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Sports Editor

Ags move up in poll to No. 12

Nebraska falls to No. 10 after weak Baylor showing



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

A&M lineman Albert Jones pressures Hawaii quarterback Garrett Gabriel in Saturday's 28-13 win. The victory jumped the Aggies to No. 12 in Monday's AP poll. A&M has this weekend, but hosts Southwestern Louisiana Sept. 15.

Associated Press

Texas A&M converted its weekend in the sun to a jump in the rankings.

The Aggies, ranked 13th in The Associated Press' preseason collegiate football poll, moved up a spot to No. 12 after beating Hawaii 28-13 Saturday. They have a week off while preparing for Southwestern Louisiana Sept. 15.

The highest spot A&M held last year in the poll was No. 14.

Little changed everywhere else in the poll. No one left the Top 25 after the first weekend of college football, but some teams did juggle rankings.

Nebraska won its opener but lost support in the poll.

Despite a 13-0 victory over Baylor, the Cornhuskers fell three spots to No. 10 — the biggest drop of any team in the Top 25. While Nebraska's defense was dominant, the Cornhuskers' offense struggled and failed to score a touchdown until the final minute of the game.

Still, one voter apparently was very impressed by Nebraska's performance. After failing to get any first-place votes in the preseason poll, the Cornhuskers were named the top team on one ballot in the first regular-season survey of 60 sports writers and broadcasters.

Miami, which starts its season at Brigham Young on Saturday, got the most first-place votes (27) and remained No. 1 with 1,444 points. Notre Dame, which meets Michigan in its opener on Sept. 15, stayed in second with 20 first-place votes and 1,421 points.

Auburn and Florida State tied for third with 1,304 points, although the Seminoles led 7-4 in first-place votes. Florida State, which trailed Auburn by 43 points in the preseason poll, gained ground on the Tigers even though neither team has played a game.

Michigan and Colorado switched places, with the Wolverines moving up to No. 5 and the Buffaloes falling to No. 6 after tying Tennessee 31-31 in the Pigskin Classic on Aug. 26.

Southern Cal moved up two spots to No. 7 after beating Syracuse 34-16 in the Kick-off Classic. Tennessee, which received one first-place vote, remained No. 8 after clobbering Pacific 55-7 and Clemson rose one notch to No. 9 following its 59-0 rout of Long Beach State.

Highsmith sent to Cowboys for two draft picks

IRVING (AP) — Powerful fullback Alonzo Highsmith joined forces again with coach Jimmy Johnson of the Dallas Cowboys on Monday in a trade from the Houston Oilers that sent a message to first round draft pick Emmitt Smith.

Smith, an All-American running back from Florida and the Cowboys 17th pick in the NFL draft, has enrolled in classes toward his degree in public recreation and has become the longest draft hold-out in Dallas history.

"Alonzo is a talented player, a hard worker, and will fit into our system perfectly," said Johnson, who coached him at the University of Miami. "He's a great blocker and has a great attitude and he knows the system."

The Cowboys plan to play Highsmith, a 1987 first round pick of the Oilers, on Sunday in the regular season opener. See Cowboys/Page 10

Capriati handed tennis lesson by Graf in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Steffi Graf sent Jennifer Capriati back to school with a lesson she'll never forget, a two-set course in playing like a champion in the U.S. Open.

Graf, the two-time defending champ, played almost perfectly Monday to reach the quarterfinals as she dazzled 14-year-old Capriati with powerful groundstrokes and defied a packed crowd cheering for the nervous ninth-grader.

Graf's 6-1, 6-2 victory was complete in every respect, a 53-minute slaughter that was far more convincing than her 6-2, 6-4 triumph over Capriati at Wimbledon, also in the fourth round.

Boris Becker, the men's defending champion and Graf's West German compatriot, played doggedly for more than three hours before finding a way to beat gutsy Australian Darren Cahill, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, and gain the quarters.

America's top player, fourth-seeded Andre Agassi, had an easy time getting to See Open/Page 10

New upright width makes football a true team effort

Once again, someone is tampering with the great game of football.

In 1991, the width of field goal posts will be reduced almost five feet and the game will become a real team effort.

True, the thrill of a last-second field goal kick is a great way to end a game (if your team wins), but a win must reflect the team.

A kick through the uprights does not a team make.

I can remember many times when a kicker is blamed for the loss after he misses an extra point attempt.

Now, am I wrong when I say it isn't the fault of the individual, but the fault of the team if they lost? No one ever sees it that way — it's just the kicker's fault and that's that.

A&M kicker Layne Talbot was 11 of 16 last year in field goals. That's 33 points that are all credited to the team ... not the kicker. Talbot had the only six points for the Aggies against Washington. Without him, the team would have lost 19-0. A&M dropped from No. 15 in the AP Top 25 to No. 22, and probably would have fallen even further without Talbot's six points.

That's my point. The same kicker that is shunned if he misses the uprights and the game is lost, is forgotten even when he makes the only six points on the board.

Once the new goalposts are up, teams will be worried that their kicker may not be able to make such an accurate kick. Maybe they'll strive to get even closer or try even harder to make a touchdown, not falling back on the option of See Sabawala/Page 10

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You could win a 12-speed bike from Valley Cyclery or dinner for 12 at the Golden Corral... 12 hair cuts at a beauty salon or 12 compact discs... 12 large pizzas from Little Caesar's or 12 tanning sessions at Lifestyles... 12 meals at McDonalds or 12 roses for your sweetheart... 12 cases of soft drinks or 12 video rentals or a 12-week membership at Lifestyles... and even... payment of tuition for 12 semester hours at Texas A&M.



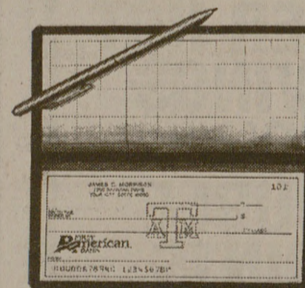
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With the 12th Man Checking Account you also get 200 free checks and no monthly charge for MPACT. You will have your own personal 12th Man banking representative and the convenience of a bank right next to the main campus on University Drive.

Plus, First American Bank offers student loan availability and interest discounts on auto loans for graduating seniors.



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