Notre Dame team loses sixth staight bowl game

Georgia reached new heights in New Orleans, and Oklahoma rose to the occasion in Pasadena.

No such luck for Notre Dame, Mike Price and Larry Johnson they simply got bowled over.

With MVP Musa Smith running for 145 yards, No. 4 Georgia set a school record for wins by beating No. 16 Florida State 26-13 Wednesday night in the Sugar Bowl.

In his second season with the Bulldogs (13-1), coach Mark Richt beat his former boss. Richt served 14 years on Bobby Bowden's staff at Florida State.

"I'm thankful for the victory," Richt said. "I'm just thankful to Bobby Bowden still. He's still the teacher."

MVP Nate Hybl threw two touchdown passes and Quentin Griffin

By The Associated Press ran for 144 yards and a score as No. by the razzle-dazzle of North Caro-8 Oklahoma won in its first trip to lina State, losing 28-6 in the Gator the Rose Bowl, romping past Washington State 34-14.

in yet," Hybl said.

Hired two weeks ago by Alabama, Price stuck around for one last game, whether it's the regular last game as Washington State's season or a bowl game." coach. The seventh-ranked Couvards.

"It's not the way we wanted to end it, by any means," he said. "It's a disappointing way to finish."

"I'm sure I'll get my fair share of just wanted to do everything I could to help the team win."

A season that began with great sixth straight bowl loss.

The No. 11 Irish were perplexed esta Bowl on Friday night.

Bowl.

defily news

"It's still a very good season," 'It's fairy tale-ish. It hasn't sunk first-year coach Tyrone Willingham said. "At the same time, we have to become accustomed to winning our

Johnson, who finished third in the gars were held to a season-low 243 Heisman Trophy voting, had a disappointing day for No. 10 Penn State. He was held to only 72 yards on 20 carries as No. 19 Auburn won 13-9 in the Capital One Bowl.

In other games, it was No. 22 the blame for that, which is OK. I Michigan 38, No. 12 Florida 30 in the Outback Bowl and No. 9 Texas 35, LSU 20 in the Cotton Bowl.

Southern California plays Iowa promise for Notre Dame ended in its in the Orange Bowl tonight, and Miami meets Ohio State in the Fi-



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Jets' offensive coordinator getting some overdue credit

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — Chad Pennington can't figure out why anyone would be unhappy with offensive coordinator Paul Hackett.

The New York Jets' third-year quarterback credits much of his sensational development this season to Hackett, whose patient and cerebral approach to football fits nicely with Pennington's strengths.

Pennington admits that without Hackett there is no way he would have been 8-4 as a starter since taking over for Vinny Testaverde after the Jets' 1-3 start. Nor could he have gone from an untested player passer.

Jets prepared for Saturday's home playoff game with Indianapolis. "With coach Hackett, you have people who may be criticizing him that may have a third-grade level education as far as football is concerned, whereas he has his master's.

"It just blows your mind sometimes, because the man knows what he's doing."

The 55-year-old Hackett is a master of it in various jobs and at different levels for two decades.

While he struggled as a head coach at the University of Pittsburgh and at Southern entirely different system and had great sucto the league's most efficient and accurate California, his resume as a pro coordinator cess in 1998 and more moderate success in and position coach is quite impressive. He 2000. That made the transformation to the "Some of the criticism that you receive won a Super Bowl with the San Francisco West Coast scheme even more difficult in cess in place here," Hackett said. "It does ments of doing things better."

as a player and as a coach, it's mind-bog- 49ers after the 1984 season while working gling sometimes," Pennington said as the with Joe Montana. He helped turn Steve Bono into a top-flight precision passer in Kansas City.

> And now he is working his magic with Pennington, who says jokingly: "Sometimes you think you're going to walk into his office and he's going to have potions and beakers and bubbles going everywhere."

Last season, the Jets were inconsistent with the ball. Even though they went 10-6 the West Coast offense. He has been using and made the playoffs as a wild card, there wasn't much harmony between Hackett and the veteran Testaverde.

Of course, Testaverde played under an

"He was caught in a situation that was

very, very difficult," said coach Herman Edwards, who made Hackett one of his first hires when he took over the Jets early in 2001. "He came in with an offense that was constructed for five years with the same players. That's tough. Then we try to put in the West Coast offense — that took a lot of tory learning. The offensive line was used to

blocking a certain way. "It was a tough deal."

Hackett dealt with the criticism by remaining patient. And when the switch was made to Pennington, who is better suited for this mode of attack, the offense began to click.

"The only thing I've said is there is a pro-

not happen overnight. It takes time to put together a new offense when you change everything. We had tons of growing pains. Did everybody think in one year we'd be in the Super Bowl?"

Well, maybe. This is New York, after all, where great expectations - unrealistic expectations, too - come with the terri-

But with what the Jets have done on offense in the second half of the season as they surged to the AFC East crown, who knows what dreams are realistic?

"I saw us getting better," Hackett said. "Had I felt we were playing awful, maybe it would've been harder on me. But there never was a point in the last two years where we weren't starting to show some incre-

Colorado Avalanche overtake Nashville Predators bowling results

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Peter Forsberg had a goal and five also scored for the Avalanche. assists, and Milan Hejduk added two goals and three assists as the Colorado Avalanche beat the Nashville Predators 7-3 Wednesday.

Forsberg set a new record for most points in a game against Nashville, beating the old mark set by Wayne Gretzky, who had five as-

Steven Rheinprecht, Mike play.

Keane, Adam Foote and Rob Blake

Colorado goaltender Patrick Roy started the game but did not come one period. out for the second period because of the flu. He was replaced by David Aebischer, who gave up a goal to Adam Hall on a rebound at 2:46.

Vokoun at 3:09 of the first period of side on a power play at 13:19.

Clarke Wilm tied the game for the Brian Finley, who made his NHL Predators at 5:21, but Colorado got debut. He stopped 10 of 13 shots, three more goals and led 4-1 after

Foote took a pass from Forsberg and beat Vokoun at 6:24. Keane shot the puck high, and it bounced off Vokoun's back and into the net at The Avalanche began the rout 9:32 for a short-handed goal. when Rheinprecht scored on Tomas Hejduk beat Vokoun to his glove

Vokoun was replaced after that by a power-play goal.

but gave up three goals.

Leading 4-2, the Avalanche got goals from Blake and Forsberg 21 seconds apart midway through the second period.

Hejduk scored his second goal of the game and 18th of the season in the final period. Nashville's Andy Delmore closed out the scoring with

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292; High Series Team Collinwood 2500; High Series Ind. Mark Sieck 708.

Standings:		
Collinwood	17	3
Rasure Do It Center	14	6
KMA	11	ę

A look at college bowl games

Sugar Bowl

Price finishes career at Washington with a Rose Bowl loss

By Owen Canfield

AP Sports Writer PASADENA, Calif. (AP) -Maybe Mike Price should have expected this disappointing Rose Bowl farewell.

Price, coaching his final game at Washington State before heading off to Alabama, was going against an Oklahoma team that has proven to be a tough customer in big games under Bob Stoops.

That was the case Wednesday as the eighth-ranked Sooners dominated on both sides of the ball in a 34-14 victory.

"I don't want to sit here and be boastful, but we've been pretty good when we've had a little bit of extra time to play against somebody," Stoops said. "We were again tonight."

Oklahoma (12-2) held No. 7 Washington State scoreless until the final six minutes of the game. The Cougars (10-3) had a season-low 243 yards, including just 4 on the ground.

Oklahoma is 3-1 in bowl games under Stoops. It appeared the Sooners would keep their third straight bowl opponent out of the end zone until the Cougars finally got on the board in the late going.

"We slacked up in the fourth quarter and it leaves a bad taste in my mouth," said All-American linebacker Teddy Lehman.

But at least the Sooners won. Price, leaving after 14 seasons at Washington State, was left to answer questions about whether his decision to stay through the bowl affected his team.

"I'm sure I'll get my fair share of the blame for that, which is OK," Price said. "I just wanted to do everything I could to help the team win."

Offensive guard Billy Knott said Price's situation had no bearing.

"I don't buy it, not at all," he said. "We lost because we didn't play the way we needed to play. They did it today, they played better."

quarterback, was 17-of-34 for 239 yards and two interceptions, and alties in the first quarter. was sacked six times.

Oklahoma was burned by deep passes in its two losses, but Gesser became another top-flight quarterback handcuffed by the Sooners. They had previously throttled Sen-Kingsbury of Texas Tech and Chris into a field goal and a 20-0 lead. Simms of Texas.

we keep making mistakes," Gesser said. "They came with a lot of difgood flow going. We didn't play how we normally play.'

While the defense was controlling Washington State, Nate Hybl was solid at quarterback and Quentin Griffin had his 10th straight 100-yard game.

Hybl, like Griffin playing his final game, was 19-of-29 for 240 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. He was voted the game's MVP.

"I'm proud of him, mostly because of the person he is, the character he exhibits and the way he handles himself on the field," Stoops said. "He's been solid for us all year and we've been fortunate to have him."

Griffin, who had 1,740 yards during the regular season, had 144 yards on 30 carries and scored the Sooners' final touchdown on a 19vard run.

The Sooners outgained Washington State by a 2-to-1 margin in the first half but had just a 3-0 lead before scoring twice in the final two minutes.

The first touchdown came on a 12-yard pass from Hybl to Antwone Savage. Hybl also had completions of 30 and 19 yards in the 65-yard drive.

The Cougars were forced to punt on their next possession and Antonio Perkins returned the kick 51 yards for a touchdown that made it

Jason Gesser, the Cougars' star 17-0. Perkins was due-he had two Riley with 6:08 remaining, avoidother big returns wiped out by pen-

After being shut out in the first half for the first time this season, the Cougars put together a nice drive to open the third quarter. They moved from their 8 to the Oklahoma 41 before Gesser was intercepted on a eca Wallace of Iowa State, Kliff tipped ball. Oklahoma turned that

'We tried one thing after another "It's hard to do something on a and nothing seemed to work," defense that's already good when Gesser said. "It was frustrating because nothing would go right.

Washington State moved to the ferent blitzes and we couldn't get a Oklahoma 34 early in the fourth quarter but turned it over on downs, failing to convert a fourth-and-1 play. The Sooners then drove 66 yards in 11 plays, with Hybl hitting Curtis Fagan on a 9-yard scoring pass to make it 27-0 with 8:02 to play.

"I was looking to prove some people wrong," said Hybl, often the target of criticism in Oklahoma despite his 20-3 record as starter the past two seasons. "It's fairy tale-ish. It hasn't sunk in yet.'

The Cougars came in averaging just under 35 points but didn't score until Gesser's 37-yard pass Jerome PlayStation 2.

Another year before the pros

announced he was coming back for his senior season at Texas several weeks before the Cotton Bowl because he didn't want that question to distract him from the game.

NFL teams might hope he rethinks his decision.

Williams almost single-handedly rallied Texas from a 10-point deficit Wednesday, sending the No. 9 Longhorns to a 35-20 victory over LSU.

He turned a short slant into a 51yard touchdown, went 75 yards after a leaping grab to set up another score and snaked 39 yards for a TD on an end around.

"He might be the best football

ing their first shutout since 1984.

After Oklahoma's final touchdown, Sammy Moore scored on an 89-yard kickoff return for the Cougars.

Price will get to see the Sooners again shortly. His second game as the Crimson Tide's coach will be against Oklahoma.

"It's not the way we wanted to end it, by any means," Price said. "It's a very disappointing way to finish."

The Sooners were playing in their 36th bowl game but their first Rose Bowl. They got invited after the Orange Bowl picked Iowa and Southern California for its game. That left the Rose Bowl without a Pac-10-Big Ten matchup for the first time since 1947, not counting last vear when this game was the site of the BCS national championship game between Miami and Nebraska.

The crowd of 86,848 on a sunny, 70-degree day was the smallest at this game since 1944, when 68,000 watched Southern California beat Washington 29-0.

The game was sponsored by

DALLAS (AP)—Roy Williams player I've seen all year," Tigers coach Nick Saban said.

> After receiving a huge trophy as offensive MVP, Williams said he didn't deserve it - and didn't object when teammate Rod Babers slid it away. Williams then criticized himself for a false start and said he could do a better job of running routes.

"I don't feel like I'm the best receiver in the country," Williams said.

LSU (8-5) would probably disagree. The Tigers came in with the second-best pass defense in the country, allowing 143 yards per game — and Williams alone had 142 on four catches

At New Orleans, Bruce Thornton returned an interception for a score, backup quarterback D.J. Shockley threw a TD pass and Georgia stymied short-handed Florida State.

Billy Bennett added four field goals as the Bulldogs went conservative, throwing a season-low 15 passes.

With Adrian McPherson kicked off the team for allegedly stealing a check, and Chris Rix suspended after oversleeping and missing a final exam, Fabian Walker made his first start at quarterback for Florida State (9-5).

Walker threw two interceptions and lost a fumble, and the Seminoles turned to star receiver Anguan Boldin to replace Walker.

No. 4 Georgia 26, No. 16 Florida State 13

Rose Bowl

At Pasadena, Calif., the Sooners shut down star quarterback Jason Gesser, intercepting two passes.

Oklahoma (12-2) led 27-0 midway through the fourth quarter behind Hybl and Griffin.

Hybl, like Griffin playing his final game, was 19-of-29 for 240 vards, two touchdowns and no interceptions.

No. 8 Oklahoma 34, No. 7 Washington St. 14

Gator Bowl

At Jacksonville, Fla., the Wolfpack completed the best season in school history behind Philip Rivers.

Rivers completed 13 consecutive passes as N.C. State (11-3) scored three touchdowns in the second quarter, one on a fumblerooski and another set up by a flea-flicker.

The Irish (10-3) lost quarterback Carlyle Holiday to a separated left shoulder on their second possession and lost their temper with three personal fouls.

No. 17 North Carolina St. 28, No. 11 Notre Dame 6

Outback Bowl

At Tampa, Fla., Chris Perry became the first player in Michigan's storied history to score four touchdowns in a bowl.

The junior tailback's last two touchdowns lifted the Wolverines (10-3) from a two-point deficit to a 35-23 lead in the third quarter of play.

Playing in possibly his last game for Florida (8-5), junior Rex Grossman threw for 323 yards and two scores.

No. 12 Michigan 38, No. 22 Florida 30

Cotton Bowl

At Dallas, Texas rallied from an early 10-point deficit behind Roy Williams. He turned a short slant into a 51-yard touchdown, went 75 yards after a leaping grab to set up another score and snaked 39 yards for a TD on an end around.

The Longhorns (11-2) trailed 17-7 three minutes into the second quarter, with the defense producing their lone score.

Chris Simms threw two touchdown pass as the Longhorns broke away from LSU (8-5).

No. 9 Texas 35, LSU 20

Capital One Bowl

At Orlando, Fla., Ronnie Brown scored on a 17-yard touchdown run with 2:19 left to rally Auburn.

Brown ran 37 times for 184 yards and two touchdowns, and the Tigers (9-4) shut down Penn State (9-4).

Penn State's four losses came by a total of 20 points, as coach Joe Paterno failed to pad his NCAA record 20 bowl wins after a twoyear postseason absence.

No. 19 Auburn 13, No. 10 Penn St. 9