

# The College Football Historian™

*Expanding the knowledge and information on college football's unique past—today!*

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*Merry Christmas to all... and may the forthcoming year be your best year over!*

Montana State and St. Joseph's Ind. would be the two teams eventually selected; they would play-to a 0-0 tie

November 7, 1956

(The Daily Courier, Connellsville, Penn.)

## **Little Rock, Ark. To Be Site of Bowl For Small Colleges**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UP) — The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics has rescheduled its first small college

championship football bowl game for Dec. 22 at Little Rock, Ark.

The game originally was set for Dec. 8. Besides setting the date back, the NAIA announced that the game would be nationally broadcast and telecast.

A NAIA official said that 19 schools have outstanding records so far this

season and was in the running along with some others.

The 19 schools included Pittsburg (Kan.) State, Kansas Wesleyan and Missouri Valley of Marshall, Missouri.

Other teams listed by the NAIA included Youngstown (Ohio) College; Morris Harvey, Charlestown, Va. and Westminster, New Wilmington, Pa.

*Research from IFRA member Richard Topp, on the next story was found and made an ideal complement to the previous one.*

(The Milwaukee Journal, Milwaukee, Wis.)

### **Aluminum Bowl Up For Grabs**

Twenty NAIA Football Teams Vie for New Post Season Game

**By Whitney Martin**

New York (AP)...The plan of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to stage a football bowl game between two of its members Dec. 22 at Little Rock, Ark., might be frowns by critics of bowl games in general.

The National Collegiate Athletic association (sic) (NCAA) sponsors postseason basketball, tournaments, as does the NAIA. Why is it ok to have postseason

basketball play and condemn postseason games in football?

### **Younger Organization**

The NAIA is a younger dedicated to giving smaller schools the same competition on a national scale as provided for the larger schools by the NCAA.

### **An Incentive to all**

...and now football has been added. Naturally, the Little Rock game will decide nothing except which is better of the two teams, but the chance of competing in such a game is an incentive to all member schools.

Al Duer, Executive Secretary of the NAIA, was explaining the choice of Little Rock as the site of first game and giving the idea of the problem of selecting the teams.

Little Rock has a beautiful war memorial stadium seating 38,000 he said. We are assured of the back there and the interest of the community. The game maybe lost in a huge metropolitan area.

We're calling it the Aluminum Bowl as two big aluminum plants are located there. Incidentally, the game will be televised by CBS.

“Not counting the games of last week, which might have reduced the number of 20 of the 30 teams unbeaten and untied teams in the nation and are members of the NAIA.”

### **List of Possible Opponents**

“The list includes well regard schools such as Hillsdale (Michigan) unbeaten in 37 games; Central Michigan, Westminster (Pennsylvania), New Haven State, Morningside College of Iowa, Missouri Valley of Marshall, Mo.; West Texas State, Lenior Rhyne, San Diego State, Montana State, Lewis and Clark and Kansas Wesleyan.

“I imagine the list of unbeaten and untied teams will be trimmed to 10 or 12 by the end of the season, although a defeat doesn’t eliminate a team from consideration, particularly if it’s a large school.

“Each section will decide on its best representative, and then it’s up to a committee of four to make the final selection, “he added.

Personally, “we believe the NAIA is filling a need in giving the smaller schools an opportunity to attain a national athletic prestige.”

\* \* \*

*This week in Ann Arbor history:*

**Michigan vs. Ohio State: 1942 and "The Game" that wasn't**

By James David Dickson  
*Ann Arbor.com and IFRA member (used by permission)*

Since 1935, the Michigan-Ohio State football game has been a staple at the end of the Wolverines' regular season schedule, with only three exceptions: 1942, 1986 and 1998.

The 1986 and 1998 exceptions are easy enough to explain. Both games were against the University of Hawaii, a team it only makes sense to play at the end of the regular season in Hawaii.

Playing Hawaii in Ann Arbor would defeat the purpose of playing such an exotic opponent. But playing Hawaii in Honolulu to start the season isn't the best preparation for teams like Notre Dame and Penn State.

But the story of the 1942 season finale against Iowa is more complicated. As with every aspect of American life at the time, World War II played a pivotal role in shaping the Big Ten schedule in 1942.

After the Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Big Ten commissioner John L. Griffith put his energy into ensuring big time college football would continue even as America entered the bloodiest conflict in history.

On Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the Pearl Harbor attack, Griffith wrote a letter to Big Ten athletic directors

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noting his "intent...to indicate that the schools and colleges of America stand...ready and eager to adapt their athletic and physical educational programs to the best ends of national defense."

This was a time when the Big Ten was still the dominant conference. Griffith was concerned the war might curtail college football, so he launched a public relations campaign that tied it to the war effort directly.

Initially, the Big Ten offered to donate the profits of the 1942 season to the Army-Navy Relief Fund. The government declined the proposal, preferring instead that war bonds be sold at raffles during halftime.

The Big Ten schools then initiated physical hardening programs, requiring physical training for all able-bodied men on campus. Michigan's program, which required 4.5 hours a week of training — divided into 3 sections of 90 minutes apiece — was headed by football coach and first-year athletic director Fritz Crisler.

Michigan football has long picked up the slack for non-revenue sports. During World War II, football also paid for the physical hardening program, which prepared hundreds of Michigan men to serve their country in war.

The Michigan-Ohio State game has been a staple at the end of

Michigan's regular season schedule since 1935 - with three exceptions.

As Crisler said to a reporter at the time, "Since (Pearl Harbor) the term 'physical fitness' has taken on new meaning for civilians and soldiers alike. Army and Navy authorities have reported that many recruits have been so soft and undeveloped physically that completion of basic training has been seriously delayed by necessary physical conditioning processes."

There was one last concession, and this one affected "The Game" directly: Two games were added to the 1942 schedule, with the extras played against service teams like the Iowa Seahawks and the Great Lakes Bluejackets — both of whom Michigan faced in 1942, going 1-1.

When it came to moving U-M vs. OSU from the end of the regular season schedule, the limited discussion focused on logistics, not how it would affect the tradition.

In a March 9, 1942, memo to Crisler, commissioner Griffith wrote: "Have had to further experiment with schedules. Would you want to play your Iowa game Nov. 28 and play the Iowa City naval unit Oct. 10?" Crisler wrote back the next day and agreed.

The Game that Wasn't: Big Ten commissioner John Griffith shoehorns two games into Michigan's 1942 schedule, including an Iowa game the week after Ohio State.

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That the Ohio State game fell on Nov. 21, a week before Iowa was shoehorned into the schedule, never came up. Griffith's chief concern wasn't preserving the still-new tradition of the Michigan-Ohio State season finale — it was about ensuring the show would go on. He knew one season off could easily become several, depending on how long the war raged.

But Michigan's extended schedule didn't work out for the best. While fans and sportswriters weren't thrilled to come back for a game against the Iowa Hawkeyes, Fritz Crisler exhorted his players to finish the season with character.

Don Lund was a fullback on that 1942 team.

The Wolverines did, dominating the Hawkeyes in a 28-14 victory to earn a ninth place finish nationally.

Ohio State, under the tutelage of the legendary Paul Brown, went on to win the first of its seven national championships.

\* \* \*

**Belue to Scott!** The greatest moment in Georgia football history is the definitive book on the classic 1980 Georgia-Florida game that eventually led the Bulldogs to the national championship that year. The book delves into more than just the famous 93-yard touchdown itself. It chronicles the history of

According to the Ann Arbor News, had the 1942 season ended after eight games like a normal season, Michigan would have rode out with a 32-20 victory over Notre Dame, a game so emotional that Al "Ox" Wistert's teammates carried the tackle off the field after his dominating performance.

Beat-up and unable to rally for a second straight rivalry game, Michigan fell 21-7 to the Ohio State Buckeyes in week nine, leaving no chance for a Big Ten title.

"Normally, this would be the end of our season," Lund recalled Crisler telling the team, as they hung their heads after the tough loss. "But this year we've got another game — let's take advantage of it."

the series, and the unlikely paths both Georgia and Florida took to Jacksonville that season.

Via a combination of narrative and oral history, readers can experience that day and game again through the eyes of coaches and players from both teams, media members who covered the game, officials on the field, fans who were in the Gator Bowl and those who either watched the game on TV or listened to the memorable radio call of Georgia's "legendary voice," Larry Munson. *Belue to Scott!* describes why three decades later the greatest moment in Georgia football history is one of the defining moments in the lives of those that proudly wear the Red and Black.

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Purchase a copy of Belue to Scott! for \$19.95 by visiting either [www.beluetoscott.com](http://www.beluetoscott.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For more information, please contact author Robbie Burns via email ([rdburns00@aol.com](mailto:rdburns00@aol.com)).

**PRAISE FOR BELUE TO SCOTT!**

"I commend Robbie Burns for his research and writing of what is and always will be Georgia football's most memorable play. Buck Belue to Lindsay Scott is Georgia's greatest play not only because it won the Florida game when all hope was apparently lost, but it ultimately led to the first undefeated, undisputed and only such national football championship at the University of Georgia. Belue to Scott! allows you to vividly relive the most memorable play in Georgia football history from a myriad of different angles and personal accounts. It is a special treat to read."

--Vince Dooley, Former Georgia head football coach

"It's been 30 years. As Larry Munson would say: 'How in the world is that even possible?'" But it has, indeed, been 30 years since that incredible Saturday by the St. John's River when Buck Belue, Lindsay Scott, Herschel Walker and the entire Georgia football team gave the Bulldog Nation a win for the ages over the hated Florida Gators. But when you read Belue to Scott!

by Robbie Burns, those three decades just simply disappear. With brand new interviews and fresh insights with the key players, both on and off the field, the reader is magically transported back to November 8, 1980 and a moment that will always be frozen in time and locked securely in the hearts of Bulldogs everywhere. If you bleed Red and Black, this is a must-read. The memories will make you smile again. I know I did."

--Tony Barnhart, CBS Sports

"I've been in coaching over 30 years and been fortunate to be involved in many big games. Amidst all those contests, it's amazing how vividly I still remember the 1980 Georgia-Florida game. We did everything we could to upset a great Georgia team that day but fell short to one of the greatest plays in college football history."

"Robbie Burns does a fine job of recreating the game on a level playing field so both Bulldog and Gator fans can be proud of how their teams played. His account put me back in the Gator Bowl and made me think what I might have done different if given another chance. Belue to Scott! is a must read for all Georgia fans and one that any college football follower will enjoy."

--Mike Shanahan  
Former Florida offensive coordinator, head coach of two-time Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, current Washington Redskins head coach

[Arizona Independent Republic, Dec. 3, 1940]

## **Grid Trophy Is Captured By Gophers**

CHAMPAIGN, Ill, Dec. 2—(AP) Minnesota's Gophers, the undefeated and untied Western Conference champions, were ranked the nation's No. 1 team today in the 1940 Dickinson football ratings issued by Dr. Frank G. Dickinson of the University of Illinois.

Minnesota thus received permanent possession of the **Rockne Memorial Trophy**, having won it by its Dickinson ratings in 1934, 1936 and this year. Dr. Dickinson, who said this season's rating was his

last, declared that the Gophers also had won permanent possession of the trophy on a best 10-year record basis.

Michigan, though defeated by Minnesota, 7-6, was placed second because of the caliber of its schedule. Stanford's undefeated and untied Rose Bowl host, and Tennessee and Texas A and M, were next on the list.

Pennsylvania was the only eastern team to make the ratings. Southern Methodist was placed eighth, but Dr. Dickinson said that if the Mustangs lose to Rice next Saturday, Boston College would take over the 11<sup>th</sup> position. Southern Methodist would drop from the list and Texas, Nebraska and Northwestern would be moved up a notch.

### **Dickinson's 1940 Ratings:**

<b>Team</b>	<b>W- L-T</b>	<b>Points</b>
Minnesota	8-0-0	29.55
Michigan	7-1-0	26.16
Stanford	9-0-0	25.84
Tennessee	10-0-0	25.76
Texas A and M	8-1-0	25.74
Pennsylvania	6-1-1	24.78
Mississippi State	9-0-1	24.28
Southern Methodist	7-1-1	23.82
Texas	7-2-0	23.33
Nebraska	8-1-0	23.12
Northwestern	6-2-0	22.51

*Editor's Note*— **Dickinson's Annual National Champions, 1924-40:**

1924--Notre Dame

1925--Dartmouth  
1926--Stanford

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1927--Illinois  
1928--Southern California  
1929--Notre Dame  
1930--Notre Dame

-- *Winners received the Rissman National Trophy*

1931--Southern California  
1932--Michigan  
1933--Michigan

\* \* \*

**American Football Coaches Association Trailblazer Award winners**

The AFCA Trailblazer Award was created to honor early leaders in the football coaching profession who coached at historically black colleges and universities.

\* Charles Williams of Hampton (2004)

\* \* \*

*Richard Topp locates College Football's Winningest Coach -his first season*

**The Helena Independent**

[Helena, Mont. Friday, September 2, 1949]

**John P. Gagliardi Arrives to Take Over Hilltop Chore**

1934--Minnesota  
1935--SMU  
1936--Minnesota  
1937--Pittsburgh  
1938--Notre Dame  
1939--Southern California  
1940--Minnesota

-- *Winners received the Knute K. Rockne Intercollegiate Memorial Trophy*

\*Cleve Abbott of Tuskegee (2005)  
\*Arnett Mumford of Southern (2006)  
\*Billy Nicks of Prairie View A&M University (2007)  
\*Alonzo "Jake" Gaither of Florida A&M University (2008)  
\*Fred "Pops" Long former head coach at Wiley College (2009)  
\*Harry "Big Jeff" Jefferson of Bluefield State College (2010)

**(Used by permission of AFCA)**

John P. Gagliardi of Trinidad, Colo., has arrived in Helena to take over athletic coaching chores of the Fighting Saints of Carroll College.

Gagliardi, pronounced Go-Lardy, plans to spend the next week looking over the Carroll athletic

plant and schedule. He will greet Carroll's football candidates for 1949 at 2:30 o'clock the afternoon of Sept. 10.

The new coach at Carroll is expressing more concern over a short schedule than he is over prospects for the coming season against Montana Collegiate Conference foes.

"We want to play football and four games just aren't enough," Gagliardi exclaimed. "We are

open to suggestion when it comes to more opponents."

The only certain foes that Carroll has for 1949 are Rocky Mountain of Billings, Eastern Montana College of Education of Billings, Western Montana College of Education of Dillon and Montana School of Mines of Butte.

Gagliardi explained that he wasn't too concerned over the material "just so 30 men report for practice."

He promised a good showing from the Fighting Saints of 1948.

**Gagliardi's Record at Carroll College**

**1949**.....3-1-0 **1950**.....5-2-0 **1951**.....6-1-1...**1952**.....7-2-0

\* \* \*

*Deaf Football Player:*  
**Gary Klingensmith,**  
**Penn State, 1962-1964**

*By Barry Strassler, Editor,*  
*DeafDigest.com*

Gary was Penn State's leading rusher as a junior in the 1963 season, and was tabbed as the pre-season All-American come his senior season. Unfortunately the senior season would be the one he would have loved to forget.

Penn State lost a rash of games, and in a shake up, head coach Rip Engle benched Gary. It was a

coaching move that continues to rankle Gary to this day. He had dreams of playing in the NFL but was not drafted. The New York Jets, however, offered him a free agent tryout, that Gary declined in favor of a head coaching job offer at Gallaudet University (more on this later).

The Penn State media guide shows that Gary rushed for 450 yards in 102 carries for 4.4 average and 3 touchdowns.

Was deafness an issue during his Penn State career?

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Yes, because of the wing back and tight end audibles used at that time. Gary, however

overcompensated by using his eyes.

As the wing back in the famed Penn State Wing T attack, he would watch the moves of his team's runt, the team's little man.

He, however, was no runt, being the sole proponent of weight training in the days when it was scoffed at by these coaches, especially Joe Paterno!

Gary would recall these lonely sessions at the weight training room where he lifted all by himself. And one time assistant coach Joe Paterno walked into the room, saw Gary and gave him a dirty look!

Joe, however, was not the head coach; Rip Engle was.

The highlight of his Penn State career was the game-winning 4th quarter 66-yard catch and run touchdown that helped his team edge Maryland 17-15 in 1963. Defending Gary was Darryl Hill, whom incidentally was the Terps' first African-American football player and the fastest opponent on the field.

tight end. If the tight end blocked the inside man Gary would block the outside man and vice versa. The Penn State coaches realized the simplicity of Gary's own system and scrapped the audibles and instructing the tight ends and wing backs to use their eyes!

Gary was 5'11, 190 lbs and he often joked that he was the

Recalled Gary, "Hill was defending me and I did a little feint on him to get myself an opening and was able to snare the pass that went over my shoulder. Knowing that Hill was fast, I zig zagged with the ball in the open to throw him off."

Gallaudet University offered him a head coaching position, and he accepted, despite not knowing sign language. He took a summer crash program in sign, hiring an unemployed deaf man for these intense one-on-one sign language instructions.

Upon arriving at Gallaudet, he learned just enough to be able to communicate with his players.

The newspapers played it up—as the youngest head coach of a collegiate football program.

Gary only stayed at Gallaudet three seasons, but all four of his wins were memorable – a 21-12 win over DC Teachers College in 1965 that snapped a 25-game losing streak. After that win,

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Gary was carried off the field by his exhilarated players; a win over Frostburg in 1966 and a win over Shepherd in 1967, these sole **Gallaudet wins in long-dropped series** against both teams. And a 21-0 win over

Lorton that helped Gallaudet to its first two-win season in eight seasons.

Gary's most memorable game, however, was a 30-0 defeat at the hands of Randolph-Macon College, a week after the 21-12 win over DC Teachers College.

Randolph-Macon had to fight every inch of the way up the football field; these four long touchdown drives, 3 and 4 yards at a time, not allowing any long runs. And Gallaudet stopped them on downs on one goal line

stand. The Randolph-Macon coach told Gary that Gallaudet was the toughest opponent his team faced all season, despite this misleading 30-0 score.

Gary currently coaches the Juniata HS football team in Pennsylvania, still at it at the age of 67 with over 250 career wins to his credit.

He left Gallaudet to take a better paying factory job. But after a year at the factory, he realized he missed football so much so decided to return to this sport.

Having no job leads, he asked the Penn State football coaching office for referrals and they pointed him to an opening at Juniata HS, Mifflintown, PA. He has been with

Juniata since then despite retiring from his PE job few years ago.

\* \* \*

### ***In Memory of***

Former USC running back Jim Hunter; 71...former Michigan All-American Rob Lytle, 56...Winston Short, West Texas State...Don Meredith, former SMU quarterback, 72...Marvin Bass, a former head football coach at South Carolina, 91.

### ***Halls of Fame***

Quarterback **Marc Bulger**, West Virginia University

(State of Tennessee): **Thomas Henderson, Jr** (Posthumous; [not "Hollywood Henderson who played at Langston and for the Cowboys), Vanderbilt, 1929-33... **John Hudson**, Auburn

Arizona State: **Frank Kush, Ron Pritchard, Danny White, John Jefferson, Randall McDaniel and Pat Tillman** were inducted into Arizona State's Athletics Ring of Honor.

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University of Texas Hall of Honor:  
**Mike Perrin, Ricky Williams and Bill Wyman.**

SWAC: **Willie "Rat" McGowan**,  
Alcorn State University and **Charlie Granger**, Southern University

**Awards**

The CoSIDA Special Awards Committee has announced the creation of a new award, the Bud Nangle Award, in honor of former Northern Illinois SID **Owen "Bud" Nangle.**

The award will honor an individual who portrays ethics and integrity under unusual or stressful situations  
In honor

**Colt McCoy** joined five other former University of Texas-Austin to have his number retired. Others included No. 20 **Earl Campbell** (1974-77), No. 22 **Bobby Layne** (1944-47), No. 60 **Tommy Nobis** (1963-65), No. 34 **Ricky Williams** (1995-98) and No. 10 **Vince Young** (2003-05).

\* \* \*

[The Greeley Daily Tribune, Dec. 9, 1969]

**Emporia's Cerone Helped Re-Write College Record**

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Cerone of Emporia, Kan., State and Ed Bell of

Idaho State rewrote the small college pass catching record books this season, according to National Collegiate Sports Services.

Cerone wound up his career with 241 receptions, 4,354 yards, 49 touchdown catches and 120.9 yards per game. The last three are the most ever achieved by any player--major or small college--while the old mark for receptions was 206.

Cerone was named to the Little All-America first team by The Associated Press. Bell, a second-team selection, established season records with 96 receptions, 1,522 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Cerone and Bell are seniors; while most of 1969's other individual champions are underclassmen.

There were two double winners. Tim Von Dulm of Portland State, a junior, took total offense and passing honors while sophomore Olaf Gunderson of St. Olaf won in rushing and scoring.

In total offense, Von Dulm's 2,736 yards overshadowed a second consecutive runner-up finish by Jim Lindsey of Abilene Christian, who had 2,646.

In passing, Von Dulm completed 241 passes—second best ever—to 207 for Lindsey.

Gunderson, thanks to a sensational game against Monmouth in mid-season, finished with 1,591 yards, third highest total in College Division history. Gunderson also,

won the scoring race over Bell, 132-130.

Montana junior Dan Worell won the kick-scoring crown with 37 points

while Texas-Arlington's Skipper Butler set three career records—215 points by kicking, 101 field goals attempted and 44 made.

Warner Robertson, a Maryland State sophomore, captured his second punting crown with a 44.2 average. In the team categories, St. Olaf was the best rushing eleven with 369.1 yards per game and scoring with 46.3 points. Delaware was the total offense leader with an average of 488.9 yards, Portland State led in passing with 308.6, Ursinus in punting with 42.0, Livingstone in total defense with 148.5, Kings Point, N.Y. in rushing defense with 16.2, Wabash in pass defense with 72.0 and Carthage in scoring defense, allowing only 6.0 points per game.

\* \* \*

## **HISTORIC PHOTOS OF UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA FOOTBALL (Turner Publishing)**

*By Patrick Garbin*

Through hundreds of spectacular photographs and extended captions, writer Patrick Garbin – author of three previous books on University of Georgia football – recounts the first nine decades of one of the most storied college football programs in the nation, beginning with its inception nearly 120 years ago and through the Bulldogs' national championship season of 1980. *Historic Photos of University of Georgia Football* is a hardback, coffee-table book which you can purchase for more than \$10 off the retail price by directly contacting the author at [Patrick@patrickgarbin.com](mailto:Patrick@patrickgarbin.com). For more information on Patrick and/or his writing/books, please visit his website at [www.patrickgarbin.com](http://www.patrickgarbin.com) and blog at [www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com](http://www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com).

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## **Highest Ranked Bowl Opponents in the Pre- BCS Era, 1936-1997**

*By Tex Noel/ 1st-N-Goal (Editor,  
IFRA)*

The purpose of the BCS Championship Game is to pit the two teams with the highest rank against each other: i.e., No. 1 vs No. 2.

And since 1998, the top 2 ranked/rated teams have appeared in the BCS match-up eight times: 1999-2000-03-05-06-07-08-09; with the No. 2 winning the games following the 2003-06-07 seasons.

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Before this era of major college football came into being, 11 times a bowl match-up pitted No. 1 vs No. 2; with the latter emerging victorious six times—inclusively, over the period from 1979-83.

The initial 1-2 post season contest was the 1963 Rose Bowl classic, as USC held-on to defeat Wisconsin, 42-37; giving John McKay his first title. (USC would play as either No. 1 or 2 three times, losing twice.)

A decade breakdown shows\* this match-up took place three times in the 1960s and 1980s and 1990s; twice in the 1970s—all before the BCS creation.

Such match-up in the 1990s were a procurer to the BCS, using the Bowl Alliance format.

As college football fans know, Pre-BCS National Champions were selected/named by the winners of the AP-UP/UPI, USA Today—coaches' polls; with the FWA and NFFHF also being part of the mix.

The AP final regular season poll (1936-64, 66-67) served as the final poll; with the 1965, 1968-2009 a post bowl poll was released. To make this compilation unified, the final regular season poll rankings are used from the post-bowl era.

Listed below highest ranked teams in a bowl game; more often than not, were not playing the game that

would decide the title; also listed will be the rank of the opponent each season's National Champion and if different, the Regular Season No. 1.

In pre-post bowl poll era, five teams entered the post season ranked No. 1—and lost all five times: 1950-51-53-60-64—but still were named AP National Champions.

But from a historical prospective, the two rank teams weren't always the ones matched-up to battle-it-out for the title, as it is done today...so which is a more logical or fair way to name a National Champion?

Which is better: The current BCS set-up; the former way as done the voting of coaches, writers and broadcasters? A plus-1 game; full-scale playoffs—if so, how many teams?

This story isn't about which method is best, correct or one that should be implemented; rather a look back at the bowls and using the rankings of the AP Poll which teams should have battled-it-out for bragging rights and claiming "We're No. 1" over the winter and into the next season.

### **Season AP #1-Bowl Opponent; (Opps' Rank/Score Bowl Highest Ranked Teams, Score**

1936 Minnesota; (Rose 3  
Pittsburgh—5 Alabama, 21-0)

1937 Pittsburgh; (Rose, 2  
California—4 Alabama, 13-0)

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1938 TCU-Carnegie Mellon (6/15-7)  
Sugar; (Orange, 2 Tennessee 4—  
Oklahoma, 17-0)

1939 Texas A&M-Tulane (5/14-13)  
Sugar; (Rose, 3 USC—2 Tennessee,  
14-0)

1940 Minnesota; (Sugar, 5 Boston  
College—4 Tennessee, 19-13)

1941 Minnesota; (Sugar, 6  
Fordham—7 Missouri, 2-0)

1942 Ohio State; (Sugar, 7  
Tennessee—4 Tulsa, 14-7)

1943 Notre Dame; (Sugar, 13  
Georgia Tech—15 Tulsa, 20-18)

1944 Army; (Rose, 7 USC—12  
Tennessee, 25-0)

1945 Army; (Sugar 5 Oklahoma  
A&M—7 St. Mary's CA, 33-13)

1946 Notre Dame; (Rose, 5 Illinois—  
4 UCLA, 45-14)

1947 Notre Dame; (Cotton, 3 SMU—  
4 Penn State, 14-14)

1948 Michigan; (Sugar, 5  
Oklahoma—3 North Carolina, 14-6)

1949 Notre Dame; (Rose, 6 Ohio  
State—3 California, 17-14)

1950 Oklahoma-Kentucky (7/7-0)\*  
Sugar; (Cotton, 4 Tennessee—3  
Texas, 20-14)

1951 Tennessee; (Sugar, 1  
Tennessee—3 Maryland, 28-13\*)

1952 Michigan State; (Sugar, 2  
Georgia Tech—7 Mississippi, 24-7)

1953 Maryland; (Orange, 4  
Oklahoma—1 Maryland, 7-0\*)

1954 Ohio State-USC (17/20-7)  
Rose; (Sugar, 5 Navy—6 Mississippi,  
21-0)

1955 Oklahoma; (Orange, 1  
Oklahoma—3 Maryland, 20-6)

1956 Oklahoma; (Rose, 3 Iowa—10  
Oregon State, 35-19)

1957 Auburn; (Rose, 2 Ohio State—  
UR Oregon, 10-7)

1958 LSU-Clemson (12/7-0) Sugar  
(Orange, 6 Oklahoma—9 Syracuse,  
21-6)

1959 Syracuse-Texas (4/23-14)  
Cotton; (Sugar, 2 Mississippi—3  
LSU, 21-0)

1960 Minnesota-Washington (6/7-  
17) Rose; (Orange, 5 Missouri—4  
Navy, 21-14)

1961 Alabama-Arkansas (9/10-3)  
Sugar; (Cotton, 3 Texas—5  
Mississippi, 12-7)

1962 USC; (Rose, 1 USC—2  
Wisconsin, 42-37)

1963 Texas; (Cotton, 1 Texas—2  
Navy, 28-6)

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- 1964 Alabama; (Orange, 5 Texas—1 Alabama, 21-17\*)
- 1965 Alabama; (Orange, 1 Alabama—3 Alabama. 39-28)
- 1966 Notre Dame; (Sugar, 3 Alabama—6 Nebraska, 34-7)
- 1967 USC-Indiana (4/14-3) Rose; (Orange, 3 Oklahoma—2 Tennessee, 14-13)
- 1968 Ohio State; (Rose, 1 Ohio State—2 USC, 27-16)
- 1969 Texas-Notre Dame (9/21-17) Cotton; (Orange, 2 Penn State—6 Missouri, 10-3)
- 1970 Nebraska-LSU (8/17-12), Orange; (Cotton, 6 Notre Dame—1 Texas, 11-24)
- 1971 Nebraska; (Orange, 1 Nebraska—2 Alabama, 38-6)
- 1972 USC; (Rose, 1 USC—3 Ohio State, 42-17)
- 1973 Notre Dame; (Sugar, 3 Notre Dame—1 Alabama, 24-23)
- 1974 Oklahoma; (Rose, 5 USC—3 Ohio State, 18-17)
- 1975 Oklahoma; (Orange, 3 Oklahoma—5 Michigan, 14-6)
- 1976 Pittsburgh-Georgia (5/27-3) Sugar; (Rose, 3 USC—2 Michigan, 14-6)
- 1977 Notre Dame (Cotton, 5 Notre Dame); 1 Texas, 38-10)
- 1978 Alabama; (Sugar, 2 Alabama—1 Penn State, 14-7)
- 1979 Alabama, (Rose, 3 USC—1 Ohio State, 17-16)
- 1980 Georgia-Notre Dame (7/17-10) Sugar); Orange, 4 Oklahoma—2 Florida State, 18-17)
- 1981 Clemson (Orange, 1 Clemson—4 Nebraska, 22-15)
- 1982 Penn State; (Sugar, 2 Penn State—1 Georgia, 27-23)
- 1983 Miami FL (Orange, 5 Miami FL—1 Nebraska, 31-30)
- 1984 BYU-Michigan (UR/24-17) Holiday; (Orange, 4 Washington—2 Oklahoma, 28-17)
- 1985 Oklahoma (Orange, 3 Oklahoma—1 Penn State, 25-10)
- 1986 Penn State (Fiesta, 2 Miami FL—1 Penn State, 14-10)
- 1987 Miami FL (Orange, 2 Miami FL—1 Oklahoma, 20-14)
- 1988 Notre Dame (Fiesta, 1 Notre Dame—3 West Virginia, 34-21)
- 1989 Miami FL (Orange, 4 Notre Dame—1 Colorado, 21-6)
- 1990 Colorado-Notre Dame (5/10-9) Orange; (Cotton, 4 Miami FL—3 Texas, 46-3)

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1991 Miami FL-Nebraska (11/22-0)  
Orange; (Rose, 2 Washington—4  
Michigan, 34-14)

1992 Alabama (Sugar; 2 Alabama—  
1 Miami FL, 34-13)

1993 Florida State, (Orange, 1  
Florida State—2 Nebraska, 18-16)

1994 Nebraska (Orange, 1  
Nebraska—3 Miami FL, 24-17)

1995 Nebraska, (Fiesta 1  
Nebraska—2 Florida, 62-24)

1996 Florida, (Sugar, 3 Florida—1  
Florida State, 52-20)

1997 Michigan-Washington State  
(9/21-16) Rose; (Orange, 2  
Nebraska—7 Tennessee, 42-17)

\* \* \*

**December's Dates of  
Birth and Dates of Death  
of members of the  
College Football Hall of  
Famers**

*Compiled by Bo Carter*

1 (1892) Charlie Bachman, Chicago  
1 (1931) Steve Eisenhauer,  
Sheffield, Pa.  
1 (1938) Mike McGee, Washington,  
D.C.

1-(d - 1986) Bobby Layne, Lubbock,  
Texas  
2 (1901) George Owen, Hamilton,  
Ontario, Canada  
2 (1953) Randy Rhino, Atlanta, Ga.  
2 (1974) Pat Fitzgerald, Orland Park,  
Ill.  
2-(d - 1997) Endicott Peabody,  
Hollis, N.H.  
3 (1885) Francis Schmidt, Downs,  
Kan.  
3 (1887) Bob Fisher, Boston, Mass.  
3 (1894) Bert Baston, St. Louis  
Park, Minn.  
3 (1923) Tom Fears, Los Angeles,  
Calif.  
3 (1957) Keith Dorney, Allentown,  
Pa.  
3-(d - 1970) Clarence Swanson,  
Lincoln, Neb.  
3-(d - 1982) Dutch Meyer, Fort  
Worth, Texas  
3-(d - 1998) Ed Widseth, St. Paul,  
Minn.  
4 (1901) Adam Walsh, Churchville,  
Iowa  
4 (1908) Tommy Yarr, Dabob, Wash.  
4 (1931) Roy Kidd, Corbin, Ky.  
4 (1942) Frank Emanuel, Clio, S.C.  
4-(d - 1975) Jack Mollenkopf, West  
Lafayette, Ind.  
5 (1892) Jim Phelan, Sacramento,  
Calif.  
5 (1927) Frosty Westering, Council  
Bluffs, Iowa  
5 (1936) Tom Brown, Albert Lea,  
Minn.  
5 (1947) Jim Plunkett, San Jose,  
Calif.  
5 (1963) Larry Station, Omaha, Neb.  
6 (1893) Lou Little, Leominster,  
Mass.  
6 (1898) Benny Lee Boynton, Waco,  
Texas  
6 (1918) Nick Drahos, Ford City, Pa.

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6 (1921) Otto Graham, Waukegan, Ill.  
6-(d – 1979) Mal Stevens, Bronx, N.Y.  
6-(d --2010) Don Meredith, Santa Fe, N.M.  
7 (1888) Hamilton Fish, Garrison, N.Y.  
7-(d – 1980) Paul Schwegler, Newport Beach, Calif.  
7-(d – 1998) Vic Markov, Seattle, Wash.  
7-(d - 2001) Charles McClendon, Baton Rouge, La.  
7-(d – 2006) Jackie Parker, Edmonton, Canada  
8 (1914) Bobby Grayson, Portland, Ore.  
8 (1941) Bob Brown, Cleveland, Ohio  
8 (1958) George Rogers, Duluth, Ga.  
9 (1892) Forrest Geyer, Southaven, Kan.  
9 (1898) Duke Slater, Normal, Ill.  
  
9 (1942) Dick Butkus, Chicago, Ill.  
9 (1947) Steve Owens, Gore, Okla.  
9 (1955) Jim Haslett, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
9-(d - 1956) Calvin Jones, Hope, British Columbia, Canada  
9-(d - 2000) Tyrone McGriff, Melbourne, Fla.  
9-(d – 2007) Harold Davis, Bloomfield Heights, Mich.  
10 (1883) Jesse Harper, Paw Paw, Ill.  
10 (1916) Parker Hall, Tunica, Miss.  
10 (1933) Larry Morris, Decatur, Ga.  
10-(d – 1933) Bill Roper, Philadelphia, Pa.  
10-(d - 1944) Joe Routt, In Combat in Belgium

10-(d – 1967) Bernie Shively, Lexington, Ky.  
10-(d – 1978) Ed Healey, South Bend, Ind.  
10-(d – 2007) – George Morris, Highlands, N.C.  
11 (1910) George Sauer, Stratton, Neb.  
11 (1924) Doc Blanchard, McColl, S.C.  
11 (d - 1960) Mike Donahue, Baton Rouge, La.  
12 (1881) Zora Clevenger, Muncie, Ind.  
12 (1900) Lloyd Jordan, Punxsutawney, Pa.  
12 (1904) John Smith, Hartford, Conn.  
12 (1914) Bob Herwig, Pomona, Calif.  
12 (1962) Brad Calip, Hobart, Okla.  
12 (1967) John Randle, Hearne, Texas  
12-(d – 1936) Bert Herschberger, Chicago, Ill.  
12-(d – 1965) Frank Schwab, Spangler, Pa.  
13 (1911) Buzz Borries, Louisville, Ky.  
13 (1955) Brad Crawford, Logansport, Ind.  
13-(d – 1963) John McGovern, LeSeur, Minn  
13-(d – 1971) Eddie Kaw, Walnut Creek, Calif.  
13-(d – 1979) Edgar Garbisch, Cambridge, Md.  
13-(d – 1983) Jim Daniell, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
13-(d - 1983) John Merritt, Nashville, Tenn.  
13-(d – 1994) Charlie Richard, Baldwin City, Kan.  
14 (1922) Charlie Trippi, Pittston, Pa.

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- 14 (1939) Ernie Davis, New Salem, Pa.  
14-(d – 1914) ThomasLee McClung, London, England  
14-(d – 1941) Art Hillenbrand, Waubay, S.D.  
14-(d – 1983) Johnny Bright, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
14-(d – 1985) Charlie Bachman, Port Charlotte, Fla.  
14-(d – 2004) Alex Sarkisian, East Chicago, Ind.  
14-(d -1920) George Gipp, South Bend, Ind.  
15-(d – 1973) Emil “Red” Sitko, Ft. Wayne, Ind.  
15-(d – 1981) Aubrey Devine, San Diego, Calif.  
16 (1913) Gust Zarnas, Ikaris, Greece  
16 (1914) Steve Reid, Chicago, Ill.  
16 (1963) Tim Green, Liverpool, N.Y.  
17-(d – 1954) Fred Miller, Milwaukee, Wis.  
17-(d – 1959) Bob Butler, Unknown Location??  
17-(d – 1969) Harvey Harman, Highland Park, N.J.  
17-(d – 1996) George Pfann, Ithaca, N.Y.  
17-(d – 2003) Otto Graham, Sarasota, Fla.  
17-(d – 2008) Sam Baugh, Rotan, Texas  
17-(d- 1973) Wally Butts, Athens, Ga.  
18 (1956) Jerry Robinson, San Francisco, Calif.  
19 (1909) Frank Hoffman, Seattle, Wash.  
19 (1926) Bobby Layne, Santa Ana, Texas  
19 (1961) Reggie White, Chattanooga, Tenn.  
19 (1964) Randall McDaniel, Phoenix, Ariz.  
19-(d – 1971) Bart Macomber, Woodburn, Ore.  
20 (1867) Pudge Heffelfinger, Minneapolis, Minn.  
20-(d – 1917) Art Wheeler, Philadelphia, Pa.  
21 (1916) Vic Bottari, Vallejo, Calif.  
21 (1926) Joe Paterno, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
21 (1935) Henley Garney, Elgin, N.D.  
21 (1940) Tom Beck, Chicago, Ill.  
21 (1960) George Floyd, Tampa, Fla.  
21-(d – 1918) Hobey Baker, Tours, France  
22 (1949) Ray Guy, Swainsboro, Ga.  
22-(d – 1957) Bob Zuppke, Champaign, Ill.  
22-(d – 2006) Sam Chapman, Kentfield, Calif.  
23 (1871) Frank Hinkey, Tonawanda, N.Y.  
23 (1892) Gus Welch, Spooner, Wis.  
23 (1924) Dan Devine, Augusta, Wis.  
23 (1935) Paul Hornung, Louisville, Ky.  
23 (1948) Jack Ham, Johnstown, Pa.  
23 (d -1931) Knowlton Ames, Chicago, Ill.  
23-(d – 1942) Chris Cagle, New York City  
23-(d – 1948) Gil Dobie, Boston, Mass.  
23-(d – 1954) Hunter Scarlett, New York City  
24 (1871) Charlie Gelber, Hawley, Pa.  
24 (1919) Bill Dudley, Bluefield, Va.

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24 (1924) Frank Broyles, Decatur, Ga.  
24-(d – 1897) Marshall Newell, Springfield, Mass.  
24-(d – 1941) Tommy Yarr, Chicago, Ill.  
24-(d – 1970) Zora Clevenger, Bloomington, Ind.  
25 (1941) Dave Parks, Muenster, Texas  
25 (1943) Howard Twilley, Houston, Texas  
25 (1946) Larry Csonka, Stow, Ohio  
25-(d – 1965) Joe Kendall, Owensboro, Ky.  
25-(d – 1979) Harold Ballin, Clearwater, Fla.  
25-(d – 1988) Eddie Cameron, Durham, N.C.  
25-(d – 1996) Bill Osmanski, Chicago, Ill.  
25-(d – 1996) Clayton Tonnemaker, St. Paul, Minn.  
26 (1905) Tom Hamilton, Hoopeston, Ill.  
26 (1924) Glenn Davis, Burbank, Calif.  
26 (1927) Bill Yeoman, Elnora, Ind.  
26 (1960) Scott Reppert, Appleton, Wis.  
26-(d – 1916) Stan Pennock, Newark, N.J.  
26-(d – 1971) Tad Wieman, Portland, Ore.  
26-(d – 1995) Al DeRogatis, Spring Lake, N.J.  
26-(d – 2000) Gust Zarnas, Bethlehem, Pa.  
26-(d – 2004) Reggie White, Cornelius, N.C.  
27-(d – 1963) George Wilson, San Francisco, Calif.

27-(d – 1971) Joe Guyon, Louisville, Ky.  
27-(d – 2007) Bill Willis, Columbus, Ohio  
28 (1894) Ed Healey, Indian Orchard, Mass.  
28 (1915) Vic Markov, Chicago, Ill.  
28 (1920) Alvin Wistert, Chicago, Ill.  
28-(d – 1953) Doug Bomeisler, Greenwich, Conn.  
28-(d – 1956) Ed Hart, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
28-(d – 1971) Joe Aillet, Ruston, La.  
28-(d – 1984) Ricky Bell, Los Angeles, Calif.  
29 (1909) William Grinnell, Boston, Mass.  
29 (1911) Tay Brown, Compton, Calif.  
29 (1915) Bill Osmanski, Providence, R.I.  
29 (1924) Warren Amling, Pana, Ill.  
29-(d – 1915) Tom Shevlin, Minneapolis, Minn.  
30 (1896) Homer Norton, Birmingham, Ala.  
30 (1941) Mel Renfro, Houston, Texas  
30-(d – 1925) Frank Hinkey, Southern Pines, N.C.  
**30-(d – 1967) Lloyd Yoder, Unknown??**  
30-(d – 1976) Harry Baujan, Dayton, Ohio  
30-(d – 2004) Bob Ferguson, Columbus, Ohio  
31 (1875) Charles Rinehart, Uniontown, N.J.  
31 (1918) Ray Graves, Knoxville, Tenn.  
31 (1928) Hugh McElhenny, Los Angeles, Calif.  
31 (1932) Don James, Massillon, Ohio  
31-(d – 1963) John Minds, Philadelphia, Pa.

31-(d – 1967) Bishop Frank Juhan,  
Sewanee, Tenn.

31-(d – 1992) Bill Spears, Harriman,  
Tenn.

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## **Marshall Football Hall of Famers**

*By Woody Woodrum, Sports  
Director, Kindred  
Communications  
Herd Insider magazine. Sr.  
Editor (goherd.com)*

Entering the Marshall University Athletic Hall of Fame were three football players for the Herd on Sept 25 at the Marshall-Ohio game (53rd all-time meeting since 1905):

Doug Chapman (1995-99) Part of a class that won a I-AA championship in 1996 with what many consider the best I-AA team of all-time, 15-0 and No. 1 wire-to-wire. Next season, Herd moved up to D I-A in 1997, went 10-3 and won Mid-American Conference in first year. Herd advanced to the first of four consecutive Motor City Bowls, falling late to Ole' Miss, 34-31.

In 1998, team upset South Carolina, won MAC, beat Louisville in MCB II, 48-29, and finished 12-1 and #25 in The Sporting News poll.

In 1999, Herd opened with win at Clemson, ran the table, winning the MAC and the MCB III over No. 25 BYU. Marshall finished 10th in the nation in both polls.

Chapman is number two in rushing with 4,100 yards and now works for ESPN.

John Grace was also part of that group that wore red-shirts in 1995, when Herd was national finalist and lost I-AA title to Montana. Seniors from 1996-99 were 50-4 over those four seasons, No. 1 in 1996 (I-AA), No. 25 in 1998 and No. 10 in 1999 with perfect seasons in both 1996 (15-0) and 1999 (13-0).

Grace is sixth all-time at MU with over 400 tackles. Played in CFL, winning Defensive MVP once and being All-CFL three times with Calgary and Montreal.

Also entering HOF was Bob Wright, who played football in 1946 and 1947 and four seasons of basketball

(1946-50), including winning the NAIA (then, NAIB) National Championship in Kansas City, Mo. under the legendary coach at Marshall, Cam Henderson, with a still school-record of 32-5. Wright helped 1947 team to 9-2 mark and berth in second Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Fla. against Catawba College. Wright, however, was on trip with basketball to the prestigious Helms Foundation Los Angeles Invitational, in which Marshall beat Syracuse for title, 46-44. Without Wright and another

starting end for football, Herd fell to Indians 7-0 despite having more first downs and more yards in both rushing and passing.

Entering the HOF in May were some of Marshall's greatest players who were given a spring ceremony due to their NFL careers. Chad Pennington (1995; 1997-99), Byron Leftwich (1998-2002) and Randy Moss (1996-97); and John Wade (1993-97). All were part of championship teams and bowl teams and helped

Marshall to win 92 games and lose only 16 from 1995-2002.

Marshall won five MAC title, two Southern Conference titles, a I-AA National title and two-times finalists and have five bowl wins in six bowls appearances, including the double-overtime, 38-7 comeback at the 2001 GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Ala. winning over East Carolina 64-61 in the highest scoring bowl in NCAA history. MU also won at the Motor City Bowl over Cincinnati in 2000 and the GMAC Bowl over Louisville in 2002.

Wade entered the NFL in 1998 was a starting center for Jacksonville, It's that time of year again. The college football regular season is over, the bowl games are set and every call-in, sports-talk wannabe is crying because there is no playoff system. Well boo-frickety-hoo.

Tampa Bay and Oakland and retired at the beginning of the 2009 season due to injuries.

Quarterbacks Pennington (2000), Leftwich (2003) and receiver/return man Moss (1998) were first-round NFL Draft picks. Pennington has started at both the NY Jets and Miami Dolphins.

Leftwich helped the Steelers to a Super Bowl win in 2008, and also played for Jacksonville, Atlanta and Tampa Bay. Moss is one of the top receivers of all time, playing at Minnesota, Oakland, New England and now back with the Vikings.

Leftwich or Pennington hold nearly all of Marshall's and the MAC's passing records, while Moss was a two-time first-team All-American and holds MU records for scoring in every game he played and for most touchdowns.

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## **College Football Playoffs? Not for me, Thank You**

**By Randy Snow**

Every Monday morning quarterback is once again coming out of the woodwork saying that they have a solution that will fix everything, and all of their ideas stink. Most of the playoff proposals that I have heard

involve four to eight teams.  
Really?

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Come on, there are 120 teams in Division I-A, or the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) as it is now being referred to by the NCAA, and only eight teams get to be involved in the playoffs? That's only 6.5% of all the teams. What about the other 112 teams? That would make their season's pretty much meaningless, year in and year out? Why even bother with ranking teams in the Top 25 only eight teams matter? Get real, people. If you want to have a playoff, then it would have to be done right or not at all.

Personally, I like the bowl system. It is unique in all of sports and has a history that dates back to 1902 and the very first Rose Bowl. Are there too many bowl games today? Absolutely. This year, there are 34 bowl games meaning that 68 teams play an extra post-season game. That's over half of the teams in Division I-A (FBS) and that's just way too many. Most of them are a waste of time; An at-large team with a 6-6 record taking on the seventh bowl eligible team from a designated conference? What kind of a power matchup is that? I say, if

you don't finish in the top three of your conference, sorry, better luck next season.

The Rose Bowl has it right, the winner of the Pac-10 and the winner of the Big Ten meet in the bowl game. End of discussion! They may not be playing for a national championship every year, but these two conferences have the Rose Bowl in their sights from day one each season and that is an admirable goal to have. More bowls should be set up like that.

I don't believe that team's with a 6-6 record deserves to go to a bowl game. This year there are eight 6-6 teams in bowl games, not counting Notre Dame who, at 6-6, decided not to play in a bowl game. A minimum record of 7-5 should be required. I think 20 bowl games would be plenty. That would account for all the teams in the Top 25 as well as another 15 with winning records. Forty teams would be about 33% of the teams in Division I-A (FBS).

As far as a national championship goes, I would have a 21st bowl game and the participants would not be determined until after the other 20 bowl games are played. That way, a team that is ranked fifth or sixth might actually have a

chance to jump up to number one or two in the final poll depending on the outcome of several other bowl games. This would give more meaning to many of the 20 bowl games. The national championship bowl could be played on the weekend before the Super Bowl when there are no NFL games being

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played. And for gosh sakes, let the first 20 bowl games all be done on January 1st! There are plenty of college all star games that can be played the rest of the month.

And another thing, there are currently three polls that are put out weekly throughout the college football season, the Associated Press Poll, the USA Today/Coaches poll and the BCS poll. Why? That's how you end up with split national champions sometimes, because they don't always agree. You only need one poll and it should not start until the season is at the halfway point.

The BCS Poll is the only one that really matters anyway.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear, I like the bowl system, but I don't like the BCS. It is an

unfair system that controls the five big money bowl games and caters to the six "elite" BCS conferences; the Big 10, Pac-10, ACC, SEC, Big 12, Big East and, of course, Notre Dame, which is an independent team. Yeah, that sounds fair... for them!

The BCS kind of reminds me of the book, *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell. In the book, the animals take over working the farm after they chase off the cruel human owners. The animals come up with several commandments to insure fairness to all. However those commandments get amended as certain animals begin to take positions of authority within the animal hierarchy. In the end, one of the commandments reads, "All animals are created equal, but some are more equal than others."

### **Lower Division Playoffs**

The biggest gripe I hear every year is people saying, "They have playoffs in all the other divisions. Why can't the top tier have a playoff system too?" While it is true that all the other divisions in college football have playoffs, let's take a look at just how those playoffs work, shall we?

First, let's look at Division I-AA, or as the NCAA is calling it now,

the Football Championship Sub-Division (FCS). There are 13 conferences, excluding the Ivy League which does not participate in the playoffs. There is roughly the same number of teams as in Division I-A (FBS) and 30 teams qualify for the playoffs! That's 26% of the teams in the division.

In Division II, there are about 150 teams in 14 conferences and 24 teams qualify for the playoffs, or 17%. In Division III, there are about 240 teams in 27 divisions and 30 teams make the playoffs, or 13%. Even the National Association of

Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), which has about 92 teams, 16 teams qualify for the playoffs.

That's 7.5%. The one thing that all of these divisions have in common is that

Every team has an equal opportunity to qualify for the playoffs, regardless of what conference they play in.

Heck, even in the 32-team NFL, ten teams qualify the playoffs, which is 31%. So, any real playoff system at the Division I-A (FBS) level would have to include at least 30 teams, which would

take five weeks to complete. The level of competition in Division I-A (FBS) is the closest thing there is to the NFL. To ask these college kids to put their bodies on the line for the extra five weeks required in order to have a true playoff system is nuts, especially if they hope to go on and play in the NFL. Contrary to popular believe, these are still college kids, not pro athletes. And here is another shocker for ya, most of these kids will never play a down in the NFL!

In college basketball, 65 teams compete in the NCAA Tournament and you still have people screaming every year because certain teams got left out. Another 32 basketball teams compete in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) as well. College basketball can handle 97 teams in two tournaments each year because teams can play a couple of games each week. That just is not possible in football. Is an eight team playoff going to satisfy everyone? Wake up people. The bowl system insures the greatest number of participants in the top level of college football. The regular season is more important in college football because you only get one game per week. It's about annual rivalries, history, tradition and bragging rights.

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Once that is done, you reward the best teams with a bowl game.

So I say keep the bowl system in place, but make it meaningful to all 120 teams, not just a select few.

\* \* \*

### **Aerial Attack Defeats Cornell**

The great value of a smooth forward passing attack is the fully demonstrated in the defeat of Cornell, for the first time in four years, at the hand of Williams.

Cornell outrushed the Purple. But in the final quarter Williams uncorked an aerial attack that swept the Ithacans off their feet.

It began with a long 15-yard pass across the field, followed by 20 yards of broken field running that brought defeat to Cornell after twenty-six consecutive victories.

(From *The Targum*; school paper of Rutgers University [Oct. 14, 1924] under the column heading: "Gridiron Gravy")

\* \* \*

**A Request:** I am looking for coaches that were assistants of

teams that won a National Championship; and would later win a title as a head coach.

Please email Tex Noel,  
ifra.tcfh@gmail.com

## **Current IFRA Membership 281!**