

# Football Experts Pick Minnesota As Best Team Second Year in Row

## Duke Is Runner-Up, With Notre Dame Third and Texas Fourth in Poll—Fordham Is Rated Slightly Above Missouri

Minnesota capped a successful season yesterday by finishing at the top in the final Associated Press football ranking poll of the regular campaign.

Bernie Bierman's powerhouse, never worse than second, and that only once, in the eight weeks of the poll, drew 84½ first-place votes of a total of 96 in this tabulation.

Only twelve of the country's gridiron experts did not place the Gophers at the head of their ballots, and one of them split the honors between Minnesota and second-place Duke, another of the season's three major all-winning teams and Oregon State's selection as its Rose Bowl rival on New Year's Day.

Minnesota, in retaining the position it won in 1940 and leading the poll for the third time since it was established on its present basis, in 1936, did so by sweeping all before it in an eight-game schedule.

The Western Conference titleholders opened with an inter-sectional triumph over the University of Washington, followed up by beating Illinois, Pittsburgh, Michigan, Northwestern, Nebraska and Iowa and concluded with a 41-6 rout of Wisconsin. The Gophers have a record of seventeen consecutive victories.

### Played Without Captain

One of the most remarkable features of this performance was that Minnesota did so with its captain and brilliant all-around back, Bruce Smith, on the sidelines for most of three big games.

Smith set up the touchdown that beat Michigan, but hobbled to the sidelines just before it was scored; played only a few minutes and couldn't be of much help against Northwestern, and didn't play against Nebraska. He returned to action against Iowa and Wisconsin and in each game was the big gun in the Gopher offensive.

Duke, best-equipped on attack of any team Wallace Wade has coached at Durham, gave the Gophers their only serious contention in this week's poll. With nine and a half first-place votes, they got a total of 72½ points to 94½ for Minnesota (out of a possible 960).

Third place went to Notre Dame, which finished undefeated but was tied once in its first season under Frank Leahy, and got 675 points. The only other undefeated team in the balloting—the all-conquering Duquesne eleven—slipped from fifth place a week ago to eighth, possibly because it lost the lime-light through finishing its regular season unusually early.

Texas, tumbled to tenth place last week after its tie with Baylor and loss to Texas Christian, vaulted to fourth by knocking Texas A. and M. out of the unbeaten class. The Aggies dropped from second to ninth.

### Michigan in First Ten

The rest of the first ten consisted of Michigan, which tied Ohio State for second place in the Western Conference; Fordham, which, with 329½ points, had an edge of 1½ points over its Sugar Bowl opponent, Missouri; and Navy, the East's Ivy League champion, which took tenth place.

Oregon State, Pacific Coast Conference champion and Rose Bowl entry, could earn no better than twelfth position, while Georgia, voted into the Orange Bowl, drew fourteenth and Alabama, which will play Texas A. and M. in the Cotton Bowl, had a mere 6 points for twentieth place.

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

1. Minnesota (84½).....945½
2. Duke (9½).....725½
3. Notre Dame.....675
4. Texas (1).....494½
5. Michigan .....455
6. Fordham .....329½
7. Missouri (1).....328
8. Duquesne .....309½
9. Texas A. and M.....229½
10. Navy .....220½

11, Northwestern, 167; 12, Oregon State, 132½; 13, Ohio State, 81; 14, Georgia, 62½; 15, Pennsylvania, 61½; 16, Mississippi State, 18½; 17, Mississippi, 10; 18, Tennessee, 8; 19, Washington State, 7; 20, Alabama, 6.

Also Ran—Virginia and Texas Tech, 3 each; Penn State, 2; Texas Christian, Washington, Harvard and Tulane, 1 each.