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Tampa Bay Bowl Association Official Newsletter

Winter 2014

Tigers and Badgers Battle for Tampa Bay's Treasure

One of the great things about college football bowl games is that you often get to see teams play each other that you don't typically see. You also get to see match-ups that are unique from a typical Saturday. The 2015 Outback Bowl looks to deliver both this year.

When the Auburn Tigers and Wisconsin Badgers square-off on New Year's Day it will be only the fourth time in 120+ years of football at the two schools. The first was a 7-7 draw in Madison in 1931. They met in Nashville in 2005 where the Tigers won by two touchdowns and again in 2008 in the Citrus Bowl where the Badgers got revenge winning by two touchdowns. Call it the "rubber match."

This game also brings a unique opportunity to see the nation's top running back and the nation's third best rushing offense against the top rushing attack in the Southeastern Conference. These two teams combined for more than 7,000 yards on the ground. Needless to say these two teams are looking to wear out that nice green turf in Raymond James Stadium!

Badgers tailback Melvin Gordon is a Walter Camp All-American, a finalist for the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award and winner of the Doak Walker Award. The nation's top rusher compiled 2,336 yards and 29 touchdowns. He set the NCAA single game rushing record with 408 yards playing just three quarters (amazingly the record was broken the following week, but the player played all four quarters)! Recently declaring for the draft, this will be his last game in a Badger uniform. Meanwhile, their second leading rusher, Corey Clement, "only" had 844 yards, while QB Tanner McEvoy added 574.

The Auburn ground attack averages 258 yards per game, 11th best in the nation, and is led by SEC leading rusher and First-Team All-SEC RB

Cameron Artis-Payne with 1,482 yards and 11 TDs. Nick Marshall is a dual threat QB who rushed for 780 yards and 11 TDs while compiling a school QB record eight career 100-yard rushing games.

Nick Marshall, QB
Maxwell Award
Semifinalist
Davey O'Brien Award
Semifinalist

Of course, while Gordon is explosive, typically racking up numerous big plays each game, the Badgers offensive line is what springs him loose. First Team All-Big Ten linemen Kyle Costigan and Rob Havenstein lead a line that averages 6' 5" and 321 pounds that has NFL scouts smiling. Likewise, the Tigers have an exceptional offensive line led by All-American center Reese Dismukes who was a finalist for the Outland Trophy (best interior lineman) and winner of the Rimington Trophy as college football's best center.

Now as much success these teams have had on the ground this season, they will pass the ball today. And when they do, they usually connect. Auburn completes over 62% of their passes ranking them one of the top teams nationally in pass efficiency. And the Badgers quarterback duo of Joel Stave and McEvoy complete over 55% of their attempts for more than 1,900 yards.

However, it seems with the offenses these two teams have, especially in the power rushing attack, this game will be decided on which defense can stop the running game most effectively.

And with two highly acclaimed coaches you know both teams will be prepared. Tiger coach Gus Malzahn is an offensive genius and has experience on a major stage in his relatively new head coaching career playing in last year's national championship game. Wisconsin, meanwhile, lost their head coach to another school in early December. However, Badger Athletic Director and Hall of Fame Coach Barry Alvarez accepted an invitation from his seniors to step in and coach the team for today's bowl game. I mean, how many coaches on the sideline have a statue at their school.

So both teams have exceptional coaches. Both teams have exceptional players. And both teams have a bit of a chip on their shoulder after their last game and want desperately to finish strong. It should lead to a great match-up, an exciting game and probably a very memorable game.



Melvin Gordon, RB
Nation's Leading Rusher
Heisman Trophy Finalist
Doak Walker Award Winner
First-Team All-American



Bowl Supporters Get To Meet The Coaches



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For more information, call 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES, or visit MBUSA.com.

See the Teams at Busch Gardens December 29th



Fun in the Sun at Clearwater Beach Day

One of the most popular annual traditions of Outback Bowl Week for thousands of visiting fans is when they join the teams, college bands, cheerleaders and local residents for **Clearwater Beach Day**. This year's event will be held Tuesday, December 30th and feature performances by the Auburn and Wisconsin marching bands and cheerleader squads. The day also includes live music on stage, the Budweiser skydiving team, a tug-of-war contest between the cheerleading squads, and even a pie eating contest among fans. Fans will also be able to take their picture in front of a huge custom designed Outback Bowl sand sculpture, as well as specially designed dolphin statues.

Dozens of visiting and local media typically cover the event as well with TV footage of fans enjoying the beautiful beaches of Pinellas County beamed throughout the country.

All the festivities take place behind the **Hilton Clearwater Beach** (just north of Pier 60) and run from 11:30 AM to about 4:00 PM. Fans are encouraged to arrive early for the best parking. Food and drinks along with bowl merchandise will be available for purchase. The event is cosponsored by **Visit St Pete-Clearwater**, the **Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce**, the **City of Clearwater**, the **Hilton Clearwater Beach**, **Clearwater Gas System**, **Allegiant Airlines**, **St Pete-Clearwater International Airport**, and **95.7 The Beat FM** radio.

For more information on the Outback Bowl and Clearwater Beach Day go to www.OutbackBowl.com or call the Bowl office at 813-874-BOWL.

Outback Bowl fans will be able to enjoy the rides and shows at Busch Gardens with Auburn and Wisconsin players when they head to the park on Monday, December 29th. Each year the world famous theme park hosts the participating teams for a special day during "Bowl Week."

The park features a new ride this year with Falcon Fury, North America's tallest freestanding drop tower. Players will mix with fans to enjoy some of the best coasters in the world along with shows and animal experiences. So don't be surprised if that big guy sitting next to you on Sheikra with a death grip on the handles is a famous All American football player for one of the teams!

Normal admission prices apply and tickets are available at the gate or online at www.BuschGardens.com. Teams typically arrive in mid-afternoon.



Ring In The New Year With The Outback Bowl

Tens-of-thousands of Outback Bowl fans will once again ring in the New Year in Tampa's Ybor City historic district and at Channelside Bay Plaza on December 31st. The **Outback Bowl New Year's Eve Parade Presented by Tampa General Hospital** will kick off the evening festivities at 5:30 PM. as about twenty eight high school marching bands from around the country will join the University of Wisconsin and Auburn University bands, as well as, numerous floats and other units as they travel along famed 7th avenue.



Immediately following the Parade both college marching bands and their cheerleading squads will then participate in a pep rally at the stage on the corner of 14th St. and 7th avenue where the groups will take turns firing up their fans.

At the conclusion of the pep rally bowl fans who want to continue the party have plenty of restaurants and other nightlife options to choose from right there in Ybor, or they can take a trolley ride or short drive to the downtown waterfront for the **"Light Up Tampa Bay"** celebration at **Channelside Bay Plaza**. This dynamic entertainment complex on the downtown waterfront is home to restaurants and night clubs such as Splitsville. The event will also feature live entertainment throughout the night followed by a spectacular midnight fireworks show over the waterfront.



Fans can also make it a special evening at the **Florida Aquarium New Year's Aqua Eve Party** from 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM featuring food buffets, complimentary beer & wine, live entertainment and a great view of the fireworks show, all for one inclusive price.

The Parade & Pep Rally is sponsored by **Tampa General Hospital, Bud Light, 970 WFLA, 620 WDAE, 93.3 FLZ FM** and the **t**. For more information on "Light Up Tampa Bay" at Channelside Bay Plaza call (813) 223-4250, and to purchase tickets to the Florida Aquarium New Year's Aqua Eve Party call (813) 273-4030 or go online to www.FLAquarium.org.

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RANKED IN 4 SPECIALTIES
2014-15

BEST REGIONAL HOSPITALS
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TAMPA-ST. PETERSBURG
RECOGNIZED IN 12 SPECIALTIES
2014-15

Tampa General Hospital is proud to be named the **#1 Hospital in Tampa Bay** by U.S. News & World Report and recognized as one of America's Best Hospitals in four specialties:

- Cardiology & Heart Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Nephrology
- Urology

Additionally, TGH was designated high-performing in eight other specialties: Cancer; Diabetes & Endocrinology; Ear, Nose & Throat; Gastroenterology & GI Surgery; Geriatrics; Gynecology; Neurology & Neurosurgery; and Pulmonology.

We would like to thank our team of dedicated healthcare professionals for their outstanding patient care.

For a referral to one of our physicians, please call 1-800-822-DOCS or visit www.tgh.org.



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2014-2015 Calendar of Events



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Note: All events, locations, dates and times are subject to change. ** (indicates event open to general public all others are 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 A La Carte Pavilion. (by Invitation only)

DECEMBER 27 LADIES LUNCHEON

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

PLAYERS HOSPITAL VISITS

Players and coaches from both teams will brighten the day for children at Tampa General Hospital (no fans please).

TEAM NIGHT AT TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**

Both teams will attend the Tampa Bay Lightning NHL hockey game against the Carolina Hurricanes at the Amalie Arena in downtown Tampa. Game time is 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster or the Forum box office.



DECEMBER 28 PLAYERS NIGHT AT SPLITSVILLE**

Join the teams as they enjoy the fun at Splitsville at Channelside. Watch the teams compete off the field in a bowling challenge. Teams only from 6:00-7:15 PM. Doors open to public at 7:15 PM.



DECEMBER 29 BUSCH GARDENS TEAM OUTING**

Both teams and their fans will enjoy the unique blend of thrilling rides, live shows and a premier zoo. Admission tickets are available at buschgardens.com or at the front gate.



DECEMBER 30 CLEARWATER BEACH DAY**

Join the school marching bands and cheerleaders as they enjoy the sun and beaches at the Hilton Clearwater Beach. Enjoy this fun day which will also feature live music, skydivers, a tug-of-war and other contests from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Visit St Pete-Clearwater, The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Hilton, Clearwater Gas System, Allegiant Airlines, St Pete Clearwater International Airport, 95.7 the Beat and 93.3FLZ Radio.

METLIFE/MERCEDES-BENZ GRIDIRON GALA

MetLife & Mercedes-Benz host this prestigious evening for bowl VIP's and the college administrators at A La Carte Pavilion. Carrabba's Italian Grill, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Bonefish Grill & Outback Steakhouse provide a delectable menu (by invitation only).

DECEMBER 31

BATTLE OF THE BANDS AT BUSCH GARDENS**

Join the two college marching bands at Busch Gardens as they square-off for a special "Battle of the Bands" performance. Admission to park required. Time TBD

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARADE & PEP RALLY PRESENTED BY TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL **

Eclectic Ybor City is the site of this festive celebration featuring the Outback Bowl New Year's Eve Parade and a pep rally by the college marching bands & cheerleaders. The parade will feature floats and about twenty-five marching bands from around the country! This free family event is sponsored by Tampa General Hospital, Bud Light, 93.3FLZ Radio, 970 WFLA and 620 WDAE Radio and the City of Tampa. Be there early. The Parade starts at 5:30 p.m. and runs along 7th Avenue.



DECEMBER 31

LIGHT UP TAMPA BAY & AQUA EVE PARTY**

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. You can also choose to celebrate the night at the Florida Aquarium New Year's "Aqua Eve" party featuring food buffet, beer, wine and live entertainment for one price. Buy tickets at www.FLAquarium.org

JANUARY 1

MERCEDES BENZ CORPORATE TENT VILLAGE

More than 4,000 Bowl sponsors and VIP's will enjoy a festive pregame warm-up at the Mercedes-Benz 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 Bright House Networks, Coke Zero, The Tampa Tribune, Sparkling Ice, Newsradio 970AM and 620 WDAE Radio. Food & refreshments will be available for purchase. The fun begins at 9:00 a.m. on the south plaza between gates C & D, so come out early.

PREGAME SHOW**

Enjoy a colorful pregame show featuring the pageantry of high school and college bands along with numerous special activities including skydivers. A popular Outback Bowl tradition you won't want to miss. Show time begins at 11:15 a.m.

OUTBACK BOWL 2015**

The Outback Bowl Auburn vs Wisconsin, two of college football's best teams from the SEC and Big Ten Conference. Kickoff is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. (Gates open 10:30 a.m.).



COCA-COLA ZERO HALFTIME SHOW

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

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