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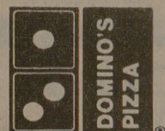


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CULPEPPER PLAZA

Thursday, December 6, 1984/The Battalion/Page 11

Bowl Games: Who's No. 1?

United Press International

It's nearly 2,700 miles from the Holiday Bowl in San Diego to the Orange Bowl in Miami, but this post-season the two are entwined.

You'll have to forgive Orange Bowl officials for being biased, but they're pulling for five-time loser Michigan to knock off unbeaten, No. 1 Brigham Young in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 21.

Their reasoning is simple. If Brigham Young loses, the Orange Bowl matchup between No. 2 Oklahoma and No. 3 Washington, the night of Jan. 1, will be a showdown for the national championship.

Don't let Michigan's 6-5 record deceive you. The Wolverines played seven teams that also got bowl bids this year, beating two of those and losing by only two points to two others.

The Orange Bowl kept hoping that BYU's weak schedule would dissuade voters from picking the Cougars No. 1, but being the only Division I-A unbeaten, untied team in the country has put them there the last three weeks.

Less than a month ago, the Orange Bowl wasn't concerned about Brigham Young because it planned to pair then No. 1 Nebraska against then No. 2 South Carolina and leave the rest of the bowls far to the rear. There was always the chance that Oklahoma might beat Nebraska, and did, but the real surprise was when Navy knocked South Carolina out of the unbeaten ranks.

One had the feeling the Orange Bowl was never convinced that South Carolina was as good as its record and, rather than wait to see how the Cinderella Gamecocks fared in their finale at Clemson, quickly turned to Washington.

South Carolina, slipping to No. 7, will still play a team from the state of Oklahoma — the Gamecocks take on No. 9 Oklahoma State in the Gator Bowl.

"We're appreciative of the invitation," said South Carolina coach Joe Morrison, who indicated earlier that talk about the Orange Bowl and a possible national championship played a role in the loss to Navy.

"Playing in any bowl game is a reward for a good season and we had a

fine season. But we don't want to lose sight of the fact that we are going to Jacksonville to win a ball game."

Last year, the Southeastern Conference was 5-2 in post-season play with Alabama (Sun), Auburn (Sugar), Florida (Gator), Georgia (Cotton) and Tennessee (Citrus) returning home winners and Kentucky (Hall of Fame) and Ole Miss (Independence) losing. But the SEC is not expected to do that well this time.

No. 6 Florida, the SEC's top-ranked team, has been barred from bowl play because of pending NCAA probation and Alabama, after posting its first losing season (5-6) in 27 years, is staying home for the first time in 26 years.

Auburn losing to Alabama this past Saturday flip-flopped the SEC's representation in the Sugar and Liberty bowls. Now, No. 12 LSU, 8-2-1 but hobbled by injuries the second half of the season, plays No. 4 Nebraska in New Orleans while Auburn, No. 1 in preseason and No. 19 at present, plays Arkansas in the Liberty Bowl.

The other SEC entries, all unranked, are Georgia, which lost its last three games, against No. 16 Florida State in the Citrus Bowl, Tennessee against No. 11 Maryland in the Sun Bowl, and Kentucky against No. 17 Wisconsin in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

"Beating Auburn doesn't erase six losses," said Alabama Coach Ray Perkins, who has been under fire from Crimson Tide fans who consider any loss a personal affront. "But it sure makes it easier to live around here the next 364 days."

Galen Hall, former offensive coordinator who took over from ousted Charley Pell after Florida's third game and wound up being named SEC Coach of the Year, says the Gators (9-1-1) are better than any team going to a bowl this season.

"With the schedule we faced and the adversity we faced, we were the best college football team in the nation," Hall said. "What happens in the bowls happens in the bowls, but we hope what we've done this season will convince people we're the best team in the country."

TV football wreaks havoc with Big Ten

United Press International

CHICAGO — Fans of the Illinois football team this year needed to carry along the local newspaper television guides just to be able to follow the patchwork quilt of times the Illini played.

Originally, the team was to have played at either 6 p.m. or 1 p.m., depending upon the game and the site.

But thanks to the Supreme Court's unleashing of college football telecasts on the country, Illinois never seemed to play at the same time from one week to the next.

To accommodate national television, the Illini played some games at 11 a.m.; others were at 2:45 p.m.; some were at 6 p.m., others at 7 p.m. The team managed even to revert to the traditional starting time of 1 p.m., which used to be the normal for football back in the old days when only one or two games were televised each week.

"I can tell you one thing for certain; all of the Illinois games are going to start at 1 p.m. next year," said Illinois Coach Mike White. "It's got to be a little tiring, to say the least, playing the games at a different time from one week to the next."

Of course, Illinois won't have the choice of moving its games for television next year. The Illini, who were put on two years' probation by the NCAA for recruiting violations, were banned from television appearances for one year.

Illinois elected to take the ban in the 1985 season, meaning Illinois would have been blacked out all year regardless of White's preference.

But the tilting back and forth from one time to another for college football telecasts caused some irritations among the coaches who had to change the pre-game planning for some teams.

"I frankly never liked having to play a night game and having to sit around all day with nothing to do," said Northwestern Coach Dennis Green. "You just as soon get to playing the game. I know Illinois had a terrible time. They weren't the only ones. The networks were changing times every week, it can be disruptive."

Notre Dame never knew from one week to another what time their games would be on. Whether that was a reason for some early disappointments in the Irish football campaign this year is a question.

"It's just too tough on the players to keep them corralled all day long," said Irish Coach Gerry Faust. "Particularly when you're on the road and then you have to fly back home afterwards. Evening games, I'd pre-

fer not to play them but you really don't have a choice."

Big Ten Commissioner Wayne Duke, who has been involved for several years with high-level football and basketball television negotiations with the networks and private sponsors, believes some standardization may take place in starting times.

"I think next year you will see some normalcy returning to the starting times," Duke said. "I think that everyone is concerned about oversaturation and something is going to be done about it."

That could come as early as the middle of December when athletic directors and conference commissioners convene in Dallas to try to make some sense of the future of college football on television.

Oversaturation as much as the change in starting times each week is a prime concern.

"We hope we can get together and get some answers," Duke said. "At least we will try."

The Big Ten and Pac-10 negotiated separately with CBS last summer after the high court knocked down the NCAA exclusivity for telecasting college football. The College Football Association, composed of most of the other major Division I schools, signed a separate pact with ABC.

The Big Ten commissioned a study at the middle of the year to determine how many games were going into their major markets. The Big Ten has some of the bigger markets in the country. The study discovered that the number of games being televised was much higher than anyone had predicted.

"We're talking more than just the major networks and their control over times and that type of thing," Duke said.

Chicago, for example, had 88 games available. Bloomington, Ind., had 48; Columbus, Ohio, 74; Detroit 73; Indianapolis 66. The Des Moines-Iowa City, Iowa region had a whopping total of 98 games, or nearly 8 games per week available on television.

Obviously, each game can't start at the same time. Sponsors would not buy up enough of the commercials for such head-to-head competition. As a result, the starting times had to be staggered to avoid having so many games on the tube at the same time.

But this also led to the problems that White mentioned, causing time changes on a week-to-week basis for his team.

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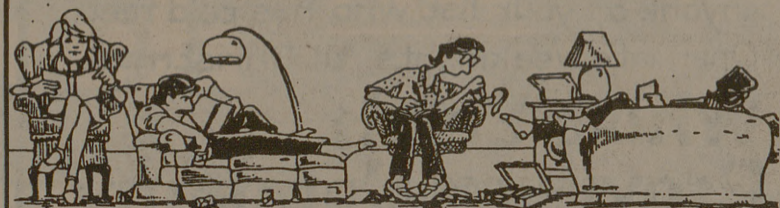


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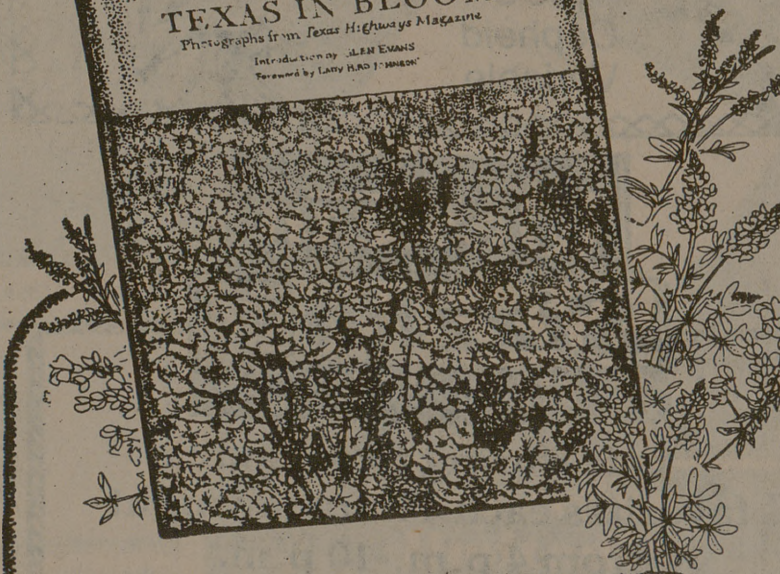
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