

SAN JOSE STATE CONTROLS OWN DESTINY IN BIG WEST TITLE HUNT AND LAS VEGAS BOWL BERTH

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — So, it has come to this: One game, one victory from completing what was been, at times, a very complex Las Vegas Bowl puzzle. Twelve weeks after many of the 17 teams that comprise the Big West and Mid-American conferences teed up the football for the first time in 1992, the final piece to the puzzle is about to be placed.

And San Jose State hopes that piece is colored gold, white

and blue.

San Jose State, under first-year head coach Ron Turner, can clinch a share of the Big West Conference's regular-season and a berth in the Dec. 18 Las Vegas Bowl with a victory this Saturday (Nov. 21) over visiting New Mexico State.

The Las Vegas Bowl, the first of college football's postseason games to kick off in December, will be played at 5 p.m. PST (8 p.m. EST) in the 32,000-seat

Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. The game will be nationally televised by cable sports network ESPN.

Bowling Green, 9-2 overall, already has captured the Mid-American Conference's regular-season championship and one berth in the bowl. The Falcons completed their second consecutive undefeated league season at 8-0 last Saturday (Nov. 14) with a 38-6 victory over Ball State.

Bowling Green's opponent

will be either San Jose State (4-1 in the Big West) or Nevada-Reno (5-1) - with the Spartans controlling their own destiny. Should San Jose State beat New Mexico State in their 1 p.m. PST contest, the Spartans would tie Nevada-Reno for the conference title but would earn the Las Vegas Bowl berth by virtue of their 39-35 victory over the Wolf Pack on

Nov. 7.

Head-to-head competition is the first tiebreaker in the Big West.

However, should New Mexico State beat San Jose State - and that has not happened in eight previous lifetime meetings - then Nevada-Reno, with the best conference record, would represent the Big West on Dec.

18.

San Jose State and Nevada-Reno kept their bowl hopes alive last Saturday by beating Pacific and Utah State, respectively. The Spartans turned back Pacific 28-27 while the Wolf Pack rallied past Utah State, 48-47. Pacific and Utah State were eliminated from the bowl hunt with the losses.

REBELS

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stick. Utah State crushed the Rebels 48-8, leaving them where sit right now.

If UNLV can win their last two games, which happen to be at home, where the first two started, the Rebels will escape the '92 season with a 6-5 record overall, 3-3 in the BWC.

This Saturday UNLV will face Montana State out of the Big Sky Conference, where the Bobcats currently hold a 2-5 conference record, 4-

6 overall. The Rebels lead the series with Montana State 1-0. The two teams met on November 14, 1970 in Las Vegas. The Rebels edged the Bobcats 38-36.

As always, the football game will be telecast live over KDWN-AM (720) with Ken Korach and Tony Cordasco calling the action from the Silver Bowl. The broadcast will begin with "Rebel Warm-Up" at 12:30 p.m. Kickoff is at 1 p.m.

SPORTS COMMENTARY

By W.G. Ramirez
Sports Editor

Big Daddy or Big Mouth?

I VOTE FOR CLASS

After ranting and raving about how I thought Riddick Bowe was going to knock Evander Holyfield off of his pedestal, I'm beginning to wonder if it is such a good idea. Not that anything can be done, but....

As I made my way to the Mirage Hotel, to view the fight, which was on closed-circuit TV for the media, I assured everyone I spoke with or happened to see at the hotel, that Riddick Bowe was going to bed that night as the heavyweight champion of the world.

I watched this man literally and brutally dethrone The Real Deal round-by-round. When Holyfield grasped the top of his head, even after being down, it was getting clearer that Bowe was going to be victorious.

As everyone in the media tent witnessed the announcement of the new champion, there was a hush amongst all of us, as we watched Bowe and Co. disrespect the entire sport. From Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, getting into a scuffle with an Associated Press reporter, to Bowe taunting Lennox Lewis in the middle of live TV interview.

Both Bowe and Newman practically disgraced anyone possible that they felt was in their path.

When the TV crew went straight into Holyfield's locker room, and the former champ



The new heavyweight champion of the world.
Photo By Savoy/LVS-Voice

graciously spoke, a new respect for him had been earned.

Monday morning I picked up the USA Today and proceeded to thumb through the Sports section. Jon Saraceno had summed up everything I had been thinking that night, in his post-fight commentary.

"Within minutes of Riddick Bowe's coronation as world champion Friday night, it became apparent the new king and his court have ousted the quiet dignity and professionalism of Evander Holyfield in favor of in-your-face confrontation, buffoonery, and (we hope) as many big punches as one-liners. Call it The Reign of Riddickulous." He couldn't have written it any better.

I wonder if this means there will be spare gloves lying around at press conferences. Someone may say the wrong thing and that will be it, Newman will jump up, grab the gloves, start taping Bowe's wrists and begin to shout, "You just watch the jab, you'll see, you'll see."

As Holyfield answered questions at the post-fight press conference, he said, "I have to take my hat off to Riddick Bowe." Evander go ahead and put your hat back on. Bowe has taken his off and on enough for all of us.

Yes Riddick Bowe, you beat the former heavyweight champion of the world - but, I Vote For Class.

As 1992 winds down, its time for you to: VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE UNLV 1992 AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

- Tony Allick - swimming
- Henry Bailey - football
- Danny Barber - soccer
- Evric Gray - basketball
- John Ma'ae - football
- Rodney Mazion - football/baseball
- Shannon McLean - football
- J.R. Rider - basketball
- Elmore Spencer - basketball
- Demond Thompkins - football/baseball

The top 5 vote-getters as well as the ladies' finalists will be released for voting on December 3rd. Voting will continue through January 13, 1993. Winners will be announced January 14, 1993. Please drop off or mail your ballot to:
"Athlete Of The Year"
c/o Sports Dept.
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