

Lassoing the All-America Mustang

Texas A&M's cornerback Darrell Adams has the situation well in hand as he covers SMU's All-America wingback, Emanuel Tolbert. This was one of the two passes Tolbert caught all day

against the Aggies. Tolbert, who has been injured most of the season, finished the day with only two receptions for 29 yards. Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

Bulldogs could turn Sugar sour

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Georgia, 5-4 in the Sugar Bowl? Don't laugh. The Sugar Bowl executive committee certainly isn't that could happen if a series of falls against the Sugar Bowl this year, just as providence shined on New Orleans last year when Georgia tied in a late-season game to open No. 2 Alabama and No. 1 into the New Year's Day

conference games, head-to-head matchups and the controversial "last-appearance" rule. Even though Georgia is 4-4 overall, it has the same record as Alabama in SEC play — 4-0. Should the Bulldogs defeat Florida, Louisiana State upset Alabama and Auburn beat Mississippi State this week, Georgia automatically would win a Sugar Bowl berth.

The Bulldogs would have just one more conference game to play — against Auburn — and even a loss would tie them with Alabama for the SEC crown. Georgia would get the berth because Alabama appeared in the Sugar Bowl last year.

Projecting the worst, should the Bulldogs clinch Saturday and then drop their final two contests to Auburn and to non-conference foe Georgia Tech, the Sugar Bowl would have its first sub-.500 team in history.

"We'd welcome them with open arms and go on with our bowl game and treat them with respect," said Sugar Bowl executive director Mickey Holmes Tuesday. There is nothing else to say. The Sugar Bowl is locked into its contract with the SEC through the 1982 bowl game, and they may have three more years of upset stomachs.

The real culprit is that each SEC team does not play each other in head-to-head competition every season. Even though the Cotton Bowl has a "last-appearance" rule identical to the Sugar's, every Southwest

Conference team plays each other during the season — meaning the conference champion must prove itself in head-to-head competition.

Georgia, however, could win the SEC championship this year without playing Alabama, Mississippi State and Tennessee, three of the top six teams in the conference.

"I wonder what the odds might be for that to happen with the SEC's rotating schedule?" Holmes asked. "The law of averages is against that happening."

But it almost happened last year, too, although to a lesser degree. The Bulldogs, the Cinderella team in the SEC, appeared headed to the Sugar Bowl with one non-conference loss. But Auburn tied the Bulldogs 22-22 to give Georgia a 5-0-1 record in the SEC and send No. 2 and undefeated Alabama back for another year.

Again, Georgia did not play Alabama last year.

So is the Sugar Bowl leaving itself wide open for an embarrassing game by having a last-appearance rule when each team does not play each other during the season?

"There were a lot of initial comments about it being a bad contract," Holmes said. "I think the contract is good and it will be in the future."

The Orange Bowl gets to pick its representative when there is a tie in the Big 8, and the Rose Bowl uses a unique point system to determine its Pacific 10 selection. But the Sugar Bowl has no plans now to change its procedures because the contract

Alabama rolls on in poll

United Press International
NEW YORK — While top-ranked Alabama increased its hold on the No. 1 spot in United Press International's latest college football ratings, Southern California jumped from fifth to third place, swapping positions with Ohio State.

The Crimson Tide of Coach Bear Bryant received 33 first-place votes today for the second straight week from the 42-member UPI Board of Coaches. But Alabama boosted its overall point total to 615, a 47-point bulge over second-ranked Nebraska, which received five first-place votes and 568 points. The Cornhuskers, 80, managed to hold off Missouri, 23-20, Saturday when the Tigers elected to go for a winning touch-

down instead of a tying field goal on the game's final play.

Alabama won its eighth straight game this season — a 24-7 triumph over Mississippi State — to extend its winning streak, the longest in the nation, to 17 games. The Tide will face perhaps their stiffest challenge Saturday night when they play Louisiana State in Baton Rouge.

Southern Cal, with Paul McDonald passing for 380 yards and three touchdowns, easily defeated Arizona, 34-7, last Saturday, and received three first-place votes and 521 points, to edge past Houston — a 21-10 winner over TCU — which garnered the final first-place vote and totaled 509 points to remain in fourth place.

The Buckeyes received 478 points, 31 less than last week, in dropping two notches — even after a convincing 44-7 victory over Illinois. Ohio State, 9-0, entertains Iowa Saturday before taking on Michigan in its annual Big Ten clash which may determine the conference's Rose Bowl representative.

The rest of the top 10 remains unchanged.

No. 6 Florida State rallied for three touchdowns in the final quarter to defeat Cincinnati, 26-21, and boost its record to 8-0; No. 7 Oklahoma was a 38-7 winner over Kansas; No. 8 Texas fought off Texas Tech, 14-6; No. 9 Arkansas hammered Rice, 34-7, and No. 10 Michigan crushed Wisconsin, 54-0.

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The Top 20

United Press International
NEW YORK — The United Press International Board of Coaches' top college football ratings, with first-place votes and won-loss records in parentheses (ninth week):

- Alabama (33) (8-0) 615
- Nebraska (5) (8-0) 568
- Southern Cal (3) (8-0-1) 521
- Houston (1) (8-0) 509
- Ohio State (9-0) 478
- Florida State (8-0) 383
- Oklahoma (8-1) 350
- Texas (6-1) 338
- Arkansas (7-1) 298
- Michigan (8-1) 254
- Brigham Young (8-0) 200
- Pittsburgh (7-1) 173
- Notre Dame (6-2) 113
- Washington (7-2) 90
- Purdue (7-2) 61
- Baylor (6-2) 28
- Clemson (6-2) 10
- Temple (7-1) 7
- Wake Forest (7-2) 4
- Louisiana State (5-3) 4

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

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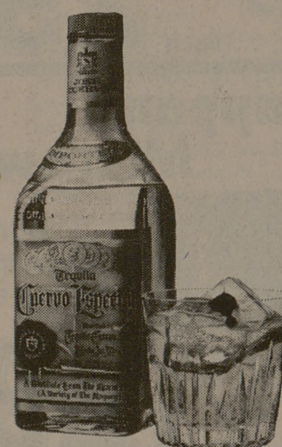
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