

UP Board Favors USF To Lead Hoop Picture

NEW YORK (UP)—The University of San Francisco's defending NCAA basketball champions, led by All-American Bill Russell, were picked today by an overwhelming vote of the United Press Board of Coaches to lead the national title race again.

In a near-unanimous display of sentiment, 33 of the 35 outstanding coaches who will rate the college basketball teams weekly for the United Press during the coming season voted Phil Woolpert's Dons as the best bet for 1955-56.

North Carolina State was the top pre-season choice of one coach and St. Louis University was selected

by another. Of the two coaches who did not vote for San Francisco one picked the West Coast Dons third and the other seventh. On a point basis, that gave San Francisco 342 out of a possible total of 350.

TOP TEAM
San Francisco was picked as the nation's No. 1 team last season after winning 23 out of 24 games during the regular campaign. The Dons then lived up to their top ranking by winning the NCAA championship at Kansas City, beating LaSalle in the final, 77-63.

Kentucky, which has a perennial basketball powerhouse under Coach Adolph Rupp, was picked as the No. 2 team in the coaches' pre-season lineup, followed by Utah, North Carolina State and Iowa. Dayton was picked No. 6; Illinois and UCLA were tied for seventh, with Duquesne's 1955 National Invitation Tournament champions ninth and George Washington 10th.

According to these pre-season ratings, here are the teams the coaches expect to win the major conference championships:

Southeastern — Kentucky.
Skyline — Utah.
Atlantic Coast — North Carolina State.

Big Ten — Iowa.
Pacific Coast — UCLA.
Southern — George Washington.

Missouri Valley — St. Louis.
Southwest — Southern Methodist.

Big Seven — Kansas.
Ivy — Princeton.

SEVEN REPEATERS
Of this pre-season's top 10 teams seven were in the select group last season. They were San Francisco and Kentucky, which were 1-2; Utah (fourth), Iowa (fifth), North Carolina State (sixth), Duquesne (seventh) and Dayton (10th). LaSalle, the NCAA runner-up which lost both All-American Tom Gola and Coach Ken Loeffler after earning the No. 3 ranking last season, was among the also-rans.

Holy Cross, New England's leading hope for national prominence, was picked No. 11, followed in order by Marquette, Fordham, Washington and Alabama. St. Louis and Indiana were tied for 16th; Oregon State and Southern Methodist tied for 18th and Kansas was 20th.

Up front, Gene Cronin, Most Valuable Player at College of the Pacific, will be at guard and 230-pound Forrest Gregg of SMU, heaviest on the squad, at tackle.

Helping Hill in picking the team were assistants Dal Ward of Colorado and Len Casanova of Oregon.

The seven picked in the NFL draft are fullback Henry Moore of Arkansas by New York; Preston Carpenter, Arkansas halfback, by Cleveland; Gregg, Green Bay; Roach, Chicago Cards; and A. D. Williams of COR, Green Bay and traded to Los Angeles; end Menan Schriever of Texas, Chicago Bears; and end Leon Clarke of USC, Detroit and traded to Los Angeles.

The squad has nine Coast Conference players, including three each from Stanford and USC.

Profits of the Dec. 31 game go to the Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children. All 61,000 tickets for the game were sold by early October.

Others on the West squad include: Guards: Orlando Ferrante, Southern California; Tony Mosienko, Stanford; Vaughan Hitchcock, Washington State.

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Sports World Shorts

Ameche, Graham Top Pros

PHILADELPHIA (UP)—The individual passing and rushing races remained unchanged after the 10th round of play in the National Football League but the pass reception championship is a wide open scramble.

Rookie Alan Ameche of Baltimore clung to the rushing lead today with 867 yards in 183 carries, a total of 99 yards more than second place Howie Ferguson of Green Bay.

Otto Graham of the Cleveland Browns, who held the passing lead by a fraction of an inch over Ed Brown of the Chicago Bears last week, widened his gap as a result of a brilliant performance against the New York Giants. Graham held a 9.36-yard average gain for each of the 148 passes he threw. Brown had an 8.65-yard average for 143.

Billy Wilson of San Francisco took the completion lead with a total of 44 for 728 yards. Wilson, co-champion last year, was tied for fourth last week.

In the reception shuffle, Tom Fears of Los Angeles, was bumped out of first place with 43 completions, and 1954 co-champion Pete Plos of the Philadelphia Eagles jumped from seventh into a third place tie with Dave Middleton of Detroit, each with 41.

Harlon Hill of the Bears, fifth in pass receptions with 39, leads in touchdowns with eight and in yards gained with 741.

Fred Morrison of the Browns ranked third in rushing, with defending champion Joe Perry of San Francisco fourth and Frank Rogel of Pittsburgh fifth.

Bobby Thomson of the Eagles stepped into third place in the passing race, pushing Y. A. Tittle of the Forty-Niners to fourth. Tittle and Tobin Rote of Green Bay lead in touchdown passes with 14 each, and Jim Pinks of Pittsburgh leads in yards gained with 2,004.

Doak Walker of Detroit, with 87 points, held a six-point lead over Vic Janowicz of Washington in scoring, and Norm Van Brocklin continued as the leading punter with a 44.8 average, a mark of 1.3 yards better than second place Adrian Burk of the Eagles.

Ollie Matson of the Chicago Cardinals moved up front in punt returns; Al Carmichael of Green Bay is the leader in kickoff returns and Willard Sherman of Los Angeles leads in interceptions with nine.

PRO BASKETBALL
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Tuesday's Results
Boston 105, Syracuse 97
Fort Wayne 104, New York 99
St. Louis 108, Philadelphia 95

Tony Vlastelica, Tex. Whitman, Ron Robins and Bill Toole and other veterans were on the alumni squad, which played a team made up of forwards Dave Gambee and Larry Paulus, center Phil Shadoin and guards Ken Nanson and Jerry Crimmins.

Oregon State opens against Oregon Friday night.

MOSCOW, Idaho (A)—Sophomore forward Jack Mitchell pured in 22 points for scoring honors to pace the Idaho varsity to a 78-65 basketball win over the Vandal Frosh in a pre-season game here Tuesday night.

PORTLAND (A)—Thaddeus B. Bruno Tuesday was sworn in as a new member of the Exposition-Recreation Commission, the city agency which is to select the site for Portland's eight million dollar sports center.

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Reports Say Nashua To Go On Sale Block

NEW YORK (UP)—Despite a denial by an executor of the estate, there were persistent reports Wednesday that Belair Stud, including the great Nashua and other race horses of the late William Woodward Jr., valued at \$5 million dollars, will be put up for auction within 90 days.

Several New York newspapers published the report with The Daily Mirror stating that the familiar red and white polka dot colors of the Belair Stud, under which two generations of the Woodward family raced their thoroughbreds, would be retired.

The Mirror story, under the by-line of sports editor Dan Parker, said the decision had been reached by executors of the estate left by Woodward, a prominent sportsman-socialite who was shot to death accidentally by his wife last Oct. 30.

John W. Ludewig, one of the executors, denied the report, however.

"Everyone is free to speculate, of course," he said. "But no decision has been made in the matter."

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