

A&M jumps to No. 21 in poll; UT 24th after second upset win

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M used Baylor kicker Jeff Ireland's missed 61-yard field goal attempt in the final seconds of Saturday's game to move up two rankings to No. 21 in the Associated Press' Top 25 Football Poll.

The Aggies, who improved to 5-2 overall and 3-1 in Southwest Conference play with their 14-11 victory, have been ranked in the poll five out of the seven weeks of the 1989 season. The highest they've been ranked this year is No. 15, after their first game upset over Louisiana State.

But A&M's victory over Baylor wasn't the only game that helped a SWC team in the AP Poll.

Texas' win over Arkansas boosted the Longhorns into the rankings for the first time this season. It was the second straight upset victory for Texas, which shocked Oklahoma two weeks ago.

Texas cracked the poll at No. 24. However, one of the biggest stories in this week's poll is the re-emergence of Alabama. The Tide is rising in college football.

Alabama moved up four spots to No. 6 in Monday's poll, its highest ranking in three years.

Saturday's 47-30 victory over previously unbeaten Tennessee gave Alabama a 6-0 record and sole possession of first place in the Southeastern Conference. The Tide, which hasn't won the SEC title

since 1981, can clinch at least a tie for the championship with two victories in its last three conference games.

Alabama's next opponent is No. 14 Penn State, which has won five straight since losing its opener to Virginia.

AP Top 25 Poll

Team	Last Week
1. Notre Dame	1
2. Miami	2
3. Colorado	3
4. Nebraska	4
5. Michigan	5
6. Alabama	10
7. Pittsburgh	8
8. Illinois	13
9. Florida St.	14
10. Southern Cal	9
11. Tennessee	6
12. Houston	16
13. Arkansas	7
14. Penn St.	17
15. West Virginia	18
16. Auburn	11
17. Arizona	22
18. Brigham Young	21
19. Florida	20
20. N. Carolina St.	12
21. Texas A&M	23
22. Clemson	15
23. Washington St.	15
24. Texas	—
25. South Carolina	24

"We're coming off a very euphoric win," Alabama coach Bill Curry said. "Now we have to get our feet back on the ground and play the kind of football that's going to be required to beat Penn State."

Notre Dame remained No. 1 fol-

lowing its come-from-behind 28-24 victory over Southern California. The Fighting Irish, who extended their winning streak to 19, received 56 of 60 first-place votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Second-ranked Miami received three first-place votes, with the other one going to No. 3 Colorado. Rounding out the Top 10 are Nebraska, Michigan, Alabama, Pittsburgh, Illinois, Florida State and Southern Cal.

Idle Pittsburgh moved up a spot because Tennessee and Arkansas — the teams ranked just ahead of the Panthers — both lost. Tennessee fell from No. 6 to No. 11, while Arkansas dropped six places to No. 13.

Illinois rose five spots to No. 8 following a 14-10 victory over Michigan State and Florida State jumped five places to No. 9 after beating Auburn 22-14. After opening the season with two losses, the Seminoles have won five straight.

Houston, which gained a record 1,021 yards in a 95-21 win over Southern Methodist, jumped from No. 16 to No. 12. Arkansas was next, followed by Penn State, West Virginia, Auburn, Arizona, Brigham Young, Florida and North Carolina State.

West Virginia beat Cincinnati 69-3, Arizona downed Washington State 23-21, BYU defeated Texas El Paso 49-24 and Florida beat New Mexico 27-21.

Surviving the quake

Players find playing ball difficult after disaster

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The World Series seemed back on schedule Monday, with Bay area traffic and Candlestick Park doing just fine.

Now, the main problem is for the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics to get back on schedule. After another delay and a record 11-day layoff because of an earthquake, there's not much spirit left for Game 3 Friday evening.

"Numb. Everybody is just numb," Brett Butler, one of a handful of Giants at Candlestick on Monday, said. "The enthusiasm isn't there anymore."

"We still want to win, but let's get it over with. The Most Valuable Player, the good things, the bad things that happen on the field, it doesn't matter. All of that, I think, is trivial."

"When people think of the 1989 World Series, they're not going to remember who won. They're going to remember who survived," Butler said. "To me, people like Buck Helm are the stars of this series."

Helm is the 57-year-old man who was found alive 89 hours after being buried when the earthquake caused a freeway to collapse in Oakland.

The Athletics lead the series 2-0. They did not practice Monday, a day after the series, which had hoped to resume Tuesday night, again was delayed.

"Obviously, the wait isn't going to help anybody, but we realize everyone is trying to do what is best," reliever Rick Honeycutt said from home.

"I thought it might be a good idea for both teams to scrimmage against each other. We could have a couple of games here and give the money to charity," he said. "But I guess the same problems would still exist."

San Francisco mayor Art Agnos and baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said the series was pushed

back for three reasons: to see if the area's roads can handle the increased traffic, to make sure Candlestick was safe and to find out if enough police officers were available.

The California Highway Patrol reported that the morning rush hour, which had been predicted to be one of the worst tieups in local history, wasn't so bad.

Even with the Bay Bridge closed because of a partial collapse, traffic flowed relatively freely. Police said there were more cars than normal, but fewer accidents.

There was still no final word yet on whether Candlestick Park was certified by the city as safe. But John Lind, director of stadium operations, said no problems were anticipated.

"Everything is going exactly as planned," he said. "We're right on schedule."

The Department of Public Works was waiting for written reports from engineers and architects. A decision from officials was likely Tuesday, and by all indications Candlestick seemed set to play ball.

Police staffing also appeared in order. Agnos said earlier that 250 officers, twice the number needed at Candlestick, would be available by Friday.

In the meantime, the Athletics and Giants planned to work out every day until the series resumes. Scattered showers fell in the Bay area on Monday and with the threat of more rain, Oakland might move to its spring training site in Phoenix.

A tarpaulin covered Candlestick's infield Monday, so Will Clark and a half-dozen Giants took batting practice at the indoor cages. Later, there was a light touch football game in the outfield.

"As a kid, you dream about playing in the World Series. At the start, I realized what a privilege it was to be in the World Series," Butler said. "Now I realize what a privilege it is to be alive."

Pardee didn't want points, 1,000 yards — but result's the same

The scoreboard at the end of Saturday's football game in the Astrodome was scary.

Oh sure, everyone had been looking at Oct. 21 for weeks, just waiting for the inevitable. If Houston had been humiliating other, more worthy teams like Arizona State and Baylor, what were they going to do to the Southern Methodist Puppies?

Try 95-21.

Ouch. The numbers are staggering. The Cougars did far more than simply improve to 5-1 on the year, 2-1 in Southwest Conference play. They rewrote the record books while doing it. UH set five NCAA records and 11 SWC records. And the worst part is that some of those records were previously held by the Cougars themselves.

Not only did Coach Jack Pardee's team romp past SMU with its Run-and-Shoot offense. The Cougars ran over and shot through some old records:

NCAA Records set by the Cougars

- Total yards, game — 1,021. (The previous record was 883, Nebraska against

second quarter, Andre Ware. (The previous record was four, held by eight others.)

The list for SWC records is even longer. Let's just say, for sake of saving valuable column space, that the Cougars broke 11 records in the conference, including total yards in a game, total passing yards in a game, total yards in a game by both teams, touchdowns in a game, touchdown passes in a game, points in a game, extra points in a game, passing yards in a game, touchdown passes in a season, receiving yards in a game and point after attempts in a game.

That's quite a handful for one afternoon of work. Actually, the biggest surprise I had after the game was that SMU managed to score 21 points against the Cougars — the conference's leader in total defense. However, six of those points came when SMU recovered a UH fumble in the end zone.

The rest didn't come against the Cougars' first team defense. But that they scored 21 points is almost as unbelievable as UH's 95. UH coaches talked about the

possibility of gaining 1,000 yards in a game earlier in the season. Most thought that their only chance would come on Oct. 21.

It did, and Pardee grabbed it — much to the dismay of SMU Coach Forrest Gregg.

"For someone to try to build their stats and reputation against a bunch of freshmen... I hope they really feel proud of their accomplishments," Gregg said. "They keep running fresh receivers in there and keep going by us for the big six (points). I don't really appreciate that."

Of course, Pardee did offer his own form of apology.

"That's not what college football is about," Pardee said. "If I had a choice, I wouldn't have gotten 1,000 yards. I didn't want that or 100 points. We want to win games. We're not trying to intentionally rub it in."

That could be true. Pardee did, after all, take Ware out at the half. UH did lead 59-14 at that time, and I guess Pardee felt the lead was comfortable enough to take him out.

But it didn't matter. Ware passed for 517

yards in two quarters — that's just 30 yards less than Texas A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson had all last year.

Whatever. In any case, the Puppies now are pissed.

"They claim they're just explosive," SMU wide receiver Michael Bowen said. "Someday we're going to be the powerhouse and we'll remember every team that did this to us."

With a score like 95-21, the Puppies will have plenty to remember. And the season's not even over yet. They won't see a score that bad for the rest of the year, but SMU will have plenty to remember years from now when they're able to compete in the SWC.

Whether or not UH tried to run up the score doesn't matter. They did, whether Pardee wanted to or not. But there's something even more important: The Cougars have nothing to play for in 1989 but statistics and pride. The only way they're going to stay in the top of the rankings is to blow out teams like the Puppies by scores of 95-21.



Richard Tijerina
Assistant Sports Editor

- Total passing yards, game — 771. (The previous record was 698, Tulsa against Idaho State in 1967.)
- Total passing yards, half — 517, Andre Ware. (The previous record, 372, was held by Jim McMahon, Brigham Young, 1980.)
- Total passing yards, quarter — 340, Andre Ware. (The previous record was 304, Brooks Dawson, Texas-El Paso, 1968.)
- Passing touchdowns, quarter — Five,

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