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Weekly

2022 AAC Football Preview

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2022 CHEVROLET MAIN STAGE



TRACE ADKINS
FRI 9.30 | 8:30 PM



SABRINA CARPENTER
SAT 10.1 | 4:00 PM



PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
SAT 10.1 | 8:30 PM



LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE
SUN 10.2 | 8:30 PM



CHRIS PÉREZ BAND
TUE 10.4 | 8:30 PM



KRAIG PARKER
WED 10.5 | 5:30 & 8:30 PM



NEWFOUND GLORY
FRI 10.7 | 5:30 & 8:30 PM



JAMESTOWN REVIVAL
SAT 10.8 | 8:30 PM



LUCINDA WILLIAMS
SUN 10.9 | 8:30 PM



DE PINA
WED 10.10 | 10:00 & 12:00 PM



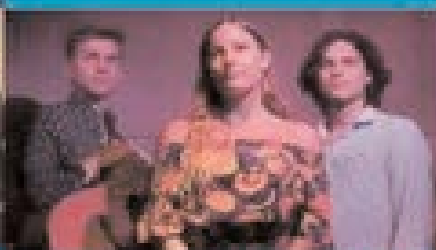
JASON DOLAN AND THE STRAGGLERS
FRI 10.14 | 8:30 PM



FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS
SAT 10.15 | 8:30 PM



NIGHT RANGER
SUN 10.16 | 8:30 PM



GIRL NAMED TOM
FRI 10.21 | 8:30 PM



RESURRECTION
SAT 10.22 | 5:30 & 8:30 PM



LA MAFIA
SUN 10.23 | 3:00 PM



2022 TEXAS RANGERS SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					TOR 6:07	TOR 2:07
3 TOR 12:37	4 COL 3:35	5 COL 7:03		7 LAA 7:15	6 LAA 7:15	8 LAA 6:05
10 LAA 1:35		12 SEA 8:40	11 SEA 8:40	13 SEA 8:40	14 OAK 8:40	15 OAK 9:07
17 OAK 8:07	16 HOU 7:05	18 HOU 7:05	19 HOU 7:05	20 HOU 1:05	21 ATL 7:05	22 ATL 6:05

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 NYM 6:10	2 NYM 2:10
3 NYM 12:40	4 BAL 12:05	5 BAL 8:05	6 BAL 8:05		7 MIN 7:05	8 MIN 3:05
10 MIN 1:05	9 OAK 7:05	11 OAK 7:05	12 OAK 7:05	13 SEA 7:05	14 SEA 7:05	15 SEA 8:05
17 SEA 1:05		16 ALL-STAR GAME		18 MIA 12:10	19 OAK 8:40	20 OAK 8:07
24 OAK 8:07	23 SEA 9:10	25 SEA 9:10	26 SEA 2:40	27 LAA 8:38	28 LAA 8:38	29 LAA 8:07
31 LAA 8:07						

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 ATL 1:35		1 PHI 5:45	2 PHI 5:45		4 NYY 8:05	5 NYY 12:05
8 NYY 12:35		6 KC 7:05	7 KC 7:05	9 KC 7:05	10 BOS 7:05	11 BOS 6:05
14 BOS 1:35	13 LAA 7:05	15 LAA 7:05	16 LAA 7:05	17 HOU 7:10	18 HOU 7:10	19 HOU 8:10
22 HOU 1:30		21 LAA 8:38	23 LAA 8:38	24 OAK 8:40	25 OAK 8:40	26 OAK 2:07
29 OAK 8:07	28 TB 7:05	30 TB 7:05				

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 BAL 7:05	2 BAL 7:05	3 BAL 1:05	4 CWS 7:05	5 CWS 7:05	6 CWS 8:05
7 CWS 1:30		8 HOU 7:10	9 HOU 7:10	10 HOU 1:10	11 SEA 7:05	12 SEA 2:10
14 SEA 1:30	13 OAK 7:05	15 OAK 7:05	16 OAK 7:05	17 OAK 1:05	18 MIN 7:10	19 MIN 6:10
22 MIN 1:10	21 MIN 8:10	23 COL 7:40	24 COL 2:10		25 DET 7:05	26 DET 8:05
29 DET 1:35		28 HOU 7:05	30 HOU 1:05			

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TB 7:10	2 TB 1:05	3 SEA 7:05	4 SEA 8:05
5 SEA 1:35	6 CLE 8:10	7 CLE 8:10	8 CLE 8:10		10 CWS 7:10	9 CWS 6:10
12 CWS 1:30	11 HOU 7:05	13 HOU 7:05	14 HOU 2:05	15 DET 6:10	16 DET 6:10	17 DET 2:10
19 DET 12:40		18 PHI 7:05	20 PHI 3:05		22 WSH 7:05	21 WSH 3:05
26 WSH 2:35	25 KC 7:10	27 KC 7:10	28 KC 1:30			

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 BOS 8:10	2 BOS 8:10	3 BOS 2:10
4 BOS 12:30	5 HOU 6:10	6 HOU 7:10	7 HOU 7:10		9 TOR 7:05	8 TOR 6:05
11 TOR 6:35	10 MIA 12:10 & 12:10	12 OAK 7:05	13 OAK 7:05		15 TB 8:10	14 TB 5:10
16 TB 12:10		18 LAA 7:05	17 LAA 7:05	19 LAA 1:10	20 CLE 7:05	21 CLE 6:05
23 CLE 6:35		22 SEA 8:40	24 SEA 8:40	25 SEA 8:40	26 LAA 8:38	27 LAA 8:07
30 LAA 3:07	29 NYY 5:05	31 NYY 1:05 & 7:05	1 NYY 7:05			

HOME GAMES | SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Big 12-BIG EAST Battle Extended



Big 12-BIG EAST Battle Extended Two Years

The Big 12 and BIG EAST Conferences have announced a two-year extension to the Big 12-BIG EAST Battle, their men's basketball non-conference scheduling alliance which has been in effect since 2019-20. The extension will include competition in November and December during each of the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons.

With each conference adding member schools since the start of the original agreement, The Battle will increase from 10 to 11 matchups between the conferences during the two extension years. The Big 12 will host six games in 2023-24, and the BIG EAST will host six contests in 2024-2025.

The Battle matchups will continue to be jointly determined by the two conferences, with the home team choosing the venue of its game. Broadcast arrangements for the contests will be determined by the national television rights holder of the home team, which is ESPN for the Big 12 and FOX Sports for the BIG EAST.

This season's Big 12-BIG EAST Battle schedule was announced previously.

2022 Big 12-BIG EAST Battle Schedule

Nov. 29	Baylor at Marquette
Nov. 30	Providence at TCU
Nov. 30	Georgetown at Tex. Tech
Nov. 30	Kansas State at Butler
Dec. 1	Creighton at Texas
Dec. 1	Oklahoma St. at UConn
Dec. 1	Seton Hall at Kansas
Dec. 3	Oklahoma at Villanova
Dec. 3	West Virginia at Xavier
Dec. 4	St. John's at Iowa State



Preseason AP Football Poll Prediction

What will the 2022 preseason AP Poll potentially look like? It's our predicted best guess on the early college football rankings.

The AP poll is the longest running college football measuring stick going, and it's still – along with the USA TODAY Coaches Poll – a great indication of how the top teams are viewed and where the expectations are set.

Lately the preseason poll pretty much mirrors the Coaches version, but there are always a few tweaks and differences with a few more non-traditional teams getting a little more love – last year's had Cincinnati and Coastal Carolina higher than the Coaches Poll did.

This year isn't going to be quite as crazy as last year coming off the strange 2020, but this season there should be a

whole lot of differences from the Coaches Poll with so many questions outside of the top five.

The 2021 Preseason AP Poll had Alabama No. 1, Oklahoma No. 2, Clemson No. 3, Ohio State No. 4. Eventual national champion Georgia came in at 5, Cincinnati was 8, and Michigan was stuck in the Also Receiving Votes abyss.

Below is NOT the actual 2022 Preseason AP Poll – it's our prediction and projection of what it might be before its release in mid-August.

2022 Preseason AP Poll Prediction

Number in parentheses is where each team finished in final 2021 rankings.

- 25 Penn State Nittany Lions (NR)
- 24 Florida Gators (NR)
- 23 Kentucky Wildcats (18)
- 22 BYU Cougars (19)
- 21 Texas Longhorns (NR)
- 20 Tennessee Volunteers (NR)
- 19 Baylor Bears (5)
- 18 Iowa Hawkeyes (23)
- 17 Houston Cougars (21)
- 16 Arkansas Razorbacks (20)
- 15 Utah Utes (12)
- 14 Oregon Ducks (22)
- 13 NC State Wolfpack (20)
- 12 Ole Miss Rebels (11)
- 11 Oklahoma Sooners (10)
- 10 Oklahoma State Cowboys (7)
- 9 Michigan State Spartans (9)
- 8 USC Trojans (NR)
- 7 Texas A&M Aggies (NR)
- 6 Michigan Wolverines (3)
- 5 Notre Dame Fighting Irish (8)
- 4 Clemson Tigers (14)
- 3 Georgia Bulldogs (1)
- 2 Ohio State Buckeyes (6)
- 1 Alabama Crimson Tide (2)

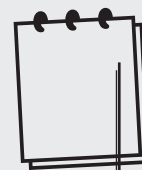
NCAA BASEBALL

D1 Baseball

1. Tennessee
2. Virginia Tech
3. Stanford
4. Oregon State
5. Texas A&M
6. Miami
7. Louisville
8. Texas Tech
9. Oklahoma State
10. Maryland
11. Texas State
12. Gonzaga
13. Arkansas
14. Southern Miss
15. Virginia
16. Notre Dame
17. UCSanta Barbara
18. TCU
19. Texas
20. UCLA
21. LSU
22. Oklahoma
23. East Carolina
24. Auburn
25. Grand Canyon

Baseball America

1. Tennessee
2. Stanford
3. Virginia Tech
4. Texas A&M
5. Oregon State
6. Miami
7. Louisville
8. Oklahoma
9. Maryland
10. Gonzaga
11. Oklahoma State
12. North Carolina
13. Texas
14. Notre Dame
15. TCU
16. Texas State
17. Southern Miss
18. Florida
19. UCLA
20. East Carolina
21. Arkansas
22. Texas Tech
23. UCSanta Barbara
24. Auburn
25. Virginia



WEEKLY CALENDAR

	AUGUST 5 FRIDAY	AUGUST 6 SATURDAY	AUGUST 7 SUNDAY	AUGUST 8 MONDAY	AUGUST 9 TUESDAY	AUGUST 10 WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 11 THURSDAY
	Rangers vs White Sox 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs White Sox 6:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs White Sox 1:35 / BSSW		Rangers at Astros 7:10 / BSSW	Rangers at Astros 7:10 / BSSW	Rangers at Astros 1:10 / BSSW
	Roughriders vs Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders vs Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders vs Amarillo 6:05		Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05
		Portland vs Dallas 9:30 / TXA21					
		FIRST PRE-SEASON GAME AUG 13					

Texas Rangers News and Notes



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

ARLINGTON, Texas – The Texas Rangers finished another losing week with a 3-4 record... winning a series against the Angels but getting swept by the Orioles.

The team looked stale on the field. The offense wasn't clicking, with just occasional home runs accounting for most of the scoring. The starting pitching was in shambles with Jon Gray, one of just two reliable starters, going to the injured list and expected to be out for an extended period. On top of that, rumors were swirling that manager Chris Woodward might be on shaky ground for keeping his job.

It was surprising, then, that Thursday turned into an almost magical night at the ballpark. Two former first round draft picks were summoned from the minor leagues, and both were in the starting lineup. Earlier in the day, this year's first round draft pick, Kumar Rocker, was introduced to the local media. His size and poise are impressive



Chris Woodward might be on shaky ground

On the field, Cole Ragans was the starting pitcher. Woodward told the media after the game that one of the pitching coaches said that Ragans was the most prepared pitcher the minor league system had ever sent to the Rangers. Ragans was cool calm and collected. He needed to be. He is left-handed, and the White Sox hit left-handed pitchers better than any team in baseball. They entered the game hitting .280 against lefties, and the second best team wasn't even close at .268. Ragans coaxed a groundout, then gave up a single and struck out a batter to be one out away from a scoreless inning. A single and a walk followed, loading the bases. He was definitely

in hot water but said after the game that he stayed focused on just the next batter. One pitch later, he was on his way to the dugout after Juan Moncada popped out to first base to end the inning. Ragans finished five innings, a rarity lately for Ranger starters not named Perez or Gray.

The Sox touched him for an unearned run in the third inning. The Rangers had pushed across a run in the second inning, such that Ragans left with the game tied and thus did not take a decision.

Texas took the lead with two seventh inning runs. The other debuting first round draft pick, Bubba Thompson, got his first Major League hit on a bunt single to be part of the scoring. The Sox pulled within one with an eighth inning run, but Jonathan Hernandez was lights out in the ninth inning, setting down all three Sox hitters on 11 pitches, including two strikeouts. The win broke a seven game home losing streak. It was more than just a win though. The team looked energetic and played hard. They definitely got a spark from the two rookies.

TRADE DEADLINE

Earlier in the week, the Major League trade deadline came and went. The headline trade was the mammoth swap between the Nationals and Padres. Juan Soto, just 23 years old two time All-Star outfielder, went from Washington to San Diego along with slugging first baseman, Josh Bell, for a haul of minor league prospects that will propel the National's farm system ratings into the top 10 in baseball.

Noted sportswriters Peter Gammons and Jon Heyman called it the most momentous trade in history. The Padres lineup already has two of the best hitters in baseball in Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis, Jr. Adding Soto and Bell makes it the most fearsome batting order in the game.

As for the Nationals, General Manager Mike Rizzo has been quoted in numerous national outlets as saying, "We set the bar very, very high (for Soto), and one team exceeded it, and that's the deal we made."

One other trade of interest to Ranger fans was Joey Gallo. There is no question that Gallo has been a miserable disappointment to the Yankees after they gave up four good prospects, including three that are already in the Majors (Glenn Otto, Josh Smith and Ezequiel Duran) for the left-handed power hitter they badly needed. Gallo turned down Ranger offers for a nine-digit contract last year before the trade deadline, prompting the Rangers to move the fan favorite to New York. His value is now so diminished that as a free agent this winter, he will undoubtedly be forced to sign a one year "pillow contract" for perhaps even less money than he is

making now and attempt to rebuild his value for the 2023-2024 off season.

The Rangers made one deal sending reliever Matt Bush to the Milwaukee Brewers for infielder Mark Mathias and left-handed pitcher Antoine Kelly. Kelly is the headliner of the deal. He is 19 and is pitching in A- ball this season. He is perceived to be a high ceiling prospect that could develop into a one or a two starter in the Major Leagues.

The Rangers certainly listened to offers for starting pitcher Martin Perez and reliever Matt Moore, but felt they were better off keeping both for the balance of the season even though both are on expiring contracts. The Rangers are free to negotiate with this pair now through the World Series before free agency opens in November. They felt this exclusive negotiating period will be a benefit as the Rangers are interested in retaining both players. Plus, at this point the team is in a tailspin, and the pitching is especially a wreck. Management fully expects the team to contend for the playoffs next season, and these two pitchers can be instrumental over the final two months of the season in building a winning culture.

As for the week 18 games, in addition to Thursday's, the week began with the Rangers taking two wins in three games last weekend. That completed the longest road trip of the season with a 5-6 record.

On Friday night, Martin Perez displayed the form that made him an All-Star this season. He allowed a run over seven innings to earn the win, improving to 9-2. Patrick Sandoval was almost as good for the Angels. He allowed two runs over 5-2/3rds innings. The Rangers still led 2-1 going to the ninth inning, when things went haywire. The teams combined to score six runs, with three being unearned as they combined to commit three errors in the ninth. The final score was Texas 7- Los Angeles 2, which in no way reflected the tight, well-played game fans saw in the first eight innings.

On Saturday, the Rangers led 2-0, 5-2, 5-3 and 7-4 in a back and forth game. The Rangers weary bullpen exploded in the eighth inning allowing five runs. Three outs later, the Angels had secured a 9-7 win.

In Sunday's finale, the teams played another tight game that was tied going to the ninth inning at 2-2. Ezequiel Duran doubled home three runs to provide the winning margin in a 5-2 win. Jonathan Hernandez was especially sharp in the ninth inning retiring all three batters he faced for his first save of the season.

The Rangers returned home for a seven game home stand starting with three games

against the Baltimore Orioles, which the O's swept by scores of 6-2, 8-2, and 6-3. Coupled with the three-game series these teams played in Baltimore July 4, 5 and 6, which the Orioles also swept, the Rangers lost every scheduled game against an American League opponent for the first time in their 50 year history.

The Rangers' offense sputtered in this series. Five of the seven runs they scored came on solo home runs. They were so futile on Monday that they advanced no runner past first base besides the two home runs.

The Rangers' best chance to win was Wednesday's series finale. Martin Perez was the starting pitcher and gave the Rangers six innings of one-run ball to lower his ERA to 2.46. The score was tied when he departed, so the loss went to Jose Leclerc, who gave up the winning runs in the eighth inning. Perez has now made 20 consecutive starts without being charged with a loss.

The Rangers finish the four game series with the White Sox this weekend. The announced starting pitchers for Texas are Glenn Otto (4-7) on Friday, Dane Dunning (1-6) on Saturday, and Spencer Howard (2-3) on Sunday. Game times (CDT) are 7:05 PM on Friday, 6:05 PM on Saturday, and 1:35 PM on Sunday.

NOTABLE:

* Corey Seager was selected as the Rangers' Player of the Month for July. He hit .318 with eight home runs and 19 RBIs.
* The Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association (MLBPAA) Heart and Hustle Award is selected from a field of 30 players – one from each team. The nominees were announced this week, and Adolis Garcia is the Rangers' nominee. Former Ranger Jose Trevino is the nominee from the New York Yankees.

* Kumar Rocker, the Rangers' selection with the third pick in this year's amateur draft, was introduced to the local media Thursday. In attendance were his mother, Lalitha, and father, Tracy, the defensive line coach for the Philadelphia Eagles, as well as his agent Scott Boras. Rocker will be going to Arizona for instruction with an eye toward pitching him the Arizona fall League.

* Cole Ragans was selected in the first round of the 2016 draft with the 30th overall pick, and Bubba Thompson was taken in the first round of the 2017 draft with the 26th overall pick. Thursday's game was the first since 1986 that two former first round picks debuted in the same game.

* Nate Lowe got two hits Thursday night to extend his hitting streak to 11 games, tying Adolis Garcia for the longest hitting streak by a Ranger this season.

Learning to concentrate on the course



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

The great basketball player Bill Russell who, recently passed away, once said about concentration,

“Concentration and mental toughness are the margins of victory.”

Concentration plays a big role in how well you are going to play during a round of golf which usually takes between four to five hours. There is no way anyone can maintain their focus and intensity for that amount of time without freeing up the mind.

The amount of time you’re actually over the ball and physically swinging is minimal compared to the overall amount of time you’re on the course. If you’re concerned with analyzing the swing and allowing a multitude of random swing thoughts, you’re in big trouble. You should be con-

centrating on swinging to the intended target, which is the fairway or green.

To accomplish this feat don’t allow your physical eye to stare or register too much time on the ball during set up; rather, train your mind’s eye to see the target.

Here’s an example, try it next time you’re on the practice range.

As I’ve mentioned before I’ve worked with numerous blind golfers over the years. They have to trust their swing because they can’t see the ball. Hit some balls with your eyes closed to get an idea of what I’m talking about, and then hit some balls with your head slightly tilted, facing towards a target like a yardage marker. After a few uncomfortable attempts you will quickly see we weren’t built to play golf looking at the target like we do when we play other sports. For example: In football, where are the quarterbacks eyes when he’s throwing to his receivers? On the ball? No, he’s looking at his receiver running down the field and he is throwing the ball to an intended area. Where are the pitchers eyes when he’s throwing a baseball? Again, not on the ball. He’s looking at the catcher and batter in front of him. Basketball player? His eyes are looking down the court or at the basket as he shoots the ball. See where I’m going with this.

In golf, our eyes are looking down at the ball. This is why it’s important to develop good mental imagery that can have a positive long lasting effect on your game.

The foundation of success on the course is to trust your swing and control your body motions - do not allow your motion to become a conscious effort.

A conscious swing creates undo amounts of tension and robs power and control. Being more aware of where the target is prevents you from spending so much time concentrating on the mechanics of the swing, which can greatly complicate matters.

Another thought is to allow the mind to run freely after hitting the shot. Enjoy the surroundings of the course and the beautiful scenery. Engage in conversation with your playing partners about sports, music, etc. Once you start getting closer to your ball, it’s time to start re-focusing on the task at hand. Get those blinders on, like the racehorses wear, creating tunnel vision and focus specifically at what lies ahead.

Check out where all the dangers are lurking on the hole such as water, sand, trees or out of bounds, then with the correct yardage and club start the pre-shot routine. From there you’re on cruise control so go ahead and pull the trigger.

Finally, how you concentrate will have a tremendous bearing on the results. Start taking heed of your concentrative and positive thought powers just as much as you do spending time bashing balls and hitting putts. Ultimately, they are all inter-connected. Don’t allow your concentration to be clouded by negative thoughts, or other factors.

The late Dallas Cowboys Football coach Tom Landry put things in perspective when it came to concentration. He stated,

“For a player to play the best they can is a matter of concentration by being unaware of distractions, positive or negative.”

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This week: Wyndham Championship



Kevin Kisner will look to defend his Wyndham Championship title. (Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images)

Wyndham Championship will mark the final television broadcast of long-time analyst and nine-time TOUR winner Sir Nick Faldo... Players also will be looking to crack the top 200 in the FedExCup Eligibility Points List to qualify for the Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

72-HOLE RECORD: 258, Henrik Stenson (2017), JT Poston (2019)

18-HOLE RECORD: 59, Brandt Snedeker (1st round, 2018).

LAST TIME: Kevin Kisner emerged from a dramatic six-man playoff to capture his fourth PGA TOUR title after a birdie on the second extra hole. Kisner began the day four shots off the lead and shot a final-round 66, which included birdies on Nos. 16 and 17. Kisner had lost in five TOUR playoffs previously, including three in 2015. Kevin Na, Branden Grace, Si Woo Kim, Adam Scott, and Roger Sloan were the others in the playoff. Scott had the best chance to win in the first playoff hole, but his 4-foot birdie try slid by. It was the third six-man playoff on the PGA TOUR, and first since 2001.

Fifty-four-hole leader Russell Henley was amongst the group who finished at T7, one shot out of the playoff. He reached 17 under after making the turn but bogeyed four of his final eight holes, including No. 18, to drop out of contention.

Chesson Hadley fired a final-round 62 (the round of the day, which included the first hole-in-one of his life) and moved from No. 132 to No. 125 in the FedExCup standings, earning the final spot in the FedExCup Playoffs by a single FedExCup point.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Television: Thursday-Friday, 2 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)

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

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Wyndham Championship
August 4 - August 7, 2022
Sedgefield Country Club
Greensboro, North Carolina
Purse - \$7,300,000
Winners share: \$1,314,000
Defending Champ - Kevin Kisner

By Adam Stanley

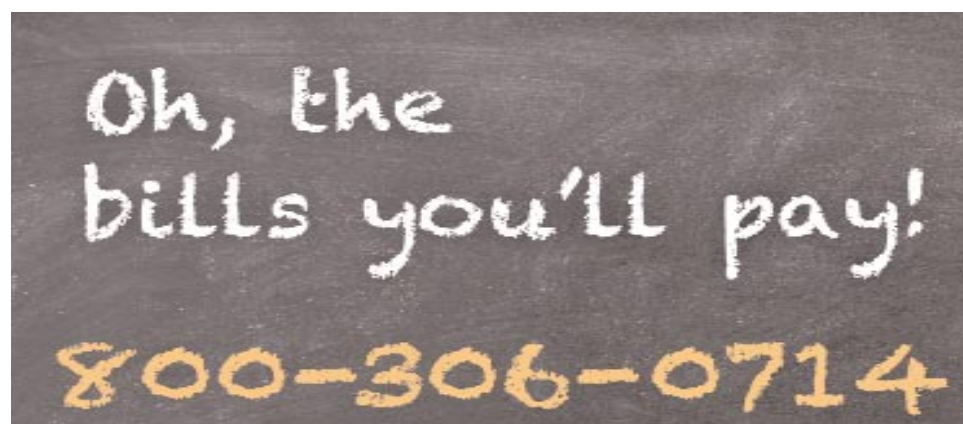
The Regular Season wraps up at the Wyndham Championship with no shortage of drama set to unfold around the top 125 on the FedExCup Eligibility Points List as players jockey for their place in the FedExCup Playoffs.

Kevin Kisner returns to defend after winning a six-man playoff a year ago. **FIELD NOTES:** Will Zalatoris will be the highest-ranked player in the field at Sedgefield Country Club... Past FedExCup champions Billy Horschel and Justin Rose are also in the field... Four of the six players from last year's playoff are returning to action at the Wyndham Championship – Kisner, Adam Scott, Roger Sloan, and Si Woo Kim, who won the 2016 Wyndham... 2019 Wyndham winner J.T. Poston returns to action; Poston recently picked up his second career win at the John Deere

Classic... Other notables include East Carolina alum Harold Varner III, U.S. Presidents Cup Captain Davis Love III (who won his third Wyndham Championship in 2015 at age 51), past PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Sungjae Im, and European major champs Danny Willett and Shane Lowry... William McGirt is playing in his final start of his Major Medical Extension... Sponsor exemptions include former college stars Chris Gotterup and Cole Hammer, along with former No. 1-ranked amateur Trent Phillips of the University of Georgia. Gotterup, seventh in this year's class of PGA TOUR U graduates, has made the cut in four of six PGA TOUR starts as a pro, highlighted by a T4 at the John Deere Classic. He's already clinched his spot in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals and now has his PGA TOUR card for 2023 in sight after making the cut at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. Hammer, best known for qualifying for the 2015 U.S. Open at the age of 15, was fifth in this year's PGA TOUR U Ranking presented by Velocity Global. **FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 FedExCup points. **COURSE:** Sedgefield Country Club (Ross), par 70, 7,131 yards. The TOUR tees it up at a Donald Ross venue for the second week in a row, with Detroit Golf Club also a Ross design. Opened in the 1920s, Sedgefield has Ross' typical small and undulating greens, although prior to last season is had yielded five straight win-

ning totals of 20 under or lower. Sedgefield was restored to the original Ross design in 2007 but lengthened to accommodate the PGA TOUR. It has hosted each Wyndham Championship since 2008.

STORYLINES: The Wyndham Championship marks the FedExCup Regular Season finale before the three-event FedExCup Playoffs get underway... Former Wyndham Championship winner Webb Simpson is seeking his second win at Sedgefield after several close calls. He has finished no worse than seventh in the last five Wyndhams, including two runners-up and two third-place finishes... Could there be another Chesson Hadley moment this season? Hadley was on the outside-looking-in a year ago, but fired a final-round 62 and moved to No. 125... Sungjae Im and Billy Horschel have a chance to move into the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 with a good finish... The



2022-23 FedExCup Season schedule



Next season's PGA schedule includes record prize money and eight invitationals

By PGATOUR.COM

PGA TOUR's 2022-23 FedExCup Season schedule raises the stakes on drama, consequences

- Reduced field sizes for FedExCup Playoffs adds additional importance to every week of the Regular Season and the Playoffs

- Next season's schedule includes record prize money and eight invitationals with elevated purses ranging from \$15 to \$25 million.

The PGA TOUR today announced its 2022-23 FedExCup Season schedule of 47 tournaments, featuring 44 Regular Season events and three FedExCup Playoffs events, culminating with the crowning of the 2023 FedExCup champion at the TOUR Championship at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, August 21- 27.

As announced on June 22, qualification criteria for the FedExCup Playoffs have been revised starting in 2023, with just 70 players earning a start in the first Playoffs event, the FedEx St. Jude Championship, followed by 50 players advancing to the BMW Championship, with the TOUR Championship field remaining at 30 players.

Next season's schedule includes record prize money and eight invitationals spread throughout with players competing for elevated purses ranging from \$15 to \$25 million. The bonus pools totaling \$145 million include \$75 million for the FedExCup, \$20 million for the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 and \$50 million for the Player Impact Program.

"We've heard from our fans and the overwhelming sentiment was that they wanted more consequences for both the FedExCup Regular Season and the Playoffs, and to further strengthen events that traditionally feature top players competing head-to-head," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. "We feel

strongly we've accomplished all of these objectives and more, creating a cadence of compelling drama for every tournament throughout the season. Each week has its own identity and purpose, and we're set up for an exciting 2022-23 campaign as we transition into a calendar season in 2024 that will include a number of new and innovative competitive aspects in the fall."

The 70 players who qualify for the first Playoffs event will be fully exempt for the following season as the TOUR transitions to a calendar-year season beginning in 2024 with the core portion of the FedExCup contested from January to August. Following the core FedExCup season, official PGA TOUR events will be conducted in the fall, where all players with status for the 2022-23 FedExCup Season will be eligible to compete. Those outside of the top-70 will compete for FedExCup points in a compelling, consequential final stretch to secure status for 2024.

Following the fall events, the TOUR will introduce a series of international events that include the top-50 players from the final FedExCup Points list, the top performers in the fall and additional eligibility as part of a limited-field, no-cut format. Further details on the fall events and the global series are expected to be announced later this year.

Highlights for the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season:

The 17th edition of the FedExCup Playoffs features three events, all carried by network partner CBS in 2023.

- FedEx St. Jude Championship (August 7-13) at TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee, with a 70- player field.

- BMW Championship (August 14-20) at Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, Illinois, with a 50-player field. o The FedEx St. Jude Championship and the BMW Championship feature significant increases in prize money, from \$15 million to \$20 million

- Supported by Proud Partners Accenture, Coca-Cola and Southern Company, the TOUR Championship (August 21-27) at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta will feature the top-30 players in the FedExCup standings.

- With only 70 players earning a spot in the first FedExCup Playoffs event, the Wyndham Championship (July 31-August 6) will take on an even more significant role in determining who qualifies for the Playoffs. The Wyndham Championship will also be the final event in the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10, where the top-10 performers earn bonus money for performance in the Regular Season.

In addition to the two Playoffs events, six invitationals will see significant increases in purse sizes in 2023:

- Kicking off the 2023 portion of the season, the Sentry Tournament of Champions (January 2-8) will have a purse of \$15 million, up from \$8.2 million in 2022. The winners-only event will lead off 2024 when the TOUR transitions into a calendar season.

- Three player-hosted invitationals, The Genesis Invitational (February 13-19) hosted by Tiger Woods, the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard (February 27-March 5) and the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday (May 29-June 4) hosted by Jack Nicklaus will see purses increase from \$12 million to \$20 million.

- With support from Proud Partners Grant Thornton, Morgan Stanley and Optum, the TOUR's flagship event, THE PLAYERS Championship (March 6-12), includes a PGA TOUR-record purse of \$25 million, up from \$20 million in 2022.

- The World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play (March 20-26) will once again feature 64 of the world's top players competing for \$20 million up from \$12 million.

- After a successful debut as a co-sanc-

tioned event, the Genesis Scottish Open (July 10-16) will be featured on both the PGA TOUR and the DP World Tour schedule ahead of The Open Championship (July 17-23) at Royal Liverpool. Additionally, the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship (July 10-16) and Barracuda Championship (July 17-23) will offer access to DP World Tour members for the second straight year.

- The 2022-23 season will once again kick off with the Fortinet Championship (September 12-18) in Napa, California, one of nine official FedExCup events to be played across the fall.

- Following the Fortinet Championship will be the 14th playing of the Presidents Cup (September 19-25) at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. The three Global partners of the Presidents Cup are Citi, Cognizant and Rolex.

- Announced earlier this summer, THE CJ CUP has relocated from Korea to Congaree Golf Club in Ridgeland, South Carolina, and has been renamed THE CJ CUP in South Carolina (October 17-23).

- Also, with the cancellation of the WGC-HSBC Champions, the Butterfield Bermuda Championship (October 24-30) has a standalone date with full FedExCup points awarded.

- Additional 2022 dates include the Sanderson Farms Championship (September 26-October 2), Shriners Children's Open (October 3-9), ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP (October 10-16) in Japan, World Wide Technology • Championship at Mayakoba (October 31-November 6), Cadence Bank Houston Open (November 7-13) and The RSM Classic (November 14-20) to conclude the fall calendar.

- After the Sentry Tournament of Champions (January 2-8) and the Sony Open in Hawaii (January 9-15) – celebrating its 25th year with Sony as title sponsor – launch the 2023 calendar year, the TOUR

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heads to California for The American Express (January 16-22) with its pro-am format in La Quinta.

- With a crowded weekend sports calendar, the Farmers Insurance Open (January 23-29) in San Diego will feature a Saturday finish (January 28) for the second consecutive year.
- The TOUR then heads up the coast to the Monterey Peninsula for the celebrity-laden AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (January 30-February 5) followed by the WM Phoenix Open (February 6-12) at TPC Scottsdale. The WM Phoenix Open will be played the same week as the NFL's Super Bowl, which will also be contested in the Phoenix area.
- The Florida Swing includes five events, with four events in Florida and the Puerto Rico Open (February 27- March 5) which is played alongside the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. The Honda Classic (February 20-26), THE PLAYERS Championship (March 6-12) and the Valspar Championship (March 13-19) round out the Florida events.
- Now in its second season as an official event on the PGA TOUR schedule, the Mexico Open at Vidanta (April 24-30) is preceded by the two-player team format of the Zurich Classic of New Orleans (April 17-23) and followed by the Wells Fargo Championship (May 1-7), which returns to North Carolina and Quail Hollow Club.
- There are five official FedExCup events in Texas throughout the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season: the Cadence Bank Houston Open (November 7-13), played for the third consecutive year at Memorial Park Golf Course; the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play (March 20-26) in Austin played concurrently with the Corales Puntacana Championship in the Dominican Republic; the Valero Texas Open (March 27-April 2) in San Antonio prior to the Masters Tournament; and the AT&T Byron Nelson (May 8-14) and the Charles Schwab Challenge (May 22-28) to book-end the PGA Championship (May 15-21), which will be played at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York, one of two events held in the northeast alongside the Travelers Championship (June 19-25) in Cromwell, Connecticut.
- RBC serves as title sponsor for two events, the RBC Heritage (April 10-16), held the week after the Masters Tournament, and the RBC Canadian Open (June 5-11), to be played for the first time at Oakdale Golf & Country Club in Toronto, the week prior to the U.S. Open (June 12-18) in Los Angeles.
- Notable date changes include the Rocket Mortgage Classic (June 26-July 2) which moves from late July to late June, and the 3M Open (July 24-30) which will slide one week later in the calendar as the penultimate event in the FedExCup Regular Season. The TOUR's long-running Midwest event, the John Deere Classic (July 3-9), will once again precede the Genesis Scottish Open (July 10-16).

FedExCup Regular Season (44 events)				
DATE	TOURNAMENT	GOLF COURSE(S) (HOST IN ITALICS)	LOCATION	PURSE
Sept.				
12-18	Fortinet Championship	Silverado Resort and Spa (North Course)	Napa, California	8.0
19-25	Presidents Cup	Quail Hollow Club	Charlotte, NC	
Oct.				
26-2	Sanderson Farms Championship	The Country Club of Jackson	Jackson, Mississippi	7.9
3-9	Shriners Children's Open	TPC Summerlin	Las Vegas, Nevada	8.0
10-16	ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP	Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club	Chiba, Japan	11.0
17-23	THE CJ CUP in South Carolina	Congaree Golf Club	Ridgeland, SC	10.5
24-30	Butterfield Bermuda Championship	Port Royal Golf Course	Southampton, Bermuda	6.5
Nov.				
31-6	World Wide Tech. Championship	El Camaleón Golf Course at Mayakoba	Riviera Maya, México	8.2
7-13	Cadence Bank Houston Open	Memorial Park Golf Course	Houston, Texas	8.4
14-20	The RSM Classic	Sea Island Golf Club (Seaside, Plantation Course)	St. Simons Island, GA	8.1
Dec.				
28-4	Hero World Challenge *	Albany	New Providence,Bahamas	3.5
5-11	QBE Shootout *	Tiburón Golf Club	Naples, Florida	3.6
BREAK				
Jan.				
2-8	Sentry Tournament of Champions	Plantation Course at Kapalua	Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii	15.0
9-15	Sony Open in Hawaii	Waialae Country Club	Honolulu, Hawaii	7.9
16-22	The American Express	PGA WEST, (La Quinta Country Club)	La Quinta, California	8.0
23-29	Farmers Insurance Open	Torrey Pines Golf Course (South and North)	San Diego, California	8.7
Feb.				
30-5	AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am	Pebble Beach, Spyglass, Monterey Peninsula C.C	Pebble Beach, California	9.0
6-12	WM Phoenix Open	TPC Scottsdale (Stadium Course)	Scottsdale, Arizona	8.5
13-19	The Genesis Invitational	The Riviera Country Club	Pacific Palisades, CA	20.0
20-26	The Honda Classic	PGA National Resort (The Champion)	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	8.4
Mar.				
27-5	Arnold Palmer Invitational	Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge	Orlando, Florida	20.0
27-5	Puerto Rico Open	Grand Reserve Golf Club	Rio Grande, Puerto Rico	3.8
6-12	THE PLAYERS Championship	TPC Sawgrass (THE PLAYERS Stadium Course)	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	25.0
13-19	Valspar Championship	Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead Course)	Palm Harbor, Florida	8.1
20-26	WGC-Dell Tech Match Play	Austin Country Club	Austin, Texas	20.0
20-26	Corales Puntacana Championship	Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Golf Course)	Punta Cana,Dom.Republic	3.8
Apr.				
27-2	Valero Texas Open	TPC San Antonio (Oaks Course)	San Antonio, Texas	8.9
3-9	Masters Tournament #	Augusta National Golf Club	Augusta, Georgia	(15.0)
10-16	RBC Heritage	Harbour Town Golf Links	Hilton Head Island, SC	8.3
17-23	Zurich Classic of New Orleans	TPC Louisiana	Avondale, Louisiana	8.6
24-30	Mexico Open at Vidanta	Vidanta Vallarta	Vallarta, México	7.7
May				
1-7	Wells Fargo Championship	Quail Hollow Club	Charlotte, North Carolina	9.3
8-14	AT&T Byron Nelson	TPC Craig Ranch	McKinney, Texas	9.5
15-21	PGA Championship #	Oak Hill Country Club	Rochester, New York	(15.0)
22-28	Charles Schwab Challenge	Colonial Country Club	Fort Worth, Texas	8.7
June				
29-4	the Memorial Tournament	Muirfield Village Golf Club	Dublin, Ohio	20.0
5-11	RBC Canadian Open	Oakdale Golf & Country Club	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	9.0
12-18	U.S. Open #	The Los Angeles Country Club (North Course)	Los Angeles, California	(17.5)
19-25	Travelers Championship	TPC River Highlands	Cromwell, Connecticut	8.6
July				
26-2	Rocket Mortgage Classic	Detroit Golf Club	Detroit, Michigan	8.8
3-9	John Deere Classic	TPC Deere Run	Silvis, Illinois	7.4
10-16	Genesis Scottish Open ^	The Renaissance Club	North Berwick, Scotland	8.0
10-16	Barbasol Championship	Keene Trace Golf Club (Champions Course)	Nicholasville, Kentucky	3.8
17-23	The Open Championship #	Royal Liverpool	Hoylake, Wirral, England	(14.0)
17-23	Barracuda Championship	Tahoe Mountain Club (Old Greenwood)	Truckee, California	3.8
24-30	3M Open	TPC Twin Cities	Blaine, Minnesota	7.8
Aug				
31-6	Wyndham Championship	Sedgefield Country Club	Greensboro, NC	7.6
FedExCup Playoffs (3 events)				
7-13	FedEx St. Jude Championship	TPC Southwind	Memphis, Tennessee	20.0
14-20	BMW Championship	Olympia Fields Country Club (North Course)	Olympia Fields, Illinois	20.0
21-27	TOUR Championship	East Lake Golf Club	Atlanta, Georgia	
* Challenge Season Events				
# Not PGA TOUR Co-sponsored				
^ Co-sanctioned with DP World Tour				

Breaking down the FedExCup Playoffs



Rickie Fowler sits No. 123 in the FedExCup standings heading into the Wyndham Championship. (Ben Jared/PGA TOUR)

Breaking down the FedExCup Playoffs bubble into Wyndham Championship

By Justin Ray
PGATOUR.COM

Nearly 11 months after the marathon began, only four rounds remain in the 2022 PGA TOUR Regular Season. For many in the field this week at the Wyndham Championship, the toughest, most tense shots hit all year long will come this week in North Carolina.

While many players have a mathematical chance at moving inside the top-125 on the FedExCup to earn Playoffs berths, the reality is only a few usually make the move inside the bubble after arriving in Greensboro. In both 2020 and 2021, exactly three players moved from outside the top-125 to within the magic number. Since 2012, the average number of players to move in is even smaller than that – just 2.4. Twenty First Group ran more than 10,000 simulations of this week's Wyndham Championship to determine the probabilities of every player on the bubble qualifying for next week's FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis, the first of three FedExCup Playoffs events.

Breaking down some of the more interesting storylines before the Regular Season finale begins in earnest on Thursday:

120. Nick Taylor

Points ahead of 126th: 27.3

FedExCup Playoffs Probability: 95.4%

Teetering on the edge of playoff eligibility again is two-time PGA TOUR win-

ner Nick Taylor, a man who has finished between 120th and 130th in the FedExCup standings three different times since 2016. That's tied with Scott Stallings for the most such finishes during that span. The Canadian enters this week reeling a bit after missing four of his last five cuts as he tries to make the postseason for the sixth time in the last eight seasons.

Taylor has some strong recent history in Greensboro: he finished tied for eighth here in 2018 and tied for 10th last season. The most players to ever move into the top-125 in the final week of the Regular Season under the current points format is five, so it will take an historic weekend of movement to knock Taylor out of the field in Tennessee.

121. Chesson Hadley

Points ahead of 126th: 24.4

FedExCup Playoffs Probability: 87.1%

A year ago, Chesson Hadley assembled a miraculous closing stretch to sneak into the Playoffs at No. 125. His last 10 holes that Sunday included six birdies and a hole-in-one at the par-3 16th that pushed him past Justin Rose by a single point for the final postseason spot. Hadley shouldn't need a back-nine 29 to get in this season – a 10th-place finish two weeks ago at the 3M Open likely punched his ticket to advance – but two strong rounds to start his week in North Carolina wouldn't hurt. Hadley enters this week with 16 consecutive rounds of par or better at the Wyndham Championship, with a scoring average of 67.9 in that span.

123. Rickie Fowler

Points ahead of 126th: 19.4

FedExCup Playoffs Probability: 72.0%

After nearly winning THE CJ CUP @ SUMMIT in his second start of the season, 2021-22 has been another on-course battle for Rickie Fowler. For the first season in his PGA TOUR career, he's losing strokes per round to the field both off the tee and on approach shots. His once-unbeatable putting (he led the TOUR in Strokes Gained: Putting in 2017) has slipped, too, as he's outside the top-100 in that statistic for the first time since 2012.

But there are positives as Fowler heads into the last Regular Season start of the season. He's 123rd in the updated FedExCup standings, on the right side of the dividing line entering Wyndham – last year, he was 130th and didn't get the big week he needed to advance. He's made six of his last eight cuts and is averaging positive Strokes Gained: Total (+0.14) and Tee-to-Green (+0.22) per round since the beginning of May. With more than a 19-point cushion over 126th, Twenty First Group gives Fowler a 72% chance of advancing to the Playoffs.

124. Matt Wallace

Points ahead of 126th: 11.5

FedExCup Playoffs Probability: 41.0%

After missing the cut at the Genesis Scottish Open, Matt Wallace's Playoffs hopes looked pretty bleak, as he sat outside the top-140 in points and had made just four cuts in his last 14 PGA TOUR starts. But the talented Englishman has rallied,

finishing T26 at the 3M Open and T10 last week in Detroit, and he has given himself an opportunity to play his way into the field in Memphis. Twenty-five players made the cut in both Minneapolis and Michigan the last two weeks on the PGA TOUR. Of that group, no player has putted better than Wallace, who has averaged 1.21 Strokes Gained per round in that stretch.

125. Austin Smotherman

Points ahead of 126th: 10.2

FedExCup Playoffs Probability: 29.2%

Every season since 2014, at least one player has moved from outside the top-125 into the playoffs via their performance at the Wyndham Championship. That means 28-year-old PGA TOUR rookie Austin Smotherman, currently the last man in next week's field, will almost certainly need to earn a good number of points this weekend in order to keep his campaign going. That hasn't been a problem recently for the rookie, who has made the cut in nine of his last 11 tries, including a career-best eighth-place showing at the Barracuda Championship.



130. Cameron Champ

Points behind 125th: 27.1

FedExCup Playoffs Probability: 12.4%

At no point this season has Cameron Champ ranked inside the top-125 in the points race, but after back-to-back top-20s at the 3M Open and Rocket Mortgage Classic, the three-time TOUR winner has an outside shot at making a big jump this weekend. Champ has struggled immensely on and around the greens for most of the season, but he seems to have found something the last two weeks, ranking in the top-20 in Strokes Gained: Putting in both Minneapolis and Detroit.

Every year since 2015, at least one player has earned a FedExCup Playoffs berth after entering the Wyndham Championship at No. 130 or below. Four times in that span, multiple players have done it. Another strong week on the greens and Cameron Champ could be a player to do it in 2022.

Players more important than realized



TJ Vasher's name was on everybody's tongue after the spectacular one-handed grab last week

By Jon Thomas

Cowboys training camp players who may be more important than we realized

There are some unexpected names cropping up for the Cowboys.

Even though there are more questions marks for the Dallas Cowboys than usual, we still came to the beginning of training camp with some opinions about certain players and situations. That happens every year. And every year we are quickly disabused of our preconceived notions. It has only been a week since things started out in Oxnard, and there are a handful of names suddenly being talked about far more than we could have guessed.

WR TJ Vasher

His name was on everybody's tongue after the spectacular one-handed grab last week. That was far from all he did, as he had a consistent week catching the ball. Vasher is a tall receiver who can really sky to go after the ball, and he does seem to add fairly decent hands to the equation. Although not everyone overlooked him coming into camp, most were more intrigued by the bevy of first year UDFA's the team brought in.

Now Vasher is becoming one of the early stars of camp. That is good, because the team now has even more to worry about with the wide receivers. Fortunately, Vasher is not the only one showing the staff something.

WR Dennis Houston

The situation at WR was already a bit

dicey before James Washington was carted off the field on Monday. Now a troubling situation is feeling a bit dire. We will have to see if Stephen Jones gets some of his powder wet or not to help this situation. The staff has to have a fallback plan ready in case that is not the course. It seems they have already chosen one.

While it was expected that one of this year's new UDFA's would become something of a camp darling, Houston was not one of the more frequently mentioned names. His being the next guy up when Washington was taken off the field was not a random decision. Observers in Oxnard had brought him up as a player who was doing a lot of good things. Now as we wait to see whether the team does sign a free agent WR to add some experience, which it definitely should, Houston has a great opportunity to make the 53-man roster.

K Lirim Hajrullahu

There were many who had fully talked themselves into the idea that UDFA kicker Jonathan Garibay had basically been awarded the kicking job. Many welcomed the team bringing Hajrullahu back for another shot, but saw it as just a way to provide some competition in camp.

Well, as of right now, Hajrullahu is winning that competition, and it isn't even particularly close.

For those who don't know about the "mojo" thing, those are sudden situational reps that Mike McCarthy throws out more or less at random during practices. While nothing really simulates the pressure of a

live game situation, this is at least some approximation. Excelling in those is exactly what coaches are looking for. Monday was the second time Hajrullahu showed up Garibay as he also was the best on Friday. There is still time for the rookie to catch up to the former CFL star, but it could run out a lot faster than any of us expected.

QB Will Grier

Cooper Rush held the QB2 job last season, and deserves credit for winning his lone start while Dak Prescott was out. Most thought he would have no problem hanging onto that job. However, reports out of camp have Grier making this a much more competitive situation.

You know that head-turning Vasher catch pictured up top? It was thrown by Grier, and placed perfectly where only his receiver could get to it while giving Vasher room to stay inbounds for the TD.

We all hope we never see a backup having to start at QB this season. But if we do, we want the best option available. Given that the Cowboys are not at all interested in bringing in a veteran backup it is nice to see a battle developing here.

RB Rico Dowdle

Maybe I was sucked in by last year's Hard Knocks, but I really expected JaQuan Hardy to be the guy who would fill the RB3 spot. Instead, Hardy was cut to open a roster spot, and now Dowdle is not only getting those reps, he is doing something with the opportunity.

The hope here is not only that Dowdle continues to shine, but that the staff treats

him and not Tony Pollard as Ezekiel Elliott's backup. Keep Pollard in the change-of-pace role and don't subject him to early down carries when Elliott needs a break. If Dowdle can be productive every three or four series to let Elliott get a bit of rest it really helps the team.

WR KaVontae Turpin

It feels a bit like cheating to have him here, since no one had the slightest inkling that the Cowboys would sign him. But he has not only gotten the chance, he is already standing out. He was the player that cost Hardy his spot on the team. While the main idea behind adding him seems to be for the punt and kick return roles, to protect CeeDee Lamb and Pollard, the staff is also using him out of the slot and on jet sweeps. He looks good out there. With the attrition at wide receiver, he may be able to help out in a couple of ways. This could be one of the more intriguing finds by the scouting staff.

CB Nahshon Wright

The players listed so far have all been on offense, which reflects the larger uncertainty on that side of the ball. But one defensive player that is starting to make a bit of an unexpected splash is this second year corner.

This is not the only play Wright has made. He has also come close to a pick or has broken up passes other times. He seems to be matched up against Vasher a lot, which may be a hint as to a possible role. At 6-4, he could be the designated red zone defender when other teams have a tall, leaping receiver like Vasher. He is not much of a threat to overtake the starting corners or even Kelvin Joseph. But going deep at the position is a real possibility, especially if Wright continues to be hard to complete against.

Those are some of the names not expected to be discussed so intently. This is still the first quarter of the camp, so a lot can change. But it is far better to get off to a good start. We will be watching all these to see if they can maintain our interest.

Cowboys' Oxnard practice schedule (all times are listed in Pacific, unless otherwise noted, and are subject to change)

- Friday, Aug. 5: 11:00 a.m. PDT – Open Practice
- Saturday, Aug. 6: 10:00 a.m. PDT – Open Practice/Mock Game
- Monday, Aug. 8: 11:00 a.m. PDT – Open Practice & Heroes Appreciation Day
- Tuesday, Aug. 9: 11:00 a.m. PDT – Open Practice
- Wednesday, Aug. 10: 10:00 a.m. PDT – Final Open Practice in Oxnard

2022 AAC Football Predictions



The Cincinnati Bearcats should be among the top 10-15 teams once again this year



Houston's high-powered offense (35.9 points a game in '21) returns projected first-team All-AAC quarterback Clayton Tune

By Jon Thomas

American Athletic Conference Football 2022 Predictions

Cincinnati and Houston ended 2021 as the top teams in the American Athletic Conference and not much has changed for '22. The Bearcats and Cougars lead the way in the AAC predictions and picks for this fall, with UCF, SMU and East Carolina headlining the next tier. Both Cincinnati and Houston should make a run at double-digit wins once again. The middle of the league is tough to predict, as Memphis returns quarterback Seth Henigan, Tulane should improve after a disappointing 2-10 record, and Tulsa brings back quarterback Davis Brin and an offense with high-scoring potential. USF seems ready to take a step forward in coach Jeff Scott's third year. Navy and Temple are projected at the bottom of the AAC, but both teams have the potential to exceed their preseason expectation.

American Athletic Conference 2022 Predictions

1. Cincinnati Bearcats (8-0 / 13-1)

Despite the departure of several key players from last year's team that made the CFB Playoff, the Bearcats are still our pick atop the AAC. Coach Luke Fickell has

recruited well and with a strong track record of talent development, Cincinnati should be among the top 10-15 teams once again. Ben Bryant and Evan Prater will battle to replace Desmond Ridder under center, but the rest of the supporting cast is strong. The Bearcats return the AAC's top offensive line, added LSU transfer Corey Kiner to a capable group of backs to replace Jerome Ford, while Tre Tucker and Tyler Scott anchor a receiving corps already featuring tight ends Josh Whyte and Leonard Taylor. A defense that limited opponents to 16.9 points a game and 4.5 yards per play must replace seven full-time starters, including standouts and NFL draft picks Myjai Sanders (end) and cornerbacks Ahmad Gardner and Coby Bryant. However, the next wave of stars is ready to emerge, including linebackers Deshaun Pace, end Malik Vann and defensive backs Arqun Bush and Ja'von Hicks.

If Cincinnati pulls off an upset at Arkansas in Week 1, another 12-0 regular season is within reach.

2. Houston Cougars (8-0 / 12-2)

The Cougars jumped to 12-2 in coach Dana Holgorsen's third year at the helm, and with Cincinnati losing a handful of key contributors, the door is open for Houston to close the gap a little more in '22. A high-powered offense (35.9 points a game

in '21) returns projected first-team All-AAC quarterback Clayton Tune, along with an All-America candidate at receiver Nathaniel Dell (90 catches for 1,329 yards and 12 TDs). Running back Alton McCaskill was lost indefinitely due to a torn ACL in the spring, but Ta'Zhawn Henry and USC transfer Brandon Campbell should be an effective one-two punch in the backfield. Holgorsen supplemented Dell and the receiving corps with a handful of transfers, including Cody Jackson (Oklahoma), Joseph Manjack (USC) and Samuel Brown (West Virginia). An offensive line that allowed 38 sacks and cleared the way for rushers to average 3.9 yards per carry must replace three starters. Houston's defense showed big-time improvement under coordinator Doug Belk last fall. After giving up 32 points a game in '20, the Cougars cut that total to 20.4 in '21. This unit ranked first in the conference against the run, third against the pass, and led the way in sacks (43). Replacing lineman Logan Hall and cornerbacks Marcus Jones and Damarion Williams tops the list of priorities for Belk. Another run to 10-plus wins is within reach, as the Cougars open at UTSA and catch winnable games at Texas Tech and Kansas (home). There's also no matchup against Cincinnati or UCF in the regular season.

3. UCF Knights (5-3 / 9-4)

Despite injuries to a couple of key players (including quarterback Dillon Gabriel), coach Gus Malzahn guided the Knights to a 9-4 season capped by a win over Florida in the Gasparilla Bowl for his debut in Orlando. UCF is stocked for another run at nine (or more) wins thanks to a favorable schedule and 13 returning starters. Ole Miss transfer John Rhys Plumlee and Mikey Keene will battle for the starting job under center, with standout skill talent returning in the form of running back Isaiah Bowser, receiver Ryan O'Keefe and transfers Kobe Hudson (WR) and Kemore Gamble (TE) adding more weapons to the mix. Three starters return up front and Virginia transfer Ryan Swoboda is likely to start at one of the tackle spots. UCF held opponents to 5.1 yards per play and 24.8 points a game in AAC games last fall and should be strong on defense once again. The line and secondary should rank among the best position groups in the conference, alleviating some of the concern about turnover at linebacker. UCF has winnable non-conference matchups against Louisville and Georgia Tech, catches Cincinnati at home and won't face Houston in the regular season.



SMU's high-powered offense (38.4 points a game last year) returns two capable quarterbacks

4. SMU Mustangs (4-4 / 8-4)

New coach Rhett Lashlee inherits a team ready to win right away. The Mustangs started 7-0 but lost four out of their final five games under previous coach Sonny Dykes. Three of those four losses came by one score and the other defeat came at Cincinnati, so the Mustangs weren't far from a push at double-digit wins. The coaching switch adds some uncertainty to this team, but Lashlee worked at SMU from 2018-19 and the overall transition should be seamless. A high-powered offense (38.4 points a game) returns two capable quarterbacks – Tanner Mordecai and Preston Stone – along with talented weapons at the skill spots (Tre Siggers and Camar Wheaton at running back and Rashee Rice and Beau Corrales at receiver). A couple of transfers (Owen Condon and Joe Bissinger) bolster a line already slated to return three starters. Scoring points likely won't be a problem for SMU, but last year's concern (the defense) is still the biggest question mark. New coordinator Scott Symons inherits seven returning starters, but the Mustangs gave up 31.1 points a game in AAC play, allowed too many big plays, and struggled against the pass (eighth in AAC in pass efficiency defense). Linemen DeVere Levelston and Elijah Chatman and linebacker Turner Coxe headline the list of key returners. The schedule does break a bit in SMU's favor. The Mustangs will host both Cincinnati and Houston and catch TCU at home as well.

5. East Carolina Pirates (5-3 / 7-5)

After winning seven games in his first two years at the helm in Greenville, coach Mike Houston matched that total last season (7-5) in a breakthrough '21 campaign. ECU was close to something bigger too, as

four of the team's five defeats – including games versus South Carolina and Appalachian State – were decided by one score. The bulk of last season's squad returns, including quarterback Holton Ahlers (24 total TDs) and running backs Keaton Mitchell and Rahjai Harris. Leading receiver Tyler Snead must be replaced, and the Pirates have some retooling along a line that allowed 35 sacks last fall. After averaging 29.7 points a game and 5.8 yards per play in '21, the returning pieces give Houston's offense a chance to reach another level. East Carolina took a step forward on defense last fall, holding teams to 26.3 points a game (down from 35.4) and 5.98 yards per play (lowered from 6.21). Also, the Pirates showed improvement against the run and ranked fifth in the AAC in pass efficiency defense. Even with cornerback Ja'Quan McMillian departing, more progress should be notable in '22, especially with a front featuring linebackers Jeremy Lewis and Xavier Smith along with linemen Rick D'Abreu, Immanuel Hickman and Elijah Morris.

6. Memphis Tigers (3-5 / 6-6)

The Tigers took a step back from an 8-3 mark in 2020, finishing 6-6 and 3-5 in the AAC. Making a jump into the top tier of contenders for a trip to the conference title game will require a quick transition with new coordinators on both sides of the ball, as well as improvement out of both units. Quarterback Seth Henigan (3,322 yards and 25 TDs) is the biggest reason for optimism, and the addition of Northern Illinois transfer Jevyon Ducker should boost a ground game that averaged only 3.3 yards per rush in AAC games last fall. Henigan does need a new No. 1 target to emerge after Calvin Austin III departed to the NFL. New defensive coordinator Matt Barnes



Memphis Quarterback Seth Henigan (3,322 yards and 25 TDs) is the biggest reason for optimism for the Tigers

(previously at Ohio State) inherits four returning starters, including standout safety Quindell Johnson (105 tackles) and linebacker Xavier Cullens. This unit struggled to stop the run (167.4 ypg allowed) and surrendered 32.4 points in AAC games. Additionally, the Tigers ranked last in the AAC in third-down defense. Cleaning up the turnover margin (minus-four in '21) would help Memphis (lost four games by one score) narrow the gap in close matchups.

7. Tulane Green Wave (1-7 / 2-10)

The Green Wave entered 2021 with high expectations but slumped to the worst season (2-10) under coach Willie Fritz. Even though Tulane is a tough job, don't expect this program to be down for long. After going 0-5 in one-score games with a minus-nine turnover margin, Fritz's team is likely due for a little better luck in '22. Also, Michael Pratt (26 total TDs last fall)

should be among the top quarterbacks in the AAC, with Tyjae Spears (863 yards) poised for a big season being a year removed from a major knee injury in '20. New offensive coordinator Jim Svoboda could use more playmakers to emerge on the outside to join tight end Tyrick James and Shae Wyatt. Five starters return up front, but the Green Wave need better play up front (32 sacks allowed). Tulane's defense took a step back under first-year coordinator Chris Hampton last fall, surrendering 34 points a game and 5.8 yards per play. This unit also struggled to stop the pass (10th in the AAC), gave up too many big plays and had issues getting off the field on third down. However, Hampton coaxed some improvement out of this group down the stretch, so there's optimism that with seven returning starters this defense will take a step forward.

(continued on page 14)

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Could be tough this year for Tulsa as only nine starters return from last year's 7-6 squad

8. Tulsa Golden Hurricane (5-3 / 7-6)

A four-game winning streak to close 2021 helped coach Philip Montgomery's team reach the postseason for the second year in a row. Tulsa may need to win a few toss-up games to make a bowl in '22, as only nine starters return from last year's squad and the schedule features treks to Wyoming, Ole Miss, Navy, Memphis and Houston. Quarterback Davis Brin (3,244 yards and 18 TDs) returns to anchor an offense that averaged six yards a play last fall. He's joined by a deep group of running backs – led by Deneric Prince and Anthony Watkins – and the receiving corps gets a boost with the return of Keylon Stokes, who missed nearly all of '21 due to injury. Gerard Wheeler anchors a rebuilt line (just two returning starters) that is the biggest concern on offense. The defense not only lost several key players, but the staff is also in flux after coordinator Joseph Gillespie left to take over as the play-caller at TCU. The Golden Hurricane limited conference opponents to 25.9 points and 5.4 yards per play last fall and will have to lean on lineman Anthony Goodlow to help replace Jaxon Player (transferred to Baylor), while the linebacker unit should be a strength with Justin Wright and Jon-Michael Terry leading the way. Safety Kendarin Ray leads a rebuilt secondary.

9. USF Bulls (1-7 / 2-4)

With a 3-18 record in his first two years at USF, it's no secret coach Jeff Scott needs to show some progress in '22. With 18 starters back, improvement should be attainable. An offense that averaged 23.2 points a game last season might be the biggest reason for optimism. Sophomore

Timmy McClain showed potential at quarterback last fall, but the staff added Baylor transfer Gerry Bohanon late in the spring. Scott and coordinator Travis Trickett should feel good about their quarterback options, and there's a lot to like about the skill talent with running back Jaren Mangham and receivers Xavier Weaver, Ajou Ajou (Clemson transfer) and Jimmy Horn in the mix. All five offensive line starters return. After giving up 34.7 points a game last season and finishing 10th in the conference against the run and allowing seven yards per play, Scott hit the reset button on defense. Veteran (and former Penn State and Vanderbilt defensive coordinator) Bob Shoop will handle the play-calling duties in '22, working with a group that returns eight starters. Scott hit the portal for help at all three levels and this group certainly appears deeper on paper. Linebacker Antonio Grier (92 tackles) is one of the AAC's top defensive players.

10. Navy Midshipman (3-5 / 4-8)

Outside of an 11-2 finish in 2019, the Midshipmen are 10-25 in their last four seasons. However, although Navy was 4-8 last fall, the team won its last two games and lost four others – including matchups against Cincinnati, Houston, SMU and East Carolina – by one score. Turning those close defeats into wins in '22 will require a step forward by the offense, especially quarterback Tai Lavatai (371 rushing yards) and a ground game that has averaged less than four yards per carry in each of the last two seasons. The team's top four backs from last year are gone and just two starters return along the line of scrimmage. The outlook on defense is just as cloudy.

Six starters are back, but standout line-backer Diego Fagot departed. Linebacker John Marshall, safety Rayuan Lane III and nose guard Donald Berniard Jr. return to anchor a unit that allowed 28.2 points per game last fall. If the Midshipmen improve on offense, there's enough talent and optimism on defense to push for six wins and a return to the bowl scene.

11. Temple Owls (1-7 / 3-9)

New coach Stan Drayton inherits a team that went 3-9 and won just one conference game (Memphis) in league play last fall. The Owls are just 4-15 over the last two seasons, which snapped a streak of six consecutive non-losing records (2014-19). Getting the program back on track requires major improvement on both sides of the ball. Temple averaged 16.3 points a game last fall and returns quarterback D'Wan Mathis, receivers Jose Barbon and Amad Anderson Jr., along with running backs Darvon Hubbard (Texas A&M transfer), Edward Saydee and Iverson Clement. Just two starters return in the trenches. The outlook on defense was just as iffy last fall. The Owls surrendered 37.5 points a game, ranked 11th in the AAC against the run, and allowed 6.2 yards per play in conference games. This unit has concerns again up front, but the secondary is likely to be a bright spot with cornerbacks Cameron Ruiz and Keyshawn Paul returning to anchor the pass defense.

AAC Championship:

Cincinnati over Houston

AAC 2022 Superlatives and Season Predictions

Offensive POY:

Nathaniel Dell, WR, Houston

Defensive POY:

Deshawn Pace, LB, Cincinnati

Coach of the Year:

Dana Holgorsen, Houston

Top Freshman:

Matthew Golden, WR, Houston

Top Offensive Newcomers (Transfer):

Camar Wheaton, RB, SMU/Jevyon Ducker, RB, Memphis

Top Defensive Newcomer (Transfer):

Jason Johnson, LB, UCF

Sleeper Team:

East Carolina or USF

Key Position to Watch:

Houston OL and Cincinnati QBs

Best Coordinator Hire:

Bob Shoop, DC, USF

Hardest Teams to Evaluate:

Tulane and Memphis

Coach on the Rise:

Doug Belk, DC, Houston

Must-See Game:

Cincinnati at UCF (Oct. 29)

Breakout Player:

Tyjae Spears, RB, Tulane

Comeback Player:

Keylon Stokes, WR, Tulsa

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College Football News and Notes



Indiana Hoosiers broadcaster Don Fischer as the recipient of the 2022 NFF Chris Schenkel Award



BO CARTER

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Longtime publicist, bowl representative and conference office official Courtney Morrison Archer officially has joined the NFF as director of events. She brings 25-plus years of college football, bowl and administrative leadership experience on all levels to the position.

The NFF has named Indiana Hoosiers broadcaster Don Fischer as the recipient of the 2022 NFF Chris Schenkel Award. He will officially be honored Dec. 6 during the 64th NFF Annual Awards Dinner Presented by Las Vegas at Bellagio Resort & Casino. The award is named in honor of its inaugural recipient Chris Schenkel, the longtime ABC Sports broadcaster who emceed the NFF Annual Awards Dinner for 28 consecutive years from 1968 to 1995. Schenkel was a native of Indiana and graduated from Purdue. The award salutes broadcasting excellence, longevity and devotion to college football.

Fischer will enter his 50th season as the "Voice of the Hoosiers" this fall, having started his time calling Indiana football games in 1973 at the age of 26. In addition to broadcasting games, Fischer hosts the weekly coaches talk shows for both foot-

ball and basketball. He also offers stations a weekly talk show about IU football and basketball that airs in several markets around the state during the school year. Fischer has broadcast more than 2,000 Indiana University games, including 12 bowl games, five NCAA basketball Final Fours, four NCAA basketball championship games and two NIT championship games.

College athletics publicists now can nominate candidates for the 2022 William V. Campbell Trophy® and the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards presented by Fidelity Investments through Aug. 26. Please email nominees to Hillary Jeffries (hjeffries@footballfoundation.com), and criteria include combined academic success, football performance and exemplary leadership. Eligible candidates must be a senior or graduate student in their final year of eligibility; have a cumulative undergraduate 3.2 grade point average (4.0 Scale), be a starter or significant contributor and have outstanding leadership and citizenship. Official transcripts as well as a headshot and action photo of the nominee are required. Each finalist for the Campbell Trophy® will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the 2022 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments. The NFF will announce the semifinalists for the 2022 Campbell Trophy® on Sept. 28 and the finalists on Oct. 26.

The fourth annual NFF Campbell Trophy® Summit Aug. 4-6 at Stanford Palo Alto, Calif., has invitees among the William V. Campbell Trophy® nominees and featured speakers former U.S. Secretary of State and College Football Playoff selection committee member Dr. Condoleezza Rice and former Utah and

NFL quarterback Alex Smith for the event, which is sponsored by Intuit, the global technology platform that makes TurboTax, QuickBooks, Mint, Credit Karma, and Mailchimp.

Organized as a tribute to the late Bill Campbell, the award's namesake and the former CEO and Chairman of Intuit as well as head football coach at Columbia, the event serves as a vehicle for the many leaders impacted by Campbell to pass on his insights about success, leadership and personal growth. The 2022 gathering again will provide all past Campbell Trophy® nominees a unique chance to interact and learn from many of the nation's top entrepreneurs and Silicon Valley CEOs.

Allstate and the American Football Coaches Association denoted the 114 nominees for the 31st annual 2022 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®. Nominations are based on individual exemplary community service, academic dedication and impact on and off the field. A 22-member team and honorary coach are the selection committee, and some familiar faces among the '22 nominees are Dalton Kincaid, Utah; Chayce Chalmers, Virginia; Jackson Marcotte, Wyoming; Caleb Williams, USC; Andre Grayson, Utah State; Rashad Wisdom, UTSA; Ben Bresnahan, Vanderbilt; Isaiah Chaney, Wake Forest; Zach Frazier, West Virginia; Garrett Jaster, Arkansas Tech; Austin Brenner, Ashland; Jailen Branch, Bentley; Matthew Feldick, Bethel (Minn.); and Huey Bodger, Catholic U.

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame also will be returning to Las Vegas for the 64th Awards Dinner presented by Las Vegas in Dec. 6 at the Bellagio Resort and Casino. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the marketing arm for the Las Vegas destination, will again serve as the presenting sponsor of the event. Ticketing and additional information can be found on the event's website link at <https://footballfoundation.org/feature/NFF2022>. The NFF also has launched a dedicated website powered by SIDEARM for the NFF Awards Dinner Presented by Las Vegas. The site includes a link to buy tickets online, and it will be updated throughout the year with more information, including sponsorship opportunities and special travel rates from Delta Air Lines and Bellagio. New NFF events specialist Courtney Morrison-Archer also is working with awards dinner coordinator Will Rudd on the festivities.

Enjoy 2022 football activities and news this summer and all season by becoming an NFF national member. This is a powerful way for football enthusiasts to give back to the game while also getting some great branded NFF items, including T-shirts,

travel mugs, and the weekly NFF newsletter. All NFF members also get a ballot to vote in College Football Hall of Fame elections. Click here to check out the NFF membership levels, including a junior level for the game's newest supporters.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Aug. 1-7 time period are Aug. 1 (1929) Joe Palumbo, Beaver, Pa.; (1985) Glenn Dorsey, Baton Rouge, La.; Aug. 2 (1901) Charley Caldwell, Bristol, Va.; (1905) Billy Nicks, Griffin, Ga.; (1933) Matt Hazeltine, Ross, Calif.; (1937) Dr. Billy Cannon, Philadelphia, Miss.; Aug. 3 (1898) Gordon Locke, Denison, Iowa; (1932) Jackie Parker, Knoxville Tenn.; (1934) Don Holleder, Rochester, N.Y.; (1938) Maxie Baughan, Forkland, Ala.; (1980) E.J. Henderson, Ft. Campbell, Ky.; Aug. 4 (1908) Frank Carideo, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Aug. 5 (1940) Roman Gabriel, Wilmington N.C.; (1946) Gary Beban, San Francisco, Calif.; (1952) Freddie Scott, Grady, Ark.; (1987) C.J. Spiller, Lake Butler, Fla.; Aug. 6 (1902) Harry Wilson, Mingo Junction, Ohio; (1906) Ken Strong, West Haven, Conn.; (1907) Jerry Dalrymple, Arkadelphia, Ark.; (1920) Steve Lach, Altoona, Pa.; Aug. 7 (1928) Ron Schipper, Zeeland, Mich.; (1945) Alan Page, Canton, Ohio.

Notable anniversary death dates for Hall of Famers are Aug. 1 (2013) Dick Kazmaier, Boston, Mass.; Aug. 2 (1992) Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma City, Okla.; (2017) Ara Parseghian, Granger, Ind.; Aug. 3 (2011) Bubba Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.; Aug. 4 (1981) Jack Green, Nashville, Tenn.; Aug. 5 (1986) Les Lautenschlaeger, New Orleans, La.; Aug. 7 (1962) Vince Stevenson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Happy birthdays to Hall of Famers on Aug. 1 Glenn Dorsey, Aug. 3 Maxie Baughan (a spry 84), E.J. Henderson, Aug. 5 Roman Gabriel (a spry 82), Gary Beban, Freddie Scott, C.J. Spiller, Aug. 7 Alan Page....

Eastern Michigan and Jacksonville State will meet in a home-and-home series in 2023 and '24...Alabama will host Volunteer State gridiron contenders Chattanooga and Middle Tennessee to complete its 2023 non-conference slate...Memphis and Middle Tennessee also will tangle in 2024 and '27...Morgan State will meet Colgate in both 2024 and '25 and will host Lincoln (Pa.) in 2024...Eastern Illinois and McNeese will finish a two-game contract with a tussle in 2023...Georgia Southern and Middle Tennessee will be facing off in 2031 and '32.

Former college student-athlete Todd

(continued on page 16)

Crandell just completed his 97th Ironman Triathlon in Toledo, Ohio, to celebrate 20-plus years of addition recovery through athletics...Vanderbilt has asked for proposals for alumni grant projects for the VU Sesquicentennial (1872-2022) for various projects from the VU marching band to assistance for area homeless shelters....

...Diamonds' notable: for the first time in NCAA Division I history there were 301 colleges each playing varsity baseball and softball.

Georgia head coach Kirby Smart signed a new contract over 10 years for \$112.5 million...Buffalo head coach Maurice Linguist received a one-year contract extension through the 2026 campaign...

...Former NFL head coach and new Grambling head coach Hue Jackson told media he sees no obstacles for HBCU programs to regain much of their national prominence with recent successes in the Southwestern Athletic Conference and other NCAA and NAIA divisions....

...Pittsburgh head coach Pat Narduzzi expressed concern over a proposal to allow unlimited NCAA transfer portal moves without redshirting or losing a season of eligibility...Illinois Wesleyan head coach Norm Eash begins his 36th season at the helm with a career mark of 219-117-1 and multiple postseason appearances...Texas Southern head coach Clarence McKinney likes the new, higher national profile the Southwestern Athletic Conference has attained over the last two seasons...New Auburn coordinators Eric Keisau (offense) and Jeff Schmedding (defense) have jumped into preseason drills feet first while urging on the youthful Tigers crew.

Hometowns of more 2022 college head coaches – Illinois Wesleyan: Norm Eash, Chenoa, Ill.; Indiana: Tom Allen, New Castle, Ind.; Indiana State: Curt Mallory, Oxford, Ohio; Indiana Wesleyan: Jordan Langs, Wheaton, Ill.; Iowa: Kirk Ferentz, Royal Oak, Michigan.

Southern Illinois named former Towson AD Tim Leonard as its director of athletics...Chicago State selected Dr. Monique Carroll from Huston-Tillotson as its AD...Eastern Washington director of athletics Lynn Hickey was featured in an Athletic Director U. post and segment...Eastern Illinois AD Tom Michael remains optimistic about the future of the Ohio Valley Conference with Lindenwood and Southern Indiana coming aboard in 2022-23 to help offset the losses of Jacksonville State and Eastern Kentucky...Arizona State AD Ray Anderson related that he was not informed on any level that UCLA and USC were would be leaving the Pac-12 Conference before the July announcements and that Big 12-Pac-12 Conference merger discussions had gone into limbo at this time....

...Nevada AD Stephanie Rempe has made increasing the Wolf Pack's season ticket bases in football and men's and women's basketball as her top 2022-23 priorities...Stanford AD Bernard Muir reiterated that the Cardinal had not had any discus-

sions about membership with the Big Ten Conference...Ole Miss AD Keith Carter has paused immediate plans for expansion at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and will make some alterations to the department's \$350 million fundraising appeal...Illinois State AD Kyle Brennan received a contract extension through June 30, 2027, with updated compensation and has not ruled out a possible NCAA FBS move up from FCS for ISU...NJIT AD Lenny Kaplan described how NJIT has had to make several philosophical changes over the last 12-15 months and how the America East Conference has impacted the Highlanders program...Wichita State AD Kevin Saal is coming off 100-plus meetings with faculty, staff and student-athletes as he explored the goals and culture of WSU athletics....

...Liberty AD Ian McCaw explained that the Flames Multi-Purpose Athletics Center is on schedule to open in November and facilities' upgrades are ongoing for softball batting cages and baseball locker rooms..

...Illinois AD Josh Whitman has joined the ever-enlarging group that NCAA athletics may have to branch off into federations such as amateur track and field, wrestling, soccer, and volleyball, among others, while football will be a stand-alone grouping with an unknown number of conferences such as the 10 current FBS circuits....

...Hawai'i tabbed 26-year veteran in UH athletics Lois Manin as associate AD for internal operations, senior women administrator and deputy AD...Louisiana Tech appointed Kane McGuire as associate AD for strategic communications, Ed Jackson as associate AD for character education and Kyle Buffolino as associate AD for compliance services...Veteran college head coach, former Nebraska QB star and current Arkansas athletics executive director of student-athlete and staff development Turner Gill received a contract extension through 2030 with the Razorbacks...UAB men's basketball head coach Andy Kennedy now is under contract through the 2027-28 season with advanced compensation agreements...Navy tabbed Pat Owen as director of men's and women's golf..

...Indiana Wesleyan added Lindsey Krippel and Abby Dunbar as assistant trainers in athletics...Pennsylvania men's golf head coach Jason Calhoun is finishing a five-year assignment with the Quakers...Siena women's lacrosse head coach Abigail Rehfuss had her contract extended through 2026...Austin Peay chose Niesha Campbell as deputy AD for student-athlete welfare and senior women administrator... ..West Virginia named Natasha Oakes as senior associate AD and senior women administrator...Tennessee chose James Barr as associate AD for event management....

...Memphis added Brendan Dwyer as associate AD for athletic facilities and operations, Harley King as associate AD for compliance and Michael Schroeder as associate AD for integrated communications...Oklahoma State selected Barry Hinson as associate AD for names, images

and likenesses coordination...La Salle chose James Wolff as women's water polo head coach...Akron chose Greg Beals as head baseball coach...Kansas State added years to the contract of veteran women's basketball head coach Jeff Mittie through the 2025-26 outing...Akron Deputy AD and chief operating officer Markus Jennings and Akron senior associate AD for development Camden Stockton are serving as 2022-23 mentors for the National Athletic Association for Directors of Development...Eastern Illinois appointed Jonathan Jordan as men's and women's swimming and diving head coach...Georgia Tech chose Leah Thomas as associate AD for performance nutrition and Mike Flynn as associate AD for media relations...LSU named Taylor Jacobs as assistant AD for NIL and strategic initiatives...Illinois appointed Petros Kyprianou as director of men's and women's track and field...

...Georgetown selected Shawn Hendi as senior associate AD...Ole Miss named Patrick ("I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight") Henry associate AD for women's basketball...Abilene Christian selected Rob Bennett as women's golf head coach...Grand Canyon named Katarina Adamovic women's tennis head coach...Furman added contract years for men's golf head coach Matt Davidson...UC San Diego is seeking a new men's volleyball head coach...Dartmouth named Dr. Sian Leah Beilock as its president...St. John's (N.Y.) named assistant professor of Accounting and Finance Ben Trnka as faculty athletics representative...Tennessee faculty athletics representative Dr. Donald J. Bruce reflected on the time demands required of FARs and his anticipation as president-elect of the NCAA Division FAR Association...

...Nebraska athletics has an opening for a sports psychology clinic case manager with proper educational credentials...Middle Tennessee will be adding an assistant athletic trainer in coming days...Other recent position postings in athletics on D1.Jobs have been at Georgetown (D.C.), Kenesaw State, Nebraska Omaha, Seattle, UAB, Bradley, Drake, Sooner Sports Properties, Minnesota, North Texas, South Carolina, UC Davis, Arkansas, Bucknell, Harvard, Illinois, Kansas, Maryville (Tenn.), Mississippi State, Stanford, Texas A&M-Commerce, Tulane, Virginia, Xavier (Ohio), and VMI.

The Big Ten Conference will bring in UCLA and USC with full membership status and revenue sharing in 2024-25 and has kept options open for additional expansion...Big Ten commissioner Keith Warren discussed potential expansion, how USC and UCLA came into the mix as new members, conference industry changes over the years, multimedia rights' possibilities, the NIL (he favors strongly), and College Football Playoff expansion at conference media days in Indianapolis last week...Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner Dr. Charles McClelland noted there are 10-15-year strategic plans where the SWAC

could move into the NCAA FBS ranks...

...The Big West Conference has designated Ontario (Calif.) National Airport as the circuit's official sponsoring airport...Sun Belt Conference commissioner Keith Gill welcomed new SBC members Marshall, Old Dominion and Southern Miss and allowed a comfortable feeling about the state of the circuit and a possible sixth contracted bowl berth for his loop in post-2022...Big East Conference commissioner Val Ackerman saluted her member-universities for diversity in hiring head coaches but still does not understand why there are not more women's head coaches guiding women's basketball and other critical teams...The Big 12 Conference named Jenny McGhee director of championships, Kamrin Reed assistant director of championships, Josh Conrad assistant director of media services and Unique Beaver of West Virginia and Adam Keyrouze of North Texas as Will Hancock Memorial communications assistants....

...Grand Caliber has been named as the official luxury watch retailer of the Big 12 in a sponsorship agreement last week, and the conference has denoted Ayoka Lee (Kansas State women's basketball) and Grace Lyons (Oklahoma softball) for the 2022 NCAA Woman of the Year Award. The Big 12 also opened general public sales for its Dec. 3 Dr Pepper Football Championship at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas...Bog 12 Men's and Women's Athletes of the year for 2021-22 are Kansas basketball guard Ochai Agbaji and Oklahoma softball slugger Jocelyn Alo. Both led their teams to NCAA titles...

...Year, The Pac-12 Conference is having discussions about UCLA and USC voting arrangements for upcoming Pac-12 decision-making meetings (especially multimedia rights' negotiations) as the two schools leave for the Big Ten...The College Football Players Association and other independent student-athletes' associations have requested face-to-face meetings with Big Ten Conference administrators....

...Former Maryland publicist David Haglund was celebrated on his 11-year anniversary as commissioner of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference...Houston, coming off a 12-2 season and Birmingham Bowl win over Auburn, edged College Football Playoff semifinalist and defending American Athletic Conference champ Cincinnati in the preseason AAC media survey...Simon Fraser (Canada), Western Oregon and Central Washington will bring the Lone Star Conference football membership up to 10 schools this autumn and automatic qualification for a NCAA Football Championship berth with the additional colleges...Mid-American Conference commissioner Dr. Jon Steinbrecher spoke about current MAC conditions and possibilities for the future as well as ongoing NCAA FBS conference alignment...Conference quote of the week from Pac-12 media days and commissioner George Kliavkoff: "The Big 12 said it is open for business. Well, we (Pac-12) are not buying."

The 1994 OS2 Fiesta Bowl was remembered in a recent feature as one of Arizona's most memorable victories in history 29-0 over Miami (Fla.)...Schools with most bowl appearances prior to the 2022 campaign are Alabama (74, also a record 44 victories), Georgia (59), Texas (57), Oklahoma (55), Tennessee (54), USC (54), Nebraska (53), Ohio State (53), Penn State (51), Michigan (49), Clemson (48), and Florida State (47)...Goodyear Cotton Bowl Cotton Bowl staff members Charlie Fiss and Nancy Mills presented GCB Hall of Fame photographer Jim Bradley a 10-gallon cowboy hat and horse shoe rack at his 100th birthday celebration at SMU Athletic Indoor Activity Center. "Brad" is scheduled to serve as photographer for his 75th consecutive Goodyear Cotton Bowl (national record) on Jan. 2, 2023, in Arlington, TX.

NFF College Hall of Fame coach Dennis Erickson was credited for much of Utah's overall and bowl success from 2013-16 as offensive coordinator of the Utes to conclude his 47 seasons as a college head or assistant coach...Houston Texans rookie wide receiver John Metchie III of Alabama has been diagnosed with a form of adult leukemia and has begun treatment. He is out indefinitely and probably will miss the 2022 season...NFF College Hall of Fame QB Jake Gibbs of Ole Miss was featured in a story in his hometown newspaper the Grenada (Miss.) Sentinel-Star after the Rebels captured their first NCAA World Series last June. He starred in both sports for the Rebels...NFF College Hall of Fame QB John Elway of Stanford and the NFL Denver Broncos had his uniform No. 7 listed as the most outstanding No. 7 in Denver pro sports teams' history...The Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame inducted former Mississippi State, North Texas and Millsaps head coach Bob Tyler and former MSU basketball great, men's head basketball head coach and Bulldog Club director Kermit Davis Sr. last weekend...Retired Brown and New York Mets publicist Jay Horowitz Backup quarterback E.J. Perry of Boston College and Brown was an early cut by the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars last week...The 43rd (and final) 1976 College All-Star Game at Soldier Field in Chicago was remembered for its ending in the third quarter with the Pittsburgh Steelers leading the All-Stars 24-0 in a deluge wind and rainfall. The game for years coincided with the College Sports Information Directors of America National Workshop until CoSIDA began moving its gathering (1957-present) to different cities in 1975 with a meeting in Houston, Texas...Former Central Michigan and NFL special teams/DB standout Kevon Frazier has retired from football.

From 85 total defensive stalwarts from 61 schools nationally-renowned LB Kyle Harmon, San Jose State; DE Collin Oliver, Oklahoma State; DT Tuli Tuipulotu, USC; DE Zach Harrison, Ohio State; LB DeMarvion Overshown, Texas; LB Payton Wilgar, BYU; safety Xavier Henderson, Michigan State; S Gervarrius Owens,

Houston; S Evan Williams, Fresno State; LB Nick Herbig, Wisconsin; LB Deshaun Pace, Cincinnati; CB Emmanuel Forbes, Mississippi State; and safety Divaad Wilson, UCF have made the preseason FWA Bronko Nagurski Defensive Player of the Year watch list...The pre-2022 watch list for the famed FWA Outland Award Lineman of the Year Award includes the likes of C Steve Avila, TCU; G A.J. Gillie, Louisiana; G Lokahi Pauole, UCF; G Clark Barrington, BYU; OT Anton Harrison, Oklahoma; OT Nolan Potter Jr., Northern Illinois; DT Kyon Barrs, Arizona; C Sincere Haynesworth, Tulane; C Jake Renfro, Cincinnati; G T.J. Bass, Oregon; OT Cooper Hodges, Appalachian State; and G Layden Robinson, Texas A&M....

...Some of the pre-2022 notable linebackers on the Dick Butkus Award watch list are Mohamoud Diabate, Utah; Jamon Dumas-Johnson, Georgia; Justin Flowe, Oregon; Sherrod Greene, South Carolina; Kyle Harmon, San Jose State; Calvin Hart Jr., Illinois; Daiyan Henley, Washington State; Nick Jackson, Virginia; Jestin Jacobs, Iowa; Carl Jones Jr., UCLA; Mikel Jones, Syracuse; Tyrice Knight, UTEP; and Carlton Martial, Troy; among others....

...Conference USA preseason Players of the Year are UTSA senior QB Frank Harris (Offensive Player of the Year), UTSA safety Rashad Wisdom (Defensive Player of the Year) and WKU kicker Brayden Narveson (Special Teams)...Some of the key candidates among the 48-player 2022 Ray Guy Award watch list for punter of the year are Bryce Baringer, Michigan State; Colin Goodfellow, Kentucky; Dom Dzioban, Miami (Ohio); Rhys Burns, Louisiana; Ethan Duane, Old Dominion; Isaac Power, Baylor; Ivan Mora, Wake Forest; Jack Brooks, South Alabama; Jacob Barnes, Louisiana Tech; Jamieson Sheahan, California; Jay Bramblett, LSU; Joe Doyle, Memphis; Jordy Sandy, TCU; Kai Kroeger, South Carolina; and Kyle Greenwell, UAB ...Houston WR Nathaniel Dell and Baylor LN Dillon Doyle have received All-America recognition in several preseason publications...Watch list candidates for the 18th annual Wuerffel Trophy for leadership and community service number 115 nationwide. Some memorable names, among others, in this group are Jordan Battle, Alabama, DB; Miller Gibbs, Appalachian State, TE; Jordan Morgan, Arizona, OL; Case Hatch, Arizona State, RB/TE; Cam Little, Arkansas, KS; Eddie Smith, Arkansas State, DB; Marquel Broughton, Army West Point, DB; Nick Brahm, Auburn, OL; Brandon Martin, Ball State, LB; Ben Sims, Baylor, TE; John Ojukwu, Boise State, OL; and Taji Johnson, Boston College, WR...Notes from the 2022 Lou Groza National Place-Kicker Award watch list released last week: 2021 Groza winner Jake Moody of Michigan and 2018 recipient Andre Szmyt of Syracuse are attempting to become the second two-time victors for the award along with Florida State's Sebastian Janikowski in 1998 and '99.

Other previous finalists, semifinalists or nominees on the '22 watch list fold are Noah Ruggles of Ohio State, Jacob Oldroyd of BYU, Will Reichard of Alabama, Missouri's Harrison Mevis, UTSA's Jared Sackett, Nevada's Brandon Talton, Arizona's Tyler Loop, Tulsa's Zack Long, Boise State's Jonah Dalmas, UNLV's Daniel Gutierrez, Maryland's Chad Ryland, Hawai'i's Matthew Shipley, Texas State's Seth Keller, and Arkansas' Cam Little..... Arkansas State QB James Blackman expressed his thoughts as the projected starter for the Red Wolves...Alabama standouts on offense such as 2021 Heisman Trophy QB Bryce Young spoke of the influence that current Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian had on that unit when he was an analyst at UA in 2020...UTEP QB Gavin Hardison received spring compliments on his increased passing accuracy as the Miners get set for pre-2022 workouts...Tyler Davis is transferring to Mississippi State from VCU...Pittsburgh QB Kedon Slovis was mentioned as a probable Heisman Trophy quality signal caller this season...SMU looks to take advantage of two key SEC transfers – Alabama RB Camar Wheaton and Mississippi State WR Teddy Knox – in possible starting roles before the season concludes...Alabama reserve QB Jalen Moore and transfer RB Jahmyr Gibbs were featured in a preseason story on the eve of 'Bama preseason drills. ...Veteran Texas A&M OL Akinola Ogunbiyi was saluted for his leadership qualities during Aggies offseason programs ...Conference USA's 2022 Players to Watch group includes the likes of QB Gavin Hardison, UTEP; QB Frank Harris, UTSA; QB N'Kosi Perry, Florida Atlantic; QB Chris Reynolds, Charlotte; RB Jermaine Brown Jr., UAB; WR Roderic Burns, North Texas; WR Tyrese Chambers, FIU; WR Malachi Corley, WKU; WR Grant DuBose, Charlotte; WR Izaiah Gathings, Middle Tennessee; WR Smoke Harris, Louisiana Tech; WR Jaylin Lane, Middle Tennessee; WR Bradley Rozner, Rice; WR Tyrin Smith, UTEP; TE Rivaldo Fairweather, FIU; OL Shea Baker, Rice; and OL Ashton Gist, Charlotte...Vanderbilt transfers, newcomers and returnees DB Jeremy Lucien, DB C.J. Taylor, WR Jayden McGowan, and LB Kane Patterson were identified as keys to a possible Commodores turnaround in '22...Incoming 2023 college football freshman RB-DB Mickey Joseph of Lincoln (Neb.) East HS already has a 10.5-second clocking in pads for 100 meters...Mississippi State gained a 2023 verbal pledge from LB Tabias Hinton ...Three of the Top Five nationally rated high school prospects from the state of Georgia for the class of 2023 have made verbal commitments to Alabama...Men's basketball recruit DJ Wagner has a new NIL agreement with the performer Drake and Nike label Nocta for equipment, accessories and apparel endorsements.

Kansas State athletics had total donations of \$58.9 million for fiscal year 202

with \$20.4 million going to the university's Ahearn Fund...Houston Cougars football received an anonymous donation of \$10 million for its new football operations center as part of the \$150 million Houston Rise capital campaign...James Madison athletics passed the \$5 million mark in contributions in 2021-22 and also finished third in NCAA FCS average home attendance at 21,769. The Dukes are nearing a school-high 7,000 season tickets as well through July 29...American U. athletics has had a \$10 million gift for the Alan and Amy Meltzer Center for Athletic Performance from the Metzler family, which also contributed \$5 million to AU athletics in 2019...Georgia Southern athletics set a school record in fiscal year 2022 with \$10.6 million to outlast its fiscal year 2021 prior record tally of \$6.3 million.... Austin Peay athletics and agency Sabertooth Sports and Entertainment were able to raise a record \$1.1 million in corporate sponsorships in 2021-22...Liberty athletics addressed major growth within the department, its move to Conference USA in 2023-24, upgraded facilities, fundraising advances, and communicating with potential donors in a recent report...Kentucky football surpassed 36,000 season tickets – its highest total since 2015...Northwestern State alumnus Buddy Wood has given athletics a \$100,000 donation for the Buddy Wood Family Scholarship...Marquette athletics and Teamworks have expanded to Teamworks Elite for all MU product lines and single contracts and relationships.... Iowa's Hawkeye Academic Advantage Plan will give priority to Hawkeyes student-athletes' graduation rates and will provide Alston Case payment awards for academic achievement...Mississippi State and LEARFIELD Amplify will initiate an on-campus ticket sales and service team as later this month...MSU also has sold out The Balconies, the new lounges in the upper deck corners of the west side of Davis Wade Stadium, any may add these party and family areas in other sections of the stadium...Kansas athletics has a new, 10-year contract extension with LEARFIELD and Collegiate Licensing Co. as well as support for Jayhawks NIL agreements...Jacksonville State athletics will be adding suites and making facility updates in several buildings around Snow Stadium...North Texas athletics is promoting the Scrappy Squad with an annual membership and several local business amenities for annual enrollment...Tennessee athletics has a 10-year agreement with Hanes Brands as its primary apparel partner...Troy athletics has completed its NIL arrangements in a joint grouping of Opendorse, the Brandr Group, adidas, and Playfly Sports...Two NIL collectives for Virginia Tech student-athletes – Triumph NIL and Hot Route Sports Marketing – have merged into the single group called Triumph...Penn State student-athletes in various sports have been holding recent discussions with the College Football Players Association...Hawai'i

posted photos of a custom-made shark’s tooth hatchet to fire up the Rainbow Warriors in anticipation of its 2022 season. Illinois State is revamping the artificial turf at Duffy Bass Field and resuming construction on the \$11.5 million ISU Indoor Practice Facility after some construction logistics’ delays...Sacramento State athletics’ officials spoke about its new business procedures, the most recent fiscal year and increased revenue generation...UC San Diego athletics is bracing for its first year in NCAA Division I and the Big West Conference in 2022-23...Ohio State athletics and Teamworks Elite have established a new digital media track for the Buckeyes...George Mason athletics and the Aspire Group have a new a multi-year sales and service partnership for ticketing and marketing procedures...Nike has selected will use IPG Mediabrands’ Initiative for its international media relations...The Auburn Board of Trustees ratified renovations at historic Plainsman Park with expanded first base seating, premium ticket areas, club space, and enlarged concessions’ areas...The Sandy Creek (Neb.) HS booster club had casino night, bargain steak dinners, several merchandise giveaways, and date night getaways as part of its County Fair Season Ticket Crush last week...Former North Texas AD Rick Villareal has helped establish the Light the Tower NIL collective for Mean Green athletics...Vanderbilt men’s basketball will host Memphis and famed head coach Penny Hardaway for its Nov. 7 season opener – the Tigers first trek to VU’s Memorial Gymnasium since 1997...UCLA athletics and Under Armour reached a settlement agreement on the remainder of the contract terms between the pair.

CBS Sports columnist Dennis Dodd related that the Rose Bowl presented by Capital One contract with the Big Ten and Pac-12 Conferences is remaining intact through the 2025 season despite recent conference membership alterations....ESPN’s Pete Thamel noted that Big Ten Conference ADs have renewed talks about the expansion of the College Football Playoff after the Big Ten-Pac-12-ACC Alliance backed off staying at four schools only...ESPN College GameDay presented by Home Depot will start the season at Pittsburgh on Thursday, Sept. 1, as the Panthers host West Virginia in the famed Backyard Brawl...Arizona State’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the NIL Education and Information Center co-founded by Oliver Luck of West Virginia are partnering to establish a database to track collegiate NIL agreements from their inception to conclusion...The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News newspaper’s Jon Wilner reported that both linear and digital media rights and the cutting-edge technological infrastructure at Pac-12 Conference members will be valuable bargaining chips in the conference’s upcoming multimedia rights’ negotiations...Award-winning ESPN broadcaster Dick

Vitale delivered an inspirational address when he received the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance at the ESPYs...ESPN’s chair James Pitaro told an audience ESPN is ready to come to the bargaining table when commissioners have more clarity about final conference alignments...Longtime ESPN radio overnight host Amy Lawrence now is broadcasting from 2-6 a.m. (EDT) weeknights on Audacy podcasts...Chicago White Sox and ESPN broadcaster Jason Benetti is having talks with FOX Sports to broadcast college football contests with analyst Brock Huard of Washington...On3.com discovered that NIL provider YOKE has lowered its NIL finders’ fees from 25 to 18 percent due to marketplace changes...Several media outlets are reporting that in talks between the Big 12 and Pac-12, all remaining Pac-12 teams should be allowed to merge with the Big 12 instead of groups of 2-10 current members...On3.com also performed a survey of 85 high school football prospects nationally for 2023 to perceive their thoughts on the effect of NIL arrangements on the schools they chose...D1Softball.com glanced at how Oklahoma athletics has continued to show solid financial support for the Sooners potent softball program...Sportico.com described legal action among at least nine NCAA FBS members and Vintage Brands over trademarks and licensing...Sports Business Journal outlined Altius Sports Group’s proposals to have general managers representing that firm within collegiate departments of athletics...Some schools utilizing Meta and Facebook social media may be requesting more video content for NIL agreements’ contacts and similar economic aspects after the companies reported quarterly profit downturns for the first six months in 2022...

The 72nd annual FWAA membership director is scheduled to be mailed with membership cards around Aug. 20, and new memberships and renewals are available at the FWAA.com website and membership link...Nominations also continue to be accepted for the 11th annual 2022 Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the Football Writers Association of America and The Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl. Nominations may be submitted online through the URL <https://www.armedforcesbowl.com/meritaward...>...Arizona State, Eastern Kentucky, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Memphis, Miami (Fla.), Michigan State, Penn State, Tennessee, and UCLA have been conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...CoSIDA Hall of Fame member and 2022 Arch Ward Award recipient Charles Bloom of South Carolina, retired Texas publicist and CoSIDA Hall of Fame member Bill Little, Timothy Brunner of Louisiana, Mike Houck of Oklahoma, Bill Powers of Hawai’i Pacific, and Kenny Lannou of Kansas State were featured in CoSIDA online discussions and related social media...The NCAA Division I

Council released a report on the “series of NCAA Transformation Committee concepts, one of which might allow multiple moves through the NCAA transfer portal...The NFL Green Bay Packers had their first public stock sale in 2021-22 and netted \$64.7 million out of their total profit of \$77 million for fiscal year 2021...The XFL will try another spring season in 2023 with schedule to be determined but with a solid mix of head coaches such as NFF College Hall of Fame mentor Bob Stoops of Oklahoma and former NFL head coach Wade Phillips leading the squads...The city of Chicago has proposed a \$2.2 billion retractable dome stadium downtown after a group earlier has been seeking to construct a new facility for the Chicago Bears on the site of the former Arlington Race Track...Coors Field in Denver, Colo., and Choctaw Stadium in Arlington, Texas, have become popular venues for offseason golfers’ driving ranges away from windows and breakable objects, fortunately...The MLB San Francisco Giants retired the number 22 of former Mississippi State All-America 1B Will Clark last Saturday at AT&T Park...The U.S. House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee mailed a letter to the Internal Revenue Service about some fraudulent charities, which have attempted to use universities and athletics in their actual profit-making appeals...Michigan State has requested that the U.S. the Supreme Court hear a case from a lawsuit filed by members of the previously eliminated MSU men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams. Three members of the M-State Board of Trust also requested that athletics revisit the restoration of the programs, which were ended due to 2021 major budget cuts.

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**2022-23 College Football Playoff Bowl
Schedule with six games on
New Year’s Day**

**Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022
(CFP Semifinals)**
Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, No. 1 vs. No. 4 or No. 2 vs. No. 3 see, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga., 3:30 or 7:30 p.m.
Playstation Fiesta Bowl, No. 1 vs. No. 4 or No. 2 vs. No. 3 seed, State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz., 3:30 or 7:30 p

**Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 - CFP
Championship, Semifinal winners**
SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles, California
8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20, 2022-Jan. 2, 2023
(Other New Year’s Six Bowls)

**Friday, Dec. 30
Capital One Orange Bowl**
Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Lakes, Florida, 8 p.m.

Jan. 2
Goodyear Cotton Bowl
AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas
early game TBD

Jan. 2
Rose Bowl presented by Capital One
Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, California
mid-afternoon

Jan. 2
Allstate Sugar Bowl
Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, 8 p.m

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