

Sooners Remain Nation's Top '11'

By John Chandler
Of the Associated Press

Oklahoma remained the nation's No. 1 football team in the weekly Associated Press nationwide poll Monday, but Michigan State finally ousted Maryland from second place in the rankings by a narrow margin of only six points.

A week ago, Maryland held second place by a scant eight points over Michigan State, but last Saturday the Spartans thumped Marquette, 33-0, while Maryland had a tougher time against George Washington, winning 19-0.

Uclans Move Up

UCLA, which ground out a 17-7 victory over Southern California, moved up from fifth to fourth place with 1374 points, displacing Notre Dame, which dropped to fifth.

The top four teams will meet in two major New Year's bowl games, Oklahoma vs. Maryland in Miami's Orange Bowl, and UCLA vs. Michigan State in the Pasadena Rose Bowl.

There was only one absentee from the top 10 this week — Michigan—which was rocked 17-0 by Ohio State. Sixth last week, the Wolverines lost their chance for the Rose Bowl and skidded to 12th in this week's ratings.

Auburn Jumps to Tenth

The vacancy in the top 10 was taken over by Auburn, which trounced Clemson 21-0 and took over as No. 10 team. Auburn is a prime prospect for some bowl such as the Sugar at New Orleans, or the Dallas Cotton Bowl.

Notre Dame, a 17-14 winner over Iowa on a late field goal, and Ohio State, winner of the Big Ten Conference title, were the only other teams to receive as many as 1000 points. Notre Dame had 1255 and Ohio State, which moved up from ninth place a week ago to sixth, received 1025.

Texas Christian, the Southwest Conference's representative in the Cotton Bowl, and Texas A & M, held No. 7 and No. 8, respectively, and Georgia Tech moved up a notch to No. 9. Georgia Tech has bowl ideas, while Navy, heading the second ten for the second straight week, awaits its big game with Army Saturday. The Middles are talked of as a possible Cotton Bowl prospect.

Last Poll Next Week

The final AP poll of the season for the national championship will be next week.

The top 10 teams with first place votes and won-lost records in parentheses points on 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 basis:

1. Oklahoma 114 (9-0)	1,889
2. Mich. State 39 (8-1)	1,689
3. Maryland 35 (10-0)	1,683
4. UCLA 6 (9-1)	1,374
5. Notre Dame 3 (9-1)	1,255
6. Ohio State 5 (7-2)	1,025
7. Texas Christian 3 (8-1)	994
8. Texas A&M 3 (8-1)	531
9. Georgia Tech (7-1-1)	369
10. Auburn (7-1-1)	245

The Second Ten

11. Navy (6-1-1)	219
12. Michigan (7-2)	102
13. Pittsburgh 1 (7-3)	90
14. Miami, Fla. 2 (5-3)	79
15. Mississippi (8-1)	73
16. Miami, Ohio (8-0)	46
17. Stanford (6-3-1)	29
18. Duke (6-2-1)	23
19. Vanderbilt (7-2)	18
20. Syracuse (5-3)	16

Sports Staff

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WSC Coach Al Kircher, Two Aides, Get Sack

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP)—Alton S. Kircher, the man they "drafted" for the job, was discharged as football coach at Washington State college Monday night and his two chief assistants were let out with him.

It was an honorable discharge, the school describing him as a "perfect gentleman" and announcing it is buying up his \$12,500 a year contract. The five-year pact had a year to run.

One of Worst Years

Under Kircher, the Cougars had one of their worst seasons in history this year, winning only one of 10 games. They tied two. He had a 13-25-2 record in his four seasons at WSC.

Kircher came here as an assistant to Forest Evashevski in 1950 and some regarded him as the "brains" of the strategy staff. When Evashevski quit two years later to go to Iowa, he wanted to take Kircher with him.

Always Popular

But Kircher, the near unanimous choice of alumni and school officials, agreed to the urging

and stayed here. He was always popular but he never had a winning season.

"It was a hard decision to release a perfect gentleman like Al Kircher and his assistants," the WSC statement said. "However, we believe circumstances dictate that we employ a new football coaching staff."



AL KIRCHER

"Didn't have the horses"

Kircher wasn't immediately available for comment. His home said he wasn't expected until late Monday night.

Evashevski had a fine 7-3 record his last year here and Kircher was more or less on the spot the next fall with most of that team back. But 1952 was a bitter disappointment with a 4-6 mark and it never got better.

Split-T Falls Too

Kircher switched from the single wing to the split-T this fall but it never jelled. WSC lost 50-12 to Southern California in the opener, then lost 13-0 to lowly Kansas and was swamped at home 55-0 by UCLA.

Red Sanders, the Bruin coach,

said after that thumping that Kircher "just" didn't have the horses."

The Cougars' only victory this season was a hard-fought 9-0 decision over Idaho, a team that beat WSC last fall for the first time in 29 years.

"No Hurry"

Officials said nothing has been done about a successor, that "we're in no great hurry and want to make sure the man will fit the WSC athletic picture."

Names that have been thrown around during the season include Johnny Lujack, the former Notre Dame All-America now an assistant with the Chicago Bears, and a raft of Washington high school coaches.

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