

When Florida State faces Auburn for the national championship Jan. 6, the 2013 college football season will be officially over.

Those of us who love the game will then have seven months of withdrawal until August.

That's why I love bowl season.

There are still 31 football games to be played, and each one of them is like a bonus Christmas present.

4th & GOAL



EARL WATT

There are some who believe there are too many bowl games. They might as well be aligned with Ebenezer Scrooge.

There is never such a thing as too much of a good thing, and getting to play in a bowl game is a good thing.

I am a Jayhawk fan. I know better than most just how valuable a bowl game is.

For some, a mediocre bowl appearance might seem like a letdown.

I'm sure Alabama fans aren't as excited about the Sugar Bowl as they would have been about the national championship game.

And I'm sure Mack Brown wouldn't be coaching his last game at Texas if his team were playing in a BCS bowl rather than the Alamo Bowl.

Compare that to college basketball. Last year, the defending national champions from Kentucky didn't get an invitation to the national tournament. Instead, they went to the NIT and lost in the first round to Robert Morris.

No game can be taken lightly, especially a bowl game.

One particular pairing I can't wait to see will be Oklahoma State and Missouri. The Tigers played in the SEC championship, and the Cowboys were one win away from a Big 12 title.

More importantly, this is a measuring stick of Big 12 loyalty vs. Missouri secession. Missouri is very good, but I will be rooting for the Cow ... Cow ... Oklahoma State (sorry, I just can't combine the words rooting and Cowboys together. It's a Dallas thing.).

I don't believe Rutgers has much of a chance against Notre Dame, but I will be hoping for a Scarlet Knight upset, anyway.

Too many bowl games?

Bah, humbug!

There should be more.

Some may not mean as much as others, but the more the merrier. More games means more practice time for teams, more fan interest, and for the colleges and the NCAA, more money.

Some match-ups won't have the mystique, like today's game between East Carolina and Ohio, but the field is still 100 yards, touchdowns are still worth six points, and a player doesn't have to go to a big name school to make a big name for himself simply by having a spectacular day in a bowl game.

When the wife wants to know why you are watching two teams that you've never seen before, let her know that football season is almost over, and she will be able to watch kitchens being remodeled for the next seven months.

But for the next two weeks, hold that remote with an iron grip. Tell the kids that you will DVR any holiday specials, and they can watch them as many times as they want after Jan. 6.

For now, cozy up in your favorite chair and enjoy bowl season.

They will forgive you later.