

College Football Weekly

All the information you need



This is a Kool-aid free publication. This term is taken from the mass-suicide in Jonestown led by Jim Jones when about 900 people drank poisoned Kool-aid because they blindly believed it would lead them to heaven. "Drinking the Kool-aid" is interpreted as misguided belief in something. I do not engage in the drinking of Kool-aid for ANY college football team; I try my hardest to be objective. **CHECK YOUR KOOL-AID AT THE DOOR.**

Week 14: The Chaos Ends And The Controversy Begins

#1



LSU BAYOU BENGALS (11-2, 7-2)

I don't doubt that LSU has the best talent in the country, and when they are healthy and play like they're capable, they're unstoppable. Their two losses are the most justifiable, and they *did* win the best conference in the land, so they probably do belong in the National Title Game, and they'll probably win.

#2



GEORGIA BULLDOGS (10-2, 6-2)

If there was a playoff, I would put money on Georgia to win; but they shouldn't be in the BCS Title Game: they didn't win their conference or even their side of the conference, and they did get demolished by Tennessee, who LSU beat. Still a good year for UGA, assuming they beat pesky Hawaii.

#3



USC TROJANS (10-2, 7-2)

Right now USC is playing like we all thought they'd be playing at the beginning of the season: they're healthy and on a mission to prove how good they are, which is bound to be bad news for Ron Zook.

#4



OKLAHOMA SOONERS (11-2, 7-2)

Not unlike USC or Georgia, OU is not a team that anyone wants to play right now. Yes, they have a couple of screwy losses, but they are still easily one of the best teams in the country; and they proved it against Missouri (twice).

#5



VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES (11-2, 8-1)

Hokie fans probably feel like they were screwed by the BCS (get in line!) because they were actually ranked #1 by the computers; but humans remember that 48-7 beatdown that LSU put on them back in week 2. That's why you don't belong in New Orleans, Virginia Tech: LSU is better.

#6



OHIO STATE BUCKEYES (11-1, 7-1)

I know that Ohio State only has 1 loss, but they may only manage one (conference) win if they played in the SEC! Being the least undeserving team in America doesn't make you worthy of a National Championship appearance; expect Ohio State to get run out of the building...again.



#7 FLORIDA GATORS (9-3, 5-3)

Of all the teams that Michigan would want play in a bowl game, you have to think that Florida was low on that list; we've all seen how pathetic they are against the spread, and now they have to contend with Tebow & the Gators!



#8 MISSOURI TIGERS (11-2, 7-2)

Oklahoma has now beaten Mizzou twice, and both the same way: playing physical on defense and running the ball straight at Mizzou's defense; now the Tigers play Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl, a team with an SEC defense and Heisman runner-up Darren McFadden: not a favorable match-up!



#9 WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS (10-2, 5-2)

WVU had a virtual lock for the Championship Game going into a game they had no business losing against rival Pittsburgh; a 13-9 loss later (at home!) leaves WVU reeling going into a tough game against OU in Glendale, AZ.



#10 KANSAS JAYHAWKS (11-1, 7-1)

Kansas is easily the least deserving team in a BCS Bowl: they played a bunch of sorry teams, and got beat by the only good team they played, yet the team that beat them got screwed and the Jayhawks were rewarded!



#11 HAWAII WARRIORS (12-0, 8-0)

The Warriors are itching to show how good they are on a national stage, and beating UGA in the Sugar Bowl would definitely give them some credibility.



#12 ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS (10-2, 7-2)

ASU gets the dubious honor of being the Pac-10 team who thought they may make a BCS Bowl, but gets the Holiday Bowl instead; drinks are in order!



#13 ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (9-3, 6-2)

Making a BCS Bowl shows how far Ron Zook has brought this program, but the beating that USC will put on them may set them back several years.



#14 BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES (10-3, 7-2)

Losing 3 out of the last 5 probably wasn't the finish the Eagles were looking for after starting the year 8-0; look for them to rally and pound Michigan State



#15 TEXAS LONGHORNS (9-3, 5-3)

2007 was certainly a disappointing year for the Longhorns, who had the talent to win the Big 12 and do something; however, a win over a good ASU team in the Holiday Bowl could propel them positively into 2008

Dropped List


Tennessee (15): Truth be told, I'm not sure why I even ranked Tennessee last week...



HEISMAN RESULTS



****Disclaimer:** this is a projection of the Heisman race, not a ranking of Heisman candidates. As such, this segment does NOT reflect what I would vote for**

WINNER:	RUNNERS-UP:
<p>TIM TEBOW Sophomore QB, Florida</p> <p>Season Stats: 217-317, 3132 yds, 29 TD, 6 INT 194 rush, 838 yds, 22 TD</p>  <p>In the end, it's hard to ignore Tebow's stats, which is why he deserved to win, even though McFadden is probably a better player in the long-run.</p>	<p>#2. Darren McFadden Junior RB, Arkansas</p> <p>Season Stats: 304 rush, 1725 yds, 15 TD 21 rec, 164 yds, 1 TD</p> <p>#3. Colt Brennan Junior QB, Missouri</p> <p>Vs. Washington: 42-50, 442 yds, 5 TD 8 rush, -9 yds</p> <p>Season Stats: 337-472, 4174 yds, 38 TD, 14 INT 73 rush, 65 yds, 8 TD</p> <p>#4. Chase Daniel Junior QB, Missouri</p> <p>Vs. Oklahoma: 23-39, 219 yds, 1 INT 11 rush, 26 yds, 1 TD</p> <p>Season Stats: 372-534, 4170 yds, 33 TD, 10 INT 104 rush, 284 yds, 4 TD</p> <p>#5. Dennis Dixon Senior QB, Oregon</p> <p>Vs. Oregon State: Did not play</p> <p>Season Stats: 172-254, 2136 yds, 20 TD, 4 INT 105 rush, 583 yds, 9 TD</p>

UPSET ALERT--Bowl Edition

Explanation: Green means a plausible upset. Orange means a fairly likely upset. Red means **LOOK OUT: upset extremely likely.** Upsets are based on current AP rankings; the betting lines are from BetUS.com, as of Monday, December 10, 2007. The team doing the upsetting is in ALL CAPS. Game times are in central time and are subject to change.

Green (3-1): Cotton: ARKANSAS (+3) v. Missouri--10:30AM fox
Orange (6-8): Emerald: MARYLAND (+4.5) v. Oregon St.--7:30PM espn
Red (5-9): Chick-fil-A: CLEMSON (-2) v. AUBURN--6:30PM espn

****Against the Spread:** Green (5-8); Orange (7-6); Red (6-6-1)

For Your Viewing Pleasure

Helping you plan your Saturdays.



PLAN A PARTY (GAME OF THE WEEK):

	<p>LSU vs. Ohio State Louisiana Superdome: New Orleans, LA 7:00PM cst, FOX (1.7.2)</p>	
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REWORK YOUR SCHEDULE:

	<p>Arizona State vs. Texas Qualcomm Stadium: San Diego, CA 7:00PM cst, ESPN (12.27.7)</p>	
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SET THE DVR:

	<p>Oklahoma vs. West Virginia University of Phoenix Stadium: Glendale, AZ 7:00PM cst, FOX (1.2.8)</p>	
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General TV advice:

The regular season is over, but the bowls are ahead of us! While not all of the 32 match-ups look like they will be worth watching, the 2007 season has taught us that you cannot dismiss a game on face value: we've had some phenomenal games in what looked to be sleepers. So my final advice for 2007 is this: take some time off from your TV; spend time with your friends and family, and finish your Christmas shopping early for a change. Then when December 20th comes around, plant yourself in front of the TV and catch as many games as you can. On a side note, posting an entry in the Bowl Pick'em gives you a rooting interest in every game, making them more interesting; do yourself a favor and enter!

	<p>College Gameday Comin' to New Orleans, LA: Site of the BCS National Championship Game</p>	
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Zach's Rant: Redefining Failure

This year, I have refrained from using the BCS as a rant topic; instead, I did a four-part series entitled "Questioning the BCS." This week, I am breaking that trend: but not in the traditional sense: This isn't a rallying cry for a playoff: this is a plea for good football! While the BCS does not usually provide a good national championship game, it does normally give us a couple of good games; last year's Fiesta Bowl (Boise State upending Oklahoma) immediately jumps to mind. This year, however, the BCS has given us absolutely nothing. We've got Ron Zook taking on USC, one of the hottest teams in the nation; we've got vastly over-rated Kansas taking on Virginia Tech, the best team in the nation according to the BCS computers; and we've got Ohio State, who Florida ran out of the building last year, going up against LSU, who hasn't lost a game in regulation. Let's also toss in UGA vs. Hawaii, which probably won't be much of a contest either. It's not like there are four mediocre games and a good one; there are going to be four blowouts and a decent game (OU v. WVU). I think that the worst part, though, is that the unbalanced BCS games impacted the rest of the bowl games as well. It's bad enough that we get screwed out of a playoff by the BCS, but that system has now ruined the postseason to one of the greatest college football seasons ever!

Since it's never too early to start mentioning...

COMING DECEMBER 2007

College Football Weekly Presents
The 7th Annual Bowl Pick 'Em

With BRAGGING RIGHTS on the line...

Previous Winners

2001-2: Zach Fuller
2004-5: Kent Miller

2002-3: Kent Miller
2005-6: Josh Hopkins
2007-8: TBD

2003-4: Kent Miller
2006-7: Philip Moreshead

Questioning the BCS:

WHO?

Part 4 in a 4 part series: Who would make a playoff in 2007?

Three weeks ago, this series began with a look at the colossal failure that is the BCS, college football's system of determining a national champion. Then the idea of a playoff was set up and rigorously defended. Last week, a more in-depth look at the playoff was taken, as the 8-team playoff was proposed and applied to 2006. There's really not a whole lot left to be said, but some closure is still necessary. Yet again, the BCS has left all of college football in disappointment; there are too many deserving teams that will not get their opportunity. As such, it is now time to apply an 8-team playoff to 2007. The first order is to establish the field of teams and the seeding. As has previously been established, an average of the AP poll, the Coaches' poll, the Harris poll, and the computer rankings would be used to determine seeding and potential at-large bids; also only teams ranked in the top 12 of this average are eligible. Here is how that shakes out:

	AP	Coaches	Harris	Computers	Average
1. Ohio State*	1	1	1	3	1.5
2. LSU*	2	2	2	2	2
3. Oklahoma*	3	3	3	6	3.75
4. Virginia Tech*	5	5	6	1	4.25
5. Georgia	4	4	4	6	4.5
6. Missouri	7	7	7	4	6.25
7. USC*	6	6	5	9	6.5
8. Kansas	8	8	8	5	7.25
9. West Virginia*	11	9	9	10	9.75
10. Hawaii*	10	10	10	12	10.5
11. Arizona State	12	11	12	8	10.75
12. Florida	9	12	11	11	10.75

Final Standings: **bold** denotes playoff berth, * denotes conference champion

Ohio State, LSU, Oklahoma, Virginia Tech, USC, and West Virginia are all in because they won BCS Conferences (Big 10, SEC, Big 12, ACC, Pac-10, and Big East; respectively), and Hawaii is in because they are the top-ranked non-BCS team. Georgia, being next in line, takes the only at-large bid. This sets up the following first round playoff games:

- #1 Ohio State vs. Hawaii, played in Columbus, OH
- #2 LSU vs. West Virginia, played in Baton Rouge, LA
- #3 Oklahoma vs. USC, played in Norman, OK
- #4 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia, played in Blacksburg, VA

Semi-finals would be played in the Orange Bowl and the Rose Bowl, while the championship would be played in the Sugar Bowl. The Fiesta Bowl is the 'odd' Bowl out of the rotation in 2007. These sites are based on the rotation that was established for the 2006 playoff. This is good, but what's the good in presenting a playoff without simulating it? Originally, the plan was to simulate these games in NCAA Football '08, but the results were not befitting of the greatness of the playoff, largely based on screwy stats and preconceived preseason rankings. Luckily, ESPN.com presented a way to simulate playoffs using AccuScore, which was calibrated based on the 2007 season. (Visit www.accuscore.com for more details.) Here are the results of that simulation:

2007 Playoff Simulation











It is worth noting that Georgia actually won more of the simulations, but OU won the average, proving that this truly would be a National Championship Game for the ages. It is also worth pointing out that OU does not have the opportunity to win the Championship in real life, nor does Georgia.

The last four weeks the BCS has been on trial; the hard questions have been asked: Why is the BCS a failure? What is a better solution? How would a playoff work? Who would make the playoff a success in 2007? Every question has been answered, and the answers all form a devastating case against the BCS. But there is still one more question: When? When will be BCS be abandoned in favor of a playoff? Tragically, I cannot answer this question; only College Presidents can, and so far, they haven't.

2007-8 Predictions Reviewed

A postseason exclusive!!!






CONFERENCES

	<p>Virginia Tech def. Florida State Boston College</p>	<p>The biggest surprises in the ACC this year were Virginia and BC; it's almost a pity that those two teams didn't meet for the title. Congrats to me, however, for having this one at least half-right.</p>
	<p>Michigan Ohio State</p>	<p>Ohio State didn't win the Big 10, as much as they were the last team standing when the entire thing fell apart. 2007 was just not a very good year for the conference that can't count.</p>
	<p>Texas Oklahoma def. Nebraska Missouri</p>	<p>The Big 12 rebounded in a big way in 2007 with OU looking dominant in most of their games and the North division resurrecting under unlikely Mizzou and Kansas. Look out: the Big12 is back on the radar!</p>
	<p>West Virginia</p>	<p>The Big East provided a rollercoaster ride as USF, UConn, and Cincinnati all gave WVU a run for their money to win the conference title, but in the end, Pat White was just too much (when healthy).</p>
	<p>Southern Miss UCF def. Tulsa</p>	<p>I was dead on with Tulsa, but I certainly didn't see UCF and Kevin Smith (or his ridiculous 2448 rush yards) coming.</p>
	<p>Central Michigan def. Miami (OH)</p>	<p>I don't know how I picked this one; it sort of baffles me...but it does make me more credible from a prediction standpoint: hooray for me!</p>
	<p>TCU BYU</p>	<p>The MWC has a couple of good teams in BYU and TCU, both of which may have an outside shot at the ever elusive BCS game (should Hawaii stumble); I give TCU the advantage because BYU lost their offense.</p>
	<p>USC</p>	<p>Not unlike the Big East, the Pac-10 looked to go to an unlikely team like Oregon or Arizona State, but in the end USC was able to pull out a 6th straight conference championship, once again proving me right</p>

	<p>LSU def. Florida Tennessee</p>	<p>Let's be honest, here: LSU is lucky that they didn't have to play either Florida or Georgia in the SEC Title game because they probably would have lost.</p>
	<p>Troy Florida Atlantic</p>	<p>I think that it says a lot about the Sun Belt that Florida Atlantic won that conference. You know, if 1aa Appalachian State was in the Sun Belt, they may have run the table.</p>
	<p>Hawaii</p>	<p>For the second straight year, the WAC Champion has gone undefeated and will appear in a BCS Bowl; seriously, the Pac-10 needs to get on the ball and raid this conference already!</p>

BCS GAMES

BCS GAMES

	<p>Oklahoma USC vs. Michigan Illinois</p>	<p>Well, the BCS predictions didn't really pan out to well, seeing that I only got one team right, but it's always difficult to predict match-ups that are decided arbitrarily. However, out of 10 potential BCS spots, I did correctly predict 6 of the teams, which isn't too shabby. Also, three of the teams I got wrong (Florida, Wisconsin, and Michigan) are all in New Years Day Bowls, so I wasn't too far off. The worst pick I had was Texas. I would also contend that Kansas and Illinois are really BCS-worthy teams, but the teams that would likely replace them would be Missouri and Arizona State, which I didn't have either.</p>
	<p>LSU Hawaii vs. Texas Georgia</p>	
	<p>Wisconsin Oklahoma vs. Hawaii West Virginia</p>	
	<p>Florida Kansas vs. Virginia Tech</p>	
	<p>USC LSU vs. West Virginia Ohio State</p>	

BANNED LIST

78.99% OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL ... AND RISING

Teams no longer allowed in the top 15 because of four or more losses. **Bold** denotes a new entry. An * means that, at some point in the year, they were in the Power Rankings.

Akron	Purdon't
Alabama	Rice
Arizona	Rutgers*
Arkansas	San Diego State
Arkansas State	San Jose State
Army	SMU
Auburn*	South Carolina*
Ball State	Southern Miss
Baylor	Stanford
Bowling Green	Syracuse
Buffalo	TCU
California*	Temple
Central Michigan	Tennessee*
Colorado	Texas A&M
Colorado State	Texas Tech
Duke	Toledo
East Carolina	Tulane
Eastern Michigan	Tulsa
Florida Atlantic	UAB
Florida International--STILL WINLESS	UCLA*
Florida State	UL-Lafayette
Fresno State	UL-Monroe
Georgia Tech*	UNLV
Houston	Utah
Idaho	Utah State
Indiana	UTEP
Iowa	Wake Forest
Iowa State	Washington
Kansas State	Washington State
Kent State	Western Kentucky
Kentucky*	Western Michigan
Louisiana Tech	Wyoming
Louisville*	Vanderbilt
Marshall	
Maryland	
Memphis	
Miami (FL)	
Miami (OH)	
Michigan*	
Michigan State	
Middle Tennessee	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Mississippi State	
Navy	
Nebraska	
Nevada	
New Mexico	
New Mexico State	
North Carolina	
North Carolina State	
North Texas	
Northern Illinois	
Northwestern	
Notre Dame	
Ohio	
Oklahoma State	
Oregon*	
Oregon State	
Penn State*	
Pittsburgh	