

# Gridiron rivalries produce spirited mayhem

November marks the start of the heart of many football schedules at universities across the nation. It is a time when pride is on the line as teams meet their archivals.

*U. The National College Newspaper* asked college editors and sportswriters to report on what makes these rivalries tick. Each reporter was asked to cover a region of the country.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive. *U.* recognizes some bias, especially when a reporter looked at a rivalry involving his or her respective school. Nevertheless, these examples reflect the spirit of rivalries nationwide.

## SOUTHEAST

By Christopher J. Rings

■ The Miami Hurricane  
U. of Miami, FL

**U. of Notre Dame at U. of Miami, Nov. 25** — Although relatively new among college football rivalries, the U. of Miami-U. of Notre Dame series has quickly blossomed into a war that transcends football. It is most clearly a battle between old and new.

Notre Dame represents tradition in college football. In contrast, the Miami Hurricanes — the "Team of the '80s" — have developed a flashy, pro-like passing offense and have strayed off the standard path of college football — a path the Irish cut.

Although they trail in the overall series (6-14-1), Miami has won five of the seven times the teams have met in the '80s. Hurricane fans didn't really consider the series a rivalry until last season when the Irish defeated Miami in a game that decided the National Championship seven weeks before the season ended.

And the rivalry has gotten nasty. So nasty that after this year's game, the two teams won't meet again in regular season play until 1992.

**U. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa at Auburn U., Dec. 2** — U. of Alabama and Auburn U. have wrangled for state superiority in the Iron Bowl since before football players wore helmets. The Auburn Tigers won the initial meeting in 1892, but the Crimson Tide holds a 30-22-1

series edge.

For an 18-game stretch, the rivalry was as much a contest between coaches as players, with Alabama coaching great Paul "Bear" Bryant and Auburn's Shug Jordan matching wits. Bryant won five national titles during that period.

Traditionally, the game is played on neutral ground in Birmingham, but this year, Auburn will play host to the Tide in the season finale for both teams.

**U. of Georgia at U. of Florida, Nov. 18** — U. of Georgia is safe until at least 2009. Why? Because the Bulldogs hold a 20-game, 42-22-2 advantage over the Gators in a rivalry that started in 1915.

The game is played each year at the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., less than an hour from Georgia's southern

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ALAN GIBSON, THE LONG BEACH UNION, CAL STATE U., LONG BEACH

## NORTHEAST

By Lori Shontz

■ The Penn State Daily Collegian  
Pennsylvania State U.

**Army vs. Navy, at the Meadowlands Dec. 9** — The biggest football rivalry in the Northeast started before the U.S. Military Academy even had a team. In 1892, some Midshipmen from the Naval Academy stopped in West Point and challenged some Army Cadets to a game. "We didn't have a team, but once we were challenged we got one," said Madeline Salarni of Army sports information.

Once the rivalry started, the teams alternated playing sites. Because distance prevented the visiting school from sending fans, Army plebes — first-year students — were forced to cheer for Navy when Army hosted the game and vice-versa.

Today, all of the more than 4,000

cadets and midshipmen attend the game. In fact, all students from each school march onto the field before the game begins.

**Pennsylvania State U. at U. of Pittsburgh, Nov. 25** — Penn State and Pitt have met on the field 89 years in what is known as the battle for Pennsylvania. "And there's a big difference between the two schools — Pitt's urban, Penn State's in a country setting. So the differences enhance the rivalry even more," said Kimball Smith, Pitt's sport information director.

The Penn State student section often becomes frenzied when the Panthers visit. "My freshman year, there were all kinds of fights on the field and the stadium," Penn State senior Dana Pennett said. "It was crazy, the goalposts came down and everything." Many Penn State students don't care if the Lions lose every game of the year, as long as they beat the

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## WEST

**UCLA at USC, Nov. 18** — Most rivalries involve teams within the same state, but very few involve perennial powers whose campuses are located only 15 miles apart. The Pacific Ten Conference Championship has been on the line 34 times in the game's 60-year history with USC leading the series, 33-19-6.

Each year, both UCLA's Bruin statue and USC's Tommy Trojan statue are covered with canvas and plastic during the week before the game. This practice was begun in the 1950s soon after several UCLA fans rented a helicopter and dropped manure on Tommy Trojan.

**U. of Arizona at Arizona State U., Nov. 25** — Guarding the 'A' that sits atop a mountain next to Arizona State U.'s home stadium is a chief concern of State students. Each year the game is played in Tempe, including two years ago when the Arizona State U. radio station

promised 24-hour security, U. of Arizona fans climb the mountain and paint the 'A' blue and red — Arizona colors.

The rivalry between the two runs deep in all sports. "They can meet from tiddly-winks to any sport, and people get fired up around here," said Jeff Munn, sports information student assistant at Arizona State U. Arizona leads the series 35-26-1.

**U. of California, Berkeley at Stanford U., Nov. 18** — Known as the Big Game, the rivalry between the California Golden Bears and the Stanford Cardinal, which leads the series 43-37-11, started in 1892. College football buffs no doubt remember an infamous incident in the 1982 game where a Stanford kick-off with seconds left resulted in five laterals and a California score to tie the game. What made the incident infamous, aside from Stanford losing a bowl bid, was when the

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## MIDWEST

By Bob Pockrass

■ The Indiana Daily Student  
Indiana U.

**Ohio State U. at U. of Michigan, Nov. 25** — The U. of Michigan Wolverines have a rivalry with almost every opponent, but the one with the greatest impact in the Big Ten Conference is against the Buckeyes of Ohio State U. Always played during the final week of the conference season, the game has helped decide 28 Big Ten championships.

Former Buckeye running back Archie Griffin, the nation's only two-time Heisman Trophy winner, said from the first day of spring practice through gameday, players and coaches talk about the Michigan game.

"Former players would come in and talk, and the coach is at his best in speechmaking," Griffin said.

If Ohio State beats Michigan, players are given a gold pendant shaped like a pair of pants. It symbolizes that Michigan players are a normal team — they put their pants on one leg at a time — as well as "beating the pants off of Michigan," said Griffin, who is now an assistant athletic director at OSU.

**Purdue U. at Indiana U., Nov. 25** — Even if Indiana and Purdue universities don't have the prowess of Michigan or Notre Dame, these two Indiana schools have a special rivalry that focuses on the "Old Oaken Bucket." The bucket was found on a farm in southern Indiana 63 years ago. Each year, a bronze block is added with either an 'I' or 'P' depending on who won the game.

**U. of Oklahoma at U. of Nebraska, Nov. 18** — Possibly the greatest rivalry occurs between a school from the Midwest and a school from the Southwest — Big Eight rivals U. of Oklahoma and U. of Nebraska.

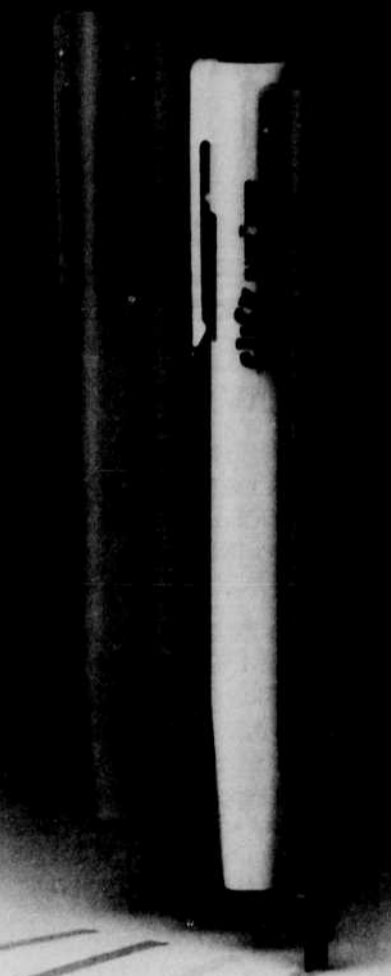
Nebraska junior John Doxon said parties are abundant during game week-end, whether the game is to decide the Big Eight Championship or not. At those parties, Doxon said not too many Oklahoma Sooners fans can be found. Oklahoma T-shirts and other Sooners items are torched by unyielding students.

No matter what the score, nobody leaves early from a Oklahoma-Nebraska game, Doxon said.

**U. of Kansas at Kansas State U., Oct. 28** — Despite both teams' recent lack of luster on the football field, fans usually turn out in droves for this intrastate rivalry. In 1982 when Kansas

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