

TANGERINE BOWL

Miami, O. (10-0-0)

vs. Florida (7-4-0)

DATE: Dec. 22 at Orlando, Fla.

COACHES: Florida's Doug Dickey has 10-year record of 69-35-5. Miami of Ohio's Bill Mallory (38-12) was named coach of year in Ohio for 1973.

OFFENSIVE STANDOUTS:

Florida — Tailback Nat Moore (38) was preseason All-America, but was injured in the third game. He returned for final three and gained 109 yards in first half against Florida State. Other outstanding players are Lee McGreff, a wide receiver, and sophomore quarterback Don Geffeny.

Miami — All-America (second team) tailback Bob Hitchens (40) scored 34 TD's in his career, and his number 40 will be retired after the bowl game.

DEFENSIVE STANDOUTS:

Florida — The Gators are the number one defensive club in the SEC. The defense is led by lineman Rick Browne (72), linebacker Ralph Ortega (57), and safety Jim Rebels (29).

Miami — The Redskins led the nation in

total defense and rushing defense this year, giving up an average of 77 yards on the ground and 177.4 total. Miami's defense is anchored by tackle Herman Jackson (51) Mike Monos (52), and middle guard Brad Cousino (58).

SEASON:

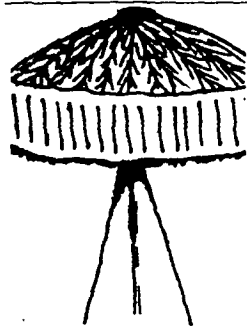
Florida—After losing four out of their first six, the Gators, under new QB Geffeny, reeled off five straight against tough opponents such as Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, and Miami (Fla.). Their win over Auburn was their first since the 1920's.

Miami — An undefeated season speaks for itself, but the Redskins did manage back-to-back wins on the road against Purdue and South Carolina.

PREDICTION:

Both teams rely on their defenses to come up with the ball. Look for a low-scoring affair with Hitchens doing most of the scoring. In an upset, Miami 14, Florida 8.

—Chance Conner



ASTRO-BLEBONNET BOWL

Houston (10-1-0)

vs. Tulane (9-2-0)

DATE: Sat. Dec. 29 in the Astrodome in Houston, Tex.

COACHES: Houston's Bill Yeoman (78-43-5) and Tulane's Benny Ellender (19-14).

OFFENSIVE STANDOUTS:

Houston—Coach Yeoman's patented Veer T keeps the Cougars on the ground. Quarterback D.C. Nobles (3) hands the ball to big running backs Leonard Parker (44), Reggie Cherry (27), and Donnie McGraw (21).

Tulane—The Green Wave mixes its running and passing game effectively. Quarterback Steve Foley (10) will give to running back Doug Byaun (48) or throw to wide receiver Jamie Garza (14).

DEFENSIVE STANDOUTS:

Houston—Middle linebacker Deryl McGallion (1) led the team in tackles and assists, and was named to the AP All-America third team. Yeoman considers defensive back Robert Giblin (24) the best in the country.

Tulane—Defensive tackle Charles Hall, the keystone of Tulane's defense, has a

knee injury and will not play in the Bluebonnet Bowl. The Greenies will have to count on safety David Lee (29), linebacker Rusty Chambers (53), and Mike Truax (83) (cousin of the NFL's Billy) to stop the Cougar Veer.

SEASON:

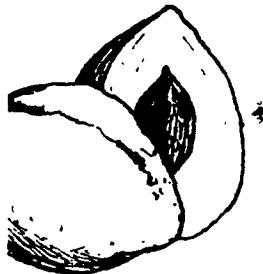
Houston—The Cougars wound up at 10-1, their only loss was to Auburn, 7-0. They beat Miami (Fla.) in Miami after the Hurricanes were coming off their 24-20 defeat by Oklahoma.

Tulane—Highlight was season-ending 14-0 win over LSU (much to dismay of Penn State fans), sweet revenge for the Green Wave. The last time they beat the Tigers was in 1948. However, Tulane lost big to Kentucky (34-7) and Maryland (42-9).

PREDICTION:

A high-scoring game. The awesome Houston Veer attack and hometown crowd will wear down the ailing Tulane defense, but the Green Wave will do some scoring of its own. Houston 30, Tulane 21.

—Chance Conner



PEACH BOWL

Maryland (8-3-0)

vs. Georgia (6-4-1)

DATE: December 28 at Atlanta, Ga

COACHES: Georgia's Vince Dooley (72-32-5). Maryland's Jerry Claiborne (13-8-1).

OFFENSIVE STANDOUTS:

Georgia—Tailback Jim Powlus (20) led Bulldogs in yards rushing with 702, QB Andy Johnson (14) gained 502 yards on the ground and scored six TD's. The Bulldogs amassed 2,463 yards on the ground. Kicking specialist Alan Levitz (9) scored 49 points on eight field goals and 25 extra points.

Maryland—Junior tailback Lewis Carter (32) was third in ACC total offense, gained 801 yards rushing, averaging 3.7 yards per carry, scored 14 TD's. Carter also threw 8 passes, completed six, five of them for scores, including one against Penn State. Place kicker Steve Mike-Mayer (1) scored 69 points, 12 field goals and 33 extra points, longest kick was 54 yards.

DEFENSIVE STANDOUTS:

Georgia—Defensive guard Jim Cagle (72), 6-5, 245 lbs., anchors Georgia line, led Bulldogs in tackles and sacks.

Maryland—Defensive guard Paul Vellano (72), selected first team Coaches All-America, tackle Randy White (94) named AP first team All-America.

SEASON:

Georgia—Had good depth throughout season, lost four games by total of 24 points, tied Pitt in first game of season. Highlights included 28-14 victory over Auburn, 31-12 win against North Carolina State and 35-31 win over Tennessee.

Maryland—The Terps played razzle-dazzle ball all season and reports indicate they will continue to do so. Only player who will miss bowl is Dave Visaggio, junior guard who underwent knee surgery. Highlight was 42-9 upset of Tulane in the last game of the season. The Terps also played well against Penn State, being tied 22-22 at the half before falling.

PREDICTION:

Peaches and cream for the Terps. Maryland 24, Georgia 17.

—Dave Morris

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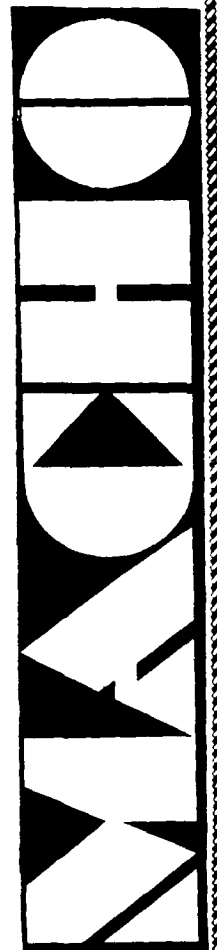


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