

Sugar Bowl for National Title

No. 1 Alabama Clashes With No. 3 Notre Dame

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Sugar Bowl showdown New Year's Eve will feature the two highest-ranking teams eligible for post-season play—No. 1 Alabama and No. 3 Notre Dame. Notre Dame vaulted past Ohio State and Michigan into third place behind Alabama and Oklahoma, ineligible for a bowl game, in The Associated Press poll Tuesday.

The winner of the Sugar Bowl game probably will be national champion. There will be a final poll after the bowl games. Alabama, which ended an 11-0 regular season by beating Auburn 35-0 last Saturday, got 34 first-place votes and 1,090 points

in balloting by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Oklahoma, ineligible for a bowl appearance because of recruiting violations, received 17 first-place votes and 1,023 points after whipping Oklahoma State 45-18 for a 10-0-1 final record.

Notre Dame received two first-place votes and 799 points. The Fighting Irish finished the regular season 10-0, unbeaten and untied for the first time since 1949.

Ohio State, 9-0-1 got two first-place votes and 799 points for fourth place, and was followed by Michigan, 10-0-1, with one first-place ballot and 780 points

and Penn State, 11-0, with three first-place votes and 679 points. Ohio State will play No. 7 Southern California in the Rose Bowl while Penn State will go to the Orange Bowl to face Louisiana State, which was upset 14-0 by Tulane and dropped from eighth to 13th.

The Top Twenty, with first-place votes in parentheses, season records and total points. Points tabulated on basis of 20-18-14-12-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1:

1. Alabama (34)	11-0-0	1,090
2. Oklahoma (16)	10-0-1	1,023
3. Notre Dame (2)	10-0-0	810
4. Ohio St. (2)	9-0-1	799
5. Michigan (1)	10-0-1	780
6. Penn St. (3)	11-0-0	679
7. So. Calif.	9-1-1	528
8. Texas	8-2-0	412
9. UCLA	9-2-0	312
10. Ariz. St.	10-1-0	293
11. Texas Tech	10-1-0	255
12. Nebraska	8-2-1	222
13. La. State	9-2-0	193
14. Houston	10-1-0	161
15. Miami, O.	10-0-0	85
16. N. Car. St.	8-3-0	56
17. Tulane	9-2-0	44
18. Maryland	8-3-0	30
19. Kansas	7-3-1	27
20. Tenn.	8-3-0	16

Kevin's Korner



By KEVIN COFFEY, Sports Editor

It was a very disappointing year for Southwest Conference football. In fact, it was a darn right poor year.

Every team in the conference had more than its share of trouble. Only Rice and Texas were at all pleased with where they finished.

Not only was it an all around bad year, the SWC must have set some kind of record for the greatest number of bad football teams. If Rice can finish third with the poor excuse of a team they had, well that doesn't speak well for the conference.

The standings ended like this:

	CONFERENCE				ALL GAMES				
	W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.	
Texas	7	0	0	1.000	Texas Tech	10	1	0	.909
Texas Tech	6	1	0	.857	Houston	9	1	0	.900
Rice	4	3	0	.571	Texas	8	2	0	.800
Arkansas	3	3	1	.500	SMU	6	4	1	.590
SMU	3	3	1	.500	Arkansas	5	5	1	.500
Texas A&M	3	4	0	.429	Rice	5	6	0	.455
TCU	1	6	0	.143	Texas A&M	5	6	0	.455
Baylor	0	7	0	.000	TCU	3	8	0	.273
					Baylor	2	9	0	.182

Texas' first place finish didn't surprise anyone. They've pulled that trick six straight years now. But the 'Horns were picked by Sports Illustrated and tons of writers to battle for the national championship. Texas will be lucky to finish in the top 10. Oklahoma embarrassed the Longhorns on national television and Miami ended all big hopes on opening day.

Texas Tech had a great season for a second place team. Except for a few stupid mistakes against Darrell Royal and his boys, perhaps the Red Raiders would be in Dallas on New Year's. The Cotton Bowl is no gem this year, but Tech thought it might get there. A Gator Bowl berth is in line and Jim Carlen and staff have plump 10-year contracts so it can't be all bad. Second place is, well, second place.

Rice stunk! They had no offense to go with a respectable defense. A great punter and lady luck kept the Owls from the cellar. Luck or not, third place is better than anyone thought the Owls capable of and coach Al Conover gets my vote as SWC Coach of the Year. He worked miracles with mullets.

Arkansas blew a chance to go bowling when they were tied by SMU. Arkansas is a young team, but it had hopes for seven wins this year. Against the Aggies it was anything but impressive and fouled up a possible good year by losing two of the last three with one tie.

SMU folded in mid-season. Just flat choked. The Mustangs just couldn't win the big games losing to Tech, Texas and the Ags in succession. It seemed they have the horses but the Ponies never lived up to their pre-season expectations.

The Aggies, like Arkansas, are a team of the future, but they should have won seven games. Fumbles, interceptions and general inconsistency hurt the team all season. At times A&M looked like a champ and at other times they looked like chumps. This Jeckle-Hyde syndrome will have to stop if A&M is to battle Texas for the Crown next year.

TCU lost just about everything, including coach Billy Tohill. Injuries took their toll on the Frogs, but a 1-6 record in conference is bad any way you look at it. Whoever the Frogs nab as new coach will need lots of luck to get their program in competitive shape.

Baylor was the surprise of the SWC. Grant Teaff led the Bears from the cellar last year, but somehow they wandered right back. Nothing like home sweet home.

The Bears were the worst team defensively in the league. The offense had some punch but not enough to make any difference.

The conference as a whole lost a lot of national prestige. There is a good chance no SWC team will make it to the top 10 after the bowl games.

Football, the so called "King of Sports," in the south better get in gear or Baylor just might win the SWC for the first time since 1924.

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