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Weekly

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Cover Photo:

4 AROUND THE AREA

5 SMU REPORT

BY DIC HUMPHREY

6 GOLF, ETC

BY TOM WARD

7 TOP 10 STORYLINES OF THE 2021 SEASON

BY PGATOUR.COM

9 2021 COLLEGE FOOTBALL RULE CHANGES

BY NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

10 SEC FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS - WEEK 2

BY ROBERT CORTINEZ

12 BIG 12 FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS WEEK 2

BY JEFF BARTLE

14 COLLEGE FOOTBALL NEWS AND NOTES

BY BO CARTER

19 AUTO REVIEW

BY KBB.COM

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Mavs announce preseason schedule



The Dallas Mavericks announced their 2021 preseason schedule, which will begin with a pair of home games against the Utah Jazz and L.A. Clippers on Oct. 6 and Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Dallas will continue its four-game preseason slate against the Charlotte Hornets on Oct. 13 at 5:30 p.m. CT. The preseason concludes on the road on Oct. 15 when the Mavericks face the reigning NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks at 7 p.m. CT.

TV and radio broadcast information will be announced at a later date.

2021 Mavs Preseason Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (CT)
Oct. 6	vs. Utah	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 8	vs. Clippers	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Charlotte	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	at Milwaukee	7 p.m.



\$50,000 to win super late model dirt race highlights Texas Dirt Nationals finale at Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track

The dirt-flying, nonstop action on the

Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track is showcased Sept. 13-18 with the Texas Dirt Nationals highlighted by the \$50,000-to-win Super Late Model crown jewel.

The area's best dirt track racers in Outlaw Modifieds, Texas Modifieds, Southern Limited Modifieds, Eco Modifieds, Factory Stock, Stock, Outlaw Street Stock, Hornets, Dwarf Cars and Super Late Models will battle all week long on the famed four-tenths-mile Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track, marking the largest event to be held at the facility in history.

It all comes down to six nights of on-track action to determine champions in 10 categories. It's all about practice on Monday (Sept. 13), then qualifying Tuesday through Thursday (Sept. 14-16) and the main events Friday and Saturday (Sept. 17-18). Friday night will feature the \$10,000-to-win Super Late Models and \$25,000-to-win Outlaw Modifieds. Saturday's feature will be the \$50,000-to-win Super Late Model race. Over \$500,000 in cash prize are on the line!

Information on tickets, parking, camping and entry is available at www.texasdirt-nationals.com.

No outside food or beverage is allowed. Clear bags are allowed and are subject to inspection by security officials and can be no larger than 14" X 14" X 14". Binoculars, scanners and cameras are allowed inside the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track.

All of the XR Events from the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track are streamed on raceXR.plus and the raceXR+ Apps, available on a number of devices, under the Monthly Subscription.



Speedway Children's Charities- Texas chapter to host laps for charity event September 18

Speedway Children's Charities - Texas Chapter's Laps for Charity will provide the opportunity for good humans of every walk of life to turn laps at Texas Motor Speedway in their own vehicles to benefit local children in need on Saturday, Sept. 18.

Participants will experience the thrill of driving around the 1.5-mile world-renowned speedway oval from 5-9 p.m. A \$50 donation provides three laps on track and all proceeds going to Speedway Children's Charities - Texas Chapter. Pre-registration is required.

Exclusive VIP Laps (sold out) will take place from 5-6 p.m. and General Admission Laps will take place from 6-9 p.m.

All drivers must be 18 years of age or older, and passengers must be at least six years of age. Safety belts must be worn by all occupants. All vehicles must be street legal. The Texas Motor Speedway pace car will set the speed limit. Visit www.speedwaycharities.org/texas for more information and to register.

the **SPORTS**Page
Weekly

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	SEPTEMBER 10 FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 11 SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 12 SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 13 MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 14 TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 15 WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 16 THURSDAY
	Rangers at Athletics 8:40 / BSSW	Rangers at Athletics 3:07 / BSSW	Rangers at Athletics 3:07 / BSSW	Rangers vs Astros 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Astros 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Astros 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Astros 7:05 / BSSW
	Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 7:05	Roughriders vs San Antonio 6:05		Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders at Amarillo 5:05	Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05
		FC Dallas vs Quakes 7:30					
	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35			Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 6:35
			Next: vs Chargers Sept. 19 3:25 / CBS				

Mustangs host UNT Saturday night



Oklahoma transfer Tanner Mordecai set a school record with seven touchdown passes last week against ACU



BY DIC HUMPHREY
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM
MEMBER: USBWA

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – The SMU Mustangs' tackle football team proved worthy of the excitement about this year's team when they blasted the Abilene Christian Wildcats last Saturday 56-9. Tanner Mordecai won the quarterback competition, and promptly set a school record with seven touchdown passes, which also tied the American Athletic Conference record. Mordecai completed 24 of 30 passes for 317 yards and was named American Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week and the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award organization named him the National Player of the Week.

Head Football Coach Sonny Dykes was obviously pleased with his team's performance and said after the game,

"It was good to get back out there and play well. It was good to see that our guys were ready to play. I thought we came out with a good frame of mind and were focused. I thought we played hard throughout the game. I was just happy with our performance overall. There's a lot of things we gotta get cleaned up here and there. To play the first game of the season not to turn the ball over, to create four turnovers, and

have two penalties, and really both those penalties you can put those on coaching errors. They were substitution penalties where we were trying to get guys on and off the field. It was a very clean game. I was really happy with the way our guys played. I thought we were focused, and really came out and played pretty well."

There is no question that the success of this year's team hinges on quarterback play. Shane Buechele is gone. The Mustangs need quarterback play like Buechele's to have the season Mustang fans have grown to expect. Dykes commented on Mordecai's performance,

"I thought he played well. There's obviously going to be a million corrections. He had command of what we were doing offensively. Never panicked. Once he got settled in, he threw good deep balls. He gave our receivers opportunities to make plays. I was happy with the way he played. He took care of the ball. He didn't force any throws, and it seemed like he was really controlled for the first time out."

Dykes was asked about heralded quarterback recruit Preston Stone. "We're going to see how it plays out with Preston this year. We want him to have meaningful reps. If he's going to play in four games, we want those to be pretty meaningful. I'm higher on Preston right now than I've ever been. I think he's got a bright future in our program and he's going to be a really good player for us."

Dykes was especially pleased with his tight end play with transfers Grant Calcaterra and Nolan Matthews-Harris. They both caught two touchdown passes.

"Both of them have the opportunity to be good players. They've got good size and good ball skills." Speedy wide receiver

Danny Gray also caught a pair of touchdown passes, and slot receiver Rashee Rice caught the seventh. Twelve different receivers made receptions in the game.

The second big key to this year's success is the defense. Dykes said, "I thought we played hard. That's the biggest thing. Our players knew what to do. They knew how to lineup. They knew their assignments. They just played with a lot of confidence. That allowed them to play fast. There wasn't a lot of indecision. Some of those guys that are good athletes can use their athleticism to run around and make plays. I thought that was very encouraging. We played a lot of guys. I'm encouraged by that. I think it's got a chance to be a really good group."

This week's opponent is the University of North Texas Mean Green. They beat Northwestern State 44-14 last weekend to come into this game with a 1-0 record. Head Coach Seth Littrell is in his sixth year with UNT, and he routinely produces good offensive teams. Defense was a problem last year. They led the nation with 522 yards and 43 points allowed per game. A name familiar to Mustang fans has been hired to fix the UNT defense – former Mustang Head Coach Phil Bennet is their new defensive coordinator. UNT lost their leading rusher from last year. Tre Siggers transferred to SMU, and Siggers is likely to be a big part of this week's offensive game plan. Siggers' replacement though is not to be taken lightly. DeAndre Torrey rushed for 244 yards in the Northwestern State game.

On Friday morning, the MGM betting line had the Mustangs favored by 22-1/2 points. Game time is 6:00 PM Saturday at Ford Stadium, and it will be televised on ESPN+. Fans are urged to wear blue this week. The adage in college football is that a team improves the most between its first

and second games of the season. If that holds true this week, the Mustangs should have another high scoring victory. Don't be surprised if they put another 50 points on the scoreboard this week.

MEN'S SOCCER

Chambro Pinho was named AAC Defensive Player of the Week last week after being named the Rookie of the Week in week one. Bailey Sparks was named Rookie of the Week for his performance against Houston Baptist. Gabriel Costa and goalkeeper Cole Johnson were named to the AAC Weekly Honor Roll. SMU moved up to eighth in the nation this week. The Mustangs played the University of Denver to a 1-1 tie on Labor Day evening making their record 2-0-1 on the season. The Mustangs had numerous opportunities to drop the winning shot in regulation and in the two 10-minute overtimes but were not able to convert any of the opportunities into a game winning goal. SMU's next game is this Friday, September 10, against Saint Louis University, the number 16 team in the nation. Game time is 7:00 PM at the Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The SMU Women's soccer team beat Oklahoma State Thursday night at the Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium on the SMU campus. Sophomore Payton Dolton scored the only goal of the game in SMU's 1-0 win. The team is now 3-1-0 for the season and plays again this Sunday evening against Rice in Houston.

NOTABLE

- The SMU football team received votes in this week's USA Today Sports AFCA Coaches Poll.

- Jace Fredenburg was named Director of Basketball Athletic Performance. He comes to SMU after working eight years for the Dallas Mavericks

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Don't take a chance with your stance



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Too many golfers fail to realize the importance of proper stance. The stance, together with the grip, have a direct influence on the results of the shot, specifically

direction and distance.

It's important to have a firm, but not tense foundation with the feet. The feet are the foundation of the golf swing. It's like building a house you build it from the ground floor up. It's imperative having a sturdy, well-built base, for the golf swing.

A proper stance for any shot involves position of the feet in relation to the line of flight. The line of flight is the direction you are aiming with the feet and shoulders, towards the target, whether it's the fairway or the green. The stance, like the grip, must be comfortable and natural to be effective and allow for full freedom of motion to

swing the club.

The most popular stance meeting these conditions and criteria is the square stance (for the full swing). I highly recommended it for compactness and control. The feet parallel the line of flight with the toe of the left foot (for right-handed golfers) turned slightly towards the intended target, the right foot will remain square or at a right angle to the line.

For the open stance, the left foot is drawn back from the line of flight. It has a tendency to restrict the backswing and force the clubhead slightly outside the line of flight, thus the downswing approaches

impact from outside the line of flight.

The closed stance is the third type of stance. This is more or less the opposite of the open stance. The left foot is at the line of flight with the right foot drawn back slightly.

In the photos are shots from a clinic I held a few years ago. In the top left photo is a photo of me demonstrating a shot with a really wide stance. There is a best stance for every shot. How the feet are placed determines how well the player can swing the club towards the target with speed. Placing the feet too close or too far restricts the foot action. Too far apart restricts and blocks the hip action. Too close prohibits the full use of the foot and leg action.

The angle of the feet will also cause a problem. Toes pointed out too far can restrict the foot action.

The bottom left is a photo of my stance that is narrower than my normal stance. Sometimes during these clinics I will hit shots with my feet together. You would be surprised how well you can hit the ball, but sacrificing distance in the process.

When the stance is too wide it can really inhibit the swing and not nearly as effective in ball striking.

The big photo on the right is my natural setup over the ball. I've drawn an arrow highlighting my feet and shoulders all square to my intended target line.

Once you've established a good, solid stance it's time to utilize another important component involving the legs. For correct body motion, the weight must stay inside the feet from start to finish. On the full shot, the feet should be placed approximately shoulder width, the left foot pointing outwardly (toward the target). The ball position is just inside of the left heel.

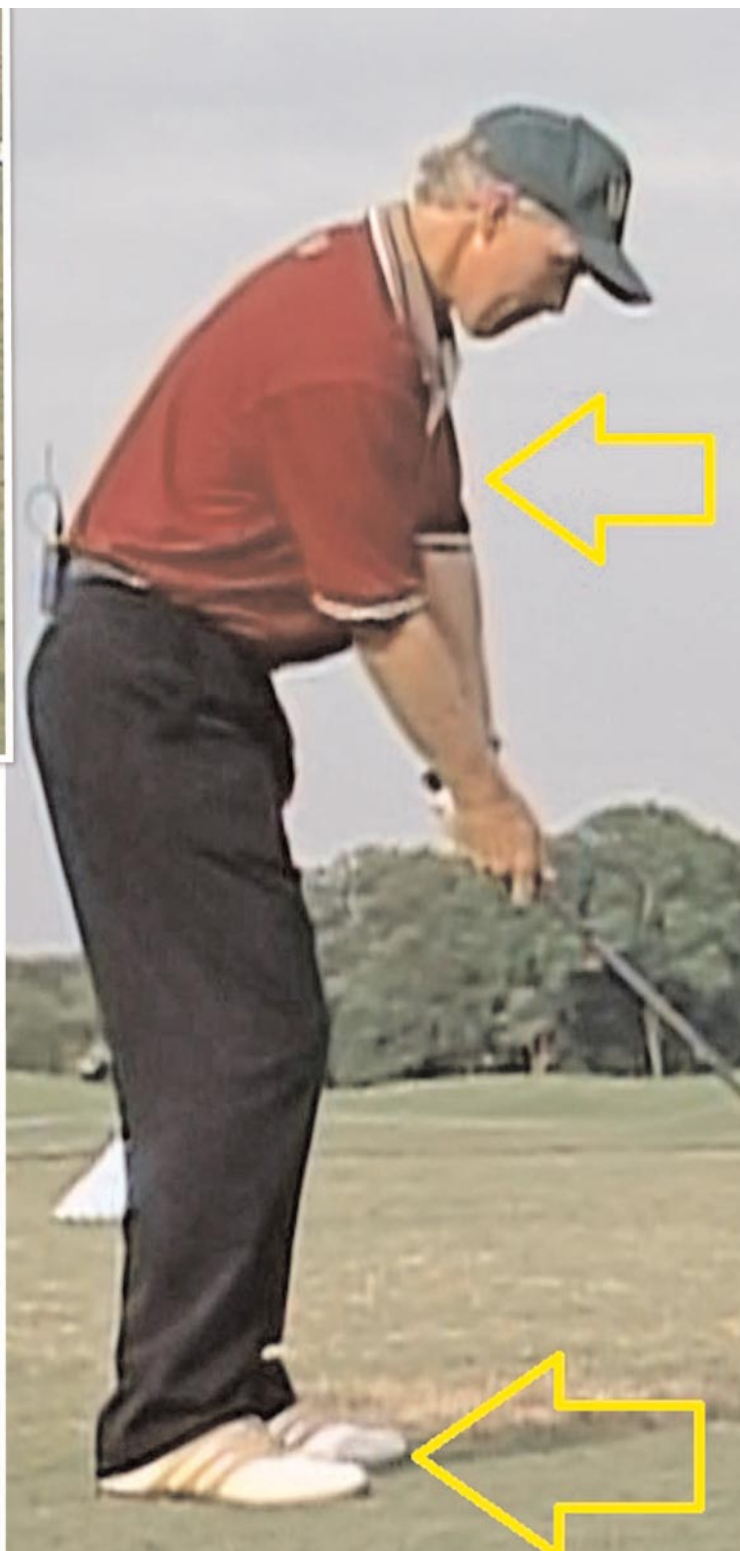
As the club shaft becomes shorter the placement of the feet will change. The ball should remain in the same position in relation to the left heel. With short irons the ball should not be moved back in the stance toward the right heel, instead the right foot should be moved closer to the ball. As the clubs get shorter the need for power gets less.

It's important when practicing to spend time hitting shots with an open and closed stance. You don't want to be a one-dimensional player.

In future articles, I will delve into how to shape shots with controlled draws and hooks and fades and slices.

So, if you want to enhance your chance of playing better make sure your stance is aligned properly as it will advance your game to better scores.

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



Top 10 storylines of the 2020-21 season



By Staff

PGATOUR.COM

Patrick Cantlay's duel with Jon Rahm at the TOUR Championship to win his first FedExCup title capped off a huge 2020-21 PGA TOUR Super Season that began 361 days ago at the Fortinet Championship in Napa, California.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic produced a season unlike any other. For the first, and probably the last time, there were six major championships, three World Golf Championships, an Olympics, a PLAYERS Championship before an awesome FedEx Cup Playoffs all inside the one PGA TOUR season.

And we had historic moments through just about all of those. Some of which would have been laughed at by Hollywood screenwriters as unbelievable had they been touted prior.

Through 50 tournaments we witnessed thrills and spills from the greatest players on the planet with incredible golf coming thick and fast.

The season was so packed tight with highlights that the task of coming up with the top 10 storylines from the last year of PGA TOUR golf was a near impossible task.

But we've given it a go anyway.

Here – in no particular order – are the Top 10 of PGATOUR season 2020-21.

1. CANTLAY CAN DO

In addition to the \$15 million, Patrick Cantlay earned a new nickname, one that will likely last just as long as the winner's check he earned at East Lake. "Patty Ice" they called him for the way he holed important putts against Bryson DeChambeau a week earlier at the BMW

Championship. Then he locked up the season-long prize with a clutch approach to East Lake's par-5 finishing hole to hold off the World No. 1, Jon Rahm.

Beating the best players in the game is what Cantlay did all season. It started at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in his native California, where Rahm and Justin Thomas were runner-up. Then Cantlay beat Collin Morikawa at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday (after Rahm bowed out with a positive COVID diagnosis). And finally, Cantlay bested DeChambeau and Rahm in the final fortnight of the season. Beat the best to be the best. That's what Cantlay did to win a season-high four times, including the TOUR Championship. It fulfilled the promise that Cantlay showed a decade ago in that magical summer of 2011, when he shot 60 at the Travelers Championship, was low amateur at the U.S. Open (T21) and finished in the top-10 in another TOUR event (RBC Canadian Open).

Personal tragedy and injury derailed his career, however. But when he returned four years ago, he quickly earned a reputation as one of the TOUR's most consistent contenders. In an age of data and analytics, Cantlay is unwavering in his old-school approach, preferring for stability instead of tinkering. That slow build came to a crescendo this year. His four wins were twice as many as he'd earned entering this season.

"With each passing year, he's been better in these situations, better dealing with the crowds, better in the media," his caddy, Matt Minister, said. "His interviews are fantastic; you see it with each passing year, his maturity and how comfortable he

is being out here."

He was comfortable beating the best. And now, at the end of this Super Season, he lays claim to being the best.

2. THE ACCIDENT

For a moment we feared the worst. In the early hours of Tuesday, February 23, the news was humming around the golf world that legend Tiger Woods was involved in a serious car accident but details were sketchy at first.

Just how serious it was wasn't immediately known but after quite a few tense hours it was revealed the 82-time PGA TOUR winner lost control of his vehicle near Los Angeles before it hit a tree and flipped several times. Woods needed to be extracted by first responders and faced several emergency surgeries on his right leg.

It was revealed the 82-time TOUR champ and 15-time major winner broke ~~both bones in his lower right leg, the tibia and the fibula, in multiple places and the bones had pierced his skin in places.~~

While Woods has yet to talk in depth on his recovery there have been some positive signs of late with Woods seen up and about albeit with the help of crutches. A timetable on any possible return to golf is still unknown but the golf world felt a collective sigh of relief just to know Woods was alive and mobile in any way, shape or form. We all wonder what the future holds for the now 45-year-old and hope to see him back playing again one day. At what level... well that's ultimately irrelevant... Woods has already provided the game with more we could have ever hoped for.

3. THE DROUGHT BREAKERS

Stewart Cink, with his win in the season-opening Fortinet Championship, set the

pace for a season that saw plenty of players end their winless droughts. The Fortinet was Cink's first win since tearing up the storybook quest of Tom Watson in the 2009 Open Championship. Of course, Cink went on to win again this season, becoming just the fourth player to win multiple times in a season after turning 47.

Cink did so with his son, Reagan, on the bag, who is the age of many of Cink's PGA TOUR peers. Stewart's first PGA TOUR title came the same year that Collin Morikawa was born.

Now Cink was one of just several players to re-enter the winner's circle this year after lengthy waits, providing all of us with a bit of inspiration and showing the power of perseverance.

Jordan Spieth didn't have to wait nearly as long as Cink, but no one on this list had to answer more questions about a next victory. Like Cink, Spieth's win this was his first since hoisting the claret jug.

Spieth's win in the Valero Texas Open came nearly four years after his last win. It was a stunning span of time for a player who won three majors before turning 25. We found out later that the win came weeks after Spieth learned that his wife was expecting the couple's first child.

And we can't leave out Tony Finau. Winless since his 2016 triumph at the Puerto Rico Open Finau had eight runner-up finishes, three of those in a playoff, and 11 finishes in the top three without another win.

But he surged home at Liberty National over the back nine in THE NORTHERN TRUST and then stayed solid when Smith's playoff tee shot went OB to get the win after a 142 tournament and over five-year drought.

Let's also give nods to Martin Laird (first win since 2013) and Lucas Glover (first win since 2011) for enduring the dry years to re-enter the winner's circle and we can also give some kudos to Xander Schauffele who didn't break his TOUR win drought but did claim Olympic Gold in Tokyo. And then there's Jason Kokrak, who collected his first two TOUR titles this season at the age of 35. You know what they say. The waiting is the hardest part. Just ask Louis Oosthuizen who was runner up at the PGA Championship and U.S. Open and third at The Open.

4. SPIETH'S RETURN

Relief was the overwhelming emotion when Jordan Spieth won for the first time in more than three years.

"I feel grateful," Spieth said, answering a question he was glad to be asked. "It's been a road that's had a lot of tough days. I've had people in my corner that have always believed in me, even when I've

(continued on page 8)

kind of believed less in myself.”

It had been 1,351 days since one of his most famous wins, the victory at Royal Birkdale punctuated by his famous “Go get that” putt. Spieth had played 83 times on TOUR since that win. He had a bone spur in his hand. He had a swing that was getting too steep. He had days when he was unsure where his ball would land. He had a lot of questions.

The win was preceded by glimpses that he was trending in the right direction, but even a player of Spieth’s caliber needed to re-learn how to win. The good signs started on a thrilling Saturday at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, where he shot a magical 61. But Sunday was a different story, as it was the following week at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Still, those top-5 finishes, as well as another one at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, were good signs.

Then came that Sunday at TPC San Antonio, where he looked like the player who’d won three majors, a FedExCup and reached No. 1 in the world. He shot a 6-under 66 to hold off Charley Hoffman, the perennial contender at TPC San Antonio. The victory was followed by podium finishes at the Masters (T3) and Open Championship (2nd) and a ninth-place finish in the FedExCup, a leap of nearly 100 spots since last season and his best finish since 2017.

5. PHIL THE THRILL

While Phil Mickelson was still wowing us with the occasional epic bomb of a drive or with a filthy flop shot, most fans figured the 50-year-old veteran had moved into the ceremonial section of TOUR events.

Winning a couple of times in a row on PGA TOUR Champions after going past the half century in age was cool but really only fed into the above narrative.

Some Phil fans were hoping for a miracle win at The Masters given the season held two versions and Augusta National has always been kind to past champions. But he was T55 in November and T21 in April.

So when he turned up at the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island in May Mickelson wasn’t anywhere near the first line of betting.

Three back after the opening round Mickelson was a nice side story. Tied for the lead at the halfway point was a great novelty. Everyone loved the idea of the oldest ever major winner but not many truly believed he could hold on as conditions got even tougher and brutal winds continued to wreak havoc.

But when he took a one-shot lead into the final round those who had laughed off the probability of Mickelson winning were getting nervous. Those doubters were doing cartwheels after Brooks Koepka produced a two-shot swing on the opening hole of the final round but Mickelson continued to stay the course and by the final hole the crowd couldn’t contain their excitement – breaking through the ropes to swarm their hero as he closed out an incredible and historic two-shot win.

Mickelson, just shy of his 51st birthday, became the oldest major winner in the history of the game at 50 years, 11 months and 7 days. He also became the sixth oldest TOUR winner.

6. POWER BALL

The revolution may have stalled, but Bryson DeChambeau’s incredible transformation still made us rethink the way the game is played and netted him his first major championship. His dominance at Winged Foot led others, including Rory McIlroy, to follow DeChambeau’s lead, only for them to find that swinging out of your shoes isn’t as easy as it seems, even when armed with a 460cc driver. He even backed off from his original plan, dropping pounds as the season wore on in the name of consistency.

So, we may not see a cadre of bulked-up brutes swinging for the fences on a weekly basis but credit to DeChambeau for thinking outside the box. He won two big titles this season, the U.S. Open (2020) and the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, and led the TOUR in driving distance for the second consecutive season. We’ll even see him ply his trade in a couple weeks at the World Long Drive Championship.

What’s next for DeChambeau? It’s hard to tell, but there’s never been a better illustration of the value of distance.

7. MATSUYAMA’S MASTERS

Ten years earlier, Hideki Matsuyama did the unthinkable. He debated whether he should accept an invitation to Augusta National. These were exceptional circumstances, however. His homeland was devastated by a tsunami and competing in a golf tournament didn’t feel appropriate. He was encouraged to go, however, and serve as an inspiration to his reeling countrymen.

The teen-aged schoolboy went, and was an inspiration indeed, shooting a third-round 68 and earning low-amateur honors while holding his own against the best players in the world. That Saturday score proved to Matsuyama that a pro-golf career was an attainable dream. A decade later, he returned to Augusta National and again he was part of the trophy ceremony held late Sunday evening on the club’s practice putting green. This time, he was having the Green Jacket slipped on his shoulders, however. His Masters win was his first victory since 2017. He had become the first major champion from golf-mad Japan and almost thrilled his country again at the Olympics, where he came up just short of earning a medal.

8. THE FIRST TIMERS

While we were nowhere near the record of 18 first time champions from season 2002, we still had 10 new champions join the exclusive club of PGA TOUR winners this season. Arguably the most popular was one of the last ones in Mexico’s Abraham Ancer.

After 19 previous top-10s on TOUR, including six this season prior to lining up at the World Golf Championships – FedEx St. Jude Invitational in Memphis, the popu-

lar International Presidents Cup team member started the final round four shots off the lead.

While appearing out of the running for most of the afternoon Ancer stuck solid at TPC Southwind and as carnage began around him the 30-year-old showed the benefit of experience from countless near misses to forge his way into a playoff.

He then produced a brilliant birdie on the first extra hole to take down Hideki Matsuyama and Sam Burns for his breakthrough triumph.

Burns had experienced the incredible feeling of a first win earlier in the season by taking home the Valspar Championship title.

Huge shoutout has to go to Jason Kokrak who not only won his career first TOUR event at THE CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK he then backed it up with a win at the Charles Schwab Challenge to produce the best of his 10 seasons.

Others to join were Carlos Ortiz (Vivint Houston Open), just the third Mexican winner on the TOUR before Ancer became the fourth. Joel Dahmen (Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship), K.H. Lee (AT&T Byron Nelson), Garrick Higgo (Palmetto Championship at Congaree), Cam Davis (Rocket Mortgage Classic), Seamus Power (Barbasol Championship) and Erik Van Rooyen (Barracuda Championship).

Special shout out to Jon Rahm who became a first-time major winner at the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines less than two weeks after having to withdraw from the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday with a six-shot lead and a round to play with a positive COVID-19 test. His birdie, birdie finish on Sunday was almost karmic.

9. BONUS GOLF GALORE

The season was full of close finishes with 14 playoffs needed to decide winners, including a stretch late in the year of four straight weeks needing extra holes to get a result.

The final playoff, which came in the FedExCup Playoffs at the BMW Championship, was arguably the best. Bryson DeChambeau and Patrick Cantlay had already started the final round at Caves Valley three clear of the pack and quickly were in a match play like scenario. When DeChambeau took a one-shot lead on the 16th hole in regulation and Cantlay put his tee shot on 17 into the water it appeared over. But Cantlay made a huge bogey putt to stay within one and then made a birdie bomb on 18 to ultimately stay alive. During the first five extra holes both players missed chances to win or made great saves to stay alive. DeChambeau recovered from a water ball of his own and Cantlay responded to one DeChambeau dart with a better one.

In the end another great 17-foot birdie on the sixth extra hole was enough for Cantlay to prevail and take the FedExCup lead to East Lake – ultimately very important as he held on for a one-shot win over Jon Rahm to win it all. It wasn’t the only

incredible playoff. At the Travelers Championship Harris English went eight extra holes before taking down a plucky Kramer Hickok at TPC River Highlands.

And who could forget the six-man showdown at the Wyndham Championship where Adam Scott missed a short chance for victory allowing Kevin Kisner to come through on the second playoff hole and break his extra holes curse.

Other playoffs included Martin Laird outlasting Matthew Wolff and Austin Cook at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open; Brian Gay besting Wyndham Clark at the Bermuda Championship; Robert Streb taking down Kisner at The RSM Classic; English getting the better of Joaquin Niemann at the Sentry Tournament of Champions; Max Homa kept Tony Finau out of a trophy at the Genesis Invitational and Team Mullet of Cameron Smith and Marc Leishman beat Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

Then we marveled when Cantlay took down Collin Morikawa in an epic at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday; Cam Davis claimed his first win after extras against Troy Merritt and Niemann; Seamus Power also got his first after a playoff with J.T. Poston at the Barbasol Championship, Abraham Ancer was the man over Hideki Matsuyama and Burns at the WGC – FedEx St. Jude Invitational and Finau broke his victory drought at THE NORTHERN TRUST by beating Smith on the first extra hole.

10. MORIKAWA SHUTS DOOR ON DOUBTERS

Sometimes it can be hard to just accept greatness when you see it. The beginnings of PGA TOUR life for Collin Morikawa were certainly different. He made his first 22 cuts for one thing and was a winner in his sixth start as a professional in 2019 at the Barracuda Championship. But the naysayers said – well that was an opposite field event.

He won twice in the following 2019-20 season, including the PGA Championship. But the naysayers said – well there were no crowds at Harding Park so he didn’t face real pressure.

And then came this season where even a win at the World Golf Championships – Workday Championship wasn’t enough for some. Limited crowds they said. Wait till he really feels pressure.

The question marks were ludicrous. And Morikawa made that abundantly clear at The Open Championship at Royal St Georges. A week earlier he struggled with his ball striking at the Scottish Open, his first foray into links golf. So he adjusted to new irons and also had the temerity to change his putting grip between long and short putts. He then put on a clinic over four days in front of huge crowds including a stone-cold Sunday effort as Jordan Spieth and Louis Oosthuizen, among others, lurked. He was impervious to the so-called pressure and proved, at just 24, he is the real deal.

2021 College football rule changes



Important Rule Changes for the 2021 College Football Season

CFO and NFF team up to highlight the changes designed to improve the game in 2021.

By Jeff Babineau

As the season begins, it is time for the National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame to highlight the key rule changes that will take effect during the 2021 college football season.

Since 2011, the NFF has partnered with the College Football Officiating (CFO), led by Steve Shaw and chaired by Mid-American Conference Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher, to help generate awareness for the rule changes in college football. The CFO functions as the national professional organization for all football officials who work games at the collegiate level, and the organization has held its annual winter meeting of conference coordinators for football officials at the NFF headquarters in Irving, Texas for eight consecutive years (2013-2020) prior to the pandemic.

Shaw, who became the CFO National Coordinator of Football Officials in March 2020, previously served the Southeastern Conference and Sun Belt Conference as coordinator of officials. He also serves as the Secretary-Rules Editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, a position critical to the development of competition rules and policies. Shaw excelled as a head referee for 15 years in the SEC, earning 14 postseason assignments, including two national championship games. He has been a leader in revamping the sport's officiating

mechanics and advancing the use of technology to assist officials.

"With the 2021 season under way, let me first say that I'm very proud of our officials and all of college football for finding a way to safely play the 2020 season," said Shaw. "And even though it was a trying year, we successfully made it to the finish line. Maximum flexibility for all involved will again be required to make this season a success."

"The mission of the Rules Committee is to develop and evaluate rules changes that will enhance the sport, protect the image of the game, and enhance the student athlete's health and safety. Player safety has been the highest priority of the committee for many years now resulting in significant changes that have improved the game in terms of mitigating injuries. The modifications to the rules for 2021 will be a benefit for the student-athletes, the fans and the game."

2021 Rules Changes

Overtime 2-Point Conversion Requirements

Teams will be required to run a 2-point conversion play after a touchdown when a game reaches a second overtime period. Previously, a 2-point attempt was required after the third overtime period. Also, if the game reaches a third overtime, teams will run alternating 2-point plays, instead of starting another drive at the opponent's 25-yard line. This is a change from the previous rule, which started to use 2-point plays in the fifth overtime period. This rules change is being made to limit the number of plays from scrimmage and bring the

game to a quicker conclusion. Teams can still choose whether to kick the point after touchdown or run a 2-point conversion play during the first overtime period.

Team Area

The team area will be permanently extended to the 20-yard lines, starting in the 2021 season. Previously, the team area extended to the 25-yard lines, but this area was expanded to the 15-yard lines last season to create more spacing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unsportsmanlike Tactics

Video board and lighting system operators have been included in those personnel who may not create any distraction that obstructs play.

Feigning injuries

A new framework has been created to allow a school or conference to request a postgame video review about questionable actions through the NCAA secretary-rules editor/national coordinator of officials.

Instant Replay – Clock Adjustments

In order to keep the game moving, when Instant Replay overturns a call on the field, the clock will only be reset when

there is less than two minutes remaining in the 2nd quarter and less than five minutes remaining in the 4th quarter.

Points of Emphasis:

- For the 2021 season, targeting and dangerous contact fouls will continue to be a priority for all officials. The NCAA Football Rules Committee continues to embrace the targeting rule to promote player safety and reduce head contact.
- It will be a point of emphasis for officials to penalize any taunting action directed toward an opponent. Committee members think these actions reflect poorly on the game and can lead to unnecessary confrontations.
- Officials are directed to be alert to players who are significantly in violation of uniform rules and to send violators out of the game to correct the issue. This will include specifically the pants, jerseys and T-shirts that extend below the torso.
- Coaches should not enter the field of play or leave the team area to debate officiating decisions. Those who do so will have committed an automatic unsportsmanlike conduct foul.



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SEC football weekend picks - Week 2



Texas travels to the hills this week to play old Southwest Conference rival Arkansas



ROBERT CORTINEZ
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Week two saw Georgia staking a claim to SEC supremacy, Bama doing what Bama does, and Texas A&M making it three out of five in the AP Top 5. Ole Miss and Auburn also entered the AP Poll for the first time this year giving the SEC six teams in the AP top 25.

Biggest game of the week has to be Arkansas taking on #15 Texas in the Boston Mountains of Fayetteville. This rematch produced classic television from the 1960's through the 1980's and hopefully gives another one on Saturday.

#15 Texas (1-0) @ Arkansas (1-0)
6:00 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Texas -6.5 / 57

*Last Week: Arkansas beat Rice 38-17
Texas beat Louisiana-Lafayette 38-18*

The new and improved Steve Sarkashian Longhorns have given their success-starved fan base something to cheer about. The Horns took care of the gritty #23 Ragin Cajuns and made it look easy. Texas QB, Hudson Card, threw for 224 yds and two TD's. His RB, Bijan Robinson rushed for

103 yds and one TD.

The Razorbacks looked like Hog slop last week, especially the offense, falling behind Rice 17-7 halfway through the third quarter. The only bright spot for the Razorback offense was RB, Trelon Smith, who had 102 yds and one TD on 22 carries. Arkansas's defense rescued the day with three interceptions, two inside the Rice red zone, to prevent an upset in their home opener. Based on the eye test, Texas prevails.

Pick: Texas 27 Arkansas 23

Alabama St. (1-0) @ #25 Auburn (1-0)
11:00 a.m. / SEC Network
Line: Off

Last week: Bama State beat Miles College, 14-13, Auburn beat Akron 60-10

These two campuses are separated by only 55 miles of interstate. Alabama State's located in historic Montgomery, and Auburn, of course, is in Auburn Alabama. The Hornets won a squeaker last week, while the Tigers blew out the Zips in their opener. Tigers head coach Brian Harsin, will keep the petal to the metal in this intra-state non-conference cake walk.

Pick:

South Carolina (1-0) @ E. Carolina (0-1)
11:00 a.m. / SEC Network
Line: East Carolina -1 / 58

Last week: South Carolina beat Eastern Illinois 46-0, East Carolina lost to Appalachian St., 33-19

The East Carolina Pirates are the least known athletic program of all the North Carolina universities. But you do need a GPA over 3.7 to get in and they are one of

the few universities in the U.S. to house a medical, dental and nursing college all on the same campus. They could be the Harvard of the AAC.

South Carolina had a laydown victory over Eastern Illinois while the Pirate's loss to always formidable Appalachian State was a much stronger test. Gamecocks new head coach Shane Beamer takes the home field advantage in the battle of the Carolinas.

Pick: South Carolina 30 E. Carolina 24

Pittsburgh (1-0) @ Tennessee (1-0)
11:00 a.m. / ESPN

Line: Pittsburgh -3.5 / 56

*Last Week: Pittsburgh beat UMass, 51-7
Tennessee beat Bowling Green, 38-6*

The big question going into this game is which week 1 foe was worse Bowling Green or UMass? Both of these schools

are averaging just two wins a season over the last five seasons. It's a toss-up as to which is worse. The Panthers were 6-5 in a loaded ACC last year while Tennessee crumbled to 3-7 in an all SEC slate. The Vols will need Michigan transfer QB, Joe Milton, to step up and protect Big Orange nation in Knoxville.

Pick: Tennessee 33 East Carolina 27

#13 Florida (1-0) @ South Florida (0-1)
12:00 p.m. / ABC

Line: Florida -24.5 / 58

Last Week: #13 Florida beat Florida Atlantic 35-14, South Florida lost to North Carolina State 45-0

Big question is why is this game on ABC? South Florida was 1-8 last year and were blown out in week one by North Carolina State. The Florida Gators were inconsistent in their win over Florida Atlantic, with a lot of new player rust. Gator coach Dan Mullen is breaking in a new QB, Emory Jones, who was awful last week, throwing for only 113 yds, 1 TD and 2 interceptions. Luckily, the running game and defense bailed out the Gators to salvage a respectable 21-point win. This week, Florida works out the passing game kinks against the lowly Bulls.

Pick: Florida 45 South Florida 16

UAB (1-0) @ #2 Georgia (1-0) (
2:30 p.m. / ESPN2

Line: Georgia -24.5 / 46

Last Week: #5 Georgia 10 beat #3 Clemson 10-3, UAB beat Jacksonville State 31-0

The Georgia Bulldogs defense was beyond stellar in their suffocation of Clemson's offensive unit. The Dawgs held the Clemson Tigers to 2 total yds rushing. This defense looks like they could step on an NFL field and hold their own. UAB continues to make strides in its 5th year back from a self imposed football cancella

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tion, averaging 8.5 wins over the last four seasons. The Blazers aren't going to lay down and Georgia may have a minor let down after performing so well against Clemson. Dawgs prevail but closer than the book predicts.

Pick: Georgia 27 UAB 9

#5 Texas A&M (1-0) @ Colorado (1-0)
2:30 p.m. / Fox / Denver
Line: Texas A&M -17 / 51

Last Week: #6 Texas A&M beat Kent State 41-10, Colorado beat Northern Colorado, 35-7

The Aggies held a slim 10-3 lead against Kent State before outscoring the Flashes 31-7 in the second half. A&M's new QB, Haynes King, had a poor first start with 3 interceptions to go with his 2 TD's. The Colorado Buffaloes had almost 300 yds rushing with four different running backs scoring touchdowns. Colorado was a very respectable 4-2, in Covid year. Texas A&M was 10-1 in Covid year and ended up ranked #4 in the nation. Jimbo's Aggies find the groove.

Pick: Texas A&M 33 Colorado 20

Mercer (1-0) @ #1 Alabama (1-0)
3:00 p.m. / SEC Network
Line: Off

Last Week: #1 Alabama beat #14 Miami, 44-13, Mercer beat Point Univ., 69-0

Alabama flexed its SEC biceps and took down the #2 team in the ACC, Miami, with ease. The only question mark was how hard would Coach Saban push the needle, and he did let up just a bit near the game's end. The Mercer Bears dominated Point University which is about one step above a glorified high school team. Tide rolls.

Pick: Alabama 48 Mercer 6

NC State (1-0) @ Mississippi State (1-0)
6:00 p.m. / ESPN
Line: NC State -2.5 / 55.5

Last Week: NC State beat South Florida 45-0 Mississippi St. beat Louisiana Tech 35-34

Mississippi State's defense is simply horrid. Coach Mike Leach's new Air Raid offense was just good enough to outscore La-Tech's "pedestrian" offense. This week the Bulldogs get the ACC North Carolina State Wolfpack in their power 5 mandated non-conference game. Going with the ACC.

Pick: NC State 31 Mississippi State 27

Austin Peay (1-0) @ #20 Ole Miss (1-0)
6:30 p.m. / ESPN+
Line: off

Last Week: Austin Peay beat Chattanooga, 30-20, Ole Miss beat Louisville 43-23

Head coach Lane Kiffin's Rebels vaulted into the AP top 20 with their beat down of Louisville on Labor Day. The final score was not indicative of the dominance of Ole Miss on both sides of the ball. Ole Miss's Heisman hopeful QB Matt Corral, did his job throwing for 381 yds, 1 TD and

rushing for 55 yds and 1 TD. The Austin Peay Governors, an FCS school from the Ohio Valley Conference, best hope is for a massive Ole Miss let-down. The Rebels 2nd and 3rd teamers could handle this second week cupcake.

Pick: Ole Miss 47 Austin Peay 17

Missouri (1-0) @ Kentucky (1-0)
6:30 p.m. / SEC Network
Line: Missouri +5 / 56.5

Last Week: Missouri beat Central Michigan 34-24, Kentucky beat UL Monroe, 45-10

An early season SEC East Division battle between a "new" Missouri team vs. an "established" Kentucky team. Second year Missouri head coach Eli Drinkwitz is known as an offensive genius with a deft touch. The Tigers are eager to show their growth in year two. Kentucky head coach, Mark Stoops is the second most tenured SEC coach (9 years), behind only Bama's Nick Saban (13 years).

Kentucky Wildcat starting QB, Will Levis, a Penn State transfer, threw for over 360 yds and 4 TD's in his debut. Head coach Stoops always has a rock-solid defense unit and should be able to contain Missouri's QB Connor Bazelak on their home field.

Pick: Kentucky 24 Missouri 21

McNeese State (0-1) @ LSU (0-1)
7:00p.m. / ESPN+
Line: Off

Last Week: #16 LSU lost to UCLA, 38-27, Mcneese St. lost to West Florida, 42-36

According to the national pundits, burly head coach Ed Ogeron is on the hot seat only two years removed from a "natty". The Tiger's defense was abysmal in the loss to UCLA. The Trojan running back tandem of Zach Charbonnet (11 rushes, 117 yds, 10.6 avg.) and Brittain Brown, (17 rushes, 96 yds, 5.6 avg.) made the Bayou Bengals D-line and linebackers look like trash. LSU's offense wasn't that bad, but UCLA is a better team than anyone expected and may be the new favorite to win the PAC-12. LSU puts some doubters to rest with a revamp victory over little brother, McNeese State.

Pick: LSU 52 McNeese State 6

Vanderbilt (0-1) @ Colorado St. (0-10 9)
9:00 p.m. / CBS Sports Network
Line: Colorado State -7 / 51

Last Week: Vanderbilt lost to East Tennessee State 23-3 Colorado St. lost to South Dakota State 42-23

Lordy, Lordy, Lordy, both these FBS schools, Vanderbilt and Colorado State out of the SEC and Mountain West, lost home openers to FCS colleges. Not just losses, but twenty-point home opener losses for the Commodores and the Rams. It would be hard to say which team is worse, but Vegas thinks Vanderbilt's the ultimate loser based on the 7-point betting line. Nothing more to say about this game. Rams win at home.

Pick: Colorado St. 33 Vanderbilt 17

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Big 12 football weekend - Week 2



Iowa has won five in a row and six of the last seven

By Jeff Bartl

Iowa (1-0) at Iowa State (1-0)

Line: Iowa -4.5 / 45

Time/TV: 3:30 / ABC

Well that's how you start a season. Iowa had a dangerous Big Ten game against a hot and higher-ranked Indiana program, it was over from jump. The Hawkeye defense swarmed all over the Hoosier running game, picked off Michael Penix Jr. three times, and allowed a mere two field goals. On the other side, Tyler Goodson ripped off a big scoring run right away, the two turnovers didn't make a difference, and it was a shockingly dominant win.

And for Iowa State, that's not how you start a season. It got the 16-10 win over Northern Iowa, but the O stalled on third downs and managed just one second half field goal. And there's your concern. The Cyclones did just about everything okay, was +2 in turnover margin, and was decent running the ball and effective through the air, and it still took everything in the bag to get the W. But ...Iowa State stumbled out of the gate last season against Louisiana and turned out just fine. Brock Purdy hit 21-of-26 passes, there weren't any turnovers, and while giving credit to a spirited effort from the Panthers, it's not like the Cyclones turned it loose. The defense was fantastic after allowing an early touchdown drive, and it was Week 1. Really, survive and advance.

And yes, Iowa was fantastic against Indiana, but the passing game question still wasn't answered. Spencer Petras wasn't awful, but he only completed 13-of-27 passes for 145 yards, and the one area that didn't click last year didn't show up on Saturday – the downfield plays weren't there.

On the ground, Goodson ripped off that one early run, and that was about it. It was a bit of a grind, but to be fair, the game was over by halftime. The whole rivalry game

thing is usually overblown. Most of the time, it's a reason to artificially pump up an otherwise nondescript meeting. When it really matters, the rivalry side takes things to another level. The battle for The Cy-Hawk Trophy isn't mean in a creepy way like most rivalries are, but it sure is intense now that Iowa State has a team legitimately good enough to do really, really big things.

Both teams have big things ahead, and it would take a whole lot of luck, but yeah, really, the winner of this can reasonably dream that all might fall into place for a possible College Football Playoff shot. That's 97 steps down the road. Iowa has won five in a row and six of the last seven thanks mostly to its defense – one 44-41 win in 2017 aside. And that's what's going to pull it through again.

Be shocked if this is any sort of a shootout. Iowa's downfield passing game won't work, Breece Hall and the Iowa State running game will struggle, and it'll be a tough fight that comes down to a few key late breaks. It won't be Clemson-Georgia, but watch out for a low-scoring, intense defensive classic. The Hawkeye D will be just a wee bit better.

Pick: Iowa 20, Iowa State 17

Texas (1-0) at Arkansas (1-0)

Line: Texas -6.5 / 56

Time/TV: 6:00 / ESPN

Texas didn't get enough credit for what it did on Saturday. Louisiana was the darling of the cheeky rankings crowd. It's a fine team with a great coach, but it's a bit overloved because of a 2020 great record highlighted by an opening week win over Iowa State.

And Texas rolled with relative ease after getting through the rust-shaking first half. New head coach Steve Sarkisian got a big day out of new starting QB Hudson Card, Bijan Robinson looked and played like the superstar running back he is, and it was a 20-

point win over the – supposed – 23rd-best team in college football. The pass rush was great, the run defense was terrific against a team that had to run the ball, and now it gets an Arkansas team that couldn't stop committing penalties in the 38-17 win over Rice – sinning 13 times – and struggled with its passing game. But ...the Hogs ran well.

This isn't going to be a high-octane passing team, and it took WAY too long to get going – Rice was up 17-7 midway through the third quarter – but the defense locked up, the running game started rolling, and the lines took over. KJ Jefferson is a good quarterback who'll be dangerous on the move and has enough of a downfield passing arm to stretch the field a bit. He needs to be good, and the Hog linebackers have to be great. Arkansas stuffed Rice for 81 yards and didn't allow a run over seven yards. It's going to get after Robinson from the start and make Card win the game.

Arkansas will be jacked at home with a chance to make a massive national statement in the Sam Pittman era. It took a while to get going last week, but expect the lines to play great from the start, Jefferson to keep things moving and give the Longhorn linebackers fits, and ...Texas will D up when it has to in the second half. The Louisiana game was an almost perfect trial run for Arkansas. Texas was able to keep the Ragin' Cajun ground game from going off, and it's going to make Jefferson throw to pull this off. Arkansas will have the ball late with a chance to win, but it'll stall.

Pick: Texas 34 Arkansas 30

Texas Southern (0-1) at Baylor (1-0)

Line: NL

Time/TV: 6:00 / ESPN+

Baylor limped its way into a 29-20 win over Texas State. The passing game wasn't great, the 11 penalties were painful, and it was a struggle to put the game away. Texas

Southern has to hope for a whole lot of mistakes and a lack of focus from a Bear team that still needs work.

The Tigers lost to Prairie View A&M 40-17, but they were able to take the ball away three times. They have a decent enough midrange passing game to keep things moving, but ...Texas Southern got bombed on.

Prairie View A&M was able to run a little bit, but the passing game blew up with 354 yards to make up for a slew of mistakes. On the other side, the Tiger offense didn't do much of anything until it was too late. The O line didn't generate a push, the passing attack didn't do enough until it was too late, and Baylor is about to take advantage of all of it. The Bears might have struggled against Texas State, but the run defense was great and there were more than enough takeaways to make up for the mistakes on the other side. There shouldn't be any problems scoring in this, so the Bears will get off to a good start on the ground, the defense will force three quick outs and come up with a turnover, and then it'll be time to see if the downfield passing game can start to work.

Pick: Baylor 55, Texas Southern 10

California (0-1) at TCU (1-0)

Line: TCU -11 / 48

Time/TV: 2:30 / ESPNU

Cal just gave it away. The Bears got up 14-0 on Nevada in the first quarter, the defense didn't allow much of anything on the ground, and the running game was working, but the points dried up in the shocking 22-17 loss. The Cal D is still the Cal D. It's going to be all over the TCU backfield, it's an active bunch that will get its share of stops. Also helping – with all due respect to Horned Frog QB Max Duggan – there isn't a potential No. 1 overall draft pick under center on the other side like Wolf Pack QB Carson Strong. This has to be a big moment for Chase Garbers. The veteran Bear QB struggled against Nevada, and he has to be a whole lot sharper. Chalk it up to Week 1, but ...TCU showed in its opener that everything is working already.

Granted, playing Duquesne in a 45-3 win isn't like dealing with a contender for the Mountain West title, but the Horned Frogs were sharp in a 35-0 first half. Get up fast on Cal, and that might be it. The Bears really do have the D, but they're missing the firepower to keep up if Max Duggan and the balanced attack start with a few scoring drives.

First we get Steve from Blue's Clues going on social media to provide us all with closure on his era, and now we get a chance to finally move past the 2018 Cheez-It Bowl – a 10-7 TCU win that was arguably the most painful bowl game ever played.

The two defenses will keep this relatively close, but Cal won't be able to run, the downfield passing won't make up for it, and at home, TCU will get a few good second half scoring drives to pull away.

Pick: TCU 30, Cal 17

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Pick: TCU 30, Cal 17

Southern Illinois (1-0) at K-State (1-0)

Line: NL

Time/TV: Friday, 6:00 / ESPN+

The Salukis are seasoned. They had a decent FCS spring session and started out the fall session strong with an emphatic 47-21 win over SE Missouri State. Nic Baker threw for 460 yards and four scores, Avante Cox came up with a 99-yard touchdown, and it was a strong all-around performance. It has just enough explosion on offense and toughness on the defensive front to make this a bit of a fight. Kansas State wasn't perfect in the 24-7 win over Stanford, but ...the running game clicked. Stanford's offense kept screwing up and the running game didn't go anywhere – the Wildcat defensive front dominated the Cardinal O line, allowing just 39 rushing yards.

K-State QB Skyler Thompson threw a pick, but he threw a few big passes among his nine completions, and Deuce Vaughn controlled the ground game with a little bit of balance. However ...this is the game to get the Kansas State offensive line working. It wasn't bad against Stanford, but there were a few too many plays allowed in the backfield and the team didn't control the clock like it should've. There won't be a whole lot of drama, if any. The Wildcat defense will play a second straight great game as it warms up for a dangerous date against Carson Strong and the Nevada offense.

Pick: Kansas State 37, S. Illinois 13

Stephen F. Austin (0-1) at Tex Tech (1-0)

Line: NL

Time/TV: Saturday, 6:00 / ESPN+

The Lumberjacks might just have the quirky formula to give Texas Tech problems. They have a good, efficient pass defense, they don't turn the ball over in bunches, and Trae Self is an effective quarterback who keeps things moving.

Tarleton threw well in the 20-10 SFA win last week, but it also got picked off three times. Texas Tech didn't screw up enough to matter in the 38-21 win over Houston, but it also didn't bomb away with the passing game. Tyler Shough was fine, but this is hardly the high-powered Texas

Tech offense we have come to know and love. It was a terrific performance by the Red Raiders after getting down early. Shough didn't make any big mistakes, the defense allowed just 251 yards and came up with four takeaways, and it was exactly what the team needed to get into the season and set a tone.

Tahj Brooks ran well, the defense was a terror into the backfield, and all the experience, all the super-seniors, and all the parts put together over the last three years came together. This is too experienced of a team to not be focused in Week 2.

Stephen F. Austin will have a few good drives, but they'll come too late. The Red Raiders still need to be more effective, more efficient, and they have to come out of the gate hot. After the way they started against Houston, they'll emphasize producing on their first few drives, and that should put it away fast.

Pick: Texas Tech 44, SFA 13

W. Carolina (0-1) at Oklahoma (1-0)

Line: NL

Time/TV: Friday, 6:00 / ESPN+

Oklahoma did everything possible to give away the game to Tulane. The Sooners got up big, took their foot off the gas, and they almost gagged late as the offense came up with just three points in the second half. The running game didn't do nearly enough, there were a whole slew of mistakes, and the team and base are already mentally going to be moving on to Nebraska the next week.

Okay, enough stalling ...Western Carolina are about to run into a buzzsaw in the first few minutes.

The Catamounts were 1-5 in the FCS spring session, went 0-3 in 2020 – including a 49-9 loss to North Carolina – and dropped the opener to Eastern Kentucky 31-28. The D can get behind the line, the running game isn't awful and ...Oklahoma is going to come out roaring after the way last week ended. The offensive line has to do more for a running game that stalled too often, Spencer Rattler will want to take target practice, and this won't be like your normal paycheck game in the first quarter.

Oklahoma can call its shot. It'll put up a huge number in the first half and keep the intensity up with the backups in the second half. The defense will make a point to keep the Catamounts from getting one.

Pick: Oklahoma 55, Western Carolina 0

Tulsa (0-1) at Oklahoma State (1-0)

Line: OSU -13 / 51

Saturday, 11:00a.m / FS1

Tulsa is better than that. The Golden Hurricane have too many parts coming back from the great 2020 season to be as mediocre as they were in the stunning 19-17 loss to UC Davis. They were great against the run, Deneric Prince and Shamari Brooks went off for a ground attack that rumbled for over eight yards per carry and 283 yards, but three turnovers, 12 penalties, and too many problems on

third downs led to the upset.

Again, the parts are there to get by Oklahoma State. They have the D to make this a four quarter fight considering how bad the OSU ground game was last week in a near-disaster ...Yeah, not everything is okay if you're losing to UC Davis – or if you need to fight to get by Missouri State. Tulsa can't make any mistakes and win this, and it's going to make mistakes. The Cowboys might need them. They got the win over Bobby Petrino's Bears, and QB Spencer Sanders was out due to COVID-19 protocols, but it was still way too much of a battle with the guys they had.

The Cowboy running game is better than 1.9 yards per carry against and FCS team, and the pass rush and defensive front will be active enough to bother the Golden Hurricane backfield throughout.

Oklahoma State will still struggle and sputter, Tulsa will still struggle and sputter, and this will look a whole lot like last year's 16-7 Cowboy win throughout the first half. But the Cowboy D will be come up with two takeaways, the O will start to get the ground game working, and it'll open up late in the third.

Pick: Oklahoma State 30, Tulsa 16

Long Island (0-1) at W. Virginia (0-1)

Line: Mountaineers -3 / 55

Saturday, 4:00 / ESPN+

The Sharks are plucky. After a fun and spirited FCS spring session, they got down fast to FIU in a 48-10 loss, but they managed to battle in the second quarter with a decent passing game. They're going to need West Virginia to screw up like it did against Maryland. The Mountaineers let one slip away in the 30-24 defeat with four turnovers, no takeaways, and rough play from the offensive line. However ...you came up with as many tackles for loss against FIU as LIU did.

The Golden Panthers aren't exactly known for their ground attack coming into the season, but they rumbled for over 300 yards and over ten yards per carry. West Virginia has to use this game for Virginia Tech and Oklahoma by getting its own running game working. Leddie Brown was the only back to get a carry against Maryland – running for 69 yards and two touchdowns – but that was it. Pound, pound, pound – the offensive line needs the work. West Virginia could've desperately used this game to get ready for Maryland.

The turnovers won't be flowing this week, the O line will push its way for well over 200 rushing yards, and the defense will allow well under 200 total yards. This will be over after two drives.

Pick: West Virginia 52, Long Island 3



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# College Football News and Notes



Bobby Bowden was saluted in a pregame tribute on ESPN



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Along with the Red Cross, Texas Baptist Men, Catholic Relief Services, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and the Mennonite Central Committee, college departments of athletics have come to the aid of thousands in Louisiana with food, clothing, practice fields for athletics, new sites for Sept. 2-6 games because of extensive Hurricane Ida in the Bayou State Aug. 29 – 16 years to the day that Hurricane Katrina struck the state.

Even in the highly-competitive NFL, the Dallas Cowboys loaned AT&T Stadium to the NFL New Orleans Saints for multiple practices last week and helped arrange for housing for Saints players and families while power and daily amenities were being restored. The Saints also moved their 2021 season opener against the Green Bay Packers to Jacksonville, Florida.

Memphis football allowed Nicholls State the use of all its facilities and other means of assistance before last week's season opener between the teams in Memphis, Tennessee.

Oklahoma and Tulane moved their season lidlifter last Saturday to Norman,

Oklahoma, with special amenities and greetings for displaced Green Wave student-athletes, coaches, families, and fans as part of the new location. North Alabama and Southeastern Louisiana also moved their contest to Florence, Alabama last Saturday.

LSU also moved its workouts prior to its trip to UCLA to the University of Houston campus.

The NFF researched a list of 3,284 student-athletes who have already earned their undergraduate degrees and will be playing college football this fall while pursuing second diplomas. This season marks the fourth year the NFF has compiled the list of graduated players. Please click <https://footballfoundation.org/news/2021/8/30/3-284-with-undergraduate-degrees-playing-football-this-season.aspx> to observe the full complement of graduates as a PDF.

## NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

**Some notable birthdates** in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 7-13 are Sept. 7 (1883) Bob Maxwell, Chicago, Ill.; (1902) Mort Kaer, Omaha, Neb.; (1923) Emil "Red" Sitko, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; (1949) Larry Kehres, Diamond, Ohio; (1951) Bert Jones, Ruston, La.; Sept. 8 (1904) Bud Sprague, Dallas, Texas; (1912) Bob Hamilton, Sewickley, Pa.; (1915) Duffy Daugherty, Emeigh, Pa.; (1952) Anthony Davis, San Fernando, Calif.; Sept. 9 (1878) Willie Heston, Galesburg, Ill.; (1908) Bill Murray, Rocky Mount, N.C.; (1941) Pat Richter, Madison, Wis.; (1944) Jim Grabowski, Chicago, Ill.; (1949) Joe Theismann, New Brunswick, N.J.; (1960) Bob Stoops, Youngstown, Ohio; Sept. 10 (1883) Andy Smith, DuBois, Pa.; (1902) Jim Crowley, Chicago, Ill.; (1936) Ron Harms, Houston, Texas; (1940) Buck Buchanan, Gainesville, Ala.; (1945) Marlin Briscoe, Oakland, Calif.; Sept. 11 (1897)

Stan Keck, Greensburg, Pa.; (1908) Biggie Munn, Grow Township, Minn.; (1913) Paul Bryant, Moro Bottom, Ark.; (1978) Ed Reed, St. Rose, La.; Sept. 12 (1891) John Brown, Canton, Pa.; (1964) Lynn Thomsen, Sioux City, Iowa; Sept. 13 (1898) Glenn Killinger, Harrisburg, Pa.; (1904) Joe Aillet, New York City; (1906) Chuck Carroll, Seattle, Wash.; (1915) Clint Frank, St. Louis, Mo.; (1922) Ziggy Czarowski, Chicago, Illinois.

**Notable anniversary death dates** for Hall of Famers are Sept. 7 (1954) Pop Warner, Palo Alto, Calif.; (1985) Bruiser Kinard, Jackson, Miss.; Sept. 8 (1935) Ted Coy, New York, N.Y.; Sept. 9 (1963) Willie Heston, Traverse City, Mich.; Sept. 11 (2010) Ron Kramer, Fenton, Mich.; (2018) Jim Houston, Massillon, Ohio; Sept. 13 (2000) Thurman "Fum" McGraw, Ft. Collins, Colorado.

**Happy birthdays** to NFF College Hall of Fame members Sept. 7 Larry Kehres (a spry 72), Bert Jones (the big 7-0), Sept. 8 Anthony Davis, Sept. 9 Jim Grabowski (a spry 77), Joe Theismann (a spry 72), Bob Stoops, Sept. 10 Ron Harms (a spry 85), Marlin Briscoe (a spry 76), Sept. 11 Ed Reed, Lynn Thomsen...

Richmond and VMI will open a three-game series in 2025...Stephen F. Austin will tangle with Alcorn State on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, and will host the Braves on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023...The North Alabama-Southeastern Louisiana return game of a two-contest set likely will be played in Hammond, La., in 2022 after the teams shifted their contest to UNA last week in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida... Among the cancelled or postponed games from last weekend were Marist at Georgetown (D.C.) and Harding at Austin (Texas) College...Iowa State opened its season for the fourth time in five years against UNI...Boise State at UCF and Nebraska-Kearney hosting Missouri Southern were two teams experiencing lengthy starting delays due to lightning in the area Sept. 2. Boise State, incidentally, played Boston College in to date the only postseason bowl in history to be cancelled by severe storms in the Dallas area Dec. 26, 2018...UC Davis scored one of the first notable NCAA divisional crossover upsets when UCD upended NCAA FBS and 2020 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl participant Tulsa 19-17 at Tulsa, Oklahoma, last Thursday. Other key FCS wins over the FBS grouping were Montana 13-7 over No. 20 nationally Washington, East Tennessee State 23-3 over Vanderbilt (ETSU's first win over a SEC program), Eastern Washington topping UNLV 35-33 in double overtime, South Dakota State over Colorado State 42-23, and Holy Cross

downing Connecticut 38-28...Texas Wesleyan won its first season opener since a 39-0 blanking of Trinity (Texas) in 1941 when the Rams knocked off Arizona Christian 35-28 last Saturday. Wesleyan discontinued football from 1942-2016 before resuming in 2017...Almost lost in the shuffle of a ton of full-weekend college contests was a 49-35 shootout victory by Hawai'i over Portland State.

Several members of the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns football and other teams were called back to the nearby Greater New Orleans area to help families and friends with Hurricane Ida and flooding damage...Howard University, has named its School of Fine Arts the Chadwick Boseman School of Fine Arts in memory of the famed actor who portrayed, among others, NFF College Hall of Fame member Jackie Robinson of UCLA in the movie 42...Members of Mississippi State's Famous Maroon Band all received celebratory MSU NCAA championship baseball caps, pep talks from MSU president Dr. Mark Keenum and director of athletics John Cohen and delicious MSU-made ice cream in all flavors after band practice last Wednesday...Vanderbilt honored noted civil rights' activist, first Black alumnus and Methodist clergyman James Lawson with the James Lawson Institute on Nonviolent Movements...The Maryknoll Sisters are celebrating their 100-year anniversary of their first departure as missionaries to China in 1922 on Sunday, Sept. 12...

BYU football head coach Kilani Sitake gained a contract extension through the 2025 season...Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher had a proposed contract update through 2031 with a hefty annual compensation addition, and the A&M Board of Regents approved the new agreements last Thursday...VMI has extended the pact with football head coach Scott Wachenheim through the 2025 season... Ohio State head coach Ryan Day is 18-0 against Big Ten Conference opponents during his early tenure with the Buckeyes... Central Michigan football head coach Jim McElwain had surgery for appendicitis and was unable to guide the Chippewas in their opener at Missouri...Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly noted that Fighting Irish defensive coordinator Marcus Freeman should be considered for a head coaching position in the near future. He also spoke of the advantages and challenges of the NCAA transfer portal...ESPN highlighted the 28 wins in his first 39 games as head coach at Louisiana by Billy Napier who also is 2-1 in his first three bowl contests as ULL mentor...Alabama head coach

(continued on page 16)



Nick Saban has been advocating for an addition of one SEC game from eight to nine league tussles annually...Vanderbilt head coach Clark Lea made his debut as the first coach in NCAA history to have competed in football at Vandy for three years and baseball at Belmont and Birmingham-Southern for one year each before transferring to play for the Commodores...TCU head coach Gary Patterson is now 16-5 in home openers over 21 seasons with the Frogs as TCU's winningest all-time mentor...Old Dominion returned to football for the first time since November 2019 with new head coach Ricky Rahne opposing Wake Forest last Friday. Conference USA also introduced new head coaches Charles Huff at Marshall and Will Hall at Southern Miss...Garrett Riley, brother of Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley, was commended for his role as offensive coordinator and assistant head coach at SMU...Quote of the week from new Arizona head coach Jedd Fisch on the season and new NIL initiatives: "The first thing I told my team is: 'You better win or no one will care.' The second thing was: 'You better be good as a player or no one's going to pay you.'"

**Hometowns** of more 2021 college head coaches – Lafayette: John Garrett, Danville, Pa.; Lamar: Blayne Morgan, Nacogdoches, Texas; Lehigh: Tom Gilmore, Philadelphia, Pa.; Louisiana: Billy Napier, Cookeville, Tenn.; ULM: Terry Bowden, Douglas, Georgia.

Creighton named former Holy Cross director of athletics Marcus Blossom as the Blue Jays AD...Michigan State selected Alan Haller as its new AD...Clemson AD Dan Radakovich has required some figures and paperwork from the Compass Group for state-required income reporting...Rice AD Joe Karlgaard received a contract extension through June 2024...Texas A&M AD Ross Bjork mentioned the inevitability of conference realignment and expansion with multiple television/media rights' contracts being renegotiated and with the rugged effects of COVID-19 on athletics; budgets over the last 18 months...North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham related that he would favor expansion of the College Football Playoff from four to eight teams but felt 12 teams in the mix are too many...Oklahoma updated its senior leadership team with Larry Naifeh as executive deputy AD and COO, Dr. Carol Ludvigson as deputy AD for student-athlete experience, Armani Dawkins as deputy AD for administration and chief of staff; Zac Selmon to deputy AD for external engagement and advancement; Marcus Bowman as deputy AD for business strategy and CFO; Greg Tipton as executive associate AD for facilities and events; Kenny Mossman to executive associate AD for strategic communications, Patrick Nowlin as senior associate AD for fan engagement, Matt Schaeperkoetter as senior associate AD for athletics development, and Jeff Gracia as assistant women's tennis

coach...Arkansas AD Hunter Yurachek applauded a LSU policy for vaccination cards and health status updates prior to fans attending Tigers home events...South Carolina executive associate AD Eric Nichols was credited with fan-fun choices of music at Williams-Brice Stadium since 2009 and solid responses to his playlists...Tulane AD Troy Dannen spoke about Tulane athletics' standard hurricane and natural disaster evacuation plans and how Green Wave athletics plans to try and return to normalcy when conditions permit...Alabama AD Greg Byrne added his opinions about scheduling, neutral site games and the possible expansion of SEC scheduling to nine intraconference encounters...Monmouth extended men's basketball head coach King Rice's services through the 2025-26 season...New Missouri AD Desiree' Reed-Francois wants to establish a high-octane department of athletics with the goal of outworking the opposition with grace and sportsmanship...Michigan president Dr. Mark Schlissel put on his physician's smock and analyzed some of the outcomes of large crowds and the COVID-19 Delta variant. He plans n wearing a mask to all UM contests...West Virginia president Dr. Gordon Gee noted that as a member of the College Football Playoff Board of Managers, he remains an advocate for the updated, 12-team playoff...Texas chose Sarah Baumgartner as executive senior associate AD for sports administration...Charleston Southern added Smith as associate AD for development and tickets...Central Michigan named Walker as deputy AD...Kansas selected Wayne Simien Jr. as associate AD for engagement and outreach while Collin Sexton is the new assistant AD for strategic initiatives and chief of staff...West Virginia men's basketball head coach Bob Huggins had his contract extended until he decides to retire, and he is guaranteed to serve as head coach through the 2023-24 outing...New Mexico State AD Mario Moccia has been working to gain additional walkup ticket sales for individual games at NMSU through a series of promotions...Southern Miss added associate professor of political science Dr. Joseph Weinberg as faculty athletics representative...Austin Peay AD Gerald Harrison related his thoughts on possible Ohio Valley Conference expansion, COVID-19 precautions and expanding ticket sales for Governors football...Rice tabbed Taurian Houston as senior associate AD for compliance and administration, David Pillen to associate AD for external relations and Paul Stevens to assistant AD for ticketing and business strategy...Memphis added Marlon Dechausay as senior associate AD for student-athlete welfare...UCF selected Tim Allen (not related to the former Big 12 Conference associate commissioner) as executive senior associate AD...Incarnate Word chose Stevens as associate AD of internal operations...Morgan State director of student-athlete development Chad Allen has was

one of a group of probable future ADs to attend the TopConnect AD 2021 national conference...San Jose State athletics denoted the following appointments last week: Kevin Cavanaugh as facilities and events coordinator, Annalisa Duarte as Beyond Sparta coordinator, Helina Radford as assistant cheer and dance coach, and Christine Watson as academic development coordinator...Texas A&M-Corpus Christi softball head coach Kristen Zaleski is leaving her post...There are current openings for ADs and senior staff members in athletics at Northwestern, Akron, Bradley, UCF, Virginia, the Southeastern Conference, Army West Point, Minnesota, Winthrop, UC Santa Barbara, the NCAA office in Indianapolis, Texas Tech, and the Mountain West Conference..

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and the 160over90 Agency has a new branding initiative called Step In to enhance the MEAC fan experience...The Atlantic Coast Conference is assessing its current headquarters' location in Greensboro, N.C., with other locations mentioned as Charlotte, N.C., New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston, Mass., and Atlanta, Georgia...The 2021 ACC Football Championship Game will be sponsored by Subway...Texas Tech AD Kirby Hocutt, Baylor AD Mack Rhoades, Kansas chancellor Dr. Douglas Girod, and Iowa State president Dr. Wendy Wintersteen form the Big 12 Conference expansion subcommittee. A statement for Big 12 unity among the current eight remaining members after 2024-25 academic year emphasized the importance of this group. They also are in extensive contact with Big 12 commissioner Bob Bowlsby and special consultant Oliver Luck...The SEC formally denoted its 2021-22 academic year COVID-19 cancellation policy: A team that cannot compete due to COVID will suffer a forfeit and be assigned a loss in the conference standings. The opposing team that is ready to play will be assigned a win. If both teams cannot compete due to COVID, both teams will be assigned a loss. Any direct financial loss on the part of the school that was able to play a cancelled event may be submitted for consideration for reimbursement..Seven of the 10 Big 12 Conference head coaches have been at their current assignments for less than five years...Chattanooga was mentioned as a possible future member of the Atlantic Sun Conference from its present post in the Southern Conference...Big 12 Conference commissioner Bob Bowlsby told CBS Sports that the Big 12's future media deals are on hold until conference expansion or another alliance can be concocted...The Pac-12 Conference has designated Deschutes Brewery as the league's official craft beer. Pac-12 commissioner George Kliavkoff is working with executives of the Pac-12 Network to minimize the six-day selections for Pac-12 late night contests as a convenience for student-athletes, coaches, fans, teams traveling long distances...Also, in one scenario for the

Pac-12 Conference expansion, which currently is not accepting new memberships, Houston, Kansas and TCU were ranked as top candidates to join the 2021-22 contingent ...The Mountain West Conference asked for clarification of the some of the terms of sponsorship for the newly-sponsored Barstool Sports Arizona Bowl...The Big Sky Conference has inked a new pact with U.S. Integrity Inc. to monitor possible match-fixing, game manipulation, and other unethical or illegal gaming-related activity...Veteran publicist and North Texas journalism instructor Russell Luna has left the Big 12 Conference for a post in private business...Former Big 12 Conference digital content producer Morgan Uber has taken the same post with the American Athletic Conference and also serves as a sideline analyst for AAC ESPN + webcasts...USA contenders UTEP and UAB outscored their first two non-circuit opponents by a combined 61-3 score....DivisionITicker.com posted an email survey on which of the four (or all four) schools likely are to be added to a unified Big 12 Conference: BYU, Cincinnati, Houston, or UCF...The Patriot League is using TicketSmarter as its official ticket resales' marketplace partner.

Looking ahead to a record 44 bowl games in post-2021? Some quick facts from recent years show the Big 12 Conference won the ESPN Bowl Challenge with a 5-0 record (1.000 winning percentage) in post-2020, the SEC played in the most bowls (nine) and registered the most victories (seven), the Mid-American Conference also was unbeaten at 2-0, the SEC leads all leagues over the last five postseasons with 54 total bowls and 34 victories, the Sun Belt Conference is an impressive 19-8 since the 2016 season with a 4-1 bowl mark in post-2020, and the Big 12 has rolled to a .625 winning percentage (20-12) since the '16 campaign in bowls...The Goodyear Cotton has added Shitara Taylor as the inaugural CBAA Fred McClure Intern for the 2021-22 season. Taylor is the inaugural person to receive the CBAA Fred McClure Internship...The Big 12 Conference is coming off its first undefeated record (5-0) in post-2020 bowl play in circuit history (since 1996)...All 14 football members of Conference USA had non-conference contests between September 1-4...

Presbyterian QB Ron Hefley (transfer from Michigan) had the best new team debut in NCAA all-division history with 10 touchdown passes against St. Andrews last week. Houston's David Klingler clung to the NCAA game mark with 11 TD passes for the Air Raid attack under head coach John Jenkins in 1990 against Eastern Washington...Former South Carolina graduate assistant coach (with remaining eligibility) Zeb Noland was pressed into service UTEP swept Conference USA Player of the Week laurels for August 30 with WR Jacob Cowing (career-high 158 receiving yards on five catches), safety Dy'Vonne



Inyang and kicker Gavin Baechle topping the honors' lists...QB Tyler Johnston II passed for 320 yards and two TDs as UAB downed Jacksonville State 31-0 and helped Blazers head coach Bill Clark (formerly head coach at JSU) advance to 6-0 in openers with the Birmingham power...Michigan QB transfer Joe Milton helped new Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel debut successfully with a 38-6 triumph over Bowling Green last Thursday...Jackson State QB Shedeur Sanders, son of JSU head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame member Deion Sanders, has signed NIL endorsements with Beats by Dre, SMAC Entertainment and WME Sports...Texas entered its opener against Louisiana with both QBs Casey Thompson and Hudson Card as regulars last weekend...TCU waited until the week of its season-opening skirmish to select Max Duggan as 2021 starter. Duggan led all NCAA FBS quarterbacks in "big play" rushes last year with 11...Texas Tech star RB Rodorick Thompson was questionable throughout most of pre-fall workouts with a shoulder injury and hopes to play his way back into shape. Tech DB Reggie Pearson also has returned this fall after a brain motor disorder...Ohio State freshman QB Quinn Ewers has inked NIL endorsements with three groups and projected income of \$1.4 million in 2021-22...Mississippi State QB Will Rogers passed for 370 yards as the Bulldogs came from behind 34-14 to open the season with a 35-34 thriller over Louisiana Tech...Vanderbilt named sophomore Ken Seals as starting QB last week after Seals led all true freshmen in NCAA FBS with 1,928 net passing yards in '20...Oklahoma transfer Tanner Mordecai edged out a talented SMU cast to draw the starting nod at QB last weekend against Abilene Christian. Mustangs RB TJ McDaniel also remains out indefinitely after a 2020 ankle injury...Former Oklahoma and LSU running back Tre Bradford entered the NCAA transfer portal just before deadline last week...Miami (Fla.) safety Avantae Williams has returned to the Hurricanes for possible midseason activity...Alabama LB Quandarrius Robinson is seeking full reinstatement to the team in coming days...Wisconsin RB Loyal Crawford is seeking a '21 transfer destination.

NFF College and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Troy Aikman of UCLA and Oklahoma was the final special guest for legendary WFAA-TV sports director Dale Hansen of Dallas last Wednesday. Thursday, September 2, was declared Dale Hansen Day in Dallas by city Mayor Eric Johnson as Hansen ended a 38-year engagement after replacing NFF co-Gold Medal recipient Verne Lundquist at WFAA in 1983...NFF College Hall of Fame member and 1998 NFF William V. Campbell® Award recipient Peyton Manning of Tennessee and brother Cooper of Ole Miss are ready for the championship of the revived Capital One College Bowl (formerly the GE College Bowl from 1953-70)

with Tuesday's final between Columbia and Southern California. The winners will receive scholarships and several grand prizes after the national telecast Tuesday on NBC at 10 p.m. (EDT)...Late NFF College Hall of Fame coach and 2006 co-Gold Medal recipient Bobby Bowden was saluted in a pregame tribune on ESPN, and Florida State football has several tributes to its legendary head coach in '21 with helmet stickers, end zone appreciation and staff members with Bowden commemorative patches on their sleeves...Army Maj. Gen. and Army West Point and Harvard graduate as well as a fan of AWP and Harvard athletics Chris Donahue was the last U.S. soldier to leave Afghanistan last week...2021 inductees into the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Hall of Fame last Friday in Iowa City were Dan Bachman, Kari Hamel, Kristi Hanks, football standout Frank "Kinney" Holbrook, Roy Marble Jr., administrator (38 years) Fred Mims, Diane Nukuri, Brad Penrith, football and broadcasting legend Ed Podolak, and Brian Smith...Auburn freshman and Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Suni Lee will appear on ABC's Dancing With the Stars in 2021-22 with weekend tapings around her fall class schedule.

California had a \$1.5 million donation from Paul White for the Paul F. White Innovation and Wellness Center in California Memorial Stadium...West Virginia athletics has received \$1 million from alumni Rick and Jay Wagener for the baseball program and other areas and will be honored with the renaming of Wagener Field at Monongalia County Ballpark on the WVU campus...The Arizona-BYU tussle last Saturday at Las Vegas' Allegiant Stadium had the largest attendance for a college athletics' event in Nevada history - 57,541...Belmont athletics has inked a multiyear partnership with INFCLR for NIL compensation and training...Dreamfield, which handles NIL agreements for Miami (Fla.) QB D'Eriq King and Florida State QB McKenzie Milton, has partnered with Mercedes-Benz for several Dreamfield clients to serve as pitcher and ambassadors for Mercedes-Benz vehicles...The Whoop Group raised \$200 million in additional funding to bring its total company stock value to \$3.6 billion...VaynerSports is expanding its corporate consulting division to include marketing initiatives for fan bases as such college powers as Clemson, Ohio State, Oklahoma, and others...INFCLR and Fan Arch have developed a program to give student-athletes using the Teamworks and INFCLR updates the opportunity to sell personalized gear in fan stores and online...Fresno State football had replacement cleats ready in case of possible meltdowns in 120-degree (F) field temperatures during the FSU-UConn contest...Cleveland State athletics explained how its new strategic plan will be a major plus for the university with focus on success, working toward the total student-athlete concept and maximizing

strategic outcomes competitively and financially...Nike Inc. has taken additional legal action against knockoff manufacturers of its shoes, apparel and even specially-designed football uniforms...Duke athletics and university employees have until Oct. 1 to show that they received COVID-19 vaccinations...The heavily-laden trophy case at Cambridge (Neb.) HS was featured in a recent Twitter notification...Tennessee developed The Attack Shirt to indicate the Volunteers new upbeat and fast-moving offense and also has 50-plus student-athletes with NIL agreements with Knoxville-based The DW Designs and Spyre Sports Group...West Virginia football is approaching 23,000 season tickets with a possible 6,000-plus in mini-pack sales...UCLA is working on several promotions for single-game ticket purchases such as additional free tickets for UCLA students, area high school students, youth football players and cheerleaders, other youth sports teams, active military members, and veterans are among the efforts. There also are discounted tickets for several other communities...SMU athletics will utilize FanWord Stories for student-athletes to share experiences online...Georgia Southern athletics extended its ticketing and marketing pacts with the Paciolan Group...Tennessee is celebrating the 100th season anniversary of Shields-Watkins Field, which was constructed in 1922...Indiana athletics and the Brandr Group have united to offer group licensing to student-athletes...INFCLR and the Spring Group are combining to allow student-athletes access to Spring's direct-to-consumer sales regimen with digital storefronts...The Los Angeles Superior Court, Under Armour and UCLA athletics are working on jurisprudence between the Bruins and the apparel and marketing company...The Rice R Association Newsletter has been renamed the SOAR Newsletter (as in soaring Owls) powered by the R Association...The U. of Calgary Dinos, defending Canadian collegiate champs from 2019, are back in their regular locker facilities at McMahon Stadium for 2021 after having to make other arrangements for almost two years. The Dinos open the season at home against U. of Saskatchewan Sept. 25...Six Ohio State football standouts are receiving automobiles for a NIL pact with Columbus' Coughlin Chevrolet and will assist in toy drives and other community service concerns as part of the agreement...Alabama instructor of news media Tom Arenburg believes that paying NIL compensation for interviews may set a bad precedent for student-athletes and media fairness in future months...Virginia's Board of Visitors gave support to fund a \$136 million project for athletics facilities with \$65 million football training facility and \$22 million for renovation of an Olympic sports training facility, among other updates...Texas Tech athletics and the Athlete Network are working together on NIL initiatives...Iowa State's Cyclone Sports Performance Center opened with a

\$90 million price tag, dining hall, academic center, life skills center, and additional amenities...Strict COVID-19 protocols in Los Angeles County may cause several additional precautions by Southern California and UCLA football as well as fans and game workers at both stadium sites...Both LSU and Texas athletics extended their contracts with Altius Sports Partners for three years for ticketing and marketing...Alaska Anchorage men's ice hockey program raised \$3 million to gain reinstatement...Harvard U. and neighbors in the Cambridge, Mass., Allston neighborhood are working on development for HU's new Kendall Square development...Iowa State sold 49,000-plus season tickets for a school record...Purdue athletics will utilize Altius Sports Partners for all its sports NIL arrangements...William & Mary athletics and the Aspire Group have a new, multi-season marketing, business services and ticketing agreement...Rice athletics and FanThreeSixty are partnering for additional fan engagement frills for Owls enthusiasts. The Owls Bayou Bucket Giving Challenge will be going through Saturday, Sept. 11, in a head-to-head fun duel with Houston Cougars donors to indicate which Houston university has the most loyal and giving fans...The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is merging six of its universities into two campuses...Auburn athletics and INFCLR had a full-day session of NIL education and public relations on the AU campus recently...Southern Illinois athletics signed with Paciolan for ticketing and marketing services over another extended period...DEWALT Co. is sponsoring 25 football programs in '21 with branded sideline benches installed by Dragon Seats...Denver athletics and SuperBook Sports will work together as corporate betting partner under the auspices of Playfly Sports...Denny's Restaurant introduced the All-Pancaker Team with football student-athletes from USC, UAPB, Clemson and Ohio State endorsing and consuming the yummy products.

Famed broadcasters Eli Gold of Alabama and Mick Huber of Florida are celebrating their SEC-current-longest streaks of 33 consecutive seasons behind the radio mikes at their respective assignments...The Athletic highlighted Sewanee (University of the South) for its prowess in football from 1898-1940, a school that has winning all-time series records against Auburn, Georgia and LSU, had the most points ever scored in a regulation contest against Alabama (54-6 in 1897), and went 12-0 with a record 11 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association victories and five wins in six road games over six days in that famed '98 season...

The Associated Press' award-winning writer Eric Olson surveyed 31 football schools and discovered that among those programs, only Notre Dame is going all-virtual on 2021 ticketing. Illinois has 74

(continued on page 18)







# VW Atlas midsize-crossover SUV



By Matt Degen

The Volkswagen Atlas is a midsize-crossover SUV with three rows of seating. In its usual form, it has accommodation for seven. An optional pair of captain's chairs for the second row brings that down to six. Volkswagen designed and developed the Atlas especially for North America, and builds it in the company's factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Atlas is therefore a specialized machine that still has to have a broad appeal. And it succeeds with family-friendly space and costs, smart ergonomics, decent-quality materials, and a pleasant driving experience with standard driver aids.

As with almost anything that looks like an SUV, though, this is a hotly contested arena. Principal rivals like the Honda Pilot, Toyota Highlander and Ford Explorer have been joined recently by the excellent Kia Telluride and Hyundai Palisade. Let's not forget the Chevrolet Traverse, either. At least the Atlas is strong enough to be in the game, rather than being left on the sidelines.

The Atlas has a comfortable ride quality approaching that of a luxury vehicle, yet still displays control and composure when the corners come along. That's the European influence in a vehicle designed and built for Americans.

The basic 4-cylinder engine (paired only with front-wheel drive) is adequate for suburban duties, but anyone planning longer drives might want to consider the V6. Then again, the Atlas is not light (around 4,500 pounds) and it's the largest

vehicle VW sells in the United States, so even this option is hardly a powerhouse. But it can come with all-wheel drive (AWD), a system that includes Snow and Off-road modes.

Eight inches of ground clearance means the Atlas can cope with a rural trail, but not the really rough stuff.

Yes, a third seating row is good enough to warrant a special mention. The way the second row slides forward to make the seats behind so easily accessible is just one aspect. Passengers will also find plenty of headroom and decent legroom, with space under the second row to place their feet.

Even if the Atlas isn't exactly breathtaking, there's still some VW spirit to be found. Clicking the driving modes over to Sport sharpens up the steering and throttle responses, and raises the transmission shift points. It even works with the adaptive cruise control engaged.

Because the Atlas is aimed at American buyers, there are 17 cup holders. However, the cabin still mixes simplicity with class. The high-quality plastics help in this regard.

The second row can fold and slide forward even when child seats are fitted, enabling accommodation for seven occupants, or six if the optional 2nd-row captain's chairs are selected.

In versions of the Atlas without the captain's chairs, the rearmost two rows of seats can fold to create a flat load-space floor. Behind the third row is a still-generous 20.6 cubic feet of cargo area, which expands to an impressive maximum of 96.8 cubic feet.

Clever packaging means the VW Atlas

is big on the inside yet capable of fitting within a regular garage. The rear-passenger doors are generously sized and open wide for easy entries and exits. And we like the large cargo-area aperture, especially when it's accessed by the hands-free power tailgate. Touches like these illustrate the detail Volkswagen has gone into when considering the needs of its potential customers. The standard wheel is an 18-inch alloy, going up to 21 inches on the highest trim. The R-Line variants have their own cosmetic additions.

The good news is that the Atlas in entry-level S trim comes with a lot of standard equipment that includes a few advanced driver aids. Other attractions include rain-sensing wipers, automatic LED headlights, heated side mirrors, roof rails, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto smartphone integration, and Wi-Fi.

Safety makes a substantial contribution with six airbags, automatic post-collision braking, and VW's Intelligent Crash Response System, which cuts the fuel supply, unlocks the doors and turns on the hazard lights in the event of a crash.

The not-so-good news is that there's only a 6.5-inch infotainment touch screen and one USB port.

To bring even more features into a new Volkswagen Atlas means heading for higher trims. For example, parking sensors aren't available until the mid-range SE w/Tech R-Line model, while the hands-free power tailgate comes in the SEL model. Those looking to spend more can always order the panoramic sunroof, 20-inch or 21-inch alloy wheels, and 2nd-row captain's chairs. The V6 with all-wheel drive

is available in the S.

Apart from all-wheel drive and the V6 engine (both of which are standard in SEL Premium), the only other main options are a trailer package for the first three trims with the V6, panoramic sunroof (available in the upper two SE variants) and 2nd-row captain's chairs. The first two trims are ineligible for that last feature.

To see which equipment goes where, check our Trims/Features section below.

The basic engine in the VW Atlas is a turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder unit making 235 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque. Front-wheel drive (FWD) is the only configuration.

The alternative is a 3.6-liter V6 generating 276 horsepower and 266 lb-ft of torque, and can drive either the front wheels or all four (AWD) with the 4Motion setup, which has modes for various treacherous conditions. The Atlas also has on-road driving modes of Eco, Normal and Sport.

Both engines connect to an 8-speed automatic transmission.

2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4  
235 horsepower @ 4,500 rpm  
258 lb-ft of torque @ 1,600 rpm  
EPA city/highway fuel economy: 20/24 mpg

3.6-liter V6  
276 horsepower @ 6,200 rpm  
266 lb-ft of torque @ 2,750 rpm  
EPA city/highway fuel economy: 17/23 mpg (FWD), 16/22 mpg (AWD)

The S trim is the lowest of the seven Atlas trim levels, with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$31,545. Add the \$1,020 destination charge to make \$32,565.

Aim for the SE trim at least, from \$35,715, although a good balance of price and equipment is the SE w/Technology for \$38,065 (front-wheel drive). The SEL comes in at \$41,815, while the SEL Premium (with the V6, all-wheel drive and almost everything else as standard) is \$50,215. Adding the 2nd-row captain's chairs would be \$695. Where they're optional, the V6 is \$1,400 and all-wheel drive is an extra \$1,800.

These figures are similar to the Ford Explorer, Honda Pilot, Kia Telluride and Hyundai Palisade. The Chevrolet Traverse starts with a lower price, while a new-for-2020 Toyota Highlander costs more.

Check out KBB.com's Fair Purchase Price to see what other buyers in your area are paying for their new Atlas. The Pilot and Highlander outperform the Atlas in terms of resale values. Although the VW SUV has a transferrable 6-year/72,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty in its favor.





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