How the "Big Ten" Grew

The Western Intercollegiate Conference, now popularly known as the "Big Ten," was organized on January 11, 1895, by presidents of seven middle western universities, meeting in Chicago to consider the regulation of intercollegiate athletics.

Members of the Conference as its inception were: Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue and Wisconsin.

Indiana and the State University of Iowa were admitted on December 1, 1899.

Ohio State University is the junior member of the "Big Ten," having been admitted to membership on April 6, 1912.

Michigan withdrew from the Conference on January 14, 1908, accepted an invitation to return on June 9, 1917, and resumed membership on November 20, 1917.

Precedent and resolutions rather than a written constitution are the agenda of control in the Western Intercollegiate Conference. Each member institution has a faculty representative entitled to one vote. No person who receives pay for services connected with athletics or the Department of Physical Education is eligible to sit as a Conference representative.

Annual meetings are held on Chicago in December. Called meetings are held as necessity arises. A majority vote of representatives passes any measure, but all legislation must go to the faculties of the member institutions for approval. Any measure rejected within 60 days by one or more faculties must be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Conference. The measure becomes operative, however, if again passed by a majority vote and any institution rejecting it a second time is subject to suspension from the Conference.
Big Ten Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By K. L. WILSON
Big Ten Commissioner

The Big Ten Conference this year celebrates its 60th birthday, the oldest college athletic conference in the nation and a pioneer in the establishment of sound standards for intercollegiate sports administration throughout its history.

It was on January 11, 1895 that President Smart of Purdue called a meeting in Chicago of the presidents of seven midwestern universities to consider the regulation and control of intercollegiate athletics. At that meeting an organization was blueprinted, to consist of an appointed faculty representative from each institution.

Also, at that meeting, the extraordinary step was taken to restrict eligibility for athletics to bona-fide full-time students who were not delinquent in their studies. So fundamental is that concept today it is difficult to appreciate the radical reform it represented 60 years ago.

From that meeting there came, on Feb. 8, 1896, another meeting of the designated faculty representatives. The heading of the minutes for that meeting, an "Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives" gives what is commonly known as the Big Ten or Western Conference its proper name. It also gave to the American language a new and now common meaning for the word "conference", as a grouping of schools for purposes of athletic administration and competition.

The meeting also established a principle now basic among all colleges of high standing, that intercollegiate athletics shall be under the control of the faculties.

The seven original members of the Conference, represented at the 1896 meeting, were Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue, and Wisconsin. Lake Forest College had been represented at President Smart’s meeting in 1895, but its place was taken by Michigan.

Indiana University and the University of Iowa were admitted to Conference membership Dec. 1, 1899. Michigan withdrew in 1908 but returned in 1917. Meanwhile, in 1912, Ohio State became a member. Chicago, which had withdrawn from competition in 1944, resigned its Conference membership in 1946 and in 1949 the membership was restored to ten by the admission of Michigan State University.

Other pioneering regulations fostered by the Conference, considered commonplace today but significant changes when adopted, were the one-year residence rule, a ban on freshman and graduate competition, the limitation of competition to three years, and the appointment of coaches on a faculty basis. The Conference also pioneered in the appointment of game officials and in 1922 established the first collegiate office of commissioner.
BIG TEN FOOTBALL TROPHIES

Gridiron Rivals Battle Annually for Jugs, Buckets, Tomahawks, Spittoons, Turtles and Porkers

By Walt Paulison
(Mr. Paulison served as Sports Information Director at Northwestern from 1926 until retirement in 1969)

Numerous are the trophies that Big Ten football teams battle for each fall in rivalries that frequently have not been limited to the heated struggles on the gridiron.

Many are the instances in which students raided rival campuses in the stealth of night to appropriate the coveted trophies and carry them off while frenzied searches were made for their recovery. Fortunately, the missing trophies have eventually turned up and been returned to their rightful possessors.

Of all the trophies now in competition, none quite matches the tradition attached to the Little Brown Jug that annually goes to the winner of the Michigan-Minnesota game.

Perhaps it is because the unprepossessing five-gallon jug is the oldest of all the trophies or because of the circumstances surrounding its origin — whatever the reason, the Little Brown Jug has come to be America’s most famous football trophy.

On Oct. 31, 1903, an unbeaten, untied and, yes, unscored upon Michigan team journeyed to Minnesota to meet a Gopher team possessing identical credentials. After 60 minutes of furious struggle, the two teams left the field in a 6-6 deadlock.

In those days, visiting teams brought along their own drinking water on the theory that a change in water might prove harmful. When the Wolverines returned to Ann Arbor after the game, it was discovered that their water jug had been left behind.

When a Michigan official inquired after the jug, his Minnesota counterpart replied in essence, “Yes, we have your jug. If you want it, come and get it!” There could be no mistaking the clear challenge, although it wasn’t until six years later that the teams were to meet again.

The 1909 game was also played in Minneapolis, and sure enough, there on the sidelines was Michigan’s water jug. The Wolverines won the game 15-6 and this time the jug accompanied the victorious team back to Ann Arbor where it was painted in the colors of the two schools and the score inscribed. From that time on, the Little Brown Jug is placed on the sidelines at each Michigan-Minnesota game to be claimed by the victor.
BIG TEN FOOTBALL TROPHIES

Another tradition steeped trophy is the Old Oaken Bucket for which Indiana and Purdue football teams have been contending since 1925, when it was placed in competition by Chicago alumni of the two schools. The bucket, said to be well over 100 years old, was found in a well on an Indiana farm. Legend has it that the ancient wooden bucket was used by Morgan’s Raiders to quench their thirst during a sortie into Hoosierland during the Civil War.

Also in 1925, the junior class honorary societies at Ohio State and Illinois came up with a live turtle — dubbed “Illibuck” to combine both school names — for the winner of the annual Buckeye-Illini game. The donors envisioned a durable symbol, based on the expected long life span of the turtle. Unfortunately, “Illibuck” died two years later, and a wooden replica now serves in his place.

A wager between Minnesota Governor Floyd Olson and Iowa Governor Clyde Herring of a prize pig on the outcome of the 1935 Hawkeye-Gopher game resulted in the Floyd of Rosedale trophy. Tension between students and alumni of the two schools had been running high for several years and the wager was devised to help patch things up.

After Iowa lost the game, Governor Herring paid off with a full-blooded champion named Floyd of Rosedale. The blue-blooded porker became the model for a bronze statue with a sash around the middle for team scores.

A cannon has been the symbol of Purdue and Illinois rivalry since 1943, but the history of the cannon dates back to 1905 when Purdue students took the weapon to Champaign to fire in celebration of a Purdue victory.

Although the Boilermakers won the game, the cannon was never fired and it was later found by Illinois student Quincy Hall and some Delta Upsilon fraternity brothers. It remained in the fraternity house for several years until Hall took it to his farm. It gathered dust until Hall suggested it be used as a football trophy between the two schools when the rivalry was resumed in 1943 after a 12-year lapse.

The winner of the annual Northwestern-Illinois football game gains possession of a tomahawk which has been at stake since 1945 when it was introduced by the sports staff of Northwestern’s student paper. When first established, the trophy was an authentic wooden Indian of the type that formerly graced the fronts of cigar stores. However, the old fellow, dubbed “Sweet Sioux,” proved such a transportation problem that he was eventually replaced by the current Tomahawk.

Paul Bunyan, the legendary woodsman-lumberjack, was the inspiration for two Big Ten football trophies. In 1948, the Wisconsin “Y” Club originated the Paul Bunyan Axe to be awarded to the winner of the annual Wisconsin-Minnesota game. In 1953 Governor Mennen Williams of Michigan presented the Paul Bunyan Trophy to the winner of the Michigan-Michigan State game. The trophy consists of a four-foot wooden statue of the giant lumberjack astride an axe.

Michigan State’s gridiron warriors also vie with their Indiana rivals for possession of the “Old Brass Spittoon” which was placed in competition in 1950 by the student bodies of the two schools. The ancient relic was found in an old Michigan trading post and is believed to have been around when the two schools were founded in the mid-1800’s.
Big Ten coaches rise on salary ladder

Michigan State University didn't know exactly what it would take to lure George Perles back to his alma mater. The Spartans did feel it would take good money to get a good man, one who five months before had been hired as head coach of the Philadelphia Stars of the United States Football League for $500,000 over three years.

In December, Michigan State announced Perles had signed a contract worth $95,000 a year for five years.

Perles' SALARY is the best for a football coach in the Big Ten Conference, according to a survey conducted this week by The Dispatch. All figures published are official except those of Northwestern, the Big Ten's only private school and the only one whose ledger is not open to public inspection.

Perles' salary is nearly $10,000 more than what Michigan's Bo Schembechler received last year as a reward for refusing an offer from Texas A&M that would have made him an instant millionaire.

Repercussions from Perles' signing have been and will continue to be felt throughout the conference.

Iowa gave Hayden Fry a hefty raise at the turn of the year. At the same time, Dave McClain and Dennis Green received increases from Wisconsin and Northwestern, respectively.

TO DISLodge Sam Wyche from the San Francisco 49ers, Indiana gave him $11,000 more than the $54,000 it had been paying Lee Corso. Then, to avoid embarrassment, the Hoosiers boosted basketball Coach Bobby Knight's annual income to $66,000.

Schembechler, meanwhile, turned down another raise, telling Michigan to divide it among his assistants.

"The action at Michigan State has brought about pressure that is probably making (other schools) ... adjust their people," said Illinois Athletic Director Neale Stoner. "There's no question that the market is demanding a greater package."

Illinois has responded, also. Mike White, who in three seasons has transformed the Illini football team from a laughingstock into a Big Ten contender, recently had his base salary increased from the mid-$50,000 range to $80,000.

"I THINK THE tremendous turn-around Mike has brought to our program in three years required that we kept him certainly in pace with the other top coaches in the conference," said Stoner.

White's raise was only partly a reward, though. At the same time his raise was being considered, two professional teams — Arizona of the USFL and San Francisco of the National Football League — were offering White their head coaching jobs. He turned down both.

"The pace will not be as fast at Ohio State, where Earle Bruce has won or shared two Big Ten championships in four seasons and Eldon Miller has his surprising basketball team on the heels of Knight's league-leading Hoosiers.

Any raises Bruce and Miller receive will take effect with the new fiscal year July 1, and Athletic Director Hugh Hindman cannot say now how big they might be.

"I CAN'T predict anything," he said. "I could raise them without much trouble, but I'm bound by university guidelines ... I have been right along. We've had an across-the-board percentage that we've had to abide by, so if there's a radical upgrade of a percentage (for one person), it has to be taken away from other people."

Statistics circulated recently by OSU show that in the last four years, the Buckeye football and men's basketball programs have the best combined won-lost record of any Big Ten school. "You want to talk about justification (for raises)," Hindman said, "you've got it."

The paradox, he added, is that "with the exception of our income-producing sports," OSU coaches probably are paid as well as any in the country. "But there's been a national explosion (in salaries for football and basketball coaches). . . . Things have happened in other areas that have created a problem for us and the university."

"I can't speak for what the president or the administration is going to do in these areas," Hindman said. "All I can do is to give data and hope that I'm heard."
Finding big bucks in college coaching

Earle Bruce is one of the growing number of university coaches who are making big money.

The OSU scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Hindman</td>
<td>athletic director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earle Bruce</td>
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<td>Eldon Miller</td>
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<td>Vince Panzoro, diving</td>
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<td>Dianne Thompson, softball</td>
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<td>Barbara Mueller, women’s tennis</td>
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<td>Jerry Welsh, ice hockey</td>
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<td>Al Bianco, soccer/lacrosse</td>
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Athletic directors

Paul Giel, Minnesota $75,210
Don Canham, Michigan $68,688
Neale Stoner, Illinois $65,000
George King, Purdue $63,400
Doug Weaver, Mich. St. $61,750
Elroy Hirsch, Wisconsin $60,000
Hugh Hindman, Ohio State $59,040
Chalmers Elliott, Iowa $58,000
Ralph Floyd, Indiana $58,500
Doug Single, Northwestern $58,000

Football coaches

George Perles, Mich. St. $95,000
Bo Schembechler, Michigan $85,000
Mike White, Illinois $80,000
Hayden Fry, Iowa $75,000
Dennis Green, Northwestern $65,000
Sam Wyche, Indiana $65,000
Earle Bruce, Ohio State $58,080
Leon Burrell, Purdue $54,570
Dave McClain, Wisconsin $53,900
Joe Salem, Minnesota $51,000

Basketball coaches

Bobby Knight, Indiana $66,000
Lute Olson, Iowa $58,500
Lou Henson, Illinois $55,000
Jim Dutcher, Minnesota $53,000
Jud Heathcote, Mich. St. $50,700
Steve Yoder, Wisconsin $48,500
Eldon Miller, Ohio State $46,920
Gene Ready, Purdue $46,725
Rich Falk, Northwestern $45,000
Bill Frieder, Michigan $42,500
* estimated
Big Ten changes grade standards

By Eric D. Wygle

The Big Ten raised its standards for athletes' grades at the recent league meetings to what may be the toughest standards in the country.

The faculty representatives voted to change the minimum standards for athletes from a cumulative grade point average of 1.65 to 1.70 for the first two years, 1.75 to 1.85 for the third year, 1.85 to 2.0 for the fourth, and 1.95 to 2.0 for the fifth year of residence.

"To our knowledge, those are the highest demands of a student athlete of any conference in the United States," said Ohio State faculty representative Harold Shechter.

"However, those standards are not as high as the Ohio State University standards," Shechter added.

Ohio State requires that an athlete maintain a 1.70 grade point for the first two years of residence and a 2.00 average for each year after that.

Shechter says that part of the convenience of the rule at Ohio State is its clarity.

"You make it clear that an athlete must be a "C" student to maintain athletic eligibility," Shechter said. "It's an easy thing to state and an easy thing to understand."

Those standards are much tougher than the standards of the NCAA, according to Shechter.

"To compete in the NCAA, you have to be a so-called satisfactory student. That can mean anything depending on where you are," Shechter said.

According to Shechter, a "D" average is often satisfactory at many universities.

"This is not satisfactory for graduation, but it will allow you to maintain athletic eligibility," Shechter said.

Shechter feels this is significant because Big Ten athletes would be competing against athletes who have lower grade point standards to reach.

"I happen to think our rules are obviously proper, but I wouldn't like to say that our rules lead to better academic performance.

"I don't think that it would be fair to say that a student at Ohio State has greater academic standards than a student in the Ivy League," Shechter said. "To our knowledge, the Ohio State University has the highest point hour ratio requirement of any institution that I'm aware of."

Shechter says the Big Ten proposed that similar grading standards be accepted nationally at the NCAA meetings in January and came very close to having them accepted.

"We (the Big Ten) proposed a 1.70 for eligibility in the first year and a 2.0 point-hour ratio requirement ever after."

Shechter said the vote went 238-215 against the proposal, despite what he calls "not much debate or presentation."

"In my opinion, that was the most important bit of legislation at the national convention. I was surprised that it came so close to passing. I would hope in the next presentation that this will pass." While the first presentation to the NCAA was essentially the same as the Ohio State requirements, Shechter feels the measure will have a greater chance of passing if it is modified to match the Big Ten standards.

The biggest objection to the proposal was that the proposed standards were too high, according to Shechter.

Shechter said the biggest surprise was that the black schools who were against Proposition 48, which requires testing for receiving an athletic grant, were in favor of the measure.

"They argued that if you go to Proposition 48, a requirement of testing for getting a grant-in-aid, it seemed equally logical to have some standards at the university once you got there," Shechter said.
Big Ten aid rule may violate Sherman Anti-Trust Act

By Eric D. Wygle
Lantern staff writer
S-31-83

The current Big Ten rule regarding intraconference transfer may be a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, according to the Ohio State faculty representative to the conference, Harold Shechter.

The rule prohibits an athlete who received an athletic grant-in-aid from one conference school from receiving athletic grants at another Big Ten school.

Shechter, professor of chemistry, said he learned of the possible violation of the act from Ivan Rutledge, a former dean of law at Ohio State, and Robert Stein, the current dean of law at Minnesota.

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act says that anything that places an unreasonable restraint on trade is illegal.

According to W. Charles Curley, a local attorney and an Ohio State graduate who served on the Big Ten Athletic Council in 1978, "It can be construed by the courts that student athletes are a form of trade."

Curley, who feels the rule is a violation of the act, thinks it will be ruled illegal if it is tried in court.

The Big Ten would have to show a valid reason for the rule if it were tried in court, according to Peter Gerhart, a professor of law at Ohio State.

"In order for the Big Ten to uphold it (the transfer rule), it would have to prove it was a reasonable rule," Gerhart said. "It (the Big Ten) has to demonstrate some legitimate purpose served by the rule other than merely to protect the schools from competition."

The rule was upheld by a 6-3 vote of the faculty representatives at the recent league meetings in Lansing, Mich.

There was speculation that the rule might change in March when faculty representatives, before conferring with their respective coaches and athletic directors, voted to change the rule by an 8-2 or 9-1 margin.

Shechter, a longtime opponent to the rule, was not surprised by the sudden switch in the vote.

"I expected that in the May meeting the position taken by the faculty representatives in March had changed," Shechter said. "I had known this because five schools had made it clear before coming to Lansing that their athletic councils, athletic directors, and their basketball and football coaches were opposed to changing the rule.

Much of the recent controversy over the rule was because of the transfer of Wisconsin basketball star Brad Sellers to Ohio State.

Sellers, who will not receive an athletic scholarship at Ohio State, says he will work in the summer and receive assistance from his parents to pay for college now.

While Shechter does not think Sellers' transfer was the entire reason why the rule was not changed, he does feel it affected the thinking of the faculty representatives.

"I think it (the Sellers' transfer) frightened many faculty representatives. I think it actually affected the thinking of certain athletic directors and they became rather afraid there would be a mass transfer in basketball, and possibly to some extent football," he said.

Shechter has tried to get the rule changed since he became Ohio State's faculty representative six years ago.

"Historically, the Big Ten has been very much opposed to intraconference transfer. There's no doubt about that. I've been working on this for six years and they never really considered it very seriously before the March meetings," he said.

According to Shechter, the biggest fear of coaches is that other coaches will raid their players in an attempt to get them to change schools.

Shechter feels this problem could be solved by investigating all transfers to make sure there has been no tampering by rival coaches.

Shechter does not feel the vote represented an attempt by the faculty representatives to keep Sellers from getting a scholarship.

Meanwhile, Michigan State basketball coach Jud Heathcote blasted Buckeye basketball Coach Eldon Miller in a recent article in the Columbus Dispatch for welcoming Sellers into the Ohio State program.

Heathcote questioned the "ethics" and the "professionalism" shown by Miller in accepting the transfer. He claimed he "lost a lot of respect" for Miller.

The Michigan State coach declined further comment on the subject in a later interview.

Miller, who was not surprised by the representatives' vote, said he was surprised by Heathcote's comments.

"When I have a disagreement with a person, I discuss it with that person and no one else," Miller said.

Shechter said the remarks by Heathcote were unfair and said it was a violation of a Big Ten conduct rule for
coaches to openly criticize other coaches in the media.

Minnesota basketball coach Jim Dutcher said that the coaches and athletic directors are strongly in favor of the rule and he supports the rule himself.

"I don’t think we want to make it convenient for intraconference transfer. I think it leads to too many problems and too many bad blood situations," Dutcher said.

Dutcher said he does not agree with Heathcote’s remarks on Miller’s ethics or professionalism and said he has no bad feelings toward Miller or Ohio State over the transfer.

Northwestern basketball coach Rich Falk agreed with Dutcher that many possible problems could be created in the conference if the current rule were changed.

"It puts everyone involved, coaches and players in a difficult position. Year in and year out it has been in the best interests of the league not to change the rule," Falk said.

Falk maintains that Coach Miller is still one of the most respected coaches in the conference despite Sellers’ transfer and Heathcote’s remarks.

Assistant Commissioner to the Big Ten, John D. Dowey, said, "If it (the transfer rule) is operating and not been declared illegal, then it (the conference) will continue to administer the rule."
Big Ten is going corporate

By George Strode
Dispatch Sports Editor

The Big Ten Conference will become a corporation later this year with Commissioner Wayne Duke its chief executive officer and the member university presidents serving as the board of directors.

The Dispatch reported the league was moving in that direction in its April 13 edition.

President Edward H. Jennings of Ohio State confirmed the Council of Ten, the university presidents, approved a proposal for a Big Ten corporation during league meetings June 1-2 in Bloomington, Ind.

"OUR LAWYERS are dotting the i's and t's on the new bylaws now," Jennings said yesterday. "We expect them to be developed in the next few months."

The Council of Ten does not meet again officially until December. "However, if there are no changes in the bylaws, I expect we will pass them by letter before then," Jennings said.

Indiana President John Ryan, who chairs the Council of Ten, will be chairman of the board of the new Big Ten structure.

Backers of the plan say a corporation is needed to handle the league's annual revenue.

For example, Jennings said the Big Ten reaped $10 million from the Rose Bowl and another $10 million from television, including $7 million from football telecasts, during the 1985-86 school year.

JENNINGS LIKES the plan. "I'm very much in favor of it. We need a formal structure to receive such large sums of money. It's nothing more than a loose association now. It's simply good business."

Jennings said liability played a role, too. "Whenever you are dealing with large amounts of money, liability exits for the conference," he said.

A conference source, who requested anonymity, said the switch was approved because the presidents want to play a larger part in the Big Ten. "They feel they need to be more involved," the source said.

The Big Ten Conference was formed in 1895. Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue and Wisconsin were charter members.

Ohio State became a member in 1912 after Indiana and Iowa joined in 1919. Chicago left the Big Ten in 1944. Michigan State replaced Chicago in 1948.
Big 10 nears agreement for corporate solidarity

The Big Ten Conference has moved one step closer to becoming a corporation with university presidents acting as the board of directors.

OSU President Edward H. Jennings said the Council of Ten, a body of university presidents, "will draft a document of change within two months."

Under the current agreement there is no formal structure for the universities to conduct business, Jennings said. The new structure will, "put the Big Ten on a business-like basis."

The Lantern reported in April that a conference change was imminent because of the legal benefits. For instance, if a lawsuit were to occur now, legal liability would be against all the members of the conference. However, if a corporation were formed then liability would go to the corporate entity.

The new corporation also gives power to university presidents instead of faculty representatives and athletic directors as is presently the case, said Richard Bay, OSU athletic director. Bay said the agreement was necessary since the Big Ten handles large amounts of money from television and bowl game appearances.

However, Bay said the agreement "is more form than substance; the presidents have the final say anyway."

Jennings said Indiana President and chairman of the Council of Ten, John Ryan, would probably act as chairman for the new Big Ten group. Ryan could not be reached for comment.

Dan Orsican, vice president of university relations at Indiana University, said, "Ryan hasn't said he will approve it (the plan for the Big Ten to change into a corporation)."

Commissioner of the Big Ten, Wayne Duke, could not be reached for comment. Assistant Commissioner Clarence Underwood would not comment on the proposal, but had heard the proposal was being considered.
Big Ten to discuss conference tourney

By Scott Dring
Lantern staff writer

The Big Ten conference is studying the possibility of implementing a men's post-season basketball tournament within the next few years.

The Ivy League and the Big Ten are the only major conferences in the nation without a post-season tournament. The Pac-10 had its first tournament last week.

The financial dividends of a tournament would be tremendous for the league, but team and class schedules would have to be rearranged, said Mark Rudner, head of media relations at the Big Ten office in Chicago.

The regular season schedules would be shortened because a tournament would require two to four extra games.

The Big Ten has never had a post-season tournament because the present format crowns a "true" champion, Rudner said.

Last year, a committee of Big Ten athletic directors was organized to discuss the possibility of a tournament and its financial advantages.

A tournament would have to be approved by all Big Ten presidents, said OSU Athletic Director Rick Bay.

A report will be completed in April on whether the athletic directors believe a tournament should be implemented, said Big Ten Commissioner Wayne Duke.

"I don't think we'll have a tournament, it's too difficult to institute even if approved," Duke said.

The loss of class time and the strain on the players after a double round-robin season are concerns of those studying the idea.

A tournament could be very lucrative because of the facilities available to the Big Ten, Duke said. "The Silverdome in Detroit and the Metrodome in Minneapolis would be good locations for a tournament because of their large capacities."

"It's hard to say right now how much money would be made, but it would be the most successful in the country, revenue-wise," Duke said.

The Atlantic Coast Conference tournament makes much money and adds prestige to the conference, said Rick Brewer, sports information director at the University of North Carolina and unofficial historian for the tournament.

The tournament raises funds by donations, ticket sales and television rights, Brewer said.

The winner of the tournament, which includes all the teams in the league, receives an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament at the end of the season.

The top teams during the regular season are not penalized for losing in a post-season tournament. They can still receive an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, Brewer said.

The conference post-season tournament is a "new" season for teams that have done poorly in the regular season. It gives them a chance to get into the NCAA tournament by winning the conference tournament.

This season, 64 teams are represented in the NCAA Tournament. 28 teams received automatic bids, the remaining schools received at-large bids. There were 29 automatic bids available, but Memphis State's bid by capturing the Metro Conference post-season championship was negated because the Tigers are on probation.
Players, coaches favor postseason play

By TOM ANDREWS
Lantern sports writer

A postseason Big Ten basketball tournament would help the conference athletically and academically said OSU Athletic Director Richard M. Bay.

"It will bring the Big Ten in line with the rest of the country," Bay said. "Right now we're playing regular league games on the last weekend of the season, while virtually everybody else is playing a tournament. The national spotlight shifts away from the Big Ten to the Big East and (Atlantic Coast Conference) and (Southeastern Conference) tournaments."

In a vote held Monday, the Big Ten athletic directors agreed to recommend that the conference adopt such a tournament.

"I voted in favor of it, Ohio State is in favor of it, and (Coach) Gary Williams is in favor of it," Bay said.

Making sure the players did not miss any extra school was a major concern in the decision, he said.

He said the conference schedule would switch from 18 to 14 games and eliminate one road trip for the teams, enabling the players to attend more school.

Coach Gary Williams thinks the Big Ten should not adopt the tournament because everyone else is doing it, but for other reasons.

"I think where the Big Ten is as far as prestige, we need it," Williams said. "It's good for recruiting and for financial reasons. Nobody else that has gone to it has gone away from it, and the players like it too. When I was in the Big East it was the highlight of their season."

Junior guard Jay Burson agrees with Williams.

"I think it's a good idea," Burson said. "The other major conferences have it, I think it will be good for the Big Ten, and it really gives you a true winner of the conference."

Junior forward Jerry Francis felt it would benefit all of the teams in the conference.

"It's a competitive league and the postseason tournament would give more teams a chance to make it to the NCAA," Francis said.

Williams said the tournament is also a stepping stone to the NCAA.

"If you look at the past five or six years, the Big East has been well represented in the final four," he said. "And you don't get tired because you don't play again until the next Thursday, for the first round of the NCAA."

Bay said the proposal now goes before the athletic directors and faculty representatives in December. If it passes that time then the university presidents vote a week later.
OSU faculty concerned about

By Susan Carey
Lantern staff writer

OSU faculty members said they are concerned about the process used that may allow Penn State to enter into the Big Ten Conference.

Carol Kennedy, chairwoman and associate professor of the life span process in the College of Nursing, said the faculty members are not concerned with Penn State entering into the Big Ten Conference, but they are concerned with the manner used to make the decision.

Kennedy said the conference handbook states faculty members who represent the Intercollegiate Athletic Association have the power to make decisions concerning athletics and the expansion of the Big Ten Conference. This power, however, was not used with regards to Penn State's admission.

In 1987 the Presidents Inc., which is the union between the Big Ten university presidents, changed some powers stated in the conference handbook. One of the changes said the presidents could have the power to overturn the decisions made by faculty representatives.

“I am upset because there was no consultation with the faculty. The presidents made the decisions without our knowledge,” Kennedy said.

She said many problems can arise with expanding the conference. One has to consider the issues of accessibility, academics, the history and tradition of the school and the standards that the school holds.

“You have to consider if they are the same as the other schools in the conference,” she said.

“I am indifferent with allowing Penn State into the conference. I think Penn State would be a good choice because it is similar to Ohio State. But a school like Iowa or Minnesota might have a problem because of accessibility,” Kennedy said.

She said the principle of communication was lacking in this issue.

David Frantz, associate dean in the College of Humanities, said the OSU faculty intercollegiate athletic representatives want to find out the reactions of the other Big Ten faculty groups.

Frantz said a letter is going to be sent to different groups in the conference to find out what their response is to the presidents' decision.

“Ohio State is unique. The faculty members have always been able to have a say in matters,” Frantz said.

However, Frantz said, “The first time the I heard about the expansion was when the press got a hold of the information and printed it.”

Frantz said although President Edward H. Jennings is usually good about consulting faculty with decisions, Frantz does not understand why there was not a consultation this time.

Jennings said the request to allow Penn State into the Big Ten was received in June.

James Delany, the commissioner in the Big Ten Conference, examined the proposal and presented it in a meeting which Jennings was absent from, and a vote to allow Penn State's admission was made, Jennings said.

Jennings said he thought the issue would have been discussed in greater detail before the vote was made.

The proposal for Penn State to enter the conference is not final, Jennings said.

Penn State in Big Ten
Penn State to join Big 10 in sports, academics

By Greg Brown

The Council of Ten, all the presidents and chancellors of the Big Ten universities, this month confirmed its invitation to Pennsylvania State University to join the conference.

It's a significant move for the sports programs of all the universities in terms of scheduling and the addition of another competitive athletic program. Penn State has 28 varsity sports, including its perennially powerful football team.

But affiliation also has implications academically. First and foremost, the presidents wanted Penn State to join the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC). The organization includes all the Big Ten schools plus the University of Chicago, whose purpose is to promote and enhance teaching and research.

"Penn State is a sister institution that is a wonderful match from an academic standpoint," says President Jennings. "It's a strong research and teaching university, and we are thrilled they will be a part of the CIC."

There was general agreement by the Council of Ten that Penn State's integration as a member of the conference should proceed as quickly as possible in sports and academics. But not until the mid-1990s will Penn State begin competing for the football and men's basketball championships.

"As the newest member of the Big Ten family, we want Penn State to experience a transition that conveys the sense of collegiality and fellowship the Big Ten typifies," stated Stanley Ikenberry, president of the University of Illinois and outgoing Council of Ten chair.

"We welcome Penn State, its administrators, its faculty, its student body, and its loyal alumni to a partnership dedicated to the advancement of higher education and committed to quality athletics consistent with the teaching and research missions of our universities."

Several Ohio State coaches say they welcome the addition of Penn State.

Nancy Darsch, women's basketball coach, says: "It's important in each game to get a good test of your abilities. Penn State, along with so many of our other opponents, will continue to help provide that needed test."

John Cooper, football coach, says: "We look forward to playing Penn State. They're a nationally known program and fit well with the quality of play in our conference."

Randy Ayers, men's basketball coach, says: "Penn State's basketball program has improved steadily over each of the last few years. They're becoming very competitive nationally and I look forward to playing them."

Details of incorporating Penn State into each sport's schedule are to be worked out over the next few months.

So too, coming into the academic fold will begin soon. Penn State ranks first in the nation in Fulbright scholarships awarded and 17th in Ph.D.s conferred. It joins a conference considered elite worldwide. The Big Ten's name is likely to change, and will be a topic of discussion later in the year.
Presidents say 11 is enough, but there’s still talk about a Big Dozen

The signals are confusing.
On one hand, Big Ten presidents say they are sticking to a moratorium on adding members they imposed after taking in Penn State as No. 11; on the other, sources within the league say the moratorium will be lifted and that there “will be a 12th team.”
The sources say the league’s presidents have already decided to go to a 12-team league and are trying to decide which team to invite.
OSU president Gordon Gee insists the sources are wrong.
“That’s simply not true,” Gee said this week. “We are having a hard enough time working out the details of bringing Penn State in, without adding another school. That’s not to say that it won’t happen at some point, but I think you’ll see us stay with 11 for a while.”
OSU athletic director Jim Jones echoed Gee’s sentiments. When he was told of the conflicting reports, he raised his eyebrows and shook his head.
“I’d be shocked if we brought another school in in the near future,” he said. “From everything I’ve heard, the presidents are very firm in their moratorium on new membership.”

As persuasive as Gee and Jones are, a word of caution should be injected. The sources made the comment to Bob Hammel of the Bloomington (Ind.) Herald-Times during the NCAA convention last month, and the veteran sportswriter insists it was very definitive.
“I was surprised, too,” Hammel said. “But there didn’t seem to be any doubt about it at all. And even when I talked to (Big Ten commissioner) Jim Delany about it, he pointed out that all it would take to lift the moratorium was eight of 11 votes from the presidents.”
So what gives? Hard to say.
But it isn’t difficult to draw up a list of front-runners, should the presidents change their minds.
Missouri, Iowa State and Nebraska are most often mentioned as western possibilities, and Notre Dame, Pitt, West Virginia and Rutgers are mentioned for their eastern potential.
Of those, Missouri and Rutgers have the most going for them because of their university profile and academics — and their TV markets.
Going west makes the most sense. If the league expands east and divides into two six-team divisions, one of the intrastate rivalries, Purdue-Indiana and Michigan-Michigan State, would have to be split up.
Penn State will begin playing Big Ten ball in 1992–93

Byline: Joe Paterno is going to get his chance for a trip to Pasadena, and Bob Knight better get directions for hard-to-get-to State College, Pa., because Penn State will be playing football and basketball in the Big Ten sooner rather than later.

Big Ten athletic directors approved a measure yesterday in Chicago that calls for Penn State to begin conference play in basketball for the 1992-93 season followed by football in 1993.

Paterno, 63, can't wait. The Penn State football coach never has played in the Rose Bowl.

"I'm anxious to get into the conference," he said. "The Big Ten is another added challenge."

The conference is moving faster than anticipated. Last June, when Penn State was formally voted into the Big Ten, complete integration for football and basketball wasn't supposed to take place until the mid-'90s.

"The ADs wanted to move forward," Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany said. "It was a matter of waiting until the mid-'90s, or bring them into the family sooner. They did what's best for Penn State and what's best for the conference."

The exact scheduling, however, is uncertain. Delany said in 1993 and 1994, it's possible the league might have an unbalanced football schedule, with some teams playing seven Big Ten games and others eight. Each team currently plays eight.

With 11 teams, it will take nine weeks for each to play eight games. That means the conference schedule would have to start in September, which causes problems in 1993 and 1994 because schools have non-league commitments.

The Big Ten faces similar problems in basketball. Currently, each team plays a round-robin, 18-game schedule. If Penn State is included in the format, each team will play 20 conference games.

That poses two stumbling blocks. Each team would have to drop two non-conference games. They already are losing one, because NCAA legislation will cut the regular-season maximum from 28 games to 27 in 1992-93.

A 20-game schedule also would require conference competition to begin in December, Delany said.

"We want to get some input from the coaches as to the number of games we'll play," Delany said. "We're still fine-tuning it."

Delany said a 20-, 18- or 16-game schedule will be considered.
Big Ten council adopts 60-40 gender policy

By Dave Smith
Lantern sports writer

When the Presidents of the Big Ten decided to adopt a 60-40 gender equity policy, the goal was to offer equal sports opportunities to men and women. Ohio State athletic coaches and administrators are finding this policy difficult to meet, possibly causing problems for Ohio State in the future.

The goal is to have a ratio of 60 percent males and 40 percent females participating in sports by 1995. The present ratio at Ohio State is 72 percent male to 28 percent female.

"I think we're doing one of the best jobs in the country in terms of offering athletic opportunities for women," OSU President Gordon Gee said to The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer.

"To meet the 60-40 ratio would mean that OSU would have to cut programs or put a cap on roster size for men's sports," said Phyllis Bailey, associate athletic director at Ohio State.

"I'm not sure how we're going to get there. I think there are only four ways (to achieve the goal)," Ohio State Athletic Director Jim Jones said to The Plain Dealer. "We can add a women's sport. We can add men's sports. We can drop men's sports. I don't know of any other ways to get there.

Ohio State offers more varsity sports than any other Big Ten school, with 17 men's varsity sports and 14 women's sports programs. One way to make the ratio closer to 60-40 would be to eliminate football, which has a large number of male athletes, and offer football to the number of men's sports, according to coaches and administrators.

Jones told The Plain Dealer, "For the most part, schools in this league are surviving on football. The big money is in football. We argued that if we could take football out it would be easier to get to 60-40. If we don't take football out, I don't know how we'll ever get to 60-40."

"I don't think football should be in the equation, but it is in the equation now, and Ohio State is going to do it's best to operate within the boundaries of the rules," Associate Athletic Director Bill Myers said.

OSU Football Coach John Cooper agrees with Myles.

"I'd like to see it (football) exempt but I don't know if that is going to happen," Cooper said.

With football included, men's sports walk-ons will have to be limited to keep men's rosters down. Limiting the amount of walk-ons in football will begin immediately, Myles said.

Cooper said that limiting the amount of walk-ons will definitely affect the football team.

This year alone there will be two starters on the Ohio State football team who were originally walk-ons. (Tackle Greg Smith and receiver Brian Stahelin).

"It's fine to increase the opportunity for women but it should not decrease the opportunity for men," Cooper said.

"Football will have walk-ons but certainly not as many as they have had in the past," Myles said.

Currently, Ohio State offers the maximum number of athletic scholarships available to women under NCAA regulations. Ohio State has 716 athletes who compete at the division I-A level. Of the 398 full athletic scholarships at Ohio State, 110 are for women (36 percent).

If Ohio State were to maintain all of the present men's sports, then it would have to add walk-ons to the women's sports, add a women's sport and put roster caps on men's sports to get to 60-40, Bailey said.

"We can do a combination of those or we can do all four to get the numbers down. But I don't have any reason to believe that once we get them down we can hold them there," Jones told The Plain Dealer.

"I say that because we may get our softball team up to 40 participants, the same as baseball, and that may get us in compliance by the third year. But if we lose seven softball players in the fourth year, because they're not playing or because they can't afford to be a walk-on, we will have a sudden fall out of being in compliance. Then where are we?"

"I don't see any cute happenings now in male sports," Myles said.

"We are going to try and do everything possible to have more women on their teams."

Another problem arises because men are more willing than women to be part of a team as a walk-on.

"Men have always had more walk-ons because men seem more willing to be part of the team. Women, on the other hand, have the attitude that if they can't be the best, they don't want the 'athlete' label," Bailey said.

"The coaches and athletic departments are going to have to do more to keep the female walk-ons with the team in the future," Bailey said. "We have to try and convince young women that it is exciting to be involved in intercollegiate athletics. It has to become socially acceptable," Bailey said.

"There's a bigger difference between athletic women and nonathletic women then there is between athletic men and nonathletic men," Myles said.

"More young men have played baseball and basketball and football growing up, but that is not the case with young women."

"As more women come into athletics they shouldn't have any trouble raising their squad numbers. Right now they are having trouble raising their numbers," Myles said.

One argument against the 60-40 policy is the lack of quality competition for all college athletes if universities limit the number of walk-ons in men's sports.

"Our team does not have as many scholarships as the women do and our team relies on walk-ons," said Peter Kormann, OSU men's gymnastics coach. "It (the policy) will be easier to deal with. The whole thing with the 60-40 policy should not be in dropping sports or limiting participation but in providing opportunity."

This issue of gender equity is not entirely new. An amendment called Title IX was passed in 1972 as part of the Education Amendments. It stated that equal opportunity had to be provided for both.

"When it (Title IX) came out it was intended to increase participation and opportunity and the schools that worked really hard to accomplish that are the schools that are now being hurt," said Gary Avedikian, OSU men's soccer coach.

"It's difficult to accept because we offer the best kinds of opportunities for the athletes and end up looking bad because we haven't met 60-40," Bailey said. "Ohio State has made a true commitment to probably the largest women's program in the Big Ten. We have the largest number of total athletes and we are providing for women. We like to have the best quality for women's athletics without hurting the men's athletics."

Another argument against the policy is that participation within similar sports is not equal. For example, women's softball has only two or three pitchers for the entire season, whereas men's baseball has eight or nine pitchers.

In gymnastics, men compete in six events while the women only compete in four. Track and field also has more men's events than women's, Bailey said.

Women's soccer is the only women's sport that is played in Ohio high school and is not offered at Ohio State, Bailey said. She said the athletic department is considering adding that sport in the near future.

"This is something that we were going to do anyway, even if the gender equity policy never came about," Bailey said.

Beyond women's soccer, Bailey said that difficulties exist in creating ways to expand women's sports.

"It's going to take a lot of creativity to reach 60-40," Bailey said.
Big Ten adds Hall of Fame to postseason Bowl action

CHICAGO (AP) — The Big Ten said Wednesday it has signed a two-year agreement with the Hall of Fame Bowl, the fourth postseason football game to be aligned with the conference.

The Tampa, Fla.-based postseason game will select a Big Ten team to play an at-large opponent after the Big Ten's representatives are determined for the Rose, Florida-Citrus and Holiday bowls.

The next Hall of Fame Bowl will be played at the 74,296-seat Tampa Stadium beginning at 11 a.m. EST on Jan. 1. ESPN will telecast the game.

"The Hall of Fame Bowl relationship adds to the Big Ten's overall plan to develop and stabilize automatic ties with multiple bowls," said Big Ten Commissioner James E. Delany.

Big Ten teams are 1-3 in the Hall of Fame Bowl, with Ohio State losing to Syracuse in 1992.

"Big Ten teams have always been popular with our local fans," said Shirley Ryals, president of the Hall of Fame Bowl.

Penn State will begin football competition in the conference this fall.
Athletes use education to battle AIDS

By Kendra Fleming
Lantern sports writer

AIDS is a disease making its way into everyone’s life. Now, AIDS has even made its way into the sports arena with the reported cases of Arthur Ashe and Magic Johnson testing positive with HIV.

The Big Ten Conference universities are presently under an NCAA mandate stating that any player who is injured and bleeding on the court, rink or field must leave the game to change their uniform, bandage the wound and stop the bleeding. Some of these universities have met this 1992 mandate with initial protest but realize the importance and seriousness of the AIDS epidemic.

The OSU basketball trainers initially opposed the mandate, feeling problems could potentially arise in certain scenarios.

If, in the last few seconds of an important game, a star player was cut, either intentionally or accidentally, and had to leave the court, play would resume without that player. The athlete would then not be able to re-enter the game until time is officially stopped, explained Monica Baugh, an OSU assistant trainer. This could cost the team the game.

Athletes and coaches realize the significance of the rule and comply with the preventive measures. Players act very nonchalant about it if they have to change uniforms, Baugh said.

"Athletes know it is a precaution we have to take," said Paul Schmidt, head trainer at the University of Michigan. "It really does not phase an athlete.

"It's in the athlete's best interest to take the precautions," Schmidt said.

Across the Big Ten Conference universities, AIDS plays a role in the life of student-athlete. They must be more aware, because they are involved in contact sports. These universities find it important to offer information, as well as open and confidential communication among athletes, coaches, and trainers.

Athletes are educated on the topics of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. At Michigan, athletes attend a mandatory lecture on AIDS. Other question-and-answer lecture series are optional for the Wolverine student-athletes.

At the University of Illinois, similar educational lectures are available to athletes. Though it is not mandatory that student-athletes attend, AIDS is taken seriously at the university, team physician Dr. Sboroff said.

Athletes at Illinois are aware of the NCAA mandate and "just go with the flow" if the issue arises. They see it as a preventive measure from a safety standpoint, Sboroff said.

Richard Finn, OSU's special assistant to the athletic director, said it is important for athletes to realize the importance of the rule and follow it. Players do realize its importance and normally don't object, he said.

At Ohio State, a mandatory physical education class must be taken by freshmen athletes. In this course, many topics are covered, but AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are the focus during one week. These lectures focus on the issue and put students in an active learning role.

The student-athletes are presented with thought-provoking situations instead of being lectured to about the subject. In using these teaching methods, students will listen, learn and think about issues, which is usually the first step in changing behavior, said Kate Riffe, instructor of the course. Riffe has a doctorate in counselor education.

"It is a continuing education process for presenters and student-athletes," Riffe said.

Riffe said it is hard to keep up with the constantly changing statistics and information regarding AIDS. Ohio State obtains its information from the Student Health Center.

According to the latest statistics, One in 500 students test positive for HIV. Ninety percent of those who are HIV-positive are unaware of it, she said. At Ohio State, there are about 800 student-athletes and it's statistically possible that one or even two might be HIV-positive.

Riffe hopes students in her class will change their behavior.

"In changing their thinking, it changes feelings and then it changes their behavior," Riffe said.

OSU coaches follow preventive measures, including the 1992 NCAA mandate.

"It needs to be done," said Randy Roth, sports program associate. "And anything preventive is a good measure."
Big Ten government leaders hold conference at Ohio State

Resolution calls for all Big Ten schools to charge activity fee

By Matthew S. Wegner
Lantern staff writer

A resolution was passed calling for all Big Ten schools to charge an activity fee for all students for student activities by The Association of Big Ten Students.

The ABTS met this past weekend at Ohio State for their tri-monthly weekend-conference.

A resolution was also unanimously passed stating all Big Ten schools are to provide a facility that incorporates all activities that fall under activity fee budgets, Norman said.

Out of all the schools in the Big Ten, only two, Ohio State and Penn State, do not have a per quarter student activity fee or adequate student union facilities.

"ABTS realizes the importance of having quality student union facilities to enhance the academic — intellectual — social experiences of college," Norman said.

OSU ABTS Director J.J. Curtis said the other schools were "really surprised with the facilities that we have."

Curtiss said Michigan State students have two floors at two separate buildings to service their student government organizations.

OSU's student organizations, including USG, are crammed into offices the size of small classrooms on the third floor of the Ohio Union, Curtis said.

"Every school at the conference remarked about the poor quality of our union," Norman said.

After a presentation about the proposed expansion of the Ohio Union, other student government leaders commented that they felt the expansion was "worth every penny," Norman said.

"At other universities everyone pays across the board and the benefits they get from it are incredible," Norman said.

Norman said other universities are able to offer services such as free student health insurance, free legal assistance, free intramural activities, free movies, concerts and lectures.

"The student fee puts money into the student government and other student organizations providing a much bigger budget to work with and establishing more credibility to those organizations," Norman said.

The conference started Thursday with a party at USG President Chris Norman's house.

Activities included Norman's party, attending Friday's Board of Trustees meeting, lectures, discussions, and a sold-out OSU women's basketball game where all student government presidents were introduced at halftime.

In other ABTS business:

- After a presentation and a question and answer session from three national lobbying organizations: Lead or Leave, The National Coalition for Student Empowerment and the United States Student Association, ABTS decided to become members of Lead or Leave and NCSE.

- Indiana University delegates sided with USSA, but after a debate everyone wanted to join Lead or Leave and NCSE, Norman said.

- OSU lobbyist and political science professor, Dr. Herb Asher, challenged ABTS to become active lobbyists on the state level.

"Students and students' families can be influential lobbyists," Asher said.

Acher said legislators don't want to see students mobilized because of the number of students behind their leaders.

Acher suggested that in order to lobby effectively, students must become informed of the issues around them.

When asking a legislator for more money for higher education, a student should not "let them trap you into feeling guilty."

"When the legislator asks, "Where should the money come from?" say, "That's your job, I'm not the expert," Asher said.

- Heather Schmidt, the director of women's affairs for USG, addressed the association on the issue of safety on campus.

"It seemed to me that other schools have taken a lot more action on the issue of safety," Schmidt said.

As director of women's issues for USG, Schmidt said she is currently working with the university's crime watch to organize an evening where she and members of crime watch walk around campus on a Friday night to identify places in need of more lighting or other attention.

At other universities everyone pays across the board and the benefits they get from it are incredible.

— Chris Norman
Big Ten eyes Irish as its 12th member

By Bob Baptiste
Dispatch Sports Reporter

CHICAGO — The Big Ten has been rumored to be casting a wide net — from Syracuse to Texas — in its search for a 12th member. In reality, it hasn’t left its favorite fishing hole, where its line is still in the water.

“At the present time, we’ve exchanged information only with Notre Dame,” commissioner Jim Delany said yesterday at the conference’s annual football kickoff meetings.

Delany’s statement was the first official confirmation of two-month-old reports that the Big Ten and Notre Dame, for the second time in five years, are talking about marriage.

Delany said he renewed the courtship after conference presidents, athletic directors and faculty last fall developed a strategic plan that included expansion.

“Since that time, we’ve had a thorough exchange of information with Notre Dame ... and my hope would be that this fall or this winter something would come of it or something would not,” Delany said.

“I don’t think we want to make an ongoing process of it. I think we need to reach a conclusion and need to bring it to a closure at a point that’s reasonable.”

Indiana coach Cam Cameron, asked his reaction to the possibility of Notre Dame joining the conference, said it was his understanding that the Fighting Irish are “excited about coming into the league, and we’ll be excited to have them.”

But Delany said an agreement is not imminent.

“We’re just exchanging information,” he said. “There’s been nothing tendered, nothing offered, nothing accepted.”

Notre Dame spokesman John Heisler said the Irish’s interest in joining the Big Ten is “to be determined by the answers to a lot of questions that haven’t been answered yet.”

Notre Dame athletic director Mike Wadsworth told the South Bend (Ind.) Tribune last month that he asked Delany for “clarification on a number of subjects” in May.

“None of it means this is going to go any further than what we’re currently engaged in,” Wadsworth said, “but until there is a conclusion to this exercise, it’s not going to go away and we’re not going to make it go away.”

Two months ago, the Ann Arbor (Mich.) News quoted an unidentified source close to the discussions as saying Notre Dame sees “tremendous advantages to being in the Big Ten, and they are the one school the conference has always wanted.”

Heisler said the latest rumors of a merger have been fueled by the perception that Notre Dame’s football position has been weakened by the fact it has not been in an alliance bowl game in two years and the school is worried it will be “frozen out” of the bowl picture in the new Bowl Championship Series that begins this season.

The Big East will announce shortly, however, that it incorporated Notre Dame into its agreement with several bowls the Irish can play in if they aren’t one of the eight teams to qualify for the BCS.

“That’s going to give us some options,” Heisler said.

In 1994, one year after Penn State completed its integration as the league’s 11th member by playing a full schedule of conference football games, the Big Ten pursued Notre Dame and was rebuffed.

Instead, Notre Dame aligned 18 of its 25 sports, including basketball, with the Big East, an arrangement that continues today. The football program is among those sports remaining independent.

“We’re the lone ranger,” Heisler said. “Can you make it doing that? That’s the question to answer.”

Delany said yesterday that a Big Ten-Notre Dame marriage would be contingent on the Irish bringing all of their sports into the league. It is possible, though, as was the case with Penn State, that football would be the last sport in the fold.

“I don’t think there could possibly be an instant integration across the board,” Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger said. “They have contracts. We have contracts. We’re scheduled through 2006 (in football), practically.”

Television tie-ins also could be a factor. Big Ten games are telecast by ABC and ESPN. Notre Dame has an estimated $40 million contract with NBC that runs through 2000, and last year the Irish agreed to an extension through 2005 estimated to be worth as much as $45 million.

“Probably the middle of the next decade would be the earliest I would see a full integration,” Geiger said. “We can be patient.”
Big Ten finances looking better to Irish

After crunching some numbers, athletic director Michael Wadsworth likes what he sees.

By Malcolm Moran
Chicago Tribune 8-22-9

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Additional information provided by the Big Ten has led Notre Dame officials to determine that the economics of potential conference membership aren't as unfavorable as they once believed.

Notre Dame athletic director Michael Wadsworth said the school's outlook changed after a meeting last week. The more promising financial picture may have led the university and the conference beyond a stumbling block that could have ended the discussions.

"We (once) thought it was a pretty significant disincentive financially," Wadsworth said. "It's certainly not so obvious as we thought it was. We have to do our homework, but it's certainly not obvious and glaring."

A person familiar with the process, speaking on the condition of anonymity, believes that the willingness to continue discussions after the recent meeting was a significant step toward the Irish becoming the 12th member of the Big Ten.

"That, to me, is a sign that this is a real possibility," the person said.

Wadsworth said an agreement with Big Ten officials prohibited him from disclosing any information shared by Notre Dame and the conference. He said a continuation of talks could lead to more specific discussion, including negotiations, in 1999. A negotiation phase, Wadsworth said, would not be lengthy because of the amount of information exchanged at the start of the talks.

One potential stumbling block is Notre Dame's contract with NBC Sports, which gives the network exclusive rights to televise home games. The source close to the talks said one possible solution would be for the school to complete the current deal, which runs through the 2005 season, then negotiate terms once the university became one of 12 schools in the Big Ten.

"I think the bridge that has to be crossed is whether or not there is a set of circumstances that would satisfy Notre Dame," the source said. "If the economics were such that Notre Dame was comfortable, everything else would be routine."

Although the current discussions have focused on finances, Wadsworth said a decision by the university to give up more than a century of independent football status would be determined by other issues.

"I really don't think that the big issue is going to be money," Wadsworth said.

One of the largest non-economic issues Notre Dame may soon confront is the reality of forfeiting an individual voice in national negotiations. The current bowl system, with its commitments to conference members, has significantly reduced Notre Dame's possibilities in postseason play beneath the elite level.

But the university's impact on the system would change dramatically if its voice is reduced to one vote in a 12-school conference.
Maryland to vote on Big Ten

By Alex Prewitt

THE WASHINGTON POST
MONDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2012 5:22 AM

Maryland was poised last night to end its 59-year affiliation with the Atlantic Coast Conference and jump to the Big Ten, a move that would shore up the finances of an athletic department that has fallen on rocky budgetary times.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland will meet this morning in a private session in Baltimore to decide whether Maryland should join the 12-member Big Ten, which is looking to expand its geographic and financial footprint.

The proposal needs a simple majority of the board's 16 members to pass. Maryland president Wallace Loh, who spearheaded the move, briefed the board on the proposal via telephone late yesterday afternoon.

The board members had not been formally briefed on the situation before the conference call with Loh. Multiple individuals with firsthand knowledge of the situation, who insisted on anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions, remained unsure of how the Board of Regents would vote, only saying that, as one put it, members "have a lot of questions."

Should the proposal pass, Maryland would next formally apply for membership in the Big Ten, whose Council of Presidents and Chancellors would then vote on the matter.

Such a move by Maryland would likely set into motion another round of realignment in college sports, as the major conferences seek stability through greater numbers and financial enrichment through lucrative television contracts. The Big Ten is expected to add another school along with Maryland, possibly Rutgers, which would bring with it the New York TV market.

The ACC, meanwhile, will likely look to the Big East to fill the void created by Maryland.

Although Maryland would almost certainly benefit financially with a move to the Big Ten, there has been a backlash from fans and alumni, who claim the school is jettisoning tradition in favor of money. A Facebook group titled "Keep UMD in the ACC!" had more than 1,500 members as of last night.

To leave the ACC, Maryland would be subject to the conference's $50 million exit fee.
College notebook: Ohio State's Aaron Craft, Allison Elber receive Big Ten Medal of Honor

COLUMBUS DISPATCH
TUESDAY APRIL 15, 2014 5:21 AM

Basketball player Aaron Craft and rower Allison Elber were named the Ohio State recipients of the Big Ten Medal of Honor. Each of the conference's 12 schools gives the award to student-athletes who "attained the greatest proficiency in athletics and scholastic work."

Craft will leave Ohio State as one of the most successful student-athletes of all-time in men's basketball. He led the Buckeyes to four NCAA tournament appearances, reaching the Elite Eight twice and the Final Four once. He is Ohio State's first three-time academic All-American and just the fourth in Big Ten history.

Elber is a four-time Ohio State scholar-athlete, three-time academic all-Big Ten and Big Ten Distinguished Scholar. She helped set program history as part of the first Ohio State women's rowing team to win an NCAA championship.

Craft and Elber were among 511 Buckeyes athletes honored last night at the annual Scholar-Athlete dinner.
Big Ten expansion: Rutgers is a bet on the future

School has long been short on winning but big on potential

By Todd Jones
The Columbus Dispatch
Sunday July 13, 2014 6:22 am

To understand the partnership between Rutgers and the Big Ten,
consider how commentators on the television show Ancient Aliens are fond of
using words such as might, maybe and possibly. Those are all terms befitting
the strange idea of Rutgers, a university located in New Jersey,
embarking on its first season in a conference with Midwestern soul and history.
Although the pairing still seems odds 21 months
after its announcement, all Rutgers and the now 14-member Big Ten are concerned about is the open road ahead, and that's where potential comes into play.

Talk of the future is better salesmanship than dwelling on the Scarlet Knights' history of piddling success or the controversies that have hampered the nation's most subsidized athletic department since the Big Ten announced in November 2012 plans to add Rutgers and Maryland.

Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany, a native of South Orange, N.J., sees in Rutgers an entry into the TV markets of New York and Philadelphia, which beckon about an hour each from the school's campus in New Brunswick/Piscataway.

Rutgers, whose football team plays at Ohio State on Oct. 18, sees in the Big Ten a chance to heal its gaping financial wounds and finally fulfill the athletic promise that traditionally has rung hollow despite New Jersey being rich in talent.

So potential was the theme of the public party Rutgers held on July 1 to celebrate its first day as an official member of the Big Ten. "(This) is a game-changer for our university. Incredibly historic," athletic director Julie Hermann told reporters in attendance.

The crowd of 3,000 didn't gather at the school's football stadium that day to relive past glory because, well, Rutgers hasn't had much to celebrate regarding athletics since being founded in 1766 as Queens College.

"You want to summarize it shortly: incredible potential; perennial underachievers — in virtually every sport," said Tom Luicci, a 1977 Rutgers alum and the school's new senior director of digital media.

Rutgers played the first college football game — a 6-4 victory over Princeton on Nov. 6, 1869 — but its share of the Big East championship in 2012 is the school's only major-college conference title in that sport. The Scarlet Knights have never finished a season in the Associated Press top 10 and never played in a New Year's Day bowl.

The past decade has been a high-water mark for Rutgers, with eight bowl games in nine years after appearing in only one before 2005. Last year, the Scarlet Knights went 6-7, including a Pinstripe Bowl loss to Notre Dame, as an American Athletic Conference member.

Rutgers hasn't played in the NCAA men's basketball tournament since 1991, making its Final Four appearance in 1976 a prehistoric anomaly. The Scarlet Knights ended last season with a 92-31 loss to Louisville in the AAC tournament.

The women's basketball team at Rutgers did go 28-9 last season and won the WNIT, adding to the program's legacy that includes Final Four appearances in 2000 and 2007.

None of the 24 sports at Rutgers, however, won a regular-season or conference tournament title in 2013-14. The Scarlet Knights made the NCAA tournament in only women's soccer and gymnastics.

"You're in a corridor of 20 million people with really good high-school sports. It's a tremendous athletic area, and Rutgers has never been able to capitalize on it," said Luicci, a former Newark Star-Ledger sportswriter for 35 years who covered Rutgers football.

Luicci said Rutgers has historically fought internal battles over how much to emphasize sports, lacked a traditional rival and not had enough sustained success to capture an audience inundated with pro sports options.

"It's a tough market," Luicci said. "You have to earn loyalty. You don't automatically get the loyalty you get at a lot of schools."

Instead, Rutgers has been getting noticed for wrong reasons, beginning with the suspension of men's basketball coach Mike Rice for a "pattern of disturbing behavior" less than a month after the school accepted the Big Ten's invitation.

Rice was fired in the spring of 2013. Eddie Jordan replaced him, and it was then revealed
that the former Rutgers player never finished his college degree despite his university bio saying he had.
Jordan survived, but the scandal surrounding his predecessor, Rice, caused Tim Pernetti to resign as athletic director. Hermann took over and controversy followed. Allegations surfaced that she verbally abused players as Tennessee’s volleyball coach in the mid-1990s. This spring, Rutgers “miscommunicated” with paralyzed former football player Eric LeGrand about speaking at the school’s graduation. Also, new quarterback Philip Nelson, a Minnesota transfer, was kicked off the team after being charged with assault.
"No buyer’s remorse at all," Delany said at the Big Ten meetings in May when asked about Rutgers and its latest headlines of woe. Likewise for Rutgers, only the future matters. Might. Maybe. Possibly. Those words point forward.
"There has always been the potential here," Luicci said. "The difference now is that the Big Ten is a platform on which Rutgers can at some point reach its potential."

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Rutgers University
Location: New Brunswick/Piscataway, N.J.
Founded: 1766
Enrollment: 45,000 undergraduate students and 20,000 graduate students
Nickname: Scarlet Knights
2013 football: 6-7 overall and 3-5 in the American Athletic Conference; lost to Notre Dame in the Pinstripe Bowl
2013-14 men’s basketball: 12-21 overall and 5-13 in the AAC
Men’s sports: Baseball, basketball, crcs, country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, track and field, wrestling
Women’s sports: Basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, volleyball
Big Ten expansion | Bitterness subsides; Maryland Terps open to challenge

By Todd Jones
The Columbus Dispatch
Sunday July 20, 2014 6:22 am

Vitriol erupted among Maryland fans when the university announced in November 2012 that it was leaving the Atlantic Coast Conference after nearly six decades to join the Big Ten. Hundreds of angry emails reportedly flooded the office of Maryland President Wallace Loh. Former U.S. congressman Tom McMillen, a Terrapins basketball star in the 1970s, wrote an opinion piece for The Washington Post in which he railed against the secret negotiations that produced the conference switch.

Facebook pages "Maryland to Big Ten — I Hate It" and "Boycott Terps Football" served as venues for venom.

"Everybody was shocked. I know I was," said Johnny Holliday, who's entering his 36th year of broadcasting Maryland football and men's basketball games. "I think the Maryland fans couldn't believe it was going to happen."

"They were saying, 'How could this take place? How could we leave the ACC and our tremendous rivalries with Duke, North Carolina and Virginia?' I was among those. It was overwhelming with people with negative feelings about it."

Initial indignation also hit Gary Williams, who played basketball at Maryland in the 1960s and coached the Terrapins from 1989 to 2011, leading them to their lone national championship in 2002.

Williams, however knew the Big Ten offered top-notch competition and passionate fan bases from coaching Ohio State for three seasons from 1986 to '89.

"It's not like we're going from the ACC to a bad conference. We're going to a great conference," said Williams, who had a 461-252 record in 22 seasons at Maryland.

Williams also understood that Maryland's move, which became official on July 1, made sense because increased revenue from the Big Ten could aid the debt problem facing his alma mater's financially strapped athletic department.

"When people stepped back and took a look at it, it was a positive move," Williams said. "We all have great memories, but at the same time, what's best for the University of Maryland for the future? You can't hold back for past memories."

Williams and Holliday are now excited about this first year in the Big Ten, and they sense general acceptance among Maryland fans, who traditionally focused on the east — the school is less than 40 miles from Washington and Baltimore.

"There's big anticipation," Williams said. "What's your alternative: sit around and complain the rest of your life? Or, let's see how we can make this a really positive thing for Maryland. It's a lot easier to complain than it is to embrace the future, the unknown."

Both Williams and Holliday mentioned how Maryland's Byrd Stadium should crackle with energy on Oct. 4 when Ohio State travels to College Park to play the Terrapins in football.

"There won't be a ticket available, and that hasn't happened in a long time at a football game at Maryland," Holliday said. "I'd much rather see 55,000 people there than 17- or 18,000 against a lower-level ACC team."

Maryland, which has 19 varsity sports, historically has enjoyed more success and support in athletics than Rutgers, the other school entering its first season in the now 14-member Big Ten. The Terrapins have long been known for basketball prowess.

Williams and Lefty Driesell (coach from 1969 to '86) consistently challenged the upper tier of the basketball-centric ACC, providing the program a national name led by star players such as Len Bias, John Lucas, Len Elmore and Joe Smith.

Football at Maryland occasionally has had grand moments, too, highlighted by a 1953 national title — the school's first year as an ACC charter member — and a 2002 Orange Bowl bid in the first of three consecutive seasons of at least 10 wins.

Maryland is a power in women's basketball under coach Brenda Frese. She led the Terrapins to the 2006 national championship and the Final Four last season. The past nine seasons also have included three Elite Eight appearances, two Sweet 16s and a 256-60 record.

The men's soccer team won national titles in 2005 and '08 and lost in the NCAA final in 2013. The Terrapins made the 2012-13 Final Four in field hockey, and this spring, the baseball team advanced to an NCAA super regional.
"People in the Big Ten are going to be surprised at how good some of these Maryland programs are," Holliday said.
Most of the focus, however, will be on football and men's basketball, where Maryland's success has dropped off in the past decade as financial debt piled up.
The Terrapins men's basketball team went 17-15 last season and missed the NCAA tournament for a fourth straight year. They haven't been to the Sweet 16 since 2003, and their average home attendance has dropped 32 percent since the 2007-08 season.
Randy Edsall is 13-24 in three seasons as football coach, including 7-6 a year ago when Maryland's average home crowd of 41,278 wouldn't fill half of Ohio Stadium. The Terrapins now face a schedule stretch of OSU, Iowa, Wisconsin, Penn State, Michigan State and Michigan.
"If we win some of these games, it'll really open the eyes of some of the fans here," Holliday said.
Victories would help dampen lingering vitriol from 21 months ago when the conference switch was announced. Some at Maryland already are embracing possibilities.
"It's not like we have to guard the past to make us good in the future," Williams said.
Colleges: Dollars trump tradition in Big Ten expansion

Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said that adding Rutgers and Maryland is "about money. Everybody wants to dodge that; I don't."

By Todd Jones
The Columbus Dispatch
Sunday July 27, 2014 6:04 am

Peel away from the emotional tug of tradition and view the latest expansion by the now 14-member Big Ten through the prism of economics.

That is how Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith sees this season's addition of Maryland and Rutgers, schools located in Mid-Atlantic states, to the Midwestern-based league.

"From a business point of view, it makes huge sense," Smith said. "This is a business deal. This is about money. Everybody wants to dodge that; I don't. It is about the stability of our conference for the long term."

Money won't be the primary topic of discussion when Maryland and Rutgers take part in their first official Big Ten event at the football media days on Monday and Tuesday in Chicago. Football is the agenda.

Even in football terms, however, the addition of two eastern schools with debt-ridden athletic departments isn't an easy sell to Big Ten fans accustomed to a conference that had expanded only once from 1954 through 2010.

Neither of the newest members has the powerful football pedigree of Nebraska and Penn State, the previous two additions who started conference play in 2011 and 1993, respectively.

Ohio State fans are left to deal with the odd fact that the Buckeyes are scheduled to play Rutgers and Maryland this season but not Wisconsin, which has been a fierce rival the past two decades.

Wisconsin won't play Michigan, Michigan State or Penn State unless they meet in the Big Ten championship game, thanks to the league's realigned East and West divisions.

"I know that change is hard," Smith said. "The reality is that the Big Ten needed to change in order to position ourselves for the 21st-century model of intercollegiate athletic competition."

The changes occurred after the Atlantic Coast Conference, which Maryland helped found in 1953, decided two years ago to add Syracuse and Pittsburgh from the Big East, where Rutgers resided. Notre Dame also joined the ACC in all sports but football. Those moves took place as Texas A&M and Missouri became members of the Southeastern Conference and West Virginia moved to the Big 12.

For protection, the Big Ten looked eastward.

Maryland and Rutgers allow the Big Ten to plant its flag in New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore. Those major markets should help recruiting, expand media coverage and increase sponsorships and alumni donations.

"Adding a Maryland and Rutgers is consistent with what was happening with expansion," Smith said. "It provides a new geography for us to have a presence in, for a number of reasons: television, recruiting, (and) providing Penn State with some geographical partners. The reality is, growth was inevitable for intercollegiate athletic conferences. We needed to be part of that."

Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany, a native of South Orange, N.J., talked often about demographics four years ago when the Big Ten conducted an expansion study that eventually led to the addition of Nebraska.

That study crunched alarming census data about the Rust Belt. Michigan was the only state in the U.S. to lose overall population from 2000 to '10. The number of Ohio residents ages 15 through 19 fell 19.7 percent from 1980 to 2008. And so forth.

"As far as the shifting population, that is reason enough by itself to look at the concept of expansion," Delany said four years ago.

Nebraska brought five national championships in football to the Big Ten, but that state has a population of only 1.86 million.

Rutgers and Maryland are in states with a combined 14.7 million residents. That's more important to the Big Ten in the long term than
short-term numbers such as the 91-87 combined record those schools have had in football since 2007.
Before adding Nebraska in 2011, the Big Ten had schools in eight states and totaled 4.4 million living alumni. Now, the league is in 11 states and has 5.7 million living alumni. Almost 20 percent of them reside in the Washington-New York corridor.
More potential viewers will give the Big Ten more leverage when its 10-year, $1 billion contract with ABC/ESPN expires after 2016. Last year, Delany reportedly told Big Ten trustees that payouts to each school could reach $40 million from a forthcoming new national TV deal.
Although the Northeast traditionally is a pro sports market, the Big Ten noticed how the New York area of 20 million responded to a big-event college football game on Nov. 9, 2006. On that Thursday night, the Manhattan skyline had the Empire State Building lit in scarlet as No. 15 Rutgers, led by star running back Ray Rice, beat visiting No. 3 Louisville. The broadcast drew an 8.1 rating, which is on par with Bowl Championship Series games. Already, the addition of Maryland and Rutgers has beefed up the Big Ten Network's coffers by reaching deals with the cable providers in New York, New Jersey and Maryland.
"This is about the ability to expand into a television market to allow us to expand the viewership of the Big Ten Network, which we've done," Smith said.
So the Big Ten, based in Chicago, has opened a second office in New York. A Big Ten football team will go to the Big Apple this season in the league's partnership with the Pinstripe Bowl, which is played at Yankee Stadium. In 2017, the Big Ten men's basketball tournament will be held in Washington. The league also is taking part in the Gavitt Tipoff Games, an annual early-season series with the Big East. The push eastward includes Johns Hopkins, based in Baltimore, joining the Big Ten this season as an affiliate member in men's lacrosse.
Smith said he even expects the Big Ten to someday expand full membership again, maybe after five or six years.
"There will be a point," he said, "when the business model changes again, frankly, because of media platforms."
Already, this is no longer a Big Ten familiar to Ohio State fans.

"I understand the apprehension," Smith said, "but at the end of the day, our responsibility in the conference is our needs from a business perspective. So for the financial stability of our conference and strength of our conference, it's the best deal in the country."

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Ohio State, Big Ten looking to make big statement in high-profile bowl games

By: Todd Jones

The Columbus Dispatch - December 30, 2016 02:54 AM

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The moment of truth has arrived for the Big Ten. Time has come for the league to cap its football renaissance this season with a flourish in six major bowls.

This has been the Big Ten’s year, even more so than 2014 when Ohio State won the national championship in the inaugural College Football Playoff.

OSU has further cemented its place behind SEC powerhouse Alabama at the forefront of the sport this season, but the Buckeyes haven’t been alone in carrying the Big Ten’s flag while earning another playoff spot.

Much of the season was spent debating the merits of the Big Ten possibly ending up with two of the four playoff spots. That didn’t materialize in the end.

Still, the Big Ten finished with four of the top eight teams in the final CFP rankings: No. 3 OSU, No. 5 Penn State, No. 6 Michigan, and No. 8 Wisconsin.

A total of 10 Big Ten teams were awarded bowl berths, and so far the league has split its first four
Ohio State, Big Ten looking to make big statement in high-profile bowl games

Northwestern beat Pittsburgh in the Pinstripe Bowl and Minnesota defeated Washington State in the Holiday Bowl. But Maryland fell to Boston College in the Quick Lane Bowl while Indiana lost to Utah in the Foster Farms Bowl.

Now it's time for the Big Ten's big stage. Can the league live up to its refreshing hype in six high-profile bowl matchups?

Ohio State has the biggest opportunity on Saturday when the No. 3 Buckeyes meet No. 2 Clemson in a College Football Playoff semifinal here at the Fiesta Bowl.

Today, the Big Ten has two other marquee schools in bowl games.

Nebraska plays Tennessee at 3:30 p.m. in the Music City Bowl, and Michigan takes on Florida State in the Orange Bowl at 8 p.m.

On Monday, Big Ten champion Penn State plays USC in the Rose Bowl, Wisconsin meets undefeated Western Michigan in the Cotton Bowl, and Iowa takes on Florida in the Outback Bowl.

Outcomes in the five bowls being played today and Monday will be added to how Ohio State fares on Saturday to form a narrative for the Big Ten.

The playoff has been billed as the Alabama invitational because the Crimson Tide are going for a second straight national title and fifth since 2009 under the robot coach posing as a human, otherwise known as Nick Saban.

"If Alabama was 8-4 they'd still be dominating the conversation," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "It would just be a different story. They've dominated the conversation because they're Alabama and they've been unbelievable. It's unprecedented what they've done. Now they got a chance to win another national championship. But I think anybody can win of these final four."

However, other than the Crimson Tide, the SEC has faded from the national conversation after winning eight of the past 10 national championships. Instead, the Big Ten has risen up.

Swinney credits OSU coach Urban Meyer — 61-5 in his five seasons with the Buckeyes — for changing the Big Ten that before his 2012 arrival in Columbus had been scoffed at for being too rigid, too conservative, and much too slow on the field.

"He's going to compete and recruit and challenge," Swinney said. "It's up here. If you've been down here, you're going to have to get here with him because he's not coming down. That's how he's changed it, like when Nick Saban went to Alabama. He's changed everything.

"His emphasis on recruiting in the south when he got the job because of his ties in Florida and Georgia and so forth, that's played out for him, for sure."
Ohio State, Big Ten looking to make big statement in high-profile bowl game.

The tipping point for the Big Ten occurred two years ago this weekend.

Ohio State upset Alabama in the playoff semifinals at the Sugar Bowl, sending the Buckeyes on the way to a national title victory over Oregon a week later. That game Meyer his third national championship, his first two coming in the SEC at Florida.

While OSU was taking down the top-ranked Tide, Michigan State beat Baylor in the Cotton Bowl, and Wisconsin defeated the SEC's Auburn in the Outback Bowl.

Those resounding victories occurred after Michigan hired headline-producing Jim Harbaugh as its coach. He's since resurrected the Wolverines, and took OSU to double-overtime in Columbus in this season's regular-season finale.

The magical postseason of the 2014 season stood in stark contrast to when the 2010 season ended with the Big Ten going 0-5 in bowl games on New Year’s Day.

Although Alabama won last year's national title, the Big Ten still place Michigan State in the playoffs and enjoyed three huge bowl victories in OSU over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl, Michigan over Florida in the Capital One Bowl, and Wisconsin over USC in the Holiday Bowl.

Those wins set the stage for the Big Ten's big return in 2016.

Now, can the league deliver once again beginning today?

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We like to focus a lot on the skill players, and there will be many on the field Saturday for both Ohio State and Clemson.

However, this game, like most, will be decided in the trenches.

Can OSU's offensive line handle the big, athletic defensive front of the Tigers?

One player who must play well for the Buckeyes is Isaiah Prince. The sophomore right tackle has struggled this season. Bill Rabinowitz has a story in the Dispatch about Prince's changed attitude.

Kyle Robertson / Dispatch

A teammate said right tackle Isaiah Prince "has worked his butt off this bowl season" to improve.

Our paper's other OSU beat reporter, Tim May, has a feature story about Clemson's defensive line. The Tigers have the nation's third-most sacks (46) this season behind Florida State and Boston College.

May also has a notebook of items about Clemson, led by Swinney's comments about quarterback Deshaun Watson, a Heisman Trophy finalist the past two seasons. He'll be entering the NFL draft at this, his junior season.