

Sports

Ag's Roper one of 3 juniors to make All-America team

(AP) — A record-tying five players from No. 1-ranked Oklahoma — including repeaters Keith Jackson at tight end and guard Mark Hutson — were named Wednesday to the Associated Press 1987 All-America college football team.

Texas A&M had one first-team member in linebacker John Roper, a junior who led the team in sacks and tackles.

Second-ranked Miami of Florida, No. 3 Florida State and No. 6 Auburn each had two players on the All-America team, which includes three others from 1986 — Ohio State linebacker Chris Spielman, Miami defensive back Bennie Blades and Notre Dame flanker-kick returner-running back Tim Brown.

Brown, a wide receiver on the 1986 All-America team, made the 1987 squad as a return specialist, the first time the AP team has included such a position.

Brown's receptions were down from 45 in 1986 to 39 as opponents double-teamed him and Notre Dame threw less. He finished sixth nationally with an average of 167.55 all-purpose yards a game and a total of 1,843 yards — 144 rushing, 846 receiving,

401 on punt returns and 452 on kickoff returns.

The All-America wide receivers are Marc Zeno of Tulane, the NCAA all-time leader in reception yardage, and Indiana's Ernie Jones, Player of the Year in the Big 10.

The AP All-America team will be featured on Bob Hope's annual Christmas television show on Saturday, Dec. 19 (NBC-TV, 8-9 p.m., EST).

The All-America team is selected by the AP's sports editor, college football editor and regional sports editors. A player must make his all-conference or all-sectional teams to be considered for the All-America first team.

Oklahoma's defensive representatives are linebacker Dante Jones, Defensive Player of the Year in the Big Eight Conference; end Darrell Reed, a four-time All-Big Eight selection; and free safety Rickey Dixon.

Since the AP released its first All-America team in 1925, only Army's 1945 national champions had five first-team players. The 1945 team consisted of only 11 players — there were no separate offensive and defensive units — and Army was represented by

tackles Dewitt "Tex" Coulter and Al Nemetz, guard John Green and backs Glenn Davis and Doc Blanchard.

The 1987 All-America backfield includes Syracuse quarterback Don McPherson, who led the Orangemen to a best-ever 11-0 regular season, a No. 4 national ranking and a berth in the Sugar Bowl, and running backs Craig "Ironhead" Heyward of Pittsburgh and Thurman Thomas of Oklahoma State.

Heyward is one of three juniors on the 25-man All-America squad. The others are Roper and Florida State cornerback Deion Sanders.

The rest of the offensive unit consists of tackles Dave Cadigan of Southern California and Stacy Searles of Auburn, guard John McCormick of Nebraska, center Ignazio "Nacho" Albergamo of LSU, and Clemson placekicker David Treadwell.

Rounding out the defensive unit are down linemen Chad Hennings of the Air Force Academy and Daniel Stubbs of Miami, linebackers Kurt Crain of Auburn and Paul McGowan of Florida State, and punter Tom Tupa of Ohio State.

Gamecocks confident as Miami game nears

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina senior offensive tackle David Poinsett missed last season's game against Miami with an ankle injury.

But he has not forgotten the kidding he took from Miami linebacker George Mira after the Hurricanes' 34-14 victory.

Poinsett knows Mira from a series of high school all-star games in Florida.

"George came up to me and started giving me a little bit of a hard time," said Poinsett. "It was all in fun, but I said I'd see him next year."

Next year has arrived. The No. 8 Gamecocks, 8-2, travel to Miami to face the second-ranked Hurricanes, 10-0, in the regular-season finale for both bowl-bound teams Saturday.

Miami needs to win to set up a championship showdown in the Orange Bowl against No. 1 Oklahoma.

But the Gamecocks, who have won six straight games and have lost only to fifth-ranked Nebraska and No. 14 Georgia, would like nothing more than to upset Miami's plans.

"I think everybody's flirting with the idea that if we beat Miami we are going to screw the bowl game situation up . . . (and) the ranking situation," Poinsett said. "Everybody's having a little fun toying with that idea, saying who's No. 1 and all that stuff."

While the Hurricanes have no South Carolina natives on their team, the Gamecocks have nine players from Florida, although none is from Miami. Poinsett grew up about 30 minutes from the Orange Bowl and was recruited by Miami when Harold Schnellenberger was head coach.

"I thought about playing for Miami," Poinsett said, "but it was too close to home."

Poinsett knows many of the Miami players. He played against several in high school, including split end Brian Blades and defensive back Bennie Blades and tight end Alfredo Roberts.

"I have no regrets about not playing for Miami," he said. "I'm happy for them. They have a good ballclub, but they're notoriously cocksure."

Poinsett and the Gamecocks are, if not cocky, at least confident and believe they can beat Miami, which has not lost to the Gamecocks since 1947.

The Hurricanes have one of the nation's top defenses. Miami is third in scoring defense and sixth in total defense, but Poinsett said the South Carolina offense, which faces the nation's second-ranked defense in practice, isn't awed by the Hurricanes.

"We feel that we can move the ball on the ground or in the air on anybody," Poinsett said.

Cornhuskers crush Ags by 32 points

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Derrick Vick scored 15 points as Nebraska jumped out to a 17-point halftime lead and cruised to an easy 92-60 victory over Texas A&M in nonconference basketball Monday night.

Nebraska sprinted to a 44-27 intermission lead as freshman guard Clifford Scales came off the bench and hit four consecutive shots to kick the Huskers' running game into gear midway through the half.

Rich King, the 7-2 freshman center, made his presence known in the first half, blocking two shots and slamming home two dunks on his way to a 15-point game.

Texas A&M shot only 34 percent in the first half and trailed Nebraska in rebounding.

Nebraska stretched its lead to 31 midway through the second half as coach Danny Nee shuffled his lineup, playing four freshmen through the final 10 minutes of the game.

Freshman Beau Reid had 13 points for Nebraska, which evened its record to 2-2. Pete Manning added 10 points.

The Aggies, who fell to 1-2, were led in scoring by Donald Thompson with 14. Keron Graves had 12 points.

Lombardi trophy to be awarded tonight

HOUSTON (AP) — Ohio State's Chris Spielman, a finalist last year, Oklahoma's Keith Jackson, Syracuse's Ted Gregory or Auburn's Tracy Rucker will be awarded the Lombardi Award tonight as the nation's outstanding lineman.

Spielman was a finalist last year when Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett won the honor.

"It would be the greatest honor to win this award because Vince Lombardi is a man that I really admired," Spielman said. "I have his sayings on my wall and plaques."

The award, in the form of a 40-

pound block of granite trophy, is presented annually in honor of former Green Bay and Washington Coach Vince Lombardi, who died of cancer Sept. 3, 1970.

Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society for research.

Spielman, a 6-2, 234-pound linebacker, recorded 156 tackles for the Buckeyes this season, 78 of them solos. Spielman's 1987 totals gave him 546 career tackles, including 283 solos.

Jackson, a 6-3, 241-pound tight end, set a school record with an average of 28.1 yards per catch this season and his 1,759 receiving yards ranked second on the

all-time Sooner list.

"Down through the years, tight ends have been abused," Jackson said. "They're not considered receivers and they're not considered linemen so I'm glad that the Lombardi decided to recognize us."

Gregory, a nose guard for unbeaten Syracuse, was injured in the seventh game of the season but finished the year second in unassisted tackles with 38.

"I'm surprised to be selected because I was injured for the final four games and a lot of my goals went down the drain," Gregory said.

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