



97th ROSE BOWL GAME PRESENTED BY VIZIO

JANUARY 1, 2011

PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES 1:30 P.M. (PT) / 4:30 P.M. (ET) · KICKOFF 2:10 P.M. (PT) / 5:10 P.M. (ET)

ROSE BOWL STADIUM (CAPACITY: 91,000)

"Home of the Big Ten and Pac-10 Conference Champions"

Thirteenth Edition, 11/24/10

Big Ten Games of the Week: Saturday – Michigan State, Ohio State and Wisconsin

Several story lines are on the line in the final weekend of Big Ten Conference regular season play. Michigan State has a tough road game at Happy Valley. Sparty not only needs a win, but also needs others to lose for roses to be in his future. Among the bigger headlines – Jim Tressel's Ohio State Buckeyes looking to clinch a sixth consecutive conference title (or at least a share). Tressel has lost only one of nine match-ups since being hired to lead the Buckeyes; and the way his team is playing late this season, count on the W. And then we have Wisconsin. As odds would have it, the Badgers are sitting in the best spot with a victory this weekend. A few steps closer to Pasadena could be a reality with the top current BCS ranking and even more importantly, a victory over Ohio State. Pending the results of Saturday we could see a three way tie in the Big Ten Conference for the first time since 2000. The No. 7 Badgers have a .540 advantage over No. 8 Ohio State and a .1625-point lead over No. 10 Michigan State. In the most 'simple' of terms (and assuming the season ended as it is today along with these results) here is how everything will shake out...IF Michigan State loses, Wisconsin would come to the Rose Bowl Game because of its victory over the Buckeyes. IF Ohio State loses, the Spartans would get to Pasadena because of their victory over the Badgers. And if all three teams win or lose, the highest-ranked team in the final BCS standings will be the Rose Bowl Game rep...unless that is, the top crumbles and a Big Ten team lands at the No. 1 or No. 2 spot. Crystal clear, right? Gotta love the BCS!

Pac-10 Game of the Week: Arizona at Oregon, Friday, 4 p.m./7 p.m. (ESPN)

Oregon has but a couple road blocks standing in its way before booking tickets to Glendale, Arizona. The final stretch starts this weekend for a post-turkey treat as the University of Arizona Wildcats head to Eugene. Good thing Mike Stoops and company are coming off a bye week. They need all the rest they can get heading into Autzen Stadium on Friday when the Ducks' famed "Blur" offense begins to run them all over the field. As much as I want to believe the hype and buy into the "Wildcats thrive as underdogs" chatter, I also am a realist. Yes, November has been a good month recently for Arizona, posting winning records during the 2004, 2006 and 2007 seasons (including victories over the Ducks in 2006 and 2007). Its losses have been close with Oregon – 14, 7, 10 and 3 points. Not to be a Wildcat homer (even though I am), Arizona has some highlights heading into the game. They rank 14th in the nation in run defense, 12th in scoring defense and 15th in sacks. The Wildcats' defense will arguably be the toughest the Ducks have faced with their powerful zone blocking lateral movement offense. But at the end of the day, the heartbreak city Oregon laid in Tucson's double-overtime victory last year will continue at home under the bright lights and uniforms of Nike headquarters. Oregon not only gets a step closer to the BCS title game, they also clench the Pac-10 Conference title. One player in particular to keep an eye on – Jeff Maehl who has owned Arizona the last several seasons and had his best career game last year in Tucson. Red and blue sure brings out the best in this receiver. As mentioned last week, Bear Down and hang on. This one will be nasty.

National Game of the Week: Auburn at Alabama, Friday, 11:30 a.m./2:30 p.m. (CBS)

As if this game needed any more ammunition...it's the 75th installment of the Iron Bowl and a win by the defending national champion Crimson Tide could knock the contending Auburn Tigers out of this year's title race hopes. The impact of this game reaches beyond this conference as a couple of non-AQ's and one loss teams will watch with baited breath. Rivalries like this are few and far between. In SEC country, allegiance to these teams runs deep with no love lost between the lines and it seems at birth you are either swaddled in orange and blue or crimson and white. Add to the equation the controversy swirling around Auburn quarterback Cam Newton and Tuscaloosa will be pulling from legends past for this one. Auburn has had difficulty all season with teams that have impressive passing efficiency numbers and now face the No. 2 team in the SEC in this statistical category. Alabama might have two losses this season, but they are the third best team in scoring defense in the country and excel at passing efficiency and rushing defense. The Crimson Tide have allowed only 14 touchdowns this 2010 season (and only *two* at home) while the Tigers have scored 61. The tale of the tape: Alabama leads the all-time series 40-33-1. Although the Crimson Tide has won the last two games over Auburn, the Tigers won six straight from 2002 to 2007. These two teams haven't entered the Iron Bowl ranked in the Top 10 since 1994. Tryptophan sufferers need not apply and retailers will not benefit from the luxuries of Black Friday as fans statewide will either be packed in the 101k-plus Bryant-Denny Stadium or its surrounding grounds. Folks, it really doesn't get much better than this. Get the leftovers out, make yourself a sandwich and watch a heated SEC rivalry at its best.

RANKINGS

(As of Nov. 24, 2010)

USA Today Coaches

1. Oregon
2. Auburn
3. Boise State
4. TCU
5. Wisconsin
6. LSU
7. Ohio State
8. Stanford
9. Oklahoma State
10. Michigan State
11. Alabama
12. Arkansas
13. Oklahoma
14. Virginia Tech
15. Nebraska
16. Missouri
17. South Carolina
18. Texas A&M
19. Nevada
20. Arizona
21. Florida State
22. Utah
23. NC State
24. Iowa
25. Mississippi State

Associated Press

1. Oregon
2. Auburn
3. Boise State
4. TCU
5. Wisconsin
6. LSU
7. Stanford
8. Ohio State
9. Alabama
10. Oklahoma State
11. Michigan State
12. Arkansas
13. Virginia Tech
14. Oklahoma
15. Missouri
16. Nebraska
17. Texas A&M
18. South Carolina
19. Nevada
20. Arizona
21. NC State
22. Florida State
23. Utah
24. Iowa
25. Mississippi State

Harris Poll

1. Oregon
2. Auburn
3. Boise State
4. TCU
5. Wisconsin
6. LSU
7. Stanford
8. Ohio State
9. Oklahoma State
10. Michigan State
11. Alabama
12. Arkansas
13. Oklahoma
14. Virginia Tech
15. Nebraska
16. Missouri
17. South Carolina
18. Texas A&M
19. Nevada
20. Utah
21. Arizona
22. Florida State
23. NC State
24. Iowa
25. Mississippi State

BCS Standings

1. Oregon
2. Auburn
3. TCU
4. Boise State
5. LSU
6. Stanford
7. Wisconsin
8. Ohio State
9. Oklahoma State
10. Michigan State
11. Alabama
12. Arkansas
13. Oklahoma
14. Missouri
15. Nebraska
16. Virginia Tech
17. Texas A&M
18. South Carolina
19. Nevada
20. Utah
21. Arizona
22. Florida State
23. NC State
24. Iowa
25. Mississippi State

GETTING DOWN TO THE WIRE

The biggest test of the 2010 non-AQ season comes to head this Friday as Boise State goes on the road to face the Wolfpack. Nevada, who currently sits at No. 19 in the BCS rankings are just six points away from being amongst the undefeated BCS buster teams looking to make history. And they certainly could secure a place in the record books this week should they knock off Boise State in it quest for the BCS title game.

TCU finishes up its regular season on the road against the 1-10 New Mexico Lobos. The Horned Frogs are looking to maintain position among the BCS elite as the final standings could determine a slew of options for the non-AQ world.

Boise State moved to within .0135 points of TCU after trailing them by .0332 points last week. Will the controversy of postseason college football continue or will the BCS gods make all well and bring peace to the heated conversation?

TROPHIES, BRAGGING RIGHTS AND PRIDE – RIVALRIES AT THEIR BEST

As we wrap up another regular season in the Big Ten Conference this weekend we thought we would take a look at some of the trophies on the line. While many rivalry games have already taken place and the storied Michigan/Ohio State game is in the line-up, contrary to popular belief, there is no trophy associated with that “big” game. There are, however, a few worth exploring:

Iowa and Minnesota – Floyd of Rosedale

By name we are all scratching our heads – but once you see the bronzed pig trophy some form of identity takes shape. A couple of years ago the trophy was named the top rivalry trophy in college football! The history behind this one is quite dramatic, complete with politics, racial tension, state fairs and the eventual death of the trophy namesake, prize-pig, Floyd. Originated in 1935, Minnesota leads this trophy series 39-34-2.

Michigan State and Penn State – The Land Grant Trophy

Aside from the obvious, already stated, must-win position of Michigan State, this game holds historical meaning in its annual match-up. In 1993 Penn State joined the Big Ten Conference and the Nittany Lions and Spartans were designated as permanent rivals. As the nation’s oldest land-grant universities, the name of the trophy was born. Sadly, this will be the last year of this rivalry as yet another new team lands in the Big Ten (Nebraska) and rivalries are once again reassigned.

Purdue and Indiana – The Old Oaken Bucket

As one of the oldest football trophies in the nation, the Old Oaken Bucket is a battle between the two largest public universities in Indiana. First awarded in 1925, the winner of the bucket gets a “P” or and “I” link added to the chain of the bucket along with the score, date and city where the game was played. Purdue leads the series 70-36-6 and has won eleven of the last thirteen contests.

BIG TRIPS IN THE BIG TEN

With a three way tie heading into the final regular season games in the Big Ten Conference, the Rose Bowl Game will be on location for potential rose presentations to these contenders:

Michigan State at Penn State
Michigan at Ohio State
Northwestern at Wisconsin

WEEKLY TELEVISION SCHEDULE

(All times listed below are PT/ET and subject to change)

Thursday, November 25

Tuskegee at Alabama State, 1 p.m./4 p.m. (ESPNU)

Texas A&M at Texas, 5 p.m./8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, November 26

Louisville at Rutgers, 8 a.m./11 a.m. (ESPN2)

Ohio at Kent State, 8 a.m./11 a.m. (ESPNU)

West Virginia at Pittsburgh, 9 a.m./Noon (ABC)

SMU at East Carolina, 11 a.m./2 p.m. (CBSC)

Auburn at Alabama, 11:30 a.m./2:30 p.m. (CBS)

Colorado at Nebraska, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (ABC)

UCLA at Arizona State, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (FSN)

Southern Miss at Tulsa, 3:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. (CBSC)

Arizona at Oregon, 4 p.m./7 p.m. (ESPN)

Boise State at Nevada, 7:15 p.m./10:15 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, November 27

COLLEGE GAMEDAY – 7 A.M./10 A.M. – STILLWATER (OKLAHOMA AT OKLAHOMA STATE)

Boston College at Syracuse, 9 a.m./Noon (ESPN or ESPN2)

Cincinnati at Connecticut, 9 a.m./Noon (ESPN-GP)

Indiana at Purdue, 9 a.m./Noon (BTN)

Michigan at Ohio State, 9 a.m./Noon (ABC)

Michigan State at Penn State, 9 a.m./Noon (ESPN or ESPN2)

South Florida at Miami, 9 a.m./Noon (ESPNU)

Tulane at Marshall, 9 a.m./Noon (CBSC)

Virginia at Virginia Tech, 9 a.m./Noon (ESPN-GP)

Kentucky at Tennessee, 9:21 a.m./12:21 p.m. (ESPN-GP)

Kansas vs. Missouri, 9:30 a.m./12:30 p.m. (FSN)

Grambling vs. Southern, 11 a.m./2 p.m. (NBC)

Hawaii at New Mexico State, 1 p.m./3 p.m. (ESPN-GP)

Arkansas State at Florida International, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (ESPN-GP)

BYU at Utah, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (MTN/CBSC)

Florida at Florida State, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (ABC or ESPN)

Iowa at Minnesota, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (BTN)

LSU at Arkansas, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (CBS)

North Carolina at Duke, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (ESPNU)

North Carolina State at Maryland, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Northwestern at Wisconsin, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (ABC or ESPN)

Washington at California, 12:30 p.m./3:30 p.m. (FSNW)

TCU at New Mexico, 1 p.m./4 p.m. (Versus)

Mississippi State at Ole Miss, 4 p.m./7 p.m. (ESPNU)

South Carolina at Clemson, 4 p.m./7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Oregon State at Stanford, 4:30 p.m./7:30 p.m. (Versus)

Wake Forest at Vanderbilt, 4:30 p.m./7:30 p.m. (ESPN-GP)

Georgia Tech at Georgia, 4:45 p.m./7:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Houston at Texas Tech, 5 p.m./8 p.m. (FSN)

Notre Dame at USC, 5 p.m./8 p.m. (ABC/ESPN-GP)

Oklahoma at Oklahoma State, 5 p.m./8 p.m. (ABC/ESPN-GP)

UNLV at San Diego State, 5 p.m./8 p.m. (MTN)

Idaho at Fresno State, 7 p.m./10 p.m. (ESPN-GP)

BIG TEN NEWS

Michigan vs. Ohio State: 1942 and “The Game” that wasn’t

By James Dickson, AnnArbor.com

Since 1935, the Michigan-Ohio State football game has been a staple at the end of the Wolverines' regular season schedule, with only three exceptions: 1942, 1986 and 1998. The 1986 and 1998 exceptions are easy enough to explain.

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/michigan-v-ohio-state-1942-and-the-big-game-that-wasnt/>

2010 Big Ten Football Power Rankings: Thanksgiving Edition

By Kevin Lindsey, Bleacher Report

The Big Ten football season is winding down and, as we head into the last week of the season, we have three teams tied atop the Big Ten conference. The conference will likely see its three leaders finish the season tied at 11-1.

<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/523408-2010-big-ten-football-power-rankings-thanksgiving-edition>

PAC-10 NEWS

Andrew Luck, Stanford head for rare Heisman feat

By Jake Curtis, Special to the San Francisco Chronicle

When Stanford lost to Cal by 21 points to finish the 2008 season 5-7 for its seventh straight losing season, no one with a hint of football sense would have predicted the Cardinal would have players among the top four in the Heisman Trophy voting the next two seasons. But here we are, and it appears Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck will finish in the top four one year after Toby Gerhart was the Heisman runner-up.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=%2Fc%2Fa%2F2010%2F11%2F22%2FSPBM1GFGMR.DTL>

Pac-10 must address officiating conflict of interest

By Paola Boivin, The Arizona Republic

In the world of officiating, perception is as important as reality. Let's hope first-year Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott realizes this as he continues to examine ways to improve the conference. Pac-10 officials can't stay out of the headlines lately.

<http://www.azcentral.com/sports/colleges/articles/2010/11/17/20101117paola-boivin-pac-10-football.html>

NATIONAL NEWS

Iron Bowl 75: Auburn vs. Alabama rivalry is an uncivil war

By Jon Solomon, The Birmingham News

The Iron Bowl rivalry used to consume David Housel, Auburn's former athletics director and longtime publicist. It was, as he puts it today, "the driving force of my life, as sad as it is to say." Housel wouldn't leave his office until he called Alabama's sports information department and got no answer, signifying that he was working harder than his counterparts.

http://www.al.com/sports/index.ssf/2010/11/auburn_vs_alabama_an_uncivil_w.html

“Black Friday” could reshape postseason plans

By Peter Schrager, Foxsports.com

If the 2010 college football season has been anything, it's been unique. But that uniqueness is not due to an overwhelming amount of upsets on a week-to-week basis, big individual performances from the game's superstars, or Cinderella seasons from usual conference doormats. Rather, this college football season has been the first one in recent memory where there *hasn't* been the annual late November national hysteria over BCS rankings and potential bowl pairings.

<http://msn.foxsports.com/collegefootball/story/Black-Friday-could-reshape-college-football-postseason-plans-112010>

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

Saturday, Nov. 27

Indiana at Purdue
Iowa at Minnesota
Michigan at Ohio State
Michigan State at Penn State
Northwestern at Wisconsin

Standings: 1. Michigan State, Wisconsin, Ohio State, 4. Iowa, Penn State

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK

Illinois 48, Northwestern 27
Penn State 41, Indiana 24
Ohio State 20, Iowa 17
Wisconsin 48, Michigan 28
Michigan State 35, Purdue 31

THIS WEEK IN THE PAC-10

Friday, Nov. 26

UCLA at Arizona State
Arizona at Oregon

Saturday, Nov. 27

Notre Dame at USC
Washington at California
Oregon State at Stanford

Standings: 1. Oregon, 2. Stanford, 3. Arizona, Oregon State, 5. USC

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK

Washington 24, UCLA 7
Stanford 48, California 14
Oregon State 36, USC 7

THIS WEEK IN THE BCS TOP 5

(Based on Current BCS Standings)

No. 21 Arizona at No. 1 Oregon
No. 2 Auburn at No. 11 Alabama
No. 3 TCU at New Mexico
No. 4 Boise State at No. 19 Nevada
No. 5 LSU at No. 12 Arkansas

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK

(Based on Last Week's BCS Standings)

No. 1 Oregon (Bye)
No. 2 Auburn (Bye)
No. 3 TCU (Bye)
No. 4 Boise State 51, Fresno State 0
No. 5 LSU 43, Mississippi 36

ROSE BOWL GAME PRESENTED BY VIZIO PREDICTIONS

We have a unanimous prediction from all of the experts and the Rose Bowl Game Big Ten Conference rep, as we head into the final games of the regular season. Will the Badgers deliver and make a return to the Rose Bowl Game for the first time since 2000? On the flip side we've got the Pac-10 vs. the non-AQ's...and folks, the controversy here is brewing, getting stronger and stronger. Will we see two non-AQ teams in BCS bowl games? Will an undefeated team (or two) be left out of the mix? Will a one loss power conference rise to the top? At this point in the year, we've all got our arguments, we've all got our stats – but none of us have the magic key to unlock the BCS mystery. For now...your guess is as good as mine!

ESPN.com

Wisconsin vs. Boise State

Sports Illustrated

Wisconsin vs. Boise State

The Bleacher Report

Wisconsin vs. Boise State

CollegeFootballNews

Wisconsin vs. Boise State

CBS Sports

Wisconsin vs. Stanford

The Rose Bowletin

Wisconsin vs. TCU

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES

Michigan holds the longest streak in the nation with 323 consecutive games without being shutout. The Wolverines last shutout came October 20, 1984 at Iowa 26-0.

More on the maize and blue...Michigan sophomore quarterback Denard Robinson became the first player in NCAA history with 1,500 rushing yards and 1,500 passing yards in last weekend's loss to Wisconsin. He also set an NCAA single-season record for rushing yards by a quarterback, with 1,538.

There are 70 bowl spots available this postseason – including 10 in the BCS – and currently 64 bowl-eligible teams. If there aren't enough bowl-eligible teams, the bowls and some schools will have to petition the NCAA to allow 5-7 teams to play in a postseason game. Definitely not a favorable predicament for bowl officials.

Speaking of bowl eligible, all three military academies are bowl eligible at the same time for the first time in history.

The Beavers have the Trojans number. Last weekend Oregon State won at home against USC for the third consecutive game. We all knew the boys in Corvallis had a tough schedule this year; by the time all is said in done, they will have faced five Top 10 teams!

MIA...there is still only one BCS conference to not have a team ranked in the Top 25 – the Big East.

The Big 12 South Division title is on the line this weekend as Oklahoma State hosts in-state rival Oklahoma. The Cowboys have their first 10-win season and clinched at least a share of the division title last weekend. With a win over the Sooners, Oklahoma State can claim the South outright and go to the (final) Big 12 championship game for the first time.

Finalists for the Davey O'Brien Award were announced this week: Stanford's Andrew Luck, Boise State's Kellen Moore and Auburn's Cam Newton. Finalists were voted in based on quarterback skills, academics, character, leadership and sportsmanship. To no surprise, these same stellar lists of candidates are also finalists for the Maxwell Award for the Collegiate Players of the Year.

Playoff proponents pay attention! This is the first season of the expanded FCS playoffs, and the 20-team field was announced Sunday. Because the size of the field was increased by four teams, the national title game will be played after Christmas, on Jan. 7 in Frisco, Texas.

Sign up now to join the official Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/rosebowlgame>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/rosebowlgame>) accounts for the Rose Bowl Game. Current standings in the BCS Bowl Twitter Poll: Fiesta Bowl 2,396, Rose Bowl Game 1,594, Orange Bowl 417 and Sugar Bowl 326.

Quote of the week – "I despise using the referees as an excuse. Sure, I admit, the zebras can drive you nuts. Late in Saturday's game, when a Big 12 ref threw a flag on Texas A&M and picked it up, I said out loud, "Can Nebraska just go to the Big Ten right now?"...In general, I think blaming refs for your problems is like blaming the IRS for your finances. You can do better than that."

Tom Shatel, Omaha World-Herald

The Rose Parade® presented by Honda and Rose Bowl Game presented by VIZIO Official Tour Packages are sold out. For a limited time only, a new Rose Bowl Game package is available and additional information can be found online at http://www.tournamentofroses.com/events/tour-game-package_2011.asp. Please contact Wadie or Nicole at 626-449-9550 ext. 347 or via e-mail at toftours@rosemail.org for any questions.