



Big Ten, SEC Reflecting Parity in College Football

There is no better time of the year than college football season. And there has never before been a time where the parity in this sport has shown through so brightly than this season. Some call it "crazy," some call it "wild."

As we look back on this season, the Big Ten and SEC are a reflection of the parity that is rolling across the country like a tsunami. Upsets sure, but as the season progresses many of these unexpected losses of teams in the Top 10 don't look as amazing when it continues to happen seemingly each week. Indeed many of these "Davids" have turned out to be "Goliaths" themselves.

Battle of the Big Ten:

Entering November the Ohio State Buckeyes were undefeated and like last year ranked No. 1. Many believe they have what it takes to make a return trip to the national championship game, but their final three games will be tough ones.

The next best overall records in the Big Ten belonged to Michigan, Wisconsin and Purdue at 7-2 and Illinois and Penn State at 6-3. Illinois and Purdue have come into their own and have added to the depth of the competition in entire the league. Michigan has rebounded well from the first two weeks with seven

straight wins, playing the way everyone had expected them to prior to the season, and Northwestern, Indiana and Michigan State are all on the verge of becoming bowl eligible.



Todd Boeckman,
Quarterback
Ohio State

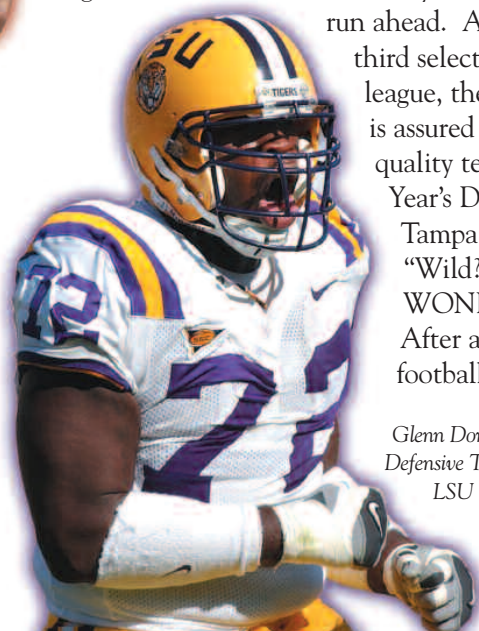
The South Rises:

The SEC has seen the re-emergence of South Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt this season to add to their usual powerhouses, making the league even tougher than ever. LSU was ranked No. 3 in the nation heading into the final month, with the Gamecocks, Florida, Kentucky, Auburn, Georgia and Alabama all in the Top 25, and Tennessee in the drivers' seat in the East Division. Indeed, 11 of 12 teams were still mathematically in the race for the league championship game.

Both the SEC and Big Ten are so deep with quality teams it's hard to know who will win each week. As of this printing, the two leagues combined to have at least ten teams in the top 25 ranking of virtually every recognized poll. That also means each week is a true battle and teams must be ready to play their best every week or risk being "upset" like those before them.

It all makes for an entertaining season for college football fans and surely an exciting stretch run ahead. And with the third selection from each league, the Outback Bowl is assured of getting two quality teams for its New Year's Day match-up in Tampa. "Crazy?" "Wild?" We call it WONDERFUL! After all, it's college football season!

Glenn Dorsey,
Defensive Tackle
LSU



Paul Maguire Wows Crowd At Deloitte Luncheon

ESPN college football analyst and former NFL player Paul Maguire put on an entertaining performance for more than 800 bowl Sponsors and Club Members at the Outback Bowls annual **Deloitte Kickoff Luncheon** on October 2. Maguire used his wit and humor to poke fun at himself and selected attendees while taking questions from the audience.

The event is known for having big-name speakers over the years such as Doug Flutie, Lou Holtz, Joe Theismann, Lee Corso, Craig James and even Joe Namath. The event was held at A La Carte Pavilion and catered by Outback Steakhouse.

Paul Maguire works alongside Brad Nessler, analyst Bob Griese and reporter Bonnie Bernstein. Maguire returned to call college football games in 2006 after serving as an NFL analyst for ESPN's Sunday Night Football since 1998 (he previously worked on college football games for the network from 1980-86). Maguire rejoined ESPN in April 1998.

During his first stint at ESPN, Maguire was an analyst with veteran play-by-play commentator Jim Simpson on college football and USFL games, and served as an analyst for NFL Draft coverage.

Maguire's previous tenure at ESPN during the early 80's was sandwiched between his role as



NBC Sports' NFL studio and game analyst (1971-79 and 1986-97). Highlights at NBC include serving as game analyst for Super Bowls XXX and XXXII, and working the pregame show for Super Bowls XXIII and XXVII. Immediately prior to rejoining ESPN, Maguire was a member of NBC's lead NFL broadcast team with Dick Enberg and Phil Simms.

Maguire played professional football for 11 years as a punter and linebacker with the San Diego Chargers (1960-63) and the Buffalo Bills (1964-70), winning AFL championships in 1963, '64 and '65. He holds Buffalo's punting record for longest-season average (42.1 yards per kick), and was named to the Bills' Silver Anniversary All-Time Team as a punter in 1984.



Trane To Host Feast On The Fifty

It's football season! And what would a football game be without a good tailgate party. Well the Outback Bowl has one of the best tailgates of the year, and you get to eat right on the field! OK, so it's not on game day, but the **Trane Feast on the Fifty** is a great party anytime. Outback Bowl sponsors and club members will bring their appetites to Raymond James Stadium on Thursday, November 8, from 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. to feast on barbecue and enjoy socializing with about 1,200 fellow supporters.

Guests can also participate in interactive games like field-goal kicking and football throws. Imagine what it's like to be in the big game as you look up to the stands all around you. The evening is capped off with



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one of the best fireworks shows in town, right inside the stadium! All this thanks to long-time bowl supporter Trane.

If you are a sponsor or Club Member, mark your calendar now for the Trane Feast on the Fifty. If you're not, contact the bowl at 813-874-BOWL on how you can become a bowl supporter in time to get your own invitation to this and other bowl events throughout the year.



GameWorks Takes Bowl Supporters South Of The Border

Outback Bowl supporters headed south-of-the-border in September at **GameWorks** in Centro Ybor to kick-off the 2007 college football season. More than 800 Bowl sponsors, Club Members, local media and other VIP guests enjoyed a wide array of authentic Mexican food from Chili Beef with Chorizo to Mexican Cornbread, to Pork Tenderloin Cancun with Chorizo Potatoes. Supporters capped off their meals with three fountain towers of chocolate fondue each in a different color of the Mexican flag. Hostesses served

special drinks featuring Dos Lunas Tequila from a special bar completely made of ice while guests were entertained by a roving six piece mariachi band. Of course guests also enjoyed their choice of state-of-the-art video and interactive games from horse racing to full size race cars.

All in all it was a fantastic way to kickoff the season and the bowls fall event calendar. For more information on booking your special event or holiday party at GameWorks contact Pete Scalia at 813-247-0164 or go to www.gameworks.com.



O'Brien To Chair Bowl For 2007-08 Game



The Board of Directors of the Outback Bowl announced **Bernie O'Brien**, owner of O'Brien's Irish Pubs for 17 years, has been elected to the post of Chairman, for a one year term, of the popular New Year's Day college bowl game located in Tampa.

O'Brien has been a supporter of the bowl for ten years and has served on the board of directors since 2000. He is also a former chairman of the

bowls Team Selection Committee.

"It has been my pleasure to serve as a bowl member since 1997," states O'Brien. "I am proud to have the opportunity to represent such a reputable organization and look forward to helping the bowl continue its success in serving the Tampa Bay area."

Additional officers elected by the board for the 2007-08 bowl include; **Mike Sugar**, President and Founder of Forcon International Corp. as Vice Chairman; **Gwen Mitchell**, Managing Partner- North Florida Practice, Deloitte, as Vice Chair of Hillsborough County; **Kevin Smith**, Director of the St Petersburg / Clearwater Sports Commission, as Vice Chair of Pinellas County; **Dale Dignum**, Executive V.P., First National Bank, as Secretary; and **Ken Hoverman**, Chief Marketing Officer, United HealthCare of Florida, as Treasurer.

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Bowl Gets New Logo, Redesigned Web Site

Outback Bowl officials unveiled a new logo for the New Year's Day Bowl replacing the former logo that was developed when the bowl changed its name from the Hall of Fame Bowl twelve years ago.

The new logo incorporates the newer branding of title sponsor Outback Steakhouse with a boomerang shaped football that bowl officials have incorporated selectively in promotional materials in recent years. Outback Steakhouse is in its thirteenth year as title sponsor of the bowl which is the second longest relationship of its kind in college bowl game history.

"The design objective with the new logo was to very stylishly and succinctly say football bowl game, Florida, fun and to recognize Outback Steakhouse as our title sponsor," explains Outback Bowl President/CEO Jim McVay. "The



new contemporary look will provide endless marketing, merchandising and promotional opportunities for the Bowl."

Along with the new logo the bowl has redesigned its Official Web Site (www.OutbackBowl.com), collateral materials and will be updating all the banners displayed in the stadium on game day. In addition to the new look, the web site is expanding to include more audio and video clips of past game highlights, coaches news conferences and selected bowl events.

Celebrate the Holidays with Gold Cup & Joffrey's

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SUNTRUST Summer Splash

More than 500 bowl sponsors and club members and their guests enjoyed a fun-filled weekend during the SunTrust Summer Splash Outing at Saddlebrook Resort this past June. The outing featured golf, tennis, banquets, swimming and more. Club Members who renew their ticket package early are invited to the weekend outing. For more information on how you can receive an invitation next year contact the bowl office at 813-874-BOWL.





2007-2008 Calendar Of Events

SEPTEMBER 6 OUTBACK BOWL HUDDLE AT SEGA GAMEWORKS

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

OCTOBER 2 DELOITTE KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Bowl guests will celebrate the 2007 college football season with a special luncheon at A La Carte Pavilion. Paul McGuire will be our special guest speaker as supporters enjoy lunch from Outback Steakhouse. (Invitation only)

NOVEMBER 8 TRANE 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 6 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 officials, 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 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 VISITS

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 Hawaiian Cuisine Restaurant. (Private event)

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.

DECEMBER 28 DEBARTOLO TEAM LUNCHEON

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

PLAYERS NIGHT AT SEGA 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 29 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. Show your bowl ticket for special discount.

METLIFE/MERCEDES BENZ PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

MetLife & Mercedes Benz host this prestigious evening for bowl VIP's and the college presidents and administrators at A La Carte Pavilion. Carrabba's Italian Grill, Roy's Hawaiian Cuisine Restaurant, 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 30 OUTBACK BOWL BEACH DAY**

Join the school 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, sky-divers, a tug-of-war and other contests from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 31 TECO ENERGY PARADE & 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, 95.7 The Beat, 620 WDAE, 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. Watch the show from the Florida Aquarium New Year's Eye Party. Call (813) 273-4000 for tickets.

JANUARY 1 MERCEDES BENZ CORPORATE TENT VILLAGE

More than 5,000 Bowl sponsors and VIP's will enjoy a festive pregame warmup at the Outback Bowl Corporate Tent Village with a private brunch, and entertainment near 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 Paramount Power, Brighthouse Networks, The Tampa Tribune, US 103.5 FM, 98 Rock, 95.7 The Beat, and 620 WDAE. 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 sky-divers. A popular Outback Bowl tradition you won't want to miss. Show time begins at 10:15 a.m.

OUTBACK BOWL 2008**

The first bowl game of New Year's Day — the 22nd 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.

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