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DALLAS STARS

The logo for 'The Ticket Sportsradio' is prominently displayed. It features the word 'THE' in small white letters above the word 'TICKET' in large, bold, red letters with a white outline and a blue shadow. Below 'TICKET' is the word 'SPORTSRADIO' in white letters with a blue shadow. At the bottom, the frequencies '96.7fm/1310am' are written in yellow letters on a red oval background. The entire logo is set against a black background with green and white diagonal stripes.

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

SMU's 2021 Football Schedule Set



IRVING, Texas (AAC/SMU) -- The American Athletic Conference has released the 2021 SMU Football schedule, a slate that includes games against AAC Champion Cincinnati, Championship game participant Tulsa, and perennial AAC power UCF, as well as in-state rivals Houston and TCU.

The previously announced non-conference schedule includes home games against Abilene Christian (Sept. 4) and North Texas (Sept. 11) to open the season, before the Mustangs hit the road for games at Louisiana Tech (Sept. 18) and TCU (Sept. 25) in the 100th Battle for the Iron Skillet. The 2020 edition of the Iron Skillet was canceled.

SMU opens conference play at home against USF on Oct. 2, while also hosting Tulane (Oct. 21), UCF (Nov. 13) and Tulsa (Nov. 26/27). Both USF and UCF return to the Mustangs' schedule in 2021.

The road slate includes trips to Navy (Oct. 9), Houston (Oct. 30), Memphis (Nov. 6) and Cincinnati (Nov. 20). As part of the conference's former West Division, the Mustangs traveled to Navy, Houston and Memphis in 2019, but it will be the first time SMU travels to Cincinnati since the 2017 season (W, 31-28 OT).

SMU finished 7-3 in 2020 and earned a bid to the Frisco Bowl. The seven wins were the first in back-to-back seasons (10-

3 in 2019) since the 2011-12 seasons, and the bowl bid was the second in three seasons under Head Coach Sonny Dykes. The Mustangs reached No. 16 in both the AP and Coaches Polls during the season and were ranked or receiving votes in at least one poll every week in 2020.

Freshman All-American and AAC Rookie of the Year Ulysses Bentley IV returns for 2021, along with all-conference selections Hayden Howerton and Jaylon Thomas.

Kickoff times and TV information will be announced at a later date.

For ticket information, call (214) SMU-GAME (768-4263).

Sept. 4 vs. Abilene Christian
Sept. 11 vs. North Texas
Sept. 18 at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 25 at TCU
Oct. 2 vs. USF
Oct. 9 at Navy
Thurs., Oct. 21 vs. Tulane
Oct. 30 at Houston
Nov. 6 at Memphis
Nov. 13 vs. UCF
Nov. 20 at Cincinnati
Fri./Sat., Nov. 26/27 vs. Tulsa
Dec. 4 American Football Championship



Frisco Roughriders 120-Game Schedule Starts May 4

The Frisco RoughRiders announced

their schedule in full today for the 2021 season, which begins on Tuesday, May 4th at home against the Midland RockHounds.

The opening 12-game homestand includes 6 games against the RockHounds to kick things off and after an off-day on Monday, May 10th, the Riders welcome in the Corpus Christi Hooks for a 6-game series.

While the 2021 season may look and feel a little different, there is some familiarity returning in the form of the RoughRiders continued affiliation as the Texas Rangers' Double-A organization. The other teams in the Double-A Central League's Southern division include the Amarillo Sod Poodles, Corpus Christi Hooks, Midland Rock- Hounds and San Antonio Missions.

The Northern Division will be composed of The Arkansas Travelers, Northwest Arkansas Naturals, Springfield Cardinals, Tulsa Drillers, and Wichita Wind Surge.

The 2021 season offers plenty of chances to see the Riders on the weekend, with 30 of the 60 home dates falling on Friday, Saturday and Sunday including a Fourth of July celebration on July 4th.

While game times are yet to be determined, it is anticipated they will look very similar to those of years past, with 7:05pm starts during the week and 4:05pm on Sundays in May & June. During the Summer months, Sunday games will begin at 6:05pm.

The RoughRiders will play in the Double-A Central League's Southern Division and is scheduled to have every Monday as a scheduled off day during the year to assist in team travel.

NCAA Basketball - Top 25

Coaches (Week 13) AP

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gonzaga | 1. Gonzaga |
| 2. Baylor | 2. Baylor |
| 3. Michigan | 3. Michigan |
| 4. Ohio State | 4. Ohio State |
| 5. Illinois | 5. Illinois |
| 6. Houston | 6. Houston |
| 7. Villanova | 7. Virginia |
| 8. Virginia | 8. Alabama |
| 9. Alabama | 9. Oklahoma |
| 10. Oklahoma | 10. Villanova |
| 11. Texas Tech | 11. Iowa |
| 12. Creighton | 12. Texas |
| 13. Texas | 13. West Virginia |
| 14. Iowa | 14. Creighton |
| 15. West Virginia | 15. Texas Tech |
| 16. Florida State | 16. Florida State |
| 17. Virginia Tech | 17. USC |
| 18. USC | 18. Virginia Tech |
| 19. Missouri | 19. Tennessee |
| 20. Tennessee | 20. Missouri |
| 21. Wisconsin | 21. Wisconsin |
| 22. Oklahoma State | 22. Loyola Chicago |
| 23. Loyola Chicago | 23. Kansas |
| 24. Kansas | 24. Arkansas |
| 25. Oregon | 25. San Diego State |

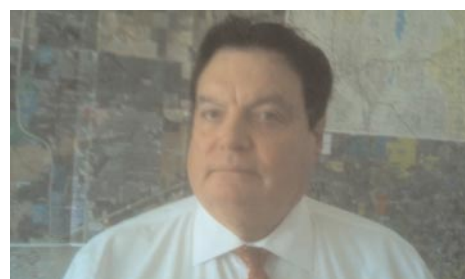
WEEKLY CALENDAR

	FEBRUARY 19 FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 20 SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 21 SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 22 MONDAY	FEBRUARY 23 TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 24 WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 25 THURSDAY
	Mavs at Rockets 7:00 / FSSW			Mavs vs Grizzlies 7:30 / FSSW	Mavs vs Celtics 6:30 / TNT		Mavs at 76ers 6:00 / FSSW
		Stars vs Lightning 7:00 / KTCK		Stars at Panthers 6:00 / KTCK		Stars at Panthers 4:00 / KTCK	Stars at Panthers 6:00 / KTCK
		SMU vs South Florida 11:00 / KTCK			SMU vs UCF 6:00 / KTCK		SMU at Wichita State 6:00 / KLIF
		TCU vs K-State 1:00 / KLIF		TCU vs West Virginia 6:00 / ESPN2			
							Americans at Swamp Rabbits 7:05

Rangers Spring Training begins



Next week will start the initial full workouts and games begin on the 27th



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

The Texas Rangers began reporting to their Surprise, Arizona training facility this week. Next week will have the initial full team workout and by the end of next week games will begin. It almost sounds like normal. So, while we locals dig out from a week of sub-zero temperatures and snow covered streets, the boys of summer will be preparing for a real summer of baseball like we haven't seen since the previous decade.

The Rangers are admitting they are in a rebuild and warn fans not to expect a contender. 2023 is the best estimate of when that will happen, but that does not mean this is a lost year. It is actually a very important year of development to get to where the team wants to be two seasons from now. Here is a rundown of the Rangers' outlook on every position.

POSITION PLAYERS

There may be as few as two or three position players set to be the lineup at a specific position. Barring injury, fan favorite Joey Gallo, toting his Gold Glove Award for fielding excellence is the right fielder. Shortly after last season ended, the

team announced that Isiah Kiner-Falefa will be this year's shortstop. To make sure everyone knew the Rangers meant business when they made this pronouncement, they proceeded to trade incumbent Elvis Andrus.

Likely, the oft-injured Jose Trevino will be the starting catcher. That is not to say that three positions only have been set, and with a team that had the second worst record in baseball last year, there should not be many players feeling like they are tenured into a position.

The outfield offers the most possibilities. Leody Taveras finished last season as the starting centerfielder. There is no question that he's Major League ready defensively. He is the number four prospect in the Rangers' system and was named to Jim Callis's defensive All-prospect team. Good speed. Plus arm. He gets good reads and quick jumps on fly balls. The best defensive center fielder in the Rangers' system. The hit tool is the question. He hit 227 in 33 games last year, with four home runs and six RBIs. Had last year been a normal year with fully operating minor leagues, Taveras would have never seen the light of day in Arlington. The paradox is with the Pandemic killing the minor leagues last year and the shortened Major League season, Taveras got a look with Texas and showed a lot. He has a real chance to be the Rangers' regular center fielder and is at a point in his career though where he needs to play every day. If he doesn't win the regular center field job in spring training, he goes to the minors to get regular at bats to develop the hit tool he needs to become the All-Star caliber player he projects to be.

If he's not on the opening day roster, he will play in Arlington at some point this season.

The Rangers added David Dahl this off season, who became a free agent in December when he was non-tendered by the Colorado Rockies. Dahl, who was selected with the tenth pick in the 2012 draft, has hit .286 in four Major League seasons and made the National League All-Star team in 2019. He is considered a very good defensive outfielder. When acquired, it was generally thought that he would be the Rangers' regular left fielder. Clearly, an outfield of Dahl, Taveras and Gallo would be an elite defensive trio. If he takes over in left field, Willie Calhoun would slide into the regular DH spot. Calhoun has improved defensively in left field since Texas acquired him, but he's still considered to be a below average defender. There is also the possibility that Dahl takes over center field pushing Taveras to the minors and creating an opening for a better bat in the lineup. Texas manager Chris Woodward has shown a preference for spreading the DH at-bats out among several players to keep their bats in the lineup and giving rest at the same time. With his defensive role to be sorted out in spring training, Dahl may not have a definite defensive assignment going into spring training, but you can bet the Rangers are not paying him \$2.7 million to sit on the bench.

Two other names have entered the outfield picture in recent weeks. The Rangers traded for Khris Davis and signed free agent and former Davis has been mainly a designated hitter in recent years. He has not been a good hitter the past two seasons, after hitting more than 40 home runs in each of the three prior seasons. If he returns to form, he supplies badly needed power to the Ranger lineup. If he does not show promise of returning to form, he may get released. The Rangers were apparently

willing to make the deal with Oakland to get two quality prospects for the \$2.0 million plus net cost of the money in the trade.

DeShields brings plus speed and had developed into a solid center fielder defensively before the Rangers dealt him to Cleveland in the trade that brought Corey Kluber to Texas. He could fit as the Rangers' regular center fielder or end up as the fourth outfielder. Nick Solack saw action in the outfield last year, though projects to be this year's second baseman. Eli White is also a solid defender that could find a role in this year's outfield. The theme of this year's spring training is competition. With Gallo, Taveras, Dahl, Calhoun, Davis, DeShields and White as the top contenders, there is certainly outfield competition.

The infield has a bit more clarity. Texas is committed to Kiner-Falefa at shortstop. It's a good move, even if it did cost the Rangers one of the team's all-time fan favorites, Elvis Andrus. If the Rangers are pointing to being a true contender in 2023, there are steps the team needs to take to reach that goal. Finding out if Kiner-Falefa is the shortstop for that 2023 team is one of them. There are several free agent shortstops coming available in the next off season. If Kiner-Falefa is not the man, then the Rangers can dip into free agency with a clear conscience.

Brock Holt was signed within the last few days to be the regular third baseman. Texas Tech alum Josh Jung is projected to be the third baseman of the future and likely sees time in Arlington this summer, but he needs more minor league seasoning, and Holt essentially is the bridge between now and the time Jung arrives.

The Rangers seem committed to Nick Solack at second base. Solack was a good contact hitter in 2019 after arriving in a mid-season trade. He fell off some last

(continued on page 6)

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season, but despite his offensive regression, the Rangers are ready to move on from Rougned Odor. Odor is owed \$27.667 million from the six year \$49.5 million contract extension he signed in 2017. With the money owed and the offensive falloff in the last two seasons, he has no trade value. He likely fits as a utility player and may even get a look in the outfield. However, Odor seems to play well in spring training, so it is still possible that he re-claims the second base job.

First base is another interesting competition. The Rangers' patience with Ronald Guzman wore thin last year. Guzman was limited to just 25 games, hitting .241. He did have better at-bats after starting the year at the Rangers' alternate site, and he was the MVP of the Dominican Winter League. Guzman's one of the best defensive first basemen in Ranger history, and he was clearly missed last year when Todd Frazier manned the position.

However, the Rangers appear ready to move on. They traded for first baseman Nate Lowe this winter. Lowe and Guzman are both left-handed hitters, so a platoon doesn't look likely. Guzman has no options remaining, so must clear waivers to be sent to the minors. It should be a good competition. There is talk of looking at Khris Davis at first base, and Sherten Apostel is on the 40-man roster and saw action at first base last year. Lowe is clearly the front runner, after the Rangers sent two quality prospects to Tampa for Lowe, but there should be solid competition for first base in spring training.

Jose Trevino is the starting catcher. Jonah Heim and veteran Drew Butera are the top two contenders for the backup catching roster spot. Heim is a switch hitter, one of the jewels the Rangers received in the Elvis Andrus trade, while Butera brings a quality veteran presence. Sam Huff saw action last year and certainly showed solid power at the plate, but he needs more seasoning in the minors. However, Huff could easily find his way to Arlington later this summer.

PITCHERS

The fate of this year's team largely lies with the starting rotation. Last year, the Rangers looked like a solid playoff contender with Mike Minor, Lance Lynn and Corey Kluber heading up the rotation. In the end, Kluber pitched just one inning, while Minor was not very good; and the team finished with the second worst record in baseball.

This season, Woodward has all but officially named Kyle Gibson as the opening day starter. Kohei Aihara and Hyun-jong Yang were signed out of Japan and Korea, respectively. Both pitched more than 100 innings last year in regular seasons that were not shortened in deference to the Coronavirus. They appear to have the inside track for starting rotation spots. The Rangers also seem high on Mike Foltyniewicz for another. That leaves veteran Jordan Lyles, good prospect Dane

Dunning, and minor leaguers that have been knocking on the door the past couple of years – Kyle Cody, Kolby Allard, Taylor Hearn, Joe Palumbo, and Brock Burke - to fill out the rotation.

Woodward promises a lot of creativity in how he uses starters. The team plans to monitor closely the innings load on all their pitchers after last year's short season. A six man rotation is not out of the question. Perhaps piggy backing some of the younger starters with two of them getting three or four innings in games before turning it over to the bullpen. It will be an interesting competition, and it will be the key to this year's success.

The bullpen was actually good last year. Jose Leclerc is back and is the likely closer. Jonathan Hernandez was sensational last year and slots in as the eighth inning setup man if not the closer. Veteran Brett Martin figures to be the top lefty in the pen, while Joely Rodriguez looks to have a roster spot. The Rangers obtained Josh Sborz this week in a trade with the Dodgers, so he likely makes the opening day roster. Texas took Brett de Geus in the Rule 5 draft, so he must be on the roster or offered back to the Dodgers. John King was especially impressive in a short stint with the Rangers last season and would appear to have a good chance at a roster spot. Demarcus Evans is also a strong candidate, but he is not likely to be physically ready by opening day having been shut down from throwing off a mound until mid-March with a lat injury. Also, starting pitcher candidates above that don't make the rotation could end up in the bullpen.

Ultimately, Jon Daniels has been able to put together a good bullpen in the past. This year's pen has some solid pieces in place, and some good arms coming from the minor leagues. On paper, the pen is probably the strongest area of the team.

By next weekend, we will have a look at the team in games. Amazingly while there is snow on the ground in the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth area and record low temperatures, there is baseball to be followed every day for Ranger fans. A touch of normalcy after suffering through a very abnormal 2020 season.

NOTABLE:

- The Rangers' radio and television announcing teams are essentially the same as last year. Dave Raymond and C. J. Nitkowski will do most of the television games as play-by-play and analyst, respectively. Tom Grieve and David Murphy will also be analysts for some games. Eric Nadel and Matt Hicks are the two main radio voices, though Nadel will miss more games as he eases into retirement.
- Former Ranger Mitch Moreland is rumored to have agreed to a one year deal with Oakland.
- 202 Rangers Derek Dietrich and Nick Goody signed with the Yankees this week.
- Jeff Mathis, a Ranger catcher the past two seasons signed with the Phillies.

GOLF

WITH TOM WARD

Gear your swing for cold and wet weather



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

We've been going through some brutally cold weather, of historic proportions, here in Dallas/Ft. Worth recently. Cold air is heavy and creates more resistance to the flight of the golf ball. Cold heavy air naturally encourages golfers to swing harder. Unfortunately, a harder, faster swing can produce more errors in the swing.

Since cold air is heavy, the player should gear their swing to produce a lower trajectory. To accomplish this, the plane swing of the golfer should be in a shallower arc. This will allow the club head to contact the ball on a more horizontal path and will start ball flight in a more forward, rather than upward, path.

The three parts of the body that are the most important to protect against the cold weather are:

- 1. The Hands.** A player cannot swing the club if they can't hold onto it. Warm hands are necessary for feel. There are several types available on the market that are effective.
- 2. Upper body and head.** For your head a golf cap with ear muffs to keep the head and ears warm. A lot of heat escapes through the head. A good rain suit that is waterproof and warm while it's lightweight is a good choice.
- 3. The Feet.** Keep your feet warm and dry while you're playing. Wearing an extra

pair of socks is a good idea too. I think it's a great idea to walk the course instead of taking a cart. Walking will keep your blood flowing and help you stay warmer and looser.

Wet greens can cause a lot of issues for golfers when putting. The ball must be hit more firmly. Many players make the mistake of lengthening their backstroke. This only increases the margin of error. For the best results, increase the speed of the stroke rather than taking a longer backstroke.

Colder weather can mean frozen ground which can play havoc on your short game. When the ground on the golf course is firmer due to inclement weather conditions this calls for more of a chip and run or run-up shot. So where you would normally use a wedge, use a 6 or 7 iron to pull off the shot.

Usually in cold weather you'll have stronger winds and it's essential to hit the ball lower if you want to get maximum power and control. To stroke a ball lower than the normal loft of the club, widen your stance and play the ball the ball back and a little farther from the body than usual. Keep the face of the club slightly closed. Make sure to establish a sturdy foundation with the stance. Use a more shallow plane swing and keep the club head low on the backswing. On your follow-through try to stay down as long as possible on the shot.

Because of the colder weather make sure to use more club than you would normally use as the ball won't travel as far. If it's too cold for you to play, then I recommend that you just proceed directly to the 19th hole to warm up.

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

This week: The Genesis Invitational



By Adam Stanley
PGATOUR.COM

The PGA TOUR returns to iconic Riviera Country Club for The Genesis Invitational. Tournament host Tiger Woods will be in attendance but won't play as he is still recovering from a back procedure last month. World No. 1 Dustin Johnson and defending champion Adam Scott are among the headliners.

FIELD NOTES: Notables in the invitation-only field include major champions Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau, Collin Morikawa, and Francesco Molinari, plus world No. 2 Jon Rahm. ... After deciding not to tee it up at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Dustin Johnson, who won the 2017 Genesis, will be back in action at Riviera. ... Scott hasn't missed a cut this season and finished T10 in his last start at the Farmers Insurance Open. ... Other past winners at Riviera include J.B. Holmes, James Hahn, Charles Howell III, and Bubba Watson (twice a winner here). ... Tae Hoon Kim won The Genesis Championship in Korea last fall to secure a spot in The Genesis Invitational field for 2021... Two-time FedExCup winner Rory McIlroy looks to finally lift the trophy at Riviera after holding a piece of the lead Sunday a year ago only to fall to T5... The U.S. Amateur champion always gets a spot in The Genesis Invitational, so Tyler Strafaci will tee it up, as will the previous three U.S. Amateur winners: Andy Ogletree, Viktor Hovland, and Doc Redman. (Redman won the 2017 U.S. Amateur at Riviera.) ... In addition to

reigning champ Johnson, FedExCup winners in the field include Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth, Brandt Snedeker, and Jim Furyk.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 550 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Designed by George C. Thomas Jr. and William P Bell, Riviera Country Club, par 71, 7,322 yards, has been a PGA TOUR staple for 57 years. A three-time major championship host (1948 U.S. Open and 1983/1995 PGA Championships), the club is perennially ranked in the top 100 in the world and is located just a block from Sunset Boulevard. It's a compact design with primary rough consisting of thick Kikuyu grass, a bunker in the middle of a green, and of course the iconic, driveable 10th.

STORYLINES: Willie Mack III joins the list of Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption recipients. Two other past Sifford Exemption recipients will be in the field: Harold Varner III and Cameron Champ. Mack III, an 11-time winner at Bethune-Cookman University, made his PGA TOUR debut at Torrey Pines when an exemption intended for Kamaiu Johnson opened up due to Johnson testing positive for COVID-19. The Sifford Exemption has been awarded yearly since 2009, with three recipients (Jeremiah Wooding, Varner III, and Joseph Bramlett) making the cut... There is one spot left in the field reserved for the winner of The Genesis Invitational Collegiate Showcase, Feb. 15. Three past collegiate showcase champions will be in the field for 2021: this year's winner plus Will Zalatoris (2015) and Scottie Scheffler

(2018). ... Anyone who moves into the top 10 of the FedExCup standings (and not otherwise in the field) after The Genesis Invitational will earn a spot in the following week's World Golf Championships at The Concession.

72-HOLE RECORD: 264, Lanny Wadkins (1985).

18-HOLE RECORD: 61, George Archer (3rd round, 1983 at Rancho Park GC), Ted Tryba (3rd round, 1999 at Riviera CC).

LAST TIME: On a difficult day for the overnight leaders, Scott – whose victory at Riviera 15 years ago was deemed unofficial as rain shortened the tournament to 36 holes – shot a 1-under 70 to top Sung Kang, Scott Brown, and Matt Kuchar by two shots. It was the Australian's 14th TOUR victory and 29th win worldwide. Five players had a share of the lead at some point Sunday, including McIlroy, who shot 2 over to finish T5 alongside Hideki Matsuyama, Bryson DeChambeau, Max Homa, and Joel Dahmen. Tournament host Woods finished 68th, last among those who made the cut.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. (Golf Channel, PGA TOUR Live Freeview), 2 p.m.-6 p.m. (Golf Channel), 6 p.m.-8 p.m. (Golf Channel, PGA TOUR Live Freeview). Friday, 2 p.m.-6 p.m. (Golf Channel).

Saturday, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3 p.m.-6 p.m. (CBS) Sunday, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (CBS).

PGA TOUR LIVE: Thursday-Friday, 9:45 a.m.-8 p.m. (Featured Groups), Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Featured Groups), 3 p.m.-6 p.m. (Featured Holes). Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Featured Groups), 3 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (Featured Holes)

Radio: Thursday-Friday, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (PGA TOUR Radio on Sirius XM and PGATOUR.com/liveaudio).

TOURCast: Get shot-by-shot info in real time with shot tracks and video with TOUR Cast.

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NMLS #1136

Remembering record setting playoff



Six men braved the elements to decide a champion at Riviera Country Club in 2001. (Getty Images)

By Ben Everill, Sean Martin and
Cameron Morfit,
PGATOUR.COM

It remains the largest playoff to end a 72-hole PGA TOUR event, another bit of history created at the iconic Riviera Country Club.

There also was a six-man playoff at the 1994 Byron Nelson but that tournament was just two rounds because of persistent rain. Seven years later, six men braved the elements to decide a champion at Riviera in the tournament now known as the Genesis Invitational.

It rained so hard that a delay never seemed far away. The 18th hole, reachable with short-irons earlier in the week, now required players to use fairway woods for their approach shots. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of this unique finish, PGA-TOUR.COM caught up with some of the participants to hear their recollections.

On the broadcast, Jim Nantz tried to draw a connection to CBS' Sunday night movie, The Mask of Zorro, by declaring "it would take a little swash-buckling birdie here to win this tournament." Riviera's finishing hole had allowed just one all day but then Robert Allenby delivered a shot that one competitor called "the greatest shot I've ever seen."

Allenby choked down on a 3-wood and hit it to 5 feet to walk away with the title. It was his third TOUR win – all of them came in playoffs – and moved him to 7-0 in playoffs worldwide. Brandel Chamblee, Dennis Paulson, Jeff Sluman, Bob Tway

and Toshi Izawa were the other participants.

The playoff was brief, but the unique ending and miserable conditions were fodder for some entertaining stories. PGA-TOUR.COM caught up with some of the participants, and recently-retired rules official Mark Russell, to hear their recollections. Read below about the ball hit into a hot dog stand, Chamblee's wardrobe malfunction (and how he forgot one of the playoff's participants when working for Golf Channel later that year) and the award that Tiger Woods robbed from Allenby later that year.

CHAMBLEE: "I had a deal with a clothing company where if I finished in the top three, I got a \$75,000 bonus, something like that. I had their rain suit on as I played the first hole and I could hardly swing. I had it on as I was coming up the second hole and I said to my caddie, 'Can you run up to the clubhouse and get my other rain suit. I can't swing in this thing.' So he ran up and got my other rain suit, which did not have the company's logo on it. I was six back going into Sunday. I didn't really think about it. I put the new rain suit on and I was warm and I played great. I shot 67, which was the (second-lowest) round of the day (behind Izawa's 66). And I didn't even think about the implications of not having the right rain suit on."

"Later on, as soon as I got in, there was kind of a nasty note from the company saying, 'We're not paying you the bonus because you didn't have on our rain suit.' That was the first note I saw. They were

quite obviously upset. I called them and I said, 'I totally get it. You did not get the advertisement you paid for. But if I had worn your rain suit, I wouldn't have been in that playoff.'"

SLUMAN: "Somebody in the group ahead of me hit it in the hot dog stand and it took at least 10 minutes to get a ruling. It wasn't the most opportune timing. [Laughs] There was a big slope to the right of the green, with a hot dog stand with nachos and all that stuff. It was Tiger's group, I don't know who it was who needed the ruling, but it was easy, with the ball being wet and everything, to hit one out there. It was like Animal House hitting the ball into the cafeteria; you wonder if someone got a hot dog with a golf ball on it. It was really a bad place to put a hot dog stand."

ALLENBY: "I missed around a 10-footer for a par that would have won the tournament. My attitude in playoffs was always positive. I always treated it as a second chance and didn't dwell on the negatives of the fact I hadn't won in regulation."

RUSSELL: "I'm thinking the whole time, these greens could go down any moment

(continued on page 9)

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and we can't finish. We kept playing. We're trying to get done and it turns into a six-man playoff. Worst-case scenario! I'm amazed we got it in to tell you the truth. The next playoff hole was 10 and I'd already received the call that the 10th hole was unplayable."

PAULSON: "It was so cold that I dressed to wear rain pants all day. I had a great pair of rain pants. They had pockets and everything else. They had belt loops. They were basically a pair of Gore-Tex pants. I knew it was going to be cold so I wore Long Johns under those pants. Whether it rained or not, I was going to wear those all day long."

SLUMAN: "It was like the Sunday scramble at the club going back out there. Each player gets in a cart driven by someone; everybody got a cart, caddies on the back getting driven out, plus an official to pick straws or numbers, and you're off and away."

PAULSON: "When we got done, I had to go to the bathroom really bad because it had been raining all day. I told the guys, 'I'll get out there but I have to use the restroom.' Instead of one minute, it took three because you have all your rain gear on. I get on a cart and arrive at the tee and they say, 'Dennis, you're hitting (fourth). Good luck.' I wasn't even part of the draw to determine what order we hit. No one shook my hand. It wasn't unfriendly, but it was raining and everyone was huddled under their umbrellas."

ALLENBY: "That shot was probably the greatest 3-wood I ever hit in my life. It is the greatest. And I still have the club. It's up in my house and I have the original grip on it and everything, it's such a little beauty.

"I remember Fred Couples and myself seemed to be the last two to have it in play before we finally gave it up. Every tournament we would go to we would both find each other on the range and check to see if the other still had it in play. Then finally one tournament he came along and he saw that I had switched it out and I was like, 'Oh man it's just too small, I just switched it out.' Then he starts laughing and says, 'I did the same thing.' So we both hung on for ages but had to let it go. It was a dinosaur by then."

PAULSON: "Robert's is still the best shot I've seen in my life. It was just flush out of the middle of the club. It started three yards right of the hole and turned over three yards. It was a laser right at the flag. I remember that shot more than any shot I saw on the PGA TOUR, or hit. It was that special."

RUSSELL: "We're walking up to the green and I'm thinking, 'I hope we can keep going.' Then I see a ball about 4 feet from the hole and I'm thinking, 'Damn, who hit that shot?' I had been over in the left rough, helping Toshi with a drop. Thank goodness someone birdied it."

CHAMBLEE: "I had never heard of or seen Toshi Izawa before (This was just Izawa's fourth TOUR start in the States). He hooked it up on the hill and with all the people and caddies and cameras I never really saw him again in the playoff. Later on that year, I was asked to come in and work for Golf Channel during the Masters. Tiger was going for his fourth major in a row and all that. Toshi was either leading or close to the lead after round one and I asked one of my coworkers who he was and they laughed and said, 'Yeah right,' and I said, 'No really, who is it?' They

said, 'You really don't know?' and I said, 'No, I've never heard of him.' He was in the six-man playoff with you at Riviera,'

they said incredulously. And I said, 'Well, it was so chaotic with six players, their caddies, TOUR officials, cameras and media and so many people running around, you could've been in that playoff with me and I might never of known it.'"

ALLENBY: "It's up there but here's what's funny: I hit that shot and then later in the year Tiger Woods had the 'Better Than Most' putt at TPC Sawgrass on the 17th green in the PLAYERS Championship and that ended up being voted the shot of the year. But I remember (former PGA TOUR Commissioner) Tim Finchem saying to me that he thought my shot in L.A. was the best shot of the year. He also remembered that at TPC that same year, he saw me make a putt from off the wood of the walkway on the 17th green that was about an hour ahead of Tiger and from farther away. But hey, Tiger Woods got all the accolades because at the end of the day, he's Tiger Woods.

"I came back (to Riviera) the next year as defending champion and my picture is on the wall behind the staff at registration with me holding the trophy. I walk in and sat down and the three ladies looked at me and asked, 'OK, who are you?' I said, 'I'm the guy behind you on the wall'. They all turned around and looked and were like, 'Oh no. Sorry. I remember having a good giggle about that.'"

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College baseball 2021 season preview



#1 Florida is the clear cut favorite to win the SEC

Preseason rankings, key dates, players to know and more
Let's have a look at the season to come, which, unlike last year's edition, should crown a national champion

By Dayn Perry

Last year, the NCAA awarded no Division I national championship in baseball for the first time since the title was forged back in 1947. That's of course because of the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which caused college baseball to shut down in March and cancel all spring and winter championships. That, among other things, meant no 2020 College World Series.

Given that the pandemic is ongoing, nothing is to be assumed with regard to the 2021 college baseball season. However, as things stand now -- and as more and more people get vaccinated -- the intention is to crown a champion at the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska which gets underway on June 19. Here's hoping.

Powered by such optimistic assumptions regarding college baseball in 2021, we're here to preview the season that begins very soon. We'll commence doing just that following the conclusion of this unnecessary sentence.

Composite 2021 preseason rankings

To get started, let's take a look at some composite rankings. What we've done is taken each of the six major preseason polls (Baseball America, Perfect Game, USA Today coaches' poll, D1Baseball.com,

Collegiate Baseball, and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Association) and assigned "poll points" to each team ranked in the top 25 of each poll. No. 1-ranked teams get 25 points, No. 2-ranked teams get 24 points, all the way down to the No. 25-ranked teams, which get one point. So we add all the points up -- across, again, all six major polls -- and arrive at our composite preseason rankings.

Here's a look at what comes out of the wash for 2021

So Florida topped all six polls, which accounts for their maxed-out total of 150 poll points. That's not surprising given that the Gators return almost every core contributor from last year's squad and complement that core with a top-tier recruiting class. Vanderbilt, who won the last national championship in 2019, checks in at fourth. The most recent College World Series runner-up, Michigan, is tied for 23rd and the only Big Ten team in the top 25 composite rankings. The last "Cinderella" to win it all -- depending upon how you define the somewhat imprecise term -- was Coastal Carolina in 2016, and if the preseason polls are any guide then UC-Santa Barbara would seem to have the best shot of becoming the next.

Conference rankings

Let's widen our scope a bit and cobble together some preseason conference rankings by adding up all the poll points conference by conference (we'll also include the "others receiving poll points" teams in our tabulations).

The digits:
Not surprisingly, the SEC lords over all it surveys. Down yonder the conference boasts five of the top 10 teams in the composite rankings, and overall 11 of the conference's 14 teams received poll points (!).

Conference	Preseason Poll Points
SEC	781
ACC	461
Big 12	330
Pac-12	203
Big West	79
Tie - AAC, Big Ten	37
Sun Belt	3
Missouri Valley	2

That's fully in keeping with recent history, as the SEC has claimed six of the last 11 national championships. The conference tied a record by placing four teams in the 2019 College World Series, and multiple SEC teams have made the eight-team College World Series in each of the last three seasons (2020 excepted, obviously).
As is typically the case, you see a significant drop-off in conference depth after the big four (SEC, ACC, Big 12, and Pac-10). In terms of building programs, baseball is a tough sport for cold-weather conferences, which explains why the Big Ten, unlike in football and basketball, isn't among the giants and hasn't been for a very long time. The conference has enjoyed a bit of a resurgence in recent years, which is largely explained by increased investment in the sport.

At the conference level, though, the headline remains the ongoing dominance of the SEC.

(continued on page 11)

Rank	Team	Poll Points	Conference	2020 Record
1.	Florida	150	SEC	16-1
2.	UCLA	141	Pac-12	13-2
3.	Texas Tech	135	Big 12	16-3
4.	Vanderbilt	132	SEC	13-5
5.	Ole Miss	126	SEC	16-1
6.	Louisville	119	ACC	13-4
7.	Mississippi State	106	SEC	12-4
8.	LSU	97	SEC	12-5
9.	Miami	86	ACC	12-4
10.	Virginia	83	ACC	14-4
11.	UC-Santa Barbara	79	Big West	13-2
12.	Arkansas	76	SEC	11-5
T-13.	NC State	74	ACC	14-3
T-13.	Texas	74	Big 12	14-3
15.	TCU	66	Big 12	11-4
16.	Arizona	62	Pac-12	10-5
T-17.	Florida State	39	ACC	12-5
T-17.	Georgia Tech	39	ACC	11-5
19.	East Carolina	34	AAC	13-4
T-20.	South Carolina	30	SEC	12-4
T-20.	Tennessee	30	SEC	15-2
22.	Oklahoma State	23	Big 12	13-5
T-23.	Arizona State	22	Pac-12	13-4
T-23.	Michigan	22	Big Ten	8-7
25.	West Virginia	21	Big 12	11-5

Also receiving poll points: Georgia (20), Auburn (13), Indiana (12), Duke (10), Wake Forest (10), Oklahoma (7), Central Florida (3), Coastal Carolina (3), Ohio State (3), Dallas Baptist (2), Alabama (1), Clemson (1)



Vanderbilt will make a run behind the arm of Kumar Rocker

Key dates

How's about a brief walking tour of the college baseball calendar for 2021? How's about indeed.

February 19-21: Opening weekend for Division I is highlighted by the 2021 State Farm College Baseball Showdown at Globe Life Field, home of the Texas Rangers. The showdown will feature No. 3 Texas Tech, No. 5 Ole Miss, No. 7 Mississippi State, No. 12 Arkansas, No. 13 Texas, and No. 15 TCU.

May 25-30: The SEC Tournament goes down in Hoover, Ala. The ACC Tournament also covers these dates.

May 26-30: The Big 12 Tournament takes place in Oklahoma City.

May 31: It's Memorial Day and also Selection Monday, as the NCAA Tournament field of 64 is announced.

June 19: The College World Series in Omaha begins.

July 11-13: The 2021 MLB Draft takes place.

How the NCAA Tournament and College World Series work

Given that college baseball isn't as widely followed as the football and basketball collegiate variants, perhaps a brief postseason explainer is in order. Here's how it all works, in bullet-point format for today's harried sales professional ...

- The first round of play is known as the regional, and it's a round-robin, double-elimination format featuring four teams. Each of the 16 one-seeds hosts its respective regional, when possible. Only one team out of four survives each regional.

- The winner of each regional advances to the super regional, which a best-of-three series between two regional winners.

- The winner of each super regional -- eight teams in all -- advances to the College World Series in Omaha.

- The College World Series is a double-elimination format until the final two teams are left standing. At that point, the slates are wiped clean, and it's a best-of-three series to determine the national champion.

- The field of 64 also includes eight national national seeds, which you may consider the pre-tourney favorites to reach Omaha. National seeds get to host super regionals should they advance that far.

So, yes, it's quite different from the more familiar March Madness format, but it typically entails similar levels of, you know, madness.

Players to watch

Top draft-eligible D1 collegians -- i.e., juniors, seniors, or sophomores who will turn 21 before the draft -- include Vanderbilt right-handers Kumar Rocker and Jack Leiter, UCLA shortstop Matt McLain, Miami-FL catcher Adrian Del Castillo, Florida outfielder Jud Fabian, LSU right-hander Jaden Hill, Louisville third baseman Alex Binelas, Texas right-hander Ty Madden, Sam Houston outfielder Colton Cowser, Wake Forest shortstop Kahlil Watson, and Kansas State lefty Jordan Wicks. That's of course a partial listing, as the season to come could drastically change draft stock up and down the board.

A bit of history

In conclusion, let's run down all the past college baseball national champions and runners-up. Soon enough, we'll be adding another champ to this list (one hopes, anyway). In the meantime, enjoy the presumed baseball!

YEAR	NATIONAL CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
2020	None	None
2019	Vanderbilt (59-12)	Michigan
2018	Oregon State (55-12-1)	Arkansas
2017	Florida (52-19)	LSU
2016	Coastal Carolina (55-18)	Arizona
2015	Virginia (44-24)	Vanderbilt
2014	Vanderbilt (51-21)	Virginia
2013	UCLA (49-17)	Mississippi State
2012	Arizona (48-17)	South Carolina
2011	South Carolina (55-14)	Florida
2010	South Carolina (54-16)	UCLA
2009	LSU (56-17)	Texas
2008	Fresno State (47-31)	Georgia
2007	Oregon State (49-18)	North Carolina
2006	Oregon State (50-16)	North Carolina
2005	Texas (56-16)	Florida
2004	Cal State Fullerton (47-22)	Texas
2003	Rice (58-12)	Stanford
2002	Texas (57-15)	South Carolina
2001	Miami (Fla.) (53-12)	Stanford
2000	LSU (52-17)	Stanford
1999	Miami (Fla.) (50-13)	Florida State
1998	Southern California (49-17)	Arizona State
1997	LSU (57-13)	Alabama
1996	LSU (52-15)	Miami (Fla.)
1995	Cal State Fullerton (57-9)	Southern California
1994	Oklahoma (50-17)	Georgia Tech
1993	LSU (53-17-1)	Wichita State
1992	Pepperdine	Cal State Fullerton
1991	LSU (55-18)	Wichita State
1990	Georgia (52-19)	Oklahoma State
1989	Wichita State (68-16)	Texas
1988	Stanford (46-23)	Arizona State
1987	Stanford (53-17)	Oklahoma State
1986	Arizona (49-19)	Florida State
1985	Miami (Fla.) (64-16)	Texas
1984	Cal State Fullerton (66-20)	Texas
1983	Texas (66-14)	Alabama
1982	Miami (Fla.) (55-17-1)	Wichita State
1981	Arizona State (55-13)	Oklahoma State
1980	Arizona (45-21-1)	Hawaii
1979	Cal State Fullerton (60-14-1)	Arkansas
1978	Southern California (54-9)	Arizona State
1977	Arizona State (57-12)	South Carolina
1976	Arizona (56-17)	Eastern Michigan
1975	Texas (59-6)	South Carolina
1974	Southern California (50-20)	Miami (Fla.)
1973	Southern California (51-11)	Arizona State
1972	Southern California (47-13-1)	Arizona State
1971	Southern California (46-11)	Southern Illinois
1970	Southern California (45-13)	Florida State
1969	Arizona State (56-11)	Tulsa
1968	Southern California (43-12-1)	Southern Illinois
1967	Arizona State (53-12)	Houston
1966	Ohio State (27-6-1)	Oklahoma State
1965	Arizona State (54-8)	Ohio State
1964	Minnesota (31-12)	Missouri
1963	Southern California (35-10)	Arizona
1962	Michigan (34-15)	Santa Clara
1961	Southern California (36-7)	Oklahoma State
1960	Minnesota (34-7-1)	Southern California
1959	Oklahoma State (27-5)	Arizona
1958	Southern California (29-3)	Missouri
1957	California (35-10)	Penn State
1956	Minnesota (37-9)	Arizona
1955	Wake Forest (29-7)	Western Michigan
1954	Missouri (22-4)	Rollins
1953	Michigan (21-9)	Texas
1952	Holy Cross (21-3)	Missouri
1951	Oklahoma (19-9)	Tennessee
1950	Texas (27-6)	Washington State
1949	Texas (23-7)	Wake Forest
1948	Southern California (26-4)	Yale
1947	California (31-10)	Yale

SMU Men's Basketball in disarray



SMU head coach Tim Jankovich has not coached a game since January 11

BY DIC HUMPHREY
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MEMBER: USBWA

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The SMU basketball season is in disarray with more postponements this week due to weather related problems in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and COVID-19.

The Ponies have had four games postponed since they last played on February 8. This week's scheduled games against Wichita State last Sunday and Tulane were postponed, both for the second time. This Saturday's game against South Florida and next Tuesday's game against Central Florida have also been postponed because of Coronavirus situations on the SMU team. A make-up game of an earlier postponement is still on the schedule this Thursday at Wichita State, but there is no certainty that it will be played. The Mustangs are also scheduled to play Wichita State at home this Sunday.

Head Coach Tim Jankovich is back with the team. He has not coached a game since January 11 with postponements and his bout with the Coronavirus. At this point, the team is likely to be rusty having not played since February 8 plus they are short handed at practice.

The Mustangs are currently 11-4 on the season which includes a 7-4 American Athletic Conference record. That puts them fourth in conference play behind 8-3 Memphis, 11-3 Houston, and 9-2 Wichita State. Cincinnati is tied with SMU in the loss column with four losses but has played two fewer games. It is unlikely that the

Mustangs will be able to play all 20 conference games. SMU has met the NCAA required minimum of 13 games to qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

However, the Mustangs chances for an NCAA bid are slim. Winning the Conference post season tournament would earn the AAC's automatic bid, but chances for an at large bid are not good. One problem is the conference. It is just not very good this year. Houston has consistently been ranked in the top 10, but no other AAC team has been ranked in weeks. Wichita State received one vote in this week's AP poll, and that is the only team besides Houston to even receive a vote in the past three weeks. Central Florida beat then number 16 Florida State on December 19. That's the only non-conference win for the AAC over a ranked team this season! ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi currently has the AAC projected to be a one bid conference.

Some of the mathematical rankings of SMU offer hope. The Sagarin ratings rank SMU 48th. Even Lunardi's projection earlier this week has SMU among the "next four out" after the "first four out". Interesting that he would put SMU ahead of Wichita State and Memphis, which lead the Mustangs in the conference standings.

The Mustangs only good win in non-conference play was against Dayton. That is another problem for the Mustangs. They lost both games to Houston this season. Wichita State may be their only chance for another good win.

The NCAA is requiring teams invited to

the tournament to have team's travelling parties to have seven consecutive days of negative COVID-19 testing prior to arriving in Indiana. This leads to some interesting ramifications. Gonzaga and Baylor have been the two leading teams in the nation for the most of this season. Such a team that is a shoo-in record-wise might not receive an invite if several players are diagnosed with the virus as the Tournament approaches. One thought is for such shoo-in teams to avoid their conference tournaments to lessen the chances of a COVID-19 outbreak. In the case of Gonzaga, that could mean a West Coast Conference team could win the conference tournament and claim a bid it would otherwise not qualify for, effectively taking a bid away from another more deserving team. This could happen in the AAC if Houston elects to avoid the conference tournament.

Clearly, the conference has suffered from good coaches moving on. Temple and Cincinnati are down after losing Fran Duffy and Mick Cronin. Connecticut is a traditional basketball power and the only AAC to win a national championship, and they have moved out of the conference altogether.

If Lunardi is wrong and the AAC gets a second NCAA bid, it is really a four team fight for second place. Time is short though, there are just two more weeks in the regular season. SMU probably needs to win all four remaining games on the schedule and hope the chips fall their way. Those four are two with Wichita State, on the road at Cincinnati and at home against Tulsa. Perhaps a previously postponed game or two will get squeezed in.

FOOTBALL:

SMU announced their 2021 football schedule this week. The non-conference schedule is disappointing after two seasons of being ranked in the Top 25 at some

point. TCU, in Ft. Worth, is the only "name" non-conference opponent.

Louisiana Tech has been a little known good team in recent years, and the Mustangs also face them on the road. Abilene Christian and North Texas are the two home non-conference games.

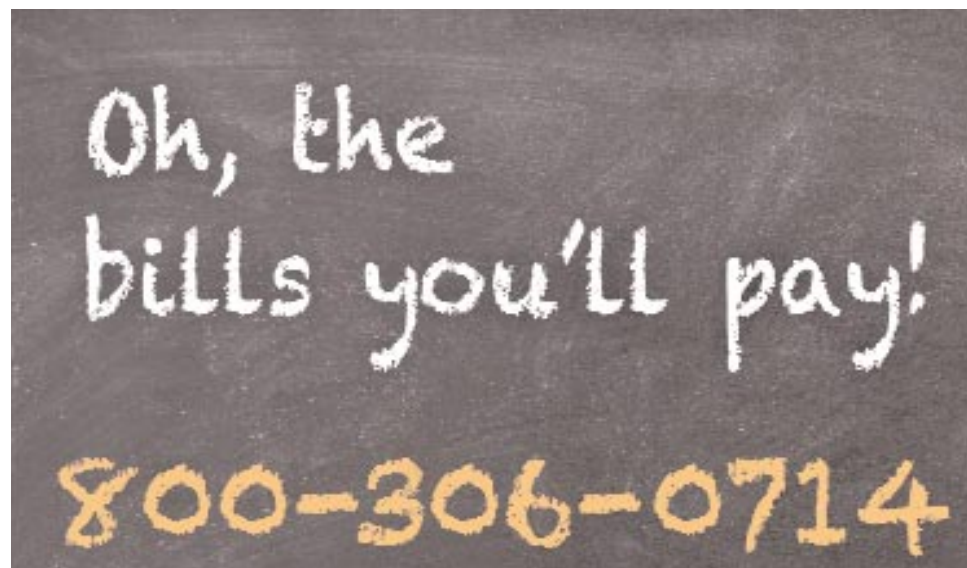
The conference schedule is tough. Cincinnati and Memphis have won the last two conference championships and the Mustangs face both on the road. Houston looks to be a team on the rise, and SMU plays them on the road, as well as Navy, which is always a difficult win in Annapolis. The home games feature Central Florida with new coach Gus Malzahn, South Florida, Tulane, and Tulsa. The Tulane game is scheduled for October 21, a Thursday night national telecast.

The conference, with just 11 teams, is still allowed a conference championship game this season, which is scheduled for December 4.

NOTABLE:

- The NCAA is expecting to be allowed to sell tickets to tournament games at 25% of capacity, which is the figure government authorities have allowed for the NBA's Indiana Pacers. Travelling parties for teams including players, coaches, trainers and school officials are limited to 34, and each member of the travelling party will be allocated six tickets to games their teams play.

- In college basketball home teams are winning fewer games this season. Traditionally, home teams win about 65% of their games. This year, it is down to around 56%. One factor in the decline is surely the reduced crowds because of COVID-19 protocols. In the Sagarin ratings, the home court advantage has traditionally been close to three points per game but is down to 2.10 points this season.



College Football News and Notes



Football spring-style began last Saturday as McNeese State played Tarleton State



BO CARTER

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The NFF and College Football Hall of Fame in partnership with state high coaches associations from nine states, with Nebraska and Texas leading the initial effort, are creating the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Award, the first nationwide recognition honoring individual high school football teams for excellence in the classroom.

"Academic and athletic success go hand-in-hand, and we are proud to partner with the high school coaches associations on this award" said NFF Chairman Archie Manning. "By honoring team achievement in the classroom, we hope to provide high school coaches nationwide a powerful new tool for instilling a culture on their teams that recognizes the chance of winning on the field significantly increases when student-athletes also excel in the classroom. We hope by inspiring teams to compete in the classroom with the same competitive spirit that it takes to win on the field we will better prepare high school football

players for success later in life."

Launching in the fall for the 2021 season, the award currently has nine high school coaches associations from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oregon, Mississippi, and Texas partnering with the NFF, and the expectation is for coaches associations from the rest of the country to also participate. The initiative will recognize team winners from each state as well as one overall national winner.

The NFF College Hall of Fame will be featuring dozens of exhibits and special seminars in honor of Black History Month in February and how Black student-athletes, coaches and administrators have had positive effects on college football since the first intercollegiate game between Princeton and Rutgers in 1869.

Currently at the Hall of Fame in Atlanta, a new specially curated exhibit opened, remaining on display through May 2021. The Blood, Sweat and Tears exhibit tells the story of integration in college football and dives into the journey of African American trailblazers that changed the landscape of the sport.

Further, more episodes of the Hall's Not Your Average Hero web series can be found on YouTube featuring interviews with other college football pioneers including Kentucky's Nate Northington (Feb. 1), Mississippi's James Reed (Feb. 8), Kentucky's Wilbur Hackett (Feb. 15), Florida A&M's Albert Chester (Feb. 18), and College Football Hall of Fame inductee and Michigan State's Gene Washington (Feb. 22). All episodes will air live initially at noon (EST) and will be archived for additional viewing on

YouTube and the NFF website.

African-Americans in the College Football Hall of Fame currently number 231 players and 13 coaches, and many of them used their exceptional skills to help integrate the game.

The NFF is accepting nominations for the 2021 NFF Hampshire Honor Society. Celebrating its 15th year, the Hampshire Honor Society is a great way to recognize colleges' best scholar-athletes who have shown passion on the football field and in the classroom through March 1 through college sports information offices. Nominees must have:

- Completed their final year of playing eligibility in 2020.
- Graduated players, who have remaining eligibility but will not return to collegiate play (e.g. declared for NFL Draft or retired from football), may also be nominated.
- Attained a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.2 (4.0 scale).
- Met all NCAA- or NAIA-mandated progress towards degree requirements.
- Been starters or significant contributors throughout the 2020 season.

For more information or to nominate a student-athlete, please contact Hillary Jeffries at hjefries@footballfoundation.com

NCAA Division I football spring-style began last Saturday as McNeese State of the Southland Conference played a frost-bite encounter at current independent Tarleton State (becoming a football playing member of the Western Athletic Conference in August). McNeese State was paced in a 40-37 double overtime win (shades of a great FCS season ahead) by QB Cody Orgeron, the son of LSU head coach Ed Orgeron. Cody Orgeron was 14-of-34 passing for 170 yards and three TDs and rushed 19 times for 108 yards and two TDs, including the game winner from 19 yards out in the second OT. Tarleton State head coach Todd Whitten quipped before the game that it was the first time in his coaching career that preseason practice was interrupted by an eight-inch snowstorm in January. It was also the debut at MSU of former UTSA head coach Frank Wilson, whose team had most of its stadium and other facilities in Lake Charles, La., damaged heavily by a hurricane last year. Most of the FCS squads will start the spring regulation Saturday on the road to the NCAA Division I Football Championship May 16 in Frisco, Texas, at Toyota Stadium.

Fan Controlled Football, with national television and internet partner Twitch, play its inaugural games on Feb. 13. In a great multi-tasking feat, former Houston head coach and Arkansas Razorback playing standout John Jenkins is coaching all four teams. Fans get the opportunity to select

uniforms, team nicknames, logos, and selected play calls for the four-squad circuit

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Feb 16-22 time period are Feb. 16 (1931) Dick Modzelewski, West Natrona, Pa.; (1964) Teel Bruner, London, Ky.; Feb. 17 (1872) Pat O'Dea, Melbourne, Australia; (1892) Bob Neyland, Greenville, Texas; (1905) Andy Oberlander, Chelsea, Mass.; (1920) Jackie Hunt, Huntington, W.Va.; (1936) Jim Brown, St. Simons Island, Ga.; (1938) Jim Christopherson, Wadena, Minn.; Feb. 18 (1895) George Gipp, Laurium, Mich.; (1947) Leroy Keyes, Newport News, Va.; (1962) Gary Reasons, Crowley, Texas; (1963) Chuck Long, Norman, Okla.; Feb. 19 (1918) Forest Evashevski, Detroit, Mich.; Feb. 20 (1912) Francis Wistert, Chicago, Ill.; (1921) Bob Dove, Youngstown, Ohio; Feb. 22 (1899) Matty Bell, Fort Worth, Texas; (1864) George Woodruff, Dimmock, Pa.; (1886) Bill Hollenbeck, Blueball, Pa.; (1915) Mickey Kobrosky, Springfield, Mass.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Feb. 17 (2009) Brad Van Pelt, Owosso, Mich.; Feb. 18 (1994) Jake Gaither, Tallahassee, Fla.; 19 (1962) Dick Harlow, Bethesda, Md.; (2011) Ollie Matson, Los Angeles, Calif.; Dec. 22 (1998) Warren Woodson, Dallas, Texas.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members Feb. 16 Teel Bruner, Feb. 17 Jim Brown (a spry 85), Jim Christopherson (a spry 83), Feb. 18 Leroy Keyes, Gary Reasons, Chuck Long...

Florida and Notre Dame have set a two-game series in 2031 and '32...SMU and TCU will renew the legendary Battle for the Iron Skillet rivalry at TCU on Sept. 25 after a COVID-19-related hiatus in '20 ...Baylor will host a record seven opponents in '21 with a rematch of BYU from a 1984...Northwestern and Purdue will meet in a special, neutral site contest at Wrigley Field Nov. 20...TCU and Duquesne will meet in football for the first time in '21 in a recently added encounter...Texas Tech's non-conference foes this season are at Houston, Stephen F. Austin and FIU....OU and Texas will square off for a neutral-site-record 92nd consecutive year at Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas in the AT&T Red River Rivalry...North Dakota State will host Maine in 2023...Rice football had its first spring football scrimmage in spirited fashion on Feb. 10. The Owls were able to play just five games last autumn but finished 12th nationally in scoring defense average at 18.4...Texas Wesleyan has cancelled its first four games of the spring outing - Feb. 19 at Southwestern Assemblies

(continued on page 14)

of God; Feb. 27 vs. Ottawa (Ariz.) in Fort Worth, Texas; March 6 at Wayland Baptist; March 13 vs. Langston. The Rams now will open the '21 football regulation segment March 27 at Oklahoma Panhandle State...Norfolk State has opted out of the spring football season to leave the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference with five teams in the current campaign. With that suspension of operations, the MEAC was down to three football-playing members for the spring and decided to re-start football in August. Spring training issues and dates were not discussed, but MEAC members South Carolina State, Howard and Delaware State are seeking spring non-conference opponents.

Tierra Haynes, wife of Maryland men's basketball assistant coach DeAndre Haynes, has written a popular children's book about Guion Bluford Jr., the first Black American from NASA to go to space...The Australian Tennis Open was unable to host fans as the state of Victoria had to go back into a COVID-19 lockdown...Vanderbilt's Alumni Association will be taking a special tour of historic sites in Greece and Greek islands this summer with several football alumni and their spouses and friends making travel arrangements. The VU Alumni Association also plans a Jan. 13-24, 2022, faculty chaperoned visit to Antarctica with an optional side trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina. There is no truth to the rumor that new Vandy head coach Clark Lea will accompany either group to try and recruit some interior linemen or kicking specialists...The Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American Democracy with special assistance from former College Football Playoff selection committee and NACDA adviser Dr. Condoleezza Rice and VU director of athletics Dr. Candice Lee was featured on national media MSNBC, Axios and TIME last week.

Iowa State has extended head football coach Matt Campbell's contract through the 2028 season with an additional \$3 million over the next three years to lift ISU's assistant coaching staff compensation...Former Wyoming assistant head coach and offensive coordinator Brent Vigen was tabbed as Montana State's head coach...Maryland head coach Mike Locksley relayed the importance of mental health awareness and student-athlete mental and physical support...Florida A&M head coach Willie Simmons continued to pledge his support to the FMU program and spoke of his future commitment and the school's move to the Southwestern Athletic Conference after several college and NFL entities have approached him about coaching openings...Coastal Carolina head coach and 2020 FWA National Coach of the Year Jamey Chadwell has received several new incentives embedded in his renegotiated contract with extensive performance bonuses...Chattanooga deputy AD Scott Altizer is returning to Tennessee as deputy AD for football operations...Utah director of foot-

ball operations Jeff Rudy is the new UU associate AD for football administration...Former Tennessee head coach Jeremy Pruitt listed his home in Knoxville, Tenn., as he seeks other coaching pursuits...Tennessee added former Rice offensive coordinator Jerry Mack as running backs coach and former Auburn defensive line coach Rodney Garner for the same role on The Hill...Former SMU head coach Phil Bennett received his official contract and compensation arrangements for the 2021 season. All other assistant coaches on the current staff have signed their contracts. North Texas offensive coordinator Mike Bloesch also will be the key play caller in '21 and will his offensive line coaching responsibilities...Ohio State linebackers coach Al Washington is remaining with the Buckeyes after receiving a similar offer at Tennessee...Former Iowa assistant coaches running backs coach Derrick Foster (NFL assistant coaching position) and offensive line coach Tim Polasek (offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Wyoming) have left the staff for new roles...Former Iowa strength and conditioning head coach Chris Doyle accepted a position as director of sports performance for the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars and later resigned...Northwestern added former NFL Las Vegas Raiders defensive backfield coach Jim O'Neill as defensive coordinator...The New York NFL Giants are employing former Louisiana offensive coordinator Rob Sale as offensive line coach...Arkansas added Jermial Ashley who was the defensive line coach at Tulsa in '20 to that same post with the Razorbacks...Vanderbilt tabbed AJ Blazek of North Dakota State as offensive line coach and John Egorugwu of the 2020 Buffalo Bills as linebackers coach...Former Ole Miss head coach Matt Luke has received a national award for 2021 football recruiting in his current post with Georgia football...Richmond athletics signed a 10-year marketing and multimedia rights deal with Playfly Sports beginning in July 1.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches – Villanova: Mark Ferrante, Canton, N.Y.; Virginia:Bronco Mendenhall, Alpine, Utah; Virginia State: Reggie Barlow, Montgomery, Ala.; Virginia Tech: Justin Fuente, Tulsa, Okla.; VMI: Scott Wachenheim, Encino, Calif.

UCF named former Arkansas State athletics head Terry Mohajir as its new director of athletics...Dartmouth AD Harry Sheehy will retire at the end of February...The Arizona Board of Regents approved a multi-year contract extension for Arizona State AD Ray Anderson and some of the department's head coaches.

Nebraska AD Bill Moos spoke about recent transfers from the NU program, the need for improvement in both offensive and defensive lines and expectations for 2021 Huskers football. He also mentioned major steps being taken in the Big Ten Conference's vaccination schedule to prevent COVID-19...New Mexico State AD

Mario Moccia thanked Texas A&M AD Ross Bjork after Bjork sent a collectible can of Texas A&M 12th Man Lager...Utah AD Mark Harlan remarked about the settling element that Pac-12 Conference and other conference men's and women's basketball tourneys would have on a much-disrupted 2020-21 hoops' season...Some possible candidates for the vacant Dartmouth AD's role are California senior associate AD and chief development officer Brian Mann and Lafayette AD and Dartmouth alumna Sherryta Freeman....Washington AD Jennifer Cohen addressed the competitive pay scale for UW assistant football coaches and related administrators...Lipscomb president Dr. Randy Lowry will move into the role of chancellor this summer...Former Utah AD Chris Hill gave his thoughts on the search for the new Pac-12 Conference commissioner and emphasized the need for previous experience in college athletics, in a major conference office or from a successful NCAA FBS program...Tennessee named Dr. Mónica Lebrón deputy AD for championship resources, Cameron Walker deputy AD for competitive excellence, Marcus Hilliard associate AD and chief of staff, and Amy Sterk (daughter of Missouri AD Jim Sterk) assistant AD for executive operations...UTRGV has chosen Jai Steadman as interim head men's basketball coach after the passing of previous head coach Lew Hill...Pepperdine president Jim Gash, who was a football student-athlete at Abilene Christian, remarked about how athletics builds character, academic and leadership qualities in the proper atmosphere...Louisville head men's basketball coach Chris Mack and Northern Colorado head men's basketball coach Steve Smiley are recovering from recent positive tests for COVID-19...Nebraska men's basketball head coach Fred (The Mayor) Hoiberg said he is encountering some lingering fatigue but is returning to normal coaching duties after having COVID-19...Texas men's basketball head coach Shaka Smart discussed significant symptoms he had while battling COVID-19...SMU men's head basketball coach Tim Jankovich returned to full coaching activity last week after being sidelined since Jan. 12 with COVID-19 challenges...Some recent position openings in college athletics with applications available on college websites and D1Ticker.com are deputy AD for external operations and relations at Harvard, executive associate AD at Michigan State and assistant athletics development officer for events and stewardship at Old Dominion...Former Texas quarterback Vince Young gained his new contract with \$100,000 annually as special assistant to Longhorns AD Chris Del Conte...Loyola (Md.) president Rev. Dr. Michael Linnane will retire at the end of the 2021-22 academic year...South Alabama president and former national mile run recordholder at North Carolina Dr. Tony Waldrop has announced his retirement most likely in May or June as the

academic year ends...Army West Point added Tracy Chao as its new head women's soccer coach...Grambling chose Craig Roberts, formerly at Ball State, as its women's soccer head coach...UCLA men's head basketball Mick Cronin spoke about the possibility of playing or opting out of the Pac-12 tournament as well as seven negative COVID-19 tests required to be allowed to play in the NCAA Championship...Fairleigh Dickinson is adding men's volleyball as a varsity sport and selected former NYU volleyball assistant coach Karl France as its head coach...East Carolina women's swimming and diving head coach Matthew Jabs and women's tennis head coach Kristin Burgess will return after their sports were reinstated for the 2021-22 seasons...UTEP men's basketball head coach Rodney Terry received a one-year contract extension through the 2023-24 season...Duke athletics selected Chris Gordon as pitching coach and Tyler Rost and Chris O'Neill as assistant baseball coaches. On Feb. 8 The Big Ten Conference celebrated its 125-year anniversary of the eight original members meeting at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago to form what it now the oldest Power Five college conference nationally. The Big Ten also officially moved its 2021 men's postseason tourney from Chicago to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis March 10-14...The Ivy League is pursuing a Phase I plan to return to full intercollegiate athletics activities by fall 2021 seasons at the latest. The Ivy League also will allow graduate students who were seniors during the 2020-21 academic year as senior student-athletes in 2021-22 because of NCAA eligibility updates and COVID-19 season cancellations...Former Pac-12 Conference commissioner (retired) Tom Hansen spoke of the fierce competitive spirit within the circuit and how the new commissioner must be cognizant of the centuries-old traditions of the 12 members...Big 12 Conference commissioner Bob Bowlsby discussed the upcoming men's and women's basketball postseason tournaments and hoping to have all 20 teams in good health and out of health protocols to balance the brackets and playing court...The North Central Hockey Conference postseason tournament will be held in a bubble atmosphere at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks,N.D....The Mountain West Conference baseball coaches selected San Diego State as favorite for the '21 title...The Missouri Valley Conference men's basketball postseason tourney has submitted proposals for 20-25 percent arena seating capacity at host site Enterprise Center in St. Louis, Mo....The Patriot League will utilize PenFed Credit Union as the presenting sponsor of the 2021 men's and women's basketball championships...The Southeastern Conference revealed 1,263 student-athletes who made the 2020 Fall Commissioner's Honor Roll. The SEC also posted promotional billboards in the Tampa, Fla., area in advance of Super Bowl LV.

Athlon Sports Way-Too-Early bowl projections for the post-2021 College Football Playoff semifinals finds Alabama, Clemson, Oklahoma, and Georgia emerging from the 130-team NCAA FBS pool to make the Front Four in postseason.

Interestingly, Arkansas football's Jalen Catalon had the highest percentage increase in Instagram followers during the 2020 season...Remembering Vanderbilt quarterbacks of the 1970s (including Watson Brown, the Cookeville, Tenn., and brother of NFF College Hall of Fame member and Vandy and Florida State alumnus Mack Brown).

The 1970s' list includes:

1970 – Watson Brown, Denny Painter (TD pass to upset Alabama in 1969), Steve Burger, John Miller,

1971 – Steve Burger, Denny Painter, Steve Lainhart

1972 – Watson Brown, David Lee (later head coach at UTEP), Steve Burger, Steve Lainhart, Fred Fisher

1973 – Fred Fisher, David Lee

1974 – David Lee, Fred Fisher, Randy Hampton, David Culley

1975 – Fred Fisher, Mike Wright (drafted by MLB), David Culley (new head coach of NFL Houston Texans)

1976 – Mike Wright, Randy Hampton, David Culley

1977 – Mike Wright, David Culley, Randy Hampton

1978 – Van Heflin, Scott Madison (also played in MLB), David Skinner

1979 – Van Heflin, Scotti Madison, David Skinner

Some of the top incoming freshmen signees for '21 football were highlighted by 247Sports, and they, include, among others, DL Korey Forman of USC, OL JC Latham of Alabama, DL Jack Sawyer of Ohio State, OL Tommy Brockermeyer of Alabama, and QB Caleb Williams of Oklahoma...Oklahoma also acknowledged the impact of Tennessee transfers RB Eric Gray, DB Keshawn Lawrence and OT Wanya Morris on the Sooners defense of their sixth consecutive Big 12 Conference crown...Iowa OL Mark Kallenberger will not return for the '21 season.

NFF College and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Ronnie Lott of USC was interviewed as part of a series of NFF features on Black business executives during Black History Month. Lott joined the NFF Board in 2009. He is a business leader and private-equity investor and currently the managing partner at Lott Auto Ventures. Lott starred at USC from 1977-1980 while earning induction into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2002. He played 14 seasons in the NFL, primarily with the San Francisco 49ers and was admitted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2000...Former Tennessee AD, head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame member Doug Dickey saluted fellow Hall of Famer and retired UT coach and AD Phillip Fulmer for retiring and moving onto other pursuits....The Gideons Society is featuring heroes

of numerous society during Black History Month...Connecticut Naismith Hall of Fame women's basketball head coach Geno Auriemma debated about the possibility of cancelling the Big East Conference post-season tournaments because of all the protocol, health and safety restrictions.

UCLA will perform upgrades at Gifford Sports Complex at Jackie Robinson Stadium (named in memory of the NFF College and National Baseball & College Halls of Fame member and UCLA graduate) with a new state-of-the-art baseball practice infield to be called Branca Family Field. This comes after a \$1 million donation from UCLA law graduate John Branca the nephew of former Brooklyn Dodgers all-star Ralph Branca – a longtime friend and teammate of Robinson. John Branca also is the nephew of former Notre Dame football signee, longtime MLB baseball star and MLB manager and current AD at Sacred Heart Bobby Valentine...Georgia football will occupy its new \$80 million all-purpose facility the week after the G-Day game, which is scheduled for Saturday April 17, as the facility moves toward its 75 percent completion functionality....UNLV athletics has received an \$8 million estate donation from James J. Baumberger. It is the largest individual gift ever to Rebels athletics...Iowa State athletics is requesting Iowa Board of Regents approval for a \$10 million elevated walkway into Jack Trice Stadium with private donations and a wish list, which includes a future \$90 million sports performance center as national economic conditions approve...Kentucky football ran its traditional Super Bowl commercial entitled For the Team on Feb. 7...Cincinnati football has turned its attention and possible funding from a slated renovation to the football locker room to the construction of a permanent indoor football practice facility for approximately \$8 million...Howard men's basketball and Hartford women's basketball have opted out of the remainder of the 2020-21 season...There have been 19 basketball and winter/spring sports college programs deciding to pause or cancel their respective campaigns due to COVID-19 concerns and national protocols in the last seven days...Middle Tennessee athletics dedicated the renovated Blue Raider Softball Field, which was a \$500,000 project that started in summer 2020 with improved seating and new provisions for disabled patrons...The State of Mississippi is working to iron out several issues with medical use of marijuana, and this might include healing and therapy for college student-athletes...Nike Inc. is investigating a possible investment irregularity involving pop-up shops at various Nike national events...Sportico.com noted that audio-only social media platforms in athletics have gained momentum due to national health advisories and protocols...The George Washington women's squash and men's tennis teams will not compete this spring as the programs are being phased

out prior to the 2021-22 seasons...Anthony Travel and the On Location group have inked a multiyear partnership with Florida State's Seminole Boosters to assist in fans' travel and a streaming platform for enhanced virtual events throughout athletics' seasons. The FSU booster club also is approaching its all-time high of just over 16,000 members this year...The INFLCR group has agreed to a four-year partnership with Ohio, the first MAC program to team up with the company, to enhance the student-athlete experience and expand digital strategies...The Alabama state legislature has introduced a bill to allow student-athletes from the state to monetize their names, images and likenesses' representation...Arkansas State will utilize Turnkey ZRG to aid in its pursuit of a new AD...The Northeastern U. men's and women's hockey teams will represent the United States at the FISU World University Games in Lucerne, Switzerland, in December....Georgetown athletics is expanding its involvement with CURIS System through a related agreement with SportsClean Solutions to guard against disease and germs at facilities...MGM Resorts has a new naming rights' agreement for the Las Vegas Mandalay Bay Events Center, which will become Michelob ULTRA Arena. Anheuser-Busch will be allowed to sponsor activities and produce special events on the property...RedBird Capital has purchased a 30-40 percent in Wasserman Media, which works with college athletics on several levels...UNLV athletics is working with Switch to open the Switch Sports Science Studio in the UNLV Lied Athletic Complex...Idaho athletics has obtained a gift from football alumnus and the NFL Seattle Seahawks Mike Iupati and his wife Ashley for the Ashley and Mike Iupati Athletic Nutrition Endowment and Fueling Center...Arizona State athletics' personnel received discretionary bonuses in 2021 for standout performance levels...North Carolina Central will eliminate its baseball program after the 2021 campaign due to athletics deficits caused by 2020-21 national health and safety conditions. This will lower the count of NCAA Division I diamond programs to 297 at the moment for '22...North Carolina A&T's cancellation of the 2021 spring season was explained as a decision based on student-athlete welfare and the emotional states of players and coaches...Valparaiso will get a new mascot for the 2021-22 academic year and will no longer be known as the Crusaders...Appalachian State is renaming the development area of the Mountaineers Athletic Fund...Physicians at Vanderbilt reported 138 positive tests for COVID-19 among VU student-athletes and six possibly with enlarged heart conditions as a possible result of the virus since March 2020. The Nashville, Tenn., area was hit hard initially last March because of a large influx of international travelers and professionals in the Music City area...Army West Point men's lacrosse had a match cancelled at

Massachusetts and did the next best thing: playing a newly scheduled match on six days' notice against defending NCAA champion Virginia...UAB's proposed basketball practice facility had Stage III of the funding process approved with several architectural renderings...Nebraska plans a late spring groundbreaking ceremony for the Huskers new football training facility and North Stadium renovation project...UCLA athletics confirmed its new incentives with Nike for marketing and apparel...Nike spokespersons confirmed that longtime Oregon football enthusiast and Nike co-founder/NFF Gold Medal recipient Phil Knight was not the anonymous donor of \$50 million for work on Oregon State's Reser Stadium..Minnesota's Board of Regents voted that the department of athletics can enter licensing and sponsorship agreements with alcohol companies with some restrictions...Georgia athletics had a fiscal year 2020 financial report with a surplus of \$40,538,013 and is working to supplant a possible shortfall of \$55 million due to national health and safety conditions...Oklahoma women's softball hit 16 home runs as a team in its opening game and outdistanced 187 teams' totals from the virus-shortened full 2020 in research by D1Softball.com...Long Beach State athletics is finishing renovations for \$200,000 at the Bohl Diamond at Blair Baseball Field...Disney CEO Bob Chapek believes that mandatory mask requirements at Disney athletics facilities and theme parks by 2022. Many college teams take side turs or play in Disney-operated sports venues throughout the academic year...VCU athletics is working with the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority for a possible athletics village with VCU baseball and other facilities with an approximate price tag of \$16 million...New Mexico athletics is working to reduce a possible \$12.4-\$13.8 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2021 and has not filled several positions to help save in department compensation...D1.ticker has compared budgets, compensations and sponsored sports for candidates for AD's openings at Temple, Tulsa and Arkansas State. ASU administrators noted no great hurry to fill the position as winter sports transition into spring with interim personnel. USA Today's award-winning sports writer Tom O'Toole has retired after 43 years in the profession. He also worked for the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel earlier in his career...CBS and Turner Sports have released their 2021 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship with times and dates. Turner will carry 43 games while CBS is doing 24 games, including all three Final Four® clashes from Indianapolis...AL.com extolled the multiple recruiting and functional virtues of UAB's new Protective Stadium in the downtown with capacity of 47,100 seats with a surrounding view of the Birmingham, Ala., skyline and two blocks

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from the Southeastern Conference headquarters...Disney had a 2021 first-quarter profit of \$17 million on total sales of \$16.25 billion with Disney+ subscriptions rising to 94.9 million and an 83 percent increase in ESPN+ subscription. Stadium.com research shows that there is a 13-17 percent weekly postponement or cancellation rate for NCAA Division I men's basketball contests since Jan. 1 due to COVID-19 conditions...Twitter may be investigating a subscription system for its Tweetdeck application...The Athletic went into the deep archives and located the roots of amateurism defined by the London (England) Amateur Athletic Club in 1866. The publication also examined the earliest notion about compensation for names, images and likenesses in a 1995 address at Notre Dame...Extra Points noted that EA Sports did not consult or include any NCAA FCS teams in its latest rollout of college football games but could add these schools at a later date...247Sports acknowledged that NCAA FBS programs had 400 fewer recruits in 2021 than the previous two signing seasons because of the extra year of eligibility granted to seniors and uncertainty about budgeting and attendance for '21 football clashes...The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch newspaper interviewed sports officials on the challenges of working 2020-21 contests, extensive COVID-19 testing and quarantine protocols involved with travel and various campus provisions...Sportico noted that International Specialty Insurance, which was acquired by Exceptional Risk Advisers on Dec. 31, 2020, has decreased some policy premiums for several college events in 2021...The Athletic noted that several collegiate Olympic sports associations are requesting an in-person evaluation for prospects when the April 15 recruiting dead period expires with NCAA Divisions I-II-III already resuming their recruiting...The Washington Post opined about the NCAA's role and proposed state and national legislation for names, images and likenesses' compensation...The Las Vegas Review Journal newspaper expects the state of Nevada to allow 20 percent seating capacity during several upcoming men's basketball and baseball tournaments.

The FWAA is taking entries among members for its annual writing contest (deadline for submissions is July 1) with four categories: game story (immediate deadline); feature story/profile; enterprise/investigative; and column/analysis/commentary. The FWAA also is expanding its widespread social media platforms to members and potential members...CoSIDA retiree and past president Bill Little of Texas, Amie Canfield of Vassar, Marissa Avanzato of Texas A&M, Jenna Jorgensen of Colgate, and Ali Paquette of Middlebury were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online news letter...Arizona State, Detroit Mercy, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Maryland, Michigan State, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss,

Pittsburgh, Tennessee, and UCLA are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...NBA Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is launching a new podcast venue called Fireside...The American Council on Education and 10 other higher education associations such as the Assoc. of American Universities, Association of Public Land-grant Universities and National Association of College and University Business Officers filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court as friendly organizations with the NCAA and DI-II-III conferences in conjunction with hearings on the Alston Case...Brian Schottenheimer, son of the late Marty Schottenheimer and a former quarterback at Kansas and Florida, has moved to the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars as passing game coordinator for new Jags head coach Urban Meyer...A ticket for the Nov. 8, 1975, Georgia Tech at Notre Dame contest when walkon Rudy Ruettiger made his college debut for the Fighting Irish and inspired the popular college football movie Rudy has been auctioned for \$1,435...Yoshiro Mori, director of the 2020-21 Tokyo Olympic Organizing Committee, has stepped down from his position. The opening ceremonies for the Tokyo Olympics are set for live coverage on NBC-TV at 6 a.m. (CDT) on July 23...The National Baseball Hall of Fame ceremony - traditionally held in an outdoor setting - will be moved indoors with safety protocols in July at Cooperstown, N.Y. There is one NFF College Hall of Fame member who also is in the National Baseball Hall of Fame - Jackie Robinson of UCLA.

Schedule with New Year's Six Games

(All Games Televised by ESPN, EST)

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021

(CFP Semifinals & Championship January 10)

Goodyear Cotton Bowl

AT&T Stadium
Arlington, Texas, 4 or 8 p.m.

Capital One Orange Bowl

Hard Rock Stadium
Miami Lakes, Fla., 4 or 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 10

CFP Championship, Semifinal Winners

Lucas Oil Stadium

Indianapolis, Ind., 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022

(Other New Year's Six Bowls)

Thursday, Dec. 30

Chick Fil-A Peach Bowl

Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. TBD

Friday, Jan. 1

PlayStation Fiesta Bowl

State Farm Stadium

Glendale, Ariz. TBD

Friday, Jan. 1

Allstate Sugar Bowl

Mercedes-Benz Superdome

New Orleans, La., TBD

Friday, Jan. 1

Rose Bowl presented by Capital One

Rose Bowl Stadium

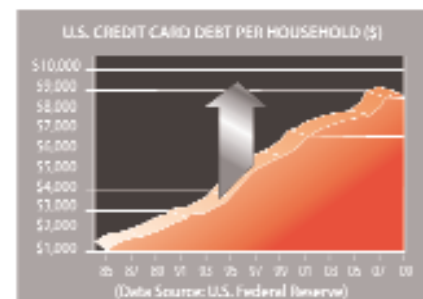
Pasadena, Calif.

Credit Card Debt?

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at \$2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.



CreditGUARD of America, a non-profit licensed debt management service provider, is making a new program available to lower debt payments and become free of all credit card debt in only three to five years. Consumers need only \$2,000 or more in total credit card debt and at least 30 days behind on any account, to cut their payment by 35% to 50%, and reduce or eliminate interest charges altogether.

Over 200,000 families, located throughout the U.S. have regained financial independence with CreditGUARD's licensed, bonded and insured service. CreditGUARD of America has received high marks in consumer surveys showing high consumer satisfaction and confidence. The CreditGUARD debt management program can lower your monthly payments by hundreds and save you thousands!

One such case is Sandra L. who proclaimed "CreditGUARD cut my monthly payment by \$656 and saved me over \$29,206.53 in interest. They saved my way of life and gave me back my peace of mind! Now I can see myself on my way to becoming debt free." or Jeffrey C. who said "CreditGUARD of America helped me consolidate 3 of my credit cards into one affordable payment. They are now saving me nearly \$200 a month. Now I will be debt free in 2 years or less"

Certified Credit Counselors at CreditGUARD of America provide Debt Relief
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The seven passenger Dodge Durango



By Matt Degen

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

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

Driving the Dodge Durango

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

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

DURANGO SRT

While not as practical as one of the V6

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

UCONNECT 4

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

Dodge Durango Interior

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

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

Dodge Durango Exterior

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

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

Dodge Durango Standard Features

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

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

Dodge Durango Options

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

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

Dodge Durango Engine

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

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

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

3.6-liter V6

293 horsepower @ 6,400 rpm (single exhaust)

295 horsepower @ 6,400 rpm (dual exhaust)

260 lb-ft of torque @ 4,800 rpm

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

5.7-liter V8

360 horsepower @ 5,150 rpm

390 lb-ft of torque @ 4,250 rpm

EPA city/highway fuel economy: 14/22 mpg

6.4-liter V8

475 horsepower @ 6,000 rpm

470 lb-ft of torque @ 4,300 rpm

EPA city/highway fuel economy: 13/19 mpg

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

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

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



TICKET WINDOW



DALLAS MAVERICKS COVERAGE



Some of the best local places for Steak



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



Bone in Rib Eye at Knife

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



Shabu Shabu is thinly sliced Wagyu Beef

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

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



Chicken Fried Ribeye at The Common Table

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



Jaxx Steakhouse Filet and Crab

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



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

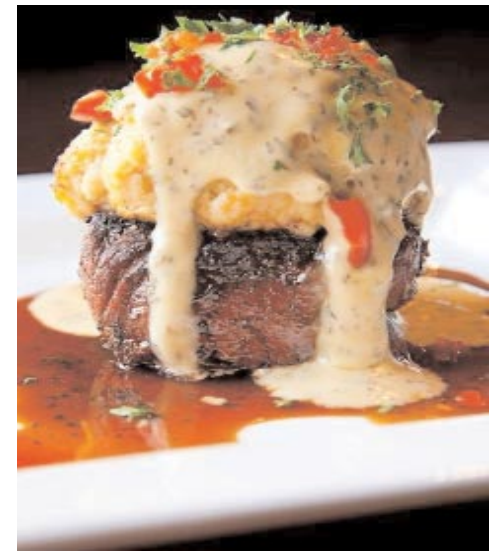


Luby's Rib Eye Steak and Baked Potato

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



Nick and Sam's recognized as one of the best



Filet Oscar at Kenny's Wood Fire Grill

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

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

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- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 2 (1 lb.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (4 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 12 oz. pkg. All-Beef Meatballs
- 4 (2 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tarts
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet (33 oz.)

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