

# Bowl game predictions . . .

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Granted, Steve Young had a lot of yards passing this season but you would too if you threw the ball 75 times a game. Young throws the ball so much he's on a four-game pitching rotation. He has to ice his arm down after every game and his pitching, er, quarterback coach is trying to get him to throw more breaking balls and stop giving up the gopher ball. Look for Young to try and throw over the Missouri defense and look for Missouri to grab at least five of those throws. **Missouri 28, BYU 14.**

**Sun Bowl: Dec. 24, SMU vs. Alabama.** Why is SMU in this bowl is a question that has been asked too many times but why Alabama is in this bowl hasn't been. The Tide has not been the best this season at money time. They lost tough games to Boston College, Penn State, Auburn and Tennessee, four very good teams. In all of those games the Tide had a good chance to win. They didn't, which is the difference between Ray Perkins and Bear Bryant. Alabama has lost the mystique that it always had with Bryant as coach. SMU definitely has the better of the two teams, but if Bryant was coaching the Tide it wouldn't have mattered. **SMU 27, Alabama 7.**

**Aloha Bowl: Dec. 26, Penn State vs. Washington.** Poor, poor Don James and his Washington Huskies. Twice in the last two seasons they have had a chance to go to the Rose Bowl and twice they've blown it. Not only that, but the culprit both times was its hated rival from Pullman, Washington State. So instead of going to Pasadena for a certain loss to the Illinois Fighting Illini, the Huskies have to go to Hawaii to play Penn State in the Aloha Bowl. Poor, poor Don James. Penn State should be happy to anywhere at all. After getting off to a 0-3 start, the Nittany Lions lost only one more game and counted victories against West Virginia and Notre Dame in its ledger. Penn State never did really find a quarterback. I think at last word Joe Paterno was trying to buy out Todd Blackledge's contract from the Chiefs. This game rates a tossup so that's how I'll score it. **Penn State 24, Washington 24.**

**Liberty Bowl: Dec. 29, Boston College vs. Notre Dame.** OK, I know Notre Dame didn't deserve to be

in this game but they are in this game. Notre Dame has a good team, it's just that they have a rotten coach. Gerry Faust simply is not a major college coach and he's tried to prove that several times. The first indication that Faust was in over his head was when he tried to give Blair Kiel a detention. Luckily for Notre Dame fans, Faust has been able to use his personality and probably his wallet to lure several outstanding players to the school. The Liberty Bowl always seems to be a bowl where something weird or eerie happens. Remember it was the last place Bear Bryant coached. Look for something really eerie to happen this year, a Notre Dame victory. **Notre Dame 28, Boston College 17.**

**Gator Bowl: Dec. 30, Florida vs. Iowa.** Chuck Long vs. Wayne Peace is how this game may be built up. Long did a great job of quarterbacking the Hawkeys, except for the Illinois game. Peace also did a good job except for when he went against Georgia. If it hadn't been for the Bulldogs, the Gators might be in Dallas or New Orleans instead of in Jacksonville. **Florida 31, Iowa 17.**

**Cotton Bowl: Jan. 2, Texas vs. Georgia.** Wouldn't it be great if Texas could play Nebraska, preferably in Lincoln. Well, as we are taught to learn at a very early age, you can't have everything you want. Instead, all the fans in Nebraska who would love to see Texas get beat will have to count on Georgia. Don't anyone hold their breath. Actually, Nebraskans should root for a Texas win which could make a playoff closer to reality. **Texas 21, Georgia 7.**

**Fiesta Bowl: Jan. 2, Ohio State vs. Pittsburgh.** Let me start by saying that neither of these teams deserves to be in this bowl game. Coach Earle Bruce once again turned a Rose Bowl situation into a less than Rose Bowl situation. Ohio State still has more talent than Pitt and if Bruce doesn't show up it could be a rout. He will show up, so it will be close. **Ohio State 13, Pitt 10.**

**Rose Bowl: Jan. 2, UCLA vs. Illinois.** UCLA will defeat Illinois in the Rose Bowl, I repeat, UCLA will defeat Illinois in the Rose Bowl. Why? Because they know this game and they know how to win it. Take

away Illinois' three big home victories against Ohio State, Iowa and Michigan and Illinois had a less than outstanding season. They lost to Missouri and that in itself would cause me to pick the Bruins. UCLA is battle tested after games with Nebraska, Georgia and Brigham Young, the former two being on the road. UCLA came back from a disastrous start and jelled behind quarterback Rick Neuheisel. Don Rogers will scare the pants off of the Illini with his ferocious hits and Jack Trudeau will have a tough day against a good Bruin defense. **UCLA 20, Illinois 10.**

**Sugar Bowl: Jan. 2, Auburn vs. Michigan.** I'm going to get through this quick because I want to get to the big one, Bo Jackson, Randy Campbell, Lionel James, Pat Dye, Dowe Augtman. Michigan: Steve Smith, wimp; no Anthony Carter; Bo Schembechler. **Auburn 24, Michigan 7.**

**Orange Bowl: Jan. 2, Nebraska vs. Miami.** As it has been pointed out to me, Miami, which traditionally has the nation's toughest schedule, didn't this season. That's how you win 10 games and lose one. That one game sticks in my craw. Losers, 28-3, to Florida in the season's first game, Miami came back to squeak by most of the ten teams left on its schedule. The Orange Bowl Committee was in a situation where they had to take Miami or play the game in Havana. Miami is quarterbacked by Bernie Kosar who might have one of the best arms a freshman ever had. Keith Griffin is one of the tailbacks on the team and he's a good one. On Nebraska's side is the fact that they have been to the game the last three years. Also, Nebraska has the knowledge that it only has to pay \$100 per ticket compared to the \$500 they're paying in Miami. One thing Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne has to do is keep his players off of talk shows and out of amusement parks. Miami will have a decided home field advantage which is worth at least six points. Those six points will be all that Miami gets as Nebraska repeats its 1972 Orange Bowl victory against Alabama. **Nebraska 38, Miami, without Johnny Musso, 6.**

# Faith, hard work . . .

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Since then, the Hurricanes have proved themselves by winning 10 straight against such opponents as Notre Dame, West Virginia, East Carolina and Florida State. Miami's defense was the key to many of those victories, Schnellenberger said. It gave up only 78 points during those games.

The defense's most impressive performance may have come on national television when the Hurricanes shut out Notre Dame, 20-0. Freshman defensive back Reggie Sutton was named the Associated Press co-defensive player of the week along with Hurricane linebacker Jay Brophy. Sutton blocked two Irish field goal attempts and recorded 13 tackles.

The West Virginia victory was the eighth straight relatively easy win for Miami. The only test came in the rain at Cincinnati as Miami struggled before pulling away from the Bearcats, winning 17-7.

The Hurricanes had become the top team on the Orange Bowl selection committee's list and were more or less assured an invitation to the hometown classic if they could defeat Florida State in Tallahassee the next week.

Again, the Hurricanes had trouble, but kicker Jeff "Flea" Davis came to the rescue and booted a field goal with no time remaining to defeat the Seminoles,

17-16.

When the university finally received word the next week that it would play in the Orange Bowl, a huge pep rally was held, the likes of which Steiner said hadn't been seen in Miami for almost 30 years.

"We're now perceived as the Miracle Mets or like Joe Namath and the Jets," Steiner said. "Everybody likes the underdog and we're like a darling team."

Steiner compares the Hurricane season to a playwright constructing a script. He said there was just enough drama and excitement, as well as a crisis. Now the Hurricanes are just waiting to add a happy ending.

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