

"Show me a guy who's afraid to look bad, and I'll show you a guy you can beat every time."

Hall of Fame member Lou Brock, who played 19 MLB seasons

■ In my opinion



SCOTT J. ADAMS
INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

A manifesto to improve football's postseason

Following the 2001 college football season, I told my peers what every sports columnist is telling the nation today: The Bowl Championship Series must be read its last rites and executed in favor of a playoff system.

I once favored determining the national champion by holiday season bowl games for the sake of tradition. But just as the nostalgia of Major League Baseball has been hampered by steroids, the nostalgia of bowls has been hampered by the BCS.

One month from now, off-campus watering holes nationwide will be full of college students asking what should be done with college football in light of their teams being snubbed out of a BCS bowl. I want them to cry "playoffs!" and demand change.

Playoffs would have the control of deciding a true national champion out of the hands of computers and biased-by-nature humans and put it into the hands of teams controlling their destinies on the field. The sport needs concrete evidence in the form of a 32-team playoff tree.

I'm aware that adding a potential five games to the season would be grueling for the players on the field and in the classroom, so let's adjust schedules. First, eliminate non-conference play. This will leave teams who fail to reach the playoffs with a decent amount of games to play. This will be done in the name of progress, which football is in dire need of. Eventually we're going to run out of bandages and gauze to patch up the BCS formula after its offseason makeover. Remember, the match-ups in the playoffs will feature marquee teams hailing from different conferences.

Next, we hand the 11 conference champions in Division I a ticket to the playoffs. With 21 spots left, we send invites to the remaining teams ranked in the Associated Press Poll leaving us with seven spots to fill. This is where things get sticky. We look at the seven conferences with the most teams in the AP Poll and the best records and ask their top teams without an invite to the playoffs to step forward and fill the bracket. This may leave room for controversy, but it's less than what the sport has dealt with in recent years.

Here's where we teach an old dog new tricks. We pre-rank the playoff teams and have them play at neutral sites that change yearly. For instance, we could have the semifinals featuring USC playing Alabama in the Fiesta Bowl or Texas facing Virginia Tech at the Rose Bowl. The present BCS coordinators can keep their jobs and determine venues for each playoff round in the off-season.

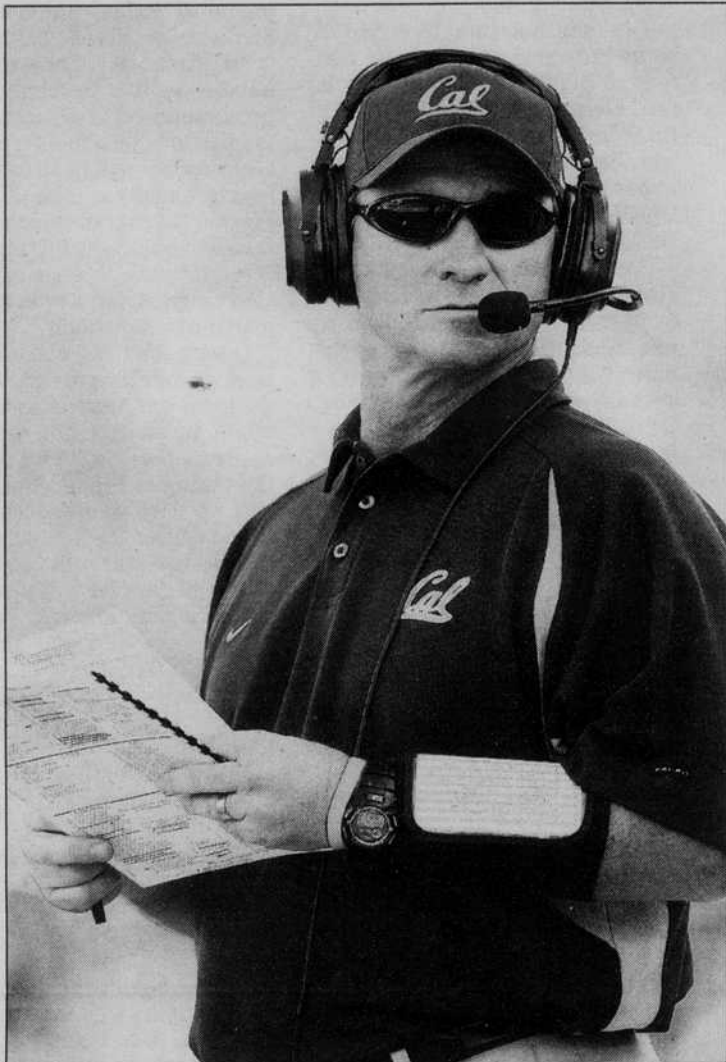
So there's my formula with its catchy, original name — the October Manifesto. If you criticize it, at least do college football a favor and think of something better than the ever-changing BCS, which amounts to the postseason tail wagging the BCS dog.

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■ Duck football

Ducks aim to avenge last year's loss

This Saturday marks the inaugural start under center for sophomore signal-caller Dennis Dixon



COURTESY

California head coach Jeff Tedford has resurrected the Bears' program in just more than three seasons. Tedford spent four seasons as Oregon's offensive coordinator.

BY LUKE ANDREWS
SPORTS REPORTER

This week, four years ago, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti and his offensive coordinator Jeff Tedford were preparing to take on Arizona State during Oregon's historic drive to the Fiesta Bowl in 2001.

Fast forward to the present: Bellotti and Tedford, current California Golden Bears coach, cross paths again. This time, they are preparing to face one other in a critical Pacific-10 Conference game Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

Tedford, who left Oregon in 2001 after his fourth season as offensive coordinator, has helped resurrect Cal into a perennial Pac-10 power.

The Bears (6-2 overall, 3-2 conference) are ranked 23rd and sit one spot below Oregon in the conference standings.

Tedford has amassed a 31-15 record since taking the reigns in Berkeley.

"I have great respect for Jeff and like him a lot," Bellotti said. "I respect what he's done there at Cal." Tedford is renowned as a

quarterback guru. Six current or former NFL quarterbacks studied under his tutelage, including former Ducks Akili Smith and Joey Harrington.

Trent Dilfer and David Carr at Fresno State and Kyle Boller and Aaron Rodgers at California are the other Tedford products.

Yet Cal's saving grace this season has not come from the quarterback position, but rather a one-two punch in the backfield with sophomores Justin Forsett and Marshawn Lynch.

"Marshawn Lynch, we knew coming into the season, is going to be one of the most explosive running backs in the nation," Bellotti said. "Little did we know they would have two

"Marshawn Lynch, we knew coming into the season, is going to be one of the most explosive running backs in the nation."

MIKE BELLOTTI | Oregon head coach

running backs like that." Twice this season, Forsett and Lynch have both gotten more than 100 rushing yards in the same game.

"You have to make sure you play really good, strong gap defense," said Oregon linebacker Anthony Trucks, who leads the Pac-10 in sacks with 5.5. "You get

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■ Club crew

Duck rowers place well in both divisions

Oregon's crew teams aim for consistency with dedicated leadership

BY WILL SEYMOUR
FREELANCE REPORTER

The University crew club started its fall season smoothly at the 41st Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Mass., Oct. 22-23. Both Oregon entries in the competition placed in the top 10 of the club division of the large meet. There are two more items on the club's schedule before winter training begins in preparation for the main rowing season in the spring.

The Head of the Charles Regatta is one of the biggest and most prestigious two-day rowing meets in the country. More than 1,700 boats and 7,000 athletes entered the 49 events. The Ducks brought two "fours" to the Regatta — boats powered by four rowers who are directed by a coxswain who does not row but is responsible for steering the best course.

By virtue of their performance in last year's event, the Oregon women earned a fourth seed out of 34 teams. The boat, with rowers Jen Fuller, Emily Buck, Caitlin Krutsinger, Rebeka Andrews and coxswain Kristen Bennett, acquitted itself well, placing 10th with a time of 19:57 on the more than



COURTESY

The Oregon men's crew team finished ninth out of 38 teams at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Mass., Oct. 22-23. They were seeded 36th heading into the final race.

2-mile long course.

The men's four, Will Ganser, Adam Fagan, Kennett Peterson and Niel Brown and with coxswain Laura Breedlove, started the day with a

36th seed out of 38 boats. They surprised the field, crossing the finish line in ninth place at 18:06.

Oregon's efforts were especially impressive because most of the

entrants were from other parts of the country which operate on a semester system, meaning they already had nearly a month's

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