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MLB Early Post Season Projections

Sept. 13 - Sept. 19, 2024

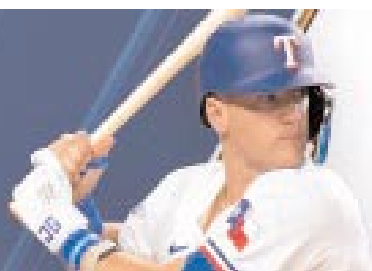
Vol. 23, Issue 2

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FREE



vs.



SEPTEMBER 17-19

2024-2025 ACC MEN'S BASKETBALL OPPONENTS



2024-2025 ACC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OPPONENTS

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2024 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

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

JULY

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

MAY

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

AUGUST

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

JUNE

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

SEPTEMBER

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

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

Home Games

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

SMU Celebrates \$1 Million Commitment



SMU celebrates \$1 Million commitment from the Shaddock family to name the Shaddock Family Auditorium Within The Weber End Zone Complex

The SMU Athletics Department is proud to announce a generous \$1 million commitment from the Shaddock Family in support of the Weber End Zone Complex. Members of the Shaddock Family include Kim and William Shaddock M.B.A. '74, Kaitlin '07 and William Shaddock, Jr. '06, Lisa '11 and Andrew Shaddock '09, M.B.A.'13, and Caroline Shaddock '12. This remarkable contribution will name the football team auditorium, a vital space for team meetings, film study, guest speakers and strategic planning.

The 192,500 square foot Weber End Zone Complex is an important project aimed at enhancing the facilities for the Mustang football program in preparation for its first season in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). With state-of-the-art amenities, the complex will provide athletes with an environment conducive to training and development, furthering SMU's commitment to excellence in football. Furthermore, the spaces formerly inhabited by football in the Loyd All-Sports Complex will be repurposed to impact all 17 varsity programs.

The Shaddock Family's philanthropy extends across the SMU campus. In 2021,

the family made a \$6 million commitment to the Cox School of Business, supporting its renovation and expansion project. Their ongoing contributions have played a crucial role in advancing the university's mission and enhancing the educational experience for all students.

As the Weber End Zone Complex progresses, the SMU community remains dedicated to providing top-tier facilities for its athletes. Additional support from alumni, friends, and supporters is vital to bringing this vision to life. Naming opportunities within the SMU complex is a unique chance to leave a lasting legacy.



Mavericks re-sign Markieff Morris

The Dallas Mavericks announced this week that they have re-signed forward Markieff Morris.

Appearing in 26 games last season for the Mavericks, Morris (6-9, 245) averaged 2.5 points, 1.5 rebounds and 8.3 minutes and broke double-digit scoring once in 2023-24 by scoring 10 points (4-9 FG, 2-5 3FG) alongside five rebounds and four assists in Portland (12/16/23).

Throughout 776 career NBA games, 379 of which were starts, with Dallas (2023-24), Brooklyn (2022-23), Miami (2021-22), the Los Angeles Lakers (2019-21), Detroit (2019-2020), Oklahoma City

(2019), Washington (2016-2019) and Phoenix (2011-16), Morris averaged 10.3 points, 4.9 rebounds, 1.5 assists, and 23.6 minutes. After being acquired by the Lakers in 2019-20, Morris helped L.A. to an NBA championship, appearing in each of the 21 playoff games that season.

As the 13th overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft, the 13-year veteran was selected by the Phoenix Suns following three seasons (2008-11) at Kansas.



World No. 9 Casper Ruud, defending champion Tommy Paul to play in upgraded Dallas Open

Premium ticket packages on sale now as Dallas Open upgrades from ATP 250 to ATP 500 level tournament

The Dallas Open is gearing up for a thrilling 2025 tournament, as World No. 9 Casper Ruud and defending Dallas Open champion Tommy Paul have committed to compete. The event, set for February 1-9, 2025, will take place at Ford Center at The Star in Frisco. Premium ticket packages are available now at www.dallasopen.com.

In 2025, the Dallas Open will elevate its status from an ATP 250 to an ATP 500 event, promising the strongest field since the tournament's move to North Texas in 2022. This upgrade not only attracts top-tier talent but also offers players the chance to earn more ATP ranking points and compete for a share of approximately \$2.8 million in prize money.

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NCAA Football Poll

Coaches Poll	Week 2	AP Poll
1. Georgia	1. Georgia	1. Georgia
2. Ohio State	2. Texas	2. Texas
3. Texas	3. Ohio State	3. Ohio State
4. Alabama	4. Alabama	4. Alabama
5. Ole Miss	5. Ole Miss	5. Ole Miss
6. Oregon	6. Missouri	6. Missouri
7. Penn State	7. Tennessee	7. Tennessee
8. Missouri	8. Penn State	8. Penn State
9. Tennessee	9. Oregon	9. Oregon
10. Utah	10. Miami	10. Miami
11. USC	11. USC	11. USC
12. Miami	12. Utah	12. Utah
13. Oklahoma	13. Oklahoma State	13. Oklahoma State
14. Oklahoma State	14. Kansas State	14. Kansas State
15. Kansas State	15. Oklahoma	15. Oklahoma
16. Michigan	16. LSU	16. LSU
17. LSU	17. Michigan	17. Michigan
18. Arizona	18. Notre Dame	18. Notre Dame
19. Notre Dame	19. Louisville	19. Louisville
20. Clemson	20. Arizona	20. Arizona
21. Louisville	21. Iowa State	21. Iowa State
22. Washington	22. Clemson	22. Clemson
23. Iowa State	23. Nebraska	23. Nebraska
24. Nebraska	24. Boston College	24. Boston College
25. Memphis	25. Northern Illinois	25. Northern Illinois

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	SEPTEMBER 13 FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 14 SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 15 SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 16 MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 17 TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 18 WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 19 THURSDAY
	Rangers at Mariners 9:00 / Bally's	Rangers at Mariners 8:40 / Bally's	Rangers at Mariners 3:10 / Bally's		Rangers vs Blue Jays 7:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Blue Jays 7:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Blue Jays 1:35 / Bally's
	Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders at Amarillo 1:05		Roughriders at Midland 7:05		Roughriders vs Midland 7:05
						FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake 8:30	
			Cowboys vs Saints 12:00 / FOX				
		NEXT GAME vs TCU Sept 21 4:00					

SMU turns to Kevin Jennings at QB



Three games into the season as Kevin Jennings will take over the starting job from incumbent Preston Stone

Mustangs bench Preston Stone hoping to reinvigorate inconsistent offense

Stone was projected as one of the top QBs in the ACC but had yet to deliver through three games

By Staff

SMU is making a quarterback change just three games into the season as Kevin Jennings will take over the starting job from incumbent Preston Stone. The Mustangs played both quarterbacks for stretches during their inconsistent 2-1 start and have now decided to shift their plans in favor of Jennings leading the offense.

While Stone was the starting quarterback heading into the season, coach Rhett Lashlee was open that the staff wanted to involve Jennings. The latter started the Mustangs' AAC Championship Game victory against Tulane in 2023 after Stone suffered a season-ending leg injury, leading a 26-14 upset victory. It was the first conference championship for SMU since before the Death Penalty of the 1980s.

Coming into 2024, Lashlee held up Jennings as a leader on the team. Despite serving as a backup, Jennings was named a captain and represented the team at ACC Media Days. Still, benching Stone is a surprising move.

In three seasons for the Mustangs, Jennings has completed 60.1% of his passes for 1,165 yards, seven touchdowns and three interceptions. He has also averaged 4.3 yards per carry with two touchdowns. The sophomore is a local legend in Dallas after leading South Oak Cliff High School to a state championship in 2021, which made them the first Dallas ISD school to win a state title since the Dallas Carter squad -- featured in the movie "Friday

Night Lights" -- in 1988.

SMU enters its first off week after playing in Week 0. Jennings will make his first start of the season on Sept. 21 against rival TCU in the Battle for the Iron Skillet. The Mustangs follow up the vital rivalry game with Florida State and a road trip to No. 19 Louisville. SMU has not won a game against a power conference opponent since Lashlee arrived in 2022.

Stone's benching comes as surprise Landing Stone as a recruit was a game-changing moment for SMU. The Dallas product and SMU legacy ranks as the top recruit in program history, ranked No. 148 in the Top247 rankings. In his lone season as a starter, Stone lived up to the hype. Stone started 12 games for SMU, completing 59.9% of his passes for 3,197 yards and 28 touchdowns during a breakout campaign. While he had to return from a major leg injury, most expected Stone to rank among the top returning passers in the ACC as SMU entered its first season as a league member. Getting to be the face of his family's program during a historic moment was something money couldn't buy.

The SMU offense was inconsistent under Stone in 2024, but it's not all his fault. The SMU staff opted to rotate quarterbacks over the first three games, giving Stone and Jennings each two drives before making a decision. In the opener against Nevada, it was Stone who put together a strong second half and led a game-winning touchdown drive. Against BYU, SMU leaned on Jennings. Stone threw only four pass attempts before getting benched.

What Jennings brings

The SMU staff previously said that it would rotate in Jennings to provide a spark

off the bench, but the Mustangs stuck with him after going down in an 18-15 loss to BYU. He completed only 15 of 32 passes but led more consistent drives. None reached the end zone.

While Stone is the focus amid his benching, the move may actually say more about SMU's offensive line woes. Stone was sacked three times early against BYU. For comparison, the Cougars had just two sacks against Southern Illinois. The Mustangs have also been inconsistent in the run game. That's where Jennings adds

value.

Jennings provides far more value for SMU with his athleticism and running ability. He was not sacked against BYU despite facing pressure. In his three games, Jennings has rushed for 96 yards and a touchdown on 6.4 yards per attempt. Stone averaged just 2.6 yards per carry. Jennings isn't quite the passer of Stone's caliber, but the Mustangs are desperate to get any consistent playmaking on the field as they head into their first season as a power conference team.

LAFC VS LAFC

SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:30PM

PRES. BY ADVOCARE | TOYOTA STADIUM

Having a Solid Practice Game Plan



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Practice means to perform, over and over again in the face of all obstacles, some act of vision, of faith, of desire.

“Practice is a means of inviting the perfection desired.”- Martha Graham.

There are two phases of practice in golf: Practice for development of the skill; and practice before you play to loosen up your muscles. Practicing before playing is as beneficial to the golfer as it is to a baseball or football player or any other athlete.

Proper practice for golfing technique is the real secret to golfing skill and there is no substitute. With a golf club in your hand you can practice anywhere; because with or without a golf club, you can perfect your grip, stance, and body actions. Many players derive more pleasure from practicing than actual playing a round of golf. I personally enjoy that scenario too.

It’s important to always practice with definite objectives. Direct all your shots to a specific target to develop direction and judgment of distance. Practice with all clubs under similar conditions as you would on the course- bad lies as well as good lies. And make sure to change targets frequently while hitting balls on the range.

Through these articles I will delve into each area in greater depth to help in formu-

lating a comprehensive game plan.

It’s critical to learn the swing by feel, not by mechanics alone. Too much detail can be confusing. Thinking your way through a golf swing is impossible because the club is moving too fast to make any adjustments.

Short practice sessions are more preferable than long ones. Going for a couple hours can be physically and mentally exhausting which can be detrimental.

There are two sets of muscles used in the golf swing: Big muscles (heavy) and small muscles (speed). As in the formula for energy, mass (weight) and speed must correspond. The difference between a low handicaper and a high handicaper is coordinating the use of these two sets of muscles. The high handicapper uses his big (heavy) muscles to swing the club. The low handicap golfer does not allow the big muscles to dominate the smaller muscles; Therefore, he has weight plus speed.

The way I prefer my students to practice helps develop the proper timing and rhythm necessary to become the golfer they desire to be. By having great timing and rhythm in the swing there will be no real feeling of applying power and an absence of exerting physical force. It will feel so effortless because your power and distance were created by centrifugal force and not brute strength. Doing this gives the golfer the appearance of no conscious effort making the swing. You’ll look smooth and easy, but delivering a lot of power in the process.

Enjoy practicing because it will pay off on the course. There’s a wonderful quote about practice that goes,

“Everything we do is practice for something greater than where we currently are. Practice only makes for improvement.”

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Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

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



(Data Source: U.S. Federal Reserve)

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This week: Procore Championship



The FedExCup Fall offers players a chance to secure or improve their PGA TOUR status for the 2025 season

By Adam Stanley

The 2024 PGA TOUR schedule resumes at this week's Procore Championship – the FedExCup Fall's kick-off event – at Silverado Resort in Napa, California.

The FedExCup Fall, spanning from the Procore Championship to The RSM Classic, offers players a chance to secure or improve their PGA TOUR status for the 2025 season. FedExCup Fall events feature similar benefits as FedExCup Regular Season events: Winners earn two-year exemptions, 500 FedExCup points, and spots in THE PLAYERS, The Sentry and major championships that invite TOUR winners.

There is also, crucially, the drama of players competing for their PGA TOUR cards. The FedExCup Fall finalizes the top 125 who will retain exempt status for 2025, with Nos. 126-150 retaining conditional status.

Players beyond No. 70 in the FedExCup after the TOUR Championship will continue to compete in the FedExCup Fall to remain in the top 125 through The RSM Classic. Nos. 51-70 in the FedExCup after East Lake already have clinched their cards for next season but are competing for spots in the first two Signature Events after The Sentry, as Nos. 51-60 in the FedExCup standings after The RSM Classic get into those events via the Aon Next 10.

Players who finished in the top 50 in the FedExCup can still compete in the FedEx Cup Fall – like No. 3 Sahith Theegala, who

returns to Napa as the defending champion.

FIELD NOTES: Six upcoming Presidents Cup competitors will compete in Napa in addition to five players with Presidents Cup captaincy roles. Defending Procore Championship winner Theegala, two-time Procore winner Max Homa and 2023 U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark are the U.S. Team's three competitors playing in Napa. They're joined by two of captain Jim Furyk's assistants in Kevin Kisner and Stewart Cink (a past winner in Napa) ... International Team Captain Mike Weir (competing on a sponsor exemption) and Captain's Assistant Camilo Villegas are in the field along with Australian Min Woo Lee and two fellow Canadians – Corey Connors and Mackenzie Hughes – who will compete at Royal Montreal ... Homa returns to Napa to try to find some form heading into the Presidents Cup. Homa won the Procore Championship in back-to-back seasons (2021, 2022) but hasn't notched a top-10 finish on TOUR since the Truist Championship in May ... Theegala arrives for his title defense after finishing third at the TOUR Championship. He secured a spot at the Presidents Cup as one of the top six automatic qualifiers for the American squad. Theegala has finished inside the top 15 in three of his last four starts at Silverado.

SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS: Luke Clanton, the game's top-ranked amateur, is back in action on the PGA TOUR after a tremendous summertime stretch. Clanton notched three top-10 finishes in six starts

on TOUR over the last three months including a tie for second at the John Deere Classic and a solo fifth at the Wyndham Championship. Clanton has earned 14 points in the PGA TOUR University Accelerated program (which awards TOUR cards to college golfers who earn points via certain benchmarks). If Clanton earns six more points before the college golf season concludes next spring, he can accept TOUR membership starting in the summer of 2025 ... Neal Shipley, who captured low amateur honors at the U.S. Open (over Clanton), is also set for another TOUR start. Shipley has made six of seven cuts on TOUR this year and has notched three top-10 finishes in five events on PGA TOUR Americas this summer (including a second and a third) ... Wenyi Ding, No. 4 on the World Amateur Golf Ranking, will make his non-major PGA TOUR debut (he played in the 2023 U.S. Open). The rising Arizona State sophomore became the third golfer to sweep the Pac-12 Player and Freshman of the Year honors in the same season), joining Jamie Lovemark in 2007 and Patrick Cantlay in 2011...Like Clanton, Virginia's Ben James is looking to notch a few more PGA TOUR University Accelerated points this week in Napa. James played three times on the PGA TOUR this summer, including the U.S. Open. He has accrued 11 PGA TOUR University Accelerated points ... Australian Jeffrey Guan, who turned pro last November, will make his PGA TOUR debut. Guan set the scoring record at The

Junior PLAYERS in 2022 and was a celebrated junior in his home country ... Presidents Cup International Team Captain Weir will play alongside some of his squad this week in Napa after finishing third in his last PGA TOUR Champions start ... Brandt Snedeker, who recently received the Payne Stewart Award presented by Southern Company, will tee it up again in comfortable confines. Snedeker has played Silverado seven times and notched a runner-up result in 2018 ... PGA TOUR Americas' season-long points leader John Keefe will make his PGA TOUR debut. The 2024 Baylor grad secured the No. 1

(continued on page 8)

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spot on the Fortinet Cup – and fully exempt 2025 Korn Ferry Tour status – with a tie for third at the Fortinet Cup Championship on Sunday.

SIGNATURE EVENT STORYLINES:

As part of the Aon Next 10, players ranked Nos. 51-60 on the FedExCup standings through the FedExCup Fall will earn their way into two early-season 2025 Signature Events – the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational ... Min Woo Lee currently stands No. 60 and is set to compete in Napa.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

The Procore Championship is the first event of the FedExCup Fall. All players inside the top 125 on the final FedExCup Fall standings (after The RSM Classic) will be fully exempt on the 2025 PGA TOUR. Nos. 126-150 on the final FedExCup Fall standings will have conditional TOUR status in 2025. All players outside the top 125 can improve or regain TOUR status via PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.

COURSE: Silverado Resort (North Course), par 72, 7,123 yards. Last year's Procore Championship featured some serious tweaks to the North Course at Silverado, with 10 holes being rerouted (Nos. 1-7 and No. 18 stayed the same). Silverado has hosted the PGA TOUR since 2014.

72-HOLE RECORD: 262, Cameron Beckman (2008 at Grayhawk GC), Kevin Sutherland (2008 at Grayhawk GC), Troy Matteson (2009 at Grayhawk GC), Rickie Fowler (2009 at Grayhawk GC), Jamie Lovemark (2009 at Grayhawk GC). Silverado record: 267, Stewart Cink (2020), Sahith Theegala (2023).

18-HOLE RECORD: 61, Mark Hensby (Round 2, 2007 at Grayhawk GC), Kevin Stadler (Round 2, 2008 at Grayhawk GC), Troy Matteson (Rounds 2 and 3, 2009 at Grayhawk GC), Mike Weir (Round 4, 2009 at Grayhawk GC), Chesson Hadley (Round 2, 2017 at Silverado).

LAST TIME: Theegala broke through for his first PGA TOUR title – a two-shot triumph for his maiden victory in 74 starts. The 25-year-old shot a final-round 68, which was more than enough to top the field after starting the day with a two-shot advantage. Theegala played his first five holes Sunday in 3-under and finished with seven birdies and three bogeys. S.H. Kim finished second while Cam Davis was third, four shots back of Theegala. Homa, the two-time defending champion, finished tied for seventh.

How to follow
(all times ET)

Television:

- Thursday: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel)
 - Friday-Saturday: 6:30-9:30 p.m. (Golf Channel)
 - Sunday: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel)
- PGA TOUR LIVE:

How it works: FedExCup Fall



Written by Staff

With the PGA TOUR reverting to a calendar-year schedule, the tournaments that follow the TOUR Championship have taken on a new significance. The FedExCup Fall promises to provide greater drama and more immediate consequence than ever before as players face off in high-stakes competition with their PGA TOUR status at stake.

Tournaments in the FedExCup Fall offer winners the same benefits as Regular Season events – including a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR, 500 FedExCup points and spots in THE PLAYERS, The Sentry and those major championships that invite PGA TOUR winners.

But the FedExCup Fall also is when top 125 eligibility, which provides exempt status into Full-Field Events and a spot in THE PLAYERS, is finalized for the following season.

After the conclusion of the FedExCup Playoffs, players ranked 51st and beyond in the FedExCup will continue to compete for points in the fall. They will begin the fall with all points earned in the Regular Season and the first FedExCup Playoffs event, the FedEx St. Jude Championship.

Additionally, the top 10 players on the FedExCup Points List at the conclusion of the FedExCup Fall who are not yet eligible for the Signature Events will get into the two Signature Events following the season-opening The Sentry. This allows for trending players to emerge from the FedExCup Fall and test their skills against the game's best.

Nos. 51-70 in the FedExCup at the start of the fall have already clinched their top-

125 eligibility for the following year but are competing for spots in the first two Signature Events following The Sentry.

Nos. 71 and beyond can earn one of the 10 spots available in those Signature Events but they also are competing to finish in the top 125 of the FedExCup standings at the conclusion of the fall.

At the end of the FedExCup Fall, those that rank from 126-150 on the final FedExCup Fall Points List will have conditional status for the 2024 PGA TOUR Season.

All players outside the top 125 can improve or regain TOUR status via PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.

Players in the top 50 of the FedExCup after the TOUR Championship are guaranteed top 125 eligibility and their spots in all Signature Events for the following season, but they can continue to play FedExCup Fall events to pursue trophies, play in some of their favorite events and earn valuable perks like Official World Golf Ranking points.

FAQs

Who is eligible to compete in the FedExCup Fall?

Eligibility for the FedExCup Fall is the same as the FedExCup Regular Season. All players from the Priority Ranking are eligible to compete.

Can a player who finishes in the top 50 in the FedExCup (through the TOUR Championship) compete in the FedExCup Fall?

Players in the top 50 can participate in the FedExCup Fall and receive performance benefits including prize money, Official World Golf Ranking points and

winner's exemptions. With the top 50 having already secured their position for the 2025 season, including entry into Signature Events, the FedExCup points they earn during the FedExCup Fall will not accumulate on the FedExCup Fall standings. **What happens if a player finishes 70th in the FedExCup standings through the TOUR Championship and does not want to play in the fall?**

Should players 51-70 through the Playoffs choose not to play in the FedExCup Fall, their position on the FedExCup Fall Points List will drop, but their status into Full-Field Events in 2024 is already locked by finishing top 70 in the FedExCup through the FedExCup Playoffs. As a reminder, Nos. 51-60 in the FedExCup Fall Points List will qualify for the first two Signature Events after the The Sentry (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational).

What do winners of FedExCup Fall events receive?

Winners of FedExCup Fall events will receive 500 FedExCup Points, Official World Golf Ranking points and a two-year winner's exemption. Winners will also be eligible for The Sentry, THE PLAYERS Championship, as well as eligibility into Major Championships that invite PGA TOUR winners.

What if a player finishes outside of the top 125 after the 2023 FedExCup Fall?

Those players finishing 126-150 on the final FedExCup Fall standings will have conditional status for the 2024 PGA TOUR Season.



MLB early post season projections



By Jon Thomas

The 2024 postseason is approaching. As you keep an eye on the standings, here is everything you need to know about how the playoff field is shaping up, as well as info about potential tiebreakers and clinch scenarios for each contender.

IF THE SEASON ENDED TODAY

Here is a look at how the postseason field is shaping up, entering Tuesday. *(Teams listed in order of seeding).*

AL playoff teams: Yankees (AL East), Guardians (AL Central), Astros (AL West), Orioles (Wild Card), Royals (Wild Card), Twins (Wild Card)

NL playoff teams: Phillies (NL East), Dodgers (NL West), Brewers (NL Central), Padres (Wild Card), D-backs (Wild Card), Mets (Wild Card)

Each of the best-of-three Wild Card Series are set to begin on Oct. 1, while each of the best-of-five Division Series are set to begin on Oct. 5.

CONTENDER BREAKDOWN

Clinched postseason berth: None

Almost there (90% postseason odds or better): Yankees, Orioles, Guardians, Royals, Astros, Phillies, Brewers, Dodgers, Padres

In good shape (50-89% postseason

odds): Twins, Braves, Mets, D-backs

In the mix (10-49% postseason odds): Red Sox, Tigers

Still alive (1-9%): Mariners, Cubs, Rays, Rangers, Cardinals

TIGHTEST RACES

AL East: Yankees lead Orioles by 1.5 games

AL Central: Guardians lead Royals by 3.5 games

AL Wild Card: Twins lead Red Sox, Tigers and Mariners by three games

NL Wild Card: Mets lead Braves by one game

AL West: Astros lead Mariners by 4.5

games

Since 2022, all playoff tiebreakers have been determined mathematically, rather than via tiebreaker games. That means ties for division titles and postseason berths, as well as for seeding, come down first to head-to-head record between those teams during the season, with other tiebreakers available if needed.

AL: Astros | Guardians | Mariners | Orioles | Royals | Twins | Yankees | Red Sox | Tigers

NL: Braves | Brewers | D-backs | Dodgers | Mets | Padres | Phillies

(continued on page 10)

AL EAST

Yankees

1st in AL East, 1.5 games ahead of BAL in division
FanGraphs playoff odds: 100% (73.5% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Astros, Guardians, Royals, Twins
- Lose tiebreaker vs: N/A
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Orioles (4-6, 3 games left)

If the AL East is still up for grabs by then, the Yankees would need to sweep the Orioles from Sept. 24-26 in the Bronx in order to win the season series and the tiebreaker for a division title.

Orioles

2nd in AL East, 1.5 games behind NYY in division
FanGraphs playoff odds: 99.6% (26.5% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Royals
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Astros, Guardians
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Yankees (6-4, 3 games left), Twins (3-0, 3 games left)

If the Orioles take one of the final three games against the Yankees, and the two teams end the season with the same record, Baltimore would hold the tiebreaker advantage over New York. If the Orioles were to get swept in the final series against the Twins and end the season with the same record as Minnesota, the tiebreaker would be based on intradivision record.

AL CENTRAL

Guardians

1st in AL Central, 3.5 games ahead of KC in division
FanGraphs playoff odds: 99.9% (84.7% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Orioles, Twins
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Royals, Yankees
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Astros (1-2, 3 games left)

The Guardians hold important tiebreakers over the Orioles and Twins yet would lose out in scenarios with the Royals and Yankees. Cleveland currently holds a 4 1/2-game lead over the Astros for the second AL seed but would need to sweep the final series to be certain that it would win the tiebreaker. If the Guardians win two of three, the tiebreaker would be based on intradivision record.

Royals

2nd in AL Central, 3.5 games behind CLE in division
FanGraphs playoff odds: 92.9% (12.4% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Guardians, Mariners, Tigers
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Astros, Orioles, Twins, Yankees
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: N/A

The Royals arguably clinched their most important tiebreaker by taking the season series against the Guardians. If the two clubs end the season in a tie, Kansas City would have the edge for the division.

Twins

3rd in AL Central, 6 games behind CLE for division

FanGraphs playoff odds: 78.8% (3.0% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Astros, Royals
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Guardians, Yankees
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Orioles (0-3, 3 games remaining)

The Twins have an important tiebreaker advantage over the Royals, which could come into play for either a division or Wild Card spot. Minnesota, however, lost the season series against the Guardians and therefore lost the tiebreaker advantage.

AL WEST

Astros

1st in AL West, 4.5 games ahead of SEA in division
FanGraphs playoff odds: 97.6% (96.4% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Orioles, Royals
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Twins, Yankees
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Guardians (2-1, 3 games left), Mariners (4-6, 3 games left)

The Astros have a 4 1/2-game lead over the Mariners, but they'd need to sweep Seattle in the teams' final series from Sept. 23-25 to win the tiebreaker in the event the two clubs close the regular season with the same record.

AL WILD CARD

Red Sox

3rd in AL East, 3 games behind MIN for Wild Card

FanGraphs playoff odds: 11.2% (0.0% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Royals
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Orioles, Guardians, Astros
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Twins (1-2, 3 games remaining)

The Red Sox are still within striking distance of a playoff spot, but they have some ground to make up and only hold one tiebreaker advantage (over the Royals). They'll need to sweep the Twins in their series from Sept. 20-22 to secure the tiebreaker, as winning two of three games will mean the tiebreaker comes down to intradivision record.

Tigers

4th in AL Central, 3 games behind MIN for Wild Card

FanGraphs playoff odds: 9.8% (0.0% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Red Sox, Mariners
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Royals
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Rays (2-1, 3 games remaining)

Detroit is in good shape when it comes to tiebreakers involving teams in the Wild Card race, having the advantage over both Boston and Seattle. The Rays are within two games of the Tigers, and there's an outside chance that the tiebreaker with Tampa Bay comes into play. The two meet for a three-game series at Comerica Park from Sept. 24-26.

Mariners

2nd in AL West, 4.5 games behind HOU for division, 3 games behind MIN for Wild Card

FanGraphs playoff odds: 8.3% (3.6% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: N/A
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Orioles, Red Sox, Guardians, Royals, Tigers, Twins
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Astros (6-4, 3 remaining)

The Mariners need just one win in their final series against the Astros to secure a tiebreaker, which would hand Seattle the AL West if the two teams finish the regular season in a tie.

NL EAST

Phillies

1st in NL East, 7 games ahead of NYM in division
FanGraphs playoff odds: 100% (98.1% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Dodgers, Padres
- Lose tiebreaker vs: D-backs, Braves
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Brewers (3-0, 3 games remaining), Mets (4-2, 7 games remaining)

The Phillies hold a critical tiebreaker advantage over the Dodgers and will clinch it against the Brewers if they win just one of three games in their series in September.

NL CENTRAL

Brewers

1st in NL Central, 8.5 games ahead of CHC in division

FanGraphs playoff odds: 99.7% (99.6% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Braves, Cubs
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Dodgers, Padres
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Phillies (0-3, 3 remaining), Mets (3-0, 3 remaining), D-backs (0-0, 7 games remaining)

The Brewers are in a firm position to win one of the top two NL seeds, but they lost the tiebreaker advantage against the Dodgers and will lose it against the Phillies if they drop any of their games in this month's three-game set.

NL WEST

Dodgers

1st in NL West, 5.5 games ahead of SD in division

FanGraphs playoff odds: 100.0% (97.0% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Brewers, Mets, D-backs
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Phillies, Padres
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Braves (3-0, 4 games remaining)

The Dodgers hold a pivotal advantage over the Brewers but don't against the Phillies, meaning Philadelphia would have the advantage if the two teams end the season with the same record.

NL WILD CARD

Padres

2nd in NL West, 5.5 games behind LAD in division

FanGraphs playoff odds: 93.0% (2.6% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Braves, Dodgers, Brewers
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Mets, Phillies
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: D-backs (5-5, 3 games remaining)

San Diego holds important tiebreaker advantages over three teams, but its biggest one will likely come against the D-backs,

given how close the two clubs are in the standings. Those teams play a three-game set in Arizona to finish the season from Sept. 27-29.

D-backs

3rd in NL West, 6 games behind LAD in division, 1 game ahead of NYM in Wild Card

FanGraphs playoff odds: 84.2% (0.4% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Phillies
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Braves, Mets, Dodgers
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Padres (5-5, 3 games remaining), Brewers (0-0, 7 games remaining)

The biggest tiebreaker scenario for the D-backs is against the Padres, which will be determined during this month's final series between the two teams.

Mets

2nd in NL East, 7 games behind PHI in division, 1 game ahead of ATL in Wild Card

FanGraphs playoff odds: 58.8% (1.4% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: D-backs, Padres
- Lose tiebreaker vs: None
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Braves (5-5, 3 games remaining), Brewers (0-3, 3 games remaining)

The Mets are still in the thick of the playoff race and hold important tiebreaker advantages over two teams also competing for a Wild Card spot. Since the Mets are just one game ahead of the Braves right now, their final series later this month could prove pivotal in who goes to the playoffs. As of now, the Mets hold the tiebreaker advantage based on their intradivision record.

Braves

3rd in NL East, 8 games behind PHI in division, 1 game behind NYM in Wild Card

FanGraphs playoff odds: 62.0% (0.4% to win division)

- Win tiebreaker vs: Phillies, D-backs, Cubs
- Lose tiebreaker vs: Brewers, Padres
- Tiebreaker TBD vs: Mets (5-5, 3 games remaining)

The biggest tiebreaker to watch is against the Mets, whom Atlanta trails by one game in the Wild Card chase. The two teams are tied for the season series and have one final series in Atlanta from Sept. 24-26 that will determine who wins the tiebreaker.



SEC football predictions - Week 3



ROBERT CORTINEZ
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The SEC has 6 of the 7 AP Poll top spots, a feat never before done by a single conference in polling history. Big 10 conference member Ohio State is the only other conference member in the top 7 along with #1 Georgia, #2 Texas, #4 Alabama, #5 Ole Miss, #6 Missouri and #7 Tennessee. Half of the AP's top 16 are SEC members with #15 Oklahoma and #16 LSU joining the party.

*Last weeks results: Straight 12-3; ATL 5-5
Season results: Straight 24-7; ATL 11-15*

#4 Alabama (2-0) @ Wisconsin (2-0)
11:00 a.m. / FOX

Line: Alabama -15.5 / O/U 50.5

Alabama remained at #4 after easily beating South Florida, 42-16. The Badgers had a little trouble with South Dakota, but pulled away in the 4th quarter to win, 27-13. This road game will be a little testy for the Crimson Tide, Wisconsin's student body is known to be rowdy.

Pick: Alabama 30 Wisconsin 16

#16 LSU (1-1) @ South Carolina (2-0)
11:00 a.m. / ABC

Line: LSU -7 / O/U 50.5

There are four 1-1 teams in the Top 25, (LSU, Michigan, Notre Dame and Clemson) and LSU holds the highest rank at #16. The Tigers handled Nichols State 44-21 while South Carolina put a surprising whupping on Kentucky, 31-6. The Gamecocks were 10 point dogs in that early season SEC road game to sit atop the SEC rankings at 1-0. LSU needs to assert itself early.

Pick: LSU 33 South Carolina 24

#24 Boston College @ #6 Missouri (2-0)
11:45 a.m. / SECN

Line: Missouri -16.5 / O/U 54

Missouri enjoys its highest ranking since 2013. After shutting out Buffalo 38-0, the Tigers start the 2024 season with two consecutive shut-outs, out scoring its opponents 89-0. Boston College has made its own news, starting out 2-0 and entering the



top 25 for the first time since 2018. Boston College upset Florida State two weeks ago, and destroyed Duquesne last week 56-0. Missouri should be the better team in this contest but the Eagles will make it tough.
Pick: Missouri 29 Boston College 23

Tulane (1-1) @ #15 Oklahoma (2-0)
2:30 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Oklahoma -14 / O/U 46.5

The Sooner fan base was rumbling last week, as Oklahoma narrowly avoided a home loss to 30 point underdog, Houston, winning 16-12. Tulane lost a close game to #14 Kansas State 34-27. The Green Wave had a TD wiped out late in that game due to a questionable offensive pass interference call. Sooner head coach Brent Venable needs to fix his offense in a hurry.

Pick: Oklahoma 34 Tulane 17

Texas A&M (1-1) @ Florida (1-1)
2:30 p.m. / ABC

Line: Florida +4.5 / O/U 46.5

This game is one of only two inter-conference match-ups this week, In week 2, the Gators beat Samford 45-7 and the Aggies beat McNeese State 52-10 to even both teams' records to 1-1. This game is critical to both programs as they try to keep pace in the ultra competitive SEC race. Florida is a home team underdog in the Swamp with head coach Billy Napier's job on the line.

Pick: Florida 29 Texas A&M 27

UAB (1-1) @ Arkansas (1-1)
3:15 p.m. / SECN

Line: Arkansas -24.5 / O/U 60.5

The Razorbacks outplayed #13 Oklahoma State in Stillwater (648 total yards vs. 385 total yards), but second half turnovers and mental errors doomed their effort, falling in double overtime 39-31. The Hogs play the UAB Stallions this week, who lost to Louisiana Monroe 32-6. Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman should be optimistic that his team can play with anyone and make the necessary adjustments going forward with mistake free football.

Pick: Arkansas 47 UAB 17

#5 Ole Miss (2-0) @ Wake Forest (1-1)
5:30 p.m. / CW

Line: Ole Miss -23.5 / O/U 63.5

The Rebels have risen one spot from their pre-season #6 to #5, based on two cupcake wins, Furman in week one and last week's thrashing of Middle Tennessee 52-3. The Demon Deacons lost a close one to Virginia 31-30. The Rebels are ranked at their highest since finishing #3 in 1962 after an undefeated season. Wake Forest will have bulletin board fodder being 23.5 point home underdogs, but the Rebs will prevail.

Pick: Ole Miss 41 Wake Forest 23

Vanderbilt (2-0) @ Georgia State (1-1)
6:00 p.m. / ESPN+

Line: Vandy -10.5 / O/U 46

The Commodores rolled over Alcorn State 55-0. Georgia State, an FBS program in the Sun Belt conference, beat Chattanooga 24-21. The Panthers have been to a few bowl games since joining the FBS division, but Vandy is on a roll. Commodores head coach Clark Lea will have his team ready for this road game and Vandy's first 3-0 start since going 5-0 in 2008.

Pick: Vanderbilt 27 Georgia State 20

USTA (1-1) @ #2 Texas (2-0)
6:00 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Texas 34.5 / O/U 53.5

Texas absolutely exposed defending champs Michigan, taking the Wolverines down hard in Ann Arbor 31-12. USTA lost 49-12 to Texas State in a FCS conference game. Longhorns QB Quinn Ewers shined brightly against Michigan, going 24 for 36 for three TD's. Texas's rushing game is averaging only 166 yards a game, but expect a breakout ground pounder in this Longhorn cake walk.

Pick: Texas 55 USTA 9

#1 Georgia (2-0) @ Kentucky (1-1)
6:30 p.m. / ABC

Line: Georgia -24 / O/U 45

The Wildcats took one on the chin at Kroger Field, losing 31-6 to South Carolina. The Bulldogs will not put any salve on the wound on its quest for a third natty in the last four years. Georgia rested its first teamers last week, playing its second and third teams almost the entire second half, beating Tennessee Tech 48-3. Dawg QB, Carson Beck had 5 TD's in just over two quarters of play.

Pick: Georgia 38 Kentucky 17

New Mexico (0-2) @ Auburn (1-1)
6:30 p.m. / ESPN 2

Line: Auburn -28.5 / O/U 61

The Tigers were a solid 13 point home

favorites last week, but were upended by Cal, 21-14. Auburn's offense never established itself in this crucial non conference respectability game. New Mexico lost to Arizona 61-39 and has one of the worst records in the FBS for the last seven years, averaging just under three wins per season. The Lobos have never been ranked in the CFP or AP Polls in its football history. Good get-well game for Auburn head coach Hugh Freeze.

Pick: Auburn 46 New Mexico 16

Toledo (2-0) @ #7 Mississippi State (1-1)
6:30 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Mississippi State -11.5 / O/U 59

The Bulldogs lost to Arizona State by a touchdown, 30-23, in a game that could have gone either way. Toledo is undefeated and confident heading to Starkville after beating UMass 38-23. Mississippi State averaged less than a yard a carry at Arizona State and will have to fix its running game in a hurry. Bulldogs should shoot down the Rockets in a festive night game in Stark Vegas.

Pick: Mississippi State 30 Toledo 17

Kent State (0-2) @ #7 Tennessee (2-0)
6:45 p.m. / SECN

Line: Tennessee -49.5 / O/U 62.5

The Tennessee Volunteers shot up to #7 after destroying North Carolina State 51-10. The Vols are feeling froggy and their fan base is starting the natty talk and walk. In a battle of the Flashes, the Kent State Golden Flashes were upset by FCS St. Francis Red Flashes, 23-17. Kent State was 17 point favorite and it was the first win ever by St. Francis over an FBS program. Tennessee will throttle back a tad in this game to be healthy for next week's showdown on the Prairie with Oklahoma.

Pick: Tennessee 57 Kent State 6



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Big 12 Football predictions - Week 3



Arizona travels to Manhattan this week to take on K-State

Predicting every game on this week's Big 12 slate

By Stacy Urban

It's time for this week's score predictions in the Big 12 Conference. Last week, I went 12-3 with my only losses being the BYU-SMU game, Kansas-Illinois, and Kansas State-Tulane. Through the first two weeks, our record is 27-4.

Arizona State (2-0) at Texas State (2-0) Thursday, 6:30 / ESPN Line: ASU -1.5 / 5.5

Arizona State has surprised me thus far. I didn't expect them to beat Wyoming as badly as they did and was a little shocked to see them beat an SEC foe despite it being at home. That said, Texas State is a sneaky good team and this is one their fans will turn out for. Give me the Bobcats.

Pick: Texas State 27, Arizona State 24

UNLV (2-0) at Kansas (1-1) Friday, 6:00 / ESPN Line: Kansas -7.5 / 50.5

The Runnin' Rebs have already taken down one Big 12 foe, can they make it two? Close, but no cigar. Jalon Daniels, Devin Neal, and the Jayhawks offense are too much for them to handle. UNLV gets a late score to make it look more respectable.

Pick: Kansas 30, UNLV 20

#20 Arizona (2-0) at #17 K-State (2-0) Friday, 7:00 / FOX Line: K-State -7 / 60.5

This is a non-conference game since it was scheduled prior to Arizona joining the Big 12, but it will be a good barometer for each of these teams. Arizona is 2-0, but they haven't impressed me all that much. They allowed 39 points to New Mexico and then last week, only managed to score 22 on N. Arizona. I'll take K-State at home.

Pick: Kansas State 26, Arizona 23

#13 Oklahoma State (2-0) at Tulsa (1-1)

Saturday, 11:00 / ESPN2 Line: OSU -19 / 62.5

No one in the Big 12 has had a more challenging two weeks than Oklahoma State. They beat a good South Dakota State team and then grinded out a double overtime win over Arkansas last week. Tulsa may hang around for a while, but I've got the Pokes winning this game comfortably.

Pick: Oklahoma State 37, Tulsa 17

Cincinnati (1-1) at Miami (OH) (0-1) Saturday, 11:00 / ESPN2 Line: Cinn -3.5 / 48.5

Cincinnati lost to Miami a year ago at home and although my gut is telling me to go with the RedHawks again, I'll side with the Bearcats who are coming off a disappointing loss to Pitt.

Pick: Cincinnati 20, Miami (OH) 17

North Texas (2-0) at Texas Tech (1-1) Saturday, 11:00 / FS1 Line: Tech -9.5 / 69.5

Texas Tech may be the most desperate team in the Big 12 heading into Week 3 aside from Houston. They allowed 51(!) points to Abilene Christian in the opener and then got stomped by Washington State last week. Tech takes care of business here.

Pick: Texas Tech 46, North Texas 24

West Virginia (1-1) at Pittsburgh (2-0) Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN2 Line: WVU -2 / 63.5

I have a bad feeling about the Mountaineers. How much have they improved since the Penn State loss? How much momentum does Pitt have after stealing one on the road at Cincinnati? This should be an exciting backyard brawl with the home team winning by a nose.

Pick: Pitt 33 West Virginia 30

#12 Utah (2-0) at Utah state (1-1) Saturday, 3:30 / CBSSN Line: Utah -20 / 44.5

The Aggies have defeated the Utes just

three times since 1988. Need I say more?

Pick: Utah 30, Utah State 12

Air Force (1-1) at Baylor (1-1) Saturday, 6:30 / FS1 Line: Baylor -15.5 / 40.5

Air Force has really struggled offensively through two weeks putting up a combined 28 points against Merrimack (who?) and San Jose State. Uh yeah, Baylor all day.

Pick: Baylor 24, Air Force 13

Colorado (1-1) Colorado State (1-1) Saturday, 6:30 / CBS Line: Colorado -7 / 50.5

There's a lot being made about all the shenanigans going on at Colorado with Shedeur Sanders and rightfully so. The young man did throw his team under the bus following the loss to Nebraska after all. Despite all the distractions, the Buffs are just too talented to lose this one.

Pick: Colorado 38, Colorado State 28

UCF (2-0) at TCU (2-0) Saturday, 6:30 / FOX Line: UCF -2.5 / 61.5

The first true test for UCF and I don't see them passing it. The Frogs will put an end to all the crazy UCF Big 12 contender talk right away. Josh Hoover has a big day in the air throwing for 300+ in the win.

Pick: TCU 41, UCF 27

Rice (1-1) at Houston (0-2) Saturday, 7:00 / ESPN+ Line: Houston -4 / 44.5

Houston went from getting beat by UNLV to nearly upsetting Oklahoma. What do I expect to happen in this game? Beats me. The Cougars are the more talented team, so I'll lean in their direction in what I consider a coin-flip game.

Pick: Houston 23, Rice 19

BYU (2-0) at Wyoming (0-2) Saturday, 8:00 / CBSSN Line: BYU -11 / 40.5

Wyoming has looked miserable this season and I don't see their offensive woes coming to an end this weekend. BYU gets halfway to bowl eligibility with their third win.

Pick: BYU 35, Wyoming 9



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NFL picks, predictions for Week 2



The Cowboys host the Saints this Sunday for the first home game of the season

Bills, Cowboys, and Lions look good for 2-0 starts

By Bill Bender

Week 1 was a classic exercise in making NFL picks and predictions against the spread. There were some known variables that helped inform what some teams would do to kick off the 2024 seasons, but games featuring plenty of newness for one or both teams were much more difficult to prognosticate.

With some numbers and results in the books, Week 2 would seem to be a little easier. Of course, the sample size remains small, keeping things on the tricky side. When in doubt, however, lean on the side of the 0-1 teams — the ones more desperate and motivated to win and avoid 0-2. The opening slate ended up being easier early and tougher late.

Bills (1-0) at Dolphins (1-0)
Thursday 7:15 p.m. / Amazon Prime
Line: Dolphins -2.5 / 48.5

The Bills saw Josh Allen take over with his big arm and strong legs after digging a hole in the opener. The Dolphins also rallied well with Tua Tagovailoa and Tyreek Hill. Buffalo is putting more on Allen with transitional weapons and a more vulnerable defense, and he will keep responding by spreading the ball around well and getting

set up by the run. The Dolphins' defense gave up some big plays last week and can be had on intermediate passing. Allen is better in that area than Tagovailoa, leading to the mild road upset.

Pick: Bills win 31-27

Bengals (0-1) at Chiefs (1-0)
Sunday 3:25 p.m. / CBS
Line: Chiefs -6 / 47

Joe Burrow has become a notoriously slow starter, right along with his offensive-minded head coach Zac Taylor. The Patriots game was an absolute mess, where the distractions over top wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins, with the latter missing the game, threw off the Bengals QB at home. But he likes seeing Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs, against whom he's 3-1. The Chiefs, however, can cause more all-around problems up front, and Mahomes will be motivated to edge Burrow late at home.

Pick: Chiefs 27 Bengals 23

Chargers (1-0) at Panthers (1-0)
Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Chargers -5.5 / 39.5

"Harbaugh football" didn't waste any time arriving in L.A. The Chargers rushed for 176 yards, forced three turnovers, and racked up four sacks in thrashing the Raiders in Week 1. The Panthers were

gashed on the ground for 180 yards in New Orleans, giving away the ball three times and giving up four sacks, too. The Chargers are the type of team that feels at home away, and nothing needs to give here.

Pick: Chargers 31 Panthers 13

L.A. Rams (1-0) at Cardinals (1-0)
Sunday 3:05 p.m. / Fox
Line: Rams -1 / 48

Kyler Murray looked rather sharp starting the season healthy, but he needs to get rookie wideout Marvin Harrison Jr. going to maximize a diverse passing game. The Rams will struggle with intermediate and downfield coverage against Murray's receivers. They also won't have the matching firepower with last year's top rookie wideout Puka Nacua out because of a knee injury. The Cardinals get on the board with enough offense to make up for continued porous defense under Jonathan Gannon.

Pick: Cardinals 30 Rams 27

Raiders (0-1) at Ravens (0-1)
Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS
Line: Ravens -9 / 41.5

The Raiders got destroyed by the Chargers' rushing attack, and they now face a more dangerous one against Lamar Jackson and Derrick Henry. The Ravens had a mini-bye to rest up and rev up their defense to rebound vs. a hot and cold Gardner Minshew and an inconsistent run-

ning game. Baltimore flexes a bit, leaving Las Vegas in further freefall.

Pick: Ravens 26 Raiders 14

Saints (1-0) at Cowboys (1-0)
Sunday 21 p.m. / Fox
Line: Cowboys -6.5 / 45.5

Derek Carr lit up the Panthers, but he will see a massive increase in defensive degree of difficulty in Dallas. Dak Prescott will try to get the offense going better in the red zone vs. another tricky defense, but he and the Cowboys are a completely different (and dominant) team at home. Carr takes plenty of dents while Dak stays clean to get to 2-0.

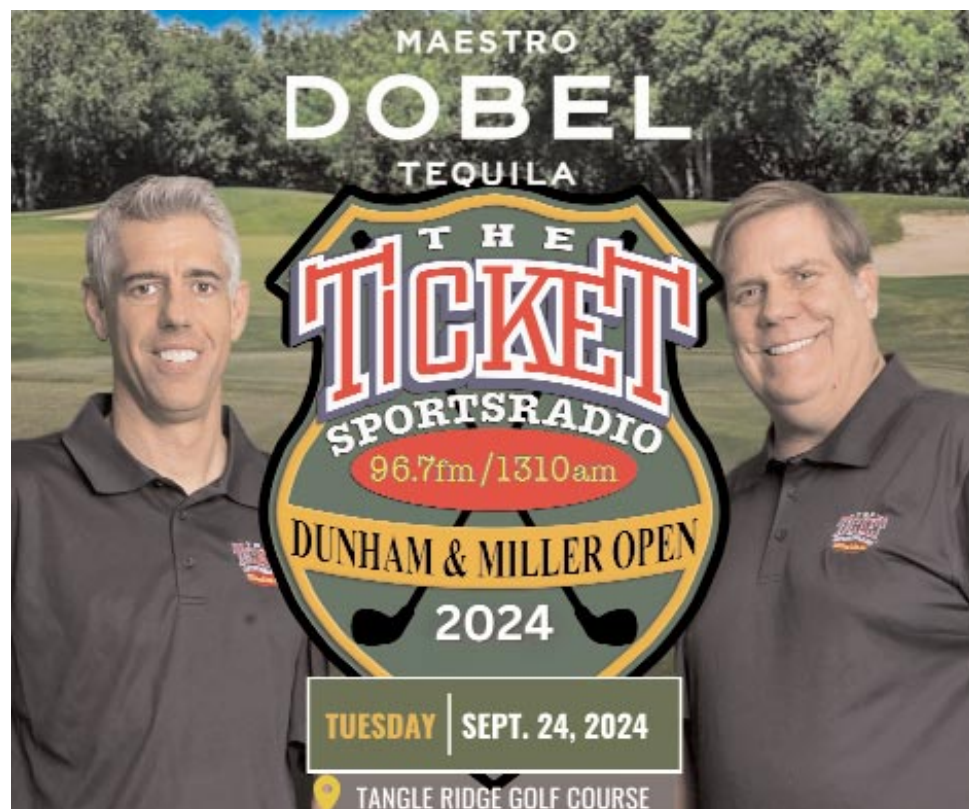
Pick: Cowboys 30 Saints 17

Buccaneers (1-0) at Lions (1-0)
Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox
Line: Lions -6 / 50.5

The Buccaneers flew out of the gate with Baker Mayfield and their passing game, and they now draw a rematch of last season's playoff loss in Detroit. The Bucs still have new defensive holes that be exploited better by Jared Goff with plenty of help from the Lions' dominant rushing attack. Mayfield will have a few snags as the Lions take away the run and put in him uncomfortable, one-dimensional situations as he tries to play catch-up.

Pick: Lions 31 Bucs 24

(continued on page 14)



Colts (0-1) at Packers (0-1)**Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox****Line: Colts -3.5 / 41**

The Packers are looking at Malik Willis drawing the start with Jordan Love needing some time to return from his knee injury. That throws some cold water over their home opener in the not-yet-frozen tundra. That also gives the Colts a decided offensive advantage, as Shane Steichen will channel much of what Jalen Hurts and Saquon Barkley did well against Green Bay in Week 1, only with Anthony Richardson and Jonathan Taylor playing those roles for Indianapolis.

Pick: Colts 24 Packers**Browns (0-1) at Jaguars (0-1)****Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS****Line: Jaguars -4 / 41.5**

The Browns looked sloppy with former Clemson QB Deshaun Watson vs. Dallas, while the Jaguars flashed before fading with former Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence vs. Miami. This can be another ugly game with two inconsistent passing games and two running games facing strong fronts. The edge goes to Lawrence, who has more reliable help with his weapons overall.

Pick: Jaguars 20 Browns 17**49ers (1-0) at Vikings (1-0)****Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS****Line: 49ers -5.5 / 45.5**

The 49ers lost in Minnesota 22-17 last October in one of their few blemishes on their way to the top NFC playoff seed and Super Bowl run. Brian Flores' pass rush will present some pressure problems for Brock Purdy, who must protect the ball and lean a lot on Christian McCaffrey and Deebo Samuel instead of aggressively testing the Vikings' corners downfield. On the other side, Purdy's former backup Sam Darnold will keep trusting his new brand of dynamic playmakers to keep his team in the game.

Pick: 49ers 24 Vikings 20**Seahawks (1-0) at Patriots (1-0)****Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox****Line: Seahawks -3.5 / 38**

The Seahawks are 1-0 with defensive-minded rookie coach Mike Macdonald. The Patriots are 1-0 with defensive-minded rookie coach Jerod Mayo. One team also exploded offensively in Week 1. Seattle looked better with Geno Smith at QB and had a big-time running game again with Kenneth Walker III. The Patriots have too many limitations around Jacoby Brissett to keep up on the scoreboard.

Pick: Seahawks 23 Patriots 20**Jets (0-1) at Titans (0-1)****Sunday 1 p.m. / CBS****Line: Jets -4 / 42**

The Jets are coming off a short week and will need to grind out a tricky road game against a much-improved defense under Dennard Wilson that didn't give up an offensive TD last week. The relieve

will be facing a struggling Will Levis early in Year 2. The Titans will have a tough time helping him consistently answer what Aaron Rodgers does while leaning more on the run.

Pick: Jets 20 Titans 17**Giants (1-0) at Commanders (1-0)****Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox****Line: Commanders -2.5 / 43.5**

The Giants' offense is going into the tank because of a sputtering Daniel Jones and no more dynamic running game. They have some good pieces defensively, but it was still shredded at times by Darnold's Vikings. The Commanders got going with their offense a little too late to win in Tampa. This time, Jayden Daniels will go wire-to-wire with plenty of fun highlights, with more of the same awesome running now coupled with more aggressive downfield passing.

Pick: Commanders 27 Giants 20**Steelers (1-0) at Broncos (0-1)****Sunday 3:25 p.m. / CBS****Line: Steelers -3 / 37**

The Steelers may not have Russell Wilson (calf) as a healthy option again, but they should be comfortable with him or Justin Fields starting now. They can win a lot of games by just running often and well, not turning the ball over, and getting a few big timely plays from either side. The Steelers have their relentless physical identity again under Mike Tomlin, and they will impose that, especially defensively, on shaky rookie Bo Nix.

Pick: Steelers win 23 Broncos 14**Bears (1-0) at Texans (1-0)****Sunday 7:20 p.m. / NBC****Line: Texans -6.5 / 46**

C.J. Stroud is picking up where he left off as last year's top rookie QB. Williams is hoping to get into the company in 2024 after going No. 1 overall. He struggled with missing throws and executing overall against the Titans, but Williams should be settled in to make amends and duel Stroud, back in the prime-time spotlight he often enjoyed at USC. There's just more around Stroud to believe he would come out on top in a back-and-forth affair at home.

Pick: Texans 24 Bears 20**Falcons (0-1) at Eagles (1-0)****Monday 7:15 p.m. / ESPN/ABC****Line: Eagles -6.5 / 48**

The Falcons should play better around Kirk Cousins, but Eagles' defensive coordinator Vic Fangio will follow the Steelers' gameplan and throw out more puzzling pressure and coverage looks against him. The Eagles will see plenty of tough stuff vs. Raheem Morris with upgraded key personnel, but they can run and pass their way out of it with Jalen Hurts in a prime-time home opener.

Pick: Eagles 27 Falcons 20

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The American Heart Association Paul “Bear” Bryant National Coach of the Year sponsored by Accenture public voting is now online via the URL:

<https://bryantawards.org/fan-vote/?CollegeFootballCoachOfTheYearFanVote>

The Paul “Bear” Bryant Awards Fan Vote is back! YOU, the fans, will have the chance to determine which coach will win the Fan Vote. Tell us which coach you bryantawards.org. Early clubhouse leaders are Alabama head coach Kalen DeBoer, Tennessee’s Josh Heupel, Florida State’s Mike Norvell, Georgia’s Kirby Smart, Texas’ Steve Sarkisian, and Kansas’ Lance Leipold. Voting concludes at 11:59 p.m. (CST) on Friday, Jan. 10. TCU head coach Sonny Dykes won in 2022 while the 2023 Bryant Award recipient was Florida State’s Mike Norvell.

Last week’s NFF College Hall of Fame on-campus salutes presented by Fidelity Investments® with presentations of Hall of Fame plaques were Saturday, Sept. 7, ceremonies will honor coach Frank Solich, Nebraska (vs. Colorado) and Steve Hutchinson, Michigan (vs. Texas). Upcoming Saturday is Tim Couch, Kentucky (vs. Georgia).

The 2024 season NCAA FCS Championship contest will be played on

Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, in a primetime spot with airtime to be determined on the ESPN family of networks. Site will be Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas, for the 15th consecutive year.

On Aug. 14 the NFF initiated the I Played the Game campaign to foster camaraderie among former players by encouraging them to share their personal stories and experiences on NFF platforms. As part of this initiative, the NFF has developed an online form to gather information and build a comprehensive database of former players willing to serve as ambassadors for the game. This platform welcomes anyone who has ever played football, regardless of gender or level of play.

To access the website and contribute stories, please go to the link footballfoundation.com/iplayed.

The 66th NFF Awards Dinner is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas with sponsorship by the Las please access FootballFoundation.org.

Also on the NFF calendar:

Wednesday, Sept. 25 - Announcement of the 2024 Campbell Trophy® semifinalists; Oct. 23 - Announcement of the 2024 Campbell Trophy® Finalists and the 2024 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class, presented by Fidelity Investments. On-campus salutes to 2024 NFF College Hall of Fame inductees presented by Fidelity Investments are being scheduled and will be revealed in coming days.

The current longest NCAA FBS member streaks without a shutout through Sept. 11 are Florida with a NCAA-record 451 since 1988, TCU with 396 since 1991, Georgia with 374 since 1995, Virginia Tech with 372 since 1995, Nebraska with 353 since 1996 (the only Big Ten Conference team that has scored in every game in the 21st Century), Boise State with 341 since

1997, Alabama with 291 since 2001, and Clemson with 282 since 2003.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 9-15 time period are 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) Four Horseman Jim Crowley, Chicago, Ill.; (1936) Ron Harms, Houston, Texas; (1940) Buck Buchanan, Gainesville, Ala.; (1945) Marlin Briscoe, Omaha, Neb.; Sept. 11 (1897) Stan Keck, Greensburg, Pa.; (1908) Biggie Munn, Grow Township, Minn.; (1913) Paul “Bear” Bryant, Moro Bottom, Ark.; (1978) Ed Reed, St. Rose, La.; Sept. 12 (1891) John Brown, Canton, Pa.; (1964) Lynn Thomsen, Sioux City, Iowa; (1989) Andrew Luck, Washington, D.C.; Sept. 13 (1898) Glenn “Doc” Killinger, Harrisburg, Pa.; (1904) Joe Aillet, New York City; (1906) Chuck Carroll, Seattle, Wash.; (1915) Clint Frank, St. Louis, Mo.; (1922) Ziggy Czarowski, Chicago, Ill.; Sept. 14 (1907) John Baker, Denison, Iowa; (1934) Dicky Maegle, Taylor, Texas; (1948) Rich McGeorge, Roanoke, Va.; (1975) Troy Davis, Miami, Fla.; (1987) Michael Crabtree, Dallas, Texas; Sept. 15 (1887) John McGovern, Arlington, Minn.; (1894) Charles “Chic” Harley, Chicago; (1908) Gene McEver, Birmingham, Ala.; (1924) Jack Green, Kent, Ind.; (1928) Reds Bagnell, Philadelphia, Pa.; (1929) Jerry Groom, Des Moines, Iowa; (1940) Merlin Olsen, Logan, Utah; (1961) Dan Marino, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (1971) Will Shields, Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Notable anniversaries of passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are Sept. 9 (1963) Willie Heston, Traverse City, Mich. (on his 85th birthday); Sept. 10 (2022) Frank Cignetti, Indiana, Pa.; Sept. 11 (2010) Ron Kramer, Fenton, Mich.; Sept. 12 (2023) Roy Kidd, Richmond, Ky.; Sept. 13 (2000) Thurman “Fum” McGraw, Ft. Collins, Colo.; Sept. 14 (1950) John Maulbetsch, Ann Arbor, Mich.; (1972) Harry Kipke, Port Huron, Mich.; (2019) John Ralston, Sunnyvale, Calif.; Sept. 15 (1978) Larry Bettencourt, New Orleans, La.; (2001) Tank Younger, Inglewood, California.

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born Sept. 9 Jim Grabowski (a spry 80), JoeTheismann, Bob Stoops, Sept. 10 Ron Harms (a spry 88), Sept. 11 Ed Reed, Sept. 12 Lynn Thomsen, Andrew Luck, Sept. 14 Rich McGeorge, Michael Crabtree, Sept.15 Dan Marino, Will Shields

Schedules:

Northern Illinois scored the biggest upset in school history with a 16-14 shocker over Notre Dame at South Bend, Ind., last Saturday...Florida State became the first team to face two conference opponents in the first two games this outing – Georgia Tech in Ireland and Boston College in Atlantic Coast Conference activity...Mary Hardin-Baylor became one of the last college squads to start the campaign when the Crusaders traveled to historic Bethel (Tenn.) last Saturday...Kennesaw State of Conference USA and Louisiana of the Sun Belt Conference faced off last week in one of KSU’s final tuneups before the Owls first CUSA football clash on Oct. 4 at home against Jacksonville State...The Western Michigan at Tennessee contest has been moved back from the 2026 to the 2027 season...The Baylor at Utah and Arizona State-Kansas State contests among current Big 12 Conference members this fall will not count in conference standings as they were scheduled prior to the Utes and Sun Devils joining that circuit...Idaho chalked up another upset win by NCAA FCS members over FBS crews with a 17-13 triumph at Wyoming of the Mountain West Conference last Saturday...Texas topped Michigan 31-12 at Ann Arbor in the first regular-season meeting of the powers. UT downed the Wolverines 38-37 in a previous meeting in the 2005 Rose Bowl behind NFF College Hall of Fame QB Vince Young...Wisconsin survived an upset bid by stubborn South Dakota before topping the nationally-ranked FCS opponent South Dakota 27-13...Texas Tech traveled to Washington State in a so-called Mike Leach Classic to help celebrate the memory of the late coach who guided the two programs as head coach to a total of 16 bowl games over a combined 18 seasons with the two schools.

Good Works:

Oklahoma athletics is paying tribute to late Oklahoma Memorial Stadium sideline purveyor, lifetime Sooners enthusiast and Country Music Hall of Fame member Toby Keith, with a recorded rendition of his storied song Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue after the third quarter of each home contest...The Texags.com online store is hosting a warehouse sale for jerseys and Texas A&M T-shirts...Vanderbilt alumnus Muhammad Yunus has been appointed interim president of Bangladesh...Among Vanderbilt fall semester Lifelong Learning courses are the interesting Meditative Birding, How to Write a Memoir, Reading Shakespeare with Film, and Beginners Ukulele courses, among others...Several departments of athletics will be helping to

(continued on page 16)

gather funds during North Texas Giving Day on Thursday, Sept. 19...Former Nebraska-Kearney football standout and longtime Nebraska Huskers Mark Kurtenbach is wearing a special Nebraska belt buckle that his father wore to NU games for decades to carry on the family tradition.

Football Coaches:

Two-time defending NCAA FCS champion head coach Jimmy Rogers of South Dakota State told reporters that only eight of his 85 scholarship student-athletes received offers from NCAA FBS members...NFF College Hall of Fame standout at Florida State and head coach at Colorado Deion Sanders questioned some statements from ESPN talk show hosts about the relevancy of the Buffaloes program. Oklahoma running backs coach DeMarco Murray is back after a one-game, NCAA-mandated suspension...Army West Point head coach Todd Monken takes a conference-best 1,000 American Athletic Conference winning percentage into a Sept. 21 AAC tussle with Rice after topping Florida Atlantic in the Black Knights AAC debut.

Hometowns of more 2024 college head coaches – Millsaps: Brandon Lechtenberg, Butte, Neb.; Minnesota: P.J. Fleck, Sugar Grove, Ill.; Minnesota State: Paul Hoffner, Esmond, N.D.; Mississippi College: Mike Kershaw, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; Mississippi State: Jeff Leiby, McGregor, Texas.

Directors of Athletics:

Santa Clara named Heather Owen director of athletics...UIC tabbed clinical professor and former faculty athletics representative Dr. John Coumbe-Lilley as interim AD...Pittsburgh director of athletics Heather Lyke accepted a multiyear contract extension as Northwestern made innovations toward acquiring her for the same post...New Missouri State AD Patrick Ransdell has inked a five-year contract with sterling bonus and other provisions, and he is dedicated to lining up nationally-known non-conference opponents in football as the Bears join Conference USA in July 2025...That's the spirit: Nebraska AD Troy Dannen watched his daughter's commencement ceremonies at Colorado last May from the comfort of CU AD Rick George's office. Their two schools locked horns last week in their 73rd all-time meeting...Texas A&M AD Trev Alberts admitted that college athletics faces first-ever challenges in expenses from NIL and House NCAA settlement aspects but has some of the top minds in the business working to come up with cogent solutions...Northwestern welcomed new AD Mark Jackson who cited NU's graduation rate of 98 percent for 2023-24 student-athlete seniors to lead the Big Ten Conference for the 19th consecutive year, 278 Academic All-Big Ten honorees from the Wildcats ranks and how NU plans to utilize its academic and financial assets to continue to be a force on the NCAA athletics' scene in his opening remarks...San Diego

AD Kimya Massey contends that many fans still get the University of San Diego, UC San Diego and San Diego State confused at times and continues to market USD through past coaches and performers NFL coach Jim Harbaugh, Dick Howser Trophy presented by The Game Headwear recipient Kris Bryant and MLB first baseman Connor Joe, among others...Toledo AD Bryan Blair in 2024-25 is emphasizing football game day experience, surveys with fans' feedback, vetting for all areas of gifts to athletics, and creative means of securing overall revenue...Michigan AD Warde Manuel expressed concern about leaks to news agencies during the UM-NCAA investigation and how the Wolverines have put plans together to be compliant for multiple NCAA rules and recruiting...Indiana State AD Nathan Christensen evoked discussions from coaches, student-athletes and supporters as he sets goals for the future of USU athletics while stressing the need for growth competitively and financially in all areas...Illinois State interim AD Jeri Beggs is working on several ideas for helping offset financial challenges brought about by the House NCAA settlement...Arizona State AD Graham Rossini met with several area media members to express appreciation for solid coverage of ASU athletics and related events...Vanderbilt AD Dr. Candice Lee saluted football traditions tailgate area Vandyville, the Star Walk and the Spirit of Gold Marching Band as the '24 season opened...Vanderbilt women's soccer head coach Darren Ambrose started the '24 outing with his 100th career victory...Eastern Michigan AD Scott Wetherbee has key projects in coming months such as facilities' updates, making certain to keep key administrators on staff and treating the EMU position as if he had been an alumnus there...Appalachian State named Chris Wood senior deputy AD and chief revenue officer...Utah athletics chose Patrick Nowlin as the chief revenue officer...Pennsylvania named Denise Poole senior associate AD for student-athlete success role...Nevada cross country head coach and track and field assistant coach Kirk Elias will retire at the end of the 2024-25 academic year...Eastern Kentucky added Bryan Hicks as deputy AD, Steve Fohl as associate AD for strategic communications; Corey Neal as senior associate AD for external affairs, Kirk Moats as senior associate AD for administration...Austin Peay deputy AD and chief operating officer Niesha Campbell gave some key insight on how she once served as an auditor n Wall Street before moving to the more enjoyable atmosphere of college athletics. Retired Texas A&M publicist Debbie Darrah took a similar path when she transitioned from the insurance industry in Dallas to the Southwest Conference to Aggies sports communications and numerous bowl media assignments...Steve Stroud is the new general manager of Tulane Sports Properties...UAlbany tabbed Cara White as deputy AD

for administration, Travis Wilson as senior associate AD for internal operations and Melissa Peach as senior associate AD for compliance...Virginia selected Erich Bacher as associate AD for athletic communications...Nevada added Suzanne Affeldt as senior associate AD for development and engagement...USF tabbed Jeff Bromley as senior associate AD and Martin Salamone as associate AD for marketing and fan engagement...Delaware State named Pedro Swann baseball head coach...Western Carolina baseball head coach Alan Beck had his contract extended through June 2029...The Omaha Mavericks hired former MLB standout Darin Ruf as assistant baseball coach...Longtime Mississippi State transportation director Everett Kennard is serving as a spotter in road games for the MSU football network...La Salle president Dr. Daniel L. Allen related thoughts about leaning into main college missions as well as key goals in La Salle athletics...Rutgers president Dr. Jonathan Holloway was queried about the future of Scarlet Knights athletics and locating a new AD...Troy chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr. is retiring Oct. 1, 2025...Former Mississippi State and WKU men's basketball head coach Rock Stansbury has left the Memphis Tigers as a 2024-25 assistant basketball coach...The latest position openings in athletics on DITicker.com are at Appalachian State, Austin Peay, Colorado State, Drake, Eastern Illinois, Eastern Kentucky, High Point, Houston, James Madison, Minnesota, Missouri State, Monmouth, NC State, New Mexico, Northwestern, Northwestern State, Presbyterian, Rider, Rutgers, Saint Peter's, SIUE, Tennessee, UC Irvine, USF, Utah Tech, UT Arlington, Villanova, and West Virginia.

The Conferences:

Army West Point and Navy find themselves atop the American Athletic Conference standings after Week 2 of the '24 slate. The Black Knights scored a key AAC road win at Florida Atlantic while Navy topped Temple in the American opener for both those squads...The Atlantic Coast Conference's ACComplish Greatness media campaign salutes what is now the second-largest FBS circuit nationally with 17 members. The ACC also initiated the '24 NFL season with 28 alumni quarterbacks on 19 NFL clubs...Six of the Top Seven teams in the Sept. 8 Associated Press Top 25 FBS poll are members of the Southeastern Conference. No. 3 Ohio State of the Big Ten is the exception...Big 12 Conference quarterbacks averaged 290.4 passing yards per game for 16 contests in Football Week 1 to top all FBS circuits...The Sun Belt Conference reviewed after extensive tape study an officiating error made with three seconds left in the fourth quarter of a 34-31 Arkansas State win over Central Arkansas...Big Ten Conference administrators and coaches have been hearty in praise for the conference's ultra-modern instant replay officiating

center...The Big 12 also reported a major response and listenership for its new Tunein Radio device application to get live coverage of Big 12 football and multiple sporting events and apparently has put its discussions for membership with Connecticut on hold.

The Bowls:

The DIRECTV Holiday Bowl (one of a NCAA-record 44 postseason FBS contests after the '24 regular outing) has been certified for Friday, Dec. 27, at Snapdragon Stadium in San Diego, Calif., with an 8 p.m. (EST) airtime and tentative telecast on FOX Sports with a contract to be signed...Chick Fil-A Peach Bowl chief executive officer Gary Stokan has advocated for more major neutral site contests in Atlanta, Charlotte, Nashville, and Orlando, among others to spark intersectional interest with matchups such as Iowa and Ole Miss or Penn State and Vanderbilt...The Nos. 11-20 schools with most bowl appearances prior to '24 are Michigan with 52, Clemson with 50, Florida State with 49, Florida with 48, Auburn with 47, Georgia Tech with 46, Arkansas with 44, Miami (Fla.) with 43, Texas A&M with 42, and Washington with 42...Kayla Beasley and Ashleigh Anne Binz have been selected as Cotton Bowl Athletic Association 2024-25 Fred McClure Interns.

The Players:

UNLV LB Jackson Woodard had 11 tackles against Houston and netted FWAA Bronko Nagurski Player of the Week laurels...Boise State RB Sire Gaines captured Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Week laurels with 110 yards rushing and two TDs in his first collegiate clash against Georgia Southern...Sacramento State transfer Cam Skattebo rushed for 262 yards to lead Arizona State past Mississippi State 30-23 in Tempe for the Sun Devils first in in eight tries over an extant member of the SEC. ASU had four previous wins over current SEC members Missouri and Oklahoma when those schools were members of the Big Eight and Big 12 Conference...Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award Stars of the Week for the opening week presented by the Capital One Orange Bowl were Noah Burnette of North Carolina, Mitch Jeter of Notre Dame and Donnie Zvada of Michigan...UAPB QB Mekhi Hagens was highlighted for overcoming several layers of adversity to keep the starting job for his squad this year...SMU kicker Collins Rogers booted a school-record five field goals against BYU and became the Mustangs career leader in three-pointers made with 44. He also booted a career-longest 53-yarder against the Cougars...Abilene Christian QB Maverick McIvor passed for 506 yards on 38-of-51 tries in a 52-51 overtime loss at Texas Tech where he was a backup quarterback during the 2019-21 seasons...Colorado WR Jimmy Horn Jr. has jumped to a solid start

The Players:

UNLV LB Jackson Woodard had 11

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tackles against Houston and netted FWAA Bronko Nagurski Player of the Week laurels ...Boise State RB Sire Gaines captured Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Week laurels with 110 yards rushing and two TDs in his first collegiate clash against Georgia Southern...Sacramento State transfer Cam Skattebo rushed for 262 yards to lead Arizona State past Mississippi State 30-23 in Tempe for the Sun Devils first in in eight tries over an extant member of the SEC. ASU had four previous wins over current SEC members Missouri and Oklahoma when those schools were members of the Big Eight and Big 12 Conference ...Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award Stars of the Week for the opening week presented by the Capital One Orange Bowl were Noah Burnette of North Carolina, Mitch Jeter of Notre Dame and Donnie Zvada of Michigan...UAPB QB Mekhi Hagens was highlighted for overcoming several layers of adversity to keep the starting job for his squad this year ...SMU kicker Collins Rogers booted a school-record five field goals against BYU and became the Mustangs career leader in three-pointers made with 44. He also booted a career-longest 53-yarder against the Cougars...Abilene Christian QB Maverick McIvor passed for 506 yards on 38-of-51 tries in a 52-51 overtime loss at Texas Tech where he was a backup quarterback during the 2019-21 seasons...Colorado WR Jimmy Horn Jr. has jumped to a solid start after making 58 receptions for the 2023 Buffaloes...Houston Christian U. quarterback CJ Rogers gained ample experience as a transfer from Baylor and Texas State before joining the Huskies program... Arizona WR Tetairoa McMillan, Oklahoma State safety Trey Rucker, Texas Tech return specialist Drae McCray, and Cincinnati quarterback Brendan Sorsby received conference-wide kudos for early showings by the Big 12...Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty received the opening week Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award for his 267-yard rushing showing against Georgia Southern...Penn State safety Kevin Winston Jr. nailed down 12 total tackles and forced a fumble against West Virginia to take both Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week and Chuck Bednarik National Player of the Week for his initial game efforts...Florida State punter Alex Mastromanno captured the first Ray Guy Award Punter of the Week honor with a 52.2 average on six boots against Boston College...North Carolina DT Jahvaree Ritzie capped the first Outland Trophy National Player of the Week award for his superb effort against Minnesota on the road...Washington State QB John Mateer of Little Elm, Texas, welcomed his home state Texas Tech Red Raiders with 23 carries for 197 yards and one TD in a 37-16 win over the Red Raiders...Former Houston cornerback Latrell McCutchin competed against his second transfer destination after starting at OU when the Sooners downed the Cougars last Saturday.

Houston almost upended the Sooners in Norman, Okla., before nationally-ranked OU prevailed 16-12...Mississippi State LB JP Purvis was cited for this continued leadership and improvement over the last two seasons...Former Baylor QB Jacon Zeno is in his third season as starting signal caller for UAB...Loyola Marymount standout Steele Venters is out for the season with a leg injury.

Around the Campus:

Penn State athletics netted a \$10 million donation from an anonymous source for the Beaver Stadium Revitalization to total \$45 million for the Founders Gift funding appeal...William & Mary athletics received a \$6.5 million financial benefit from alumnus Rick Platt for facilities, men's and women's track and field/cross country programs...VMI athletics has an extended contract with Collegiate Sports Connect for talent networking and recruitment...SMU's 44 victories from 2019-23 topped all 13 NCAA FBS schools within the state of Texas...Northwestern tops all NCAA and NAIA divisions with 34 football student-athletes who have attained undergraduate degrees while Montana paces NCAA FCS members with 28 graduate students on the '24 roster...Boston College carried momentum from its Wasabi Fenway Bowl victory over then-American Athletic Conference champ SMU into the Eagles key, season-opening 28-13 win at Florida State...Virginia Tech honored the members of the 1999 Bowl Championship Series runnerup squad last weekend during the Tech-Marshall contest and has been wearing logos with 25 to celebrate the head coaching career with the Hokies of NFF College Hall of Fame mentor Frank Beamer ...There were 43 NCAA transfer portal quarterbacks making their first start at new colleges in 2024, and NIL estimates for the top performers are in the \$800,000-\$1.2 million range...Michigan athletics joined several other major sports' entities in agreements with the Legend Group for a 10-year partnership for handling all areas of UM merchandise... Arkansas devoted more time to form tackling drills last week before taking on Oklahoma State and 2023 Doak Walker Award winning running back Ollie Gordon III of OSU...Vanderbilt is featuring its Pepsi Four-Pack ticket and concessions' discounts for later games this season while supplies last...Air Force completed its East Side renovations and suites prior to the AFA-Merrimack contest and received major kudos from fans and suite holders...SMU hosted the highest-ranked opponent in school volleyball annals last week and the first sellout in Mustangs v-ball history when Huskers fans turned out in droves. SMU surprised NU and a national television audience on the ACC Network with a 3-0 upset victory...Panini America has initiated the Panini College platform for NIL compensation for trading card and other income for student-athletes in football and women's volleyball at Ohio State,

Nebraska and Texas...Texas Tech athletics is remaining with Paciolan for future ticketing and marketing procedures...Tennessee has completed its season ticket sales with a sellout for 2024-25 men's basketball...Manhattan athletics will sport a new baseball hitting facility with a generous donation from the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation...Bellarmine athletics is returning its home basketball contests on campus at Knights Hall after playing at historic Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky., for several seasons...Grand Canyon athletics produced a fictional take-off on the EA Sports College Football 25 device game with a video game entitled College Basketball 25...Louisiana used a combined 184 yards rushing and three touchdowns by Zylan Perry and Elijah Davis to top Conference USA hopeful Kennesaw State 34-10...UAB was seeking to shake off a 1-6 record in Game 2 over the last seven seasons when the Blazers trekked to ULM last weekend but fell 32-6 to the Warhawks...Boise State has been on the road for its first two contests at Georgia Southern and Oregon but has its home opener Sept. 21 against Portland State ...Alabama athletics now is using Dallas-based Anthony Travel for all travel management and additional services...Oklahoma State athletics is collaborating with local brewers for the introduction of Pokes Vodka...Oregon and Miami (Fla.) and their NIL football capacity and operations were lauded by three national agencies along with Ohio State's pre-2024 usage of the transfer portal to shore up key positions...Paul Quinn College held a public memorial for former football student-athlete and deceased Dallas, Texas, law enforcement official Darron Burks last Friday...Oklahoma State's 39-31 double overtime victory over Arkansas evoked memories of some of the longest OT contests in NCAA annals – many involving the Razorbacks. Some of the more notable extra-period contests by the Hogs were a six-OT clash against Tennessee in 2002, a seven-OT tussle with Kentucky in 2003 and a seven-OT skirmish with Ole Miss in 2001...Illinois has sold out its 2024-25 season ticket allotment for men's basketball with a renewal rate of 93 percent from 2023-24 ticket purchasers...Omaha athletics tallied a school-best \$6.1 million in fiscal year 2024 with \$4 million going to the One Fund...Nebraska fans flocked to the Haymarket Square area for some new-found tailgate activity and pregame revelry.

Other Notables:

NFF College Hall of Fame Dr. Tom Osborne of Nebraska had a pleasant remember-when conversation with former Huskers LB Jared Tomich and retired Huskers assistant coach Charlie McBride before last week's NU-Colorado classic tussle...College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame member Claude Felton will have an area of the Georgia Sanford Stadium pressbox named in his honor. Two other famed SEC publicists – Bob

Hartley at Mississippi State and David Housel at Auburn – have had their long-time school associations' football media facilities named in their memory and honor, respectively...Former Florida and Arizona State WR Ricky Pearsall was released from the hospital after an attempted robbery and shooting in San Francisco, Calif., where is a rookie wideout for the NFL 49ers...University of Calgary (Canada) DB Deane Leonard has made the NFL Los Angeles Chargers active roster for a third straight season...Members of the 17th College Baseball Foundation Hall of Fame Class of 2024 are Mike Schmidt, SS, Ohio U., 1969-71; Roger Clemens, RHP, San Jacinto (Texas) 1981/Texas, 1982-83; Mark Teixeira, 3B, Georgia Tech, 1999-2001; Bill Thom, P, USC, 1957-59; Jeff King, 3B, Arkansas, 1984-86; Woody Hunt, coach, Cumberland U. (Tenn.), 1982-2021; Murray Wall, P, Texas, 1947-50; Wilbert Ellis, coach, Grambling, 1977-2003; Randy Ross, SS, North Park (Ill.), 1981-84; Jim Paronto, Umpire/Administrator, 1973-2023; and Mike Fox, coach, North Carolina Wesleyan, 1983-1998; North Carolina, 1999-2020. The 1group will be inducted at the Night of Champions presented by Prairiefire on Feb. 13, 2025, at Overland Park, Kan. – the new home of the College Baseball Hall of Fame ...Former Nebraska and NFL star Dominic Raiola quipped after the NU win last Saturday over Colorado that the Raiola family still was unbeaten against Colorado. His son Dylan led the Huskers past CU 28-13 after Dominic finished 4-0 in his college career against Buffaloes squads ...The ECHL Allen (Texas) Americans hockey club re-signed the longest-tenured player in team history – 2013-14 Central Hockey League Rookie of the Year Award runnerup Spencer Asuchak for the coming campaign.

Media Musings:

Award-winning broadcaster Bob Behler is in his 39th season of college football play-by-play duties for Bucknell, Massachusetts and Boise State...ESPN chair Jimmy Pitaro opined about the launch of ESPN+ in 2028 and how streaming has changed much of the landscape for sports broadcasting...ESPN and DIRECTV let their contract expire Aug. 31, and 11 million-plus DIRECTV subscribers were without ESPN and ABC Sports programming for more than a week. DIRECTV also contacted conference commissioners from 60-plus universities to request assistance in its challenges with ESPN and the Disney Co. as ESPN contracts expired with the satellite provider...The Aug. 31 Notre Dame-Texas A&M contest was the second-highest Nielsen rated lidlifter in ABC or ESPN annals at 8.2 million viewers just behind 10.53 million viewers for the 2022 Notre Dame-Ohio State first televised tile..

Veteran ESPN and wire services' sports reporter Ed Werder is joining the sports staff at WFAA-TV...ESPN's First Take Show is making a special tour of HBCU

campus sites and football programs in September...Tulsa (Okla.) World newspaper columnist Berry Tramel pointed out the impact of community college standouts such as current Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel had significant impacts at Oklahoma and on college football in the 1990s and 2000s and how the NCAA transfer portal has affected the recruiting of junior college stalwarts...ExtraPoints.com opined how the 12-team College Football Playoff will make November contests even more meaningful and how fans might respond if they have to purchase high-priced tickets for as many as three playoff contests for Nos. 9-12 seeded CFP entries...The Vanderbilt Hustler school newspaper expressed glee and somewhat disbelief about the Commodores upset win over ACC contender Virginia Tech in the '24 lidlifter...Oddspedia.com chronicled the most festive and food-delicious tailgates nationally in both college and pro football...NJ.com writer Brian Fonseca went into some the details concerning former Rutgers AD Pat Hobbs and his August departure from the department...Warner Brothers Discovery will air the Players Era Festival on TNT, TBS, truTV, and Max...Greenfly Group senior customer strategist and marketing director is in the process of compiling a reel of all college athletics university and conference promotional videos for nationwide usage...Kosner Media's John Kosner believes that 2024 television ratings will be slightly lower in November as fans look forward to the expanded, 12-team College Football Playoff starting Dec. 20 and lasting until Jan. 20, 2025, with a bit of a saturation element. Others expect November rivalry games and qualifications for key conference titles will boost national television interest...The Associated Press' Tim Reynolds spoke with several student-athletes and head coaches about the NCAA's new sideline to helmet technology. Georgia's Carson Beck had no problems but FIU head coach Mike MacIntyre reported several foul-ups that made his team resort to hand signals and slowed down the Panthers offense...Vice president for ESPN Bet and ESPN Fantasy Mike Morrison says ESPN Bet is excited about financial spreadsheets for the groups through its first year of operations...College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame member and 44-year columnist for the U. of Calgary Dinos Jack Neumann chronicled the migration of some of the top high school football stars from South Alberta, Canada, to the Dinos program over several years. Newman also reminded Calgary supporters about upcoming Fifth Quarter tailgate parties beginning on Sept. 28 at McMahon Stadium...The LSU-USC ABC/ESPN telecast averaged 9.2 million viewers on Sept. 1 with a top Nielsen Ratings' viewership at 11.1 million despite missing 11-million-plus homes blacked out by ESPN and DIRECTV in their contract dispute...JohnCanzano.com noted that Oregon is seeking anew premium seating

plan for Autzen Stadium for additional revenue...Several media reports found that the Mountain West Conference and Pac-12 Conference still are seeking possible cooperative schedules for the 2025 football season but have to hold upcoming discussions to try and find a solution. The MWC also issued a statement that related that the MWC is focusing on the current season at this time (early September)...Sports Business Journal's Terry Lefton projects an all-new set of personnel, financing, technical, and social media and operations for individual departments in college athletics by 2029...FootballScoop.com examined Power 4 conference starting quarterbacks and detailed that 72 percent of the group was in its fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh year of eligibility and that just 12 percent competed in its first or second season on the gridiron. Also, just nine student-athletes among the 68 listed originally signed with Power Four members. There were 59 transfers from other colleges, including 14 of the 18 starting quarterbacks in the Big Ten Conference...ExtraPoints.com covered the first game at Northwestern Medicine Field at Martin Stadium – temporary NU football headquarters while Ryan Stadium is rebuilt – and was wowed with the multiple views of Lake Michigan throughout the facility...Quip of the Week from one broadcaster unfamiliar with Texas geography: "I wonder if Little Elm's (Texas) chief rival in high school sports is Big Elm?"

FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:

AFCA executive director Craig Bohl is being inducted into the North Dakota State Athletics Hall of Fame...Tom Jacobs, former chief operating officer for the Atlantic 10 Conference, is the new College Baseball Hall of Fame CEO and executive director...The FWAA-NFF Grantland Rice Super 16 FBS poll continues throughout the season and ends with the final survey after the College Football Playoff championship encounter on Jan. 20, 2025. The Top 10 teams from the Sept. 3 survey include Georgia, Ohio State, Texas, Alabama, Notre Dame, Oregon, Penn State, Ole Miss, Michigan, and Miami (Fla.)...Vanderbilt is the FWAA Cheez-It National Team of the Week after topping Virginia Tech in the opener for both teams...The USBWA continues to accept entries from current or prospective members for the 2023-24 USBWA Best Writing Contest via the official USBWA.com website...College Sports Communicators featured in major online or social media posts in recent days are Doug Monson of Stonehill, Max Rottenecker of Wagner, Ryan Sakamoto of the Patriot League, Ben Blumenthal of Bucknell, and Quinn Schmidt of Colgate...Arizona State, Florida, Kentucky, LSU, Memphis, Michigan, Michigan State, Northwestern, Oklahoma, Rutgers, Tennessee, UCLA, and USC are conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible challenges and probes at their respective schools...The

NCAA FBS and FCS Oversight Committees made final recommendations that the football transfer portal calendar be shortened to a single, 30-day period from Dec. 9-Jan. 7 for review and discussion by the NCAA Division I Council at its October confab...Members of the 1982-83 NC State men's basketball team requested back compensation via jurisprudence for NIL usage from the NCAA, CBS Sports and TNT during the Wolfpack's run to the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship...Key NCAA committees are requesting a change to NCAA redshirt rules for other sports to comply with football provisions and eliminate the National Letter of Intent...U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken (an alumna of Stanford and California School of Law) in Oakland, Calif., has questioned some areas of the House v. NCAA settlement and asked plaintiff and NCAA attorneys to "go back to the drawing board" and answer several questions that she had about the ultimate settlement negotiations, which currently require \$2.7-2.8 billion in NIL reparations to 2016-21 NCAA student-athletes on all levels...The California Senate enacted SB906 last week to require college NIL collectives to provide date on NIL agreements of \$5,000 or higher along with a public denotation of services provided to both men's and women's athletics via NIL

compensation...Attorneys representing six current and former collegiate women's rowers are requesting some amendments to allow women's student-athletes to reap larger rewards in the NCAA House settlement...Legal authorities also are seeking some guidance for Ivy League athletics members who do not award athletics scholarships and how these youngsters might be affected in the long run by the House NCAA settlement

2024-25 College Football Playoff Bowl Schedule

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

Friday-Dec. 20 – First Round (9-12 Seeds iOver Two Days) Teams, Sites TBD – 8 p

Saturday, Dec. 21
Teams, Sites TBD, noon (TNT Sports)
Teams, Sites TBD, 4 p.m. (TNT Sports)
Teams, Sites TBD, 8 p.m.

Tuesday-Wed., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2025
Dec. 31 – Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz., teams TBD, 7:30 p.m.

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

Thursday-Friday, Jan. 9-10, 2025
Jan. 9 – Capital One Orange Bowl, Miami Lakes, Fla., winners of quarterfinals, 7:30 .

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