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AROUND THE AREA

FC Dallas names former North Texas SC coach Eric Quill as new head coach Quill, 46, played for FCD in 2004 and has coached at several levels of the United States Soccer Pyramid.

Eric Quill has been named the next FC Dallas head coach, the team announced Wednesday.

Quill, 46, replaces Peter Luccin, who led the club on an interim basis for the second half of this season following Nico Estevez's dismissal. Ouill will join the Frisco-based club from New Mexico United, where he spent the past year leading the USL Championship team. He was named one of three finalists for USL Championship Coach of the Year.

FC Dallas missed out on the MLS Cup playoffs for the first time since 2021, and it turns to a coach who has roots in Texas as a player and coach. Quill was an assistant coach with Columbus Crew before leading New Mexico United, joining the MLS squad after a highly successful stint as the inaugural North Texas SC coach.

Earlier this offseason, FCD executives said they had identified three finalists, including Luccin. Quill earned the nod, a team official said, because of his experience working with young players and developing new talent. Quill led North

NCA	NCAA Football Poll				
<b>Coaches Poll</b>	Week 13 AP Poll				
1. Oregon	1. Oregon				
2. Ohio State	2. Ohio State				
3. Texas	3. Texas				
4. Penn State	4. Penn State				
5. Indiana	5. Indiana				
6. Notre Dame	6. Notre Dame				
7. Alabama	7. Albama				
8. Georgia	8. Georgia				
9. Ole Miss	9. Ole Miss				
10. Miami	10. Tennessee				
11. Tennessee	11. Miami				
12. SMU	12. Boise State				
13. Boise State	13. SMU				
14. Texas A&M	14. BYU				
15. BYU	15. Texas A&M				
16. Clemson	16. Colorado				
17. Army	17. Clemson				
18. Colorado	18. Army				
19. South Carolin	a 19. South Carolina				
20. Tulane	20. Tulane				
21. Iowa State	21. Arizona State				
22. Arizona State	22. Iowa State				
23. UNLV	23. UNLV				
24. Memphis	24. Illinois				

Texas SC to the title in the inaugural USL League 1 season (2019) and was named the Coach of the Year. North Texas SC is FCD's affiliate team, currently competing in the MLS Next Pro League.

FC Dallas names new coach

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

As head coach of North Texas SC, Quill was instrumental in developing U.S national team players such as Ricardo Pepi, Bryan Reynolds and Tanner Tessmann. Both Pepi and Tessmann featured for the national team in its Concacaf Nations League wins over Jamaica over the past week. Quill previously served as an assistant for the United States U-15 and U-19 national teams.

A native of Missouri City, Quill was an assistant coach with MLS's Columbus Crew (2022 to 2023) and, in June of last year, was named head coach of New Mexico United. In the 2024 season, Quill led New Mexico to the USL Championship Western Conference Semifinals and the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Quarterfinals. With New Mexico United, Quill set club records for wins (18) and points (59).

In 2004, he played for FCD (then known as Dallas Burn). He also played for Kansas City and the MetroStars. In 2009, he retired as a player.

#### **Texas Golf Hall of Fame Gathering of Eagles and Class of 2024 Induction** Ceremony

The Texas Golf Hall of Fame rcently celebrated its members, inducted the Class of 2024 into the greatest state golf hall of fame in the country, and announced its newly formed endowment. Inductees were nominated and voted upon by living Hall members, the Texas Golf Hall of Fame Board of Directors, and designated national and Texas golf media members.

This year's class represents a remarkable group of individuals who have significantly contributed to golf in Texas. 2024 Texas Golf Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Amateur: Randy Sonnier

- Golf Professional / Teacher: Brent Buckman

- Lifetime Achievement: C. Malcolm Holland III

- Professional Service: Dr. Marvin Ferguson (Posthumously) and Mike Ray

- Professional Player: D.A. Weibring - Texas Registry of Historic Courses:

Royal Oaks Country Club (Dallas) The "Gathering of Eagles" festivities

included a golf tournament held at Houston C.C with the tradition of "Driving In" with each inductee using a hickory club, a tradition President George H.W. Bush and Don Cherry started in 1995. In addition to their Digital Museum Exhibits, the Class of 2024 is commemorated with a permanent granite marker on the Texas Golf Hall of Fame's Walk of Fame, at historic Brackenridge Park Golf Course in San Antonio, TX, and a marker at the newest Anchor Site at PGA Frisco - The Ronny Golf Park in Frisco, TX.

David Marr III was emcee and each inductee was pinned by Chairman Meyers making their membership official.

There are now 157 individuals and 15 golf courses in the Texas Golf Hall of Fame.

	NOVEMBER 22 FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 23 SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 24 SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 25 MONDAY	NOVEMBER 26 TUESDAY	R NOVEMBER 27 WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBEF <b>28</b> THURSDAY
$\mathbf{x}$			Dallas at Washington 12:00 / CBS				
	Mavs at Denver 9:00 / ESPN		Mavs at Miami 5:00 / 97.1	Mavs at Atlanya 6:30 / 97.1		Mavs vs New York 7:30 / ESPN	
क्रि		Stars at Lightning 6:00 / ESPN+		Stars at Hurricaines 6:00 / ESPN+		Stars at Blackhawks 7:30 / ESPN+	
	Allen vs Tulsa 7:10					Allen at Rapid City Rush 7:05	
5MU		SMU at Virginia 11:00 / ESPN2		1			

25. Washington State

## COLLEGES

COLLEGE SPORTS

## **College Football Playoff rankings update**



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rs, the College Football Playoffs 12 team format is finally h

#### 12-team bracket revealed in third CFP poll of 2024

#### By Staff

College football is heading into the home stretch of the season. There remain only a handful of games for each program, and the race for the College Football Playoff is on.

With the expansion from the four-team format to 12 starting in 2024, the end of the season is all the more exciting. Teams that may have found themselves well outside the hunt for a national championship in years prior find themselves in the thick of a close competition to grab one of the 12 spots in the playoff.

The four-team system had been in place since 2012, replacing the outdated BCS format. It expanded the championship series from two teams to four teams, and fans began questioning when it would expand again. The answer ended up being 2024.

The first College Football Playoff rankings release began in early November. In total, there will be five reveals before the final 12-team playoff is selected in January. Tuesday, Nov. 19 marks the third release of those rankings.

**College Football Playoff rankings 2024** Who are the top 12 teams in latest CFP

bracket	poll?		13.
Rank	Team	Record	14.
1.	Oregon	11-0	15.

Ohio State	9-1
Texas	9-1
Penn State	9-1
Indiana	10-0
Notre Dame	9-1
Alabama	8-2
Miami	9-1
Ole Miss	8-2
Georgia	8-2
Tennessee*	8-2
Boise State	9-1

\*-Tennessee would be the first team out since No. 14 BYU is projected to earn an automatic bid as the fifth highest-ranked conference champion

With Georgia defeating Tennessee on Saturday, the Bulldogs go from the first team out to the last at-large team in the playoff, essentially trading playoffs with the Volunteers. That means that Tennessee gets the short end of the stick, as both No. 12 Boise State and No. 14 BYU get automatic bids thanks to being the fourth and fifth highest-ranked conference champions.

Elsewhere, No. 5 Indiana plays No. 2 Ohio State, which is a huge game for the Hoosiers to prove they belong in the top five. The top five in the rankings remain the same as last week, but BYU's loss drops them from No. 6 to No. 14.

First four teams out				
Rank	Team	Record		
13.	SMU	9-1		
14.	BYU*	9-1		
15.	Texas A&M	8-2		

Colorado 8-2 16. \*-BYU would be in the CFP as the fifth highest-ranked conference champion

No. 14 BYU's loss to Kansas over the weekend proves significant, as it drops the Cougars all the way out of the projected top 12. However, BYU's saving grace is being the highest-ranked Big 12 team, meaning the Cougars are still projected to make the playoff as the fifth highest-ranked conference champion.

	Rest of the top 25		
Rank	Team	Record	
17.	Clemson	8-2	
18.	South Carolina	7-3	
19.	Army	9-0	
20.	Tulane	9-2	
21.	Arizona State	8-2	
22.	Iowa State	8-2	
23.	Missouri	7-3	
24.	UNLV	8-2	
25.	Illinois	7-3	

How new College Football Playoff format works in 2024

The new CFP format consists of 12 teams. Automatic bids are given to the top four conference champions, which are automatically seeded 1-4 regardless of Playoff ranking. The remaining eight spots will comprise at least six at-large bids and then the two highest-ranked remaining conference champs.

So, it could be seven at-large bids and then one more conference champion, or simply eight at-large bids. The CFP committee will determine the exact breakdown of the field. At the very least, this new format guarantees that at least one Group of 5 team makes the field.

Here's a look at how the College

Football Playoff seeding will play out: First round

- No. 1 team (bye)
- No. 2 team (bye)
- No. 3 team (bye)
- No. 4 team (bye)
- No. 12 team at No. 5 team
- No. 11 team at No. 6 team
- No. 10 team at No. 7 team
- No. 9 team at No. 8 team
- Quarterfinals

Date

- No. 1 team vs. No. 8/9 team • No. 2 team vs. No. 7/10 team
- No. 3 team vs. No. 6/11 team
- No. 4 team vs. No. 5/12 team

### First round

#### Game Fiesta Bowl (Quarters)

Dec. 20-21	Fiesta Bowl (Quarters)
Dec. 31	Sugar, Peach, Rose
Bowls (Quarters)	
Jan. 1	Orange Bowl (Semis)
Jan. 9	Cotton Bowl (Semis)
Jan. 10	National Championship
Jan. 20	
Here is the lat	test CFP bracket projec-

tions after Week 12.				
Rank	Team	Record		
1.	Oregon	11-0		
2.	Texas	9-1		
3	Miami	9-1		
4.	BYU	9-1		
5.	Ohio State	9-1		
6.	Penn State	9-1		
7.	Indiana	10-0		
8.	Notre Dame	9-1		
9.	Alabama	8-2		
10.	Ole Miss	8-2		
11.	Georgia	8-2		
12.	Boise State	9-1		

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## GOLF

## PGA TOUR

# This week on TOUR: The RSM Classic



Former Texas Tech golfer Ludwig Aberg returns to defend his title

The RSM Classic November 21 - 24, 2024 Sea Island Golf Club Saint Simons Island Georgia Purse - \$8,000,000 Winners share - \$1,440,000 Defending Champ - Ludvig Åberg

#### By Adam Stanley

This week marks the 47th – and final – event of the 2024 PGA TOUR season. The stakes, for so many in the field,

have never been higher.

With it being the FedExCup Fall finale, that means the cut off to earn spots in early Signature Events, PGA TOUR cards and conditional status all happen Sunday night at The RSM Classic.

This week also marks the return of defending champion Ludvig Åberg to the PGA TOUR.

Here's everything else you need to know as the PGA TOUR returns to Sea Island. FIELD NOTES: Ludvig Åberg will be in the field to defend his title at The RSM Classic, which will mark his return to the PGA TOUR after having knee surgery earlier in the fall. His status was to be determined after going under the knife in early September to repair a torn medial meniscus in his left knee. Åberg last teed it up at the TOUR Championship in August, where he finished 16th on the season-long FedExCup. He looks to become the first back-to-back winner in RSM Classic history ... Rafael Campos will tee it up at The RSM Classic after breaking through for his first TOUR victory Sunday at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship. Campos' wife was induced a week ago

Monday and gave birth to a baby girl so Campos could tee it up in Bermuda, looking to secure PGA TOUR status for 2025 (he was No. 147 in the FedExCup Fall heading into the week). He did more than that, however, but is looking to keep the momentum going in Georgia ... This is the biggest week of the year for so many on the PGA TOUR, with the cut-off point for the top 125 in the FedExCup Fall occurring at the tournament conclusion. Wesley Bryan currently sits No. 125 in the standings and has chosen a fabulous time to go on his best run of golf all year. He hasn't missed a cut through five starts in the FedExCup Fall and has four top-25 finishes ... Joel Dahmen sits at No. 124, just two points ahead of Bryan ... Sam Ryder finished T5 and moved inside the top 125 after the Butterfield Bermuda

Championship, from No. 135 to No. 122 ... Henrik Norlander (No. 122 to No. 126), Daniel Berger (No. 124 to No. 127) and Hayden Springer (No. 125 to No. 128) moved outside the magic number. Bryan, Dahmen, Ryder, Norlander, Berger and Springer are among those hovering around the bubble who are teeing it up at The RSM Classic, trying to put a successful bow on their seasons ... Another key cutoff mark is No. 150 in the FedExCup Fall standings, as Nos. 126-150 will earn conditional status for next year. Erik Barnes is currently No. 151, just two points back of Ryan Moore at No. 150, and both are in the field.

#### **SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS:** Luke Clanton is back in action on TOUR after last teeing it up at the Procore Championship in September. It will mark

his eighth TOUR start in 2024. He's recorded three top 10s, including a T2 at the John Deere Classic in July... Steven Fisk will make his PGA TOUR debut. Fisk finished fourth on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List on the back of a win and two runner-ups ... Jacob Modleski, a sophomore at Notre Dame, received a spot in the field via his win at the Jones Cup Invitational in January. He helped guide the Fighting Irish to their first NCAA national championship since the "regional" format was adopted in 1989 ... Paul Peterson, who won the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation on the Korn Ferry Tour in September and finished 17th on the Points List to earn a PGA TOUR card, will make his RSM Classic debut. Peterson and his family are residents of the Golden Isles. His last TOUR start came at the Wyndham Championship in 2019 where he finished tied for 36th ... Another long-time Sea Island resident, Jonathan Byrd, is also in the field on a sponsor invite along with Kyle Westmoreland and Christo Lamprecht, who finished tied for 23rd at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship last week. Lamprecht has a chance to earn exempt Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2025 via the PGA TOUR University Total Points List, as long as he finishes in the top three of the standings after this week. He's less than 12 points back of Austin Greaser, who currently holds the No. 3 spot. SIGNATURE EVENT STORYLINES: As part of the Aon Next 10, players ranked Nos. 51-60 through the FedExCup Fall will earn their way into two early-season 2025 Signature Events – the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational. The RSM Classic marks the final event to try to qualify ... With his T29 at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship, Nico Echavarria – who won the recent ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP - moved from No. 61 to No. 59 in the standings. The rest of the golfers ranked Nos. 51-60 remained the same, with Kevin Yu moving from No. 60 to No. 61. Yu trails Justin Rose by just four points. Yu is in the field this week at The RSM Classic ... Campos' win in Bermuda moved him from No. 147 to No. 80 in the standings and within shouting distance of No. 60 ... Andrew Novak, who finished runner-up in Bermuda, moved from No. 93 to No. 70, while Mark Hubbard, who finished T3, went from No. 71 to No. 63 and will look for another big week this week.

#### The current standings are:

- No. 51: Mackenzie Hughes
- No. 52: Maverick McNealy
- No. 53: Patrick Rodgers
- No. 54: Harris English

- No. 55: Seamus Power
- No. 56: Ben Griffin
- No. 57: Tom Kim
- No. 58: Nick Taylor
- No. 59: Nico Echavarria
- No. 60: Justin Rose

**FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

The RSM Classic is the final event of the FedExCup Fall and the PGA TOUR's 2024 season finale. At the end of the FedExCup Fall, those that rank from 126-150 on the final FedExCup Fall Points List will have conditional status for the 2024 PGA TOUR Season. All players outside the top 125 can improve or regain TOUR status via PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.

**COURSE:** Sea Island Resort (Seaside Course), 7,005 yards, par 70; Sea Island Resort (Plantation Course), 7,060 yards, par 72. Golfers will once again tee it up on the Plantation and the Seaside courses for the first two days before the Seaside takes on hosting duties through the weekend. In 1999, Tom Fazio was charged with redesigning the Seaside Course, a linksstyle layout adjacent to the ocean. The Plantation Course was re-done by tournament host Davis Love III and his brother Mark in 2019.

**72-HOLE RECORD:** 253, Ludvig Åberg (2023)

**18-HOLE RECORD:** 60, Tommy Gainey (fourth round, 2012, Seaside), Sebastián Muñoz (first round, 2021, Seaside), Tyler McCumber (fourth round, 2021, Seaside), Mackenzie Hughes (third round, 2023, Seaside)

LAST TIME: Åberg captured his first PGA TOUR title in record-setting fashion, firing a 29-under 253. His aggregate score tied for the lowest 72-hole total in PGA TOUR history, while he also set the record for the lowest score over a tournament's final two rounds (61-61). Additionally, his final 54 holes set a TOUR record for lowest score over three consecutive rounds. Hughes finished second by four shots thanks to a third-round, course-recordtying 60 (he just missed a 16-foot birdie try on 18 to shoot 59). To Hughes' credit, his 25-under total would have won every other RSM Classic contested in the tournament's history. Tyler Duncan and Eric Cole finished tied for third at 22-under.

#### How to follow (all times ET) Television • Thursday-Friday: noon-3 p.m. (Golf Channel) • Saturday-Sunday: 1-4 p.m. (Golf Channel)

# **Power Rankings: The RSM Classic**



#### By Rob Bolton

Not that 10 months isn't enough time for a PGA TOUR member to learn what he's made of, but The RSM Classic presents the ultimate showdown with destiny. We'll soon find out who's up for the final challenge.

The last of 47 tournaments comprising the 2024 season is contested where it always has been: Sea Island Resort in Georgia. A full field of 156 is layers deep in everything from hanging on to Hail Marys because it all comes down to this.

Reviews of the Seaside and Plantation Courses, personal targets and more are detailed below the ranking of those projected to contend for the title.

#### Power Rankings for The RSM Classic Rank Players

15 Jacob Bridgeman USA The rookie did it again. He finished one stroke outside the top 10 at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship, so he still has zero top 10s among 10 top 25s. It's dynamite form reflective of reliable precision and putting.

#### 14 Vince Whaley USA

With terrific putting and a scorer's mentality, the 29-year-old has authored one of the quieter but effective seasons with two top 10s, including a T5 on Sunday in Bermuda, among six top 20s. Also T13 here a year ago.

#### 13 Seamus Power Ireland

The 2022 winner on Bermuda returned last week for a T23. It's the latest of justoff-the-radar performances about which he lamented while on the island, but he's close. He also went T4-T5 in his last two trips to Sea Island.

#### 12 Joe Highsmith USA

Having positioned himself comfortably in the FedExCup - he's currently 118th the lefty was able to rest last week amid a torrid post-Playoffs stretch during which he's 5-for-5 with two top 10s and another pair of top 20s.

#### J.T. Poston 11 USA

He's 1-for-1 in the FedExCup Fall with a victory at the Shriners Children's Open. Among the plethora of entrants sleeping in their own beds this week, but he's still chasing his first top 10 at Sea Island. Ninth appearance.

#### 10 Brian Harman USA

No matter how much time off he takes in the last quarter of the year, the lefty always appears at the RSM. Since 2017, he's 6-for-7 with a T2 (2022) and a T4 (2017). Also stayed sharp at the SJM Macao Open (T13) a month ago. Justin Lower USA 9

He'd need a third straight top five to crack the top 60 in the FedExCup, so what a dash it'd be. He's 0-for-4 at the RSM, but that's still experience, and it's fair to consider how much he has left in the tank, but he's wilv.

#### Mackenzie Hughes Canada 8

All-or-nothing slate at Sea Island includes his breakthrough win in 2016, a pair of solo seconds (for which he closed with a 62 and 63, respectively) and a course-record-tying 60 last year. Two top 10s in the FedExCup Fall. 7

#### Eric Cole USA

The 2022-23 Rookie of the Year still is after his first podium of his sophomore season, but he concludes where he connected for the last of four of them as a first-

time member (T3). T6 in last start at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP. 6

### Harris English USA

The local continues to roll the rock with authority. When he strides onto Sea Island for his 13th start, it'll be the first time in over three years since he'll have done so anywhere with three consecutive top 15s in tow. 5

#### Andrew Novak USA

Proved his mettle in the wind yet again with a runner-up finish in Bermuda. It's one of five top 10s and nine top 20s on the season. It makes sense because he's one of the most proficient from tee to green. Fifth RSM start.

### Ludvig Åberg Sweden

The Swede is experiencing two important firsts this week: It's his first title defense on the PGA TOUR and his first start since having surgery for a torn meniscus in his left knee (in early September). He's rusty but ready. 3

### Austin Eckroat USA

When he won the World Wide Technology Championship two weeks ago, he vocalized that it validated his breakthrough win eight months prior. That's eliminates any residual self-doubt. Rose for a T8 in his debut here last year. 2 Davis Thompson USA

### He's wrapping just his second season as a TOUR member but this is his sixth start at Sea Island where he debuted as an amateur (T23) in 2019. He's kept the pedal down since his breakthrough title at the John Deere Classic.

**Ben Griffin** USA 1 Hung up another four sub-70s at Bermuda for a solo eighth. He leads the PGA TOUR with 58 of them as well as with 71 red numbers. Staying busy contributes to the volume but he doesn't have any weaknesses. T8 here last year.

Most weeks, focus is on who leads the FedExCup or the Official World Golf Ranking. This is not one of those weeks. The essence of the FedExCup Fall sets up like an extended final sprint to the tape in a race for which there are fewer prizes than participants. Experience is guaranteed, and it's a bonus, but it's also just a consolation prize for guys for whom this very well could be their last career PGA TOUR appearance as a member. It's the cruelest of the cuts because there is no next week.

The pressure to perform as the game clock approaches triple zeroes is eased twofold, however. For one, Sea Island is as familiar as it is friendly. That's not nothing at anytime, but especially right now. For another, both Seaside and Plantation are consistent and fair, which always is the objective, and both are scorable. Together, they are welcoming tracks with the checkered flag in view.

Seaside is a par 70 with two par 5s, and it tips at 7,005 yards. Plantation also is stock, but it's a par 72 measuring just 7,060 yards. Half of the field plays each course once before the 36-hole cut of low 65 and ties falls. Thereafter, only Seaside will be used.

Through the first two rounds last year, both courses averaged exactly 1.584 strokes under par. When the wind laid down on the weekend, Seaside eventually came to rest at 67.584 across all four rounds. Sunshine and daytime highs in the mid-60s are on tap throughout this week with the freshest of the breezes pre-cut. With virtually no wind expected on Sunday, the final round of the season could be a wild sprint to the finish line. Of course, the most dastardly of the elements is subject to change.

Bermudagrass greens on both courses could touch 13 feet on the Stimpmeter, especially for the finale. They are not overseeded. Seaside's thickest rough, which is overseeded, is allowed to grow to two inches. The same on Plantation is one-half an inch shorter and is not overseeded.

The wonder of the Golden Isles is overshadowed only by the wonder of what's next.

For golfers who finish 51-60 in the FedExCup, they will earn exemptions into the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational, both also known as the second and third Signature Events of the 2025 season, respectively. All golfers inside the top 125 will be equipped with fully exempt status for 2025 as well as an exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship.

Those who land at Nos. 126-150 in the FedExCup will be slotted with conditional status and extended the option to play the DP World Tour as availability allows. The first 40 available outside the top 125 can give the Final Stage of PGA TOUR O-School a go to regain fully exempt status.

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## COLLEGE

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

# Alabama favorite to win the SEC again



Alabama made the Final Four for the first time in school history last year

Alabama is the overwhelming choice to win the SEC after Mark Sears led the Crimson Tide to the 2024 Final Four

#### By Jon Thomas

When John Calipari strolls onto the court at Rupp Arena on Feb. 1 leading Arkansas into a road battle with Kentucky, it will make for an unforgettable moment in the career of a coach who has been the face of SEC basketball. Calipari led UK for 15 seasons, starting out in the 2009-10 season, when the conference featured just 12 teams and sent only four to the NCAA Tournament.

Now, as Calipari embarks on the second chapter of his SEC coaching odyssey, the league features 16 teams, including nine who reached last season's NCAA Tournament. The conference has made significant strides on the hardwood amid the emergence of programs like Auburn, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee, all of whom have reached the Elite Eight or deeper in recent years.

Against that backdrop, Calipari's jump from one proud SEC program to another is particularly fascinating. When he arrived at UK in 2009 fresh off a prolific run of success at Memphis, Calipari waved a magic wand and turned the Wildcats from an NIT team into a 35-3 squad that earned a No. 1 seed for the NCAA Tournament with the help of an elite freshman class.

Such a remarkable turnaround is impractical nowadays, in part because of how much better the SEC competition has become. College basketball is also an upperclassman's sport now, and that reality will test Arkansas in 2024-25 as Calipari deploys a few freshmen in his first Razorbacks rotation. Meanwhile, at Kentucky, former Wildcats player and BYU coach Mark Pope has stepped in with a roster full of veteran transfers. His first team couldn't be any more different than Calipari's first team was at UK 15 years ago. But between the transfer portal, NIL and the improvement of SEC hoops, not much is the same as it was then.

We'll be reminded of that reality on Feb. 1, when Calipari is stomping up and down the Rupp Arena sideline wearing Razorback red while coaching against the program that he once led to unquestioned conference supremacy.

### 1. Alabama Crimson Tide (25-12)

Expectations have never been higher at Alabama after the Crimson Tide got stars Mark Sears and Grant Nelson back from the program's first Final Four appearance. Inking a contract extension for sixth-year coach Nate Oats was also a coup for Bama, which has reached the Big Dance in four consecutive seasons. There will be a handful of new faces in the rotation, though, as the Crimson Tide added some high-profile transfers and the nation's No. 2 recruiting class. Arguably the most important addition is center Clifford Omoruyi, who led the Big Ten in blocks at 2.9 per game last season. He will provide vital paint protection, which should help keep Nelson out of foul trouble.

#### 2. Auburn Tigers (27-8)

Scoring on Auburn will be a supreme chore once again as the Tigers retained interior stalwarts Johni Broome and Dylan Cardwell. They ranked No. 3 and No. 5, respectively, in blocks per game among SEC players while splitting minutes last season. Broome was also the leading scorer for a Tigers team that finished 27-8 with a first-round NCAA Tournament loss against No. 13 seed Yale. Denver Jones and Chad Baker-Mazara are in line for big roles on the perimeter after solid debut seasons with the program. Coach Bruce Pearl also brought in Furman transfer guard JP Pegues and Georgia Tech transfer wing Miles Kelly to ensure that his rotation will again be among the nation's deepest. 3. Tennessee Volunteers (27-9)

Tennessee is replacing SEC Player of the Year and first-round NBA Draft pick Dalton Knecht, who spearheaded the program's second-ever run to the Elite Eight. But the Volunteers still have their dogged defensive identity thanks to the return of perimeter stoppers Zakai Zeigler and Jamai Mashack. Knecht was so spectacular that coach Rick Barnes returned to the well of mid-major transfers and snagged sharpshooting guard Chaz Lanier (North Florida), dynamic wing Darlinstone Dubar (Hofstra) and versatile forward Igor Milicic Jr. (Charlotte). They'll be tasked with supplying significant scoring if the Vols are to avoid some offensive regression.

#### 4. Texas A&M Aggies (21-15)

Texas A&M finished tied for seventh in the SEC last season at 9-9 in league play after it was picked second in the league's preseason media poll. But thanks to a strong finish, the Aggies snuck into the NCAA Tournament as a No. 9 seed and took No. 1 seed Houston to overtime in the second round. They are once again loaded with returning production and will hope that continuity leads to more consistency than it did a year ago. Seven of the nine players who logged starts for A&M return, including leading scorer and first-team all-SEC performer Wade Taylor. The 6-foot guard is on pace to surpass 2,000 career points and is surrounded by reliable veterans. Sixth-year coach Buzz Williams also added three known commodities via the portal in Zhuric Phelps (SMU), Pharrel Payne (Minnesota) and C.J. Wilcher (Nebraska) to give his team enviable depth. 5. Arkansas Razorbacks (16-17)

Eric Musselman is out, John Calipari is in, and the Razorbacks have been remade accordingly. Junior forward Trevon Brazile is the only scholarship returner as Arkansas welcomes the nation's No. 3 high school recruiting class and the No. 1 transfer class. The headliner is former FAU guard Johnell Davis, who was the co-AAC Player of the Year last season. Calipari needs former Kentucky guard D.J. Wagner to make a big sophomore leap at point guard, and he'll need substantive contributions from freshmen as well. McDonald's All-American guard Boogie Fland is the mostheralded of the bunch and could be the next slender-framed guard to parlay collegiate success under Calipari into an NBA career.

#### 6. Kentucky Wildcats (23-10)

Not a single scholarship player is back from Calipari's final team, and scoring wing Jaxson Robinson is the only player coming with Pope from BYU. Thus, nearly everyone is both new to the school and new to each other. What the roster lacks in high-end sizzle it makes up for with depth and diversity. The Wildcats are a deep group of veterans with well-refined skill



Texas is hoping to build off a No. 7 seed and second-round appearance in last years NCAA Tournament

sets. Robinson is the most dynamic offensive weapon of the bunch after proving his chops as a three-level scorer for the Cougars last season. Former San Diego State point guard Lamont Butler and bombastic ex-Arizona guard Kerr Kriisa will handle the ball quite a bit.

#### 7. Florida Gators (24-12)

Florida returns senior guard Walter Clayton Jr., who was the most important piece for a team that finished 24-12 with a heartbreaking loss to No. 10 seed Colorado in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Clayton was an all-conference performer and could creep into the All-American conversation. Veteran wing Will Richard is also back after logging 65 starts the past two seasons, and rising star Alex Condon should anchor the frontcourt after a promising freshman campaign. That is an excellent foundation for third-year coach Todd Golden, who added high-profile FAU transfer Alijah Martin to help plug the gap left in the backcourt by the graduation of second-leading scorer Zyon Pullin.

#### 8. Texas Longhorns (21-13)

Veteran center Kadin Shedrick and junior guard Chendall Weaver, both of whom played mostly off the bench last season, will be the most familiar faces in the Texas rotation. The Longhorns are nevertheless equipped to compete during their first SEC season after snagging several productive veterans from the transfer portal. Former Houston and Arkansas guard Tramon Mark will join with ex-Oregon State guard Jordan Pope and former Indiana State floor general Julian Larry to restock the backcourt. Five-star freshman and potential one-and-done talent Tre Johnson has also entered to give coach Rodney Terry a nice dose of perimeter firepower as the Longhorns seek to build off a No. 7 seed

and second-round appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

#### 9. Ole Miss Rebels (20-12)

Ole Miss finished 20-12 and 7-11 in the SEC in coach Chris Beard's first season after struggling to maintain the momentum of a 13-0 start that largely came against overmatched opposition. The Rebels return three of their top four scorers and have traded in towering shot-blockers Moussa Cisse and Jamarion Sharp for a more athletic and versatile front line. The top transfer is former Louisville and Seton Hall wing Dre Davis, who averaged 16.6 points, 6.8 rebounds and 2.6 blocks during the Pirates' five-game run to the NIT title. Don't be surprised if Ole Miss makes a leap in Beard's second year because his track record suggests it's likely. 10. Mississippi State (21-14)

Mississippi State unearthed a recruiting gem in three-star, in-state prospect Josh Hubbard. The 5-10 guard won SEC Freshman of the Week five times and helped make coach Chris Jans 2 for 2 on reaching the NCAA Tournament with the Bulldogs. Hubbard is back to anchor the 2024-25 roster, but Jans does have to replace first-team all-SEC center Tolu Smith. The solution could be to play a more perimeter-oriented style. Transfer guards Claudell Harris Jr. (Boston College) and Kanye Clary (Penn State) were each double-figure scorers and 37% 3-point shooters at their last stops, and former Florida wing Riley Kugel also brings some firepower.

#### 11. Georgia Bulldogs (20-17)

Following a 14-5 overall and 4-2 SEC start, Georgia concluded the 2023-24 regular season at 16-15 and 6-12 in the SEC before a surprising run to the NIT semifinals. If demonstrable progress is going to

be made in coach Mike White's third season, it may be due to the contributions of a talented freshman frontcourt duo. Five-star power forward Asa Newell and top-50 center Somto Cyril are entering to bolster the front line. Appalachian State transfer Justin Abson will also help improve the Dawgs' rebounding and rim protection after swatting 2.8 shots per game last season. Leading scorers Noah Thomasson and Jabri Abdur-Rahim are gone, but the guard positions appear to be in good hands with sophomores Silas Demary Jr. and Blue Cain, who were key cogs in the rotation as freshmen.

#### 12. Missouri Tigers (8-24)

Missouri coach Dennis Gates was a Year 1 wizard in 2022-23, taking a 12-win team and molding it into a 25-win team that reached the second round of the 2023 NCAA Tournament. But the Year 2 comedown was brutal as the Tigers finished 8-24 (0-18 SEC) for their first winless campaign in league play since 1908. Just one starter returns, which is probably for the best, as the Tigers welcome the nation's No. 5 freshman class and a talented group of transfers. The headline addition is ex-Duke forward Mark Mitchell, a former five-star prospect who started 67 games in two seasons with the Blue Devils. Ex-Iowa point guard Tony Perkins is also a big-time addition after averaging 14.3 points last season. If mid-major transfers Jacob Crews (UT-Martin) and Marques Warrick (Northern Kentucky) are ready for the SEC grind, then the Missouri see-saw could be headed back up.

#### **13.** South Carolina Gamecocks (26-8)

South Carolina enjoyed a massive Year 2 bump under coach Lamont Paris, going from 11 wins to 26 and reaching the NCAA Tournament as a No. 6 seed. Four players who logged 22+ minutes per game for that team return, including rising star forward Collin Murray-Boyles. After earning a spot on the SEC's All-Freshman team, it would be no surprise if he's an allconference performer. Another name to know is Jamarii Thomas. The Norfolk State transfer is an undersized guard who won MEAC Player of the Year last season. He will help fill the shoes of Meechie Johnson, who transferred back to Ohio State. 14. LSU Tigers (17-16)

LSU pulled itself from the wreckage of Will Wade's demise in Year 2 under Matt McMahon by finishing 17-16 (9-9 SEC) and reaching the NIT. The Tigers hopes of taking another step in 2024-25 rest largely on a revamped backcourt. Tennessee-Martin transfer Jordan Sears ranked No. 9 nationally in points per game at 21.6 last season, while Cam Carter's 14.6 points per game at Kansas State were second on the team. But it's not all about the transfers for the Tigers. Sharpshooting wing Tyrell Ward is back for his junior season, and guard Mike Williams has returned after an encouraging freshman campaign. A versatile trio of returning bigs headlined by

Jalen Reed and a trio of four-star freshman give McMahon a nice blend of returners, transfers and freshmen. The question is whether there's enough high-end talent for LSU to survive the SEC and reach the Big Dance.

#### 15. Oklahoma Sooners (20-12)

Oklahoma has yet to reach the NCAA Tournament under Porter Moser as the former Loyola-Chicago coach enters Year 4. The Sooners were close last season, finishing 20-12 (8-10 Big 12) and barely on the wrong side of the bubble before declining an NIT invitation. With just two of five starters back - leading scorers Javian McCollum and Otega Oweh are both gone - this team will look significantly different. Six veteran transfers will combine to make the Sooners one of the oldest teams in the league, but most of them are coming from less-heralded conferences. The returning anchor is stretch forward Jalon Moore, who has all-conference potential after averaging 11.2 points and 6.7 rebounds last season before exploring the NBA Draft process.

#### 16. Vanderbilt Comadores (9-23)

Mark Byington hustled to assemble a competitive roster, despite the unavoidable challenges of being a first-year coach at school with high academic standards and limited NIL resources in the transfer portal era. The headliner is former Michigan State point guard A.J. Hoggard, but ex-North Texas guard Jason Edwards also brings some firepower after averaging 19.1 points for the Mean Green. A handful of Vanderbilt's additions have more than one season of eligibility remaining, which may allow Byington to field a competitive team in Year 1 without having to conduct a full scrape and rebuild for Year 2.

First Team	
Mark Sears	Alabama
Johni Broome	Auburn
Walter Clayton, Jr	Florida
Zakai Zeigler	Tennessee
Wade Taylor IV	Texas A&M
Second Team	
Grant Nelson	Alabama
Jonas Aidoo	Arkansas
Johnell Davis	Arkansas
Matthew Murrell	Ole Miss
Josh Hubbard	Mississippi St.
Third Team	
Chad Baker-Mazara	Auburn
Jaxon Robinson	Kentucky
Collin Murray-Broyles	South Carolina
Tre Johnson	Texas
Tramon mark	Texas





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# ACC football predictions - Week 13



SMU will clinch a spot in the ACC Championship game with a win this week against Virginia

#### By Ryan Haley

There are two weeks left to go in the 2024 College Football Regular Season and the ACC is down to three teams in its conference title race. SMU, Miami, and Clemson are the only teams with a chance to win the league. Clemson wrapped up its ACC schedule last week with a win over Pitt and now is awaiting the results of SMU and Miami's remaining games.

SMU can clinch a spot in the ACC Championship with a win over Virginia this weekend. The Mustangs are favored in Charlottesville vs the Cavaliers, but can they handle the expectations? Miami cannot clinch this Saturday vs Wake Forest, but they control their own destiny and will have to beat the Demon Deacons on Saturday and Syracuse next weekend. Clemson clinches a spot if Miami were to lose to either Wake Forest or Syracuse or if SMU loses its last two ACC games vs Virginia and Cal.

Aside from the conference title picture, there are several teams in the ACC that can clinch a bowl game this weekend. Virginia, Boston College, Cal, and Virginia Tech can all get their sixth win this weekend, but it will be a challenge.

So who will the winners be this weekend in the ACC?

#### 1. Wake Forest (4-6) at #8 Miami (9-1) Saturday, 11:00 p.m. / ESPN Line: Miami -24.5 / 66.5

Miami has had a week to get over their loss to Georgia Tech and the Hurricanes can' afford any more if they want to make the ACC Championship game and have a shot at the College Football Playoff. The Hurricanes offense was stifled by the Yellow Jackets defense, but Wake Forest has one of the worst defenses in the country and Ward and Miami should be able to put up any number they want. Will their defense finally put it together? They may not need to this Saturday, but next week and going forward is different. I like Miami to win big here. **Pick: Miami 48, Wake Forest 20** 

#### #13 SMU (9-1) at Virginia (5-5) Saturday, 11:00 p.m. / ESPN2 Line: SMU -9.5 / 57

SMU survived last weekend vs Boston College and now they have a chance to clinch a spot in the ACC Championship. They will have to go on the road and defeat Virginia, who is an improved team this year, but is coming off of a physical beatdown against Notre Dame. I think this game could be close early as Virginia will come out fired up, but the Mustangs will clinch a spot in the conference title game. **Pick: SMU 35, Virginia 21** 

#### UConn (7-3) at Syracuse (7-3) Saturday, 11:00 p.m. / ACC Network Line: Syracuse -10.5 / 54

Two old Big East foes will clash this weekend and this has the makings of a trap game for the Orange. They are coming off of an upset vs Cal last weekend and have a huge game vs Miami next weekend. UConn is 7-3 this season and nearly knocked off both Duke and Wake Forest. I

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think Syracuse wins because of their passing attack and moves to 8-3 but watch for the upset here.

Pick: Syracuse 41, UConn 28

#### North Carolina (6-4) at Boston College (5-5) Saturday, 11:00 p.m. / CW Network Line: UNC -2.5 / 55

The Tar Heels became bowl eligible last week with a win over Wake Forest and now they go on the road to see if they can win their fourth game in a row. Boston College nearly knocked off SMU, but fell short on their final drive. The Eagles face Pitt next week to close out their season and need a win either this weekend or next to clinch a bowl game. I think they upset North Carolina this weekend and get to the postseason for the second straight season. **Pick: BC 28, UNC 24** 

#### Charleston South. (1-10) at Florida St. (1-9) Saturday, 12:30 p.m. / ESPN+ Line: NL

This might be the saddest game of the

day in the country and Florida State has to win this.

Pick: FSU 42, CSU 10

#### The Citadel (0-11) at Clemson (8-2) Saturday, 2:30 p.m. / CW Network Line: NL

Clemson should win this game handily and they might want to wrap it up quickly and pull their starters due to having a big game vs South Carolina next week. **Final Score: Clemson 45, The Citadel 7** 

#### Stanford (3-7) at Cal (5-5) Saturday, 2:30 p.m. / ACC Network Line: Cal -14 / 54

Stanford is coming off of a huge win vs Louisville last weekend and now gets to try and beat their longtime rival. Cal has lost five games this year by eight points or less and needs to win another game to reach a bowl game in their first year in the ACC. I think Cal avoids the upset and finally gets their sixth win of the year. **Pick: Cal 35, Stanford 17** 

#### Pittsburgh (7-3) at Louisville (6-4) Saturday, 3:00 p.m. / ESPN2 Line: Louisville -8 / 58

Pitt has lost three in a row since their 7-0 start and they nearly upset Clemson last weekend. The big question in this game is going to be whether Pitt quarterback Eli Holstein will be cleared or not. If so, Pitt has a chance to upset Louisville. The offensive line has also taken a lot of injuries as well. The Cardinals lost to Stanford last weekend, a huge blow to the possibility of them finishing the year ranked. Pitt has too many injury questions and the Cardinals will be angry after last week.

Pick: Louisvlle 34, Pitt 20

#### Virginia Tech (5-5) at Duke (7-3) Saturday, 7:00 p.m. / ACC Network Line: Virginia Tech -3 / 46.5

With a win, Virginia Tech can get to a bowl game. The Hokies have been one of the most disappointing teams in the country and it would not be a good look for them to drop to 5-6. Manny Diaz has Duke at 7-3, but the Blue Devils still don't get much respect around the country. I think the Duke defense will limit Virginia Tech in this game and they get a low-scoring upset win over the Hokies.

Pick: Duke 20, Virginia Tech 17

ACC Standings				
Team	Conf.	Overall		
SMU	6-0	9-1		
Clemson	7-1	8-2		
Miami	5-1	9-1		
Syracuse	4-3	7-3		
Louisville	4-3	6-4		
Georgia Tech	4-3	6-4		
Duke	3-3	7-3		
Pittsburgh	3-3	7-3		
Virginia	3-3	5-5		
Virginia Tech	3-3	5-5		
UNC	3-3	6-4		
Boston Col.	2-4	5-5		
N.C State	2-4	5-5		
Wake Forest	2-4	4-6		
Stanford	2-5	3-7		
California	1-5	5-5		
Florida State	1-7	1-9		

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## **Big 12 Football predictions - Week 13**



Texas Tech looks to improve its Bowl position with a win in Stillwater Saturday

By Stacy Urban

Somehow, Week 13 of the 2024 college football season is here, and after what we witnessed in Week 12, it's fair to wonder what's in store down the stretch.

There are six games on the slate for Saturday, November 23, with kickoff times spanning from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

It's been a chaotic season thus far, with underdogs dominating through the first 12 weeks — going 31-24-1 against the spread and 24-32 straight up.

This week, the average line in Big 12 games is under 7.0 points, with four of the seven games having lines of 3.5 points or less. Here's who will win each game, why they'll win, and what our predicted final score is.

#### Arizona (4-6, 2-5) at TCU (6-4, 4-3) Saturday, 2:00 PM / ESPN+ Line: TCU -11.5 / 59.5

Arizona's 27-3 win over Houston was certainly a positive trend for the Wildcats, and it also kept them in bowl contention for another week. With that being said, turning one win into two might be tough as they'll be on the road taking on a TCU team that's coming off a bye week and won three of their last four games. The Horned Frogs haven't had the season they were hoping for, and Arizona can certainly say the same. TCU wins this one to move to 7-4, and drops Arizona out of bowl contention.

Pick: TCU 33, Arizona 20

#### BYU (9-1, 6-1) at Arizona State (8-2, 5-2) Saturday, 2:30 PM / ESPN Line: ASU -3.5 / 48.5

Four teams have a realistic shot at making the Big 12 Championship Game, and two of them will be on the field in Tempe on Saturday afternoon. BYU is coming off its first loss of the season -a 17-13 loss to Kansas - and is a 3.5-point underdog as of Monday. Both of these teams have been incredibly surprising this season, and the dominance that we saw from Arizona State in the first half of its win over Kansas State suggests that the Sun Devils might be peaking at the right time. There's been chaos in the Big 12 all season, and ASU beating the Cougars would make things so crazy heading into Week 14. So, that's what I'm going with. Pick: ASU 27, BYU 23

TX Tech (6-4, 4-3) at OK. State (3-7, 0-7) Saturday, 3:00 PM / ESPN+

#### Line: TTU -3.5 / 67

In past seasons, this game likely would've had at least some impact on the Big 12 race, but when the Red Raiders and Cowboys square off against one another in Stillwater this Saturday, there won't be all that much on the line. Texas Tech has secured bowl eligibility but is effectively out of the Big 12 race, while Oklahoma State's chances at a bowl game were shot after their 38-13 loss to TCU a couple of weeks ago. Typically, I would take the Pokes in a position where they're a home underdog, but Tahj Brooks might run for 250 yards and three touchdowns in this game with how OSU defends the run. Give me Texas Tech to win and cover. Pick: TTU 41, OSU 23

#### Colorado (8-2, 6-1) at Kansas (4-6, 3-4) Saturday, 2:30 / FOX Line: Colorado -3.0 / 59.5

This is a tricky game, and one that will probably see a lot of action from the public as Colorado appears to be the vastly better team based on record alone. However, with how Kansas has played over the last four games, I wouldn't be remotely surprised if the Jayhawks found a way of winning this game and throwing the Big 12 into complete anarchy heading into Week 14. Colorado has played well on the road and will be in the Big 12 title game if it wins out. Meanwhile, KU needs a win if they hope to salvage their season by making it to 6-6 to get bowl-eligible. Call me crazy, but I think Kansas shocks the world for the third weekend in a row. Pick: KU 33, Colorado 31

#### UCF (4-6, 2-5) at West Virginia (5-5, 4-3) Saturday, 2:30 PM / ESPNU UCF -3.0 / 63

Since making the switch to Dylan Rizk at quarterback, UCF's offense appears to have found yards and points in bunches. The Knights must win this game to have a chance at bowl eligibility, while West Virginia has to win one of its final two games of the year if they hope to get to the postseason. It's senior night in Morgantown, and there will be plenty of emotions on the home sideline. With that said, I think the visitors are trending in the right direction heading into this one. **Pick: UCF 34, WVU 28** 

#### Baylor (6-4, 4-3) at Houston (4-6, 3-4) Saturday, 6:00 PM / FS1 Baylor -8.0 / 50.5

Baylor's offense has found itself under Jake Spavital and the Bears are starting to peak as the season comes to a close. Meanwhile, Houston had picked up backto-back wins over Utah and Kansas State before getting blitzed by Arizona on the road last week. Houston's defense has been excellent for most of the season, but this Baylor offense is playing about like Kansas did when the Coogs went to Arrowhead a month ago. That's bad news for UH. **Pick: Baylor 31, Houston 13** 

#### Iowa State (8-2, 5-2) at Utah (4-6, 1-6) Saturday, 6:30 PM / FOX ISU -7.5 / 42

Iowa State dropped consecutive games before bouncing back against Cincinnati last week, but it might've cost the Cyclones a chance at a Big 12 Championship Game appearance. The only thing Matt Campbell's team can do is win out and hope the teams ahead of them slip up. Meanwhile, Utah has had quite a disappointing season and cannot lose another game if they hope to go bowling. There's something on the line for both teams, but we'll take Iowa State in this one. **Pick: ISU 26, Utah 20** 

#### Cincinnati (5-5, 3-4) at K-State (7-3, 4-3) Saturday, 7:00 PM / ESPN2 Kansas State -8.5 / 53

Kansas State laid an egg in the first half against Arizona State last week and it effectively locked the Wildcats out of the Big 12 race. There's still a chance to win 10 games if they can win these next to and win a bowl game, but the 2024 season will be remembered by the "what-ifs" in Manhattan. Meanwhile, Cincinnati has hit a roadblock with three consecutive losses and needs to pick up a win either this week or next to get to six wins. Unfortunately for them, it won't be at Kansas State. **Pick: KSU 34, Cincinnati 27** 

<b>Big 12 STANDINGS</b>				
TEAM	Conf.	Overall		
BYU	6-1	9-1		
Colorado	6-1	8-2		
Arizona State	5-2	8-2		
Iowa State	5-2	8-2		
Kansas State	4-3	7-3		
Baylor	4-3	6-4		
Texas Tech	4-3	6-4		
TCU	4-3	6-4		
WestVirginia	4-3	5-5		
Cincinnati	3-4	5-5		
Kansas	3-4	4-6		
Houston	3-4	4-6		
UCF	2-5	4-6		
Arizona	2-5	4-6		
Utah	1-6	4-6		
Oklahoma St	0-7	3-7		

# SEC football predictions - Week 13



Alabama travels to Norman this week to take on the Sooners

#### Six teams are still fighting for a spot in the SEC Championship Game, which has become an enigma

#### By Brandon Marcello

The SEC title race may still be a mess after this week. Six teams are still fighting for a trip to Atlanta, and if the favorites win their remaining games, five teams will end the season tied for second place in the standings. And that's not even the most chaotic scenario.

Welcome to life in the era of megaconferences, where tiebreaker scenarios are so confusing that even the Big Ten's mathematicians needed an additional 72 hours this week to discover Oregon had, indeed, secured a spot in its conference championship game.

The four highest-ranked conference champions are rewarded with a first-round bye. The problem for the SEC is a threeloss runner-up could miss the CFP. In fact, it appears likely based on the most recent CFP Rankings.

Only #3 Texas and #15 Texas A&M control their destiny in the race for the SEC Championship Game, meaning if both teams win this week (Texas against Kentucky; Texas A&M at Auburn), a spot in the SEC title game will be up for grabs next week. After 13 years without the bitter rivals on the field, Nov. 30 might just be the biggest game in the storied rivalry's history.

#### Ole Miss (8-2 at Florida (5-5) Saturday, 11:00 / ABC Line: Ole Miss -11.5 / 55.5

Florida has been playing much better since September, even as it dealt with debilitating injuries at quarterback. With DJ Lagway back on the field, the Gators suddenly seem to be a threat to potentially knock off Ole Miss, a playoff hopeful that drilled Georgia two weeks ago. The Gators are nearly 90 yards per game better on defense at home, and last week they held LSU to 4.1 yards per play, their best performance against an FBS team this season. **Pick: Ole Miss 30 Florida 24** 

### Kentucky (4-6) at # 3 Texas (9-1) Saturday, 2:30 / ABC

Line: Texas -20.5 / 46.5 I wrote Saturday after watching Texas

in person that the Longhorns like to play with their food when they're perfectly capable of devouring it. They're more talented than practically every team on the schedule, yet they have some of the most boring outcomes. They're not too flashy, just solid as heck. Still, Texas co-leads the country with seven wins by 19-plus points and has held five opponents to 10 points or fewer. Kentucky is playing better in its last two games and has covered the spread in each contest. No upset here, but Texas will again play competently on offense with Quinn Ewers (21 straight games with a passing touchdown) and the defense will smother a weak Wildcats offense. Pick: Texas 33 Kentucky 20

#### Louisiana Tech (4-6) at Arkansas(5-5) Saturday, 3:00 / ESPN+ Line; Arkansas -22 / 48.5

Louisiana Tech had had a rough season, and though frustrating, the Bulldogs finally broke through with a 12-7 win last week against a solid Western Kentucky team on the road. Louisiana Tech's last five games have been decided by one possession and an average of five points. Its only loss by double digits this season was a 10-point drop in Week 2 against North Carolina State.

The Hogs' offense has been able to move the ball throughout the season but can't complete drives. They struggled against an elite Texas unit last week (season-low 231 yards). What is the issue for the Hogs for most of the season? Turnovers, penalties and inconsistency in the red zone (77th nationally). Louisiana Tech ranks 12th in total defense and is built to stop the run. Quarterback Taylen Green and running back Ja'Quinden Jackson will pick their spots and find some holes against the Bulldogs' defense as they reach bowl eligibility and secure Sam Pittman another year on the job. Pick: Arkansas 35 Louisiana Tech 17

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#### #23 Missouri (7-3) at Mississippi State (2-8) Saturday, 3:15 / SECN Line: Missouri -7.5 / 57.5

It's rare that a team has a "get-right" game on the road this late in the season, but Missouri lucked out with Mississippi State struggling in Jeff Lebby's first season. You gotta love Mizzou's fight, even in a loss last week at South Carolina. The Tigers rallied from a 15-point deficit on the road and took the lead in the final 70 seconds before South Carolina's magical, game-winning touchdown drive. Mississippi State's defense is among the nation's worst in all categories, ranking 127th overall (460.8 ypg). Missouri has won 13 straight against unranked teams, the sixth-best streak in the FBS. Pick: Missouri 38 MSU 24

#### #7 Alabama (8-2) at Oklahoma (5-5) Saturday, 6:30 / ABC Line: Alabama -13.5 / 46.5

This is a sneaky good game on the schedule. Oklahoma's strong defense against Jalen Milroe, who has been an absolute stunner in road games for most of the season. Milroe smoked LSU two weeks ago with four rushing touchdowns, but the Sooners' defense could make it much more challenging to score points in Norman, especially after the Sooners rested during a bye week.

### Pick: Alabama 30 Oklahoma 14

#### #15 Texas A&M (8-2) at Auburn (4-6) Saturday, 6:30 / ESPN Line: Texas A&M -2.5 / 46.5

All Texas A&M has to do is beat Auburn to set up possibly the biggest game in Texas-Texas A&M history. Despite the one-win Tigers' struggles on offense, something must be said about playing a night game inside Jordan-Hare Stadium. This will be the first SEC night game of the season at Auburn, and the crowd will be amped. This is a dangerous spot for the Aggies, who were beaten two years ago at night in this venue. **Pick: Auburn 28 Texas A&M 24** 

#### Vanderbilt (6-4) at LSU (6-4) Saturday, 6:45 / SECN Line: LSU -7.5 / 53.5

This is a difficult pick, particularly at press time with the status of Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia up in the air. Pavia exited the South Carolina game two weeks ago in the fourth quarter with an apparent injury, and late last week during an open date coach Clark Lea said he'll be "between questionable and probable" for LSU. Meanwhile, LSU is a bit of a dumpster fire at the moment after suffering three straight losses. Players are back-talking Brian Kelly, and the coach is chastising them on the sideline. The offense has suddenly looked inept, too, averaging only 17 points in the last three games. LSU is backed into a corner, but Tiger Stadium at night will get the Tigers back on track. Pick: LSU 32 Vanderbilt 27

UTEP (2-8) at #11 Tennessee (8-2) Saturday, 12:00 / ESPN+ Line: Tennessee -40.5 / 52.5 Pick: Tennessee 38 UTEP 10

UMass (2-8) at #10 Georgia (8-2) Saturday, 11:45 / SECN Line: Georgia -42 / 55.5 Pick: Georgia 40 UMass 7

Wofford (5-6) at #18 South Carolina (7-3) Saturday, 3:00 / ESPN+ Line: NL Pick: USC 42 Wofford 3

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

FOOTBALL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# NFL picks, predictions for Week 12



Week 12 in the NFL might not have as many headlines, but it still has some really good football games

NFL picks, predictions for Week 12: Jordan Love leads Packers past 49ers, Chargers take down Ravens

#### By Bill Bender

The Packers-49ers rivalry helped define the careers of Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers during their time in Green Bay. Favre was 12-2 against San Francisco for the Packers, including a 4-1 record in the playoffs. Rodgers was 6-7 against San Francisco with a 0-4 record in the postseason. Those are stats that matter in this classic NFC rivalry.

Which brings us to Jordan Love. The Green Bay quarterback had 194 yards, two TDs, and two interceptions in the 24-21 loss to the 49ers in the NFC divisional playoffs last season. Green Bay might own Chicago, but San Francisco is a different story. The Packers are 7-3, but those three losses are against playoff contenders in Philadelphia, Minnesota, and Detroit. San Francisco might be 5-5, but they are still in that weight class when healthy.

So, yeah, this is a gotta-have-it game for the Packers just as much as the 49ers, and Green Bay has won four of the past five regular-season meetings. That is the highlight of a week that also features the "Harbaugh Bowl" between the Chargers and Ravens.

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

• Straight up: 114-52 (8-6 in Week 11)

• ATS: 95-65-6 (8-6 in Week 11) Here are our picks for Week 12:

#### Pittsburgh (8-2) at Cleveland (2-8) Thursday, 7:20 p.m. / Amazon Prime Line: Steelers -3.5 / 36.5

Is this a letdown game for Pittsburgh on a short week? The Browns are 1-4 S/U at home, and Jameis Winston took a combined total of eight sacks in losses to the Ravens and Chargers. Pittsburgh has allowed more than 17 points just twice this season. Russell Wilson has taken three or more sacks in four starts, but he's limiting the interceptions. The Steelers grind out another AFC North win here. **Pick: Steelers 24, Browns 17** 

#### Minnesota (8-2) at Chicago (4-6) Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox Line: Vikings -3.5 / 39.5

Yes, the Bears lost in heart-breaking fashion, but Caleb Williams showed development with new offensive coordinator Thomas Brown. The Vikings are tied for third in the NFL with 35 sacks this season, but Williams can offset that like he did against Green Bay. Can Chicago's defense rattle Sam Darnold, who has a 99.9 passer rating on the road, though? **Pick: Vikings 21, Bears 19** 

Detroit (9-1) at Indianapolis (5-6) Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox Line: Lions -7 / 49.5 The Lions have defeated three AFC

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South teams by a combined total of 130-49, and Detroit is 2-1 ATS when favored by more than seven points. Anthony Richardson, who totaled 304 yards and three TDs against the Jets, is a different challenge for Detroit, and the Colts are 5-2 ATS as an underdog. Still, Detroit has allowed just 48.5 rushing yards per game the past two weeks. That will be a differ-

New England (3-8) at Miami (4-6)

The Patriots have become a high-volume passing attack with rookie quarterback Drake Maye, who has 40 passing attempts in two of the past three games. He also has four TDs and four interceptions. Miami is figuring it out again with Tua Tagovailoa, who is coming off his best game of the season. The Dolphins have won the past four

ence in this game. Pick: Lions 34, Colts 21

Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS Line: Dolphins -7 / 45.5

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Make Tax Problems a Thing of the PAST! Call now for your free consultation 800-406-5032 home meetings in the series. Pick: Dolphins 28, Patriots 21

#### Tampa Bay (4-6) at N.Y. Giants (2-8) Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS Line: Bucs -5.5 / 41.5

The Giants are starting Tommy DeVito, and that could give a struggling offense a lift coming out of a bye week. The Buccaneers have lost four straight games, but look at the competition. Baker Mayfield gets back on track, and the Buccaneers keep their hopes alive in the NFC South rest. The Giants are 0-5 S/U and average 10.6 points per game. **Pick: Buccaneers 25, Giants 17** 

#### Dallas (3-7) at Washington (7-4) Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox Line: Commanders -10.5 / 45.5

The Cowboys' season remained in freefall, and the Commanders had extra time to prepare after a Thursday Night Football loss to the Eagles. Washington coach Dan Quinn, who was the Cowboys' defensive coordinator from 2021-23, will be the spotlight here. Jayden Daniels will get back on track, and Dallas will continue to struggle with turnovers with Cooper Rush. The teams have split the past six meetings in Washington. Teams who are underdogs of 10 or more points are 0-5 ATS. Will the Cowboys at least break that trend? **Pick: Commanders 30, Cowboys 21** 

#### Kansas City (9-1) at Carolina (3-7) Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS Line: Chiefs -10.5 / 42.5

We just mentioned the 10-points-ormore trend. The Chiefs are coming off their first loss, and the Panthers are on a two-game win streak coming out of a bye week. The Chiefs have averaged 67.5 rushing yards per game the past two weeks. Look for Kansas City to get that going against a Carolina defense that ranks last in the NFL at 160.1 yards per game. Patrick Mahomes will do the rest.

### Pick: Chiefs 31, Panthers 14

#### Tennessee (2-8) at Houston (7-4) Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox Line: Texans -8 / 41.5

The Titans have lost four of their past five games by 10 or more points, and they are 1-4 S/U on the road. Houston is working on a short week after Monday Night Football, but C.J. Stroud will cook at home with an offense that found its rhythm on Monday Night Football. Six of the past eight meetings have been decided by seven points or less. Tennessee hangs around in an AFC South game, but the Texans close out in the fourth quarter. **Pick: Texans 26, Titans 20** 

Denver (6-5) at Las Vegas (2-8) Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / CBS Line: Broncos -5.5 / 41.5

The Broncos are in the playoff mix with Bo Nix, who averages 261 passing yards with a 79.3% completion percentage, six TDs, and no interceptions in his past two starts. Las Vegas is 1-3 ATS as an underdog of less than seven points, and the Broncos dominated the first meeting 34-18. What has changed? Nix is better. **Pick: Broncos 27, Raiders 15** 

#### San Francisco (5-5) at Green Bay (7-3) Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / Fox Line: Packers -2.5 / 47.5

We mentioned the Packers' side, but the 49ers are 2-4 S/U in one-score games this season. The difference for Brock Purdy will be having time against a defense that averages 2.5 sacks per game. Will Green Bay dial up the pressure as a result? San Francisco needs this one to stay in the NFC West race. Could they haunt the Packers one more time in familiar fashion at Lambeau Field to get there, or will the Packers finally break through? **Pick: Packers 24, 49ers 21** 

#### Arizona (6-4) at Seattle (5-5) Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / Fox Line: Seahawks -1 / 47.5

This should be a heated NFC West battle between two teams with a shot to win the division. Seattle is back at .500 despite a 2-4 record at home, and Arizona had a bye week after back-to-back blowout victories against the Bears and Jets. This could easily be the best game of the week as a result, and Geno Smith works the late magic again.

Pick: Seahawks 30, Cardinals 27

#### Philadelphia (8-2) at L.A Rams (5-5) Sunday, 7:20 p.m. / NBC Peacock Line: Eagles -3 / 49.5

The Eagles have been on their "A" game around Saquon Barkley, who ranks second in the NFL with 1,137 rushing yards. Matthew Stafford is coming off a four-TD performance. The Rams are 2-2 S/U at home, and the Eagles are 4-1 S/U on the road.

That mentality will carry over for what is starting to look like the co-favorite with Detroit in the NFC. Home-field advantage will matter in that race. **Pick: Eagles 29, Rams 19** 

#### Baltimore (7-4) at L.A Chargers (7-3) Monday, 7:15 p.m. / ABC/ESPN Line: Ravens -3 / 50.5

The long-awaited sequel to the

Harbaugh Bowl is here. Chargers defensive coordinator Jesse Minter, who was an assistant with the Ravens from 2017-20, has the task of slowing down the tandem of Lamar Jackson and Derrick Henry. Justin Herbert has been efficient at home. He averages 212.6 passing yards per game with seven TDs and no interceptions. This will be the best game of the week, and Jim Harbaugh gets the win against John this time.

Pick: Chargers 23, Ravens 22



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### COLLEGE

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# **College Football News and Notes**





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The third week's rankings of both the College Football Playoff (2014-24 and released Tuesday night) and Bowl Championship Series (1998-2013) have been a solid indicator of eventual success.

In the CFP era alone, 25 schools have closed Week 3 rankings unbeaten and then finished the regular season without a loss, and this includes national champ Michigan in 2024. This year's crews entering the Week 3 survey with zero setbacks are Army West Point, Indiana and Oregon (2014 season runnerup to Ohio State). The most undefeated teams through Week 3 in any CFP or BCS happened in 2009 when seven schools made that grade, and five of those concluded the regular outing with no losses. The CFP high water mark was five teams in the COVID-19 year of 2020, and all five closed pre-bowl activity without a defeat. They were Alabama, Cincinnati, Coastal Carolina, Ohio State, and San Jose State.

The ESPN Allstate CFP Predictor projects Top 12 teams for the expanded playoff through Nov. 17 as Oregon, Indiana, Ohio State, Texas, Georgia, Penn State, Boise State, Alabama, Notre Dame, Tennessee, Miami (Fla.), and Ole Miss.

The 13th annual FWAA Armed Forces

Merit Award recipient for college football performance and service to the United States in a patriotic capacity is Dr. Jack Hawkins, a retired Marine and Vietnam War veteran who has been chancellor at Troy University since 1989. Among his many contributions to America's patriotic vision besides his service is the popular Troy For Troops initiative to link the university and U.S. service groups. Other recipients of the Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the FWAA are Nate Boyer of Texas (2012), Brandon McCoy of North Texas (2013), Daniel Rodriguez from Clemson (2014), Bret Robertson of Westminster (Mo.) (2015), Steven Rhodes from Middle Tennessee (2016), the Kansas State football squad (2017), Dr. Chris Howard from Robert Morris U. and Air Force student-athlete (2018), Army West Point assistant coach Mike Viti (2019), Collin O'Donnell of Bluefield (Va.) State (W.Va.) (2020), Damien Jackson of the University of Nebraska (2021), the Parris Johnston Jr. Foundation (2022), and Tyler Huff (Furman, now starting QB at Jacksonville State) (2023).

NFF College Hall of Fame on-campus salutes presented by Fidelity Investments® have continued to feature several NFF College Hall of Fame inductees in 2024 with the final salute on Saturday, Nov. 30: Antonio Langham (the only NFF College Hall of Fame member from the lovely burg of Town Creek, Ala, population: 943, and home of the now-closed and footballfamed Hazlewood HS gridiron program), Alabama (vs. Auburn). Langham was also featured on ESPN's SEC Storied for his game-winning pass interception return for a touchdown against Florida in the inaugural SEC Championship Game at historic Legon Field in Birmingham, Alabama in December 1992.

The 66th NFF Awards Dinner is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas with sponsorship by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Bureau. For ticketing, scheduling information and special discount hotel and flight arrangements, please access FootballFoundation.org. Famed NCAA national broadcaster and former Tennessee football standout Charles Davis will emcee the event for the first time. **Also on the NFF calendar:** 

Tuesday, Dec. 10 — Winner of the 35th NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® during the Annual Awards hosted by the pride of Muscle Shoals, Ala., Trojans star quarterback and award-winning emcee Rece Davis of ESPN; Dec. 16 -Presentation of the Asa S. Bushnell Cup to the Ivy League Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year at the historic Rainbow Room at the NBC Rockefeller Center in New York City; January 2025 date TBD – Denotation of the 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Class.

The current longest NCAA FBS member streaks without a shutout through Nov. 17 are Florida with a NCAA-record 459 since 1988, TCU with 404 since 1991, Georgia with 383 since 1995, Virginia Tech with 382 since 1995, Nebraska with 361 since 1996 (the only Big Ten Conference team that has scored in every game in the 21st Century), Boise State with 349 since 1997, Alabama with 300 since 2001, and Clemson with 291 since 2003.

The American Heart Association Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach of the Year sponsored by Accenture public voting is now available online through Jan. 10, 2025, via the URL: https://bryantawards .org/fan-vote/. Some of the latter season leaders in the public balloting have been Bob Chesney of James Madison, Curt Cignetti of James Madison, Josh Heupel of Tennessee, Clark Lea of Vanderbilt, Spencer Danielson of Boise State, and Dan Lanning or Oregon.

### NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Nov. 19-25 time period are Nov. 19 (1947) Mike Phipps, Shelbyville, Ind.; (1949) Ahmad Rashad (nee' Bobby Moore), Portland, Ore.; (1953) Dewey Selmon, Eufaula, Okla.; Nov. 20 (1901) Bill Mallory, Memphis, Tenn.; (1970) Trevor Cobb, Houston, Texas; (1971) Chris Bisaillon, 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; (1982) Derrick Johnson, Waco, Texas; Nov. 23 (1916) Ken Kavanaugh, Little Rock,

Ark.; (1930) Dick Kazmaier, Toledo, Ohio; (1937) Alex Kroll, Leechburg, Pa.; (1944) Gene Washington, La Porte, Texas; Nov. 24 (1893) Bob Higgins, Corning, N.Y.; (1905) Jack Mollenkopf, Convoy, Ohio; (1912) Dixie Howell, Hartford, Ala.; (1924) Dick Scott, Highland Falls, N.Y.; (1931) Stan Jones, Altoona, Pa.; (1935) Pervis Atkins, Ruston, La.; (1959) Terry Kinard, Bitburg, Germany; Nov.25 (1904) Johnny Kitzmiller, Harrisburg, Pa.; (1945) George Webster, Anderson, South Carolina.

**Notable anniversaries of passings** of NFF College Hall of Fame members are Nov. 19 (1976) Wayne Millner, Arlington, Va.; (1982) Ray Morrison, Miami Springs, Fla.; Nov. 20 (2010) Rob Lytle, Fremont, Ohio; Nov. 23 (2004) Harrison Stafford, Edna, Texas; (2015) Jim Sochor, Davis, Calif.; Nov. 24 (1977) Joe Utay, Dallas, Texas; Nov. 25 (1965) Joe Kendall, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born Nov. 19 Mike Phipps, Ahmad Rashad, Dewey Selmon, Nov. 20 Trevor Cobb, Chris Bisaillon, Nov. 21 Thomas Everett, Troy Aikman, Nov. 22 Mel Long, Derrick Johnson, Nov. 23 Alex Kroll (a spry 87), Gene Washington (a spry 80), Nov. 24 Terry Kinard, Nov. 25 George Webster...

#### Schedules:

Gillette Stadium, home of the NFL New England Patriots, will host the Navy-Notre Dame contest in 2026...Virginia and West Virginia will meet at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C., in 2026 and '32 ... Toledo has scheduled Washington State for the first time on Oct. 25, 2025, will tangle with Appalachian State in 2030, Rice in 2029 and '31 and Pittsburgh in 2030...Nevada will travel to UCLA in 2026 and to USC in '27...Columbia and Lafayette have a three-year contract for encounters from 2025-27...Fordham student-athletes and fans are looking forward to a first-ever gridiron trek to Hawai'i in 2028...North Carolina and TCU have a two-game series slated for 2025 and '26 ... ...North Texas and Texas Tech have one game remaining on their current contract in 2027.

#### **Good Works:**

NBA standout Tyrese Haliburton, Indiana Pacers head coach Rick Carlisle and WNBA Indiana Fever stars Caitlin Clark and Lexie Hull assisted in Haliburton's Come to Our House Season of Giving Dinner at Indianapolis' Gainbridge Fieldhouse for underserved area families.. ...The C-47 U.S. Army Air Corps transport plane that led the paratrooper attack on Normandy, France, on D-Day June 6, 1944, had a special flyover at SMU's Ford Stadium last Friday before the SMU- Boston College tilt...Vanderbilt reached its Dare to Grow campaign goal of \$3.2 billion for scholarships, research and facilities two years ahead of its 2026 deadline. Much of this capital has been allotted for renovations to FirstBank Stadium/Dudley Field, Hawkins Field baseball complex and Vanderbilt basketball and volleyball programs...The Vanderbilt Hustler student newspaper won 35 awards in the 2024 Fall National College Convention with 26 College Media Association Pinnacle Awards and nine Associated College Press Individual Awards. Some famed Hustler alumni are former Chicago Tribune Media Services managing editor Mary Elson, Skip Bayless, NBC's Willie Geist, Clay Harris, Buster Olney, Sen. (and Gov.) Lamar Alexander, Roy Blount, Terry Eastland, John (Joe Bob Briggs) Bloom, Don (Hustlin') Hemke, Irv Muchnick, Andrew Maraniss, Roy Neel, Iowa Boy Chuck Offenburger, Rich White, Walt Patter, Kevin Cuneo, George Masterson, and Bo Carter, among others. **Football Coaches:** 

Indiana head coach Curt Cignetti has reached several bonus levels after the Hoosiers record 10-0 start this autumn as well as Oregon head coach Dan Lanning ... ... UNI head coach Mark Farley I retiring after 24 years at the Panthers helm ... ...Colorado head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame member Deion Sanders is providing his usual interesting banter on a Tubi podcast known as We Got Time Today ... Kentucky head coach Mark Stoops dismissed rumors that he might retire at season's end...Kennesaw State head coach Brian Bohannon is no longer with the program and has been spelled by interim head coach Chandler Burks...North Texas defensive coordinator Mark Caponi is no longer with the program and has been replaced by interim DC Brian Odom ...

...Former Nebraska offensive coordinator Marcus Satterfield now has been assigned as tight ends coach...Florida State offensive coordinator Alex Atkins, defensive coordinator Adam Fuller and wide receivers coach Ron Dugans have left the program as of mid-November ...Wisconsin senior advisor for football and former NFL head coach, USC football and baseball star Jack Del Rio has stepped away from the Badgers program...Lake Gibson (Okla.) HS head coach Rich Pringle will not return for the '25 season.

Hometowns of more 2024 college head coaches – Penn State: James Franklin, Langhorne, Pa.; Pennsylvania: Ray Priore, Long Beach, N.Y.; Pittsburgh: Pat Narduzzi, New Haven, Conn.; Portland State: Bruce Barnum. Vancouver, Wash.; Prairie View A&M: Bubba McDowell, Fort Gaines, Georgia.

#### **Directors of Athletics:**

Georgia director of athletics Josh Brooks has worked with staff to be prepared for all possible scenarios if the highly-ranked Bulldogs host one or more of the College Football Playoff rounds...

...Cincinnati AD John Cunningham has been pleased with the movement of UC's multimedia rights in-house instead of employing third-party groups or contracted vendors. He also does believe former facilitator Learfield Communications will assist the in-house operation...San Diego State AD and proud Mississippi State graduate John David Wicker emphasized patience and persistence as the two key virtues in the daily changing times of intercollegiate athletics...Wyoming AD Tom Burman has implored fans to assist in raising funds for the House v. NCAA settlement and that the Cowboys will open revenue-sharing with student-athletes in 2025 ...U. of San Diego AD Kimya Massey noted how he is hoping to build USD's culture, work with marketing, fan engagement, and revenue strategy and looking for assistants who fir into the philosophy of the Torreros programs...Cal Poly AD Don Oberhelman outlined his hopes and views for several opportunities and challenges such as his college's traditional rivalry with UC Santa Barbara, continued financial needs due to the impact of COVID-19, curtailing the Texas Tech-like tradition of throwing tortillas on football fields prior to contests, and how to deal daily with the continual flux in college athletics and the NCAA...Oral Roberts deputy AD SJ Tuohy, the step-brother of Ole Miss and NFL great and The Blind Side movie and novel great Michael Oher, detailed measures needed to expedite NIL opportunities (he also was in that post at UCF) and belief systems in working with student-athletes.. ... Eastern Michigan selected Jessica Nietrzeba as associate AD for development ...North Carolina Central named Now-Allah James softball coach...UCLA's Daniel Cruz as new deputy athletic director and chief revenue officer has been tasked with helping to alleviate a \$168 million departmental deficit during coming years... ...Coastal Carolina associate AD for media relations Rixon Lane is seeking new avenues for his skills...Charlotte executive associate AD and NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics chair Ragean Hill has spoken about the strong possibility of adding 4-5 NCAA Championships in coming months...Michigan State men's basketball head coach Tom Izzo is feeling well and not anticipating retirement in coming months or probably years with the Spartans...Tennessee named Ryan Alpert senior deputy AD, Cameron Walker senior deputy AD and chief strategy officer, Brady Hart deputy AD and chief development officer, Alicia Longworth deputy AD, and Marshall Steward as the new deputy AD and chief competitive officer. Legendary publicist and College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame member Bud

deputy AD and chief strategy officer, Brady Hart deputy AD and chief development officer, Alicia Longworth deputy AD, and Marshall Steward as the new deputy AD and chief competitive officer. Legendary publicist and College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame member Bud Ford remains as historian and archivist.... ...Auburn men's basketball head coach Bruce Pearl is working with airline authorities to investigate a student-athlete episode aboard an airliner preparing to take the youngsters back to Auburn, Alabama and told news media that he is limited in what he can say publicly...Memphis added Cooper Jones as deputy AD and chief revenue and Katherine Sulentic as deputy AD for regulatory affairs with oversight over development, ticketing teams, Learfield's Tiger Sports Properties, compliance, academic, student-athlete development teams, and NIL programs...Valparaiso named Will Price deputy AD for external affairs...

...Arizona associate AD for major gifts Judi Kessler is retiring after 40 years in Wildcats athletics...Florida men's basketball head coach Todd Golden has returned from a brief suspension...Charlotte women's volleyball head coach Karen Weatherington has completed her tenure... ...Chattanooga chancellor Dr. Steve Angle will return to a faculty position and rescind his UTC chancellor's duties beginning Jan. 1, 2025...Grand Canyon president Dr. Brian Mueller expounded on how joining the Mountain West Conference will help open avenues for extended NIL compensation for GCU student-athletes...Oklahoma president Joseph Harroz Jr. reflected on head coaching buyouts, which could run into the \$40-45 million range at some institutions in the Power Four conferences..

...Florida men's basketball head coach Todd Golden has returned to active coaching after some offcourt allegations but had his promotional videos removed from O'Connell Center displays...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker .com are at Illinois State, Kentucky, Austin Peay, Baylor, Brown, Coastal Carolina, Chicago State, Eastern Michigan, East Texas A&M (formerly Texas A&M-Commerce), FIU, Georgia Tech, Hofstra, Kennesaw State, Le Moyne, Liberty, Loyola Marymount, Otterbein, Redlands, Vanderbilt, Cleveland State, Fordham, Lehigh, Marquette, Mississippi Valley State, New Mexico, New Orleans, Portland State, Rutgers, South Carolina, The Citadel, Akron, and Villanova. The Conferences:

There were 14 Big 12 Conference crews still remaining in the bowl eligibility possibility picture through games of Week 11...The Southern Conference added Jordan Trolinger as associate commissioner for external operations...Atlantic Coast Conference ADs and conference administrators listened to a presentation about the proposed Project Rudy with various solutions to funding college athletics and NIL settling...ESPN and ABC re-confirmed airtime for the Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship on Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. (CST) in Arlington, Texas...If they played this week, here are conference championship matchups (with two weeks remaining in the regular campaign): AAC - Army West Point vs. Tulane; ACC - Clemson vs. SMU; Big Ten – Indiana vs. Oregon; Big 12 - BYU vs. Colorado; Conference USA - Jacksonville State vs. Sam Houston or WKU; MAC - Miami (Ohio) vs. Bowling Green or Ohio; MWC - Boise State vs. Colorado State; SEC - Texas vs. Texas

A&M: Sun Belt - Louisiana vs. Marshall... ... The Big 12 also denoted its inaugural women's lacrosse schedule starting March 28 and with the regular season ending on April 26 with Arizona State, Cincinnati, Colorado, Florida, San Diego State, and UC Davis competing for a possible slot in the NCAA Women's Lacrosse Championship in May. The conference postseason tourney will be May 1 and May 3 in Boulder, Colo....Big 12 board chair and Baylor president Dr. Linda Livingstone has requested a necessary confab of presidents and chancellors from the ACC, Big 12, Big Ten and SEC to meet in person to look at propositions for NCAA reform, the state of college football and the future of college athletics overall with probable dates Dec. 2-3 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area...Miles (Ala.) downed Clark-Atlanta for the second time in 2024 by a 53-25 count to capture the 98th Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference NCAA Division II crown last Saturday in Birmingham, Alabama. Miles also is in the process of purchasing the campus of historic NAIA power Birmingham-Southern... ... The SEC has levied \$950,000 in fines the last two weeks for fan conduct with all fines going to the schools opposing the guilty parties in football...The Mountain West Conference reprimanded to San José State head coach Ken Niumatalolo for comments about officiating after SJSU's victory over Oregon State while the Big 12 Conference fined Utah ADS Mark Harlan for criticizing officials after the BYU at Utah clash. Harlan made a later statement that he accepted the consequences of the decision after leaving a locker room full of hurting and upset student-athletes after the last-seconds' setback. The Bowls:

There are now 62 FBS schools with the minimum six victories required for post-2024 bowl eligibility through Nov. 18 (82 total invitations forthcoming, including the 12 College Football Playoff competitors). Ten more squads reached the six-win pinnacle last week, and there also are another 24 schools who are just one victory away from the prerequisite six triumphs for postseason play with 26 programs unable to reach the six-victory requirement due to current win-loss marks. There still are just three unbeaten schools – Indiana, Army West Point and Oregon – after BYU as upended late last Saturday night-Sunday morning by Big 12 rival Kansas...Colorado and other Pac-12 Conference teams from the 2023 season still are connected to preexisting bowl contracts and may be subject to both Pac-12 and Big 12 Conference automatic invitations. CU media have speculated that the Buffaloes may be headed for the Valero Alamo Bowl if they do not win the Big 12 crown and advance to the CFP... ...Goodyear Cotton Bowl home facility AT&T Stadium reported near-record interest in the Mike Tyson-Jake Paul prize fight last Friday in Arlington, Texas, The GCB also celebrated the players and coaches

from the 1983 Cotton Bowl Classic with special commemorative helmets for participants SMU and Pittsburgh when they met this season in Dallas.

### The Players:

Wake Forest's Ivan won the Ray Guy Award Punter of the Week laurel after punting four times inside the 20-yard line during the Deacons test against Clemson. He is fourth in WF career punting history with a 42.1 average...Semifinalists for the '24 Ray Guy Award are Alex Mastromanno, Florida State; Andrew Stokes, USF; Brett Thorson, Georgia; Eddie Czaplicki, USC; Fraser Masin, Ole Miss; James Burnip, Alabama; Jeremy Crawshaw, Florida; John Henderson, Bowling Green; Kai Kroeger, South Carolina; and Tyler White, Texas A&M ... ... The five finalists for the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award are Jaxson Dart, Ole Miss; Dillon Gabriel, Oregon; Kurtis Rourke, Indiana; Shedeur Sanders, Colorado; and Cam Ward, Miami (Fla.).. ... Tennessee center Cooper Mays is the FWAA Outland Trophy National Player of the Week after playing a key blocking role in a victory over Mississippi State...Ole Miss DE Jared Ivey was the FWAA Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week following a key SEC home win over Georgia...The Lou Groza National Place-Kicker Award Stars of the Week are Ole Miss' kicker Caden Davis with five field goals against Georgia, BYU specialist Will Ferrin with a 44-yard field goal to provide a 22-21 win for the Cougars over Utah and Tennessee's Max Gilbert with a four field goal showing against Mississippi State with the Vols longest field goal - 51 yards - in three years ... Penn State TE Tyler Warren is a Mackey Award semifinalist, Paul Hornung Award finalist and Walter Camp Player of the Year semifinalist with career totals of 108 receptions for 1,287 yards and 15 touchdowns with five rushing scores and a passing TD...Boise State's Ashton Jeanty rushed a career-high 34 times for 209 yards in a win over Nevada to cap oak Walk Running Back of the Week honors and set a BSU season record with 1,883 yards through 10 tussles...Jeanty, Drew Allar and Abdul Carter of Penn State join Iowa RB Kaleb Johnson as some of the prime finalists' candidates among the Walter Camp Player of the Year Award semifinalists revealed last week...Atlantic Coast Conference stars OB Fernando Mendoza of California, OL Jordan Williams of Georgia Tech, DB Jonas Sanker of Virginia, and RB Kye Robichaux of Boston College were highlighted for recent performances...The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week was Colorado QB Shedeur Sanders (who also was the Davey O'Brien Award Player of the Week) after a stellar showing in a win at Texas Tech... The Davey O'Brien Quarterback Award has released its 16 semifinalist for the 2024 trophy. They are Drew Allar, Penn State; Bryson

Daily, Army West Point; Jaxson Dart, Ole Miss; Quinn Ewers, Texas; Dillon Gabriel, Oregon; Blake Horvath, Navy; Will Howard, Ohio State; Kevin Jennings, SMU; Cade Klubnik, Clemson; John Mateer, Washington State,; Jalen Milroe, Alabama; Diego Pavia, Vanderbilt; Jake Retzlaff, BYU; Kurtis Rourke, Indiana; Shedeur Sanders, Colorado; and Cam Ward, Miami (Fla.)...Texas A&M has made additional game preparations for lateyear skirmishes after a season-ending injury to RB LeVeon Moss (the SEC's third -leading rusher with765 yards when he was injured against South Carolina) ... ...Attorney Mit Winter speculated on the outcome of Vanderbilt QB Diego Pavia's lawsuit against the NCAA to gain an additional year of eligibility. Winter added that in a best-case scenario, the former community college signal caller might be granted two more years in FBS with substantial NIL compensation...Colorado QB Shedeur Sanders, Kansas CB Mello Dotson, West Virginia safety Anthony Wilson Jr., and Arizona State QB Sam Leavitt and LB Martell Hughes were recognized for above-average efforts in Big 12 games...Colorado LB Arden Walker was saluted for following in the footsteps of his standout CU father Arthur Walker from 1980s Buffaloes squads...Arkansas QB Taylen Green returned against Texas last week in time to start in the historic, 80th meeting of the old Southwest Conference rivals (they combined for 38 SWC titles -25 by Texas, 13 by Arkansas) from 1915-95...The all-Texas finalists for the 2024 Davey O'Brien Award High School Scholarship program are Tessa Goodyear (Arlington Martin), Matthew Hofmann (St. Mark's School of Dallas), Faith Hooper (Ponder), Jason Clay Lindmark (Carrollton Hebron), and Mark Tripple (Fort Worth R.L. Paschal)...DL Mason Clinton and TE Joseph Skipworth have offered verbal commitments to Mississippi State for 2025...Penn State women's hockey has added some key scorers during the 2024 offseason.

#### Around the Campus:

Mississippi State athletics gained an \$8 million donation from an anonymous benefactor earlier this month...UCF is keeping its 2025 football season ticket prices at 2024 levels as a tribute to fan fidelity.... ... DePaul athletics netted a \$2.5 million donation from Jennifer Steans and James Kastenholz for the Blue Demons proposed basketball practice and office facility ..... ...Former Vanderbilt and NFL standout Casey Hayward has made a \$1 million contribution to Vandy athletics...USC has turned the first spades of earth on its \$200 million Bloom Football Performance Center ...Former Middle Tennessee men's basketball standout Chase Miller made a million dollar-plus gift toward the \$100 million Build Blue Campaign for Blue Raiders facilities. MT also will rename the practice facility at the Bubber Murphy Center the Chase Miller Gymnasium...The

D1.ticker Database finds FBS members with the largest attendance increases for home games as Navy at 117.7 percent, Appalachian State at 115.9 percent, Oregon at 109.3 percent, Charlotte at 107. 6 percent, Ole Miss at 104.9 percent, Colorado at 104.3 percent, Oklahoma at 104.1 percent, Utah at 103.3 percent, Kansas State at 103.2 percent, and Michigan at 102.8 percent...Arizona athletics originally devised 26 plans for compensation for student-athletes and pre-signing date NIL contracts and narrowed that figure to one before last week's initial 2025-26 competitive year signing dates...Cal Poly has opened its \$8 million Comerford Pavilion for men's and women's tennis and other key sports... ...West Virginia is hosting Military Appreciation Days for its final two game tests against Baylor and UCF...USC has started construction on a football performance center with VIP appearances by president Carol Folt, AD Jen Cohen and head coach Lincoln Riley at the groundbreaking ... USF updated projected architectural images of its pending on-campus stadium.. ...Rice athletics will continue to employ Collegiate Sports Connect and its Talent Finder Group for vetting, interviewing, recruiting, and hiring in all areas...Sixteen Southeastern Conference schools denoted their entire 2025 schedules last week with opening contests on Friday, Feb. 14 .... ... Washburn U. celebrated its 2023-24 varsity squads, which finished 25th out of 250 NCAA Division II Learfield Directors Cup standings and second in NCAA Division II women's soccer...SMU's 2.7 yards per carry defensive allowance in 2024 is the third best by any Mustangs squad since 1965 ... Pittsburgh has won the third-most overall tussles among ACC schools since

the 2015 campaign with 46 triumphs.... ...Upstart Missouri Baptist U. continues its dream season (most victories in school history) at 6-3 through nine skirmishes.... ...Boise State has started the GoBroncs NIL collective to supplement the previously founded BSU Horseshoe collective... ...Bowling Green athletics and Greenbriar Inc. will place Greenbriar logos at the 25yard lines at Doyt L. Perry Stadium for last portion of the '24 campaign...Lehigh athletics and Teamworks Influencer are joining forces for the new Mountain Hawk NIL Exchange...

#### **Other Notables:**

The NFF Good in the Game video segment last week highlighted 2024 NFF College Hall of Fame inductee Dan Hampton of Arkansas...Longtime television exec Bob Wheeler and his spouse Dr. Florence Ridlon have received the prestigious 2024 Crawford Award for contributions to the Amateur Athletic Union...The 33rd annual Lou Groza Award Celebration presented by the Capital One Orange Bowl on Dec. 9 at the West Palm Beach Marriott will feature former Alabama and NFL head coach Dave Shula as keynote speaker... ...Stanford had the naming ceremony for Maples Pavilion as Tara VanDerveer Court to honor the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame former Cardinal women's basketball head coach...Washburn U. named John Arnett Alumni Association Board chair and Brune Akin Board of Trustees chair...Four alumni from the University of Calgary (Canada) were on the active roster of the CFL Toronto Argonauts in the 111th annual Grey Cup CFL title game last Sunday. They were center Peter Nicastro, OL Darius Ciraco, OL John Bosse, and WR Richard Sindani...The NFL office has received the Memorial Foundation Award for diversity and coaching acceleration for people of color.

#### Media Musings:

Associated Press football maven Stephen Hawkins pointed out that there were 13 games involving Big 12 Conference schools that were decided in the final minute of regulation or in overtime through Nov. 14...Sports Business Journal's Bret McCormick took an educated glance at Missouri's \$250 million Memorial Stadium /Faurot Field upgrades and seating expansion of 6,000...The Action Network reported that discussion between Northern Illinois and the Mountain West Conference has slowed in recent days as NIU's Mid-American Conference has remained one of the most stable FBS loops for decades... ... The Washington Post newspaper's spoke with some key Republican and Democratic Party leaders who believe that the election of Pres. Donald Trump will be a boon to the economy and college athletics with his experiences in college and professional sports ownership. Several politicians also believe that governing power will continue to gather - especially in football - in the hands of conference commissioners and college CEOs. They all are awaiting possible Congressional action on NIL and a hoped-for legislative solution to the financial challenges of the House v. NCAA settlement...Current NFF members can receive a 15 percent discount for the Sports Business Journal Forum in Las Vegas by accessing the website and receiving a promotional code...Chris Wallace, the veteran broadcaster from FOX News and CNN streaming and son of the legendary newscaster Mike Wallace, is leaving CNN in coming days...On3.com's Andy Staples opines that offensive and defensive coordinators will be prime candidates for major moves on all levels of college football with advanced compensation contracts. A recent '24 example was the move of former head coach Dana Holgorsen to offensive coordinator at Nebraska. Holgorsen had been an analyst at TCU earlier this fall... ...Former Texas Longhorns football and baseball and MLB great Keith Moreland was back as analyst for the UT-Arkansas contest, which celebrated the 60-year anniversary of Arkansas' 1964 national championship squad and the 55-year recognition of the Southwest Conference Big Shootout between the Hogs and Horns... ... ESPN's Max Olson collated some of the transfer portal reports for standouts such as

Florida freshman QB D.J. Lagway and points to potential breakaways such as Florida State, Oklahoma, USC, Michigan, Auburn, and Miami (Fla.) as potential suitors with a possible NIL bidding war... ... ESPN's Dan Murphy and Michael Rothstein purported the circumstances surrounding partial scholarships for Olympic sports' signees last week and the impact of the House v. NCAA settlement on amounts offered, plus NIL opportunities. The two writers from ESPN also speculated about how possible Olympic sports roster limitations may affect competitive levels of baseball, softball, soccer, track and field, wrestling, and other sports...USC women's basketball star JuJu Watkins is featured on a NBC/Peacock documentary about national recognition for women's hoops and USC...Former St. Anselm softball student-athlete Karoline Leavitt has been named press secretary for incoming and returning U.S. Pres. Donald Trump beginning Jan. 20, 2025. FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:

The FWAA-NFF Grantland Rice Super 16 FBS poll continues throughout the season and ends with the final survey after the College Football Playoff championship encounter on Jan. 20, 2025 and the Nos. 10-16 selections this week are Miami (Fla.), Tennessee, SMU, Boise State, BYU, Texas A&M, and Colorado...Georgia Tech was the FWAA Cheez-It National Team of the Week after upsetting previously-unbeaten and then-No. 6 Miami (Fla.)... .....Jacksonville State earned the FWAA

Pop-Tarts Crazy Good Play of the Week Award with a Hail Mary pass to take a game at Louisiana Tech into overtime and produce a bowl-eligibility win...Upcoming key FWAA dates and reminders to members are: this week - return of NCAA FBS All-America ballots for district voting coordinators; Nov. 20: Bronko Nagurski Trophy Finalists announced; Outland Trophy Semifinalists; Nov. 24: Offensive skill-position players and specialists FWAA All-America selection call; Dec. 3: Outland Trophy Finalists on ESPN; Dec. 8: Final FWAA-NFF Super 16 Poll; Dec. 9: FWAA Bronko Nagurski Trophy Winner (Charlotte, N.C., Touchdown Club); Dec. 10: Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year presented by the Allstate Sugar Bowl Finalists ... The 69th annual NAIA Football Championship begins Saturday with notable teams from the Top 10 scheduled to host opponents. Entering the selection process, the NAIA Top 10 listings were: defending champion Keiser (Fla.), Grand View (Iowa), Indiana Wesleyan, Montana Western, St. Thomas (Fla.), Morningside (Iowa), Texas Wesleyan (first 10-0 regularseason finish in school history and initial Sooner Athletic Conference title in '24), Montana Tech, Benedictine (Kan.), and Northwestern (Iowa). The title contest will be Saturday, Dec. 21 in Durham, N.C. First round contests Saturday includes Nos. 13-20 seeds Pikeville at Baker, Kansas Wesleyan at Dickinson State, St. Francis

(Ind.) at Southwestern (Kan.), OUAZ (Ariz.) at Friends (Kan.)...As NCAA Division II and III postseason selections are near, the AFCA DII poll through games of Nov. 14 was Nox. 1-10 for DII: Valdosta State, Ferris State, Kutztown, Harding (Ark.), Grand Valley State, Charleston (W.Va.), Colorado State-Pueblo, Central Oklahoma, Ouachita Baptist, and Western Colorado; and Division III Nos. 1-10: North Central (III.), Cortland (N.Y.), Mount Union (Ohio), St. John's (Minn.), Hardin-Simmons, Susquehanna (Pa.), Salisbury (Md.), DePauw (Ind.), Wisconsin-Platteville, and Whitworth (Wash.) ... USBWA Oscar Robertson Basketball Players of the Week for Nov. 3-10 are JaKobe Coles of Grand Canyon and Tyson Dunn of Buffalo...National College Sports Communicators featured in major online or social media posts in recent days are Curtis Ford of Grambling, Duane Lewis of Jackson State, Aliyah Hill of Mississippi Valley State, Ed McKee (retired) of Indiana State and George Washington U., and LaTonia Thirston of Prairie View A&M...Central Michigan, Florida, Kentucky, Louisville, LSU, Michigan State, Oregon, Tennessee, UCLA, USC (received its preliminary NCAA findings last week), and Virginia are conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible challenges and probes at their respective schools...The 2024 NCAA Field Hockey Championship finds perennial power North Carolina as No. 1 seed and second round action occurring this week... ...Last Wednesday was the start of early NCAA signing period (Nov. 13-20) for 2025-26 men's and women's basketball and Olympic sports with a bevy of newcomers inking grants-in-aid (letters of intent are no longer included in the signing process)...Arizona women's triathlon team was crowned the National Collegiate Triathlon team champ. This sport has been proposed to become a NCAA championship in coming months...The NCAA Women's Division I Soccer Championship field is ongoing with top seeds Duke, Florida State, USC, and Mississippi State as teams hope to make it the WakeMed Soccer Park for the NCAA Women's College Cup in December...NCAA vice president of external affairs Tim Buckley expounded on national election results and how they might affect NCAA jurisprudence and expected NCAA reforms...Penn State athletics and the Vintage Brand Group are continuing jurisprudence for allegations of unauthorized use of PSU images on clothing and other articles. Purdue, Arizona, Arizona State, California, UCLA, Colorado, Oregon, Oregon State, USC, Stanford, Utah, Washington, and Washington State have taken similar legal action.

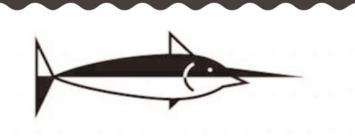
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