

Slocum, Toledo put focus on game, not pa

DALLAS (AP) — UCLA coach Bob Toledo bears no ill will against Texas A&M and R.C. Slocum even though he was fired as offensive coordinator in 1993.

"The Cotton Bowl is not going to be a Bob Toledo versus R.C. Slocum thing," Toledo said on Thursday. "R.C. did what he had to do and I moved on to where I am today. There is no animosity toward A&M. I still have a lot of good friends there. It's just a lot of water under the bridge."

Alumni pressure came down on Slocum after A&M had lost two consecutive Cotton Bowl games to Florida State and Notre Dame without scoring a touchdown.

"I had ambitions for us to be better (offensively)," Slocum said. "Bob did a good job and we never had an argument. I thought we would be better off going in a different direction. I thought we needed to turn over stones. It was not a good move on my part."

Slocum said the Aggies "haven't been as good" offensively since Toledo left.

"I've told Bob if I had it to do over again I wouldn't make that move," Slocum said. "Neither one of us want it to be an issue for this game."

No. 5-ranked UCLA, winners of nine consecutive games after close losses to Washington State and Tennessee to start the season, will play the No. 20-ranked Aggies (9-3), who won the Big 12 South division but lost 54-15 to Nebraska last week in

the title game.

"I think a strong argument can be made that UCLA is the best team in the country," Slocum said. "They are every bit as potent as Nebraska."

Toledo said that although the Bruins were not picked for an Alliance bowl his team was excited about coming to Dallas.

"I've been to the Cotton Bowl with Texas A&M and I've told the

team what great hospitality they have there," Toledo said. "It should be a great game. A&M has a great tradition, a great legacy."

The two schools have not played each other in 42 years. UCLA beat A&M 21-0 in 1955 after losing two previous games against the Aggies 7-0 and 21-14.

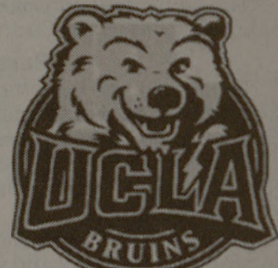
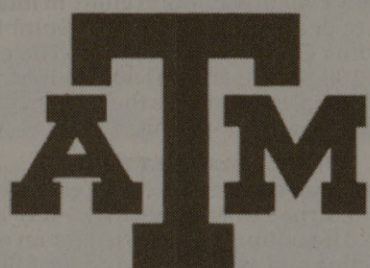
Toledo has guided UCLA to its highest ranking since 1988. "UCLA hasn't won nine games

in a row since 1973." "We're proud that a couple of plays are undefeated."

Slocum said they have another game the Nebraska loss against UCLA.

"They may be the going right now," Slocum will give our team the bounce back. I told the feel bad about Nebraska the same thing to Florida esta Bowl. Nebraska has a sion against us."

The game, sponsored by western Bell, is set for New Year's Day, on



The Battalion's 1997 Staff Picks

| The Match-Ups | Chris Ferrell | Paul Mitchell | Jeremy Furtick | Kristina Buffin | Jamie Burch | Matt Mitchell | Stephen Boudreau | Travis Dabney | Margaux Harris | Len Callaway | Jeff Schmidt | Jeff Webb | Jason Whitcomb | Bowl Game |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| #20 Texas A&M vs. #5 UCLA (-10) | Texas A&M | UCLA | Texas A&M | Texas A&M | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | UCLA | Cotton Bowl |
| #1 Michigan (-7.5) vs. #6 Washington St. | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Washington St. | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Rose Bowl |
| #2 Nebraska (-10.5) vs. #3 Tennessee | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Nebraska | Tennessee | Tennessee | Nebraska | Nebraska | Orange Bowl |
| #4 Florida St. (-6.5) vs. #9 Ohio St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Ohio St. | Ohio St. | Florida St. | Florida St. | Sugar Bowl |
| #6 Florida (-9.5) vs. #11 Penn St. | Penn St. | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Florida | Penn St. | Florida | Citrus Bowl |
| #7 N. Carolina (-12.5) vs. Virginia Tech | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | N. Carolina | Gator Bowl |
| #10 Kansas St. (-3.5) vs. #14 Syracuse | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Kansas St. | Fiesta Bowl |
| #12 Georgia (-8) vs. Wisconsin | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Wisconsin | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Georgia | Outback Bowl |
| #13 Auburn (-6.5) vs. Clemson | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Auburn | Peach Bowl |
| #15 LSU (-6.5) vs. Notre Dame | LSU | LSU | Notre Dame | Notre Dame | LSU | LSU | LSU | Notre Dame | LSU | LSU | LSU | LSU | LSU | Independence Bowl |
| #16 Arizona St. vs. Iowa (-3) | Arizona St. | Arizona St. | Iowa | Arizona St. | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | Arizona St. | Iowa | Iowa | Arizona St. | Arizona St. | Iowa | Sun Bowl |
| #17 Purdue (-3) vs. #24 OSU | Purdue | Purdue | OSU | Purdue | Purdue | Purdue | Purdue | OSU | Purdue | Purdue | Purdue | OSU | Purdue | Alamo Bowl |
| #18 Colorado St. (-5) vs. #19 Missouri | Missouri | Colorado St. | Missouri | Missouri | Colorado St. | Colorado St. | Colorado St. | Missouri | Colorado St. | Colorado St. | Colorado St. | Missouri | Colorado St. | Holiday Bowl |
| #21 Washington (-5) vs. #25 Michigan St. | Michigan St. | Washington | Washington | Michigan St. | Washington | Washington | Washington | Michigan St. | Washington | Washington | Washington | Michigan St. | Washington | Aloha Bowl |
| #22 So. Miss (-8.5) vs. Pittsburgh | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | So. Miss | Liberty Bowl |
| #23 Air Force (-4) vs. Oregon | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Air Force | Las Vegas Bowl |
| Mississippi (-3.5) vs. Marshall | Mississippi | Mississippi | Marshall | Mississippi | Marshall | Mississippi | Mississippi | Marshall | Mississippi | Mississippi | Mississippi | Mississippi | Mississippi | Motor City Bowl |
| Arizona (-10) vs. New Mexico | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | New Mexico | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Arizona | Insight Communication |
| Cincinnati (-4) vs. Utah St. | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Utah St. | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Utah St. | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Sports Humanitarian |
| Georgia Tech (-2) vs. W. Virginia | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | West Virginia | West Virginia | Georgia Tech | Carquest Bowl |
| Last Week | 5-6-1 | 7-4-1 | 4-7-1 | 8-3-1 | 7-4-1 | 7-4-1 | 7-4-1 | 7-4-1 | 6-5-1 | 5-6-1 | 6-5-1 | 7-4-1 | 3-8-1 | 79-64-13: Ferrell, Furtick, Burch |
| Cumulative | 88-76-4 | 79-85-4 | 87-77-4 | 86-78-4 | 80-84-4 | 82-82-4 | 82-82-4 | 76-88-4 | 79-85-4 | 54-51-3 | 58-71-3 | 82-82-4 | 78-86-4 | 1,052-1,046-51: Over |

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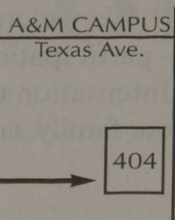
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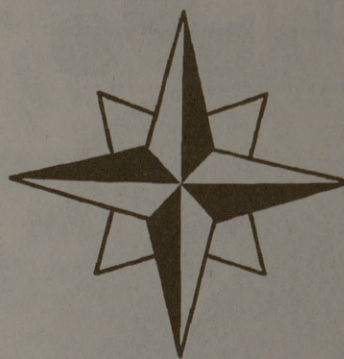
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