

# Rafter repeats as U.S. Open champion

By Mike Jensen  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

NEW YORK — Right off the bat, Mark Philippoussis must have known what was coming. The first three times he rushed the net, all he got was a better view of the ball whizzing past him.

Passing equally well with his forehand and backhand, going cross-court or down the line, whatever was available, Patrick Rafter on Sunday took over the all-Australian final and won his second straight U.S. Open, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0, by confounding Philippoussis with consistency.

Over the four sets, Rafter committed just five unforced errors. Philippoussis, who is one of the biggest servers ever created, who had 30 aces in the Open semifinals, and is known as "Scud," managed to

get the ball completely by Rafter a mere five times — and four of those aces came in the first set.

The match ended with Philippoussis losing the last 10 games, finishing with a double-fault.

When Rafter won the Open last year, he went into a slump: John McEnroe suggested he was a "one-slam wonder." He persuaded himself that this wasn't true.

"Now I feel last year wasn't such a fluke," said Rafter, who was so relaxed enough to take in a Pearl Jam concert in the middle of the tournament — "one of the best concerts I've ever been to, I tell you that."

Rafter, who now moves up to No. 2 in the world behind Pete Sampras, whom he beat in the semifinals, points out that guys like Philippoussis and Sampras hit their

second serves harder than he hits his first one. But Rafter is nimble all over the court. He bends waiting for a serve, his back just about parallel to the ground, then springs up into his shot.

Although this was the first all-Aussie final since Ken Rosewall beat Tony Roche in 1970, the outcome must have been a popular one down under. A recent survey in Australia had Rafter as the most popular man in the country. Yesterday, Aussie Davis Cup captain Tony Roche sat in Rafter's box.

"I was extremely disappointed by that," said Philippoussis, who angered Rafter and Roche earlier this year by declining to play in a Davis Cup match against Zimbabwe, but has since patched up his relationship with Rafter.

Hingis claims doubles Grand Slam

Martina Hingis got her Grand Slam consolation prize in doubles. Less than 24 hours after her loss to Lindsay Davenport in the U.S. Open women's singles final, Hingis beat Davenport in the doubles final to complete a Grand Slam sweep.

Hingis and Wimbledon singles champion Jana Novotna defeated Davenport and Natasha Zvereva 6-3, 6-3. It took 64 minutes for the victory and the winners shared \$320,000; compared with the \$400,000 Hingis received as the singles runner-up.

"I was kind of making history today for myself," Hingis said. "It's just nice. ... At least you have a nice trip back home."



Patrick Rafter defeated Mark Philippoussis 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0, on Sunday to repeat as champion of the U.S. Open.

## College football

# Florida State falls out of Top 10 in polls

By Richard Rosenblatt  
The Associated Press

Florida State dropped out of the Top 10, and so did Notre Dame. Michigan and Arizona State, meanwhile, dropped completely out of The Associated Press' Top 25 college football poll.

The Seminoles, beaten soundly by North Carolina State 24-7 on Saturday, tumbled from No. 2 to No. 11 in this week's AP poll — the school's lowest ranking since it was No. 12 on Nov. 3, 1990. Florida State, which has finished in the top four the past 11 seasons, was also ranked 11th on Oct. 8, 1994.

The Fighting Irish, who made the Top 10 last week for the first time since late 1996, plummeted 13 places to No. 23 after their 45-23 loss to Michigan State.

And then there's Michigan and Arizona State. The Wolverines, co-national champions, lost to Syracuse 38-26 and slipped out of the rankings from a No. 13 spot last week. The Sun Devils, 26-6 losers to Brigham Young, were No. 14 ranking last week.

The shakeup allowed Ohio State to take a firm grip on the No. 1 spot. The Buckeyes, 49-0 winners over Toledo, received 57 first-place votes and 1,733 points Sunday from the 70 sports writers and broadcasters on the AP panel.

Florida, which beat Northeast Louisiana 42-10, moved up a spot to No. 2 with nine first-place votes and 1,625 points, while Nebraska improved to No. 3 with one first-place vote and 1,581 points after its 24-3 win over California.

UCLA, a 49-31 winner over Texas, improved two spots to No. 4 with a first-place vote and 1,527 points, followed by No. 5 Kansas State (two first-place votes and 1,466 points).

Tennessee was No. 6, followed by No. 7 LSU, No. 8 Penn State, No. 9 Washington and No. 10 Virginia.

The Bruins jumped ahead of Kansas State, which beat Northern Illinois 7-7.

Florida State was 11th, followed by No. 12 Georgia, No. 13 Syracuse, No. 14 Wisconsin, No. 15 Colorado, No. 16 Arizona, No. 17 Texas A&M, No. 18 Southern California, No. 19 West Virginia, No. 20 North Carolina State, No. 21 Missouri, No. 22 Oregon, No. 23 Notre Dame, No. 23 Alabama and No. 25 Mississippi State.

In the USA Today/ESPN poll, the top five were: Ohio State, Florida, Nebraska, Kansas State and UCLA.

North Carolina State moved into the AP poll for the first time since early in the 1995 season, and its No. 20 spot is the school's highest since a No. 17 ranking in the 1994 final poll.

In addition to Michigan and Arizona State, Texas also fell from the Top 25. Joining the rankings were North Carolina State, Alabama and Mississippi State.

## The AP Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and ranking in previous poll.

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Ohio St. (57)	2-0	1,733	1
2. Florida (9)	2-0	1,625	3
3. Nebraska (1)	3-0	1,582	4
4. UCLA (1)	1-0	1,527	6
5. Kansas St. (2)	2-0	1,466	5
6. Tennessee	1-0	1,353	8
7. LSU	1-0	1,348	7
8. Penn St.	2-0	1,283	9
9. Washington	1-0	1,157	11
10. Virginia	2-0	1,074	12
11. Florida St.	1-1	987	2
12. Georgia	2-0	919	15
13. Syracuse	1-1	874	19
14. Wisconsin	2-0	771	17
15. Colorado	2-0	722	16
16. Arizona	2-0	608	21
17. Texas A&M	1-1	552	18
18. Southern Cal	2-0	520	22
19. West Virginia	0-1	456	20
20. N. Carolina St.	2-0	434	
21. Missouri	2-0	330	25
22. Oregon	2-0	245	24
23. Notre Dame	1-1	199	10
24. Alabama	2-0	163	
25. Mississippi St.	2-0	110	

Others receiving votes: Virginia Tech 84, Kentucky 89, Arizona St. 88, Colorado St. 80, Air Force 51, Miami 51, Michigan 49, Brigham Young 48, North Carolina 37, Boston College 25, Utah 22, Tulane 20, Miami 19, Georgia Tech 14, Texas 14, Auburn 13, Cent. Florida 8, Michigan St. 8, Texas Tech 4, Purdue 3, Arkansas 2, Washington 1.

The AP poll and coverage of college football can be found at <http://www.espn25.com>

## USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in the USA Today/ESPN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and last year's final ranking.

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Ohio State (52)	2-0	1,537	1
2. Florida (1)	2-0	1,432	4
3. Nebraska (7)	3-0	1,425	3
4. Kansas State (1)	2-0	1,324	5
5. UCLA (1)	1-0	1,289	6
6. Tennessee	1-0	1,171	7
7. LSU	1-0	1,170	8
8. Penn State	2-0	1,134	9
9. Washington	1-0	1,020	10
10. Virginia	2-0	952	12
11. Florida State	1-1	901	2
12. Georgia	2-0	879	13
13. Syracuse	1-1	683	18
14. Wisconsin	2-0	680	17
15. Colorado	2-0	661	16
16. USC	2-0	495	23
17. Arizona	2-0	490	21
18. Texas A&M	1-1	424	19
19. Missouri	2-0	342	25
20. West Virginia	0-1	333	20
21. Virginia Tech	2-0	245	
22. Alabama	2-0	207	
23. Oregon	2-0	165	
24. N.C. State	2-0	159	
25. Notre Dame	1-1	156	11

Others receiving votes: Air Force 98, Mississippi State 91, North Carolina 91, Miami 89, Michigan 79, Brigham Young 75, Kentucky 58, Arizona State 46, Tulane 46, Colorado State 34, Texas 30, Boston College 28, Washington State 26, Southern Mississippi 16, Miami (Ohio) 13, Auburn 12, Utah 11, Texas Tech 10, Michigan State 6, Central Florida 5, Duke 5, Marshall 4, Fresno State 1, Georgia Tech 1, Tulsa 1.

# 98 EXPLORER

**298/month**

**HURRY TODAY TO O.C. WELCH**

**ANYBODY KNOWS THAT LEASES SHOULD BE LOW AT THE YEARS END**

**O.C. WELCH**  
FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY

TO SERVE YOU BETTER, OUR  
SERVICE DEPARTMENT IS OPEN  
ON SATURDAY'S FROM 8AM TO 4PM

100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS OUR ONLY GOAL

Hwy. 170 BEAUFORT • (843) 524-3171  
Fax: (843) 524-3921 • <http://www.gosecwc.com>

Ford  
Credit

Red  
Carpet  
Lease.

THE LARGEST VOLUME FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY DEALER IN THE UNITED STATES!

# 98 CONVERSION VANS



**398/month or 1 PAY \$5998**

**RED CARPET LEASE**

REDUCTION. First Payment, \$400 Refundable Reconditioning Reserve, Plus Tax, Tag, & Title Due At Inception. Residual \$5,000. Includes Dealer. 10 miles over 12,000 miles.

**HURRY TODAY TO O.C. WELCH FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY.**  
**ANYBODY KNOWS THAT LEASES SHOULD BE LOW AT THE YEARS END**

**O.C. WELCH**  
FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY

THE LARGEST VOLUME FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY DEALER IN THE UNITED STATES!

## Daily Dose

Morning News  
Comics For A Laugh A Day.  
Savannah Morning News.