Seven of Top Ten Grid Teams Play In Bowl Games

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Seven of the nation's top ten college football teams and a procession of the season's brightest individual stars feature the New Year's Day bowl fare—a television viewer's bonanza.

The millions of armchair quarterbacks are in danger of suffering eye strain and getting finger cramps from switching the dials for the series of spectacles, starting as early as 12:45 p.m. EST and lasting until well into most people's dinnertime.

Here's the program expected to draw close to half a million live customers and entertain countless others on the magic screen:

Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla. —Louisiana State, No. 3 ranked nationally, vs. Colorado, No. 6. 12:45 p.m. EST (ABC-TV, radio).

Sugar Bowl at New Orleans —Alabama, No. 1 nationally, vs. Arkansas, No. 9, 1:45 p.m. EST (NBC-TV color, radio.)

Cotton Bowl at Dallas, Texas No. 4 nationally, vs. Mississippi, No. 5, 2:15 p.m. EST (CBS-TV, Radio).

Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif. —Minnesota, No. 7, vs. UCLA, unranked, 4:45 p.m. EST (NBC-TV Color, radio).

Sandwiched around this sports gourmet's delight are today's National Football League championship between the New York Giants and Green Bay Packers at Green Bay, to be televised at 1:45 p.m., and the Senior Bowl Game Jan. 6 involving all-star players from the North and South, to be screened at 3 p.m.

On the record, the closest game should be that in the Cotton Bowl between Mississippi and Texas, two powerful, hardhitting elevens which finished the season with identical 9-1 records. Mississippi lost only to Louisiana State while Texas was a late upset victim of Texas Christian.

Mississippi, a team of tremendous speed and depth which led the nation in total offense, is rated a 3-point favorite over a lighter but quick Texas contingent, featuring a explosive all - America halfback named Jimmy Saxton. Texas has the top rushing record in the country but lacks the versatility of Mississippi's striking power.

The game is a 75,000 sellout.

In the Rose Bowl at Pasadena, where 100,870 spectators form the day's largest crowd, ponderous but rugged Minnesota rules an 8-point choice to beat UCLA and thus avenge a 7-7 loss to Washington last year.

The Gophers, who won seven of their nine games while wading through a tough Big Ten schedule, feature straightaway power and ball control with All-America Sandy Stephens, a 215-pounder, the central figure in the operations.

UCLA (7-3) won six of its last seven games in capturing the Pacific Coast's Big Five championship. Coached by Billy Barnes, who like Minnesota's Coach Murray Warmath is a Tennessee graduate, the Uclans use the single wing formation with Bob Smith and Mike Haffner handling triple duties.

Alabama, which marched over ten opponents to the national championship, is rated a 12½ point pick over Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl, geared for a capacity crowd of 81,585.

The Razorbacks, who lost only to Mississippi and Texas in ten games, are a sinewy, scrappy outfit with two of the country's most effective running backs in Lance Alworth and Billy Joe Moody.