



# SPORTS

## Beyond The Score:

*Bowl  
controversy  
haunts  
college  
football*

*Sports news  
and  
opinionated  
views...*

After the bowl games are over and the dust has settled, the Florida State Seminoles have emerged to capture their first ever National Championship. But do they deserve to be National Champs?

The team that finished behind the Seminoles was Notre Dame, a team that defeated Florida State during the regular season. So does that mean that Notre Dame deserves to be National Champs? Who knows?

Many sports fans assumed that the National Championship would have been settled at the Orange Bowl when #1 Florida State played #2 Nebraska. Going into the game, the Cornhuskers were a 17 point underdog, but stepped up to the challenge only to fall 2 points shy of winning.

In the Cotton Bowl, #5 Notre Dame played #8 Texas A&M. The Fighting Irish were a heavy favorite, but trailed most of the game only to stage a fourth quarter comeback to come out on top 24-21.

As you can see, both of these high-powered offensive teams struggled against what were to be lesser opponents. This just proves the potential that underdog teams have when it comes to playing in major games.

All of this controversy only exemplifies the need for a drastic change in the post-season system of college football. Here is one proposal that has been submitted to the NCAA.

Have all the New Year's Day bowl games as before. Then, after those games, take the top four teams in the country and have them play a Final Four in Hawaii. The first games would be #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3 and the winners would then play for the undisputed National Championship.

This is a great idea. There would no longer be a 'Who's #1?' controversy. The sponsors of the Alamo Bowl have even agreed to pay for this new system.

If there continues to be a National Championship controversy, then college football will decline and lose its luster. The NCAA cannot let that happen.

As far as who's #1 right now, you gotta give it to Charlie Ward and the Seminoles. They deserve it.



by Jason Farr  
sports editor

## Men's basketball on the verge of contention

by Jason Farr  
staff writer

"I feel confident that we can still contend for the South Atlantic Conference title. Our team can still become a force in the conference and be able to play and win it," says Jim Johnson, head coach.

With an overall record of 5-9 and a conference record 1-4, one might think that a team would roll over and start looking toward next season. Not so with the Running Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs began the season without two key starters, Billy Palagonia and Kenneth Nelson. And with only four returnees mixed in with seven freshman, the coaching staff had to make many adjustments because they were unable to maintain a consistent starting rotation.

"Our freshmen have developed and improved tremendously early on in the season. They have stepped up to the challenge of playing hard and consistent," said Johnson.

One of those key freshmen is guard Ryan Wilkins, who, according to Coach Johnson, is capable of stepping into the starting lineup. Ryan has received a considerable amount of playing time because of the injury to Palagonia.

"Ryan does a great job for us," said Johnson. "He has a very unselfish attitude and is just a hard worker. Now that Billy (Palagonia) is back, Ryan comes off the bench for us and gives us 100%."

Other key freshmen for the Bulldogs are Mike Broadnax, who scored 12 second half points to lead the team to a 97-96 win over Wingate last Saturday. Matthew Cates and Carlton Hurt are two freshmen who have seen considerable playing time because of injuries



as well.

While having Billy Palagonia and Kenneth Nelson out until January, the Bulldogs have been in a series of close games that could have gone either way.

In the game against Carson-Newman, G-W was up 72-71 with :49 left in the game, but a turnover led to a three-pointer by C-N and eventually to an 11 point loss for Gardner-Webb. In the Mars Hill game, The Bulldogs were up six with six minutes left to go, but they wound up losing that one. The heartbreaker of the season was against conference rival Lenoir Rhyne when one of their players hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer to give the Bears a one-point win.

"Our record isn't indicative of the team that we have," says Johnson. "I feel that our best times are ahead. These guys work hard in practice every day and they continue to show a lot of character on the court. We are taking one game at a time."

The Bulldogs have nine conference games left, including an important three game home-stand against Mars Hill, Lenoir Rhyne and Wingate.

"Our goal is to have a team that the university can be proud of," says Johnson.

## Cafeteria from page 1

project.

Clary requested the video of the kitchen area and one of the members of the group complied after the project was completed.

The bulk of the finished project consisted of an interview with Simpson with no kitchen footage.

"He (Simpson) asked for the questions we would ask prior to the shooting," said Lynch. "He had a prepared statement and had a podium set up with a G-W seal on it."

Dean E. Jerome Scott says, after talking with the group of students, that they, by their own admission, talked with someone who sounded more like a student than Simpson's secretary when setting up the interview with him.

"The kitchen area is off limits to cameras without proper approval in almost any cafeteria," said Scott. "The kitchen area belongs to ServiceMaster, not John Simpson, and he needed to obtain permission from his own boss before the students could proceed."

## Sports Quips & Quizzes

### Quip of the week:

"I guess that actions speak louder than words," said Buddy Ryan, defensive coordinator for the Houston Oilers one day after throwing a right hook at Oiler's offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride.

### Sports Quiz: ( Answers at bottom of page )

Q: Who won the lowest scoring game in Monday Night Football history?

Q: Who is the winningest active coach in Division IA college football?