



2004: BCS SCREWS USC. 2005: USC SAVES BCS

By Kerry Schmidt 01-09-2005

Ever since 1996, when the idiotic BCS system was setup to choose who would play for the National Championship, it has malfunctioned.

Last year, after the 2003 season, USC was voted No. 1 in both polls, but the computers jumped Oklahoma ahead of them and thus we had the split title. If USC had played LSU as it should have been, the system would have, for once, worked.

And now, to show how disgusted folks are about the way it works, the AP writers poll has pulled out, leaving the fossils that run the show to basically start over.

So, after getting screwed by the BCS last year, Southern Cal. turns the other cheek and bails out the BCS this year.

When Auburn squeaked by Virginia Tech, 16-13 in the Sugar Bowl, Tommy Tuberville and his QB, Jason Campbell went down to Miami to lobby loud and long for the pollsters to jump the Tigers over both Oklahoma and USC. Fat chance.

USC did not just beat Oklahoma, it was a mercy killing.

Tom Benson commented a few weeks ago after a bad loss by his Saints that they "Looked like a high school team."

Well, you could make a case that Oklahoma looked like one compared to USC.

Tuberville and Campbell sounded like lawyers in Miami, touting stats on why they should be No. 1. They said, among other things, that USC was lucky to beat Va. Tech, 24-13 in the season opener.

Well Tommy boy, I watched your team against Tech, and you were the one that was lucky to win. Tech botched a 24-yard field goal and dropped an easy TD pass, so give it up. You had a great year, and a "plus one" formula, wherein one extra game would pit USC against Auburn would have been great, but the way USC played, you would have lost by 30 points or more.

How bad was the defeat?

Let me count the ways. OK had not given up 38 points in two years. USC scored 38 in the first half.

OK's defense gave up an average of 13.7 points a game. USC scored 14 in a three minute span and 21 in an eight minute segment.

After OK scored on its first possession, USC outscored them 48-3.

The final score of 55-19 was not even indicative of how one-sided it was. Nine of OK's points came in the final couple of minutes with USC's third string in there.

USC's defense seemed like they knew what OK was going to run on most every play.

OK's vaunted freshman running back, Adrian Peterson, second to Matt Leinhardt in the Heisman voting, gained 84 yards on 29 carries. 11 times they stuffed him for losses.

The quickness and sure tackling of USC is as pure as I have ever seen. Jim Haslett take notice.

And offensive coordinator Norm Chow is without a doubt the most innovative offensive mind in football. With 30 days for him to come up with a plan for the Sooners, they never had a chance.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Thus, USC saved the BCS from another giant controversy. Had both teams played as poorly as OK, and the winning margin was close, Auburn would have some real believers.

But not now. Outside of Tuberville and a few misguided fans, no rational individual can argue that USC is not the only national champion this year.

And, with 16 of the 22 starters coming back next year, and if Heisman winning QB Leinart – 18 of 32, 332 yards, and Orange Bowl record 5 TD passes and zero INT's – comes back, look out. You just may have the makings of a real old fashioned dynasty. Even if he does not, I can guarantee that USC is already penciled in as the pre-season NO. 1 for the 2005 season.

A quick look back at the top stories of 2004.

The Boston Red Sox exorcising the curse of the Bambino and winning the World Series is the USC of 2004 stories. And it was even sweeter that they stormed back from an 0-3 start in the ACLS to beat the hated Yankees.

Lance Armstrong. Sounds repetitive at six straight, but all you can say is, WOW!

Mia Hamm, who put women's soccer on the front pages of sports sections, closed out her incredible 16-year career with an Olympic gold medal, then retired.

She is married to free agent shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, so when they get around to having kids, if I was a coach, I would sure want the pick of that litter!

Along with the media blowing the steroids thing up and other sidelines, I could list many more.

But one “feel good” moment. The Iraqi soccer team. Airlifted out of the war-torn nation and allowed to train in America, after only four months of work, the rag-tag bunch just missed a bronze medal when they lost to Italy, 1-0.

What do I want for 2005?

I want a “Plus One” bowl, or a 4-team playoff bowl set up. Either that, or just give USC the crystal ball again right now.

I want Jim Haslett to stay and for the Saints to finally get it together.

I would like to see Eli Manning begin to blossom like Peyton. Talk about a family dynasty. We'll call father Archie, J. R., like in the Dallas series.

I would love to see Peyton and company overcome their lack of defense and win it all.

And as usual, anyone besides the Yankees to win the Series.

NOTE: I wish to thank everyone who e-mailed me concerning the death of my father.

It was a blessing, as the Alzheimer's had reduced him to nothing, but it is still hard when it is now so final. Again, please call your dad at least once a month and tell him you love him.

Happy New Year to all.