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COLLEGE BOWL REPORT #3

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POINTWISE COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL PROPHECY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 — SCORE

(2:00) Creighton 78 - INDIANA STATE 76 ____ ____
(2:30) PURDUE 81 - West Virginia 80 (ESPN) ____ ____
(8:00) BRADLEY 72 - Southern Illinois 67 ____ ____
(8:00) MISSOURI STATE 79 - Illinois State 70 ____ ____
(8:00) WICHITA STATE 68 - Drake 51 ____ ____
(8:00) NORTHERN IOWA 67 - Evansville 58 ____ ____
(9:00) NEW MEXICO 84 - Dayton 73 (MTN) ____ ____

BEST BETS: CREIGHTON, EVANSVILLE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 — SCORE

(12:00) SYRACUSE 77 - Pittsburgh 66 ____ ____
(12:00) CONNECTICUT 70 - Notre Dame 67 (ESPNU) ____ ____
(12:00) GEORGE MASON 65 - Old Dominion 63 ____ ____
(1:00) ILLINOIS 88 - Gonzaga 81 (CBS) (Chicago) ____ ____
(1:00) Arizona 75 - UCLA 69 (CBS) ____ ____
(1:00) SOUTH CAROLINA 84 - Baylor 74 ____ ____
(2:00) Oklahoma St 87 - Rhode Island 73 (ESPNU) ____ ____
(2:00) MARSHALL 66 - St Bonaventure 65 ____ ____
(2:00) VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH 79 - NC-Wilmington 71 ____ ____
(2:00) DELAWARE 73 - Drexel 72 ____ ____
(2:00) ST JOSEPHS 76 - Princeton 65 ____ ____
(2:00) BUTLER 74 - Wisconsin-Milwaukee 54 ____ ____
(3:00) VANDERBILT 81 - So Mississippi 72 ____ ____
(3:00) TULSA 77 - Colorado 73 ____ ____
(3:30) KENTUCKY 93 - Louisville 74 (CBS) ____ ____
(3:30) Villanova 80 - MARQUETTE 77 (ESPN2) ____ ____
(4:00) Minnesota 65 - IOWA 54 (BIG10) ____ ____
(4:00) HOFSTRA 56 - William & Mary 52 ____ ____
(4:00) NORTHEASTERN 73 - James Madison 53 ____ ____
(4:00) ILLINOIS-CHICAGO 72 - Wright State 66 ____ ____
(4:00) LOYOLA-CHICAGO 67 - Detroit 59 ____ ____
(4:00) MISSOURI 83 - Georgia 74 ____ ____
(4:00) Florida International 59 - NEW ORLEANS 55 ____ ____
(5:00) WASHINGTON 93 - Oregon 79 ____ ____
(5:30) LA-MONROE 76 - Arkansas-Little Rock 75 ____ ____
(5:30) Kansas 78 - TEMPLE 74 (ESPN2) ____ ____
(6:00) GEORGIA STATE 80 - Towson 59 ____ ____
(6:30) Michigan State 76 - NORTHWESTERN 68 (BIG10) ____ ____
(7:00) BOWLING GREEN 72 - Saint Louis 67 ____ ____
(7:00) YOUNGSTOWN STATE 62 - Cleveland State 61 ____ ____
(7:00) Georgia Tech 73 - CHARLOTTE 70 ____ ____
(7:00) FLORIDA ATLANTIC 66 - South Alabama 63 ____ ____
(7:00) CALIFORNIA 84 - Stanford 73 ____ ____
(7:00) WASHINGTON STATE 60 - Oregon State 59 ____ ____
(7:30) Virginia Tech 79 - Seton Hall 78 (ESPN2) (Cancun, Mex) ____ ____
(8:00) Cincinnati 78 - RUTGERS 68 ____ ____
(8:00) Wisconsin-Green Bay 77 - VALPARAISO 74 ____ ____
(8:00) Uab 72 - ARKANSAS 71 ____ ____
(8:00) LSU 83 - Utah 80 ____ ____
(8:00) ARKANSAS STATE 84 - North Texas 76 ____ ____
(8:00) MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE 82 - La-Lafayette 77 ____ ____
(8:00) LOUISIANA TECH 81 - Nevada 73 ____ ____
(8:00) TCU 69 - Rice 64 ____ ____
(8:30) Denver 74 - TROY 73 ____ ____
(10:00) FRESNO STATE 82 - Boise State 76 ____ ____
(10:00) PACIFIC 70 - Cal-Northridge 58 ____ ____
(10:00) Cal-Santa Barbara 67 - CAL-IRVINE 65 (CBSC) ____ ____
(10:00) CAL-DAVIS 83 - Cal-Fullerton 81 ____ ____
(10:00) Long Beach State 62 - CAL-RIVERSIDE 61 ____ ____
(10:30) SO CALIFORNIA 64 - Arizona State 54 ____ ____
(11:00) Utah State 77 - NEW MEXICO STATE 69 (ESPNU) ____ ____
(12:00) HAWAII 63 - Idaho 62 ____ ____

BEST BETS: NOTRE DAME, ST BONAVENTURE, KENTUCKY, LOY-CHICAGO, FLA-INTERNATIONAL, GEORGIA STATE, OREGON STATE, ARKANSAS STATE, DENVER, PACIFIC, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, HAWAII

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 — SCORE

(2:00) Wisconsin 65 - PENN STATE 59 (BIG10) ____ ____
(2:00) Georgetown 56 - DEPAUL 54 ____ ____
(2:00) IOWA STATE 81 - Houston 65 ____ ____
(2:00) NORTHERN IOWA 79 - Missouri State 74 ____ ____
(3:00) WICHITA STATE 62 - Bradley 61 ____ ____
(3:00) Creighton 76 - EVANSVILLE 72 ____ ____
(3:00) TEXAS TECH 90 - Utep 83 ____ ____
(3:00) NORTH CAROLINA STATE 75 - Florida 68 ____ ____
(4:30) MICHIGAN 71 - Ohio State 70 (BIG10) ____ ____

COLLEGE KEY RELEASES

KENTUCKY over Louisville (Sat)	**RATING: 1**
CLEMSON over Duke (Sun)	**RATING: 1**
MISSISSIPPI over Cent Florida (Tues)	**RATING: 2**
SYRACUSE over Memphis (Wed)	**RATING: 2**
MISSISSIPPI ST over Westrn Ky (Mon)	**RATING: 3**
ARKANSAS ST over No Texas (Sat)	**RATING: 3**
GEORGIA ST over Drexel (Mon)	**RATING: 4**
GEO WASH'TON over St Bona (Wed)	**RATING: 4**
UNLV over Byu (Wed)	**RATING: 5**
LOYOLA-CHICAGO over Detroit (Sat)	**RATING: 5**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 — SCORE

(5:30) ST JOHNS 63 - Providence 61 ____ ____
(5:30) WAKE FOREST 77 - Xavier 72 (FSN) ____ ____
(7:00) Miami-Florida 74 - PEPPERDINE 66 ____ ____
(7:00) DRAKE 68 - Indiana State 63 ____ ____
(7:45) DUKE 76 - Clemson 69 ____ ____
(8:00) ILLINOIS STATE 67 - Southern Illinois 65 (ESPNU) ____ ____
(1:00) Maryland 85 - NC-GREENSBORO 68 ____ ____

BEST BETS: IOWA STATE, NORTH CAROLINA STATE, DRAKE, CLEMSON

MONDAY, JANUARY 4 — SCORE

(7:00) Northeastern 67 - VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH 66 ____ ____
(7:00) CINCINNATI 80 - Pittsburgh 74 (ESPN) ____ ____
(7:00) GEORGIA STATE 63 - Drexel 56 ____ ____
(7:00) Old Dominion 71 - TOWSON 67 ____ ____
(7:00) GEORGE MASON 75 - Hofstra 58 ____ ____
(7:00) Delaware 69 - JAMES MADISON 65 ____ ____
(7:00) WILLIAM & MARY 72 - North Carolina-Wilmington 51 ____ ____
(7:00) Alabama 83 - TOLEDO 73 ____ ____
(8:00) Utah State 60 - LOUISIANA TECH 54 ____ ____
(9:00) Mississippi State 86 - WESTERN KENTUCKY 75 ____ ____
(9:00) VANDERBILT 68 - Middle Tennessee State 57 ____ ____
(10:00) Cal-Northridge 77 - CAL-DAVIS 73 ____ ____
(10:00) SAN JOSE STATE 73 - Idaho 70 ____ ____
(10:00) CAL-RIVERSIDE 72 - Cal-Santa Barbara 68 ____ ____
(10:00) CAL-IRVINE 60 - Cal-Poly Slo 56 (CBSC) ____ ____
(10:00) Harvard 76 - SANTA CLARA 67 ____ ____
(11:00) Nevada 70 - NEW MEXICO STATE 69 (ESPNU) ____ ____
(12:00) Boise State 71 - HAWAII 70 ____ ____

BEST BETS: GEORGIA STATE, GEORGE MASON, WILLIAM & MARY, UTAH STATE, MISSISSIPPI STATE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 — SCORE

(7:00) GEORGIA 67 - Georgia Tech 64 ____ ____
(7:00) Rhode Island 76 - AKRON 68 ____ ____
(7:00) MARSHALL 83 - Southern Mississippi 77 ____ ____
(7:00) Texas 74 - ARKANSAS 65 (ESPN) ____ ____
(7:00) SOUTH FLORIDA 70 - Notre Dame 68 (ESPNU) ____ ____
(7:00) PURDUE 72 - Minnesota 62 (ESPN2) ____ ____
(8:00) MISSISSIPPI 81 - Central Florida 54 ____ ____
(8:00) DAYTON 76 - Ball State 56 ____ ____
(9:00) COLORADO 73 - Miami-Ohio 64 ____ ____
(9:00) ILLINOIS 70 - Iowa 59 (BIG10) ____ ____
(10:30) SAN DIEGO STATE 79 - New Mexico 75 (MTN) ____ ____

BEST BETS: GEORGIA, RHODE ISLAND, ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 — SCORE

(6:30) MICHIGAN 65 - Wisconsin 56 (BIG10) ____ ____
(7:00) WEST VIRGINIA 87 - Rutgers 57 ____ ____
(7:00) Virginia Commonwealth 74 - DREXEL 66 ____ ____
(7:00) OLD DOMINION 81 - James Madison 65 ____ ____
(7:00) HOFSTRA 72 - Towson 66 ____ ____
(7:00) William & Mary 69 - DELAWARE 67 ____ ____

The lower the number, the higher the play. Top Rating of 1. Normally two teams a week are rated 1. All choices are listed in order of preference. Key Releases are teams rated 4 or higher. Teams rated 5 are considered "Best of the Rest". Teams in Capital Letters in score prophecies, are home. All times Eastern, & subject to late week changes.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 (Continued) — SCORE

(7:00) TENNESSEE 90 - Charlotte 73
(7:00) PROVIDENCE 86 - Louisville 85 (ESPNU)
(7:00) SYRACUSE 88 - Memphis 63 (ESPN2)
(7:00) NC-WILMINGTON 74 - Georgia State 64
(7:00) TEMPLE 76 - Saint Josephs 65
(7:00) DUQUESNE 75 - Richmond 74
(7:00) ST BONAVENTURE 79 - George Washington 77
(7:30) MASSACHUSETTS 80 - Fordham 63
(8:00) TULSA 73 - Tulane 58
(8:00) KANSAS 92 - Cornell 74
(8:00) EVANSVILLE 71 - Illinois State 70
(8:00) BRADLEY 69 - Indiana State 57
(8:00) CREIGHTON 73 - Drake 69
(8:00) MISSOURI STATE 67 - Wichita State 56
(8:00) WYOMING 79 - Colorado State 78 (MTN)
(8:00) VILLANOVA 82 - DePaul 71
(8:00) UAB 80 - East Carolina 52
(8:00) MARQUETTE 81 - Georgetown 79
(8:30) OHIO STATE 76 - Indiana 56 (BIG10)
(9:00) CONNECTICUT 71 - Seton Hall 63
(9:00) TCU 64 - Air Force 53 (CBSC)
(9:00) Northern Iowa 72 - SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 64 (ESPNU)
(9:00) Houston 60 - RICE 56
(9:00) UTEP 65 - Smu 57
(10:00) Duke 88 - Iowa State 84 (ESPN2) (Chicago)
(10:00) STANFORD 73 - Southern California 63
(10:00) BYU 71 - Unlv 70 (MTN)
(10:30) CALIFORNIA 78 - Ucla 69

BEST BETS: SYRACUSE, SAINT JOSEPHS, GEORGE WASHINGTON, DRAKE, SMU, UNLV, UCLA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 — SCORE

(7:00) Xavier 70 - LASALLE 62 (CBSC)
(7:00) Western Kentucky 66 - SOUTH ALABAMA 59
(7:00) Troy 73 - FLORIDA ATLANTIC 67
(7:00) CLEVELAND STATE 65 - Loyola-Chicago 54
(7:00) YOUNGSTOWN STATE 81 - Illinois-Chicago 70
(7:00) NORTHEASTERN 62 - George Mason 57
(7:00) PENN STATE 69 - Michigan 68 (ESPN2)
(8:00) La-Monroe 76 - FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL 71
(8:00) ARKANSAS STATE 68 - Middle Tennessee State 66
(8:00) North Texas 74 - LA-LAFAYETTE 67
(9:00) DENVER 71 - New Orleans 60
(10:00) CAL-NORTHRIDGE 75 - Cal-Irvine 56
(10:00) Long Beach State 73 - CAL-FULLERTON 69

BEST BETS: YOUNGSTOWN ST, LA-MONROE, NO TEXAS, CAL-NORTHRIDGE

BOWL POWER RATINGS

FINAL RECORDS & RATINGS FOR 2009 BOWL TEAMS

	W-L	PR			W-L	PR
Idaho	7-5	39	vs	Bowling Green	7-5	39
Arizona	6-4-1	51	vs	Nebraska	8-5	51
Houston	8-4	50	vs	Air Force	6-4-1	45
Oklahoma	4-5-1	62	vs	Stanford	7-5	52
Missouri	4-7	45	vs	Navy	5-5-2	43
Minnesota	4-7	39	vs	Iowa State	7-4	40
Virginia Tech	6-5-1	58	vs	Tennessee	7-5	51
Auburn	6-5	48	vs	Northwestern	5-6	47
West Virginia	5-6	50	vs	Florida State	3-8	45
Penn State	5-6	58	vs	L.S.U.	5-7	55
Oregon	7-5	60	vs	Ohio State	8-3-1	59
Florida	6-6	65	vs	Cincinnati	5-6	53
South Florida	4-5-1	43	vs	Northern Illinois	5-6	38
South Carolina	7-4	48	vs	Connecticut	8-2-1	48
Mississippi	5-5	52	vs	Oklahoma State	5-5-1	52
Arkansas	7-4	53	vs	East Carolina	6-5-1	44
Texas Tech	6-5	52	vs	Michigan State	4-6-1	46
T.C.U.	8-3	65	vs	Boise State	8-4	62
Georgia Tech	8-4	53	vs	Iowa	8-3	50
Central Michigan	9-3	50	vs	Troy	7-4-1	45
Alabama	8-4	68	vs	Texas	5-7-1	64

NBA BASKETBALL

Key Releases in Bold Lettering & Rated from Top Rating of "1"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 — SCORE

(7:35) ATLANTA HAWKS 117 - New York Knicks 96
(8:05) Orlando Magic 108 - MINNESOTA T'WOLVES 99
(10:35) LOS ANGELES LAKERS 101 - Sacramento 99

BEST BETS: ATLANTA, SACRAMENTO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 — SCORE

(1:05) Cleveland Cavaliers 104 - NEW JERSEY NETS 92
(3:35) MIAMI HEAT 103 - Charlotte Bobcats 86
(7:05) San Antonio Spurs 98 - WASHINGTON 91
(7:05) INDIANA PACERS 99 - Minnesota Timberwolves 89
(7:35) BOSTON CELTICS 121 - Toronto Raptors 104
(8:05) Houston Rockets 98 - NEW ORLEANS 97
(8:05) Orlando Magic 110 - CHICAGO BULLS 100
(8:35) Oklahoma City Thunder 97 - MILWAUKEE 96
(9:05) UTAH JAZZ 103 - Denver Nuggets 101
(9:05) PHOENIX SUNS 103 - Memphis Grizzlies 101
(10:05) PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS 105 - Golden State 98
(10:05) SACRAMENTO KINGS 109 - Dallas Mavericks 101

BEST BETS: MIAMI (1), ORLANDO (4), MEMPHIS, SACRAMENTO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 — SCORE

(6:05) NEW YORK KNICKS 107 - Indiana Pacers 97
(6:05) San Antonio Spurs 102 - TORONTO RAPTORS 97
(6:05) CLEVELAND CAVS 99 - Charlotte Bobcats 88
(8:05) DENVER NUGGETS 113 - Philadelphia 76ers 109
(9:35) LA LAKERS 117 - Dallas Mavericks 102

BEST BETS: NEW YORK, **LOS ANGELES LAKERS (2)**

MONDAY, JANUARY 4 — SCORE

(7:35) Atlanta Hawks 98 - MIAMI HEAT 96
(8:05) Oklahoma City Thunder 101 - CHICAGO BULLS 92
(9:05) UTAH JAZZ 95 - New Orleans Hornets 91
(10:35) Portland Blazers 118 - LA CLIPPERS 113

BEST BETS: ATLANTA (3), OKLAHOMA CITY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 — SCORE

(7:05) Orlando Magic 107 - INDIANA PACERS 98
(7:05) PHILADELPHIA 76ERS 94 - Washington Wizards 82
(7:05) CHARLOTTE BOBCATS 101 - Chicago Bulls 97
(7:35) Milwaukee Bucks 93 - NEW JERSEY NETS 88
(8:35) DALLAS MAVERICKS 110 - Detroit Pistons 92
(9:05) DENVER NUGGETS 125 - Golden St Warriors 109
(10:05) Phoenix Suns 99 - SACRAMENTO KINGS 98
(10:05) PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS 106 - Memphis 90
(10:35) LA LAKERS 104 - Houston Rockets 100

BEST BETS: PHILADELPHIA, **DALLAS (4), PORTLAND (1)**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 — SCORE

(7:05) CLEVELAND CAVALIERS 118 - Washington 107
(7:05) ATLANTA HAWKS 114 - New Jersey Nets 99
(7:05) ORLANDO MAGIC 99 - Toronto Raptors 92
(7:35) Boston Celtics 105 - MIAMI HEAT 104
(8:05) OKLAHOMA CITY 108 - New Orleans Hornets 97
(8:05) Golden State Warriors 100 - MINNESOTA 94
(8:35) SAN ANTONIO SPURS 105 - Detroit Pistons 96
(9:05) UTAH JAZZ 111 - Memphis Grizzlies 92
(9:05) PHOENIX SUNS 104 - Houston Rockets 101
(10:35) Los Angeles Lakers 105 - LA CLIPPERS 98 (ESPN)

BEST BETS: NEW JERSEY, **OKLAHOMA CITY (3), UTAH (2)**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 — SCORE

(7:35) NEW YORK KNICKS 108 - Charlotte Bobcats 104

BEST BETS: NONE

POINTWISE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PROPHECY

NFL KEY RELEASES

BALTIMORE over Oakland	**RATING: 3**
PHILADELPHIA over Dallas	**RATING: 4**
CINCINNATI over New York Jets	**RATING: 4**
KANSAS CITY over Denver	**RATING: 5**
DETROIT over Chicago	**RATING: 5**

BUFFALO 20 - Indianapolis 17 - (1:00) -- Colts' chance at immortality is now by the boards, thanks to Caldwell's benching of Manning & other key performers, when Indy led the Jets by 5. Ridiculous! So now what? Colts **7-0** ATS away this year, but haven't outrushed anyone since Oct, & may continue, altho Bills' run "D" ranks 32nd & last in the NFL. Before that embarrassment vs Atlanta, Buffalo had held its previous 5 foes to 15.6 ppg, so it's possible. Indy is **4-14** ATS in its finale, & **2-8** ATS off a SU chalk loss. Common denominator here is that GM Bill Polian built both franchises. Simply too many "ifs" to be involved.

CAROLINA 31 - New Orleans 27 - (1:00) -- Consecutive losses for previously 13-0 Saints, while managing just 17 & 17 pts, on the heels 35.9 ppg in prior 15 outings. Note that NewOrleans allowed 439 & 439 yds in those 2 setbacks, but could have won LW, had it not been for a late shanked FG try. Panthers got 207 RYs in rout of Giants, & check Moore at 15-of-20 (3/0). May have been a different team with him, instead of Delhomme. Saints **13-5** ATS division RFs, while Carolina is just **1-6** ATS as series host. But NewOrleans **1-4** ATS in division TY, while Panthers **10-4** ATS division dogs, & covered last HG by 28.

Jacksonville 20 - CLEVELAND 13 - (1:00) -- Wow! Three straight wins for the 4-11 Browns. Can't pass, but Harrison has been simply spectacular the past 2 weeks, with 434 RYs (another 148 LW). And check holding 2 of last 3 foes without a TD. But still just a **14-23** ATS play at home, & **6-13** ATS off holding a foe to 10 pts or less. Also 0-3 ATS hosting the Jags. The 'Ville was never in the Pat game, & now on the outside, looking in, with a pair of 35-pt defensive efforts (464-275 yd deficit LW). But the dog is **23-11** ATS in Jaguar games, & they're **6-0** ATS off back-to-back SU & ATS losses, while allowing 35+ pts. An upset.

Philadelphia 24 - DALLAS 17 - (1:00) -- Well, these 2 are safely in the playoffs, altho with the Cowboys on a rare 2-0 Dec run, while the Eagles extended their SU run to 6 straight. Both QBs are doing their thing, with McNabb 20-of-35 for 322 yds & 3 TDs vs the Broncos, altho Philly did blow a 27-10 lead before win in final 0:04. 'Boys' Romo threw only 1 INT in Dec, & check forcing Redskin punts on 8 of their final 9 possessions. Dallas only at 17.5 ppg in last 8 outings, is **7-17** ATS off a division win of 10+ pts, & **3-10** ATS as a division HF. Eagles **13-5** ATS as division RDs, **13-3** ATS on division road with revenge. It's Philly!

DETROIT 23 - Chicago 13 - (1:00) -- Three months ago, the Bears put a 48-24 whuppin' on the hapless Lions, moving their early season mark to 3-1. But that was just about it, as far as Chicago is concerned. Just a single cover since, with 5 consecutive road losses, both SU & ATS. Cutler has been a flop, with 25 INTs, but Lions' Stanton threw 3 in their loss to the Niners, so a possible wash. But this is a revenger for Detroit, which is **25-12** ATS in division play from Dec on out, is **8-0** ATS as a HD vs <.500 foes, & **12-1** ATS as division dog off a pair of losses, vs a foe off a division tilt. Bears **0-9** ATS away, if <.500 into revenge.

HOUSTON 27 - New England 24 - (1:00) -- Just 3rd dog role for Pats, & 5th in last 3 years. Thus far, a 35-34 loss at Indy, & a 38-17 loss at NewOrleans. So Texans in fine company. Houston tied with Jets, Ravens, Steelers, & Broncos, in Wild Card chase, so still a legitimate shot. Three straight wins for Houston, altho saw 27-0 caker vs Miami, turn into 27-20 wrencher. Pats have clinched AFC East, with Brady back in form: brilliant 23-of-26 (4 TDs - 3 to Moss), & another 13 catches for Welker (122 TY). Texans covered their last HG by 20½ pts, but Pats are **18-6** ATS in finale, & **24-13** ATS off allowing <11 pts. To wire.

MIAMI 20 - Pittsburgh 19 - (1:00) -- No quit in Dolphins, altho that may change, with their elimination. Came nearly all the way back from 20-0 deficit LW, but may have lost Ricky (shoulder). Just 60 RYs in that one, after entering with the NFL's 3rd-ranked overland unit. But quick deep deficit necessitated 55 Henne throws (35 completions). Miami is just **8-24** ATS in non-division HGs. But the Steelers are winning by the skin of their teeth. Just 75, 65, & 48 RYs the past 3 weeks (175-48 RY deficit LW), & on a 2-5 SU run, with their only wins by 1 & 3 pts. No line posted as of yet, but note dog at **11-1** ATS in Miami games lately.

MINNESOTA 33 - New York Giants 20 - (1:00) -- Assuming the Vikings took care of matters in their Monday Nighter with the Bears, they will still have a shot at home field throughout the playoffs, should the faltering Saints continue on their present path. Note that the host has covered Minny's last 5 games by **78½ pts**, & that the Vikings have a 31-17 ppg home edge thus far. The Giants: from a 5-0 start to an 8-7 log & elimination. Check allowing 31.2 ppg in their last 10 outings, with 8 TOs in their last 2 losses, altho they did cover their last RG by 30. But they are **9-18** ATS after being held to 10 pts or less. It's Minny.

NEW YORK JETS 20 - Cincinnati 17 - (8:20) -- A win, & the Jets are in, thanks to LW's gift at Indy, when the Colts pretty much emptied the bench. A 202-64 Jet RY edge in that one (200 from Jones & Greene), with little needed from Sanchez, so he still stands at a horrible 12/20. Defensively, the Jets have held their last 5 foes to 9.4 ppg. The Bengals have clinched the AFC North. Just their 2nd playoff berth since '91. Congrats. Check Benson at 1,251 RYs, & NFL's 3rd best rushing "D". The Jets are **1-7** ATS chalks off scoring 28+ pts, & remember, the dog has covered an amazing **13-OF-14** in Cincy contests TY.

San Francisco 20 - ST LOUIS 19 - (1:00) -- Well, the Niners came in for us LW, with Gore becoming the first runner in SanFran history to reach 1,000 RYs in 4 straight years. Seems incredible, doesn't it? Anyway, it was a major luckout, as the Niners managed only 13 FDs (for 2nd straight week), needing 6 takeaways for that 1-pt cover. SF is now just 22 pts from a **20-2** ATS run, so nearly always there. But the 1-14 Rams (1-24 since '08) have been a decent play of late, & have covered vs the Saints, Cards, & Texans, in 3 of their last 4 HGs. SanFran is **6-18** ATS away off win of 7+ pts. Call it tight, despite earlier 35-0 Niner rout.

Atlanta 17 - TAMPA BAY 16 - (1:00) -- A win here, & for the first time in franchise history, the Falcons will have posted consecutive winning seasons. And that is incredible. Try **44 years!** In their win over the Bills, the Falcs topped 90 RYs for the 1st time in 6 weeks, so quite a drop in production. But Ryan was 3/0 in that 31-3 romper. Bucs on 2-game run, with 24 & 20 unanswered pt runs in wins over the Seahawks & Saints. Cadillac: 129 RYs LW, but another 2 INTs from Freeman. Smith **0-8** ATS off a pair of wins, but we steer clear of this one.

Green Bay 27 - ARIZONA 23 - (4:15) -- Could this be a preview of next week's playoffs? We loved that Packer rout of the Seahawks (led 48-3). A solid 143 RYs behind Grant, Green, & Jackson. And Rodgers is now the first-ever QB to reach 4,000 PYs in his first 2 years as a starter. He's at 4,199 yds in '09, & a brilliant 29/7. And Pack checks in with NFL's #2 "D". Compare that to Cards at #24. The dog is on a **15-3** ATS run in 'Zona games, but with Warner off his **52nd** 300-PY gm, & Cards in 1st 10-win season since '76, note that not much comes easy vs this squad. GreenBay is **21-9** ATS away, & on a **5-0** ATS run.

DENVER 26 - Kansas City 20 - (4:15) -- Altho the Broncos have to take care of business here, the fact is that they need either the Jets or Ravens to lose, if they are to make the playoffs. And that after 6-0 start. What a shame. Losses in the final 0:35 & 0:04 the last 2 weeks may have been the final nails in this particular coffin. Just 95, 80, & 70 RYs the last 3 weeks for Denver, altho Orton is a decent 20/9 for the season. The Chiefs have gotten 399 RYs from Charles the last 3 weeks, the visitor is now **29-12** ATS in KC contests, & the Chiefs are **13-3** ATS as division RDs. Call for a Bronco win, but with little breathing room.

Baltimore 30 - OAKLAND 10 - (4:15) -- As noted elsewhere, a win, & the Ravens, like the Jets, are in the playoffs. They've certainly taken full advantage of the lesser lights, winning & covering all 5 games vs <.500 foes, by a combined score of 167-37. Were killed by the penalty, in LW's loss to the Steelers (113 yds), as they held a 175-48 RY edge, with Rice motoring for 141 yds. No TDs for the Raiders vs Cleveland's 31st rated "D", coming from 241 RYs to just 88. And also killed by the penalty: 126 yds. The Ravens are **17-7** ATS as chalks from Dec out, & **8-1** ATS vs the Raiders. Oakland an anemic **15-27** ATS HD.

SAN DIEGO 27 - Washington 10 - (4:15) -- It just continues. The Raiders, with Rivers as a starter, have won their last 18 games in December. Are on a 10-0 SU run, with a **plus 92 pts** ATS in those ten games. Check LW's 30-17 FD, 425-270 TY, & 39:07-20:53 time edges at Tennessee, in thoroughly throttling that oncoming train. Oh, try 32.4 ppg in their last 7 games. The 'Skins' 5-game spread run is a fading memory, in light of 45-12 & 17-0 losses the past 2 wks, with 23-15 & 22-15 FD deficits. Chargers **33-15** ATS off win of 15+ pts. Rout.

Tennessee 24 - SEATTLE 17 - (4:15) -- All she wrote for the Titans, as their herculean quest was shattered in that home embarrassment vs the equally hot Chargers. Just 8-of-21 for 89 yds for Young, along with a 30-17 FD deficit. But Johnson's brilliant season wasn't curtailed. Ten straight 100-yd games, & his 2,355 TYs are just 74 short of Marshall Faulk's mark set in Rams' '99 Super Bowl season. Seattle's Hasselbeck: incredible **8 INTs** the past 2 wks, as the Seahawks have a 106-24 pt deficit in their last 3 games. And try a 206-100 pt deficit the last 7 weeks. Huge letdown for Tennessee, but can't back Seahawks.

PRO POWER RATINGS

(W-L) Indicates the team's Won-Loss Record vs the Pointspread through last week's games. (PR) Indicates the team's Power Rating based on the comparative strength of each team. (HF) Indicates the value of each team's Home Field. For proper guideline, simply add Home Field to Power Rating, if team is playing at home. Difference between home team's total, and opponent's Power Rating equals a probable point difference between them.

ALL TEAMS ARE MEASURED FROM TOP RATING OF 50

This chart is to be used as a guide. For proper handicapping, additional factors, such as injuries, tradition, incentive, trends, weather, coaching, etc. must be taken into consideration.

FOR GAMES TO BE PLAYED WEEKEND OF JANUARY 3

	W-L	PR	HF		W-L	PR	HF
Arizona	8-6-1	52	3	Miami	8-7	48	2
Atlanta	10-5	48	3	Minnesota	8-5-1	53	3
Baltimore	8-6-1	52	3	New England	7-7-1	54	4
Buffalo	7-7-1	41	2	New Orleans	8-7	53	3
Carolina	8-7	47	2	New York Giants	6-8-1	48	2
Chicago	4-10	42	2	New York Jets	8-7	48	2
Cincinnati	7-8	49	2	Oakland	7-8	41	1
Cleveland	9-6	43	2	Philadelphia	9-6	53	3
Dallas	8-7	52	2	Pittsburgh	4-10-1	48	2
Denver	9-6	47	3	St Louis	7-8	37	1
Detroit	4-10-1	37	2	San Diego	8-7	55	3
Green Bay	10-5	53	3	San Francisco	10-4-1	47	2
Houston	7-7-1	50	3	Seattle	5-10	38	2
Indianapolis	10-5	56	3	Tampa Bay	6-9	41	2
Jacksonville	5-10	44	2	Tennessee	6-8-1	48	3
Kansas City	6-9	38	2	Washington	6-8-1	44	2

NFL STATS

	SCORE	FD	ATT-RY	ATT-CO-PY	PL-YDS	I-F
NEW YORK GIANTS	45	23	30-114	30-22-273	60-387	0-0
WASHINGTON	12	15	17- 89	33-17-213	50-302	3-0
ST LOUIS	10	14	21- 88	32-20-150	53-238	3-1
ARIZONA	31	26	32-110	38-24-297	70-407	0-1
BUFFALO	3	11	18- 40	29-17-138	47-178	2-1
ATLANTA	31	24	37-157	35-18-234	72-378	0-0
KANSAS CITY	10	17	28-123	37-22-172	65-295	2-0
CINCINNATI	17	17	36-144	25-17-130	61-274	1-0
OAKLAND	9	19	19- 88	45-26-301	64-389	3-0
CLEVELAND	23	16	46-164	17- 8-118	63-282	0-1
SEATTLE	10	17	29-115	37-19-176	66-291	4-0
GREEN BAY	48	20	32-153	29-16-264	61-417	0-0
NEW YORK JETS	29	17	44-202	19-12- 91	63-293	0-0
INDIANAPOLIS	15	18	24- 64	32-18-213	56-277	1-1
HOUSTON	27	21	32-126	31-20-280	63-406	1-0
MIAMI	20	23	16- 60	55-35-303	71-363	1-0
JACKSONVILLE	7	16	25- 98	25-19-177	50-275	2-0
NEW ENGLAND	35	26	36-197	26-23-267	62-464	0-1
TAMPA BAY	20	24	34-176	31-21-263	65-439	2-0
NEW ORLEANS (OT)	17	23	23-124	37-32-249	60-373	0-1
CAROLINA	41	25	46-247	20-15-169	66-416	0-0
NEW YORK GIANTS	9	22	19- 60	43-29-257	62-317	2-2
DENVER	27	13	18- 70	41-27-171	59-241	1-0
PHILADELPHIA	30	22	28-105	35-20-289	63-394	1-2
BALTIMORE	20	20	38-175	25-13-148	63-323	1-2
PITTSBURGH	23	17	23- 48	33-17-238	56-286	1-1
DETROIT	6	16	31-114	33-18-175	64-289	3-3
SAN FRANCISCO	20	13	32- 84	31-20-226	63-310	0-1
SAN DIEGO	42	30	40-166	28-21-259	68-425	0-1
TENNESSEE	17	17	27-182	21- 8- 88	48-270	2-1
DALLAS	17	22	30-108	38-25-285	68-393	1-0
WASHINGTON	0	15	18- 43	39-24-175	57-218	1-0

VEGAS LINE

NFL

FAVORITE	LINE	OU	UNDERDOG
BUFFALO BILLS	NL	NL	Indianapolis Colts
New Orleans Saints	NL	NL	CAROLINA PANTHERS
CLEVELAND BROWNS	2½	38½	Jacksonville Jags
DALLAS COWBOYS	NL	NL	Philadelphia Eagles
Chicago Bears	NL	NL	DETROIT LIONS
HOUSTON TEXANS	7	45½	New England Patriots
MIAMI DOLPHINS	NL	NL	Pittsburgh Steelers
MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NL	NL	New York Giants
NEW YORK JETS	8	37½	Cincinnati Bengals
San Francisco 49ers	NL	NL	ST LOUIS RAMS
TAMPA BAY BUCS	1	41½	Atlanta Falcons
ARIZONA CARDINALS	3	44½	Green Bay Packers
DENVER BRONCOS	12	38	Kansas City Chiefs
Baltimore Ravens	10	38	OAKLAND RAIDERS
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	NL	NL	Washington Redskins
Tennessee Titans	5½	43½	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

MATHEMATICAL RATING GUIDE

Pointwise's Numerical System based on various factors. Recommended Plays are those teams with at least a 4.0 differential from the official line. We urge a limit of 6 College & 6 NFL teams weekly.

NFL

BUFFALO BILLS favored over Indianapolis Colts by	3.2 Points
CAROLINA PANTHERS favored over New Orleans Saints by	2.7 points
CLEVELAND BROWNS favored over Jacksonville Jags by	6.6 Points
DALLAS COWBOYS favored over Philadelphia Eagles by	5.4 Points
Chicago Bears at DETROIT LIONS	No Rating
HOUSTON TEXANS favored over New England Patriots by	8.9 Points
MIAMI DOLPHINS favored over Pittsburgh Steelers by	3.5 Points
New York Giants at MINNESOTA VIKINGS	No Rating
NEW YORK JETS favored over Cincinnati Bengals by	10.2 Points
San Francisco 49ers favored over ST LOUIS RAMS by	5.3 Points
TAMPA BAY BUCS favored over Atlanta Falcons by	2.7 Points
ARIZONA CARDINALS favored over Green Bay Packers by	1.0 Points
DENVER BRONCOS favored over Kansas City Chiefs by	12.8 Points
Baltimore Ravens favored over OAKLAND RAIDERS by	14.5 Points
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS favored over Washington Skins by	5.6 Points
Tennessee Titans favored over SEATTLE SEAHAWKS by	8.4 Points

KEY FOR BOWL STATS

AOPR = Average Opponent Power Rating. It represents the comparative strength of each team's schedule. **AVS** = Average Score of each game that the bowl team played this season. **FDS** = Average First Downs gained, & allowed, for each bowl team. **RUSH** = Average Rushing Yards gained, & allowed, for each bowl team. **PASS** = Average Passing Yards gained, & allowed, for each bowl team. **TRN** = The Total Turnover Margin for each bowl team. For example, a +5 would indicate that the bowl squad has 5 more takeaways, than giveaways, over the entire course of the season. If a team's turnover margin was a -8 for example, it would indicate that that particular team lost the ball 8 more times than it recovered opponent miscues, over the entire course of the season. **EDGE TO** represents Pointwise's Mathematical Ratings Edge for one team over its bowl opponent. During the regular season, these ratings are weighted toward more recent play. But the interim between a team's final regular season game, & their bowl appearance (more than a month, in most cases) has required a bit of adjustment, so be cautious. **PROPHECY:** Our choice to cover the spread in each bowl game is in capital letters, and followed by a Rating. We rate these plays from a Top Rating of "1", to a Low Rating of "6". **NOTE FOLLOWING KEYS: SU = Straightup; ATS = Against The Spread; RYs = Rushing Yards; PYs = Passing Yards; ypr = yds per rush; ypp = yds per pass.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

VEGAS BOWL LINES

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
NEW MEXICO BOWL		
FRESNO STATE 28	11	**WYOMING 35 (OT)**
ST PETERSBURG BOWL		
RUTGERS 45	3	CENTRAL FLORIDA 24
NEW ORLEANS BOWL		
SO MISSISSIPPI 32	3½	**MIDDLE TENNESSEE 42**
MAACO LAS VEGAS BOWL		
OREGON STATE 20	2½	**BYU 44**
POINSETTIA BOWL		
CALIFORNIA 27	3	**UTAH 37**
HAWAII BOWL		
NEVADA 10	12	**SMU 45**
LITTLE CAESAR'S PIZZA BOWL		
OHIO U 17	3	**MARSHALL 21**
MEINEKE BOWL		
PITTSBURGH 19	2½	**NORTH CAROLINA 17**
EMERALD BOWL		
SO CALIFORNIA 24	7½	BOSTON COLLEGE 13
MUSIC CITY BOWL		
CLEMSON 21	6½	KENTUCKY 13
INDEPENDENCE BOWL		
GEORGIA BULLDOGS	7	TEXAS A&M AGGIES
EAGLE BANK BOWL		
UCLA BRUINS	5	TEMPLE OWLS
CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL		
MIAMI HURRICANES	3	WISCONSIN BADGERS
HUMANITARIAN BOWL		
BOWLING GREEN FALCONS	2	IDAHO VANDALS
HOLIDAY BOWL		
ARIZONA WILDCATS	1½	NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS
ARMED FORCES BOWL		
HOUSTON COUGARS	4½	AIR FORCE FALCONS
SUN BOWL		
OKLAHOMA SOONERS	8	STANFORD CARDINAL
TEXAS BOWL		
MISSOURI TIGERS	6½	NAVY MIDSHIPMEN
INSIGHT BOWL		
MINNESOTA GOPHERS	2½	IOWA STATE CYCLONES
CHICK-FIL-A BOWL		
VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES	4½	TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS
OUTBACK BOWL		
AUBURN TIGERS	7	NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS
GATOR BOWL		
WEST VIRGINIA 'NEERS	2½	FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES
CAPITAL ONE BOWL		
PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS	2½	LSU TIGERS
ROSE BOWL		
OREGON DUCKS	3½	OHIO STATE BUCKEYES
SUGAR BOWL		
FLORIDA GATORS	11	CINCINNATI BEARCATS
INTERNATIONAL BOWL		
SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS	7	NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES
PAPA JOHNS BOWL		
SOUTH CAROLINA 'COCKS	4½	CONNECTICUT HUSKIES
COTTON BOWL		
MISSISSIPPI REBELS	3½	OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS
LIBERTY BOWL		
ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS	7½	EAST CAROLINA PIRATES
ALAMO BOWL		
TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS	8	MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS
FIESTA BOWL		
TCU HORNED FROGS	7	BOISE STATE BRONCOS
ORANGE BOWL		
GEORGIA TECH 'JACKETS	4	IOWA HAWKEYES
GMAC BOWL		
CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPS	3½	TROY TROJANS
BCS CHAMPIONSHIP		
ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE	4	TEXAS LONGHORNS

OUTBACK BOWL

AT TAMPA, FLORIDA

AUBURN (7-5) vs NORTHWESTERN (8-4)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
11:00 AM EST -- ESPN TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Auburn	47.1	33-27	21-20	214-162	219-354	+ 0	Auburn
N'western	42.8	25-23	22-18	120-124	266-221	+ 5	by 3.8 Pts

ANALYSIS

Quick, which of the above teams owns the better won/loss record? Without peeking, we would guess that the vast majority of fans would say the Tigers of Auburn. So, despite the fact that the Wildcats of Northwestern actually have the better SU log, they've been pegged as TD dogs in this contest. The fact that Auburn has played a tougher schedule, coupled with its final margin edge, bears out the spot. For the 'Cats, this marks their 7th bowl slot over the past 15 years, & altho they've covered 2 of their last 3 holiday games, the word "success" hardly describes their post-season play. As a matter of fact they've not won a bowl game since the **1948** Rose Bowl. They've made steady progress under 4th-year head coach Pat Fitzgerald, & need this for their 2nd straight 9 win season. Standing at just 5-4, they wound up the season by winning their final 3 games, all as dogs (+43½ pts ATS), including posting 1 of only 2 losses on then 8th-ranked Iowa, while doubling the Hawkeyes' overland production. They are led by QB Kafka (65.7%), who finished 2nd in the BigTen with 264.6 PYpg. For Auburn, this is marks its 35th bowl campaign, & 12th in the last 15 seasons. Last year's rare miss resulted in securing Gene Chizik as new head coach. He & his staff opened at 5-0 (4 covers), while averaging 254 RYpg & 259 PYpg. An offensive dream. But 3 straight losses, & an eventual 7-5 mark, despite extending Alabama to the final 1:42. Todd (2,377 PYs, 21 TDs), Tate (1,254 RYs, 8 TDs), & Adams (17.8 yds per catch, 10 TDs) present a more than formidable task for the Wildcats. But the dog is on **13-1 & 29-9** spread runs in Northwestern games, as well as **28-16** ATS in Auburn contests. And the Tigers haven't won a bowl by >3 pts since '03.

PROPHECY: NORTHWESTERN 27 - Auburn 25 **RATING: 4**

CAPITAL ONE BOWL

AT ORLANDO, FLORIDA

PENN STATE (10-2) vs LSU (9-3)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
1:00 PM EST -- ABC TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Penn St	43.1	30-12	21-15	174- 94	239-183	+ 3	Penn St
LSU	46.9	26-16	18-19	130-134	180-192	+ 7	by 4.7 Pts

ANALYSIS

Just the 2nd meeting between these traditional gridiron powers, the Nittany Lions of Penn State, & the Tigers of LSU. That 1st match, by the way, came in the '73 Orange Bowl, with the Lions (-5½) prevailing 16-9, despite managing just 9 FDs, & being outgained 479-213. Paterno, of course, is a legend, with the most wins in major college football history (393), while posting a 23-11-1 bowl record. This marks the 5th straight bowl season for the Nits, which may seem a bit odd. But the fact is that PennSt posted 5-7, 5-6, 3-9,& 4-7 records in '00, '01, '03, & '04, before its recent surge, which has the Lions at 50-13 since '05. With its "Spread HD" offense, led by QB Clark, & RB Royster, PSt finished the '08 season with the 11th ranked scoring "O" (41 ppg). A definite drop this year, ranking 33rd in that column, with a 36 ypg deficit from '08. But still a 10-2 record, altho they haven't beaten a ranked team all season. In their showdown home loss to OhioSt, they posted just 9 FDs, & had a 228-76 RY deficit. Oh, they've had their moments, to be sure, behind Clark (62%, 2,787 PYs, 23/10), & Royster 1,104 RYs, & note a 4-0 ATS log away from home, by **62 pts!** The Tigers have also been unimpressive, for the most part, despite just 3 losses, by a combined 21 pts, with 2 to Florida & Alabama. Remember, LSU has won 2 national titles over the previous 6 years, & under head coach Miles, has scored 40, 41, 38, & 38 pts in covering its last 4 bowl contests by a combined **111 pts!** That is simply amazing. In QB Jefferson (62%, 16/6) they have an efficient leader, altho he will be put to the test by the Lions' 8th-ranked "D" (14th in passing efficiency "D"). We simply cannot ignore that incredible post-season success of the Bengals, so we'll grab the spot.

PROPHECY: LSU 24 - Penn State 17 **RATING: 4**

GATOR BOWL

AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

WEST VIRGINIA (9-3) vs FLORIDA STATE (6-6)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
1:00 PM EST -- CBS TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
W Virginia	44.8	27-21	19-16	184-118	198-212	- 1	W Virginia
Florida St	48.5	30-31	22-21	143-204	278-240	+ 0	by 4.2 Pts

ANALYSIS

The "Bowden Bowl". What a fitting finale for one of the sports all-time greats, as Bobby Bowden, head coach of the Seminoles of Florida State, takes on his old team, the Mountaineers of West Virginia. This marks the 28th straight bowl season for the 'Noles, & the 31st bowl appearance in Bobby's 34 years at the helm. And it is the 21st time he has led the Sems to a New Year's Day or later bowl game. By the way, the 28-year streak began with a Gator Bowl meeting against none other than WestVirginia (31-12 FloridaSt win, as a 2½ pt chalk). And the 'Noles also took the Mounties, 30-18, in the '04 Gator, as 10 pt favorites. Just a 6-6 record for FlaSt this year, as they had to win 2 of their final 3 games to do it, & that includes a 29-26 home win over 2-10 Maryland, as a 19-pt chalk. Two factors have undermined Bowden's squad this season, namely a horrible "D" (110th in total, & 97th in scoring), which allowed 36 ppg in 'Noles' final 7 tilts, & the loss of QB Ponder (shoulder). His replacement, Manuel has thrown for just 2 TDs & 6 INTs. The Mounties, on the other hand, have continued their recent excellence (51-12 since the beginning of the '05 season), altho the departure of QB White has had a dramatic effect on WVa's scoring, as it hasn't topped 35 pts in its last 23 games. RB Devine (1,297 yds) is a long distance threat, whenever he touches the ball, & QB Brown (64%) is a good one. The dog has covered all 4 WVa bowl contests since '05, & the 'Noles are 4-0-1 ATS in their last 5 bowls. So, with Bobby going for win #389, it may seem a Seminole call. But there is just no way of getting around the many FloridaSt deficiencies this season. With the spread under a FG, we'll go with the better team, the Mounties.

PROPHECY: WEST VIRGINIA 33 - Florida State 23 **RATING: 2**

SUGAR BOWL

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

FLORIDA (12-1) vs CINCINNATI (12-0)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
8:30 PM EST -- FOX TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Florida	46.3	35-12	22-15	225-102	217-151	+ 7	Florida
Cincinnati	43.6	40-21	21-20	144-141	320-209	+ 9	by 7.5 Pts

ANALYSIS

Just 1 second. Just 1 tick of the clock. That's all that kept the Bearcats of Cincinnati from playing for the BCS National Championship. But Texas was given a reprieve, & that was that, & Cincy, instead of playing for all the marbles, has been given the unenviable task of trying to prove their worth by taking on the mighty Gators of Florida. The oddsmakers sure aren't phased by national rankings, as they've pegged the 5th-ranked Gators as double digit chalks vs the 4th-ranked Bearcats. A year ago, Florida entered its BCS title game with Oklahoma, with a 45-13 ppg edge, a 22-16 FDpg edge, a 230-105 RYpg edge, & a 213-174 PYpg edge. Well, a look above shows that, except for the 10 ppg drop, the remainder of the Gators' stats are very similar. Thus, despite their flop in the SEC title game, this squad is again a powerful force. Its 4th ranked "D" is a full 97 ypg edge over the Bearcats; it still has Tebow (65%, 2,413 yds, 18/5, along with 859 RYs & 13 TDs); & it still has Meyer as its head coach. We mention that, because the Bearcats do not have Brian Kelly on the sidelines for this game, as he has moved on to NotreDame, with Jeff Quinn serving as interim head coach. Not the best of situations, to be sure. Cincy is a quick-strike squad, averaging 5.1 ypr, as well as 9.0 ypp. QB Pike ranks 9th in the land in passing (63%, 2,350 yds, 26/6), with WRs Gilyard & Binns combining for 2,009 yds & 21 TDs. And Gilyard has also returned 3 kicks for TDs. A year ago, Alabama, after losing to Florida in the SEC title game, simply went thru the motions in an embarrassing 31-17 Sugar Bowl loss to Utah. We have to see that as a learning experience for Meyer, Tebow, & Co. Despite Meyer's shocker.

PROPHECY: FLORIDA 41 - Cincinnati 24 **RATING: 3**

ROSE BOWL

AT PASADENA, CAIFORNIA

OREGON (10-2) vs OHIO STATE (10-2)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
4:30 PM EST -- ABC TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Oregon	49.8	38-24	21-18	236-127	189- 203	+ 3	Oregon
Ohio St	44.6	29-12	19-15	200- 83	165- 179	+16	by 1.8 Pts

ANALYSIS

What a match! It seems impossible, but this marks the first Rose Bowl game for the Buckeyes of Ohio State since 1997. However, that fact is simply the result of the emergence of the BCS, & all its glory. Thus, despite winning the BigTen title the previous 4 years, the Bucks played in 2 BCS Championship games, as well as 2 Fiesta Bowls. Thus, they are more than happy with the change in venue, as well as a return to this traditional wonder. Under Tressel, the Bucks have posted an enviable 86-16 record since '02, beginning with that upset of mighty Miami in the '02 Fiesta, to claim the national title. But recently, they've come up short at season's end, losing 3 straight bowl games, including a pair of BCS title contests. This season, they again field one of the top "D"s in the nation, ranking among the Top 10 in five defensive categories, including 3rd in scoring. But inconsistency has been their byword this year, with totally dominating showings, such as its 228-76 RY edge at PennSt, but 22-8 FD & 368-184 TY deficits vs Wisconsin. And QB Pryor is the epitome of sporadic success (56%, 15/10), altho he has run for 707 yds. For the Ducks of Oregon, this is just their 1st Rose Bowl since '94, as their brilliant success over the past 21 years (17 bowls) has taken a back seat to the awesome accomplishments of USC. Led by frosh RB James (1,475 yds, 6.9 ypr, 14 TDs), & QB Masoli (59%, 15/5), they've averaged 42 ppg in their last 9 outings, with their only loss since their opener coming at Stanford, 51-42. And Blount's reinstatement is just another huge weapon for coach Kelly, taking the pressure off James. The Buckeyes are formidable, to be sure, but the Ducks simply have too many answers. We'll lay the FG in this one.

PROPHECY: OREGON 34 - Ohio State 24 **RATING: 3**

INTERNATIONAL BOWL

AT TORONTO, CANADA

SOUTH FLORIDA (7-5) vs NORTHERN ILLINOIS (7-5)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
12:00 PM EST -- ESPN2 TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
So Florida	45.7	26- 21	17-19	169-138	193-191	- 1	So Florida
No Illinois	34.4	31- 21	18-18	203-122	152-205	+ 8	by 3.4 Pts

ANALYSIS

For the 5th time in their 5 years of BCS membership, the Bulls of South Florida are going bowling. And puts them in elite company, as only 6 other schools have reached a holiday spot in each year as a member of that conference. In the preseason, this squad was given a few mentions as a possible Top 25 candidate, altho they lost 11 starters from LY's 8-5 squad, which, incidentally followed a pair of 9-4 campaigns. The main reason for any high hopes, of course, was the return of their splendid leader, QB Grothe, who was 17-of-24 for 236 yds & 3 TDs (no INTs), while also running for 83 yds, in LY's 41-14 rout of Memphis, in the St Petersburg Bowl (15½ pt cover). However, he was lost for the season, in game #3 (knee), & altho the Bulls did win their first 5 games, for the 3rd straight season, & Daniels has been a very decent replacement: 1,766 PYs, 798 RYs, accounting for 21 TDs, they again struggled down the stretch, with 4 of their 5 losses coming by 17, 27, 31, & 21 pts. However, an upset of WestVirginia can't go unmentioned. Their foes here, the Huskies of Northern Illinois, are no bowl strangers, themselves, with this marking their 4th such campaign in the last 6 years. They paid their dues, in a 37-7 pasting from TCU, in the '06 Poinsettia, but gave LaTech all it could handle in LY's Independence. A kickoff return TD was the difference in that 17-10 loss. They are led by RB Spann (945 yds, 5.9 ypr), who posted 19 TDs, & QB Harnish (66%, 1,540 yds, 11 TDs). They have the #1 rushing "O" in the MAC, as well as the league's best total "D", altho they have had their troubles vs the spread offense, which the Bulls run. But Huskies are a **26-13** ATS play as dogs since '01, & they're more than happy to be here.

PROPHECY: South Florida 27 - NORTHERN ILLINOIS 24 **RATING: 5**

PAPAJOHNS BOWL

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

SOUTH CAROLINA (7-5) vs CONNECTICUT (7-5)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
2:00 PM EST -- ESPN TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
S Carolina	50.9	22-20	19-16	125-137	234-168	- 3	So Caro
UConn	46.7	32-25	20-18	173-138	226-245	+ 2	by 4.3 Pts

ANALYSIS

This contest marks the 16th time that Steve Spurrier has taken a squad to a bowl game. He was 0-1 at Duke, 6-5 at Florida, & 1-2 with the Gamecocks of South Carolina. So just a 7-8 post-season mark for the Ol' Ball Coach, which certainly has to be a bit of a surprise to most fans, as he is already a legend. With SC, he becomes the first coach in school history to take his team to 4 bowl games. The 'Cocks have actually been bowl-eligible (.500 or better) the last 6 years, which marks the school's best such run since **1928-1934**. A year ago, SC (+4) was throttled by Iowa, 31-10, in the Outback, with QB Garcia throwing 3 INTs. This year, SC pretty much lives via its 15th ranked "D", as its running game was held to 65 yds or less in 5 games, while Garcia (56.6%, 2,733 yds, 17 TDs) ranked 11th in the SEC in passing efficiency. The 'Cocks were held to 12.6 ppg & 72.4 RYpg in a 5-gm run, before shocking Clemson, 34-17 in its last game, with an unheard of 223-48 RY edge. Oh, only 1 team (Kentucky) has reached 200 RYs vs SC. For the Huskies of Connecticut, this marks their 3rd straight bowl campaign, & 4th in the last 6 years. They were pummeled by WkForest in the '07 Meineke (23-9 FD deficit), but took Buffalo, 38-20, in LY's International, despite losing 5 fumbles (358-24 RY edge). UConn has lost its five games by a total of 15 pts, all to bowl teams, whose combined record is 47-14. Thus, another fine season for Edsall's minions, despite the loss of QB Endres. RBs Todman & Dixon have combined for 2,119 RYs & 27 TDs, while QB Frazer has thrown for 1,113 yds the past 5 games. From the start, we knew we would be going with the dog in this encounter. Husky call.

PROPHECY: CONNECTICUT 24 - South Carolina 22 RATING: 3

LIBERTY BOWL

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

ARKANSAS (7-5) vs EAST CAROLINA (9-4)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
5:30 PM EST -- ESPN TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Arkansas	50.3	37-26	20-20	136-150	303-252	+13	Arkansas
East Caro	42.0	28-22	19-21	150-123	218-262	+14	by 7.6 Pts

ANALYSIS

For the 4th time, the Razorbacks of Arkansas will be participating in the Liberty Bowl. And for the 4th time, the Pirates of East Carolina will be participating in the Liberty Bowl. The Hogs, of course, have a long tradition of post-season play, with this marking their 37th bowl appearance, their ninth in the past dozen years, & their 24th January bowl placement. But recently, they've hardly been an automatic holiday entrant, missing in '04, '05, & '08 (5-6, 4-7, 4-7). And, whereas the Arkies have been known for their overland exploits, finishing 4th in rushing "O" in both '06 & '07, behind the brilliance of Darren McFadden, they dropped to an unimaginable 97th in '08 (Patrino's first year), & rank just 77th in that column this season. But whereas the Hogs ranked 91st in scoring LY (22 ppg), they come in at #8 this season. The reason? An overhead game, which ranks 10th in the nation. Soph QB Mallett is the trigger (3,425 yds, 29 TDs, & just 7 picks). Check 1,295 PYs & 13 TDs in a late-season 4-game run. He has set or matched 16 different school records. He leads the SEC in PYs, & ranks 6th in the nation in efficiency, with WRs Childs & Wright at 19.2 & 16.0 yds per catch. Can the Pirates control that aerial game? Well, they picked off Houston's Keenum 3 times, in the C-USA title game, & remember he entered that game with a **38/6** mark. ECU has a 1,000-yd runner in Lindsay, but it has to be QB Pinkney, who ranks just 80th in the nation in passing (59.5%, 14/10), along with the takeaway, if it is to stay with this juggernaut, which averaged 45 ppg in its final 5 games. The Pirates are a solid **+77** pts ATS in their final 7 games, so are not to be dismissed. However, no way they stay in a high scoring shootout.

PROPHECY: ARKANSAS 45 - East Carolina 30 RATING: 4

COTTON BOWL

AT ARLINGTON, TEXAS

MISSISSIPPI (8-4) vs OKLAHOMA STATE (9-3)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
2:00 PM EST -- FOX TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Mississippi	48.0	30-19	21-17	184-142	223-179	- 9	Miss'ippi
Okla St	47.9	30-22	20-19	192- 88	185-242	+ 2	by 0.9 Pts

ANALYSIS

That's right. For the first time in its 74 years, this game is not being played in Dallas, but rather Arlington (technicality), as the historic Cotton Bowl has been replaced by Cowboys Stadium. And the Rebels of Mississippi have the honor of not only ushering out the old, but also ushering in the new, as this marks an unusual 2nd straight year for OleMiss, in this classic. Last year, as 4-pt dogs, they dismantled TexasTech, to the tune of 47-34, while piling up 522 yds. That one marked the 7th OleMiss win, in its last 8 bowl games, altho it also marked its first bowl game since the '03 Cotton, where it prevailed, 31-28, as a 2½ pt chalk. A year ago, this squad finished 14th in the nation, & with the return of 15 starters, including QB Snead & do-everything McCluster, they rose to the 4th spot in the land after a 2-0 start. But 4 losses, including a shocking 41-27 upset by 5-7 MissSt, in their finale, has dropped them out of the Top 25. Snead blows hot-&-cold. Just 54.3%, with his 20 TD passes offset by 17 INTs (tied for worst in the nation). McCluster is the key, as he has a chance to become the first player in SEC history have 1,000 RYs & 500 receiving yds in the same year. The Cowboys of Oklahoma St were the victims in that '03 Cotton Bowl, their only other meeting with the Rebs. OkieSt was #5 in polls, before an early season loss to Houston, but has been steady, despite the loss of its best WR, Byrant (suspension). QB Robinson (62%, 1,966 yds, 15/8) is among the nation's elites, while Toston (1,177 RYs) leads the Big12's top-ranked rushing "O". And the 'Pokes rank 6th in the nation against the run. We'll take Robinson over Snead, with the 'Boys somewhat controlling McCluster. Call mild upset.

PROPHECY: OKLAHOMA STATE 31 - Mississippi 27 RATING: 3

ALAMO BOWL

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

TEXAS TECH (8-4) vs MICHIGAN STATE (6-6)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
9:00 PM EST -- ESPN TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Texas Tech	46.2	37-22	25-21	81-124	381-225	- 6	Texas Tech
Mich St	45.8	30-25	20-19	136-113	271-252	- 6	by 13.6 Pts

ANALYSIS

Another year, another near unstoppable overhead game, another bowl game. That's been the modus operandi for the Raiders of Texas Tech, ever since the arrival of Mike Leach, ten years ago. The mantle has been passed down from Kingsbury, to Symons, to Crumbie, to Hodges, to Graham, & now to Potts (or Sheffield). From '02 thru '09, Tech has ranked #1, #1, #1, #1, #3, #1, #1 & #2 in passing offense. Absolutely phenomenal. And as a result, they've finished as the 6th, 4th, 8th, 4th, 13th, 7th, 3rd, & 8th ranked team in scoring offense. However, whereas they breezed to 55-15, 38-14, & 45-31 wins in their '02-'04 bowl appearances (35, 11½, & 25 pt covers), they have been flops in their last 4 such shots, with a 2-2 SU mark, losing all 4 ATS. And their 2 wins featured the largest comeback in bowl history (44-41 OT win in the '06 Insight), & overcoming a 28-14 deficit in the final 3:31 of the '07 Gator. This year, they were king of the unexpected outcome: wins of 31-10 **at** Nebraska (31½ pt cover) & 41-13 vs Oklahoma (34½ pt cover); but a 52-30 loss to TexasA&M (44 pt ATS loss). Potts & Sheffield have thrown for 4,200 yds & 33 TDs, but note a 161-48 RY edge over Oklahoma. For the Spartans of Michigan State, this has been a bittersweet season. Just a 6-6 mark, but no losses by more than a TD, before being destroyed, 42-14 in their finale vs PennSt. QB Cousins is a good one (61.5%, 2,460 yds, 18/7), but for the 2nd straight year, they rank just 77th in rushing. They, of course, enter under a dark cloud, of sorts, as Dantonio has suspended 11 players, including its 2 best WRs. Can't see troubled Spartans, & their 103rd-ranked passing "D" staying with the Raiders. But we tread lightly.

PROPHECY: TEXAS TECH 38 - Michigan State 24 RATING: 6

FIESTA BOWL

AT GLENDALE, ARIZONA

TCU (12-0) vs BOISE STATE (13-0)
MONDAY, JANUARY 4
8:00 PM EST -- FOX TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
TCU	40.7	41-12	25-12	255- 81	213-153	+ 4	TCU
Boise St	38.7	44-18	23-16	195-127	266-173	+19	by 7.2 Pts

ANALYSIS

For the first time ever, a pair of unbeaten teams meet in a BCS game, other than the national championship game. And altho this should be a spectacular match, both teams deserved a shot at an automatic BCS conference squad. A year ago, they met in the Poinsettia Bowl, which was a slap, as they entered with a combined 22-2 record, while standing 9th & 11th in the national polls. That game, by the way, was won by the Frogs (-3) 17-16. But that score sure didn't mirror TCU's total dominance. Try 28-15 FD, 275-28 RY, 472-250 TY, & 36:07-23:53 TCU edges. For the Frogs, this marks their 11th bowl trip in the last 12 years. Offensively, they are led by steady QB Dalton, who ranks 4th in the nation in passing efficiency (62.4%, 2,484 yds, 22/5), & running game that checks in at #4. Thus, they can obviously move the ball (4th in total offense, 3rd in scoring). But it has been their "D", which has gained the most notoriety, as it ranks #1 in the nation for the 2nd straight year. Only Texas & Alabama have a higher ranked rushing "D". Only 4 teams topped 92 RYs vs the Frogs. Note 32-11 FD & 342-65 RY edges in its 55-28 rout of Utah. The Broncos of Boise State have posted eye-popping stats the past eleven years, with no less than 9 double digit win campaigns. A combined **47-4** the last 4 years, while finishing the regular season with perfect marks 3 of the last 4 campaigns. And everyone well remembers their spectacular OT upset of Oklahoma in the '06 Fiesta, which many call the greatest bowl game ever. Led by the nation's top ranked QB, Moore (64.8%, 3,325 yds, **39/3**), they rank #1 in scoring. But they were no match for the Frogs' overwhelming "D" last year. We lay the TD spot.

PROPHECY: TCU 33 - Boise State 20 **RATING: 2**

GMAC BOWL

AT MOBILE, ALABAMA

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (11-2) vs TROY (9-3)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6
7:00 PM EST -- ESPN TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Cent Mich	38.6	33-17	24-18	173-119	245-207	+ 5	Cent Mich
Troy	37.1	33-29	23-21	148-140	331-278	- 6	by 3.6 Pts

ANALYSIS

For the Chippewas of Central Michigan, this game marks a school-record 4th consecutive bowl season, having played in the '06, '07, & '08 Motor City Bowls. Led by QB LeFevour, they've won the MAC title in 3 of those 4 years, & have a perfect 9-0 mark in league play in '09. LeFevour now owns the NCAA record for career touchdowns (101 passing, 46 rushing), & wound up this season as the 13th-ranked QB in the nation (71.1%, 3,043 yds, 27/6). He also leads CM in rushing (701 yds), while Brown & Anderson are a formidable receiving duo (1,720 yds & 15 TDs). Three years ago, as the Chips were preparing for their bowl, we wrote the following: "The main question, of course, is: How will the Chips perform without head coach Brian Kelly on the sidelines? He left to take over for Mark Dantonio at Cincinnati." Deja vu, as this year we write: The main question, of course, is: How will the Chips perform without Butch Jones on the sidelines? He left to take over for Brian Kelly at Cincinnati. Well, Central did win that one, 31-14, but it came vs bowl novice, MiddleTennessee. This time around, however, their opponent is well versed in the holiday scene, with this its 4th bowl appearance in the last 6 years. The Trojans of Troy, blew through their conference, posting an 8-0 mark in Sun Belt play. Thus a bit of a novelty, as this is the only bowl game outside of the BCS that pits 2 conference champs against each other. Troy owns the land's 3rd ranked "O", (40+ pts in 6 of their final 7 games) behind the passing of Levi Brown (64.7%, 3,868 yds, 22/9). On "D", Troy checks in at #100, compared to CM at #32. But this is a home game for the Trojans, the dog is 3-0 ATS in their 1st 3 bowls, & they have their coach.

PROPHECY: TROY 33 - Central Michigan 31 **RATING: 6**

ORANGE BOWL

AT MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA

GEORGIA TECH (11-2) vs IOWA (10-2)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5
8:00 PM EST -- FOX TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Ga Tech	47.8	35-25	21-17	307-150	136-207	+ 7	Ga Tech
Iowa	46.3	23-16	18-16	109-122	221-165	+ 3	by 5.3 Pts

ANALYSIS

These 2 bowl-hardened squads meet for first time ever. For the Jackets of Georgia Tech, this marks their 13th consecutive bowl season, & 38th overall. It therefore, is difficult to believe that this is just Tech's first major/BCS bowl game since 1966. And that includes the '90 season, when they went 11-0-1, while finishing 1st in the UPI & Sporting News polls (2nd in the AP). A 45-21 Citrus Bowl win over Nebraska. This year, they rank 2nd in the nation in overland production, topping 300 RYs in 8 games, while posting 401, 404, & 412 RYs in a 5-game span. Their ACC title match vs Clemson was a classic, with Tech (Pick) prevailing, 39-34 (333-323 RY edge), on a 15-yd Dwyer run in the final 1:20. He, along with QB Nesbitt, have run for 1,346 & 991 yds, respectively. Not only that, but in Thomas & Peeples, they own a pair of WRs who average **25.1 & 30.5 yds per catch**. A formidable challenge, indeed, for the Hawkeyes of Iowa, who are playing in their 8th bowl in the past 9 years. Thus far, they've more than held their own in these classics, covering 5-of-7, with their only misses vs a near-invincible USC team in the '02 Orange, & a questionable finish in the '05 Outback. Last year, they routed SoCaro, 31-10, in the Outback, with a 181-43 RY edge, & a 13-of-19 showing from QB Stanzi. This year, that overland game is gone, but Stanzi is expected to start (missed final 2 games: ankle injury). They were 9-0 & ranked 8th in the nation, before a 1-2 windup, altho they did take OhioSt into OT in Columbus. Note that the Bucks were the only team to reach 200 RYs vs the Hawkeyes, who covered all five of their RGs (all vs bowl squads), winning 4. Call the upset in tight one.

PROPHECY: IOWA 27 - Georgia Tech 24 **RATING: 4**

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP

AT PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

ALABAMA (13-0) vs TEXAS (13-0)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
8:00 PM EST -- ABC TELEVISION

	AOPR	AVS	FDS	RUSH	PASS	TRN	EDGE TO:
Alabama	48.5	32-11	21-13	216- 79	198-164	+16	Alabama
Texas	45.1	41-15	24-15	153- 62	280-189	+12	by 7.2 Pts

ANALYSIS

This is it. For all the marbles. As we stated in an earlier bowl writeup, just 1 tick of the clock has kept either Cincinnati or TCU from participating in this contest. That, of course, refers to the Longhorns of Texas kicking a FG to beat Nebraska in the Big12 title game, after the officials put a second back on the clock. Rightfully so, by the way, altho the Steers' play calling was certainly weird, to say the least. In the pre-season polls, the Steers & Crimson Tide of Alabama were both ranked in the Top 5, with Florida a near-unanimous choice as repeat national champs. There is no questioning the credentials of these 2 giants. The 'Tide has enjoyed a remarkable turnaround, since acquiring Saban in '07. From a combined 13-13 log in '06 & '07, to 25-2 the past two seasons, including a 24-0 regular season mark. They've finished 3rd & 2nd in total "D" the past 2 years, as well as 2nd in rushing both years. And try #1 in scoring "D" in '09. With Heisman winning RB Ingram (1,542 yds, 15 TDs, 6.2 ypr) the main focus of opposing "D"s, QB McElroy has enjoyed a stellar season (61%, 17/4). But when it comes to QBs, Texas signalcaller McCoy has no peer, with his 45 wins as a starter, the most ever by an NCAA bowl subdivision QB. The last 4 years, he has finished 8th (29/7), 24th (22/18), 3rd (34/8), & 19th (27/12) in passing efficiency. But he hasn't had the complementary running game the past 2 years (Texas: 41st & 55th in rushing in '08 & '09). Defensively, Texas ranks 3rd in total (1st in rushing). Both coaches have won national titles since '03, with UT's Brown taking his teams to 18 straight bowls. The Steers have won their last 5 bowls (2-3 ATS), but the 'Tide has been the more impressive.

PROPHECY: ALABAMA 27 - Texas 17 **RATING: 3**

BASKETBALL POWER RATINGS

KEY: W-L: Indicates Won-Loss record vs the Pointspread. PR: Team's Power Rating based on comparative strength of each team. HC: Home Court advantage. For proper guideline, simply add Home Court advantage to Power Rating, if the team is playing at home. Difference between home team's total (Power Rating + Home Court), and opponent's Power Rating = probable point difference between the teams. Measured from a TOP RATING of 50.

THRU DEC 26	W-L	PR	HC
Air Force Falcons	3-2	34	3½
Akron Zips	3-4	41	5
Alabama Crimson Tide	5-4	45	5
Arizona Wildcats	5-4	43	5½
Arizona State Sun Devils	3-6	46	6
Arkansas Razorbacks	1-4	36	5
Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans	3-6	34	4
Arkansas State Indians	4-4	33	4
Auburn Tigers	2-6	42	4
Ball State Cardinals	3-4	33	4½
Baylor Bears	3-1	48	4½
Boise State Broncos	4-7	38	5
Boston College Eagles	6-5	46	4
Bowling Green Falcons	3-4	36	4
Bradley Braves	3-6	40	4
Brown Bruins	3-3	26	3½
Buffalo Bulls	3-2	41	4
Butler Bulldogs	4-8	49	5
BYU Cougars	6-5	49	7½
California Golden Bears	4-5	50	7
Cal-Davis Aggies	4-4	30	3½
Cal-Fullerton Titans	3-3	35	4½
Cal-Irvine Anteaters	4-4	31	3½
Cal-Northridge Matadors	3-6	36	4
Cal Poly SLO Mustangs	3-3	29	3
Cal-Riverside Highlanders	2-5	32	4½
Cal-Santa Barbara Gauchos	3-4	35	3½
Central Florida Golden Knights	5-2	40	5
Central Michigan Chippewas	4-3	37	4½
Charlotte 49ers	4-3	39	4
Cincinnati Bearcats	3-4	45	5½
Clemson Tigers	7-4	50	6
Cleveland State Vikings	3-5	40	5
Colorado Buffaloes	3-3	44	6
Colorado State Rams	7-4	38	5½
Columbia Lions	2-0	28	3½
Connecticut Huskies	**1-7**	49	4
Cornell Big Red	7-3	44	5
Creighton Bluejays	3-5	45	5
Dartmouth Big Green	1-3	26	4
Dayton Flyers	5-4	49	5
Delaware Blue Hens	2-4	32	3½
Denver Pioneers	2-5	39	5
DePaul Blue Demons	5-3	39	4
Detroit Titans	8-4	40	5
Drake Bulldogs	4-2	38	4½
Drexel Dragons	6-5	39	4
Duke Blue Devils	5-3	56	5
Duquesne Dukes	1-5	42	5
East Carolina Pirates	5-3	32	4
Eastern Michigan Eagles	5-4	35	4½
Evansville Purple Aces	5-2	38	4½
Florida Gators	4-4	48	5
Fla Atlantic Owls	2-4	32	4
Fla International Panthers	6-4	33	4½
Florida State Seminoles	3-7	46	4½
Fordham Rams	2-3	21	2½
Fresno State Bulldogs	5-5	39	5
George Mason Patriots	4-5	40	5
George Washington Colonials	3-4	38	5
Georgetown Hoyas	4-2	50	4
Georgia Bulldogs	3-5	39	4½
Georgia State Panthers	6-4	36	4½
Georgia Tech Jackets	5-2	48	5
Gonzaga Bulldogs	3-4	49	5
Harvard Crimson	3-2	38	4
Hawaii Rainbow Warriors	**1-6**	30	3½
Hofstra Dutchmen	3-7	35	3
Houston Cougars	3-4	46	6
Idaho Vandals	4-3	41	6
Illinois Fighting Illini	3-7	46	5½
Illinois-Chicago Flames	5-3	36	4½
Illinois State Redbirds	2-5	40	4½
Indiana Hoosiers	3-7	36	4
Indiana State Sycamores	4-4	40	3
Iowa Hawkeyes	**2-8**	40	5
Iowa State Cyclones	5-4	44	5½

THRU DEC 26	W-L	PR	HC
James Madison Dukes	1-5	33	4½
Kansas Jayhawks	4-3	59	6
Kansas State Wildcats	6-2	52	5
Kent State Golden Flashes	3-5	40	4½
Kentucky Wildcats	5-6	54	5
LaSalle Explorers	2-5	40	4
Long Beach State 49ers	6-4	41	4½
Louisiana-Lafayette Cajuns	2-4	35	4½
Louisiana-Monroe Tribe	4-4	30	3½
Louisiana Tech Bulldogs	5-3	41	5
Louisville Cardinals	3-4	48	4
Loyola-Chicago Ramblers	4-4	35	4
Loyola-Marymount Lions	7-4	34	4
LSU Tigers	3-5	46	5
Marquette Golden Eagles	3-3	45	4½
Marshall Thundering Herd	2-3	40	5½
Maryland Terrapins	2-4	47	4½
Massachusetts Minutemen	**0-6**	33	4
Memphis Tigers	3-3	51	5
Miami of Florida Hurricanes	5-1	46	5
Miami-Ohio Redhawks	6-6	41	4½
Michigan Wolverines	2-5	46	5½
Michigan State Spartans	**2-7**	55	5½
Mid Tennessee St Raiders	2-2	38	3
Minnesota Golden Gophers	6-4	51	6½
Mississippi Rebels	6-2	49	5
Mississippi State Bulldogs	6-2	52	6½
Missouri Tigers	4-3	50	7
Missouri State Bears	7-4	43	5
Nebraska Cornhuskers	3-4	40	5½
Nevada Wolf Pack	5-4	45	4
New Mexico Lobos	**9-3**	48	7
New Mexico State Aggies	3-5	35	3½
New Orleans Privateers	4-4	30	3½
North Carolina Tar Heels	5-5	55	5½
North Carolina State Wolfpack	7-4	45	3½
No Caro-Wilmington Seahawks	4-4	33	4
North Texas Eagles	3-2	40	3½
Northeastern Huskies	3-5	42	4
Northern Illinois Huskies	3-5	28	4
Northern Iowa Panthers	6-3	47	5½
Northwestern Wildcats	5-2	44	5
Notre Dame Fighting Irish	4-3	46	4½
Ohio State Buckeyes	6-4	50	6
Ohio U Bobcats	5-3	39	5½
Oklahoma Sooners	4-6	47	5
Oklahoma State Cowboys	4-1	48	6
Old Dominion Monarchs	2-5	47	5½
Oregon Fighting Ducks	3-6	39	5
Oregon State Beavers	5-2	41	5½
Pacific Tigers	5-6	40	5½
Penn Quakers	0-4	31	3
Penn State Nittany Lions	4-4	43	5
Pepperdine Waves	3-7	31	4
Pittsburgh Panthers	5-4	48	5½
Portland Pilots	6-4	44	5½
Princeton Tigers	2-3	30	4
Providence Friars	3-5	43	3½
Purdue Boilermakers	5-4	56	6½
Rhode Island Rams	3-4	44	3½
Rice Owls	4-6	35	4½
Richmond Spiders	6-3	46	4½
Rutgers Scarlet Knights	4-3	39	4½
St Bonaventure Bonnies	**7-1**	42	5
St Johns Red Storm	4-4	43	5
Saint Josephs Hawks	3-5	38	3½
Saint Louis Billikens	2-4	37	4½
Saint Marys Gaels	**10-2**	50	6
San Diego Toreros	6-5	39	4½
San Diego State Aztecs	7-4	47	5
San Francisco Dons	**3-8**	31	4½
San Jose State Spartans	4-4	38	4½
Santa Clara Broncos	4-5	34	4½
Seton Hall Pirates	2-3	45	4
SMU Mustangs	**0-6**	33	4
South Alabama Jaguars	**2-9**	32	3
South Carolina Gamecocks	5-4	46	6½

THRU DEC 26	W-L	PR	HC
South Florida Bulls	**8-3**	42	4
Southern California Trojans	5-5	44	5½
Southern Illinois Salukis	2-3	39	4
Southern Mississippi Eagles	6-2	43	4½
Stanford Cardinal	3-5	39	5
Syracuse Orangemen	6-2	58	5
TCU Horned Frogs	4-6	38	5
Temple Owls	7-4	51	5
Tennessee Volunteers	3-5	53	5½
Texas Longhorns	**8-1**	58	7
Texas A&M Aggies	6-4	47	5½
Texas Tech Raiders	5-1	46	5½
Toledo Rockets	4-5	24	5
Towson Tigers	3-2	31	3
Troy State Trojans	3-5	38	4½
Tulane Green Wave	5-4	37	4
Tulsa Golden Hurricane	3-6	45	5½
UAB Blazers	7-3	47	6
UCLA Golden Bruins	5-5	39	5
UNLV Runnin' Rebels	6-4	45	4½
Utah Utes	**2-7**	40	4
Utah State Aggies	5-4	44	4½
UTEP Miners	3-2	46	4
Valparaiso Crusaders	5-3	36	5
Vanderbilt Commodores	3-5	47	5
Villanova Wildcats	**8-3**	56	5½
Virginia Cavaliers	3-3	40	4
Virginia Commonwealth Rams	4-3	44	5
Virginia Tech Hokies	3-4	47	5
Wake Forest Demon Deacons	4-2	51	5½
Washington Huskies	3-7	50	6½
Washington State Cougars	4-5	44	4½
West Virginia Mountaineers	4-5	56	6
Western Kentucky Hilltoppers	3-7	44	6
Western Michigan Broncos	4-5	35	4½
Wichita State Shockers	2-3	41	5
William & Mary Tribe	**6-0**	40	4½
Wisconsin Badgers	5-4	49	5½
Wisc-Green Bay Phoenix	4-4	40	5
Wisc-Milwaukee Panthers	5-4	30	4½
Wright State Raiders	6-4	43	5½
Wyoming Cowboys	5-2	38	5
Xavier Musketeers	6-4	49	5
Yale Bulldogs	4-2	30	4
Youngstown State Penguins	1-4	32	4½

NBA

Atlanta Hawks	**21-8**	49	5½
Boston Celtics	13-15	49	3
Charlotte Bobcats	16-12	40	3½
Chicago Bulls	10-17	39	3
Cleveland Cavaliers	16-15	49	3½
Dallas Mavericks	15-16	43	2
Denver Nuggets	15-15	47	4
Detroit Pistons	14-14	38	2½
Golden State Warriors	13-15	35	3
Houston Rockets	18-12	43	3
Indiana Pacers	11-16	36	3
Los Angeles Clippers	**10-18**	35	2
Los Angeles Lakers	13-16	49	3½
Memphis Grizzlies	16-13	38	4
Miami Heat	14-13	42	3½
Milwaukee Bucks	16-12	39	2½
Minnesota Timberwolves	16-15	36	3
New Jersey Nets	**9-21**	32	2
New Orleans Hornets	12-15	40	3
New York Knicks	14-15	37	3½
Oklahoma City Thunder	18-11	41	3
Orlando Magic	16-13	45	2½
Philadelphia 76ers	11-18	37	2½
Phoenix Suns	16-14	46	4
Portland Trailblazers	17-14	44	3
Sacramento Kings	**18-9**	37	3
San Antonio Spurs	13-13	45	2½
Toronto Raptors	14-17	41	3½
Utah Jazz	17-13	44	4½
Washington Wizards	**9-18**	36	2½

RECENT SPREADS & STATS

OF NFL TEAMS PLAYING EACH OTHER THIS WEEK

	SCORE	FD	ATT-RY	ATT-CO-PY	PL-YDS	I-F
BUFFALO (+12)	16	10	31-111	13- 9- 51	44-162	0-0
INDIANAPOLIS ('06)	17	26	29-148	39-27-236	68-384	0-2
CAROLINA (+13)	20	21	39-182	30-17-189	69-371	0-3
NEW ORLEANS ('09)	30	18	23- 84	35-24-330	58-414	1-1
NEW ORLEANS (+3)	7	17	22-115	39-21-228	61-343	1-1
CAROLINA ('08)	30	18	37-143	22-14-193	59-336	0-0
CLEVELAND (+7)	23	15	24- 91	27-14-236	51-327	0-0
JACKSONVILLE ('08)	17	23	29-113	42-25-267	71-380	0-1
DALLAS (+3)	20	18	23- 76	34-21-282	57-358	1-0
PHILADELPHIA ('09)	16	17	23- 89	30-16-208	53-297	2-0
PHILADELPHIA (+7)	37	23	23- 78	37-25-259	60-337	0-1
DALLAS ('08)	41	20	24- 68	30-21-312	54-380	1-1
DETROIT (+10)	24	25	26- 90	47-30-308	73-398	1-1
CHICAGO ('09)	48	14	20-151	28-18-125	48-276	0-0
HOUSTON (+11)	7	13	22-105	28-16- 93	50-198	4-0
NEW ENGLAND ('06)	40	15	38-105	27-19-125	65-230	0-0
MIAMI (+15)	0	9	23- 49	24-14-110	47-159	0-2
PITTSBURGH ('07)	3	13	29- 84	21-18-132	50-216	1-0
NEW YORK GIANTS (+7)	19	19	30-135	30-19-222	60-357	0-0
MINNESOTA ('08)	20	15	27-110	26-16-218	53-328	1-0
CINCINNATI (+9)	14	13	21- 43	33-20-128	54-171	0-1
NEW YORK JETS ('08)	26	19	27- 86	33-25-166	60-252	2-1
ST LOUIS (+9½)	0	9	28- 95	24-13- 82	52-177	1-2
SAN FRANCISCO ('09)	35	13	29- 96	24-14-132	53-228	0-0
TAMPA BAY (+12)	17	13	26- 73	30-20-245	56-318	0-1
ATLANTA ('09)	20	21	26- 75	44-25-222	70-297	0-1
ARIZONA (+4)	14	20	25- 86	35-14-132	60-218	1-0
GREEN BAY ('06)	31	28	39-203	25-17-180	64-383	0-0
DENVER (-5)	44	24	45-245	25-15-168	70-413	1-2
KANSAS CITY ('09)	13	14	26- 94	43-16-128	69-222	2-1
OAKLAND (+7½)	10	10	19- 47	33-15-187	52-234	1-0
BALTIMORE ('08)	29	18	46-192	25-13-183	71-375	0-1
SAN DIEGO (-3)	23	24	28-202	45-22-195	73-397	3-0
WASHINGTON ('05) (OT)	17	15	33- 91	27-17-191	60-282	0-0
SEATTLE (-7)	28	26	33-183	27-21-276	60-459	0-0
TENNESSEE ('05)	24	25	26- 81	39-24-336	65-417	0-0

EARLIER BOWL PROPHECIES

NEW MEXICO	Fresno State 37 - WYOMING 30	RATING: 6
ST PETERSBURG	CENTRAL FLORIDA 27 - Rutgers 22	RATING: 2
NEW ORLEANS	SO MISSISSIPPI 31 - Middle Tenn St 23	RATING: 4
LAS VEGAS	OREGON STATE 37 - Byu 30	RATING: 5
POINSETTIA	UTAH 30 - California 20	RATING: 1
HAWAII	NEVADA 48 - Smu 24	RATING: 1
LITTLE CAESARS	OHIO U 27 - Marshall 22	RATING: 6
MEINEKE	NORTH CAROLINA 24 - Pittsburgh 23	RATING: 5
EMERALD	SO CALIFORNIA 31 - Boston College 16	RATING: 4
MUSIC CITY	Clemson 26 - KENTUCKY 24	RATING: 3
INDEPENDENCE	Georgia 38 - TEXAS A&M 36	RATING: 6
EAGLE BANK	TEMPLE 27 - Ucla 24	RATING: 5
CHAMPS	WISCONSIN 38 - Miami-Florida 36	RATING: 6
HUMANITARIAN	IDAHO 45 - Bowling Green 40	RATING: 6
HOLIDAY	NEBRASKA 19 - Arizona 17	RATING: 6
ARMED FORCES	HOUSTON 38 - Air Force 28	RATING: 3
SUN	Oklahoma 27 - STANFORD 24	RATING: 5
TEXAS	Missouri 27 - NAVY 26	RATING: 5
INSIGHT	IOWA STATE 27 - Minnesota 20	RATING: 2
CHICK-FIL-A	Virginia Tech 22 - TENNESSEE 20	RATING: 6

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