



Staff graphic

PICK A TEAM, ANY TEAM

LSU and Cal fall from top as BCS standings revealed

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ohio State has risen — all the way to No. 1.

A day after the top two teams in the AP Top 25 lost, the Buckeyes jumped two spots Sunday in the media poll and became the third school this season to hold the No. 1 ranking.

The last year three teams held the No. 1 spot during the regular season was 2000, when Nebraska started No. 1, Florida State was top-ranked for a

week and Oklahoma took over late in the season.

The Buckeyes (7-0) beat Kent State 48-3 Saturday and have played only one team that's been in the rankings at any point this season. In a season in which 10 ranked teams have been beaten by unranked teams, just avoiding the upset bug has been enough for Ohio State.

"We've improved each week but we understand that the only poll that counts is the last one," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said in a statement.

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AP and USA Today polls on Scoreboard Page D2

1. Ohio State	0.9416	14. Southern Cal	0.4724
2. South Florida	0.9200	15. Florida	0.4352
3. Boston College	0.8906	16. Missouri	0.3818
4. LSU	0.8400	17. Auburn	0.3373
5. Oklahoma	0.7623	18. Hawaii	0.2841
6. South Carolina	0.7432	19. Virginia	0.2290
7. Kentucky	0.6833	20. Georgia	0.2244
8. Arizona St.	0.6831	21. Tennessee	0.1953
9. West Virginia	0.6624	22. Texas	0.1799
10. Oregon	0.6369	23. Cincinnati	0.1192
11. Virginia Tech	0.6298	24. Texas Tech	0.1052
12. California	0.6000	25. Michigan	0.0783
13. Kansas	0.5170		

Baseball

Flames up for some swagger

New coach Jim Toman bringing a winning Gamecock attitude

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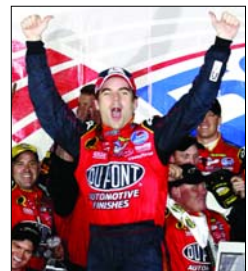
When Liberty played South Carolina in baseball last season, Flames pitcher Dustin Umberger couldn't help but notice the Gamecocks' swagger.

"It was just their attitude," Umberger said. "Everybody gets intimidated playing South Carolina, just because of their name. And they definitely hold up their end with their confidence level."

"They go into every game knowing they're the better team." Umberger, of course, didn't know he was battling against the program that would yield Liberty's next head coach. Jim Toman was an assistant on Ray Tanner's Gamecock staff, and Toman is trying to bring that same sort of attitude to LU.

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NASCAR



AP photo

Jeff Gordon celebrates his first win in Charlotte since 1999.

Gordon on way toward 5th Cup title

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — There was a time not too long ago when Jeff Gordon wondered if he'd ever win another race.

His personal life was in shambles, and a long losing streak had the four-time series champion doubting himself for the first time in his storied NASCAR career. The wins were few and far between, and the consistent title contender had turned into a perpetual also-ran.

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- 1. Jeff Gordon	5,880
- 2. Jimmie Johnson	-68
- 3. Clint Bowyer	-78
- 4. Tony Stewart	-198
+1 5. Carl Edwards	-240
+2 6. Kyle Busch	-280
- 7. Kurt Busch	-315
-3 8. Kevin Harvick	-328
- 9. Denny Hamlin	-349
+2 10. Jeff Burton	-366
-1 11. Martin Truex Jr.	-378
-1 12. Matt Kenseth	-442

NFL

Redskins fumble away chance for Lambeau win



AP photo

Green Bay's Charles Woodson (21) heads after a Santana Moss fumble before returning it for a TD.

Woodson takes 57-yard fumble return for Green Bay touchdown

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Cornerback Charles Woodson scooped up the ball — and lifted the spirits of the Green Bay Packers' suddenly sagging offense.

Woodson's 57-yard fumble return in the third quarter gave the Packers the go-ahead touchdown in a 17-14 victory over the Washington Redskins at soggy Lambeau Field on Sunday.

"It was a big play today," Woodson said. "Hopefully, I have many more to come."

With Green Bay's previously top-ranked passing offense sputtering and the Packers trailing 14-10 late in the third quarter, defensive lineman Corey



Williams stripped Redskins receiver Santana Moss on an end-around. Woodson picked up the ball and ran to the end zone. The Packers (5-1) won despite an off day from Brett Favre, who became the NFL's career interception king with an errant pass picked off by Redskins safety Sean Taylor in the third quarter.

"I could care less," Favre said. "We won the game. I'm glad it's over, just like the other records. We're 5-1, so it feels a

lot better than having no picks and being 1-5."

Despite Favre's off day — he was 19-of-37 for 188 yards and threw a second interception to Taylor in the fourth quarter — the Packers recovered from their first loss of the season against Chicago last Sunday, regaining momentum as they head into their bye.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy said the Redskins were the best team the Packers have played so far, but he still hasn't seen his young team play a complete game.

"We feel good about being 5-1, but we're a team that needs to clean our house," McCarthy said.

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The Patriots remain unbeaten with a win over Dallas
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Today's TOP TV games

MLB: Red Sox @ Indians
7 p.m., FOX
NFL: Giants @ Falcons
8:30 p.m., ESPN