

BOWL GLANCE

All times EST

SATURDAY, DEC. 16**Celebration Bowl:**
Atlanta; NC A&T (11-0) vs. Grambling State (11-1), Noon (ABC)**New Orleans Bowl:**
North Texas (9-4) vs. Troy (10-2), 1 p.m. (ESPN)**Cure Bowl:**
Orlando, Fla.; Georgia State (6-5) vs. Western Kentucky (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (CBSSN)**Las Vegas Bowl:**
Boise State (10-3) vs. Oregon (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)**New Mexico Bowl:**
Albuquerque; Colorado State (7-5) vs. Marshall (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)**Camellia Bowl:**
Montgomery, Ala.; Arkansas State (7-3) vs. Middle Tennessee (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)**TUESDAY, DEC. 19**
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl:
Akron (7-6) vs. FAU (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20**
Frisco (Texas) Bowl:
Louisiana Tech (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)**THURSDAY, DEC. 21**
Gasparilla Bowl:
St. Petersburg, Fla.; Temple (6-6) vs. FIU (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)**FRIDAY, DEC. 22**
Bahamas Bowl:
Nassau; Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl:**
Boise; Central Michigan (7-5) vs. Wyoming (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)**SATURDAY, DEC. 23**
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl:
South Florida (9-2) vs. Texas Tech (6-6), Noon (ESPN)**Armed Forces Bowl:**
Fort Worth, Texas; San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (8-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)**Dollar General Bowl:**
Mobile, Ala.; Appalachian State (8-4) vs. Toledo (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)**SUNDAY, DEC. 24**
Hawaii Bowl:
Honolulu; Fresno State (9-4) vs. Houston (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)**TUESDAY, DEC. 26**
Heart of Dallas Bowl:
West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)**Quick Lane Bowl:** Detroit; Northern Illinois (8-4) vs. Duke (6-6), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)**Cactus Bowl:** Phoenix; Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)**TOP PLAYERS TO WATCH****Clemson QB Kelly Bryant**

The emergence of Bryant has helped push the Tigers back into the College Football Playoff; he's completing more than 67 percent of his passes for 2,678 yards.

Alabama RB Damien Harris

He leads the team with 906 yards and 11 rushing touchdowns. He's a threat to score every time he touches the ball and averages 8.2 yards per carry.

Oklahoma QB Baker Mayfield

The Sooners' electrifying signal-caller is the odds-on favorite to win the Heisman Trophy after passing for 4,340 yards with 41 touchdowns while rushing for another 310 yards and five scores.

Georgia RB Nick Chubb

The senior is the second-leading rusher in SEC history. Although injuries have slowed him, he should be rested and ready for the biggest game of his career.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Atlanta • Jan. 8, 8 p.m.

TITLE FIGHT

Clemson and Alabama meet in the College Football Playoff for a third straight year, Oklahoma plays Georgia for the first time

It is probably going to be a while for fans who thought Big Ten champion Ohio State, or maybe some other team, should have been in the College Football Playoff to get past the selection of Alabama. The Crimson Tide had been more consistent this season and lost just once. The Buckeyes lost twice, including an embarrassing 31-point loss to unranked Iowa, but have the more impressive set of victories. Ohio

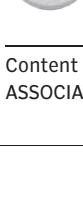
State won the Big Ten while Alabama did not even win its SEC division.

In the end, Alabama got in for being Alabama, the surest bet in college football and the only team to appear in every playoff since the first in 2014.

Meanwhile, this marks the first season that the Big Ten has been left out of the playoffs and the second time in four seasons that the Pac-12 was shut out.

Regardless of what you think, the games set up for this year's playoffs look to be pretty good. Recent history suggests Alabama and Clemson in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1 will be entertaining. Rarely in his college career has Baker Mayfield failed to deliver for Oklahoma, and Georgia brings one of the best defenses the Heisman front-runner has ever faced in a brilliant career to the Rose Bowl.

Simply having the games back on New Year's Day is probably reason for celebration.

OTHER NEW YEAR'S SIX GAMES

COTTON BOWL
Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2)

Fri. Dec. 29

8:30 p.m.

Arlington, Texas

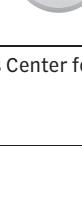


FIESTA BOWL
Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2)

Sat. Dec. 30

4 p.m.

Glendale, Ariz.



ORANGE BOWL
Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2)

Sat. Dec. 30

8 p.m.

Miami Gardens, Fla.



PEACH BOWL
UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3)

Mon. Jan. 1

12:30 p.m.

Atlanta

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ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

Independence Bowl:
Shreveport, La.; Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Pinstripe Bowl: Bronx, N.Y.; Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Foster Farms Bowl:
Santa Clara, Calif.; Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 8:30 p.m. (FOX)

Texas Bowl: Houston; Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

THURSDAY, DEC. 28
Military Bowl: Annapolis, Md.; Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (6-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Camping World Bowl:
Orlando, Fla.; Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl: San Antonio; Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl: San Diego; Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 9 p.m. (FOX)

FRIDAY, DEC. 29
Belk Bowl: Charlotte, N.C.; Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl:
El Paso, Texas; NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5), 3 p.m. (CBS)

Music City Bowl:
Nashville, Tenn.; Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl: Tucson, Ariz.; New Mexico State (5-6) vs. Utah State (6-6), 5:30 p.m. (CBSSN)

SATURDAY, DEC. 30
TaxSlayer Bowl: Jacksonville, Fla.; Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), Noon (ESPN)

Liberty Bowl: Memphis, Tenn.; Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

MONDAY, JAN. 1
Outback Bowl: Tampa, Fla.; Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)

Citrus Bowl: Orlando, Fla.; Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)

SATURDAY, JAN. 20
East-West Shrine Classic: St. Petersburg, Fla.; East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

NFLPA Collegiate Bowl:
Carson, Calif.; American vs. National, TBA (FS1)

SATURDAY, JAN. 27
Senior Bowl: Mobile, Ala.; North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)

Pro Football

NFL spokesman: Roger Goodell views new contract as his last

Goodell likely to step down as commissioner once contract expires

By SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Commissioner Roger Goodell views the agreement reached on an extension last week as his final contract overseeing the NFL, a league spokesman said Wednesday.

Goodell's extension through 2024 will allow him to help negotiate a new labor deal when the current collective bargaining agreement expires in 2021, and have a hand in talks over new broadcast contracts, spokesman Joe Lockhart said when announcing details of the deal signed last week.

"The commissioner I think

has been clear that he views this as his last contract and will allow him to deal with some of the important issues that we know are on the horizon," Lockhart said at the luxury Dallas-area hotel where NFL meetings were held.

The extension has been a source of controversy because powerful Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones objected to the process led by the six-owner compensation committee and chairman Arthur Blank of the Atlanta Falcons.

Lockhart said 90 percent of the contract will be incentive based, which he said was an increase in nonguaranteed income over previous deals.

A person with knowledge of the agreement has told The Associated Press the five-year extension is worth almost \$200



Goodell

million with a base salary of \$40 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the figures are not made public.

Goodell made nearly \$32 million in 2015, the last year public records of the NFL are available. League revenues have more than doubled

to \$14 million since Goodell replaced Paul Tagliabue in 2006.

Blank removed Jones as an ad-hoc member of the compensation committee after Jones threatened a lawsuit over the extension last month. Jones accused the committee of withholding details of negotiations from other owners and demanded the deal be presented to all owners even though they had voted unanimously in May to let the committee complete the contract.

Blank said Jones didn't have

a role in an increase in the part of Goodell's contract that isn't guaranteed, but that Jones did have input on possible changes to how the compensation committee is put together.

When the Cowboys and Falcons played last month in Atlanta, the respective owners skipped their customary pre-game talk on the field.

"I've got a great respect for Jerry," Blank said. "I spoke to him ... on the phone about a week and a half ago. It was a very good conversation. I thanked him, which I didn't get a chance to do, or chose not to do really, the time we played because I didn't think it was the right setting."

Blank said the committee's handling of Goodell's extension was the most transparent he has seen in 35 years, going back to the tenures of Tagliabue and Pete Rozelle. Blank said owners were updated in general meetings and

with multiple phone calls.

"We were not necessarily connected totally on how this process should have been handled," Blank said of his relationship with Jones. "We went to great lengths to make sure we were completely transparent."

Jones' dispute with Goodell surfaced in reports after the commissioner suspended star Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott for six games over alleged domestic violence in a case prosecutors in Ohio didn't pursue. Jones has denied the suspension was the impetus for his objections over the contract.

"I don't know that there's a rift going forward," Blank said. "I think that Jerry, he loves the league, he loves the Cowboys, he's very passionate about issues that he cares deeply about, which is great. I think it's important to have different voices in the room."