

Bowl Championship Series loses more of its credibility

The Bowl Championship Series lost some more of its legitimacy when the Associated Press told it to stop using the AP college football poll in the formula used to determine which team plays in the four Series bowl games.

In a release last week, the AP said Series use of its poll "was never sanctioned and had reached the point where it threatened to undermine the independence and integrity of the poll."

In essence, the AP is telling the Series the system it uses does nothing to enhance the image of college football and it no longer wants anything to do with it. The Series was created by representatives of the elite football conferences and the University of Notre Dame for the purpose, I believe, of maintaining their image at the cost of the other NCAA Division I-A teams.

The AP poll has been used by the Bowl Championship Series since its inception in 1998. The voters are sports reporters and editors, who cast their ballots based on their evaluation of the teams each week. I always thought this was a more fair and accurate way to rank the teams rather than using a select number of coaches as the ESPN/USA Today



greg
stover

• greg's gripes

poll does.

Coaches have more than enough to keep them busy during the season, which prevents them from doing a thorough evaluation of other teams each week. In addition, there is too much temptation for coaches to vote in a way to enhance the image of their own team.

That said, I still give precedence to the coaches' poll because of its association with the American Football Coaches Association, which also maintains coaches polls for NCAA Division II and III. It's a case of consistency over perceived fairness.

My real gripe in all this is the Bowl Championship Series is worthless. It is nothing more than a tool used to tarnish the image of college football. It has turned to whole concept of bowl games into a joke.

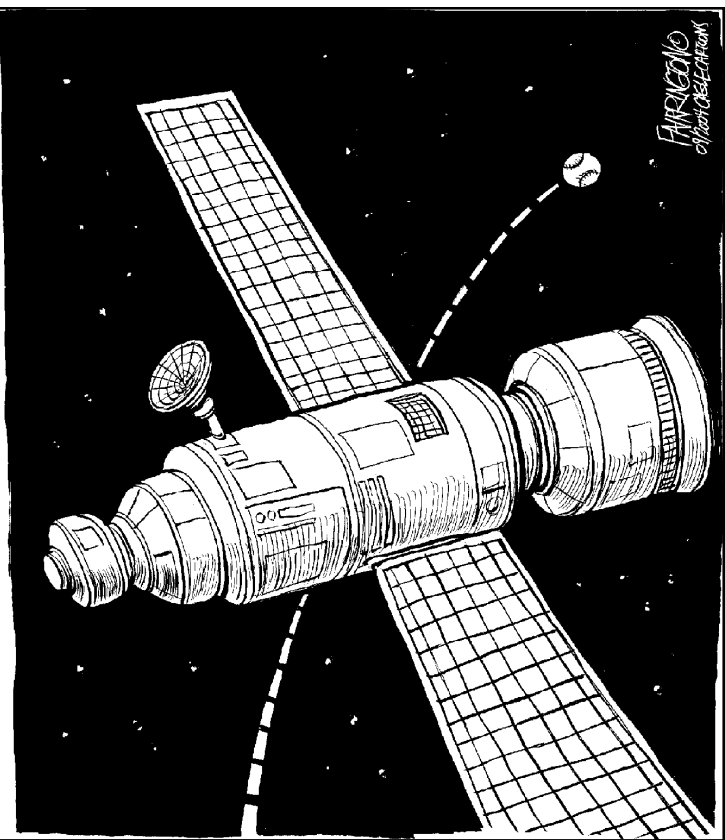
The four Series bowl games now

seem like the only ones most fans care about, which makes the other 24 nothing more than novelties or some sort consolation prize. And to make matters worse, someone has decided the way to enhance the image of the "who cares" bowls is to add more of them.

Twenty-eight bowl games for 119 Division I-A teams means nearly half of them are bowl bound, which results in several bowls featuring teams with 6-5 records. Is a 6-5 record really deserving of a postseason game?

For years now, I've listened to sports announcers say a specific team might qualify for a bowl and then have to laugh. Face it, any team with seven wins, except if it's in the Mid-America Conference, is guaranteed a bowl game, and most with six wins will get one.

The Bowl Championship Series needs to go away and the number of teams getting post-season action needs to go down by 20 or more. Then maybe college football can go back to being an extension of school pride and tradition instead of a business.



Former Lady Bulldog helps keep Sterling women on top of game

The Lady Warriors of Sterling College have the best overall record in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference at 11-3 and share first place in the conference with three other teams at 3-1.

Playing in her second season for Sterling is sophomore forward Alicia Collett. Alicia, the daughter of Scott and Alice Collett of Levant, is a 2003 graduate of Brewster High, where she lettered in volleyball and track for the Lady Bulldogs as well as in basketball.

Collett has played in all 14 games for the Lady Warriors, scoring 34 points and grabbing 31 rebounds so far this season. Her best scoring effort came Nov. 19, when she scored 12 points against Benedictine College during the Warrior Classic. Sterling beat Benedictine 57-50.

Sterling finished the 2004 part of its schedule by winning both its games last week at Disney's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Challenge held at the Wide World of Sports Center in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Last Tuesday, the Warriors defeated Siena Heights University (Mich.) 76-72 and on Wednesday they beat Point Park University (Penn.) 69-56.

Sterling was ranked No. 16 in the latest Division II Top 25 poll by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, released Dec. 14. The Warriors were ranked No. 15 in the preseason poll and No. 11 in the season's first poll on Dec. 7. The next ranking will be released Tuesday, Jan. 4.

The other teams tied with Sterling at 3-1 for the conference lead are

Friends University, McPherson College and Tabor College.

The Lady Falcons of Friends also are 11-3 overall after winning both their games at a tournament in Hawaii held Dec. 17-18. Friends defeated Sterling 63-58 on Dec. 9 to give the Warriors their only conference loss for the season.

Although the McPherson women's team is 5-7 overall, it has only one loss in the four conference games it's played in. The Lady Bulldogs' first game in 2005 will be Thursday, Jan. 6, at Sterling.

The Lady Blue Jays of Tabor are 9-4 overall and moved into the top 25 two weeks ago at No. 23. Tabor enters the Christmas break on a four-game win streak, with the only conference losses so far for Friends and McPherson. The Lady Jays' conference loss was to Southwestern College on Dec. 2.

Fort Hays women on win streak

The Fort Hays State University women's basketball team will put its four-game win streak on the line Thursday, Jan. 6, with a home game against Mesa State College of Grand Junction, Colo.

The Lady Tigers entered the holiday break 8-1 overall and 3-0 in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

Women's basketball is one of three sports which all 14 conference members compete in. For those three — the other two are men's basketball and volleyball — the

conference is divided into the East and West divisions of seven teams each.

Fort Hays is in the East. Each team in the conference will play two regular season games against the other six teams in its division and one against each team in the other division for 19 conference games.

The Tigers opened the season with four straight wins, then lost to the College of St. Mary (Neb.) 65-55 on the second day of the Hoop 'n' Shop Classic held Dec. 3-

4 in Chicago. After that, Fort Hays won its next four games, including its first three conference games of the season.

Jennifer Hake, a graduate of Oakley High, is one of two seniors on the Tigers' roster. Hake has played in all nine games, with one start, and is averaging over six points and four rebounds per game. She leads the team in free throw percentage, hitting 24 of 29 (82 percent) for the season.

The Lady Mavericks of Mesa State enter next week's game 4-7 overall and 1-2 in the conference. Tip-off will be at 6 p.m. (Central Time) in Gross Coliseum at Hays.



Collett



Hake

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School calendar for Dec. 28 - Jan. 4
Wednesday to Friday - No school; Winter break
Monday - Classes resume; "C" boy's basketball in St. Francis 5 p.m.; Project Graduation 2005 meeting in the cafeteria 7 p.m.
Tuesday - "Gold Day"; Seminar - Girls Athletic Club and G-Club; basketball in Goodland against Stanton County 3:45 p.m.; Scholar's Bowl in Oakley 3 p.m.
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