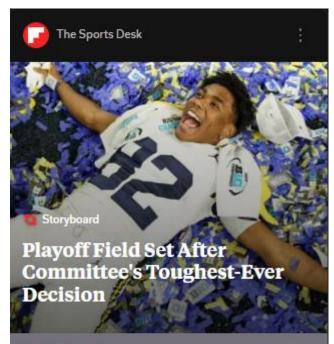
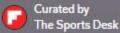


2023-24 College Football Storyboards

By Mike Kord Sports Editor Flipboard





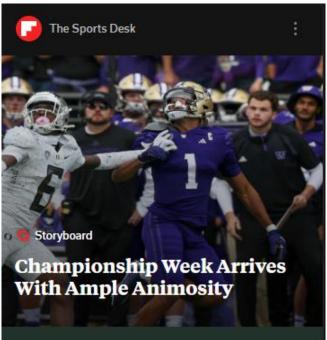
Six worthy teams, only four spots. The math was simple: Not everyone was going to get an invite. Top-ranked Michigan will face No. 4 Alabama, and No. 2 Washington will meet No. 3 Texas in the College Football Playoff semifinals. Florida State, which finished 13-0, sat dejectedly as the Seminoles saw their title hopes disappear. Not at the hands of an opponent, but a 13-person committee. Here's how the four-team field came to be — and why Florida State and former No. 1 Georgia were left out.





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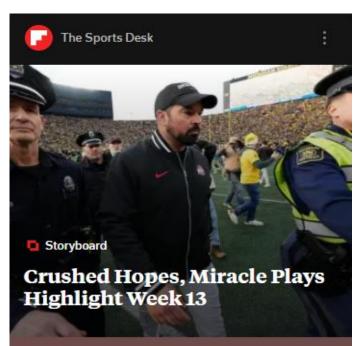


Curated by
The Sports Desk

A playoff berth will be on the line when bitter (hate-filled?) rivals Oregon and Washington square off in the final Pac-12 championship game. It's the first of five title bouts across the nation — each with its own playoff implications — and a recent history of animus spilling from the gridiron into the boardroom. Here's what to know about the most awkward, hostile championship week yet. Plus, previews, best bets, and the spaghetti mess of scenarios that would spell chaos for the CFP committee.







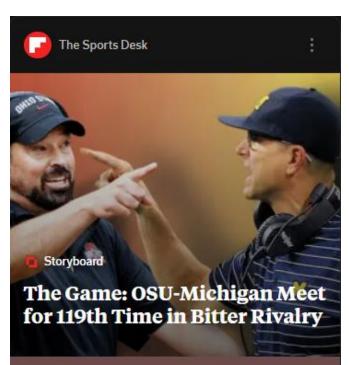


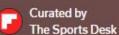
Ohio State coach Ryan Day has a 39-3 Big Ten record, but all three losses are to Michigan. Was Saturday's the worst? Auburn held a 99.9% chance of beating Alabama late in the Iron Bowl, but gave up a stunning touchdown that kept the Tide in the CFP hunt. And Washington preserved its playoff dream with a fourth-down play call that would have been risky for a game of Madden. Rivalry Week delivered unforgettable moments and a little chaos while setting the stage for the conference championships.



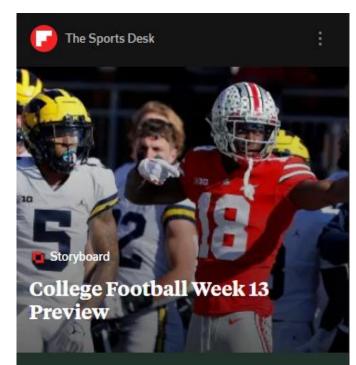
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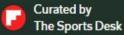




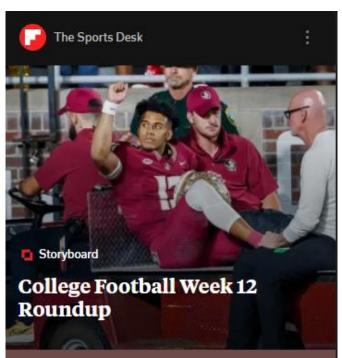


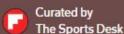
Ohio State is crossing out the letter M all around campus — and the game isn't even being played there. Yes, Michigan vs. Ohio State engenders a special hatred that began metastasizing in 1897 and is as heated as ever today. Coaches Ryan Day and Jim Harbaugh can barely conceal their disdain for one another ahead of Saturday's matchup, the loser of which will likely miss out on the College Football Playoff. Not that it takes a playoff spot to stir this animus. Here's what to know.



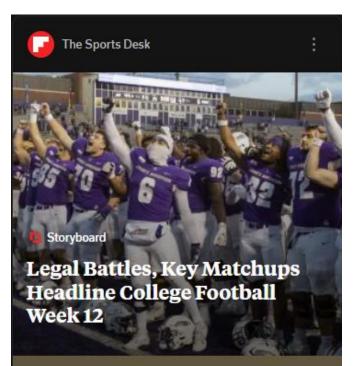


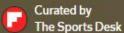
Nine teams remain in contention for the College Football Playoff heading into the final Saturday of the regular season. Five — Georgia, Ohio State, Michigan, Washington and Florida State — likely control their own destiny, while Oregon, Texas and Alabama lurk just outside, with Louisville trying to crash the party. Here's a profile of each team and an Armageddon Scenario that would give the CFP committee nightmares. Plus, an inside look at Ohio State and Michigan's game within The Game.



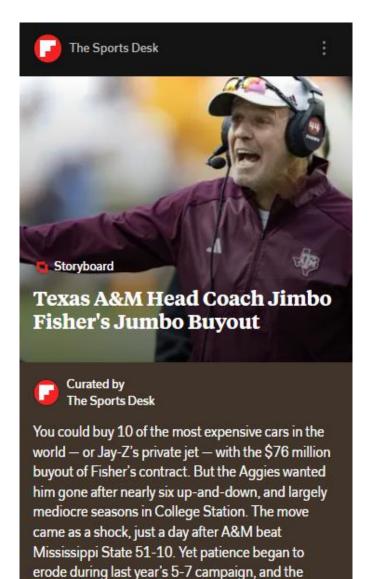


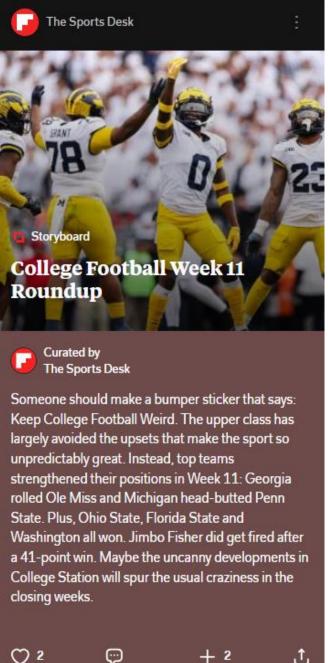
Georgia did nothing to relinquish its grip on the No. 1 ranking in routing Tennessee for a 28th straight win. But behind the Bulldogs, the plot twists are ready to burst open in the closing two weeks. Florida State's playoff hopes took a devastating hit with Jordan Travis' leg injury, Ohio State held serve, Michigan held its breath, and Washington slid past Oregon State on a rain-soaked night in Corvallis. All of which is to say the playoff committee's job somehow just got tougher.





The NCAA wouldn't budge. Rules are rules and 10-0 James Madison's bowl eligibility waiver was denied. Read about the ruling and why pundits are calling the NCAA "mean" and "dumb," while Virginia's attorney general is threatening to sue. Plus, top matchups on Saturday include top-ranked Georgia and No. 5 Washington on upset alert, and there's more chaos in Ann Arbor, as Michigan backs off its legal battle over Jim Harbaugh's suspension, then abruptly fires its linebackers coach.















Aggies' increasingly middling position in the ultra-

competitive SEC was deemed insufficient.

