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Weekly



A look at the Rangers at the half way point

July 2 - July 8, 2021

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Mavs hire new General Manager



Nico Harrison introduced as Dallas Mavericks General Manager

The Dallas Mavericks announced today that they have named Nico Harrison as the team's general manager. Per team policy, terms of the agreement were not released.

"We are very excited to bring Nico Harrison to Dallas and have him join our organization," said Mark Cuban. "Nico brings a wealth of basketball knowledge along with both executive and leadership skills. He has proven to have a unique eye for talent on and off the court. I'm looking forward to watching Nico lead the Mavs to new heights."

Harrison joins the Mavericks after spending the last 19 years at Nike, where he most recently held the title of vice president of North America basketball operations. In his role, Harrison supervised Nike's basketball brand managers and worked closely with many of the brand's star players, including Hall of Famers Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan.

"It's a true honor to be the general manager of the Mavericks; an iconic franchise with a rich history not only within the NBA, but across sports," said Harrison. "I'm grateful for this rare opportunity and want to thank Mark and the rest of the organization for putting their trust in me to move the team to the next level."

Prior to joining Nike in 2002, Harrison played professional basketball in Belgium for over seven years.

Harrison spent his final three college seasons at Montana State University after transferring from Army West Point. He was a three-time, first team All-Big Sky selection and eclipsed 1,000 points in his three years at MSU. As a senior in 1995-96, Harrison led the Bobcats to a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Spokane, Washington, native was also named an Academic All-American and a two-time winner of the Arthur Ashe Jr. Scholar-Athlete Award during his career at MSU. He was inducted into the Bobcat Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015.

Jason Kidd returns to Dallas

The Dallas Mavericks have named Jason Kidd their 10th head coach.

Kidd, who was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018, begins his third stint in Dallas after spending eight of his 19 seasons as a player with the team and helping the Mavericks to the 2011 NBA title.

Kidd joins the Mavericks after most recently serving two seasons as an assistant coach with the Lakers, where he was part of their 2020 NBA championship season.

"We are excited to welcome J-Kidd and his family back to Dallas," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said. "He possesses a winning mentality that carried him through a Hall of Fame career as a player and has helped him successfully transition to the NBA's coaching ranks. We are eager for him to get to work and lead our franchise and talented young players into the future."

Kidd's coaching career began in 2013

when he helmed the Brooklyn Nets for one season. He is the third person since the NBA-ABA merger (1976) to become a head coach in the season after he retired as a player. As a rookie head coach, Kidd earned a pair of Eastern Conference Coach of the Month awards (January and March), leading the Nets to 44-38 record and an appearance in the Eastern Conference Semifinals.

On July 1, 2014, Kidd became the head coach of the Milwaukee Bucks in a transaction that sent two second round draft picks to Brooklyn (2015, 2019). He became the first coach in NBA history to lead two teams to the postseason in his first two seasons after helping the Bucks to a 41-41 record and improving on their 15-win season from a year earlier. Kidd finished third in NBA Coach of the Year voting following the 2014-15 season.

In three-plus seasons with Milwaukee, Kidd amassed a 139-152 record and appeared in the playoffs twice before parting ways with the franchise midway through the 2017-18 season.






"Dallas has meant so much to me as a player and I want to thank Mark Cuban for the opportunity to return as a head coach," Kidd said. "I am excited to get to work with this young, hungry and incredibly talented team and to continue to build a winning legacy for the Mavs organization."

Kidd was drafted second overall by the Mavericks in 1994 NBA Draft and spent two-and-a-half seasons in Dallas before being traded to Phoenix during the 1996-97 campaign. He shared Rookie of the Year honors with Grant Hill after averaging 11.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 7.7 assists in his first season.

NCAA BASEBALL - Top 25

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	JULY 2 FRIDAY	JULY 3 SATURDAY	JULY 4 SUNDAY	JULY 5 MONDAY	JULY 6 TUESDAY	JULY 7 WEDNESDAY	JULY 8 THURSDAY
	Rangers vs Royals 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Royals 3:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Royals 1:35 / BSSW		Rangers at Athletics 8:40 / BSSW	Rangers at Athletics 8:40 / BSSW	Rangers at Athletics 2:37 / BSSW
	Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 6:05		Roughriders vs Midland 7:05	Roughriders vs Midland 7:05	Roughriders vs Midland 7:05
			FC Dallas vs New England 8:00				
	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35			Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 6:35
							

Rangers season at the half way point



The Rangers have won their last two series



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

The Texas Rangers reached the mathematical halfway point to the season Thursday afternoon in Oakland. The team on the field is suddenly looking much better than Ranger fans have seen for most of the season having won their last two series, and now the two big in season front office tasks are fast approaching. The amateur is little more than a week away; and once that task is complete, the focus will be on the July 31 trade deadline. The Rangers began serious meetings last weekend to plan the draft. There is of course heavy focus on the first round pick, the second selection in the draft, but there are 20 rounds, and good future players will be available in every round. The task is identifying them.

It is almost two weeks since MLB cracked down on pitchers using foreign substances to increase spin rate. Spin rates are down, and for Texas the offense has improved. Seattle's Hector Santiago is the only pitcher that has been ejected from a game for using banned substances. He received the dictated 10-game suspension, and the Mariners cannot replace him on

their roster. Seattle will play one man short this weekend in their series against the Rangers. The specter of the clamp down has brought new considerations for both the draft and in-season trades. Teams are looking to see if pitchers' success is declining with the enforcement of the rules.

As for the first round of the draft, the top six still appear to be high school shortstops Jordan Lawlar, Marcelo Mayer, and Khalil Watson, Vanderbilt pitchers Jack Leiter and Kumar Rocker, and Louisville catcher Henry Davis. A fourth high school shortstop – Brady House and high school pitcher Jackson Jobe are also likely to be selected in the first 10 picks. Pittsburgh has the number one pick, and their general Manager Ben Cherington, made an interesting observation recently. He thinks there is not a lot of difference between the top five or six players available and consequently may decide based on how cheaply he can sign his selection. He thinks they would be foolish not to save slot money on the number one pick to have more available for picks in later rounds.

As for the Rangers, mock drafts have them linked to almost all six of those players with their number two pick. Many of the so called "insiders" that project these mock drafts have contacts with scouts, but it is doubtful that they are getting much in the way of true information as to what teams are thinking. The Jon Daniels regime in Texas has always been tight lipped, and when there have been information leaks, it has often been dis-information. The guess here, and it is strictly a guess, is that the Rangers will take either

Lawlar or Leiter.

The Rangers' options for the trade deadline took an interesting turn recently when they were in Los Angeles. Joey Gallo, who many believe will be traded, met with his agent Scott Boras and told the media later that he wants to stay with the Rangers, would like to sign a contract extension, and indicated that money would not be a problem. Interesting. Boras represents quite a few high profile clients, and he is known for seeking the highest dollar amount possible. They usually change teams when their chance at free agency comes along. One notable exception was Elvis Andrus. He wanted to stay in Texas, and Boras got a deal done with the Rangers. Elvis may or may not have left

money on the table by not pursuing another team in free agency; but he landed a handsome contract that has him financially set for life, and he got to play up until this season with the team and in front of fans he loved playing for.

Gallo is perhaps the biggest beneficiary on MLB's crack down on pitchers using foreign substances to increase spin rate. He goes into this weekend as the hottest hitter on planet Earth. In the three game series with Oakland this week, he hit five home runs (at least one in each game) and drove in six runs. He has now hit home runs in each of the Rangers' last five games going 9-16 at the plate, hitting seven home runs and walking five times. That computes to an on base percentage of .667.

He is either making a good case to the Rangers to sign him to an extension or a good case to other teams to belly up to the bar with a great trade offer to pry him away from Texas. Rangers' general manager Chris Young indicated this week that extending Gallo is one of the scenarios they are considering as they move forward with building a contending team.

Kyle Gibson will also attract trade attention. His first start after MLB began checking pitchers for foreign substances resulted in seven innings of shutout ball. That does not hint of Gibson needing a banned substance to be successful. Plus, Gibson's main pitch is the sinker, which is not affected by higher spin rates. One wins above replacement (WAR) calculation this week had Gibson leading A. L. pitchers at 4.2. Gerrit Cole was second at 3.7, and just two other pitchers were in the threes. He is making \$9 million this year and is signed for next year at \$7 million, so he is extremely attractive for a team in the pennant race. Teams are always seeking

(continued on page 6)

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pitching, so veteran pitchers Ian Kennedy and Joely Rodriguez will draw interest. Kennedy has converted 13 of 14 save opportunities, a 93% conversion rate. Spencer Patton joined the team after a five year hiatus from the Majors and has been great in late inning situations. He too could be of interest as the trade deadline nears.

As for this week in Oakland, the Rangers won two of three, their first road series win since taking three of four in Minnesota May 3-6. They started the three game series in Oakland with a 5-4 win. Gallo homered in the fourth inning to tie the game after Mike Foltyniewicz had given up a first inning home run. Oakland promptly took the lead back in their half of the fourth inning with a single and a run scoring double to lead 2-1. Jonah Heim doubled home a run in the Rangers' fifth inning to tie the game again, and Gallo hit another home run to put Texas in front for good.

Foltyniewicz finished seven innings allowing the two runs. Nick Solak homered in the ninth inning with a runner on board to give the Rangers a pair of insurance runs that were badly needed when closer Ian Kennedy gave up two home runs in the ninth inning. Foltyniewicz is 2-7 with the 5-4 win, and Kennedy was credited with his 14th save.

Wednesday night, Chris Bassitt stymied the Rangers on three hits over seven shutout innings to win his ninth game of the year. The only scoreboard damage the Rangers could do was a Gallo home run in the ninth inning. Kolby Allard finished June strong with his third straight six inning performance. The A's struck for three second inning runs with the big hit coming from Frank Schwindel, who joined the A's earlier in the day. Schwindel homered with a runner on base. That was all the scoring making the final 3-1. Allard is 2-4 with the loss.

In Thursday afternoon's series finale, the Rangers scored early and often (always a good formula) to take the series with an 8-3 win. Gallo (of course!) drove in a run in the first inning to give Texas an early lead. Nate Lowe doubled the lead to 2-0 with a home run in the fourth inning. Gallo then hit a two run home run in the fifth inning to again double the lead to 4-0. John Hicks making his first start since joining the Rangers homered in the sixth. Lowe hit a second home run in the seventh with a runner on base and Eli White completed the Rangers' scoring with an RBI single in the eighth. It was the first four home run game since April 6.

Rangers' starting pitcher Dane Dunning completed four shutout innings on three hits. John King followed with three more shutout innings until he ran into trouble in the eighth inning. He retired none of the three batters he faced in the eighth, and all three scored, though one was unearned. Brett Martin bailed him out, and Patton polished off Oakland in the ninth. King is 6-5 with the win.

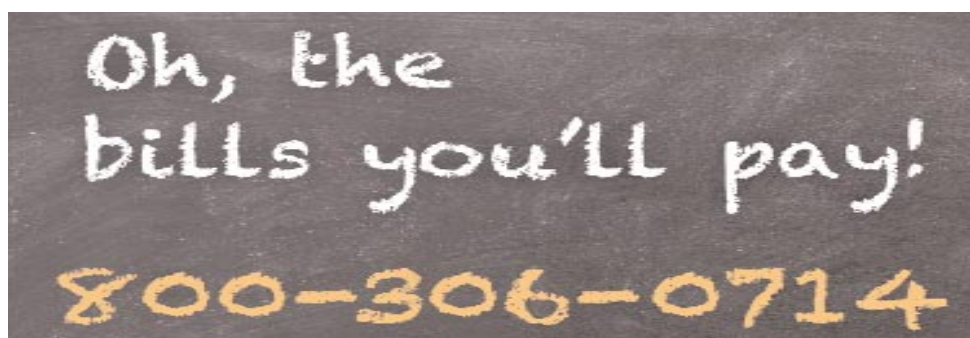
The Rangers complete the current road trip with three games in Seattle. The Mariners are one of two teams Texas has a chance to catch in the standings. Game times (CDT) are 9:40 PM on Friday and Saturday night, and 3:10 PM on Sunday afternoon. The announced starting pitchers are Kyle Gibson (6-0) against Logan Gilbert (2-2) on Friday, Jordan Lyles (3-5) versus Marco Gonzales (1-4 on Saturday, and Mike Foltyniewicz (2-7) faces off against Chris Flexen (6-3) on Sunday.

ROSTER MOVES:

Catcher John Hicks was activated prior to the series opener, and Jason Martin was sent to AAA Round Rock. To make room for Hicks on the 40-man roster, right-handed pitcher Shaun Anderson was designated for assignment. Prior to Thursday's game, outfielder David Dahl was activated from the injured list and catcher Jose Trevino (right forearm contusion) was placed on the 10-day injured list.

NOTABLE:

- Joey Gallo was selected as the Rangers' Player of the Month for June. For the month, he hit 10 home runs, which tied him for second in the American League. After homering on Thursday, he became the only American League player to homer in five consecutive games this season. Home runs in five consecutive games is a career high for Gallo.
- Gallo and Adolis Garcia each have 20 home runs. It is the first time the Rangers have had two players reach 20 home runs before the All-Star break since 2013 (Nelson Cruz and Adrian Beltre).
- Willie Calhoun had surgery to repair his fractured ulna bone in his left forearm on Tuesday performed by Dr. Paul Hovis.
- Thursday marked 12 straight games with fewer than 10 strikeouts. Texas is 7-3 in their last 10 games.
- The Rangers win Tuesday night was the first this season following an off day on the schedule. Now 1-10 in such games.
- Ranger farm hands pitchers Cole Winn (Frisco) and Cole Ragans (Hickory) were selected to play in the All-Star Futures Game on July 11.



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2021 LPGA V.O.A. Classic Preview



TOM WARD

TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

July 4th is this Sunday, but the fireworks started earlier in the week as the top LPGA golf professionals are back in North Texas at the Volunteers of America Classic.

The tournament has returned to the Colony and will be played at the Old American Golf Club at Golf Club at The Tribute starting June 28th –July 4th. This is the 9th edition of the VOA Classic in Texas and the 4th consecutive year to be played at the Old American Golf club.

The course was designed by PGA Tour player Justin Leonard and architect Tripp Davis. This will be the first time that the tournament will be played in the month of July. Also, this will be the only LPGA event that will be played in the state of Texas this season.

Last December, local Texan Angela Stanford of Saginaw prevailed in cold weather to win in front of family and friends. She's back to defend her title along with four other past champions which include: Cheyenne Knight (2019), Sung Yung Park (2018), Jenny Shin (2016), and Stacy Lewis (2014). These top players along with 132 other woman competitors will tee it up in pursuit of the prestigious title and a purse of \$1.5 million dollars. The winner will receive \$225,000.

There are five sponsor exemptions in the field this year featuring Farah O'Keefe (a), Katelyn Sepmore, Bailey Shoemaker (a), Brynn Walker, and Avery Zweig (a).

Angela Stanford returns to the site of her big win last year, but her thoughts and heart are with her ailing mother Nan. Stanford's mom has been battling an invasive lobular carcinoma breast cancer since 2009 and the disease has recently intensified.

"I think it's probably time to be at home a little more with my mom," said Stanford, a seven-time LPGA Tour champion. The thing that she always says is, 'I'm going to work, so you're going to work. I'm not going to retire, but I'm going to be more aware of her schedule and her appointments, just be more available. She doesn't want me around all the time just yet. She wants me to play. Even my dad said she loves to watch you play, so don't



take that away from her just yet."

On her win last year at the Colony, "It still feels like a dream. Driving in, I was kind of like, 'Did this really happen?' You pinch yourself a bit. The memories came flooding back," Stanford said. "My reflections [since winning in December] have been how grateful and thankful I am that I got to win at home and if it's going to be my last win, I'm very blessed that it was at home."

Cheyenne Knight of Aledo won her first LPGA tournament here in 2019. Does coming back here bring back great memories? Knight replied,

"Yes, it's always so special coming to play again. A little bit warmer so I like that better than last December, but it's always just so special to be home and a lot of memories from two years ago, and it's just great that my family can come and then it's home, and it's just like so much love and support out there and throughout the week, people telling me they remember me from two years ago and they're going to come watch. So it really is special. I just think of the hometown crowd cheering for me. It's really special that Angela (Stanford) won last year, too, two Texas girls from Shady Oaks, and it's just so special every time I drive in and all the holes. I remember all the shots that I hit in that final round, and like all the nerves that I had, and to overcome that and get my first victory when I needed to play pretty well."

Among some of the others competitors

playing this week are current World No. 2 Jin Young Ko, No.4 Sei Young Kim and No. 6 Hyo Joo Kim.

Two of the 13 LPGA Tour winners on the 2021 season also highlight the field in Matilda Castren (LPGA MEDIHEAL Championship) and H.J. Kim (HSBC Women's World Championship).

The state of Texas will be well-represented this week with 10 players in the field that call Texas home. The aforementioned Angela Stanford, Cheyenne Knight and Stacy Lewis. Some of the others include: Brittany Lang, Kristen Gillman and Maddie McCrary.

Be on the lookout for last week's runner up at KPMG Women's PGA Championship Lizette Salas. That is, if she isn't too weary from trying to run down the hottest female golfer in the game Nelly Korda who withdrew earlier in the week. Also, watch out for Jeongeun Lee6 from Korea who now calls Irving, Texas home since she moved there in January.

The tournament is 72 holes, stroke play, and there will be a cut after 36 holes for the top 70 and ties.

For the fans that can't make it out watch in person the VOA Classic will be televised on the Golf Channel: Thursday, July 1: 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 2: 5-7 p.m. Saturday, July 3: 4:30-7 p.m. Sunday, July 4: 4:30-7 p.m.

Daily tickets are \$15 at the gate and \$25 weekly. Kids 17 and under are Free with a ticketed adult. Veterans, active military and

immediate family members are Free with ID. PGA professionals receive Free admission with ID. You can go online to get your tickets at www.voaclassic.com/tickets.

To raise awareness for Volunteers of America and in celebration of Independence Day weekend, players are being asked to wear red, white and blue, and there will be a presentation of the colors on Sunday morning.

The Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives. Since 1896, their ministry of service has supported and empowered those most in need, including veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, at-risk youth, men and women returning from prison, homeless individuals and families, those recovering from addictions and many others. Through hundreds of human service programs, including housing and health care, Volunteers of America helps more than 1.5 million people in over 400 communities. To learn more please visit their website at: www.voa.org.

We've been experiencing unusually hot temperatures the past few weeks, but local TV meteorologists are predicting cooler than average highs for the weekend. This is great news for the LPGA V.O.A. Classic.

My forecast is scattered pars with plenty of birdies and a lot of explosive golf action and fun at the colony this weekend. Happy 4th of July everyone!

This week: Rocket Mortgage Classic



ROCKET Mortgage Classic

Rocket Mortgage Classic

July 1 - July 4, 2021

Detroit Golf Club

Detroit, Michigan

Purse - \$7,500,000

Winners share: \$1,350,000

2020 Champ - Bryson DeChambeau

By Adam Stanley

The PGA TOUR heads back to Detroit for the third edition of the Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club.

The tournament was one of the first in the TOUR's Return To Golf in 2020 and saw Bryson DeChambeau win by three shots over Matthew Wolff.

DeChambeau returns to defend his title alongside a field full of TOUR stars.

FIELD NOTES: Reigning PGA Championship winner Phil Mickelson will make his tournament debut; it will mark his first start in Michigan since 2008... Players in the FedExCup top 10 include defending champ DeChambeau and Jason Kokrak, both two-time winners this season... Masters champion

Hideki Matsuyama will play the Rocket Mortgage Classic for the third year in a row as 13 major champions are set to play including Jason Day, who held the 36-hole lead at the Travelers Championship ... Sponsor Exemptions include college stars Austin Eckroat and Davis Thompson, plus Flint, Michigan native Willie Mack III.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Detroit Golf Club (North), par 72, 7,370 yards. Detroit GC's North course, a Donald Ross design, was opened more than a century ago. The club underwent an upgrade recently as it prepared for the TOUR's arrival in 2019. It's the flattest course on TOUR, according to ShotLink data, and while the front-nine is tree-lined, the back nine is open for birdies in bunches – DeChambeau closed with three straight a year ago.

STORYLINES: Matthew Wolff will be back in action in Detroit looking to improve on his runner-up result from a year ago. Wolff took two months away from golf to focus on his mental health but returned to finish T15 at the U.S. Open... PGA pro Jeff Roth, 63, will play after the Michigan PGA voted that his exemption for winning the 2019 Michigan PGA Professional

Championship should carry over into 2021. The exemption was cancelled in 2020 because of COVID-19 protocols. Roth is a member of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, having won more than 70 pro tournaments... Fans return in 2021 after the event was held without them during the height of the pandemic... Nate Lashley, who overcame personal tragedy, won after being the last player into the field in 2019... DeChambeau emerged from the TOUR's COVID-19

break 40 pounds heavier and considerably longer off the tee last year... Rickie Fowler looks to break a long winless drought, while Will Zalatoris aims for his first victory, which would give him full PGA TOUR status.

72-HOLE RECORD: 263, Nate Lashley (2019)

18-HOLE RECORD: 63, Nate Lashley (2019, first round), J.T. Poston (2019, second round)

LAST TIME: DeChambeau, who had been playing better than anyone after the COVID break, won by three with a 7-under 65. Matthew Wolff birdied holes 12, 13, and 15 to cut the lead to one, but DeChambeau finished birdie, birdie, birdie to leave no doubt. It marked his sixth TOUR win and was his seventh straight top-10 finish. Kevin Kisner finished in solo third while Ryan Armour, Adam Hadwin, Tyrrell Hatton, and Danny Willet rounded out the top five.

HOW TO FOLLOW

(All times Eastern)

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

PGA TOUR LIVE: Thursday-Friday 6:45 a.m.-6 p.m. (Featured Groups), Saturday-Sunday 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. (Featured Groups). Saturday-Sunday 3 p.m.-6 p.m. (Featured Holes).

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

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A look back at the longest TOUR playoffs



By Sean Martin
PGATOUR.COM

It was a record-tying showdown between Harris English and Kramer Hickok at the Travelers Championship on Sunday. Their eight-hole playoff tied the PGA TOUR record for the longest sudden-death playoff ever completed on the TOUR. After they tied with pars on the first seven playoff holes, English ended it with a 5-foot birdie putt to earn his second win of the season.

In light of that record, let's take a look at the longest playoffs in PGA TOUR history. Only the 11-hole playoff in the 1949 Motor City Open, which ended with co-champions after it was too dark to continue, was longer than Sunday's affair.

1949 Motor City Open (11 holes)
Lloyd Mangrum and Cary Middlecoff declared co-winners by mutual agreement due to darkness

The previous year's Motor City Open went to a playoff between Ben Hogan and Dutch Harrison. No one was eager to repeat another 18-hole affair the following year.

Thus, the tournament used a "sudden-death" format in 1949. That playoff lasted almost as long as the one between Harrison and Hogan.

Mangrum and Middlecoff, who won the U.S. Open a week earlier, tied 11 holes

before they were declared co-champions due to darkness.

The two were all but inseparable on the final day. They started the day tied at 9-under 204 and both shot 69 in the final round.

Mangrum had a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole that would have given him the title. He missed, and so the playoff began after the players were given the opportunity to take a "brief rest," according to a newspaper report.

Mangrum had another great opportunity to win on the 11th extra hole. Middlecoff's approach sailed 40 feet right of the flag and into the rough. Mangrum's approach settled 9 feet from the flag. Middlecoff chipped within inches before Mangrum missed his birdie opportunity.

"This playoff takes the cake," Mangrum said.

2012 Mayakoba Golf Classic (8 holes)
John Huh defeated Robert Allenby.

It took eight straight pars for Huh to win his first PGA TOUR title. Huh was just 21 years old and making his fifth PGA TOUR start.

He made 3 at the par-3 10th hole, tapping in from 2 feet after Allenby hit into a hazard and missed a 15-foot par putt. It was the fourth time the pair had played the 10th hole in the playoff.

Allenby had a two-shot lead on the final

hole but made double-bogey to fall into a playoff.

1983 Phoenix Open (8 holes)
Bob Gilder defeated Rex Caldwell, Johnny Miller and Mark O'Meara

Caldwell was runner-up in three consecutive tournaments in early 1983. That included a loss in an eight-hole playoff at the Phoenix Open.

Gilder won with a birdie on the eighth extra hole. It was the second straight week where Caldwell lost in extra holes.

"I'm happy I won one, but I'm glad it's over," Gilder said. "It was a battle all the way. It wasn't any fun."

Caldwell, who was seeking his first TOUR title, earned his spot in the playoff with a 30-foot birdie putt on the final hole of regulation. Mark O'Meara and Johnny Miller dropped out of the playoff on the second extra hole after Gilder and Caldwell made birdie. The national television broadcast went off the air after the fifth extra hole.

Gilder ended it six holes later with a 7-foot birdie putt. It was Gilder's lone playoff in his PGA TOUR career and the sixth, and final, win of his career. His first and last wins came in the Phoenix Open, in 1976 and 1983.

Caldwell, who'd been on the TOUR nine years, left the green without speaking to Gilder and did not speak to the media,

according to a newspaper report. He earned his lone PGA TOUR win later in 1983, beating Lee Trevino by a stroke in Abilene, Texas, in September.

1981 Quad Cities Open (8 holes):
Dave Barr defeated Woody Blackburn, Frank Conner, Dan Halldorson and Victor Regalado

After finishing his final round of the Quad Cities Open, Barr packed up his shoes, had a beer and a couple of soft drinks. He was two shots behind Regalado, who was 12 under par.

"A playoff was in the back of my mind, but I really didn't expect it," Barr said. Regalado bogeyed 17 before missing a 3-foot par putt on the 72nd hole to open the door for a five-man playoff.

Eight holes later, Barr won by holing a 3-footer of his own to win over Woody Blackburn. Regalado, Halldorson and Conner were all eliminated on the first extra hole.

1978 Greater Milwaukee Open (8 holes):
Lee Elder defeated Lee Trevino

Trevino forced the playoff with an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole of regulation.

"I thought, 'Not again,'" said Elder, who lost to Trevino in a playoff in Hartford, Connecticut, six years earlier. "He did pretty much the same thing in 1972 when he sank a 15- or 20-footer on the last hole."

The putter left Trevino in extra holes, however. He missed 5-foot birdie putts on the second and fourth playoff holes and a 9-footer on the seventh. On the eighth playoff hole, Trevino blasted out of the sand to within 6 feet. He missed the par putt and Elder two-putted from 12 feet for the win.

"I'm sure Lee tried as hard as he could, but I believe that if he hadn't been in a hurry to meet his wife in Chicago and catch a plane for England for the British Open, it could have been a different story," Elder said. "I think the fact that Lee came here and played as hard as he did when he planned to go to England right after ward says something about what kind of man he is."

1965 Azalea Open Invitational (8 holes):
Dick Hart defeated Phil Rodgers.

Hart entered the Azalea Open only two minutes before the deadline. It earned him his first PGA TOUR win, and in a record-setting playoff. Both Hart and Rodgers missed the green on the eighth playoff hole and Hart, 28, won by getting up-and-down. Hart forced the playoff with a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole of regulation. He also eagled the 15th after holing a 40-yard wedge shot.

Lake Fork 2021's Best Bass Fishery



Lake Fork Named 2021's Best Bass Fishery By Bassmaster Magazine

A study by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation shows that in the past year nearly 55 million Americans have gone fishing. Those eager anglers hunting for giants need to look no further than Texas according to Bassmaster Magazine's annual ranking of 100 Best Bass Lakes. Lake Fork, renowned for producing giant bass, has been named the No. 1 fishery in the U.S. for 2021.

Overall the state had 10 fisheries on the Top 100 list — Fork, Sam Rayburn, O.H. Ivie, Toledo Bend, Ray Roberts, Conroe, Falcon, Choke Canyon, Texoma and Caddo — creating a tie with California for the state with the most fisheries in the rankings.

“Creating the rankings takes more than two months as we dig through current tournament data as well as state fishery information on stocking efforts, catch rates and angler access,” explained Bassmaster Magazine Editor-in-Chief James Hall. “Folks found respite in the outdoors, and many of them fished for the first time. That may have put more pressure on lakes than normal, and some fisheries were impacted. Still, other lakes, which may not have been exposed previously to tournaments, shined brightly.

“These rankings provide a bucket list of destinations for anglers.”

Lake Fork, just 65 miles east of Dallas, is a slice of heaven for anglers hungry for hogs. A whopping 20 ShareLunkers — largemouth bass measuring at least 24

inches in length or 8 pounds — were caught on Fork in the first four months of 2021, with a 15.27-pound giant hooked in March. Those familiar with Fork know it sets the table for some of the biggest catches in the U.S. each year, but look what the Bassmaster Elite Series did in the April 2021 stop on this hallowed spot. Lee Livesay (112 pounds, 5 ounces over four days) joined the Century Club and Patrick Walters (102-5) accomplished the feat on Fork for the second consecutive year. This Lone Star State success story produces giants every year, and since the fishing is hot right now, there's never been a better chance for avid anglers to mark this one off their bucket list.

Most commonly referred to as the California Delta, the No. 2 spot goes to the massive Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a tidal fishery renowned for producing some of the biggest bass in the country over the past decade. Grass control efforts gone wrong and pillaging sea lions still seem to be keeping this fishery out of the top spot, but monster limits continue to surface here. The Delta's rivers, tule-lined sloughs and vegetation-filled flooded islands are a wild and beautiful setting boasting largemouth that fit the “personal best” category.

At No. 3 for 2021, Marion and Moultrie — the sister lakes that make up Santee Cooper — have been a juggernaut on the rankings since the inception of the Best Bass Lakes list in 2012. This year, Marion and Moultrie continue to prove they are a must-visit for every angler and the crown jewel of South Carolina bass fishing.

The rankings identify the top lakes in the nation based on head-to-head comparisons, as well as the Top 25 lakes in four geographical regions — Central, Western, Southeastern and Northeastern.

“We divide the nation into four regions and rank the lakes in each region to give anglers perspective on the fisheries they can most likely reach,” Hall explained.

Bassmaster Magazine's 100 Best Bass Lakes of 2021

Top 10

- 1 Lake Fork, Texas
- 2 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California
- 3 Santee Cooper Lakes (Marion/Moultrie), South Carolina
- 4 St. Lawrence River (Thousand Islands), New York
- 5 Clear Lake, California
- 6 Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Texas
- 7 Lake St. Clair, Michigan
- 8 Jordan Lake, North Carolina
- 9 O.H. Ivie Lake, Texas
- 10 Pickwick Lake, Alabama/Mississippi/Tennessee



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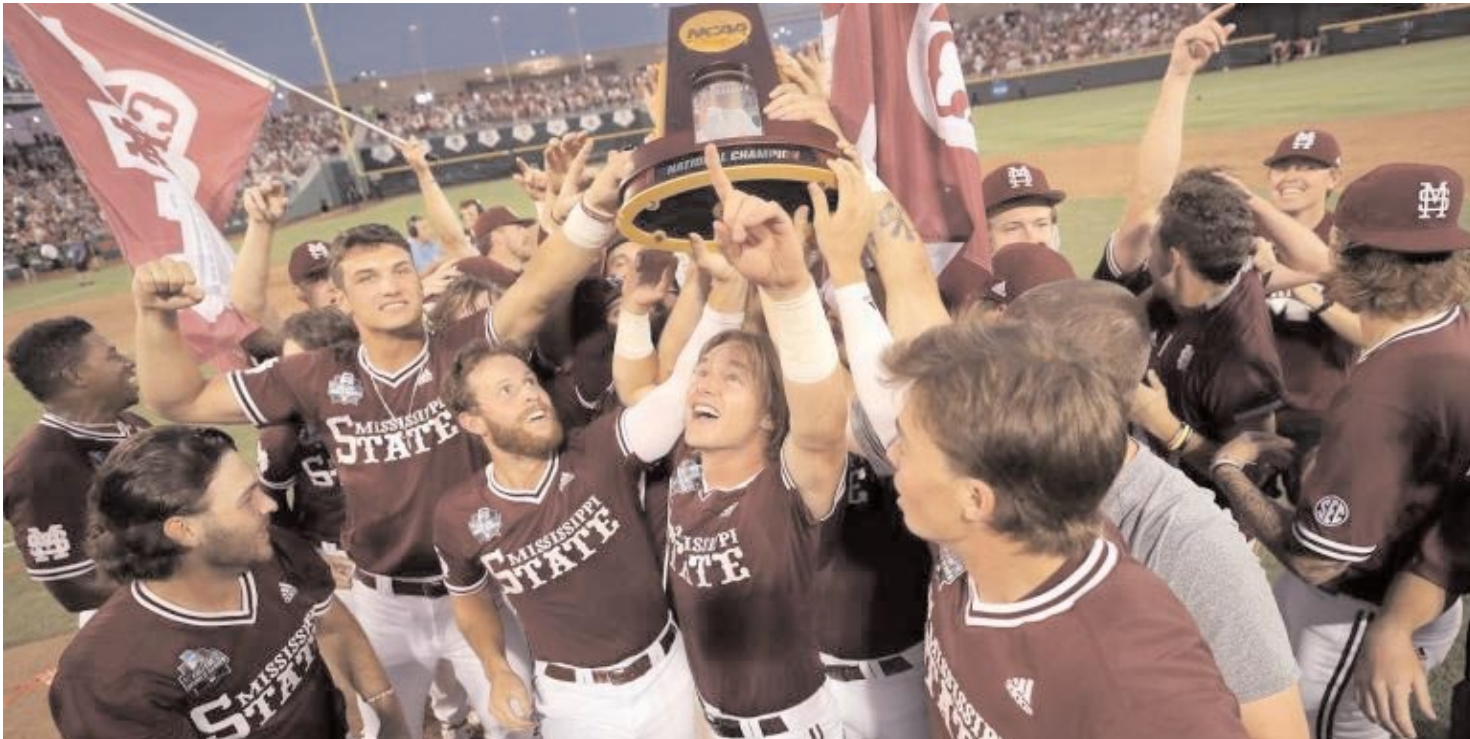
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Bulldogs win first championship



Bulldogs Capture First NCAA Team Championship in School History on College Baseball's Biggest Stage

By Bo Carter

bcarter@footballfoundation.com

OMAHA, Neb. (From Wire Reports, Personal Observations) – Mississippi State achieved that long-awaited breakthrough: the school's first NCAA team championship after 136 years of intercollegiate athletics starting with 1885 baseball.

The Bulldogs roared back from an 8-2 loss to fellow Southeastern Conference rival Vanderbilt to dominate the Dores 13-2 and 9-0 in Games 2 and 3 of the NCAA World Series title round June 27-29 and kept a tradition going. The team losing Game 1 when the CWS championship round goes three contests has been victorious in five of the last six occurrences. The all-SEC finale also gave the traditional college power conference seven team triumphs (including two by Vanderbilt in 2014 and '19) in the last 13 Baseball World Series.

And in the championship encounter Mississippi State almost became the third team to pitch a no-hitter in CWS history before giving up a single with one out in the eighth - Texas (1950 vs. Tufts) and Oklahoma State (1960 vs. North Carolina) - this would have been the first combined no-no in CWS annals. Vandy shortstop Carter Young, who was fighting through a 3-for-25 showing in the entire series, broke up Satte's bid for a third gem with one out in the bottom of the eighth.

MSU standout pitcher Will Bednar (brother of Pittsburgh Pirates hurler David

Bednar) was Outstanding Player in the '21 with six innings of no-hit baseball against Vandy, a 15-strikeout performance in MSU's opening win over Texas (MSU's staff fanned a World Series record-tying 21 Longhorns hitters in that 2-1 victory), the Bulldogs played errorless baseball over seven games in Omaha while Vandy committed 13 miscues in seven tilts, and State bats ruled the roost over the final two tussles.

With ABCA and College Baseball Foundation Hall of Fame members coaching legend Ron Polk, Rafael Palmeiro and MSU alumnus/Dallas Cowboys QB Dak Prescott among the 20,000-plus Bulldogs partisans in the audience all three evenings, coach Chris Lemonis' crew did not disappoint and became the first team to "reach 50" as was the title trio theme.

Vandy was 48-16 prior to the three-game set while the Bulldogs were 48-17. State made it to 50-17 overall for its sixth 50-win season in school annals after the 1985 unit closed 50-15 was third in the NCAA World Series to Texas and winner Miami (Fla.) with the likes of Palmeiro, Will Clark, Bobby Thigpen, and Jeff Brantley dotting the roster.

State hoisted the 2021 trophy, though, and sent thousands partying and rejoicing into the Omaha late night and early morning.

Prior to the 2021 NCAA World Series: Two people emailed the same question to your humble writer late Saturday night, June 26:

Who are you pulling for – Mississippi State or Vanderbilt?

That's a logical question as the two tra-

ditional diamond powers (at least, in MSU's case; more recently since the 1970s

for the Commodores) tangle in a best-of-3 championship round at Omaha, Nebraska in TD Ameritrade Park for the 2021 NCAA Division I Baseball World Series crown. Well, yours truly attended and graduated from Vanderbilt from 1970-74 (following my football-playing father from the late 1940s after watching many bad football contests there in the 1960s as a youngster and trying to emulate fellow Classics' major and Hall of Fame sports writer Grantland Rice) and then worked in the MSU sports information office from 1974-86 under CoSIDA Hall of Fame legend the late Bob Hartley.

Thus, as these teams tangle on the baseball field for at least the 127th and 128th times (if necessary: the 129th time Wednesday), a flood of emotions come back from past experience at the universities in athletics.

State takes a 72-52-2 advantage in a series that dates to 1913 but was not played for four decades when the Southeastern Conference went to East and West Divisions' activity in the 1940s.

(continues on page 12)

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That takes me back to the 1971 SEC Playoffs – at that time a best-of-3 entanglement between SEC West winner (MSU) and SEC East champ for the first time in school history (Vandy) – for a chance to make the coveted NCAA District 3 tournament and expanding and contracting fields from 24-32 teams (32 being the max) in Gastonia, N.C.

State's superior pitching prevailed 3-1 in Nashville and 5-1 in Starkville before overflow crowds (and a rowdy group at Vandy – one of MSU director of athletics Charlie Shira's daughters had a tooth broken and facial injuries from a beer can someone tossed from the right-up-the-fence spectators who sometimes bent a hastily-prepared chain link barrier). State's partisans were just as loud but not as quite rude when the Bulldogs prevailed at history Dudy Noble Field, which was four-years-old at the time.

Vandy roared back to win the East again from 1972-74 and face Ole Miss in a losing cause in '72 and then downing SEC West champ Alabama in both '73 and '74 for the school's first SEC crowns in 43 seasons of diamond competition in that circuit.

Now some 47 years later with two NCAA championships for the Commodores and a first-ever 2013 trek to the title round against UCLA by the Bulldogs, and the plot thickens a bit more. The teams are very similar in numerous ways this time, too.

State is 48-16 overall; Vandy stands 48-17. Both squads have been in the Top Five nationally throughout the '21 season with VU jumping to No. 1 for three weeks in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers survey. Both finished second in their divisions to fellow national powers – VU behind No. 3 NCAA seed Tennessee in the SEC East and MSU behind No. 1 seed Arkansas in the SEC West.

MSU took the hard road to get into the title round by having to top Texas three times in a four-game preliminary round while Vanderbilt was fighting back through the bracket to a Saturday showdown with NC State (the teams split with the Wolfpack winning 1-0 and VU downing NCSU 3-1 Friday) before NC State was eliminated from the Baseball Final Four due to NCAA COVID-19 protocols.

This makes the Bulldogs an even more popular favorite of the Omaha faithful, who annually "adopt" an underdog or first-time entry (in MSU's case, this is trip No. 11 to the CWS without a championship), and the Commodores are defending (2019, no CWS in 2020 due to the pandemic) champs after a 2014 successful run.

Starting pitching and bullpens are nationally known for each squad as the Commodores sport probable Monday night starter All-America Jack Leiter (10-4, 2.08 ERA, 171 strikeouts including 15 against NC State in Omaha), and the Bulldogs come back with Christian McLeod (6-5, 4.61 ERA). State is on track to break the NCAA single-season record of strikeouts

per nine innings with 12.5 starting Game One. State pitchers tied the CWS record of 21 strikeouts (most ever in a nine-inning clash) against Texas.

Big (6-5, 245 pounds) junior righty Kumar Rocker of the 'Dores could try to go several innings Tuesday while leading the nation with a 14-3 overall record (7-0 in eight starts in postseason since 2019) and is jousting with Leiter for NCAA season strikeouts' lead with 173 through Saturday. Rocker's family genealogy includes father Tracy Rocker (NFF College Hall of Fame defensive lineman, FWA Outland and Rotary Lombardi Trophy recipient as a senior at Auburn in 1988 and standout uncle David Rocker of AU football fame).

State relief ace Landon Sims for the win in a 4-3 walkoff against Texas and is 5-0 with 12 saves, 1.52 ERA and 96 strikeouts in 53 1/3 innings.

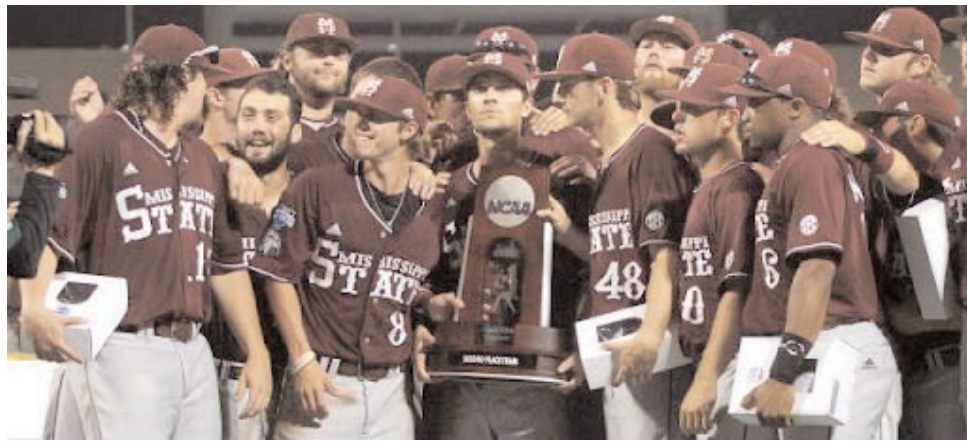
As an aside, Tracy Rocker does not have to worry about attire this month after being in Omaha in '19 when the Commodores captured the crown behind Series Outstanding Player Kumar Rocker. Tracy was segueing from an assistant coaching job at Tennessee to South Carolina and made it hard for him to sport black and gold attire.

There is no mistaking that these teams know one another – VU edged the Bulldogs 2-1 in games in their earlier series during the '21 campaign in Nashville, and both made early exits from the SEC tourney in Hoover, Ala., with a combined 1-4 mark (saving pitching for NCAA regionals – hmmm....) And the air will be tense at TD Ameritrade this week as the Commodores seek to avenge a similar situation in Nashville in 2018 – the Bulldogs edged Vandy 2-1 in games (the final by a 10-6 count in 11 innings) to keep VU out of the NCAA World Series that year.

After all, as Mississippi State seeks its first NCAA team championship in 135 years of intercollegiate athletics and the Commodores try to add to four NCAA crowns (two baseball, one women's tennis and one women's bowling), both teams are preparing for some all-out baseball activity. State may have an edge from recent days with some clutch hitting and that deep bullpen. Vandy, meanwhile, has scratched for just 22 runs in its last seven games (with a 7-6 win in 11 innings over Arizona accounting for almost 33 percent of that total) as some of the big bats have fallen relatively asleep since the Nashville Super Regional.

In the meantime, there will be shouts from the Carter household in North Carrollton from my wife Joanne (two degrees from MSU with a doctorate in '89 – yours truly married way over my head – and a blind date in 1978 with her now-husband of 42 years) and your writer when favorite teams get a key strikeout or a solid play in the field.

NCBWA Final Poll



2021 NCAA Champion Mississippi State No. 1 in Final NCBWA Division I Poll

By ncbwa.com

DALLAS - The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association continues its tradition of NCAA Division I polls for the 24th year with its 2021 weekly surveys, and NCAA champion Mississippi State made its first No. 1 ranking count in the final Top 30 survey.

The Bulldogs won their first NCAA team championship in any sport in more than 135 years of intercollegiate competition and kept the Southeastern Conference's streak of No. 1 rankings – preseason Florida, Arkansas, Ole Miss and Vanderbilt – intact for the full campaign. This is the first time in NCBWA poll annals that one circuit had a No. 1 team in all Top 30 and 35 rankings.

All 16 teams in the NCAA Super Regionals also were among the Top 20, and some notable jumps in the ratings appear in this week's compilations.

Some notable changes from the previous June 8 NCBWA survey in the standings are Mississippi State from No. 8 to No. 1 (State was preseason 7), Vanderbilt No. 2 from 3 (preseason 3), NC State No. 3 from 12 (preseason 11), Stanford No. 5 from 9 (preseason received votes), Virginia No. 6 from 14 (preseason 15), and UCLA from No. 24 to 19 (preseason 2).

There have been 14 conferences (10 in the final poll) represented in all the standings of 2021, and there were 15 different conferences included in the COVID-19 abbreviated NCBWA polls in 2020. In 2020, the writers predicted that eventual NCAA winner Vanderbilt would be No. 1 in the preseason rankings.

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

Also Receiving Votes

Alabama (29-19), Arizona State (30-16), California (26-22), California Baptist (35-13), Campbell (30-14), Central Michigan

(31-16), Connecticut (25-16), Duke (24-20), Fairfield (32-1), Fl. State (28-19), Georgia Tech (25-20), Grand Canyon (34-17-1), Jackson State (29-8), Liberty (35-12), Louisville (26-18), Maryland (24-14), Miami (FL) (29-16), Nevada (21-17), San Diego (28-10), South Alabama (28-18), UC Santa Barbara (31-18), VCU (32-14).

Dropped Out

Fairfield (27), UC Santa Barbara (30).

By Conference

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

No. 1 Schools by Week

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

NCBWA BASEBALL - Top 25 FINAL

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

2021 NCBWA All-America squad

2021 NCBWA All-America features five Houser Trophy finalists, Division 1's most outstanding players

By Bo Carter and Mike Montoro

DALLAS – Paced by the five finalists for the 2021 Dick Howser Trophy presented by The Game Headwear, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association 23rd Division I All-America baseball squads (first, second and third teams) feature a true Who's Who of the best in college baseball this spring.

Standouts from 47 different schools and 19 conferences join Howser Trophy finalists Jace Jung of Texas Tech, Kevin Kopps of Arkansas, Jack Leiter and Kumar Rocker of Vanderbilt and Matheu Nelson of Florida State – all first-team selections – on this dream team of collegiate diamondmen.

Among some of the conference players of the year are FSU's Nelson of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Arkansas' Kopps (SEC Pitcher of the Year and Collegiate Baseball magazine Player of the Year), Big 12 Conference Freshman of the Year Jung, and probable consensus All-America righthanders Leiter and Rocker.

Nelson is tied with South Carolina's Wes Clarke prior to the NCAA World Series June 19-29/30 in Omaha, Nebraska, for the national lead in home runs with 23. Kopps tops all Division I hurlers with a

0.90 earned run average, and Leiter and Rocker enter Vandy's trek to the World Series Nos. 1 and 2 nationally in strikeouts with 156 and 155, respectively. Jung, the 2021 NCBWA Freshman Hitter of the Year, also led the Big 12 in home runs with 21 for Tech's Super Regional entry.

Fans and media will have a chance to see many of these All-America choices in the World Series at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha. Southeastern Conference Player of the Year Tanner Allen of Mississippi State nailed down a first team outfield slot for his Omaha-bound Bulldogs while teammate and relief ace Landon Sims joined him on the top unit.

Outfielder Jonny Butler (second team) of NC State, which upended No. 1 seed Arkansas to make it to the CWS, Big 12 Conference Pitcher of the Year Ty Madden of Texas (making a NCAA-record 37th trip to Omaha), pitcher Blake Bales of Virginia, and pitchers Brendan Beck and Zach Grech of Stanford all paced their teams to berths in the Final Eight of Division I baseball. NCBWA national Freshman Pitcher of the Year and the Co-National Freshman of the Year by Collegiate Baseball Andrew Taylor of Central Michigan also was a first-team honoree.

The U.S. Service Academies also are represented on the first team by Air Force's Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year and Collegiate Baseball's Co-

National Freshman of the Year utility player Paul Skenes with a .410 batting average, 11 home runs and 11 saves in relief.

This group sports some of the most impressive pitching in the 23-year history of NCBWA All-America selections. The starting pitching first teamers are a composite 65-13 (combined .833 winning percentage) with 10-plus strikeouts per nine innings pitched. The first unit relief staff has a combined 21-5 mound record and 68 saves.

The second team is equally impressive with starting pitchers logging a total of 65 wins against just 16 losses and a relief corps with a composite record of 16-12 in 133 appearances and 46 total saves.

The 2021 All-America team announcement precedes the presentation of the 34th Dick Howser Trophy presented by The Game Headwear. The winner will be announced on Friday, June 18, first on MLB Network at 11:15 a.m., EDT, and then at a national news conference via Zoom call at a time to be determined just prior to the 74th NCAA College World Series at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska. The announcement of the NCBWA 2021 Stopper of the Year and National Coach of the Year also will take place on Friday via online national release.

NCBWA membership includes writers, broadcasters and publicists. Designed to promote and publicize college baseball, it

is the sport's only college media-related organization, founded in 1962.

The Howser Trophy was created in 1987, shortly after Howser's death. Previous winners of the Howser Trophy are Mike Fiore, Miami, 1987; Robin Ventura, Oklahoma State, 1988; Scott Bryant, Texas, 1989; Alex Fernandez, Miami-Dade Community College South, 1990; Frank Rodriguez, Howard College (Texas), 1991; Brooks Kieschnick, Texas, 1992 and 1993; Jason Varitek, Georgia Tech, 1994; Todd Helton, Tennessee, 1995; Kris Benson, Clemson, 1996; J.D. Drew, Florida State, 1997; Eddy Furniss, LSU, 1998; Jason Jennings, Baylor, 1999; Mark Teixeira, Georgia Tech, 2000; Mark Prior, Southern California, 2001; Khalil Greene, Clemson, 2002; Rickey Weeks, Southern, 2003; Jered Weaver, Long Beach State, 2004; Alex Gordon, Nebraska, 2005; Brad Lincoln, Houston, 2006; David Price, Vanderbilt, 2007; Buster Posey, Florida State, 2008; Stephen Strasburg, San Diego State, 2009; Anthony Rendon, Rice, 2010; Taylor Jungmann, Texas, 2011; Mike Zunino, Florida, 2012 and Kris Bryant, San Diego, 2013; A.J. Reed, Kentucky, 2014; Andrew Benintendi, Arkansas, 2015; Seth Beer, Clemson, 2016; and Brendan McKay, Louisville, 2017; Brady Singer, Florida, 2018; Adley Rutschman, Oregon State, 2019.

2021 NCBWA Division I All-America Team

FIRST TEAM (Statistics Through June 15)

Pos.	Name	School	Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C	Matheu Nelson	Florida State	r-So.*	.330	53	194	50	64	17-0-23	66	31	58	4/6
1B	Tyler Hardman	Oklahoma	r-Jr.	.397	55	224	49	89	19-2-12	49	34	59	3/5
2B	Jace Jung	Texas Tech	Fr.*	.337	56	208	55	70	10-1-21	67	49	45	4/6
SS	Ryan Bliss	Auburn	Jr.	.365	50	211	50	77	14-1-15	45	23	30	6/11
3B	C.E-Strand	Oklahoma State	So.#	.361	56	227	47	82	17-3-15	66	20	50	4/6
OF	Tanner Allen	Mississippi State	Jr.*	.392	60	232	64	91	15-5-10	62	22	30	9/12
OF	E. Bradfield Jr.	Vanderbilt	Fr.#	.356	60	216	57	77	8-3-1	36	42	36	46/5
OF	M. McWhorter	Georgia South.	r-Sr.*	.372	57	226	50	84	16-1-18	52	27	51	3/4
OF	Aaron Zavala	Oregon	So.*	.392	55	199	64	78	14-3-9	38	50	31	11/13
OF	Kyler Fedko	Connecticut	So.*	.398	52	196	57	78	14-2-12	53	28	37	7/11
DH	Jacob Berry	Arizona	Fr.	.359	61	237	53	85	18-5-17	70	33	54	2/4
UT	Paul Skenes	Air Force	Fr.*	.410	48	188	49	77	21-0-11	43	22	45	0/3

1-1, 2.70 ERA, 18APP, 0GS, 0CG, 0/1SHO, 11SV, 216.2IP, 20H,10R, 8ER,9BB, 30K, .208OPPBA

Pos.	Name	School	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OPP BA
SP	Jack Leiter	Vanderbilt, So.	10-3	2.16	16	16	1	1/1	0	96.0	41	27	23	41	156	.127
SP	Kumar Rocker	Vanderbilt, Jr.	13-3	2.46	17	17	1	0/4	0	106.0	59	32	29	36	155	.157
SP	Gavin Williams	E.Carolina, Jr.^	10-1	1.88	15	12	1	1/3	1	81.1	57	18	17	21	130	.193
SP	Doug Nikhazy	Ole Miss, Jr.	12-2	2.45	16	15	1	1/2	0	92.0	62	30	25	31	142	.186
SP	Andrew Taylor	C.Mich, r-Fr.^#	11-4	1.81	15	15	5	2/2	0	94.1	64	21	19	24	125	.189
SP	Matt Mikulski	Fordham, Sr.^	9-0	1.45	11	11	5	2/1	0	68.1	29	11	11	27	124	.127
RP	Nick Jones	Georgia S., Sr.	1-0	1.48	29	0	0	0	17	42.2	34	8	7	5	67	.213
RP	Taylor Broadway	Ole Miss, Sr.	4-3	3.44	30	1	0	0/4	16	49.2	46	20	19	9	66	.242
RP	Kevin Kopps	Arkansas, r-Sr.^	12-1	0.90	33	1	0	0/3	11	89.2	50	9	9	18	131	.162
RP	Carson Palmquist	Miami, Fr.	1-1	0.68	25	0	0	0	14	44.2	22	11	11	8	75	.143
RP	Landon Sims, Mississippi St, So.		3-0	1.28	20	0	0	0/3	10	42.1	22	6	6	13	81	.149

College Football News and Notes



Baylor AD Mack Rhoades was named 2021 Sports Business Journal's Athletic Director of the Year



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Ballots for the NFF College Hall of Fame Class of 2022 have been cast by NFF members and are being counted for the '22 induction. The announcement of the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be made in early 2022 with specific details to be detailed in the future. The class will be officially inducted during the 64th NFF Awards Dinner on Dec. 6, 2022, and permanently immortalized at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta. Several new members joined the NFF, and there were numerous participants at the new Junior Level for younger football supporters. The Foundation also celebrated last week the new permanent HBCU exhibit that opened at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

On a related note, NFF Board of Directors member Rod West, who played at Notre Dame and is an executive at Entergy Corporation, has been named to the College Football Playoff Selection Committee.

After 19 years in New York City, Sports Business Journal is moving the Learfield IMG College Intercollegiate Athletics

Forum to Las Vegas, which also will host the 63rd NFF College Hall of Fame Awards Dinner for the first time. The SBJ Forum is scheduled for Dec. 8-9 at the ARIA Resort and Casino Las Vegas.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the June 29-July 5 period are 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, Tenn.; July 1 (1922) Don Whitmire, Giles County, Tenn.; (1953) Michael Haynes, Denison, Texas; (1979) Adrian Peterson (Ga. Southern), Gainesville, Fla.; July 2 (1891) Gus Dorais, Chippewa Falls, Wis.; (1879) Bob Zuppke, Berlin, Germany; (1900) Ernie Vick, Toledo, Ohio; (1937) John Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn.; July 3 (1943) Steve DeLong, Norfolk, Va.; (1949) Elmo Wright, Brazoria, Texas; (1959) Frank Hawkins, Las Vegas, Nev.; (1976) Grant Wistrom, Webb City, Mo.; Born of the Fourth of July (like George M. Cohan) (1912) Edgar Manske, Nekoosa, Wis.; (1942) Floyd Little, New Haven, Conn.; (1953) Bob Breunig, Inglewood, Calif.; (1962) Willie Totten, Leflore, Miss.; July 5 (1923) John McKay, Everettville, W.Va.; (1951) Johnny Rodgers, Omaha, Neb.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are June 29 (1955) Henry Phillips, Boone, N.C.; (1983) Joe Delaney, Monroe, La.; June 30 (1973) Four Horseman Elmer Layden, Chicago, Ill.; (1983) Matty Bell, Dallas, Texas; July 1 (1971) Jesse Harper, Sitka, Kan.; (1984) Ziggy Czarobski, Aurora, Ill.; (2010) Don Coryell, La Mesa, Calif.; July 3 (1975) Elmer Oliphant, New Canaan, Conn.; July 5 (1998) Sid Luckman, Miami Beach, Fla.

Happy birthdays to NFF College Hall of Fame members June 29 Dan Dierdorf, July 1 Michael Haynes, Adrian Peterson, July 2 John Cooper (a spry 84), July 3 Elmo Wright, Frank Hawkins, Grant Wistrom, July 4 Floyd Little (a spry 79), Bob Breunig, Willie Totten, July 5 Johnny Rodgers...

Illinois will host Wyoming on Aug. 27 in a network telecast to be determined. The contest was moved up three weeks from a previous Sept. 18 date...Southern Utah and St. Thomas (Minn.) have a new, home-and-home series scheduled for 2022 and '26...The U. of Calgary (Dinos) will return to football after 22 months due to COVID-19 shutdowns when the defending Canadian Vanier Cup national champions host Saskatchewan on Sept. 25. The Dinos are coached by Wayne Harris Jr., the son of NFF College Hall of Famer the late Wayne Harris of Arkansas...Arkansas continues its recent trend of playing HBCU members with an Oct. 23 first meeting with home state rival Arkansas-Pine Bluff. The Razorbacks faced HBCU power Florida A&M in 2017...Central Arkansas appears to be conducting its best offseason football conditioning program in school history from information gathered from tired student-athletes...Iowa State football was highlighted for its large percentages of returning production – 99 percent of its passing yardage, 100 percent of its offensive line starts, 85 percent of its rushing yards, and 82 percent of its pass receiving yards.

Central Arkansas athletics has re-titled the Farris Center basketball court in honor of famed UCA alumnus and NBA Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen...With a late summer push among college students and student-athletes, Massachusetts has eclipsed 4 million vaccinations for COVID-19.

The Louisiana Board of Regents updated the contract and compensation for Louisiana head coach Billy Napier...TCU head coach Gary Patterson has been ranked as the No. 3 active coach nationally by one pre-2021 magazine...Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz addressed College Football Playoff possibilities, the Big Ten Network, two-plus decades as head coach with the Hawkeyes, and the minimization of heroic and community service stories about college football...Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney was highlighted for his success and working relationship with everyone from CU AD Dan Radakovich to the Tigers senior administrators...Louisiana-Monroe and football head coach Terry Bowden are working to finalize his 2021 contract...Nebraska head coach Scott Frost noted how he transferred from Stanford to Nebraska as an undergraduate after the

1994 season, sat out the required outing under 1995 NCAA transfer rules and then starred for the Huskers at quarterback in 1996 and NU's 1997 national championship campaign...Stanford head coach David Shaw spoke about ethics in coaching and the possibility that some schools made high school visits during the COVID-19 outbreak...Sam Houston assistant coach Ryan Carty was honored as 2020-21 Football Scoop NCAA FCS Coordinator of the Year...The Missouri State Board of Governors approved contract extensions for men's basketball head coach Dana Ford through March 31, 2025, legendary baseball head coach Keith Guttin through 2023, which will be his 31st season as MSU mentor, and football coach Bobby Petrino through January 2026.

Hometowns of more 2021 college head coaches – Duquesne: Jerry Schmitt, Pittsburgh, Pa.; East Carolina: Mike Houston, Mars Hill, N.C.; Eastern Kentucky: Walt Wells, Clarksville, Tenn.; Eastern Washington: Aaron Best, Tacoma, Wash.; East Tennessee State: Randy Sanders, Morristown, Tennessee.

Brian Mann has been named director of athletics at William & Mary. One of his key assignments is keeping the 23 varsity sports at W&M intact...Longtime college AD and four-Nebraska program head Bill Moos has retired. Big 12 Conference executive associate commissioner since 2006 Ed Stewart, a standout linebacker and captain of the Huskers 1994 national championship crew, has been identified as a prime candidate to replace Moos...Baylor AD Mack Rhoades was named 2021 Sports Business Journal's Athletic Director of the Year...Delaware AD Chrissi Rawak has an updated contract running through 2026...Virginia AD Carla Williams emphasized modernization of college sports through information technology but with retention of some of the great traditions and natural rivalries...Louisiana director of athletics Dr. Bryan Maggard has a possible contract extension through 2026 awaiting the Louisiana System Board of Supervisors with a bump in his annual compensation...Oklahoma AD and NFF Board member Joe Castiglione spoke on Playfly about the marketing of college athletics, the return of 100 percent attendance in the state of Oklahoma, the campus experience, bands, cheerleaders, spirit groups, and OU traditions...New Duke AD Nina King produced a video about her gratitude and excitement about becoming AD for the Blue Devils and how she plans to build on the Duke athletics tradition...Central Arkansas AD Dr. Brad Teague remonstrated about schools following rules – he believes the vast majority of NCAA members will

accomplish this goal – during NIL compensation transition...McNeese has updated its senior staff with Tanner Stines now serving as deputy AD, COO and CFO with oversight of football and men's basketball, Matthew Bonnette as associate AD for communications and digital media and Melanie Coyne and Hunter Martin as assistant ADs. The Cowboys also added several mid-level staff and assistant coaching positions over the summer...Florida AD Scott Stricklin has issued a special scheduling manifesto for NCAA FBS schools with 11 meaningful games every season, opponents who are annual in order to keep or begin rivalries, a majority of rotating opponents to prevent player and fan fatigue, and all kickoff times announced in the spring prior to the outing for fans' and opposing teams' travel plans...Alabama AD Greg Byrne was interviewed by The Athletic on several topics such as financial challenges, the Southeastern Conference, names, images and likenesses' legislation, the Pac-12 Conference commissioner's opening, the fact that 'Bama athletics did not have to layoff any employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the \$22 UA athletics was able to find in budget savings in 2020-21, among other challenges...Illinois AD Josh Whitman called 2021 "the most consequential year in the history of college sports" and is working on a possible contract update for UI men's basketball head coach Brad Underwood...Tennessee AD Danny White is seeking to ramp up the game day experience for fans at Neyland Stadium with updating WiFi and data infrastructure inside the stadium among chief priorities...Notre Dame AD Jack Swarbrick reflected on the NCAA's current version of amateurism and changes that will be made in coming weeks...Louisville AD Vince Tyra said Cardinals athletics will be "on hands on deck" to try and solve any challenges with NIL updates...Arizona has added Becca Moros as the women's soccer head coach...Syracuse AD John Wildhack addressed the longevity of Orange head men's basketball coach and Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame member Jim Boeheim and his possible retirement after recent leavings by North Carolin Roy Williams and post-2021-22 retiree Mike Krzyzewski of Duke...West Virginia President Dr. E. Gordon Gee, a member of the College Football Playoff Board of Managers, noted that a feasibility study must be undertaken before any additional moves are made toward CFP expansion...UTRGV men's and women's track and field and cross country head coach Darren Flowers has completed his tenure...Former Saint Joseph's (Pa.) AD Jack DiJulia, Boston U. AD Drew Marochello, Bucknell AD Jermaine Truax, Richmond AD John Hardt, and Patriot League commissioner Jennifer Heppel were commended for their assistance for up and coming college administrators and their mentoring talents for several years...Kansas assistant dean of journalism and mass communications Dr.

Matthew Tidwell was remembered for his solid efforts when Big 12 Conference championship events have been held in the Kansas City area...Northern Colorado president Dr. Andy Feinstein received a contract extension through June 30, 2024, after taking over at UNC in 2018...Ole Miss baseball head coach Mike Bianco was identified as a probable No. 1 candidate for the head coaching opening at LSU, which is his alma mater. Bianco's son Drew is a junior outfielder for the '21 NCAA Super Regional-competing Tigers, but the elder Bianco is remaining at UM as head coach with a four-year contract addition...Detroit Mercy women's basketball head coach Ann Marie Gilbert will not return for the 2021-22 season, and former Mercy recruiting coordinator LaTanya Collins is the team's interim head coach...Duke senior associate AD for internal affairs Troy Austin has been in contention for such openings as the William & Mary AD's position and other key roles...New Texas A&M head baseball coach Jim Schlossnagle was complimented on his solid work ethic and willingness to hit the recruiting trail within hours of his hiring in Aggieland...Eastern Washington will utilize the WittKieffer Group in its nationwide presidential search...James Madison extended the contract of baseball head coach Marlin Ikenberry through June 30, 2022, while Dukes women's tennis head coach Shelly Jaudon is set in her position through 2025-26...Houston added Lydia Gumm as head women's golf coach...Southern Utah president Sr. Scott L. Wyatt is leaving to become Utah's senior executive director of state online education...Louisiana Tech named Steve Voltz interim head women's soccer coach...Several other recent college hires have been Georgia softball head coach Tony Baldwin, Seton Hall softball head coach Angie Churchill, Georgia Southern men's tennis head coach Jeremy Bayon, Appalachian State men's golf head coach Jason Allison, Rutgers head cross country head coach Matthew Jelley, and Bowling Green head women's volleyball coach Danijela Tomic with a four-year contract extension...New D1 jobs' postings with the website are at Mississippi State (three openings), Fairfield, Kansas, Kutztown, Colorado School of Mines, Fresno Pacific, St. Bonaventure, the Sun Belt Conference, Tulane, Alabama, Gonzaga, Florida Atlantic, Wichita State, Indiana, Oregon State, and Denver with 3,500-plus positions posted in 2020-21 on D1 jobs...Arizona State president Dr. Michael Crow was praised for his role in minimizing financial losses during the 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic...From NFF Rockies area historian Mike Burrows: Nebraska's new diving coach Landon Marzullo previously was a high-dive artist for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines for three years after an All-Big Ten Conference career at Indiana...Casey Dunn is leaving Samford after 17 years to become the head baseball coach at UAB and is being spelled for the '22 campaign

by Bulldogs associate head coach Tony David...East Carolina AD Jon Gilbert spoke of the need for more than a current 25-30 out of 300-plus NCAA Division I schools to find ways after COVID-19 challenges to finish upcoming budget years in monetary black figures...LSU selected former Arizona head coach Jay Johnson as its new diamond mentor with a pertinent, five-year initial contract...Louisiana-Monroe vice president of academic affairs Dr. Alberto Ruiz is joining athletics to head ULM academics, student engagement and community relations for that department...UNI softball head coach Ryan Jacobs had his contract extended through 2026...Syracuse tabbed Kayla Treanor as women's volleyball head coach...Purdue Fort Wayne softball head coach Germaine Fairchild has finished her tenure...Central Arkansas softball head coach David Kuhn has left the program and is being replaced by former UCA assistant head coach Jenny Parsons. Kuhn accepted a post as head softball coach at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College...Air Force associate AD for recruiting and support William Carpenter is retiring after 22 years with the academy...Houston named John Houston associate AD for sports medicine...Southern Illinois athletics added Katie Gerlach as senior woman administrator...American athletics gave the permanent swimming and diving head coaching position to Garland Bartlett...Arizona men's golf head coach Jim Anderson had his contract extended through 2024...Northwestern State deputy AD Haley Taitano is new to a three-year assignment with the NCAA Softball Rules Committee...New Mexico added Kabrina Merriweather as assistant women's basketball coach and Nike McClure as director of player development...Tennessee head softball coach Ralph Weekly retired and has been followed by Kern Weekly who secured an initial contract through June 2025...Boise State chose Kailin Downs as new women's head golf coach...Purdue associate AD for compliance Tom Mitchell pointed out that Boilermakers athletics was not concerned about the state of Indiana not having a NIL bill in place when most states begin assimilation Thursday...Alabama selected Laura McNeill as senior associate AD for development...UTRGV added Nathan Robinson as men's tennis coach...Tennessee chose husband and wife Chris and Kate Malveaux as assistant softball coaches...Eastern Washington named Missy Strasburg head women's soccer coach.

BYU quarterbacks Baylor Romney and Jaren Hall were featured as players to watch in Lindy's Football preseason magazine...Ohio State QB C.J. Stroud has been rated as one of the five key quarterbacks in NCAA FBS activity this autumn...Several players from the NCAA transfer portal are set to play critical roles for their new teams this autumn. Some of the familiar names and their new destinations are LB Jax Van Zandt from Alabama to North Texas, LB

Darwin Barlow from TCU to Southern California, CB Nigel Knott from Ole Miss to another school to be determined, DL Antonio Green from Navy to school TBD, and LB Derrion Clark from Arizona to school TBD...Boulder (Colo.) Fairview HS wideout Grant Page is a 2022 verbal commitment for Nebraska...Oklahoma football's Isaiah Thomas is seeking full reinstatement to the team before August workouts...Former Houston LB Zamar Kirven is seeking a possible new football assignment in '21...Texas A&M received a verbal commitment for the 2022 signing period from LB Martrell Harris and a '23 signing pledge from Zachary (La.) HS QB Eli Holstein...Richland (Texas) HS wide receiver CJ Nelson has changed his 2022 verbal commitment from TCU to SMU...Tight ends Amari Niblack and Elijah Brown are Alabama's first two verbal commitments for the 2022 signing class...Former Tennessee QB Kaidon Salter is seeking a new destination for the '21 season...Fine-star prospect DL J.T. Tuimolouau has narrowed his 2021 freshman year choices to Ohio State, Oregon, USC, and Washington...Baylor received an oral commitment for 2023 football by LB Isaiah Crawford.

Big 12 Conference commissioner Bob Bowlsby expressed satisfaction that the College Football Playoff group may be expanded from four after several near-misses for invitations by Big 12 members in recent years. The Atlantic Coast and Southeastern Conferences are the only two circuits to have CFP representation in each of the first seven years of the CFP...Jordan Stepp was named assistant commissioner for communications at Conference USA to replace PR legend the late Russ Anderson in the office...The Lone Star Conference had 2,146 student-athletes' scholars on the 2021 spring semester LSC Commissioner's Honor Roll...The ACC is working to minimize the effects of legalized gambling in several of the states within its footprint with a series of seminars and multiple cautions to administrators and student-athletes about gamblers seeking to influence the outcomes of contests...The Southland Conference has added NJIT as an affiliate member in tennis in 2021-22, and accepted other affiliate members for multiple golf teams - Augusta U. (men's and women's), Delaware State (women's) and Francis Marion (men's)...Atlantic 10 Conference commissioner Bernadette McGlade noted the A-10 has been putting into place new efforts to assist with educational expenses for student-athletes in light of the Alston Case decision...The Sun Belt Conference had 50 linear football game broadcasts in 2020 and the bowl campaign to generate an estimated \$261 million in total media value...Ratings' services also reported a 135 percent gain in total viewership from 2019 to the 2020 outing. Sun Belt CEOs also okayed an end to the league's intraconference transfer policy with mandatory one-year redshirting...Pac-12 Conference ADs

have started discussions about the 2021 football campaign and possible alterations with new commissioner George Kliavkoff... The America East Conference obtained the services of Parker Executive Search Firm to locate a new commissioner after Amy Huchthausen left to pursue a career with a private business. On Aug. 1 senior associate commissioner for external affairs Kate Bergstrom will become interim commissioner... The University of Texas at Tyler received the eighth annual Lone Star Conference Academic Excellence Award presented by Balfour. One of UTT's famed alumni is former Patriots soccer standout Brittany Matthews who is featured in a recent LSC website post... The Big West Conference will be contesting championships at the new Dollar Loan Center in Henderson, Nev., starting in March 2022... The Big Ten and Big East Conferences and Big 12 and Southeastern Conferences have scheduled challenges for the 2021-22 men's basketball season.

The Holiday Bowl is moving its 2021 extravaganza to the MLB San Diego Padres Petco Park after playing at Qualcomm Stadium for 42 years before it was demolished earlier this year... College Football Playoff Board of Managers chair Dr. Mark Keenum of Mississippi State said there will be a "summer review" of possible expansion for the CFP before the board meets in September. Dr. Keenum is a former standout lineman at football-famous Corinth (Miss.) HS and a member of the Corinth Athletics Hall of Fame... The Goodyear Cotton Bowl, Arlington (Texas) Police Department and Arlington Independent School District welcomed 115 girls and boys participating in the Dallas Cowboys Football and Dance Academies youth camps last week at AT&T Stadium. The Dallas Cowboys Football Academy youth camp for athletes of all skill levels from first to eighth grade offered individualized on-field coaching from former NFL players and lessons in teamwork, dedication and character from current Dallas Cowboys players. The Dallas Cowboys Dance Academy youth camp for dancers from 6-16 offered an interactive environment and emphasized the importance of positive self-esteem and strong core values through coaching from the famed Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders... The Goodyear Cotton Bowl also is on the two-week deadline for 2021 ticket renewals through SeatGeek.

Georgetown (D.C.) athletics had an unnamed donation of from alumni Ed and Irene Shaw for 2021 after the Shaws gave the school \$5 million in 2013 for the largest gift in school annals to assist with holistic development for student-athletes... The Citadel athletics received a \$1.2 million donation from alumnus Bill Varner (Class of '73) for the new video board at Johnson Hagood Stadium... Saint Francis (Pa.) athletics has a new, multiyear contract extension with Under Armour for brand awareness, apparel and merchandise... Akron athletics has updated its market-

ing and apparel agreements with Nike with a five-year, university-wide contract. Zips men's basketball has been a part of the Nike and LeBron James brands since 2008... Northern Colorado is installing an IRONTURF artificial surface to Nottingham Field in June and July. Academy Sports Turf LLC is the facilitator... North Texas football joined the Amazon Prime Days fun last week with discounted tickets through the Amazon.com website and applications... UCF athletics will use the LAUNCH program to allow student-athletes to investigate NIL compensation with assistance from Opendorse and Collegiate Licensing Company... The Toyota of North America Research Institute is working with businesses and college athletics medical staffs on nuances in robotics to help streamline multiple procedures... RedBird Capital is seeking divest its 40 percent of its stake in the OneTeam partners and OneTeamNew group, and Extra Points chronicled the latest news from OneTeam and its affiliates... The Tracking Football website indicated that 69 percent of NCAA football transfers came from a different state than their original college or university, 72 percent left home states for out-of-state transfer schools and 88 percent of transfers moved to another state with their final 2021 destinations... INFLCR moved its campus tour to Florida State athletics for updates and 2021-22 possibilities, and the ACC Network featured the group on one of its afternoon talk shows... The Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee approved the state's NIL Senate Bill 187 last week with a move to the Senate for a final vote... Upper Deck is using the compliance software firm Spry to help departments with NIL activities and compensation related to collegiate sports trading cards... Hospitality entrepreneur David Grutman is serving as special partner and ambassador with the athletically-conscious Slinger Bag Co... Charles River Associates marketing and survey firm has completed findings that show that schools and pro sports franchises giving away such collectibles as bobblehead figures, T-shirts and other amenities may increase attendance from 5-10 percent at football clashes and similar large-scale events... The state of Mississippi is working to enhance its Mississippi Delta catfish farm production, which has led to sterling donations by catfish farmers to Mississippi State, Ole Miss and several public universities in the Magnolia State... Alaska Anchorage is seeking \$3 million in funding before Aug. 31 to save its men's ice hockey program... The state of Arkansas has opened all collegiate venues to 100 percent capacity for football and other fall sports... INFLCR conducted a NIL campus tour of Ole Miss athletics with features on AD Keith Carter and men's head basketball coach Kermit Davis Jr., among others... The American Ultimate Disk League has partnered with 91 Ultimate for AUDL apparel and fan merchandise... Some limited reservations

remain for the St. John's Red Storm Coach Mike Hampton Summer Baseball Camps... The Vanderbilt East Towers (I and II) are being imploded on July 31 after housing Vanderbilt students from 1966-2020 such as NFF College Hall of Fame member Mack Brown, longtime college coach and Mack's brother Watson Brown, and NFL standouts Ken Stone, Earl Bennett, Bob Asher, Jim Arnold, Jay Cutler, Corey Harris, and Shelton Quarles, among others... Tennessee State athletics spoke with local NHL authorities in Nashville and other key officials about possibly starting varsity ice hockey at TSU... College athletics officials are studying the effects of several cancellations of American Airlines flights due to labor shortages and possible union concerns... A shortage of computer chips used in iPhones, laptops and automobiles have led to inventory shortages and possibly higher prices as college athletics prepares for the 2021-22 academic year... UCF athletics reached a marketing and financial agreement with The Athlete Network... Canadian legislators have enacted a national legalization of single-game wagering... Learfield IMG College named Caleb Swann general manager for athletics at Florida State... Canisius women's basketball coach Scott Hemer has completed his coaching assignment... Wake Forest added years on the personal pact of men's head golf coach Jerry Haas contract... Fanatics has brought former FanDuel CEO Matt King into an executive position... Seniors on the 2020-21 Wisconsin's men's basketball met with head coach Greg Gard on multiple challenges and noted that coaches listened well to student-athletes' concerns for future teams... Southwest Airlines CEO and Texas football fan Gary T. Kelly is retiring as chair of the 50-year old carrier on Feb. 1, 2020... Virginia athletics discovered that financial challenges were not as severe during the 2020-21 academic year thanks to higher contributions and a larger than anticipated member share from the Atlantic Coast Conference... East Carolina athletics is working with its Miller School of Entrepreneurship to begin the SABRE (Student Athlete Brand Resource Education) program to install the NIL compensation plan... Kansas athletics' fiscal year 2022 budget is an estimated \$100 million. The final 2021 fiscal year budget projection is \$82.4 million with a possible deficit of \$12 million - far below the projected shortfalls when the nation was shut down in March 2020... South Carolina State is working with Taymar Sales U for ticket sales and corporate sponsorship sales and management. SCSU also is the first HBCU to partner with TSU... The Citadel is adding several Daktronics LED displays at Johnson Hagood Stadium... James Madison football is utilizing new Daktronics audio-visual systems at Bridgeforth Stadium/Zane Showker Field and Sentara Park with a new south end zone video board... Catapult Sports has purchased London-based SBG Sports

Software for \$40 million for live data and in-house video development... Ohio's NIL bill has passed an Ohio House of Representatives committee and already been passed by the Ohio Senate... The California State Senate has made amendments to the earlier California Fair Pay to Play Act to move its effective date to Sept. 1... Kentucky has issued an executive order to place NIL regulations for compensation by Thursday... Florida State athletics is working with its student-athletes as well as communications staff to certify that state laws for NIL compensation are observed... Nebraska students, faculty and staff who have received the anti-COVID-19 serum are eligible for a special drawing, which includes FB season tickets, free in-state tuition for a year for students and a trip for two to Ireland for NU employees... INFLCR and Game Plan are working together on the new Game Plan Careers' Learning Management System and employers' portals... Indiana State athletics and The Aspire Group now have a multiyear partnership for selling and servicing Sycamores tickets... All U. of New Orleans' live-streaming contests will be carried on ESPN+ starting in August... James Madison athletics has signed an agreement with Athlete Network for student-athletes' life skills' education and future financing... Nike's stock reports indicated second quarter revenue of \$5.38 billion and a four percent rise in stocks... Michigan State athletics will use the EverGreen NIL program to focus on helping student-athletes maximize their NIL experience through branding, empowerment, education, and innovation... Research indicated that legal sports book companies in Colorado did \$250 million-plus in June transactions, and that number is expected to double during football season if the experts are correct... FIU's football facility is now FIU Stadium after its 2025-20 naming rights' agreement expired... New Mexico State athletics introduced its official tequila brand as Cantera Negra - believed to be the first tequila brand sponsorship for college athletics... Kansas State's unique Shamrock Zone at Bill Snyder Family Stadium is on schedule to open in August... The states of Ohio and Oregon are in the midst or have passed NIL compensation legislation... Western Michigan athletics extended its marketing and apparel contract with adidas through the 2027-28 academic year... Gonzaga is beginning the Next Level program for NIL solutions with INFLCR... UNLV athletics will have a program called The Vegas Effect with assistance from NOCAP Sports for upcoming NIL matters... Southern Utah athletics has a multi-year agreement with INFLCR and the Verified Group... Louisville athletics and CLC and Game Plan are using Compass for online NIL education, disclosure and career services... Former Georgia football student-athlete and current Icon Source vice president Drew Butler made it official about his company's new partnership with INFLCR.

NFF College Hall of Fame coach R.C. Slocum of Texas A&M is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma. Thousands have sent prayers and thoughts for his recovery...NFF College Hall of Fame coach Bob Stoops is replacing now-NFL Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Urban Meyer on the FOX Sports national college pregame show...Manchester (England) United soccer standout Marcus Rashford has captured the 2021 ESPY Pat Tillman Award for helping raise funds for thousands of underserved children. The award memorializes NFF College Hall of Fame defensive back Pat Tillman, who passed away in action in the Middle East in 2004 after leaving his post-college NFL career to serve his country...Tom McCartney, son of NFF College Hall of Fame coach Bill McCartney of Colorado, is preparing for his 29th season at Boulder (Colo.) Fairview HS. Tom McCartney's uncle and namesake Tom McCartney also has served as a famed high school football coach in the Detroit, Mich., suburbs...Associate Supreme Court Justice and Stanford and Harvard football fan Stephen Breyer is looking at possible retirement after 31 years on the federal courts' bench in Massachusetts...Former Penn State standout and NFL Las Vegas Raiders DE Carl Nassib has identified himself publicly as gay – believed to be the only active player in the NFL of this gender...Rice swimmer Ahalya Lettenberger has earned a place on the 2021 U.S. Paralympic Team for Tokyo...Michelle Carter, daughter of former SMU football and track standout Michael Carter and 2016 Olympic women's gold medalist in the shot put, will miss the Tokyo Olympics after surgery for a benign tumor. Michelle and Michael Carter (silver medal in 1984) are the only father-daughter duo ever to medal in the Olympic shot put...Tickets have been placed on sale online for the 2020-21 Texas Sports Hall of Fame induction in Waco on Aug. 28. The website is tshof.org, and inductees are Leroy Burrell, Michelle Carter, Derrick Johnson, Shane Lechler, Francie Larrieu-Smith, DeMarcus Ware, Charlie Waters, Teresa Weatherspoon, and Sophia Young-Malcom...Liberty will add five standouts to its Sports Hall of Fame. They are Kyrie (Dorn) Adams, Pat Bussey, Robert Karlsson, Megan Frazee Leuzinger, and James McKnight...Former Maine and Virginia standout Rick Carlisle has returned to the NBA Indiana Pacers as head coach...Former Texas WR standout Marquise Goodwin competed in the long and triple jumps last week in qualifying for the U.S. Summer Olympics track and field team next month in Tokyo...1988 FWAA Outland Trophy and Lombardi Trophy winner Tracy Rocker of Auburn has been seen on television each time his All-America pitcher son Kumar Rocker throws for Vanderbilt in the NCAA World Series. Tracy Rocker accepted a new position as defensive line coach for the Philadelphia Eagles earlier this year after working as a college assistant for 20-plus years.

ESPN vice president for programming and acquisitions Stacie McCollum is the new SEC Network director of programming and acquisitions while Jeramy Michiaels is moving to the ACC and Longhorn Networks as a key administrator. ESPN senior vice president Ilan Ben-Hanan will retain oversight of the network's college portfolio...The Athletic discovered that gross alcohol sales at Iowa's Kinnick Stadium during the complete 2019 home season was \$241,790...Sports Illustrated has started a new service known as SITickets.com with a portion of each ticket order going to SI's parent company. Ticket Evolution and the Ticket Network will serve as secondary ticket sites for the group...NEP (formerly a division of KNEP-TV in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and NEP Broadcasting) has partnered with Host City Americas as sports events' delivery partners...ESPN philosophized that there would be as many as 110-115 NCAA FBS teams out of the running for an expanded College Football Playoff picture and ample schools ready to accept post-season bowl bids. The report also noted that an average of 11 Power Five Conference schools might occupy all but one or two of the CFP positions from past performances and rankings since the start of the 2014 season...Yahoo Sports noted that there could be seasons in a 12-team CFP where such occurrences as Texas A&M's 10-2 and No. 8 nationally squad upset then-11-0 and No. 1 nationally (Coaches Poll) Kansas State (11-0) 36-33 in overtime to scramble the Bowl Championship Series and bowl invitations. Yahoo experts speculated on how many teams a specific conference might place into the CFP mix if that situation happened again...The Athletic opined that in some seasons the College Football Playoff had diverted media coverage from several of the traditional bowl games and was developed essentially from a business and profits' standpoint...Longtime ESPN SportsCenter host Neil Everett is working to renegotiate his contract with the network before it expires later this summer...Roku CEO Anthony Wood spoke about the large number of people "cutting cables" and local antennas to watch college sports on television more inexpensively...The Athletic's Mitch Sherman chronicled 24th NCAA College Baseball World Series and spoke of the major adrenalin returning to the city of Omaha, Nebraska, after the COVID-19 series cancellation...USA Today reported on Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's majority opinion about possible NCAA antitrust questions in the Alston Case...Moody's has listed an updated bond rating for Learfield Communications after the company raised \$242 million in equity from investors...The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News newspaper interviewed numerous Pac-12 Conference ADs about corporate partners, scheduling in football, networking with potential national sponsors, and garnering a sense of togetherness in purpose for football in

'21...The Athletic mentioned that the Rose Bowl presented by Capital One has its own contact with ESPN while the College Football Playoff's four-team televised format with ESPN goes through post-2025. The online publication also stated that it could take up to five years from now to implement a 12-team, playoff...The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch newspaper spoke with ACC commissioner Jim Phillips about the need of possible further antitrust protection for the NCAA and a national (NCAA or federal) NIL standard for procedures and to avoid additional lawsuits...The famed New Yorker magazine narrowly avoided a personnel strike last week when labor and management came to terms...Sports Illustrated wrote about student-athletes visiting with politicians and NCAA representatives about the implementation of NIL compensation...Sportico philosophized on the effects of new educational expenses and financing them for schools and conferences in light of the Alston Case...The Wall Street Journal checked into Comcast's new webstreaming plans and how the network seeks to cut into some of Roku's and Amazon's avenues with new offerings and sports programming. The FWAA highlighted 2008 and '09 FWAA Outland Trophy winners tackle Andre Smith of Alabama and DT Ndamukong Suh of Nebraska, respectively, recipient in its summer remembrance series. Tyler Neville of Maine, Adam Kuffner of Ole Miss, Laurie Bollig of CoSIDA, Chris Theisen of Kansas, and Mike Murphy of New Hampshire were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter and magazine...Arizona, Arizona State, Baylor, Cincinnati, Kansas, Creighton, Idaho, Kansas, Louisville, Michigan, Michigan State, Oregon, and Virginia Tech are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...The U.S. Department of Education has reminded colleges and departments of athletics about civil rights' equality for all races, creeds, colors, and preferred gender roles for the 2021-22 academic year...The U.S. Supreme Court on June 21 unanimously ruled (9-0) against the NCAA in the Alston Case to uphold lower court rulings invalidating some measures of the NCAA's amateurism legislation...The NBA released a complete list of players participating in the 2021 NBA Draft Combine...Game Four of the NBA Atlanta Hawks first-round playoff with the New York Knicks became the first sporting event in history to be classified as a TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency) environmentally "green" contest...The International Olympic Committee explained that 80 percent-plus of those staying in the Olympic Village will be vaccinated, and there will be a definitive COVID-19 protocol book for the Tokyo Olympics, which may allow as much as 10,000 spectators for several popular events. All public spectators will come

from Japan...NCAA president Dr. Mark Emmert, general counsel Scott Bearby and consulting attorney Jeffrey Mishkin commented on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the Alston Case and repercussions of amateurism and educational equipment to be provided for student-athletes...U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker (Rep-Miss.), the ranking member of the Senate Commerce Committee, met with 11 student-athletes about pending NIL plans. Sen. Wicker was at Ole Miss as an undergraduate when NFF Chairman Archie Manning quarterbacked the Rebels...The NCAA 2021 Pathway Program features such Division I athletics leaders as Texas A&M deputy AD and senior woman administrator Kristen Brown, Jacksonville deputy AD and SWA Dr. Lauren Cevis, Mississippi Valley senior associate AD and SWA Renia Edwards, and North Carolina A&T associate AD Carl Hairston, among others...The NBA Boston Celtics added Ime Udoka of Portland State and San Francisco as head coach for the 2021-22 season...NC State's baseball squad had to play with just 13 student-athletes (nine position players, four pitchers) due to COVID-19 protocols last Friday in the NCAA Baseball World Series semifinals against Vanderbilt and later were eliminated from the semifinals by the NCAA and local authorities because of COVID-19 protocols...The NCAA has received alternate legislation proposed by the Pac-12, ACC and SEC that would allow individual schools initially to enact NIL monetary compensation. NCAA president Dr. Emmert has requested temporary guidance from conferences for Thursday's first day of NIL legislation in numerous states...The NCAA Division I Council requested changes in the women's basketball recruiting calendar to include expansion of the August shutdown period and shifting September contact periods to an evaluation period...The NCAA Division I Council and the DI NIL Legislative Solutions Group agreed that school boosters will be permitted to provide NIL compensation to student-athletes.

<p>Schedule with New Year's Six Games <i>(All Games Televised by ESPN, EST)</i> Friday, Dec. 31, 2021 (CFP Semifinals & Championship Jan. 10) Goodyear Cotton Bowl AT&T Stadium Arlington, Texas, 4 or 8 p.m. Capital One Orange Bowl Hard Rock Stadium Miami Lakes, Fla., 4 or 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10 CFP Championship, Semifinal Winners Lucas Oil Stadium Indianapolis, Ind., 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022 <i>(Other New Year's Six Bowls)</i> Thursday, Dec. 30 Chick Fil-A Peach Bowl Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. TBD Friday, Jan. 1 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl State Farm Stadium Glendale, Ariz. TBD</p>

Audi Q8 is the state of Audi's SUV art



by Matt Degen

Now in the second year of its existence, the Audi Q8 represents the state of Audi's SUV art. It has many mechanical things in common with the Q7 midsize 3-row premium-crossover SUV, but lets its occupants stretch out over two rows instead of three. An especially roomy back seat slides forward or back by 5.1 inches to accommodate taller passengers or more cargo.

Students of luxury vehicles will hear more and more about 48-volt mild-hybrid systems that smooth out the engine restart action. The Q8 has just such a system. Other tech toys on offer include an adaptive air suspension, dual touch screens and Audi's Virtual Cockpit that replaces the usual gauges with a configurable LCD display.

As well as an overall design that brings more attitude to the usual Audi polish, the Q8 also introduces an element of sleekness to the exterior design, without going too far down the "4-door SUV coupe" trail blazed by the BMW X6. The Porsche Cayenne Coupe, Land Rover Range Rover Sport and Mercedes-Benz GLE-Class Coupe are other players in this elite game.

A 500-horsepower Audi SQ8 is due later this year and we will update this review when more information becomes available.

This luxury SUV is a perfect choice for long trips, and the quiet cabin means it can be deceptive while gathering speed. The turbocharged 3.0-liter V6 feels sufficiently muscular, even when driving in areas of high altitude. It's a smooth engine, but isn't free of turbo lag.

The steering is light yet accurate, while the 8-speed automatic transmission works well enough to make the driver forget about the shift paddles under the thick-rimmed steering wheel.

Under normal conditions, the all-wheel-

drive system (Audi calls it Quattro) sends 60 percent of power to the rear wheels. This prevents the Q8 from feeling too unwieldy and nose-heavy.

Even so, the Q8 weighs a hefty 5,004 pounds and this is perceptible while driving hard through tight corners. But the Q8 is always composed, aided by selectable driving modes (Comfort, Auto, Dynamic and Individual).

The optional adaptive air suspension also brings rear-wheel steering for optimum agility. Its additional modes (Allroad and Offroad) provide the clearance, damping and stability-control calibrations for extra confidence in snow and mud.

When parked in Offroad mode, the rear of the Q8 can be lowered by 2.5 inches (using a button in the cargo area) to make loading/unloading easier.

This optional feature is far from new, but the overhead view provided by four wide-angle cameras makes easy work of slotting the Q8 into tight spaces. The driver can even zoom in and out.

Now in its second generation, the Virtual Cockpit provides the Q8 with a high-resolution color instrument panel featuring large Google imagery and data such as height above sea level.

From the first moment of climbing into any of the Audi Q8's seats, it's clear that this is a refined and high-quality vehicle. But it's more than that. It's a mission statement, an evolution of Audi interior design. An air vent (illuminated by an optional LED feature) spans the width of the dashboard. The dash itself is angled toward the driver, and although the whole thing is unfussy, it still looks classy thanks to quality materials like fine leather and smooth wood.

The infotainment system consists of two high-resolution displays with tactile and audible feedback. The lower screen

replaces Audi's traditional rotary controller and recognizes handwritten inputs.

Freed from the constraints of supplying three seating rows, the Audi Q8 offers plenty of space. Front-seat travel is generous, as is headroom, even with the standard panoramic sunroof. The view out is great, but the rearview mirror's aspect is hindered somewhat by the sloping roof.

The reclining rear seats split and fold in 40/20/40 fashion. Behind them is 30.5 cubic feet of luggage area, expanding to 60.7 cubic feet when they're folded down. **2020 Audi Q8 Exterior**

Just as the cabin illustrates a fresh design philosophy, so does the outside. The Q8 sports the look of Audi's latest crossover SUVs. The small Q3 follows the same cues and the revamped Q7 does as well.

Such as the hexagonal grille flanked by aluminum-look pieces that connect to the LED headlights. Frameless windows also trick the eye into making the Q8 seem sleeker and sportier. It all adds up to a welcome injection of attitude that's been missing from what we've come to consider as typical Audi.

Premium trim can be enhanced by a Black Optic package. Premium Plus and Prestige can now be ordered with an S Line package bringing 2-tone 21-inch alloy wheels, illuminated doorsills and a few other touches, plus the option of Black Optic additions, including black roof rails and 22-inch alloy wheels.

This is a flagship SUV, so even the entry-level version comes well equipped. The Audi Q8 has LED headlights with automatic high beams, leather seating surfaces, tri-zone automatic climate control, panoramic sunroof, 20-inch alloy wheels, adaptive suspension, smartphone integration, heated front seats, front/rear parking sensors, keyless entry/ignition, hands-free tailgate operation, and the latest generation of Audi's Virtual Cockpit.

Premium Plus has a Bang & Olufsen audio system, multi-color ambient cabin lighting and 21-inch alloy wheels. Prestige adds HD Matrix-design LED headlights, driver-assistance features, leather-covered dashboard, and a head-up display.

Premium trim may be ordered with a Convenience package that includes wireless charging, phone-signal booster and blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert. Also available are 21-inch alloy wheels and rear side airbags.

Premium Plus is eligible for the adaptive air suspension with rear-wheel steering, 22-inch alloy wheels and a bundle of driver-assistance features.

Prestige versions of the Q8 can be further enhanced by a Luxury package bringing finer leather, heated/ventilated/massag-

ing/multi-contour 18-way power-adjustable front seats with memory settings, dual-pane acoustic glass, and a cabin air-ionizer/fragrance feature. There's also the option of a thundering 23-speaker/1,920-watt Bang & Olufsen system.

A turbocharged 3.0-liter V6 propels the Audi Q8 with 335 horsepower and 369 lb-ft of torque; maximum thrust comes in at a low 1,370 rpm.

There's also a belt-driven starter generator which is part of the 48-volt mild-hybrid setup taking energy from a 10Ah lithium-ion battery. This is the aspect that makes the fuel-saving engine stop/start action almost imperceptible.

All-wheel drive is standard and the transmission is an 8-speed automatic with shift paddles mounted beneath the steering wheel.

3.0-liter turbocharged V6, 335 horsepower @ 5,000-6,400 rpm, 369 lb-ft of torque @ 1,370-4,500 rpm

EPA city/highway fuel economy: 17/21 mpg

The Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for a Q8 in Premium trim is \$68,200. A destination charge of \$995 is added to make \$69,195. The mid-level Premium Plus starts at \$73,195.

The top Prestige trim is \$78,695. Hit the options list with abandon to add the Luxury package, 22-inch alloy wheels, adaptive suspension, heated rear seats/steering wheel and a few other items, and it's easy to sail past \$100,000.

For context, the X6 is priced from \$65,295, the Range Rover Sport from \$69,945 and the Cayenne Coupe from \$76,650 (yikes). There isn't a GLE-Class Coupe, but the SUV version with comparable power starts at \$62,145.

Before buying, check the KBB.com Fair Purchase Price to see what others in your area are paying for their new Q8. It's too early to tell how resale values for this model will pan out.

2020 Audi Q8 Premium

LED headlights w/automatic high beams
Panoramic sunroof

Adaptive suspension

Power-adjustable steering column

Tri-zone automatic climate control

Heated/8-way-power front seats w/driver's-side memory

Hands-free tailgate operation

Apple CarPlay/Android Auto smartphone integration

2020 Audi Q8 Premium Plus

Ventilated front seats

Bang & Olufsen 17-speaker/730-watt audio system

Wireless charging

Phone-signal booster

Blind-spot monitoring w/rear cross-traffic alert



TICKET WINDOW



TICKET CAMPOUND





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