MISSING TITLE TALK, ATTENDANCE DROPS
The failure to produce a game with a bearing on the collegiate national championship affected attendance at the Sugar Bowl. There were hundreds of empty seats in the upper level and in the bottom and second levels. The attendance for the game was 67,269, far less than last year's Superdome record of 78,344 for the matchup between Florida and Florida State, which decided the national championship. The Sugar Bowl attendance record is 85,161, set for the 1973 matchup between Notre Dame and Alabama at Tulane Stadium.

RED, GRAY COLORS OF THE NIGHT
Boisterous Ohio State fans wearing red and gray were in the majority at the game. Buckeyes fans began the game with a raucous celebration at the entrance of the Ohio State band and drowned out Florida State's first tomahawk chop cheer.

TICKET SCALPERS TAKE A LOSS
Scalping tickets is against a city ordinance, and persons violating the rule with Sugar Bowl tickets paid the price in
SEMINOLES TICKETS FIND NEW HOME

The Sugar Bowl gave 2,000 tickets from Florida State’s allotment of 15,000 to the office of the Social Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

DIXON HONORED BY SUPERDOME

Dave Dixon, who led the drive to develop the Superdome, was honored during pregame ceremonies. Dixon was inducted into the Superdome’s Wall of Fame by Alan Zaubrecher, the chairman of the board of commissioners of the Louisiana Stadium and Exhibition District. Dixon is the fifth person and the second nonplayer inducted into the Wall of Fame. He joins former New Orleans Saints players Archie Manning and Rickey Jackson, former Saints general manager Jim Finks, and former New Orleans Jazz basketball player Pete Maravich.

A LITTLE ORANGE IN THE STANDS

Some University of Tennessee and Peyton Manning fans attended the Sugar Bowl instead of the Orange Bowl, in which the Volunteers face Nebraska today. There was a sign behind the Ohio State bench that read, “Manning & Big Orange Fans = Champions.” The banner was removed before the game.

BANDS GET PLACE TO MAKE STAND

Unlike previous college games in the Superdome, facility officials added sideline sections for the bands from Florida State, Ohio State and a host of high schools. The sections went from goal line to goal line and were 13 to 15 rows deep. For other games, such as the Bayou Classic, the bands sat in the stands.

From staff reports

Seminoles’ speed betters Buckeyes

By JOHN DeSHAIZER
Staff writer

The potential prize wasn’t the same for Florida State as in two of the past four seasons, when appearances in the Orange and Sugar bowls in 1994 and 1995 determined national championships.

In fact, for several extended stretches of the Nokia Sugar Bowl, the Seminoles appeared as inspired by their appearance as their fans, the majority of whom dodged New Orleans and a game that had no bearing on the national title.

Which must have left Ohio State and its fans wondering what might have happened if the Seminoles had exhibited 60 minutes of tunnel vision.

Even though it was not so sharp, Florida State sliced through Ohio State, 31-14, in front of an announced crowd of 67,289 on Thursday night in the Superdome.

“We feel very fortunate to win the ballgame,” Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said. “I’m so glad for (wide receiver) E.G. (Green), (quarterback) Thad (Busby) and a lot of our seniors, that they were able to go out as good as they did.”

Green and Busby especially went out with a bang. Green, selected Most Outstanding Player, had seven receptions for 176 yards and a touchdown. Busby completed 22 of 33 passes for 334 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. He also ran for a touchdown.

“We watched them on film, bus couldn’t tell about them, because there

Ohio State receiver David Boston (8) tries to catch Florida State’s Shevin Smith on an interception return.

Bowden keeps FSU on path of excellence

A year ago, he lost a shot at a second national championship, lost it by 20 points, to the school that is No. 1 on his hate list.

But 12 months after losing, 62-20, to the Florida Gators in the Superdome, Bobby Bowden and Florida State were back. The coach made the Nokia Sugar Bowl his 16th postseason victory, one more than Alabama’s Bear Bryant, two shy of the record held by Penn State’s 71-year-old Joe Paterno.

But that wasn’t the big story.

The big story Thursday night was Bobby Bowden sustaining the most consistent run in the history of college football.

The Seminoles’ 31-14 victory against Ohio State clinched no less than a No. 4
LOFTY STREAK: Florida State's victory against Ohio State in the 64th Sugar Bowl assures that the Seminoles will finish among the top four in The Associated Press poll for the 10th consecutive year, a record.

HOME NOLE: Florida State has one player from New Orleans—freshman defensive end Roland Seymour of St. Augustine High School. The Sugar Bowl was Seymour's first opportunity to play in the Superdome. St. Aug didn't play in the Dome while he was there, and last season, he was redshirted when the Seminoles played Florida. Seymour made the tackle after the Seminoles' first punt, limiting Ohio State's David Boston to a 2-yard return.

SUPERDOME SUCCESS: Florida State is 7-1 in the Superdome. The lone loss was last January to Florida. The Seminoles lost to Tulane in 1983, but the Green Wave had to forfeit the victory because it had an ineligible player.

NOT THAT SICK: Right tackle Ross Brannon had a viral flu and did not start the game. Brannon, a freshman, was replaced in the lineup by Jerry Carmichael, another freshman. Brannon was in the game by the second series, however.

COLD, HOT: Thad Busby, who was boosed by Florida State fans after last year's Sugar Bowl loss to Florida, threw an interception on the Seminoles' second play from scrimmage. He then completed his next five passes. On the play after the Seminoles got to the Ohio State 8, however, Busby's

Florida State wide receiver E.G. Green (19) caught seven passes for 176 yards with one touchdown.

FSU gets a boost from Green

Split end’s first half keys victory

damage. Enough damage to help propel Florida State to victory against Ohio State on Thursday.

On a night when the Seminoles' offense looked as if it were running on a half-empty tank, Green provided the necessary football’s equivalent of one rim-rattling dunk after another.

For his efforts, he was doused with a jug of water in the final minute of the game. It may have been the only thing that cooled him off all night.

All it needed was the Green light.

Ohio State pulled to 24-14 in the fourth quarter, giving Florida State fans reason to squirm. But not for long. Again, it was Green to the rescue.

Moments after the Buckeyes’ touchdown, Green buried in a
Seminole backed up by defense
FSU reserves play key role in victory
By TED LEWIS Staff writer

"Uh-oh," thought Florida State reserve cornerback Troy Saunders. "Here we go again."

A year ago, Saunders had been pressed into a starting role two days before the Sugar Bowl when starter Samari Rolle went down. Saunders broke up three passes in the first half before exiting with an injury as the Seminoles were pounded by the Florida Gators in last year's national title game, 12-20.

Thursday night, Rolle made it through most of the first quarter before injuring his foot, just a few plays after starting linecbacker Daryl Bush was lost to a knee injury.

But this time, Saunders—along with linebackers Bobby Rhodes and Demetro Stephens—hung around until the end, playing key roles in the Seminoles' victory against ninth-ranked Ohio State.

"I'm a junior, so I'm supposed to be up to the task," Saunders said. "It's hard when you lose two seniors like that, especially when Daryl went out because he makes all the calls.

"We were ready, though."

Saunders' biggest play came in the second quarter with the Seminoles leading 7-3 and Ohio State threatening at the Seminoles' 4-yard line.

Jackson threw for David Boston in Seminoles' area of the end zone. Saunders didn't get to the ball, but he managed to shield Boston from the ball.

Ohio State faked a field goal on the next play but it was negated when receiver John Lomakin failed to cross the numbers coming off the side line. The Buckeyes eventually missed a field goal attempt and FSU scored two touchdowns before halftime to open a 21-3 lead.

"If they'd gotten away with that, it would have been heartbreaking," Saunders said. "We'd shut them down and give up a touchdown like that might have changed the whole outcome.

"But we thought it was funny, too, because here they were supposed to be the smashmouth team and they were trying trick stuff like we were supposed to do."

Ohio State did play smashmouth football in the third quarter, turning to the running game to pound out two long drives.

But both stalled inside Florida State territory, part of a night that saw the Buckeyes convert four of 15 third-down situations, and all the Buckeyes had to show for the quarter was a field goal and a safety.

The Florida State defense grabbed the momentum again at the end of the quarter on Andre Wadsworth's interception that set up a field goal, and the Buckeyes didn't have time to rely solely on the run in the fourth quarter.

The Buckeyes finished with 325 yards in total offense, 84 more than the Seminoles had averaged allowing in the regular season, but only one touchdown.

"We let them run on us a little bit, but they weren't getting it into the end zone," said Seminoles' All-America linebacker Sam Cowart, who shared the team tackle lead with nine. "Just making them try field goals was a victory.

"After that, all we had to do was put our ears back and go."

Florida State strong safety Shevin Smith, right, takes down Ohio State receiver Ken-Yon Rambo.

State's comeback hopes. Not that it squelched Green's unfulfilled desire.

"It would've been nice to have a national championship," he said.

Instead he had to settle for an MVP trophy and a Green-tinted victory.

Darrell Williams
FSU's speed, pressure stop OSU's offense

Notes keep quarterbacks off balance

By JOHN REID
Staff writer

Ohio State quarterbacks Stanley Jackson and Joe Germaine did not get much time.

Pressure came from the corners and inside. They had to scramble to avoid getting sacked by Florida State's quick and imposing defensive front. They had to hurry throws. And when they got time, both Jackson and Germaine forced several errant passes to wide receivers.

Germaine was intercepted twice, Jackson once. Florida State's tenacious defensive attack rambled through a Buckeyes offense that had averaged 31 points a game and 415 total yards. FSU had six sacks.

"We did not have time to throw the football," Ohio State coach John Cooper said. "They played their ends extremely wide. We were trying to run counters and misdirection plays in the first half."

"We finally started running north and south in the second half." Ohio State's did not score a touchdown until 8:47 remained in the game. Germaine, under heavy pass rush, threw a 60-yard pass to tight end John Lumpkin, who grabbed the ball by his fingertips.

Florida State took advantage of Ohio State's weak offensive line.

Jackson played primarily the third quarter, Germaine the fourth.

Germaine completed 10 of 26 passes for 173 yards. Jackson completed six of 10 for 34 yards. Jackson was sacked four times.

"They just took it to us," Lumpkin said. "They came with a lot of pressure.

Florida State spotted itself a 21-3 lead at halftime. The Buckeyes almost had as many carries as yards gained during the half — 19 carries for 20 yards. The Buckeyes ended with 138 yards rushing.

Jackson was the Buckeyes' leading rusher in the half with eight carries for 21 yards. He got flushed from the pocket, saw an opening and gained 26 yards. That was the Buckeyes' longest run of the night.

Pope Pearson, the Buckeyes' leading rusher, was a non-factor until the third quarter. He had a minus-10 yards at halftime but finished with 60 yards on 22 carries.

Ohio State was able drive the ball, but its only scoring through three quarters were field goals of 40 and 34 yards and a safety.

A typical drive for the Buckeyes: An 11-play, 46-yard drive in the second quarter ended in an incompletion. Lumpkin caught a touchdown pass from holder Brent Bartholomew on a fake field goal attempt, but the play was nullified.

Lumpkin was not inside the hash mark when the 25-second clock started and was flagged for.
Florida State's "Silver Bullets" shoot blanks against Seminoles

By MARTY MULE
Staff writer

Ohio State's "Silver Bullets," the Buckeyes' defense — which ranked second nationally in pass efficiency — saw passes flying every which way, and was almost helpless to do anything about it.

Florida State won by pressuring the Buckeyes' secondary — just as it has all its 1997 opponents — as the fast Seminole receivers and backs sped past the Ohio State defensive backs to open areas.

Ohio State opponents averaged 145 passing yards in 12 regular-season games.

The Seminoles had 334 against Ohio State — 236 by the end of the third quarter against OSU.

And they might have had more — and the Sugar Bowl could have been out of reach early — but for two first-half interceptions.

"Hey, they were the real deal," said Buckeyes safety Damon Moore, after FSU quarterback Thad Busby completed 22 of 33 passes to four receivers. "Florida State was by far the best passing team we've played against."

Moore intercepted Busby on the second play from scrimmage at the Ohio State 37, and returned the ball 24 yards to the FSU 39.

The Buckeyes looked to be in business, but OSU squandered its first opportunity and ended up punting into the end zone.

Two Seminoles' series later, after a 72-yard drive that featured three passes in seven plays, cornerbacks Ahmed Plummer intercepted Busby in the end zone.

From there, Ohio State drove to the Seminoles' 23, where Dan Stultz kicked a field goal that gave the Buckeyes their only lead.

By halftime, the handwriting was on the Superdome wall — and it didn't say anything about an Ohio State victory.

Travis Minor slipped out of the FSU backfield, past Moore, for a 17-yard gain to the 1-yard line, and a play later fullback William McCray ran for a touchdown that gave the Seminoles an insurmountable 21-3 lead.

"That was my man," Moore said. "He kind of stopped and Busby put it right on the money. That was it."

The pass defense indirectly led to Ohio State's last gasp. Busby hit Peter Warrick on a 44-yard third-quarter pass, but Warrick was called for pushing off Moore. The Seminoles not only lost the pass yardage but were penalized to their 21.

On the first play, Ohio State got a safety when Busby intentionally grounded a pass from the 21-yard line, a play on which linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer kept an FSU receiver shielded from Busby's vision.

But that was essentially it for the Buckeyes.

"We didn't underestimate Florida State," Ohio State coach John Cooper said. "They made more big plays tonight than anybody did against us this season."

Ohio State's Ahmed Plummer cuts in front of Florida State's Peter Warrick for an interception.

BAD THROW I: In the 1st half, while under pressure from Florida State's pass rush, Germaine floated a pass toward split end David Boston that was intercepted by Seminoles strong safety Shevin Smith. He returned the ball 51 yards to Ohio State's 23-yard line. Two plays later, Florida State fullback William McCray scored on a 1-yard run with 10 seconds remaining in the 1st half to give the Seminoles a 21-3 lead.

BAD THROW II: In the last 3rd quarter while trying to avoid the Florida State pass rush, starting quarterback Stanley Jackson scrambled to his left and threw a pass across the field. It was intercepted by Seminoles defensive end Andre Wadsworth and returned 3 yards to the Buckeyes' 21-yard line. The first play of the 4th quarter, Florida State's Sebastian Janikowski kicked a 25-yard field goal to give the Seminoles a 24-3 lead.

SLOW START: Linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer, struggling against Florida State's wide-open offense, was held to one solo tackle in the 1st half. Katzenmoyer, the Dick Butkus Award winner, entered the game with 77 solo tackles, 16 assists and one sack.

PASSING: Ohio State held 10 of 12 opponents to fewer than 200 yards. Arizona had the most passing yards (210) against Ohio State in a 28-20 loss to the Buckeyes on Sept. 20. Busby completed 18 of 25 passes for 232 yards and one touchdown in the 1st half.

NICE DRIVE: Ohio State took the first possession of the 2nd half and drove 63 yards on 14 plays to set up a 34-yard field goal by Dan Stultz, which cut Florida State's lead to 21-6 in the 3rd quarter.

BIG PLAY: Defensive tackle Winfield Gamet chased Busby out of bounds in the end zone for a 15-yard loss on a safety, which cut Florida State's lead to 21-8 in the 3rd quarter. It was the first safety in the Sugar Bowl since 1969.

GOOD THINKING: Linebacker Jerry Rudzinski had 24-yard run on a fake punt to keep a Buckeyes possession going in the 4th quarter. The play led to a 60-yard touchdown pass from Germaine to Lumpkin, which cut Florida State's lead to 24-14 with 8:57 remaining.
Florida State quarterback Thad Busby, center, avoids a sack by Ohio State's Jimmie Bell, left, and Na'il Diggs.

From D-1

ranking for a school that, using 1987 as a launching pad, has finished No. 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 2, 1, 4, 4 and 3.

all season," said losing coach John Cooper. "And that's a credit to the skilled people Florida State has."

Robby Boweden was glad to be back on track, which, as stats go, means he was noticing his eighth 11-victory season during his tour of duty in Tallahassee.

"I can't say enough for the senior leadership
Seminoles from D-1

was nobody to compare them with, Busby said. "But they didn't stop us. We stopped ourselves with turnovers and penalties. We would have had three more scores in the first half if it weren't for that."

Said Green: "It was just one of those days. It was like when you hear Michael Jordan say that he was in the zone and the basketball is so big. That's the way I felt out there. The coaches kept giving me the ball."

And Green consistently delivered. But his team did not have the same consistency.

The fourth-ranked Seminoles (11-1) ratiomed out the big plays as needed against the ninth-ranked Buckeyes (10-3). Florida State took a 21-3 halftime lead, then allowed Ohio State to move up and down the field in the second half for a field goal and touchdown before tightening long enough to respond with a touchdown and field goal.

"Florida State is a really good, solid team," Ohio State coach John Cooper said. "Quick, relentless pressure throughout the ballgame. Their pass rush was the best I've seen in a long time. We did not have time to throw the football."

When the Buckeyes had time, they weren't very effective. Quarterback Troy van Doren and wide receivers Mike Thomas and Chris Jackson combined to complete 16 of 36 passes for 207 yards with a touchdown, three interceptions and six sacks.

Florida State improved its bowl record to 16-4-1 under Bowden, including victories in 12 of their last 13 bowl games.

Ohio State slipped to 2-7 under Cooper. The Buckeyes pulled to 24-14 on Germaine's 50-yard touchdown pass to tight end John Lumpkin with 8:57 left. But Florida State countered with two long drives, the second of which resulted in a 1-yard run by fullback William McCray with 47 seconds remaining.

Ohio State's halftime deficit could have been much worse. The Buckeyes had a stretch of eight offensive plays in which they did not gain yardage. Buckeye completed 18 of 25 passes for 343 yards and a touchdown but also rushed two interceptions — one in the end zone with 6:08 left in the first quarter — that prevented the Seminoles from taking command sooner.

Ohio State led 3-0 on a 49-yard field goal by Dan Stulz with 1:56 left in the first quarter. PSU countered with a six-play, 80-yard drive that lasted 1:50 to take a 7-3 lead on Busby's 27-yard touchdown pass to Green as time expired in the quarter.

McCray scored on a 1-yard run with 10 seconds remaining in the half to give Florida State a 21-3 lead.

McCray's run ended the Seminoles' possession on an interception by strong safety John Smith, whose 51-yard return set the Buckeyes up for a two-play, 23-yard drive that lasted 17 seconds.

The Buckeyes had threatened twice after Stulz's field goal. They scored a touchdown on a fake field goal play when punter Brent Bartelheim's 1- yard pass to Lumpkin was no good but was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct because Lumpkin was inside the hash mark when the 25-second play clock began. Stulz later missed a 44-yard field goal attempt.

The other scoring chance ended when Ohio State reached the Seminoles' 28- yard line and a pass by Germaine was intercepted by Smith on first-and-10.
Buckeyes celebrate Sugar Bowl with activities in New Orleans

As Ohio State prepares for the January 4 Allstate Sugar Bowl against the University of Arkansas, media are invited to cover these events that capture the excitement of bowl game festivities.

Times for all events in New Orleans are CST.

**Sunday January 2, 2010**

4 a.m.
Ohio State University Marching Band departs Steinbrenner Band Center for Rickenbacker Airport. See http://tbdbitl.osu.edu/ for a complete band itinerary.

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Ohio State University Marching Band rehearsal (Media welcome)
Tad Gormley Stadium in City Park, New Orleans

**Monday January 3, 2010**
9-11:30 a.m.
University Service Project
University of Arkansas and Ohio State staff, students, alumni and others will work together with the Beacon of Hope in New Orleans on community improvement projects for neighborhood restoration in the Lower Ninth Ward. Volunteers will be painting, clearing land and making blankets at 2494 Tricou Street (70117), at the corner of Tricou Street and N. Dorgenois Street. This is the 14th year that Ohio State has partnered with the opposing team for service in the host city of the bowl game.

The Ohio State Marching Band will also join the group and encourage volunteers with a performance by the Pep Band.

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ohio State University Marching Band public rehearsal
Tad Gormley Stadium in City Park, New Orleans
The band welcomes the public and Ohio State alumni and friends to its traditional day-before-the-game open rehearsal. Former band members are welcome to bring instruments and play along at the end of the session.

1:30 p.m.
Allstate Fan Fest (Pep Band Performance)
Jax Brewery parking lots off Decatur Street in the French Quarter

3 p.m.
Buckeye Bash Pep Rally
The annual pep rally features coaches, cheerleaders and the Marching Band. The event is from 2:30 to 4 p.m. (program begins at 3 p.m.) at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd.
http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/EVENTS/BUCKEYEBASH/Pages/default.aspx

Tuesday January 4, 2010

10:30 a.m.
Oil Spills, Recessions, and Hurricanes, Oh My
Jennifer Evans-Cowley, professor of City and Regional Planning will present “Oil Spills, Recessions, and Hurricanes, Oh My: Reflecting on the complexities of environmental planning on the Gulf Coast” at 10:30 a.m. at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal St. Since 2005, Evans-Cowley has worked closely with communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in planning for rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina; and she has just obtained a three-year grant to create a sustainability plan for the region, partly in response the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Her session will highlight the Mississippi Gulf Coast as an example of the complexities of environmental planning.

1 p.m. Ohio State University Marching Band game day rehearsal at the Superdome (media only)

5 p.m. Allstate Sugar Bowl Fan Jam in Champions Square (Pep Band will perform)

5:30 p.m. Pregame party in Superdome (Pep Band will perform)

7:05 p.m. pregame Ohio State University Marching Band performance
The band plans to perform the show, Artistry in Rhythm, during the pregame portion of the Allstate Sugar Bowl. The show features the music of legendary artist and bandleader Stan Kenton. Halftime will feature a double Script Ohio, with senior sousaphone 1-dotters Brad Rarick of Clayton, Ohio and Zack Profitt of Van Wert, Ohio.

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Ohio State fans sign up quickly for Sugar Bowl trips

TRAVEL
Ohio State fans sign up quickly for Sugar Bowl trips
Trip of the Week: Food, Cycling Tuscany
Western lodges warm, cozy after day of snow activities
Go behind the scenes at National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

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Not only is New Orleans more picturesque than Pasadena, Calif., but a Sugar Bowl package is also typically less expensive than a Rose Bowl trip, one travel agent said.

By Steve Stephens
Dispatch • Monday December 8, 2014 3:35 AM
Comments: 0 1 44 166

The moment Ohio State’s football bowl destination was announced, shortly after 12:30 p.m. yesterday, Buckeyes fans started calling their travel agents.

“We're not supposed to open until 1, and the phones are already ringing off the hook,” Lisa Cisco of Travel Partners in Dublin said just moments after the announcement.

“The phones have gone bizzonko,” concurred Ike Reynolds of Reynolds Travel in Columbus.

To many fans, the announcement that the Buckeyes were headed to New Orleans and the Sugar Bowl in the semifinals of the first-ever College Football Playoff was as sweet as a touchdown pass by Cardale Jones — or J.T. Barrett — or Braxton Miller.

Fan George Hiles was still on a tour bus returning from Saturday’s Big Ten championship game in Indianapolis when the announcement was made. The Buckeyes beat Wisconsin 59-0 in that one.

Hiles said he immediately made up his mind to follow the team to New Orleans on Jan. 1. The retired Westerville businessman has been to many Ohio State bowl games, but this year is something special, he said by cellphone from the bus.

“The excitement is at an all-time high,” he said.
“The way the year worked out ... the Buckeyes starting slow but then really showing up for the big games, the tremendous job the coaching staff has done, the big win last night. Excitement is at a peak.”

And the matchup in the Sugar Bowl against Southeastern Conference champion Alabama is perfect from a fan’s perspective, Hiles said.

“Alabama and New Orleans — what a mix!”

Cisco said she expects other fans to agree with Hiles.

“It’s the absolute best scenario we could get,” she said of Ohio State’s big win on Saturday coupled with a spot in the national semifinals in the Sugar Bowl.

“I’m sure some true Buckeye fans wanted to go to the Rose Bowl” to play Oregon in the other semifinal, she said.

“But a lot of people are going to want to see the Big Ten against the SEC, (OSU coach) Urban Meyer against (Alabama coach) Nick Saban.”

Details are still being worked out, but a trip to the Sugar Bowl also is typically less expensive than a trip to Pasadena, Calif., and the Rose Bowl, Cisco said. A three-night package, including charter airfare, breakfasts and non-“nosebleed” game seats, will run about $2,299, she said.

The new playoff system poses one big question for traveling fans and travel agents alike: What to do if Ohio State wins and plays the following week in the national championship game in suburban Dallas?

Reynolds said he thinks some fans, however excited, might forgo the Sugar Bowl in hopes of attending the championship game the next week.

But Hiles said the other fans on his tour bus were almost unanimous in their desire to follow the Buckeyes down the entire championship path.

“I think people are going to figure out a way to get to both games,” he said.

“Being retired, I have to be somewhere, so I might as well be where the Buckeyes are.

“But the consensus now, from people getting off the bus, is they’re going to find a way to get off work, find a way to go somehow.”

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