Cotton Bowl fever hasn’t hit

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

For many Ohio State University football fans, the bloom is off any bowl game that is not the Rose Bowl.

There just isn’t as much enthusiasm among fans to travel to Dallas to see the Buckeyes play in the Cotton Bowl, area travel agents said.

"Columbus is a Rose Bowl town," said Jerry Dye of University Travel Service. "The football fans around here have been brainwashed into thinking that the Big Ten champions go to the Rose Bowl and losers go to other bowl games."

The travel agency received only a couple of calls yesterday from people interested in a trip to the Cotton Bowl, Dye said.

With that kind of response, Dye isn’t sure he will try to put together a Cotton Bowl package of game tickets, air fare and hotel accommodations.

It would be different if the Buckeyes were going to the Rose Bowl. Travel agents would be bending over backward to accommodate fans, said Holly Courson, of the Travel Emporium.

"If Ohio State had beaten Michigan, I’m sure some travel agencies would have stayed open late on the day of the game just to book packages to Pasadena," Courson said. "But you wouldn’t see that for the Cotton Bowl."

Some travel agencies that were promoting Rose Bowl packages last week when it looked like the Buckeyes might go to Pasadena, Calif., are scrambling to put together a Cotton Bowl package.

"We worked on Rose Bowl packages all last week," said Karen Layton, group travel consultant for People’s Travel Service. "But with Ohio State losing to Michigan, that just turned out to be kind of a waste of time."

But People’s Travel Service is offering two- and three-night Cotton Bowl packages that include round-trip air fare, hotel accommodations at the Dallas Hilton, tickets to the game and pre-game parties.

Three-night package rates are $599 for people who want a room to themselves, $399 to share a room with one person and $519 for a room with two other people.

Two-night package rates are $569 for a single, $519 for a double and $499 for a triple.

"It’s surprising, but we have had a lot of interest," Layton said.

The Cotton Bowl and Dallas just don’t stack up to the Rose Bowl and southern California, travel agents said.

The warm southern California weather is as popular with some Buckeye fans as the game itself. The normal temperatures in Dallas during January range from 34 to 55 degrees. Contrast that with 47 and 67 in southern California.

Southern California also has Disneyland, Universal Studios and beaches. Dallas doesn’t boast those attractions, causing some travel agencies to shorten the Cotton Bowl packages.

Many Rose Bowl packages cover seven days. A trip to the Cotton Bowl may last only four days, some agents said.

"There just isn’t that much to do in Dallas," said Lori Hingston, travel consultant for German Village Travel.

George Glaskin, president of Travel Associates, said his company is putting together a Cotton Bowl package, even though the demand isn’t great so far.

"I don’t know if it is too early to make plans or if the disappointment that the Buckeyes aren’t going to the Rose Bowl is that great," Glaskin said. "But we are in the process of putting something together."
**Three Cotton Bowl package trips ready**

By Anya Silecky
Lantern staff writer

The prediction for Dallas on New Year's Day is scarlet and gray when Buckeye fans arrive to cheer their team on to Cotton Bowl victory.

Package trips for the Ohio State community were finalized Tuesday morning, said Mitchel D. Livingston, dean of student life.

Planning for Cotton Bowl trips began immediately in order to come up with economical packages, Livingston said.

Travel agencies put in package bids to a committee which then chose the tours that best met the university's needs, Livingston said.

Three tours are leaving from the university for Dallas. They include one package for students, faculty, staff and band members, a second for alumni and a third for official university representatives.

Travel Market Incorporated won the bid for the student, faculty, staff and band package, which includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, Cotton Bowl Parade, tickets and transportation to the game and a souvenir, Livingston said.

The tour is scheduled to leave Dec. 28 and to return Jan. 2. Packages are available by either calling 292-1520 or by talking to travel representatives located at a table in the Ohio Union, near the West Ballroom.

Although the hotel has not been selected, Livingston said the total cost of the package per person would be $707 for a single room, $865 for a double, $524 for a triple, and $505 for a room with quadruple occupancy.

Livingston said he will travel to Dallas this weekend to inspect the available hotels and restaurants. Optional excursions being considered are horseback riding and trips to the Dallas-Fort Worth area and to South Fork Ranch.

Ticket sales for the package begin Monday.

Ohio State received an allocation of 12,000 tickets to the game, said Paul R. Krebbs, director of ticket sales.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni can also buy tickets to the game for $26.50 at the athletic ticket office in St. John Arena beginning Monday, Krebbs said.

The Alumni Association is sponsoring its own tour through Conlin-Dodds Bowl Tour travel agency ranging in price from $689 to $799 per person. The same package without airfare can be purchased for $393 to $503. Information on that tour is available at 292-4200.

A third package for official university representatives is being put together by the university's Bowl Game Committee.

As one of its functions, the committee recommends possible delegates to President Edward H. Jennings, who then decides which people will go to the game as official university representatives, said committee chairman Madison H. Scott, vice president for Personnel Services.

That trip, put together by Excursions Unlimited, is paid in part from bowl game receipts and part from university funds. In the past, the group has included between 80 and 120 delegates.
COLOR THEM READY FOR COTTON BOWL

By Julia Osborne
Dispatch Accent Reporter

DALLAS — In most places in central Ohio, Eleanor Cherryholmes and her Ohio State University outfit wouldn't get a second glance. The 1956 OSU grad has a red sweater emblazoned with a script "Ohio," the requisite gray skirt, and button earrings in tores of scarlet and gray.

But she does get a few glances when she dons her university colors here in her home city. She shrugs off those glances. "I'm just a transplanted Buckeye," she said.

Cherryholmes and her husband, Ed, are two members of the OSU Alumni Chapter of Dallas attending the 51st Cotton Bowl Classic today. The contest pits OSU against Texas A&M.

Debbie Testement, a 1972 graduate, is president of the chapter, which has about 200 active members. (There are about 2,500 OSU graduates in the Dallas area.)

In addition, about 325 alumni and their families, most from central Ohio, came here on the official Ohio State alumni tour.

"NOT VERY many people down here know what a buckeye is," Testement said. "But they do know that we're here. There's really a lot of respect in the area for Ohio State."

The local alumni association planned activities for those attending the Cotton Bowl, including receptions and events featuring the band, the cheerleaders and Coach Earle Bruce.

Members of the tour from Columbus also made stops at Southfork, the ranch used in the TV show Dallas, and Billy Bob's, a honky-tonk style nightspot in nearby Ft. Worth.

Columbus alumni came south appropriately scarlet and gray. Pat Smart, a 1951 grad who is Eleanor Cherryholmes' sister, came to Dallas with OSU outfits for herself and for Patty and Timmy Buckeye, two Cabbage Patch dolls which she has dressed in school colors. "They have to dress in scarlet and gray," she said, "since they'll be at the game with me."

The Dallas OSU alums knew that a Cotton Bowl invitation — and the chance for them to host the team and fans — was a possibility only if OSU lost to Michigan in November. But no one here will admit to cheering for the Wolverines to win.

Some local fans are looking forward to the game with special anticipation. Milly Colmery, a 1945 grad who with her husband, Bob, has lived in north Dallas 25 years, has been able to attend only one OSU game in that time.

And Helen and Joel Carr, San Angelo, Texas, residents who graduated from Ohio State in the mid-'60s "have a lot of friends here who are Texas A&M grads," Mrs. Carr said. "It's a good opportunity for us to show them that Big Ten schools can win over Southwest Conference schools."

Riley Couch, a 1971 Texas A&M grad who is president of the Dallas A&M club, is more reluctant to make a prediction about the outcome of the game. He can predict a big turnout in support of his Aggies: There are more than 9,000 A&M grads in the Dallas area alone. "It is a big deal to be in the Cotton Bowl," he said.

And if you don't think so, Randi Maysknap, a 1978 A&M grad who is president of the Houston A&M Alumni organization, will soon set you straight. More than 25,000 A&M alums live in her area "and we are rabid fans," she said.

OSU grad Milly Colmery gets autograph from Coach Earle Bruce.

They are as devoted to their maroon and white as OSU fans are to their school colors. Maysknap will attend the game in her maroon sweater and matching boots, accessorized with a Cotton Bowl hat and earrings in the shape of little cotton bolls.

"There will be a lot of maroon polyester around," she said.

As Testement has found, these Aggies are unclear about just what a "buckeye" is. Couch offered that it is "some sort of flower."

Maysknap was more direct. "All I know is that it's something we have to beat the hell out of," she said.

And what if her team falls short? "We're all good sports," she said. "We're much better winners than losers ... but we've had practice at both."

Eleanor Cherryholmes backs Buckeyes.
From left, Jeff Holt, Debbie Testment, Barb Holt, Gloria Ramirez, Sarah Eaton, Randy Schaefer, Gary Stiefel, Mike Lee
Buckeye fans tailgate in Dallas

By Julia Osborne
Dispatch Aceint Reporter

DALLAS — It was a couple of thousand miles from Ohio Stadium, but the parking lot at the 51st Cotton Bowl Classic had a decisively familiar look to Ohio State University football fans yesterday.

The fans were in Dallas for the match-up between OSU and Texas A&M. The Buckeyes won the contest, 26-12.

Wendell and Janice Moxley, whose son Tim is a freshman on the football team, drove their motor home to the game from their house in Columbus. Mr. Moxley and his sons have customized the beige vehicle, adding broad scarlet and gray stripes and putting a yard-high red “O” on its side.

“We bought this van last summer, just for tailgating,” he said. He plans to replace the beige-flowered wallpaper with some of scarlet and gray design this winter. The Moxleys were offering a spread of hot dogs, burgers and snacks.

Most fans arrived by 8 a.m. — more than four hours before the kickoff.

Most fans arrived by 8 a.m. — more than four hours before the kickoff — to stake out prime spots for their vans.

That meant a 4:15 a.m. departure for the Stelzers, OSU fans who live in Houston. Stan Stelzer, who attended OSU in the mid-1970s and is part of the fourth generation of his family to attend OSU, scrambled up on the motor home to hoist a Buckeye flag while his mother, Louise, huddled in a fur coat against the brisk early morning temperatures.

A few ardent fans drove their vans to the parking lot New Year’s Eve to assure themselves of good parking spots.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Donna Braig, who lives in Buckeye Lake, Ohio. “At midnight, somebody set off firecrackers and we had a great time.”

Also there all night were Columbus residents Bill and Ginny Buskirk. This was the 17th bowl game the Buskirks have attended, and they’re on their third van.

Dr. Jay Pfeiffer and his wife, Lynda, of Kenton, Ohio, had one of the most lavish buffets, with traditional Midwestern favorites laid out along with pots of Texas chili, plates of tacos and Texas barbecue, and a large can of Neiman-Marcus’ exclusive popcorn.

Theirs was also the only party with dual loyalty: Their motor home flew both an OSU flag and a Texas A&M pennant. Bumper stickers cheered on both the Buckeyes and the Aggies.

“We own some cattle with a family down here” and were visiting them in nearby Ft. Worth, Dr. Pfeiffer said.

Since they all came to the game together, “we figured this was the only fair way to do it.”
Fans eye big game soberly

By Alan Miller
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Some fans say that watching
the giant television screens at the
Scoreboard lounge is like being at
a Buckeyes game.

If that's true, it was quiet in
Texas yesterday.

"Today, it's dead," said Libby
Carnes, a waitress at the bar on
Sunbury Rd. where the Cotton
Bowl game between Ohio State
University and Texas A&M was
displayed on the lounge's big-
screen television. "Everybody is
just sitting here."

During games like the OSU
and Alabama matchup early in
the season, it was standing-room
only at the bar, she said.

"It was crazy here then. I guess
it's kind of defeating not to be in
the Rose Bowl."

Bob Adorno agreed that OSU
was in the wrong bowl to draw a
big crowd.

"People are not into the Cotton
Bowl," he said.

Adorno is a Reynoldsburg resi-
dent home on vacation from the
University of Denver. He and two
friends from Reynoldsburg, John
Felker and Greg Davis, did what
they could to liven the Scoreboard
crowd.

They wore OSU jerseys and
caps, and they screamed louder
than anyone in the room when the
Buckeyes did something to cheer
about.

"It's not as rowdy as a lot of
little bars, but they yell and they
cheer them on, knowing that the
Buckeyes can't hear them," said
Felker, an OSU junior.

When the game became bur-
ing, Felker and Davis said there
were other things to watch.

"Earle Bruce is sporty in that
suit," Felker said.

"It's awesome," Davis said of
the OSU coach's formal outfit, a
switch from his traditionally cas-
ual look. "Love those red shoes.
And he's looking pretty slim, too."

Lynn Byersmith and her fiancée,
Chuck Hecker, both of the
North Side, said that even if the
barroom had been filled with
screaming people, it wouldn't be
the same as being at the game.

"If I was at the game, it'd be a
little rowdier, and I know I would
be, too," Byersmith said.
Buckeyes whip Texas A&M in Cotton Bowl

By George Strode
Dispatch Sports Editor

DALLAS — Five Ohio State interceptions against Kevin Murray, the Southwest Conference offensive player of the year, led to two touchdowns and set up a third yesterday in the underdog Buckeyes’ 26-12 Cotton Bowl victory over Texas A&M.

Chris Spielman, a unanimous choice as the game’s top defensive player, had two of the interceptions. He returned one 24 yards for a touchdown and a 14-6 lead early in the second half.

Spielman’s linebacking teammate, Michael Kee of Eastmoor, wrapped up Ohio State’s 10-3 season with a Cotton Bowl-record 49-yard scoring interception with 2 minutes, 49 seconds left.

Byron “Whizzer” White of Colorado had set the Cotton Bowl scoring interception record in 1947 with a 47-yard return against Rice.

“I’VE ALWAYS said Chris Spielman is the best linebacker in the country against the pass and run,” Ohio State Coach Earle Bruce said. “The defense, facing adversity at times, fought back and put points on the board. That was the difference today.”

Bruce surprised a national television audience and 74,188 Cotton Bowl fans by switching from his usual dress of a baseball hat, windbreaker, golf shirt and sneakers. He wore a charcoal suit and a matching fedora with scarlet feather.

He also outfitted his players with red shoes for the first time since Woody Hayes’ 1976 team wore them in a 23-10 Rose Bowl loss to UCLA.

Ohio State’s defense, giving Bruce his second-best record in his eight-year OSU career, forced Murray into his worst day of a 9-3 Aggie season.

MURRAY, Texas A&M’s junior quarterback, threw eight interceptions during the season. In the second half, Murray threw a Cotton Bowl-record five. Joe Montana of Notre Dame had set the record of four interceptions in the 1979 Cotton Bowl against Houston.

“They just didn’t whup us,” Murray said. “Mistakes killed us.”

Against the Buckeyes, Murray completed 12 of 31 passes for 143 yards. It was his lowest total of the season.

Spielman’s scoring return with 13:39 remaining in the third quarter marked the first interception for a touchdown in 45 years in the Cotton Bowl.
Victorious Ohio State football players carry Coach Earle Bruce off field after Cotton Bowl game.
Buckeye linebacker Michael Kee races down the sidelines en route to a 49-yard touchdown and the fourth touchdown by the Buckeyes against Texas A&M. Kee's interception of Aggie quarterback Kevin Murray comes much to the displeasure of the home fans and home team in the background.

In the Big Ten's initial appearance at the 51st Cotton Bowl Classic, Ohio State defeated Texas A&M 28-12, Thursday.

Buckeye linebacker Chris Spielman intercepted two Kevin Murray passes and scored a touchdown on his initial theft, a 24-yard return after stepping in front of Aggie receiver Rod Bernstine.

Murray, the Southwest Conference offensive player of the year, threw five interceptions -- a Cotton Bowl record, previously held by Joe Montana of Notre Dame in 1979 -- who threw four.

Buckeye linebackers Michael Kee and Eric Kumerow and roverback Sonny Gordon accounted for a trio of Murray's interceptions and Kee scored the second defensive touchdown by Ohio State by running 49 yards for the final score of the afternoon.

Kee's score was also a Cotton Bowl record for the longest interception return.

Aside from their excellent defensive performance in stunning the partisan Aggie crowd, the Buckeyes broke out new additions to their gameday wardrobe: new red shoes and Coach Earle Bruce's charcoal-colored suit and matching fedora.

Bruce's apparel differed from his usual red ball cap and matching Ohio State jacket. He also chose to pass on his personal headsets.

The shoes were compliments of the manufacturer with which the Buckeyes have a contractual agreements with, for the Big Ten's first trip to the Cotton Bowl Classic.

Ohio State, in finishing 10-3, closed the books on the winningest season since Bruce's initial season in 1979 when the Buckeyes finished 11-1.
Coach Earle Bruce questions the ruling of an official as members of the coaching staff look on in bewilderment during play at the Cotton Bowl.

Earle Bruce accepts the Cotton Bowl trophy for the Buckeyes Thursday.
Quarterback Jim Karsatos scored the first Buckeye touchdown from three yards out, by cutting inside an Aggie defender around right end with 14:19 remaining in the second quarter. Karsatos' run gave the Buckeyes a 7-3 lead and he avenged an interception in the Aggie endzone on the previous possession.
Buckeye linebacker Chris Spielman reaches for his second interception of the day in front of Aggie receiver Shea Walker (85). Freshman David Brown is defending in the foreground. The Buckeyes intercepted five Kevin Murray passes, a Cotton Bowl record.
Senators honor Spielman, Carter and Buckeye team

The Ohio State Senate, hailing the Buckeyes for their Cotton Bowl victory against the Texas A&M Aggies Jan. 1, presented the team with a resolution in its honor Wednesday.

All-America team members Chris Spielman and Cris Carter and recruiting coordinator Bob McNee accepted the resolution on behalf of the team from Sen. Eugene Watts, R-Columbus, whose district includes the university.

Spielman also received a resolution in his honor from Sen. Scott Oelslager, R-Canton. Spielman's hometown of Massillon is located in Oelslager's district.

Carter received a separate resolution in his honor from Sen. Barry Levey, R-Middletown, who represents Carter's hometown.