

THE Gold Sheet

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STRIKE ONE FOR NEW JERSEY

by Bruce Marshall, Goldsheet.com Editor

Right about this time of year near the end of the 1984 NFL regular season, news broke from Philadelphia that Eagles owner Leonard Tose was close to moving the Birds to Phoenix. Tose, of course, was a well-known inveterate gambler who frequented the Atlantic City casinos. Still, no fans in Philadelphia were expecting that he would be willing to move their beloved franchise several time zones away to help cover his mounting debts. Quickly, the city mobilized and restructured the Eagles' lease terms at Veterans Stadium; the Vet would get 50-plus penthouse suites, to be built at the top of the 700 level, by the 1986 season; all revenue would go to the team; the Birds' lease was reworked and extended; and the city would defer collecting \$800,000 per year in rent for up to 10 years, after which the money would be repaid plus interest. The city would also build two practice fields and an indoor workout facility. Tose agreed to drop plans of a move to Phoenix, thinking he had found an answer to his financial woes.

(Only it wasn't so; Tose ended up selling the Eagles the following year to Norman Braman for \$65 million. Due to all of the leveraging Tose had done with the franchise, he only netted \$5 million from the sale, and not long after had squandered all of that profit, too.)

Three years later, Bud Adams threatened to move his Houston Oilers to Jacksonville unless the city and Harris County made significant improvements to the Astrodome. To appease Adams, 10,000 new seats (eliminating the Dome's popular "exploding" scoreboard) and 65 new luxury suites were added, funded by an increase in local property taxes and a doubling of the hotel tax. Within a few years, however, Adams was asking for more, railing for even more-expensive accommodations, all at taxpayer expense. When Houston balked, Adams shopped his team, moving it to Nashville (with a one-year stopover in Memphis) only a decade after extracting those first concessions from the Astrodome.

Not long after Adams moved the Oilers, Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen was making similar threats in the Mile High City, with some not-so-thinly-veiled warnings that he might consider relocating the Broncos to Toronto in his native Canada unless the city could provide a new facility to replace the aging Mile High Stadium. Fear of losing their beloved Broncos helped convince the voters in a six-country area comprising metro Denver to pass a stadium measure on the November 1998 ballot.

During roughly the same period of time, Art Modell, faced with some Leonard Tose-like debts, moved his Cleveland Browns to Baltimore, which was offering a sweetheart deal on a new stadium. Of course, Al Davis' Raiders (twice!) and Bill Bidwill's Cardinals also abandoned their home bases. The New York Giants and Jets both moved out of the Big Apple for New Jersey and a new sports complex anchored by a racetrack. Other owners, through threats of relocation, have intimidated many locales into building new stadiums for their teams. And the Spanos family was able to extract a staggering ticket-sale guarantee from the city of San Diego when similarly rattling the relocation saber. The list goes on, but you get the idea.

While pro football owners are hardly the only businessmen on the lookout to make better deals for their enterprises, we mention the instances above as examples of the NFL's history of effectively extorting municipalities (and, by extension, countless taxpayers) with stadium deals and sweetheart leases in order to help pad their coffers. Which runs counter to much of the league-generated p.r. which often portrays the NFL as a pillar of integrity...especially with its decades-long public stance against sports gaming.

We at TGS have never subscribed to the notion that the NFL ownership, in particular, is populated by a group of Little Lord Fauntleroy types. There have always been exceptions, but its ranks have long included various objectionable sorts, some of whom historically being involved in industries (horse racing, bookmaking, waste management, etc.) hardly confused with the Peace Corps. And we are compelled to remind readers of these past inconsistencies

because last Friday, the NFL (in tandem with the NHL, NBA, and NCAA) was able to score a preliminary legal victory, which was not wholly unexpected, in its attempt to block New Jersey's proposal to implement sports wagering at its existing race tracks and casinos (as outlined in depth in TGS in our late October cover story, *The Garden State Times*, in issue No. 9; the story remains on our website homepage). In denying New Jersey's request to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the sports organizations, U.S. District Judge Michael Shipp agreed that the leagues have standing to file the suit because expanding legal sports betting to New Jersey would "negatively affect perception of their games."

Judge Shipp cited studies offered by the leagues that showed fans' negative attitudes toward game-fixing and sports gambling. Which makes about as much sense as condemning the automotive industry because criminals use cars to escape from bank robberies. U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-N.J., who has worked in the House to change the 1992 federal law which prohibits sports gaming in all but four states, also decried Shipp's decision. "It is absurd for the professional sports leagues and the NCAA to claim that they will suffer injuries as a result of the legalization of sports betting in New Jersey," Pallone said. "That these organizations claim that the sports they represent will somehow have their reputation impacted is naive at best and assumes that illegal gambling is not currently occurring in lieu of legal sports betting. The fact is that the presence of illegal betting and the crime that goes with it has a far greater impact on the legitimacy of sports organization."

At the same time, a nationwide survey conducted by New Jersey's Fairleigh-Dickinson University showed that a majority among those polled were in favor of making sports gambling legal everywhere.

The specifics of the New Jersey plan, as championed by Gov. Chris Christie, were outlined in depth on these pages in our aforementioned editorial from two months ago. And while the reaction of the sports leagues and NCAA, and even Judge Shipp, have been predictable, we remain perplexed why the mainstream sports media continues to treat the subject of sports gaming so benignly.

As we mentioned in October, the stakes in this debate are a lot more significant than they might have been in years past. With a listing economy desperate for job creating-opportunities, and various government entities faced with potentially-draconian budget cuts, any enterprise that could create viable employment and revenue-generating streams to pad the public purse cannot be summarily dismissed. Especially since the sports wagering activity that the leagues and NCAA deem so onerous has long been conducted mostly underground, unregulated and untaxed, as Rep. Pallone mentioned. **Except in the few states in which sports gaming is legalized, Nevada in particular, where the industry not only generates jobs and revenue for the state, but also provides transparency and helps serve as an important industry watchdog to identify the sort of chicanery to which Judge Shipp referred.**

What still perplexes, however, is how so many major media outlets are either parroting the time-worn NFL/NCAA anti-gaming diatribes, or just ignoring the subject completely. It's as if the storyline is such a hot potato that media concerns do not wish to run afoul of the NFL or NCAA, even by just setting a framework for reasonable debate. Although ESPN counts a number of respected sports journalists among its ranks, it has rarely tackled the subject in a significant manner. We have occasionally come across some probing material on the web pages of *Yahoo Sports*, but can still count on one hand the number of serious editorial pieces from all sources.

We have also never encountered any domestic sports piece that drills just a little bit beneath the surface regarding Rupert Murdoch's all-powerful *NewsCorporation*, under whose umbrella are the *Fox Networks* (which televise NFL and MLB games in the states) and, overseas, *BSkyB*. *Sky's* subsidiaries also include *SkyBet*, a heavyweight sports wagering company based in England that accepts various wagers on American sports.

Nothing wrong with *NewsCorp's Sky* holding an interest in *SkyBet*, although we would like to hear NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell argue with a straight face about the evils of sports gaming when it is a peripheral enterprise of one the league's broadcast partners.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

NFL ANALYSIS

Home team in CAPS. *—indicates night game. Statistics after game writeups are listed in the following order: Score of game, first downs, rushing attempts/rushing yards, passes completed/passes attempted/passes intercepted/passing yards, and fumbles lost. In each statistical category the leader is listed first. Scores and pointspreads (in parentheses) are results of most recent meetings in series. P—Pick Game. SR—Series Record (official league games only), with team leading in series, number of games won, lost and tied. NL—No Line. TGS Key Releases are underlined and denoted with stars (★).

Some frequently-appearing abbreviations. HC—Head Coach. "O"—Offense. "D"—Defense. DDs—Double Digits. OL—Offensive Line or Lineman. DL—Defensive Line or Lineman. KR—Kick Returner. o.c.—Offensive Coordinator. d.c.—Defensive Coordinator. YR—Yards Rushing. YP—Yards Passing. recs.—Receptions. ints.—Interceptions. STs—Special Teams. ypg—Yards per Game. ppg—Points per Game. ypc—Yards per Carry (or Catch, for receivers). LY—Last Year. TY—This Year. Y—Year or Years. TDP—Touchdown Passes. FA—Free Agent. SU—Straight Up. Games are listed in the *Don Best rotation used in the majority of Las Vegas sportsbooks.*

All score predictions are made with Las Vegas pointspreads and over-under lines in mind. Please note: All selections indicating a preference for the underdog do not necessarily forecast the underdog as the straight-up winner of the game. A predicted victory by the favorite of less than the pointspread on the game indicates the underdog is the preferred side in the game.

◆◆◆◆◆KEY RELEASES◆◆◆◆◆

NEW ENGLAND by 21 over Miami
SAN FRANCISCO by 27 over Arizona

OVER THE TOTAL in the Dallas-Washington game

◆◆◆◆◆

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

BUFFALO 27 - NY Jets 18—The peripheral storylines intrigue this week at Orchard Park. *Will HCs Chan Gailey & Rex Ryan return next season? Is 94-year-old Bills owner Ralph Wilson in any condition to fire his coach? If Ryan survives, will he be compelled to sacrifice staff (in particular, might o.c. Tony Sparano get "whacked")? What about Mark Sanchez' future in New York? And is Tim Tebow already scouting Jacksonville real estate?* Buffalo not much, but the Bills do have an established No. 1 QB (Ryan Fitzpatrick), a hot RB (C.J. Spiller), a revenge motive from their Sept. 9 blowout, and have played their best games at home. Meanwhile, Greg McElroy was sacked 11 times in his debut as Jets' starting QB last week vs. the going-nowhere Chargers.

(12-NY JETS 48-Buf. 28...N.21-20 B.26/195 N.36/118 N.19/27/1/266 B.18/32/3/195 N.O.B.1)
(11-NY Jets 27-BUF. 11...N.24-14 N.39/126 B.22/96 N.20/28/1/222 B.15/31/2/191 N.1.B.1)
(11-NY JETS 28-Buf. 24...B.21-20 N.23/138 B.28/86 B.26/39/0/250 N.17/35/1/180 N.1.B.0)
(12-NY JETS -3 48-28; 11-NY Jets +2' 27-11, NY JETS -9' 28-24...SR: Buffalo 54-50)

★★★**NEW ENGLAND 34 - Miami 13**—In retrospect, perhaps we can excuse New England's flat effort last week at Jacksonville coming on the heels of two high-profile, prime-time games. But now that the Pats have a shot at a first-round playoff bye, expect HC Bill Belichick to crack the whip and for Tom Brady (4 ints. the last two games!) to play with sharper focus. Miami's offensive ranks have been thinned by the loss of power back Daniel Thomas and H-back Charles Clay (33 recs.) the last two weeks. The Dolphins' handy 182 YR last week vs. Buffalo won't happen in Foxborough vs. Vince Wilfork and 2012's improved Pats' defense.

(12-N. Eng. 23-MIA 16...N.25-15 N.32/108 M.27/101 N.24/40/1/213 M.13/29/0/176 N.O.M.1)
(11-N. Eng. 38-MIA 24...N.27-25 N.22/106 M.20/98 N.32/48/1/516 M.30/49/1/390 N.O.M.0)
(11-N. ENG. 27-MIA 24...C.19-15 B.32/221 C.24/105 C.22/44/0/231 B.15/19/0/126 B.O.C.1)
(12-New Eng. -7' 23-16; 11-New Eng. -7 38-24, NEW ENG. -8' 27-24...SR: Miami 50-44)

CINCINNATI 20 - Baltimore 13—Both are postseason-bound amid myriad potential scenarios (including a slight chance these two could meet in a wildcard rematch). What we do know is that Cincy is locked into the AFC's 6th slot, while the Ravens could possibly improve their lot (from 4th seed to 3rd) should New England get upset by Miami. *Got all of that?* But doubt the Bengals are interested in losing any of their late-season momentum, and most of Joe Flacco's recent efforts suggest he'll be hard-pressed to replicate last week's 309 YP vs. the Giants, especially vs. the voracious Bengal pass rush (now 45 sacks). *Revenge-minded Cincy "under" 6-1 last 7.*

(12-BALT. 44-Cincy 13...B.26-20 C.28/129 B.23/122 B.23/32/0/308 C.22/37/1/193 B.O.C.1)
(11-BALT. 31-Cincy 24...C.23-13 C.30/119 B.28/105 C.24/46/3/364 B.17/27/1/268 B.O.C.0)
(11-Balt. 24-CINCY 16...C.19-15 B.32/221 C.24/105 C.22/44/0/231 B.15/19/0/126 B.O.C.1)
(12-BALT. -7' 44-13; 11-BALT. -7 31-24, Balt. -2' 24-16...SR: Baltimore 19-14)

PITTSBURGH 17 - Cleveland 13—Three straight losses with a playoff berth on the line and Big Ben back in the lineup hardly suggest the Steelers can be expected to deliver a big performance, especially with their postseason carrot now removed. Although Cleveland has struggled at this venue (no SU wins at Heinz Field since 2003), the Brownies did beat their long-time bogey team (*albeit with Charlie Batch at QB*) five weeks ago by the shores of Lake Erie. HC Pat Shurmur reportedly on thin ice, but Cleveland doesn't lose much if forced to go with QB Colt McCoy (who might or might not recall being KO'd by a hard shot from Steeler LB James Harrison last December). *Pitt "under" 9-1 last 10 at home.*

(12-CLE. 20-Pitt 14...C.14-13 C.34/108 P.20/49 P.20/34/3/193 C.17/26/1/130 C.O.P.5)
(11-PITT 14-Cle. 3...P.20-19 P.28/147 C.30/98 P.16/23/1/269 C.19/36/2/206 P.2.C.0)
(11-Pitt 13-CLE. 9...P.22-14 P.36/161 C.15/72 P.23/40/0/199 C.16/41/1/168 P.2.C.0)
(12-CLEVE. +1' 20-14; 11-PITT -14' 14-3, Pitt -7 13-9...SR: Pittsburgh 64-57)



INDIANAPOLIS 27 - Houston 24—Who would have guessed a few weeks ago that this game would have a lot more significance for *Houston*, now in jeopardy of relinquishing a first-round bye with possible 3 losses in 4 weeks? *Did Texans peak too soon?* Meanwhile, Indy is locked into the AFC 5th seed. And emotion could be high at Lucas Oil, as HC Chuck Pagano is expected to return to the Colts' sideline after undergoing leukemia treatments since late September. Quick-study QB Andrew Luck faced Wade Phillips' schemes two weeks ago. Doubt frisky Indy has any interest in dialing down its intensity (or resting Luck) before the playoffs.

(12-HOU. 29-Indy 17...H.23-19 H.32/178 I.25/124 H.23/31/0/239 I.13/27/0/148 H.O.I.1)
(11-HOU. 34-Indy 7...H.26-15 H.41/167 I.16/64 H.17/24/2/17 I.16/31/0/172 H.1.I.2)
(11-INDY 19-Hou. 16...I.24-14 H.31/171 I.32/95 I.23/41/0/225 H.13/16/0/112 I.1.H.1)
(12-HOU. -10 29-17; 11-HOU. -8' 34-7, INDY +6' 19-16...SR: Indianapolis 17-4)

TENNESSEE 28 - Jacksonville 17—Not your normal times in Nashville, where Vanderbilt's football coach James Franklin is on a lot firmer ground than NFL Titans counterpart Mike Munchak, who can only be glad he's not working for a younger version of Bud Adams. Jake Locker (sacked 7 times last week) hardly resembling the many other young QBs who are flourishing. But, after Sunday's 55-7 loss at Green Bay, must note that some of revenge-minded Tennessee's best efforts have come after previous humiliations. Despite several road covers, the 2-13 Jags remain a tough sell. Another effort like last week's near-miss vs. the Pats might be hard to replicate.

(12-JACK. 24-Tenn. 19...T.20-19 T.29/110 J.27/100 T.23/40/2/250 J.17/26/1/221 J.O.T.0)
(11-JACK. 16-Tenn. 14...J.20-13 J.47/163 T.13/43 T.21/34/1/249 J.17/24/0/160 J.1.T.0)
(11-TENN. 23-Jack. 17...T.20-18 J.28/113 T.25/65 T.24/40/2/342 J.21/42/1/187 T.1.J.0)
(12-JACK. +3' 24-19; 11-JACK. -1' 16-14, TENN. -7' 23-17...SR: Tennessee 20-16)

NY GIANTS 33 - Philadelphia 18—It's apparent the Giants are not going to be able to flip the switch as they did last year, with their back-to-back blowout road losses reminding more of Allie Sherman's 1-12-1 G-Men of 1966 than the 2011 season Super Bowl champs. But whatever slim N.Y. playoff hopes remain require victory at MetLife Stadium, where most of Giants' best efforts this season have taken place. Philly not much of an alternative, with only three covers all season and with HC Andy Reid's 14-year tenure likely to end following this game. *The Nick Foles-led Birds guilty of 7 TOs last 2 weeks.*

(12-PHIL. 19-Nyg 17...P.22-20 P.36/191 N.19/57 N.24/42/1/309 P.19/30/0/231 P.O.N.0)
(11-Nyg 29-PHIL. 16...P.25-14 P.40/177 N.25/102 N.16/23/0/232 P.20/30/3/199 N.O.P.0)
(11-PHIL. 17-NY GIA. 10...P.17-12 P.33/136 N.17/29 P.26/36/3/255 N.18/35/1/249 P.O.N.1)
(12-PHIL. -2' 19-17; 11-NY Giants +8 29-16, Phil. +5' 17-10...SR: NY Giants 82-75-2)

★★★**OVER THE TOTAL *Dallas 32 - WASHINGTON 29**—Oddly, Dallas didn't hurt its playoff chances by losing in OT last week vs. the Saints; the Cowboys can still steal the NFC East by beating the hated Redskins. Such a trick would have been asking a bit much on Thanksgiving, when RG III ran Dallas ragged with 4 TDP and a 28-point 2nd Q blitz. But the Cowboys are now familiar with Griffin, who looked a little worse for wear (only 4 YR) when returning from his knee injury last week. Tony Romo has thrown only 4 picks on the road (vs. 11 at home). The Skins have won and covered their last six, but the Cowboys are used to white-knucklers (last 3 decided by 7 pts. total!). *Dallas (rejuvenated defense 31 ppg last 6) "over" 4 of last 5. TV-NBC*

(12-Wash. 38-DAL. 31...22-22 W.30/142 D.11/35 D.37/62/2/423 W.20/28/1/295 W.O.D.1)
(11-DAL. 18-Wash. 16...W.20-17 D.26/125 W.22/65 D.22/36/1/250 W.22/37/1/233 D.1.W.1)
(11-Dal. 27-WASH. 24(OT)...D.20-18 D.32/89 W.24/60 W.25/38/1/276 D.23/37/0/264 D.O.W.1)
(12-Wash. +3' 38-31; 11-DALLAS -3' 18-16, Dallas -7' 27-24(OT)...SR: Dallas 62-41-2)

Chicago 24 - DETROIT 17—Calvin Johnson (already a single-season record 1892 yards receiving) is seeking to become the first in NFL history to hit the 2000 plateau. Detroit, with seven straight losses, has little else to play for. But, without three of its slot receivers, including TE Brandon Pettigrew (high ankle; check status), Megatron will be getting extra attention from the Bears, with their well-schooled secondary (22 ints. TY). The playoff-thinking Bears would love a little revenge vs. Ndamukong Suh, who roughed up Jay Cutler in the first meeting. *(12-CHI. 13-Det. 7...D.21-19 C.32/171 D.18/99 D.28/46/1/241 C.17/32/0/125 C.O.D.3)*

(11-DET. 24-Chi. 13...C.23-16 D.20/181 C.25/122 C.28/38/0/237 D.19/26/1/214 D.O.C.0)
(11-CHI. 37-Det. 13...D.22-12 C.35/109 D.19/80 D.33/63/4/313 C.9/20/0/107 C.1.D.2)
(12-CHI. -6' 13-7; 11-DET. -6 24-13, CHI. -2' 37-13...SR: Chicago 95-65-5)

Green Bay 26 - MINNESOTA 16—Big game for both teams, as G.B. can now earn a first-round bye and the Vikes can clinch a wildcard berth. With 1898 YR, Adrian Peterson needs 102 to hit the magic 2000 mark, and an unlikely 208 to surpass Eric Dickerson's 2105. After he racked up 210 YR in the first meeting in G.B. four weeks ago, you know Peterson and his teammates have the record in mind. However, while the Minny defense is tough vs. the run (Houston only 34 YR last week), it is not as good vs. the pass (only 10 ints. TY; Aaron Rodgers 27 of 35 in first meeting). Rodgers reigns as "king" in the "Black and Blue" Division. *(12-G. BAY 23-Minn. 14...G.22-16 M.28/240 G.36/152 G.27/35/1/283 M.12/25/2/119 G.O.M.0)*

(11-G. Bay 33-MINN. 27...G.25-22 M.31/218 G.26/114 G.24/30/0/307 M.13/32/2/17 G.1.M.0)
(11-G. BAY 45-Minn. 7...G.23-14 M.22/104 G.31/90 G.25/32/0/266 M.16/34/1/162 G.1.M.0)
(12-G. BAY -7' 23-14; 11-Green Bay -9' 33-27, GRN BAY -13' 45-7...SR: Green Bay 54-48-1)

THE GOLD SHEET

ATLANTA 31 - Tampa Bay 16—Falcons in playoff-prep mode, with the top seed in the NFC locked up. Thus, with the Super Bowl in New Orleans, the made-for-dome Atlanta offense will not have to play another game outdoors this season. How long the starters will go in this game is another matter, as many a top seed in recent years has failed in the playoffs (e.g., Packers LY) after letting a little rust set in. Meanwhile, the Bucs have ruined their promising start with five straight losses, with QB Josh Freeman regressing back to 2011 form by tossing 4 ints. in each of the last two games!

(12-Atl. 24-T. BAY 23...A.20-16 A.24/79 T.21/50 A.26/32/1/345 T.20/31/0/276 A.1 T.0)
 (11-T. BAY 16-Atl. 13...A.21-20 T.36/115 A.15/30 A.26/47/1/295 T.22/32/2/180 T.0 A.2)
 (11-ATL. 45-T. Bay 24...A.22-18 A.38/251 T.14/35 T.31/45/3/259 A.13/21/1/177 A.1 T.1)
 (12-Atlanta -1 24-23; 11-TAMPA BAY -1' 16-13, ATLANTA -10 45-24...SR: EVEN 19-19)

NEW ORLEANS 36 - Carolina 23—The Saints' suspension-related 0-4 start (including their Game Two loss at Carolina) is now crushing them, as N.O. has gone 7-4 since. Saints now fighting to avoid a losing season and to end on a positive note going into 2013 and the anticipated return of HC Sean Payton. Despite allowing 31 points to hot Dallas last week, the maligned N.O. defense (27.3 ppg) played with considerable ferocity. Cam can't match TDs now that Drew Brees (7 TDP, 0 ints. last two games) has his mojo back, not to mention RBs Ingram and Spoles playing well again.

(12-CAR. 35-N. ORL. 27...N.27-23 C.41/219 N.27/163 N.31/49/2/323 C.14/20/0/244 C.1 N.0)
 (11-N. ORL. 30-CAR. 27...N.27-20 C.22/162 N.28/101 N.32/45/1/343 C.16/31/1/219 N.0 C.0)
 (11-N. ORL. 45-Car. 17...N.33-21 N.35/208 C.24/164 N.31/38/1/409 C.15/25/1/137 N.0 C.1)
 (12-CAR. +3 35-27; 11-New OrL. -6' 30-27, NEW ORL. -7' 45-17...SR: Carolina 18-17)

DENVER 30 - Kansas City 9—NFL "tall cotton" (more than 14 points). But won't go against the stampeding Broncos, with 10 straight wins (eight covers), especially vs. K.C.'s minimalist offense (16 points or fewer 10 of last 11 games). The quick Denver defense will track Jamaal Charles (226 YR last week) better than did Indy. And the Bowe-less, TO-prone Chief offense just can't do enough to stay within reach now that Peyton Manning (34 TDs, 11 ints.) is directing the offense like Spielberg. Broncos watching Houston-Indy game to see if they have a shot at top AFC seed.

(12-Denver 17-K. CITY 9...D.21-13 K.31/148 D.24/95 D.22/37/1/273 K.13/26/1/116 D.0 K.0)
 (11-Denver 17-K. CITY 10...K.17-16 D.55/244 K.24/134 K.18/34/0/124 D.2/8/0/69 D.0 K.0)
 (11-K. City 7-DEN. 3...D.16-14 D.47/216 K.30/106 K.15/29/0/175 D.6/22/1/50 K.1 D.1)
 (12-Denver -10' 17-9; 11-Denver +3 17-10, Kansas City +2' 7-3...SR: Kansas City 56-49)

SAN DIEGO 22 - Oakland 13—These two opened the 2012 season Sept. 10 in Oakland full of hope; will close it looking at rebuilding jobs. If Carson Palmer (ribs) can't go for the Raiders (1-7 last 8 vs. spread), will the "Pride and Poise boys" (i.e., Oakland) give a shot to former Ohio State QB Terrelle Pryor after Matt Leinart generated only two FGs last week in Charlotte? Why not? Perhaps because the rambunctious S.D. defense collected 11 sacks last week vs. Jets neophyte Greg McElroy. Raiders six straight games scoring 17 or fewer. Will Norv Turner be both a former Raider and former Charger coach after this game? Survey says.....Yes!

(12-S. Diego 22-OAK. 14...O.21-15 O.20/45 S.20/32 O.32/46/0/276 S.24/33/0/226 S.0 O.1)
 (11-Oak. 24-S. DIEGO 17...O.20-20 O.41/191 S.15/75 O.14/21/1/298 S.23/47/1/239 O.1 S.1)
 (11-S. DIEGO 38-OAK. 26...O.28-25 S.31/153 O.24/103 O.28/43/1/417 S.19/26/1/310 S.0 O.0)
 (12-San Diego +1 22-14; 11-Oakland +7' 24-17, San Diego +2' 38-26...SR: Oakland 58-46-2)

★★★**SAN FRANCISCO 33 - Arizona 6**—S.F. now needs this game to clinch the NFC West! Even with last week's injuries, believe the rugged 49er defense will help them get it. S.F. held Arizona to SEVEN yards rushing in the first meeting. Plus, the formidable Cardinal defense must now deal with extra-dimension QB Colin Kaepernick this time, not the steady but unspectacular Alex Smith. Will former Patriot backup QB Brian Hoyer (11 of 19, 1 int. last week vs. Chicago) get a shot directing the hapless Arizona offense? Rookie Ryan Lindley (7 ints.) has yet to throw his first NFL TDP in six games (four starts)! The Cardinal offense has given up a frightening 56 sacks.

(12-S. Fran. 24-ARIZ. 3...A.16-15 S.29/113 A.9/7 A.32/52/1/258 S.18/19/0/204 S.0 A.0)
 (11-S. FRAN. 23-ARIZ. 7...S.25-11 S.49/164 A.11/80 S.20/38/1/267 A.14/35/3/149 S.0 A.2)
 (11-ARIZ. 21-S. Fran. 19...12-12 S.21/90 A.23/55 A.20/29/2/270 S.18/37/0/143 A.1 S.0)
 (12-San Fran. -7 24-3; 11-SAN FRAN. -10 23-7, ARIZ. +3' 21-19...SR: San Francisco 25-17)

SEATTLE 37 - St. Louis 13—St. Louis (7-7-1 TY; 2-12 LY) is among the more improved teams in the NFL. Plus, Jeff Fisher's aggressive crew is an impressive 6-1 vs. the spread as a visitor and 10-3 as an underdog. But do you want to go against a blue-and-green-hot team that is currently on one of the great short-term rolls (last three wins by a combined 150 to 30) that even the brilliant Mayan forecasters couldn't predict it? We don't. Not with Seattle 7-0 SU & vs. the spread TY at CenturyLink Field. Sam Bradford is locked in the pocket; Russell Wilson scrambling sideline to sideline at will. Plus, it's payback time!

(12-ST. LOU. 19-Sea. 13...Se.19-15 Se.34/179 St.27/75 St.17/31/1/211 Se.17/25/3/140 St.0 Se.0)
 (11-Sea. 24-ST. LOU. 7...Se.16-13 Se.39/126 St.17/42 Se.15/25/2/163 St.20/40/1/143 Se.0 St.2)
 (11-SEA. 30-St. Lou. 13...Se.21-19 Se.32/145 St.31/114 Se.21/34/0/214 St.12/29/1/167 Se.1 St.0)
 (12-ST. LOUIS +2' 19-13; 11-Seattle +3 24-7, SEATTLE -9' 30-13...SR: Seattle 17-12)

2012 NFL RATINGS & POINTSPREAD RECORDS

TEAM	CR	HFV	SUR	PSR	O/U	TOTAL		HOME		AWAY	
						PF-PA	PSR	PF-PA	PSR	PF-PA	PSR
Arizona	12	1	5-10	6-9	6-9	16-22	3-5	20-19	3-4	11-25	
Atlanta	-1	4	13-2	9-5-1	5-10	27-18	4-3	26-16	5-2	28-20	
Baltimore	3	3	10-5	6-9	9-6	25-21	3-5	32-22	3-4	18-20	
Buffalo	10	2	5-10	6-9	8-7	21-28	3-4	26-29	3-5	17-28	
Carolina	4	2	6-9	8-7	7-7	21-22	3-5	19-23	5-2	23-20	
Chicago	3	3	9-6	7-8	8-7	23-17	3-5	21-15	4-3	26-19	
Cincinnati	2	2	9-6	8-6-1	6-9	25-20	2-4	24-20	6-2	25-20	
Cleveland	7	2	5-10	8-6-1	5-9	19-23	5-3	20-19	3-3	19-27	
Dallas	3	1	8-7	6-9	8-7	24-25	1-7	26-28	5-2	21-21	
Denver	-4	4	12-3	10-5	10-5	30-19	5-2	32-18	5-3	28-20	
Detroit	8	2	4-11	5-10	9-5	23-27	2-5	24-27	3-5	22-28	
Green Bay	-4	3	11-4	9-6	7-8	27-20	5-3	29-18	4-3	24-23	
Houston	-1	3	12-3	9-6	7-8	27-20	5-3	29-21	4-3	24-20	
Indianapolis	3	3	10-5	9-6	6-9	22-25	5-2	22-20	4-4	22-29	
Jacksonville	11	1	2-13	7-8	6-9	16-27	2-6	12-27	5-2	20-28	
Kansas City	13	2	2-13	5-10	7-8	14-26	3-5	15-25	2-5	12-27	
Miami	7	3	7-8	8-7	5-9	19-19	5-3	20-18	3-4	18-21	
Minnesota	2	3	9-6	8-7	6-9	23-21	5-2	25-19	3-5	21-23	
New England	-3	4	11-4	8-7	11-4	35-22	3-4	36-25	4-3	33-21	
New Orleans	2	3	7-8	8-7	10-5	28-27	4-3	30-23	4-4	27-31	
NY Giants	3	2	8-7	7-8	4-11	26-22	3-4	34-24	4-4	19-21	
NY Jets	10	2	6-9	7-8	7-7	18-23	3-5	19-26	4-3	17-20	
Oakland	12	2	4-11	4-11	7-8	18-28	2-6	21-25	2-5	14-31	
Philadelphia	10	1	4-11	3-12	8-7	18-27	0-8	20-28	3-4	16-25	
Pittsburgh	3	3	7-8	6-9	6-8	21-20	3-4	19-16	3-5	23-24	
St. Louis	5	2	7-7-1	10-5	8-7	19-22	4-3	20-21	6-1	20-19	
San Diego	6	1	6-9	7-8	9-6	22-22	2-5	18-22	5-3	25-22	
S. Francisco	-4	2	10-4-1	9-6	8-6	25-17	4-3	24-14	5-3	25-20	
Seattle	0	6	10-5	11-4	8-7	26-15	7-0	32-12	4-4	21-19	
Tampa Bay	8	1	6-9	8-6-1	7-7	24-25	3-4	24-22	5-2	25-28	
Tennessee	11	2	5-10	6-9	8-7	19-30	3-4	20-29	3-5	19-31	
Washington	2	2	9-6	10-5	8-7	27-25	4-3	25-23	6-2	29-26	

THE GOLD SHEET and LAS VEGAS Lines

HOME TEAM in CAPS. Totals in brackets (). NL-No Line.

	TGS	Hilton	Mirage
BUFFALO-NY Jets	B.2	B.3½(41)	B.3½
N. ENG.-Miami	N.14	N.10½(49½)	N.10½
CINCY-Baltimore	C.3	C.3½(43)	C.4
PITT-Cleveland	P.7½	NL	NL
Houston-INDY	H.2	H.4½(41½)	H.4
TENN.-Jack.	T.2	T.4(42)	T.4
NY GIANTS-Phil.	N.10	N.9(47)	N.9
WASH.-Dallas	W.3	W.3½(50)	W.3½
Chi.-DETROIT	C.4	C.3(44½)	C.3
Green Bay-MINN.	G.3	G.3(47)	G.3
ATLANTA-T. Bay	A.13	NL	NL
N. ORL.-Carolina	N.4½	N.4½(54)	N.4½
DENVER-K. City	D.16	D.16(42)	D.16
SAN DIEGO-Oak.	S.6½	NL	NL
S. FRAN.-Arizona	S.16	NL	NL
SEATTLE-St. Lou.	Se.11	NL	NL

The Gold Sheet EXTRA!!! Technical Play of the Week

NFL: SEATTLE over St. Louis...The Seahawks have now covered 11 of 15 this season and 22 of their last 29 since early in the 2011 campaign. *Seattle has also covered its last ten as host!*

THE GOLD SHEET EXTRA!!! Tech Plays are 12-5 the past four weeks, with NFL plays 60% this season! *The Bowl issue of TGS EXTRA!!! with bowl "Tech Plays" thru Jan. 5, is available now!* For info on the Bowl issue **TGS EXTRA!!!**, plus **THE GOLD SHEET**, **CKO/CTO**, and **Friday Update**, call 1-800-798-GOLD.

MUSIC CITY BOWL

NORTH CAROLINA STATE (7-5) vs. VANDERBILT (8-4)
 Monday, December 31 Day at Nashville, Tennessee (Grass Field)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
N. Car. St.	11	6-5	4-7	26	26	102	310	37-6-29	154	283	34-15-18	-4	1.4	9.4
Vanderbilt	11	7-4	7-4	27	20	150	224	35-17-14	160	183	24-16-6	-7	3.2	9.6

North Carolina St. 30 - Vanderbilt 29—It has hardly been a distraction-free run-up to this bowl game for NC State, whose program was caught in the middle of crossfire between AD Debbie Yow and HC Tom O'Brien after a regular-season-ending 27-10 win over Boston College. Although the Wolfpack somewhat underachieved in 2012, few expected the well-respected O'Brien to get pink-slipped, and the crass power play by Yow has been mostly condemned by ACC observers, who pointed to consistent winners on O'Brien's watch as well as a clean academic and NCAA record, which stood in stark contrast to the shenanigans that have been going on a few miles down Tobacco Road at Chapel Hill. NCS eventually hired Northern Illinois' up-and-comer Dave Doeren as O'Brien's replacement, but will be coached in this game by O'Brien's o.c. Dana Bible.

For our purposes, we wish Yow would have done otherwise (or at least waited until the bowl game was finished), because we were looking forward to recommending another O'Brien-coached team in the postseason after his NC State and BC entries had covered an astounding eight straight bowls! Yow, however, didn't ask for our input on her decision.

We are nonetheless compelled to determine if examination of this Wolfpack vs. Vandy matchup should be framed by the ACC vs. SEC context that would grant a wide berth to the Commodores, who also enjoy a hometown advantage with this game being played a few miles from campus at the NFL Titans' LP Field, where sources say Dore HC James Franklin badly wanted his team to land in the postseason (as opposed to Atlanta) and lobbied AD David Williams hard to do so. *But does Vandy qualify as a normal SEC rep with inherent manpower advantages?* While the Dores have elevated to bowl-caliber in their two years on Franklin's watch, they have also been the bully who gets its comeuppance vs. competent foes, as when losing to Big East rep Cincy in LY's Liberty Bowl.

While the Wolfpack was again a bit imbalanced, it does own a gunslinger QB in 6-6 sr. Mike Glennon (30 TP). And for all of the Dores' accomplishments this season, they faced few truly high-powered aerial displays outside of Georgia's, which carved up Vandy in a 48-3 romp. The Dores will likely be able to trade points behind livewire QB Jordan Rodgers (and an "O" that scored 40 or more in four of five to end the season) vs. a disappointing, sr.-laden Wolfpack 2ndary that ranked 94th vs. the pass. But NCS, good enough to upset Florida State, is well-equipped to go back-and-forth in Nashville.

LIBERTY BOWL

IOWA STATE (6-6) vs. TULSA (10-3)
 Monday, December 31 Day at Memphis, Tennessee (Field Turf)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Iowa St.	11	5-6	6-5	24	25	144	216	34-8-24	171	298	33-15-18	+5	3.7	3.5
Tulsa	12	9-3	7-5	32	25	233	220	52-30-18	113	240	40-19-17	-1	.3	15.0

Tulsa 31 - Iowa St. 26—Rematch from Week One. Host Iowa State won that contest 38-23 behind then starting QB sr. Steele Jantz (281 YP, 2 TDP, 1 TDR that day). That game was the first Tulsa start for QB Cody Green, a hard-throwing, 6-4, 247-lb. jr. who transferred from Nebraska. Even though the extremely well-coached Cyclones represent the stronger Big 12, there are substantial reasons to support C-USA champ Tulsa in the rematch.

First and foremost, UT has steadily improved since that first contest, while ISU has not only juggled its QBs, but has also suffered some attrition at key positions. For sure, Green (only 55%, 17 TDs, 10 ints.) is not among the high-percentage throwers in these days of the wide-open spread packages. But the big QB is now much more familiar with the versatile, deep, and quick-hitting Golden Hurricane offense, which out-rushed its foes nearly 2:1 (312 yards to 1576) and beat impressive UCF twice within a three-week period.

UT's uptempo attack is one of the best-balanced in the nation—featuring speedy RBs Trey Watts (959 yards, 6.0 ypc) & Ja'Terian Douglas (857, 6.6), power back Alex Singleton (765, 21 TDR), tough-cover H-back Willie Carter (6-2, 231; 48 recs.), and downfield threats 6-4 Keyarris Garrett (64 recs., 9 TDs) & Jordan James (40 recs.). With QB Green also a running threat (225 YR, 3 TDR), the Hurricane seemingly have a play-call for every situation.

Moreover, the UT defense ended up being one of the more effective in the nation, ranking No. 3 in total sacks (48) while its well-schooled OL gave up only 9! Sr. DE Jared St. John led the league with 1½ sacks, MLB DeAundre Brown had 9 (plus 125 tackles), and DE Cory Dorris added six. Seven other players had two or more. With eight sr. starters on the platoon, **Continued on page 8**

SUN BOWL

GEORGIA TECH (6-7) vs. SOUTHERN CAL (7-5)
 Monday, December 31 Day at El Paso, Texas (Artificial Turf)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Geo. Tech	12	5-7	7-5	33	32	300	125	52-41-8	148	251	50-27-22	+4	-.7	5.8
So. Cal	12	7-5	3-9	34	25	155	297	55-12-38	156	240	36-16-18	-2	2.9	6.0

Southern Cal 36 - Georgia Tech 33—We don't think John Steinbeck was thinking about a future college bowl game when penning his 1937 novel *Of Mice and Men*. But we hardly recall best-laid plans going as awry as much as they did this year at Southern Cal, which turned out to be one of the biggest false alarms since the Comet Kohoutek. While most scribes and gridiron bandwagoners spent the offseason speculating upon who might be the Trojans' opponent in the BCS title game, where a likely Heisman-winning QB Matt Barkley would be on display, SC instead finds itself unranked, off losses vs. old nasty rivals UCLA and Notre Dame, and in El Paso on New Year's Eve against the only bowl entry (Georgia Tech) in the postseason with a sub-.500 record. Meanwhile, Barkley was a Heisman afterthought and now damaged goods after a late-season shoulder injury (which caused him to miss the reg.-season finale vs. the Fighting Irish and could jeopardize his status for this bowl game).

Savvy Pac-12 observers, however, were not too surprised that SC far undershot those wildy-optimistic expectations. Despite plenty of blue-chip talent, Trojan depth had been depleted somewhat by recent scholarship limitations. And some insiders also suspected HC Lane Kiffin was overmatched, opinions confirmed as Kiffin's team often seemed unprepared and lacked discipline, ranking as one of the most-penalized teams in the nation. And the late-summer addition of Penn State transfer RB Silas Redd failed to yield a sharper edge to the infantry. While Barkley and his squadron of future NFL wideouts led by Marqise Lee and Robert Woods (*185 catches between them*) posted some impressive numbers, Barkley also tossed 15 picks and was under siege much of the season behind a surprisingly-leaky OL. *Barkley missed recent workouts and is highly questionable for this game due to a lingering shoulder injury, so it could be RS frosh Max Wittek under center.* Wittek started Nov. 17 vs. Notre Dame and completed 14 of 23 passes for 186 yds., with 2 ints. and a TDP. Moreover, SC's "D" suffered breakdowns vs. quality opposition and so underachieved that Lane's papa, Monte, a respected defensive guru, has resigned (effective after this game), as his pet "Tampa 2" schemes never seemed to resonate with what has been a poor-covering Trojan 2ndary for the past three years.

Of course, we could be pointing out many similar inadequacies with the Yellow Jackets, who also underachieved. And HC Paul Johnson was so upset with his d.c. (Al Groh) that he fired him at midseason. But Tech still ranked 4th in national rush stats (312 ypg), and Johnson's savvy option pilot Tevin Washington and homerun RB Orwin Smith (9 ypc) could gouge big chunks vs. the undisciplined Trojan defense. No reason to expect SC (0-6 vs. the line away from the Coliseum!) to abandon its season-long inadequacies.

CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

CLEMSON (10-2) vs. LSU (10-2)
 Monday, December 31 Night at Atlanta, Georgia (Dome; Artificial Turf)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Clemson	11	9-2	8-3	42	27	201	320	60-22-36	166	251	35-14-21	+2	3.4	7.3
LSU	11	9-2	5-6	30	16	182	204	38-24-9	94	203	23-11-12	+16	5.0	5.0

Lsu 31 - Clemson 20—We usually don't like to reduce bowl matchups to simple comparisons between the relative strengths of conferences. But the SEC vs. ACC angle must be applied to any serious analysis of this season's Clemson, which was life-and-death on this field vs. the worst Auburn team in recent memory (*as, to be fair, was LSU a few weeks later*) and could not make its intimidating "Death Valley" home venue work in its regular-season finale against SEC South Carolina, which was playing without injured star RB Lattimore & starting its backup QB. Dabo Swinney's team was also humiliated in last season's Orange Bowl when West Virginia dropped a 70-point bomb in Miami. *Thus, it is reasonable to speculate whether Clemson is as "elite" as its 10-2 record (with double-digit losses to the best two teams on its slate, Florida State and South Carolina) would indicate.*

Granted, Clemson has already established school records with 508 points and 6,220 yards, and is ranked highly in national scoring (42.3 ppg), total offense (518 ypg) and passing (320 ypg) stats. QB Tajh Boyd is also among the nation's passing leaders (rating at 168.5) and has thrown for a whopping 3,550 yards and 34 touchdowns, tying him with Philip Rivers in 2003 for the most in a season in ACC history. The strike force, which upgraded markedly a year ago with the arrival of creative o.c. Chad Morris from Tulsa, is also loaded with other playmakers, including RB Andre Ellington (1031 YR) and homerun WRs DeAndre Hopkins (1214 receiving yards) and Sammy Watkins (57 catches). But Clemson (which scored 27 or more on ten occasions) was mostly stonewalled by the only legit SEC defense (South Carolina's) that it faced. *And we hardly believe an LSU 2ndary that has been an assembly line of* **Continued on page 8**

HEART OF DALLAS BOWL
PURDUE (6-6) vs. OKLAHOMA STATE (7-5)

Tuesday, January 1 Day at Dallas, Texas (Grass Field)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Purdue	11	5-6	5-6	28	31	164	229	41-14-24	186	240	43-22-16	+4	-2	11.1
Okla. St.	11	6-5	6-5	41	32	199	338	54-25-26	148	304	44-19-18	-5	1.0	3.8

Oklahoma St. 41 - Purdue 34—Don't expect Purdue to roll over and play dead for Oklahoma State. The Boilermakers parted ways with HC Danny Hope, temporarily replacing him with WR coach Patrick Higgins for this game, with Kent State's Darrell Hazell waiting in the wings, big-money contract in pocket. Hope had underachieved with the talent on hand, and, with Hazell likely being a "fly on the wall" in preparation for this game, many Boiler underclassmen will be auditioning for depth chart and roster spots.

Purdue has gotten some solid QBing the last month from 6th-year senior Robert Marve, who enrolled at Miami-Fla. in 2007 and began his playing career in 2008, starting 11 games for the Hurricanes. Marve has suffered through multiple ACL injuries, but he's thrown for 293 ypg and has completed 72% of his passes in the last 3 games and has a 13-3 TD-int. ratio & 66% comp. pct. this season. The Boilermakers also have a trio of RBs (Akeem Shavers, Akeem Hunt and Ralph Bolden) who've combined for 1423 yds., as well as a trio of dangerous WRs in O.J. Ross, Gary Bush and Antavian Edison who caught a total of 149 passes for 1410 yards and 17 scores (interestingly, all 3 hail from talent-rich Florida).

The Cowboys are a huge favorite in this game for a reason, and that reason is a state-of-the-art spread offense that scored 45 ppg despite having to use three different QBs (true frosh Wes Lunt, RS frosh J.W. Walsh and jr. Clint Chelf, all of whom threw for more than 1000 yards). Oklahoma St. HC Mike Gundy has a proven record as one of the top offensive coaches in the country, but the attack isn't just an aerial circus, as jr. RB Joseph Randle led the Big 12 in rushing with 1351 yards while scoring 14 TDs. Soph WR Josh Stewart was the "big dog" in the receiving corps, hauling in 96 passes for 1154 yds. & 7 scores. The Cowboys' huge OL not only provides OSU's QBs good protection (allowed 8th-fewest sacks in the nation), but also allowed the run game to churn out 5.4 ypc.

The bad news for Gundy is that his team had serious defensive problems (81st in total "D" and 112th against the pass), didn't take care of the ball particularly well (86th in TO margin), and struggled on the road (1-4 SU & vs. the number away from Stillwater). Purdue, conversely, was a respectable 30th in pass efficiency defense and 50th in passing yards allowed this season, and might have a bit of insight into slowing down OSU's system. Boiler d.c. Tim Tibesar held the same position with Kansas State in 2007 and 2008 and has had to prepare for Gundy's attack before.

OSU was looking at a much "bigger" bowl prior to losing its last 2 games and dropping down to this matchup. Meanwhile, 13 seniors are sprinkled in the Purdue 2-deep, and they were delighted to snatch this bowl appearance from a lost season by winning their last 3 games. The Boilers might not spring the upset, but certainly they will go down with guns blazing. Take Purdue and the "Over" in Dallas.

OUTBACK BOWL

MICHIGAN (8-4) vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (10-2)

Tuesday, January 1 Day at Tampa, Florida (Grass Field)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Michigan	12	8-4	5-7	30	19	187	198	45-26-17	156	155	23-9-12	-8	3.7	8.1
So. Carol.	11	9-2	8-3	32	18	140	239	46-18-24	106	204	23-8-15	+2	5.1	5.3

South Carolina 26 - Michigan 16—Have to favor SEC rep South Carolina for several reasons. The Gamecocks were 10-2, losing only at Florida and LSU (back to back!), while destroying SEC East champ Georgia 35-7 and logging wins at Clemson and Vanderbilt (both bowl teams). The South Carolina defense is gnarly, ranking 11th in the nation, allowing just 213 ypg. The pass rush is fierce, leading the SEC in sacks behind almost unblockable DE Jadeveon Clowney with 13.

The reason the Gamecock defense figures to be the most important unit in this game is that Michigan's offense (80th overall at 385 ypg) struggled badly against comparable stop units, scoring just 10 ppg facing the top-25 defenses of Alabama, Michigan St., Notre Dame and Nebraska. Michigan's "D" is a quality unit as well, ranking 10th, but the Gamecocks' attack generated 21 ppg facing the similarly-ranked SEC defenses of LSU, Florida, Vandy and Georgia.

Since the end of the regular season, a few key personnel issues have cropped up that favor the Gamecocks. South Carolina's starting QB Connor Shaw, who missed the regular-season finale at Clemson with a foot injury, has returned to practice and should be ready to go. USC HC Steve Spurrier says backup Dylan Thompson (3 TDP vs. Clemson) will play as well. Two-sport star WR Bruce Ellington (38 catches) will take a break from the basketball season to rejoin his gridiron teammates for this game. On the other side of the coin, Michigan has suspended its best CB, sr. J.T. Flood (48 stops), starting P Will Hagerup (45 ypp), and sr. backup LB Brandin Hawthorne (61 tackles the last 2 seasons) for violation of team rules.

Continued on page 8

GATOR BOWL

NORTHWESTERN (9-3) vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (8-4)

Tuesday, January 1 Day at Jacksonville, Florida (Grass Field)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
N'western	11	8-3	10-1	31	24	227	170	41-23-14	130	268	32-15-16	+12	3.6	10.0
Miss. St.	11	7-4	5-6	28	24	136	253	39-15-23	171	230	32-13-16	+13	3.0	7.6

Northwestern 31 - Mississippi State 26—First-ever meeting. Northwestern is playing in a New Year's Day bowl for the fourth time in the past five seasons, while MSU has won five straight bowls. The Wildcats (1-9 all-time in bowl games) haven't won in the postseason since Harry Truman was President back in 1948! But the charged-up Wildcats are hell-bent to end their 9-game drought. Sr. LB David Nwabuisi says, "Going to 5 straight bowl games means nothing until we win this bowl. Teams got so long to add wrinkles, you just have to prepare for that. We're starting to understand that more and more each year, and past experience is going to help us come out with a W." The Wildcats, who have a shot at a 10-win campaign for the first time since 1995—blew double-digit leads in the second half of all three 2012 defeats! MSU, which started 7-0 with a No. 7 BCS-ranking, never seemed to fully recover from its 38-7 smashing at Bama in late October, dropping 3 of its next 4 games, including the lopsided 41-24 setback at rival Ole Miss.

MSU's spread attack (28 ppg) is directed by jr. QB Tyler Russell (22 TDs, 6 ints.), who likes to throw to WR Chad Bumphis (55 catches, 12 TDs). The ground attack (4.3 ypc, 140.7 ypg; *only 85th nationally*) is spearheaded by nifty RB LaDarius Perkins (240 YR, 8 TDs), who'll have to carry more of the load with backup Nick Griffin (92 YR, 7.0 ypc) sidelined with a torn ACL. Undoubtedly, the Bulldogs will have trouble establishing their ground game vs. NU's stout rush "D" (122.8 ypg, 3.7 ypc; *ranked 18th*), anchored by fierce LBs Nwabuisi (91 tackles, 3 ints.) & Damien Proby (108 tackles, 3 sacks). And the low-ranked but jelling NW secondary (102nd, *6 of its 9 picks came over the last 3 games*) is in better shape with the healthy return of RS frosh standout CB Nick VanHoose (2 ints.; missed 3 games due to injury).

Have more faith in the Wildcats' uptempo, error-free spread option (31 ppg; 227 ypg rushing; *only 12 giveaways*), orchestrated by clever dual-threat QB Kain Colter (68.7%, 8 TDP, 820 YR, 12 TDs) and rotating, sharp-passing Trevor Siemian (*Orlando native*; 59%, 6 TDs), whose top target is former high school teammate Rashad Lawrence (team-high 32 catches). Dazzling, versatile RB/returner Venric Mark (1310 YR, 11 TDs, 6.2 ypc; 20-yd. avg. on punt returns; *ninth nationally in all-purpose yds.*) is a legit home run threat, while RS frosh H-Back Dan Vitale (9 catches vs Michigan State) is a blossoming weapon.

The disappointing Bulldog defense (24 ppg, 4.3 ypc; only 18 sacks; 37 ppg vs. ranked teams) should continue to struggle vs. the Wildcats' spread-you-out attack, as it did vs. the Rebels' similarly-styled offense, which piled up 537 yds. And despite Jim Thorpe Award winner CB Johnthan Banks (16 career ints.) manning the MSU secondary, our Starkville sources tell us that the under-performing DBs suffered from lack of communication and proper alignment down the stretch.

Moreover, the Wildcats own a STs edge with deadly K Jeff Budzien (nailed 17 of 18 FGs) over MSU's Devon Bell (12 of 19; only 9 of 16 from beyond 30 yds.). Therefore, we firmly believe the contrasting SU bowl trends end in Jacksonville, with profitable NW (11-1 vs. *the spread TY!*) holding on to fourth-Q lead and ending its 64-year bowl famine. *Note, SEC bowl teams only 50% vs. the spread since 2009, while Cats' 7th-year HC Pat Fitzgerald has covered 3 of last 4 in postseason.*

CAPITAL ONE BOWL

NEBRASKA (10-3) vs. GEORGIA (11-2)

Tuesday, January 1 Day at Orlando, Florida (Artificial Turf)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Nebraska	12	9-3	6-6	32	28	244	210	47-27-19	209	146	42-25-12	-11	-1.5	7.4
Georgia	12	10-2	7-5	37	19	190	267	60-30-27	168	186	28-14-11	+9	6.0	7.7

Georgia 34 - Nebraska 19—What to do with these disappointed teams, the respective losers of the SEC and Big Ten championship games? Georgia QB Aaron Murray (65%, 31 TDs, only 8 ints.) confessed he was haunted for days by his team's narrow 32-28 loss to Alabama, when a tipped pass in the closing seconds near the Alabama goal line ended up in the hands of an *unintended* receiver, who instinctively caught it inbounds, thus burning off the final seconds. A TD would have sent the Bulldogs to the BCS title game. There's not even the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans as a consolation prize. Just a trip to Orlando. Nebraska, winner of the Legends Division, was dreaming of a Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl trip in just its second year in that historic league. But the Cornhuskers lost their title game "early and often," 70-31, to Wisconsin. So NU is back here in the Capital One, where the Huskers lost 30-13 last season to South Carolina.

Which team will rally from its disappointment? Nebraska, with QB Taylor Martinez (62%, 21 TDs, 10 ints.) an improved passer TY following some tutoring on his footwork and throwing mechanics, became somewhat of a comeback phenomenon. Four times Martinez (2667 YP & 973 YR) led his team from DD deficits in the second half to victory. Quick soph RB Ameer Abdullah seized the opportunity of Rex Burkhead's injury to rush for 1089 yards. **Cont'd on page 8**

ROSE BOWL

WISCONSIN (8-5) vs. STANFORD (11-2)

Tuesday, January 1 Day at Pasadena, California (Grass Field)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Wisconsin	12	7-5	6-6	31	19	244	158	50-36-12	131	191	28-12-15	+4	4.1	7.8
Stanford	13	11-2	7-6	28	17	173	203	47-21-19	88	251	26-14-12	+8	6.2	4.8

Stanford 23 - Wisconsin 22—Both teams out to end some Rose Bowl frustration. Pac-12 champ Stanford hasn't won the Rose since a 13-12 victory over Michigan 41 years ago! Big Ten title game winner Wisconsin has lost the last two Rose Bowls—21-19 to TCU, and 45-38 to explosive Oregon last year. In fact, UW's last Rose win was 17-9 over Stanford after the 1999 campaign, when the Badgers were still coached by Barry Alvarez, the last of the three Pasadena triumphs for Alvarez, who has taken over on a one-game basis following the departure of Bret Bielema to Arkansas. Alvarez' three Rose Bowl trophies are the only ones in UW history, qualifying Alvarez for virtual "sainthood" in Madison and a natural choice (reportedly of the team captains) to return to the sidelines for this one game.

Both teams have undergone in-season QB changes, with mobile, 6-4, 224 RS frosh Kevin Hogan (73%, 9 TDs, 4 ints.) assuming command for the Cardinal with great effect four games ago (Stanford 4-0 SU, 2-2 vs. the spread). The Badgers have gone from erratic Maryland transfer Danny O'Brien (three starts) to 6-5 pocket-passing RS frosh Joel Stave (six starts), to mobile, previously-injured sr. Curt Phillips (55.4%; 2-2 SU & vs. spread in four starts). Phillips, the best orchestrator of the 12th-ranked UW ground game, is likely to be supported in this game by the strong-armed Stave, again available after his collarbone fracture Oct. 27.

In a matchup featuring lots of muscle and power and far less "flippy football" spread action of most other postseason affairs, it's hard to see favored Stanford definitively pulling away from Wisconsin. The Cardinal are better-balanced than the Badgers on offense. But UW is a bit underrated on defense, 13th overall, holding seven teams to 16 points or fewer. The brainy Stanford players are also brawny under second-year HC Davis Shaw (22-4 SU), finishing No. 3 vs. the run and No. 1 in sacks (56; due partly to the many opportunities in the wide-open Pac-12).

But both prefer to run with power (Cardinal RB Stepan Taylor 1442 YR; Wisconsin record-setter Montee Ball 1730, backup James White 802, RS frosh Melvin Gordon 570 on 10.8 ypc). And, while Stanford loves its TEs—6-6 Zach Ertz (66 recs.) & 6-8 Levine Toilolo (24)—the Badgers have the best big-play target in WR Jared Abbrederis (17.2 ypc on 42 recs.). On defense, veteran UW LBs Mike Taylor & Chris Borland (a combined 215 tackles, 25 TFL, 7½ sacks) are eager to demonstrate their prowess vs. the rowdy Cardinal LBing pair of Shayne Skov & Chase Thomas (144 combined Ts, 23½ TFL, 10 sacks).

Looking at a few numbers, the Badgers (8-5 SU) lost four games by 3 points, and one by 7, that one in OT. Of Stanford's 11 wins, six were by 7 points or fewer. UW is 3-1 as a dog TY and 8-3 its last 11. Alvarez is 8-3 SU in bowls; 3-0 SU in the Rose. The pointspread on this game partly reflects the Badgers' dubious league championship due to the ineligibility of Ohio State and Penn State. But the UW performance down the stretch indicates there is value in this dog.

SUGAR BOWL

LOUISVILLE (10-2) vs. FLORIDA (11-1)

Wednesday, January 2 Night at New Orleans, LA (Dome; Artificial Turf)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
Louisville	11	9-2	5-6	31	25	127	294	43-20-23	156	198	36-14-19	+4	.2	11.0
Florida	11	10-1	7-4	27	14	194	142	34-20-12	101	185	17-11-5	+16	7.9	3.5

Florida 26 - Louisville 20—This is the third meeting, but the first since 1992, when UF prevailed 31-17 in "The Swamp." The Gators are seeking their fifth straight BCS victory. Louisville, which is "bowling" for the third straight term, is playing in a BCS bowl for the first time since the 2006 Orange. But what makes this matchup fascinating is the reunion of Card mentor Charlie Strong, who served as the UF defensive coordinator from 2002-09 (part of two national titles). Strong, who showed rarely-seen loyalty by recently turning down a lucrative offer from Tennessee, was mentioned as a candidate to replace Urban Meyer in Gainesville after the 2010 season. After a ho-hum 7-6 campaign LY, UF finished an eye-popping 11-1 in 2012, with its only blemish a 17-9 setback vs. rival Georgia, when the Gators committed a ghastly six TOs. L'ville (moving soon to the ACC) started 9-0 before back-to-back losses vs. Syracuse & UConn. But the Cards rallied from 14-3 halftime deficit in the reg-season finale vs. Rutgers to pull out a 20-17 win and a share of the Big East crown.

The centerpiece of UF's run-oriented attack (27 ppg) is punishing RB Mike Gillislee (1104 YR, 10 TDs), while fleet-footed soph QB Jeff Driskel (64.8%, 11 TDs, only 3 picks; 409 YR) effectively ran read option plays and designed bootlegs out of the pocket. But the passing game (114th) was only a passing fancy with Driskel, who was prone to scrambling or getting sacked before plays developed downfield. First-year o.c. Brent Pease had no legit deep threat, as 6-6 TE Jordan Reed led the team with 552 receiving yards.

Continued next column

ORANGE BOWL

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (12-1) vs. FLORIDA STATE (11-2)

Tuesday, January 1 Night at Miami-Florida (P.A.T.)

TEAM	GP	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	YR	YP	T-R-P	YR	YP	T-R-P	TO	DIFF	OPR
N'ern Ill.	12	11-1	8-3	41	20	253	237	65-40-24	145	212	29-18-9	+7	6.0	19.0
Florida St.	11	9-2	3-8	36	18	199	259	47-26-18	104	179	22-10-12	-8	3.4	7.0

***FLORIDA ST. 34 - Northern Illinois 27**—Must thank the ESPN analysts who've preached long and hard about how Northern Illinois, the first MAC team to get a BCS bowl bid, doesn't even come close to belonging in a game of this magnitude. We're certain the Huskie players were listening closely, and that punditry guarantees a sharp, focused effort. *The fact is that NIU has the tools to make Florida State sweat this game all the way.*

While NIU HC Dave Doeren has moved on to the NC State job, the Huskies will be led by offensive coordinator Rod Carey, and it is Northern Illinois' clever spread attack that could give the Seminoles headaches. QB Jordan Lynch finished 3rd in the nation in total offense, rushing for 136 ypg and passing for 228 and leading the MAC in pass efficiency. Lynch, the MAC Offensive Player of the Year, is a tough-guy who makes good decisions and is extremely difficult to bring down. He has a remarkably productive receiver in sr. Martel Moore, who caught 71 passes for 1054 yards and 12 TDs. The talent level in the MAC was up a tick this season, and NIU's defense ranked 18th in points against, allowing just 19 ppg, as well as 11th in sacks and 9th in tackles for loss.

Florida State, which enters this contest on a 2-8 pointspread tailspin, has coaching issues as well. Defensive coordinator Mark Stoops has left the team to take the head coaching assignment at Kentucky, and assistant HC Eddie Gran will be the new o.c. at Cincinnati (although he'll be with the team for this game). The Seminole attack was led by QB E.J. Manuel, who completed 68% of his passes for 3101 yards, 22 TDs with 10 interceptions. The run game lost its top threat, sr. Chris Thompson, to a season-ending knee injury against Miami. However, Thompson was successfully replaced by Devonta Freeman and James Wilder, Jr., who combined for 1258 YR and 19 TDs. The Florida State defense ranked 2nd in the nation behind Alabama, but that ranking was built partly on holding cupcakes Murray St. and Savannah St. to a total of 184 yards, and by benefiting from facing the struggling offensive units of Wake Forest, BC, Duke and Maryland.

The Huskies should be well-represented, as the school distributed its 17,000 ticket allotment, many given away for free to the student body. The Seminoles have more team speed, and should win, but the Huskies will be playing with a chip on their shoulder and have a savvy QB capable of coming up big.

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Pass protection has been an issue, but the OL (36 sacks) will be healthier after HC Muschamp said it resembled a M*A*S*H unit for much of November.

The fast, physical Gator defense—featuring run-stuffing DT Shariff Floyd (11 TFL) & SS Matt Elam (65 tackles, 10 TFL, 4 ints.)—finished third in scoring (12.9 ppg), fifth in yards allowed (283.4 ypg), with an SEC-high 19 picks. But that UF stop unit faced only two QBs (A&M's Johnny Manziel & Tennessee's Tyler Bray) ranked above L'ville's smart, gutsy soph QB Teddy Bridgewater (*Miami native is 14-3 as starter*; 3,452 YP, 25 TDs, 7 ints. TY), who is expected to be 100% after suffering a broken non-throwing wrist and sprained ankle in late November. The confident Card WRs (5 with at least 30 catches), spearheaded by rangy 6-4 DeVante Parker (38 grabs for an 18.7-yd. avg. & 9 TDs), believe they can succeed against anybody. WR Eli Rogers beams, "I feel like we're are the best receiving corps in the nation, regardless of the secondary we face." To prevent heavy blitzing, speedy RB Jeremy Wright (740 YR, 9 TDs) provides needed balance.

Sure, the Card front seven (151 ypg, 4.3 ypc) will have its hands full. But believe defensive guru Strong will judiciously put 8-9 in the box and dare Driskel to beat 'em up top. L'ville's fearless tandem of SS Calvin Pryor & SS Hakeem Smith (combined 160 tackles) can supply needed run support, while sure-tackling LB Preston Brown (96 tackles) keys on Mr. Gillislee. Moreover, disciplined L'ville (only 12 giveaways)—which has 34 native Floridians on its roster—has been a feisty underdog, going 7-1 in that role since 2011. According to the **THE GOLD SHEET** power ratings, *it's too many, pal.*

THE GOLD SHEET and LAS VEGAS Lines

HOME TEAM in CAPS. Totals in brackets (). NL-No Line.

	TGS	Hilton	Mirage
Fresno St.-Smu	F.13	F.12	F.12
W. Ky.-C. MICH.	W.7½	W.5	W.5½
S. Jose St.-B. Grn.	S.6½	S.7	S.7
Cincinnati-Duke	C.7	C.7	C.7
Ucla-Baylor	U.3	U.1	Pick
LA.-MON.-Ohio	L.5	L.7½	L.7
Rut.-Va. Tech	Pick	V.2	V.2
TEX. TECH.-Minn.	T.11	T.12½	T.13
Air Force-Rice	A.1	A.1	A.1
Arizona St.-Navy	A.6½	A.14½	A.14½
W. Virginia-Syr.	W.2½	W.3½	W.4
Ore. St.-TEXAS	O.1	O.1½	O.2
Tcu-Michigan St.	Pick	T.3	T.2½
VANDERBILT-Ncs	V.6	V.7	V.7
S. Cal.-Ga. Tech	S.7½	S.8	S.10
Tulsa-Iowa St.	T.2	Pick	I.1
Lsu-Clemson	L.2½	L.4	L.4½
Okla. St.-Purdue	O.15	O.17	O.17
Miss. St.-North.	Pick	M.2½	M.2
S. Car.-Michigan	S.6	S.6	S.5½
Georgia-Neb.	G.12	G.10	G.10
Stanford-Wisc.	S.6	S.6½	S.7
FLA. ST.-N. Ill.	F.11½	F.13½	F.13
Florida-Louis.	F.12	F.14	F.14
Oregon-Kan. St.	O.8	O.8½	O.9
TEX. A&M-Okla.	T.6	T.4½	T.4½
Miss.-Pittsburgh	M.3	M.3½	M.3½
Ark. St.-Kent St.	A.3	A.4	A.4
Ala.-N. Dame	A.8	A.9½	A.10

2012 COLLEGE FOOTBALL RATINGS & POINTSPREAD RECORDS

HOW TO USE THE RATINGS: All teams measured from the TOP RATING of zero. HFV - Home Field Value. A team with a rating of 3 would be a 6-point favorite on a neutral field over a team rated 9. Deduct allotted points for HFV from rating of Home Team. SUR - 2012 Straight-up Won-Loss Record vs. all Opponents. PSR - 2012 Won-Loss Record vs. Points spread. R - Current 2012 Power Rating. NR - No Rating. The consensus line is used to compute won-lost points spread records. The consensus line is used to compute won-lost points spread records. Teams with bold + or - have had their ratings moved 2 (NFL) or 3 (College) points for the better (+) or worse (-) since last week. The consensus Las Vegas line is used to compute won-lost spread records.

HFV TEAM	SUR	PSR	R	HFV TEAM	SUR	PSR	R
3 Air Force	6-6	3-9	17	2 Navy	8-4	4-8	14
2 Akron	1-11	6-6	27	5 Nebraska	10-3	7-6	3
3 Alabama	12-1	6-7	-16	3 Nevada	7-6	4-9	13
3 Arizona	8-5	6-7	6	3 New Mexico	4-9	7-6	25
4 Arizona St.	7-5	7-4	6	1 N. Mex. St.	1-11	3-9	39
3 Arkansas	4-8	2-9	11	3 N. Carolina	8-4	6-6	4
3 Arkansas St.	9-3	8-4	8	3 N. Car. St.	7-5	5-7	7
4 Army	2-10	4-8	23	3 No. Texas	4-8	5-7	23
3 Auburn	3-9	4-8	18	4 Northern Ill.	12-1	9-3	4
3 Ball State	9-4	9-4	13	3 N'western	9-3	11-1	5
3 Baylor	7-5	8-4	3	4 Notre Dame	12-0	7-5	-8
3 Boise St.	11-2	6-7	2	3 Ohio	8-4	4-8	18
4 Boston Col.	2-10	4-8	19	4 Ohio State	12-0	7-5	-2
3 Bowl. Green	8-4	8-4	11	3 Oklahoma	10-2	6-6	-7
3 Buffalo	4-8	5-7	22	5 Okla. St.	7-5	7-5	0
3 BYU	8-5	7-5	5	6 Oregon	11-1	7-5	-14
2 California	3-9	3-9	18	4 Oregon St.	9-3	9-3	4
2 C. Michigan	6-6	5-7	21	4 Penn State	8-4	9-3	4
3 Cincinnati	9-3	8-4	4	3 Pittsburgh	6-6	8-4	7
2 Clemson	10-2	8-4	-6	2 Purdue	6-6	6-6	14
1 Colorado	1-11	3-9	31	4 Rice	6-6	7-4	19
3 Colorado St.	4-8	6-6	27	3 Rutgers	9-3	7-5	6
3 Connecticut	5-7	6-6	13	3 S. Diego St.	9-4	8-5	7
3 Duke	6-6	6-6	15	3 S. Jose St.	10-2	10-2	5
3 E. Carolina	8-5	6-7	13	3 SMU	6-6	7-5	15
3 E. Michigan	2-10	4-8	27	2 So. Alabama	2-11	4-9	34
3 Florida	11-1	7-5	-6	4 So. Carolina	10-2	8-4	-6
2 Florida Atl.	3-9	8-4	24	3 So. Florida	3-9	3-9	20
2 Florida Intl.	3-9	5-7	21	3 So. Cal	7-5	3-9	0
5 Florida St.	11-2	4-8	-6	2 So. Miss	0-12	3-9	29
4 Fresno St.	9-3	11-1	3	3 Stanford	11-2	7-6	-4
3 Georgia	11-2	7-6	-10	3 Syracuse	7-5	6-6	7
2 Ga. Tech	6-7	8-5	7	3 TCU	7-5	5-7	5
4 Hawaii	3-9	5-7	29	2 Temple	4-7	4-7	19
3 Houston	5-7	5-7	16	2 Tennessee	5-7	4-8	12
2 Idaho	1-11	2-9	39	4 Texas	8-4	5-7	3
3 Illinois	2-10	3-9	24	3 Texas A&M	10-2	7-5	-13
3 Indiana	4-8	6-6	19	3 Texas St.	4-8	7-4	25
2 Iowa	4-8	3-9	17	3 Tex. Tech	7-5	6-6	7
3 Iowa State	6-6	6-6	11	3 Toledo	9-4	7-6	11
2 Kansas	1-11	5-7	24	3 Troy	5-7	6-6	16
4 Kansas St.	11-1	9-3	-6	3 Tulane	2-10	6-5	29
3 Kent St.	11-2	10-2	9	2 Tulsa	10-3	8-5	7
2 Kentucky	2-10	3-8	26	2 UAB	3-9	5-7	24
3 La.-Lafay.+	9-4	8-4	10	4 UCF	10-4	7-7	6
3 La.-Monroe	8-4	8-4	14	4 UCLA	9-4	8-5	0
3 La. Tech	9-3	6-6	7	6 UNLV	2-11	7-6	28
4 Louisville	10-2	5-7	5	4 Utah	5-7	5-7	10
3 LSU	10-2	5-7	-7	3 Utah St.	11-2	11-2	1
3 Marshall	5-7	4-7	17	2 UTEP	3-9	5-7	23
2 Maryland	4-8	6-6	24	3 UTSA	8-4	7-3	31
2 Mass.	1-11	4-8	36	2 Vanderbilt	8-4	8-4	4
3 Memphis	4-8	7-5	28	2 Virginia	4-8	3-9	12
3 Miami-Fla.	7-5	9-3	6	4 Va. Tech	6-6	3-9	6
2 Miami-Ohio	4-8	4-8	24	3 Wake For.	5-7	5-7	23
3 Michigan	8-4	5-7	0	5 Washington	7-6	8-5	7
2 Michigan St.	6-6	4-8	4	2 Wash. St.	3-9	5-7	25
3 M. Tenn. St.	8-4	8-4	18	3 W. Virginia	7-5	5-7	6
3 Minnesota	6-6	5-7	19	2 W. Kentucky	7-5	8-4	12
4 Mississippi	6-6	9-3	4	3 W. Michigan	4-8	4-8	20
3 Miss. St.	8-4	6-6	6	4 Wisconsin	8-5	6-7	0
4 Missouri	5-7	5-6	12	3 Wyoming	4-8	7-5	19

RECORDS OF OPPOSING BOWL COACHES

KEY: SUR—Career straight-up record in all bowl games as head coach (including games at previous school, if any). PSR—Points spread record as head coach in bowl games. FAV—Points spread record as a bowl favorite. DOG—Points spread record as a bowl underdog. PICK—Record in "pick'em" bowl games. *-Coaches who have resigned or been released.

COACH	SUR	PSR	FAV	DOG	PICK
Gary Patterson, TCU	7-4	4-6-1	2-5-1	2-1	—
Mark Dantonio, Mich. State	1-4	2-3	—	2-3	—
Dana Bible, NC State*	—	—	—	—	—
James Franklin, Vanderbilt	0-1	0-1	0-1	—	—
Paul Johnson, Ga. Tech	2-6	3-5	1-3	2-2	—
Lane Kiffin, Southern Cal	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	—
Paul Rhoads, Iowa State	1-1	1-1	—	1-1	—
Bill Blankenship, Tulsa	0-1	0-1	0-1	—	—
Dabo Swinney, Clemson	1-3	1-3	1-3	—	—
Les Miles, LSU	6-4	6-3-1	4-1	2-2-1	—
Patrick Higgins, Purdue*	—	—	—	—	—
Mike Gundy, Oklahoma St.	4-2	3-3	3-2	0-1	—
Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern	0-4	3-1	—	3-1	—
Dan Mullen, Miss. State	2-0	1-1	1-1	—	—
Brady Hoke, Michigan	2-1	2-1	2-0	0-1	—
Steve Spurrier, South Car.	8-10	8-10	8-7	0-3	—
Bo Pelini, Nebraska	3-2	3-2	2-1	1-1	—
Mark Richt, Georgia	7-4	6-5	5-5	1-0	—
Barry Alvarez, Wisconsin*	8-3	7-4	2-2	5-2	—
David Shaw, Stanford	0-1	1-0	—	1-0	—
Rod Carey, Northern Illinois*	—	—	—	—	—
Jimbo Fisher, Florida State	2-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	—
Charlie Strong, Louisville	1-1	1-1	1-0	0-1	—
Will Muschamp, Florida	1-0	1-0	1-0	—	—

LAST WEEK'S STATS

Statistics for games of December 17 - 23, 2012.

Winner's Stats listed first		FD	WYR	LYR	WYP	LYP	F/FL			
Boise St.	28	Washington	26	21-20	36/109	38/205	27/39/0/298	20/39/2/242	2/1	1/1
BYU	23	S. DIEGO ST.	6	17-13	30/52	39/119	23/44/3/244	12/29/3/144	0/0	3/2
LA.-LAFAY	43	E. Carolina	34	25-24	42/267	30/143	22/35/1/324	25/43/1/278	1/1	1/0
UCF	38	Ball St.	17	33-23	42/222	24/71	22/33/0/272	22/35/0/217	0/0	1/1
NFL										
Atlanta	31	DETROIT	18	19-25	22/73	22/79	25/32/0/271	37/56/1/443	0/0	2/2
BALTIMORE	33	NY Giants	14	25-11	45/224	14/67	25/36/0/309	14/28/0/119	0/0	0/0
CAROLINA	17	Oakland	6	16-12	28/112	22/47	18/29/1/159	20/36/1/142	1/1	0/0
Chicago	28	ARIZONA	13	15-15	33/152	19/29	12/26/0/145	28/49/2/219	2/1	3/1
Cincinnati	13	PITT	10	16-15	16/14	31/95	24/41/2/253	14/28/2/185	1/1	2/1
DENVER	34	Cleveland	12	29-20	32/118	18/91	30/43/1/339	21/36/0/142	2/0	1/1
GREEN BAY	55	Tennessee	7	28-10	35/117	22/79	28/40/0/343	13/30/2/101	0/0	0/0
Indianapolis	20	KAN. CITY	13	16-22	26/90	44/352	17/36/0/198	10/22/2/155	1/0	1/1
MIAMI	24	Buffalo	10	18-17	35/182	28/154	13/25/0/119	20/35/1/227	2/0	3/3
Minnesota	23	HOUSTON	6	22-11	42/174	16/34	16/30/0/171	18/33/0/153	1/1	3/2
New England	23	JACK'VILLE	16	23-22	27/103	23/93	24/41/2/246	29/51/3/343	0/0	0/0
New Orleans	34	DALLAS	31 (OT)	33-18	38/116	11/40	37/53/0/446	26/43/0/406	2/0	1/1
San Diego	27	NY JETS	17	15-18	30/87	23/69	11/22/0/136	15/25/1/156	0/0	1/1
St. Louis	28	TAMPA BAY	13	14-23	27/89	22/80	13/27/1/196	30/54/4/349	1/1	2/1
SEATTLE	42	San Fran.	13	22-17	39/176	19/82	15/22/1/170	19/36/1/231	0/0	2/1
TENNESSEE	14	NY Jets	10	12-20	30/167	30/146	13/22/0/127	13/29/4/107	0/0	2/1
Washington	27	PHILA.	20	18-25	28/128	22/90	16/24/1/185	32/48/1/321	1/0	1/1

LIBERTY BOWL continued from page 4

defensive coordinator Brent Guy was able to take plenty of risks without paying too much of a penalty.

Hoping to change that will be Iowa State RS frosh QB Sam Richardson, who emerged in the last two games with 4 TDs off the bench in Game 11 and then another 3 TDs as a starter in the finale. But those contests were against the worn-down defenses of Kansas and West Virginia. Still, Richardson demonstrated an upside that HC Paul Rhoads is eager to explore. The Cyclones have plenty of quality targets, led by sr. Josh Lenz, who had 29 recs. and 6 TDC (plus 1 TD pass) in an injury-interrupted campaign. However, a lot is being asked of young Richardson, as the ISU ground game was marginal to begin with, and now will be without top rusher Shontrelle Johnson (504 YR; ACL in practice), while virtual co-starter James White (469 YR) has missed some practice time due to a head injury. The bend-but-don't-break defense lost stalwart all-Big 12 LB Jake Knott in November. With Knott in action, ISU gave up 135 ypg on the ground. In the four games without him, 225 ypg. That stat will interest the revenge-minded Hurricane and its robust ground game.

Yes, the Cyclones have been hardened by the much tougher schedule. But, unlike the first meeting, the Tulsa QB is now more experienced. ISU can always turn to sr. passer Jantz. But UT is better developed overall. The Hurricane out-blows the Cyclones this time.

CHICK-FIL-A BOWL continued from page 4

NFL DBs be overmatched, especially considering how John Chavis' stop unit again ranked among the nation's top defenses (8th overall, 11th in scoring). Safety Eric Reid and LB Kevin Minter are established big-play LSU defensive weapons.

While this is not an elite LSU offense, and though reviews of touted QB Zach Mettenberger (only 58% completions) have been lukewarm, he improved as the season progressed while tossing only 6 picks, contributing to LSU's impressive 8th ranking in TO margin. Frosh RB Jeremy Hill (93 ypg rushing the last six games) has emerged to provide balance. And, after dealing with a steady diet of SEC stop units, we expect LSU (9-1 SU at the Georgia Dome, and a blowout winner twice in the Chick-fil-A under HC Les Miles) can score enough vs. the 74th-ranked Clemson "D" to stretch the margin.

OUTBACKBOWL continued from page 5

Michigan's offense revolves around QB Denard Robinson, who rushed for 1166 yards. Robinson sat out the Minny and Northwestern games with an elbow injury, and on his return was used strictly as a "wildcat" QB, RB or WR, as he didn't throw a pass in the final two games. The passing QB was former backup Devin Gardner, who threw for 1005 yards, 8 TDs and 4 ints. while completing 63% in the final 4 games. Likely both will be used in the lineup at the same time in multiple positions in this game, as Robinson's elbow has had a month to heal and he should at least be able to throw short.

That being said, South Carolina's Clowney should be the dominant force, disrupting Michigan blocking schemes and tracking down Robinson and Gardner in passing situations. Offenses need to double or triple-team Clowney, leaving sr. LB Shaq Wilson and FS D.J. Swearingin in prime position to be playmakers. They were 1-2 in tackles for the Gamecocks. Spurrier's defense wins the day in this one.

CAPITAL ONE BOWL continued from page 5.

Sr. Burkhead (535 YR, 7.2 ypc; out six games) has since returned to assume a leadership role.

But the prideful Cornhusker Nation has been greatly disturbed by the failures of the Nebraska defense TY, especially in big games, and especially away from home. The Huskers lost 36-30 at UCLA in Week Two to a Bruin QB playing only his second game, 63-38 at Ohio State, and by 39 points to Wisconsin in that title game at Indianapolis. In those three important games, NU was outscored 169-99, giving up 344 YR at UCLA, 371 at Ohio State, and 539 vs. Wiscy! Time to sound the general alarm.

Those are bad signs facing a UGa team that was rolling heading into its showdown vs. Alabama. Slowed by suspensions, WR injuries, and RB youth in its first several games, the Dawgs had subsequently jelled allowed only 8.5 ppg its previous five contests before the SEC decider. The excellent Bama OL was able to help carve out 350 crucial YR in that game. But there is no indication Nebraska is likely to do the same. Not vs. a Georgia defense laced with NFL prospects such as A-A OLB Jarvis Jones (12½ sacks, 22½ TFL in just 11 games), ILB Alec Ogletree (converted DB; 98 tackles in only 9 games), and space-filling DTs John Jenkins (6-3, 358) & Kwame Geathers (6-6, 355).

Although former starting WRs Michael Bennett & Marvin Brown were lost to season-ending injuries, HC Mark Richt was able to move CB Malcolm Mitchell (40 recs.) back to WR while sr. Tavarres King (39 recs. for 21.7 ypr) emerged as a big-play performer. Meanwhile, true frosh RBs "Gur-Shall" (Todd GurLEY, No. 3, and Keith MarSHALL, No. 4) have both divided the No. 34 of Bulldog great Herschel Walker while also adopting a nickname in his honor. They also pounded out a combined 1983 YR.

Playing what Richt calls "old man" football (using both a FB and TE, as opposed to the popular multi-WR spreads), the Dawgs scored 37 or more points nine times. Combining that type of production with NU's -11 TO margin is not a good scenario for Huskers considering the demonstrated fragility of the Nebraska defense. UGa has won 7 of its last 10 bowls SU (6-4 vs. the spread), with Richt showing he knows how to get his Dawgs ready to bite.

2012 NFL LOGS

ARIZONA

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Seattle vs New Eng, Miami-OT vs Phila, etc.

CHICAGO

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Indy vs Green Bay, San Fran vs St. Louis, etc.

DETROIT (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like St. Louis vs San Fran, San Fran vs Minn., etc.

KANSAS CITY

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Atlanta vs Buffalo, New Or.-OTW vs Phila, etc.

NEW YORK GIANTS (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Dallas vs T. Bay, Carolina vs Phila, etc.

ST. LOUIS (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Detroit vs Wash., Wash. vs Chicago, etc.

ATLANTA (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Kansas City vs Denver, Denver vs San Diego, etc.

CINCINNATI (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Baltimore vs Cleveland, Washington vs Jack, etc.

GREEN BAY

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like San Fran vs Chicago, Chicago vs Seattle, etc.

MIAMI (P.A.T.)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Oakland vs NY Jets, Arizona-OT vs Cincinnati, etc.

NEW YORK JETS (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Buffalo vs Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh vs Miami-OT, etc.

SAN DIEGO

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Oakland vs Tenn., Tenn. vs NY Jets, etc.

BALTIMORE (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Cincy vs Phila, Phila vs Cincy, etc.

CLEVELAND

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Phila vs Cincy, Cincy vs Phila, etc.

HOUSTON

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Miami vs Jack, Jack vs Miami, etc.

MINNESOTA (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Jack-OT vs Indy, Indy vs Jack, etc.

OAKLAND

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like S. Diego vs Miami, Miami vs S. Diego, etc.

SAN FRANCISCO

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Green Bay vs Detroit, Detroit vs Green Bay, etc.

BUFFALO (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like NY Jets vs K. City, K. City vs NY Jets, etc.

DALLAS (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like NY Giants vs Seattle, Seattle vs NY Giants, etc.

INDIANAPOLIS

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Chicago vs Minn., Minn. vs Chicago, etc.

NEW ENGLAND (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Tennessee vs Arizona, Arizona vs Tennessee, etc.

PHILADELPHIA

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Cleveland vs Balt., Balt. vs Cleveland, etc.

SEATTLE (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Arizona vs Dallas, Dallas vs Arizona, etc.

CAROLINA

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Tampa Bay vs New Or., New Or. vs Tampa Bay, etc.

DENVER (P.A.T.)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Pitt vs Atlanta, Atlanta vs Pitt, etc.

NEW ORLEANS (AT)

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Wash. vs Carolina, Carolina vs Wash., etc.

PITTSBURGH

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Denver vs NY Jets, NY Jets vs Denver, etc.

TAMPA BAY

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Carolina vs NY Giants, NY Giants vs Carolina, etc.

ST. LOUIS

Table with columns for date, team, opponent, score, and location. Includes games like Tampa Bay vs NY Jets, NY Jets vs Tampa Bay, etc.

TENNESSEE

(SUR: 5-10 PSR: 6-9 O-U: 8-7)

S.09	NEW ENG.	L +5	13-34	u47
S.16	San Diego	L +6	10-38	o43
S.23	DET.-OT	W +4	44-41	o47
S.30	Houston	L +12	14-38	o44
O.07	Minnesota	L +6	7-30	u44
O.11	PITT	W +6	26-23	o43
O.21	Buffalo	W +3	35-34	o46
O.28	INDY-OT	L -3	13-19	u47
N.04	CHICAGO	L +4	20-51	o43
N.11	Miami	W +6	37-33	u44
N.18	Bye			
N.25	Jack.	L -3	19-24	u44
D.02	HOUSTON	L +6	10-24	u47
D.09	Indy	W +5	23-27	o47
D.17	NY JETS	W -1	14-10	u41
D.23	Green Bay	L +11	7-55	o45
D.30	JACK.			

ARIZONA STATE

(SUR: 7-5 PSR: 7-4 O-U: 5-6)

A.30*	N. ARIZONA	W -26	63-6	u65
S.08*	ILLINOIS	W -5	45-14	o47
S.15*	Missouri	N +4	20-24	u59
S.22*	UTAH	W -6	37-17	u50
S.29	California	W -1	27-10	u58
O.11*	Colorado	W-22	51-17	o57
O.18*	OREGON	L +9	21-43	u68
O.27	UCLA#	L -6	43-45	o58
N.03*	Oregon St.	L +4	26-36	o55
N.10	Southern Cal	L +9	17-38	u64
N.17	WASH. ST.	W-22	46-7	u61
N.23*	Arizona	W +2	41-34	o69
D.29	Navy			

(Fight Hunger Bowl at San Francisco, CA)

BYU

(SUR: 8-5 PSR: 7-5 O-U: 4-8)

A.30*	WASH. ST.	W-12	30-6	u65
S.08	WEBER ST.	L -38	45-13	o58
S.15*	Utah	L -3	21-24	u46
S.20*	Boise St.	W +6	6-7	u50
S.28*	HAWAII	W-26	47-0	u49
O.05*	UTAH ST.	L -6	6	u45
O.13	OREGON ST.#	L -5	24-42	o37
O.20	Notre Dame	W+12	14-17	u40
O.27	Georgia Tech	W +2	41-17	o50
N.10*	IDAHO	N -39	52-13	o50
N.17*	San Jose St.	L -3	14-20	u47
N.24	N. Mexico St.	W-28	50-14	o48
D.20*	S. Diego St.	W -3	23-6	u47

(Poinsettia Bowl at San Diego, CA)

KANSAS STATE (AT)

(SUR: 11-1 PSR: 9-3 O-U: 7-4)

S.01*	MISSOURI ST.	W-34	51-9	o58
S.08	MIAMI-FLA.	W -7	52-13	o58
S.15*	N. TEXAS	L -27	35-21	o55
S.22*	Oklahoma	W+15	24-19	o56
O.06	KANSAS	W+24	56-16	o56
O.13	lowa St.	L -6	27-21	u48
O.20	West Virginia	L +3	55-14	u73
O.27	TEX. TECH#	W -7	55-24	o60
N.03*	OKLA. ST.	W -8	44-30	o67
N.10*	Tcu	W -6	23-10	u57
N.17*	Baylor	L -12	24-52	o74
D.01*	TEXAS	W -11	42-24	o63
J.03*	Oregon			

(Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, AZ)

MINNESOTA (AT)

(SUR: 6-6 PSR: 5-7 O-U: 4-7)

A.30*	Unlv-OT	L -8	30-27	o51
S.08	N. HAMP.	W-13	44-7	o55
S.15	W. MICHIGANW	L -33	28-23	u55
S.22*	SYRACUSE	W +1	17-10	u54
O.06	Illinois	L +6	13-31	u45
O.13	N'WESTERN#	L +3	13-21	u51
O.20	Wisconsin	L +17	13-38	o46
O.27	PURDUE	W +3	44-28	o50
N.03	MICHIGAN	L+10	13-35	u46
N.10	Illinois	W -3	17-3	u45
N.17	Nebraska	L+20	14-38	u52
N.24	MICHIGAN ST.L	+8	10-26	u39
D.28*	Texas Tech			

(Meineke Car Care Bowl at Houston, TX)

OKLAHOMA

(SUR: 10-2 PSR: 6-6 O-U: 7-4)

S.01*	Utah	L -30	24-7	u63
S.08*	FLA. A&M	W -54	69-13	o52
S.22*	KANSAS ST.	L -15	19-24	u56
O.06	Texas Tech	W -5	41-20	o57
O.13	Texas	W -3	63-21	o57
O.20*	KANSAS	W -52	57	o56
O.27*	N. DAME	L -12	13-30	u48
N.03	lowa St.	W -12	35-20	o51
N.10	BAYLOR	L -21	42-34	o75
N.17*	West Virginia	L -11	50-49	o74
N.24	OKLA. ST.-OT	L -6	51-48	o71
D.01	Tcu	W -6	24-17	u59
J.04*	Texas A&M			

(Colton Bowl at Arlington, TX)

WASHINGTON

(SUR: 9-6 PSR: 10-5 O-U: 8-7)

S.09	New Or.	W +7	40-32	o50
S.16	St. Louis	L -3	28-31	o43
S.23	CINCY	L -3	31-38	o49
S.30	Tampa Bay	W -2	24-22	u47
O.07	ATLANTA	L +3	17-24	u51
O.14	MINN.	W +1	38-26	o44
O.21	NY Giants	W +6	23-27	u51
O.28	Pittsburgh	L +4	12-27	u45
N.04	CAROLINA	L -3	13-21	u48
N.11	Bye			
N.18	PHILA.	W -3	31-6	u44
N.22	Dallas	W +3	38-31	o47
D.03*	NY GIANTS	W +3	17-16	u50
D.09	BALT.-OT	W -2	31-28	o48
D.16	Philadelphia	W +4	38-21	o40
D.23	Cleveland	W -6	27-20	o45
D.30	DALLAS			

ARKANSAS STATE (AT)

(SUR: 9-3 PSR: 8-4 O-U: 6-5)

S.01*	Oregon	W+37	34-57	o69
S.08*	MEMPHIS	L -23	33-28	o60
S.15	Nebraska	L+23	13-42	o67
S.22*	ALCORN ST.	W -41	56-0	o58
S.29*	W. KY.	L +1	13-26	u57
O.04*	Fla. Int.	W -1	34-20	u57
O.13*	S. ALABAMA#	L -21	36-29	o51
O.23*	La-Lafayette	W +4	50-27	o62
N.03*	North Texas	W +3	17-19	u59
N.08*	LA-MONROE	W -7	45-23	o60
N.17	Troy	W -3	41-34	o68
D.01	M. TENN. ST.	W+11	45-0	u63
J.06*	Kent St.			

(GoDaddy.com Bowl at Mobile, AL)

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (AT)

(SUR: 9-3 PSR: 5-7 O-U: 7-3-1)

A.30*	SE MO. ST.	L -27	38-27	o57
S.08	MICHIGAN ST.L	+19	7-41	n48
S.22	lowa	W+14	32-31	o49
S.29	N. Illinois	L+10	24-55	o58
O.06	Toledo	L+11	35-50	o66
O.12*	NAVY	L -1	13-31	u60
O.20	BALL ST.#	L +3	30-41	o64
O.27	AKRON	W -7	35-14	u66
N.03	W. MICHIGAN	L +2	31-42	o61
N.10	E. Michigan	W +2	34-31	o62
N.17	MIAMI-O.	W -4	30-16	u63
N.23	MassachusettsW	-11	42-21	o56
D.26*	W. Kentucky			

(Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl at Detroit, MI)

KENT STATE (AT)

(SUR: 11-2 PSR: 10-2 O-U: 8-4)

A.30*	TOWSON	W -7	41-21	o58
S.08*	Kentucky	L +6	14-47	o44
S.19*	Buffalo	W +3	23-7	u51
S.29	BALL ST.	W -2	45-43	o54
O.06	E. Michigan	W -3	41-14	o47
O.13	Army	W -2	31-17	u58
O.20	W. MICH.#	W -3	41-24	o53
O.27	Rutgers	W+13	35-23	o46
N.03	AKRON	L -20	35-24	u60
N.10	Miami-O.	W -6	48-32	o56
N.17	Bow. Green	W +2	31-24	o47
N.23	OHIO	W -10	28-6	u59
N.30*	N. Illinois-OT	N +7	37-44	o58
J.06*	Arkansas St.			

(GoDaddy.com Bowl at Mobile, AL)

MISSISSIPPI (AT)

(SUR: 8-4 PSR: 9-3 O-U: 5-6)

S.01*	C. ARKANSASW-20	49-27		
S.08*	UTEP	W -8	28-10	u55
S.15*	TEXAS	L+10	31-66	o51
S.22	Tulane	W-18	39-0	u53
S.29*	Alabama	W+31	14-33	u53
O.06*	TEXAS A&M	W+12	27-30	u65
O.13	AUBURN#	W -5	41-20	u49
O.27	Arkansas	W +6	30-27	u64
N.03*	Georgia	L+14	10-37	u62
O.18*	Arizona St.	W -9	43-21	u68
O.27	COLORADO	W -47	70-10	o67
N.17*	LSU	W+18	35-41	o49
N.24*	MISS. STATE W	-1	41-24	o54
J.05	Pittsburgh			

(Compass Bowl at Birmingham, AL)

OREGON (AT)

(SUR: 11-1 PSR: 7-5 O-U: 7-4)

S.01*	ARK. ST.	L -37	57-34	o69
S.08	FRESNO ST.	L -34	42-25	u77
S.15	TENN. TECH.	L -53	63-14	u58
S.22*	ARIZONA	W -21	49-0	u78
S.29*	Washington St.L	-31	51-26	o73
O.06*	WASH.	W-24	52-21	o63
O.18*	Arizona St.	W -9	43-21	u68
O.27	COLORADO	W -47	70-10	o67
N.03	Southern Cal	W -8	62-51	o71
N.10*	California	W -30	59-17	o65
N.17*	STAN.-OT	L -20	14-17	o67
N.24	Oregon St.	W -10	48-24	o66
J.03*	Kansas St.			

(Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, AZ)

COLLEGE LOGS

AIR FORCE (AT)

(SUR: 6-6 PSR: 3-9 O-U: 4-6-1)

S.12*	Minnesota	L +3	13-20	u49
S.01	IDAHO ST.	L -32	49-21	u50
S.08	Michigan	W+21	25-31	u60
S.22	Unlv.	W -10	35-38	o55
S.29	COLO. ST.	W -14	42-21	o57
O.06	NAVY-OT	L -8	21-28	u54
O.13*	Wyoming	L -3	28-27	u61
O.20*	N. MEXICO	L -11	28-23	u57
O.26*	NEVADA	W +3	48-31	o67
N.03	Army	L -7	21-42	n62
N.10	San Diego St.	L +7	9-28	u58
N.16*	HAWAII	L -22	21-17	u60
N.24	Fresno St.	L+16	15-48	o60
D.29	Rice			

(Armed Forces Bowl at Ft. Worth, TX)

BALL STATE (AT)

(SUR: 9-4 PSR: 9-4 O-U: 6-7)

A.30*	E. MICHIGAN	W -3	37-26	o56
S.08*	Clemson	W+27	27-52	o66
S.15*	Indiana	W +8	31-39	o63
S.22*	S. FLORIDA	W +2	41-37	u58
S.29	Kent St.	L -2	43-45	o54
O.06	N. ILLINOIS	L +2	23-35	u66
O.13	W. MICH.#OTW	L -3	30-24	u66
O.20	C. Michigan	W -3	41-30	o64
O.27	Army	W -3	30-22	u68
N.06*	Toledo	W +6	34-27	u71
N.14*	OHIO	W -6	52-27	o61
N.23	MIAMI-O.	L -8	31-24	u60
D.21*	Ucf	L +7	17-38	u61

(Beef O'Brady's Bowl at St. Pete's, FL)

CINCINNATI (AT)

(SUR: 9-3 PSR: 8-4 O-U: 5-5)

S.06*	PITTSBURGH W	-5	34-10	u49
S.15*	DEL. ST.	L -45	23-7	o46
S.29	Virginia Tech	W +6	27-24	o46
O.06*	MIAMI-O.	W -20	52-14	o58
O.13*	FORDHAM	L -40	49-17	u64
O.20*	Toledo	L -6	23-29	u64
O.26*	Louisville-OT	W +3	31-34	o52
N.03*	SYRACUSE	W +4	35-24	u55
N.10	Temple	W -9	34-10	u56
N.17	RUTGERS	L -6	3-10	u48
N.23*	S. FLORIDA	W-13	27-10	u49
D.01	Connecticut	W -5	34-17	o40
D.27*	Duke			

(Belk Bowl at Charlotte, NC)

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (AT)

(SUR: 9-4 PSR: 8-4 O-U: 7-5)

S.01*	LAMAR	W-34	40-0	o58
S.08*	Troy	W +2	37-24	u63
S.15	Oklahoma St.	L +23	24-65	o73
S.29*	FLA. INT.	W -6	48-20	o54
O.06	TULANE	N -28	41-13	u54
O.16*	North Texas	L -4	23-30	u56
O.23*	ARK. ST.	L -4	27-50	o62
N.03	La-Monroe	W +9	40-24	o61
N.10	Florida	W +27	20-27	u50
N.17	W. KY.	L -4	31-27	o57
N.24	S. ALABAMA	W-18	52-30	o56
D.01	Fla. Atlantic	W -9	35-21	u60
D.22	E. CAROLINA W	-6	43-34	o67

(New Orleans Bowl at New Orleans, LA)

NAVY (AT)

(SUR: 8-4 PSR: 4-8 O-U: 3-8)

S.01	Notre Dame	L +15	10-50	o55
S.15	Penn St.	L +7	7-34	u47
S.22	VMI	W-36	41-3	o58
S.29	S. JOSE ST.	L +2	0-12	u59
O.06	Air Force-OT	W +8	28-21	u54
O.12*	C. Michigan	W +1	31-13	u60
O.20	INDIANA#	L -2	31-30	u62
O.27	East Carolina	W +3	56-28	o48
N.03	FLA. ATL.	L -17	24-17	u51
N.10	Troy	L -2	31-41	o60
N.17	TEXAS ST.	L -13	21-10	u56
D.08	Army	L -7	17-13	u56

(at Philadelphia, PA)

OREGON STATE (AT)

(SUR: 9-3 PSR: 9-3 O-U: 6-5)

S.08	WISCONSIN	W +7	10-7	u49
S.22	Ucla	W +7	27-20	u51
S.29	Arizona	W +3	38-35	o59
O.06	WASH. ST.	L		

STRIKE ONE FOR NEW JERSEY continued from page 1

How, then, can the public get better educated? Indeed, we suspect the lack of an articulate and coherent voice on behalf of sports gaming in the states is one main reason the sporting public is at all influenced by the predictable commentary from the NFL, NCAA, and others. On the rare occasions a platform has been granted to the pro-gaming argument, it is often some football tout who has trouble stringing together a couple of intelligible sentences, reinforcing the stereotype of "dems and dese" characters in contrast to the well-scrubbed images of NFL and NCAA interests. In that context, the pro-gaming argument is rarely going to be portrayed in a positive light.

Just why the NFL, NCAA and others on the anti-gaming side remain so adamant in their opposition continues to amaze, too. It's not as if the electorate is dictating this policy slant. Indeed, the greatest number of those who find sports gaming truly objectionable would be counted among moral conservatives and evangelicals, a far-right constituency that has been mostly marginalized, if not downright vilified, by the mainstream media. How can these sorts be driving a debate and effectively embraced by supposedly "progressive" entities as the NFL and NCAA?

There are a couple of answers, of which one is pure ignorance on the part of the sports leagues and NCAA. Although that argument is hard to buy. There are other theories, some expounded upon by TGS founder Mort Olshan in his well-received 1975 book Winning Theories of Sports Handicapping. When time and space permit we will speculate further.

What's next? New Jersey has said it plans to license sports betting as soon as January, and in October it published regulations governing licenses. But Gov. Christie also agreed that New Jersey would give the leagues 30 days' notice before it grants any licenses, and hasn't done so yet. The tentative January start date appears to be up in the air, especially in lieu of last week's court decision.

Judge Shipp's preliminary ruling last week also means that New Jersey is now going to have to defend itself in court against the pending lawsuit from the leagues and NCAA. And that's not too far over the horizon, as Shipp ordered that a date for oral argument on that issue will be issued after Jan. 20. Christie, however, is hardly ready to surrender, having assembled his own heavyweight legal team headed by Ted Olson, a former United States Solicitor General. Stay tuned for further developments.

For the moment, however, we instead challenge the mainstream sports media to address the issue instead of covering from any pro-gaming related content. It's time that somebody speak up about the the sports gaming sector being a potential contributor to sustainable economic growth with substantial export value, with the potential to create thousands of new jobs and countless revenues and taxes. We'll even offer ourselves as spokesmen.

As for a proper venue for discussion? How about the business channels such as CNBC, Bloomberg, or Fox Business, which spend almost all of their days dissecting the vicissitudes of those "harmless" entities known as the financial markets. Let the debate commence.

(Editor's note: Check out www.goldsheet.com this week as we discuss the immediate future of several NFL QBs!)

Table with columns for state names (SAN DIEGO STATE, TEXAS A&M, VIRGINIA TECH), scores, and game details like (Poinsettia Bowl at San Diego, CA).

Table with columns for state names (SAN JOSE STATE (AT), TEXAS TECH (AT), WASHINGTON (AT)), scores, and game details like (Military Bowl at Washington, D.C.).

Table with columns for state names (SMU (AT), TOLEDO (AT), WESTERN KENTUCKY (AT)), scores, and game details like (Meineke Car Care Bowl at Houston, TX).

Table with columns for state names (SYRACUSE (AT), UCF, WEST VIRGINIA (AT)), scores, and game details like (Pinstripe Bowl at New York, NY).

Table with columns for state names (TCU, UCLA), scores, and game details like (Beef O'Brady's Bowl at St. Pete's, FL).

Table with columns for state names (TEXAS (AT), UTAH STATE (AT)), scores, and game details like (Alamo Bowl at San Antonio, TX).

HOW TO READ THE LOGS ON PAGES 9-11
LOGS Pg 9-12: The Logs contain the following information: Date game was played...S–September, O–October, etc. Asterisk (*): Night game. W or L in middle column indicates spread Win or Loss. N stands for no spread decision.