It's official! Irish No. 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Notre Dame's record eighth national championship became official Tuesday when the Irish were a near-unanimous choice as the No. 1 team in The Associated Press postseason college football

Notre Dame, a 34-21 winner over West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl Monday, received 581/2 first-place votes and 1,198½ of a possible 1,200 first-place points from a nationwide panel of 60

sports writers and sportscasters.

Miami, the 1987 national champion, received the other 1½ first-place ballots and 1,1411/2

The Hurricanes, who dropped a 31-30 decision to Notre Dame in October, beat Nebraska 23-3 in

the Orange Bowl.
West Virginia's loss to Notre
Dame dropped the Mountaineers
from third to fifth.

Florida State advanced from fourth to third with 1,073 points following a 13-7 victory over Auburn in the Sugar Bowl.

Michigan, a 22-14 winner over Southern California in the Rose

Bowl, made the biggest jump, leaping from No. 11 to No. 4. Rounding out the Top Ten were UCLA, Southern Cal, Auburn, Clemson and Nebraska.

The final Second Ten includes Oklahoma State, Arkansas, Syra-cuse, Oklahoma, Georgia, Washington State, Alabama, Houston, LSU and Indiana, the only newcomer in the Top Twenty.

Russo, Roper lead Lady Ags over TCU

By Jerry Bolz

Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M's Lady Aggie hoopsters held on for an 84-72 victory over Texas Christian Tuesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

TCU was A&M's first Southwest Conference opponent of the season. Things got sloppy in the second half as the teams combined for 33 personal fouls in the period, and a game total of 48.

A&M had their biggest lead of the affair with just under three minutes left in the game (81-57) but only got three more points the rest of the

TCU showed a "never die" atti-tude and poured down 15 points in the final three minutes.

The Lady Aggies, just home from winning the San Jose State Invitatio-

Coach Lynn Hickey said she was disappointed in the teams effort, but it was probably the road trip that caused the lapse.

"Until they mature a little bit there's gonna be some bad things happening," she said.

Hickey said the team will practice

twice today. Freshman guard LaTanya Irving, who finished with 14 points, said the practices would probably involve a lot of running.

"TCU has a good team, but we were too confident we had the game won - so we didn't play as good as we should have," Irving said. A&M started the game in a blaze of high-percentage shooting. Senior

ace shooter Donna Roper led the way with 13 first-half points and 19 The Lady Aggies jumped out to

ILVA MILLI an 18-8 lead on Roper's first of two

three-point shots in the game, and pushed it to 21-8 with a Mindy Neal umper and a free throw by Sheri Dillard. Every Lady Aggie on the roster saw action in the game and only four

team members did not score. Beth Naughton, who led TCU

with 19 points, went on a spree of backboard jumpers to pull TCU

four minutes left in the first half. But that was as close as the Lady

Frogs could get the rest of the way.

A&M forward Dena Russo came
out with the hot hand in the second half. Her three-point field goal at the 18:35 mark gave the Lady Ag-gies their first 20-point lead of the game, at 47-26. She connected on two more three-pointers in the half to finish with four long ones and 18 total points.

Center Nette Garrett also had a steady hand for A&M, being the

fourth Lady Aggie of the night to score in double figures (12 points). Senior Lisa Jordon, who led A&M in scoring in both of their California outings, only had two points against the Lady Frogs. Hickey was sur-

prised at the low total by Jordon. "With the confidence she gained from last week, I thought she would

TCU lulled for most of the second half before forwards Kathleen Olson

and Yolanda Norman came on strong. Both were deadly from the free-throw line and ended with 15 and 13 points respectively.

The duo, with help from Michelle Henry with nine points, closed the

gap to the finishing margin of 12.

The win, A&M's fourth straight, boosted the Lady Aggies' record to 8-3. TCU dropped to 5-5 and ended a two-game win streak.

The Lady Aggies have a few days off before traveling to Dallas for a 5 p.m. game with SMU Saturday. Hickey said she is concerned

about the Mustangs. "They're (SMU) very much a threat — a fine team," she said. "They're just a wild bunch of Indians on the floor. Teams like that give

Brandt: Aikman cinch to be Cowboys' top pick

DALLAS (AP) - When the 53rd annual Cotton Bowl ended, Gil Brandt was wearing a UCLA gimmie hat.

The surest prediction you can make for 1989 is that the Dallas Cowboys will make Troy Aikman the number one pick in the NFL draft.

Brandt, the Cowboys' chief scout, was beaming after Aikman led the Bruins to a 17-

3 victory over the Arkansas Razorbacks.
"The Cowboys have lost some luster and he
(Aikman) will help us retain it," Brandt said. 'He'll provide a little excitement to Dallas and Texas. I want him for my number one pick and I think coach Tom Landry will be easily

Aikman shook off an early interception to lead UCLA on touchdown drives of 97 and 74 yards in the first half.

He made six straight third down conver-sions on the first drive. On the second one, he showed his agility by faking a handoff and rolling out for a 1-yard touchdown pass.

'It wouldn't be right to expect Troy to take you to the Super Bowl the first year you have him," Brandt said. "I think he is good but he isn't Clark Kent."

Arkansas cut off the deep passes but the patient Aikman still passed for 172 yards to earn the Offensive MVP Trophy.

Arkansas linebacker LaSalle Harper, the defensive MVP who had 20 tackles, was impressed.

"We had problems containing him," Harper said. "He really has good speed and is a mobile quarterback. He's good on the run. He was outstanding and guided his team

"I'd love to come to Dallas," said Aikman, whose hometown is in Henryetta, Okla., about three hours away from Texas Stadium by automobile

Aikman will play in the Aloha Bowl and the

Japan Bowl then will pick an agent. 'I've received a lot of letters but haven't an-

swered any of them," he said. "There will be plenty of time for all of that."

UCLA etched its name in NCAA bowl history with its seventh consecutive post-season

Coach Terry Donahue, who has been with the Bruins for each of the victories, said "the win has a lot of significance for our program. To do something that no other football program has done was a tremendous accomplishment. I'm proud to be part of it."

It was UCLA's first trip to the Cotton Bowl but Donahue said "the way we were treated we wouldn't mind coming back again. The weather was even perfect.



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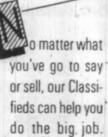
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