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For whom the bell tolls

Central Florida upsets Georgia

By Alex Barrett

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MEMPHIS, Tenn — The rain stayed away in Memphis just long enough for the Knights to put the finishing touches on the Bulldogs in the Autozone Liberty Bowl.

It was a defensive battle from the second play of the game, right after the opening UCF kickoff return for a touchdown was called back on a hold. It would take until 9:00 left in the fourth quarter for either team to score another one.

UCF was elated it was them.

"It was a big relief" (scoring the only touchdown of the game,) said UCF sophomore running back Latavius Murray. "I wanted to punch one in. I think the touchdown was a big relief for the team."

The game featured five total turnovers, including four interceptions that could mainly be attributed to the 30-mph winds swirling around the stadium; much of the game was played between the 20s, and punting was a paramount throughout the first half with both teams playing the field position and kicking field goals.

"We really got out there after a talented Georgia team,"

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Photos c/o Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

George O'Leary readies his troops

By Alex Barrett
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MEMPHIS, Tenn — Joking from the minute he stepped into the heated conference room in Memphis, Tennessee, George O'Leary looked calm and collected for the game.

"I may be a real enthusiastic guy," warned O'Leary at the start of the conference. "Anytime you can get a bowl game near January 1st, it is a great thing. It is a great thing to be playing a tough University of Georgia squad too."

The UCF Knights finished the season 10-3, beat the SMU Mustangs at home to win the Conference USA title, and now have a battle in store with the 6-6 Georgia Bulldogs, a perennial SEC (South Eastern Conference) powerhouse that have clawed their way back into the AutoZone Liberty Bowl after starting the season 1-4.

"We have to be very productive on offense, and defensively tackle very well, and control the field position through special teams. We need to stay away from penalties, that's what it comes down to. Penalties, and changing the field over."

Both teams have stellar special teams play, Georgia having an all-SEC kicker in Blair Walsh, and the nation's top punter in Drew But-

ler, who is averaging just over 48 yards per punt this season.

Georgia also ranks second in the FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) in kicking coverage, where UCF ranks fifth in special teams offensively; so field position will be paramount in what will most likely be a much warmer, but much slipperier game than either side expected.

"Well, down in Orlando, we don't get any rain," joked O'Leary. "We had a few practices back in Orlando where it was raining before we came up, and we were able to have a full practice in it yesterday, so hopefully everyone could get a feel for the wet ball."

O'Leary wasn't shy on who he was keeping an eye on defensively either; junior wide-out A.J. Green; among the tops in the SEC in receptions per contest (5.3) as well as yards (80.8.)

"He has great game concentration and once he gets it, there's a lot of hidden yards there we need to stop. They've been 5-2 since he started playing and it's because they're so worried about him they need to shift more guys over to cover him. He deserves a man or two on passing plays."

O'Leary kept going back to UGA's record, adding that they "really aren't a 6-6 team from my perspective, their expectations keep

rising and going up, and have a lot of talent, just watch some film."

With a possible Big East Conference bid possibly waiting to see how the Knights perform in the Liberty Bowl, O'Leary addressed how his players were handling the pressure of the bowl, and showed praise for Conference USA at the same time, saying that the conference has "treated us very well, and we will do what's best for the program."

"I think a few years ago, when we made this bowl, we were all just really excited to get a bowl bid. It was the next step at that point, and it was a huge step for the university. The ultimate goal of a bowl game though is to win it, enjoy the festivities, but win it and we're here to do whatever we have to in all three phases to get a win. It will be a difficult chore against a very good football team that I am very impressed with from a talent standpoint."

The team spirit was present even in the interview room while O'Leary was on the stand.

"Is it true you hate the color red?" Asked one of the participating reporters. "I hate red." Answered O'Leary. "I hate the color red, but it's fine as long as you're not the ones who change jerseys every game, that can get annoying."



Above: UCF head coach George O'Leary wipes away the gatorade after his winning shower.
Below: The last time the Knights played the Bulldogs was in 1999, the game was decided on a 2-point conversion.



Rooting for your team



Photos c/o Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

OUR VOICE

By Ruf Petit-Homme
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MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Take a picture people: Georgia Bulldog fans were silent as their team was tied three to three, while fans of the UCF Knights were hollering with a sense of direction.

What is wrong with this so called picture?

Well first off, you should know that there were more Georgia fans than UCF fans at the 2010 Liberty Bowl.

It happens all the time to most die hard fans. The ticket is paid, the kids are being watched, the credit card stays at home (just cash), and the air of certain victory lingers.

Having spoke to some Georgia fans before the big game, some of them had brought their kids, and their credit cards, and got free tickets, but they did not feel that victory was certain. The air smelled

like uncertainty.

So, I guess what I am trying to say is, If you spend money coming to a bowl game, at least come with some enthusiasm.

Georgia came into Memphis, TN hurting from the regular season. One of their star players A.J. Green was suspended for four games at the beginning of the season. The Bulldogs won their first game but lost their next three. So at one point the team was at a record of 1-4, but soon there afterward they made a comeback to end the regular season at .500 (6-6).

Die hard collegiate sports fans are supposed to support their teams through the best of times and worst of times, right?

Being a collegiate football fan can be compared to a lot of things. For instance a mean server (that you always seem to get) at a favorite restaurant, that never brings the honey mustard (winning the conference) every time it is asked for.

It is a very up and down relationship, being a collegiate football fan. But what makes it even better is the suffering and the turmoil. Take the UCF Knights, they have never won a bowl game, ever. That is what seemed to make that 2010 Liberty Bowl victory taste even better than usual.

With all of the UCF fans cheering hungrily for the win, the team with the most tenacity had the higher percentage to win.

To all the fans of the esteemed Georgia Bulldog football program, I'll let you explain to SE (split end) Kris Durham why you commuted 455 miles.

Wait for it... I know, you came to see him cry tears of frustration and disappointment.

The disappointment of him not hearing the fans that should have supported him, or maybe it was the mascot neglecting to do his job. Yes, neglecting to do his job.

A lot of factors come into play when a team is winning a game, the fans are going bananas, the winning defense's tackles just seem to be more painful towards the opposing team, the coach gets even

more frustrated on blown assignments, and best of all the mascot is supposed to be doing back flips or some other alternative.

With UCF having never won against an SEC team (0-13), this Georgia team should have come to Memphis with the masses to witness a royal beat down. Unfortunately they were came into the game reminiscent a 2011 NJ Nets fan during a Pacers game.

Hey, it is all right though because that is what some fans do, they demand perfection. If not then they are obligated to hate and not root for the team. As frustrating as it is to watch some thing that is held dear just give up hope, shouldn't that be a cue to install some sort of stimulant to the scenario?

To fans every where, just keep cheering sooner or later your team will eventually listen. Take UCF as a prime example.

It took Knights fans 39 years to get a bowl victory.



UCF defeats Georgia 10-6

Knights earn first bowl victory in school history

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"We knew it was going to be a tight ball game to-night," added UCF's defensive player of the game, junior linebacker Josh Linam. "We prepared for it. We came out and did our job."

Defense was at a paramount in the second lowest-scoring game in Liberty Bowl history at the half, where the Knights were trailing 6-3.

After the break, the Knights started to wake up.

Behind an energized defensive effort, Georgia's rookie quarterback Aaron Murray was finally subjected to a much more aggressive pass rush, and as a result, began to show his inexperience as the Georgia offense had two straight drives stall in their own territory for the first time in the game.

UCF had their own problems with their rookie quarterback, Jeff Godfrey. On the third play of the game, Godfrey was smashed by Georgia defensive back Justin Houston and was limping noticeably for the duration of the game. With Godfrey banged up, Murray kept rushing.

"I was running with a 40-yard attitude, just like we were coached to do," said Murray. At the end of the game, he hadn't hit that 40-yard home-run rush, but his 10-yard touchdown capped a 104-yard performance that was enough to win him the Liberty Bowl MVP award.

The Knights would have to wait until the last sec-



Sophomore running back Latavius Murray finished with 104 yards and the lone touchdown of the game, earning him the game's MVP.

ond to celebrate their victory, which came down to the end of the game as Georgia took two shots into the end zone with :10 and :02 left in the contest, including a last-ditch effort to make a play that was batted down in the end zone by UCF. Almost as soon as the game ended, the sky opened up to the rain, a refreshment for the players that had been giving their all on the field.

"All you can do at this point is just congratulate coach O'Leary and UCF, they have certainly earned that tonight," said Georgia coach Mark Richt after the game. "They did a great job, played great defense, made plays offensively, and on special teams. It was outstanding."

Junior flanker A.J. Green, one of the more touted wideouts in the FBS, also admired the Knight defensive effort, adding that "they're a hell of a defense. Their containment was very good, and they had a lot of great schemes to keep me under control."

The win tonight gives the University of Central Florida their first ever bowl victory; they had previously made it to the Liberty Bowl two years ago where they lost another close battle to Mississippi State. Added to the Top-25 ranking at game-time, (which should rise after their victory,) this was a big season of firsts for the Knights, whom are looking to possibly review a Big East Conference offer at the end of the season.

UCF is the second largest school in the nation now and the fastest growing institution in Florida; It only seems fitting that they finally command the best record of all the other prominent universities in Florida, ending with an 11-3 record and beating out Florida, Miami and Florida State.

Godfrey was extremely happy about what this season could possibly do for the future of UCF, both athletically and academically with what has been accomplished.

"It's great to win a conference championship, and a bowl game for the program," said Godfrey after the game. "A win for the players, the coaches, and the fans. It feels great to be a part of that."



First things first...

— UCF ranked in the top 25 twice this season, which is sure to rise after their bowl win.

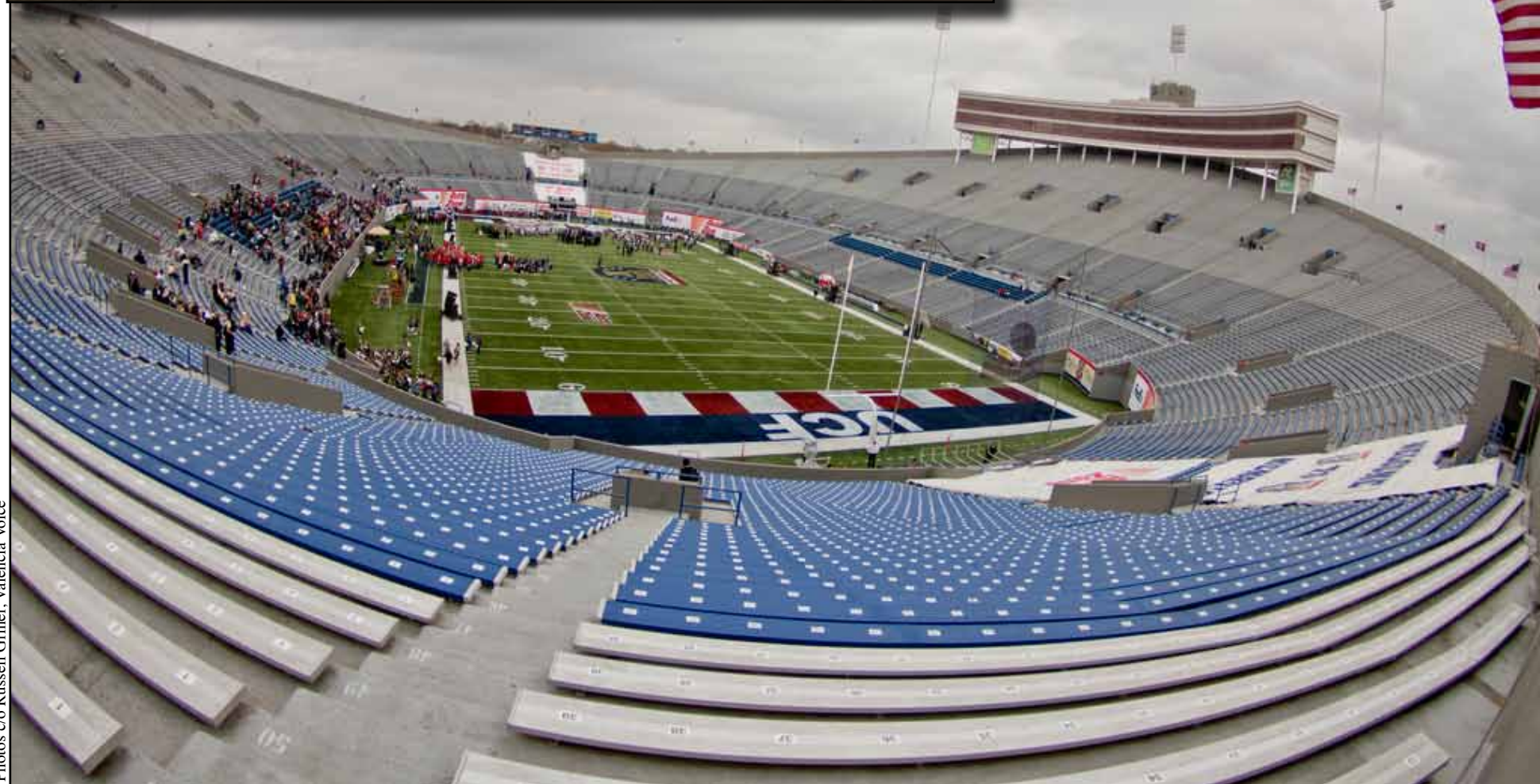
— The Liberty Bowl win is the first in school history.

— Latavius Murray received the school's first bowl MVP award.

— UCF beat an SEC opponent for the first time in school history. They were 0-13 previously.

Photos c/o Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

Liberty Bowl legends live



Photos c/o Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

By Ruf Petit-Homme
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MEMPHIS, Tenn — “Big city, dim lights, and blues as heavy as a ball and chain,” is a definition of the city that has held the Auto Zone Liberty Bowl since 1965.

Memphis, Tennessee, a city where the pride of BBQ lives, the home of Elvis’s Graceland, and the stage where the University of Central Florida continued to build the foundation for their football program.

According to the record books, game day was the second warmest in bowl history, at 65 degrees Fahrenheit, talk about a Florida welcome. There was a 80 percent chance of rain scheduled for the bowl day earlier in the week, fortunately like our own weather people here (Central Florida), they did not quite get it right.

“Well, I hope we don’t get any tornadoes today,” remarked a paser at the stadium.

It did not rain until about 25 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Sure, some people wanted the pure offensive-no defense shoot out or the high powered offensive game.

But out on the field there were close to 30mph wind gusts, should I mention there was also a tornado warning (a neighboring county) issued during the fourth quarter of the game.

Even though The Liberty Bowl has been in effect for close to 46

years, it doesn’t ever fail to disappoint; this Liberty bowl was the lowest scoring bowl (in three quarters) the score at the end of the 3rd quarter was six to three Georgia.

The Auto Zone Liberty Bowl was also where legendary coach Paul ‘Bear’ Bryant of Alabama finished his career, his team won, 21 to 15 verses Illinois.

But one of the most significant pieces of this bowl’s history is when they partnered up with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, thus the iconic liberty bell replica stowing the name ‘St. Jude’ on the bell’s yoke.

This particular bowl game had a more of a flair in itself, a plethora of homecoming queen pageant attendees with Miss Auto Zone Liberty Bowl (Kaitlin Long) and the National Anthem sung beautifully by Sergeant First Class MaryKay Messenger, and that was just pre-game.

Half-time consisted of both UGA and UCF marching bands performing their half-time shows, and an incredible two song number by The O-Jays (For the love of money, Love Train). The O Jays were backed up by 10 high school marching bands, and 25 different cheer and dance groups.

The main partnership between the Auto Zine Liberty Bowl and Conference USA began in 1996, sending their conference champ to the bowl. In 2006 the South Eastern Conference stepped up to the plate, creating a C-USA vrs SEC match up. The record is SEC 4, C-USA 1.

OUR VOICE

Does tailgating have a purpose besides just getting drunk?



By **Elisanett Martinez**
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No bowl game is complete without the sweet smell of baked beans, franks and warm beer, and the 2010 Champs Sports Bowl was no exception to the tradition.

I have never attended a tailgate party and having witnessed the energy on Tuesday night, I found myself asking, why not?

West Virginia University and North Carolina State University had fought their way to the bowl game and their most loyal fans were not going to be left out. A sea of yellow and red had taken over the one-way streets of downtown Orlando. Tailgate parties were in sight within five miles of the Florida Citrus Bowl.

Walking into this new environment, I noticed traditions that in other circumstances would not usually take place.

I had never been in one location where beer was consumed so openly and without fear of being ticketed by law enforcement.

The sound of ice crushing as someone reached into the cooler, caps popping and carbonated fizz was in the air. There was more beer spillage at the 2010 Champs Sports Bowl than British Petroleum oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

People were drinking beer out of cans, bottles in brown paper bags and plastic cups; Budweiser, Samuel Adams and popular among broke college students, Pabst Blue Ribbon.

This occurrence made me ask another question, Why is everyone so friendly to each other? And then I understood. It was the team that brought them together.

The fact that the two older gentleman on the lawn chairs are NCSU alumni makes them feel like sharing a beer is only customary or sharing your last rack of ribs with the girl you met

20 minutes ago, and after conversing you realize that you have lived a mile from each other since forever.

Another obvious tradition is barbecuing your own meal. The smell of ribs and chicken was heavy, not to mention the smoke from all the grills.

I was surprised at the lengths people went through in order to barbecue at these parties.

There is a lot of planning that must take place in order for game day to run smoothly. If you want to have juicy ribs before kick-off you have to marinate them at least a day before and store-bought bbq sauce is out of the question.

I kid you not, there was a line of about six or seven charcoal grills on the side of church street. I noticed a gentleman rocking West Virginia colors manning the meat as others watched in anticipation.

I do not know if you have noticed but people

are really happy when they have a burger in their right hand and a cold brew in the other and a bowl game kick-off in a couple of hours.

Considering the circumstances I can picture complete strangers sharing recipes and things you might easily forget like napkins and silverware, and being completely happy to oblige.

Tailgate parties are not just about barbecuing and getting chummy with people you have never met before, in a city you have never been to.

It is a culture, like Christmas is to December. Huge tailgate parties are expected whenever there is a bowl game.

Tailgating is about being a part of something bigger than you, and enjoying the roller coaster ride that is a BCS Conference Bowl Game.

One of my resolutions for the new year is attending a tailgate party. If you have not, I think you really should add this to your bucket list, but don't forget to bring some beer.

Roll Tide

Alabama washes away Michigan State's hopes



Senior quarterback Greg McElroy congratulates teammates after a score.



Junior Linebacker Courtney Upshaw celebrates after breaking up a third-down pass. Upshaw would win the Capital One Bowl MVP award.

By Victor Ocasio
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The Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama wiped the Michigan State Spartans off the field in a flash flood of touchdowns, record high rushing yards and amazing scrimmage control ending The Capital One Bowl game with a final score of 49 - 7.

61,519 were in attendance at this years game held at the Citrus Bowl as the 11th ranked Michigan State with a season of 11-1 took on the 15th ranked 9-3 Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama.

As slim as the point margin was between

the two teams, the only points scored by Michigan happened far too late in the game with only 5:45 on the clock; a 49 yard rushing to touchdown by Bennie Fowler with an additional point by Dan Conroy.

With a 42 point lead at the start of the 4th quarter, Eddie Lacey of Alabama ran the ball to a 62 yard touchdown before Michigan even had control of the ball ,bringing the Tide to their impressive final score of 49.

An amazing show of athleticism by the entire team was only made greater by the individual accomplishments of players such as running back Mark Ingram who beat the school's previous career record by scoring

two rushed touchdowns in the games first half, and linebacker Courtney Upshaw who was awarded MVP of the game.

"Coming into the game, coach [Nick Saban] talked about being inspired and dominating the person in front of you," said Upshaw. "We wanted to dominate and finish the game."

At the start of the 3rd quarter the Tide sustained an impressive lead of 35 points as the Spartans stayed on the defensive, only allowing yards from Alabama's goal line when junior quarterback Kirk Cousins was

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The renovated Florida Citrus Bowl stadium; The good bad and the ugly

By Victor Ocasio
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175 million dollars are expected to be poured into total renovations to Orlando's own Citrus Bowl in coming years, location of both this year's Champs Bowl and Capital One Bowl, with already 10 million of those dollars being used this year alone. But is teaching this old dog new tricks really worth the bill?

Originally built in 1936 with only ac-

commodations for 1,000 attendees, the Citrus Bowl has since become a behemoth of a sporting venue currently able to seat well over 70,000.

The Florida Citrus Bowl is part of a 1.1 billion dollar renovation project that also includes future plans to build a new performing arts center, the Dr. Philips Performing Arts Center, as well as the already complete new Amway Arena, home of the Orlando Magic.

Part of the stadium's new improve-

ments include the installation of new artificial turf on the field. This of course comes after the stadium was bashed after last year's Capital One Bowl, when natural grass was used and a pre-game shower turned the field into a muddy mess injuring two players during the game.

Renovations made over the past year to the stadium totaled 10 million dollars and included improvements to structure, infrastructure, technology and amenities such as the addition of eight additional restrooms as well as wire concessions allowing attendees to use credit cards to purchase items for the first time in the stadium's 75 year history.

But even with all of these major improvements over the past year, the question as to whether the current location of Central Florida's largest stadium is the prime one is one that bears asking.

Surrounded by a residential area that over the years has become a staple of lower income housing and crime, may not be the best way for Florida to put its best foot forward when welcoming fans and sport teams from other states during its two biggest college football championships, the Champs and Capital One Bowl.

Parramore, an area once noted for its high robbery and homicide rates, has made significant progress since 2008 when the number of murders totaled 123. Since, rates of robberies have dropped 41 percent while murders have gone down



The Florida Citrus Bowl was built in 1936 and was designed to hold about 1,000 viewers. The new renovated stadium holds 70,000 fans, a necessary adjustment to hold bowl game fans.

35. But while these percentages might be a reflection of positive change, it does not necessarily affect the overall impression that the stadium gives to visitors.

Additionally, parking does not necessarily reflect the large seating capacity forcing many new and unknowing out of state fans to park in unregulated and low-to-no security lots and residential driveways late at night deep in the city's higher crime devastated areas.

Without a doubt the Citrus Bowl has become a major money maker, pumping financing and job opportunities into the area. In 2008 alone the stadium was the location of Wrestlemania XXIV an event that brought in the highest turnout in the Bowl's history with 74,635 in attendance grossing \$5,854,590 in ticket sales alone.

When looking at the financial poten-

tial of the Citrus Bowl it is only natural to think about all of the possibilities that these numbers might suggest.

Indefinite as the timeline for total renovation currently stands, based greatly on the total amount of tourist dollars, it seems that now is as good a time as any to consider the possibility of equal distribution of funds between not only the stadium but the surrounding area as well.

A well cut diamond set in a copper ring is just that. A copper ring.

Consideration to overall area beautification could do just as much for the stadium's reputation as actual physical improvements to the facility itself. Hopefully in years to come planners and financiers will see the benefits an area wide makeover could bring to the city of Orlando's sports tourism industry as a whole.



The new Florida Citrus Bowl is part of an expensive beautification project for the city of Orlando.



Linebackers Niko Johnson and Courtney Upshaw celebrate on the field as time runs out on the Michigan State Spartans.

Spartans can't swim through high Tide

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sacked hard by line backer Alex Watkins, removing him from the game and replacing him with freshman Andrew Maxwell.

"It was an accumulation of hits that ran its course as the game went on," said Cousins. "The last one I took was one where I just had a throbbing headache on the field and my lower back started to flare up, so I just felt my body was wearing down as the game went on. That was sort of the final nail in the coffin."

Sophomore linebacker Nico Johnson ran a 30 yard touch-down after a recovered fumble but upon further review, an incomplete pass was ruled on Michigan. However, even that was not enough to combat the physicality and skill both defensive and offensively of Alabama in the 2nd quarter.

"Very, very quickly, it didn't go very well for us today," said Michigan coach Mark Dantonio. "We needed to start out hot and take advantage of the opportunities that we had. We had two turnovers. That hurts us. We had scoring opportunities,

both of them, inability to get off the field on third down earlier in the game. Those two things really put us behind, I felt."

With a first quarter score of 7 to 0, Alabama set the pace for the rest of the game with using only 6 minutes and 40 seconds, gaining 79 yards in 13 plays.

"I think the offensive line did a really good job today," said Saban. "We challenged them, you know, today a little bit to – we knew it was going to be important to dominate the line of scrimmage on both sides."

Now with Alabama's season record set at 10-3 and Michigan's at 11-2, the only thing left for the two big name college ball teams is to begin preparing for lost seniors and practice in Spring.

"All I can tell you is that previous to the season not many people picked us to win 11 games," said Dantonio. "We inched up there and we're in the top ten. Do we belong there based on this football game? No. But I think we can play better than this."



The North Carolina State Wolfpack send the West Virginia Mountaineers packing

By Elisanett Martinez
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The North Carolina State University Wolfpack (NC State) defeated the West Virginia Mountaineers (WVU) with a final score of 23-7, winning the 2010 Champs Bowl on Tuesday.

The star player and MVP honoree for the Wolfpack was quarterback Russell Wilson, who threw for 275 yards, two touchdowns and rushed for another 41 yards. Wilson had a great 16 yard touchdown pass to Mustafa Greene to open scoring in the first quarter; setting the tone for the rest of the game against a stingy West Virginia team that had not allowed a single opponent to score over 21

points in a game this season.

"Russell made some tremendous individual plays that gave us the opportunity to win the game," said Wolfpack head coach Tom O'Brien. "We are just fortunate to walk out of here with a victory today."

From the beginning, the Mountaineer defense was out of sync. "Turnovers was the issue," said head coach for WVU Bill Stewart. "I didn't think our defense was in good rhythm. We just could not flip the field."

It seems ironic that the Wolfpack would win the game because of quick turnovers and zone blitz defensive schemes, when turnovers were a problem for the North Carolina program early on in the year, and West Virginia was so stout on defense.

After the game, WVU quarterback Geno Smith was upset over the team's lack of execution; "We always work hard to win the turnover battle, there are certain things that we pride ourselves on and that is one of the things that was lacking early in this program that we worked extremely hard."

"We just have to do better at protecting the ball, we knew all year that if we didn't turn it over we would lose."

The Wolfpack assured the win when Jeff Ruiz had a monster 40 yard punt to the West Virginia 9-yard-line, where Jock Sanders botched the punt catch. Wilson only needed one play to find wide-out

Jarvis Williams for the final touchdown.

Kicker Josh Czajkowski also made some significant plays for North Carolina State, completing on all three field goal attempts on the day.

During the third quarter NC State's offense was clicking, resulting in two of those three field goals by Czajkowski, one from 38 yards and another from 40 yards.

The Mountaineers tied the game on the third quarter with their first touchdown on a pass from Smith to Stedman Bailey for 32 yards, but it was short lived for West Virginia as another NC State field goal ended the second quarter with a score of 10-7 Wolfpack.

NC State was ranked at the beginning of the year, but had a hard time holding on to it. Head coach O'Brien noted that it was a great opportunity to play a ranked team such as the West Virginia Mountaineers.

"Anytime that you can knock somebody out of the top 25, somebody else has to go back in it," said O'Brien.

"I hope we did enough on TV tonight, being the only game of the night with our ninth win, that we might attract enough votes. I think this team is deserving to be a top 25 team, now at the end of the year."

Heading into spring ball and off-season conditioning, it would be a great morale boost for the Wolfpack to be once again ranked.



North Carolina Wolfpack beat the West Virginia Mountaineers with a score of 10-7.



Wide Receiver for the North Carolina Wolfpack Owen Spencer and Tight End for the West Virginia Mountaineers Pat Miller fight for the ball in the end zone on the last play of the game.

