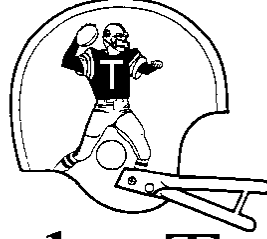


Tom Bowl

XIX
TOM BOWL



Hawaii
Kansas
Ohio State



About the Tom Bowl

The Tom Bowl was conceived in 1989 with the sole intention of settling the annual question as to the identity of the number one team in the nation. It is the belief of the Tom Bowl founder that all other bowl deals should be put aside and a true National Champion needs to be crowned.

The Tom Bowl, the only major college bowl game not sanctioned by the NCAA, annually extends invitations to the top two teams in the nation to face off in Beal City, Michigan to settle the question of who deserves to be ranked number 1. As the college football landscape changes, the Tom Bowl will continually strive to bring the public what they want. A clear definition of who is the #1 team in the nation. If that somehow manages to take place, than we need to know who #2 is by having #3 play #4.

Tom Bowl Scores

1989 Middle Tennessee St. 0 Eastern Michigan 0*
 1990 Colorado ? Notre Dame ?
 1991 University of Washington 0 University of Miami 0
 1992 Florida St. 0 University of Miami 0
 1993 Florida St. 0 University of Miami 0
 1994 University of Nebraska 0 Penn St. 0
 1995 University of Nebraska 0 Northwestern 0
 1996 Arizona State University 0 Florida St. 0
 1997 University of Nebraska 0 University of Michigan 0
 1998 Kansas State 0 Ohio State University 0+
 1999 University of Nebraska 0 University of Wisconsin 0+
 2000 University of Oklahoma 0 University of Miami 0
 2001 University of Miami 0 University of Colorado 0
 2002 University of Iowa 0 Ohio State University 0#
 2003 Southern Cal 0 Louisiana State 0
 2004 Southern Cal 0 Oklahoma 0 Auburn 0
 2005 Southern Cal 0 Texas 0 Penn State 0
 2006 Ohio State 0 University of Michigan 0

* Note: The 1989 contest featured alternates after Colorado declined an invitation to face Miami-FLA.

+ Note: The 1999 and 2000 contest featured #3 vs. #4 due to BCS Bowl format

Note: The 2002 game featured the Big 10 Championship due to BCS Bowl format

Tom Bowl History

1989 Middle Tennessee St. 0 Eastern Michigan 0*

The inaugural Tom Bowl featured the unlikely match up of Middle Tennessee St. and Eastern Michigan. The alternate match up was selected after the University of Colorado declined an invitation to participate in the contest. They were originally slated to play the University of Notre Dame, but elected to play in the Orange Bowl instead. Better financial considerations were cited for the declination.



Tom Bowl II - The Fog Bowl

1990 Colorado ? Notre Dame ?

The classic "Fog Bowl" was a repeat of the original pairing from 1989. The game was scheduled to be played at Stanley P. Mead field in New Canaan CT. However, shortly before kick off a heavy fog rolled in obscuring the field. So whether either team actually appeared was left in doubt.

Attendance: Two people, 14 Canadian Geese.

1991 University of Washington 0 University of Miami 0

Attendance doubles for this match-up at Stanley P. Mead Field. There was no doubt for this contest, clear blue skies made it absolutely

undeniable that neither team had attended the game. Attendance: 4 people, no Canadian Geese

1992 Florida St. 0 University of Miami 0

The Icy Game. Attendance doubled again, but extreme cold weather probably prevented either team from making it to Stanley P. Mead Field for the fourth Tom Bowl. The festive atmosphere of the event raised optimism and the official Tom Bowl Trophy was unveiled before kickoff. Attendance: 8 people, 1 what may have been a Canadian Goose



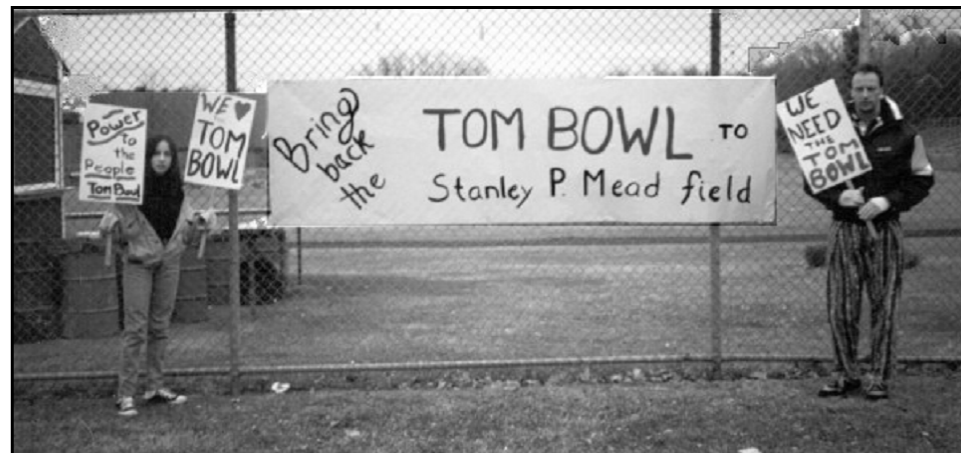
Tom Bowl IV - The Icy Game

1993 Florida St. 0 West Virginia 0

The "Where the Heck is this game going to be played?" Bowl. Scheduling mishaps and the identity of the participants played havoc with the fifth annual Tom Bowl. Questions concerning where the game would be played, Stanley P. Mead Field, Bucs Stadium in Grand Haven, MI or Frank Schafer Field in Beal City, MI caused all kinds of logistics problems and whether any game was played at all was never determined. This was the darkest hour in Tom Bowl history. Attendance: Zero People

1994 University of Nebraska 0 Penn St. 0

The Tom Bowl was rejuvenated with the selection of Frank Schafer Field in Beal City, MI as the new site of the Tom Bowl. Protesters picketed at Stanley P. Mead Field to voice opposition to the move, but a



Protestors at Stanley P. Mead Field

festive atmosphere in Beal City made it clear the right decision had been made. Although Nebraska had accepted a bid to participate, it was believed they were sidetracked and missed the game. The Tom Bowl was honored to have a member of the Class D State Champion Beal City Aggies attend the contest. Attendance: 6 People, no animals

1995 University of Nebraska 0 Northwestern 0

The first evening game in Tom Bowl history was the landmark event of the seventh contest. Beal City again hosted the event and anticipation was high as the unlikely Wildcats of Northwestern received a bid. Nebraska again failed to show after agreeing to participate, but no one really blamed them. There was a lot of snow on the ground and Beal City can be hard to find. Attendance: 4 people team



Tom Bowl VII



Fans think they see a bus at Tom Bowl VIII

1996 Arizona St. University 0 Florida State 0

It was a very cold day that greeted fans at the eighth Tom Bowl. Excitement abounded as a bus was spotted near Frank Schafer field raising hopes that either Florida State or first time invitee Arizona State had showed up for the contest. Neither could be found wandering around the stadium, but many still believe that one of the teams showed up for the game. One theory is they got lost in the excitement that is Beal City. Attendance: 4 people



Excitement abounds at Tom Bowl III

1997 University of Nebraska 0 University of Michigan 0

The Tom Bowl set an attendance record and neither team showed at a cold and icy Frank A. Schafer Field in Beal City. The University of Nebraska made their record-breaking fourth nonappearance against the Wolverines of Michigan. It was believed Michigan would have shown up except the Big Ten Conference blocked them from taking a break from Rose Bowl preparations in California to fly in for the contest. The new Tom Bowl trophy was unveiled. Rumor has it that CBS was going to broadcast the game, but they didn't show up either. Attendance: Nine people



Cheering the action at Tom Bowl IX

1998 Kansas State University 0 Ohio State University 0

The 10th anniversary of the Tom Bowl saw invitations given to #3 Ohio State and #4 Kansas State after the Fiesta Bowl chose to pit #1 Tennessee vs. #2 Florida State. The change in format didn't hurt attendance as the crowd matched the total set the year before in Tom Bowl IX. Expectations were high, but the temperatures were low and Kansas State didn't show up after accepting their bid likely due to the icy winds blowing

across Frank A. Schafer Field. Tom Bowl apparel as introduced for the first time in the form of an official sweatshirt. Attendance: Nine people.



Fans react at Tom Bowl X

1999 University of Nebraska 0 University of Wisconsin 0

The battle to determine the true #2 went unanswered as both teams failed to show for Tom Bowl XI. Hopes were raised upon the arrival of fans at Frank Schafer Field because the wire strung across the entrance was down, but no teams were to be seen. Not enough snow had fallen for there to be any footprints so if the teams had shown up and already played the game there were no eye witnesses. After the game, the official Tom Bowl helmet was presented by a loyal Tom Bowl fan to the Tom Bowl president. Attendance: 10 people.

2000 University of Miami 0 University of Nebraska 0

Arguably the worst weather conditions in Tom Bowl history could not prevent the setting of a new attendance record. The gate was open, the chain was down, and an area had been plowed, but drifting snow banks and blowing wind

made conditions harsh and probably contributed to the failure of either the Sooners or Hurricanes to show up for the game. Even the promise of media coverage by the Mt. Pleasant Morning Sun wasn't enough to entice either team. Attendance: 12 fans, 2 media.



A full house at Tom Bowl XII

2001 University of Miami 0 University of Colorado 0

It was a cold, blustery day at Tom Bowl XIII. Halftime festivities were planned featuring Molly the two-liter bottle retrieving dog but it was not enough to entice either Miami or Colorado to make the trip to Beal City for the battle to determine the true #1 team in the nation. Debate endured though, should Colorado have been invited, or Oregon. Colorado won out in a close decision. Attendance: 12 people

2002 Iowa 0 Ohio State 0

Fans of the Tom Bowl were in for a surprise when they arrived at Frank A. Schafer field for Tom Bowl XIV. The stadium was gone. Well, it wasn't gone, it had moved. The new Frank A. Schafer field is currently under construction and after a brief delay fans found the new home of the Tom Bowl and made the journey to the new facility. Due to the confusion, it is widely believed that Iowa and OSU arrived early, couldn't find the stadium, and wandered off somewhere. This theory gained support when two busses were spied near the field. The Tom Bowl was also pleased to receive a letter from Ohio State and the Big 10 conference concerning the game. Attendance: 11 (13 if you count tailgaters but they wouldn't get out of their car)

2003 Southern Cal 0 Louisiana State 0

Unfortunately the battle to determine the true national championship ended in a scoreless tie as both teams failed to show for the most demanded Tom Bowl in its 15 year history. Upon arrival at Frank A. Schafer field the gate was kind of frozen shut and it took some doing to get it open leading to speculation that perhaps the Trojans and Tigers had tried and only succeeded in loosening the gate before giving up and heading to wherever they may have headed to play the game. The Tom Bowl was very excited to have its first "off-the-street" attendees that weren't Canadian Geese as the daughter of Frank A Schafer and two of her grandchildren attended the game allowing the Tom Bowl to set a new attendance record. Attendance: 14



The record crowd at Tom Bowl XVI

2004 Southern Cal 0 Oklahoma 0 Auburn 0

Attendance records were shattered at Tom Bowl XVI as fans arrived hoping to see USC, Oklahoma and Auburn play to determine the true national championship. The event is already being called the greatest Tom Bowl in the game's 16 year history. The game featured a postgame cheering session. Due to coverage by CNN Headline news security was brought in and a state police cruiser was spotted in the "four corners of excitement" district of downtown Beal City anticipating the arrival of the teams. Unfortunately, all three failed to show. We think perhaps they were waylaid by the airline problems that plagued the country over the holidays. Attendance 28



Getting rained on at Tom Bowl XVII

2005 Southern Cal 0 Texas 0 Penn State 0

Fans stayed away in droves for Tom Bowl XVII as the game experienced its first rainy day ever. There has been nasty cold, wind and even balmy for December weather but the highly anticipated Tom Bowl XVII game was just all wet. There was high optimism heading into the game as articles appeared nationally in The Sporting News and instate with the Saginaw News but despite that the Tom Bowl had its smallest crowd in years. An advanced bomb detection squad surveyed the stadium prior to kick off. Letters were received from Penn State who flat out turned it down and the Pac-10 which accepted the bid on USC's behalf and stated they would not be attending the game. They followed through and did not appear. Texas didn't show either. Attendance: 12

2006 Ohio State 0 Michigan 0

Pleasant weather greeted fans hoping to see The Rematch between Ohio State and Michigan in Tom Bowl XVIII. A white bus, something not seen for some time if ever in the area, raised hopes that the Wolverines or Buckeyes had made the trip to Beal City but they were no where to be found. The Big 10 had even directed the Tom Bowl to contact their media director about protocol for televising the game which raised hopes. Fans were so excited at the prospect of seeing the two teams played they came with signs. Attempts to page the teams proved fruitless. Alas, despite all these efforts the most eagerly awaited Tom Bowl this year ended in a scoreless tie. Attendance: 12.



Tom Bowl VI

Tom Bowl Trivial

Highest Scoring Game Combined: 0 (18 different games)

Lowest Scoring Game Combined: 0 (18 different games)

Highest Score Single Team: 0 (38 teams)

Lowest Score Single Team: 0 (38 teams)

Most yards gained game: 0 (38 teams)

Least yards gained game: 0 (38 teams)

All Time Leading Passer: No one

All Time Leading Rusher: No one

All Time Leading Receiver: No one

All Time Leading Tackler: No one

All Time Leading Scorer: No one

All Time Leading Rusher on natural grass, during the day, when the weather is partly cloudy, the temperature is between 30° and 40°, there is a wild animal near the field and the quarterback is left handed: No one

Most Invitations: 4 University of Nebraska, University of Miami

Most Consecutive Invitations: 3 University of Miami

Highest Attendance: 28 Tom Bowl XVI

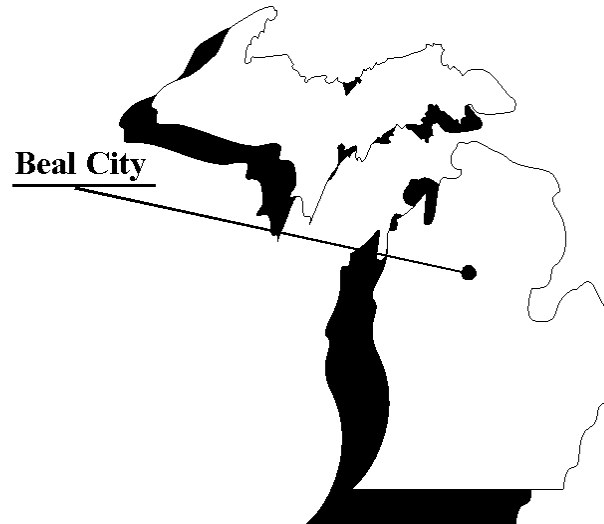
Lowest Attendance: 0 Tom Bowl V

About Beal City, Michigan...

Beal City, home of Michigan Governor John Engler, is a beacon in the farmland of mid-Michigan. Named for Mr. Beal, the city features a delightful small town atmosphere. The heart of the city is a blinking traffic light with four corners of excitement. A general store, complete with pizza and videos, provides high entertainment. For those looking for a little bit of nightlife, there's the Beal City Tavern across the street with its famous burgers and lifelong patrons. Across from that is a gas station/bar that just might be open. The fourth corner, well, it's a residence. (The owner of the bar lives there.)

Beal City host the following tourists sites:

- The most disobeyed stop sign in America.
- The world's smallest pontoon pond
- Danger Barns
- Lenny the skittish Chihuahua
- The secret indoor pool which looks like a barn
- The house-less basement
- The Tornado's Path (not really there anymore)





Frank A. Schafer Field

Frank A. Schafer Field has been the home of the Tom Bowl since 1994. It has a seating capacity of so many and even more can stand around the field in its ample standing room only sections.

The stadium is also home to the Beal City Aggies football team. The new stadium opened in 2002 and has a seating capacity of so many more than before. So much so that if you choose not to stand you don't have too. In fact, it is so large you don't even have to do the "Schafer Shift" anymore where everyone switched to the other sides of the grandstands during the game in the old stadium.

Tom Bowl Site History

Stanley P. Meade Field, New Canaan, CT (1989-1992)

Bucs Stadium, Grand Haven MI (1993)*

Frank A. Schafer Field, Beal City, MI (1994-2001)

New Frank A, Schafer Field, Beal City, MI (2002-

* Grand Haven was listed as possible site, never confirmed

The Tom Bowl Trophy



The illustrious Tom Bowl Trophy was introduced in 1997. The classic pyramid-shaped icon represents the integrity and sportsmanship of the Tom Bowl.

The Trophy is carefully stored every year wrapped in a towel inside an old bike bag. One a year it is brought forth to see the light of day at Frank A. Schafer Field in Beal City. There it bears silent witness to the clash of titans that decides who is the number one college football team in the nation.

Interestingly, this is not the first Tom Bowl trophy. The original, a crystal bowl, disappeared after its first appearance in Tom Bowl III. Although various sightings have been reported of the chalice, it is likely it is being held by Connecticut residents still upset over the Tom Bowl's departure from Stanley P. Meade Field.

The Tom Bowl and the Future

As long as there is college football and as long as there is controversy the Tom Bowl will exist. So the Tom Bowl will be here forever. The future is bright. As the Tom Bowl continues to expand in popularity, we believe some of the things envisioned in the pictures below will become true.



The envisioned future Tom Bowl Stadium (above). The future appearance of the lobby of the proposed Tom Bowl Tower. (Left).



The Tom Bowl Helmet

The Tom Bowl on the Web



The Tom Bowl website was selected by the Detroit Free Press as one of the best sites in Michigan for the year 2002.

The Tom Bowl web page has tons of interesting features for everyone even crazy drivers. The website includes:

- Tom Bowl News: Learn the very latest on the Tom Bowl
- Tom Bowl Fan Poll: Vote for who you think should be #1
- Tom Bowl Museum: Learn more about the game's storied past
- The Hall of Fame: See those that have made the hallowed halls
- Beal City attractions: Take a visual tour of Beal City fun

Visit the Tom Bowl on-line at:

www.tombowl.com

Don't forget to sign the guest book.