

# SPORTING GREEN

Thursday, January 3, 1985

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San Francisco Chronicle

## Polls Close: BYU Is No. 1

By David Bush

Brigham Young University, whose relatively soft schedule was criticized by many, nonetheless impressed enough voters with its 13-0 record, including a victory in the Holiday Bowl, to be named the No. 1 football team in the nation in the final polls conducted by both wire services yesterday.

The Cougars, who have won 24 consecutive games, thus became the first team from the Western Athletic Conference to win the national championship.

Washington, which defeated then-second-ranked Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, finished a close second in both polls.

In the Associated Press poll of writers and broadcasters, BYU re-

ceived 38 of 60 first-place votes and picked up 1160 points, 20 more than Washington, which had 16 first-place votes. The 20-point margin was the closest since AP began holding a poll after the bowl games in 1968. Florida, whose program is under NCAA investigation, received six first-place votes and finished third.

The United Press International panel of coaches awarded the Cougars 28 first-place votes and 579 points. Washington received 11 No. 1 votes and 561 points. Nebraska was voted third by the coaches, Florida seventh.

BYU coach LaVell Edwards, an assistant for Saturday's Shrine East-West game in Palo Alto, told a press conference that he felt his Cougars deserved the top ranking.

"I don't know if we're the best

team in the nation," he said. "But I'd like to line up and play anybody."

The critics said it was mainly nobody whom BYU played while rolling to its seventh straight WAC title, and Edwards, for one, grew weary of hearing that.

"The last month has been very draining and hectic," he said. "We got a little tired of having to defend our ranking. Parity has hit college football."

The Cougars took over the top spot in both polls after defeating Utah November 17 as top-ranked Nebraska was upset by Oklahoma.

"As long as we were ranked third or fourth, not much was said about our schedule and our conference," said Edwards. "It was when we got to be No. 1 that people said they'd better take a closer look. All

of a sudden, they had to have some credibility in picking No. 1."

In recounting his championship season, Edwards said he felt in spring practice that the 1984 Cougars might be ready for big things.

"We had lost a lot of outstanding players who had received all the press — Steve Young, Gordon Hudson, Todd Shell," said Edwards. "But we had a lot of offensive and defensive linemen coming back. About halfway through the spring it became apparent this group was a little different, that something special might happen."

The Cougars began the regular season unranked in both polls. "Some people had us third in our conference," said Edwards. "Playboy (magazine) picked us fifth or

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### THE TOP TWENTY

AP			UPI		
TEAM (1st-place votes)	REC.	PTS.	TEAM (1st-place votes)	REC.	PTS.
1. BYU (38)	13-0-0	1160	1. BYU (28)	13-0-0	579
2. Washington (16)	11-1-0	1140	2. Washington (11)	11-1-0	561
3. Florida (6)	9-1-1	1092	3. Nebraska	10-2-0	508
4. Nebraska	10-2-0	1017	4. Boston College	10-2-0	429
5. Boston College	10-2-0	932	5. Oklahoma St.	10-2-0	376
6. Oklahoma	9-2-1	883	6. Oklahoma	9-2-1	345
7. Oklahoma St.	10-2-0	864	7. Florida (1)	9-1-1	328
8. SMU	10-2-0	761	8. SMU	10-2-0	310
9. UCLA	9-3-0	613	9. USC	9-3-0	245
10. USC	9-3-0	596	10. UCLA	9-3-0	229
11. So. Carolina	10-2-0	557	11. Maryland	9-3-0	175
12. Maryland	9-3-0	552	12. Ohio State	9-3-0	166
13. Ohio State	9-3-0	497	13. So. Carolina	10-2-0	143
14. Auburn	9-4-0	432	14. Auburn	9-4-0	118
15. LSU	8-3-1	314	15. Iowa	7-4-1	73
16. Iowa	8-4-1	228	16. Louisiana St.	8-3-1	48
17. Florida St.	7-3-2	207	17. Virginia	8-2-2	45
18. Miami	8-5-0	166	18. West Virginia	8-4-0	34
19. Kentucky	9-3-0	152	19. Kentucky	9-3-0	28
20. Virginia	8-2-2	119	19. Florida St.	7-3-2	28

# 'Affair' Heads Invitational Weight List

Stretch-running Amanda's Affair has been assigned the highweight of 120 pounds for the \$40,000-added Spectacular Invitational Handicap Sunday at Bay Meadows.

The Spectacular, which is named for the California-bred dam of Spectacular Bid, is the second of two stakes to be contested this weekend at the San Mateo course. The Hail Hilarious Stakes, a six-furlong speed test for newly turned 3-year-old fillies, is Saturday.

Amanda's Affair has been asked to spot 28 other older fillies and mares from three to 14 pounds in the 1 1/16-mile Spectacular.

In her last start, Amanda's Affair came from 22 lengths back at the half-mile pole to score a half-length victory in the \$45,100 Merry Christmas Handicap.

**NOTES:** There will be a carryover of \$33,452 into the Pick Six pool when racing resumes today at 12:30 p.m. . . . Russell Baze, who due to illness was forced to take off his mounts Tuesday — including the victorious Shrapnel in the \$40,000-added Happy New Year Invitational Handicap — is expected back in action today. Baze wound up as the second-leading rider in North America for the 1984 season. He won 371 races, to 401 for Pat Day, who captured the title for the third consecutive year. Baze's mounts earned \$4.4 million in 1984, the first time a Northern California-based jockey has topped the \$4 million mark.

## World Cup Races Canceled — No Snow

### Salardu, Spain

Men's slalom and giant slalom events in the World Cup Alpine skiing scheduled to be held in the Baqueira Beret winter resort in northern Spain, Jan. 7-8, have been canceled because of lack of snow, the organizing committee said yesterday.

Associated Press

# BYU IS VOTED NO. 1

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sixth. But then, Provo has never been a big market for Playboy."

The Cougars defeated highly regarded Pittsburgh to open the season, a win Edwards felt was crucial to the eventual national title. "It was an early game (September 1) and the first chance for a lot of people in the East to see BYU. It was the first time we'd ever played back there."

After beating Baylor in the second game, the Cougars cracked the AP top 10. "Then we beat Tulsa and were No. 4, beat Hawaii and dropped to No. 8," said Edwards, pointing out some of the vagaries of polling.

Despite calling the polls "an inexact science," Edwards said he did not favor a national playoff system. He said it would detract from the bowls — "I think they have helped college football as much as anything" — and extend the season to unrealistic lengths. "These are students," he said.

He also said that even in a playoff some arbitrary selection process would be involved. "Who would you pick to be in the playoffs now?" he said.

Some BYU players who will participate in the Shrine game agreed with their coach that they deserved to be national champs.

"No team has ever been 13-0 in a season (actually, Nebraska was 13-0 in 1971)," said offensive tackle Louis Wong. "We earned it."

Defensive lineman Jim Hermann said, "It is the sign of a good team to win consistently and we have done it the last 24 weeks in a row. It was kind of frustrating this year to win by 20 and then feel we had to win by 40 to keep our ranking."

Washington coach Don James was philosophical about finishing second. "I'm willing to accept the vote," he said. "I believe in the system we've got."

One thing James doesn't believe in is Florida's receiving its first-place votes. "I don't think it's fair to the two teams (BYU and Washington) that have gotten to where they are," he said. "Here you have a school in absolute violation of the structure of the rules we're

supposed to live with. You give me a suitcase full of money and I can go out and develop a pretty good football team."

**NOTES:** The Football Writers Association and the National Football Foundation both agreed with the wire services and named BYU national champ, but the New York Times computer-rankings and the Sporting News went with Florida . . . BYU and Washington meet in Provo next year . . . The closest AP finish ever came in 1961, when Alabama was a 16-point victor over Ohio State . . . The highest previous finish by a WAC team was Arizona State's No. 2 ranking in 1975. Arizona State has since joined the Pac-10.

## Ice Postpones TCU-Houston Game

### Fort Worth, Texas

Texas Christian University's scheduled basketball game between the Horned Frogs and the Houston Cougars last night was postponed until tonight because of icy weather which struck the area New Year's Day.

The TCU-Houston game was one of four Southwest Conference opening contests scheduled last night. Spokesmen for other SWC schools indicated the rest of the league's games would take place as scheduled.

United Press

## Bucks' Nelson NBA Coach of Month

### New York

Milwaukee coach Don Nelson, whose team had an 11-4 record in December, yesterday was named National Basketball Association coach of the month.

The Bucks won eight straight during the month, including consecutive road games against Boston and Philadelphia, and finished the month with a 16-point victory over the defending NBA champion Celtics.

Nelson's team has the best defensive record in the league and leads the Central Division by five games.

Associated Press

### CONFERENCE

Pos	Pct.	GB.
11	.667	—
15	.516	5
15	.516	5
19	.406	8 1/2
22	.290	12
22	.214	13 1/2

### CONFERENCE

Pos	Pct.	GB.
6	.813	—
6	.806	1/2
13	.594	7
17	.469	11
22	.353	15

### KEY

### CONFERENCE

K DIVISION					
L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
10	7	51	160	118	
10	5	47	152	108	
15	1	41	174	146	
17	4	32	127	153	
19	5	29	129	151	
20	4	28	124	149	

### DIVISION

L	T	Pts	GF	GA
9	7	49	156	122
12	9	41	134	113
16	6	38	139	133
16	6	38	148	145
17	4	30	110	145

### CONFERENCE

S DIVISION					
L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
17	3	37	150	139	
15	5	35	130	135	
19	5	31	139	166	
19	6	30	128	148	
26	5	17	113	175	

### E DIVISION

L	T	Pts	GF	GA
7	4	54	186	117
15	3	43	188	151
15	4	42	156	153
14	8	38	163	149
25	5	21	120	208

### W's Results

Boston 1

Chicago 3

Day's Results

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