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## Weekly



## 2024 Presidents Cup Preview

Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, 2024

Vol. 23, Issue 4

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**FREE**



► SEPT. 27 *Thru* OCT. 20 ◀

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2024-25

DATE	HOME	AWAY
DECEMBER 7	VIRGINIA	
DECEMBER 21	BOSTON COLLEGE	
JANUARY 4	DUKE	
JANUARY 7	NORTH CAROLINA	
JANUARY 11	GEORGIA TECH	
JANUARY 15	VIRGINIA	
JANUARY 18	MIAMI	
JANUARY 21	LOUISVILLE	
JANUARY 25	NC STATE	
JANUARY 29	CALIFORNIA	
FEBRUARY 1	STANFORD	
FEBRUARY 5	VIRGINIA TECH	
FEBRUARY 11	PITT	
FEBRUARY 15	WAKE FOREST	
FEBRUARY 19	NOTRE DAME	
FEBRUARY 22	CLEMSON	
FEBRUARY 26	CALIFORNIA	
MARCH 1	STANFORD	
MARCH 4	SYRACUSE	
MARCH 8	FLORIDA STATE	

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# 2024 SCHEDULE

## MARCH/APRIL

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

## JULY

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

## MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WSH	2 WSH	3 KC	4 KC
5 KC	6 OAK	7 OAK	8 2024 ALL-STAR WEEK 7-11 PM EST	9	10 COL	11 COL
12 COL	13 CLE	14 CLE	15 CLE	16	17 LAA	18 LAA
19 LAA	20	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 MIN	25 MIN
26 MIN	27	28 AZ	29 AZ	30	31 MIA	

## AUGUST

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

## JUNE

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

## SEPTEMBER

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

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

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**AROUND THE AREA**

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

**SMU announces basketball schedule**



**ACC announces SMU Basketball's 2024-  
2025 conference schedule**

*The Mustangs' first ACC game will be  
played on Dec. 7 against Virginia*

Basketball season is approaching rapidly  
and the SMU Mustangs are looking at an  
entirely new slate of opponents as they  
enter their first year in the Atlantic Coast  
Conference (ACC).

On Tuesday, the ACC announced the  
Mustangs' 2024-2025 conference schedule  
during the "Nothing But Net" special on  
the ACC Network.

SMU and new Head Coach Andy  
Enfield will host Virginia for their inaugu-  
ral ACC game on Dec. 7. The Mustangs  
will also notably host Duke on Jan. 4 and  
Louisville on Jan. 21.

Before ACC play begins in December,  
the Mustangs will play an 11-game non-  
conference schedule which includes seven  
teams that made it to the postseason last  
year.

Following the regular season, the ACC  
will host its Men's Basketball Tournament  
at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North  
Carolina from March 11 through 15.

**Full SMU 2024-2025 ACC Schedule**

• **Dec. 7 | Virginia vs. SMU at 1:15  
p.m. on The CW**

- Dec. 21 | SMU at Boston College at 11  
a.m. on The CW
- **Jan. 4 | Duke vs. SMU at 11:15 a.m.  
on The CW**
- Jan. 7 | SMU at North Carolina at 8  
p.m. on ACCN
- **Jan. 11 | Georgia Tech vs. SMU at  
TBD on ESPN2/ESPNU**
- Jan. 15 | SMU at Virginia at 8 p.m. on  
ACCN
- Jan. 18 | SMU at Miami at TBD on  
ESPN2/ESPNU
- **Jan. 21 | Louisville vs. SMU at 8 p.m.  
on ACCN**
- Jan. 25 | SMU at NC State at 11 a.m.  
on The CW
- **Jan. 29 | California vs. SMU at 8  
p.m. on ACCN**
- **Feb. 1 | Stanford vs. SMU at 5 p.m.  
on ACCN**
- Feb. 5 | SMU at Virginia Tech at 8 p.m.  
on ACCN
- **Feb. 11 | Pitt vs. SMU at 8 p.m. on  
ACCN**
- **Feb. 15 | Wake Forest vs. SMU at 5  
p.m. on ACCN**
- Feb. 19 | SMU at Notre Dame at 6 p.m.  
on ACCN
- **Feb. 22 | Clemson vs. SMU at 3 p.m.  
on ACCN**
- Feb. 26 | SMU at California at 10 p.m.  
on ESPN2/ESPNU
- March. 1 | SMU at Stanford at 4 p.m.  
on ACCN
- **March 4 | Syracuse vs. SMU at 8  
p.m. on ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU**
- March 8 | SMU at Florida State at TBD  
on ESPNU

*Games in bold denote home games*



**AT&T Stadium to host 2025 Concacaf  
Gold Cup matches**

The Confederation of North, Central  
America and Caribbean Association of  
Football, or Concacaf, announced host  
cities and stadiums for its 2025 Gold Cup  
across the US and Canada.

Among these host cities and stadiums is  
none other than the home of the Dallas  
Cowboys: AT&T Stadium.

This will be the sixth time that Jerry  
World has hosted the Gold Cup, previously  
in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2021 and 2023.

The Gold Cup tournament will feature  
16 men's national teams with a highly  
competitive environment between June 14  
and July 6.

"As the last official centralized tourna-  
ment in our region before the FIFA World  
Cup 2026, this Gold Cup will provide all  
participating federations with a great chal-  
lenge and will be critical to their prepara-  
tions for World Cup qualification and for  
participation in the FIFA World Cup itself,  
Concacaf President Victor Montagliani  
said. "The tournament will create a tremen-  
dous opportunity for fans across the con-  
federation to engage with the sport at such  
a pivotal time for its development."

Additional Texas stadiums that will host  
matches for the 2025 Gold Cup include Q2  
Stadium in Austin, and NRG and Shell  
Energy Stadiums in Houston.






**NCAA Football Poll**

**Coaches Poll Week 5 AP Poll**

1. Georgia	1. Texas
2. Texas	2. Georgia
3. Ohio State	3. Ohio State
4. Alabama	4. Alabama
5. Ole Miss	5. Tennessee
6. Tennessee	6. Ole Miss
7. Oregon	7. Miami
8. Penn State	8. Oregon
9. Miami	9. Penn State
10. Utah	10. Utah
11. Missouri	11. Missouri
12. Michigan	12. Michigan
13. LSU	13. USC
14. Notre Dame	14. LSU
15. Clemson	15. Louisville
16. USC	16. Notre Dame
17. Louisville	17. Clemson
18. Oklahoma	18. Iowa State
19. Iowa State	19. Illinois
20. Oklahoma State	20. Oklahoma State
21. Illinois	21. Oklahoma
22. BYU	22. BYU
23. UNLV	23. Kansas State
24. Texas A&M	24. Texas A&M
25. Kansas State	25. Boise State



**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

	SEPTEMBER <b>27</b> FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER <b>28</b> SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER <b>29</b> SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER <b>30</b> MONDAY	OCTOBER <b>1</b> TUESDAY	OCTOBER <b>2</b> WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER <b>3</b> THURSDAY
	Rangers at Angels 8:38 / Bally's	Rangers at Angels 8:38 / Bally's	Rangers at Angels 2:07 / Bally's				
			Cowboys at Giants 7:15 / NBC				
		FC Dallas vs Orlando City 7:30					
	Stars vs Avalanche 7:00		Stars vs Wild 5:00				Stars at Blues 7:00
		SMU vs Florida State 7:00 / ACCN					



# Rangers playoff chances end at home



Following a series loss to the Seattle Mariners in their final home series of the year the Rangers are done

## Rangers championship reign ends during final home series of 2024 season

The Texas Rangers were officially eliminated from the playoff race as they clinched a losing season during their defense of the 2023 World Series championship.

By Jon Thomas

There will be no October baseball for the Texas Rangers in 2024. Following a series loss to the Seattle Mariners in their final home series of the year, the defending World Series champions have been mathematically eliminated from any chance at the postseason.

Chances of them finishing with a positive record were also extinguished, as their loss on Saturday was their 82nd of the season. The disappointment from a season-long, team-wide slump finally coalesced as everything was made official.

With the season over but for the schedule requiring six more games, the plan now for the final week of the season is to give further opportunities for big-league experience to the likes of Wyatt Langford, Kumar Rocker, and Jack Leiter while the veterans of the club lick their wounds and gear up for 2025.

- Game 154: Seattle 8, Texas 2 (W: Kirby, 13-11, L: Leiter, 0-3)
- Game 155: Seattle 8, Texas 4 (W: Hancock, 4-4, L: Chafin, 4-3)
- Game 156: Seattle 5, Texas 6

(W: Yates, 7-2, L: Munoz, 3-7)  
**Shut down**

The biggest news coming out of the series against the Mariners wasn't Jacob deGrom's home debut, but rather that Max Scherzer, who returned after weeks on the IL with a nerve issue, was going back on the IL for the rest of the season with a new injury.

Scherzer was scratched from his penultimate start against the Mariners with hamstring tightness. While he wasn't with the team on Saturday night, manager Bruce Bochy said that the righty woke up with tightness after stretches the day before.

The move ends Scherzer's season, obviously, but with the 40-year old destined to be a free agent this winter, it likely ends his time with the Rangers as well.

With Mad Max out, the Rangers tabbed Dane Dunning for the spot start and he was decent after being reinserted into the rotation, going over 3 1/3 innings and surrendering two runs while striking out five in his first start since mid-August, but the Rangers' bullpen gave up considerably more runs, closing out the victory for the visitors.

### Happy returns

Recovered ace deGrom did not really have to come back to pitch this season. There was very little to fight for by the time he completed his rehab, and coming off Tommy John surgery, the Rangers were

going to take it easy with him regardless of the situation.

Nevertheless, the former Cy Young winner found it important to pitch in the big leagues this season to reacquire himself before gearing up to go full bore in 2025, so he returned to the mound in Seattle last week and was able to make one, singular starter at Globe Life Field this season.

He was on a short leash again, as was expected, but still looked every bit the dominant pitcher that the Rangers coveted when they signed him prior to the 2023 season. Over three innings, deGrom struck out five, allowing one run.

Despite only a 58-pitch look, the home fans got a tantalizing glimpse at greatness. Slated for one more start before going into a full offseason of preparations for 2025, deGrom leaving surgery and rehab in the rearview mirror is one of the things to be excited for following a tough year.

### A fun finish

There couldn't have been a better way to finish the home schedule, given the circumstances. Texas was able to walk off the Mariners in the finale of the series, completing their largest come-from-behind victory all season when they turned a 5-0 deficit into a 6-5 win.

While they still didn't offer any run support to starter Andrew Heaney, Texas

did get their starter off the hook after he exited the game and landed in the win column for their efforts.

Josh Smith, who was the Rangers' best player at the All-Star Break and, despite a drop-off in the second half, finished the homestand with a hit in every game of the series against Seattle. From last man on the bench to everyday replacement for injured Josh Jung, Smith has shown that he can be a regular in the big leagues. Over the weekend, Smith collected a home run, three RBI and three runs scored.

Wyatt Langford, meanwhile, continued his incredible month with the big blow in the comeback, a three-run homer to start the comeback bid. And it was Marcus Semien that laced the walk-off hit, his first with Texas. That run was scored by Leody Taveras, who was on fire the whole game, going 3-for-4 with three runs scored and the game-tying homer.

The Rangers were able to send the sell-out crowd at their home closer happy. In a season full of forgettable moments, the last game at Globe Life Field certainly provided a pleasant memory to send off the Arlington faithful.

Now, the team travels to the West Coast to close out the season where first they will bid farewell to the Oakland Coliseum as the last visitors in Oakland.

## COWBOYS HSOs

**DARYL JOHNSTON**  
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**TROY AIKMAN**  
THURSDAY AT 7:55 AM

96.7fm / 1310am



# Tom's Tip of the Week: Free Fallin' Drill



**TOM WARD**  
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

As we enter the fall this is a great time to work on your game as the weather is much cooler.

One of the biggest issues golfer's struggle with is the takeaway. Because the hands are the only contact with the club that's where you feel pressure when having to hit an important shot. If the hands get too fidgety they could inadvertently disrupt the takeaway and create numerous problems. To safeguard against this improper action I have a great drill that help in preventing such bad habits.

In the photos is one of my male students demonstrating the drill. After taking his normal stance, I had him place the golf club out in front of his body (notice the top left photograph.) Now, just throw caution to the wind and sling the club head back and let the laws of physics and centrifugal force take over. If you just allow the club to flow naturally when you let it go backwards it will go on the correct swing plane relative to the size of the individual as long as you don't do anything to manipulate it. Needless to say he was surprised how well he hit the ball from such an awkward starting position with the club starting well out in front. He joked that maybe he should start playing golf that way.

This particular drill is designed to help free up golfers and allow the club head to just swing around the body instead of trying to guide or steer it. That's one of the main reasons why most golfers practice swings are better than their real swings because they don't have a ball in front of them that they are trying to hit.

The top right photo is of the golfer transitioning to the top of his backswing. When you made the correct takeaway the downswing will happen automatically in the proper sequence without having to try to do anything. This action in turn activates the legs to remain more flexed throughout the entire swing creating a dynamic pulling motion from the ground up instead of a hitting action that comes from trying to use too much upper body motion (hands or shoulders). Take a close inspection of the golfer's legs after he has already hit the ball in the bottom photo. His right knee is kicked inward towards the target and his head is still down well past impact. Plus, he has tremendous extension with the arms and the toe of the club is pointing upwards meaning he has properly released the club head. The ability to stay down through the shot is one of the keys to becoming a great shot maker.

The essential ingredient to pulling off this drill is to make sure you don't come up, or out, of the posture established on the setup. Staying bent over from the waist as from start to finish will handsomely pay off in the long run leading to better shot making and solid contact.

The golf swing happens at such an incredibly high rate of speed that no one could make adjustments in a split second. That's why using this "free falling" drill helps free up the takeaway and allows you to swing in a smooth effortless motion.

After you get confident with the club out in front prior to swinging, go ahead

and lower the club down after the shot bringing it back down towards the golf ball. By working in reverse you can get that freewheeling feeling you're looking for quickly.

So go with the flow and give this drill a try next time you're out practicing. You can let go of all your past inhibitions in the process and be free of anxiety.

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



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# This week on TOUR: Presidents Cup



The 15th playing of the Presidents Cup will be held at The Royal Montreal Golf Club for the second time

**Presidents Cup**  
**September 24 - 29, 2024**  
**The Royal Montreal Golf Club**  
**Montreal, Quebec, Canada**  
**Match play format**  
**U.S. Captain - Jim Furyk**  
**International Captain - Mike Weir**  
**All Time Reord: U.S. 12 - 1**

By Adam Stanley

The Presidents Cup returns to Canada and The Royal Montreal Golf Club with a hungry International Team, led by Canadian Mike Weir as team captain, looking to defeat an American side full of the PGA TOUR’s best, including FedExCup champion Scottie Scheffler.

This marks the 15th playing of the Presidents Cup, which returns to Royal Montreal for the first time since 2007 when the U.S. Team beat the Internationals 19.5-14.5.

Here’s everything you need to know about this year’s competition.

**U.S. Team:**

- Automatic qualifiers: Scottie Scheffler (second Presidents Cup), Xander Schauffele (third), Collin Morikawa (second), Wyndham Clark (first), Patrick

- Cantlay (third), Sahith Theegala (first).
- Captain's picks: Sam Burns (second), Tony Finau (third), Russell Henley (first), Keegan Bradley (second), Brian Harman (first), Max Homa (second)
- Captain: Jim Furyk

**International Team:**

- Automatic qualifiers: Hideki Matsuyama (sixth Presidents Cup), Sungjae Im (third), Adam Scott (11th), Tom Kim (second), Jason Day (fifth), Byeong Hun An (second)
- Captain's picks: Corey Connors (second), Min Woo Lee (first), Christiaan Bezuidenhout (second), Taylor Pendrith (second), Si Woo Kim (third), Mackenzie Hughes (first)
- Captain: Mike Weir

**Course:** The Royal Montreal Golf Club, par 70, 7,279 yards (yardage subject to change). The club, on Île Bizard about 35 minutes from downtown Montreal, lays claim as being the oldest club in North America. Founded in 1873, the course – which has moved locations twice – has been home to the RBC Canadian Open 10 times, most recently in 2014. Royal Montreal was renovated by Rees Jones in 2004 (a robust effort that included redesigning 17 greens and rebuilding 70

bunkers) and then again leading into this year’s Presidents Cup by PGA TOUR design services. That team lengthened it by about 300 yards and reworked a few bunkers. The front nine has a classic parkland feel while the back nine boasts water hazards on six holes including the final five in a row.

**Storylines:** The Presidents Cup features four days of competition with five matches on both Thursday and Friday, eight matches on Saturday (morning and afternoon) and 12 singles matches on Sunday ... The U.S. Team is looking to win the Presidents Cup for the 10th time in a row ... World No. 1 Scheffler returns to action after capturing the TOUR Championship and winning the FedExCup for the first time ... Matsuyama, a two-time winner this season, is the International side’s top-ranked player ... International Team Captain Weir picked three countrymen to represent the International Team at Royal Montreal: fellow Canadians Connors, Pendrith and first-timer Hughes. Pendrith was the lone Canadian to make it to the TOUR Championship after his maiden victory earlier in the year. Weir defeated Tiger Woods in 2007 in Sunday Singles the last time the Presidents Cup was at Royal Montreal ... Bradley was picked by Captain Furyk to play on the team and will no longer be one of Furyk’s captain's assistants (he was replaced by Brandt Snedeker) ... Day returns to the Presidents Cup for the first time since 2017. He was a captain’s pick for the International Team in 2019 when it was in Australia but withdrew due to injury ... Scott, making his 11th Presidents Cup start, has played 49 matches in his Presidents Cup career ... Homa was a sparkplug for the U.S. Team in 2022, going 4-0-0. He is the only player on either side who has played in at least one Presidents

Cup and has not suffered a loss ... There are six Presidents Cup rookies this year (four on the U.S. Team and two on the International side) ... Medinah Country Club near Chicago will host the Presidents Cup in 2026 while Kingston Heath Golf Club in Australia will host in 2028 ... Justin Trudeau, who has been Canada’s 23rd Prime Minister since 2015, has accepted an invitation to be the Honorary Chairman.

**Last time:** The U.S. won 17.5-12.5 at long-time PGA TOUR stop Quail Hollow Club in North Carolina. The Americans started hot, going 4-1 on the first day, and never looked back. They went 4-1 again on Friday’s second day before the International Team staged a bit of a comeback Saturday, going 5-3 across the eight matches. Schauffele beat Connors 1-up in Singles to clinch it. Jordan Spieth was the biggest points-getter on either side, going 4-0-0. Im and Sebastian Muñoz were top performers for the Internationals with 2.5 points each.

**How to follow**  
**(all times ET)**

Television:

- Thursday: 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/NBC Sports App)
- Friday: 1-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/NBC Sports App)
- Saturday: 7-8 a.m. (Golf Channel/NBC Sports App), 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)
- Sunday: noon-6 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)

Radio on SiriusXM and free at PGA-TOUR.com/liveaudio:

- Thursday: noon-6 p.m.
- Friday: 1-6 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday: noon-6 p.m.

Presidents Cup Record			
Year	Course	Winner	Score
2022	Quail Hollow Club	U.S.	17.5-12.5
2019	Royal Melbourne GC	U.S.	16-14
2017	Liberty National GC	U.S.	19-11
2015	Jack Nicklaus GC - Korea	U.S.	15.5-14.5
2013	Muirfield Village	U.S.	18.5-15.5
2011	Royal Melbourne GC	U.S.	19-15
2009	Harding Park GC	U.S.	19.5-14.5
2007	Royal Montreal GC	U.S.	19.5-14.5
2005	Robert Trent Jones GC	U.S.	18.5-15.5
2003	Fancourt Hotel and CC	TIE	17-17
2000	Robert Trent Jones GC	U.S.	21.5-10.5
1998	Royal Melbourne GC	International	20.5-11.5
1996	Robert Trent Jones GC	U.S.	16.5-15.5
1994	Robert Trent Jones GC	U.S.	20-12

# Power Rankings: Presidents Cup



The International team is focused on ending an active losing streak that stands at nine



The United States team has a chance to extend the overall standings in the history of the Presidents Cup to 13 -1

By Rob Bolton

You can't win if you don't play. That familiar refrain crosses pursuits as serious as life and as hopeful as the lottery, but it also can be a rallying cry for the hosts of the Presidents Cup.

The Internationals represent the home team for the 15th edition of the biennial competition that alternates sites abroad with stages inside the United States. Back inside the friendly confines of The Royal Montreal Golf Club in Canada this week, the Internationals aren't just bidding to win for only the second time in history (1998), there's also the matter of ending an active losing streak that stands at nine. It included a five-point defeat, the first time that Royal Montreal hosted in 2007.

But is it fair that any of that matters this week? Beneath the individual team Power Rankings is an exploration of that thought, details of the course, a peek at the format and more.

**NOTE:** In a match-play team competition consisting of five sessions over four days, only one of which is Singles on Sunday, and with matchups and momentum determined in real-time, the ranking of the players below reflects projected impact on the event.

**International Team**

**Rank    Players**

**12 Christiaan Bezuidenhout**  
**South Africa**

The only South African for the second straight edition went 1-0-1 in 2022. Leans on his short game and putting more than most, so he can be insurance for an unnatural partner. Fresh off his best season on the PGA TOUR.

**11 Byeong Hun An**

**South Korea**

At 33, he's the elder statesman of the four South Koreans on the squad. His second appearance (2019) is a manifestation of his return to the PGA TOUR and advance to his first TOUR Championship this year. Fancy fit for Four-ball.

**10 Jason Day**  
**Australia**

This is the Aussie's fifth appearance but first in seven years, so he might have some feels of being a rookie again but with veteran leadership, and that's a good thing. A fresh approach with experience is a potent combination.

**9 Mackenzie Hughes**  
**Canada**

First-timer. The only debutant among the three Canucks on the team, but he might be best built among all 12 to craft a reputation as a force in this competition. Intense and steadfast with a short game to back it up.

**8 Taylor Pendrith**  
**Canada**

With his drive to qualify, successful run to finish T14 in the FedExCup and profile, the 33-year-old could be the breakout performer in his native land. Although he went 0-4-0 as a rookie in 2022, experience still matters.

**7 Min Woo Lee**  
**Australia**

First-timer. Casual fans of the sport could be treated to a showcase for why avid fans are giddy about his debut. The 26-year-old Aussie is confident, aggressive and fearless. He's exactly the kind of injection his team needs.

**6 Corey Conners**  
**Canada**

Canada's top-ranked talent wants to exorcise demons that yielded an 0-4-0 record in his debut in 2022. His ball-striking plays up on smaller greens, so he's poised for a reversal. Steady and ready to dazzle the home crowd.

**5 Adam Scott**  
**Australia**

Tied with Ernie Els for the most points (21) for the Internationals in Presidents Cup history, the 44-year-old Australian arrives with arguably the best form on the team with two seconds, a T4, a T10 and a T18 in last five starts.

**4 Tom Kim**  
**South Korea**

The darling of the 2022 edition at Quail Hollow Club went 2-3-0 in a losing cause, but the South Korean has risen rapidly as a cornerstone armed with another two years of PGA TOUR experience. Made some noise of late.

**3 Hideki Matsuyama**  
**Japan**

Not only is he the only Japanese native on the team but he's also the only player from Japan in history with more than two appearances. Now in his sixth, the challenge is identifying the best partner. Two wins and a bronze medal this year.

**2 Si Woo Kim**  
**South Korea**

Among Captain Mike Weir's important orders of business should be to slot fellow South Koreans Si Woo Kim and Sungjae Im in an opening match of the opening session. They won the gold medal as a team at the 2023 Asian Games.

**1 Sungjae Im**  
**South Korea**

Given that he's a combined 5-0-1 in

Four-ball and Singles in two appearances, slotting him in the opening matches for the former and as a timely weapon in the latter has merit. Exceptional form in last five months, too.

**U.S. Team**

**Rank    Players**

**12 Max Homa**  
**United States of America**

He'd love to tap into his 4-0-0 at the 2022 Presidents Cup or the 3-1-1 at the 2023 Ryder Cup, but he's a far cry from the kind of explosive form that yielded those monster performances. Usage will be curious but probably familiar.

**11 Keegan Bradley**  
**United States of America**

If you don't think that life comes at you fast, ask him. The captain's assistant-turned-participant rallied to win the BMW Championship when he already was the 2025 Ryder Cup captain. First Presidents Cup since 2013.

**10 Russell Henley**  
**United States of America**

First-timer ... finally. Crazy to believe that this is his first team competition as a professional. Does so many things so well but his strengths will be magnified at Royal Montreal. Natural fit with Brian Harman despite inexperience.

**9 Brian Harman**  
**United States of America**

First-timer. Presents so much flexibility across the roster despite his foray. Value in Foursomes with accuracy and putting is obvious, but a collaboration with former University of Georgia teammate Russell Henley is as well.





The Royal Montreal Golf Club is the oldest of its kind on the continent

#### 8 Wyndham Clark

##### United States of America

First-timer. Given his firepower, Captain Jim Furyk would be wise to steal a page from the playbook of 2023 Ryder Cup Captain Zach Johnson and reserve Clark's energy for Four-ball. He went 1-0-1 in those sessions in Italy.

#### 7 Sahith Theegala

##### United States of America

First-timer. Unflappable, adaptable, humble and easy-going. It's not a reach to consider that anyone would want to partner with the 26-year-old in any format. Even inexperience hasn't been a headwind. Embraces everything.

#### 6 Tony Finau

##### United States of America

No matter the talent and ability, sometimes the best partnerships sidestep the quantifiable in favor of comfort. He's best suited to join forces with the scuffling Max Homa in Foursomes. The duo went 2-0-0 in the format in 2022.

#### 5 Sam Burns

##### United States of America

Trotted through the tape with a T12 at the TOUR Championship. It punctuated a run of almost four months of impressive form since becoming a first-time father to son, Bear. Still searching for footing in team competition, however.

#### 4 Patrick Cantlay

##### United States of America

Records in the Presidents Cup (6-3-0) and Ryder Cup (5-2-1) are extensions of his seamless partnership with Xander Schauffele, but Cantlay also, teamed with Wyndham Clark to win a point in

Foursomes at the 2023 Ryder Cup.

#### 3 Collin Morikawa

##### United States of America

Although he's a veteran of one Presidents Cup and two Ryder Cups, he's yet to forge a convincing partnership. Perhaps this is the time with Sahith Theegala. They share similar skill sets and both arrive in outstanding form.

#### 2 Xander Schauffele

##### United States of America

He and Patrick Cantlay are the plug-and-play duo, but both could detach and contribute. Schauffele's tenaciousness best fits Foursomes, so a connection with Brian Harman is intriguing. Should also be an anchor in Singles.

#### 1 Scottie Scheffler

##### United States of America

The Internationals might be thrilled that he has to have a partner in the team formats because it's a deviation from his dominating norm. Not that that would rattle him, anyway, of course. Look for a reunion with Sam Burns.

They lace up spikes and press tees in the ground because you never ever ever know. Golf is a four-letter word, but romancing the possibilities is the heartbeat of the hype for the International Team to reverse course in the Presidents Cup. While there is a potential for the weight of the losing streak in the team room, every squad is unique, so the only objective is to win one in a row, for this team, for this time. Objective simplified.

Yes, everything is always easier said than it is done, and especially when the opponent presents as formidable as the

Americans. Then again, the road team also has to hit the shots. What's more, while losing would constitute an upset for the Yanks, consider the pressure of having arrived with the pride of being called upon to uphold the winning streak that spans the first quarter of this century.

If that seems like a long time, consider that The Royal Montreal Golf Club is the oldest of its kind on the continent having just celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. The Blue Course is the standout on the property that boasts two 18-hole tracks and a nine-hole walk. The stock par 70 can stretch to 7,279 yards, which is not long by any professional's standard, so accuracy from tee to green supersedes muscle no matter the format. Targets covered with bentgrass are just 5,000 square feet on average.

In addition to the 2007 Presidents Cup, the Blue Course also has hosted numerous RBC Canadian Opens, the most recent of which in 2014. Tim Clark, the diminutive sharpshooter from South Africa for whom it could be assumed never won a long-drive contest, emerged with a one-stroke victory at 17-under 263. He missed a field-low nine fairways and squared only two bogeys all week. Of this week's two dozen participants, only Taylor Pendrith (T43) and Corey Connors (MC) competed in that

tournament, both as amateurs.

While the Blue Course inherently forces cause for pause off the tee, if Captain Mike Weir's strategy for the setup is to let the bluegrass rough grow, thus taking drivers out of the hands of the visitors, the psychology of attrition through ball-striking from similar distances on approach could emerge as a tactic by Sunday's Singles. Given his position as the leader of the underdog of the battle royale, Weir will want to keep things close with 12 of the 30 points totaled by both teams up for grabs in the final session. In the interim, he will be navigating nine matches each of Foursomes and Four-ball across three days, all the while committing to a passion and a potion of merging 12 charges representing five countries all to pull on the rope at the same time.

As it often does in this outdoor activity, the weather could be a headliner for Thursday's opening session as rain and potentially storms could linger long enough to disrupt the schedule, but there will be enough daylight until at least 6:40 p.m. local time to allow all five matches to finish. Close to zero concerns for the remainder of the competition, however, as a dry pattern locks in. Daytime highs will flirt with 70 degrees and wind will not factor once the early energy exits.

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# AAC football predictions - Week 5



Louisville hopes to keep thier unbeaten streak alive Saturday at Notre Dame

By Stacy Urban

The final weekend of September is upon us and conference play is kicking into gear in the ACC. When you look at the upcoming slate on Saturday, there are not many games expected to be blowouts, as most spreads are under 10 points.

The biggest game might be Louisville's trip to Notre Dame. After beating Georgia Tech, the Cardinals have a chance to make another statement if they can find a way to beat the Fighting Irish on the road. Duke looks to remain unbeaten when they face North Carolina, SMU hosts Florida State, and Miami looks to continue rolling when 2-2 Virginia Tech comes to town.

Last week, I finished 8-3 and that brings my 2024 record to 38-12.

**Virginia Tech (2-2) at Miami (4-0),**  
**Friday, 6:30 p.m. / ESPN**  
**Line: Hurricains -17.5 / 53.5**

At the beginning of the season, a lot of people had this game circled as one of the best ACC matchups of the year. Now, the Hokies come into the game 2-2 with losses to Rutgers and Vanderbilt. Miami looks great right now, but this might be their biggest test of the year and the Hokies do have good pass rushers and players in the secondary. Still, there has been nothing from Virginia Tech to suggest they can win this game.

**Pick: Miami 42, Virginia Tech 20**

**W. Kentucky (3-1) at Boston College (3-1)**  
**Saturday, 11:00 a.m. / ACC Network**

**Line: BC -13 / 54.5**

Boston College has been one of the surprise teams of the ACC so far and they are double-digit home favorites this weekend against Western Kentucky. After a big win vs Michigan State last Saturday, the Eagles have to avoid the letdown game vs the Hilltoppers and I think they will.

**Pick: Boston College 34, WKU 23**

**Northern Illinois (2-1) at NC State (2-2)**  
**Saturday, 11:00 a.m. / CW Network**  
**Line: NC State -6.5 / 46.5**

It is gut check time for NC State. The Wolfpack have had a terrible season so far and now they host Northern Illinois. While the Huskies lost to Buffalo last week, they also have a win vs Notre Dame. It is hard to trust NC State, but I think Dave Doeren finds a way to get his team to win on Saturday.

**Pick: NC State 26, NIU 17**

**Holy Cross (1-3) at Syracuse (2-1)**  
**11:00 a.m. / ESPN+**  
**Line: Syracuse -28.5 / 56.5**

After losing to Stanford last week, Fran Brown and Syracuse get an easy rebound win vs Holy Cross.

**Pick: Syracuse 42, Holy Cross 14**

**#15 Louisville (3-0) at #16 Notre Dame**  
**Saturday, 2:30 p.m. / Peacock**  
**Line: Notre Dame -6.5 / 46.5**

This is one of the biggest games of the weekend. The Cardinals are 3-0 and heading to face Notre Dame on the road. The

Fighting Irish do have a loss to NIU, but they are still hoping to try and win out and get a spot in the College Football playoff. Both teams have very good defenses, but I actually trust Louisville's offense more and I think they have the better coach.

Cardinals get a massive win on the road.

**Pick: Louisville 27, Notre Dame 20**

**Louisiana (2-1) at Wake Forest (1-2)**  
**Saturday, 2:30 p.m. / ACC Network**  
**Line: Wake Forest -3.5 / 60.5**

You might not have realized it, but Wake Forest is only a 3.5 point favorite against Louisiana this weekend. The Demon Deacons have a large uphill battle to climb if they want to get to a bowl game and a win here is crucial. I trust Dave Clawson to find a way on Saturday.

**Pick: Wake 34, Louisiana 31**

**North Carolina (3-1) at Duke (4-0)**  
**Saturday, 3:00 p.m. / ESPN2**  
**Line: Duke -2.5 / 55.5**

This is a huge game for both teams. Duke is looking to reach 5-0 under Manny Diaz, while Mack Brown and North Carolina need a win after getting embarrassed vs James Madison last week. There could be some points this week and I don't really trust Duke as a favorite, but it is harder to trust North Carolina after last week.

**Pick: Duke 28, UNC 24**

**Stanford (2-1) at Clemson (2-1)**  
**Saturday, 6:00 p.m. / ESPN**  
**Line: Clemson -21.5 / 57.5**

Clemson has looked awesome since their loss to Georgia and Stanford is coming off of their upset win over Syracuse. Can the Cardinal come all the way back

East and give the Tigers some trouble on Saturday night? I have a hard time thinking that is the case and I think the Tigers are going to roll on Saturday.

**Pick: Clemson 38, Stanford 14**

**Florida State (1-3) at SMU (3-1)**  
**Saturday, 7:00 p.m. / ACC Network**  
**Line: SMU -6.5 / 48.5**

FSU got their first win last week in an ugly game against Cal, while SMU looked strong after their bye week by blowing out TCU. This is the ACC debut for the Mustangs and while it might seem surprising that they are a near touchdown favorite over SMU, I think the Mustangs are the better team.

**Pick: SMU 21, FSU 17**

ACC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Louisville	1-0	3-0
Boston Col.	1-0	3-1
Virginia	1-0	3-1
Clemson	1-1	2-1
Stanford	1-0	2-1
Syracuse	1-1	2-1
Georgia Tech	1-2	3-2
Florida State	1-2	1-3
Duke	0-0	4-0
Miami	0-0	4-0
Pittsburgh	0-0	4-0
UNC	0-0	3-1
SMU	0-0	3-1
Virginia Tech	0-0	2-2
California	0-1	3-1
N.C State	0-1	2-2
Wake Forest	0-1	1-2

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# SEC football predictions - Week 5



Georgia is a 1.5 point favorite in Tuscaloosa Saturday



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The new look SEC is experiencing a few upheavals. #7 Missouri drops down to #11 after surviving Vandy in OT and #21 Oklahoma learns the hard way that life is hard in the SEC via a #5 Tennessee whupping, 25-15. The #6 Ole Miss Rebs are still waiting for a real opponent in 2024, which will be in Baton Rouge in two weeks, no disrespect to the Gamecocks next week. Huge game this week in Tuscaloosa with AP #2 Georgia taking on AP #4 Alabama. This game will set the table for a conference co-champ and CFP contender.

#5 Tennessee, #11 Missouri, South Carolina, Florida, and Vandy are all off this week.

Last week's results: Straight 9-1; ATL 5-5  
Season Results: Straight 42-12; ATL 21-28

**Kentucky (2-2) @ #6 Ole Miss (4-0)**  
**11:00 a.m. / ABC**  
**Line: Ole Miss -17.5 / O/U 52.5**

As we approach Halloween, Kentucky is acting like a Jekyll and Hyde team. The Wildcats almost beat Georgia losing 14-12, blew out Ohio last week, 41-6, but was blown out at home by South Carolina. Ole Miss dropped a spot to #5 Tennessee even after covering the line, beating Georgia Southern 52-13. Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin has one of the easiest remaining SEC schedules, with only three teams in the current top 25 left to play, but has to stay focused. The Rebs are on fire and will stay en fuego in the Grove.  
**Pick: Ole Miss 34 Kentucky 14**

**Arkansas (3-1) vs. #24 Texas A&M (3-1)**  
**2:30 p.m. / ESPN**  
**AT&T Stadium Dallas, Texas**  
**Line: Arkansas +4.5 / O/U 52.5**

Arkansas and Auburn had seven turnovers between them in an ugly, ugly game on the Plains. The only positive was that Arkansas only had two of the seven turnovers, and Auburn did not score on Hog's turnovers. The Hogs played well enough to notch a mild upset, 24-14. A&M had trouble at Kyle Field with Bowling Green, holding on for a 26-20 win. Though this was the same Bowling Green team that gave #9 Penn State a scare in Happy Valley, losing by only a TD. Arkansas' offensive coordinator Bobby Petrino has never lost in Dallas. Stays the same this Saturday.  
**Pick: Arkansas 36 Texas A&M 33**

**#21 Oklahoma (3-1) @ Auburn (2-2)**  
**2:30 p.m. / ABC**  
**Line: Oklahoma -2.5 / O/U 46.5**  
The Sooners offense was pathetic last week, losing 25-15 to #5 Tennessee. The offense gave up a safety and didn't score a TD until halfway through the 4th quarter after trailing 22-3. Auburn head coach Hugh Freeze threw his entire team under the bus, blaming quarterbacks, running backs and receivers equally for putrid play. The Tigers had five interceptions including a lost fumble on the goal line against the Hogs and lost at home 24-14. Not a good look for the head man to blame the youngsters, coach em up baby! The Sooners find a QB and add to the Tigers woes on the Plains before their big showdown with with #1 Texas in the Red River Rivalry in two weeks.  
**Pick: Oklahoma 30 Auburn 28**

**Mississippi State (1-3) @ #1 Texas (4-0)**  
**3:15 p.m. / SECN**  
**Line: Texas -38.5 / O/U 61.5**  
The Bulldogs are terrible, losing 41-28 to an average Florida team in Starkville. New head coach Mike Lebby has found no consistency with offense or defense and State is a floundering football team. Things are about to get worse when the Bulldogs travel to Austin to take on the #1 Texas Longhorns. Last week, Texas beat Louisiana Monroe in a snoozer 53-3 led again by super sub QB Arch Manning (15 for 29, 258 yards, 1 TD). Manning did

throw two picks so Texas decided to just run the ball for 6 TD's and 269 rush yards. More misery for Mississippi State.  
**Pick: Texas 58 Mississippi State 17**

**#2 Georgia @ #4 Alabama**  
**6:30 p.m. / ABC**  
**Line: Georgia -1.5 / O/U 48.5**  
We've got a revenge game in Tuscaloosa. Georgia was knocked out of the CFP last year when Bama upset the Dawgs in the SEC championship. The Tide then got knocked out by Michigan who went on to win the whole she-bang. Georgia needs to play better than their last game, a razor thin 13-12 win over Kentucky. Bama dominated the Big 10 Wisconsin Badgers 42-6 in Madison. Both teams were off last week, and the winner of this game is a lock to be in this year's CFP's. New Bama coach Kalen Deboer can't get past Georgia head coach Kirby Smart's SEC experience this time around.  
**Pick: Georgia 29 Alabama 24**

**South Alabama ((2-2) @ #14 LSU (3-1)**  
**6:45 / SECN**  
**Line: LSU -21 / O/U 65.5**  
The Tigers took care of the Bruins in Baton Rouge last week, beating UCLA 34-17. LSU head coach Brian Kelly lost All American LB Harold Perkins Jr. for the season due to an ACL tear but is optimistic the team won't miss a beat. South Alabama throttled Appalachian State last week 48-14 in a road win in which they were 7.5 point underdogs. The Jaguars have nothing to lose, but SEC offensive player of the week, LSU QB Garrett Nussmeier (352 yards, 3 TD's), guides his team to an easy victory.  
**Pick: LSU 44 South Alabama 20**

SEC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Missouri	1-0	4-0
Tennessee	1-0	4-0
Georgia	1-0	3-0
Arkansas	1-1	3-1
LSU	1-0	3-1
Texas A&M	1-0	3-1
S. Carolina	1-1	3-1
Florida	1-1	2-2
Ole Miss	0-0	4-0
Texas	0-0	4-0
Alabama	0-0	3-0
Oklahoma	0-1	3-1
Auburn	0-1	2-2
Vanderbilt	0-1	2-2
Mississippi St	0-1	1-3
Kentucky	0-2	2-2



# Big 12 Football predictions - Week 5



3-1 Oklahoma State goes to Manhattan to battle 3-1 Kansas State Saturday

By Stacy Urban

We had just an above-average week last week, going 5-3 in our Big 12 score predictions. That brings our season record to 41-11. There should be a lot of one-score games this week, so hopefully we are on the right side of those and finish Week 5 with a winning record.

**#20 Oklahoma St (3-1) @ #23 K-State (3-1)**  
**Saturday, 11:00 a.m / ESPN**  
**Line: Wildcasts -4.5 / 54.5**

It's hard to believe that one of these two Big 12 contenders is going to fall to 0-2 in league play. My head is telling me K-State, but my gut says Mike Gundy always finds a way when you think it's about to fall apart. This will be an exciting game from start to finish, but the Cowboys leave Manhattan victorious.

**Pick: Oklahoma State 28, K-State 24**

**#22 BYU (4-0) @ Baylor (2-2)**  
**Saturday, 11:00 a.m / FS1**  
**Line: Bears -3.5 / 45.5**

Upset! Baylor is a little better than perceived. They're not a top half of the league team, but when they play their best, they can upset anyone. BYU is coming off a big win over Kansas State and this feels like a

hangover/flat spot for the Cougars on the road.

**Pick: Baylor 21, BYU 20**

**TCU (2-2) at Kansas (1-3)**  
**Saturday, 2:30 / ESPN+**  
**Line: Kansas -1.5 / 58.5**

The Jayhawks are a talented team that just keeps falling on the wrong side of one-score games. Not this week. Jalon Daniels, Devin Neal, and Co. run all over the Frogs to get back to even in league play.

**Pick: Kansas 27, TCU 24**

**Colorado (3-1) at UCF (3-0)**  
**Saturday, 2:30 / FOX**  
**Line: Knights -14.5 / 64.5**

The Knights are two touchdown favorites over the Buffs! Two! Can someone please explain to me how everyone is so stupidly high on UCF? I mean, holy moly. I don't understand the love affair with them whatsoever. I do believe they get the win, but not a chance of them covering a large number like that.

**Pick: UCF 34, Colorado 30**

**#18 Iowa State (3-0) at Houston (1-3)**  
**Saturday, 6:00 / FS1**  
**Line: Cyclones -14 / 43.5**

The Cougars are in for a long season. There's no better way to put it. Iowa State will take control of this game early in the third quarter and run away with it. Not much else to say with this one.

**Pick: ISU 30, Houston 7**

**Cincinnati (3-1) at Texas Tech (3-1)**  
**Saturday, 7:00 / ESPN2**  
**Line: Red Raiders -2.5 / 58.5**

Cincinnati is a sneaky 3-1 and could be 4-0 if they didn't have the collapse of the Pitt game. Tech, on the other hand, has looked better each week defensively since they gave up 52 to Abilene Christian. Plus, I trust Tahj Brooks to outplay Cincy running back Corey Kiner.

**Pick: Texas Tech 36, Cincinnati 27**

**Arizona (2-1) at #10 Utah (4-0)**  
**Saturday, 9:15 / ESPN**  
**Line: Utes -11 / 47.5**

The Utes had a comfortable lead on the road last week at Oklahoma State and then proceeded to let the Cowboys make it an interesting finish. I could see a repeat of that this week. Arizona has enough talent

to make this one a good game down to the wire, but the Utah defense will be the difference in this game.

**Pick: Utah 29, Arizona 24**

Big 12 STANDINGS		
TEAM	Conf.	Overall
BYU	1-0	4-0
Utah	1-0	4-0
UCF	1-0	3-0
Cincinnati	1-0	3-1
Colorado	1-0	3-1
Texas Tech	1-0	3-1
WestVirginia	1-0	2-2
Iowa State	0-0	3-0
Arizona	0-0	2-1
Kansas State	0-1	3-1
Arizona St.	0-1	3-1
Oklahoma St	0-1	3-1
Baylor	0-1	2-2
TCU	0-1	2-2
Houston	0-1	1-3
Kansas	0-1	1-3





# NFL picks, predictions for Week 4



The Cowboys hope to end their two game losing streak Sunday in New York

The Minnesota Vikings and Seattle Seahawks are the lone unbeaten teams in the NFC after three weeks, standing out as two of the biggest September surprises.

Can they keep it going in Week 4 against NFC Super Bowl contenders?

Minnesota plays rival Green Bay in NFC North action at 12:00 noon Sunday. Sam Darnold has guided the Vikings to home victories against San Francisco and Houston...but those games were at home. This is at Lambeau Field, where Minnesota has enjoyed recent success with a 3-2-1 record in the past six trips. With Jordan Love (knee) possibly returning, the stage is set for a divisional classic.

The Seahawks will have to go through Detroit and Ford Field to maintain their unbeaten record. First year head coach Mike MacDonald is off to a great start, and Geno Smith has maintained a 74.8% completion percentage. Seattle beat Detroit 37-31 in overtime last season, so this should be a fun finish to week 4, which also includes Bills-Ravens and Chiefs-Chargers in the AFC matchups.

Quick question, will the Steelers be the only unbeaten team heading into Week 5?

Here's where we are this season to date straight up and against the spread:

*Straight up:* 31-17 (10-6 in Week 3)

*ATS:* 24-22-2 (8-8 in week 3)

**Dallas (1-2) at N.Y. Giants (1-2)**  
**Thursday, 7:15 p.m. / NBC/Peacock**  
**Line: Cowboys -6 / 45**

Dallas is on a two-game losing streak despite the fact Dak Prescott leads the league with 851 passing yards — a stat that is juxtaposed against an 85.8 QB rating. The Giants are coming off an impressive win where rookie Malik Nabers had a two-TD breakout game. Prescott has won 12 consecutive starts against the Giants. If Dallas loses this one, then Mike McCarthy's seat will heat up. Get this line now before it ticks up more.

**Pick: Cowboys 27, Giants 17**

**New Orleans (2-1) at Atlanta (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox**  
**Line: Falcons -1.5 / 42**

This should be a heated NFC South showdown. New Orleans has protected Derek Carr well to this point, and the Eagles loss came down to giving up too many rushing yards. Bijan Robinson should get back on track in this game for Atlanta, and that will open the passing game for veteran quarterback Kirk Cousins. The Saints have won five of the past six meetings in Atlanta, so it's a tough pick. Atlanta has proven it can play with Super Bowl contenders, including Eagles and Chiefs. That translates in this game.

**Pick: Falcons 24, Saints 21**

**L.A. Rams (1-2) at Chicago Bears (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox**  
**Line: Bears -2.5 / 41**

The Rams have been hit hard by injuries, but Matthew Stafford adjusted in Week 4 with a heavy dose of Kyren Williams and a few deep shots to Tutu Atwell. Los Angeles has just four sacks in three games, but they will turn that pressure up against Caleb Williams, who has taken 13 sacks in three games. Stafford has won his past two starts at Soldier Field, too. If the Bears can get the running game going, then they will have a chance. It's a toss-up, and we will go with the veteran quarterback.

**Pick: Rams 20, Bears 19**

**Minnesota (3-0) at Green Bay (2-1)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS**  
**Line: Packers -2.5 / 43.5**

The Vikings have a chance to take command of the NFC North race. Darnold and Justin Jefferson, who averages 19.5 yards per catch with three TDs, have been effective. The matchup between Jefferson and Jaire Alexander will be fun as usual. Aaron Jones, who averages 5.2 yards per attempt, will be the key against his former team. Love should return for this game, and the Packers need to generate a running game against a Vikings' defense that allows 71.3 yards per game. These teams have split their series each of the past four years. Whose turn is it?

**Pick: Packers 28, Vikings 26**

**Pittsburgh (3-0) at Indianapolis (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS**  
**Line: Steelers -2 / 40**

The Steelers are one of the last unbeaten teams in the AFC, and they are doing it with the classic formula of a defense that allows 229.7 yards and 8.7 yards per game and conservative yet effective play from Justin Fields. The Steelers also are perfect against the spread, a product of lines that have been four points or less so far.

Anthony Richardson will make a few plays, but the Colts are 31st against the run (179.0 ypg.). Fields will make a few plays with his legs, too.

**Pick: Steelers 21, Colts 17**

**Denver (1-2) at N.Y. Jets (2-1)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS**  
**Line: Jets -7.5 / 38.5**

There is going to be a lot written about Aaron Rodgers, Sean Payton, and Nathaniel Hackett this week. Denver has allowed just 15.3 points per game through three weeks, and they have an excellent pass rush led by Jonathan Cooper. Aaron Rodgers has improved with each week, and he has taken just five sacks in three games. Bo Nix avoided turnovers in Week 3. Will he do that in Week 4 against a Jets' defense that had seven sacks in Week 3?

**Pick: Jets 24, Broncos 17**

**Philadelphia (2-1) at Tampa Bay (2-1)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox**  
**Line: Eagles -2.5 / 45**

This is a rematch of last year's NFC wild-card matchup, which Tampa Bay won 32-9 behind Baker Mayfield's 337-yard, three-TD performance. So, why are the Eagles favored? Saquon Barkley is averaging 5.6 yards per carry, and that has given the Eagles balance around Jalen Hurts. Linebacker Zach Baun, who ranks second in the NFL with 37 tackles, had anchored an improved defense that has allowed 204.3 yards per game. Tampa Bay's Week 3 flop also influences this pick a bit.

**Pick: Eagles 31, Eagles 28**

**Cincinnati (0-3) at Carolina (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / Fox**  
**Line: Bengals -4.5 / 48**

Andy Dalton will face his former team again. Dalton has faced Cincinnati with three different teams (Dallas, Chicago, New Orleans) since leaving, and he is 2-1

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with a 100.8 passer rating in those games. The Bengals, however, should stay on track here with a pass rush led by Trey Hendrickson and a healthy connection between Joe Burrow and receivers Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins. The Bengals are 6-4 ATS as a road favorite since 2022.  
**Pick: Bengals 27, Panthers 13**

**Jacksonville (0-3) at Houston (2-1)**  
**Sunday, 12 p.m. / CBS**  
**Line: Texans -7 / 45.5**

The Jaguars are looking to spice up the AFC South race against the Texans, who got their Week 3 reality check. Houston could not run the ball without Joe Mixon (ankle), and C.J. Stroud struggled as a result. The Texans split with the Jaguars last season, but Stroud averaged 292 passing yards with four TDs and no interceptions in those games. The Jaguars will keep it competitive off a short week, but Houston gets right at home.  
**Pick: Texans 24, Jaguars 20**

**Washington (2-1) at Arizona (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / Fox**  
**Line: Cardinals -3.5 / 50.5**

A couple of star rookies will shine in this game. Marvin Harrison Jr. averages 19.8 yards per catch with three TDs, and Kyler Murray should be able to connect for at least one more score here. Washington is coming off a short week, but the results with Jayden Daniels have been encouraging so far. This is a tricky line because the Cardinals are a favorite for the first time under second-year Jonathan Gannon.  
**Pick: Cardinals 27, Commanders 25**

**New England (1-2) at San Francisco (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 3:05 p.m. / Fox**  
**Line: 49ers -10 / 49.5**

It's a huge spread, and it's key not to over-value last week's performance by either team. The 49ers let a late lead slip, and they need stars Deebo Samuel and George Kittle to get healthy. There have been two NFL games with spreads of nine points or more this season, and the underdog has won straight-up both times. New England pulled that off in Week 1. This time, the 49ers pull away in the second half behind Brock Purdy, who averages 280.7 passing yards per game with a revolving-door supporting cast.  
**Pick: 49ers 31, Patriots 17**

**Cleveland (1-2) at Las Vegas (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS**  
**Line: Raiders -1 / 37**

Who gets well here? Cleveland has a non-threatening offense, and Deshaun Watson has taken a league-high 16 sacks. The Raiders are coming off a messy loss against Carolina and have the worst rushing offense in the league (51 ypg.). Which defensive star makes the game-changing play — Myles Garrett or Maxx Crosby? The Raiders have won the past four meetings in this series.  
**Pick: Raiders 25, Browns 19**

**Kansas City (3-0) at L.A. Chargers (2-1)**  
**Sunday, 3:25 p.m. / CBS**  
**Line: Chiefs -8 / 39**

What does Jim Harbaugh add to the Chiefs-Chargers' rivalry? Los Angeles will try to slow down the Kansas City offense with the running game, which was ineffective in Week 3 against the Steelers. Justin Herbert (ankle) will hopefully be healthier here, and the Chiefs have been scraping by with one-score victories each week. The Chiefs have a -2 turnover ratio. The Chargers are at -3. Los Angeles could pull off an upset here, but we will settle for a close game. Kansas City has won four games at SoFi Stadium by a combined total of 11 points. If the line ticks up, jump on the Chargers.  
**Pick: Chiefs 24, Chargers 19**

**Buffalo (3-0) at Baltimore (1-2)**  
**Sunday, 7:20 p.m. / NBC Peacock**  
**Line: Ravens -2.5 / 46.5**

The Bills are coming off a short week, and the Ravens avoided a 0-3 start with a victory at Dallas. Both are forever chasing Kansas City in the AFC race. How will Buffalo handle the tandem of Lamar Jackson and Derrick Henry? Together, they average 5.9 yards per rushing attempt. Buffalo has found a rhythm with Josh Allen and James Cook, and the Bills have avoided turnovers. Buffalo won 23-20 at Baltimore in 2022. Will Justin Tucker, who is five-of-eight on field-goal attempts, knock down the game-winning field goal as time expires?  
**Pick: Ravens 31, Bills 28**

**Tennessee (0-3) at Miami (1-2)**  
**Monday, 6:30 p.m. / ESPN**  
**Line: Dolphins -1 / 36.5**

The Titans are in disaster-control mode. Tennessee has a -7 turnover ratio, and they have averaged just 16 points per game as a result. Skyler Thompson averaged 5.6 yards per attempt in his first start for Miami in Week 3, and, if his rib injury is healed, he will be asked to do more because the Titans have a tough run defense. It's a true pick 'em, but we'll favor the home team. Miami might be limited, but they are taking care of the football.  
**Pick: Dolphins 23, Titans 20**

**Seattle (3-0) at Detroit (2-1)**  
**Monday, 7:15 p.m. / ABC**  
**Line: Lions -3.5 / 47**

The Seahawks' defense, which has allowed 14.3 points per game, has been the key to a hot start. The Lions have been dealing with key injuries, including tight end Sam LaPorta (ankle). Detroit has played three one-score games to this point, and this will be another one that tests Dan Campbell's mantra of "grit." Detroit is 9-3 S/U and 7-5 ATS as a home favorite at Ford Field since 2023, and the prime-time spotlight will help.  
**Pick: Lions 28, Seahawks 21**



# College Football News and Notes



BO CARTER

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Football historians and fans unite: The Knute Rockne Memorial Society and the Notre Dame Club of Atlanta are honored to co-host a special event on Friday, Oct. 18 – the 100th anniversary of the famous Notre Dame-Army game which gave the Fighting Irish backfield its iconic nickname...The Four Horsemen – at the NFF Chick-Fil-A College Hall of Fame. “Outlined against a blue-gray October sky the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as famine pestilence, destruction, and death. These are only aliases. Their real names are Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden,” penned sports writing icon and famed Vanderbilt graduate Grantland Rice in his nationally-syndicated account of Notre Dame’s 13-7 victory over Army at the Polo Grounds in New York City on Oct. 18, 1924.

On Oct. 18 multi-media presentation at 2 p.m. (EDT) in the GameDay Theatre of the College Football Hall of Fame will honor the legendary game, team and season. Coach Knute Rockne’s 1924 Notre Dame squad was the first football team to play games in New York City, Chicago and southern California (the 1925 Rose Bowl) in the same season while sweeping to a 10-0 record and the school’s first consensus

national championship.

From the swarm of fans descending into the Polo Grounds, the march of the Corps of Cadets, through four quarters of spirited battle, and finally Rice’s words in the gloaming from an open, unheated press area, the event will relive the experiences of one of the most iconic days in college football history.

The \$25 admission for the day includes an All-Access Pass to the College Football Hall of Fame, effective at 3:30 p.m. (EDT) following the presentation featuring Jim Lefebvre, award-winning author of *Loyal Sons: The Story of The Four Horsemen and Notre Dame Football’s 1924 Champions*. Lefebvre will inscribe and sign copies of the Special Centennial Commemorative Edition of the *Loyal Sons* book at an autograph session afterwards.

Last week’s NFF College Hall of Fame on-campus salutes presented by Fidelity Investments® featured 2024 NFF College Hall of Fame inductees, and upcoming ceremonies Saturday are Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State (vs. Liberty); coach Mark Dantonio, Michigan State (vs. Ohio State); and Paul Cameron (posthumously), UCLA (vs. Oregon). On Wednesday the NFF also will reveal the 2024 NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® semifinalists via an online national news bulletin.

Members of the Class of 2025 Goodyear Cotton Bowl 14th Hall of Fame Class are Notre Dame fullback Jerome Bettis, Texas linebacker Randy Braband, Ole Miss head coach David Cutcliffe, Nebraska running back Tony Davis, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association Chief Ambassador, Past Chair and former Team Selection and Playoff Committee Chair Fin Ewing, CBAA Historian Charlie Fiss, Auburn running back Bo Jackson, and Alabama linebacker DeMeco Ryans. The

denotation of the new members took place during the Ewing Automotive Group Classic Keynote event on Sept. 18 at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas on Sept. 18.

Five members of the NFF College Hall of Fame will be entering the California High School Football Hall of Fame in conjunction with the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, the California Interscholastic Federation and the National Football Foundation. The group will be honored during festivities at the UCLA-Fresno State contest at Rose Bowl Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 30. The NFF members in this class are Edwin “Babe” Horrell (1969 inductee from California), Donn Moomaw (1973 inductee from UCLA), Craig Morton (1992 inductee from California), Ron Pritchard (2003 inductee from Arizona State), and Ed White (1999 inductee from California).

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

The 66th NFF Awards Dinner is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas with sponsorship by the Las please access [FootballFoundation.org](http://FootballFoundation.org).

#### Also on the NFF calendar:

Oct. 23 - Announcement of the 2024 Campbell Trophy® Finalists and the 2024 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class, presented by Fidelity Investments. On-campus salutes to 2024 NFF College Hall of Fame inductees presented by Fidelity Investments are being scheduled and will be revealed in coming days; Nov. 5 - First College Football Playoff rankings.

The current longest NCAA FBS member streaks without a shutout through Sept. 25 are Florida with a NCAA-record 453 since 1988, TCU with 398 since 1991, Georgia with 375 since 1995, Virginia Tech with 374 since 1995, Nebraska with 355 since 1996 (the only Big Ten Conference team that has scored in every game in the 21st Century), Boise State with 342 since 1997, Alabama with 293 since 2001, and Clemson with 283 since 2003.

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

now available online via the URL: <https://bryantawards.org/fan-vote/??CollegeFootballCoachOfTheYearFanVote> The Paul “Bear” Bryant Awards Fan Vote is back! YOU, the fans, will have the chance to determine which coach will win the Fan Vote. Tell us which coach you [bryantawards.org](http://bryantawards.org).

#### NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

**Some notable birthdates** in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 23-29 time period are Sept. 23 (1918) George Franck, Davenport, Iowa; (1979) Bryant McKinnie, Woodbury, N.J.; 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.; (1954) Sylvester Croom, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; (1975) Dat Ngyuen, Fort Chaffee, Ark.; Sept. 26 (1871) Joe Thompson, County Down, Ireland; (1922) Creighton Miller, Cleveland, Ohio; Sept. 27 (1862) Alex Moffat, Princeton, N.J.; (1912) Bill “The Bard” Shakespeare, Staten Island, N.Y.; Sept. 28 (1881) Harry Van Surdam, Hoosick Falls, N.Y.; (1907) Glen Edwards, Mold, Wash.; (1919) Tom Harmon, Rensselaer, Ind.; (1935) Lou Michaels, Swoyersville, Pa.; (1964) David Fulcher, Los Angeles, Calif.; Sept. 29 (1902) Edwin Horrell, Jackson, Mo.; (1926) Pete Elliott, Bloomington, Ill.; (1932) Paul Giel, Winona, Minn.; (1985) Calvin Johnson, Newnan, Georgia.

**Notable anniversaries** of passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are 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.; (2021) Gordon Hudson, San Jose, Calif.; Sept. 29 (1967) Henry Seibels, Birmingham, Ala.; (2009) Ed Sherman, Newark, Ohio.

**Happy birthdays** to NFF Hall of Fame members born Sept. 23 Bryant McKinnie, Sept. 24 Mean Joe Greene, Joe Washington, Eddie George, Sept. 25 Sylvester Croom, Dat Ngyuen, Sept. 28 David Fulcher, Sept. 29 Calvin Johnson...

#### Schedules:

The Louisiana at Wake Forest contest Saturday now is set for a 3:30 p.m. (EDT) airtime on the ACC Network...South Dakota and Portland State officially cancelled their Sept. 14 meeting because of team-wide whooping cough conditions for

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PSU. Both teams are seeking a replacement tussle...Middle Tennessee and Kentucky will tangle in a two-game set in 2025 and '26...BYU now has its home opener on Aug. 30, 2025, certified against Portland State...

The Virginia at Virginia Tech Atlantic Coast Conference finale for both teams on Nov. 30 is a hard sellout...Montana State completed its 2025 slate with the additions of Montana State finalized its schedule with the addition of home clashes with the U. of San Diego Toreros on Sept. 13 and Mercyhurst on Sept. 20...Oregon State and Wake Forest will meet in a split-season series in 2025 and '28...Massachusetts has cancelled some postponed series game with New Mexico State but now will face the Aggies, Colorado, Penn State and Wagner in 2028...Edward Waters and Benedict (S.C.) made their first football appearances on ESPN2 last Thursday as part of a special Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference telecast agreement...FS1 will provide a national telecast for the Washington State at Boise State clash Saturday at 8 p.m. (MDT).

#### Good Works:

Toyota North America is donating \$5.8 million to Northeast Mississippi school systems in multiple counties in conjunction with its massive Toyota Carolla and Prius manufacturing plant in Blue Springs, Miss., outside Tupelo. Vanderbilt alumnus, tennis student-athlete and Tupelo mayor Jack Reed Jr. has been credited with helping Toyota locate the plant in that area during the 2007-10 construction period...Missouri officials will have a special scholarship banquet in Columbia, Mo., on Friday, Nov. 8, to honor the late Dr. Prentice Gautt for his accomplishments at Mizzou and nationally with the Big Eight and Big 12 Conferences and the NCAA prior to the MU-Oklahoma contest on Nov. 9. Dr. Gautt was the first Black student-athlete in Sooners football annals...The 20th Evening For Rice's Honour will be Tuesday, Oct. 15, at River Oaks Country Club with 2024 Distinguished Owl Club Awards going to Dana A Burch, Lynn L Elsenhans, David Gibbs, Goran Haag, and Thomas FA Hetherington...Auburn's popular International Buddy Program held its bi-annual Buddy Reveal for U.S. students and international buddies...East Tennessee State continues its year-long celebration of the golden anniversary of the founding of the ETSU School of Medicine in 1974...The Vanderbilt Security Department has taken extra measures for student safety after some recent incidents near campus...Members of the Gideons throughout Texas will be on the campus locales of SMU and Texas A&M in October for annual scripture distribution...North Texas Giving Day, sponsored by Dallas Communities Foundation, helped net \$64 million-plus last Thursday for area charities, college scholarships and other underserved areas and families.

#### Football Coaches:

Morehouse head coach Terance Mathis acknowledged talk that the NCAA Division II gridiron program might make a move to NCAA FCS possible along with Howard...BYU head coach Kilani Sitake is aiding the Cougars toward a possible seventh bowl in his nine seasons at the helm after a key road victory at SMU and the first matchup between BYU and Kansas State last weekend since the 1997 Cotton Bowl Classic...Kudos and friendship renewals were aplenty last week as former Oklahoma Heisman Trophy recipient and current Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel brought the Volunteers to Norman, Okla., for the Sooners first Southeastern Conference skirmish...Wisconsin head coach Luke Fickell expressed a desire to have the NCAA Football Rules Committee review the rulings and suspension for targeting calls...Pittsburgh head coach Pat Narduzzi was fined and given a public reprimand about comments about officiating after the Panthers win over West Virginia in the annual Backyard Brawl...Penn State head coach James Franklin recounted some associations with Kent State football and PSU connections along with Minnesota head coach PJ Fleck and his success in the Mid-American Conference.

**Hometowns** of more 2024 college head coaches – MIT: Brian Bubna, Geneva, N.Y.; Montana: Bobby Hauck, Missoula, Mont.; Montana State: Brent Vigen, Buxton, N.D.; Navy: Brian Newberry, Moore, Okla.; Nebraska: Matt Rhule, New York City.

#### Directors of Athletics:

Florida A&M named Angela Suggs as vice president and director of athletics with an initial three-year pact...Charlotte AD Mike Hill has an amended contract update for four more years...Florida Atlantic AD Brian White has an updated contract through 2029 with rolling extensions and guaranteed compensation increases...West Virginia AD Wren Baker covered the last 12 months for WVU athletics and head coaching changes for men's and women's basketball and baseball as well as how the program has seen growth through possible times of adversity. He also complimented WVU fans for their fidelity and attendance and is inaugurating a new AD's luncheon series this fall. The Mountaineers also are hosting head coaches' podcasts for Olympic sports' squads of the Mountaineers...North Dakota State AD Matt Larsen allayed thoughts about a possible movement from NCAA FCS to FBS after the Bison captured a record nine FCS championships from 2011-21 and believes that NDSU probably is staying put in the Missouri Valley Football Conference at this time...North Carolina AD Bubba Cunningham mentioned that some opposing schools still are using the fact that 73-year-old head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame member Mack Brown may be closing in on retirement as recruiting possibilities are mentioned. Cunningham told

media that the venerable Vanderbilt and Florida State alumnus can stay as long as he feels comfortable...Arkansas AD Hunter Yurachek has urged supporters to help him reach a goal of 5,000-plus NIL collective members currently held by near-rival Ole Miss and others. He has a goal of locating at least 10,000 households in Arkansas to commit to at least \$100 monthly for NIL and budgeting needs...San Diego State AD John David Wicker commented on the elevation of Colorado State's campus at 5,205 feet and how that could be a factor in visiting team's conditioning and depth areas in numerous sports...Missouri State AD Patrick Ransdell asked alumni and friends to have patience as the Bears prepare for admission into Conference in July 2025 and how the university's overall strategic plan for 2025-30 will have a positive effect on MSU athletics financing and growth...Wyoming AD Tom Burman keynoted that the remaining eight Mountain West Conference members have an opportunity to remain a major factor nationally if they can stay together...Boise State AD Jeramiah Dickey reflected that major conversations about Pac-12 membership began when the Mountain West Conference decided not to roll over scheduling agreements with Oregon State and Washington State through the 2025 campaign...Oregon State AD Scott Barnes observed that there will be no upcoming limitations on the size of the newly-formed Pac-12 Conference...Bellarmine named Ben Reel baseball head coach after former head coach Chris Dominguez left for an assistant coach's slot at Miami (Fla.)...Famed former West Virginia, MLB standout and CBF Brooks Wallace Award winner Jedd Gyorko has been named assistant to the head coach at WVU...Shane Holley is the new pitching coach at James Madison...Nevada associate AD Matthew Smith has finished his tenure and is seeking other professional opportunities...Cal State Bakersfield chose Susan Vollmerhausen as senior associate AD...UMass Lowell tabbed Alison Quandt Westgate as senior associate AD for student-athlete excellence...Tarleton State selected Dayna Masters as beach volleyball head coach...North Carolina Central added Kendall Wallace as men's and women's golf head coach...Oklahoma State director of tennis and women's tennis head coach Chris Young is the new chair of the NCAA Division I Tennis Committee for 2024-25 season...Georgia gymnastics co-head coach Cecile Canquetau-Landi will receive new compensation with some additional bonus clauses and a contract running through April 2028...Western Michigan president Dr. Edward Montgomery will retire June 30, 2025...South Carolina president Dr. Michael Amiridis is aware of the challenging task of replacing vastly popular AD Ray Tanner who will begin special as a special advisor to the president's office...Pittsburgh chancellor Dr. Joan Gabel has not revealed the

type of administrator or national qualifications for the vacant AD's post with the Panthers...Rutgers president Dr. Jonathan Holloway is leaving the top slot on June 30, 2025, will take a year's sabbatical and before returning to faculty responsibilities...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are at New Orleans, Cleveland State, Illinois State, Le Moyne, Marquette, Mississippi Valley State, New Mexico, Portland State, Rutgers, UIC, Fordham, Lehigh, South Carolina, Abilene Christian, Arizona, Arkansas State, Austin Peay, the Big Ten Conference, DePaul, Drake, Duke, High Point, Jacksonville, James Madison, Maryland, Ole Miss, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Stetson, UConn, UMass Lowell, USC Upstate, UT Arlington, VMI, and Villanova.

#### The Conferences:

American Athletic Conference commissioner Tim Perneti spoke of the pioneering brand of the AAC, its football powers and prestigious member institutions and action steps the conference will utilize to establish itself as a Power Five of Power Six in 2026 conference...The Mid-American Conference has established its tiebreaker system for entry into the circuit championship Dec. 7 in Detroit, Mich. The MAC joined loop title game seven other FBS conference eligible for the College Football Playoff in eliminating divisions this autumn. Only the Sun Belt Conference sports East and West Divisions to determine the SBC champion...Remaining Pac-12 teams in the 2024 college grid race Washington State (4-0) and Oregon State (3-1) are a combined 7-1 to start the campaign...Big 12 Conference Sprouts Farmers Market Women's 12 Soccer Championship in Kansas City, Mo., has advance all-session tickets on sale. The Big 12 also sported a conference-record 265 alumni on opening NFL rosters...Teams ranked among the Top 25 from the Big 12 were 12-2 (.857 winning percentage) in the first three weeks of '24...The Big 12 also has 10 alumnae student-athletes competing in the WNBA playoffs.

#### The Bowls:

There are already 54 NCAA FBS teams with 50 percent (three wins) of the six total victories needed for invitations to the 44 bowl contests in post-2024 and a total of 14 squads with undefeated marks through four outings through Sept. 21...Some schools looking ending bowl droughts in the '24 postseason are Nebraska (last bowl in 2016, three wins already this fall), Akron (2017), Charlotte (2019), Colorado State (2017), New Mexico (2016), and Stanford (2018)...The Cotton Bowl Foundation and College Football Playoff Foundation joined for grants during the a Big Day for Teachers and Extra Yard for Teachers Week with \$200,000 in total awards for Catch Up & Read, The Educator Collective, Principal Impact Collaborative at UNT Dallas, and

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United to Learn...The GCB also identified 173 alumni of the Classic competing for 2024 NFL squads...The Goodyear Cotton Bowl and host AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, are promoting the Nov. 15 heavyweight prize bout between Iron Mike Tyson and Jake Paul as Tyson returns from retirement...

#### The Players:

The entire Alabama offensive line was awarded FWAA Outland Trophy Player of the Week honors for a 407-yard rushing day at Wisconsin...Oklahoma DL R. Mason Thomas tacked Bronko Nagurski Trophy Player of the Week honors onto to his Sooners resume after a standout showing against Tulane...Big 12 Conference top performers for Sept. 13-14 contests included UCF RB RJ Harvey (offensive), Colorado ATH Travis Hunter (defensive), Kansas State's Dylan Edwards (special teams), and West Virginia's T.J. Jackson (newcomer)...The Ray Guy Award tabbed Alabama specialist James Burnip as National Punter of the Week with five boots for a 49.2 average and four kicks inside the Wisconsin 20-yard line...Auburn freshman QB Hank Brown has received kudos for his early season stardom, including four TD passes against New Mexico...In his first two games of 2024 Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty rushed for 459 yards on 45 carries for a 10.2 average and nine touchdowns...Quarterbacks Kurtis Rourke of Indiana, Dillon Gabriel of Oregon and Jack Lausch of Northwestern have received team and regional kudos for early-season showings...Texas A&M freshman QB Marcel Reed of Nashville (Tenn.) Montgomery Bell Academy – three miles west of the Vanderbilt campus – has come to the forefront as a starter after an injury to Aggies regular Connor Weigman...Vanderbilt safety De'Rickey Wright chronicled his life as a homeless youngster in Gadsden, Ala., to entering graduate school as an honor student with the Commodores...Arkansas DE Landon Jackson has stressed the importance of consistent defense as the Razorbacks meet Texas A&M Saturday in a national telecast (ESPN) from AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas...Mississippi State received verbal commitments for 2025 from solid prospects RB Damarius Yates and King Grace along with DB Tyler Lockhart...University of Calgary (Canada) inked DB Soren Layton to a scholarship last week as part of a second generation of UC football stars...Georgia's Daniel Harris is seeking reinstatement after multiple traffic violations...The ULM defense made the first career interceptions for both Texas star quarterbacks Quinn Ewers in 2022 and Arch Manning in 2024.

#### Around the Campus:

The Missouri Board of Curators officially okayed the \$250 million construction project for the north concourse of Memorial Stadium/Don Faurot Field....Omaha athletics netted a \$1 million donation from David and Jane Offutt for

the UNO Hockey Excellence Fund and similar endeavors...USF students nabbed a school-record record 14,535 tickets for the Sept. 14 game against Miami (Fla.)...Ole Miss retained a \$1 million donation from former men's basketball student-athlete Hunter Carpenter and wife Megan for the CHAMPIONS. NOW Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's campaign...Chattanooga athletics has opened its Wolford Family Athletic Complex with new locker rooms; added equipment space; athletics training area, hot and cold tubs, a unique treadmill system, medical offices; mental health specialty facilities, a physical therapy room, and a 150-seat team meeting room...The Michigan marching band lost a friendly wager (no money involved) with the Texas marching band after UT's road win at Michigan, and the UM band had to form the Texas Longhorn hand signal and a facsimile of a Whataburger logo W at Michigan Stadium after the contest....Houston's stadium is being renamed Space City Financial Stadium after Texas Dow Employees Credit Union and Space City Credit Union with regulatory approval still in the works...Penn State sponsored Military Appreciation Day last week when the Nittany Lions hosted Kent State....Virginia Tech and Learfield Amplify credited the installation of 32,000 comfort-level chairback seats at Lane Stadium with approximately \$2.3 million in additional season ticket sales' income...Southern Illinois athletics has designated the Big Dawg Leadership Society to recognize SIU's "most resolute supporters" with special access to a number of Salukis events and programs...Miami (Ohio) athletics has selected the Red Brick NIL Legacy collective as its official group for NIL arrangements...The Duke Durham Devils Club NIL collective and Ascend Collegiate Services are initiating new collective membership dues of \$20-1,000 monthly levels for interested patrons...Murray State athletics will recognize fans who make gifts to the Blue and Gold Standard NIL collective with additional Racer Club Priority points...Boston U. athletics has started the Scarlet & White Exchange NIL collective via partner Teamworks Influencer...Tennessee will increase football individual ticket prices by 10 percent for the '25 campaign...The Governor's office in Georgia issued an executive order Monday to allow Georgia public colleges to make NIL payments directly to student-athletes in all sports...Nebraska-themed Big Red Hot Sause is gaining consumer momentum at tailgate parties and in regional groceries...Rutgers baseball is moving to 6,500-capacity Middlesex College Ballpark in Middlesex, N.J., for the 2026 season...South Carolina football continues to play the fan-favorite song Sandstorm at key moments during home tussles at Williams-Brice Stadium...Minnesota athletics is using unlimited job posting bundles via D1.Ticker, D1.Jobs and CollegeSports.jobs...Villanova is using the famed Parker

Executive Search Group in its quest for an AD...Wichita State has started construction on a \$20 million softball indoor practice facility with opening seed money of \$9.65 million...Indiana State athletics and Union Health are enjoying a three-year corporate sponsorship with Union Health logos in prominent areas of Sycamores facilities...Boise State has denoted sell-outs for three upcoming home football contests...Stanford athletics' Cardinal Axeccess continues to gain subscribers with its crisp content...Alabama will play at Creighton in men's basketball Dec. 4 in one of the premier Big East-SEC matchups of 2024...Stanford (Sept. 23) and California (Sept. 26) are on the quarter system for classes and are two of the latest universities to begin the fall semester.

#### Other Notables:

NFF College Hall of Fame QB Doug Williams and the Doug Williams Center newsletter saluted the '24 college success of Black QBs or QBs of color Jalen Milroe of Alabama, Nico Iamaleava of Tennessee, Gio Lopez of South Alabama, Diego Pavia of Vanderbilt, Kyrone Drones of Virginia Tech, and many others...NFF College Hall of Fame QB Troy Aikman of UCLA and Oklahoma was the honorary captain for SMU and performed the ceremonial coin toss prior to the TCU-SMU encounter last Saturday in Dallas. Aikman's longtime FOX Sports broadcast play-by-play man Thom Brennaman made a return to college football after a four-year absence while calling the national CW Network broadcast of that game...Last week's Good of the Game segment on NFF video featured football reflections by NFF College Hall of Fame RB LaVar Arrington of Penn State...Longtime MLB publicist and former Georgetown (D.C.) athletics communications director John Blake had the pressbox at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, named after him over the weekend..Retired Florida AD Jeremy Foley spoke to a sports management class about his path from playing college lacrosse to becoming AD at one of the nation's most powerful college sports programs...Former Mississippi State star QB and punter (1989-93) Todd Jordan is nearing the completion of his first term as mayor of Tupelo, Miss., after his July 2021 election in the hometown of Elvis Presley and massive tourist destination...Newest members for the Class of 2025 in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame are LSU and NFL standout Andrew Whitworth, basketball standouts Danny Granger and Vickie Johnson, Louisiana's winningest all-time college baseball coach Joe Scheuermann, standout basketball coach Danny Broussard, LSU gymnastics great and NCAA champion April Burkholder, Catholic-Baton Rouge HS head coach Dale Weiner, and NCAA boxing champion and high school football coach George "Bobby" Soileau...Famed NFL Dallas Cowboys and San Jose State enthusiast Eddie Garcia is leaving Dallas as chief of police and moving into city

administration duties in Austin, Texas.

#### Media Musings:

The Associated Press and College Football Playoff concocted a "mock" 12-team CFP bracket from the 2023 season and discovered that the formula had these teams seeded from Nos. 1-5 as conference champions: Washington, Texas, Florida State, Arizona, and eventual champion Michigan. The Nos. 11-12 seeds by the CFP formula were Penn State and Liberty to replace AP Top 25 Nos. 11-12 Ole Miss and LSU...FOX's Kansas State-Arizona football telecast on Friday, Sept. 13, had Nielsen Ratings at 15 percent above broadcast the average ratings for FOX's summer WWE Friday Night SmackDown shows...ESPN related that the Pat McAfee Show has been a profit center with network advertising and popularity...Award-winning Ralph Russo and Associated Press researched that \$75 million is being paid out in game guarantees to opposing teams such as Northern Illinois (Notre Dame) Kent State (Tennessee), Jacksonville State (Louisville), Toledo (Mississippi State), Akron (Ohio State) and dozens of other home squads...ESPN NBA Insider Adrian Wojnarowski is leaving the network to become general manager for St. Bonaventure men's basketball in a major hiring coup for College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame member and beloved Bonnies vice president and AD Bob Beretta...The Athletic's Bruce Feldman surmises that Memphis and Tulane also may be future membership targets for the Pac-12 or Mountain West Conferences...247 Sports says there is a rise from previous years in compensation for general managers and player personnel directors for college athletics – new positions founded after the advent of the NIL in 2021...CBS Sports columnist and award-winning Dennis Dodd has been told by multiple sources that the four MWC teams moving to the Pac-12 likely will be the only MWC members taking the new plunge. Others may come from the ranks of Tulane, Memphis, Gonzaga (all sports except football), Air Force, New Mexico, and Air Force. The American Athletic Conference also has made some probable inroads with Air Force to give it membership of all three U.S. FBS service academies...DIRECTV and the Disney Co. settled their carriage dispute after 14 days on Sept. 14...Wells Fargo analyst Steven Cahall has projected that FOX Sports will begin licensing some content from ESPN as negotiations continue on that possibility...Former FOX Sports president Bob Thompson had some advice about linear and streaming contracts as the Pac-12 Conference redevelops and negotiates new rights' arrangements...Front Office Sports reporter Amanda Christovich gained knowledge that Sacramento area leaders are hoping to get recognition of Sacramento State as a possible new member of the Pac-12 or Mountain West Conferences in a move from FCS to FBS...



The Athletic's Stewart Mandel speculated about the re-establishment of the Pac-12 Conference as a Power Five circuit member and the post-2026 impact on College Football Playoff selections...The Korn Ferry Four Dimensional Leadership Assessment survey brought in 24 ADs and received their opinions about current challenges in college athletics and ways to find solutions to these issues through strategic management...JohnCanzano.com opines that the current plan is for the Pac-12 Conference to settle with nine members starting in July 2026 to allow for an eight-game intra-league football slate and 16-contest basketball double round-robin. Canzano.com did not speculate on 2-3 additional Pac-12 football members but hinted at St. Mart's (Calif.) and Gonzaga as possibilities for all sports outside of football...WFAA-TV in Dallas celebrated its 75-year anniversary of opening on Sept. 17, 1949, with famed sports anchors Verne Lundquist, Dale Hansen, Joe Trahan, and many others describing the best of college, high school and professional athletics in Dallas-Fort Worth and nationwide for eight decades...The Athletic's Scott Dochterman surmises that North Dakota State, South Dakota State, Montana, Montana State, UTEP; New Mexico State, Idaho, Sacramento State, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Northern Arizona might consider moving up to NCAA FBS (for the FCS possibilities) and joining the Mountain West Conference...CBS Sports columnist Matt Norlander related how Gonzaga might be a player in both Pac-12 and MWC expansion plans...Extra Points publisher Matt Brown and others noted that California and Stanford remain entrenched in ACC membership and definitely will not reconsider their departures from the Pac-12...Dr. Jason Penry, founder of Penry Advisors, gave college ADs and fundraising members several pointers about success in athletics funding, principally involvement precedes investment, relationships work across all industries, doing things for the greater good makes it easier to put in the time, and never promise something you can't deliver...UFC CEO Dana White explained how the group's Noche live events from The Sphere in Las Vegas will include movies and other entertaining light shows...Sports Illustrated's Kevin Sweeney glanced at the implications and possible power ratings for the four new Pac-12 Conference members as they relate to men's and women's basketball and the College Football Playoff starting during the 2026 season...The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News newspaper discovered that the Pac-12 Conference had a backup plan in spring 2023 to add members with the imminent withdrawal of Arizona, Arizona State, California, Stanford, and Utah on the horizon. Former Pac-12 commissioner George Kliavkoff also held out hope that California and Stanford would remain in the circuit to enhance their chances to compete in the

expanded College Football Playoff...Some of the most viewed telecasts in recent weeks have been Georgia-Kentucky (ABC) 6.6 million Nielsen Ratings; Alabama-Wisconsin (FOX) with 5 million-plus, LSU-South Carolina (ABC) at 4.9 million; Colorado-Colorado State (CBS) with 3.2 million...Bloomberg's Peter Robison and Noah Buhayar gained access to a story of a possible student-athletes' boycott by Michigan State football prior to the MSU-Iowa game in 2023 because the NIL collective Spartan Dawgs 4 Life discontinued NIL payments for some Spartans...Last week Sports Illustrated named Caitlin Clark of Iowa and the WNBA Indiana Fever to the list of the 50 Most Influential Figures in the Sports World...John Canzano.com mentions 4-5 additional schools that could be candidates for membership in the revised Pac-12 Conference with Tulane, Memphis, USF, UTSA, and possibly Air Force in the mix...The Field of 68 website acknowledged men's and women's basketball possibilities with multiple expansion partners for the Pac-12 Conference...On3.com's Nick De La Torre gained insight about a possible Florida boosters' group meeting to discuss the Gators head coaching situation...**FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:**  
The FWAA-NFF Grantland Rice Super 16 FBS poll continues throughout the season and ends with the final survey after the College Football Playoff championship encounter on Jan. 20, 2025 and included No. 1-8 rankings on Sept. 15 for Texas (first No. 1 selection since 2009), Georgia, Ohio State, Alabama, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Miami (Fla.), and Oregon...Toledo is the FWAA Cheez-It National Team of the Week after thumping SEC opponent Mississippi State 45-17 in Starkville, Miss....College Sports Communicators featured in major online or social media posts in recent days are Cody Bush of the Pioneer League, Kit Stetzel of Butler, Joel Beeler of Davidson, Dave Shindelar of Drake, and Mike Ferraro of Marist...Arizona State, Florida, Florida State, LSU, Michigan State, Ole Miss, South Carolina State, Tennessee, UCLA, and USC are conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible challenges and probes at their respective schools...NCAA Coordinator of Football Officials Steve Shaw emphasized that the college football two-minute "timeout" is a bit unlike the NFL's two-minute "warning" at the end of the first half and prior to the end of regulation. The NFL two-minute warning was put in place in 1942 when game timing was kept on the field by officials and later to allow telecasts to have a final natural commercial break before each ending besides the natural breaks after scores or injuries...U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (Dem-Conn) and U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko (Dem-N.Y.) are sponsoring the Supporting Affordability and Fairness with Every Bet Act to place regulations on wagering companies with limits

on certain sports wagers and other key provisions. Blumenthal also said that the entire sports gaming industry targets people wanting to earn quick dollars against major odds...The Johnson v. NCAA and the previous Berger v. NCAA case filed in 2014 have had different legal tacks taken by NCAA attorneys as jurisprudence continues on the U.S. District Court levels....Attorneys on both sides have told judges repeatedly that both Clemson and Florida State did sign the original ACC Grant of Rights for multimedia contract through 2036 and that most courts consider that a continued binding agreement...Several MLB teams have denoted ticket packages and special occasions for the 2025 campaign as the '24 regular season comes to a close...House v. NCAA plaintiffs' attorney Jeffrey Kessler told media members that both parties are working on clarification of language of the final settlement with no timetables set...Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed an executive order to allow Georgia colleges and universities to pay NIL compensation directly to student-athletes rather than having to go through third-party NIL collectives...The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions reported that South Carolina State did not monitor student-athlete eligibility forms during the 2021-22 academic year to cause student-athletes in three sports to be declared ineli-

gible...The mayors of Dallas and Fort Worth again had friendly wagers riding on the outcome of last Saturday's TCU at SMU encounter.

**2024-25 College Football Playoff Bowl Schedule**  
(All Games on ESPN, ABC or TNT Sports, EST, Campus Sites For First Four Games)  
**Friday-Dec. 20** – First Round (9-12 Seeds iOver Two Days) Teams, Sites TBD – 8 p  
**Saturday, Dec. 21**  
Teams, Sites TBD, noon (TNT Sports)  
Teams, Sites TBD, 4 p.m. (TNT Sports)  
Teams, Sites TBD, 8 p.m.  
**Tuesday-Wed., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2025**  
**Dec. 31** – Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz., teams TBD, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jan. 1** – Chick Fil-A Peach, Atlanta, Ga., 1 p.m.; Rose Bowl presented by Prudential, Pasadena, Calif., 5 p.m.; Allstate Sugar, New Orleans, Dec. 20-21 winners vs. Top Four Seeds, 8 p.m  
**Thursday-Friday, Jan. 9-10, 2025**  
**Jan. 9** – Capital One Orange Bowl, Miami Lakes, Fla., winners of quarterfinals, 7:30 .



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