

sports

Trophy finalists don't like play offs

United Press International
HOUSTON — The four Lombardi Award finalists all say the college football season is long enough and should not be prolonged by a national championship playoff.
Brad Shearer of the University of Texas says, simply, the national championship is not worth all the commotion.
"All the rankings are for the press anyway. It's all for fun and publicity. People shouldn't live and die by it," the all-American defensive tackle said Wednesday. "This year was an excellent year for the press. In the preseason polls, they picked Notre Dame to be No. 1."
Shearer could be excused for downplaying the status of a national champion since his Texas Longhorns lost the nation's top ranking to Notre Dame in a 38-10 Cotton Bowl defeat Jan. 2.
Ken MacAfee, the Irish's premiere tight end, naturally disagreed.
"I personally would have thrown the personal awards out the win-

dow to achieve the national championship," MacAfee said. "But I think a playoff would put professionalism into college athletics. Plus every team in the playoffs would run into problems with finals."
MacAfee, Irish teammate Ross Browner, Shearer and Kentucky's Art Still are the candidates to receive the Lombardi Award Thursday night as the outstanding lineman in the country.
Browner and Still, two giant defensive ends, shared MacAfee's dislike of a playoff system similar to the one used by the pros.
"If you have a playoff," Browner said, "Sooner or later people will start thinking that going to college is just for football."
Browner is a Lombardi finalist for the second straight year and he appeared to have the inside track to win the award, which is named for the late Vince Lombardi.
"I don't necessarily think I will win it," Browner said. "The voting was done before the end of the season. Heck, at that time Texas was No. 1. All four of the finalists made great contributions to their teams."

"I'm thrilled to be a finalist twice." Browner is only the second player in the seven-year history of the award to repeat as a finalist. Nebraska's Rich Glover won the Lombardi following the 1972 season after being named a finalist the season before.
Wilson Whitley of Houston was last year's winner.
Ohio State is the only school to boast two Lombardi winners. Jim Stillwagon 1970 and John Hicks 1973 won the award. The other previous winners were Notre Dame's Walt Patulski 1971, Glover, Maryland's Randy White 1974 and Oklahoma's LeRoy Selmon 1975.
Following this past season, Shearer was the recipient of the Outland Trophy as the outstanding college lineman. Five of the past seven Lombardi winners were Outland winners.
MacAfee was awarded the Walter Camp Trophy as the outstanding offensive lineman following this season.
The Lombardi is selected by a cross section of 82 sportswriters and collegiate head coaches.

WCT shifts format

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The \$200,000 WCT-World Doubles Championship is changing its format for the 1978 tournament with a shift from a single elimination to round-robin competition.
The new format would guarantee each of the eight teams a minimum of three matches at the richest doubles competition in the world. The tournament will run May 3-7 with \$80,000 going to the winner, \$40,000 to the loser and between \$10,000 and \$19,000 to each of the remaining six teams.
An extra session Saturday evening will be added to the 1978 tournament agenda and the total number of matches will increase from eight in 1977 to 13 this year. Dick Stockton and Vijay Amritraj teamed to win the 1977 tournament.
The field will be divided into two four-team sections. Each team will play the three other teams in its own section once and the team with the best record in each section at the end of round-robin play will advance into the finals.
If any number of teams are tied for the best record in their section, there is a three step formula to decide the championship game participant: 1, head-to-head competition; 2, total sets won; and 3, total games won.
Round-robin competition will take place the first three days of the tournament with two matches Wednesday and three on both Thursday and Friday.

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