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Weekly



Turmoil on the Hilltop

Nov. 26 - Dec. 2, 2021

Vol. 20, Issue 14

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

High School Playoff Schedule



Here is a look at the Texas high school playoff pairings in the third round.

CLASS 6A DIVISION I

Region I, Regional

- Eules Trinity (11-1) vs Allen (10-2), 2 p.m. Saturday at Allen's Eagle Stadium
- Midland Legacy/Southlake Carroll Winner vs Lewisville (11-1), TBD

Region II, Regional

- Duncanville (10-1) vs Spring (11-1), 7 p.m. Saturday at Frisco's Ford Center
- DeSoto (10-2) vs Spring Westfield (12-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio's Alamodome

Region III, Regional

- Katy Tompkins (11-1) vs Galena Park North Shore (11-1), 1 p.m. Friday at Galena Park's Galena Park ISD Stadium
- Fort Bend Ridge Point (11-1) vs Humble Atascocita (10-2), 7 p.m. Fri. at Houston

Region IV, Regional

- Austin Bowie (10-2) vs San Antonio Brennan (12-0), 7 p.m. Friday at New Braunfels
- Lake Travis (10-2) vs Laredo United South (9-3), 2 p.m. Friday at San Antonio

CLASS 6A DIVISION II

Region I, Regional

- Trophy Club Nelson (9-3) vs Denton Guyer (11-1), 2:30 p.m. Sat. at Frisco
- EP Eastwood (8-4) vs Prosper (8-4), 1 p.m. Saturday at Lubbock's Lowrey Field

Region II, Regional

- Cedar Hill (8-4) vs Cypress Bridgeland (10-2), 2 p.m. Saturday at Waco
- Rockwall Heath (11-1) vs Tomball (9-3), 8 p.m. Sat. at San Antonio's Alamodome

Region III, Regional

- Katy (12-0) vs Houston King (10-2), 12 p.m. Friday at Katy's Legacy Stadium
- Katy Cinco Ranch (8-4) vs Humble Summer Creek (9-3), 1 p.m. Saturday at Houston's TDECU Stadium

Region IV, Regional

- Austin Vandegriff (11-1) vs Edinburg Vela (12-0), 4 p.m. Fri. at Corpus Christi
- Austin Westlake (12-0) vs PSJA North (10-2), 4 p.m. Friday at Alamodome

CLASS 5A DIVISION I

Region I, Regional

- Mansfield Summit (9-3) vs Midlothian (8-4), 7 p.m. Friday at Grand Prairie
- Amarillo Tascosa (10-2) vs Colleyville Heritage (11-1), 3 p.m. Saturday at Wichita Falls' Memorial Stadium

Region II, Regional

- Denton Ryan (11-1) vs Longview (9-3), 3 p.m. Fri at Mesquite's Memorial Stadium
- Frisco Wakeland (9-2) vs College Station (12-0), 2 p.m. Friday at Corsicana

Region III, Regional

- Cedar Park (7-5) vs Katy Paetow (11-1), 1 p.m. Friday at Waller ISD Stadium
- Manvel (10-2) vs Fort Bend Hightower (10-2), 7 p.m. Friday at Sugar Land

Region IV, Regional

- Corpus Christi Flour Bluff (10-2) vs Gregory-Portland (9-3), 8 p.m. Friday at San Antonio
- Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial (11-1) vs McAllen Memorial (11-1), 3 p.m. Friday at Corpus Christi

CLASS 5A DIVISION II

Region I, Regional

- Canutillo (11-1) vs WF Rider (11-1), TBD Friday at Midland
- Lubbock Cooper (11-1) vs Grapevine (10-2), 4:30 p.m. Friday at Abilene

Region II, Regional

- Aledo (12-0) vs Dallas South Oak Cliff (10-1), 2 p.m. Friday at Mansfield
- Lucas Lovejoy (11-1) vs Mansfield Timberview (8-4), 7 p.m. Friday at Frisco

Region III, Regional

- Texarkana Texas (11-0) vs Port Neches-Groves (8-4), 6 p.m. Friday at Natchitoches' Turpin Stadium
- College Station A&M Consolidated (10-2) vs Crosby (10-2), 7 p.m. Friday at Cypress' Cy-Fair FCU Stadium

Region IV, Regional

- Leander Rouse (11-1) vs Liberty Hill (10-2), 7 p.m. Friday at Pflugerville
- SA Alamo Heights (12-0) vs Marble Falls (9-3), 7 p.m. Fri. at Dripping Springs

CLASS 4A DIVISION I

Region I, Regional

- EP Riverside (11-1) vs Andrews /Springtown Winner, TBD Saturday
- Dumas (9-2) vs WF Hirschi (10-2), 3 p.m. Friday at Plainview

Region II, Regional

- Stephenville (12-0) vs Argyle (11-1), 7 p.m. Friday at Mansfield
- Melissa (10-2) vs Waco La Vega (9-3), 7 p.m. Friday at McKinney

Region III, Regional

- Kilgore (11-1) vs Tyler Chapel Hill (9-3), 8 p.m. Friday at Tyler's TMF Rose Stadium
- Little Cypress-Mauriceville (10-2) vs El Campo (11-1), 6 p.m. Friday at Shenandoah's Woodforest Bank Stadium

Region IV, Regional

- Austin LBJ (12-0) vs Boerne (9-2), 12 p.m. Saturday at San Antonio's Alamodome
- Fredericksburg (8-4) vs Pleasanton (9-3), 7 p.m. Friday at San Antonio's Farris Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II

Region I, Regional

- Aubrey (11-1) vs Monahans (9-3), 12:30 p.m. Friday at Abilene's Sandifer Stadium
- Snyder (9-3) vs Celina (10-1), 2 p.m. Friday at Mineral Wells' Ram Stadium

Region II, Regional

- Texarkana Pleasant Grove (7-5) vs Quinlan Ford (12-0), TBD
- Van (12-0) vs Gilmer (11-1), 2 p.m. Friday at Tyler's TMF Rose Stadium

NCAA FOOTBALL

AP	Coaches
1. Georgia	1. Georgia
2. Ohio State	2. Alabama
3. Alabama	3. Ohio State
4. Cincinnati	4. Cincinnati
5. Notre Dame	5. Notre Dame
6. Michigan	6. Michigan
7. Oklahoma State	7. Oklahoma State
8. Ole Miss	8. Ole Miss
9. Baylor	9. Oklahoma
10. Oklahoma	10. Baylor
11. Oregon	11. Oregon
12. Michigan State	12. Iowa
13. BYU	13. Michigan State
14. Texas A&M	14. Texas A&M
15. UTSA	15. BYU
16. Utah	16. Houston
17. Iowa	17. Pittsburgh
18. Wisconsin	18. Wisconsin
19. Houston	19. Utah
20. Pittsburgh	20. UTSA
21. Wake Forest	21. Wake Forest
22. San Diego State	22. San Diego State
23. Louisiana	23. Louisiana
24. NC State	24. NC State
25. Arkansas	25. Kentucky

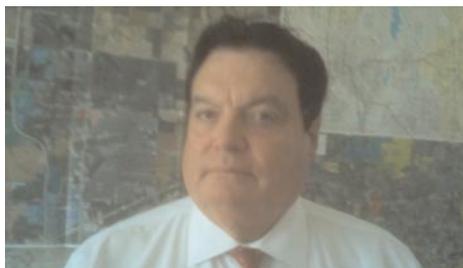
WEEKLY CALENDAR

	NOVEMBER 26 FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 27 SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 28 SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 29 MONDAY	NOVEMBER 30 TUESDAY	DECEMBER 1 WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 2 THURSDAY
							Dallas at New Orleans 7:20 / FOX
		SMU vs Tulsa 3:00 / ESPN2					
		Mavs vs Wizards 7:30 / BSSW		Mavs vs Cavaliers 7:30 / BSSW		Mavs at Pelicans 7:00 / BSSW	
	Stars vs Colorado 6:30 / BSSW	Stars at Arizona 7:00 / BSSW			Stars vs Carolina 7:30 / BSSW		Stars vs Columbus 7:30 / BSSW
	Allen at Idaho 8:10	Allen at Idaho 8:10					

Turmoil on the hilltop with uncertainty



Irrespective of Dykes's statements to the press, it looks inevitable that he is leaving



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The rumors of Sonny Dykes moving on to become the head football coach at TCU reached a crescendo last Monday. Dykes admitted the situation had come to a point where he needed to have a team meeting on the subject. There was little said afterward about the content of the meeting. Irrespective of Dykes's statements to the press, it looks inevitable that he is leaving.

By Wednesday, the situation became even more critical as in the span of an hour, five top high school players committed to joining the Mustangs de-committed. Three of the five were four star recruits, all recruited by SMU running backs coach Ra'Shaad Samples. Samples is an excellent recruiter, and losing the top recruits he sold SMU to gives the impression that he too is leaving. The projected class had been ranked 56th in the nation, as the best SMU recruiting class since the 1980's; but these defections will lessen that ranking considerably. With Dykes apparently leaving, some assistant coaches going with him or elsewhere, and undoubtedly some fall out

from among players eligible to return, the football program is in turmoil, which will become obvious next week.

Dykes said recently that he and SMU had been negotiating a contract extension. It has been reported that the money was about the same between his offer to stay at SMU and his offer to leave for TCU, something in excess of \$4.0 million per year on average. That would have made Dykes one of the highest paid coaches among the Group of Five programs had he stayed at SMU. Dykes had said when he arrived on the Hilltop that he viewed the SMU situation as a destination job. Now after four seasons, he appears to have found a more attractive destination.

The move is likely part of the chain reaction to Texas and Oklahoma moving to the Southeastern Conference. That move forced the Big XII into expanding by four teams. Not only was SMU passed over by the Big XII, but three of the teams joining the conference came from the American Athletic Conference wrecking much of the strong reputation the AAC has developed in the past eight years.

Dykes has brought solidarity and stability to the SMU program. After going 5-7 in his first season, he has gotten off to good starts in 2019, 2020 and 2021 leading the team into the Top 25 at some point in all three seasons. The Mustangs are 26-9 since the start of 2019. It appears that all of that foundation will go up in smoke within the next few days.

The leading candidate to be Dykes's

replacement is Rhett Lashlee. Lashlee, who is 38, was SMU's offensive coordinator in 2018 and 2019 and moved on to the same position for the Miami Hurricanes. His Miami offenses have put up terrific numbers, so much so that he may be in demand for head coaching jobs that are more high profile than SMU.

There is probably not a good way for a head coach and school to part ways unless the coach retires. However, it seems a shame that this situation is ending with so much carnage to SMU's football program. The situation will almost certainly come to a conclusion soon after SMU's game against Tulsa this Saturday. The Mustangs will likely accept a bowl bid on Sunday, but the sad part of the story is that that news will take second place behind the Dallas/Ft. Worth coaching shuffle.

BASKETBALL UPDATE:

The SMU Men's team dropped the consolation game in the Jacksonville Classic to Loyola Marymount last Monday. It was a game similar to Sunday's loss to Missouri. The Mustangs raced out to a 17 point lead less than seven minutes into the game. LMU kept pecking away from there, and the Mustangs stumbled offensively in the second half coughing up their seven point half time lead to lose 76-70.

On Wednesday, the Mustangs came back for a 75-66 win over Sam Houston State that brought their record to 4-3 for the season. Kendrick Davis led the Mustangs with 21 points. The game was somewhat like the last two. SMU took its biggest lead of the game – 24 points early in the second half, and Sam

Houston State chipped away cutting the lead to six points with just under 3:00 minutes left in the game. This time, SMU held on for the win. All four wins this year have come at Moody Coliseum.

The Men's team continues the home stand with a 2:00 PM tip-off on Sunday against Louisiana Monroe. Next week they host UNLV on Wednesday, December 1 and Vanderbilt on Saturday, December 4.

The Women's team lost to Arkansas Monday night 65-58. In Fayetteville. Savannah Wilkinson led the Mustangs with her fourth straight double-double with a career high 20 points plus 10 rebounds. The Mustangs lost again in the South Point Shootout in Las Vegas on Thanksgiving Day. Seattle led by as many as 16 points in the fourth quarter, but the Mustangs put on a furious comeback that fell just short. The final score was 70-66. Sydne Wiggins scored a career high 26 points, and Wilkinson turned in another double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds. SMU finishes this week's road trip against Green Bay on Saturday at 1:00 PM Central as part of the South Point Shootout.

NOTABLE:

* SMU point guard Kendrick Davis was named American Athletic Conference Player of the Week for the week ending November 21. He averaged 24.3 points, 5.7 assists and 5.0 rebounds in three games. The Mustangs went 2-1 for the week. Davis was named AAC Player of the Week twice last season, and he has received a weekly honor from the conference 12 times in his two seasons with SMU.

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Billy Gray: Actor, Racer & Inventor



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Starting in the mid-1940's at age five Billy Gray began his acting career. He was following in the footsteps of his actress/dancer mother Beatrice who appeared in a number of western films throughout the late 1930's, 1940's and 1950's.

As a young child actor Gray co-starred with the likes of Burt Lancaster, Doris Day and Patricia Neal to name a few. Legendary director Robert Wise who directed Gray in the Sci-Fi classic *The Day the Earth Stood Still* called him, "the best child actor he has ever worked with."

Gray would go on to appear in numerous films and television shows. However, it was his role as Bud Anderson in the TV series *Father Knows Best* (1954 to 1960) that forever endeared him to baby boomers of that era.

In the early 1960's, Gray's career took a detour as he was arrested for possession of marijuana. Gray recalled,

"After I got busted for having a little grass on me I did have a few roles after that. My agent told me that he couldn't handle me anymore. So that kind of ended my acting career."

Gray decided it was time for a change as he began the second act of his career. It involved motorcycles which was a real passion of his. Gray stated, "I started racing full time in Class A speedway around 1970. I raced for nearly 25 years and I had one major win that was quite significant and you couldn't make it up. The races are usually four guys racing around for four laps. Your physically exhausted after four laps because it's a very strenuous thing to do. I raced against this one guy named Mike Bass who was like eight or nine time national champion. He was way better than me talent wise. He was like the Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods of the Speedway. We competed in the main event and Bruce Penhall competed too. He was two-time world champion and he raced all over Europe. The other guy competing was third best on the tour. I was a serious underdog as no one gave me a real chance. For that race I happened to be on someone else's motorcycle. It was very stiff compared to the standard bikes. I was able to

control this stiffer bike really well. Mike Bass and I passed each other eight times during the race. I passed him at the finish. I had the perfect race against the all-time best rider there was. That was my claim to fame. I stopped racing when I started to get fatigued on the track and didn't feel secure holding onto the bike. I didn't want to get hurt or hurt someone either."

Throughout the years Gray continued to tinker with ideas he had for inventions. Once his motorcycle career ended he was able to turn his attention to it full time.

TW: Bill, how old were you when you started to come up with ideas for inventions?

BG: I started fiddling with stuff in my early teens. One of the first things was a back massager. I was visiting my brother in Hawaii. I noticed that the Hawaiians came up with that original idea and it was made out of strawberry guava plant. They cut it and it looked like the letter 'Y'. I made one out of the same material when I was there. When I got home I started bending things with a steel tubing in a configuration I thought would look better. After quite a few attempts I finally came up with something that works pretty good.

TW: I notice on your website you have a lot of inventions for musical instruments. Tell me about that?

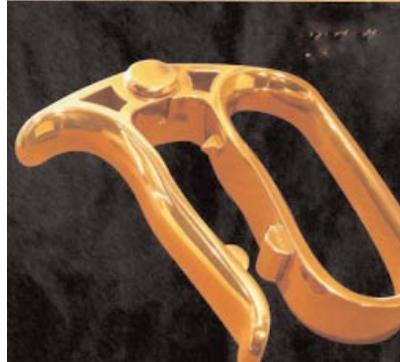
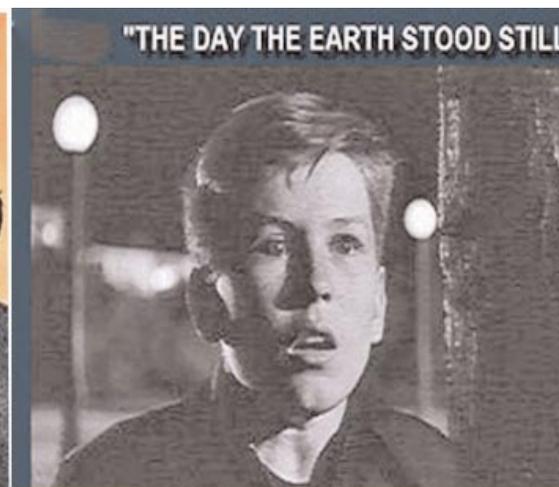
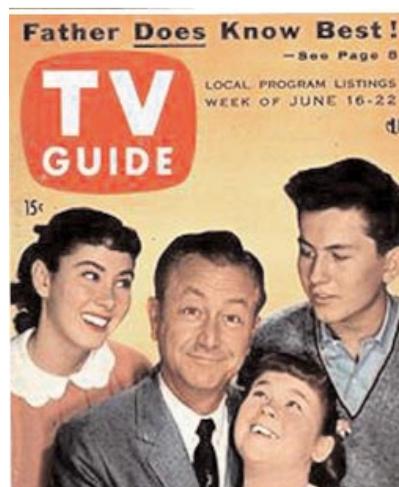
BG: All of those were from my business partner. He plays guitar and he kept coming up with problems that he discovered in his playing and together we tried to come up with solutions. I've got a Bridgeport milling machine in my garage and I make prototypes on it with the designs I've come up with. Those devices have done pretty well for us over the years. One of our products called SNAPZ 2.0 pulls out the bridge pins went to number 1 on amazon in their music accessories department. It has done very well for us. The Switchgard we've gotten pretty good response on that too.

TW: What about the Sea Dog Hose clip? I understand you won an award for that product.

BG: Yes, I won the "Most Innovative Product Award" by IBEX, the International Boat Builders Exhibition and Conference. My partner lives on a boat. He was tired of standing there holding the hose while he filled his water tank. He was trying to put sticks and wire in their to hold it while it filled up. He told me about the problem and I gave it some thought and came up with that.

TW: During your years of racing motorcycles did you design anything for that sport?

BG: Oh Yeah! That's where I did most of my inventing. I came up with all types of body armor before it was fashionable.



These days everybody's got body armor. Sadly, I wasn't smart enough to patent any of that. I came up with a thing that covered my spine. It went from the back of my neck all the way down to my coccyx. It was made out of overlapping sheets of polycarbonates. It was a little 4 by 6 sections scales. I never got seriously hurt over the years racing because I used hockey and football pads for my thigh covers. I made tubes for my legs to cover my calf muscles all the way down to my ankles. I invented different things for the bike too. The other riders called me the "Tin Man" because I was covered in plastic all over.

TW: Any new inventions that you're working on that people can be on the lookout for?

BG: I'm working on one right now. It's an exercise device and I'm building two of them right now. Hopefully it will be one of

those as seen on TV.

TW: Where can people purchase any of your products?

BG: Some stores like distribution outlets called Stewart McDonald. There a big outfit that makes tools for the music industry. There is another outfit called All Parts like the name implies makes everything for guitars. You can go to our websites at billygray.com & bigrockmfg.com to order as well as amazon.com.

At age 83, Billy Gray is a real renaissance man. I have one of his products called the 'Bud' which is a back massager that I've used for years and it really works. When it comes to developing innovative ideas and creating some ingenious inventions one thing is for sure, 'Billy Gray Knows Best'.

Tom Ward can be contacted at www.tee-timewithtom.com

Five Things to Know: Wynn Golf Club



A primer on the course that will host the match between Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau

By Jeff Eisenband
PGATOUR.COM

The match between Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka features all the elements of a Vegas prize fight, except for the ring. This heavyweight showdown will take place at the Wynn Golf Club instead.

Just a few blackjack table-lengths away from Las Vegas Boulevard, the Tom Fazio-designed course will challenge Koepka and DeChambeau to delegate their match-play chips wisely. A waterfall, a monorail, a Ferris wheel and a series of both manmade and natural elements will all be factors at one of America's most extravagant courses.

"Bryson vs. Brooks" tees off at 4 p.m. Eastern time on Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving. And what happens in Vegas at the Wynn Golf Club won't stay at the Wynn Golf Club. The theatrics will be broadcast to the world.

1. A STORIED HISTORY

Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods all set foot on the site of Wynn Golf Club en route to PGA TOUR wins, although the track was called something different at the time (and looked totally different).

The Desert Inn Golf Course, adjacent to the Desert Inn Hotel and Casino, opened in 1952 and hosted the PGA TOUR Tournament of Champions (now the Sentry Tournament of Champions) from 1953-1966. Al Bessellink won the inaugural event, but Snead, Nicklaus and Palmer would all capture titles on the North Side of the Las Vegas strip (Nicklaus won twice and Palmer three times).

From 1983-2000, the Desert Inn also served as part of the rotation for the Shriners Children's Open. In 1996, Tiger Woods played the third round of the Las Vegas Invitational -- his first PGA TOUR win -- at the Desert Inn, shooting a 68.

The PGA TOUR Champions and LPGA also called the Desert Inn home at points.

After the Desert Inn closed its doors in 2000, Steve Wynn bought the property, including the golf course, and built the Wynn Las Vegas. In the process, he brought in Tom Fazio to turn the course into the Wynn Golf Club, which opened five years later. Fazio and son Logan recently returned to the course for another redesign, culminating in a reopening in 2019. There are no remnants of the Desert Inn layout at Wynn Golf Club.

"Not one piece," Fazio said. "The entire land was regraded. The Desert Inn was dead flat. It was built in the '50s. Back in that era and that time, you didn't move ... earth, you didn't create elevation change, you just built it right on the ground. So it was a very flat desert golf course."

2. A DESERT OASIS

The Wynn Golf Club can easily feel like a mirage. What other golf course is on the same street as the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty, and features a Ferris wheel overlooking the property?

Despite being a desert layout, water comes into play on 12 holes. Over 8,000 trees are present on the landscape, including 1,200 from the Desert Inn era -- some of the only remnants of the previous tenant.

"If you were to put a hat on and pull it really close down over your eyebrows and look at each individual golf hole and only look from the tee to the fairway to the green and block out the view of the skyline, you'd say, wow, this golf course looks like it's in

Middle America. It doesn't look like a desert course. It doesn't feel like it's in Las Vegas," Fazio said.

Some of Fazio's other Las Vegas layouts-- including recent PGA TOUR venues Shadow Creek and The Summit Club -- include desert features, but that isn't the case at the Wynn.

3. A GRAND FINALE

The 18th hole at Wynn Golf Club is a rare par-3 finishing hole. It can be stretched to 249 yards from the back tees, and there's extra incentive to play it from the tips. The Wynn Golf Club regularly offers up to \$20,000 for holes-in-one, depending on tee box (the farther back the tee box, the higher the potential payout).

Nothing in Las Vegas is complete without some extra glitz and glamour, and the 18th hole boasts the course's signature 35-foot waterfall behind the green.

"The thinking behind that was to create some drama, uniqueness, interest, and it was part of the experience of the grandeur that the Wynn is about," Fazio said.

"Obviously, the entire place has an awesome feel to it that is extremely dramatic. When the event is played there and shown visually on TV, it's very striking. People who've never been there before are going to be captivated by this unique landform that is obviously manmade. But then again, most of Las Vegas is."

While the waterfall par-3 may play as the 18th hole 364 days a year, "The Match" will likely include it among the 12 holes Koepka and DeChambeau are scheduled to play. And if it ends up being a playoff hole, it should provide a dramatic setting.

4. THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

The Wynn Golf Club is a par-70, featuring the unique configuration of six par-3s and four par-5s. Listed at 6,722 yards from

the back tees, the course can play as short as 4,810 yards. All three par 3s on the front nine play less than 200 from the back tees.

"When you look at the scorecard, the yardage may appear to be short, but it won't play quite that short because the short holes are short and the long holes are long. It's an interesting concept because that's what fits the property," Fazio said.

The most recent renovation came after the Wynn Convention Center extended itself onto course property. This slightly shrank the course, resulting in the 18th hole being converted from a par-4 to a par-3. The course's greens were actually expanded by an average of 300 square feet, however. The 14th hole has become a particular fan favorite with its large, boomerang-shaped putting surface.

"While the first 14 holes are somewhat reminiscent of North Carolina -- albeit with overlooking hotel towers visible throughout -- the final four make it abundantly clear you're in Vegas," Forbes wrote.

The Las Vegas monorail runs along the 15th hole. A special events pavilion is just steps away from the 16th tee box. The 17th hole is beside the new convention center, gearing players up for the final tee shot toward the daunting 18th green and its foreboding waterfall.

"It's a perfect match-play golf course because each individual golf hole offers the risk and difficulty factors and the ability for, especially players of this caliber, ... to take a lot of chances," Fazio said. "It's all contained golf. Now, granted, there are trees and there's framings, but you could knock a golf ball a fairway away and still recover and have a heroic shot."

In other words, Bryson and Brooks can blast away. Errant drives can be found on other fairways.

5. A PUBLIC AFFAIR

Koepka and DeChambeau will have the course to themselves for a day, but the Wynn Golf Club is open to the public (if you have the time to plan ahead and the pocket change to spend).

Since its reopening in late 2019, the Wynn Golf Club has offered Wynn resort guests the opportunity to book a tee time 90 days in advance. For non-resort guests, a window of 30 days is available.

Playing the only golf course on the Las Vegas Strip fittingly comes at a high-roller price. The greens fee is \$550 in-season, which can seem like a lot or a little depending on how your luck is going at the tables. The fee is inclusive, coming with a forecaddie, practice-area access and rental clubs at no extra charge, and other perks.

Prices are lower out of season -- which in Las Vegas, means the summer.

And unlike Koepka and DeChambeau, who will only play 12 holes, Wynn Golf Club guests get in the whole 18.

Beau Welling's masterpiece in Frisco



PGA Frisco will truly become the home of golf in the U.S

By Matt Adams

Just like a great sculptor can carve a masterpiece from a raw hunk of stone, a great golf course designer can create something special from a rough piece of land. In that respect, course architect Beau Welling is one of the finest artists of his generation.

Over the past couple of years, Welling has been chiseling away at the PGA of America's new home in Frisco transforming neglected pasture land into a resplendent capital city for the golfing world with two championship courses – the East Course and the West Course.

The renowned Gil Hanse designed the East Course, while Welling oversaw the West Course in addition to his duties as the master planner for the entire Frisco project. In coming years the East Course will host marquee events such as the PGA Championship, KPMG Women's PGA Championship and KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. The West Course will be reserved for smaller tournaments, PGA of America members and the golfing public.

The latter is who Welling had in mind as work progressed on the West Course. In keeping with his mantra that golf should first and foremost be fun, Welling focused on crafting a challenging layout that average duffers could also enjoy.

"The good player wants to be tested," he said. "But for the higher handicap player it's about survival. The goal is to not

lose a lot of balls and not feel like you're horrible."

Many of the holes on the West Course have preferred angles of approach to the green that reward – or punish -- the better player who is willing to take a risk. At the same time the fairways are forgiving enough that the higher handicap player won't want to toss his or her clubs into the nearest water hazard.

To achieve this goal, Welling and his team changed the West Course's routing three times to improve playability. The ninth hole, for example, started out as a long Par 4 into a howling wind. That didn't seem like much fun to Welling, so he made it into a short Par 5 that gives players of varied abilities a sporting chance.

Since the second part of Welling's fun mantra is that a day on the links should be a social experience, Welling also designed his course to intersect multiple times with a food and beverage area situated on a scenic hilltop overlooking the property. In doing this he hopes to bring different playing groups together for some mid-round camaraderie, making the game about more than just numbers on a scorecard.

Along with being an immensely enjoyable place to play golf, the West Course is what Welling calls "an oasis in the center of urbanity."

With more and more development happening around Frisco, much effort went into preserving and enhancing the natural

landscape within the boundaries of the PGA of America complex, beginning with the portions alongside Panther Creek and its tributaries, which plays a large role in Welling's design.

"There was some intentionality to how the golf course related to [Panther Creek]," said Welling. "We have turf up to the creek in places. In other areas we created wetlands where you'll see birds and wildlife that you wouldn't normally see in a suburban setting. The idea was to maintain nature in this quickly growing city."

When Welling describes his newest work of art you can hear how proud he is, and rightfully so. But he's equally excited by its anticipated influence on the game of golf's broader evolution.

"PGA Frisco will truly become the home of golf in the U.S.," he said. "All 29,000 members can easily get there from just about anywhere, and it's going to be this hub of innovation. The members will take the lessons they learn back to their home courses, so I think the impact will be significant. It has the potential to affect not just Frisco, but people internationally. What the PGA has done is so bold and so smart."



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INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Five things from the 2021 fall season



Gooch finished his The RSM Classic title with 26 bogey-free holes. (Cliff Hawkins/Getty Images)

By Jeff Eisenband
PGATOUR.COM

The 2021 fall season ended with a grand finale as Talor Gooch captured his first PGA TOUR title at The RSM Classic on Sunday. Meanwhile, Rory McIlroy had a tough day and went full Hulk on his shirt as Collin Morikawa won the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai. Morikawa also became the first American to win the Race to Dubai, the cherry on top of a remarkable year.

And as if that was not enough, Tiger Woods posted a video of himself hitting balls on the range, announcing to the world he's "making progress." It feels like we've seen something like this before.

The fall season featured nine tournaments, two first-time winners, and five players winning their second or third PGA TOUR titles. It also left us with some clear storylines headed into 2022.

Talor Gooch and Sam Burns set the pace

Just as everyone expected in early September, Talor Gooch and Sam Burns are Nos. 1 and 2 in the FedExCup standings, respectively, headed into the 2022 calendar year.

OK, maybe no one expected that, but Burns held the inside lane for much of the fall. After narrowly missing a spot on the U.S. Ryder Cup team, he opened his fall with a win, his second, at the Sanderson Farms Championship. He led the Shriners Children's Open before settling for a T14 the next week. He added a T5 at THE CJ CUP at SUMMIT, and a T7 at the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open.

Burns held at least a share of the FedExCup lead from Oct. 3 to Nov. 21 (Sunday), when Gooch jumped him with a win at The RSM. Gooch's first career vic-

tory was validation for a consistent fall in which he had three top-5 finishes and five top-11 finishes in six starts.

Gooch, 30, finished his The RSM Classic title with 26 bogey-free holes, and his 852 FedExCup points have him in pole position. Although he started his PGA TOUR career with 103 winless starts, he has now reached No. 33 in the world, his highest-ever ranking.

McIlroy finds his groove

Rory McIlroy had a lackluster 2020-21 season, by his standards: just seven top-10 finishes in 21 starts, including one win. It all added up to a forgettable T14 finish in the FedExCup.

Hey, when you've won the whole thing twice, that's a letdown. So was his performance at the Ryder Cup, which ended with his teary-eyed interview and a lopsided loss for Europe. Disappointed with his 1-3 performance, McIlroy said he let his teammates and the European fans down. He said he would be back. Fans may not have realized how quickly.

In his first and only PGA TOUR start of the 2021 fall season, McIlroy won THE CJ CUP at SUMMIT, going 68-67-62-68 for a one-shot win over Collin Morikawa. Gooch, Burns, Rickie Fowler, Adam Scott and Sungjae Im were close behind.

In his only other worldwide start this fall, at the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai, McIlroy held the 54-hole lead before a final-round 74 (with a back-nine 38) left him in T6. He was understandably upset, but it was a fruitful fall as he went from No. 16 in the world in August, his lowest spot in the Official World Golf Rankings since 2009, to No. 8.

Wolff also back in form

Last fall, Matthew Wolff looked primed

for superstardom. He started his 2020-21 season with two straight runner-up finishes at the U.S. Open and Shriners Children's Open.

But the following 11 months were turbulent as Wolff finished no better than T15 for the remainder of the 2020-21 season. He took roughly two months off from the Masters to the U.S. Open to work on his mental health and was bounced from the FedExCup Playoffs after THE NORTH-ERN TRUST.

So it was noteworthy when Wolff went on a tear this fall, finishing T17 or better in all four of his starts. That included a runner-up at the Shriners Children's Open and a T5 at the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba.

"I know I had the game, I think just, maturity-wise and mentally, I'm just a much stronger and more all-around, just a more complete person," Wolff, 22, said at the Shriners Children's Open. "I'm able to put things in perspective more. When stuff isn't going my way, I'm able to bounce back."

Wolff's 68.847 scoring average was the best on TOUR this fall, and he was the only player in the top 10 of the FedExCup standings who has yet to win this season. Matsuyama ignites crowd in Japan Hideki Matsuyama delivered two of Japan's greatest moments in golf. In April, he became the first Japanese man to win a major championship at The Masters. In October, he won the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, Japan's only PGA TOUR event. Matsuyama arrived at Narashino Country Club having finished T67 and T59 the previous two weeks on TOUR. He was also still carrying the weight of failing to medal at the Tokyo Olympics in August, losing a

playoff for the bronze medal.

"If my game scored 10 out of 10 at the Masters, now, I would say it scores less than 1," Matsuyama said just before the ZOZO.

Then he won, feeding off the home crowd, who were hungry to see their national hero after missing him in-person for much of the pandemic. A 4-under stretch on the final eight holes, with an eagle on 18, gave Matsuyama an emotional five-shot win.

"I would rate my performance as two or three," he said after capturing his seventh TOUR title. "From the results perspective, it went about to eight, but I think it's because of all the energy that I was getting from the fans, and I was very surprised how much energy I was feeding off of them."

Matsuyama heads into 2022 at No. 4 in the FedExCup.

Players on the verge dominate fall. The fall season can be a time for rookies and others to earn their first wins. This fall was about winners taking the next step.

Max Homa opened the fall with this third win at the Fortinet Championship, all coming in the last four seasons. Sam Burns followed by winning for the second time in two seasons. Both were in the top 21 in the Ryder Cup standings and seemed to be making a statement about missing the team. They also threw their names into next year's Presidents Cup conversation.

Sungjae Im nabbed his second TOUR title at the Shriners. The victory came in his 100th career start and was his 20th top-10 finish. Im, 23, has become one of the TOUR's most consistent players and again proved he can close out a win.

Viktor Hovland and Jason Kokrak also padded their win totals, each winning for the third time in November. Hovland became the first repeat winner on TOUR in two and a half years by going back-to-back at the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba. Hovland, 24, is now at a career-best No. 9 in the world.

Kokrak, 36, is the elder statesman of the group, but he has now recorded all three of his TOUR wins in a 13-month span. Only Patrick Cantlay had more wins during that stretch. After a decade as a journeyman, Kokrak no longer fits that description and has become a bona fide threat to win again (and again and again) in 2022 and beyond. Meanwhile, Lucas Herbert and Talor Gooch were the only first-time winners this fall. Neither came out of nowhere. Herbert, a rookie, had won twice in two years on the European Tour. Gooch had been grinding on TOUR since the 2017-18 season, but was knocking on the door and looked destined to break through before finally claiming his maiden victory.

SEC football weekend picks - Week 13



Alabama and Auburn will meet in the Iron Bowl for the 86th time. Alabama leads the series 47-37-1



ROBERT CORTINEZ
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The last game of the regular season is upon us offering a couple of key games that could have national title implications.

The SEC calls this week rivalry week and for good reason as every SEC team takes on either a historic rival or one that the SEC created a few years back.

#1 Georgia will get its win over Georgia Tech but needs to keep its players healthy for the SEC championship in two weeks. Auburn tries to save pride in Tuscaloosa if they can somehow overcome # 3 Alabama in the Iron Bowl. Lastly # 9 Ole Miss hopes to prevail over Mississippi State in the historic 116th meeting between these two teams.

*Last week's results: Straight 6-2 / ATL 2-3
Season Results: Straight 79-24 / ATL 48-41*

#9 Ole Miss (9-2) @ Mississippi St. (7-4)
Time / TV: Thursday / 6:30 p.m. / ESPN
Line: Mississippi State -2.5 / 65

Mississippi State and Ole Miss both got breather games last week, with Tennessee State and Vanderbilt both losing big to the Mississippians. This week's game is the penultimate game between two proud football institutions. An Ole Miss win will further inch the Rebels up to the CFP top 10. A Bulldog win means a potential New Year's Day Bowl for head coach Mike Leach in only his second year. States QB, Will Rogers and the Rebels QB, Matt Corral are 1-2 in total offense in SEC play. Defense is going to have to stand up for the winner of this game. Reb's HC Lane Kiffin needs to use his analytics to dial up a victory.

Pick: Ole Miss 39 Mississippi State 36

Missouri (6-5) at #25 Arkansas (7-4)
Time / TV: Friday / 2:30 p.m / CBS
Line: Arkansas -14.5 / 62.5

The Razorbacks used to traditionally play LSU as its rivalry game the Friday after Thanksgiving, and the game created the "Boot" trophy. The SEC re-classified rivalry games a few years back and Arkansas and Missouri now play for the Battleline trophy on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

The Tigers have won five in a row over the Hogs and just pulled off an overtime upset over Florida. Arkansas played # 3 Alabama tough last week, losing by only seven, 42-35, in Tuscaloosa. Despite Arkansas's recent showings against

Missouri, Razorback head coach Sam Pittman has the better team this year. The Tigers stay in the game behind the running and catching (157 ypg.) of super back, Tyler Badie, but Hogs pull it off in Fayetteville.

Pick: Arkansas 28 Missouri 20

Florida State (5-6) at Florida (5-6)
Time / TV: Saturday / 11:00 a.m. / ESPN
Line: Florida -2.5 / 59

This intra state rivalry known as the Sunshine Showdown in sunny Florida has been split evenly with 10 wins apiece since 2000. The Gators go into this game without fired head coach Dan Mullen who was let go after the Missouri upset last week and the team at 5-6.

Four of the Gators losses have been by less than five points and in the last seconds of the game. More bad luck than bad coaching, so stupid move on Florida's part as there is not a better head coach candidate out there. Dan Mullen had two-10 win seasons and an SEC championship appearance in his first three years. Just downright dumb.

Meanwhile, Florida State head coach Mike Norvell started 2020 0-4 and got beat by Jacksonville State, 20-17, an FCS school. Seems like the Seminole program needs to reevaluate its coaching hire. Florida wins won for Danny boy to go to a bowl.

Pick: Florida 33 Florida State 24

1 Georgia (11-0) at Georgia Tech (3-8)
Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / ABC
Line: Georgia -35 / 54.5

Georgia Bulldogs roll the ACC Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in the finale regular season game for both squads.

Pick: Georgia 40 Georgia Tech 6

#3 Alabama (10-1) at Auburn (6-5)
Time / TV: 2:30 p.m. / CBS
Line: Alabama -19.5 / 57

Tide rolls in a tune up to the SEC Championship.

Pick: Alabama 40 Auburn 20

Vanderbilt (2-9) at Tennessee (6-5)
Time / TV: 2:45 p.m. / SEC Network
Line: Tennessee -31.5 / 63.5

The Tennessee rivalry ain't one this year. Vols roll in a bowl game tune up.

Pick: Tennessee 45 Vanderbilt 10

#15 Texas A&M (8-3) at LSU (5-6)
Time / TV: 6:00 p.m. / ESPN
Line: Texas A&M -6.5 / 45.5

Tigers win one for Coach Eddie O, send him out with a bowl game.

Pick: LSU 29 Texas A&M 28

Kentucky (8-3) at Louisville (6-5)
Time / TV: 6:30 p.m. / ESPN2
Line: Louisville -3 / 57.5

Bet the house on the Wildcats and Mark Stoops.

Pick: Kentucky 40 Louisville 20

#23 Clemson (8-3) at South Carolina (6-5)
Time / TV: 6:30 p.m. / SEC Network
Line: Clemson -11.5 / 42.5

The Gamecocks don't have enough offense to break the six game losing streak to the Tigers.

Pick: Clemson 24 South Carolina 17

SEC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
WEST		
Alabama	6-1	10-1
Ole Miss	5-2	9-2
Miss State	4-3	7-4
Texas A&M	4-3	8-3
Auburn	3-4	6-5
Arkansas	3-4	7-4
LSU	2-5	5-6
EAST		
Georgia	8-0	11-0
Kentucky	5-3	8-3
Tennessee	3-4	6-5
Missouri	3-4	6-5
S. Carolina	3-5	6-5
Florida	2-6	5-6
Vanderbilt	0-7	2-9

AAC football weekend picks - Week 13



Cincinnati vs East Carolina How To Watch
 Date: Friday, November 26
 Game Time: 3:30 ET
 Venue: Dowdy-Ficken Stadium, Greenville, NC

How To Watch: ABC
#4 Cincinnati (11-0) at E. Carolina (7-4)
Time / TV: Friday / 2:30 / ABC
Line: Cincinnati -14 / 56.5

Now that's the Cincinnati we've all been waiting for over the second half of the season. SMU isn't all that great, but it had a great record and a strong offense, and Cincinnati ripped it all apart in a dominant 48-14 win that was even better than the final score. Now the Bearcats are No. 4 in the latest College Football Playoff rankings, they're getting some measure of respect for being one of three unbeaten teams left in college football, and now the possibility of getting into the tournament really does exist. However, while the Power Five teams in the CFP mix are all playing monster matchups, anything less than amazing will do – and it's possible if QB Desmond Ridder continues to play like he has over the last few weeks. For all the concerns and mediocrity at times, the O has kicked it all in with way over 1,000 yards over the last two weeks.

On the other side, the Bearcat defense leads the American Athletic Conference in tackles for loss, the secondary has been a rock, and the takeaways have been coming in key spots. Now it goes against an East Carolina offense that struggles in pass protection and gives the ball away too much. The Pirate offense turned it over two or more times in five straight games before finally cutting off the mistakes in last week's win at Navy.

East Carolina expects big things at home when people are paying attention. It hasn't always been a rock of a home team, but it pulled off a stunner in a 2016 home win over NC State, destroyed North Carolina in 2018, dominated a decent SMU

squad last year, and ...this matters, why, in 2021? It only seems like QB Holton Ahlers has been around for all of them – he did run for two scores, though, against North Carolina.

The longtime Pirate passer is coming off one of his best games in four years – hitting 85% of his throws for over 400 yards and three touchdowns in the win over Navy. He was fantastic in the 2019 shootout loss to Cincinnati, but was totally miserable in last year's game.

Playing Cincinnati is hardly new for him. He's got the pieces around him to make this work. The Pirates have a running game to control the tempo – they keep the ball for close to 33 minutes – and the defense is good enough on third downs to make up for a slew of other issues. Just keep getting off the field, feed off the energy of the crowd in this, and hope for Ahlers to use his experience to handle what's coming.

SMU was never going to be the problem for Cincinnati. It was an enough-is-enough moment for the Bearcats, it was Senior Day at home, and it was a game ripe for a blowout. This, though, is dangerous. The bigger issue is against Houston in the American Athletic Conference Championship, but the Pirates have just the right blend of offensive balance, a defense that can hold serve, and the home side of things to make this interesting. Cincinnati will come through when it has to. It'll get off to a hot start thanks to a few ECU mistakes, but slowly the game will get tighter. Just as it seems like the upset is coming, though, two late scoring drives will keep the dream alive.

Once again, Ridder will be fantastic.
Pick: Cincinnati 34, East Carolina 27

USF (2-9) at UCF (7-4)
Time / TV: Friday / 2:30 / ESPN
Line: UCF -18.5 / 63

Can the Bulls do it for a second year in

a row? They were lousy all of 2020, they didn't win a game over an FBS team, and ... they didn't beat UCF either in the season finale. However, they rolled up 646 yards in a wildly entertaining 58-46 loss. They're not a whole lot better this time around, but they at least have two wins – one over an FBS team, Temple – and they've shown a few sparks. The offensive line hasn't been all that awful, the ground game has been decent at times, and the beleaguered secondary should catch a little bit of a break against a UCF passing game that doesn't do much of anything down the field. However ...is Dillion Gabriel returning? The star quarterback went down with a broken collarbone early in the season, and there were just enough rumblings that he might return to make it a topic of conversation. He probably won't be able to go, but the Knights shouldn't need him. They should be able to blast away at will on the porous USF run defense, balancing things out with the midrange passing attack shouldn't be an issue, and the D has the ability to get behind the line and bother everything the USF O wants to do.

Yeah, UCF's offensive front is a tad leaky, but there's no pass rush whatsoever coming from the Bulls. And then there are the ...turnovers. USF gives up lots and lots and lots of turnovers with 12 in the last four games.

UCF isn't bad at forcing mistakes. It'll come up with a few and get points off them, but it'll be the running game – with a good rotation around smallish speedster Johnny Richardson – that will take over in the second half to pull away.

Pick: UCF 40, USF 17

SMU (8-3) at Tulsa (5-6)
Time / TV: 3:00 / CBSSN
Line: SMU -6.5 / 62.5

The Tulsa Golden Hurricane will be looking to make themselves bowl eligible when they take on the SMU Mustangs on Saturday. Tulsa enters as winners of two straight games, including a 44-10 victory over Temple last Saturday. That now gives them five victories on the season, needing one more to become eligible. The Golden Hurricane are 3-0 ATS in their last three games.

SMU lost to Cincinnati on Saturday, 48-14, their third loss out of the last four games. The Mustangs are 1-3 ATS in their last four games. Cincinnati scored the first 48 points of the game, dominating SMU in a 48-14 victory. The Mustangs simply could not get going, recording 199 yards of total offense, including just 66 through the air. They gave up 249 yards rushing and Cincinnati gained 544 yards overall.

SMU is averaging 39.1 points per game,

ninth in the country, and they are 13th in total yards per game at 472.5. The Mustangs are led by quarterback Tanner Mordecai, who has completed 69.1% of his passes for 3330 yards and 38 touchdowns. Mordecai has four receivers who have at least 38 catches, including Rashee Rice who has 58 catches for 620 yards and nine scores. Danny Gray is a deep threat, making 49 catches for 803 yards and nine TDs. These Mustangs can run as well. Tre Siggers leads the team with 727 yards rushing and has nine touchdowns. Ulysses Bentley has rushed for 585 yards and is averaging 7.0 yards per carry.

The Mustangs are allowing 27.9 points per contest, 83rd overall. SMU has recorded 27 sacks, four fumble recoveries, and eight interceptions. DeVere Levelston leads the team with 6.5 sacks, with Turner Coxe close behind with 6.0. The team leader in tackles is Delano Robinson with 73, and he has a sack and an interception.

SMU comes in as a 6.5-point favorite. Tulsa won the most recent contest between these teams, defeating Southern Methodist 28-24 in November last year. The Golden Hurricane are 5-2 in the last seven meetings. To come close or even win this game, Tulsa is simply going to have to outscore SMU. They are not going to stop this potent Mustangs offense, which not only has one of the top quarterbacks in the conference, but they have an outstanding ground game as well. The Golden Hurricane are going to need at least 30 points in this contest if they are going to keep it close, or even win.

Tulsa is capable of doing so, reaching the 30-point plateau four times this season, including 44 against Temple last week. However, they had been held to 20 points or fewer in the three contests prior to that victory. This is an offense that can be shut down. I do not expect that to occur here, but I do expect Brin to make some costly mistakes that ruin the chances for Tulsa.

Pick: SMU 31 Tulsa 27

AAC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Houston	8-0	10-1
Cincinnati	7-0	11-0
East Carolina	5-2	7-4
SMU	4-3	8-3
UCF	4-3	7-4
Tulsa	4-3	5-6
Memphis	2-5	5-6
Navy	2-5	2-8
Tulane	1-6	2-9
South Florida	1-6	2-9
Temple	1-8	3-8

Big 12 football weekend picks - Week 13



Oklahoma State is in the Big 12 Championship no matter what, and Oklahoma is in with a win

#7 Oklahoma (10-1) at #10 Oklahoma State (10-1)
Time / TV: 6:30 / ABC

Line: Oklahoma State -4 / 4-9.5

The Oklahoma defense has shown up. It was expected to be as good a D as any in the Lincoln Riley era, but the secondary got torched way too easily in the middle of the season, there were too many lapses, and the run defense went bye-bye in the loss to Oklahoma State. The glitch was fixed as the Sooners swarmed all over Breece Hall and Iowa State in last week's win, it held down Texas Tech enough to get the victory, and now it gets an Oklahoma State team that would prefer to make this all about the D.

The offensive side still works, too. After stalling out against Baylor, Caleb Williams and company got the running game going against Iowa State – the team has hit 200 rushing yards or more in four of their last six games. Yeah, the Oklahoma State defense is amazing, but it also hasn't seen a team with any explosion like OU will bring.

The Oklahoma State offense has shown up. This year's it's been all about the defense, the defense, the defense, but the Cowboy attack has kicked it all in at just the right time with 400 yards or more in three of the last four games with 682 against TCU and 535 against Kansas. The rushing attack has a slew of options, the passing game is steadily hitting 200 yards, and it's all working in concert with a defense that's been every bit as good as Georgia's and Wisconsin's.

The D pitched a perfect game against

Texas Tech – allowing just 108 yards of offense in the 23-0 win – it's No. 1 in the nation in third down stops, No. 1 in sacks and tackles for loss, No. 2 in scoring, and No. 3 in total defense.

Can Oklahoma handle being in a bit of a grind without the big, explosive plays it needs? It's Round One ... maybe. Oklahoma State is in the Big 12 Championship no matter what, and Oklahoma is in with a win. It's also in with a win and a Baylor loss to Texas Tech – it'll know what it needs to do with Baylor playing early in the day.

The Cowboy defense will give up two huge plays scoring plays – Williams won't be that bad – but it won't be enough. The Sooner running game will be bottled up, the Oklahoma State offense will be balanced, and about two weeks behind reality, the world will start to realize that the Big 12 really might get a team into the College Football Playoff.

Pick: Oklahoma State 26, Oklahoma 20

Kansas State (7-4) at Texas (4-7)
Time / TV: Friday, 11:00 / FOX
Line: Texas -3 / 52.5

Now it's time to shoot for a stronger bowl appearance. Texas is having a few issues. It's banged up, it's not tackling well, it's not cranking out enough consistency through the air, and the season that looked so promising in early October will end up being a total disaster.

The Texas run defense has been a problem, the pass defense has gone bye-bye, and Kansas State should be able to generate enough from RB Deuce Vaughn – on a

run of four straight 100-yard running games to matter.

As long as the Wildcats win on the lines like they have for most of the year, they should be okay. But ...can QB Skylar Thompson go? He got knocked out of the Baylor game with an ankle injury, and the passing game isn't close to the same without him. Will Howard and Jaren Lewis are capable, but Thompson is the veteran who can take over the game.

Yes, Texas is having issues, but the ground attack was great against West Virginia without Bijan Robinson, the O should be able to throw for well over 200 yards, and as bad as things have been, the pressure is sort of off. It's Senior Day in a 4-7 season, but ...

All might not be lost for Texas. Depending on how many openings there are for bowl slots – there should be at least three, maybe four – without enough eligible teams, 5-7 Texas can still be in the mix. Thanks to a good Academic Progress Rate, there's a very, very remote shot at a bowl by going 5-7, but for now, just closing with a win would be good enough.

It all depends on Thompson. If he's his normal self, Kansas State wins. He doesn't appear to be close to 100%, though.

Texas salvages something out of this rough run.

Pick: Texas 27, Kansas State 23

TCU (5-6) at Iowa State (6-5)
Time / TV: 3:30 / FS1
Line: Iowa State -15 / 56

There's still a way to salvage the season. This wasn't where the program was supposed to be on the final Friday of the campaign. It might not have been a Big 12 Championship year, but this was going to be a big showdown against Iowa State with a chance at a good bowl, but ...head coach Gary Patterson is gone, and despite that, the team has won two of its last three games to stay in the mix for a bowl game with a win. The offense threw for 468 yards in the win over Baylor, ran for over 300 in the win over Kansas, and it's been just feisty enough to step in and shock an Iowa State team that came into the year thinking more than just the Big 12 Championship.

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What's Iowa State's problem? Not enough down field passing, the O is having a hard time moving the chains, and ...the team just flat out lost its mojo ... on the road.

In Ames, Iowa State was able to hand Oklahoma State its only loss, it embarrassed Texas – but who doesn't? – and now it's finally back after going away for three of its last four games. Even with Breece Hall being okay, the running game hasn't been any good over the last several weeks. However, Brock Purdy and the passing attack have been strong, the TCU pass defense can be bombed on, and worst of all, there are just no third down stops from these Horned Frogs. The balanced attack should come out for the Cyclones.

TCU will play with a whole other level of intensity with the season on the line. However, Iowa State will play with a whole other level of intensity with the the last month a collapse. Losing to Texas Tech and Oklahoma might have been embarrassing, but the slide stops here.

The veteran Cyclones will close with a bang. TCU will be great for a half, but it'll be all Iowa State in the second half.

Pick: Iowa State 38, TCU 17

Texas Tech (6-5) at #8 Baylor (9-2)

Time / TV: 11:00am / FS1

Line: Baylor -14.5 / 52

Things are settled in now. Texas Tech is already bowl eligible, interim head coach Sonny Cumbie is being kept on by new head man Joey McGuire as the offensive coordinator, and the pressure is off. Now it's time to turn it loose and play the role of spoiler. The offense might have been stuffed by Oklahoma State in last week's 23-0 loss, but it has something in freshman QB Donovan Smith, the O has shown the ability to be explosive and balanced, and the defense – for the most part – has gotten better at not breaking after doing a lot of bending.

But ...Baylor should be able to run. The Bears lead the Big 12 in total offense thanks to a terrific combination of Abram Smith and Treston Ebner to control the game and the tempo. The offensive line has been fantastic in pass protection, it's getting the job done for the ground game, and there likely won't be a whole lot of guesswork in this. Run, hold the ball for over 35 minutes, and continue to be fantastic at generating third down stops.

Texas Tech will press and needs to keep things moving, but there's just enough of a decent Bear pass rush to make Smith have to rush. But for the Bears, this is all about being able to run because ...is QB Gerry Bohanon going to be okay to go?

The Baylor starting quarterback got knocked out of the Kansas State game with a leg injury, but freshman Blake Shapen is good enough to convert a few key third down plays, the running game

should take over, and then it'll be all about the Oklahoma – Oklahoma State showdown.

Baylor will win this, and it'll be off to the Big 12 Championship if Oklahoma State wins. Oklahoma wins, Baylor is out, but no matter what it'll be a terrific ten-win regular season.

Pick: Baylor 34, Texas Tech 17

West Virginia (5-6) at Kansas (2-9)

Time / TV: 6:00 / FS1

Line: West Virginia -15.5 / 55.5

Kansas will get West Virginia's full and undivided attention – the team needs this for a bowl game. The Mountaineers came up with the win it had to have at home against Texas, and now it needs to keep the efficient passing attack going with enough downfield plays to stretch out the Jayhawk defense.

Yes, Kansas has played better, and yes, there are a whole lot of positives now, but the defense still can't handle the run, there isn't enough pressure from the defensive front, and the strong West Virginia lines should be able to take over as the game goes on.

QB Jalon Daniels is a difference-maker, and now, this isn't your September self's Jayhawk team. The plan was for Daniels to redshirt, but he was thrown into the fire against Texas, was fantastic, and came back with an even better performance in the 31-28 fight with TCU. He's accurate, he's making things happen down the field, and he's giving Kansas more than a fighting chance.

The running game is doing a better job with the passing attack balancing things out, and ...turnover margin. West Virginia just doesn't take the ball away, and it turned it over multiple times in three straight games before getting through the Texas win clean.

Kansas will bring the fight, and it'll come up with enough offense to make West Virginia keep pressing, but it'll come down to the defensive side. The Mountaineers will control the clock, the defensive front will rumble into the backfield on a regular basis, and after a good first three quarters, things will start to open up in the fourth.

Pick: West Virginia 37, Kansas 20

Big 12 STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Oklahoma	7-1	10-1
Oklahoma St	7-1	10-1
Baylor	6-2	9-2
Iowa State	4-4	6-5
Kansas State	4-4	7-4
Texas Tech	3-5	6-5
TCU	3-5	5-6
West Virginia	3-5	5-6
Texas	2-6	4-7
Kansas	1-7	2-9



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College Football News and Notes



The Lehigh-Lafayette series will be the 157th meeting, the most-played rivalry in college football



BO CARTER

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The third of six College Football Playoff Rankings includes schools from eight different NCAA FBS conferences and Georgia with its fifth No. 1 ranking to follow Alabama (23 weeks in first place) and Clemson (eight times) as the top three holders of the No. 1 post in 45 total CFP rankings since 2014. Purdue, San Diego State and UTSA have become the 75th-77th different programs to enter the CFP Top 25 over eight seasons. Alabama also holds the NCAA record with rankings in the first 45 CFP surveys and the last 48 Bowl Championship Series rankings from 2008-2013. Major changes are expected in the Top Four CFP places (with those schools heading for the CFP semifinals after Dec. 5 tallies) after Utah upended then-No. 3 Oregon 38-7 last weekend.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority will serve as the presenting sponsor of the 63rd 2021 National Football Foundation Awards Dinner Dec. 7 in Las Vegas' ARIA Resort and Casino. The local organizing committee for the first-ever Awards Dinner in Vegas includes

the likes of retired ESPN senior vice president Pete Derzis, UNLV interim director of athletics Erick Harper; former longtime college AD, NFF College Hall of Fame RB Napoleon McCallum of Navy, and UNLV senior associate AD for communications Mark Wallington, among other dignitaries. For tickets to the Awards dinner, please email Wrudd@footballfoundation.com. The NFF also is working with LEARFIELD for the 20th consecutive year to promote and conduct the LEARFIELD Intercollegiate Athletics Forum on Dec. 8-9 – also being held at the Las Vegas ARIA Resort and Casino. The famed Cavinder twins, Haley and Hanna, from Fresno State with three million-plus TikTok followers and major NIL endorsements will be two of the featured symposium speakers.

The NFF and The Ivy League are partnering for the 11th year to co-host a press conference and reception to bestow the Asa S. Bushnell Cup to the League's Football Players of the Year on Dec. 13 at the New York Athletic Club. Normally part of the festivities surrounding the NFF Annual Awards Dinner, which has been moved from New York City to Las Vegas this year, the press conference will take place as a standalone event on Monday, Dec. 13, at 12:30 p.m. (EST) on the 9th Floor of the famed New York Athletic Club on Central Park West.

The NFF also will host its national news conference with 2020 and 2021 College Football Hall of Fame inductees prior to their official induction during the 63rd NFF Awards Dinner Presented by Las Vegas on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The media conference will also include the announcement of the 2021 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Offensive and Defensive Players of the

Year and will occur from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (PST) that day.

Miami (Fla.) LB Dan Morgan was featured in the weekly NFF College Hall of Fame spotlight as a NFF College Hall of Fame Class of 2021 inductee.

Scheduled NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes, presented by Fidelity Investments since 2010 are:

Date – Honoree (Hall of Fame Class) – School (Opponent)

Nov. 26 – Kenneth Sims (2021) – Texas (vs. Kansas State)

Nov. 27 – Lomas Brown (2020) – Florida (vs. Florida State)

Nov. 27 – Glenn Dorsey (2020) – LSU (vs. Texas A&M)

Nov. 27 – Eric Dickerson (2020) – SMU (vs. Tulsa)

Fans can enjoy a visit to the Chick-fil-A NFF College Football Hall of Fame if they are in the Atlanta area this fall. They have GameDay Tailgate every Saturday where fans can watch the top games of the weekend. Also, the 2020-2021 College Football Hall of Fame Classes' specialty exhibit is open to honor honoring the legendary players and coaches of both classes and featuring personalized lockers for each member with memorabilia highlighting their stellar collegiate careers.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Nov. 23-29 time period are 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, S.C.; Nov. 26 (1892) Joe Guyon, White Earth, Minn.; (1898) Arnett "Ace" Mumford, Buckhannon, W.Va.; (1909) Ernie Smith, Spearfish, S.D.; (1947) Roger Wehrli, New Point, Mo.; (1953) Harry Carson, Florence, S.C.; Nov. 27 (1889) Dexter Very, Fairdale, Pa.; (1960) Ken O'Brien, Rockville Centre, N.Y.; (1963) Frank Sheptock, Shamokin, Pa.; Nov. 28 (1868) William Lewis, Portsmouth, Va.; (1939) Gene Carpenter, Cornwall, Pa.; (1948) Vern Den Herder, Sioux City, Iowa; Nov. 29 (1907) Dale Van Sickle, Eatonton, Ga.; (1924) Dick Duden, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Nov. 23 (2004) Harrison Stafford, Edna, Texas; Nov. 24

(1977) Joe Utay, Dallas, Texas; Nov. 26 (1974) Tuss McLaughry, Norwich, Vt.; Nov. 29 (1996) Bob Steuber, St. Louis, Mo.; (2012) Merv Pregulman, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Nov. 23 Alex Kroll (a spry 84), (1944) Gene Washington (a spry 77), Nov. 24 Terry Kinard, Nov. 25 George Webster, Nov. 26 Roger Wehrli, Harry Carson, Nov. 27 Ken O'Brien, Frank Sheptock, Nov. 28 Vern Den Herder...

The Lehigh-Lafayette series, the most-played rivalry in college football, had its 157th meeting last Saturday with Lehigh prevailing 17-10. Lafayette still leads the all-time series 80-72-5 since the first tussle Oct. 25, 1884...Harvard edged Yale rivalry 34-31 on a touchdown with 23 seconds remaining last Saturday, but Yale still leads the series 68-61-8 after 137 clashes between the universities...The transition from NCAA Division III to DI by St. Thomas (Minn.) football was spotlighted as the Tommies scored a 7-3 record in a "moving" year this autumn and victories over traditional FCS contenders as Drake, Stetson, Drake, and Presbyterian.

Army West Point has completed its 2022 slate and will open with Coastal Carolina, UTSA, Villanova, Georgia State, Wake Forest, and Colgate to start the season...UT Martin will meet Kennesaw State in Martin, Tennessee, on Nov. 5, 2022, and North Alabama in Florence, Alabama, on Sept. 23, 2023...Lehigh's first three games during the '22 campaign will be at Villanova Wildcats on Sept. 3, the Georgetown Hoyas on Sept. 10 and Monmouth on the Lehigh campus on Sept. 17...Northern Illinois, which clinched the Mid-American Conference West Division crown last week, has 80 true or redshirt freshmen on the roster...Baylor coaches and administrators explained a last-second field goal in a win over Oklahoma as a possible Big 12 Conference points of margin tiebreaker when deciding the two teams for the Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship...Arkansas coaches related how the additional COVID-19 year of eligibility has aided in the team's experience and '21 success...Oklahoma's 28-21 win over Iowa State last Saturday was a score almost identical to the 27-21 victory by the Sooners over ISU in the Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship in December 2020...Oklahoma State blanked a NCAA FBS opponent for the first time since 1997 when the Cowboys topped Texas Tech 23-0 last week. OSU is ranked among the Top Four nationally and leads the Big 12 Conference in five different team defensive categories...Colorado State racked up 651 total offense during a 50-45 loss at Hawai'i

San Jose State associate AD for football communications and special projects and CoSIDA Hall of Fame Lawrence Fan worked his 500th consecutive football game for the Spartans against Utah State and received a standing ovation from the crowd at CEFCU Stadium in San Jose. Fan joined Spartans athletics in July 1980....

...Mississippi State's Alumni Association will make an April 19-24 MLB-related tour to both iconic Fenway Park in Boston and New York's Yankee Stadium – also sites of two major post-2021 bowl fracasess...

...Washburn U's Mulvane Art Museum has acquired the Walter Ios photo collection of thousands of sports photographs from the award-winning Sports Illustrated photojournalist...

TCU has included NFF College Hall of Fame player and current Jackson State head coach Deion Sanders of Florida State along with Louisiana's Billy Napier, SMU's Sonny Dykes, Iowa State's Matt Campbell, and Clemson offensive coordinator Tony Elliott as probable candidates for its vacant head coaching post. Sanders was released from a hospital last week after suffering complications from foot surgery and apologized for some JSU player scuffles on Nov. 13 against Southern U. (Baton Rouge)...Dan Mullen was dismissed as head coach at Florida after going 34-15 in four seasons with the Gators. Greg Knox will guide UF as interim head coach against Florida State...Michigan State head coach Mel Tucker signed a new 10-year, \$95 million contract and told friends that this would be his ultimate retirement job in football...Baylor head coach Dave Aranda pointed out various ways to bring a higher energy level to sometimes-drudge-filled workouts...FIU head coach Butch Davis has not been retained for his 16th college head coaching season in 2022 with six previous bowl games at Miami (Fla.), North Carolina and with the Panthers...Idaho State head coach Rob Phenicie will not return for the '22 season after five years at the helm....

...Nebraska-Kearney football coach Josh Lynn has received acclaim for taking a 3-8 team in 2017 and improving to a 9-2 regular-season mark in 2021 and a playoff win to go 10-2 in NCAA DII...Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin has been identified as a successor if Miami (Fla.) makes a coaching change...Virginia Tech head coach Justin Fuente has left as head coach for six seasons with the Hokies. Defensive line coach J.C. Price will be interim head coach for the final two regular-season contests...TCU interim head coach Jerry Kill now has 154 career victories as head coach at Saginaw Valley State, Emporia State, Southern Illinois, Northern Illinois, and Minnesota along with his Oct. 31 top appointment with the Frogs...Head coaches receiving performance bonuses for making post-2021 bowls and attaining other contract goals last week were, among others, Alabama's Nick Saban, Clemson's Dabo Swinney, Tennessee's Josh Heupel, Missouri's Eli

Drinkwitz, Ole Miss' Lane Kiffin, Wisconsin's Paul Chryst, South Carolina's Shane Beamer, and NFF College Hall of Fame coach Mack Brown of North Carolina...Head coaches Lincoln Riley of Oklahoma and Jimbo Fisher of Texas A&M said they would not be interested in the head coach's opening at LSU...Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian and his staff will be retained for the '22 outing...Illinois head coach Bret Bielema missed last week-end's tussle with Iowa because of a positive COVID-19 test...Reserve (La.) Riverside Academy head coach Kevin Dizer will not return after four seasons at the helm in 2022...Dixie State head coach Paul Peterson went shirtless as a tribute to his defense after one of his team's interception returns for a touchdown against Missouri State.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches – after Northwestern: NFF College Hall of Fame player Pat Fitzgerald, Orland Park, Ill.; Northwestern Oklahoma State: Josh Evans, Martinez, Calif.; Northwestern State: Brad Laird, Ruston, La.; Notre Dame: Brian Kelly, Everett, Mass.; Ohio: Tim Albin, Woodward, Oklahoma.

Gonzaga honored retired director of athletics Mike Roth for his 34 years of service with the new Mike Roth Way avenue adjacent to the campus in Spokane, Washington....Northwestern State AD Greg Burke will move into a key role with the NSU Foundation after 25 years as chief of athletics. A nationwide search is underway for his replacement...Texas A&M-Commerce AD Tim McMurray relayed his expectations about taking TAMUC to NCAA Division I with membership in the Southland Conference. Commerce also chose Eric Coleman as its deputy AD....UNC Asheville named Colin Smith as the associate AD for internal operations and equity...Texas AD Chris Del Conte noted support for the Longhorns football staff in a 700-plus-word essay in the Forty Acres Insider newsletter...Sports Illustrated had a special profile on North Carolina Central AD Dr. Ingrid Wicker McCree as part of its 100 Influential Black Women in Sports...Middle Tennessee has added former UT Chattanooga AD David Blackburn as a part-time consultant...Miami (Fla.) AD Blake James and the university agreed to a mutual parting last week....Vanderbilt AD Dr. Candice Lee related that there will be a 4-6-month planning, development and actions stages among each of the projects in the \$300 million Vandy United campaign. Architectural designations already have been made for several of these renovations...Tennessee AD Danny White is preparing for some major renovations and seating additions at Lindsey Nelson Stadium...UTRGV AD Chasse Conque gained a contract extension through August 2025...Omaha officially contracted new AD Adrian Dowell, but details of his new arrangements have not been revealed...Dartmouth interim AD Peter Roby has performed a celebratory

dance for some football victories for the Ivy League 2021 co-champs but has been unable to persuade his fellow Ivy League ADs to jump into the action...Michigan men's basketball head coach Juwan Howard has a five-year contract addition through 2025-26 season...Furman added Kirkland Lewis as the women's lacrosse head coach...Northern Illinois men's soccer head coach Ryan Swan had his contract extended through 2026-27...Oklahoma State has appointed former Washburn student-athlete and sports journalist Dr. Michael Edwards as assistant vice president for development...Baylor women's soccer coach Paul Jobson has finished a 14-year tenure with the Bears...Rutgers Naismith Hall of Fame women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer is sitting out the 2021-22 basketball season to avoid possible COVID-19 contact for a special needs' family member and herself...Drexel named Mary Mulvanna as senior associate AD and chief of staff...South Alabama chose Jeff Cummings as associate AD for development...Southern Miss volleyball head coach Stephanie Radecki is leaving her post...Northwestern State will use Bowlsby Sports Advisors for its search for an AD.

Dartmouth and Princeton tied for the Ivy League championship with 6-1 league marks, and it was Dartmouth's 20th outright or shared crown on the gridiron in this hallowed loop...The Big 12 Conference has been running ticket purchasing advertisements for its Dr Pepper Championship on Dec. 4 with SeatGeek handling online arrangements...Loyola (Ill.) will leave the Missouri Valley Conference and join the Atlantic 10 prior to the 2022-23 competitive year. A-10 commissioner Bernadette McGlade was interviewed about her delight over Loyola's entry into the circuit....

...Missouri State has been designated as the host site for the 2022 MVC baseball championship, and UMKC, UT Arlington and Missouri State have been reported to be in negotiations with the Valley about prospective memberships. Several sources are indicating that MVC officials would like to have a media toehold in the Greater Kansas City area with UMKC...The Big Ten Conference tabbed Megan Kahn as vice president of women's basketball...Jackson State officials apologized for some team misbehavior in a JSU-Southern U. football contest and called for continued strong unity among Southwestern Athletic Conference members..Big East Conference commissioner Val Ackerman spoke about making sure to keep commitments to NCAA Championships and budgeting for all sports....The American Athletic Conference selected Karl Hicks as associate commissioner for basketball...If NCAA FBS conference championship games were played this week (and final regular-season games are set Thursday-Saturday to determine title games), the mythical matchups are - American: Cincinnati vs. Houston; ACC – Pittsburgh vs. Wake Forest; Big Ten: Ohio State vs. Wisconsin; Big 12:

Oklahoma vs. Oklahoma State (first time in the 26-year history of Big 12 title bouts); Conference USA: UTSA vs. WKU; Mid-American: Kent State or Miami (Ohio) vs. Northern Illinois; MWC: Air Force, Boise State or Utah State vs. San Diego State; Pac-12: Oregon vs. Utah; SEC: Alabama vs. Georgia; Sun Belt: Appalachian State vs. Louisiana.

The Goodyear Cotton Bowl staff partnered with the Tarrant (Texas) Area Food Bank, the NFL Dallas Cowboys, American Airlines, and Arlington (Texas) police and fire departments to provide 2,300 Dallas-Fort Worth families with Thanksgiving meals. There were just under 300 volunteers from American Airlines, American Red Cross and Walmart joining in the effort to feed underserved families...Pittsburgh's Tre Tipton has been nominated for the 2021 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award who has overcome passings in his own family and several injuries to help found the mental health-aware L.O.V.E. Group - Living Out Victoriously Everyday...Some recent national media bowl projections outside the College Football Playoff and New Year's Six bowls are: Bahamas Bowl, Florida Atlantic vs. Ball State; Cure Bowl, Appalachian State vs. Liberty; Boca Raton Bowl, Projection: UAB vs. Coastal Carolina; and New Mexico Bowl, UTEP vs. Wyoming...Miami and Virginia Tech were vying last week with 5-5 records to gain post-2021 bowl eligibility. The two programs have combined for 19 postseason berths over the last 10 campaigns...There are now 72 bowl-eligible NCAA FBS squads for 84 postseason slots, three undefeated units – 11-0 Cincinnati, 11-0 UTSA and 11-0 Georgia – and 22 teams with five wins entering this week's clashes. Upcoming games between 5-6 squads Florida-Florida State, Maryland-Rutgers, Charlotte-Old Dominion, and Florida Atlantic-Middle Tennessee will decide four more bowl-ready schools.

NFF College Hall of Fame member Eddie George of Ohio State faced his first SEC opposition as the Tigers invaded Mississippi State last Saturday in the initial football meeting between the schools. George's son Jaire George also was a running back at SEC member Vanderbilt from 2015-19...NFF College Hall of Fame QB and coach Steve Spurrier Sr. attended last week's Mississippi State-Tennessee State contest to visit with his son and MSU wide receivers coach Steve Spurrier Jr. and grandchildren...Among the inductees into the 2022 Texas Sports Hall of Fame are 2011 Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III of Baylor, TCU and NFL stand-out receiver Mike Renfro and NFL, Texas Southern star and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Michael Strahan...2021 Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame members are MLB World Series champ Dansby Swanson, late Vandy AD David Williams, Jan van Breda Kolff, Jim Foster, Harriet Brumfield, Walter Overton (the first Black

quarterback to sign with Vandy and general manager of Nissan Stadium), NFL start Doug Nettles, NFF College Hall of Fame coach Ray Morrison, Dot Poag, Michelle Peloquin, and Sydney Campbell...Former NBA star and Naismith Hall of Fame member Alonzo Mourning is raising kidney disease awareness with his personal illness story through NephCure Kidney International.

Paul and Alejandra Foster of El Paso, Texas, were identified as the Baylor backers who donated \$100 million to Bears athletics in 2019. BU's new basketball practice facility will be named the Foster Pavilion in their honor...San Diego State's new \$310 million Aztec Stadium is on schedule for the 2022 opener against Arizona. The stadium's capacity is 35,000 with possible expansion up to 55,000 in coming years...Ole Miss has launched its university-wide \$1.5 billion fundraising campaign entitled Now and Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss. Co-chairs for the effort are the famed Leigh Anne and Sean (UM basketball student-athlete and media analyst) Tuohy of legendary "The Blind Side" movie...Michigan State athletics has received a \$10 million pledge from supporters Greg and Dawn Williams for the new Tom Izzo Football Building..Washburn football season ticket holders (38 years) Wayne and Nancy Cottril have endowed sports scholarships and supplied naming gifts for several facilities in the WU athletics complex...Connecticut Board of Trustees' members noted that the Huskies continue to explore their football and other sports' options in light of national conference realignments...Middle Tennessee athletics revealed a three-phase, \$100 million plan to renovate several facilities, including a Student-Athlete Performance Center, new offices and a total makeover for the historic Murphy Center. Approximately \$66 million in funding already has been raised or appropriated...Stanford's women's basketball 2021 NCAA championship rings were presented last week...The number of international students enrolled at U.S. universities increased 68 percent from fall 2020 to fall 2021 in a survey from Open Doors. Hundreds of these newcomers are college student-athletes...North Texas is hosting a special flash sale for discounted tickets for the UNT-UTSA game Saturday in Denton, Texas, as UTSA seeks to close the regular outing at 12-0 and 8-0 in Conference USA after clinching the C-USA West Division crown and host role for the league's championship encounter against (currently) WKU ...INFLCR noted that 5,000-plus transactions have been recorded by its Verified measuring program with an average financial transaction of \$1,335. There have been 31 percent of these endorsements by football student-athletes..Georgia Tech athletics has avowed to raise season ticket sales and individual ducats after a dip in attendance from the last non-COVID-19 season in 2019 until the '21 slate...Multiple college Olympic sports

coaches and student-athletes have expressed opposition to the National Labor Relations Board's opinions that student-athletes in all sports are employees of institutions of higher learning. Cutbacks in funding for these sports are expected if the NRLB mandates are implemented in coming months...Boise State athletics has initiated its What's Next Initiative for facility renovations, revenue generation and marketability, among other goals...Southern Miss athletics expects to save \$400,000-500,000 in travel expenses when it moves from Conference USA to the Sun Belt Conference and inherits a natural rival in South Alabama in Mobile...Miami (Fla.) hopes to add \$20-30 million to its football budget to be more competitive in future years with added commitments from alumni and team supporters...Georgia Southern fans greeted BYU players, coaches and sideline personnel with tossed burritos from the stands in the first matchup of a Top 25 FBS in Statesboro, Georgia in school history. The Cougars avenged the home treatment with a 34-17 triumph...BYU athletics and the BYU Marriott School of Business are working to provide business educational opportunities for student-athletes with more than 100 student-athletes from 21 varsity teams taking a class for credit and concentration on NIL endorsements and career paths...

Alabama QB Bryce Young set a school record with 561 yards passing and five TDs in a win over Arkansas to clinch the SEC West title...Three finalists for the FWAA Touchdown Club of Charlotte (N.C.) Bronko Nagurski Award for defensive player of the year are Three finalists for the 2021 Bronko Nagurski Trophy representing the top three teams in the Alabama linebacker Will Anderson Jr., Georgia defensive tackle Jordan Davis and Oregon defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux...Auburn QB Bo Nix is out for the remainder of the season and probably the AU bowl with a broken ankle...Semifinalists for the coveted 2021 Walter Camp Player of the Year Award are LB Will Anderson Jr., Alabama; QB Matt Corral, Ole Miss; DL Jordan Davis, Georgia; WR Jahan Dotson, Penn State; QB Sam Hartman, Wake Forest; RB TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State; LB Devin Lloyd, Utah; QB Kenny Pickett, Pitt; QB Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati; QB C.J. Stroud, Ohio State; DL Kayvon Thibodeaux, Oregon; and RB Kenneth Walker III, Michigan State...Semifinalists for the 2021 Burlsworth Trophy for the nation's most outstanding walkon player are WR Calvin Austin III, Memphis; QB Stetson Bennett, Georgia; LB Chris Bergen, Northwestern; DE Matt Henningsen, Wisconsin; LB Carlton Martial, Troy; LB Grant Morgan, Arkansas; QB Chris Reynolds, Charlotte; OL Thomas Sargeant, Liberty; OL Derek Schweiger, Iowa State; and OL Ryan Walk, Oregon...Semifinalists for the FWAA Outland Trophy are defensive tackle Jordan Davis of Georgia, offensive tackle Ikem Ekwonu

of NC State, offensive tackle Darian Kinnard of Kentucky, center Tyler Linderbaum of Iowa, offensive tackle Evan Neal of Alabama, and offensive tackle Nicholas Petit-Frere of Ohio State.....Semifinalists for the 2021 John Mackey Award as the nation's best tight end are Brock Bowers, Georgia; Derrick Deese, San Jose State; Greg Dulcich, UCLA; Charlie Kolar, Iowa State; Isaiah Likely, Coastal Carolina; Michael Mayer, Notre Dame; Trey McBride, Colorado State; and Jalen Wydermyer, Texas A&M...Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum is one of four finalists for this year's Rotary Lombardi Award...Five finalists for the 2021 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award are Matt Corral, Ole Miss; Sam Hartman, Wake Forest; Devin Leary, NC State; Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh; and Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati...Kansas RB Devin Neal in a win over Texas with 143 yards rushing, Baylor defender Terrel Bernard for his showing in a win over then-No. 8 Oklahoma, Texas Tech kicker Jonathan Garibay (62-yard field goal at the gun to down Iowa State), and Texas Tech QB Donovan Smith were lauded for sterling performances in recent Big 12 contests...Conference USA stalwarts QB Bailey Zappe (34-of-42 passing for 482 yards and five touchdowns against Rice) of WKU, Old Dominion LB Jason Henderson with 12 tackles against Florida Atlantic and Old Dominion safety R'Tarriun Johnson (80-yard blocked punt return) received kudos after helping their teams capture conference victories...Texas A&M DL DeMarvin Leal has been mentioned a probable high NFL draft selection in '22...Among the Lou Groza Award placekickers of the week for collegiate Week 10 were Jonah Dalmas of Boise State and John Richardson of Northern Illinois...Penn State stars Penn State WR Jahan Dotson, S Jaquan Brisker, DE Arnold Ebiketie, and punter Jordan Stout already have received postseason recognition and Big Ten laurels on a weekly basis...Texas RB Roschon Johnson and WR Jordan Whittington have been carrying most of the offensive load in late-season games for the Longhorns...Florida QB Emory Jones is scheduled to start the final two regular-season games for the Gators...Ohio State WR Garrett Wilson was the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week after catching 10 passes for 126 yards and rushing for a 51-yard TD against Purdue...SMU freshman wideout Dylan Goffney has played a more integral part in the Mustangs offense after several injuries at that position, and LB Shaine Hailey was credited with several big stops in November clashes...New North Texas 3,000-yard career rusher (sixth in school history with 3,011 entering last weekend) DeAndre Torry has led a resurgence by the Mean Green in the final third of the campaign...Iowa QB Alex Padilla has been drawing starting assignments in recent weeks...Clemson receptions' leader Justyn Ross is out indefinitely with a foot injury...Iowa State All-America RB Breece Hall

is about to eclipse 3,700 career rushing yards in three seasons with 700 carries for 3,699 yards and 47 rushing scores to compliment 80 career pass catches for 695 yards and five TDs...Freshman QB Donovan Smith will be the projected starter Saturday for the Red Raiders against Baylor. He ran and passed for 372 yards and three TDs in the Red Raiders upset win over Iowa State in a starting role....Auburn has lost QB Bo Nix and kicker Anders Carlson for the rest of the campaign with leg injuries...Texas RB Bijan Robison is out for the year with a dislocated elbow after rushing for 1,127 yards in 10 contests to pace the Longhorns....Longhorns receiver Joshua Moore has entered the NCAA transfer portal...The final Sooner Athletic Conference Players of the Week voting found Texas Wesleyan defender TyQuandrik Conner and Rams quarterback Dalton Dale as the two honorees...Terrence Shannon Jr. has been cleared by the NCAA to compete for Texas Tech.

USA Today identified several head coaches with kick-in bonus pacts in addition to bowl rewards. Some of those honored are Iowa's Kirk Ferentz, Oregon's Mario Cristobal, Ole Miss' Lane Kiffin, Arkansas' Sam Pittman, Kentucky's Mark Stoops, and Mississippi State's Mike Leach...Television scheduling speculator Matt Sarzyniak has continued throughout '21 with many bold and accurate predictions about network selections for games on six- and 12-day advance notice...ESPN College Gameday powered by Home Dept was in Columbus, Ohio, for the Ohio State-Michigan State. Montana, Montana State and the Big Sky Conference made several national and humorous appeals to have GameDay come to Montana for their annual showdown...The Oregonian newspaper questioned ESPN's budgeting and numbers of cameras working the Oregon-Washington State contest on Nov. 13 and some other Pac-12 questions football telecasts...ESPN will provide live coverage for five regular-season Big 12 gymnastics' meets and the 2022 Big 12 Gymnastics Championship...The Georgia-Tennessee tilt on Nov. 13 averaged 5.78 million viewers on CBS for the second-highest norm in the network's college football telecast annals...ESPN's award-winning Dick Vitale will begin his 43rd season with the network Tuesday while undergoing chemotherapy for cancer in recent weeks...The Athletic researched the possibility of NIL and licensing agreements as replacements for amateur sports in the U.S....The Miami (Fla.) Herald speculated that NFF College Hall of Fame QB Gino Torretta of Miami (Fla.) may be a candidate for the Hurricanes AD's opening...CBS Sports columnist Dennis Dodd spoke of the "tight" market for hiring football coaches and how COVID-19 financial recovery has impacted offers and contracts...The Athletic highlighted a typical game day routine in the football life of Kansas AD

Travis Goff...Sports Illustrated chronicled a new trend for Ole Miss athletics with financial rewards to student-athletes for superior academic achievements...

This week's NFF FWA Super 16 (formerly the FWA Grantland Rice Super 16 Poll) poll has Georgia, Ohio State, Alabama, Cincinnati, and Michigan among its Top Five...Kansas is the 20th annual Cheez-It Bowl FWA National Team of the Week after upending Texas 57-56 in overtime at Austin, Texas...AD Greg Seitz of Jacksonville State, CoSIDA legend Jeff Bollig, Bryan Lazare of Vanderbilt and Tiger Bait, longtime CoSIDA member and now private businessman Danny Kambel, and Ray Mallouk of The Heisman House were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter, social media and magazine... Arizona State, Illinois, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, South Carolina, Southern California, Tennessee, and Western Michigan are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The American Football Coaches Association tabbed Bill Faircloth, an AFCA 35-year member and longtime athletics administrator and coach at Wake Forest, was selected as the recipient of the 2021 AFCA Outstanding Achievement Award...The 24 teams in the NCAA FCS Championship were released Sunday night with Top Four seeds as Sam Houston (10-0 and winner of 21 consecutive games), North Dakota State (10-1), James Madison (10-1), and Sacramento State (9-2). One of the great human-interest stories in the bracket is 10-1 East Tennessee State, which dropped football from 2004-14 due to financial cutbacks and is making its second NCAA FCS postseason performance since resuming the grid sport in 2015...Some key NAIA first round playoff scores last Saturday included No. 2 seed Morningside (Iowa) 63, Ottawa (Ariz.) 38; No. 3 Grand View (Iowa) 38, Dickinson State (N.D.) 13; and No. 4 seed Northwestern (Iowa) 24, Central Methodist (Mo.) 7. Top-seeded and defending winner Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) had to postpone its playoff opener against Montana Western until last Sunday due to travel problems by UWM. ...The AFCA NCAA FCS Top Five has defending champ Sam Houston (only undefeated FCS team out of the 128 FCS competitors), James Madison, Montana State, North Dakota State, and Kennesaw State in the Top 25 ratings with NCAA selections for the DI championship upcoming in December and January...The final regular-season AFCA NCAA Division II Top 25 poll has Ferris State (the only unbeaten squad in DII), West Florida, Northwest Missouri State, Grand Valley State, and Valdosta State. Some key first round scores in the NCAA DII playoffs, among others, were New Haven 38, Bentley 13; Shepherd 38, Findlay 31; Notre Dame (Ohio) 33, Slippery Rock 33; West Georgia 23, Albany State 7; Newberry upended defending (2019) champ West Florida 33-30; Nebraska-Kearney 32, Western Colorado 24. Ferris State will face Grand Valley State Saturday while there are three other teams with first-round byes. Valdosta State faces West Georgia, No. 1 NCAA playoff seeds Colorado School of Mines (meets Bemidji

State) and Kutztown (faces New Haven Saturday) also received first round byes...NCAA Division III AFCA Top 25 national poll were Top Five members North Central (Ill.), Mary Hardin-Baylor (Texas), Wisconsin-Whitewater, Mt. Union (Ohio), and St. John's (Minn.) for the fifth consecutive week. There were a hard-to-believe nine still-unbeaten teams in DIII competition through Nov. 19. North Central tangles with Wisconsin-La Crosse in Round Two of the DIII playoffs Saturday...The U.S. Football League selected its executives for the anticipated spring 2022 league opening. They are Brian Woods as president, former Syracuse standout and noted broadcaster Daryl Johnston as executive vice president of football operations, former NFL vice president of officiating Mike Pereira as coordinator of officiating, and FOX Sports executive Edward Hartman as executive vice president for business operations...The NCAA officially added four teams to the DI Women's Basketball Championship to bring the field to 68 schools...The NCAA hosted the 32 teams and 38 individual qualifiers for the 2021 DI Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships in Tallahassee, Fla., last Saturday...The American Baseball Coaches Association and Boombah have a new corporate sponsorship...NCAA administrators continue to work with SEC commissioner Greg Sankey and Ohio AD Julie Cromer as Division I coordinators on updating NCAA operating procedures, the group's constitution and bylaws after a special NCAA gathering last week...Oregon State has received the top seen in the 2021 NCAA Division I men's soccer championship...Athlon Sports expects the NCAA will assume the approximately \$40 million in legal fees for the Alston vs. the NCAA case. Earlier, all levels of NCAA conferences were counted on to pay for the majority of these services.

Schedule with New Year's Six Games
(All Games Televised by ESPN, EST)

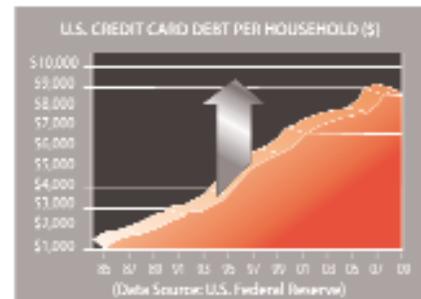
- Friday, Dec. 31, 2021**
(CFP Semifinals & Championship Jan 10)
Goodyear Cotton Bowl
AT&T Stadium
Arlington, Texas, 4 or 8 p.m.
- Capital One Orange Bowl**
Hard Rock Stadium
Miami Lakes, Fla., 4 or 8 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 10**
CFP Championship, Semifinal Winners
Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis, Ind., 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022**
(Other New Year's Six Bowls)
- Thursday, Dec. 30**
Chick Fil-A Peach Bowl
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. TBD
- Friday, Jan. 1**
PlayStation Fiesta Bowl
State Farm Stadium
Glendale, Ariz. TBD
- Friday, Jan. 1**
Allstate Sugar Bowl
Mercedes-Benz Superdome
New Orleans, La., TBD
- Friday, Jan. 1**
Rose Bowl presented by Capital One Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, Calif.

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CGA STAFF WRITER

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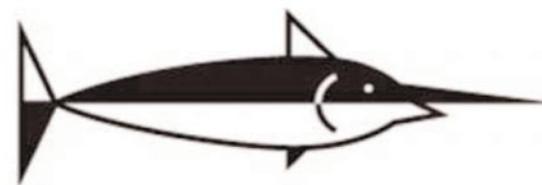
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Porsche Cayenne handles like an SUV



By *kbb.com*

Despite launching as an all-new model last year, the Porsche Cayenne isn't resting on its laurels, introducing a new plug-in hybrid model in the Turbo S E-Hybrid. There's also an all-new coupe version that we've reviewed separately. What hasn't changed is the Cayenne's dedication to the thrill of driving. And while many may question how thrilling a drive can an SUV deliver, one lap behind the wheel of a Cayenne, regardless of trim, will definitively answer the question.

Are there equally good performance SUVs out there from Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Jaguar and Land Rover? Absolutely. But with a set of turbocharged engines ranging from 355 horsepower to 670 in the new Turbo S E-Hybrid, a ridiculously long options sheet and that unmistakable Porsche silhouette, the Porsche Cayenne is truly in a league of its own.

The Porsche Cayenne carries an (MSRP) of \$68,150 including the \$1,350 destination charge. That's substantially more than a base Audi SQ5 or Alfa Romeo Stelvio, and about \$6,000 more than the AWD BMW X5 xDrive40i. The Cayenne S starts just under \$85,650, while the plug-in E-Hybrid sells for just shy of \$82,500. The Cayenne Turbo pushes the price tag into the 6-digit realm, starting at \$127,950. At the very top end, the Turbo S E-Hybrid starts at \$163,250.

For the most part, similarly equipped rivals from Lexus, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi cost far less, although the Land Rover Range Rover Sport is about \$1,000 more than the base Cayenne.

Check KBB.com's Fair Purchase Price to see what others in your area are currently paying, and at resale time, the Cayenne should do well, better than the BMW X5, Audi SQ5 and Land Rover Range Rover Sport.

Porsche's Cayenne may be an SUV, but its lower center-of-gravity engine and lightweight aluminum construction make it ride and handle like a lithe sports car.

Acceleration and passing power are

never in short supply, with the new 3.0-liter turbocharged V6 propelling the Cayenne to 60 mph nearly a second faster than the previous generation. Of course, the S and Turbo models are even faster, with their twin-turbocharged V6 and V8 engines.

The standard steel-spring suspension delivers a firm, sometimes jerky ride, but it can be enhanced with the PASM (Porsche Active Suspension Management) system adding dual-mode shocks that adapt to changing road conditions. One step further is the optional air suspension that helps iron out rough-riding characteristics without sacrificing cornering ability. The air suspension includes five different ride heights, lower for improved handling or higher for off-road adventures, and, yes, the Cayenne can be a very capable off-road SUV.

Its brakes are powerful and effective, but for those with cash burning a hole in their pocket, Porsche offers two upgrades. The first is a massive 16.3-inch tungsten-carbide rotor gripped by a 10-piston caliper for instantaneous emergency stops. For maximum stopping power, buyers can opt for a set of carbon-ceramic brakes, which, at \$9,080, don't come cheap. We can't say we'd spring for either of these upgrades on the base or hybrid model, but they will definitely not be out of place on the S and Turbo trims.

Additional performance enhancements include the Sport Chrono package (\$1,130) that includes launch control and Sport+ mode, and rear-axle steering for faster turn-in and emergency-input response.

Interior Comfort

One quick glance and it's easy to see the Panamera's influence on the Porsche Cayenne's stunning interior. An analog center tachometer sits between two 7-inch digital gauges, mixing the modern with a touch of tradition. A 12.3-inch touch screen resides atop the center dash, its sleek black face matching a similar design around the shift lever housing both haptic-feedback controls and hard buttons. It's a dynamic look, but the glossy black surface quickly

shows dust and fingerprints, prompting us to suggest Porsche might want to toss in a free logo-embossed microfiber towel to keep it all looking new.

The seats are amazingly supportive, handsomely designed and available with heating, cooling and up to 18 different power adjustments. Last year's redesign saw the cargo area increase in size and more rear-seat legroom added. The standard-equipment list isn't as robust as one might expect at this price level, so adding options can be fun but also expensive.

Exterior Styling

Although it retains a similar appearance to the original, this 3rd-generation Cayenne has a cleaner look, with more pronounced body creases and a lower stance. Staggered front and rear tire widths on the standard 19-inch wheels further enhance the Cayenne's aggressive stance.

The current Cayenne's wheelbase remains unchanged, although its body is nearly three inches longer. Climbing the line brings larger wheels and tires (up to 22 inches) as well as ground effects, front-end treatment and colors.

The Cayenne E-Hybrid models get their own exclusive 21-inch-wheel option, making it a bit more aggressive-looking than the Lexus RX 400h or Audi e-Tron.

For the ultimate in ride control and cornering, the active-shock setup in the PASM system is a must-have. The system can adjust the shocks in just milliseconds, reacting to changing road surfaces and even the driver's own habits.

Looking like a 12.3-inch slab of polished black onyx until you start the vehicle, the Cayenne's massive touch-screen infotainment is one of our favorite in-cabin features. Controlled by either large block icons or haptic-feedback buttons surrounding the center console shifter, the screen serves as the focal point for navigation, camera feeds, apps and Apple CarPlay integration.

For now, the Cayenne by Porsche offers five trim levels: base, S, Turbo, E-Hybrid and Turbo S E-Hybrid. Standard on the Cayenne is Integrated 4D Chassis Control, 19-inch wheels, rain-sensing wipers, Porsche Communication Management featuring a 12.3-inch touch screen, navigation, Apple CarPlay, a 10-speaker/150-watt audio system, front and rear park assist, LED headlights and taillights, keyless entry with push-button start and an 8-way-power driver's seat.

Standard safety equipment includes front and rear side airbags and Porsche's Warn and Brake assist. While advanced driver assists standard on most competitors are also available on the Cayenne, they are part of an extra-cost package.

Options and upgrades are almost too numerous to count, but among the more desirable standouts are 18 different wheel choices, leather seating, heated and ventilated front seats, heated rear seats, 18-way-adaptive sport seats, adaptive headlights, a panoramic sunroof and a 21-speaker/1,455-watt Burmester audio system.

On the suspension front, buyers can opt for an air suspension or the Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) system, Porsche Dynamic Chassis Control, rear-axle steering and the Sport Chrono Package that adds launch control and a digital and analog stopwatch. Adaptive cruise control with lane-keep assist and autonomous braking is also optional, as are night vision and a head-up display.

Powering the Porsche Cayenne is a line of turbocharged and hybrid engines, starting with a 3.0-liter turbocharged V6 good for 355 horsepower and 322 lb-ft of torque. Standard in the base Cayenne, this engine design hides the turbocharger in the valley between the cylinders, rather than below them, giving a lower center of gravity.

The Cayenne S is powered by a 2.9-liter twin-turbocharged V6, while the Cayenne Turbo derives power from a 4.0-liter twin-turbocharged V8.

The E-Hybrid combines a 3.0-liter turbo V6 with a 134-horsepower electric motor for a combined output of 455 horsepower, while the Turbo S E-Hybrid does the same with the twin-turbo V8 for a combined output of 670 horsepower. The E-Hybrid can also run solely on electric power for a distance of 27 miles at speeds up to 85 mph.

All Cayenne models use an 8-speed ZF automatic transmission. Although not as fast as the PDK dual-clutch transmission used on other Porsche vehicles, this one seems to work well in the Cayenne, answering to both a performance and luxury call. All Cayenne models come standard with all-wheel drive (AWD).

3.0-liter turbocharged V6 (Cayenne)	335 horsepower @ 5,300-6,400 rpm
	322 lb-ft of torque @ 1,340-5,300 rpm
EPA city/highway fuel economy:	19/23 mpg
2.9-liter twin-turbocharged V6 (Cayenne S)	434 horsepower @ 5,700-6,600 rpm
	406 lb-ft of torque @ 1,800-5,500 rpm
EPA city/highway fuel economy:	18/22 mpg
3.0-liter turbocharged V6 + electric motor (Cayenne E-Hybrid)	455 horsepower @ 5,300-6,400 rpm (net system horsepower)
	516 lb-ft of torque @ 1,340-5,300 rpm (net system torque)
EPA city/highway fuel economy:	(gasoline) 22 mpg combined, 46 MPGe
4.0-liter twin-turbocharged V8 (Cayenne Turbo)	





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