

PSU FOOTBALL

Penn State versus Iowa for BCS berth

The Nittany Lions have a legitimate shot at stealing a BCS bid.

Penn State does not deserve it.

On Nov. 7, Ohio State and Penn State essentially competed to play in the Rose Bowl. Quarterback Terrelle Pryor and the Buckeyes soundly routed Penn State 24-7.

The only other ranked team the Lions played this season, the Iowa Hawkeyes, upset Penn State 21-10 at Happy Valley.

How does a team that lost to its only two ranked opponents earn a BCS bid?

For a Big Ten team who did not win the conference, it needs just the right combination of two things to play in a BCS game.

First, it has to be in the BCS ranking's top 14. The Lions are number 11. With no regular season games left to play it is beyond unlikely that the team's

BCS ranking will drop below the top 14, if at all.

The second factor taken into account is a program's marketability.

The one team that is Penn State's greatest competition to get into a BCS game is none other than the Iowa Hawkeyes.

By merit, due to head-to-head competition, it is reasonable that Iowa be selected as an at-large bid over Penn State.

Unfortunately for Iowa merit is often overlooked when the BCS committee selects at-large bids.

What the Nittany Lions need is for one of the BCS bowls to ignore the Hawkeyes' present success in preference for Penn State's legendary program.

Penn State also has arguably the most successful coach in college football history. Joe Paterno has won 393 games, most all-time. He has a record 35 bowl game appearances, 23 bowl game wins and 38 winning seasons.



SHAWN ANNARELLI
Sports editor

Paterno is the only coach to ever win all five BCS bowls.

Iowa has only won 12 bowl games in its history.

Hawkeye head coach Kirk Ferentz has led the Iowa to seven bowl appearances in ten years and has won four bowl games.

In head-to-head competition Ferentz is 7-2 against Paterno. The Iowa football program has proven to be superior to Penn State this season and through-

out the last decade.

There is not a soul in their right mind that would select Penn State over Iowa based on performance alone.

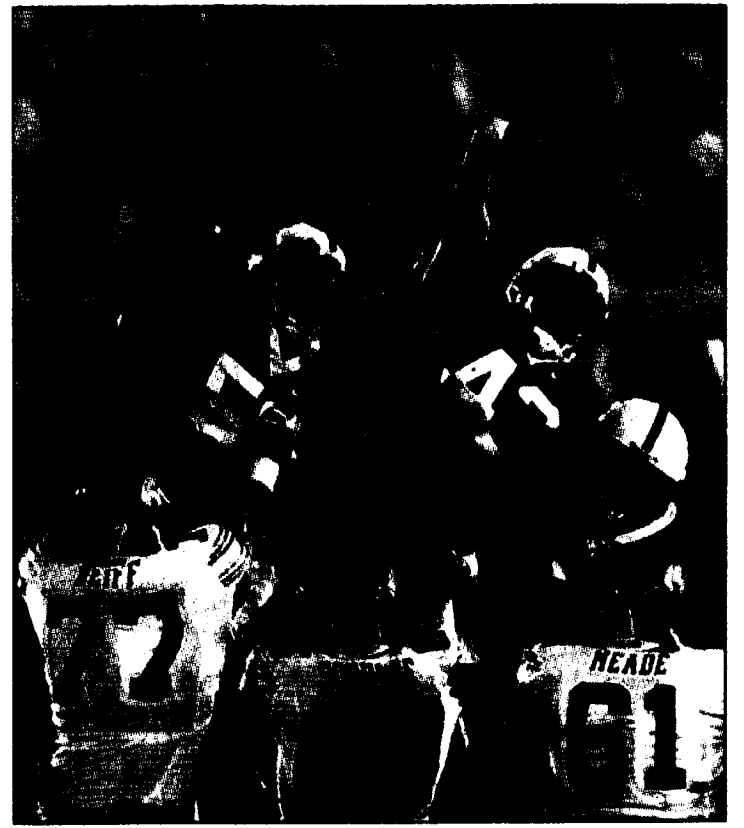
But all is not fair in the world of college football.

The marketability of Joe Paterno and the history of Nittany Lion football arguably trump any other coach or football program.

It is no secret that Iowa should get into a BCS bowl game over Penn State.

In the BCS system it does not come down to which team has earned a spot as much as how many seats a football program can sell, how many hotels and bars can be filled by a team's fans or how many casual fans will tune in to see a given team play.

The dollar signs BCS bowls see in Penn State might not reward Iowa its rightful position as an at-large bid.



Jason Malmont/The Sentinel
Linebackers Pete Massaro, Josh Hull and Jared Odrick attempt to block an Iowa field goal. The Hawkeyes beat the Lions 21-10.

BCS PROJECTIONS

BCS National Championship



Texas versus Florida

Why Florida? The Gators are the number one team led by one of the best college football players, Tim Tebow. The Gators must defeat Alabama, the number two ranked team in the SEC Championship, to secure a berth in the National Championship game.

Why Texas? Texas is the number three team in the country. The Longhorns must defeat number 22 Nebraska in the Big 12 Championship and watch either the Gators or Crimson Tide lose and the SEC Championship and fall out of National Championship contention. A win over Nebraska secures a spot in the National Championship for Texas.

Allstate Sugar Bowl



Cincinnati versus Alabama

Why Alabama? The Sugar Bowl is host to the SEC Championship team. The winner of the SEC Championship on Dec. 5 will be the number one team and in the National Championship game. This leaves the Sugar Bowl with the first at-large pick and will choose the SEC runner-up, which is most likely Alabama.

Why Cincinnati? The Sugar Bowl will have the fourth pick in the BCS at-large selection process. Cincinnati will likely beat Pitt in the Big East Championship and receive an automatic bid into the BCS. The Sugar Bowl will most likely pick Cincinnati as the last eastern conference champion.

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl



Penn State versus Boise State

Why Penn State? The Fiesta Bowl has the second and last pick in the at-large picking process. To pick the best team on the board, TCU and not a big name school, Iowa or Penn State, would be ratings suicide for the game. Penn State is the most marketable at-large team available and will be picked as the Fiesta Bowl wants to avoid having a TCU versus Boise State game.

Why Boise State? With the last pick the the Fiesta Bowl will select the last undefeated team available, the Boise State Broncos. The Broncos will likely defeat New Mexico on Dec. 5 to solidify a perfect regular season.

FedEx Orange Bowl



TCU versus Georgia Tech

Why Georgia Tech? The winner of the ACC Championship gets an automatic spot in the Orange Bowl. Georgia Tech faces unranked Clemson on Dec. 5, for the ACC Championship. The Yellow Jackets are heavy favorites over the Clemson Tigers and with a victory will advance to the Orange Bowl.

Why TCU? The Orange Bowl has the third pick in the at-large selection process and with a top four team, TCU, left on the board it only makes sense to take the Horned Frogs. As a top four BCS ranked team, TCU is guaranteed to be an at-large pick. It will be TCU's first BCS appearance.

The Rose Bowl



Oregon versus Ohio State

Why Oregon? The Pac-10 Champion has a guaranteed spot in the Rose Bowl as long as it is not a top two team. No worries here. Number seven Oregon will face and is favored to defeat sixteenth ranked Oregon State for the Pac-10 Championship on Dec. 5.

Why Ohio State? The Big Ten Champion has an automatic bid in the Rose Bowl unless it is a top two team. With two losses to account for, Ohio State is stuck with the Rose Bowl. The Buckeyes defeated Iowa and Penn State in its last three weeks to secure the Big Ten Championship. Ohio State is the only team with a definitive BCS destination.

Happy Hour
in your neighborhood

Applebee's

\$4 APPETIZERS
MON-THUR 4-6PM

Crunchy Onion Rings	Quesadilla Grande
Boneless Wings	Cheese Quesadilla
Classic Wings	Splashed Artichoke Dip
Mozzarella Sticks	Veggie Patch Pizza

HAPPY HOUR
MON-THUR 4-6PM
\$1 OFF ANY DRAFT

APPLE DRAFT
ALL DAY - GAME DAY
10 oz. DRAFT - \$1.00

Accepted Here

4002 Buffalo Road
Harborcreek
(814) 898-0150

Splash SLAGOON.
INDOOR WATER PARK

RIDE ~~DOWN~~
SPLASH PLUNGE
YOUR WAY TO **FUN!**

- 9 Scoring Water Slides
- Head Down The Lazy River
- Fun In Adventure Bay
- 100' Diving Board

COLLEGE STUDENT SPECIAL
Splash SLAGOON FULL DAY \$19.95
INDOOR WATER PARK - WITH COLLEGE ID -
ERIE, PA.

Coupon must be surrendered at time of redemption. Valid for one admission only. Coupon cannot be combined with any other discount, promotion or coupon. Coupon will not be replaced if lost or stolen. Coupon has no cash value. A limited number of day passes are available when the season is at capacity. Coupon valid Monday-Thursday only. Day passes are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Blackout dates apply. Expires 12/24/09. Code: 79C-1788-09

1-90 EXIT 24 - PEACH ST - ERIE

QUAKER STEAK & LUBE **BEST WINGS USA**

ALL-YOU CAN-EAT WINGS & SALAD BAR
TUESDAYS 5-10 PM

\$2.00 OFF WITH COLLEGE ID

LIONCASH PLUS
Accepted Here

ONE-IN ONLY