

# Beltrán, Lackey lead 14 newcomers on Baseball Hall ballot

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Beltrán, John Lackey and Jered Weaver are among 14 newcomers on the Baseball Writers' Association of America's Hall of Fame ballot in what could turn into an evaluation of the Houston Astros' cheating scandal.

R.A. Dickey, Huston Street, Francisco Rodríguez, Bronson Arroyo and Matt Cain also are new to the ballot, joined by Jacoby Ellsbury, Jayson Werth, Mike Napoli, J.J. Hardy, Jhonny Peralta and Andre Ethier, the Hall and the BBWAA said Monday.

Holdovers include Scott Rolen, Todd Helton and Billy Wagner. Rolen received 249 of 394 votes last year (63.2%), when David Ortiz was elect-

ed with 307 votes (77.9%), 11 more than the 75% needed. Helton was on 205 ballots (52%) and Wagner 201 (51%).

Voters denied several stars tainted by steroids and scandal.

Barry Bonds (260 votes, 66%), Roger Clemens (257, 65.2%) and Curt Schilling (231, 58.6%) were dropped after their 10th appearances on the ballot last year and are among eight players who will appear on the ballot of the Hall's contemporary baseball era committee, which meets Dec. 4 in San Diego ahead of baseball's winter meetings.

Other holdovers on the BBWAA ballot include Andrew Jones (163 votes last year, 41.1%), Gary Sheffield (160, 40.6%), Alex Rodriguez

(135, 34.3%), Jeff Kent (129, 32.7%), Manny Ramirez (114, 28.9%), Omar Vizquel (94, 23.9%), Andy Pettitte (42, 10.7%), Jimmy Rollins (37, 9.4%), Bobby Abreu (34, 8.6%), Mark Buehrle (23, 5.8%) and Torii Hunter (21, 5.3%).

Kent, who received his highest percentage last year, will appear on the BBWAA ballot for the 10th and final time.

BBWAA members with 10 or more consecutive years of membership are eligible to vote. Ballots must be post-marked by Dec. 31 and results will be announced Jan. 24.

Any players elected will be inducted into the Hall at Cooperstown on July 23 along

with anyone elected by the contemporary baseball era committee.

A nine-time All-Star, Beltrán had a .279 batting average, 435 home runs, 1,587 RBIs and 312 stolen bases for Kansas City, Houston, the New York Mets, San Francisco, St. Louis, the Yankees and Texas. He was hired as Mets manager on Nov. 1, 2019, then was fired on Jan. 16 without having managed a game, three days after he was the only Astros player mentioned by name in a report by Major League Baseball regarding the team's illicit use of electronics to steal signs during Houston's run to the 2017 World Series.

Alex Rodriguez, a three-time MVP and 14-time All-

Star who hit 696 home runs, was suspended for the 2014 season for violating MLB's drug policy and collective bargaining agreement, and Ortiz's name was alleged to have appeared on a list of players who tested positive during 2003 survey testing.

Lackey won Game 7 of the 2002 World Series for the Anaheim Angels as a rookie, then added World Series titles with the 2013 Boston Red Sox and the 2016 Chicago Cubs. He was 188-147 with a 3.92 ERA in 15 seasons and 8-6 with a 3.44 ERA in the postseason.

Weaver, a three-time All-Star, was 150-98 with a 3.63 ERA.

## Resurgent Auburn rides Cadillac into Iron Bowl again

By **JOHN ZENOR**  
AP Sports Writer

Carnell "Cadillac" Williams has been the Iron Bowl hero for Auburn before.

Now, the former All-America tailback is trying to do it again. Not by piling up rushing yards like he did 19 years ago against Alabama, but by making the right calls from the sidelines and saying the right things in the locker room.

Williams has already energized Auburn's team and fan base heading into Saturday's game with the No. 8 Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa having gone from five straight losses to a two-game winning streak.

The 2005 NFL rookie of the year, who had been Auburn's running backs coach, took over as interim coach on Oct. 31 when Bryan Harsin was fired.

Williams will become the first Black head coach in the Iron Bowl.

"It didn't even hit me, honestly, until I saw it this morning," he said Monday. "And I was like, 'Wow, that's pretty cool.'"

What was shaping up as a disastrous season has at least had an infusion of positives.

Auburn lost to Mississippi State in overtime in Williams' first game in that role, but has since beaten Texas A&M and Western Kentucky to stay alive for bowl eligibility.

"He's done a great job — the energy, the enthusiasm, the way the guys are competing and playing, the way they play to win," Tide coach Nick Saban said. "And that was his personality as a player."

Williams, who ran for 204 yards in the 2003 Iron Bowl, has been a unifying force off the field with an unpretentious, folksy manner — he stepped to the podium with an "Oh, Lordy, Lordy. Wow" after the Western Kentucky win.

New athletic director John Cohen is more likely to turn the program over to someone more established and proven, and Williams seems OK with that.

"I don't know. I really don't care," Williams said. "My seat doesn't dictate my service. Auburn's special and those kids are special."

Williams is clearly the rookie in a matchup against Saban, a seven-time national champion coach who tried to recruit him to LSU.

Williams only had five carries in the first two games against Alabama because of injuries. Then, he broke loose for

an 80-yard touchdown run on the first play to spark a 28-23 Auburn win in 2003 that helped coach Tommy Tuberville keep his job. He still calls it one of his most memorable plays.

The radio call from late Auburn play-by-play man Rod Bramblett "Go crazy, Cadillac" became a rallying cry before the Texas A&M game after the school posted a photo of Williams wearing a "Go Crazy" T-shirt at practice.

Former Auburn quarterback Jason Campbell knew Williams "was taking on a situation that was pretty rough." Campbell noted that he benched starters for the Mississippi State game because they showed up late to meetings and also cracked down on class attendance and punctuality.

"It was definitely a perfect fit," Campbell said. "Think about it ... if you turned to anybody else during this that wasn't an Auburn person, where we felt like we were drowning a little bit, you could set your program back years."

"Now not only did you get someone that played there, you got someone that's well respected in that locker room by the players and the other coaches and you got somebody that the fan base loved."

Campbell, who works on Auburn's radio broadcasts and with the NIL collective, helped lead the Tigers alongside Williams to an unbeaten record and No. 2 final ranking in 2004.

Now, former teammates have rallied around Williams and his team. More than 30 of them attended the Texas A&M game, his first as head coach at Jordan-Hare Stadium, and were brought into the locker room beforehand.

The "Go Crazy" shirt carried many Auburn fans "back down memory lane" to one of the program's best seasons, Campbell said.

Former Auburn defensive lineman Bret Eddins describes Williams as "kind of an aw shucks guy" and thinks that's one reason why Auburn fans and players have rallied around Williams so much.

"That's just who he is," said Eddins, who lives in Auburn and is a season ticket holder. "He's humble. He works hard. He loves Auburn. He loves these kids. He really wants to see these kids be successful."

In Alabama, that can start with beating the Tide.

## Rivalry week picks: From Egg Bowl to Apple Cup to The Game

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**  
AP College Football Writer

Conference title and playoff hopes are just part of what's on the line during college football's rivalry weekend.

There's the Golden Egg in Mississippi. The Territorial Cup in Arizona. The Old Oaken Bucket in Indiana. The Apple Cup in Washington. The Fremont Cannon in Nevada. The Governor's Cup in Kentucky.

Wisconsin and Minnesota will play for Paul Bunyan's Axe. And the winner of the Michigan State-Penn State game gets the Land-Grant Trophy, which has a lot going on.

The main course of the Thanksgiving football feast are the rivalry games with championship stakes attached between highly ranked teams. You'll find those in Columbus, Ohio, and Los Angeles and they lead this week's most intriguing games:

### No. 3 Michigan at No. 2 Ohio State, Saturday

The Game has a long history of monster matchups. Eleven previous times the Buckeyes and Wolverines have played with both in the AP's top five. Jim Harbaugh and Michigan broke a long drought in the rivalry last season on the way to a Big Ten title and playoff appearance. There is a chance the winner and loser could land in the CFP this year, but neither wants to test that possibility.

LINE: Ohio State by 7 1/2. PICK: Ohio State 35-24.

No. 13 Notre Dame at No. 5 Southern California, Saturday

The Fighting Irish have won four straight meetings and eight of the last 11, but the stakes have not been this high for the Trojans in more than a decade. USC has dreams of a playoff spot and Heisman Trophy for star quarterback Caleb Williams. The Irish are hoping to put an exclamation point on Marcus Freeman's first season as coach.

LINE: USC by 5 1/2. PICK: USC 38-31.

No. 10 Oregon at No. 22 Oregon State, Saturday

The Ducks have owned this rivalry for almost two decades, with the Beavers winning just twice since 2007. It's the first time since 2012 and just the fifth time in 106 meetings that both teams are ranked. Oregon, which earns a spot in the Pac-12 title game with a victory, hopes to have a healthier QB Bo Nix this week.

LINE: Oregon by 3 1/2. PICK: Oregon State 28-24.

Mississippi State at No. 20 Mississippi, Thursday

The Egg Bowl often produces competitive games and odd drama. Hanging over this year's Thanksgiving night meeting is speculation about the future of Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin,

who could be a candidate to fill coaching vacancy at Auburn.

LINE: Ole Miss by 3. PICK: Ole Miss 33-28.

Kansas at No. 15 Kansas State, Saturday

The Wildcats have won 13 straight in the Sunflower Showdown as the Jayhawks have wallowed at the bottom of the Big 12. Kansas is better than it has been in more than decade, bowl eligible but still losers of five of their last six. The Wildcats clinch a spot in the Big 12 title game with a victory.

LINE: Kansas State by 11 1/2. PICK: Kansas State 42-27.

The rest of this week's games involving ranked teams with lines by FanDuel Sportsbook:

### FRIDAY

Florida (plus 10) at No. 16 Florida State (minus 10)

Gators have won three straight, but this looks like a tough matchup for their leaky run defense; 'Noles average 5.54 yards per carry (ninth in the country) ... FLORIDA STATE 42-35.

No. 17 UCLA (minus 10 1/2) at California

Pac-12 title hopes are gone for the Bruins but they can get to nine victories for the first time since 2014. ... UCLA 38-26.

North Carolina State (plus 6 1/2) at No. 18 North Carolina

QB injuries have derailed the Wolfpack's season and Tar Heels are coming off an upset loss; Even more reason to want to beat your rival ... NORTH CAROLINA 28-24.

No. 19 Tulane at No. 21 Cincinnati (minus 2 1/2)

Bearcats looking for their fourth straight trip to the AAC title game; Green Wave its first ... CINCINNATI 24-20.

Baylor at No. 24 Texas (minus 7 1/2)

Longhorns will take the field with a chance to get to the Big 12 title game ... TEXAS 33-24.

### SATURDAY

Georgia Tech at No. 1 Georgia (minus 35 1/2)

Bulldogs have won the last four by an average of 36 points ... GEORGIA 42-6.

Iowa State at No. 4 TCU (minus 10 1/2)

Horned Frogs are due for a comfortable victory ... TCU 28-14.

No. 6 LSU at Texas A&M (plus 9 1/2)

Tigers are headed to the SEC title game and the Aggies are playing out the string ... LSU 24-16.

South Carolina (plus 14 1/2) at No. 7 Clemson

Tigers have won seven straight Palmetto Bowls, mostly blowouts ... CLEMSON 27-17.

Auburn at No. 8 Alabama (minus 21 1/2)

Likely Bryce Young's last

home game for the Tide ... ALABAMA 38-14.

No. 9 Tennessee (minus 14 1/2) at Vanderbilt

Vols still have hopes for a New Year's Six bowl, but will have to manage without star QB Hendon Hooker (knee) ... TENNESSEE 45-24.

Michigan State (plus 18 1/2) at No. 11 Penn State

If both Michigan and Ohio State end up in the playoff, the Nittany Lions could land in the Rose Bowl ... PENN STATE 31-14.

No. 12 Washington at Washington State (plus 2 1/2)

Huskies' Pac-12 title hopes are slim and could be gone by the time they take the field ... WASHINGTON STATE 31-28.

No. 14 Utah (minus 29 1/2) at Colorado

End can't get here fast enough for the Buffaloes, who have lost nine games by at least 23 points and the last three by an average of 41 ... UTAH 51-10.

No. 23 Coastal Carolina (plus 13 1/2) at James Madison

Chants QB Grayson McCall remains out, hence the big line in favor of the Dukes ... JAMES MADISON 33-28.

No. 25 UCF (minus 19 1/2) at South Florida

Knights blew a chance to host the AAC title game last week, but can still get into the game through the conference's complicated tiebreakers that involve CFP rankings and computer formulas ... UCF 52-28.

### TWITTER REQUESTS

Louisville (plus 3 1/2) at Kentucky — @mjlorange. Cardinals looking to snap a three-game losing streak to Wildcats with status of QB Malik Cunningham up in the air ... LOUISVILLE 23-20.

Arkansas at Missouri (plus 3 1/2) — @lakehog\_stephen. Tigers need one more victory to get bowl eligible ... MISSOURI 26-24.

Arizona State at Arizona (minus 4 1/2) — @ArtWMoore. Sun Devils have a five-game series winning streak, but the Wildcats look like the program with the arrow pointed up ... ARIZONA 38-28.

Minnesota at Wisconsin (minus 3) — @kyleinmke. Let's appreciate Gophers TB Mohamed Ibrahim: Nation's leading rusher has 173 carries for 830 yards and 10 touchdowns in the last five games ... WISCONSIN 21-16.

### RECORD

Last week: Straight-up — 19-7; Against spread — 11-14-1. Season: 195-75; 137-139-3.

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