



College Football is one of the greatest passions of American sports, besides being one of the oldest disciplines in the U.S.: November 6, 1869 is played in a game between Princeton and Rutgers, promptly called The First Intercollegiate Football Contest Ever Held; that challenge is the starting point of College Football.

However, unlike other college sports, football is not a tournament final, setting clearly winning the national title: In basketball, for example, there is a single elimination tournament to 64 teams in baseball, however, are the College World Series.

The title National Football assigned "desk" through rankings, prepared weekly with the "polls" (surveys) among professionals: the team at the end of the season, ranks first in these rankings is declared national champion .

Analyzing the history of College Football, we note that the national title was awarded by various bodies, but the main rankings prepared by:

1. Sports journalists and writers, and this ranking, edited by the Associated Press (AP) was established in 1936.
2. American Football Coaches Association (coaches), this ranking was established in 1950 and edited by several entities
 - 1950 - 1957: United Press
 - 1958 - 1990: United Press International
 - 1991 - 1996: CNN / USA Today
 - § From 1997: ESPN / USA Today.

The most spectacular moment of College Football is between December and January, when the Bowl will be played, matches that determine the final allocation of the national title: the Bowl are many, but the most important (who play the first few days of the new year) are the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, the 'Orange Bowl in Miami (which has awarded the national title 15 times, a record), the Rose Bowl in Pasadena (perhaps the most prestigious) and the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, other worthy Bowl of note include the Cotton Bowl in Dallas (though now lost value), the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, the 'Holiday Bowl in San Diego, the Capital One Bowl (Citrus Bowl) in Orlando el' Outback Bowl in Tampa.

Generally Bowl conference and are tied to specific geographical areas: the most striking example is the Rose Bowl, traditionally played by the formation of winning Big Ten and Pac 10, these agreements have often precluded the opportunity to attend a meeting among the first two teams in the nation.

It 'clear that this system has created many controversies and disputes, because the ranking of

the AP and the coaches are separate and distinct on several occasions journalists and technicians have selected two different national champions.

It has always been debate about the creation of a tournament final could to rein in the controversy, but without success: the tradition of the bowl is too rooted in American sports to be omitted.

However in 1992 (after two consecutive seasons in which coaches and journalists were awarded different teams) was created the first system in which the two best teams in the nation should play the same game: they constituted the Bowl Coalition, organized by the Fiesta Bowl by 'Orange Bowl, the Sugar Bowl and Cotton Bowl, where they joined five conferences (ACC, Big East and Big Eight, SEC and Southwest) and Notre Dame (independent team), after three years became the Bowl Coalition Bowl Alliance, formed only by the Fiesta Bowl and Sugar Bowl dall'Orange Bowl, which will have four conferences (Big 12, ACC, Big East and SEC).

The results of the Bowl Coalition / Alliance were far from satisfactory, since only three occasions between 1992 and 1997 the decisive game presented the first two teams in the nation:

- 1992 (January 1993): Sugar Bowl
- 1993 (January 1994): Orange Bowl
- 1995 (January 1996): Fiesta Bowl

Unfortunately, the failure to join the Rose Bowl proved an insurmountable handicap: the organizing committee of the challenge in Pasadena, in fact, would not abandon the traditional clash between the Big Ten and Pac 10, ruining the plans of the Coalition / Alliance; proved particularly painful to 1994 and 1997.

In 1994, Tom Osborne of Nebraska Cornhuskers Penn State Nittany Lions and Joe Paterno dominated the season from start to finish, winning all matches and obviously occupying the top two in both rankings: Nebraska played the Orange Bowl against Miami , while Penn State, since winning the Big Ten was forced to play the Rose Bowl against Oregon, both the challenges they saw the success of the favorites, but the national title was awarded to the Cornhuskers.

The Nittany Lions felt cheated, not because the opinion of coaches and journalists (Nebraska head was firmly in the rankings in November), but rather the inability to challenge the Cornhuskers.

1997, however, presented two powers, namely the Michigan Wolverines Nebraska Cornhuskers and the usual: after winning the Big Ten, Michigan had to play the Rose Bowl against Washington State, and Nebraska faced Tennessee in the Orange Bowl. Meetings respected predictions, but this time journalists and coaches can not agree on the champions: the first in the ranking of the AP position was occupied by the Wolverines, while in the technical from the Cornhuskers, for the third time in 90 years the national title was divided between two teams.

This event forced the leaders of the NCAA to find an alternative solution, because it was the credibility of College Football in 1998 was designed the system to be in force until 2005, the

Bowl Championship Series (BCS), the BCS made the four major Bowl (Fiesta, Sugar, Orange, Rose), have joined the six major conferences (ACC, Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac 10 and SEC).

But how does the BCS? What are its characteristics?

In addition to traditional ranking (AP and ESPN / USA Today), further ranking is drawn up taking into account the following factors:

- Location in the average ranking of journalists and technicians
- Location average of seven computer rankings in specialized Difficulty · Calendar
- Losses
- ° Vittorio quality

This ranking is mathematical (each element is assigned a numeric value) and the team that gets the lower score is inserted in the first place: the BCS standings is prepared for the first time after about two months and updated weekly.

At the end of the regular season, the teams that occupy the top two are invited to the BCS National Championship Game, the game that awards the national title, the final challenge is rotated annually among the four bowl with the following order: Fiesta, Sugar, Orange Rose, this year will be the Fiesta Bowl to host the decisive encounter.

The remaining three matches were contested by champions of the other four conference and two training courses ranging from the Top 12 of the BCS standings.

The most important is the presence of the BCS Rose Bowl, where the organizing committee has finally given, in principle, the meeting of Pasadena will present the classic battle between Big Ten and Pac 10, but there may be pairs of alternatives if you should check one of two situations:

- The champions of the Big Ten and / or the Pac 10 are engaged in the BCS National Championship Game and that is not scheduled in Pasadena

or

- The BCS National Championship Game is scheduled in Pasadena, but the champions of the Big Ten and / or the Pac 10 are not included in the first or second position.

Obviously this system has not been immune from criticism and protests since often the BCS standings does not match that of the AP or technicians, also coaches always assigned to the national title winning the BCS National Championship Game, while journalists reserve the right to choose another configuration.

The year 2000 could have had many disputes since the first two places were occupied by the

BCS, Oklahoma Sooners and the Florida State Seminoles Oklahoma was unanimously considered the best team in the nation, but Florida State was in third place ranking behind the other in Miami Hurricanes.

Nevertheless, the Orange Bowl (which hosted the BCS National Championship Game) was held from Sooners and Seminoles, while the Hurricanes were included in the Sugar Bowl against the Florida Gators Miami won the meeting in New Orleans, creating discontent among fans.

What if Florida State would beat Oklahoma? The technicians were awarded the title to the Seminoles, but what would the journalists? Since the Hurricanes before the Seminoles were ranked in the AP, there was a pass or not? Fortunately, Oklahoma defeated Florida State by winning the national title unanimously.

Discussions on College Football and the system of assigning the national title, however, are always on, until it will set up a system similar to the NBA playoffs, but as stated above, the tradition of the bowl is too entrenched to be discarded. Despite all the flaws and imperfections, the Bowl Championship Series is a fair and impartial.