

Big Ten football TV schedule: 2013-14 bowl season

Below is a list of the seven bowl games this winter featuring Big Ten teams. Here is where and when you can watch each of these contests this winter:

Dec. 27:

Texas Bowl – Minnesota vs. Syracuse (at Houston, Texas), 5 p.m., ESPN

Dec. 28:

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl – Michigan vs. Kansas State (at Tempe, Ariz.), 9:15 p.m., ESPN

Jan. 1:

Gator Bowl – Nebraska vs. No. 23 Georgia (at Jacksonville, Fla.), 11 a.m., ESPN2

Capital One Bowl – No. 19 Wisconsin vs. No. 8 South Carolina (at Orlando, Fla.), 12 p.m., ABC

Outback Bowl – Iowa vs. No. 14 LSU (at Tampa, Fla.), 12 p.m., ESPN

Rose Bowl – No. 4 Michigan State vs. No. 5 Stanford (at Pasadena, Calif.), 4 p.m., ESPN

Jan. 3:

Orange Bowl – No. 7 Ohio State vs. No. 12 Clemson (at Miami, Fla.), 7:30 p.m., ESPN

***All times listed are Central Standard Time.**

Iowa to face No. 14 LSU in 2014 Outback Bowl



Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz (left) and athletics director Gary Barta discuss the Hawkeyes' invitation to the 2014 Outback Bowl against No. 14 LSU during a press conference held Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013, at the Hayden Fry Football Complex in Iowa City. This will be Iowa's fourth Outback Bowl appearance under Ferentz. The game takes place at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – The résumé was established. In the final two weeks of the regular season, the Iowa Hawkeyes picked up their

two biggest victories of 2013. First, they overcame a 21-7 halftime deficit to beat Michigan. Then they went into Nebraska on a short week and steamrolled the Cornhuskers, 38-17. That eighth victory of 2013 in Lincoln gave Iowa twice the number of wins from what it had one year before.

That on-the-field success is what Iowa athletics director Gary Barta believes made the difference Sunday when the Hawkeyes learned they would be playing No. 14 LSU in the 2014 Outback Bowl on New Year's Day. Iowa got the bid on merit, even without having the name recognition nationally that either Michigan or Nebraska has.

"I don't know how much selling an athletic director does. The selling goes on on the field," Barta said during a press conference Sunday evening inside the Hayden Fry Football Complex. "If you look at what our players have done, we're playing some of the best football certainly in the Big Ten and maybe some argument, across the country.

"It really sells itself."

For Iowa, this will be its fourth appearance in the Outback Bowl, all four of which have come during head coach Kirk Ferentz's 15 seasons at the helm. Of those three previous Tampa appearances, the Hawkeyes have victories in two of those including a 31-10 win over South Carolina in their most recent appearance in 2009.

The familiarity Iowa has with the Outback Bowl, combined with fans being anxious to travel after the Hawkeyes missed out on a bowl game entirely in 2012, is something both Ferentz and Barta believe played a factor in getting selected.

"They're ready to go and I would tell you that this was anecdotally the No. 1 choice with the fans that I was talking with," Barta said, referencing interactions he had over the weekend with fans while in Des Moines with the men's basketball team for the Big Four Classic.

This will be the second time Iowa and LSU have faced each other. The first go-around also occurred on New Year's Day in the same state – albeit a different city and different bowl – and remains in Hawkeye lore. Iowa won the 2005 Capital One Bowl 30-25 over the Bayou Bengals when Drew Tate connected with Warren Holloway for a 56-yard touchdown pass on the very final play of the game.

Things are somewhat different this time around. Instead of Orlando, the Hawkeyes and Tigers will meet at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. Instead of Nick Saban coaching LSU (the 2005 Capital One Bowl was his final game there before becoming the Miami Dolphins' head coach), the Tigers are led by the man who was Saban's successor in 2005, Les Miles.

The former Michigan offensive lineman has a national title to his name at LSU and the Tigers come into this showdown with a 9-3 mark that features the only victory anyone currently possesses over Auburn, who won the SEC Championship Game over the weekend. Ferentz recalled going head-to-head once with Miles in the 1980s for a recruit in the Kansas City area (Ferentz was among Hayden Fry's assistants at Iowa, while Miles was an assistant at Michigan for Bo Schembechler). Beyond that however, Ferentz said the interactions have been few and far between.

"I don't think I've ever met him. You know, I've seen him on TV and YouTube and all that stuff, a lot of times," Ferentz said. "It seems like every time I see him, he's on the winning side, so hopefully we can do something about it. It won't be easy."

On the injury front, Ferentz declined to get into specifics Sunday evening about players currently dealing with injuries, but said there aren't any major injuries now that would keep anyone out. That isn't the case with LSU, as the Tigers are coping with a pretty significant loss following their 31-27 win over Arkansas last week.

LSU will be playing Iowa minus the services of senior quarterback Zach Mettenberger, who recently had surgery done on his knee after injuring it in the fourth quarter of last week's contest against the Razorbacks. Mettenberger was a 2-year starter who was among the top signal-callers in the SEC.

In Mettenberger's place will be a true freshman named Anthony Jennings, who did engineer LSU's game-winning drive against Arkansas by completing four passes, including a 49-yard touchdown pass with 1:15 showing on the clock. While Jennings has appeared in eight games for the Tigers this season, he is only 6-of-10 passing and the Outback Bowl will be his first career start.

Ferentz said he hadn't studied any LSU film prior to meeting the press Sunday, but did make mention of how the Tigers nearly came back to beat Iowa in that prior Capital One Bowl with a third-string redshirt freshman named JaMarcus Russell, who later went on to become the top overall selection in the 2007 NFL Draft by the Oakland Raiders.

"I'm just guessing their No. 2 guy probably doesn't look like the No. 2 guy at Maine when I was there for three years," Ferentz said. "I know nothing about him other than I bet he's a good football player and they've got a month to get ready, too.

"Playing back-up quarterbacks at LSU might not be a good thing, at least based on past experience."

Iowa will be the designated visiting team for the 2014 Outback Bowl, but will likely be wearing its black jerseys since LSU typically wears white at home.

Kickoff is scheduled for 12 p.m. Central on Jan. 1, with the game being televised nationally on ESPN.

2013-14 BIG TEN BOWL SCHEDULE:

Texas Bowl; Houston, Texas

Friday, Dec. 27, 2013; Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse (6-6), 5 p.m., ESPN

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl; Tempe, Ariz.

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013; Michigan (7-5) vs. Kansas State (7-5), 9:15 p.m., ESPN

Gator Bowl; Jacksonville, Fla.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014; Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4), 11 a.m., ESPN2

Capital One Bowl; Orlando, Fla.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014; Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), 12 p.m., ABC

Outback Bowl; Tampa, Fla.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014; Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), 12 p.m., ESPN

Rose Bowl; Pasadena, Calif.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014; Michigan State (12-1) vs. Stanford (11-2), 4 p.m., ESPN

Orange Bowl; Miami, Fla.

Friday, Jan. 3, 2014; Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2), 7:30 p.m., ESPN

****All times listed are Central Standard Time***

12/5/2013: Talkin' Hawks podcast (Championship Week edition)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Every Thursday during the 2013 football season, *HawkeyeDrive.com* will feature "Talkin' Hawks," a podcast to get you ready for the Hawkeyes' upcoming game and other college football action.

This week, we look back on Iowa's 38-17 win over Nebraska last weekend and look ahead to this weekend's slate of championship games around college football, including the Big Ten Championship Game featuring No. 2 Ohio State and No. 10 Michigan State.

Unfortunately for the second straight week, my co-host, former Iowa defensive back [Chris Rowell](#), was unable to join me for this week's podcast due to a last-minute development. Prior to recording however, Rowell did email me his picks for the 10 games listed on this week's [HawkeyeDrive.com Pick 'Em](#), which I share while discussing my takes on those games during the back half of the podcast.

With the Hawkeyes not playing, there's only one segment this week. There will be one more edition of the "Talkin' Hawks" podcast, which will be posted later this month (sometime before Christmas and hopefully with Rowell re-joining me to co-host) following the announcement of Iowa's bowl destination. This week's edition is approximately 45 minutes long, so enjoy:

<http://hawkeyedrive.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Talkin-Hawk>

[s-podcast-1252013-Championship-Week.mp3](#)

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***Intro sound byte credit to my former Daily Iowan colleague Ryan Young for putting that together.**

12/3/2013: Big Ten bowl projections

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

(Back in August, I made [a list of preseason bowl projections](#) that not only focused on the Big Ten, but projected all 35 bowl games for the 2013-14 season. With the Iowa Hawkeyes now bowl-eligible, I figured it'd be worth re-visiting this matter and providing new projections based off what has actually taken place this season.)

More shake-up has taken place since my most recent [bowl projections back on Nov. 26](#). As a result, I've made some revisions to my projections for this week.

The following are adjustments made from then to now and other points of note:

1) Big Ten still gets two BCS teams

As of this moment in time, I still believe the Big Ten gets two teams into BCS bowl games. Now because Wisconsin lost to Penn State last weekend, there's an outside shot in play where Ohio State beats Michigan State and the Spartans fall more than four spots below their current No. 10 BCS ranking. If Michigan State drops to 15th or lower, then the Rose Bowl can't take the Spartans as a replacement for Ohio State if the Buckeyes play for the national title. As long as Michigan State is 14th or higher in the BCS standings when they get released Sunday night, the Spartans are Pasadena bound unless an undefeated Ohio State got jumped over by the SEC champion for the national title game (which SHOULDN'T happen). If that happens, then maybe the Orange Bowl picks up Michigan State, but the odds of that are slim.

Now, let's discuss the other scenario: If Michigan State beats Ohio State. The Spartans would obviously go to the Rose Bowl and play whoever wins the Pac-12 title game between Stanford and Arizona State. If this happens, I believe Ohio State still gets at-large consideration (probably the Orange Bowl since the Sugar Bowl would get to replace the SEC champ with Alabama) for a BCS bowl, possessing a 12-1 overall record. So if the Spartans win, it should be a lock for the Big Ten to get two BCS teams. The only scenario where the Big Ten has only one team is if Ohio State beats Michigan State and the Spartans drop five or more spots, which is unlikely. Not impossible, but unlikely.

One other thing to consider: If Northern Illinois loses the MAC title game to Bowling Green on Friday, the Huskies won't be in position to take a BCS at-large spot and the Spartans shouldn't fall five or more spots if they lose Saturday, meaning two at-larges would be open instead of one after the two replacements for the national championship game teams are determined. If that happens, the Big Ten should get one of those two spots and the other going to possibly a second Big 12 or second Pac-12 team.

2) Officially seven bowl-eligible teams from Big Ten

Nothing new here. This was established before last week's games. The Big Ten's spot in the Little Caesars Bowl will be vacant for sure. If the conference gets two BCS teams, the Heart of Dallas Bowl will also have a vacancy. That's really the only question right now.

3) The formula behind putting this all together

Right now, there are already 78 bowl-eligible teams, which means all 35 bowl games will be filled without any unusual circumstances and eight teams are for sure getting left home. Two teams – SMU and Rutgers – can still become bowl-eligible and would be guaranteed a tie-in with an AAC bowl should either win Saturday (SMU plays UCF; Rutgers plays USF). South Alabama (from the Sun Belt) can also become bowl-eligible if it upsets league champion UL-Lafayette on Saturday. I now have a total of 79 teams in total being bowl-eligible, meaning nine teams are going to be left home for the holidays despite reaching that six-win plateau.

After having eight vacancies last week, I now have six of them this week. The two changes are the SEC being able to fill one of its vacancies with a 6-6 Mississippi State after it beat Ole Miss on Thanksgiving and the MWC being able to fill its entire allotment now with Fresno State no longer in position to be a BCS at-large after losing Friday to San Jose State (who also became bowl-eligible itself in the process). This week's pool has a total of 15 teams to fill those six spots. Syracuse, ULM, San Jose State and UTSA all moved back into the pool this week and I swapped UTSA out of a C-USA bowl in favor of Tulane. I also moved Bowling Green up into a MAC bowl with Northern Illinois being in position to take a BCS spot now.

– The following six bowls have vacancies – the AdvoCare V100 Bowl (SEC tie-in), the Little Caesars Bowl (Big Ten tie-in), the Beef O'Brady's Bowl (AAC tie-in), the Poinsettia Bowl

(Army is no longer bowl-eligible), the Pinstripe Bowl (Big 12 tie-in) and the Heart of Dallas Bowl (Big Ten tie-in).

– The following 15 teams were among those considered for the eight vacancies – (8-4): Notre Dame, Western Kentucky; (7-5): Maryland, Ohio, Toledo, UTSA; (6-6): Syracuse, Florida Atlantic, Central Michigan, San Jose State, Oregon State, Washington State, Texas State, Troy, ULM.

Six teams are 7-5 or better, but I do not have UTSA projected to take an at-large since it's no longer among my group of teams filling the C-USA's slots. This left me one spot for a 6-6 team and nine of those to choose from. At 6-6, Oregon State has lost five straight games. However, it did beat Washington State head-to-head this season (on the road and in convincing fashion, no less). This is why for now, I have the Beavers taking that last spot in the Poinsettia Bowl instead of the Cougars, even though Washington State would probably be more thrilled about a trip to San Diego.

With Mississippi State now in the projections for a SEC bowl, the lone team no longer in this week's projections is UTSA. I also factored in bowl pay-out when filling the eight vacant spots.

Below are my projections as of Dec. 3, 2013 (the final list of bowl projections will take place the morning of Dec. 8, when all 35 bowl match-ups will be announced):

BIG TEN BOWLS:

BCS National Championship Game – Ohio State vs. Florida State

– If both the Seminoles and Buckeyes win their respective conference championships Saturday night, this SHOULD be the national championship. If either loses, then go ahead and insert whoever wins that SEC title bout between Missouri and Auburn. If Ohio State loses to Michigan State, I would move the Buckeyes into the Orange Bowl against Clemson.

Rose Bowl – Michigan State vs. Stanford

– Now, I'm in the group that believes Michigan State will make Saturday's Big Ten Championship enough of a game that even if the Spartans lose, they'll remain top 14 in the BCS standings on Sunday. Again, if that happens, Michigan State will be in the Rose Bowl regardless of Saturday's outcome against Ohio State. If the Rose Bowl can pick the Spartans as the Buckeyes' replacement, it won't blink twice. The only two ways Michigan State won't be here is if either it falls five or more spots in the BCS standings or if Ohio State gets jumped. Assuming the Spartans do smell roses, they'd face the winner of the Stanford/Arizona State game in Tempe on Saturday. I know the Sun Devils at home, but I still think Stanford prevails, thus why I have the Cardinal as the Pac-12 representative.

Capital One Bowl – Wisconsin vs. Auburn

– Wisconsin's loss guarantees Michigan State's taking that second at-large spot (assuming there is one). If the Big Ten gets two BCS teams, the Badgers go to Orlando. If the Spartans somehow fall here, then Wisconsin also moves down. I think the loser of the SEC title game ends up here. I'm putting Auburn here for now (mainly because it seems like Wisconsin and Auburn seem to cross paths a lot in bowl games). If Auburn wins the SEC Championship, then I think Missouri falls here.

Outback Bowl – Iowa vs. LSU

– Two things that need to be established: 1. As long as the Big Ten gets two BCS teams, I truly believe Iowa has now done enough to warrant being the league's representative in the Outback Bowl. Wins over all three of Minnesota, Michigan and Nebraska, combined with the fact that Iowa fans will travel to Tampa for a New Year's Day bowl is enough to convince me here. If the Capital One Bowl's able to take Wisconsin, then the Hawkeyes' have the most compelling argument of the Big Ten teams remaining to play in this game.

2. Regarding the SEC opponent, yes, typically a SEC East team ends up in the Outback. But let's say the SEC gets two BCS teams and the Missouri/Auburn loser goes to the Capital One. The two most likely candidates here are South Carolina and LSU. The Gamecocks were just in this bowl game last year against Michigan. Conversely, LSU opened its season at JerryWorld (where the Cotton Bowl is played) against TCU and the Cotton gets to pick after the Capital One. It wouldn't surprise me if a back-room deal gets done here that sends the Head Ball Coach and Jadeveon Clowney to Arlington and sends the Mad Hatter and his team down to Tampa. There's an outside possibility that the Outback Bowl comes out of left field and takes Texas A&M, but I don't see that happening now with the Aggies losing last weekend to Missouri. If the SEC does stick with sending an East team here, then South Carolina's the most likely bet.

One last thing to watch for is which SEC team ends up in the Capital One Bowl. If it's the Missouri/Auburn loser, then the odds of South Carolina ending up here are better. However, if the Gamecocks end up in Orlando, the Missouri/Auburn loser can't fall any further in the SEC pecking order than the Cotton Bowl, meaning LSU would be a likely candidate to end up in Tampa.

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl – Nebraska vs. Texas

– Now here's where this gets interesting, because my hunch is Nebraska ends up in Tempe now regardless of what happens with the Big Ten. The thought of Husker fans invading the desert to see their team play the very Big 12 team that prompted Nebraska's move to the Big Ten is enough of a selling point here. Now, if Texas were to somehow win at Baylor on Saturday, then it could be Oklahoma ending up in this game from the Big 12. Either way, this looks too intriguing for the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl to pass up if Nebraska is sitting there for it.

Gator Bowl – Michigan vs. Georgia

– Yes, Minnesota has a better Big Ten record and better overall record than Michigan and the Wolverines lost four of five to end the season. However, Michigan has the head-to-head (which was a 42-13 slaughter of the Golden Gophers).

But here's why I think the Wolverines end up getting picked here – because it almost beat Ohio State. Yes. Almost. Hear me out here. I think had Michigan packed it in against the Buckeyes and got humiliated in "The Big House" on Saturday, that could have done enough damage to where the Gator Bowl might consider Minnesota instead. But the final was 42-41. Yes, Michigan lost. But because the Wolverines put up enough of a fight against their biggest rival (who had a ton at stake), there might still be enough interest in Michigan here. From the SEC perspective, the question is whether the Chick-Fil-A Bowl takes Texas A&M or Georgia. I have the Bulldogs ending up here for now, but if the Chick-Fil-A stays local with Georgia, then it could be Johnny Manziel and Texas A&M ending up here, which would make taking Michigan here even more intriguing.

Now if the Big Ten ends up with only one BCS team, that's where a team like Iowa could come into play here. Especially if the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl sticks with taking Nebraska.

Texas Bowl – Minnesota vs. Texas Tech

– If in the event the Gator Bowl does decide to pick Minnesota over Michigan, then the Wolverines would fall here. Again, this is under the premise of two BCS teams from the Big Ten. If the Golden Gophers are the only team here, then you're looking at a rematch of last year's game unless the "Northern Illinois losing" scenario I mentioned earlier happens. Then the Big 12 could be looking at two BCS teams, which would create a vacancy here for an at-large.

THE OTHER BCS BOWLS:

Orange Bowl – Clemson vs. Alabama

– Well, this is interesting now. Assuming the national title game is Florida State vs. Ohio State, I still believe Clemson is picked to replace the Seminoles to keep the ACC tie with this game. Then assuming Michigan State's able to take that Rose Bowl spot, Alabama will be right there for the Orange Bowl to take as an at-large. Something to also keep in mind: If the Crimson Tide don't play for the national title, but remain in the top four of the final BCS standings (this looks very likely to occur), then they are guaranteed a BCS bowl somewhere. Now if Michigan State wins Saturday night, I think Ohio State ends up here against Clemson because Alabama can be taken by the Sugar Bowl to replace whoever wins the SEC title game.

Sugar Bowl – Missouri vs. UCF

– I had Auburn pegged here for weeks under the premise it lost to Alabama last weekend. Well, that didn't happen. If the national title game remains Florida State/Ohio State, then the winner of Saturday's Missouri/Auburn game ends up here to represent the SEC. If the SEC winner goes to the title game, then Alabama probably ends up here as outlined earlier. Assuming Northern Illinois wins Friday night and guarantees itself another BCS bid, then I think UCF ends up here (assuming either it wins Saturday or Louisville wins at Cincinnati on Thursday). If Northern Illinois loses, this is where a team like Baylor could end up as that extra at-large team. For now, I have Missouri here, but it would be Auburn if it beats Missouri on Saturday.

Fiesta Bowl – Oklahoma State vs. Northern Illinois

– If Oklahoma State handles its business at home against Oklahoma on Saturday, the Cowboys win the Big 12 and get the spot here. If the Sooners pull the upset, then the winner of Saturday's Texas/Baylor game goes here. If Northern Illinois beats Bowling Green on Friday, this is where the Huskies will end up. If Bowling Green wins, then the AAC champion (which

again will probably be UCF) goes here instead.

ALL OF THE REST:

New Mexico Bowl – Arizona vs. UNLV

**Previously had Colorado State representing the MWC*

Las Vegas Bowl – Fresno State vs. USC

**Previously had Utah State vs. UCLA*

Idaho Potato Bowl – Buffalo vs. Colorado State

**Previously had Oregon State filling the MWC vacancy that now no longer exists*

New Orleans Bowl – Tulane vs. UL-Lafayette

**UL-Lafayette has already accepted a bid to this bowl; Previously had UTSA representing C-USA*

Beef O'Brady's Bowl – Middle Tennessee vs. Ohio*

**Previously had North Texas representing the C-USA and Western Kentucky filling the AAC vacancy*

Hawaii Bowl – Rice vs. San Diego State

**Previously had East Carolina vs. UNLV*

Little Caesars Bowl – Ball State vs. Maryland*

(Remember what I've been saying about Maryland and the ACC)

Poinsettia Bowl – Oregon State* vs. Utah State

**Previously had Ohio filling the Army vacancy and San Diego State representing the MWC*

Military Bowl – East Carolina vs. Pittsburgh

**Previously had Middle Tennessee representing C-USA*

Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl – *BYU vs. Washington*

**BYU is locked into this bowl game*

Pinstripe Bowl – *Houston vs. Notre Dame**

Belk Bowl – *Cincinnati vs. Georgia Tech*

Russell Athletic Bowl – *Miami (Fla.) vs. Louisville*

Armed Forces Bowl – *Boise State vs. Navy*

**Navy is locked into this bowl game*

Music City Bowl – *Mississippi vs. Boston College*

Alamo Bowl – *Oregon vs. Oklahoma*

**Previously had Stanford vs. Texas*

Holiday Bowl – *Arizona State vs. Kansas State*

**Previously had USC representing the Pac-12*

AdvoCare V100 Bowl – *North Carolina vs. Toledo**

**Previously had Tulane filling the SEC vacancy*

Sun Bowl – *Virginia Tech vs. UCLA*

**Previously had Arizona State representing the Pac-12*

Liberty Bowl – *Marshall vs. Vanderbilt*

Chick-Fil-A Bowl – *Duke vs. Texas A&M*

**Previously had Missouri representing the SEC*

Heart of Dallas Bowl – *North Texas vs. Western Kentucky**

**Previously had Rice representing C-USA and Bowling Green filling the Big Ten vacancy*

Cotton Bowl – *Baylor vs. South Carolina*

**Previously had LSU representing the SEC*

BBVA Compass Bowl – *Mississippi State vs. Rutgers*

**Previously had Toledo filling the SEC vacancy that now no longer exists*

GoDaddy Bowl – *Arkansas State vs. Bowling Green*

**Arkansas State has already accepted a bid to this bowl; Previously had Northern Illinois representing the MAC*

WHAT I'M KEEPING AN EYE ON FOR NEXT WEEK'S PROJECTIONS:

– *Big Ten Championship (Ohio State vs. Michigan State): This is pretty obvious, so I'm not going into any further explanation since I feel I've outlined everything here already.*

– *Louisville at Cincinnati: If Louisville wins, UCF secures the AAC's BCS bid regardless of its game Saturday at SMU. If Cincinnati wins, the Bearcats still have a shot at taking that bid if UCF were to get upset by SMU. A Cincinnati win would also have me drop Louisville down to the Belk Bowl.*

– *MAC Championship (Bowling Green vs. Northern Illinois): Northern Illinois winning would assure the Huskies a spot in the Fiesta Bowl, who has the final BCS at-large selection and nothing would change with MAC projections. However, a Bowling Green win would open up a BCS at-large for another AQ conference and would probably guarantee the Big Ten of two teams since Northern Illinois wouldn't be able to leap Michigan State if it loses to Ohio State.*

– *Oklahoma at Oklahoma State: Bedlam. Oklahoma State goes to the Fiesta Bowl if it wins. If Oklahoma wins, the winner of the Texas/Baylor game would win the Big 12 outright and end up in Glendale instead.*

– *C-USA Championship (Marshall at Rice): The winner goes to*

the Liberty Bowl. If it's Marshall, nothing in my C-USA projections will probably change. If Rice wins, then Rice would be in the Liberty Bowl and Marshall would wind up in a different C-USA bowl.

– UCF at SMU: UCF win guarantees it a BCS bid and makes SMU ineligible at 5-7. If SMU wins, the Mustangs would not only become bowl-eligible, but would end up in an AAC bowl (either the BBVA Compass Bowl or Beef O'Brady's Bowl pending Rutgers' result against USF). SMU winning also opens the possibility of Cincinnati taking the league's BCS bid, which would then result in me placing UCF in the Russell Athletic Bowl.

– Texas at Baylor: If Oklahoma pulls the Bedlam upset in Stillwater, the winner of this game would win the Big 12 outright. Even if Oklahoma State wins, go back to the "Northern Illinois losing" scenario, because if that happened, a spot in the Sugar Bowl might open up for Baylor if it wins and finishes 11-1. If Texas loses, the Longhorns are likely looking at the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl.

– SEC Championship (Missouri vs. Auburn): This kind of goes without saying. If either Florida State or Ohio State loses, then I think the winner out of Atlanta here goes to the national title game. At the very least, a bid in the Sugar Bowl is on the line here. The loser of this game will likely appear in either the Capital One Bowl or Cotton Bowl, depending on whether the Capital One Bowl ends up preferring South Carolina instead of whichever team loses.

– South Florida at Rutgers: After inexplicably losing to UConn last week, Rutgers now has to win its final regular-season game before becoming a full-fledged Big Ten member in order to be bowl-eligible. If Rutgers somehow loses at home to a 2-9 USF squad, a spot in at least one AAC bowl and possibly two AAC bowls (pending SMU's outcome against UCF) will be vacant for one of the pool teams that maybe I don't have projected this week.

– *Pac-12 Championship (Stanford at Arizona State): Obviously, the winner here goes to the Rose Bowl. Seeing how both teams have two losses already, the loser probably doesn't end up in a position to be an at-large for a BCS bowl. If Stanford wins, I would think the Sun Devils drop out of the top 14 (they're currently 11th). This could prove key for the Big Ten if Ohio State wins on Saturday.*

– *ACC Championship: Duke vs. Florida State: The Seminoles assure themselves a spot in the BCS National Championship Game if they handle their business Saturday night in Charlotte. If Duke somehow wins, total chaos ensues and Clemson drops to the Chick-Fil-A Bowl.*

– *MWC Championship: Utah State at Fresno State: The winner goes to the Las Vegas Bowl now as a result of the Bulldogs' loss last week to San Jose State, which removed Fresno State from any consideration for a BCS bowl.*

12/2/2013: State of the Big Ten, Volume 109 (premium)

Every Monday, we will be running a weekly series titled "State of the Big Ten," which will be made available to all members of HawkeyeDrive.com. This series of columns will focus on one major headline regarding the conference and go in-depth on the subject at hand.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

This is a week that should be spent focusing on a very

fascinating match-up in the Big Ten Championship Game between No. 2 Ohio State and No. 10 Michigan State. The Buckeyes have one of the nation's best offenses, while the Spartans possess the nation's best defense.

It should be spent talking about how Ohio State has a chance to play in the BCS National Championship Game with a win Saturday night or how Michigan State might appear in its first Rose Bowl in 26 years. There's actually a chance both of these things can happen if the Buckeyes win Saturday (the Spartans for sure go to the Rose Bowl with a win, obviously).

But there were two events over the weekend that led to public reprimands from the Big Ten offices Monday and in this space, are probably worth addressing. The first occurred Friday during Iowa's 38-17 win at Nebraska, one that featured antics both during the game and postgame from Cornhuskers head coach Bo Pelini that didn't go unnoticed. The second was an altercation during the second quarter of the Ohio State-Michigan game, one the Buckeyes won 42-41. The fracas led to three players – one Wolverine, two Buckeyes – to be suspended, and in the case of Ohio State's Marcus Hall and Dontre Wilson, there was speculation of either or both being suspended for Saturday's title bout in Indianapolis.

Let's start with Pelini. Quite honestly, it's surprising that his antics didn't get him fired over the weekend. In fact, Nebraska athletics director Shawn Eichorst issued a statement that basically read as a vote of confidence in Pelini. This came after drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after swinging his hat toward an official, followed by a profane criticism of officiating in his postgame press conference, which is obviously a no-no.

On Monday, Pelini was given a public reprimand and Nebraska was fined \$10,000 as a result of what Pelini said Friday. It's not surprising this was the final outcome. One had to figure there would be some sort of monetary fine that came from what

was said. The relationship there in Nebraska remains dicey and while Pelini might still be the head coach today, one can't help but think it's only a matter of time before something goes down in Lincoln.

Now, the fight in Ann Arbor. There were punches thrown. Hall, one of the two Buckeye players ejected, raised both middle fingers while exiting through the Michigan Stadium tunnel. Watching it live, it was amazing there weren't more ejections from both teams.

Everyone loves the rivalry between the two iconic programs and the name-calling between Brady Hoke and Urban Meyer is all well and good. But what happened in Ann Arbor on Saturday crossed the line. The conference handed down reprimands here as well and no suspensions were handed out since the ejections took place during the second quarter.

This, is a bit surprising. Yes, by rule, additional suspensions aren't necessary. But things like taking swings at opposing players or flipping off the fans shouldn't be condoned. The whole point of not wanting additional punishment impacting the Big Ten's championship game is valid, but if this happened in an NFL game, the fines and possible suspensions would be more severe.

Now let's revisit the whole thing about public reprimands. Yes, the Big Ten's in a tough bind with both instances and obviously needed to take some course of action. That there was an additional fine with Pelini leads to me to think the conference did everything it could do with that. But when players are involved, it's obviously more dicey. Which goes back to the question about where the line should be drawn going forward.

Because now if there's a future game where a similar skirmish takes place, the conference has to display consistency with its punishments.

Trio of Hawkeyes named first-team all-Big Ten

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Three Iowa football players were named first-team all-Big Ten on Monday, but there was zero consensus on the Hawkeye trio.

Iowa senior cornerback B.J. Lowery was named a first-team defensive back by the media, while the coaches named junior left tackle Brandon Scherff and senior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz first-team. Fiedorowicz's first-team honor from the coaches comes despite Michigan tight end Devin Funchess being named the Kwalick-Clark Tight End of the Year.

Lowery had 55 tackles and was second in the Big Ten in pass break-ups with 19 of them this season. He also recorded three interceptions, two of which were taken back for touchdowns in a 59-3 win over Western Michigan that earned him conference player of the week honors. Fiedorowicz has a team-high six touchdown receptions, including five touchdowns in Iowa's last seven games.

As far as second-team players go, the only Hawkeye to receive consensus honors was senior linebacker James Morris. The Solon native recorded 98 tackles (14.5 tackles for negative yardage) and five sacks. He also had a team-high four interceptions for Iowa this season. Morris was also named Iowa's honoree for the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award.

Fiedorowicz, Scherff and senior kicker Mike Meyer were both named second-team all-Big Ten by the media, while senior

linebacker Anthony Hitchens, senior offensive tackle Brett Van Sloten and junior defensive tackle Carl Davis were both second-team all-Big Ten by the coaches.

Five Hawkeye players received consensus honorable mention – senior linebacker Christian Kirksey, senior free safety Tanner Miller, senior left guard Conor Boffeli, junior defensive tackle Louis Trinca-Pasat and sophomore center Austin Blythe. Lowery was named honorable mention by the coaches, while the media tabbed Davis, Hitchens, Van Sloten, senior long snapper Casey Kreiter and junior strong safety John Lowdermilk as honorable mention.

Kirksey collects Big Ten honor

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

One day after receiving honors as the Walter Camp Defensive Player of the Week, Iowa senior linebacker Christian Kirksey added to the collection Monday when he was named the Big Ten's Defensive Player of the Week following the Hawkeyes' 38-17 win over Nebraska on Nov. 29.

In the 21-point victory over the Cornhuskers, Kirksey recorded a team-high 11 tackles, three of which resulted in negative yardage. He was also credited with a sack, a pass break-up and a forced fumble.

Kirksey is the fourth Hawkeye defender to receive an accolade from the Big Ten this season. Fellow senior linebacker James

Morris was twice named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week, and senior cornerback B.J. Lowery received the defensive honor once back in September. Cornerback Desmond King garnered the Freshman Player of the Week honor in October.

2013 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Fifteen

Every week, we will post the TV schedule for all games featuring Big Ten teams. Here is where and when you can watch them this week:

Dec. 7:

2013 Big Ten Championship Game: No. 2 Ohio State vs. No. 10 Michigan State (at Indianapolis, Ind.), 7 p.m., Fox

***All times listed are Central Standard Time.**

11/29/2013: Iowa 38, Nebraska 17 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Check out all of these links to content posted on Friday after Iowa's 38-17 win over Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb. Please note, anything with "premium" in parentheses are

links that can only be accessed by those logged in as either a paid subscriber or three-day free trial member to *HawkeyeDrive.com*:

RECAP: [Hawkeyes stuff Huskers](#)

COMMENTARY: [When parallels become noticeable \(premium\)](#)

VIDEO:

[Heroes Trophy postgame celebration](#)

[Kirk Ferentz](#)

[C.J. Fiedorowicz](#)

[Mark Weisman](#)

[Drew Ott](#)

[James Morris](#)

[Jordan Canzeri](#)

[Jake Rudock](#)

[Louis Trinca-Pasat](#)

[Kevonte Martin-Manley](#)

[Christian Kirksey](#)

Hawkeyes stuff Huskers

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

LINCOLN, Neb. – Perhaps the best way to describe what took place inside Memorial Stadium on Friday is that it was an exorcism. A number of demons that sat with the Iowa Hawkeyes for over a year are no more.

Iowa's 38-17 win over Nebraska signified some firsts. It was the Hawkeyes' first victory over the Cornhuskers since they joined the Big Ten in 2011 and the first time Iowa has laid claim to the Heroes Trophy. It was the first win over Nebraska since 1981 and the first time the Hawkeyes left Lincoln victorious since 1943.

But this win did much more than that. By finishing its regular season with an 8-4 overall record, Iowa doubled its win total from 2012. It gave the Hawkeyes four road victories – three of which came against rivals – and for the first time since 2008, they posted a winning record during the month of November.

“The whole idea is moving forward. That's what you do in life,” Ferentz said. “The credit just goes to our players. They didn't sit around and pout or act like little babies. They just went back to work and did a heck of a job.”

Then there was the game itself. The third quarter, specifically, is when momentum began to swing entirely in Iowa's favor.

Momentum started shifting toward the Hawkeyes shortly after Nebraska went down the field and scored a touchdown to shorten Iowa's lead to 14-10. A pass interference penalty called on the Cornhuskers prompted their head coach Bo Pelini to tee off on a nearby official and Pelini would be called for an unsportsmanlike conduct, which gave Iowa the ball at Nebraska's 15-yard line. The Hawkeyes would extend their lead back to 17-10 when senior kicker Mike Meyer connected on a field goal from 31 yards out.

The shift turned into a swing on the Cornhuskers' ensuing possession. Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz called timeout

following a third-down incomplection with the hope that the officials would review the play since senior linebacker Anthony Hitchens hit Nebraska quarterback Ron Kellogg III just as he released the ball.

Facing 4th-and-3 from their own 32-yard line, the Cornhuskers attempted a fake punt on Iowa's punt safe unit. Except unlike fake punts past executed against the Hawkeyes, senior linebacker Christian Kirksey was there to stuff punter Sam Foltz short of the first-down marker.

Kirksey said he was tipped off earlier in the week by special teams coach Chris White about how Foltz had played receiver prior to handling punting duties.

"As soon as I had seen him roll out, I took off running and was able to contain him," Kirksey said.

Then on the very next play, sophomore quarterback Jake Rudock completed a 24-yard touchdown strike to junior wideout Kevonte Martin-Manley that gave Iowa a 24-10 advantage. Rudock went back to his No. 1 receiver despite a third-down drop on the previous possession.

"The sun was in my eyes and I had to reach out for it, but I had to get it," Martin-Manley said. "I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I didn't."

Just as it appeared Nebraska might get back into the game after scoring a fourth-quarter touchdown to cut Iowa's lead in half, Cornhusker running back Ameer Abdullah fumbled on the next series, and the ball was recovered by junior defensive tackle Louis Trinca-Pasat.

"I got off my block and saw [Anthony Hitchens and Kirksey] get in on the running back," Trinca-Pasat said. "The ball came out and my initial thought was to pick it up and run, but I got too excited and just fell on the ball."

Iowa got the ball on Nebraska's 39-yard line and sophomore running back Jordan Canzeri made a cut-back run that gave him open field all the way to the 2-yard line. Junior running back Mark Weisman would score from two yards out on the very next play to extend the Hawkeye lead back to 14 points.

"We knew they were going to be over-pursuing like they were to our strong side," Canzeri said about his 37-yard run, which was an audible. "It just turned out to be a play that we bounced outside and it just all worked out."

One more touchdown would be scored from four yards out on a bootleg from redshirt freshman quarterback C.J. Beathard, who entered the game in the third quarter for Rudock after he left with a sprained knee. The clock wound down, and the Hawkeyes began celebrating.

At 8-4, there's plenty for Iowa to feel good about, including the strong possibility of now playing in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day if the Big Ten ends up with two BCS teams. The announcement of where the Hawkeyes will be bowling comes Dec. 8.

But for the moment, Ferentz and his players have an opportunity to reflect on a season that ended far better than anyone outside the program foresaw.

"The good news is we're a better football team today than we were back at the end of August," Ferentz said. "That's what the whole thing's about."