Game Plan

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Virginia Tech Still Has Shot At Bowl Game

Virginia Tech is still in the running for a bowl bid. There's little light at the end of the tunnel but Jimmy Sharpe's 6-4 Hokies who travel to Florida State for Saturday's encounter with the Seminoles are still under consideration for a bowl berth.

The Hokies have been mentioned with several other teams for a spot in the new Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. The Independence Bowl will be played Monday night, Dec. 13 in the 50,000-seat State Fairgrounds stadium that used to be the home of the Shreveport Steamer of the defunct World Football League. The host team in that bowl is the champion of the Southland Conference which will be determined Saturday (either McNeese or Texas Arlington).

The University of Cincinnati has already turned down the initial invitation for that bowl. "The big reason," said Cincy Coach Tony Mason, "is that they'd have their own officials. I'm not being facetious, either."

Mason felt his team was ripped in a 7-3 loss against Southwestern Louisiana in a contest played there earlier this season (Cincy was later awarded the game by forfeit because the hosts used an ineligible player).

Other teams under consideration with Tech are Memphis State, Boston College, North Carolina, East Carolina, Ball State, San Diego State, at Tulsa.

ROSE BOWL: It's down to four teams, either UCLA or Southern Cal versus Michigan or Ohio State. Those four candidates meet for their respective conference titles Saturday in some real donnybrooks.

SUGAR BOWL: It looks like the Pitt Panthers will be in New Orleans on New Year's to battle Georgia. That should be an exciting matchup with Georgia's famed "Junkyard Dog" defense facing "Mr. Offense" Tony Dorsett.

PEACH BOWL: Several teams are under consideration for the Atlanta classic, with North Carolina of the ACC being the top candidate. Also getting a look is Missouri along with a couple of other Big 8 teams.

COTTON BOWL: Reserved for the Southwest Conference champion which could be either Texas Tech, Houston, Arkansas, who knows. One part of that question will be answered Saturday when Texas Tech and Houston square off. Maryland, champions of the ACC will likely be the other team.

GATOR BOWL: Will likely be Florida versus any attractive team the bowl can lure. Possibly a Big 8 foe or Penn State. Why not the Brown Bears, champs of the Ivy League?

ASTRO-BLUEBONNET BOWL: Will likely pit a Southwestern Conference team versus a Big 8 foe or perhaps Tulsa, which is shooting for a bowl. Don't count out Ken-