

NOTRE DAME VOTED NATION'S TOP TEAM

Irish Take Honors for Second Year in Row in Writers' Poll—Michigan Next

Notre Dame—unbeaten, untied and virtually unchallenged—has been selected as the outstanding college football team of 1947, winning the honor for the second straight year in the final poll conducted by The Associated Press.

Coach Frank Leahy's Fighting Irish put the finishing touches to their first perfect season since 1930 by crushing Southern California, 38-7, on Saturday, and left little doubt of their superiority in the minds of a cross section of sports writers from coast to coast.

Among the 146 experts who participated in the last poll of the year, 107 of them placed Notre Dame at the head of the list, while 25 handed first place to Michigan's all-victorious Big Nine champions and four split their ballots to call it a tie between the two midwestern powers.

As could be expected, however, Michigan polled 94 second-place votes against 32 for the Irish and received enough additional backing to finish only 121 points behind Notre Dame in the final tabulation.

Total of 1,410 Points

On the usual basis of ten points for a first-place vote, nine for second, and so on, the South Benders wound up with a total of 1,410 points, while the Rose Bowl-bound Wolverines accumulated 1,289.

The poll was extended a week beyond its usual deadline this year in order to include Saturday's important struggle between the Irish and the Trojans, who were third in the rankings a week ago.

By manhandling the Pacific Coast champions, Notre Dame not only solidified its own position at the head of the list but contributed to a rearrangement of the standings all the way from third place to the bottom among the top ten teams.

Southern California skidded from third to eighth place, enabling Southern Methodist, Penn State, Texas and Alabama to move up a notch in that order.

Seven of the remaining ten first-place votes were awarded to North Carolina, while the other three were divided among Penn State, Alabama and Oklahoma.

While the Tarheel supporters failed in their effort to boost the improved North Carolina club to the top, they did succeed in moving it up a step to ninth place and dropping Georgia Tech to tenth.

W. and M. Placed 14th

Although two Southeastern Conference teams, Alabama and Georgia Tech, made the top ten along with North Carolina from the Southern Conference, Mississippi's Southeastern Conference champions could finish no higher than thirteenth place, and William and Mary, the winner in the Southern loop, wound up fourteenth.

A year ago the top ten included Notre Dame, Army, Georgia, UCLA, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, Louisiana State, North Carolina and Rice, in that order.

The Irish, who drew 100 first-place votes to 48 for Army and nine ties last year, landed in first place in the first 1947 poll, lost it to Michigan for a week or two, and then came back to hold a narrow margin until their performance of last Saturday sent them well in front.

The final standings (based on 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 system of scoring, with season won-lost-tied records in parentheses):

Team and Record	1st Pl.	Votes	Points
1—Notre Dame (9-0-0)....	107	1,410	
2—Michigan (9-0-0)	25	1,289	
3—So. Methodist (9-0-1)...	..	975	
4—Penn State (9-0-0).....	1	853	
5—Texas (9-1-0).....	..	757	
6—Alabama (8-2-0).....	1	617	
7—Pennsylvania (7-0-1)...	..	525	
8—So. California (7-1-1)...	..	354	
9—North Carolina (8-2-0)..	7	295	
10—Georgia Tech (9-1-0)...	..	278	
11—Army (5-2-2).....	..	151	
12—Kansas (8-0-2).....	..	81	
13—Mississippi (8-2-0).....	..	67	
14—Wm. and Mary (9-1-0)...	..	52	
15—California (9-1-0)...	..	36	
16—Oklahoma (7-2-1).....	1	30	
17—No. Carolina St. (5-3-1)	29	
18—Rice (6-3-1).....	..	21	
19—Duke (4-3-2).....	..	11	
20—Columbia (7-2-0).....	..	7	

Others receiving one or more points: 21—tie among Kentucky, Missouri and Wesleyan, 6 each; 24—tie among Minnesota, Wake Forest, Utah and Catawba, 4 each; 28—tie among Illinois, Northwestern, South Carolina and Miami (Ohio), 3 each; 32—tie among U.C.L.A., Texas Christian and Muhlenberg, 2 each; 35—tie among Georgia, Rutgers, Michigan State, Florida, Toledo and West Chester (Pa.) Teachers, 1 each.