR LIVE: Thursday-Friday, 9:15 a.m.-4 p.m. ET (Featured Groups)

Radio: Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGA-TOUR.com/liveaudio).



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NMLS #1136

SMU Mens Basketball 2020-21 preview



SMU is picked to finish third in the preseason American Athletic Conference poll



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The SMU Mustangs' Men's basketball team opens their season next Wednesday, November 25 with a non-conference game against Sam Houston State at Moody Coliseum. This will be the fifth year of Head Coach Tim Jankovich's tenure leading the Mustangs. Last year's team finished 19-11, which included a 9-9 conference record. That season was of course shortened by the Coronavirus crisis, but the Mustangs' only path to the NCAA Tournament was winning the post-season American Athletic Conference Tournament due to a pitiful non-conference schedule. They went into the AAC tournament, which was cancelled less than an hour prior to the tipoff of the first game, as the seven seed. It was doubtful that the team

would have been invited to the NIT in the likely event that they didn't win the conference tournament.

THE SCHEDULE

The original 2020-2021 schedule has been re-formatted because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The non-conference schedule will feature just five games at this point, but there is the potential to add another. The opponents for the other four non-conference games are Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on November 30, Houston Baptist on December 2, Dayton on December 5, and Vanderbilt on December 8. The Dayton game will be the only road game. The four Moody Coliseum games will tip at 7:00 PM.

The games originally scheduled to be played at Moody Coliseum against Evansville and UNLV have been moved to next season. The home and home series with Arizona State that was scheduled to begin this year in Tempe will start next year. The game that was supposed to be played against Georgia in Moody Coliseum has been cancelled.

The American Athletic conference schedule has not been finalized. It will be expanded from 18 to 20 games with a double round robin format playing each of the

other 10 teams in the conference on a home and home basis. (The conference is down to 11 teams with the departure of Connecticut.)

THE ROSTER

There were no seniors on last year's team. All 13 scholarship players were eligible to return, and all but one did. Isiaha Mike chose to go pro. He signed with a professional team in Germany and was not drafted by an NBA team this week. Once Mike's decision was made known, the Mustangs quickly added Yor Anei, a 6'-10" forward transferring from Oklahoma State. Anei is a junior, and SMU has petitioned the NCAA to make him eligible immediately. There is no answer to the petition at this point.

Point guard Kendric Davis made the All-Conference third team last season. He missed the first four games of the season awaiting word from the NCAA on SMU's waiver request to allow him to play without sitting out a year as a transfer. Davis started every game after becoming eligible averaging 14.2 points and 6.7 assists, and 4.1 rebounds per game and made the AAC weekly honor roll three times, all in weeks during conference play. Named All-Conference first team in this year's confer-

ence preview, he is a junior in eligibility after playing his freshman season at TCU.

Tyson Jolly was named to the preseason All-Conference second team after being named to the All-Conference third team last season. He started every game last year averaging 14.5 points per game to lead the Mustangs and ranked seventh in the conference. He also averaged 6.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game. The Muskogee, Oklahoma native is a junior in eligibility, and he was twice named to the AAC weekly honor roll last season.

To the surprise of many, Feron Hunt is back. The DeSoto High School alum started the first 16 games last season, then came off the bench in all but one of the remaining games. There was a fear that he might leave after being shoved to the bench. He did explore going pro, but ultimately decided to return. He averaged 11 points per game and led the Mustangs in rebounding with 6.7 per game. He also led the team and finished third in conference with a 55.7% shooting percentage.

Junior Emmanuel Bandomel played in every game and started 18 last season. He averaged 6.3 points and 2.6 rebounds per game. Isiah Jasey, a transfer from Texas A&M, wasn't eligible last season until the

first semester ended. He played in 19 games, starting 12 and averaged 2.6 points and 2.5 rebounds per game. He's a senior eligibility-wise. Senior Ethan Chargois played in 28 games, starting 14 last season. He averaged seven points and 3.8 rebounds per game.

Last season was injury riddled for Everett Ray, William Douglas, Jahmar Young and Darius McBride. Ray played 19 games until a knee injury ended his season and averaged 2.7 points and 1.8 rebounds per game. Douglas suffered from an undisclosed illness such that he played in only three games. Young and McBride ended up red shirting, making McBride the only freshman on this year's team.

The exciting player that could make a difference maker on this year's team is Darius McNeil. McNeil transferred from Cal-Berkley after playing two seasons for the Bears. The native Houstonian's request to waive sitting out last season as a transfer was denied by the NCAA. He was a four-star recruit coming out of high school that averaged 11 points per game as a sophomore, playing in 28 of the Bears' 31 games. He's a 6'-3" guard.

Three players may not be with the Mustangs when the season opens next wednesday. Tyson Jolly has not practiced in recent days. Jolly is dealing with a personal problem, and it is not known if he'll be back in time for the season opener.

Also, Yor Anei is dealing with a wrist infection. He is not expected to be able to play until mid-December, but the NCAA has not responded to his request to waive the one year period to sit out as a transfer anyway.

Darius McBride was in an automobile accident last month. He has a broken hand among other injuries, and will not be able to play for a few weeks.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Tim Jankovich is back for his fifth year leading the Mustangs. There is no question there is heat on him to perform...he has been to the post-season just once. That was 2016-17, his first season after Larry Brown abruptly departed. Jankovich led that team to a conference regular season championship, and they won the conference tournament. That punched the team's ticket to the NCAA Tournament where they lost in the first round to Southern Cal. It was a close game, and Jankovich has been criticized for his late game strategy.

It was also a team recruited by Larry Brown that included four players that are currently in the NBA. (The fifth starter, Jarrey Foster, would likely be in the NBA also had injuries not ended his playing career.) At this point, Brown's recruits are gone, and the team has not played post-season basketball since. Jankovich has gone 51-44 overall and 21-33 in conference play in the three subsequent seasons with the talent he has recruited.

Jankovich's top assistant coach K. T. Turner has departed. In September, he was

announced as Assistant Men's Head Coach at the University of Texas. He had been part of the SMU program for the seven previous years, the last five as Assistant Head Coach.

John Cooper replaced Turner as Assistant Head Coach. Cooper has head coaching experience with Tennessee State and Miami of Ohio. He has won more than 100 games as a Division I head coach. He comes to SMU from Oklahoma State, where he served as an assistant coach and special assistant to the Head Coach. **AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**

The American Athletic Conference announced the preseason predictions in a vote of the coaches. SMU was picked third behind Houston with nine first place votes and Memphis with two first place votes. Cincinnati followed the Mustangs in fourth place, and the rest of the conference was South Florida fifth, Tulsa sixth, Wichita State seventh, Central Florida eighth, East Carolina ninth, Temple tenth and Tulane eleventh. Houston at number 17 is the only AAC team ranked in the AP pre-season rankings.

There is no question that the conference is not as strong as it was two years ago. Besides the loss of Connecticut to the Big East, Wichita State is in turmoil as their head coach Gregg Marshall parted ways with the program this week. He was under fire for verbal and physical abuse of players as well as racist actions. Cincinnati is looking for an identity after losing Mick Cronin to UCLA last year. Central Florida was really good two seasons ago, but lost Tacko Fall and Aubrey Dawkins. They haven't been able to replace that pair. Temple has also fallen off with Head Coach Fran Dunphy's retirement.

The predictions for individual awards had SMU's Kendrick Davis on the pre-season All-Conference first team, and Tyson Jolly on the pre-season All-Conference second team. Houston's Caleb Mills was dubbed conference Player of the Year, and Memphis freshman Moussa Cisse was the pre-season Rookie of the Year.

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

Some conferences are playing two games back-to-back with opponents to cut down on the travel, but the American Athletic Conference has nixed that idea. Certainly, we have seen in Major League Baseball, the NFL and in college football that games are being cancelled and postponed on a regular basis. (Eleven FBS football games have been postponed or cancelled this weekend alone.) Certainly, with the increase in COVID-19 cases around the country, it is to be expected that many Division I games will be cancelled and postponed with the schedule being adjusted on the fly like we have seen in those other sports. Indeed, it is likely that the problem will be even more than we've seen previously with 357 Division I teams.

Rick Pitino has suggested that the season's start be delayed until January with

the timing moved back accordingly. With his idea, the NCAA Tournament would become May Madness. There is also talk of expanding the NCAA Tournament. The idea that seems to be gaining traction now is to play the NCAA Tournament completely at one site, much like the NBA did with its "bubble" in Orlando to complete their season with playoffs.

As for seating at Moody Coliseum, SMU will social distance around a fourth of the seats, like they did for football. There will be fewer seats available than the number of season tickets sold last year, so the likelihood is that the games will be sold out on a season ticket basis.

Lastly, the C-19 protocols add a new layer of considerations. It's a new world for coaches.

THE OUTLOOK

It all adds up to a better season for the Mustangs. With just one new player in the program, there is continuity that hasn't always been part of the Jankovich regime. Kendrick Davis is clearly one of the best point guards in the country, and in today's game of college basketball, point guard is the most important position. He's benefited from a season of running Jankovich's offense under his belt. Isiah Jasey and Yor Anei give the team size under the basket. Darius McNeil is a talented addition to the playing rotation. Plus, the conference isn't as strong as it was two years ago. The door is wide open for the Mustangs to make a strong bid for post-season play, assuming the season gets played reasonably to conclusion.

NOTABLE:

- This Saturday's SMU football game against the University of Houston has been postponed due to Covid-19 cases among the Houston players. A make-up date for the game has not been announced.
- Kendrick Davis and Darius McNeil tested positive for COVID-19 last summer when both were tested as basketball players could return for voluntary summer workouts June 15. McNeil was asymptomatic, but Davis struggled through two weeks to recover. Reportedly, no Mustangs have tested positive for the Coronavirus since last summer.

Preseason Honors	
Preseason Player of the Year	
Caleb Mills, Houston	
Preseason Rookie of the Year	
MoussaCisse, Memphis	
First Team	
Keith Williams, G, Cincinnati	
Jayden Gardner, F, East Carolina	
Caleb Mills, G, Houston	
Kendric Davis, G, SMU	
Brandon Rachal, F, Tulsa	
Second Team	
Chris Vogt, C, Cincinnati	
D.J Jeffries, F, Memphis	
Landers Nolly II, G, Memphis	
Alexis Yetna, F, USF	
Tyson Jolly, G, SMU	

American Athletic Conference 2020-2021 Projected Finish	
1. Houston (9)	99
2. Memphis (2)	90
3. SMU	80
4. Cincinnati	77
5. USF	61
6. Tulsa	50
7. Wichita State	44
8. UCF	37
9. East Carolina	34
10. Temple	18
11. Tulane	15
<i>First place votes in parenthesis</i>	

2019-20 Record: 19-11, 9-9	
Coach: Tim Jankovich	
Coach Record: 90-46 at SMU, 241-163 overall	
Key Departed Players:	
Isiaha Mike, Forward, 14.0 ppg	
CJ White, Guard, 3.5 ppg	
Key Returning Players:	
Tyson Jolly, Sr, Guard, 14.5 ppg	
Kendric Davis, Jr, Guard, 14.2 ppg	
Feron Hunt, Jr, Forward, 11.0 ppg	
Emmanuel Bandoumel, Jr, Guard, 6.3 ppg	
Ethan Chargois, Sr, Forward, 7.0 ppg	
Isiah Jasey, Sr, Forward, 2.8 ppg	
Everett Ray, Jr, Forward, 2.7 ppg	
Charles Smith IV, Sophr, Guard, 1.3 ppg	
Key New Players:	
Yor Anei, Jr, F, Transfer, Oklahoma State	
Darius McBride, RS Freshman, Guard	
Darius McNeill, Jr, Guard, Transfer, Cal	

SMU Mens Basketball 2020-2021 Roster			
0	Tyson Jolly	Guard 6-4, 190	SR-1L Muskogee, OK.
1	Feron Hunt	Forward 6-8, 195	JR-2L DeSoto, Texas
2	Darius McNeill	Guard 6-3, 185	JR-TR Houston, Texas
3	Kendric Davis	Guard 5-11,180	JR-1L Houston, Texas
4	Charles Smith IV	Guard 6-5, 185	SO-1L Atlanta, Georgia
5	Emmanuel Bandoumel	Guard 6-4, 180	JR-1L Quebec City, QB
10	Yor Anei	Forward 6-10, 235	JR-TR Overland Park,KS
14	William Douglas	Guard 6-5, 193	JR-RS-2L Memphis, TN
21	Jahmar Young Jr.	Forward 6-9, 215	SO-1L Oak Cliff, Texas
22	Isiah Jasey	Forward 6-10, 250	SR-1L Killeen, Texas
23	Alex Tabor Jr.	Guard 6-2, 175	SO-1L Charlotte, NC
24	Everett Ray	Forward 6-7, 220	JR-2L Irving, Texas
25	Ethan Chargois	Forward 6-9, 235	SR-3L Tulsa, Oklahoma
33	Darius McBride	Guard 6-4, 190	FR-RS Cedar Park, Texas

SEC football weekend picks - Week 9



Kentucky travels to Tuscaloosa this week to face undefeated and #1 ranked Alabama



ROBERT CORTINEZ
RCORTINEZ2@HOTMAIL.COM

Last week's SEC slate was covid depleted to only three games and the only ranked team playing was #6 Florida, who decimated Arkansas 63-35. Fortunately, this week there's only one cancellation so far, #5 Texas A&M @ Ole Miss. The Aggies still can't field enough players to meet the minimum 53 required athletes for the second week in a row.

We are less than a week before the initial 2020 CFP rankings come out next Tuesday on Nov. 24. The United States of Covid will continue its fall football march into herd immunity and our insatiable appetite for sports remains sated. The Big 10 has the best undefeated conference matchups this week as #9 Indiana (4-0) takes on #3 Ohio St.(3-0) and #10 Wisconsin (2-0) takes on #19 Northwestern (4-0).

The Big 12 and PAC 12 would need a miracle to make the playoffs as both these conferences are mediocre at best. Same story for any schools outside the power five as the CFPs probably have a one loss SEC, Big 10 and ACC school and a two loss ACC or SEC team in the final four due to strength of schedule and number of games.

Last week results: Straight 3-0; ATS 3-0

Season Results: Straight 33-10; ATS 31-12

M&M went 4-1 last week, with three of his games being covid cancelled, bringing his season results to 32-16 -1. His picks this week are: Cincinnati -5; Cincinnati/UCF over 63; Ohio St./Indiana over 64; Nevada/San Diego St. over 46.5; Wisconsin -6.5; Boise St. -13; Memphis/Stephen Austin under 60.5; Virginia/Abilene under 61; BYU -45.5

#6 Florida (5-1) at Vanderbilt (0-6)

Line: Gators -31.5 / 68

Time/TV: 11:00 AM / ESPN

This game is over before it starts. No chance for an upset, only question is whether the Commodores cover the line. Gator QB Kyle Trask threw for 6 TD's against the Hogs last week extending his SEC record to six games with four or more TD's. Betting on a little Florida let down and Vandy HC Derek Mason coaching his boys up to cover the line.

Pick: Florida 42 Vanderbilt 17

LSU (2-3) at Arkansas (3-4)

Line: Tigers -2.5 / 66

Time/TV: 11:00 AM / SECN

The LSU Tigers have been experiencing a horrendous national championship hang-over. HC Ed Ogeron's team is Covid lucky that the Tigers aren't 2-5, since Alabama (6-0) and Florida (5-1) were cancelled or postponed due to covid infections. Arkansas was the SEC's betting darling, 6-0 against the line, until being destroyed last week by the Gators, 63-35. The Razorbacks have to bounce back at home, while the Tigers look to get well on the road.

Some late week Arkansas Covid infections have flip-flopped the line from -2 to +2.5, but the Piggies still get my nod.

Pick: Arkansas 30 LSU 27

Kentucky (3-4) at #1 Alabama (6-0)

Line: Tide -30 / 58.5

Time/TV: 3:00 / SECN

The #1 team in the land was off last week after Covid cancelled the Crimson Tide's game against LSU. Kentucky eked out a three-point victory over Vanderbilt, 38-35 and enters this game a huge underdog in Tuscaloosa. Alabama has been just short of perfect on offense with QB Mac Jones running the show, but the defense has had uncharacteristic lapses. In week 2, the Tide defense gave up 48 points to Ole Miss. HC Nick Saban will have both his offense and defense clicking and ready to go in Tide land.

Pick: Alabama 45 Kentucky 13

Tennessee (2-4) at #23 Auburn (4-2)

Line: Tigers -10 / 49.5

Time/TV: 6:00 / ESPN

The enigma game of the week goes down in the Plains of Auburn with two coaches facing distinct and disgruntled fan bases. The only thing saving Vols HC Jeremy Pruitt from being fired this season is Covid. Auburn HC Gus Malzahn's fan base expects much more than just winning records and he needs to get to 7-2 before closing out the season with Alabama in the Iron Bowl. Tiger QB Bo Nix has not played as well as he did last year, but Vols QB, Jarett Guarantano is awful. Home team prevails big.

Pick: Auburn 37 Tennessee 17

Miss State (2-4) at #13 Georgia (4-2)

Line: Bulldogs -25 / 44.5

Time/TV: 6:30 / SECN

The Battle of the Bulldogs goes down in Athens for two teams that are going in vastly different directions. HC Mike Leach's Mississippi State Bulldogs are currently the worst team in the West division. The high hopes after beating reigning champs LSU in the opener have been squashed. Georgia looks to salvage some

pride and try to finish 8-2, keeping slim hopes alive of returning to the SEC championship game. Georgia will be heavy favorites in their remaining games, they just have to hope Florida stumbles.

Pick: Georgia 37 Mississippi St. 10

Missouri (2-3) at South Carolina (2-5)

Line: Tigers -6 / 54.5

Time/TV: 6:30 / SECN Alt

South Carolina fired its mediocre HC Will Muschamp in the middle of his fourth year. Muschamp led the Gamecocks to a 9-4 record his first year but went 13-19 since then. Mild surprise as most figured no one in SEC would get fired in Covid 2020. Jim Harbaugh and Michigan are another story. South Carolina also is down five defensive starters due injuries or opt outs after the firing. Whether this whole team has "opted" out remains to be seen. Missouri's first year HC Eli Drinkwitz will smell the blood in the water and have his Tigers ready to chew up the Gamecocks.

Pick: Missouri 33 South Carolina 28

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

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Big 12 football weekend - Week 11



By Jeff Bartl

#14 Ok State (5-1) at #18 Oklahoma (5-2)

Line: Sooners -7 / 59.5

Time/TV: 6:30 PM / ABC

The defense continues to get the job done. You always have to grade Big 12 defenses on a bit of a curve, but the Cowboys are doing their part, especially against everyone's passing game. There was a problem against West Virginia early in the season, but no one else has hit the 200-yard mark through the air against the Cowboy secondary.

The Cowboys are dominant defensively on third downs, the pass defense has only allowed more than one touchdown pass once, and even in the one game that the D allowed a ton of points – the 41 against Texas came in a variety of ways – it allowed fewer than 300 total yards.

The Oklahoma offense has found its groove. It helps to play Texas Tech and Kansas over the last few weeks, but the team with the young starting quarterback needed the tune-ups.

Spencer Rattler might not be running like Kyler Murray or Jalen Hurts, and he's still not close to being accurate enough, but he's hitting on enough key plays now that he was missing earlier, and the running game is helping out with 200 yards or more in three of the last four games.

The O is the best in the Big 12 on third downs, the team owns the clock, and crazy enough for a program that was such a defensive nightmare not all that long ago, the run D has been dominant.

Which team wants to step up and be in the Big 12 Championship?

A loss for Oklahoma would be a knock-out blow – for all intents and purposes – while an OSU defeat would be a massive

issue with a loss to Texas a few weeks ago. Oklahoma State's defense is going to be a problem for Rattler.

He has been better, and he has the look of a future superstar, but he hasn't been consistent enough. The OU offense has the pop and explosion to go on a run, but the Cowboys will make just enough good plays on third downs to keep things moving and make the Sooners press.

OSU will come up with the right offensive mix to go along with a strong defensive performance to pull off the first win in the Bedlam series since 2014.

Pick: Oklahoma State 34, Oklahoma 30

#22 Texas (5-2) at Kansas (0-7)

Line: Longhorns -29.5 / 61

Time/TV: 2:30 PM / ESPN2

Very, very, very, very, very quietly, Texas is on a three game winning streak including a terrific victory over Oklahoma State on the road to stay in the hunt for the Big 12 championship.

So how is this happening? The run defense has been great, the offense has come up with a slew of timely plays, and the defensive is generating enough tackles for loss to be a bother. Most of all, Texas is winning the turnover margin and hasn't turned it over in the last two games – it's not going to give Kansas a slew of breaks.

The Texas offense isn't exactly clicking. The team has a way of playing up or down to the competition, there isn't enough of a steady running game to be a concern, and the passing attack hasn't hit 200 yards in the last few weeks.

Kansas is okay at controlling the clock and slowing things down. If it can speed up the game and keep Texas from hitting the explosive plays, it can keep it close at home.

Kansas is WAY overdue for one of its patented big performances out of the blue, but the team isn't showing anything lately defensively in blowout loss after blowout loss.

The Texas D isn't a brick wall, but it's playing well enough to keep the Jayhawk offense that hasn't scored more than 17 points in five of the last six games under wraps.

Pick: Texas 48, Kansas 16

Kansas State (4-3) at #17 Iowa State (5-2)

Line: Cyclones -11 / 46.5

Time/TV: 3:00 PM / FOX

The Wildcat run defense has been solid. If you can't at least slow the Iowa State ground game, you can't beat Iowa State. K-State has only allowed more than 200 rushing yards once, even though they don't get into the backfield on a regular basis. The Wildcat passing game has a decent downfield game, the special teams continue to be solid, and the team should be able to tilt the field enough to make a difference.

As always, Kansas State does all of the little things right.

The Cyclones might have the best running back in college football – at least the potential top back this year.

Breece Hall has hit the 100-yard mark in every game, getting over 1,000 yards last week with a 133-yard, two-score day in the win over Baylor. The Cyclones are running well against everyone – they lead the Big 12 in rushing – and they might have the formula to work against Kansas State.

The Wildcats aren't doing much on third downs and they're last in the Big 12 in first downs. Iowa State is great at controlling the clock, the D is excellent on third downs, and Hall and company should keep things moving.

What's going wrong for Kansas State? The offense had to go against two of the Big 12's best defenses – West Virginia and Oklahoma State – and the O stalled.

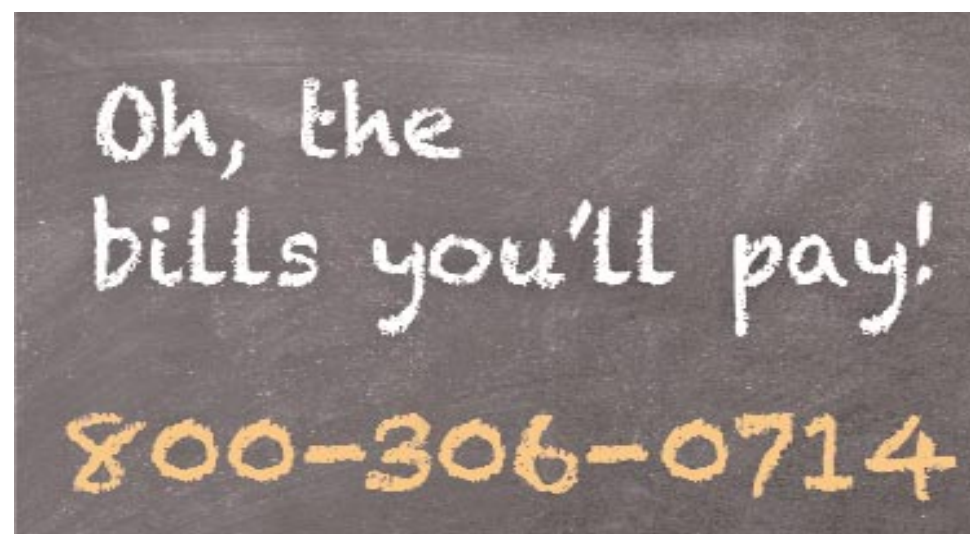
Third downs and moving the chains have been an issue, failing to convert 30% of its chances in three of the last four games, and that's going to be a killer against this Cyclone team.

Iowa State won't do anything fancy. Run Hall, control the clock, rely on the D to keep the Wildcats from going off.

Pick: Iowa State 30, Kansas State 20

Big 12 STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Iowa State	5-1	5-2
Oklahoma St	4-1	5-1
Kansas State	4-2	4-3
Oklahoma	4-2	5-2
Texas	4-2	5-2
West Virginia	4-3	5-3
TCU	3-4	3-4
Texas Tech	2-5	3-5
Baylor	1-5	1-5
Kansas	0-6	0-7



AAC football weekend predictions



Tulsa gets its third game at home in a row hosting Tulane on Saturday

Tulane (5-4) at #25 Tulsa (4-1)
Line: Tulsa -6.5 / 53.5
Time/TV: Thursday, 6:30 / ESPN
The defense has been terrific. It held the Oklahoma State offense to just 16 points in the opener, and it was able to hold its own in wins over high-powered UCF and SMU teams, especially against the run.

It kept the SMU passing attack from going off, but to beat Tulane it's mostly about keeping the dangerous running game from going off.

The Green Wave are 4-1 when they run for over 200 yards, and Tulsa has yet to allow more than 151. America is just starting to figure out how good LB Zaven Collins is for a defense that's amazing on third downs. On the offensive side, here comes the Tulsa passing game that should hit the mediocre Green Wave secondary.

The offense has the balance to give Tulsa problems. The Golden Hurricane defense is outstanding, but Tulane has the ability hit in a variety of ways, throwing for close to 200 yards or more in each of the last five games to go along with a solid ground game to take the pressure off.

Tulane is 2-0 when coming up with both 200 yards rushing and 200 receiving with the passing of QB Michael Pratt taking the offense up a few notches. This isn't all that hard – Tulane is 4-0 when it converted 40% or more of its third down chances. Tulsa's D might be great on third downs, but it allowed two teams to hit 40% in the five games, and UCF converted 39% of its tries.

Tulsa is playing too well in all phases and with too much confidence. Both teams are great at getting into the backfield, but

the Tulsa O line is playing a bit better. The big difference will be turnovers. Tulsa gives up the ball, and Tulane rarely does. Both teams are playing well, and with the way Tulane is playing both teams are even in their effectiveness. Tulsa gets its third game at home in a row, and that will be just enough to get by with a slightly more efficient performance.

Pick: Tulsa 34, Tulane 30

East Carolina (1-6) at Temple (1-5)
Line: Pirates -4 / 57.5
Time/TV: 11:00 am / ESPN+

The Temple offense has hit a wall. It wasn't amazing to start the season, but not it's not able to do enough to keep up the pace at all, failing to hit 30 points in all five losses and not getting to 14 points in two of the last three games.

There's nothing happening down the field, and there isn't enough pop dealing with the better American Athletic offenses, especially the good passing teams.

East Carolina might not be winning, but before dealing with the Cincinnati defense the passing attack was on a roll with two straight 300-yard performances. Holton Ahlers should be able to produce on the Owl secondary, but ... Temple needs to try making this simple – run the ball, and run some more. The Owl ground game hasn't been anything special, but it's coming off a season-high 183 yards in the loss to UCF, and now it's time to top that against a ECU defense that allowed 200 rushing yards or more five of the seven games and almost 300 yards against Cincinnati.

For all of Temple's problems, it's good enough to match East Carolina's ability to

control the clock and slow things down. The O line hasn't been bad, and now it's time to dominate against a Pirate D that allowed close to nine yards per carry over the last two games.

It'll be about as entertaining as it gets between two teams with one win and each on a four-game losing streak.

Neither team is doing anything defensively, they both beat USF, and they're both looking for something positive against a team that the other should beat. The Pirates have more of an offense, but the Temple ground game will take over at home in the second half in a close, fun win.

Pick: Temple 34, East Carolina 31

#7 Cincinnati (7-0) at UCF (5-2)
Line: Bearcats -5.5 / 62.5
Time/TV: 2:30 / ESPN

The Bearcat running game will get off the plane in Orlando with 200 rushing yards, because that's what it does. Cincinnati and QB Desmond Ridder have been able to take games over 242 rushing yards or more in each of the last four games, and 299 or more in three of the last four.

The UCF offense might be devastating, but UC should be able to mitigate that by doing what it does – keep running, get into the backfield, convert on third downs, and dominate with the pass rush and plays in the backfield.

Besides the running game, how does Cincinnati slow this UCF machine down? The run defense has been a rock and the secondary has allowed a grand total of two touchdown passes and picked off 12 passes.

The offense has been devastating. It might have been a wee bit sluggish against Temple, but by its own amazing standards, it only came up with 419 yards. It generated 455 yards against Tulsa, and rocked for well over 600 yards against everyone else.

As good as the Cincinnati running game has been, and as consistently strong as it has been overall, now it has to deal with UCF's pace, balance, and big play ability. SMU, Memphis and Houston all have enough offensive weapons to have done a whole lot more than it was able to against the Bearcat D, but the Knight attack is at a whole other level when it comes to its big play ability.

Throw in the defense's ability to take the ball away – UCF leads the AAC with 19 takeaways – and the team has the right mix to handle the Cincinnati style.

Cincinnati is just that good. UCF might have the offensive explosion to get out to a hot start and make Cincinnati work for the first time all year, but the Bearcat running

attack will take over as the game goes on.

The focus will be on the UC ground game, but the secondary and pass rush will win the game. When the defense has to come up with a key stop, they will.

Pick: Cincinnati 40, UCF 27

Stephen F Austin (6-3) at Memphis (4-2)
Line: Tigers -11 / 51

Time/TV: 11:00 am / ESPN+
The Lumberjacks are on fire. After dropping the first three games on the road to FBS teams, they've ripped through their last six against the FCSers, with Trae Self and the passing game rolling with a whole slew of big plays. The D is doing its part, holding teams to seven points or fewer in each of the last three games and four of the last six.

The Lumberjack run defense isn't a rock, but it has done a better job of holding up. Now it gets a Tiger ground game that all of a sudden stopped, failing to hit 100 yards in either of its last two games after doing a great job in the first month. But ...

Yeah, there's a difference between beating up on the FCS world and beating the FBS teams. It's not like SFA was losing to Alabama and Clemson, getting dropped by UTEP, UTSA and SMU. Not only did the Lumberjacks lose, but they failed to come within double-digits in any of the three games and got trucked by SMU 50-7.

Here's where the Memphis passing game gets to eat ... again.

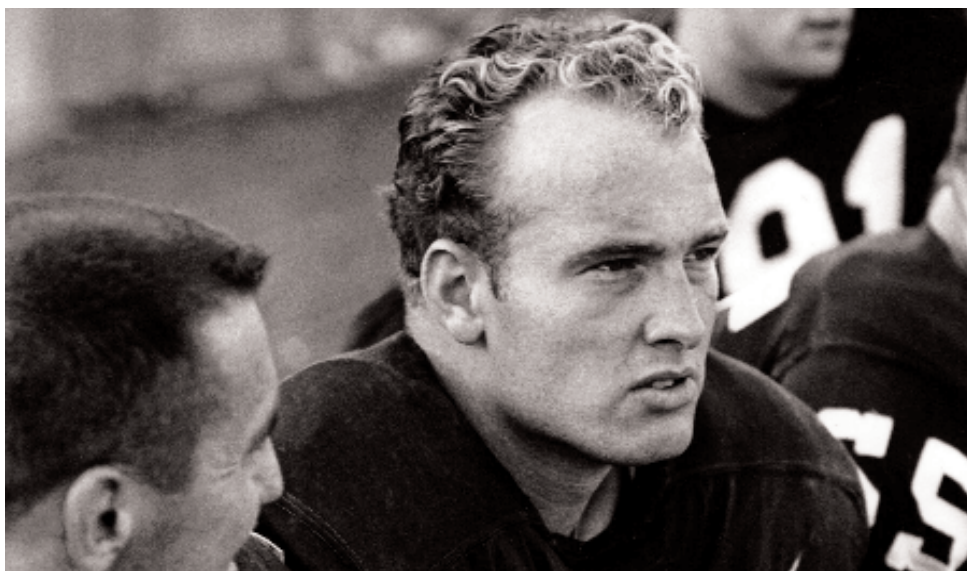
Yeah, the running game hasn't been great over the last few weeks, but the offense was busy throwing for 437 yards in the win over USF to make it four straight games with over 300 yards and over 280 in all six.

Stephen F. Austin will be plucky, and it'll put up some points against the mediocre Memphis defense, but Brady White and the passing game will have this put away by halftime.

Pick: Memphis 48, Stephen F. Austin 14

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

College Football News and Notes



Paul Hornung passed away Nov. 13 after a long battle with dementia at the age of 84



BO CARTER

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The 12 finalists for the 31st annual NFF William B. Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda were denoted last Thursday in a national release from NFF headquarters in Irving, Texas. Each will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the 2020 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class Presented by Fidelity Investments. Later in 2020 or early 2021, one member of the class will be declared the winner of the Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda and have his postgraduate scholarship increased to \$25k.

Selected from a record 199 semifinalists nationwide from among all NCAA divisions and the NAIA, the 12 finalists are Tyler Bradfield, LB, Grand Valley State, 3.99 (all grad point averages based on 4.0 scale), Finance; Sam Ehlinger, QB, Texas, 3.42, Marketing; Jack Gibbens, LB, Abilene Christian, 4.00, Accounting & Financial Management; Ezra Gray, RB, Alabama State, 4.00, Computer Information Systems; Tyriq Harris, DE, Charlotte, 3.68, Biology; Drew Himmelman, OT, Illinois State, 3.82, Exercise Science; Tyler Howerton, OL, Hampden-Sydney (Va.), 4.00, Physics; Kekaula Kaniho, DB, Boise State, 3.94, Health Science; Brandon Kennedy, OL, Tennessee, 3.55, Sport Management; Cameron Kinley, CB, Navy, 3.32, Political Science; Elijah Molden, DB, Washington, 3.56, Communications; Brady White, QB, Memphis, 3.58, Business.

NFF College Hall of Fame member and 1956 Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung passed away Nov. 13 after a long battle with dementia in his hometown of Louisville, Ky. He was 84. In his three years at Notre Dame from 1954-56, the team's seasonal record was 9-1, 8-2, 2-8. He alternated at halfback, fullback, and quarterback in 1954. He was the starting quarterback and two-time All-America selection in 1955-1956. In 1955, he was fifth in the nation in total offense and fifth in the voting for the Heisman Trophy. Against Iowa his team trailed 14-7 in the fourth quarter. Hornung got off a 23-yard run, then a 40-yard touchdown pass to Jim Morse and place-kicked the extra point to tie the score. With two minutes to play he made a 26-yard field goal that won the game 17-14. That year he also had a 57-yard touchdown run against SMU. In 1956, he was second in the nation in total offense, second in kickoff returns, 15th in passing, and 16th in scoring. He won the Heisman Trophy - the only time it has been won by a player on a losing team - beating out Tommy McDonald and Jerry Tubbs, Oklahoma; Johnny Majors, Tennessee; Jim Brown, Syracuse; John Brodie, Stanford; Jim Parker, Ohio State; and Joe Walton, Pittsburgh. Hornung joined the Green Bay Packers and starred as halfback and place kicker 1957-66. He launched a broadcasting career, working on national TV with Lindsey Nelson on Notre Dame and NFL telecasts and also is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

No. 16 nationally Marshall defeated Middle Tennessee 42-14 on the 50-year commemoration date of the Nov. 14 charter jet crash of the 1970 Thundering plane near Huntington, W.Va., coming back from a game at East Carolina. Relatives of the crash victims made their annual pilgrimage from the memorial marker for those who perished to the MU campus stadium for the contest. The crash hit Tuscaloosa, Ala., particularly hard as well as four former Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Druid HS student-athletes with the Thundering Hard perished in the mishap.

Bluefield (W.Va.) College defensive lineman and military veteran Collin O'Donnell was selected as the ninth recipient of Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the Football Writers Association of America in a national news conference on Veterans Day Nov. 11 and coordinated by the staff at the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Tx.

O'Donnell, who maintains a 3.4 grade point average, is a captain on the Bluefield football squad. In his first two seasons with the Rams, O'Donnell has 34 total tackles in 15 games, including 16 unassisted stops with 7.5 tackles for losses (19.5 yards), one quarterback sack (seven yards), and two pass breakups. He served nobly with the U.S. Army in the Afghanistan theater and recovered from wounds that required seven surgeries on his feet and legs to play college football.

The Disney movie "Safety" will premier in Disney+ on Dec. 11. The feature length film chronicles the amazing true story of former Clemson safety Ray McElrathbey, who overcame repeated adversity and played football and remain in school while helping to rear his then-11-year-old brother Fahmarr with solid assistance from his teammates, Clemson coaches and area families in 2006-07.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Nov. 17-23 time period are 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 "Rocket" Ismail, Elizabeth, N.J.; Nov. 19 (1947) Mike Phipps, Shelbyville, Ind.; (1949) Ahmad Rashad (nee' Bobby Moore), Portland, Ore.; Nov. 20 (1901) Bill Mallory, Memphis, Tenn.; (1970) Trevor Cobb, Houston, Texas; (1971) Chris Bisailon, Kankakee, Ill.; Nov. 21 (1897) Aubrey Devine, Des Moines, Iowa; (1916) Sid Luckman, Brooklyn, N.Y.; (1964) Thomas Everett, Daingerfield, Texas; (1966) Troy Aikman, West Covina, Calif.; Nov. 22 (1946) Mel Long, Toledo, Ohio; (1916) Ken Kavanaugh, Little Rock, Ark.; (1930) Dick Kazmaier, Toledo, Ohio; (1937) Alex Kroll, Leechburg, Pa.; (1944) Gene Washington, La Porte, Texas.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are 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.; Nov. 20 (2010) Rob Lytle, Fremont, Ohio; Nov. 23 (2004) Harrison Stafford, Edna, Texas.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Nov. 18 Raghib "Rocket" Ismail, Nov. 19 Mike Phipps, Ahmad Rashad, Nov. 20 Trevor Cobb, Chris Bisailon, Nov. 21 Thomas Everett, Troy Aikman, Nov. 22 Mel Long (a spry 74), Alex Kroll (a spry 83), Gene Washington (a spry 76)...

Southeastern Conference clashes No. 1 Alabama-LSU, Tennessee-Texas A&M,

Georgia-Missouri, and Auburn-Mississippi State were postponed last week because of an upsurge of COVID-19 cases at several schools...Memphis and Navy had to postpone their Nov. 14 game due to the COVID-19 upsurge along with Maryland-Ohio State in the Big Ten Conference...The North Texas-UAB encounter also was postponed indefinitely last week along with Georgia Tech-Pittsburgh in the ACC...Other games postponed or cancelled last weekend were Coastal Carolina at Troy, Gardner-Webb at Charlotte...Utah now is scheduled to open the season Saturday at Southern California after two recent game cancellations....

.....California played at UCLA in a rare Sunday encounter on Nov. 15 because both their opponents had to opt out of previously slated Saturday tilts...The previously slated UAB at UTEP contest in Conference USA was moved first to Midland, Texas, Friday, Nov. 20, because of COVID-19 conditions in El Paso, Texas, and then had to be cancelled...New Mexico and Nevada moved their tussle last Saturday to neutral-site Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas, Nev....Arkansas State and Louisiana-Monroe decided to postpone their game last week until Dec. 12 because of COVID-19 outbreaks...If the Alabama at LSU game cannot be rescheduled, LSU will finish the season with just three home contests...California and Arizona State played last Saturday night on ESPN2 despite some COVID-19 and contact tracing issues....

...Maryland stopped football activities after eight positive COVID-19 testing results among UM players over a seven-day period and had to cancel its Big Ten Conference game with Ohio State...Florida A&M athletics will cancel all football, volleyball and indoor track and field for the 2020-21 academic year until August 2021 at the earliest...Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are meeting for the 115th time since 1900 in the Bedlam Series. OU holds a 89-18-7 advantage and takes a five-game series winning streak into Saturday's tussle...West Virginia's Big 12 Conference-leading defense (10 pass interceptions) again came to the fore in a 24-6 win over TCU by allowing just two field goals to the Horned Frogs. The Mountaineers equaled last year's 12-game victory tally with their fifth win of '20 and may be headed for their 18th bowl berth since the 2000 season...Oklahoma State's defense started the year by limiting foes to 18 percent on third down conversions (13-of-72)...Alabama has held down the No. 1 position in the Associated Press national poll in each of the last 13 seasons (NCAA record) under head coach Nick Saban, who has coached 'Bama for 14 years...FIU and Florida Atlantic competed last week in the annual Shula Bowl named in memory of late Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Don Shula who starred at John Carroll (Ohio) collegiately.

St. Thomas (Minn.) enjoyed its first set of NCAA Division I signees for the 2021-22 academic year on the Nov. 11 early signing date...The Mississippi State Alumni Assoc. has a planned summer trip to historic U.S. national parks and Western and Southwestern rustic lodges. Some members of the tours hope to visit nearby college campuses and football facilities for the first time. The MSU Alumni Association also sponsored a special Homecoming Weekend Virtual 5-Kilometer Fun Race with nationwide competitors and prizes for several runners.

Liberty extended the contract of head coach Hugh Freeze through the 2026 season...Texas head coach Tom Herman spoke of the challenges that COVID-19 and adapting to changing conditions and protocols...Ohio head coach Frank Solich captured his school-record 113th coaching victory with the Bobcats since 2005 after a 24-10 win over Akron. Solich has guided OU to 11 of its 13 all-time bowl appearances...Head coach Tom Allen of No. 10 nationally Indiana is hoping that a leg injury suffered by his son LB Thomas Allen will not keep him out for the rest of the season. The younger Allen's injury was being evaluated early this week..Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman tested positively for COVID-19 last week...Michigan State head coach Mel Tucker was credited for keeping the success trail going for MSU after previously working with the Spartans as an assistant coach when Nick Saban was M-State's head coach...Florida head coach Dan Mullen spoke of the NCAA extending 2020 dead period recruiting dates and utilizing group Zoom calls with prospective student-athletes...SMU offensive coordinator Garrett Riley was highlighted in a newspaper story about the Mustangs continued improvement in the running game and total offense approaches...Multiple Charlotte athletics employees will be furloughed for 10 days with a timetable of accepting these layoffs prior to June 30. Head coach Will Healy is among those affected by the furloughs...UTSA defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix missed last Saturday's win over UTEP due to being placed on administrative leave from the program.

Hometowns of more 2020 college head coaches – Oklahoma: Lincoln Riley, Muleshoe, Texas; Oklahoma State: Mike Gundy, Midwest City, Okla.; Old Dominion: Ricky Rahne, Morrison, Colo.; Oregon: Mario Cristobal, Miami, Fla.; Oregon State: Jonathan Smith, Pasadena, Calif.

Longtime NCAA FBS and Division II championship coach at North Alabama Bobby Wallace was featured in his first-time role as director of athletics at West Alabama...Alabama AD Greg Byrne and Kentucky AD Mitch Barnhart spoke of the rising star status of AD of the Year Scott Stricklin of Florida when all three were on the Kentucky athletics staff together...UNLV AD Desiree Reed-Francois spoke to the media about being considered for other, similar positions at Power Five Conference members and wanting to stay the course with the Rebels...Incarnate Word AD Richard Duran updated his senior staff with Kenyon Spears as associate AD for administration and athletics diversity, Tony Dollison as associate AD for compliance, and B.J. Lough to associate AD for athletics/sports medicine...Tulsa interim AD

Rick Dickson was saluted by the Tulsa World newspaper for re-energizing the Golden Hurricane department of athletics and creating new donors' interest...Utah State AD John Hartwell spoke of the nationwide search for a new head coach for the Aggies..Belmont president Dr. Bob Fisher is retiring from the university after 20 years in that role. The school hopes to fill his position permanently by summer 2021...Former Arizona associate AD of facilities and capital projects Steve Kozachik has been taken off the Wildcats payroll after nearly 33 working in UA athletics due to deficit reduction...North Carolina Central AD Ingrid Wicker McCree and Texas A&M deputy AD for student-athlete experience/senior woman administrator Kristen Brown joined Auburn senior associate AD /SWA Monique Holland in a recent group discussion of health condition challenges, budgets, diversity, and inclusion in the current landscape of athletics...Notre Dame AD Jack Swarbrick and Boston College AD Pat Kraft conversed about the departure of college student bodies after the Thanksgiving holidays and how the spread of COVID-19 might subside for the final weeks of the regular campaign...Joining the list of Athletic DirectorU's Collegiate Coaching Diversity Pledge are Massachusetts AD Ryan Bamford, San Francisco AD Joan McDermott and UT Martin's Kurt McGuffin. McGuffin also signed a four-year contract extension at UTM through 2025 earlier this year...Kentucky women's basketball head coach Matthew Mitchell is retiring due to a health condition and is being replaced by interim head coach Kyra Elzy.

On Nov. 5 Big Ten Conference presidents and chancellors approved the allowance of two football teams without COVID-19 issues and with games cancelled in the same week to play each other...The Ivy League has cancelled its entire winter sports schedule due to COVID-19 resurgence concerns...The Pac-12 Conference again has tested football teams and staff within 36 hours of kickoff for home squads or departure time for visiting teams to assure safety from COVID-19 surges...SEC commissioner Greg Sankey spoke about the critical nature of the next 4-5 weeks of conference activity and how postponements may affect the East and West Division final standings and conference title test in Atlanta, Ga. SEC executive associate commissioner Mark Womack was lauded for his work with commissioner Sankey on postponements and possible dates to reschedule skirmishes...The Sun Belt Conference has secured a \$4.4 million loan from the U.S. Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Facility to assist its 2020-21 league resources...The Southern and Sun Belt Conferences revealed documents that emphasized the educational elements of the names, images and likenesses' compensation for NCAA student-athletes...The MAAC Volleyball Championship will be contested at the Albany Capital Center from March 31-April 3, 2021, after fall postponements...The North Central Hockey Conference will play in a bubble environment in Omaha, Neb., from Dec. 1-20 with 26 total contests and each school playing 10 games...The Mid-American Conference continues to get solid ratings and midweek prime attention with a series of Tuesday-Wednesday contests in

November...The Southeastern Conference appears to have opened the door if current Liberty and former Ole Miss, Arkansas State and Lambuth head coach Hugh Freeze wishes to be available to a SEC school as a head coach...The Atlantic 10 Conference and commissioner Bernadette McGlade spoke of "working" schedules for winter and spring sports with areas to change as COVID-19 uncertainties continue...Pac-12 Conference senior associate commissioner for football operations Merton Hanks related the flexibility areas that had to be implemented for the '20 season...SEC presidents also now are allowing schools that had to postpone or cancel games due to the oppositions COVID-19 situations to play another team that weekend if that opponent meets SEC game and practice protocols. Rematches will not be permissible...Tulsa downed SMU last Saturday night to remain undefeated at 4-0 in the American and move toward a possible championship matchup with East Division leader Cincinnati...The Pac-12 Conference was commended for recent television negotiations and the agreement with Quidel for rapid COVID-19 testing procedures...If conference championships were played in the coming week, here are the divisional or Nos. 1 and 2 leading teams: American – Cincinnati vs. Tulsa; ACC – Clemson or Miami (Fla.) vs. Notre Dame; Big Ten – Indiana vs. Northwestern; Big 12 – Iowa State vs. Oklahoma State; Conference USA – Marshall vs. UAB; MAC – Buffalo or Kent State vs. Central Michigan or Western Michigan; MWC – Boise State or San Jose State vs. Nevada; Pac-12 – Six teams involved in possible divisional championships SEC – Alabama vs. Florida; Sun Belt – Coastal Carolina vs. Louisiana.

The first College Football Playoff national rankings will be released on Tuesday, Nov.24 with the first of five weekly rankings through CFP and Bowl Selection Sunday, Dec. 20...Athlon Sports has made some additional bowl projections for post-2020, and they include: Cheez-It Bowl - North Carolina vs. Oklahoma State; Citrus Bowl - Wisconsin vs. Auburn; Cure Bowl - Marshall vs. Louisiana; Duke's Mayo Bowl - NC State vs. Northwestern; and the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl - Toledo vs. Wyoming...The Goodyear Cotton Bowl is in the process of re-ticketing priority seat holders for the 85th annual GCB Dec. 30 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Tex, via Ticketmaster...Though the NCAA Competition Committee has ruled all 128 NCAA FBS competing schools as eligible for postseason bowls, there are 15 teams with the prerequisite six wins in an ordinary (not this year) 12-game regular season. Three of these certain bowl-eligible teams come from the FBS independent ranks – BYU, Army West Point and Liberty.

Miami (Fla.) QB D'Eriq King is the latest nominee for the 2020 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award after losing his father to a heart attack in winter 2020 and watching as his mother underwent treatment for breast cancer throughout this calendar year. King also received laurels as the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week after eclipsing 400 passing yards and 100 rushing yard in the Hurricanes triumph over NC State...QB Sam Howell of North Carolina passed for a school-record

550 yards and six TDs in the Tar Heels win over Wake Forest...LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah of Notre Dame had nine tackles, two tackles for losses, a half-sack and fumble recovery return for a TD as UND ended then-No. 1 Clemson's 36-game regular-season and earned FWAA Bronko Nagurski Award National Defensive Player of the Week laurel...Florida QB Kyle Trask had personal highs for pass attempts (43) and completions (30) in the Gators win over Georgia and netted SEC Offensive Player of the Week kudos. He later fired for five touchdown passes in the first half of a victory over Arkansas...Arkansas DB Jalen Catalon made 12 tackles, including 10 in the first quarter, along with an interception and forced fumble in the Razorbacks victory against Tennessee...Florida kicker Evan McPherson had three field goals against Georgia with long boots of 50 and 51 yards...Baylor is hoping that RB John Lovett and WR Tyquan Thompson will return to full speed in coming contests after overcoming injuries...Temple deep snapper Sam Fraley was featured in a Dallas Morning News column about overcoming Guillain-Barre syndrome to play high school and college football and about his relationship with his late father and former Carnegie-Mellon defensive lineman (later award-winning sportswriter) the late Gerry Fraley. Sam's twin brother Tyson Fraley also starred at Redwood City (Calif.) Sequoia HS and later played at Carroll (Mont.) College...The Associated Press chronicled the history of great Polynesian quarterbacks in the college ranks from Washington State's Jack "The Throwin' Samoan" Thompson to the Tagovailoa brothers to Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota of Oregon to Clemson freshman sensation D.J. Uiagalelei.Thompson was one of the first inductees into the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame...Texas receiver Jake Smith was saluted for clutch catches such as the winning TD in an overtime victory at Oklahoma State...SMU regained the services of previously injured DB Bryan Massey and OL Jaylon Thomas in time for the American Athletic Conference West Division headliners.Tulsa last Saturday...Temple QB Anthony Russo is hopeful of a quick return from an injury to start again...Iowa's RB Shadrick Byrd and LB Yahweh Jeudy have entered the NCAA transfer portal...Kansas State punt return ace Phillip Brooks has led the nation most of 2020 with a 25-yard average...QB Breylin Smith of Central Arkansas was leading NCAA FCS national individual statistics with 1,861 net passing yards for eight games. UCA has opted to play shortened spring 2021 slate while going 5-4 through tilts of Nov. 14...Jacksonville State QB Josh Samuel started the week No. 5 nationally in FCS rushing with 251 net yards – tops by a signal caller...SMU receiver Rashee Rice came back from an in-game stomach ailment to star against Temple and had 39 catches for 580 yards and five TDs in his first eight games this autumn...SMU defensive tackle once committed to Navy, played at Baylor and Tyler (Texas) College and now the Mustangs where he has been a sound '20 contributor...Iowa State RB Breece Hall has been riding the momentum of a 185-yard rushing showing against Kansas for the Big 12- leading Cyclones

...Wake Forest kicker Nick Sciba kicked three field goals for the margin of victory against then-No. 19 Virginia Tech to earn national star recognition from the Lou Groza National Place-Kicker AwardSMU WR Tyler Page eclipsed his 26 career catches over two years with the Mustangs in the first eight games this autumn with 32 grabs...Ball State RB Caleb Huntley had a career-high 204 rushing yards and three TDs to lead the Cardinals past Eastern Michigan...Central Michigan QB Drew Richardson was 13-of-19 passing for 196 yards and two touchdowns as CMU downed Northern Illinois to advance to 2-0 in the MAC...Three Butkus Award candidate linebackers have been near the top of NCAA FBS interception statistics through midseason. Iowa State's Mike Rose, Syracuse's Mikel Jones and Appalachian State's Brendan Harrington already have three picks apiece...The Davey O'Brien Quarterback Great 8 recognition for mid-year performances includes, among others: Florida's Kyle Trask, Ian Book of Notre Dame, Justin Fields of Ohio State, D'Eriq King of Miami (Fla.), Kellen Mond of Texas A&M, Michael Penix Jr. of Indiana, Kedon Slovis of USC, and Carson Strong of Nevada ...Standout Miami (Fla.) TE Will Mallory is the grandson of late four-university head coach Bill Mallory (10 bowl appearances) and has helped the Hurricanes roll to a 7-1 start...Omaha (Neb.) Millard South QB TJ Urban has committed to play for Air Force starting in 2021 and will report for summer drills in '21...Tulane transfer Oton Jankovic via Vanderbilt has received immediate eligibility through the NCAA Eligibility Committee...The Top 15 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award final candidates present by A. O. Smith include: Ian Book, Notre Dame; Shane Buechele, SMU; Sam Ehlinger, Texas; Justin Fields, Ohio State; Feleipe Franks, Arkansas; Mac Jones, Alabama; D'Eriq King, Miami (Fla.); Trevor Lawrence, Clemson; Kellen Mond, Texas A&M; Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh; Brock Purdy, Iowa State; Zac Thomas, Appalachian State; Kyle Trask, Florida; Brady White, Memphis; and Zach Wilson, BYU...Colorado WR Brenden Rice, son of NFF College Hall of Fame wideout Jerry Rice of Mississippi Valley State and NFL fame, caught his first touchdown pass to help the Buffaloes defeat Stanford 35-32 on the road last weekend...

NFF College Hall of Fame coach Mack Brown continues to pull rabbits out of hats figuratively after another North Carolina comeback win (14-point deficit) 59-53 over Wake Forest in ACC play last week ...NFF College Hall of Fame member LaDainian Tomlinson was highlighted with his offseason charity work and football camps and clinics he conducts for underserved youngsters in the Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas, areas...Former Blinn (Texas) College head coach and Cam Newton mentor Brad Franchione was analyst on the webcast of the Texas Independent 6-Man Championship in Baird, Texas, with award-winning play-by-play broadcaster Mike McClure...The NFL Pittsburgh Steelers coaches and front office provided overnight dinners for election officials counting late ballots in the Pittsburgh area...High school brothers' quarterbacks Chase (Grapevine, Texas, Faith Christian HS)

and Carson (Fort Worth Christian HS) Cross recently competed against each other in a DFW Metrolplex football contest. Chase led Faith to a narrow 21-20 win as the student-athletes' parents sat on both sides of the stadium during the tussle. The game was dubbed "The Cross Town Rivalry" by the schools and family...Chris Nikic, 21, became the first athlete with Down syndrome to complete an Ironman Triathlon of just under 150 miles in less than 18 hours on Nov. 8 along with his trainer (who was tethered to Nikic for safety purposes) Chris Grieb. Nikic and Grieb are fans of UCF football where Grieb received his undergraduate degree.....Dallas (Texas) North High School made the state playoffs for the first time in 68 years and drew defending Class 4A state champion Argyle in the first round last Friday. It ended the longest playoff drought in Dallas public school annals (since 1952 when NDHS made the semifinals against Lubbock HS). North Dallas also is the alma mater of former Texas A&M All-Southwest Conference QB Kevin Murray (North Dallas from 1979-81 and A&M from 1983-86) – the father of Heisman Trophy-winning Oklahoma and Texas A&M QB Kyler Murray of the NFL Arizona Cardinals...The Krum (Texas) and Boyd (Texas) school districts shuttered their school buildings for deep cleaning and to try and return to athletics' competition after recent COVID-19 cases...2019 Burlsworth Trophy Hunter Renfrow of Clemson topped team receivers in a NFL Las Vegas Raiders 31-26 win over the rival Los Angeles Rams ...Promoted Texas Tech kicker Jonathan Garibay made a 25-yard field goal on the game's final play and three other three-pointers to help the Red Raiders edge Big 12 opponent Baylor 34-23...Baylor LB Abram Smith drew his first start against Tech and had a Bears-best 13 total tackles.

Texas A&M had to pause live practices and use virtual Zoom techniques to hold practices workouts after two positive COVID-19 cases. The Aggies were in the midst of a two-game road trek to South Carolina Nov. 1 and Tennessee Saturday...SMU football documented traveling in separate charter planes and vehicles and special precautions taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 during the season...International House of Pancakes and several other national restaurant chains offered free meals to members of the military academies, active U.S. service personnel, and service veterans on Veterans Day Nov. 11...New Mexico State athletics attempted to move its daily operations and basketball encounters to El Paso, Texas, or possibly Arizona because of stringent protocols for fan gatherings in New Mexico, but had to disqualify the options for El Paso, which requested closings for all non-essential businesses through Dec. 1...Duke will start its basketball and winter sports schedules without fans, including at historic Cameron Indoor Stadium, and Davidson apparently will not allow fans at men's or women's home basketball tilts...Weber State men's and women's basketball will hold off on fan attendance at least until Dec. 31 while Evansville athletics will allow up to 500 in attendance at basketball clashes...Florida State and several Sunshine State college bas-

ketball and winter sports program are limited to 25 percent of their facilities' capacities for home tussles...Connecticut, Yale and Rutgers health officials are taking extra precautions and increasing general student body testing for COVID-19 s students prepare to leave campus until January after Thanksgiving holidays.....Arizona athletics will eliminate at least 21 fulltime positions and keep 15 open positions unfilled to try and reduce a possible \$45 million deficit in 2020-21...The Save Tribe Swimming initiative had \$2.5 million in pledges in October and \$3.68 million pledged since September to try to keep William & Mary's varsity swimming and diving programs afloat...The Aggie Athletic Foundation board of directors has granted \$500,000 to support coaches and student-athletes with North Carolina A&T athletics and to add to \$500,000 raised in 2019-20...Many years' college football and media sponsor Mutual of Omaha introduced a new corporate logo for worldwide commercial usage last week... Auburn extended its multi-sport deal with INFLCR for two years...Bowling Green athletics will not allow general public attendance for its winter sports because of COVID-19 spread precautions...Several California football student-athletes remained in quarantine last midweek due to COVID-19 contact tracing, and the Arizona State-Cal contest on Nov. 14 had to be cancelled for health reasons...Pittsburgh athletics is allowing a maximum of 1,250 fans for men's and women's basketball contests in the Petersen Events Center in 2020-21...Between Nov. 23-June 22, 2021, there are 41 members in Fort Wayne athletics required to take 15 or more furlough days to help alleviate budget tightness...Texas Wesleyan has halted all winter sports' activity due to excessive COVID-19 positive testing around campus and in athletics...Georgia athletics had three different sports' head coaches test positively for COVID-19 last week...All 22 NCAA Division I schools competing in New York State have requested a waiver for visiting teams and quarantine periods, so they can host schools in football, men's and women's basketball and other winter sports...Arizona athletics received permission to allow a limited number of family members UA student-athletes and visiting student-athletes to attend upcoming UA football skirmishes...A testing mistake affecting Stanford football has been resolved, and those tested erroneously are back at full activity levels ...UCLA athletics noted zero positives after administering 1,322 total COVID-19 tests from Nov. 6-13 ...Clemson athletics had three positive COVID-19 cases with two from student-athletes out of 1,426 tests from Nov. 7-13.... Buffalo athletics reported has zero positives in the football program out of 3,318 COVID 19 antigen tests since Oct. 5...North Texas athletics pledged a renewed effort to promote diversity, unity and inclusion in football and all sports for the 2020-21 academic and future years.

CBS Sports expressed some disappointment in missing a ratings' bonanza with the Masters national golf telecast followed by Alabama and LSU (postponed) in primetime last Saturday ...USA Today opined that the College Football Playoff should consider a bubble environment for the post-2020 CFP

semifinals and championship...The Athletic penned an extensive story about varying approaches for contact tracing for COVID-19 by the Big Ten and Pac-12 Conferences ...WFAA-TV videographers and sports producers/reporters Arnold Payne and Jose Gant celebrated their historic, 40-year anniversaries with the Dallas ABC affiliate after coming to the Big D from a statin in Shreveport, La...The Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune newspaper will begin publishing paper editions weekly in 2021...Five interceptions by two players from Columbus, Neb., in a 51-13 win by the Huskers over Kansas State in 1970 were highlighted by football historian Mike Burrows of Denver ...Sportico researched that U.S. President Donald Trump and possible President-Elect Joe Biden (a former football student-athlete at Delaware) purchased 2,801 political advertisements from Aug. 17-Nov. 3...More than 1,000 staffer members have been laid off at Warner Media, but Turner Sports was not affected drastically by the personnel reductionsLate Georgetown (D.C.) head coach John Thompson Sr. wrote a posthumous guest editorial for the New York Times about the NCAA's relationships with its member schools and trying to balance education and profitability...Stadium.com showed that out of 250 NCAA Division I schools, there are 23 men's basketball programs currently shut down and 65 others that have had at least 14 days of quarantine or complete pauses in activities.

The FWAA Bronko Nagurski Award scheduled banquet hosted by the Charlotte (N.C.) Touchdown Club for 2020 has been cancelled by regional health conditions. The finalists will be announced Dec. 9 and the winner denoted on Dec. 22. Notre Dame was the FWAA Reveal Suits National Team of the Week after knocking off then-No. 1 Clemson ...Steven Olveda of Chapman, Bridgette Robles of Richmond, Ron Smith of Westmont, Alan Cox of the National Football Foundation, Tami Cutler of Wichita State were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter ...Arizona, Arizona State, Auburn, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Penn State, Syracuse, and UCLA are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and reports at their respective schools...The NCAA FBS Power Five Conferences, consisting of 65 universities, have sought to form executive committees to study the upcoming NCAA names, images and likenesses' legislation....The U.S. Olympic Paralympic Committee and USOPC Collegiate Advisory Council have composed a special 34-member subcommittee of leading figures in all areas of athletics for the USOPC College Sports Sustainability Think Tank. NFF John W. Toner Award recipient and Ohio State AD Gene Smith is one of the prominent subcommittee members...The NCAA Committee To Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity has been working with professional leagues to determine some additional policies for making sure coaches of color are included in the interview process for head football and other sports' coaching and ADs' positions.

NFL Picks and Predictions: Week 11



By Mike McFee

Week 11 of the NFL season features five games between teams with winning records. That action starts with the "Thursday Night Football" showdown between the Cardinals and Seahawks — a pair of 6-3 teams in the super-competitive NFC West.

On Sunday, the Titans and Ravens meet in a battle of 6-3 team in the 12 p.m. slot. The Packers (7-2) and Colts (6-3) square off in the 3:25 p.m. The Sunday Night Football matchup features the Chiefs (8-1) and Raiders (6-3), and the Monday Night Football matchup pits the Rams (6-3) against the Buccaneers (7-3).

It's a great schedule and a chance to improve on our NFL pick 'em record.

- Last Week: 7-7
- Season: 57-39

With that as the mind, below are our picks and predictions for Week 11:

(betting lines as of 11.17.20)

Arizona (6-3) at Seattle (6-3)
Thursday, 7:20 / CBS

Line: Seahawks -3 / 58

The Cardinals won a 37-34 thriller in the first meeting and are coming off an emotional Hail Mary victory against the Bills. Russell Wilson needs to clean up the turnovers after throwing for seven interceptions the last four weeks — a stretch that includes three losses. Seattle gets the rematch, but it's close.

Pick: Seahawks 30, Cardinals 24

Cincinnati (2-6-1) at Washington ((2-7)
Sunday, 12 p.m, CBS

Line: Washington -1.5 / 46.5

Alex Smith — a former No. 1 pick — has back-to-back 300-yard games, but

Washington lost by a field goal both times. This will be a showcase for the top two picks in last year's draft with Joe Burrow and Chase Young. Burrow leads a last-minute victory for Cincinnati.

Pick: Bengals 26, Washington 23

Atlanta (3-6) at New Orleans (7-2)
Sunday, 12 p.m, FOX
Line: Saints -4.5 / 51.5

Drew Brees' status will be monitored during the week, and this remains a heated NFC South rivalry. The Falcons rank 31st against the pass. It's another chance for Alvin Kamara — who has 648 receiving yards this season — to shine. New Orleans wins a tight one.

Pick: Saints 31, Falcons 28

Pittsburgh (9-0) at Jacksonville (1--8)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Steelers -10 / 47.5

The Jaguars are double-digit underdogs for the second straight week, but the difference will be an aggressive Steelers' defense that will force Jake Luton into turnovers. Pittsburgh improves to 10-0 behind Ben Roethlisberger — who continues to spread the wealth to a talented group of receivers.

Pick: Steelers 31, Jaguars 19

New England (4-5) at Houston (2-7)
Sunday, 12 p.m, CBS
Line: Patriots -2.5 / 47.5

Don't look now, but the Patriots have won back-to-back games and could make a second-half AFC playoff push. Cam Newton hasn't thrown an interception in three games, and if that trend continues New England will stay in the hunt.

Pick: Patriots 23, Texans 19

Philadelphia (3-5-1) at Cleveland (6-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m, FOX
Line: Browns -3.5 / 48

The Browns have dealt with ugly weather in their last two games, but the return of Nick Chubb ignited the running game. Chubb and Kareem Hunt works against the Eagles' 26th-ranked run defense, even if Carson Wentz — the quarterback Philadelphia traded Cleveland to move up in the 2016 NFL Draft for — makes it interesting.

Pick: Browns 24, Eagles 21

Detroit (4-5) at Carolina (3-7)
Sunday, 12 p.m, FOX
Line: Panthers -1.5 / 49

Which trend do you take with the Lions? Detroit is 2-4 ATS as an underdog, but they are 3-2 S/U in one-score games. Teddy Bridgewater's status is uncertain, and we will trust the Lions to get back to .500.

Pick: Lions 27, Panthers 24

Tennessee (6-3) at Baltimore (6-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m, CBS
Line: Ravens -6.5 / 49

This is the toughest game on the board to pick. The Titans throttled the Ravens in the AFC divisional playoffs last season behind Derrick Henry, and the Ravens have to answer after a Sunday Night Football flop against the Patriots. Lamar Jackson delivers here, but it won't be easy.

Pick: Ravens 26, Titans 23

NY Jets (0-9) at San Diego (2-7)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m, CBS
Line: Chargers -8.5 / 47

The Chargers are struck in a three-game losing streak, and they have given up 29 points or more in six straight games. If the

Jets were going to get that first victory, then this might be the spot. Rookie quarterback Justin Herbert won't let it happen.

Pick: Chargers 31, Jets 23

Miami (6-3) at Denver (3-6)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m, CBS
Line: Dolphins -3.5 / 45

The Dolphins have the second-longest winning streak in the NFL at five games, and Tua Tagovailoa is playing efficient, mistake-free football. He gives Broncos general manager John Elway another glimpse at what a true franchise quarterback can do.

Pick: Dolphins 27, Broncos 23

Dallas (2-7) at Minnesota (4-5)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m, FOX
Line: Vikings -7.5 / 46.5

The Cowboys had a bye week to figure out the latest quarterback plan, but the bigger issue will be slowing down Dalvin Cook on the road. Minnesota continues to push back into the NFC playoff picture with yet another victory.

Pick: Vikings 29, Cowboys 20

Green Bay (7-2) at Indianapolis (6-3)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m, FOX
Line: Colts -2.5 / 51.5

The Packers opened as the favorites, but the line shifted to Indianapolis. Philip Rivers is 1-3 as a starter against the Packers, but he averages 372 yards per game in those contests. Aaron Rodgers matches that in a fourth-quarter thriller.

Pick: Packers 33, Colts 27

Kansas City (8-1) at Las Vegas (6-3)
Sunday, 7:20 p.m, NBC
Line: Chiefs -6.5 / 56.5

The Chiefs were double-digit favorites ahead of the Oct. 10 matchup, and the Raiders sprung a 40-32 upset. Las Vegas is playing like a playoff team, but the Chiefs learned their lesson. Kansas City won't forget about the running game this time around.

Pick: Chiefs 34, Raiders 26

LA Rams (6-3) at Tampa Bay (7-3)
Monday, 7:15 p.m, ESPN
Line: Bucs -3.5 / 47.5

The Rams have been favored in their last six games, so it's rare chance to play underdog. Tampa Bay is 5-0 when it scores 30 points or more, so Los Angeles' best bet would be if this doesn't turn into a shootout.

Pick: Buccaneers 30, Rams 27

The seven passenger Dodge Durango



By Matt Degen

In the Dodge Durango SUV, you'll find room for seven passengers, a phalanx of high-tech infotainment and driver assists, and a set of engine options no Subaru, Honda or Toyota can match. As midsize SUVs go, the Durango is the most American of the set, offering aggressive styling and muscle-car-like performance with admirable abilities like an 8,600-pound max tow rating and 8.1 inches of ground clearance.

Unlike the Subaru Ascent and Toyota Highlander, the Durango's advanced driver assists are optional, not standard, although some buyers might appreciate the ability to decide for themselves if they want these features. And while the Durango's design is getting up there in years, it still offers all the things families look for in an SUV, like comfort, style and safety. Just don't look for stellar resale value.

Driving the Dodge Durango

Although the V8 engines in the Durango are arguably more newsworthy, the entry-level-yet-refined V6 works well, delivering 293 horsepower and is capable of towing 6,400 pounds. It's complemented by an 8-speed automatic transmission that only occasionally "hunts" for the right gear.

On the other hand, these V8 engines do distinguish the Durango. The 5.7-liter unit generates 360 horsepower, for superb acceleration with a resonant rumble and a tow rating of 7,400 pounds. The 6.4-liter in the SRT trim develops 475 horsepower, good enough to sprint from standstill to 60 mph in a fleeting 4.4 seconds or tow 8,600 pounds. Ease off the throttle, though, and every version of the Durango can be quiet and comfortable.

DURANGO SRT

While not as practical as one of the V6

models, the 6-passenger SRT version is still accommodating of people and cargo, but its crazy fast acceleration times, sharp handling and glorious-sounding exhaust note know no equal from Honda, Nissan or Toyota.

UCONNECT 4

Still one of the most complete and easy-to-use infotainment systems around, the Dodge Durango's Uconnect 4 system features a large touch screen, easy-to-figure-out controls and is Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatible. Controls for the heated seats and steering wheel, as well as optional navigation and climate are also incorporated into the touch screen.

Dodge Durango Interior

It's a pleasant place inside the Durango 7-passenger crossover SUV, with an air about it that seems higher in quality than most rivals, the deluxe Citadel trim in particular. This is the version with heated /ventilated front seats and heated 2nd-row seats.

Most trim levels offer captain's chairs to replace the bench in the second row, which also make it easier to access the third row and use booster seats. Cargo space when all three rows are in place is useful at 17 cubic feet, expanding to 43.3 and then 85.1. The front-passenger seat also folds down, so the Durango can take quite long items. Citadel and SRT versions may also be specified with headliners of simulated suede.

Dodge Durango Exterior

Beginning with the most basic Durango SXT, the look is bold, decisive and certainly not easily mistaken for any other midsize SUV. Move up the line to the GT and the look gets a bit meaner, the Citadel more upscale and the R/T looks like a Charger on steroids, offering an SRT-style hood with a large air scoop. Step into an SRT, and you'll have an American-made

SUV that can run with the likes of BMW, Porsche and Audi, at least on the track. Dodge never shies away from making bold statements and we appreciate the numerous statements made by the Durango, from its "racetrack"-shaped taillight, to the massive wheel-and-tire combos, to the bold paint colors and graphic decals. The Durango really is one of a kind.

Dodge Durango Standard Features

The SXT entry-level trim has seating for five, tri-zone automatic climate control, 18-inch alloy wheels, V6 engine (with a Sport mode to spice up the driving experience), load-leveling rear shock absorbers, heated side mirrors, keyless entry/ignition, and an infotainment system that includes AM/FM radio, Bluetooth, auxiliary audio input, six speakers and a 7-inch touch screen.

Moving up the Durango's trim levels brings more equipment, such as auto high beams, a power tailgate, sunroof, navigation, Nappa leather seats, and more. Versions with V8 engines receive beefier brakes, while the SRT also has a sport-tuned adaptive suspension.

Dodge Durango Options

Some options are available in the base Durango SXT for, such as a sunroof, all-wheel drive with low-range gearing, roof rails, cosmetic additions, 20-inch alloy wheels, satellite radio, trailer-prep package, and rear parking sensors.

But the higher trims are eligible for more extras, including an 825-watt/19-speaker Harman Kardon audio system, 8.4-inch infotainment system with navigation, Blu-ray/DVD rear-seat entertainment system, adaptive cruise control, forward-collision mitigation, and lane-keeping assistance. Blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert is optional throughout the range. For towing, choose the 220-amp alternator, heavy-duty engine oil cooler and Class IV hitch receiver.

Dodge Durango Engine

While many newer midsize SUVs have moved to turbocharged 4-cylinder engines as the base offering, the Dodge Durango starts off with the powerful Pentastar 3.6-liter V6. This engine provides excellent response, can tow up to 6,400 pounds and returns the best fuel economy of the three choices.

Up next is one of two Hemi V8s. Standard in the R/T and available on Citadel, the 5.7-liter V8 produces a class-leading 360 horsepower and is the ideal choice for those needing power and performance without breaking the bank. Last up is the massive 6.4-liter Hemi V8 offered only in the all-wheel-drive SRT. With 475 horsepower on hand, this engine makes the Durango one of the most powerful SUVs in its class.

All but the SRT Durango are powered by their rear wheels (RWD) with the option of three different all-wheel-drive (AWD) systems. V8 models with AWD also feature a low-range transfer case with a neutral position. An 8-speed automatic transmission handles gear changes for all three engines.

3.6-liter V6

293 horsepower @ 6,400 rpm (single exhaust)

295 horsepower @ 6,400 rpm (dual exhaust)

260 lb-ft of torque @ 4,800 rpm

EPA city/highway fuel economy: 19/26 mpg (RWD), 18/25 mpg (AWD)

5.7-liter V8

360 horsepower @ 5,150 rpm

390 lb-ft of torque @ 4,250 rpm

EPA city/highway fuel economy: 14/22 mpg

6.4-liter V8

475 horsepower @ 6,000 rpm

470 lb-ft of torque @ 4,300 rpm

EPA city/highway fuel economy: 13/19 mpg

The Dodge Durango range kicks off with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$30,495, plus a destination charge of \$1,495, making a total of \$31,990 for a rear-drive SXT. An all-wheel-drive SXT starts at \$34,590. Next are the GT from \$36,140; Citadel from \$44,490; R/T from \$45,490, and the hot-rodded SRT from \$64,490.

It's easy to spend money on options, but a V8-powered Durango can still be obtained in the low-\$50,000 range. Decide against the V8 extravagance, though, and the Durango V6 is in the same pricing ballpark as the Honda Pilot and Ford Explorer. Check out the Fair Purchase Price on KBB.com to learn what buyers in your area are paying for their new Durango SUV.

From a resale-value perspective, the Durango won't perform as well as a Honda Pilot or Toyota Highlander, is on par with the Ford Explorer, and, over time, slightly better than the Chevrolet Traverse.



Some of the best local places for Steak



By Richard Pollak
The Traveling Gourmet
dallasentertain@aol.com

Texas consumes more Beef than any other State in the USA and Steaks account for almost 25% of all beef sales. With all the various cuts and preparations, options far exceed Ribeye's and Filets.



Bone in Rib Eye at Knife

Chef extraordinaire John Tesar built himself a meat locker with Himalayan Salt to suck moisture out of the beef they serve. It is priced by the ounce rather than the Entree so can be somewhat pricey but outstanding flavor and tenderness is like no other and worth every penny.



Shabu Shabu is thinly sliced Wagyu Beef

One of the newest entrance to the Steak scene in Dallas is Yoshi Shabu Shabu, a traditional Japanese restaurant that serves high quality meats that pair with fantastic housemade dipping sauces. Along with a variety of protein items such as Chicken, Pork, Shrimp, Scallops and Salmon, they offer a wide variety of Steaks that include Prime Beef Rib Eye, New York Strip, and Wagyu Rib Eye. All is thin sliced and cooked with fresh vegetables in a simmering broth at the table.

Chicken Fried Steak is a Texas staple, however, not all Chicken Fried Steaks are the same. Most are tenderized skirt steak, breaded and fried. Most of the time, these are good with flavor but somewhat chewy.



Chicken Fried Ribeye at The Common Table

Taking the chicken fried process to the next level is the Chicken Fried Rib Eye at the Common Table in Dallas. Fantastic, tender and full of flavor. You will never find another quite like it.



Jaxx Steakhouse Filet and Crab

Jaxx Steakhouse in Addison has been serving quality hand cuts steaks since 1992. The renowned Jaxx Pepper Steak is the real deal and a must try.



This is the home of the Steak out... a Brazilian Steakhouse, or Churrascaria, that features endless servings of six varieties of flame-grilled beef, from well known Filet Mignon to the Brazilian cut Picanha as well as an extravagant salad area with a wide array of seasonal chef-crafted items.



Luby's Rib Eye Steak and Baked Potato

Luby's Cafeteria offers a very nice Ribeye steak special. For \$12.99 you get a 12oz Ribeye and Baked Potato. A good steak for a decent price.



Nick and Sam's recognized as one of the best



Filet Oscar at Kenny's Wood Fire Grill

Owner/Executive Chef Samir Dhurandhar has received world acclaim for his Steaks at Nick n Sam's Steakhouse. The prime aged Rib Eye is as good at it gets anywhere in the U.S.

The Filet Oscar at Kenny's Wood Fire Grill in Addison is mouth watering. Fresh Crab topped off with house made Bernaise on an 8oz Prime Filet is sensational.

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- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
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- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
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