

Teammate Eddie Murray second

Orioles' Ripken named AL MVP

United Press International
BALTIMORE — Orioles' shortstop Cal Ripken, named the American League's Most Valuable Player Wednesday, said he would've been just as happy had teammate Eddie Murray won.

Ripken picked up 15 first-place votes and 322 points to 10 first-place votes and 290 points for Murray. Chicago White Sox catcher Carlton Fisk finished third.

"We're very close," Ripken said. "If he had won I would have been just as happy for him as I am for myself now."

In only his second major

league season, Ripken led the league in doubles with 47 and hits with 211.

In addition, he played every inning of every game in leading the Orioles to their first World Championship in 13 years.

Murray, the O's quiet first baseman, finished second for the second straight year despite a stellar season. Murray hit .306 with 33 homers and 111 RBI.

But it was Ripken's "Iron Man" reputation that separated the two in the minds of baseball writers.

"I cared enough about the team to go out there and be in

the lineup every day," Ripken said. "I had some nagging injuries but no major ones."

Ripken said he hoped to play in every Orioles' game next year.

"I've dug my own grave, haven't I?" he asked. "I would also like to come back and hit .300 again. I think the RBI's, the home runs and the extra base hits will take care of themselves."

Ripken, whose local milk commercials fit his all-American image, said he didn't know if he would be getting a bonus from the Orioles for being named MVP, "but I'm going to go home and look."

"Hopefully, it's in there (his

contract)," he said. "But, really, it's the prestige to be named that counts. If there was no plaque, no money, that would be enough for me."

"But if (the money's) in there, I'm not going to give it back." The usually reserved Ripken is beginning to grow more comfortable trading barbs with local writers.

He carefully scrutinized an Orioles' press release, remarking "you never know where the rumors about marriage are going to crop up."

Recently, news of Ripken's engagement falsely dashed the dreams of multitudes of females, who cling to the very eligible bachelor at his every appearance.

But on his "first love" — baseball — Ripken said he was "deeply honored" to win the MVP, but said individual awards can never top the feeling of the Orioles' World Series victory over Philadelphia.

"Winning the World Series will always stand out foremost and utmost in my mind," Ripken said. "I'm a team player and this is a team game. Winning is the most important. Baseball isn't really as much fun when you're losing."

Ripken is the first player to win the Most Valuable Player in his second season after winning Rookie of the Year honors, although Fred Lynn won both in 1975 with Boston.

"I want to be remembered as a good ballplayer," Ripken said. "Years from now that's what I want people to say about me."

Ripken and Murray are the first two American League teammates to finish 1-2 in the MVP balloting since 1966, when Orioles' Frank Robinson, Brooks Robinson and Boog Powell finished 1-2-3.

Nebraska still tops UT ranked No. 2

United Press International
NEW YORK — Nebraska's Cornhuskers approach the end of the college football season with an aura of invincibility that makes them an overwhelming choice as the No. 1 team in the country.

With one game left on their schedule — against Oklahoma on Nov. 29 — the Cornhuskers received 40 of a possible 41 votes from coaches participating in this week's UPI Board of Coaches ratings. Texas, the only other unbeaten Division I-A team in the country, received the other first-place vote.

The huge vote of confidence gave Nebraska 614 points compared to 568 points for Texas.

Rounding out the top 10 were No. 3 Auburn (528 points), No. 4 Miami of Florida (469), No. 5 Illinois (465), No. 6 Southern Methodist (344), No. 7 Georgia (319), No. 8 Michigan (267), No. 9 Brigham Young (261) and No. 10 Ohio State (226).

The teams ranked 11th through 20th were Iowa, Florida, Pittsburgh, Washington, West Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi State, Baylor, Boston College and Oklahoma.

Nebraska, which will be shooting for a 12-0 record against Oklahoma, crushed Kansas, 67-13, last Saturday behind back Mike Rozier's 285-yard, four-touchdown performance to clinch a tie for the Big Eight title and a guaranteed Orange Bowl trip. Nebraska coach Tom Osborne called the game the team's best of the season.

Nebraska will meet Miami, 10-1, on Jan. 2, thanks to a 17-16 Hurricanes' season-ending victory over Florida State. It was Miami's 10th straight win, giving the Hurricanes the nation's second-longest winning streak — behind Nebraska's 21-game streak.

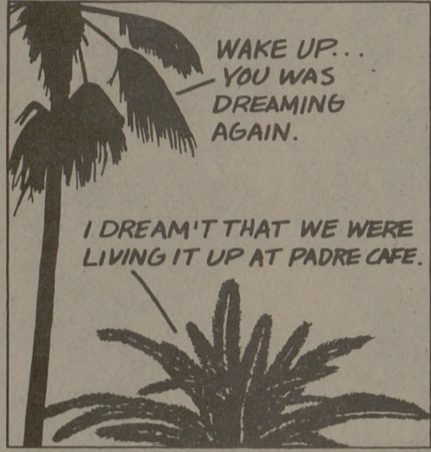
Texas improved to 9-0 with a 20-14 win over Texas Christian Saturday and Illinois rolled past Indiana 41-29. The clinched a tie for the Big Ten title and Rose Bowl bid for Illinois, 9-1, and moved them up one spot in the rankings. No. 3 Auburn, 9-1, scored a 13-7 victory over previously unbeaten Georgia to clinch a tie for the Southeastern Conference crown and guarantee a Sugar Bowl bid.

Washington took a six-place leap in the ratings on the strength of a 24-0 thrashing of Southern California at Miami, Illinois, Southern Methodist, Brigham Young, Ohio State, Florida and Pittsburgh each moved up one spot.

Georgia fell three spots with its loss to Auburn, but the Bulldogs will have a chance to make up that ground Jan. 1 against Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

Boston College took a dive of seven places as a result of a 21-10 loss to Syracuse. The loss knocked the Eagles from a possible Fiesta Bowl bid to a probable Liberty Bowl appearance.

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