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Weekly

NCAA Tournament Predictions!

Mar. 17 - Mar. 23, 2023

Vol. 21, Issue 29

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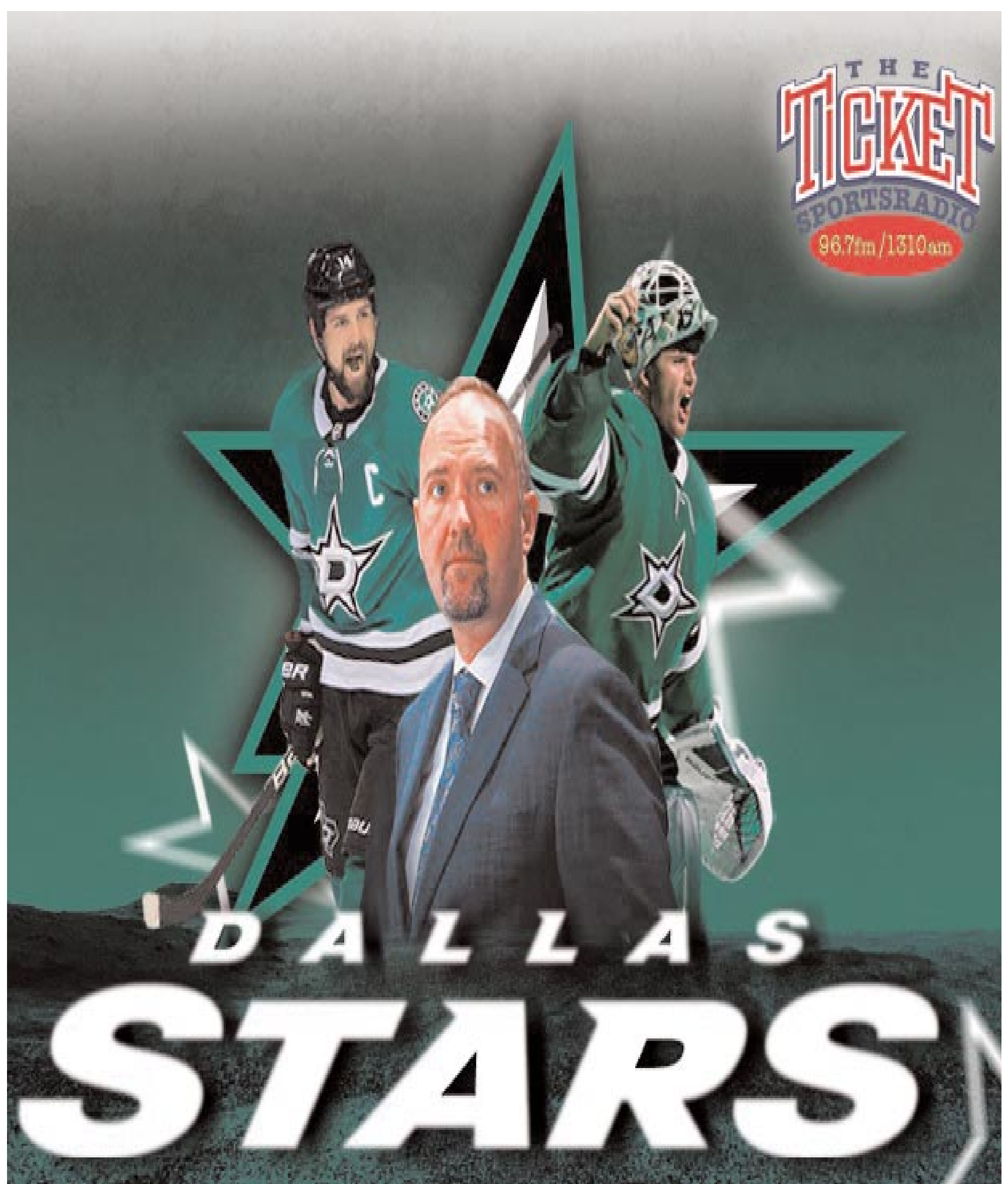


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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Ezekiel Elliott CUT by Cowboys



Zeke Free To Sign with New Team

The Cowboys have made a big decision on Ezekiel Elliott, who was set to cost \$16.7 million. And it's an emotional goodbye.

The Dallas Cowboys have made one big decisions in franchise history with Ezekiel Elliott, set to cost \$16.7 million against the cap, being told earlier this week that he's being released.

Tony Pollard is locked in now with \$10 million for 2023. Zeke never was locked in, with Dallas saving \$5 million if cut now and \$11 million is designated as a post-June 1 release. (The Cowboys will use the latter tool, we're told.)

We are told the Cowboys were always prepared to eat dead money on Zeke and bid him a full goodbye, but that could have depended on his willingness to accept a massive pay cut to remain at The Star. ... but that in a meeting with owner Jerry Jones - an audience deserved by Elliott given his importance to the franchise - Elliott declined that arrangement.

It is obvious that he was unwilling to do that because the fading two-time rushing champ believes he can get a better deal (and a bigger role) elsewhere.

And so in a monumental move, the seven-year Ezekiel Era is over.

Buccaneers, Baker Mayfield agree on 1-year deal

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have agreed on an \$8.5 million, one-year contract with quarterback Baker Mayfield.

Mayfield, the No. 1 overall pick by Cleveland in 2018, joins his third team since last July. He gets an opportunity to compete with Kyle Trask to replace Tom Brady, who retired.

Mayfield was 1-5 as a starter last season in Carolina before released. He joined the L.A Rams and went 1-3 in four starts.



Diamond Sports, parent company of Bally Sports, has filed for bankruptcy

Bally is the local broadcaster for most Rangers, Mavericks and Stars games. The exceptions are a small number of games televised by national outlets. Diamond Sports, the parent company, voluntarily filed for bankruptcy Tuesday in a move that had been anticipated for months.

Here is what to know about the effect of Diamond's bankruptcy on local viewers: **Changes for viewers with Diamond's bankruptcy?**

For now, nothing. The company said in a press release it expects to continue to operate during the bankruptcy process and coverage of games should not be affected.

"DSG will continue broadcasting games and connecting fans across the country

with the sports and teams they love,"

Diamond Sports CEO David Preschlack said in the statement. "We look forward to working constructively with our team and league partners and all DSG stakeholders throughout this process and beyond."

What cable, satellite providers carry Bally Sports SW?

In general, the two cable providers that carry BSSW are DirectTV and Spectrum. Access through AT&T U-verse is not available to new customers, but current U-verse customers with U-verse controls can continue to access BSSW. There may be some smaller providers. The best way to find your individual potential viewing options is to go to getmyhometeams.com (it's a Bally-supported site). The site allows to enter zip code and find out what providers and streaming services are available.

Where to watch Mavs, Stars playoffs?

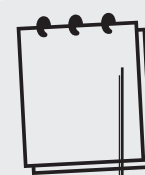
The NBA and NHL playoffs begin in mid-April. First-round games for both the Mavs and Stars would be shown on Bally Sports Southwest in addition to a national outlet. ESPN (ABC, ESPN, ESPN2) and Turner (TNT, TBS) share the playoff rights for both the NBA and NHL. After the first round, the national outlets have exclusive rights to the remainder of the playoffs, and Bally's broadcasts are done for the season.

What if restructuring attempts fail in the middle of baseball season?

Major League Baseball has set up a local media department in case it has to take over broadcasts for teams. Games would air locally via MLB Network or streamed on MLB.TV in case that happened.

NCAA Basketball Poll

AP	Week 18	Coaches
1. Houston	1. Houston	
2. UCLA	2. Alabama	
3. Kansas	3. Kansas	
4. Alabama	4. UCLA	
5. Purdue	5. Purdue	
6. Marquette	6. Marquette	
7. Texas	7. Texas	
8. Arizona	8. Baylor	
9. Gonzaga	9. Arizona	
10. Baylor	10. Gonzaga	
11. UConn	11. Kansas State	
12. Kansas State	12. Virginia	
13. Virginia	13. Indiana	
14. Miami	14. Tennessee	
15. Xavier	15. Miami	
16. Saint Mary's	16. Saint Mary's	
17. Tennessee	17. Xavier	
18. Texas A&M	18. UConn	
19. Indiana	19. San Diego State	
20. San Diego State	20. Providence	
21. Duke	21. Texas A&M	
22. TCU	22. TCU	
23. Kentucky	23. Creighton	
24. Creighton	24. Maryland	
25. Missouri	25. Pittsburgh	



WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MARCH 17 FRIDAY	MARCH 18 SATURDAY	MARCH 19 SUNDAY	MARCH 20 MONDAY	MARCH 21 TUESDAY	MARCH 22 WEDNESDAY	MARCH 23 THURSDAY
	Mavs at Lakers 9:30 / BSSW			Mavs at Grizzlies 7:00 / BSSW		Mavs vs Warriors 6:30 / BSSW	
		Stars at Calgary 9:00 / BSSW			Stars vs Seattle 7:30 / BSSW		Stars vs Pittsburgh 8:00 / BSSW
	Allen vs Grizzlies 7:05		Allen vs Grizzlies 2:05			Allen vs Steelheads 7:05	
	Rangers vs Brewers 3:05	Rangers at Angels 3:10	Rangers vs Mariners 3:05	Rangers vs Guardians 3:05		Rangers at Giants 3:05	Rangers vs Athletics 8:05
		FC Dallas vs Kansas City 7:30					

10 bold predictions for the tourney



This could very well be Bob Huggins last ride

By Lindsay Schnell

This is the season of madness, as they say, and what better way to prep for tip off Thursday than to look into the future and share a few bold predictions.

More than anything, we hope these predictions get you thinking about some of the craziest things that have happened in past NCAA Tournaments and could happen in this one. Would anyone have predicted Virginia would be the first No. 1 seed to fall, and to a team whose mascot is an adorable, lovable dog? Definitely not. We are not saying these predictions will for sure happen and not all of them can happen — at least, not in the same tournament — but we’re bound to get one or two correct.

With that in mind, here are 10 bold predictions for the 2023 NCAA Tournament.

1. Gonzaga makes it to the Final Four

Down year? Hardly. Behind Drew Timme and with essentially no pressure on them, the Bulldogs of Spokane will head to their third Final Four in six years, led by their three-time All-American.

2. Texas loses in the second round to Texas A&M, rethinks move to SEC

Was the TV money really worth it? In all seriousness, the tough part for the Longhorns will actually come after their last game, when athletic director Chris Del Conte has to make a call on what to do with interim coach Rodney Terry.

3. Arizona State makes a run to the Sweet 16

There’s always one play-in team that makes the committee look downright foolish for barely letting them in the tournament, and this year it’s going to be the Sun Devils. Yes, they’ll barely survive their play-in game, but after that it’ll be smooth sailing to the second weekend.

4. Tired of how the transfer portal has 'messed up' college sports, Bob Huggins retires

First he’ll lose to Maryland in the first round, then he’ll decide he’s sick of all these soft players and the parents who coddle them. Huggins has been outspoken

about his dislike of the transfer portal, one-time transfer waivers and NIL deals. By saying good riddance to all of this, he and his matching sweatsuits can live in peace.

5. We get a first-time national champion

This narrows the list of options considerably, but we’ve got our eye on four teams in particular: Houston, Alabama, Purdue and Gonzaga. The Tide have never been to a Final Four either, losing 87-71 to UConn in the 2004 regional championship.

6. Zach Edey returns to Purdue for senior season

Furious at the Boilermakers’ second-round upset, the most dominant player in college basketball decides he’s coming back for his senior year, NBA money be damned. The 7-foot-4, 305-pound center would benefit from another year of development at the college level, and who can blame him for wanting to get Purdue to the Final Four?

7. Pitino quietly accepts new job ... before he’s done with current job

Would anyone really be surprised by this? We still think Georgetown is in the mix for the current Iona coach, but a jump to St. John’s probably makes the most sense.

8. The ACC goes 0-fer

Maybe North Carolina actually didn’t miss out on much. With as down as the ACC was this season, Virginia, Duke, Miami, NC State and Pitt all being knocked out the first round doesn’t seem like a stretch, especially considering the three higher rated teams are on either 4 or 5 seed lines, which are ripe for upsets when 12 and 13 seeds are in town.

9. NCAA falls in love with Las Vegas

After years of refusing to set up shop in Sin City, the NCAA is poised to hold its first event there this month with T-Mobile Arena hosting the West Regional. The NCAA already awarded Vegas the 2028 Final Four, but we’re guessing they’re going to fall hard for the convenience of the city and make it a regular in the Final Four rotation.

10. San Diego State loses in the first round, then bolts for Pac-12

You didn’t think we’d get this far without a realignment mention, did you? Shortly after getting upset in the 12-5 game against College of Charleston, SDSU announces it’s joining the conference of champions in hopes of increasing its football prowess. The Pac-12, meanwhile, is thrilled to be back in the southern California TV market.



One-armed drill good for shot making



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

You have probably heard the expression “one-armed bandit”. It’s a reference to slot machines which are operated by pulling a long handle at the side with one arm. This week using ‘one arm’ will apply to helping you improve your shot making skills.

The following photos are from a lesson with my friend Jeremy Bulloch a few years ago. Jeremy was an English actor in town for an autograph show. His acting career spanned 6 decades and was probably best known for playing the intergalactic bounty hunter *Boba Fett* in the original Star Wars

movies. I told Jeremy this drill wasn’t a Jedi mind trick.

Sadly, Jeremy passed away in December of 2020. He knew that I had worked with numerous golfers over the years who only had one arm and some played to single digit handicaps. By swinging with my left arm, I was able to show him that the left side was in control while keeping my right side passive. I did hit some shots with just my right arm only, however due to space limitations I am unable to show those photos.

The top left photo is my setup. The top right is the completion of my backswing. I’ve drawn an arrow near my left shoulder to show that it’s pointing downward and fully turned. The circle around my left hand showcases that it has remained in control of the club. I did not allow it to break down which is where a lot of golfers make a mistake at this juncture swinging with one hand. Also, I stayed bent over from the waist and haven’t come up or out of my initial posture setup.

As I begin the downswing (middle left photo) my legs are pushing off the ground pulling the trailing club. As I descend into the impact area (middle right photo) my shoulders are square like they were on my setup. Compare this photo with the top left and they are nearly identical.

The bottom left photo shows natural arm extension towards the target.

The bottom right photo is the finish. Take special note that my shoulders don’t turn till well after the ball is on its way.

This type of drill is great for improving arm strength. I recommend swinging the golf club slowly at first to get comfortable. This drill will help you with body control and balance as well. Also, it is very effective in preventing over-swinging.

Give this drill a try and to quote my old friend from the Star War films, ‘may the course be with you.’

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This week: The Valspar Championship



Sam Burns is looking to become the first player to win the same event in three consecutive years



The Valspar Championship
March 16 - 19, 2023
Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club
Palm Harbor, Florida
Purse - \$8,100,000
Winners share - \$1,458,000
Defending Champ - Sam Burns

By Adam Stanley

The PGA TOUR's Florida Swing wraps up at the Valspar Championship, where Sam Burns looks for his third win in a row at Innisbrook.

FIELD NOTES: Sam Burns is looking to become the first player to win the same event in three consecutive years since Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic from 2009-11. The Valspar was one of three titles for Burns last season, along with the Sanderson Farms Championship and Charles Schwab Challenge. The 26-year-old has four PGA TOUR wins, with half coming at Innisbrook's Copperhead Course.

Reigning major champions Justin Thomas (PGA Championship) and Matt Fitzpatrick (U.S. Open) also headline the field. Thomas finished third at last year's Valspar, while Fitzpatrick was fifth... Keegan Bradley, who was third in the FedExCup heading into THE PLAYERS, is teeing it up. Bradley won the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP earlier this season, his first victory since 2018... Former

FedExCup champions Jordan Spieth and Justin Rose are set to go at Innisbrook. Rose won earlier this season at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, his first win worldwide since 2019. Spieth's win at the 2015 Valspar kickstarted his FedExCup-winning campaign that included triumphs in the U.S. Open and Masters... Greg Koch, a PGA of America professional who made the cut at the recent Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, is back in action on TOUR. Koch was the 2022 North Florida PGA Player of the Year... Nearly all the Korn Ferry Tour graduates from last season are in action at the Valspar as they look to nab some valuable FedExCup points.

STORYLINES:

Sam Burns is looking to win for the third-straight year at the Valspar Championship, having won by three in 2021 and winning in a playoff over Davis Riley last year. Burns is the first of five golfers trying to three-peat this season. K.H. Lee (AT&T Byron Nelson), Rory McIlroy (RBC Canadian Open and THE CJ CUP), Patrick Cantlay (BMW Championship) and Max Homa (Fortinet Championship) are the others, with Scottie Scheffler having a chance at next year's WM Phoenix Open. Burns had a similar stat line in his two Valspar wins. He was third in Strokes Gained: Putting in 2021 and eighth in the same stat last year. He was fourth in Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green in 2022 and fifth the year prior.

A top-10 finish on TOUR earns players a spot in the next open event. Eight players who finished in the top 10 at the Puerto

Rico Open two weeks ago will look to continue their good play and make the most of another opportunity. Harry Higgs, Cody Gribble, John VanDerLaan, Wesley Bryan, Carson Young, Michael Kim, Harry Hall and Akshay Bhatia are the guys who locked in their spots after last week. Bhatia, who finished runner-up in Puerto Rico to earn Special Temporary Membership, made his TOUR debut at the Valspar Championship in 2019. He missed the cut. All are PGA TOUR members except VanDerLaan, a Florida Southern alum who Monday qualified into the Puerto Rico Open.

Ludvig Aberg and Pierceson Coody are amongst the sponsor exemptions this week at the Valspar. Aberg is atop this year's PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global standings and in line for the TOUR card that will be awarded to the PGA TOUR U No. 1 after the NCAA Championship. He finished T24 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard after also making the cut at the DP World Tour's Dubai Desert Classic. Coody, who topped the PGA TOUR U rankings in 2022 and has won twice on the Korn Ferry Tour already, bested Aberg by two shots and finished T14.

SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS: A quick look at some of the players who received sponsor exemptions into the field and will be looking to capitalize on the opportunity: Former Valspar Championship winner and European Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald will be teeing it up. Donald won the Valspar in 2012 to return to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking... Pierceson Coody, who has won on the Korn Ferry Tour already this year, along with his University of Texas teammate Cole Hammer are in the field. Hammer has made four cuts on TOUR so far this season including two weeks ago at Bay Hill. He also was T5 at this season's RSM Classic... Ludvig Aberg, who is atop the PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global standings, made the cut at Bay Hill in his first TOUR start this season... Victor Perez is making his season debut on TOUR. He won the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship on the DP World Tour earlier this year in dramatic fashion. Ryan Gerard also received a sponsor exemption, giving him another opportunity to attain Special Temporary Membership. Gerard finished fourth in The Honda Classic after Monday qualifying, then narrowly missed earning STM with a T11 finish at the Puerto Rico Open. University of North Florida junior Nick Gabrelcik will make his PGA TOUR debut after being given in invitation. Gabrelcik, who hails from nearby Trinity, Florida, was the 2021

NCAA freshman of the year and semifinalist in the 2021 U.S. Amateur.

HIGHEST-RATED PLAYERS IN THE FIELD

World Ranking	FedExCup
10. Justin Thomas	4. K. Bradley
13. Matt Fitzpatrick	14. Justin Rose
14. Jordan Spieth	18. B. Harman
15. Sam Burns	24. Nick Taylor
22. Keegan Bradley	33. Ben Taylor
27. Tommy Fleetwood	35. Ben Griffin
28. Brian Harman	37. Eric Cole
32. Justin Rose	39. Brandon Wu
43. K.H. Lee	42. D. McCarthy
46. Kevin Kisner	43. Joel Dahmen

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 points.

COURSE: Innisbrook Resort

(Copperhead), par 71, 7,340 yards. Located just north of Tampa, the tree-lined, Larry Packard design puts a premium on positioning off the tee. The course, opened in the early 1970s, features a tough closing trio called the 'Snake Pit' – two tough par-4s sandwiched between a bruising 200-yard par 3. The Copperhead Course was the second course built at Innisbrook and has long been considered a favorite by many on TOUR.

72-HOLE RECORD: 266, Vijay Singh (2004)

18-HOLE RECORD: 61, Padraig Harrington (1st round, 2012).

LAST TIME: Sam Burns defeated Davis Riley on the second playoff hole last season to win the Valspar Championship in back-to-back years. Burns closed with a 2-under 69. Riley shot a 1-over 72 but recovered nicely from a triple bogey on the par-5 fifth to finish at 17 under alongside Burns. The duo both made pars on the first playoff hole, No. 18, before Burns rolled in a 32-foot birdie try on the second playoff hole, No. 16. Riley missed the green with his approach and couldn't chip in for a matching birdie. Burns became the second straight back-to-back winner at Innisbrook after Paul Casey won the event in both 2018 and 2019. Justin Thomas and Matthew NeSmith finished tied for third, just one shot back of joining the playoff. That pair both had a share of the lead at some point during the final round. Matt Fitzpatrick and Brian Harman both finished at 14 under and were tied for fifth. It was Burns' third TOUR title in his last 22 starts.

HOW TO WATCH

Television: Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. (Golf Channel), Saturday-Sunday, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. (Golf Channel), 2 p.m.-5:00 (NBC).
Radio: Thursday-Friday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. Saturday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGA-TOUR.com/liveaudio)

Burns seeking three-peat at Valspar



Burns has been inside the top-15 of the Official World Golf Ranking for 52 consecutive weeks

Sam Burns seeking three-peat at Valspar Championship

By Sean Martin

A four-time PGA TOUR winner at just 26 years old, Sam Burns is one of the most promising young players in the game today.

Burns has been inside the top-15 of the Official World Golf Ranking for 52 consecutive weeks now. In his win last year at Colonial, Burns came from seven shots back on Sunday before beating Scottie Scheffler in a playoff with a 38-foot birdie putt. While he hasn't quite flashed yet in the game's biggest championships, he made the cut in each of the last three majors of 2022. He also made his first ever Presidents Cup team last year, helping the Americans knock off the International team at Quail Hollow Club.

This week, Burns heads to the Copperhead Course as a back-to-back reigning champion this week. No player has won a PGA TOUR event three consecutive years in more than a decade. Can Burns break the drought this week in Florida?

Seeking a 'Three-Peat'

First, let's put into context how rare it is for a player to win any PGA TOUR event three years in a row. The last man to 'three-peat' on the PGA TOUR was Steve Stricker, doing it at the John Deere Classic in 2009, 2010 and 2011. There have been 13 players with an opportunity to match Stricker since then, with nobody yet pulling it off. The closest anyone got was

Brooks Koepka, who finished runner-up at Pebble Beach in 2019 when seeking his third consecutive U.S. Open title.

Going back to 1995, there have been 63 instances where a player won a PGA TOUR event in back-to-back years. Eleven times, the player didn't get the opportunity for a third win in a row – either because they did not play in the event as back-to-back defending champion, or because the tournament was defunct. In the other 52 instances, the back-to-back winner rattled off a third (or fourth) consecutive victory in the event 10 times.

A whopping eight of those wins belonged to Tiger Woods. The other two to do it are Stricker and Stuart Appleby, who won the Sentry Tournament of Champions in 2004, 2005 and 2006. To put it another way, Woods has played in 16 PGA TOUR events in his career in which he had won that event either the two or three previous years – he won eight of them. Everyone else on TOUR since 1995 combined has done it 36 times, winning twice.

In the non-Woods division of this stat, even contending when seeking the rare three-peat is difficult to do. Besides the two men who won in their attempt, only three others finished in the top-five. Meanwhile, six of those players missed the cut. The last man to go for a three-peat in Tampa, Paul Casey, finished tied for 21st place back in 2021.

Where Burns has thrived at Innisbrook Over the last two years, Burns has been very good in virtually all aspects of his game at Innisbrook – it's tough to win here

twice in a row with many deficiencies. But he's been especially great at a few things – most notably on the greens.

In his last eight rounds at the Valspar Championship, Burns has averaged 1.78 Strokes Gained: Putting per round, by far the best of any player in that span (min. 6 rounds played). Regardless of how far away he's been from the cup, Burns has lit it up: he's inside the top-ten in make percentage the last two years from both four to eight feet and ten to fifteen feet away. That's been the strength of his game during his professional career. Since the beginning of 2019, Burns has averaged 0.54 Strokes Gained: Putting per round, fifth-best among the more than 200 players with 100 or more measured rounds in that span.

While he hasn't been otherworldly off the tee at this course (he's gaining 0.16 strokes per round), his approach play has been excellent. Burns ranks in the top-15 among all players in greens in regulation and average proximity to the hole, adding up to 1.34 Strokes Gained: Approach per round (4th-best among all players). He's also scrambled at a clip of 71.2%, able to limit the squares on the scorecard when

missing the green. Burns is a combined 25-under-par on the par fives the last two years, four strokes better than any other player in that stretch.

Fond of Florida

It's not just the greens at Innisbrook that Burns has found favorable: since joining the PGA TOUR, Burns is far and away the best putter in tournaments held in Florida. Since 2018, there are 186 players with 20 or more ShotLink-measured PGA TOUR rounds in the Sunshine State. Of that group, Burns' average of 1.22 Strokes Gained: Putting per round isn't just the best, it's more than four-tenths of a stroke better/round than the nearest competitor.

Burns will likely lean on his lethal putter again this week in hopes of picking up a rare tournament 'three-peat' on the PGA TOUR.

Sam Burns at Valspar Championship - Last 2 Years		
		Rank
SG: Putting per round	1.78	1st
Par 5 scoring	-25	1st
SG: Tee-to-green / round	2.06	2nd
SG: Approach per round	1.34	4th
Putting 4 to 8 feet	82.6%	7th

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Aberg remains World No. 1 amateur



Texas Tech's Ludvig Aberg is ranked No. 1 again this week in both the World Amateur Golf Ranking and the PGA TOUR University Ranking

Ludvig Aberg remains World No. 1 amateur, top player in PGA TOUR University

With less than three months remaining in the college golf season, Texas Tech's Ludvig Aberg retained his No. 1 ranking

this week in both the World Amateur Golf Ranking and the PGA TOUR University Ranking of the top seniors in college golf. Aberg will make his fifth TOUR start this week at the Valspar Championship, two weeks after he finished T24 at the Arnold

Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.

The top-nine players in PGA TOUR University are unchanged, with North Carolina's Austin Greaser at No. 2, followed by Sam Bennett (Texas A&M), William Mouw (Pepperdine) and Fred Biondi (Florida). The race for the 10th spot remains close, as less than two points separates No. 10 Yuxin Lin (Florida) and No. 12 Reid Davenport (Vanderbilt). At the end of the season, players who finish 6th-10th will be exempt into Second Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School and earn conditional membership on Korn Ferry Tour.

Two players moved into the top 50 following wins last week. Washington's Petr Hurby won the R.E.L. Lamkin Invitational and improved 12 spots to No. 48, and Mercer's Tobias Jonsson improved five spots to No. 47 after winning the Cleveland Golf Palmetto. Also making moves were two players who finished T2 at the Cabo Collegiate – Arizona's Chase Sienkiewicz improved seven spots to No. 31, and Ole Miss' Brett Schell improved 31 spots to No. 61.

The Velocity Global Ranking ranks players based on the last two years of their collegiate careers. The No. 1 player in the final Velocity Global Ranking will earn PGA TOUR membership, while players Nos. 1-5 (fully exempt) and Nos. 6-10 (conditional) will earn Korn Ferry Tour membership. Additionally, players finishing 6th through 20th in the Velocity Global Ranking will earn fully exempt membership on PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

In partnership with the World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®), PGA TOUR University ranks collegiate players based on their average performance in NCAA Division-I men's team competitions, official PGA TOUR tournaments and select DP World Tour events.

The Ranking Period for the Class of 2023 began Week 23/2021 and concludes May 29, 2023, following the final round of stroke play at the NCAA D-I Men's National Championship.

PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global Velocity Global Ranking – Week 10					
Rank	Change	Player	University	Events	Points Average
1	-	Ludvig Aberg	Texas Tech	21	1264.1114
2	-	Austin Greaser	North Carolina	18	1154.4411
3	-	Sam Bennett	Texas A&M	20	1096.6085
4	-	William Mouw	Pepperdine	20	1080.6
5	-	Fred Biondi	Florida	18	1078.5333
6	-	A.D De Chassart	Illinois	19	1051.0557
7	-	Travis Vick	Texas	20	1018.442
8	-	Patrick Welch	Oklahoma	18	999.7811
9	-	Ross Steelman	Georgia Tech	15	995.374
10	+1	Yuxin Lin	Florida	19	970.7121
11	+1	R.Neergaard-Petersen	Oklahoma State	10	970.454
12	-2	Reid Davenport	Vanderbilt	16	969.4193
13	-	Dylan Menante	North Carolina	20	961.306
14	+2	Ricky Castillo	Florida	19	941.4531
15	-	M. de Oliveira	Arkansas	18	938.0805
16	+1	Brian Stark	Texas	14	936.4892
17	-3	Canon Claycomb	Alabama	16	927.5687
18	-	Sam Choi	Pepperdine	19	898.7721
19	-	Tommy Kuhl	Illinois	18	874.7494
20	+1	Palmer Jackson	Notre Dame	20	869.4445

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2023 NCAA Tournament Predictions



The Houston Cougars enter the NCAA Tournament as the 6-1 betting favorite

By Evan Boyd

• Our model gives Houston the best chance of winning March Madness 2023 at 13.4%, followed by Alabama (10.8%), UConn (6.9%) and Gonzaga (6.4%).

• According to TRACR, Houston (33.8%), Alabama (30.4%), UCLA (23%) and Gonzaga (22.5%) have the highest probabilities of reaching the Final Four.

• Believe it or not, Gonzaga – not a No. 1 seed – has the highest probability of advancing to the Sweet 16 at 66.4%.

It's time. After more than four months of basketball, 32 conference tournaments, an endless amount of chaos and the drama of Selection Sunday, we are finally here. The best tournament in sports. March Madness.

I've been writing college basketball notes all year. Do I know who is going to win? No clue.

Our bracket predictions for the NCAA Tournament have been released. We simulated the tournament thousands of times to find the chances of each team making it to every round in March. This will be updated constantly throughout the tourney, so make sure to check in to see who changes and where.

We are simulating the NCAA Tournament

with TRACR, our Team Rating Adjusted for Conference and Roster. TRACR, which we also have for college football and women's college basketball, is a net efficiency metric that calculates a team's points per possession on both sides of the ball, adjusted by the team it plays. The model rewards teams that do well against good teams and punishes those that do poorly against weaker squads.

Don't believe in our predictions? Well, TRACR did a great job at predicting our conference tournaments. TRACR's predicted champion for each conference made it to the conference championship game in 26 of the 32 championship games. Of the teams that won its conference tournament, 17 of the 32 were TRACR's top prediction and 27 of the 32 had either the highest- or second-highest chances of winning.

Not everyone hit on Drake, Montana State, or Duke – we did. So here are some of our thoughts about how the model views the 2023 NCAA Tournament bracket:

West is Best

First off, the fact that Kansas (No. 8 in TRACR) did not make it to the Midwest Region over Houston (No. 1) is a little puzzling.

Yes, the Cougars rank higher in

TRACR, but the Jayhawks' 17-7 Quad 1 record and toughest strength of schedule in the country made it seem like they would get the edge. Both teams were beaten handily in their conference championship game, though both had reasons for it.

It must have been a tough selection, but it does show that the NET might have more of an impact in seeding than we think. Houston is No. 1 in the NET while Kansas is ranked ninth. In addition to Kansas not being able to potentially play in Kansas City for the regional semifinals and finals, it will have to fight through the most difficult path of the four regions.

The West Region is the deepest, most challenging group by far with an average TRACR of 19.7.

The South, Midwest and East Regions are properly balanced, while the West has a lot of tough teams that could fight through. This is why Kansas has the lowest chance of making it to the Final Four among the other top seeds at just 13.7%. Houston, meanwhile, has a 33.8% chance to make it to the third weekend.

Part of the reason that the West is so challenging is that it has UConn as a fourth seed, which is lower than its overall TRACR ranking (No. 3). The Huskies lost

by two points to Marquette (13th) in the Big East tournament semifinals, but they tout an impressive resume going into their first-round matchup with Rick Pitino's Iona

UConn, which could face either fifth-seeded Saint Mary's or 12th-seeded VCU in the second round, went undefeated in nonconference play while outscoring opponents by an average of 26.5 points. Watch out for them as a possible Final Four contender.

UCLA (No. 6) and Gonzaga (No. 4) as the second and third seeds, respectively, do not make this region any easier. The Bruins lost their conference championship game to Arizona (12th) in a close one, but that came after they had won 12 straight. Gonzaga crushed Saint Mary's (15th) in its conference championship game by 26. UCLA has a 23.0% chance to win the region and an 8.2% chance to win its 12th NCAA title, per TRACR. Gonzaga has similar projections, with a 22.5% chance to make it to the Final Four and a 6.4% chance to win it all.

See why this is such a problem for Kansas? There are four teams in this region in TRACR's top 10. It's possible that whichever team makes it through will go on to hoist the trophy in Houston.



The Longhorns have emerged as one of the favorites to make the Final Four

Great 8-9s

Last season, we had one solid 8-9 matchup (Creighton over San Diego State in overtime) and three double-digit games. Memphis beat Boise State by 11, TCU beat Seton Hall by 25 and North Carolina beat Marquette by 32! It seems like the committee did not do a good job overall in pairing those 8-9 seeds. Some were obvious picks over the others, especially that Tar Heels selection.

This year, however, I think the committee did an excellent job of pairing 8-9 teams. But according to TRACR, some of those teams should have had a higher seed and that could spell trouble for top seeds in the second round.

The Maryland (21st)-West Virginia (19th) matchup could make for one of the best games of the tournament. The Terrapins started out strong before stumbling of late, losing three of its last four games. Bob Huggins' Mountaineers have been inconsistent, winning games big but also losing with ease.

Here's one thing to watch: West Virginia is 4-9 when forcing 13 or fewer turnovers in a game and 15-5 otherwise. Maryland averages 10.5 turnovers on the season and just 8.5 over its last 16 games. TRACR gives Maryland a 50.5% chance at winning this contest, making it projected to be the third-closest game in the first round.

The closest matchup in the first round, per TRACR, involves another 8-9 meeting. Iowa (36th) and Auburn (33rd) are right next to each other in the ratings – the Hawkeyes rank second in offensive TRACR while Auburn is more balanced.

Though neither team has played well down the stretch (Auburn is 4-9 since Jan. 15 and Iowa has lost four of its last six), the Hawkeyes did beat Indiana by 22 at Assembly Hall on Feb. 28 and the Tigers beat Tennessee by nine on March 4 and Missouri by 33 on Valentine's Day. This

one is a toss-up, per TRACR. Iowa has a 50.1% chance of winning. Good luck picking this game, folks.

Arkansas (22nd) has a slight edge over Illinois (34th), with the Razorbacks having a 53.8% chance of winning. Arkansas had a poor stretch toward the end of the season and was knocked out of the SEC tournament by Texas A&M, but it went 11-2 in nonconference play with wins over San Diego State and UNC-Asheville (by 34), and a pair of three-point losses to Creighton and Baylor. Though Illinois has been hit-or-miss, it does have wins over UCLA and Texas (No. 5). Matthew Mayer and Terrence Shannon Jr. have to step up for Illinois to survive the first round.

And I'm quite curious to look at this matchup between two non-major conference teams: Memphis (10th) and Florida Atlantic (17th). The Tigers beat Houston to win the AAC championship, while FAU cruised to the Conference USA title. The Owls have been red hot lately, winning seven in a row – five of which were by at least 20 points. Both are top-20 teams in TRACR and could give Purdue (No. 1) some trouble in the second round.

Memphis has a 55.8% chance to beat FAU and a 23.1% chance to reach the Sweet 16. Here's something to note: The four No. 8 seeds have an average TRACR of 23.4. That's higher than the average TRACR for the fifth seeds, sixth seeds and seventh seeds.

The ninth seeds have an average TRACR of 23.1, which is much higher than the average for the seventh seeds (20.6).

Sixth-Seeded Cinderellas

Will the shoe fit for 11th seed once again? Or will a 15th seed make it to the Elite Eight like Saint Peter's last year? My guess is that a sixth seed will make it far – at least the Elite Eight.

The sixth seeds in this tournament are

Creighton (14th), Kentucky (24th), Iowa State (26th) and TCU (28th). The two teams out of the Big 12 will have to play the winner of the First Four games, which can throw either team off in terms of preparation. We have seen teams make runs out of the early Dayton games, like UCLA going from the First Four to the Final Four in 2021.

Of the four teams, three have at least a 65% chance of making it to the second round. The one exception is Kentucky (59.1), which does have a chance to knock off a third seed if it can survive its opener against Providence.

Creighton has a better TRACR than third-seeded Baylor (29th), which has struggled as of late. The Bluejays have a 40.6% chance of reaching the Sweet 16, slightly higher than the Bears' 38.6% chance.

Could Creighton, which has a first-round matchup with NC State, earn a rematch with Arizona (12th) in the Sweet 16? The first matchup ended in a two-point win for the Wildcats on Nov. 23.

One team that might struggle to reach the second weekend, however, is TCU. If they get past either Arizona State or Nevada, the Horned Frogs would likely have to face a tough Gonzaga team in Denver. The Bulldogs have a tourney-best 66.4% chance of reaching the Sweet 16.

Perhaps one of the biggest enigmas of the season has been Kentucky, which was ranked fourth in the preseason AP Poll. The Wildcats looked terrible in January, losing to South Carolina (193rd) immediately after getting blown out by Alabama. The Wildcats have played better over the last 30 days, beating Tennessee at home and Arkansas on the road. Can John Calipari bring this team back and make a run? He did it in 2014 when he took Kentucky to the national championship game as an eighth seed.

Michigan State (5.6%) and Texas A&M (5.6%), who take on USC and Penn State, respectively, in the first round, have the best chance to reach the Final Four of the four seventh seeds, ahead of Missouri (2.7%) and Northwestern (2.5%).

Storylines Abound

What will break the brackets? What are the best storylines?

Here are a few potential scenarios that will be worth watching.

UCLA-Gonzaga Rematch

There has been no better game over the last five seasons than the UCLA-Gonzaga Final Four game in 2021.

It had everything – big plays, big names, a team going for a perfect season versus an 11th seed from the First Four. It was an overtime thriller that was capped off by one of the most unbelievable endings we've ever seen. It was watched by millions but took place with no one in the stands.

We had a rematch between the teams the following season when Gonzaga took down UCLA 83-63. Neither team made it past

the Sweet 16, however. This season, only one will be able to advance. Both of these teams rank in the top 10 in TRACR and are talented enough to be crowned national champions. This would be the third time the teams have met in the regional semifinals – UCLA won in 2006, while Gonzaga won in 2015.

And, boy, we cannot forget about that game in 2006.

Kelvin Sampson vs. Indiana

Let's wind the clock back 15 years. Indiana is one of the best teams in the country. Eric Gordon, the top recruit in the country, decommits from Illinois to come to the Hoosiers. The Hoosiers also bring in Jordan Crawford and Jamarus Ellis. D.J. White is the Big Ten Player of the Year. The Hoosiers appear poised to make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

Kelvin Sampson, however, who arrived in 2006 after coaching Oklahoma for over a decade, was tagged with multiple recruiting violations in both October 2007 and February 2008 which led to his resignation. Meanwhile, Gordon raised issues about drug use on the team, which Sampson tried but failed to stop. Indiana lost in the first round of the tournament, Gordon went to the NBA, and the Hoosiers would go 28-66 over the next three seasons.

A possible rematch against Sampson would mean the world to Indiana fans who have not forgotten what that era did to the program. The Hoosiers (19th) have the talent to knock off TRACR's No. 1 team, but they'll have to go through a tough Kent State (76th) and either Miami (55th) or Drake (54th) to get there.

By the way, Kent State head coach Rob Senderoff was an assistant on Sampson's staff at Indiana in 2008.

14th Seeds in the Sweet 16

The last two seasons have yielded a 15th seed not only winning a game but pulling off two upsets. Saint Peter's reached the Elite Eight last season and Oral Roberts made it to the Sweet 16 in 2021. Could it happen again?

Well... hold on. Recall that both were milestones – only one 15th seed had made it to the Sweet 16 in the tournament's history prior to 2021 – Florida Gulf Coast's "Dunk City" team in 2013. There are some excellent No. 2 seeds this season, too.

What about the third seeds? Could they falter and lose to a 14th seed? Baylor (29th) has lost four of its last six games. Kansas State (23rd) enters the tournament having lost its last two. Xavier (16th) has run hot and cold, as shown by its 22-point blowout win over Creighton and a 14-point loss to Marquette in the Big East Tourny.

Gonzaga (No. 4) may be secure, but Bryce Drew's Antelopes of Grand Canyon (124th) have been here before. And Bryce Drew knows a little thing or two about miracles.

Unlike the women's NCAA Tournament, there may not be a clear favorite here and it's possible that a fourth seed or higher wins the championship.

All-Big 12 Men's Basketball Awards



Baylor's Keyonte George received Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors

Phillips 66 All-Big 12 Men's Basketball Awards Announced

By Big12sports.com

Kansas' Jalen Wilson was the unanimous choice as Player of the Year while Kansas State's Jerome Tang was selected Coach of the Year in his first season to highlight the 2022-23 Phillips 66 All-Big 12 men's basketball awards, chosen by the head coaches. The Jayhawks collected two other individual awards as Dajuan Harris Jr. was voted Defensive Player of the Year while KJ Adams Jr. garnered Most Improved Player. The Wildcats' Keyontae Johnson was the unanimous choice as Newcomer of the Year, Baylor's Keyonte George earned Freshman of the Year and Texas' Sir'Jabari Rice collected the Sixth Man Award.

Wilson leads the Big 12 in both scoring (19.7 ppg), rebounding (8.4 rpg) and double-doubles (10) while he is second in minutes played (35.2). The junior forward is vying to become the seventh player, fourth Jayhawk, in Big 12 history to lead the league in both scoring and rebounding. Wilson has two 30-point performances and 17 games of 20-plus points this season. His 38 points at K-State on Jan. 17 are the most in a conference matchup this year. He is a finalist for the John R. Wooden Award and Oscar Robertson Trophy. Also a unanimous All-Big 12 First Team selection, Wilson was joined on the first team by Baylor's Adam Flagler, also a unanimous

pick, K-State's Johnson and Markquis Nowell along with Texas' Marcus Carr. Known for his instinct on defense, Harris also directs the KU offense from his point guard position. The junior guard leads the Conference in assist/turnover ratio (3.4), is second in assists (6.3), fourth in steals (2.0) and fifth in minutes played (34.0). He contributes averages of 8.6 points and 2.5 rebounds. Johnson made his triumphant return to the basketball court on Nov. 7 in K-State's season opener against UTRGV following a two-year absence after suffering a medical emergency against Florida State on Dec. 12, 2020. He was named March Madness National Player of the Week and Big 12 Newcomer of the Week after the Wildcats' first two games. The senior forward has totaled five Conference newcomer accolades this season as he is second in the league in scoring (17.8), tied for fourth in rebounding (7.0), second in field goal percentage (.519) and fourth in double-doubles (6). He is a finalist for the John R. Wooden Award. George entered the season as the Big 12 Preseason Freshman of the Year. He is sixth in the league in scoring (16.0), fifth in 3-point field goals made (2.4) and sixth in free throw percentage (.794). George holds the program record for most 20-point games by a freshman (12) and his 16.0 points average is sixth-best among all NCAA rookies. The guard collected two Big 12 Newcomer of the Week honors.

As the first player off the Longhorns' bench, Rice is second on the team in scoring (12.6), fourth in assists (63) and minutes (24.2) and tied for fourth in rebounding (3.5). The senior guard has reached double figures 20 times this season and is second in the Big 12 in free throw percentage (.870). He earned Big 12 Newcomer of the Week honors on Feb. 6 after helping UT to wins over No. 11 Baylor and No. 7 K-State. He scored a team-high 23 points to lead Texas over No. 3 Kansas in the regular season finale. Adams has started every game in 2022-23 after earning one start as a freshman last year during KU's national championship run. He improved his averages to 10.5 points and 4.5 rebounds in 27.2 minutes from registering 1.0 points and 0.8 boards in 4.8 minutes as a rookie. He has scored in double figures in 17 games this season after not reaching double digits in the first seven contests. Picked last in the Big 12 Preseason Poll, Tang guided Kansas State to a tie for third with an 11-7 conference mark and current 23-8 overall record in his first season as a collegiate head coach. The 23-8 start is the best by any first-year head coach in NCAA Division I and the second-best in K-State history. The Wildcats are 7-4 against top 25 opponents this season, including 3-2 vs. top 10 foes. Tang inherited a squad of just two returning key players and brought in 13 newcomers.

2022-23 Phillips 66 All-Big 12 Men's Basketball Awards

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Jalen Wilson, Kansas, F, Jr.*

SIXTH MAN AWARD
Sir'Jabari Rice, Texas, G, Gr.

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER
KJ Adams Jr., Kansas, F, So.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Dajuan Harris Jr., Kansas, G, Jr.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Keyontae Johnson, Kansas State, F, Sr.*

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
Keyonte George, Baylor, G

COACH OF THE YEAR
Jerome Tang, Kansas State, 1st Season

All-Big 12 First Team
Adam Flagler, Baylor*
Jalen Wilson, Kansas*
Keyontae Johnson, Kansas State
Markquis Nowell, Kansas State
Marcus Carr, Texas

All-Big 12 Second Team
Keyonte George, Baylor
Gabe Kalscheur, Iowa State
Gradey Dick, Kansas
Damion Baugh, TCU
Mike Miles Jr., TCU

All-Big 12 Third Team
LJ Cryer, Baylor
Kevin McCullar Jr., Kansas
Kalib Boone, Oklahoma State
Sir'Jabari Rice, Texas
Erik Stevenson, West Virginia

All-Big 12 Honorable Mention
(Listed alphabetically by school)
Jaren Holmes, (Iowa State), Osun
Osunniyi (Iowa State), KJ Adams Jr. (Kansas), Dajuan Harris Jr. (Kansas), Jalen Hill (Oklahoma), Grant Sher eld (Oklahoma), Emanuel Miller (TCU), Timmy Allen (Texas), De'Vion Harmon (Texas Tech), Kevin Obanor (Texas Tech)

Big 12 All-Defensive Team
Gabe Kalscheur, Iowa State
Dajuan Harris Jr., Kansas
Kevin McCullar Jr., Kansas
Markquis Nowell, Kansas State
Moussa Cisse, Oklahoma State

Big 12 All-Newcomer Team
Keyonte George, Baylor
Jaren Holmes, Iowa State
Gradey Dick, Kansas
Keyontae Johnson, Kansas State*
Sir'Jabari Rice, Texas

Big 12 All-Freshman Team
Keyonte George, Baylor*
Tamin Lipsey, Iowa State*
Gradey Dick, Kansas*
Milos Uzan, Oklahoma
Pop Isaacs, Texas Tech
* Denotes unanimous selection.

American Athletic Conference Honors



Former SMU Mustang Kendric Davis was unanimous first-team all conference

The American Athletic Conference Announces Men's Basketball Honors

By *american.org*

The American Athletic Conference has announced the men's basketball award winners and all-conference teams for the 2022-23 season. The selections were made by the league's 11 head coaches.

Regular season champion and No. 1 in the nation Houston garnered six individual awards, including Player of the Year Jamal Shead, Defensive Player of the Year Jarace Walker, Sixth Man of the Year Reggie Chaney, Most Improved Player of the Year J'Wan Roberts and Coach of the Year Kelvin Sampson.

East Carolina center Ludgy Debaut and Tulane guard Sion James were selected as Sportsmanship Award honorees.

Sasser ranks sixth in The American in scoring at 17.1 points per game, 10th in assists at 3.3 per contest and seventh in steals with 1.7 per game. He is the second Cougar to be named Player of the Year (Quentin Grimes, 2021).

Shead ranks sixth in steals (1.81 spg), and is the second Houston player to earn Defensive Player of the Year (DeJon Jarreau, 2021), while Walker ranks 10th in rebounding (6.7 rpg) and is the first Cougar to be named Freshman of the Year.

Roberts improved his production from 3.2 points per game in 2021-22 to 10.5 per contest this season. He joins Justin Gorham (2021) as Houston players to earn the Most Improved honor. Chaney is the third Cougar

to be named Sixth Man of the Year, joining Jarreau (2019) and Armoni Brooks (2018).

Sampson has led the Cougars to a 29-2 record in the regular season and 17-1 mark in conference play. The Cougars became the first American squad to earn a No. 1 ranking in the Associate Press Top 25. It is Sampson's fourth Coach of the Year honor in The American (2018, 2019, 2022).

Debaut and James are the first players from their schools to earn the Sportsmanship Award. Debaut, a four-year center for the Pirates and mentor to the younger players, while James is The American's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Pres.

Sasser was named to first-team all-conference and was selected unanimously, alongside 2022 Player of the Year Kendric Davis of Memphis. The duo were joined by Tulane guard Jalen Cook, a first-team pick in 2022, Cincinnati guard Landers Nolley II and Davis' Tiger teammate DeAndre Williams.

Roberts, Shead and Walker were named to the all-conference second team, alongside UCF forward Taylor Hendricks and Tulane guard Jaylen Forbes.

The all-conference third team was comprised of Cincinnati guard David DeJulius, South Florida guard Tyler Harris, Temple guard Damian Dunn, Tulane forward Kevin Cross and Wichita St guard Craig Porter Jr.

2023 American Athletic Conference

Men's Basketball Honors

Player of the Year

Marcus Sasser, Sr., G, Houston

Coach of the Year

Kelvin Sampson, Houston

Defensive Player of the Year

Jamal Shead, Jr., G, Houston

Freshman of the Year

Jarace Walker, F, Houston

Most Improved Player of the Year

J'Wan Roberts, R-Jr., F, Houston

Sixth Man of the Year

Reggie Chaney, Sr., F, Houston

Sportsmanship Award

Ludgy Debaut, Gr., C, East Carolina

Sion James, So., G, Tulane

First-Team All-Conference

Landers Nolley II, R-Sr., G, Cincinnati

Marcus Sasser, Sr., G, Houston*

Kendric Davis, Sr., G, Memphis*

DeAndre Williams, Sr., F, Memphis

Jalen Cook, So., G, Tulane

Second-Team All-Conference

Taylor Hendricks, Fr., F, UCF

Jamal Shead, Jr., G, Houston

J'Wan Roberts, R-Jr., F, Houston

Jarace Walker, Fr., F, Houston

Jaylen Forbes, Jr., G, Tulane

Third-Team All-Conference

David DeJulius, Gr., G, Cincinnati

Tyler Harris, Sr., G, South Florida

Damian Dunn, R-So., G, Temple

Kevin Cross, Jr., F, Tulane

Craig Porter Jr, Sr., G, Wichita State

All AAC-Freshman Team

Taylor Hendricks, F, UCF*

Ezra Ausar, F, East Carolina*

Jarace Walker, F, Houston*

Terrance Arceneaux, G, Houston

Emanuel Sharp, G, Houston

* denotes unanimous selection
SEC announces men's basketball postseason awards



A&M's Buzz Williams named co-coach of the year

The Southeastern Conference Men's Basketball Honors

The SEC is out with men's basketball postseason awards as they were selected from voting by the league's coaches.

2023 Southeastern Conference

Men's Basketball Honors

Coach's of the Year

Buzz Williams - Texas A&M and

Jerry Stackhouse - Vanderbilt

SEC Player of the Year

Brandon Miller

SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Kobe Brown - Missouri

SEC Freshman of the Year

Brandon Miller

Defensive Player of the Year

Liam Robbins

Co-SEC Sixth Man of the Year

Jahvon Quinerly - Alabama

Antonio Reeves - Kentucky

All SEC First-Team

Alabama Brandon Miller

Florida Colin Castleton

Kentucky Oscar Tschiebwe

Mississippi State Tolu Smith

Missouri Kobe Brown

Tennessee Santiago Vescovi

Texas A&M Wade Taylor IV

Vanderbilt Liam Robbins

All SEC Second-Team

Alabama Mark Sears

Arkansas Anthony Black

Arkansas Ricky Council IV

Auburn Johni Broome

Auburn Wendell Green Jr.

LSU KJ Williams

Tennessee Zai Zeigler

Texas A&M Tyrece Radford

All SEC -Defensive Team

Alabama Charles Bediako

Arkansas Davonte Davis

Florida Colin Castleton

Tennessee Zakai Zeigler

Vanderbilt Liam Robbins

All SEC -Freshman Team

Alabama Jaden Bradley

Alabama Noah Clowney

Alabama Brandon Miller

Arkansas Anthony Black

Florida Riley Kugel

Kentucky Chris Livingston

Kentucky Cason Wallace

South Carolina Gregory "GG" Jackson II

Tennessee Julian Phillips

Big 12 Baseball power rankings- Week 4



Texas still struggling to get above .500 before conference play starts

By Derek Duke

It was a busy weekend full of surprises and big moments.

Each week, we release a Big 12 baseball power rankings, and here are this week's rankings.

1. Oklahoma State Cowboys (Last Week #1)

For the first time this season, we have the same team on top of the power rankings. The Cowboys are on an 11-game winning streak and completed a sweep over Utah Tech this past weekend. The pitching has gotten better and their bats have stayed red hot. Right now, they look like the best team in the Big 12.

2. TCU Horned Frogs (Last Week #2)

After a rough Friday night (lost 14-2), the Horned Frogs rallied to win back-to-back games to take the series against San Diego. Their offense has slowed down a bit but the emergence of pitcher Kole Klecker has been huge for this team on the mound. If TCU can put it all together at once then they will be tough for any team to handle.

3. Texas Tech Red Raiders (Last Week #3)

If Texas Tech would have swept Iowa last weekend then I would have had no choice but to move them up. The Red Raiders raked all weekend against a Top-25 Iowa team that has solid pitching. Their offense is good enough to win against anyone but if they can improve on the mound then watch out.

4. West Virginia Mountaineers (Last

Week #4)

I keep saying that the Mountaineers are the best Big 12 team outside of the top 25. All they do is win and they continued that trend against Minnesota last weekend by sweeping the Gophers. Their bats are getting better, and the pitching duo of Blaine Traxel and Ben Hampton have been fun to watch.

5. Oklahoma Sooners (Last Week #5)

You are looking at one of the hottest teams in the Big 12 right now. The Sooners just completed a sweep over Houston on the road and are winners of five straight. Easton Carmichael, Anthony Mackenzie, Dakota Harris, and Jackson Nicklaus have been outstanding at the plate this season and could carry this team a long way.

6. Texas Longhorns (Last Week: #6)

Nothing changes with the Longhorns after their sweep of Manhattan. I like the way this team has played over the last week but I want to see them do better against tough competition. They have a matchup against New Orleans coming up in a few days which will be a nice test before conference play arrives.

7. Kansas State Wildcats (Last Week #7)

It's hard to move a team up when everybody in front of them wins. That is the case for Kansas State as they have won seven games in a row after their sweep over Youngstown State. While I do have concerns about their pitching, they scored 45 runs this past weekend. This offense is for real folks.

8. Kansas Jayhawks (Last Week #8)

The Jayhawks went out to South Carolina and got roughed up in both of their games against Michigan State and Western Carolina. After a nice start to the season, Kansas has really struggled as of late.

9. Baylor Bears (Last Week #9)

If you have kept up with last weeks list, then you have realized that nothing has changed. There were plenty of sweeps last weekend including Baylor who got swept by Mercer. I know I keep saying it but this team is really struggling.

Big 12 STANDINGS		
TEAM	Conf.	Overall
Oklahoma St	0-0	15-3
Texas Tech	0-0	15-3
West Virginia	0-0	11-4
Kansas State	0-0	11-5
Oklahoma	0-0	11-6
Texas	0-0	10-7
TCU	0-0	9-7
Kansas	0-0	7-7
Baylor	0-0	6-11
*Iowa State	0-0	0-0

NCAA D1Baseball Top 25	
3/13/23	
1.	LSU
2.	Tennessee
3.	Ole Miss
4.	Wake Forest
5.	Florida
6.	Vanderbilt
7.	Arkansas
8.	Louisville
9.	Stanford
10.	East Carolina
11.	TCU
12.	Oklahoma State
13.	UCLA
14.	Virginia
15.	Texas A&M
16.	South Carolina
17.	Virginia Tech
18.	North Carolina
19.	Campbell
20.	FGCU
21.	Florida State
22.	Texas Tech
23.	NC State
24.	Alabama
25.	Southern Miss



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College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

bcarter@footballfoundation.com

The NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas will host its 14th annual Awards Dinner on Sunday, March 19, at 6 p.m. (CDT) at the Addison Marriott Quorum. For ticketing and details, please access the group's website at <https://www.nffdallas.org/events>. NCAA FBS attendance increased five percent to 41,840 fans per game in 2022 over 2021 figures for the second-largest percentage gain since 1982. Conference USA netted the heftiest gain from '21 to '22 gain at 11.9 percent among FBS circuits.

The NFF Touchdown Club of Houston will have its annual Fundraising Golf Scramble at 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, at Wildcat Golf Club. Foursomes are \$600 (regular) and \$1,000 (VIP). For more information, please contact the TD Club's Neal Farmer at hfarmer07@att.net or call Neal at 713-849-9860.

The NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas also will hold its inaugural charity golf tournament to focus on raising scholarship funds to benefit the high school scholar-athletes recognized at its annual awards banquet each spring. The event is set for Monday, April 24, on the King's Course at Gleneagles Country Club in Plano, Texas.

The tourney emcee will be award-winning national sportscaster Scott Murray. Please access www.nffdallas.org for more information. NFF College Hall of Fame LB Dat Nguyen of Texas A&M will be the guest speaker at this event after starring in the NFL for seven seasons and gaining election to the Hall in 2017. The group also is partnering with Charity Golf International of Keller, Texas, for fundraising support with Monica Borowicz - one of their many long drive contestants. She was a college tennis MVP two years in a row as well as a NCAA Division II college golfer star. She also has her master's degree from Kansas State in Academic Advising and has been both competing and working in Professional Long Drive since 2018. Through Golf Channel's World Long Drive Tour, Borowicz was ranked ninth in the world in the Women's Division with a longest competitive drive of 369 yards, fastest recorded ball speed of 186 miles per hour and fastest recorded swing speed of 125 mph.

Historian Mike Burrows pointed out two nearly improbable NCAA automatic men's basketball bid possibilities as Northern Arizona (10-22 overall prior to the game) in the Big Sky Conference championship and Lafayette (11-22) in the Patriot League title game were one victory away from making the NCAA Championship field. The 2023 NFF Awards Dinner will be hosted by the ARIA Resort and Casino and City of Las Vegas on Tuesday, Dec. 5. For ticketing and additional information, please access Footballfoundation.com.

The INFLCR NIL Summit with 350-plus attendees in its 2023 gathering at the Chick-Fil-A NFF College Hall of Fame in Atlanta, is scheduled again for June 3-5. Additional information and registration are

available https://twitter.com/NIL_Summit.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the March 13-19 time period are March 13 (1918) George McAfee, Ironton, Ohio; (1938) Joe Bellino, Winchester, Mass.; (1969) Chris Zorich, Chicago, Ill.; (1977) Joe Hamilton, Alvin, S.C.; March 14 (1903) Ed Weir, Superior, Neb.; (1936) Dr. Jim Swink, Sacul, Texas; (1943) Charlie Green, Dayton, Ohio; (1978) Ron Dayne, Berlin Township, N.J.; March 15 (1898) Clarence Swanson, Wakefield, Neb.; (1926) Norm Van Brocklin, Eagle Butte, S.D.; (1937) Randy Duncan, Osage, Iowa; (1956) Ozzie Newsome, Muscle Shoals, Ala.; March 16 (1872) Phillip King, Washington, D.C.; (1920) Buster Ramsey, Townsend, Tenn.; March 17 (1871) John Outland, Hesper, Kan.; (1876) Bill Morley, Cimarron, N.M.; (1905) Joe Donchess, Youngstown, Ohio; (1912) Joe Styhahar, Kaylor, Pa.; (1914) Sam Baugh, Temple, Texas; (1915) Bill Hartman, Thomaston, Ga.; (1916) Bob Suffridge, Fountain City, Tenn.; (1931) Ray Beck, Bowden, Ga.; (1967) Johnny Bailey, Houston, Texas; March 18 (1905) Benny Friedman, Cleveland, Ohio; (1906) Frank Wickhorst, Aurora, Ill.; (1910) Wear Schoonover, Pocahontas, Ark.; (1928) James Williams, Waco, Texas; (1932) Dave Maurer, Duquesne, Pa.; (1938) Joe Kapp, Santa Fe, N.M.; (1961) Curt Warner, Pineville, W.Va.; March 19 (1913) Nello Falaschi, Dos Palos, Calif.; (1914) Jay Berwanger, Dubuque, Iowa; (1931) George Morris, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Notable death anniversaries in this time period are March 13 (1932) Percy Wendell, Boston, Mass.; March 14 (1925) Walter Camp, New York City; March 15 (1990) Tom Harmon, Los Angeles, Calif.; March 16 (1943) Paul Bunker, POW Camp in Japan; (2006) Bill Hartman, Athens, Ga.; March 17 (1965) Amos Alonzo Stagg, Stockton, Calif.; (1992) Frank Carideo, Ocean Springs, Miss.; March 18 (1975) Biggie Munn, Lansing, Mich.; (2000) Bob Blackman, Hilton Head, S.C.; March 19 (1977) Buck Shaw, Menlo Park, California. **Happy birthdays** to Hall of Famers on March 13 Chris Zorich, Joe Hamilton, March 14 Ron Dayne, March 15 Ozzie Newsome, March 17 Johnny Bailey, March 18 Joe Kapp (a spry 85)

Louisiana Tech will host Nicholls State in 2027...The 2023 Mountain West Conference slate will begin Sept. 16 when Air Force hosts Utah State...South Carolina State has scheduled future series with Tennessee Tech in 2023 and '24, Florida A&M in 2024 and '25 and Wofford in 2025 and '27...Illinois will host Illinois State in 2028...Georgia Southern

and Jacksonville State ticketed for a pair of encounters in 2025 and '26...Texas will play its spring scrimmage on Saturday, April 15, after Auburn cranks up its intrasquad contest on April 8...The website FBSchedules.com denoted 16 NCAA FBS schools who are playing an all-FBS schedule in '23 out of 131 FBS teams competing.

Tony Rossi, the longest-tenured baseball head coach in NCAA Division I history for 54 years, is retiring from his lone post at Siena March 20. He started the season with a school- and MAAC-record 930 victories at the start of the '23 campaign...Toyota North America's 2023 Need a Nudge Fund for deserving charities serving underserved communities has awarded \$10,000 grants to: UA3, Inc., New York City; GKSFund, Detroit, Mich.; Ladies of Charity Calvert County, North Beach, Md.; SHADE Tanzania, Great Falls, Va.; Gem City United Co., Laramie, Wyo.; Kulture Klub Collaborative, Minneapolis, Minn.; The Blue and White Foundation, Inc., Bangor, Pa.; Hope Alzheimer's Center, Cranston, R.I.; Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, Fla.; UR Community Cares, Manchester, Conn.; Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.; Feeding Tiny Tummies, Keene, N.H.; Lee County Literacy Coalition, Auburn, Ala.; Virginia Black Business Directory, Fredericksburg, Va.; A Future Super Hero and Friends, Long Beach, Calif.; and Victory Village Corp., Houston, Texas.

Florida State head coach Mike Norvell and his family are donating \$1 million to FSU athletics...William & Mary granted a contract extension through 2027 for head coach Mike London...Alabama head coach Nick Saban has supported playing nine Southeastern Conference clashes over the years but is wondering about a fair blend of opposing teams on the permanent intra-SEC slate...Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman is looking for immediate jumps in level of talent at several open starting positions after the Razorbacks started spring workouts on March 8...Georgia head coach Kirby Smart is working hard to maintain the culture of Georgia football established by the likes of NFF College Hall of Fame head coaches the late Vince Dooley and Wally Butts...New Nebraska head coach Matt Rhule stopped by NU men's basketball workouts to wish good luck in the Big Ten Conference Championship to legendary Huskers basketball head coach Fred (the Mayor) Hoiberg...Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz reacted to the settlement of jurisprudence between athletics and former UI football student-athletes...

Hometowns of more 2023 college head coaches – William & Mary: Mike London, West Point, N.Y.; Williams: Mark Raymond, Buffalo, N.Y.; Wisconsin: Luke Fickell, Columbus, Ohio; Wisconsin-Eau Claire: Rob Erickson, Junction City, Wis.; Wisconsin-La Crosse: Matt Janus, Lake Jurich, Illinois.

Rena Myles Payne has been named director of athletics at Fort Valley State... Mount St. Mary's AD Lynn Robinson will retire in August after 15 years at the helm... SIUE AD Gavin received a four-year contract with a guaranteed annual compensation package.... Oklahoma AD and NFFL board member Joe Castiglione has met with regional government officials about the consideration of an off-campus arena to replace the historic Lloyd Noble Center. Castiglione also helped lay out plans for \$500 million-plus in renovations and construction in coming months for OU facilities... North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham is another ADS who would like the ACC to study its current revenue distribution policies... U. of New Orleans AD Tim Duncan was on a national podcast explaining the concept of tackling the work-life balance gap and maintaining sanity on the job... Texas Tech AD Kirby Hocutt and head coach Joey McGuire will be part of the search committee for the new men's basketball head coach at TTU with assistance from head-hunter TurnkeyTRZ... West Virginia AD Wren Baker notes that non-conference scheduling by schools such as Baylor, TCU and Kansas State and their recent success might serve as a model for future WVU non-conference scheduling... Wake Forest AD John Currie congratulated the Deacons student body for showing up for its highest attendance since the 2008-09 season at 10 home conference and other non-ACC clashes and is considering options for proposals of new ACC financial distribution... Stanford AD Bernard Muir noted that Stanford athletics will not endorse a NIL collective... Florida State AD Michael Alford is the latest appointee to the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee... Illinois AD Josh Whitman said he has achieved his dream job athletically at UI and has no interest in pursuing the opening for Big Ten Conference commissioner... Colorado Mesa tabbed Joan McDermott as interim AD... Arizona AD Dave Heeke mentioned his experience and hours spent on the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee and how the NET rating often is misinterpreted by coaches and fans in final selection decisions... Sacred Heart named Chris Hale senior associate AD for athletics advancement... Legendary (47 years) head coach Jim Boeheim has retired at Syracuse and has been replaced by one of his former stand-outs, Adrian Autry... Kansas men's basketball head coach Bill Self missed the Jayhawks Big 12 Championship opening win over West Virginia and the rest of the meet in Kansas City due to a hospital

stay... Northwestern is extending the contract of men's basketball head coach Chris Collins for an undetermined duration... Texas A&M men's basketball head coach Buzz Williams has been named 2022-23 SEC Coach of the Year... Missouri men's basketball head coach Dennis Gates has gained a contract extension through the 2028-29 season with additional compensation and bonus areas... Vanderbilt men's basketball head coach Jerry Stackhouse also received SEC Coach of the Year laurels from another media source along with Vandy's SEC Defensive Player of the Year center Liam Robbins... Louisiana head coach Bob Marlin, one of the finalists for the 2022-23 Skip Prosser Basketball Man of the Year Award, gained a one-year contract extension and performance bonus with the Cajuns for capturing the 2023 Sun Belt men's basketball crown. Marlin was a frequent road trip roommate of NFF correspondent Bo Carter during their days with the Mississippi State basketball program in the 1980s... Brown tabbed Kirsten Green as senior associate AD and chief of staff... Central Arkansas named Tony Kemper as women's basketball head coach... St. Bonaventure added Jim Crowley as women's basketball head coach... Purdue men's swimming and diving head coach Dan Ross is retiring after 38 seasons with the Boilers... East Tennessee State men's tennis head coach Martin Stiegwardt is leaving the program after six seasons... UC Santa Barbara volleyball head coach Nicole Lantagne Welch has retired after 21 seasons at UCSB.... Butler named Kyle Shondell to as women's volleyball head coach... Hofstra tabbed Brad Johnson as women's golf head coach... Loyola (Ill.) selected Kyle Nelson as associate AD for academic services.... Baylor president Dr. Linda Livingstone is the new chair of the American Council on Education Board of Directors with her tenure running through September 2024... Austin Peay men's basketball coach Nate James has been relieved of his duties... Basketball and ice hockey programs at Xavier (Ohio – women's head coach), NJIT (men), Georgetown, D.C. (men), Green Bay (men), McNeese (men), California (men), Bowling Green (men), Wichita State (men), Army West Point (men), North Florida (women), Bryant (women), Providence (women), Cincinnati (women), WKU (men), Holy Cross (men), Texas Tech (men), ULM (women), Wisconsin (men's ice hockey), Georgia Southern (men), and Georgia Tech (men) are seeking new head coaches for 2023-24... UT Arlington associate AD for external relations Eric Trimborn has left the Mavericks for possible positions in private business... D1Ticker.com has new listings for positions in athletics at Eastern Washington, George Mason, Long Beach State, Hawai'i, Mount St. Mary's, Albany, Arizona, Cal State Northridge, Connecticut, Evansville, Michigan, Pittsburgh, Princeton, San Diego State,

SMU, Utah, Long Beach State, Tulane, Colorado, South Dakota, Central Michigan, Marshall, Florida, NC State, Brown, and South Carolina State.

America Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco issued the following statement (in part) about emphasis that the NCAA appears to be placing on Power Five conferences:

"In recent weeks I have seen references to the "Power Five" in interviews and public conversations which suggest that the P5 is virtually the exclusive focus in college athletics. This is profoundly misguided, especially in the current environment.

As it now stands, in terms of competitiveness, the gap between the number two and three conferences is far greater than between the number three conference and The American. There are P5 conferences that have lost the marquee teams which gave them that status in the first place and whose value today is much harder to define. There are P5 conferences that have added multiple teams from The American and other conferences among this group that have discussed adding schools from our conference. If the P5 label means that you are vastly different, why is this so?" Stu Jackson has been tabbed as West Coast Conference commissioner. Jackson also gave his thoughts about possible conference realignment in an interview afterward... The Atlantic Coast Conference has signed on with Elevate Sports Ventures for assistance with business intelligence, analytics, revenue optimization, ticket strategy, sales, distribution, and fan experience solutions... The Big East Conference is starting renewal discussions with FOX Sports for circuit multimedia rights... ACC commissioner Jim Phillips pointed out that there are 4-5 possible points of emphasis for any discussion of different splitting of year-end ACC revenues among the members... SEC commissioner Greg Sankey expressed satisfaction with the conference's automatic and at-large men's and women's basketball bids as well as the success of the 2023 hoops' championships in Greenville, S.C., and Nashville, Tenn. He also related that the conference hopes to have its expanded, 2024 football schedule in place no later than the circuit's spring meetings in Destin, Fla., in May... The Ion Group may be used as a consultant for Pac-12 Conference multimedia rights' negotiations... Sun Belt Conference commissioner Keith Gill shared thoughts about almost 30 years of collegiate leadership with the D1Ticker.com podcast last week... Big 12 Conference commissioner Brett Yormark has received backing from several Big 12 head coaches for expanding membership with possible newcomers Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado (returning to the Big 12 after leaving for the Pac-12 in 2011), Oregon, Washington, and Oregon State, among others... 2022-23 Big 12 Conference individual men's basketball honors went to Jalen Wilson of Kansas as unanimous Player of the Year, Kansas State's Jerome

Tang as Coach of the Year, Kansas' Dajuan Harris Jr. as Defensive Player of the Year, KU's KJ Adams Jr. as Most Improved Player, K-State's Keyontae Johnson as unanimous Newcomer of the Year, Baylor's Keyonte George as Freshman of the Year, and Texas' Sir' Jabari Rice as Sixth Man Award recipient. On the Big 12 women's basketball side of the ledger, Iowa State's Ashley Joens was chosen as Big 12 Player of the Year, and Texas' Vic Schaefer was named Coach of the Year. Texas' Rori Harmon (Defensive Player of the Year) and Shaylee Gonzales (Newcomer of the Year) joined Baylor's Darianna Littlepage-Buggs (Freshman of the Year) as top honorees, and Skylar Vann (Oklahoma) received the Sixth Player Award for the second year in a row... The Sun Belt Conference is working to investigate the instance of Old Dominion women's basketball having six player on the court at the end of a SBC championship quarterfinal tilt against Troy... The Big 12 Conference contacted musician/composer P.L. to compose the first-ever Big 12 basketball anthem: No Nights Off... The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference will keep its men's and women's basketball championships at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J., through 2026... The Big Ten Conference women's basketball championship at the Target Center in Minneapolis had a record crowd of 9,505 for the Iowa-Indiana title contest in Las Vegas last week... Several fans made note of higher concessions' prices at the Pac-12 Conference Men's Basketball Championship... The football-oriented Western Athletic Conference-Atlantic Sun Conference joint venture is being discussed by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors for post-2023 championship eligibility and other matters... Northeast Conference commissioner Noreen Morris opined about being a competitive men's and women's basketball circuit, the NEC governance structure, upcoming spring meetings, and potential revenue streams for the league. The Cotton Bowl Athletic Association has issued invitations for its 2023 Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic Hall of Fame induction ceremony on May 11 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Inductees are NFF College Hall of Fame members Terrell Buckley of Florida State and coach Gary Pinkel of Missouri, QB Edd Hargett of Texas A&M, LB Will Herring of Auburn, NFF National Scholar-Athlete and Ole Miss QB Eli Manning, CBAA chair and Dallas sports legend Fred McClure, and Missouri TB Tony Temple. The GCB also is beginning to mail and email previous fans about ticket renewals... Baylor will take an all-time bowl record of 14-13 into the 2023 season after playing in 11 postseason skirmishes since the 2010 season... Texas A&M is seeking its 43rd bowl trek since the Jan. 1, 1922, Dixie Classic at Fair Park Stadium against Centre under NFF College Hall of Fame coach

(continued on page 18)

D.X. Bible and hopes to draw closer to the .500 mark with a 20-22 worksheet in the first 42 bowls. The Ags have appeared in 12 postseason tussles over the last 14 years. Former Georgia DB Jaheim Singletary is moving to Arkansas for the '23 outing...Maryland OL Mason Lunsford has made his way to LSU in the 2023 transfer portal...U. of Calgary (Canada) received a commitment from star incoming linebacker Kaleb Conn. And the guest speaker for the Dinos annual 5th Quarter Dinner on April 20 at Hotel Arts in Calgary is former Washington Huskies, NFL Hall of Famer, CFL Hall of Famer QB Warren with entertaining emcee Natasha Staniszewski of the CFL Calgary Stampeders...St. Francis (Pa.) standout Josh Cohen has entered the NCAA transfer portal...Mississippi State center Tolu Smith has captured the prestigious 2022-23 Bailey Howell Award as collegiate basketball player of the year in the Magnolia State...MSU transfer QB Mike Wright has been solid in early spring workouts...Head coaches' sons in Nebraska and Iowa men's basketball have played major roles in their teams' drive to postseason possibilities in 2023...Stanford men's cross country student-athlete Charles Hicks has inked a NIL arrangement deal with Nike for promotional and social media presence...Quarterback Josh Flowers and OL TJ Lockhart have offered a verbal commitments to Mississippi State in 2024...Bellevue (Neb.) West HS QB Daniel Kaelin is expected to declare his 2024 choice of colleges this week...Syracuse's John Bol Ajak has entered the NCAA transfer portal.

NFF College Hall of Fame member Roger Staubach of Navy has been involved in several community service projects in recent weeks...NFF Gold Medal recipient and late U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower (multi-sport student-athlete at Army West Point and played against fellow Hall of Fame member Jim Thorpe of Carlisle) was remembered for penning a personal letter to National Baseball Hall of Fame member Honus Wagner to celebrate Wagner's 80th birthday...Former Chicago State deputy AD, Vanderbilt publicist and College Sports Communicators president Jessica Poole has become chief operating officer for the Minnesota Aurora Football Club...Former U.S. Treasury Secretary and Harvard president emeritus Dr. Lawrence Summers commented on how inflation and recession possibilities might affect the U.S. economy, overall giving to universities and college athletics...103-year-old team chaplain and Loyola (Ill.) superfan Sister Jean Schmidt received a special charter flight trip to New York City last week to see the Ramblers play in the Atlantic-10 Conference men's basketball championship...Teall Sports and Entertainment appointed former Big 12 Conference commissioner and National Wrestling Hall of Fame member Bob Bowlsby to its board of advisors.

Michigan continues to construct new

video boards on schedule for the 2023 season at Michigan Stadium at a cost estimated at \$37-41 million...NIL proceeds from July 2022-June 2023 are anticipated to be \$1.14 billion after the system netted \$917 million for student-athletes in its first 12 months of existence in research done by Opendorse...The USF Board of Trustees okayed up to \$22 million for projected architectural renderings and plans for an on-campus football stadium...North Dakota State athletics had another record-setting year in 2022 with \$7.9 million in donations...The Richmond (Va.) City Council authorized \$3.5 million in updates for The Diamond where VCU baseball and the Class AAA Richmond Flying Squirrels compete...Key college sports advertiser and corporate sponsor Dick's Sporting Goods had net sales of \$12.37 billion for 2022 with a gain of just under one percent from 2021...Duke athletics added \$3.9 million to support women's sports through its 50 for 50 campaign donations with 50-plus donations of \$50,000-plus...American U. athletics gained \$217,892 from 3,256 givers during its annual giving day...The Memphis Tigers 901 Fund NIL collective now will include all sports at UM...Elon athletics raised \$579,000-plus for its 10th Annual Day of Giving...North Florida athletics received \$135,800 in gifts during its annual Blue and Gray Bash...The Colorado Buffs4Life NIL collective now will provide matching NCAA Alston Fund awards for football walkon student-athletes...Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns athletics is placing special emphasis in 2023 on fan engagement, facilities' funding, keeping ticket process at reasonable rates, and dealing with NIL challenges...FIU athletics and SureAthlete are working together for real-time communications' tools and state-of-the-art analytical updates...Bowling Green athletics has allied with Collegiate Sports Connect for a large pool of administrative and coaching talent when needs arise...Several college athletics' administrators are cautioning their departments to beware of artificial intelligence usages in correspondence as well as writing assignments by student-athletes...North Florida athletics will utilize BDB Collegiate Solutions for its corporate partnership program...New Mexico men's and women's basketball teams are hoping to avoid March conflict with facility use at the UNM Pit and the previously scheduled Professional Bullriding Championships in the campus building...Maryland athletics is working to alleviate a 2022 fiscal year shortfall of \$6.8 million after multiple coaching contract buyouts...Baylor athletics and Playfly Sports Properties have inked a 10-year multimedia rights' pact starting June 1...Columbia athletics inaugurated the Lisa Landau Carnoy Lounge in the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Fitness Center last week...The Subway restaurant group, a major sponsor of college athletics, is up for sale with an estimated price of \$10 billion...Stanford,

Columbia and Mount Sinai Hospital researchers looked at how air pollution might inhibit some performances in athletics at sea level, high altitude and in inner-city areas where automobile and other pollution may be above average...Western Michigan has added critical and unique student-athlete refueling stations inside University Arena, Lawson Ice Arena, the Seelye Center, and the Bill Brown Alumni Football Center...Nebraska-Kearney will host its annual scholarship fundraising dinner on April 20...Clemson athletics started the Allen N. Reeves Clemson Athletics Branding Institute in a new, two-story to allow CU student-athletes areas to seek branding, marketing, sponsorship, content creation, and additional promotions. The building also is available to the Clemson student body for the same amenities...The State of Iowa Senate is meeting with Iowa athletics' officials about a recent settlement of a lawsuit as well as buyouts of coaching staff members and other unexpected expenses. Iowa athletics is reimbursing the state's general fund \$2 million to help allay some of these expenses...Kennesaw State men's basketball has made one of the biggest turnarounds in recent NCAA Division I annals under head coach Amir Abdur-Rahim from a 1-28 record in 2019-20 to 5-19 in 2020-21 to 13-18 in 2021-22 to 26-8 and a NCAA Championship bid this winter...The Loyola (Ill.) NIL collective Keepers is a men's basketball-focused group to help provide income and endorsements to student-athletes...Toledo athletics will use the Oak View Group for assistance in corporate naming rights for the historic Glass Bowl stadium...UCLA athletics and apparel provider HanesBrands have a new contract starting in '24...The Colorado Board of Trustees called a special meeting last Thursday to discuss CU's role in ongoing developments in the Pac-12 Conference...ESPN statistician and baseball historian Barry Allen found 25 no-hitters pitched in the first four weeks on all divisions of college baseball...Vivid Seats revealed a net income of \$71 million in 2022 after a \$19.1 million setback in '21...Iowa athletics made public its five strategies for diversity, equity and inclusion...

Former ESPN president and Meadowlark Media CEO John Skipper suggested a merger of the Big 12 and Pac-12 Conferences into a 24-team mega-circuit with major advantages in negotiating national multimedia rights...The Athletic surveyed the contracts of 20 new FBS head football coaches and buyouts for some other head coaches in prime posts...The Saturday Tradition website recounted from several interviews how scheduling strategy can lead to additional television revenues for FBS conferences as well as networks and how the UCLA and USC defections to the Big Ten Conference have changed that landscape...JohnCanzano.com noted last week that the Pac-12 Conference CEO Group board had a productive meeting

about media rights' talks and commitments of the 10 current members to remain together...Extrapoints.com explored the various aspects of contracts for directors of athletics and other key college athletics' administrators...One of the most imaginative ad campaigns during recent XFL and college basketball telecasts sponsored by Pfizer/Biontech (developers of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters) – the Pfizer/Biontech Shot of the Game...ExtraPoints.com also brought up examples of games being stopped by swarms of bees, locusts, foxes, squirrels, raccoons, transformer blowups (caused cancellation of a San Jose State-SMU football game in the 1990s), and even the UCF softball tourney temporary stoppage by a group of nearby parrots...USA Today outlined additional bonus compensation for head coaches who won their respective conference crowns, made NCAA postseason activity or reached a predetermined number of regular-season victories in multiple winter sports...Netflix is hoping to use its acclaimed documentary successes with Formula 1 auto racing for several proposed projects for college athletics...The Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette newspaper explored the facts surrounding 2022-23 colleges basketball jurisprudence, coaches' suspensions and dismissals and other newsworthy activities...TNT analyst Jeff Van Gundy is stepping in for former USC standout Reggie Miller as analyst and studio host for the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship...Sports Business Journal highlighted South Carolina athletics and the immense success of women's basketball head coach Dawn Staley...ESPN's Pete Thamel indicated that the Pac-12 Conference will seek live, on-air telecasts as the chief source of multimedia carriage with streaming as a secondary consideration in contract negotiations...College sports television scheduling speculator Matt Sarzyniak is looking at his projections for Weeks 0 and 1 of 2023 football...The Athletic surveyed the contracts of 20 new FBS head football coaches and buyouts for some other head coaches in prime posts...The Texas Tribune will host its annual Texas Tribune Festival Sept. 21-23 as the hometown Texas Longhorns play at Baylor on Sept. 22...Viewership of the Big Ten Conference increased 25 percent from 2022 to '23 with providers the BTN and ESPN...ESPN's Pete Thamel referred to a Colorado law about open meetings that might preclude serious talks during a Board of Regents meeting about the Buffaloes joining another conference or sticking with the Pac-12...Sports Business Journal highlighted Georgia Tech's added emphasis on revenue generation during recent personnel moves and executive budget decisions...The Athletic praised ABC and ESPN for televising the 2023 NCAA Women's Division I Championship finale live on ABC...Warner Brothers Discovery Networks remain committed to work with CBS and TBS for telecasts of NCAA Men's Basketball Championships

for years to come...USA Today reported bonus compensation and some contract extensions for men's basketball coaches at College of Charleston, UCLA, Texas A&M, and Northern Kentucky...ESPN.com examined why NCAA women's college hockey has not expanded beyond Minnesota to the west and how the sport is looking to gain a more nationwide look in years where the Winter Olympics do not highlight USA women's hockey medal teams...ESPN analyst Dick Vitale politely declined an offer from CBS to work on the 2023 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship because of his longstanding relationship with ESPN...ESPN also continues to try and implement a central locale and web hub for sports streaming...The Silicon Valley Bank default last Friday has affected finances at Roku and other key internet media providers...Sportico.com explained the details about an antitrust case involving Ivy League athletics...ESPNU carried the National Invitation Tournament selection show live for the first time in history last Sunday night.

Award-winning writer Blair Kerkhoff has been elected to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2023...Duke's 24-year women's basketball publicist Lindy Brown has been named the U.S. Basketball Writers Association's Mary Jo Haverbeck Award winner for 2023 for service in athletics. He will be presented the award at the NCAA Women's Final Four® in April in Dallas...ABCA Achievement Awards for 2023 include Metropolitan Award – Tubby Smith, former Division I coach (including time at Texas Tech), Hillyard Golden Anniversary Award – Tom Klusman, Rollins head coach (45 seasons); Cliff Wells Appreciation Award – J.D. Collins, former NCAA coordinator of officiating and on-court official; Social Impact Award – Dr. James I. Cash, Harvard Business School professor and senior associate dean, first Black scholarship student-athlete in Southwest Conference history; International Committee Lifetime Achievement Award – Pete Gillen, CBS Sports analyst and longtime college head coach...Trending on social media and other platforms nationally from the College Sports Communicators group are Bill Stevens of Washington State, Brent Ingram of Baylor, Mike Montoro and Michael Fragale of West Virginia, and Tyler Roper of WKU...Arizona, Arizona State, Brown, Eastern Kentucky, Eastern Washington, Harvard, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisville, LSU, Miami (Fla.), Michigan, Michigan State, UCLA, and USC have been conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...NCAA president Charlie Baker told NCAA correspondent Andy Katz that his initial priorities are to show balance

in handling different institutions, working with Power Five conferences and key committees, the NIL situation, and student-athlete mental health issues, among other topics...NCAA national coordinator of football officials Steve Shaw is requesting a measured approach to proposed 2023 rules to speed up college contests and is concerned that clock changes after incomplete passes could put offenses in a rapid "turbo" mode...NOBULL received the bid as the official training and apparel sponsor for last week's NFL Combine...NBA commissioner Adam Silver has been identified as a possible successor to the Disney Co.'s Bob Iger when Iger goes into retirement for a second time...The NCAA is celebrating the 20-year anniversary of its corporate champions and partner programs...The MLB broadcasting department is working with Comcast, DirecTV, Charter, and other groups to take over for Warner Brothers Discovery and AT&T SportsNet channels in MLB coverage areas in coming days...Ohio State is the top seed for the NCAA Division I Ice Hockey Championships ahead of Minnesota, Colgate, Yale, and Northeastern...Twenty-nine of the 30 players on the team from Israel in the World Baseball Classic are from the U.S., and the entire squad has played college baseball in the states...North Greenville (No. 1 in NCAA Division II polls) has allowed OF Marek Chlup to take two weeks out of his current NGU season and compete for the Czech Republic in the WBC...The NCAA is looking at proposals to vend hard seltzers and ciders at championship event locations in addition to malt beverage and win sales...U.S. Senators Tommy Tuberville (Rep-Ala.) and Joe Manchin (Dem-W.Va.) have been making special efforts to stay in contact with national leaders in athletics about finding solutions to nationwide NIL legislation and other key college governance matters...The NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee made 87 at-large individual selections in addition to 243 team qualifiers at the championship last week in Tulsa, Okla...American Volleyball Coaches Association executive director Kathy DeBoer is retiring after 17 years in her post...The NCAA will distribute \$170 million-plus to conferences for the 2023 Men's Division I Basketball Championship. Other men's and women's conference basketball champions clinching automatic NCAA Division I Championship invitations over the weekend were men: America East - Vermont; American Athletic - Memphis; ACC - Duke; Atlantic-10: VCU; Big Ten - Purdue; Big 12 - Texas; Big East: Marquette; Big Sky - Montana State; Big West - UC Santa Barbara; Conference USA - Florida Atlantic; Horizon League:

Northern Kentucky; Ivy - Princeton; MAAC - Iona; MEAC - Howard; Mid-American - Kent State; MWC - San Diego State; Northeast - Merrimack; Pac-12: Arizona; Patriot - Colgate; SEC - Alabama; (correction on the Southern Conference winner - Furman); Southland - Texas A&M-Corpus Christi; Summit - Oral Roberts; Sun Belt - Louisiana; SWAC - Texas Southern; WAC - Grand Canyon; West Coast - Gonzaga; and women: America East - Vermont; American Athletic - East Carolina; ACC - Virginia Tech; Atlantic Sun: FGCU; Big 12 - Iowa State; Big East: Connecticut; Big Sky - Sacramento State; Big West - Hawai'i; Colonial - Monmouth; Conference USA - Middle Tennessee; Horizon League: Cleveland State; MAAC - Iona; Mid-American - Toledo; MVC - Drake; MWC - UNLV; Northeast - Sacred Heart; Patriot - Holy Cross; Southland - Southeastern Louisiana; Summit - Oral Roberts; Summit - South Dakota State; Sun Belt - James Madison; SWAC - Southern U.; WAC - Sacramento State; West Coast - Portland. Of note, in the 25 NCAA men's basketball championships from 1997-2022, only 12 eventual NCAA champs captured their conference tourney crowns. The Top Four men's seeds for 2022-23 are Alabama, Kansas, Houston, and Purdue.

2023-24 College Football Playoff Bowl Schedule with New Year's Six Games (All Games Televised by ESPN, EST.)

Saturday, Dec. 30

Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, CFP semifinals
State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Arizona
4 or 8 p.m.
Capital One Orange Bowl, CFP semifinals
Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Lakes, Florida
4 or 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 - CFP

Championship, NRG Stadium
Houston, Texas, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 29, 2022-Jan. 1, 2024

(Other New Year's Six Bowls)

Friday, Dec. 29

Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia
TBD

Jan. 1 -

Allstate Sugar Bowl
Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, La.,
TBD

Jan. 1 -

Goodyear Cotton Bowl
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas
TBD

Jan. 2 -

Rose Bowl presented by Prudential
Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, California

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