

MINNESOTA RATED TOP TEAM OF 1940

Gophers Finish First in Final Associated Press Poll of Football Writers

STANFORD IS RUNNER-UP

Michigan Third and Tennessee Fourth—Fordham Placed Twelfth on List

By The Associated Press.

Minnesota's Golden Gophers were voted the No. 1 college football team of 1940 in the final Associated Press ranking poll of the season.

At the top of the list for the three preceding weeks, the Western Conference champions were named first by sixty-five and second by fifty-five of the 133 experts throughout the country who took part in the deciding vote. In all the Gophers polled 1,244 points as they took the place won a year ago by Texas A. and M.

The Aggies, who had been runners-up, dropped down to sixth place as a result of their 7-0 defeat by Texas, their only loss of the year. Second place went to Stanford, the West's unbeaten and untied Rose Bowl candidate; third to Michigan, beaten only by Minnesota; fourth to Tennessee, which finished second in 1939 and for the third straight year completed its regular schedule without loss or tie, and fifth to Boston College, No. 1 Eastern team, which will play Tennessee in the New Orleans Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day.

Washington Is Tenth

The last four places went to Nebraska's Big Six champions, another team whipped only by Minnesota and now booked to play Stanford at Pasadena; Northwestern, which lost to Minnesota and Michigan; unbeaten but once-tied Mississippi State, the Southeastern Conference entry in Miami's Orange Bowl, and Washington, pre-season favorite but end-of-season runner-up in the Coast Conference race. Fordham, which will go to the Cotton Bowl, rated twelfth.

Minnesota gained its rank by coming through probably the season's toughest schedule. The Gophers opened by licking Washington, the Huskies afterward losing only to Stanford; handed Nebraska and then Michigan their only trimmings of the season, and also downed Ohio State, Iowa, Northwestern, Purdue and Wisconsin.

A comparison of the 1939 and 1940 first tens gives ample proof of the roller-coaster fluctuations of football fortune. Only Texas A. and M. and Tennessee survive of last year's list.

Rise From the Cellar

The most remarkable rise, of course, was Stanford's. Good enough this year to be ranked first by forty-four voters on the final ballots, the Indians a year ago were in the Coast Conference cellar. That spot for 1940 went to U. C. L. A., which only twelve months ago was rated seventh in the season's end standings.

The final standing (points figured on 10-9-8-7-6, etc., basis):

	First Place Votes	Points
1—Minnesota	65	1,244
2—Stanford	44	1,125
3—Michigan	5	914
4—Tennessee	10	885
5—Boston College...	7	798
6—Texas A. and M...	1	728
7—Nebraska	514
8—Northwestern	323
9—Mississippi State..	1	233½
10—Washington	210½

Second string—11, Santa Clara, 198½; 12, Fordham, 157½; 13, Georgetown, 133½; 14, Penn, 87½; 15, Cornell, 30½; 16, Southern Methodist, 9½; 17, Hardin-Simmons, 9; 18, Duke, 8; 19, Lafayette, 4.