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# Weekly

## 2022-23 NHL Season Preview

Sept. 30 - Oct. 6, 2022

Vol. 21, Issue 6

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# ★★★ CONCERTS ★★ AT THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS. ★★

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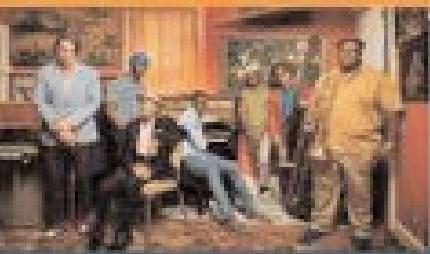
## 2022 CHEVROLET MAIN STAGE



TRACE ADKINS  
FRI 10.3 | 8:30 PM



SHERYL LE ANN  
SAT 10.3 | 4:00 PM



PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND  
SAT 10.3 | 8:30 PM



LA FIERA DE GUADALUPE  
SUN 10.3 | 8:30 PM



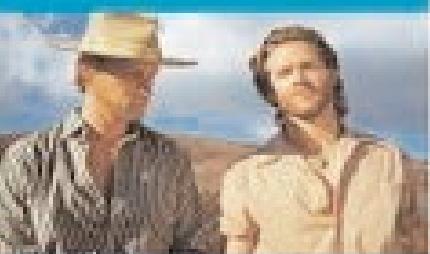
CHRIS PEREZ BAND  
TUE 10.4 | 8:30 PM



CRAIG PARKER  
WED 10.5 | 5:30 & 8:30 PM



RUNRIGGERS  
THU 10.6 | 5:30 & 8:30 PM



JAMESTOWN REVIVAL  
SAT 10.8 | 8:30 PM



LUCINDA WILLIAMS  
SUN 10.9 | 8:30 PM



LEANN RIMES  
MON 10.10 | 3:00 & 8:00 PM



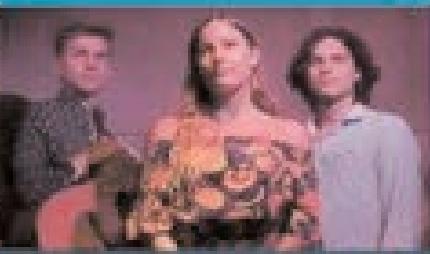
JASON BOLAND AND THE STRAGGLERS  
FRI 10.14 | 8:30 PM



DIXIE CHICKS  
SAT 10.15 | 8:30 PM



NIGHT RANGER  
SUN 10.16 | 8:30 PM



GIRL NAMED TOM  
FRI 10.21 | 8:30 PM



RESURRECTION  
SAT 10.22 | 5:30 & 8:30 PM



LA MALFA  
SUN 10.23 | 3:00 PM



# 2022 TEXAS RANGERS SCHEDULE

## APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>TOR</b> 12:07	<b>TOR</b> 2:07
<b>TOR</b> 12:07	<b>COL</b> 2:05	<b>COL</b> 7:05		<b>LAA</b> 7:05	<b>LAA</b> 1:05	<b>LAA</b> 1:05
<b>LAA</b> 1:05		<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>OAK</b> 1:40	<b>OAK</b> 2:07
<b>OAK</b> 1:40	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 1:05	<b>ATL</b> 1:05	<b>ATL</b> 1:05

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>NYM</b> 12:40	<b>BAL</b> 12:05	<b>BAL</b> 12:05	<b>BAL</b> 12:05		
<b>MIN</b> 1:05	<b>OAK</b> 7:05	<b>OAK</b> 7:05	<b>OAK</b> 7:05	<b>SEA</b> 7:05	<b>SEA</b> 7:05	<b>SEA</b> 7:05
<b>SEA</b> 8:35			<b>ALL-STAR GAME</b>		<b>MIA</b> 12:10	<b>OAK</b> 1:40
<b>OAK</b> 9:05	<b>SEA</b> 9:10	<b>SEA</b> 9:10	<b>SEA</b> 2:40	<b>LAA</b> 1:25	<b>LAA</b> 8:05	<b>LAA</b> 8:07
	<b>LAA</b> 8:07					

## MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>ATL</b> 1:05		<b>PHI</b> 5:05	<b>PHI</b> 5:05		<b>NYY</b> 8:05	<b>NYY</b> 8:05
<b>NYY</b> 12:05		<b>KC</b> 7:05	<b>KC</b> 7:05	<b>KC</b> 7:05	<b>BOS</b> 1:05	<b>BOS</b> 1:05
<b>BOS</b> 1:05	<b>LAA</b> 7:05	<b>LAA</b> 7:05	<b>LAA</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05
<b>HOU</b> 1:05		<b>LAA</b> 8:05	<b>LAA</b> 8:05	<b>OAK</b> 8:40	<b>OAK</b> 8:40	<b>OAK</b> 8:40
<b>OAK</b> 8:40	<b>TB</b> 7:05	<b>TB</b> 7:05				

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>BAL</b> 7:05	<b>BAL</b> 7:05	<b>BAL</b> 12:05	<b>CWS</b> 7:05	<b>CWS</b> 7:05	<b>CWS</b> 8:05
<b>CWS</b> 12:05			<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>SEA</b> 12:05
<b>SEA</b> 12:05	<b>DAK</b> 2:00	<b>OAK</b> 7:05	<b>OAK</b> 7:05	<b>OAK</b> 1:00	<b>MIN</b> 7:10	<b>MIN</b> 8:10
<b>MIN</b> 8:10	<b>MIN</b> 8:10	<b>COL</b> 7:40	<b>COL</b> 2:10		<b>DET</b> 7:05	<b>DET</b> 8:05
<b>DET</b> 8:05			<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 1:05		

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>TB</b> 7:05	<b>TB</b> 1:05	<b>SEA</b> 7:05	<b>SEA</b> 8:05
<b>SEA</b> 8:05	<b>CLE</b> 8:10	<b>CLE</b> 8:10	<b>CLE</b> 8:10		<b>CWS</b> 7:10	<b>CWS</b> 8:10
<b>CWS</b> 12:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>HOU</b> 7:05	<b>DET</b> 8:10	<b>DET</b> 8:10	<b>DET</b> 8:10
<b>DET</b> 12:40		<b>PHI</b> 7:05	<b>PHI</b> 8:05		<b>WSH</b> 7:05	<b>WSH</b> 8:05
<b>WSH</b> 8:05	<b>KC</b> 7:10	<b>KC</b> 7:10	<b>KC</b> 12:00			

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>BOS</b> 8:10	<b>BOS</b> 8:10
<b>BOS</b> 12:10	<b>HOU</b> 8:10	<b>HOU</b> 7:10	<b>HOU</b> 7:10		<b>TOR</b> 7:05	<b>TOR</b> 8:05
<b>TOR</b> 8:05	<b>MIA</b> 12:05 & 8:05	<b>OAK</b> 7:05	<b>OAK</b> 7:05		<b>TB</b> 8:10	<b>TB</b> 8:10
<b>TB</b> 8:10		<b>LAA</b> 7:05	<b>LAA</b> 7:05	<b>LAA</b> 1:05	<b>CLE</b> 7:05	<b>CLE</b> 8:05
<b>CLE</b> 8:05		<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>SEA</b> 8:40	<b>LAA</b> 8:05
<b>LAA</b> 8:05	<b>NYY</b> 8:05	<b>NYY</b> 8:05	<b>NYY</b> 8:05	<b>NYY</b> 7:05		

■ HOME GAMES | SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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**AROUND THE AREA**

**LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST**

# SMU Announces Hall Of Fame Class



DALLAS (SMU) - SMU and SMU Athletics, in conjunction with the SMU Lettermen's Association, have announced the newest class of the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame. The inductees include Bobby Mills, Berit Puggaard, Katie Swords and Robert Weir. The inductees will be recognized at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony on Friday, November 4 in Armstrong Fieldhouse at the Indoor Performance Center.

**Bobby Mills** – Men's Basketball 1954-57.

Mills was a two-time All-Southwest Conference guard from 1954-57. He helped lead the Mustangs to three straight SWC Championships and three NCAA Tournaments, including a run to the 1956 Final Four. He captained the 1956-57 team as the Mustangs claimed a third straight SWC crown. Mills was second on the team in scoring as a junior and senior behind All-American and 2009 SMU Hall of Fame inductee Jim Krebs. Mills' was second in career scoring at the end of his career with 1,027 points in 82 games. He is the third member of the 1956 Final Four team inducted to the SMU Hall of Fame, joining Krebs and 2013 inductee Rick Herrscher.

**Berit Puggaard** – Women's Swimming & Diving 1992-96

Puggaard was a four-time NCAA Champion, 13-time Southwest Conference Champion and 25-time All-American and from 1992-96. She helped the Mustangs finish in the top four at the NCAA Championships all four seasons, including a runner-up finish in 1996. Puggaard was a two-time Olympian for Denmark, competing in Barcelona in 1992 and Atlanta in 1996. She also won a bronze medal at the European Championships in 1991 and '97.

**Katie Swords** – Women's Cross Country / Track & Field 1993-96

Swords was a two-time NCAA Champion and 12-time Southwest Conference Champion from 1993-97. She won the NCAA Outdoor Championship at 10,000 meters in 1995 and 1996. Swords' SWC titles include two cross country championships and 10 on the track. At the 1996 SWC Track and Field Championships she became the first individual to score 40 points at the SWC meet by winning the 1,500 meters, 3,000 meters, 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters.

**Robert Weir** – Track & Field 1981-84

Weir was a three-time NCAA Champion and a 10-time All-American. He helped the Mustangs win the 1983 NCAA Indoor and NCAA Outdoor Team Championships. Weir claimed individual national championships in the 35-pound weight throw at the 1981 and 1983 NCAA Indoor Championships and in the hammer throw at the 1983 NCAA Outdoor Championships. He was a three-time Olympian for Great Britain, earning bids to Los Angeles in 1984, Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000.

For tickets to the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet call 214-768-4314. Mavs

**Mavs Vault opens this Friday**

The Dallas Mavericks will host an exhibit at the Hall of State.

Friday, Sept. 30, marks the beginning of the opening of Mavs Vault, presented by ShiftKey, at the Hall of State at Fair Park. The history of the Dallas Mavericks will be unlocked, with highlights from the past 42 years, featuring never-before-seen artifacts, a short historical film, interactive kiosks with trivia and games, Mavs photo booth, jersey progression display, giveaways, exclusive merchandise, and upcoming ticket purchasing opportunities. This exhibit goes from the origin story in the 1980s to the 2011 Championship to now.

Mavs Vault highlights:

- 2011 NBA Championship Trophy
- 2011 NBA Championship Ring replica
- 2011 NBA Championship Team signed basketball
- Don Carter's Stetson Hat, the inspiration behind the original Mavs logo
- Mark Cuban correspondence with NBA regarding fines over the years
- Early season memorabilia, including Don Carter's bench chair, ticket stubs, game programs, press releases
- Signed team photos
- Game-worn player jerseys from Dirk Nowitzki, Luka Doncic, Dwight Powell, Dorian Finney-Smith, Maxi Kleber, Spencer Dinwiddie, and others
- Signed player shoes from Brad Davis, Rolando Blackman, Dirk Nowitzki, and others.

**WHEN:** Sept. 30 – Oct. 23, 2022 | 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fair Park | Hall of State

**ADMISSION:** FREE, with State Fair tick-

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**NCAA Football**

AP	Week 5	Coaches
1. Georgia	1. Georgia	
2. Alabama	2. Alabama	
3. Ohio State	3. Ohio State	
4. Michigan	4. Michigan	
5. Clemson	5. Clemson	
6. USC	6. USC	
7. Kentucky	7. Oklahoma State	
8. Tennessee	8. Kentucky	
<b>9. Oklahoma State</b>	<b>9. Tennessee</b>	
10. NC State	10. NC State	
11. Penn State	11. Ole Miss	
12. Utah	12. Penn State	
13. Oregon	13. Utah	
14. Ole Miss	<b>14. Baylor</b>	
15. Washington	15. Oregon	
<b>16. Baylor</b>	<b>16. Oklahoma</b>	
<b>17. Texas A&amp;M</b>	<b>17. Texas A&amp;M</b>	
<b>18. Oklahoma</b>	18. Washington	
19. BYU	19. Arkansas	
20. Arkansas	20. BYU	
21. Minnesota	21. Wake Forest	
<b>22. Wake Forest</b>	22. Florida State	
23. Florida State	23. Minnesota	
24. Pittsburgh	24. Pittsburgh	
<b>25. Kansas State</b>	25. Syracuse	

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 30 FRIDAY	OCTOBER 1 SATURDAY	OCTOBER 2 SUNDAY	OCTOBER 3 MONDAY	OCTOBER 4 TUESDAY	OCTOBER 5 WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 6 THURSDAY
Rangers at Angels 8:38 / BSSW	Rangers at Angels 8:07 / BSSW	Rangers at Angels 3:07 / BSSW	Rangers vs Yankees 6:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Yankees 1:05 / BSSW	Rangers vs Yankees 3:05 / BSSW	
Exhibition Game at St. Louis 7:00		Exhibition Game vs Colorado 7:00		Exhibition Game vs Colorado 7:00		
Mavs at OKC 7:00 / BSSW						
		Dallas vs Washington 12:00 / FOX				
		FC Dallas at Colorado 2:30 / TXA21				

# Rangers could finish third in the West



The Rangers have won 66 games on the season, six more than last year with seven games left to play



BY DIC HUMPHREY  
DHUMPHREY24@GMAIL.COM  
MEMBER: USBWA

The Texas Rangers went 1-5 over the past week, including getting swept in a three game series by the Cleveland Guardians. They are up to 66 wins on the season, six more than last year with seven games left to play. While the win total is an improvement over last season, it is still disappointing after the team committed more than in-half billion dollars to free agents.

The Rangers are 23 games under .500 and 35.5 games behind division champion Houston. They are in fourth place in the AL West with a slim chance of catching the Los Angeles Angels for third place. The Angels have a four game lead over Texas in the loss column, and the teams play each other this weekend in a three game series in Anaheim.

Cleveland's sweep of the Rangers last weekend clinched the Central Division championship for the Guardians. Cleveland has managed to stay competitive with a low budget payroll. They have actually been one of the better teams in base-

ball over the past month and go into the playoffs as the number three seed hosting a Wild Card opponent in a two out of three series in the first round. They likely face Seattle or Tampa Bay in that series.

The lone Ranger win over the past week came on Tuesday. It was a bullpen game with six pitchers shutting out Seattle 5-0. It was a banner day for Josh Jung. He showed why he is such a highly regarded prospect as he hit two home runs to drive in all five that Texas scored. He also drove in the Rangers' only run on Wednesday in a 3-1 loss.

Thursday night's series finale was one of the more interesting games of the season. Texas hit three home runs in the third inning to take a 4-2 lead. Seattle rallied to lead 7-4, but Texas closed to within a run with back-to-back home runs in the seventh inning. At that point, there had been nine home runs in the game driving in all 13 runs scored.

Texas tied the game in the eighth inning, and the game went into overtime. The Rangers scored their ghost runner in the tenth and eleventh innings but blew the save each time. The Mariners scored two runs in the eleventh to win 10-9.

There are seven games remaining for Texas starting with this weekend's series in Anaheim. The announced starting pitchers for Texas are Glenn Otto (6-9) on Friday night, Cole Ragans (0-3) on Saturday night, and TBA on Sunday afternoon. Game times (CDT) are 8:38 PM on Friday, 8:07 PM on Saturday and 3:07 PM on Sunday.

The season concludes with four games

in Arlington against the Yankees. Game times are 6:05 PM on Monday, 1:05 PM and 7:05 PM for Tuesday's doubleheader, and 3:05 PM on Wednesday.

#### AARON JUDGE WATCH:

The Yankees' Aaron Judge hit his 61st home run of the season this past Wednesday in Toronto to tie Roger Maris for the American League record. Judge's mother Patty sat with Roger Maris, Jr. to witness the home run. Judge has hit 30 home runs at home and 31 on the road.

The Yankees host Baltimore this weekend before travelling to Texas for next week's series. Irrespective of what happens over the weekend, any home runs Judge hits next week in Arlington will set a new American League record. Assuming he hits at least one home run in Arlington, the value of the ball he hits for his last home run of the year will be monstrous. Seats in the left field stands should be selling for a premium!

The numbers around this record are cosmic. Maris set the record by hitting 61 home runs in 1961. Judge has now tied the record with 61 home runs exactly 61 years later. Maris wore uniform number 9 when he set the record. Judge wears uniform number 99.

While most of the attention has been focused on Judge's pursuit of the home run record, Judge's season is even more remarkable as he pursues the triple crown. He now leads the AL in RBIs and is neck and neck with Minnesota's Luis Arraez for the batting average leader. Arraez goes into the weekend hitting .315, while Judge is at .313.

#### MINOR LEAGUE WRAP:

AAA Round Rock lost to Sugarland Wednesday night 10-1 to end their season. Spencer Howard on a rehab assignment

started for the Express but could not get out of the first inning. He walked three and gave up four runs in 2/3rds of an inning. Bubba Thompson was named Round Rock's Player of the Year.

AA Frisco won the Texas League Championship last Tuesday with a 7-5, 10 inning win over Wichita. The Roughriders were 4-0 in post-season play.

#### NOTABLE:

- \* In Thursday's game, Marcus Semian hit two home runs, while Adolis Garcia and Nathaniel Lowe hit one to bring the season home run total for all three to 26. With Corey Seager hitting 32, the Rangers are the only team in baseball with four players hitting 25 or more home runs.

- \* The Rangers' home run total (192) is third in the American League and eighth in baseball.

- \* After Thursday's 10-9 loss, the Rangers are 12-33 in one run games. They have lost 50 games by either one or two runs.

- \* Seattle won the season series with Texas 14-5.

- \* The Rangers' home attendance is 1,878,034 with four home games remaining. That's an average of 24,490 per game. They need to draw about 122,000 in next week's four game series with the Yankees to bring the total to 2,000,000 for the season.

- \* Nathaniel Lowe is currently fourth in the American League with a .304 batting average.

- \* The Rangers' win in Seattle on Tuesday was started by Jesus Tinoco as an opener. It was just the second Ranger win out of the 12 attempts this year when using an opener.

- \* The Rangers lead the American League in stolen bases with 126. Miami with 118 is next closest to Texas.

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# The Tribute to host weekend LPGA event



TOM WARD  
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

On Wednesday, I attended the Ascendant LPGA benefitting the Volunteers of America press conference at the Golf Clubs at the Tribute in the Colony. The event featured two prominent young LPGA players speaking about their expectations this week in hopes of winning this prestigious tournament.

Cheyenne Knight who hails from Aledo won the title in 2019 and Mexican native Gaby Lopez came in 3rd place last year. Both women appeared very happy and eager to be teeing it up this week.

Cheyenne Knight won here in her home state in 2019. It was her very first victory on the LPGA Tour and done in record fashion shooting a spectacular -18 under par. When asked by the moderator how it feels to be back Knight said,

"Yeah, I have a lot of great memories here. It was three years ago so it's been a while, but just every time I drive in it brings back a lot of special memories of my first win here. Yeah, it's great. It's like really memorable walking up all the holes and remember just how I was feeling and the shots that I hit down the stretch. So, yeah, it's always nice to come back."

Knight talked about how special it was to be from Texas and getting her first win here. She stated,

"I feel like before I even started playing I always wanted to win in Texas, you know, if I ever got the opportunity to down the road in my career. So having my first win here when I had a lot of family here was really special. A lot people got to see it. They don't get to see me play that much. They have stuff going on and they can't travel around the world. It was great that they were here. It was really special. It was kind of like a Cinderella story in a way."

Knight was asked why a lot of past champions are Texans or live here in Texas, based in Texas. Why do you think that is? Cheyenne said,

"I think a lot of girls relocate here. Texas is centralized, easy to travel out of, a lot of direct flights to airports, so I think that's one of the reasons why. But also like Angela winning in 2020 was awesome and how her parents got to see that, that was

really cool. I feel like just the hometown support is kind of nice, like home field advantage type thing. So, yeah, I think it's just -- a lot of girls are moving here or Florida. There is a lot of great golf courses in the area, a lot of things to do like in DFW."

Gaby Lopez is fresh off her win a few weeks ago at the Dana Open in Ohio to earn her 3rd victory on the LPGA Tour. Lopez is from Mexico and played collegiately at Arkansas. Last year Lopez had a third place finish here in Texas.

During the press conference on Wednesday Lopez spoke about keeping her momentum going. Lopez said,

"It has been a lot of like calmness and tranquility after my win. We always are looking for the next win, for the next trophy, and, yeah, just being able to take that monkey off my back and just embracing that, it was just a matter of connecting the dots." Lopez continued, "If you get everything in the right place, your driving, irons, putting, wedging, if you just get everything in order, it's just a matter of flowing and connecting the dots for four rounds. It's a long time. I think we don't realize how much golf we play during a week, how much it takes to win on the LPGA. It's just getting harder and harder. Players are getting more accurate, longer, and it's really exciting to be playing golf."

Lopez was asked by the moderator if she has played the golf course in her off time? Lopez replied,

"Yeah, I get to play a couple rounds here at Old American Golf Club. I really enjoy how the course is set up. You just got to be very creative. Texas is a great place to play competitive golf. You see a lot of PGA Tour and LPGA players living here year-round, so I just feel like it's a great place to just have all the golf fans and enjoy some of the professional golf."

Tickets are available at [www.ascendantLPGA.com](http://www.ascendantLPGA.com). You can follow everything that's happening at the tournament via social media: #DRIVEON Tournament: @AscendantLPGA (Twitter, Instagram & Facebook); #AscendantLPGALPGA Tour: @LPGA and @LPGAMedia (Twitter), @lpga\_tour (Instagram)

TV & Streaming Times (all Eastern Standard Times on The Golf Channel, [golfchannel.com](http://golfchannel.com) and the NBC Sports App) Thursday, September 29 – 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 30 – 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday, October 1 – 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, October 2 – 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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



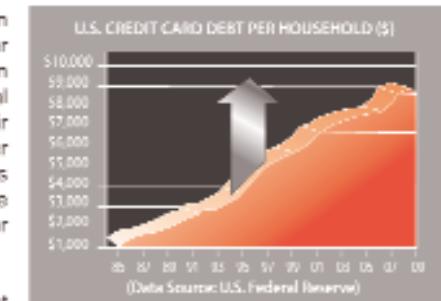
Cheyenne Knight and Gaby Lopez are very happy and eager to be teeing it up this week

## Credit Card Debt?

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill  
CGA STAFF WRITER

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



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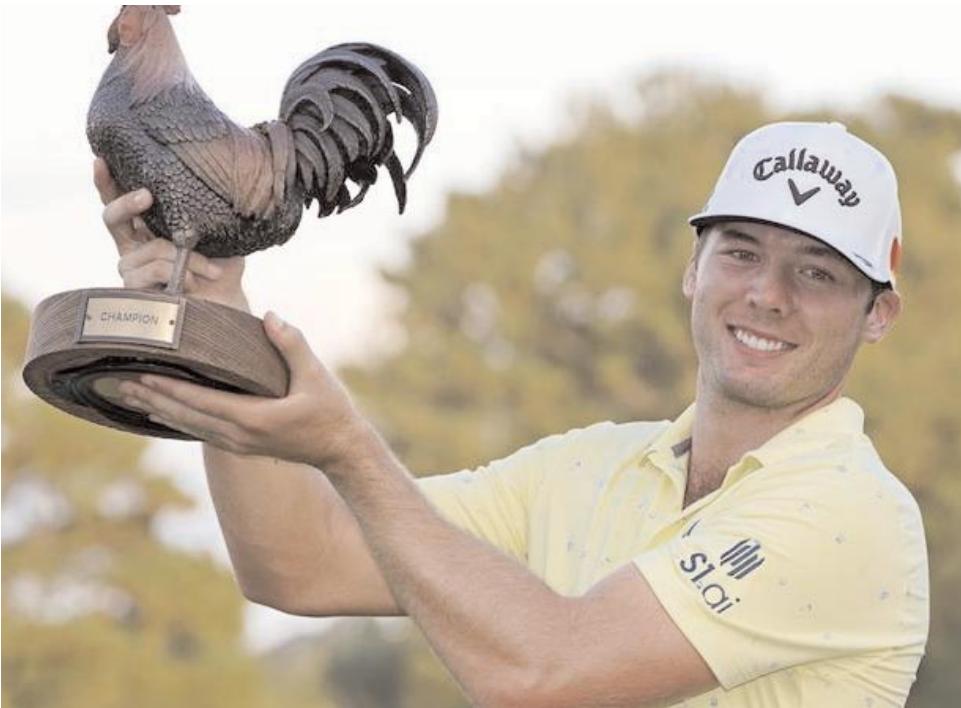
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# Sanderson Farms Championship Preview



Sam Burns returns to defend his title at the Sanderson Farms Championship



**Sanderson Farms Championship**  
September 29 - October 2, 2022  
**Country Club of Jackson**  
**Jackson, Mississippi**  
**Purse - \$7,900,000**  
**Winners share - \$1,422,000**  
**Defending Champion - Sam Burns**

By Adam Stanley  
PGATOUR.COM

Fresh off his Presidents Cup debut, Sam Burns returns to defend his Sanderson Farms Championship, the first of his three wins last season. This is the second event of the 2022-23 PGA TOUR season.

**FIELD NOTES:** Burns is one of three Presidents Cup participants going from Quail Hollow to the Country Club of Jackson. Burns, at No. 12 in the world, is the highest-ranked golfer in the field... Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Sebastian Munoz (who won the Sanderson in 2019) of the International Team are the other Presidents Cup participants in the field... There will be plenty of support for Davis Riley at the Sanderson Farms Championship. Riley, a Mississippi native, returns to tee it up in his home state after a fabulous rookie campaign on TOUR that saw him finish 33rd in the FedExCup, including a runner-up to Burns at the Valspar Championship... This is the second event of the season, so look for most

of the Korn Ferry Tour graduates, led by Korn Ferry Tour Championship winner Justin Suh, the winner of the KFT's season-long points race, to try to make some early noise... Sponsor exemptions include a trio of college standouts: Sam Murphy of Louisiana Tech, Brice Wilkinson of Southern Miss (who won the 108th Mississippi State Amateur in June), and former Mississippi star Jackson Suber, who finished ninth in the 2022 PGA TOUR U presented by Velocity Global... Other notables teeing it up include TOUR

Championship qualifiers Sahith Theegala (who finished T8 a year ago after holding the 54-hole lead), and Scott Stallings (the Sanderson champion a decade ago) plus TOUR winners like Sepp Straka, Seamus Power, Harris English, Keegan Bradley, and J.T. Poston, each of whom are ranked inside the top-55 in the world... Four major champions will tee it up along with nine past winners of the Sanderson Farms Championship.

**FEDEXCUP:** Winner receives 500 FedExCup points.

**COURSE:** Country Club of Jackson, par 72, 7,461 yards. This marks the ninth year this Mississippi beauty will host the Sanderson Farms Championship. The course was redesigned in 2008 (the tournament routing includes the Azalea and Dogwood nines) by John Fought and incorporating some Donald Ross signatures – especially around the greens. The club's history dates all the way back to 1914. Sam Burns utilized an impressive iron game to win the title last season, as he finished T1 in greens in regulation for the week plus first in SG: Off-the-Tee and SG: Tee-to-Green. Keep an eye on impressive ball-

strikers this week.

**72-HOLE RECORD:** 263, Dan Halldorson (1986 at Hattiesburg GC). CC of Jackson record: 266, Sam Burns (2021)

**18-HOLE RECORD:** 61, Keith Clearwater (2nd round, 1996 at Annandale GC). CC of Jackson record: 62, Roberto Castro (1st round, 2015).

**STORYLINES:** There will be five golfers in the field with Mississippi ties including Riley and TOUR winner Chad Ramey of Fulton, Mississippi. Ramey won the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship earlier this year... Six of the past nine winners in Mississippi were first-time TOUR winners... Sam Burns set the tournament scoring record a year ago, and with the average score the last five seasons hovering around the 20-under mark, birdies will be a premium at The Country Club of Jackson.

**LAST TIME:** Sam Burns captured his second PGA TOUR title in the 2021 calendar year, topping the field in Mississippi on the back of four birdies in a six-hole stretch during his second nine on Sunday.

Burns finished with a 5-under 67, good enough to finish ahead of Nick Watney and Cameron Young by one shot. Burns' back nine on Sunday featured birdies on Nos. 13-15 and when Young made an untimely bogey on the par-5 14th, Burns was able to pull away. Burns won the Valspar Championship earlier in 2021 (a title he would go on to defend in 2022) and his one-shot win in Jackson was his first of three last season. Henrik Norlander shot the round of the day Sunday, an 8-under 64, and finished tied for fourth alongside Hayden Buckley, Andrew Landry, and Trey Mullinax.

## HOW TO FOLLOW (All times ET)

**Television:** Thursday-Friday, 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. ET. Saturday, Sunday, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

**Radio:** Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m. ET. Saturday-Sunday, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. (PGA TOUR Radio on SiriusXM and PGA-TOUR.com/liveaudio)

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# Stars must adjust quickly to new coach



The Stars made the Stanley Cup Playoffs last season and should be in contention for a spot this season

## DeBoer, players look to get on same page to avoid slow start

By David Satriano

The 2022-23 NHL season starts Oct. 7. With training camps in full swing, here is a look at the three keys, the inside scoop on roster questions, and the projected lineup for each of the 32 teams. Here's our take on the 2022-23 Dallas Stars.

**Coach:** Peter DeBoer (first season)

**Last season:** 46-30-6, fourth in Central Division, lost to Calgary Flames in Western Conference First Round

### 3 KEYS TO THE SEASON

#### 1. DeBoer's experience

Hired as coach June 21 to replace Rick Bowness, who resigned May 20, DeBoer comes to a team that made the Stanley Cup Playoffs last season and should be in contention for a spot this season. The 54-year-old has led his teams to the postseason seven times in his past 10 full NHL seasons, including reaching the Stanley Cup Final twice (2012, New Jersey Devils; 2016, San Jose Sharks).

How quickly he adjusts to the Stars and how they adjust to his coaching style will be an important factor in their success this

season.

#### 2. Moving on from Klingberg

John Klingberg signed a one-year contract with the Anaheim Ducks on July 29 after eight seasons with the Stars, leaving them with a hole on defense. Klingberg was fifth on the Stars last season in points (47) and first among their defensemen. He was a staple on the power play (20 points last season) and was third in ice time per game (22:13).

It could mean more of an opportunity for Joel Hanley and Thomas Harley, who were in and out of the lineup last season.

#### 3. Benn, Seguin production

Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin have been an integral part of the Stars offense for years. However, Benn had 46 points (18 goals, 28 assists) in 82 games last season, his lowest point total since 2018-19 (53), which was also the last time he scored at least 20 goals (27). Seguin, who was limited to three games in 2020-21, had 49 points (24 goals, 25 assists) in 81 games last season. He scored at least 33 goals in five of six seasons from 2013-19 and had at least 72 points in each of those seasons but has 101 points (43 goals, 58 assists) over the past three seasons.

If they are unable to see an increase in production, the Stars will need more offense from their forward group outside of their top line of Joe Pavelski, Jason Robertson and Roope Hintz, who were their top three scorers last season.

#### ROSTER RUNDOWN

#### Making the cut

If Robertson, a restricted free agent, doesn't sign before the season, Ty Dellandrea or Riley Tufte could be in the mix to make the opening night roster. Dellandrea, 22, played one game with the Stars last season and 26 with them in 2020-21. Tufte, 24, had one goal in 10 games with the Stars last season and 20 points (10 goals, 10 assists) in 54 games with Texas of the American Hockey League.

Defensemen Miro Heiskanen, Ryan Suter, Esa Lindell and Jani Hakanpaa are locks, leaving two spots, likely for Hanley, Harley or Colin Miller. Hanley, 31, played 44 games for the Stars last season and Harley, 21, played 34. Miller, 29, played 38 games for the Buffalo Sabres last season and signed a two-year contract with Dallas on July 13.

#### Most intriguing addition

Mason Marchment had NHL career

highs in goals (18), assists (29) and points (47) in 54 games with the Florida Panthers last season before signing a four-year contract with the Stars on July 13. If the 27-year-old forward stays healthy, he should be in for an even bigger season, perhaps topping 20 goals and 50 points. He should play in the top six forward group and could be linemates with Benn and Seguin, and also should see some time on the power play.

#### Biggest potential surprise

Harley had four points in his rookie season with the Stars and 11 points (all assists) in 27 games with Texas. It was a step down from when he had 25 points (eight goals, 17 assists) in 38 AHL games in 2020-21 but he should have a fulltime NHL role this season on the third defense pair. If he stays healthy, Harley should average more than 13:41 of ice time he had last season and be an impact.

#### Ready to break through

Joel Kiviranta burst onto the scene when he scored a hat trick, including the series-winning goal in overtime for the Stars against the Colorado Avalanche in the 2020 Stanley Cup Second Round. However, the 26-year-old forward has struggled since. He has 18 points (seven goals, 11 assists) in 82 games over the past two seasons. Though he's likely to start in the bottom six, an injury or lineup shakeup could move him up where he could get a chance to thrive with playmakers.

#### Fantasy sleeper

Seguin, C/RW (fantasy average draft position: 164.6) -- He has declined in point production since scoring 80 in 2018-19 (50 in 2019-20; 49 last season) but ranked second on the Stars in shots on goal (218) behind Robertson (220) last season. The addition of Marchment gives Seguin renewed fantasy appeal in late rounds as a potential bounce-back candidate. -- Anna Dua

#### PROJECTED LINEUP

Jason Robertson -- Roope Hintz -- Joe Pavelski
Mason Marchment -- Jamie Benn -- Tyler Seguin
Marian Studenic -- Radek Faksa -- Luke Glendening
Joel Kiviranta -- Jacob Peterson -- Denis Gurianov
Esa Lindell -- Miro Heiskanen
Ryan Suter -- Jani Hakanpaa
Thomas Harley -- Colin Miller
Jake Oettinger
Scott Wedgewood

# NHL regular season predictions



The defending Stanley cup champions Colorado Avalanche

By Logan Horn

With the 2022-23 NHL regular season just over a week away, it's time for regular season predictions. You can tell it's the slowest portion of the NHL's offseason when prediction articles start popping up and this is no exception. The biggest transaction in the league in the last week was Phil Kessel signing a one-year deal with the Vegas Golden Knights, so us hockey fans clearly need some way to fill our time other than looking for big reveals or announcements. The biggest surprise of the offseason is also already in the rearview, as Johnny Gaudreau signed with the Columbus Blue Jackets in free agency roughly a month and a half ago.

If you are anything like me, then you love trying to predict what's going to happen in the NHL. Sure, it's usually futile since hockey is a sport played on ice with skates on and a tiny rubber puck, but nobody's going to tell me how to enjoy hockey if it means giving up on predictions.

Another thing besides hockey's unpredictability that makes predictions like these fun is that most of them will likely be dead wrong, so if you happen to luck into a couple of guesses that come true, you get to screenshot them and show them to all your friends for a day or so. Will any of my predictions age well? Let's get started so we can find out. Here are my 32 bold predictions for the 2022-23 NHL season, one for each team.

## Anaheim Ducks

Jamie Drysdale will lead all Anaheim

Ducks defenders in scoring with 51 points in his second full NHL season and will end up in the top three for scoring amongst all skaters on the team. The 2020 sixth overall pick will have some tough competition, especially with the addition of John Klingberg, who signed in Anaheim for one year in free agency.

Drysdale will need to outwork Klingberg to earn significant ice time on the first power-play unit, where he can add quite a few points. Klingberg will likely be trusted with minutes against tougher competition than his 20-year-old teammate, which should free Drysdale up to score more points against weaker opponents.

## Arizona Coyotes

Jacob Chychrun has a hot start to the season and is traded before the new year begins on January 1. It's tank season for the Arizona Coyotes, so anyone who helps them win games is also actively hurting their chances at landing Connor Bedard in the 2023 Draft.

Chychrun was considered one of the most valuable trade targets in the league for the majority of last season, but his value has certainly decreased following a disappointing season. He followed up a stellar 2020-21 season where he scored 41 points in only 56 games with an injury-shortened 2021-22 season in which he only managed to put up 21 points in 47 games. If he can bounce back early, the team will surely find a trade suitor and finally pull the trigger on this long-anticipated deal.

## Boston Bruins

Linus Ullmark and Jeremy Swayman

win the William M. Jennings Trophy as goalies who have played at least 25 games for the team that allowed the least goals against in the NHL. Everyone's favourite goalie duo is back, and I predict that they will prove once again that goaltender tandems can actually work out. The duo had nearly identical statistics last season and started for the Boston Bruins in 39 games apiece, but I expect the 23-year-old Swayman to show some significant improvement in his second full season in the NHL.

The Bruins have seen their goaltenders win this award twice in the last 14 years, with Tuukka Rask and Jaroslav Halak winning it most recently in the 2019-20 season. I'm really just hoping this happens so we can see Ullmark and Swayman do their famous goalie hug on stage when they accept the award.

## Buffalo Sabres

The Buffalo Sabres will finally end their 11-year playoff drought, the longest playoff drought in NHL history. Typically, a team will only miss the playoffs for a handful of seasons before they rebuild enough that they can begin competing with the league's better half. Let's just say that Buffalo's rebuild has... not quite gone to plan.

Despite their struggles over the last decade-plus, the Sabres are in a great spot at the moment with tons of great young prospects throughout their team and their development system. They also acquired Alex Tuch from the Vegas Golden Knights as a part of the Jack Eichel trade, who is the presumed favourite to be the team's next captain. The future is bright for the Sabres, but I expect it to arrive a bit sooner than most.

## Calgary Flames

If I had told you at the beginning of the summer that the Calgary Flames would lose their two best players this offseason in Johnny Gaudreau and Matthew Tkachuk, and would still come out of the summer looking better than ever, would you have believed me? I predict that the Flames will not only be as good as last year but better as they will win the Presidents' Trophy next season, earning 123 points.

The team's new additions of MacKenzie Weegar and Jonathan Huberdeau, received in the Tkachuk trade, and the signing of Nazem Kadri in free agency are the kind of moves you make to keep your championship contention window open, and that's exactly what Calgary did. If Jacob Markstrom can maintain his Vezina Trophy-caliber form from last year, the Flames will be dangerous come next year's playoffs.

## Carolina Hurricanes

I predict that the Carolina Hurricanes

will win the Stanley Cup in the 2022-23 season. Few teams have added the type of top-end talent that the Canes have in Max Pacioretty and Brent Burns, so it is shocking to see how low the cost was to add such players on the trade market. Pacioretty was acquired from Vegas for "future considerations" (read: free of charge) and was unfortunately injured in offseason training. However, he will return in February or March and provide an excellent boost to the team's offense just as they make a push toward the playoffs.

Brent Burns will likely not be forced to play quite as many minutes as he was for years with the San Jose Sharks, so he should look great, as well, with a bit more rest. Frederik Andersen will need to stay healthy when the games get important, and if he can, he has shown himself to be one of the better goalies in the NHL over the last few seasons. I'm also going to predict that they will win the Cup while only winning two of their playoff games on the road because we all know how hard it can be to win road games.

## Chicago Blackhawks

The Chicago Blackhawks are another team that is doing their best to lose as many games as possible this year. I predict that Patrick Kane starts the year too good for the team, scoring 30+ points in their first 25 games, which leads to him being traded long before the trade deadline to help the team tank.

Kane will earn the Hawks a hefty trade return, especially if they retain a significant portion of his \$10.5 million salary. I would also expect a third team to be involved in the trade, who is willing to take on a chunk of Kane's contract to help facilitate the trade, for a price, of course. Look for Kane to be sent to a contender, who is willing to pay some valuable assets to add an elite playmaking winger that can help them win some important playoff games. Five and on the top power-play unit. My prediction for his exact goal total is 45, which would be a new career-high.

## Colorado Avalanche

Nathan MacKinnon hits 100 points for the first time in his career. I predict that he will demolish his previous career high of 99 points (2018-19) and will score 120 points in a full 82-game season.

It's hard to believe that MacKinnon hasn't broken triple digits yet in his career considering he's been one of the league's most electric offensive talents for at least five seasons. He has scored at well over a 100-point pace in each of the last three seasons, but each of those campaigns were shortened by either COVID-19 or injuries.

(continued on page 10)



Patrik Laine, Columbus Blue Jackets

This is the year he finally reaches one of the NHL's most prestigious single-season milestones.

#### Columbus Blue Jackets

Patrik Laine will score 40+ goals for the first time since his sophomore season when he scored 44 goals in 82 games for the Winnipeg Jets. The Blue Jackets shocked the hockey world this summer when they signed star winger Gaudreau in free agency, a move that few saw coming.

The addition of Gaudreau and the contract extension that Laine signed has set the team up with a dynamic duo for the next several years. I expect to see the pair combining to score a ton of points at five-on-five and on the top power-play unit. My prediction for his exact goal total is 45, which would be a new career-high.

#### Dallas Stars

The version of Jake Oettinger that we saw in the first round of last year's playoffs against Calgary was no fluke, as "Otter" will establish himself as an excellent starting goalie this year like Thatcher Demko did after "Bubble Demko" debuted in the 2020 Bubble playoffs.

However, Oettinger is currently a restricted free agent (RFA) without a contract, and I predict that the Dallas Stars will make the situation a lot tougher on themselves. They will do so by signing him to a short-term deal (one or two years) which he will quickly out-perform and out-grow, leading to him demanding a massive extension as soon as it expires.

#### Detroit Red Wings

Filip Zadina will have a breakout season under new head coach Derek Lalonde, scoring 20 goals and 45 points. Ever since the Detroit Red Wings drafted Zadina sixth overall in the 2018 Draft, expectations have been sky-high, and his play has not yet managed to live up to them. The team recently extended him for three more years at a surprisingly affordable \$1.8 million per

season.

If Zadina has a breakout in any of the seasons on this deal, it will be an absolute steal, but it will still be valuable if he stagnates as a good middle-six winger. This contract makes him Detroit's 16th highest paid player next year, 17th if you include the buyout penalty for Justin Abdelkader, which will cost the team \$2.3 million against the cap next season. I think he'll break out and have one of the most valuable contracts in the league.

#### Edmonton Oilers

Pulljujarvi will score at the same pace as last year, roughly 0.55 points per game (PPG), and will be traded at the deadline for a veteran forward who is expected to put up points more reliably. I also think that he will pop off on his new team, scoring above 1 PPG for the rest of the season on his new team.

After being drafted fourth overall by the Edmonton Oilers in the 2016 Draft, Pulljujarvi has yet to truly break out in the NHL, despite playing tons of minutes alongside one or both of Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. He has shown great improvements over the last two years, but that has yet to translate into a ton of points which is why the Oilers signed him to an easily tradeable one-year contract this summer.

#### Florida Panthers

Spencer Knight officially takes over as the team's starter, making Sergei Bobrovsky the highest-paid backup goalie of all time for the next four seasons. Following two dominant years in the NCAA, Knight made his way to the NHL last season as the Panthers' full-time backup. He played 32 games and sported a lackluster .908 save percentage (SV%).

Let me remind you that he is still only 21 years old and that goaltending prospects typically take a lot longer to develop. In his short professional career, Knight has been

rather inconsistent, but those games where he has looked great are what I'm choosing to focus on here when I predict that he will take over the starter's net this season.

#### Los Angeles Kings

The Los Angeles Kings will finish the year second in the Pacific Division, behind only the Flames. Their success last year was no fluke, and they only got better with the addition of Kevin Fiala and the continued development of their top prospects.

This Kings team may very well have beaten the Oilers in the first round of the playoffs last year if franchise cornerstone Drew Doughty hadn't been out with an injury. The biggest x-factor next year is if Jonathan Quick has one more good season in him because his surprise return to form last year was a big reason why they were competitive.

#### Minnesota Wild

Matt Boldy will step up to fill the hole left by the departure of Fiala in a trade this summer, scoring 85 points, the exact number that Fiala scored last year. Boldy went underrated during his excellent rookie season last year on account of him only playing 47 NHL games. Many people will be learning his name next year because if he can score 39 points as a 20-year-old rookie, I expect him to surprise some folks with what he can do in a full season.

The Wild are essentially playing with a salary cap that is \$13 million lower than other teams due to the massive buyout penalties for Ryan Suter and Zach Parise. Despite \$12.7 million in dead cap next year, the Wild will make the playoffs on the backs of some great performances by Boldy, superstar winger Kirill Kaprizov and goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury.

#### Montreal Canadiens

The Montreal Canadiens will win the second overall pick in the draft lottery, narrowly missing out on Connor Bedard who goes first overall, but they won't take Russian phenom Matvei Michkov second overall. It has been a foregone conclusion for over a year now that Bedard and Michkov would be battling it out for first overall when the 2023 Draft finally arrived, but the same was said for Shane Wright and the 2022 Draft, and we all know how that went.

The Canadiens showed a very high level of trust in their amateur scouting department this summer when they took Slovakian forward Juraj Slafkovsky first overall, and I expect that they will deviate from the public consensus once again in next year's draft.

#### Nashville Predators

Roman Josi led all NHL defensemen in assists and points last season by a significant margin, becoming the first defender to eclipse 90 points in a single season since Phil Housley did it in 2002-03.

My prediction is that Josi will not only lead NHL defenders in assists once again, but he will lead all skaters in assists with 81. The Nashville Predators added Ryan McDonough this offseason in a trade who I

expect will take on some of the more difficult defensive match-ups on the left side, freeing Josi up to focus even more on leading the team's offense.

#### New Jersey Devils

Jack Hughes was excellent last year, breaking out with 56 points in an injury-shortened season where he only played 49 games. I predict he will look every bit like the first overall pick he was back in 2019 and will set the single-season franchise record for points, currently held by Patrik Elias, who had 96 points in the 2000-01 season. Hughes will score 99 exactly and will throw his stick over the glass in celebration of a great overtime goal at least twice.

The addition of Ondrej Palat in free agency and the return of a healthy Dougie Hamilton should lead to a lot more goals for the New Jersey Devils, and I expect Hughes to be at the center of a ton of them. Bonus Super Specific Prediction: Jack Hughes will get the primary assist on Luke Hughes' first NHL goal when he joins the team following the conclusion of his NCAA season.

#### New York Islanders

The New York Islanders' fall from grace continues as the team underperforms again next year before losing Matthew Barzal next offseason. When Tkachuk orchestrated his exit from Calgary this summer, he laid out a blueprint for the league's young stars on how to leverage their years as an RFA to help them escape a team they don't want to play for.

The Islanders shocked everyone this offseason by \*checks notes\* doing nothing all summer. This team is aging and doing nothing to mitigate that is exactly how you lose a young star player like Barzal. Eight of the team's 11 highest-paid forwards will be 30 years or older by this coming November, and they fired Barry Trotz, considered by many to be the best coach in the NHL. Prepare yourselves now Islanders fans, you might just have another "Pyjama Boy" situation on your hands.

#### New York Rangers

With a world-class goalie in Igor Shesterkin and improved play from young contributors like Alexis Lafreniere, Kappo Kakko, and K'Andre Miller, the Rangers will set a franchise record for points in a season with 115, winning the Metropolitan Division. The young team managed 110 points last year, and I only expect them to improve.

Unfortunately, I also think that they will be bounced in the first round by the upstart Sabres. It's okay, having an incredible season and then promptly losing in the first round of the playoffs is an NHL rite of passage for some great teams, just ask the 2018-19 Tampa Bay Lightning.

#### Ottawa Senators

I believe that the Ottawa Senators will make the NHL playoffs for the first time since 2017. The team will be led in points by new acquisition Alex DeBrincat who will score 50 goals for the first time in his



Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay Lightning

career. DeBrincat managed to score 41 goals in 82 games last year on a terrible Blackhawks team, so pairing him with one of Claude Giroux or Tim Stützle could be just the boost he needs to make it to 50.

The top-six forward group in Ottawa is looking much improved with their offseason additions, and they should get some help on defense from rookie Jake Sanderson. If the team's existing young players can continue to develop well, I believe the club has a great chance to return to the postseason this year.

#### Philadelphia Flyers

Carter Hart will have the bounce-back season that every Philadelphia Flyers fan has been dreaming of, but it won't be enough as the club will still miss the playoffs in their first season under new head coach John Tortorella.

The Flyers are stuck in what I like to call "Rebuild Limbo," not good enough to win games, but too stubborn to tear it down and rebuild properly. I don't expect them to give up any top-end future assets in the next season or two, but they will likely trade some prospects and draft picks in a short-sighted attempt to improve their roster now.

#### Pittsburgh Penguins

Sidney Crosby will score 101 points this year, earning him his seventh 100-point season, tying Petr Stastny and Mike Bossy for the fourth most 100-point seasons in a career. He hasn't reached that mark since the 2018-19 season, but he still scored points at a remarkably high rate last year despite it being his 17th season in the NHL, managing 84 points in 69 games. The Pittsburgh Penguins made it clear this

offseason that they are betting on their older core of Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, and Kris Letang to win them games next year, and I think they will do just that.

Crosby will surely be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, but if he could manage such an offensively proficient season at this stage of his career, it would go a long way in establishing his legacy as one of the greatest hockey players of all time.

#### San Jose Sharks

The San Jose Sharks won't be able to replace Brent Burns following his trade to Carolina and will end up in the bottom six of the NHL at the end of the regular season. However, they will win the draft lottery and draft Bedard first overall.

The Burns trade offers the Sharks some massive cap relief, but it also leaves a massive void. Burns played the most minutes in the entire NHL last year (averaged 26:09 per game), and that's not the easiest thing to replace, especially with so few NHL-caliber defensemen coming up through their prospect pool. Although the team still has several contracts that they will look to dump to help their rebuild, managing to move Burns was a great decision for the long-term outlook of the team.

#### Seattle Kraken

Matty Beniers looked excellent in the NHL at the end of last season, scoring nine points in 10 games. The 2021 second-overall pick is not only going to lead the team in scoring with 65 points, setting multiple franchise records along the way, but he is also going to win the Calder Trophy as the league's best rookie.

Beniers has done nothing but impress

since being drafted just over a year ago, and I don't expect that to stop anytime soon. In his draft year, he was billed as a great two-way centerman, who has a motor that doesn't quit. With the addition of Shane Wright in the 2022 Draft, the Seattle Kraken appear to have found their top two centermen for the next decade.

#### St. Louis Blues

Expectations are high for Jordan Binnington after a great showing in the playoffs last year, where he had a .949 SV% in six games, but that will quickly fade as his downward trajectory continues. I predict he will end the season with a save percentage just below .900, partially due to the offseason losses of Ville Husso and David Perron.

Husso was a pleasant surprise last year for the St. Louis Blues, earning 38 starts and 25 wins. He stole the starter's net from Binnington partway through the year and eventually priced himself out of St. Louis due to his excellent play. Having a great tandem partner or backup is essential to a starting goalie, and Binnington will now have Thomas Greiss as his backup, a considerable downgrade from Husso.

#### Tampa Bay Lightning

Nikita Kucherov is going to score 120 points next season for the Tampa Bay Lightning, his first full season since the 2018-19 season. He has established himself as one of the NHL's most dominant offensive forces, but injuries have kept him from reaching the century mark in any of the last three seasons. I expect him to not only reach that mark again next year but to easily surpass it.

Kucherov scored 128 points in his last full season, the most points in a single season by any active NHL player. He has become an unstoppable force on offense when healthy, scoring an unbelievable 30 power-play points in only 47 games last year. If he can finally manage to stay healthy again, I fully expect Kucherov to hit 120 points, and maybe even flirt with 130 again.

#### Toronto Maple Leafs

The Toronto Maple Leafs will win the Atlantic Division in the regular season and will finally make it through the first round of the playoffs, against the Bruins no less. I know that the Leafs are too good to stay stuck in the first round forever, and I think this is the year that they make a real breakthrough, with Mitch Marner and Auston Matthews dominating the opposition despite Boston's best efforts to shut them down.

If this prediction comes true, you're welcome, Leafs fans, I broke the curse. If this prediction is proven false, sorry Leafs fans, I am the curse.

#### Vancouver Canucks

J.T. Miller will be traded before the puck drops on the regular season and youngster Vasiliy Podkolzin will have a breakout season on the Vancouver Canucks top line in his place. Miller scored 99 points last year, leading the team in scoring

by over 30 points. However, he is entering the final year of his contract, and it has become clear that he and the Canucks' management team do not see eye-to-eye when it comes to an extension.

If the team tries to maximize his trade value by moving him before the season begins, there will be a large hole to fill on offense. My best guess for the player that will fill said void is Podkolzin, a young Russian winger who will be in his sophomore NHL season. He only scored 26 points in 79 games last year as a 20-year-old, but he looked excellent in the last 15-20 games of the season. If he manages to stick it out on the team's top line, I expect to see him score around 50 points in a role heavily focused on physical play and supporting his linemates.

#### Vegas Golden Knights

Logan Thompson will impress everyone, posting at least a .915 sv% and helping the Vegas Golden Knights land a playoff spot after missing the postseason for the first time in the team's short history last year.

Thompson has only played 20 NHL games but finished last season with a 10-5-3 record, while Robin Lehner was in and out with injury. Lehner is expected to miss the entirety of the 2022-23 season recovering from offseason knee surgery, so Thompson has now been tasked with being the starting goalie for a team with Stanley Cup aspirations.

#### Washington Capitals

Despite Niklas Backstrom's hip surgery keeping him out for most, if not all, of the regular season, Alexander Ovechkin will yet again manage to score 50 goals next year, setting the new record for the most 50-goal seasons in an NHL career at 10. He currently shares the record of nine with Wayne Gretzky and Mike Bossy. Ten 50-goal seasons sounds impressive at face value, but it sounds even wilder when you realize that only seven other active players have scored 50 or more in a single season, and Steven Stamkos and Crosby are the only active players who have done it more than once. Ovechkin is clearly a once-in-a-generation goalscoring talent, and I look forward to seeing him break Gretzky's all-time scoring record in a few years.

#### Winnipeg Jets

One of Mark Scheifele or Pierre-Luc Dubois will be traded at the deadline after a lacklustre start for the Winnipeg Jets. Both players are believed to want out of Winnipeg, and each are treading on thin ice (pun intended) with the club's management group.

After making it all the way to the Western Conference Final in 2018, the Jets have won a grand total of one playoff series, even missing the postseason entirely last year. They have some excellent young prospects in Cole Perfetti, Brad Lambert, and Rutger McGroarty, but I think they are ready to begin a rebuild of sorts with one of Scheifele and Dubois being the first major piece out the door.

# NFL Week 4 Picks and Predictions



By Jon Thomas

**NFL picks, predictions for Week 4: Bills outduel Ravens; Eagles edge Jaguars to stay unbeaten; Rams keep 49ers reeling**

The NFL's unpredictable first three weeks is almost predictable at this point. Through three weeks, favorites are 28-17-1, and that included a 7-8 mark in Week 3. Underdogs such as the Colts and Jaguars threw off those plans for heavy favorites. Week 4 could offer more unpredictable finishes starting with the Thursday Night Football matchup between the Dolphins and Bengals. Miami is off to a 3-0 start, but they have won S/U as an underdog in two of those matchups. Could coach Mike McDaniel get off to a 4-0 start?

Buffalo meets Baltimore in a matchup between teams that average more than 30 points per game. The Ravens are a first-time underdog this season, and they are at home. That is a tough pick.

The Buccaneers also are an underdog at home in the Sunday Night Football matchup against the Chiefs. Will Tom Brady get the Buccaneers' offense going? Or will the Chiefs get back on track? It has made for some tough picks straight up, but that is part of the fun.

Here's a look at our track record this season:

Record: 25-22-1 (8-8 in Week 3)

Here are our straight-up picks for Week 4 (lines courtesy of Caesars):

**Miami (3-0) at Cincinnati (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Thursday, 8:15 p.m. / NFLN**  
**Line: Bengals -3.5 / 46.5**

Former college rivals Joe Burrow and Tua Tagovailoa meet, and the Dolphins will try to cover as an underdog for the third consecutive week. Cincinnati protected Burrow better in Week 3, and that combined with the Dolphins' inability to generate a consistent running game will be the difference. Even in a short week, we're taking the Bengals at home.

**Pick: Bengals 27, Dolphins 23**

**Minnesota (2-1) vs. New Orleans (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 9:30 a.m., NFLN**  
**Line: Vikings -3 / 43**

Early-morning football in London is back. Saints quarterback Jameis Winston is

struggling with interceptions, and Za'Darius Smith should be able to pressure Winston into at least one of those. The health of Dalvin Cook (shoulder) is a concern. Minnesota can't throw 40 times with Kirk Cousins every week.

**Pick: Vikings 24, Saints 20**

**Cleveland (2-1) at Atlanta (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Browns -1 / 49.5**

Jacoby Brissett is getting the job done for the Browns. He's averaging 198.7 yards per game with just one interception around a ground-heavy attack with Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt. The Falcons rank 15th in the NFL in rush defense, and Marcus Mariota – who also has done well – makes one more mistake than Brissett. Cleveland improves to 3-1 in another dramatic finish.

**Pick: Browns 27, Falcons 24**

**Dallas (2-1) at Washington (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., FOX**

**Line: Cowboys -3 / 41.5**

Dallas is trying to tread in the NFC East standings while waiting for Dak Prescott's returns, and they will get after Washington quarterback Carson Wentz, who was sacked nine times in Week 3. Wentz has split eight starts against the Cowboys, but he has 14 TDs and four interceptions in those games. Dallas won the last meeting at Jerry World 56-14. This one will be much closer – and uglier on both sides.

**Pick: Cowboys 23, Commanders 19**

**Tennessee (1-2) at Indianapolis (1-1-1)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., FOX**

**Line: Colts -3 / 42.5**

This line has moved up to 3.5 points in some books, and the winner will get back to .500. The Titans have won the last three meetings, and they were able to limit Jonathan Taylor to an average of 67 rushing yards in last year's game. It's on the Colts to respond at home. We are going to pick the small upset from Tennessee.

**Pick: Titans 27, Colts 24**

**Seattle (1-2) at Detroit Lions (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., FOX**

**Line: Lions -4 / 48**

Detroit is a favorite for the first time in 20 games under Dan Campbell, which is a testament to the improvement, even if Detroit remains a work-in-progress. The Lions average 31.7 points per game – and that simply is too much for a Seahawks' team that is at 15.7 points per game with Geno Smith at quarterback.

**Pick: Lions 30, Seahawks 22**

**Chicago (2-1) at New York Giants (2-1)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., FOX**

**Line: Giants -3 / 39.5**

The Giants are coming off a short week, and the Bears, for all their flaws, have allowed just 19 points per game with new coach Matt Eberflus. That is a formula that will keep them in games, and Justin Fields leads a well-timed drive in the clutch. The Bears improve to 3-1 in the process.

**Pick: Bears 19, Giants 18**

**Jacksonville (2-1) at Philadelphia (3-0)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Eagles -6.5 / 46.5**

Who knew Jalen Hurts vs. Trevor Lawrence would be one of the best QB matchups of this season? It's a reunion game for Doug Pederson, and the Jaguars have blown out AFC preseason contenders in back-to-back weeks. We're going to stick with the Eagles in one of the more exciting games of Week 4.

**Pick: Eagles 31, Jaguars 28**

**New York Jets (1-2) at Pittsburgh (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Steelers -3 / 41**

Who will the quarterbacks be? Zach Wilson is nearing a return for the Jets; otherwise Joe Flacco will get a throwback-shot at the Steelers. Pittsburgh fans are playing the waiting game for first-round pick Kenny Pickett, and a loss here would move that timeline up. The Steelers get the job done at home, but the clamoring won't stop.

**Pick: Steelers 28, Jets 22**

**Buffalo Bills (2-1) at Baltimore (2-1)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Bills -1.5 / 51.5**

The Ravens are not going to want to hear about injuries in the secondary. That is what doomed them in 2021. As it stands, you get Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen in an early window with elite top-five offense. Both teams were in a close-game situation in losses to Miami. Which teams learned their lesson?

**Pick: Bills 34, Ravens 30**

**L.A. Chargers (1-2) at Houston (0-2-1)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Chargers -3.5 / 44**

Justin Herbert's health shouldn't be a discussion this week, but there are other injuries for Los Angeles to worry about. Houston's low-powered offense ranks 26th in the league in scoring, and this is a get-well game for the Chargers at the right time. At least it better be.

**Pick: Chargers 29, Texans 17**

**Arizona (1-2) at Carolina (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 4:05 p.m., FOX**

**Line: Panthers -1 / 42**

The Cardinals are making that cross-country flight, and former Oklahoma Heisman Trophy winners Kyler Murray and Baker Mayfield will meet for the second time. The Panthers are 1-7 S/U and 1-7 ATS as a home favorite under Matt Rhule. Arizona can pull this off if Murray isn't loose with the football.

**Pick: Cardinals 28, Panthers 22**

**Denver (2-1) at Las Vegas Raiders (0-3)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 4:25 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Raiders -2 / 45.5**

The Raiders are the lone 0-3 team in the NFL, and they are still favored against a Denver team that just hasn't found the mesh point with new coach Nathaniel Hackett and quarterback Russell Wilson but is still 2-1. It's desperation time for Las Vegas, and they finally win a one.

**Pick: Raiders 23, Broncos 20**

**New England (1-2) at Green Bay (2-1)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 4:25 p.m., CBS**

**Line: Packers -9.5 / 40**

Mac Jones (ankle) status is in question, which means Brian Hoyer would be up at Lambeau Field against a tough Packers' defense that ranks sixth in scoring defense through three weeks. The spread is way too high given Green Bay's offensive struggles and how Bill Belichick can exploit some of those. Rodgers, however, makes enough plays at home – where he is 23-2 in the regular season since Matt LaFleur took over.

**Pick: Packers 24, Patriots 15**

**Kansas City (2-1) at Tampa Bay (2-1)**

**Time / TV: Sunday, 8:20 p.m., NBC**

**Line: Chiefs -1 / 44.5**

They have tried to pass the torch from Tom Brady to Patrick Mahomes III a few times, but Brady simply won't retire. The Buccaneers get Mike Evans back, but it's going to take more than the season average of 17 points per game to hang with the Chiefs, who will bounce back from a hiccup against the Colts in Week 3. Mahomes will not let Brady get the chance for a game-winning drive.

**Pick: Chiefs 28, Buccaneers 23**

**L.A. Rams (2-1) at San Francisco (1-2)**

**Time / TV: Monday, 8:15 p.m.,**

**Line: 49ers -1 / 49.5**

This line flipped in the 49ers' favor from its open, which is curious given how the offense looked with Jimmy Garoppolo in the loss to the Broncos. Yes, Kyle Shanahan is 7-3 head-to-head against Sean McVay in the regular season. The Rams are still the better team right now.

**Pick: Rams 24, 49ers 21**

# SEC Football Week 5 Predictions



Arkansas hosts #2 Alabama this week in Fayetteville

ROBERT CORTINEZ  
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The SEC had some shifts last week, but still lead the nation with four teams in the AP top 10 (#1 Georgia, #2 Alabama, #7 Kentucky, #10 Tennessee) and seven teams in the top 25 (#14 Ole Miss, #17 Texas A&M, #20 Arkansas).

This week, the SEC is playing mostly inter conference games with a couple of teams, Vandy and Tennessee, getting the week off.

*Last week results: Straight 9-1 / ATL 6-4  
Season results: Straight 43-5 / ATL 27-21*

**#7 Kentucky (4-0) @ #14 Ole Miss (4-0)**  
Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / ESPN  
Line: Ole Miss -6.5 / O/U 54.5  
Last week: Kentucky 38 N. Illinois 23;  
Ole Miss 35 Tulsa 27

There are four unbeaten teams in the SEC, and two are playing in Oxford bright and early Saturday morning. The Kentucky Wildcats have a legitimate first round NFL QB in Will Levis with some experts putting him in the top 3 in the nation. Levis has thrown for 1185 yards and 10 TD's in four games. Kentucky also welcomes back RB Chris Rodriguez from an off field suspension, who ran for 1379 yards last year. Ole Miss HC Lane Kiffin has chosen USC transfer Jaxson Dart as

heis permanent starter but this Rebel offense relies on its SEC leading rush game, 281 yards per game. The book's got the Rebs as a touchdown favorite at home but trusting in Big Blue to prevail.

**Pick: Kentucky 30 Ole Miss 27**

**Florida (2-2) v. E. Washington (1-2)**  
Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / SECN+/ESPN+  
Line: Florida -29.5 / 73  
Last week: Tennessee 38 Florida 33;  
Montana State 38 E. Washington 35

The Florida Gators season opening win over then #7 Utah appeared to be a happy harbinger from the football gods that the Gators were back. Not so fast my friends, as the Gators have gone 1-2 since week one. Florida barely survived a botched field goal by South Florida for their only win in the last three weeks. Eastern Washington is just the salve Florida needs to right the ship. The Eagle's got beat by Oregon 70-14 in week two. Gators QB Anthony Richardson had a very good game last week (454 passing yards, 2 TD's, and 2 rushing TD's) but his inconsistent play has marred his efforts. Gators get it right in the Swamp before getting back to SEC play against Mizzou next week.

**Pick: Florida 55 E. Washington 10**

**So. Carolina (2-2) v. S. Carolina St. (1-2)**  
Time / TV: 11:00 a.m. / SECN  
Line: 34.5 / 57.5  
Last Week: South Carolina 56  
Charlotte 20; North Carolina AT&T 41  
S. Carolina State 27

Just like Florida, South Carolina and third year head coach Shane Beamer needs a cupcake to get over .500 on the season. South Carolina State will make some serious bank to play sacrificial lamb for the Gamecocks this Saturday. South Carolina's "savior" QB Spencer Rattler has not been

able to elevate his team's play to his Oklahoma top 5 heydays. The Bulldogs are a small college with a student body of only 2900 students and are an FCS school out of the MEAC. The Gamecocks get a victory but have to play their next two games at Kentucky and home vs. A&M. Get 'em while you can Coach Beamer!

**Pick: So. Carolina 44 So. Carolina St. 13**

**#2 Alabama (4-0) @ #20 Arkansas (3-1)**  
Time / TV: 2:30 p.m. / CBS  
Line: Arkansas +17 / O/U 61  
Last Week: Texas A&M 23 Arkansas 21; Alabama 55 Vandy 3

Alabama showed out against Vanderbilt last week, with its most complete game of the season. The Tide's offense had 628 total yards, while its defense allowed only 129 total yards to the Commodores. Alabama executed a perfect warm up game to take on the Razorbacks. On the other hand, Arkansas had a nightmare game against A&M, playing below its talent level, and let the Aggies off the hook with mistakes, turnovers and a late missed field goal. The Hog's head man, Sam Pittman will have his team on a razor's edge to win this game in Fayetteville and keep hope alive for an SEC West crown. Hogs defense, led by Bama transfer linebacker Drew Sanders, get the win.

**Pick: Arkansas 33 Alabama 30**

**#17 Texas A&M (3-1) @ Miss. State (3-1)**  
Time / TV: 3:00 p.m. / SECN  
Line: Miss. State -3.5 / 0/U 45.5  
Last week: Texas A&M 23 Ark. 21; Miss. State 45 Bowling Green 14

The Aggies took a deep breath of gratitude last week, capitalizing on Arkansas's mistakes to steal one in Arlington, Texas. A&M's switch to seasoned SEC veteran Max Johnson seems to be working out, especially with hyper-speed RB Devin Achane averaging 8.4 yds a carry and 159 total yards against Arkansas. Mississippi State had no problems with Bowling Green and should be over its home loss to LSU. The Bulldogs had numerous offensive and defensive lapses in the LSU game and will have to play error free to win this home contest. State head coach Mike Leach is beloved in Starkville and home team's chaos prevails this Saturday. Cowbells rule, baby!

**Pick: Mississippi St. 27 Texas A&M 21**

**LSU (3-1) @ Auburn (3-1)**  
Time / TV: 6:00 p.m. / ESPN  
Line: LSU -9 / O/U 46  
Last week: LSU 39 New Mexico 0; Auburn 17 Missouri 14 (OT)

Auburn should have lost to Missouri, twice, last week. Mizzou's kicker missed a

23 yard game winning field goal with time expiring. In overtime Auburn hit a field goal on its first possession. On Missouri's turn, RB Nathaniel Peat tried to reach the ball over the goal line for the walk off win but instead fumbled and Auburn recovered to win the game. LSU is starting to gel under first year head coach Brian Kelly. LSU's defense got its first shut-out since 2018 and held the Lobos to only 89 yards total offense. QB, Jaden Daniels was 24 of 29 with 279 before leaving in the third quarter with a lower back injury but is expected to play at full strength this Saturday. Auburn head coach Brian Harsin needs this win to keep the heat dial down, but don't have the horses.

**Pick: LSU 30 Auburn 23**

**#1 Georgia (4-0) @ Missouri (2-2)**

Time / TV: 6:30 p.m. / SECN  
Line: Georgia -27.5 / O/U 54.5  
Last week: Georgia 39 Kent. State 22; Auburn 17 Missouri 14

See above for how Missouri lost last week's game to Auburn. Mizzou had a first and goal from the three with 1:01 of clock and a time-out. Head coach Eli Drinkwitz took a knee twice and then his kicker missed the 23 yard field goal. Not a brave way to try and win a game. Georgia was sloppy last week, allowing lowly Kent State to play the Dawgs closer than any of its previous opponents which included #12 Oregon. Georgia had three turnovers and got burned on a fake punt. The only bright spot was sophomore TE Brock Bowers who had two TD's after scoring three times against South Carolina. Missouri may be invoking the mercy rule in this game as Bulldog HC Kirby Smart gets his team right against the Tigers.

**Pick: Georgia 48 Missouri 10**

SEC Standings		
Team	Conf.	Overall
<b>EAST</b>		
Georgia	1-0	4-0
Tennessee	1-0	4-0
Kentucky	1-0	4-0
Vanderbilt	0-1	3-2
Missouri	0-1	2-2
South Carolina	0-2	3-2
Florida	0-2	2-2
<b>WEST</b>		
Alabama	1-0	4-0
LSU	1-0	3-1
Texas A&M	1-0	3-1
Auburn	1-0	3-1
Ole Miss	0-0	4-0
Arkansas	1-1	3-1
Miss. State	0-1	3-1

# Big 12 football weekend - Week 5



4-0 Kansas hosts Iowa State this week in Lawrence

By Jon Thomas

**Kansas (4-0) vs Iowa State (3-1)**

Time / TV: 2:30 / ESPN2

Line: Iowa State -3 / 57.5

It's been fun, and we've all had a good time, but Kansas is overdue to face a run defense. West Virginia and Houston are fine, and Duke hasn't been bad, but the Jayhawk attack hasn't faced anything like the Big 12's best run defense.

Iowa State is seventh in the nation against the run allowing just 2.7 yards per carry and not getting hit with any big plays. Kansas can do more than run the ball – QB Jalon Daniels has been brilliant so far at limiting mistakes and keeping everything moving – but it all starts by being able to grind a bit. And then there's the other side. The Kansas O has been wonderful. The D ... not so much. You can throw on this bunch, Hunter Dekkers and the Cyclone passing game should be good for at least 250 yards and closer to 300, but the defense isn't going to get hit with too many big plays.

Dekkers and Iowa State dink and dunk and don't take too many chances, but offense turned it over a bit too much for its style with two key picks in the loss to Baylor and three turnovers in the fight with Iowa.

The defense. Iowa State will bring it, and it's going to be enough to slow down this runaway Jayhawk train. Daniels will throw for over 200 yards and the KU passing game will do enough to do what it wants offensively – to a point.

Iowa State will have the ball for over 35 minutes, the defense will hold up down the stretch, and in a tough, competitive game, the Cyclones will get out of Lawrence with a strong win.

**Pick: Iowa State 31, Kansas 27**

**Oklahoma State (3-0) vs Baylor (3-1)**

Time / TV: 2:30 / FOX

Line: Baylor -2.5 / 56

Beating Arizona State seemed like a thing at the time, but the 34-17 win isn't as big of a deal now. Central Michigan, Arkansas Pine-Bluff ... Now we get to see what Oklahoma State can really do. With two weeks off to get ready, this should be as strong as the team gets.

The running game hasn't kicked it in quite yet, but Spencer Sanders and the passing attack have been good, the points have rolled in without having to go full throttle, and the defense has been terrific with an unstoppable pass rush and lots and lots of third down plays.

Can this be half as entertaining as the epic 2021 Big 12 Championship thriller? Maybe. Oklahoma State will come out surging with a few good, strong drives, but the Baylor defense that's been fantastic in the red zone so far will hold firm and not let the game get too crazy.

Turnovers won't be an issue for either side, but consistently keeping things moving will be. At home, the Baylor defense will keep Spencer Sanders from getting comfortable, and Shapen will dink and dunk the offense to a tough, big win.

**Pick: Baylor 26, Oklahoma State 23**

**Texas Tech (3-1) vs Kansas State (3-1)**

Time / TV: 11:00 / ESPN+

Line: K-State -8 / 57.5

The passing game worked when it had to. It didn't do quite enough to overcome four turnovers in the loss to NC State, but it didn't give the ball away to Texas. Donovan Smith was strong throwing for 331 yards and two scores in the 37-34 overtime win, and it should all work against a Kansas State defense coming off a rough day.

For all the great things Adrian Martinez and the Wildcat offense were able to do in the 41-34 win over Oklahoma, the secondary allowed 330 yards and four scores. The pass K-State D was solid for the first part of the season, but Smith is starting to settle in, the Red Raider defense has been doing its job against the run, and there's no fear of any downfield passing game from Martinez.

Can Kansas State inflict its will on the Red Raider defense? Martinez and RB Deuce Vaughn are a deadly 1-2 rushing punch for an O that leads the Big 12 averaging 248 yards per game on the ground. In the three wins the offense came up with 235 rushing yards or more with four scores, and it didn't work in the weird 17-10 loss to Tulane. The Green Wave was able to keep the Wildcats from busting anything loose, but Texas Tech's defense doesn't have enough up front to keep Martinez and Vaughn from getting into space.

Martinez won't be totally taken away, but Texas Tech will look to take him out first. Vaughn will do the heavy lifting with over 20 carries and well over 100 yards. Both defenses are great on third downs, and both offense struggle on third downs, but Kansas State will be able to do what it does a little better than Texas Tech will do what it likes to do.

**Pick: Kansas State 31, Texas Tech 27**

**Oklahoma (3-1) vs TCU (3-0)**

Time / TV: 11:00 / ABC

Line: Oklahoma -6.5 / 68.5

The Sooner offense worked just fine against Kansas State. The defense couldn't figure out Adrian Martinez, but Dillon Gabriel and the offense cranked out 550 yards with great balance, tons of big plays, no mistakes, and 34 points, and it just wasn't enough. The O might not be the wild and crazy version it was under Lincoln Riley, but there aren't any mistakes – just one turnover so far – the line has been solid, and the consistent production is there.

TCU doesn't take the ball away – it's not going to win the turnover margin battle here – and the secondary has been hit hard so far, but ... can Oklahoma's defense stop solid, mobile quarterbacks? It sure couldn't do it against Kansas State, and now it gets the combination of Max Duggan and Chandler Morris, who won't start but is back after getting banged up. The Horned Frogs have been able to ease their way into the season with two road wins over Colorado and SMU that seemed scarier before the season started, and now the team should be ready to go.

The TCU defense didn't have to work

against Colorado or Tarleton State, and then SMU came out and threw well and made it close in a 42-34 Horned Frog win. Oklahoma might have had a rough day against K-State, but it's still great at generating pressure in the backfield, the run D shouldn't get gouged this week, and in a fun back-and-forth fight, Gabriel and company should take over midway through the third.

**Pick: Oklahoma 40, TCU 30**

**Texas (2-2) vs West Virginia (2-2)**

Time / TV: 6:30 / FS1

Line: Texas -9.5 / 62

The Mountaineers have the offensive balance, and they have the run defense. That should be enough to at least keep up. JT Daniels has been steady and terrific so far – the passing game might not be explosive, but it works – and the creativity is there to mix up the attack to get all the parts involved.

The defense might have issues against the better quarterbacks, but the team leads all Big 12 teams in time of possession, the pass rush is solid, and the run D has been great over the last few weeks but they don't take the ball away enough.

Texas might be coming off a rough loss to Texas Tech, but the offense was okay, Bijan Robinson has been outstanding over the last few games, and the offensive line should be able to more than hold its own against the Mountaineer defensive front. Commit to the run early, and the offense will work.

Texas just can't seem to finish the drill.

It was one stop away from beating Alabama. It was one stop away from beating Texas Tech. It has yet to go full-throttle with the go-go style Steve Sarkisian wants to play, but the deep shots will be there to open things up just enough to give Robinson room. Daniels will do fine against the Longhorn secondary, but Texas will get out with a good win with a bit more happening from the run D.

**Pick: Texas 40, West Virginia 26**

Big 12 STANDINGS		
TEAM	Conf.	Overall
Kansas	1-0	4-0
Baylor	1-0	3-1
Kansas State	1-0	3-1
Texas Tech	1-0	3-1
Oklahoma St	0-0	3-0
TCU	0-0	3-0
Iowa State	0-1	3-1
Oklahoma	0-1	3-1
Texas	0-1	2-2
West Virginia	0-1	2-2

# AAC Football Weekend - Week 5



Quarterback Tanner Mordecai is third in the nation in passing yards

By: Dic Humphrey  
MEMBER: USBWA

The first third of SMU's football season is in the books as the calendar flips to October this Saturday. The Mustangs are a disappointing 2-2 after playing a ragged game in front of a sellout home crowd last Saturday in Ford Stadium.

This weekend, the Mustangs are scheduled to open conference play against Central Florida. The game was originally slated for Saturday at FBC Mortgage Stadium in Orlando. However, the game has been moved to Sunday in deference to Hurricane Ian. The game time is now 1:00 PM Eastern/12:00 Noon Central. The game will be televised on one of the ESPN channels and can be heard in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area on KLIF 570 AM. The Mustangs go into the game as 3.5 point underdogs.

SMU comes into this weekend's game with a disappointing two game losing streak after losing to crosstown rival TCU 42-34 last Saturday. The game was not only for the Iron Skillet and bragging rights in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, but it was also the return of former SMU head football coach Sonny Dykes. There was some ugly name calling and gestures made toward Dykes.

Regretful, but he was philosophical

about it saying, "It was a little embarrassing for me. I don't like that kind of attention. I'm 52 years old. If I can't handle a little bit of that, I need to get into another profession." He admitted though that he was glad the game was over.

TCU was clearly the better team. The Horned Frogs rolled up a 28-7 lead with less than seven minutes until halftime. The Mustangs managed another TD before intermission to cut the deficit to 14 points. SMU came back to twice get within eight points in the second half, but TCU always seemed to have an answer.

TCU had their big play offense on display Saturday. They had an 80 yard pass completion for one touchdown, and a 63 run for another. They rushed for 191 yards almost double SMU's net rushing total of 101.

On the Wednesday prior to the game, it was announced as a sellout. The official paid attendance was 35,569. Pictures of the stands during the game showed a number of vacant seats, but in reality, most the tickets were used. The official start time temperature was 87 degrees, but it quickly zoomed into the 90's. There were literally thousands of people standing in line for refreshments at any point in time, and a number of people left by halftime because of the heat.

One difference in the game was turnovers. TCU had none, while the Mustangs turned the ball over twice, both Tanner Mordecai interceptions. The first interception ended an SMU drive in the red zone, while the second interception set the Frogs up with a short field. TCU cashed both opportunities into touchdowns on drives of 81 and 37 yards.

Tre Siggers led the Mustangs' ground game with 67 yards on 19 carries. Velton Gardner ran for 43 yards on nine carries. The leading receivers were Jake Bailey with eight catches for 163 yards, as the TCU game plan was to stop Rashee Rice. Rice had six catches for 74 yards, the first game this season that he did not reach the 100 yard mark in receiving yardage.

The Mustangs now turn their attention to conference play. There is still a conference championship to play for. Central Florida was picked third in the preseason AAC coaches' poll. This will be the eleventh meeting between the Mustangs and Knights, and Central Florida holds an 8-2 edge. SMU won last year 55-28 to end a five-game losing streak against UCF.

The Knights are coached by Gus Malzahn, who is in his second season. Central Florida comes in with a 3-1 record having beaten South Carolina State, FAU and Georgia Tech. SMU head coach Rhett Lashlee played for Malzahn in high school, and the two coached together at Arkansas, Arkansas State, and Auburn.

#### SOCER:

The SMU Women's soccer game lost Thursday night to South Florida 1-0. It was just the second loss this season to the number 24 ranked Mustangs. SMU is now 6-2-3 for the season and 1-2-0 in American Athletic Conference play. The Mustangs now go on the road for the next two matches – October 6 at Houston and October 9 at Central Florida.

The Men's soccer team plays tonight at home against Temple. The Mustangs are 5-2-1 for the season and 1-1-0 in conference play. Temple comes in with a 2-4-2 overall record and an 0-2-0 AAC record. Game time is 7:00 PM (Central), and the game can be seen on ESPN+.

#### EQUESTRIAN:

Number four SMU opens this year's schedule against number one Oklahoma State tomorrow at 10:00 AM at the Pedigo-Hull Equestrian Center in Stillwater..

#### NOTABLE:

\* Last weekend, SMU received a \$15 million donation from alumni Bill and Liz Armstrong with the gift targeted toward funding the to be constructed End Zone complex. The \$100 million project was kicked off with a \$50 million gift from the

Gary Weber Foundation. Groundbreaking on the complex is scheduled for early December.

\* The Armstrongs graduated in 1982. They have previously made a number of gifts bringing their total donations to more than \$30 million.

\* Rashee Rice leads the nation with 565 receiving yards and 141.2 receiving yards per game.

\* Quarterback Tanner Mordecai is third in the nation in passing yards with 1,386 and passing yards per game with 346.2. He is fourth in the nation with 350.0 yards per game in total offense.

**SMU (2-2) at UCF (3-1)**

Time / TV: Sunday, 12:00 / ESPN2

Line: UCF -3.5 / 65.5

Pick: SMU 38, UCF 35

#### Other AAC games:

**Tulane (3-1) at Houston (2-2)**

Time / TV: Friday, Sept 30, 6:00 / ESPN

Line: Houston -2.5 / 54.5

Pick: Houston 27, Tulane 24

**Temple (2-2) at Memphis (3-1)**

Time / TV: 11:00 / ESPNU

Line: Memphis -18.5 / 50.5

Pick: Memphis 31, Temple 7

**Navy (1-2) at AirForce (3-1)**

Time / TV: 11: / CBS

Line: Air Force -14 / 37.5

Pick: Air Force 21, Navy 17

**East Carolina (2-2) at USF (1-3)**

Time / TV: 1:30 / ESPN+

Line: East Carolina -8 / 57

Pick: East Carolina 28, USF 14

**Cincinnati (3-0) at Tulsa (2-2)**

Time / TV: 6:00 / ESPNU

Line: Cincinnati -9.5 / 58.5

Pick: Cincinnati 30, Tulsa 24

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

# College Football News and Notes



2022 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team includes some of the finest community service leaders from college football student-athletes nationwide



**BO CARTER**  
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The final extended teaching grants and awards (including tickets to the 2023 Goodyear Cotton Bowl and other cash denotations) to Dallas-Fort Worth area educators and universities totaled \$200,000 from the Goodyear Cotton Bowl and College Football Playoff Educational Foundations last week.

Stephen F. Austin lined up for a possible two-point conversion after taking a 98-0 lead over Warner (Fla.) last Saturday and immediately took a knee to make that score final. It was the most points scored by a NCAA Division I squad since Houston downed Tulsa 100-6 in 1968.

The 31st annual 2022 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team includes some of the finest community service leaders from college football student-athletes nationwide. The 2022 honorees are FBS members Anders Carlson, Auburn; DeWayne Carter, Duke; Dillan Gibbons, Florida State; Jordan Ferguson, Middle Tennessee; Ryan Hilinski, Northwestern; Patrick Fields, Stanford; Tony Bradford Jr., Texas Tech; Kearis Jackson, Georgia; JD Bertrand, Notre Dame; Deslin Alexandre, Pittsburgh; Caleb Williams, Southern California; FBS

and all other divisions/NAIA are Austin Brenner, Ashland; Jalen Branch, Bentley; Matthew Feldick, Bethel (Minn.); Max Jones, Harvard; Alan Gorny, Johns Hopkins; Sione Tuifua, Morningside; James Kaczor, North Dakota State; Garrison Dodge, Peru State; Michael Wozniak, St. John's (Minn.); Caleb High, Southeastern Oklahoma State; Matt Lilja, U. of Mount Union. Honorary head coach is Mark Stoops of Kentucky.

The NFF's Future For Football multi-and social media campaign continues into its fifth season this month and has included 1,500-plus original content pieces with more than 8.4 million minutes of videos watched by millions on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Colleges have completed nominations for the 2022 William V. Campbell Trophy® and the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards presented by Fidelity Investments. Eligible candidates must be a senior or graduate student in their final year of eligibility; have a cumulative undergraduate 3.2 grade point average (4.0 scale), be a starter or significant contributor and have outstanding leadership and citizenship. Each finalist for the Campbell Trophy® will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the 2022 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments. The NFF will announce the semifinalists for the 2022 Campbell Trophy® on Wednesday, Sept. 28, and the finalists on Oct. 26.

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame also will be returning to Las Vegas for the 64th Awards Dinner presented by Las Vegas in Dec. 6 at the Bellagio Resort and Casino. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the marketing arm for the Las Vegas destination,

will again serve as the presenting sponsor of the event. Ticketing and additional information can be found on the event's website link at <https://footballfoundation.org/feature/NFF2022>. The NFF also has launched a dedicated website powered by SIDEARM for the NFF Awards Dinner Presented by Las Vegas. The site includes a link to buy tickets online, and it will be updated throughout the year with more information, including sponsorship opportunities and special travel rates from Delta Air Lines and Bellagio. New NFF events specialist Courtney Morrison-Archer also is working with awards dinner coordinator Will Rudd on the festivities.

## NFF College Hall of Fame Facts

**Some notable birthdates** in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 26-Oct. 2 time period are Sept. 26 (1871) Joe Thompson, County Down, Ireland; (1922) Creighton Miller, Cleveland, Ohio; (1951) Dave Casper, Bemidji, Minn.; Sept. 27 (1862) Alex Moffat, Princeton, N.J.; (1912) Bill Shakespeare, Staten Island, 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 "Babe" Horrell, Jackson, Mo.; (1926) Pete Elliott, Bloomington, Ill.; (1932) Paul Giel, Winona, Minn.; (1985) Calvin Johnson, Newnan, Ga.; Sept. 30 (1937) Bill Carpenter, Springfield, Pa.; (1972) Greg Myers, Tampa, Fla.; Oct. 1 (1900) Mal Aldrich, Fall River, Mass.; (1911) Herman Hickman, Johnson City, Tenn.; Oct. 2 (1909) Joe Kendall, Owensboro, Ky.; 2 (1922) Bill Swiacki, Southbridge, Mass.; (1939) Bob Schloredt, Deadwood, S.D.; (1948) Chuck Dicus, Odessa, Texas.

**Notable death anniversaries** in this time period are Sept. 27 (1965) Louis Salmon, Liberty, N.Y.; (1998) Doak Walker, Steamboat Springs, Colo.; (2021) Gordon Hudson, San Jose, Calif.; Sept. 29 (1967) Henry Seibels, Birmingham, Ala.; Sept. 30 (2002) Len Casanova, Eugene, Oregon.

**Happy birthdays** to Hall of Famers on Sept. 26 Dave Casper, Sept. 27 David Fulcher, Sept. 29 Calvin Johnson, Sept. 30 Bill Carpenter (a spry 85), Greg Myers, Oct. 2 Chuck Dicus...

Vanderbilt will meet Alabama A&M for the first time in football in 2023...Auburn will play Samford to complete its 2023 non-SEC schedule...Richmond will have a heavy dose of Atlantic Coast Conference opposition in coming campaigns with updated opponents North Carolina in 2025...Nevada will host Sacramento State in 2025...The Bedlam Football Series between

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State is expected to end after the 2024 campaign when OU leaves for the SEC. The teams have agreed to compete in other sports in a non-conference format...For the first time since 1915 both Washington State and Oregon State started their seasons at 3-0...South Alabama at Louisiana for ULL Homecoming has been set for 4 p.m. (CDT) on ESPN+...The TCU at SMU Battle for the Iron Skillet set a SMU Ford Stadium record for regular-season draw with 35,569 and was SMU's first home sellout since 2015. The all-time record for the facility remains as 36,742 for the SMU-Army West Point Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl(then Bell Helicopter Bowl) matchup in 2010...Middle Tennessee scored possibly its biggest upset victory in school annals by beating No. 25 Miami (Fla.) 45-31 last weekend...Houston now has won seven consecutive clashes with Rice in the Bayou Bucket Series...Texas Tech canned its first victory over a team ranked among the national Top 25 from the state of Texas since 2008 with a 37-34 overtime thriller over the Texas Longhorns ...Yet another NCAA FCS member turned spoiler last week when Sacramento State downed Colorado State 41-10. Two notable non-FCS upsets so far in '22 have been Division II Delta State over Mississippi Valley State 28-17 and DII Missouri State edging Drake 17-14.

Each member of the Louisiana Tech football squad team wrote a letter of sympathy to Clemson defensive lineman Bryan Bresee, whose younger sister Ella passed away on Sept. 15 after a valiant battle with brain cancer. The Bulldogs played at Clemson on Sept. 18. Former Texas Tech head coach Sonny Cumbie wore an Ella String T-shirt to the game to honor the youngster's memory and also presented a condolence letter to the Bresee family...

...There were 40 Clemson football student-athletes and coach Swinney on hand for the memorial service in Frederick, Maryland last Tuesday for Ella Bresee...Rice athletics concluded its 50-year anniversary of the first Black student-athletes to compete for the Owls in a weeklong celebration earlier this month...Rice great and ALS battler O.J. Brigance will celebrate his 53rd birthday Sept. 30 near the RU campus, and his wife Chanda has released a book about tangling with ALS entitled "Will You Remember?" – more details about the new book are forthcoming.

Eastern Kentucky head coach Walt Wells returned to the sidelines for a 31-20 victory over Austin Peay last Saturday to make the Colonels 3-1 on the year. Interim head coach Garry McPeek guided EKU to two victories in its first three outings...Bowling

Green HC Brad Loeffler was unable to travel to the BGSU-Mississippi State game last Saturday due to health issues, and Steve Morrison was interim head coach for the contest. Loeffler is expected to return this week when Bowling Green meets Akron in Mid-America Conference activity...Kansas head coach Lance Leipold reflected on the regards and challenges of rebuilding a Power Five Conference program after his early-season success with the Jayhawks this fall...Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian was briefed early and often about over-boisterous crowds at Texas Tech when the Longhorns played there in past years...UCLA head coach Chip Kelly explained that West Coast fans were not as familiar with historic opponent Alabama State and South Alabama in the Bruins first two home games and will respond with better attendance in coming contests.... ....Baylor head coach Matt Aranda has tried to emulate head coach Matt Campbell and Iowa State's non-nonsense attacks since Aranda accepted the BU post in 2020. That philosophy may have worked in a 31-24 BU victory over the Cyclones in Ames, Iowa, last weekend...New Florida head coach Billy Napier admired his team's grit in a comeback situation during a 38-33 SEC loss at Tennessee but feels the Gators must find a way to close out close encounters...Mississippi State head coach Mike Leach offered thoughts about spending thousands of dollars on recruiting visits for high school student-athletes rated at the top of their various position recruiting classes...Utah defensive coordinator Morgan Scalley had his three-year rolling contract from March ratified by university administrators...Boise State has a new offensive coordinator in longtime former head coach Dirk Koetter...Pittsburgh head coach Pat Narduzzi is calling for better security at Western Michigan home games after objects were thrown onto the field during the Pitt at WMU skirmish...Arizona State athletics is working with former head coach Herm Edwards on settlement details after an agreed mutual relinquishment of duties.

**Hometowns** of more 2022 college head coaches – Millsaps: Isaac Carter, Cerritos, Calif.; Minnesota: P.J. Fleck, Sugar Grove, Ill.; Minnesota-Duluth: Curt Wiese, Stoughton, Wis.; Minnesota State: Todd Hoffner, Valley City, N.D.; Ole Miss: Lane Kiffin, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Arkansas director of athletics Hunter Yurachek relayed to the fan base that the Razorbacks are nearing the desired competitive level in all sports and striving for a bit more as 2022-23 progresses...Georgia Southern AD Jared Benko had his new contract ratified through 2027 with some substantial compensation rates...Furman AD Jason Donnelly gained a contract extension of unknown duration and now will serve as vice president of intercollegiate athletics at the university...Oklahoma AD and NFF Board member Joe Castiglione went viral on social media with

dance moves after the Sooners victory at Nebraska...Colorado ASD Rick George penned an open letter to encourage fan support for the Buffaloes football program as it goes through a rebuilding phase...NC State AD Boo Corrigan professed his thoughts about the College Football Playoff, conference realignment, renovations at the Wolfpack's PNC Arena, and possible alterations to the ACC Network football schedule...Charleston Southern AD Jeff Barber told a group about examining the small areas when he accepted the job. One of his initial steps was to place strategically located trash cans with logos around the football stadium. Another was to emphasize academic achievement through solid rapport with student-athletes and faculty...Tulsa AD Rick Dickson has placed extra emphasis on mental health for student-athletes, coaches and staff this autumn...Ball State's interim AD Ken Bothof will be compensated at an agreed-upon annualized pay rate with no duration of his stay mentioned...UNCW AD Jimmy Bass was highlighted in a national story about his school's recent successes and award-winning sports programs...Portland AD Scott Leykam is the new chair of the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Committee for the 2022-23 season...Duke athletics has assigned Heather Ryan as deputy AD for student-athlete experience and senior women administrator, Bob Weiseman as deputy AD for operations and capital projects and Jack Winters as senior associate AD for the Iron Dukes Annual Fund...Dawn Turner was added as deputy AD at Lander...Former Kansas associate AD for creative Morgyn Seigfried has joined the WME Group in the marketing and branding executive suite....UMass added Dan Colleran as associate AD for communications and broadcasting.... ...Nevada named Sam Haughton as associate AD for ticketing, fan engagement and communications and Casey Stangel as associate AD for administration...ULM tabbed Chris Gillespie as senior associate AD for sports medicine...Utah athletics has updated its staff assignments with Manny Hendrix as senior associate AD for alumni engagement and strategy and Gavin Van Wagoner as assistant AD for NIL and major gifts...Western Michigan athletics upped contracts for three head coaches from 2025-27 last week...Pennsylvania added Al Monte as men's heavyweight rowing head coach...The FIU presidential search committee voted to make interim president Dr. Kenneth A. Jessell the position's permanent place holder after a vote of the FIU Board of Trustees...Bucknell AD Jermaine Truax is the new chair of the 2022-23 NCAA FCS Selection Committee...San Jose State head athletic trainer Laura Alexander has been moved up to senior associate AD for student wellness and leadership development...Kentucky president Dr. Eli Capilouto addressed UK's unique intent to offer investment accounts to current students as part of new financial

literacy education appeal...UNC Asheville chancellor Dr. Nancy J. Cable is president of the Big South Conference Council of CEOs Executive Committee for 2022-23... ...New administrative postings in athletics have been listed on D1ticker.com for Elon, U. of New Orleans, Tennessee, Augustana, the Big 12 Conference, Bowling Green, Bucknell, Lipscomb, Miami (Fla.), Oregon, and William & Mary. American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco said he feels the teams replacing the three AAC teams – UCF, Houston and Cincinnati – that are leaving the circuit for the Big 12 will not be major problem as UAB, UTSA, Rice, North Texas, Charlotte, and Florida Atlantic join the loop on July 1, 2023...The Southeastern Conference released its complete 2023 schedule last Tuesday night on the SEC Network. Vanderbilt and Hawai'i again open the season on Aug. 26 in Nashville, Tenn., after they met last August in Honolulu...The SEC schedule did not include any Oklahoma or Texas games, and the Texas at Alabama clash is listed on the '23 slate. That means the Big 12 Conference will have a unique, 14-team configuration in '23 with its slate still to be determined...Pac-12 Conference commissioner George Kliavkoff penned a confidential letter with five reasons that UCLA should not leave the Pac-12 and University of California system to join the Big Ten Conference. The Pac-12 leader also related how both total revenue as well as national exposure were at the top of the list for goals for new Pac-12 multimedia rights... ...The Atlantic Coast Conference will be moving its headquarters from Greensboro, N.C., where it had been located since 19++ to Charlotte in coming months...SEC commissioner Greg Sankey thinks that the new College Football Playoff format will continue to bring college football up to a level of most of the professional leagues in terms of national interest and exposure, especially after the SEC expands to 16 schools by the 2025 season at the latest...Big East Conference commissioner Val Ackerman received the 2022 Joe Lapchick Character Award for those who exemplified most honorable character for their careers in all sports particularly basketball...The Big 12 Conference's office reorganization includes vice presidents Jessica Presnall (Legal Affairs and Compliance) Bob Burda (Communications), Scott Draper (Football Operations), and David Flores (Governance); new senior directors are Logan Phillip (Legal Affairs and Compliance), Joni Lehmann (Communications), Justin Nusser (Television, Digital Production and Technology), and Jenny McGhee (Competition), Brad Clements (Competition, Special Events and Hospitality), the senior member of the Big 12 staff with 27 years at the conference and hired as an intern with the former Southwest Conference in 1992 by NFF correspondent Bo Carter), John Payne

(Competition) and David Waxman (Communications) are new associate directors, and Sara Stanley (Social Media) is now an assistant director. Theresa Alaimo is the Big 12's new executive assistant to the commissioner alongside four-decade Big 12 veteran Melanie Krumbholz, who is executive assistant to the commissioner and manager of executive affairs...The Southern Conference, SEC, Atlantic Sun, Ohio Valley, Southland, Sun Belt, and Southwestern Athletic Conferences have formed a baseball officiating consortium and the SEC, ASUN, OVC, SLC, SWAC, and Sun Belt Conferences have a 2022-23 women's basketball joint agreement for 2022-23...The Pac-12 Conference selected Lisa Peterson as senior associate commissioner for sports management...The Big South Conference has started a freshman basketball academy patterned after a similar program by the Big East Conference... ...The scheduling gurus must have a case of Extra SP with four former Southwest Conference matchups last Saturday – TCU at SMU, Arkansas-Texas A&M in the Southwest College Classic, Texas at Texas Tech, and Rice at Houston involving eight teams from four different circuits.

Bowlseason.com had an interesting interview with New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick and how he grew up around formidable Navy bowl teams in the 1957-63 era coached by Midshipmen assistant coach and Bill's father Steve Belichick. Of note, Bill Belichick was born in 1952 at Vanderbilt Medical Center just before his father left staff of NFF College Hall of Fame coach Bill Edwards (at VU as head coach from 1949-52) before fellow NFF College Hall of Fame member Art Guepe took over the Commodores program in spring 1953...Several FBS commissioners have appealed to the College Football Playoff to use campus sites for the games leading up to the CFP semifinals when the 12-team format is adopted after the 2025 campaign.

Jackson State head coach and NFF College Hall of Fame member Deion Sanders was hoping for better visiting turnout in Jackson, Mississippi when JSU hosted Grambling and questioned the famed GSU marching band leaving early, though Grambling said the band had heat-related challenges on game day...Former University of Calgary (Canada) QB Robbie McNab is being inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame on October 21 in Red Deer, Alberta...Former Mississippi State and NFL DB standout Kirby Jackson addressed last week's meeting of the Starkville (Miss.) Quarterback Club. NFF correspondent will speak to the same group on Oct. 6...Former Auburn and NBA standout/television analyst and Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame member Charles Barkley denoted his friendship and the solid leadership qualities of former Auburn AD Allen Greene...Former Houston head coach and longtime CFL guru on offense

(continued on page 18)

John Jenkins was an avid scout for the CFL Toronto Argonauts last Saturday in the Southwest College Classic between his alma mater Arkansas and Texas A&M at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Former Nebraska QB Adrian Martinez ran for four touchdowns and 148 yards as Kansas State upended then-No. 6 Oklahoma 41-34 in Norman, Oklahoma. It was 22nd win by the Wildcats in the 100-game series with the Sooners...The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose National Player of the Week for Week 3 was Washington wide receiver Ja'Lynn Polk with six catches for a career-high 153 yards and three TDs in a 39-28 upset win over No. 11 Michigan State...Minnesota QR Chris Autman-Bell has completed his 2022 activity after surgery on his leg...Arkansas State has lost starting right tackle Robert Holmes to season-ending injury for second season in succession...Mississippi State linebackers Bookie Watson and Jett Johnson have been singled out for solid play in the Bulldogs early season encounters Eastern Michigan RB Samson Evans rambled for 258 yards on 36 carries (both career bests) as the Eagles topped Arizona State and earned Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week laurels...RB Mo Ibrahim of Minnesota rushed for his team's first three touchdowns against Colorado and has paced the Golden Gophers to an almost unheard-of percentage of .825 (22-of-27) on third conversions in the last two contests. He ended that tilt with 292 rushing yards on 29 carries...Texas Wesleyan kicker Armando Benitez kicked a school-record five field goals against NAIA eighth-ranked Ottawa (Ariz.)...Ironically, new Texas A&M starting QB Max Johnson threw the winning touchdown pass when he was playing for LSU in November 2021 in a 27-24 victory over the Aggies. He then transferred to Aggieland in 2022...All three Texas quarterbacks – Quinn Ewers, Hudson Card and Charles Wright - worked out last Monday for the first time in several days due to nagging ailments...Texas RB Bijan Robinson rushed for 183 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries in a win over defending Conference USA champ UTSA in the first football meeting between the universities...Penn State safety Ji'Ayir Brown with five tackles, a strip-sack and an interception against Auburn netted FWAA Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week laurels.... Texas Tech QB Tyler Shough should return to full contact by mid-October while Red Raiders LB Bryce Ramirez underwent surgery on his broken leg in Raleigh, N.C., after being injured against NC State and is out for the season...Some top Big 12 Conference showings in recent outings have been Kansas QB Jalon Daniels (Offense vs. Houston), Texas' Jahdai Barron (Defense vs. UTSA), Oklahoma State's Trace Ford (Special Teams vs. UAPB), and Baylor's Richard Reese (Newcomer vs. Texas State). Daniels also was the Walter Camp National Offensive

Player of the Week as the first Jayhawk ever to win that honor...The Southwest Classic last Saturday at AT&T Stadium featured a unique 98-yard fumble return for a touchdown with A&M's Tyreek Chappell recovering a bobble at the Arkansas 2-yard-line and then lateralizing the oval the teammate Demani Richardson a6 yards later with an 82-yard runback the rest of the way...The Augusta (Ga.) Sports Council and the Ray Guy Award named Lachlan Wilson of Tulsa as the Ray Guy Award National Punter of the Week for Week 3 after he punted four times for a 47.8 average against Jacksonville State...Some top showings by Conference USA stars recently were 223 yards and four touchdowns by UAB running back DeWayne McBride against Georgia Southern, UAB defensive standout Noah Wilder with a career-high 18 tackles vs. the Blazers and North Texas kick returner KR Kaylon Horton with a 99-yard kickoff return for a TD against UNLV ...Kansas' Jalon Daniels (offense), Texas' Jahdai Barron (defense), Oklahoma State's Trace Ford (special teams), and Baylor's Richard Reese (newcomer) received Big 12 Conference kudos. Daniels has led the Jayhawks to their best start since 2008 at 4-0 and first national rankings in 15 seasons and earned another national honor with the Davey O'Brien Award National Quarterback of the Week Award...Eastern Michigan basketball student-athlete (transfer from Michigan) is hoping to be reinstated to the team after a recent traffic inquiry.

Houston Baptist U. officially changed its name to Houston Christian U. and will use that for all competition in athletics. That move parallels a name change last November of Louisiana College to Louisiana Christian U....Rentschler Field is ready for \$63 million in football upgrades on the Connecticut campus from 2022-27...Texas Tech athletics received \$11 million from Tech former Red Raiders student-athletes John and Tracy Sellers for the new Dustin R. Womble Football Center...Eastern Kentucky has a new naming rights' pact with CG Bank for CG Bank Roy Kidd Stadium named after the 90-year-old NFF College Hall of Fame legendary head coach of the Colonels...  
...Florida Gulf Coast athletics netted an approximate \$1 million gift from the Hillmyer-Tremont Foundation...Kent State football earned \$5.2 million total from three game guarantees while playing Power Five conference opponents this season...  
...Iowa State will construct a mixed use development between Jack Trice Stadium and ISU's Hilton Coliseum known as CyTown – patterned after Titletown in Green Bay, Wis., and Kansas City's Power and Light District...Texas A&M attempted to take advantage of an Arkansas secondary that was allowing a NCAA FBS-high 335 yards per game passing by its first three opponents, but the Razorbacks also registered 16 sacks in their first three outings to lead FBS team sacks' statistics...  
...Connecticut athletics is naming its new

hockey arena the Toscano Family Ice Forum in honor of benefactors the Toscano his family...Minnesota athletics celebrated the school's top national rating academically for the entire student body of any public university nationally...Saint Mary's (Calif.) athletics has opened the Saint Mary's Marketplace through marketing partner Opendorse...Marshall athletics received a seed gift of \$50,000 from the Rockel family to begin development of renderings for a new baseball stadium...OneTeam and Fanatics will begin selling jerseys with student-athletes' names on the back for NIL purposes...Utah State athletics has joined the chorus of departments placing major emphasis on student-athletes emotional well-being and stress levels related to development of mental illness...Wisconsin women's volleyball set a NCAA regular-season attendance record with 16,833 fans for its match with Florida in Madison....  
...East Carolina athletics is seeking to reduce any possible donor fatigue from several fundraising campaigns and to focus on needed areas of development...New Mexico and Lobos athletics logos and signage will be featured in the Albuquerque International Sunsport as well as retail shops in the airport...Vanderbilt placed advance season tickets on sale for the 2023 campaign after the SEC's release of the entire circuit's worksheet last week...TCU has added specials for tickets women's soccer and women's volleyball as the fall sports continue...College athletics-supporting Toyota North America, based in the heart of football country in Plano, Texas, is celebrating its 50-year anniversary of opening its first auto manufacturing facility in Long Beach, California, in 1972...Abilene Christian athletics has a new marketing and financial agreement with Opendorse..  
...Indiana will begin vending public malt beverages at home men's and women's basketball games as well as spring sporting events...UCLA is working to increase home games' attendance, which so far has the smallest average since the Bruins moved to the Rose Bowl in 1982...BYU athletics accepted apologies for some chants against the Church of Latter Day Saints when the Cougars visited Oregon in an intersection football tilt...Nevada is working to improve its Americans With Disabilities Act functions at Mackay Stadium. Cost estimates for the renovation is \$4 million...Wichita State athletics has received \$40 million from the Kansas Board of Regents for renovations at Cessna Stadium where the Shockers once played football. Is this a chance to rejuvenate the gridiron program (dropped in 1986), some are asking? There seems to be no movement at WSU in that direction at this time  
...A Syracuse businessman will be offering \$1 million annually to one five-star football student-athlete and one men's basketball student-athlete as part of the university's NIL program...The center ice paint at new Mullet Arena in Tempe highlights both the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes and Arizona State

men's hockey logos...Kent State athletics and FanWord have inaugurated a new agreement for FanWord stories about student-athletes...North Carolina athletics is completing several marketing and licensing agreements and is hoping to reach expectations and goals in coming years with the national UNC brand...Oregon State officials wondered why their contests against traditional Pac-12 Conference powers USC and Utah appeared on the Pac-12 Networks instead of ESPN or Fox telecasts...United Talent Agency helped broker the naming rights' agreement for the Maryland State Employees' Credit Union Stadium...The Kansas Board of Regents is seeking to begin a policy to require any Regents university in Kansas such as Kansas, Kansas State and Wichita State to receive approval from at least three non-university officials before joining new athletics conferences....  
...Nebraska has a new 15-year multimedia rights pact with Playfly Sports starting Oct. 1 and is utilizing Collegiate Sports Associates for its head football coach's search...The Texas A&M Athletics 12th Man Official Store purported several discounted items online last week for Aggies and other college football fanatics...Florida Atlantic and Old Dominion athletics have signed with Playfly as official multimedia rights holders beginning in August 2023.

FOX Sports commentator Gus Johnson is doing better physically after having to leave the broadcast booth due to illness during the Sept. 17 Oklahoma at Nebraska telecast...The West Virginia at Texas game Saturday will air as a FOX Sports 1 telecast at 6:30 p.m. (CDT)...The Athletic updated recent history of EA Sports College Football...CBS Sports columnist the renowned Dennis Dodd explained how Amazon could add millions of dollars to upcoming Big 12 and Pac-12 Conference multimedia rights' contracts as well as how the Big Ten could produce addenda to current agreements to include Amazon....  
...ESPN has begun the ESPN Creator Network for new access and resources for content creators...Inside Vandy Athletics profiled Vanderbilt's use of major analytics in multiple sports for the past several months ...ESPN Game Day powered by Home Depot had an enjoyable weekend at the Florida at Tennessee contest in Knoxville, Tenn....Some West Coast media members surmised that Amazon Prime's early ratings' success on NFL games might translate into better negotiating rewards for the Pac-12 and Big 12 Conferences in their current long-range media negotiations....  
...Studies by the Common Ground Group found that the majority of religion-based and private colleges and universities are making major efforts for inclusion, diversity and equity practices with a solid concentration on athletics...College football guru John Canzano guestimated on when the Pac-12 Conference might complete its long-range multimedia The Athletic reported that SEC football scheduling is set for future single divisions, and there is an

ongoing discussion about playing eight- or nine-game intraconference slates...The seven young embedded correspondents for the popular George Stephanopoulos' Power Point political news program on Hulu are Abigail Cruz (covering Texas and Nevada) of UTSA, Libby Cathey (Arizona and California) of Columbia, Hannah Demissie (North Carolina and Missouri) of American U., Lailee Ibssa (Georgia) of California, Miles Cohen (Florida) of NYU and Columbia, Paulina Tam of Fordham and Columbia and Will McDuffie (Pennsylvania) of Davidson and Minnesota...D1.ticker.com determined that Middle Tennessee has had the largest percent increase in home attendance through mid-September at 79.7 percent from 2021 to '22...The Florida State-Louisville contest on ESPN had a highly respectable average of 2.753 million actual Nielsen Ratings' viewers...The Athletic opined about helping to alleviate the one-and-done element in college men's and women's basketball...ESPN allowed that the NBA may be lowering its minimum age to sign with the league from 19 to 18 years-old....ExtraPoints.com chronicled the 2022 game day experience at Appalachian State...Amazon Prime viewership from the opening Thursday NFL contest Kansas City Chiefs-Los Angeles Chargers surpassed 10 million...The Associated Press' Ralph Russo believes that NFL weekend playoff dates may determine when College Football Playoff expansion games will occur in the Round of 12 and quarterfinals – possibly on weeknights prior to the semifinals...ESPN.com penned a heart-warming perspective feature about Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman and the family atmosphere in football at the Fayetteville, Arkansas, and care for student-athletes and their welfare...Stadium.com noted that veteran Big Ten Conference men's basketball official Bo Boroski is retiring prior to the 2022-23 season after working three men's Final Four classics...The Athletic noted that several Arizona State administrators were advocating for a football head coaching change prior to the season because of large numbers of NCAA transfer portal exits from the program and other on-field challenges...The Toledo (Ohio) Blade wrote of the benefits of inter-sectional skirmishes such as Toledo of the Mid-American Conference taking on San Diego State of the Mountain West Conference and recruiting plus fan interest advantages...CBSSports.com acknowledges from source reports that the Pac-12 Conference may be carrying on long-range multimedia rights' negotiations with major entities while considering UCLA as part of the package. The University of California Board of Trustees may be taking action to try and keep the Bruins from joining the Big Ten.

The AFCA and the Coach to Cure MD

by the Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy sponsored special Duchenne MD Cure patches by coaches at virtually college games from Sept. 22-24. The association of the AFCA and MD groups has helped raise millions for muscular dystrophy research since the alliance with the coaches association began in 2008...The FWAA FBS Super 16 poll includes Tennessee for the first time this season and in this Top 10 order: Georgia, Alabama, Ohio State, Michigan, Clemson, USC, Tennessee, Oklahoma State, Kentucky, and Penn State...The Week 3 FWAA Cheez-It Team of the Week was Eastern Michigan after a major road victory over Arizona State... ...Washington QB Michael Penix Jr. and Clemson DL Bryan Bresee are the latest nominees for the 2022 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award for amazing courage and personal comebacks despite adversity...Nominations also continue to be accepted for the 11th annual 2022 Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the Football Writers Association of America and The Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl with an early October deadline. Nominations may be submitted online through the URL <https://www.armed-forcesbowl.com/meritaward>...Arizona State, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisville, LSU, Miami (Fla.), Michigan, Michigan State, Montana, Montana State, Southern Miss, TCU, Tennessee, and UCLA have been conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible issues and probes at their respective schools...Greg Steiner of Eastern Michigan, Susan Story of the Nissan Heisman House, Scottie Rodgers of the Goodyear Cotton Bowl, Rick Hurtado of Florida, and Katrina McCormack of Florida Atlantic were featured in College Sports Communicators online discussions and related social media...The latest AFCA NCAA FCS Top 25 includes Top Five schools North Dakota State, Montana, South Dakota State, Missouri State, Montana State...The AFCA NCAA Division II survey has Top Five defending DII champ Ferris State, Northwest Missouri State, Grand Valley State, Angelo State, and Shepherd (W.Va.)...The AFCA Division III poll for Week 3 includes Top Five choices North Central (Ill.), St. John's (Minn.), Mount Union, Mary Hardin-Baylor, and Wisconsin-Whitewater...U.S. Senators Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala., long-time college football head coach) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va., former West Virginia student-athlete) have inquired with 30-plus NIL collectives about their specifics of rewarding student-athletes within current NCAA regulations and the need for national legislation to deal with NIL matters...Georgia president and NCAA Division I board of directors chair Dr. Jere Morehead expects an acceleration in the search and interview processes for the new NCAA president in the next 2-4

months...The NCAA Division 1 Softball Committee welcomed four new members - Wichita State head coach Kristi Bredbenner, Louisiana Deputy AD Dr. Jessica Leger, Clemson executive senior associate AD for student-athlete services and performance Natalie Honnen, and UT-Martin AD Kurt McGuffin ...In a 2021 Federal Reserve survey, engineering majors in college had the lowest percentage of students who wished they had gone into another profession – just 24 percent. Dozens of student-athletes at Purdue, Georgia Tech, Texas Tech, Vanderbilt, and other universities have gone on to nationally-successful careers in engineering fields. Out of a group of education and arts and science majors (including classical studies), just over 50 percent regretted pursuing these major fields...The 2022-23 NCAA Division I men's ice hockey pre-season poll includes Top Five mainstays Denver, Minnesota, Minnesota State, North Dakota, and Minnesota-Duluth ...The NBA and NBA Players Association are continuing their labor negotiations for the upcoming 2022-23 campaign...NBA Dallas Mavericks owner and famed Indiana grad Mark Cuban of Shark Tank television has allied with the Zenbusiness Group to help mothers and others affected by COVID-19 layoffs and similar challenges start their own businesses.

## 2022-23 College Football Playoff Bowl Schedule with six games on New Year's Day

### Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 (CFP Semifinals)

Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, No. 1 vs. No. 4 or No. 2 vs. No. 3 see, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga., 3:30 or 7:30 p.m. Playstation Fiesta Bowl, No. 1 vs. No. 4 or No. 2 vs. No. 3 seed, State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz., 3:30 or 7:30 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 - CFP

Championship, Semifinal winners SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, 2022-Jan. 2, 2023 (Other New Year's Six Bowls)

### Friday, Dec. 30

#### Capital One Orange Bowl

Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Lakes, Florida, 8 p.m.

### Jan. 2

#### Goodyear Cotton Bowl

AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas early game TBD

### Jan. 2

Rose Bowl presented by Capital One Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, California mid-afternoon

### Jan. 2

#### Allstate Sugar Bowl

Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, 8 p.m.



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