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SPORTS THE BATTALION

OU atop first BCS standings

By Josh Dubow THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oklahoma is in a familiar place — first in the initial Bowl Championship Series standings. The Sooners' task this year is to stay there.

Oklahoma was No. 1 in the first BCS standings for the third straight year, matching the spot it has held in the two major polls all season.

"It's a positive indicator that we've played awfully well for seven games," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said Monday. "We've earned that position and have played well through this part of the season. Now, it's our job to continue it, finish it and keep it."

Miami and Virginia Tech, the other two undefeated teams from major conferences, are second and third.

The BCS standings are used to determine which teams play in a national title game. The teams that finish 1-2 in the final BCS standings on Dec. 7 will play for the title at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on Jan. 4.

The formula uses the AP media and coaches' polls, seven computer rankings, strength of schedule, losses and a bonus-

point system for quality wins.

The Sooners (7-0) have a 1.0 for poll average, 1.33 for computer-rank average, 0.44 for strength of schedule and zero for losses for a 2.77 total. Oklahoma is ranked first in four of the computers with Miami the top team in the other three.

The Hurricanes (7-0) have 4.10 points and Virginia Tech (6-0) has 10.23.

"We can't get caught up in anything other than winning our games," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "If we do that, everything will work out as it should."

Georgia (12.99), Florida State (13.14), Ohio State (13.20), Southern California (13.83) and Purdue (21.50) round out the top eight. The top four teams in the BCS are the same as in the AP poll.

The two other undefeated teams in Division I-A are not at the top of the standings. Northern Illinois (7-0) of the Mid-American conference is 10th, while TCU (7-0) of Conference

USA is 14th. Both teams have poor strength of schedule rankings, with the Huskies 100th and the Horned Frogs 96th out of 117 Division I-A teams.

In the first five years of the BCS, the teams that were in the top two spots in the first standings never stayed there for the final standings. However, the 10 teams that have played in the championship game were all in the top 6 in the first BCS standings.

After fast starts the past two seasons, Oklahoma lost twice in the second half to fall short of the national title game. Three years ago, Oklahoma was second in the first standings and went on to win the national championship in the Orange Bowl against Florida State.

"There seems to be a special quality about these guys, a genuine humility to them and a hunger to them in wanting to play well," Stoops said. "I just felt in the last few years we were a little bit short in some areas."

The BCS was started five years ago to create a national title game without playoffs. Champions of six conferences — the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC — qualify for a BCS game, and two at-large teams are selected to fill out the field.



STOOPS

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Kobe

Continued from page 7

over a chair and raped her, asking her several times not to tell anybody, Winters testified.

She told Bryant "no" at least twice, and he stopped only after she pulled his hand off her neck, Winters said.

The woman was left with vaginal tears consistent with assault and her blood was found on Bryant's shirt, Winters said.

But he acknowledged under cross-examination by defense attorney Pamela Mackey that the woman had sex with another man shortly before her encounter with Bryant. She also didn't tell Winters initially that she had said "no."

The defense argued that semen and pubic hair found in the woman's underwear that weren't from Bryant prove he is innocent of rape — an argument ridiculed by prosecutor Greg Crittenden. He said the evidence of rape was "uncontradicted."

At trial, any discussion of the woman's sexual history could be limited by Colorado's rape shield law, unless Bryant's attorneys successfully argue the evidence fits into one of the few exceptions.

Prosecutors, however, must convince a jury that a woman flattered by Bryant's attention had no intention of having sex with him as they kissed. Winters acknowledged she told him she expected Bryant to "put a move" on her when she accepted the invitation to his room.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert has said he held back some evidence, knowing a preliminary hearing requires a judge to look at the evidence in a way that is most favorable to prosecutors.

Hooligans

Continued from page 7

and each fan is a welcome addition to Welty, Vanderhoeven and the rest of the Hooligans.

"Once people get out here and see that they can have fun I think they'll enjoy soccer a lot more," Welty said.

Much like the reputation Kyle Field holds in college football, the Aggie Soccer Complex is becoming known as one of the most intimidating venues for opponents in college soccer. Much of the thanks falls to the Hullabaloo Hooligans.

"It's just a great place to play," Guerrieri said. "I envy our players who get to play in this. I wish I had this 25 years ago."

Trade

Continued from page 7

two years, have now upgraded a roster that won 60 games and reached the Western Conference finals last season. It also counters the changes made by fellow Western Conference opponents San Antonio, Sacramento and the Lakers.

"Dallas likes to take chances and make things happen. They're on the cusp of winning a championship right now," Ainge said. "I can't sit here and tell you that we're an NBA championship team right now. I just don't see that. But I'm not satisfied winning 44 games."

Walker has size (6-foot-9, 245 pounds) but can run the offense. His dribbling and passing skills make him the prototype "point forward" coveted by the Mavs coach.

Walker led the Celtics in assists the last three seasons, and he and Pierce combined to average nearly half of Boston's points during that span.

"We see Antoine as a triple-double guy," said Donnie Nelson, the coach's son and an assistant coach. "I know in some form or fashion at the end of the game you're going to see the Big Three and Antoine Squared."

Donnie Nelson said Nowitzki will get more minutes at center. Shawn Bradley and Danny Fortson, also acquired in the Golden State trade, will help man the position. Eduardo Najera could play there, too.

Power play

The Dallas Mavericks bulked up an already strong offense Monday, acquiring All-Star forward Antoine Walker from the Boston Celtics in a five-player trade.

(Career statistics)	Mavericks get:	Antoine Walker, F	FG%	FT%	REB	AST	PPG
Walker			41.2	66.5	8.70	4.2	20.8
Celtics get:							
Raef LaFrentz, C/F	FG% .469						
	FT% .696						
	REB 7.1						
	AST 1.1						
	PPG 12.2						
Jiri Welsch, G	FG% .253						
	FT% .759						
	REB .8						
	AST 7						
	PPG 1.6						
Chris Mills, F	FG% .432						
	FT% .817						
	REB 4.9						
	AST 1.9						
	PPG 11.2						

SOURCES: NBA; Associated Press



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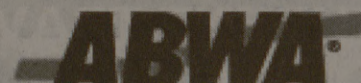
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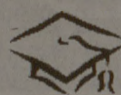
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Please wear Business Casual

Local and University officials will be in attendance

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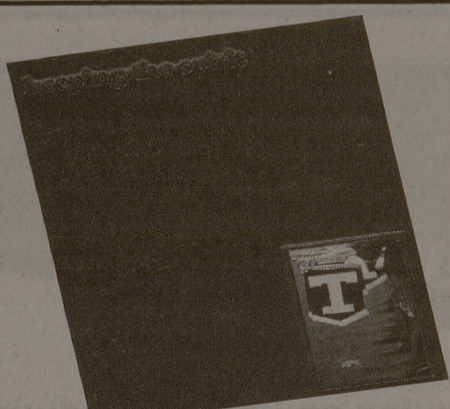


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Citations: Section 14.15 of the Texas A&M University Student Rules states "The student must have settled all financial obligations to the university."

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2003 Aggeland

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