

That's why we watch

Did you see Oklahoma versus Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl? If you didn't, then you missed one of the all time great college football games. This was one of those games as a sports fan that gives you reason to sit through some of the boring games, because you just never know when it's going to get good.

And believe me, if you missed it, this one got really good!

True to form, it actually started off pretty boring. Boise State, the undefeated 13-0 underdog with something to prove, was all over the No. 7 Oklahoma Sooners from the start. Even in the second half the Broncos appeared headed for the easy upset with a comfortable 18-point midway through the third.

But Oklahoma would get off the mat and tie the game, 28-28, with just over a minute left to play thanks to a successful 2-point conversion that sent the Oklahoma fans into a frenzy.

That's when the fun started.

Just two plays later, Oklahoma intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown to take a shocking 35-28 lead with just 62 seconds left. Now the Oklahoma faithful were going crazy, literally. As the cameras scanned the crowd it was total

pandemonium for Sooners fans, and total dismay for those pulling for Boise State.

A dejected Boise team took the field with less than a minute left for one last shot to fulfill their dream of an undefeated season capped with a win over a national power in a



For What it's Worth

By Colin Merritt
Sports Editor

BCS bowl. Boise struggled to get the ball to midfield before having two incompletions and a sack set up a 4th-and-18 with seven seconds left in the game at the 50 yard line.

Did you get that? Trailing 35-28 with seven seconds to go and faced with a 4th-and-18 from the 50 yard line. Basically it was over, right?

Wrong.

Boise executed, with perfection I might add, the hook-and-ladder play. Boise receiver Drisan James caught a 15-yard button-hook, turned inside to run, then pitched the ball to a streaking Jerad Rabb who turned the corner and raced to the end zone

to tie the game 35-35 as time expired.

Miraculous!!

Then came perhaps the best play of all. Following Oklahoma's score on their first overtime possession, Boise answered with a pitch-pass on a 4th-and-Goal for a touchdown. Instead of going for the extra point to tie the game, however, Boise lined up to go for the 2-point conversion to win the game.

With the game on the line - win or lose - Boise ran the Statue of Liberty play!?! The Boise quarterback, Jared Zabransky, faked a screen pass to the right with a hard pump-fake, then he tucked the ball behind his back with his left hand, calmly stood there and waited for running back Ian Johnson to take the ball and basically walked into the end zone around the left end for the 43-42 win. There are probably some Oklahoma players and fans still wondering who has the ball.

Do yourself a favor and check ESPN Classics to see when the replay is. Because if you missed this one, then you missed the reason I love sports. It's the live, passionate, mysterious, unscripted drama that can and will unfold everytime you watch a game.

Like everthing else, some games are better than others, but this one, without a doubt, is one of the all-time best.

Rebels fall in finals

■ Lady Rebels drop rematch with Patrician and boys lose to Sparta in finals of SCA Holiday Tournament

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — Both South Choctaw teams advanced to the final game of their Holiday Tournament last Thursday and Friday in Toxei. Unfortunately for Rebel fans, however, both squads lost their title game. The Lady Rebels, after waxing Marengo 72-39, lost to Patrician, while the boys beat Patrician, 60-46, in round-one, before falling to Sparta in the final.

The Lady Rebels (6-5) made short work of their opening game opponent, Marengo Academy, by jumping out to a commanding 21-8 first period lead. South Choctaw stretched the lead to 44-20 by the break thanks to huge halves from Kate Dahlberg and Bridget Kwasniack. Although suffering from a flu, Dahlberg scored 18 of her 20 points in the opening half, while Kwasniack added 10 of her 12 points in the first half. Neither player saw much action in the second half as the Lady Rebels cruised to an easy 72-39 win. Trystan Mosley and Lauren Jackson scored eight each in the win, while Cortney Mzingo added six in a game that saw all but two Rebels make the score sheet.

In the championship game the Lady Rebels would rematch their nemesis, the Patrician Academy Lady Saints. The Rebels hung with the 4th-ranked Saints and actually held the lead, 33-31, late in the third after outscoring Patrician 12-6 in the period.

However, in the fourth period senior Kate Dahlberg picked up her fourth foul for the Rebels and had to sit as Patrician went on a 14-3 run that turned a close game into a 49-38 Saints' victory.

In the loss, Dahlberg and Arielle Campbell led South Choctaw with nine points apiece, while Trystan Mosley scored seven, Koen Lindsey netted six on two 3-pointers, and Bridget Kwasniack added five.

Kwasniack and Dahlberg were named to the all-tournament team along with Abbey Huckabee from Marengo, Erica Palmer of Sparta, and Patrician's Anna and



Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

SCA's Cortney Mzingo grimaces after losing a ball out of bounds during the Rebels' easy 72-39 win over Marengo. Mzingo had six points and five rebounds in the victory. See more photos from the tournament on 4B!!

Kylie Lewis. The MVP was Patrician's Stephanie Caudle with a combined 26 points and 24 rebounds.

The Rebel boys suffered the same fate as the girls, winning their first round match, but losing in the title game. The Rebels (2-10) used a 13-0 run midway through the third period to defeat a scrappy Patrician side 60-46. The run turned a slim one-point Rebel lead midway through the third into a 12-point lead heading for the fourth period. In the win, Tyler Fulcher and Derek Conner paced the Rebels with 13 points each, while Matt Etheridge added 10 and E.J. Moore scored eight. Fulcher was the spark during the decisive third period. The junior

scored nine points - including a conventional 3-point play on a spectacular drive to the basket - during the sequence that turned the close game into an easy Rebel win.

The boys lost to Sparta, 69-34, in the final game despite a 12-point effort from Rebel senior Derek Conner. Cody McIlwain and Tyler Fulcher added five each for South Choctaw.

For their effort, Conner and Fulcher were named to the all-tournament team.

South Choctaw takes to the court again on Thursday (1/4) when they host Wayne Academy.

On Friday (1/5) they travel to Central Christian before returning home Tuesday (1/9) to host Sumter.

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Landrum gets a spike

Landrum Roberts killed this spike for his first deer on December 28th in Choctaw County. Good Job, Landrum!