

2009 Rowe Bowl Contest

Back for its 16th year, it's the 2009 Rowe Bowl Contest. Entry fee is \$20 and the deadline is 5:00 PM (Central), Sunday, December 20. There is a limit of five entries per person. Please forward or copy this e-mail to anyone you think would be interested in participating (spouses, friends, clients, etc.). Last year we had over 300 entries. You enter your picks at my website. You can also find past results and the standings as the games are completed. My website is: <http://www.markrowecontest.com/RoweBowlIndex.htm>.

I really like the BCS. I think it's the only fair way to decide a national champion. Any team can beat any other team on a given day so you really need to look at their portfolio of work. Wow. That made me sick to my stomach just typing. Even though UT didn't get hosed this year by the BCS, TCU, Boise St. and even Cincinnati did. This year, I think a plus one would be sufficient (I think crybaby Tebow will take care of Cincinnati). Regardless, we need a playoff system.

Here is your chance to once again prove your football knowledge (or lack thereof). The rules are simple. Each bowl game is listed along with the point spread. Go to the entry form at my website (see above) and pick the team you think will cover the spread for each game. The spread indicates how much one team is supposed to beat another. For example, Alabama is favored by 5.5 points over Texas. If you think Alabama will win by 6 points or more then pick Alabama. If you think Alabama will win by 5 or less points or not win at all then pick Texas. The tiebreaker will be based on the combined score of the Texas-Alabama game. If you think the score will be 37 to 27 then type 64 (37 + 27) in the tie breaker box.

A couple of other things. My software only handles 32 games so a couple of games are left off the list. If it is your alma mater, I apologize. You should have gone to a school with a better football team – like Temple. Speaking of Temple, we don't know exactly who they are playing – either Army or UCLA. I won't be adjusting the line for this game. Whoever is playing Temple will use the line provided.

Entry fee is \$20 and the payoff will be 1st place - 35%, 2nd place - 30%, 3rd place - 20%, 4th place – 10%, and 5th place – 5%. Also, places 6 through 10 will get their entry fee back.