

Texas savors national title

By RALPH D. RUSSO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

Mack Brown began his first day as a national championship coach with a wake-up call he'll never forget.

After leading Texas to its first outright national title in 36 seasons, his phone rang early Thursday. It was President Bush calling.

"You know your life is different when the first call you get this morning is from President Bush at 6 o'clock, and (my wife) Sally asked me if I was awake and wanted to take it," Brown said. "I said, 'I think so.'"

Brown and his Longhorns ended Southern California's two-year championship run and 34-game winning streak with a 41-38 victory in the Rose Bowl on Wednesday.

Vince Young set a Rose Bowl record with 467 total yards (200 rushing and 267 passing) and scrambled eight yards for his third touchdown with 19 seconds left to make Texas No. 1.

Confetti fell on Young and the celebrating Longhorns in Pasadena, and Texas became a unanimous No. 1, receiving all 65 first-place votes in the AP media poll.

That snapped another USC streak; the Trojans had been No. 1 for a record 33 consecutive polls.

Penn State finished third, its highest final ranking since finishing No. 2 in 1994.

Ohio State was fourth. West Virginia was fifth. LSU, Virginia Tech, Alabama, Notre Dame and Georgia rounded out the top 10.

Brown and the Longhorns received their championship trophies Thursday and brought along a huge crowd of supporters to take in the scene.

Bus loads of burnt-orange clad friends, family and fans filled the ballroom at the Beverly Hilton Hotel to listen to Brown, Young, David Thomas and Michael Huff reflect on the thrilling victory against USC and the school's first outright national title since 1969. The coach of that Texas team, Darrell Royal, was there.

"I just enjoy being along for the ride," said Royal, who got a handshake from President Richard Nixon in the Longhorns' locker room after beating Arkansas to clinch the '69 crown.

Royal has been one of Brown's staunchest supporters, backing the coach who critics said couldn't win the big game.

Now, the guy they called "Coach February" because he appeared to be better at recruiting players than coaching them up has his picture on Wheaties cereal box.

"Vince should be on there, me holding him up," Brown said.

Young is facing the same decision USC quarterback Matt Leinart needed to make after last season's championship game.

NFL or college?

Young has said he intends to return to Texas for his senior year but plans to explore his options with guidance from his family and coaches.

He'll certainly never play better in a bigger game than he did in the Rose Bowl.

"All I do is go out there and play for my teammates and do whatever it takes to get the 'W,'" Young said.

On Thursday, Young got a nice reward. He appeared on the "Tonight" show with Jay Leno.

The deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NFL draft is Jan. 15.

Leinart bypassed NFL riches to return for his senior year, but an unprecedented third straight national title eluded him and the Trojans.

"I don't have any regrets," Leinart said. "We're champions. They just got us this night."

The 2004 Heisman Trophy winner passed for 365 yards in his final college game and finished 37-2 as a starter.

Reggie Bush, who beat out Young for this season's Heisman, had 177 total yards and somersaulted into the end zone on a 26-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter. The 200-pound tailback is also a junior and could be the first pick in the draft.



Texas coach Mack Brown celebrates after the Longhorns defeated Southern California in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., on Wednesday.

• Heal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

injury so many times in games and practices the past four years, he has no idea how many times he's had to fix it.

But he's learned how.

"I don't even count. Probably like 10 times," Kitchel said. "Just like at practice, it will come out. I'll just sit down and take a couple of deep breaths. Like the doctor said, you have to relax yourself as much as you can.

"It relaxes your muscles, and it'll slide right in."

Sometimes it's easy, sometimes it's not.

Sometimes the problem is a subluxation, which is a partial dislocation of the ball-and-socket shoulder joint. In those instances, the joint slides out momentarily, then glides back into place.

But at other times, the joint falls completely out of socket, resulting in a full dislocation. That injury is typically more painful and tougher to self-correct, which he does without help, comment or attention from trainers, coaches or teammates.

That's how he prefers it. "We leave Tyler alone," Hawkins said. "We don't waste time saying, 'Are you all right?' You can tell he's not all right, and we allow him to focus right on the shoulder. He really tries to relax by breathing.

"If he can't get it standing up, he immediately needs to sit down, and then he figures out a way to get it back in place. But he literally puts it back in place himself."

In the Southport game, Kitchel suffered what he thinks was a subluxation. Against Perry Meridian, he had a complete dislocation. But he successfully and swiftly fixed both.

"At the Southport game, it was pretty quick," Kitchel said. "I was walking over to the bench, and it just kind of slid in."

"At the Perry game, it was a lot worse. I couldn't get it back in, and then it finally went back in."

For Hawkins, seeing it first-

ANATOMY OF A SHOULDER DISLOCATION

The shoulder joint is the body's most mobile joint. It can turn in many directions, but this advantage also makes the shoulder joint easy to dislocate.

A partial dislocation (subluxation) means the head of the upper arm bone (humerus) is partially out of the socket (glenoid). A complete dislocation means it's all the way out.

Both partial and complete dislocation cause pain and unsteadiness in the shoulder. Muscles may have spasms from the disruption, and this can cause more pain. When the shoulder dislocates time and again,

SOURCE: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

hand was bad enough. Watching it again on film was even worse.

"It almost made me sick the other day when I saw it on tape, what he had to do to get over to the bench, without any help and get himself re-adjusted," Hawkins said. "You can see him walking right by me saying, 'I'm ready to go again, coach.'"

Kitchel's ability to play through the condition has been a huge plus for the Trojans (5-2), who are off to their best start since the 2001-02 season.

A three-year varsity player and two-year starter, Kitchel is Center Grove's second-leading scorer. He averages 14.9 points per game and shoots 50 percent from the field.

He's also one of the Trojans' top rebounders and ball-handlers. He averages 4.6 rebounds per game and is second in total assists with 17. He has also made a team-leading 12 3-point baskets.

"I've got a lot more confidence in the way I've been shooting the ball lately," Kitchel said. "I didn't actually shoot it that great against Perry. But as a whole, my outside jump shot has gotten better."

"I need to work on my mid-range game a little bit, but as a whole, I think I'm playing pretty well right now. I've got a lot of confidence in our team, definitely."

Center Grove has received inspired play from a variety of individuals, including senior Todd Price, juniors Mitch Deffner and Louis Kamo and sophomore Corey Gray.

But Hawkins credits Kitchel's

you have shoulder instability.

Symptoms to look for include swelling, numbness, weakness and bruising. Sometimes dislocation may tear ligaments or tendons in your shoulder. Sometimes, the dislocation may damage your nerves.

Shoulder joints can dislocate forward, backward or downward. A common type of shoulder dislocation is when your shoulder slips forward (anterior instability). This means the upper arm bone moved forward and down out of its joint. It may happen when you put your arm in a throwing position.

mental and physical toughness for much of the Trojans' early success. They went 4-1 in December and have a chance to start 2-0 in the Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference tonight at Carmel (7-2).

"Tyler Kitchel's the example of what passion does for someone, because he is so passionate about basketball," Hawkins said. "And he's passionate about the leadership of this team. We talk a lot about being hurt and being injured. If you're hurt, you get up and play. If you're injured, you're out for the season."

"We talk about that all the time, never lay down on the floor. And for us, Tyler's been an excellent role model because of his toughness."

Kitchel has considered surgery to repair his shoulder. But doctors offer no guarantee that it will permanently correct the problem, which is why he has resisted so far.

An aspiring college basketball player, he hasn't ruled out surgery at some point down the road. But for now, he can handle the pain, he knows how to pop the joint back in, and he has no intention on missing time recovering from an operation.

"I don't want to waste four months of high school not being able to do anything, then it end up happening again on something freak, like going up for a rebound," Kitchel said. "I just don't want to waste my time."



Brad Long talks about the shoes he wore during the filming of "Hoosiers" during a class on Hoosier Hysteria at Franklin Community High School on Wednesday.

chose their top six courses and upperclassmen were given preference.

Students must pay a \$50 fee, which covers admissions for field trips and supplies.

Kasper, who's taught the course all five years he's been at Franklin, typically has had about 40 students per class. This year, he has 45.

"I usually have a lot of basketball players from the teams because practice schedules prohibit them from leaving the state," he said. "We usually have a pretty good mix of students. This year though, it's mostly sophomores."

This year, he's adding another element to the class and having students keep journals. They write responses to three reflection questions, which range from their thoughts on class basketball to the impact of the movies they watch.

"People don't get as excited about high school basketball as they used to years and years ago," Kasper said. "It used to be the only thing going on. Back in the golden era of high school basketball, on Friday and Saturday nights it was the main thing."

"Kids need to know that basketball wasn't invented in Indiana, but how it became so popular here. I wanted to teach them how and why (it became popular)."

• Money

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

the simple fact is that there's nothing left to prove, at least not in the college game.

Young would be a prohibitive favorite to avenge the only setback he's suffered in some time, losing the Heisman Trophy to Bush. He can get stronger, smarter and have a lot more fun staying wrapped in the protective cocoon that coach Mack Brown has designed at Texas.

And there's the added motivation, as Young himself noted Thursday, of helping the next guy who will try to step into his oversized cleats.

"Basically, you can get better all the time," he added, and those words hung in the air for only a few moments before Texas offensive coordinator Greg Davis confirmed them.

He noted Young had made a quantum leap in his decision-making abilities between last season and this one, but that there was another huge jump to be made in the near future.

"Quicker decisions, for one," Davis said, reading off a list he carried in his head. "He needs to get more comfortable in the pocket, he needs to work on his play-action, his ball-handling ..."

Somehow, though, the longer Davis' list got, the more you wondered whether he watched the same game the rest of us did the night before.

Young has outgrown the competition at this level. That was apparent from the way he outmaneuvered everybody wearing the USC colors.

He ran for 200 yards and three touchdowns and passed for another 267 despite a throwing motion that would give some NFL coaches the shakes.

But like Brown, they know all those results in the win column can have a calming effect.

"What we want in rewards for Vince is what is in his heart, what is best for him, and that will be best for the University of Texas," Brown said. "Somebody asked me, 'If you win the national championship and Vince leaves, what will you do?'" I said, "I'll kiss him."

"I haven't yet, though," he added, cracking the room up.

Brown has a history of hanging onto his juniors, but it will take a miracle to keep that string intact.

Young grew up in Houston's hardscrabble Fourth Ward, within a couple of long passes from the stadium where the NFL's Texans play. He made a name for himself at Madison High. He gets standing ovations when he's in the seats at Astros or Rockets games.

And even more than the adulation, he's mindful of the opportu-

nities so many of the kids he grew up with have squandered.

"It was a hard, hard time," he recalled. "There was a lot of guys in my neighborhood supposed to be in the position I am right now, or even better, but they're not really doing anything. So it kind of pushes me every time I see them to keep working harder."

Heading into the Rose Bowl, he was likely somewhere among the top 10 draft prospects. Bush figured to be headed to Houston with the No. 1 pick, and Leinart, too, was likely ranked ahead of Young in that very select queue.

Now, it's a different ballgame.

"He's 6-foot-6, 235, runs real fast and jumps sideways," Brown said. "It's not easy for people to tackle him when they're fresh."

"I thought USC had a lot of depth and did a tremendous job of substituting, but he'll still wear you down."

But leave it to Young to always have the last word. Someone saw him shaking his head during Brown's assessment and took the gesture to mean Young, finally, was worn out.

"No," he replied. "I was just thinking about the 235 (pounds). That's the In-and-Out burgers," he said. "That's what he's talking about."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press. Send comments to jlitke@ap.org.

• History

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

because we have access to the 'Hoosiers' DVD, which has some extra scenes and interviews," said Kasper, who got hooked on hoops history after going to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame with his father his freshman year in high school. "And we're able to watch clips from the 1954 Milan versus Muncie Central game on it, too."

That game was a major part of the inspiration for the movie.

But Kasper said the speakers are more meaningful than the movies and field trips.

"They answer questions about why basketball is important, the culture, the folklore," he said. "Many being involved in some of the stories themselves, it's important for kids to hear from real people why basketball is important in Indiana."

Two of this year's notable speakers are Brad Long, who played Buddy Walker in "Hoosiers," and Mark Herrmann, who started on the 1977 Carmel High School boys basketball state championship team. Herrmann also played quarterback for Purdue University and the Indianapolis Colts.

Long, 43, played guard for the Center Grove High School Trojans from 1978-81.

He and Ken Gorrell, a long-time Indiana High School Athletic Association referee, spoke during Wednesday's class.

"I kind of (gave) them a behind-the-scenes look at 'Hoosiers,'" Long said. "I tell them how it was filmed, why it was filmed and what it means to people today. 'I hope that what it means to people is that you never give up. The whole theme of the movie is redemption and second chances. That's a theme that runs through life.'"

In past years, Kasper has had his grandparents speak. His grandfather, Charles, played basketball in the 1930s and was a fireman on duty during the 1954 boys state championship game. His grandmother, Maxine, was a student at Frankfort High School when the boys basketball team won the 1936 state championship.

The class, which began Wednesday, is conducted during normal school hours. Students signed up for it in October when course lists were distributed. They

LET'S REEL IN THIS GREAT DEAL FROM INSIGHT!

I'M HOOKED ON GETTING SAVINGS.

GET HOOKED ON TWO GREAT SERVICES FOR ONE LOW PRICE.

InsightDigital.

- 200 Channels — 100 cable favorites, local networks and digital music, plus access to 100 more.
- Up to 60 Channels on all your additional TVs for FREE!
- On Demand TV — Access to a library of movies and programs that you can watch anytime. Even pause, fast-forward, and rewind just like DVD player.

InsightBroadband.

- 4 MB maximum download speeds — up to 70x faster than Dial-up; up to 10x faster than DSL.
- Reliable, always on connection — no busy signals, no disconnects, no tying up your phone line.
- Download music, share digital photos, play online games.
- Includes 6 FREE email addresses.

\$70 A MONTH FOR BOTH + FREE INSTALLATION

CALL AND ASK HOW YOU CAN GET
SHOWTIME AND ICE CREAM FREE FOR A YEAR!
1-800-258-0446

Insight
SIMPLE IS BETTER

Digital receiver (\$5 a month) required to receive Insight Digital services. Limited time offer available only to new residential customers, in limited areas, who do not subscribe to any of the promotional services and sign up during the offer period. Rates are only valid for one year. Standard rates apply after promotional period expires. All rates are subject to change. Insight Digital offer includes purchase of Basic Service and Insight Classic. A digital cable box with remote control is required for each TV set to receive Insight Digital services, which you must purchase or lease separately. \$5 charge above assumes lease from Insight. All channels may not be available in all areas. May not be combined with any other offer. Free installation offers for Insight Digital and Insight Broadband are subject to a satisfactory credit score, limited to standard activation of Insight Digital on up to 3 outlets, and assisted installation of Insight Broadband for one data outlet to one cable modem. Cable modem required to receive Insight Broadband, to be purchased separately. All offers exclude separate charges for applicable equipment, taxes, and regulatory fees. All offers and terms are subject to change, and other restrictions apply. Speed comparisons are based on maximum download speeds for Insight Broadband, a 56k dial-up modem and a residential DSL connection rated up to 384k. Actual speeds may vary. ©2006 Insight Communications Company, Inc. All rights reserved.