

Sports

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 poll.

Notre Dame, a 34-21 winner over West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl Monday, received 58½ 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 1,141½ points.

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, Syracuse, Oklahoma, Georgia, Washington State, Alabama, Houston, LSU and Indiana, the only newcomer in the Top Twenty.

Russo, Roper lead Lady Aggs 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 way.

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

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

had somewhat of a lapse on the court.

Coach Lynn Hickey said she was disappointed in the team's 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 for the game.

The Lady Aggies jumped out to



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 jumper 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

within 11 points at 33-22 with about 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 Aggies 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 surprised at the low total by Jordon.

"With the confidence she gained from last week, I thought she would

have come out better," Hickey said.

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 us problems."

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

convinced."

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 conversions 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 well."

"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 victory.

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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