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# Miami out on top of AP poll; Aggies lead SWC pack in 13th

## Associated Press

Miami, which ended the '80s as the nation's top college football team, is the nation's top college football team, which ended the '80s as the nation's top college football team, which ended the '80s as the nation's top college football team...

The defending national champions are ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press' preseason poll. The Hurricanes beat Notre Dame by 25 points in voting by a nationwide panel of 60 sports writers and broadcasters.

"It's nice to be recognized, but it also puts a burden on you," Miami coach Dennis Erickson said. "When you're No. 1, everybody wants to play their best against you."

The Hurricanes, who have won three of the last seven national titles, received 24 first-place votes and 1,431 points. Notre Dame, which finished second last season, was runner-up again with 22 first-place votes and 1,406 points.

It is the first time Miami has been ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll, which started in 1950. Prior to this year, the Hurricanes' highest preseason ranking was No. 3 in 1986.

Miami lost six starters from last year's dominating defense, which allowed the fewest points and yards in the nation. But the Hurricanes return eight starters on offense, including Heisman hopeful Craig Erickson at quarterback.

"We have a chance to be a real good team," Erickson said. "It's going to be a challenge, though, because our schedule is a lot tougher. Last year, we won some games when we didn't play well. I don't think

we'll be able to do that this year." Certainly not on Oct. 20 when the Hurricanes play Notre Dame at South Bend, Ind. The last three sea-

## AP Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press 1990 preseason college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, 1989 record, total points and final 1989 ranking. Teams receive 25 points for a first-place vote down to one point for a 25th-place vote.

Rank	Team	W-L-T	Pts.	LY
1	Miami (24)	11-1-0	1,431	1
2	Notre Dame (22)	12-1-0	1,406	2
3	Auburn (3)	10-2-1	1,311	6
4	Florida St. (6)	10-2-0	1,268	3
5	Colorado (4)	11-1-0	1,258	4
6	Michigan	10-2-0	1,116	7
7	Nebraska	10-2-0	1,019	11
8	Tennessee	11-1-0	992	5
9	Southern Cal.	9-2-1	977	8
10	Clemson	10-2-0	919	12
11	Illinois	10-2-0	900	10
12	Alabama	10-2-0	728	9
13	Texas A&M	8-4-0	719	20
14	Arkansas	10-2-0	629	13
15	Virginia	10-3-0	575	18
16	Brig. Young	10-3-0	557	22
17	Ohio State	8-4-0	502	24
18	Pittsburgh	8-3-1	459	17
19	UCLA	3-7-1	404	—
20	Washington	8-4-0	394	23
21	Penn State	8-3-1	362	15
22	Oklahoma	7-4-0	311	—
23	Mich. State (1)	8-4-0	288	16
24	Houston	9-2-0	195	14
25	West Virginia	8-3-1	119	21

Others receiving votes: Arizona 114, Syracuse 97, Arizona St. 72, Georgia 59, Fresno St. 50, Florida 47, Hawaii 34, Louisville 34, Georgia Tech 27, Texas 27, Mississippi 21, Oregon 21, Washington St. 15, South Carolina 13, Texas Tech 12, LSU 10, Kentucky 9, Colorado St. 4, Duke 3, Purdue 1, Toledo 1

sons, the winner of that game has gone on to win the national championship. Miami and Notre Dame both lost

one game last season, but the Hurricanes finished No. 1 because they beat the Irish 27-10.

Auburn was third in the preseason poll, Florida State was No. 4 and Colorado was No. 5. Auburn received three first-place votes and 1,311 points, while Florida State — which handed Miami its only defeat last season — got six first-place votes and 1,268 points.

Colorado, which was No. 1 last season before losing to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl, received four first-place votes and 1,258 points. The remaining first-place vote went to Michigan State. However, only one other voter put the Spartans in the Top 10 and they wound up 23rd.

Michigan, last year's preseason No. 1, was sixth this year. Nebraska was next, followed by Tennessee, Southern California, Clemson, Illinois, Alabama, Texas A&M, Arkansas, Virginia, Brigham Young, Ohio State, Pittsburgh, UCLA and Washington.

Rounding out the Top 25 were Penn State, Oklahoma, Michigan State, Houston and West Virginia.

Virginia, which won a share of its first Atlantic Coast Conference championship last season, made the preseason rankings for the first time in school history.

UCLA and Oklahoma were the only ranked teams that didn't finish in the Top 25 last season. UCLA went 3-7-1 and Oklahoma was 7-4.

A team gets 25 points for a first-place vote, 24 points for second and so on.

## Stay

(Continued from page 15)

nounced in early August it would join the Southeastern Conference next year. With the loss, the SWC is left without national powers in three major collegiate sports: football, basketball and baseball.

The Razorbacks have won the SWC football championship the last two years and won the SWC baseball crown last year. Its basketball team won the SWC Postseason Classic and advanced to the NCAA Final Four last season.

"With Arkansas leaving, I think we could go find another big-time (football) game on a home-and-home basis," Slocum said. "I thought that would be an attractive opportunity for us to make up that game. It would allow us the flexibility to

go out and have one more non-conference game that would make an attractive non-conference schedule."

SWC presidents will meet in Dallas Sept. 7 to discuss expansion. They will also hear the results of a report by a consulting firm they hired in July to study conference academics, government, athletic competitiveness, budgets, revenue distribution and television.

Slocum said the rumors that A&M might leave the SWC never affected the team, and that the Aggies had never been bothered by distractions as they prepare for the season opener against Hawaii.

"It hasn't been a major distraction," Slocum said. "We haven't talked about it other than on one occasion, and I don't think it's been a problem with either them or the coaching staff."

## Cowboys cut six from roster

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys cut six players from the team roster Sunday, including veteran placekicker Luis Zendejas and running back Junior Tautalatasi.

The Cowboys also waived Plan B signees Terrence Cooks, a veteran linebacker, and defensive end Walter Johnson. Rookie guard Tom Huebner of Pittsburgh and rookie linebacker Dave Harper from Humboldt State also were released.

Also Sunday, the team placed tight end Steve Johnson, running back Keith Jones and safety Scott Ankrum on injured reserve.

Saturday, the Cowboys signed veteran linebacker Jesse Solomon and rookie wide receiver Alexander Wright to three-year contracts.

The signings leave first round pick Emmitt Smith, enrolled at Florida, as the lone holdout.

## UT's Garza plans comeback

AUSTIN (AP) — Two years ago, Texas cornerback Willie Mack Garza was the Southwest Conference "Newcomer of the Year" as a freshman starter. This season, he said he plans on being the SWC's "Comeback Player of the Year."

Garza was redshirted last season after injuring ligaments in his left knee, and could only watch as a young Texas secondary gave several crucial big plays in a 54-season.

Texas Tech defeated the Longhorns 24-17 on a 51-yard scoring pass late in the fourth quarter on third-and-26. Texas A&M's Percy Waddle caught a 45-yard touchdown pass on the last play of the third quarter to give the Aggies their first lead of the game in a 21-10 victory.

"I felt kind of bad," Garza said. "I have always considered myself kind of a leader, but all I could do was sit in the stands and watch. I kind of got down on myself for not being there."

Texas finished the season fifth in pass defense in the conference, giving up 198.3 yards per game. The Texas secondary gave up 16 touchdowns, surpassed only by the 29 Southern Methodist allowed.

All the starters are back, though, a year older and a year wiser. Left cornerback Mark Berry is a junior. Right cornerback Grady Cavness and strong safety Lance Gunn are sophomores. Free safety Stanley Richard is the only senior.

So far this season, Garza is working out with the second unit. He said he can deal with it, but he doesn't necessarily like it.

"I had been starting for every team I ever played for," said Garza, who played high school ball at Refugio. "Certainly I plan on getting back into the starting lineup, but there are a couple of great players in front of me."

Texas coach David McWilliams said he expects Garza will find a way to break into the lineup.

"It will be hard keeping Mack out of the lineup," McWilliams said. "We will be using three cornerbacks a lot. Four of our opponents (Houston, Rice, Texas Christian and Southern Methodist) use the run-and-shoot."

Richard said the secondary will need as many healthy bodies as it can find. "We need all of our guys at 120 percent," Richard said.

Garza, who missed much of practice last week with a bruised shoulder, said his first priority is proving that he is "120 percent."

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