

## UCLA top team in BCS poll

The Associated Press - The No. 1 team in the nation is No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

The BCS brought the computer age to college football Monday, releasing its first standings with UCLA at No. 1 and Ohio State No. 2.

Since the preseason, Ohio State (7-0) has been an overwhelming No. 1 choice in The Associated Press' media poll and the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll. UCLA (6-0) has been No. 2 in the polls the past three weeks.

The BCS will list 20 teams in its standings each week, assigning a point

total based on the averages of each of the four categories. The team with the lowest point totals is rated highest.

UCLA leads the standings with a 3.04 point total - two points for poll average, one for computer average, 0.04 for strength of schedule and zero for losses. Ohio State has 4.31 points - one for poll average, 2.67 for computer average, 0.64 for strength of schedule and zero for losses.

Tennessee was third, followed by Kansas State, Florida State, Nebraska, Florida, Texas A&M, Wisconsin and Penn State.

## Backups key in Big 12

### Four starting QBs fall to injuries

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Bledsoe, however, wasn't as effective as KU backup Jay Alexander. Bledsoe finished 3 for 9 for 21 yards. Bledsoe was also sacked six times, the only sacks by the Jayhawk defense in the game.

"It's a position that has a bulls-eye on it's back, Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel said. "Defenses are not trying to hurt the quarterback, but they are certainly trying to get pressure and try to break down the rhythm of a particular play."

Along with the two quarterbacks in the Kansas-Colorado game, Nebraska quarterback Bobby Newcombe and Kansas State quarterback Michael Bishop were also unable to finish games because of injuries.

Although it appears that defenses are headhunting for quarterbacks, Big 12 coaches say that's not the case. Coaches said defenses have changed their schemes to put more pressure on quarterbacks.

Gone are the days of defenses sitting back and allowing offenses to control the tempo. Texas Coach Mack Brown said defenses are now more aggressive, often placing nine guys at the line of scrimmage forcing teams to become one dimensional.

"(Quarterback is) a position that has a bullseye on its back."

RICK NEUHEISEL  
Colorado coach

"After they become one dimensional, they blitz the quarterback and get a lot more pressure on the quarterback than they used to," Brown said. "Quarterbacks are now taking a lot more hits than they used to, and defenses have been better than they've ever been."

Brown had an early lesson this year about the need for a strong backup quarterback. Starting quarterback Richard Walton was injured in the second game of the year against UCLA, forcing backup Major Applewhite to take over the duties.

"You better get a number two quarterback ready to play," Brown said. "You have to be real lucky to get through the year with your number one quarterback on every play."

## OSU leader in Big 12 poll

From Staff Reports

There's a new king at the preseason Coaches' Poll for men's basketball in the Big 12 Conference.

Oklahoma State edged out Kansas 117 to 115 for first place in the preseason poll. The Cowboys had seven first place votes to the Jayhawks' five.

Nebraska was selected seventh in the poll by the coaches, behind OSU, KU, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas State.

Senior forward Venson Hamilton was selected to the first-team All-Big 12 team. Hamilton, a senior from Forest City, N.C., averaged 11.2 points and 9.8 rebounds per game last season. He is joined by Big 12 preseason player-of-the-year choice Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma State.

Also on the team is Iowa State forward Marcus Fizer, OSU guard Desmond Mason, KSU guard Manny Dies, Texas guard Kris Clack and Texas forward Chris Mihm.

The preseason newcomer of the year is Victor Avila, a junior college transfer for Oklahoma. The freshman-of-the-year choice is Kenyon Drolling, a 6-foot-3 guard playing for Missouri. He's from Dillard High School from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

## Auburn coach's exit is scrutinized

### Athletic director says Bowden was not forced to quit

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - Terry Bowden says Auburn Athletic Director David Houzel told him there was "virtually no way" Bowden could save his job as head football coach, prompting his resignation.

Bowden, according to a story Monday in The Birmingham News, had no choice but to quit, even though Houzel urged him to stay on through the end of the season.

"I was going to wait as long as I could to see if maybe my athletic director or president could work something out," Bowden said.

"They knew we were in dire straits. They knew saying, 'We want you to stay' is not the same thing as 'We think there is a way you can stay after the season.' And that is what I was facing."

Houzel has denied that Bowden was forced out.

The coach's resignation was announced Friday, on the eve of the Tigers' game against Louisiana Tech, and Bowden informed his players in an emotional address that night.

"I felt like I left honorably," Bowden said.

Bowden came under increasing criticism this season as the Tigers slipped to 1-5 record. He said media reports about his future caused the

"I was going to wait as long as I could to see if maybe my athletic director or president could work something out."

TERRY BOWDEN  
former Auburn coach

dam to break last week.

"On Monday, there was an article (in The Huntsville Times) discussing that I didn't have the full support of our trustees, and I definitely had to win both nonconference games and two out of the three conference games or I would be fired," Bowden said. "I was not reading articles, but I began to hear about it."

Houzel called the next day to arrange a meeting on Wednesday morning.

"He felt I should know something, based on his understanding, that it was much more serious than what the article said, and there was virtually no way I could save my job at the end of the year," Bowden said.

Bowden said he asked Houzel what he should do.

"Terry, you can fight this. You

can fight this," Bowden said Houzel told him. "Do the best you can."

Bowden said he phoned university President William Muse, who, like Houzel, encouraged him not to quit. Later, Bowden said, he telephoned influential trustee Bobby Lowder to tell him he planned to resign.

Bowden, who has posted a 47-17-1 record at Auburn, said he had little choice but to step down.

"It was to the paper first," he said. "Therefore, the staff morale and the morale of the team was affected before I was aware of it."

"I really felt I wanted so bad to go out a winner, but if the very first there was a mention of it was in Huntsville this week, it would be in Birmingham next week. This public debate would be so cruel that the young men would have no chance to focus on the game."

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