

MINNESOTA PLACED SECOND TO CORNELL

Gophers Move Up in Football Writers' Poll, Notre Dame Dropping to Seventh

MICHIGAN ELEVEN THIRD

Texas Aggies, Tennessee and Stanford Are Next in Line, With Fordham 17th

By The Associated Press.

Midwestern elevens still are breathing on Cornell's neck in the 1940 football ranking race, but this week it is Minnesota's Gophers who have displaced the Irish of Notre Dame as closest pursuers of the all-conquering Ithacans.

The fifth of the weekly Associated Press ranking polls, with 173 football experts throughout the country participating, finds Cornell on top, as it has been since the start of the season. The Big Red, three games away from its second successive season without defeat, was placed first on 119 ballots and second on 24 for 1,560 points.

But the way Minnesota has worked its way through an awesome schedule—winning close ones, perhaps, but winning every one—put the Gophers in second place, only 140 points away. The Bernie Bierman powerhouse, runner-up in first-place votes with 18, was ranked second by seventy-two of the experts as it piled up 1,420 points.

Big Test for Gophers

Just as last week, when they came through by the margin of an extra point over Northwestern, the Gophers stand the best chance of improving their position and the greatest risk of being knocked down this coming week-end. They will meet a Michigan team that, like Northwestern, also comes up to this contest undefeated and untied, with the added advantage of a week's rest. The Wolverines, as a week ago, are given third place.

Two other games next Saturday will involve members of the "first ten." Texas A. and M., up from fifth place to fourth, will take its string of seventeen straight victories into action against Southern Methodist, undefeated, tied only by Pitt, and ranked fourteenth.

Meanwhile Stanford, No. 6 in the rankings, will play once-beaten Washington, No. 11, in the game that should send one or the other on to the Coast Conference title and nomination for the Rose Bowl.

While Minnesota was being boosted from fourth to second this week, Notre Dame skidded down the ladder from runner-up to seventh, back of Tennessee and Stanford.

Irish to Meet Navy

The Irish looked anything but great in barely beating Army, but may climb again if they can bounce back to keep their slate clean against a Navy team which "out-statisticked" but neglected to out-score Penn last Saturday.

For the rest of the leaders, Saturday's assignments look less arduous. The word from Ithaca is that Cornell may try to better Penn's 50-7 score against Yale; Tennessee can take a virtual vacation against Southwestern; Boston U. hardly is in a class with Boston College; Georgetown shouldn't have any trouble getting by Maryland to make it twenty-three without a loss, and Northwestern, only first-tenner which has been beaten, should get back on the winning track against Illinois.

This, incidentally, is quite a season for streaks. In addition to Georgetown's twenty-three-game string, Cornell has come through seventeen games with only one tie; Texas A. and M. has won seventeen in a row, and Tennessee, not counting post-season games, has won twenty-eight in succession since losing by 13-7 to Vanderbilt in 1937.

Ranking of the Teams

The standing (points figured on 10-9-8-7-6, etc., basis, first-place votes in parentheses):

	First Place Votes.	Pts.
1—Cornell	119	1,560
2—Minnesota	18	1,420
3—Michigan	11	1,258
4—Texas A. and M.	14	1,185
5—Tennessee	11	929
6—Stanford	3	908
7—Notre Dame	769
8—Boston College	2	527
9—Georgetown	347
10—Northwestern	316

Second Ten—11, Washington, 87; tie for 12, Nebraska and Duke, 84 each; 14, Southern Methodist, 58; 15, Penn, 23; 16, Penn State, 17; 17, Fordham, 16; 18, Lafayette, 10; tie for 19, Santa Clara and Mississippi State, 9 each.

Also Ran—Clemson, 8; Alabama, 5; Texas Tech, 4; Tulane, 3; Ohio State, Mississippi, Utah and St. Mary's (Calif.), 2 each; Navy and Michigan State, 1 each.