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## Weekly

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## The Battle for the Iron Skillet

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**AROUND THE AREA**

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

**Big 12 Championship time revealed**



**Big 12 Football Championship Network and Time Revealed**

The 2021 Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship on December 4 has been selected for an ABC broadcast at 11:00 a.m. CT. The contest will be played at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Tickets are priced at \$205, \$150, \$95 and \$65 each based upon location. Tickets may be purchased online only via SeatGeek at <https://big12.us/3i564VW>. Tickets will not be sold through the Big 12 Conference office or the AT&T Stadium Ticket Office.

Each participating university will be allotted approximately 7,000 tickets, which will become available upon qualification for the championship and distributed by the respective participants' ticket office. Additionally, 1,000 student tickets at \$50 each will be sold only through the participants' ticket office.



**Progressive® IMS Outdoors Texas Powersports Festival set for Oct. 1-3**

Powersports enthusiasts and potential riders of all ages and skill levels will converge on Texas Motor Speedway Oct. 1-3 for the Progressive® IMS Outdoors Texas to create a festival-like atmosphere and exciting hands-on experiences unique to No Limits, Texas.

The Progressive® IMS Outdoors is an evolution of the Progressive® International Motorcycle Shows® tour's nearly 40-year history that not only transitions IMS from the traditional convention center setup to a new open outdoor experience, but also promotes enthusiasts of all ages and levels to come together to better engage with products, each other, and the industry.

The event opens Oct. 1 from 1 - 6:30 p., continues Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and wraps up Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adult tickets start at \$20 and kids under 12 are free.

Attendees can look forward to seeing hundreds of the latest street bikes, dirt bikes, cruisers, scooters, ATVs and much more from leading manufacturers familiar to the shows such as Indian Motorcycles, Royal Enfield, Yamaha Motorcycles, Zero Motorcycles, and Harley-Davidson, which will be showcasing its new 2021 Pan America 1250, as well as first-time exhibiting manufacturers like Beta Motorcycles.

Attendees will also be able to interact with leading brands in the electric mobility space, including Giant Bicycles and FLX Bike, which will be exhibiting its exciting e-bike line as well as electric skateboards from Miles Board.

The tour will also welcome back a number of returning tour-wide exhibiting brands including Arai, Cycle Gear, Enginehawk, Explorify Rentals & Tours, HJC, J&P Cycles, LiquiMoly, Michelin, National Cycle Inc., Ruroc Helmets, Yuasa, among others. Attendees can look forward to the latest in rider products and keen hands-on opportunities for enthusiasts of all experience levels at each venue.

The Autotrader EchoPark Automotive

500 weekend begins Saturday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. CT with the 200-lap Andy's Frozen Custard 335, the fourth race of the 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series playoffs. The green flag to start the 334-lap Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 500, the seventh race of the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs, is scheduled to wave Sunday, Oct. 17, shortly after 1 p.m. CT.



**97.1 The Eagle to become official home to all Dallas Mavericks games**

iHeartMedia Dallas announced a new comprehensive multi-platform broadcast agreement with The Dallas Mavericks. Beginning today, 97.1 The Eagle (KEGL) will become the official flagship station for all Mavs games. Under the new broadcast agreement, Dallas Mavericks basketball will also be available via live stream on iHeartRadio.com and the app.

Each game will include 30 minutes of pre-game coverage prior to the tipoff and a minimum of 30 minutes of post-game coverage. In addition, play-by-play announcer Chuck Cooperstein will return for his 17th season with the team, as well as studio host Mike Peasley. The station will also air a variety of shows and features, including interviews with players, coaches, and Mavericks Owner Mark Cuban on KEGL-FM as well as on other properties of iHeartMedia Dallas/Fort Worth. The Mavs' 2021-22 regular season will begin on October 21.

**NCAA FOOTBALL**

AP	Coaches
1. Alabama	1. Alabama
2. Georgia	2. Georgia
3. Oregon	3. Oklahoma
4. Oklahoma	4. Oregon
5. Iowa	5. Texas A&M
6. Penn State	6. Iowa
7. Texas A&M	7. Clemson
8. Cincinnati	8. Penn State
9. Clemson	9. Cincinnati
10. Ohio State	10. Notre Dame
11. Florida	11. Florida
12. Notre Dame	12. Ohio State
13. Ole Miss	13. Ole Miss
14. Iowa State	14. Iowa State
15. BYU	15. Wisconsin
16. Arkansas	16. BYU
17. Coastal Carolina	17. Coastal Carolina
18. Wisconsin	18. Arkansas
19. Michigan	19. Michigan
20. Michigan State	20. North Carolina
21. North Carolina	21. Michigan State
22. Fresno State	22. Oklahoma State
23. Auburn	23. Auburn
24. UCLA	24. UCLA
25. Kansas State	25. Fresno State

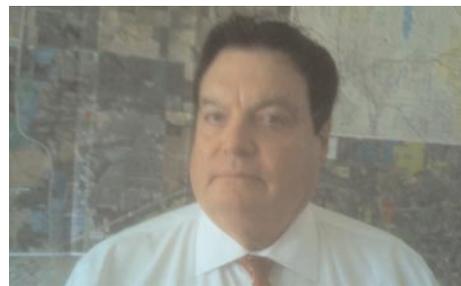
**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

	SEPTEMBER 24 FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 25 SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 26 SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 27 MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 28 TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 29 WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 30 THURSDAY
	Rangers at Orioles 6:05 / BSSW	Rangers at Orioles 6:05 / BSSW	Rangers at Orioles 12:05 / BSSW		Rangers vs Angels 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Angels 7:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Angels 1:05 / BSSW
		SMU at TCU 11:00am / FS1					
		FC Dallas vs Vancouver 9:00					
	Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 2:35			Thoroughbred Racing Post time: 6:35			
				Dallas vs Eagles 7:5 / ESPN			

# Rangers' farm system on the rise



Josh Jung could be the Rangers opening day third baseman next year



BY DIC HUMPHREY  
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MEMBER: USBWA

The Texas Rangers baseball season has nine games remaining after opening a four-game series in Baltimore Thursday evening with a 3-0 loss. The Rangers' focus since they traded two All-Stars at the July 31 trade deadline has been on young players. A host of minor leaguers have joined the Rangers over the past two months, such as Curtis Terry, A. J. Alexy, Glenn Otto, Yonny Hernandez, Leody Taveras, and Yohel Pozo. These young prospects are the closest to being ready to play in the Majors, not necessarily the best prospects in the system. None of the Rangers top 10 prospects as ranked by MLB Pipeline have played for the Rangers this year. Here is that list of the Top 10 Ranger prospects per the MLB Pipeline ratings:

- **Jack Leiter:** Leiter was the number two selection out of Vanderbilt in last summer's amateur draft. The 21 year-old right handed starting pitcher had thrown more than 100 innings this spring in the SEC, such that the Rangers opted to hold him out of minor league play this season. He is attending classes at Vanderbilt, which has a workout facility for former baseball players. There are a lot of them that have gone on to good Major League careers including pitchers Sonny Gray, David Price, Mike Minor and Walker Buehler. Leiter will

have lots of good advice this off season as he prepares for his professional debut next spring. MLB Pipeline projects his debut in 2023, but he is more polished than most players coming out of college as he has been around Major League clubhouses since childhood with his father Al who fashioned a 19 year pitching career in the Major Leagues. He might be a surprise arrival next year.

- **Josh Jung:** Jung was the Rangers' first round selection (eighth overall) in the 2019 draft out of Texas Tech. He was named Co-Big XII Player of the year that spring and is generally considered to be the best position player ever at Tech. He played in A ball after signing in 2019 but lost valuable development time last season because of the Pandemic. The Rangers did put him on last season's 60 man roster such that he worked out during the season at the Rangers' alternate site. Jung's progress was also slowed this season by a foot injury that delayed his season's start into the summer. He has hit .318 with 17 home runs and 58 RBIs in 70 games at AA and AAA combined. Without the Pandemic and the injury, he likely would have been in Arlington already. He is a very advanced hitter and could be the Rangers opening day third baseman next year.

- **Cole Winn:** The Rangers selected Winn out of high school with the 15th overall pick in the 2018 draft. The right-hander is being groomed to be a starting pitcher and had a 2.31 ERA in 19 AA level starts at Frisco. Texas sent him to Round Rock for his first AAA start Thursday night. He was touched for three runs on four hits over three innings. MLB Pipeline projects his Major League debut next season.

- **Justin Foscue:** The Rangers took Foscue, an infielder out of Mississippi

State, with the 14th pick in the 2020 draft. He is the third highest draft pick in Mississippi State history after Will Clark (number two in 1985) and Hunter Renfroe (number 13 in 2013). He rose to the AA level this summer. He has a strong hit tool coupled with power. He is primarily a second baseman. His Major League debut is projected for 2023.

- **Sam Huff:** He is a catcher/first baseman that debuted with the Rangers last season, hitting three home runs in 10 games. He was a seventh round draft pick in 2016 out of high school. He is big – listed at 6'-5" and 240 pounds. He was expected to be with the Rangers this season but lost much of the season after undergoing knee surgery. He began the year in Frisco in mid-July and is finishing the season at AAA Round Rock. He has serious power and is expected to be a strong candidate to play with the Rangers at some point next season.

- **Josh Smith:** Smith is a 24 year-old infielder that the Rangers acquired in the Joey Gallo trade. He was drafted out of LSU by the Yankees with a second round pick, 67th overall, in the 2019 draft. He has primarily been a shortstop in the minors, and MLB Pipeline projects his arrival in Arlington sometime next year.

- **Ezequiel Duran:** Duran also came to the Rangers in the Gallo trade. He too is an infielder playing both middle infield positions. The Yankees signed him out of the Dominican Republic in 2017. He has a strong hit tool and was tearing up High-A pitching prior to the trade. He has explosive exit velocities on batted balls and is fast. He projects to be a player that can have 20 home runs and 20 stolen bases type seasons. His Major League arrival is estimated to be in 2023.

- **Luisangel Acuna:** If the last name

sounds familiar, it should. He is the younger brother of Braves super star Ronald Acuna, Jr. He is 19 and was signed out of Venezuela in 2018. He is a middle infielder that has good to plus foot speed and surprising power for his slight build. (He's generously listed at 5'-10", 181.) His projected ETA in the Majors is 2023.

- **Evan Carter:** Carter forsook a scholarship to Duke University to sign with the Rangers out of high school. The Rangers selected him in the second round of the 2020 draft. He is listed at 6'-4". He is a left-handed hitting outfielder with solid to plus speed. His anticipated arrival in the Majors is 2024.

- **Maximo Acosta:** Acosta is an 18 year-old shortstop from Venezuela. The Rangers signed him in 2019. He has an athletic build at 6'-1", 190. He has a strong arm and the quickness to play shortstop. He is often compared to the Yankees' Gleyber Torres, and he may ultimately end up in the outfield.

The top ten prospect list is loaded with middle infielders but has just one pitcher. The Rangers have already hastened A. J. Alexy and Glenn Otto to the Majors, their number 22 and 24 ranked prospects. Ricky Vanasco is a right-handed pitching prospect that is ranked 12th by MLB Pipeline. Left-handed starting pitcher Brock Burke debuted with the Rangers in 2019, but lost 2020 to Tommy John surgery. He was terrible at the beginning of the season, but has kicked into high gear since the end of June to again become a serious Ranger prospect. It is still disappointing that the Rangers do not have more pitchers among their top prospects.

The farm system overall is improving. From 2010 through 2016, the Rangers won the division four times, was a Wild Card once, and was in a playoff for the final Wild Card playoff berth another year. The Rangers were routinely trading away minor league prospects for Major League help in those pennant race years. Playing beyond the regular season in six of those seven years took its toll on the farm system, but the team has had better drafts recently and is getting the farm system back to a ranking in the top half of MLB teams.

The Rangers' record is 55-98 and will end up with the third or fourth pick in next year's amateur draft. They should add another elite prospect to the system, but there is still a lot of work to do.

## NOTABLE:

- MLB will experiment with a new prototype baseball over the final 10 days of the Minor League season. The new ball will be "pre-tacked" to give pitchers a better grip.

# Whistling Straits will challenge team U.S



TOM WARD

TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Wisconsin, known as America's Dairy land where cheese is king and beer is a close second, will have the eyes of the golf world transfixed on it starting Friday as the 43rd Ryder Cup tees off.

Whistling Straits golf club located in Kohler, Wisconsin has hosted three PGA Championships (2004, 2010, 2015) and a U.S. Senior Open in 2007. This weekend it will host the prestigious Ryder Cup for the first time after the event was postponed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whistling Straits, designed by the late Pete Dye, will hold the rare distinction of being the first public golf course in a quarter-century to host a Ryder Cup.

This year's Ryder Cup Matches will feature Wisconsin native and U.S. captain Steve Stricker and European captain Pádraig Harrington and 24 of the best golfers in the world.

Europe heads into these matches as the reigning cup holder after they dismantled the U.S. Team in Paris 17.5 to 10.5 at Le Golf National in Paris back in 2018. The last time the U.S. won was in 2016 at Hazeltine National in Minnesota.

Since 1991, the Europeans have won the cup nine times compared to the U.S. that has won four times. Overall in the matches history the U.S. leads 26-14-2.

The U.S. squad is comprised of recent Fed Ex champion Patrick Cantlay, Dustin Johnson, Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa, Harris English, Daniel Berger, Xander Schauffele (Olympic Gold medalist in Tokyo), Tony Finau and Brooks Koepka along with three golfers that have north Texas, ties Jordan Speith, Scottie Scheffler and Byron DeChambeau (SMU alumni). There are five rookies on the U.S. team this year.

The European team is comprised of World number #1 player Jon Rahm, Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood, Shane Lowery, Ian Poulter, Viktor Hovland, Paul Casey, Sergio Garcia, Tyrell Hatton, Matt Fitzpatrick, Tommy Fleetwood and Bernd Wiesberger. The Europeans will have 3 rookies on their team.

The format for the competition is two four-match sessions per day of four-balls (better ball) and foursomes (alternate shot) on Friday and Saturday and finishing with



12 singles matches on Sunday. In order for the U.S. to win back the cup they will have to win 14.5 points as the Europeans only need 14 points to hold onto the cup.

The key for the U.S. is to get off to a good start in the four-ball and alternate shot competition which begins on Friday and carries over to Saturday. In the past, the U.S. have put themselves behind the proverbial 8 ball because of poor team play. The Europeans have fed off this format for years and I look for them to continue this trend again in Wisconsin. However, I do think the U.S. will step up and keep it close, giving them a shot to work their magic on Sunday in the single matches. Captain Steve Stricker has to know that having the right personalities teamed together for the first two days is critical to their success. I hope he listens to his players feedback and opinions because if they get a few dis-jointed group pairings it could spell doom. The Europeans have thrived on camaraderie over the years and this bond they've created has helped them tremendously over the past few years to secure the cup.

On paper, the U.S. has the better players, but that hasn't mattered too much in past matches. I'm curious to see how much Brooks Koepka is able to play in the matches after hurting his wrist a few weeks ago.

Another interesting storyline will be Bryson DeChambeau whose obsession with distance has consumed him in the past year or so. He is a polarizing player, but his long driving ability will surely rev up the crowds as he attempts to drive some par 4's and only have short irons in on the par 5's. It will be interesting to see who

Steve Stricker matches DeChambeau with in the Friday and Saturday four-ball or alternate shot format. I look for the consistency of players like Patrick Cantlay and Xavier Schauffele to have a calming effect for the Americans.

The wildcards for Europe are Sergio Garcia and Ian Poulter whose games seem to thrive during the Ryder Cup.

The links type course, along with cooler weather that's been forecasted and wind whipping across Lake Michigan, would seem to favor the Europeans...but I don't believe it will be a big factor. In the three PGA Championships played at Whistling Straits no American has won.

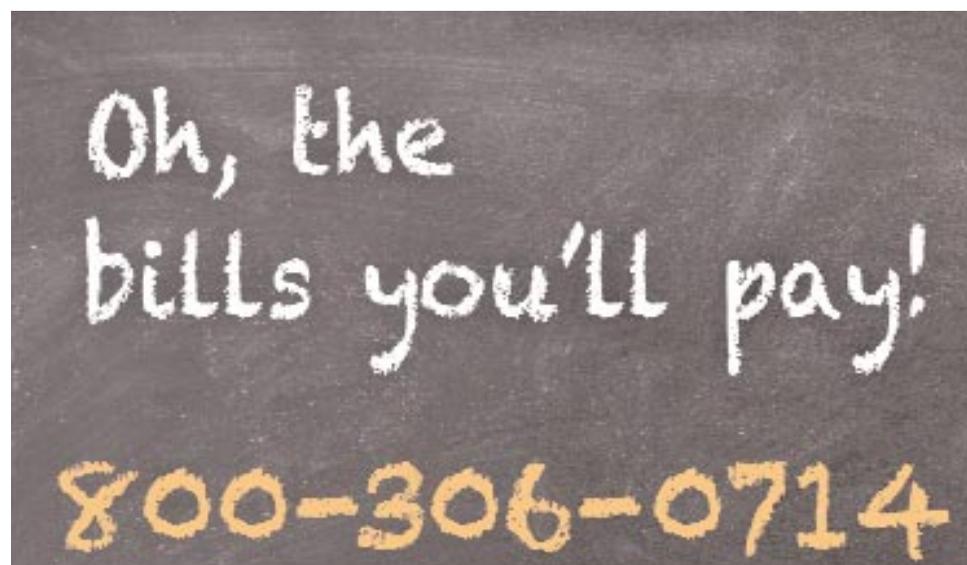
It seems like every time the Ryder Cup has been played in the past three decades the United States is always the favorite, yet the European squad puts their egos and differences aside and pull off the upset. Team

Europe always appears to have more skin in the game than the Americans and takes a lot of pride and joy in taking them down. They seem to relish in their underdog position. I hope the U.S. team will come together and act as a cohesive unit like the European team does.

So who wins this year's Ryder Cup? It will be a real close battle and very exciting. However, in the end I think the U.S. Team will do themselves proud and get the job done, ending this run by the Europeans.

The television coverage begins on Friday, 7 am to 6 pm on the Golf Channel. Saturday, 7 am to 8 am on Golf Channel. 8 am to 6 pm on NBC. Sunday 11 am to 5 pm on NBC. So, be sure to check it out and watch for the Cheese heads as they will be out in force. Go team USA!

Tom Ward can be contacted at [www.teetimewithtom.com](http://www.teetimewithtom.com)



# This week on TOUR: The Ryder Cup



WHISTLING STRAITS

## The Ryder Cup

September 24 - September 26, 2021

Whistling Straits Golf Club

Haven, Wisconsin

Purse - None

2018 Champ - Europe

By Adam Stanley  
PGATOUR.COM

Delayed by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ryder Cup returns this week at Wisconsin's Whistling Straits, the scenic Pete Dye design on the shores of Lake Michigan. It's the 43rd playing of the team competition between the United States and Europe.

The U.S. Team is led by Captain Steve Stricker, who will helm his squad in his home state. The U.S. looks to avenge a 17 1/2 - 10 1/2 loss to Europe three years ago in Paris. Three-time major winner Padraig Harrington is Europe's captain this year.

**U.S. ROSTER:** Collin Morikawa (Rookie), Dustin Johnson (5th Ryder Cup), Bryson DeChambeau (2nd), Brooks Koepka (3rd), Justin Thomas (2nd), Patrick Cantlay (Rookie), Tony Finau (2nd), Xander Schauffele (Rookie), Jordan Spieth (4th), Harris English (Rookie), Daniel Berger (Rookie), Scottie Scheffler (Rookie).

**EUROPE ROSTER:** Jon Rahm (2nd), Tommy Fleetwood (2nd), Tyrrell Hatton (2nd), Bernd Wiesberger (Rookie), Rory

McIlroy (6th), Viktor Hovland (Rookie), Paul Casey (5th), Matthew Fitzpatrick (2nd), Lee Westwood (11th), Shane Lowry (Rookie), Sergio Garcia (10th), Ian Poulter (7th).

**STORYLINES:** On paper, the U.S. Team is the favorite – its average world ranking is 9, while Europe's is 30 -- but Captain Steve Stricker is hoping a return to the United States and the firmly pro-American crowd will help his squad hoist the trophy at the end of the week. Team USA has won just two Ryder Cups in the last 20 years and both (2008, 2016) were home games... This will be the first Ryder Cup since 1993 without Phil Mickelson or Tiger Woods, although Mickelson is one of Stricker's vice captains... It's setting up as a battle between youth and experience, as the U.S. Team is sending six rookies to Whistling Straits, while Europe boasts Ryder Cup veterans in Lee Westwood, Rory McIlroy and captain's picks Sergio Garcia and Ian Poulter. Garcia has earned the most points of anyone in the history of the Ryder Cup and is looking to add to his total. The average age of the U.S. Team is 29.1, while Europe's is 34.6... While there were a few health questions surrounding the game's top guys recently, they seemed to be answered. World No. 1 Jon Rahm battled a stomach bug before missing the cut at the season-opening Fortinet Championship. Brooks Koepka withdrew from the TOUR Championship after hurting his arm on a tree root, but confirmed to Golfweek that he is good to go. A back injury caused The Open champion Collin Morikawa to strug-

gle in the FedExCup Playoffs, as well... Will previous experience at Whistling Straits be a factor? The last major contested at the course was the 2015 PGA Championship, where five Americans finished inside the top 20 (led by Jordan Spieth, who was runner-up). There was just one European (Rory McIlroy) who finished inside the top 20 (although McIlroy did finish just one shot out of a playoff in the 2010 edition)... There hasn't been a 'close' Ryder Cup in any of the last three editions. Will this be the year where it comes down to the end? Europe won by seven points in 2018, while the U.S. won by six in 2016. Europe won by five in 2014. In 2012, Europe triumphed by a single point after the 'Miracle at Medinah,' coming back

from a 10-6 deficit in the final day.  
**COURSE:** Whistling Straits (Straits), par 71, 7,390 yards (yardage subject to change). The Pete and Alice Dye masterpiece on the shores of Lake Michigan was inspired by the dramatic links of Ireland and boasts rugged, wind-swept terrain. It hosted the PGA Championship in 2004, 2010, and 2015 plus the U.S. Senior Open in 2007.

**RYDER CUP RECORD:** United States leads 26-14-2. However, Europe holds a 11-8-1 edge since the old Great Britain & Ireland team was expanded to include the entire continent of Europe.

**LAST TIME:** Led by Francesco Molinari's 5-0-0 record, Europe defeated the U.S., 17 ? -10 ? and regained the Ryder Cup. The American squad got off to a fabulous start at Le Golf National in France – winning the opening session, 3-1. The U.S. was swept in the afternoon of the first day, however, and then lost the following session, 3-1. It went into Sunday's singles down 10-6, and despite winning 2 ? of the first three points, Europe was just too strong and had too big a lead to overcome. Europe won the Sunday singles 7 ? - 4 ? . Sergio Garcia's singles win made him the all-time points leader in the Ryder Cup, while Molinari, winner of that year's Open Championship, became the first European to earn the maximum five points at a Ryder Cup.

### HOW TO FOLLOW

**Television:** Friday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. ET (Golf Channel). Saturday: 8 a.m.-9 a.m. (Golf Channel), 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (NBC). Sunday: 12 p.m.-6 p.m. (NBC)

**Streaming:** Featured Matches (TBD): on Peacock, RyderCup.com, and the Ryder Cup app.

**Radio:** Friday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. ET. Sunday, noon-6 p.m. (SiriusXM 92)

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# Five things to know about Whistling Straits



A look at Whistling Straits during the 2015 PGA Championship. (Tom Pennington/Getty Images)

*This year's Ryder Cup venue is a man-made homage to the links of Ireland*

By Sean Martin  
PGATOUR.COM

After an extra year of anticipation, the Ryder Cup is back. It's been three long years since Europe dominated the United States on a tight and penal Le Golf National layout outside Paris, winning 17 1/2 - 10 1/2. The United States has the benefit of being back on home soil this week as it tries to avenge the loss.

The U.S. has outscored Europe, 47-37, in the last three Ryder Cups in the New World. Only one historic collapse on the final day in 2012 kept the U.S. from sweeping all three competitions. Big, Midwestern ballparks have been a big part of the United States' home success.

Whistling Straits, located about an hour north of Milwaukee, fits that description. It was the longest course in major history when it hosted the 2004 PGA Championship. The PGA has been played three times at Whistling Straits, and victories by Jason Day and Vijay Singh, as well as close calls by Bubba Watson and Dustin Johnson, prove that distance is an advantage there. Pete Dye's design also has done a good job of identifying the best player, as all three winners at Whistling Straits took over the top spot in the world ranking shortly after their win.

While the course setup may look familiar this week, there are few venues that compare with the site of this year's Ryder Cup.

"In my lifetime, I've never seen anything like this. Anyplace. Period," said Dye. He transformed a flat site on the shores of Lake Michigan into one that features dramatic dunes reminiscent of the linkland of Ireland. The course's lakeside views and Dye's distinctive design philosophy should only add intrigue to this long-awaited showdown between the United States and Europe.

Here's 5 Things to Know about Whistling Straits before the Ryder Cup begins:

## 1. THAT SINK-ING FEELING

Whistling Straits is a home venue for the U.S. team, but the family behind the course traces its lineage back to the Old World.

The Kohler Co. was founded in 1873 by a 29-year-old Austrian immigrant named John Michael Kohler. He started with a small foundry that cast farm equipment before creating the company's first bathtub by enameling an iron trough and standing it on four feet. The Kohler Co. quickly became a leader in the construction and design of plumbing fixtures.

Herb Kohler, the man responsible for adding golf courses to the family's business portfolio, became CEO in 1972.

In the late 1970s, he transformed the American Club – which had once served as a dormitory for Kohler Co.'s immigrant artisans and craftsmen – into a resort. Visitors kept making one suggestion, however.

"You consider yourself an upscale resort hotel but you don't have a golf

course. Do it," Herb Kohler recalled of his guests demands. Herb, a mid-handicap player with an outsized passion for the game, was happy to indulge their desire. He hired Dye for the job.

The controversial, and iconoclastic, architect was the perfect fit for a company focused on design and innovation. Kohler's first course, Blackwolf Run, opened in 1988. The tee sheet quickly filled, and even another 18 holes couldn't keep pace with the demand.

That sent Herb Kohler searching for an additional site. His quest brought him to a piece of land on the shores of Lake Michigan that had fallen into disuse. The two-mile stretch of shoreline was once owned by the U.S. Army, which used it as an anti-aircraft training facility in the 1950s.

"An old runway still peeked through flat, grassy terrain, and dairy grazing lands surrounded the site on three sides," Dye wrote in his autobiography. "The fourth side bordered the chilly waters of Lake Michigan and featured 70-foot bluffs.

"When I first walked the land, I was mesmerized by the potential for several lakeside holes."

He started work on Whistling Straits in

1995. The course opened three years later, in the same year that Se Ri Pak beat amateur Jenny Chuasiriporn in a playoff to win the 1998 U.S. Women's Open at Blackwolf Run. Pak's victory was the catalyst that led to the success of so many of her South Korean countrywomen on the LPGA.

## 2. ODE TO IRELAND

Whistling Straits' heaving dunes and water views may feel familiar to the Europeans, as well. The course pays homage to the classic links built on Ireland's dramatic coastal landscapes.

"I want the course to look like Ballybunion," Dye recalled Kohler proclaiming, referring to the famous Irish links that they often played on golf trips abroad.

"We did share a love for the natural look of the celebrated golf courses of Ireland, shaped among huge sand dunes that rose like prehistoric monsters along the coastline," Dye wrote.

All of Whistling Straits' dunes were made by men, however. The course was molded on a site that Dye described as "flat as a pancake."

Dye built the dunes by pushing back the lakeside bluffs. That helped preserve the eroding shoreline by producing beaches that could withstand the impact of breaking waves. The dunes were then covered with tons of sand purchased from a nearby farmer and planted with fescue grass to give them a raw, natural look. Construction continued even in the winter, when the heavy equipment could maneuver on the frozen lake.

The huge dunes serve as buffers that hide the adjacent farmland – making it easy to forget one is in rural Wisconsin -- and provide dramatic views of Lake Michigan from every hole.

"Everything you see out there was created," Dye said. "Every inch of it."

## 3. THE LONG OF IT

Whistling Straits was listed at 7,514 yards for the 2004 PGA, making it the longest course in major championship history at the time. It included three par-4s longer than 500 yards (Nos. 8, 15 and 18).

The 15th hole kicks off a four-hole finishing stretch that includes two brutal par-4s, a demanding par-3 and one respite, the par-5 16th. A closing trio of a reachable par-5, tricky par-3 and brutish par-4 is a trademark of many of Dye's most famous designs, including the Stadium Courses at both TPC Sawgrass and PGA West, as well as Kiawah Island.

### WHISTLING STRAITS' FINISHING STRETCH\*

Hole	Rank	Length (par)	Average
15	4	518 yards (4)	4.26
16	18	569 yards (5)	4.62
17	6	223 yards (3)	3.19
18	1	520 yards (4)	4.54



A look at the 18th hole at Whistling Straits during the 2015 PGA Championship. (David Cannon/Getty Images)

#### PGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WHISTLING STRAITS

Year	Winner	Score
2004	Vijay Singh	280 (-8)
2010	Martin Kaymer	277 (-11)
2015	Jason Day	268 (-20)

overshadows a strong list of champions, however.

All three winners at Whistling Straits became No. 1 in the world shortly after their wins.

Vijay Singh won the 2004 PGA in a playoff over Justin Leonard and Chris DiMarco. That win, Singh's third in a major, came in the midst of his finest campaign. He won nine times that year – despite having negative Strokes Gained: Putting for the season – en route to claiming the PGA TOUR's Player of the Year Award and supplanting Tiger Woods atop the world ranking. It was Singh's third major title.

His 76 on Sunday was the highest final-round score by a major winner since R.A. Whitcombe in the 1938 Open Championship. Singh didn't make a birdie on the final day until the first extra hole.

Six years later, it came down to Kaymer and Watson in a playoff. They traded birdies on the first two playoff holes before Watson hit his approach to 18 into the water fronting the green. That allowed Kaymer to play safe and make a bogey for the win. He became World No. 1 after finishing runner-up in the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play in February.

Though Kaymer famously endured a slump in the ensuing years, he regained his game in 2014, winning both the U.S. Open and PLAYERS Championship.

The 2015 PGA was a duel between Jordan Spieth, who'd already won two majors that year, and Jason Day. Spieth was trying to join Tiger Woods and Ben Hogan as the only men to win three majors in a single year.

Day had held at least a share of the 54-hole lead in the previous two majors but was still seeking his first Grand Slam title. He also started Sunday with the lead at Whistling Straits. This time, he shot a final-round 67 for a 20-under 268 total, setting the record for lowest score in relation to par in a major. Spieth finished three back.

"It was Jason's day," Spieth said. "He played like he'd won seven or eight majors. ... It was a stripe show."

Day followed with six-shot victories in two FedExCup Playoffs events to ascend to the top of the world ranking weeks later.

The 15th hole played to a 4.3 scoring average in 2015, making it the fourth-hardest hole on the course. The par-5 16th was the easiest hole six years ago (4.6 average). It's followed by the longest par-3 on the course, however, the 223-yard 17th.

There's an 80-yard difference between Whistling Straits' shortest one-shotter (the 143-yard 12th) and its longest, as Dye wanted to present players with a variety of shots on these holes, all of which hug the shoreline. Whistling Straits' penultimate hole isn't an island green like some of Dye's famous 17th holes, but it is plenty penal and includes some of his usual visual trickery. With deep bunkers and Lake Michigan to the left, a large, elevated dune obstructs the view of the green's right side.

"Instead of the player realizing the green is huge, it appears to be a postage stamp," Dye wrote.

The final hole, named Dyeabolical, played to a 4.54 scoring average in 2015, making it the third-hardest par-4 on TOUR that season (behind only St. Andrews' Road Hole and Doral's 18th).

Whistling Straits is listed as a 7,390-yard, par-71 for this year's Ryder Cup. It played as a par-72 for its three PGA Championships but the 11th hole will be converted from a par-5 to a par-4 for the Ryder Cup.

#### 4. ENTER SANDMAN

"There are bunkers everywhere, in staggering numbers. They snake along fairways, adorn the tops of two-story mounds, hide in seas of fescue rough and cling to the sides of greens.

"The bunkers at Whistling Straits range in size from depressions as small as a bathtub to a 300-yard monstrosity on the par-5 fifth hole."

That is the colorful description of

Whistling Straits' innumerable bunkers by legendary Wisconsin golf writer Gary D'Amato.

The sands of Whistling Straits come in various shapes and sizes. But how many bunkers dot this Dye design?

No one can say for sure.

Officials at the Kohler Co. tried to count them all on a blown-up aerial photograph. They gave up, though, because there were just too many. "More than 1,000," became the standard answer.

"The most accurate answer is, 'We don't know,'" one Whistling Straits employee told D'Amato.

Golf Digest's Ron Whitten attempted to arrive at a definitive answer in 2010, before Whistling Straits hosted its second PGA Championship. Using a tool he fashioned from a lamp globe and a hoe handle to mark the bunkers, Whitten spent 11 hours over two days counting Whistling Straits' traps alongside caddie Bob Palm. Their final answer? Nine hundred and sixty-seven.

According to Whitten, the eighth hole has the most bunkers (102) and the 18th hole has 96. The 12th and 14th holes both have 18 bunkers, tied for the fewest.

There are so many that the gallery often stands in them behind the ropes. But all of them are considered hazards. Every player this week will surely be aware of that, especially after what happened to Johnson 11 years ago. His infraction on the final hole of the 2010 PGA is well-known. But it isn't the only time that a mishap in one of Whistling Straits' bunkers had an impact on the final outcome.

Stuart Appleby had made four birdies in his previous five holes when he stepped to the 16th tee in the third round of the 2004 PGA. He made quadruple-bogey on the

hole, however, after being penalized four strokes for removing some dead grass from the bunker and grounding his club in the hazard. Appleby finished T17, five shots behind winner Vijay Singh.

"You talk about saving shots in a round of golf," Appleby said. "I ... could have saved four strokes by reading a piece of paper inside the locker room."

Six years later, Johnson's two-shot penalty on the 72nd hole kept him out of the playoff between Martin Kaymer and Bubba Watson.

Johnson blew his tee shot on 18 into the fans. Thinking that his ball simply lay in a trampled-down area, he grounded his club before hitting his approach shot. He was informed after completing the hole that his ball actually had been in a small bunker. When Johnson was informed that he'd grounded his club in a bunker, he replied, "What bunker?"

"It never once crossed my mind that I was in a sand trap," Johnson said. "I just thought I was on a piece of dirt." The gallery chanted, "Let him play!" during the long delay as rules officials sorted out the controversy. Alas, he was assessed a penalty and Kaymer went on to beat Watson in the two-man playoff.

#### 5. MAJOR HISTORY

Johnson's bunker blunder is the most famous moment from the three PGA Championships at Whistling Straits. That

#### BECOMING WORLD NO. 1 AFTER WINNING AT WHISTLING

Year	Winner	Date of win	Became World No. 1
2004	Vijay Singh	8/15/2004	9/5/2004
2010	Martin Kaymer	8/15/2010	2/27/2011
2015	Jason Day	8/16/2015	9/20/2015

# SEC football weekend picks - Week 3



Arkansas and Texas A&M have been playing each other since 1903. Arkansas leads the series 41-33-3



ROBERT CORTINEZ  
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Overall, a damn impressive week for the SEC. #11 Florida lost to #1 Alabama and the Gators didn't drop a spot in the AP Top 25. #22 Auburn's loss to then #10 Penn State dropped the Tigers one spot to #23. Penn State's win vaulted the Nittany Lions over previous #6 Clemson, #7 Texas A&M, #8 Cincinnati and #9 Ohio State, who were all winners last week.

This Saturday's national spotlight will be shining squarely on the #7 Aggies and the #16 Razorbacks in Jerry World at 2:30 p.m. Saturday on CBS. Early make or break game for the untested Aggies and their \$7 million-man, head coach Jimbo Fisher.

#13 Ole Miss is idle this week.  
Week 3 results: Straight: 11-1 / ATL: 4-5  
Season results: Straight 32-7 / ATL: 16-15

**#7 Tex. A&M (3-0) vs. #16 Arkansas (3-0)**  
Time / TV: 2:30 p.m. / CBS  
Arlington Texas, AT&T Stadium  
Line: Texas A&M -5 / o/u 48

Last Week: A&M beat New Mexico, 34-0  
Arkansas beat Georgia Southern, 45-10

The SEC game of the week takes place in the home of the Dallas Cowboys, AT&T Stadium in Arlington Texas. The Hogs and Aggies are in the final year of the Southwest Classic and Arkansas is 0-9 so far in this contest. The Hogs have never beaten A&M since the Aggies joined the SEC in 2012.

Arkansas is the 8th best rushing team in the country and face an A&M defense that is #1 in scoring (5.7 pts.) and #1 in passing (77.4 yds). A&M's defense has allowed one touchdown in 2021. The Aggies defense will have to step up to contain Hog WR, Treyton Burks who clocked in at 22.6 mph on his 91 yard catch and run TD, the fastest time in the nation last week.

This game boils down to which new quarterback, Arkansas's K.J. Jefferson or A&M's Zach Calzada, has the better game. The Hogs are due, Woo pig!  
Pick: Arkansas 24 Texas A&M 17

**Georgia State (1-2) @ #23 Auburn (2-1)**  
Time / TV: 3:00 p.m. / SEC Network  
Line: Auburn: -27 / o/u 57

Last Week: Georgia State beat Charlotte, 20-9; #22 Auburn lost to #10 Penn State, 28-20

The Auburn Tigers were a pleasant surprise last week (even though they lost), in their road test against #6 Penn Stat. The Nitney Lions are a very good team as shown with its win at then #12 Wisconsin in week one. Auburn had a first and goal at Penn State's 10 yard line late in the game but came away with zero points. The Tigers defense then forced a three and out, but QB Bo Nix's desperation pass was intercepted as time expired.

Auburn's big time RB, Tank Bigsby, went for 102 yards and 2 TD's but his QB, Bo Nix, only got 185 passing yards and zero TD's. Auburn head coach Brian Harsin said his team was burning mad about the defeat which should motivate his players and avoid a let-down against FCS Georgia State.

Pick: Auburn 48 Georgia State 17

**Tennessee (2-1) @ #11 Florida (2-1)**  
Time / TV: 6:00 p.m. / ESPN  
Line: Florida -20 / o/u 63

Last Week: Tennessee beat Tennessee Tech, 56-0; #11 Florida lost to #1 Alabama, 31-29

The Vols pitched a shut-out for the first time in six years blanking their hapless neighbors, Tennessee Tech, from nearby Cookeville, Tennessee. Vols QB Hendon Hooker appears to be the starter with Michigan transfer Joe Milton still recovering from an injury sustained in the Pittsburgh loss. Hendon threw for just under 300 yds and 4 TDS last week against Tennessee Tech.

Florida's first touchdown last week against Alabama came with a missed PAT



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which the Gators chased the whole game, costing them a shot at overtime. Florida had to go for two on their last touchdown and didn't get it, allowing Bama to escape the Swamp. Florida definitely was up to the task and looks better than expected. Not going to be good for the Volunteers.  
**Pick: Florida 41 Tennessee 24**

**Kentucky (3-0) @ South Carolina (2-1)**  
**Time / TV: 6:00 p.m. / ESPN2**  
**Line: Kentucky -5.5 / o/u 48.5**

Last Week: Kentucky beat Chattanooga 28-23; South Carolina lost to #2 Georgia, 40-13

Just as Kentucky was getting some votes in Top 25 polls, the Wildcats came out and almost got beat, at home, by the Chattanooga Mocs. The Mocs were winning 16-14 with 10 minutes left in the 4th quarter but couldn't maintain. Kentucky intercepted a fourth quarter Chattanooga pass for a late pick-6 that sealed the deal for the win. South Carolina was simply outmuscled by Georgia and never had a chance in Athens. The Gamecocks are competitive as shown by their road win against East Carolina and should have some "pride-healing" at stake after the Georgia beat-down. This one will be a toss-up, going with the home team in a minor upset.

**Pick: South Carolina 28 Kentucky 24**

**Southern Miss (1-2) @ #1 Alabama**  
**Time / TV: 6:30 p.m. / SEC Network**  
**Line: Alabama -44.5 / o/u 58**

Last Week: #1 Alabama beat #11 Florida, 31-29; Southern Miss lost to Troy, 21-9

Alabama gets a breather at home this week against the Golden Eagles of Southern Mississippi. Brett Favre's alma mater got blasted by South Alabama, 31-7, in week one and by Troy, 21-9, last week. Bama caught a little luck last week at Florida but had to hold on for dear life to exit the Swamp undefeated. The offense is scoring points but doesn't appear as formidable as last year's championship squad. Alabama's defense held Florida just barely enough to save the day, but this entire Tide team is going to have to make enormous strides to repeat as CFP champs. Georgia is in Alabama's rear-view mirror and coming up fast.

**Pick: Alabama 52 Southern Miss 10**

**#2 Georgia (3-0) @ Vanderbilt (1-2)**  
**Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / SEC Network**  
**Line: Georgia -34.5 / o/u 51.5**

Last Week: #2 Georgia beat S. Carolina, 40-10; Vanderbilt lost to Stanford, 41-23

The Georgia Bulldogs have a determined, fierce countenance in 2021. Dawg head coach Kirby Smart wants that "natty" more than anything and his defense is the best in the land. Georgia's senior QB, J.T. Daniels was 23 for 31, 303 yds and 3 TD's in only three quarters of play last week.

Vanderbilt was overwhelmed at home by underwhelming Stanford but did show some life at times in the loss. The Commodores were almost even with the

Cardinals in total yards, time of possession and first downs, but Stanford scored 13 unanswered points in the final four minutes of the first half to seal Vandy's fate. Georgia won't be so kind, and this game could get out of hand.

**Pick: Georgia 52 Vanderbilt 10**

**LSU (2-1) @ Mississippi State (2-1)**  
**Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / ESPN**  
**Line: LSU -2.5 / o/u 56**

Last week: LSU beat Central Michigan, 49-21; Mississippi State lost to Memphis, 31-29

The Bayou Bengals were in complete control in their thrashing of the Central Michigan Chippewas. LSU was up 35 -7 at halftime and Tiger head coach Ed Ogeron went on coast mode the rest of the game allowing Central Michigan to make it look semi-respectable. Coach 'O' made a number of national pundits look the fool for picking the Chips to upset the Tigers.

Mississippi State outgained and out-possessed Memphis by an almost 2-1 margin but still lost. The refs absolutely screwed the Bulldogs on the worst mis-call of the year resulting in a 94 yard fumbled punt-return touchdown which tilted the game Memphis's way. LSU won't pity the Bulldogs in this road test for the Tigers.

**Pick: LSU 34 Mississippi State 27**

**Missouri (2-1) @ Boston College (3-0)**  
**Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / ESPN 2**  
**Line: Missouri -2.5 / o/u 59**

Last Week: Missouri beat S.E. Missouri 59-28; Boston College beat Temple, 28-3

The Boston College Eagles have played three of the worst teams in college football to start 2021. Their opponents, UMass, Colgate and Temple, are a combined 7-33 the last two years and are all 0-3 this year.

Missouri's only loss was a road loss to 3-0 Kentucky and the Tigers put a whupping on Central Michigan in their early season non-conference contest. The question is which mid-tier division, SEC East or ACC Atlantic, has the better athletes? Going with the SEC.

**Pick: Missouri 38 Boston College 28**

SEC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
<b>WEST</b>		
Alabama	1-0	3-0
Arkansas	0-0	3-0
Mississippi	0-0	3-0
Texas A&M	0-0	3-0
Auburn	0-0	2-1
LSU	0-0	2-1
Miss State	0-0	2-1
<b>EAST</b>		
Georgia	1-0	3-0
Kentucky	1-0	3-0
Tennessee	0-0	2-1
Vanderbilt	0-0	1-2
Florida	0-1	2-1
Missouri	0-1	2-1
S. Carolina	0-1	2-1

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# Big 12 football weekend - Week 4



Texas Tech travels to Austin on Saturday to face the 2-1 Texas Longhorns

By Jeff Bartl

**Texas Tech (3-0) at Texas (2-1)**

**Line: Texas -8 / 61.5**

**Time / TV: 11:00 / ABC**

Well there's the passing game. Texas Tech used to wake up in the morning and throw for 400 yards for breakfast, but the last time it hit the four-bill mark against an FBS team was against Oklahoma State in early October 2019.

The 2016 Red Raiders threw for over 500 seven times with some Mahomes guy throwing for 734 yards in a loss to OU.

Against FIU, Tyler Shough started to look like the top NFL prospect a whole lot of people think he could be, with 399 yards – the team threw for 407 – with four touchdowns, no interceptions, and a whole lot of big plays down the field.

Texas hasn't faced a passing game yet. Louisiana threw okay, but it had to because the running game didn't work. Arkansas didn't do much through the air, but that's because the backfield was running all over the Longhorns. And Rice ... it was a perfectly balanced offense of bleeeech. Now the Texas secondary gets tested just as the Red Raiders might be hitting their stride. But on the flip side ...the Texas Tech defense hasn't faced much of a running game yet. This might be one of the strongest front sevens the Red Raiders have had in years, and they have yet to allow more than 80 yards on the ground. That's partly because they faced Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and FIU.

As good as the offense has been, this

isn't a team that's going to win the time of possession battle no matter how well everything is working. Texas is going to run, run, and run some more after the explosion kicked in with a 427-yard day against Rice. Casey Thompson has hit 77% of his passes so far – limited in the first two games and terrific against the Owls – the O is the best in the Big 12 at converting on third downs, and overall, the team isn't making a whole lot of mistakes.

This is where the Texas lines have to show up. The defensive front got gouged by Arkansas, but that's not a problem this week. There won't be a slew of sacks, but just pressuring Shough enough to make him fully trust his first read will be enough. The Longhorns will be balanced after the Red Raider defense comes up with a strong first quarter. It won't be a perfect performance, and it won't be a 63-56 win like last year, but it'll be a strong Big 12 start for Steve Sarkisian.

**Pick: Texas 34, Texas Tech 23**

**#14 Iowa State (2-1) at Baylor (3-0)**

**Line: Cyclones -7 / 57**

**Time / TV: 2:30 / FOX**

It's not like everything is back to normal just because Iowa State rolled past a miserable UNLV team, but it sure did help to put up close to 500 yards of total offense in the 48-3 win. There's way too much talent and experience to be this mediocre. Now that the Cyclones got through the rocky start to the season, this needs to be when it all kicks in. No, the O hasn't been consistent enough on third downs, and it

hasn't been strong enough on the ground, and before last week, QB Brock Purdy hasn't been Brock Purdy enough, and...the D has been more than good enough. It's No. 1 in the nation. There haven't been any problems on that side of the ball, and now it goes against a Baylor team that finally plays against a defense with teeth.

The Baylor offense has been consistent. It's been able to rip through Texas State, Texas Southern, and Kansas over the first three games running 69 plays in each of them. Now the attack is done with the light scrimmages and will be as ready for the Iowa State defense as it'll ever be.

The Bears lead the Big 12 in total offense with 559 yards, the ground game tears off yards in chunks, and veteran QB Gerry Bohanon has improved each week. He's starting to hit bigger plays down the field, he has yet to throw a pick, and he's been good on the move.

Everything about the Baylor offense has to be perfect at home, because ...the Baylor defense has been just okay, and it's about to get run on.

The coaching staff knows how to put together a D, and the stats are there thanks to the easy schedule to start.

The pass rush isn't going to bother Purdy, and the front that hasn't seen any sort of a push from a decent offensive line is about to meet a Cyclone offense that wants to get a push from the start. Iowa State won't look like a true Big 12 championship contender quite yet, but it'll take a step forward to get there.

**Pick: Iowa State 30, Baylor 16**

**Kansas State (3-0) at Oklahoma St. (3-0)**

**Line: Oklahoma State -6 / 46**

**Time / TV: 6:00 / ESPN+**

It's not like the offense didn't miss a beat with Will Howard in at quarterback for an injured Skyler Thompson, but ... it didn't miss a beat in a somewhat stunning 38-17 win over Nevada. Disrespected considering the good wins over the Wolf Pack and Stanford, the running game has been consistent, the offensive line has been strong, and the passing attack is just efficient enough to keep things moving.

This isn't a big passing game – the downfield plays are there when they give it a shot – but the as long as the ground attack is effective and the defense can keep the strange Oklahoma State passing game under wraps, it might have this.

The Cowboys have somehow found ways to win so far. They've managed to play up or down to their competition, but just when it seemed like they were ready to get nailed, they pulled off a 21-20 win over Boise State. The passing game did nothing – it finished with 74 yards – but the offensive front was great for the ground game.

Against Kansas State, they have to get the pass rush going early – the D has been great at getting behind the line – and the offensive side just has to feel out the game and go with what works. Kansas State has to run to win.

Oklahoma State has a slightly better ability to adapt to the momentum of the game. It'll be a fascinating fight to start to sort out the Big 12 pecking order.

Oklahoma, Texas, and Iowa State all get the headlines, but the winner of this is quietly going to be in the chase even though the conference season is just getting started. The Kansas State defense is going to be just a little more effective against the run, and the Oklahoma State passing attack isn't going to do enough.

It'll be tight throughout with the Cowboys once again figuring out how to pull out a close game – even though it won't be anything pretty.

**Pick: Oklahoma State 26, K-State 23**

**Kansas (1-2) at Duke (2-1)**

**Line: Duke -16 / 57**

**Time / TV: ESPN+**

The Jayhawks have to come up with takeaways – and score off of them. They're +2 in turnover margin on the year with just one giveaway, and they took the ball away twice against Baylor, and it didn't really matter.

Duke gave away the Charlotte game because of two fumbles – that's a little overblown, but not much – and did its best to hand Northwestern a comeback with three turnovers. The five takeaways against the Wildcats saved the day.



Oklahoma is a big favorite this week over West Virginia

Kansas has a wee bit of a passing game and could get hot for moments, and again, it has to capitalize on ANY opening. However ...the Kansas offense wasn't doing a whole lot anyway, but it sure didn't help to lose RB Velton Gardner. He only averaged 1.9 yards per carry, but it would've been nice to figure out how to use 2020's leading rusher a bit more.

The Jayhawks can't find anything that consistently works offensive – it doesn't have a positive identity. On the other side, the run defense is getting worse each week, and now it gets a running attack that hit the 200-yard mark in two of the first three games. Duke will hit 200 yards on the ground in this.

The problem with Kansas is that it's not improving enough. The defense wasn't totally miserable against Coastal Carolina, and then it got rocked by Baylor. The offense has a decent QB in Jason Bean, but he's not getting enough help.

Duke can certainly biff this if it somehow screws up time and again like it did against Charlotte, but the running game will take over early and Kansas will sputter out on drive after drive.

**Pick: Duke 44, Kansas 24**

**West Virginia (2-1) at #4 Oklahoma (3-0)**  
**Line: Sooners -17 / 56.5**  
**Time / TV: 6:30 / ABC**

The Oklahoma running game has been just okay – it hasn't been good enough. It was no coincidence that the Sooner O wasn't what it should've been last year when the ground game didn't roll. Rhamondre Stevenson was eligible, the ground attack took things up a few notches and the offense blew up.

Stevenson is now a New England Patriot, the Sooners didn't hit the 200-yard mark against Tulane and Nebraska, and the O didn't do everything it should. That's not to say they couldn't run – they averaged over five yards per carry against the Huskers – but overall the team with this much talent should be doing even more. Combine that and the lack of downfield

plays – OU is averaging just 10.7 yards per completion – and there's a glitch.

West Virginia's defensive front lives in the backfield, the run defense is allowing just 102 yards per game, and the D is the best in America in the red zone. However ...West Virginia is one of the worst teams in the nation in turnover margin.

It lost to Maryland on four giveaways and a -4 turnover margin, and last week is almost ruined a terrific performance against Virginia Tech with two giveaways.

As good as the Mountaineer D is, it has just one takeaway. It's going to take a whole lot more than that to get this done.

And yeah, the Oklahoma offense isn't the unstoppable force it should be. It's still fantastic, the yards are still there, the wins are still coming, and there aren't mistakes. There might not be a whole lot of risk, but there are rewards – the Sooners lead the Big 12 in turnover margin.

West Virginia has the experience, the defensive front and the ability to pull this off if it can just not be -2 or worse in turnover margin.

The defensive front will be effective and the offensive line will have a good game, but for OU, the steady production of the attack will be enough.

No, this might not be a perfect Sooner team, but it's winning. It'll be rocky, but the offense will come through.

**Pick: Oklahoma 37, West Virginia 23**

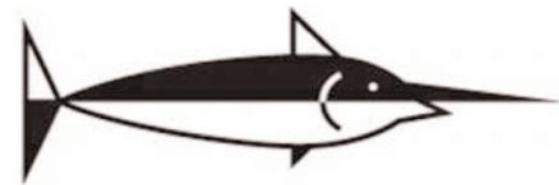
Big 12 STANDINGS		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Baylor	1-0	3-0
Kansas State	0-0	3-0
Oklahoma	0-0	3-0
Oklahoma St	0-0	3-0
Texas Tech	0-0	3-0
TCU	0-0	2-0
Iowa State	0-0	2-1
Texas	0-0	2-1
West Virginia	0-0	2-1
Kansas	0-0	1-2

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# The Battle for the Iron Skillet turns 100



TCU leads the rivalry series 51-41-7 all-time

By Mark Foster

Undefeated teams will meet in a rivalry clash on Saturday afternoon with the SMU Mustangs take on the TCU Horned Frogs at Amon G. Carter Stadium in 100th edition of The Battle for the Iron Skillet.

SMU is coming off a wild 39-37 win over the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs last Saturday as a 10.5-point road favorite to improve to 3-0 overall. TCU last played on September 11, when it beat the California Golden Bears 34-32 as an 11.5-point home favorite to move to 2-0 on the young season.

The Mustangs won the most recent meeting 41-38 in Fort Worth to snap a streak of seven straight head-to-head wins by the Horned Frogs. TCU still leads the rivalry series 51-41-7 all-time.

SMU is coming off one of the most exciting games of the season in college football, as the Mustangs kept their perfect record intact by beating Louisiana Tech on a Hail Mary as time expired in Ruston last weekend. Neither team ever had more than a five-point lead in a back-and-forth affair, with Tanner Mordecai hitting Rashee Rice, Danny Gray and Jordan Kerley on touchdown passes to pace SMU through three quarters. After Louisiana Tech took the lead on a touchdown with 5:07 to go before adding a field goal in the final minute, SMU marched 73 yards in six plays over the final 36 seconds with Mordecai finding

Reggie Roberson from 33 yards out for the game-winner at the buzzer.

Mordecai had a monster game, completing 36 of 48 pass attempts for 395 yards and five touchdowns. Grant Calcaterra led the team with seven catches for 103 yards, while Rice had two touchdown receptions. SMU's defense struggled, but the offense did enough to outgain Louisiana Tech 578-483.

"You practice all those things all the time and you hope you don't need them," Dykes said. "But when you do, and you make the play, it's very rewarding. Sometimes you have to win some that you don't deserve to win to have a special season," head coach Sonny Dykes said to the Dallas Morning News.

SMU is off to a 2-1 start against the spread, as it was able to cover as a huge favorite in the first two games of the season against FCS Abilene Christian and the North Texas Mean Green. Overs are 1-2 so far and got on the board last Saturday with the shootout against Louisiana Tech clearing the betting total of 65 points.

The Mustangs currently rank 11th nationally in scoring at 43.3 points per game while piling up 538.7 yards per contest. Even though it has come against a weak schedule, SMU's defense has shown improvement with an average of 19.3 points and 440.3 yards per game allowed.

Mordecai is one of the leading passers in college football, completing 81 of 111

attempts for 1,023 yards, sixteen touchdowns and two interceptions while adding 16 carries for 84 yards. Rice is a big play threat with 10 catches for 207 yards and four touchdowns, while Ulysses Bentley IV has been efficient on the ground with 33 carries for 250 yards and a score. Isaiah Nwokobia has stuffed the stat sheet defensively with 11 tackles including one for loss, one sack, two interceptions, a pass breakup and a forced fumble.

Top running back TJ McDaniel is still recovering from an ankle injury that ended his 2020 season after four games, and it's unclear when he will return.

TCU hopes to vault into top 25 with win The Horned Frogs headed into an early-season bye week feeling good, as they are just outside of the AP Top 25 after erasing a 12-0 deficit to beat California two weekends ago. Blair Conwright caught a 30-yard touchdown pass to finally get TCU on the board with six minutes to go in the first half before the Horned Frogs scored on a long Zach Evans run in the final seconds heading into the break. Quentin Johnston caught a pair of touchdown passes in the second half, and a nine-yard touchdown run by quarterback Max Duggan proved to be enough as California failed the potential game-tying two-point conversion with 4:09 to go and never got the ball back.

Duggan completed 17 of his 31 pass attempts for 234 yards, three touchdowns and one interception while carrying the ball 19 times for 71 yards and the crucial score. Evans had a monster game to pace the Horned Frogs offense with 22 carries for 190 yards and the touchdown just before half. TCU outgained California 505-442 while getting crucial stops on both a fourth down attempt and two-point conversion to earn the victory.

"For us, not playing a bowl game (last season), we knew this game was a big game to find a way to win," Patterson said to the Associated Press. "It wasn't pretty, especially on defense. We know we'll play better. I think it's a big deal."

The Horned Frogs have yet to pick up a win against the spread at 0-1-1 as they pushed as a massive 42-point favorite in the opener against FCS Duquesne. Overs are 1-1 so far after the game against Cal easily cleared the betting total of 46.5.

There's a lot to like about the TCU offense so far with an average of 39.5 points and 468 yards per game. TCU's D uncharacteristically struggled against Cal, bringing its season averages to 17.5 points and 289.5 yards per game allowed.

Duggan has completed 31 of 50 pass attempts for 441 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions while adding 21 carries for 80 yards and two scores in the

early going. Evans has been very efficient with 27 carries for 210 yards and two touchdowns, while Johnston is a big play threat at receiver with nine receptions for 133 yards and the two scores. Dee Winters has racked up 15 tackles including 2.5 for loss and a sack thus far to lead the TCU defense.

Defensive end Khari Coleman, who was the Big 12 Co-Defensive Freshman of the Year last season, is hoping to return this weekend from a leg injury suffered in camp. Cornerback Noah Daniels is also yet to play with an undisclosed injury.

Pulling off the outright upset might be too much to ask here, but SMU has not been an easy out in the four years under Sonny Dykes and has played its regional power conference rival particularly tough. There were some warning signs for the TCU defense against California, and SMU looks to have another high-flying offense that can take advantage.

Even if it didn't come against the toughest competition, Mordecai's 9.2 yards per attempt and 16:2 TD:INT ratio through three games is impressive against anyone, and he showed a lot of talent in limited action as the backup quarterback for the Oklahoma Sooners the previous three seasons. Patterson cannot be happy with TCU allowing 307 yards on just 27 attempts against a California passing game that generally been awful over the last four seasons, and SMU figures to do a lot more damage with all kinds of weapons at the skill positions including a future NFL wideout in Roberson.

A big key to SMU going 20-6 since the start of 2019 is the defense improving from the horrendous first year under Dykes to at least an average unit, and TCU doesn't have the type of explosive passing game to pull away from opponents. All signs point to a back-and-forth game that comes down to the wire between two old rivals looking to keep their undefeated records intact.

**Pick: TCU 34 SMU 31**

AAC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Cincinnati	0-0	3-0
Memphis	0-0	3-0
SMU	0-0	3-0
Houston	0-0	2-1
UCF	0-0	2-1
East Carolina	0-0	1-2
South Florida	0-0	1-2
Temple	0-0	1-2
Tulane	0-0	1-2
Navy	0-0	0-2
Tulsa	0-0	0-3

# College Football News and Notes



Arkansas leads the series with A&M 41-33-3 since the teams first played in 1903



**BO CARTER**

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The AFCA and several other organizations are teaming for fundraising and recognition efforts for the Coach to Cure MD presented by Werner Ladder. The campaign was not held in 2020 due to COVID-19 protocols.

This partnership between American Football Coaches Association and Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy since 2008 has become an integral part of sideline traditions for the last 13 years. Each last weekend in September coaches at all levels of college football help raise awareness for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy - the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood. This week's focus is for Thursday-Saturday collegiate contests. Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald, president of the AFCA Board of Trustees, has emphasized the program for all college programs and has helped arrange youngsters battling Duchenne MD as honorary captains for the Northwestern-Ohio contest Saturday in Evanston, Illinois.

Werner Ladder, the presenting sponsor, has invited college fans to Step Up With Werner with online donations at [ParentProjectMD.org](http://ParentProjectMD.org) for their favorite college

coaches or by texting the word CURE to 501501 to make a \$25 donation on their next mobile phone bill.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority will serve as the presenting sponsor of the 63rd 2021 National Football Foundation Awards Dinner Dec. 7 in Las Vegas' ARIA Resort and Casino.

2021 NFF College Hall of Fame inductee and former national championship coach at Oklahoma Bob Stoops was the most recent Hall of Famer Highlighted on the NFF website last week.

Scheduled NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes, presented by Fidelity Investments since 2010 are:

Sept. 25 – Bob Stein (2020) – Minnesota (vs. Bowling Green)

Oct. 2 – Darren Sproles (2021) – Kansas State (vs. Oklahoma)

Oct. 2 – Michael Westbrook (2020) – Colorado (vs. Southern California)

Oct. 9 – Eric Crouch (2020) – Nebraska (vs. Michigan)

Oct. 9 – Carson Palmer (2021) – Southern California (vs. Utah)

Oct. 9 – Al Wilson (2021) – Tennessee (vs. South Carolina)

Fans can enjoy a visit to the Chick-fil-A NFF College Football Hall of Fame if they are in the Atlanta area this fall. They have GameDay Tailgate every Saturday where fans can watch the top games of the weekend. Also, the 2020-2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class specialty exhibit is open to honor honoring the legendary players and coaches of both classes and featuring personalized lockers for each member with memorabilia highlighting their stellar collegiate careers.

#### **NFF College Hall of Fame Facts**

**Some notable birthdates** in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 21-27 are Sept. 21 (1934) Brock Strom, Munising, Mich.; (1940) Sandy Stephens,

Uniontown, Pa.; Sept. 22 (1898) Hunk Anderson, Tamrack, Mich.; (1905) Larry Bettencourt, Newark, Calif.; (1907) Thad "Pie" Vann, Magnolia, Miss.; (1922) Ray Evans, Kansas City, Kan.; (1959) Bob Crable, Cincinnati, Ohio; Sept. 23 (1918) George Franck, Davenport, Iowa; Sept. 24 (1909) George Munger, Elkins Park, Pa.; (1946) Joe Greene, Temple, Texas; (1953) Joe Washington, Crockett, Texas; (1973) Eddie George, Philadelphia, Pa.; Sept. 25 (1902) Scrappy Moore, Chattanooga, Tenn.; (1907) Ralph "Shug" Jordan, Selma, Ala.; (1975) Dat Nguyen, Fort Chaffee, Ark.; Sept. 26 (1871) Joe Thompson, County Down, Ireland; (1922) Creighton Miller, Cleveland, Ohio; (1951) Dave Casper, Bemidji, Minn.; Sept. 27 (1862) Alex Moffat, Princeton, N.J.; (1912) Bill Shakespeare, Staten Island, New York.

**Notable anniversary death dates** for Hall of Famers are Sept. 21 (2019) E.J. Holub, Big Spring, Texas; Sept. 23 (2020) Gale Sayers, Wakarusa, Ind.; Sept. 24 (2000) Jerry Claiborne, Nashville, Tenn.; (2002) Leon Hart, South Bend, Ind.; (2018) Tommy McDonald, Audubon, Pa.; Sept. 25 (1987) Duffy Daugherty, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Sept. 27 (1998) Doak Walker, Steamboat Springs, Colo.; (2016) Randy Duncan, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Happy birthdays** to NFF College Hall of Fame members Sept. 21 Brock Strom (a spry 87), Sept. 22 Bob Crable, Sept. 24 Mean Joe Greene, Joe Washington, Eddie George, Sept. 25 Dat Nguyen.

Tulane is returning Yulman Stadium in New Orleans, La., for Saturday's test with UAB...Sam Houston will play at Houston in both 2023 and 2028...Illinois State will host Eastern Illinois in 2024...Southeast Missouri State will travel to Arkansas State for a single contest in 2025...North Texas and SMU have extended their series four games from 2027-30...Some of Columbia's top non-conference changes in coming years are Georgetown (D.C.) from 2022-24, Wagner in 2022 and '23, Marist in 2022, and Lafayette in 2023 and '24. The Lions are seeking one more opponent outside their Ivy League slate for the 2024 outing...Northwestern State and Southeastern Louisiana moved their game earlier this month to Nov. 13 because of storm damage in the Bayou State...Central Arkansas and Lamar will meet in 2024 and '25...The Nebraska-Oklahoma 50-year anniversary of The Game of Century (won by NU 35-31 at Norman, Okla., in 1971) last week represented two schools who played continuously from 1919-97. The Huskers and Sooners also were members of the Big Six-12 Conferences 1920-2010 before Nebraska joined the Big Ten in 2011. OU also competed as a member of

the Southwest Conference from 1915-18. Nebraska fought the No. 3 Sooners down to the wire before falling 23-16 last weekend...Morehead State replaced its earlier contest with Union (Tenn.) by facing Point U. after Union had COVID-19 protocol challenges...North Dakota State has a skein of four nationally-ranked opponents in the Missouri Valley Football Conference over a six-week skein...Appalachian State is now is 26-5 with a pair of bowl victories since the start of the 2019 outing...Maine Maritime Academy continues to review the status of its football program, which has not competed in 2020 and '21, and alumni hope the sport will return in fall '22...

...Charlotte started the season at 2-0 for the first time since 2015. The 49ers best beginning was 3-0 in 2014 when they completed their term as a member of NCAA FCS...Baylor leads the Big 12 Conference standings at 1-0 for the first time since Sept. 28, 2019, after topping Kansas 45-7 last week...Four of the schools with the highest grade point averages and SAT scores nationally met last week when Duke edged Northwestern 30-23 and Stanford topped Vanderbilt 41-23...Texas Tech opened its campaign at 3-0 for the first time since 2017, and Rutgers has started at 3-0 for the first time since 2012. There are currently 29 NCAA FBS teams with undefeated records...Alabama maintained its 9-0 series record against Florida since 2008 and has a FBS-tops overall winning skein of 17 games since late in the 2019 season.

Challenged Athletes Foundation grant recipients had several medal-winning showings for Team USA at the recent Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games..Saturday's Notre Dame-Wisconsin contest at Soldier Field might be tabbed the Chryst Bowl. Wisconsin head coach Paul Chryst will get some ribbing from brother Rick Chryst, a former Notre Dame baseball student-athlete and commissioner of the Mid-American Conference and assistant commissioner at the Atlantic Coast and Southwest Conferences....The Vanderbilt Alumni Association is giving away special Vandy black and gold socks as a premium for 2021 contributions...The Gideons are planning a distribution of 15,000-plus Testaments on the Texas A&M campus in coming days...Nike may be 160 million shoes shorter in supply in 2021 because of plant closings and interruptions in Vietnam due to world health conditions...Several colleges and athletics programs will be investing in the new Apple iPhone 13, iPhone 13 mini, iPhone 13 Pro Max, Apple Watch Series 7, iPad, and iPad mini introduced and placed on sale last week. Apple CEO Tim Smith is a vocal fan of his alma

*(continued on page 16)*

mater Auburn and member of the NFF Board of Trustees...Aretha Franklin's famed "Respect" was voted No. 1 rock song all-time by Rolling Stone magazine in its Top 500 songs. It was recorded in New York City at Atlantic Records with the famed Muscle Shoals Swampers rhythm section (led by Sheffield, Ala., graduate and Bulldogs football enthusiasts David Hood and late Alabama resident Barry Beckett).

Head coach Clay Helton has left the USC program after seven seasons and has been replaced by interim head coach Donte Williams. Penn State head coach James Franklin has been mentioned as one of the leading candidates for the permanent USC post as well as NFL Kansas City Chiefs assistant head coach and famed Colorado RB Eric Bieniemy...Navy head coach Ken Niumatolo continues as the winningest coach in the academy's history with a 101-69 mark over 14 complete seasons...Navy offensive coordinator Ivin Jasper also has returned to his post on the Midshipmen's coaching staff...Alabama State is planning multiple renovations for the track at the Houston Markham Complex named in memory of the famed Mississippi high school and ASU 1991 Black national championship head coach...Portland State head coach Bruce Barnum purchased a titanic tub of beer for all fans who came to his coach's show at the Barney Beer Garden in Portland, Oregon, last week...Missouri head coach Eli Drinkwitz indicated that the 2021 season could be a proving ground for the future of college football over the next 20-30 years...SMU head coach Sonny Dykes has guided the Mustangs to the most victories (20) of any Texas NCAA FBS mentor since August 2019..Houston head coach Dana Holgorsen now has the right to renegotiate his long-term contract with new bonus measures as the Cougars join the Big 12...NFF College Hall of Fame player and current Jackson State head coach Deion Sanders reflected on the paydays for matchups between HBCU and NCAA FBS members and how they affect HBCU teams' morale...Veteran TCU head coach Gary Patterson related that with four new members the Big 12 Conference would have some positive changes and new gridiron rivalries and also how NIL legislation has affected football recruiting nationwide...Texas Tech head coach Matt Wells has been impressed with his defensive line success after the Red Raiders ranked 14th nationally in rushing defense after two contests...Baylor head coach Dave Aranda waws pleased that the Bears were able to prepare for Big 12 activity with a pair of non-conference clashes prior to meeting Kansas last week.

**Hometowns** of more 2021 college head coaches – Marshall: Charles Huff, Denton, Md.; Maryland: Mike Locksley, Washington, D.C.; Massachusetts: Walt Bell, Dickson, Tenn.; McNeese: Frank Wilson, New Orleans, La.; Memphis: Ryan Silverfield, Jacksonville, Florida.

The Colorado Board of Regents extended the contract of Colorado director of athletics Rick George through June 2026...UNC Greensboro AD Kim Record has completed her 12-year term as AD and has been replaced by interim AD Kevin Bostian...Southern Illinois AD Liz Jarnigan has been spelled by SIU Foundation CEO and interim AD Matthew Kupec in a recent position change...Abilene Christian AD Allen Ward will finish his tenure in December to pursue additional career opportunities...Ohio State AD and 2006 NFF John V. Toner Award recipient Gene Smith is now on the Fiesta Bowl Board of Directors....DePaul AD and former Kentucky and SEC administrator DeWayne Peevy celebrated his one-year anniversary as AD at DePaul last week...Florida AD Scott Stricklin explained in a recent national story how Chip Kelly of Oregon and UCLA was his primary choice to replace Florida head coach Jim McElwain, but he had his former Mississippi State associate Dan Mullen as a key backup in 2018. When Mullen did not accept a contract extension with Stricklin's replacement as MSU AD – John Cohen – after the 2017 season and Kelly withdrew his name from consideration, the four-year Gators skipper accepted and went on to capture 31 of the first 40 contests he coached at UF...Texas Tech AD Kirby Hocutt and Texas AD Chris Del Conte are working on a 20-25-year commitment to continue their traditional competition in all sports...Kansas State AD Gene Taylor believes the Big 12 will maintain a Power Five conference stance with solid financial stability after Oklahoma and Texas leave for the SEC...Southern Cal AD Mike Bohn has pledged to pave the way for solid nationally known candidates for the head coaching opening with the Trojans...Georgia Tech selected Chris Breen as associate AD for academics and Lance Markos as associate AD for compliance...TCU senior associate AD for compliance Ike Ukaegbu was recognized as a primary candidate for a major college AD's position when there is an upcoming opening...Northwestern added Tyler Jones as senior associate AD for external affairs...Stony Brook chose Justin Berger as associate AD for development and Rob DeVita as associate AD for strategic communications...Cincinnati AD John Cunningham notes that the Bearcats are anticipating losing far fewer student-athletes in recruiting against Power Five conference teams after becoming part of the Big 12, and he recalled the procedures leading to the entry of the Bearcats into the Big 12 Conference and how the higher projected revenues from the new conference will assist in UC facilities' development, national media coverage, student-athlete recruitment, and interest from students applying for admission to a Big 12 school...Penn State AD Sandy Barbour and Missouri Valley Football Conference commissioner Patty Viverito related their thoughts about the NCAA Division I

Football Oversight Committee...BYU administrators praised AD Tom Holmoe for his negotiations to join the Big 12 Conference and the school's earlier decision to become a NCAA FBS independent and to leave the Mountain West Conference...Illinois AD Josh Whitman is hoping to make renovations to Memorial Stadium's east side and horseshoe to coincide with 100 years of MS history during the 2023 season...Texas State AD Don Coryell had his new contract ratified with the university and compensation and signing clauses confirmed...Former Duke and LSU AD Joe Alleva has joined FirstPoint USA as executive consultant on the advisory board...Louisville AD Vince Tyra addressed the fact that Louisville football concessionaires are facing many of the same challenges as restaurateurs – getting enough staffing to run food and cleanup operations. The Cardinals opened the season with 150 fewer workers in concessions and in-stadium sales and discounted several items 50 percent prior to halftime...Memphis AD Laird Veatch made an analogy of opportunities and rapid-fire changes in college athletics to a final whistle blowing ending a contest – with more to come the next week...Cal State Fullerton assistant AD for sports medicine Jamie Potter parlayed about mental health and its importance to collegiate student-athletes...UT Arlington selected Eric Trimborn as associate AD for external relations. Former Southwest Conference championships and ticketing administrator Russell Warren serves as deputy AD for the Mavericks...The Stephen F. Austin Board of Regents are reviewing the performance of current president Dr. Scott Gordon...Northern State (S.D.) has three finalists for its AD's position - Tulsa senior associate AD for administration Dr. Brian Scislo, Dakota Wesleyan AD Curt Hart and former St. Scholastica (Minn.) AD Brian Jamros...UIC tabbed Dr. Galen Duncan as senior associate AD of health, wellness and performance...Oregon softball head coach Melyssa Lombardi added seasons to her current contract with the Ducks through the 2025 campaign..Arizona AD Dave Heeke and ticket officials are working to shorten ticket-taking lines for Wildcats home tussles...The University of Michigan Board of Trustees conducted its annual evaluation of president Dr. Mark Schlissel and senior administrative staff members last week...Charlotte AD Mike Hill estimated the 49ers victory over ACC contender over Duke may generate an additional \$1 million-plus in individual game ticket sales for UNCC...Fordham named Michael Sowter director of tennis and women's tennis head coach...Michigan women's basketball head coach Kim Barnes Arico has a new contract extension through the 2025-26 campaign...D1Ticker.com reports athletics position openings in athletics at Akron, Holy Cross, Cleveland State, UNC Greensboro, Princeton, Kansas, Virginia, Rutgers, Canisius, Northwestern, Arkansas, Notre Dame, Northern Iowa,

George Washington, and Kentucky, among others.

Austin Peay will become a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference starting in the 2022-23 competitive year after a national news conference late last week..Conference USA and the College Football Playoff Education Foundation will have a joint effort to reward local educators throughout the academic year. Specified teachers in these cities will be honored at selected C-USA football games, and the locations are: Charlotte, N.C., Boca Raton, Fla.; Miami, Fla., Ruston, La., Huntington, W.Va., Murfreesboro, Tenn., Denton, Texas, Norfolk, Va., Houston, Texas, Hattiesburg, Miss., Birmingham, Ala., El Paso, Texas, San Antonio, Texas, and Bowling Green, Ky. Representatives of host C-USA members, administrators and teachers from the recipient schools will be recognized, and there will be added social and digital activations throughout the '21 season. One heroic teacher also will be awarded a \$2k gift certificate from Michaels at the C-USA Football Championship on Dec. 3. The Goodyear Cotton Foundation in association with the Big Day Group, also made a commitment of \$100,000 for the CFP Educational Foundation for are teachers...Six of 10 Big 12 Conference schools were among the Top 42 in NCAA FBS total defense statistics prior to Sept. 18 fractures, and the circuit was 16-4 in 20 non-conference clashes to start the season...The four schools joining the Big 12 Conference are paying \$2.5 million entry fees each for the privilege, and the loop is expected to have two divisions of six teams in football with the number of conference contests still to be determined....Big 12 commissioner Bob Bowlsby hinted that the Big 12 may have further expansion plans – possibly as early as the 2024-25 academic year via some sources. Memphis and Boise State have been mentioned as possible additions...Kansas AD Travis Goff thinks that there might be additional movement inside and outside the Big 12 for national media contracts but credited Big 12 commissioner Bowlsby with the four new arrivals...BYU has decided to join the Big 12 Conference for the 2023-24 competitive year while Houston is hoping for an August 2023 start. Cincinnati and UCF have promised to join the Big 12 no later than July 1, 2024...American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco observed that recent success in football and other sports made former AAC members attractive to several other conferences at this stage of NCAA FBS realignment and that the remaining American members are dedicated to remaining and making the league stronger...Mountain West Conference commissioner Craig Thompson mentioned the hard facts of the changing landscape of college athletics – much larger travel and logistics' costs for all involved and a continuing lapse of traditional football and other rivalries. He also said he is in contact with several college administra-

ors and being proactive about MWC possibilities...Big Ten Conference commissioner Kevin Warren and Pac-12 commissioner George Kliavkoff used the Oregon-Ohio State football matchup from Sept. 11 as a predecessor to many future duels between Top 25 teams from its circuit. Kliavkoff also is the midst of a 12-campus goodwill tour of Pac-12 members to meet with students, athletics staffs and college administrators...Media reports indicate that retired Big Ten Conference commissioner Jim Delany will become a special adviser at Conference USA to study realignment possibilities...West Coast Conference commissioner Gloria Nevarez commented on BYU's exit from the WCC and how football television contracts affected the final decision to join the Big 12...The AAC may make some exceptions to its exit bylaws as it continues working with UCF, Cincinnati and Houston on their departures for the Big 12 Conference...Sun Belt commissioner Keith Gill opined that his conference is positioned to make a major impact on the NCAA FBS national scene and potential, continued loop realignment...James Madison has been identified for a possible future membership in the Sun Belt...Ivy League student-athletes have saluted the NIL possibilities to help with high tuition costs and daily incidentals such as residence hall fees, books, meal plans, and other costs of college life...The Big 12 Conference officially released both its 2021-22 men's basketball schedules for conference encounters...The Atlantic East Conference is working with financial advising group Spry for league-wide NIL compliance and pacts...Atlantic 10 Commissioner Bernadette McGlade expressed disagreement over a proposal to play the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Final Fours® in the same city on the same weekend because of the unique aspects of both tourneys and problems associated with overlapping practices and events...Conference USA reiterated that its bylaws require that any member leaving must give 14 months advance notice and pay two years of its annual conference distribution – currently estimated at \$6 million...The Guilford County Board of Commissioners chair Skip Alston is working to keep the traditional Atlantic Coast Conference headquarters in Greensboro, N.C...Yahoo Sports notes that Valdosta State, West Georgia, Lincoln Memorial, and Queens (N.C.) may be under consideration for membership either in the Atlantic Sun or Ohio Valley Conferences. The ASUN is moving possibly toward a possible 16-school membership...Big East Conference student-athletes are wearing BE the Change uniform patches in 2021-22...The Ivy League and Southland Conference are cooperating with TicketSmarter as both circuits' official ticket resale marketing agent.

The San Francisco Bowl (formerly the RedBox Bowl) officially has been cancelled for the second year in a row and is

making plans to resume in December 2022...Goodyear Cotton Bowl chair Bry Patton has been active in promoting college contests and bowls at AT&T Stadium as well as the Cotton Bowl Foundation's partnership with the College Football Playoff Foundation to recognize area educators...College Football Playoff COO and former Big Sky Conference commissioner Andrea Williams spoke of her professional growth in seven years with the CFP and the ample resources she utilizes in her job.

Freshman RB Montrell Johnson rushed for four touchdowns in Louisiana's nationally-televised (ESPN) win over Mid-American Conference opponent Ohio...Charlotte QB Chris Reynolds has set a 49ers career passing yards' record with 5,627 yards ahead of Matt Johnson with 5,405 all-time yards, and Reynolds has an eight-game streak with passing touchdowns...SMU quarterback Tanner Mordecai leads NCAA FBS with 16 TD passes, including a game-winner toss at the buzzer at La Tech last Saturday...Ole Miss QB Matt Corral broke a 70-year-old school record with responsibility for eight touchdowns (five rushing, three passing) in the Rebels 61-21 win over Tulane...USC freshman Jaxson Dart passed for four TDs and 391 yards in the Trojans Pac-12 opening victory at Washington State...Grayson McCall had three TD passes to lead No. 16 Coastal Carolina over stubborn Buffalo while teammate Jaivon Heiligh reached 2,000-plus career receiving yards...Army West Point QB Christian Anderson accounted for three TDs (two rushing, one passing) as the Black Knights scored on their first six possessions to top Connecticut...Arkansas QB KJ Jefferson passed for a career-best 366 yards and three TDs to lead the Razorbacks to a triumph over Georgia Southern. The Razorbacks and Texas A&M are set for a Top 25 skirmish Saturday at 2:30 p.m. when they meet at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, in the Southwest Classic. The Razorbacks lead that 77-game series 41-33-3 since the teams first played in 1903...Baylor defender JT Woods returned a fumble 97 yards (school record) for a touchdown against Texas Southern for the Bears first defensive TD since the 2013 campaign. BU's Abram Smith and Tristan Ebner each had 100-plus first half rushing yards in the same tussle...After throwing for a career-best 435 yards four touchdown passes at Army West Point, WKU QB Bailey Zappe was Surf & Turf Golf Conference USA co-Offensive Player of the Week with Florida Atlantic QB N'Kosi Perry after going 19-for-27 passes for 332 yards with four touchdowns against Georgia Southern, C-USA Defensive Player of the Week was Louisiana Tech DB BeeJay Williamson with two interceptions against Southeastern Louisiana while C-USA Special Team laurels went to UTSA's Sheldon Jones with a 76-yard punt return for a TD against Lamar...Northern Colorado (grad transfer from Michigan) starting QB Dylan McCaffrey passed for 241 yards at

Colorado in the Bears season opener. His brother Luke McCaffrey (transfer from Nebraska) has been playing more a vital role at quarterback at Arkansas this year. They are the sons of Northern Colorado first-year head coach Ed McCaffrey from the famed basketball-football McCaffrey family in the Allentown, Pa., area...NAIA National Players of the Week for Sept. 13 were Texas Wesleyan kick return specialist Anthony Bobb (89-yard punt return for TD), Robert Carter (three interceptions) of Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) and Matt Struck of Southern Oregon after accounting for six touchdowns...LD Brown had a 98-yard kickoff return to make the difference in Oklahoma State' 28-23 win over Oklahoma Turnpike rival Tulsa...Abilene Christian QB Peyton Mansell transferred to ACU from Iowa and was rewarded as one of the Wildcats 2021 team captains...UCF QB Dillon Gabriel suffered a fractured clavicle last week against Louisville...Memphis QB Seth Henigan received the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week Award after going 22-of-33 passing for 417 yards and five TDs against Arkansas State...The Lou Groza Award Stars of the Week were Andy Borregales of Miami (Fla.), Jonah Dalmas of Boise State and Cam Little of Arkansas...Oregon safety Verone McKinley III had six tackles and a game-winning interception in a 35-28 victory at then-No. 3 Ohio State to capture the FWAA Bronko Nagurski Award Defensive Player of the Week...Texas specialist Cameron Dicker is handling both punting and placement kicking duties for the Longhorns this autumn...North Texas DB Makyle Sanders spoke of remaining at UNT as a super senior when he had opportunities to leave the program in the NCAA transfer portal...Rutgers' punter Adam Korsak is a rare back-to-back weeks' recipient of the Augusta Sports Council Ray Guy Award as NCAA FBS national punter of the week...UCF defensive back Jaylin Alderman returned a pass interception 66 yards with 13 seconds left in regulation to stake Louisville to a 42-35 victory over American Athletic Conference power UCF last Friday...Texas A&M has been buoyed defensively by the return of CB Myles Jones...Arkansas State kicker Brad Grupe was highlighted for his off-season work ethic and application to the '21 outing...Oklahoma DL LaRon Stokes has been credited with solid service for the No. 3 nationally Sooners in early defensive going...Texas A&M starting QB Haynes King is out indefinitely with a broken leg. Zach Calzada replaced him against Colorado and aided a final-quarterback comeback win against the Buffaloes in Denver...Kansas State QB Skylar Thompson has been sidelined with a knee injury...LSU RB John Emery Jr. is out for the season due to academic reasons...Oregon freshman LB Justin Flowe was injured while making 14 tackles in the Ducks upset win at Ohio State...North Dakota State baseball commitment Kale Jensen not only is a

2020 All-State baseball selection, but he also started the year at QB for Central City (Neb.) HS with 920 passing yards and six touchdowns and 251 rushing yards for the CCHS football edition...Safety Landon Hullaby has given a verbal commitment to Oregon football in 2022...DL Joseph Adedire has pledged orally to join the TCU grid program in '22...Xavion Brice is a wideout commitment for Oklahoma for the '22 signing allotment...Owensboro (Ky.) High School senior QB Gavin Wimsatt is enrolling at Rutgers with a possible \$100k-plus NIL agreement in the works...Safety-LB Ben Roberts has given a verbal commitment to Texas Tech in '22 while three-sport star Ashton Jeanty has told Boise State he will ink with the Broncos in 2022...SMU women's soccer goalkeeper signed a NIL agreement with (who else?) Sam's Club for a starting fee of \$10,000 along with UCF women's track and field student-athlete Samieryah (Sam) Bradwell, Georgia State football's Sam Pinckney and UCLA gymnast Samantha (Sam) Sakti.

Both longtime rivals but coaching friends Barry Switzer of Oklahoma and Dr. Tom Osborne of Nebraska attended the 50-year anniversary of the Game of the Century between Nebraska and Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., last Saturday. Hall of Fame coach NFF College and Pro Football Hall of Fame John Elway of Stanford has been featured in recent advertisements for people dealing with acute hand conditions...Jackson State head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame star Deion Sanders of Florida State still favors expansion of the Southwestern Athletic Conference without annexation or a merger with the Mid-Eastern Athletics Conference. He foresees better television opportunities and more meaningful SWAC matchups in future years...Longtime NFL publicist Chip Namias worked the Bears-Rams NFL contest last Sunday to start his 40th consecutive season publicizing or working on broadcasts in the league...Kicker Justin Tucker of Texas and the NFL Baltimore Ravens has connected on 49 consecutive field goals in the fourth quarters of games in recent seasons...Rice famed track and field student-athlete Becky Wade Firth, four-time Olympic Trials' competitor, was featured in last week's R Club podcast. She is the granddaughter of late Dallas district attorney Henry Wade of the Roe v. Wade case and other national jurisprudence. Forth also is the track and field head coach at Dallas' Ursuline Academy...The NFL Buffalo Bills are requiring fans to be vaccinated to attend games with masks no longer required at the stadium for those 12 years or older...The NFL Dallas Cowboys have signed a 10-year merchandise partnership with Fanatics. Samford will name the F. Page Seibert Stadium playing surface Bobby Bowden Field Saturday in memory of the former Bulldogs head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame chief Bobby Bowden...Oklahoma State's Board of

(continued on page 18)

Regents approved \$75 million in athletics facilities upgrades – primarily for the new football recruiting center in the west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium... The Air Force Academy Foundation and the AFA Athletic Corporation have denoted a Falcon Stadium renovation project as part of the academy's Defining Our Future campaign. The master plan for the updates calls for \$180 million... South Dakota State athletics has added a \$20 million commitment from First Bank & Trust as the lead gift for the SDSU Frost Arena renovation with full naming rights for the facility... Furman has started a \$3 million renovation project for Timmons Arena and other areas such as basketball offices, new suites, lockers, videotape, and study rooms... U. of Maryland revealed an economic impact report from the University of Baltimore of Terrapins football. The report indicated a typical home football game supported \$27.3 million in regional economic activity, 376 jobs and \$1.8 million combined state and local government tax revenues... Texas Tech and the NFL Kansas City Chiefs are working together for advertising, stadium signage and social media campaigns to increase the Tech's national appeal from Chiefs' former Super Bowl MVP QB Patrick Mahomes of Tech... U.S. News & World Report has its 2021-22 best national universities' list includes Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Harvard and MIT (tie), Stanford and Chicago (tie), Pennsylvania, Caltech, Duke, Northwestern, and Johns Hopkins in the Top 10... Kentucky athletics is adding a varsity stunt program as its 23rd sport... Harvard U. explained that it does not intend to make future investments in fossil fuel industries for the benefit of its scholastic or athletics' endowments... NC State has combined with the Brandr Group for group licensing for all 23 varsity sports... Pacific (Calif.) and Accelerate Sports Ventures are working in unison for NIL education and brand-building resources for the Tigers... Navy has reaped the benefits of having 26 players make the first starts of their college careers in 2020... Alcorn State has been facing the challenge of not having enough fulltime athletic trainers on football and other sports' staffs because of financial cutbacks and other conditions... Spirits Management Worldwide has offered NIL assistance and potential contracts to 460,000-plus NCAA student-athletes and 60,000-plus student-athletes from the NAIA ranks... LSU has named its playing surface Dale Brown Court at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center to honor the Tigers famed men's basketball coach... Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson are preparing booster vaccinations for assistance with larger gatherings and prevention of accentuated COVID-19 spread at football games and holiday gatherings... Michigan State will renovate its football complex, larger health spaces, mental health facilities, weight rooms, sports science rooms, training rooms, and new offices for football and athletics train-

ing staff members as part of 2021-22 budget additions... Georgia athletics will add seats and make renovations to Foley Field and Jack Turner Stadium prior to the 2024 seasons and also athletics initiated its NIL program LeGAcY to assist Bulldogs student-athletes with the changing landscape of NIL agreements and endorsements... NASCAR will hold a first-ever February 2022 race on a special track inside Los Angeles Coliseum at United Field... The renovations at Mississippi State's historic Humphrey Coliseum were projected at \$50M but could run higher because of construction material costs and other factors. State's Davis-Wade Stadium/Scott Field also may be undergoing renovations on the south side in coming months. NFF correspondent Bo Carter was among staff members when MSU's Humphrey Coliseum opened in 1975... Purdue took the world's largest drum to its game at Notre Dame and left the famed contraption outside for fans' enjoyment before and after the contest. Texas also has the Big Berth drum, which was purchased from the University of Chicago in 1955 and had to be decontaminated from radioactivity acquired from the nuclear Manhattan Project in the 1940s under UC's football stadium... Tulane's special helmets for its game against SEC power Ole Miss had a special designation from the Green Wave's history: SEC champs 1934, 39, 49... LSU athletics and University Fancards have created LSU-branded prepaid MasterCards... Ohio State football has been working on some slow-downs in its updated digital ticketing process at Ohio Stadium... The Brandr Group and Altius Sports Partners will be the official education providers to The Brandr Group-affiliated student-athletes on group licensing... Former Wasserman Group administrator Debbie Spander has inaugurated her own agency, Insight Sports Advisors, to represent broadcasts, coaches on all levels and student-athletes working on NIL endorsement... Arizona athletics and Altius Partners have established the Arizona Wildcats EDGE program for NIL disbursement and financial advocacy... USC officials revealed preseason plans to evaluate the state of the Trojans football program and why they took midseason actions to make a head coaching change. AD Mike Bohn and others in the program also will make provisions to stay in contact with oral commitments and prime recruits... Hawai'i Gov. David Ige is anxious to get larger turnouts for Hawai'i contests as the Rainbow Warriors are the only FBS team not allowing fans for home games among the 130 largest division schools nationally. He also commented on making sure that student-athletes, coaches and fans' safety are the most important facets at this juncture... LSU athletics has begun an agreement with Caesars Sportsbook as the Tigers exclusive gaming and sportsbook partner... Oregon athletics merchandise jumped by 425 percent in the following five days after its upset of then-No. 3 Ohio

State at Columbus... Monmouth has added women's rowing as its 24th sport in August 2022... UTRGV athletics has released a core values and mission statement along with future goals for facilities and academic excellence... StubHub is in the process of refunding \$20 million-plus from various cancellations at college football contests and other events due to COVID-19 precautions. Colorado associate AD Dave Plati paid tribute to late Associated Press sports writer Dale Bublitz with a designated memorial seat in the pressbox at Denver for the Buffaloes intersectional clash with Texas A&M... The New York Post foresees ESPN to be offered a direct-to-consumer capacity five years or less in reports from various industry sources... CBS Sports has speculated that SMU and USF could be potential candidates for the Big 12 if it continues expansion to 14 or 16 schools... The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal newspaper researched that 34 NCAA Division I football head coaches and assistants out of 2,800-plus football staffers are Hispanic or Latino... ESPN football reporter and former NHL analyst Stormy Buonantony has joined VSiN... FOX has purchased TMZ, which sometimes has college football features, from AT&T's Warner Media unit for just under \$50 million... Sports Business Journal looked in on environmentally-friendly concessions' and waste management venues such as Texas' Darrell K. Royal/Memorial Stadium, Missouri's Memorial Stadium in Columbia and NBA Atlanta Hawks and Phoenix Suns venues, among others... The Pac-12 Networks has a new licensing partnership with Recur, the technology company that designs and develops plans to allow fans to buy, collect and resell experiences and video content... HBCU Sports looked at various game guarantees between HBCU football squads and NCAA FBA members... The Athletic examined NCAA Constitution Bylaw 1.3.1 Basic Purpose to create positive experiences for all student-athletes with eligible athletes enrolled in courses deemed legitimate by their institutions and passing their classes... The Atlanta Journal-Constitution mentioned that major donors are calling for continued improvements in the Yellow Jackets football program and the need for six or seven overall victories and a bowl berth against a rugged Atlantic Coast Conference opposition... ESPN College GameDay presented by Home Depot hopes to host a program from Las Vegas, Nevada next time there is a neutral site college contest in the entertainment capital. Also, the GameDay crew spoke of the better chemistry when all the principals are on set instead of via Zoom or remote production facilities... Politico revealed the funds that the NCAA and Power Five conferences have used in lobbying federal and state governments... George Mason athletics and SIDEARM Sports unveiled GMU's new website... The Sparrow One Group examined the large turnover in college athletics marketing directors and future reasons and

considerations... Washington State alumnus and Pac-12 Networks sportscaster Cindy Brunson stressed the importance and state of Washington mandates about reception of the COVID-19 vaccine... English Premier Soccer League teams clubs are seeking bids from U.S. media rights' partners such as ESPN, WarnerMedia, ViacomCBS, and Amazon TV... FOX CEO Rupert Murdoch reported that the advertising market for the NFL has never been stronger than the '21 campaign... TV ratings for the Iowa-Iowa State in-state Cy-Hawk Trophy game came to 3.9 million viewers for the largest audience in matchup history between the rivals on ABC... The Pac-12 Hotline noticed that several schools in the Pacific Coast area have been affected by unhealthy air conditions caused by numerous wildfires in the region over the spring and summer months. Nevada moved its preseason workouts from Reno to Palo Alto, Calif., due to heavy smoke and weather conditions. All Pac-12 schools have sensors at home games to determine air quality readings... The Athletic examined several specifics of Houston's recent journey to become a member of the Big 12 Conference and had additional comments from former UH and Florida AD Bill Carr on the final days of the Cougars in the Southwest Conference in 1996... Longtime Iowa State publicist and former NCAA Baseball World Series media assistant Beth Haag has organized a new ISU Student Media Club with an overflow turnout for group's first meeting... NIL facilitation groups spoke with Sports Business Journal writers about competition among these companies and school for NIL dollars. Early leaders in numbers and amounts of NIL agreements are BYU, Miami (Fla.), Alabama, Kentucky, and LSU, among others. This week's NFF FWAA Super 16 poll includes Top Five entries Alabama, Georgia, Oregon, Oklahoma, and first-time elite member Iowa. Georgia received a season-best six first-place votes in the latest survey... Arkansas was the 20th annual season Cheez-It FWAA Team of the Week after downing longtime Southwest Conference and future SEC counterpart 40-14... Nominations continue being accepted for the 2021 Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the Football Writers Association of America through Oct. 1. Coordinated by the staff at the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl, the Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the FWAA was created in June 2012 to honor an individual and/or a group with a military background and/or involvement that have an impact within the realm of college football. Nominations may be submitted to Tim Simmons via email [bfishinc@aol.com](mailto:bfishinc@aol.com), phone: 303-678-8484), the award's coordinator... FWAA Writing Contest winners for 2020-21 are Game Story - First Place — Glenn Guilbeau, USA TODAY; Second Place - Travis Hines, Des Moines Register; Third Place Matt Baker, Tampa Bay Times; Honorable Mention - Ryan McGee, ESPN.com;

Eric Hansen, South Bend Tribune; Dick Friedman, Harvard Magazine; Michael Lev, Arizona Daily Star/Tucson.com. Features - First Place - Dave Wilson, ESPN.com; Second Place - Andrea Adelson, ESPN.com; Third Place - David Jones, PennLive.com; Honorable Mention - Nate Mink, Syracuse Post-Standard; Ross Dellenger, Sports Illustrated; David Ubben, The Athletic. Column - First Place - Alex Scarborough, ESPN.com; Second Place - Ryan McGee, ESPN.com; Third Place - Reese Becker, Fifth Quarter; Honorable Mention - Eric Hansen, South Bend Tribune; Dennis Dodd, CBSSports.com; Pete Thamel, Yahoo Sports. Enterprise Stories - First Place - Alex Scarborough, ESPN.com; Second Place - Audrey Snyder, The Athletic; Third Place - Pete Thamel, Yahoo Sports; Honorable Mention - Travis Hines, Des Moines Register; Dennis Dodd, CBSSports.com; Matt Fortuna, The Athletic...Ernie Larossa of Johns Hopkins, Ryan Keating of Texas Wesleyan, Jordan Stepp of Conference USA, Joni James Lehmann of the Big 12 Conference, and Courtney Morrison-Archer of the Southland Conference were featured subjects and opinion makers in the CoSIDA Open Forum online newsletter and magazine...Women Leaders in College Sports named its Nike Executives of the Year awardees for 2021 as Duke AD Nina King, Mississippi Valley State AD Dianthia Ford-Kee and former IUPUI senior associate AD and senior women administrator Jaunelle Hamilton White who just became AD at Point (Ga). America East Conference director of digital media Jessica Ramberg and Washington State assistant AD for student-athlete development Shelby McKay selected as WLCS Jostens Achievement Award recipients... Arizona State, Fort Wayne, Kansas, Louisville, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Savannah State, Syracuse, Tennessee, and Western Michigan are working with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...West Florida topped the recent AFCA Division II Top 25 poll for the second week in succession ahead of Ferris State, Northwest Missouri State, Valdosta State, and Lenoir-Rhyne...The AFCA also retained the same Top Five in its NCAA FCS survey with Sam Houston topping the list...The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee has added extra days off for NCAA Volleyball, Men's Ice Hockey and Women's Gymnastics Championships beginning in 2022...NCAA Constitution Committee chair, longtime U.S. international government official and president of Texas A&M Dr. Robert Gates was on the NCAA Social Series podcast and expressed a desire for significant change in both the constitution and the associa-

tion...The NCAA Council and administration appear prepared to allow a one-year waiver to expand the 25-player football signing limit for 2022 because of COVID-19 conditions and the NCAA transfer portal. The legislation allows FBS schools to replace up to seven student-athletes who transfer after the NCAA's December football signing dates...CBS Sports note that NCAA men's and women's basketball may utilize earlier conditioning and on-court activity for instruction in coming days...The state of Louisiana leads all states in NFL players per capita before Georgia and Alabama. Florida has the most NFL total players while Miami (Fla.) is the top city with 19 current NFL players. Alabama tops all divisions of colleges with 53 alumni playing on 2021 NFL squads...The NBA Los Angeles Clippers inked a 23-year, \$500 million naming rights agreement for their new arena opening in 2024-25.

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**Schedule with New Year's Six Games**  
(All Games Televised by ESPN, EST)

**Friday, Dec. 31, 2021**  
(CFP Semifinals & Championship Jan. 10)  
**Goodyear Cotton Bowl**  
AT&T Stadium  
Arlington, Texas, 4 or 8 p.m.

**Capital One Orange Bowl**  
Hard Rock Stadium  
Miami Lakes, Fla., 4 or 8 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 10**  
CFP Championship, Semifinal Winners  
Lucas Oil Stadium  
Indianapolis, Ind., 8 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022**  
(Other New Year's Six Bowls)

**Thursday, Dec. 30**  
Chick Fil-A Peach Bowl  
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. TBD

**Friday, Jan. 1**  
PlayStation Fiesta Bowl  
State Farm Stadium  
Glendale, Ariz. TBD

**Friday, Jan. 1**  
Allstate Sugar Bowl  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome  
New Orleans, La., TBD

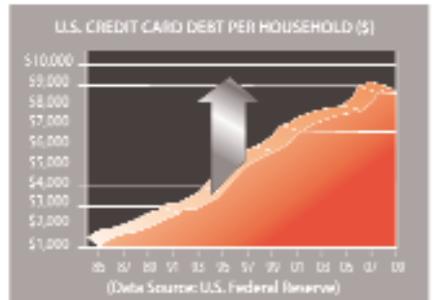
**Friday, Jan. 1**  
Rose Bowl presented by Capital One Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, California

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CGA STAFF WRITER

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