

# Notre Dame AD still upset with ACC and CFP committee, urges 16-team playoff

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Notre Dame athletic director Pete Bevacqua thinks there's a simple solution to politicking for College Football Playoff spots: expansion.

He was still upset Tuesday about the selection committee's decision to bypass the Fighting Irish from the 12-team playoff field and the public campaigning by the Atlantic Coast Conference to get full-time league member Miami a spot. He then called a 16-team format the perfect number.

"It should be 16 teams in my opinion, with five automatic qualifiers and 11 at-large teams," Bevacqua said as he fielded questions for nearly 40 minutes. "What I like about 16 is it creates more opportunity, more narratives around schools and yet it preserves the integrity and importance of the regular season."

Bevacqua did not back off the complaints that have permeated college football ever since the CFP participants were revealed Sunday.

He still thinks the committee should be more transparent with its selection process to ensure schools, coaches, players and fans know how decisions are made and where they actually stand in the rankings. He also reiterated that ACC's actions have created "real damage" with Notre Dame.

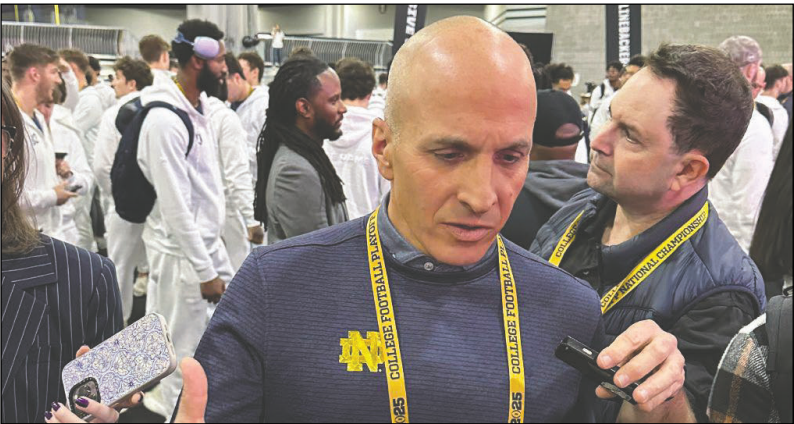
But two days after Notre Dame decided to skip the bowl season altogether, he also tempered his words.

"I would tell you, at this point, we haven't given all that a ton of thought," Bevacqua said when asked what he expects the ACC to do next. "Are we looking for an apology? Quite frankly, I don't think an apology does much of anything or unwinds what has happened. But we'll, at the right time, sit down with the ACC leadership and I think hopefully have a very frank, honest, productive conversation. But that time is not now."

"All things can be healed. I'm not going to be overly dramatic here, right?" he added later. "But it strained the relationship."

Big 12 Conference Commissioner Brett Yormark, speaking at the Sports Business Journal's Intercollegiate Athletics Forum in Las Vegas, criticized Bevacqua and Notre Dame.

"I didn't like Notre Dame's



Notre Dame Athletic Director Pete Bevacqua talks during media day ahead of the College Football Playoff national championship game between Ohio State and Notre Dame, Jan. 18, in Atlanta.

response," Yormark said. "I think it was very egregious. I think (Bevacqua) was totally out of bounds, and if he was in the room, I'd tell him the same thing. You have to accept it."

Bevacqua said he was texting with ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips last week after the conference began what he considered a second round of campaigning on behalf of Miami.

The league had been clear it was in steady communication with the CFP committee, supplying data that made the case for its teams leading up to the selection show. The ESPN-partnered ACC Network also repeatedly showed a replay of the season-opening Notre Dame-Miami game last week — including four times on Thursday's schedule and five more on Friday.

Miami beat Notre Dame 27-24 on a last-second field goal, a head-to-head result that clearly had an impact on the committee.

"I charged the committee members to go back and watch that game," CFP selection committee chairman Hunter Yurachek said. "We got some interesting debate on what that game looked like. With that in mind, we gave Miami the nod over Notre Dame into that 10 spot."

Phillips made no apologies for what transpired, either.

On Monday, he issued a statement calling Notre Dame an "incredibly valued" member of the ACC while also saying the league had a responsibility to advocate for its 17 football-playing league members. ACC officials declined to make any additional comments Tuesday.

"I stand behind our conference efforts to do just that leading up to the College Football Playoff Committee selections on Sunday," Phillips said. "At no time was it suggested by the ACC that Notre Dame was not a worthy candidate for inclusion in the field. We are thrilled for the University of Miami while also understanding and appreciating the significant disappointment of the Notre Dame players, coaches and program."

Bevacqua said there was no ill will between the schools, noting he congratulated Miami's athletic director in a text message Tuesday night, while also citing a stat that showed when Notre Dame plays at other ACC stadiums, 90% of the games are sold out compared with 23% of other ACC contests.

What continues to bother Bevacqua and the Irish, though, is that Notre Dame was sitting in playoff position every week — until the final poll — on a weekend that neither team played.

"It's something that has to be fixed," Bevacqua said. "We take this very seriously at Notre Dame. (Coach) Marcus Freeman takes this very seriously. Like I said, this can't be a game of musical chairs at a fifth-grade birthday party. That's what it felt like this was."

A repeat is not likely to happen in the future because of a provision that takes effect next season assuring Notre Dame of a playoff spot if it finishes in the top 12. But to Bevacqua, that's not a good enough solution for everyone else.

He thinks it's time for another expansion.

# Oweh's 21 points power Kentucky past North Carolina Central 103-67

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Otega Oweh's 21 points drove a Kentucky offense that never eased, and the Wildcats bested North Carolina Central 103-67 on Wednesday.

Oweh went 9-for-12 from the field with seven rebounds and four steals, while sparking the stretch that broke open the second half.

Kentucky (6-4) shot 61 percent (39 of 64) from the field and turned NCCU's 13 turnovers into transition chances that kept piling up. Malachi Moreno added 14 points and seven rebounds, and Jasper Johnson delivered 22 off the bench, including a late surge that pushed the margin past 30.

NCCU (3-9) stayed within reach early behind Gage Lattimore, who scored 14 points. His 3 at 15:28 cut the gap to 62-42, but Kentucky answered with Oweh's putback, a Johnson 3 and a Collin Chandler corner jumper that stretched the lead to 80-48.

Kentucky's reserves carried the finish. Andrija Jelavić hit from deep, Kam Williams tallied a dunk in traffic and Johnson added a layup that steadied the final run. Kentucky finished with 27 assists on 39 makes and held NCCU to 42% (24 of 57) shooting.

## UP NEXT

The Wildcats host Indiana on Dec. 13.  
North Carolina Central heads back home to face NAIA Mid-Atlantic Christian on Dec. 17.

# MAROON

FROM PAGE B1

Team Two also had standout performances, with Lady Maroon junior Kaleigh Faulk setting a personal best of 271 points to lead her squad. Gustavo Tuz-Tamayo matched her score of 271, while Audrey Bunch added 265.

Mollie Simpson (262), Cade King (261), Makenzie Drake (258), and Ben Workman (257, personal

best) also contributed strong numbers. Rounding out the scoring, Kaylee Davis recorded 257, Amelia Williams and Ellie Cardin both scored 256, and Megan "Remi" Lippert set a personal-best of 253.

The performance demonstrated both the depth and competitive fire of the Maroon archery program, with multiple archers achieving personal records while helping the team post a strong overall score.

# AP All-SEC: QB Diego Pavia and coach Clark Lea land top honors for surprising Vanderbilt

BY MARK LONG  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia, his coach Clark Lea and Texas A&M pass rusher Cashius Howell won top individual honors from The Associated Press for the 2025 Southeastern Conference season.

In results released Wednesday, the AP named Pavia the conference's offensive player of the year, Lea the coach of the year for a second straight season and Howell the defensive player of the year.

Missouri running back Ahmad Hardy, a sophomore who transferred from Louisiana-Monroe, was named the league's new-comer of the year. Tennessee receiver Braylon Staley was named freshman of the year.

Pavia, a Heisman Trophy finalist who led the Commodores to their first 10-win season in school history, completed 71% of his passes for 3,192 yards. He accounted for 4,018 total yards and 36 touchdowns, including 27 passing. He led the SEC and ranked fourth nationally with a 171.5 passer rating.

Lea has been instrumental in Pavia's development and the rise of the program. Vandy has 17 wins over the last two seasons — the team's best two-year stretch in nearly a century — and have sold out games along the way. That success made Lea a candidate at other programs and prompted a contract extension last month.

Lea also was named the SEC's coach of the year in

2024 after leading the 'Dores to a 7-6 mark.

Howell leads the league and is tied for fourth nationally with 11 1/2 sacks. He has 15 1/2 sacks in two years with the Aggies. He spent his first two seasons at Bowling Green.

Hardy led the SEC with 1,560 yards rushing, including 300 against Mississippi State last month, and scored 16 touchdowns. Staley caught 64 passes for 806 yards and six TDs.

The 2025 Associated Press All-SEC team, as selected by media members who regularly cover the league. Positional players are listed alphabetically with name, school, height, weight, class and hometown; "u" denotes unanimous selections:

## FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB — Diego Pavia (u), Vanderbilt, 6-0, 207, Gr., Albuquerque, New Mexico  
RB — Ahmad Hardy (u), Missouri, 5-10, 210, So., Oma, Mississippi  
RB — Kewan Lacy, Ole Miss, 5-11, 210, So., Dallas  
WR — Chris Brazzell II, Tennessee, 6-5, 200, R-Jr., Midland, Texas  
WR — Isaiah Sategna III, Oklahoma, 5-10, 182, R-Jr., Austin, Texas  
TE — Eli Stowers (u), Vanderbilt, 6-4, 235, Gr., Denton, Texas  
OT — Cayden Green, Missouri, 6-5, 324, Jr., Lee's Summit, Missouri  
OT — Kadyon Proctor, Alabama, 6-7, 366, Jr., Des Moines, Iowa  
OT — Keagen Trost, Missouri, 6-4, 316, Gr.,

Kankakee, Illinois  
OG — DJ Campbell, Texas, 6-3, 321, Sr., Arlington, Texas  
OG — Wendell Moe Jr., Tennessee, 6-2, 330, R-Jr., Long Beach, California  
C — Jake Slaughter, Florida, 6-5, 303, R-Sr., Sparr, Florida

## FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE/Edge — Cashius Howell, Texas A&M, 6-2, 248, R-Sr., Kansas City, Missouri  
DE/Edge — Colin Simmons, Texas, 6-3, 240, So., Dallas  
DT — Will Echoles, Ole Miss, 6-3, 310, So., Houston  
DT — Christen Miller, Georgia, 6-4, 310, R-Jr., Ellenwood, Georgia  
LB — CJ Allen, Georgia, 6-1, 235, Jr., Barnesville, Georgia  
LB — Xavier Atkins, Auburn, 6-0, 210, So., Houston  
LB — Anthony Hill Jr., Texas, 6-3, 238, Jr., Denton, Texas  
CB — Mansoor Delane, LSU, 6-0, 190, Sr., Silver Spring, Maryland  
CB — Daylen Everette, Georgia, 6-1, 190, Sr., Norfolk, Virginia  
S — A.J. Haulcy, LSU, 6-0, 222, Sr., Houston  
S — Bray Hubbard, Alabama, 6-2, 213, Jr., Ocean Springs, Mississippi

## FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

PK — Tate Sandell, Oklahoma, 5-9, 182, R-Jr., Port Neches, Texas  
P — Grayson Miller, Oklahoma, 5-10, 200, Jr., Edmond, Oklahoma

All-purpose — KC Concepcion, Texas A&M, 5-11, 190, Jr., Chalotte, North Carolina

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT  
MADISONVILLE, KENTUCKY 42431  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00709

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

GARRETT OWEN BROWN DEFENDANT

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, December 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **1032 Sunrise Place, Madisonville, PVA Parcel No. M-42-3-2**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 735, page 589**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property.  
Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.  
J. Keith Cartwright  
Master Commissioner  
Hopkins Circuit Court

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT  
MADISONVILLE, KENTUCKY 42431  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00953

NEWREZ LLC dba SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

KENNETH RAY WILLIAMS, ET AL. DEFENDANTS

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, December 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **244 Hall Street, Madisonville, PVA Parcel No. M-33-24-6**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 818, page 733**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property.  
Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.  
J. Keith Cartwright  
Master Commissioner  
Hopkins Circuit Court

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT  
MADISONVILLE, KENTUCKY 42431  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00973

SERVBANK, SB PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

LUCAS E. FERGUSON, ET AL. DEFENDANTS

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, December 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **804 Park Avenue Court, Madisonville, PVA Parcel No. M-43-2-37-42**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 774, page 475**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property.  
Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.  
J. Keith Cartwright  
Master Commissioner  
Hopkins Circuit Court