

Coaches poll selects USC Trojans for title

UPI the coaches poll voted the University of Southern California Trojans the National Champion College Football team of 1978 following the Trojans 17-10 victory over the Michigan Wolverines.

The USC Rose Bowl victory was apparently all that the nation's coaches needed to declare USC the champions as the Trojans had defeated the Ala-

bama Crimson Tide earlier in the season 24-14 at Alabama.

USC rallied for the victory behind tailback Charles White who rushed for 99 yards and a controversial touchdown. The controversy occurred during the second quarter when White drove 3 yards for the winning touchdown.

However, a taped replay clearly showed the tailback fum-

bled the ball prior to crossing the goal line. Despite what the taped replay showed, the touchdown counted and that was all USC needed to claim the UPI's national championship.

Alabama fans who considered that the Crimson Tides 14-7 Sugar Bowl victory over previously number 1 ranked Penn State entitled Alabama to the

championship burned the UPI telephone lines expressing their dismay at the UPI decision.

In other bowl action, the Oklahoma Sooners avenged an earlier loss to the Nebraska Cornhuskers that cost the Sooners the National Title. The Sooners stormed to a 31-10 lead before Nebraska rallied to make the final score 31-24.

Heisman Trophy winner Billy

Sims rushed for 134 yards and two touchdowns in leading the Sooners who amassed 273 yards rushing against the Cornhusker defense. The Orange Bowl crowd of 66,365 were treated to an awesome offensive display by the Sooners and a fine passing exhibition by Nebraska QB Tom Sorley who passed for 220 yards.

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Notre Dame quarterback Joe Montana rushed for 2 touchdowns, passed for another touchdown, passed for two 2-point conversions, rushed for 26 yards and threw for 163 yards as the Fighting Irish scored 23 fourth quarter points and beat the Houston Cougars in the Cotton Bowl 35-34.

Montana passed for the tying touchdown with no time left on the clock and Joe Unis, the Notre Dame kicker booted the winning point after touchdown. Although the Cotton Bowl win should improve Notre Dames poll standing there is no chance that the defending National Champions will be able to repeat their 1977 antics.