

Prairie View A. & M. Rated No. 1 Team In Nation By ANP

Panthers Are Lone Unbeaten Team In U. S. As Season Ends

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By virtue of being the nation's only undefeated team, although once tied, the Prairie View Panthers rank as the nation's No. 1 football team for the 1958 season, according to the final Associated Negro Press ratings based on regular season performance.

Playing against top competition in nearly every game, Prairie View opened the season with a 14-14 tie against the Jackson Tigers, then rolled to seven straight victories to end the season with a 7-0-1 record.

The Panthers' victims included Texas Southern, 26-10, Grambling, 44-0, Arkansas A. M. and N., 37-13, Texas College 43-0, Mississippi Vocational 59-14, Wiley 13-0, and Southern 20-14. Prairie View spotted Southern 14 points, then came back to win. This victory earned the No. 1 spot.

Rated second are the Southern Jaguar Cats, 8-2-0. Southern started off strong until it ran into a 13-0 snag against Texas College. The Jaguars reached their peak when they walloped Florida A. and M. 35-0, then faltered in their final game of the season against Prairie View.

PAMU RATED THIRD

Florida A. and M., 7-1-0 rate third. The Rattlers had a good season, but were not as strong as last year. They had narrow squeaks against Morris Brown and Texas Southern, but won most of their games handily.

Holding down fourth is Lincoln (Mo.) with an 8-1-0 record. The Tigers did not lose to any Negro teams and won a bowl game to achieve their record.

After a slow start Texas Southern, 5-3-0 finished strong to land in fifth place. The Grambling Tigers, 6-3-0 were going great until they ran into Prairie View, then faded in the stretch. They rate sixth.

Seventh are the Jackson Tigers, the team that tied Prairie View, Jackson achieved a 5-2-1 record. Tennessee State's Tigers with a 4-4-0 mark, poor for them, were still good enough for eight place.

The A. and T. Aggies, 7-2-0 place ninth, and the North Carolina College Eagles, 7-2-0 rank 10th. Rounding out the Huddle's Baker's Dozen ratings are South Carolina State, 7-2-0, Wiley, 4-5-0 and Morgan, 5-3-0.

1958 GRID CHAMPS

Conference champions for the season are Prairie View in the Southwestern; Lincoln (Mo.) in the Midwestern; Florida A. and M. in the SIAC and A. and T. in the CIAA.

Offense jumped ahead of the defense during the 1958 season. The highest scoring team was Southern with 300 points in 10 games. Florida A. and M. with 357 in eight games and Prairie View with 356 in eight games were tops in average points per game.

The best defensive team was Southern, giving up only 71 points in 10 games. Playing minor competition St. Augustine, 6-3-0, permit-

ted only 48 points in eight tins for the best average among all schools.

Wiley scored the most points in a game, slaughtering Alcorn 74-0. Grambling blasted Paul Quinn 72-8. Florida A. and M. scored an easy 63-0 victory over Benedict. Morgan had two high scoring days, battering Virginia Union 61-0 and Hampton 60-0. Among the minor teams, Mississippi Industrial rocked Tougaloo 66-0, and Rust rolled over Okolona 60-0.

NUMBER ONE LOSER

As usual, St. Paul's College of Lawrenceville, Va. was the nation's most hapless team, losing eight straight to run its losing streak to 23. St. Paul's lost as follows: Elizabeth City 0-38; Winston-Salem 6-51; Howard 6-20; Delaware State 6-48; Johnson C. Smith 0-11; St. Augustine 0-44; Lincoln (Pa.) 6-16 and Livingstone 0-28, scoring only 30 points to 262 for its happy foes.

Rounding out the Huddle's top 25 teams of the nation in the following order are:

Maryland State 4-3-0; Post Valley 5-2-1; Allen 4-3-0; Alabama State 6-3-0; Morris Brown 4-5-0; Shaw 6-3-0; Bishop 8-2-0; Clark 4-4-0; Miles 4-2-0; Tuskegee 6-3-1; St. Augustine 6-2-0 and Benedict 5-5-0.

Other teams ranking close include Texas College 4-5-0; Bluefield 5-2-1; Hampton 7-3-0; Johnson C. Smith 6-2-0; Central State 6-2-0 and Xavier 4-3-1.

A total of 77 teams played football last season. The Huddle did not yet complete records of several of the smaller schools.