

Sports Aplenty

Grid Postscripts

By GARY SHERER

With the completion of the football season, save the post-season madness, one must ask some questions about the past 13 weeks of kickoffs.

How can TCU (only 55 points all year) beat the only two teams that beat Arkansas (Baylor and Texas Tech) and yet lose to the Razorbacks?

How can Arkansas look like world-beaters (against A&M and SMU) and then turn around and fall flat on their face against Texas Tech and Baylor and cost the Cotton Bowl some far-away customers.

How can Notre Dame be ultra-liberal and run up 64 points on Duke and turn ultra-conservative and settle for 10 against Michigan State?

This nefarious writer now explores some of the Bowl games that will be upon us in a couple of weeks.

Rose Bowl: It was a real mistake, not putting UCLA in the "Granddaddy Bowl," both from the standpoint that they would have a better chance against Purdue and they defeated USC, which is going. The selection caused a mild riot on the Uclan's campus, but the selection committee had to make up to Coach John McKay after skipping over USC for Oregon State in 1963. In the Big Ten, Michigan State should be going but they had to abide by the archaic rule of a team not being able to follow themselves in the New Year's classic. They should really change the ruling, as this was the first time in many moons that a Big Ten winner repeated the performance and won two years in a row.

Cotton Bowl: The Cotton Bowl committee is patting themselves on the back after getting Georgia who knocked off both Orange Bowl foes (Florida and Georgia Tech). SMU fell into their home park over the fallen Porkers of Fayetteville and probably have bitten off more than they can chew. But with Levias in the lineup, anything can happen.

Orange Bowl: Both teams go into this bowl with final game losses still too fresh in their minds. Florida, which lost to arch-rival Miami, 21-26, and Georgia Tech, victim to equally arch-rival Georgia, 23-14, are smarting from those setbacks and will be out to gain back their reputations.

Sugar Bowl: This is a strange one. The Crimson Tide will no doubt be out to obliterate the Cornhuskers from the New Orleans area so that Coach Bryant can further claim No. 1 status. Whether Nebraska can cope with them will remain to be seen.



DOUBTFUL STARTER

Sonny Benefield, sophomore guard from Sweeney, has been slowed by a turned ankle and may not see action in tonight's game with Mississippi State.

Improving Aggies To Oppose Miss. State In Game Tonight

The improving Aggie basketball team gets a stiff test tonight when they meet highly-regarded Mississippi State in first-round play of the Southern Mississippi Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Going into the game following two straight losses, Coach Shelby Metcalf's charges have learned valuable lessons in both contests. Their main problem has been too many turnovers in crucial situations. Coach Metcalf believes this will subside as the players get more game experience under their belts. He feels that these lessons will be learned faster against tougher foes.

"If things keep progressing as they are, I'll be able to bring back a better ball team to College Station on Friday," said Metcalf following Monday's game with Memphis State.

The first injury of the year has popped up, with Sonny Benefield, sophomore guard from Sweeney, hobbled with a sprained ankle. He turned up with it in practice last Friday and saw limited action in the Memphis State game. Aggie trainer Billy Pickard says he can go top speed straight ahead but has difficulty

making cuts right or left. Mississippi State, along with Kentucky, has been sighted as a pre-season favorite for the Southeastern Conference title. They feature a high-scoring attack led by 6'9" David Williams, a top returnee from last year's aggregation.

Metcalf will pick his starting lineup from Ronnie Peret, Dick Rector, Billy Bob Barnett, John Underwood, Terry Trippet, Jerry

Payne and Larry Ditto. Ditto, 6'9" sophomore from Breckenridge, was praised for his play in the Memphis game by Metcalf.

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Third Ranked Kentucky Wildcats Due For Fall In National Ratings

BY BEN OLAN

Associated Press Sports Writer Kentucky, last year's leader in The Associated Press' final major-college basketball poll and No. 3 in the 1966-67 preseason balloting, is not likely to hold a lofty position next week. Fifth-ranked Houston, too, probably will drop several places.

The Wildcats, 104-84 winners over Virginia in their season opener last week, were upset by Illinois 98-97 in overtime while Houston was beaten by Michigan 86-75 Monday night.

The voting in the latest poll was based on games through last Saturday and was topped by UCLA followed by Texas Western, Kentucky, Louisville, Houston, New Mexico, Duke, North Carolina, Brigham Young and Cincinnati.

UCLA, the preseason leader, collected 32 of 34 first-place votes from among the selectors comprising the national panel of sports writers and broadcasters. In points, the Bruins accumulated

337 on a basis of 10 for a first-place vote, 9 for second, 8 for third etc.

UCLA, led by Lew Alcindor's 56 points, defeated Southern California 105-90 in its opening game.

Texas Western, last season's NCAA titleholder, held the No. 2 spot after winning its first two games.

Louisville beat Georgetown in its opener and advanced one place to fourth. Houston, which opened with two victories, climbed from seventh to fifth while New Mexico, 2-0, held sixth place.

The Top Ten with first place votes in parentheses and total points.

1. UCLA (32) 337
2. Texas Western (1) 288
3. Kentucky 250
4. Louisville (1) 170
5. Houston 135
6. New Mexico 108
7. Duke 72
8. North Carolina 71
9. Brigham Young 65
10. Cincinnati 63



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