



NFL TO GOLF TO BCS: SURE AS HELL, ALL'S A MESS

By Kerry Schmidt

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It's a tad early to start ragging on, again, what a mess the BCS is, but it's close enough to give us a real clue!

However, the next two weeks could show us, once again, what a hell of a mess this BCS, I mean BS Championship really is.

This column is being written Friday, November 28. I.E., before several important games yesterday.

As of now, Alabama is the only MAJOR unbeaten team. Yes, I know Utah is also unbeaten, and they stand at the No.6 spot in the BS rankings, but we don't often equate Utah with the other mentioned colleges

Yesterday, 'Bama played rival Auburn, Florida, rival Florida State and Oklahoma vs. OK State and Southern Cal. played Notre Dame. (Utah's season is finished, 12-0).

But before yesterday's games, the BS ratings have, in order, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Southern Cal and Utah.

After Saturday, the Big 12 and the SEC will have playoff games to determine their conference championships. The Pac 10 does not have a title game, which, especially this year, could well make a huge impact on the final BS game.

Southern Cal. lost their only game to Oregon State, who has lost three games. Thus, if Oregon State defeated rival Oregon Saturday, a three loss team will go to the Rose Bowl, one on the four major BCS Bowl games, leaving USC, if they win their last two, at 11-1, go to ?.

If OK State upset OK, that takes OK out of the top five. Alabama should beat Auburn and So. Cal should beat Notre Dame and next week, UCLA. But, in the SEC Championship game, Alabama will play Florida, and the Vegas odds right now have the Gators a 5 21/2 point favorite.

Then you have the Big 12 Championship game, so it's possible that three of the current top five ranked teams will not be in the top five after that happens.

That could leave Florida at No.1 and So. Cal at No. 2. Thus, you have, like twice in the past four years, a team that did not even win their conference, but perhaps go to the title game?!

Or, will the powers that be (upchuck now) do what they do not want to do but must, put Utah in the title game?

Note: If Utah should go and win the BCS, would the Mo Mos celebrate by spraying milk on everyone?

Speaking of Utah. Name the player who is the most popular and nicknamed "The King" on the team.

Answer: Louie Sakoda. Who? Well, most likely, unless you are a Utah fan, cannot name anyone on the team, so it's OK.

He's not a hot shot QB, WR or RB. King Louie, as he is called, is Utah's kicker.

When Louie was a freshman, he was in the stands, watching. He came down to the coach and said he could punt and kick off.

They gave him a shot, then let him "walk on," and now, a senior, he is "the most known and liked player on the team," Coach Kyle Whittingham says of Louie. "He's a very, very popular guy."

Whittingham says he "has won at least three games for us, with his field goals (one a 53-yarder), and he "dropped a punt on the 1-yard line vs. New Mexico with just two minutes left."

"We'll go to the mall, and moms will stop him and say, 'Oh, my daughters just love you,'" said his roommate Zane Beadies.



“Coaches and mothers are gushing, and Coeds are swooning,” said Whittingham.

Besides being the most popular player on the team, he has a 3.73 GPA in Pre Med.

Virtually every college has one or two players who are the best known or popular, but very few who happen to be “just a kicker,” as he describes himself.

“All this is hard to believe,” Sakoda says. “I’m just a kicker, a special teams, occasionally used nobody, so this is kinda unreal,” he says.

One thing for sure to all Utah players and fans. He is surely NOT a “nobody.”

But back to the BS stuff.

Having to not just win, but win big. This brings us to what TV and coaches call the “Style Points.” What that really means is how much do you run up the score to get those “Style Points?” Texas coach Mack Brown says, “This screams for a playoff!” He adds that “when you have voters that we don’t know and have computers that did not see the games, we’re asking coaches to run up style points. Exhibit 1. Florida beat the Citidel, 70-19 last Saturday! Is this what good sportsmanship is all about?

Hell no! And it is certainly not “style.” More like, well, BS!

Not only does the current system not work, it promotes unsportsmanlike-like play!

Thus, as of this writing, once again, the BS game will come with all sorts of asterisks.

You will hear much more from me after the remainder of the regular season results in the final Bull S..t ending.

What would president elect Barack Obama do?

He said he thought there should be an 8-team playoff to determine the champion. Well, he FINALLY got something I can agree with him on.

A couple of weeks ago I wrote that “It’s all about the money.” More proof.

Fox has had the BCS rights for \$85 million a year since the current system started.

But now, ESPN bid \$125 million a year, thus they will take over the screwed up system beginning with the 2011 season. “Show me the money.” Sounds like a good title for a movie.

Speaking of the college post-season bowl games.

As of now (two more are set for next season), there are 34 bowl games.

Of those 34, 27 use the name of the sponsor in the “Official Game.”

Such as, Meinike Care Bowl, Papajohns.com Bowl, Roady’s Humanitarian Bowl, Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, Gaylord Hotels Bowl – Ah, I wonder if they also have an HIV Bowl? Never mind. Add in the Chick-fill-A, Brut Sun and Konica Minolta, and you get the idea. All about the money!

At least the NFL playoff set up is rather simple. Each division winner plus two wild card teams in each conference. Thus, your record means just what it should.

And, they then have the playoffs. You paying attention, BS’ers?!

Every year, you get surprises in the NFL, which is all part of what makes it so popular.

But sometimes, traditions should be changed. Ergo, Detroit has played on Thanksgiving for a zillion years. Tradition.

But when a team (Lions) is winless at 0-11? And they quickly went to 0-12 by getting killed by the now 11-1 Titans. Detroit has given up almost twice as many points as they have scored, 203-393.

Can’t wait to see the TV ratings on that sucker!

The NFL started some flexibility in their schedule three years ago, wherein they had the right to change certain games in the second half of the season to make them “more competitive.” Hey Commish. Goodell: a 0-11 team meeting a 10-1 team (record before the game, if you can call that debacle – 47-10 – a game).

You have some really bad divisions this year. The AFC and NFC West.



Denver leads the AFC West at 6-5, with the remaining 3 having a combined record of 8-29. And the NFC West: Arizona is 7-6, and the combined other three are 7-27. Arizona could have clinched their division had they not lost to the Cowboys Thursday. So much for competitive balance.

A cool part of this NFL Season. You have three gray beard QB's who are near the top of all passing stats: Brett Favre, 39, Kerry Collins, 37, Kurt Warner, 35. Favre's year is probably the most impressive. The Jets were predicated to finish next to last in their division, but are atop at 8-3. And likewise Warner's Arizona. See clinching above.

Great to see old farts still bringing it!

The one word the NFL does NOT want to be even mentioned in any way is "gambling."

So, what was the top story of last Sunday's 11-10 win by the Steelers over San Diego? Guess.

As the USA TODAY wrote in last Monday's paper, "It was comical when nearly every (TV talking heads) simply mentioned the game-ending play.

The Steelers' Troy Polamula scored a TD on the last play after he ran back a fumble recovery for a TD, thus Pitt won, 17-10. But wait. The officials ruled the play dead after the fumble, thus the 11-10 score.

The first thing everyone looked at and asked, "What was the point spread?"

It happened to be 4 1/2 points, Steelers. Thus, with the play blown dead, they did not cover the point spread. According to an estimate by the betting site "Pregame.com," \$64 million shifted due to the play being blown dead.

Only one of the many NFL TV announcers even alluded to it. Bob Costas quietly mentioned that "money had shifted hands."

So, what the talking heads avoided, the written media played up big time.

Final NFL crap. Pacman Jones, now of the Cowboys, was, for about the zillionth time, re-insated by Goodell to play, starting next Sunday. If he hits lucky 13 (his next arrest), that has to be it.

Speaking of gambling, Vegas has not only odds on IF Pacman will get nabbed again, but when.

OK, I will finish with a subject I never really expected to write much about.

Women's Golf. The LPGA.

But specifically, their greatest player ever. Annika Sorenstam played her last LPGA match last weekend, thus ending arguably the title of greatest woman golfer ever. And it ended with little style. In her final tournament, the ADT Championship, she failed to qualify for the third round. She has won 10 majors and 72 tournaments in all. She also holds the women's record for a single round when she shot a 59 in 2001.

The 38-year old had said this would be her last year. She says she wants to "get married (on March 29, 2009) and start a family."

She has won every major at least once and only missed the cut three times in her entire career.

Note: Those were in her first two years.

She truly is the Tigress Woods.

So, what did the LPGA do for her in her final match?

They made her take a drug test! Yep, she was told she had to take the little bottle and pee-pee therein.

"I really don't know what's going on," Sorenstam said. "I took a test just last week. They're not going to let me go."

The LPGA said they were "just following their protocol."

I don't know a BS about their protocol, but c'mon, the greatest ever in your LPGA and you submit her to this?!

And to show they were not kidding, they are withholding her winnings (a meager \$8,000, since she did not make the cut) until after the test comes back.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

If the LPGA is looking for good PR, to get the attention the men do, this certainly was not a high water mark for them.

So, it's on to the BS in football, the upcoming playoffs in the NFL, and, well, finding someone else to pee in the bottle.

After 3-4 fingers of single malt, maybe I should take the test.

BS!