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TELEPHONE CALL TO

Congressman John Buchanan and
Monday Morning Quarterback Club

Monday-November 24, 1975

2:00 P. M.

~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~THE~~

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Call completed

2:00 p.m.

11/24/75

November 21, 1975

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Rep. John Buchanan (R-Ala.)

DATE: Monday, November 24, 1975
2:00 p.m. (3 minutes)
Phone: (205)251-8423

PURPOSE: Football talk, particularly the Michigan-Ohio State game that was played on November 22 and the Nebraska-Oklahoma game, which determine which teams go to the Rose and Orange Bowls.

VIA: Max Friedersdorf *M.C.*

RECOMMENDED BY: Vern Loen (at request of Rep. Buchanan) *VL*

- BACKGROUND:
1. Rep. John Buchanan (R-Ala.) will answer the phone and introduce Frank Bromberg, Jr. who will present Bob Devaney, former University of Nebraska Coach and now athletic director there, who is guest speaker for the day.
 2. The Monday Morning Quarterback Club is made up of about 475 Birmingham leaders and is noted for its charitable work in the field of crippled children and heart disease research.
 3. CAUTION: Do not mention other bowl games or University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa because there will be many Auburn fans in audience. Alabama-Auburn game is Saturday, November 29.

TALKING POINTS: To be furnished by Paul Theis

cc: Bob Rousek

It's Orange or Nothing for Nebraska

Associated Press
Nebraska, one of the nation's top college football powers, may not participate in a bowl game for the first time in seven years.

The unbeaten Cornhuskers, currently ranked second in the nation, voted twice yesterday to reject a Fiesta Bowl invitation and appear in the Orange Bowl — or no bowl at all.

That situation developed late yesterday after Coach Bear Bryant of Alabama surfaced to deny his team was ducking anybody, as charged by the coaches of Nebraska and Oklahoma, but to admit he had hand-picked Penn State to face his team in the Sugar Bowl game.

The flurry of activity two days after invitations could be offered left only one berth definitely open among the 11 major bowls — and possibly two, if Oklahoma beats Nebraska Saturday in the showdown for the Big Eight title and the Orange Bowl berth awaiting the winner.

Oklahoma, ranked sixth, has agreed to face the Western Athletic Conference champion, either Arizona State or Arizona, in the

Fiesta, but Nebraska declined to join in the agreement.

"IT'S JUST that all the players want to put all their eggs in one basket and that's defeating Oklahoma," said Coach Tom Osborne of Nebraska, which twice has used bowl victories to nail down national championships in The Associated Press poll.

The definite vacancy is in the Tangerine Bowl, where six teams reportedly still are under consideration to provide the opposition for Miami of Ohio. Another spot was filled Monday when West Virginia accepted a bid to the Peach Bowl.

The bowl line-up looks like this:

- Rose Bowl, Jan. 1: Big Ten champion (Ohio State or Michigan) vs. Pacific-8 champion (UCLA, California or Stanford).
- Orange Bowl, Jan. 1: Nebraska-Oklahoma winner vs. Ohio State-Michigan loser.
- Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1: Southwest Conference champion (Texas A&M, Texas or Arkansas) vs. Georgia.
- Sugar Bowl, Dec. 31: Alabama vs. Penn State.

- Gator Bowl, Dec. 29: Florida vs. Maryland.
- Fiesta Bowl, Dec. 26: Arizona State or Arizona vs. Oklahoma, or team to be determined if Oklahoma earns Orange Bowl berth.
- Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl, Dec. 27: Colorado vs. Texas A&M or Texas.
- Liberty Bowl, Dec. 22: Southern California vs. Arkansas or Texas A&M.
- Sun Bowl, Dec. 26: Pitt vs. Kansas-Missouri winner.
- Peach Bowl, Dec. 31: North Carolina State vs. West Virginia.
- Tangerine Bowl, Dec. 20: Miami of Ohio vs. opponent to be selected.

Both Osborne and Coach Barry Switzer of Oklahoma had criticized Bryant, charging he was bypassing their teams in favor of Penn State, ranked 11th. The Sugar Bowl, however, denied Bryant had applied pressure to bypass the Big Eight powers.

"I recommended it and I want those young coaches out there to know it," Bryant said. "We have no apologies to make to anyone. When I was a young coach I popped off too. Let them go where they want to and to hell with them."

TALKING POINTS FOR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK CLUB, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1975

1. John (Buchanan, Member of Congress), I'm very happy to have this opportunity to talk with the Monday Morning Quarterback Club.
I thought all the Monday Morning Quarterbacks were in the Congress.

I'm glad Birmingham grows a ^{different} ~~little better~~ variety — *altho 2 had some experience with them while playing football at Michigan & coach at Yale!*

2. Frank (Bromberg, captain of the club), I want to express my appreciation to you and your fellow club members for inviting me to join you, at least by long distance. I understand there are both Crimson Tide fans and Tiger fans in the audience, so let me just say that the State of Alabama has two of the best football teams outside of Michigan. *and of course Ohio State.*

3. Bob (Devaney, athletic director of Nebraska University), I'm still nursing my wounds from last Saturday's game between Michigan and Ohio State. I had a chance to watch part of that game -- I watched ^{it was} Michigan score 14 points and happened to be out of the room when Ohio State was scoring 21. I understand it was a long afternoon for the "Cornhuskers," too. (Nebraska lost to Oklahoma, 35-10.) It looks like my "Wolverines" are going to have their hands full with Oklahoma down in Miami on New Year's Day.

4. Bob, I want to wish you and head coach Tom Osborne and all the "Huskers" my very best. You played very well all season long. Nebraska is always tough. In fact, you have one of the best football teams outside the States of Michigan and Alabama. I wish we could have had a go at one another at the Orange Bowl.

5. I want to say a special word of commendation for the more serious work which the Monday Morning Quarterback Club is doing. I know you are very deeply involved in helping handicapped children, promoting research in heart disease, and other worthwhile projects. You are making a major contribution to the quality of life in your city and your State.

I commend you, and I thank you all for inviting me to talk with you today. It's been a pleasure.

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