

Focus | COLLEGE FOOTBALL

BOWLING DOLLARS

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Jan. 1, 1902: The 12-year-old Tournament of Roses hosts its first Rose Bowl game. Michigan defeats Stanford, 49-0. The next year, the football game is replaced with a chariot race.

Dec. 25, 1907: LSU shuts out the University of Havana in the first Bacardi Bowl in Havana. A total of seven Bacardi bowls will be played before the last in 1946.

Jan. 1, 1916: The Tournament of Roses brings back the Rose Bowl. Washington State defeats Brown.

Dec. 26, 1921: The first of two San Diego Christmas Classics is held with Centre defeating Arizona.



Jan. 1, 1923: Southern Cal defeats Penn State in the first game played in the new Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena.

Jan. 2, 1932: The first Festival of Palms Bowl is held in Miami. The NCAA doesn't count this as an official bowl game because one team - Miami - is guaranteed a spot in the game, making this more of a bonus game.

Jan. 1, 1935: Bucknell defeats Miami in Miami in the first Orange Bowl, while Tulane beats Temple in the first Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

Jan. 1, 1936: The first Sun Bowl is played in El Paso. Hardin-Simmons College and New Mexico State play to a 14-point tie.

Jan. 1, 1937: The Cotton Bowl is launched in Dallas. TCU defeats Marquette.

Dec. 25, 1937: Fresno State defeats Central Arkansas in the Charity Bowl in Los Angeles. It's the only time the Charity Bowl is played.

Jan. 1, 1942: The bombing of Pearl Harbor causes the Rose Bowl committee to move the game to Durham, N.C. Oregon State defeats Duke.

Jan. 1, 1946: Wake Forest defeats South Carolina in the first Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. Drake defeats Fresno State in the first Raisin Bowl in Fresno.

1946-47: New games are added, including the Harbor Bowl in San Diego, the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, and the Optimist Bowl in Houston. Catawba College downs Maryville College in the first Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

1947-48: New games this year include the Delta Bowl in Memphis, the Dixie Bowl in Birmingham and the Great Lakes Bowl in Cleveland. Nevada defeats North Texas State in the first of five Salad Bowls in Phoenix.

Dec. 31, 1949: The last Raisin Bowl is played. San Jose State defeats Texas Tech.

Dec. 19, 1959: Penn State defeats Alabama in the first Liberty Bowl in Memphis, while Clemson beats TCU in the first Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston.

Nov. 23, 1961: Fresno State shows no mercy to Bowling Green in the one-and-only Mercy Bowl played in Los Angeles. **Dec. 9, 1961:** Again, the bowl schedule booms with what will prove to be short-lived events: the Aviation Bowl in Dayton, Ohio, and the Gotham Bowl in New York City.

Dec. 30, 1968: The first Peach Bowl is held in Atlanta. LSU defeats Florida State.

Dec. 27, 1971: Arizona State defeats Florida State in the first Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz.

Jan. 1, 1973: Attendance at the Rose Bowl is 106,869 - still a record for the stadium and for a bowl game anywhere.

Dec. 13, 1977: McNeese State defeats Tulsa in the first Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La.

Dec. 22, 1978: Navy defeats BYU in the first Holiday Bowl in San Diego.

Dec. 19, 1981: Toledo defeats San Jose Stat in the first California Bowl in Fresno.

Dec. 25, 1982: Washington defeats Maryland in the first Aloha Bowl in Honolulu.

Dec. 23, 1986: Boston College defeats Georgia in the first Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa.

Dec. 31, 1987: The final Bluebonnet Bowl is played in Houston. Texas defeats Pittsburgh.

Dec. 18, 1992: Fresno's California Bowl moves to Las Vegas. Bowling Green defeats Nevada in the first Las Vegas Bowl.

1997: Two new bowl games include the Motor City Bowl in Detroit and the Humanitarian Bowl, famously played on blue artificial grass in Boise, Idaho.

Jan. 4, 1999: The Bowl Championship Series is formed in 1998 to try to place the two highest-ranked teams in a postseason bowl game against each other. The first national championship game is played between Tennessee and Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl.

2000: Two bowl games are added: The GalleryFurniture.com Bowl in Houston and the Silicon Valley Classic in San Jose.

Dec. 27, 2001: Georgia Tech defeats Stanford in the first of two Seattle Bowls.

Dec. 28, 2002: Virginia downs West Virginia in the first Continental Tire Bowl in Charlotte, while Virginia Tech dispatches Air Force in the first San Francisco Bowl.

Dec. 22, 2005: Navy defeats Colorado State in the first Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego.

Jan. 8, 2007: A fifth game is added to the Bowl Championship Series, pitting the No. 1 and No. 2 teams. Florida defeats Ohio State in the first BCS title game in Glendale, Ariz.

2010: Syracuse defeats Kansas State in the first Pinstripe Bowl in New York while Texas Tech defeats Northwestern in the first TicketCity Bowl in Dallas.

Jan. 6, 2014: The BCS Championship Game will again be played in Pasadena's Rose Bowl, pitting Auburn against Florida State.

By CHARLES APPLE
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Once upon a time, playing in a bowl game meant something. It meant your team was one of the best of the best — good enough to merit a bonus game during the holidays ... preferably, in a warm climate.

But due to corporate sponsorships and a thirsty monster known as sports cable television, the number of bowl games has gotten out of hand. Even teams that finish their season with six wins and six losses can qualify for a bowl.

Here's a look at a year-by-year history of college bowl games.

MOST BOWL WINS  Alabama: **35**

MOST BOWL APPEARANCES  Alabama: **60**

MOST BOWL LOSSES  Nebraska: **25**

MOST BOWL APPEARANCES WITH NO WINS  Ball State: **6**

Sources: ESPN, Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association, Sports-Reference.com, Rose Bowl Stadium, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, Allstate Sugar Bowl, BCSFootball.org, History.com, Yahoo.com, BusinessWeek, Football.com