

Sooners in the Sugar Bowl does not mix

For the second time in three years, a team that couldn't win its own conference title will play for the national championship.

Does anyone else out there think that is wrong?

On Jan. 4, the University of Oklahoma and Louisiana State University, more commonly referred to as LSU, will play for the national title at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. This is despite the fact that neither team is No. 1 in either the USA Today/ESPN or the Associated Press polls. Both have the University of Southern California as the nation's top team.

The Sooners, as probably everyone around here knows, lost to Kansas State 35-7 in the Big 12 Championship. From what I understand, that puts the Wildcats in a Bowl Championship Series game as the Big 12 champion, and I have no problem with Oklahoma getting one of those games also, but not for the national title.

Of course Kansas State, with three losses, shouldn't play for the



greg stover

• greg's gripes

national title either, so let's not go there.

The Pacific-10 Conference doesn't have a championship game, but it really doesn't matter. Southern California finished on top with an 11-1 overall record and was 7-1 in the conference, including a strong 43-16 win over second place Washington State (9-3, 6-2).

LSU won the Southeastern Conference by defeating the Bulldogs of the University of Georgia 34-13 in the championship game. Georgia was ranked No. 5 by both polls at the time. The Tigers also have only one loss for the season, so no argument from me that they deserve a shot at the Sears National Championship Trophy.

Three teams in the top 10 of both major polls have only one loss, but only two of them are conference champions. Those two are ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in both polls. Seems like a no-brainer to me, but alas it's not to be because "that's what the computer says." Which is one of the two answers I've always hated; the other is "that's the way it's always been done."

It seems surreal to me that the teams playing for the national title do not include the nation's top team as determined by either the coaches or the sports writers. Instead, they were chosen by a system created by businessmen, advertisers, financial consultants and their lawyers.

Enough already! Scrap the Bowl Championship Series now; don't wait for some committee to consider it for another five years. Get rid of it now, with the next season. I like the idea of a play-off system

that lets the teams decide the national champion on the field, but the reality is there is too much money involved to allow that. Right now, there are 28 bowl games for NCAA Division I-A teams, that's 56 out of 117 teams that will see postseason action.

Less than 20 NCAA Division I-AA and Division II teams will play in the postseason, and both divisions have more teams than I-A. Is that really equitable?

Thirty-two teams are involved in the Division III playoffs but there are over 200 of them. Anyway, this year's postseason schedule proves there are serious problems that need to be fixed, now!

Oh, yea. The other team that didn't win its conference but played for the national title was the 2002 Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska, which got beaten up in the Rose Bowl by the University of Miami 37-14. If memory serves, Nebraska didn't even qualify for the Big 12 championship game that year.

SHERMAN COUNTY KANSAS TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

October 31, 2003

Total Cash in the Treasury as at the above date \$3,437,371.41

FUND	FUND BALANCE
APPRaiser's COST	\$46,556.12
AUTO MOTOR SPECIAL	\$24,188.69
BOND & INTEREST	\$65,770.22
NO FUND WARRANTS	\$7,595.70
CITY-CO RECREATION	\$1,186.32
COUNTY HEALTH	\$26,167.62
DIRECT ELECTION	\$26,947.15
TRASH HAULING	\$20,302.74
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$227,815.29
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS HEALTH RESERVE	\$14,657.47
EXTENSION	\$2,653.32
FREE FAIR	\$533.79
GENERAL FUND	\$408,711.71
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$180.51
HOME MAINTENANCE	\$24,786.16
HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE	\$7,925.40
SH CO WASTE WATER DISTRICT #1	\$111,639.87
LOGAN CO FIRE #1	\$29.48
NOXIOUS WEED	\$45,541.80
REGISTER OF DEEDS TECHNOL	\$11,396.87
OUT-DISTRICT TUITION	\$5,223.83
OVER & UNDER	-\$15.50
PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY	\$1,997.71
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	\$983.39
PROS ATTY (DIVERSION)	\$5,268.60
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$506,148.12
SALES TAX	\$18,937.79
SC RURAL FIRE DIST #1	\$170,790.86
SHERMAN CO SPILL CONTROL	\$304.70
SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK	\$9,457.60
SOLID WASTE FUND	\$858,285.59
SPEC ALCOHOL PROGRAM	\$1,675.13
LANDFILL SITE G O BONDS	\$49,965.19
SPECIAL PARKS & REC	\$1,239.52
SPEC MACHINERY FUND	\$139,480.36
TORT LIABILITY	\$8,325.06
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$4,442.47
DRIVER'S LICENSE	\$253.00
GAME LICENSES	\$1,312.25
COUNTY ATTORNEY DRUG SEIZURE	\$1,933.87
SECRETARY OF STATE	\$2,368.80
NOXIOUS WEED CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$33,601.00
SPECIAL PRAIRIE DOG	\$10,596.76
SC RFD #1 EQUIP RESERVE	\$22,491.80
GOOD SAM CENTER-HEALTH CARE	\$4,651.80
HERITAGE TRUST FUND	\$152.97
SHERIFF DRUG SEIZURE FUND	\$19,121.20
COUNTY HEALTH CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$29,724.53
ADVANCE TAX	\$366.33
AUTO MTR STATE/GENERAL	\$47.40
HEALTH CARE SERVICES	\$217,692.38
COUNTY REDEMPTION	\$13,912.31
CURRENT TAX	-\$563.10
DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAX	\$4,508.31
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TAX	\$893.63
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	\$55,969.31
MICRO LOANS	\$5,291.80
FEDERAL DRUG SEIZURE	\$658.39
SHERIFF REWARD DONATION FUND	\$34.92
SOIL CONSERVATION	\$751.47
CEMETERY FUND	\$2,788.43
LIBRARY FUND	\$227.21
SCRFD #1 SPECIAL FUND	\$3,159.55
911 TELEPHONE SERVICE	\$78,355.00
SUSPENSE FUND	\$27,320.56
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$41,520.65

TOWNSHIPS

GRANT GENERAL	\$0.74
LLANOS GENERAL	\$48.47
LOGAN GENERAL	\$987.81
MCPHERSON GENERAL	\$1.95
SHERMANVILLE GENERAL	\$90.87
SHERMANVILLE PRAIRIE DOG	-\$0.39
STATELINE GENERAL	\$4.78

TOTAL ALL FUNDS \$3,437,371.41

STATE OF KANSAS
SHERMAN COUNTY ss.

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Shelly Miller
County Treasurer, Sherman County, Kansas

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of Dec, 2003.

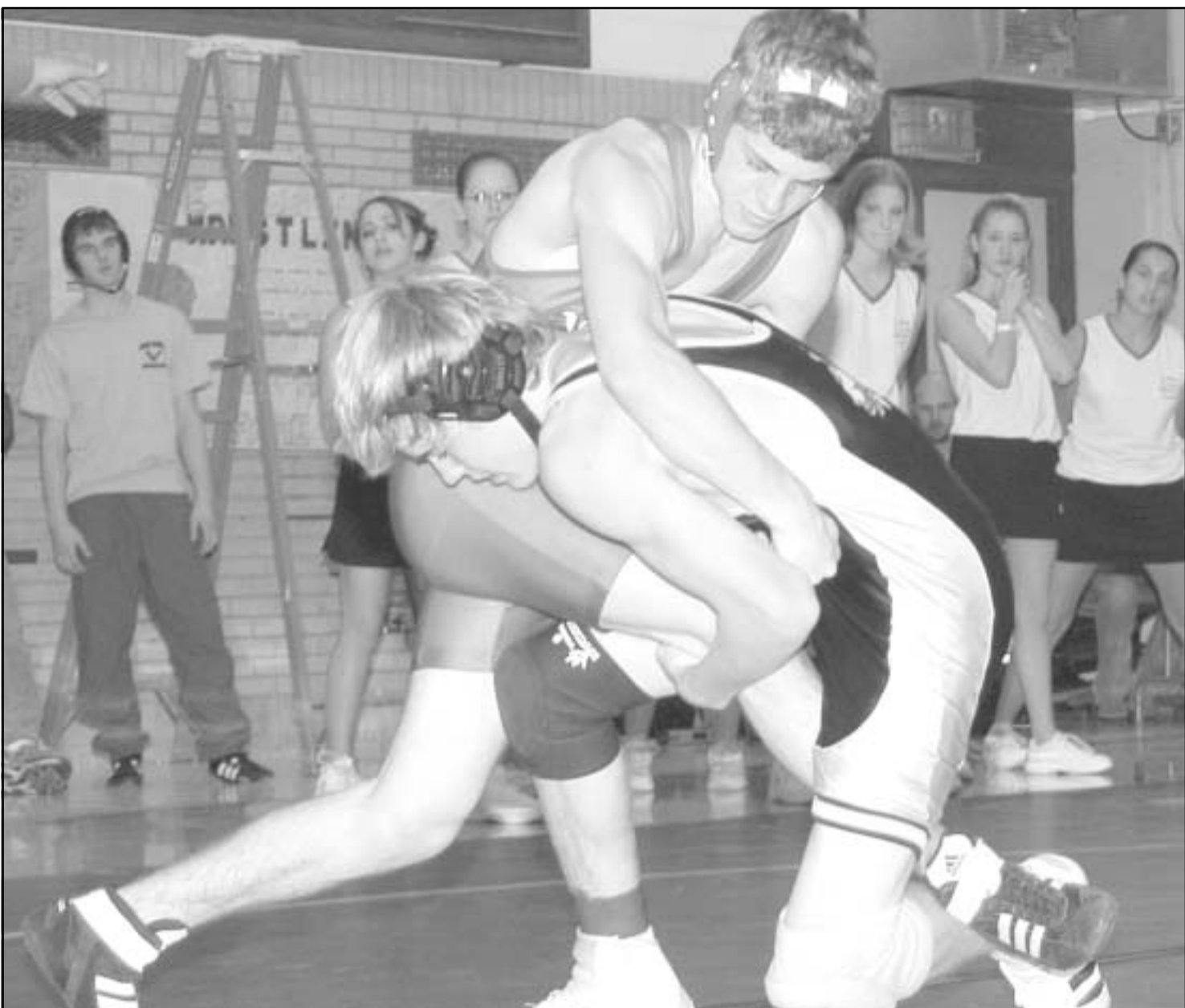


James R. Rumpel
County Clerk - Notary Public

My commission expires Jan 10, 2005

Published in the Goodland Star-News on Friday, December 12, 2003

Strength vs. strength



Freshman Brett Schields (bottom) defeated the Indian's Loren Cressler 12-4 in the Cowboy's season opener at Hoxie. The team will be in action again Saturday at a tournament hosted by Burlington. Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

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Dec. 11-13, 2003

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