

Sugar Bowl not so sweet after alliance takeover

■ **BOWL GAMES:** Under the bowl alliance, the Sugar Bowl has lost some of its national prominence

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — It used to be so easy for the Sugar Bowl. The Southeastern Conference champion played the highest ranked team the bowl could attract, sometimes with the national championship at stake.

Not anymore.

Since the bowl alliance took over, the only thing known for sure is that the Sugar Bowl won't decide this year's national title. And with no automatic bid for any conference, making the selection is tougher than ever.

"Now we start off not knowing who either of the two teams will be," said Sugar Bowl executive director Troy Mathieu.

With only a few games left in the regular season, Mathieu said he still doesn't know which teams will be playing in New Orleans on New Year's Eve.

The Fiesta Bowl is expected to have a 1-2 showdown between Nebraska and Florida. The Orange Bowl and Sugar Bowl, which make up the rest of the alliance, then get to pick from a pool of teams that include Notre Dame and the champions or co-champs of the Atlantic Coast (Florida State), Big East (Virginia Tech or Miami) and Southwest (the Texas-Texas A&M winner) conferences.

After the Fiesta gets the first two picks, the Orange selects third and fifth. The Sugar gets the No. 4 and No. 6 selections.

"We're in a reactive mode to the Orange bowl on both picks," Mathieu said. "They have the first move and then we get what's left. We can't control our destiny."

However, the Sugar Bowl can control the Orange Bowl's destiny.

The Orange Bowl apparently wants No.

6 Notre Dame and No. 22 Miami, although No. 8 Florida State also may be under consideration.

The Sugar seems to favor Florida State and Texas, if the Longhorns beat Texas A&M. However, Virginia Tech also is believed to be on the Sugar's list.

If the Orange decides it wants a Notre Dame-Florida State game, that complicates things for the Sugar Bowl.

If the Sugar wants Virginia Tech, that complicates things for a Notre Dame-Miami Orange Bowl because only one Big East team can play in the alliance.

But what if the Orange takes Miami with its first pick? Or what if, to head off the Sugar Bowl, the Orange picks Florida State? If that happens, Mathieu admits the Sugar would be interested in Notre Dame with its huge television and crowd appeal.

"Every bowl is always interested in Notre Dame," Mathieu said.

No. 13 Virginia Tech doesn't have the national appeal of the other schools, but the Hokies are still a possibility for the Sugar Bowl, Mathieu said.

"They bring an attribute every bowl likes — they travel well," Mathieu said. "In other words, they bring people to our city and have a positive impact on the economy. That's why bowls are set up."

In addition to the crowd a team will attract, the television rankings it will draw are another factor, and that could be a negative for Tech.

"We're the only game in that time period," Mathieu said. "But if you don't have the type of match up that will get people to turn their televisions on, you may not get good ratings."

Poll rankings also are important in the selection. The Sugar Bowl board will meet this week to begin discussions, but won't make its decision until the final regular season poll comes out Dec. 3, Mathieu said.

McTyre: Miami proves the bowl alliance has some flaws

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been made time and again but really, something needs to be done. College football is great because of game-winning situations like the contests of last weekend, in which two teams are so evenly matched that the winner isn't decided until the closing moments.

But if things stay the same, and some sort of playoff system isn't set in place, the many blowout games of the regular season — like the Nebraska-Oklahoma game — will continue to overtake the postseason matchups.

Personally, I'm one that likes to

see a game that goes to the whistle. They're exciting, heartbreaking, and sometimes worthwhile to watch even if it's Rutgers versus Boston College.

The last thing I have to gripe about is the high possibility that Miami will get an invitation to either the Orange or Sugar Bowl — the other two alliance games which are worth \$8 million to each participating school. If you've got a better joke for me please send it to the Emerald.

Mark McTyre is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald.

MONDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AL

■ **OAKLAND ATHLETICS**—Named Jim Bloom director of public relations; Teddy Santiago media relations manager; and Mike Selleck baseball information manager.

NL

■ **COLORADO ROCKIES**—Signed Vinny Castilla, third baseman, to two-year contract.
■ **FLORIDA MARLINS**—Announced Darrell Whitmore, outfielder, cleared waivers and has been assigned to Charlotte of the International League.
■ **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**—Signed Sid Fernandez, pitcher, to a one-year contract.

NORTHERN LEAGUE

■ **NL**—Announced the purchase of the Thunder Bay Whiskey Jacks by a group from Scranton, Pa. led by Bill Terlecky.

BASKETBALL

■ **VANCOUVER GRIZZLIES**—Traded Benoit Benjamin, center, to the Milwaukee Bucks for Eric Murdock, guard, and Eric Mobley, center.

FOOTBALL

NFL

■ **NEW YORK JETS**—Released Todd Scott, safety.
■ **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**—Signed Art Monk, wide receiver, to a one-year contract.

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

■ **CFL**—Announced the resignation of Mike Murray, vice-president of communications.
■ **TORONTO ARGONAUTS**—Fired Bob O'Billovich, general manager.

HOCKEY

NHL

■ **ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS**—Recalled Dwayne Norris, right wing, and Oleg Mikulchik, defenseman, from Baltimore of the AHL.

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ **CHL**—Suspended Bill McDonald, Fort Worth Fire coach, one game and Vern Ray, Fort Worth defenseman, for two games for their conduct in the Nov. 24 game against the Memphis River Kings.

COLONIAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ **UTICA BLIZZARD**—Signed John Hendry, forward.

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

■ **DALLAS BURN**—Named Dave Dir coach.

COLLEGE

■ **FAIRFIELD**—Announced the resignation of Chris Tetto, assistant sports information director.
■ **RUTGERS**—Fired Doug Graber, football coach. Named Karyn Dziemian sports media relations assistant.
■ **TEXAS TECH**—Announced the resignation of Ken Murray, head trainer.

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1995

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)
Your instincts are right concerning certain people you can't trust. All in all, though, it's a good time for interests of the heart. The evening is favored for good times.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)
Someone close to you needs your help, particularly concerning a business matter. New opportunities arise to enable you to get ahead. Pay close attention to little details.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)
A certain project at work has you puzzled and facing some unanswered questions. Seek help from an expert. Strengthening your position in business is favored.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)
You are correct to feel that a loved one isn't being forthcoming. Try to get to the bottom of your loved one's reticence. In matters of the heart, it's wise to ground yourself in reality.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Before acting, be sure that the signals you're receiving are correct. Someone is being deliberately misleading, causing you some confusion. You have trouble making a decision.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Something you can't put your finger on is bothering you on the work front. People you need to reach aren't easy to get in touch with. At home, harmony reigns in the evening.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Your financial picture isn't clear, as there are mixed trends affecting it. Later in the day, though, there's good news about money. Someone is trying to take advantage of you.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

A loved one is feeling somewhat restricted by you and needs some space. Try not to be too overbearing and possessive. At night, you both enjoy getting together and sharing a good time.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
A bigwig is being evasive about a big project you've been asked to undertake. Anything that concerns travel or education is favored. The evening finds you relaxed and self-confident.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Tread carefully when it comes to financial dealings. There are some rather deceptive trends occurring that could mislead you. All in all, progress is made on the work front.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Despite what you'd like to believe, not everyone is being honest with you. At the same time, a loved one communicates well with you. Look for some high stepping fun at night.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)
On the one hand, you have some good news financially. Conversely, occurrences at work are a source of confusion. Share happy times with loved ones at home in the evening.

YOU BORN TODAY thrive when you're in a competitive situation and enjoy challenges as a result. Your natural talent leads you to business, banking or a position as a corporate bigwig. You are a very ethical person and have very strong spiritual inclinations and beliefs. Religion is an important facet of your life. You are in tune with what people want and can utilize this talent to your best advantage.

Birthdate of: Alexander Godunov, dancer; Ed Harris, actor; Hope Lange, actress.

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