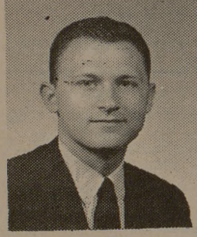


Sports Desk



Bowl Picture Clearing

by John Platzer

With the champions of such major conferences as the Southwest, the Big 10, the Big 8 and Western Athletic yet to be crowned, the nation's bowl picture is already beginning to come into sharp focus.

Once again it is clear that America's millions of football fans will be tired, bleary-eyed and sick of football at 10 o'clock on the night of January 1. This condition, as in the past, will last all of two days before the talk turns to the 1969 season and the ordering of tickets.

Four years ago the Orange Bowl defied tradition by matching Texas and Alabama in a New Year's night game and they have been cashing in on the idea ever since. This year the Miami attraction once again seems to have come up with one of the two best post-season pairings in Penn State and Kansas.

Penn State, currently number three in each poll, has posted an 8-0 record with only Pittsburgh and Syracuse left on their schedule. Pepper Rodgers' Jayhawks are rated sixth in the national polls and have lost only to Oklahoma in nine games. The high-scoring Kansans will wrap up a tie for the Big 8 championship with a victory over Missouri this weekend and then proceed to leave the Nittany Lions' hopes for an undefeated season wrecked on the Florida beach.

California's Rose Bowl, the grand-daddy of all bowls, will match Southern Cal against Michigan. The Wolverines will gain the spot with an upset victory over second-ranked Ohio State this weekend and then complete the job by stopping O. J. Simpson and the top-ranked Trojans. These events will leave Southern Cal and Michigan with identical 10-1 marks while Ohio State will finish with a 9-1 record.

Tennessee has nailed down the guest spot in Dallas' Cotton Bowl against SWC champion-to-be Arkansas. The Razorbacks, who will get the host spot by virtue of a victory over Texas Tech this Saturday while the Aggies are knocking off TU on Turkey Day, will unleash sophomore quarterback Bill Montgomery on the Vols to end the year with a 10-1 record.

The loss will drop Tennessee to an 8-2-1 slate for the season.

Darrell Royal's Longhorns will take a 7-2-1 mark to New Orleans and the Sugar Bowl where they will run head-on into the Georgia Bulldogs. The Southwestern Conference champions of Coach Vince Dooley will chalk up their ninth victory of the season in the game against two ties.

Judge Roy Hofheinz decided that he wanted his own personal bowl game this year and, since down Houston way what the Judge wants the Judge gets, the Bluebonnet Bowl was moved from Rice Stadium to the Harris County Domed Stadium and New Year's eve. Southern Methodist and Oklahoma will be the featured teams with the Mustangs recording a surprisingly easy victory over the Sooners.

The win, which naturally will be engineered by the passing combination of Chuck Hixon to Jerry Levias, will give the Ponies an 8-3 record for the year while Oklahoma will close out with a 7-4 slate.

The Gator Bowl which will be played in Jacksonville, Florida on December 28 has come up with a better-than-average pairing of Paul "Bear" Bryant's Crimson Tide against Missouri.

Alabama will lose its last regular season game against state-rival Auburn but will bounce back to wallop Missouri. After all when was the last time Bryant lost two bowl games in a row? The win will give the Tide an 8-3 record while Missouri will post a 7-4 mark.

In its inaugural season, the Peach Bowl set for Atlanta, Georgia has come up with an attraction that should be of special interest to Aggie fans. Two of A&M's pre-conference foes Florida State and Louisiana State square off in a match that will be won by the Seminoles. Florida State will end the campaign with a 9-2 record while the Tigers will post a 7-4 mark.

El Paso's Sun Bowl did a good job in getting highly-respected Auburn for one of its spots. Auburn's opponent will be Arizona, the WAC's champion-to-be. Arizona will gain the slot with a win over Wyoming this weekend but will have to settle for a 9-2 record when Auburn ends their season on a winning note and a 8-3 record.

In case the reader has yet to realize as much the preceding was based 1% on fact and 99% on emotion.

The skeptics, if there dare be any, may go ahead and watch the games although after this column there is no real reason to. This writer will watch the games even though the outcomes are already known for what better way is there to spend the holidays than to see Texas University at Austin go down to its second straight defeat?

Television Is The Only Hobby For San Diego's Big Elvin

By ED SCHUYLER JR.

Associated Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe if the San Diego Rockets' opponents took television sets out of hotel rooms, they could upset Elvin Hayes. They sure don't seem to be bothering him on the court.

"I like to be to myself, I just watch television," says Hayes, the Big E from Houston who is the most talked-about rookie in the National Basketball Association since Oscar Robertson, Cincinnati's Big O, joined the league in 1960.

"This is the only time I've been out of the hotel since I've been here and I'm going right back to the hotel."

Hayes' remarks concerned the trip he took out of a New York hotel Tuesday night for the Rock-

ets who arrived Monday and left Wednesday.

On his venture out into the big city he dropped by Madison Square Garden, where he scored 39 points, grabbed 17 rebounds, blocked four shots and helped the Rockets beat the New York Knickerbockers 113-107.

Hayes, who has moved to forward after beginning the season at center, scored 17 of his points in the first quarter.

His performance Tuesday night gave the fluid, 6-foot-9½, 235 pounder 483 points for a 30.2 average and 283 rebounds in 16 games.

Besides watching television on the road, and spending time with his wife and son at home, Hayes' one interest is basketball.

"Like, you know, I've got nothing else to do."

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