

NEWS RELEASE

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Monday's Chalktalk

News and Notes From Around College Football for Nov. 27, 2006

Bowl Eligible Schools Now Total 73; Selection Committees Prepare for Dec. 3 Rush

There are 32 bowls and 64 slots for the qualifying teams in NCAA Division I-A membership. Through Nov. 26 games, Seventy-three schools now have the required six victories. Teams with .500-plus records receive first consideration for automatic conference qualification spots, and after that 6-6 squads will be considered by bowl selection committees for placement. Bowl committees not making early selections will name their teams after BCS choices are finalized Sunday.

The latest six-game winners and bowl-eligible from clashes through Nov. 26 are **Miami**, Fla. (6-6) and **New Mexico** (6-6). There are no 5-6 teams playing in Nov. 30-Dec. 2 outings.

Ohio State and **Southern California** have clinched the first two of 10 berths in 2007 **BCS** bowls... **New Mexico** will play in the inaugural **New Mexico Bowl** on Dec. 23... **Boise State** may become only the second non-BCS league member to play in a BCS game. The first was **Utah** in the 2004 **Fiesta Bowl**... **Minnesota** accepted an invitation to the **Insight Bowl**... **Hawai'i** will play in the **Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl**... **The Champs Sports Bowl** invited **Purdue**... **Navy** is slated to play in the **Meineke Car Care Bowl**... **Iowa** will square-off against a **Big 12** opponent in the **Alamo Bowl**... **Wisconsin** was invited to the **Capital One Bowl**... **TCU** accepted a bid to the **Poinsettia Bowl**... **The Armed Forces Bell Helicopter Bowl** in Fort Worth, Texas, features **ESPN GameDay's Lee Corso** as speaker at the pre-bowl banquet on Dec. 22... The **Football Bowl Association** projects composite attendance of 1.6 million at 2006-07 Division I-A postseason contests... Nearly 60,000 tickets have already been sold for this year's **AT&T Cotton Bowl**. All sideline seating for the **Big 12** is sold out... On Dec. 1, the **ACC** will host the Coaches & Awards Luncheon at noon and the ACC Legends Reception from 6-8 p.m. in Jacksonville as precursors to the ACC Championship game the next day... Fans attending either the **Capital One Bowl** or **Champs Sports Bowl** can go online (www.ClickandPark.com) to purchase parking in advance... **RazorGator Experiences** struck a four-year agreement with the **Tournament of Roses** to handle corporate hospitality, ticket and travel packages and fan-to-fan ticket exchanges for the **Rose Bowl**. The deal certifies the company as the official hospitality village sponsor at the game, which has already sold out of hospitality tents. Once the teams are announced, RazorGator will work with the schools to provide fan packages.

Ohio and **Central Michigan** kick off a week of four conferences competing for their '06 titles in the **Mid-American Conference Championship Game** at 7:30 p.m. (EST) Thursday at Detroit's Ford Field. **Houston-Southern Miss** are pitted in the **Conference USA** title game Friday at 7 p.m. (CST) in Houston. **Wake Forest** tangles with **Georgia Tech** in the **ACC Championship** in Jacksonville, Fla., **Nebraska-Oklahoma** tie it up in the **Dr. Pepper Big 12 Football Championship** in Kansas City, and **Arkansas-Florida** are matched in the **SEC Championship**

at Atlanta. Interestingly, this is the first pairing of six of these eight teams in their respective championship encounters. Florida and Arkansas played in the 1995 SEC Championship. The Gators are appearing in a record eighth SEC title contest since 1992 and have won six.

Two-Minute Drill

Hawai'i made the BCS Standings for the first time in school history at No. 25 Sunday after edging **Purdue** before a season-high 47,825 turnout... **LSU** captured the coveted **Golden Boot Trophy** in a victory over then-No. 6 **Arkansas** last Friday... **Boise State** has won a record five consecutive **Western Athletic Conference** titles and is 39-1 in WAC encounters since 2002... **Arizona State** won the 107-year-old **Territorial Cup** prize with a win last week over **Arizona**... **Mississippi** edged **Mississippi State** in the 79th annual "Battle of the Golden Egg"... **TCU** seeks its school-record fourth 10-win season over a five-year span against **Air Force** Saturday, and the Horned Frogs are 20-3 in their last 23 clashes... **Rutgers, Tulsa, Wake Forest, and Hawai'i** increase the total number of schools to make the BCS Standings to 72 since its inception in 1998... **Oregon State** won the 110th **Civil War** against interstate rival **Oregon**... **Texas A&M** defeated **Texas** for the first time since 1999 with a 12-7 upset in Austin last Friday... **Nebraska** finished 3-1 in **Big 12** road games, the most conference triumphs away from Lincoln since the Huskers' 2001 **Rose Bowl** season... **Texas** OG **Justin Blalock** broke the school career record for starts with 50 while eclipsing OG **Dan Neil** (49 from 1993-96)... **The Big East** has three nine-win teams for the first time in conference history... **Arkansas** will be the 10th bowl-eligible team **Florida** has faced this season, and the Gators have now won seven straight against **Florida State, Georgia** and **Tennessee**... **Rice** closed the season with its first six-game winning streak since 1949, ending the Owls' 45-year post-season drought. Receiver **Jarrett Dillard** tied an NCAA season record for consecutive games with a touchdown reception. He trails only **Pittsburgh's Larry Fitzgerald** with 18 straight TD grabs for the career record.

UNC-Pembroke showcased new **Adidas** uniforms last Wednesday. The 2007 Braves team is the first football team at the school in more than 50 years... **Rutgers'** victory over **Syracuse** gave the Scarlet Knights just their second 10-win season in school history and the program's best home season since 1984. Senior **Brian Leonard** set the school record for career points with a last-second touchdown, and Rutgers' alumnus and *The Sopranos* star **James Gandolfini** greeted the team after the game... **South Carolina** won its first game at **Clemson** since 1996... **Tennessee** beat **Kentucky** for the 22nd consecutive time last weekend in Knoxville... **BC** has lost 15 consecutive games to **Miami** since **Doug Flutie's** "Hail Mary" pass defeated the Hurricanes in 1984... **Texas'** 87-game streak of going without back-to-back losses came to an end. It was the nation's longest... **Nebraska** posted its 35th nine-win season in 38 years, the Huskers' first since 2003... **USC's** win Saturday made them 20-0 in November under **Pete Carroll** and victorious in 33 straight home games... **Wake Forest** became the first **ACC** team in history to go 6-0 on the road after downing **Maryland** last weekend... **Georgia** quarterback coach **Mike Bobo** handled the offensive play-calling duties in the Bulldogs' win over interstate rival **Georgia Tech** last weekend. Bobo will have the same responsibility in UGa's bowl game, subsequently head coach **Mark Richt** will determine if the change will be permanent... **North Texas** receiver **Johnny Quinn** finished his career with the nation's third-longest active streak for consecutive games with at least one reception (47). He is also the Mean Green's all-time leader in receptions and receiving yards.

Top-ranked **Appalachian State** (N.C.) beat **Coastal Carolina** (S.C.) last Saturday and will face **Montana State** in the I-AA quarterfinals... **Montana State's** win over **Furman** (S.C.) marked their first home playoff win since 1984... **Montana** got its 11th straight win last weekend and will next face **Southern Illinois**... **Massachusetts** downed **Lafayette** (Pa.), winning its 10th straight game. UMass heads to the second-round to face-off with conference rival **New Hampshire**... **Illinois State** is set to play **Youngstown State** (Ohio) in the I-AA quarterfinals.

Grand Valley State (Mich.) beat **South Dakota** in a second-round playoff game last weekend, extending the nation's longest winning streak in any division to 25 games. They will host **North Dakota** in the quarterfinals... **Bloomsburg** (Pa.) edged **West Chester** (Pa.) and will face **Shepherd** (W.Va.) in the next round... **Scott Eyster's** 264-yard passing performance for **Delta State** (Miss.) led his team past **North Carolina Central**. The Statesmen will advance to play **North Alabama**... **Chadron State's** (Neb.) **Danny Woodhead** became the NCAA all-division single season rushing leader last Saturday, as the Eagles flew past **West Texas A&M** to advance to the quarterfinals against **Northwest Missouri State**.

St. Xavier (Ill.) downed four-time defending NAIA champion **Carroll College** (Mont.) in a quarterfinal match-up... **Sioux Falls** (S.D.) defeated **Morningside** (Iowa) last weekend, outscoring the Mustangs 61-7 in the schools' two bouts this season... **Missouri Valley** improved to 13-0 after defeating **Northwestern** (Iowa) in the quarterfinals.

Syracuse helped feed over 100 Central New York families with a "Touchdowns for Turkeys" promotion during the 2006 season... **UL-Monroe** welcomed back its 1956 team for a 50th anniversary reunion last Saturday... **Rutgers** celebrated the 30-year anniversary with the return of its 11-0 and No. 17 nationally 1976 squad last weekend... The **Virginia** football team has made a \$2,565 contribution to the **Fahmarr McElrathbey Fund**. **Clemson** freshman DB **Ray Ray McElrathbey** has custody of his 12-year-old brother Fahmarr... **UCF** coaches and selected student-athletes paid a special visit last week to cheer patients at **Florida Children's Hospital** and the **Ronald McDonald House of Orlando**... **Ohio** is chartering inexpensive bus trips for fans wishing to attend the **MAC Championship Game** in Detroit... **Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street** expressed his opinion last Friday that the **Army-Navy** game should remain in Philadelphia indefinitely, and the city will do everything possible to facilitate that contract... **NFL Youth Program** senior director and former **Duke** WR **Cedric Jones** will be the guest speaker at the 2006 College Coaches' Fair and NCAA Clearing House workshop on Dec. 3 in New Haven, Conn... **Georgia State** recently conducted a football feasibility study, asking the local community for help in deciding whether the addition of a football program will work to the benefit of the school and surrounding areas... **Samford** could be considered as a possible new member of the **Southern Conference**... **Alabama** is searching for ways to solve parking congestion problems that result from Tide football games. Up to 1,500 RVs park on campus for an average game... **Washington's Johnny DuRocher** has a brain tumor that will likely end his college football career. The tumor, considered noncancerous, was found during a routine test following DuRocher's concussion in the Huskies' Nov. 11 game with **Stanford**... **Lake Erie College** (Ohio) is sponsoring a nationwide search for a fight song. The college will field its first intercollegiate football team in 2008 and will use the new song during the games. The winner will receive \$200. More information can be found at www.lec.edu/pr/fight.php... NFF Hall of Fame member QB **Roman Gabriel** of **N.C. State** returned to campus for the 1961 Wolfpack team reunion last week against **East Carolina**... A crowd of nearly 20,000 gathered last Tuesday at Michigan Stadium to honor coaching legend **Bo Schembechler** who passed away Nov. 17... **Ohio State** plans to print thousands of additional game programs from its match-up with **Michigan** two weeks ago. The Buckeyes originally ordered 25,000, which sold out two hours before the No. 1 versus then-No.2 clash. Programs and other souvenirs from the game were selling for as much as \$40 on eBay... Former **Rice Owl** and current **New England Patriot Larry Izzo** led teammates in "Larryoke," a fundraiser to benefit troops... The **University of Southern Mississippi** has established the **Center for Spectator Sports Security Management**.

NFF board member **Chuck Neinas** was hired by **Miami** to assist in the search for a new head coach. The university also announced plans for a six-month fundraising sprint to secure competitive coaching contracts and building plans... **Idaho State** hired **Texas** defensive coordinator **Gene Chizik** as its new head coach... **Joe Kines** was named interim head coach at **Alabama**... **Cincinnati** head coach **Mark Dantonio** replaces **John L. Smith** as **Michigan State's** new head coach. **Pat Narduzzi**, the Bearcats' defensive coordinator, will serve as interim head coach for Cincy... **Bill Moos** will step down as **Oregon's** athletics director effective March

2007... **Gannon** coach **Bill Elias** will step down at the end of the season but will remain the school's athletics director... **Springfield College** promoted assistant athletics directors **Craig Poisson** and **Kelly Hart** to senior associate director of athletics and associate director of athletics, respectively.

Texas OG **Justin Blalock**, **West Virginia** C **Dan Mozes** and 2006 NFF Draddy finalist from **Wisconsin** **Joe Thomas** have been named finalists for the 61st **Outland Trophy**, which is awarded to the best interior lineman in college football. The winner of the Outland Trophy, as selected by the **Football Writers Association of America**, will be announced on Dec. 7 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla... **The Davey O'Brien Foundation** has named three finalists for the 2006 **Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award**, presented annually to the nation's best college quarterback. They are **Colt Brennan, Hawai'i**; **Brady Quinn, Notre Dame**; and **Troy Smith, Ohio State**... **The Guaranty Bank SMU Athletic Forum** denoted **Mike Hart** of **Michigan**, **Darren McFadden** of **Arkansas** and **Steve Slaton** of **West Virginia** as the three finalists for the 2006 **Doak Walker Award**... 2004 winner and **Baylor** senior punter **Daniel Sepulveda** is one of three finalists for the 2006 **Ray Guy Award**, sponsored by the Greater Augusta [Ga.] Sports Council, along with **Durant Brooks** of **Georgia Tech** and **Jeremy Kapinos** of **Penn State**... **Louisville's Art Carmody**, **Auburn's John Vaughn** and **Oklahoma's Garrett Hartley** have been selected by the **Palm Beach County Sports Institute and Palm Beach County Sports Commission** as finalists for the 2006 **Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award** presented by the **FedEx Orange Bowl**... **The Allstate Sugar Bowl** announced its eleven finalists for the **Manning Award** presented to the nation's best quarterback. The Manning Award is the only quarterback honor that considers a candidate's bowl performances and is selected by a panel of national media as well as **Archie**, **Peyton** and **Eli Manning**.

Nebraska's Dane Todd and **Texas A&M's Matt LaFon** posted perfect 4.0 grade point averages to lead the **Academic All-Big 12 Conference Team**. **Missouri** had a school-record 12 members on the 2006 team... **UL-Lafayette** OT **Brandon Cox** will play in the second annual **Magnolia Grid Iron Classic** in Jackson, Miss. He is the fifth ULL student-athlete invited to all-star tilts... **Wingate** CB **David Jones** became the first Bulldog ever to be invited (East Team) to the **Hula Bowl** in 2007... **Kentucky** TE **Jacob Tamm** is the latest **SEC Community Service Team Player of the Week**... **Minnesota** senior TE **Matt Spaeth** won the team's **Bronko Nagurski Award**, which is given annually to UM's most valuable player... Late RB **Walter Payton** of **Jackson State** was named the 2006 **PricewaterhouseCoopers Doak Walker Legends Award** recipient, and his son **Jarrett Payton** will accept the award during the ceremonies in Dallas... 1950s football rushing standout and long-time UD football and track coach **Jimmy Flynn**, three-sport standout **Jules "Ace" Hoffstein** and record-setting QB **Don Miller** have been inducted into the **University of Delaware Sports Hall of Fame**... **Barry Switzer** and **Johnny Majors** have been added to the **Broyles Award** selection committee... Newest members of the **Texas Sports Hall of Fame** include **Cowboys** owner **Jerry Jones**, former **Oklahoma** football great **Billy Sims**, **Texas** athletics director **DeLoss Dodds** and former **Washington** quarterback **Warren Moon**. Induction will take place in Waco on Feb. 15... **The Florida Sports Foundation** added former **Tulane** QB **Shaun King** to its board of directors... The **Big 12's** inaugural "Good Works" Team, which honors student-athletes for community service and excellent academic standings, included **Baylor's Maurice Linguist**, 2006 NFF Draddy finalist **Carl Pendleton** from **Oklahoma**, **Texas A&M's Chad Schroeder** and 2006 NFF Draddy semifinalist **Antonio Huffman** from **Texas Tech**.

The Reserve Training Center in Pasadena, Calif., was officially renamed Blecksmith Hall in honor of the late **Navy WR 2nd Lt. James P. (J.P.) Blecksmith**. He was killed in service in Iraq in 2004... **North Texas** athletics department received a \$1.5 million gift commitment from **Shirley** and **Al Goldfield**. It is the largest gift ever donated to UNT and will be used primarily in the development of a proposed football stadium adjacent to the current Mean Green Athletics Center... **Jacksonville University** officials are working with architects to design a new stadium and will go into the fund-raising stage soon... **Northern Illinois** will open the **Jeffrey and**

Kimberly Yordon Academic and Athletic Performance Center in August... **Cal** postponed plans to update Memorial Stadium because of stadium's placement on a fault line... **Southern Illinois** will build a new 15,000-seat football stadium, replacing the almost 70-year-old McAndrew Stadium. The project's estimated cost is \$40 million... **Alabama's** Bryant-Denny Stadium brought in \$23,784 after expenses for the athletic department from June 2005 to June 2006, serving as a rental facility outside of football season... **Princeton** received a \$10 million gift from alumnus **William Powers**. The school's field will be named "Powers Field" in his honor.

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association named **Alltel** its official wireless corporate sponsor... **Aéropostale** agreed to be the presenting sponsor for **Conference USA's** 2006 **Football Championship Game** in Houston.

Easton High School (Pa.) defeated **Phillipsburg** (N.J.) during the celebration of the schools' 100-year Thanksgiving Day rivalry last weekend on **ESPN2**... A Texas high school match-up between **Southlake Carroll** and **Eules Trinity** drew a crowd of over 46,000. Carroll scored with 37 seconds left for the 22-21 win.

Former **New Mexico** athletics director **John Bridgers** died Friday at 84. He was responsible for hiring **Bobby Bowden** at **FSU** and bringing a pro-style offense to **Baylor** during his coaching tenure in the 60s... **CBS** journalist and "60 Minutes" co-editor **Ed Bradley** passed away on Nov. 9. He was a former **Cheney State** (Pa.) football player ... Former **Arizona** Wildcat **Zaharius Johnson** died Tuesday after a battle with colon cancer. He was 27... **Fort Valley State** (Ga.) assistant coach and former **Philadelphia Eagles** DB **Andre Waters** died last week at 44.

With 120 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, a non-profit educational organization, runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. The NFF presents the MacArthur Trophy, the Draddy Trophy presented by HealthSouth and releases the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Standings. NFF programs include the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., Play It Smart, the NFF Center for Youth Development Through Sport at Springfield College (Mass.), the NFL-NFF Coaching Academy, and scholarships of over \$1 million for college and high school scholar-athletes. For more information, please visit www.footballfoundation.org.