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# Weekly



## Masters Tournament Preview

April 9 - April 15, 2021

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## AROUND THE AREA

## LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

# Osborne to compete in the Masters



AUGUSTA, Georgia – Current SMU golfer Ollie Osborne competes in the first men's major championship of 2021, the Masters Tournament, April 8-11 at Augusta National Golf Club.

Osborne received an invitation to the event by virtue of his run to the championship match of the 2020 U.S. Amateur, and joins Michael Podolak (1986), Hank Kuehne (1999), Kelly Kraft (2012) and Bryson DeChambeau (2016) as Mustangs to compete in this event as an amateur.

"You start losing some sleep just thinking about it," Osborne said at Augusta National on Tuesday. "After the new year, after that invitation comes, you definitely start thinking about it. Your excitement definitely gets higher as the week comes."

Now a professional, DeChambeau makes up the rest of the SMU representation in the field, and is widely regarded as a contender to pick up his second major championship this weekend. DeChambeau won the 2020 U.S. Open, is currently in first place in the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup Standings for the 2020-21 season. DeChambeau was the low amateur at the Masters in 2016.

Osborne tees off at 11:24 a.m. CT on Thursday. He has additionally qualified for the 2021 U.S. Open, which takes place in June at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, California.



### Infield Camping returns to No Limits, Texas for Indy Car, NASCAR All-Star Weekends

After a year of staying indoors, Texas Motor Speedway is proud to announce the return of infield camping for the upcoming NTT INDYCAR SERIES doubleheader and NASCAR All-Star Race weekends as part of the 25th Season of Speed celebrations at No Limits, Texas.

RV's and fifth wheels will once again pull through the speedway's south tunnel to park and set up in the Geico Infield Campground on the east side of Allison Avenue. The outdoor adventure begins with the May 1 Genesys 300 and May 2 XPEL 375 NTT INDYCAR SERIES doubleheader and continues through the June 12-13 NASCAR All-Star weekend.

"We couldn't be happier to welcome our great race fans back to the Geico Infield Campground for two amazing weekends of the best auto racing in the world during our 25th Season of Speed," said Texas Motor Speedway President and General Manager Eddie Gossage.

The following protocols will be implemented for safety and security:

- RV/Camper searches will be required for all Geico Infield Campground campers. Inspections will be held in the Express parking lot just outside the south tunnel.
- NASCAR and the NTT INDYCAR SERIES will continue to operate within a "bubble" on the west side of the infield for the safety of all teams and industry mem-

bers. Geico Infield Campground campers and fans must remain on the east side of Allison Avenue for the duration of the event weekends.

- Due to the infield shower/restroom buildings as well as the Barr Tunnel (underground tunnel to/from the grandstands) being located on the west side of the infield, access will not be allowed for the May and June event weekends. TMS opens its 2021 major event season May 1-2 with an NTT INDYCAR SERIES doubleheader. The Genesys 300 will air live May 1 on NBCSN beginning at 6 p.m. while the XPEL 375 will air live May 2 on NBCSN beginning at 4.



**NCBWA Legend Russ Anderson Passes away**  
 DALLAS – Longtime executive associate director of the National Collegiate

Baseball Writers Association and assistant commissioner of Conference USA Russell D. "Russ" Anderson passed away in Irving Monday and has been memorialized for his many contributions to college baseball and college athletics. A graduate of North Central College in the Chicago area and native of Downers Grove, Illinois, Anderson was with C-USA from its inception and worked his way from assistant director of media relations to assistant commissioner in recent years. Anderson was 50 and is survived by his sister Mary (David) Basek, his brother William (Kim) Pieper and his nephews Chris (Jacki) Valdez, David Valdez and Mike Valdez.

### NCAA BASEBALL - Top 25

Coaches	(Week 7)	NCBWA
1. Vanderbilt		1. Vanderbilt
2. Arkansas		2. Mississippi State
3. Ole Miss		3. Arkansas
4. Tennessee		4. Texas Tech
5. Mississippi State		5. Ole Miss
6. Texas		6. Florida
7. TCU		7. Louisville
8. Texas Tech		8. East Carolina
9. East Carolina		9. Texas
10. Louisville		10. Tennessee
11. Florida		11. UCLA
12. South Carolina		12. Georgia Tech
13. Oklahoma State		13. TCU
14. Notre Dame		14. Oregon State
15. Miami		15. Oregon
16. Georgia Tech		16. LSU
17. UCLA		17. Notre Dame
18. Oregon State		18. Oklahoma State
19. Louisiana Tech		19. Miami
20. Oregon		20. Pitt
21. Florida State		21. Michigan
22. Arizona		22. Alabama
23. Stanford		23. Florida State
24. Michigan		24. South Carolina
25. Virginia Tech		25. Arizona

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

	APRIL 9 FRIDAY	APRIL 10 SATURDAY	APRIL 11 SUNDAY	APRIL 12 MONDAY	APRIL 13 TUESDAY	APRIL 14 WEDNESDAY	APRIL 15 THURSDAY
			Mavs vs Spurs 7:00 / BSSW	Mavs vs 76ers 7:30 / BSSW		Mavs at Memphis 8:30 / FSSW	
		Stars vs Florida 1:00 / KTCK	Stars at Nashville 7:00 / KTCK		Stars vs Florida 7:30 / KTCK		Stars vs Columbus 7:30 / KTCK
		FC Dallas at Houston 3:00pm					
	Rangers vs Padres 7:05 / 105.3fm	Rangers vs Padres 6:05 / 105.3fm	Rangers vs Padres 1:35 / 105.3fm	Rangers at Rays 6:10 / 105.3fm			
	Americans vs Mavericks 7:05	Americans vs Mavericks 7:05	Americans vs Mavericks 2:05			Americans at Rush 8:05	

# Starting pitchers look good so far



Kyle Gibson made his second start Wednesday afternoon and threw six shutout innings



BY DIC HUMPHREY  
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MEMBER: USBWA

ARLINGTON, Texas –The first week of the season is in the books for Texas, and their record stands at 3-3. They came home from last weekend's trip to Kansas City and played good baseball. The offense cooled off as they scored just 11 runs to start this week compared to 21 runs last weekend, but the pitching made it stand up for a pair of wins to even the Rangers' record.

After Monday's loss in the home opener, Dane Dunning was the tandem starter on Tuesday. He was supposed to go three or four innings, with Taylor Hearn piggy-backing to get the game to the late inning bullpen hands. Dunning was magnificent throwing five innings while allowing a run on three hits. He walked no one and struck out six. It's just one start. No need to jump the gun here, but he looks like the real deal.

The offense clicked early, scoring in each of the first three innings a total of five runs. They put two more on the board to win 7-4, showing a lot of power. Nate Lowe connected for two home runs and drove in four. His RBI total is up to 14 to lead the Major Leagues. Ronald Guzman and Jonah Heim also went yard.

Hearn followed Dunning to the mound, and he gave up two runs, both earned in two innings. Matt Bush pitched the eighth and gave up a solo home run to complete Toronto's scoring.

Opening day starter Kyle Gibson made his second start Wednesday afternoon. He credited pitching coach Doug Mathis with spotting a mechanical flaw in his delivery after his first horrendous outing. The adjustment worked, and Gibson threw six shutout innings. He was touched for six hits but walked just one and struck out eight. The win evened his record at 1-1.

Lowe's streak of driving in runs ended at five on Wednesday. He was 0-4. Nick Solack, who had been struggling at the plate, homered leading off the second inning. Two batters later, Jose Trevino singled, went to second on a groundout, and scored on Leody Taveras's single to put the Rangers in front 2-0. That was all the Ranger run scoring on the day, but three relievers made two runs good enough to win. Bush again gave up a solo home run in the eighth inning to make the final score 2-1.

Ian Kennedy was signed shortly before spring training began to a minor league contract. The veteran pitcher has been a starter most of his career, but in 2019, he was Kansas City's closer and saved 30 games. He was looked at for the Ranger bullpen, but his odds of making the team did not look good with Jose Leclerc as the incumbent closer and Jonathan Hernandez off his breakout 2020 season knocking on the door. Now both are on the injured list, with Leclerc out for the season, and Hernandez not coming back soon.

Kennedy stepped in to save both the Tuesday and Wednesday games. On Tuesday, he needed just eight pitches, seven of which were strikes, to coax three ground ball outs. On Wednesday afternoon, he struck out the side allowing just a two out single. He has solidly taken hold of the Rangers' closer role. Hopefully, the team can provide him with more save opportunities.

The final chapter of the Rouged Odor

in a Ranger uniform story got written this week. Texas traded Odor to the New York Yankees for two minor league outfield prospects. The Yankees will pay the Major League minimum salary for the two remaining years of Odor's contract. That is \$570,700 this season. Next year's minimum is unknown with the current collective bargaining agreement expiring after this season. President of Baseball operations Jon Daniels indicated they received other offers that were more favorable from a cash standpoint, but they chose the Yankee offer to get the two outfield prospects.

From the Yankees' standpoint, getting Odor at the Major League minimum helps keep the team under the luxury tax and gives them a needed lefthanded power bat. The Yankees are noted for not allowing players to have facial hair, so it will be interesting to see what he looks like sans the facial hair he always sported as a Ranger.

For Texas, 24 year-old Josh Stowers is the prize in the deal. He was the 54th selection in the 2018 amateur draft, after a college career at Louisville where he was an All-American in his junior year. He has a .268 batting average in two minor league seasons with 12 home runs. He is a speedster that has stolen 55 bases.

Antonio Cabello is the other outfield prospect Texas received in the trade. He is 20 years old and has played just 56 games in the Rookie League so far in his professional career.

It's just six games, so not enough to draw conclusions, but the impression so far is the starting pitching has been pretty good. Gibson's opening day clunker was the only terrible start. His second start and the starts from Dunning and Jordan Lyles were very good and resulted in wins. The starts from Kohei Aihara and Mike Foltyniewicz were good enough to win on

many occasions.

The pitching problems have been more with the bullpen. Help should be on the way as Brett Martin and Joely Rodriguez will be activated from the injured list soon. Offensively, center fielder Leody Taveras is struggling the most. He has just two hits in 19 at bats (.105), and he has struck out 12 times. With Willie Calhoun getting close to being activated from the injured list, Taveras could be moving to the alternate site on his way to a minor league team when the minors open for play May 4.

As far as the West goes, the Astros are off to a hot start going into the weekend with a 6-1 record. The Angels are close behind at 5-2, and Texas is in third place at 3-3. Seattle is 3-4, while the Oakland Athletics are off to a miserable start at 1-7, the worst record in the American League.

This weekend, the San Diego Padres are in town for three games. Unfortunately, their shortstop Fernando Tatis, Jr. will not be on the field after sustaining an injury earlier this week. The pitching matchups are Joe Musgrove going against Aihara on Friday, Chris Paddock against Lyles on Saturday, and Adrian Morejon against Foltyniewicz on Sunday. Game times (CDT) are 7:05 PM Friday, 6:05 PM on Saturday and 1:35 PM on Sunday.

#### NOTABLE:

\* The Glove Life Field roof was open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons' games. That was the plan as a COVID-19 protocol. However, on Tuesday night, the roof was closed because of high winds.

\* The six home runs by the Blue Jays and Rangers on Tuesday night are the most hit in a game at Globe Life Field. Included were four home runs by Ranger hitters, the most for the Rangers in a Globe Life Field game.

\* The Rangers; alternate site team won their first game Thursday, beating the Astros alternate site team 4-1.

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# 85th Masters: Firm, fast and furious



TOM WARD

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Back in early November of 2020, Dustin Johnson laid waste to the field winning his first Masters title while eclipsing the tournament record in the process shooting 268 (-20 under par). His record breaking performance shattered the previous mark set by Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth.

Now, as the tournament resumes in its normal timeslot, it will be interesting to see what transpires as Johnson returns to defend his short lived title. The conditions were much softer in November, and the greens were receptive to approach shots as the field could take dead aim at pins without any fear of repercussions.

Last fall's assault on the record book probably rankled the membership at Augusta National. It's easy to see why. Outside of Dustin Johnson's 72-hole total 268 (-20), it was the lowest field scoring average in tournament history (71.75). More birdies were made (1,122) than any previous tournament. The most rounds in the 60's (65) was set as well.

Australian Cameron Smith became the first player to shoot all 4 rounds in the 60's for the first time in history. That won't be the same scenario this week. Instead, players will be welcomed with extremely firm and fast greens. The secondary rough will be mowed down which could result in tee shots running into the trees and pine straw when missing the fairway.

Current FedEx Cup leader Bryson DeChambeau was the odds on favorite to win last fall and fell flat on his face. His obsession with distance, thinking he would overpower the course with his driver, backfired. He was lucky to make the cut and ended up in a tie for 34th. Perhaps this time he will be better prepared which could bode well for him. Power is a big advantage at Augusta National if you can keep it in play. In addition, DeChambeau hasn't putted particularly well on the greens at Augusta National either.

Momentum plays a big part in any sport. Players riding a hot streak into a major like the Masters can use that to their advantage. The past two weeks on the PGA Tour have been played here in the state of Texas. Billy Horschel won the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship in Austin. Last Sunday, Jordan Spieth broke through after a four year drought to win the Valero Texas Open in San Antonio. Both of those players should be feeling good about their games. Spieth has been playing well the past two months contending on the weekend in nearly all the events he entered. His track record at Augusta National is impressive winning the title in 2015. He

came in second twice in 2014 and 2016 and finished 3rd in 2018.

This year, there are 88 players in the field and three are amateurs. The usual suspects should contend again this year. The number 2 world ranked player, Justin Thomas, should be in there on Sunday. He won the prestigious Players Championship back in mid-March, and he's one of my picks to win this year.

Defending champion Dustin Johnson hasn't been in his best form, but I expect him to step it up this week and be there in the end.

Gone this year is Tiger Woods who is recovering from a near fatal car wreck. Tiger's self-inflicted injury will sideline him for the foreseeable future and relegate him to watching the tournament from the comfort of his home.

I don't look for Rory McIlroy to make much noise this week. In his attempt to get more distance and keep up with DeChambeau, he has lost confidence in his swing and now is working with a new coach. Not the ideal scenario you want going into the first major of the year.

Spaniard, Jon Rahm ranked # 3 in the world became a new father a few days ago so it remains unclear how well his focus will be this week.

Brooks Koepka is playing less than a month removed from surgery on his right kneecap. He dislocated it after a fall and has damaged ligaments. He is able to swing okay, but walking is an issue. Augusta National is a hilly course and has lots of undulations that are going to make things quite challenging for him. His injury is affecting his putting too. He has trouble bending down when he takes his putting stance.

All three of these great golfers have the ability to turn it on despite their circum-

stances. It would be a terrific storyline if any of them make a run come Sunday.

Players in the field with a Texas connection is quite strong. Lead by Jordan Spieth, players include: Patrick Reed (Spring, Texas and 2018 Masters champ), Bryson DeChambeau (SMU alumni), Ryan Palmer (from Amarillo), Dylan Fritelli (S. African lives in Austin), Will Zalatoris (Plano, Texas), Sebastian Munoz (Colombian who played at North Texas), Carlos Ortiz (Mexican lives in Dallas, who played at North Texas), Abraham Ancer (Mexican/American lives in San Antonio), Amateur Ollie Osborne (SMU junior player lives in Dallas), Scottie Scheffler (Dallas and University of Texas), Jimmy Walker (Boerne, Texas).

Some of the fine young players to keep an eye on include: Sungjae Im and Cameron Smith tied for second in their Masters debut last fall. Abraham Ancer and Carlos Ortiz from Mexico, Daniel Berger, Viktor Hovland of Norway, Patrick Cantlay, Xavier Schauffele, Tony Finau and Max Homa. You can never count out veteran players like Phil Mickleson (three-time Champ) who can rise to the occasion, or two-time champ Bubba Watson. Adam Scott won in 2013 and Sergio Garcia (2017 champ) are playing well.

So what should we look for this weekend? First, it will be nice to see a limited amount of patrons on the grounds cheering on the players. I expect to see some good scoring, as the course will still yield its share of birdies and eagles. We can count on a lot of excitement, because the Masters always delivers on great action and storylines. Come Sunday afternoon, the course will be firm, fast, furious, and a lot of fun for everyone.

Tom Ward can be contacted at [www.teetimetom.com](http://www.teetimetom.com).

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# The First Look: Masters Tournament



Dustin Johnson returns to defend his title



**Masters Tournament**  
**April 8 - April 11, 2021**  
**Augusta National Golf Club**  
**Augusta, Georgia**  
**Purse - \$11,500,000**  
**Winners share: \$2,070,000**  
**Defending Champ - Dustin Johnson**

By Adam Stanley  
 PGATOUR.COM

## Driving down Magnolia Lane

A sure sign of Spring is the Masters in April, and for 2021 the first men's major of the calendar year has returned to its normal spot.

Dustin Johnson returns to defend his title after a dominating performance in November and Augusta National will welcome a limited number of patrons to watch the action unfold.

**FIELD NOTES:** Reigning FedExCup champion Dustin Johnson will look to defend his Masters title after his record-breaking effort in 2020. Johnson finished at 20-under in the fall, eclipsing the all-time scoring mark by two shots... All of the golfers inside the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 will be teeing it up at the Masters, led by FedExCup leader Bryson

DeChambeau... Eighty-eight golfers are currently in the field of the Masters, with one last spot open to the winner of the Valero Texas Open (if he is not already exempt)... Brooks Koepka is currently in the field. The former PGA TOUR Player of the Year is looking to return from a knee injury... Three amateurs are playing in 2021 including Joe Long of England and Americans Charles Osborne and Tyler Strafaci... Masters professional rookies for 2021 include Carlos Ortiz, Will Zalatoris, and Robert MacIntyre... Eighteen Green Jacket winners are teeing it up in 2021. **FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 600 FedExCup points.

**COURSE:** Augusta National Golf Club, 7,475 yards, par 72. The Bobby Jones/Alistair McKenzie classic is back being played in its 'regular' time of the year, and early reports indicate it will be playing much firmer and faster than in November. Augusta National's layout will be unchanged from the November Masters. **STORYLINES:** Rory McIlroy is once again looking to win the career Grand Slam. He was over-par after the opening round in November but shot three rounds in the 60s to climb to T5... Jordan Spieth is hoping his fine play of late will translate at a place he knows very well. Spieth, who was T2 through 36 holes at the Valero Texas Open, has finished inside the top-10 in four of his last six PGA TOUR events... Plenty of notables are looking for their second major triumph including FedExCup leader Bryson DeChambeau, past FedEx Cup champion Justin Thomas, Collin

Morikawa, and Patrick Reed – winners on TOUR this season, all... On the flip side, there are plenty of notables looking for their first major win, including Jon Rahm, Xander Schauffele, and Tyrrell Hatton – ranked in the top-10 in the world, all... After Dustin Johnson's scoring-record performance in November, he's now looking to become the first golfer since Tiger Woods in 2001-02 to defend his Masters title.

**72-HOLE RECORD:** 268, Dustin Johnson (2020)

**18-HOLE RECORD:** 63, Nick Price (3rd round, 1986), Greg Norman (1st round, 1996)

**LAST TIME:** Dustin Johnson captured his second major by winning a Masters unlike any other – contested in November.

Johnson fired rounds of 65 on Thursday and Saturday and never took his foot off the gas, closing with a 3-under 33 on his final nine holes to stroll into the Masters record books. To show how impressive Johnson's performance was, Cameron Smith (who tied for second with Sungjae

Im) was the first golfer in Masters history with four rounds in the 60s – and he lost by five. Justin Thomas finished fourth while Dylan Frittelli and Rory McIlroy – who opened with a 3-over 75 but rallied from Friday onwards – rounded out the top five. Defending champion Tiger Woods made a 10 on the tricky par-3 12th on Sunday but went on to birdie the par-5 13th and Nos. 15-18 to finish at 1-under for the tournament and T38.

## HOW TO FOLLOW

**Television:** Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. ET (ESPN); Saturday, 3 p.m.-7 p.m. (CBS); Sunday, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. (CBS)

**Radio:** Thursday-Sunday, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. ET (CBS Radio; Sirius 208, XM 92)

**Stream:** Featured Group coverage, Amen Corner and holes 15 & 16 will be available to stream via Masters.com (Thursday, 7:30 a.m. ET; Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10:15 a.m. ET on Saturday-Sunday)

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# Nine things about Augusta National



By Cameron Morfit  
PGATOUR.COM

We now return to our regularly scheduled programming.

After the pandemic-delayed Masters Tournament was moved all the way to November in 2020, here we are back in April again, some five months later, for the 2021 iteration.

The azaleas will be back in bloom, the patrons will be back (in limited capacity), and the course will have a chance to play fast and bouncy – the usual stuff, with a few new wrinkles.

To get you ready for the Masters, here are Nine Things to Know about Augusta National Golf Club.

## 1. RETURN TO APRIL

With more heat necessitating more irrigation in the months leading up to it, and more rain, a November Masters was always going to play softer. Players suddenly had to worry about spinning shots off the fronts of the greens, and the bigger hitters had a bigger advantage than usual. You could see it all the way down the board, starting, of course, with Dustin Johnson, who won by five shots at a record 20 under par. He also set records for most greens in regulation (60) and fewest bogeys (four).

Also finishing in the top 20 were big hitters like Justin Thomas (solo fourth), Rory McIlroy (T5), Brooks Koepka (T7), Jon Rahm (T7), Cameron Champ (T19) and Sebastian Muñoz (T19). Meanwhile, modest to shorter hitters did well just to make the cut (past champs Zach Johnson, Mike Weir) or had the weekend off (Brendon Todd, Kevin Kisner, Graeme McDowell, Francesco Molinari).

At times – like when long-distance approaches landed on the green and actual-

ly stayed there – playing in November was so different that Rahm told Patrick Reed they were going to have to delete the whole experience from their hard drives, “because it’s never, ever going to play like this again.”

Thomas said course knowledge was less of a factor.

With no patrons on site, the Par 3 Contest was cancelled. So was the Drive, Chip & Putt, and the Augusta National Women’s Amateur. With two hours less daylight, players were sent off the first and 10th tees.

This year the kids from the Drive, Chip & Putt National Finals will return with limited fans, and the Augusta National Women’s Amateur is back, too. The Par 3 Contest won’t happen for the second straight year.

## 2. ALWAYS INNOVATING

As Fenway Park or Wrigley Field are for baseball, Augusta National is a sort of cathedral of golf. There’s a timelessness about it. The towering Georgia pines, the spectacular canvas of flowers (azaleas, pink dogwood, etc.), the wildly undulating terrain – it never changes.

But it always changes. The club reversed the nines in 1935, the year after Horton Smith won the first Augusta National Invitation Tournament, which wasn’t called the Masters until ’39. The pond at the 16th hole was built after the damming of a stream at the 11th in ’50. And after Tiger Woods went 18 under to win by a dozen shots in 1997, the course gradually went from less than 7,000 yards to almost 7,500.

“Well, Augusta National has been at the forefront of trying to keep it competitive, keep it fair, keep it fun, and they have been at the forefront of lengthening the golf course,” Tiger Woods said last year.

“Granted, they have the property; they can do virtually whatever they want. Complete autonomy. It’s kind of nice.

“But also, they have been at the forefront of trying to keep it exciting,” he continued. “As the game has evolved, we have gotten longer, equipment’s changed, and they are trying to keep it so that the winning score is right around that 12- to 18-under par mark, and they have.”

## 3. PROUD AMATEUR TRADITION

Bobby Jones, the consummate amateur, co-founded the club (with Clifford Roberts). This year’s amateur contingent will feature U.S. Amateur Tyler Strafaci, whose grandfather also competed in the Masters, U.S. Amateur runner-up Ollie Osborne and British Amateur champ Joe Long.

**Fun fact:** Then-amateur Bryson DeChambeau was just one off the lead as he stood on the 18th tee Friday in 2016, but he triple-bogeyed the hole and ulti-

mately finished 21st. He turned pro the next week.

The Masters started recognizing the low amateur in 1952. A player must make the 36-hole cut to receive the prize, which is now a silver cup.

The best finish by an amateur at Augusta National remains Ken Venturi’s second-place finish in 1956, when he entered the final round with a four-shot lead but shot 80 on Sunday.

Because of cancellations caused by COVID, there are just three amateurs in this year’s Masters, tying the fewest in tournament history. There were also just three in 2008 – when Colt Knost, winner of the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Amateur Public Links, turned pro before the Masters – and 1942.

## 4. OLD AND NEW

Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player will be the Honorary Starters this year as Augusta National honors its past champions. In a new twist, so will Lee Elder, who in 1975 received death threats when he became the first Black player to compete in the tournament.

Winners come back for life, spinning yarns about the old days at the Champions’ Dinner.

**More history:** The clubhouse dates to 1854 as a private home and is believed to be the first concrete house built in the South. Fruitland Nurseries, which was bought as the future Augusta National Golf Club site in 1931, billed itself as the “South’s oldest nursery,” dating to 1856. The course was closed and used to raise cattle and turkeys for three years during the war effort of World War II.

On the other hand, Augusta National has always been a place to identify the game’s next wave, from 21-year-old megatalent Tiger Woods in ’97 – still the youngest ever to win – to Tianlang Guan, who was just 14 when he became the youngest to make the cut in 2013.

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The famous par-3 12th hole at Augusta National Golf Club

## 5. ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Longtime network partner CBS used just six cameras, covering only holes 15-18, in its first tournament broadcast in '56. Nowadays the network uses 75-100 cameras to cover all 18 holes. The '66 Masters was the first tournament to use a stop-action technique seen only in football; 2001 gave us the first golf telecast to use HDTV; and the 2010 Masters was the first major sporting event produced and presented in 3D on television and the Internet. Ancillary feeds like "Masters on The Range" and "Amen Corner" broke ground, as did the club's 2019 commitment to capture every shot on camera.

And speaking of innovations, the state-of-the-art press building, which opened in 2017, features white columns and gray stonework; a huge atrium with skylight; grand staircase; a wall of windows opening up to the driving range; 350 seats; and men's and women's locker rooms. It's a far cry from the reporters' old tent and Quonset hut, and even a far cry from the press building that one reporter dubbed it "our Taj Mahal" when it opened off the first fairway in 1990.

## 6. REVERED ARCHITECTURE

Dr. Alistair Mackenzie of Scotland was the original architect and brought design concepts inspired by some of the classics in his home country, including the Old Course at St. Andrews. He would design masterpieces from coast to coast – Cypress Point in Monterey, California stands out – and spanning the globe. (This in an era in which globe-trotting was not easy.)

Tom Fazio helped the club add yardage and trees for the 2002 Masters, and more wrinkles arrive seemingly non-stop. The newly lengthened fifth hole played to nearly 500 yards and elicited copious bogeys last year. The par-5 13th will reportedly get a new back tee, although it may not be ready yet.

The club considers every detail – Bobby Jones, for example, initially disliked

the fairway bunkers at the fifth hole – adjusting on the fly where needed. How it might adapt after DeChambeau makes his mark this year, assuming he does, is anybody's guess and one of the dominant pre-tournament storylines.

## 7. EVERY HOLE HAS A STORY

It was dubbed "the shot heard 'round the world" when Gene Sarazen made an albatross at the par-5 15th hole in 1935. He won a playoff the next day and said the shot wouldn't have meant anything without the title. He's probably right. Jeff Maggert made the first albatross at the 13th hole in 1994, and Louis Oosthuizen made an albatross at the second hole in 2012 to get in a playoff with eventual winner Bubba Watson.

Both shots were soon forgotten relative to Sarazen's.

**More storytelling:** Augusta National co-founder Clifford Roberts and renowned sportswriter Grantland Rice hosted a private train party for the official opening of the club in 1933. Herbert Warren Wind, another sportswriter, coined the term "Amen Corner."

Oh, and every hole is named in a sort of homage to the old nursery: Tea Olive for the first hole, Pink Dogwood for the second, Flowering Peach for the third, and so on. The most famous is arguably Golden Bell, the short, par-3 12th hole, where club selection is key and train wrecks are not uncommon, often separating the winners from the also-rans.

## 8. GUILF IS REWARDED

First-timer Fuzzy Zoeller won the tournament in 1979, but he's the only newbie to don the green jacket. More often than not, players require seasoning to grasp the course's intricacies. Veterans sometimes turn back the clock at Augusta National: Jack in '86, Tiger in 2019. You also get compelling sidebars like Bernhard Langer making the cut last year at age 61. Don't count out Phil Mickelson, 50.

The flip side is the near-misses that tug

on the heartstrings, like 48-year-old Kenny Perry bogeying the last two holes to fall into a playoff, which he lost to Angel Cabrera, in 2009. More agonizing still was veteran Greg Norman's collapse as he lost a six-shot lead and Nick Faldo won in 1996.

## 9. YOUTH IS IRREPRESSIBLE

Woods was 21 when he won in '97. Jordan Spieth was a marginally older 21 when he won in 2015, tying Woods' 72-hole scoring record of 18-under 270. They're the two youngest winners ever. It helps to be too young to have scar tissue.

Conversely, as with the oldies, the kids have suffered their own wipeouts.

A shellshocked Spieth made a quadruple-bogey 7 at the 12th hole and lost the '16 Masters in his title defense. Brandt Snedeker, then 27, shot a final-round 77 to finish T3, four back of winner Trevor Immelman, in 2008. Rory McIlroy, then 21, shot a final-round 80 to lose in 2011.

Ah, well, maybe tears are inevitable at Augusta for both the winners and the losers. The trick is just being young enough to survive it and come back next year.

### Dustin Johnson releases menu for the Masters Champions Dinner

Dustin Johnson, the world No. 1 who will be defending his title at the Masters Tournament next week, has released his menu for the Champions Dinner.

"Almost as good as the sandwiches!" he wrote on Twitter, along with the invitation to the dinner.

Johnson, who won the FedExCup last summer, won the Masters by five shots at a record 20 under par in November. He also set records for most greens in regulation (60) and fewest bogeys (four). This was what he had dreamed about as he honed his game at the Weed Hill driving range in Columbia, South Carolina, about an hour

from Magnolia Lane. Now he'll host the Champions Dinner.

The invitation lists the menu items that will be "Served in Honor of Mr. Dustin Johnson."

#### Appetizers

Pigs in a Blanket

Lobster & Corn Fritters

#### First Course

House Salad or Caesar Salad

#### Family-Style Sides

Mashed Potatoes and Spring Vegetables

#### Main Course

Filet Mignon

Miso-Marinated Sea Bass

#### Dessert

Peach Cobbler and Apple Pie with Vanilla Ice Cream



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# 5 Things to know as the Masters begins



The drive up Magnolia Lane to the club house at Augusta National Golf Club. (Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images)

By Sean Martin  
PGATOUR.COM

AUGUSTA, Ga. -- The opening round of the Masters is almost upon us, and, per usual, there's no lack of storylines to keep track of come Thursday.

To get you prepared for the opening round, here are 5 Things to Know about this year's Masters.

## 1. A HISTORIC START:

The honorary starters are a beloved tradition at the Masters, allowing the tournament to embrace its history before more is made over the next four days.

This year, the ceremony will honor an important Masters milestone. Lee Elder, the first Black man to compete at Augusta National, will join Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player on the first tee at 7:45 a.m. Thursday.

Elder, who made his Masters debut in 1975, is the first honorary starter added to the ceremony since Player in 2012.

Nicklaus hit his first honorary tee shot in 2010 and Arnold Palmer took part until his passing in 2016.

## 2. THE FIRM:

The course conditions this week are a stark contrast to what we saw in November, when Johnson tied the lowest 72-hole score in relation to par in a major championship (20 under par).

It's been several years since players have seen the course this firm in the days leading up to the event. Jose Maria Olazabal, a two-time Masters champion, said, "If the weather stays like this, we're going to see Augusta as good as ever."

Another former champion, Fred Couples, said the course could play as difficult as it has in a "long, long time."

A firm and fast Augusta National accentuates the genius behind Alister Mackenzie's masterpiece and often draws the best players to the top of the leaderboard. When Augusta plays fast, the extreme slopes on the course's famed putting surfaces can funnel good shots toward the hole while increasing the penalty for mishits.

This could be the first time since 2017 that the winning score is single digits under par. The average winning score in the last three Masters is 16 under par.

## 3. FORE(!)-CAST:

The weather is the one thing Augusta National can't control (we think). There is a chance of precipitation this week, which could dramatically alter how the course plays but the rain is far from guaranteed to fall.

As of noon Wednesday, there was a 20% chance of rain Thursday evening and 70% chance of scattered thunderstorms Friday afternoon. There's also a 60% chance of late-afternoon thunderstorms Saturday. Temperatures are expected to be in the high 70s and low 80s every day this week, which should help the course stay firm.

## 4. QUESTION TIME:

Many years, it feels like a handful of players establish themselves as Masters favorites. This year, it feels like there are more questions than answers. Here's a few to ponder:

- Despite three consecutive finishes out-

side the top 25, can Johnson become the first player since Tiger Woods in 2001-02 to go back-to-back at Augusta? Johnson has finished in the top 10 in five straight Masters.

- How will new father Jon Rahm fare after arriving at Augusta on Wednesday? "My concern is that ... from Thursday to Monday I didn't sleep much, didn't hit a single golf shot," he said Wednesday. Rahm's three consecutive top-10s at Augusta National is the second-longest active streak.

- Can Rory McIlroy's new swing coach help him win his first Masters and complete the career Grand Slam? "I think being a little bit more in control of what I do, ... that's the sort of golfer that I want to be going forward," he said. That could be helpful here. The big number has plagued him several times at this tournament. He had a round of 77 or higher in six Masters appearances in a seven-year span (2010-14, '16). A decade ago, he famously shot a final-round 80 after taking a four-shot lead into the final round.

- Is Brooks Koepka's surgically-repaired knee strong enough for him to contend at Augusta National? He's one of just four players to finish in the top 10 in the past two Masters.

- What will a bigger Bryson DeChambeau's second crack at the Masters look like? He finished T34 here last year while struggling with physical issues. DeChambeau said Tuesday that low oxygen was the culprit. "The brain was stressed ... and wasn't feeling that great. And they were like, well, let's check out

your oxygen levels. ... And immediately from after changing the way I was breathing, the way I was feeling that day from breathing, it took it out. It literally just went away."

- Can Jordan Spieth win again after last week's victory at the Valero Texas Open, his first since 2017. Spieth, has four top-3 finishes in seven Masters, including his win in 2015, and the lowest career scoring average (70.46) at Augusta National among players with at least 25 rounds.

## 5. EXPERIENCE MATTERS:

There have been just three Masters rookies to win the Green Jacket, and two of them were in the first two Masters (Horton Smith, 1934; Gene Sarazen, 1935). No rookie has won since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979. There's a good chance that streak continues this year.

There are just six first-timers in this year's field, including just three professionals who are making their Masters debut (Will Zalatoris, Carlos Ortiz and Bob MacIntyre). The three amateurs in this year's field tie a tournament low; there were also just three amateurs in the 2008 and 1942 Masters.

Several big names – including Collin Morikawa, Matthew Wolff, Sungjae Im, Scottie Scheffler and Cameron Champ – are playing their first April Masters this week. Considering the severe contrast in course conditions, there is some limit to what can be learned from last year's Masters. The course was much softer in November, and there were no patrons last year. A limited number of patrons will be on the grounds this week.

## Past Winners 1995-2020

2020	Dustin Johnson	268 (-20)
2019	Tiger Woods	275 (-13)
2018	Patrick Reed	273 (-15)
2017	Sergio Garcia	279 (-9)
2016	Danny Willett	283 (-5)
2015	Jordan Spieth	270 (-18)
2014	Bubba Watson	280 (-8)
2013	Adam Scott	279 (-9)
2012	Bubba Watson	278 (-10)
2011	Adam Scott	279 (-9)
2010	Phil Mickelson	272 (-16)
2009	Angel Cabrera	276 (-12)
2008	Trevor Immelman	280 (-8)
2007	Zach Johnson	289 (+1)
2006	Phil Mickelson	281 (-7)
2005	Tiger Woods	276 (-12)
2004	Phil Mickelson	279 (-9)
2003	Mike Wier	281 (-7)
2002	Tiger Woods	276 (-12)
2001	Tiger Woods	272 (-16)
2000	Vinjay Singh	278 (-10)
1999	J.M Olazabal	280 (-8)
1998	Mark O'Meara	279 (-9)
1997	Tiger Woods	270 (-18)
1996	Nick Faldo	276 (-12)
1995	Ben Crenshaw	274 (-14)



# Baylor proves they are the best



## Baylor Defeats Gonzaga To Win Its 1st Men's NCAA Basketball Championship

By Rachel Treisman

The Baylor Bears are celebrating their first championship season after beating the previously undefeated Gonzaga Bulldogs 86-70 on Monday night at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Baylor dominated the high-stakes game, which turned out to be relatively low drama.

That's because the Bears were overpowering, he explained. They exploded to a 9-0 lead and didn't falter, becoming the first men's team to lead start-to-finish in a title game since 2014.

They relied heavily on their guards' smothering defense, relentless assists and three-point shots to bring home the win. Jared Butler scored 22 points with 7 assists, Davion Mitchell had 15 points and 5 assists, while MaCio Teague had 19 points.

"Our guys, when the best is needed, the best is provided," Baylor coach Scott Drew said after the game. "The better the opponent, the better they play."

Gonzaga only had to win one more game to end with a perfect season. Instead, it finishes with a 31-1 record. It would have been the first team to finish the season undefeated since 1976. Not since 1979 has an undefeated team lost the title game.

Gonzaga coach Mark Few said after the

game, "It's a really, really tough one to end a storybook season on, but listen, Baylor just beat us. They beat us in every facet of the game and deserve all the credit."

Baylor, which last appeared in a national championship game 73 years ago, held Gonzaga to a season-low point total.

"Our guys, when the best is needed, the best is provided," Baylor coach Scott Drew said after the game. "The better the opponent, the better they play."

At home in Waco, Texas, Baylor fans celebrated the team's historic win on the football field in McLane Stadium.

The win is sweet revenge for Baylor. Two years ago, Gonzaga eliminated the Bears in the second round. There was no championship game last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic shaped the entire college basketball season — both teams had to pause their programs because of COVID-19 cases and navigate constant testing, isolation and scheduling changes along the way.

Speaking to reporters, Drew praised the sacrifices his players made and noted that the games that were canceled made them appreciate the ones they were able to play even more. He described his main takeaway as being thankful for the opportunity to have the tournament at all and the chance to deepen his relationship with players.

"Our team has been special, [the] last

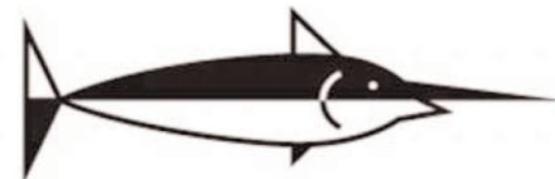
two years, winningest team in the Power Five, we've been really, really good," he said. "And they're even better people. Four weeks in the bubble, trust me I'd tell you if they're not."

The win is also personal for Drew, who has been leading the team for 18 seasons. He took over the program in 2003, in the wake of a scandal involving the murder of one player by another. At the time, he said his goal was to bring the team to the national championship, not just to play but to win.

He noted on Monday that a Texas team hadn't won a national men's college basketball championship since 1966 and called the victory "long overdue for the state."

Players also shared that sentiment. Butler, a Bears guard who was named the tournament's most outstanding player, said earlier in the week that he hoped to help put the program on the map.

"That was one of my goals and I know some of my teammates' goals is just to leave a legacy at Baylor, create Baylor as a blue blood," he said. "To do that, you have to win a national championship."



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# College Football News and Notes



Former SMU and Arkansas head coach Chad Morris has been named head coach at football at Allen High School



BO CARTER

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In the 15th installment of a continuing series of updates with past winners of the NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® presented by, 2006 recipient Brian Leonard was highlighted on the official NFF website. The former NFL standout and successful real estate investor told of the long-lasting impact that trophy has had on his life and philosophy. Jason Hanson of Washington State also was highlighted and recognized in the ongoing 2020 and '21 biopics on NFF College Hall of Fame inductees.

## NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the April 6-12 period are April 6 (1901) Pooley Hubert, Meridian, Miss.; (1934) Aurelius Thomas, Muskogee, Okla.; (1943) Andy Talley, Bryn Mawr, Pa.; (1944) John Huarte, Anaheim, Calif.; (1965) Sterling Sharpe, Chicago, Ill.; April 7 (1859) Walter Camp, New Britain, Conn.; (1900) Edgar Garbisch, Washington, Pa.; (1954) Tony Dorsett, Aliquippa, Pa.; (1961) Gabe Rivera, Crystal City, Texas; April 8 (1924)

Jim Martin, Cleveland, Ohio; (1955) Ricky Bell, Houston, Texas; (1967) Anthony Thompson, Terre Haute, Ind.; April 9 (1871) John Minds, Clearfield County, Pa.; (1898) Paul Robeson, Princeton, N.J.; (1921) Vince Banonis, Detroit, Mich.; (1947) Ron Pritchard, Chicago, Ill.; (1966) Tracy Rucker, Atlanta, Ga.; April 10 (1909) Clarke Hinkle, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; (1918) Jim Daniell, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (1938) Don Meredith, Mt. Vernon, Texas; April 11 (1903) Jake Gaither, Dayton, Tenn.; (1916) Sam Chapman, Tiburon, Calif.; (1916) Danny Fortmann, Pearl River, N.Y.; (1941) Joe Romig, Salt Lake City, Utah; (1962) Terry Hoage, Ames, Iowa; April 12 (1870) Winchester Osgood, Port Bananas, Fla.; (1944) Mike Garrett, Los Angeles, Calif.; (1966) Lorenzo White, Hollywood, Florida.

**Notable anniversary death dates** for Hall of Famers are April 7 (1986) Bert Metzger, Hinsdale, Ill.; April 9 (1983) Jess Neely, Weslaco, Texas; April 10 (2015) Ray Graves, Tampa, Fla.; April 11 (1948) Jock Sutherland, Pittsburgh, Pa.; April 11 (2017) Wayne Hardin, Oreland, Pa.; April 12 (2019) Forrest Gregg, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Happy birthdays** to NFF College Hall of Fame members April 6 Andy Talley (a spry 78), John Huarte (a spry 77), Sterling Sharpe, April 7 Tony Dorsett, April 8 Anthony Thompson, April 9 Ron Pritchard, Tracy Rucker (father of All-America Vanderbilt baseball pitcher Kumar Rucker), April 11 Joe Romig (a spry 81), Terry Hoage, April 12 Mike Garrett (a spry 77), Lorenzo White...

WKU of Conference USA will host UT Martin Sept. 2 in the season opener for both squads...Ave Maria (Fla.) will travel to in-state foe Stetson this season...Morgan State has added Towson Sept. 4, St. Francis

(Pa.) Oct. 2 and Georgetown (D.C.) Nov. 20 to complete its '21 slate...Cal Poly and Chattanooga have opted out of the rest of the regulation FCS season...The latest AFCA NAIA Top 25 poll finds the Top Five listings as Morningside (Iowa) (8-0), Grand View (Iowa) (6-0), Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) (5-0), Keiser (Fla.) (7-0), and Concordia (Mich.) (5-0)...The latest AFCA NCAA FCS survey finds Top Five stalwarts James Madison, Weber State, North Dakota State, South Dakota State, and Sam Houston State leading the pack...Austin Peay celebrated an upset of then-No. 7 nationally FCS Jacksonville State 13-10 at JSU after forcing six turnovers and playing its top defensive contest of the spring season. JSU still leads all FCS schools with a combined 8-2 fall and spring record in 2020-21 gridiron competition...Some key contests last week as FCS moves down to the 16-team postseason tourney Selection Sunday April 18 were McNeese State upending then-No. 13 Nicholls 43-31, No. 25 Southeastern Louisiana stopping Lamar 42-12, Idaho State knocking off No. 24 Idaho 24-22, and No. 16 Villanova downing Maine 44-17...Last Saturday's Lehigh at Lafayette tilt was postponed due to a COVID-19 positivity...Old Dominion football is going back to the powder blue jerseys after 12 years. The uniform as are known as Carol Hudson Blue in honor of the retired CoSIDA Hall of Fame ODU publicist and legend Carol Hudson.

Former SMU football standout Rev. Richie Butler was recognized for his efforts to help underserved residents of East Dallas, Texas, to receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the parking lot of St. Luke United Methodist Church where he is senior pastor...The latest Centers for Disease Control study notes that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are close to 80 percent effective against COVID-19 infections two weeks after the first dose and 90 percent effective two weeks after the second dose. With age restrictions now lifted in most states, student-athletes, coaches and administrators have been receiving vaccinations in much larger numbers...Mississippi State's Alumni Association, with several MSU student-athletes' alumni and their families making reservations, will take a special guided tour of the Beaches of Normandy, France, and historical World War II locations and the River Seine...NCAA men's basketball game official Bert Smith has recovered from collapsing during the early minutes of the Gonzaga-USC NCAA Men's Basketball Regional finals and did not have to be admitted to an emergency room.

TCU head coach Gary Patterson spoke about the challenges of football recruiting

during dead period, names, images and likenesses' legislation and the effect of COVID-19 on college football in a recent interview...Rice has admitted its largest freshman class in history for 2021...Stanford head coach and NCAA Football Rules Committee chair David Shaw spoke of the consensus needed nationally and standards required for major football rules' changes in any given year...Former SMU and Arkansas head coach Chad Morris has been named head coach at football-famous Allen (Texas) High School north of Dallas...Carter Cadillac and University of Calgary booster Jack Carter are providing a courtesy vehicle to UC Dinosaurs head coach Wayne Harris Jr., son of NFF College Hall of Fame member and Arkansas great the late Wayne Harris Sr....LSU head coach Ed Orgeron has promised to continue full cooperation with state investigations on recent allegations by LSU students and mentioned his truthfulness with the 2020-21 Husch Blackwell Group investigation on the LSU campus.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches – Air Force: Troy Calhoun, McMinnville, Ore.; Akron: Tom Arth, Cleveland, Ohio; Alabama: Nick Saban, Fairmont, W.Va.; UAB: Bill Clark, Anniston, Ala.; Alcorn State: Fred McNair, Mt. Olive, Mississippi.

Notre Dame director of athletics Jack Swarbrick told the Wall Street Journal that the NCAA and other college entities need to establish a clear vision for the future of college athletics...Washington State AD Pat Chun is NACDA's new Third Vice President...Former Houston and current Baylor AD Mack Rhoades interestingly hired Houston men's Final Four® head basketball coach Kelvin Sampson seven years ago at UH. The Cougars faced Baylor in the semifinals of the NCAA men's meet last Saturday in Indianapolis in the first meeting of two Texas teams in the semifinals or finals of the NCAA Men's Championship...Florida AD Scott Stricklin addressed previous NCAA cost of attendance concerns and how the NCAA names, images and likenesses' legislation might not be as large a challenge as some anticipate.

Purdue AD Mike Bobinski discussed his relationship with new Atlantic Coast former SMU and Arkansas head coach Chad Morris has been named head coach at football-famous Allen (Texas) High School...Conference commissioner Jim Phillips who formerly was AD at Northwestern before accepting the commissioner's position...UCLA AD Martin Jarmond was commended for taking care of UCLA senior basketball student-athletes

(continued on page 14)

with tickets' access for all the Bruins NCAA men's tourney contests...Tennessee named Alicia Longworth as senior associate AD for external operations Brady Hart senior associate AD for development... Kent State is moving closer to hiring an AD with the revelation of three finalists: Cincinnati executive senior associate AD and senior women administrator Maggie McKinley, Miami (Ohio) deputy AD and chief of staff Jude Killy and Old Dominion senior associate AD Randal L. Richmond....Pennsylvania athletics formed a 12-member search committee to select the replacement for outgoing AD L. Grace Calhoun...Miami (Ohio) tabbed Breanna Robinson as associate AD for diversity, advocacy and student-athlete success...Yale deputy AD and chief operating officer Ann-Marie Guglieri addressed the various aspects of leadership and experience within Bulldogs athletics...Oklahoma is expected to name former Loyola (Chicago) men's basketball head coach Porter Moser to replace the legendary Lon Kruger with the Sooners...Eddie Reese, who guided Texas men's swimming and diving to a national-record 42 consecutive conference championships in the Southwest and Big 12 Conferences from 1980-2001, is retiring. He will be emeritus coach and is the only NCAA swimming and diving coach to guide his teams to national titles in five different decades...Minnesota swimming and diving head coach Terry Ganley is retiring after 44 years with the men's and women's squads...North Texas and Oklahoma State men's basketball coaching staffs had their contracts extended with several compensation upgrades over the expansion period.... Katrina Merriweather has been tabbed as women's basketball head coach at Memphis...Former Texas Tech ultra-successful head men's basketball coach Chris Beard has taken over the Texas basketball program. Named among the favorites to replace him at Tech are Abilene Christian head coach Joe Golding, North Texas head coach Grant McCasland, former Tech star and NBA Milwaukee Bucks assistant coach Darvin Ham, and Stephen F. Austin head coach Kyle Keller...UT Arlington assistant men's basketball coach Greg Young is taking the reins from former head coach Chris Ogden who has joined head coach Chris Beard's staff at Texas along with former Tech assistant coach Ulric Maligi...Auburn has launched a national search for its new women's basketball head coach...Naismith and Women's Basketball Hall of Fame member Stanford women's basketball head coach Tara VanDerveer revisited her story in basketball. She once lived on food stamps as a graduate assistant coach because she wanted to begin her career in college coaching...Indiana named former IU standout Mike Woodson head men's basketball coach with a guaranteed, six-year contract...UTRGV selected former Austin Peay men's basketball head coach Matt Figger to the same post...Kansas men's head basketball coach Bill Self has

been offered a lifetime contract to add to his previous 18 years of service for the Jayhawks...UCLA men's basketball head coach Mick Cronin and Michigan head coach Juwan Howard each received performance bonuses for making NCAA Men's Championship regional finals. Cronin also obtained additional remuneration for making the Final Four®...Tarleton State has posted a position announcement for an assistant vice president for development...Purdue has an opening for an associate AD for strategic communications... UTEP is looking for an associate AD for fan engagement and digital strategy.... Missouri is seeking an assistant director for sports marketing while Kentucky Wesleyan has advertised for a director of athletics communications...Oklahoma State head men's basketball coach Mike Boynton had his contract extended for seven years...Alabama men's basketball head coach Nate Oats had a buyout clause added to his new contract...Fordham chose former Villanova assistant coach Kyle Neptune as its new head coach while Denver added former Stanford assistant coach Jeff Wulbrun as the Pioneers head coach...Army West Point tabbed former Adelphi head women's basketball coach Missy Traversi as head coach...UTSA has selected former Texas, North Texas and Charlotte women's head basketball coach Karen Aston as its new mentor for hoops... Kennesaw State women's basketball coach Agnus Berenato has finished her 33-year head coaching career with 483 wins... South Carolina head men's basketball coach Frank Martin is returning for the 2021-22 season...North Carolina and Kansas head men's basketball coach Roy Williams, an avid golfer and UNC basketball student-athlete, is retiring after 33 seasons and 903 victories as a DI college head coach. Williams' experience also included coaching high school freshman football at one point. North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham noted that he will lead the search for a new men's head basketball coach...New Utah men's basketball head coach Craig Smith had his six-year contract ratified...St. Thomas (Minn.) named Rob Blasi as men's hockey head coach. He comes to STU from Miami (Ohio)...Eastern Illinois tabbed former Evansville men's basketball head coach Marty Simmons as its new men's hoops' head coach...Loyola (Md.) women's basketball head coach Joe Logan will not return for the 2021-22 season after 16 years in that role...Akron men's basketball head coach John Groce has a new contract extension through the 2025-26 campaign...George Washington Provost Dr. M. Brian Blake is a finalist for Rhode Island U's presidential position... Nebraska added Husker Athletic Partners leadership team members general manager Jason Rathe, assistant GM Jason Engelbart and senior account executives Heidi Cuca and Jamie Linn...Southern Utah athletics chose former WNBA Las Vegas Aces sales manager Meighan Simmons as general

manager for operations... Northern Iowa track and field and cross country head coach Dave Paulsen received a five-year contract extension through 2027...East Tennessee State men's basketball head coach Jason Shay resigned to pursue other career opportunities...Winthrop has selected Western Carolina men's basketball head coach Mark Prosser as its new mentor... Austin Peay has gained former Duke assistant coach Nate James as the Governors new head men's basketball coach...McNeese State has added former Portland State women's basketball head coach Lynn Kennedy as the Cowboys basketball boss...Mount St. Mary's (Md.) named women's basketball assistant head coach Antoine White to succeed former head coach Maria Marchesano who is the new head coach at Fort Wayne...Toyelle Wilson accepted the head women's basketball coaching post at SMU...Johnnie Harris was named head women's basketball coach at Auburn after serving as an assistant coach at Mississippi State and Texas... DePaul chose former Oregon assistant coach Tony Stubblefield as its new head men's hoops' taskmaster...Houston assistant coach Alvin Brooks Jr. opposed Baylor assistant coach Alvin Brooks III in last Saturday's NCAA DI men's tournament semifinals...Villanova men's basketball head coach Jay Wright will not interview for the same open North Carolina position...Baylor head men's basketball coach Scott Drew reflected on the Bears first trip to the NCAA Final Four since 1950 and the first time in the NCAA men's basketball title tilt since 1948 against Kentucky. He also complimented his student-athletes, coaching staff and support personnel for helping maintain a strong bubble against COVID-19 during the NCAA tourney.... Gonzaga head coach Mark Few congratulated his team and fans for a 95-93 win in overtime over traditional power UCLA in the Men's Final Four® basketball tourney last Saturday in Indianapolis. It was the first overtime in a national men's DI semifinals' round since Kentucky edged Stanford 86-85 in a single extra stanza in 1998.

CBS Sports speculated that the Pac-12 Conference commissioner search is nearing a close with solid candidates Ohio State AD Gene Smith, Clemson AD Dan Radakovich, and former NCAA vice president West Virginia AD and NFL Europe president Oliver Luck strongly in the mix. The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury-News publication added Nebraska AD Bill Moos to the possibilities...Pac-12 Conference presidents and chancellors have expressed a desire to change the overall conference office business platform to help enhance revenue and additional corporate sports sponsorships...In 2019 the average revenue for the 13 reporting SEC schools (Vanderbilt is a private university) was \$147.7 million. In 2005 the average revenue for the reporting SEC members was just over \$60 million...Stephen F. Austin

athletics will receive an anticipated additional \$250,000-plus in overall revenue from playing at the NCAA FCS level in the Western Athletic Conference this autumn... The Pac-12 Conference earned a league-high 19 competition units in the NCAA men's basketball tournament for a of \$38.6 million in payouts...America East Conference commissioner Amy Huchthausen wrote a guest column for Sportico's JohnWallStreet.com division on NCAA gender equity.

Bowlseason.com is hosting a continuing segment about standout walkons who led their teams to bowl games and eventually played in the NFL. Two of the recent student-athletes in WalkonWednesdays were Kansas State's Jordy Nelson, East Carolina's Justin Hardy and Clemson's Hunter Renfrow...Latest all-time bowl games' records by top winning percentages show Utah No. 1 at 17-6 (.739 winning percentage), Ole Miss No. 2 at 25-13 (.658) and Oklahoma State third at 20-11 (.645).

Rutgers student-athlete TE Ryan Cassidy was voted chair of the national Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee...Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence has been identified as the probable first player in the first round of the NFL draft consideration for the Jacksonville Jaguars April 29...The Dallas Cowboys are looking to All-America DB Patrick Surtain II of Alabama as their initial '21 draft selection...2021 Texas signee Tamar Bates requested a release from his national letter of intent...Gonzaga basketball star Jalen Suggs was both Mr. Football in 2019 as a quarterback and Mr. Basketball as a forward in Minnesota at Minnehaha Academy/SMB football.... Remembering Mississippi State quarterbacks of the 2010-19 era, and the list includes:

- 2010 – Chris Reif, Tyler Russell
- 2011 – Chris Reif, Tyler Russell, Dylan Favre
- 2012 – Tyler Russell, Dak Prescott (future NFL Rookie of Year, All-Pro)
- 2013 – Dak Prescott, Tyler Russell, Damian Williams
- 2014 – Dak Prescott, Damian Williams
- 2015 – Dak Prescott, Nick Fitzgerald
- 2016 – Nick Fitzgerald, Damian Williams
- 2017 – Nick Fitzgerald, Keytaon Thompson
- 2018 – Nick Fitzgerald, Keytaon Thompson
- 2019 – Tommy Stevens, Garrett Schrader

North Texas student-athlete Javin Hamlet will forgo his senior season and place himself as a professional draft prospect...Iowa All-America freshman basketball guard Caitlin Clark (sister of Iowa State quarterback Blake Clark) told media of her desire to remain in her home state of Iowa, so her friends and family might see her play before often and to be closer to her basketball roots...Florida's Omar Payne, Mississippi State's Deivon Smith and Brandon Cunningham, Syracuse's

Kadary Richmond, Robert Braswell and John Bol Ajak, and Nebraska's Boe Wilson have entered the 2021 NCAA transfer portal. There now have been 2,000-plus NCAA football student-athletes on all levels who took the portal solution since August 2020..... Southlake (Texas) Carroll HS standout safety Cinque Williams has signed with North Texas for '21...Former Texas CB Jalen Hall has transferred to Mississippi State.

Highlights from the career of NFF College Hall of Fame member and 1962 Heisman Trophy recipient Terry Baker of Oregon State are being featured on the official NFF website. Baker, who will turn 80 on May 5, has been a successful attorney for decades in Portland, Ore., and also was a starting point guard on the 1960-63 OSU basketball teams...The NFL Atlanta Falcons have re-signed DE Steven Means of Buffalo and DT Jonathan Bullard of Florida...Former Alabama student-athlete Kerry Goode (1983-87), who starred at 'Bama with brothers Chris and Pierre Good and Antonio Langham, has been battling Lou Gehrig's Disease since 2015 after a 12-year career in the NFL as well. The Goodes and Langham all grew up and starred in multiple sports at football-famed Town Creek, Alabama (population 1,000), eight miles from fellow Alabama All-America TE and NFF College Hall of Fame member Ozzie Newsome...The NFL will not require players, coaches and support personnel to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, but it is highly recommended by the league for health and safety reasons.

The Naval Academy has finished construction of the 25,000-square-foot Ron Terwilliger (Class of '63) Center for Student-Athletes with a technology-focused 180-degree theater, reality activations and a true-to-life replica of a Blue Angels Super Hornet jet aircraft...Vanderbilt athletics will have a \$300 million upgrade for its football and basketball facilities – the first renovation for Vanderbilt Stadium since 1981...There will be work on the Football Operations Center, an expansion to the Dan McGugin Center (named in memory of NFF College Hall of Fame coach Dan McGugin), a new indoor FB practice facility, and the Basketball Operations Center. Vandy chancellor Dr. Daniel Diermeier indicated that approximately \$100 million of the funding will come from a private fundraising campaign...Will and Renee Moon have gifted Iowa athletics with \$10 million to open the Will and Renee Moon Excellence Fund to endow the Hawkeyes head coaching post and to assist in the upgrade of Kinnick Stadium's north end zone seating areas and concourse...UN Kearney is holding tryouts for the popular human costumed Louie the Loper antelope mascot...Tennessee has passed a new law requiring high school and college student-athletes to compete in the gender of their birth...The latest tax records and USA TODAY findings indicate that Ohio State reported \$233-plus million

in revenue for fiscal year 2020 compared to \$89.7 million in 2005... Toyota North America is celebrating the 25th year of production of the Sienna model in Princeton, Ind. The manufacturing plant has provided thousands of positions for graduates and student-athletes from nearby colleges such as Evansville, DePauw, Kentucky Wesleyan, Southern Indiana, Purdue, Indiana, and others...Endeavor has filed for public stock offerings to assist in raising \$1.75 billion for the UFC and its properties...LEAD1 and Hackney Publications have initiated the LEAD1 Names, Images and Likenesses' Institutional Report to assist college athletics with NIL rules' interpretations and changes...Hearst Ventures has invested \$2 million in DDSports Inc., the controlling company of ShotTracker, which has agreements with all major television and radio networks for statistical and similar services...Appalachian State athletics has employed RealResponse to help administrators work more closely with student-athletes on several objectives while Arizona State athletics now is working with the Athlete Network on similar propositions...San Jose State has begun the Dick Vermeil Fund for Football Excellence as part of the One Spartan Nation fundraising campaign...With UCLA's upset victory over Michigan in the regional finals, the 2021 NCAA DI men's joust set a record for most lower seeds upsetting higher seeds in 14 games...Learfield IMG College has added former Amazon Web Services head of product marketing management for training and certification Jennifer Davis as LIMGC's chief marketing officer...North Texas athletics will host a free, public event Thursday at 6 p.m. (CDT) at the UNT Coliseum (Super Pit) to honor the Mean Green Eagles men's and women's basketball teams...Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves has signed the state's student-athlete names, images and likenesses' law, which will take effect July 1...Utah Valley has opened a volleyball Performance Center with coaches' offices, a film screening room for performance evaluation and preparation, a lounge, and training and locker room spaces. The facility also will be utilized by the women's basketball and wrestling teams...Vanderbilt is scheduling in-person classes for fall semester and did not have any online or correspondence courses prior to March 2020 when COVID-19 conditions caused a national lockdown...Current NCAA Division II member New Haven is beginning a transition to NCAA Division I in all sports in coming months. Finding a geographically and proportionately competitive conference is high on the list of goals with this upward move...North Texas athletics has initiated the UNiTE Mean Green Club scholarship campaign to raise \$5 million in the next five years for grants-in-aid...Rice has received 4,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine in the last five days and is seeking to return to normal online classes in August...Georgia men's

golf is quarantined for 10 days due to COVID-19 protocols and tracing.

ESPN senior vice president for college sports programming and events and former UAB athletics publicist Pete Derzis will retire after 31 years with the network...Sports Business Journal compiled a list of leading leaders in diversity and inclusive hiring in college athletics and featured Big East Conference commissioner Val Ackerman, Northern Illinois AD Sean Frazier, NFF Board of Directors member Oklahoma AD Joe Castiglione, Ohio State AD Gene Smith, Washington AD Jennifer Cohen, Virginia AD Carla Williams, Duke AD Kevin White, UCLA AD Martin Jarmond, and West Coast Conference commissioner Gloria Nevarez as chief examples. OSU's Smith recently proposed a more controlled contact atmosphere for youth football leagues...ESPN is No. 2 internationally with the most TikTok social media followers in 2020 behind Netflix...Sportico found financial figures on the previous National Invitation Tournament from 2019 when the 32 teams competing had a \$2.1 million profit. The 2021 figures have not been compiled after Memphis won its second NIT in three tries against first-time NIT finalist Mississippi State 77-64...Yahoo Sports suggested that the NCAA keep the men's basketball Sweet 16 and Elite Eight games on a permanent Saturday-Tuesday schedule and possibly rotating nearby sites for these two rounds...Apex Marketing estimated that UCLA not wearing its logo during the NCAA men's basketball tourney might have cost the company as much as \$12 million in national exposure...The Medium Group wrote about student-athletes' resting heart rate during sleep and how deep sleep affects activity and peak performance...The NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship semifinals and finals will be aired live on ESPN3 and ESPNU through the 2023 season...Nielsen Ratings for the NCAA men's basketball Sweet 16 telecasts were up 13 percent from comparable numbers from the most recent NCAA tourney in 2019...Bill Neely, London and British Isles correspondent for NBC News, dedicated marathon runner and football fan, is retiring from daily reporting duties after 41 years...The Athletic suggested that the NCAA Women's Division I Championship game be televised live nationally in the future on ABC after ABC did two first-ever live telecasts of women's tourney games previously carried exclusively on ESPN outlets...The Washington Post acknowledged that worldwide television and sponsorship revenue for women's sports alone will be an anticipated \$1 billion-plus and compared rising NCAA media rights' agreements with ESPN...The Athletic spoke of postgame injury video reviews by NCAA coordinator of officials Steve Shaw and how these updates might be used in future rules' enforcement – especially if teams are attempting to slow down paces of football encounters through injury

pauses...CBS Sports columnist Dennis Dodd noted that the Kansas AD and head football coach's search was proceeding at a rather slow rate. Washington State AD Pat Chun removed himself from any consideration for the AD's position...The McClatchy Publishing Group of 30 newspapers, including the Miami (Fla.) Herald and The Kansas City Star, is consolidating its typesetting and layout organizations with 26 upcoming additional layoffs along with 84 personnel cuts due to COVID-19 economic challenges...Houston alumnus Jim Nantz of CBS expressed excitement about having his alma mater in the NCAA Final Four® for the first time since 1984. Nantz began his career in media while performing public address duties as a student at UH basketball games from 1979-82...Fresno State student-athlete twins and standouts Haley and Hanna Cavinder were featured on ESPN's Outside the Lines' with Jeremy Schaap last week...VerbalCommits.com lists 1,200-plus men's basketball student-athletes as of April 1 in the NCAA transfer portal. That indicates that just under 26 percent of players on 2020-21 rosters are seeking transfers. Literally, 2021-22 fans will not be able to tell the players without a scorecard of phone rosters' application...ESPN ratings indicated that the NCAA women's basketball semifinals averaged 2 million viewers for an increase of 11 percent over 2019.

The USBWA named Connecticut's Paige Bueckers and Iowa's Caitlin Clark as co-recipients of the 2020-21 Tamika Catchings Freshman Player of the Year Award and Stanford's Tara VanDerveer as USBWA Coach of the Year. Bueckers also won the Ann Meyers Drysdale USBWA Player of the Year Award. Iowa center Luke Garza also captured the 2020-21 USBWA Oscar Robertson Men's Basketball Player of the Year Award...NACDA's 2021 Hall of Fame class consists of retired UCLA AD Dan Guerrero, retired DePaul AD Jean Lenti Ponsetto, retired Fordham AD Dave Roach, and retired Virginia AD Craig Littlepage...The USBWA organized its annual officers' elections and awards' ceremonies around the NCAA Division I Basketball Men's Final Four® last week in Indianapolis...Pete Moore of Syracuse, Mathieu Tanguay of Universite' Laval (Canada), Joe Danahey of Humboldt State, Larry Dougherty of Temple, Gene Cassell of Washburn were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter and magazine...Cincinnati, Connecticut, Louisville, LSU, Michigan State, NC State, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Southeast Missouri, Tennessee, and Winthrop are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...NCAA senior vice president of inclusion, education and community engagement and chief diversity and inclusion officer as well as a former Vanderbilt student-athlete Dr. Derrick

(continued on page 16)



# One of the best SUVs money can buy



By Matt Degen

With its attractive styling, capable interior and powerful standard V8 engine, the Chevrolet Tahoe remains one of the best full-size SUVs money can buy.

Because it's constructed atop a rugged truck-like frame, the Tahoe can haul and tow far more weight than a conventional crossover SUV like the Chevy Traverse or Honda Pilot. However, when it comes to trailering bragging rights, the Ford Expedition's 9,300-pound rating beats out the Tahoe's 8,600-pound limit.

While not as fuel-efficient as the Ford, the Tahoe's standard V8 falls squarely in line with similar engines offered in the Nissan Armada and Toyota Sequoia. There's also an optional 6.2-liter V8 in the RST package that bumps horsepower to 420.

With prices ranging from the low \$50,000s to as much as \$80,000 with every option, the Tahoe isn't cheap, but it is priced competitively and holds its value well.

The Tahoe drives quite a bit better than you might expect for a big, truck-based body-on-frame SUV, and certainly better than its predecessors. While not quite as comfortable as a car-based crossover SUV, today's Tahoe rides admirably. This is truer still if you opt for the Magnetic Ride Control suspension that comes on the top-line Premier trim. There's no getting around the Tahoe's girth that can make it a handful in parking lots and other tight spaces, but its steering is light and makes piloting this ship seamless.

On the highway, the Tahoe is refined and quiet. The standard 5.3-liter V8 engine remains a gratifying powerhouse, and its 6-speed automatic transmission is a mostly smooth operator. We've tested the Tahoe over hill and dale and while towing off-road vehicles, and it's always up to the task.

For even more potency, the Tahoe can now be had with GM's more powerful 6.2-liter V8, which is used in the Cadillac Escalade and has already been available in the GMC Yukon. Equipped with this 420-horsepower engine as part of the special

edition RST Performance Package, the Tahoe Premier model really gets up and goes, hitting 0-60 mph in less than six seconds. The RST — Rally Sport Truck — treatment is also available without the engine upgrade on Tahoe LT and Premier models.

Of the numerous infotainment setups we've tested, the MyLink system in the Chevrolet Tahoe full-size SUV is hands-down one of the best. It's easy to use and navigate, with quick response times and big, colorful graphics. The system is not only compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, it also offers onboard 4G LTE Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and voice activation.

Once offered only in the Cadillac Escalade and GMC Denali, the big 6.2-liter V8 is now available in the Tahoe as part of the Premier's RST with Performance Package option. With 420 horsepower and 460 lb-ft of torque, this engine can handle the biggest jobs while pushing acceleration times into sports-car territory. The engine also comes with a 10-speed automatic transmission and Magnetic Ride Control suspension.

One of the leading reasons people love the Chevy Tahoe is its massive interior. Among its non-GM peers, the Tahoe is the only full-size SUV that can accommodate up to nine passengers, a feat made possible by the LS trim's available 3-person front bench seat. While the Tahoe's third row isn't as comfortable or roomy as the one in the Ford Expedition, it still serves as a suitable perch for kids or pets. Most Tahoe models seat eight, but there is a 5-passenger version that omits the rearmost seat, saving money and gaining cargo space. Speaking of space, with the 3rd-row in place, there's a paltry 15.3 cubic feet left for gear. However, with said seat folded or removed, cargo capacity jumps to a massive 51.7 cubic feet.

As for passenger comfort, we think most will find the Tahoe's seats both wide and supportive. Those who need the convenience of a tilt-and-telescopic steering wheel and power-adjustable pedals will need to move up to the LT or Premier trims. Storage space is ample, thanks in part to the column-mounted gear selector

that frees up space in the center console.

Few SUVs look as SUV-like as the Chevy Tahoe. Big, blocky and bold, it is the pictorial definition of what many envision when they think of a traditional sport-utility vehicle. We like the Tahoe's sharp-edged styling, sculpted flanks and new LED daytime running lights. The Tahoe looks wider than its GMC Yukon sibling thanks to the wide grille that blends into the headlights. Shorter drivers will love the available power running boards. Tahoe RST models add aggressive aesthetics like a black grille, mirror caps and bow-tie badges, and 22-inch wheels.

The Tahoe is available in three main trims: LS, LT and Premier. At its least expensive, a Tahoe LS includes cloth seats, tri-zone automatic climate control, keyless entry, rearview camera and rear parking sensors, cruise control, and the MyLink 8-inch touch-screen infotainment system with Apple CarPlay/Android Auto compatibility and 6-speaker audio system.

If you can afford roughly \$5,000 more, we recommend stepping up to at least the Tahoe LT trim. It adds safety features like forward-collision alert and lane-keeping systems, plus amenities such as leather seating, power tailgate, Bose 9-speaker

audio system, telescoping steering wheel and power-adjustable pedals, memory seating and universal garage-door opener. The LT trim also opens the door to options like 2nd-row bucket seats, sunroof and more.

The top-line Tahoe Premier comes with many of the amenities that are optional on the LT, including hands-free tailgate, navigation, blind-spot monitoring, keyless start, and heated steering wheel. Exclusive to the Premier are Magnetic Ride Control, high-intensity headlights, ventilated front seats, 10-speaker Bose audio, and optional power-retractable side steps. You'll also need the Premier trim if you want adaptive cruise control and advanced high-speed autonomous braking.

If you go with the base LS trim, we highly recommend adding the Enhanced Driver Alert Package. For just \$695 it adds forward-collision alert with low-speed forward emergency braking, power-adjustable pedals, lane-keep assist, lane-departure warning, and more.

Four-wheel drive can be had on all three trims instead of the standard 2-(rear)-wheel drive, and the optional Z71 off-road package amplifies the Tahoe's capabilities with skidplates, upgraded suspension, hill-descent control and more.

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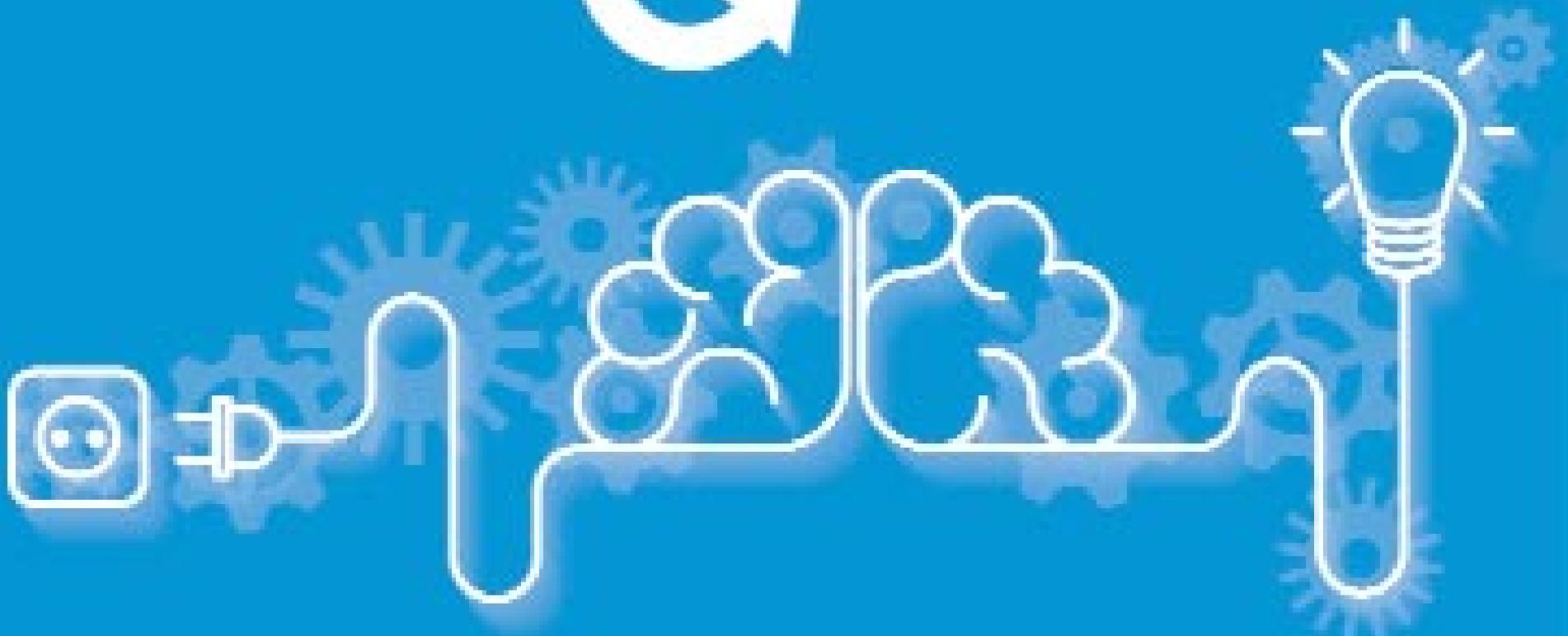


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