

Aggies, Baylor, TCU and Texas to play in bowl games

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine
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Texas A&M first-year head coach Kevin Sumlin and his “Johnny Football” led Aggies were overlooked by the Capital One Bowl organizers, but that didn’t stop them from becoming one of four Texas teams to be invited to play in a college bowl game during the postseason.

Texas A&M (10-2), Texas (8-4), TCU (7-5), and Baylor (7-5) where all selected to play in an upcoming bowl game. Only the Aggies will have the privilege of playing in January when they face former Big 12 South opponent, Oklahoma (10-2), in the Cotton Bowl on January 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

“Plenty of our players family and friends will be able to watch them play , and the hospitality is second to none,” Texas A&M head coach Kevin Sumlin said.

This contest will pit Sumlin against his one-time boss at Oklahoma, Bob Stoops. Sumlin was a Sooners assistant, including a stint as offensive coordinator, from 2003-07.

“The Cotton Bowl has long been a marquee postseason destination... and Cowboys Stadium is a great venue,” Coach Stoops said.

Expectations are high for the Aggies, who won at least 10 games for the first time since 1998,

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when they finished 11-3 and earned their lone Big 12 title. The Aggies also feature the Heisman Trophy front-runner in freshman quarterback Johnny Manziel.

Coach Kevin Sumlin is an excellent coach at turning programs around in the first year (Houston Cougars, Texas A&M Aggies). The #10 ranked Aggies played above expectations this season, including sweeping their road games in the Southeastern Conference. They also handed Alabama, which will play Notre Dame for the national title, its lone loss this season.

No. 12 Oklahoma is coming off a 24-17 victory at TCU on Saturday. The Sooners tied Kansas State for first in the Big 12, but the Wildcats won the head-to-head battle and earned the league's Bowl Championship Series berth. The Sooners only other loss was against Notre Dame.

A&M and OU competed annually as Big 12 members from 1996-2012 before the Aggies departed for the SEC this past July. The Sooners lead the series 19-11 and have won eight of their last nine meetings with the Aggies.

The 8-4, Texas Longhorns will stay closer to home this post-season as they face the 9-3 Oregon State Beavers in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, Texas at the Alamodome on Dec. 29th.

TCU and Baylor, who both finished 7-5 will get to make some trips out of state for their postseason bowl games. Baylor will face the UCLA Bruins on Dec. 27th at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California, while the Horned Frogs will play Michigan State (6-6) in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl on Dec. 29th at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona.

This will be the Longhorns first Alamo Bowl appearance since 2006. Texas 26-24 victory over Iowa in the 2006 Alamo Bowl was a quick sellout, and organizers expect another one this year.

It will be interesting to see how our Texas schools fair against various teams across the nation. But if you know anything about Texas Football, you should know that Texas has some of the best talent in the country.

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