

Computer vs. Man: The Battle of the BCS

By Alex Palmer
Staff Writer

Since the introduction of the BCS, (Bowl Championship Series), to college football in 1999, there has been swirling controversy centered on how well the system works, if it actually works at all.

The only times that we see the BCS work is when we have two top ranked undefeated teams square off, like last year's USC vs. Texas Championship game which turned out to be the best game to decide the national champion.

This season it seems that the BCS has fallen under controversy once again. Ohio State was awaiting USC who was predicted to appear in the Championship game. Their last task was to take on rival UCLA. USC was upset by UCLA, thus crashing their hopes of appearing in this year's championship game, and sending the BCS into turmoil.

This left two teams; the Michigan Wolverines, and the Florida Gators. One of these two teams had to be chosen to square off against the Ohio State Buckeyes for the BCS Championship game.

Both teams have the same records but according to the computer ranking system Michigan should be in the championship. The decision all came down to the human voting element; the voters had to weigh the options. Florida had the tougher schedule and they defeated Arkansas to win the SEC title, and many feel that they deserve a legitimate shot at a National Championship. Michigan, on the other hand, was ranked higher than Florida coming into the final Saturday, had already put up a very tough fight against #1

ranked Ohio State, and many consider them a better team than Florida.

After all the votes were tallied Florida was declared the winner and now is set to take on Ohio State in the national championship game. This decision was based on the prime aspect that many voters did not want to see a rematch between Ohio State and Michigan, and the vote was not necessarily on who was the better team.

This is where the BCS goes wrong; when we have to choose between two deserving teams, and try and nit-pick who deserves a

shot for the national title. Many people are hoping that at some point a playoff system will be incorporated. The most positive aspect to having a playoff system is that it would be very hard to argue who the champion would be, since they would have to fight their way to earn the title of National Champion. However you feel the college championship should be determined fairly, I as well as many people across the nation feel that the BCS needs to be completely overhauled, if not done away with completely.

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