CFB gods are still alive

by RG

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Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 1 PM Eastern Standard Time, the college football gods awoke and resurrected themselves after a year’s hibernation seeing ESPN’s College Game Day broadcast showed reality is returning. The 2020 season was anything but exciting given how the CFB ruled the fall in the years past. The excitement of what makes college football was tainted in 2020 due to COVID-19 guidelines implemented by all colleges, universities, and the conferences all in order to cover their proverbial asses. If not for the politicians mandating facial masks, social distancing and spacing and other such nonsense, then not knowing from one week to the next if teams would actually be playing, it is great to see that college football is not dead. There is a couple of holdovers though from 2020 that has shown its ugly head on this the unofficial opening day.

The two games that have kicked off the 2021 season on that Saturday was the Nebraska Cornhuskers playing the Fighting Illini at Illini stadium. This was a Big 10 Conference game. The other game was UCLA Bruins playing the Hawaii Rainbow Warriors at Los Angeles, a PAC 12 team versus a Mountain West Conference team. The big difference between these two games represents how the influences of the pandemic still prevail and have a major impact on how the game is not only played but viewed by those attending in person.

As mentioned, Nebraska-Illinois was played at the home of Illinois and the UCLA-Hawaii game was played in California. The difference of watching these two games was immediate like the difference of night and day. Watching the Nebraska-Illini game one saw the bustling crowd of fans screaming and shouting their support of their team. The stadium, though not full to capacity maybe, did show a sizable number of fans were in attendance to root on their favorite team to include the cantankerous and at times obnoxious college student section which anyone who enjoys watching CFB, loves to see the outrageousness of any college student section. Watching UCLA-Hawaii however, one immediately noticed the restrictions of the State of California and the idiotic mandates of the lackluster hopefully ‘soon to be gone’ Governor Gavin ‘I don’t have a clue’ Newsome. Endzones were completely empty void of any spectators and very sparsely populated sideline seating was seen.

Though it concerns me not how and what California is and what it does, the state does have an unforeseen influential power over the rest of the nation much like New York but for the life of me I do not understand why. One is as fruity as loon and the other is extremely conceded if not bordering on the edge of being narcissistic. Both in their day were great places to visit but neither are places to live given the insanities of the day occurring in each place.

Given how TV viewing has been preoccupied by the recent horrible events coming out of Afghanistan, watching the excitement that is college football, no matter who is playing, was a well-deserved break. College football sadly will only last for about four to five months whereas this administration has just started and barring any upsets is projected to last for 48 months. Seems to me the season lengths should be swapped!!! What was additionally needed on this day was the sound of “Whoa Nelly” being uttered by the late, great voice of college football, Keith Jackson. At any rate, opening day was a good mixture of in-conference and out-of-conference games.

Of course, before the first pig was kicked down the field college football has had its own share of controversy brewing with the Universities of Texas and Oklahoma telling the Big 12 Conference so long starting in 2025. Both have decided to vacate the Big 12 Conference and call the greener pastures of the Southeastern Conference, better known as the SEC, home in four years. This action has caused some stirring of the NCAA pot with some other colleges and universities looking at divorcing themselves from one another and their current conference alliances and generating a new trend of seeking new mistresses for their affections. Loyalty these days has a new meaning for college-universities as it relates to the conference. Just think of the 1986 Janet Jackson release, “What have you done for me lately?”

The final games of this ‘ménage à quatre’ Saturday was for prime time viewing between North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and Alcorn State. A Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference team versus a Southwestern Athletic Conference team respectfully. Then the late-night game was between Southern Utah and San Jose State, a Big Sky Conference team against yet another Mountain West Conference team. Irrespectful of the collegiate team level of performance, the passion was there and is back for all to see no matter what Dr. Fauci and the CDC say. Fans want to enjoy tailgating and the rebelry that makes up the sights and sounds of college football. A year of isolation and then the on again, off again games appears to have finally come to an end. The greatest thing to know is that for the next 18 weeks college football will be seen and heard until such time as those now in-charge that attempt to tell us how to act and what words we can now say, say no more. Me, I say ‘Whoof, Whoof, Whoof, sic’em, **Go Dawgs**!!!’