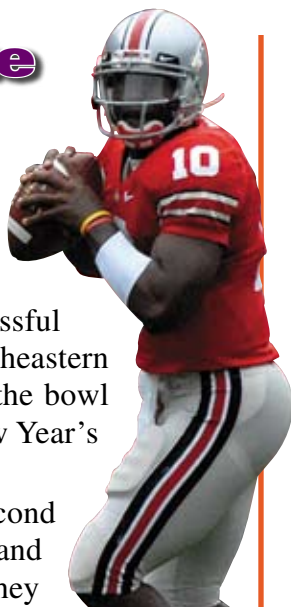




Big Ten, SEC Dominate Early Season Rankings

One of the great things about the Outback Bowl is its tie-in with two of the most popular and successful conferences in the country, the Big Ten and Southeastern Conference. With the third selection from each league, the bowl is always assured of getting two quality teams for its New Year's Day match-up.

This season appears no different. As we begin the second month of the 2006 college football season, the Big Ten and SEC continue to dominate the top 25 rankings, just as they did in the preseason polls. As of this printing, the two leagues combined to have at least eight teams in the top 25 ranking of virtually every recognized poll, including six of the top ten spots in the AP poll. The conferences also boast seven teams with undefeated records through the first four games.



Troy Smith



Kenny Irons leads the SEC in rushing.

But there are a lot of quality teams in the Big Ten that have their own sights set on winning the league title and maybe more, not the least of which is rival Michigan. The Wolverines man-handled Notre Dame, 47-21 at South Bend. Michigan QB Chad Henne is starting to hit on all cylinders and RB Mike Hart is the second leading rusher in the Big Ten. The No. 6 Wolverines also boast a defense that leads the conference and is ranked No. 1 in the nation against the run.

The Iowa Hawkeyes are a Big Ten contender for the fifth consecutive season, also starting 4-0 including an overtime win at Syracuse. QB Drew Tate and RB Albert Young continue to be among the top players at their positions.

Michigan State, Purdue and Wisconsin are a combined 10-2. Purdue has returned to their high scoring offense, ranked 5th nationally, and does not have the Buckeyes or Wolverines on their schedule this season. Michigan State is ranked fifth nationally in total offense and leads the Big Ten in rushing and third down efficiency. Sophomore RB Javon Ringer is averaging 108 yards per game.

(continued on page 2)

DeBartolo, Mercedes Benz Become Official Game Sponsors

Two very prestigious companies have increased their support of the Outback Bowl for the next two years. Tampa based **DeBartolo**, and **Mercedes Benz USA** have elevated their involvement with the New Year's Day bowl to that of *Official Game Sponsor* status.

The companies join the U.S. Marines, Tampa Bay Convention & Visitor Bureau, St Petersburg/Clearwater Area CVB and Anheuser Busch in the sponsor category.



Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr.

"The DeBartolo name is synonymous with success and sports, and Mercedes Benz is the benchmark for quality automobiles, so it is with great pride that we welcome these fine companies as partners of the Outback Bowl," stated Outback Bowl President/CEO Jim McVay. "These companies have been tremendous supporters of the Outback Bowl for years and we are thrilled that they have decided to expand their participation with our New Year's Day game."

DeBartolo has sponsored the bowl's annual Team Luncheon during the week of the game for the past four years. Their name will remain on the luncheon, but as part of their increased involvement they will also be added as the title sponsor of the **DeBartolo Pregame Show** in Raymond James Stadium on game day, among other exposure vehicles.

"On behalf of the entire DeBartolo family as well as the staff and employees of the DeBartolo affiliate companies nationwide we are proud to increase our support and sponsorship in this outstanding college bowl game. The rich tradition that the Outback Bowl represents mirrors our company philosophy of building strong business partnerships within our community. We are proud to be a part of such a wonderful event", said Edward J. DeBartolo Jr., Chairman of the Board of DeBartolo.

Mercedes Benz has been involved with the bowl for years as a cosponsor of the **MetLife/Mercedes Benz Presidents' Reception**. It's new commitment will also place their name on the **Mercedes Benz Corporate Tent Village** which hosts about 5,000 bowl supporters on game day.



Frank Cuteri

"We've received such a great response from our past involvement with the Outback Bowl we wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to play an increased role as an Official Game Sponsor of the event," explains Frank Cuteri, General Manager of Mercedes Benz Tampa.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities with the Outback Bowl contact Mike Schulze at 813-874-BOWL.

DOUG FLUTIE TO SPEAK AT DELOITTE LUNCHEON

The Outback Bowl is known for having some big-name speakers at its annual **Deloitte Kickoff Luncheon** each fall. Over the years celebrities such as Lou Holtz, Joe Theismann, Lee Corso, Craig James and even Joe Namath have highlighted the event. In keeping with tradition, this year's speaker is one of the most recognized names in the game of football, on any level. Twenty year professional football veteran **Doug Flutie** will be the special guest speaker as more than 650 bowl Sponsors, and Club Members attend this fall's luncheon on October 10th. The event will be held at A La Carte Pavilion and catered by Outback Steakhouse.



ESPN

Flutie is the newest college football analyst for ABC and ESPN beginning this fall as he begins yet another chapter in his famous and successful career. He burst on the scene while a senior quarterback at Boston College in 1984 when he completed what even today is known as "the

Pass," a desperation Hail Mary in the final play of the game giving Boston College an upset win against defending National Champion Miami. Flutie went on to win the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Club Trophy that season and lead the Eagles to a top five ranking, putting the school on the map of college football forever and making Flutie a household name.

Deloitte.

Doug started his professional career in the USFL playing for Donald Trump's New Jersey Generals. After the league folded, he played four seasons in the NFL with Chicago and New England before finding a home in Canada with the CFL. Over the next eight years Flutie was the Most Outstanding Player six times and led his teams to three Grey Cup Championships.

In 1998, Doug returned to the NFL with the Buffalo Bills. Gaining the starting job in the fifth week of the season he led his team to the playoffs and was named to the Pro Bowl team.

The following year Flutie threw for 3,171 yards and 19 TDs in leading the Bills to a 10-5 record.

In 2000 Flutie was named the Bills backup but once again had a chance to shine. After Rob Johnson was injured early in the year Doug engineered a game winning drive and then led his team to win three of the next four games before Johnson returned to the lineup. The next year Flutie went to the Chargers where he played for four more seasons before returning to the Patriots for his final season in 2005.

In what has been described as a historic bookend to his playing career, during the Pats final game last season Flutie entered the game to convert the first successful drop kick in the NFL since 1941. Just as Flutie's pass 21 years earlier put him on the map, his final play would also be one for the memory book.

Doug and his wife Laurie co-founded the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism in honor of their son. Doug also has a cereal named after him, called Flutie Flakes, the proceeds of which help fund the foundation.

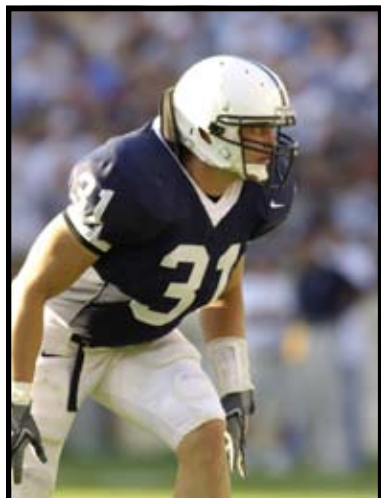
(continued from page 1)

The Badgers meanwhile seem to have responded well to new coach Bret Bielema and lead the league in passing defense and red zone defense. P.J. Hill rushed for over 100 yards in each of his first three games.

Joe Paterno revived his Nitany Lions last year leading them to an Orange Bowl win. This season they've had two tough losses against Notre Dame and Ohio State. Still, Penn State, led by preseason Defensive Player of the Year LB Paul Posluszny, can make a run at the league title.

Down South: The SEC is just as tough, if not more so. In their preseason polls the media picked Auburn and Florida to square-off in the SEC championship game. Both are off to big starts and top 5 rankings but LSU, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia have all shown to be strong contenders and no team in this conference can be taken lightly.

The Auburn Tigers are ranked No 2 (at print time) after a 7-3 win over No. 10 LSU in the third week. Both teams



Penn State LB Paul Posluszny

are exceptional and the winner of this game has represented the SEC west division in the conference title game five of the past six years. Auburn RB Kenny Irons leads the SEC in rushing and the team is solid in every aspect. The LSU Tigers meanwhile

have the second best defense in the nation and JaMarcus Russell is one of the top quarterbacks.

Week three saw the Gators squeak by Tennessee 21-20 to gain a share of the drivers seat, for now, in the SEC East Division race. The No. 5 ranked Gators are using the passing combo of Chris Leak and Dallas Baker, along with key defensive play. The 4-0 Gators seem much more comfortable under second year coach Urban Meyer.

The loss to the Gators was tough for the 15th ranked Volunteers but Tennessee (3-1) has shown immediately they are much improved from a disappointing 2005 campaign. They had a quality win over Cal early in the season. QB Erik Ainge leads the league in passing and WR Robert Meachem is fifth in the nation in receiving yards per game.

No. 10 Georgia is also undefeated, including a shutout win over South Carolina, and look like they haven't lost a step from last year's East Division title team. The Bulldogs rank in the top 10 nationally in Scoring Defense and Total Defense, and they outscored their opponents 100-12 in the first three weeks of the season.

Alabama, Arkansas and South Carolina are all 3-1. The Tide are 13-3 in the past 16 games. Arkansas' only loss is to USC and defeated Alabama in OT. And Steve Spurrier has the Gamecocks off to a great start.

The two teams in the BCS National Championship game could very likely come from these two leagues. We know for sure that the Outback Bowl will pair teams from these two outstanding conferences and we can't wait to see who it will be. Either way there's going to be a great game in Tampa on January 1.

Big Ten and SEC Teams in the Polls

(As of Sept. 25, 2006)

	AP	USA Today
Ohio State	1	1
Auburn	2	3
Florida	5	5
Michigan	6	6
LSU	9	10
Georgia	10	9
Iowa	13	13
Tennessee	15	18
Alabama	-	26



Vol QB Eric Ainge leads the SEC



MARDI GRAS AT GAMEWORKS

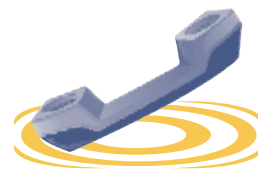
Mardi Gras came to Tampa recently as about 1,000 Outback Bowl supporters kicked-off the college football season at **GameWorks** in Centro Ybor. Bowl sponsors, Club Members, local media and other VIP guests enjoyed a wide array of food from jambalaya to crawfish, alligator and even 3 chocolate fondue fountains. They also enjoyed their choice of state-of-the-art video and interactive games from horse racing to full size race cars.



GameWorks also hosts the teams and fans during a special night as a part of our bowl week activities. Of course the teams and bowl supporters aren't the only ones that get to enjoy the fun and games at GameWorks. The facility also offers a variety of corporate and group packages and is popular venue for holiday parties. For more information on booking your events at GameWorks contact Pete Scalia at 813-247-0164 or go to www.gameworks.com.



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2006-2007 OUTBACK BOWL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 14 OUTBACK BOWL HUDDLE AT GAMEWORKS

Summer's over and college football is back as the Outback Bowl kicks off its fall event calendar with its own Mardi Gras at GameWorks in Ybor City. (Invitation only)

OCTOBER 10 DELOITTE KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Bowl guests will celebrate the 2006 college football season with a special luncheon at A La Carte Pavilion. Doug Flutie will be our special guest speaker as supporters enjoy lunch from Outback Steakhouse. (Invitation only)

NOVEMBER 9 SPRAY-CRETE FEAST ON THE FIFTY

Special guests of the Outback Bowl will enjoy a barbecue feast, fun and games on the field of Raymond James Stadium. (Invitation only)



DECEMBER 7 JIM WALTER HOMES CONTRACT SIGNING PARTY

Jim Walter Homes and bowl supporters will welcome the participating college head coaches and athletic directors to the Tampa Bay area. The party will be held in the Club Lounge of Raymond James Stadium (by invitation only).

DECEMBER 26 TEAM WELCOME CEREMONY & OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE TEAM DINNER

Bowl and city officials, and media greet the participating teams as they enjoy a private welcome dinner from Outback Steakhouse at the Tampa Convention Center (Invitation only).

DECEMBER 27 FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES BREAKFAST **

This breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Tampa is open to the public and typically attended by players and coaches. Call the FCA at (813) 235-6219 for tickets/reservations.

REGIONS BANK GOLF CLASSIC**

This popular golf scramble features bowl sponsors, local celebrities and officials from the participating schools for some friendly competition. Held at Cheval C.C.. Limited spots available by calling (813) 874-2695.

PLAYERS HOSPITAL VISIT

Players and coaches from both teams will brighten the day for children at the St Joseph Children's Hospital in Tampa. (no fans please)

WIVES LUNCHEON

Spouses of both teams' coaches will enjoy a special luncheon hosted by Roy's Restaurant. (Private event)

DECEMBER 28 BUSCH GARDENS TEAM OUTING **

Both teams and their fans will enjoy the attractions and festivities at the world-famous Busch Gardens theme park. Admission tickets for the general public are available at the gate.

DECEMBER 29 DEBARTOLO TEAM LUNCHEON

This luncheon features both team's official travel parties and bowl supporters at the Tampa Convention Center in Downtown Tampa. (By invitation only)

PLAYERS NIGHT AT GAMEWORKS**

Join the teams as they enjoy an array of fun and games at GameWorks in historic Ybor City. Watch the teams compete off the field with interactive video games. Teams only from 6:00-8:00 PM. Doors open to fans at 8:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 30 OUTBACK BOWL BEACH DAY **

Join the teams, their marching bands and cheerleaders as they enjoy the sun and beaches at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort. The St Petersburg/Clearwater Area CVB, the Hilton, 95.7 the Beat and 93.3FLZ Radio sponsor this fun day which includes live music, skydivers, a tug-of-war and other contests from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 p.m.



TEAM NIGHT AT TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**

Both teams will attend the 2004 Stanley Cup Champion Tampa Bay Lightning NHL hockey game at the St Petersburg Times Forum in downtown Tampa. Game time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster or the Forum box office.

METLIFE / MERCEDES BENZ PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

MetLife & Mercedes Benz host this prestigious evening for bowl VIPs and the college presidents and administrators at A La Carte Pavilion. Carrabba's Italian Grill, Roys, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Lee Roy Selmon's, A La Carte Catering, Outback Catering, Bonefish Grill & Outback Steakhouse provide a delectable menu (By invitation only).

DECEMBER 31 TECO ENERGY PARADE and PEP RALLY**

Eclectic Ybor City is the site of this festive celebration featuring the TECO Energy Parade and a pep rally by the college marching bands & cheerleaders. The parade will feature floats and at least twenty marching bands! This free family event is sponsored by our friends at Budweiser, TECO Energy Co., The Tampa Tribune, 93.3FLZ Radio and the City of Tampa. Be there early. The Parade starts at 5:30 p.m. and runs along 7th Avenue.

LIGHT UP TAMPA BAY**

Channelside will "Light Up Tampa Bay" on New Year's Eve with live entertainment and a midnight Fireworks Show and Ball Drop along the downtown Tampa waterfront. Enjoy the numerous restaurants and night spots at Channelside. For more information call Channelside at (813) 223-4250.

JANUARY 1

MERCEDES BENZ CORPORATE TENT VILLAGE

More than 5,000 Bowl sponsors and VIP's will enjoy a festive pregame warmup at the Corporate Tent Village with a private brunch and entertainment. Across the street from Raymond James Stadium. (Invitation only)



PREGAME BOWL BASH **

Bowl fans can warm-up for the big game with live music and a pep rally, sponsored by Geico, The Tampa Tribune, U.S. Marine Corps and Thunder 103.5 FM. Food & refreshments will be available for purchase including Johnsonville brats. The fun begins at 8:00 a.m. on the south plaza between gates C & D, so come out early.

DEBARTOLO PREGAME SHOW **

Enjoy a colorful pregame show sponsored by DeBartolo and featuring the pageantry of high school and college bands along with numerous special activities including a U.S. Marines flyover and military skydivers. A popular Outback Bowl tradition you won't want to miss. Show time begins at 10:15 a.m.

OUTBACK BOWL 2007 **

The first bowl game of New Year's Day - the 21st Annual Outback Bowl matches two of college football's best teams from the SEC and Big Ten Conference. Kickoff is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. (Gates open 9:30 a.m.).

RAYMOND JAMES HALFTIME SHOW

Wait until you see this colorful show featuring more than 4,000 performers!

** (indicates event open to general public - all others are invitation-only)
Note - All events, locations, dates and times are subject to change.

OFFICIAL GAME SPONSORS

