

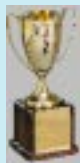


1998 - 1999 SJS Home Page
Parade Of Champions



The 1998-99 Parade of Champions

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Bowl Game Record:
13-9

Season Record:
176-70

Season Percentage:
71.5%

Rank: 1st

HEATER14

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Champion



Heater14 sits comfortably as the SJS home page champion. A baseball expert who works at Fastball.com, rated by both SI and Yahoo as one of the best baseball sites on the internet, Heater proved he was not a one-sport wonder. His 176 correct predictions is an all-time record, fueled by winning 5 weeks and by being the only expert to out-pace Consensus Curtis. Heater himself was no Consensus Curtis, choosing to go against the grain 15% of the time, and calling the upsets correct over half of the time (the only expert to do so). A newcomer to the picks page, there are those who wonder if Heater was a one-season flash in the pan, or if he can continue this year's success in the future. Only time will tell. Our Glorious Champion speaks:

"You could say coming out on top this year was a bit of a surprise. Especially considering the fact that I didn't even get to see an entire game until the end of October due to my baseball duties. My strategy? Pick 'em based on how they used to do rather than how they looked this season. That approach got me through the early weeks until I was able to finally to look over some analysis and do some homework. At that point, I actually



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13-9

Season Record:
176-70

Season Percentage:
71.5%

Rank: 1st

HEATER14

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Champion



began to do worse. Go figure. But I would have to say consistency brought me this title since I somehow avoided the bad weeks."

I would like to extend my thanks for my cousin for hosting this wonderful site, my fellow pickers for the intense competition and the little people -- Emmanuel Lewis, Fonzie, the actress who plays Claudia on Party of Five -- who made 1998 so special for me. Without you none of this would be possible. I can now honestly say that I've achieved something in my life. In closing, I feel it's only appropriate to say, Yo Adrian! I did it!"



Bowl Game Record:
13-9

Season Record:
175-71

Season Percentage:
71.1%

Rank: 2nd

CONSENSUS CURTIS

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Good Neighbor Award



Consensus Curtis, shown here issuing a friendly greeting to his fellow competitors, is predictably comfortable with his second place finish. Some speculate that Curtis backed off during the bowl season, preferring to let another have the limelight. Curtis never picked an upset all year, choosing instead to ingratiate himself to the majority of pickers on any given week. His strategy paid off; his 71.1% showing was quite strong and only one off the pace. Curtis speaks:

"Hidely-ho, experts! That contest surely was a dilly of a pickle. At first I was completely against the contest because it seemed an awful lot like gambling, but several midnight phone sessions with good-old Reverend Lovejoy more or less calmed my fears. I was just pleased as punch that I was able to get most of the picks right, but I couldn't have done it without the help of all my neighbors. I think Maude is gonna let me play next year too, so I look forward to it!"



Bowl Game Record:
11-11

Season Record:
173-73

Season Percentage:
70.3%

Rank: 3rd

DAN WINE

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Comeback Award



Dan Wine, former champion, is shown here cowering amidst the assault of Heater14. Last season, Dan was not a factor down the stretch; some had questioned whether he was finally on the downside of his prognostication career, having finished first every year and fifth last season. But the Winer returned to form this year, placing second among human experts and the only other human besides Heater14 to best the 70% mark. These factors earned him the SJS Comeback Expert of the Year Award. But for a poor performance during the bowls, Dan may have captured another title. Perhaps more distressing, though, is that long-time rival Webmaestro, who has suffered many seasons not even coming close to catching Dan, fell only two games short this season. Feeling the heat, Winer?



Bowl Game Record:
11-11

Season Record:
158-69

Season Percentage:
69.6%

Rank: 4th

MATTHIAS

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Midwest Region Champion



Matthias, shown circled in red. The above photo was taken from a spy camera in the loft of a cabin somewhere in western Wisconsin. Our sources indicate that some of the rogue experts, such as Oz, Matthias, and Webmaestro, convene yearly at a secret cabin in the woods and engage in such rascalion mischief as Big Boggle, chess, and other unsavory activities. Matthias, a newcomer to the pool, proved to be the best of the midwestern experts, topping Oz and Kevin, and overtaking other experts with a midwestern heritage (Saint Daddy and Webmaestro).



Bowl Game Record:
15-7

Season Record:
171-75

Season Percentage:
69.5%

Rank: 5th

WEBMAESTRO

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Tennessee Vols Award



As indicated by the picture, Webmaestro was all business this year. Fourth among humans, third among humans who played every week, the Webmaestro has learned to effectively juggle the responsibilities of running the pool while at the same time doing well in the pool. In the tradition of UCLA last year, and Tennessee countless times before that, the Webmaestro was horrible at the outset (in last place until week 10), but then picked at a 75% clip down the stretch and might have been the best picker when the season ended. Consistent with that hypothesis, Webmaestro stormed through the bowl season, nailing key picks every step of the way. Graphing performance by week, the Webmaestro was on a huge upswing since midseason; perhaps only time kept him from passing Matthias, the Winer, Curtis, and Heater. But like the national rankings, the entire season performance must be considered in determining our champion, so in this case I'll have to be satisfied with my fifth place showing. Until we have a true playoff system in College Football Picking, that is.



KELLY CIOMBOR

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Most Improved Expert Award



Bowl Game Record:
12-10

Season Record:
169-77

Season Percentage:
68.7%

Rank: 6th (tie)

Kelly Ciombor, shown above, has been called the SJS Home Page's "FREAKY IT GIRL" by Spin Magazine. In that capacity, she showed a lot of promise coming out of the University of Miami, and many thought she would own the expert pool in her first season. Not unlike many rookies, however, Miss Ciombor struggled in her inaugural campaign, suffering defeat after defeat in the 1997 season much like her beloved Hurricanes. But this season vindicated the scouts who said she was a picker to be reckoned with, finishing just a hair below 70% and solidly in the upper division. Kelly might also be seen as the [Expert To Watch](#) as she looks forward to her third full season in 1999.



Bowl Game Record:
12-10

Season Record:
169-77

Season Percentage:
68.7%

Rank: 6th

OZ

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Rookie Of The Year Award

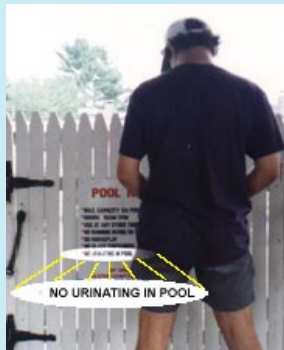


Oz, caught by our spy cameras, is shown in red. While the Oz may be difficult to find in picture form, he was certainly not hard to find in his first season as an NCAA expert, at times in the top spot and at other times closing in on the leader. As is typical with rookies facing a long, professional season the first time in their careers, Oz faded a bit down the stretch but landed a respectable sixth among all experts. Though second among first-year players, Oz correctly forecasted a rookie-high 169 correct games and submitted picks every week, and thus nosed out Matthias to garner Rookie of the Year honors. (Heater14's rookie status is in question due to his occupation as a professional sports journalist.) It is a great award, Oz, but it comes with high expectations for future success! Oz also has the ignoble distinction of earning this year's [Freddie Favorite Certificate](#) for bringing in the lowest Upset Index (0.09). As Heater14 showed, you need to take some chances to claim the ultimate prize.



KEVIN ST. JOHN

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Public Health Threat



Bowl Game Record:
14-8

Season Record:
158-73

Season Percentage:
68.4%

Rank: 8th

Kevin, displaying his typical disregard for the rules, is shown here at a community swimming pool. The youngest St. John in the Expert Pool, Kevin never really established much of a run toward the top prize, finishing at the end squarely in the middle of the pack riding the wave of a strong bowl performance. Whereas Kelly's homerism cost her last season, Kevin's faithful backing of Wisconsin proved beneficial even during the bowl season. As a result, Kevin also claims the [Steve St. John Home Page Loyalty Award](#). It was a middling performance all the way around though; finishing ahead of arch-rival Schmookie (to go 1-1 in their series) was offset by finishing behind his brother (to make that score 1-1 as well).



ROBERT

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Browbeater of The Year Award



Bowl Game Record:
13-9

Season Record:
166-80

Season Percentage:
67.5%

Rank: 9th (tie)

ROBERT, indicated by the red arrow and shown here perched behind his mentor's shoulder, finished a distant ninth but was, nonetheless, a central feature in the myth surrounding the 1998 season. A principal player in Jackass-gate, ROBERT's sage advice that "you have to know when to get OFF the bandwagon" was at least part of my own success in picking as the season wore on. I think the core experts here at Maryland greatly appreciated the addition of ROBERT to help offset the loss of Schmookie, who is greatly missed on Monday mornings for post-weekend discussions, arguments, taunting, and all-around troublemaking. It was these aspects of ROBERT's college football acumen, the ability to give, receive, and inspire an uninhibited banter of good-humored vitriol, that made him the perhaps surprise winner of one of the most coveted of the "social" awards granted by the SJS home page. I give you ROBERT, Browbeater Of The Year. Let's also congratulate ROBERT for bringing home the first annual [Send Me To Vegas Award](#) for notching the most close scores (28) this year.



Bowl Game Record:
11-11

Season Record:
166-80

Season Percentage:
67.5%

Rank: 9th (tie)

SAINT DADDY

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Vanez Gooch Award



Saint Daddy is shown here with whom I guess we would call Saint Mommy. The two are enjoying a sunny day at the Inner Harbor at Baltimore some months before a regrettable move to the home town of Florida State University. Saint Daddy, in his first full year of picking, finished dead last among St. John family members, and the inclusion of cousin Heater didn't help his case either. Nonetheless, he has to feel good about a 67.5% showing despite moving midseason. Perhaps now returned to a big college football town after a two year hiatus (Madison to Baltimore to Tallahassee) will portend better luck next season. Saint Daddy garnered the Vanez Gooch Award for moving to Tallahassee despite having a son that graduated from the University of Florida. Vanez Gooch, of course, being the Florida State tailback who transferred to Florida recently.



Bowl Game Record:
10-12

Season Record:
166-80

Season Percentage:
67.5%

Rank: 9th (tie)

JOHN BOUGHTER

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Fall From Grace Award



John and I engage metaphorically in a test of wills each college football season, and, as this picture shows, we sometimes engage in tests of wills physically as well. I don't mind telling you that this arm-wrestling match, in much the same way as this season's picks contest, featured a victorious performance by the Webmaestro. I feel compelled to tell you that left-handed battles were a different story. Last season, Dan Wine was awarded the Fall From Grace Trophy in going from first place to a distant fifth in the following season. John's fall from first to a tie for ninth certainly justifies his becoming the second winner of the Fall From Grace Award. John might perhaps take heart in Dan's resurrection this year; alternatively, John's best days may have come and gone. With a ninth place showing, a tie with rookie ROBERT, and an FSU loss in the Fiesta Bowl, 1998 featured a series of disappointments for the Boat Man. John speaks:

"Unfortunately, the tie with ROBERT was a good as a loss to ROBERT. Fortunately, I'm already over the disappointments of college football 1998, and looking forward to a huge comeback in 99, as my beloved 'Noles gear up for another run at the MNC."



Bowl Game Record:
12-10

Season Record:
162-83

Season Percentage:
66.1%

Rank: 12th

SCHMOOKIE

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Misplaced Priorities Award



Schmookie, looking perhaps a bit too comfortable, rode the momentum of last year's second place finish all the way to a twelfth place showing this season. He furthermore had the ignoble distinction of finishing dead last among returning experts. Giving Schmookie the benefit of the doubt, I slapped him with the Misplaced Priorities Award, for paying insufficient attention to college football prognostication amidst the rigors of the first year of Dental School. That's the only explanation I can come up with for such a horrific sophomore slump. Hopefully he'll experience a sophomore slump next year in Dental School as he instead devotes his concentration on the 1999 college football season.

Bowl Game Record:
9-13

Season Record:
139-77

Season Percentage:
64.4%

Rank: 13th

CHUCK TAYLOR

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Renegade Award



Welcome Chuck Taylor, this year's Renegade Award winner. Chuck had a see-saw season that featured three Weeks Won (including a memorable 17-3 showing one week) and countless weeks at the bottom of the pack. Chuck Taylor secured the Renegade Award by picking 27% upsets, often championing MAC and WAC teams in the face of stronger-conference foes. That Upset Index of .27 was substantially above that of the next nearest competitor (Webmaestro, .22). Not shown in the stats was the fact that Chuck certainly had the most "Out On A Limb" picks as well--picks not shared by a single expert. It may not be the top prize, but the Renegade Award may be the most fun. We hope to see you back next season.



THE NEW H MAN

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Dale Helms Award



Bowl Game Record:
12-10

Season Record:
157-89

Season Percentage:
63.8%

Rank: 14th

The New H Man is pictured above on his home streets of Baltimore, amidst the Guags (left) and the Webmaesto (right). When an expert officially retires from the SJS Home Page, it is customary to name an award after him or her. The trophy that Dale Helms garnered in his final year of service has hence been named for him. The award is given annually to the expert that starts out strong only to crumble at the end of the season. In many ways, our own New H Man has out-Helmsed the old H man. The New H Man lit up the SJS Picks Contest early in the year, hanging at or near the top spot and looking for all the world like the next incarnation of Dan Wine. But then he fell. And he fell in spectacular fashion. It is hard to imagine what happened to our New H Man, but he fell all the way to 14th place. A decent bowl series and a leveling off over the last couple of weeks of the season suggest that The New H Man could find his old form. We certainly hope so!



Bowl Game Record:
DNP

Season Record:
137-78

Season Percentage:
63.7%

Rank: 15th

HOMER

Steven St. John Picks Page 1998-1999 Bottom Feeder



Homer was a far better picker of games when he was relying on Lisa Simpson for his picks. This year he simply picked the home team, which did pay off at better than a 50-50 rate and was almost enough to get past the New H Man. But in the end, Homer's strategy proved to be the low water mark for the expert panel this season. Asked for a comment on his performance, Homer simply replied "D'oh!"

FINAL STANDINGS (1998 - 1999)



Rank	Expert	Bowls	Season	Percentage
1	Heater14	13-9	176-70	71.5
2	Curtis	13-9	175-71	71.1
3	Dan Wine	11-11	173-73	70.3
4	Matthias	11-11	158-69	69.6
5	Webmaestro	15-7	171-75	69.5
6	Kelly Ciombor	12-10	169-77	68.7
6	Oz	12-10	169-77	68.7
8	Kevin St. John	14-8	158-73	68.4
9	ROBERT	13-9	166-80	67.5
9	Saint Daddy	11-11	166-80	67.5
9	John Boughter	10-12	166-80	67.5
12	Schmookie	12-10	162-83	66.1
13	Chuck Taylor	9-13	139-77	64.4
14	New H Man	12-10	157-89	63.8
15	Homer	DNP	137-78	63.7

