

'Tis The Season: A Guide To The 35 Bowl Games

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

Like it or not, the BCS championship game will be a rematch between LSU and Alabama.

Oklahoma State complained it should have had a shot at the top-ranked Tigers, BCS bashers had more fodder for the we-need-a-playoff debate and many fans scrunched up their noses at the thought of another field goal-kicking contest like the previous incarnation of the Game of the Century.

The good news, particularly if you're in the no-rematch camp, is that there are 34 other bowl games with some great players, great matchups and even some interesting nicknames, starting with that rascally Honey Badger in the Bayou.

Here's a rundown of some of the things to look for over the next month or so:

TOP GAMES

Even if you're not a fan of LSU and Alabama getting a return engagement in the BCS title game, you HAVE to watch. It is for the national title, after all.

But there are plenty of other games worth watching.

Fiesta Bowl, Stanford vs. Oklahoma State, Jan. 2, Glendale, Ariz. — If the national championship game were to have an undercard, this could be it. Two great offenses, two great quarterbacks in Andrew Luck and Brandon Weeden — expect lots of yards and points in what has the potential to be the most entertaining bowl of them all.

Rose Bowl, Wisconsin vs. Oregon, Jan. 2, Pasadena, Calif. — Speaking of shows, how about Badgers running back Montee Ball and Ducks dynamo LaMichael James trading jukes and touchdowns? Go to be some day on the couch the day after New Year's.

Alamo Bowl, Baylor vs. Washington, Dec. 29, San Antonio, Texas — Robert Griffin III on one side, Keith Price and Chris Polk on the other, not a lot of defense. Yeah, this is going to be good. Cotton Bowl, Arkansas vs. Kansas State, Jan. 6, Arlington, Texas — Arkansas' two losses were to LSU and Alabama, K-State's to the two big Oklahoma schools. All you need to know.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Robert Griffin III, Baylor. The Heisman Trophy? You may have heard of it — and him.

Andrew Luck, Stanford. The Cardinal quarterback is the fourth player to be Heisman runner-up in consecutive seasons, a threat to pass or run, the likely No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft.

Tyrann Mathieu, LSU. The Honey Badger has a knack for coming up with big plays at big moments. Now he gets his chance on the big stage.

Case Keenum, Houston. The sixth-year senior will leave Hous-

Dec. 17

1. **Gildan New Mexico**
Temple vs. Wyoming
2. **Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**
Ohio vs. Utah State
3. **R+L Carriers New Orleans**
San Diego State vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

Dec. 20

4. **Beef 'O' Brady's St. Petersburg**
FIU vs. Marshall

Dec. 21

5. **S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia**
TCU vs. Louisiana Tech

Dec. 22

6. **MAACO Las Vegas**
Arizona State vs. Boise State

Dec. 24

7. **Sheraton Hawaii**
Nevada vs. Southern Miss

Dec. 26

8. **AdvoCare V100 Independence**
Missouri vs. N.C.

Dec. 27

9. **Belk**
Louisville vs. N.C. State
10. **Little Caesars**
W. Mich. vs. Purdue

Dec. 28

11. **Military Bowl**
Toledo vs. Air Force
12. **Bridgeport Holiday**
Calif. vs. Texas

Dec. 29

13. **Champs**
Florida State vs. Notre Dame
14. **Valero Alamo**
Washington vs. Baylor

Dec. 30

15. **Bell Helicopter Armed Forces**
BYU vs. Tulsa

16. New Era Pinstripe

Rutgers vs. Iowa State

17. Music City

Mississippi State vs. Wake Forest

18. Insight

Iowa vs. Oklahoma

Booming bowl business

With 35 college bowl games, it seems almost every school gets a chance to play in a bowl.



Dec. 31

19. **Meineke Car Care of Texas**
Northwestern vs. Texas A&M
20. **AutoZone Liberty**
Cincinnati vs. Vanderbilt
21. **Hyundai Sun**
Georgia Tech vs. Utah
22. **Chick-fil-A**
Virginia vs. Auburn
23. **Kraft Fight Hunger**
Illinois vs. UCLA

Jan. 2

24. **Rose Bowl**
Wisconsin vs. Oregon
25. **Tostitos Fiesta**
Stanford vs. Okla. State
26. **Outback**
Michigan State vs. Georgia
27. **TicketCity**
Houston vs. Penn State
28. **Capital One**
Nebraska vs. South Carolina
29. **Gator Bowl**
Ohio State vs. Florida

Jan. 3

30. **Allstate Sugar**
Michigan vs. Virginia Tech

Jan. 4

31. **Orange Bowl**
West Virginia vs. Clemson

Jan. 6

32. **AT&T Cotton**
Kansas State vs. Arkansas

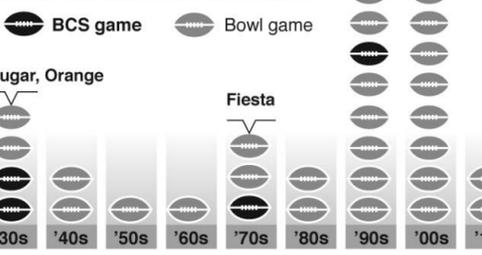
Jan. 7

33. **BBVA Compass**
SMU vs. Pittsburgh

Jan. 8

34. **GoDaddy.com**
Arkansas State vs. Northern Illinois

When each current bowl game began



*The National Championship Game is the final bowl game of the annual Bowl Championship Series; determines College Football's Division I national champion

35. Allstate BCS National Championship Game

Louisiana Superdome • Jan. 9, 8:30 p.m. ET
LSU vs. Alabama

Source: NCAA, ESPN Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2011 MCT

ton with his own section in the NCAA record book. Being relegated to the TicketCity Bowl against Penn State after a late-season loss will likely have him motivated to go out with a big game.

Justin Blackmon, Oklahoma State. The All-American is just the second two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award, given to the nation's top receiver, and a big-play threat every touch.

Trent Richardson, Alabama. The Crimson Tide's running back won the Doak Walker Award as the nation's best running back and was third in Heisman voting.

Montee Ball, Wisconsin. Montee should have a ball at the Rose Bowl.

LaMichael James, Oregon. Give him a seam and he's gone; a likely Heisman finalist for his second straight season if that elbow hadn't kept popping out of place.

BOWL SPONSORS

After a run of dot-coms, food-related companies have been kings of the bowl-game sponsorships recently, and this year is no different with seven: Tostitos, Beef 'O' Brady's, Chick-fil-A, Outback, Little Caesars Pizza, Kraft Fight Hunger and Famous Idaho

Potato.

OK, so Fight Hunger is more of a cause and the Idaho bowl is sponsored by a spud commission, but this is a loosely based count.

Financial companies are right behind with six and the automotive industry pulls in with five.

There are also sponsorships from a helicopter company, an aerospace and defense contractor, a department store, a moving company, one that sells blank T-shirts and sweatshirts that can later be screened, and a ticket broker.

NICKNAMES

Every team has players with nicknames. Here's some of the coolest we could find:

Honey Badger, LSU defensive back Tyrann Mathieu. He reportedly didn't like the ode to the furry and ferocious little beast at first, but it has grown on him.

RG3, Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III. Combination of initials and being the third in a line of Robert Griffins sounds like a cool new line of shoes.

Wolf Man, Utah running back John White. Has a tattoo of a wolf on his chest because wolves roll in packs and eat meat to the bone.

Sharks, Oklahoma's defensive backs. Pulled from a Lil Wayne song, quite catchy.

Zeus, Alabama's Dont' a Hightower. A mythologically proportioned linebacker at 6-foot-4, 260 pounds.

Moose, Stanford offensive lineman Jonathan Martin. Protector of Andrew Luck's blindness got the moniker after mauling other kids in Pop Warner.

Nuke, Clemson receiver DeAndre Hopkins. Had a preference for Nuk (pronounced Nuke) pacifiers when he was little and would spit out any other brand. Somehow still cool.

Shug, LSU running back Michael Ford. A name given to him by his grandmother.

ODDS

Based on the close game they played the first time around, it's no wonder the BCS championship game between LSU and Alabama had the closest odds among the 35 bowls, opening at 1 point on the Glantz-Culver line and a pick 'em as of Tuesday.

Next closest was 1 1/2 points: Arkansas State over Northern Illinois in the GoDaddy.com Bowl and Auburn over Virginia in the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

The biggest spread? Okla-

homa at plus-14 over Iowa in the Insight Bowl. Highest over/under is 74 1/2 points between Oklahoma State and Stanford in the Fiesta Bowl.

DISTANCES

Last bowl season, several teams had the chance to play in their home cities, including SMU, which played the Armed Forces Bowl in its own stadium because TCU's was being renovated.

This year, there won't be any so-called home games, but there are several teams that won't have to go very far: LSU in the BCS title game (it's in New Orleans), Texas A&M in the Meineke Car Care Bowl in Houston, Florida State at the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, and Rutgers in the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium.

Western Michigan also is playing in Detroit, Louisiana-Lafayette in New Orleans, Vanderbilt in Memphis, Tenn., and N.C. State in Charlotte.

The longest trip will be Southern Mississippi in the Hawaii Bowl, a distance of (we're ballparking here) 4,200 miles.

Longest kids-in-the-car trip? Illinois at the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl in San Francisco, a distance of just over 2,100 miles. That's

At a state Senate hearing earlier last month, several state lawmakers chided Rybak for the city's failure to get behind one of the three site proposals — which seemed to motivate his subsequent decision to back the Metrodome site.

Lawmakers have been working on a stadium bill, complete with a site decision and financing package, and are expected to release it in early January.

The Vikings' lease at the Metrodome, now known as Mall of America Field, expires Feb. 1.

Two developers in the Los Angeles area have asked Vikings ownership about selling the franchise, but NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Wednesday that next season is too soon to put a team in the nation's second-largest market.

"It is a viable market in the sense that we know there are millions of fans in that market who want to see football return

roughly 31 hours with long, horizon-rarely-changes sections through the Midwest and Nevada, so good luck if you try that one.

NUMBERS

8—Wins in Texas this season by Baylor, which plays in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

13—Straight seasons Oklahoma has gone to a bowl game.

22.67—Points Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III is responsible for per game.

41—Years since Louisiana-Lafayette last played in a bowl game. The Ragin' Cajuns face San Diego State in the New Orleans Bowl.

91—Solo tackles by Tulsa linebacker Cornelius Arnick, most of any player in a bowl game and third in the nation.

599—Yards of offense averaged by Houston, best in the nation.

986—Over/under on the number of times TV announcers say Urban Meyer's name during the Gator Bowl between his former team, Florida, and his new one, Ohio State.

1,037—Combined yards averaged by Fiesta Bowl foes Oklahoma State and Stanford during the regular season.

ABSENTEE COACHES

Every bowl season there are a handful of teams that play under interim coaches because the head coach has either been fired or moved on to another job. This year seems to have an avalanche of absenteeism.

Arkansas State. Hugh Freeze is headed for Mississippi, leaving the Red Wolves to play under running backs coach David Gunn against Northern Illinois in the GoDaddy.com Bowl.

Southern Mississippi. Coach Larry Fedora is leaving for North Carolina. Fedora will coach the 22nd-ranked Golden Eagles a final time in the Hawaii Bowl.

Arizona State. Dennis Erickson was fired after five seasons, but will still coach the Sun Devils in the MAACO Las Vegas Bowl against Boise State.

Houston. Kevin Sumlin led the Cougars to the brink of a BCS bowl berth and became a hot commodity in the coaching market. He landed just down the road at Texas A&M, leaving Houston to play for interim coach Tony Levine in the TicketCity Bowl.

UCLA. Rick Neuheisel was allowed to coach the Bruins in the Pac-12 Championship game after being fired, but O-coordinator Mike Johnson will run the show in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl.

Illinois. UCLA won't be the only team in the Fight Hunger Bowl with an interim coach. The Illini will be under the guidance of defensive coordinator Vic Koenning after Ron Zook got the hook following a six-game losing streak. Maybe Manpower.com should have stepped in to sponsor this one.

Cedar Boys Down Crofton Vikings

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Zach Steffen led three Hartington Cedar Catholic players in double figures with 15 points as the Trojans topped Crofton 47-28 in boys' basketball action Tuesday.

Logan Feilmeier and Logan Weinandt each had 10 points in the win.

For Crofton, Tom Peitz finished with 10 points and five rebounds. Eric Kleinschmidt added six points.

Cedar Catholic, 3-0, faces Madison in a Mid-State Conference matchup Friday. Crofton, 2-2, takes on Creighton Friday in a Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference matchup.

CROFTON (2-2).....6 14 20 28
CEDAR CATHOLIC (3-0).....7 18 37 47

Ponca 68, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 18

LAUREL, Neb. — Thirteen players scored for the Ponca Indians in Tuesday night's 68-18 thrashing of Laurel-Concord-Coleridge in Laurel, Neb.

Trent Petersen scored 13 points to lead Ponca (4-0), while Seth O'Neill and John Markworth each added eight points and six rebounds. Patrick Watchorn chipped in with seven points.

The Indians drained six 3's and forced 32 turnovers.

In the loss for the Bears (0-3), Zach Shear scored six points and grabbed three rebounds, while Daniel Hartnett added three points.

Both teams are in action Friday, with Ponca at Emerson-Hubbard and LCC at home against Plainview.

PONCA (4-0).....16 38 50 68
LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (0-3).....4 12 14 18

From Page 9

Minneapolis business leaders muddied the waters Wednesday as they unveiled a 15-year development plan for downtown that included a "sports district" west of downtown that would take in Target Field, Target Center and a new football stadium.

"Imagine a renovated Target Center, new public gathering places, a Vikings stadium and a new transportation exchange all working in concert with Target Field — producing one of the liveliest areas in any American city," said John Griffith, executive vice president for property development at Target Corp. Griffith chaired a committee of the Minneapolis Downtown Council that assembled the 15-year plan.

Opat and Downtown Council leaders declined to say whether Minneapolis companies and business leaders would be willing to contribute financially to the cost of building a stadium that could cost as much as \$1 billion. But Sam Grabarski, president of the Downtown Council, said the western sites offered more opportunities for private investment than are available around the Metrodome, which is on the eastern edge of downtown.

Grabarski envisioned public plazas, a retail pavilion, facilities designed to host events tied to a future Super Bowl, and major upgrades to the nearby Minneapolis Farmer's Market. "It's very possible these things would capture and encourage private sector participation in very tangible ways," Grabarski said.

Rybak said he's backing the Metrodome site because it would be cheaper and he believes it has more support on the Minneapolis City Council than the west-side sites.

Compton Named To All-Time Great West Conference Football Team

VERMILION — University of South Dakota senior offensive lineman Tom Compton was named to the All-Time Great West Conference Team, the conference office announced Wednesday, as the league's run of sponsoring football comes to an end after eight years. The Gridiron Power Index consistently ranked the league as the best in the FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) from 2004-2007, and even with the departures and additions in 2008, the Great West continued to be ranked in the top four among FCS leagues.

Compton, a native of Rosemount, Minn., completed a stellar career for the Coyotes as he was a PhilSteele.com fourth team All-American selection in 2010 and was a three-time all-conference selection, including the last two years as a first team honoree. He also earned Offensive Lineman of the Year honors according to the media in 2011.

KYNT
AM 1450
MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY
Thursday, December 15
7:40 a.m. Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)
8:20 a.m. Ykn Con/Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)
Friday, December 16
7:40 a.m. Vermillion Chamber (Steve Howe)
8:20 a.m. United Way (Pam Kettering)

Enter the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**
Play2Win College Bowl Online!
<http://play2win.collegefootball.upickem.net>
Search it on Facebook!
Play on your mobile phone!
Log into to play the Bowl Contest for your chance to win the Traeger Grill!
How to win the grill!
There are a total of 34 College Bowl games played annually. Players compete by making predictions on the outcome of the Bowl Games. Contest includes all 34 Bowl games. Most games are worth 1 point. BCS games are worth 6 points. National prizes will be given away.
Congratulations to **Larry VanArsdale of Yankton**
He won \$25 to the Roadrunner. **Congratulations also to Verna Thon** for being the overall winner and gaining the most points throughout the contest. She won \$25 to Hy-Vee.
One GRAND PRIZE winner who participates locally will win the Traeger LII® Tex Elite Pellet Grill!