



the SPORTS page

Weekly

www.sportspagedfw.com

MLB PLAYOFF PROJECTIONS

Sept. 15 - Sept. 22, 2023

Vol. 22, Issue 3

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FREE



**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
NIGHT**



FC DALLAS

VS



PORTLAND
TIMBERS

SEPT 16 | 7:30PM

PRES. BY  TOYOTA |  TOYOTA STADIUM



MAIN STAGE



SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 22, 2023



OPENING WKND: LONESTAR • CHEVROLET HOUSE PARTY • CEELO GREEN
CHRISETTE MICHELE • DJ IVAN • LA ZENDA NORTEÑA

WEEK 1: THE UNT FOUR O'CLOCK LAB BAND • BOWLING FOR SOUP
SOUTH TEXAS HOMIES • SABOR PURO • CLAYTON MULLEN • MATT HILLYER
HAIRBALL • CHEVROLET HOUSE PARTY • LIL JON • EXPERIENCE SELENA
38 SPECIAL

WEEK 2: CHEVROLET HOUSE PARTY • THE LITTLE MERMEN
MATT KOZIOL • KATIE TOUPIN • OUTLAW MARIACHI • THE POWELL BROTHERS
X AMBASSADORS • RATHMORE • CRAIG MORGAN • BRAXTON KEITH
J.R. CARROLL • SHANE SMITH & THE SAINTS

WEEK 3: SAZERAC JAZZ BAND • HOLLY BETH • GRAYCIE YORK
THE 40 ACRE MULE • SUMMER DEAN • JAKE WORTHINGTON
FOREVER MOTOWN • THE WAR & TREATY • CHEVROLET HOUSE PARTY
CHARLOTTE SANDS • RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS • WE THE KINGS
YAHRITZA Y SU ESENCIA



LIVE
AT THE
STATE FAIR OF TEXAS.



T 2023 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	27 KC 7:05	28 KC 1:05		29 PHI 3:05	30	1 PHI 3:05
2 PHI 6:08	3 BAL 7:05	4 BAL 7:05	5 BAL 1:05	6	7 CHC 1:20	8 CHC 3:05
9 CHC 1:20	10 KC 7:05	11 KC 7:05	12 KC 7:05	13	14 HOU 7:30	15 HOU 6:30
16 HOU 6:08	17 KC 6:40	18 KC 6:40	19 KC 1:30	20	21 OAK 7:05	22 OAK 6:05
23 OAK 1:35	24 CIN 5:40	25 CIN 5:40	26 CIN 11:35 AM	27 NYN 7:05	28 NYN 7:05	29 NYN 6:05
30 NYN 1:35						

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 ARI 7:05	3 ARI 1:05	4	5 LAA 6:38	6 LAA 6:07
7 LAA 3:07	8 SEA 6:40	9 SEA 6:40	10 SEA 2:40	11 OAK 6:40	12 OAK 6:40	13 OAK 3:07
14 OAK 3:07	15 ATL 7:05	16 ATL 7:05	17 ATL 7:05	18	19 COL 7:05	20 COL 3:05
21 COL 1:35	22 PIT 5:35	23 PIT 5:35	24 PIT 11:35 AM	25	26 BAL 6:05	27 BAL 3:05
28 BAL 12:35	29 DET 12:30	30 DET 6:30	31 DET 12:30			

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 SEA 7:05	3 SEA 3:05
4 SEA 1:35	5 STL 7:05	6 STL 7:05	7 STL 7:05	8	9 TB 6:40	10 TB 3:30
11 TB 12:40	12 LAA 7:05	13 LAA 7:05	14 LAA 7:05	15 LAA 7:05	16 TOR 7:05	17 TOR 3:05
18 TOR 1:35	19 CWS 7:30	20 CWS 7:30	21 CWS 7:30	22	23 NYN 6:05	24 NYN 3:05
25 NYN 12:35	26 DET 7:05	27 DET 7:05	28 DET 7:05	29 DET 1:05	30 HOU 7:05	

EXHIBITION GAMES HOME GAMES

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 HOU 3:05
2 HOU 1:35	3 HOU 1:05	4 BOS 12:35	5 BOS 6:30	6 BOS 6:30	7 WSH 6:05	8 WSH 3:05
9 WSH 11:05 AM	10	11 ALL-STAR GAME	12	13	14 CLE 7:05	15 CLE 3:05
16 CLE 1:35	17 TB 7:05	18 TB 7:05	19 TB 1:05	20	21 LAD 7:05	22 LAD 3:05
23 LAD 1:35	24 HOU 7:30	25 HOU 7:30	26 HOU 7:30	27	28 SD 6:40	29 SD 2:40
30 SD 3:10	31					

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 CWS 7:05	2 CWS 7:05	3 CWS 1:05	4 MIA 7:05	5 MIA 3:05
6 MIA 1:35	7 OAK 6:40	8 OAK 6:40	9 OAK 2:37	10	11 SF 9:35	12 SF 6:05
13 SF 3:05	14 LAA 7:05	15 LAA 7:05	16 LAA 7:05	17	18 MIL 7:05	19 MIL 3:05
20 MIL 1:35	21 ARI 6:40	22 ARI 6:40	23	24 MIN 6:30	25 MIN 7:30	26 MIN 6:35
27 MIN 1:30	28 NYN 6:30	29 NYN 6:30	30 NYN 6:40	31		

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 MIN 7:05	2 MIN 6:35
3 MIN 1:35	4 HOU 3:05	5 HOU 7:05	6 HOU 7:05	7	8 OAK 7:05	9 OAK 6:05
10 OAK 1:35	11 TOR 6:07	12 TOR 6:07	13 TOR 6:07	14 TOR 6:07	15 CLE 6:30	16 CLE 5:30
17 CLE 12:40	18 BOS 7:05	19 BOS 7:05	20 BOS 1:05	21	22 SEA 7:05	23 SEA 6:05
24 SEA 1:35	25 LAA 6:38	26 LAA 6:38	27 LAA 6:38	28 SEA 6:40	29 SEA 9:30	30 SEA 6:40
1 SEA 2:30						

Schedule subject to change.

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Scherzer out for rest of season



Rangers pitcher out for rest of regular season, 'unlikely' to pitch in playoffs
Scherzer will not need surgery, GM Chris Young said earlier this week

Texas Rangers right-hander Max Scherzer will miss the rest of the regular season with a teres major strain, an injury to a muscle connecting the arm to the shoulder blade, GM Chris Young announced earlier this week.

Scherzer exited Tuesday night's game against the Toronto Blue Jays with the injury. Young confirmed Scherzer does not require surgery, though he said it is "unlikely" Scherzer will pitch in the post-season.

The Rangers initially called Scherzer's injury a triceps strain, and testing Wednesday revealed the full extent of the injury. Justin Verlander, Scherzer's teammate with the Mets earlier this year, missed the start of the season with the same injury.

Scherzer tried to throw some warmup pitches after consulting with Rangers personnel on the mound Tuesday, but he started and stopped twice without actually throwing the ball.

Scherzer had thrown 5 1/3 scoreless innings Tuesday night before his early exit.

He has a 3.77 ERA and 1.12 WHIP this season. The Rangers traded for Scherzer a few days before the trade deadline and he looked like a nice replacement for Jacob deGrom, who had to undergo Tommy John surgery. All-Start Nathan Eovaldi just recently worked back from an injury and hasn't fully been stretched out yet, thrown 47 pitches in 2 1/3 innings last time out.

Other than Scherzer and Eovaldi, the rest of the Rangers' rotation is comprised of Jordan Montgomery, Jon Gray and Dane Dunning. Both Andrew Heaney and Martín Pérez were in the rotation earlier this season and have been bumped. Either could move into the rotation to replace Scherzer. The larger concern is the lack of an established ace in the middle of a postseason race.

As part of the trade that sent Scherzer to Texas, he agreed to waive his opt out this offseason, and is under contract for \$43.3 million next season. The Rangers are paying \$22.5 million of that \$43.3 million. The Mets are on the hook for the rest.



NBA Board of Governors approves new player participation policy

The new policy will take effect with the start of the 2023-24 regular season.

The NBA Board of Governors on Wednesday approved a new Player

Participation Policy, which is intended to promote player participation in the NBA's regular season. The new policy will take effect with the start of the 2023-24 regular season and enhance and replace the Player Resting Policy, which was implemented prior to the 2017-18 season.

The Player Participation Policy primarily will focus on star players. A star player for purposes of the policy is any player who, in any of the prior three seasons, was selected to an All-NBA Team or an NBA All-Star team. This definition also applies, following a given season's All-Star Game, to any player who is named an All-Star during that season.

Under the policy, unless a team demonstrates an approved reason for a star player not to participate in a game, then, among other things, the team must:

- Manage its roster to ensure that no more than one star player is unavailable for the same game.
- Ensure that star players are available for all national television and NBA In-Season Tournament games.
- Maintain a balance between the number of one-game absences for a star player in home and road games.
- Refrain from any long-term "shut-downs" in which a star player stops playing games.
- If resting a healthy player, ensure that the player is present at the games and visible to fans.

The policy includes exceptions for injuries, personal reasons and pre-approved back-to-back restrictions based on a player's age, career workload or serious injury history.

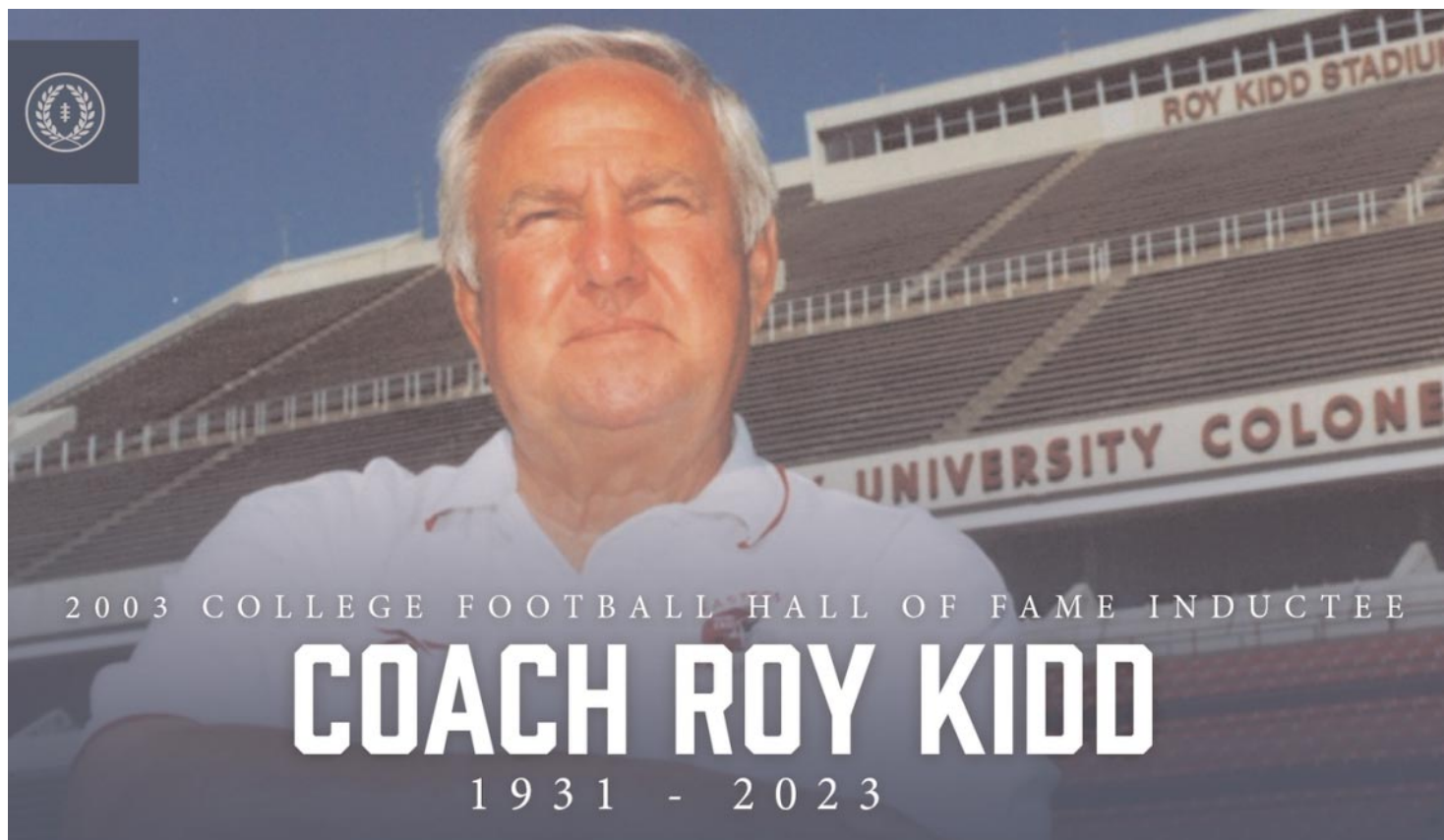
NCAA Football Poll

Coaches Poll	Week 2	AP Poll
1. Georgia	1. Georgia	1. Georgia
2. Michigan	2. Michigan	2. Michigan
3. Florida State	3. Florida State	3. Florida State
4. Ohio State	4. Texas	4. Texas
5. USC	5. USC	5. USC
6. Texas	6. Ohio State	6. Ohio State
7. Penn State	7. Penn State	7. Penn State
8. Washington	8. Washington	8. Washington
9. Tennessee	9. Notre Dame	9. Notre Dame
10. Alabama	10. Alabama	10. Alabama
11. Notre Dame	11. Tennessee	11. Tennessee
12. Utah	12. Utah	12. Utah
13. Oregon	13. Oregon	13. Oregon
14. LSU	14. LSU	14. LSU
15. Kansas State	15. Kansas State	15. Kansas State
16. Oklahoma	16. Oregon State	16. Oregon State
17. Oregon State	17. Ole Miss	17. Ole Miss
18. North Carolina	18. Colorado	18. Colorado
19. Ole Miss	19. Oklahoma	19. Oklahoma
20. Duke	20. North Carolina	20. North Carolina
21. Colorado	21. Duke	21. Duke
22. Clemson	22. Miami	22. Miami
23. Miami	23. Washington	23. Washington
24. Iowa	24. UCLA	24. UCLA
25. UCLA	25. Iowa	25. Iowa

WEEKLY CALENDAR

	SEPTEMBER 15 FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 16 SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 17 SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 18 MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 19 TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 20 WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 21 THURSDAY
	Rangers at Guardians 6:10 / Bally's	Rangers at Guardians 5:10 / Bally's	Rangers at Guardians 12:40 / Bally's	Rangers vs Red Sox 6:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Red Sox 6:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Red Sox 6:05 / Bally's	
			Cowboys vs NY Jets 3:25 / CBS				
		SMU vs Prairie View 6:00 / ESPN+					
	Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05	Roughriders at Amarillo 7:05				
		FC Dallas vs Seattle 7:30					

Hall of Fame Coach Roy Kidd passes



Hall of Fame Coach Roy Kidd Passes Away

Won two national titles for Eastern Kentucky and 71.4 percent of his games during 39 years as head coach.

Coach Roy Kidd, the 2003 College Football Hall of Fame inductee who headed the program at Eastern Kentucky from 1964-2002, passed away Sept. 12 having recently entered hospice. He was 91.

"Roy Kidd left a legacy for the ages, touching the lives of countless players and mentoring hundreds of assistant coaches along the way," said NFF Chairman Archie Manning. "His place among our sport's all-time greatest coaches is secured for all-time at the Hall, and we are deeply saddened to learn of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time of loss."

At the conclusion of his career, Roy Kidd's 315 victories ranked second to only Grambling coach Eddie Robinson on the all-time NCAA Division I-AA win list. In 1967, he won his first of 16 Ohio Valley Conference championships and also claimed a Grantland Rice Bowl victory. When the NCAA created Division I-AA football in 1978, the ECU program flourished with the addition of 20 extra scholarships. In 1979, Kidd won his first of two national championships. They returned to the championship game the next two seasons only to lose close decisions. In 1982,

ECU returned to the title game, defeating Delaware to complete a perfect 13-0 season and his second title.

Every season since his final national title squad, Kidd produced a winning team. He added 13 more playoff trips to his record total of 18 playoff appearances. In one stretch his teams went to the post-season in 16 of 17 seasons. He posted an overall record of 315-124-8, winning 71.4 percent of his games, and he coached 55 All-Americans while 41 of his players went on to sign NFL contracts.

Before becoming the head coach, Kidd played quarterback at Eastern, earning Little All-American honors, and then began a successful stint as a high school coach and then as a college assistant at Morehead State and ECU before assuming the top job in 1964.

Coach Kidd served as President of the American Football Coaches Association, and he won numerous honors on the national and conference level, including twice being named NCAA Division I-AA National Coach of the Year and claiming OVC Coach of the Year honors ten times. In January 2023, he received the American Football Coaches Association's Amos Alonzo Stagg Award, which honors those "whose services have been outstanding in the advancement of the best interests of football."

The ECU football stadium is named Roy Kidd Stadium in his honor; the street

in front of the stadium was renamed Roy and Sue Kidd Way; and a statue of the legendary coach and a wall honoring players,

staff and managers is located in the north end zone. A street in front of Corbin High School's football stadium is also named in his honor. Coach Kidd is also a member of the ECU Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the ECU Athletics Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, the OVC Hall of Fame and the Madison County Sports Hall of Fame. Additionally, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's highest football award, given to the best high school football player in the state each season, is named the Roy Kidd Award, and the Roy Kidd OVC Coach of the Year Award is presented annually.

Born on Dec. 4, 1931, in Corbin, Kentucky, Coach Kidd is survived by his wife of 62 years, Susan 'Sue' Purcell Kidd, their three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services for Coach Kidd will be held at the ECU Center for the Arts with Bill Fort officiating. A private burial will follow in the Richmond Cemetery. Dates and times of the services will be announced. In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made in his honor to the Roy and Sue Kidd Endowed Scholarship at Eastern Kentucky University. Checks can be mailed to the ECU Foundation, CPO 19, 521 Lancaster Ave, Richmond, KY 40475. Online gifts can be made at go.eku.edu/Give-Kidd.



LPGA press conference at The Colony



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

This year's upcoming Ascendant LPGA benefitting Volunteers of America will tee off October 2nd-8th at the Golf Clubs at the Tribute in The Colony.

The Old American Golf Club will be hosting the best professional woman players in the game as they battle it out for the prestigious title and an expanded purse of \$1.8 million dollars. It's the longest running LPGA event in the state of Texas.

The early list of who's who scheduled to play include: Defending champion Charley Hull from England along with past champions and Texas residents Angela Stanford (2020), Cheyenne Knight (2019), and Stacy Lewis (2014). Also, other top players headlining the tournament field are major champions and LPGA winners Celine Boutier, Lydia Ko, In Gee Chun, Gaby Lopez, Sei Young Kim, Nasa Hataoka, Jeongeun Lee6, Annie Park, Mi Hyang Lee, and Lexi Thompson. There will be 15 golfers in the field of a 132 players who have Texas ties.

There will be a number of players competing (13) here who will be fresh off from the Solheim Cup which will be played in Andalucia, Spain. United States players are: Ally Ewing, Megan Khang, Cheyenne Knight, Jennifer Kupcho, Stacy Lewis (Captain), Angela Stanford (Assistant Captain) and Lexi Thompson. The European team players are: Celine Boutier, Charley Hull, Leona Maguire, Madelene Sagstrom, Gemma Dryburgh and Emily Pedersen.

Earlier this week 3 former Champions Charley Hull, Angela Stanford and Cheyenne Knight called in for a Zoom chat with the media. Some of the topics they discussed included:

-Charley, Angela and Cheyenne reflecting back to their respective victories at the Ascendant LPGA benefitting Volunteers of America.

-Looking ahead to the 2023 Ascendant LPGA and competing at Old American Golf Club.

-Angela and Cheyenne reflecting on Kathy Whitworth and her legacy.

-Charley and Angela commenting on Charley's now viral tweet challenging an



OCTOBER 2-8, 2023 • THE COLONY, TX • ASCENDANTLPGA.COM

amateur golfer to a round of golf and the skill differences between LPGA players and single-digit amateur golfers.

-Solheim Cup preview and discussion with Cheyenne (U.S. team member), Angela (U.S. Team assistant captain) and Charley (European team member).

-Angela and Cheyenne playing at Shady Oaks and the influence of the course has had on their careers.

I'll have more details on this conference call with the players in upcoming articles.

Tickets are now on sale for the 2023 Ascendant LPGA benefitting Volunteers of America, including daily and weekly general admission tickets offering a wide degree of entertainment and access.

New for 2023, BITE by the Lake will be an upgraded culinary experience featuring complimentary food and drink samplings. BITE by the Lake will showcase a variety of local chefs, restaurants, and brands for patrons to sample. Daily tickets to BITE by the Lake start at \$50 per day. Tickets are available for purchase exclusively at www.AscendantLPGA.com/tickets/.

All tickets will be digital and will be emailed after purchase. Tickets can be viewed on either a mobile device or printed out where they will be scanned at the main gate.

This is such a great tournament and an excellent opportunity to watch the best LPGA golfers in the world up close in action.

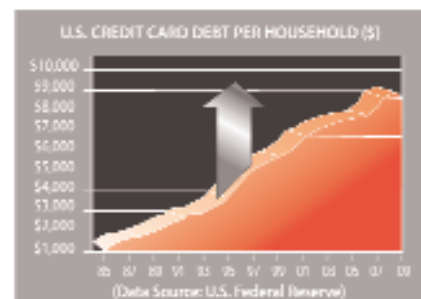
Tom Ward covers golf in Texas. www.tee-timewithtom.com

Credit Card Debt?

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

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.



CreditGUARD of America, a non-profit licensed debt management service provider, is making a new program available to lower debt payments and become free of all credit card debt in only three to five years. Consumers need only \$2,000 or more in total credit card debt and at least 30 days behind on any account, to cut their payment by 35% to 50%, and reduce or eliminate interest charges altogether.

Over 200,000 families, located throughout the U.S., have regained financial independence with CreditGUARD's licensed, bonded and insured service. CreditGUARD of America has received high marks in consumer surveys showing high consumer satisfaction and confidence. The CreditGUARD debt management program can lower your monthly payments by hundreds and save you thousands!

One such case is Sandra L. who proclaimed "CreditGUARD cut my monthly payment by \$656 and saved me over \$29,206.53 in interest. They saved my way of life and gave me back my peace of mind! Now I can see myself on my way to becoming debt free." or Jeffrey C. who said "CreditGUARD of America helped me consolidate 3 of my credit cards into one affordable payment. They are now saving me nearly \$200 a month. Now I will be debt free in 2 years or less"

Certified Credit Counselors at CreditGUARD of America provide Debt Relief Consultations at no charge, when you call:

1-866-253-0182

The First Look: Fortinet Championship



Max Homa has tasted victory the last two years in northern California

By Adam Stanley

The inaugural FedExCup Fall kicks off with this week's Fortinet Championship at the Silverado Resort in Napa, California, where Max Homa is looking for a rare three-peat.

Events in the FedExCup Fall – from the Fortinet Championship to The RSM Classic – feature the same benefits as Regular Season tournaments, include two-year exemptions, 500 FedExCup points, and spots in THE PLAYERS, The Sentry and the major championships that invite TOUR winners. But there's the added drama of players competing for their PGA TOUR cards.

The FedExCup Fall will finalize the top 125 who retain their status for 2024.

Players beyond No. 71 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 on Nov. 16-19. 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; Nos. 51-60 in the FedExCup standings after The RSM get into those events.

Players who finished in the top 50 in the FedExCup will still compete in the FedExCup Fall, as well, just as Homa is doing this week.

FIELD NOTES: Six golfers, including Max Homa, who finished inside the top 50 in the FedExCup standings are teeing it up in Napa. Cam Davis, Sahith Theegala, Andrew Putnam, Brendon Todd and Eric Cole are the others... Justin Thomas, who missed the FedExCup Playoffs by a matter of inches, is back in action. Thomas is 71st in the FedExCup standings after a T12 at the final event of the Regular Season, the Wyndham Championship. This will be his first start since as he prepares for the Ryder Cup, for which he was a captain's pick. He last teed it up at Silverado in 2019, when he finished fourth. In fact, Thomas' last three results at this event are 4-8-3...he and Homa are not the only parts of the Ryder Cup squad teeing it up in Napa. Captain Zach Johnson is in the field along with Vice Captain Stewart Cink, who won the event in 2020... Mackenzie Hughes, who is 51st in the FedExCup standings is in action. Hughes just missed making the top 50, which would have qualified for him all eight Signature Events in 2024. Hughes can earn spots in the two Signature Events after The Sentry by being in the top 60 of the FedExCup after The RSM Classic... Akshay Bhatia, who captured the Barracuda Championship for his first TOUR title and in the process converted a Special Temporary Membership into a full PGA TOUR membership, will look to keep

his solid momentum going in the FedExCup Fall. He had four top-10s in his 19 events this season... Other notables in the field include TOUR winners and Kevin Kisner, Webb Simpson, and Joel Dahmen... Matt Kuchar, who has never missed the FedExCup Playoffs, returns to Napa where he finished 12th a year ago. He is the only golfer in the FedExCup era to tee it up in the postseason in all of the 17 years.

Highest Ranked Players in the Field

World Ranking	FedExCup
7. Max Homa	T9. Max Homa
24. Justin Thomas	31. S. Theegala
37. Sahith Theegala	35. A. Putnam
49. Cam Davis	43. Eric Cole
58. Andrew Putnam	47. B. Todd
59. Lucas Herbert	48. Cam Davis
60. Brendon Todd	51. M. Hughes
64. Matt Kuchar	52. Nick Hardy
65. K.H. Lee	53. T. Montgomery
66. Taylor Montgomery	56. S. Jaegar

SPONSOR EXEMPTIONS: Hayden Springer earned an exemption after winning the season-ending Fortinet Cup Championship on PGA TOUR Canada and the season-long Fortinet Cup title... Fred Biondi, the 2023 NCAA individual champion, is playing his first PGA TOUR event as a pro. Biondi also played the U.S. Open in 2022. He teed it up nine times on the Korn Ferry Tour this summer with his best result being a T31 at the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX... Another former Gator, Yuxin Lin, is in the field. Lin, the 2017 and 2019 Asia-Pacific Amateur winner, won the Southern Highlands Invitational as a senior for the Gators. He has played both the Masters and the Open Championship twice. He made the cut in one of those four majors, finishing T74 in the 2021 Open Championship... Preston Summerhays, fresh off his victorious U.S. Walker Cup team, received an invitation. He was a first-team All-American at Arizona State in 2023.

STORYLINES:

1. HOMA'S HOPING FOR A THIRD

Max Homa, an alum of nearby Cal-Berkeley, has tasted victory the last two years in Wine Country. Two years ago, he topped Maverick McNealy by one after McNealy made double bogey on the 71st hole of the championship. Last year, it was Danny Willett who three-putted the final hole of the championship from just 3 feet to lose by one. Homa chipped in for birdie on the final hole for an unlikely two-shot swing. And now he's looking to become the first golfer since Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic in 2009-11 to win the same TOUR event three years in a row.

2. RYDER CUP PREVIEW

The Fortinet Championship will be the final PGA TOUR event before the Ryder

Cup in Italy. Homa won last year's Fortinet the week before heading across the country for a successful Presidents Cup debut at Quail Hollow, where he went 4-0-0. This time, he's heading across the Atlantic for his Ryder Cup debut. Thomas will get an opportunity to showcase the work he's put in over the past month.

3. NEW-LOOK PGA TOUR REWARDS

Success in the FedExCup Fall can set up players for success in 2024. Finishers in the top 125 of the FedExCup standings after The RSM not only retain their cards, but also earn a spot in THE PLAYERS. Winners in the FedExCup Fall get into The Sentry, the Signature Event that opens the 2024 schedule. Nos. 51-60 in the FedExCup standings after The RSM get into the two Signature Events following The Sentry.

FEDEXCUP: Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

COURSE: Silverado Resort (North Course), par 72, 7,123 yards. Plenty of changes to Silverado's North Course await the PGA TOUR's best. The course routing has changed, with 10 holes now in a different order. Nos. 1-7 and No. 18 will stay the same while the rest have been re-routed, including No. 17, which is usually the 11th hole. It's the course's signature hole, playing over water. 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)

18-HOLE RECORD: 61, Mark Hensby (2nd round, 2007 at Grayhawk GC), Kevin Stadler (2nd round, 2008 at Grayhawk GC), Troy Matteson (2nd & 3rd rounds, 2009 at Grayhawk GC), Mike Weir (4th round, 2009 at Grayhawk GC), Chesson Hadley (2nd round, 2017 at Silverado).

LAST TIME: It was a wild final-hole finish for Max Homa and Danny Willett, and in the end it was Homa – after a chip in from 33 feet – who emerged victorious. Trailing Willett by a shot on the par-5 18th, Homa went for the green but ended up in a greenside bunker. He blasted it out but still had a chip remaining. No matter. He chipped in for the birdie. Willett missed his own birdie try from just over 3 feet and then, shockingly, his 4-foot comebacker for par lipped out and he lost by one. It was Homa's fifth PGA TOUR title. "That was crazy," Homa said. Taylor Montgomery, after a final-round 64 – tied for the low round of the week -- finished third, while 54-hole leader Justin Lower finished tied for fourth with Byeong Hun An.

How it works: FedExCup fall



FedExCup Fall determines top 125 eligibility which is finalized for the following season.

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 FedEx Cup 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 2024 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.

New & Used Clubs from the Top Brands in Golf

2nd Swing

2023 FedExCup Fall Schedule				
Date	Tournament	Golf Course(s)	Location	Purse
Sept. 11-17	Fortinet Championship	Silverado Resort and Spa (North Course)	Napa, California	\$8.4M
Sept. 18-24	OFF			
Sept. 25-Oct 1	OFF (Ryder Cup)			
Oct. 2-8	Sanderson Farms Championship	Jackson Country Club	Jackson, Mississippi	\$8.2M
Oct. 9-15	Shriners Children's Open	TPC Summerlin	Las Vegas, Nevada	\$8.4M
Oct. 16-22	ZOZO Championship	Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club	Chiba, Japan	\$8.5M
Oct. 23-29	OFF			
Oct. 30-Nov 5	World Wide Technology Champ.	El Cardonal at Diamante	Los Cabos, Mexico	\$8.2M
Nov. 6-12	Butterfield Bermuda Champ.	Port Royal Golf Course	Southampton, Bermuda	\$6.5M
Nov. 13-19	The RSM Classic	Sea Island Golf Club	St. Simons Island, GA	\$8.4M

2023 MLB playoff picture shaping up



The Rangers have won four games in a row to get back in the field

2023 MLB playoff picture, standings, postseason projections: Rangers back in 12-team field with winning streak
The 2023 MLB regular season wraps up in less than 20 days; here's where things stand

By Matt Snyder

There are less than 20 days remaining in the 2023 Major League Baseball regular season, and the MLB playoff picture will be set by Oct. 1. One team -- the MLB-leading Atlanta Braves -- has already clinched a postseason spot, and teams will start having champagne showers to celebrate division titles in the coming days. The Braves, Dodgers and Twins have all but officially sewn up their respective divisions, while the Orioles, Astros, Brewers and hoping to stay in first place over the next two-plus weeks.

The wild-card races figure to add the most drama about who will make the 12-team postseason field. The Rays have created a lot of separation between the pack and will be locked into the No. 4 seed in the American League if they can't track down the Orioles in the AL East. It's a three-team fight for other two AL wild-card spots with the Blue Jays, Rangers and Mariners battling. The Rangers have seemingly snapped out of their funk and have won four games in a row to get back in the field.

The NL wild-card chase features an even more crowded field. The Phillies currently have the No. 4 seed and are trying to keep distance between themselves and the Cubs. Four teams -- the Diamondbacks, Marlins, Giants and Reds -- have been jostling for the sixth and final NL playoff spot for weeks. Arizona enters Wednesday with a one-game lead.

The 2023 MLB playoff picture is also notable for who is not in it. The Yankees, Mets, Padres and Cardinals -- all playoff teams in 2022 and expected contenders in 2023 -- have had disappointing years that will end with the regular season. The Angels saw their playoff hopes dashed in a dismal August. The Halos crashed out of the race while learning Shohei Ohtani will not pitch again this season with a torn UCL in his right elbow.

As a reminder, MLB now uses a 12-team playoff format with the three division winners and three wild card teams in both leagues qualifying for the postseason. The two division winners with the best records in each league get byes to the League Division Series round, while the other eight teams square off in a best-of-three Wild Card Series.

Who's clinched?

- Braves: Clinched playoff berth

Here's a look at the MLB standings and playoff picture for the 12-team postseason as of Thursday. All division and postseason odds are courtesy of SportsLine.

2023 MLB playoff picture

American League

Byes

- No. 1 Orioles and No. 2 Astros

Wild Card Series

- No. 3 Twins vs. No. 6 Mariners
- No. 4 Rays vs. No. 5 Rangers

National League

Byes

- No. 1 Braves and No. 2 Dodgers

Wild Card Series

- No. 3 Brewers vs. No. 6 Diamondbacks
- No. 4 Phillies vs. No. 5 Cubs

American League standings

AL EAST	W	L	GB	DIV	POST
Baltimore	91	53	—	79.7%	100.0%
Tampa Bay	89	5	3.0	20.3%	99.8%
Toronto	80	65	11.5	0.0%	57.9%
Boston	73	72	18.5	0.0%	<1.0%
N.Y. Yankees	73	72	18.5	0.0%	<1.0%
AL CENTRAL	W	L	GB	DIV	POST
Minnesota	76	69	—	99.7%	99.7%
Cleveland	69	77	7.5	<1.0%	<1.0%
Detroit	66	78	9.5	0.0%	0.0%
Chi. White Sox - e	55	89	20.0	0.0%	0.0%
Kansas City - e	45	101	31.5	0.0%	0.0%
AL WEST	W	L	GB	DIV	POST
Houston	82	64	--	71.3%	97.0%
Texas	80	64	1.0	9.3%	70.0%
Seattle	80	65	1.5	18.6%	73.9%
L.A. Angels	68	78	14.0	0.0%	0.0%
Oakland - e	46	99	35.5	0.0%	0.0%

National League standings

NL EAST	W	L	GB	DIV	POST
Atlanta	95	50	—	100.0%	100.0%
Philadelphia	79	66	16.0	0.0%	98.5%
Miami	74	71	21.0	0.0%	22.3%
N.Y. Mets	66	78	28.5	0.0%	<1.0%
Washington	65	80	30.0	0.0%	0.0%
NL CENTRAL	W	L	GB	DIV	POST
Milwaukee	81	63	—	91.2%	99.9%
Chi. Cubs	78	68	4.0	8.7%	88.8%
Cincinnati	75	71	7.0	0.0%	26.3%
Pittsburgh	67	78	14.5	0.0%	0.0%
St. Louis	64	81	17.5	0.0%	0.0%
NL WEST	W	L	GB	DIV	POST
L.A. Dodgers	88	56	—	100.0%	100.0%
Arizona	76	70	13.0	0.0%	39.5%
San Francisco	74	71	14.5	0.0%	24.6%
San Diego	68	78	21.0	0.0%	<1.0%
Colorado - e	52	92	36.0	0.0%	0.0%

Wild-card standings

American League

TEAM	W	L	WCGB
Tampa Bay	89	57	+9.0
Texas	80	64	+0.5
Seattle	80	65	--
Toronto	80	65	--

National League

TEAM	W	L	WCGB
Philadelphia	79	66	+3.5
Chi. Cubs	78	68	+2.0
Arizona	76	70	--
Cincinnati	75	71	1.0
San Francisco	74	71	1.5
Miami	74	71	1.5

Cowboys /Jets matchup predictions



Dallas faces a significantly more sound stop unit that could make life challenging for Dak Prescott

N.Y Jets (1-0) at Cowboys (1-0)

Sunday, 3:25 / CBS

Line: -9.5 / 39.5

What was viewed as one of the marquee games on the Week 2 NFL slate less than a day ago is now the highest spread on most betting boards. Following Aaron Rodgers' devastating Achilles' injury, the Jets' Super Bowl aspirations are all but out the window, and so, too, are their chances of taking down the Cowboys in Week 2.

Despite clawing back from a 10-point second-half deficit to defeat the Bills in Week 1, a deep playoff run seems like a pipe dream for the Jets. The question now becomes whether general manager Joe Douglas will acquire a new QB to keep the team afloat. Ultimately, it feels like New York will get a veteran signal-caller to run Nathaniel Hackett's offense, but for the short term, it's Zach Wilson's show. While Wilson was competent enough to help the Rodgers-less Jets defeat the Bills in Week 1, going into Jerry World and competing with the Cowboys is a much different task.

Fresh off a dominant, all-around effort in a 40-0 drubbing of the Giants, the Cowboys are in the driver's seat to start 2-0. However, unlike last week, Dallas faces a significantly more sound stop unit that could make life challenging for Dak Prescott and company. Will Dallas cover this big number, or will the Wilson-led Jets get to 2-0 ATS?

For those looking to bet on Sunday's Cowboys-Jets contest, we'll give you all the information you need before placing a wager, including the updated odds, and our prediction for this Week 2 matchup.

Cowboys vs. Jets odds, spread, over/under

- Spread: Cowboys -9.5 (-110); Jets +9.5 (-110)
- Over/Under: OVER 39.5 (-110);

UNDER 39.5 (-110)

- Moneyline: Cowboys -450; Jets +350

Before the Jets-Bills Week 1 matchup, Vegas priced New York as three-point road underdogs for its Week 2 road tilt in Dallas. Additionally, the total was set at 45.5 points, but now that Rodgers won't be under center, the Jets' spread has moved up 6.5 points up +9.5 and the total's dropped 5.5 points to 39.5.

Regarding each team's moneyline, the Cowboys went from -175 to -450, with the Jets moving from +145 to +350. Regarding each team's implied win probability relative to their moneyline, the Cowboys went from 63.64 percent to 81.82 percent, while the Jets went from 40.82 percent to 22.22 percent.

Should you bet the Cowboys against the spread?

Not to take away what the Jets did on Monday night (see what we did there?), but Josh Allen's poor decision-making (7.8 percent turnover-worthy play rate) was the deciding factor in New York's ability to grind out a 22-16 overtime victory. Of course, a good deal of his subpar play in the turnover department resulted from the Jets' elite defense, but Allen made Monday night's game significantly harder on himself than it needed to be.

Allen tried to be too fine and look for chunk plays instead of taking what the Jets defense gave him by moving the sticks. Instead, the Bills ended the night -3 in turnovers, and when you give a team three additional possessions, they usually take advantage, even with a backup QB running the offense.

Credit to Nathaniel Hackett for simplifying the offense once Rodgers went down, relying on their RB tandem of Breece Hall (10 carries, 127 yards) and Dalvin Cook (13 carries, 33 yards) to make life easier

for Wilson. Hackett also ensured Wilson didn't have to beat the Bills vertically, totaling the third-lowest average intended air yards among QBs (4.3 yards).

While their in-game adjustments panned out, can the Jets manufacture enough scoring drives against a Cowboys defense that leads the league in EPA/play (-0.427)? Yes, Dak Prescott's been plagued by turnovers in the past, but unless the Jets end Sunday's contest +2 or better in the turnover department, we don't expect the Jets to stay within the current spread. There's a chance this spread goes through the key number of 10 as the week progresses, so if you want to bet on the Cowboys, the sooner you get your spread bet in, the better.

Our pick: Cowboys -9.5 (-110)

Final score prediction:

Cowboys 24, Jets 14

Should you bet the Cowboys vs. Jets over or under?

Although the betting value is all but gone on this total after the 5.5-point adjustment, we'd still lean toward the UNDER.

Yes, the Jets scored 22 points in Week 1, but Josh Allen's turnovers gave the Jets prime starting field position, one even a Zach Wilson-led offense could take advantage of Dallas' offense wasn't tested in their opener and now faces a Jets defense that posted the league's highest coverage grade per PFF (85.7).

Our pick: UNDER 39.5 (-110), but at this point, we'd pass on the total.

Best Cowboys vs. Jets prop bet: Cowboys QB Dak Prescott UNDER 236.5 passing yards

Although we're backing the Cowboys to notch a double-digit victory, we don't think Prescott goes OVER his passing yards prop of 236.5 yards. As we mentioned, the Jets' coverage unit owns PFF's top coverage grade, potentially resulting in Prescott underwhelming as a passer.

The Jets' run defense isn't nearly as stout as their pass coverage, which could lead to increased emphasis on the ground game, hindering his chances of going OVER this number.

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NMLS #1136

NFL week 2 preview and predictions

NFL picks, predictions against the spread Week 2: Eagles sink Vikings; Cowboys down Jets; Steelers, Bengals avoid 0-2

By Jon Thomas

There's one word to sum up Week 1 in betting: Brutal. There were plenty of shocking upsets and some good teams just didn't show up to be competitive. Besides, the sportsbooks needed something to offset all that college cover action toward Colorado on Saturday.

There weren't any "bad beats" per se, but they were tough enough in some close games that flipped the other way. The only way to get back up from the dusting is to brush off and slide right into the Week 2 picks and predictions against the spread.

The good news is, there will be a better understanding of several teams' identities for the 2023 season. The bad news is, that might actually make picking games more challenging. Here's another round of fearless forecasting and professional football prognosticating.

Stats of the Week

Week 1 straight up: 9-7

Week 1 against the spread: 6-10

Here are my NFL picks against the spread for Week 2.

Chiefs (0-1) at Jaguars (1-0)

Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS

Line: Chiefs -3.5 / 51

The Chiefs can't start the season 0-2, can they? Patrick Mahomes should see some things sort out offensively with Travis Kelce back as his go-to guy and he'll need him because Trevor Lawrence, Calvin Ridley and the Jaguars' loaded weapons can go to work well. Mahomes digs deep to find his playoff self and this time isn't flukily let down by his receivers this week.

Pick: Chiefs 38-34

Giants (0-1) at Cardinals (0-1)

Sunday, 3:05 p.m. Fox

Line: Giants -4 / 39.5

The Giants will show some life with Daniel Jones, Saquon Barkley and the offense against a shell of the defense in the desert. There should be some fine Big Blue representation in Glendale, the site of their classic Super Bowl 42 upset. Consider this the classic get-well game as Arizona will be overmatched on both fronts.

Pick: Giants 23-17

Steelers (0-1) vs Browns (1-0)

Monday, 7:15 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Browns -2.5 / 43.5

The Steelers aren't as bad offensively and defensively as they showed in Week 1.

The Browns aren't as dominant as they showed in Week 1. Pittsburgh can get back into its type of grinding, defensive-minded game that doesn't include an offense as diverse as the San Francisco's. T.J. Watt and friends will rattle Deshaun Watson plenty in prime time, while Kenny Pickett settles in a little better to make more plays back at home.

Pick: Steelers 20-17

Packers (1-0) at Falcons (1-0)

Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox

Line: Falcons -1.5 / 40.5

The Packers face a second-straight run-heavy team on the road with a shaky quarterback. Jordan Love once again will be comfortable passing to his young weapons while his offense is more two-dimensional. Green Bay's pass defense also won't be challenged much and focus on pressuring Desmond Ridder well.

Pick: Packers 27-23

Raiders (1-0) at Bills (0-1)

Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS

Line: Buffalo -9.5 / 47

Jimmy Garoppolo and Jakobi Meyers finally helped "Patriot-ify" the Raiders' offense for Josh McDaniels, but they didn't exactly light it up in Denver. Maxx Crosby and the defense overachieved against a still sputtering Russell Wilson. They won't get the same dual threat and weaponry breaks from Josh Allen on the road.

Pick: Bills 31-17

Ravens (1-0) at Bengals (0-1)

Sunday 12 p.m. / CBS

Line: Bengals -3.5 / 46.5

While Joe Burrow has struggled mightily in his matchup against the Browns, he's thrived against the Ravens when they have had tough defenses. Now Baltimore has a weak exploitable secondary and their running game still has some questions now minus JK Dobbins and not letting Lamar Jackson rumble as much. The Ravens have some exciting young receivers, but the Bengals are underrated with their pass rush and coverage.

Pick: Bengals 31-24

Seahawks (0-1) at Lions (1-0)

Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox

Line: -6 / 49

The Seahawks desperately need a win after their shocking home loss to the Rams in Week 1 and they did win a 48-45 shootout in Ford Field. They have scored a combined 99 points in the past two meetings. But they also are facing a much revamped Lions defense and seem to be vulnerable against the run and in slot coverage. Geno Smith and his receivers do

their best to keep Seattle in the game, but red-hot Detroit is too much and will keep their winning streak alive.

Pick: Lions 24-20

Chargers (0-1) at Titans (0-1)

Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS

Line: -3.5 / 45.5

Derrick Henry should rumble to a big rushing game with some help from rookie Tyjae Spears behind him, but eventually, the Titans will run out of having the necessary firepower with struggling Ryan Tannehill. Justin Herbert can pick apart the Titans' secondary with multiple receivers and Austin Ekeler can also elude a stout run defense by getting into the open field.

Pick: Chargers 27-20

Bears (0-1) at Buccaneers (1-0)

Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox

Line: -3 / 41.5

This is a bad matchup for the Bears. They're a running team against a team that contains the run and have the secondary pieces to hold Justin Fields' limited receivers in check. Baker Mayfield again will be comfortable in facing little pass rush and Chicago's corners will have their hands full with Mike Evans and Chris Godwin. Look for the Bucs to unlock Rachaad White more as an extra target, too.

Pick: Buccaneers 27-17

Colts (0-1) at Texans (0-1)

Sunday 12 p.m. / Fox

Line: Texans -1 / 40

This is a tossup game between rookie first-round QBs Anthony Richardson and C.J. Stroud in which one is bound to get his first NFL victory. The Texans' defense has a big issue vs. the run, but gets a break here not facing the nemesis of Jonathan Taylor. They are solid against the pass under DeMeco Ryans and can contain a limited attack. Stroud looked good last week when getting time to hit his wideouts the Colts' secondary will oblige.

Pick: Texans 20-17

49ers (1-0) at Rams (1-0)

Sunday 3:05 p.m. / Fox

Line: -8 / 44.5

The 49ers look like they'll keep rolling against weaker defenses with any holes to exploit and the Rams have plenty of those in the key matchups with Brock Purdy and his key receivers and Christian McCaffrey. San Francisco smashed this matchup last October and playing in LA is like a transplanted Northern California home game. The Rams will show more fight with Sean McVay but they are overmatched here.

Pick: 49ers 34-20

Jets (1-0) at Cowboys (1-0)

Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS

Line: -9.5 / 39.5

This was supposed to be Aaron Rodgers returning to Dallas to face a familiar NFC on the same field where he won Super Bowl 45 MVP at end of 13 seasons ago. Instead, it will be Zach Wilson trying to navigate a brutal defense on the road on a short week, one that just ripped Daniel Jones and the crosstown Giants at MetLife. The Jets' defense can keep them in the game vs. a shaky Dak Prescott, but ultimately, the Cowboys just have more offensive punch with their starting QB.

Pick: Cowboys win 23-13

Commanders (1-0) at Broncos (0-1)

Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS

Line: -3.5 / 39

How good are the Commanders? How bad are the Broncos? They both are mediocre teams who will be hard to predict all season, it seems. Denver flopped at home against Las Vegas, despite a strong early home history. Sean Payton needs to pick up the pieces and wake up Russell Wilson and the offense, stat. Sam Howell did some nice things in the opener, but was sloppy with the ball. Payton gets the better of Ron Rivera is a throwback NFC South matchup.

Pick: Broncos 20-17

Dolphins (1-0) at Patriots (0-1)

Sunday, 7:20 p.m. / NBC

Line: -2.5 / 46

Miami's offense is something that can drive New England's defense batty with its pure emphasis on getting its fastest players in open field (see Tyreek Hill and more Tyreek Hill) for Mike McDaniels. The Patriots' offense can't test the Dolphins' Jalen Ramsey-less secondary well without much in the receiving corps. Tagovailoa is playing on point and can outduel his old college teammate Mac Jones with less pressure and more juice around him.

Pick: Dolphins 27-24

Saints (1-0) at Panthers (0-1)

Monday 6:15 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Panthers -3 / 41

There was some faith in the Panthers on the road last week and the Saints were a little disappointing, too, although they won at home. The Saints' running game without Alvin Kamara isn't as dynamic and will give Carolina some break as it can contain the passing game well with its pass rush and corners. But in the end, Derek Carr has a little more receiving and line support than rookie counterpart Bryce Young.

Pick: Saints 20-19

SEC Football Predictions - Week 2



ROBERT CORTINEZ
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SEC was an enigma last week. #3 Alabama gets wore out by Texas and #21 A&M was a dusty doormat for unranked Miami. This season's week three AP rankings have only five SEC teams in the top 25. It is the least number of ranked SEC teams after week three in over 10 years. Barring upsets, if Missouri can beat #15 Kansas State and Arkansas can handle BYU, there will be two more SEC teams in the AP top 25 next week.

*Last week: Straight: 10-4 / ATL 5-6
Season: Straight: 25-4 / ATL: 10-10*

#14 LSU (1-1) @ Mississippi State (2-0)
11:00 a.m. / ESPN
Line: LSU-10 / O/U 53.5

I am partial to the Stark Vegas Bulldogs. Always have been, beginning with the days of Dak Prescott and his #1 AP ranking and through the time of beloved head coach Mike Leach, this team always intrigues. LSU put it on little brother Grambling 72-10, but so what. The Bulldogs took on a decent Pac 12 team and came out the winner in OT, 31-24. Stark Vegas will force LSU head coach Brian Kelly, to blame another facet of his team, other than his coaching, again for this week's loss. Hail State!

Pick: Mississippi State 29 LSU 28

#15 Kansas State (2-0) @ Missouri (2-0)
11:00 a.m. / SECN
Line: Missouri +5 / O/U 47.5

Missouri barely survived Middle Tennessee State 23-19 last week. Kansas State won its first two non-cons by an average of almost 40 points. Missouri struggled to put away a salty Middle Tennessee State in Columbia, 23-19. Missouri RB Corey Schraeder gained 84 yards on 23 carries and QB Brady Cook threw for 204 yards and 2 TD's, a bright spots for the Tigers.

Mizzou has not inspired confidence in its two victories this season. The K-State Wildcats should handle this early season SEC road game.

Pick: Kansas State 34 Missouri 28

South Carolina (1-1) @ #1 Georgia (2-0)
2:30 p.m./CBS

Line: Georgia -27.5 / O/U 54.5

The Gamecocks beat FCS Furman College in Carolina's home opener, 47-21. After trailing 14-7 early in the second quarter, South Carolina reeled off six straight TD's to thwart any upset hopes by the Paladins. QB Spencer Rattler threw for 345 yds and 3 TD's while his back-up La'Norris Sanders was 4 for 4 with 2 TD's. After a scoreless first quarter, #1 Georgia went on a tear, scoring 45 unanswered points before allowing Ball State to score a field goal to end the shut-out. Georgia has the easiest schedule in the SEC, but don't sleep on South Carolina. The Gamecocks traveled to Athens in 2019 and upset the #3 Bulldogs to derail their championship hopes.

Pick: Georgia 38 South Carolina 17

#10 Alabama (1-1) @ South Florida (1-1)
2:30 p.m. / ABC

Line: Alabama -32 / O/U 61.5

Alabama has flinched first in 2023's wide open quest for football glory. The ten-point underdog Texas Longhorns exposed Bama QB, Jalen Milroe's. inconsistent play, beating the Tide in Tuscaloosa 34-24. Bama's head coach Nick Saban called the loss a "mid-term exam" failure, and emphasized that the final exam is yet to come. We'll see how that turns out. South Florida got its first win last week against Florida A&M. The Bulls defense garnered five turnovers and QB Byrum Brown scored 5 TD's for first year head coach Alex Golesh.

Alabama may be a tad hung-over from the Longhorn loss, so should be a good game for at least a half.

Pick: Alabama 34 South Florida 13

UL Monroe (2-0) @ Texas A&M (1-1)
3:00 p.m. / SECN
Line: A&M -36 / O/U 53

Louisiana Monroe is undefeated in 2023, beating Army and Lamar. Skyhawk's head coach Tommy Bowden, son of the late legendary Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, has his team ranked 8th in the country in rushing, averaging 246 yds per game. On the flip side, Monroe's, passing game is ranked 132nd in the country averaging only 95 yards per game. Texas A&M is starting out in the hole once again, losing a winnable road game to Miami, 48-33. Aggies QB Connor Weigman has thrown for 572 yds in two games, but his two interceptions against the Hurricanes were critical in their loss. A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher is 7-10 in his last 17 games but will get the win at

home this week.

Pick: Texas A&M 46 UL Monroe 20

#11 Tennessee (2-0) @ Florida (1-1)
6:00 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Florida +6.5 / O/U 57.5

The Vols dropped two spots in the AP Top 25 after "only" beating Austin Peay, 30-13. The Gators rebounded from its opening loss to #12 Utah, beating McNeese State 41-7 in Gainesville. Florida head coach Billy Napier is still in the honeymoon phase in his second year and would love a huge "Swamp" upset over #11 Tennessee to kickstart his legacy. Tennessee QB Joe Milton III threw for 233 yards and 2 TD's, and his running back Jaylen Wright had over a hundred yards rushing for the second week in this young season. Not sure why the AP drop was so punitive after a win, but the Vols should pass this early season, hostile, road test.

Pick: Tennessee 29 Florida 21

Samford (1-1) @ Auburn (2-0)

6:00 p.m. / SECN+

Line Off

The Auburn Tigers leaned hard on their defense to preserve its west coast road win over the California Golden Bears, 14-10. Auburn's defense held California to 0 for 3 on mid-range field goals attempts before pulling ahead 14-10 early in the fourth quarter. The defense went on to hold the Bears scoreless for the rest of the game. Auburn won despite its offense only gaining 230 total yards and suffering four turnovers.

The Samford Bears will be much easier fodder for the Tigers this week as they return to the Plains, propelling first-year head coach Hugh Freeze to 3-0.

Pick: Auburn 48 Samford 10

Vanderbilt (2-1) @ UNLV (1-1)
6:00 p.m. / CBSSports
Line: Vandy -4.5 / O/U 57.5

Vanderbilt is such an easy team to root for with their reputation of being the Harvard of South. This genteel, southern University has to slug it out with SEC beasts, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and LSU without near the athletic resources of these schools. Nevada Las Vegas head coach Barry Odum, in his first year after vacating the D-coordinator position at Arkansas, got pounded last week at Michigan 35-7.

The odds-makers have made the Commodores the betting favorite based solely on Vandy's SEC pedigree. Hoping Vanderbilt gets to 3-1 on the season, but his game is a coin toss.

Pick: Vanderbilt 27 UNLV 24

Georgia Tech (1-1) @ #17 Ole Miss (2-0)
6:30 p.m. / SECN

Line: Ole Miss -20 / O/U 63

Ole Miss beat #24 Tulane last week on the road, 37-10. Tulane was forced to play its second string QB when its star QB Michael Pratt sat out with an injury. The Rebels had several big plays on offense from its QB Jaxon Dart, including a late 21 yard TD on fourth down. Ole Miss's defense also had a late pick six to help pad the final score. Georgia Tech lost by five points to Louisville in its opener and then beat South Carolina State by 35 points last week. Tech QB Haynes King leads the ACC in total offense and may cause Ole Miss's defense some concern, but not enough for the upset.

Pick: Ole Miss 31 Georgia Tech 17

BYU (2-0) @ Arkansas (2-0)

6:30 p.m. / ESPN2

Line: Arkansas -9 / O/U 51

The Arkansas Razorbacks running game has been non-existent in their two wins over FCS Western Carolina and Kent State which is picked to finish last in the MAC conference. The Hogs only accounted for 277 rush yards averaging just 3.4 yards per carry. Arkansas's QB KJ Jefferson has bailed out this year's offense with his arm and his legs. Saturday will mark BYU's first trip away from Provo, after notching home victories against Sam Houston State and Southern Utah. The game will be the first "real football" test for both of these teams. Arkansas won in Provo last year, but the Cougars went on to finish 8-5 with a win over SMU in the New Mexico Bowl. The victor's reward may result in a nudge into the AP Top 25

Pick: Arkansas 31 BYU 27

Akron (1-1) @ Kentucky (2-0)
6:30 p.m. / ESPNU

Line: Kentucky -26 / O/U 51

The Zips had a unique first two weeks of the 2023 season. Akron lost 24-21 to Temple and then beat Morgan State by the exact score, 24-21. Kentucky had to rally from a third quarter 10-7 deficit to overcome Eastern Kentucky, 28-17. The Wildcats offense was AWOL in the first half, but according to head coach Mark Stoops, the defense "complemented" the offense to come out with the win and be 2-0 on the year. Stoops is hoping for a complete game from both sides of the ball this week.

Don't see the Zips preventing Kentucky from getting to 3-0.

Pick: Kentucky 37 Akron 10

Big 12 week 3 preview and predictions



This will be Houston's first-ever conference game as a Big 12 member

Houston hosts TCU for the first conference game of the season

By *Berry Lewis*

In Week 2, Texas traveled to Tuscaloosa and came away with the big win over Alabama. Week 3, though, doesn't offer us a marquee game like that. Most Big 12 teams wrap up the nonconference part of their season in Week. 3.

The first conference matchup of the season takes place Saturday night as TCU travels to Houston. It will be Houston's first-ever conference game as a member of the Big 12. This will be the 26th time the two teams have met. They played as Southwest Conference foes from 1976-95 and then again as Conference USA foes from 2001-04. Houston leads the series 13-12, but TCU has won the last eight.

The biggest game of the week probably is the return of the Backyard Brawl to Morgantown. The rivalry between West Virginia and Pittsburgh returned last year as the two met in Pittsburgh. This time, the rivalry comes back to Morgantown. It's the first time the game has been in Morgantown since 2011, the last year before West Virginia joined the Big 12.

Kansas State traveling to Missouri and BYU traveling to Arkansas are the only other matchups against Power 5 opponents. Many Big 12 teams take on a Group of 5 team – Oklahoma at Tulsa, Iowa State at Ohio, South Alabama at Oklahoma State, Miami (OH) at Cincinnati, Wyoming at Texas, and Kansas at Nevada. Games against FCS opponents include Long Island University/Brooklyn at Baylor, Villanova at

UCF, and Tarleton State at Texas Tech. 2023 Big 12 Predictions Results

On the season, I am 20-8 in predicting Big 12 games. I've been consistent – going 10-4 in both Week One and Week Two. Last week, I had Pittsburgh beating Cincy, Bama beating Texas, Houston over Rice, and Tech winning over a ranked Oregon team. None of those came true.

Here are the previous predictions from earlier this season:

- Week 1 – 10-4
- Week 2 – 10-4

Big 12 Week 3 Matchups and Predictions

#15 Kansas State (2-0) at Missouri (2-0) Saturday, 11 a.m., SEC Network Line: K-State -4 / 48

It's the best competition the Wildcats have seen all season, but until I see anything different, I'm staying on the EMAW train. K-State finishes the nonconference season 3-0 and looks to begin conference play next week, hosting UCF.

Pick: Kansas State 28 Missouri 24

Iowa State (1-1) at Ohio (2-1) Saturday, 11 a.m., ESPNU Line: Iowa State -3 / 42.5

The Cyclones didn't look too bad against a now-ranked Iowa team. Look for Iowa State to hold on and get the win on the road.

Pick: Iowa State 27 Ohio 20

Baylor (0-2) vs. LIU/Brooklyn (0-2) Saturday, 11 a.m., ESPN+ Line: NL

The year has started roughly for the Bears. Look for the Bears to get their first win of the season easily.

Pick: Baylor 42 LIU 10

#19 Oklahoma (2-0) at Tulsa (1-1) Saturday, 2:30 p.m., ESPN2 Line: Oklahoma -27.5 / 60

The Sooners hit the road for the first time and bring back an easy blowout win over the Hurricanes.

Pick: Oklahoma 38 Tulsa 14

UCF (2-0) vs. Villanova (2-0) Saturday, 5:30 p.m., ESPN+ Line: NL

UCF quarterback John Rhys Plumlee is injured. The Knights will have to figure out how to play without their star, but they shouldn't have to worry this week. Not having Rhys Plumlee next week when they play at Kansas State will be an issue.

Pick: UCF 50 Villanova 7

Oklahoma St.(2-0) vs. S. Alabama (1-1) Saturday, 6 p.m., ESPN+ Line: Oklahoma State -7 / 48

The Pokes got a good win last week on the road against a soon-to-be conference foe, Arizona State. They shouldn't have any problem at home this week. Once again, Gundy gets his team off to a 3-0 start.

Pick: Oklahoma State 37 SAU 30

Texas Tech (0-2) vs. Tarleton State (2-0) Saturday, 6 p.m., ESPN+ Line: NL

Just like with Baylor, the year hasn't started on the right foot for Tech. Look for them to take care of Tarleton State easily. Toss Tarleton some cash and tortillas, and all will be right this week.

Pick: Texas Tech 56 TSU 17

Cincinnati (2-0) vs. Miami (OH) (1-1) Saturday, 6 p.m., ESPN+ Line: Cincinnati -14.5 / 45.5

The Bearcats have looked impressive to start the season. I'll give them this win. Then the fun begins next week when they host Oklahoma for their first-ever Big 12 conference game.

Pick: Cincinnati 40 Miami 24

West Virginia (1-1) vs. Pittsburgh (1-1) Saturday, 6:30 p.m., ABC Line: WVU -1 / 48

Backyard Brawl! This should be fun, just to watch the antics. These two teams don't like each other. And weird things happen in Morgantown. Let's see what you've got, Neal Brown. I think the Mountaineers get this win. It will be close,

but a win is a win.

Pick: West Virginia 24 Pitt 23 BYU (2-0) at Arkansas (2-0) Saturday, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2 Line: Arkansas -8.5 / 47.5

The Cougars got two good wins to start. Now, they play in the hostile environment of Fayetteville. Road wins are hard in SEC country. Give this one to the Hogs.

Pick: Arkansas 31 BYU 24

#4 Texas (2-0) vs. Wyoming (2-0) Saturday, 7 p.m., Longhorn Network Line: Texas -28.5 / 48.5

Wyoming got a season-opening win over one team from Texas. But that was in two overtimes and in Laramie over Tech. This one is in Austin. Longhorns easily take care of business.

Pick: Texas 41 Wyoming 30

Houston (1-1) vs. TCU (1-1) Saturday, 7 p.m., Fox Line: TCU -7.5 / 64.5

This is the season's first Big 12 conference game and Houston's first-ever conference game as a Big 12 member. Neither team has shown us much defense. But look for the Frogs to get their act together and get the win.

Pick: TCU 38 Houston 35

Kansas 2-0) at Nevada (0-2) Saturday, 9:30 p.m., CBS Sports Line: Kansas -28 / 58.5

Last year, Kansas got the college football world excited with an unexpected 5-0 start. Can they do it again? Perhaps. They certainly can at least get off to a 3-0 start. Jayhawks for the win

Pick: Kansas 48 Nevada 20

Big 12 STANDINGS		
TEAM	Conf.	Overall
BYU	0-0	2-0
Cincinnati	0-0	2-0
Kansas	0-0	2-0
Kansas State	0-0	2-0
Oklahoma	0-0	2-0
Oklahoma St	0-0	2-0
Texas	0-0	2-0
UCF	0-0	2-0
Houston	0-0	1-1
Iowa State	0-0	1-1
TCU	0-0	1-1
WestVirginia	0-0	1-1
Baylor	0-0	0-2
Texas Tech	0-0	0-2

SMU hosts Prairie View A&M Saturday



Prairie View A&M will be SMU's only game against an FCS HBCU opponent

Prairie View A&M (1-1) at SMU (1-1)
Saturday, 6 p.m / ESPN+
Line: NL

Prairie View A&M will visit Dallas to take on SMU at Gerald J. Ford Stadium on Saturday evening. One of these teams will get a much-needed rebound from a recent loss. SMU lost to Oklahoma, while PVAMU was taken down by Abilene Christian 45-16.

With no recent history between these teams, early possessions could really set the tone. Each side will be looking to make a mark early and take control of the game.

SMU (1-1 Overall) The Mustangs enter with a 1-1 record on the season. They are scoring an average of 24.5 points per contest, with a total of 6 touchdowns on the year. The Mustangs' defense is conceding an average of 317 yards and 21.0 points per game. Preston Stone is looking to continue the play he showcased in SMU's last game. Stone threw for 250 yards and one touchdown in the team's loss. SMU's offensive play selection split thus far this year has been 53% pass, 47% run. They've only had one home game this season, in which they put up 38.0 points to come away with the win. This is SMU's only game against an FCS HBCU opponent.

The Panthers' record sits at 1-1 on the

season coming into this game. They are averaging 26.5 points per contest, while accumulating a total of six touchdowns so far this year. On the other side of the ball, the Panthers' defense is giving up an average of 39.5 points per game. Quarterback Trazon Connley will be leading Prairie View A&M in this one. Connley has averaged 232.5 pass yards per game with season totals of two touchdowns and two interceptions thus far this season. Prairie View A&M has a rush-heavy offense, with a 66-34 rush-pass play selection split.

Prairie View A&M enters after putting up a 6-5 campaign in 2022. They've only had one away game this season, in which they put up 37.0 points to come away with the win. This is Prairie View A&M's only game against an AAC opponent this season

SETTING THE SCENE

- Coming off a hard-fought loss at No. 18 Oklahoma, SMU returns home to host Prairie View A&M on Saturday at 6 p.m.

- SMU played host OU tough, cutting the lead to 14-11 with 12 minutes to play before two late OU TDs made the final 28-11.

QUICK HITS

- SMU has outgained both teams it has played in total yards this season.
- The Mustangs outgained the Sooners in

total yards, 367-365.

- SMU had 10 different players catch a pass for the second straight game.
- Preston Stone set career highs in completions (26) and yards (250) against the Sooners.
- Jake Bailey had a season-best seven catches for 73 yards receiving at Oklahoma.
- Jaylan Knighton had 103 all-purpose yards (15-76 rushing, 3-27 receiving)

THE SERIES

- This is the first meeting between the two schools.

ABOUT THE PANTHERS

- Prairie View A&M dropped its home opener last weekend to Abilene Christian, 45-16.
- Trazon Connley leads the team in passing with 465 yards and two passing touchdowns.

THE COACHES

- Rhett Lashlee is in his second season as the head coach at SMU and has an 8-7 career record. Lashlee, who served as offensive coordinator for the Mustangs for two seasons (2018-19), also served as the offensive coordinator at Miami in 2020 and 2021. A one-time finalist (2013) and two-time semifinalist (2019, 2020) for the Broyles Award, Lashlee has the distinction of being the only coach ever nominated for the Broyles Award four different times at four different schools (Arkansas State, Auburn, SMU, Miami).

- Bubba McDowell is in his second season as head coach of the Panthers. McDowell has a career record of 7-6. He is in his 11th season as a part of the Prairie View A&M coaching staff that included four seasons as an assistant head coach. He also coached the Panther cornerbacks for three seasons.

Other games around the AAC:

Week 3 of the 2023 college football season includes 13 games involving AAC teams. Our computer model likes Tulsa (+27.5) against Oklahoma and betting the over/under in the Florida Atlantic vs. Clemson matchup as best bets or parlay options.

Oklahoma (2-0) at Tulsa (1-1)
Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN2
Line: Oklahoma -27.5 / 60
Pick: Tulsa +27.5

Navy (1-1) at Memphis (2-0)
Thursday, 6:30 / ESPN
Line: Memphis -13.5 / 47
Pick: Memphis -13.5

Army (1-1) at UTSA (1-1)
Friday, 6:00 / ESPN
Line: UTSA -8.5 / 44.5S

Pick: UTSA -8.5

East Carolina (0-2) at App. State (1-1)
Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN+
Line: Appalachian State -8.5 / 47.5
Pick: East Carolina +9.5

Florida Atlantic (1-1) at Clemson (1-1)
Saturday, 7:00 / ACC Network
Line: Clemson -24.5 / 51.5
Pick: Florida Atlantic +24.5

Tulane (1-1) at Southern Miss (1-1)
Saturday, 3:00 / ESPNU
Line: Tulane -13 / 49.5
Pick: Tulane -13

Louisiana (1-1) at UAB (1-1)
Saturday, 6:00 / ESPN+
Line: UAB -2.5 / 59.5
Pick: UAB -2.5

Norfolk State (0-2) at Temple (1-1)
Saturday, 1:00 / ESPN+
Line: Temple +36.5
Pick: Temple +36.5

Alabama (1-1) at South Florida (1-1)
Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN3
Line: Alabama -33 / 66.5
Pick: Alabama +33.5

Georgia State (2-0) at Charlotte (1-1)
Saturday, 5:00 / ESPN+
Line: Georgia State -7.5 / 52
Pick: Charlotte +7.5

North Tex. (0-2) at Louisiana Tech (1-1)
Saturday, 6:00 / ESPN+
Line: Louisiana Tech -4.5 / 69
Pick: UNT +4.5

Texas Southern (1-1) at Rice (1-1)
Saturday, 6:00 / ESPN+
Line: Rice -37.5 / 60
Pick: Rice -37.5

American Athletic Conference		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Memphis	0-0	2-0
Charlotte	0-0	1-1
FL Atlantic	0-0	1-1
Navy	0-0	1-1
Rice	0-0	1-1
SMU	0-0	1-1
USF	0-0	1-1
Temple	0-0	1-1
Tulane	0-0	1-1
Tulsa	0-0	1-1
UAB	0-0	1-1
UTSA	0-0	1-1
EastCarolina	0-0	0-2
UNT	0-0	0-2

College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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Notre Dame is now 29-0 during regular-season contests against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents in football since 2017 after downing NC State last weekend on the road. Miami (Fla.) edged the Fighting Irish most recently during scheduled play 20-17 in '17, and Clemson topped the Irish both in the 2018 College Football Playoff semifinals and in 2020 in the Dr Pepper ACC Championship skirmish. Seventeen of the 29 straight triumphs have been at road sites for UND.

Thousands of tributes were dedicated at college and NFL football and other sporting events around America from Sept. 9-11 on the 22-year anniversary of what is now known as Patriot Day – Sept. 11, 2001. Almost 3,000 people in New York City and Washington, D.C., perished in the attacks. The day that changed U.S. and world history forever included at least 10 documented former college football student-athletes: California's Brent Woodall, Georgetown (D.C.)'s Joe Eocobacci, David Pruim (Hope, Mich.), James Gray and Daniel Suhr (College of the Desert, Calif.), Christopher Gray of West Virginia, Rob Lenoir of Duke, Tom Burnett of St. Thomas (Minn.), Michael Horrocks of West Chester, and Eric Bennett of Ferris

State. Former Vanderbilt baseball captain Ryan Hindy also apparently passed away instantly while working in the World Trade Center towers in New York.

Virginia paid tribute to deceased football student-athletes who attempted to stop a campus shooting episode last January - Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis & D'Sean Perry – with helmet, T-shirt and field recognition of their numbers 1, 15 and 41 and several memorials for their families as the Cavaliers hosted James Madison. It was the Cavaliers first regulation home game (besides the UVa spring contest) against James Madison since the tragedy took place Nov. 13, 2022, in Charlottesville, Va. Teammate and shooting survivor Mike Hollins carried the Virginia Strong flag onto the field in pregame remembrances. The Cavaliers cancelled their final two games in 2022 after Nov. 13 in the players' memory.

NFF research has denoted 2,949 football student-athletes on current rosters who are seeking advanced degrees or additional majors. The NFF compiled the list with the help of sports information directors from all divisions of the NCAA and NAIA who identified the players on their 2023 fall rosters who have earned their undergraduate degrees. A total of 235 schools responded. Some notable players include Cooper Beebe (Kansas State and a 2023 NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® nominee), Jayden Daniels (LSU), Tommy Eichenberg (Ohio State), Frank Harris (UTSA), Sam Hartman (Notre Dame), Devin Leary (Kentucky), Ladd McConkey (Georgia and a 2023 Campbell Trophy Nominee), Joe Milton (Tennessee), Tanner Mordecai (Wisconsin), Bo Nix (Oregon and a 2023 Campbell Trophy® nominee) Michael Penix Jr. (Washington), John Rhys Plumlee (UCF), Cam Rising (Utah) and Jordan Travis (Florida State). Notably, QB

Trey Lowe (Liberty via West Virginia and Southern Miss with two degrees) and LB Elijah McAllister (Auburn via Vanderbilt where he earned bachelor's and master's sheepskins) are believed to be the only two FBS players in the country working towards their doctoral degrees.

Upcoming NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes presented by Fidelity Investments are Saturday, Sept. 16: Terance Mathis, New Mexico (vs. New Mexico State); Sept. 23: Michael Stonebreaker, Notre Dame (vs. Ohio State); Sept. 30: Coach Roy Kramer, Central Michigan (vs. Eastern Michigan); Robert Gallery, Iowa (vs. Michigan State); and DeAngelo Williams, Memphis (vs. Boise State).

The NFL begins its 54th season of Monday Night Football telecasts on ABC or ESPN when the Buffalo Bills travel to meet the New York Jets on primary ESPN and ESPN social media with kickoff at 8:15 p.m. (EDT).

The 2023 65th NFF Awards Dinner will be hosted by the ARIA Resort and Casino and City of Las Vegas on Tuesday, Dec. 10. For ticketing and additional information, please access Footballfoundation.com. As the official airline of the NFF, Delta Air Lines is offering special airfares to attendees of the Awards Dinner with the meeting code NM2GQ when booking on via the Delta Meeting Network at 800-328-1111.

The NFF also is offering a special 76th anniversary membership appreciation package for the Protector of the Game Project with the countless NFF supporters who have advanced football since 1947. As part of its celebration, the NFF has created a special commemorative 76th anniversary T-shirt. Fans can join as a Silver Member and receive a high-performance commemorative two-color "Spirit of 76 Years" T-shirt with or as a Gold Member to receive the T-shirt with a four-color logo. Please access the membership offer via Footballfoundation.org/ and go to the membership link.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 11-17 time period are Sept. 11 (1897) Stan Keck, Greensburg, Pa.; (1908) Biggie Munn, Grow Township, Minn.; (1913) Paul Bryant, Moro Bottom, Ark.; (1978) Ed Reed, St. Rose, La.; Sept. 12 (1891) John Brown, Canton, Pa.; (1964) Lynn Thomsen, Sioux City, Iowa; (1989) Andrew Luck, Washington, D.C.; Sept. 13 (1898) Glenn Killinger, Harrisburg, Pa.; (1904) Joe Aillet, New York City; (1906) Chuck Carroll, Seattle, Wash.; (1915) Clint Frank, St. Louis, Mo.; (1922) Ziggy

Czarowski, Chicago, 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, Ill.; (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, Kan.; Sept. 16 (1927) Bob Ward, Elizabeth, N.J.; (1954) Wilbert Montgomery, Greenville, Miss.; Sept. 17 (1897) Ed Travis, Tarkio, Mo.; (1909) Bill Morton, New Rochelle, N.Y.; (1910) Cliff Montgomery, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (1913) James Moscrip, Adena, Ohio; (1960) Anthony Carter, Riviera Beach, Florida.

Some notable anniversaries of passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are Sept. 11 (1973) Belford West, Cooperstown, N.Y.; (2010) Ron Kramer, Fenton, Mich.; Sept. 13 (2000) Thurman "Fum" McGraw, Ft. Collins, Colo.; Sept. 14 (1950) John Maulbetsch, Ann Arbor, Mich.; (2019) John Ralston, Sunnyvale, Calif.; Sept. 15 (2001) Tank Younger, Inglewood, Calif.; Sept. 16 (1966) Jim Holder, In Combat in Vietnam; (1986) Darold Jenkins, Independence, Mo.; (2007) Buster Ramsey, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Sept. 17 (2021) Roger Brown, Portsmouth, Virginia.

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born Sept. 11 Ed Reed, Sept. 12 Lynn Thomsen, Andrew Luck, Sept. 14 Rich McGeorge, Troy Davis, Michael Crabtree, Sept. 15 Dan Marino, Will Shields, Sept. 16 Wilbert Montgomery, Sept. 17 Anthony Carter...

LSU and USC will meet in the Sept. 1, 2024, Las Vegas (Nev.) Kickoff Classic... The Missouri Valley Football Conference has released its updated 2024 schedule starting with Sept. 28 games Murray State at North Dakota, North Dakota State at Illinois State, Southern Illinois at South Dakota, and Youngstown State at Missouri State... Sam Houston and Colorado State have a 2027 and '28 series slated... Lehigh and Princeton will resume their historic series from 2027-29 after meeting again in 2024... The Barton at Davidson contest scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 9, was moved up to Friday, Sept. 8, due to severe weather forecasts in the Mid-Atlantic area... Purdue and Virginia Tech were saddled with a 4-1/2-hour severe weather delay last week. The game was scheduled for a noon (EDT) kickoff

(continued on page 16)

and ended at 8:58 p.m.(EDT), almost nine hours later...Rice rolled to a surprising 28-7 halftime lead over Houston for the Bayou Bucket trophy and held on to win 43-41 in double overtime at Rice Stadium..Midnight (and post-midnight) Saturday Special scores from Sunday morning were Auburn 14, California 10; USC 56, Stanford 10; and Oklahoma State 27, Arizona State 15..

Iowa State was seeking consecutive victories over Iowa last weekend for the first time since 2011-12 before falling 20-13. Washington State football honored late WSU head coach Mike Leach last week during the WSU-Wisconsin contest with several pirate-themed T-shirts and family recognition...SMU athletics had a brief pep rally with fans, the marching band and spirit groups on Sept. 1 at the Armstrong Indoor Practice Center after its Atlantic Coast Conference membership revelation...Alabama football fans joined a recorded edition of the song Margaritaville in arousing singalong at halftime of the UA-Middle Tennessee season opener in memory of late pop singer and Margaritaville composer Jimmy Buffett. The Vanderbilt student newspaper The Hustler is accepting anonymous surveys about likes and dislikes on the VU campus in September. So far the football program has received numerous likes.

Oregon State head coach Jonathan Smith is now 19-9 since August 2021 for the Beavers' best 28-game skein since the 2007-09 OSU squads closed 26-13 with a pair of bowl victories over three years...Harlon Barnett has taken over as interim head coach for former head coach Mel Tucker at Michigan State...Boise State head coach Andy Avalos said that his team needs to develop a certain positive rhythm on both sides of the ball to be successful again throughout '23...Maryland head coach Mike Locksley fondly remembered his son Meiko, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 21, in a national story...Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney needs one ACC victory against Florida State Sept. 23 to become the second head coach in history with 100 ACC career victories. The first was NFF College Hall of Fame coach Bobby Bowden with 105 triumphs while Florida State was a member of the ACC from 1992-2007...Texas Tech head coach Joey McGuire was glad to get back to Lubbock, Texas, and home attendees after facing a loud and boisterous Wyoming road crowd in the season opener...Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman sees even more in-season improvement from a hustling defense...Tulsa offensive coordinator Steve Spurrier Jr. has drawn kudos for jump-starting the Golden Hurricane attack side this fall.

Hometowns of more 2023 college head coaches – Maryland: Mike Locksley, Washington, D.C.; Maryville (Tenn.): Ben Fox, Gray, Tenn.; Massachusetts: Don Brown, Spencer, Mass.; McNeese: Gary Goff, Picayune, Miss.; Memphis: Ryan Silverfield, Jacksonville, Florida.

Kansas director of athletics Travis Goff seems satisfied with the Big 12 Conference's acquisition of four new members for 2024 and is making preparations for Olympic sports' squads to take longer and sometimes more challenging road trips starting with August 2024...Chattanooga AD Mark Wharton expressed pleasure with upgrades at UTC's Wolford Family Athletic Center, Mocs Club membership increases by 220 percent, the One Chattanooga NIL program, and emulating successful programs in fundraising and operations' concepts...Lindenwood AD Jason Coomer mentioned the high-level accoutrements of moving to NCAA Division I, joining the Missouri Valley Conference, and upcoming NCAA Transformation Committee recommendations. The LU football squad is part of the FCS Ohio Valley-Big South Conference scheduling alliance...Stanford AD Bernard Muir plans to continue the historic Notre Dame-Stanford football series as the Cardinal enters the ACC in July 2024...Buffalo AD Mark Alnutt is helping prepare a NIL collective for the Bulls in coming days...SMU AD Rick Hart extolled the virtues of the Mustangs joining the ACC and how the on the Mustangs will make up potential lost revenue from existing ACC media rights' contracts...Nevada AD Stephanie Rempe complimented her staff and marketing department for a 2023 increase in football season and individual ticket sales...Louisiana Tech AD Eric A. Wood explained his moves up the ladder to gaining the top position at Tech in a podcast last week...Iowa State AD Jamie Pollard and staff are working to resolve some slow-moving entry lines at Jack Trice Stadium for early games and extra security positions to help handle the pre-kickoff admission...LSU women's basketball head coach Kim Mulkey has inked a 10-year contract extension valued at approximately \$32 million with incentives...Longtime sports scribe Dave Matter is the new assistant AD for communications and storytelling at Missouri...ULM selected David Reed as senior associate AD...Kansas tabbed Dan Simon as senior associate AD for development...The Florida State The Battle's End NIL tabbed Max Moody as chief operating officer...UC Santa Barbara tabbed Maddison Ittner as associate AD for academic services, deputy AD and senior woman administrator...Drexel added Katie Lane as women's rowing head coach and Matt Weaver as men's rowing head coach...UAPB added three years to the contract of women's basketball head coach Dawn Thornton...Oregon State men's basketball assistant head coach Eric Reveno is using motivational books to inspire student-athletes and provide out of classroom education...Maine provost and executive vice president of academic affairs John Volin has been selected for the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics...UNI extended volleyball head coach Bobbi Petersen's contract through the 2028 season...

...Attorney and Duke adjunct law professor Len Simon looked over and dissected various state laws' differences in governing NIL agreements...Washington has enlisted the Parker Executive Search, which has helped locate previous Big 12 Conference commissioners and hundreds of key collegiate administrators on all levels, in the Huskies search for an AD...Kevin Fralicks is completing his tenure as executive director of the North Texas Alumni Association on Sept. 15...Missouri State (assistant AD for compliance and academic services), Tulane (associate director of college advising), Duke (athletics academic coordinator), and the Professional Pickleball Association (public relations associate) have posted positions for immediate hirings for open positions in athletics...Georgia football player connection coordinator Jarvis Jones is seeking reinstatement after being placed on personal leave...D1Ticker.com has new listings for positions in athletics for Cornell, Duquesne, Maryland, Miami (Fla.), Oklahoma, Pittsburgh, Vanderbilt, Stetson, South Dakota, Texas A&M-Commerce, Colgate, Illinois State, Johnson C. Smith, Monmouth, Saint Peter's N.J.), Missouri Southern, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Temple, Wyoming, and South Carolina State.

Colorado's win over Nebraska in an early game last Saturday was the 14th consecutive victory for Pac-12 Conference over non-circuit opponents to begin the season, and the Pac-12 streak was extended to 18-0 before Mississippi State edged Arizona in overtime in Starkville, Miss...Oregon State and Washington State have taken legal measures to assure their continuing control of Pac-12 revenue, branding rights and NCAA Championship automatic bids as they look at possible league reformation...American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco is holding onto a footprint within current loop boundaries of the AAC geographical footprint if there is expansion. He is not in favor of expanding as high as 16 members and feels 12-14 membership is more sensible...West Georgia will be leaving the Gulf South Conference to re-classify to NCAA FCS as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference starting in 2024-25...The American Athletic Conference featured six first-time matchups among 14 non-conference opportunities on Aug. 31-Sept. 2...The West Coast Conference named Connie Hurlbut executive associate commissioner and senior woman administrator...The CAA will utilize the Grabby Group as live clips' distributor, live social video content update media team and instant game highlights' provider...The Northeast Conference gained Niagara as an associate member in women's bowling starting in December...The Atlantic Sun Conference has obtained SERVPRO as title sponsor for the inaugural ASUN Basketball Tipoff in October.

Former Washington AD Jen Cohen may resign from her post with the College

Football Playoff selection committee as the new AD at USC and will be replaced to complete the 13-member advisory board for the CFP...College Football Playoff executive director Bill Hancock does not believe that four possible super conferences will dominate the FBS landscape and that the 12-team model still is the best solution for upcoming seasons post-2024...The Goodyear Cotton Bowl has added 2023-24 Fred McClure Interns Makyle Sanders (former North Texas student-athlete) and John Womack (son of SEC senior associate commissioner Mark Womack)...Coastal Carolina is seeking a fourth consecutive bowl bid after moving into NCAA FBS activity prior to the 2020 campaign...Colorado is looking for its first bowl appearance in '23 since the 2020 Valero Alamo Bowl and its first postseason victory since the 2004 Houston Bowl over UTEP...The Goodyear Cotton Bowl Foundation charity and scholarship projects will be participating in North Texas Giving Day Sept. 21 and has received early donations.

Washington QB Michael Penix Jr. is off to a sterling start with 57-of-78 passing for 859 yards, eight touchdowns and one interception through two encounters...Mississippi State QB Will Rogers now leads the Southeastern Conference mark with 1,827 career total offense plays and is tied with or holds 31 MSU game, season or career marks in all categories. He had a career-fewest 17 pass attempts (13 completions) in a win over Arizona...Miami (Fla.) QB Tyler Van Dyke tossed a career-high five touchdown passes in a 48-33 win over Texas A&M...Florida State sack specialist Jared Verse has played a major role in the Seminoles first two season wins over a five-day span...Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders was the Week One Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week. CU RB Dylan Edwards earned the initial Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week laurel...Oregon QB Bo Nix has helped the Ducks account for 139 points in their first two winning outings over Portland State and Texas Tech...Oklahoma State transfer DL Mason Cobb at USC is making waves for the Trojans run defense...Tennessee is 13-2 over the last two seasons thanks to quarterback play by Michigan transfer Joe Milton III...Louisville QB Jack Plummer transferred from Purdue to accompany former Boilermakers head coach Jeff Brohm to his new ACC assignment, and the pair has led to early success for the Cardinals...Michigan State transfer WR Keon Coleman (three TD catches against LSU) has become a key factor in Florida State's rejuvenated 2023 offense...Florida Atlantic RB Larry McCammon III expressed satisfaction after withdrawing from the NCAA transfer portal and returning to the Owls...Texas A&M DL Shemar Stewart shared the experience of returning to Miami, Fla., to face the hometown Hurricanes last

(continued on page 18)

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week ...Kansas backup QB Jason Bean has filled in nicely while preseason Big 12 Conference Offensive Player of the Year Jalen Daniels has been on the mend from an earlier injury....Colorad two-way stand-out Travis Hunter was chosen as FWAA Bronko Nagurski Award National Player of the Week after his showing against TCU... Texas State QB TJ Finley continues to show new abilities in the TSU offense after transferring from Auburn...North Carolina QB Drake Maye, like his counterpart at Duke QB Riley Leonard, is a potential NCAA Division I basketball standout if situations dictate...Wake Forest transfer DB (via Vanderbilt) Brendon Harris ran back a fumble recovery 31 yards to spark a Demon Deacons verdict over the visiting Commodores...Mississippi State kicker Kyle Ferrie was named SEC Freshman of the Week for his debut showing against Southeastern Louisiana...Eastern Michigan received a rare, two-touchdown performance on kickoff returns by Jaylon Jackson and Hamze El-Zayat to edge stubborn NCAA FCS opponent Howard...South Carolina LB Mohamed Kaba is out for the season with a knee injury, and the Gamecocks are hoping to get back several regulars from nagging ailments in coming days...Oklahoma State QB Alan Bowman is a six-year "COVID-19" senior via Michigan and Texas Tech transfers ...University of Calgary (Canada) DB Jacob Biggs was highlighted for his early-season body of work...North Carolina's Tez Walker had a meeting with the NCAA Eligibility Committee on Sept. 7 regarding to gaining 2023 eligibility, and his appeal was denied...Some of the future collegiate stars on the 2023 Dick Butkus High School Linebacker of the Year Award are Jeremiah Beasley, Bellville, Mich.; Ja'Qualin Birdsong, LaGrange (Ga.) Troup County HS, Jaylen Boardley, Texarkana (Texas) Pleasant Grove HS, Sammy Brown, Jefferson, Ga.; Cam Buffington, Winfield (Iowa) Mount Union HS; and Bodie Calhoun, Roanoke (Va.) Patrick Henry HS...Iowa State is seeking reinstatement for football standout Jake Remsburg after a six-game NCAA suspension following game wagering allegations. NFF College Hall of Fame QB Doug Williams of Grambling and the Williams Center saluted the NFL Philadelphia Eagles for hiring women and persons of color and multiple colleges for promoting gender equity in hiring and student-athletes' competition...NFF College Hall of Fame member Dick Butkus was featured with his nephew and fellow Illinois alumnus Luke Butkus, the offensive line coach of the NFL Green Bay Packers, before last week's Packers-Chicago Bears contest...NFF College Hall of Fame member Peyton Manning of Tennessee and NFF National Scholar-Athlete Eli Manning of Ole Miss have begun their popular off-brand discussions with special guests such as Tom Brady and Reese Witherspoon, among others, on ESPN Monday Night

Football telecasts...Peyton Manning also addressed a record crowd at the NFF Little Rock (Ark.) Touchdown Club last week...NFF College Hall of Fame coach and QB Steve Spurrier Sr. expressed his thoughts about the initial success of fellow Hall of Famer (and Nissan Heisman House advertising collaborator) and current Colorado head coach Deion Sanders who played at Florida State...NFF College Hall of Fame LB Brian Bosworth has been generating plenty of laughs in his latest television advertisements with NIL funds' collector and 2022 Heisman Trophy recipient QB Caleb Williams of USC on Dr Pepper commercials. Williams is depicted holding onto a light pole in a gale as Dr Pepper mythical Fansville sheriff Bosworth shouts, "It's the NIL!"...The Scottsbluff (Neb.) High School Athletic Hall of Fame has denoted its latest class of honorees with the likes of Paul Mohr Sr., Gerald Ferguson, Bus Whitehead, Ray Knaub, Richard Knaub, Gary Neibauer, Frosty Anderson, Bud Murray, and coaches Wayne Binfield, Bill Connor and Jim Barker, among others...Former Syracuse and NFL standout WR Mike Williams was injured severely at a construction site in Tampa, Florida last week and has hospitalized in serious condition.

Nebraska received a record \$354.5 million in new funds commitments through June 30 via the Only in Nebraska: A Campaign for Our University's Future....The Florida State Board of Trustees approved \$255 million in renovations at Doak Campbell Stadium with 16,000 new club seating and loge level seats...Colorado football had sales of \$300,000-plus in individual game tickets for the remaining four non-sellout home gatherings. Last Saturday's old Big 6-7-8-12 Conference matchup with Big Ten member Nebraska in Boulder was a preseason sellout...Buffalo athletics netted a record \$4.37 million and another \$5.4 million in verbal commitments during fiscal 2023 for a 6.5 percent increase from the previous year...Coastal Carolina had a groundbreaking for its \$20 million football indoor practice facility with a 100-yard turf field, video rooms, athletics training facilities, and updated storage areas...UTSA athletics nabbed a \$2 million donation from San Antonio's Harvey Najim for the Roadrunners Football Fund and 7,100 season tickets purchased...Tulane is off to a 1-1 start with a win over South Alabama and home loss to Ole Miss despite losing all five of its 2022 leading tacklers. The Green Wave expects younger defenders to keep responding deeper into the campaign...Duke's 28-7 upset of then-No. 9 Clemson was the first by the Blue Devils since then -NFF College Hall of Fame player and coach Steve Spurrier Sr. guided the 1989 Blue Devils past Top 10-rated Florida State...Army West Point has a Fruits of Victory strategic plan, which started in a positive manner last Saturday with a 57-0 Black Knights win over Delaware

State...California Legends NIL collective for the Cal Golden Bears gathered \$1.2 million over a two-day period with a matching \$500,000 gift from famed UC alumnus and NFL Washington Commanders head coach Ron Rivera....Louisville athletics has endowed the 502Circle NIL collective as the Cardinals' official NIL partner...Washington Huskies officials expressed the difficulty and some degree of losing traditions as the university begins its transition to the ACC....Colorado football produced a special Know Before You Go brochure and internet notice about best procedures, parking, bag policy, and other items before the CU-Nebraska home opener and remaining tussles at Folsom Field...East Carolina football has enacted its heat management game operations until further notice or cooling climes...Fordham is naming its former football and soccer stadium Jack Coffey Field in honor of Rams alumnus Joe Moglia, the former head coach and current chair of athletics at Coastal Carolina....Under Armour has placed fashion designer John Varvatos in a new, fulltime position as chief design officer after he had been consulting with the group for years...Advance priority seating deposits for the SMU Gary Weber End Zone Complex are available to purchase through Nov. 17...Chalk one up more key win for NCAA FCS over a FBS opponent after Southern Illinois upended Northern Illinois 17-11 Saturday afternoon. Later last weekend FCS Eastern Washington upended Fresno State 30-24...Oklahoma's 73 points in the season opener against Arkansas State represented the highest tally since the 1917 Sooners topped Central Oklahoma 99-0 as a member of the Southwest Conference...Old Dominion athletics will have the Podium X Group for future professional development...St. Joseph's (Pa.) athletics and Playfly Aspire will provide a new ticket sales and service partnership.. Virginia Tech athletics will employ Prohibet for cross-monitoring and notifications in cases of sports wagering....Vanderbilt had a special offer for future game tickets at \$120 for a pair along with a gift certificate to Assembly Food Hall...College tennis student-athlete alumni made up 20 standouts in the U.S. Open Tennis Championship at Forest Hills, N.Y.. ...The Big League Advance Fund has received jurisprudence notification about a NIL arrangement for a Florida student-athlete in 2022-23....No. 5 nationally Stanford women's volleyball just completed a sweep of Rice and Texas and moved into home matches with Big Ten powers Ohio State and Minnesota...The UNC Greensboro Spartans Unite NIL collective is expected to be one of the top revenue producers among mid-major universities...Mississippi State has intercepted seven passes in its last two contests against Pac-12 Conference member Arizona and is now 7-5 all-time on overtime contests after downing the Wildcats 31-24 in one extra

stanza. MSU is 7-2 in its last nine OT clashes...The Oregon State Dam Nation NIL collective has a \$1 million fundraising challenge with one donor offering matching funds for each gift...Ball State football has updated its game day fan experiences with a Student Experience tailgating area, the Cardinal Walk, Charlie's Kids Club, and premium seating/concourse improvements...Memphis athletics and Altius Sports Partners now have a joint operating agreement for UM's NIL Athlete Services Department...San Diego athletics is partnered with the Tixr Group for Toreros' exclusive ticketing options...Florida State athletics and HanesBrands will continue their contract for FSU apparel and major retail sales...The financial analysis firm Clifton, Larson Allen, LLP utilized projected revenue and expense data to discern a composite \$20.9 billion in revenue for current NCAA Division I athletics programs by the completion of the 2031-32 competitive year...

ESPN's Ryan McGee captured the spirit of recovery for cancer survivor and cancer cure advocate as well as NFF Chris Schenkel Award recipient Eli Gold in a feature as Gold continues his school-record 35th season as play-by-play radio voice for Alabama football...The Wichita (Kan.) Eagle newspaper's Kellis Robinett interviewed Kansas State AD Gene Taylor about the Wildcats across-the-board success in the win-loss column and superlative fan support...The award-winning telecast Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel will finish its 29-year run on HBO at the end of the current season...FanNation.com has speculated about candidates for the Washington AD's position with Oregon State's Scott Barnes, Nevada's Stephanie Rempe, St. John's (N.Y.) Mike Cragg, LSU's Scott Woodward, and retired Iowa AD Gary Barta...The Disney Co. and Charter Communications are continuing negotiations to bring back ESPN networks to Charter customers/ ESPN has asked 15-million-plus Charter customers to consider alternatives to that cable provider...Famed analyst Chris Mortensen of El Camino (Calif.) College is retiring from ESPN...ESPN's new College GameDay powered by Home Depot's introductory song has drawn kudos from many fans and media...CBS Sports reporter Matt Norlander is anxious to see how a 20-team ACC basketball conference will function starting in 2024-25 and if the conference will play a single-game, round-robin regular season. He also wonders if all 18 teams will play in the ACC postseason tourney...ESPN's Pete Thamel added discussion about expansion of the American Athletic Conference...SA Today's Dan Wolken delved into the heady existential challenges of how college athletics differs from pro sports...

The Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer newspaper's Luke DeCock explained how the ACC's longtime multimedia rights' contracts through 2036 may have kept

Florida State and Clemson from joining other circuits...The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News newspaper purports that California and Stanford may make \$10-\$12 million less than current Atlantic Coast Conference members unless there is a bylaws' change...Yahoo Sports' Ross Dellenger had an extensive timeline with insider information on the realignment of the eight additional Pac-12 Conference universities going to the Big 12, Atlantic Coast and Big Ten Conferences in recent weeks...The Athletic's Stewart Mandel speculates about future conference membership or independent status for Oregon State and Washington State...Sports Business Journal's John Ourand explained the differences between cable carriers and major corporations as the landscape has changed dramatically with cable-cutting increases...Barron's Financial took a stab at Charter and ESPN ongoing negotiations and observed the agreement could mean an additional \$4 billion in nationwide ESPN revenue in '23 if it is resolved in coming days...Stratechery.com's Ben Thompson edited a lengthy story about how ESPN's leverage in dealing with cable providers has changed over the prior 10-12 years...The Athletic's Seth Davis and Stadium's Jeff Goodman have left to write for a new publication known as The Messenger...Sports Illustrated's Pat Forde compared the legacy of upsets in the 2023 openers by Colorado head coach Deion Sanders over defending CFP runnerup and Texas State head coach G.J. Kinne over Baylor, both shocking road victories as well. Kinne's father incidentally is Baylor 1986 All-Southwest Conference linebacker Gary Joe Kinne who survived a near-fatal gunshot wound by a disturbed parent when he was head coach at Canton (Texas) HS...The most-watched college football games from Aug. 31-Sept. 3 via Nielsen Ratings were Florida State-LSU on ABC with 9.17 viewers and Colorado-TCU on FOX with 7.3 million sets of eyeballs...Veteran Bryan-College Station (Texas) Eagle newspaper sports report Robert Premeaux has left that post after 26 years to work with the Rice University news and public relations office...ESPN vice president of Production Patricia Lowry has accepted another executive position after working with ESPN for 21 years...Athletes.org co-founder Jim Cavale explained some connections between his group and the NCAA Transformation Committee...The Washington Post newspaper's Les Carpenter had an extensive review of the future of Olympic sports, especially in light of the Pac-12 Conference's possible dissolution...The Sports Business Journal's Ben Fischer studied a mythical grant of rights with the Newco Group – which is a partnership of FOX, Disney, ESPN, and the NFL – and how football revenues might skyrocket...

The Sept. 6 FWAA NFF Grantland Rice Super 16 FBS poll had in the Top Five Georgia, Michigan, Alabama, newcomer

Florida State, and Ohio State, and the Top Five through games of Sept. 9 included Georgia, Michigan, Florida State, Texas, and USC...USC (3-0)...Colorado is the inaugural Cheez-It FWAA National Team of the Week after upsetting TCU...The FWAA also is accepting 2023-24 last-minute dues' renewals and new memberships via its FWAA.com website. Members also can qualify for a "triple-header" discount by renewing or joining USBWA and NCBWA with a \$10 discount for each organization's annual dues with that combination...College Sports Communicators members featured in the news and on social media posts in recent days are Brian Dennison of Akron, Doug Walker of Florida State, Josh Maxson of Alabama, Joey Jones of Appalachian State, and Jeff Bowe of Arizona...Arizona State, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Miami (Fla.), Michigan, Michigan State, UCLA, and USC have been conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective school...Turner Classic Movies had special football-themed motion pictures to highlight the 2023 season with 1968's "Paper Lion" starring Alan Alda as Georgia Plimpton, Lauren Hutton, and numerous NFF College Hall of Fame standouts Joe Schmidt, Alex Karras, John Gordy, Mike Lucci, Pat Studstill, Roger Brown, Frank Gifford, Vince Lombardi, George Wilson, Lem Barney, Garo Yepremian, and dozens of teammates from the NFL Detroit Lions and then-St. Louis Cardinals in live scenes from now demolished-Busch Stadium II in St. Louis...A NCAA poll of college compliance directors indicated that 27 percent had been dealing with wagering challenges on student-athlete or staff levels...The NCAA Board of Governors will include Central Arkansas president Dr. Houston Davis and Boston Celtics vice president of team operations and organizational growth Allison Feaster of Harvard as independent voting members...Knight Commission CEO Amy Perko was emphatic in a recent story about assuring that conference commissioners and ADs develop more comprehensive budgets for spending on all areas of college athletics...Women Leaders in College Sports changed its name to Women Leaders in Sports in a revelation by Pittsburgh AD and WLS president Heather Lyke.

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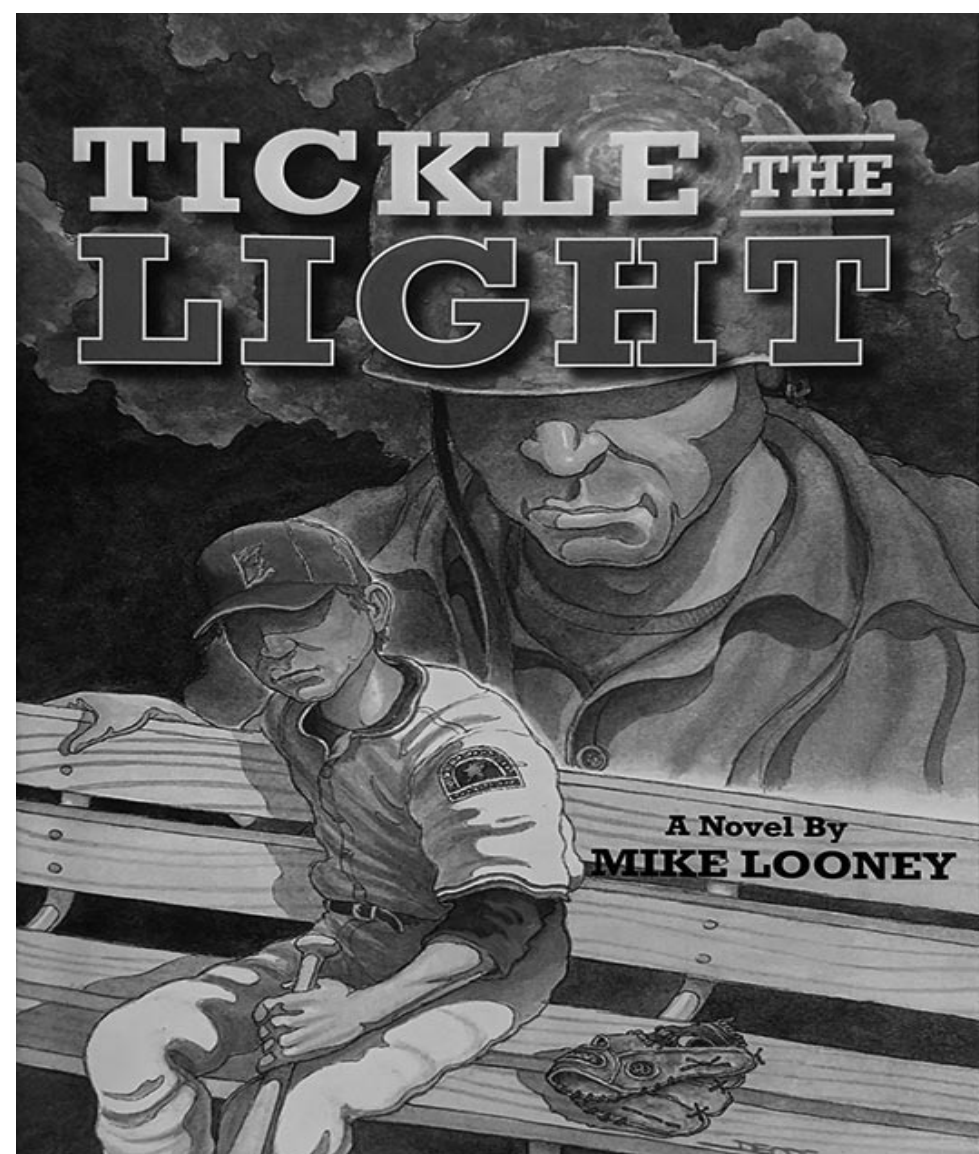
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