**Continued from B3** 

"You've got to face a little bit of adversity, and sometimes you're a little bit blinded by success if you don't have any hiccups along the way," Lawrence said this week.

Clemson (10-1) and Ohio State (6-0) meet in the playoff for the third time on Friday night, with the winner moving on to the national championship game against either No. 1 Alabama or No. 4 Notre Dame on Jan. 11 in suburban Miami.

Clemson has won both the previous CFP meetings with Ohio State.

Throw in an Orange Bowl with the Buckeyes that the Tigers also won in 2014 and Ohio State-Clemson feels like a budding rivalry.

It certainly sounded like one at times leading up the game, starting with Clemson coach Dabo Swinney's insisting that Ohio State's six-game schedule in this pandemic-altered season should not have been enough to earn a playoff spot.

Swinney slotted Ohio State 11th in his final coaches' poll ballot, explaining he didn't put any team with fewer than nine games in the top 10 — while also showering praise on the



Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence looks for a receiver during the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game against Notre Dame in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Dec. 19. Lawrence is looking to make one more championship run before he likely heads to the NFL.

Buckeyes and coach Ryan Day. "So people take it personal,

but it's nothing personal at all," Swinney said.

Day admitted with a grin on a Zoom news conference with Swinney this week that he was glad his counterpart wasn't on the College Football Playoff selection committee.

The Buckeyes have heard the complaints about their path to

the playoff.

We're going into this game not respected at all," Ohio State All-America offensive lineman Wyatt Davis said.

Rivalry? The Tigers do not seem to have really bought into the idea.

They have more beef with us than we have with them," Clemson receiver Amari Rodgers said.

"You've got to face a little bit of adversity, and sometimes you're a little bit blinded by success if you don't have any hiccups along the way."

— Trevor Lawrence, Clemson quarterback

It has all made for an interesting subplot to a game that will almost certainly be the final one in college for the losing junior quarterback. Lawrence and Fields, both Georgia natives and former five-star recruits in the same freshman class, are expected to be among the first few players selected in the 2021 NFL draft.

Lawrence is a Heisman Trophy finalist and the presumptive No. 1 overall pick. He led the Tigers to a national championship as a freshman and got them back to the title game last season. Clemson is 34-1 with Lawrence as the starter.

"He's as good as there's ever been," Swinney said. "I'll let other people argue if he's the best ever."

Fields was a Heisman finalist last year and followed that up with a mostly excellent performance in the playoff. In the first game he and Lawrence ever played against each other, Fields passed for 320 yards. His final throw was picked off in the end zone after the intended receiver slipped.

Clemson won 29-23 in a game Ohio State led 16-0 that featured a couple of critical close calls by the officials that went the Tigers way.

"So that has kind of been our whole motivation this offseason. Just getting the chance to play those guys again is a great opportunity," Fields said. "Of course, we know Clemson is a great team. Great coaching staff, great players. So we're just excited to be on the same stage as them and getting another chance to play those guys."

# Who's here?

Clemson will be without offensive coordinator and playcaller Tony Elliott, who is in COVID-19 protocol and did not make the trip to New Or-

Swinney said quarterbacks coach Brandon Streeter will fill Elliott's role in the coach's box. Former Clemson star C.J. Spiller, who has been working as an intern under Elliott, will be elevated to running backs

coach and be on the sideline.

Swinney said two players did not make the trip Wednesday to New Orleans, one walk-on and one scholarship player, but did not identify them.

As for Ohio State, they were scheduled to leave Columbus on Thursday after one more round of COVID-19 testing. The Buckeyes have been without numerous players their last two games because of virus protocols, though star receiver Chris Olave is expected back in the lineup.

"Full strength is a floating target right now," Day said.

### **Half empty**

Nolan Turner, the Clemson safety who picked off Fields a year ago, will not play the first half of the Sugar Bowl after being ejected for targeting in the second half of the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game against Notre Dame. Sophomore Joseph Charleston will get increased playing time with Turner unavailable.

### Mostly empty

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, only 3,000 fans are expected to be in attendance at the Superdome. Attendance for last season's title game with LSU and Clemson was 76,885.

# **Rose Bowl**

**Continued from B3** 

"We're just excited that we're going to keep banging at this door and we're going to get through."

These Irish (10-1) go into the relocated Rose Bowl on New Year's Day as three-touchdown underdogs against Alabama and the Tide's Heisman Trophy finalists, quarterback Mac Jones and receiver DeVonta Smith. The game was moved to AT&T Stadium from its traditional home in Pasadena because of COVID-19 restrictions in California that would have kept family — and any other fans — from attending.

When the Cotton Bowl at AT&T Stadium was a semifinal two years ago, Notre Dame lost 30-3 to eventual national champion Clemson in its only previous CFP appearance. The No. 2 Tigers, who avenged their only loss by beating the Irish 34-10 in the ACC title game, play Ohio State in this season's other semifinal Friday night at the Sugar Bowl.

The semifinal winners are scheduled to play Jan. 11 in

suburban Miami, where eight seasons ago in the BCS national championship game Alabama trounced Notre Dame 42-14 in the last meeting between the storied programs.

"Even after going undefeated that year, we lost in the national championship game, and we were looked at as not a very good football team," Kelly said. "We needed to look at the things that could help us grow. And we've been doing that each and every year."

Notre Dame is still trying to catch up with Alabama, which is in a CFP semifinal for the sixth time after missing the final four for the only time last year. The Tide are 4-0 at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, including 38-0 over Michigan State five seasons ago on the way to a national championship. They won another title, their fifth overall under coach Nick Saban, three seasons ago.

"It means a lot to come back here reach our destination, to keep on building the standard here," All-American cornerback Patrick Surtain II said.

"We just want to take advantage of where we're at," said



Gary Cosby Jr/The Tuscaloosa News via AP file

Alabama wide receiver DeVonta Smith (6) and quarterback Mac Jones (10) celebrate a touchdown during a game against Mississippi State in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in October. Alabama is a significant favorite in the College Football Playoff matchup against Notre Dame in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day in Dallas.

Jones, a junior. "We're finally where we want to be."

# Missing in the middle

Alabama will be without All-America center Landon Dickerson, a team captain who is recovering from surgery after injuring his knee late in the SEC title game.

"He's been a great leader on our team and will certainly be missed," Saban said.

Chris Owens, a senior from Arlington, Texas, will be the starting center against the Irish.

### Skill sets

Alabama's offense has Heisman finalists Jones and Smith, plus a big-scoring, du-al-threat tailback in Najee Harris, who has rushed for 1,262 yards and 24 touchdowns, and caught 32 passes for 316 yards and three more scores.

Smith has 98 catches for 1,511 yards and 17 TDs. Jones has completed 76.5% of his passes for 3,739 yards with 32 touchdowns and four interceptions.

Ian Book, a fifth-year senior and two-time captain, is Notre Dame's winningest starting quarterback at 30-4. He has thrown for 2,601 yards and 15 TDs, with 430 yards and eight scores rushing. Sophomore running back Kyren Williams has 1,061 yards rushing with 12 TDs, and Javon McKinley has four 100-yard receiving games.

# **Quick turnaround**

The Rose Bowl will be the second New Year's Six game played at AT&T Stadium in less than 48 hours. Oklahoma beat Florida 55-20 in the Cotton Bowl on Wednesday night, and

the turnover of the stadium began almost immediately afterward. That game had a limited capacity crowd of 17,323, and the Rose Bowl attendance should be similar.

## **Short trip**

Like they would during the regular season, the Crimson Tide traveled from campus Thursday, the day before the

"Just going today as if this is a normal road trip for us, but certainly not a normal game for us," Saban said.

# Friendly foes

Alabama RB Harris and Notre Dame QB Book, who grew up 90 miles from each other in Northern California, once were 7-on-7 teammates for TMP of Sacramento.

"The plan was if we were ever down, you just throw it up and Najee would go catch it. He was playing receiver for us. And he did that. That's how we were able to win some games," Book said.

"He does an amazing job getting the ball to his playmakers," Harris said.

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having All persons claims against the estate are required

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to present the same with proper vouchers within four (4) months after the date of first publication to the undersigned or they may be barred. Additional information

may be obtained from the court records, the under-signed or the attorney.
Date first published:
12/25/2020.

s/ Lewis Craig Jondall LEWIS CRAIG JON-DALL, Personal Representative c/o Sean M. Neary Attorney at Law Fitch & Neary, PC 210 SW 5th Street, Suite 2 Redmond OR 97756

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From: Makenna. Rob & Lana 👺



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Thank You, Bulletin Staff!

The pandemic, elections, climate fires, racial injustice, and local politics - you keep us informed, entertained, and you make our community better through it all. Thank you, from our family to yours Here's to 2021!

Suzanne and Ariel Méndez



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