

Nation's Writers, 226-119, Reverse Stand in Special Vote—Leahy Lauds Crisler, Wishes Two Teams Could Have Met

The nation's sports writers gave the final answer yesterday to the raging controversy on relative strength of the Notre Dame and Michigan football teams, and it was the Wolverines over the Irish by almost two to one—including those who saw both powerhouses perform.

Many of the 357 sports editors and football writers from coast to coast who participated in the special Associated Press poll had seen one or the other team, some had seen neither, and fifty-four declared they had watched both clubs in one or more games.

In the over-all total, 226 writers in forty-eight states and the District of Columbia picked Michigan, 119 balloted for Notre Dame and twelve called it a draw.

Four Vote for Tie

Opinion of the fifty-four writers who saw both in action last fall coincided at almost the same ratio, with thirty-three giving the nod to Michigan, seventeen to Notre Dame and four voting for a tie.

This post-season poll, conducted by The Associated Press by popular demand after Michigan thumped Southern California in the Rose Bowl, 49—0, doesn't supersede the weekly AP poll held during the regular season. The final poll released Dec. 8 gave Notre Dame 1,410 points for first place, with Michigan 1,289 for second. The Irish had just polished off Southern California, 38—7.

In that poll, 146 writers took part, while the 357 who sent in ballots for the post-season showdown is the largest ever to take part in such an AP voting. In the regular season's final poll, Notre Dame had 107 first-place votes and Michigan twenty-five.

Of the fifty-four scribes who saw both teams play, most of those on the Notre Dame bandwagon said the great Irish line, plus Johnny Lujack, gave Coach Frank Leahy's club superiority.

Supporters of Coach Fritz Crisler's Wolverines dwelt upon Michigan's offense, not sparing the superlatives.