

Golf team ranked 14th

From staff reports

Being second-best isn't all bad; just ask the Nebraska men's golf team.

After its second-place finish at the Big 12 Championships earlier this week, the Huskers were rewarded for their play by jumping one spot in the latest MasterCard/CFG rankings from No. 15 to No. 14.

Defeated by Kansas by two strokes on its home course, the

Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kan., Nebraska had its best finish at the conference meet since it won the 1937 Big Six title.

Georgia, UNLV and Clemson hold the top three spots with Big 12 Conference foes Oklahoma State (sixth), Texas (eighth), Oklahoma (22nd) and Kansas (30th) also rated in the top 30 teams.

In the individual rankings, Georgia Tech's Bryce Molder holds the top spot, but NU senior Jamie

Rogers moved up one spot No. 48, thanks to his even-par second place finish at the conference meet. Another senior on the squad, Steve Friesen, managed to hold onto the 51st ranking with his fourth-place finish at the meet.

The Huskers won't be in action again until they head to the Perry Maxwell Invitational in Norman, Okla., on May 15-16 to tune up for the NCAA Central Regional in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-21.

Bowden enjoying life after Auburn football

AUBURN, Ala. — Terry Bowden's house is tucked into woods on a hill overlooking a pond. His Labradors, Shug and Bear Bryant, roam the yard. His five young children rule the home.

Even without football, life is good.

Six months after abruptly walking away from his job as head football coach at Auburn, Bowden is sticking around town, living only a few miles from Jordan-Hare Stadium, and enjoying it.

He ignored father Bobby Bowden's advice to "get out of town." He and his wife, Shyrl, stayed put, kept their five children in Auburn's public schools and together coach their daughters' softball team.

Shyrl, for a change, is the head coach in the house.

"I am no longer depressed or demoralized like I was back in October and November," said Bowden, the bust of Bear Bryant for his 1993 Coach of the Year award on his desk.

"Right now, Shyrl and I are as excited as we can be about the future, because there are so many possibilities. And we think time will erase the bitterness."

It's already faded among Auburn residents, with whom he mingles at church, on errands and at his kids' school functions.

"I don't perceive anybody wishing he'll get out of town or thinking badly about him," says Barry McKnight, host of a Montgomery sports radio show who lives in Auburn. "I think a lot of people are kind of proud he thinks enough about this town that he's sticking around."

Bowden took over the Tigers in 1993 and won his first 20 games.

He also won the Southeastern Conference Western Division title in 1997.

But the injury-riddled Tigers started 1-5 last season and Bowden's job security soon became an issue. He has

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TERRY BOWDEN
Former Auburn football coach

said Auburn athletic director David Houzel told him there was little to do to save his job and that powerful trustee Bobby Lowder was behind the decision.

Both have denied the claims. Regardless, Bowden left. He walked away the night before the Tigers played Louisiana Tech.

"You can debate ad nauseum why I left, how I left, whose fault it was," says Bowden, who wound up 47-17-1 in 5½ seasons.

"I'm very comfortable right now looking back and saying to my friends at Auburn, 'Didn't we have a good time? Didn't we roll Toomer's Corner (after victories) enough?'"

As new coach Tommy Tuberville leads the Tigers toward the 1999 season, Bowden is sorting out his professional life.

He hasn't been idle. He spends two or three days a week in Birmingham working with brother Steve to kick-start a business and is an avid reader and fisherman. Of the business, he'll only say, "We think it's going to be something very valuable for the state of Alabama."

He also expects to be a college football analyst for a "major network" next fall. Bowden has spoken to such coaches-turned-analysts-turned-coaches as Dick Vermeil (St. Louis Rams), Jimmy Johnson (Miami Dolphins) and Lou Holtz (South Carolina).

"They all got hungry for it again," Bowden says. "I hope I can live without it. I was always taught, don't coach football unless you can't live

without it. I'm hoping I'll fall in love with broadcasting."

His father, Florida State's coach, said he was surprised when his son went into coaching in the first place, but expects him to return to the sideline.

"I thought he was going to be a lawyer," Bobby Bowden says. "I have a feeling that after a year, when all the schools start knocking on his door, he'll want to be back into it."

Terry Bowden received a settlement of about \$620,000 from Auburn, his base salary of \$155,000 for the remaining four years on his contract, plus some other benefits. But it forbade the Bowdens from making "negative or derogatory" statements about Auburn or Auburn officials. There seems little risk of that.

"We'll always think of Auburn as one of the greatest times of our life," Bowden says. "Once a school gives you a chance, like Auburn gave me a chance, I think you owe them something."

Looking back on a career that included stops at NAIA Salem College in 1983, Samford in 1987 and Auburn, the 43-year-old Bowden figures he was on pace, with 111 career wins, to eclipse Bear Bryant's all-time record of 323 victories.

"I was always chasing that Bear Bryant record," says Bowden, who named his dogs after Bryant and Auburn's winningest coach, Ralph "Shug" Jordan. "All my life I was chasing that."

That chase is over. For now, anyway.

Moon, Grbac vie for Kansas City QB job

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — If Warren Moon plans to unseat Elvis Grbac and become Kansas City's No. 1 quarterback, he's keeping it a secret.

The 42-year-old Moon, after signing a two-year contract as Grbac's backup, was saying all the right things Tuesday.

"Elvis is the guy playing from the outset here," he said. "In order for this football team to do well, I've got to support him just like everybody else does. Believe me, I'll be behind him and answer any question he might have."

One of the most prolific passers in NFL history during a 15-year career with Houston, Minnesota and Seattle, Moon is advertised as nothing more than the backup to Grbac, who has missed 16 games the past two seasons because of injury and ineffectiveness.

If he does spark a quarterback controversy, it would be nothing new for Kansas City. Last year, Rich Gannon played better than Grbac when given the chance and became the favorite of most fans and many players.

But Gannon signed a free agent contract with Oakland when the Raiders offered to make him their starter.

"Quarterback controversies only come when one guy doesn't do well and the other guy does well," Moon said. "If that doesn't happen, that's where I step in. But we really shouldn't even talk about controversy until it gets to some point like that. Right now,

he's the guy. I think he's going to grasp the position and take control and go. I'm very confident he is going to play well.

"Hopefully, I can help (Grbac) get a little bit better, hopefully I can push him and take him to new heights," added Moon, who started 10 games for Seattle last year. "If not, I'll be there to take over the slack. That's basically my job."

Moon has passed for 49,097 yards and 290 touchdowns. Before that, he passed for 21,228 yards and 144 touchdowns in six years with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League after not being drafted by the NFL.

On Dec. 16, 1990, in Kansas City, he passed for 527 yards — 37 yards short of the NFL's single-game record — in leading Houston past the Chiefs.

Moon spent the past two years at Seattle as both a starter and a backup and admits it's not easy being No. 2.

"It's tough. There's no question it's tough. I've been a starter all my life and I've been very successful all my life. But I'm at a point in my career where you have to take advantage of whatever there is for you," he said.

The Chiefs also announced they signed veteran linebacker Marcus Patton, 31, to a three-year contract. Patton spent the past four seasons with Washington, leading the Redskins in tackles in three of those seasons. He spent the preceding five with the Buffalo Bills, playing in 144 straight games.

Foreman testifies before grand jury

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — George Foreman testified Wednesday before a federal grand jury said to be investigating whether the IBF sold rankings and arranged fights in return for kickbacks.

The former heavyweight champion was in the grand jury room for less than an hour.

On the advice of his lawyer, Foreman would not discuss his testimony. But asked if he had ever paid a kickback, he said, "No," and also said this was his first appearance before any grand jury.

The lawyer, Lawrence H. Wechsler, would not comment either, but he has said federal prosecutors are examining

whether Foreman was extorted by sanctioning groups, and that he did not know if Foreman ever paid to better his ranking.

In past weeks, the grand jury has heard from officials of the New Jersey-based IBF, one of the world's three major sanctioning organizations. It does not appear that its president, Robert W. Lee Sr., has testified.

Foreman did discuss with the media the need to reform boxing and the sanctioning groups.

"I think that boxing should be given some time to clean up its act. If not someone should do it for them," Foreman said.

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