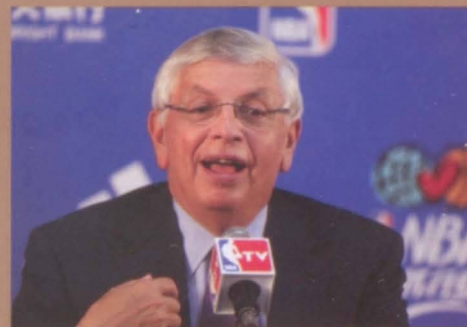


▲ **ROLL TIDE!**

The Alabama Crimson Tide defeated the LSU Tigers, 21-0, in college football's BCS National Championship Game. The conference rivals faced off for the second time in the season. While LSU won the first meeting, Alabama's defense held the Tigers to just 5 first downs to dominate the second game.

▲ **UNNATURAL NATURAL DISASTERS**

In 2011, the United States had a record 12 weather disasters. These included massive flooding of the Mississippi River; a severe drought and wildfires in the southern Plains and southwest U.S.; and Hurricane Irene along the East Coast.



**LABOR NEGOTIATIONS** were a problem for both the NFL and NBA. A lockout by NFL owners disrupted training camp, and threatened the start of the season before a very late settlement. Even once the NFL season began, some felt a rash of early injuries and sloppy play was due to the lost offseason.

An NBA lockout did interrupt the start of the basketball season, with 16 games for each team getting removed from the schedule before an agreement was reached and the season began on Christmas Day.

Once the NBA season started, the shortened regular season became a grind, with teams playing the 66-game schedule in a tight, four-month timeframe.

## A late start



▲ **LIBERATION IN LIBYA**

Libyans revolted against their government and eventually killed their dictator of 42 years, Moammar Gadhafi, in October. Rebels fought government soldiers for eight months with the help of NATO, including U.S. forces.



◀ **ELECTION YEAR**

Although Republican candidates for president had been participating in debates for months, the 2012 primary season began in January with the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. Frontrunners for the Republican nomination included Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Rep. Ron Paul of Texas and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney all seeking to oppose President Barack Obama in the fall election.