

## SPORTS PACE

# Rose Bowl returns to way it was

By Huel Washington  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Undoubtedly there are thousands of college football fans around the nation who aren't pleased about the Bowl Championship Series pitting Oklahoma University vs. Louisiana State University in the Sugar Bowl for the mythical national championship of Division I college football.

How can the Sugar Bowl be for the national championship when the Rose Bowl match-up is sent from above? The University of Southern California (11-1) will meet the University of Michigan (10-2). USC lost to 34-31 in three overtimes to California. Michigan had losses to Oregon (31-27) and Iowa (30-27).

The game will be played Jan 1 at 2 p.m. and televised nationally on ABC.

Pete Carroll leads the Trojans. Lloyd Carr, who led the Wolverines' to a national championship in 1997, coaches Michigan.

Since the Big Ten Conference made a pact with the Pac-10, Michigan has met the USC six times, starting with the Wolverines' 49-0 demolition derby of the Trojans in 1948. U of M coach Bennie Oosterbaan's team had hoped to match the score in the first Rose Bowl in 1902, when Michigan waylaid Stanford University 49-0. That goal was accomplished.

The two conferences signed a pact in 1946, starting the Jan. 1 series with the

1947 Rose Bowl. The first Big Ten representative was the University of Illinois. The leading player for the Illini was Claude "Buddy" Young, who later starred in the National Football League and became a league executive. He was the Most Valuable Player of the inaugural Rose Bowl.

The Big Ten won the first six games played on New Year's Day before USC defeated Wisconsin 7-0 in 1953, giving the PAC-10 its first win. That was only a temporary setback for the Western Conference, also known as the Big Ten. The Big Ten won the next six games. Fans began to think the association was a mismatch.

Coach Don James and Washington Huskies put a hush to any questions of a mismatch, defeating Wisconsin and Minnesota in back-to-back Rose Bowls in 1960-61.

There was a stretch of Pacific Coast wins, including six straight from 1975-80, when Big Ten representatives were either Ohio State, under legendary Woody Hayes, or Michigan, under legendary Glenn "Bo" Schembechler. A number of Heisman Trophy winners have played in the "Granddaddy of Bowl Games." Among them are Howard "Hopalong" Cassady, Ohio State; Jim Plunkett, Stanford; Archie Griffin, Ohio State; Gary Beban, UCLA; O.J. Simpson, USC; Charles White and

Marcus Allen, USC; Ron Dayne, Wisconsin.

The University of Arizona and Arizona State were added to the conference in 1978, increasing the total to ten members. Arizona is the only school not to represent the conference in the Rose Bowl.

Arizona State, then led by current Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer in the 1997, staged a tremendous last-minute comeback, but fell short 20-17 to Ohio State on the final play of the game. Arizona native Joe Germaine, playing for OSU, found wide receiver David Boston with the winning score.

Warren Moon's Washington team, appearing in the game after a 14-year absence, had to hang on for dear life in 1978, as the Michigan, down by 17 at one time, staged a 20-point uprising in the second half. Michigan was on the Washington three-yard line when Rick Leach threw his second interception with one minute remaining in the game.

The Wolverines, who shared the national championship in 1997 with Nebraska, won the 1998 Rose Bowl, 21-16, over Washington State with Brian Griese at quarterback.

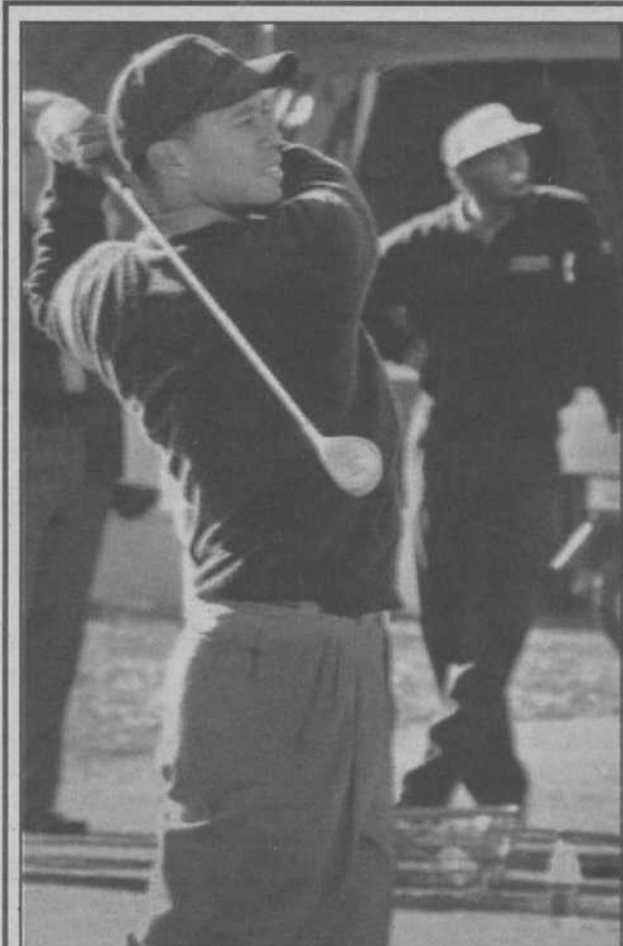
The Trojans' last appearance was in 1996 when they defeated Northwestern, the alma mater of Charlton Heston, 41-32. Heston was in attendance. Northwestern's last appearance before that was in 1949,

defeating the California Golden Bears, 20-14, on a controversial touchdown by Art Murakowski.

Charles White's touchdown against Michigan in 1979 was also controversial. On a plunge, he appeared to have fumbled the ball before crossing the goal line. Officials missed the call and USC recorded a touchdown.

Surely, a capacity crowd of 100,000 on Jan. 1 will hope the 90th renewal of the Rose Bowl will have the same excitement that has punctuated the series between the two conferences for more than a half century. The Big Ten has won 28 of the 54 contests.

Both teams feature Heisman trophy candidates. Chris Perry is a Michigan running back. Trojan quarterback Matt Leinart is also a contender. The Big Ten vs. the Pac-10 in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day, vying for the national championship is the way it should be. Just like it was before.



## GOLF KINGS

PGA Player of the Year Tiger Woods makes a drive on the range while Vijay Singh watches as both prepare for the Target World Challenge at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Tuesday. Singh was top money winner of the year and came in a close second to Woods in player of the year balloting.

## Probe underway on NFL hate mail

CLEVELAND (AP) - The FBI is investigating hate mail sent to Black NFL players and other Black men during the past year.

A memo sent Nov. 18 to all NFL teams by the league's security department said all the threatening letters came from the same person and were postmarked Cleveland; Youngstown, Ohio; and Erie, Pa.

"The memo went out to head coaches who were asked to share the information with security personnel and players," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Thursday. "The memo mentioned only six instances. ... It's an ongoing FBI investigation."

More than just football players were targeted.

Special agent Robert Hawk of the FBI's Cleveland office said more than 30 "racially hateful letters" were sent to "high-profile people in their respective communities - professional athletes, business leaders, civic leaders, community leaders or organizations."

Hawk confirmed that six of the letters were sent to pro athletes.

"The majority of the letters have been sent to high profile leaders in the communities," he said.

Hawk said the contents of the letter "complain about the relationships between Black men and white females." Hawk also said the letters direct Black males to end relationships with white

women "or they're going to be castrated, shot or set on fire."

In Columbus, Ohio, a police report said the mother of suspended Ohio State tailback Maurice Claret received a racially charged death threat addressed to her son.

Michelle Claret received the letter, which had no return address, at her home on Oct. 2. The typed message was from "OSU cheerleaders" and said that "Black men should stay away from white women." It included other racial remarks and ended with a message that the writer will "kill and bomb the place."

Hawk was unsure if Claret had received the same letter.

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