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SPORTS

Bowl system needs championship game

FROM THE SIDELINES
BY JAYSON JACOBY

As another college football season gets closer to that all important date of Nov. 17, when the various bowl bids are sent out, the controversy begins anew over the fairness of the current system used to determine the national champion.

The arguments haven't changed much. Proponents of the bowl system respond to criticism by asserting that — most years, anyway — a clear national champion emerges by virtue of a superior record.

Opponents of the bowl system dispute this claim, pointing to such years as 1984, when Brigham Young went 11-0 and was named national champion, angering many people who felt BYU's Western Athletic Conference schedule was so much weaker than that of other national contenders such as Miami (Fla.) that the Cougars' unblemished record didn't really mean much.

And then there are the years when The Associated Press and the United Press International polls don't agree on a national champion, in which case the NCAA recognizes co-champions. That just doesn't cut it with most college football fans.

It happened just last year when Colorado, which didn't lose a game but was tied once, was named co-champion with undefeated Georgia Tech. Those two teams should have played each other, rather than facing other teams in separate bowl games. Co-champions is an oxymoron, anyway.

It could be even worse this season, as the top three teams: Florida State, Miami and Washington are all currently undefeated. Florida State and Miami will play Nov. 16, but it appears very likely that two of

those three teams will finish the season undefeated and ranked first and second.

This would set up a classic national championship game, but because of the archaic bowl system, which would lock Pacific-10 champion Washington into the Rose Bowl against the Big-10 Conference winner, it can't happen. Florida State and Miami are both independents, and the winner of their showdown will likely play in the Sugar or Orange Bowl.

Then the national champion will either be determined when one of the two teams loses its bowl game. Or like last year, they might both win, resulting in another co-championship and fans across the country talking for years about which team would have won the head-to-head battle.

College football doesn't need that kind of ambiguous, unsatisfying ending. The NCAA doesn't use such a system for basketball, and the professional sports certainly don't, either.

The bowl system certainly shouldn't be abolished — that's not the point. But the first- and second-ranked teams at the end of the regular season should meet in a playoff to determine the national champion. It's the only way a true champion can be determined.

Baseball fans this past week have been treated to one of the greatest World Series battles in history. Five games were one-run affairs, and four, including Sunday night's 1-0 game seven triumph by the Twins, were decided on the last pitch of the game. Both are Series records.

But even more improbable than Kirby Puckett's 11th-inning homer to win game six, even more unbelievable than Series MVP Jack Morris' masterful domination of the Braves in game seven, were the contributions of the so-called "little

guys" from both teams.

The one who will be remembered the longest is probably Twins' pinch-hitter Gene Larkin, who won the Series by driving in Dan Gladden. Larkin had batted only three times in the first six games.

But the biggest surprise had to be Atlanta second baseman Mark Lemke. A lifetime .225 hitter, Lemke led the Braves with a .417 batting average for the Series. He won game three with an RBI single in the 12th inning and scored the winning run in game four after hitting a triple. Lemke then had two more triples in Atlanta's 14-5 game five rout.

Lemke's heroics were definitely a source of inspiration for "little guys" everywhere.

One big guy who has recently been brought down a little is Mike Tyson. A few weeks ago, Emerald sports reporter Dave Charbonneau wrote about Tyson in this column, coming to the conclusion that the former heavyweight champion was a "jerk." Well, it appears that this particular jerk has earned his just desserts.

Tyson's championship bout with Evander Holyfield, which had been scheduled for Nov. 8, was canceled last week after Tyson injured a rib during a sparring session. With Tyson scheduled to face rape charges in January, it doesn't appear likely that the Holyfield-Tyson fight will ever happen.

Now either Tyson was feeling less than confident about his upcoming bout with Holyfield, and decided to get out while he could, or he needs to get weaker sparring partners. In which case he should probably consider himself lucky, anyway.

Besides, the jerk doesn't need the money.

Jayson Jacoby is an Emerald sports reporter.

R.I.M. RESULTS

Football

Thursday, Oct. 24
Score/League
Phi Purple '2' d. Delta Upsilon 12-0/M2
Phi Delta B d. Flag Burners 6-0/M2
Team '5' d. Danny O'Neil 2-0 — forfeit/M2
Delta Tau Delta d. Traypzin M.F.'s 34-0/M2
Kappa Sigma 2A d. Sigma Nu B 19-0/M2
Pike '2' d. Cherry Bombing 6-6 (by offensive yardage)/M2
Yabba Grabba Brew d. SAE '2' 7-6/M2

KIM Flag/Kazzle Dazzle Football

Sunday, Oct. 27

Beta '1' d. Bombers 27-8
Ball Hogs d. Chi Psi '1' — forfeit
KGBs d. TKE '1' 22-15

Volleyball

Thursday, Oct. 24
Score/League
Air Spikers Remton T. d. Rim Job 2-0/M3
The Beginners d. Dunnfor Fun 2-0/C3
Los Companeros d. Posers in Action 2-0/C3
Still on Hawaii Time d. Newman Lazars 2-1/C3
S.D. Hammers d. International '3'

2-1/C3

Indoor Soccer

Thursday, Oct. 24
International '2' d. Phi Psi B1 5-2
Kappa Sigma '1' d. #675309 13-1
Watson Wilderbeasts d. Sigma Epsilon '2' — forfeit
Thin Lizzy d. Sledgehammers 1-0
LCC Men d. Sigma Alpha Epsilon 6-5
Bavarians d. Phi '1' 7-0
International '1' 1 B.F. 4-4
Theta Chi '2' d. Kappa Sigma '2' — forfeit
Mean Green d. Sigma Epsilon 5-0
Team Norway d. Indoor Fish 4-3
International '3' d. LCC Coed 2-0

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