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Weekly



Big 12 Mens Basketball Preview

Nov. 27 - Dec. 3, 2020

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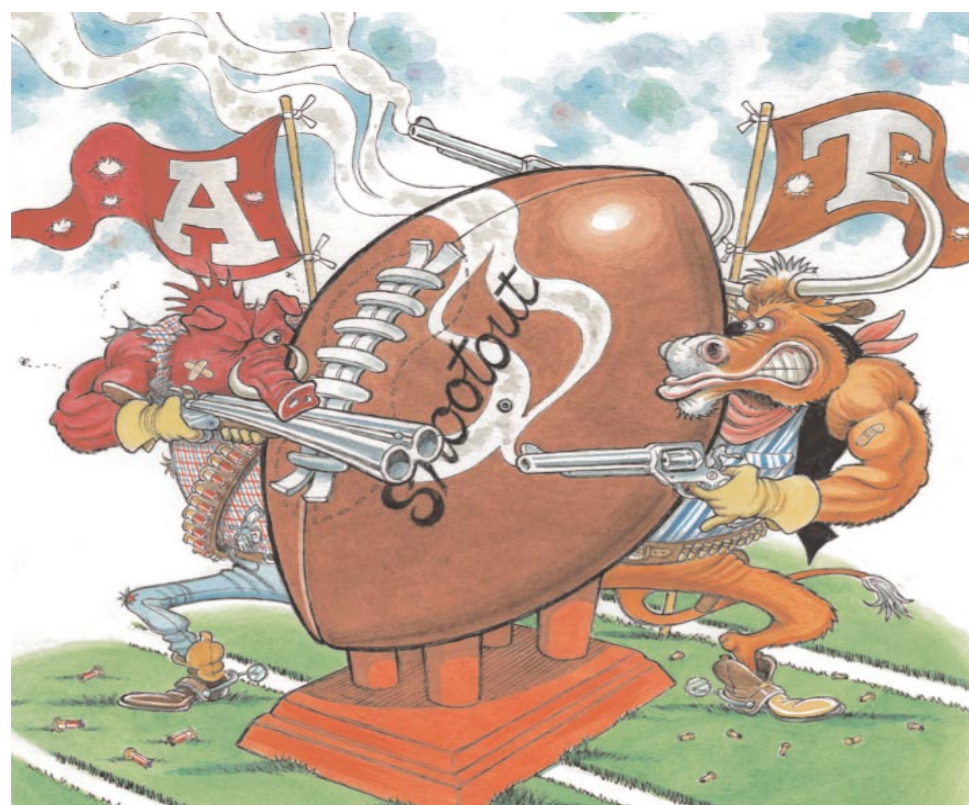
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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Gift of lights return to TMS



Gift of lightds return to TMS with already COVID-19 friendly drive-through experience

- Millions of lights cover two-mile drive for No Limits, Texas annual holiday extravaganza

- Special discounts for military/first responders/health care workers as well as crazy car/PJ's/sweater days

The yuletide season tradition that is Gift of Lights at Texas Motor Speedway celebrates its 10th year with the annual Thanksgiving opening night kicking off 39 days of one of the Lone Star State's largest holiday light shows.

Beginning Thursday, November 26 through Sunday, January 3, families will enjoy two miles of light displays throughout the speedway. The display is open every day during that time period, including Christmas Eve and Christmas day, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Drive-through guests will be captivated by the more than two million lights spread across the circuit, the result of more than 1,100 man-hours of setup by holiday display giant Winterland, Inc., the company responsible for similar light shows at the speedways in Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Charlotte, New Hampshire, and Phoenix.

The in-vehicle event has always been socially distanced so guests' safety will be seamless.

"This has definitely been a year where our spirits have needed lifting so there's no better way to close out 2020 than celebrating all we have to be thankful for and creating wonderful memories through the Gift of Lights," said Texas Motor Speedway President and General Manager Eddie Gossage. "We're proud to host Gift of Lights for a 10th year and to have created a holiday season tradition for the entire region."

A number of special discount days are scheduled including:

- November 30: Crazy Car Day – Decorate your vehicle to receive \$10 off at the gate.
- December 1: Crazy PJs Day – Wear your pajamas to receive a \$10 discount at the gate.
- December 2: Military, First Responder and Health Care Worker Night – Free admission for anyone with a valid ID
- December 7: Bring Your Pet Day - \$10 discount at the gate to those who bring their pet
- December 8: Crazy Christmas Sweater Day - \$10 discount at the gate for those

who wear a crazy Christmas sweater

Tickets to 'Gift of Lights' are available online (giftoflightstexas.com) for \$30 (cars/trucks), \$50 (RVs/truck trailers), and \$60 (bus of 20 people). Passengers must remain in their vehicles due to COVID-19. Motorcycles and passengers in truck beds and trailers are prohibited.

College Football Playoff Selection Committee Rankings Games Played through Saturday, November 21

Rank	Team	Overall Record
1	Alabama	7-0
2	Notre Dame	8-0
3	Clemson	7-1
4	Ohio State	4-0
5	Texas A&M	5-1
6	Florida	6-1
7	Cincinnati	8-0
8	Northwestern	5-0
9	Georgia	5-2
10	Miami (FL)	7-1
11	Oklahoma	6-2
12	Indiana	4-1
13	Iowa State	6-2
14	BYU	9-0
15	Oregon	3-0
16	Wisconsin	2-1
17	Texas	5-2
18	Southern Cal	3-0
19	North Carolina	6-2
20	Coastal Carolina	8-0
21	Marshall	7-0
22	Auburn	5-2
23	Oklahoma State	5-2
24	Iowa	3-2
25	Tulsa	5-1

NCAA Football - Top 25 Coaches (Week of 11/23/20) AP

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

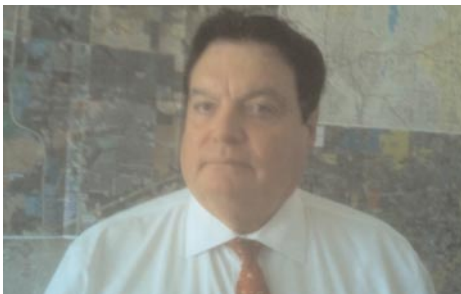
WEEKLY CALENDAR

	NOVEMBER 27 FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 28 SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 29 SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 30 MONDAY	DECEMBER 1 TUESDAY	DECEMBER 2 WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 3 THURSDAY
			Dallas vs Washington 3:30 / FOX				
		SMU at East Carolina 11:00 / ESPN+					
		TCU at Kansas 7:00 / FS1					

Ponies travel to East Carolina Saturday



Shane Buechele will have another year since this season doesn't count toward eligibility



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The SMU Mustangs' football team gets back into action this Saturday after an unexpected day off last weekend. Their game against the University of Houston Cougars was postponed because of several COVID-19 cases on the Houston team and has been rescheduled for December 5. The start time is expected to be announced this weekend.

This week, the Mustangs are on the road against the East Carolina Pirates. The Pirates come in with a 2-6 overall record and a 2-5 record in American Athletic Conference play. ECU beat Temple in Philadelphia last weekend 28-3. Oddly, both their wins have come on the road, and they are 0-3 at home.

SMU Head Football Coach Sonny Dykes told the media this week that he thought getting last weekend off would help his team against ECU. "At this time of year, everybody's beat up. We're a little fatigued. We haven't had much time off.

It leads to mental fatigue as much as physical fatigue."

On the injury front, he noted that offensive lineman Jalen Thomas would have played last weekend, and that he expects Danny Gray and Bryan Massey to be available ("full speed ahead") this week against East Carolina.

"It was a good week of practice. We were able to utilize a few extra days, and hopefully that will payoff for us this week."

Last season, the Pirates gave the heavily favored Mustangs a difficult time in Ford Stadium. The Mustangs finally held them off late in the game for a 59-51 win, one of the highest scoring games in SMU history. Dykes expects a good game from ECU this Saturday. "They're very multiple in everything they do. They're playing really hard, and they have a lot of talent. I think our guys have a lot of respect for how hard they play and their schemes."

The kickoff is set for 12:00 Noon Eastern/11:00 AM Central, and will be televised on ESPN+. Fans in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area can hear the radio broadcast on KTCK (the Ticket) at 1310 AM/96.7 FM. The Mustangs are favored by 12-1/2 points on the betting line.

BASKETBALL

SMU's Men's basketball season opened Wednesday night with a 97-67 win over Sam Houston State. Kendrick Davis exploded for 33 points to lead the Mustangs, who got the added punch of double digit scoring

games from William Douglas (15 points) and Charles Smith, IV (11 points) off the bench. Those point totals are career highs for all three. Ethan Chargois started with Tyson Jolly unavailable, scored in double digits and led the Mustangs with six assists.

Davis's 33 points was the most ever by a Mustang in the season opening game. He broke Ira Terrell's record of 30 set in 1975's season opener. Davis said after the game, "The game plan today was to come out with great energy. I got my rhythm. I just took what the defense gave me."

Douglas played in just three games last year, limited by a broken hand and a stomach ailment. He was definitely pleased afterward saying, "SMU is my family. You probably saw a few of my teammates cheering me on. It's not really about me. It's about winning." He admitted that dealing with the stomach issues last year was difficult. "It was a mental killer for me. I was really down." He was especially pleased with his three point shooting. He made one Wednesday night and admitted that he wasn't that good at shooting the three in high school.

Mustang Head Coach Tim Jankovich admitted that the COVID-19 situation has added a new dimension to coaching. "Coaching in this environment is so disconcerting. I felt off."

Despite the score, Jankovich felt like the offense and defense was not in top form.

Neither Tyson Jolly nor Darius McNeill saw action in the game, though Jolly was on the bench in street clothes. Jankovich indicated he is not free to explain the situation surrounding Jolly. He has not practiced in recent days with "dealing with personal issues" as the only explanation. Jankovich has also indicated that Jolly's return to the court this season is not a given, but indicated "I'm hopeful."

McNeill was also on the bench with a brace on his left hand. Jankovich said "He's day-to-day. I hope he'll be back by Monday's game." If McNeill does play next week, he's likely to see limited playing time because of the practices he's missed.

The Mustangs next play Monday night against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at 7:00 PM Central in Moody Coliseum.

The conference schedule was also announced this week. The Mustangs open at home against East Carolina on December 16. January is a particularly rugged month. The three championship contenders besides SMU are Houston, Memphis and Cincinnati. SMU plays five of their six games against those three teams in January. They start with home games against Houston and Cincinnati on January 3 and 6 respectively. The Memphis games are January 14 on the road and January 27

at home. The month concludes with UH in Houston on January 31. SMU's final regular season conference game is at home against Tulsa on March 7.

The American Athletic Conference post-season tournament is scheduled for March 11-14 at the Dickies Arena in Ft. Worth.

The Mustangs also announced the signing of two high school seniors to be part of next year's team. Zhuric Phelps is a 6'-3" point guard from Duncanville High School in the Dallas area. He is a three star prospect that is ranked as the number two point guard in Texas, and one of the top 10 high school players in the state. Last year, he led Duncanville to the semi-finals of the Texas Class 6A playoffs before play was halted because of the Coronavirus.

Jalen Smith is also a point guard. He's 6'-4" and plays for Oakridge High School in Orlando, Florida. He too is a three star prospect that is ranked 173 in the nation by Prep Hoops. His Oak Ridge team was ranked first in Florida's high school class 7A for much of last season.

SCHEDULES:

Both Sonny Dykes and Tim Jankovich indicated this week that they are still seeking to add to their schedules. The only date available for football is the weekend of December 12. Dykes said they are talking to other schools, but there are complications to that date. Jankovich said that he wanted to add two more games to the Men's Basketball schedule but seemed frustrated that they are having so much difficulty finding teams to play. He is definitely disappointed to lose non-conference games to Arizona State, Georgia, UNLV and Dayton because of the Pandemic.

Wednesday was supposed to be a big opening day for college basketball. Unfortunately, 23 scheduled games were not played because of Coronavirus considerations. It's an ominous beginning for a season that may not get played reasonably in its entirety.

NOTABLE:

- Sonny Dykes was asked if he has had any conversations with Shane Buechele about returning next year, as he'll have another year of eligibility since this season doesn't count toward eligibility. Dykes said he had not but added "We'd love to have Shane come back obviously."

- The Mustang football team had a Thanksgiving Day meal on Thursday, and Dykes noted that it was the first time for the team to have a meal together since last season due to COVID-19 considerations.

- The official paid attendance for Wednesday's basketball game was 1,530

- SMU in person classes for the fall semester ended last Tuesday. Classes resume on a virtual basis next Wednesday.

Tom's Tip of the week: The Swoosh Drill



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

This is the ideal time to work out any kinks in your swing as we head into December. While practicing, or playing, keep one thought in mind that is vitally important to playing great golf....swing and don't hit at the ball.

When looking at the golf ball it naturally encourages a hitting action. A hitting action is very difficult to control and will create a major power loss for distance and creates all kinds of errors in the golf swing.

A hitting action causes the hands to control the club. Any attempt to use the

hands will involve the wrists breaking down opening and closing the clubface prematurely.

A swinging action to your intended target eliminates the hitting action, and allows the lower body movements to control the club head through the forward portion of the golf swing. With the hands passive, the wrists will automatically hinge and unhinge keeping the club face in the proper position throughout the entire swing.

Hitting action usually starts at the beginning of the downswing. This improper action throws the club head out of its arc, or plane swing, that was setup on the backswing. This movement is commonly called "coming over the top". This can produce all types of wayward shots depending upon the club face angle at impact. That's one reason why golfer's practice swings look better than their actual swings. That's because without a ball in front of you there is no inclination to hit at it.

I have a simple, highly effective drill to counter attack that move and will help get you on back on track. I call it the "Swoosh drill" and you can use your own clubs to

do the exercise.

Take your normal stance, as shown in the top left photograph, like you're about to make a swing, then flip your club upside down so the hosel of the club is where your grip was a moment ago. Then make your backswing like the photo on the top right.

Then it's full speed ahead like there was a ball laying on the ground and listen to where you hear the swooshing sound. If the sound is behind where a ball would have been laying on the turf then you're hitting (using too much hands, wrists and shoulders). I've drawn an arrow on the bottom right photo to highlight how the hands have overtaken the downswing improperly. Take a close look at how my body is straightening up and hanging too far back. My left leg has locked up causing a reverse pivot which is a real no-no.

The bottom right photo showcases what a great golf swing looks like. By keeping your shoulders passive and driving your legs with full force you should hear the swooshing sound out in front of the ball. Notice how my legs have remained flexed

through the impact area. That motion means my legs are pulling the club into the correct swing path creating dynamic club head speed with centrifugal force as opposed to brute force which is the opposite when you try to hit the ball. I'm staying down and through the shot as opposed to coming up and out of my posture.

Compare my right shoulder in this photo to the one on the bottom left. My right shoulder is behind and down as compared to coming up and across in the bottom left photo.

This drill will accelerate club head speed resulting in more power with less effort and keeping the club on the correct swing path for accuracy.....and only takes a few moments to do.

While out on the golf course do this drill in between shots as it's a great way to develop a good habit. The 'Swoosh drill' will help you hear how a great golf swing sounds and that should be music to your ears.

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

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Woods' commit to PNC Championship



Tiger Woods and his son Charlie will play in the PNC Championship. (Getty Images)

By Ben Everill
PGATOUR.COM

Tiger Woods has revealed he will team up with his son Charlie and compete in the PNC Championship at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando (Grande Lakes) from Dec. 17-20.

Formerly known as the Father/Son Challenge, the PNC Championship brings together top PGA TOUR and LPGA major-winning talent and a family member to compete as a team.

Woods, the 82-time TOUR winner, will make his tournament debut with Charlie, his 11-year-old son who has already established himself as an accomplished junior golfer in Florida.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to be playing with Charlie in our first official tournament together. It's been great watching him progress as a junior golfer and it will be incredible playing as a team together in the PNC Championship," Woods said in a statement.

The 44-year-old Woods has been spotted at various junior tournaments acting as Charlie's caddie. Outside of the odd sighting on social media videos, this will be the first time for fans to see the young Woods in action.

This is in direct contrast to the profile the elder Woods had at the same age. Taught by his father Earl, Woods had made numerous appearances on television as a prodigy from as early as age 2.

Earlier this year, Woods spoke of his son's game with GOLFTV.

"I'm still winning ... for now," Woods said. "He's starting to get into it. He's starting to understand how to play. He's asking me the right questions. I've kept it competitive with his par, so it's been just an absolute blast to go out there and just be with him. It reminds me so much of me and my dad."

Does Charlie have the beginnings of talent that saw his father win three U.S. Junior Amateurs and three U.S. Amateurs? Can he push towards the same greatness his father has achieved? It is way too early to tell, and unfair to place such expectations on him.

"I don't know. It depends how bad he wants it. It's all on him," Woods said when asked. "I wanted it at a very, very early age. I wanted to compete and play in this game. That's on him — whether he wants it or not."

While this year's tournament will take place without spectators due to COVID-19 related restrictions, fans will still be able to enjoy watching on a variety of broadcast mediums from NBC, Golf Channel and Peacock. There also will be enhanced social media coverage across all PGA TOUR and PNC Championship channels.

The PNC Championship will also feature former FedExCup champion Justin Thomas and his father Mike for the first time. Defending champions Bernhard Langer and his son Jason will also return. Gary Player, Greg Norman, Lee Janzen, Tom Kite, John Daly, Mark O'Meara, Retief Goosen, Tom Lehman, Padraig Harrington, Lee Trevino and Vijay Singh

are among the many major champions returning to participate.

Mark Calcavecchia, the 1989 Open Champion, is also making his debut in the event alongside his son Eric. Jim Furyk and Matt Kuchar will play with their sons, having previously partnered with their fathers.

In addition to four-time champion Langer, past champion David Duval returns

along with 10-time major winner Annika Sorenstam, who made her debut last year.

"I can't think a better way to close out my golfing year than playing with my dad against so many of the world's greatest golfers and their families. It will be a perfect way to finish before the Christmas break, and we are both very excited to make our debut in Orlando," Thomas said earlier this month.

Past champions of the PNC Championship

1995 - Raymond Floyd and Raymond Floyd Jr.	2006 - Bernhard Langer and Stefan Langer
1996 - Raymond Floyd and Raymond Floyd Jr.	2007 - Larry Nelson and Josh Nelson
1997 - Raymond Floyd and Raymond Floyd Jr.	2008 - Larry Nelson and Drew Nelson
1998 - Bob Charles and David Charles	2012 - Davis Love III and Davis "Dru" Love IV
1999 - Jack Nicklaus and Gary Nicklaus	2013 - Stewart Cink and Connor Cink
2000 - Raymond Floyd and Robert Floyd	2014 - Bernhard Langer and Jason Langer
2001 - Raymond Floyd and Robert Floyd	2015 - Lanny Wadkins and Tucker Wadkins
2002 - Craig Stadler and Kevin Stadler	2016 - David Duval and Nick Karavites
2003 - Hale Irwin and Steve Irwin	2017 - Angel Cabrera and Angel Cabrera Jr
2004 - Larry Nelson and Drew Nelson	2018 - Davis Love III and Davis "Dru" Love IV
2005 - Bernhard Langer and Stefan Langer	2019 - Bernhard Langer and Jason Langer

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NMLS #1136

Big 12 Mens Basketball preview



Baylor is the unanimous pick to win the Big 12 this year

By Ryan Gilbert

After Big 12 teams saw their seasons abruptly end in Kansas City, it's finally time for some basketball again.

Following a 3-15 mark in the league and an 11-21 overall record, Kansas State will be in rebuild mode as the Wildcats return just one upper-class scholarship player in Mike McGuirl. Sophomores DaJuan Gordon, Antonio Gordon and Montavious Murphy will also be familiar faces, but other than that, a new wave of talent arrives in Manhattan this season.

According to 247Sports, K-State head coach Bruce Weber will bring in his best-ever recruiting class at K-State. Four-star Nijel Pack, along with three-star athletes Davion Bradford, Seryee Lewis, Selton Miguel and Luke Kasubke will represent the freshman class for the Wildcats.

Newcomers Carlton Linguard and Rudi Williams are arriving from junior college, while Kaosi Ezeagu will also make his first appearance for K-State after enrolling last year.

Last season, Kansas dominated the Big 12, losing just one game to Baylor by two points. The Jayhawks had as good of a chance as anyone to win the NCAA Tournament, as they ended the season 28-3. Baylor also had success, posting a 26-4 overall record.

The Wildcats had little success last season but were able to rally two wins in a row before conferences began to shut down their tournaments. If there are any positives to take away from last season, it's that K-State ended on a winning streak. Around the country, not many teams can say that! In all seriousness though, it's a rebuilding

year for the basketball program. With so many newcomers, there will be many mistakes made, but the future of K-State basketball is bright.

As the Wildcats start their season, let's take a look at what to expect around the Big 12. We'll be diving in on each team and ranking all 10 of them, giving preseason honors and awards and predicting a champion.



1. Baylor Bears

Baylor is coming back loaded after an impressive season, as Scott Drew has arguably the best player in the conference in Jared Butler. Mark Vital, who seems to have played in the Big 12 for a hundred years, will also be back. Throw in MaCio Teague, and the Bears are a scary team. Freddie Gillespie, although going undrafted, will be a member of the Dallas Mavs this upcoming season and is without a doubt the biggest loss for Baylor from last season. Tristan Clark, who recently announced his retirement from basketball due to ongoing injuries, will also be missed. Overall though, the Big 12's scariest team is in Waco.

Complacency will be the Bears' biggest issue. Last season, we saw it on numerous

occasions, where Baylor was playing a much lesser opponent, and they simply put on cruise control. You can count on Baylor to be competitive in big-time games, but the bottom half of the league can creep up on them, especially with the nature of this season due to COVID-19. Scott Drew may not be a brand name coach, but he has been consistent for over a decade and has one of the best teams in the nation.

Last season, K-State hung around with Baylor in Manhattan, surprisingly only losing by 6 points. Don't let that fool you though, the Wildcats never held a lead and were down by double digits for a chunk of that game. In Waco, the Bears dominated with an 85-66 win over the Wildcats. I'd expect the same outcomes this season.



2. Kansas Jayhawks

In my mind, Devon Dotson's decision to go pro was not a smart move. He does have the speed, quickness and court vision to play in the NBA. However, he's too small, and it shows, as he went undrafted before signing with the Bulls. Nonetheless, Dotson's departure is a huge blow for Bill Self and it will prove itself this season. The absence of Udoka Azubuike down low will also hurt Kansas, as he was a bully in the paint to his opponents. But, the Jayhawks

still have the best coach in the league and will compete for the Big 12 title. This happens almost every year; there's many reasons to believe Kansas will struggle, they lose a few games early, and then they take control of the league in February.

The story is no different for this season. The Jayhawks lose Dotson and Azubuike, Baylor looks excellent and without fans, Allen Fieldhouse certainly will lose its home-court advantage. Their starting five really isn't that scary, either. Christian Braun will log more minutes this season, but he isn't anything more than a roleplayer. It will be interesting to follow David McCormack and Mitch Lightfoot down low without big Dok to take the pressure away from them. Make no mistake about Marcus Garrett though. As a clone of Devonte' Graham, Garrett plays defense and facilitates the floor as well as anyone around the country. He's a heck of a player and will need some help around his roster. The bottom line for Kansas is they of course will win a majority of their games in the Big 12, but there is, as always, a reason to be skeptical.

Last season, as we all remember, Kansas blew out K-State in Allen Fieldhouse and a brawl transpired after the buzzer. It was an ugly scene for college basketball and K-State's and KU's basketball programs. The next time the two teams met, they were much more mature but once again, Kansas got a W. I'd expect another sweep for the Jayhawks this season.



3. Texas Tech Red Raiders

Chris Beard is rising as one of the best young coaches in college basketball. Year after year, the Red Raiders lose a number of players, but will once again come back loaded. Not only are they loaded, but Texas Tech has one of the deepest rosters in the league. If you watched their run to the Final Four a few years back, you probably won't recognize any names this season. Marcus Santos-Silva will be among the Big 12's best newcomers as a transfer from VCU. To compliment him, Chris Beard brings in a top 10 recruiting class nationally and the No. 1 ranked class in the Big 12. Mac McClung and Jamarius Burton are also transfers and will only help out the cause.



Texas Tech could be the surprise team in the NCAA Tournament

As long as Chris Beard continues his trend of developing new players, the Red Raiders will be a tough out. After his first season as head coach, Beard hasn't had a losing record in Big 12 play at Texas Tech, and expect that trend to continue.



4. West Virginia Mountaineers

The Mountaineers were the biggest disappointment last season in the Big 12, as after a promising 6-3 start to league play, West Virginia finished at .500 with a 9-9 record. That likely won't be the case this season as Bob Huggins has two twin towers in the paint with Oscar Tshiebwe and Derek Culver. Hands down, the biggest struggle last season for WVU was their lack of scorers. Every game, you know Huggy Bear will have his squad ready to go with stifling defense, but the Mountaineers just failed to score enough points in most of their losses last season.

'Press Virginia' seems to be a thing of the past, so it will be interesting to see if Huggins brings that back to Morgantown this season. At home, West Virginia only dropped two games (Kansas and OU) but on the road, it was abysmal. Consistency will be key this season.



5. Oklahoma State Cowboys

As a young coach who quite honestly hasn't accomplished much, Mike Boynton has a lot of hype around Oklahoma State this season. However, I'm buying into it. It's hard not to. Most people won't believe

it, but Isaac Likekele is one of the best players in the Big 12. After battling health issues last season which really set him back, Likekele will be good to go for the 2020-21 season. But he isn't the story. Cade Cunningham, 247Sports' No. 1 overall prospect, will be the topic of discussion every game for the Cowboys. Cunningham is only a piece of Boynton's stacked recruiting class, which also features Donovan Williams. There would be remiss if we didn't mention Rondel Walker as well, a solid addition to the team. The Boone twins (Kalib and Keylan) will also make a step up this season.

Oklahoma State doesn't lose much from last season. Looking at the numbers, they lose a lot, but Lindy Waters and Thomas Dziagwa are easily replaceable. Cam McGriff was a beast down low and is a blow for this team, but as mentioned, the Cowboys will be loaded this season.



6. Texas Longhorns

Here we go again. Shaka Smart has high expectations, as always. The coaches picked the Longhorns to finish No. 4 in the standings, which is too high. While I only have them two spots back at No. 6, Smart always fails to get the best out of his players. He recruits talent, but can't do anything with it. While nobody got drafted last season from Texas, Jaxson Hayes, Mo Bamba and Jarrett Allen were all drafted back-to-back-to-back as NBA big men. With this talent, Smart has never won an NCAA Tournament game at Texas and simply is hanging his hat on his success at VCU.

This season, Smart has a skilled roster featuring Matt Coleman III, Andrew Jones, Courtney Brown and Jase Febres, all of whom I'd be happy to have on my team. There's just not enough trust for them to fully deliver to their potential, leaving me to pick them as a bottom team.



7. Oklahoma Sooners

Oklahoma will be a middle of the pack team this season in the Big 12. Brady Manek and Austin Reaves will look to lead the Sooners after the departures of Kristian Doolittle and Jamal Bieniemy. Lon Kruger doesn't have weapons like Buddy Hield or Trae Young but they should win the games they are supposed to win, and probably lose games against Baylor, Kansas, Texas Tech and West Virginia.

As for the recruiting class, it ranks No. 9 in the Big 12, only in front of Texas. It should be much of the same Oklahoma team we saw last season.



8. TCU Horned Frogs

As a surprise to some, Desmond Bane was a first-round pick in the NBA draft. His absence will prove to be a big one this season, but will leave the door open for Kevin Samuel and R.J. Nembhard to take charge in Ft. Worth. TCU was never too good last season, so losing Bane will leave them to struggle in the Big 12 this season. They are best labeled as the best of the worst, ahead of K-State and Iowa State.



9. Kansas State Wildcats

As a Wildcat fan, you pretty much know the drill. K-State's season couldn't have ended sooner. From the fight in Allen Fieldhouse to the Cartier Diarra antics, everybody has to be happy to turn the page. But the future of Wildcat basketball is promising, as a new wave of athletes settle into Manhattan.

Expect K-State to lose some games by 20+ points. Also, expect K-State to win a game or two against the top of the league. It's the COVID year, and the Wildcats can take full advantage of it. It will be key to get these young guys some valuable playing time in the Big 12. Mike McGuirl, who has developed into a leader, has embraced his position on and off the court. Last sea-

son was embarrassing, 100%. This season will have its embarrassing moments too, but every time Nijel Pack turns it over at point guard or Davion Bradford fumbles a pass away at the post, they will all be learning moments.



10. Iowa State Cyclones

Without Tyrese Haliburton, Iowa State won't make any noise in the Big 12. Optimistically speaking, the Cyclones have a top-30 recruiting class which ranks No. 5 in the Big 12. Four-star prospect Xavier Foster undoubtedly highlights the group and will lead the way for the future of Cyclone hoops. Other than that though, not much will change from their 5-13 Big 12 record from a year ago.

Last year's final Big 12 standings

1. Kansas (17-1)
2. Baylor (15-3)
3. Oklahoma (9-9)
4. Texas (9-9)
5. Texas Tech (9-9)
6. West Virginia (9-9)
7. Oklahoma State (7-11)
8. TCU (7-11)
9. Iowa State (5-13)
10. Kansas State (3-15)

Projected Finish

1. Baylor (16-2)
2. Kansas (13-5)
3. Texas Tech (12-6)
4. West Virginia (11-7)
5. Oklahoma State (9-9)
6. Texas (8-10)
7. Oklahoma (8-10)
8. TCU (5-13)
9. Kansas State (5-13)
10. Iowa State (3-15)

Preseason Awards and Honors

Preseason Big 12 player of the year:

Jared Butler, Baylor

First team:

Jared Butler, Baylor
 Marcus Garrett, Kansas
 Oscar Tshiebwe, West Virginia
 Kyler Edwards, Texas Tech
 MaCio Teague, Baylor

Second team:

Isaac Likekele, Oklahoma State
 Derek Culver, West Virginia
 Cade Cunningham, Oklahoma State
 Austin Reaves, Oklahoma
 Matt Coleman III, Texas

Third team:

Mac McClung, Texas Tech
 Courtney Ramey, Texas
 DaJuan Gordon, Kansas State
 Brady Manek, Oklahoma
 Kevin Samuel, TCU

SEC football weekend picks - Week 10



Auburn will try to catch Alabama off guard this week in Tuscaloosa. Good luck.....



ROBERT CORTINEZ
RCORTINEZ2@HOTMAIL.COM

The SEC continues its determined march to the season's end in pandemic parity 2020. This week's covid casualty is Arkansas vs Missouri due to the Razorbacks infection epidemic. Missouri is now slated to play Vanderbilt for some odd reason. The Commodores were scheduled to play its rivalry game against Tennessee but its postponed and Tennessee gets an unexpected week off.

The inaugural 2020 CFP rankings came out Tuesday and #1 through #4 are: Alabama, Notre Dame, Clemson, and Ohio State. Texas A&M came in at #5 and Florida is #6. Going forward from here, all rankings in the column will reflect the CFP poll rankings, cause nothing else matters.

My SEC picks are charting at 70%, beating most betting books in Vegas. Last week's results: Straight: 5-1; ATS: 3-3 Season: Straight 38-11; ATS:34 -15

M&M was 5-4 last week, bringing his season total to 37-20-1. He's been snake bit by Covid cancellations but still sitting at a respectable 65%. M&M's picks this week are: Liberty -37; Coastal Carolina -16.5; Northwestern -13; Ohio St. -28

Kentucky (3-5) at #6 Florida (6-1)

Line: Gators -24.5 / 60.5

Time/TV: 11:00 AM / ESPN

The Kentucky Wildcats got their tails handed to them last week, losing 63-3 to #1 Alabama. Florida easily handled Vandy, 38-17, but was not particularly sharp and the Commodores kept it close until the 4th quarter. The Gators have to win out and beat Alabama in the SEC championship to have a shot at making the playoffs. Kentucky is just hoping to cover the line.

Pick: Florida 43 Kentucky 17

#22 Auburn (5-2) at #1 Alabama (7-0)

Line: Tide -24.5 / 62.5

Time/TV: 2:30 / CBS

Little Nicky is out this week with his second Covid scare so inconsistent Steve Sarkasian gets the reins of the #1 team in the land. Auburn is trying to keep its head coach Gus Malzahn off the hot seat, but ole Gus won't get close to an upset in Tuscaloosa. The Mac Jones runaway Heisman train runs amuck once again.

Pick: Alabama 38 Auburn 20

Miss State (2-5) at Ole Miss (3-4)

Line: Rebels -9.5 / 69.5

Time/TV: 3:00 / SECN

The Egg Bowl is a screwed up affair this year. Mississippi State started out 2020, beating defending national champs LSU like a yard dog, and have sucked hind tit ever since. Ole Miss has shown flashes of brilliance under first year HC Lane Kiffin but has also wilted under pressure in big games. Picking the home team and the coach that I like the least most, Lane Kiffin, in this in-state rivalry..

Pick: Ole Miss 43 Mississippi State 15

LSU (3-3) at #5 Texas A&M (5-1)

Line: Aggies -14.5 / 63.5

Time/TV: 6:00 / ESPN

The LSU Tigers beat the Razorbacks last week, 27-24, with the aid of several questionable calls by the SEC officiating crew. Nonetheless, the defending national champs are still a capable team. Texas A&M had last week off after their game with Ole Miss was covid cancelled. The Aggies are only one spot out of the CFP playoffs and have a path to winning out after this game with only Tennessee and Auburn left on the schedule.

Pick: Texas A&M 37 LSU 17

#13 Georgia (5-2) at S. Carolina (2-6)

Line: Bulldogs -21.5 / 49

Time/TV: 6:30 / SECN

South Carolina appears to have phoned in this season and didn't show up in last

week's loss to Missouri at home, 17-10. Georgia has a lot to prove in Covid time and wants a New Year's Day bowl game if one still exists after the pandemic. New Bulldogs QB, J.T. Daniels, a redshirt sophomore transfer from USC, threw for over 400 yds. and four TD's in his debut win over Mississippi State 31-24. Georgia rolls in this one.

Pick: Georgia 44 South Carolina 17

Vanderbilt (0-7) at Missouri

Line: Tigers -14 / 51

Time/TV: 6:30 / SECN Alt

Missouri went to South Carolina last week and beat the Gamecocks 17-10 in the battle of the Columbia's. South Carolina appears to have given up the ghost in Covid 2020 while the Mizzou Tigers are experiencing a semi-resurgence. Missouri's HC Eli Drinkwitz won't let his boys take the Commodores for granted.

Pick: Missouri 28 Vanderbilt 20

SEC Standings

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

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Big 12 football weekend - Week 13



Iowa State travels to Austin this weekend aiming to stay in the championship hunt

By Jeff Bartl

#15 Iowa State (6-2) at #20 Texas (5-2) Line: Longhorns -1 / 56.5

Time/TV: Friday, 11:00 AM / ABC

The Cyclone offense has found its balance and groove. When the program gets to 200 yards rushing and 200 passing, it's 4-0. How many times did Iowa State go 200/200 last year? Once – and it beat ULM 72-20. How many times did it do it in 2018? Twice, and five times in four years – that's it. Now the offense has evolved, and if it does that again, it wins.

Texas is 5-0 when teams aren't throwing the balance at the defense, and when offenses are able to do the 200/200 thing? Texas is 0-2.

The Cyclones are doing everything right. They're converting on third downs, not getting hit for a slew of penalties, and they're leading the Big 12 in takeaways.

Let Texas make the big mistakes, mix up the offense, and it should all work.

The Longhorn defense has finally been able to step up against the run. To go along with that 200/200 thing, when the D holds opponents to under 100 rushing yards the team is 3-0, and the program is 12-0 over the last three years.

Okay, so Iowa State isn't going to run for fewer than 100 yards, but Texas has figured out how to make teams one dimensional holding Baylor and West Virginia under 100 in the last three games. It's been great against the run lately – the team is tackling better – and the pass defense will take its chances.

Texas wants to stop Cyclone 100-yard rushing machine Breece Hall first, and it starts by not letting him grind his way to

the second-level. Iowa State QB Brock Purdy has been red hot – three touchdown passes in each of the last three games – but he also rolled against three mediocre teams.

Both teams are on a three-game winning streak, both are playing well, and both are looking to this as the moment to make a big statement in the Big 12 title chase.

At home, the Texas defense will continue to be strong enough, QB Sam Ehlinger will get over a few off games by being a bit more consistent down the field while also relying on the ground attack – freshman Bijan Robinson will be effective – and Texas will be on the doorstep of getting a spot in the Big 12 Championship.

Pick: Texas 34, Iowa State 31

Texas Tech (3-5) at Oklahoma State (5-2) Line: Cowboys -11 / 54

Time/TV: Saturday 11:00 AM / FOX

What kind of shape is Oklahoma State in? It was beaten up, battered, and bruised in the 41-13 loss to Oklahoma with star RB Chuba Hubbard suffering through an ankle injury, and with QB Spencer Sanders getting banged up and not being able to come back in until late.

The offense has been struggling at times throughout the year, audit hasn't hit 260 yards in either of the last two games – the passing game has ground down to a halt, partly because the offensive line is allowing way too many plays in the backfield.

Texas Tech's secondary has had a world of problems, but it held TCU and Baylor to a combined 226 yards through the air. However ...Texas Tech has been able to win two of its last four games, but the offense has just plain stopped.

The idea of the Red Raiders struggling to get to 300 yards of total offense used to be unthinkable, but they haven't hit 400 in four of the last five games and haven't hit 300 yards passing in six games. This isn't your older brother's Texas Tech team.

Oklahoma State's defense is a whole lot stronger than it looked and played against Oklahoma. With one of the best and most active defensive fronts in the Big 12, the Cowboys are going to be disruptive enough to do their part.

There was a time not all that long ago when you'd set the point total at 75 and go from there.

Neither offense will go off, but the injured Oklahoma State attack will get just a bit more balance and a few more down-field shots. The defense will take care of the rest, holding the Red Raiders down with third down stop after third down stop.

Pick: Oklahoma State 31, Texas Tech 28

Kansas State (4-4) at Baylor (1-5) Line: Bears -5.5 / 46

Time/TV: 6:00 PM / ESPN2

The Baylor offense is having a rough time getting everything going. Last year, the Baylor offense rolled past 360 yards of total offense in each of the first eight games and got there in 10 of the 12 regular season battles. This season, the O couldn't run for four games – failing to get past 75 yards over the stretch – and then it worked against Texas Tech, but the passing game sputtered. And the attack has yet to get past 360 yards of total offense so far.

The running game is struggling, there's no downfield passing attack to worry about, and there's a lack of a big play ability in key moments. However ...there might not be a whole lot of big offensive moments, but Baylor isn't turning the ball over and it's not making enough mistakes to matter.

The team leads the Big 12 in fewest turnovers – just six – and lead the league in turnover margin.

For all of Baylor's offensive issues, Kansas State's are bigger. The Wildcats aren't controlling the clock like they need to, they're not converting on third downs, and the O hasn't hit the 300-yard mark in three of the last five games, with a woeful 149 last week in the 45-0 loss to Iowa Stat

It's been a rough run for Baylor, but the team has been close n game after game and loss after loss – there hasn't been a real blowout in the bunch. Kansas State has been rocked in two of the last three games as it lost what it needs to do to succeed. It's not like Baylor is going to turn it on offensively, but it'll be a wee bit better, and it'll get the one extra takeaway needed to pull this off.

Pick: Baylor 26, Kansas State 20

TCU (3-4) at Kansas (0-7)

Line: Frogs -24 / 51.5

Time/TV: 7:00 PM / FS1

Kansas just isn't getting the offense going. There's no running game – the Jayhawks have yet to get to 200 yards so far and haven't hit 100 yards in three of the last four games – and the offense as a whole hasn't been able to get to 250 yards in four of the last five games.

It all starts with an offensive front that's not doing anything to pave the way for the backs – a depleted group as the season has gone on – and with way too many plays allowed behind the line.

TCU has a good enough pass rush and it good enough at getting into the backfield to screw everything up. The Horned Frog offense might not be anything special, but it doesn't have to be this week. It just doesn't have to screw up – TCU is second in the Big 12 in fewest giveaways.

Is anything working correctly in this lost year? Short answer, not even a little bit, but TCU might have the right mix for Kansas to keep this relatively close – and the it has to hope to catch a few breaks.

The Horned Frogs don't have a high-scoring attack, the offense isn't going to come out and blast away for 600 yards – it hasn't hit 400 in any of its last five games and had its worst performance of the season in the 24-6 loss to West Virginia a few weeks ago – and the passing game has been hit-or-miss.

There's little to no downfield passing game from the Horned Frogs to worry about, partly because the O line is too leaky. If Kansas can find a way to summon up any sort of a pass rush, this would be the week. Again, keep the game in range, get a takeaways or two, and come up with a sharp early scoring drive, and ...

It sounds easy, but nothing is going according to plan for the Jayhawks. The lines aren't playing well enough, TCU isn't going to make the huge mistakes needed, and it'll be another ugly blowout loss.

Kansas has lost 11 games in a row by ten points or more. Make it 12.

Pick: TCU 41, Kansas 13

Big 12 STANDINGS

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

AAC football weekend predictions



UCF travels to Tampa for an easy matchup with USF

UCF (4-3) at South Florida (1-7)
Line: Knights -25 / 67
Time/TV: Friday, 2:30 / ESPN

USF doesn't have the defense to hold down the explosion. Cincinnati's defense was barely able to hold on in last week's 36-33 win over the Knights, and the Bulls don't have the ability to slow down anything UCF tries to do.

Memphis hit USF for 437 passing yards a few weeks ago, and Houston ran for 319 yards the game after – the Bulls allowed well over 1,000 yards of total offense in its last two games.

Even after the loss to the Bearcats, UCF is still No. 1 in the nation in passing offense, second in total O, and to make things worse No. 1 in college football in takeaways. USF has a giveaway problem, turning it over two times or more five times in the last six games.

Yeah, the UCF offense is having a blast, but the defense hasn't exactly been a rock. The run defense hasn't had too many problems – the line was able to keep Cincinnati in relative check – but anyone with balance gives the Knights issues.

Memphis was able to get by in a shootout by running for over 200 yards and throwing for almost 500. Three times this season teams have been able to hit UCF for 200 on the ground and 200 through the air, but this week, USF might only be able to get hot with the passing game.

Freshman Noah Johnson was able to push Memphis with 217 yards and two scores, but it was Jordan McCloud who

stepped back in against Houston and was able to overcome a few too many misfires with a few good downfield plays. The Bulls have to keep pressing, and no matter what ...USF has GOT to move the chains. The time of possession battle has been an issue for first year head coach Jeff Scott's team, mostly because the O can't connect on a meaningful third down try. UCF is No. 1 in the conference on the money downs.

The Bulls will keep it interesting for a little while, but the UCF explosion will take over in the second half.

Pick: UCF 48, USF 20

SMU (7-2) at East Carolina (2-5)
Line: Mustangs -12.5 / 67.5
Time/TV: 2:30 / ESPN

It took a brutal finish and a brilliant overall performance from Tulsa for SMU to lose a few weeks ago – Cincinnati was the only other loss.

Against everyone else, the offense exploded for well over 400 yards – over 540 yards in each of the six wins over FBS teams. The offense is balanced, there aren't a ton of mistakes, and the line is giving everyone time to work.

As good as the Mustang passing game is, the ground attack is about to be the star against an East Carolina defensive front that isn't getting into the backfield enough and allows over five yards per carry.

The Pirates are about to allow more than 200 yards for the third time in five games.

The running game is rolling. The Pirates haven't had any problems putting up yards – especially through the air over most of the season – but the ground attack has taken over with two straight 200-yard games, starting with the emergence of freshman Keaton Mitchell who's averaging over 110 yards and 7.5 yards per carry over the last two weeks.

ECU has to get hot. The defense isn't all that great overall, but it's solid on third downs and it's not bad at taking the ball away, forcing 15 takeaways on the year. Run for over 200 yards for the sixth time, and the Pirates have a chance, but ...East Carolina has a turnover problem. The defense might make up for it with takeaways, but it's not enough. SMU will get the offense going however it needs to, it'll come up with three turnovers, and a high-scoring, high-flying game will go SMU's way as it tries making up for the tough loss to Tulsa.

Pick: SMU 41, East Carolina 27

Memphis (5-2) at Navy (3-4)
Line: Tigers -11 / 64.5
Time/TV: 6:00

The punting game is outstanding. Memphis might be known for its high-powered offense that's second in the AAC and tenth in the nation in total offense – it has the balance and versatility to do a little of anything it needs to do – but in a game like this, being able to tilt the field is a huge deal.

The run defense has enough good parts to handle the one-dimensional Midshipmen without getting rolled over, but it's Adam Williams who needs to be the real star. The junior averages 44 yards per kick for the AAC's best punting game, and Navy is just okay at returning kicks. Memphis can score immediately. Navy has to be methodical. Too many teams don't commit to the run against Memphis because they can't. Either

they can't do it well enough, or the game gets out of hand and they have to get throwing to keep up.

Even with the Tiger offense rocking and rolling, the defense keeps having problems putting games away. It's getting the job done, but the D is one of the worst in the conference allowing 477 yards per game – and that's after having no problems with the anemic USF and Stephen F. Austin offenses over the last few weeks.

The Navy offense isn't just about running now – it's been able to throw for over 200 yards in each of the last two games and it's showing more balance than it had in years, but....Navy doesn't have the horses. The program rocks and rolls when the running game is crushing everyone, and it's not. It's okay, but it's not coming up with enough big plays and it's not dominating the time of possession battle.

Navy is 3-0 this year when it runs for 200 yards, and 0-4 when it doesn't. For all of the problems on the Memphis D, the run defense hasn't been all that bad. It had issues with the Cincinnati ground game, but everyone does.

Pick: Memphis 40, Navy 31

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

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College Football News and Notes



NFF College Hall of Fame 2011 inductee and Georgia star Jake Scott passed away Nov. 19 in Atlanta



BO CARTER

bcarter@footballfoundation.com

Bidding for the NFF Virtual Auction concluded last Friday with proceeds benefiting the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Fund. The auction goes live this week, and fans can register by texting NFF Auction to 243725 and also can access the website Footballfoundation.org for additional information and bidding procedures.

The first College Football Playoff rankings will be released live on ESPN Tuesday night. Some fast facts about the first six seasons of the CFP rankings include:

- Four different conference teams have captured the CFP in its first six seasons - Ohio State (Big Ten) in 2014, Alabama (Southeastern) in 2015, 17, Clemson (Atlantic Coast) in '16, '18, and LSU (SEC) in 2019. Clemson, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Georgia were the four semifinalists in 2017, and Alabama and Clemson met in four consecutive years in the CFP - in the semifinals in 2017 and for the overall title after the 2015, '16 and '18 seasons.
- Alabama holds the BCS/CFP record for consecutive weeks in either standings with 85 (48 BCS, 37 CFP) from 2008 prior to 2020 selections in both rankings.
- Clemson and Alabama occupied a combined 13 appearances among the first five years (24 teams selected) in the CFP semi-

finals.

- Alabama (18 times), Clemson (eight), LSU (three), Mississippi State (three), Ohio State (three), and Georgia (two) are the only six schools to hold down the No. 1 position in the first six seasons of CFP standings.

- The next four sites for the CFP championship contests are 2021 season - Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla.; 2022 - Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Ind.; 2023 - SoFi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.; 2024 - NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas.

- There have been three schools appearing in each of the first 37 (2014-19) CFP standings. They are Alabama, Clemson and Ohio State. No school appeared in all 125 BCS standings from 1998-2013. Texas had the most Top 15/25 showings with 104 during 16 seasons in the BCS rankings.

- This is the first time in CFP or Bowl Championship Series annals that 10 teams have entered the first week of the rankings with undefeated overall records due to COVID-19 circumstances.

- The five sets of CFP rankings for the 2020 season are the fewest in either CFP or BCS history because of the limited season and Dec. 20 selection Sunday. The previous few rankings' weeks were six from the 2015-19 seasons. In 2014 there were seven rankings from Oct. 28-Dec. 7.

NFF College Hall of Fame 2011 inductee and Georgia star Jake Scott passed away Nov. 19 in Atlanta, Ga., after taking a severe fall injury earlier this year. He was 75. A consensus All-American in 1968, Scott played safety and returned kicks at Georgia from 1967-68, leading the Bulldogs to an SEC championship his final year in Athens. In addition to making numerous All-America teams in 1968, he was named the Southeastern Conference's Most Valuable Player by the Nashville Banner.

A two-time First Team All-SEC pick, Scott led the conference in interceptions in 1967 and 1968. His 16 career interceptions remain a school record, and he is one of three players in SEC history to return two picks for touchdowns in the same game. He led the Bulldogs to the league crown in 1968 by intercepting 10 passes (tied for second-most in school history) and compiling 440 punt return yards, which still ranks fourth in school history. Scott led Georgia to 1967 Liberty Bowl and the Bulldogs the 1968 SEC championship which included an undefeated regular season (8-0-2) and an invitation to the Sugar Bowl.

A First Team Academic All-SEC performer as a sophomore, Scott bypassed his senior campaign to play for the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League. Scott later played nine seasons in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins and Washington Redskins and started 123-of-126 career games. The five-time Pro Bowler and two-time First Team All-Pro was named the Super Bowl VII MVP for the undefeated Dolphins squad in 1972. He is Miami's all-time leader in interceptions and punt returns.

The Heisman Trophy Committee and ESPN revealed that the 2020 Heisman Trophy presentation now will take place Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. (EST) on ESPN with an all-virtual format. This will be the awarding of the coveted trophy for the 86th consecutive year since Jay Berwanger of Chicago captured the initial trophy in 1935.

Longtime Notre Dame and UCF publicist and administrator John Heisler has been named as the 48th winner of the coveted Bert McGrane Award for service to college football and athletics from the Football Writers Association of America.

Dr. Shannon Walker, holder of three degrees from Rice and an Owls football enthusiast, is one of the four astronauts on NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission to the International Space Station for the next six months.

Entertainer and college football fan Dolly Parton made a \$1 million donation to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center to help with research against COVID-19 earlier this year. It also turns out that Vanderbilt utilized the gift and worked with Moderna Inc. in Cambridge, Mass., with assistance from Harvard and MIT experts to help develop a possible breakthrough vaccine against the dreaded disease.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Nov. 24-30 time period are 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, Pa.; Nov. 30 (1927) Jim Butterfield, Tampa, Fla.; (1946) Art Shell, Charleston, S.C.; (1962) Bo Jackson, Bessemer, Ala.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Nov. 24 (1977) Joe Uday, Dallas, Texas; Nov. 25 (1965) Joe Kendall, Owensboro, Ky.; Nov. 26 (1974) Tuss McLaughry, Norwich, Vt.; Nov. 29 (1996) Bob Steuber, St. Louis, Mo.; (2012) Merv Pregulman, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Nov. 30 (1991) David Nelson, Newark, Del.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Nov. 24 Terry Kinard, Nov. 26 Roger Wehrli (a spry 73), Harry Carson, Nov. 27 Ken O'Brien, Frank Sheptock, Nov. 28 Vern Den Herder (a spry 72), Nov. 30 Art Shell (a spry 74), Bo Jackson...After 15 college football games' cancellations or postponements from Nov. 12-14, the latest changes from last Thursday-Saturday were Arizona State at Colorado (cancelled), Charlotte-Marshall (postponed) UAB-UTEP at Midland, Texas (Nov. 20, cancelled), Fresno State-San Jose State (cancelled), Louisiana Tech-ULM at Shreveport, La. (cancelled), Navy at USF (postponed), Ohio at Miami (Ohio) (cancelled), Ole Miss at Texas A&M (postponed), Clemson at Florida State (postponed), Wake Forest at Duke (cancelled), Central Arkansas at Louisiana (cancelled), Houston at SMU (postponed), UNLV at Colorado State (cancelled), Texas at Kansas (postponed), Utah State-Wyoming (cancelled), Stanford-Washington State (cancelled), Nebraska-Kearney at Missouri Western (cancelled), and Maryland-Michigan State (cancelled)...Utah became the last NCAA FBS member to start the season on Nov. 21 against Southern California after two earlier cancellations...The Oklahoma at West Virginia Big 12 showdown Saturday has been moved to 7:30 p.m. (EST) for a national telecast...Abilene Christian paid a visit to Virginia

(continued on page 14)

last weekend in a game arranged to make up for earlier UVa schedule changes while Memphis hosted Stephen F. Austin in a replacement skirmish...Some recently postponed games now set for Saturday, Dec. 12, are Texas A&M at Tennessee, Auburn at Mississippi State, ULM at Arkansas State, and Baylor-Oklahoma State, among others...Georgia Tech and Miami (Fla.) may play a postponed game on Saturday, Dec. 19, if neither of those teams is in the Dr Pepper Atlantic Coast Conference Championship Game...Other ACC games' adjustments are Saturday, Nov. 28 - Wake Forest at Louisville (previously Dec. 5), Saturday, Dec. 5 - Miami at Wake Forest (previously Nov. 28), Western Carolina at North Carolina (previously Dec. 11), Saturday, Dec. 12 - Louisville at Boston College (previously Nov. 27), and North Carolina at Miami (previously Dec. 5)...The American moved the postponed Houston at SMU tilt to Dec. 5...Bowling Green will travel to Mississippi State for the first-ever meeting of those schools in football in 2022...Hawai'i and Stanford have contracted a four-game series beginning in 2023...Colorado opened Pac-12 Conference action at 2-0 for the first time since 2016...Northwestern upset then-No. 10 Wisconsin 17-7 last Saturday to help the 5-0 Wildcats continue their best start since 1996 and a possible berth in the Big Ten Conference title clash...UCLA topped California 34-10 in a rare, Sunday, Nov. 15, clash after both their Nov. 14 opponents had to cancel games due to COVID-19. QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson paced the Bruins to the triumph with 248 yards of total offense and three TD passes...Navy started three different quarterbacks in the first three games this season for the first time since 2002...Cincinnati is in its 133rd football season as one of the 10 oldest programs in NCAA FCS. The No. 6 nationally Bearcats also have qualified for their 12th bowl game in the last 15 campaigns...North Alabama played the highest-ranked NCAA FBS opponent in its history during last week's trip to No. 8 nationally BYU. It was one of the Lions most celebrated contest against a major college squad since UNA faced SEC opponent Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., in 1959...Penn State fell to 0-5 for the first time in its 134-season history after losing to Big Ten opponent Iowa.

The Gary Patterson Foundation, headed by TCU head coach Gary Patterson and his wife Kelsey (former marketing assistant in the old Southwest Conference for current NFF president/CEO Steve Hatchell when he was SWC commissioner), helped distribute 8,500 Thanksgiving meals through the North Texas Food Bank last week. Coach and Mrs. Patterson were there personally to give food boxes to families and to offer encouragement...Lockheed-Martin Corp., sponsor of the Lockheed-Martin Armed Forces Bowl and with Southwest regional headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, is donating 39,000 meals to underserved

families in the Fort Worth-Dallas area instead of having a series of holiday office parties....AT&T Stadium in Arlington and the NFL Dallas Cowboys hosted one of the largest food distribution campaigns on Nov. 20 in conjunction with the Tarrant Area Food Bank and several agencies helping underserved families with Thanksgiving fixings.

Iowa State head coach Matt Campbell has guided the Cyclones to Top 25 placements in each of the last four years for the first time in school annals and the best start in Big 12 Conference play at 6-1 (first place) in the 25 years of the circuit...South Carolina head coach Will Muschamp has left the program and has been replaced by interim head coach Mike Bobo. Muschamp had the position at USC for five seasons and was head coach at Florida from 2011-14. USC has opened an immediate national search for Muschamp's replacement...Maryland head coach Mike Locksley is one of a growing number of college coaches with positive tests for COVID-19 this month...Texas Wesleyan and Texas A&M-Commerce have posted positions on athletics websites for assistant coaches.

Hometowns of more 2020 college head coaches – Pacific (Ore.): Ian Falconer, Portland, Ore.; Penn State: James Franklin, Langhorne, Pa.; Pennsylvania: Ray Priore, Long Beach, N.Y.; Pittsburgh: Pat Narduzzi, New Haven, Conn.; Portland State: Bruce Barnum, Vancouver, Wash.

Boise State has named its executive search committee for a new director of athletics with former Missouri and Texas State AD Mike Alden as a special adviser...Le Moyne (N.Y.) has narrowed its AD search to three finalists: Ohio State director of instructional support services for student-athlete success Kim Doran, Yale senior associate AD for internal operations Andy Dunn; and 2020 CoSIDA Hall of Fame member and Army West Point senior associate AD for strategic initiatives Bob Beretta...Missouri AD Jim Sterk noted some improvement in the Tigers football team's overall health and that no MU student-athletes have been hospitalized with the virus. Contact tracing and individual opt-outs have limited Mizzou practices and game preparations to attain SEC protocols...Nebraska AD Bill Moos told media outlets that the Big Ten Conference may take the option of using NFL domed stadiums for upcoming games and that the possibility of non-conference replacement games for the intra-league contests is off the table...Wyoming AD Tom Burman took all possible avenues to try and play the cancelled UW-Utah State clash and then sought unsuccessfully to add a regional non-conference opponent last Saturday...Iowa State AD Jamie Pollard and Ohio State AD Gene Smith (former NFF John V. Toner Award recipient) spoke about possible outlines for NCAA names, images and likenesses' updates coming Jan. 1, 2023...Colorado AD Rick George suspended workouts for two unnamed spring sports

teams at CU due to not following protocols and for safety purposes...BYU AD Tom Holmoe was highlighted for an impressive Halloween costume and makeup as the Phantom of the Opera...Arizona State deputy AD Jean Boyd spoke of the daily challenges of setting up accurate COVID-19 testing sites and how Quidel's results need definite lab certifications before results can be analyzed...Syracuse Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame head men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim has tested positively for COVID-19, and SU basketball activities have been shuttered for two weeks...UC Riverside head baseball coach Troy Percival has left the program and has been replaced by interim head coach Justin Johnson...Ole Miss head men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis has been quarantined with COVID-19 and will miss the Rebels first two games...Notre Dame president Father John Jenkins sent an open letter to the student body about numerous social networking precautions that the university is taking after students and fans rushed the field after the Fighting Irish's win over then-No. 1 Clemson in South Bend, Ind....Loyola (Ill.) head men's basketball coach Porter Moser was highlighted in a story about well compensated college coaches and their administrators...Western Illinois named selected Dr. Guiyou Huang as its 12th president...Tennessee chancellor Dr. Donde Plowman has quarantined voluntarily after contact with a person who had COVID-19, has been tested and has no apparent symptoms. She also missed UT's fall commencement ceremonies from Nov. 19-22...Wichita State men's head basketball coach Gregg Marshall has left the program and will receive a compensation payout from the university...Dartmouth chose Justin Wood as new men's head cross country coach...Alexsis Cable was tabbed as interim women's head soccer coach at Nicholls State.

The Big 12 Conference officially moved the Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship to Dec. 19, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Airtime and kickoff for the contest will be denoted no later than Monday, Dec. 7, on ESPN...If conference championships were played in the coming week, here are the divisional or Nos. 1 and 2 leading teams: American – Cincinnati vs. Tulsa; ACC – Clemson or Miami (Fla.) vs. Notre Dame; Big Ten – Northwestern vs. Ohio State; Big 12 – Iowa State vs. Oklahoma; Conference USA – Marshall vs. UTSA or UAB; MAC – Buffalo or Kent State vs. Western Michigan; MWC – Nevada vs. San Jose State; Pac-12 – Oregon vs. Colorado; SEC – Alabama vs. Florida; Sun Belt – Coastal Carolina vs. Louisiana...The Pac-12 also will allow teams to play non-conference teams within a certain geographic reach if other Pac-12 opponents keep having to opt out of games due to COVID-19 challenges. The conference also requests that non-conference replacement opponents play at Pac-12 sites, use Pac-12 COVID-19 testing pro-

cedures, and agree that these updated games will be televised by ESPN or Fox...Retiring ACC commissioner John Swofford noted he is open to helping make the transition to the new commissioner in office before Swofford officially retires in June 2021...The Atlantic Sun Conference may be negotiating with Eastern Kentucky, Central Arkansas and Jacksonville State to consider membership in the conference – possibly for the 2021-22 academic year – according to inside sources. ASUN commissioner Ted Gumbart said he expects more national NCAA DI alignment in the next 2-3 years...All four of the Big 12's top teams met last week as Oklahoma topped Oklahoma State, and Iowa State solidified its conference advantage with a 45-0 downing of Kansas State...The Big South Conference will play a conference-only spring 2021 slate starting Saturday, March 13...HBCU Gameday explained a Norfolk State Board of Visitors' meeting where the future of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and financial challenges was discussed...The Mountain West declared the Air Force at Wyoming football clash a no-contest after COVID-19 concerns caused a cancellation...The Summit League and 31 other Division I conferences released their full men's and women's basketball schedules over the last three weeks with alternate plans in case national health concerns continue...The ACC is working to strike updated agreements between the ACC Network and Xfinity Comcast cable outlets...The Mid-American Conference amazingly was able to play five of its six nationally-televised (ESPN) midweek games on Nov. 17-18.

The College Football Playoff Management Committee will discuss some proposals from the Pac-12 Conference about options to delay some of the CFP rankings and possibly the semifinals and championship game because of COVID-19 interruptions in the 2020 schedule...The New Mexico Bowl has been moved from Albuquerque, N.M., to Toyota Stadium at Frisco, Texas, on Dec. 24 due to COVID-19 crowd restrictions in New Mexico...Athlon Sports continues its post-2020 bowl projections, and some of the notables are Alabama, Clemson, Notre Dame and Ohio State for the CFP semifinals, Mississippi State vs. Memphis in the Birmingham Bowl, and Fresno State vs. Houston in the Tropical Café Smoothie Frisco Bowl...Army West Point became the first team to accept a bowl bid in late October with an invitation to the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl Dec. 26 in Shreveport, La., against a foe to be determined...Bowl Season, the official successor to the Football Bowl Association, unveiled its new logo and marketing updates for the 2020 postseason...The Goodyear Cotton Bowl Foundation awarded \$150,000 to eight charitable organizations serving the underserved in the North Texas area. Tulsa had yet another improbable comeback win by scoring 21 points in

the fourth quarter and using a 96-yard interception return by Zaven Collins on the final play to edge Tulane 30-24 in double overtime last Thursday. Golden Hurricane backup QB Davis Brin was 18-for-26 passing in the win and rushed for one TD...
 ...Memphis QB Brady White set a school record for career touchdown passes with 82 in the Tigers victory over Stephen F. Austin...
 ...Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence, 31-1 in his career as a starter, was back with the Tigers last week at Florida State after a bout with COVID-19...
 Quarterback Dustin Crum continues to keep Kent State on a roll from last season with a 3-0 start this autumn and 838 yards passing in his first three '20 showings...
 The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose National Player of the Week for FBS Week 10 was Tulsa QB Zach Smith with a season-best 325 yards and three touchdowns with 26-of-38 passing as the Golden Hurricane rallied from 21-7 behind to down then-No. 19 SMU 28-24...
 Texas Tech LB Colin Schooner (transfer from Arizona) was featured in a recent story about the Big 12's top defenders...
 2019 Louis Groza National Place-Kicker Award finalist Blake Mazza of Washington State opened the season by going 4-for-4 on field goals and is now 24-for-25 in his last 15 encounters. He also retains the Pac-12 Conference for extra point kicks in a season with 60 (62 attempts) as a freshman in 2018...
 Florida QB Kyle Trask is the first quarterback in SEC history to pass for 30 touchdowns in the first seven games of a season...
 Kicker Parker Lewis booted four field goals and QB Kedon Slovis passed for 264 yards and two TDs to help Southern California remain undefeated at 3-0 after a 33-17 win at Utah early Sunday morning...
 Purdue QB David Bell completed passes for 220 yards and three TDs to All-America WR-KR Rondale Moore when Purdue tangled with Minnesota last Friday night...
 Oklahoma freshman QB Spencer Rattler became just the fourth Sooners signal caller to pass for four touchdowns and run for a TD in a game as OU downed Oklahoma State in a Bedlam Series encounter...
 Cincinnati QB Desmond Ritter had 395 yards of total offense and accounted for four touchdowns in a 36-33 win at UCF. The Bearcats are hoping to become the first team outside a Power Five conference entry to crack the first College Football Playoff rankings Tuesday...
 SMU QB Shane Buechele and WR Reggie Roberson Jr. combined for 1,389 career passing/receiving yards with the Mustangs after transferring to the Hilltop from Texas and West Virginia, respectively. Roberson is out for the '20 season with a leg injury. Buechele also entered last week with a FBS-leading 2,781 net yards passing in eight contests...
 Memphis WR Calvin Austin III had nine catches for a career-best 157 yards in a win over UCF...
 Temple receiver Randle Jones had seven catches that resulted in first downs in the Owls victory against USF...
 FIU RB Devante Price opened last week eighth nationally with a

rushing average of 120.5 yards per game...
 WKU DE DeAngelo has set a Hill top-pers career record with 25 quarterback sacks and added 12 total tackles in a victory over Florida Atlantic...
 Rice QB Mike Collins (grad transfer TCU) connected on eight touchdown passes in his first two contests with the Owls and has completed 57 percent of his attempts...
 Texas State QB Brady McBride passed for a career-most five touchdowns and 443 yards in a comeback win over Arkansas State...
 North Texas WR Jaelon Darden is vying for the Biletnikoff Award after making a FBS-topping 46 receptions for 460 yards and 10 TDs in his first five skirmishes...
 SMU RB Tyler Lavine was highlighted for overcoming many health and other obstacles to star for the Mustangs in '20. He is a relative of former Southwest Conference administrator Eva Lavine...
 Kilgore (Texas) College DT Calvin Hutchings has offered a verbal commitment to North Texas for 2021...
 Texas A&M LB Anthony Hines III has opted out for the remainder of the season and will declare for the 2021 NFL Draft...
 West Virginia standout Tony Fields II has accepted an invitation to the Reese's Senior Bowl along with Tulane standouts Patrick Johnson and Cameron Sample...
 Marshall QB Grant Wells has been throwing for 250-plus yards in virtually every contest...
 Florida Atlantic punter Matt Hayball received recognition for a 45.8 average on five punts with a season-best 70-yarder in the Owls win over WKU...
 The latest Ray Guy Award National Punter of the Week was Miami (Fla.) specialist Lou Hedley with a 52.4 average on seven boots against Virginia Tech...
 Caylin Newton, younger brother of 2010 Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton of Auburn, is looking for additional playing time as a junior wideout at Auburn. Caylin Newton transferred from Howard U. where he played quarterback from 2019-19.

NFF College Hall of Fame coach Lou Holtz has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and was feeling extremely tired prior to the weekend but not exhibiting the most serious symptoms and was under physicians' care...
 NFF College Hall of Fame coach and Tennessee AD Phillip Fulmer received a two-year contract extension through Dec. 31, 2023...
 NFL Dallas Cowboys alumni and NFF College Hall of Fame members Darren Woodson of Arizona State, Charles Haley of James Madison and Tony Casillas of Oklahoma along with Cowboys and Alabama alumnus and great community servant George Teague gave away Thanksgiving meals that could feed a family of 5-6 last week at the Carr P. Collins Salvation Army Social Service Center in Dallas...
 COVID-19 prevented the usual group meal at the center with Dallas coaches and players, and Cowboys executive Charlotte Jones Anderson – daughter of Dallas owner/general manager/NFF board member Jerry Jones – also presented drive-through meals to those in need...
 Former Mississippi State standout tailback and

Jackson, Miss., dentist Dr. Lewis Grubbs was featured in a remembrance of the 1970 Marshall football charter jet tragedy. That same plane was scheduled to pick up MSU's team after a night game against LSU on Nov. 14, 1970, when the crash occurred in Huntington, W.V...
 Some media outlets and advisory groups have suggested that William & Mary athletics' financial challenges could be met by adding as many as 2-3 women's sports to help gain possible NCAA Championships' participation dollars...
 Auburn football hoped to regain 10 student-athletes from COVID-19 quarantine for the AU-Tennessee and upcoming SEC tests...
 North Texas' current active COVID-19 cases' count within athletics has fallen to nine - down from the 30 figure on Nov. 8...
 Butler basketball will allow 25 percent capacity at Hinkle Fieldhouse initially for 2020-21 with approximately 2,300 fans maximum...
 Abilene Christian's Moody Coliseum will undergo numerous renovations, updates, new office spaces, and fan amenities with a completion date set for August 2022...
 New Mexico State athletics launched Pistol Pete®, the first collegiate licensed whiskey brand...
 Seton Hall athletics had a temporary shutdown due to positive COVID-19 tests among Tier 1 department members...
 Lehigh athletics has begun new pilot testing protocols and will continue these with spring semester multiple weekly tests...
 Georgia has had two sports' head coaches test positively for COVID-19 and is taking precautions to avoid further spread...
 All Louisville football staff members and student-athletes tested negatively on Nov. 15 as the Cardinals resumed full activities...
 Arizona affirms a probable \$45 million loss for fiscal year 2020-21 and the elimination of 21 fulltime positions in an attempt to slice \$30 million from that deficit...
 Arkansas will limit capacity at Bud Walton Arena for men's and women's basketball to approximately 4,000 fans this season...
 Albany athletics has suspended all men's basketball activities due to a pool of COVID-19 tests...
 Washington football has ended all student-athletes' guests' tickets for the 2020 campaign...
 Tulane allowed 350 general public tickets (not counting students and band members) for its home tussle with Army West Point and will make 1,350 tickets available for home finale against Memphis...
 Nebraska athletics hopes to move ahead with its new multi-purpose training and office facilities that have been delayed for one year...
 Completion date for these facilities is projected as July 2023...
 Maryland had practice issues due to COVID-19 cases and contact tracing last midweek...
 Ohio State has been prohibited from letting family members attend additional home games due to new guidelines from the Columbus (Ohio) Department of Health...
 The Oregon Governor's Office told Portland and Portland State to close practice and game operations for an indefinite time due to the

COVID-19 upsurge in the state...
 Maryland Eastern Shore has decided to scuttle is 2020-21 men's and women's basketball schedules due to COVID-19 concerns...
 Colorado athletics explained its corporate sponsorship with PointsBet and how the relationship is helping to alleviate CU's 2020-21 academic year deficit...
 Under Armour and Cincinnati athletics will conclude their previous \$50 million sponsorship pact in June 2021...
 UTSA athletics held an on-campus ceremony for the \$41.5 million Roadrunner Athletics Center of Excellence scheduled for completion in June 2021 with new state-of-the-art training facilities, locker rooms, sports medicine facilities, and staff and coaches offices...
 A rare, 1960s-70s Rice Owls decanter was discovered during an antique exhibit in Mansfield, Texas, and is drawing a plethora of possible bidders for its purchase...
 North Texas athletics set a school record for the NCAA Graduation Success Rate for 2013-19 at 86 percent...
 Sports Business Journal will co-host its annual Learfield IMG College Intercollegiate Athletic Forum Dec. 8-10 with a virtual format and 36 guest speakers already on the docket...
 ESPN College GameDay presented by Home Depot had sterling ratings for its first-ever live telecast from the Masters' golf site in Augusta, Ga., Nov. 14...
 Incidentally, numerous PGA players follow college football and support athletics at their alma maters, among them Phil Mickleson at Arizona State, Tiger Woods at Stanford, Hale Irwin (who starred in golf and football) at Colorado, Jack Nicklaus (also starred in basketball) at Ohio State, Brandt Snedeker at Vanderbilt, and the late Arnold Palmer at Wake Forest...
 Sports Illustrated pointed out subtle differences in quarantines for college conferences such as the SEC and how the NFL has dealt with contact tracing and similar COVID-19 challenges...
 Media outlets also have spoken of unique Big 12 Conference testing procedures...
 ESPN took a look at possibilities of compensation for football and basketball student-athletes examines and how their earning potential could surpass Olympic sports' student-athletes monetary rewards under the new NCAA legislation...
 The AL.com website wrote about Kentucky's newfound position of power in all sports in the SEC due to the influence of AD Mitch Barnhart...
 Traditionally, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee have been regarded as the chief policy makers for the loop...
 The FWAA named the Kentucky football team as the latest nominee for the 2020 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award by playing Vanderbilt two days after UK offensive line coach John Schlarman passed away following a two-year battle with cancer...
 The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee has decided to play the 2020-21 NCAA Men's Championship in a "bubble" environment with all rounds in the Indianapolis, area...
 This will affect 13 previously-scheduled locales for first- and second-round games and NCAA Regionals

NFL Picks and Predictions: Week 13



By Mike McFee

The playoff race in the NFL is heating up, and Week 12 is about teams taking care of business if they want to keep pace.

The Sunday schedule features just one matchup between teams with winning records. That's the 3:25 p.m. game between Kansas City and Tampa Bay – another showcase game for quarterback Patrick Mahomes and Tom Brady. The rest of the schedule features matchups in which several teams are looking to play spoiler.

The next-best matchup on the schedule is the timeless rivalry between NFC North rivals Green Bay and Chicago. The Packers can extend their lead in the division to three games with a victory.

Here is a look at our track record in picking games straight-up in 2020:

- Last Week: 6-8
- Season: 62-47

Houston (3-7) at Detroit (4-6)
Thursday, 11:30 a.m. / CBS
Line: Texans -3 / 51.5

The Lions have lost their last three Thanksgiving games, and they are coming off a listless performance in a 20-0 shutout against the Panthers. Houston has won two of its last three, and Deshaun Watson hasn't thrown an interception in five games.
Pick: Texans 28, Lions 23

Washington (3-7) at Dallas (3-7)
Thursday, 3:30 p.m. / FOX
Line: Cowboys -3 / 46

Andy Dalton was knocked out the last time the Cowboys played the Redskins, and this game might have NFC East title implications. Dallas plays more inspired, however, and Dalton throws the game-winning TD to CeeDee Lamb late in the fourth quarter.

Pick: Cowboys 23, Washington 20

Baltimore (6-4) at Pittsburgh (10-0)
Thursday 7:20, NBC
Line: Steelers -4 / 45

The Falcons are just 1-4 at home, and Julio Jones' hamstring injury will be something to monitor throughout the week. The Raiders, meanwhile, are 4-1 on the road and that includes a cross-country-flight-victory against Carolina in Week 1. Expect a similar game.

Pick: Raiders 31, Falcons 26

Miami (6-4) at Jets (0-10)
Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS
Line: Dolphins -7 / 44.5

Tua Tagovailoa took his first loss as a starter against Denver, and he took six sacks. The Jets – the first team to be eliminated from the postseason – do not have the same pass-rushing ability. Tagovailoa makes the right adjustments, and the Dolphins get back on track in the AFC playoff hunt.

Pick: Dolphins 30, Jets 22

Arizona (6-4) at New England (4-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / FOX
Line: Cardinals -2.5 / 49.5

The Patriots are all but out of the playoff race, and the Cardinals are trying to get back on track after a loss to the Seahawks. Arizona's defense has allowed 28 points or more the last four weeks. Will Bill Belichick come up with some defensive wrinkles that test Kyler Murray's patience? Or will Murray do what Deshaun Watson just did to New England? Here is this week's out-of-the-box upset pick.

Pick: Patriots 28, Cardinals 26

Carolina (4-7) at Minnesota (4-6)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / FOX
Line: Vikings -4 / 48.5

The opportunity for a Teddy Bridgewater revenge game is appealing, but if he can't

play P.J. Walker proved that that offense can still function. Kirk Cousins has more support, and he has thrown just one interception in his last four games. Dalvin Cook will keep the running game going.

Pick: Vikings 27, Panthers 21

Cleveland (7-3) at Jacksonville (1-9)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Browns -6.5 / 49

The Browns' defense stepped up with Myles Garrett, and Nick Chubb continues to shine. Cleveland is 4-0 when Chubb rushes for 100 yards or more this season, and that streak continues. This also is a chance for Baker Mayfield to get back on track in nicer weather.

Pick: Browns 28, Jaguars 14

Tennessee (7-3) at Indianapolis (7-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Colts -3.5 / 51

The Colts and Titans meet in a rematch, and both teams are coming off emotional overtime victories. It's all about adjustments in the AFC South rematch, and Ryan Tannehill has to make a few more plays in the passing game. The Titans get payback with a late TD run from Derrick Henry.

Pick: Titans 27, Colts 24

NY Giants (3-7) at Cincinnati (2-7-1)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / FOX
Line: Giants -5.5 / 42.5

The Bengals lost Joe Burrow for the season, and the Giants should be able to get after Ryan Finley – who took four sacks against Washington last week. Daniel Jones leads a low-risk passing attack, and New York wins its third consecutive game. It will be close.

Pick: Giants 20, Bengals 16

L.A. Chargers (3-7) at Buffalo (7-3)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Bills -5.5 / 53.5

Justin Herbert continues to impress as a rookie, and he has two 300-yard games in the last three weeks. The Chargers have yet to win a road game, and the Bills had a bye week to stew about the Hail Mary loss to the Cardinals. The weather won't be a factor, but Josh Allen will take advantage of a weak Chargers' defense.

Pick: Bills 28, Chargers 21

Las Vegas (6-4) at Atlanta (3-7)
Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Raiders --3 / 55.5

The Falcons are just 1-4 at home, and Julio Jones' hamstring injury will be something to monitor throughout the week. The Raiders, meanwhile, are 4-1 on the road – and that includes a cross-country-flight-victory against Carolina in Week 1. Expect

a similar game.

Pick: Raiders 31, Falcons 26

San Francisco (4-6) at L.A. Rams (7-3)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / FOX
Line: Rams -7 / 45

The Rams had a bye week to prepare for the rematch with the 49ers. San Francisco won the first matchup with three TDs from Jimmy Garoppolo, but the 49ers have been riddled with injuries since. Jared Goff leads the Rams to victory with another efficient performance.

Pick: Rams 27, 49ers 23

New Orleans (8-2) at Denver (4-6)
Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / FOX
Line: Saints -6 / 43.5

Taysom Hill won his first start against the Falcons, but this is an interesting road test knowing the Broncos have won their last two home games. The Saints have the league's best run defense, so Drew Lock will have to force the issue more. That will lead to turnovers, and New Orleans will take advantage.

Pick: Saints 28, Broncos 20

Kansas City (9-1) at Tampa Bay (7-4)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS
Line: Chiefs -3.5 / 56

Tom Brady is in yet another big game, and this is the fourth head-to-head meeting against Patrick Mahomes. The Chiefs have won five straight, but the defense has allowed 31 points in each of the last two games. Tampa Bay's defense comes up huge in the second half, and Brady delivers a vintage game-winning drive in the fourth quarter. Rematch in the Super Bowl?
Pick: Buccaneers 31, Chiefs 30

Chicago (5-5) at Green Bay (7-3)
Sunday, 7:20 p.m. / NBC
Line: Packers -8.5 / 45

Division rivals meet, and the Packers can bounce back after an overtime loss at Indianapolis. The Bears' offensive struggles are well-documented, and Green Bay will bounce back with another big game from Aaron Rodgers. The last five meetings between these teams have been decided by eight points or less.

Pick: Packers 26, Bears 19

Seattle (7-3) at Philadelphia (3-6-1)
Monday, 7:15 p.m. / ESPN
Line: Seahawks -5.5 / 50.5

The Eagles are clinging to a half-game lead in a bad NFC East, and the Seahawks are not the team they want to be facing. Russell Wilson broke out of his funk against the Cardinals, and Seattle will take advantage of Philadelphia's run defense.

Pick: Seahawks 27, Eagles 19

The subcompact Mercedes-Benz GLA



by Matt Degen

The Mercedes-Benz GLA250 straddles that vague ground between crossover SUV and hatchback. This subcompact vehicle has the much-loved raised driving position and offers all-wheel drive. But whereas most crossover SUVs tend to be a bit more (or a lot more) imposing, the GLA250 makes a little less of a splash. It's a classy way to be for an entry-level luxury-crossover SUV that competes against rivals like the Audi Q3, BMW X3, Infiniti QX30 and the all-new Lexus UX. Higher up the GLA totem is the fairly hot 375-horsepower AMG GLA45, which is reviewed separately, but the overall package of the GLA250 is charming. It represents affordable luxury while cutting a dash around town.

Given the modest width and length of the GLA250, it feels about as stable and planted as it's possible to be. These dimensions make it easy to park, helped by the light steering. The GLA feels perfectly at home in towns and suburbs, and although it's about as quiet as a good mainstream car on the freeway, a little more sound insulation wouldn't go amiss in a premium vehicle like this. The ride quality is at a similar level: comfortable and together, but not quite convincing as a luxury car. Our thoughts on the shift action of the automatic transmission are along the same lines. The turbocharged engine, however, is eager and punchy, a pleasant complement to the GLA's nimble handling. Some drivers might not like the noticeable way the engine's fuel-saving stop/start feature kicks back in, but they can easily turn it off if they can't get used to it.

Even with the best of intentions, there are times when our concentration wavers. Or we just might not notice something.

Annoyingly, those occasions often occur at the worst possible time; that's why it's great to have another unblinking eye on the road ahead, with the ability to apply the brakes if necessary.

This is perfect for traffic jams in San Francisco, and no doubt welcome elsewhere as well. Pressing a button keeps the brake applied, such as when stopped at a red light. So the driver can relax that foot a little before stepping on the accelerator pedal.

Being a subcompact, the GLA 250 is far from roomy, but space for rear passengers is acceptable for average-sized adults providing those in front aren't above average in height. The usual elegance Mercedes-Benz displays in its cabins is certainly evident here, but look a little closer and some of the plastics used (especially at the lower levels) are more mainstream than premium in terms of quality. For the GLA to be the company's least expensive crossover SUV, some cost-cutting has to happen somewhere. It all seems to be built well enough, however. With the rear seats flipped down, total cargo space is 41.8 cubic feet. For some context, the Volkswagen Golf compact hatchback has 52.7.

Whether the GLA250 is a real SUV or not, it certainly has some of the attitude, with a chunky grille and faux skidplates on the lower fascias at both ends of the all-wheel-drive version. Move up a little, though, and the GLA grows sleeker rather than getting into boxy SUV territory. Crossover SUV? High-riding hatchback? Whatever it is, it's arguably easy on the eye. The GLA is also unmistakably a Mercedes-Benz, with the prestige that accompanies the name.

Despite the "entry-level crossover-SUV" status of the GLA250, it still comes with plenty of premium equipment as standard.

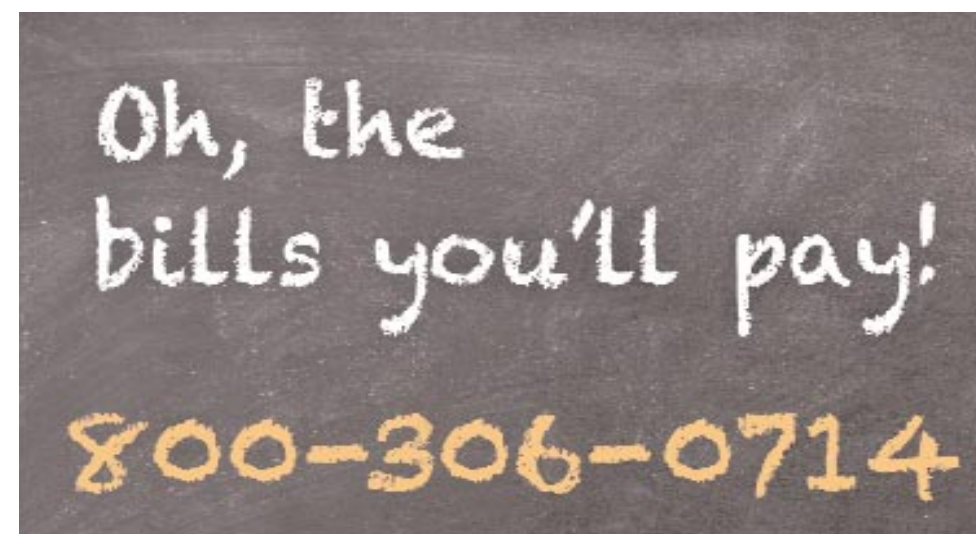
Such as a power tailgate, automatic dual-zone climate control, 18-inch alloy wheels, selectable driving modes, 14-way power-adjustable driver's seat with memory settings, high-resolution 8-inch infotainment display, and keyless entry/ignition. Standard safety features include forward-collision mitigation with emergency braking and driver-attention monitoring.

All-wheel drive (known as 4Matic in Mercedes jargon) is \$2,000, bringing an off-road driving mode, dedicated display and downhill-speed regulation. Additional equipment includes active lane keeping, blind-spot monitoring, adaptive cruise control, 360-degree camera system, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto smartphone integration, Wi-Fi, ambient LED cabin lighting, hands-free tailgate, panoramic roof, LED headlights, heated front seats, Harman Kardon audio system upgrade, remote start/lock/unlock, and a self-parking feature. In other words, many of the items that larger, truly luxurious vehicles offer. Leather upholstery is also available, but the

simulated stuff in the regular GLA250 is actually quite good.

A turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine provides the GLA250 with a healthy 208 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque from a diet of premium unleaded gasoline. This is sent to the front wheels in standard form (FWD), or all four with the 4Matic system (AWD), through a 7-speed automatic transmission (fitted with steering-wheel-mounted shift paddles). In performance terms, the sprint from standstill to 60 mph takes 7.2 seconds, or 0.1 faster with all-wheel drive. No reason to call up the record books, but probably fine for most people on most roads. Among the drive modes is a Sport setting that sharpens throttle responses and sets transmission shift points higher up the rev range. 2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4 208 horsepower @ 5,500 rpm 258 lb-ft of torque @ 1,250-4,000 rpm EPA city/highway fuel economy: 24/33 mpg (FWD), 23/31 mpg (AWD)

The Mercedes-Benz GLA250 has a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$33,950. Add the \$995 destination charge for \$34,945. So the GLA is priced keenly for a premium marque. Fight the urge to be impulsive, though, when consulting the options list. It's possible to spend close to \$4,000 on supplemental driver aids alone. Throw in a few comfort and convenience amenities, and the bottom line will zip past the \$40,000 mark and be well on the way toward \$50,000. However, the BMW X1 starts out a little higher. The Audi Q3 is a fraction lower, while the Volvo XC40 is far more reasonable. The Infiniti QX30, which shares a platform with the GLA, costs several thousands less. Before buying, check the KBB.com Fair Purchase Price to see what others in your area are paying for their new GLA250. Resale value is expected to be robust, but the Audi Q3 fares slightly better.





TICKET WINDOW



New discoveries worth writing about



By Richard Pollak
The Traveling Gourmet
dallasentertain@aol.com

There are more Restaurants per capita in Dallas than in New York City. We don't have a pudding, peanut butter or cereal only store but we have exceptional new discoveries to share! The Dallas dining scene expands the globe and yet makes good for the local yokels like me!



Sumo Shack made the American Hot Dog a Japanese import

Sumo Shack has made the American Hot Dog a Japanese import. It's really fun to dress a dog with Japanese tastes and traditions. There is no Ketchup or Yellow Mustard and they use a different roll, made from Potatoes, then sprinkle it with all things you don't want to ask about only enjoy. The off campus SMU hangout has an exceptional Bar atmosphere as well.



Sumo Shack also offers bao Sandwiches

The second half of the Sumo Shack menu is bao sandwiches. Bao is a white, warm soft bun....also known as steamed buns...and can be packed away with just about anything. Sumo Shack offers nine different options such as Philly Cheese Steak, Fried Chicken, Pork Belly, Shitake Mushroom, Fish or Soft Shell Crab. There is even a Tofu option.

You have to be skeptical that the freshest New England seafood can land in Addison Texas but it has at Hudson House!



Hudson House brings East Coast seafood to the neighborhood

The menu is extensive from breakfast specialties such as Pancakes, Bagels and Lox, Avacado Toast and Eggs Benedict to lunch and dinner. Seafood, Salads to grilled Entrees. The weekly Happy Hour is fantastic and offers half price Oysters and the Worlds Coldest Martinis. The 'Big



Lobster Roll at Hudson House

Brother' Lobster Roll at Hudson House is a quarter pound of fresh Atlantic lobster served New England style and a must try.



The Ribeye at Nelson's

Nelson's is a full service casual dining restaurant specializing in grilled seafood and steaks. But it doesn't stop there, they also offer fantastic fried seafood baskets such as Fried Catfish and Fried Shrimp.

The Ribeye at Nelsons adds an upscale experience to the menu, along with grilled Redfish and Salmon. Sandwiches and Salads are available as well. A unique feature to the Appetizer menu that you rarely



Meat Point is a gourmet kosher steakhouse



Oven roasted, slow-cooked Brisket Tacos at Mesero

find is Deviled Eggs topped with Bacon, Relish or Plain.

Meat Point is a gourmet kosher steakhouse created by an Israeli chef featuring Israeli-American fusion of flavors. The menu is extensive featuring dishes such as lamb chops, rib eye steaks, grilled chicken and wonderful Angus rib eye burgers. A wide variety that includes wings, grilled bone marrow pasta and salads as well.

Mesero continental Mexico City cuisine

an array of Mexican dishes such as Redfish En La Media Concha, Pollo La Brasa, Carne Asada and familiar Mexican favorites such as Enchiladas, Tacos, combination plates, Caldos, Ensaladas and Nachos. If not in the mood for Mexican food, Masero also serves a double Cheese Cheeseburger, quarter pound Wagu Beef Hot Dog and oven roasted Chicken.

Mesero now has five locations in the Dallas area.

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