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Cover Photo:

- 4 AROUND THE AREA**
- 5 RANGERS REPORT**
BY DIC HUMPHREY
- 6 GOLF, ETC**
BY TOM WARD
- 7 PALMETTO CHAMPIONSHIP**
BY PGATOUR.COM
- 8 HOLE BY HOLE LOOK AT CONGAREE GOLF CLUB**
BY PGATOUR.COM
- 10 NASCAR ALL-STAR RACE COMES TO FORT WORTH**
BY PGATOUR.COM
- 11 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME - KEITH BYERS**
BY NCAA.COM
- 12 NCBWA BASEBALL SUPER REGIONALS PREVIEW**
BY NCBWA.COM
- 14 COLLEGE FOOTBALL NEWS AND NOTES**
BY BO CARTER
- 18 THE TICKET WINDOW**
- 19 AUTO REVIEW**
BY KBB.COM

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

NASCAR All-Star Race in Ft Worth



Sammy Hagar to play "I can't drive 55" during pre-race festivities for the 37th annual NASCAR All-Star Race

The Red Rocker himself, Sammy Hagar, and fellow guitarist Vic Johnson will play Hagar's classic guitar rock song "I Can't Drive 55" as part of the pre-race festivities for the 37th annual NASCAR All-Star Race on June 13 at Texas Motor Speedway.

The two guitarists will perform the 1984 radio and MTV hit from a stage located in the Texas Motor Speedway grandstands at Section PL 102.

Hagar rose to fame in the 1970s with the band Montrose and a very successful solo career. His success continued as the lead singer for Van Halen from 1985-1996. Since 2014, he has played in the super-group Sammy Hagar and the Circle with Johnson on guitar, former Van Halen bassist Michael Anthony on bass and Jason Bonham, son of legendary Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham, on drums.

The Salinas, Calif., native has also had great success in business, owning multiple nightclubs and restaurants, tequila and rum distilleries, a syndicated weekly radio show (Sammy Hagar's Top Rock Countdown) and the Rock & Roll Road Trip with Sammy Hagar television program.

Johnson is a guitarist and Los Angeles native best known for playing with The BusBoys, which appeared in the Eddie

Murphy/Nick Nolte hit movie "48 Hrs." as well as performing on Saturday Night Live. A heavy sought-after session musician, Johnson has played in various bands with Hagar since 1997.

Hagar performed previously at TMS on Nov. 8, 2015 during pre-race festivities for the 2015 NASCAR Cup Series race.

On-track activity for the NASCAR All-Star Race weekend begins June 12 with a doubleheader, opening with the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series SpeedyCash.com 220 (12 p.m. CT on FS1, MRN, and 95.9 The Ranch) followed at 3 p.m. CT by the NASCAR Xfinity Series Alsco Uniforms 250 powered by Cheddar's (FS1, PRN, 95.9 The Ranch). Then, on Sunday, June 13, is the NASCAR All-Star Open (5 p.m. CT on FS1, MRN and 95.9 The Ranch) followed by the \$1 million NASCAR All-Star Race (7 p.m. CT on FS1, MRN and 95.9 The Ranch).



Tickets to the 2022 PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa to be released June 21

Registration Remains Open until June 20, Tickets Expected to Move Quickly

The PGA of America today announced that priority access to tickets for the 2022 PGA Championship Nü to be played at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from May 16-22, 2022 will be

released to those who purchased tickets to the just-completed KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship beginning Monday, June 14.

For those who registered for the 2022 PGA Championship, remaining tickets will be released beginning Monday, June 21.

Those interested in attending the first PGA Championship to be played at Southern Hills since 2007 — when Tiger Woods captured the Wanamaker Trophy for the fourth time — can still register at <https://www.pgachampionship.com/attend/2022/tickets> through June 20.

Tickets to the 2022 PGA Championship will be sold exclusively through an online registration process. Registrants are essentially given a place in line first come, first served for the opportunity to purchase tickets as inventory is released.

Although registrants are under no obligation to purchase tickets, the available ticket inventory is expected to move quick.

Due to extraordinarily high interest, registration does not guarantee an opportunity to purchase tickets. Available inventory may vary depending on date and time of registration and ticket availability.

Founded in 1936, Southern Hills has already played host to eight major championships, including four PGA Championships, making it the PGA's most frequent venue. Beyond Woods' memorable victory in 2007, Southern Hills also hosted the 1958 U.S. Open (won by Tommy Bolt), 1970 PGA Championship (Dave Stockton), 1977 U.S. Open (Hubert Green), 1982 PGA Championship (Raymond Floyd), 1994 PGA Championship (Nick Price), 2001 U.S. Open (Retief Goosen) and last week's 2021 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship (Alex Cejka)

NCAA BASEBALL - Top 25

Coaches	(Week 14)	Baseball America
1. Arkansas		1. Arkansas
2. Tennessee		2. Vanderbilt
3. Vanderbilt		3. Tennessee
4. Texas		4. Notre Dame
5. Arizona		5. Texas
6. Notre Dame		6. Arizona State
7. Texas Tech		7. Stanford
8. Mississippi State		8. Mississippi State
9. Stanford		9. Texas Tech
10. TCU		10. Ole Miss
11. Ole Miss		11. TCU
12. Oregon		12. Florida
13. Florida		13. Oregon
14. East Carolina		14. Old Dominion
15. Old Dominion		15. UC Irvine
16. UC Irvine		16. NC State
17. NC State		17. East Carolina
18. Louisiana Tech		18. Florida State
19. Nebraska		19. Nebraska
20. Southern Miss		20. Louisiana Tech
21. UCLA		21. UCLA
22. Gonzaga		22. Oklahoma State
23. Oklahoma State		23. Southern Miss
24. Florida State		24. Duke
25. Charlotte		25. Charlotte

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	JUNE 11 FRIDAY	JUNE 12 SATURDAY	JUNE 13 SUNDAY	JUNE 14 MONDAY	JUNE 15 TUESDAY	JUNE 16 WEDNESDAY	JUNE 17 THURSDAY
	Rangers at Dodgers 9:10 / BSSW	Rangers at Dodgers 9:10 / BSSW	Rangers at Dodgers 3:10 / BSSW		Rangers at Astros 7:10 / BSSW	Rangers at Astros 7:10 / BSSW	
	RRoughriders vs NW Arkansas 7:05	RRoughriders vs NW Arkansas 7:05	RRoughriders vs NW Arkansas 6:05		Roughriders at Corpus Christi 6:35	Roughriders at Corpus Christi 6:35	Roughriders at Corpus Christi 4:05
		NEXT GAME June 19 vs Minnesota					
	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35			Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 6:35			
	Americans vs Grizzlies 7:05						

Re-visiting the Khris Davis trade



The Rangers designated Khris Davis for assignment



BY DIC HUMPHREY
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MEMBER: USBWA

ARLINGTON, Texas – Prior to last Tuesday's game, the Rangers designated Khris Davis for assignment. On the surface, it may appear that the trade to acquire Davis from Oakland is a bust for the Rangers, but that is simply not the case. Davis and Elvis Andrus were the headliners in the off season trade, but the deal was never really about them. The essence was that the Rangers bought catcher Jonah Heim and pitching prospect Dana Acker. Davis and Andrus with their associated salaries, were simply part of the monetary aspects of the deal. Heim made the Rangers opening day roster as the backup catcher to Jose Trevino, and Acker is in the starting rotation for the Rangers' Low-A Down East team. By dealing Andrus, the Rangers cleared the way for Isiah Kiner-Falefa to take over at short.

Davis was on the injured list on opening day. However, the Rangers had hopes that he could be a valued right-handed

power bat as the season began better than expected. Texas actually reached the .500 mark at 18-18. However, the Rangers have won just six games since. It became apparent that they are not going to hang around the fringe of contention, and that this year has totally become about development. At this point, it is more important to give at-bats to younger players like Eli White instead of to Davis. White started both games since his callup from triple A to take Davis's place on the roster.

Oakland hoped Andrus would fill the void left by the loss of shortstop Marcus Semien in free agency. The trade however was really about money. The combination of taking on Andrus's salary this year, which was more than \$2 million less than what Davis was scheduled to make, and the 2021 portion of the cash Texas was sending along in the deal gave the Athletics financial flexibility this season. The Rangers' payoff comes by being relieved of Andrus's 2022 salary obligation.

In a somewhat related matter, there was a rumor last weekend that Oakland was close to a deal that would land them Colorado shortstop Trevor Story. Andrus has been a disappointment playing in 61 games so far hitting .207 with no home runs and only eight RBIs. He is no longer the defensive whiz he once was. Obviously, the A's are looking for a shortstop upgrade.

So far, the trade for Story has not been finalized, and it may not be soon if at all, as the Rockies may hold off until closer to

the trade deadline to make a deal.

However, it is indicative that the Rockies will likely be trading Story this summer. He will surely bring more return in a trade than draft choice compensation if he stays all season.

Story is one of at least four upper end shortstops that could become available in free agency this winter. Besides Storey, there are Corey Seager with the Dodgers, Javier Baez with the Cubs and Carlos Correa with Houston. Francisco Lindor was another; but after Cleveland traded him to the Mets, he and New York worked out a contract extension. It is entirely possible that there will be fewer high end shortstops available than envisioned if more of them follow in Lindor's footsteps.

The local Rangers' beat writers have been saying that the Rangers look poised to pursue one of these shortstops this off season. The payroll has been reduced dramatically with the rebuild of the team. Getting a big middle of the batting order bat to be the backbone of the batting order at a premium position could boost the core of developing young players.

Story would certainly be of interest to Texas. First, he is from Irving. There has always been a presumption that he would be interested in playing for the team he undoubtedly followed vigorously and rooted for as a child. Second, he fits the bill offensively. In the four full seasons before last year's abbreviated schedule, he hit 117 home runs and drove in 347. There were highs of 37 home runs and 108 RBIs, and the average over that span is 34 home runs and 87 RBIS per season. Certainly, he has benefitted from the thin air in Denver for half the games he played, but he is an excellent hitter.

If Colorado were to keep Story this season, they would undoubtedly make a qualifying offer to him after the season which would mean a team signing him as a free agent would lose a high draft choice in next year's amateur draft. If he gets traded this summer, he will no longer be eligible for a qualifying offer and would be signable without losing a high draft choice. Seager, Baez and Correa are playing for contending teams such that it is unlikely they get traded this season. If they do not work out contract extensions with their current teams, they undoubtedly would receive a qualifying offer and would thus bring draft choice compensation into the transaction. Of these other three, Seager is the one most likely to sign a contract extension.

The trading season usually doesn't heat up until July. So far Story to Oakland is only a rumor. That trade may or may not happen, but it does look like Story will get traded before the July 31 trade deadline.

As for the trade of Andrus to Oakland for Davis, the bottom line is that both headliners have disappointed, but that the teams received what they were really bargaining for – financial flexibility and in the Rangers' case, two good prospects.

THE AMATEUR DRAFT

In the past, the amateur draft has been held in early June. This year, it has been pushed back to July 11, 12 and 13 as part of the All-Star break. The draft was reduced to five rounds last year due to COVID-19 shutting down minor league baseball. This year, there will be 20 rounds.

It is a draft of particular interest to Ranger fans as one benefit of last season's horrendous record is that Texas gets to pick second. The Rangers missed badly the last time they had a high draft pick taking pitcher Dillon Tate with the fourth pick, and they cannot afford to whiff again this season. They badly need to get an impact player.

Early this year when high schools and colleges were starting their baseball seasons, the consensus top three picks were two Vanderbilt pitchers – Kumar Rocker and Jack Leiter, the son of former Major League pitcher Al Leiter – and high school shortstop Jordan Lawlar from Jesuit High School in Dallas. (Interestingly Lawlar has committed to Vanderbilt if he decides not to sign when drafted.)

Since that time, there have been some ups and downs for the two pitchers and some other players have garnered attention to get added to the mix. Shortstop Marcelo Mayer from East Lake High School in California has emerged as a possible top pick in the draft. University of Louisville's Henry Davis, a catcher, is also in the conversation. Other names being mentioned for the top 10 picks are Jackson Jobe, a high school pitcher in Oklahoma, high school shortstops Khalil Watson and Brady House, and college players Sal Frelick, a Boston College outfielder and Ty Madden, a right-handed pitcher at Texas.

There are many considerations for the Rangers. In general, college players are considered safer bets than high schoolers to make the Majors and do so more quickly as they are three years older and more experienced. On the other hand, high school players are often considered to have a higher ceiling to their careers. Counter to generalization number one is that pitchers are often considered riskier than position players, as the chance of injury is greater.

The old question is should a team take the best player available or draft for need? The Rangers obviously need pitching. Will they take one of the Vanderbilt hurlers? Local high schooler Lawlar would make for a good story. It is a critical pick for the future of the team.

A conversation with Jim Whitten



TOM WARD

TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Jim Whitten's been a member at Colonial Country Club for 30 years and in 2004 he won the club championship. For 15 years, he worked as players relation chairman for the Charles Schwab Challenge when the tournament had different corporate title sponsors. Whitten said his job entailed going to about four or five PGA Tour events a year and speak to players about coming to Ft. Worth. Whitten said,

"Doing this you get a pretty good feel for who is going to come and who isn't."

Then last year he was handed the reins to be the Tournament Chairman for the 75th anniversary of the Charles Schwab Challenge which ended nearly two weeks ago. Whitten is 60 years old and owns his own company, Whitten Commercial Reality LLC. Whitten stated,

"I specialize in selling big land tracks to big developers. I worked for a big company for years after I graduated from SMU. I was there for 25 years before going off on my own about 6 years ago. I feel like I don't have to work as hard as I used to and I enjoy the business and I feel like I'm good at it."

TW: How did you get the job of Tournament Chairman?

JW: Bobby Patton (former tournament chairman) asked me if I would like to be tournament chairman. He wanted to put me up before the committee because it was his last year to vote. I got in on a last minute board vote. They voted for me unanimously and I got the position. It was an honor to be named tournament chairman of a PGA event. Unfortunately, I didn't get to learn anything under my predecessor Rob Hood's tutelage because of Covid. Then last May, we got to be the first PGA tournament back on with no fans. That night after the tournament was over and Daniel Berger won we had a reception at someone's house. Ceremonially, Rob gave me the keys. I had to learn a lot in this last year. For the last month, before this year's event we didn't know if we could have more than 5,000 fans. It ended up being regulated to 10,000 fans.

TW: What is the role of Tournament Chairman?

JW: First, the terms are normally a three

year deal, but the last two chairmen did four years and there were reasons behind that. I have 60 committee members which are the people that wear the jackets you see on the course. All of them together virtually run the event. They handle leaderboards, security, corporate sales, transportation, housing, credentials, operations, etc. I don't have to deal with that, but if there is an issue and they need me to make a decision on something they would come to me because I'm the top person. I didn't have to make many decisions that week because it's just a well-oiled machine that's been doing this for 75 years. I do the closing ceremonies and the TV interviews, as I'm the spokesperson for the tournament. Chris Kenney and Jim Leito are the operations guys and they are the key to me running this event smoothly. They're the nuts and bolts and do everything regarding the tournament. They kept coming up to me all week and asking me if I'm having fun.

TW: Anything surprise you in your first year?

JW: We really had no significant issues. We did something new this year. Jim Leito and Chris Kenney came up with an all-inclusive ticket. In 75 years we've never done that. When fans arrived on site all their drinks and food were free. We had to work it out with Spectrum services which does our food. I sat in a couple of concession stands to see what was going on. They ran out of food one day, and I noticed that when people were coming up to the stands they were ordering two of everything. Even with the all-inclusive ticket we had no one do anything too crazy as far as fans are concerned. In the past, we would sell spots on holes like 13 (par 3) and build these big structures and people could entertain their clients like 75 people a day. With the tour regulations and CDC guidelines we could only build it to hold 25 people. Big corporate sponsors didn't want to spend all that money and not be able to entertain much. Two weeks out prior to our event we were still telling our marshals they had to wear masks. The Covid was starting to go away and they told us if you're vaccinated you don't have to wear a mask. I learned a lot and it was exciting for me to do it. Also, I didn't realize the TV stuff where I had to go on Channel 8, or Channel 4 or 11 the week before to talk about the tournament, charity function and tickets that we were selling, but I enjoyed doing it.

TW: Did you finally have a moment when you could sit back and relax when the tournament ended?

JW: The whole week I stayed at the Omni Hotel in Ft. Worth. I live in Dallas and I didn't want drive back and forth every day. Every night, I would work on what I was



going to do or say. I didn't have any time to breath until after the last putt dropped and we did the closing ceremony. I turned in my Lexus sponsors car and we had an after party at Joe T. Garcia's. Our winner Jason Kokrak came and that was pretty neat. On my way home back to Dallas was when I finally said to myself. You know I did okay. I know I can improve on some things for next year. That's when I really relaxed and knew I accomplished what I wanted to do. Not have any major gaffes which I feel I didn't make any of those. I really learned a lot from those days being on the tournament committee to being the tournament chairman.

TW: When do you start working on next year's tournament?

JW: We will get together in the next few weeks to look at the financial side of things. Well look at what went well and what didn't go well. It's such a big machine and there really weren't that big of hiccups for me to go we've got to change this for next year. There was nothing that stood out that I recognized that we have got to do it differently next year. Our committees will put in reports and they'll say this went well and this didn't go well as we start planning for 2022.

TW: Now that the tournament has ended, I understand you have an interesting hobby. Please tell me about it?

JW: I like to race motorcycles. I road race where you are on a track with slick tires and you drag your knees and stuff like that. I've been a club racer for 10 years. I've raced all over Texas, New Orleans, and throughout the southwest. In 2019, I raced in Moto-America which is the professional

racing all over the country. I raced in New Jersey, Milwaukee, Alabama for a total of nine events in the twins class. I was the 2nd oldest guy in that classification. I didn't win any of them, but I qualified for all of them. It was an exciting bucket list thing to do for me. I kind of retired from it until Covid hit. They had a big race in Indianapolis last year and I wanted to race at the brickyards. I qualified for it and raced there and I had an amazing time. It was by far my favorite track to race on. I've been fortunate and won 19 Experts championships over the 10 years I raced.

TW: It sounds like you had a great experience in your first year as Tournament Chairman. Any final thoughts?

JW: I learned a lot this year and I'll know how to react in the future and I want to get better at it. Also, I couldn't release that we had an extension done with Charles Schwab until that Tuesday of our event, even though I knew what was going on. After the final putt drops on next year's tournament the course will be closed as they begin a \$20 million dollar renovation being headed by renowned golf course architecture Gil Hanse. In my 30 years of being a member, this is the most exciting thing that's happened with the Gil Hanse redo. We are spending an enormous amount of money on really improving the golf course. I felt blessed that we got the Gil Hanse golf course renovation deal, we get the extension with Charles Schwab which fell into place. It was the right place and right time and I was happy to be there.

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

This Week: Palmetto Championship



Congaree Golf Club will host the Palmetto Championship at Congaree for the first time. (James Haefner Photography)



Palmetto Championship

June 10 - June 13, 2021

Congaree Golf Club

Gallisonville, South Carolina

Purse - 7,300,000

Winners share: \$1,314,000

Defending Champ - Inaugural event

By Adam Stanley
PGATOUR.COM

The Palmetto Championship at Congaree is a one-time replacement for the RBC Canadian Open, as lingering concerns tied to the U.S.-Canada border and ongoing COVID-19 challenges made it too difficult to host Canada's national open for the second year in a row.

This is the third PGA TOUR event contested in South Carolina this season (RBC Heritage and PGA Championship) while the Korn Ferry Tour's BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation will be hosted in South Carolina the same week as the Palmetto Championship.

FIELD NOTES: Reigning FedExCup champion and South Carolina native Dustin Johnson leads the field... The recently announced Ben Hogan Award winner, John Pak, is making his profes-

sional debut. Pak, who also won the Fred Haskins Award as the nation's top men's collegiate golfer this year, is the top-ranked player in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class... Former No.1-ranked amateur in the world, Davis Thompson, is also making his first professional TOUR start. Thompson, a University of Georgia product, finished T23 as an amateur at The RSM Classic... Former PGA TOUR Player of the Year Brooks Koepka is making his first start since the PGA Championship where he was runner up... Fellow major winners Danny Willett, Jason Dufner, and Padraig Harrington (fresh off his T4 at the PGA Championship) are teeing it up... Also amongst the Sponsor Exemptions is Bluffton, South Carolina native Bryson Nimmer. The Clemson University product is playing his third TOUR event of the season and grew up less than an hour from Congaree.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Congaree Golf Club, par 71, 7,655 yards. The 2017 Tom Fazio design in South Carolina's Lowcountry (about 30 minutes north of Savannah, Georgia) is built on a 3,200-acre property with holes routed between trees that are up to 300 years old. It was built with the sand-belt courses of Australia in mind and will challenge the TOUR's best with its length (the par-5 4th, for example, measures 645 yards while there are two par-4's on the front nine longer than 520

yards) and natural hazard areas.

STORYLINES: The RBC Canadian Open will return to the PGA TOUR's schedule in 2022, hosted by Toronto's St. George's Golf and Country Club which last hosted the event in 2010. Oakdale Golf and Country Club will host in 2023, while Hamilton Golf and Country Club will host in 2024... Other high-profile names who are choosing to play in South Carolina prior to heading to Torrey Pines for the U.S. Open include world No.10 Tyrrell Hatton, fellow Englishman Tommy Fleetwood, and former PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Sungjae Im.

72-HOLE RECORD: N/A (first-time

event)

18-HOLE RECORD: N/A (first-time event)

LAST TIME: In the spot on the PGA TOUR schedule normally occupied by the RBC Canadian Open, the Palmetto Championship is a one-off replacement event as COVID-19 challenges were too great to overcome for the second year in a row in Canada. Rory McIlroy captured the 2019 RBC Canadian Open by seven shots – even flirting with a 59 in the final round – but will not be in the field in South Carolina. The previous years' Canadian Open winner, Dustin Johnson, will be teeing it up at the Palmetto Championship, however, along with 2017 and 2018 champion Jhonattan Vegas.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m.-6 p.m. ET (Golf Channel). Saturday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3 p.m.-6 p.m. (CBS)

PGA TOUR LIVE: Thursday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (Featured Groups). Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (Featured Groups), 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Radio: Thursday-Friday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. Saturday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGATOUR.com/liveaudio).

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

TOUR Pulse: Get the PGA TOUR app to utilize TOUR Pulse, which provides users the ability to experience a mix of content, such as video highlights, written hole summaries and stat graphics on every player after every completed hole.

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A quick look at Congaree hole by hole



HOLE #1 PAR 4, 426 Yards

The opening tee shot is framed with trees and sand on either side yet is wide enough to work the ball. The fairway dog legs left slightly but with a well hit tee shot, the green should be right in front of you. The green is set to the right of the fairway, with a bunker front right and areas that slope away from the green to the left and on the back side. Careful with favoring the left side to accommodate a miss; the speed of the slope can take the ball into the waste area. The green moves right to left and back to front.



HOLE #2 PAR 5, 595 Yards

Heading uphill with a forced carry tee shot over water. Bunkers eat into the fairway from the left and right, respectively, then an oak tree on the left compromises approach shots on that side, forcing shots to be right of the live oak. Past the oak tree, the hole opens up to the green with bunkers guarding the green on either side and slopes running quickly away from the green on all sides.



HOLE #3 PAR 4, 360 Yards

A short par 4 that's a healthy forced carry over water, hitting the green is a possibility from the tee. The green is narrow and deep and with speed, any tee shot is likely to run off the green, into the bunker on the right or short grass area to the left. The landing area after the water widens, allowing those being more conservative to play from a shorter approach. The green runs in general from back to front and right to left.



HOLE #4 PAR 5, 645 Yards

Beset on all sides by sand, the tee shot heads out to a ridge in the fairway that starts its descent to the green on the other side. At the ridge, the fairway and green are before you, with trees shifting from one

side to the other and water off to the right up to the green. The shape, movement and speed of the green dictate how one should approach it. Moving very fast from left to right with a bunker front center, the water is very much in play for those going for the pin, as shots just offline to the right or even coming in a little hot risk bouncing and rolling in.



HOLE #5 PAR 3, 162 Yards

A forced carry over water to a green set at an angle to the tee and moving back to front, away from the bunker and towards the water.



HOLE #6 PAR 4, 520 Yards

A dogleg left, the tee shot is a mild forced carry to a wide fairway that starts turning right away. The fairway cants left, but clearing the trees on the left and having

a clear look at the green is paramount. The approach is to a green uphill of the fairway angled away from the fairway, moving right to left, towards the deep bunker area below the green. The high right side of the green allows the ball to roll down to the center of the green.



HOLE #7 PAR 3, 195 Yards

A forced carry tee shot with sand immediately in front of the tee and water on the right that cuts into the center, just short of the green. The green moves quickly to the water on the



HOLE #8 PAR 4, 540 Yards

An "S" shaped hole where the fairway twists from left to right, presenting a risk-reward tee shot in carrying as much of the right side as possible while also carrying the sand that runs along the right side. While the more left you go is safer, the trees on that side can complicate the second shot.



Hole #9

Hole #9
PAR 4, 510 Yards

A dogleg left initially that starts bending back to the right after the leg, the right side widens out, inviting tee shots in that direction, only to create much longer approach shots. Staying close to the left side off the tee is another option, which if done correctly results in a much shorter approach. Water lurks to the right side of the green as well. The green moves away from the greenside bunker and towards the water.



HOLE #10
PAR 3, 205 Yards

This is a forced carry over wetlands where the green is raised, while slopes ramp up to it on all sides except for the right front, where a bunker sits. Trees encroach on the right side as well while the left is more open. There is lots of room on the left, but the recovery shot will be tough on that side, especially with the slopes.



HOLE #11
PAR 4, 470 Yards

A forced carry over native woodland area to a fairway that immediately turns right and essentially keeps turning until you reach the green. The fairway tilts from

left to right, with sand running along the entire right side. The green is deep and tilts like the fairway, with a well placed piece of native area high and left. There is the very real possibility of balls running into the bunker on the right if one gets too aggressive on the high side of the green.



HOLE #12
PAR 5, 569 Yards

While the 11th turns right dramatically, this fairway does the same to the left. The fairway narrows as it turns, with pines looming on each side amongst sandy areas. The green is almost an island awash in a sea of bunkers, carved around it with the edges dropping off on them. It's an intimidating approach shot, as one needs to land on the green, then make sure their ball stops moving.



HOLE #13
PAR 4, 465 Yards

A slight dogleg right with water on left and the fairway sloping that direction. The green is set on the right as well and slightly downhill of the fairway. There is a bunker on the front right side, which the green moves towards.



HOLE #14
PAR 3, 230 Yards

A longer par 3 that's a forced carry over sand, but there's a good amount of room short and to the sides to miss. Accounting for what the ball will do once it lands is necessary because the green moves from right to left.



HOLE #15
PAR 4, 360 Yards

A short par 4, the sand and ridges create the impression there's very little fairway out there. This may tempt some to try and drive the green, while others will lay up to the fairway area on the right that allows itself to be seen. Taking a line left over the sand in that direction is also a good play, as the ball can then run out to the front or left side of the green.



HOLE #16
PAR 4, 435 Yards

Relatively straight, the well-placed oak

on the left impacts the play of the hole a lot more than it appears at first blush. Hitting the fairway is at a premium, so something shorter off the tee is a good consideration. The bunker on the right runs the width of the green, which is at an angle. Coming in from the left side is a great idea if you'd like to use the ground. The green runs from right to left.



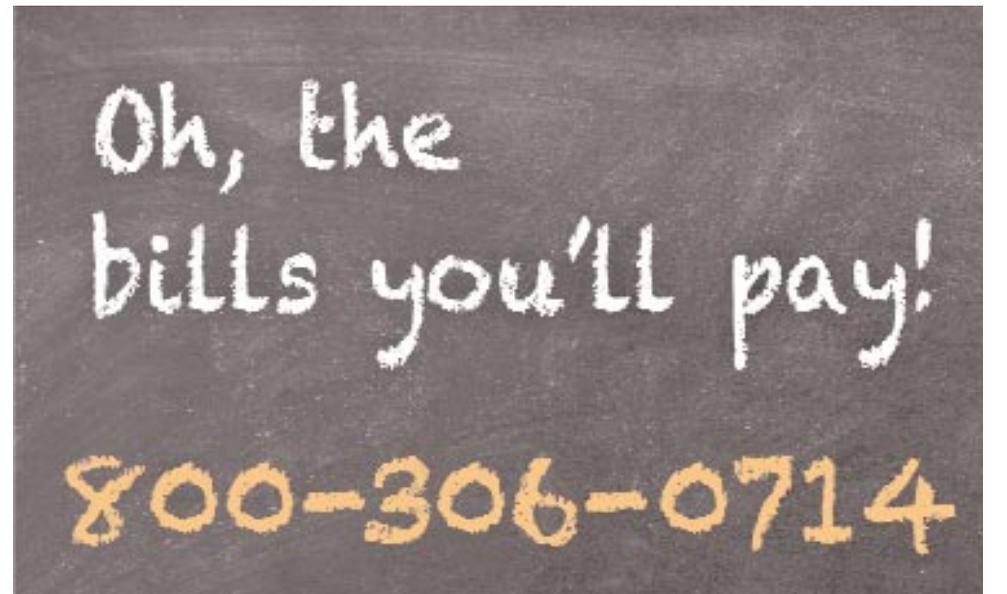
HOLE #17
PAR 4, 475 Yards

A dogleg right par 4, where the sand on the right baits you into trying to take off more than you can off the tee. There's a spot where if you carry the bunkers far enough, a ridge will send the ball forward and you get an extra 20 yards of roll, setting up a shorter approach. The green slopes back to front and is accessible from the air or on the ground.



HOLE #18
PAR 4, 445 Yards

A dogleg right par 4, the tee shot looking head on at the clubhouse, the green is due east. Sand and water ride up the right side of the fairway and green. Laying up off the tee is fine, at the expense of a tougher approach shot, while a long tee shot is rewarded with a nice short approach that can be taken on the ground or in the air.



NASCAR All-Star Race fact Sheet



WHAT: The 37th annual NASCAR All-Star Race comes to Texas Motor Speedway for the first time and during the 25th Season of Speed at No Limits, Texas. The weekend also will also feature the NASCAR Xfinity Series Alsco Uniforms 250 Powered by Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen and the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series SpeedyCash.com 220.

WHERE: Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth

WHEN: June 12-13, 2021

TV AND RADIO: NASCAR All-Star Race (FS1/MRN, 95.5 The Ranch, 7:00 p.m. CT Sunday, June 13); NASCAR All-Star Open (FS1/MRN/95.9 The Ranch, 5:00 p.m. CT Sunday, June 13); Alsco Uniforms 250 Powered by Cheddar's NASCAR Xfinity Series race (FS1/PRN, 95.9 The Ranch, 3 p.m. CT Saturday, June 12); SpeedyCash.com 220 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race (FS1/MRN, 95.9 The Ranch, 12:00 p.m. CT, Saturday, June 12).

RACE LENGTH AND ROUNDS

The NASCAR All-Star Race is a 100-lap/150-mile event that features six rounds:

15 laps for the first four rounds, 30 laps for the fifth and a 10-lap dash for the \$1 million check for the sixth and final round. The NASCAR All-Star Open features three stages of 20, 20 and 10 laps for a 50-lap race of 75 miles. The Alsco Uniforms 250 Powered by Cheddar's NASCAR Xfinity Series race will feature three stages of 40, 40 and 87 laps for a 147-lap race of 250.5 miles. The SpeedyCash.com 220 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race will feature three stages of 35, 35 and 77 laps for a 147-lap race of 220.5 miles.

ALL-STAR RACE FORMAT

- The race will feature six rounds, totaling 100 laps
- Starting lineup for Round 1 will be determined via random draw
- Rounds 1 through 4 will be 15 laps each; Round 5 will be 30 laps; the Final Round will feature a 10-lap shootout
- At the beginning of Round 2, the field will be inverted via random draw (minimum of eight/maximum of 12) live on FS1
- The round 2 random draw will be seen live by fans attending the race on Big Hoss TV
- Before the start of Round 3, the entire field will be inverted
- At the beginning of Round 4, the field will be inverted via random draw (minimum of eight/maximum of 12)
- Starting positions for Round 5 will consist of the cumulative finish from Rounds 1-4. The lowest cumulative finisher starts on the pole, second-lowest starts second, and so forth. All cars must enter pit road

for a mandatory four-tire pit stop during Round 5

- The starting positions in the Final Round are set by finishing positions of Round 5
- Only green flag laps will count in the NASCAR All-Star race
- The fastest team on pit road during the mandatory pit stop will earn \$100,000
- The race winner will be awarded \$1,000,000

ELIGIBLE DRIVERS

Currently 17 drivers have clinched All-Star berths with just one points race (Sonoma, June 6) remaining: Christopher Bell, Ryan Blaney, Alex Bowman, Kurt Busch, Kyle Busch, William Byron, Cole Custer, Austin Dillon, Chase Elliott, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Brad Keselowski, Kyle Larson, Joey Logano, Michael McDowell, Ryan Newman and Martin Truex Jr. The criteria for eligibility include NASCAR Cup Series race winners in 2020-21 and full-time drivers who are either past All-Star winners or past Cup Series champions.

ALL-STAR OPEN FORMAT

The All-Star Open will be run in three rounds — 20 laps, 20 laps and a 10-lap shootout — with round winners and the overall winner advancing to the All-Star main event. Fan balloting will determine the final driver in the field who is otherwise ineligible.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE (all times CT)

Saturday, June 12
8:00 a.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Series garage

open
9:00 a.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series garage open
11:40 a.m.: Driver Introductions (drivers standing by trucks)
12:00 p.m.: SpeedyCash.com 220 (35/70/147 Laps = 220.5 miles)
2:45 p.m.: Driver Introductions (drivers standing by cars)
3:00 p.m.: Alsco Uniforms 250 Powered by Cheddar's (40/80/167 Laps = 250.5 miles) Sunday, June 13
11:00 a.m.: NASCAR Cup Series garage open
4:45 p.m.: Driver Introductions (drivers standing by cars)
5:00 p.m.: NASCAR All-Star Open (20/20/10 Laps = 75 miles)
6:15 p.m.: Driver Introductions
7:00 p.m.: NASCAR All-Star Race (Rounds 1-4: 15 Laps; Round 5: 30 Laps; Round 6: 10 Laps)

RACE NOTES

2020 NASCAR Cup Series Champion Chase Elliott won last year's All-Star Race ... the NASCAR All-Star Race has previously been held at three tracks: Charlotte Motor Speedway (1985, 1987-2019) Atlanta Motor Speedway (1986) and Bristol Motor Speedway (2020) ... this year's race includes seven former winners: Ryan Newman (2002), Kevin Harvick (2007, 2018), Kurt Busch (2010), Denny Hamlin (2015), Joey Logano (2016), Kyle Busch (2017), Kyle Larson (2019), and Chase Elliott (2020) ... Darrell Waltrip won the inaugural race in 1985 ... Bill

Sammy Hagar to play "I can't drive 55" during pre-race festivities for the 37th annual NASCAR All-Star Race

The Red Rocker himself, Sammy Hagar, and fellow guitarist Vic Johnson will play Hagar's classic guitar rock song "I Can't Drive 55" as part of the pre-race festivities for the 37th annual NASCAR All-Star Race on June 13 at Texas Motor Speedway.

The two guitarists will perform the 1984 radio and MTV hit from a stage located in the Texas Motor Speedway grandstands at Section PL 102.

On-track activity for the NASCAR All-Star Race weekend begins June 12 with a doubleheader, opening with the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series SpeedyCash.com 220 (12 p.m. CT on FS1, MRN, and 95.9 The Ranch) followed at 3 p.m. CT by the NASCAR Xfinity Series Alsco Uniforms 250 powered by Cheddar's (FS1, PRN, 95.9 The Ranch). Then, on Sunday, June 13, is the NASCAR All-Star Open (5 p.m. CT on FS1, MRN and 95.9 The Ranch) followed by the \$1 million NASCAR All-Star Race (7 p.m. CT on FS1, MRN and 95.9 The Ranch).

Hall of Fame Spotlight: Keith Byars



2020 College Football Hall of Fame Spotlight - Keith Byars Ohio State University Running Back, 1982-85

By Matt Fortuna

The recruiting world may have been different four decades ago, but it was no less intense.

The phone rang inside the Byars' home in Dayton, Ohio, in January of 1982, just before national signing day. Keith Byars' sister answered, then shouted that "Coach Hayes" was on the phone. Keith thought it was a joke, but when he got on the phone, he recognized the same voice he had been hearing all his life while watching Ohio State games as a child.

"He's yelling at me because I hadn't committed to Ohio State," Byars said, laughing. "He said, 'Don't you want to be great, young man? I heard a lot of great things about you.' I'm like, 'You heard about me?' He said, 'All great players in Ohio stay in Ohio!' So I was blown away." Byars was ready to commit to the Buckeyes right then and there, but he waited to have lunch on campus with both Woody Hayes and then-Ohio State coach Earle Bruce. And even then, Byars upped the drama, waiting to deliver his word to Bruce on the phone later on.

Byars was seemingly destined to go to Ohio State, a decision he still calls one of the best of his life. He raced through the record books in Columbus, and he is now

the 26th former Buckeye player to make the College Football Hall of Fame.

"My heart and my head were saying Ohio State," Byars said. "That's not a decision I ever regretted. From day one, I knew I chose the right college all along. So being able to play for a Hall of Fame coach in Earle Bruce was a blessing. He taught me a lot. We had a great coaching staff while I was there, too, and just a perfect storm of friends."

Byars finished as the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1984, as he led the nation in rushing (1,764), all-purpose yards (2,441) and scoring (144).

The highlight of that charmed junior campaign came in the sixth game of the season against Illinois, as Byars led the home team to victory out of a 24-0 hole by rushing for a then-single-game school record of 274 yards and five touchdowns. On his fourth touchdown of the game, he famously lost his left shoe at the Illini 40 but never broke stride.

The Buckeyes went on to beat "That Team Up North" (Michigan) for the second time in Byars' four years en route to winning the Big Ten title and making the Rose Bowl. Byars became a captain his senior season in 1985, and though he battled injury throughout the year, his team helped him close his career on a winning note, beating reigning national champion BYU in the Citrus Bowl.

Byars' best college memory, however, might be his first.

"I never went to a college football game until my freshman year of Ohio State," Byars said. "That was my first college football game, so I didn't take any of those unofficial visits to go see a game on Saturday because I was just too busy. And so I had heard all the stories about running out of Ohio Stadium when the stadium's jam-packed — at the time it held 90,000 people — and to run out and see that many people, I really don't remember my feet hitting the ground; you come busting out of the locker room."

Byars went on to become the 10th overall pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in 1986, embarking on a 13-year career with four different teams. He currently hosts a weekly radio show in Dayton.

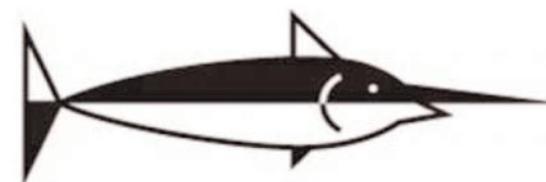
He couldn't help but become emotional when asked what the Hall of Fame honor means to him, as he attributed all of his accolades to the foundation that his late parents, Reginald and Margaret, set for him while growing up.

"It's touching," Byars said. "I'm extremely honored and grateful for it. And it's not just me. I'm just the one that's there

getting the award, but I have a great family, and that includes my brothers and sisters, my kids, my wife — all of them are a part of it as well. And it's history. You always want to leave some kind of mark here on earth, and that's something that will outlive me. And I'm happy for that, that my kids, and some day, grandkids, will appreciate it."

KEITH BYARS: UP CLOSE

- Named a unanimous First Team All-American and Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1984.
- Led nation in rushing (1,764), all-purpose yards (2,441) and scoring (144) in 1984.
- Ranks in the top 10 all-time at OSU with 4,369 career all-purpose yards and 3,200 career rushing yards.
- Played for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Earle Bruce.
- Becomes the 26th Ohio State player inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.



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NCAA CWS Super regional preview



The Longhorns are now two wins away from making their record 37th trip to Omaha

2021 Men's College World Series: Super-regional schedules, previews

By Wayne Cavadi

The Road to Omaha continues this week with 16 teams in super regionals in eight spots across the country. Next stop? TD Ameritrade Park and the 2021 Men's College World Series in Omaha.

While there are many familiar faces left, South Florida won its way to the program's first-ever super-regional appearance. That was one of the biggest stories after a weekend of record-setting pitching performances, memorable grand slams and, of course, a few rain delays.

Eleven of the 16 teams remaining are national seeds. Florida, Louisiana Tech, Old Dominion, Oregon and TCU have been sent home earlier than expected. That leaves Virginia and Dallas Baptist ready to battle in the only super regional featuring unseeded teams.

Here's a quick preview for all the super regionals, including the schedule, teams and what's happened so far.

The 2021 super regional matchups

(Note: The following games are to be played Friday, June 11 through Sunday, June 13. All listed times are Eastern. All Sunday games are if necessary or weather-delayed games.)

Fayetteville Super Regional

No. 1 Arkansas vs. NC State
Friday at 6 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 1 Arkansas vs. NC State
Saturday at 3 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 1 Arkansas vs. NC State

Sunday at 6 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: The Fayetteville Regional was a memorable one with tournament surprise NJIT stealing a win and the hearts of Arkansas fans. Despite dropping a game to Nebraska, a pinch-hit three-run bomb from Charlie Welch and another absolutely absurd performance from Kevin Kopps sent the OmahaHogs one step closer to the College World Series. This time Kopps, the tournament MVP, tossed seven shutout innings in relief, allowing only three hits while striking out eight. This is Arkansas third-straight Super Regional appearance, and the Razorbacks have won the previous two in a row.

The Wolf Pack bounced back from a heartbreaking 1-0 loss in the ACC championship to sweep through the Ruston Regional with relative ease. They outscored their opponents 30-11 in the three games, including back-to-back wins over host Louisiana Tech to get to their first Super Regional since 2013. Luca Tresh smashed his team-high 14th home run in the clincher to help NC State score 14 runs, the most in program history in a regional final.

Nashville Super Regional

No. 4 Vanderbilt vs. No. 13 East Carolina
Friday at noon | ESPN2

No. 4 Vanderbilt vs. No. 13 East Carolina
Saturday at noon | ESPN2

No. 4 Vanderbilt vs. No. 13 East Carolina
Sunday at 3 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: Georgia Tech made the defending champion Commodores work in

Nashville, but the Vandy Boys prevailed. Jack Leiter tossed six one-run innings, striking out 11, but the Cardiac Jackets scored two in the top of the ninth to make Vandy sweat out a 4-3 victory. In the regional championship, Vandy and Georgia Tech battled 11 innings with the 'Dores erupting for five runs — highlighted by an Isaiah Thomas grand slam — in the top of the 11th. It was the fourth-straight regional title for Vanderbilt who have become super regional locks the past few seasons.

The Pirates won three straight to clinch their sixth regional title - and second in a row - and are in the super regionals for the third-time since 2016. Matt Bridges appeared in all three victories, picking up two saves, while allowing no runs or walks and striking out six en route to MVP honors. Connor Norby, who has been so good all season long, picked up three hits and scored four runs and is hitting .418.

Lubbock Super Regional

No. 8 Texas Tech vs. No. 9 Stanford
Friday at 3 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 8 Texas Tech vs. No. 9 Stanford
Saturday at 3 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 8 Texas Tech vs. No. 9 Stanford
Sunday at 3 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: The Red Raiders had little issue moving on, sweeping their regional by outscoring their opponents 21-7. Texas Tech has now been to five super regionals since 2014 and are looking to return to Omaha for the fourth time since 2016. Kurt Wilson had a big weekend, with five hits, five RBIs and three runs

scored. Jace Jung also had a big weekend and is now hitting .343 with 21 home runs. Stanford had to take two of three from UC Irvine to advance, but the Cardinal are moving on to their 12th super regional and second in a row. They made sure there was nothing to worry about, erupting for a seven-run first inning in the winner-take-all finale. Tim Tawa had an absurd weekend, tallying 10 hits, eight RBIs and seven runs scored on the way to MVP honors.

Brendan Beck was sharp in his one start, going seven innings and striking out nine.

Tucson Super Regional

No. 5 Arizona vs. No. 12 Ole Miss
Friday at 9 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 5 Arizona vs. No. 12 Ole Miss
Saturday at 10 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 5 Arizona vs. No. 12 Ole Miss
Sunday at 9 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: The Wildcats rolled through their regional tournament, winners of three straight. It was Arizona's 20th NCAA regional championship and it is heading to its fifth super regional, where the Wildcats have been quite successful in the past with a 3-1 record. We've talked about this offense all season, led by freshmen Jacob Berry and All-Tournament teamer Daniel Susac, but it was pitcher Garrett Irvin who took home MVP honors, tossing a complete game shutout, striking out 10 and walking none.

Ole Miss had to figure out a way to silence Southern Miss' hot bats in Oxford. Southern Miss scored 47 runs in the regional, but the Rebels held on to a 12-9

victory to advance to their seventh super regional in program history. And it wasn't without memorable performances. Ace Doug Nihazy picked up a win against Florida State, going seven innings and striking out 16 to tie the program postseason record. Two days later, he came on in relief for the first time since his freshman year, going 1.1 innings to earn his second win of the tourney. And how about Tim Elko? Elko closed the weekend with a two-home run performance, including his second grand slam of the tournament to earn MVP honors.

The following games are to be played Saturday, June 12 through Monday, June 14. All listed times are Eastern. All Monday games are if necessary or weather-delayed games.

Austin Super Regional

No. 2 Texas vs. South Florida

Saturday at 9 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 2 Texas vs. South Florida

Sunday at 9 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

No. 2 Texas vs. South Florida

Monday at 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: Texas had little issue romping through the Austin Regional, scoring double-digit runs in each game and outscoring their opponents 33-5. That can be expected with the Longhorns pitching staff that is one of the best in the nation. Pete Hansen set a career high with 13 strikeouts in the championship. First baseman Zach Zubia won MVP honors going 5-for-14 with six RBIs over the weekend. The Longhorns are now two wins away from making their record 37th trip to Omaha, last advancing in 2018.

We go from one of the most historically successful programs in tournament play to one making program history with every win. South Florida is in its first super regional tournament, highlighted by an opening round upset of host Florida — the first win over the Gators in the postseason since 1982. The Bulls entered the AAC tournament a mere 24-26, but coming off a regular-season ending split with No. 10 East Carolina, the Bulls rolled to the AAC title, clinched their berth in the NCAA tournament and just keep rolling. Jake Sullivan went 5-for-15 with four runs scored and two RBIs to win MVP honors while Riley Hogan hit .500 over the weekend.

Knoxville Super Regional

No. 3 Tennessee vs. LSU

Saturday at 7 p.m. | ESPN2

No. 3 Tennessee vs. LSU

Sunday at Noon or 3 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

No. 3 Tennessee vs. LSU

Monday at 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: The Vols opened against the best offense in college baseball, statistically speaking, and walked away winners on one of the more memorable plays of the regionals. Down three runs in the bottom of the ninth, Drew Gilbert launched a ball into the night for the walk-off grand slam. It was Tennessee's seventh walk-off win of the season and propelled

the Vols to their first super regional since 2005.

Speaking of walk-offs, LSU had a dramatic one itself, as Giovanni DeGiacomo hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the tenth to give the Tigers their first victory in Eugene, Ore. It was the fifth walk-off for LSU this season, and the first of four straight elimination-game wins to reach the super regionals. Gavin Dugas racked up seven hits, including three home runs to win MVP honors as LSU heads to its 15th super regional in program history.

Starkville Super Regional

No. 7 Miss. State vs. No. 10 Notre Dame

Saturday at 2 p.m. | ESPN

No. 7 Miss. State vs. No. 10 Notre Dame

Sunday at 6 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

No. 7 Miss. State vs. No. 10 Notre Dame

Monday at 7 p.m. | ESPN2/ESPNU

How we got here: A ton of home runs.

Niko Kavadas led the charge for Notre Dame with five home runs over three days, including back-to-back two-home run games as the Fighting Irish put up 50 runs. Kavadas set the program record with his 21st home run of the season. Overall, Notre Dame slugged 15 home runs in three days and are clearly feeling it. This is the Irish's first super regional appearance since 2002

Mississippi State now has the longest current super regional streak in college baseball, heading to its fifth-straight round of 16. Kamren James hit home runs in consecutive games and drove in seven on the weekend to earn MVP honors. We know the Diamond Dawgs have the hitting, but it will be interesting to see if the pitching can cool down that Irish offense.

Pitchers Will Bednar and Houston Harding made the All-Tournament team with strong performances last weekend.

Columbia Super Regional

Virginia vs. DBU

Saturday at noon | ESPN2

Virginia vs. DBU

Sunday at noon | ESPN2/ESPNU

Virginia vs. DBU

Monday at 1 p.m. | ESPN2

How we got here: It took until Tuesday for Virginia to lock up its spot in the super regionals because of rain and lots of it. The Hoos won four straight elimination games capping the long weekend and it was Devin Ortiz's 10th-inning walk-off home run that helped Virginia advance. It was the first walk-off home run in Virginia history. Ortiz won MVP honors hitting .333 over the weekend with two home runs and six RBIs.

The Patriots trailed 5-0 after five innings in the Eugene Regional. A two-run blast from Ryan Wroblewski in the sixth, the memorable Andrew Benefield grand slam in the seventh and a River Town two-run homer in the eighth changed the course of history, giving DBU an 8-5 win and a berth in their second super regional in program history. Wroblewski hit in every game and homered in the final two to earn MVP honors.

Arkansas remains No. 1 in NCBWA Division I Poll



Arkansas Enters NCAA Super Regionals No. 1 in NCBWA Division I Poll

DALLAS - The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association continues its tradition of NCAA Division I polls for the 24th year with its 2021 weekly surveys, and Arkansas is No. 1 for the 2021-high 12th week and season-best ninth week in a row this spring.

SEC schools - Arkansas, Florida, Ole Miss and Vanderbilt - also have topped each of the NCBWA Top 30 polls in '21.

All 16 teams in the NCAA Super Regionals appear in this week's compilations.

Some notable changes from the May 31 survey in the standings are Texas Tech up to No. 6 from 7, Notre Dame climbing from No. 10 to 7, Mississippi State up to No. 8 from 12, Stanford moving from No. 11 to 9, and East Carolina jumping to No. 10 from 15.

This is the final NCBWA Division I poll before the NCAA World Series, June 19-29/30. There will be a postseason NCBWA survey the day after the 2021 DI champion is crowned.

There have been 14 conferences (11 for three weeks in succession) represented in the first 17 standings of 2021, and there were 15 different conferences included in the COVID-19 abbreviated NCBWA polls in 2020.

The 2021 poll voters come from among 33 college baseball writers and related media persons from throughout the nation. The '21 season features 302 NCAA Division I baseball-playing schools and for more information or to join the NCBWA please go to www.ncbwa.com.

Also Receiving Votes

Arizona State (33-22), California (29-26), California Baptist (40-16), Campbell (37-18), Central Michigan (41-18), Connecticut (34-19), Duke (33-22), Florida State (31-24), Georgia Tech (31-25), Gonzaga (34-19), Jackson State (32-9), Liberty (41-16),

Maryland (30-18), Miami (FL) (33-21), Nevada (25-20), South Alabama (36-22), South Carolina (34-23), VCU (38-16).

Dropped Out

South Carolina (21), Florida State (25), Gonzaga (26), Duke (27), Arizona St. (28).

By Conference

SEC 7, Pac-12 5, Big 12 4, Conference USA 4, ACC 3, American Athletic 2, Big West 2, Big Ten 1, MAAC 1, Missouri Valley 1.

No. 1 Schools by Week:

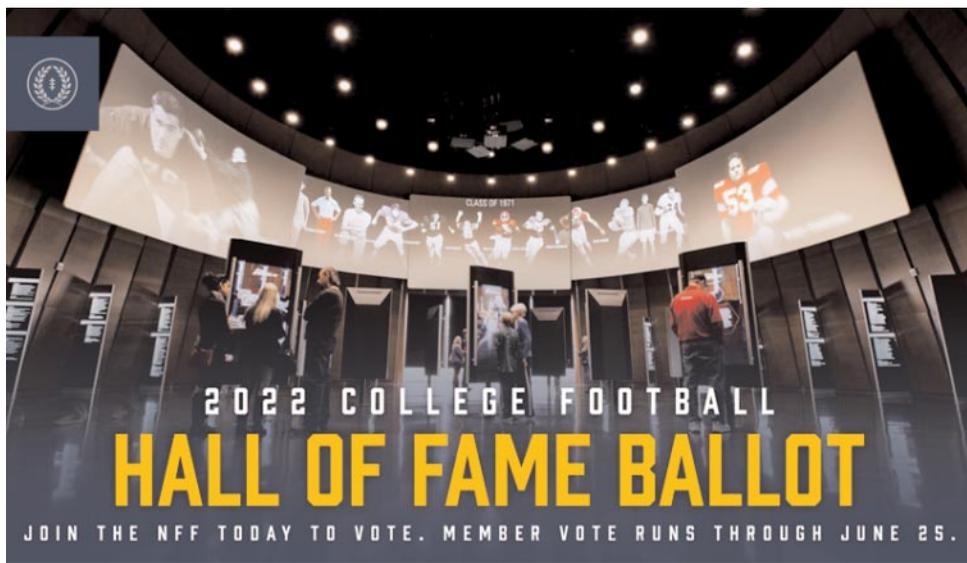
Preseason (Florida); Feb. 23 (Ole Miss); March 1-15, April 12-June 8 (Arkansas); March 22-April 5 (Vanderbilt).

NCBWA BASEBALL - Top 25

(Games played through 6/7/21)

1. Arkansas
2. Texas
3. Vanderbilt
4. Tennessee
5. Arizona
6. Texas Tech
7. Notre Dame
8. Mississippi State
9. Stanford
10. East Carolina
11. Ole Miss
12. NC State
13. Dallas Baptist
14. Virginia
15. LSU
16. UCF
17. Old Dominion
18. Nebraska
19. UC Irvine
20. Oregon
21. Louisiana Tech
22. TCU
23. Southern Miss
24. UCLA
25. Florida
26. Oregon State
27. Fairfield
28. Oklahoma State
29. Charlotte
30. Santa Barbara

College Football News and Notes



The announcement of the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be made in early 2022



BO CARTER

bcarter@footballfoundation.com

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame revealed the 78 players and seven coaches from the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision and 99 players and 33 coaches from the NCAA divisional and NAIA ranks for the 2022 ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Some of the familiar national names on the new NCAA FBS ballot are Flozell Adams, Michigan State, OT; Shaun Alexander, Alabama, RB; Morten Andersen, Michigan State, PK; LaVar Arrington, Penn State, LB; Champ Bailey, Georgia, DB; Mark Bavaro, Notre Dame, TE; and Aaron Beasley, West Virginia, DB, among others. Some of the greats from NCAA divisional and NAIA ranks among the student-athletes' nominees are Jay Wessler, Illinois College, RB; Brian Westbrook, Villanova, RB; Tim Whelan, Tufts, RB; Mike Wiggins, Iowa Wesleyan, Punter; Jerry Woods, Northern Michigan, DB; and John Zanieski, Yale, MG.

To be eligible for the ballot, players must have been named First Team All-America by a major/national selector as recognized and utilized by the NCAA for their consensus All-America teams; played their last year of intercollegiate football at

least 10 full seasons prior; played within the last 50 years; and cannot be currently playing professional football. Coaches must have coached a minimum of 10 years and 100 games as a head football coach; won at least 60 percent of their games; and be retired from coaching for at least three full seasons. If a coach is retired and over the age of 70, there is no waiting period. If he is over the age of 75, he is eligible as an active coach. In all cases, the candidate's post-football record as a citizen may also be weighed. The ballot was emailed to the more than 12,000 NFF members and current Hall of Famers whose votes will be tabulated and submitted to the NFF's Honors Courts, which deliberate and select the class. The FBS Honors Court, chaired by NFF Board Member and College Football Hall of Famer Archie Griffin from Ohio State, and the Divisional Honors Court, chaired by former Marshall head coach, longtime athletics director and NFF Board Member Jack Lengyel, include an elite and geographically diverse pool of athletic administrators, Hall of Famers and members of the media.

The announcement of the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be made in early 2022, with specific details to be announced in the future. The Class will be officially inducted during the 64th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 6, 2022, and permanently immortalized at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

Major League Baseball celebrated Lou Gehrig Day last Friday to memorialize the NFF College Hall of Fame running back from Columbia and Baseball Hall of Fame first baseman for the New York Yankees. There were many highlights of Gehrig's life and career in athletics and also special live and online means of donating to the ALS Society to help discover a cure for what was called Lou Gehrig's Disease that

took the slugger's life at the age of 37.

Houston WR Elmo Wright was the latest stalwart from the NFF College Hall of Fame Class of 2020 featured in the weekly series about 2020 and '21 honorees.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the June 8-14 period are June 8 (1895) Ike Armstrong, Fort Madison, Iowa; (1917) Byron "Whizzer" White, Ft. Collins, Colo.; (1928) Clayton Tonnemaker, Ogilvie, Minn.; (1928) Al Brosky, Cincinnati, Ohio; June 9 (1938) Fisher DeBerry, Cheraw, S.C.; (1952) John Cappelletti, Philadelphia, Pa.; (1954) Woodrow Lowe, Columbus, Ga.; (1973) Tedy Bruschi, San Francisco, Calif.; June 10 (1880) Louis Salmon, Syracuse, N.Y.; (1963) David Williams, Los Angeles, Calif.; June 11 (1892) Josh Cody, Franklin, Tenn.; (1903) Ernie Nevers, Willow River, Minn.; (1924) Earl Banks, Philadelphia, Pa.; (1924) Doug Kenna, Jackson, Miss.; (1930) Johnny Bright, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; June 12 (1901) Harold Muller, Dunsmuir, Calif.; (1905) Len Casanova, Ferndale, Calif.; (1947) Steve Kiner, Sandstone, Minn.; June 13 (1903) Red Grange, Forksville, Pa.; (1909) Jack Riley, Chicago, Ill.; June 14 (1898) Bill Ingram, Jeffersonville, Ind.; (1918) John Kimbrough, Haskell, Texas; (1924) Leo Nomellini, Lucca, Italy.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are June 9 (2005) Slade Cutter, Annapolis, Md.; June 10 (2001) John McKay, Tampa, Fla.; (2008) John Rauch, Oldsmar, Fla.; June 11 (1964) Lynn Bomar, Nashville, Tenn.; June 12 (1987) Bill Edwards, Springfield, Ohio; (2010) Les Richter, Riverside, Calif.; June 13 (1992) Edwin "Babe" Horrell, Beverly Hills, Calif.; June 14 (1932) Bob Peck, Culver, Ind.; (2007) Robin Olds, Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members June 9 Fisher DeBerry (a spry 83), John Cappelletti, Philadelphia, Pa.; Woodrow Lowe, Columbus, Ga.; June 10 David Williams, June 12 Steve Kiner (a spry 74)...St. Thomas (Minn.) finalized its first year as a member of NCAA Division I football with non-conference clashes against St. Francis (Ill.), Michigan Tech and UNI before the Tommies embark on the first Pioneer Football League full slate of contests. St. Thomas also celebrated its final days in NCAA DIII by making the division's baseball World Series in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last week...Air Force has added future encounters with Colorado (2022), Baylor (2024 and '27) and New Mexico State (2023 and '25)...The postponed Arkansas-Notre Dame tussle has been moved to 2028...Montana State has

added future games with five opponents over a number of seasons - New Mexico, McNeese, South Dakota State (2020-21 NCAA FCS runnerup to Sam Houston), Stetson, and Drake...St. Francis (N.Y.) completed its 2021 slate with non-conference foes Eastern Michigan, Delaware and Norfolk State.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy assistant coach Lou Bernardi personally delivered 5,000-plus meals to first responders in the New York City metro area to assist those working overtime to help COVID-19 patients...The Challenged Athletes Foundation Challenged will host its Celebration of Heroes, Heart and Hope Gala at Home on Wednesday, June 9....

...TCU athletics and Fort Worth, Texas, celebrated the U.S. Census Bureau's findings that Fort Worth is now the 12th-largest city in the U.S. after passing Seattle, Wash....A sports business report from Darren Rovell notes that on May 30, 1971, Blue Ribbon Sports, a running shoe company, changed its name to Nike. Nineteen days later, the company used the now-famous swoosh logo for the first time from a design by Portland State graphics' student Carolyn Davidson who was paid \$35.

Nike's latest revenue report in 2021 is \$100-plus million daily...The Dartmouth College administration is working with the general body students and student-athletes to help offset emotional challenges caused by COVID-19 and regular college stresses. Florida head coach Dan Mullen had his contract extended three years with a solid compensation update...Florida A&M offered and granted contract extensions to head coach Willie Simmons through 2025, men's head men's head basketball coach Robert McCullum (2023-24) and women's head basketball coach Shalon Pillow (2023-24)...Murray State head coach Dean Hood is enjoying a contract extension through 2024 with his staff receiving assurances through the 2022 campaign...Chattanooga named Tyrus Ward defensive backs coach...West Virginia head coach Neal Brown spoke about challenges of regulating communications between coaches and student-athletes in the NCAA transfer portal and balancing scholarship numbers' limitations...Texas athletics has requested a trademark for the expression "all gas, no brakes" used frequently by new head coach Steve Sarkisian...Yahoo Sports columnist Pete Thamel interviewed Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly about his team's win over Clemson last fall and the support he receives from the administration for the Fighting Irish...LSU is searching for a new offensive line coach to replace James Cregg.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches - Central Connecticut: Ryan McCarthy, Wilder, Vt.; Colorado: Karl

Dorrell, Alameda, Calif.; Colorado Mines: Gregg Brandon, Tucson, Ariz.; Colorado State: Steve Addazio, Farmington, Conn.; Columbia: Al Bagnoli, New Britain, Conn. Oklahoma director of athletics and NFF Board member Joe Castiglione received a contract extension through 2014. The personable Castiglione has been AD for the Sooners since 1998...Wisconsin named Chris McIntosh, who played for retiring NFF College Hall of Fame coach/AD Barry Alvarez of UW during Alvarez's on-field days, as new director of athletics...Penn selected Alanna Shanahan director of athletics...Northwestern has chosen former Vanderbilt football student-athlete and NCAA administrator Dr. Derrick Gragg as its new AD...Kent Partridge was named AD at West Alabama after a long and award-winning career as a college athletics publicist...Marshall AD Mike Hamrick is leaving his post after 12 seasons at the Huntington, W.Va., university...Georgia State AD Charlie Cobb has been allotted a contract extension through 2024...Tennessee AD Danny White promised his varsity head coaches and Volunteers fans the resources and facilities to compete for national titles in every sport...Arizona State AD Ray Anderson spoke on several pertinent topics with 247Sports, and some of the key issues were the impact of COVID-19 on capital projects, re-arranging budgets to make sure that varsity sports programs will survive and non-conference football scheduling...UCF AD Terry Mohajir spoke of key issues during his first 116 days at the post with operating budget, maintenance of high levels of competition and developing a master plan at the top of the agenda...North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham and OneTeam Partners are taking initial steps in the process of instatement for student-athletes names, images and likenesses' compensation and branding...Florida A&M AD Kortne Gosha has a balanced budget of \$6.1 million-plus for the 2020-21 academic year with assistance in additional funding from FAMU's Board of Trustees...California AD Jim Knowlton was delighted to learn from the Cal athletics business office that the Golden Bears football season ticket renewal rate was just under 95 percent last week...Iowa State AD Jamie Pollard celebrated his coaches' and student-athletes' overall success in 2020-21 and the groups' cooperation in getting through some trying times due to COVID-19 protocols...St. Bonaventure deputy AD and 30-year department veteran Mary Questa has become interim AD at SBU...Maryland delegated former women's basketball director of operations Libby Ellis for the new UM role as associate AD for sports administration...Texas A&M International assistant AD Dan Lathey is retiring after serving in that post for 20 years at TAMUI. He formerly was assistant commissioner for the Lone Star Conference and American Southwest Conferences and has served as an official scorer for the Phillips 66 Big 12 Conference Baseball Championship...Mississippi State assistant media relations director John Cade is retiring after 30 years in his fulltime post and an additional four years as a MSU student assistant...The AthleticDirectorU podcast featured a special

topic about Leadership and Evolution in College Athletics with Fresno State AD Terry Tumey...Duke named former assistant coach Jon Scheyer as its new men's basketball head coach...Northwestern baseball head coach Spencer Allen has finished his tenure with the Wildcats, and Josh Reynolds is now interim head coach...Brian Kortan has been tabbed as Texas A&M's fulltime men's golf head coach, and the Aggies also brought in former Lamar head coach Steve Roccaforte as men's assistant basketball coach...Binghamton selected Brian Johnson as associate men's head basketball coach...Bradley chose Mike Geary as women's associate head basketball coach...Maryland added Libby Ellis as associate director of sports administration...UTRGV named Kyle Timm assistant men's soccer coach...Jamie McNeilly is leaving Texas A&M to accept the men's basketball assistant coaching position at TCU...Morgan State provost and senior vice president for academic affairs Dr. Lesia L. Crumpton-Young is the lone final candidate for the vacant president's post at Texas Southern and is awaiting TSU Board of Regents' approval...Gardner-Webb selected Bailey Wigness as the Bulldogs new head softball coach...Georgia Southern tabbed Mimi Burke as the Eagles head women's golf coach...Kennesaw State head baseball coach Mike Sansing is retiring after 31 seasons at GSU and 34 years overall (three campaigns at Shorter)...Duke women's basketball head coach Kara Lawson has guided her USA Basketball 3-on-3 team to Tokyo for the Olympics after reaching qualification status...Virginia Tech added former Alabama diving Coach Rio Ramirez to take over its program...Colorado State named Keeley Hagen women's soccer head coach...Kent State men's basketball head coach Rob Senderoff had his contract extended through 2025-26...Florida men's basketball head coach Mike White has a new, two-year contract extension through April 2027...The D1.ticker has listed qualifications, unique aspects and variables for ADs' openings at San Jose State, Northwestern, UAPB, Central Connecticut State, Drexel, Grambling, Green Bay, Penn, Temple, Toledo, and William & Mary...Valparaiso softball head coach Kate Stake, Nicholls State head baseball coach Seth Thibodeaux, Stanford field hockey head coach Tara Danielson, and Ohio women's volleyball head coach Webb are completing their tenures at their respective schools...Some recent head coaching and ADs' appointments are former Ohio volleyball head coach Deane Webb as the new at Indiana Wesleyan, UAB's new men's tennis head coach Justin DeSanto, U. of New Orleans beach volleyball coach Amy Blanke...Charleston Southern men's basketball chose Thomas Butters as associate head coach...Purdue has acquired Patrick Crawford as associate AD for strategic communications from Louisiana athletics...Marquette associate dean of graduate studies and research Dr. Kati Tusinski Berg is now MU's faculty athletics representative...Retiring Florida State President Dr. John Thrasher spoke about possible naming rights' sponsorship for FSU facilities and other corporate contributions...The D1Ticker

posted descriptions for open positions in athletics at Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association, UMass Lowell, West Virginia, the American Athletic Conference, the NCAA, Kentucky, U. of New Orleans, Akron, and VCU, among others...Other key changes and upgrades in college athletics administrators in the news have been Florida's Nicole Jones as senior associate AD for marketing, fan engagement and branding, Villanova women's lacrosse head coach Julie Young retiring after 10 seasons with the Wildcats, UNC Asheville selecting Mick Giordano as men's soccer head coach, UMass men's hockey head coach Greg Carvel with a contract extension through 2026, Omaha associate AD for communications Dave Ahlers leaving to seek new opportunities in athletics, High Point baseball head coach Craig Cozart finishing his tenure at the helm, Kennesaw State adding Wingate athletics Erin Thorne as women's head golf coach, and Ohio seeking a new head track and field and cross country head coach...Additional coaching or athletics administrators' changes during the last week have been Morehead State's new women's basketball coach Caylee Petree, Delaware State's men's basketball head coach Stan Waterman, Towson's E.C. Hill as women's basketball head coach, Utah Valley's Eddie Smith as baseball head coach, Massachusetts head softball coach Kristi Stefanoni leaving her post, and St. Anselm women's ice hockey coach head coach Kerstin Matthews finalizing her days at SAC.

The football website PFF.com has rated the Top 10 college individual safeties nationally with these honorees: Tykee Smith, Georgia; Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame; Brandon Joseph, Northwestern; Malachi Moore, Alabama; Jaquan Brisker, Penn State; Tre Sterling, Oklahoma State; Jordan Battle, Alabama; Bralen Trahan, Louisiana; Jalen Catalon, Arkansas; and Keith Gallmon, South Alabama...Troy's 2020 leading receiver with 64 catches for 752 yards Kaylon Geiger is transferring to Texas Tech this season...One post-spring practice report shows Baylor LB Terrel Bernard, TCU quarterback Max Duggan, Texas Tech WR Erik Ezukanma, Kansas State QB Skylar Thompson, Oklahoma QB Spencer Rattler, Iowa State RB Brence Hall, and Texas quarterbacks Casey Thompson and Hudson Card as premier candidates for All-Big 12 Conference laurels in '21...Texas LB Ayodele Adeoye has withdrawn from the NCAA transfer portal and will remain with the Longhorns...D1Softball shows on its transfer tracker 596 student-athletes moving to other schools as of May 31...Auburn's Allen Flanigan was featured in a recent publication for his Little Rock, Ark., roots and the legacy of his famed coaching grandfather Al Flanigan...North Carolina's Kennady Tucker has transferred to Oklahoma...West Virginia potential All-Big 12 Conference guard Taz Sherman will return for the upcoming season...Boston College All-America women's lacrosse standout Charlotte North of Episcopal School of Dallas (Texas) led BC to the 2021 NCAA championship with a NCAA-record 101 goals...Texas A&M had 26 track and field

student-athletes honored wither for on-track performance or academic achievements...Former Baylor standouts Hannah Gusters and Moon Ursin are transferring to LSU.

Conference USA denoted its tentative 2021 football telecast schedule with major national games on the contracted CBS Sports Network, Stadium and the ESPN family of networks. CBS Sports Network will air the C-USA Championship contest at a time to be determined on Saturday, Dec. 4, and some other telecasts of note are also on CBS Sports Network: Fri., Sept. 3, Duke at Charlotte, 7 p.m. (EDT); Saturday, Sept. 4, Marshall at Navy, 3:30 p.m. (EDT); Saturday, Sept. 11, WKU at Army West Point, 11:30 a.m. (EDT); and Houston at Rice, 5:30 p.m. (CDT); and on the ESPN networks' group: Wednesday, Sept. 1 (ESPN), Jacksonville State vs. UAB (Montgomery Kickoff Classic), 6:30 p.m. (CDT); Thursday, Sept. 23 (ESPN), Marshall at Appalachian State, 7:30 p.m. (EDT); Saturday, Sept. 11 (ESPN2), UAB at Georgia, 3:30 p.m. (EDT); Saturday, Sept. 4 (ESPNU), Louisiana Tech at Mississippi State, 3 p.m. (CDT)...Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference commissioner Dr. Dennis Thomas spoke about such topics as the future of the conference, changes in membership, future media contracts, and other key matters during an interview last week...

McNeese State president Dr. Daryl V. Burckel has started his two-year assignment as chair of the Southland Conference Council of Presidents and points out that conference expansion is a prime goal...Oklahoma State continues to hold the NCAA record (all divisions) with 16 consecutive conference postseason baseball tournament titles in the Big Eight Conference from 1981-96. Oklahoma stopped that streak in '97 when both teams began Big 12 Conference diamond activity...Northern Arizona has gained the 2020-21 Big Sky Conference Men's and Women's All-Sport Trophies...The Big East and Southeastern Conferences joined several other circuits in doing away with its automatic redshirt year for intraconference transfers at last week's loop meetings...Matchups and dates for the Big East-Big 12 Conference Men's Basketball Showdowns have been revealed...Retired Texas AD DeLoss Dodds told the Austin (Texas) American Statesman newspaper that the Longhorns actually were closer to joining the Atlantic Coast Conference during his administration than rumors about membership in the Pac-12 or Big Ten Conferences...The Pac-12 Conference has committed to enhance Pac-12 wrestling to reach a higher competitive level nationally.

Among the all-time-high 44 postseason bowls approved for 2021-22 by the NCAA: Tuesday, Dec. 21 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl 3:30 p.m. ESPN, Boise, Idaho Tuesday, Dec. 21 Tropical Smoothie Cafe Frisco Bowl 7:30 p.m. ESPN, Frisco, Texas Tuesday, Dec. 21 Armed Forces Bowl Airtime TBD ESPN Thursday, Dec. 23 Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl, 7 p.m.ESPN, Tampa, Fla. Friday, Dec. 24 Hawai'i Bowl 8 p.m. ESPN, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Saturday, Dec. 25 Camellia Bowl, 2:30 p.m. ESPN, Montgomery, Ala.
 Monday, Dec. 27 Quick Lane Bowl 11 a.m. ESPN, Detroit, Mich.
 Monday, Dec. 27 Military Bowl 2:30 p.m. ESPN, Annapolis, Md.
 Tuesday, Dec. 28 TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl, noon ESPN, Birmingham, Ala.
 Tuesday, Dec. 28 First Responder Bowl 3:15 p.m. ESPN Dallas, Texas
 Tuesday, Dec. 28 AutoZone Liberty Bowl 6:45 p.m. ESPN, Memphis, Tenn.
 Tuesday, Dec. 28 Guaranteed Rate Bowl 10:15 p.m. ESPN, Phoenix, Ariz.

The Goodyear Cotton Bowl is taking final renewals for 2021 GCB tickets with an anticipated record demand as AT&T Stadium capacity has increased to 100 percent in Arlington, Texas.

Stanford leads Michigan by .5 point (770 to 769.5) in the Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup standings through June 3 national competition. North Carolina, Ohio State and Kentucky are next in the Top Five. The Big Ten tops all loops with eight schools in the Top 25, and final standings will be published July 2...

.....William & Mary athletics has started its \$55 All In Plan renovations with amenities for the outdoor tennis courts, which will be renamed for All In Plan co-chairs Jennifer Tepper Mackesy and D. Scott Mackesy...

...Long Beach State athletics has received a gift from longtime enthusiast Marilyn Bohl with matching funds going toward LED signage and lights at Bohl Diamond at Blair Field and \$4-6 million in other projects for the 49ers...Texas Tech athletics has expanded its partnership with Opendorse and the updated Opendorse Ready application for the new Beyond Certified Names, Images and Likenesses program to assist student-athletes' with compensation and personal brands...

...Several colleges and departments of athletics have been recent beneficiaries of what the Wall Street Journal terms an "explosion of business activity" as the COVID-19 pandemic lessens...Nebraska athletics has set up construction barriers and is proceeding on its end zone and seating renovations at Memorial Stadium/Dr. Tom Osborne Field...Fevo and Paciolan have partnered for ticket sharing through social media and a special social provided by the companies...The Notre Dame baseball head coaching position has been endowed by former baseball standout John Murphy and his wife Cathy...Washburn football and other sports' student-athletes have benefitted from life lessons and scholarship aid from the Greg and Rhonda Brenneman Foundation...Columbus (Neb.) Scotus HS named its basketball court after coaching legend John Peterson...Western Michigan athletics has a new logo and somewhat simplified color scheme for 2021-22 and will make a gradual transition from the previous symbols...Connecticut athletics and state of Connecticut legislators are working to finalize statewide legis-

lation on future NCAA NIL procedures because the NCAA has not taken definitive action in recent months...Illinois is moving toward a possible July 1 opening date for legalized NIL procedures on the college level, and the state of Oklahoma voted to implement NIL legislation by July 1, 2023 ...Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak inked Nevada Assembly Bill 254 to allow statewide NIL activity to begin July 1, 2022...Virginia Tech athletics updating its agreements with INFLCR to open JumpStart, a NIL program to assist student-athletes with resources for their personal compensation brands and possible business opportunities ...New York Tech athletics is gearing up for full-scale 2021-22 competition after suspending all varsity teams from March 2019-August due to COVID-19 and financial considerations. NYU athletics also will return to full activity after cancelling all sports for the 2020-21 academic year...

...Oklahoma State athletics is utilizing the new OSU Elite program from INFLCR as its avenue for NIL and other challenges awaiting student-athletes...Several coaches and college administrators are interested in gaining dealer courtesy usages for the upcoming 2022 Tacoma Trail Edition 4x4 pickup truck...ZRG has bought sports and entertainment advisory firm Sucherman...

...James Madison softball made its first-ever trip to the NCAA Division I Softball World Series in Oklahoma City and upset No. 1 seed Oklahoma 4-3 in the opening round...Fanatics and Galaxy Investment Partners are working together to inaugurate a new Candy Digital firm...College athletics' interest and attendance are returning to Massachusetts in a big way. State health authorities reported last Thursday that 229 previous high-risk COVID-19 communities had been reduced to zero...Kentucky athletics and Taymar Sales U. signed a multi-year contract extension for UK outbound ticket sales for all sports...Twitter and Opendorse have developed a new video sponsorship group Amplify to assist student-athletes to monetize revenue-sharing and video sponsorships. Texas A&M athletics is one of the first participants in this offering through 12th Man Creative...

...Nebraska athletics is in the process of beginning the #NILbraska NIL program for student-athletes' education in branding, marketing and financial literacy with Opendorse...The Oregon Senate passed Bill 5 to authorize names, images and likenesses' compensation statewide for student-athletes...Tennessee athletics, Altius Sports Partners and the UT Haslam College of Business have united to allow Volunteers student-athletes to minor in entrepreneurship with courses covering advertising, public relations, marketing, electronic media, law, and entrepreneurship...Adidas tabbed ReeCee Hollans as head of the adidas Grassroots Basketball Group...UConn and Tennessee are extending their popular women's basketball series.

Verne Lundquist, the 2011 NFF Co-National Contribution to Amateur Football

Award recipient with Brent Musburger, is being honored with the 2021 Texas Golf Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award ...Famed NFF College Hall of Fame coach and retired AD Mel Tjeerdsma was NCAA Fort Worth (Texas) Division I Regional tournament director while award-winning Jacksonville State active AD Greg Seitz was the NCAA chief representative for the Knoxville (Tenn.) Regional at Lindsey Nelson Stadium...Pitcher Griffin Jax joined the Minnesota Twins Saturday to become the first Air Force Academy graduate to play in Major League Baseball...CBS Sports columnist Dennis Dodd had a followup interview with NFF College Hall of Fame coach Mack Brown of North Carolina about the reopening of football recruiting after the previous dead period was extended past June 1...The Athletic noted the Minority Coaches Advancement Association, which conducts mock interviews and lists survey question for minority coaching candidates in football and all college sports. Ohio State AD and 2006 NFF John V. Toner Award recipient Gene Smith of Ohio State also has participated in and encouraged these timely sessions...

...Former BYU baseball and basketball standout Danny Ainge has left the NBA Boston Celtics and has been replaced by Celtics coach Brad Stevens who will hold both slots now...The preliminary list of nominees for the Texas Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2022 (voting will be later this summer) includes football greats Tony Brackens of Texas, Priest Holmes of Texas, Toya Jones of Texas A&M, Colt McCoy of Texas, Von Miller of Texas A&M, Matthew Stafford of Georgia and Highland Park, Texas, Wes Welker of Texas Tech, Robert Brazile of Jackson State the AFL Houston Oilers, Keith Moreland of Texas and the MLB Chicago Cubs (both football and baseball at UT, among others), Billy Nicks of Prairie View A&M, Mike Renfro of TCU, Johnny Roland of Missouri and Corpus Christi, Texas, and SMU broadcaster and basketball standout Ira Terrell. Former ESPN columnist and Alabama Sports Hall of Fame inductee Ivan Maisel is one of the lead scribes in the national media venture On3...Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine has hit the news racks for the 62nd consecutive year. It features previews on every high school football program in Texas as well as the national collegiate football scene...Fox Sports broadcaster Brian Custer is joining ESPN as a SportsCenter anchor and football and men's basketball play-by-play commentator...Sports Business Journal theorized that a larger than usual turnover in positions of directors of athletics and other key college athletics personnel in partly because of COVID-19 pressures and other extenuating factors. The publication researched that annually there are 40-50 NCAA Division I ADs' changes, and from January-May there were 30-plus openings for athletics COOs ...Several international media agencies reported on the withdrawal for personal

and health reasons by defending U.S. Open and Australian Open women's tennis champion Naomi Osaka from last week's French Open and the future impact on individual sports champions...Midwest regional media have reported that the collegiate wood bat Northwoods League will have legalized betting in states where gambling is allowed to assist in replenishing profits from the lost COVID-19 summer 2020 season...The Las Vegas (Nev.) Review newspaper spoke about how probable 100 percent attendance at 2021 college football and airlines in the recovery process from COVID-19 conditions...A Harper's magazine survey indicated that in 2019 at least 54 percent of those surveyed between the ages of 13-38 would like to become social media influencers for athletics and numerous other pursuits...WarnerMedia and Discovery Inc. merged groups will be renamed Warner Bros. Discovery with major emphasis on college and pro sports ...ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit continues to suffer long-haul effects from COVID-19 and hopes to regain his senses of taste and smell before the upcoming football outing...Alterra Mountain Company named former Ticketmaster president and global chair Jared Smith as its new president...Yahoo Sports conducted several interviews with seniors who returned for the 2020-21 academic year and how coaches and administrators had to shuffle financial aid and rosters with incoming 2020-21 signees and the returnees...The Gideons Society just recorded its all-time-high 109th translation of the Bible into the Bru language in Southeast Asia...Twitter has begun a Twitter Blue subscription service with ways of rescinding tweets, organizing posts and easily reading long threads...Forbes magazine did a research story on 14 names, images and likenesses' propositions for NAIA student-athletes in the sports of basketball, cross-country, football, lacrosse, track and field, and volleyball. There were three males and 11 females in the study, and the original monetary deals brokered through the PlayBooked Group were between \$30-\$50...Former ESPN executive vice president Burke Magnus is now president of programming and original content...Sports Illustrated visited with several retiring greats in athletics and asked about their legacies. Among the principals were Duke men's basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski, North Carolina men's basketball head coach Roy Williams, Wisconsin AD and NFF College Hall of Fame coach Barry Alvarez, and UCLA AD Dan Guerrero...ESPN featured late Conference USA assistant commissioner Russ Anderson in a special segment over two innings of the Southern Miss-Southeast Missouri telecast as USM wore RDA initials' logos on the back of its battling helmets.

CoSIDA for the second year in succession is holding its 65th annual National Workshop virtually June 7-10. The



The U.S. Football League will start back up in 2022

prestigious group hopes to meet in person in Las Vegas, Nev., in June 2022...The AFCA invited Western Michigan head coach Tim Lester to its 2020-21 Board of Trustees...The FWAA reminded members that the FWAA Writing Contest has one month remaining for final entries...Jim Christman of Chicago State, Dan Lathey of Texas A&M-International, Karl Anderson of Minnesota, Mike Murphy of New Hampshire, and Wes Bloomquist of Texas Tech were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter and magazine...Arizona State, Baylor, Cincinnati, Iowa, Kansas, Louisville, Michigan State, Virginia, and Virginia Tech are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The NCAA reports that Oregon and Texas are the only two DI schools to make the NCAA baseball, women's basketball, women's volleyball and softball Sweet 16 brackets as well as to play in post-2020 bowl tests...Professional sports groups such as MLB, the PGA, the NBA, and NHL are celebrating returns to full capacity after more COVID-19 vaccinations and are taking extra precautions for fans' and players' safety in the process...NJIT advanced to the NCAA DI Baseball Regionals after the scheduled NJIT-Stony Brook America East Conference postseason tourney title game was cancelled due to weather. Stony Brook was the regular-season circuit champ, but league rules granted NJIT the post-2021 NCAA automatic bid...Longtime college athletics publicist Todd Bell has been named associate commissioner for media relations and operations with the Collegiate Hockey and Atlantic Hockey Leagues....The U.S. Football League will start again in 2022 with Fox Sports as its broadcast partner...The Spring Football League continues in June with live Fox broadcasts and North Division games at Indianapolis and South Division tussles at Rice Stadium in Houston. The SL championship will be Saturday, June 19, at Rice Stadium...The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee passed a waiver that to allow two non-coaching staff members in men's and women's basketball to conduct instruc-

tional, on-court activities during the eight-week summer access period beginning last Friday...The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved the transmission of live statistics to the bench area for coaching purposes in men's basketball and moving the women's basketball three-point field goal line to the international distance of 22 feet, 1 7/8 inches starting in 2021-22...NAIA president and CEO Jim Carr related that NAIA student-athletes utilizing NIL compensation are likely to share the proceeds with teammates because of the innate spirit of sportsmanship among these youngsters...The NCAA Board of Governors added retired U.S. Army Lt. General and former U.S. Army Surgeon General/Medical Command Commanding Gen. Nadja West as one of the board's five independent members starting Aug. 1 with a three-year term.

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

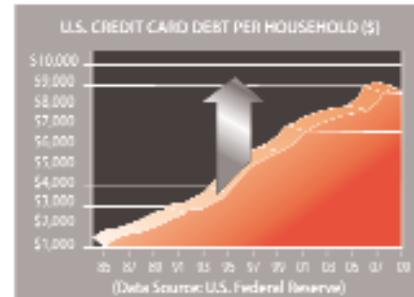
- Friday, Dec. 31, 2021**
(CFP Semifinals & Championship Jan. 10)
Goodyear Cotton Bowl
AT&T Stadium
Arlington, Texas, 4 or 8 p.m.
Capital One Orange Bowl
Hard Rock Stadium
Miami Lakes, Fla., 4 or 8 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 10**
CFP Championship, Semifinal Winners
Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis, Ind., 8 p.m.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

Credit Card Debt?

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

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



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The most popular SUV ever sold in the U.S



By Andy Bornhop

While the Ford Explorer isn't as significant to the automaker's bottom line as the mighty F-150 pickup truck, it's an important player nonetheless. Look around; Explorers are everywhere. Consider this: The Ford Explorer is the most popular SUV ever sold in the U.S., with all-time sales rapidly approaching the 8 million. And sales of this perennially popular three-row midsize SUV undoubtedly will be helped by the all-new 2020 Ford Explorer, which is arriving at dealerships right now. Like the outgoing model, the 2020 Ford Explorer is a unibody design featuring a chassis made of sheet-metal stampings welded together to form the main structure of the vehicle. Whereas the old model was based on the front-drive unibody chassis of the Taurus sedan, the 2020 Ford Explorer's new chassis has rear-wheel-drive (RWD) architecture with a longitudinal engine and transmission. As such, this new 2020 Explorer represents a return to this model's rear-drive roots, but without the truck-like body-on-frame construction.

Ford Explorer vs. Chevrolet Traverse

The Ford Explorer is smaller than the Chevy Traverse, which is one of the largest vehicles in the segment. Compared to the Traverse, the Explorer's wheelbase is nearly 2 inches shorter and the Ford is 5.5 inches shorter overall. That translates primarily into reduced cargo space: With all seats in place, the Explorer's cargo capacity is nearly 5 cubic feet less than the Chevy's. With the third row folded, or with all seats folded, the Traverse has about 10 cubic feet more cargo space than the Ford. Additionally, Chevy provides seat belts for three (small) passengers in the third row, meaning the Traverse can seat up to eight passengers, or seven with 2nd-row captain's chairs. The Explorer third row seats just two, so maximum passenger count is seven with the 2nd-row bench or six with captain's chairs.

All versions of the Traverse are powered by a 3.6-liter V6, while the Explorer's mainstay engine is a 2.3-liter turbo four. The Chevy's V6 makes 310 horsepower versus 300 for the Ford 2.3L, but the Traverse's 266 lb-ft of torque trails the Explorer's 310 lb-ft. The Traverse does not offer more powerful engine options to compare with the Explorer's 365-hp or 410-hp turbo V6s. The maximum trailer-tow rating for the Traverse V6 is 5,000 pounds. The non-hybrid Explorer tows up to 5,300 pounds with the 2.3-liter or 5,600 with the turbo V6.

The starting price of the base 2-wheel-drive Chevrolet Traverse is \$31,125, which is some \$2,000 less than the entry-level Explorer. The top-spec Traverse is the High Country AWD, priced at \$54,395—that's about \$5K less than the Explorer Platinum. 2020 Ford Explorer vs. Honda Pilot Compared to the Honda Pilot, the Explorer rides on a 9.1-inch longer wheelbase but is only 2.3 inches longer overall, and the vehicles are nearly identical in width and height. Cargo volume and 3rd-row-seat space are also very close. Honda rates the Pilot's 3rd-row seat for three passengers, which means that most versions of the Pilot are 8-passenger vehicles, while the top-trim levels equipped with captain's chairs can seat seven. The Explorer's third row accommodates two, and all Explorer trims save the base model have captain's chairs, so the Explorer seats six or, at best, seven.

All versions of the Honda Pilot use a 3.5-liter V6 making 280 horsepower and 262 lb-ft of torque, paired with either a 6-speed or a 9-speed automatic. Both those output figures are below those of the Explorer's smaller standard engine, a 2.3-liter turbo four that musters 300 horsepower and 310 lb-ft of torque. The Pilot's maximum tow rating with all-wheel drive is 5,000 pounds, while front-drive models can tow 3,500 pounds. The Explorer with its 2.3-liter can tow 5,300 pounds, and 5,600

with its available V6, with either rear- or all-wheel drive.

The base, 2-wheel-drive Honda Pilot LX is \$31,450 (plus \$1,045 destination), while the Explorer's starting price is about \$1,000 higher. The Pilot Elite is the fanciest trim level at Honda and is priced at \$48,020, about \$10,000 less than the Explorer Platinum.

Ford Explorer vs. Toyota Highlander

Like the Explorer, the Toyota Highlander has been redesigned for, and not all of the new specs are available. But the Highlander isn't quite as extensively changed, so there are several comparisons that can be drawn. The new Highlander is slightly larger than before, but it still is smaller than the Explorer. The Toyota's wheelbase is 9.3 inches shorter than the Explorer's, and the vehicle is about 4 inches shorter in length. Here again, the difference can be seen primarily in the cargo hold, where the Explorer has a 2-cubic-foot advantage with all seats upright, a 7-cubic-foot advantage behind the second row, and approximately 10 cubic feet more space with all seats folded. Whereas the Explorer seats six in a 2-2-2 configuration (with the base model offering 2-3-2 seating), the Highlander's 3-passenger third row allows seating for seven with captain's chairs or eight with a 2nd-row bench.

All versions of the Highlander (except for the Hybrid) are powered by a 3.5-liter V6 with 295 horsepower and 263 lb-ft of torque. Despite the Toyota's larger engine, its output is less than the Ford 2.3-liter turbo four's 300 horsepower and 310 lb-ft, and the Explorer further offers more powerful turbo V6 options. The V6 Highlander's maximum tow rating is 5,000 pounds, versus 5,300 for the Explorer 4-cylinder and 5,600 for the Explorer V6. Toyota, like Ford, offers a hybrid powertrain, and is one of the only other models in the segment to do so. Unlike the Explorer, however, the Highlander Hybrid uses a 4-cylinder gasoline engine rather than a V6, and total output is 240 horsepower compared to the Explorer Hybrid's 318 horsepower. While EPA fuel-economy ratings are still to come for the new Highlander Hybrid, City/Highway/ Combined mpg numbers for the Explorer have come in at 27/29/28 for the rear-drive version and 23/26/25 in all-wheel-drive form. We expect the Highlander hybrid to return significantly better mileage than the Explorer at the expense of some performance. Toyota is estimating 34 mpg combined, which is outstanding for this class. Another hybrid difference is that Ford offers the Explorer Hybrid in a single trim level but Toyota offers the Highlander Hybrid in multiple trim levels.

Pricing for the Toyota Highlander has

not been released yet, but using prices as a rough guide, the Highlander starts about \$2K less than the Explorer, and the Highlander tops out just shy of \$50,000, nearly \$10K below the top-spec Explorer.

Ford Explorer vs. Kia Telluride

Impressive new offerings, both. The Kia Telluride, a front-drive-based unibody SUV, has just one engine, a proven 3.8-liter V6 with 291 horsepower. The Telluride's a couple inches shorter than the Explorer, with a wheelbase five inches shorter than the Ford. From the inside, the Kia feels very roomy, thanks to its boxy shape and an upright windshield that's not unlike that of the Ford Flex. Max tow rating of the Kia Telluride is 5,000 pounds.

Ford Explorer vs. Jeep Grand Cherokee

Like the new Explorer, the Jeep Grand Cherokee is a unibody SUV with a longitudinal powertrain. But the Jeep is 9 inches shorter overall than the Ford, with a wheelbase that's down by about 5 inches. The Jeep seats a max of five in two rows; the new Explorer accommodates seven in its three rows. Both of these SUVs have diverse powertrains, the Grand Cherokee's ranging from a 3.6-liter V6 and a diesel V6 to a 6.4-liter pushrod V8 and a supercharged 6.2-liter V8 in the super sporty Trackhawk. Besides the base turbo 2.3-liter 4-cylinder, it is available with a twin-turbo 3.0-liter EcoBoost V6 (365 or 400 hp) and a hybrid powertrain featuring a 3.3-liter V6 and an electric motor.

Ford Explorer Pricing

The base Explorer, starts with a MSRP of \$32,765, plus a \$1,095 destination fee. An XLT, better equipped and also fitted with the 2.3, starts at \$36,675. The priciest 2.3-liter Explorer, the opulently equipped Limited model, starts at \$48,130.

It's a big jump to the V6 Explorers. The sporty ST starts at \$54,740, while the flagship Platinum model begins at \$58,250. The new Explorer Hybrid, based on the Limited trim, begins at \$53,375 and tops out at about \$61,000 when fully optioned. A 2019 Toyota Highlander Hybrid, one of the Explorer Hybrid's main competitors, starts at \$37,320, a price that can climb to about \$50,000 when you order a Highlander Hybrid Limited Platinum model. Interestingly, Toyota's destination fee is also \$1,095.

The lower-end Explorers are priced in line with other 3-row midsize SUVs, but the Limited and V6 models are getting into luxury-brand territory. As always, check the KBB.com Fair Purchase Price to see what others in your area are paying for their new Ford Explorer. As far as resale value goes, it's still early to calculate. Historically, however, while Ford Explorers can't hang with the resale-value leaders, they do hold a strong 2nd-tier status.



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