

When it's Notre Dame, AP voters have no shame

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SPORTSWRITER



survive, the Fighting Irish have to be ranked or the world just ends.

DW: Why would it just end, Tex?

Tex: Have you ever seen Knute Rockne, All American, man? Have you ever seen Rudy? That's what it's all about. You can never give up and you always do your best. If we don't vote for Notre Dame it's like we gave up on them. If we give up on Notre Dame, it's like giving up on this world. It's like saying 'I don't want to live anymore.' I hope it doesn't come to that, but I'm afraid the end of the world is near.

DW: The end of the world is coming soon?

Tex: How else can you explain it? Every year we get the best recruiting class in the nation but we still don't win a national championship. There's something evil working against the mighty green and gold. It's powerful stuff man.

DW: I notice you wearing a Joe Montana jersey and holding a autographed picture of Lou Holtz, why?

Tex: I don't see why my religious articles have any bearing on this discussion. But if you must know, I feel safer with them. You know I once saw the image of George Gipp in a tortilla. Happiest day of my life.

DW: So did you place Northwestern ahead of Notre Dame on your ballot this year?

Tex: Placing a team ahead of Notre Dame that has beat the Irish is sacrilegious. I still can't believe that people complain that we shouldn't have been in a bowl last year. Colorado cheated, or we would've been the national champions.

DW: Well, since it's apparent I'm not going to be able to get you to change your ways, answer one last question. What's the worst thing that can happen to a Notre Dame fan?

Tex: Any year our block vote still doesn't get us in the title game, it's a bad year. It's like living in hell.

This year, it should be even hotter wearing those Northwestern shirts and all.

The Associated Press pollsters should be ashamed of themselves. They should shield their faces when they go outside. When they do get the courage to finally go outside, they should be forced to wear Northwestern apparel.

Last week the AP pollsters fell victim to the "Hype of the Irish", and voted Notre Dame the No.25 football team in the country. Northwestern, which defeated the then-No. 9 Irish last Saturday on the road, is still unranked and 58 votes behind Notre Dame. My guess is if any other college football team was ranked No.9 and lost to Northwestern at home, it would never be heard from again.

It's time for the "mighty" green and gold to join the rest of the 107 Division I teams and be voted on the basis of current performance and not past history. The Gipper, Rudy and Knute Rockne should no longer affect on how a Notre Dame team does in the polls.

I might understand the ranking if Northwestern had won the game on a fluke. But it was a great game by Northwestern.

But the real guys that should be punished are the AP voters who saw to it that Notre Dame would survive. They must pay the price. My first deprogramming subject is an AP voter from the Northeast, who from now on will be referred to as "Tex."

David Winder: Tex, why did you vote for Notre Dame even though they were beaten by perennial doormat Northwestern?

Tex: You people on the outside world just don't get it, do you? If we fall out of the polls, it starts the Apocalypse. I'm not having Armageddon on my conscious, buddy. For this world to

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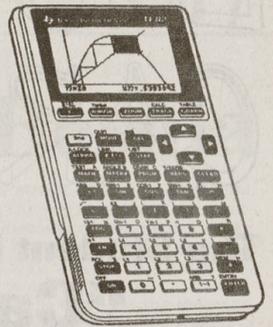
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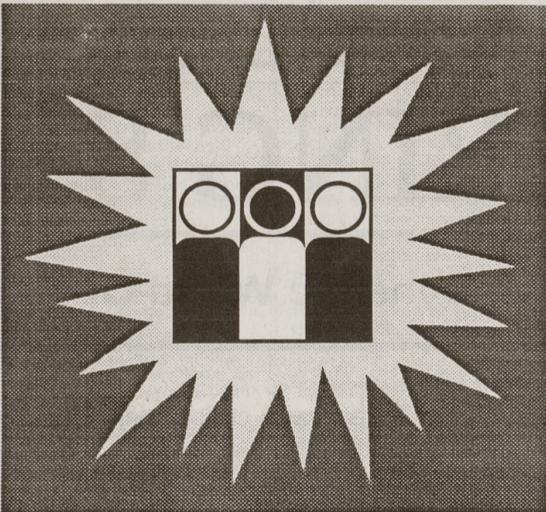
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