

Notre Dame Official Denies Michigan Won Football Title on Post-Season Poll

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Jan. 12 (AP)—A Notre Dame official tonight said it had "no reason to disagree" with The Associated Press poll which named Notre Dame the national football champion at the end of the regular season.

Commenting on a post-season Associated Press poll, in which Michigan won the most votes after its Rose Bowl victory—and possibly referring also to Notre Dame's unaccepted challenge to play Michigan—the Notre Dame spokesman added that "championships should be won on the field."

The undefeated Fighting Irish football squad was honored by a throng of 1,200 persons at the annual banquet sponsored by the Notre Dame Alumni Club of the St. Joseph Valley. They received the Henry L. Williams Trophy, symbolic of the national championship, which was presented by the University of Minnesota "M" Club.

The Williams Trophy was awarded to Notre Dame on the basis of the first Associated Press poll of sports writers conducted at the close of the regular football season Dec. 8.

The Rev. John H. Murphy, Notre Dame vice president and chairman of the faculty board in control of athletics, took cognizance of both Associated Press polls which named Notre Dame the regular season champion and Michigan the top choice after the Wolverines'

49-0 rout of Southern California in the Rose Bowl.

Said Father Murphy:

"I am sure that you and I and millions of other football fans—as well as the University of Minnesota "M" Club—have no reason to disagree with the votes of the nation's sportswriters in The Associated Press poll at the end of the regular season, which has come to be accepted as the final word on this subject; and that we also heartily concur with the logical assurance of the AP that a post-season poll was not intended to supersede the votes at the end of the regular season.

"And I am sure that all of us, including the coaches and the players of the very fine Michigan squad of this year, believe that, whenever possible, championships should be won on the field."

(Notre Dame last season hurled a challenge at Michigan for a gridiron 'meeting' "any season, any place.")

Father Murphy described the Irish record of nine straight victories as the school's most successful season in sixteen years.

Concerning the Army-Notre Dame rivalry which ended last fall, Father Murphy said that student groups of both institutions heartily endorsed Army Coach Earl Blaik's statement that "anyone who says that the Army-Notre Dame game will never come back is crazy. He simply doesn't know."