

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1985

Football's Summit Meeting

By The Associated Press

The first time a team ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll met the No. 2 team occurred in 1943, when service teams often appeared in the rankings and No. 1 Notre Dame edged No. 2 Iowa Pre-Flight, 14-13.

Another meeting of the top two will take place today, the 19th such game in the 50 years of the A.P. ranking. This time, it will be Iowa against Michigan at Iowa City. Both teams have 5-0 records.

Iowa is the highest-scoring team in the nation, averaging 44.2 points a game, and Michigan is the stingiest, yielding 4.2. The Wolverines have surrendered only one touchdown in five games. Iowa is the country's sixth-best passing team; its quarterback, Chuck Long, is third nationally in passing efficiency.

The Hawkeyes are sixth nationally in offense, averaging 469.8 yards a game, with Long completing 106 of 158 passes for 1,288 yards and 15 touchdowns, and Ronnie Harmon rushing for 512 yards in five games. Michigan is fourth nationally in total defense (220.0 yards a game), 12th against the rush (99.2) and eighth in passing defense (120.8).

'Life Will Continue'

"I've never been associated with a 1-2 game in the middle of the season," said Coach Hayden Fry of Iowa. "It's an important game, the biggest game of the week, but we don't want to put all our eggs in one basket. We have to be realistic. If we don't win, life will continue. I don't want our guys to think it's a matter of life and death. I'd hate to think the game has reached that point."

Schembechler agreed with Fry.

"The rankings are fun," he said. "They create interest and conversation in college football. But from a practical standpoint, they don't have a lot of meaning. This game is impor-

Iowa to Play Michigan

tant, but it will not make or break anyone."

In the last 1-2 pairing, No. 2 Penn State beat No. 1 Georgia, 27-23, in the Sugar Bowl to win the 1982 national championship. In the last such regular-season game, No. 1 Southern Cal edged No. 2 Oklahoma, 28-24, in 1981.

Over all, the No. 1 team has a 12-4-2 record.

Another major game today — Miami at Oklahoma — will involve two coaches who are members of the Arkansas Alumni Association: Jimmy Johnson of Miami and Barry Switzer of Oklahoma.

Two Previous Meetings

Oklahoma and Miami have met only twice, with Oklahoma winning both times, 24-20 in 1973 and 20-17 in 1975.

"This is our toughest test so far," Switzer said of Miami (4-1), which ranks fourth nationally in total of-

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Isles and Rangers Face Off Tonight

By CRAIG WOLFF

The Rangers and the Islanders returned from the West Coast with much of the optimism that goes with a new season still intact, but whatever fantasy thoughts they had of a smooth, easy ride were left behind.

The Rangers lost their third straight game, to the Los Angeles Kings in Inglewood, Calif., Wednesday night. It was the same team the Islanders had beaten in their season opener before losing in Vancouver and Edmonton. And tonight, the Rangers and the Islanders meet at the Nassau Coliseum for the first time this season, two teams trying to turn corners in what is for each a transition year.

"We know now we're going to have trouble at the beginning," said Barry Beck, the Ranger captain, "but no

Both Teams Struggling

one's worried. There are too many good signs."

For their 81st regular-season meeting with the Rangers and for their 1985-86 home opener, the Islanders will have the veteran Billy Smith in goal and the Rangers will play Terry Kleisinger, who started once last week, in the overtime loss to the Devils. Over the years, the Islanders have won 41 times and lost 37 in the ri-

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fense (488.2 yards a game) and sixth in scoring (36.2). "Miami has an excellent team, with some of the best skill people in the nation."

Referring to the quarterback Vinny Testaverde and the tight end Willie Smith, Switzer added, "We have not been tested with the kind of passing attack we will see."

Both teams will be without key defensive performers. Oklahoma lost the all-America nose guard Tony Cassillas with a knee injury in last week's 14-7 victory over Texas, and the Miami end Kevin Fagan is doubtful

with an injured hip.

At Birmingham, Ala., Tennessee (2-1-1) will face Alabama (4-1). After winning 11 consecutive games from Tennessee, Alabama lost the last three. Tennessee's defensive coordinator, Ken Donahue, in his first season there, had worked in the same capacity at Alabama the previous 21 years.

In South Bend, Ind., Army (5-0) will play Notre Dame (1-3). Notre Dame has beaten Army nine consecutive times by a combined score of 354-16.

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