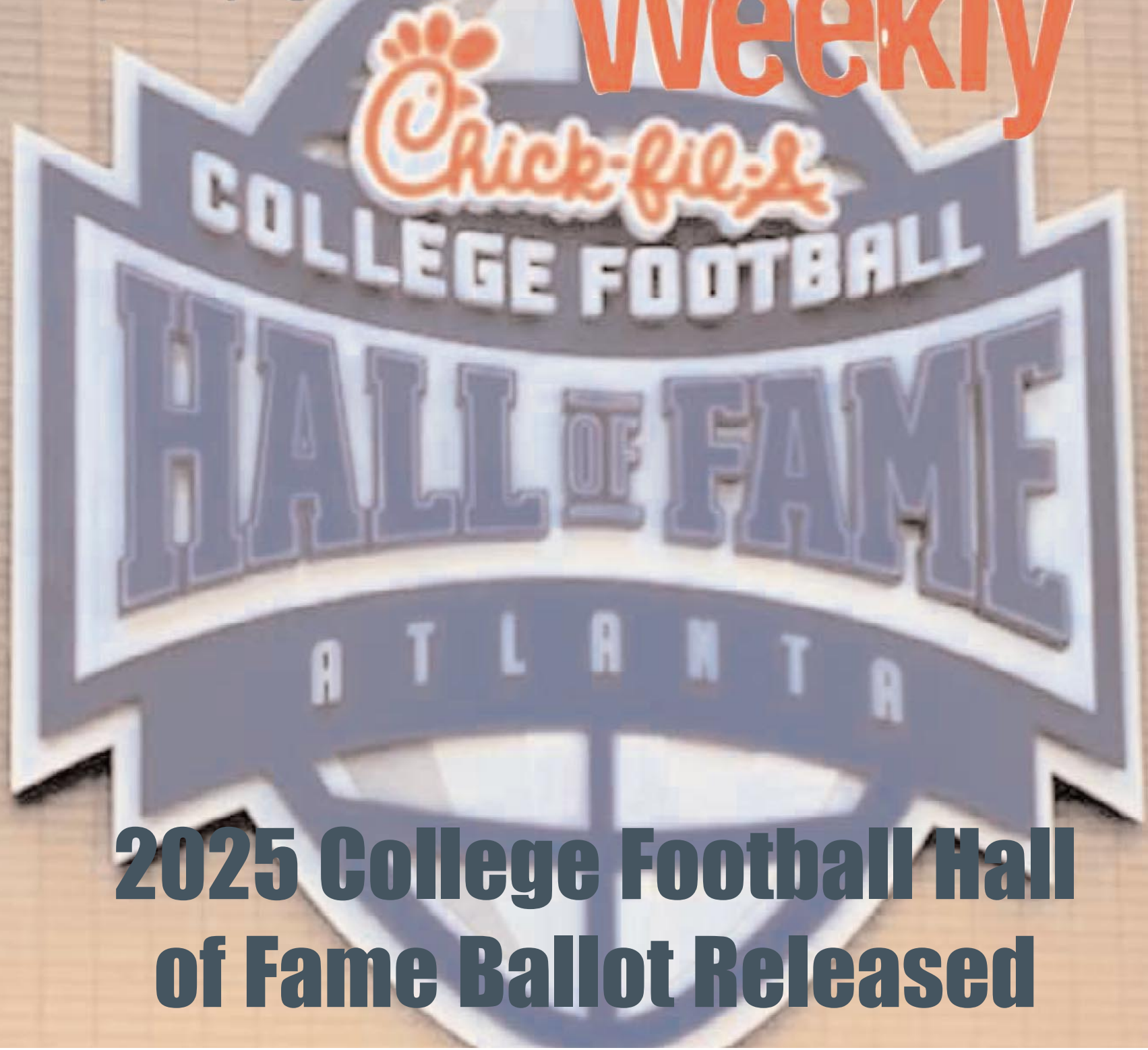


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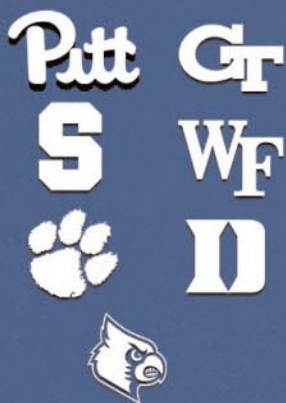
JULY 2-4

2024-2025 ACC MEN'S BASKETBALL OPPONENTS



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2024 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				28 CHC	29	30 CHC
31 CHC	1 TB	2 TB	3 TB	4	5 HOU	6 HOU
7 HOU	8 HOU	9 OAK	10 OAK	11 OAK	12 HOU	13 HOU
14 HOU	15 DET	16 DET	17 DET	18 DET	19 ATL	20 ATL
21 ATL	22	23 SEA	24 SEA	25 SEA	26 CIN	27 CIN
28 CIN	29	30 WSH				

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 SD	3 SD	4 SD	5 TB	6 TB
7 TB	8 LAA	9 LAA	10 LAA	11	12 HOU	13 HOU
14 HOU	15	16 2024 ALL-STAR WEEK 7-11 PM ESPN	17	18	19 BAL	20 BAL
21 BAL	22 CWS	23 CWS	24 CWS	25 CWS	26 TOR	27 TOR
28 TOR	29 STL	30 STL	31 STL			

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WSH	2 WSH	3 KC	4 KC
5 KC	6 OAK	7 OAK	8 2024 ALL-STAR WEEK 7-11 PM ESPN	9	10 COL	11 COL
12 COL	13 CLE	14 CLE	15 CLE	16	17 LAA	18 LAA
19 LAA	20	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 MIN	25 MIN
26 MIN	27	28 AZ	29 AZ	30	31 MIA	

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 BOS	3 BOS
4 BOS	5 HOU	6 HOU	7 HOU	8	9 NYY	10 NYY
11 NYY	12 BOS	13 BOS	14 BOS	15 MIN	16 MIN	17 MIN
18 MIN	19 PIT	20 PIT	21 PIT	22	23 CLE	24 CLE
25 CLE	26	27 CWS	28 CWS	29 CWS	30 OAK	31 OAK

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 MIA
2 MIA	3 DET	4 DET	5 DET	6	7 SF	8 SF
9 SF	10	11 LAD	12 LAD	13 LAD	14 SEA	15 SEA
16 SEA	17 NYM	18 NYM	19 NYM	20	21 KC	22 KC
23 KC	24 MIL	25 MIL	26 MIL	27 BAL	28 BAL	29 BAL
30 BAL						

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 OAK	2 NYY	3 NYY	4 NYY	5 LAA	6 LAA	7 LAA
8 LAA	9	10 AZ	11 AZ	12 SEA	13 SEA	14 SEA
15 SEA	16	17 TOR	18 TOR	19 TOR	20 SEA	21 SEA
22 SEA	23	24 OAK	25 OAK	26 OAK	27 LAA	28 LAA
29 LAA	30					

Schedule subject to change.
Times to be announced at a later date.

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

UIL approves major change to playoffs



Under the new structure, non-football sports will follow the same two-division playoff structure, meaning their will be two state champions per classification

Starting this fall, there will be a major adjustment to the playoff structure for UIL-sanctioned sports.

The UIL approved a proposal this week that enacts split divisions (Division I-II) in the playoffs for 2A-6A volleyball, softball, and baseball, 4A-6A soccer, and 1A-6A basketball. This is the structure that has been used for 6A football for years.

The rule change, which is expected to take effect Aug. 1, 2024, will create a Division I and Division II state champion in each class — doubling the amount of state champions for those affected sports and classifications. There would be 24 state champions in basketball (boys and girls combined), 18 state champions in soccer (boys and girls combined), and 11 state champions in baseball, softball, and volleyball, respectively.

UIL split-division playoff structure:
Who goes in Division I and Division II?
Here's how it'll work:

All schools in the conference would remain in their assigned district per the 2024-26 alignment, per the UIL. The top four teams in each district will advance to

the playoffs.

To determine the divisions, the two schools with the largest enrollment will advance to the Division I playoff bracket, and the other two will advance to the Division II bracket.

This change will create one less round needed to advance to the state tournament.



SMU Hosting Mississippi State On Nov. 22 To Start Home-And-Home Series

SMU will host Mississippi State at Moody Coliseum on Nov. 22 as the start of a home-and-home series between the programs.

The Mustangs are entering the ACC under new head coach Andy Enfield in 2024-25. SMU's inaugural season in the league includes home games with Cal, Clemson, Duke, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Pitt, Stanford, Syracuse, Virginia and Wake Forest.

With games like this set for Moody, it should come as no surprise that tickets are selling fast. Current season ticket holders have until July 31 to renew their tickets for the 2024-25 season and can do so by logging into their SMU ticket account. New season tickets will go on sale after the renewal deadline. For any ticket questions,

please contact 214-SMU-GAME or email tickets@smu.edu.

The Mustangs will visit Humphrey Coliseum during the 2025-26 season. The Mustangs are coming off a 20-13 season that included an NIT bid. MSU went 21-14 last season, earning an NCAA berth.

In addition to Mississippi State, the Mustangs will play in the Acrisure Holiday Invitational Nov. 26-27 with Washington State, Fresno State and Cal Baptist. The Mustangs' road-only ACC opponents are Boston College, Florida State, Miami, North Carolina, N.C. State, Notre Dame and Virginia Tech.

The Mustangs Are Coming! On the heels of a school-record eight-championship season and set for its inaugural season in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), SMU is riding a surge of momentum heading into 2024-25.

SMU has already set a new season-ticket sales record for Ford Stadium, with sales up more than 60%, and tickets for men's and women's basketball are also selling at record rates.

To continue the momentum, SMU Athletics invites you to become part of the Game Changer program, by selling season tickets within your network. As SMU moves to the ACC, we need you to introduce SMU to your friends and colleagues. Signing up is easy! You'll be paired with a ticket sales executive and you will be helping us fill Ford Stadium this fall.







NCAA Basketball Poll

Coaches Poll	FINAL	AP Poll
1. Houston	1. Houston	1. Houston
2. UConn	2. UConn	2. UConn
3. Purdue	3. Purdue	3. Purdue
4. Iowa State	4. Iowa State	4. Iowa State
5. North Carolina	5. North Carolina	5. North Carolina
6. Tennessee	6. Tennessee	6. Tennessee
7. Auburn	7. Auburn	7. Auburn
8. Marquette	8. Marquette	8. Marquette
9. Arizona	9. Arizona	9. Arizona
10. Illinois	10. Illinois	10. Illinois
11. Creighton	11. Creighton	11. Creighton
12. Kentucky	12. Kentucky	12. Kentucky
13. Duke	13. Illinois	13. Illinois
14. Baylor	14. Baylor	14. Baylor
15. Saint Mary's	15. South Carolina	15. South Carolina
16. South Carolina	16. Kansas	16. Kansas
17. Kansas	17. Gonzaga	17. Gonzaga
18. Gonzaga	18. Utah State	18. Utah State
19. Alabama	19. Alabama	19. Alabama
20. Utah State	20. BYU	20. BYU
21. BYU	21. Saint Mary's	21. Saint Mary's
22. Texas Tech	22. Washington State	22. Washington State
23. Wisconsin	23. Nevada	23. Nevada
24. San Diego State	24. Dayton	24. Dayton
25. Washington State	25. Texas Tech	25. Texas Tech



WEEKLY CALENDAR

	JUNE 28 FRIDAY	JUNE 29 SATURDAY	JUNE 30 SUNDAY	JULY 1 MONDAY	JULY 2 TUESDAY	JUNE 3 WEDNESDAY	JUNE 4 THURSDAY
	Rangers at Orioles 6:05 / Bally's	Rangers at Orioles 6:15 / Bally's	Rangers at Orioles 6:10 / Bally's		Rangers vs Padres 7:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Padres 7:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Padres 1:35 / Bally's
	Roughriders vs Corpus Christi 7:05	Roughriders vs Corpus Christi 7:05	Roughriders vs Corpus Christi 6:05	Roughriders at Arkansas 6:35	Roughriders at Arkansas 6:35	Roughriders at Arkansas 6:05	Roughriders at Arkansas 7:05
		FC Dallas vs Cincinnati 7:30					FC Dallas vs Portland 7:30
	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 6:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 1:25	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 1:25				

Tournament expansion plans proposed



The last time the men's tournament expanded was before the 2011 championship increasing from 65 to 68 teams

By Staff

Expansion plans for the NCAA Tournament were presented to Division I conference commissioners, who are also reviewing an option for the men's and women's annual March tournaments to remain 68-team events.

No expansion of the men's and women's tournament would be approved for March 2025, but could be enacted for the March 2026 tournament, according to a report from the Associated Press.

NCAA senior vice president of basketball Dan Gavitt said after the threeday summit last summer the committee was "doing their due diligence looking at a few different models to make an informed decision that's in the best interests of the championship, and that may very well include deciding against expansion."

A year later, Gavitt was part of the presentation from the NCAA to commissioners following the 2023 recommendation of the NCAA board of directors to permit participation in championship events to up to 25 percent of eligible Division I programs.

"I would rather it stay the way it is," Purdue head coach Matt Painter said in March. "But I also have been in a lot of those committees where I think it's important to shut up and listen to other people. So I'd love to sit in the room and listen to the why. That's part of collaborating with everybody which head coaches have kind of been left out of those committees. I'd rather see the room change.....There's no current head coaches sitting in those

rooms. It doesn't mean we've got to stir the drink or make the decision, just listen to it from our vantage point."

The last time the men's tournament expanded was before the '11 championship, increasing from 65 to 68 teams. The men's tournament field went from 64 to 65 teams in 2001. Different models include expansion to 72 or 76 teams.

North Carolina athletic director Bubba Cunningham is the chair of the committee for 2024-25 after serving as vice chair to Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner Charles McClelland.

Tar Heels coach Hubert Davis said during the 2024 NCAA Tournament he would leave his opinion on the sideline and let Cunningham and others steer the direction of the tournament.

Other coaches were split on the idea of expanding the tournament, when discussions include a model for a 90-team field.

Michigan State's Tom Izzo appeared in his 26th consecutive tournament in March. But he said it's hard not to empathize with the team that won its conference regular-season championship but was upset in the conference tournament and missed out on inclusion in the NCAA field because of the automatic bid process. The living example at the moment was Indiana State, which had a NET rating of 29 but was left out of the field based on what Izzo said was false perception.

"I feel for some teams that didn't get in when you have those automatic bids," Izzo said. "I'm not sure I understand why, but

the conference tournament things, you can go and like Purdue go 17-3 and dominate the conference and then lose. It's OK if it's the second-place team, but that makes it hard, why some teams will get left out. I don't know if something could be fixed there. But then the conference tournament wouldn't be as – it's all about what is best for the financial part of it, if we were to be very blunt and honest with you, more than it is the player and teams."

Arkansas coach John Calipari said before his No. 3 Kentucky team was upset by No. 14 Oakland that the NCAA should leave a good thing alone.

"I hope it stays where it is. Don't mess with something that's great," he said.

Among the considerations will be pay-out structure and scheduling more games.

The women's tournament field expanded from 64 to 68 teams in 2022 to match the "First Four" format with eight teams matched in play-in games. Those additional games have been held at a neutral site in Dayton for the men's and a campus locations for the women's field.

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Tom's Tip: Sticking to a game plan



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Last Sunday Brian Harman hoisted the coveted Claret Jug winning the prestigious 151st Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Harman, whose 36 years old, showed the golfing world how to compete and beat his younger, bigger and stronger competitors by playing his own game. It was a masters class in staying disciplined and not getting distracted by what was swirling around him. Harman was impervious to the noise of the crowds rooting for local golfer Tommy Fleetwood who he was paired with in the 3rd round.

Neither did he allow the local media criticizing his hobby on hunting with horri-

ble headlines in the daily papers. He didn't let the poor weather conditions in the final round affect him from his goal. Instead, he stuck to his game plan and along with his caddie went about doing his job undeterred. In the end, he was crowned the Champion Golfer of the Year.

This week's tip deals more with the psychology of getting over the proverbial 'hump' just like Brian Harman did.

You may never compete for the Open Championship but have personal milestones when you tee it up. It could be trying to break 100 for the first time. Or it could be coming down the last few holes having a chance to break into the 80's for the first time. The 80's player wants to be in the 70's and the 70's shooter wants to break par or shoot into the 60's. On the pro tours, it's a player like Brian Harman trying to win his first major, which he ultimately accomplished. In the past, Harman admitted he got ahead of himself instead of keeping his head in the game. Ultimately, this led to him losing.

What destroys our chances of success are negative behaviors. Remember nothing

is inherently good or bad, value is how we represent it to ourselves. Our behavior is the result of what state we are in. A state: is the sum total of our experience at any given moment in time. The difference between those who fail to achieve their goals in life and those who succeed is the difference between those who cannot put themselves in a supportive state and those who can consistently put themselves in a state that supports themselves in order to reach their achievements. It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

Here are some steps you can take towards achieving excellence: If you know the course and how the final few holes play then map out the strategy.

For example, if there are bunkers strategically placed near the landing area where your drive should finish, then go ahead and hit a shorter club to make sure you can't reach the bunkers. Golf is like a chess match and you have to position your ball into the best area to avoid trouble, giving yourself the best angle to the green. All of this is predicated on your abilities to pull off the shot. Depending on your skill levels, when in doubt play short of trouble if your shot making skills aren't up to par. If short of the green at least you have a relatively easy chip shot. It's all about minimizing errors.

Staying the present: This is an area where even the best players in the world can struggle. I know you've heard the old adage "Play one shot at a time", but it's true. Remain in the present, don't concern yourself with a lot of what if scenarios. Golf is hard enough without trying to zoom ahead with various thoughts or projected outcomes on holes yet to be played. One top notch golfer I know had a rubber band on his wrist that he would snap when the

heat was on. It was his way of telling himself to wake up and focus.

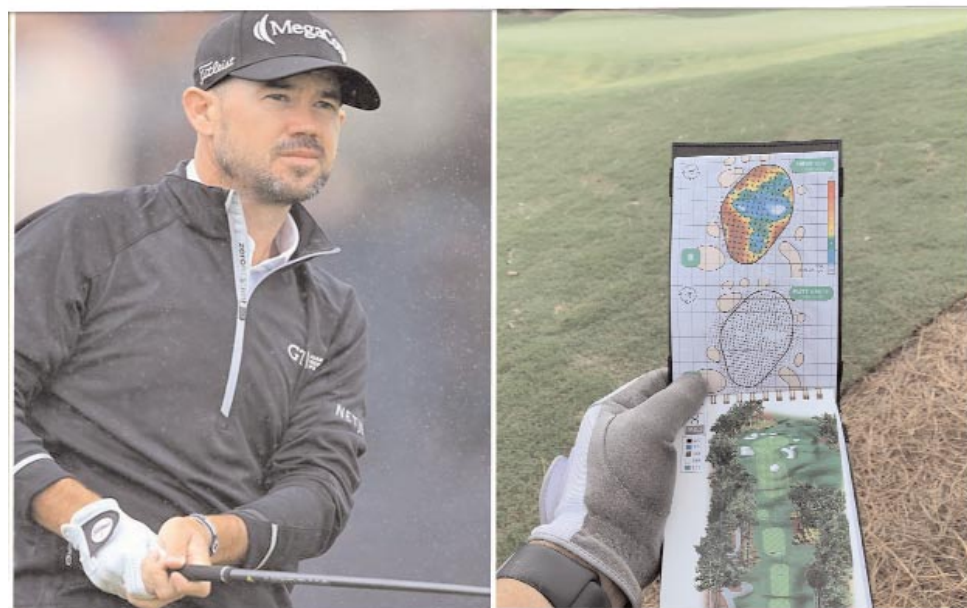
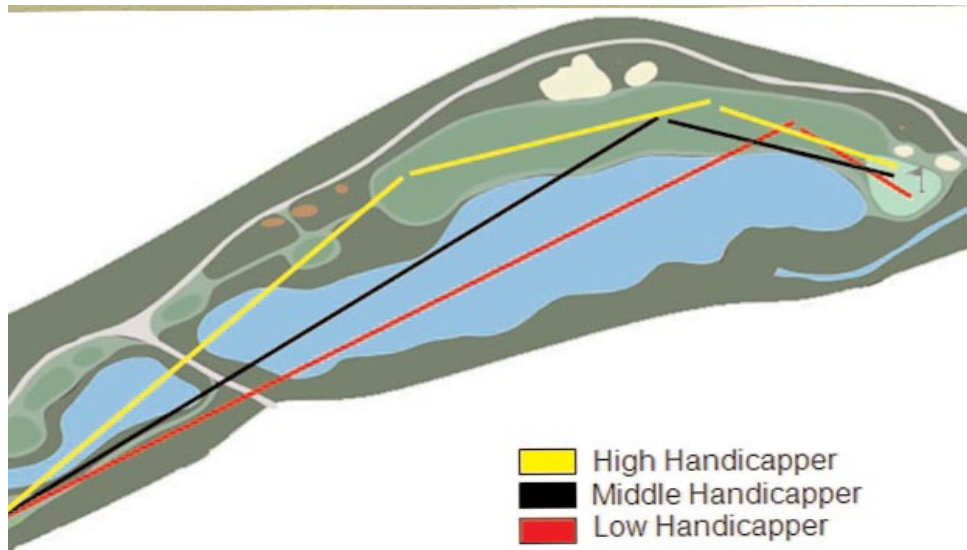
Another equally important thing to do, which sounds silly, is to "breathe". That's right, take some deep breaths to help regulate heart rate. It's another good way of helping you slow down and get back to the task at hand.

Pre-shot routine: A pre-shot routine is one of the best ways for to insulate from self-destruction. Having the same formula for setting up to the ball and lining up is a must in creating consistency that you can fall back on when the pressure is on. The repetition of going through the shot making process will help put your swing on cruise control.

Another thing to do while hitting balls is visualize the holes on the course that are giving you trouble. Imagine that while hitting shots on the range to that island green surrounded by water. Doing this over and over, hitting great shots to that imaginary green, is a great way to prepare for dealing with the real shot.

Aristotle once said, "We are what we repeatedly do, excellence, then is not an act, but a habit." So next time you're coming down the stretch with a chance to shoot a career round enjoy the experience and have fun.

In the past, the way we saw the problem was the problem. Remember, that people always succeed in getting some sort of results when they've tried something. In the past you learned that you had the ability to choke. Except that fact and move on. By having the flexibility to change and trying these new actions you're going to produce new results and I think you'll like the outcome. Brian Harman made the adjustments and look at what happened to him. Please visit www.teetimetwithtom.com



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This week: Rocket Mortgage Classic



Rickie Fowler aims to repeat at Rocket Mortgage Classic

school's single-season scoring record... Ben James, the fourth-ranked amateur in the world, was named NCAA Outstanding Freshman of the Year in 2023 after a five-win campaign at the University of Virginia... Willie Mack III shot rounds of 63-74 to capture the John Shippen Invitational and earn a spot in the field. This will be the second PGA TOUR event this season for Mack (U.S. Open) and his ninth PGA TOUR start. The John Shippen Invitational is a two-day, 36-hole qualifier featuring the nation's top Black professional and amateur golfers... Jason Dufner and Jimmy Walker also received sponsor invites.

SIGNATURE EVENT STORYLINES:
Last week's Travelers Championship

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Rocket Mortgage Classic
June 27 - June 30, 2024
Detroit Golf Club
Detroit, Michigan
Purse - \$8,800,000
Winners share - \$1,584,000
Defending Champs - Ricky Fowler

By Adam Stanley

With the FedExCup Playoffs and Presidents Cup drawing ever closer, the PGA TOUR returns this week to the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit.

Plenty of big-name stars are set to tee it up, plus some promising young players fresh out of college, still in college, or even still in high school.

And of course, who could forget the epic three-man playoff last year – which led to Rickie Fowler's first TOUR title since 2019.

Here's everything you need to know about the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

FIELD NOTES: Rickie Fowler returns to defend his title after breaking his win drought last year. He would be the first back-to-back winner in the tournament's short history... Cameron Young, who shot 59 at the Travelers Championship, heads back to Detroit for the first time since 2022 when he finished runner-up... Michael Thorbjornsen will make his second start as a pro after debuting at the Travelers Championship (T39). He finished atop the PGA TOUR University ranking in May (thereby earning PGA TOUR membership for the remainder of the 2024 and 2025

season) after four celebrated seasons at Stanford... Tom Kim is back in action after falling to Scottie Scheffler in a playoff at the Travelers. Kim missed the cut last year in Detroit but was T7 the year prior. He has two top 10s in his last four starts... Will Zalatoris will play in Detroit, having made the cut in his two previous starts there. Has found some consistency after back surgery last year, having made 11 of 15 cuts this season... Min Woo Lee continues his run to the Presidents Cup team. Lee has made 11 of 12 cuts this season and comes into the week off a T21 at the U.S. Open. This is his debut at Detroit Golf Club... Other notable in-season winners to tee it up this week include Jake Knapp, Nick Dunlap, Akshay Bhatia, Stephan Jaeger and Taylor Pendrith (T14-2 in his two starts at Detroit Golf Club).

HIGHEST-RANKED PLAYERS IN THE FIELD			
World Ranking		FedExCup	
16. Tom Kim		15. A.Bhatia	
23. Cameron Young		22. Chris Kirk	
29. Akshay Bhatia		23. S.Jaeger	
33. Chris Kirk		30. T. Pendrith	
36. Min Woo Lee		34. C.Young	
41. Stephan Jaeger		37. R.MacIntyre	
42. Will Zalatoris		38. W. Zalatoris	
44. Robert MacIntyre		39. Tom Kim	
45. Nicolai Højgaard		45. Jake Knapp	
50. Rickie Fowler		46. Alex Noren	
SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS: Next-generation stars in the field include Miles Russell, 15, the youngest golfer to make a cut on the Korn Ferry Tour. He's making his PGA			

TOUR debut. Russell won both the Junior PGA Championship and the Junior PLAYERS Championship last year and was the youngest player to ever be named the American Junior Golf Association's Player of the Year. (Tiger Woods is the only other player to win the award before turning 16.) Russell made the cut at this season's LECOM Suncoast Classic before finishing tied for 20th... Auburn star Jackson Koivun just became the first player ever to sweep college golf's three national player of the year awards – the Haskins, the Hogan and the Nicklaus – and the Phil Mickelson Outstanding Freshman award in the same season. He finished runner-up at the NCAA Championship and made his first PGA TOUR start at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. He has 16 PGA TOUR University accelerated points (20 gets a PGA TOUR card) and is second in the World Amateur Golf Ranking ... Neal Shipley will make his non-major PGA TOUR debut. He is just the sixth player to win low amateur at both the Masters and the U.S. Open and made his pro debut on PGA TOUR Americas last week, tying for ninth at The Beachlands Victoria Open... Luke Clanton, who narrowly lost to Shipley for low amateur at the U.S. Open, is also in the field in Detroit. Clanton is the world's fifth-ranked amateur and authored the best season in Florida State history en route to helping the squad reach the NCAA Championship final. He won three straight tournaments, was a finalist for all the major awards and set the

marked the final Signature Event on the PGA TOUR schedule... This season's Signature Event winners were Chris Kirk (The Sentry), Wyndham Clark (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am), Hideki Matsuyama (Genesis Invitational), Rory McIlroy (Wells Fargo Championship) and, of course, Scottie Scheffler, who won the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, THE PLAYERS Championship, the RBC Heritage, the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday and the Travelers Championship.

Comcast Business Tour Top 10: After his win at the Travelers – his sixth of the season – Scottie Scheffler continued his dominance in the TOUR TOP 10... The rest of the 10 remained unchanged, but Wyndham Clark and Ludvig Åberg swapped spots, as did Hideki Matsuyama and Sahith Theegala and Patrick Cantlay and Byeong Hun An... Despite withdrawing due to illness at the Travelers, An is still the only golfer all season to be inside the TOUR TOP 10 every week.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Detroit Golf Club (North Course), par 72, 7,370 yards (yardage subject to change). The Donald Ross design dates to 1906 and was updated for the TOUR's initial arrival in 2019.

The South Course's first hole is used as the third hole for the tournament. The club is set to undergo a renovation, starting with the North Course, after the completion of next year's Rocket Mortgage Classic. Every aspect of the layout will be updated, including the drainage and irrigation system.

72-HOLE RECORD: 262, Tony Finau (2022)

18-HOLE RECORD: 63, Nate Lashley (2019, first round), J.T. Poston (2019, second round), Davis Thompson (2021, first round), Cameron Young (2022, second round), Tom Kim (2022, fourth round), Adam Hadwin (2023, third round), Stephan Jaeger (2023, fourth round), Andrew Landry (2023, second round).

LAST TIME: Rickie Fowler broke a four-year win drought, defeating Adam Hadwin and Collin Morikawa in a play-off. Morikawa fired a final-round 64 (and missed a 16-footer for birdie on the 72nd hole) while Hadwin backed up his tournament-scoring record 63 Saturday with a 5-under 67 to close. Fowler rifled his approach shot on No. 18 to just three feet to make a closing birdie from 12 feet and finish at 24 under. The playoff lasted just one hole with Fowler making birdie to end it.

How to follow:

Television:

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

Rosters announced for 2024 games



Collin Morikawa, Wyndham Clark, Scottie Scheffler and Xander Schauffele are representing the United States at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Countries announce rosters for Olympic golf competition at 2024 Paris Games

By Staff

The qualifiers for the Olympic field were finalized on June 17. The following are the potential rosters for each country. Follow along as countries announce their official rosters in the coming weeks ahead of the 2024 Paris Games. Updates and roster confirmations below:

- June 20: India, Italy and South Africa have confirmed their men's Olympic rosters.
- June 18: Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Team USA have confirmed their men's Olympic rosters.

United States

- Scottie Scheffler
- Xander Schauffele
- Wyndham Clark
- Collin Morikawa

Argentina

- Emiliano Grillo
- Alejandro Tosti

Australia

- Jason Day
- Min Woo Lee

Austria

- Sepp Straka

Belgium

- Thomas Detry
- Adrien Dumont de Chassart

Canada

- Nick Taylor
- Corey Connors

Chile

- Joaquin Niemann
- Cristobal Del Solar

China

- Carl Yuan
- Zecheng Dou

Colombia

- Camilo Villegas
- Nico Echavarria

Denmark

- Nicolai Højgaard
- Thorbjørn Olesen

Spain

- Jon Rahm
- David Puig

Finland

- Sami Valimaki

France

- Matthieu Pavon
- Victor Perez

Great Britain

- Tommy Fleetwood
- Matthew Fitzpatrick

Germany

- Stephan Jaeger
- Matti Schmid

India

- Shubhankar Sharma
- Gaganjeet Bhullar

Ireland

- Rory McIlroy
- Shane Lowry

Italy

- Matteo Manassero
- Guido Migliozzi

Japan

- Hideki Matsuyama

- Keita Nakajima

South Korea

- Tom Kim
- Byeong Hun An

Malaysia

- Gavin Green

Mexico

- Carlos Ortiz
- Abraham Ancer

Netherlands

- Joost Luiten
- Darius van Driel

Norway

- Viktor Hovland
- Kris Ventura

New Zealand

- Ryan Fox
- Daniel Hillier

Paraguay

- Fabrizio Zanotti

Poland

- Adrian Meronk

Puerto Rico

- Rafael Campos

South Africa

- Christiaan Bezuidenhout
- Erik van Rooye

Sweden

- Ludvig Åberg
- Alex Noren

Thailand

- Kiradech Aphibarnrat
- Phachara Khongwatmai

Chinese Taipei

- Kevin Yu
- C.T. Pan

Five things about Detroit Golf Club



Detroit Golf Club opened in 1899

By Jeff Eisenband

Detroit is Motown, Hockeytown and now for five years running, Rocket Mortgage Classic-Town. A new place in the schedule has the PGA TOUR stopping at Detroit Golf Club a month earlier than usual. While the event's history spans just a half-decade, the golf course's lifespan is spread across three centuries.

When Donald Ross designed the track more than 100 years ago, he might not have considered the likes of Tony Finau and Cameron Davis attacking its terrain.

1. Technically a composite course

Detroit Golf Club opened in 1899 during the William McKinley administration. The initial course had six holes and annual dues were \$10. Three more holes were added in 1900.

In 1913, after the club purchased some more property, it requested the services of Donald Ross, who was just a few years removed from designing Pinehurst Nos. 1, 2 and 3. In Detroit, Ross felt he had enough room for two 18-hole courses. The North Course, a par 72, would become more daunting than the South Course, a par 68, with the North Course now roughly 870 yards longer.

In 1914, Ross' brother Alec was made head club professional, a post he maintained for 31 years. Alec, an accomplished player, won the 1907 U.S. Open.

The Rocket Mortgage Classic layout is comprised of 17 holes from the North Course and one from the South Course. The PGA TOUR layout begins with holes 8 and 9 serving as Nos. 1 and 2, followed by hole 1 from the South Course serving as No. 3. The course then plays holes 2-7 of the North Course as Nos. 4-9 before the standard North Course back nine makes up the final nine for the championship.

2. Who's who of Detroit

Detroit Golf Club established itself roughly four years before the Ford Motor Company incorporated. The Ross renovations were enough to convince Henry Ford himself to join, as he became a member in 1915. His son Edsel, who served as Ford's president from 1919-1943, also was a member.

Since its start, Detroit Golf Club has brought together a who's who of Detroit. Original Ford Motor Company stockholder and philanthropist Horace Rackham funded the initial \$100,000 to pay for Ross' 36 holes. U.S. Senator James Couzens, who

sold his Ford Motor Company stock to Henry Ford for \$30 million in 1919, was a common presence on the course, as was Fred Wardell, the founder of the Eureka Vacuum Cleaner Company, based in Detroit.

In more modern terms, athletes have made up much of Detroit Golf Club's celebrity base. Justin Verlander, Jerome Bettis, Jim Leyland, Jim Schwartz and Vinnie "The Microwave" Johnson have been among those to call Detroit Golf Club their golf home.

On the arts side, famed poet Edgar Guest was an early member, while Kid Rock is a more modern member. Aretha Franklin owned a home near the seventh hole in which she is believed to have recorded her 1998 album "A Rose is Still a Rose."

Of course, prominent golfers have called Detroit Golf Club home. After Alec Ross stepped aside from his post as head club pro, he was replaced by another major champion, two-time Masters winner Horton Smith, who held the job from 1946 until his death in 1963. Adding to this club pro legacy was Walter Burkemo, who won the 1953 PGA Championship at nearby

Birmingham Country Club.

Meanwhile, in 1986, Detroit mayor Coleman Young made history when he became the club's first African American member. While not a golfer, Young applied for a non-golfing membership and hoped his admittance would open the door for more African Americans in the city. Dennis Archer, an associate justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, who would serve as Young's mayoral successor, followed as a member. Detroit Golf Club has had three African American presidents since 2003.

3. A flat challenge

Two weeks before the PGA TOUR heads to the United Kingdom, the Detroit Golf Club is far from the contours of Royal. When the course entered the PGA TOUR rotation in 2019, its standard deviation of terrain change stood at 2.18 feet, edging TPC Louisiana (2.23) as the flattest course on TOUR.

For reference, the highest point at Augusta National Golf Club is 318 feet (No. 1 green) and the lowest point is 170 feet (No. 11 green). That's a change of 148 feet. The elevation change at Detroit Golf Club from highest point to lowest point is roughly 43 feet.



Detroit Golf Club provides scoring opportunities early but also requires players to execute with precision

While Donald Ross did apply some undulation to the fairways, the greens do not present the same runoff as Pinehurst No. 2. A century later, Detroit Golf Club holds up as a beautiful piece of property, but it has had its challenges holding up against the best PGA TOUR players in the world. The 2019 event's cut line of 5 under was the PGA TOUR's lowest since 2016. Nate Lashley won that year at 25 under.

Golf course superintendent Jake Mendoza, who had stints on the staff at Winged Foot and Medinah before taking the Detroit Golf Club gig in 2018, mentioned in 2020 the green speeds might have been conservative in 2019 and expressed an interest in speeding up the surfaces in 2020. The winner's score dropped to 23 under in 2020 and 18 under in 2021. Tony Finau won at 26 under in 2022 but was five shots clear of second place.

Detroit Golf Club's original starting hole, as designed by Donald Ross in 1916, provides players an opportunity to get off to a fast start. Players that manage to avoid the two bunkers that guard the left-side of the fairway on their tee shots will be left with a wedge into the green. The oak located to the right side of the tee box was bent by Native Americans to mark the trail they used when traveling from Detroit-to-Saginaw. At the base of the oak sits a bronze tablet memorializing this part of Detroit Golf Club's celebrated history.

Accuracy off the tee is critical on the second hole, with out-of-bounds, bunkers and trees lining the fairway. Players will be left with a mid-to-short iron into the green depending on club selection off the tee, with many players opting to not hit driver.

The third hole is the only one on the South Course that will be used for tournament play. Players will need to avoid having too much spin on their approach shots into the green, which slopes dramatically from back to front. Any player finding themselves putting from above the hole will need to be careful should they wish to avoid the dreaded three-putt.

The longest hole on the course, the par 5 fourth will test big hitters should they

attempt to reach this green in two. Players that opt to lay up will need to have an accurate approach shot to this contoured green should they wish to walk away with a birdie.

The tee shot on the uphill par 3 fifth plays slightly longer than the yardage to a blind green. Any back pin location has the potential to produce difficult putting conditions with a spine running across the back area of the green.

Accuracy off the tee on the sixth is at a premium. To have a clear approach to a two-tiered green, players will need to hit their tee shots down the left-side of the fairway while avoiding the fairway bunker. Any player that makes a birdie here will likely be picking up a stroke on the field.

Another tight driving hole. Accuracy off the tee on the seventh is at a premium for players trying to reach this par 5 in two. Players that don't find the fairway will have to negotiate a challenging layup.

On the shortest par 4 on the course, club selection off the tee will be important as players look to avoid fairway bunkers and out-of-bounds. A two-tiered green also features a significant drop-off on its left-side, posing an interesting challenge.

The ninth is a long, beautiful and slightly downhill par 3 that plays about half a club shorter than the yardage. With multiple tee complexes stretching the hole between 175 to 207 yards, players will be faced with a challenging tee shot into a difficult and undulating green closely guarded by out-of-bounds. A birdie here will be a bonus.

An opportunity to get off to a quick start on the back nine. A solid tee shot on the dogleg left 10th leaves players with a short iron approach to the green. Birdies should be plentiful.

The 11th is the longest par 3 at Detroit Golf Club and features a large tee complex that allows the hole to be played anywhere from 180 to 233 yards long. Players will need to manage a green that looks deceptively simple from the tee, but which has a front bowl as well as several potential challenging hole locations.

Par is a great score on the long and dif-

ficult par 4 12th. Players managing to find the fairway will be left with a mid-iron into an elevated green which features a false front, causing any approach shot that comes-up short to roll off the green and down a steep slope.

The dogleg par 4 13th requires a precise tee shot. Many players will opt for a fairway wood or long iron off the tee to set up a short iron into the elevated green. Fans should see lots of birdies on this hole.

A classic risk-reward par 5. The 14th will see a majority of players approaching it as a two-shot hole with long hitters only having a mid-to-long iron approach shot into this two-tiered green guarded by water in front. Those who elect to lay up on their second will need to control the spin on their shots due to a false front on the left side of the green.

A classic Donald Ross designed par 3 that plays longer than the posted yardage. The 15th features large bunkers protecting the front, left and right sides of the green.

Players will need to place their tee shots on the 16th short of the fairway bunkers that guard the landing area, leaving them with a mid-iron approach to the green. Many will face challenging birdie putts on what is one of the more underrated putting surfaces at Detroit Golf Club.

Fans can expect to see excitement on the reachable par-5 17th. Players will favor the right side of the fairway off the tee to set themselves up for a clean look at the green. A generous opening into the green will allow many to chase their second shots onto the putting surface. Coming down the stretch on Sunday, an eagle here could decide the tournament.

A great par 4 finishing hole. The 18th features a shallow ditch running the entire length that will dictate strategy from tee to green. With a fairway bunker and a large Sycamore tree on the left and bunkers on the right, a tee shot in the fairway will be critical, leaving just a short iron into the green. Once on the green, players will be faced with possibly the most difficult putting surface on the course. A par here very well may be all that is needed to win on Sunday.

Many old-time American golf courses present some easier holes on the front nine to help guide players into the round. Detroit Golf Club provides scoring opportunities early but also requires players to execute with precision when choosing to be aggressive.

The first side of the card is marked by a heavier tree line, with Nos. 6, 7 and 8 representing a trademark stretch on the course. These holes (4, 5 and 6 on the member layout) demand tee shots into tight fairways with undulation running balls off the sides of the short grass. Two-tiered greens await, as well, setting a fine line between one-putt opportunities and three-putt fits.

"We don't have a lot of elevation change out here," Mendoza told The Detroit News in 2019. "But there's no flat lie anywhere on those three holes."

No. 4 should also present some the-atics, as the par 5 is listed at a whopping 635 yards. Two precise woods are needed for a chance at reaching the green in two, and an errant tee shot into the trees could have even the longest hitters scrambling for par.

Nos. 17 and 18 represent a tale of two mindsets, as the 577-yard, par-5 17th played as Detroit Golf Club's easiest hole in 2021 (4.6), while the 455-yard, par-4 18th ranked as the second most difficult at 4.1. In total, the front nine played to a 35.0 average last season, with the back nine playing to 35.5. Both nines play to par-36 for the TOUR field.

5. A forgotten Cinderella Ryder Cup

In 1937, the U.S. Ryder Cup Team, led by non-playing captain Walter Hagen, went to Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club in England and defeated Great Britain, 8-4, winning the final four singles matches behind Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead, Ed Dudley and Henry Picard. Two years later, World War II began in Europe and the Ryder Cup would not return until 1947. At least, not officially.

Teams on both sides had actually been selected for the 1939 Ryder Cup, with Great Britain canceling two months before the competition. As the story goes, Hagen, who had been captain for all six Ryder Cups and was slated to be captain a seventh time, was bragging at an exhibition in Toledo about how his team would have defeated Great Britain again. Gene Sarazen, who at age 37 was slated to miss the Ryder Cup team for the first time, called out Hagen, saying he could put together a team that could knock off Hagen's roster.

Hagen accepted the challenge and in 1940, Sarazen brought a team of challengers to Oakland Hills, near Detroit. With Ben Hogan, Jimmy Demaret and Craig Wood on his roster, Sarazen's team fought gamely but ultimately lost, 7-5. In 1941, this time at Detroit Golf Club, Sarazen bulked up his team, convincing amateur legend Bobby Jones to play. Jones ultimately served as a difference-maker, propelling the challengers to a stunning 8.5-6.5 win. In his highly anticipated singles match, Jones, who retired from all non-Masters majors after 1930, battled Picard, who had recently won the 1938 U.S. Open and 1939 PGA Championship. Jones won, 2 and 1, adding one final leg-end to his name.

Remember D3: The Mighty Ducks, when Gordon Bombay and Ted Orion led the Eden Hall JV hockey team to a win over the varsity team? That's what this was like.

This adjusted Ryder Cup format continued in 1942 at Oakland Hills and 1943 at Plum Hollow Country Club, also in the Detroit area, with the U.S. Team defeating the challengers on both occasions. Hagen, who missed the reselected team in 1942, played with the challengers those two years.

Five things to know: Wynn Golf Club



The Wynn Golf Club is the former Desert Inn Golf Course

By Jeff Eisenband

The latest edition of Capital One's The Match sees Golden State Warriors "Splash Brothers" Stephan Curry and Klay Thompson facing off against Kansas City Chiefs touchdown connection Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce, in an NBA-versus-NFL affair at the Wynn Golf Club in Las Vegas.

Just a few blackjack table-lengths away from Las Vegas Boulevard, the Tom Fazio-designed course will challenge the superstars to delegate their match-play chips wisely. A waterfall, a monorail, a Ferris wheel and a series of both manmade and natural elements will all be factors at one of America's most extravagant courses.

1. A STORIED HISTORY

Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods all set foot on the site of Wynn Golf Club en route to PGA TOUR wins, although the track was called something different (and looked totally different).

The Desert Inn Golf Course, adjacent to the Desert Inn Hotel and Casino, opened in 1952 and hosted the PGA TOUR Tournament of Champions (now the Sentry Tournament of Champions) from 1953-1966. Al Bessellink won the inaugural event, but Snead, Nicklaus and Palmer would all capture titles on the North Side of the Las Vegas strip (Nicklaus won twice and Palmer three times).

From 1983-2000, the Desert Inn also served as part of the rotation for the Shriners Children's Open. In 1996, Tiger

Woods played the third round of the Las Vegas Invitational – his first of 82 PGA TOUR victories – at the Desert Inn, shooting a 68.

The PGA TOUR Champions and LPGA also called the Desert Inn home at points.

After the Desert Inn closed its doors in 2000, Steve Wynn bought the property, including the golf course, and built the Wynn Las Vegas. In the process, he brought in Tom Fazio to turn the course into the Wynn Golf Club, which opened five years later. Fazio and son Logan recently returned to the course for another redesign, culminating in a reopening in 2019. There are no remnants of the Desert Inn layout at Wynn Golf Club.

"Not one piece," Fazio said. "The entire course was regraded. The Desert Inn was dead flat. It was built in the '50s. Back in that era and that time, you didn't move ... earth, you didn't create elevation change, you just built it right on the ground. So it was a very flat desert golf course."

2. A DESERT OASIS

The Wynn Golf Club can easily feel like a mirage. What other golf course is on the same street as the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty, and features a Ferris wheel overlooking the property?

Despite being a desert layout, water comes into play on 12 holes. Over 8,000 trees are present on the landscape, including 1,200 from the Desert Inn era -- some of the only remnants of the previous tenant.

"If you were to put a hat on and pull it really close down over your eyebrows and

look at each individual golf hole and only look from the tee to the fairway to the green and block out the view of the skyline, you'd say, wow, this golf course looks like it's in Middle America. It doesn't look like a desert course. It doesn't feel like it's in Las Vegas," Fazio said.

Some of Fazio's other Las Vegas layouts— including recent PGA TOUR venues Shadow Creek and The Summit Club – include desert features, but that isn't the case at the Wynn.

3. A GRAND FINALE

The 18th hole at Wynn Golf Club is a rare par-3 finishing hole. It can be stretched to 249 yards from the back tees, and there's extra incentive to play it from the tips. The Wynn Golf Club regularly offers up to \$20,000 for holes-in-one, depending on the tee box (the farther back the tees, the higher the potential payout).

Nothing in Las Vegas is complete without some extra glitz and glamour, and the 18th hole boasts the course's signature 35-foot waterfall behind the green.

"The thinking behind that was to create some drama, uniqueness, interest, and it was part of the experience of the grandeur that the Wynn is about," Fazio said.

"Obviously, the entire place has an awesome feel to it that is extremely dramatic. When the event is played there and shown visually on TV, it's very striking. People who've never been there before are going to be captivated by this unique landform that is obviously manmade. But then again, most of Las Vegas is."

4. THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

The Wynn Golf Club is a par-70, featuring the unique configuration of six par-3s and four par-5s. Listed at 6,722 yards from the back tees, the course can play as short as 4,810 yards. All three par 3s on the front nine play less than 200 yards from the back tees.

"When you look at the scorecard, the yardage may appear to be short, but it won't play quite that short because the short holes are short and the long holes are long. It's an interesting concept because that's what fits the property," Fazio said.

The most recent renovation came after the Wynn Convention Center extended itself onto course property. The 18th hole was converted from a par-4 to a par-3. The course's greens were expanded by an average of 300 square feet, however. The 14th hole has become a particular fan favorite with its large, boomerang-shaped putting surface.

"While the first 14 holes are somewhat reminiscent of North Carolina – albeit with overlooking hotel towers visible throughout — the final four make it abundantly clear you're in Vegas," Forbes wrote.

The Las Vegas monorail runs along the 15th hole. A special events pavilion is just steps away from the 16th tee box. The 17th hole is beside the new convention center, gearing players up for the final tee shot toward the daunting 18th green and its foreboding waterfall.

"It's a perfect match-play golf course because each individual golf hole offers the risk and difficulty factors and the ability for, especially players of this caliber, ... to take a lot of chances," Fazio said. "It's all contained golf. Now, granted, there are trees and there's framings, but you could knock a golf ball a fairway away and still recover and have a heroic shot."

In other words, these four accomplished athletes can blast away. Errant drives can be found on other fairways.

5. A PUBLIC AFFAIR

The Wynn Golf Club is open to the public. Since its reopening in late 2019, the Wynn Golf Club has offered Wynn resort guests the opportunity to book a tee time 90 days in advance. For non-resort guests, a window of 30 days is available.

Playing the only golf course on the Las Vegas Strip fittingly comes at a high-roller price. The greens fee is \$750 in-season, which can seem like a lot or a little depending on how your luck is going at the tables. The fee is inclusive, coming with a forecaddie, practice-area access and rental clubs at no extra charge, among other perks. Prices are lower (\$475 weekday, \$550 weekends) out of season – which means after July 4.

2025 College Football Hall of Fame Ballot



The National Football Foundation Reveals the 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Ballot

Membership voting runs through July 1.

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced the names on the 2025 ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, including 77 players and nine coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision and 101 players and 34 coaches from the divisional ranks.

"It's an enormous honor to just be on the College Football Hall of Fame ballot considering more than 5.7 million people have played college football and only 1,093 players have been inducted," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "The Hall's requirement of being a First-Team All-American creates a much smaller pool of about 1,500 individuals who are even eligible. Being in today's elite group means an individual is truly among the greatest to have ever played the game, and we look forward to announcing the 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Class early next year."

The ballot was emailed earlier this month 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 Court, which will deliberate and select the class. (Individuals can cast a vote this year by clicking here to become an NFF member.)

The Honors Court, chaired by NFF

Board Member and College Football Hall of Famer Archie Griffin from Ohio State, includes an elite and geographically diverse pool of athletic administrators, Hall of Famers and members of the media.

"Having a ballot and a voice in the selection of the College Football Hall of Fame inductees is one of the most cherished NFF member benefits," said NFF Chairman Archie Manning, a 1989 Hall of Fame inductee from Mississippi. "There is no group more knowledgeable or passionate about college football than our membership, and the tradition of the ballot helps us engage them in the lofty responsibility of selecting those who have reached the pinnacle of achievement in our sport."

The announcement of the 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be made in early 2025, with specific details to be announced in the future.

The 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be officially inducted during the 67th NFF Annual Awards Dinner Presented by Las Vegas on Dec. 9, 2025 at the Bellagio Hotel & Resort, and they will also be honored at their respective schools with an NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salute, presented by Fidelity Investments, during the 2025 season.

Of the 5.7 million individuals who have played college football since Princeton first battled Rutgers on Nov. 6, 1869, only 1,093 players have earned induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, or less

than two one-hundredths of a percent (.02%) of those who have played the game during the past 154 seasons. From the coaching ranks, 233 individuals have achieved Hall of Fame distinction.

There are 11 NFF National Scholar-Athletes on the 2025 Ballot, including FBS players Jeff Bregel (USC), Gregg Carr (Auburn), Brad Culpepper (1991 Campbell Trophy® recipient from Florida), Greg Eslinger (Minnesota), Graham Harrell (Texas Tech), Alex Mack (2008 Campbell Trophy® recipient from California), Darrin Smith (Miami, FL) and Manti Te'o (Notre Dame). The divisional NFF National Scholar-Athlete nominees on the 2025 ballot include Keith Elias (Princeton), Gerald Quinlivan (Buffalo), and Thomas Stenglein (Colgate).

The NFF has recognized 922 NFF National Scholar-Athletes since 1959, and only 44 have earned the distinction as both a Hall of Famer and an NFF National Scholar-Athlete, creating arguably one of the most unique and elite groups in all of sports. And of those 44 dual honorees, only Peyton Manning (Tennessee), Matt Stinchcomb (Georgia), Tim Tebow (Florida) and Danny Wuerffel (Florida) have also claimed The William V. Campbell Trophy®.

The 2025 voting deadline is July 1. If you would like to become a member and receive this year's ballot, please contact NFF Director of Membership Ron Dilatush

at rdilatush@footballfoundation.com.

A list of candidates and capsule bios are provided below.

Consensus All-American: Listed as a First Team All-American by at least half of the recognized publications.

Unanimous All-American: Listed as a First Team All-American by all recognized publications.

2025 FBS Player Candidate Capsule Bios

Flozell Adams, Michigan State Offensive Tackle-1997

First Team All-American and Big Ten Offensive Lineman of the Year...Three-time All-Big Ten performer who helped Spartans to three consecutive bowl appearances...Helped running backs rush for more than 100 yards in 21 games throughout career and allowed only two QB sacks in 1997 season.

Erick Anderson, Michigan Linebacker-1991

First Team All-American and Butkus Award winner who led Wolverines to four bowl games and top 10 finishes all four seasons of career...1991 Big Ten Co-Defensive Player of the Year and only player in UM history to lead team in tackles all four seasons.

Montee Ball, Wisconsin Running Back

Two-time consensus First Team All-American and 2012 Doak Walker Award winner...Tied with Hall of Famer Barry Sanders for most single-season TDs in NCAA annals (39) and boasts NCAA record for single-season points (236 in 2011)...2011 Big Ten Offensive POY and only player in history to rush for 100 yards in three-straight Rose Bowl games.

Kenjon Barner, Oregon Running Back

2012 consensus First Team All-American and finalist for the Doak Walker Award...First Team All-Pac-12 selection helped Ducks to four BCS berths, including a 2011 BCS National Championship appearance...Ranks third in Oregon history in career AP yards (5,848) and rushing TDs (41).

Aaron Beasley, West Virginia Defensive Back

1995 consensus First Team All-American led the nation in INTs (10) in 1994...Two-time First Team All-Big East selection who led WVU to an undefeated regular season and a 1993 Big East title...19 career INTs and holds two of the top five single-season PBU performances in Mountaineer history.

**Bernard Berrian, Fresno State
Kick Returner/Wide Receiver**

2001 First Team All-America kick returner who led the nation in all-purpose yards (2,776)...Bulldogs all-time leader in career all-purpose yards (5,828) and tied school records for career TD receptions (25)...Three-time All-WAC performer who helped team to a share of the 1999 WAC title.

**Jeff Bregel, USC
Offensive Guard**

Two-time consensus First Team All-American and a 1986 NFF National Scholar-Athlete...Two-time First Team All-Pac-10 selection, leading USC to the 1984 conference title and a Rose Bowl victory...Earned the 1985 Morris Trophy as the league's most outstanding offensive lineman.

**Alex Brown, Florida
Defensive Lineman**

Two-time First Team All-American, earning consensus honors in 2001, and finalist for the Lombardi and Nagurski awards as a senior...2001 SEC Defensive Player of the Year (AP) and three-time First Team All-SEC performer...Holds Gator records for career (33) and single-season (13 in 1999) sacks.

**Rocky Calmus, Oklahoma
Linebacker-Two-time consensus**

First Team All-American and 2001 Butkus Award winner...OU's all-time leader in TFL (59) helped Sooners to the BCS National Championship at the 2001 Orange Bowl...2000 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and four-time All-Big 12 performer posted 431 career tackles.

**Gregg Carr, Auburn
Linebacker**

1984 consensus First Team All-American and NFF National Scholar-Athlete...Three-time First Team All-SEC selection and 1984 SEC Lineman of the Year...Twice led Auburn in tackles, helping the Tigers to the 1983 SEC title and three consecutive bowl wins.

**Mark Carrier, USC
Defensive Back**

Two-time First Team All-American (1988-89), earning unanimous honors in 1989...1989 Jim Thorpe Award winner as the nation's top defensive back...Two-time First Team All-Conference selection...Led the Pac-10 in interceptions in 1989 with seven.

Ki-Jana Carter, Penn State
RunningBack
1994 unanimous First Team All-American and Heisman Trophy runner-up...Earned MVP honors at the 1995 Rose Bowl, helping the Lions finish 12-0 with a No. 2 national ranking...Two-time All-Big Ten selection led the league in rushing (1,539) and scoring (138 points) during prolific 1994 season.

**Russell Carter, SMU
Defensive Back**

1983 unanimous First Team All-American who helped SMU to consecutive top five final rankings in 1981 (No. 5, 10-

1-0) and 1982 (No. 2, 11-0-1)...Three-time All-SWC performer led Mustangs to consecutive league titles in 1981-82...SMU's all-time career leader in interceptions (18).
**Matt Cavanaugh, Pittsburgh
Quarterback**

1977 First Team All-American who led the Panthers to a 1976 national title...Led Pitt to three consecutive bowl wins, earning MVP honors in the 1977 Sugar and 1977 Gator bowls...Finished Pitt career ranked second all-time (behind only Tony Dorsett) with 3,916 career yards of total offense.

**Dallas Clark, Iowa
Tight End**

2002 unanimous First Team All-American and winner of the Mackey Award as the nation's best tight end...Two-time All-Big Ten selection who helped Iowa to a share of the 2002 Big Ten title and its first-ever 11-win season (2002)...Holds record for longest pass reception in school history (95 yards).

**Brad Culpepper, Florida
Defensive Tackle**

1991 consensus First Team All-American and recipient of the NFF Campbell Trophy® as the nation's top scholar-athlete...Two-time All-SEC selection who led Gators to first-ever SEC title in 1991...Ranks sixth all-time at Florida with 47.5 career TFL, a school record among defensive linemen.

**George Cumby, Oklahoma
Linebacker**

Two-time First Team All-American, earning unanimous honors in 1979...Two-time Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year and member of four Big Eight championship teams...Finished career ranked second all-time in OU history with 437 tackles, despite playing fullback his first season.

**Kenneth Davis, TCU
Running Back**

1984 unanimous First Team All-American who finished fifth in Heisman Trophy voting and led Frogs to first bowl in 19 seasons...Led the nation in yards per carry (7.6) and ranked second nationally in rushing yards (1,611) in 1984...1984 SWC Offensive Player of the Year who boasted nine 100-yard games in career.

**Jarett Dillard, Rice
Wide Receiver**

2008 First Team All-American and 2006 Second Team All-American who holds the NCAA record for career TD receptions (60)...Three-time All-C-USA performer set the conference record for career receiving yards (4,138)...Holds virtually every career and single-season receiving and scoring stat in Rice history.

**Aaron Donald, Pittsburgh
Defensive Tackle**

2013 unanimous First Team All-American and winner of the Bednarik, Lombardi, Nagurski and Outland trophies...2013 ACC Defensive Player of the Year and two-time First Team All-Conference who led the nation with 2.2 TFL per game...Pitt's all-time leader in

career (66) and single-season (28.5 in 2013) TFL.

**Ken Dorsey, Miami (FL)
Quarterback**

2002 First Team All-American who led the Canes to back-to-back BCS Championship games, winning the national title his junior season...Two-time Big East Co-Offensive Player of the Year and 2001 Maxwell Player of the Year...Left Miami as the school record holder in career total offense and passing yards.

**D.J. Dozier, Penn State
Running Back**

Named 1986 consensus First Team All-American and led PSU to perfect 12-0 season and national championship (1986)...Finished eighth in 1986 Heisman voting...First PSU back to lead the team in rushing for four consecutive seasons.

**Vaughn Dunbar, Indiana
Running Back**

1991 unanimous First Team All-American who led the nation in rushing (1,805) and finished sixth in Heisman voting...1991 First Team All-Big Ten selection, leading the conference with 150.4 ypg...Team MVP posted consecutive 1,000-yard seasons and led the Hoosiers to two bowl games.

**Greg Eslinger, Minnesota
Center**

Two-time First Team All-American, earning unanimous honors in 2005...First-ever Gopher player named First Team All-Big Ten in three-straight seasons (2003-05) en route to winning the Outland Trophy and Rimington Trophy in 2005...2005 NFF National Scholar-Athlete who twice anchored the Big Ten's top rushing offense.

**Alan Faneca, LSU
Offensive Guard**

1997 consensus First Team All-American and LSU's first-ever Outland Trophy finalist...Two-time First Team All-SEC selection and 1997 Jacobs Blocking Trophy winner, helping the Tigers lead the SEC in rushing his final two seasons....Helped LSU to three bowl wins and consecutive top-15 final rankings.

**Levar Fisher, North Carolina State
Linebacker**

Two-time First Team All-American and finalist for the Nagurski Trophy as a senior...2001 ACC Defensive Player of the Year and two-time First Team All-ACC performer who led the league in tackles (163) in 2000....Four-year starter and the Pack's all-time career leader in tackles (492).

**Willie Gault, Tennessee
Wide Receiver**

1982 First Team All-American...Led Vols to three bowl berths...Set six conference and 12 school punt / kickoff return records...Tied NCAA record for most touchdowns by kick return in a single season (3) in 1980.

**Gaston Green, UCLA
Running Back**

1987 First Team All-American who finished eighth in Heisman Trophy voting...Two-time First Team All-Pac-10

selection, finishing his career as UCLA's all-time leader in rushing yards (3,731)...Two-time UCLA Offensive MVP set 14 school records and posted 20 100-yard games in his career.

**Byron Hanspard, Texas Tech
Running Back**

1996 unanimous First Team All-American and recipient of the Doak Walker Award...Tech's all-time leader in rushing (4,219) who tied NCAA record by reaching 1,000-yard mark by fifth game of 1996 season...Three-time All-Big 12 selection, helping Red Raiders to first Cotton Bowl since 1938.

**Kevin Hardy, Illinois
Linebacker**

1995 consensus First Team All-American and Butkus Award winner...Two-time First Team All-Big Ten selection who helped Illini to two bowl berths...Team captain started 45 games (second all-time among Illini LBs) and ranks fourth all-time at Illinois in sacks (18) and TFL (38).

**Graham Harrell, Texas Tech
Quarterback**

2008 First Team All-American and AT&T All-America Player of the Year who finished fourth in Heisman Trophy voting...2008 NFF National Scholar-Athlete holds seven NCAA records, including career 400-yard games (20).Three-time All-Big 12 performer ranks second in league history with 15,793 career passing yards.

**Marvin Harrison, Syracuse
Kick Returner/Wide Receiver**

1995 First Team All-American as a kick returner and 1995 Big East Special Teams Player of the Year...Three-time All-Big East selection who set a conference record with a 94-yard punt return for a TD in 1995...Left Syracuse as the school's all-time receiving leader (2,718 yards).

**Garrison Hearst, Georgia
Running Back**

1992 unanimous First Team All-American and winner of the Doak Walker Award...Finished third in 1992 Heisman Trophy voting after leading the nation in scoring (126 points)...1992 SEC Player of the Year finished career trailing only Herschel Walker in career rushing yards (3,232) at Georgia.

**John Henderson, Tennessee
Defensive Tackle**

Two-time consensus First Team All-American and winner of the 2000 Outland Trophy...2000 SEC Defensive Player of the Year and two-time First Team All-SEC performer...Leader of Vols defensive unit that set a school record for fewest rushing yards allowed (817) in 2000.

**Josh Heupel, Oklahoma
Quarterback**

2000 consensus First Team All-American and Walter Camp Player of the Year...2000 Heisman Trophy runner-up who led the Sooners to a national title at the 2001 Orange Bowl...2000 Big 12 Player of the Year who left OU with virtually every school passing record despite only playing two seasons.

Craig Heyward, Pittsburgh Running Back

1987 consensus First Team All-American who led the nation in rushing his final season and finished fifth in Heisman voting...Left Pitt as the second-leading rusher in school history (behind only Tony Dorsett) with 3,086 career rushing yards...Rushed for at least 100 yards in every game of 1987 season.

Chris Hudson, Colorado Defensive Back

1994 consensus First Team All-American and Thorpe Award recipient...Three-time First Team All-Big Eight selection who helped the Buffs to the 1991 conference title...Finished career with 141 tackles 15 INTs (including two returned for a TD) and 20 PBU.

Michael Huff, Texas Defensive Back

2005 unanimous First Team All-American and winner of the Thorpe Award...Named Defensive MVP at the BCS National Championship, helping the Horns to the 2005 national title...Two-time First Team All-Big 12 selection boasts the UT record for career defensive scores (five).

Mark Ingram, Alabama Running Back

2009 unanimous First Team All-American and the Tide's first-ever Heisman Trophy winner...Named Offensive MVP of the 2010 BCS National Championship after posting 116 rush yards and two TDs...2009 SEC Offensive Player of the Year led the conference in rushing (1,658) and total TDs (20) in 2009.

DeSean Jackson, California Return Specialist/Wide Receiver

Two-time First Team All-American (as a specialist), earning consensus honors in 2006, and Randy Moss Award winner as the nation's top kick returner...Earned First Team All-Pac-10 honors as a receiver and punt returner in 2006...Cal's career leader in punt return average (16.7) and punt return TDs (6).

Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State Placekicker

Two-time First Team All-American, earning consensus honors in 1998 and unanimous accolades in 1999...Only two-time recipient of the Lou Groza Award (1998, 1999)...Helped FSU to consecutive BCS Championship appearances, winning the national title at the 2000 Sugar Bowl.

Ed King, Auburn Offensive Guard

Two-time First Team All-American, earning unanimous honors in 1990...Two-time First Team All-SEC performer, helping Auburn to consecutive conference titles in 1988 and 1989...Led the Tigers to their first back-to-back 10-win seasons in school history (1988, 1989).

Olin Kreutz, Washington Center

1997 consensus First Team All-American and two-time First Team All-Pac-10 selection...Named the 1997 Morris Trophy winner as the conference's top offensive line-

man and 1997 UW Lineman of the Year...Blocked for RB Corey Dillon, who led the Pac-10 in rushing in 1996, and QB Brock Huard who broke 20 Husky records.

James Laurinaitis, Ohio State Linebacker

Three-time First Team All-American (consensus-2006, 2008; unanimous-2007)...Two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year who led the Buckeyes to two national championship games and four consecutive conference titles...2007 Butkus and 2006 Nagurski recipient, leading OSU in tackles three-straight seasons.

Ryan Leaf, Washington State Quarterback

1997 First Team All-American who finished third in Heisman Trophy voting...1997 Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year led Cougars to the first league title in school history (1997) and first Rose Bowl berth in 67 years...Two-time All-Pac-10 performer set four WSU career records, including TD passes (59).

John Lee, UCLA Placekicker

Two-time First Team All-American, earning consensus honors in 1985...Boasted the NCAA's highest career field goal percentage among players with at least 55 attempts (.859)...Two-time First Team All-Pac-10 selection who helped UCLA to three league titles and finished his career as the Bruins' all-time scoring leader (390).

Todd Lyght, Notre Dame Defensive Back

Two-time First Team All-American, earning unanimous honors in 1989 and consensus laurels in 1990...Led Irish to 1988 National Championship and perfect 12-0 season as well as national title game appearance in 1991 Orange Bowl...Thorpe Award finalist who posted 11 career interceptions.

Marshawn Lynch, California Running Back

2006 First Team All-American who led Cal to a share of the 2006 Pac-10 title...2006 Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year led the league in rushing (1,356), all-purpose yards (1,785) and TDs (15) that season...Two-time bowl game MVP (2005 Las Vegas, 2006 Holiday) and Cal's all-time leader in 100-yard rushing games (17).

Alex Mack, California Offensive Lineman

2007 First Team All-American and 2008 recipient of the NFF Campbell Trophy...Finalist for the Rimington Trophy and two-time Morris Trophy winner as the Pac-10's top lineman...Three-time First Team All-Pac-10 selection helped Cal lead the conference in scoring (32.8 ppg) in 2006.

Wayne Martin, Arkansas Defensive Tackle

1988 consensus First Team All-American, leading the Razorbacks to four bowl berths and three top-20 final national rankings...1988 First Team All-SWC who helped the Hogs to a 1988 conference

title...Finished career as the school's all-time leader in sacks (25.5).

Terrence Metcalf, Mississippi Offensive Lineman

2001 consensus First Team All-American and two-time First Team All-SEC performer...Named the SEC's Most Valuable Lineman by the Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club (2001) ...Leader of Ole Miss unit that allowed the fewest sacks in the conference his final two seasons.

Herman Moore, Virginia Wide Receiver

1990 consensus First Team All-American who finished sixth in Heisman Trophy voting...Holds the NCAA record for highest average gain per reception (22.0) with a minimum of 105 catches...1990 First Team All-ACC performer finished career as UVA's all-time leader in receiving yards (2,504) and TD catches (27).

Kellen Moore, Boise State Quarterback

2010 First Team All-American finished career as the winningest starting QB (.943) in college football history...Set the NCAA record for lowest career INT percentage (.017) and tied NCAA record with four 3,000-yard passing seasons...Boise State's all-time leading passer (14,667) earned three conference Player of the Year honors (2-WAC, 1-MWC).

Dan Neil, Texas Offensive Lineman

Two-time First Team All-American, earning consensus honors as a senior...Helped Horns offense rank 11th nationally in total offense (451.8 ypg) and 12th in scoring offense (34.4 ppg) in 1996...Two-time All-Conference selection who set the UT record for consecutive starts.

Terence Newman, Kansas State Defensive Back

2002 unanimous First Team All-American and winner of the Thorpe Award...2002 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, also earning First Team All-Big 12 honors as a specialist after leading the league in kickoff return yards (28.5 avg.)...2002 team captain and MVP was just the second Wildcat in history to score on both a kickoff and punt return in the same season (2002).

Haloti Ngata, Oregon Defensive Tackle

2005 consensus First Team All-American, the Ducks' first consensus player since 1962...Two-time All-Pac-10 selection and first player in Oregon history to be named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year (2005)...2005 finalist for the Nagurski and Outland trophies and 2002 Freshman All-American.

Ken Norton Jr., UCLA Linebacker

1987 First Team All-American, leading Bruins to four consecutive bowl wins...Member of the 1985 conference championship team... Led team in tackles in 1986 (106) and in 1987 (125) and ranks sixth in

school history with 339 career tackles.

Michael Oher, Mississippi Offensive Lineman

2008 unanimous First Team All-American and finalist for the Outland Trophy...Three-time All-SEC performer (First Team—2) and recipient of the 2008 Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the conference's best blocker...Team captain started 47-straight games and helped RB BenJarvus Green-Ellis post consecutive 1,000-yard seasons.

Jim Pyne, Virginia Tech Center

1993 unanimous First Team All-American, the Hokies first-ever unanimous selection...Finalist for the 1993 Lombardi and Outland trophies and two-time All-Big East selection...Played in 42 career games and only allowed one sack in 2,700 career snaps.

Antwaan Randle El, Indiana Quarterback

2001 First Team All-American...First player in FBS history to pass for 6,000 yards and rush for 3,000 yards in career...Rushed for more yards than any QB in FBS history upon conclusion of career.

Simeon Rice, Illinois Linebacker

Two-time First Team All-American and three-time First Team All-Big Ten selection...Holds conference and school record for career sacks (44.5) and Illini record for career tackles for loss (69)...Set school record for single-season sacks (16).

Chris Samuels, Alabama Offensive Tackle

1999 unanimous First Team All-American and Outland Trophy recipient...Two-time First Team All-SEC selection who led the Tide to a 1999 conference title...SEC Jacobs Blocking Trophy winner who did not allow a sack the entire 1999 season and blocked for 1,000-yard rusher Shawn Alexander.

Larry Seivers, Tennessee Wide Receiver

Two-time consensus First Team All-American in 1975 and 1976...Two-time First Team All-SEC selection...Currently ranks sixth in Tennessee history in career reception yardage (1,924) and seventh in career receptions (117).

Richard Seymour, Georgia Defensive Tackle

2000 First Team All-American, helping the Dawgs to four-straight bowl wins and top 20 final national rankings...Two-year team captain and two-time First Team All-SEC selection...1999 UGA Defensive MVP and one of only two DLs in school history to lead the team in single-season tackles (74 in 1999).

Steve Slaton, West Virginia Running Back

2006 unanimous First Team All-American and Sugar Bowl MVP who placed fourth in Heisman Trophy voting...Doak Walker Award finalist who finished career as the NCAA's active leader in points per game (9.4)...Three-time All-Big

East RB posted three consecutive 1,000-yard seasons and finished as WVU's all-time leader in total TDs (55).

Darrin Smith, Miami (FL)
Linebacker

Two-time First Team All-American who helped the Canes to two national championships (1989, 1991)...1992 NFF National Scholar-Athlete led Miami to two Big East titles, never losing a conference game during his career...1991 Big East Co-Defensive Player of the Year and two-time First Team All-Conference performer.

Justin Smith, Missouri
Defensive Lineman

2000 First Team All-American who also earned Freshman All-America honors in 1998...Two-time First Team All-Big 12 selection who is Mizzou's all-time leader in career (50) and single-season (24 in 2000) TFL...Graduated as the Tigers' career leader in sacks (22.5), now ranking fourth all-time.

Takeo Spikes, Auburn
Linebacker

1997 First Team All-American and two-time First Team All-SEC selection...Led Auburn to a berth in the 1997 SEC title game, a win at the 1998 Peach Bowl (game MVP) and a No. 11 final ranking that season...Two-year Auburn Defensive MVP, ranking in the school's all-time top 10 with 331 career tackles.

Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue
Wide Receiver

2004 consensus First Team All-American who set the NCAA record for career receptions (316)...Two-time All-Big Ten selection who led conference in receptions for three consecutive seasons from 2002-04...2004 Biletnikoff finalist who set Sun Bowl record with 196 receiving yards in 2001.

Sean Taylor, Miami (FL)
Defensive Back

2003 unanimous First Team All-American and finalist for the Thorpe Award...Helped the Canes to consecutive national championship games, winning at the 2002 Rose Bowl...2003 Big East Defensive Player of the Year and two-time First Team All-Big East performer who led the nation in INTs (10) his final season.

Manti Te'o, Notre Dame
Linebacker

2012 unanimous First Team All-American and first player in history to sweep the Maxwell, Walter Camp, Bednarik, Butkus, Lombardi and Nagurski awards in the same season...First exclusively defensive player to finish in the top two of Heisman voting since 1980...2012 NFF National Scholar-Athlete who led ND to its first national championship appearance since 1988.

Dennis Thurman, USC
Defensive Back

Two-time First Team All-American who led Trojans to four consecutive postseason wins, including the 1974 National Championship at the Rose Bowl...Two-time all-conference selection who helped

USC to two Pac-10 titles.

Michael Vick, Virginia Tech
Quarterback

1999 First Team All-American and Big East Offensive Player of the Year, finishing third in Heisman Trophy voting...Guided the Hokies to their first-ever 11-0 regular season and national championship game appearance (1999)...Two-time All-Big East performer who led the league in total offense (242.0 ypg) in 1999 and only lost one conference game during career.

Peter Warrick, Florida State
Wide Receiver

Two-time First Team All-American (consensus-1998, unanimous-1999) led FSU to a national championship at the 2000 Sugar Bowl, earning MVP honors...Two-time First Team All-ACC receiver finished career as the league's all-time leader in receiving (3,517)...FSU's career leader in receiving TDs (32).

Eric Weddle, Utah
Defensive Back

2006 consensus First Team All-American helped Utah to a BCS bowl victory (2005 Fiesta) and its first-ever 12-0 season (2004)...Two-time MWC Defensive Player of the Year led Utes to two league titles...2003 Freshman All-American holds school record for career forced fumbles (9) and ranks second in career INTs (18).

Ryan Yarborough, Wyoming
Wide Receiver

Two-time First Team All-America selection in 1992 and 1993...Broke numerous NCAA receiving records including most career receiving yards and most career 200-plus yard receiving games...Two-time First Team All-WAC who twice led the nation in receiving yards.

Luis Zendejas, Arizona State
Placekicker

1983 consensus First Team All-American who finished his career as the NCAA's all-time leader in scoring (380)...Four-time All-Pac-10 selection, leading the league in scoring in 1983...Boasts the highest PAT percentage (99.3%) in ASU annals and led the team in scoring his first three seasons.

2025 FBS Coach Candidate Capsule Bios

Larry Blakeney
Troy (1991-2014)

All-time winningest coach in Sun Belt Conference history...Four-time conference Coach of the Year who led the Trojans to eight conference titles (5 – Sun Belt, 3 – Southland) and seven FCS playoff appearances in eight seasons...Led Troy to four bowl games, including wins at the 2006 and 2010 New Orleans Bowl.

Jim Carlen
West Virginia (1966-69), Texas Tech (1970-74), South Carolina (1975-81)

Led teams to eight bowl games and 13 winning seasons in 16 years as head coach...1973 National Coach of the Year...Three-time Southwest Conference Coach of the Year... Coached Heisman Trophy

winner George Rogers at South Carolina.

Pete Cawthon Sr.
Austin College [TX] (1923-27), Texas Tech (1930-40)

Led Texas Tech to four Border Conference titles in 11 seasons at the helm...Led 1938 team to 10-0 regular season and the school's first-ever Cotton Bowl appearance...Boasts highest win percentage (69.3) among Tech coaches with terms of three years or more.

Larry Coker
Miami [FL] (2001-06), Texas-San Antonio (2011-15)

Posted a 60-15 record at Miami, including an astounding 35-3 record in his first three seasons...Led the Canes to consecutive BCS Championship Games, winning at the 2002 Rose Bowl and becoming the first rookie head coach to lead his team to a national title since 1948...Led Miami to three Big East crowns and orchestrated a dominant 2001 offense that set a Big East record with 475 points scored in the regular season.

Ralph Friedgen
Maryland (2001-10)

2001 Consensus National Coach of the Year, earning the recognition from nine organizations...Two-time ACC Coach of the Year and only ACC coach to win the conference title in his inaugural season (2001), also boasting the second-most wins (50) after first six seasons in conference annals (ranking behind only Hall of Famer Danny Ford with 51)...Rebuilt Terps' program that had only two winning seasons and one bowl victory since 1985, leading Maryland to seven bowl games in 10 seasons at the helm.

Urban Meyer
Bowling Green (2001-02), Utah (2003-04), Florida (2005-10), Ohio State (2012-18)

Finished career with the third-highest winning percentage in FBS history (85.4%), winning two BCS national cham-

pionships with Florida and the inaugural CFP title with Ohio State...Led Utah to a perfect 12-0 season and a win at the 2005 Fiesta Bowl, the first-ever BCS game to feature a non-automatic qualifier...Won seven conference titles overall and led OSU to an NCAA record 30-consecutive conference victories.

Darryl Rogers
Cal State East Bay (1965), Fresno State (1966-72), San Jose State (1973-75), Michigan State (1976-79), Arizona State (1980-84)

Took Fresno State to two bowl games...Achieved an unprecedented national ranking at San Jose State...Named Big Ten Coach of the Year in 1977 and National Coach of the Year by Sporting News in 1978...Won the Big Ten title in 1978.

Nick Saban

Toledo (1990), Michigan State (1995-99), LSU (2000-04), Alabama (2007-23)

Boasts the most national championships in FBS history, winning four BCS titles and three CFP championships during his career...First coach in history to win a national title with two different FBS schools (LSU, Alabama) since the inception of the AP Poll in 1936 and finished career with the sixth-most wins (292) all-time in FBS history...Led Bama to a top 10 final ranking in 16-consecutive seasons, including 12 top five finishes, and won 11 conference titles and 19 bowl games overall.

Tommy Tuberville
Mississippi (1995-98), Auburn (1999-08), Texas Tech (2010-12), Cincinnati (2013-16)-2004

National Coach of the Year after leading Auburn to an SEC title and a perfect 13-0 season...Led the Tigers to four division crowns, two SEC championship game appearances, and ranks 10th in conference history with 64 SEC regular season wins...Led Cincinnati to a 9-4 (7-1) record and a share of the AAC title in 2014.



College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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Traditional football powerhouses have shown equal prowess on the diamond as Tennessee and Texas A&M tangle Monday night to become the 32nd baseball program to capture the 77th NCAA Division I Baseball World Series since 1947. The Aggies downed the Volunteers 9-5 last Saturday night before UT prevailed Sunday 4-1 to force an "if-necessary" contest Monday night in Omaha, Neb., for the last NCAA Championship for the 2023-24 competitive year. Teams from the Southeastern Conference now have captured five titles since Oregon State won in 2018 and due to the COVID-19 tourney interruption in June 2020. The Aggies or Vols also will be the third SEC teams in the last four seasons to win their first NCAA baseball crowns in school history after Mississippi State in 2021 and Ole Miss in 2022 earned those honors. Former Mississippi State baseball publicist (now retired) Joe Dier noted a SEC "westward ho" trend in diamond champs since 2021 with State, Ole Miss in '22, LSU in '23, and then Texas A&M in '24 if the Aggies are able to snatch the NCAA crowns. On top of that, former Big 12 powers and seven-time NCAA baseball champs Texas and Oklahoma will be competing as SEC diamond members in 2025.

The 74th annual NFF 2025 College Football Hall of Fame ballot by the NFF has been emailed to NFF members. Voting for NFF membership runs through Tuesday, July 1, as national results will be forwarded to the NFF Honors Court for final selections. The 2025 ballot includes 77 student-athletes and nine coaches from the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision and 101 stars and 34 coaches from the NCAA divisional and NAIA ranks.

The nominations come from a pool of 5.7 million-plus student-athletes who have played college football since 1869 and approximately 1,500 standouts who have achieved first team All-America honors to become eligible for the ballot. There will be 12,000-plus NFF members and current Hall of Famers whose votes will be tabulated and then submitted to the NFF's Honors Court.

To date there have been only 1,093 players earning induction into the NFF College Football Hall of Fame – only .02 percent of almost six million performers on the college gridiron. There also are 11 NFF National Scholar-Athletes on the 2025 ballot. For NFF membership, voting information, ticket information, and additional data, please access Footballfoundation.org.

The NIL INFLCR Summit is being held Saturday-Monday, June 22-24, at the NFF Chick-Fil-A College Hall of Fame in Atlanta. There have been 500-plus student-athletes and more than 100 nationally known speakers for multiple seminars with 15 major award recipients for the three-day confab. Some of the top speakers featured been Sam Acho, 2010 William V. Campbell Trophy® recipient, former Texas and NFL defensive end, and ESPN analyst; Tom Bratton, Medallion Partners CEO, business consultant; Greg Johnson, McAfee president and CEO, former Intuit executive VP, and former Air Force half-

back; and Joe Moglia, former TD Ameritrade chair and CEO, former Coastal Carolina head football coach. Major kudos NIL Awards powered by Influencer have been for NIL Male and Female Athletes of the Year, Innovators of the Year, the Hustle Award, Scholar-Athletes of the Year, Athlete Advocate of the Year, Breakthrough Athlete of the Year, Athlete Creator of the Year, Best Institutional Program, and Brand of the Year.

The NFF has revealed from a nomination poll of 3,500-plus scholar-athletes via the NFF's nationwide Chapter Network the 84 NFF high school scholar-athletes on the 2024 NFF Team of Distinction. These youngsters epitomize the ideals of being the best and the brightest at local levels on and off the gridiron along with recognition from their local NFF chapters. They all competed during the 2023-24 academic year as eligible seniors. The 24 honorees come from 40 states with an average 4.18 grade point norm (4.0 scale) with 70 team captains, 37 All-State choices, six class valedictorians, 55 National Honor Society members, and two National Merit finalists.

The 66th NFF Awards Dinner also is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas, Nev. For more information, please access Footballfoundation.org.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the June 24-30 time period are June 24 (1895) Gaylord Stinchcomb, Sycamore, Ohio; (1905) Bill Kelly, Denver, Colo.; (1928) Hollie Donan, Montclair, N.J.; (1932) Doug Dickey, Vermillion, S.D.; (1935) Ron Kramer, Girard, Kan.; (1944) Terry Donahue, Los Angeles, Calif.; June 25 (1928) Tank Younger, Grambling, La.; (1964) Mike Ruth, Norristown, Pa.; June 26 (1905) Jack McDowall, Micapony, Fla.; (1916) Alvin Wistert, Chicago, Ill.; (1933) Ralph Guglielmi, Columbus, Ohio; June 27 (1931) Bobby Reynolds (Neb.), Grand Island, Neb.; (1932) Kurt Burris, Nowata, Okla.; (1966) Mike Favor, Athens, Ga.; June 28 (1902) Ralph Baker, Rockford, Ill.; (1911) Jimmy Hitchcock, Inverness, Ala.; (1937) Charlie Flowers, Marianna, Ark.; (1960) John Elway, Port Angeles, Wash.; (1972) Marvin Jones, Miami, Fla.; June 29 (1898) Dan McMillan, USC/Cal, Springfield, Mo.; (1908) Wes Fesler, Youngstown, Ohio; (1949) Dan Dierdorf, Canton, Ohio; June 30 (1930) W.C. Gorden, Nashville, Tennessee.

Notable anniversaries of passings if NFF College Hall of Fame members are June 24 (1971) Kenny Washington, Los Angeles, Calif.; June 26 (1986) Ed Molinski, Memphis, Tenn.; (1997) Don Hutson, Rancho Mirage, Calif.; (1999)

Angelo Bertelli, Clifton, N.J.; June 27 (2000) Larry Kelley, Highstown, N.J.; (2002) Jay Berwanger, Downers Grove, Ill.; (2022) Marlin Briscoe, Norwalk, Calif.; June 28 (1968) Paddy Driscoll, Chicago, Ill.; June 29 (1983) Joe Delaney, Monroe, La.; (2015) Forrest Behm, Corning, N.Y.; June 30 (1973) Elmer Layden, Chicago, Ill.; (1983) Matty Bell, Dallas, Texas...

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born June 24 Doug Dickey (a spry 92), June 25 Mike Ruth, June 27 Mike Favor, June 28 John Elway, Marvin Jones, June 29 Dan Dierdorf...

Schedules:

Connecticut and Ohio State have cancelled their earlier scheduled clash in 2025. The Buckeyes will host Grambling in place of the Huskies...Mississippi State and Oklahoma are looking forward to a historic first meeting sometime after the 2025 campaign. The new SEC rivals have faced off in every other varsity sport contested by both schools...Western Illinois will meet Morehead State in 2026...New Northeast Conference NCAA FCS member Mercyhurst will highlight its '24 slate with a Sept. 7 trek to Howard...TCU will host Southeastern Louisiana in 2029.

Good Works:

Toyota Motor North America and the NFL are working together with TMNA serving as a presenting partner for NFL Flag football tournaments nationwide, the NFL Flag Championships, regional tournaments and NFL Flag League play.... Vanderbilt football has a Summer Sweepstakes' contest with a free tickets' giveaway as part of the prizes' packages, and the Commodores were within 200 purchases of selling out 2024 season tickets for the first time in almost 10 years.... Thousands of people were assisted by emergency responders in and around Ruidoso, N.M., after wildfires forced evacuation of the popular New Mexico resort town where Texas Tech athletics and Southwest Conference meetings have been held over the years...The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's Pops on the River Fourth of July in Little Rock celebration continues to be largest summer holiday gathering in the Natural State.

Football Coaches:

Georgia head coach Kirby Smart has produced the best start of any UGa head coach in school history. He is 94-16 with two national championships over eight seasons with a nation-leading FBS winning percentage of .855...Oklahoma head coach Brent Venables received a six-year contract extension...Missouri State offered a contract extension for head coach Ryan

(continued on page 16)

Beard through 2028...Mississippi State head coach Jeff Lebby was highlighted in the MSU Alumnus magazine summer issue and hosted 150 elite football campers in the Dog Bones Camp on campus...Arizona State head coach Kenny Dillingham had a fun prank on his team as he gave student-athletes empty packets with the EA Sports College Football 25 game...Former Louisiana head coach (2002-10) Ricky Bustle now has piloted solid teams at Athens (Ga.) Christian HS since 2021...U. of Calgary (Canada) named John Nicastro as football regional scout.

Hometowns of more 2024 college head coaches – Fresno State: Jeff Tedford, Lynwood, Calif.; Georgia: Kirby Smart, Montgomery, Ala.; Georgia Southern: Clay Helton, Gainesville, Fla.; Georgia State: Dell McGee, Columbus, Ga.; Georgia Tech: Brent Key, Birmingham, Alabama.

Directors of Athletics:

VCU director of athletics Ed McLaughlin now is on the NCAA Division I Council and the Women's Basketball Oversight Committee through 2027-28...McNeese State AD Heath Schroyer is the latest appointee to the NCAA DI Council and Men's Basketball Oversight Committee...Former Nebraska interim AD Garrett Klassy is the lone finalist to fill the AD's position at Fresno State...Retiring Ohio State AD and 2007 NFF John V. Toner Award recipient Gene Smith extended his parting feelings toward revenue sharing among departments and student-athletes, not letting pressing issues cloud anyone's feelings about the true meaning of college athletics, supporting Title IX measures, the future of Ohio State athletics, and OSU's continued commitment to 36 varsity sports in spite of probable financial challenges...Iowa State AD Jamie Pollard previewed the development of the CYTown fans' fun area near ISU facilities and related his concerns for financial challenges related to the House v. NCAA settlement...Ole Miss AD Keith Carter reflected on reasons for the movement of the UM-Mississippi State Egg Bowl contest to Friday afternoon from the recent Thanksgiving night slot, which now will be taken over by renewed Southeastern Conference rivals Texas and Texas A&M in November...Kentucky AD Mitch Barnhart expressed his determination not to eliminate sports because of the House v. NCAA settlement provisions per individual colleges...Fordham AD Ed Kull has been identified as a candidate for both the St. John's and Marquette's current AD openings...South Carolina AD Ray Tanner (a member of the ABCA Hall of Fame as a coach) expressed confidence that former NCAA championship head coach and longtime friend Paul Mainieri can help bring the Gamecocks back to national prominence as USC's new baseball head coach...West Virginia AD Wren Baker outlined possible renovations at Milan Puskar Stadium with potential expansion and addi-

tional premium seating...Missouri AD Laird Veatch noted proposals for facility updates at MU with the Memorial Stadium /Faurot Field projects at the top of the list. Veatch also related Tigers athletics' concerns for economic challenges resulting from the House v. NCAA settlement...

...UAB AD Mark Ingram responded to queries about navigating the ever-changing landscape of athletics, upgrading secondary revenue sources, eliminating unnecessary expenditures, and being open-minded about mental health measures and other concerns for today's student-athletes...

...Houston AD and former football Cougars letter winner Chris Pezman has stepped down from his position...Northwestern's potential candidates for AD might include current NU deputy AD for development Jesse Marks, former Northwestern footballer Jacob Schmidt, Army West Point AD Mike Buddie, Toledo AD Bryan Blair, and Northern Illinois' Sean Frazier, among others...Memphis named Jeff Crane interim AD and appears to have narrowed its AD's search to 5-6 candidates with Buffalo AD Mark Alnutt, Tennessee deputy AD Ryan Alpert and Clemson deputy AD Kevin Whit, among the principal possibilities...

...Colorado State AD John Weber is emphasizing naming rights for several CSU facilities such as Moby Gymnasium, soccer and softball stadiums. The Rams also are hoping for expanded revenue from a school-record seven home football skirmishes this fall...St. John's AD Mike Cragg is stepping down June 30 after six years at his post...Auburn AD John Cohen is seeking a delicate budget between balancing his budgets and complying with House vs. NCAA financial obligations...

...Louisiana Tech picked Lindsey McKaskle as senior associate AD with oversight of academics...Nicholls tabbed Austin Bonvallet as associate AD for compliance and administration...Justin Haire was named baseball head coach at Ohio State...Stephen F. Austin selected Matt Vanderburg as baseball head coach...The Citadel added Russell Triplett as baseball head coach....Notre Dame chose Kris Ganeff as softball head coach...Texas Tech named Gerry Glasco softball head coach....

...Washington State deputy AD Brad Corbin will serve on the NCAA Division I Council for the next four years...St. Thomas (Minn.) tabbed Ben Fraser as deputy AD for development and external operations...UCF extended men's basketball head coach Johnny Dawkins' contract through the 2026-27 campaign...Longtime Texas A&M publicist and sports special Chris Harrell is leaving the Aggies track and field program after 30 years in two previous positions and moving to the A&M athletics marketing department...High Point added John Crawley as men's lacrosse head coach...VMI baseball head coach Sam Roberts inked a contract extension through 2028...Missouri State women's basketball head coach Beth Cunningham received a personal pact

upgrade through the 2029-30 season...

...Alabama State named Stephanie Thompson associate AD for compliance and Shyandrea Glass senior associate AD for the student-athlete experience...USC deputy AD for external affairs reflected on his start in college athletics as a NCAA Division II student-athlete until his current post with the Trojans...William & Mary is engaging Andy Rowdon as executive associate AD for external operations...Butler named J Locklier as associate AD and Graham Honaker as associate AD for development and NIL strategy...Mississippi State tabbed Brandon Lee as associate AD for student-athlete brand strategy and innovation...St. John's (N.Y.) chose Matt Anthony as associate AD for compliance...

...Former California senior associate AD Tom Lowry has left the college athletics' scene...Purdue tabbed Andrew Sapp as men's golf head coach...Nikki Palmer is the new softball head coach at UC San Diego...Creighton has added former South Carolina baseball head coach Mark Kingston as a 2024 coach-in-waiting and '25 Blue Jays head coach to replace Ed Servais...Yale added Courtney Jaworski as track and field and cross country head coach...Florida State baseball head coach Link Jarrett has been urging national umpiring groups on consistent check-swing decisions, one of which might have affected the Seminoles early loss to Tennessee in the NCAA Baseball World Series...USC Upstate selected Kane Sweeney as baseball head coach...Ohio State baseball head coach Bill Mosiello is returning to TCU where he will resume previous duties as assistant head coach and hitting coach...

...Virginia men's basketball head coach Tony Bennett has a contract extension through April 30, 2030...Justin Oney was named assistant baseball coach at West Virginia...Bianca Smith is new addition as assistant women's basketball coach at her alma mater Colorado...Florida softball head coach HC Tim Walton hopes that potential revenue-sharing in NCAA athletics will benefit student-athletes but is concerned about how top-tier student-athletes may overstep compensation for non-starters...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are Santa Clara, Alcorn State, Cleveland State, Fresno State, George Washington, Air Force, Georgia, Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, North Carolina, Northern Colorado, Penn State, UCF, USC, Utah, Illinois State, Marquette, Memphis, UNI, Alabama State, Auburn, George Mason, Harvard, Iowa State, NC State, St. John's, Tennessee State, VMI, Washington, Washington State, Boston U, Davidson, Louisiana Tech, Missouri State, Louisville, Michigan State, Prairie View A&M, Rice, South Dakota, Texas A&M Commerce, UMass Lowell, and UTRGV.

...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are Santa Clara, Alcorn State, Cleveland State, Fresno State, George Washington, Air Force, Georgia, Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, North Carolina, Northern Colorado, Penn State, UCF, USC, Utah, Illinois State, Marquette, Memphis, UNI, Alabama State, Auburn, George Mason, Harvard, Iowa State, NC State, St. John's, Tennessee State, VMI, Washington, Washington State, Boston U, Davidson, Louisiana Tech, Missouri State, Louisville, Michigan State, Prairie View A&M, Rice, South Dakota, Texas A&M Commerce, UMass Lowell, and UTRGV.

The Conferences:

American Athletic Conference commissioner Tim Perneti noted that the conference office is seeking to help coaches with

retention as well as providing solid support to incoming transfer portal additions...

...Oregon State and Washington State appear to be able to gain automatic bids to NCAA Championships as the current members of the Pac-12 Conference through June 2026 unless the NCAA Division Board of Directors issues an alternate ruling...Several standouts from the Missouri Valley Conference were named to the ABCA All-Midwest Region squad, and several notable mainstays are Brennyn Cutts, Indiana State; Zach Davidson, Indiana State; Kenton Deverman, Evansville; Randal Diaz, Indiana State; and Kendal Ewell, UIC...Conference USA placed five stalwarts on the 26th NCBWA Division All-America team - Ryan Johnson, DBU; Ethan Bates, Louisiana Tech; Cole McConnell, Louisiana Tech; Walker Janek, Sam Houston; and Mason Burns, WKU...SEC football coaches at their spring meetings told their ADs agreed that they would take compensation decreases to allow walkon student-athletes to be added to rosters unless NCAA regulations require roster limits...Jordan Stepp has concluded his tenure as assistant commissioner for communications at Conference USA.

The Bowls:

Several NCAA-certified bowls in or around Christmas Day (all broadcast times EST) are Monday, Dec. 23, Myrtle Beach Bowl, 11 a.m., Myrtle Beach, S.C., ESPN; Idaho Potato Bowl, 2:30 p.m., Boise, Idaho, ESPN; Tuesday, Dec. 24, Easy Post Hawai'i Bowl, 8 p.m., Honolulu, ESPN; Thursday, Dec. 26, Quicklane Detroit Bowl, 2 p.m., Detroit, Mich., ESPN; Guaranteed Rate Bowl, 5:30 p.m., Phoenix, Ariz., ESPN; 68 Ventures Bowl, 9 p.m., Mobile, Ala., ESPN; DIRECTV Holiday Bowl, Time TBD, San Diego, Calif., Telecast TBD; Friday, Dec. 27, Armed Forces Bowl, Noon or 3:30 p.m., Fort Worth, Texas, ESPN; TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl, Noon or 3:30 p.m., Birmingham, Ala., ESPN; AutoZone Liberty Bowl, 7 p.m., Memphis, Tenn., ESPN; and SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl, 10:30 p.m., Las Vegas, Nev., ESPN...Goodyear Cotton Bowl locale AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, is conducting an exclusive presale of tickets for the Monster Truck Jam it is hosting Oct. 26.

The Players:

Kansas State has nominated NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® finalist and football standout Cooper Beebe as its male candidate and women's basketball star Ayoka Lee as female candidate for the 28th annual 2023-24 Big 12 Conference Athletes of the Year Awards...PFF Analytics has rated the potential Top Four quarterbacks in the 2025 NFL draft as Texas A&M QB Conner Weigman, Georgia's Carson Beck, Colorado's Shedeur Sanders, and Texas' Quinn Ewers....Georgia's Charlie Condon followed up winning the 2024 "Baseball Heisman" Dick Howser Trophy presented by The

Game Headwear with the Golden Spikes Award...Tennessee QB Nico Lamaleava and WR Bru McCoy are projected to be one of the top receiving duos in the SEC this year...Boise State was highlighted with three players mentioned among Phil Steele's Football Magazine pre-2024 All-America teams - Ashton Jeanty (second Team), James Ferguson-Reynolds (third) and Ahmed Hassanein (fourth unit)....

...Noah Sullivan is leaving USC Upstate to join Mississippi State via the transfer portal while The Citadel's Sawyer Reeves also entered the MSU program. The Bulldogs received a recent verbal commitment for 2025 from DB Lo'Kavion Jackson....

...Former Oklahoma OLB Koa Henry is transferring to Mississippi State, and WR Davian Jackson has made a 2025 oral commitment to the Bulldogs...Stanford's NiJaree Canady has entered the 2024 transfer portal...Arkansas pitchers Gabe Gaeckle and Christian Foutch are invitees to the 2024 Team USA training camp...Georgetown (D.C.) standout Cody Bowker has transferred to Vanderbilt...Providence has added 2024 transfers Christ Essandoko and junior college standout Anton Burke...Oklahoma safety Billy Bowman is banking on 25 previous starts to help propel an improved Sooners secondary in '24...Missouri WR Theo Wease Jr. brings back almost 700 receiving yards for the defending Goodyear Cotton Bowl champs...Boise State transfer QB Taylen Green is expected to inject some oomph into the Arkansas offense starting with August workouts...BYU student-athletes nominated for Big 12 Conference Athletes of the Year for 2023-24 are male candidate Kenneth Rooks, cross country and track; and female candidate Brecken Mozingo, soccer...Baylor Big 12 AOTY nominees are male golf student-athlete Johnny Keefer and female candidate from track and field Alexis Brown...Cincinnati's candidates for 2023-24 Big 12 Athletes of the Year are male golfer Ty Gingerich and female track and field star Juliette Laracuente-Huebner...Houston's Big 12 nominees are male basketball star Jamal Shead and female track and field standout Kelly-Ann Beckford while Iowa State's standouts are male wrestler David Carr and female Sydney Willits...Kansas' Big 12 Athlete of the Year nominees are male track and field competitor Clayton Simms and female volleyball standout Camryn Turner...Oklahoma's honorees for the 2023-24 Big 12 honor are male football standout Drake Stoops (son of NFF College Hall of Fame coach Bob Stoops) and female gymnast Jordan Bowers...West Virginia stars Derek Clark and JJ Wetherholt earned recognition on the ABCA All-East Region squads...High School standout QB Deuce Knight has committed to compete in the 2025 High School All-American Bowl all-star contest...RB Kolin Wilson has offered a 2025 verbal commitment to Mississippi State...Nebraska-Kearney has gained four key transfers in River Johnston, Elijah

Knudsen, Allen Taylor, and Kendrick Gilbert enrolling in August...The ABCA/Rawlings Division I Baseball Gold Glove Team (top fielders nationally) includes C Ariel Armas, San Diego; 1B Edgar Alvarez, Nicholls; 2B Nick Gooden, Morehead State; 3B Wyatt Peifer, James Madison; SS Griff O'Ferrall, Virginia; OF Bryce Boettcher, Oregon; Vance Honeycutt, North Carolina; OF Ryley Johnson, East Virginia...Amanda Hasler has transferred from NC State to Oklahoma State...Texas track and field stalwarts Leo Neugebauer and Ackelia Smith join Texas Tech's Caleb Dean as semifinalists for the prestigious The Bowerman College Track and Field Athletes of the Year Award.

Around the Gridiron and Campus:

Maryland athletics has a new, 12-year agreement for marketing and apparel with Under Armour for \$98 million...Tulane athletics is up to \$3.28 million in unrestricted gifts for the 2023-24 academic year with one week remaining before the July 1 budget begins...Nebraska's new weight room appears to be possibly the state-of-the-art facility for the entire world of college and pro football...North Alabama has started construction on the on-campus Bank Independent Stadium at the Bill Jones Athletic Complex to replace historic Tom Braly Stadium – site of a record 28 consecutive NCAA Division II Football Championships from 1986-2013 in Florence, Ala....Memphis athletics has \$23 million of its \$50 million fundraising goal for upgrades at historic Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium and needs an additional \$2 million for the start of Phase 2 renovations...UCF has completed contractual terms for 10 future non-conference football contests totaling just under \$8 million with four opponents - Jacksonville State, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and James Madison...Kansas athletics has a probable surplus of \$3 million in anticipated revenue for 2023-24 and will apply that amount to projected additional expenses. The Jayhawks set a school record with \$26 million in gross ticket sales over that time...West Virginia updated its email preferences for football news and other sports in a group submission last week...TCU football introduced a snazzy line of new uniforms with Carter Boys inscribed on the back of their jerseys for a salute to TCU's venerable Amon Carter Stadium and possible allusion to Vanderbilt baseball's VandyBoys...Coastal Carolina is ready to construct an 8,000-seat convocation center for basketball and volleyball teams in 2026 and '27...Colleges and their officials in athletics were pleased that inflation rates were flat in May at 3.3 percent as football season ticket sales are underway and fans are considering NIL and donation opportunities. The Federal Reserve also revealed that it will keep interest rates at their current level for the time being...Virginia Tech will present patriotic-themed magnets to early attendees at the Sept. 21 Rutgers at

VT Military Appreciation Day...North Texas is adding chairback seating in sections 104-108 at DATCU Stadium...Some Mississippi State theme home games for 2024 are Aug. 31, Eastern Kentucky, First Saturday in StarkVegas; Sept. 14, Toledo, Education Day; and Sept. 21, Florida, White Out Game. MSU also has placed a limited number of single game tickets on Sale...The Norman (Okla.) Planning Commission has okayed the \$1.2 billion Rock Creek Entertainment District Project Plan with an area for possible construction of a new Oklahoma Sooners basketball arena...Alabama A&M restarted its men's cross country program and had a solid enrollment increase in 2023-24 to assist the university and athletics...South Carolina athletics sent out a request for performance to help to develop almost 900 acres of land adjacent to Williams-Brice Stadium for homes, businesses and mixed use property...Pepperdine's pristine athletics' facilities just off Malibu Beach on the Pacific Ocean in the Los Angeles area were spotlighted in a report last week. The late Dr. William Banowsky has been credited with the rapid development of Pepperdine as a leading West Coast university and athletics' power in several sports...California has been rated the best state for basketball on all levels in the U.S. by a major survey group just ahead of Texas and New York...Vanderbilt is enrolling new members for the Mr. C's Junior Commodore Club for area youngsters...Alabama's new on-campus golf course and facility has 176 acres, four buildings and college and pro tourney championship capabilities...Arizona (823,232 turnouts) led the Pac-12 Conference in attendance in 2023-24 in seven key sports before moving to the Big 12 Conference July 1. Washington was second with 740,374 on hand for these varsity contests...Country music legend George Strait broke the U.S. record for the largest ticketed show in history with 110,905 fans at Texas A&M's Kyle Field earlier this month...Washington athletics is close to narrowing down a projected \$2 million budget deficit for the 2023-24 competitive year...The city of Colorado Springs, Colo., and federal government are seeking voting approval for a restoration of Air Academy High School adjacent to the Air Force Academy campus...Virginia Tech ticketholders via the Ticket Tuesdays' promotions will be receiving a commemorative 1999 team poster to celebrate the 25-year anniversary of the Hokies 11-1 squad that closed No. 2 nationally...The Collective Association president Russell White gave his thoughts on how the House v. NCAA settlement will impact NIL agreements, and SMU AD Rick Hart also believes that most NIL compensation in coming years will come from corporate and similar sources. Hart also has observed NIL collective "fatigue" in some instances in 2024....La Salle will bring back varsity baseball after three seasons on the shelf with a possible 2025 restart and needed updates for

DeVincent Field, which also hosts LU field hockey matches...Johns Hopkins athletics has a new agreement with CollegeSports. jobs to help with personnel searches and candidate interviews...TCU athletics is offering several discount packages and season plans for volleyball season as its home opener is Sept. 12...Clemson athletics is in the process of obtaining state licensing to vend malt beverages publicly at its 2024-25 home events for the first time....Tulane athletics has come up with an imaginative campaign advertising the least expensive prices for malt beverages for its contests. When the Green Wave played in the Louisiana Superdome (now the Caesars Superdome), beverage carts were prominent in all public areas of the building...The Texas A&M 12th Man Store has received massive requests for 2024 NCAA Baseball World Series items as the Aggies advanced to the championship series last weekend.

Other Notables:

Last week's Kentucky-Texas A&M tussle in the NCAA Baseball World Series pitted two colleges where NFF College Hall of Fame coach Paul "Bear" Bryant turned around football programs in a big way at UK from 1946-53 and Aggieland from 1954-57 to set up a future Bear Bryant Baseball Classic in Omaha, Neb....NFF College Hall of Fame coach and retired AD Phillip Fulmer of Tennessee was an interested spectator at the NCAA World Series title round...Former LSU, Oklahoma State and Kansas head coach Les Miles has evoked jurisprudence against LSU for vacating 37 of his caching wins from 2012-15. The vacated victories would give the Michigan grad a 145-73 mark over 18 seasons if they are restored...LaGrave Field, home to college and minor league baseball and several other events since 1924, will be razed as part of the Fort Worth (Texas) Panther Island Project...WNBA standout Kate Martin connected with her old Iowa Hawkeyes football friend and NFL Buffalo Bills DE A.J. Epenesa for a jersey swap after a recent WNBA tussle in Las Vegas, Nev....New members of the Arkansas Razorbacks Hall of Fame are baseball head coach Dave Van Horn, football stars Alex Collins, Matt Jones and Ravin Caldwell, Kareem Reid, David Walling, Matt Hemingway, Devon Wallace, and Wendi Willits...The Air Force Academy Hall of Fame banquet is set for Friday, Oct. 16, in Colorado Springs, Colo., with tickets available via the AFA website.

Media Musings:

Former FWAA president, NCBWA Russ Anderson/Wilbur Snyppe Award recipient, and nationally known columnist Kirk Bohls of the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman newspaper has retired after 51 years as a writer with the Austin daily. Kirk and wife Vicki also have endowed the Bohls Scholarship for a deserving staff member of the University of Texas Daily Texan newspaper...The Career Hustle podcast discussed lifetime achievements with

UT Arlington senior associate AD for development Ira Childress, who authored the book *Beating the Odds: From Poverty to Prominence* about his underserved family days in Baldwin, Mich., to a high position in college athletics...USA Today's Dan Wolken commented on the Big 12 Conference's possibility of naming rights to Allstate Insurance and potential backlash or additional challenges...The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News newspaper estimated that future Division I conference corporate sponsorships or private equity investments could run into the \$30-60 million range annually...Meadowlark Media CEO John Skipper has some cogent opinion on upcoming college conference media rights' agreements as well as the WNBA's negotiations...JohnWallStreet.com examined several developments in artificial intelligence that might indicate strategy changes for media rightsholders in multiple sports genres...Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine explored discussions about a new Texas Athletic Conference with a potential membership of West Texas A&M, Abilene Christian, Tarleton State, UT Arlington, Lamar, Stephen F. Austin, UTRGV, Texas A&M-Commerce, Incarnate Word, Houston Christian, and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with West Texas A&M moving up from NCAA Division II to DI...

Ohio State AD Ross Bjork and Learfield executive vice president for NIL growth and development Solly Fulp visited with AthleticDirectorU's about the Learfield Compass NIL programs and benefits....Sports publisher Evan Miyakawa had recent study about the effects of the NCAA transfer portal and almost completing revamping of team rosters and success rate. He also listed Alabama and North Carolina as having roster retention of 50 percent-plus retention and postseason performances...After three days, the NCAA Baseball Division I World Series had the highest Nielsen Rating since ESPN began broadcasting the national tourney in 1980 with a record 1.2 million viewers for the first six games. The North Carolina-Tennessee contest had a meet-high 1.7 million viewers' peak...College Football Realignment publisher Bill Farley explored public and private financing for Florida State football stadium renovations and USF's new on-campus gridiron facility...Learfield, its Compass NIL division and Opendorse are working together to sort out responsibilities and obligations for current and future NIL initiatives...Learfield also sported 2,000-plus student-athletes in more than 500 Learfield NIL agreements for a 100 percent increase from 2022-23 to 2023-24...The Daily Memphian website and editor John Martin reflected on the ins and outs ahead for the new director of athletics at Memphis and how head coach Ryan Silverfield has the football program on an upward scale with men's and women's

basketball seeking annual consistency at the same time...The Washington Post newspaper's Andrew Van Dam did an economic survey of states with the largest net profits from sports wagering. New York leads the way with almost 33 percent of all wagering profits nationally ahead of Nevada and New Jersey, which have larger per capita results than the largely-populated New York wagering means...Collegiate Advertising found that Toledo is responsible for \$81 million-plus annual advertising value during a three-year study from 2021-23...JohnCanzano.com has learned from USC athletics' sources that the Trojans and UCLA began planning for a possible exit from the Pac-12 Conference as early as June 2022 because of challenges with revenue distribution. Canzano also believes that FOX Sports and links to the Big Ten Conference might have hastened both members' move away from the Pac-12.

FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:

ABCA executive director Craig Keilitz is enjoying the "golden age of college baseball right now" and is hoping for the best as financial challenges may lie ahead at several NCAA DI-III and NAIA diamond programs...The 2024 FWAA Writing Contest for members only still is open through July 1 with awards' categories Game Story (Immediate Deadline); Feature Story/Profile; Enterprise/Investigative; and Column/Analysis/Commentary...CSC members featured in the news and on social media posts in recent days are Alex Boggis of UT Martin, Rob Washburn of the CAA, Taylor O'Connor of UAlbany, Hason Williams of Campbell, and Brendan Thomas of Delaware...Florida, LSU, Michigan State, Stanford, Tennessee, Texas A&M, UCLA, and USC are convening with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible challenges and probes at their respective schools...NFL vice president and head of flag football Stephanie Kwok noted how the new Toyota sponsorship and large-scale interest by high school girls in the sport could make the 280-team NFL Flag Championships July 19-21 in Canton, Ohio, one of the highest attended and interest invoking meet in the sport's history...The Kansas legislature passed a bill to attract the NFL Kansas City Chiefs and MLB Kansas City Royals to rebuild their stadiums in a large area between Interstates 70 and 435 outside the city with financing through issuance of bonds, increased sales taxes and state lottery proceeds...Decorated and retired NCAA DI Baseball Championship director Dennis Poppe was lauded in the 2024 CWS tourney program and an internet feature about his football playing career at Missouri and solid support for college baseball for many decades...NCAA senior vice president of men's basketball Dan Gavitt has shown NCAA Division I conference commissioners proposals for an

expanded DI basketball title field...Kennyhertz Perry Group attorney Mit Winter and others issued their opinions on how profits from college broadcast contracts might be used in a revenue-sharing model for compensation for college student-athletes...James Moore law firm partner Katie Davis believes that distribution percentages for the House v. NCAA settlement will include 75 percent of television revenue from football, 15 percent from men's basketball, five percent from women's basketball, and five percent divided among all other varsity sports...B.J. Adams is the new head and director of hockey operations for the ECHL Allen (Texas) Americans...Indiana's Patel Cricket Stadium is set to open in 2025 with a seating capacity of 110,000 – the largest for that sport in the world...When softball resumes in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics along with baseball, the softball contests will be played at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Okla....Officials from the Omaha (Neb.) Sports Commission and College Baseball Hall of Fame committee gave reasons why the College Baseball Hall of Fame will be located in Overland Park, Kan., outside Kansas City instead of previous home considerations Lubbock, Texas; Baton Rouge, La.; and Lubbock.

2024-25 College Football Playoff Bowl Schedule

(All Games Televised by ESPN, ABC or TNT Sports, EST Airtimes, Campus Sites For First Four Games)

Friday-Dec. 20 – First Round (9-12 Seeds in CFP Over Two Days)

Teams, Sites TBD – 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Teams, Sites TBD, noon (TNT Sports)

Teams, Sites TBD, 4 p.m. (TNT Sports)

Teams, Sites TBD, 8 p.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2025

Dec. 31 – Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz., teams TBD, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 1 – Chick Fil-A Peach, Atlanta, Ga., 1 p.m.; Rose Bowl presented by Prudential, Pasadena, Calif., 5 p.m.; Allstate Sugar, New Orleans, Dec. 20-21 winners vs. Top Four Seeds, 8 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, Jan. 9-10, 2025

Jan. 9 – Capital One Orange Bowl, Miami Lakes, Fla., winners of quarterfinals, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 10 – Goodyear Cotton Bowl, Arlington, Texas, winners of quarterfinals, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20 – College Football Playoff National Championship Game, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga., semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.



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