

Modest Walker receives another football honor

United Press International
ATLANTA — Herschel Walker is making up for lost time. Frustrated in his freshman and sophomore seasons when he played second-fiddle in the national honors derby — first to George Rogers, then Marcus Allen — the University of Georgia junior is mopping up this year.

The 225-pound junior tailback, who has combined power and speed to climb to third place on the NCAA career rushing list, was named by UPI Monday as both its College Football Player of the Year and Back of the Year.

Walker was named earlier this season as the 1982 winner of the Heisman Trophy — an

award which eluded him the two previous seasons. He has also been named All-America for the third straight year.

Walker, who has rushed for 5,259 yards and scored 52 touchdowns in three seasons, was the overwhelming choice of sportswriters and sportscasters for both UPI awards. He had 74 votes to 27 for runner-up John Elway, Stanford's All-America quarterback, for Player of the Year and 78 votes to 29 for runner-up Eric Dickerson, Southern Methodist's All-America running back, for Back of the Year.

All-America center Dave Rimington of Nebraska was third in the Player of the Year voting and Elway was third in

the Back of the Year voting. Walker, who constantly downplays his personal accomplishments, says the numerous awards he has won "belong as much to my teammates as they do to me."

Walker added to his legend Sunday by rescuing a woman trapped in a smoking, wrecked car near the Georgia campus. A witness said Walker ran up to the overturned car after another person was unable to pull the door open, ripped the door open, helped pull the woman to safety, then "jogged off into the sunset."

"It impressed me and my wife so much he would be the one who would stop and help," said the witness. "But he didn't just stop — he took over the situation. I don't know that we could have gotten her out without him. Everybody is glad he's here (at Georgia) to play football. I'm glad he's here as a citizen."

Walker became an instant football hero at Georgia in 1980 when he scored two touchdowns in the first game of his freshman season to lead the Bulldogs to a come-from-behind 16-15 victory over Tennessee. He wound up his first season with more rushing yardage, 1,616, than any other freshman in history

despite missing most of two games with a sprained ankle and led the Bulldogs to a perfect season and the national championship.

Walker, who improved that performance in 1981, rushing for 1,891 yards — the all-time high for a sophomore — and increasing his touchdowns from 15 to 20 — got off to a slow start this past season after breaking his right thumb in pre-season practice. Used primarily as a decoy in Georgia's opener against defending national champion Clemson, he gained only 20 yards.

With the thumb still in a cast, Walker also was below par his next two games but returned to form when he rushed for 215 yards against Mississippi State. Averaging only 96 yards his first three games, Walker averaged 183 the final eight and wound up with 1,752 yards and 17 touchdowns.

With a season yet to play, Walker is only 823 yards shy of Tony Dorsett's NCAA career rushing record (6,082) and is only seven touchdowns shy of the career record (59) shared by Dorsett and Glenn Davis.

Syracuse joins Big East buddies in national poll

United Press International
NEW YORK — The Big East Conference is staking its claim to being one of the top college basketball leagues in the nation.

When Syracuse joined the Top 20 as No. 15 Monday in balloting by UPI's Board of Coaches, the number of Big East representatives in the list jumped to four, including Georgetown (No. 7), St. John's (No. 10), and Villanova (No. 18).

The Orangemen stretched their record to 6-0 with a 92-87 upset of Houston, which oddly remained ahead of Syracuse at No. 14.

The Arkansas Razorbacks, the only other Southwest Conference team in the Top 20, are at No. 13.

Joining Syracuse as the newest members of the Top 20 are Nevada-Las Vegas, 5-0, and Illinois State, also 5-0. Purdue, Marquette and DePaul all fell out of the Top 20.

Virginia, 6-0, which behind Ralph Sampson turned back the challenge of the Hoyas and Pat Ewing last week, retained its No. 1 rating while Georgetown dropped four places.

The Cavaliers, led by the



7-foot-4 Sampson's 23 points, 16 rebounds and 7 blocked shots, topped Georgetown 68-63 in the long-awaited battle of titans. They collected 34 first-place votes and 580 points from 39 of the 42 coaches who participated in this week's poll.

Georgetown, 6-1, had defeated Alabama State before suffering its first loss of the year on Saturday.

Kentucky, 5-0 after victories over Detroit and Illinois, remained No. 2 with five first-place votes and 556 points, while UCLA, 4-0, inched up to No. 3 with 435 points.

Memphis State, 6-0, moved No. 4, followed by No. 5 Indiana, No. 6 Iowa, No. 7 Missouri, and No. 9 Alabama.

Memphis State defeated Kent State and Tennessee State last week and also moved up one position from a year ago. The underdog Hoosiers, on the strength of triumphs over Notre Dame, Eastern Michigan and Indiana, advanced two spots.

The Hawkeyes, 5-0, remained sixth after two victories. Missouri, 5-0 after triumphs, remained eighth while Alabama, 4-0, moved two places and St. John's advanced three spots.

Louisville, 5-1, is followed by No. 12 Tennessee, No. 13 Arkansas, and No. 14 Texas Tech, which fell from No. 10. North Carolina, 3-2, is 16th, followed by North Carolina State, which dropped nine places after being beaten by No. 19 Nevada-Las Vegas.

No. 20 Illinois State, followed by No. 21 Tennessee, No. 22 Arkansas, and No. 23, which fell from No. 10. North Carolina, 3-2, is 16th, followed by North Carolina State, which dropped nine places after being beaten by No. 19 Nevada-Las Vegas.

The UPI Board consists of six coaches from seven regions of the country. They select their top 15 teams and award points on a 1-15, etc., basis on votes through 15.

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Illini top Vandy by 59-57

United Press International
The Southeastern Conference, regarded in some circles as the best league in the country, certainly is not making life easy for Illinois Coach Lou Holtz.

Opening the season with wilds of Alaska, Illinois, 58-47, by Vandy. This past weekend on television, the Illini met the SEC and were rocked 57, at Kentucky. And on Monday night, Illinois was to double overtime by Vandy before winning, 78-77.

"We couldn't hit a free throw, but we won the game," Henson said. "We can't figure out how we won."

One reason was Welch, a 6-foot-9 forward, had 28 points and 5 rebounds. He also forced a second time with a basket at the end and sank two free throws in second overtime with 1:58 left as the Illini raised the record to 6-2.

"I was on and I knew I'd clinch the game," Welch said of the foul shots.

Illinois had 21 points, freshman Efrim Winters derbilt was led by Bill Cox with 18 points. Cox made four free throws and extend his string to 39 in a ranked team, No. 8 Mississippi State.

At Columbia, Mo., Stephenovich struck for 21 points to carry unbeaten Missouri to sixth straight victory. The Tigers scored 13 consecutive half points to crack it open. Illinois, 0-6, was led by Dykstra with 16 points.

Elsewhere, Larry Pickett made two free throws with 12 seconds left to lift Michigan State, Cincinnati, 70-69; freshman Mark Price tossed in 18 points to lead Georgia Tech to victory over the South Carolina Gamecocks. Alfredrick Hughes scored 20 points and Loyola of Chicago dropped Valparaiso, 68-66. Kent Bantum's 26 points led Cornell past Cleveland State, 59; Ron Anderson scored 25 points as Fresno State, 65-49, and Wayne Tisdale scored 25 points to lead Overton set a career record at Oklahoma in the Big Eight's 99-75 romp over the State.

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