



## FWAA writing contest winners

The winners of the ninth annual FWAA Best Writing Contest are announced in this issue of *The Fifth Down*. The contest drew 193 entries from 82 FWAA members – the most entries in the history of the contest.

The winners in each of the five categories – features, columns, enterprise and game stories (immediate deadline and loose deadline) – will receive their plaques and cash prizes at the FWAA Awards Breakfast on Jan. 3, 2002, at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

Second- and third-place winners also receive monetary prizes and certificates. Honorable mentions will receive certificates.

Excerpts of the five winning entries appear on pages 3-7. Included with the entries are pictures and biographies of the first-place winners. The first-place entries will appear in their entirety on the FWAA web site, [www.fwaa.com](http://www.fwaa.com). The other winning entries also will be posted.

The winners are listed below:

### COLUMNS

**1st place:** John Adams, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

**2nd place:** John Canzano, *The Fresno Bee*

**3rd place:** Kirk Bohls, *Austin American-Statesman*

**Honorable mention:** David Teel, *Newport News (Va.) Daily Press* and Scott Adamson, *The Daily Home* (Talladega, Ala.)

### ENTERPRISE

**1st place:** Steve Wieberg, Erik Brady, *USA Today*

**2nd place:** Dennis Dodd, *CBS SportsLine*

**3rd place:** Adam Thompson, *Denver Post*

**Honorable mention:** Ted Miller, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

### FEATURE

**1st place:** Chris Harry, *Orlando Sentinel*

**2nd place:** Jon Solomon, *Anderson (S.C.) Independent-Mail*

**3rd place:** Keith Whitmire, *The Dallas Morning News*

**Honorable mention:** Al Lesar, *South Bend Tribune*

### GAME — IMMEDIATE DEADLINE

**1st place:** Brian Landman, *St. Petersburg Times*

**2nd place:** Rob Biertempfel, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

**3rd place:** John Helsley, *The Daily Oklahoman*

**Honorable Mention:** Chris Dufresne, *Los Angeles Times*

### GAME — LOOSE DEADLINE

**1st place:** Glenn M. Guilbeau, *The Baton Rouge Advocate*

**2nd Place:** Steve Helwagen, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*

**3rd Place:** Ron Higgins, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*

**Honorable mention:** George Schroeder, *The Daily Oklahoman*



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President  
**Dave Sittler**  
*Tulsa World*

First Vice President  
**Kelly Whiteside**  
*USA Today*

Second Vice President  
**Wally Hall**  
*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

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*Greensboro News & Record*  
**Dan O'Kane**  
*Tulsa World*  
**Greg Pogue**  
*Daily News Journal (Tenn.)*

**Ken Davis**  
*Hartford Courant*  
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**Brian Higgins**  
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**Gregg Doyel**  
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*Houston Chronicle*  
**Bob Condotta**  
*Tacoma News-Tribune*  
**Steve Kornacki**  
*Oakland Press*  
**Doug Zaleski**  
*Muncie Star Press*

**Ex-Officio**  
**Jim Daves**  
*University of Washington*  
**Maxey Parrish**  
*CoSIDA*

# President's column



**DAVE SITTLER**

Around FWAA's headquarters they are known as the four horsemen (and women) of the academic world.

Their real names are: Goering, Brooks, Butz and Barnhart. They are the first four recipients of the Volney Meece Scholarship, which has quickly evolved into one of the FWAA's most worthwhile projects.

I wanted to use this month's column to update you on the progress of our four winners and encourage applications for this year's award.

The scholarship idea was hatched in St. Louis in 1996, on the eve of the first Big 12 championship game. The board signed off on it the next spring at the Final Four in Indianapolis and also approved that it be named for the late Volney Meece, the FWAA's president in 1971 and executive director for 22 years.

The scholarship is a \$1,000 annual grant for four years. Sons and daughters of FWAA members are eligible to apply.

Volney worked for more than 41 years at *The Daily Oklahoman*. He was representing the FWAA at the 1995 CoSIDA convention in Colorado when he died of a heart attack.

The first scholarship went to Brett Goering of Topeka, Kan. The son of Pete Goering of the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, Brett is a senior at the University of Kansas, majoring in public relations.

Also in his fourth year working in the KU sports information office, Brett completed an internship this summer with the American Junior Golf Association.

Kelley Brooks was the beneficiary of the FWAA making a major change in the scholarship requirements in the second year.

Our original plan was to limit it to high school seniors. We soon realized that was wrong when several members said

they had children who would like to apply and shouldn't be penalized because they were already attending college.

The FWAA agreed. Thus, a winner enrolled in college could use the scholarship for graduate school.

And that is what Kelley has done. The daughter of B.G. Brooks of Denver's *Rocky Mountain News*, Kelley was a sophomore at the University of Colorado-Boulder when she applied.

She graduated last May with a degree in kinesiology and applied physiology. She is currently enrolled in graduate school at the University of Colorado-Denver, pursuing a masters in education.

James Butz, the son of Elk Grove Village, Ill., freelancer and longtime FWAA member J.P. Butz, used the Meece Scholarship when he enrolled a year ago at Notre Dame.

James entered the College of Business Administration with an intended major of Management Information Systems and a second major in Government through the College of Arts and Letters. He also works in the sports information department.

Sara Barnhart, the daughter of *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* columnist and 1998 FWAA president Tony Barnhart, completed our foursome last December.

After she was accepted for admission at some of this country's top academic universities, Sara narrowed her choices to Duke and the University of Georgia. She selected Georgia when she was accepted into the Honors Program.

"Given the quality of the Georgia Honors Program and the fact she could go there tuition free, she decided to stay home and save her daddy a lot of money," Tony said. "Smart kid. Takes after her mother."

We know there are many more smart children of FWAA members out there who take after their mothers and would like to save their daddies some money.

And the FWAA's here to help. Contact me (davesitt@aol.com) and I'll forward the application to start the process as we seek the person who will turn our scholarship group into the Fab Five.

## Columns: John Adams

*Comments by the judge, Kevin Sherrington, columnist for The Dallas Morning News:*

*Comment: Taking on the evils of college football in a college football town is gutsy, and perhaps career threatening. The writer confronted the topic with confidence and skill. And his answer to the problem was innovative, if not entirely practical.*

I first witnessed academic fraud in a big-time college football program my freshman year at LSU. The perpetrator was a 6-foot-4, 240-pound freshman fast enough to run a leg on his high school sprint-relay team.

He leaned forward on a small dais barely strong enough to support his elbows and began to describe a snowflake in exquisite detail. After he had stumbled over several frilly adjectives, the professor told him to take a seat. The professor wasn't opposed to athletes. He was very much an adversary of fools.

The student-athlete obviously had employed the services of a ghostwriter to compose his descriptive speech. But did he have to be so flagrantly fraudulent? A snowflake? Why not a duck blind or a largemouth bass?

The University of Tennessee athletic department is now being investigated for snowflakes. Linda Bensel-Meyers, a UT English professor, contends the department is guilty of academic abuse, including plagiarism. In the midst of these charges, Bensel-Meyers says her phone was bugged, her office was broken into, and she received threatening mail.

Welcome to big-time college football.

Excuse the cynicism. But big-time college football and academics don't mix. They never have.

The goals of big-time college football programs are to: win championships, fill stadiums, clothe everyone in their metropolitan area in school colors, make enough money to pay the salaries of a dozen-or-so assistant athletic directors and still have enough left over to help fund non-revenue sports for men and women.

Good recruits help you win games. Keeping good recruits in school helps you win games.

I have interviewed student-athletes who couldn't write a declarative sentence if you spotted them the subject and the verb. I also have interviewed student-athletes who have become doctors, novelists, even sportswriters.

Some student-athletes are honor students. Some need ghostwriters. The team needs both to play on Saturdays. That's reality.

And that's not just at UT, or in 2000.

Bensel-Meyers has said her concern is institutional credibility, not NCAA violations. The majority of East Tennesseans are concerned about the latter. That's more reality.

The tutorial wing of UT's athletic department has been under investigation on and off since last fall by the

### JOHN ADAMS – Knoxville News Sentinel

**Age:** 53

**College:** LSU

**Background:** Adams has covering college football for the past 24 years, with stops in Jacksonville, Fla., Baton Rouge, La., and Jackson, Miss. For the past 14 years, he has been sports editor/columnist at the *News-Sentinel*. He also covered the Steelers for one year for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



NCAA, reporters, and a very persistent UT English professor. Based on the reported evidence, the Vols aren't in danger of losing so much as a scholarship. My guess is you could find as much impropriety at any other top 25 football program.

It's a matter of scope. When plagiarism is as extensive as at the University of Minnesota, you've got problems. The NCAA isn't about to hammer UT or any other football program of that ilk over snowflakes.

The NCAA likes big-time college football. So do most sportswriters.

No, I don't approve of everything that goes with it. And, yes, I can appreciate an academician's frustration. However, this isn't just about football. It's also about education in general.

Universities now admit students who have been classified as "learning disabled." Some of the students play football. Some don't. Because of their learning disability, they are entitled to special assistance. Where does the special assistance end, and the plagiarism begin?

... What's good enough for a university is certainly good enough for a football coach.

... The system lends itself to abuse. Learning-disabled students at an institution of higher learning?

There's still a way to reduce the hypocrisy and cut down on the investigations. Let student-athletes major in their sport of choice.

Musicians are allowed to major in music. Why couldn't a football player pursue a degree in football?

... What would you do with a football degree?

Answer: What do you do with a history degree?

... Big-time football has become a year-round course. Its players go from the regular season, to the bowl season, to off-season conditioning, to spring football, to more off-season conditioning.

And it teaches you more than football.

It teaches you self-discipline and teamwork. It teaches you how to get along with people, how to deal with criticism and how to perform under pressure.

It teaches you that a tutor won't always be there to pull you through.

# Enterprise: Steve Wieberg, Erik Brady

*Comments by the judge, Kevin Sherrington:*

*Maybe the best story in all categories. Interesting topic, well-researched and presented in perspective both large and small. Rare to get the big picture as well as the small one. Teams sometimes do better not to go to bowls, at least from a financial standpoint. And it was interesting to see what Texas spent on hockey games and tickets to see a redneck comic the week before the Cotton Bowl.*

Arizona State and Boston College played Christmas Day amid the palms and leis in Honolulu, stamping their season a success by getting to the Aloha Bowl. Another 42 college football teams will hit similarly sun-soaked fields in the next eight days, topped by the championship game at the Orange Bowl.

But what players, coaches and their fans celebrate, accountants often must tolerate. Financial filings with the NCAA show nearly half the schools that participated in bowls last season lost money just by showing up to play.

Eighteen of 38 schools that provided copies of those reports to USA TODAY showed losses, their balance sheets sagging beneath the costs of travel, lodging, meals and tickets. Twelve schools had deficits of more than \$100,000. For three, the shortfall exceeded \$300,000.

"Everybody wants to talk about the big money the bowls pay out," says Brigham Young athletic director Val Hale, pointing to a projected \$149.8 million in revenues from this season's 25 bowls. "But if you don't sell all your tickets and you have to travel a long way, that money gets eaten up very quickly."

Travel alone cost Tennessee \$824,964 a year ago. Nebraska spent \$644,384 to house and feed its team and the remainder of the Huskers' official entourage. BYU, burned by minimum-purchase requirements common to all bowls, was left holding nearly 13,000 unsold tickets valued at \$413,536.

In this era of the big-money Bowl Championship Series and conference revenue sharing, few schools show a bottom-line deficit from postseason football. Leagues typically spread their profits from higher-end bowls among their member institutions, covering any losses incurred in lower-tier games. Nine of those lower-echelon games pay \$750,000 per team — a minimum payout set by the NCAA. Another bumps up that amount by only \$50,000.

Still, money lost is money lost. For example, Indiana, which didn't make it to a bowl last season, collected \$1.5 million from Big Ten Conference revenue sharing. Illinois got that same share but saw its bottom line reduced by \$200,000 lost in the Micronpc.com Bowl.

Finances tighten considerably in middle- and lower-

**STEVE WIEBERG — USA Today**

**Age:** 46

**College:** Missouri

**Background:** Came from the *Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader* to be part of *USA Today's* original staff in 1982. Primarily responsible for coverage of college sports since 1983, including 14 national championship bowl games and every basketball Final Four since 1983. Based in Kansas City.



**ERIK BRADY — USA Today**

**Age:** 47

**College:** Canisius College

**Background:** Began working at the *Courier-Express* in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1976 and was named sports columnist in 1981. The paper folded in 1982 the same week that *USA Today* was launched. Brady has worked as a cover stories reporter at *USA Today* since then.



echelon leagues, which aren't assured of landing teams in a high-paying BCS bowl and can't provide the same kind of revenue-sharing fallback.

BYU got more than a \$100,000 subsidy and help covering a sizable ticket commitment from the Mountain West Conference and still couldn't make ends meet in last year's Motor City Bowl.

"If it costs you a half-million dollars to go to a bowl game — and that's on the low end — and you tack on a \$600,000-\$800,000 ticket and sponsorship requirement, you've got to come up with \$1.3 million simply to come out even," Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson says. "You do the math: \$1.3 million in expenses and a \$750,000 payout. It doesn't work."

... As the Cougars' Hale points out, "Every one of us is faced with the prospect of going to a bowl game and losing money."

... He is disturbed enough to call for the NCAA to address the issue as part of a pending in-depth examination of the entire sport. As yet, the agenda for that study is not set. The disparity also feeds calls, predominantly in less wealthy conferences, for a major college playoff, valued in a recent proposal at more than \$3 billion over eight years.

"How do we fix something that's really not fixable?" says Utah athletic director Chris Hill, one of those playoff proponents. "Sometimes you level the old piece of property and build a new building because it's better."

## Features: Chris Harry

*Comment by the judge, Kevin Sherrington:*

*The toughest story is the one where people don't want to talk, or won't. A skillful and unwavering look at a terrible family legacy of suicide and what it has wrought upon the survivors.*

GAINESVILLE — Leon Hires remembers hitting his opponent with such ferocity that it planted the defender in the turf. Such impacts are infrequent for offensive linemen, so they must be savored and remembered.

The time was spring of 1997. The place was the Notre Dame practice field. The hit made Touchdown Jesus proud.

It made Hires cry.

Emotionally, he still was back in Bradenton. One week earlier, Hires had been the biggest man at the funeral. Of the 200 or so mourners, he also was the loneliest and most vulnerable. At any age, it's difficult to bury your dad, but Hires had it tougher than most.

His father had shot himself.

Just like his grandfather.

Just like his great-grandfather.

Now the suicide trilogy was upon him. Haunting him. Taunting him.

"I'm next in line," Hires thought.

In his south Georgia drawl, the 22-year-old Hires, now a senior guard at Florida, reflects on this three-generation run of tragedies stoically. At 6 feet 5 and 290 pounds, head shaved, forearms bulging, Hires strikes an imposing presence, but the implications of it all dwarf him.

The common denominator is clinical depression. Its course was charted 75 years ago when Fred Hires, a farmer in Jesup, Ga., put a gun to his head and squeezed. Fred's son, Leon, did the same in 1990 at the age of 78. Then, on Feb. 22, 1997, Leon "Ed" Hires, 43, shot himself at his home in Bradenton. Ed left behind 19-year-old Leon III to ponder a series of events in which the next step is up to him.

"When you're faced with stuff like that, a lot of thoughts run through your head," says Hires, who transferred from Notre Dame to UF in 1998 and is projected to start for the Gators this fall. "You're like, 'Why is this happening to me? Is this even in my control?'"

"You wonder if it's not just fate working or what."

Depression affects nearly 10 percent of adult Americans (that's about 20 million people ages 18 or older). The ones who seek treatment find that fate is no factor. Those who don't run the risk of sinking deeper into what suicide survivors describe as "the hole."

"For the longest time, you're scratching and doing whatever it takes to get out of the hole without ever knowing you're in it in the first place," said former UF

### CHRIS HARRY – Orlando Sentinel

**Age:** 41

**College:** South Florida

**Background:** Harry has worked for the *Tampa Tribune* (1983-96) and the *Sentinel* (since '96). Since last summer, Harry has lived in Tampa, where he covers the NFL and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. For 10 years before that, he lived in Gainesville and covered Florida and the Southeastern Conference.



Coach Charley Pell, whose failed suicide attempt in 1994 was precipitated by depression. "A fleeting thought of suicide is not a bad thing. I'm sure many of us have had that. I know I had, but you never know when that one time is going to come when you find yourself in the bottom of that hole saying, 'Man, it's nice down here. To hell with getting out.'"

Ted Hires, Ed's brother, had been in the hole before. Unlike his brother, Ted found his way out.

And he took Leon with him.

"I've been asked many times if I had ever considered suicide. The answer, absolutely, is yes," says Ted Hires, the only one of 12 siblings who talks candidly (if at all) of his family's legacy. "The only difference between my granddaddy and me, my daddy and me and my brother and me is that they stepped through that door. I didn't."

After his father's suicide in 1990, Ted Hires sought professional help, an avenue others in his family refused to consider. Through counseling and medication, Ted, now 53, has been better prepared to confront the illness he'll forever refer to as "the monster."

The willingness to accept his depression for what it is – a disease – was the guidance his nephew needed in the family's next emotional battle.

"When Ed died, I probably didn't have much time to grieve. Ed and I were very close, but I was more concerned with Leon's welfare and in breaking the cycle," says Ted, the manager of several barbecue restaurants in the Jacksonville area. "I understood what he was feeling.

"After my father's suicide, I got very angry and I had to have some answers. It was through my father's death that I wound up getting treatment and understanding what the disease was and how it affected people. By the time Ed committed suicide, I had done everything in my power to deal with it."

It was time for Leon to do the same.

...

# Loose deadline: Glenn M. Guilbeau

*Comment by the judge, Kevin Sherrington:*

*Nice blend of the financial (cost of new goalposts), agricultural (replacement of torn up turf) and comical (vignettes of players dropped and nearly mauled by delirious fans) in aftermath of LSU victory. All the bases covered except for the question asked at the end: Where's that helmet?*

It's Sunday morning at Tiger Stadium.

There are parts of both goal posts strewn across the south end zone and near the LSU sideline.

Huge chunks of grass are missing from the field.

There's not enough Visine in East Baton Rouge Parish to remedy the eye of the Tiger design at midfield.

LSU facilities officials took sod from the outer area of the school's soccer fields Sunday afternoon to replenish the most damaged part of the field in the end zones.

Ah, the smell of reconstruction in the morning. It smells like victory – a 38-31 upset of No. 11 Tennessee in overtime Saturday night to be exact.

The goal posts that fans ripped down within minutes of the final play will be replaced at a cost of about \$5,000 apiece. "Whatever it costs, it's worth it," LSU Athletic Director Joe Dean said.

"I hope we can get to where we expect to win games like this," LSU facilities manager Jeff Kershaw said. "That way, we won't have to clean this up every time we win a big game. It was ugly this morning. Ugly."

But oh so beautiful for most of the 91,682 who were there.

Fans rushed the field just after Tennessee quarterback A.J. Suggs' fourth-down pass fell incomplete in the north end zone.

Amid the chaos, LSU backup linebacker Chris Cooper began yelling at the top of his lungs: "We shocked the world! We shocked the world!"

Suddenly, linebacker Bradie James was lifted and carried off by fans like a gladiator, only to be accidentally dropped seconds later.

... Meanwhile, cornerback Fred Booker lost his helmet amid the bedlam, and LSU safety Ryan Clark was hit in the head by a part of the goal post.

"Luckily, I still had my helmet on," Clark said. "I got mobbed, but I never once got mad at anybody. It was great. I was happy for them, and they were happy for me. So we all just smiled and laughed it up. I was a little scared, though."

So was James.

"It seemed like they wouldn't let me get out," he said. "A lot of guys were coming up, slapping me on the helmet and giving me a minor concussion. But it was wonderful.."

... On Sunday afternoon, LSU quarterback Rohan Davey was named the national player of the week by

**GLENN M. GUILBEAU – *The Baton Rouge Advocate***

**Age:** 40

**College:** Missouri

**Background:** A native of New Orleans, Guilbeau covers LSU and the Southeastern Conference. He began his sportswriting career with *Tiger Rag* magazine in 1983. He covered Alabama for the *Montgomery Advertiser* (1985-86), served as sports editor of the *Slidell Sentry News* (1987), covered LSU for the *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* (1988-93), covered Alabama and later Auburn for the *Mobile Register* (1993-98). He has won four FWAA writing awards previously.



CNN.com after the Jamaican-born junior fought off ankle and knee injuries to complete 23 of 35 passes for 318 yards and four touchdowns.

... Davey, who also set career highs for completions and touchdowns, threw the eventual, game-winning touchdown on the first play of overtime – a 25 yard-pass to tight end Robert Royal for the 38-31 lead.

Meanwhile, LSU tailback LaBrandon Toefield's 74-yard touchdown run won the ESPN.com voting for Saturday's Play of the Day.

Toefield, who finished with 120 yards on 15 carries, stiff-armed Tennessee cornerback Rashad Baker for nearly 25 yards on the play. The score gave the Tigers a 17-3 lead in the second quarter.

... Davey led LSU's charge despite continued aggravation from an off-season knee injury and an ankle injury sustained in the second quarter Saturday. He limped and hopped throughout the game.

"He's a tough guy," LSU coach Nick Saban said. "He hurt his ankle several times in the game. A couple of times we were thinking that we might have to put Josh (Booty) in because Ro wouldn't be able to go. But Ro thought he could go, and he did a good job."

Davey, who started his first game since early in the 1999 season, is 44 of 59 for 736 yards, 10 touchdowns and no interceptions through his last four games, including the '99 finale against Arkansas.

"Rohan's got that special leadership," Toefield said. "That's what we need in the huddle. Rohan comes in the huddle and he's pumping everybody up, saying do this, do that. He's just a good leader."

Davey was also able to lead himself back to the locker room in one piece after the game.

"It was crazy," Davey said. "I've never seen it like that. People grabbing me, trying to take your helmet and that type of thing. It was crazy."

By the way, has anyone seen Booker's helmet?

## Immediate deadline: Brian Landman

*Comment by the judge, Kevin Sherrington:*

*A good game story gives more than stats and quotes and running. It must weave perspective, both historical and current, as well as detail that captures the essence of college football, its color and distinctive flavor. The winner managed this in a category where the combination in the competition was sorely lacking.*

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke spent the night before the ballyhooed showdown against Florida hooked up to an IV bag, his team's national championship hopes hitched to his recovery.

"I knew the whole time I was going to do whatever it took to get into this ballgame," he said.

Weinke, a senior and Heisman Trophy candidate, has made a career of comebacks. From a dismal performance at North Carolina State in 1998. From a potential paralyzing neck injury that year. From numerous second-half deficits last season. From a sprained left foot that has hindered him since the end of September.

Could anyone really believe a virus would keep him down and out of the biggest game of the season?

Hardly.

Even though he struggled at times with his normally pinpoint accuracy, Weinke completed 23 of 44 passes for 353 yards and three touchdowns to lead the No. 3-ranked Seminoles to a convincing 30-7 win against the No. 4 Gators Saturday night before a record 83,042 at Doak Campbell Stadium.

"That's what he's given us this season: a leader who was always going to be there and who was always going to play well," FSU coach Bobby Bowden said.

With the win, the Seminoles (11-1) not only extended the nation's longest home winning streak to 35 and their mastery over the Gators to three straight, they likely bolstered their position in the all-important Bowl Championship Series standings.

They trailed Miami, the only team to beat them, by 0.48 points for the coveted second spot. The top BCS teams meet for the national championship in the Jan. 3 Orange Bowl.

"I'll leave it up to the computer," Bowden said. "That thing better not betray me. I'd rather have the computer decide who plays for the championship than a person who may have some biases."

... The attainable goals of both teams easily could have been different.

Weinke had to go to a local hospital Friday and received intravenous fluids from noon-8 p.m. He then spent the night at team physician Kris Stowers' home. There he had IV treatment continuously.

"When I was lying in the hospital Friday, I was hoping it was just a 24-hour flu," Weinke said.

Doctors said Weinke would be about 80 percent, a prognosis the Gators might disagree with now.

**BRIAN LANDMAN – St. Petersburg Times**

**Age:** 39

**College:** Cincinnati (BA in biology), Southern Cal (MA in journalism)

**Background:** Has been with the *Times* since graduating from USC in 1986. This is his sixth year as the paper's Florida State beat writer and as the paper's national college basketball writer.



"Weinke threw the ball very well; I was impressed with him and his receivers," said Florida coach Steve Spurrier, 0-5-1 in Tallahassee.

Weinke capped an impressive opening drive with a 17-yard touchdown strike to junior receiver Atrews Bell, one play after cornerback Bennie Alexander dropped a potential interception.

The Gators answered by borrowing a strategy Miami used so effectively in its upset of the Seminoles: get the ball to the tight end. Florida senior Jesse Palmer, who didn't start but took over for freshman Rex Grossman on the game's second play, went to sophomore tight Aaron Walker for a 21-yard gain on third and 15 and again for a 5-yard touchdown to tie the score.

Weinke needed three plays and 50 seconds to put FSU back up. After a short gain by senior tailback Travis Minor, Weinke hit Bell for 42 yards, then Marvin "Snoop" Minnis for 34 and another touchdown. On the play, Weinke repeatedly and excitedly pumped his right arm toward the Gator bench.

No lack of energy there. "Obviously, in a game like this, the adrenaline takes over," said Weinke. ...

FSU's defense shut down the Gators' running game and slowed Palmer with a three-man rush, a ploy that befuddled the Gators two years ago.

The Seminoles defense held UF to 315 yards and one score, both season lows.

Junior fullback William McCray's 1-yard run midway through the third quarter pushed the lead to 21-7. Then Weinke hooked up with Minnis again, this time for a 51-yard touchdown in the final moments of the third quarter.

... If Weinke needed any fluids afterward, it sure didn't look that way. He and Minnis, who finished with a career-high 187 yards, galloped with a Gator head along the UF bench while their teammates cavorted at midfield.

"I was there to answer the bell every week," Weinke said. "I came back because I love this game and I love to play this game and there's no sweeter way to go out than to beat Florida at home. This is what I came back to do."

## FWAA Lodge Notes ...

### Comings and Goings

FWAA second vice president **Jack Bogaczyk** of the *Roanoke Times* resigned his FWAA position when he became the Media Relations Director of the Roanoke franchise in the new National Basketball Development League. We wish Jack good luck in the future and hate to see him leave the sport of college football. "I was really looking forward to working more intimately with the FWAA," Jack wrote in his resignation letter, "but this was too good an opportunity to pass up, especially in these days of budget cutting at newspapers." Former FWAA board member and long-time member **Wally Hall**, sports editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, was nominated and approved by the FWAA's executive officers as Bogaczyk's replacement. ... FWAA's first vice president, **Kelly Whiteside** of *USA Today*, has moved. So make this correction in the new FWAA directory just out. Her new address is 569 Highland Ave, Upper Montclair, N.J., 07043. Kelly's new phone number is 973-744-3289.

### Guback Receivers Honor

Long-time FWAA member **Steve Guback** has been named to the Norwalk (Conn.) High School Wall of Honor. Guback, Class of 1944, joins 36 people previously selected for the honor. A plaque with the likeness of Guback will be placed on the wall.

### Conference Calls

**NORTHWESTERN:** Damien Anderson, Northwestern's Heisman Trophy candidate, will be available each Monday through Nov. 19 at 1:15 p.m. Central Time on a conference call. You can join the call by dialing 847-491-3020.

**WASHINGTON:** Will hold football teleconferences from 12-1 p.m. (Pacific Time) each Monday. The format: Opposing Coach (5-10 minutes), Washington coach Rick Neuheisel and selected players (time permitting). The teleconference number is 360-709-4800. The Pin Code: 5132 plus #.

**PENN STATE:** Joe Paterno is available every Tuesday of a game week from 12:30-1:00 p.m. Eastern Time during Penn State's teleconference. Two players are available from 1:00-1:15. Call 312-470-7107 to participate. Password is Penn State.

**SUN BELT:** Will conduct telephone media conferences with its head football coaches each Monday from 10:30-11:55 a.m. Central Time through Nov. 12. The number to access the call has been revised from what was earlier released. Dial 913-981-5542.

**BIG EAST:** Has revised the times and order of its coaches' teleconference call on Mondays. The format will stay as listed below for the remainder of the season. Media representatives wishing to participate in the call should call (913) 981-5520. The schedule (Eastern Time):

11:10 a.m.	Larry Coker, Miami
11:20 a.m.	Walt Harris, Pittsburgh
11:30 a.m.	Rich Rodriguez, West Virginia
11:40 a.m.	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
11:50 a.m.	Paul Pasqualoni, Syracuse
Noon	Bobby Wallace, Temple
12:10 p.m.	Tom O'Brien, Boston College
12:20 p.m.	Greg Schiano, Rutgers



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