

the sports

Weekly polls to have new leader

The top teams in college football will no doubt undergo some shuffling in the national ratings today as a result of No. 1 Oklahoma's stunning 17-14 loss to fourth-ranked Nebraska, No. 2 Penn State's tough 19-10 victory over North Carolina and third-ranked Alabama's 31-10 win over LSU.

Nebraska beat the Sooners for the first time since 1971 as its tough defense shut down virtually every part of Oklahoma's game, causing the Sooners to fumble nine times and lose six. Two of those fumbles were by Heisman Trophy candidate Billy Sims deep in Nebraska territory to kill the final two drives of the game by the Sooners.

Nebraska halfback Richard Berns, who always seems to peak in the big games, rushed for 113 yards and one touchdown in 25 carries. He tied the game at 7-7 on a 5-yard run early in the second quarter and provided

Nebraska its biggest boost of the game with three minutes left in the contest when he swept right end for 14 yards and a first down after the Cornhuskers recovered a Sims fumble at the 4-yard line. That moved the ball out to the 17-yard line and Berns gave Nebraska another first down two plays later.

The second-ranked Penn State Lions, behind four field goals by Matt Bahr, now have a choice of not one but three bowls — the Cotton, Sugar and Orange Bowls on Jan. 1.

Bahr kicked three of his four field goals in the third quarter to give the Nittany Lions the lead back at 12-7 and Matt Suhey clinched the game on a 43-yard punt return for a touchdown with 3:38 remaining in the game.

Bahr's field goals of 33, 32, 37 and 30 yards gave him 21 for the season, enabling him to tie the NCAA record for most field goals in one year set in 1975 by Don Bitterlich of

Temple. Reserve quarterback Steadman Shealy provided the Alabama Crimson Tide with the spark it needed to erase a 7-0 deficit and defeat Louisiana State as he took just five plays to tie the score with a 29-yard touchdown pass and led Alabama in for the go-ahead TD.

Alabama now has only to defeat Auburn on Dec. 2 to be assured of at least a tie for its seventh Southeastern Conference championship in eight years. But if 10th-ranked Georgia, which is also unbeaten in conference play, defeats Auburn next week, that would give Georgia the SEC berth in the Sugar Bowl and mean the Crimson Tide must look elsewhere.

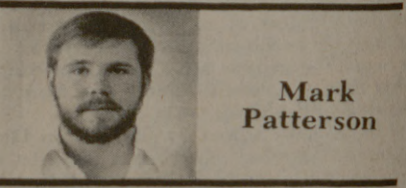
In other games, No. 5 USC beat 17th-ranked Washington 28-10; No. 7 Michigan downed Northwestern 59-14, No. 9 UCLA lost to Oregon St. 15-13 and No. 10 Georgia beat Florida 24-22.

Quarterback Paul McDonald threw for two second quarter scores and fullback Lynn Cain rushed for 128 yards in 25 carries Saturday to lead the USC Trojans over the defending Rose Bowl champion Washington Huskies.

Michigan quarterback Rick Leach ran for three touchdowns and threw for two more Saturday to become the NCAA's all-time career touchdown leader. Leach was 7-for-7 for 140 yards, including touchdown strikes of nine and 42

yards to bring his career total to 75, bettering the old NCAA record of 73, set by Arizona State's Danny White, now with the Dallas Cowboys.

UCLA suffered its first Pac-10 loss as Kieron Walford kicked a 36-yard field goal with 3:08 remaining Saturday to provide Oregon State with the 15-13 upset. Walford's field goal, his second of the game, was aided by a brilliant punt by the Beavers' John Misko who sailed a 41-yard boot out of bounds at the Bruin six-inch line. The Beaver defense held UCLA, and Bruin punter Matt McFarland stepped out of his own end zone trying to punt the ball away, giving Oregon State a safety.



Mark Patterson

The tale of a team anxious for a bowl

I was sitting in the office of the head coach at State University, talking to him about the 1978 football season, when the phone rang. It was one of the many post-season bowl representatives.

"Yes, we've had a pretty good year here at State," Coach bragged to the caller. "If it wasn't for a few bad breaks we could have had heckuva season." State is 2-7 on the year.

"Sure we're interested in playing in the Coleslaw Bowl," Coach said with a gleam in his eye and a hand on his wallet. "We can always use the exposure for our program. And my boys deserve to play in a bowl after the troubled times they've been through."

It is true that the boys from State have been through a difficult season this year. After all, they've had to rebound after losing their favorite fan and mascot Snorty the pet turtle. Snorty was lost in games into the season because of a too soft shell.

The loss could have been disastrous, coming in the middle of the season after two big losses to Tech and College. The State players could have folded their last five games after the heartbreak, yet they re-grouped and came back to win one against University.

"Can you believe that the Coleslaw Bowl wants us this year?" Coach said to me. "I thought that we were out of the bowl picture after we lost that close game at North last week. What an honor to be in the Coleslaw Bowl."

"And I thought we were lucky to get an invitation to play in the Honeydew Melon Bowl. But now we have a chance to play in the times."

I just could not bring myself to tell Coach the reasons surrounding the invitation he had just received. State was asked to play in the bowl only because the teams above it in its conference were destined to play in places like Dallas, Phoenix and Houston. State was the team left in this part of the country not already going to a post-season bowl.

"Coach, why do you think the Coleslaw people asked State to play in their gala affair?" I queried. Coach was ready with a well rehearsed answer.

"For a variety of reasons," he responded. "First, we're a new team since we replaced Snorty five weeks ago. People around the country want to see how we can do with a new mascot on the sidelines. We have a whole new look these days."

"Second, we're a member of a great conference. Put aside the record, all the Coleslaw people want is a school with a good reputation to play in their bowl."

"And third, we can sell a lot of tickets." I couldn't argue him on that point. Even in a losing season State Stadium was sold-out every week. And the ever-present State alumni have a record of following their team across the country for both regular season and post-season games.

"I sure hope we can sell all our tickets," Coach said. "I had to promise the Coleslaw people that we could sell 45,000 tickets before they would invite us. But that shouldn't be any problem with the 30,000 students we have here at State."

Feeling sorry for the guy I bought two tickets as I was leaving his office. After all, I've always wanted to see the Coleslaw Bowl and I've never been to Laramie, Wyo. anyway.

"Hey Marge, could you get me Fred the Quarterback on the phone," Coach yelled at his secretary. "I need to talk to him about some important stuff."

"Hello Fred, this is Coach. Listen I need you to get the team together tonight for a job. It looks like we're going to get to play in the Coleslaw Bowl, but we have these tickets... What do you mean you guys have been negotiating for the Prune Bowl? Huh? Fred, I've already turned down the Honeydew Melon Bowl, if we don't take the Coleslaw Bowl, the only one left is the... now wait a minute, who's coaching this team, anyway? Fred. FRED!..."

Oh, the joys of big-time college football.

Longhorns still in picture

United Press International

AUSTIN — Texas coach Fred Akers said Monday it will be up to his players to decide what bowl invitation, if any, the Longhorns accept, but said Horns first have to deal with games against TCU, Baylor and Texas A&M.

Houston dumped Texas 10-7 Saturday, knocking the Longhorns out of a share of the Southwest Conference lead but leaving them a prime candidate for a bowl appearance.

Asked if he planned to discuss bowl prospects with his team, Akers replied, "Yes, but we're not going to do it until we get some information from the bowls. They (the team members) are aware of the bowls, and aware we are one of the candidates to have a bowl opportunity. But until we get some solid information from the bowl people it doesn't do much good to speculate."

"I think it's very important for the players to have a say in deciding if and where they want to go. If we are

offered an invitation it will be up to the team to decide on it.

"But right now we've got to take care of business. We lost a tough football game, but we could have won it just as easily. We've got TCU this week in Fort Worth, and I don't expect our players to be thinking about anything except TCU."

Akers quickly answered a series of "what if" type questions about passes Texas missed and penalties that stopped scoring threats against Houston, then suggested his players pay no heed to that sort of inquiries.

"They're going to have a lot of people 'what-ifying' them this week, but they've got to put that stuff behind them," Akers said. "It doesn't change one thing, and it's a waste of time to even think about it or respond to it."

Akers said the Longhorns' offensive effort against Houston was the team's most consistent of the season, and picked freshman running back A.J. "Jam" Jones as Texas' top

offensive performer for the game.

Steve McMichael, a defensive tackle who made 16 tackles against the Cougars, was the coaching staff's choice for top defensive player.

Texas passed up a field goal opportunity with a fourth and four from the Houston 27 in the first half, opting instead for a pass which fell incomplete.

Asked Monday about that decision, Akers said, "We felt like a first down at that point was more important than taking a chance on a field goal. That wasn't a gimme kick."

He noted the kick would have been 44 yards into the wind.

"I think the distance could be achieved in that wind if you hit it solid, that's not the problem," said Akers, who kicked during his college days at Arkansas. "Accuracy is the problem in the wind."

Texas middle linebacker Lance Taylor underwent surgery Monday to repair a knee injured against Houston, and Akers said he also expects guard Jim Yarborough and running back Johnny "Ham" Jones to miss the game with TCU.

He indicated both senior Randy McEachern and freshman Donnie Little will play at quarterback against the Frogs, but declined to pick a starter. McEachern started against Houston, but Little came on in the second half and directed Texas to its only score.

"We're still not making any snap decisions," Akers said about his quarterback choice. "We're going to play more than one and see what happens as the game progresses."

Houston loses another back

United Press International
HOUSTON — Injured Houston Oilers running back Rob Carpenter will miss at least three games although his strained right knee may be less seriously injured than first thought, Oilers Coach Bum Phillips said Monday.

Carpenter, the team's second leading rusher with 348 yards and a 4.3 average, scored two touchdowns against New England Sunday. But he suffered a twisted right knee late in the game and was pushed in a wheelchair upon his return to Houston Sunday night.

A team spokesman said an exact diagnosis of the damage will not be made by doctors until today.

The injury left Phillips with two healthy, experienced running backs, Earl Campbell and Tim Wilson. Ronnie Coleman, the team's fourth back, did not play Sunday because of a bruised knee.

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AIR FORCE ROTC — HERE ARE THE FACTS

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Bengals drop another

United Press International
CINCINNATI — Oakland coach John Madden had good reason to be exhausted after his Raiders whipped the Cincinnati Bengals 34-21 in Monday night's free-wheeling nationally televised NFL game.

"Every time we play Cincinnati it's one of those shootouts, a high-scoring game," Madden said, trying to cool off with a cold soft drink in a steamy locker room after the game. "With Cincinnati's speed and the way they do things, you're going to get into those once in a while. You're never really in control."

But the Raiders were in control enough to convert four of Cincinnati's numerous mistakes, three fumbles and one interception, into four Oakland touchdowns.

Oakland quarterback Ken Stabler, along with a 25-yard pass to Dave Casper, also the scoring aerials of 11 yards to Bradshaw and five yards to Raymond Chester.

The Bengals, despite losing the 10th time in 11 games, scored touchdowns on Ken Anderson's passes of 25 yards to Isaac Casper and 10 yards to Archie Griffin, and with Pete Johnson's 4-yard run. Keep Oakland on edge all night, Anderson finished with 30-of-50 passes for 388 yards, but was intercepted four times.

Cincinnati refused to score twice in the first seven minutes of the last quarter to edge within 27-21 and throw a big win into the Raiders.

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DECEMBER GRADUATES

The Association of Former Students invites graduating seniors and those receiving advanced degrees in December to a steak dinner at the Ramada Inn at 6:30 p.m., Monday, November 20.

Pick up your Free ticket by 5 p.m. Friday, November 17, at the Forsyth Alumni Center in the MSC. Admission by advance ticket only.

If you are a member of the Class of 1978, this senior induction banquet is for you, who are graduating in December.