

Bowl games lack importance, quality

By Brendan Monahan

Sifting through TV channels over Christmas break, the uDrove Humanitarian Bowl might pop up.



MY OPINION

Taking place at Bronco Stadium in Boise, Idaho, a team from the MAC will face one from the WAC on Dec. 18, the first day of bowl games.

players could gain confidence heading into the spring. The extra practices leading into postseason matchups can also help a team improve.

Bowls are in no way pointless for players. But from a fan's standpoint — outside of ranked matchups and BCS games — the postseason contests provide no real value.

There are 35 bowls, meaning 70 of 120 Football Bowl Subdivision teams will play in bowl games — that's approximately 58 percent of the league playing in the postseason.

Putting the bowl system into perspective, its importance shrinks and shrivels into irrelevance. The Outback and Gator Bowls would be enticing for Penn State.

Currently eight clubs, four from each league, get into the postseason. If the MLB

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applied the same format as the FBS, approximately 17 teams would make the playoffs.

Not even college basketball, which now features a playoff of 68 schools, has that disproportional of a postseason.

In fact, Division I basketball has a lower percentage than all of the above. With 347 schools playing Division I basketball, about 19 percent of teams make the NCAA tournament.

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Prize really wouldn't even be a factor: To an outsider, the bowl game is fun to watch, yes. But it's more of a way to pass the time during the holiday season.

The Insight, Center and Outback Bowls are filler games — anticlimaxes before the real shows, such as the Granddaddy of Them All — otherwise known as the Rose Bowl — or the Sugar Bowl.

So while flipping around the TV on New Year's Day, you'll probably come across Penn State. This time, unlike for the uDrove Humanitarian Bowl, you'll probably keep it on.

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By Jacqueline Bigar HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 3, 2010. This year, much that comes to fruition stems from reflection and an innate thoughtfulness.

Today's su|do|ku Lady Lion Basketball brought to you by Sunday, December 5 @ 2pm vs. Texas Tech Bryce Jordan Center

