

## Tropicana Field, Meet the Big Ten

Written by Maury Brown  
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The **Tampa Ray Devil Rays** are in discussions with the **Big Ten** to host an NCAA Football bowl game at **Tropicana Field**.

The Big East has affiliations with five bowls through the 2009 season. As [reported by the St. Petersburg Times](#) :

"We've had very preliminary talks with the Devil Rays, but there's very serious interest on both sides," said **Nick Carparelli**, the conference's associate commissioner for football. "It makes a lot of sense for all parties involved, but what talks we have had are in the very early stages."

Early enough that Rays officials declined to comment until talks involving the St. Petersburg stadium have reached a more substantive level.

The earliest that a bowl game at the Trop could be certified by the NCAA would be April of 2010. Certification is based on being able to sustain attendance above a threshold of 25,000. Dropping below the threshold would remove a venue from certification.

**Read about this story on [The Biz of Football](#) , as well**