



NFL: CRUNCH TIME. COLLEGE: BOWLS AND BCS TIME. AND SOME RICH MLB STUFF.

By Kerry Schmidt 12-14-2008

You gotta love Southeastern Louisiana weather. Last Wednesday, 70's and sunny. Wed. night, cold front. Thursday AM, nine inches of snow!

Today, 70's and sunny. Insane!

NFL: What a difference a year can make.

In the AFC, New England and Indianapolis are not ruling the roost. Miami (who was 1-15 last year – Bill Parcells excels again) and the ageless Favre-led Jets are tied in the AFC East, along with the usually top New Englanders.

And behind the league's top defense, giving up less than 10 points a game, Pittsburgh is the hottest team right now.

And Tennessee – led by 35-year old Kerry Collins, at 12-1 tops all teams.

In the NFC, it's the Giants – at 11-2, tops in the NFC, while Dallas is struggling to make the playoffs.

And Arizona has already clinched the NFC west, behind 37-year old Kurt Warner. Arizona?! Dallas, "America's Team," – PUKE - finish the season against the Giants, Baltimore – who has won 6 of their last 7 games, and finish with the Eagles. There is a very good possibility that "Dem Cowboys" may not make the playoffs. YEAH!!

This would be the third consecutive year that Dallas folded in the last quarter of the season. In fact, the Cowboys have had very little playoff success since they last won the SB in 1995, and have not had a winning record in December since 1996!

Wade Phillips is the fifth coach since then.

And guess who is at the top of all the current turmoil in Dallas. This will shock you, but it's Terrell Owens.

He is out of control. Again.

Last week vs. Pittsburgh, he quit on two of his routes, according to former Cowboy Keyshawn Johnson, now an ESPN analyst. Then TO went on a tirade on the sidelines after tight end Jason Witten had more passes thrown to him than TO, and he blew up at Romo, questioning his leadership.

Johnson finished by saying, "If I was Romo, I'd just tell TO to shut the bleep up."

TO has had more passes thrown to him than Witten, but Witten has caught 20% more than TO.

TO's quote Friday, said, "I'm not jealous. I get paid whether I catch balls or not. Cute!

Also Friday, several players said that "The conflict between Romo, Witten and TO is growing."

And in case you forgot, TO pissed off both the 49'ers and the Eagles while he was there.

Even the egomaniacal owner, Jerry Jones, has contributed his part to the divisiveness.

He openly criticized star RB Marion Barber for not playing vs. Pittsburgh, due to a sore little toe.

This caused a hot-button issue as Jones said he should have "played through the pain."

He later backed off his comments, saying "That was not meant to be critical of his toughness."

What?! Then what the hell did he mean?!

Plus, you add in Jones's signing of oft troubled CB, Pacman Jones. Suspend for all of last year and then again for four games this year, Jones assigned four bodyguards to follow Pacman wherever he went. He promptly got into a fight with one of his bodyguards in a bar, and, well, another 6-game suspension. He has since suffered a neck injury that will likely end his career with the Cowboys. For the better.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

With all this going on, Jerry Jones and his Cowboys will move to their new \$1.4 BILLION stadium next year. Jones borrowed about 1/4th of that, with taxpayers shelling out the rest. Note: Jones will own the stadium.

I love this mess! Screw the Cowpokes and screw Jones.

I would like to see an ego contest between him and George Steinsucker.

Speaking of the Yankees, they shelled out \$161 million to sign pitcher C.C. Sabathia to a 7-year deal. So, add this new one to the existing contracts of A-Rod (10 years, 275 mil) and Derek Jeter (10 years, \$189 mil).

And they may just be getting started. They allegedly have offered a total of just over 70 million to three other players. And, every penny of these contracts are guaranteed!

Most all other MLB teams have openly stated they are not going to shell out big \$, due to the economy.

Plus, MLB itself has announced “substantial layoffs” due to the economy.

Note: The NFL has also stated that they will reduce staff by “about 10%.”

The other NY team, the Mets, shelled out \$80 mill for three players. One is RHP J.J. Putz.

Millions for a putz?

Well, the college football regular season is over, and all of the 34 bowl games are set. Every team with at least a .500 season gets a bowl game. Joke!

And, AGAIN, there is a huge bru-haha over the BCS Bowl for the national championship.

I am not going to go on – and on and on and on much more over this.

However, several new folks have weighed in on the mess.

As I stated earlier, President-elect Obama has called for an 8-team playoff.

Also, Congressman, Rep Joe Barton, of Texas (see below why Texas) has actually introduced legislation last Wednesday that would force major-college football to adopt a playoff to determine the national champion.

The bill is co-sponsored by reps. Bobby Rush of Illinois and Michael McCaul of Texas.

Note: Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich is also trying to sell the championship bowl game to the highest bidder. Minimum asking price is one million bucks.

Barton says the bill “will prohibit the marketing, promotion and advertising of a postseason game as a ‘national championship’ football game unless it is the result of a playoff system.”

Barton calls the BCS “deceptive.”

And get this. There was a “news report” across the Internet that confirmed the “real” power of the BCS system. It declared the winner of WWII was Germany. The phony story cited the German’s strength of schedule, which helped computers deem them “worthy of the No. 1 ranking.”

It added that the U.S. had “only two major victories – Japan and Germany” – dropping the Americans to fourth.

A publication, “The Onion,” joined the fun when it declared that the BCS would “simply pretend certain teams do not exist.” Good stuff.

Not to dwell, but the one major factor that is causing the most controversy this year is that in the final two weeks, the computers had Oklahoma leaping ahead of Texas by .0125 points.

The subject of “style” points, apparently, means margin of victory. Thus, in the Big 12 championship game between Oklahoma and Missouri, with OK up 55-21 with just over two minutes left, OK coaches had QB Sam Bradford throw another TD pass, thus upping the final score to 62-21.

Many say these “style points” thus had the computers jump ahead of Texas.

Never mind that both OK and Texas only had one defeat, and that OK’s loss was to Texas!

In the NFL, when there are teams with identical records, the first tie breaker is head-to-head competition. If, say, those teams played each other twice and split, then the next tie breaker goes



to wins in their division, then to conference if necessary. As such, there are no computers adding up how many points each team scored.

So, after OK suffered their loss to Texas (45-25), OK Coach Bob Stoop, apparently, figured the only way for his team to make the title game was to run up as many points as possible.

Thus, Stoops kept his Heisman QB candidate, Bradford, in all the games to the very end, with the purpose of same being to score as many points as possible.

It worked, apparently, as OK put up over 60 points on Nebraska, Texas Tech, OK State and the Detroit Lions – wait, I mean Texas A&M.

So, we will never know if OK had settled for just those 55 points against Missouri, that they would not have jumped those .0125 points to overtake Texas and go to the No. 2 spot.

Again, I could go on forever, and I have in the past, so, let it be.

The old farts that run the current system had the gall last week to state that “The majority of football fans are quite satisfied with the current system.”

The fact is that the latest poll, taken just last week, had a whopping 82% voting for a playoff system.

So, where in the hell does Mr. Senior Old Fart come off saying that most fans like the current system?

I have to believe, or at least hope, that after some of these old farts croak, that some common sense will bring the fans what they really want.

This brings me to the Heisman Trophy award.

Tonight, one of four QB’s will win the coveted trophy. It’s between OK’s Bradford, a 3rd year sophomore, Graham Harrell, senior, Texas Tech, Colt McCoy, junior, Texas or Tim Tebow, junior, Florida.

Tebow won it last year, so if he were to win again, he would join Archie Griffin as the only player ever to win it twice.

One great thing: No computers vote on who will win.

The odds on favorite is Bradford, and he has the stats to back him up.

He threw for 4,464 yards, with 48 TD’s and only 6 INT’s. He also rushed for 5 TD’s. Harrell has about 270 more yards than Bradford, but less TD’s and one more INT.

McCoy and Tebow are far behind the numbers of the top two.

Most believe it will be Bradford – thus OK beats out Texas again.

Bradford is an interesting story.

He is part Cherokee Indian. A true Native American.

It’s been nearly a century since another American Indian, Jim Thorpe, considered by many to be the best all-around athlete, was so prominent.

Bradford’s completion rate is 68.3% and in the last six games, he has thrown only one INT.

Stoop says he is better than the Heisman winner and a runner-up he had previously.

“He’s so clean cut that he almost squeaks,” OK’s QB coach Heupel says. “He’s a perfectionist.

After a huge win, wherein he went 23-26, he is in the film room early the next morning studying himself, looking for mistakes.”

At 6’4” and 230 pounds with mobility and a rocket arm, he is a sure first round draft pick when he decides to come out.

He has a 3.95 GPA in finance and says after football, he plans to become a corporate attorney.

Opps, there goes all his good stuff. Gawd, another attorney?!

He sees his heritage as an opportunity to help other Native Americans. “God has blessed me with a great platform. If I can use that in a positive way and be a role model for younger kids, that is a good thing.”

I’ll finish up with another John Daly golf story.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

While playing in the Australian Open, he hit into a clump of trees. As he was ready to hit out, a spectator got “within a foot of him” and snapped a picture, flash and all.

Daly grabbed the camera and smashed it against a tree.

He said if the guy wants it back, he’ll buy him another camera.

Note. No spectator on the course is allowed to have a camera and take pictures.

Well, thank God another bomb is in the can.

Off to my single malt. With a bunch of snow still on the ground, at least four fingers will be needed to get me through the cold.