

THE BATTALION

TCU finds itself in position for possible BCS bowl bid

By Josh Dubow THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TCU moved a big step closer to busting up the BCS.

The Horned Frogs jumped up to sixth place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Monday, the highest ranking ever for an outsider to the system.

"We understand those things are in the hands of other people," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "We feel privileged to be where we're at. We really appreciate the respect around the country."

TCU needs to remain in the top six to guarantee a bid in one of the four most lucrative bowls.

Oklahoma remained the runaway leader in the standings that will determine which two teams will play for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl.

The Sooners (10-0) are No. 1 in both polls and the seven computers used in the BCS.

Southern California leads the three one-loss teams hoping to challenge Oklahoma for the title, followed by Ohio State and LSU.

The formula uses the AP media and USA Today/ESPN coaches' polls, seven computer rankings, strength of schedule, losses and a bonus-point system for quality wins.

The Sooners have a 1.0 for poll average, 1.0 for computer-rank average, 0.28 for strength of schedule, zero for losses and 0.6 bonus points for beating fifth-place Texas for a 1.68.

USC was second with 6.27 points, followed by Ohio State at 7.73 and LSU at 13.17.

"With all this BCS and ranking stuff I really don't even know how they figure it out or how they come up with it," LSU defensive end Marcus Spears said. "For us it's just beat Alabama, Ole Miss and Arkansas and that's what we're focused on."

The Buckeyes could pass

the Trojans for the No. 2 spot even if neither team loses because of their tougher schedule down the stretch.

Ohio State finishes the season against No. 11 Purdue and No. 5 Michigan, while USC has games left against Arizona, UCLA and Oregon State — who have a combined record of 14-15.

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.

No team from the five other Division I-A conferences — Conference USA, the Mid-American, Mountain West, Sun Belt and Western Athletic — has earned that berth.

The Horned Frogs will be eligible if they finish in the top 12 and will clinch a spot by being in the top six.

"A lot of teams have won all their ballgames, a lot of teams win their conference. But very few times are you able to do something to make history," Patterson said. "We have a chance to do that."

However, even if they win out they could drop because of their weak schedule, ranked 87th among the 117 teams.

There has been pressure from schools outside the big six conferences to improve access to the BCS bowls — Orange, Sugar, Fiesta and Rose.

TCU, a member of Conference USA, hopes that helps its cause.

"The story stands on its own," Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky said. "They have a great football team. If they remain undefeated they will be an unbelievably strong candidate. I will do anything I possibly can to assure they get maximum consideration for BCS participation."

BCS Standings

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Team, Points. 1 OU (1.68), 2 USC (6.27), 3 Ohio State (7.73), 4 LSU (13.17), 5 Texas (17.05), 6 TCU (17.65), 7 Tennessee (18.32), 8 Michigan (19.29), 9 Georgia (20.27), 10 Washington State (20.49), 11 Purdue (24.64), 12 Miami (Fla.) (27.93), 13 Florida State (28.95), 14 Florida (32.10), 15 Virginia Tech (34.13)

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SENIORS. Back by popular demand. Graduation portraits for the 2004 Aggieland Yearbook will be taken Monday, Nov. 17, through Friday Nov. 21, 2003, in Room 027 of the MSC. There is no sitting fee required to be photographed for the yearbook. To make an appointment, call Thornton Studio at 1-800-883-9449. Aggieland 2004 Texas A&M University Yearbook

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggie soccer team to host first two rounds of NCAA's

The Texas A&M women's soccer team will be one of 16 hosts for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Championship Tournament to be played this Friday and Sunday.

The Aggies enter the tournament as an at-large selection from the Big 12 Conference with a record of 12-5-1.

"We are excited about playing at home in front of our great fans," said A&M coach G Guerrieri. "We know that our bracket is difficult, but we are thankful to have the opportunity to play for a national championship."

The Aggies face Western Athletic Conference Tournament Champion SMU (17-3-1) in the first round. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Duke (13-6-1), an at-large selection from the Atlantic Coast Conference and the tournament's No. 12 seed, will face Southland Conference Tournament Champion Stephen F. Austin in the other first round game at 5 p.m.

The winners of first-round action will play on Sunday with kickoff scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

The Aggies are one of eight Big 12 teams to advance to the NCAA Tournament.

This will be the Aggies' ninth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Women's Cup.

Last season, the Aggies advanced to the Elite Eight before falling to eventual national champion, North Carolina.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003 Game 1: Stephen F. Austin vs. Duke \* 5:00 p.m.

Game 2: Southern Methodist vs. Texas A&M \* 7:30 p.m. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003 Game 3: Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2 \* 1:30 p.m.

TICKET INFORMATION: Student / Senior Citizen General Admission - \$2

Volleyball team moves up to No. 18 in new rankings

Texas A&M jumped three spots to No. 18 in the USA Today/American Volleyball Coaches Association Division I Coaches Top 25 Poll, released Monday by the AVCA.

The ranking is the Aggies' highest since a No. 17 showing on Sept. 16, 2002.

The Aggies (18-6, 10-4 Big 12), who had been ranked No. 21 for the past three weeks, made the jump after going 1-1 last week, falling to No. 10 Nebraska and then defeating Oklahoma.

The top five remained unchanged with defending national champion USC ranked No. 1, followed by Hawaii, Florida, Pepperdine and Kansas State.

In addition to A&M and Kansas State, the Big 12 Conference also is represented by No. 10 Nebraska, Missouri, which was ranked No. 25 last week, dropped out of the poll after losing its fourth consecutive match but is receiving points and is listed 33rd.

A&M, which is in third place in the Big 12 standings, returns to action Wednesday as the Aggies face Colorado in Boulder. Match time is 8 p.m. (CST) at the Coors Events Center. A&M defeated the Buffaloes in five games earlier this season. It marked the third time in the last four meetings that the match has gone five games.

OU's White among Big 12 players of the week

DALLAS (AP) — Jason White of Oklahoma, Nebraska's Demorrio Williams and Robert Quiroga of Baylor were named Big 12 players of the week Monday.

White threw for 263 yards and five touchdowns in the first half of Oklahoma's 77-0 win over Texas A&M. He completed his first 14 passes and finished 16-of-18. His touchdown passes were 40, 42, 7, 28 and 12 yards.

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