

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Wins by USC and Texas this Week Solidify the Top Two Rankings in the Harris Interactive College Football Poll

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.—October 23, 2005**—Today's **Harris Interactive College Football Poll<sup>SM</sup>** shows the **Top 25** results compiled from rankings submitted by its panel of former coaches, players and administrators, and former and current media. **Virginia Tech** (No. 3), **Georgia** (No. 4) and **Alabama** (No. 5) retain their respective positions, rounding out the top five undefeated teams. **UCLA**, also undefeated, moves up one spot to No. 7, just behind No. 6 **Miami**.

### Highlights of the October 23 Harris Interactive College Football Poll

Ranking	Team	Record	Points	Previous Game (Weekend of Oct. 22)	Next Game* (Weekend of Oct. 29)	Previous Week's Rank
1	USC (95)	7-0	2,806	Beat Washington 51-24	Washington State	1
2	Texas (18)	7-0	2,728	Beat No. 9 Texas Tech 52-17	at Oklahoma State	2
3	Virginia Tech	7-0	2,593	Beat Maryland 28-9	No. 12 Boston College (Thurs. Oct. 27)	3
4	Georgia	7-0	2,453	Beat Arkansas 23-20	at No. 17 Florida	4
5	Alabama	7-0	2,345	Beat No. 18 Tennessee 6-3	Utah State	5
6	Miami	5-1	2,184	Idle **	North Carolina	6
7	UCLA	7-0	2,097	Beat Oregon State 51-28	at Stanford	8
8	LSU	5-1	2,086	Beat No. 15 Auburn 20-17 (OT)	North Texas	7
9	Florida State	6-1	1,846	Beat Duke 55-24	Maryland	10
10	Notre Dame	5-2	1,781	Beat BYU 49-23	Idle	11
11	Penn State	7-1	1,713	Beat Illinois 63-10	Purdue	12
12	Boston College	6-1	1,494	Idle	at No.3 Virginia Tech (Thurs. Oct. 27)	13
13	Ohio State	5-2	1,457	Beat Indiana 41-10	at No. 23 Minnesota	14
14	Oregon	7-1	1,319	Beat Arizona 28-21	Idle	16
15	Wisconsin	7-1	1,198	Beat Purdue 31-20	at Illinois	17
16	Texas Tech	6-1	1,067	Lost to No. 2 Texas 52-17	at Baylor	9
17	Florida	5-2	888	Idle	No. 4 Georgia	19
18	West Virginia	6-1	850	Idle ***	Idle	20
19	Auburn	5-2	788	Lost to No. 7 LSU 20-17 (OT)	Mississippi	15
20	TCU	7-1	720	Beat Air Force 48-10	at San Diego State	22
21	California	6-2	555	Beat Washington State 42-38	Idle	23
22	Northwestern	5-2	373	Beat No. 21 Michigan State 49-14	Michigan	NR
23	Minnesota	5-2	273	Idle	No. 13 Ohio State	25
24	Fresno State	5-1	264	Beat Idaho 40-10	at Hawaii	NR
25	Tennessee	3-3	181	Lost to No. 5 Alabama 6-3	South Carolina	18

\*All games played on Saturday unless otherwise noted

\*\* Miami vs. Georgia Tech postponed due to Hurricane Wilma; rescheduled for Saturday, November 19.

\*\*\* West Virginia vs. South Florida postponed due to Hurricane Wilma; rescheduled for Saturday, December 3.

**Other teams receiving votes:** Louisville (5-2) 180, Michigan (5-3) 159, Colorado (5-2) 116, Missouri (5-2) 58, Georgia Tech (4-2) 49, UTEP (5-1) 21, Toledo (6-1) 14, Virginia (4-3) 11, Arizona State (3-4) 10, Nebraska (5-2) 9, Southern Mississippi (4-2) 9, Michigan State (4-3) 8, Texas A&M (5-2) 8, Oregon State (4-3) 5, Iowa (5-3) 4, Colorado State (4-3) 2, Clemson (4-3) 1, Rutgers (5-2) 1, Stanford (4-2) 1.

**Dropped out of the Top 25:** Prev. ranked No. 24 Nebraska (5-2, lost to prev. unranked Missouri 41-24); Prev. ranked 21 Michigan State (4-3, lost to prev. unranked Northwestern 49-14).

## 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. On October 16, Harris Interactive® announced that it had dismissed one member from the Harris Interactive College Football Poll<sup>SM</sup> panel. This panelist was released for not participating fully and honoring the commitments for panel member participation. The former panelist'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 4<sup>th</sup>.

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](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/bcspoll) and [www.bcsfootball.org](http://www.bcsfootball.org). Following the final Harris Interactive College Football Poll rankings release of the season on December 4<sup>th</sup>, the individual participant votes for their final rankings will also be released.

### About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive Inc. (<http://www.harrisinteractive.com>) is the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Online<sup>SM</sup> and be invited to participate in future online surveys, go to <http://www.harrispollonline.com>.

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