

Forrest

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later Forrest punched another one in to tie up the game at thirty-five. The rest of the fourth was a defensive war, both teams being forced to punt on multiple possessions. But, in the end, Marion County capped off the evening with a 79-yard touchdown trek from S. Pickett with only 22 seconds left to play. "I know we came up short," said Stephenson, "but I thought we played four quarters. The players gave it their all, and that is all I can ask for." Stephenson contin-

Bulldogs

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had the ball at their own 25-yard line. Woodard for Cornersville completed a first down pass to Austin Cooper for 8 yards, then Franklin burst up field for a 14-yard gain and a first down. Franklin ran for 10 more yards to the 46-yard line of Eagleville but on first down the Eagleville pass rush got to Woodard as he let the ball go and his pass was intercepted by Eagleville's Kolten Daniels, who raced toward the goal line and only Cornersville's Khi Canty prevented a touchdown by knocking Daniels out of bounds at the Bulldog 18-yard line. From there the Eagles moved to the Bulldog five-yard line where Kaleb Snitzer for Eagleville roared in to the endzone, then completed a two-point conversion and the Eagles led 14-7 with 3:28 left until halftime. With time running down until halftime the Bulldogs fought back. Franklin rushed for a first down at the 47-yard line and after an incomplection, he ran for seven more yards and then for an eight-yard pickup, but the drive stalled when Franklin was stuffed on second down for no gain and an incomplete pass on third and fourth downs that turned the ball over to the Eagles who ran the clock out to halftime with the 14-7 lead. The Eagles having deferred to the second half Eagleville received the kickoff from Cornersville and began play at the Eagleville 30-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage in the second half, quarterback Jesse Brown found wideout Elijah Fearn behind the Bulldog defense for a 70-yard touchdown and Alex Bryant nailed the kick after for a 21-7 lead with 20 seconds gone in the third quarter. The two teams traded punts before Cornersville took over on their own 19-yard line, but a holding penalty set them back to the nine-yard line where the third mistake for the Bulldogs occurred and the fumble was covered by Eagleville. Brown for Eagleville on second down rushed the ball into the end zone and Bryant's kick was good and the Eagles upped their lead to 21 points with 5:46 left in the third quarter. With their backs against the wall, the Bulldogs clawed back but the drive was stopped when Fearn intercepted a Woodard pass at the Eagle 35-yard line.

ued, "We got to play with the same intensity and effort for the rest of the way out. We got to build off of the Marion County game to keep getting better." Forrest will host the Cascade Champions at home for a regional matchup on Friday. Kickoff is set for 7pm.

Forrest	14	6	8	7	—	35
Marion Co.	6	22	0	14	—	42

First Quarter
F — Tayton Swift 5 run (Gavin Grissom kick), 8:26.
M — E.J. Wilson 49 run (kick failed), 8:05.
F — Ryan Hill 1 run (Grissom kick), 4:34.
Second Quarter
M — Sam Pickett 38 pass from Tilton Pickett (Braxton Coffelt 2 pt. conversion pass), 9:49.
M — S. Pickett 16 pass from T. Pickett (Brennon Saylor's kick), 4:53.
F — Hill 1 run (kick blocked), 1:29.
M — S. Pickett 13 pass from T. Pickett (Saylor's kick), 0:28.
Third Quarter
F — Eli Bell 15 run (Swift 2 pt. conversion run), 3:12.
Fourth Quarter
M — Brody Leonard 2 run (Saylor's kick), 9:31.
F — Swift 5 pass from Hill (Grissom kick), 6:18.
M — S. Pickett 79 run (Saylor's kick), 0:22.

The Eagles' lead of 28-7 held to the end of the third quarter but after an Eagleville punt Cornersville began to respond to adversity. Mixing runs by Woodard and Franklin plus pass completions to Beau Schilleg and Canty, the Bulldogs, although hampered by two holding calls, gained to the Eagleville 46-yard line before being forced to turn the ball over on downs after an incomplete pass. Eagleville could not muster a first down and was forced to give the ball back to Cornersville with 3:08 left. This was when Franklin brought the Bulldog faithful to their feet again when from the Eagles 45-yard line the junior running back ran around the right side, shucking would be tacklers as he raced down the sidelines to the Eagleville 5-yard line. Franklin then capped the drive with a five-yard touchdown run and Palma added the PAT to make the score 28-14 with 2:24 left in the game. The Cornersville on-side kick was recovered by the Eagles at their own 49-yard line where despite being held by the Bulldog defense and forced to punt back to the Bulldogs with 1:00 left in the game the Bulldogs could not draw closer, and the game ended with Eagleville the winner 28-14. Coach Shelby Waddell said after the game, "I can't doubt our kids' effort tonight. We have things to clean up and that falls on the coaches and to myself as head coach. Our kids fought hard and we will go back to work Monday. Our goals are still out there and what we must do is put wins on the board." The Bulldogs travel to Fayetteville for next Friday's game with the No. 2 ranked Fayetteville City Tigers. The season is winding down with only one home game left on October 14 against Wayne County.

Eagleville	6	8	14	0	—	28
Cornersville	7	0	0	7	—	14

First Quarter
E — Jackson Zendt 16 run, (Kick failed).
C — Ben Franklin 16 run, (Joseth Palma kick).
Second Quarter
E — Kaleb Snitzer 5 run, (Snitzer 2 pt. conv).
Third Quarter
E — Eli Fearn 79 pass from Jesse Brown (Alex Bryant kick).
E — Jesse Brown 5 run, (Bryant kick).
Fourth Quarter
C — Franklin 5 run, (Palma kick).

Stats: C/V
Rushing:
Cornersville: Ben Franklin 27-165 yds, 2 TD, Blaine Woodard 11-14 yds, Austin Cooper 1-1 yd.
Passing:
Cornersville: Blaine Woodard 11-34, 151 yards.
Receiving:
Cornersville: Ben Franklin 3-61, Austin Cooper 4-53 yds, Khi Canty 3-27 yds, Blake Estes 1-10 yds.

Vols crack top 10 in latest poll

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

Tennessee and North Carolina State broke into the top 10 of The Associated Press college football poll Sunday, and Florida State is back in the rankings for the first time in four years. Georgia remained No. 1 and received 55 of 63 first-place votes in the Top 25, presented by Regions Bank. No. 2 Alabama (four first-place votes), No. 3 Ohio State (four first-place votes), No. 4 Michigan and No. 5 Clemson all held their places. Oklahoma's upset loss to Kansas State created room for teams to move up, like Southern California to No. 6 and Kentucky to No. 7. Tennessee moved up three spots to No. 8, its best ranking since 2006 and first top-10 appearance since a few weeks at ninth in the first half of 2016. That was the last time the Volunteers started 4-0. The Vols knocked Florida out of the rankings by snapping a five-game losing streak in the rivalry. Oklahoma State remained at nine and North Carolina State jumped two spots to No. 10. The Wolfpack have their best ranking since they were 10th in 2002. Texas and Miami both dropped out of the rankings after being beaten by unranked teams to fall to 2-2. The Longhorns blew a 14-point lead second-half lead and lost in overtime at Texas Tech. while Miami, which started the season at No. 16, was upended by four-touchdown underdog Middle Tennessee State.

While the Hurricanes and Gators slipping out, No. 23 Florida State (4-0) moved in. The Seminoles are off to their best start since 2015 and in the AP Top 25 for the first time since beginning the 2018 season No. 19, snapping a streak of 69 straight polls unranked.

Poll points

Florida State's poll drought was remarkable considering how the Seminoles have been a Top 25 staple since the late 1970s. Florida State's streak of 211 straight weeks ranked from 1989-2001 is the third longest streak in the history of the poll and its streak of 42 straight seasons appearing in at least one poll from 1977-2018 is fourth all-time. Before the current drought, Florida State had not gone consecutive seasons without being ranked for at least one poll since 1973-77, which was the late Bobby Bowden's first season as coach.

Two other teams are making their Top 25 debuts this week: — No. 21 Minnesota enters the rankings after crushing Michigan State on the road. The Gophers are ranked for the first time since a short stay in 2020. — No. 25 Kansas State upset a top-10 ranked Oklahoma team for the third time in the last four seasons. The Wildcats have been briefly ranked in each of the last three seasons, but never more than three weeks.

Conference call
SEC — 7 (Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 17, 20).
ACC — 5 (Nos. 5, 10, 22, 23, 24).
Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 9, 16, 18, 25).
Big Ten — 4 (Nos. 2, 4, 11, 21).
Pac-12 — 4 (Nos. 6, 12, 13, 15).
Independent — 1 (No. 19).

Ranked vs. ranked

No. 10 North Carolina State at No. 5 Clemson. The 87th meeting will be the first matching top-10 teams. No. 7 Kentucky at No. 14 Mississippi. Wildcats and Rebels have played 44 times, dating back to 1944 and have both been ranked just once in 1958. No. 2 Alabama at No. 20 Arkansas. Tide is 6-0 when both teams are ranked. No. 9 Oklahoma State at No. 16 Baylor. Cowboys and Bears played twice as ranked teams last season. No. 22 Wake Forest at No. 23 Florida State. Only ranked meeting in 39 games was 2008, a Wake victory.

NCAA puts Memphis on 3 years' probation, no tourney ban

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS — The NCAA put Memphis on three years of probation with a public reprimand and a fine Tuesday, but declined to punish Tigers coach Penny Hardaway or hand down an NCAA Tournament ban. The NCAA had accused Memphis of four Level I and two Level II violations, considered the most serious infractions, and a total of seven alleged violations including lack of institutional control, head coach responsibility and failure to monitor. The Independent Accountability Review Panel put the blame on Memphis failing to monitor Hardaway as an athletics booster or educate him better after hiring him as the Tigers' men's basketball coach. The panel also ruled Memphis provided impermissible benefits of meals to athletes and publicity benefits to recruits. The panel also ruled Memphis failed to cooperate with the investigation by delaying handing over requested documents but decided these were Level II and III violations. "There would have been no difficulty with this panel arriving at that conclusion if they had been satisfied that the evidence demonstrated that there was conduct that reached the Level I," IARP administrative officer Hugh Fraser said in a news conference. "But in this case, we did not find that." Memphis will be fined \$5,000 plus 0.25% of its average men's basketball budget — based on the average of the program's last three total budgets. Probation starts Tues-

day and runs to Sept. 26, 2025. Memphis also must send at least one member of its Office of Legal Counsel to two NCAA Regional Rules Seminars and inform all prospect men's basketball recruits in writing that the Tigers are on probation. Fraser said the panel did not want to punish current Memphis athletes. "We respect and will fully comply with the IARP's decision," said Memphis president Bill Hardgrave, who was hired in November 2021. The lack of a tournament ban or suspension for Hardaway is key for a program that just ended a long NCAA Tournament drought in March with its first berth since 2014. Hardaway said in a statement that brighter days are ahead and thanked the IARP for making its decision based on the facts. "We have finally arrived at the end of an extremely challenging period, and I could not be more grateful," Hardaway said. "I would like to thank our players and their families, as well as our coaches and our support staff, for continuing to focus on what we could control as this process lingered." The NCAA investigation started in May 2019 and continued into February 2021, with an amended notice of allegations sent to Memphis in July 2021. Fraser noted the pandemic was a contributing factor slowing down the investigation. The probe began over the recruitment and the short time that James Wiseman spent at Memphis after receiving \$11,500 from Hardaway in 2017. That's when Hardaway was coach at East High

School in Memphis. He wasn't hired as Memphis' coach until March 2018, and Wiseman committed to the Tigers in November 2018. The NCAA originally ruled the money wasn't allowed because Hardaway was a booster for the program. The former NBA All-Star gave \$1 million in 2008 to his alma mater for the university's sports hall of fame named for Hardaway. The IARP noted Hardaway had been helping people in Memphis since first going to the NBA in 1993. Wiseman played the first game of the 2019-20 season before the NCAA ruled Wiseman ineligible. He played two more games after filing a restraining order against the NCAA. The IARP says Memphis was informed Oct. 31 that Wiseman and two other athletes were not eligible because they received money from Hardaway after he became a booster. The IARP said Hardaway wasn't told until after the opening game Nov. 5. The IARP also wants Memphis to vacate all wins and records of the three games Wiseman played with those reflected in Hardaway's career records. On Nov. 20, 2019, the NCAA suspended Wiseman for 12 games and ordered him to repay \$11,500 in the form of a donation to the charity of choice. Wiseman withdrew from Memphis in December 2019

and now plays for the NBA's Golden State Warriors. Memphis athletic director Laird Veatch, hired Oct. 1, 2019, thanked Tigers' fans for their patience and support through a "long and arduous process." Veatch also made clear Memphis has enhanced its athletic compliance structure. "To that end, we are thankful to the IARP for recognizing and reflecting that in its decision," Veatch said. "As we prepare for a new season, we are all excited and ready to move forward, together." The Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association fined East High School nearly \$15,000 earlier this month and ordered the school to forfeit all games Wiseman played in for Hardaway, vacating its 2018 state championship and 2019 state runner-up trophy. This was only the IARP's second decision Tuesday, with cases involving Louisiana State, Arizona, Kansas and Louisville still on the group's docket. North Carolina men's basketball also was put on probation in the IARP's first decision in December 2021. Derrick Crawford, the NCAA vice president for hearing operations, said decisions on the remaining four cases will come by early summer 2023 at the latest, since the IARP is coming to an end.

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