

the sports

# Tide smashing to No. 1

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — With the toughest of its Southeastern Conference foes safely out of the way, Alabama can afford to smile benignly down from its position as the nation's top-ranked college football team once again.

The Crimson Tide retained its No. 1 status in the United Press International Board of Coaches ratings, gaining 33 first-place votes and a total of 603 points. After a scare from Tennessee on Oct. 20, Alabama easily defeated Virginia Tech, 31-7, on Saturday to extend the nation's longest winning streak to 16 games and mark the 200th Crimson Tide victory for Coach Bear Bryant.

Nebraska remained No. 2 after defeating Big Eight foe Colorado, 38-10, and gaining six first-place votes for 560 points, but the new No. 3 team in the ratings is Ohio State.

The Houston Cougars, in spite of defeating fifth-ranked Arkansas 13-10 Saturday to gain undisputed first place in the Southwest Conference, could not break out of their fourth-ranked status after the Buckeyes demolished Michigan State 42-0.

It was the eighth straight win for Ohio State this season under Earle Bruce and the Buckeyes nipped

Houston by seven points, 509-502, for the No. 3 position.

Southern Cal, meanwhile, slipped from third to fifth after defeating California 24-14 while Florida State, still undefeated after a 24-19 win over No. 17 LSU, moved up one notch to become the No. 6 team.

Oklahoma, crushing Iowa State 38-9, moved up two slots to take over the No. 7 spot while Texas remained eighth-rated after its 30-6 win over SMU. Arkansas slid from fifth to ninth after being beaten by Houston, and Michigan's miracle finish in its 27-21 win over Indiana kept it in the No. 10 spot.

Rounding out the next 10, Brigham Young remained at No. 11 after its 59-7 crushing of New Mexico; Pitt stayed in the No. 12 spot after defeating No. 14 Navy, 24-7, and bumping the Midshipmen out of the rankings altogether; Notre Dame moved up two notches to No. 13 after defeating South Carolina, 18-17; Wake Forest became the No. 14 team by edging Auburn, 42-38, and Washington reappeared in the ranking as the 15th-rated team with a 34-14 victory over UCLA.

Purdue, rated 16th last week, stayed the same after edging Northwestern 20-16; North Carolina, which tied East Carolina 28-28, dropped from 15th to 17th; Baylor moved up from 20th to No.

18 after defeating TCU 16-3; No. 19 Penn State remained the same with a 31-6 win over West Virginia, and LSU dropped from 17 to 20 following its loss to Florida State.

By agreement with the American Football Coaches Association, teams on probation by the NCAA are ineligible for the top 20 and national championship consideration by the coaches. Those teams are Oklahoma State, Auburn and Memphis State.

Here by sections are the coaches who comprise the UPI football board: EAST: Frank Cignetti, West Virginia; Carmen Cozza, Yale; Frank Burns, Rutgers; Jackie Sherrill, Pittsburgh; Frank Maloney, Syracuse; Jerry Claiborne, Maryland.

MIDWEST: Jim Young, Purdue; Lee Corso, Indiana; Dan Devine, Notre Dame; Earle Bruce, Ohio State; Darryl Rogers, Michigan St.; Pat Culpepper, Northern Illinois.

SOUTH: Bear Bryant, Alabama; Vince Dooley, Georgia; Charley Pell, Florida; Jim Carlen, South Carolina; Johnny Majors, Tennessee; Charlie McClendon, LSU.

MIDLANDS: Tom Osborne, Nebraska; Barry Switzer, Oklahoma; Warren Powers, Missouri; Jim Dickey, Kansas St.; Rick Venturi, Northwestern; Jeff Jeffries, Wichita St.

SOUTHWEST: Bill Yeoman, Houston; Ron Meyer, SMU; Grant Teaff, Baylor; Jerry Moore, North Texas State; Fred Akers, Texas; Lou Holtz, Arkansas.

MOUNTAINS: Frank Kush, Arizona State; Ken Hatfield, Air Force; Sark Arslanian, Colorado State; Lavell Edwards, Brigham Young; Chuck Fairbanks, Colorado; Wayne Howard, Utah.

PACIFIC: John Robinson, Southern California; Craig Fertig, Oregon St.; Dave Currie, Long Beach State; Roger Theder, California; Don James, Washington; Terry Donahue, UCLA.



Sharing a 'Little' happiness

Texas A&M linebacker Mike Little (55) is congratulated by jubilant teammates Darrell Adams (47) and Mike Mosley (11) after he intercepted a Rice pass and ran it back for a touchdown Saturday in A&M's victory over the Owls. Not

only was it the first touchdown Little has scored on the field, he said it was the first time he had ever touched the field.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy

## Court drops flag on Clark's roughness

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Tuesday let stand a lower-court decision allowing a former Denver Broncos defensive back to sue the Cincinnati Bengals and a former player for reckless disregard for his safety.

The justices turned down an ap-

peal by the Cincinnati team and its former fullback, Charles "Booby" Clark, contesting the ruling that allowed Dale Hackbart to press a claim for damages suffered when he was intentionally hit in the neck during a game.

Hackbart, a former Broncos defensive back, sued Clark for assault and battery and reckless misconduct two years after he suffered a neck injury at the opening game of the National Football League season on Sept. 16, 1973.

As a defensive back, Hackbart covered Clark during a pass play which ended in a Bronco interception.

At that point, Hackbart became an offensive player whose responsibility was to block Clark and prevent him from tackling the Broncos ball carrier. In his attempt to block Clark, Hackbart threw his forearm at his opponent and hit him in the chest and chin areas.

Clark, in turn, struck Hackbart from behind in the neck and base of the skull while the Bronco player was kneeling and watching completion of the play, according to legal papers filed with the Supreme Court.

Both men fell to the ground, but did not complain or exchange words. No penalty was called.

Later, at trial, Clark testified he intentionally hit Hackbart but said his actions were triggered by frustration because the Bengals were

losing.

Clark, now with the Houston Oilers, said he "acted out of anger and frustration, but without a specific intent to injure."

The district court dismissed Hackbart's suit, ruling physical contact "a common and frequent characteristic of professional football which could be expected to take place in virtually any NFL game."

The court said Hackbart, a pro player for 13 years, recognized and assumed the risk of injury in playing football and therefore was not entitled to sue his opponent.

In reversing the district court, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it erred in ruling that even "intentional injuries incurred in football games should be outside the framework of the law."

"The general customs of football do not approve the intentional punching or striking of others," the appeals court said in sending the case back to the lower court for a new trial.

In appealing to the Supreme Court, the Bengals said the court erred in deciding that Hackbart can sue for damages.

The team argued that the very basis of football involves constant physical contact which might ordinarily be described as assault and battery.

"The difference between deliberate striking on the football field and similar conduct on the streets seems

obvious," the Bengals argued.

"The court of appeals realistically and erroneously treated this case as if it had no precedents on the street."

Opposing the Bengals, Hackbart said the appeals court directly found that a football player who injures another by illegal physical contact is liable for damages.

"The only foreseeable result of the Court of Appeals decision is to discourage professional players from engaging in necessary acts of violence essential to the conduct of the game," he said.

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**The Top 10**

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — The U.S. International Board of Coaches Tuesday released its 1979 college football ranking. First-place votes and wins are shown in parentheses.

- Alabama (33)
- Nebraska (6)
- Ohio State (8-0)
- Houston (1) (7-0)
- Southern Cal (1)
- Florida State
- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Arkansas
- Michigan
- Brigham Young
- Pittsburgh
- Notre Dame
- Wake Forest
- Washington
- Purdue
- North Carolina
- Baylor
- Penn State
- LSU

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