

Coalition hasn't stopped disputes

It isn't often the answers to the problems of college football are found in the lyrics of an old country music song.

However, I can't help but think that the bigwigs of college football should have taken a listen to Hank Williams Jr. before voting in its new solution to "Who's No. 1."

"This is the coalition to ban coalitions," Bocephus said.

The coalition was the latest brainchild of college football, and was designed to determine a national champion. The idea, at its best, would have the best two teams in the country meet in a national championship game. At its worst, it only further confuses the already baffling world of football.

This plan was doomed from the start because certain conferences are already tied into certain bowl games and there was no way to be sure that the top two teams could meet. For example, if one of the top two teams was from the Big 10 or Pacific-10 Conference and the other wasn't, the 1-2 matchup would be impossible because each conference sends its champion to the Rose Bowl.

Just as the coalition is beginning to be understood and implemented, complaints are beginning to fly. Reports out of South Bend, Ind., this week had Notre Dame upset with the process and ready to pull out of the coalition after this year. As everyone should know by now, Notre Dame always ends up getting what it wants from the NCAA.

This is really getting silly, as every college football season comes to an end with people screaming for a playoff. It's about time the NCAA either designs a playoff or puts a 100-



STEVE MIMS

year ban on a playoff, so the talk of such a tournament is stopped.

For now, let's consider the first option: a playoff.

Step one for a playoff is to stop having games run into the last week of November or early December. This would mean putting an end to the late games that take place every year in Hawaii, Japan, etc., along with a certain conference's championship game. Each team would begin its season the first or second week of September and play 11 games, no more and no less.

The top eight teams in the country at the end of the season qualify for the playoffs. We'll call it the Carquest National Championships or something. The bowl games don't even have to be eliminated, as the teams that don't qualify for the playoffs can play in the lesser bowls, while the more prestigious ones host the playoffs. Each year the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, etc., rotate between first and second rounds and the title game.

One of the biggest arguments against a playoff is that students miss too much school by playing so many games. In this scenario, students take a break from playing games at the end of November (just in time to hit the books before finals at many schools). The playoff would begin in mid-December and run through New Year's Day, while schools are in Christmas vacation.

Meanwhile, while we wait for the NCAA to debate this proposal, let's put our attention toward figuring out who is No. 1 this year. One of the reasons the coalition was expected to help was because usually only two teams emerge as legitimate championship contenders.

This year there are five teams that can make claims to being No. 1. West Virginia and Nebraska are undefeated, but are considered to have played a patsy schedule. Auburn is also undefeated, but ineligible for postseason because of probation. Florida State and Notre Dame have one loss, but are considered by many to be the most talented teams in the country.

Florida State and Nebraska will eventually meet in the national title game, and West Virginia will go to whichever bowl gives it the most cash and is realistically out of the national title chase. But why should a team that has done everything asked of it not have a chance at the title?

If you think that's a tough question to answer, try this one. If Notre Dame and Florida State each have one loss, and the Irish beat FSU, why are the Seminoles ranked two notches higher than Notre Dame? The real answer to this is, believe it or not, because the Seminoles lost first and had time to rise back to the top.

It is at this point in most college football arguments that the idea of a playoff is usually brought up. Yet, anyone who has followed the sport for any length of time should have realized by now that the idea makes way too much sense for it to ever have a chance.

Steve Mims is the sports editor of the Emerald.

West Virginia, ND waiting for bowl

(AP) — West Virginia and Notre Dame are now playing a waiting game to find out their destinations on New Year's Day.

The No. 3 Mountaineers (11-0) are ready to accept an invitation to the Sugar Bowl to play either No. 9 Florida or No. 16 Alabama. But Sugar Bowl officials balked at moving up Sunday's bowl pairing deadline in hopes they can land the No. 5 Fighting Irish (10-1), who generate higher television ratings and are an endorsement magnet.

"It was determined in the best interest of the USF&G Sugar Bowl ... that we follow the rules, regulations and guidelines of the coalition, waiting until Sunday morning to re-evaluate all football on Saturday," said Troy Mathieu, the bowl's executive director.

But if the Sugar Bowl really does want the Irish, as many have speculated, then it needs help.

In order for it to land Notre Dame, based on bowl coalition rules, it needs Florida (9-2) to beat Alabama (8-2-1) in the Southeastern Conference title game Saturday and move ahead of No. 7 and Cotton Bowl-bound Texas A&M (10-1) in the rankings.

The bowl coalition rankings combine The Associated Press media poll and the USA Today-CNN coaches' poll. In the bowl poll, Texas A&M is seventh and Florida 10th, 373 points behind

the Aggies.

If the Aggies remain ahead of the Gators, the Cotton Bowl would have first choice between the Irish and Mountaineers and would end up with Notre Dame because West Virginia would opt for the higher-paying Sugar Bowl.

There is the possibility the Mountaineers could feel snubbed by the Sugar and opt for the Cotton, with a payout of \$3 million per team. The Sugar would get the Irish in that case.

But that won't happen because the extra \$1.15 million the Mountaineers can earn in the \$4.15 million Sugar Bowl is a lot for a team that's only grossed more than \$1 million in

a bowl twice.

Plus, the Mountaineers reportedly only have to share about \$30,000 to \$40,000 of their bowl earnings with the Big East.

West Virginia athletic director Ed Pastilong is confident the rankings will remain stable.

"There's a minimal chance that the rankings would change," Pastilong said. "One possibility is we may move up. However, I do not anticipate the rankings making a major change."

"The president-elect of the Sugar Bowl will be here with us Saturday and Sunday, and as according to the coalition contract, the invitations may be extended to Dec. 5. At such time, it will be done."

**Right Here
On Campus!**

Word Processing and Editing
Graphics, Fax, and Resumé Services

FOOTNOTES
emu room 34
346-2859

low cost student services

ORIENTAL MARKET

- Large selection of Asian foods: Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Indonesian, etc.
- Dishes as Korean delicacies including Kimchi and sushi.
- Oriental and western health food.
- Asian video tape rentals.
- Parking lot available for your convenience.
- Wholesale and retail prices.

1000 N. Oregon Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97227
Tel: 325-8888

Holiday Gift Books!!!

Collectible & New

All '94 Calendars **20% OFF** Gift Certificates Available

Great Selection Of Cookbooks **50% OFF** or greater **BOOK BIN**

Pacific University offers an innovative twelve-month

**FIFTH-YEAR
MASTER OF ARTS
IN TEACHING
PROGRAM**

Classes and internships are offered in both the Portland and Eugene areas. Join our growing programs leading to Oregon licensure in Elementary or Secondary Education. Graduates also qualify for initial licensure in Washington and California.

Campus program begins June 1994
Application deadline: February 15, 1994

Lane County program begins January 1995
Application deadline: October 1, 1994

**PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY**

O R E G O N

Office of Admissions: (503) 359-2218 or 1-800-677-6712

Do your part
to make the world
a better place.

Help save an
endangered species.

The Party Animal

Guido's

Doing our part to help better the
world for everybody.

- Monday Country • Tuesday Mania
- Wednesday Disco • Thursday Mug Night