

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harris Interactive College Football Poll Shows USC Ranked on Top for Fourth Consecutive Week

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—October 16, 2005—Today's Harris Interactive College Football PollSM shows the **Top 25** results compiled from rankings submitted by its panel of former coaches, players and administrators, and former and current media. **USC** received 96 first-place votes, with **Texas** picking up four more first-place votes for a total of 17 this week. **Virginia Tech**, **Georgia** and, this week, **Alabama** round out the top-five spots.

Highlights of the October 16 Harris Interactive College Football Poll

Ranking	Team	Record	Points	Previous Game (Weekend of Oct. 15)	Next Game* (Weekend of Oct. 22)	Prev. Week's Rank
1	USC (96)	6-0	2806	Beat No. 8 Notre Dame 34-31	at Washington	1
2	Texas (17)	6-0	2725	Beat No. 24 Colorado 42-17	No. 9 Texas Tech	2
3	Virginia Tech	6-0	2596	Idle	at Maryland (Thurs. Oct. 20)	3
4	Georgia	6-0	2491	Beat Vanderbilt 34-17	Arkansas	4
5	Alabama	6-0	2278	Beat Mississippi 13-10	No. 18 Tennessee	7
6	Miami	5-1	2239	Beat Temple 34-3	Georgia Tech	6
7	LSU	4-1	2031	Beat No. 12 Florida 21-17	No. 15 Auburn	10
8	UCLA	6-0	1958	Beat Washington State 44-41 (OT)	Oregon State	11
9	Texas Tech	6-0	1876	Beat Kansas State 59-20	at No. 2 Texas	13
10	Florida State	5-1	1701	Lost to Virginia 26-21	at Duke	5
11	Notre Dame	4-2	1694	Lost to No. 1 USC 34-31	BYU	8
12	Penn State	6-1	1496	Lost to Michigan 27-25	at Illinois	9
13	Boston College	6-1	1440	Beat Wake Forest 35-30	Idle	14
14	Ohio State	4-2	1325	Beat No. 15 Michigan State 35-24	at Indiana	17
15	Auburn	5-1	1188	Beat Arkansas 34-17	at No. 7 LSU	18
16	Oregon	6-1	1108	Beat Washington 45-21	at Arizona	20
17	Wisconsin	6-1	954	Beat No. 22 Minnesota 38-34	Purdue	23
18	Tennessee	3-2	794	Idle	at No. 5 Alabama	21
19	Florida	5-2	761	Lost to No. 10 LSU 21-17	Idle	12
20	West Virginia	6-1	670	Beat No. 19 Louisville 46-44 (3OT)	at South Florida	25
21	Michigan State	4-2	477	Lost to No. 17 Ohio State 35-24	Northwestern	15
22	TCU	6-1	393	Beat Army 38-17	at Air Force	NR
23	California	5-2	377	Lost to Oregon State 23-20	Washington State	16
24	Nebraska	5-1	235	Beat Baylor 23-14	at Missouri	NR
25	Minnesota	5-2	207	Lost to No. 23 Wisconsin 38-34	Idle	22

*All games played on Saturday unless otherwise noted

Other teams receiving votes: Virginia (4-2) 176, Michigan (4-3) 130, Louisville (4-2) 129, Iowa (5-2) 99, Arizona State (3-3) 70, Fresno State (4-1) 62, Northwestern (4-2) 59, Colorado (4-2) 56, Georgia Tech (4-2) 49, Oregon State (4-2) 40, Texas A&M (4-2) 12, Maryland (4-2) 10, Oklahoma (3-3) 4, UTEP (4-1) 4, Southern Mississippi (3-2) 2, Toledo (5-1) 2, Missouri (4-2) 1.

Dropped out of the Top 25: Prev. ranked No. 19 Louisville (4-2, lost to then No. 25 West Virginia 46-44 3OT), Prev. ranked No. 24 Colorado (4-2, lost to No. 2 Texas 42-17).

Poll Methodology and Process

The 2005 Harris Interactive College Football Poll is comprised of former players, coaches, administrators and current and former media who have committed to submitting votes for the top 25 college football teams each week. These panelists were randomly selected from among more than 300 nominations submitted by the Conference offices and Notre Dame. The panel has been designed to be a statistically valid representation of all 11 Division I-A Conferences and independent institutions.

Today, 113 poll participants ranked the top 25 college football teams. Harris Interactive® has dismissed one member from the Harris Interactive College Football PollSM panel. Harris Interactive communicated to each panelist the level of commitment expected upon inclusion in the panel. This panelist has been released for not participating fully and honoring the level of commitment required. The individual's name will not be released, and Harris Interactive will not replace this panelist.

The poll will continue with 113 panelists who will rank the Top 25 teams each Sunday during the 2005 college football season, through December 4th.

The 11 Division 1-A Conference Commissioners and Notre Dame Athletics Director Kevin White did not accept the Harris Interactive recommendation to apply to the rankings a standard statistical practice so as to prevent potential instability, error, or bias associated with unusual voting patterns. Each week, once Harris Interactive conducts its thorough verification process, the individual rankings will stand as submitted.

Weekly rankings and other information about the poll and the poll participants can be found at www.harrisinteractive.com/bcspoll. Each week the Harris Interactive College Football Poll rankings are released publicly and posted to the Harris Interactive website. The first BCS Standings release will be issued on Monday, October 17th. More information about the BCS can be found at www.bcsfootball.org.

Following the final rankings release of the season on December 4th, the individual participant votes for their final rankings will also be released.

About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive Inc. (<http://www.harrisinteractive.com>) is the 13th largest and fastest-growing market research firm in the world, perhaps best known for *The Harris Poll*® and for pioneering and engineering Internet-based research methods. The Rochester, New York-based global research company blends premier strategic consulting with innovative and efficient methods of investigation, analysis and application, conducting proprietary and public research globally to help clients achieve clear, material and enduring results.

Blending science and art, Harris Interactive combines its intellectual capital and one of the world's largest online panels of respondents, with premier Internet survey technology and sophisticated research methods to market leadership through its US, Europe (<http://www.harrisinteractive.com/europe>) and Asia offices, its wholly owned subsidiary, Novatris in Paris (<http://www.novatris.com>), and through an independent global network of affiliate market research companies. EOE M/F/D/V

To become a member of the Harris Poll OnlineSM and be invited to participate in future online surveys, go to <http://www.harrispollonline.com>.

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