

PAC-12
FOOTBALLEarly TV schedule
announced

The Pac-12 released the times and television partners for the first three weeks of its football schedule on Thursday. Oregon will open the 2021 season at home in the morning, while Oregon State starts on the road at night under the lights.

The Ducks will kick off their season on Sept. 4 against Fresno State at 11 a.m. PT on Pac-12 Network, the league announced Thursday.

It's the first of four games to be played on the conference network on the first Saturday of Week 1.

As announced last week, Oregon plays at Ohio State at 9 a.m. PT on FOX on Sept. 11.

UO concludes nonconference play against FCS Stony Brook at 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 also on Pac-12 Network.

Oregon's Oct. 15 Friday night game against Cal will be at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN.

Oregon State's first two 2021 football games will be played at night.

The Beavers kick off the season Sept. 4 at Purdue at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. Pacific). FS1 will televise the Purdue-OSU game in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Oregon State's Sept. 11 home opener at Reser Stadium against Hawaii has an 8 p.m. starting time, and is also televised by FS1.

The Beavers' final nonconference game, Sept. 18 against Idaho at Reser Stadium, kicks off at 12:30 p.m. and will be aired by the Pac-12 Network.

—The Oregonian

GOLF

Tiger Woods
discusses recovery

Recovering from the February car crash that left Tiger Woods hospitalized with a badly broken leg has been "an entirely different animal" compared to his previous injuries, the golf great said.

Woods takes part in daily physical therapy after suffering multiple breaks to his right leg in the high-speed, single-car wreck in Rolling Hills Estates, Calif., he told Golf Digest in an interview out Thursday, his first since the crash.

"I understand more of the rehab processes because of my past injuries, but this was more painful than anything I have ever experienced," Woods said.

Woods' Genesis SUV was going 84 to 87 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone on Feb. 23 when it struck a raised median California officials said last month following an investigation.

Woods, 45, underwent surgery on his right lower leg and ankle after officials removed him from the significantly damaged vehicle.

"My physical therapy has been keeping me busy," Woods told Golf Digest in the report published Thursday. "I do my routines every day and am focused on my No. 1 goal right now: walking on my own. Taking it one step at a time."

He did not comment when Golf Digest inquired about his aspirations for playing golf again.

Woods has won the second-most major championships in PGA Tour history with 15, which trails only the 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

—New York Daily News

MOTOR SPORTS

Who's
the
boss?

Simona de Silvestro is among the women leading the charge for change at Indianapolis Motor Speedway

BY DAN GELSTON • Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS —

Simona de Silvestro was still in her helmet when her race team owner threw her arms around the driver who had just qualified for the Indianapolis 500 by the narrowest of margins.



Darron Cummings/AP

Simona de Silvestro, left, of Switzerland, talks with Beth Paretta after qualifying for the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday in Indianapolis.

De Silvestro's pony-tailed crew members stopped by to congratulate her, as did 2018 Indy 500 winner Will Power. Surviving the make-or-break seconds and breakneck speeds needed to make the 33-car field is cause enough for a celebration at Indy, especially after sweating out a 75-minute, five-car shootout for one of the final three spots in Sunday's race.

For the Swiss driver, her predominantly female team and owner Beth Paretta, leading an almost all-girls club to the starting grid for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," is exactly that — a start.

The start of an idea that every position on an IndyCar race team can be held by a woman. The start of a true, conscientious push to form an unbreakable pipeline that will lead women to an Indy 500 championship as a driver, owner or engineer. That women can climb the IndyCar ladder and reach the highest level of racing — and take that traditional swig of milk after a win in the biggest race of the year.

"I feel like we climbed a mountain together," Paretta said.

Those peaks rise far beyond the

track. In the NBC truck, producer Rene Hatlelid will set the scene for the telecast and former IndyCar driver Danica Patrick will reprise her role in the studio. On race day, women help run the show everywhere from public relations to critical jobs on pit road.

Jimmie McMillian, the series' chief diversity officer, said IndyCar, Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IMS Productions is comprised of about 35% to 40% women, with many in leadership roles, such as the head of IndyCar's legal team, Gretchen Snelling.

See **Motor Sports** / B4

NBA PLAYOFFS

76ers, Knicks, Jazz issue bans after incidents

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

The New York Knicks, Philadelphia 76ers and Utah Jazz banned a total of five fans from their respective arenas and issued apologies Thursday for incidents during playoff games, and the NBA said that rules surrounding fan behavior will be "vigorously enforced" going forward.

All three incidents took place during playoff games Wednesday. The Knicks said they banned a fan from Madi-

son Square Garden for spitting on Atlanta guard Trae Young, the 76ers banned a fan who threw popcorn on Washington guard Russell Westbrook, and the Jazz said three of their fans were banned indefinitely following a verbal altercation.

"We're just living in a society where people don't have respect anymore," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said Thursday. "In no way should that be allowed, or should that happen, at a sporting event or really any event. ... I think New York did

what it should have done in that situation. It's uncalled for."

The 76ers went even further than the Knicks could, because the fan involved in the Westbrook incident was a season-ticket holder. Those tickets have been revoked, and he was banned from all events at their arena.

None of the three teams released the names of the fans who were involved. The Knicks said they forwarded information to authorities.

See **NBA** / B5



Matt Slocum/AP

Washington Wizards' Russell Westbrook (4) is helped to the locker room after an injury during Game 2 of a first-round playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night in Philadelphia. As he was passing through the tunnel toward the locker room, a fan in the stands poured popcorn onto Westbrook.

NHL

Pandemic playoffs outside bubble off to thrilling start

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

Paul Maurice learned through almost 2,000 games behind an NHL bench that scoring or giving up a goal gives a team about five minutes to maintain the momentum or stem the tide — especially in the playoffs.

"The crowd is just buzzing," Winnipeg's coach said. "It's more true at this time of year. Obviously the crowd's full and loud and they've lost their minds."

On Wednesday night, 9,000 Islanders fans lost their minds when three goals in three minutes turned the game around and New York was on its way to eliminating Pittsburgh and into the second round. Coach Barry Trotz said of the fans, "Without them, I don't know if we would've pulled this off."

A pandemic postseason outside of a bubble has created some thrilling hockey after an exhausting, condensed 56-game grind. The familiarity of the all divisional playoffs has meant 18 of the first 40 playoff games have been decided by a single goal, with 13 going to overtime — sixth-most of any round in NHL history through Wednesday's games.

Crowd sizes have varied, from empty arenas in Canada to more than 10,000 fans across the U.S.

It has tilted the ice in the eight first-round series and only added to the intensity on the march to the Stanley Cup Final.



Gerry Broome/AP

Carolina Hurricanes' Jordan Staal (11) and Jesper Fast (71) struggle for the puck against Nashville Predators goaltender Juuse Saros (74) while Predators' Erik Haula (56), Tanner Jeannot, center, and Ben Harpur (17) defend during the second period in Game 5 of a first-round playoff series in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Tuesday night.

"You look at every single night and whether it's going into overtime or they're one-goal games, they're all pretty tight and good matchups," Boston defenseman Mike Reilly said. "Super fun to watch, and obviously the pace of the game is as high as can be."

While players in the North Division gaze with envy from across the border at arenas anywhere from 25% to almost 75% full, the 12 U.S. playoff

teams certainly are making the most of this postseason after the silent, empty bubbles in Toronto and Edmonton last summer.

"Maybe the level was a little off compared to normal circumstances, and now we're getting closer to normalcy," said retired goaltender Brian Boucher, who is working during the playoffs for NBC Sports. "In some buildings there's significant crowds. I think players get

jacked up to play in front of fans. I think maybe that's why we're seeing the game taken to another level."

Colorado coach Jared Bednar, whose team swept St. Louis in the first round, also noted that momentum carried over from the regular season, a far cry from the four-plus months off in 2020. The fans add another layer of energy.

"It's a little bit of a powder keg because we haven't had it for a long time and once you get it, man, you can get to another level," said Maurice, whose Jets advanced by sweeping Edmonton. "It's really about the quality of the player that you have and the emotional level that you can get to, and having fans in the building really makes a big difference."

Morgan Rielly said he and his Toronto teammates have gotten so accustomed to playing in empty arenas that they don't talk about it anymore. It's just "reality" to them.

Boucher believes the fans have played a role in momentum shifts all playoffs.

"When you're on the road and you haven't faced the crowd in a year and all of a sudden the game starts slipping out of your hands and you're trying to get it back, things can happen at 1,000 mph," Boucher said. "For a player, if you haven't been in that environment for a while, it takes some getting used to again."

See **NHL** / B5