

Coaches of top college teams skeptical

From The Associated Press
The college football season is just getting started, but maybe we should skip the first few months and jump right to Nov. 21 when No. 1-ranked Oklahoma visits runner-up Nebraska.

That's when the national championship apparently will be decided since some of the other highly ranked challengers don't seem to think much of their chances.

Viewpoint

Coach Terry Donahue of third-ranked UCLA: "I don't think this team is anywhere near as good as the preseason predictions make it out to be."

Coach Pat Dye of fifth-ranked Auburn: "I think that anybody who said we're favored to win the (Southeastern) conference ought to go for a brain scan."

And how about Joe Paterno of Penn State's defending national champions, who begin the season No. 11? "I don't see how (we can repeat) with this squad."

Obviously, the poormouthing business, which the late Paul "Bear" Bryant refined to an art, is in mid-season form. Hopefully, so is the prognostication business.

North Texas State at No. 1 Okla-

homa (no line): If you think this a breather, you're right. OU 56-0.

Utah State at No. 2 Nebraska (no line): The Cornhuskers have a rugged nonconference schedule: UCLA, Arizona State and South Carolina. Utah State isn't part of it. Nebraska 56-0.

San Diego State at No. 3 UCLA (favored by 17½): San Diego's Todd Santos begins his run at Kevin Sweeney's Division-I passing record, but UCLA has a loftier goal. UCLA 31-17.

Texas at No. 5 Auburn (by 13½): If only Texas could play Auburn all the time. The Longhorns are 5-1 against... Auburn 28-14.

No. 6 LSU (by 2) at No. 15 Texas A&M: LSU's Mike Archer makes his head coaching debut. Texas A&M 20-17.

Texas Tech at No. 8 Florida State (by 16): There's plenty of optimism in Tallahassee, where Coach Bobby Bowden says the Seminoles have "got the potential to be real good." Florida State 35-14.

Western Carolina at No. 9 Clemson (no line): Clemson 41-7.

No. 20 (tie) Florida at No. 10 Miami, Fla. (by 6½): With Vinny Testaverde gone, the quarterback everyone is talking about is Florida's Kerwin Bell. But watch freshman

Craig Erickson, who's already the No. 2 QB for... Miami 20-13.

Bowling Green at No. 11 Penn State (no line): Joe Paterno gets victory No. 200. Penn State 38-7.

Stanford at No. 13 Washington (by 12): In Coach Don James' 12 previous seasons, only in 1978 has Washington opened with a Pac-10 game, losing to UCLA 10-7. That also was the last time the Huskies didn't go to a bowl game. Washington 28-17.

Colorado State at No. 17 Tennessee (by 19½): The Vols might have a little relapse after their dramatic victory over Iowa in the Kickoff Classic — but just a little one. Tennessee 30-10.

No. 19 Southern California at Michigan State (by 2½): Could Monday night's game be a preview of the Rose Bowl? If so, the Pac-10 team should win it. Southern Cal 21-17.

Virginia at No. 20 (tie) Georgia (by 17½): Georgia 31-0.

Southern Mississippi at Alabama (by 16): This is virtually a must-win game for Bill Curry, Alabama's new coach. Unfortunately, it's not a gimme. Upset Special of the Week. Southern Mississippi 17-14.

Texas Christian at Boston College (by 8): An early-season bonus, a Second Upset Special. TCU 27-20.

Mavs' Tarpley sought counseling in summer for unnamed problem

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks forward Roy Tarpley said Wednesday he was counseled this summer for a problem he didn't identify but has been resolved.

"I don't want people saying, 'Another one bites the dust,'" Tarpley said in a statement released by the Mavericks. "I learn from my mistakes."

The Dallas Times Herald, in a story published Wednesday, quoted two sources who said the problems were related to drug and alcohol use. A third unidentified source contradicted that report.

Tarpley said he sought help because he didn't want to become another statistic.

"I sought professional counseling. I felt like I had a potential problem," he said in the statement. "I felt like it could get out of hand. But it's been resolved. It's over with."

Tarpley, the Mavericks' No. 1 draft pick in 1986 and a member of the NBA's All-Rookie team last season, said he told team vice president Rick Sund after the sea-

son that he was going to seek help.

Sund also declined to specify the reason Tarpley sought counseling saying, since the sessions occurred in the offseason it was a private matter.

One of the sources quoted by the newspaper said that Tarpley had experimented a little with drugs and alcohol.

"It wasn't anything too serious," the source said. "He messed up a couple of times. Just a few incidents. It wasn't a problem. He didn't want it to become a problem, so he told (Sund). He did it on his own."

"There wasn't much of a problem and it was straightened out. They did whatever they had to do," another source told the newspaper.

But a third source said the counseling was not related to drug and alcohol use.

Tarpley and Mavericks administrators declined to say where he sought help, or comment on the duration of the counseling.

The NBA's drug policy states that if a player voluntarily comes forward with a problem, he can undergo treatment without penalty.

A player coming forward a second time is suspended without pay during treatment but suffers no further penalty.

Subsequent use results in the player's permanent dismissal from the league.

Tarpley, 7-0, played an important role on the Mavericks team that won the franchise's first Midwest Division title.

He averaged 18.7 minutes and seven rebounds per game. He averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds in the first round of the playoffs, in which Dallas lost to Seattle, three games to one.

Tarpley spent most of the summer working to improve his play. He played for the Mavericks' entry in the Southern California Summer League, a basketball tournament featuring NBA players, and was perhaps the most impressive player.

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You have time to make an intelligent decision about your health care.

Texas A&M employees, you have until the end of this month to decide on your insurance option for the coming year. You don't have to rush into a health care decision you might later regret.

Among the options being offered you this year is participation in a clinic-based health maintenance organization. Along with the single-premium advantage this program offers come some significant restrictions you should fully understand — before you decide to abandon your proven medical insurance plan.

For example, to be covered by the health plan you give up your right to select your physician from among any in the community. Only those doctors affiliated with the sponsoring clinic will be covered by the plan. The same goes for hospitals — should you require hospitalization, the plan will pay only for services in a participating hospital. This is of particular importance to those who might need to seek cancer therapy at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, or heart surgery at either of world renown cardiac facilities at Houston hospitals.

HMO participation means giving up your PCS card and privileges. And your dental coverage. Psychiatric services are severely restricted; treatment for drug problems is excluded altogether.

The final day to decide on which health care option is best for you and your family is Wednesday, September 30. Take the time, before the deadline, to learn all the facts. After all, your health care is at stake.

Don't lose your freedom to choose!

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