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College Football Top 25

By Sebastien Veilleux

Recently the AP Top 25 was released for the upcoming 2006 college football season. There were a

few surprises, but it was solid overall. The rankings, which we'll go over in a moment, will likely change after week one. Two of the big teams in this ranking—Ohio State and Texas—go at it in week two on September 9. Last year's meeting between these two teams was monumental and perhaps decided the national championship. Had Texas lost that game, most of the country would not be as familiar with Vince Young.

Still, the 2006 NFL Draft took a lot out of the Ohio State Buckeyes. Are they really the number one team? How about Notre Dame? Is it time to jump on their bandwagon? Will they bring back the glory days gone by? Here's the current AP top 25 for college football.

1. Ohio State 2. Notre Dame 3. Texas 4. Auburn 5. West Virginia 6. USC 7. Florida 8. LSU 9. California 10. Oklahoma 11. Florida State 12. Miami 13. Louisville 14. Michigan 15. Georgia 16. Iowa 17. Virginia Tech 18. Clemson 19. Penn State 20. Nebraska 21. Oregon 22. TCU 23. Tennessee 24. Arizona State 25. Texas Tech

My only gripe is that Miami is listed lower than Florida State. Miami is clearly the better team. Once the season starts, this will be one of the listing spots that changes. Also, I'm not so high on Texas. They are riding a lot of emotion from last season, including emotion in the voting. They lost they field general in Vince Young and that's going to hurt. We'll find out how real they are in week two when the Ohio State Buckeyes come to town.

Why is USC ranked 6th? They lost key players and replacements are largely unproven. Again, this is preseason respect since they got into the championship game last season. USC's first test comes in their second game on September 16 against Nebraska. That's a home game for USC. USC averaged 49.1 points per game last season, but that's going to drop.

The preseason Top 25 is basically a bunch of guessing using last year's performances as a guide. There's a good chance that 80% of these teams will move after their first games. Some won't even be on the Top 25 come week two. College football is going to be exciting right out of the gate. It's quite

possible that we end up with a Notre Dame vs. Ohio State championship game.

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The Cool Thing About Fantasy Football

By Chris Hinde

Everyone loves fantasy football and get very excited for the fantasy drafts. But, have you ever really thought about why? I mean, beyond the obvious.

Fantasy football is really the only place or way for you, an average person, to create a football team that you have control over. You choose which football player starts, and who is on the bench. You get to draft whatever players you want to your team based on their real life performance record. The really cool thing? Well, you don't have to worry about anything else. You don't have to deal with any money issues except for salary cap. That's it. You don't have to worry about how much money the fans are pulling in by purchasing tickets to your stadium, nor do you have to worry about purchasing the football equipment, such as football helmets like these:

http://www.sports-collectibles-store.com/Riddell_Deluxe_Football_Helmets-p-1-c-3.html

that your team

will be using. Now, that my friends...is very cool indeed.

So you basically have free reign of a team of great football players (if you've done your homework), and now can decide who plays when. Obviously, it is not as in depth as Madden Football, but this is more of a player game. Meaning, you choose your players based on their record in the NFL and create your team and score your points that way instead of making plays, you are making a team.

Now, my question is: What about college football? The enormous fan base across the US would make fantasy college football a huge presence in the sports world. Sure, it would be a lot harder to predict what players to pick because although they are way better than I would ever be at football, they are not always as consistent as most NFL players are. Especially when you are drafting your defense. But, just imagine how much more varied and exciting the world of fantasy football would be if you could create your own college team too.

You could go off of the "experts" top college football picks, starting with the team and working your way down. Just think of the huge potential talent that is stuffed away at big 10 colleges because they've already got their star quarterback or wide receiver. This would give little known players a chance to get their name out there before even completing college. You could help them kick start their career!

Chris Hinde is an aspiring sports column writer. If you would like to read more of his articles, please visit:

<http://www.sports-collectibles-store.com>



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