

Ratings (12/05)

The college football world got what it wanted. Alabama and Texas, two great traditions, the Heisman Trophy winner, and most of all no controversy. Unless, I guess, you saw the Texas-Nebraska game and wonder whether an ill-advised pass landing a half-second before disaster doesn't veto a national championship. As you'll notice below, my ratings completely agree with the Alabama vs. Texas matchup.

There was some discussion of bad clock management after the game. LSU's problems against Ole Miss this year came up, where they were not granted an extra play and lost the game. An old classic was Ken Stabler throwing the ball out of bounds to stop the clock, and then finding out that's not a good idea on fourth down. "You can never tell about left-handed quarterbacks and left-handed crapshooters," said the Bear. Stabler was both.

This will be the fifth bowl game between Alabama and Texas. The Horns are 4-0-1. One game that will be mentioned often is the 1964 Orange Bowl featuring another Alabama quarterback of some fame, Joe Namath.

Another famous Texas game had its 40th anniversary recently. The Texas-Arkansas game of 1969 is the subject of a very good book with a perfect title: Hogs, Horns and Nixon Coming.

The main "BCS screwed it up" topic this year seems to be having TCU and Boise in the same bowl. Neither team gets a chance for a signature win, the BCS-busters are marginalized, etc. My thought is that this is what happens when you let the bowls choose. At least the system forced them to take good teams. Otherwise, Brian Kelly might be in the Sugar Bowl, as coach of Notre Dame.

Below are all 34 of the bowl games, what the ratings say about them, my evaluation of the best wins and worst losses for each team, and anything else I can think of to say.

Enjoy the games, and have a great bowl season!

Best and Worst Bowl Games (based on combined ratings):

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. BCS Championship | 34. Humanitarian Bowl |
| 2. Sugar Bowl | 33. Little Caesars Bowl |
| 3. Fiesta Bowl | 32. International Bowl |
| 4. Rose Bowl | 31. New Orleans Bowl |

Best Teams Not in a Bowl:

#45 Notre Dame

#47 Washington

#49 Villanova

#51 Mississippi State

#59 Wake Forest

The following predictions and ranks are strictly from the ratings, with no home field advantage. The research behind the comments is not reliable.

12/19 New Mexico Bowl: Fresno State over Wyoming by 8

4:30 ESPN. Albuquerque.

Fresno won 7 of its last 8, and has the best 2-point conversion play around.

#52 Fresno State (8-4): W Illinois 53-52; L Nevada 14-52

#86 Wyoming (6-6): W New Mexico 37-13 L BYU 0-52

12/19 St. Petersburg Bowl: Central Florida over Rutgers by 1

8:00 ESPN. St. Petersburg.

UCF is close to home, won 5 of last 6; This is Rutgers' 5th straight bowl game

#54 Central Florida (8-4): W Houston 37-32; L Southern Miss 19-26

#60 Rutgers (8-4): W South Florida 31-0 L Syracuse 13-31

12/20 New Orleans Bowl: Southern Miss and Middle Tennessee even

8:00 ESPN. New Orleans.

MT won last 6, led by QB Dasher (with the defense Blitzzen). SM won NO in '08.

#70 Middle Tenn (9-3): W Maryland 32-31; L Troy 7-31

#72 Southern Miss (7-5): W UCF 26-19 L UAB 17-30

12/22 Las Vegas Bowl: Oregon State over BYU by 1

8:00 ESPN. Las Vegas.

Good game. Jacquizz Rodgers (OSU) and Max Hall (BYU) star

#20 Oregon State (8-4): W Stanford 38-28; L Arizona 32-37

#23 BYU (10-2): W Oklahoma 14-13 L Florida State 28-54

12/23 Poinsettia Bowl: California over Utah by 2

8:00 ESPN. San Diego.

Utah RB Shaky Smithson has best name, Cal needs their (Jahvid) Best RB back

#27 California (8-4): W Arizona 24-16; L Washington 10-42

#35 Utah (9-3): W Louisville 30-14 L TCU 28-55

12/24 Hawaii Bowl: Nevada over SMU by 9

8:00 ESPN. Honolulu.

First bowl for SMU since 84, when they said Aloha. Coach June Jones returns to Hawaii. Nevada won 7 of last 8, first FBS ever with 3 1000-yard rushers!

#40 Nevada (8-4): W Fresno 52-14; L Colorado St 20-35

#79 SMU (7-5): W East Carolina 28-21 L Wash State 27-30

12/26 Little Caesars Pizza Bowl: Ohio over Marshall by 2

1:00 ESPN. Detroit.

53rd meeting in "Battle for the Bell." Marshall coach resigned at end of year.

#73 Ohio (9-4): W Temple 35-17; L Kent 11-20

#81 Marshall (6-6): W SMU 34-31 L UTEP 21-52

12/26 Car Care Bowl: Pittsburgh over North Carolina by 3

4:00 ESPN. Charlotte.

Two teams that lost to NC State. Pitt almost won the Big East, NC is at home

#19 Pittsburgh (9-3): W South Florida 41-14; L NC State 31-38

#33 North Carolina (8-4): W Miami 33-24 L Virginia 3-16

12/26 Emerald Bowl: Southern Cal over Boston College by 5

8:30 ESPN. San Francisco.

BC had 8-game bowl win streak broken last year; "horrible" year for SC

#17 Southern Cal (8-4): W Ohio State 18-15; L Stanford 21-55

#37 Boston College (8-4): W Florida St 28-21 L Virginia Tech 14-48

12/27 Music City Bowl: Clemson over Kentucky by 5

8:00 ESPN. Nashville.

Last dance for Clemson's CJ Spiller. Kentucky here for 3rd time in 4 years.

Rematch of '06 game; maybe Clemson will show up this time.

#25 Clemson (8-5): W Miami 40-37; L Maryland 21-24

#46 Kentucky (7-5): W Georgia 34-27 L Miss St 24-31

12/28 Independence Bowl: Georgia over Texas A&M by 6

5:00 ESPN2. Shreveport.

A&M excited about QB Jerrod Johnson. Dawgs salvaged year by beating GT.

#32 Georgia (7-5): W Georgia Tech 30-24; L Tennessee 19-45

#55 Texas A&M (6-6): W Texas Tech 52-30 L Kansas St 14-62

12/29 Eagle Bank Bowl: UCLA over Temple by 6

4:30 ESPN. Washington DC.

UCLA won 3 of last 4, Temple 9/10. UCLA DT Brian Price vs "Bernie and the Bug"

#41 UCLA (6-6): W Tennessee 19-15; L Southern Cal 7-28

#65 Temple (9-3): W Navy 27-24 L Villanova 24-27

12/29 Champs Sports Bowl: Miami over Wisconsin by 8

4:30 ESPN. Orlando.

Jacory Harris and speed versus John Clay and power

#11 Miami (9-3): W Georgia Tech 33-14; L Virginia Tech 7-31

#39 Wisconsin (9-3): W Michigan 45-24 L Ohio State 13-31

12/30 Humanitarian Bowl: Idaho and Bowling Green even

4:30 ESPN. Boise.

BG won last, Freddie Barnes was #1 with 138 receptions; Vandals lost 4 of last 5

#78 Bowling Green (7-5): W Troy 31-14; L Marshall 10-17

#80 Idaho (7-5): W Northern Illinois 34-31 L Utah State 49-52

12/30 Holiday Bowl: Arizona over Nebraska by 1

8:00 ESPN. San Diego.

Both were 1 second away from a major bowl. Ndamukong Suh is the man!

#16 Arizona (8-4): W Southern Cal 21-17; L Washington 33-36

#21 Nebraska (9-4): W Oklahoma 10-3 L Texas Tech 10-31

12/31 Armed Forces Bowl: Houston over Air Force by 3

12:00 ESPN. Fort Worth.

Rematch of last year's bowl . Case Keenum passed for 5449 yds, 43 TD's!

#38 Houston (10-3): W Oklahoma St 45-35; L UTEP 41-58

#53 Air Force (7-5): W Army 35-7 L BYU 21-38

12/31 Sun Bowl: Oklahoma and Stanford even

12:00 CBS. El Paso.

No Luck for Stanford (that is, QB Andrew). Oklahoma D vs Toby Gerhart.

#14 Stanford (8-4): W Southern Cal 55-21; L Wake Forest 17-24

#15 Oklahoma (7-5): W Oklahoma St 27-0; L Texas Tech 13-41

12/31 Texas Bowl: Missouri over Navy by 4

3:30 ESPN. Houston.

QB battle Gabbert vs Dobbs. Rematch of 1961 Orange Bowl, attended by President-elect Kennedy. I recommend The President's Team book, by the way.

#36 Missouri (8-4): W Illinois 37-9; L Baylor 32-40

#50 Navy (9-4): W Air Force 16-13 L Hawaii 17-24

12/31 Insight Bowl: Minnesota over Iowa State by 4

6:00 NFL. Tempe.

Troubles at Minn – coach leaving; Iowa St tickled to rebound from 2-10 in 2008.

#58 Minnesota (6-6): W Michigan St 42-34; L Illinois 32-35

#74 Iowa State (6-6): W Nebraska 9-7 L Texas A&M 10-35

12/31 Chick Fil-A Bowl: Virginia Tech over Tennessee by 8

7:30 ESPN. Atlanta.

Ryan Williams and the Hokies hoping for some nice hostesses. Vol DB Eric Berry was Thorpe Award winner.

#6 Virginia Tech (9-3): W Miami 31-7; L North Carolina 17-20

#30 Tennessee (7-5): W South Carolina 31-13 L Ole Miss 17-42

1/1 Outback Bowl: Auburn over Northwestern by 10

11:00 ESPN. Tampa.

QB Kafka has morphed NW into good team; Auburn lost 5 of last 7.

#31 Auburn (7-5): W West Virginia 41-30; L Kentucky 14-21

#67 Northwestern (8-4): W Iowa 17-10 L Minnesota 24-35

1/1 Capital One Bowl: LSU over Penn State by 1

1:00 ABC. Orlando.

Jordan Jefferson versus Darryl Clark, there could be some offense.

#12 LSU (9-3): W Auburn 31-10; L Ole Miss 23-25

#13 Penn State (10-2): W Michigan St 42-14 L Ohio State 7-24

1/1 Gator Bowl: West Virginia over Florida State by 4

1:00 CBS. Jacksonville.

The Bowden Memorial. Dad-gum. His only losing season at FSU was his first ...

#28 West Virginia (9-3): W Pittsburgh 19-16; L South Florida 19-30

#42 Florida State (6-6): W BYU 54-28 L Clemson 24-40

1/1 Rose Bowl: Oregon over Ohio State by 6

5:00 ABC. Pasadena.

O's O versus OS's D. Jeremiah Masoli for the Ducks, Terrelle Pryor for the Bucks

#4 Oregon (10-2): W Southern Cal 47-20; L Boise State 8-19

#10 Ohio State (10-2): W Penn State 24-7 L Purdue 18-26

1/1 Sugar Bowl: Florida over Cincinnati by 2

8:30 FOX. New Orleans.

Coaches leaving takes away from a great matchup; Tony Pike and Tim Tebow

#3 Florida (12-1): W Georgia 41-17; L Alabama 13-32

#7 Cincinnati (12-0): W Oregon State 28-18; W Fresno St 28-20

1/2 International Bowl: South Florida over Northern Illinois by 8

12:00 ESPN2. Toronto.

BJ Daniels for SF and Chad Spann for NI could put up some points.

#56 South Florida (7-5): W Florida St 17-7; L Rutgers 0-31

#90 Northern Illinois (7-5): W Purdue 28-21 L C Michigan 31-45

1/2 Papajohns Bowl: South Carolina over Connecticut by 2

2:00 ESPN. Birmingham.

Emotional year for UConn: loss of Jasper Howard and games by 2,3,4,4,2 pts.

#34 South Carolina (7-5): W Clemson 34-17; L Tennessee 13-31

#43 Connecticut (7-5): W Notre Dame 33-30 L Rutgers 24-28

1/2 Cotton Bowl: Oklahoma State over Mississippi by 1

2:00 FOX. Dallas.

Cowboys play in Cowboys Stadium, but not the same without Dez Bryant.

#24 Oklahoma St (9-3): W Georgia 24-10; L Oklahoma 0-27

#29 Mississippi (8-4): W Tennessee 42-17 L Miss St 27-41

1/2 Liberty Bowl: Arkansas over East Carolina by 6

5:30 ESPN. Memphis.

Hogs and Ryan Mallett close to home. Pirates and Holtz specialize in upsets.

#22 Arkansas (7-5): W Auburn 44-23; L Alabama 7-35

#44 East Carolina (9-4): W Houston 38-32 L SMU 21-28

1/2 Alamo Bowl: Texas Tech over Michigan State by 8

9:00 ESPN. San Antonio.

Mike Leach's pirate passing attack vs the Spartans not arrested in a dorm brawl.

#26 Texas Tech (8-4): W Oklahoma 41-13; L Texas A&M 30-52

#57 Michigan State (6-6): W Northwestern 24-14 L Penn State 14-42

1/4 Fiesta Bowl: TCU over Boise State by 3

8:00 FOX. Glendale.

A great game. Andy Dalton and the Frogs vs Kellen Moore (39 TD, 3 INT) and the Broncos; rematch of last year's Poinsettia Bowl (TCU, 17-16).

#5 TCU (12-0): W BYU 38-7; W Air Force 20-17

#9 Boise State (13-0): W Oregon 19-8; W Tulsa 28-21

1/5 Orange Bowl: Georgia Tech over Iowa by 5

8:00 FOX. Miami.

Can Adrian Clayborn and the Hawkeye D stop the Ramblin Wreck options?

#8 Georgia Tech (11-2): W Virginia Tech 28-23; L Georgia 24-30

#18 Iowa (10-2): W Penn State 21-10; L Northwestern 10-17

1/6 GMAC Bowl: Central Michigan over Troy by 5

8:00 ESPN. Mobile.

Dan LeFevour vs Levi Brown; 2 undefeated conference champions.

#48 Central Michigan (11-2): W Michigan St 29-27; L Boston College 10-31

#64 Troy (9-3): W Middle Tenn 31-7; L Bowling Green 14-31

1/7 BCS Championship: Alabama over Texas by 1

8:00 ABC. Pasadena.

The big one! Mark Ingram and Mount Cody vs Colt McCoy and Jordan Shipley. Bama must contend with the Heisman jinx; 6 of the last 7 Heisman winners in BCS game have lost. Both coaches have been there before and succeeded.

#1 Alabama (13-0): W Florida 32-13; W Tennessee 12-10

#2 Texas (13-0): W Oklahoma St 41-14; W Nebraska 13-12

TEXAS UPSETS No. 11

1	Alabama	89.46
2	Texas	88.73
3	Florida	87.46
4	Oregon	85.04
5	TCU	84.80
6	Virginia Tech	82.54
7	Cincinnati	82.35
8	Georgia Tech	81.77
9	Boise St	81.55
10	Ohio State	79.36
11	Miami FL	79.04
12	LSU	78.91
13	Penn State	77.56
14	Stanford	77.35
15	Oklahoma	77.23
16	Arizona	77.07
17	Southern Cal	76.95
18	Iowa	76.81
19	Pittsburgh	76.52
20	Oregon St	76.39
21	Nebraska	76.21
22	Arkansas	76.19
23	Brigham Young	75.94
24	Oklahoma St	75.74
25	Clemson	75.56
26	Texas Tech	75.23
27	California	74.86
28	West Virginia	74.82
29	Mississippi	74.38
30	Tennessee	74.04
31	Auburn	74.04

32	Georgia	73.68
33	North Carolina	73.60
34	South Carolina	73.03
35	Utah	72.51
36	Missouri	72.44
37	Boston College	71.50
38	Houston	71.01
39	Wisconsin	70.81
40	Nevada	70.73
41	UCLA	70.62
42	Florida St	70.58
43	Connecticut	70.47
44	East Carolina	70.45
45	Notre Dame	70.36
46	Kentucky	70.06
47	Washington	69.86
48	Central Michigan	69.82
49	Villanova	69.48
50	Navy	68.54
51	Mississippi St	68.52
52	Fresno St	68.44
53	Air Force	67.66
54	Central Florida	67.47
55	Texas A&M	67.20
56	South Florida	67.18
57	Michigan St	66.97
58	Minnesota	66.89
59	Wake Forest	66.56
60	Rutgers	66.53
61	Montana	66.38
62	William & Mary	66.09
63	Arizona St	65.03
64	Troy	64.97
65	Temple	64.61
66	Kansas	64.42
67	Northwestern	64.34
68	Richmond	64.21
69	Kansas St	63.92
70	Middle Tennessee St	63.74
71	Purdue	63.35
72	Southern Miss	63.30



73	Ohio U.	62.66
74	Iowa St	62.61
75	Virginia	62.09
76	Appalachian St	62.01
77	North Carolina St	61.81
78	Bowling Green	61.64
79	SMU	61.50
80	Idaho	61.22
81	Marshall	61.17
82	Baylor	60.90
83	Southern Illinois	60.76
84	Michigan	60.68
85	Duke	60.63
86	Wyoming	60.17
87	Syracuse	59.93
88	Louisiana Tech	59.42
89	Colorado	59.10
90	Northern Illinois	59.06
91	Elon	59.02
92	UNLV	58.94
93	Illinois	58.68
94	Hawai`i	58.27
95	Louisville	57.87
96	New Hampshire	57.53
97	Tulsa	57.23
98	Northern Iowa	57.10
99	Alabama-Birmingham	57.05
100	Vanderbilt	56.93
101	Utah St	56.88
102	South Dakota St	56.70
103	Indiana	56.27
104	Maryland	55.59
105	Buffalo	55.51
106	Louisiana-Monroe	55.39
107	Jacksonville St	55.37
108	Eastern Washington	55.34
109	San Diego St	55.15
110	Weber St	54.96
111	Colorado St	54.73
112	James Madison	54.28
113	South Carolina St	54.05



114	Delaware	54.05
115	UTEP	53.21
116	Pennsylvania	52.56
117	Louisiana-Lafayette	52.44
118	Stephen F. Austin	52.37
119	Florida Atlantic	52.36
120	Liberty	52.29
121	Montana St	52.13
122	Toledo	51.79
123	Northern Arizona	51.56
124	Kent St	51.52
125	Washington St	51.34
126	Furman	50.96
127	Western Michigan	50.64
128	Massachusetts	50.27
129	McNeese St	49.69
130	Arkansas St	49.67
131	Army	49.56
132	Lafayette	49.20
133	Holy Cross	49.15
134	Memphis	49.07
135	Florida Int'l	48.64
136	San José St	48.12
137	UC-Davis	48.09
138	Harvard	47.87
139	Akron	47.81
140	Youngstown St	47.64
141	Prairie View A&M	47.35
142	Chattanooga	47.21
143	Maine	47.19
144	Tulane	46.98
145	Texas St-San Marcos	46.98
146	New Mexico	46.79
147	Eastern Illinois	46.76
148	Samford	46.66
149	Colgate	46.58
150	Florida A&M	46.45
151	Illinois St	46.29
152	Missouri St	46.15
153	Georgia Southern	46.01
154	New Mexico St	45.98



155	Hofstra	45.92
156	Miami OH	45.55
157	Rice	45.51
158	North Dakota	45.51
159	Ball St	45.28
160	Southern Utah	44.85
161	Sacramento St	44.54
162	North Texas	44.34
163	South Dakota	43.96
164	Cal Poly SLO	43.78
165	Brown	43.46
166	Norfolk St	43.03
167	Grambling St	42.87
168	The Citadel	42.64
169	Stony Brook	42.55
170	Wofford	42.11
171	Central Conn St	41.49
172	Tennessee Tech	40.89
173	North Dakota St	40.65
174	Albany NY	40.48
175	Dayton	40.25
176	Eastern Kentucky	39.94
177	Central Arkansas	39.89
178	SE Louisiana St	39.75
179	Charleston Southern	39.63
180	Northern Colorado	39.57
181	Northeastern	39.54
182	Lehigh	38.35
183	Columbia	37.72
184	Butler	37.69
185	Coastal Carolina	37.17
186	Gardner-Webb	37.13
187	Western Kentucky	37.10
188	Eastern Michigan	36.87
189	Drake	36.43
190	Fordham	36.37
191	Old Dominion	36.34
192	Portland St	36.12
193	Yale	36.07
194	Texas Southern	36.00
195	Alabama A&M	35.96



196	Western Carolina	35.88
197	Morgan St	35.82
198	Towson	35.62
199	Rhode Island	34.94
200	Jacksonville FL	34.92
201	Sam Houston St	34.90
202	Delaware St	34.85
203	Tennessee-Martin	34.17
204	Hampton	34.00
205	Idaho St	33.85
206	Southern U.	33.21
207	Western Illinois	32.90
208	Princeton	32.64
209	Nicholls St	31.91
210	Bethune-Cookman	31.59
211	Austin Peay	31.58
212	Monmouth NJ	31.50
213	Wagner	31.45
214	North Carolina A&T	31.34
215	Dartmouth	31.15
216	Robert Morris	31.01
217	Tennessee St	30.80
218	VMI	30.72
219	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	30.49
220	Marist	30.35
221	SE Missouri St	30.19
222	Bucknell	30.06
223	Alcorn St	30.00
224	Bryant	29.98
225	Cornell NY	28.37
226	Indiana St	28.28
227	Jackson St	27.87
228	Murray St	26.53
229	San Diego	26.44
230	Davidson	26.20
231	Northwestern St	26.05
232	North Carolina Central	25.61
233	Winston-Salem St	23.41
234	Duquesne	23.27
235	St Francis PA	23.16
236	Howard	23.06



237	Presbyterian	22.99
238	Sacred Heart	22.34
239	Alabama St	21.91
240	Georgetown DC	20.59
241	Campbell	18.08
242	Mississippi Valley St	16.95
243	Morehead St	16.19
244	Savannah St	12.26
245	Valparaiso	10.00

