Pro Football

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	AFC	NFC	DIV.
Oakland	6	2	0	.750	216	167	4-2-0	2-0-0	3-1-0
Denver	5	4	0	.556	218	198	3-4-0	2-0-0	2-3-0
San Diego	5	4	0	.556	222	172	3-4-0	2-0-0	1-2-0
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	152	185	4-2-0	0-2-0	2-1-0
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222	171	199	1-5-0	1-2-0	1-2-0
Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	AFC	NFC	DIv.
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	135	90	5-2-0	1-0-0	3-2-0
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	157	139	5-2-0	1-1-0	4-2-0
Cincinnati	4	4	0	.500	133	166	3-3-0	1-1-0	2-2-0
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	144	133	3-3-0	1-1-0	2-2-0
Jacksonville	3	5	0	.375	144	128	3-5-0	0-0-0	3-3-0
Tennessee	3	5	0	.375	139	196	1-5-0	2-0-0	1-4-0
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	AFC	NFC	DIv.
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N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	.667	184	182	4-1-0	2-2-0	3-1-0
New England	5	4	0	.556	206	171	4-4-0	1-0-0	3-2-0
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Dallas	2	6	0	250	129	167	2-4-0	0-2-0	2-2-0

SCHEDULE

SI	П	N	D	A	١

Atlanta at Green Bay	10 a.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore	10
Indianapolis at New Orleans .	10
N.Y. Jets at Miami	
Philadelphia at Dallas	10
San Francisco at Carolina	
Seattle at Buffalo	
Tennessee at Cincinnati	
San Diego at Oakland	
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh	The second second
Chicago at Tampa Bay1	
Detroit at Arizona	
Washington at Denver	
St. Louis at New England	

MONDAY

New York Giants at Minnesota Open: Kansas City

NOV. 22 Green Bay at Detroit ..9:30 a.m.

NOW OF
NOV. 25
Atlanta at Carolina10 a.r
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Miami at Buffalo
Pittsburgh at Tennessee
Seattle at Kansas City
San Francisco at Indianapolis
Washington at Philadelphia
Arizona at San Diego1 p.s
New Orleans at New England
Baltimore at Jacksonville1:1
Oakland at N.Y. Giants1:1
Chicago at Minnesota5:3

NOV. 26 Tampa Bay at St. Louis Open: N.Y. Jets

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Brady Will Start Ahead of Bledsoe

Tom Brady will start again at quarterback for New England on Sunday even though doctors cleared **Drew Bledsoe** to play. Brady is 5-2 as a starter since taking over after

Bledsoe was sidelined by a hit from New York Jet linebacker Mo Lewis on Sept. 23 that ruptured a blood vessel in Bledsoe's chest. The Patriots were 0-2 with Bledsoe starting.

"Any time you lose your starting quarterback, that's not anything that's a positive," Coach Bill Belichick said. "But Tom has taken advantage of the opportunity and has done a good job."

Brady has completed 63.3% of his passes for 1,426 yards with 11 touchdowns and five interceptions. The Patriots are averaging more than 26 points under Brady, compared to 10 points a game with Bledsoe.

Belichick said he will settle on a starter after Sunday.

After four days of controversy and conflicting statements, the Denver Broncos released receiver Eddie Kennison.

Saying it was in the best interest of the team, Coach Mike Shanahan reached the decision after meeting with Bronco players and coaches.

On Saturday night, about 16 hours before kickoff against San Diego, Kennison told Shanahan he lost his passion for the game and was retiring.

The timing of the announcement, after Kennison took all of the snaps in practice as a starting receiver during the week, angered the Broncos and forced coaches and backup receivers to make frantic adjustments for the game.

A day after Pittsburgh Coach Bill Cowher apologized for cursing at Cleveland cornerback Corey Fuller after the Steelers' 15-12 overtime victory Sunday, Pittsburgh receiver Hines Ward said he shouldn't have taunted safety Earl Little after leveling him with a hit.

But Ward said he isn't sorry for hitting Little so hard that it caused a concussion because Little had threatened earlier in the game to come after Ward.

"My emotions got to me as far as when the guy was down and standing over him and I'm sorry for that—that's not me," Ward said. "But in the heat of battle, when somebody is talking trash to you, your emotions take over when you get a good hit like that."

Oakland running back Tyrone Wheatley, who sat out the last three games because of a sprained knee but was expected to return this week against San Diego, skipped practice because of illness....Quarterback Chris Chandler practiced without severe pain in his ribs and expects to start when Atlanta plays at Green Bay on Sunday....Carolina quarterback Chris Weinke returned to practice after sitting out a week because of a sore throwing shoulder....St. Louis quarterback Kurt Warner will take fewer snaps in practice the rest of the season to spare him fatigue from excessive throwing, Coach Mike Martz said. Warner has not complained of arm problems.

The Washington Redskins and San Francisco 49ers will open the 2002 exhibition season in the American Bowl on Aug. 3 at Osaka, Japan.

Associated Press

CHRIS DUFRESNE ON COLLEGE FOOTBALL

High Price to Pay for Liberty

ou've heard of the battle of the Saturday in Provo, Utah, there could be a battle of the bowl jackets when Utah plays at Brigham Young in an important Mountain West Conference game. The conflict is clear: The Liberty Bowl does not want the Fiesta Bowl scouting BYU as a possible BCS at-large selection.

Liberty Bowl Executive Director Steve Ehrhart said Wednesday he "just about fell out of my chair" when he saw Fiesta Bowl representative Alan Young being interviewed at last Saturday's game in Laramie, Wyo., between BYU and Wyoming. If 10-0 BYU beats Utah and clinches the Mountain West, it is contractually obligated to play in the Dec. 31 Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn., against the Conference USA champion.

However, if No. 8 BYU goes undefeated and finishes in the top 12 of the BCS standings—BYU is No. 13 in the BCS this week—the Cougars could also be considered for an at-large berth in a \$13-million bowl championship series bowl.

Ehrhart, who is attending Saturday's BYU game, said he called Mountain West Conference Commissioner Craig Thompson this week and said, "The guy from the Fiesta Bowl better not be there.'

The Fiesta Bowl's response? "We're going to be there," spokesman Shawn Schoeffler said. Schoeffler said the Fiesta Bowl is sending selection chairman Evan Paoletti to the game.

"We're not backing down," Schoeffler said.

This year, the Fiesta Bowl matches the champions of the Pacific 10 and Big 12 conferences, but it is likely to lose the Big 12 champion to the Rose Bowl.

In that case, the Fiesta Bowl would get the first at-large pick. Not only does BYU feature one of the nation's top offenses, there is a large Mormon population in the Phoenix area. But Ehrhart says the Fiesta Bowl is tampering.

"We fully expect the Mountain West to honor the contract," Ehrhart said. The debate exacerbates the rift that exists between the six major BCS conferences and so-called "lower-tier" conferences such as the Mountain West.

This is a sticky situation for the Mountain West. It is legally partnered with the Liberty Bowl, yet craves the national attention and the \$13-million check a Fiesta Bowl berth would reap. The Liberty Bowl payout is \$1.3 million a school.

In 1996, the Western Athletic Conference went to Congress to fight for then-member BYU, claiming the 13-1 Cougars were unjustly denied access to the major bowls. In response, the conferences that would in 1998 become the BCS granted "non-BCS" schools greater access to the major

However, the Liberty Bowl has a legitimate beef: Why would it simply hand over 13-0 BYU to the Fiesta Bowl? Last week, in a scene that could have been lifted from "The Sopranos," Thompson was quoted in a Salt Lake paper as saying the Mountain West might be willing to pay the Liberty Bowl an "inconvenience fee" for letting BYU out of its contract.

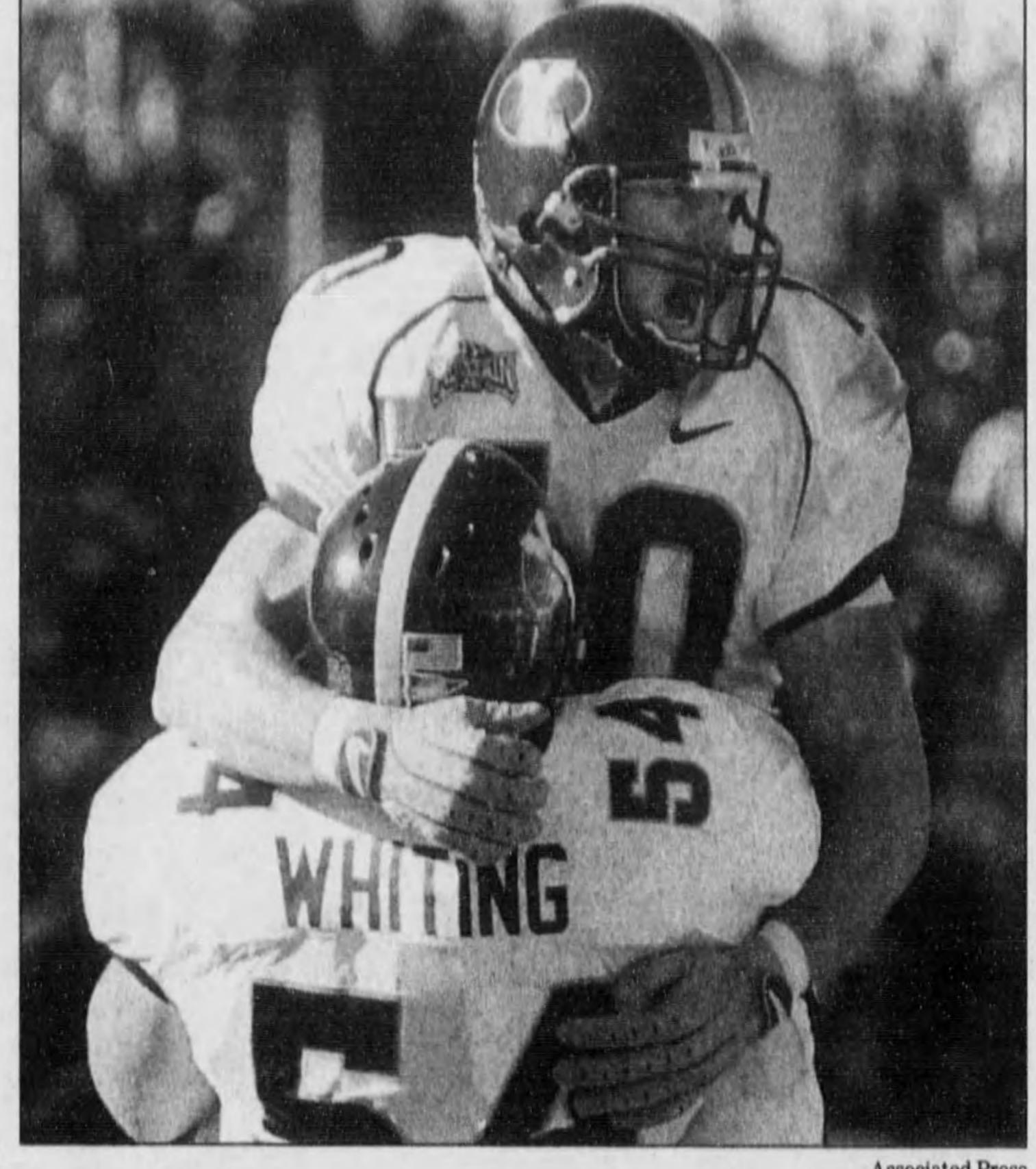
Mountain West Conference spokesman Bob Burda said this week that was only a "remote possibility." Ehrhart's response: if it's only about money in college football, why doesn't the sport mimic major league baseball and have schools purchase players to "shore up their seasons" for the pennant stretch?

Ehrhart suggested BYU could sell star quarterback Brandon Doman and tailback Luke Staley to Notre Dame. Ehrhart says his bowl is not going to kowtow to the Fiesta just because it was chosen as one of the four major bowls that comprise the BCS. Ehrhart notes the Liberty Bowl is the seventh-oldest bowl and has been played for 43 years.

"We've been around a lot longer than the Fiesta," he said. The first Fiesta Bowl was played in 1971.

Ehrhart says the long-term solution is to make the Liberty Bowl the fifth BCS bowl, joining the Rose, Sugar, Orange and Fiesta. He said the Liberty would be willing to take less money at first but that inclusion would eliminate this year's possible contractual quagmire.

Then again, this is all premature speculation. BYU would only be



Associated Press

Receiver Andrew Ord and tackle Teag Whiting have helped Brigham Young to a 10-0 record entering Saturday's game against Utah.

THE TIMES' RANKINGS

Chris Dufresne's Top 25 College Rankings and Comments

1	MIAMI 8-0	CNN reports coaches who voted Nebraska over Miami may have been confused by "butterfly" ballot.
2	NEBRASKA 11-0	Tom Osborne sponsors House resolution that hails voting coaches' decision to drop Miami from top spot.
3	FLORIDA 8-1	Seems as if the only person not touting Rex Grossman as a Heisman candidate is his coach.
4	OKLAHOMA 8-1	Dr. Bob Stoops still maintains season-ending knee injury to QB White only a sprain.
5	OREGON 9-1	Players plan to build a "really cool fort" in 20 days off before Oregon State game.
6	TEXAS 9-1	Players so hungry for national title shot the school moves Bevo to an undisclosed location.
7	WASHINGTON STATE 9-1	It's anyone's guess whether quarterback Jason Gesser will be 100% after last week's concussion.
8	TENNESSEE 7-1	Volunteers use credit card to send away for BCS strength-of-schedule repair kit.
9	STANFORD 6-2	School feels so sorry for California this week it makes "The Tree" available for kidnapping.
10	MARYLAND 9-1	ACC engraver resigns, saying he is not equipped to scrawl anything but "FSU" on conference trophy.
11	BRIGHAM YOUNG 10-0	Rankman rides out of Laramie on horse singing "I've got spurs, that jingle, jangle, jingle."
12	WASHINGTON 7-2	Victory against Washington State in Apple Cup might upset Pac-10 apple cart.
13	SYRACUSE 8-2	Heads to Miami this week to finish the upset job Boston College started.
14	MICHIGAN 7-2	Carr gives every player a little hug for winning the Little Brown Jug.
15	COLORADO 8-2	Playing Nebraska in a game that counts rekindles fond memories of CU police reports.
16	ILLINOIS 8-1	Unless Red Grange is making a comeback, loss of star tailback will hurt Illini's Big Ten chances.
17	UCLA 6-3	Toledo sells recruits with pitch about UCLA being ranked higher than Florida State.
18	FLORIDA STATE 6-3	School purchases a periscope to keep tabs on national title race.
19	VIRGINIA TECH 7-2	In a shocker, BCS awards team only half win each for victories against Rutgers (50-0) and Temple (35-0).
20	SOUTH CAROLINA 7-3	Holtz so embarrassed after Florida defeat he immediately schedules a game with Navy.
21	MISSISSIPPI 6-2	Eli Manning is so good we hear he threw six touchdowns during team's off week.
22	LOUISVILLE 9-1	A tearful Coach John L. Smith reveals middle initial stands for "Ludwig."
23	AUBURN 7-2	Citing Alabama's woes, the governor decides to shut down only half the state for this week's big game.
24	GEORGIA TECH 6-3	"Big" Dec. 1 makeup game with Florida State called off because of lack of interest.
25	OHIO STATE 6-3	During late-night séance, late coach Woody Hayes says he supports Toledo's play calling against Oregon.

considered for the Fiesta Bowl if it finishes 13-0, and even then there might be more viable at-large schools available.

Stay tuned.

Rose Bowl Watch

Oregon versus Illinois could end up being one of the best Rose Bowl games ever played in the Fiesta Bowl. Yep, this is a whole new ballgame for the Rose Bowl, the first time since 1946 the game will not be a Big Ten-West Coast affair.

"It will be unusual," Rose Bowl CEO Mitch Dorger said this week. It could also be interesting.

"People can argue about breaking the tradition," Dorger said, "but one thing it has done is created electricity through the country among great schools about the possibility of coming out here.

There are people that are fired up about that. I mean, if we see Nebraska or Oklahoma, there's going to be a wave of red." Nebraska last appeared in the Rose Bowl in 1941.

As part of its deal in joining the bowl championship series, the Rose Bowl is hosting this year's national title game Jan. 3. The game will feature the top two schools as determined by the final BCS standings. Like everyone else with a football pulse and a calculator, Dorger and his staff have pored over the Rose Bowl possibilities.

Because of the logistical ramifications, Dorger would love to have the national title participants locked in by Dec. 1. That could happen if Nebraska and Miami, the only two unbeaten schools in national title contention, win out. "If either one loses, it raises all sorts of permutations,"

Dorger said.

Some of the possibilities include: Oregon-Texas, Florida-Texas, Oklahoma-Miami, Tennessee-Nebraska, Florida-Miami. The Rose Bowl plans on flying both title-game participants to Pasadena on Dec. 12 for an orientation, but it may not know what teams are playing until the conclusion of the Dec. 8 Southeastern Conference title game.

Dorger has shipped Rose Bowl staff members to games across the country. By Thanksgiving weekend, some representative of the Rose Bowl will have seen every team ranked in the BCS top 10. These are more than courtesy calls.

It is likely one or both of this year's Rose Bowl schools will be making their first appearance, and Dorger and his staff are leaving no detail to chance.

"We're visiting a lot more people and different people than we would in a normal year," Dorger said. Dorger said Rose Bowl preparations are on track despite heightened logistical and security concerns since Sept. 11.

"Because we were one of lead events in new millennium, we really schooled up our security two years ago and never dropped off," Dorger said. This year's game will be played at 5 p.m. on a Thursday, so Dorger is encouraging fans to arrive to the Rose Bowl grounds early. To improve the security-check flow, he said tailgating will be curtailed at 4 p.m. so that thousands of fans are not trying to enter the stadium at once.

This is a different Rose Bowl, these are different times, but Dorger says the Granddaddy is ready.

"We're in good shape," Dorger said.

Hurry-Up Offense

Hey, it's a numbers game, so don't take too much stock in Oregon's BCS jump this week from No. 6 to No. 4 because the Ducks will likely fall a few pegs in the coming weeks. Why? Oregon doesn't play again until Dec. 1 against Oregon State. Florida, at No. 5, trails Oregon by only .01 and will pass the Ducks with a victory this week against Florida State. No. 6 Texas also might jump Oregon if it defeats Texas A&M on Nov. 23. We warned you not even victory was going to save Tennessee and, sure enough, the Volunteers fell from No. 4 to No. 7 in this week's BCS after a win against Memphis. Three of Tennessee's four BCS components remained the same from last week (poll average, strength of schedule, and losses), but the Volunteers took a 2.17-point hit in the computer component. Once again, four of eight BCS

computers still factor in margin of victory, and Tennessee let a huge lead slip away against Memphis when Coach Phil Fulmer put in his second stringers. One can only guess how far Tennessee might fall after sure victories against Kentucky and Vanderbilt.

BCS No. 2 Miami's drop from No. 1 to No. 2 in the coaches' poll cost it a half point in the poll average, which helped No. 3 Oklahoma close to within 0.58. Last week, Miami held a 1.22 lead over Oklahoma. We still maintain that if Miami defeats Syracuse, Washington and Virginia Tech to close the regular season, it will secure one of two Rose Bowl spots. Miami still has plenty of points to shave off its 2.64 strength-of-schedule ranking. Miami, however, may end up with no "quality win" points to deduct from its final total.

Florida State's third loss knocked the Seminoles out of the BCS top 15 and a Miami victory against No. 14 Syracuse will bounce the Orangemen out.

Florida State's amazing run is officially over and it's time to pay homage. Last week's home loss to North Carolina State was Florida State's third of the season and assures the Seminoles will not finish with 10 wins and a top-five AP finish for the first time since 1986.

This is bad news in Tallahassee but good news for the Atlantic Coast Conference, which will crown a champion other than Florida State for the first time since the Seminoles joined the conference in 1992. "It means everything to the

conference as regards to football," Bowden said. "We don't like to cooperate. I liked it better when we were winning it outright." There is also a good chance Florida

State (6-3) will finish out of the AP poll for the first time since 1986. The Seminoles are No. 21 this week and have remaining games against Florida and Georgia Tech.

Sports Law Expert Is Retained by Foster

UCLA: Suspended running back hires Robert C. Berry, who once represented Cris Carter in an extra benefits case. Foster still not expected to play against USC.

By STEVE HENSON TIMES STAFF WRITER

On the day UCLA filed its longawaited report to the NCAA regarding the suspension of DeShaun Foster, the tailback retained sports law expert Robert C. Berry to advise him on the appeals process and ramifications on his impending NFL career.

Berry could recommend legal action if the NCAA determines that Foster's

"extra benefits" violation merits suspension for the rest of the season. However, an appeal of the penalty would be made by UCLA, not Foster.

The NCAA is expected to respond to UCLA's report in a matter of days, although Foster is not expected to regain his eligibility in time to play Saturday against USC.

"There is little that can be done until we hear from the [NCAA]," Berry said.

The Harvard-educated attorney has been a professor at Boston College since teaching the nation's first sports law course in 1972. His resume is extensive, from consulting for sports management companies and the Boston Red Sox to representing receiver Cris Carter in an extra benefits case to working as a sports agent two decades ago.

Berry has done pro bono work for athletes in the past but would not dis-

cuss his arrangement with Foster. "My role could be characterized as

trying to protect the interests of the Foster family and help see that [DeShaun] is reinstated," Berry said.

Foster was declared ineligible Nov. 7 after admitting he drove a 2002 Ford Expedition that belonged to Hollywood actor-director Eric Laneuville. The NCAA was tipped off by e-mails sent by Ford in West Los Angeles who leased

Laneuville the vehicle. UCLA had to submit a report outlining the facts of the case and requesting that Foster be reinstated. Athletic Director Pete Dalis tried to complete the report by last Friday, but was delayed by additional e-mail tips and requests by the NCAA.

Berry has experience dealing with the NCAA. He represented Carter in

1987 when the Ohio State receiver allegedly accepted a \$5,000 interest-free loan and payments totaling nearly \$1,800 from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Carter admitted a violation and agreed to perform community service to avoid criminal charges.

Foster, who leads the Pacific-10 Conference in rushing and touchdowns, is expected to be a high first-round NFL a female friend of a salesman at Buerge draft pick. He did not play for No. 20 UCLA in a 21-20 loss to Oregon on Saturday.

Coach Bob Toledo is not allowing Foster to practice or attend team meetings until he is ruled eligible by the NCAA.

After Saturday, UCLA (6-3, 3-3 in conference play) has one regular-season game remaining against Arizona State on Dec. 1 at the Rose Bowl. The Bruins likely will also play in a bowl game.

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SCHEDULE

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Cleveland at Baltimore	
Indianapolis at New Orleans	
N.Y. Jets at Miami	
Philadelphia at Dallas	
San Francisco at Carolina	
Spattle at Buffalo	

Tennessee at Cincinnati San Diego at Oakland . Jacksonville at Pittsburgh. Chicago at Tampa Bay .. Detroit at Arizona Washington at Denver. St. Louis at New England

MONDAY New York Giants at Minnesot Open: Kansas City

NOV. 22	
een Bay at Detroit9:30	a.m
enver at Dallas1	p.m
NOV. 25	

10 a.m. Atlanta at Carolina Cincinnati at Cleveland. Pittsburgh at Tennessee. Seattle at Kansas City. San Francisco at Indianapolis. Washington at Philadelphia Arizona at San Diego New Orleans at New England Baltimore at Jacksonville Oakland at N.Y. Giants Chicago at Minnesota

NOV. 26 Tampa Bay at St. Louis Open: N.Y. Jets

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Ahead of Bledsoe

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But Ward said he isn't sorry for hitting Little so hard that it caused a concussion because Little had threatened earlier in the game to come after Ward.

"My emotions got to me as far as when the guy was down and standing over him and I'm sorry for that—that's not me," Ward said. "But in the heat of battle, when somebody is talking trash to you, your emotions take over when you get a good hit like

Oakland running back Tyrone Wheatley, who sat out the last three games because of a sprained knee but was expected to return this week against San Diego, skipped practice because of illness....Quarterback Chris Chandler practiced without severe pain in his ribs and expects to start when Atlanta plays at Green Bay on Sunday....Carolina quarterback Chris Weinke returned to practice after sitting out a week because of a sore throwing shoulder....St. Louis quarterback Kurt Warner will take fewer snaps in practice the rest of the season to spare him fatigue from excessive throwing, Coach Mike Martz said. Warner has not complained of arm problems.

The Washington Redskins and San Francisco 49ers will open the 2002 exhibition season in the American Bowl on Aug. 3 at Osaka, Japan.

Associated Press

CHRIS DUFRESNE

ON COLLEGE FOOTBALL High Price to Pay for Liberty

ou've heard of the battle of the Saturday in Provo, Utah, there could be a battle of the bowl jackets when Utah plays at Brigham Young in an important Mountain West Conference game. The conflict is clear: The Liberty Bowl does not want the Fiesta Bowl scouting BYU as a possible BCS at-large selection.

Liberty Bowl Executive Director Steve Ehrhart said Wednesday he "just about fell out of my chair" when he saw Fiesta Bowl representative Alan Young being interviewed at last Saturday's game in Laramie, Wyo., between BYU and Wyoming. If 10-0 BYU beats Utah and clinches the Mountain West, it is contractually obligated to play in the Dec. 31 Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn., against the Conference USA champion.

However, if No. 8 BYU goes undefeated and finishes in the top 12 of the BCS standings—BYU is No. 13 in the BCS this week—the Cougars could also be considered for an at-large berth in a \$13-million bowl championship series bowl.

Ehrhart, who is attending Saturday's BYU game, said he called Mountain West Conference Commissioner Craig Thompson this week and said, "The guy from the Fiesta Bowl better not be there.'

The Fiesta Bowl's response? "We're going to be there," spokesman Shawn Schoeffler said. Schoeffler said the Fiesta Bowl is sending selection chairman Evan Paoletti to the game.

"We're not backing down," Schoeffler

This year, the Fiesta Bowl matches the champions of the Pacific 10 and Big 12 conferences, but it is likely to lose the Big 12 champion to the Rose Bowl.

In that case, the Fiesta Bowl would get the first at-large pick. Not only does BYU feature one of the nation's top offenses, there is a large Mormon population in the Phoenix area. But Ehrhart says the Fiesta Bowl is tampering.

"We fully expect the Mountain West to honor the contract," Ehrhart said. The debate exacerbates the rift that exists between the six major BCS conferences and so-called "lower-tier" conferences such as the Mountain West.

This is a sticky situation for the Mountain West. It is legally partnered with the Liberty Bowl, yet craves the national attention and the \$13-million check a Fiesta Bowl berth would reap. The Liberty Bowl payout is \$1.3 million a school.

In 1996, the Western Athletic Conference went to Congress to fight for then-member BYU, claiming the 13-1 Cougars were unjustly denied access to the major bowls. In response, the conferences that would in 1998 become the BCS granted "non-BCS" schools greater access to the major bowls.

However, the Liberty Bowl has a legitimate beef: Why would it simply hand over 13-0 BYU to the Fiesta Bowl? Last week, in a scene that could have been lifted from "The Sopranos," Thompson was quoted in a Salt Lake paper as saying the Mountain West might be willing to pay the Liberty Bowl an "inconvenience fee" for letting BYU out of its contract.

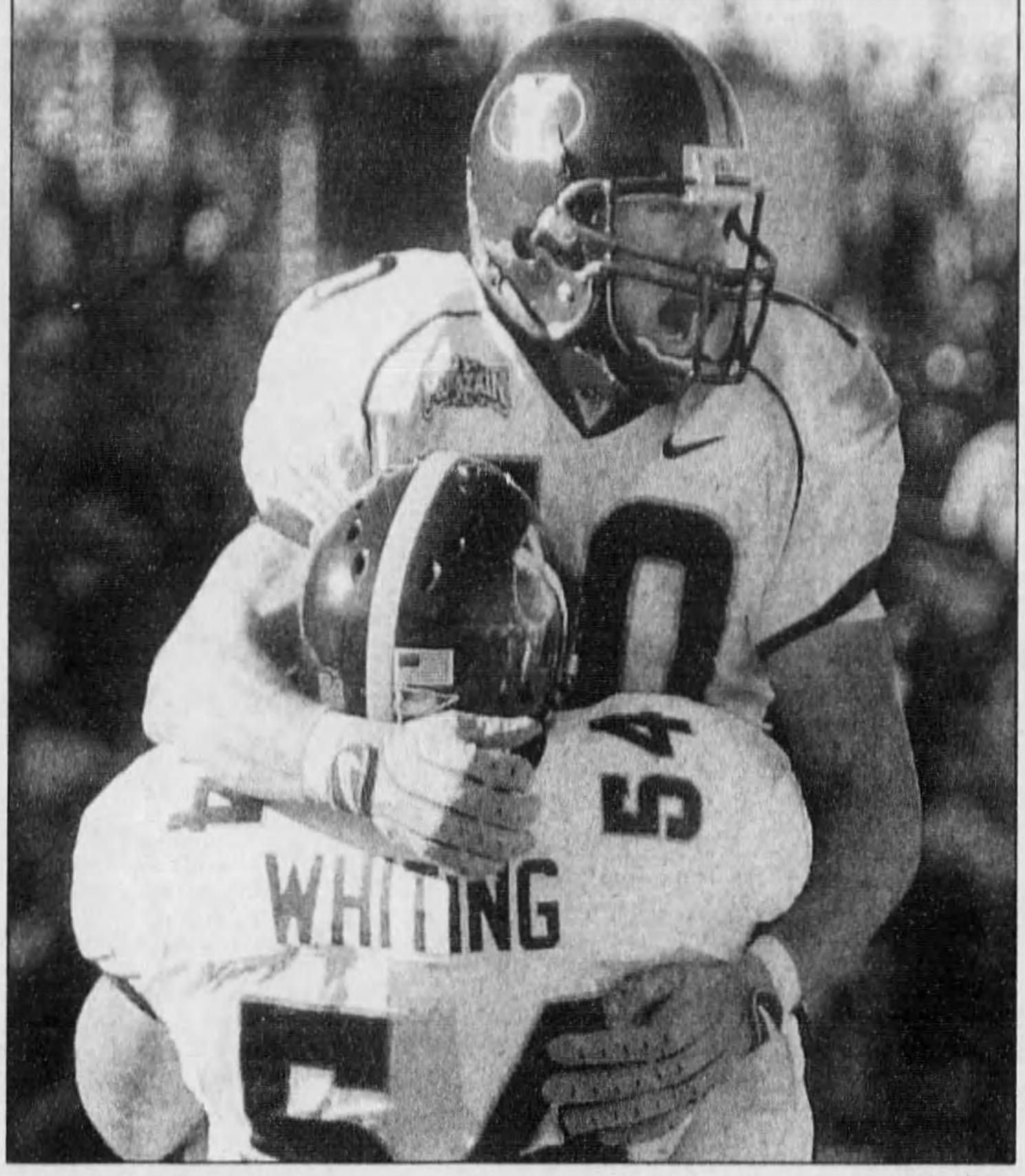
Mountain West Conference spokesman Bob Burda said this week that was only a "remote possibility." Ehrhart's response: if it's only about money in college football, why doesn't the sport mimic major league baseball and have schools purchase players to "shore up their seasons" for the pennant

stretch? Ehrhart suggested BYU could sell star quarterback Brandon Doman and tailback Luke Staley to Notre Dame. Ehrhart says his bowl is not going to kowtow to the Fiesta just because it was chosen as one of the four major bowls that comprise the BCS. Ehrhart notes the Liberty Bowl is the seventh-oldest bowl and has been played for 43 years.

"We've been around a lot longer than the Fiesta," he said. The first Fiesta Bowl was played in 1971.

Ehrhart says the long-term solution is to make the Liberty Bowl the fifth BCS bowl, joining the Rose, Sugar, Orange and Fiesta. He said the Liberty would be willing to take less money at first but that inclusion would eliminate this year's possible contractual

Then again, this is all premature speculation. BYU would only be



Associated Press

Receiver Andrew Ord and tackle Teag Whiting have helped Brigham Young to a 10-0 record entering Saturday's game against Utah.

THE TIMES' RANKINGS

Chris Dufresne's Top 25 College Rankings and Comments

1	MIAMI 8-0	CNN reports coaches who voted Nebraska over Miami may have been confused by "butterfly" ballot.
2	NEBRASKA	Tom Osborne sponsors House resolution that hails votin
	11-0	coaches' decision to drop Miami from top spot.
3	FLORIDA 8-1	Seems as if the only person not touting Rex Grossman as a Heisman candidate is his coach.
4	OKLAHOMA 8-1	Dr. Bob Stoops still maintains season-ending knee injury to QB White only a sprain.
5	OREGON 9-1	Players plan to build a "really cool fort" in 20 days off before Oregon State game.
6	TEXAS 9-1	Players so hungry for national title shot the school moves Bevo to an undisclosed location.
7	WASHINGTON STATE 9-1	It's anyone's guess whether quarterback Jason Gesser will be 100% after last week's concussion.
8	TENNESSEE 7-1	Volunteers use credit card to send away for BCS strength-of-schedule repair kit.
9	STANFORD 6-2	School feels so sorry for California this week it makes "The Tree" available for kidnapping.
10	MARYLAND 9-1	ACC engraver resigns, saying he is not equipped to scrawl anything but "FSU" on conference trophy.
11	BRIGHAM YOUNG 10-0	Rankman rides out of Laramie on horse singing "I've got spurs, that jingle, jangle, jingle."
12	WASHINGTON 7-2	Victory against Washington State in Apple Cup might upset Pac-10 apple cart.
13	SYRACUSE 8-2	Heads to Miami this week to finish the upset job Boston College started.
14	MICHIGAN 7-2	Carr gives every player a little hug for winning the Little Brown Jug.
15	COLORADO 8-2	Playing Nebraska in a game that counts rekindles fond memories of CU police reports.
16	ILLINOIS 8-1	Unless Red Grange is making a comeback, loss of star tailback will hurt Illini's Big Ten chances.
17	UCLA 6-3	Toledo sells recruits with pitch about UCLA being ranked higher than Florida State.
18	FLORIDA STATE 6-3	School purchases a periscope to keep tabs on national title race.
19	VIRGINIA TECH 7-2	In a shocker, BCS awards team only half win each for victories against Rutgers (50-0) and Temple (35-0).
20	SOUTH CAROLINA 7-3	Holtz so embarrassed after Florida defeat he immediately schedules a game with Navy.
21	MISSISSIPPI 6-2	Eli Manning is so good we hear he threw six touchdowns during team's off week.
22	LOUISVILLE 9-1	A tearful Coach John L. Smith reveals middle initial stands for "Ludwig."
23	AUBURN 7-2	Citing Alabama's woes, the governor decides to shut down only half the state for this week's big game.
24	GEORGIA TECH 6-3	"Big" Dec. 1 makeup game with Florida State called off because of lack of interest.
25	OHIO STATE 6-3	During late-night séance, late coach Woody Hayes says he supports Toledo's play calling against Oregon.

considered for the Fiesta Bowl if it finishes 13-0, and even then there might be more viable at-large schools available.

Stay tuned.

Rose Bowl Watch

Oregon versus Illinois could end up being one of the best Rose Bowl games ever played in the Fiesta Bowl. Yep, this is a whole new ballgame for the Rose Bowl, the first time since 1946 the game will not be a Big Ten-West Coast

"It will be unusual," Rose Bowl CEO Mitch Dorger said this week. It could also be interesting.

"People can argue about breaking the tradition," Dorger said, "but one thing it has done is created electricity through the country among great schools about the possibility of coming out here.

There are people that are fired up about that. I mean, if we see Nebraska or Oklahoma, there's going to be a wave of red." Nebraska last appeared in the Rose Bowl in 1941.

As part of its deal in joining the bowl championship series, the Rose Bowl is hosting this year's national title game Jan. 3. The game will feature the top two schools as determined by the final BCS standings. Like everyone else with a football pulse and a calculator, Dorger and his staff have pored over the Rose Bowl possibilities.

Because of the logistical ramifications, Dorger would love to have the national title participants locked in by Dec. 1. That could happen if Nebraska and Miami, the only two unbeaten schools in national title contention, win out. "If either one loses, it raises all sorts of permutations,"

Dorger said.

Some of the possibilities include: Oregon-Texas, Florida-Texas, Oklahoma-Miami, Tennessee-Nebraska, Florida-Miami. The Rose Bowl plans on flying both title-game participants to Pasadena on Dec. 12 for an orientation, but it may not know what teams are playing until the conclusion of the Dec. 8 Southeastern Conference title game.

Dorger has shipped Rose Bowl staff members to games across the country. By Thanksgiving weekend, some representative of the Rose Bowl will have seen every team ranked in the BCS top 10. These are more than courtesy calls.

It is likely one or both of this year's Rose Bowl schools will be making their first appearance, and Dorger and his staff are leaving no detail to chance.

"We're visiting a lot more people and different people than we would in a normal year," Dorger said. Dorger said Rose Bowl preparations are on track despite heightened logistical and security concerns since Sept. 11.

"Because we were one of lead events in new millennium, we really schooled up our security two years ago and never dropped off," Dorger said. This year's game will be played at 5 p.m. on a Thursday, so Dorger is encouraging fans to arrive to the Rose Bowl grounds early. To improve the security-check flow, he said tailgating will be curtailed at 4 p.m. so that thousands of fans are not trying to enter the stadium at once.

This is a different Rose Bowl, these are different times, but Dorger says the Granddaddy is ready.

"We're in good shape," Dorger said.

Hurry-Up Offense

Hey, it's a numbers game, so don't take too much stock in Oregon's BCS jump this week from No. 6 to No. 4 because the Ducks will likely fall a few pegs in the coming weeks. Why? Oregon doesn't play again until Dec. 1 against Oregon State. Florida, at No. 5, trails Oregon by only .01 and will pass the Ducks with a victory this week against Florida State. No. 6 Texas also might jump Oregon if it defeats Texas A&M on Nov. 23. We warned you not even victory was going to save Tennessee and, sure enough, the Volunteers fell from No. 4 to No. 7 in this week's BCS after a win against Memphis. Three of Tennessee's four BCS components remained the same from last week (poll average, strength of schedule, and losses), but the Volunteers took a 2.17-point hit in the computer component. Once again, four of eight BCS

computers still factor in margin of victory, and Tennessee let a huge lead slip away against Memphis when Coach Phil Fulmer put in his second stringers. One can only guess how far Tennessee might fall after sure victories against Kentucky and Vanderbilt. BCS No. 2 Miami's drop from No. 1 to

No. 2 in the coaches' poll cost it a half point in the poll average, which helped No. 3 Oklahoma close to within 0.58. Last week, Miami held a 1.22 lead over Oklahoma. We still maintain that if Miami defeats Syracuse, Washington and Virginia Tech to close the regular season, it will secure one of two Rose Bowl spots. Miami still has plenty of points to shave off its 2.64 strength-of-schedule ranking. Miami, however, may end up with no "quality ... win" points to deduct from its final total.

Florida State's third loss knocked the Seminoles out of the BCS top 15 and a Miami victory against No. 14 Syracuse will bounce the Orangemen out.

Florida State's amazing run is officially over and it's time to pay homage. Last week's home loss to North Carolina State was Florida State's third of the season and assures the Seminoles will not finish with 10 wins and a top-five AP finish for the first time since 1986.

This is bad news in Tallahassee but good news for the Atlantic Coast Conference, which will crown a champion other than Florida State for the first time since the Seminoles joined the conference in 1992. "It means everything to the

conference as regards to football," Bowden said. "We don't like to cooperate. I liked it better when we were winning it outright."

There is also a good chance Florida State (6-3) will finish out of the AP poll for the first time since 1986. The Seminoles are No. 21 this week and have remaining games against Florida and Georgia Tech.

Sports Law Expert Is Retained by Foster

UCLA: Suspended running back hires Robert C. Berry, who once represented Cris Carter in an extra benefits case. Foster still not expected to play against USC.

By STEVE HENSON TIMES STAFF WRITER

awaited report to the NCAA regarding peals process and ramifications on his impending NFL career.

Berry could recommend legal action if the NCAA determines that Foster's

"extra benefits" violation merits suspension for the rest of the season. However, an appeal of the penalty would be made by UCLA, not Foster.

The NCAA is expected to respond to UCLA's report in a matter of days, although Foster is not expected to regain his eligibility in time to play Saturday against USC.

"There is little that can be done until we hear from the [NCAA]," Berry said.

The Harvard-educated attorney has been a professor at Boston College since On the day UCLA filed its long- teaching the nation's first sports law course in 1972. His resume is extensive, the suspension of DeShaun Foster, the from consulting for sports management tailback retained sports law expert Rob- companies and the Boston Red Sox to ert C. Berry to advise him on the ap- representing receiver Cris Carter in an extra benefits case to working as sports agent two decades ago.

Berry has done pro bono work for athletes in the past but would not discuss his arrangement with Foster.

"My role could be characterized as trying to protect the interests of the Foster family and help see that [DeShaun] is reinstated," Berry said.

Foster was declared ineligible Nov. 7 after admitting he drove a 2002 Ford Expedition that belonged to Hollywood actor-director Eric Laneuville. The NCAA was tipped off by e-mails sent by a female friend of a salesman at Buerge Ford in West Los Angeles who leased Laneuville the vehicle.

UCLA had to submit a report outlining the facts of the case and requesting that Foster be reinstated. Athletic Director Pete Dalis tried to complete the report by last Friday, but was delayed by additional e-mail tips and requests by the NCAA.

1987 when the Ohio State receiver allegedly accepted a \$5,000 interest-free loan and payments totaling nearly \$1,800 from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Carter admitted a violation and agreed to perform community service to avoid criminal charges.

Foster, who leads the Pacific-10 Conference in rushing and touchdowns, is expected to be a high first-round NFL draft pick. He did not play for No. 20 UCLA in a 21-20 loss to Oregon on Saturday.

Coach Bob Toledo is not allowing Foster to practice or attend team meetings until he is ruled eligible by the NCAA.

After Saturday, UCLA (6-3, 3-3 in conference play) has one regular-season game remaining against Arizona State Berry has experience dealing with on Dec. 1 at the Rose Bowl. The Bruins the NCAA. He represented Carter in likely will also play in a bowl game.