

June 10, 2008

## Pacific-10 Commissioner to Announce His Retirement

By [PETE THAMEL](#)

Pacific-10 Commissioner Tom Hansen announced Monday that he would retire in July 2009, the second major change in college athletics leadership in less than a week.

In a telephone interview, Hansen, 70, described his 26-year stay atop the conference as “a wonderful run.”

He will retire at nearly the same time as Big East Commissioner Mike Tranghese, who announced last Thursday that he would step down in June 2009.

During Hansen’s tenure, the conference’s teams won more than 200 national titles. Another part of his legacy will be his staunch opposition to a playoff system in college football.

Despite strong public and news media criticism, Hansen never wavered on protecting the Pac-10’s and the Big Ten’s relationship with the Rose Bowl.

“It’s been a good system,” Hansen said of the Bowl Championship Series. “It addresses the obvious need we have to determine a national championship.”

Hansen said he would look back fondly upon many other highlights of his tenure, including the growth of women’s sports in the Pac-10, and relationships with everyone from student-athletes to university presidents.

He mentioned Southern California’s 41-38 loss to Texas in the Rose Bowl in 2006 as a football highlight. Among the men’s basketball highlights were U.C.L.A.’s 1995 national championship and Arizona’s 1997 national title, he said.

The exits of Tranghese, Hansen and [Notre Dame](#) Athletic Director Kevin White, who recently became [Duke](#)’s athletic director, mean there will be a turnover of three key B.C.S. decision makers.

But Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany, who, like Hansen, staunchly opposes a playoff, said he doubted there would be any change in the B.C.S.

“We wouldn’t have been able to assert the positions we’ve asserted over time if there weren’t a lot of support from a lot of our constituents,” Delany said.

Possible replacements for Hansen include Stanford Athletic Director Bob Bowsby, Western Athletic Conference Commissioner Karl Benson, Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson and the former Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg.