

College Football Playoffs

By: Morgan Koff

This past June, college football came out with unbelievable news. For some time now, Division 1 College football has used the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) to decide the nation's best team. However, this system, hated by many, will end in 2014 and a playoff system will begin. This system will continue through 2025 and will either be changed or renewed again. The playoff system will be a four-team playoff. The semifinals will be held at current bowl sites on New Years Eve or New Years day. The championship will be held at the highest bidding city willing to host it. This will be played on "Championship Monday," the first Monday in January which will be six or more days after the semifinals. This is huge news for College Football fans, knowing that there have been controversial decisions in the BCS system. The big question is how the fans are going to respond to this. Are fans happy about this decision or angry? Do they enjoy or hate the BCS system? Is this the perfect decision for college football?

These are some of the many questions revolving around this new playoff system for college football.

According to Ricky Koff, he believes that college football is the best competitive sport because “the players are playing because they love the game.” He does not believe that the current BCS system works because it does not name the best team in the game. As for the playoff system, he “absolutely loves it,” except he would rather have eight teams instead of four. With this playoff system, there is a selection comity to decide which four teams will go to the playoffs. Ricky imagines that instead of a comity, the top four ranked teams should automatically make it into the playoffs. Overall, he is extremely happy with the decision because he has longed for playoffs in college football for many years now.

According to Mike Mann, a huge UCLA football fan, the BCS system somewhat works; in the sense that it is designed to have the two best teams play for the championship. However, it is “no replacement” for a real playoff. He believes that rather than

four teams there should be eight. As for if there should be a selection comity or not, Mike imagines that eventually there will be four super conferences of sixteen teams, which has been discussed by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association). They could have four automatic qualifiers and four “at large” or wildcard teams in an eight- team playoff. Mike considers the BCS system to be “flawed.” If this system were not to work, he would just want to “tweak” the system in 2025.

Jim Lee, an “enthusiastic” college football fan, does not believe that the current BCS system works. He likes the idea for college football playoffs “a lot.” He believes that four teams are enough and that the top four ranked teams should automatically be put into the playoffs. Jim is a football coach at Oaks Christian High School. One of his former players, Duke Clemens, played in a BCS National Championship game with the University of Florida Gators and won. Also in that game, on the losing team, was Joey Halze on the University of Oklahoma Sooners. According to Jim,

both players “loved” playing in the BCS National Championship. If this playoff system does not work out, Jim would not be willing to go back to the BCS system because in order to find the best team playoffs are “needed.”

According to Doug Kavulich, a “ten star” college football fan, the BCS system works enough, but he is a major believer in the FCS (Division 1-AA) playoff system. Therefore, he is a “huge” fan of the new idea for College Football playoffs. He believes that four teams is a “good start,” but six or eight teams would be better. Doug believes that the system will not be perfect, but will “greatly improve” College Football. Doug played Division One College Football at the University of Rutgers. When Doug played (from 1989-1992), there were much fewer bowl games than there were now. He would have played in two bowl games in modern times with the win/loss records they had, but was not able to because of the limited amount of games. “For smaller schools any bowl game is huge for financial windfall to the school and extra month of

practices and for recruiting. Also, any TV game is better than none for the small schools.” According to Doug, the biggest difference from when he played to now is the overall money being paid to schools. Doug would be willing to go back to the BCS system, but does not believe it will be necessary in 2025 to do so.

Michael Thompson, a former Idaho State college football player, “loves” the idea for college football. Actually, Michael signed with the Dallas Cowboys during his career. He “loves the enthusiasm and the fact that the kids play for the name on their chest- not the money.” Michael believes that there is no perfect system, but in some ways the BCS does work. However, it is not flawless. He “loves” the idea for college football playoffs. However, he believes that there should be more than four teams in the playoff. According to Michael, the top four ranked teams should automatically be put in the playoff. Michael considers a playoff to be the “only way” to really determine the best team in the game. If this system was not to work he “supposes” that the

NCAA could go back to the current system because there is no other choice.

As you can see from the previous interviews, the majority of fans are happy about this new playoff. There are still some unanswered questions remaining. Such as the big one: will it actually work? Most consider the BCS to be biased and unfair. Will the playoff solve this problem? We college football fans will have to wait and see. The countdown to 2014 starts now!z