



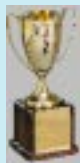
1997 - 1998 SJS Home Page
Parade Of Champions



The 1997-98 Parade Of Champions

JOHN BOUGHTER	3
SCHMOOKIE	5
KEVIN ST. JOHN	6
DAN WINE	7
DALE HELMS	8
WEBMAESTRO	10
KELLY CIOMBOR	11
STANDINGS	12





Bowl Game Record:
17-3

Season Record:
168-56

Season Percentage:
75.0%

Rank: 1st

JOHN BOUGHTER

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Champion



John Boughter, PhD, shown here looking contemplative, weighing the factors on how to pick college football games. John was no Freddie Favorite, often going against the grain to pick teams like Michigan State and Oregon, when our other so called experts went down with their more conventional selections. Perhaps John became the sentimental favorite to win the award late in the season, when he suffered the personal tragedy of his beloved Seminoles charging into the swamp like the heavily-favored Christians during the Crusades, only to be beaten back by the Gators. Well, John, you deserved it. Congratulations. It should be noted that 75.0% is believed to be an all-time high.

John Speaks: "I really felt that my superior performance in the bowl games validated my front-running status throughout the entire season. By correctly forecasting the outcome of the first 7 games, I sent a strong message to my nearest competitors and effectively ended the contest before New Year's day. But I could trace my dominance further back than that: As I once confided to Schmookie, the critical moment may have been when I (alone) nailed the Michigan State pick back on November 29."



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168-56

Season Percentage:
75.0%

Rank: 1st

JOHN BOUGHTER

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Champion



"Enough of the funny stuff and on to some shout-outs for my fellow prognosticators! Here's to (in no particular order) the aforementioned Schmookie, distant second-place finisher, for his torrid rise in the final weeks; Steve, for running the whole show and also topping me in our own anticipate-the-announcer contest; Kelly, for obstinately picking a poor edition of her beloved Miami (FL) team week after week; Dan, for the FSU songbook and for giving me the thrill of beating a real newspaperman; Dale, for initially scaring me with his bold bowl picks but then crashing and burning big-time (but great call on that Orange Bowl!); and Kevin, for his U of Wisconsin homerism as well as the pleasing sounds of his own Purple Mushroom Band."

Thanks, John. My, we like ourselves today.



Bowl Game Record:
14-6

Season Record:
117-44

Season Percentage:
72.7%

Rank: 2nd (tie)

SCHMOOKIE

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Mr. Photogenic Award



Schmookie, shown here looking perhaps a bit **too** relaxed, made a valiant effort but came up short, and in those last wild, dizzying weeks, even let hated rival Kevin catch up. He and Kevin tied for second place. Schmookie's desire was engaging; we laughed when he laughed, wept when he wept, and laughed a bit when he wept too. Hey, it was funny to see him try and fail.

Schmookie Speaks: "*No comment.*"

I don't blame you, Schmookie. And I had nothing to do with your downfall. You made your own bed. I, on the other hand, was drawn in by your Tavian Banks propaganda, costing me a bowl-week tie with my rival, Dan. Still, we here at the Steve St. John Picks Page consider Schmookie a serious threat to take next year's title.



Bowl Game Record:
15-5

Season Record:
117-44

Season Percentage:
72.7%

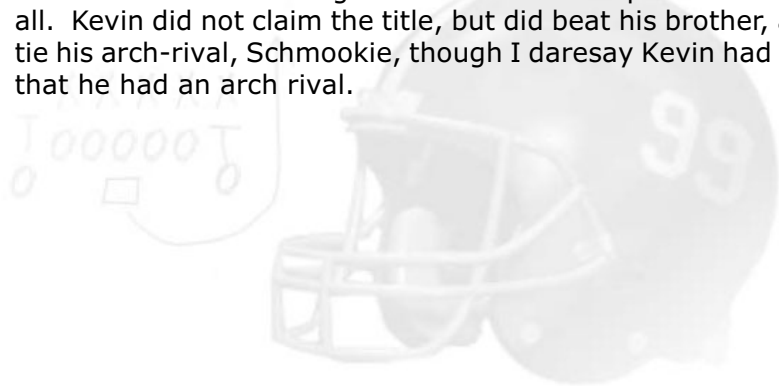
Rank: 2nd (tie)

KEVIN ST. JOHN

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Kindness To Animals Award



Kevin St. John, Esq., shown here presumably on his dairy farm in the South Side of Chicago. It *is* the baddest part of town, after all. Kevin did not claim the title, but did beat his brother, and did tie his arch-rival, Schmookie, though I daresay Kevin had no idea that he had an arch rival.





Bowl Game Record:
16-4

Season Record:
171-66

Season Percentage:
72.2%

Rank: 4th

DAN WINE

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Fall From Grace Award



Dan Wine, shown here scheming some underhanded means of denying me, yet again, bragging rights in a picks contest that must be some 5 or 6 years old. Although uncharacteristically not much of a factor this year, The Winer (as he is lovingly known), turned in a rather respectable 72+% performance, just a half a percent out of second place (and, unlike the two ahead of him, Dan picked the games every week). A big shout out for running the pool in the first few weeks when the web page was down. Dan, I know our friendly competition can get pretty, well, competitive at times, but let me extend the olive branch here and now and say, with complete sincerity, "You bastard, I'm coming after you next year!"



DALE HELMS

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Lawrence Phillips/
Latrell Sprewell Memorial Award



Bowl Game Record:
12-8

Season Record:
168-69

Season Percentage:
70.9%

Rank: 5th

Dale Helms, shown here behind a politely crouching Liam Miller. Inexplicably, my photo file contained this one lone image of the ever elusive Helmsman. Dale turned in a solid 70+% performance this year, but nonetheless earned the ignoble distinction of being the first Phillips/Sprewell Memorial Award winner, to be given annually to the picks expert that had the most promise and talent only to squander it all. Dale was often a frontrunner, but somewhere midseason lost his edge and stumbled home to a fifth place finish. To me, the great shame was that he didn't start his slide a little sooner, so that I could have claimed a fifth place slot.

Dale speaks: *"That Dale guy got off to a scorching hot start, a pace impossible to keep up. If it wasn't for really thoughtful and helpful corrections by the St. John brothers, his record may have stayed above the clouds. However, he burned up all his powers of psychic selection early in the year, and in the second half, became merely human. After the stumble from the top, I guess he figured 'what the hell', and began going with under-dogs--no guts, no glory, you know. The plan was bold, but*



Bowl Game Record:
12-8

Season Record:
168-69

Season Percentage:
70.9%

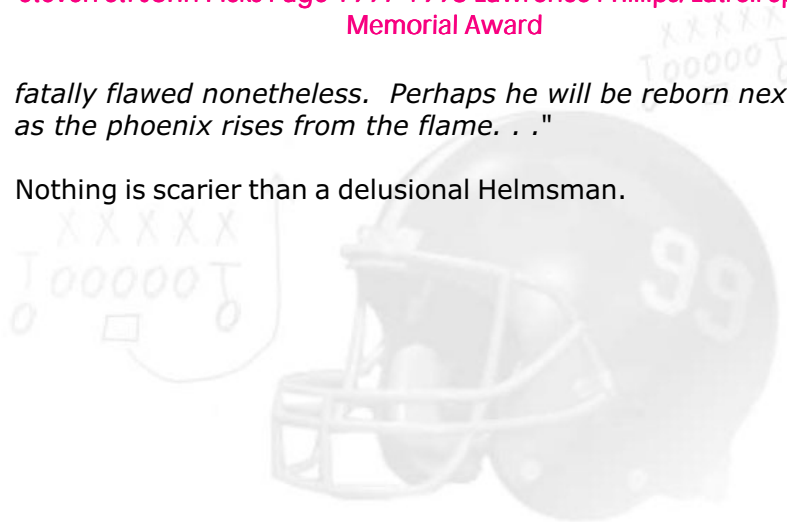
Rank: 5th

DALE HELMS

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Lawrence Phillips/Latrell Sprewell
Memorial Award

*fatally flawed nonetheless. Perhaps he will be reborn next year,
as the phoenix rises from the flame. . ."*

Nothing is scarier than a delusional Helmsman.





Bowl Game Record:
15-5

Season Record:
163-73

Season Percentage:
69.1%

Rank: 6th

WEBMAESTRO

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Expert To Watch



The Webmaster, shown here reclining comfortably in the Minnesota Twins locker room, obliging the fundamentally sound Chuck Knobloch who had requested an autographed picture. What can I say about a sixth place showing? My only excuse is that administrative details of running the pool sapped too much of my energy that could otherwise have been channeled into making accurate picks. I named myself the expert to watch, considering a strong showing in the bowls, but I've been naming myself that for six years. Special thanks goes out to the Gators, whose wins over Tennessee and Florida State kept my interest in a season that otherwise was a downer after last year's MNC. I hope that all of our experts come back for another season; this is the finest crew of experts we've ever put together. And I'm going to paste every damn one of you next year. Oklahoma over Texas A&M, good gracious what was I smoking?



Bowl Game Record:
14-6

Season Record:
144-68

Season Percentage:
67.9%

Rank: 7th

KELLY CIOMBOR

Steven St. John Picks Page 1997-1998 Loyalty Award



Kelly Ciombor, shown here shaking the hands of well-wishers and supporters. When I reminded Ms. Ciombor that she finished the season LAST among our regular panel of experts, a large African American man (shown above, left) suggested I'd better rethink my commentary. Scrambling, I hastily bestowed upon Kelly the Loyalty award, for attending several games of her alma mater (including Boston College, Virginia Tech, and Syracuse) in an utterly disappointing season. In fact, that loyalty (picking Miami) cost her several games, and could have single handedly meant the difference between 6th and 7th place. We all appreciate her loyalty, particularly me, as it kept me out of the basement.



FINAL STANDINGS (1997 - 1998)

Rank	Expert	Bowls	Season	Percentage
1	John Boughter	17-3	168-56	75.0
2	Schmookie	14-6	117-44	72.7
2	Kevin St. John	15-5	117-44	72.7
4	Dan Wine	16-4	171-66	72.2
5	Dale Helms	12-8	168-69	70.9
6	Webmaestro	15-5	163-73	69.1
7	Kelly Ciombor	14-6	144-68	67.9
N/A	Saint Daddy	13-7	13-7	65.0
N/A	Joy	13-7	13-7	65.0

