

**2008 NEW MEXICO BOWL
COLORADO STATE VS. FRESNO STATE
POSTGAME NOTES**

TEAM

Colorado State won the third annual New Mexico Bowl, 40-35. It marks the second straight year the trophy has been claimed by the Mountain West Conference representative.

Fresno State's 69-yard touchdown run with 4:26 left in the second quarter made the score 21-13, breaking the bowl record of 32 for combined team scoring. In the end the two teams combined for 75 points.

The 35 points posted by Fresno State is a new NM Bowl record for most points scored by a losing team. The Bulldogs also broke the NM Bowl record for most points in a half with 21 in the first.

The 20 points scored by Colorado State in the fourth quarter is a new NM Bowl record for scoring in a single quarter. Their 362 net rushing yards is also a new bowl record. The Rams also set the record for highest average per rush with 9.3 per carry.

Fresno State and Colorado State set a new New Mexico Bowl record for touchdowns, scoring five (5) each. The previous record was three (3), set by San Jose State in 2006. They both also set the PATs record for a game with five (5).

The Fresno State loss makes it the third straight year in which the team that won the El Pinto Chile Cookoff to open bowl week lost the game.

Fresno State's Lonyae Miller scored on a 1-yard run with 11:46 in the first quarter, recording the first rushing TD in New Mexico Bowl history. In the end, the Bulldogs recorded four rushing touchdowns.

Colorado State tallied 619 total team yards, which broke the bowl record of 548 set by New Mexico in 2007. The Rams total combined with Fresno State's 434 set a new combined teams record with 1,053.

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INDIVIDUAL

Colorado State running back Gartrell Johnson, III was named the New Mexico Bowl Most Outstanding Player of the Game. He finished with 375 net yards from scrimmage, which is a New Mexico Bowl record. He ran 27 times for 285 yards, which is a New Mexico Bowl rushing record and a Mountain West Conference bowl game rushing record.

Johnson's 375 yards from scrimmage (rushing & receiving only) on 32 touches is the most yards in FBS bowl history. His 285 rushing yards are the second most rushing yards in FBS bowl history. The record is 307, set by Georgia Tech's P.J. Daniels against Tulsa in the 2004 Humanitarian Bowl.

Johnson's 375 all-purpose yards are the second most in FBS bowl history. The record is 408 yards, set by East Carolina's Chris Johnson vs. Boise State in 2007 Hawaii Bowl (223 rushing, 32 receiving, 153 kickoff return).

Johnson's rushing total is the sixth highest single-game total this year. The most is 348 by Navy's Shun White vs. Towson.

Colorado State defensive end Tommie Hill was named the New Mexico Bowl Most Outstanding Defensive Player of the Game. Hill intercepted Fresno State quarterback Tom Brandstater on the Bulldogs' 47 yard line and returned it 15 yards with 13:26 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Jason Smith (CSU) and Fresno State's Kevin Goessling set a new New Mexico Bowl record for PATs with five. The previous record was two (2) by John Sullivan (UNM) and Jared Strubeck (SJSU).

Gartrell Johnson's 77-yard rush with 1:46 in the fourth is the longest rushing touchdown in New Mexico Bowl history.

Johnson, along with Fresno State's Anthony Harding and Lonyae Miller all recorded two rushing touchdowns, which is the most in New Mexico Bowl history.

Colorado State Postgame Notes
Colorado State vs. Fresno State; New Mexico Bowl
Sat., Dec. 20, 2008

TEAM NOTES

CSU finishes with its first winning record since 2003, and registers its first bowl victory since 2003.

CSU sold 5,100 tickets for the New Mexico Bowl.

Colorado State's fumbled snap in the second quarter was their first all season.

The Rams got each of their starting safeties back. Clint Kubiak saw action in the third quarter, his first game since at Air Force, Nov. 8. Mike Pagnotta started today, his first game back since getting injured Oct. 25.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

In the fourth quarter, Gartrell Johnson had a career long 77-yard run; his previous long was 57-yards in the first quarter. In other words, he had his career's two longest runs this afternoon.

- Johnson set a New Mexico Bowl record for longest run from scrimmage; it was also the longest run by a CSU player this season.
- In the second quarter Johnson had a 57-yard catch, setting a career long; his previous long was 31 yards against Wyoming in 2007.
- He rushed for over 100 yards for the sixth time this season.
- Johnson is now No. 2 on the list of rushing yards in a CSU season, passing Steve Bartalo (1986) at 1,419. Johnson ended 1,476 rushing yards.
- Johnson set a career high and a New Mexico Bowl record with 369 total yards, surpassing New Mexico's Paul Baker who had 209 total yards.
- With Johnson's 21-yard rush late in the third quarter, he set a CSU bowl record for most rushing yards; the mark was previously held by Cecil Sapp (160) in the 2000 Liberty Bowl.
- With Johnson's two touchdown runs in the fourth quarter, he moved to No. 5 for career rushing touchdowns, passing Damon Washington.
- Johnson set a career high for most rushing yards in a game with 285.
- Johnson set the all-time NCAA record for most yards from scrimmage in FBS bowl history.
- He also had the second-most all-purpose yards in bowl history. (record is 408 yards by East Carolina's Chris Johnson vs. Boise State in 2007 Hawaii Bowl. 223 rushing, 32 receiving, 153 kickoff return)
- Johnson's 285 yards rushing is the most in MWC bowl history; Johnson eclipsed Mike Anderson's 1999 record when he ran for 254 against Fresno State.
- Gartrell Johnson's 285 rushing yards is the sixth-most in the NCAA this year, No. 1 being Shun White from Navy.

Grant Stucker got his first career touchdown when he scored from 18 yards out in the first quarter.

Dion Morton returned two kickoffs; his last kickoff return before today was Oct. 20, 2007 at UNLV.

With Jason Smith's 22-yard FG in the second quarter, he moved to No. 4 all-time on the CSU scoring list, passing Todd Yert.

- Smith had a season-high four touchbacks.

Zac Pauga set a career-long with his 21-yard reception late in the second quarter; his previous long was 19-yards against Wyoming in 2007.

Tommie Hill got his second interception of the season, his first pick coming against UNLV Oct. 4.

Dane Stratton has recovered two second half-fumbles this season, both resulting in touchdowns; the other recovery came against New Mexico.

**2008 New Mexico Bowl
Fresno State vs. Colorado State
University Stadium / Albuquerque, N.M.
Fresno State Postgame Notes
Dec. 20, 2008**

Brown Family Reunion

With Dan Brown coaching his final game as Fresno State's defensive coordinator, 27 members of his family were in Albuquerque, N.M. for the New Mexico Bowl. Brown, who once coached at the University of New Mexico and shared an office with CSU head coach Steve Fairchild, also a member of the UNM staff. Brown has been battling brain cancer for two years and will be stepping away from coaching to take care of his health. Brown's wife, Mindy, six children and two grandchildren are at the game, as are nine of his 14 siblings. Brown's mother, Sue, is among those in attendance. Sue Brown, who has 60 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, made the trek from Southern California to attend the game. The remainder of the 101 members of Brown family will be watching today's game on national television from their homes in Alaska, Boston and Southern California. While in New Mexico, Brown was greeted by dozens of his New Mexico friends. They held a dinner to honor Brown on Thursday night. Brown is nationally respected as a coach and family man, as well as a long-time member of the Fresno community.

Double Trouble

For the second time this season, the Bulldogs' running back duo of Lonyae Miller and Anthony Harding each had more than 100 yards in a game. They combined for four touchdowns and 137 yards. Miller finished with 13 carries for 114 yards and Harding had 123 yards on 18 carries. The last time they combined for more than 100 yards was against Hawaii on Oct. 4.

Long Lonyae

Lonyae Miller set a Fresno State bowl record for longest run from scrimmage with a 69 yard touchdown in the second quarter. Miller's run was four yards longer than that of Darrell Rossette, who had a 65 yard run against Western Michigan in Cal Bowl VIII (Dec. 10, 1988). It was Miller's third touchdown run of better than 65 yards this season. He has two of the Top 20 longest runs in the NCAA this season with a 90-yard touchdown against Idaho and one for 80 yards against Hawaii. His rush gave the Dogs a 21-13 lead.

Noteworthy

Senior end Ikenna Ike gave up his starting spot to fellow senior end Michael Stuart. Stuart hasn't started a bowl game before and Ike asked defensive coordinator Dan Brown and head coach Pat Hill if Stuart could start in his place and they agreed ... Ike was repaid for his act of kindness getting the game's first sacks in the third quarter ... the Dogs were blessed with terrific weather in Albuquerque, where the elevation is a mile high. The temperature at kickoff was 41 degrees with a slight breeze under sun-drenched skies ... the Dogs went scored a touchdown on the opening drive against Colorado State, third time this season they've scored a touchdown on the opening drive of a game. The Dogs did it against Idaho and Utah State. Fresno State added another touchdown on its second drive of the game, the only time this season it has scored on the first two drives of a game and they had 143 total yards on the two drives combined ... The 41 point scored in the first half set a New Mexico Bowl record for most points scored in a game ... freshman walk-on Shawn Plummer had a career-high 8 tackles in the game.