

Notre Dame Retains Lead in Poll But Michigan Eleven Closes Gap

Irish Hold Only Eight-Point Leeway Over Wolverines in Balloting of Writers— Southern California in 3d Place

Notre Dame clung to its ranking as No. 1 college football team in The Associated Press poll yesterday and the Fighting Irish will be defending that lofty position as well as their perfect record when they collide with Southern California Saturday.

Sports writers participating in the weekly balloting kept Coach Frank Leahy's all-victorious South Benders in the top spot by a mere eight points over Michigan's unbeaten Big Nine champions, compared with the 30 points which separated the two powers the previous week.

Notre Dame drew 58½ first-place votes and Michigan got 54½, with three of the 129 experts calling first place a tie between the two. On the usual basis of 10 points for a first-place vote, 9 for second, and so on, the Irish compiled 1,184 points to 1,176 for the Wolverines.

Trojans Move Into Third

Southern California, Pacific Coast Conference champion and Rose Bowl host, moved into the third slot this week, changing places with Southern Methodist, which dropped to fourth after missing its bid for an all-victorious season by playing a 19-19 tie with Texas Christian.

The unbeaten but once-tied Trojans, who will be trying to become the first team in two years to whip Notre Dame Saturday, polled two first-place votes and 836 points, compared with 745 points and no first-place ballots for Southern Methodist.

Normally, yesterday's poll would stand as the last of the season, but since two of the top three teams still have to meet each other it is being extended an extra week in fairness to all concerned.

The team holding the No. 1 position in the final poll, as Notre Dame did last year, generally is accepted as the mythical national champion, and an upset by Southern California Saturday could revamp the entire top ten.

Penn State, Southern Methodist's

Cotton Bowl foe and only major Eastern team with a perfect record, held on to fifth place in the rankings on 651 points, although the Nittany Lions got no first-place votes.

Texas in Sixth Place

Texas, with two first-place votes and 565 points, hopped over Alabama into sixth place after closing its season with nothing worse on its record than a one-point loss to Southern Methodist.

Behind Alabama in the top ten come Pennsylvania, Georgia Tech and North Carolina, holding their places for the second straight week. The Tar Heels drew nine first-place votes but lacked sufficient backing to climb into ninth place, which they missed by a single point.

Whether or not all teams hold their present rankings through the final poll, today's line-up stands as something of a tribute to the major bowl games.

Michigan and Southern California, Rose Bowl opponents, are second and third, while Southern Methodist and Penn State, which meet in the Cotton Bowl, are fourth and fifth, and Texas and Alabama, the Sugar Bowl foes, are sixth and seventh.

The total vote with points figured on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis (first-place votes in parentheses):

Team.	Pts.
1—Notre Dame (58½).....	1,184
2—Michigan (54½).....	1,176
3—Southern California (2).....	836
4—Southern Methodist.....	745
5—Penn State.....	651
6—Texas (2).....	565
7—Alabama.....	531
8—Pennsylvania.....	473
9—Georgia Tech.....	208
10—North Carolina (9).....	207

The second ten: 11—Army, 121; 12—Mississippi, 80; 13—Kansas and William and Mary (3), 64 each; 15—California, 55; 16—North Carolina State, 12; 17—Rice, 11; 18—Oklahoma, 10; 19—U. C. L. A., 8; 20—Catawba, 7.

Others receiving one or more points: Columbia, 6; Missouri, 5; Utah, Oregon and Kentucky, 4 each; Minnesota, New Hampshire and Wesleyan, 3 each; Illinois and Tennessee, 2 each; Muhlenberg and Michigan State, 1 each.