

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sporting events this week, May 19-25

Sunday, May 19

Final round at major

PGA Championship

Coverage begins at 5 a.m.

Watch: ESPN+ ESPN, CBS

Utah's Tony Finau jumped out to a strong start Thursday, finishing with an opening round six under.

Tuesday, May 21

Tuneup for TV coverage

Salt Lake Bees vs. Albuquerque Isotopes

6:25 p.m. at Smith's Ballpark

Watch: The Zone

The Bees announced that KMYU will televise 36 games this year, including games Friday, Saturday and Sunday against the Isotopes.

Saturday, May 25

RSL pays visit to Dynamo

Real Salt Lake at FC Dallas

6:30 p.m.

Watch: Apple TV

While Chicho Arango is getting early MVP considerations, RSL attackers Andres Gomez and Diego Luna are starting to round into form as well.

NWSL at night

Utah Royals vs. KC Current

8 p.m.

Watch: KMYU

Looking to get their season on track, the Royals return to America First Field.

THE GAME PLAN



Saturday
at Dallas
8:30 p.m.
TV: Apple

May 25
at Seattle
7 p.m.
TV: Apple

June 1
at Seattle
7 p.m.
TV: Apple

June 15
at Montreal
5:30 p.m.
TV: Apple

June 19
at Kansas City
8 p.m.
TV: Apple



May 25
at Kansas City
8 p.m.

June 1
at Seattle
7 p.m.

June 15
at Montreal
5:30 p.m.

June 21
at Kansas City
8 p.m.

June 29
at Kansas City
8 p.m.



Sunday
at Dallas
8:30 p.m.

Tuesday
at Seattle
7 p.m.

Wednesday
at Montreal
5:30 p.m.

Thursday
at Kansas City
8 p.m.

Friday
at Kansas City
8:30 p.m.

Jets dominate first 11 weeks of NFL's 2024 prime-time schedule

By ZACK ROSENBLATT

The New York Jets make history in 2024, becoming the first team since the NFL merger in 1970 to play six prime-time games in the first 11 weeks of the season.

They'll also play an additional nationally televised game in Week 5, when they face the Minnesota Vikings in London at 9:30 a.m. ET.

The reason?

The NFL schedule-makers wanted a mulligan.

Last year, the Jets played in five prime-time games, plus the inaugural Black Friday game against the Miami Dolphins. The idea was to put Aaron Rodgers on national television as much as possible. That backfired quickly, of course, when Rodgers suffered a torn Achilles four plays into the Monday night opener against the Buffalo Bills.

"I feel like the Jets kind of owe us one," Mike North, the NFL's vice president of broadcast planning, said Thursday. "When we had this conversation a year ago we were all in on this — all in on the Jets. For that guy (Rodgers) to last four plays was disheartening for many of us. We feel like we can run it back."

The Jets will open on Monday night again this year, though this time on the road against the San Francisco 49ers. They have a Thursday night game at home against the New England Patriots in Week 3, Monday night at home against the Bills in Week 6, Sunday night against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Week 7, Thursday night against the Houston Texans in Week 9 and Sunday night against the Indianapolis Colts in Week 11.

All of that comes before their Week 12 bye. Between those six games, the London game and their regular Sunday afternoon games in that 11-week stretch, the Jets will

appear on ESPN, NBC, CBS, Fox, Amazon Prime and NFL Network.

"Certainly our broadcast partners, when they came to us early in the process talking about what stories they want to focus on early in the season, obviously Aaron Rodgers' return was a key one for everybody," North said. "Everybody was looking for an early-season Aaron Rodgers opportunity."

"And the Jets were feisty last year. They were played off relevant through Thanksgiving even without Aaron. If he's healthy, the team only got better without the draft and free agency. No question, we're counting on them. Hopefully he stays healthy and hopefully they're relevant. That is a lot of prime-time early in the season."

That's not all, either: North anticipates the Jets being a contender to be flexed into more prime-time games late in the season "if they're relevant," he said.

And while the Jets might've been mathematically in playoff contention deep into the season, they didn't actually last long past their Week 7 bye, especially as they shuffled between quarterbacks Zach Wilson, Tim Boyle and Trevor Siemian to mediocre results. They finished 7-10 and went on a spending spree this offseason to attempt to finally make it back to the playoffs. They hold the NFL's longest playoff skid at 13 years without an appearance.

North and the schedule-makers, though, did not have the start of their slate. That 11-game stretch includes three games in 11 days to open the season — plus two other instances of playing on short rest.

North's explanation centered on a desire to have Jets-Patriots on Thursday night in Week 3.

By SETH EMERSON

Stetson Bennett was one of the best college football stories of all time. "Buddy," whatever you think of it, is still one of the most well-known sports moments. They were walk-ons, but those spots... could be going away.

In their place could be a world in which schools that care deeply about certain sports can double and triple how many players they put on scholarship. Mississippi State baseball having 35 players on scholarship, Georgia trying to get back to its gymnastics glory days by going up to 25 scholarships and so on.

Theoretically, this could occur in just the latest plot twist to the college athletic model. Here's what would happen:

The scholarship limits for sports, such as \$5 for football, would be eliminated.

But they would be replaced by lower roster caps for each sport. Such as \$5 for football.

This could be agreed to as part of a settlement of the House vs. NCAA case, which is expected to result in revenue sharing with athletes. (If it happens, such a settlement could come in the next two weeks.)

Or getting rid of scholarship limits while putting in roster caps could happen independently of that. Either way, it would be a monumental change.

For years, NCAA scholarship limits have been seen as a means of trying to establish parity among schools, with all FBS football programs adhering to the 85 limit, all men's basketball programs limited to 13 scholarships, baseball to 11.7, and so on.

Scholarship limits were partially about cost-cutting, which is why they could be part of the House settlement.

If there are more scholarships, then there's more revenue going to athletes," said Milt Winter, an attorney specializing in college sports. "It's not direct cash payments, unlike revenue sharing, but schools want to get some credit as part of this settlement for adding these scholarships."

But those scholarships would come in other sports, if the football limit stays at 85 — and mean the

NCAA Division I scholarship limits

| Sport | Men | Women |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Baseball | 11.7 | — |
| Basketball | 13 | 15 |
| Beach volleyball | — | 6 |
| Boxing | — | 5 |
| Cross Country/Track and field | 12.6 | 18 |
| Equestrian | — | 15 |
| Fencing | 4.5 | 5 |
| Field hockey | 85/63 | 12 |
| Gymnastics | 6.3 | 12 |
| Ice hockey | 18 | 18 |
| Lacrosse | 12.6 | 12 |
| Rifle | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Rowing | — | 20 |
| Rugby | — | 12 |
| Skating | 6.3 | 7 |
| Soccer | 9.9 | 14 |
| Softball | 9.9 | 12 |
| Swimming/diving | 9.9 | 14 |
| Tennis | 4.5 | 8 |
| Triathlon | — | 6.5 |
| Volleyball | 4.5 | 12 |
| Water polo | 4.5 | 8 |
| Wrestling | 9.9 | 10 |

end of walk-ons. There already are roster limits in most sports, 120 being that number in football. So far this year, there was a clear dividing line — scholarship and walk-ons — in the major sports, and baseball, gymnastics and other sports had a more awkward arrangement of partial scholarship limits: 35 baseball players, only 11.7 scholarships to spread around the team.

Many details of a potential House settlement are still being worked out, so the scholarship limit-roster cap move is not final. But here are the reasons for its consideration:

Cost-cutting. Walk-ons still cost the program some money, whether it's through travel or equipment, and at some schools, those players get Alston payments. So if the football roster size is cut, that's some money to divert to revenue sharing and other sports.

Trying to head off litigation: Since lawyers are already suing the NCAA over name, image and likeness transfers, and seemingly everything else, the scholarship limit could be ripe for the taking. A roster cap would be more defensible

because it was done for competitive reasons. (Or so goes the thinking.)

Teams are exceeding the scholarship limits anyway. Players not on scholarship can receive NIL money to cover all their costs. Some football programs are upfront about using NIL to surpass 85, and it's easy to imagine some teams in non-revenue sports are doing the same.

The SEC has wanted expanded scholarship limits for certain sports — such as baseball — for years. Two years ago, the NCAA's transformation committee, with SEC commissioner Greg Sankey serving point, discussed expanded scholarship caps for sports other than football and basketball. The idea eventually was dropped but has now come back to include all sports.

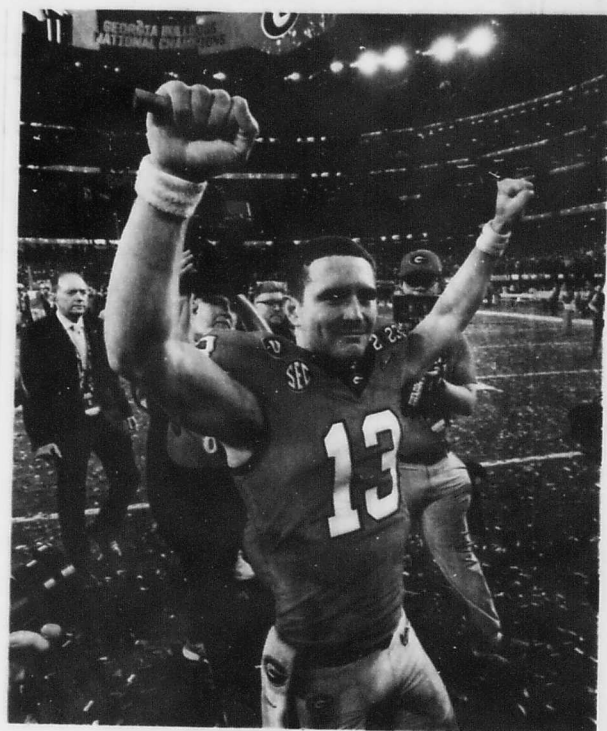
The impact on football, of course, will be what gets the most attention. Football coaches, especially at the highest levels, would be concerned. It's a physical sport in which players get hurt. There's also a reason walk-ons exist, and it's not just in the hope of finding the next Bennett. Kickers, punters and long snappers are often walk-ons. The key would then be if the roster caps are above 85, and if so, how far.

This might be a way to convince smaller programs to sign on. The fewer walk-ons the big programs can take, the more of a trickle-down effect it has on the smaller ones. There are many stories about recruits who had offers from small programs but wanted to play at a bigger program where they were willing to walk on. Now if they can't, they'll go to a smaller school or have a chance there are no roster caps. Let the market decide or at least the schools. If Alabama wants to splurge for 125 football scholarships in a certain year, let it. If Vanderbilt wants to pay for 35 scholarship basketball players, more power to the Commodores. If you have resources, not having a scholarship cap allows you more autonomy and flexibility.

"It'll allow schools to really decide what sports they want to emphasize," Winter said.

Still, since everyone — almost everyone — wants to emphasize football, this will be the area to watch. Is there an absolute roster limit that is set at 85? Does it get expanded to 100? Is there no cap at all or no change at all?

We should know more soon.



Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett celebrates after the Bulldogs' 65-7 victory over TCU in the College Football Playoff national championship game on Jan. 9, 2023, in Inglewood, Calif.

Could college football walk-ons go away after House-NCAA settlement?

FOOT