## UCLA top team in BCS poll

team in the nation is No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

The BCS brought the computer

age to college football Monday, releas-

ing 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

The Associated Press - The No. 1 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

## 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

"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 par-

Along with the two quarterbacks the Kansas-Colorado game, Nebraska quarterback Bobby Newcombe and Kansas State quarter-back 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.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) -Terry Bowden says Auburn Athletic

Bowden, according to a story Monday in The Birmingham News, had no choice but to quit, even though

"I was going to wait as long as I could to see if maybe my athletic

They knew we were in dire

Housel urged him to stay on through

director or president could work something out," Bowden said.

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."
Housel has denied that Bowden

announced Friday, on the eve of the

Tigers' game against Louisiana Tech,

and Bowden informed his players in

"I felt like I left honorably,"

Bowden came under increasing

criticism this season as the Tigers

slipped to 1-5 record. He said media

an emotional address that night.

The coach's resignation was

Director David Housel told him there was "virtually no way" Bowden could save his job as head football coach,

prompting his resignation.

the end of the season.

was forced out.

Bowden said.

(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 then 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."

Auburn coach's exit is scrutinized

## **OSU** leader in Big 12 poll

From Staff Reports

There's a new king at the presea-son Coaches' Poll for men's basket-ball 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 forward 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 Drooling, a 6-foot-3 guard playing for Missouri. He's from Dillard High School from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

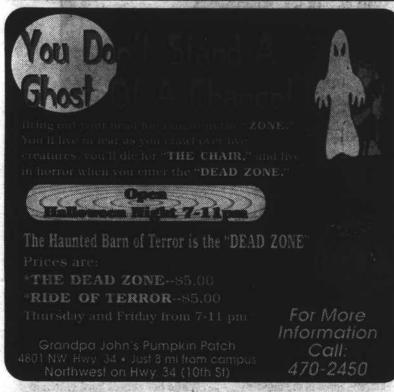


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Athletic director says Bowden was not forced to quit I was going to wait as long as I could to see if maybe my athletic director or president

> TERRY BOWDEN former Auburn coach

could work something out."

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."

Housel called the next day to arrange a meeting on Wednesday

"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 Housel what he should do.

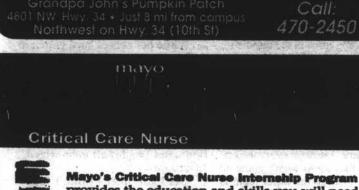
can fight this," Bowden said Housel told him. "Do the best you can."

Bowden said he phoned university President William Muse, who, like Housel, 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



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