

THE MAJOR BOWL GAMES

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If Penn State, undefeated and ranked No. 1, wins the Orange Bowl Wednesday night, the issue of who is No. 1 for this season will be settled. But if the Nittany Lions lose to heavily favored Oklahoma, there will be a scramble for the final top ranking in the news-agency polls that will become public midday Thursday.

Penn State, which gained its first final No. 1 ranking for the 1982 season, will get unanimous endorsement as the No. 1 team if it wins the Orange Bowl.

Oklahoma, ranked second by United Press International and third by The Associated Press, expects to be No. 1 if it beats Penn State. But there is a big blemish on the Sooners' record: the one loss was administered by Miami, 27-14, at Norman, Okla., last Oct. 19.

Miami, which has won 10 consecutive games since losing its opener to Florida by 35-23 last Sept. 7, claims it should be No. 1 if it beats Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl and if Oklahoma wins the Orange Bowl. Miami is ranked second by A.P. and fourth by U.P.I.

Then there is Iowa out in the Rose Bowl. The once-beaten Hawkeyes are probably not serious contenders for No. 1, but they may get a lot of votes if they beat U.C.L.A. in the Rose Bowl and Penn State loses.

Texas A&M and Auburn, the Cotton Bowl foes, cannot be No. 1; nor can Michigan and Nebraska, the Fiesta Bowl teams.

Should Oklahoma, Miami and Iowa all win, there may be the first split in the news-agency rankings since the 1978 final polls when Alabama was A.P.'s No. 1 choice and Southern Cal was U.P.I.'s selection.

Following is a look at the major bowls: Orange Bowl Penn State (11-0) vs. Oklahoma (10-1) Kickoff: 8 P.M., at Miami, NBC-TV Ranking: Penn State - A.P. 1; U.P.I. 1; The New York Times Computer 1. Oklahoma - A.P. 3; U.P.I. 2; The Times 3. U.C.L.A.- A.P. 14; U.P.I. Coaches: Penn State - Joe Paterno. Oklahoma - Barry Switzer. UU PLAYERS TO WATCH Penn State - Offense: (10) Massimo Manca, PK; (14) John Shaffer, QB; (33) Steve Smith, FB; (42) D. J. Dozier, TB; (44) Tim Manoa, FB; (56) Keith Radecic, C; (63) Todd Moules, G. Defense: (31) Shane Conlan, OLB; (43) Michael Zordich, Hero; (65) Rogers Alexander, ILB.

Oklahoma - Offense: (4) Jamelle Holieway, QB; (20) Spencer Tillman, LHB; (31) Tim Lashar, PK; (45) Lydell Carr, FB; (63) Eric Pope, LT; (68) Anthony Phillips, RT; (88) Keith Jackson, TE. Defense: (8) Sonny Brown, SS; (39) Kevin Murphy, RE; (40) Darrell Reed, LE; (44) Brian Bosworth, SLB; (92) Tony Casillas, NG.

UU ANALYSIS No team has been the consensus No. 1 choice twice in four seasons or less since Oklahoma in 1955 and 1956. Penn State, which was the consensus No. 1 in 1982, can match the Oklahoma feat if it wins. But this undefeated Penn State team is still too suspect enough to be the underdog. The Nittany Lions struggled through their first six games, which they won by an average of 4 points, taking three by 2 points. Then they began to roll but never against a defense like Oklahoma's.

John Shaffer, the junior quarterback, has completed only 45.2 percent of his passes and will be going against the nation's No. 1 passing defense that allowed 43.7 percent completions and 103.6 yards a game. But Shaffer is a winner: He has won 54 consecutive starts since he was in the seventh grade. The last 13 are Penn State starts. D. J. Dozier, the junior tailback, apparently is no longer bothered by the separated elbow suffered in the finale last Nov. 23 at Pitt. Joe Paterno, finishing his 20th season as coach, stresses that his defense won the close games this season. Penn State's hopes may depend upon how Keith Radecic, the senior center, handles Tony Casillas, the unanimous all-America nose guard, and how the Penn State's alternating fullbacks, Steve Smith and Tim Manoa, block the excellent linebackers such as Brian Bosworth, also an all-American.

The Oklahoma coach, Barry Switzer, has one of the best defenses in recent seasons. It leads the country in total defense, allowing an average 193.5 yards a game; is first in pass defense and is second in scoring defense, permitting 8.5 points a game. Besides Casillas and Bosworth, Kevin Murphy, the right end, is also a standout.

Oklahoma runs from the traditional wishbone that is smoothly directed by a freshman, Jamelle Holieway, who took over when Troy Aikman suffered a broken ankle against Miami in the fourth game. The Sooners are the No. 3 nationally in rushing, averaging 335.8 yards a game, with fast running backs and trick plays. Look out for that end-round with the tight end Keith Jackson. It was the play that helped defeat Nebraska, 27-7. Sugar Bowl Miami (10-1) vs. Tennessee (8-1-2) Kickoff: 8 P.M. E.S.T., at New Orleans, ABC-TV. Ranking: Miami - A.P. 2; U.P.I. 4; The Times 2. Tennessee - A.P. 8; U.P.I. 8; The Times 16. Coaches: Miami - Jimmy Johnson. Tennessee - Johnny Majors. UU PLAYERS TO WATCH Miami - Offense: (14) Vinny Testaverde, QB; (24) Warren Williams, HB; (30) Alonzo Highsmith, FB; (47) Mike Irvin, FL; (74) Gregg Rakoczy, C; (84) Willie Smith, TE. Defense: (32) Selwyn Brown, SS; (45) George Mira Jr., MLB; (92) Winston Moss, SLB; (98)

Jerome Brown, T. Tennessee - Offense: (11) Daryl Dickey, QB; (28) Keith Davis, TB; (68) Bruce Wilkerson, T; (88) Tim McGee, WR; (92) Carlos Reveiz, PK. Defense: (7) Chris White, SS; (45) Darrin Miller, LB; (49) Kelly Ziegler, ILB; (54) Dale Jones, OLB. UU ANALYSIS Miami, playing its third consecutive New Year's Day bowl game, has a chance to finish No. 1 if it beats Tennessee and Oklahoma beats Penn State. Two years ago Miami was also once-beaten when it upset Nebraska in the Orange Bowl to wrest the final No. 1 ranking from Nebraska.

The Hurricanes depend upon Vinny Testavarde, the redshirt junior from Elmont, L.I., who succeeded Bernie Kosar. Testavarde was sixth in the nation in pass efficiency and fourth in total offense with 3,238 yards passing and 21 touchdowns passing and four running. Two touchdowns were long passes at Oklahoma. Coach Jimmy Johnson's rushing offense uses nine players and has produced 22 touchdowns. The Miami defense has 40 sacks and has allowed only 2.8 yards a rush. If the game is close at halftime, the Hurricanes will prevail. They have a 244-64 scoring advantage in the second half.

Tennessee, one of the big surprises of the season, is making its first Sugar Bowl appearance as Southeastern Conference champion since the 1971 game and only its second since the 1957 game, when Johnny Majors, now the coach, was Tennessee's all-America halfback. The Volunteers started this season with one of the nation's finest quarterbacks, Tony Robinson, then lost him to a serious knee injury in the fifth game last Oct. 19. Then Daryl Dickey, a fifth-year senior, did the unexpected and directed the Volunteers through five consecutive victories and the S.E.C. title. Dickey is the son of Doug Dickey, the Tennessee athletic director who was the former Tennessee and Florida coach.

The Tennessee defense, which was the poorest in the S.E.C. in 1984, became the best in 1985. The turnaround happened because Majors hired Ken Donohue as the defensive coach. Donohue, also a former Tennessee player, had been Alabama's defensive assistant for 20 years. The Volunteers allowed only seven touchdowns in their last eight games. Cotton Bowl Auburn (8-3) vs. Texas A&M (9-2) Kickoff: 1:30 P.M. E.S.T., at Dallas, CBS-TV Ranking: Auburn - A.P. 16; U.P.I. 15; The Times 8. Texas A&M - A.P. 11; U.P.I. 11; The Times 6. Coaches: Auburn - Pat Dye. Texas A&M - Jackie Sherrill. UU PLAYERS TO WATCH Auburn - Offense: (30) Tommie Agee, FB; (22) Brent Fullwood, TB; (34) Bo Jackson, TB; (55) Ben Tamburello, C. Defense: (5) Lewis Colbert, P; (9) Tom Powell, FS; (74) Tracy Rocker, T; (98) Gerald Williams, T.

Texas A&M - Offense: (8) Jeff Nelson, FL; (14) Kevin Murray, QB; (25) Anthony Toney, FB; (43) Roger Vick, FB; (75) Doug Williams, T. Defense: (6) Domingo Bryant, SS; (11) Johnny Holland, LB; (73) Todd Howard, LB; (99) Rod Saddler, E. UU ANALYSIS UU ANALYSIS Auburn, making its first Cotton Bowl appearance, is led by this season's Heisman Trophy winner, Bo Jackson. However, this was not exactly what the Tigers had in mind when they started the season. They were favored to win the Southeastern Conference, play in the Sugar Bowl and possibly win the final No. 1 ranking. That is out of reach for both Auburn and Texas A&M, so it is a game for pride.

Jackson, the tailback, is the premier player to watch. But this team is blessed with one of the finest backup tailbacks, Brent Fullwood. Both may have to perform at their best to give Auburn its fourth consecutive bowl victory.

Auburn has no place-kicking threat, but has the punter with the best average in the New Year's Day bowls in Lewis Colbert. He is the No. 4 in the nation averaging 45.8 yards a kick and has put the ball inside the 5-yard line seven times this season.

Texas A&M reached one of the goals it set when it hired Jackie Sherrill four years ago by winning the Southwest Conference championship and getting to the Cotton Bowl for the first time since the 1968 game. The next goal will be the final No. 1 ranking, but that must wait until another season. The Aggies have a young team, led offensively by Kevin Murray, a sophomore quarterback, and defensively by one of its six starting seniors, the safety Domingo Bryant. Texas A&M led the S.W.C. in both offense and defense. Murray passed for 1,965 yards and 13 touchdowns, and Anthony Toney and Roger Vick, the two fullbacks who split the work, combined for 20 touchdowns. Rose Bowl Iowa (10-1) vs. U.C.L.A. (8-2-1) Kickoff: 5 P.M. E.S.T., at Pasadena, Calif., NBC-TV. Ranking: Iowa - A.P. 4; U.P.I. 3; The Times 7. U.C.L.A. - A.P. 13; U.P.I. 13; The Times 27. Coaches: Iowa - Hayden Fry. U.C.L.A. - Terry Donahue. UU PLAYERS TO WATCH Iowa - Offense: (7) Rob Houghtlin, PK; (16) Chuck Long, QB; (31) Ronnie Harmon, RB; (40) Bill Happel, SE; (79) Mike Haight, T. Defense: (21) Devon Mitchell, FS; (36) Larry Station, LB; (50) Hap Peterson, NG; (76) Jeff Drost, T. U.C.L.A. - Offense: (9) David Norrie, QB; (25) John Lee, PK; (44) Gaston Green, TB; (63) Mike Hartmeier, G; (82) Mike Sherrard, SE. Defense: (3) Jamie Washington, FS; (40) Terry Tumej, NG; (42) Tommy Taylor, LB; (95) Mark Walen, RT. UU ANALYSIS Iowa will try to snap the Big Ten's four-game losing streak in the Rose Bowl. Pacific-10 teams have won 14 of the last 16 Rose Bowl games.

The favored Hawkeyes are led by Chuck Long, the quarterback who was the runner-up to Bo Jackson in the closest Heisman Trophy voting ever. Long did win the Maxwell Trophy, awarded by the Philadelphia club to the best college player in the nation. This season Long completed 231 passes for 2,978 yards and 26 touchdowns. Had it not been for rain, Ohio State playing at home, and Long's one offday of the season, Iowa might be undefeated and No. 1 with Long having won the the Heisman.

Ronnie Harmon, Iowa's leading rushing back with 1,111 yards, will face the best rushing defense in the nation that allowed only 70.3 yards a game. But Iowa is the nation's second-highest scoring team with 37.5 points a game.

U.C.L.A. slipped into the Rose Bowl after it seemingly was eliminated by the upset loss to Southern Cal but got a reprieve when Arizona upset Arizona State. But that has been typical of some recent Pac-10 champions. Even though David Norrie of U.C.L.A. is not rated as highly as Long, he connected on 63.55 percent of his passes and ranked 11th in passing efficiency. Gaston Green, the U.C.L.A. tailback, is also not rated as highly as Harmon. But despite missing four games after a midseason knee injury, Green has 666 yards this season. The Bruins also have John Lee, the all-America place-kicker, whose counterpart is Rob Houghtlin. The Bruins were the nation's 14th-highest scoring team with 28.9 points a game. Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Michigan (9-1-1) vs. Nebraska (9-2) Kickoff: 1:30 P.M. E.S.T., at Tempe, Ariz., NBC-TV. Ranking: Michigan - A.P. 5; U.P.I. 5. Times 4. Nebraska - A.P. 7; U.P.I. 6; Times 15. Coaches: Michigan - Bo Schembechler. Nebraska - Tom Osborne. UU PLAYERS TO WATCH Michigan - Offense: (4) Jim Harbaugh, QB; (19) Mike Gillette, PK; (23) Jamie Morris, TB; (79) Clay Miller, T; (81) Eric Kattus, TE. Defense: (30) Brad Cochran, CB; (42) Mike Mallory, LB; (49) Andy Moeller, LB; (66) Mike Hammerstein, T. Nebraska - Offense: (1) Dale Klein, PK; (22) Doug DuBose, TB; (26) Tom Rathman, FB; (68) Bill Lewis, C; (70) Brian Blankenship, G. Defense: (5) Brian Washington, Rover back; (19) Bryan Siebler, S; (32) Brian Davis, CB; (95) Danny Noonan, MG; (96) Jim Skow, T. UU ANALYSIS Michigan may present Nebraska with the same difficulties the Cornhuskers encountered

at Oklahoma - a defense that is hard to budge. The Wolverines are in the Fiesta Bowl largely because they kept players such as Lorenzo White of Michigan State to fewer than 50 yards rushing and contained the passing of Jack Trudeau of Illinois and Jim Everett of Purdue.

Mike Hammerstein, a unanimous all-America selection at tackle, leads the defense that turned a 6-6 team into the surprise of the Big Ten. The offense is led by Jim Harbaugh, who was No. 1 in the nation in passing efficiency. The senior from California has a 12-2-1 record in games he finished without injury. A broken leg was the worst of his injuries. Bo Schembechler may have done his best coaching job in the 17 seasons. The Wolverines were not ranked in the preseason news-agency polls.

Nebraska can run as it has in the past. Doug DuBose, the latest of the fine tailbacks, is ninth in the country in rushing. He is the spark of this attack that is tops in the land in rushing yardage and second in total offense. This is the fourth time in the last six seasons that Nebraska has led the nation in rushing offense. Nebraska, however, does not have a passing attack. Yet Nebraska had more than 50 points in each of three games this season and went over 40 points five times to finish the regular season averaging 36.2 points a game. That is a formidable challenge for any defense - even Michigan's, which was the stingiest team in the nation, giving up only 6.8 points a game.

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