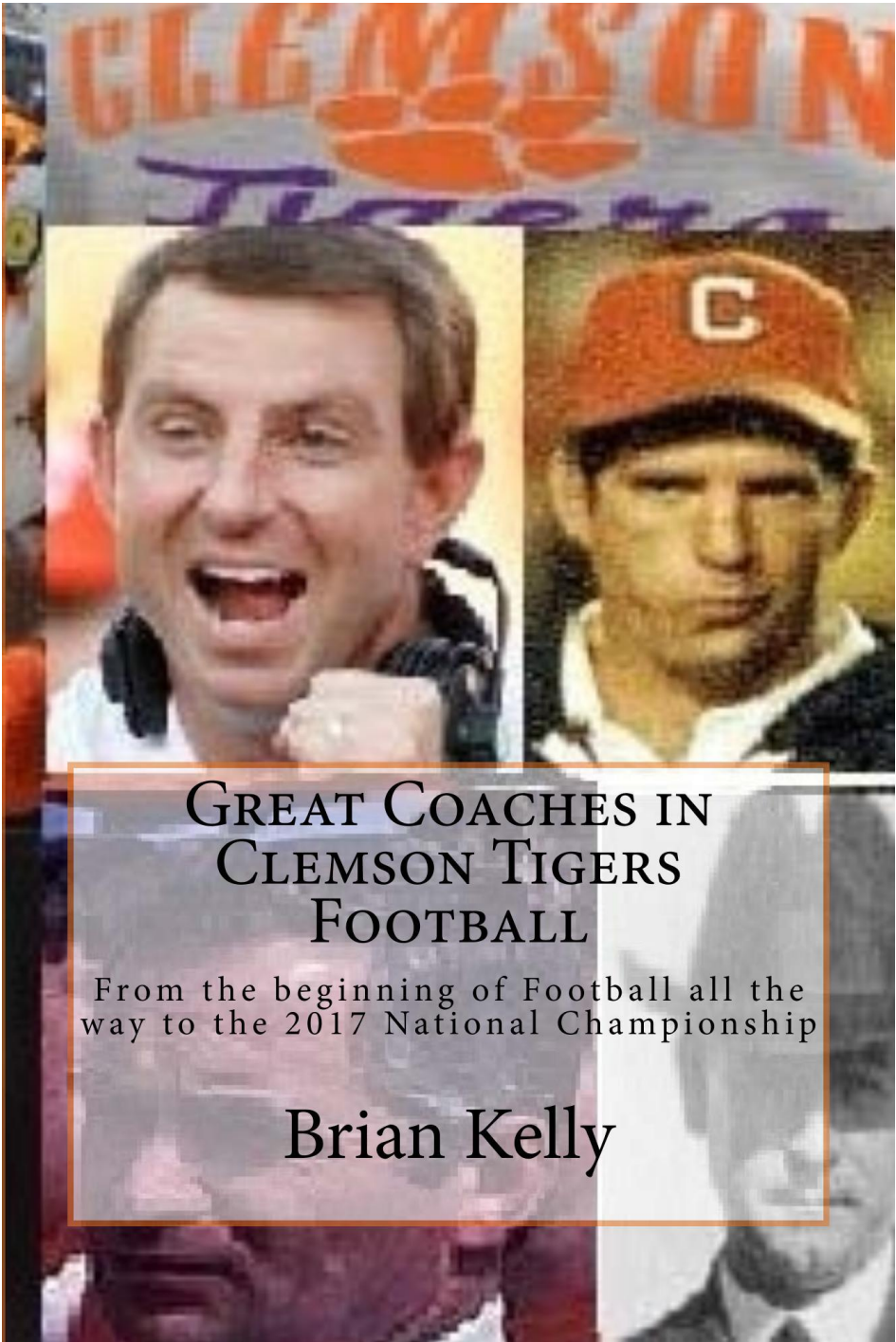


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# GREAT COACHES IN CLEMSON TIGERS FOOTBALL

From the beginning of Football all the way to the 2017 National Championship

Brian Kelly

# Great Coaches

In

# Clemson Tigers Football

From the beginning of Football all the way to the 2017 National Championship

This book is written for those of us who love the Clemson University Fighting Tigers Football Team. You'll like all the stories from the University's founding in 1889, just about 130 years ago, to the beginning of the football program, through the great coaches to CU as an annual National Champion contender.

You will learn that Clemson Tigers are trained by great coaches to become fierce and passionate competitors. From the stadium to the classroom to the research lab, the Clemson Tigers know how to win.

From the very beginning, the book moves you one coach at time but rapidly through the CU football ages. We we meet the great immortal Clemson University of Florida coaches from the first, Walter Riggs to the current coach, Dabo Swinney. Riggs, the first of many great coaches is known as the father of Clemson Football and it is not just because he hired the famed John Heisman as the fourth Tiger coach shortly after the official beginning of football on campus.

You've heard of them all over the years – John Heisman, Frank Howard--the longest tenured Clemson Coach, Jess Neely, and of course Danny Ford who brought us all the first CU National Championship in 1981. That's not enough so we take you all the way past Coach Tommy Bowden and on to the great Dabo Swinney and the reigning 2017 National Champion Clemson Tigers. Go Tigers! Go Tigers!

Those of us who enjoy the teams coming out every week in the fall know that it was because twenty-five great UF coaches worked with hundreds of great players in 130 years. These coaches masterminded the victories while the CU players provided the excitement.

We do know how the coaches did it. It was through hard work--discipline, conditioning and a commitment to the honor of winning. From day one, The Tigers have been a winning team. Look at the record. The Clemson Tigers from way back learned to win. CU fans need this book on their bookshelves to get the story from a coach's perspective on how they pulled it off.

This book is your finest source for a great read on your favorite college football team by studying the history of its great coaches. This book is for your reading pleasure but also as a great reference for when you want to see how a particular Clemson coach performed in any particular season or game.

If you are a Clemson Tigers fan, you will not want to put this book down until you know every coach's name and something about their record.

## Brian Kelly



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**Title: Great Coaches in Clemson Tigers Football**

Editor: Brian P. Kelly  
Author Brian W. Kelly

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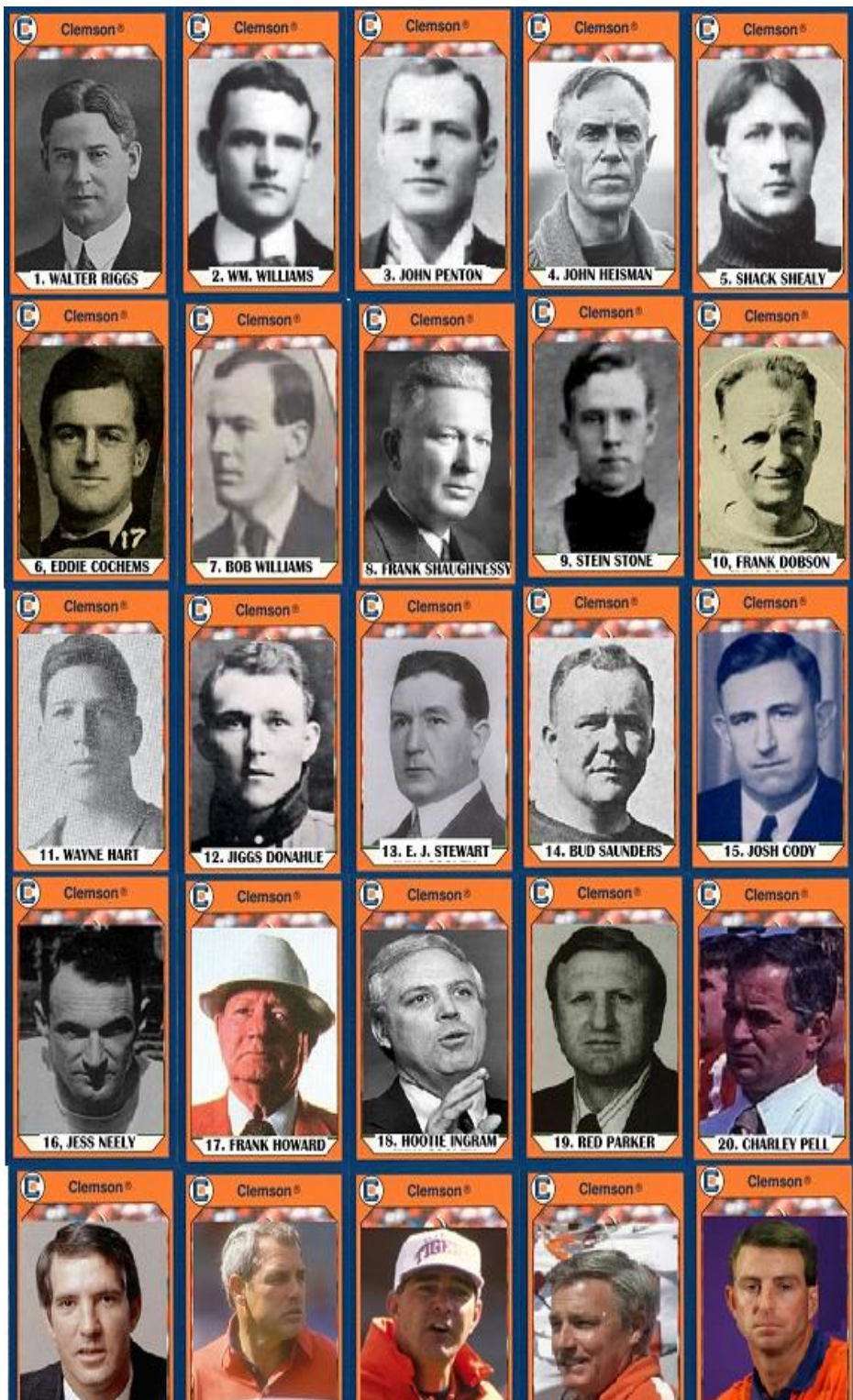
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## Clemson University Seasons by Year/Coach

Head coach	Year		Wins/ Losses/Ties			Conf.
	<b><u>Walter Riggs</u></b>	<u>1896</u>	2	1	0	
<b><u>Wm. M. Williams</u></b>	<u>1897</u>	2	2	0	Indep	
<b><u>John Penton</u></b>	<u>1898</u>	3	1	0	Indep	
<b><u>Walter Riggs</u></b>	<u>1899</u>	4	2	0	SIAA	
<b><u>John Heisman</u></b>	<u>1900</u>	6	0	0	SIAA	
	<u>1901</u>	3	1	1	SIAA	
	<u>1902</u>	6	1	0	SIAA	
	<u>1903</u>	4	1	1	SIAA	
<b><u>Shack Shealy</u></b>	<u>1904</u>	3	3	1	SIAA	
<b><u>Eddie Cochems</u></b>	<u>1905</u>	3	2	1	SIAA	
<b><u>Bob Williams</u></b>	<u>1906</u>	4	0	3	SIAA	
<b><u>Frank Shaughnessy</u></b>	<u>1907</u>	4	4	0	SIAA	
<b><u>John N. Stone</u></b>	<u>1908</u>	1	6	0	SIAA	
<b>Bob Williams</b>	<u>1909</u>	6	3	0	SIAA	
<b><u>Frank Dobson</u></b>	<u>1910</u>	4	3	1	SIAA	
	<u>1911</u>	3	5	0	SIAA	
	<u>1912</u>	4	4	0	SIAA	
<b>Bob Williams</b>	<u>1913</u>	4	4	0	SIAA	
	<u>1914</u>	5	3	1	SIAA	
	<u>1915</u>	2	4	2	SIAA	
<b><u>Wayne Hart</u></b>	<u>1916</u>	3	6	0	SIAA	
<b><u>Edward Donahue</u></b>	<u>1917</u>	6	2	0	SIAA	
	<u>1918</u>	5	2	0	SIAA	
	<u>1919</u>	6	2	2	SIAA	
	<u>1920</u>	4	6	1	SIAA	
<b><u>E. J. Stewart</u></b>	<u>1921</u>	1	6	2	SIAA	
	<u>1922</u>	5	4	0	SoCon	
<b><u>Bud Saunders</u></b>	<u>1923</u>	5	2	1	SoCon	
	<u>1924</u>	2	6	0	SoCon	
	<u>1925</u>	1	7	0	SoCon	
<b>Bud Saunders (4 games)</b>	<u>1926</u>	2	7	0	SoCon	

<b>Bob Williams (5 games)</b>					SoCon
<b><u>Josh Cody</u></b>	<u>1927</u>	5	3	1	SoCon
	<u>1928</u>	8	3	0	SoCon
	<u>1929</u>	8	3	0	SoCon
	<u>1930</u>	8	2	0	SoCon
<b><u>Jess Neely</u></b>	<u>1931</u>	1	6	2	SoCon
	<u>1932</u>	3	5	1	SoCon
	<u>1933</u>	3	6	2	SoCon
	<u>1934</u>	5	4	0	SoCon
	<u>1935</u>	6	3	0	SoCon
	<u>1936</u>	5	5	0	SoCon
	<u>1937</u>	4	4	1	SoCon
	<u>1938</u>	7	1	1	SoCon
<b><u>Frank Howard</u></b>	<u>1939</u>	9	1	0	SoCon
	<u>1940</u>	6	2	1	SoCon
	<u>1941</u>	7	2	0	SoCon
	<u>1942</u>	3	6	1	SoCon
	<u>1943</u>	2	6	0	SoCon
	<u>1944</u>	4	5	0	SoCon
	<u>1945</u>	6	3	1	SoCon
	<u>1946</u>	4	5	0	SoCon
	<u>1947</u>	4	5	0	SoCon
	<u>1948</u>	11	0	0	SoCon
	<u>1949</u>	4	4	2	SoCon
	<u>1950</u>	9	0	1	SoCon
	<u>1951</u>	7	3	0	SoCon
	<u>1952</u>	2	6	1	SoCon
	<u>1953</u>	3	5	1	ACC
	<u>1954</u>	5	5	0	ACC
	<u>1955</u>	7	3	0	ACC
<u>1956</u>	7	2	2	ACC	
<u>1957</u>	7	3	0	ACC	
<u>1958</u>	8	3	0	ACC	
<u>1959</u>	9	2	0	ACC	

	<u>1960</u>	6	4	0	ACC
	<u>1961</u>	5	5	0	ACC
	<u>1962</u>	6	4	0	ACC
	<u>1963</u>	5	4	1	ACC
	<u>1964</u>	3	7	0	ACC
	<u>1965</u>	5	5	0	ACC
	<u>1966</u>	6	4	0	ACC
	<u>1967</u>	6	4	0	ACC
	<u>1968</u>	4	5	1	ACC
	<u>1969</u>	4	6	0	ACC
<b><u>Hootie Ingram</u></b>	<u>1970</u>	3	8	0	ACC
	<u>1971</u>	5	6	0	ACC
	<u>1972</u>	4	7	0	ACC
<b><u>Red Parker</u></b>	<u>1973</u>	5	6	0	ACC
	<u>1974</u>	7	4	0	ACC
	<u>1975</u>	2	9	0	ACC
	<u>1976</u>	3	6	2	ACC
<b><u>Charley Pell</u></b>	<u>1977</u>	8	3	1	ACC
<b><u>Charley Pell (11 games)</u></b>	<u>1978 *</u>	11	1	0	ACC
					ACC
<b><u>Danny Ford (1 game)</u></b>					
<b><u>Danny Ford</u></b>	<u>1979</u>	8	4	0	ACC
	<u>1980</u>	6	5	0	ACC
	<u>1981</u>	12	0	0	ACC
	<u>1982</u>	9	1	1	ACC
	<u>1983</u>	9	1	1	ACC
	<u>1984</u>	7	4	0	ACC
	<u>1985</u>	6	6	0	ACC
	<u>1986</u>	8	2	2	ACC
	<u>1987</u>	10	2	0	ACC
	<u>1988</u>	10	2	0	ACC
	<u>1989</u>	10	2	0	ACC
<b><u>Ken Hatfield</u></b>	<u>1990</u>	10	2	0	ACC
	<u>1991</u>	9	2	1	ACC



	<u>1992</u>	5	6	0	ACC
<b>Ken Hatfield (11 games)</b>	<u>1993</u>	9	3	0	ACC
					ACC
<b><u>Tommy West (1 game)</u></b>					ACC
<b>Tommy West</b>	<u>1994</u>	5	6	0	ACC
	<u>1995</u>	8	4	0	ACC
	<u>1996</u>	7	5	—	ACC
	<u>1997</u>	7	5	—	ACC
	<u>1998</u>	3	8	—	ACC
<b><u>Tommy Bowden</u></b>	<u>1999</u>	6	6	—	ACC
	<u>2000</u>	9	3	—	ACC
	<u>2001</u>	7	5	—	ACC
	<u>2002</u>	7	6	—	ACC
	<u>2003</u>	9	4	—	ACC
	<u>2004</u>	6	5	—	ACC
	<u>2005</u>	8	4	—	ACC
	<u>2006</u>	8	5	—	ACC
	<u>2007</u>	9	4	—	ACC
<b><u>Tommy Bowden(6 games)</u></b>	<u>2008</u>	7	6	—	ACC
					ACC
<b><u>Dabo Swinney (7 games)</u></b>	2008				ACC
<b><u>Dabo Swinney</u></b>	2009	9	5	—	ACC
	<u>2010</u>	6	7	—	ACC
	2011	10	4	—	ACC
	2012	11	2	—	ACC
	<u>2013</u>	11	2	—	ACC
	<u>2014</u>	10	3	—	ACC
	2015	14	1	—	ACC
	2016	14	1	—	ACC

**Total Games** 1,222

Seasons 121

**Total Wins** 721

**Total Losses** 456

**Total Ties** 45 \* Prior to Overtime Rules

**Stats from 1896 Through August 2017**





# Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I received in putting this book together, along with the 122 other books from the past.

My printed acknowledgments were once so large that book readers needed to navigate too many pages to get to page one of the text. To permit me more flexibility, I put my acknowledgment list online at [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com). The list of acknowledgments continues to grow. Believe it or not, it once cost about a dollar more to print each book.

Thank you all on the big list in the sky and God bless you all for your help.

Please check out [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com) to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book. Thank you all!

In this book, I received some extra special help from many avid football friends including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Brent Evans, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Robert Garry Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly and Diane Kelly.



# References

I learned how to write creatively in Grade School at St. Boniface. I even enjoyed reading some of my own stuff as a toddler.

At Meyers High School and King's College and Wilkes-University, I learned how to research, write bibliographies and footnote every non-original thought I might have had. I learned to hate *ibid*, and *op. cit.*, and I hated assuring that I had all citations written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to details took my desire to write creatively and diminished it with busy work.

I know it is necessary for the world to stop plagiarism so authors and publishers can get paid properly, but for an honest writer, it sure is annoying. I wrote many proposals while with IBM and whenever I needed to cite something, I cited it in place, because my readers, IT Managers, could care less about tracing the vagaries of citations and their varied formats.

I always hated to use stilted footnotes, or produce a lengthy, perfectly formatted bibliography. I bet most bibliographies are flawed because even the experts on such drivel do not like the tedium.

I wrote 118 books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available. Academicians knowing all the rules of citation are not my audience. In this book, if you are a lover of Clemson Tigers football, you are my intended group of readers

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the great coaches in Clemson University Football, I tried to bluff my way into trying to make you think that I knew everything before I began to write anything in this book. I spent as much time researching as writing. I might even call myself an expert of sorts now about the Tigers and their great coaches. Clemson is a team that I have recently begun to watch and enjoy, especially when a great coach such as Dabo Swinney is on the sidelines.

Without any pain on your part you can read this book from cover to cover to enjoy the stories about the many great coaches in the Clemson University of Football Program.

It took me about two months to write this book. If I were to have made sure that a thought of mine was not a thought somebody else ever had, this book never would have been completed or the citations pages would more than likely exceed the prose. Everybody takes credit for everything in sports writing—at least that's what I have found.

I used CU Season summaries and recaps from whatever source I could to get the scores of all the games. I verified facts when possible. There are many web sites that have great information and facts. Ironically most Internet stories are the same exact stories. Who's got the original? While I was writing the book, I wrote down a bunch of Internet references and at one time, I listed them right here en masse in this article. They were the least read pages. No more. Unless I am citing a reference in a section of the book, you will not see the URL in this book.

Since I am not a South Carolinian, but I love vacationing at Myrtle Beach, I want to visit SC and even further south as winters in PA are very harsh and grey.

I have no favorite source for information to put in my books. However, I continually hunt for articles written by students to amplify the text I present.

While I was writing this book, because I was not sure that my citations within the text would be enough, and I was not producing a bibliography, I copied URLs into some of the book text in those cases in which I had read articles or had downloaded material and had brought articles or pieces of articles into this book. Hopefully, this will satisfy any request for additional citations. If there is anything which needs a specific citation, I would be pleased to change the text. Just contact me. Your stuff is your stuff.

Most of the facts in this book are also put forth in the Clemson Media Guide. Our thanks for the use of this material for the accurate production of this book. Additionally, when I was looking for some special games to highlight, I used a piece by Bob Bradley, Sports Information Director as a source for my facts.

<http://www.clemsonigers.com/ViewArticle.dbml?ATCLID=205510943>.



# Preface:

This book is all about the great coaches in Clemson Tigers football over the years. Along the way to today, we talk about the founding of Clemson University; some of the preliminaries before CU football officially began, and then we delve right into the storied Clemson University Football Coaches; their struggles pulling off a successful program; their greatness; and their long-lasting impact on American life.

As a Pennsylvanian, Clemson is not my only sports favorite. I admit that I wrote a similar book about Penn State Football but only after I had fulfilled the family Irish wish and had written about Notre Dame Football. Then, before Clemson whooped Alabama in the beginning of 1917, I had figured Nick Saban could not be beaten—though I was not necessarily rooting for him—and so I selected Alabama as the third football team about which I would write about in a Great Moments book. I wrote my first “great coaches” book about Alabama and it has another great cover filled with the “Bear.”

You’ve got to admit, Alabama is a competent team. Now, I find myself writing about the National Champions, the Clemson Tigers, and I am honored to take up this challenge. As I am reviewing the preface right before publication, I have concluded that I think you are going to like this book.

Since none of the three, ND, PSU, or UA, invited me on campus to sign books, and none of them have appealing locations anyway, especially those in the North, I figured why not pick a state where I vacation such as Florida. But, I am not a fan of the Seminoles. I have friends in the Gainesville area so I picked the Gators and that package of three books (Great Moments; Great Coaches, and Great Players) came out several months ago. After this book, Clemson fans can expect a “Great Players” edition.

Before I decided to write this book about Clemson Coaches, I was thinking about writing about Army as they have three National Championships, many undefeated seasons and some other mythical national championships (MNCs). Army also played some great football when American football was first being defined.

Like many of you, I served some time in the Army. But then, I remembered how rivetted I was to my seat watching Deshaun Watson and the Dabo Swinney squad on January 9, 2017 put a stinging defeat on Alabama. So, I wrote the Great Moments in Clemson Tigers Football before I wrote the Great Moments in Army Football. Since I just finished the first Army book, I am back to Clemson with this Great Coaches book. With Dabo Swinney at the top of his game, this book has been a lot of fun already.

In determining to write a book about Clemson, I also got to thinking that I like South Carolina as a state. It is so nice that I choose to go there on vacations. Though Myrtle Beach is on the other side of the state from Clemson, the weather is fine in both sections of the state and the Tiger country is beautiful. If I were just a kid today, I would love spending time in South Carolina—even more than I do now.

This is not the first book I wrote about South Carolina. I am the proud author of a book with a catchy title called Take the Train to Myrtle Beach, which I wrote several years ago and updated last summer. I look forward to my first trip to Clemson to sign some books in the Fall. Don't forget to invite me!

When you are ready to invite me to “Death Valley,” aka Frank Howard Field at Clemson Memorial Stadium, I will be pleased to arrive in Clemson, SC with bells on. Perhaps somebody could get me four fifty-yard line seats in a game in which CU is playing against one of my old-time favorites, ND or PSU, or quite frankly, any team. I'd be happy to do some signing before and after the game, and at the bookstore the day before and after. I'll wait 'til the signing is finished to move on to the whistle-wetting period. I'll sign until you tell me “No more!”

I respect Clemson an awful lot, especially now that I have completed all the research necessary to print this book. I am sure long-term Clemson fans will admit that as a Pennsylvanian, for me it was easy to grow up a Penn State Fan. ND of course has always been as close to me as a family religion.

I began to pay attention to Clemson a few years ago when Deshaun beat Deshone in one of the toughest games of my life. Clemson beat

both Notre Dame and the torrential rain. It was tough for me because ND lost and because I was in the first couple days of a herniated disc recovery that sidelined me for two months. Each cheer or groan caused pain. Thank God for laptops. I noticed that those Clemson players sure know how to play great football.

Of course, I watched the end of season games in 2016 and would not miss the January Championship game in which Clemson was barely beaten by less than a touchdown. I was in awe of the Clemson Team and I was again amazed by the outstanding play of QB Deshaun Watson. What a football player. What a team!

Of course, in early 2017, I was attached to the TV for the Clemson-Alabama rematch nail-biter game and saw the best player in the country, Deshaun Watson, win the game for Dabo Swinney and for Clemson. Well deserved. It's time for another. I have enjoyed writing this book immensely. Go Tigers!

Supporters who love Clemson University will read this book and get an immediate burst of emotions such as warmth and love for their favorite team. You will love this book because it has it all – every great coach in every great season and every great game. Go Clemson Tigers!

This book walks you through the whole CU football coaches journey. Then, when we put together the players book, we will look at both the players on the early teams who succeeded despite Clemson not yet having a big-time program and the later players who were simply great athletes who loved the Fighting Tigers.

This period began in 1896. Like all new teams, you can imagine the struggle of playing on a college football team when getting the right equipment was one of the biggest issues.

The 25 great CU coaches are the focus of the book and they deserve to be exalted. The coaches are listed and their legacies explored within the football seasons in which they coached--from season 1 in 1896 to season 122 in 2017.

In other words, the seasons are examined chronologically and the coaches and certain games and occasionally a player or two are

highlighted within the seasons in which the games were played. I sure hope you enjoy this unique approach.

Before Frank Howard put in a thirty-year stint starting in 1940, few of CU's prior 16 coaches took the team for more than a couple years. Yet, they still produced some powerful teams with powerful players. Of the 25 coaches in the Fighting Tigers history, just six had losing seasons. That's a lot of winning for any football program.

## **Clemson Tigers are a long-time football power**

Just shy of one hundred thirty years is a long time to be playing football. The Clemson Tigers are recognized today as one of the finest teams in the nation, ready to win a national championship at the drop of the next hat. In fact, it was less than a year ago that the hat dropped for the second time.

In 1953, Clemson joined the ACC and have been playing many of the best football teams in the nation ever since by competing in the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. Some say the SEC was better in 2016 than the ACC but then again, Clemson, a mainstay of the ACC is the reigning national champion. You can read about Clemson success before and after it joined the ACC right here in this book and decide for yourself how great the Fighting Tigers play the game of Football.

Your author would like you to know that when football season closes in the second week of January each year, there is now a great football item—this book—that is available all 52 weeks of the year and in fact all 365 days each year. It does not rely on the stadium gates being open for you to get a great dose of Clemson Tigers Football. Just begin reading right here.

It is now available for you to add to your Clemson Football experience, and your book collection. Once you get this book, it is yours forever unless, of course you give it away to one of the many who will be in awe, and who will accept it gladly. For those who love to use gadgets to read, this book is also available on Kindle.

We open the book with the first story set shortly after the beginning of college football as a sport in America. It then moves on to the first official game with the first official coach and all the way to Coach Swinney's National Championship game. It tells a story about all the football seasons directed by all the immortal and simply great coaches from the first coached game in 1896 to today.

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves the Clemson Tigers and wants to know more about the most revered coaches who have ever brought a team to the field—especially in one of the finest football programs of all time.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's Great Coaches in Clemson Tigers Football will quickly appear at the top of Americas most enjoyable must-read books about sports. Enjoy!

### **Who is Brian W. Kelly?**

Brian W. Kelly is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 123rd published book. Brian is an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics and besides books, he has also written several hundred articles on topics of interest to Americans.

Most of his early works involved high technology. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as The Wine Diet and Thank you, IBM. His books are always well received.

Brian's books are highlighted at [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com). Quantities from 20 to 1000 can be made available from [www.bookhawkers.com](http://www.bookhawkers.com) by contacting Lets Go Publish! You may see most of Brian's works by taking the following link [www.amazon.com/author/brianwkelly](http://www.amazon.com/author/brianwkelly).

The Best!

Sincerely,

Brian W. Kelly, Author  
 Brian P. Kelly, Editor in Chief  
 I am Brian Kelly's eldest son.



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# About the Author



Brian Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) Program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of technical industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Brian is the author of 123 books and hundreds of magazine articles. He has been a frequent speaker at technical conferences throughout the United States.

Brian was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. He loves Clemson Tigers Football and can't wait to get back down to South Carolina in the fall. When he is invited to a Clemson game, he'll be glad to sign your books for as long as it takes. God bless the Tigers!



# Chapter 1 Introduction to Clemson University (CU) Football

**Clemson's 122<sup>nd</sup> Year in 2017!**



Coach Swinney leading the Tigers onto the field

The Clemson Tigers have fielded a team every season since the inaugural 1896 season. That's a lot of football games. To be exact, it's 1,222 games in its 121 seasons, and the Tigers have a fine all-time record of 721 wins, 445 losses, and 45 ties. That's a lot of great Clemson football folks. That's a lot of great coaching from many great Clemson coaches

Officially the Clemson recognizes a long football history that dates back to 1896. If you are from South Carolina, or some other rival school, you might not be so kind. Such rivals might ask if Clemson even had a football team before 1981 with Danny Ford and the

Clemson University First National Championship. Of course, they don't know how to read as the immortal Frank Howard had an extremely successful thirty-year tenure from 1940 through 1969.

After Howard, Hootie Ingram and Red Parker had a tough time getting wins for the team. They combined for a seven-year losing record of 29-46-2 before even the great Charlie Pell, who stopped by Clemson for two years (1977 & 1978) could not put them 100% back on the plus side of the win column even though he picked up 18 wins with just four losses and a tie. Combining the trio's record post Frank Howard and pre-Danny Ford, we get come up with 47-50-3. Knowing what we know now, however, once Pell arrived the wins began to accumulate.

Like most startups, CU did have its share of mediocre seasons but they more or less ended in the 1940's with Frank Howard and those who followed. From the time of Danny Ford in 1980, to today, the Clemson Tigers have been on a rip with 338 wins, 153 losses, and 5 ties. Sometimes I wish the NCAA would just go away. This is the sixth book that I have researched and written about big-time college football, and I am beginning to see a pattern. When a team that is trying to break into the big-time has a good or great year, the NCAA is likely to impose sanctions.

I could have predicted it from heuristic analysis. During the Danny Ford years, Clemson was not supposed to be such a winning team and so, the NCAA stepped in with sanctions.

There are more.

My point is that it was only when Clemson began to make trouble for the expected winners it can be surmised that the NCAA clamped down. Maybe I am wrong but I have seen this pattern before.

Danny Ford was a great coach and brought home all the bacon one time during his tenure. The NCAA spots great programs and great coaches and the sanctions bomb comes down.

Dabo Swinney is a great coach and he takes a back seat to no other coach in college football. He brought in a National Championship and a ton of great seasons even before that. Check out his Clemson

record below. His football legacy is from hard work. He came to Clemson in 2008 and there was not even a hint of losing season upon his arrival. By 2012, Clemson was a major contender for national laurels. In the 2015 Championship game. Just five points separated Clemson from dethroning Alabama but five points made the difference.

With an even more determined team, in 2016, Swinney's offense and defense would not be picked apart even in the big games. They won the ACC and then went on to beat the vaunted SEC Champion Alabama in a great game to cap their season. Dabo Swinney is being compared to Danny Ford, and that sure is a compliment but the comparisons have to do with the NCAA sniffing around and finding violations. I hope none of this is true. Like I said. We might be better off as a country without the current NCAA.

<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct</b>
<a href="#">2008</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	7	4	3	0	.571
<a href="#">2009</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	14	9	5	0	.643
<a href="#">2010</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	13	6	7	0	.462
<a href="#">2011</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	14	10	4	0	.714
<a href="#">2012</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	13	11	2	0	.846
<a href="#">2013</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	13	11	2	0	.846
<a href="#">2014</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	13	10	3	0	.769
<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	15	14	1	0	.933
<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">Clemson</a>	15	14	1	0	.933

This book that you are reading celebrates Clemson University of South Carolina; its great coaches, its struggles; its greatness; and its long-lasting impact on American life. People like me, who love the Tigers, will love this book. Clemson Haters will want their own copy just for additional ammo. Yet, it won't help them! Hah!

We begin the rest of the Clemson Fighting Tigers football story in Chapter 2 with more insights about the university and its football program from the beginning -- 139 years ago and we continue coach by coach in subsequent chapters.

In defining the format of the book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss the great coaches in Clemson University football history, and there are many great coaches – 25 in all. No book can claim to be able to capture everything about so many great coaches and so many great games, but we sure do try.

## Chapter 2 Clemson University



One of the Beautiful Sites on CU Campus

### **The short story of the founding.**

Clemson was founded in 1889 through a bequest from Thomas Green Clemson, a Philadelphia-born, European-educated engineer, musician and artist who married John C. Calhoun's daughter, Anna Maria, and eventually settled at her family plantation in South Carolina. A longtime advocate for an agricultural college in the Upstate, Clemson left his home and fortune to the state of South Carolina to create the institution that bears his name.

In November 1889, Gov. John Peter Richardson signed a bill accepting Clemson's gift, which established the Clemson Agricultural College and made its trustees custodians of Morrill Act and Hatch Act funds, federally provided for agricultural education and research purposes by federal legislative acts.

Initially an all-male, all-white military school, Clemson Agricultural College opened in July 1893 with 446 students. Clemson became a coeducational, civilian institution in 1955 and was the first traditionally white institution in South Carolina to desegregate since Reconstruction. With academic offerings and research pursuits, the institution became Clemson University in 1964.

-- End of Clemson short story

## Mission of Clemson University



**Tillman Hall. The most famous building on campus**

Tillman Hall is the most famous building on the Clemson University campus. The 3-story brick building with a clock tower is located on a hill overlooking Bowman Field. Tillman Hall is currently the home of the College of Education.

Connected to Tillman Hall is the Tillman Auditorium, a 755-seat auditorium that formerly was a campus chapel named Memorial



Chapel. Tillman Auditorium is used primarily for lectures and seminars, small concerts, pageants and dances.[1]

## **Mission Description, Vision, & Statement**

*Clemson will be one of the nation's top-20 public universities.*

### **Mission Statement**

Clemson University was established to fulfill our founder's vision of "a high seminary of learning" to develop "the material resources of the State" for the people of South Carolina. Nurtured by an abiding land grant commitment, Clemson has emerged as a research university with a global vision. Our primary purpose is educating undergraduate and graduate students to think deeply about and engage in the social, scientific, economic, and professional challenges of our times.

The foundation of this mission is the generation, preservation, communication, and application of knowledge. The University also is committed to the personal growth of the individual and promotes an environment of good decision making, healthy and ethical lifestyles, and tolerance and respect for others. Our distinctive character is shaped by a legacy of service, collaboration, and fellowship forged from and renewed by the spirit of Thomas Green Clemson's covenant.

### **University Description**

Clemson University is a selective, public, research university in a college-town setting. Clemson's desire is to attract a capable, dedicated and diverse student body of approximately 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students, with priority to students from South Carolina.

The University offers a wide array of high quality baccalaureate programs built around a distinctive core curriculum. Graduate,

continuing education, doctoral and research programs contribute to the state of knowledge and to the economic future of the state, nation and world.

The university provides bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in more than 100 majors through five academic colleges: The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences; the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities; the College of Business and Behavioral Science; the College of Engineering and Science; and the College of Health, Education and

## **Human Development.**

Clemson combines the benefits of a major research university with a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and individual student success. Students, both undergraduate and graduate, have opportunities for unique educational experiences throughout South Carolina, as well as in other countries.

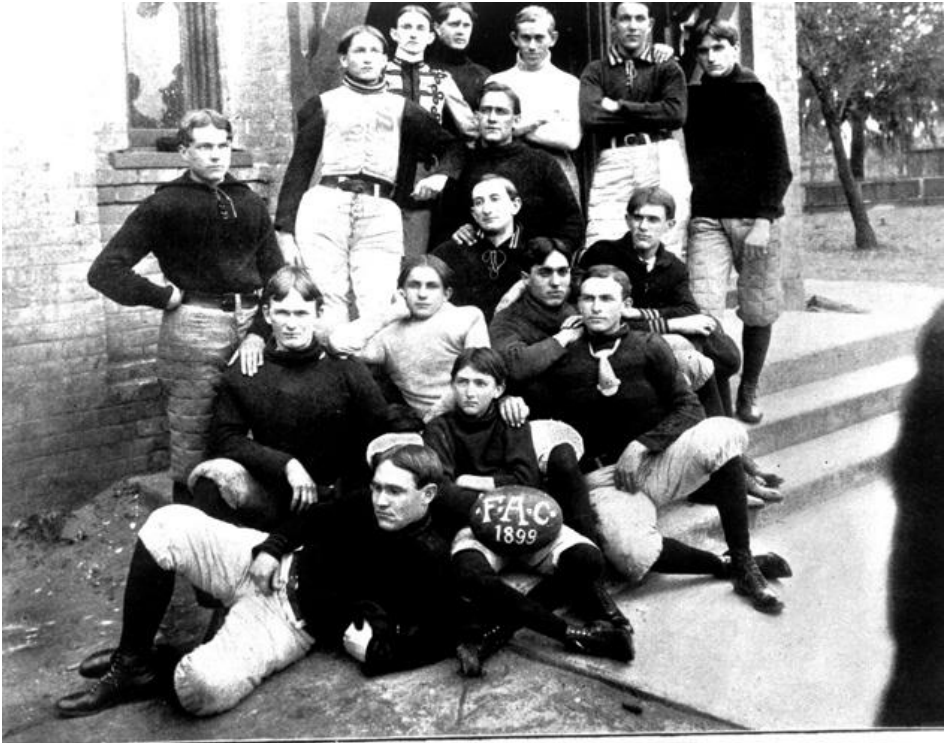
Experiential learning is a valued component of the Clemson experience, and students are encouraged through Creative Inquiry, internships, and study abroad, to apply their learning beyond the classroom. Electronic delivery of courses and degree programs also provide a variety of learning opportunities. Clemson's extended campus includes teaching sites in Greenville and Charleston, five research campuses and five public service centers throughout the state of South Carolina, as well as four international sites.

The University is committed to exemplary teaching, research and public service in the context of general education, student engagement and development, and continuing education. In all areas, the goal is to develop students' communication and critical-thinking skills, ethical judgment, global awareness, and scientific and technological knowledge.

The distinctive character of Clemson is reflected in the culture of collegiality and collaboration among faculty, students, staff, the administration, and the university board.

This tribute has been approved by the Clemson University Board of Trustees, October 19, 2012 & approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, March 22, 2013

## Chapter 3 CU “Un-Official” Football Teams



Early Clemson Football Team

### 1890's: Nearly 50 years from the founding

You could not find a football game on South Carolina campuses at any college through most of the 1890's but by the end, American football was well on its way. There had been lots of baseball, which was the main sport on South Carolina college campuses during this early period.

Recreational levels (intramural) of football began at some institutions by the 1880s. Founded in 1889, it was not too long afterwards that spot games of football were being played wherever students could find a field to play the game. South Carolina College (later became the University of South Carolina) played football before all other

schools. It became a very popular sport between groups of students who just seemed interested in its recreational value.

In October 1888 a student wrote, in a half joking manner, that football was good for health, because after playing a game, players bloodied themselves to the point that they “never need to be bled by a physician.” Though we do not see it much today, for thousands of years, physicians relied heavily on a single treatment for hysteria, heart disease and just about every other malady. They called it bloodletting. The theory behind the practice changed often over time, but the practice itself remained much the same -- with doctors often bleeding patients until they were weak, pale and, sometimes, unconscious. The student was joking but he may have been right.

John Heisman is one of the great immortal notables who coached at Clemson. He was respected nationwide as a football guru. Heisman first coached in 1892 at Oberlin College in Ohio. The College was founded way back in 1833. The Oberlin Review wrote about Heisman in 1892: "Mr. Heisman has entirely remade our football. He has taught us scientific football." They did not name the trophy after him because he was a slouch.

The Akron (Ohio) Beacon noted: “Trainer Heisman has shown what can be done with a new man, even in one short month of training. The advancement of the men has been remarkable.”

Soon to be a head football coach at Clemson, even before Clemson began its program, Walter Riggs, the father of Clemson football, tracked down John Heisman. He was growing tomatoes and strawberries in Texas for supplemental income in 1894. Riggs offered Heisman \$500 to coach football at Auburn. Heisman agreed. In 1890, John Heisman would be coaching at Clemson College (not yet a University).

There is very little written to almost nothing written about Clemson intramural football other than that we know it did exist. Unlike other schools, there appeared to be no unofficial intercollegiate games between pickup teams from Clemson and other colleges or universities or even athletic clubs before Clemson began its varsity football program. But, this history more than likely is inexact.

# Chapter 4 CU Begins Official Varsity Football

Riggs, Coach #1

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Record</u>
1896	Walter M. Riggs	2-1-0	SIAA	0-0-0
1899	Walter M. Riggs	4-2-0	SIAA	1-2-0

Finally, after the college had been operating as an academic institution for seven years, just in time for the fall season in 1906, Clemson threw its hat in the football ring. Actually, CU had its hat gently placed there by a great man and a great coach, Walter Riggs.



1896 Team Picture below: Clemson's First Varsity Football Team

Clemson's football program is a long and storied one. Some say that the Clemson program does not necessarily command the prestige of programs like Oklahoma, Notre Dame, or Michigan. However, the coaches over the past thirty years have really made the nation notice

Clemson, especially with its second National Championship in the 2016 season.



Walter Riggs--Clemson's 1<sup>st</sup> Head Football Coach

Quite Frankly, Clemson has always been a great team from its first season in 1896 to its last season 120 years later in 2016. After all, John Heisman was brought to Clemson by Walter Riggs as he was preparing to be the Clemson president. Only a few teams in the nation have a John Heisman on their immortal coaches list.

So, with two National Championships, a winning tradition, having beaten state rival South Carolina often, and having celebrated many influential head coaches and players, Clemson surely needs to make no apologies for its record.

The man who made it all happen was named Walter M. Riggs. He was responsible for the creation of an official Clemson University football program as well as its continuation and livelihood throughout the beginning of the twentieth century.

Riggs was quite a guy. He graduated from what is now Auburn University in 1892 where he played on their newly formed football team, back when American football rules were just being created by another Walter. Walter Camp worked hard to perfect the game of American football so as to differentiate it from Rugby and Soccer.

Riggs was a versatile young man and his interests were many. He was a natural leader. For example, he was the head of the Auburn Glee club and was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He was pretty good with the books also as he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in both mechanical and electrical engineering.

Riggs loved football at a time when many schools were just toying around with the notion of Walter Camp style American football. He soon became the head coach of the Auburn Tigers (1893), but he chose to move to Clemson after the 1895 season. At Auburn, Riggs had recruited John Heisman for the coaching staff and when Riggs came to Clemson, he was so respected that he was able to hand over control of Auburn's program to this same John Heisman. Yes, this is the Heisman that the trophy is named after.

And, so, as the Administration was ready to give in to pressure to form a team, they were able to snag Walter Riggs to be their first Clemson football head coach in 1896. Like everybody in football back then, when temporary bleachers were often unaffordable by colleges, Riggs had to improvise.

He ignored the property of Auburn on the older, very worn Auburn jerseys and because he and his new team were low on money, Riggs stole a few of the Auburn practice jerseys for the newly minted Clemson players. The navy color was mostly faded out. Only a

discerning eye could detect a blue. Auburn was orange and blue and so Clemson's official colors became orange, and later on, a faded navy-purple color called Regalia.

Riggs did not bother innovating on silly things like names because after all everybody has one. So, while he was stealing the jerseys, he stole the mascot name – Tigers. The Auburn Tigers never missed it as they still have it. So, Clemson also owes its mascot, the Fighting Tiger to Riggs's Auburn affections for the Tiger. Like I said, Riggs was quite a guy. In a time when nobody had anything, Riggs made due and he got the Clemson football program off the ground.

Not only did he bring the notion of football to Clemson, but he received the honor of being the head coach to start the program and then again in 1899 when there were no finds for the athletic department. Ironically, this year, 1899, was the first year that Clemson ever played Auburn.

Riggs was not the finesse and mathematical strategy coach that John Heisman was and so Auburn, under Heisman took advantage of Riggs years away from the game in 1900. Under the guidance of John Heisman, Auburn won that first meeting of “cousin by coaches’ teams” 34-0. In 1900, Riggs had had his fill as he was destined for other tasks at Clemson. He officially stepped down as head coach.

John Heisman really liked Walter Riggs and that says something nice about both of the men. So, Riggs hired Heisman to coach from 1900 to 1903. Clemson's first home game under Heisman was against Davidson College on Bowman Field in 1900.

Riggs continued to work for the university as a professor in engineering, but his real passion was for athletics. He created the position of athletic director, which is currently held today by Dan Radakovich. Riggs became the president of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletics Association (SIAA) in 1912. The SIAA had 72 members when it was dissolved and comprised almost all of the members of the current Southeastern Conference (SEC), six from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the University of Texas at Austin in the Big 12, as well as other schools that are not in Division I football.



In order to alleviate the usage of Bowman Field, a rag tag field that had served its time, a new field was to be built on the north side of campus. In 1915, it was finished and it was aptly named Riggs Field. Riggs Field was the first of many solely athletic facilities to be built on Clemson's campus. It was where the Clemson football team played until they moved to Memorial Stadium in 1942. Now it is currently being used by the men's and women's soccer teams and has been since 1980.

Walter Riggs died in 1924, two days before his 51st birthday. Some say that he worked himself too hard. In the end, his dedication and sacrifice has led Clemson to be a home for one of the top athletic programs in the nation.

In a fitting turn of events, the Clemson football team played Auburn to kick off its 2016 football season on September 3. Knowing that Clemson became National Champions, we all know it would have been quite difficult if the C Tigers lost to the A Tigers. It did not happen that way. On its way to the Championship, the Clemson Tigers survived a tough battle against an always tough Auburn Tigers squad, and won the game W (19-13). The stadium crew spent the next day cleaning up all the bitten nails. Go Fighting Tigers!

OK, so now that we have introduced the first official encounter with an oval shaped ball (football), made possible by the perspicacity of Walter M. Riggs, the first coach of the Clemson Fighting Tigers, let's look at the game as played on 1896 in the Clemson football inaugural season, known forever to the common folk such as you and me as Clemson's first football game.

## **1896: Coach Walter Riggs**

The 1896 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1896 college football season. Professor / Coach Walter Riggs brought the game to Clemson from his alma mater, Auburn, where he was a member of Auburn's first football team. The Tigers completed their first season with a record of 2–1. They became members of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) from day one and continued from 1896–1921, at which time, they joined the Southern Conference (SoCon).

They got their wins over upstate neighboring SC colleges Furman and Wofford, and they got their only loss of the season in the first installment of what immediately became a rivalry with South Carolina.

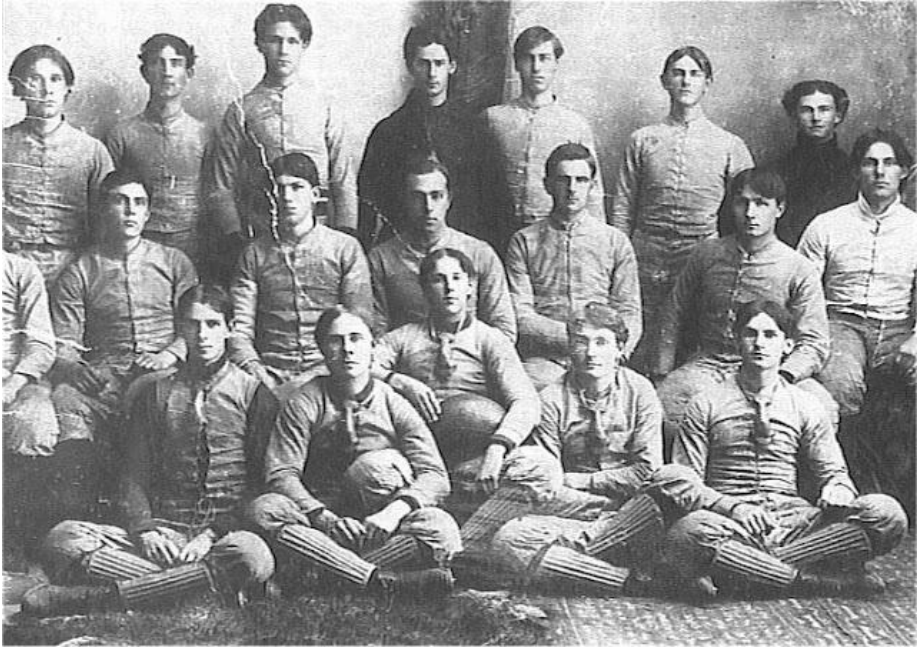
All Clemson games were played in the opposing school's home city as the Clemson Tigers were not yet prepared to play at home. The rivalry matchup with South Carolina was held on a Thursday morning at the South Carolina state fair, a tradition that would endure until 1960. In this encounter, Riggs served as the team's coach while R. G. Hamilton was the first team captain. Rules at the time prohibited the coach from offering direction from the sidelines.

The season opened up on October 31 at Furman, a team that had been playing for several years. The game was played in Greenville, SC. The Clemson Tigers emerged victorious with a nice but close win W (14–6).

After grueling practices, the first-ever Clemson football game day finally arrived. On October 31, 1896, Clemson traveled to Furman (probably by train). George Swygert, center on the first Clemson football team, recalls the Furman game and the first season as follows:

"With Professor Riggs as our coach we got in shape fairly well. Our first game was with Furman, the biggest men I have ever seen, and believe it or not we won that game. We had a few trick plays. One was when the play ended near the side lines, our lightest end would hide the ball under his sweater and as the two teams moved toward the center of the field for the next play, he appeared to be injured, and then when things were clear, he made a bee-line for the goal. This worked maybe once a game, it worked against Furman our first game."

Very few details of the Clemson-Furman game are known, but it is known that Charlie Gentry scored Clemson's first touchdown in history. The Tigers defeated Furman 14-6 at Greenville, SC. Below is a rare photo of Clemson's first football team.



Clemson's First Football Team 1896 Another Picture

On November 12, the Tigers traveled to South Carolina to play in Columbia against the Gamecocks. It was called Big Thursday. SC had much more experience with American Football and were able to defeat Riggs' Tigers by a close score of L (6-12). On November 21, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, another more experienced team, Wofford played the Clemson Tigers at their home field in Spartanburg, SC. The Clemson Tigers were a tough team and took no prisoners as they beat Wofford, W (16-0)

And so, the inaugural season with professor / coach Riggs was very successful at 2 wins and just one loss. The Tiger had become unleashed and many great games and a great winning tradition would come from this, Clemson's first football season.

## 1899: Coach Walter Riggs

The 1899 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1899 college football season as a member of the SIAA. William Riggs, who was a professor at Clemson, and who had coached its first team, came back for an encore. So, he served as the team's coach for his second season while

J. N. Walker was the captain. The Tigers completed their fourth season with a record of 4-2-0 and a 1-2 record in the SIAA. As you can see, the team was able to secure more games each season.

They had nice wins over Davidson, South Carolina and SIAA Georgia Tech and they lost to SIAA Georgia again. They also lost to SIAA Auburn. Clemson again did not host any games, but played a mix of away and neutral site games. Walter Riggs picked up a labor of love again as coach, having also led the team in its inaugural 1896 season.

The season opened on Oct 7 at Georgia. Again, the SIAA Conference Georgia Bulldogs beat the Clemson Tigers but each time the score is closer. This game was played in Herty Field in Athens, GA L (0-11). On Oct 14, the Tigers beat Davidson at Rock Hill, SC W (10-0). Another tough SIAA team, Auburn beat Clemson two weeks later on Oct 28 at their stadium in Auburn, AL L (0-34). On Nov 9, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks of SC on Big Thursday W (24-0).

On Nov 18, the Fighting Tigers traveled to play North Carolina. A&M at Rock Hill, SC in the first Textile Bowl W (24-0) Later historians think the series began in 1981 but it has been played 85 times including 1899. The Textile Bowl is an American college football rivalry game played annually by the Clemson Tigers football team of Clemson University and the NC State Wolfpack football team of North Carolina State University. The rivalry game has been formally known as the Textile Bowl for some time. The south is big on textiles. On Nov. 30, Clemson played at Greenville SC against Georgia Tech and the Tigers beat the Yellow Jackets in a blowout W 41-5. The next season, John Heisman came to town.

Before John Heisman came to Clemson for the 1890 season, Clemson's record was 9-6-0 overall and 2-4-0 in the SIAA. 9-6-0 is not a bad start for a brand- new football program. Winning in a tough conference always take some time. John Heisman's time had come.

## Chapter 5 Clemson Coaches 1897 & 1898

William Williams      Coach #2  
John Penton            Coach #3

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Record</u>
1897	William Williams	2-2-0	SIAA	0-0-0
1898	John Penton	4-2-0	SIAA	1-2-0



1897 Clemson Football Team & Coaches

### Coaches had short stints of service

John Riggs was a coach twice as noted in the prior chapter. In between his two years of service as coach, when he was serving as ad-hoc athletic director before there were athletic directors, he brought in two coaches to take the team. Each lasted just one year as coaching apparently at the time was not looked upon as a full-time occupation. The first of these two coaches was William M. Williams. Williams (September 1877 – March 30, 1932) was the first coach after Riggs. He served as the head football coach of the

Clemson University, before it was a university in 1897. Williams was a graduate of Auburn University. He later attended Harvard University. The second coach after Riggs (3<sup>rd</sup> coach in history) was John Penton.

Penton was Clemson's third head football coach. He too served for one year, in 1898. He was a native of Alabama. In his playing days, he was the captain and starting guard on the University of Virginia teams of 1893, 1894, and 1895. All coaches at the time were more or less young men or “kids” as many would call them.

Penton also played fullback at Auburn under Coach John Heisman in when Williams coached Clemson. After graduating at Auburn, he served as an assistant coach. Penton was hired to guide the Clemson team in 1898. He did fine. In his second game, in fact, the Tigers blew out Bingham, 55-0 In his only season at Clemson, Penton tallied a 3-1 record and the state championship. He finished with a .750-win percentage. We'll check coach Williams out in more detail in this chapter.

## **1897 Coach William M. Williams**

The rules of football were in flux at this time. One rule was changed in 1897. A team scoring a touchdown received five points, and the goal after touchdown added another point. This scoring value would remain until 1912.



## <<< Coach William Williams

The 1897 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1897 college football season as a member of the SIAA. William M. Williams served as the team's coach for his first season while W. T. Brock was the captain. The Tigers completed their second season with a record of 2-2-0 and an 0-1 record in the SIAA. They had nice wins over South Carolina and a Charlotte YMCA team, and they lost to Georgia and

North Carolina. Since there was no home field yet, all games were played in the opposing school's home city. Despite this disadvantage, and the small number of games played, the team was state champion.

The Fighting Tigers kicked off the season at Georgia at Herty Field in Athens, GA. This matchup would blossom into a rivalry over the years. The Tigers lost the game. Next, on Oct 23, Clemson traveled to Charlotte to play their YMCA team. The Tigers won the game W (10-0). The next trip was to play North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Tigers suffered their second loss L (0-28). In a game that gave the Tigers their first state championship, they beat South Carolina at Columbia on what has been dubbed Big Thursday W (18-6).

## 1898 Coach John Penton

The 1898 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1898 college football season as a member of the SIAA.



**<<< Coach John Penton—**

Penton served as the team's coach for his first season while Shack Shealy was the captain. The Tigers completed their second season with a record of 3–1-0 and a 1-1 record in the SIAA. They had nice wins over Bingham Military School, South Carolina and Georgia Tech and they lost to Georgia again. For the first time, Clemson played a home game in Calhoun SC on October 20 against Bingham Military School, and a neutral site game at Augusta, Georgia against Georgia Tech.

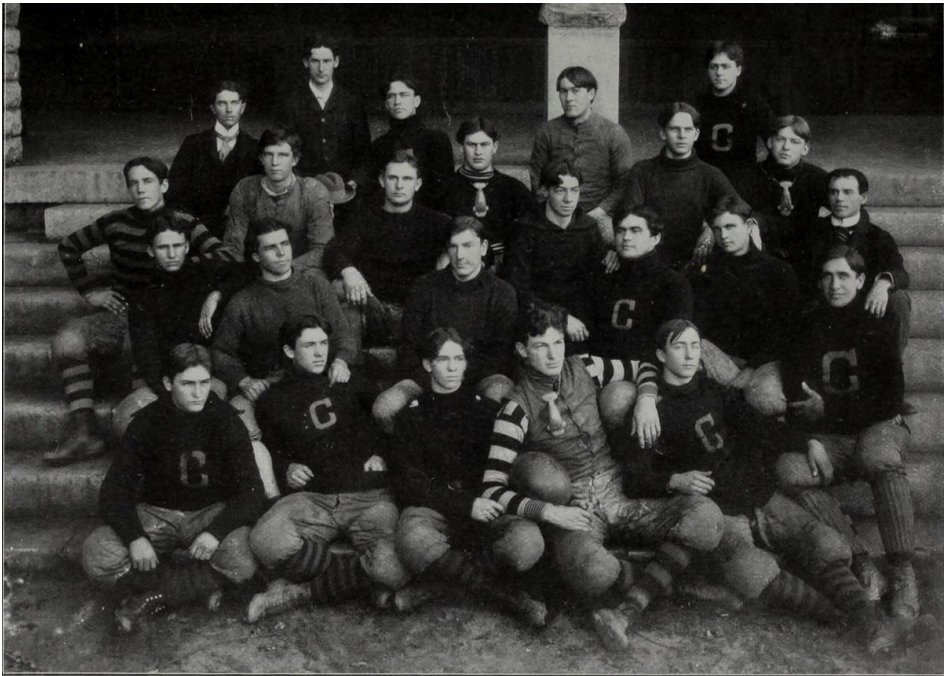
The season opener was Oct 8 at Georgia in an SIAA game. The Tigers got their one loss out of the way in the first game played in Herty Field in Athens GA. L (8-20). The next game was Oct 20 at an undisclosed location on campus against the Bingham Military School W (55-0) The Tigers were on the road on Nov 17 after a month off up to Columbia SC on Big Thursday and they claimed a fine win v SC's Gamecocks W (24-0). Finishing up the season, on Nov 24, Clemson shut out Georgia Tech W (23-0) for their first SIAA victory. Nice season  
Co.



# Chapter 6 Coach John Heisman 1900-1903

John Heisman Coach #4

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Record</u>
1900	John Heisman	6-0-0	SIAA	3-0-0
1901	John Heisman	3-1-1	SIAA	1-0-1
1902	John Heisman	5-2-1	SIAA	5-0-0
1903	John Heisman	6-1-1	SIAA	2-0-1



1900 Clemson Football Team Picture Coach John Heisman

John Heisman is one of the most well-known football figures of all time. There would be no reason for me to research his life in full in order to provide you what is already written about this great man and great coach.

The following account of John Heisman and his impact on the Clemson Football program is presented below in an article written on October 18, 2000, by Sam Blackman, the Associate Sports Information Director at Clemson, University. Our thanks to Clemson University for making this available.

## John Heisman

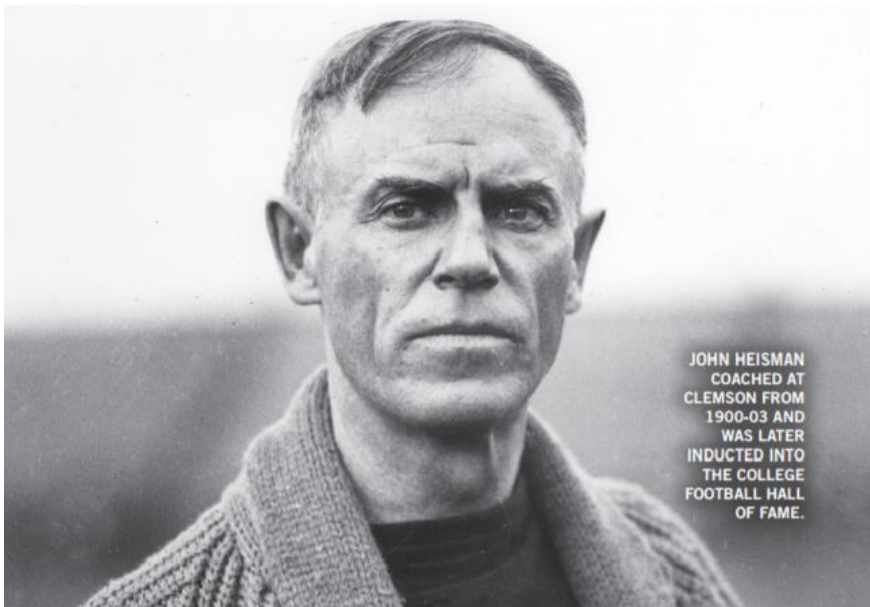
*Head Coach Years: 1900-1903*

*Record at Clemson: 19-3-2*

*Winning Percentage: .833*

A name synonymous with not only the early years of Clemson football but the collegiate game is John Heisman.

A stern disciplinarian, he expected his players to be of high character and performance both on the football field and in the classroom. Heisman coached the Tigers in 1900 to 1903 and was responsible for putting the Clemson name among the annals of the great early collegiate teams.



Heisman was brought to Clemson by a professor and later University President, Walter Riggs. In the spring of 1894, Riggs

was a graduate manager for the Auburn football team, and he was responsible for finding a coach for the 1895 season. Riggs wrote to Carl Williams of Pennsylvania, captain of the 1894 team asking him to suggest a suitable coach. He replied recommending J.W. Heisman, an ex-Penn player, and his coach at Oberlin a few years earlier.

After several weeks, Riggs finally found Heisman in Texas, where he was engaged in raising tomatoes. Having sunk about all of his capital into the tomato venture, he was glad to go back to his old love of football and he readily went to coach at Auburn for \$500.00 a year. Riggs later was hired as a professor at Clemson and he hired Heisman at Clemson in 1900. (Riggs started the Clemson football program in 1896 and was head coach in 1896 and 1899).

Heisman began his coaching career at Oberlin in 1892 and lasted 36 years in the profession. His career included positions at Akron, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Penn, Washington and Jefferson, and Rice University. He had an overall career record of 185 wins, 70 losses, and 17 ties.

He invented the hidden ball trick, the handoff, the double lateral, and the "Flea flicker." He pioneered the forward pass, and originated the center snap and the word "hike" (previously the center used to roll the ball on the ground to the quarterback).

Heisman took Clemson to a 19-3-2 record in his four seasons. His .833 winning percentage. is still the best in Clemson history. He was also the Clemson baseball coach between 1901-1904.

Clemson was a powerhouse during his tenure and was a most feared opponent. His secret was that he depended on smart, quick players rather than large size and brawn.

William Heisman, a nephew of John Heisman often told a story on how his famous uncle stressed academics.

"I remember a story Coach Heisman used to tell me about this famous football player he confronted in the locker room before a

big game. My uncle came busting through the door and went over to this guy and said, 'You can't play today because you haven't got your grades up to par.' The player looked up at my uncle and said, 'Coach, don't you know that the sportswriters call this toe on my right foot the million-dollar toe?' My uncle snapped back right quick and said, 'What good is it if you only have a fifteen-cent head?'

Another favorite Heisman story was the speech he used to make before a season began. Heisman would face his recruits holding a football. "What is it?" he would sharply ask. Then he would tell his players, "a football was a prolate spheroid, an elongated sphere-in which the outer leather casing is drawn up tightly over a somewhat smaller rubber tubing." Then after a long pause he would say, "better to have died as a small boy than to fumble this football."

Heisman broke down football into these percentages: talent 25%; mentality 20%; aggressiveness 20%; speed 20%; and weight 15%. He considered coaching as being a master-commanding, even dictatorial. He has no time to say 'please' or 'mister', and he must be occasionally severe, arbitrary, and something of a czar."

On November 29, 1900, Clemson defeated Alabama 35-0, which allowed Heisman's team to finish the season undefeated with a 6-0 record. This was Clemson's first undefeated team and was the only team to win all of its games in a season until the 1948 squad went 11-0. The Tigers only allowed two touchdowns the entire 1900 season.

Clemson opened the 1901 season with a 122-0 win over Guilford. The Tigers averaged 30 yards per play and a touchdown every minute and 26 seconds. The first half lasted 20 minutes while the second half lasted only 10 minutes. Legend has it that every man on the Clemson team scored a touchdown in this game.

In his third season, on November 27, 1902, Clemson played in the snow for the first time in a game against Tennessee. The Tigers won the game, 11-0, and claimed the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association crown. (An early conference that had several southern colleges and universities as members).

In his final season in 1903, Clemson defeated Georgia Tech 73-0 on October 17, 1903. Clemson rushed the ball 55 times for 615 yards, while Tech ran the ball 35 times and collected 28 yards. The second half was shortened to 15 minutes.

On November 24, 1903 Clemson participated in its "First Bowl Game" as Clemson and Cumberland met on this date for the Championship of the South. The contract for the game was drawn up just two weeks before the game was to be played. Cumberland, who had earlier defeated Auburn, Alabama, and Vanderbilt was considered to be champion of the southern states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky. While Clemson was considered to be the best team in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

The game was played on a neutral site, Montgomery, AL. Cumberland and Clemson fought to a 11-11 tie. In this game, John Maxwell scored as a result of a 100-yard kickoff return. After the news came back to Clemson that the game ended in a tie, the students and the local towns people built a bonfire and paraded around the campus.

John Heisman's 19-3-2 record is still the best in Clemson history on a percentage basis. The man named after the famous trophy that each year honors the best player in college football holds the distinction of building the early foundation of Clemson's football tradition.

## 1900: Coach John Heisman

Walter Riggs continued to help the Clemson football program. In fact, he led the effort to raise the \$415.11 to hire Auburn's football coach John Heisman, the first Clemson coach who had experience coaching at another school. Heisman was already a coaching legend when he came to Clemson.

As Riggs recalled, "By 1899 the Clemson football team had risen steadily until its material was equal to that of any southern college,

and the time had come to put on the long-planned finishing touch." Heisman once described his style of play at Clemson as "radically different from anything on earth".

When the team took the field in 1900, they wore jerseys and stockings bearing distinctive orange and purple stripes.

The 1900 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1900 college football season as a member of the SIAA. John Heisman was the fourth head football coach at Clemson, having been recruited for the job by William Riggs, well known professor and football coach. This was the first of four years for John Heisman at the helm of the Fighting Tigers. Norman Walker was the team captain. The Tigers completed their fifth season with a record of 6-0-0 and a 3-0 record in the SIAA.

They had a nice win over Davidson on opening day. It was then the largest score ever made in the South and the season's only home game for the Tigers. For the first time this year, the Tigers beat Georgia. They were simply outstanding. In the fifth year of the program, the Tigers outscored their opponents 222–10. As noted, the 64–0 win over Davidson on opening day was then the largest score ever made in the South. That was worth repeating. Also, worth repeating is that the Clemson Tigers were undefeated and untied in 1900 under John Huntsman

## Games of the 1900 Season

The season opened on Oct 19 at home in Calhoun SC against Davidson W (64-0). Three days later, on Oct 22, the Tigers were in Spartanburg, SC for a W (21-0) win against Wofford. The real score was not kept as Clemson agreed that every point scored after the first four touchdowns would not count.

Going into the South Carolina game, Clemson had been strong on offense, but weak on defense. Kinsler and Douthit were both injured. And, so, on Nov 1, on Big Thursday, despite what might have been, Clemson ripped SC W (51-0). The Tigers rolled up a 51–0 score on in-state rival South Carolina. Then, for the first time in five meetings, on Nov 10, Clemson did the impossible. The Tigers beat the well-

experienced Georgia Bulldogs at Herty Field in Athens, GA W (39-5). It wasn't even close.

Before the game with Georgia at Georgia, students in the dorms barraged Clemson players with bits of coal. Clemson went on to beat the Bulldogs for the first time, pulling away in the second half to overwhelm the Bulldogs 39-5, and achieve the season's first great victory.

On Nov 24, Clemson faced its toughest opponent of the year VPI aka Virginia Tech, but the Fighting Tigers prevailed against the Hokies W (12-5). On November 29, Clemson got its rivalry with Alabama started right when it whooped the Crimson White W (35-0). Yes, the history of the two teams battling for dominance goes back to 1900

The season closer was played on Thanksgiving against the Alabama Crimson White, as noted, it was Clemson's first meeting with Alabama, at Birmingham's North Birmingham Park. The Tigers won 35-0.

## **Tigers take all the 1900 SIAA marbles**

The Tigers ended the season with the outright SIAA title. It was both Clemson and Heisman's first conference championship and undefeated, untied season. The season saw "the rise of Clemson from a little school whose football teams had never been heard of before, to become a football machine of the very first power." Judging from the 2017 results, things have not changed much.

## **1901: Coach John Heisman**

The 1901 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1901 college football season as a member of the SIAA. John Heisman was the head football coach in his second of four seasons at Clemson. The Tigers completed their sixth season overall and sixth in the SIAA with a record of 3-1-1 and a 1-0-1 record in the SIAA.

They had a record-breaking-win over Guilford on opening day W (122-0). On October 5, home at Bowman Field. Rumor was that everybody on the team scored that game. On Oct 19, they tied the Volunteers at Waite Field in Knoxville Tennessee T (6-6). On Oct 26 v Georgia, at Herty Field in Athens, GA, the Tigers beat the Bulldogs for the second year in a row, W (29-5). The next week, Oct 31, it was off to Columbia SC to play a tough VPI team for the second year in a row. The Tigers lost this close one L (17-11). Idle for a month, Clemson picked it up again on Nov 28 and beat North Carolina in Charlotte W (22-10).

## 1902 Coach John Heisman

The 1902 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1902 college football season as a member of the SIAA. John Heisman was the head football coach in his third of four seasons at Clemson. The Tigers completed their sixth season overall and sixth in the SIAA with a record of 6-1-0 and a 5-0 undefeated record in the SIAA, winning the conference championship. The lone loss was their first to rival South Carolina since 1896. It was a controversial game that ended in riots and banning further play between the teams until 1909.

This year, John Heisman got a raise and was paid \$815.11 to coach the football team. The team's captain was Hope Sadler. This was the first season with both Sadler and Carl Sitton at ends. One writer recalls, "Sitton and Hope Sadler were the finest ends that Clemson ever had perhaps."

The season opened on Oct 4 with a home W (11-5) victory over North Carolina A&M in the Textile Bowl. On October 18, at Georgia Tech, Clemson walloped the Yellow Jackets W (44-5). The day before the game, Clemson sent in scrubs to Atlanta, checked into a hotel, and partied until dawn. The varsity sat well rested in Lula, Georgia as Tech betters were fooled. All tricks were permitted without the NCAA's ever watchful eye.





1902 Clemson Football Team, John Heisman Coach

The Tigers made their first touchdown after three minutes of play. On one play, Heisman used a tree to his advantage.

On Oct 20, Clemson lost L (12–6) to rival South Carolina in Columbia, for the first time since 1896, the first year of the rivalry. There were a lot of shenanigans.

On Nov 8, Clemson defeated the Georgia Bulldogs at Georgia by a score of W (36–0). One writer called it "the hardest fought football game ever seen here."

On Nov 15, Clemson beat Auburn W (15-0). The Tigers scored three touchdowns on Auburn, using double passes at times.

On Nov 27 Week 7 at Tennessee, Clemson closed the season. Tennessee had already won a then-school record six games, and the beat Clemson W (11–0).

## 1903 Coach John Heisman

The 1903 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1903 college football season as a member of the SIAA. John Heisman was the head football coach in his last of four seasons at Clemson. The Tigers completed their eighth season overall and also their eighth in the SIAA with a record of 4-1-1 and a 2-0-1-- undefeated record in the SIAA. Clemson won the conference co-championship. Their lone loss was to North Carolina at Chapel Hill in a real nail-biter.



1903 Clemson Football Team John Heisman Coach

During the season, the team competed in an early conference championship game, tying Cumberland 11–11 in the contest. This was John Heisman's last season coaching Clemson. The Tigers had some great moments such as thrashing Georgia Tech's Yellow Jackets 73–0, leading to Heisman's later job-offer at Georgia Tech. Even great coaches need to eventually go where other colleges can pay well for their services.

## Games of the 1903 season.

On Oct 10, Clemson shut out Georgia W (29-0) at Herty Field in Athens Georgia. The Bulldogs offered Clemson a bushel of apples for every point over 29 it scored against rival Georgia Tech. Clemson would win W (73-0) v Georgia Tech in Atlanta a week later on Oct 17 on a mud-soaked field, leading to Heisman's later job at Tech. Sitton had to sit out the game.

On Oct 28, it was North Carolina A & M in the Textile Bowl played in Columbia SC W (24-0). While the Aggies gained much using conventional football, Clemson had to use many trick plays Oliver Gardner played for A&M. John Heisman got married soon after the game. North Carolina was next at Chapel Hill. The North Carolina Tar Heels then squeaked out a win over Clemson in a nail biter L (6-11). The Tar Heels handed Clemson its only loss of the season. Carolina's Newton scored first, with a bloody nose. He also scored the second touchdown. Clemson had one touchdown by Johnny Maxwell called back due to an offside penalty.

The Tigers came back on November 21 against Davidson at Latta Park, Charlotte NC for a nice win W (24-0). Charlotte, NC Clemson won easily over Davidson 24-0. One writer noted "Clemson playing against eleven wooden men, would attract more attention. "Then in the SIAA Championship game on November 26, the Clemson Tigers were tied by the Cumberland Phoenix T 11-11) in Montgomery Alabama to become co-champions of the conference.

In this game billed as the "SIAA Championship Game." Cumberland rushed out to an early 11-0 lead. Wiley Lee Umphlett in *Creating the Big Game: John W. Heisman and the Invention of American Football* writes, "During the first half, Clemson was never really in the game due mainly to formidable line play of the Bridges brothers—giants in their day at 6 feet 4 inches—and a big center named "Red" Smith, was all over the field backing up the Cumberland line on defense. Clemson had been outweighed before, but certainly not like this."

A touchdown was scored by fullback E. L. Minton (touchdowns were worth 5 points). Guard M. O. Bridges kicked the extra point.

Halfback J. A. Head made another touchdown, but Bridges missed the try. After halftime, Clemson quarterback John Maxwell raced 100 yards for a touchdown. Clemson missed the try. Cumberland fumbled a punt and Clemson recovered. Cumberland expected a trick play when Fritz Furtick simply ran up the middle and scored.

One account of the play reads "Heisman saw his chance to exploit a weakness in the Cumberland defense: run the ball where the ubiquitous Red Smith wasn't. So, the next time Sitton started out on one of his slashing end runs, at the last second he tossed the ball back to the fullback who charged straight over center (where Smith would have been except that he was zeroing in on the elusive Sitton) and went all the way for the tying touchdown." Jock Hanvey kicked the extra point and the game ended in an 11-11 tie.

The school claims a share of the title. Heisman pushed for Cumberland to be named SIAA champions at year's end. It was Heisman's last game as Clemson head coach, who was hired at Georgia Tech for \$450 more per year. After getting married and being offered a 25% pay increase, Heisman could not say no. Too bad Clemson was not able to pay Heisman what he was worth.

## Chapter 7 Clemson Coaches from 1904-1907

Coach # 5 Shack Shealy  
 Coach # 6 Eddie Cochems  
 Coach # 7 Bob Williams  
 Coach # 8 Frank Shaughnessy

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Record</u>
1904	Shack Shealy	3-3-1	SIAA	3-2-1
1905	Eddie Cochems	3-2-1	SIAA	3-2-1
1906	Bob Williams	3-3-1	SIAA	4-0-1
1907	Frank Shaughnessy	4-4-0	SIAA	1-3-0



1904 Coach Shack Shealy

### 1904 Coach Shack Shealy

The 1904 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1904 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Shack Shealy, formerly a team captain, was

the head football coach in his first and only season at Clemson. The Tigers completed their ninth season overall and also their ninth in the SIAA with a record of 3-3-1 overall and 3-2-1 in the SIAA. They gained ninth place of 19 teams in the SIAA. Joe Holland was the captain

On Oct 8, the season began against Alabama in West End Park, Birmingham. The Fighting Tigers played well and beat the Crimson White W (18-0). On Oct 15, the Tigers lost to SIAA co-champion Auburn at home (Bowman Field) L (0-5). Then, in another home match, on Oct 22, the Tigers defeated Georgia W (10-0) co-champion. Sewanee was always a tough team and this year Clemson got to find out how tough this SIAA competitor really was on Oct 27. The Tigers lost their second of two SIAA games in Colombia SC to the Sewanee "Iron Men" L (5-11).

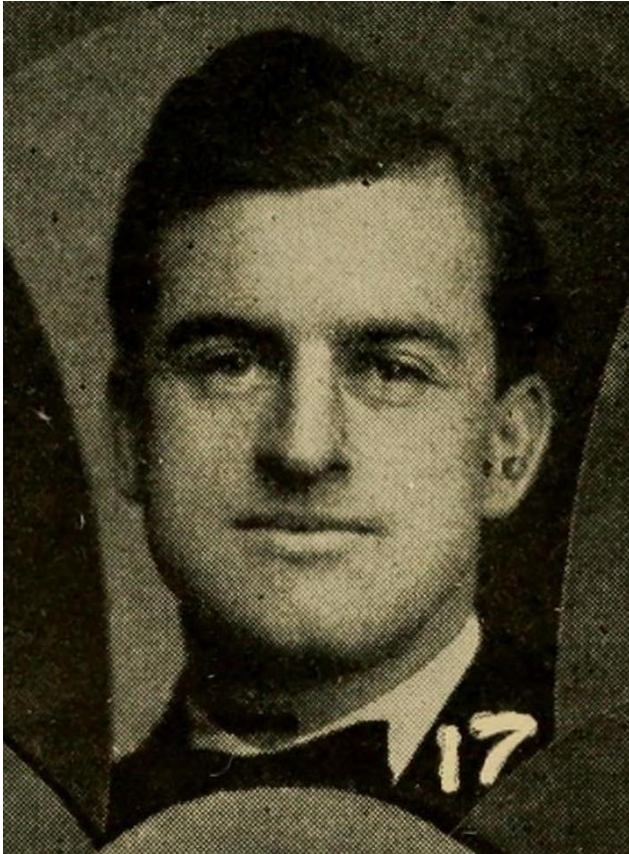
Georgia Tech came back the following week in Piedmont Park Atlanta GA on Nov 5 to avenge the prior year's 73-0 trouncing by tying the Tigers T (11-11). The Tigers traveled to Waite Field in Knoxville Tennessee to beat the Volunteers on Nov 12 and prevailed in a close match W (6-0). On Nov 24, in what had once been the Textile Bowl, Clemson lost its final game of the season to North Carolina A & M in Raleigh NC, on Nov 24 L (0-18)

## 1905 Coach Eddie Cochems

The 1905 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1905 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Eddie Cochems, one of the immortals and early tradesmen in football strategies was the head football coach in his first and only season at Clemson. Eddie Cochems was just getting started but he would become well known in College football. He was a future innovator of the forward pass. Clemson was not his first choice. He had just lost out to Phil King for the Wisconsin job, when he accepted to coach Clemson's 1905 team. A fine coach, Cochems left after just one year.

With Cochems at the helm, The Tigers completed their tenth season overall and also their tenth in the SIAA with a record of 3-2-1 overall and 3-2-1 in the SIAA. They gained fifth place of 169 teams in the

SIAA. Puss Derrick was the captain. Though the team finished fifth in the SIAA, they did not play all teams. Sports pundit John de Saulles rated Clemson as the third best team in the SIAA.



1905 Clemson Coach Eddie Cochems

On Oct 14, in the season home opener, Tennessee marched into Bowman Field to play Eddie Cochems' Tigers and the tough Volunteers came away with a tie T (5-5). On the road the next week, Oct 21 at Georgia, the Tigers laid a wallop to the Georgia Bulldogs W (35-0). On Oct 25 at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia SC, The Fighting Tigers got the best of Alabama W (25-0).

On November 11, at Auburn, an inspired Clemson team triumphed v these Tiger rivals, W (26-0). So far, there were no losses but that would not last more than one week. On November 11, the Clemson Tigers traveled to Dudley Field in Nashville Tennessee and they were shut out badly by a tough Vanderbilt team L (0-41). By November

30, the next game, the Tigers had regained composure and they played a tough game in Grant Field Atlanta GA but it was not tough enough to defeat Georgia Tech's Yellow Jackets who stung the Tigers L (10-17)

## 1906 Coach Bob Williams



### <<< Coach Bob Williams

The 1906 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1906 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Bob Williams, a coach who would be at the Clemson helm for six years at various times, but none longer than two years, was the head football coach in his first of six seasons at Clemson and his only year this time.

The Tigers completed their eleventh season overall and also their eleventh in the SIAA with a record of 4-0-3 overall and 4-0-1 in the SIAA. Fritz Furtick was the captain. The team finished tied for first place in the SIAA.

Heralding one of the best defenses in the South for the season, the Tigers allowed no touchdowns scored by their opponents in seven games, and only 4 points scored overall. The team tied with Vanderbilt for the SIAA title, but few writers chose them over the vaunted Commodores.

On Oct 13, the Tigers tied VPI T (0-0) at home. On Oct 20, Clemson beat Georgia at home W (6-0). The it was North Carolina A &M at Columbia SC in the second scoreless tie of the season T (0-0). This was followed by a repeat no-score tie v Davidson at Davidson, NC T (0-0).

In a nail biter v Auburn on Nov 10 at home in Bowman Field, The Clemson Tigers beat the Auburn Tigers W (6-4). Next was Tennessee



at Bowman Field on Nov 19 W (10-0). In the season finale, Bob Williams' Tigers put it all together and beat Georgia Tech on November 29 at Grant Field in Atlanta, GA W (10-0)

The GA Tech game was sweeter than usual because John Heisman was the Tech Coach. Clemson's first forward pass ever took place during the game. Left end Powell Lykes, dropped back to kick, but lobbed a 30-yard pass to George Warren instead. Baseball star Ty Cobb was in attendance at this game.

Bob Williams coached just one year in this stint, his first of four separate times being named the Clemson head football coach. He would be back in 1909 for another one-year stint.

## 1907 Coach Frank Shaughnessy

The 1907 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1907 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Frank Shaughnessy was the head football coach. The Tigers completed their twelfth season overall and also their twelfth in the SIAA with a record of 4-4 overall and 1-3-0 in the SIAA. They gained tenth place of 13 teams in the SIAA. Mac McLaurin was the captain.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers began the 1907 with a new coach, Frank Shaughnessy and they played their first three games at home at Bowman Field. They opened the season with Gordon State, a small Institute that had some tough players. They won the game on Sept 28 by a touchdown, with five points at the time W (5-0). On Oct 9, the Tigers beat Maryville W (35-0) and then Tennessee gave Clemson its first loss in a tight match L (0-4). On Oct 31, the Tigers came back ten days later against North Carolina in Columbia SC for the win W (15-6).



<<< **Coach Shaughnessy** On Nov 4, the Tigers traveled to Auburn and were beaten by the Auburn Tigers L (0-12). Next it was Georgia on Nov 9 in Augusta L (0-8). On Nov 9, Davidson beat the Tigers at Bowman Field L (6-10). The Tigers won the last game of the season v Georgia Tech at Grant Field in Atlanta GA 6-5 with John Heisman as the GA Tech coach.

# Chapter 8 Clemson Coaches from 1908-1915

Coach #7 Bob Williams

Coach #9 Stein Stone

Coach #10 Frank Dobson

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Record</u>
1908	Stein Stone	1-6-0	SIAA	0-4-0
1909	Bob Williams	6-3-0	SIAA	1-2-0
1910	Frank Dobson	4-3-1	SIAA	2-3-1
1911	Frank Dobson	3-5-0	SIAA	3-5-0
1912	Frank Dobson	4-4-0	SIAA	3-3-0
1913	Bob Williams	4-4-0	SIAA	2-4-0
1914	Bob Williams	5-3-1	SIAA	2-2-0
1915	Bob Williams	2-4-2	SIAA	2-2-0



1908 Clemson Tigers Football Team Picture

## 1908 Coach Stein Stone



### <<< Coach Stein Stone

The 1908 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1908 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Stein Stone was the head football coach in his first and only year. The Tigers completed their thirteenth season overall and also their thirteenth in the SIAA with a record of 1-6 overall and 0-4-0 in the SIAA. They finished in last place out of twelve active SIAA teams. Sticker Coles was the captain.

The Tigers opened the season at home in Bowman Field on Sept 26 at home with a win against Gordon W (15-0). It would be the only win of the season. The losses for the season were as follows:

Oct 10, Home, VPI, L (0-6)

Oct 17, Dudley Field Nashville, Vanderbilt, L (0-41)

Oct 28, Columbia SC, Davidson, L (0-31)

Nov 5, Augusta Ga., Georgia, L (0-6)

Nov 14, 15<sup>th</sup> & Cumberland Field Knoxville, Tennessee L (5-6)

Nov 26, Grant Field Atlanta GA, L (6-30)

It was the Fighting Tigers worst season ever and something had to be done. 1906 Coach Bob Williams was asked to come back and give it another try.

### 1909 Coach Bob Williams

The 1909 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1909 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Bob Williams was the head football coach for the second time for another one-year stint. The Tigers completed their fourteenth season overall and also their fourteenth in the SIAA with a record of 6-3 overall and 1-2 in the SIAA. They finished in ninth place out of fourteen active SIAA teams. C. M. Robbs was the captain.



Clemson 1909 Football Team Coach Bob Williams

The Tigers opened the season at home with Gordon at Bowman Field in a nice win. W (26-0) The next week, the team traveled to Miles Field in Blackburg, VA to play VPI in a tough game. VPI barely defeated the Tigers L (0-6). On Oct 9, at Charlotte, NC, Clemson defeated Davidson W (17-5). Then, on Oct 16 in a really tight game, at the Birmingham Fairgrounds in Alabama, the Tigers were beaten by the Crimson White L (0-3).

On Oct 23, Port Royal played the Tigers at home and were beaten W (19-0) in a shutout game. On Nov 4, the Clemson squad traveled to Columbia, South Carolina to beat the Gamecocks W (6-0). Then, on Nov 10, at Augusta, GA, in the rivalry game, the Tigers beat the Bulldogs in a close match W (5-0).

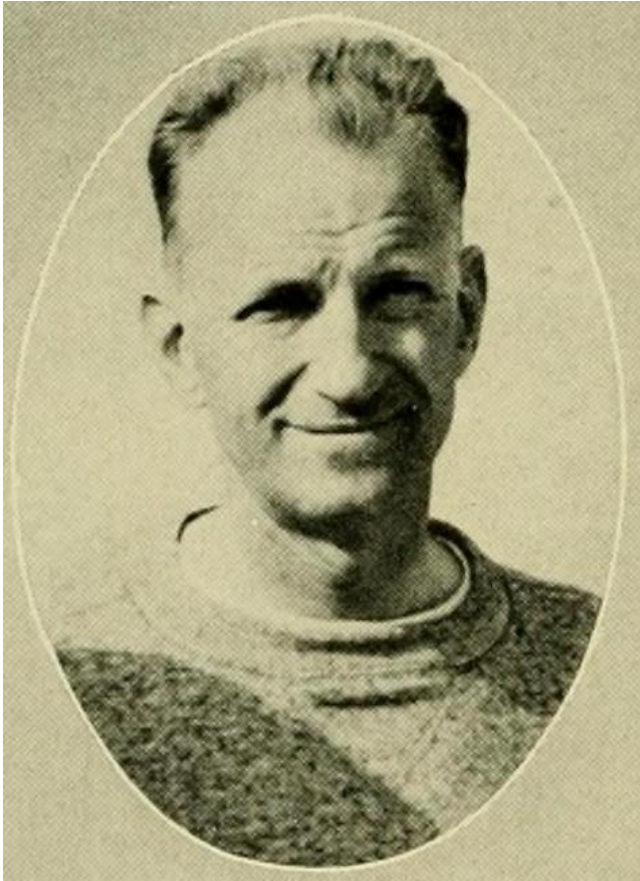
In a first-time matchup, the Tigers traveled to College Park Stadium in Charleston, SC to play the Citadel. The Fighting Tigers won the game W (17-0). In the season ending game with Georgia Tech, at Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, the John Heisman coached team Georgia Tech team overpowered the Tigers L (3-29).

## 1910 Coach Frank Dobson

The 1910 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1910 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Frank Dobson was the head football coach for year one of a three-year stint. The Tigers completed their fifteenth season overall and also their fifteenth in the SIAA with a record of 4-3-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the SIAA. They again finished in ninth place out of fourteen active SIAA teams. W. H. Hanke was the captain. In 2016, Clemson placed its membership in the SIAA during this season in dispute.

Opening the season on Sept 24, the Tigers crushed Gordon W (26-0) at home at Bowman Field, On Oct1, the Tigers played their first game against Mercer at home and were beaten in a very close match L (0-3). Howard was another first. They invited the Tigers to play in Homewood AL, and the Clemson obliged with a nice win W (24-0). Clemson then traveled to College Park Stadium on Oct 15 to beat the Citadel W (32-0).

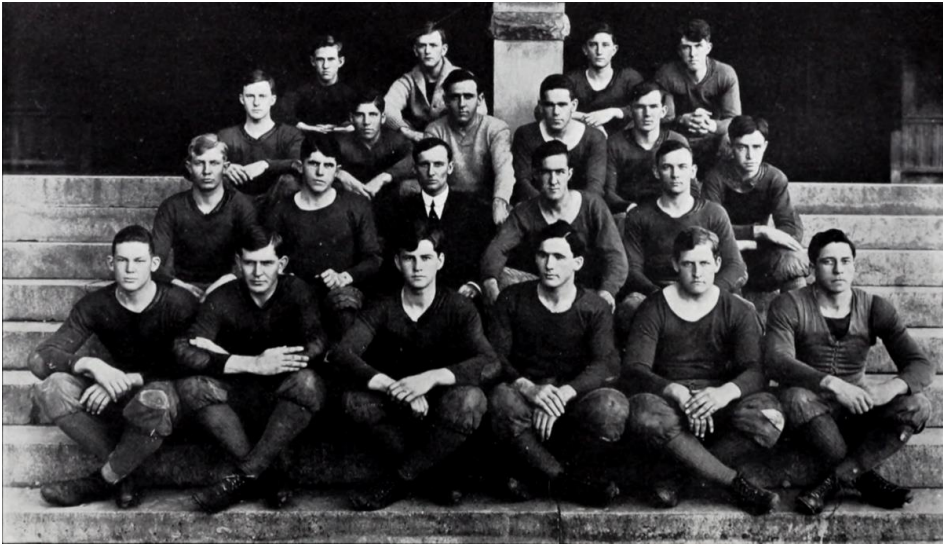
In the Auburn rivalry, played in Auburn AL this particular year, the Tigers lost L (0-17). On Nov 3, at Columbia SC on Big Thursday, the Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated the Gamecocks W (24-0). Then came the first tie of the season on Nov 10 against Georgia in Augusta, T (0-0). Meanwhile John Heisman was fine tuning his Yellow Jacket Team to be contenders. Georgia Tech shut out the Tigers on Nov 24 at Grant Field in Atlanta L (0-34).



Clemson's 10<sup>th</sup> Football Coach 1910 -1912 Frank Dobson

## 1911 Coach Frank Dobson

The 1911 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1911 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Frank Dobson was the head football coach for the second year of a three-year stint. The Tigers completed their sixteenth season overall and also their sixteenth in the SIAA with a record of 3-5 overall and 3-5 in the SIAA. They again finished in eleventh place out of eighteen active SIAA teams. Paul Bissell was the captain.



1911 Clemson Football Team Frank Dobson Coach

Auburn came to Bowman Field for the season opener on Oct 14 and they handily beat the Tigers L (0-29). Next on Oct 21, came Howard to Bowman Field and the Tigers prevailed W (15-0). On Big Thursday, Oct 25, at home, v Florida Gators, the Tigers suffered their second home loss of the season L (5-6). Next came the Big Thursday game on Nov 2 after traveling to Columbia SC, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (27-0). Then, on Nov 4, CU traveled to the home of the Citadel at College Park Stadium, Charleston SC and prevailed W (18-0).

November 9 brought on the Georgia Bulldogs at Augusta GA. This time, the Dogs got all the bites. L (0-23). Mercer was next in Columbus GA and they beat the Tigers good, L (6-30). It was another bad finish to a so-so-year as John Heisman's Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets shut down the Clemson offense completely L (0-31).

## 1912 Coach Frank Dobson

For the 1912 season, the value of a touchdown was increased to six points. The end-zone area was also added. Before the addition of the end zone, forward passes caught beyond the goal line resulted in a loss of possession and a touchback. The increase from five points to



six did not come until much later in Canada, and the touchdown remained only five points there until 1956.

The 1912 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1912 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Frank Dobson was the head football coach for the third year of a three-year stint. The Tigers completed their seventeenth season overall and also their seventeenth in the SIAA with a record of 4-4-0 overall and 3-3-0 in the SIAA. They finished in twelfth out of twenty active SIAA teams. W. B. Britt was the captain.

The season opener was on Oct 5 at Howard in Homewood AL. The Tigers were a well-oiled machine in their first start under third-year coach Frank Dobson and they walloped Howard W (59-0). On Oct 12, in the Tigers home opener at Bowman Field, they shut out Riverside Military Academy W (26-0). Next was a loss to Auburn on Oct 19 at Drake Field in Alabama L (6-27). Clemson then crushed the Citadel at home on Oct 26, W (52-14). On Big Thursday in Columbia SC, the Gamecocks of South Carolina defeated the Clemson Fighting Tigers L (7-22)

The Tigers traveled to Augusta GA on Nov 7 to and were defeated by the Bulldogs L (5-27). On Nov16, the Clemson squad survived against Mercer in Macon GA W (21-13). Then again, after traveling to Grant Field in Atlanta GA, on Nov 28, the CU was shut out by John Heisman's Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets L (0-23)



1912 Clemson Football Team

A pattern seemed to be developing in the past few seasons which were captured in this chapter. Clemson was not beating the better teams; was walloping the smaller teams; and sometimes was having trouble with the teams in the mid-size group. This was not the recipe of success for a team that would one day win the National Championship. Change was coming as Bob Williams was about to come back the following year for his third stint of four as a Clemson Head Coach.

## 1913 Coach Bob Williams

The 1913 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1913 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Bob Williams was the head football coach for the first year of his third stint as Clemson head coach. The Tigers completed their eighteenth season overall and also their eighteenth in the SIAA with a record of 4-4-0 overall and 2-4-0 in the SIAA. They finished in tenth out of eighteen active SIAA teams. The SIAA membership was in flux at the time. A. P. Gandy was the captain.

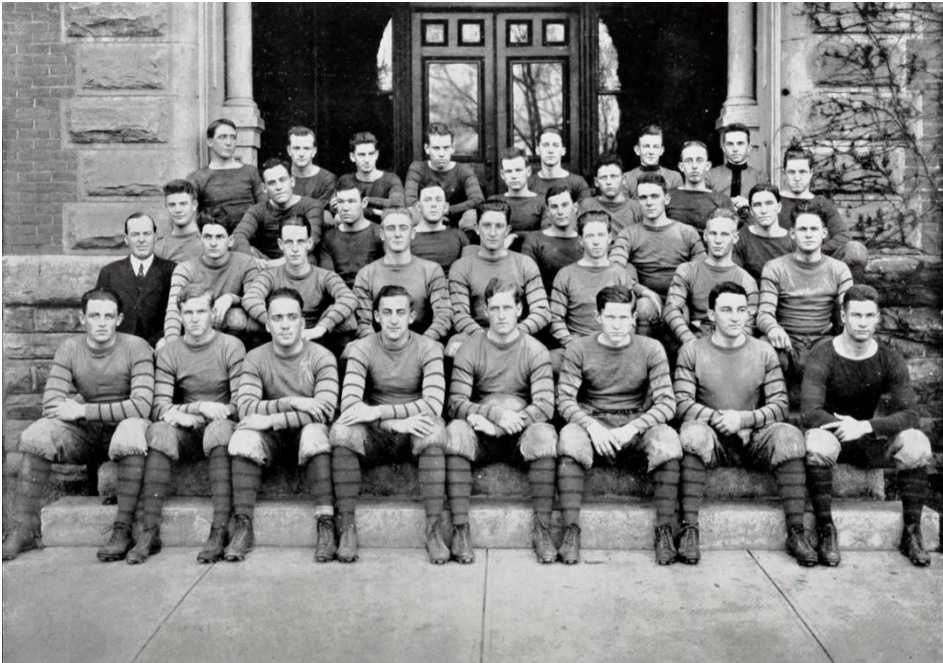
The Clemson Fighting Tigers began the season at home on Oct 4 with a close nail biter of a win over Davidson W (6-3). On Oct 11 at Alabama playing in the UA Quad field in Tuscaloosa, AL, the Tigers were shut-out L (0-20). Alabama and Auburn were big rivals at the time and it is ironic that the following week on Oct 18 at home v Auburn, the Tigers lost by the same exact score L (0-20). By the time Big Thursday came around Bob Williams' Tigers were ready on Oct 30 to shut-out South Carolina at Columbia SC W (32-0).

Though the Tigers were still taking their lumps v the better teams, they seemed to be doing better with Coach Williams. On Nov 6, the squad lost a tough close on against Georgia in Augusta L (15-18). Then, they beat the Citadel on Nov 8 in Charleston W (7-3) in another close match. On November 17, the Tigers let it all out in a rout over Mercer at Macon GA W (52-0). Though they were playing much better, John Heisman's Georgia Tech team was a well-poled machine when they met on Nov 27. Heisman's boys easily beat the Clemson Fighting Tigers L (0-34).

## 1914 Coach Bob Williams

In 1914, the founder of Clemson football, former coach Walter Riggs, as College President, was working behind the scenes to give the football team a big boost. His plan was to build a nice stadium on campus for Clemson to host its football games. This would not come in 2014, however.

The 1914 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1914 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Bob Williams was the head football coach for the second year of a four-year stint. The Tigers completed their nineteenth season overall and also their nineteenth in the SIAA with a record of 5-3-1 overall and 2-2-0 in the SIAA. They finished in eighth out of nineteen active SIAA teams. William Schilleter was the captain.



Clemson 1914 Football Team Bob Williams Coach

On Oct 3 at t Davidson in Davidson, NC, the Tigers played the Wildcats to a scoreless tie T (0-0). On Oct 10, the Tigers traveled to Waite Field in Knoxville Tennessee to play Tennessee and the squad was shut out by the Volunteers L (0-27) Something was wrong in Denmark as the Tigers were held scoreless in their first two games. Things did not improve on Oct 17 at Drake Field in Auburn AL as for the third week in a row the Fighting Tigers showed little fight and were shutout again L (0-28). Finally, on Oct 22, in Greenville SC, the Tigers got some points on the board in a thumping shutout of Furman W (57-0).

CU looked good again, knowing they could score, on Big Thursday, Oct 29 at Columbia SC, they whooped South Carolina W (29-6). The Citadel played tough against CU at College Park Stadium in Charleston, SC, but were defeated W (14-0). The next game against Georgia was a big one because Georgia had been beating the Tigers regularly for a number of years. Not this year, as Clemson defeated Georgia at Sanford Field on Nov 7 in Athens GA W (35-13). The next week the Tigers showed they were back by beating a tough VMI team in a nail-biter W (27-23). Could they beat John Heisman's Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets? That answer came on November 26 as

the margin of victory for the Yellow Jackets triumph over the Tigers was smaller but Heisman's team won another one L (6-26).

## 1915 Coach Bob Williams

In 1915, Walter Riggs, College President was able to pull it off and the Clemson Tigers began to play games on the newly constructed Riggs Field. It was Clemson's new home stadium. Riggs Field would host the football team until Memorial Stadium was built in 1942.

The 1915 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1915 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Bob Williams was the head football coach for the third year of a four-year stint. The Tigers completed their twentieth season overall and also their twentieth in the SIAA with a record of 2-4-2 overall and 2-2-0 in the SIAA. They finished in twelfth out of twenty-three active SIAA teams. W. K. McGill was the captain.

Looking at just the record, one would conclude that Bob Williams' Tigers did not play as well as in 1914. However, when you look closely at the scores you find a story of a fine defense without a corresponding offense to match. The tough games lost in this season, and there were twice as many as those won, were by margins of two touchdowns or less. Many games were decided by two or three points.

Coach Bob Williams left Clemson and quit coaching after the 1915 season. However, Clemson brought him back one mere time in 1929 for five games to finish the season so there was a deep fondness for coach Williams. He was a great coach. Between 1915 and 1926, Williams practiced law in Roanoke, Virginia, and was the city's mayor.

He returned to coach Clemson for the final 5 games of 1926. He died after a stroke in Deland, Florida in 1957. He goes down in history as one of the great pioneer coaches of the early football era. It helps to recall that in the 1902 season when Williams was coaching South Carolina, his Gamecocks beat John Heisman's Clemson Tigers

ruining Heisman's undefeated season. That alone gives Williams some great credentials.

On Oct 2, CU began the 2015 season at home in Riggs Field, the first game ever played there, with a tie against Davidson T (6-6). The Tigers then traveled to Tennessee on Oct 9 and beat a tough Volunteers team in a very close match W (3-0). The Oct 16 Auburn game was played in Anderson SC and Auburn won in a close game W (14-0). On Big Thursday in Columbia SC, Oct 28, The Gamecocks and Tigers played to a scoreless tie T (0-0)



Riggs Field named after 1<sup>st</sup> Coach – The First Game Oct 2, 1915 v Davidson

On Nov 6, CU traveled to Greenville, SC to play North Carolina in a losing effort that was very close L (7-9). Next came a tough VMI team in a game played at Richmond VA. It was another close call but the Tigers were on the underside of the score L (3-6). It had to be getting frustrating for the team to be losing such close ones. Georgia was another loss on Nov 25 at Sanford Field in Athens GA, L (0-13). This year, there was no Georgia Tech game scheduled. The Tigers were glad to get this strange season behind them.

## Tell me more about Riggs Field

April 3, 2002

 Welcome to Historic Riggs Field  
by Sam Blackman

Author's Note. This well-written tribute piece by *Sam Blackman* of the Tigers staff puts the importance of Walter Riggs and Riggs Field in perspective. Both were major building blocks to the ultimate success of Clemson University and its College Championship Football Team.



Riggs Field Today – Used for various purposes

## Welcome to Historic Riggs Field!

Saturday will be a special occasion as a Clemson varsity football team will return to Riggs Field for a football game for the first time since 1941. The varsity's last game here was on November 15, 1941, a 29-0 victory over Wake Forest.

This facility was the home of Clemson football from 1915-41 and it saw many landmark accomplishments for the Clemson program. It is being used today because Frank Howard field and surrounding facilities are undergoing renovations.

Perhaps one of the first big "stepping stones" in helping make Clemson successful in football and other areas of athletics even today was the construction of Riggs Field. Named after one of the most beloved leaders of the early years, Riggs Field is in its 88th year of service to Clemson University.

What made Riggs Field so significant to the school at the time it was first built in 1915? It was the first major facility on the Clemson University campus dedicated to intercollegiate athletics. Prior to Riggs Field, Clemson's teams played on Bowman Field in front of Tillman Hall. This field was used as the parade grounds for the corps of cadets, and served as the home of the football, track, baseball and yes, even the basketball team-one could imagine the overuse of Bowman field.

Riggs Field gave the football team a place to play and practice on its adjunct fields. The baseball field was constructed where the tennis courts are now and the track encircled the football field.

Construction of Riggs Field started in the early summer of 1914. Approximately \$10,000 was appropriated for the construction of the facility that covered almost nine acres. Before its completion the Clemson Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to name the new athletic complex, Riggs Field in honor of Clemson's first football coach and originator of the Clemson Athletic Association, Dr. Walter M. Riggs.

Riggs was the first football coach at Clemson in 1896. He stepped down as head coach in 1897 to devote full time to academics, as he was also an engineering professor. He also coached the team in 1899 because the athletic association was low on funds. However, in 1900, the search for a new coach must have become serious, as Riggs hired John Heisman to coach the Tigers.

Although no longer the head coach, Clemson athletics and Riggs could not be split. Riggs also was the equivalent of an athletic



director, managing the money and making contracts with other teams. The well-respected Riggs was also president of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) an early conference presiding the Southern Conference. Riggs later became president of Clemson on March 7, 1911. He served in this capacity until his death in 1924.

Riggs Field was dedicated in grand fashion on October 6, 1915. The band, corps of cadets, along with faculty and alumni marched from Tillman Hall to the new field. According to *The Tiger*, the group formed a "C" formation on the field and poured forth a thrilling volume of patriotic Tiger yells and songs. Professor J.W. Gantt, President of the Athletic Association, introduced Dr. Riggs as, "the man who has done more for the athletics at Clemson and probably more for southern athletics than any other man."

In presenting the field to the corps of cadets, Dr. Riggs said, "This magnificent field is a token of recognition by the Trustees of Clemson College of the importance of military and athletic training for the cadets. It is to be a place for the teaching of the principles of teamwork and fair play. This large and beautiful athletic field is to stand for the development of the physical man and whether in real work or in play, it is hoped that this field will be used as an agency in the development of high and honorable men.

"Whether victorious or defeated, may the men of this field always be gentlemen of the highest type. A few minutes later, Dr. Riggs made the initial kickoff in the first football game played on the new field. While on the field, he wore a new orange and blue sweater he had just received from Auburn, his alma mater, as they too wanted to congratulate Clemson and Dr. Riggs for their accomplishments. Clemson and Davidson played to a 6-6 tie that day.

While looking at the well-manicured surface today, many other facets about this historic place come to mind.

This ground is where Clemson's first All-American played, O.K. Pressley in the late 20s. He was a center and a linebacker for the Tigers in 1926-28. Another incredible feat that is still a Clemson record occurred when Maxcey Welch scored five touchdowns in Clemson's 75-0 win over Newberry on October 17, 1930.

It was also home to Clemson's most versatile athlete, Banks McFadden (see front cover of this program). McFadden was an All-American in both football and basketball in the same calendar year in 1939. He was named the nation's most versatile athlete for 1939-40. He was a record setter on the field as a runner, passer and punter. He led the Tigers to state championships in track twice in his three years on the team. He was also the star player who led Clemson to a surprise 6-3 win over Boston College in the 1940 Cotton Bowl, the Tigers first ever bowl appearance.

Head Football Coach Frank Howard coached his first game, a 38-0 win over Presbyterian on September 21, 1940. In Howard's first game as head coach, Clemson scored on the first offensive play as George Floyd reversed around left end and raced 18 yards untouched for a Clemson touchdown.

In 1940, Clemson won the Southern Conference football title while calling Riggs Field Home. It was the first of eight conference championships for the Tigers under Frank Howard.

Clemson' football teams compiled a 57-16-6 record during their 27 years at Riggs field and that .759 winning percentage is actually better than the winning percentage the Tigers have earned in Death Valley (72 percent). The baseball team won over 70 percent of its games there when the diamond was part of the complex.

Riggs Field today is considered to be one of the top if not top soccer facilities in the nation. It has been the home of Clemson's soccer program since 1980 and the men's team has compiled a 283-53-20 record there. The 1987 NCAA Men's Soccer Final Four was contested here and Clemson won the National Championship before a crowd of 8,332, then an all-time record crowd for a NCAA Championship soccer match. Since 1996, the Clemson Lady Tiger soccer team has an impressive 82-12-4 record at Riggs Field.

As one looks from Riggs Field and sees the grand clock tower of Tillman Hall guarding campus, it is only appropriate that these two symbols of the university are so close in proximity as both have played such a significant role in Clemson history.

## Chapter 9 Clemson Coaches from 1916-1926

Coach # 11 Wayne Hart

Coach # 12 Edward Donahue

Coach # 13 E J Stewart

Coach # 14 Bud Saunders

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1916	Wayne Hart	3-6-0	SIAA	2-4-0
1917	Edward Donahue	6-2-0	SIAA	4-1-0
1918	Edward Donahue	5-2-0	SIAA	3-1-0
1919	Edward Donahue	6-2-2	SIAA	2-2-2
1920	Edward Donahue	4-6-1	SIAA	2-8-0
1921	E J Stewart	1-6-2	SIAA	0-4-2
1922	E J Stewart	5-4-0	SIAA/SoCon	2-2-1
1923	Bud Saunders	5-2-1	SoCon	1-1-1
1924	Bud Saunders	2-6-0	SoCon	0-3-0
1925	Bud Saunders	1-7-0	SoCon	0-4-0
1926	Bud Saunders	2-2-0	SoCon	1-1-0
1926	Bob Williams	0-5	SoCon	0-2-0

### 1916 Coach Wayne Hart



#### <<< Coach Wayne Hart 1916

The 1916 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1916 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Wayne Hart was the head football coach for his first and only year. The Tigers completed their twenty-first season overall and also their twenty-first in the SIAA with a record of 3-6-0 overall and 2-4-0 in the SIAA. They finished in fifteenth out of twenty-five

active SIAA teams. S. S. Major was the captain.

On Sept 30, the Gators kicked off the season at home against Furman with a close win W (7-6). On Oct 7 v. Georgia in Anderson, SC, the Tigers were shut out L (0-26). Then on Oct 14, at Riggs Field, Tennessee beat the Tigers in another shutout L (0-26). On Oct 20, CU traveled to Drake Field at Auburn AL and were shut out again 0-28. So far, with just one TD scored for the whole year with the season half gone, things were not promising.

On Big Thursday in Columbia SC, on Oct 26 CU defeated the Tar Heels W (27-0). Then on Nov 11 at Broad Street Park in Richmond VA, the Tigers were thumped by VMI L (7-37). Citadel was ready to win on Nov 16 and they beat the Tigers in a close match at the County in Orangeburg, SC L (0-3). Back at the home field on Nov 22, CU beat Presbyterian in a shutout W (40-0). As a season closer in Charlotte, NC, Davidson shut out the Tigers in a big loss L (0-33).

## 1917 Coach Edward Donahue



<<< Edward Jiggs Donahue

The 1917 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1917 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Edward Donahue was the head football coach for his first of four seasons.

The Tigers completed their twenty-second season overall and also their twenty-second in the SIAA with a record of 6-2-0 overall and 4-1-0 in the SIAA. They finished in third out of sixteen active SIAA teams. F. L. Witsel was the captain. John Heisman ranked Clemson fourth in the south, or third in the

Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

The season opened at home in Riggs Field, Calhoun, SC, on Oct 6 with a nice win v Presbyterian W (13-0). Furman was next at Greenville SC on Oct 13 in a big shutout W (38-0). Auburn came to play at Riggs Field on Oct 19 and gave the Tigers their first defeat of the season L (0-7). The following Big Thursday, Oct 25, at Columbia SC, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W 21-13).

On Nov 1 at Wofford in Spartanburg, SC, CU won W (27-16). Then on Nov 16 at the County Fairgrounds in Orangeburg SC, the Tigers shut out the Citadel W (20-0). Clemson then beat the Florida Gators at Jacksonville Florida in a blowout W (55-7). With just one close loss on the record and a fine season going, the last game was against Davidson at Charlotte NC. The Wildcats out it together and beat the Tigers L (9-21)

## 1918 Coach Edward Donahue

World War I caused many colleges to skip the 1917 football season. In 1918 about thirty major colleges across the country dropped the sport either temporarily or permanently as getting players had become a major difficulty. Each of the major services has football teams during the war as a source of recreation and camaraderie. Some were very, very good because the Army, Navy, etc. had a lot of former college players in the camps with which to form teams. Colleges were very agreeable in playing the service camps.

The 1918 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1918 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Edward Donahue was the head football coach for his second of four seasons. The Tigers completed their twenty-third season overall and also their twenty-third in the SIAA with a record of 5-2-0 overall and 3-1-0 in the SIAA. They finished in fourth out of ten active SIAA teams. Stumpy Banks was the captain.

Coach Donahue was a busy guy as WWI came to an end in 1918. He was a great athlete and a great coach. In the Academic Year 1918-1919, he not only coached football, but also basketball, baseball, and track teams to enable their seasons.

On Sept 27, Camp Sevier came to Riggs Field for the Tigers Home opener and were defeated W (65-0). On Oct 5, the Tigers played Heisman's Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets again and were shut out L (0-28). Then, a month later, Nov 2 at South Carolina in the Big Thursday Game at Columbia, SC, the Clemson Fighting Tigers were strong and defeated the Gamecocks in a big shutout W (39-0). On Nov. 9, Camp Hancock came to Riggs Field to play the Tigers and this well-staffed service team shellacked the Tigers L (13-66).

On Nov 16, CU defeated the Citadel in Columbia SC W (7-0). On November 23, the Tigers walloped Furman at home W (67-7). To close the 1918 season at home, CU defeated Davidson W (7-0).

## 1919 Coach Edward Donahue

The 1919 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1919 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Edward Donahue was the head football coach for his third of four seasons. The Tigers completed their twenty-fourth season overall and also their twenty-fourth in the SIAA with a record of 6-2-2 overall and 2-2-2 in the SIAA. They finished in tenth out of twenty-three active SIAA teams. Stumpy Banks was the captain.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers got the season rolling on Sept 27 at home against Erskine at home, Riggs Field in Calhoun SC with a big walloping shutout W (53-0). The following week on Oct 3, CU shut out Davidson W (7-0) at home. Then, Ed Donahue took the CU team to Grant Field in Atlanta GA to play John Heisman's Georgia Tech squad. The Yellow Jackets shut out the Tigers L (0-28). The next loss was at Drake Field in Auburn AL, v the Tigers on Oct 17. Clemson went down in another shutout L (0-7) but the game was very close.

On Oct 25, Tennessee lost to the Tigers at home (14-0). Then on Big Thursday in Columbia SC, South Carolina was defeated by Clemson, W (19-6). The next game was against Presbyterian at home and the Tigers chalked up another win W (19-7).

On Nov 13, at the County Fairgrounds in Orangeburg, SC, the Tigers shut out the Citadel W (33-0). On Nov 21 at Riggs Field, Furman tied the Tigers T (7-7). At Sanford Field in Georgia, the Tigers tied the Bulldogs in a scoreless match T (0-0).

## 1920 Coach Edward Donahue

The 1920 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1920 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Edward Donahue was the head football coach for his fourth (last) of four seasons. It was Donahue's worst record. The Tigers completed their twenty-fifth season overall and also their twenty-fifth in the SIAA with a record of 4-6-1 overall and 2-6-0 in the SIAA. They finished fifteenth out of twenty-four active SIAA teams. Boo Armstrong was the captain.

The season opened on Sept 24 with the first of five home games at home in Riggs Field, Calhoun SC. The Clemson Fighting Tigers shut out Erskine W (26-0). On Oct 1, Presbyterian tied the Tigers T (7-7). On Oct 2, the day after the tie, the Tigers defeated Newberry W (26-6). On Oct 10, CU defeated Wofford W (13-7). It was not until Oct 15 that the Tigers suffered their first defeat in a shutout at the hands of Auburn L (0-21).

On October 23 at Tennessee's 15th and Cumberland Field in Knoxville, TN, the Wildcats beat the Tigers L (0-26). On Oct 28, in the Big Thursday annual rivalry in Columbia, SC, South Carolina beat Clemson by a field goal L (0-3). In the closest game since Heisman went to Georgia Tech, the Tigers almost prevailed against the Yellow Jackets but came up short L (0-7). Recovering quickly from the Tech loss, on Nov 11, the Tigers shut out the Citadel at the County Fairgrounds at Orangeburg, SC W (26-0). For the first time, on Nov 20, in Greenville SC, Furman beat the Tigers L (0-14). In the season finale, Georgia shellacked Clemson at Sanford Field in Athens Ga, L (0-55).

## 1921 Coach E J Stewart



1921 Clemson Coach EJ Stewart

The 1921 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1921 college football season as a member of the SIAA. E. J. Stewart was the head football coach for his first of two seasons. So far, no coach for Clemson has stayed more than four years. It is surprising that the team has done so well without such consistency in coaching.

The Tigers completed their twenty-sixth season overall and also their twenty-sixth in the SIAA with a record of 1-6-2 overall and 0-4-2 in the SIAA. They finished twenty fifth out of twenty-six active SIAA teams. J. H. Spearman was the captain.

The Season opened in Danville Kentucky on Oct 1 v Centre, who beat new coach Stewart's Tigers L (0-14). The Tigers first win came on Oct 7 against a weak Presbyterian team in the home opener at Riggs Field, Calhoun, SC, W (34-0). The big opponents began to fire



at Clemson first on Oct 14 when Auburn walloped the Tigers at Drake Field in Alabama L (0-56). Furman then gained a tie from CU on Oct 21 at Greenville SC T (0-0).

On Big Thursday, there was no celebrating as the Gamecocks of SC soundly defeated Clemson L (0-21) in Columbia SC. An always tough Georgia tech team put a hit on the Tigers on Nov 5 at Grant Field in GA L (7-48). The Citadel then tied the Tigers in a scoreless match T (7-7) on Nov 10 at the County Fairgrounds in Orangeburg, SC. On Nov 18, Erskine beat the Tigers at home L (0-13) and then on Nov 24 at Sanford Field in Athens GA, the Bulldogs shut out the Tigers L (0-28) The best one could say about it was that it was a miserable season. Everybody was glad it was in the past and looking forward to rebuilding the team.

## 1922 Coach E J Stewart

The 1922 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1922 college football season as a member of the SoCon. E. J. Stewart was the head football coach for his second of two seasons. The Tigers completed their twenty-seventh season overall and their first in the Southern Conference with a record of 5-4-0 overall, 2-4 in SIAA, and 1-2 in the SoCon. They finished twelfth out of twenty active SoCon teams. E. H. Emanuel was the captain.

This year, after 26 years as part of the SIAA, Clemson made a big switch to the Southern Conference. The SIAA was more or less going away and most of the bigger teams were moving to the Southern Conference. In this transition year, Clemson played as members of both the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association and newly formed Southern Conference. SIAA only games were matchups with Centre, The Citadel, and Furman.

Clemson began this season with three home games in Riggs Field, Calhoun SC, on the Clemson Campus. The first on Sept 30 was a loss to Centre L (0-21). The second on Oct 7 was a blowout against Newberry W (57-0) and the third was a low scoring shutout against Presbyterian W (13-0). On Oct 26, Big Thursday, Clemson kicked a field goal to beat South Carolina at Columbia SC. On November 4,

at Grant Field in Atlanta GA, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech stung the Tigers again L (7-21).

On Nov 11, in College Park Stadium, Charleston, SC, the Tigers shut out the Citadel W (18-0). On Nov 18, CU womped Erskine at home W (52-0). On Nov 25, Clemson could not get by a tough Furman team from Greenville SC, and were defeated L (6-20). On Dec 2, Clemson played the up and coming Florida Gators and were beaten up L (14-47).

## 1923 Coach Bud Saunders

The 1923 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1923 college football season as a member of the SoCon. Bud Saunders was the head football coach for his first of four seasons. The Tigers completed their twenty-eighth season overall and their second in the Southern Conference with a record of 5-2-1 overall, 1-1-1 in the SoCon. They finished twelfth out of twenty active SoCon teams. Butch Holohan was the captain.

Clemson began the season with two home games. The first was against Auburn on Sept 29. It was a scoreless tie T (0-0). It was one of just a few good tough showings against Auburn. It was a good sign for the future. The second home game was Oct 6 v Newberry in which the Tigers gained a nice shutout W (32-0). At tough Centre squad at Danville Kentucky was next on the schedule and they overwhelmed the Tigers L (7-28). The next game was a nail biter in the state rivalry on Big Thursday between the Gamecocks and the Tigers at Columbia SC. The Tigers were pleased to take a win from the birds for such a tough game played on Big Thursday, Oct 25 W (7-6).

VPI, one of the Tigers toughest opponents over the years was next on the schedule for November 3. The game played at Miles Field in Blacksburg VA was not too close but it was not a blowout either. Nonetheless, VPI won the match L (6-25). Davidson, always a tough opponent in Clemson's early seasons was tough again but the Tigers prevailed on Nov 9 at home W (12-0). New teams always get better, and this year's Presbyterian game at home was no given. Nonetheless the Tigers won (20-0) On Nov 29, one-time pushover

Furman were giving nothing up playing Clemson at Greenville SC. Despite the opposition's best efforts, however, Clemson won W (7-6)

## 1924 Coach Bud Saunders



### <<< Coach Bud Saunders

The 1924 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1924 college football season as a member of the SoCon. Bud Saunders was the head football coach for his second of four seasons. The Tigers completed their twenty-ninth season overall and their third in the Southern Conference with a record of 2-6-0 overall, 0-3-0 in the SoCon. They finished twenty-first of twenty-three active SoCon teams. Charlie Robinson was the captain.

The 1924 Clemson Tigers football team, which represented Clemson College during the 1924 college football season was a very poor team record wise and there is little happiness for any of us in recounting all of the foibles. So, let's talk about the two positives first.

On September 12 in the home opener at Riggs Field in Calhoun GA, Clemson whipped Elon, a new team on the schedule, into complete oblivion, with a 60-0 trouncing. It was a game just a step above playing against the practice tackling dummies. My apologies to the Elon fans. But, this Clemson group was not tough—even against Presbyterian who they would typically take to the woodshed and clean their clocks. Presbyterian had a chance of winning this year in a home game shutout with a low score of W (14-0) There were no more W's this year. Believe me, I regret to report that.

So, rather than lament any more, I will simply report the rest of this season which consisted of all losses as follows:

Oct 4 at Auburn	Drake Field, Auburn, AL	L (0-13)
Oct 23 at SC	(Big Thursday)	L (0-3)
Nov 1 VPI	Riggs Field, Calhoun, SC	L (6-50)
Nov 8 at Davidson	Charlotte, NC	L (0-7)
Nov 11 @The Citadel	Anderson, SC	L (0-20)
Nov 27 Furman	Riggs Field, Calhoun, SC	L (0-3)

## 1925 Coach Bud Saunders

The 1925 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson College during the 1925 college football season as a member of the SoCon. Bud Saunders was the head football coach for his third of four seasons. The Tigers completed their thirtieth season overall and their fourth in the Southern Conference with a record of 1-7-0 overall, 0-4-0 in the SoCon. They were tied for twenty-first with Maryland which was also last of 22 active SoCon teams. G. I. Finklea was the captain.

On September 26 Presbyterian, had gotten powerful enough to beat Clemson at home on opening day at Riggs Field in Calhoun, SC L (9-14). It was as if no effort was expended to win games. It was one season worse than the prior. From the football history books, I see no other reason than the coach. On Oct 3, in a close match v a great team Auburn, CU lost L (6-13). Then on the road on Oct 10 at Kentucky's McLean Stadium in Lexington, KY, the Tigers endured another close loss L (6-19).

In a type of game that had rarely occurred ever in Clemson History, on Oct 22 on Big Thursday, Clemson got thumped by a typical pushover team South Carolina in a game played at Columbia, SC L 0-33. Everybody was wondering what happened to Clemson.

On Oct 29, at Wofford in Spartanburg, SC, another loss L (0-13). Then, on Nov 7 Florida whooped the Tigers at Riggs L (0-42). Hoping for a win but not expecting one, Clemson finally won a game on Nov 14 at The Citadel in College Park Stadium, Charleston, SC--W (6-0). Finishing the season off with no fanfare at all, Clemson dropped another on Nov 26 v Furman in Greenville, SC L (0-26). Fans and the administration did not think it could get worse than 1924 but it had.

## 1926 Coach Bud Saunders

The 1926 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson College during the 1926 college football season as a member of the SoCon. Bud Saunders was the head football coach for his fourth of four seasons. Saunders resigned after the first four games of the 1926 season. Bob Williams, who had previously served as Clemson's head coach in 1906, 1909, and from 1913 to 1915, led the team for the final five games of the season.

The Tigers completed their thirty-first season overall and their fifth in the Southern Conference with a record of 2-7-0 overall, 1-3-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked 18<sup>th</sup> out of 22 active SoCon teams. B. C. Harvey was the captain.

On Sept 18, Clemson defeated Erskine in the home opener W (7-0). The Tigers then lost to Presbyterian on Sept 25, L (0-14). Auburn shellacked the Tigers in week 3 of the season on Oct 2 at Drake Field in Auburn, AL, L (0-47). In his last win as a Clemson coach, on Oct 9, Bud Saunders' Tigers beat NC State in the Textile Bowl at home in Riggs Field, Calhoun, SC, W (7-3). Bud Saunders resigned and the team was then coached by Bob Williams' for the remainder of the season.

On Oct 21 at South Carolina played in Columbia, SC on the rival Big Thursday matchup, the Gamecocks prevailed over the Tigers L (0-24). On Oct 28, Wofford beat Clemson in Spartanburg, SC L (0-3). On Nov 6, the Tigers played at Fleming Field in Gainesville, FL and were shut out by the Gators L (0-33). On Nov 13, the Citadel beat the Tigers at home L (6-15). Then, in the final game of the year, on Nov 30, Furman controlled the game and beat Clemson L (0-30).



## Chapter 10 Coach Josh Cody 1927-1930

Coach #15 Josh Cody

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1927	Josh Cody	5-3-1	SoCon	2-2-0
1928	Josh Cody	8-3-0	SoCon	4-2-0
1929	Josh Cody	8-3-0	SoCon	3-3-0
1930	Josh Cody	8-2-0	SoCon	3-2-0

### 1927 Coach Josh Cody



The 1927 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1927 college football season as a member of the SoCon.

Josh Cody was the head football coach for his first of four seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-second season overall and their sixth in the Southern Conference with a record of 5-3-1 overall, 2-2-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 22 active SoCon teams. Bud Eskew was the captain.

The 1926 season was strange to say the least. Though Bob Williams was a fine coach, he had not coached anywhere in over ten years and was not familiar with the team, nor the team with him. It was a relief for Clemson to have such a year behind them. Josh Cody was a fine coach wherever he coached and so the Tigers were pleased to begin a season with him as their head coach.

On Sept 24, after losing two in a row to Presbyterian, the Cody's Tigers managed a scoreless tie at home T (0-0) at Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Calhoun, SC. Clemson fans and Alumni knew the team was back when they beat a strong Auburn team on Oct 1 at home W (3-0). After two games, the fans were hoping they'd see some touchdowns soon. They came on Oct 8 when Clemson traveled to Riddick Stadium in Raleigh NC to play NC State in the Textile Bowl. The Tigers lost the game but scored their first touchdown under a great coach—Josh Cody L (6-18). There was more scoring against Erskine at home on Oct 14 as the Cody's offense began to click-- W (25-6).

On Oct 20, the Tigers beat South Carolina in Columbia on Big Thursday W (20-0). On Oct 29, at home, Clemson lost to Wofford L (0-6). The next week on Nov 5, the Tigers came back to beat the Citadel at Johnson Hagood Stadium in Charleston SC W (13-0). Next was a tough loss as Georgia overwhelmed the Tigers at Sanford Field in Athens L (0-32) on Nov 12. On Nov 24, Furman beat the Tigers at Greenville SC L (0-28). Things were about to get better for Coach Cody and the team.

## 1928 Coach Josh Cody

The 1928 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1928 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon.) Josh Cody was the head football coach for his second of four seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-third season



overall and their seventh in the Southern Conference with a record of 8-3-0 overall, 4-2-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked 7th out of 22 active SoCon teams. O.K. Pressley was the captain.

The season began well at home in Riggs Field, on the Clemson campus at Calhoun SC with a nice win over Newberry on Sept 22 W (30-0). The next win came against Davidson the following week on Sept 29. W (6-0). Auburn was next at Drake Field in Auburn AL in another W (6-0) victory. On Oct 12, the winning score was about the same W (7-0) as the Textile Bowl was played game in Florence SC. The extra point was the only scoring difference.

The Clemson offensive drought was about to change on Oct 19 when Erskine was shellacked by the Tigers W (52-0). On Oct 25, on Big Thursday, the Tigers whooped the Gamecocks W (32-0) in Columbia SC.

On Nov 3, Ole Miss defeated the Tigers in the first game ever played between the two L (7-26) The game was played at Hemingway Stadium in Oxford, MS. On Nov 10, Clemson traveled to Lynchburg. The Gators played the Tigers on Nov 17 at Jacksonville FL and prevailed against CU L (6-27). On Nov 29, the Tigers beat Furman at Greenville, SC W 27-12. In the season finale on Dec 8, the Citadel got the best of Clemson at Johnson Hagood Stadium in Charleston, SC L (7-12).

## 1929 Coach Josh Cody

The 1929 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1929 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Josh Cody was the head football coach for his third of four seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-fourth season overall and their eighth in the Southern Conference with a record of 8-3-0 overall, 3-3 in the SoCon. They were ranked twelfth out of 23 active SoCon teams. O.D. Padgett was the captain.

The season home opener resulted in a huge win on Sept 21 v Newberry at home in Riggs Field on the Clemson campus in Calhoun, SC W (68-0). On Sept 28, at Davidson in Charlotte, SC, the Tigers prevailed against the Wildcats W (32-14). On Oct 5,

Clemson beat Auburn W (26-7). On Oct 11, the Tigers won the Textile Bowl by shutting out NC State at Florence SC W (26-0).

The Tigers then traveled to Spartanburg SC and collected a nice shutout victory from Wofford on Oct 18 W (30-0). On Oct 24, in the Big Thursday rivalry played in Columbia SC, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (21-14). On Nov 2 at McLean Stadium in Kentucky, the Tigers were shellacked by the Wildcats L (6-44).

On Nov 9, the Tigers lost to a stubborn and tough VMI team at Norfolk VA L (0-12). Always having a tough time with the Gators, this year was no different as the Tigers were beaten on the Gators home turf (Fleming Field) in a close match L (7-13). The Clemson Fighting Tigers finished the season with two home wins. The first was against the Citadel W (13-0), and the second was against an always tough Furman team W (7-6)

## 1930 Coach Josh Cody

The 1930 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1930 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Josh Cody was the head football coach for his fourth and last of four seasons. This would-be Coach Cody's best season. The Tigers completed their thirty-fifth season overall and their ninth in the Southern Conference with a record of 8-2-0 overall, 3-2 in the SoCon. They were ranked ninth out of 23 active SoCon teams. Johnnie Justus was the captain.

The Tigers began the season at home for two games at Riggs Field on the Clemson campus in Clemson, SC. In the first game on Sept 20, the Tigers beat Presbyterian W (28-7) and on Sept 27, the team shut out Wofford W (32-0). After traveling to Florence SC on Oct 3, the Tigers then beat The Citadel in a close match W (13-7). The Textile Bowl came next at Charlotte NC on Oct 11 v NC State and the Tigers shut out the Wolfpack. Back at home against a weak Newberry Team on Oct 17, the Tigers got in a lot of touchdowns on the way to a W (75-0) blowout / shutout.

On Oct 22 at South Carolina in Columbia, SC for the Big Thursday matchup, the Tigers won W 20-7. The Tigers were undefeated when

on Nov 1, the squad traveled to Tennessee's Shields-Watkins Field in • Knoxville, TN, and they were shut out by the Volunteers, L (0-27). Next on Nov 8 at VMI's Bain Field in Norfolk, the Tigers gained a shutout W (32-0). Then, on Nov 15 at Florida in Jacksonville, the Tigers were shut out L (0-27). The Tigers rebounded in the season finale in a close game v Furman W (12-7).



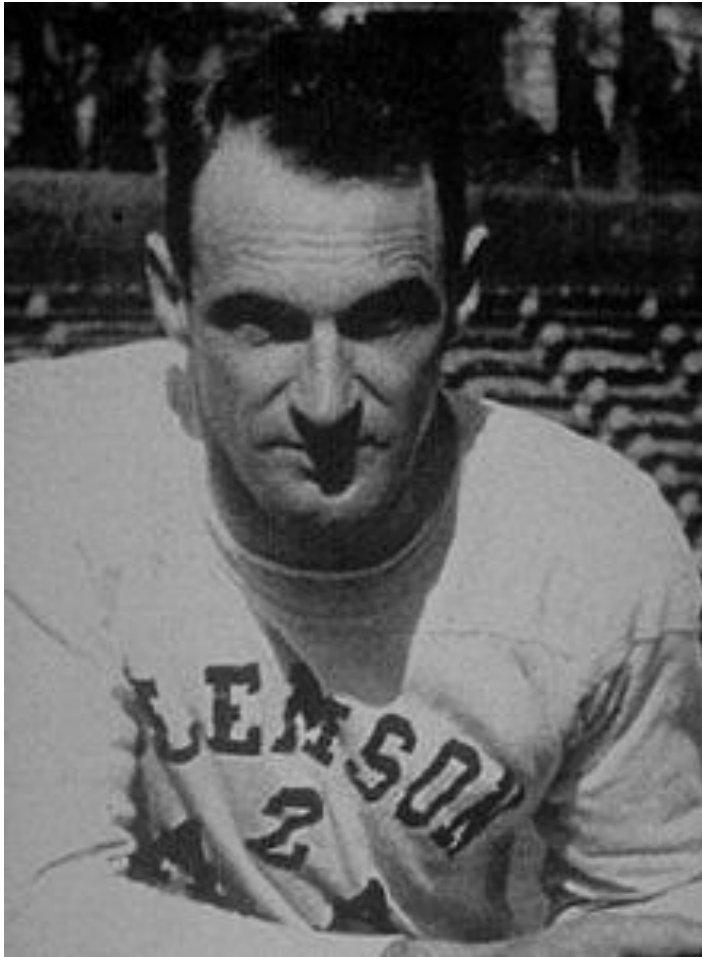
Unidentified Clemson Game at Riggs Field from Depression Era



# Chapter 11 Coach Jess Neely 1931-1939

Coach # 16 Jess Neely

<b>Year</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Record</b>
1931	Jess Neely	1-6-2	SoCon	
1932	Jess Neely	3-5-1	SoCon	
1933	Jess Neely	3-6-2	SoCon	
1934	Jess Neely	5-4-0	SoCon	
1935	Jess Neely	6-3-0	SoCon	
1936	Jess Neely	5-5-0	SoCon	
1937	Jess Neely	4-4-1	SoCon	
1938	Jess Neely	7-1-1	SoCon	
1939	Jess Neely	9-1-0	SoCon	



Coach Jess Neely

## Coach Jess Neely

Jess Neely's teams kept getting better until he closed out his Clemson career at 9-1-0 in 1939. That says a lot for the coach. He was a groundbreaker for the Tigers and he put them ahead of the game ahead of time.

Neely was the first Clemson head coach to stay more than four consecutive years. He added needed stability to a program that was just waiting to break out. Nothing worth having is easy.

Jess Neely knew that his team needed to be financed properly in order to survive and be able to win in the Southern Conference. After his 1-6-2 season his first year, if he were at another institution that was well endowed and had a lot of rich alums, they would be calling for his head. Clemson needed Coach Neely to learn some lessons about how to run a great football program.

Since others have explained this well and nobody is looking for a million dollars for their work discussing how great Clemson football came into being, I am showing both articles so you can see this is not just my idea. It was prevailing thought in 1931. Notre Dame by the way was about to go through its first season without Knute Rockne.

In the two articles that I selected to introduce this great coach and great man, Jess Neely, you will learn that he was more about goodness and reality than anything else. Sure, winning mattered, but the college could not expect the students to pay for their uniforms during the great depression and it was tough to get anybody to give up a dime even if the cause was worthwhile. Not being from one of the Northeast's well-endowed universities, Neely figured out how to make Clemson competitive.

Neely kept at it and succeeded and he eventually had a great eight-year record, capped by one of the finest bowl game victories over a coach who would soon have four national championships to his credit. Who knows if Clemson would have made it through the war years without the boost that the programs created by Jess Neely gave to the Clemson Tigers. We'll never have to answer that because Jess Neely was there at the right time and Clemson continues as the beneficiary. Just keep in mind, great basketball powerhouse Gonzaga

gave up football because Jess Neely was at Clemson and not at Gonzaga.

The first piece below is from the Clemson Media Guide and the second is from an author who wrote a nice book about Clemson's great coaches.

Jess Neely

Head Coach Years: 1931-1939

Record at Clemson: 43-35-7

Winning Percentage: .547

Perhaps one of Clemson's most beloved coaches was Jess Neely. Neely influence and inspiration is still present today as the IPTAY Scholarship Club was founded during his coaching Tenure. IPTAY is the lifeblood of the Clemson Athletic Department. It provides funds for athletic scholarships and capital improvements.

Thousands of athletes have benefited through the IPTAY Scholarship fund since its inception in 1934. That first year of IPTAY, Neely and his staff convinced 160 people to pay \$10.00 a year to Clemson, for a grand total of \$1,600 the first year, (not bad during the middle of the great depression.)

Neely was head coach at Clemson from 1931 through 1939 and spent the next 26 years at Rice University in Houston.

Neely coached Clemson to its first bowl game, the 1940 Cotton Bowl, where the Tigers capped a 9-1-0 season by beating Boston College 6-3. Clemson ended the season ranked 12th in the final Associated Press poll, its first top 20 season in history. Boston College was ranked 11th going into the game and it was Clemson's first win over a top 20 team in its history. The team featured the play of Banks McFadden Clemson's first Associated Press All American. Clemson had a 43-35-7 record during Neely's tenure.

Neely coached Rice to four Southwest Conference Championships and six bowl appearances, the last being a trip to the Bluebonnet Bowl in 1961.

During 40 years of college coaching he compiled a record of 207-99-14. Neely is eighth in college football history in victories by a Division I-A coach heading into the 1995 season. For his accomplishments, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1971.

Neely graduated from Vanderbilt in 1924, after lettering three years in football and serving as captain of the 1922 team. He coached a year of high school football before returning to his alma mater to obtain a law degree. But he never practiced.

He coached four years at Southwestern college in Clarksville, Tenn. and then went to the University of Alabama in 1928. It was there that he met Frank Howard. Neely brought Howard to Clemson as line coach in 1931. Howard replaced him in 1940 and remained as head coach for 30 years. In 1967, Neely returned to his alma mater as athletic director. He officially retired in 1971, but continued to coach golf until 1981, when he moved back to Texas.

"If I didn't look in the mirror every day, I wouldn't know how old I am," Neely once said. "Working with the boys makes you feel young, I feel that in athletics the boys learn a sense of loyalty and sacrifice and values they don't learn anywhere else.

"They learn to compete," he said, "and that is what life is all about-its competition.

"If they make good in football, chances are they'll be successful elsewhere. I like to see that those boys make something of themselves. That is my reward.

"The boys go to college to study and get that degree. Playing football is a side activity. When fellows go to a school first to play football they get an entirely wrong sense of values.

"And when you start them off with the wrong sense, it isn't difficult for them to go astray."

"He was a cool, southern gentleman, but he worked us like dogs. The work-outs were always twice as hard as the games," said



Dick Maegle. "There were no superstars, no victory that was better than all the other victories. To him football was a team game and we were all team players." Maegle was the player tackled in a famous episode in the 1954 Cotton Bowl, when frustrated Tommy Lewis came off the bench to stop a certain touchdown. Rice won that game, 28-6.

Neely died at the age of 85 in 1983, but his landmark accomplishments in the 1930s at Clemson contributed significantly to Clemson's outstanding football tradition.

*The numbers and the names have changed since 1995 but the idea has not. Jess Neely, whose first Clemson season at 1-6-2 will be explored after the below book excerpt is presented, is on the 1995 list below:*

#### **All-Time I-A Coaching Victories (Not Including Wins Since 1995)**

Paul 'Bear' Bryant	Maryland, Kentucky, Texas A&M, Alabama	323
Amos Alonzo Stagg	Springfield, Chicago, Pacific	314
Glenn 'Pop' Warner	Georgia, Cornell, Carlisle, Pittsburgh, Stanford, Temple	313
Joe Paterno	Penn State	268
Bobby Bowden	Samford, West Virginia, Florida State	250
Woody Hayes	Denison, Miami (OH), Ohio State	238
Bo Schembechler	Miami (OH), Michigan	234
Jess Neely	Rhodes, Clemson, Rice	207

Source: 1996 Clemson Football Media Guide

## **Clemson's best coaches: Neely, birth of IPTAY**

By Robert MacRae June 30, 2014 4:38 am ET

As they sat in a parked car outside old Florence Memorial Stadium in Florence, S.C., following a 6-0 loss to the Citadel on October 16, 1931, Jess Neely, assistant coach Joe Davis, Captain

Frank Jervey and Captain Pete Heffner talked quietly about the future of its Clemson football program.

Jervey, who the Jervey Athletic Center is named for today, was working in Washington, D.C. at the time as a liaison between the military and the college, while Heffner was a member of the military staff at Clemson and had a strong interest in athletics. He also assisted with coaching in his spare time.

“What we ought to do is get the alumni to give Jess some backing by helping him finance the football team,” said Heffner in the book *The Clemson Tigers from 1896 to Glory*.

The Tigers were in the midst of a 1-6-2 season with the only win coming a few weeks earlier against NC State. This was the first year of what is commonly known in Clemson lore as the “Seven Lean Years.” Neely, who went on to become one of the nation’s most successful coaches at Rice, knew he was going to need something more if Clemson was going to stay competitive on the gridiron.

In hearing Heffner’s suggestion, Jervey asked Neely how much the school should ask its alumni for. The Clemson coach responded by suggesting the idea of a \$50 Club.

“If I could get \$10,000 a year to build the football program, I could give Clemson fans a winning team,” Neely said.

And thus, the concept of the first booster club organization in college athletics was born.

Through the help of Rupert H. Fike, the idea of \$50 a year was scaled down to \$10 under the slogan “I Pay Ten A Year.” Aka “IPTAY”

On August 21, 1934, Fike informed Neely that the IPTAY Club had been organized and that a constitution was formulated. The constitution stated the purpose of the Clemson Order of IPTAY “shall be to provide annual financial support to the athletic department at Clemson and to assist in every other way possible to regain for Clemson the high athletic standing which rightfully belongs to her.”

After three consecutive losing seasons from 1931-'33, the 1934 season slowly started a trend which saw Clemson's fortunes on the football field turn around. That year, the Tigers beat archrival South Carolina for the first time in four years, 19-0, on their way to a 5-4 record. In 1935, Clemson improved to 6-3 under Neely and again beat the hated Gamecocks, this time 44-0.

The Tigers beat USC in 1936 and 1937, and though they did not have great years as a whole, they also did not have a losing record, setting the stage for one of the best four-year runs in Clemson history.

In 1938, Clemson produced a 7-1-1 team, which included a 34-12 win over the Gamecocks. In 1939, the Tigers pounded South Carolina, 27-0, on their way to an 8-1 record. At season's end, Clemson was extended an invitation to its first bowl game—the Cotton Bowl, and of course accepted.

The Tigers were scheduled to play the Eagles of Boston College on January 1, 1940 in Dallas, TX. It was dubbed the “farmer boys” against “the city slickers” and the farmer boys won, 6-3.

“If I didn't look in the mirror every day, I wouldn't know how old I am,” Neely once said. “Working with the boys makes you feel young. I feel that in athletics the boys learn a sense of loyalty and sacrifice and values they don't learn anywhere else.

“They learn to compete and that is what life is all about – it's competition. If they make good in football, chances are they'll be successful elsewhere. I like to see that those boys make something of themselves. That is my reward. The boys go to college to study and get that degree. Playing football is a side activity. When fellows go to a school first to play football they get an entirely wrong sense of values.

“And when you start them off with the wrong sense, it isn't difficult for them to go astray.”

Neely died at the age of 85 in 1983, but his landmark accomplishments in the 1930s at Clemson contributed significantly to Clemson's outstanding football tradition.

His 1939 Clemson team was perhaps one of the most significant in Clemson football history because so much of the history and heritage of Clemson football documents 1939 as a cornerstone year. Not only was it Clemson's first bowl team, it was Clemson's first team to be ranked and the first to end a season in the top 20. The Tigers finished 12th in the final Associated Press Poll.

Clemson opened the year with its annual victory over Presbyterian, then suffered its only loss, a 7-6 squeaker, to Tulane in New Orleans. The Tigers then went on to win their last seven regular season games.

Oddly enough, the loss to the Green Wave, saw Banks McFadden, also known as "Bonnie Banks," first rise to national prominence. Many observers say that is where McFadden made the All-America team on his punting exhibition, especially on his quick-kicks from the single-wing tailback position.

McFadden averaged over 43 yards a kick on 12 punts that afternoon and had six punts of at least 50 yards, still a single-game record at Clemson.

End of Neely piece

## **More pundit thoughts on Clemson Coach Neely**

Neely always fought adversity at Clemson with slow and well thought out solutions. How many coaches today could win 36 games in six seasons with only 14 of those 56 games played at home?

Only once did Clemson play as many as four games at home in a year during Neely's stay, and only twice were there three home games in a year. Thirteen of the 56 games were played on neutral sites. Even his 1939 team—his best at Clemson—only played two games at home, opening the season with an 18-0 win over

Presbyterian and then in the seventh game, a 20-7 victory over Wake Forest.

The 1939 team was called “Road Clemson” because of this. But despite the tough road schedule, the Tigers stayed strong. With the exception of the Tulane loss, they were only behind twice in their nine wins. And though players went both ways in those days, Clemson only gave up 45 points in 10 games.

The Tigers suddenly found themselves—a group of players from small town environments—playing big-time football. Neely rewarded the team for its efforts by taking all 51 players to Dallas for the Cotton Bowl game.

While in Dallas for the bowl game, talk was rampant that Neely might leave Clemson for the head coaching job at Rice. Bill Sullivan was the publicity man for Frank Leahy and Boston College, and he said he was in the hotel room in Dallas when Neely told a small group that he would definitely take the Rice offer.

Frank Howard, who was Neely’s line coach, spoke up and said: “Well, I’m not going with you.” And according to Sullivan, Neely said: “I hadn’t planned to ask you.”

When Howard was confronted with this, he denied it and said that J.C. Littlejohn, Clemson’s business manager, had promised him the Clemson head coaching job if Neely left.

Neely is still known today as one Clemson’s most beloved coaches. His influence and inspiration is still present thanks to the IPTAY Scholarship Club as it is the lifeblood of the Clemson Athletic Department.

From 1931-’39, Clemson had a 43-35-7 record during Neely’s tenure. After the Tigers’ Cotton Bowl win over Boston College, Neely spent the next 26 years at Rice University in Houston.

During 40 years of college coaching he compiled a record of 207-99-14. For his accomplishments, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

**Article Editor's note:** *This story above was an insert from the book I co-authored last summer called Clemson: Where the Tigers Play, which you can buy on amazon.com. This is the third story in a series of stories that chronicles how these coaches turned Clemson into the football power it has come to be over the years*

## 1931 Coach Jess Neely

The 1931 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1931 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his first of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-sixth season overall and their tenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 1-6-2 overall, 1-4-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked ninth out of 23 active SoCon teams. A. D. Fordham was the captain.

On Sept 25. In the Clemson home opener, Presbyterian tied the Tigers at Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Clemson, SC. T (0-0). On Oct 3 at Tennessee's Shields-Watkins Field in Knoxville, TN, the Vols overwhelmed the Tigers L (0-44). On Oct 10, at NC State in Charlotte, NC. The Tigers engaged the Wolfpack in the Textile Bowl and gained their only win of the season. W (6-0). On Oct 6, at the Citadel in a game played at Florence NC, the Citadel beat Clemson L (0-6). On Oct 22, at Columbia SC, the Tigers lost to South Carolina L (0-21) in the Big Thursday game.

On Oct 31 Oglethorpe beat the Tigers at Riggs Field L (0-12). The next week on Nov 7, v VMI, at Bain Field in Norfolk VA, the Tigers lost a close one L (6-7)

Alabama was beginning to flex its muscles in the Southern Conference and on Nov 14, the Crimson Tide flattened Clemson L (7-74). Clemson was having a very bad season. On Nov 26, The Tigers managed a pride saving scoreless tie v Furman in Greenville SC T (0-0).

## 1932 Coach Jess Neely

The 1932 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1932 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his second of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-seventh season overall and their eleventh in the Southern Conference with a record of 3-5-1; 0-4-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked twenty-first, tied with Mississippi State out of 23 active SoCon teams. Bob Miller was the captain.

The season opener was on Sept 23 when Presbyterian came to play the Tigers at home at Riggs Field on the Clemson campus in Clemson, SC. CU won the game W (13-0) On Oct 1, Clemson traveled to Grant Field in Atlanta GA expecting the best but they succumbed to a tough Georgia Tech L (14-32). On Oct 8, at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh NC, in the Textile Bowl, the Tigers managed to give the game to NC State L (0-13). Finally, a team showed up at Riggs Field willing to lose but not wanting to lose, who lost anyway. The Tigers beat Erskine W (19-0) Moving through the schedule, we come across the Big Thursday extravaganza on Oct 20, played at Columbia, SC v the South Carolina Gamecocks. In years other than the seven lean years, this was a given win. But, this year, SC shut out the poorly financed Clemson Tigers on Big Thursday L (0-14).

Moving right along through a bad season, ties such as the one on Oct 29 at Davidson in Richardson Stadium •in Davidson, NC start to look good because they count positively in a perverse sort of way T (7-7). On Nov 5, at the Citadel, the Tigers finally stole a win W (18-6). Then, on Nov 11 at home, v Georgia, the Bulldogs were unrelenting and they pulled off a win v the Tigers L (18-32). Then, as a season finale, on Nov 24, the Tigers lost to a team that loves to beat them, Furman at the opponent's home field in Greenville, SC, L (0-7).

## 1933 Coach Jess Neely

The 1933 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1933 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his

third of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-eighth season overall and their twelfth in the Southern Conference with a record of 3-6-2; 0-3-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked twenty-first, tied with Mississippi State out of 10 active SoCon teams. John Heinemann was the captain.

You may have noticed that instead of twenty-three teams as in 1932, the 1933 Southern Conference (SoCon) consisted of just ten teams. Saturday Down South ([saturdaydownsouth.com](http://saturdaydownsouth.com)) describes what happened in 1933 as follows:

“The unwieldy Southern Conference has split along geographical lines and out of the break today emerged a new group of thirteen schools, mostly of the deep South, to be known as the Southeastern Conference.” This group included the core of today’s SEC —Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Florida, LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Kentucky, Tennessee and Vanderbilt —along with Georgia Tech, Tulane, and Sewanee (also known as the University of the South). The remaining Southern Conference schools were all located in Maryland, Virginia or the Carolinas: Virginia, Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Institute, Washington & Lee, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Duke, South Carolina and Clemson; seven of those schools —along with Wake Forest, which joined the Southern Conference in 1936 — left in 1953 to form the Atlantic Coast Conference.

## Games of the 1933 Season

On opening day Sept 23 at Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Clemson SC, Presbyterian tied the Orange and Purple T (6-6). Then, on Sept 30, a tough Georgia Tech team took no prisoners at Grant Field in Atlanta GA defeating Clemson L (2-39). The Tigers then beat NC State at home in the Textile Bowl W (9-0). On Oct 13, a newly scheduled team George Washington invited the Tigers to Griffith Stadium in DC and played Clemson to a scoreless tie T (0-0). This was the first night game in Clemson's history, as played on October 13 against George Washington at Griffith Stadium in Washington, D. C.



Big Thursday was next on Oct 19 at Columbia SC as the Gamecocks beat the Tigers L (0-7). The next loss was Ole Miss in a game played at Meridian MS L (0-13). On Nov 4, in Charlotte NC, the Clemson shut out Wake Forest W (13-0). Clemson then played Wofford on Nov 11 in Spartanburg, SC for a very close loss L (13-14). Mercer was next at Savannah GA for another tough Clemson loss L (0-13). Clemson recovered briefly and beat the Citadel the following week Nov 25 W (7-0). The Tigers closed out the season on Nov 30, losing to Furman in Greenville, SC L (0-6).

This was the third losing season of the period of years known as the seven lean years. Coach Jess was getting non-playing matters straightened out so the players could play. The biblical connotation is clear but most Clemson fans were looking for seven or more years of plenty. The next season would mark the midpoint of the seven lean years.

## 1934 Coach Jess Neely

The 1934 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1934 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his fourth of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their thirty-ninth season overall and their thirteenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 5-4-0; 2-2-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked fifth out of 10 active SoCon teams. Henry Woodward was the captain.

The season began with Presbyterian at home at Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Clemson, SC. (Clemson SC was formerly known as Calhoun SC) with a well-earned win W (6-0). In the Georgia Tech rivalry on Sept 29, the Tigers played the Yellow Jackets very close for the first time in a while. A victory soon would not be too much to imagine. This time, the Tigers lost L (7-12). The Tigers next played at Duke Stadium on Oct 6 in Durham NC and they lost to the Blue Devils L 6-20). This was followed on Oct 13 at McLean Stadium in Lexington KY as the Tigers came close but no cigar to the Wildcats L (0-7). Clemson was playing good football but in many cases, were outmanned by the financial resources of their opponents.

On Oct 25, on Big Thursday at Columbia Municipal Stadium in Columbia SC, SC, on a Big Thursday, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks solidly W (19-0). On Nov 3, at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh NC in the Textile Bowl, the Tigers beat the NC State Wolfpack W (12-0). Alabama had switched to the SEC Conference in 1933 and both teams played a non-conference game on Nov 10, at Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, AL. The SEC conference Alabama squad shellacked the SoCon Clemson team L (40-0). On Nov 17 at Savannah GA, the Tigers beat Merced W (32-0) and on Nov 29, Clemson played Furman at home and got the W, W (7-0).

## 1935 Coach Jess Neely

The 1935 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1935 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his fifth of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their fortieth season overall and their fourteenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 6-3-0; 2-1-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked fourth out of 10 active SoCon teams. Henry Shore was the captain.

Presbyterian was first on the schedule for 1935 again at home in Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Clemson SC. Clemson won the game on Sept 21, W (25-6). Next was VPI at Miles Stadium in Blacksburg, VA for a nice Clemson win W (28-7) September 28 at VPI's Miles Stadium, Blacksburg, VA. On Oct 5, Wake Forest came to Clemson and were defeated W (13-7). Sitting undefeated after three games, things were going good for Neely's Tigers before they traveled to Duke on Oct 12, and were beaten convincingly by the Blue Devils L (12-38)

On Oct 24 at Columbia Municipal Stadium in Columbia, SC, on Big Thursday, the Tigers overwhelmed the Gamecocks in a big shutout win W (44-0). On Nov 2, Clemson traveled to Mercer in Augusta GA and triumphed W (13-0). Then it was off to Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa AL to play the crimson Tide. Alabama was at its best and they shut out the visiting Tigers L (0-33) at Johnson Hagood Stadium on Nov 16, the Tigers beat The Citadel W 6-0). In the season finale-- in a two-point nail-biter, at Greenville, SC, Furman beat the Tigers L (6-8) on Nov 28.

## 1936 Coach Jess Neely

The 1936 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1936 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his sixth of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their forty-first season overall and their fifteenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 5-5-0; 3-2-0 in the SoCon. They were ranked fourth out of 15 active SoCon teams. Net Barry was the captain.

On Sept 19, the season startup game was a nice win against Presbyterian at Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Clemson SC W (19-0). On Sept 26 at home, Clemson beat VPI W (20-0). On Oct 3, Alabama's Crimson Tide shut out the Tigers in a one-way game at Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa AL. L (0-32). On Oct 10, at Duke Stadium in Durham NC, the Tigers were shut out by Duke L (0-25). Duke would have a perfect SoCon record 7-0-0 in 1936 and would be crowned the Conference Champions.

On Oct 16, at Wake Forest in Wake Forest, NC, the Tigers were defeated L (0-6). The squad recovered on Oct 22, Big Thursday on the game against South Carolina at Columbia W (19-0). On Oct 31, after having lost the prior fifteen encounters with Georgia Tech, the Clemson Fighting Tigers finally won against this major rival. At Grant Field in Athens GA in a nail-biter, W (14-13). On Nov 7 at Johnson Hagood Stadium on Charleston SC one week later, on Nov 7, Clemson beat the Citadel W (20-0). On Nov 14, at Kentucky, the Tigers lost a close match to the Wildcats, L (6-7). Finishing the season up at home, the Tigers were shut out by the Furman Paladins L (0-12).

## 1937 Coach Jess Neely

The 1937 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1937 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his seventh of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their forty-second season overall and their sixteenth in the Southern Conference with a

record of 4-4-1; 2-0-1 in the SoCon. They were ranked third out of 15 active SoCon teams. H. D. Lewis was the captain.

On Sept 18 in the home opener, the Tigers beat Presbyterian in a blowout at Riggs Field on the Clemson Campus in Clemson SC, 46-0. On Sept 25, the Tigers traveled to Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, and were beaten by the Green Waves L (0-7). Army beat Clemson on Oct 2 at Chichie Stadium in West Point, NY L (6-21). Next on Oct 9 at Georgia's Sanford Stadium in Athens GA, the Tigers lost their third in arrow L (0-14). The Big Thursday game came on Oct 21 as the Tigers beat the Gamecocks of SC at Columbia Municipal Stadium in Columbia, SC W (34-6).

On Oct 30, The Tigers shut out Wake Forest at home W (32-0). Then, at Grant Field in Atlanta GA, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech defeated the Tigers in a close match L (0-7). On Nov 13, the Tigers took on the Gators at Florida Field in Gainesville FL and won a nail-biter W (10-9). An always tough Furman team invited the Tigers to play in Sistine Stadium in Greenville SC and tied Clemson in a scoreless match T (0-0).

Jess Neely's work in getting donations and financing for the team was finally beginning to pay off and the next two years would show a marked improvement before Frank Howard came in to guide the Tigers for the next thirty years. You may recall Jess Neely was the coach who suggested not to build the Death Valley Stadium because about 10,000 seats by the old YMCA was all the Tigers needed. During the next two years from this, Neely had his opportunity to shine a lot better than his stadium prediction.

## 1938 Coach Jess Neely

The 1938 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1938 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his eighth of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their forty third season overall and their seventeenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 7-1-1; 3-0-1 in the SoCon. They were ranked second out of 15 active SoCon teams. Charlie Woods was the captain.

Presbyterian was at Riggs Field again on the Clemson campus in Clemson NC to kick off the football season against the Tigers. They were shut out w (26-0) on Sept 17. A week later, on Sept 24 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, Clemson beat Tulane W (13-10). On Oct 1, #2 ranked Tennessee beat the Tigers for their only loss of the season at Shields Watkins Field in Knoxville L (7-20). On Oct 8. VMI tied the Tigers at Memorial Stadium in Charlotte NC T (7-7). Then, for Big Thursday on Oct 20, in Columbia Municipal Stadium, Columbia SC, the Tigers beat the SC Gamecocks w (34-12)

On Oct28, at Wake Forest, Clemson won W (7-0) The following week on Nov 5, Clemson traveled to George Washington at Greenville NC and won the game via shutout W (27-0). The Tigers grabbed another shutout the following week Nov 12 at Kentucky's McLean Stadium in Lexington KY, W (14-0). Wrapping up the season again v a tough Furman team, the Tigers prevailed W (10-7).

## 1939 Coach Jess Neely

The 1939 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1939 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Jess Neely was the head football coach for his ninth (last) of nine seasons. The Tigers completed their forty fourth season overall and their eighteenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 9-1-0; 4-0 in the SoCon.

They were listed along with Duke at the top of the SoCon standings for 1939 out of 15 active SoCon teams. Joe Payne was the captain. Clemson participated in its first bowl game, beating a tough Boston College coached by the immortal Frank Leahy in the 1940 Cotton Bowl Classic. It was a great season changer for the Tigers. The seven lean years were officially over.

On Sept 23, the season began again with Presbyterian at home at Riggs Field on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson SC. Clemson shut out the Blue Hose W (18-0. Just a week later on Sept 30 at Tulane, the Tigers lost a tight one in Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, LA L (6-7). Then, on Oct 7 v NC State in the Textile Bowl in Charlotte, NC, W (25-6). On Big Thursday at Columbia

Municipal Stadium in Columbia, SC, the Tigers shut out the Gamecocks of SC W (27–0)

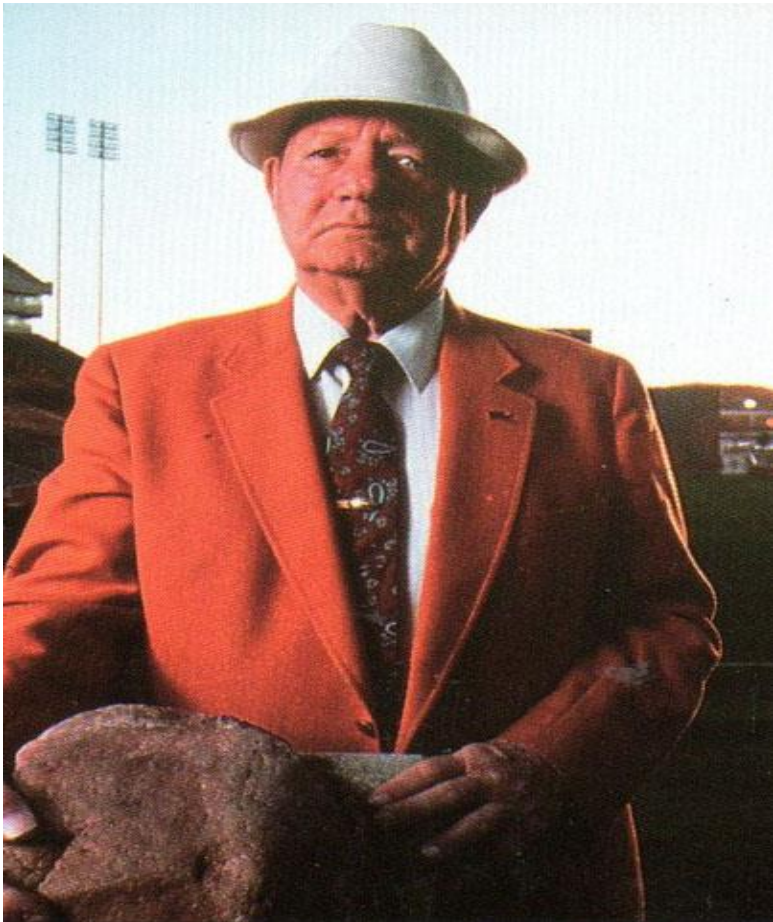
Navy played the Tigers for the first time on Oct 28 at Thompson Stadium in Annapolis, MD. Clemson had a tough time but won W (15–7). Then in Washington DC at on Nov 3 at George Washington, the tigers won another close one W (13–6). Coming back home on Nov 11, the Tigers beat Wake Forest at Riggs Field W (20–7). Getting close to the season finale, on Nov 18, at Southwestern Presbyterian, the #16 ranked Tigers won at Memphis, TN W (21–6). As the season closed on Nov 25, Furman always was there for the last game at Sistine Stadium in Greenville, SC, The Tigers triumphed W 10–7.

Not typically being a bowl contender, the Clemson Fighting Tigers were unaccustomed to the great accolades as brought forth during the 1939 season. The year was so good the team was invited to the Cotton Bowl Classic. The participants in the January 1, 1940 Cotton Bowl game were the #11 Boston College Eagles vs the #12 Clemson Tigers. The great Cotton Bowl classic game was played at Dallas Texas and though the well-known Frank Leahy (found fame with Notre Dame) coached the Eagles and Jess Neely, known for his great work at Clemson coached the Tigers. In this highly publicized game. Neely beat Leahy but not by much more than a nudge W (6-3) What a win for Clemson and what a loss for Boston College.

# Chapter 12 Coach Frank Howard 1940-1954

Coach # 17 Frank Howard

<b>Year</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Record</b>
1940*	Frank Howard	6-2-1	SoCon	4-0-0
1941	Frank Howard	7-2-0	SoCon	5-1-0
1942	Frank Howard	3-6-1	SoCon	2-3-1
1943	Frank Howard	2-6-0	SoCon	2-3-0
1944	Frank Howard	4-5-0	SoCon	3-1-0
1945	Frank Howard	6-3-1	SoCon	2-1-1
1946	Frank Howard	4-5-0	SoCon	2-3-0
1947	Frank Howard	4-5-0	SoCon	1-3-0
1948*	Frank Howard	11-0-0	SoCon	5-0-0
1949	Frank Howard	4-4-2	SoCon	2-2-0
1950	Frank Howard	9-0-1	SoCon	3-0-1
1951	Frank Howard	7-3-0	SoCon	0-1-0
1953	Frank Howard	3-5-1	ACC	1-2-0
1954	Frank Howard	5-5-0	ACC	1-2-0



Frank Howard 1940-1969 Longest Serving Clemson Coach

In this chapter, we explore the first half of Coach Howard's 30-year career from 1940-1954. The full term of Howard's tenure lasted until 1959.

## 1940 Coach Frank Howard

The 1940 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1940 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his first of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their forty-fifth season overall and their nineteenth in the Southern Conference with a record of 6-2-1; 4-0-0 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in first in the SoCon out of 15 active SoCon teams. Red Sharpe was the captain. Coach Frank Howard got the Tigers off to a great start in his first year at the helm.

On Sept 21, the home opener was again against Presbyterian at Riggs Field on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. The Tigers shut out the Blue Hose W (38-0). On Sept 28, the Tigers played Wofford at home and beat the Terriers W (26-0). The next game was at American Legion Memorial Stadium in Charlotte NC. It was the annual Textile Bowl on Oct 5 with NC State. The Tigers beat the Tar Heels W (26-0). Wake forest gave the Tigers their fourth win in a row in a home game on Oct 12 W (39-0) and so far, the Tigers were competing in an undefeated season. On Big Thursday Oct 24 at Columbia SC, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W 21-13).

On Nov 2, the Tigers traveled to Tulane Stadium in New Orleans. Tulane at and were beaten in a shutout by the Green Wave for the first loss of the season. Then the Auburn Tigers beat the Clemson Tigers on Nov 9 at Auburn Stadium in AL, L (7-21). The Tigers came back for a tie at Southwestern Presbyterian at Crump Stadium in Memphis TN on Nov 16 T (12-12). Then, on Nov 23 the Tigers played Furman at Sistine Stadium in Greenville, SC on the way to a nice victory W 13-7.



## 1941 Coach Frank Howard

The 1941 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1941 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his second of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their forty sixth season overall and their twentieth in the Southern Conference with a record of 7-2-0; 5-1-0 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in third in the SoCon out of 15 active SoCon teams. Duke was again # 1. Wade Padgett was the captain.

The season began at home on Sept 20 v Presbyterian at Riggs Field on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson SC. The Tigers beat the Blue Hose W (41-12) On Sept 27, Clemson traveled to Lynchburg, VA and played VIMI at City Stadium for the win W (36-7). On Oct 4, in the Textile Bowl at American Legion Stadium in Charlotte NC, the Tigers beat the Wolfpack W (27-6). On Oct 11, the Tigers got the rare treat of traveling to Boston to play in Fenway Park against Boston College. They had beaten BC, coached at the time by the immortal Frank Leahy in their first outing in the Cotton Bowl in 1939; They beat the Eagles again W (26-13). Denny Myers had taken over for Leahy at BC.

On Oct 23 at South Carolina, on Big Thursday, the Tigers suffered a rare loss while nationally ranked at #14 to the unranked Gamecocks in a close match L (14-18). Then next venue was Griffith Stadium in Washington DC v George Washington. The Tigers picked up a nice 1 in W (19-0). On Nov 15, at home, the Tigers shut out Wake Forest W (29-0). The next week Nov 22 at Sirmine Stadium in Greenville SC, the #18 ranked Tigers beat Furman W (34-6). In the season finale on Nov 29 at Auburn, the Tigers were ranked #16 going in but were nonetheless beaten by the Auburn Tigers L (7-28).

## 1942 Coach Frank Howard

The 1942 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1942 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his third of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their forty seventh season overall and their twenty-first in the Southern Conference with

a record of 3-6-1; 2-3-1 in the SoCon. It was a poor season for sure. The Tigers came in ninth in the SoCon out of 16 active SoCon teams. WM & Mary were #1 in the Conference. Charlie Wright was the captain. The new Memorial Stadium was inaugurated September 19 with a win against Presbyterian. Clemson's 200th win came on Big Thursday against South Carolina. From that point on Riggs Stadium was for special events and other sports than football.

On Sept. 19, another season began with Presbyterian feeling the first Clemson hit. This was not Frank Howard's best team nor perhaps his best effort. The typical pushover Blue Hose almost snuck through the net but Clemson held them back in a tougher than should-have-been game W (6-4). The game was played at Clemson's new Memorial Stadium as Riggs field had gone into a football retirement of sorts. Memorial Stadium was built on the Campus of Clemson University and its nickname over the years was Death Valley because so many teams went in full of life and came out clinging to their survival instincts. Presbyterian, in this first game almost ruined the inauguration parade, they played so hard. But the Tigers would have none of it and won the game even without their best team of the ages on the field.

The Offense was taking a long time to make it to the goal line in the early games even the second game v VMI on Sept 26, at City Stadium at Lynchburg. The scoring disease was apparently contagious. Nobody in this game could score a point and the game ended in a scoreless tie T (0-0). The Tigers would have loved a tie in their next game but somebody on the opposing team at American Legion Memorial Stadium in the Textile Bowl played in Charlotte NC v the Wolfpack knew how to get an extra point and that was the difference in the game.

The Tigers lost by one point against NC State L (6-7). It seemed that other than an always tough Auburn Tigers, all the teams including Clemson who once knew how to score points had forgotten how it was done. Boston College on Oct 10 had gotten a shot to minimize the effects of the scoring disease and so for the first time. The Eagles defeated Clemson L (7-14) at Fenway Park.

On Oct 22, Clemson got a reprieve and scored 18 points against the Gamecocks of South Carolina at Carolina Stadium on Big Thursday

to emerge victorious W (18-6). Wake Forest got a similar reprieve and were able to score 19 v Clemson en-route to victory on Oct 31 L (6-19).

The disease came back v George Washington at home as the Tigers could not find the goal line L (0-7). On Nov 14, it took one of the Service groups to pass the twenty-point threshold as Clemson lost to the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, FL L (6-24). With two games left in a terrible season, the Tigers went on to play hard against Furman on Nov 21 but had a tough time scoring again and lost the home game L (7-12).

Auburn's Tigers were known to take no prisoners and their Tigers routed the Clemson Tigers, who ironically scored their second highest point title of the season while the Clemson defense went on vacation at Auburn Stadium in Alabama, capping off a lousy season with a L (13-41) big loss.

## 1943 Coach Frank Howard

The 1943 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1943 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his fourth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their forty eighth season overall and their twenty-second in the Southern Conference with a record of 2-6-0; 2-3-0 in the SoCon. It was an even poorer season than the poor Clemson season before. Frank Howard of course did not get his many Clemson accolades and his many uniform Chevrons for seasons such as this.

The Tigers came in seventh in the SoCon out of 10 active SoCon teams. Duke was again at the top of the Southern Conference. The conference itself was being depleted and was down to ten members. Ralph Jenkins was the Clemson Captain for 1943. The new Memorial Stadium had been inaugurated September 19 of the prior year with a close win against Presbyterian. This year, Clemson would not be so fortunate.

On Sept 25, Presbyterian noticed that Clemson for its own reasons was not playing its best football. Frank Howard had yet to set his

eternal pattern to become an immortal coach in motion and the Clemson teams under his tutelage were not improving. Or if they were improving it was not noticeable to the discerning eyes of the general public—especially those who rooted exclusively for Clemson.

And, so just like every other year for many years, Clemson chose to kick off its home season at the home Ball Park, Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC against a team that was willing to play an away game every year at Clemson, Presbyterian. Now the Blue Hose were never push-overs and they were always hoping to place a lick on Clemson but had yet to be able to do so. Well, until this year. Clemson seemed to have a problem getting that extra point after a touchdown when it was one point no matter how ya got it. This was another one of those years. Both teams scored two touchdowns but only one team was able to squeeze an extra point into the score and that team unfortunately for Tigers Fans was not Clemson.

And, so, Presbyterian licked Clemson at home in the season opener for the first time ever L (12–13). I already told you all this was a bad year so we won't spend a lot of words talking about the exact hurts of the season, while we give the scores and the mini-skinny of the games. Every game has coverage in this book but not ad-nauseum.

On Oct 2 at NC State in the American Legion Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, NC, Clemson and NC engaged in the Textile Bowl. Clemson won W (19–7). On Oct 9, Clemson lost against VMI at Victory Stadium in Roanoke, VA L (7–12). On Oct 21, at South Carolina in Carolina Stadium, Columbia, SC in the Big Thursday encounter, Clemson lost a big game to the Gamecocks L (6–33) Then on October 30, Clemson kept the losing slide operative as it succumbed to Wake Forest at home L (12–41).

After a number of years, Clemson was on Nov 6, again playing at Davidson in Richardson Stadium, Davidson, NC. It was a good choice for the schedule as Clemson won this game for Coach Howard, W (26–6). It was a great victory in a poor year otherwise. Giving the military its opportunity to be the best that it could be, on Nov 13, Clemson played against Georgia Pre-Flight in Greenville, SC, and were whipped by the stronger military team L (6–32). During the war years, many teams would fall to teams run by the

service academies giving our war heroes a chance to play college football.

On Nov 20, Clemson took another crack at the almost impregnable Georgia Tech Bulldogs ranked #15 nationally at the time. The game was played in Grant Field, Atlanta, GA, and Clemson had a tough time keeping its head above water in this major loss L (6–41). That concluded Frank Howard's 1943 season with the Tigers.

## 1944 Coach Frank Howard

The 1944 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1944 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his fifth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their forty ninth season overall and their twenty-third in the Southern Conference with a record of 4-5; 3-1 in the SoCon.

It was a much better season than the two poor Clemson seasons before. But, it was not a Cigar Season. The Tigers came in third in the SoCon out of 10 active SoCon teams. Duke was again at the top of the Southern Conference. The conference itself was not depleted this year as it held steady at ten members. Ralph Jenkins was again the Clemson Captain for 1944

On Sept 23, the Tigers got off to a good start v Presbyterian at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC W (34–0). On Sept 30, the Tigers were walloped and shutout by Georgia Tech's Yellow Jackets at Grant Field in Atlanta, GA L (0–51). On Oct 7 in the Textile Bowl played at American Legion Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, NC, Clemson prevailed W (13–7). On Oct 19 at South Carolina in Carolina Stadium, Columbia, SC on Big Thursday, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (20–13). Then on Oct 28 at nationally ranked #20 Tennessee at Shields-Watkins Field in Knoxville, TN, the Volunteers beat the Tigers L (7–26)

On Nov 4 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Wake Forest, NC, the Tigers were beaten in a close match. On November 11, the Frank Howard's Fighting Clemson Tigers came back against the Virginia

Military Institute (VMI) in Victory Stadium in Roanoke VA and soundly defeated the Keydets W (45-12). The next game was a loss at Tulane on Nov 18 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans L (20-36). The season then ended on a loss on Nov 24 at Sanford Stadium in Athens GA as the Tiger s were taken down by the Bulldogs L (7-21)

## 1945 Coach Frank Howard

The 1945 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1945 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his sixth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fiftieth season overall and their twenty-fourth in the Southern Conference with a record of 6-3-1; 2-1-1 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in fourth in the SoCon out of 11 active SoCon teams. Duke was again at the top of the Southern Conference. Ralph Jenkins was captain for the third year in a row in 1945

On Sept 22, Presbyterian brought a very weak team to Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC and the team gave the Tigers a nice practice game. W (76-0). On Sept 29, Clemson realized it was not enough practice as the Tigers were shut out by the Bulldogs of Georgia L (0-20) at Sanford Stadium in Athens GA.

In the Textile Bowl v NC State at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh NC, the Tigers got back on the winning side in a close match W (13-0). Still engaged in WWII, the Pensacola Naval Air Station came to play the Tigers on Oct 13, and almost got the win, losing by just one-point W (7-6). On Big Thursday, Oct 19 in Carolina Stadium, the Gamecocks and the Tigers played to a scoreless tie T (0-0).

The Tigers traveled to Burdine Stadium in Miami FL for their next encounter on Nov 2, and the squad was barely beaten by the Hurricanes L (6-7). On Nov 10 at home, the Tigers shut out VPI W (35-0). The following week on Nov 17, at Tulane, Clemson overpowered the Green Wave W (47-20) On Nov 24, the Tigers beat Georgia Tech W (21-7) at Grant Field in Atlanta GA. The GA Tech win was not expected and so on Dec 1, when the Tigers played at

Wake Forest, the team was ranked #16 nationally. The ranking did not help as unranked Wake Forest beat the Clemson squad--L (6-13)



Coach Frank Howard's Clemson Players Taking a Water Break

## 1946 Coach Frank Howard

The 1946 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1946 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his seventh of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-first season overall and their twenty-fifth in the Southern Conference with a record of 4-5-; 2-3 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in tenth in the SoCon out of 16 active SoCon teams. Duke was again at the top of the Southern Conference. Chip Clark was the captain.

On Sept 21 in the season opener at Clemson Memorial Stadium on the Campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, the Tigers shut out Presbyterian W (39-0). On Sept 27 at Georgia in Sanford Stadium Athens GA, the Tigers lost their first game of the season to the Bulldogs L (12-35). In the annual Textile Bowl, the Wolfpack of NC State beat the Tigers L (7-14). Wake Forest then beat the Tigers at Groves Stadium, Wake Forest NC on Oct 12 L (7-19).

On Big Thursday Oct 24, South Carolina beat Clemson at Carolina Stadium L (14-26). Then there was a close game at VPI at Miles Stadium in Blacksburg, VA won by the Tigers over the Keydets W (14-7). The next encounter was a big loss on Nov 9 to a tough Tulane Team in New Orleans L (13-54). Then it was a nice win against Furman on Nov 16 at home W (20-6). To make the season a big success, in the finale, the Clemson Tigers beat the always-tough Auburn Tigers at the Cramton Bowl Stadium in Montgomery Alabama W (21-13).

## 1947 Coach Frank Howard

The 1947 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1947 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his eighth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-second season overall and their twenty-sixth in the Southern Conference with a record of 4-5-; 1-3 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in twelfth in the SoCon out of 16 active SoCon teams. WM & Mary won the Southern Conference in 1947. Cary Cox was the Clemson team captain.

On September 20, Clemson kicked off its home season at Memorial Stadium, aka Death Valley on the college campus in Clemson, SC v an always-willing Presbyterian. The Tigers shut out the Blue Hose W (42-0) for a nice season beginning. It just took one more game for the Tigers to register their first loss v Boston College at the Baseball Braves Field in Boston MA L (22-32).

On Oct 4, my wedding Anniversary but one year before I was born. Wake Forest beat the Tigers in a close match at home L (14-16). NC



State then prepared for the Textile Bowl at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh Stadium, Raleigh NC and the Wolfpack took no prisoners in their defeat of the Clemson Tigers L (0-18).

There was a time or so it seemed that Clemson never lost to South Carolina. Those days were in the past. On Oct 23 at South Carolina in Carolina Stadium, Columbia, on Big Thursday, the Gamecocks had their fill and beat the Tigers L (19–21). On Oct 31, it was another loss – this time at Georgia in Sanford Stadium, Athens, GA. L (6-21). Furman never gives up but this year, they were beaten by Clemson at Surrine Stadium in Greenville, SC W (35–7). For the first time ever, the Tigers played the Dukes of Duquesne at Forbes Field pro baseball park in Pittsburgh, PA and triumphed W (34–13). On Nov 22, Auburn played the Tigers at home and were defeated by the other Tigers W (34–18)

## 1948 Coach Frank Howard

The 1948 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1948 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his ninth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-third season overall and their twenty-seventh in the Southern Conference with a record of 11-0; 5-0 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in a clean first in the SoCon out of 16 active SoCon teams in 1947. Bob Martin & Phil Prince were co-captains for the 1948 Clemson team.

Lots has been written but this is a report intended to be favorable to the great Clemson team of 1948, coached by the great Frank Howard, one of college football's immortals. Here goes:

Michigan won it all in 1948. Unlike Clemson which went 11-0, the Wolverines went 9-0 and they had enough clout to claim the #1 spot in the final AP poll over 9-0 Notre Dame. Michigan felt this season made up for the 1947 season when Notre Dame got the crown. It made up for 1947, when Michigan had also gone 9-0, but finished #2 to Frank Leahy's 9-0 Notre Dame.

They used this as an excuse: Michigan had capped the 1947 season with a huge 49-0 rout of Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl, and the AP

conducted a post-bowl poll that went with Michigan at #1 over Notre Dame, but the AP had declared that the post-bowl poll was not "official." This season, it was Notre Dame that played a game against Southern Cal after the final AP poll. That's because the AP poll ended before their December 4th trip to Southern Cal, where Notre Dame was tripped up by a 14-14 tie to 6-3-1 USC, finishing the Irish at 9-0-1.

Because of that upset, there were no apparent contenders to Michigan's crown this season, since they did not even look at the Southern Conference. Thus, all the reporters who live around the big colleges declared Michigan as the unanimous choice for 1948 mythical national champion (MNC) amongst organizations listed in the NCAA Records Book, even math-based ratings.

Clemson finishing #8 in another poll and got to play 8-3 Missouri, was ranked #10. Clemson won its bowl game 24-23. But Missouri was the only ranked opponent they played, and they shad some other struggles during their undefeated season such as 6-0 over 3-6-1 North Carolina State, 13-7 at 3-5 South Carolina, 26-19 at 5-2-2 Boston College, 21-14 over 6-4 Wake Forest, and 7-6 at 1-8-1 Auburn. It wasn't luck. Clemson was 11-0.

Meanwhile, Michigan played 5 ranked teams and only one of their wins was close (touchdown or less), 13-7 at 6-2-2 Michigan State (#17) in their opener. They beat 8-2 Northwestern (#3) 28-0. All commentaries are biased but in this book at least, we show you why the big shots chose not to give Clemson its proper role of the dice for the National Championship. Regardless, the Tigers were undefeated and that is pretty darn good when you play eleven games and win them all.

California went 10-0 in the regular season, but they lost 20-14 to 8-2 Northwestern in the Rose Bowl to blow a shot at a share of the MNC. This became a habit for Cal: they would go unbeaten during the regular season in 1949 and 1950, and then lose the Rose Bowl following each of those seasons as well.

An always powerful Army team, especially during the WWII years, started this season 8-0, but they were tied by 0-8-1 Navy in their

finale to finish 8-0-1, probably the biggest upset in college football history.

10-1 Oklahoma took their upset early, losing 20-17 at 7-2-1 Santa Clara in their opener. 9-1 Tulane lost 13-7 at 7-3 Georgia Tech in their 2nd game, and 8-1 Mississippi lost 20-7 at Tulane. 8-1 Cornell lost 27-6 to 8-0-1 Army at home.

Let's now look at Frank Howard's fantastic 1948 season one game at a time. In the 1948 season opener against Presbyterian, Clemson chose to make it a memorable night game. It was the first time Memorial Stadium hosted a night game -- ever. It was in this season opening shutout W (53-0) victory over Presbyterian. As we have learned Memorial Stadium is where Clemson plays its home games. It is convenient as it sits right on the Clemson Campus in Clemson, SC.

On Oct 2, Clemson beat NC State at home in the Textile Bowl W 6-0. On Oct 9, the Tigers traveled to Scott Field in Starkville MS to play Mississippi State with a nice win W (21-7) Next on Oct 21, South Carolina had designs on an upset over the Tigers but the Gamecocks were brushed back at Carolina Stadium in Columbia, SC on Big Thursday for a Clemson win W (13-7). Traveling again to the site where the Boston Braves played for years, on Oct 29, the Tigers beat the Eagles of Boston College at Braves Field in Boston, MA W (26-19). On Nov 6, the Tigers beat Furman at home in a big shutout W (41-0).

Finally, Clemson was able to beat Wake Forest at home W (21-14) on Nov 13. The next week, it was Duquesne at home in a big win W (42-0). Next was Auburn at Ladd Stadium in Mobile AL for a nice win W (7-6). In the final game of the season, on December 4 at The Citadel's Johnson Hagood Stadium in Charleston, SC the Tigers won W (20-0)

The Tigers had such a great season, they were awarded a national bowl bid – the Gator Bowl v Missouri at Gator Bowl Stadium in Jacksonville FL. Frank Howard's Tigers put it all together on January 1, 1949 and beat Missouri W (24-23) for a great Gator Bowl victory W (24-23) in a nail-biter.

**Coach's Note:** During the previous season a group of students had come over to see Coach Howard to try to get him to resign. The team was not doing well at 1-5 at the time. Coach Howard stood his ground and he told those boys we were going to win the final three games of the 1947 season, then have a very good season the next year. Some have concluded that Howard did not know what he was talking about, but nonetheless he proved to be correct. Clemson won 14 straight games after he met with those students, including this undefeated season. Aren't true football stories the best?

## 1949 Coach Frank Howard

The 1949 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1949 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his tenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-fourth season overall and their twenty-eighth in the Southern Conference with a record of 4-4-2; 2-2-0. in the SoCon. The Tigers came in eighth in the SoCon out of 16 active SoCon teams. Gene Moore was the team captain for the 1949 Clemson team.

From writing these season summaries, I have learned that one thing you can count on until 1949 is that Presbyterian will show up for the season home opener at whichever stadium Clemson assigns, and they will do their best to defeat the Tigers. You can count on that like a gold standard.

In 1949, Presbyterian came in as usual to play at Clemson Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, even before Clemson was a university, and as usual they were overwhelmed by the top-light play of the Tigers. This year the toll was CU 69, PU 7. It was a big win W (69-7) over Presbyterian and it helped the Clemson squad get accustomed to playing in their new really big stadium.

On Sept 24, Rice tried its luck with the Tigers at Rice Field in Houston, TX and the Owls dominated to win L (7-33). Then came some of the usual southern suspects including NC State on Oct 1 at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh, NC—the almost annual Textile Bowl. The Tigers picked up a tough win W (7-6). On Oct 8, at home, the

Tigers tied Mississippi State T (7-7). Then, at Carolina Stadium in Columbia SC, on Big Thursday, Oct 20, the Tigers lost to SC L (13-27).

The Tigers, home for the next three games, were met with mixed results, negative for the first two games. Wake Forest beat the Tigers Oct 29 L (21-36); then Boston College had its way L (27-40) before the Tigers recovered and beat Duquesne at home W (33-20). Clemson then beat Furman on Nov 19 at Sistine Stadium in Greenville, SC W (28-21). Wrapping up the season, the Tigers took on Auburn at Ladd Stadium in Mobile, AL and the match result in a tie T (20-20). And so, went the season. Could have been better but it wasn't

## 1950 Coach Frank Howard

The 1950 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1950 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his eleventh of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-fifth season overall and their twenty-ninth in the Southern Conference with a record of 9-0-1; 3-0-1. in the SoCon. The Tigers came in second in the SoCon out of 17 active SoCon teams. Fred Cone was the team captain for the 1950 Clemson team.

On Sept 23, Presbyterian came to Memorial Stadium on the college campus at Clemson, SC to be shut out W (54-0). On Sept 30, #17 ranked Missouri came to play the Tigers at home and lost W (34-0). Next home game was on Oct 7 as NC State in the Textile Bowl in which the Tigers prevailed W (27-0). Then, on Oct 19 at Carolina Stadium in Columbia SC on Big Thursday, the Gamecocks tied the Tigers T (14-14) With a little extra rest after the Thursday game, the Tigers beat Wake Forest in a close match at Groves Stadium in Wake Forest NC W (13-12).

On Nov 4, the Tigers beat Duquesne Dukes at home W (53-0). Following this, it was a game at Braves Field in Boston v Boston College in which the Tigers prevailed upon the Eagles for the win, W (35-14). Following this it was Furman on Nov 18 at home W (57-2). Auburn was next in a great shutout game for the Tigers at Auburn W (40-0)

Clemson was invited to Miami Burdine Stadium on Jan 1, 1951 for the Orange Bowl and the Tigers beat the Hurricanes in a great victory W (15-14)

## 1951 Coach Frank Howard

The 1951 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1951 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twelfth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-sixth season overall and their thirtieth in the Southern Conference with a record of 7-3-0-; 3-1-0. in the SoCon. The Tigers came in sixth in the SoCon out of 17 active SoCon teams. Bob Patton was the team captain for the 1951 Clemson team.

On Sept 22, the Tigers shellacked Presbyterian in the home opener W (53-6) in Memorial Stadium on the Clemson Campus in Clemson, SC. On Sept 29, Clemson traveled to Rice Stadium in Houston TX, and beat the Owls W (20-14). On Oct 6 at NC State's Riddick Stadium in Raleigh, NC the #18 ranked Tigers beat the Wolfpack in the Textile Bowl W (6-0). On Oct 13, at Pacific Memorial Stadium in Stockton CA, the #16 Clemson Tigers lost a close match to the #20 ranked Pacific Tigers L (7-13). On Oct 25, at South Carolina in Carolina Stadium, Columbia, SC on Big Thursday, the Tigers were shut out by the Gamecocks L (0-20).

The Tigers then played Wake Forest at home on Nov 3 and beat the Demon Deacons W (21-6). Still home for the second week in a row, on Nov 10, the Clemson Fighting Tigers beat the Boston College Eagles W (21-2). The next game was at Sirmine Stadium on Nov 17 in Greenville, SC. The Tigers beat the Paladins W (34-14). On Nov. 24 at home, the Clemson Tigers shut out the Auburn Tigers W (34-0).

The Tigers were invited to play the Gator Bowl at Gator Bowl Stadium in Jacksonville on January 1, 1952 and they lost to the Miami Hurricanes L (0-14)

## 1952 Coach Frank Howard

The 1952 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1952 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his thirteenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-seventh season overall and their thirty-first in the Southern Conference with a record of 2-6-1; 0-1-0 in the SoCon. The Tigers came in fifteenth in the SoCon out of 17 active SoCon teams. George Rodgers was the team captain for the 1952 Clemson team.

After playing in the 1950 Orange Bowl and the 1952 Gator Bowl, in spite of the Southern Conference's ban on postseason play, Clemson was declared ineligible for the conference championship. In part, this was due to the ban. Unfortunately, Clemson and six other schools left the Southern Conference where it was tough to compete with the deck stacked. These teams formed the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in 1953. It was a great move for them and a great move for Clemson. Too bad the somewhat corrupt NCAA still exists to punish teams that do not favor their college heritage.

On Sept 20, the home opener was again against Presbyterian in Memorial Stadium on the Clemson Campus in Clemson, SC, W (53-13). In another home match on Sept 27, Villanova beat Clemson L (7-14). It was already shaping up as "one of those seasons." Clemson would come up with few wins. The next three games were losses at Maryland on Oct 4, 0-29; at Florida on Oct 11, L (13-54), and at South Carolina on Oct 23 L (0-6).

The next win would be the last and it would come at Braves Field in Boston MA v the BC Eagles on Oct 31, W (13-0). Before ending the season with two more losses, the Tigers tied Fordham at Coffee Field in the Bronx T (12-12). The next loss was Nov 15 v Kentucky at McLean Stadium in Lexington, KY L (14-27). In the season finale, Clemson fought Auburn tough but it was not enough and the Auburn Tigers triumphed with one field goal L (0-3).

## 1953 Coach Frank Howard

The 1953 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1953 college football season as a member of the newly formed Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his fourteenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-eighth season overall and their first in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 3-5-1; 1-2 in the ACC. The Tigers came in sixth in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Dreher Gaskin and Nathan Gressette were the team captains for the 1953 Clemson team.

On Sept 19, Clemson began the season at home against Presbyterian at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College in Clemson, SC W (33-7) On Sept 26, Clemson tied Boston College at Fenway Park T (26-26). On Oct 3, at home the Tigers were shut out by the Maryland Terrapins L (0-20). Miami then laid a big hurt on Clemson on Oct 9 at Burdine Stadium in Miami FL L (7-39).

The Tigers lost another game against South Carolina on Big Thursday at Carolina Stadium L (7-14). They had a one game rebound on Oct 31 at home, beating Wake Forest W (18-0). On Nov 7, at Grant Field in Atlanta GA, the Tigers loss to the GA Tech Yellow Jackets L (7-20) They then put together another one-game rebound against The Citadel in Johnson Hagood Stadium Charleston SC W (34-13). The season finale was against the Auburn Tigers who manhandled the Clemson Tigers L 19-45) at home. There were no bowl game offerings.

## 1954 Coach Frank Howard

The 1954 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1954 college football season as a member of the newly formed Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his fifteenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-ninth season overall and their second in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-5-0; 1-2-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in fifth in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Buck



George, Scott Jackson, Mark Kane, Clyde White were the team captains for the 1954 Clemson team.

On Sept 18 in the season opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College in Clemson SC, the Tigers shut out the Blue Hose W (33-0). Clemson then lost to Georgia on Sept 25 at Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA L (7-14). The second loss of the season came the following week on Oct 2 when VPI came to town and beat the Tigers L (7-18). The next game was played in Gator Bowl Stadium v # 14 Florida on Oct 9, W (14-7).

On the Big Thursday rivalry day, Oct 21 at Carolina Stadium in SC, the Tigers were beaten in a close match by the Gamecocks L (8-13). On October 30, the Tigers beat the Demon Deacons at American Legion Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, NC W (32-20). Playing at home on Nov 6, the Tigers beat Furman W (27-6). Then, on Nov 13, at #17 Maryland in Byrd Stadium College Park MD, the Terrapins shut-out the Tigers L (0-16). On Nov 20, the Clemson Tigers played at #18 Auburn's Stadium in Auburn, AL. They were beaten by the Auburn Tigers L 6-27. With no bowl offers, the Citadel was the last game on the schedule. It was a home game and the Tigers finished the year on a positive note with this shutout shellacking of the Bulldogs W (59-0)



# Chapter 13 Coach Frank Howard 1955-1969

Coach # 17 Frank Howard

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1955	Frank Howard	7-3-0	ACC	3-1-0
1956*	Frank Howard	7-2-2	ACC	4-0-1
1957	Frank Howard	7-3-0	ACC	4-3-0
1958	Frank Howard	8-3-0	ACC	5-1-0
1959*	Frank Howard	9-2-0	ACC	6-1-0
1960	Frank Howard	6-4-0	ACC	4-2-0
1961	Frank Howard	5-5-0	ACC	3-3-0
1962	Frank Howard	6-4-0	ACC	5-1-0
1963	Frank Howard	5-4-1	ACC	5-2-0
1964	Frank Howard	3-7-0	ACC	2=4-0
1965*	Frank Howard	5-5-0	ACC	5-2-0
1966 <sup>n</sup>	Frank Howard	6-4-0	ACC	6-1-0
1967*	Frank Howard	6-4-0	ACC	6-0-0
1968	Frank Howard	4-5-1	ACC	4-1-1
1969	Frank Howard	4-6-0	ACC	3-3-0

\* Five conference championships from 1955 to 1969

## 1955 Coach Frank Howard

The 1955 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1955 college football season as a member of the newly formed Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his sixteenth of thirty seasons.



The Tigers completed their sixtieth season overall and their third in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-3-0; 3-1-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in third in the ACC out of 8

active ACC teams. Don King was the team captain for the 1955 Clemson team.

On Sept 17, the season opener was against Presbyterian at home at Memorial Stadium on the Clemson Campus in Clemson SC. The Tigers shut-out the Blue Hose W (33-0). On Sept 24, the Tigers traveled to Virginia to Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA W (20-7). On Oct 1, at home, the Tigers defeated the Georgia Bulldogs W (7-26). On Oct 8, at Rice Stadium in Houston Texas, the Tigers lost to the Owls L (7-21). On Oct 20 on Big Thursday, the Tigers beat the SC Gamecocks W (28-14) at Carolina Stadium in Columbia SC.

On Oct 29, Clemson beat Wake Forest at home W (19-13). On Nov 5, at Victory Stadium in Roanoke VA, Clemson defeated VPI W (21-16). On Nov 12, the Tigers lost to # 2 ranked Maryland at home L (12-25). On Nov 19 at Ladd Memorial Stadium in Mobile AL, the Auburn Tigers defeated the Clemson Tigers L (0-21). On Nov 26, Clemson traveled to Sirmine Stadium in Greenville SC and beat Furman W (40-20).

## 1956 Coach Frank Howard

The 1956 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1956 college football season as a member of the newly formed Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his seventeenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-first season overall and their fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-2-2; 4-0-1 in the ACC.

The Tigers came in first in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Charley Bussey was the team captain for the 1956 Clemson team. For such a great season, and winning the ACC, Clemson was invited to the Orange Bowl to play Colorado.

On Sept 22, Clemson beat Presbyterian at home to kick off the season at Memorial Stadium on the Clemson Campus in Clemson, SC W (27-7). Then on Sept 29 the Tigers played #the 19 ranked Florida Gators at Florida Field at Gainesville FL in a back and forth game that resulted in a tie T (20-20). On Oct 6, at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh NC, in the Textile Bowl, the Tigers defeated the Wolfpack

W (13-7). On Oct 13, the Tigers won their next game against Wake Forest at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC W (17-0). On Oct 25 in the rivalry game v South Carolina at Carolina Stadium, the Tigers won on Big Thursday in a nail-biter W (7-0)

Still undefeated after five games, the Tigers won their fourth in a row against VPI on Nov 3 at home W (21-6). The second tie of the season came on Nov 10 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park MD T (6-6). Still undefeated and ranked #13, the Tigers suffered their first loss against Miami at Burdine Stadium in Miami L (0-21). Clemson won their next two home games. The first on Nov 24 was against Virginia W (7-0) and the second on Dec 1 against Furman W (28-7)

In the Orange Bowl played at Burdine Stadium in Miami FL, #20 Colorado defeated #19 Clemson in a tight match L (21-17)

## 1957 Coach Frank Howard

The 1957 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1957 college football season as a member of the newly formed Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his eighteenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-second season overall and their fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-3-0; 4-3-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in third in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. John Grdijan and Leon Kaltenback were the team captains for the 1957 Clemson team. No bowl games this year.

On Sept 21, for the twenty-eighth time in a row, Clemson opened its home season against Presbyterian. This year, the game was played at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College in Clemson SC. Presbyterian once was competitive enough to beat Clemson but in recent years, the matches were not competitive and Clemson always won. This year was like the recent games as the Tigers shut out and shellacked a very game Blue Hose Team W (66-0). And so, in 1957, Clemson played its last game against Presbyterian College. Presbyterian as noted had been Clemson's season-opening game from 1930 until 1957.

Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC was the venue for the second game of Clemson's 1957 season. North Carolina's Tar Heels pummeled the Clemson Tigers this time on Sept 28 in a shutout L (0-26). NC State got the word that NC teams could win and they did just that in a Clemson home game celebrating the Textile Bowl L (7-13). On Oct 12, at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers picked up their second win W 20-6 v the Hokies.

Big Thursday again was celebrated on a Thursday at Carolina Stadium in Columbia SC as the Tigers managed a close shutout against the Gamecocks W (13-0). On Nov 2, the Tigers traveled to the tropical climate of Houston Texas to play Rice at Rice Stadium and the Tigers pulled out a nice win W (20-7). Maryland played the Tigers at home on Nov 9 and were beaten in a competitive game W (26-7).

Clemson was ranked #14 nationally when they played the #11 ranked Duke Blue Devils on Nov 16 at Duke Stadium in Durham NC and the Tigers needed just a little more oomph as they lost the game L (6-7). On Nov 23, Wake Forest took on Clemson at home and gave a good match but lost the game W (13-6) on Nov 23. On Nov 30, the Tigers played at Furman's Sistine Stadium • in Greenville, SC, and finished the season with a nice W (45-6) win over the Paladins.

## 1958 Coach Frank Howard

The 1958 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1958 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his nineteenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-third season overall and their sixth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-3-0; 5-1 in the ACC. The Tigers came in first in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Bill Thomas was the team captain for the 1958 Clemson team. Coach Frank Howard's 100th win came September 27 against North Carolina. Clemson also played its first game against #1 ranked team when they played LSU in the January 1959 Sugar Bowl.

For the season opener, there was no longer a lock on a win so the Tigers had to prepare extra hard as they no longer got an extra week and a great practice game v Presbyterian before the season's tough games began. Most season openers from this year forward had indeterminate winners.

Clemson opened the season ranked as #18 after their fine showing in 1957. It was on Sept 20 that Virginia came into Memorial Stadium on the Clemson College Campus in Clemson NC for the 1958 season opener and were beaten W (20-15). North Carolina was next at home and the Tigers pulled out another win W (26-21) Three is the charm and the Tigers picked up win # 3 at Byrd Stadium in College park MD. W (8-0). Four is better than three and four came to the Tigers v Vanderbilt on Oct 11 at Dudley Field in Nashville TN W (12-7).

## 1959 Coach Frank Howard

The 1959 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1959 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twentieth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-fourth season overall and their seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-2-0; 6-1 in the ACC. The Tigers came in first in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Paul Snyder and Harvey White were team captains in 1959. The annual game against South Carolina was played on Thursday at the State Fair for the final time. Clemson's 300th win came in the Bluebonnet Bowl against TCU.

On Sept 19 at Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC the # 18 ranked Clemson Tigers barely beat the #12 North Carolina Tar Heels W 20-18. On Sept 26 at Virginia in a game played in Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, VA, the \$ 5 ranked Tigers shut out the Wahoo's W 47-0. On Oct 3 at #7 Georgia Tech in Grant Field, Atlanta, GA #6 Clemson lost the match L (6-16). On Oct 19 in the almost annual Textile Bowl, was also Clemson's home opener. It was played at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College in Clemson, SC. Clemson beat NC State W (23-0). On Oct 22 at South Carolina's

Carolina Stadium in Columbia, SC on Big Thursday, the #17 Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (27-0)

## Big Thursday Notes



Picture Clemson University Big Thursday Game by Will Vandervort

Coach Frank Howard is shown above blowing a good-by kiss to Big Thursday. Coach Howard felt the yearly matchup at South Carolina was not in Clemson's best interests. He did not like Big Thursday.

The following piece is from the Clemson Insider. It is titled *The death of Big Thursday*, by Robert MacRae. It ran November 16, 2012. It is a classic. Enjoy/

Today we continue our series of articles at [theClemsonInsider.com](http://theClemsonInsider.com) that will take a look back at the best Clemson victories in the Clemson-South Carolina Rivalry. In the days leading up to the State's Big Game, we will count down, in our opinion, the Tigers 10 best victories over the hated Gamecocks.

No. 7: Clemson 27, South Carolina 0 (October 22, 1959)



Frank Howard had enough. Ever since Clemson first played South Carolina in 1896, Clemson's players, coaches, students and fans had to get on a train, hop on a bus or drive down to Columbia every October during State Fair Week to play the state's biggest game.

"We always had to sit in the sun, and we got tired of having to go down there every year," Howard said in the book *The Clemson Tigers From 1996 to Glory*. "We weren't getting half of the tickets, half of the program and concession sales, and it knocked one game out of our schedule because we could not play the Saturday before or the Saturday after the Thursday game."

In fact, Big Thursday, was a big pain in Clemson's side, despite the fact it was good for the state and the rivalry as a whole.

Big Thursday was played at mid-season and always during State Fair Week in Columbia. Originally a sideshow for the State Fair, it blossomed into the main attraction. The game was a state holiday as schools and state agencies closed their doors and took the day off on the fourth Thursday of every October.

"I came from Alabama, and I never saw anything there like the atmosphere before Big Thursday," said Clemson hero Gary Barnes to *The (Columbia) State Newspaper* in 2004. "Even the bus ride was special. People would be standing along the streets and roads cheering.

The rivalry is still there, but playing on Thursday like we did set the game apart and I don't know if that is true today."

Big Thursday was an event. Families made a holiday weekend out of the game.

"I came from the Tennessee mountains and I thought, 'Boy, this is peculiar.'" said Phil Prince, who blocked a punt that led directly to the Tigers' game-winning touchdown in 1948.

Though it was peculiar, it was an event Clemson was tired of participating in, even though the Tigers posted a 33-21-3 record against South Carolina during that time. By 1958, Clemson made

additions to Memorial Stadium to increase its size, and more plans were on the way to make it the same size as Columbia's Carolina Stadium by 1960.

Plus, as Howard said, "It was time to see some of those tourist dollars in Clemson, and give people the chance to see Clemson's beautiful campus."

Eventually, Clemson won out and it was decided the 1959 battle was going to be the last Big Thursday matchup in the history of the rivalry. Being the last Big Thursday Game was the only thing memorable about the 1959 game.

Well, that and Howard's famous goodbye kiss to Big Thursday above Carolina Stadium moments afterwards.

As for the game itself, the Tigers got two touchdown passes from Harvey White—one to Bill Mathis and one to Gary Barnes—a Mathis scoring run from four-yards out and a one-yard run by George Usry in the 27-0 victory. White finished the game with 162 passing yards.

It was a fitting end to what has become known as "The Death of Big Thursday."

## **The 1959 Season Continues**

On Oct 31 at Rice's Rice Stadium in Houston, TX, # 12 Clemson beat the Owls W 19-0. Clemson then played three home games in a row at Memorial Stadium. On Nov 7, the Clemson Fighting Tigers beat Duke in a close match W (6-0). On Nov 14, Maryland's Terrapins barley nipped the Tigers coming away with the win L (25-28).

On Nov 21, 1959, the Tigers nipped Wake Forest by a similar margin W (33-31).

## 1960 Coach Frank Howard

The 1960 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1960 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-first of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-fifth season overall and their eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-4; 4-2 in the ACC. The Tigers came in fourth in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Dave Lynn and Lowndes Shingler were team captains in 1960.

On Sept 24, #9 ranked Clemson kicked off the season against Wake Forest at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC with a nice win (W 28-7). On Oct 1, in the home opener and the first of two successive home games in Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College in Clemson SC, #7 ranked Clemson beat VPI W (13-7) Now undefeated, the #8 ranked Tigers picked up their third win without a defeat against Virginia W (21-7). Still ranked # 8 and looking for four in a row, Duke put the kibosh to that line of thinking as the Blue Devils beat the Tigers L (6-21) at Duke Stadium in Durham, NC. Duke finished #10 nationally and won the ACC Championship.

Now unranked, on Oct 29, Clemson traveled to Vanderbilt's Dudley Field in Nashville, TN to lose to the Commodores in a real squeaker L (20-22). On Nov 5, Clemson beat NC at home W (24-0). Then, in the first meeting since Big Thursday went away, on Nov 12, Clemson beat SC at home W (12-2). Instead of Big Thursday, the game was labeled the Battle of the Palmetto State as the rivalry was still intense.

On Nov 19, Clemson traveled to Chestnut Hill MA, to play Boston College and were defeated L (14-25). In the season finale, Furman came to Memorial Stadium and were defeated by Clemson W (42-14). For such a promising start, there would be no bowl games this year for Clemson. For the next eight years of Frank Howard's time with Clemson, the team would not win more than 6 games in a season.

## 1961 Coach Frank Howard

The 1961 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1961 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-second of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-sixth season overall and their ninth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-5; 3-3 in the ACC. The Tigers came in fourth in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Duke was again #1 in the ACC. Ron Andreo, Calvin West were team captains in 1961.

After having won eighteen successive season openers in a row, on Sept 23, 1961, the Florida Gators, playing at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College in Clemson, SC would spoil the streak by beating the Tigers L (17-21) in a tough match. On Sept 30, Maryland would add to the misery at home by beating Clemson in another close one L (21-24).

It was not until an away trip to Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, on Oct 7 that the Tigers got their first win of the year with a shutout against North Carolina W (27-0). The losing continued the following week on Oct 14 as Wake Forest played Clemson at home and the home losing streak continued L (13-17). Looking for a win but playing at Cliff Hare Stadium in Auburn v the Auburn Tigers did not make it any easier as the Clemson Tigers lost their fourth out of five L (14-24).

Finally, the home light was burning at the end of the tunnel as Tulane came to Clemson on Nov 4 and were beaten W (21-6). The South Carolina game (AKA the Battle of the Palmetto State) was played at Carolina Stadium again this year on Nov 11. The Tigers lost again L (14-21). Playing at home again on Nov 18, the Tigers beat the Furman Paladins W (35-6). On Nov 25, it was about time for the Textile Bowl v NC State W (20-0).

## 1962 Coach Frank Howard

The 1962 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1962 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football

coach for his twenty-third of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-seventh season overall and their tenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-4; 5-1 in the ACC. The Tigers came in second in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Duke was again #1 in the ACC after being the only loss in Clemson's ACC season for 1962. Dave Hynes was the team captain.

Since Clemson stopped playing Presbyterian in every season opener, it was not assured of a victory and a nice warm-up game. This season began with a loss to Georgia Tech on Sept 22 in Grant Field, Atlanta GA L (9-26). The Tigers recovered the following week in the Textile Bowl on Sept 29 v NC State at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh, NC W (7-0). Wake Forest invited Clemson to play the Demon Deacons at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC. The Tigers won W (24-7). On Oct 13, Clemson hosted the Georgia Bulldogs who came in tough and beat the Tigers L (16-14). Perennial ACC Champ Duke then beat Clemson at home on Oct 20 L (0-16).

On Oct 27 at Clemson, Auburn's Tigers beat Clemson's Tigers L (14-17). On Nov 3, North Carolina was next at the home field. This time, however, Clemson would win in a well-played game W (17-6) On Nov 10, the Tigers would travel to Sistine Stadium in Greenville, SC to defeat Furman W (44-3). Traveling to Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Tigers were able to defeat the Terrapins in a close match W (17-14). In the Battle of the Palmetto State at Clemson this time, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (20-17).

## 1963 Coach Frank Howard

The 1963 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1963 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-fourth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-eighth season overall and their eleventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-4-1; 5-2 in the ACC. The Tigers came in third in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. The once beaten NC & NC State teams shared the top spot in the ACC. Tracy Childers was the team captain.

Clemson began the 1963 season with a loss on Sept 21 to #4 Oklahoma in Oklahoma Memorial Stadium • Norman, OK, L 14–31. The Tigers lost again in week two on Sept 28 at #9 Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA L(27). This year, the Tigers lost the Textile Bowl to NC State's Wolfpack at home in Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson College, Clemson, SC, L (3-7) In the second home game in a row, the Tigers tied the Bulldogs of Georgia on Oct 12 T (7-7). An always tough Duke Squad played Clemson at Duke Stadium in Durham NC. Clemson lost the game after a slugfest of scoring L (30-35). Clemson traveled to Scott Stadium on Oct 26 to face Virginia and the Tigers beat the Wahoo's W (35-0).

On Nov 2 at home, the Tigers beat the Wake Forest Blue Devils W 36-0). Then it was off to Chapel Hill NC for a close win against North Carolina W (11-7). Next on Nov 16 at home, Clemson beat Maryland W (21-6). Wrapping up the season on Nov 28, at Carolina Stadium • Columbia, SC (Battle of the Palmetto State), Clemson won in a nail-biter W (24-0). This game had originally been scheduled for Nov 23 but was moved to Nov 28 due to the Assassination of John F. Kennedy.

## 1964 Coach Frank Howard

The 1964 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1964 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-fifth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their sixty-ninth season overall and their twelfth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 3-7-0; 2-4-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in seventh in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. The twice-beaten NC State team garnered the top spot in the ACC. John Boyett, Ted Bunton were the team captains.

On Sept 19, at the hope opener of Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, the Tigers shut out the Furmin Paladins W 928-0). Then, on Sept 26, in the Textile Bowl at Riddick Stadium in Raleigh NC, Clemson was defeated by NC State L (0-9). The Tigers then traveled to Grant Field in Atlanta GA on Oct 3 and were defeated by Georgia Tech L (7-14). Traveling again

to Georgia, this time on Oct 10 to play the Bulldogs at Sanford Stadium in Athens GA, Clemson was beaten again L (7-19). Still on the road on Oct 17, at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, the Clemson Fighting Tigers put it together to beat Wake Forest W (21-2).

Still traveling on Oct 24 at TCU's Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, TX, the Tigers were defeated L (10-14). Clemson then came back home for two games. In the first on Oct 31, against Virginia, Clemson prevailed W (29-7). The second was against North Carolina in which the Tigers were shut out by the Tar Heels L (0-29). On Nov 14, it was back north to Maryland at Byrd Stadium in College Park. The Tigers were shellacked in a shutout L (34-0).

The season finale had become the annual SC game and so this year's Battle of the Palmetto State was played at Clemson but the Tigers could not keep up with the Gamecocks in this low-scoring game and lost L (3-7).

## 1965 Coach Frank Howard

The 1965 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1965 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-sixth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their seventieth season overall and their thirteenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-5-0; 5-2-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in first tied with co-champion NC State in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Bill Hecht and Floyd Rogers were the team captains.

On Sept 18, Clemson kicked off the season with a home game v NC State in the Textile Bowl. Clemson's home games were played at the ever increasing in size Memorial field on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. Clemson gained the victory W (21-7).

On Sept. 25 at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA the Tigers beat the Wahoo's W (20-14). On Oct 2, at Georgia Tech's Grant Field • Atlanta, GA, the Yellow Jackets prevailed L (6-38).

Playing again in Georgia on Oct 9, #4 Georgia beat Clemson in Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA L (9–23). In a game so sparse of scoring, that it looks like a baseball score, Clemson beat Duke W (3-2) at Duke Stadium in Durham, NC.

On October 23 in the first of back-to-back home games at Memorial Stadium, Clemson beat TCU in another low-scoring game W (3-0). The Tigers were able to put out a lot more offense at home on Oct 30 v Wake Forest's W (3–0). Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC was the sight of a tough loss on Nov 6 against North Carolina L (13–17). On Nov 13, the offense had little to deliver at home as Maryland defeated Clemson L (0-6) The Defense was doing quite well and in the season finale v South Carolina in the Battle of the Palmetto State. It continued to do well but the offense was again an inch short of success as SC defeated CU L (16-17).

## 1966 Coach Frank Howard

The 1966 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1966 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-seventh of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-first season overall and their fourteenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-4-0; 6-1-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in first place in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Mike Facciolo was the team captains.

Looking at the list of scores at the beginning of the Frank Howard chapters and knowing that many teams fire coaches with just six wins, it took a few more of Frank Howard's wins to convince me of where his priorities were. Every time I looked, despite a so-so season, the Frank Howard led Clemson Fighting Tigers were in the hunt in the ACC, and many times like this year, they were the League Champions against some pretty good teams.

Now I know and you know. It is a great honor to win the league championship in any league. As the ACC would become even more respected, the next step would be the national bowl games,



Clemson was back to winning opening games. This one was at home in Memorial Stadium located on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. It was played on Sept 24 featuring Clemson's Tigers and Virginia's Wahoo's. The Tigers were dominant on offense and yet won the flip-flop game by a close margin W (40-35). Clemson had gained its University status in 1964.

Clemson's Tigers went on to win the ACC Championship. The team could not have done it if they didn't pull off that comeback against Virginia.

On Oct 1, playing #9 Georgia Tech at Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, Clemson almost won but did not L (12-13). On Oct 8, Alabama played the Tigers at home at Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa and beat the Clemson Tigers in a shutout L (0-26). The ever tough, often southern champion Duke Blue Devils played tough the following week on Oct 15, but the Tigers played a little tougher and beat them at home W (9-6).

Testing the waters on the national scene, on Oct 22, Clemson played the always championship contending #5 USC Trojans at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles, CA. Not bad for a whack at the big guns on the west coast, the Tigers lost L (0-30). Back in comfortable waters at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, v Wake Forest, Clemson triumphed over the Demon Deacons W 23-21.

On Nov 5, North Carolina played Clemson at home and were beaten solidly W (27-3). On Nov 12 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, Clemson won in a tough match W 14-10.

On Nov 19 in the annual Textile Bowl at NC State at Carter Stadium in Raleigh, NC, Clemson did not have enough to bring home the win L (14-23). Always ready for a great comeback, Clemson was ready for the Battle of the Palmetto State v South Carolina on Nov 26 at home. Clemson enjoyed the nice victory W (35-10).

## 1967 Coach Frank Howard

The 1967 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1967 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his twenty-eighth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-second season overall and their fifteenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-4-0; 6-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in first place again in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Jimmy Addison and Frank Liberatore were the team captains.

On Sept 23, Frank Howard's squad opened up the season with a win at home v Wake Forest W (23-6). This game and all home games this season was/ were played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Stadium, Clemson, SC. On Sept 30 #5 Georgia Bulldogs came to town and beat the Tigers L (17-24). On Oct 7, Clemson kept its state of Georgia bad-luck season streak going at Georgia Tech in Grant Field, Atlanta, GA L (0-10). Ever ready Auburn, taking no prisoners in the SEC for years, invited the Clemson Tigers to Cliff Hare Stadium in Auburn, AL for a tough loss L (21-43). Clemson got its composure back on Oct 21 at Duke's Duke Stadium in Durham, NC for a well needed victory W 13-7.

On Oct 28, and always-tough Alabama crimson Tide bought all of their regalia to Memorial Stadium at Clemson University to play a tough Tigers Team. The Crimson Tide squeezed out a nice win v the Tigers L (10-13). Frank Howard's teams did not fall easy. On Nov 4, at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, Clemson emerged victorious with a nice shutout W (17-0). Clemson won the next two home games. The first was v Maryland W (28-7) and the second was in the Textile Bowl v #10 NC State W (14-6). In the season finale in Nov 25, in the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (23-12) to finish the season on a high note.

## 1968 Coach Frank Howard

The 1968 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1968 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head

football coach for his twenty-ninth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-third season overall and their sixteenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 4-5-1; 4-1-1 in the ACC. The Tigers came in second place in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Billy Ammons, Ronnie Duckworth were the team captains.

On Sept 21, the Tigers visited the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest for the season opener for both teams. The tie game T (20-20) was played at Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC. Then on Sept 28, at Georgia in a game played at Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA, the Bulldogs beat the Tigers L 13–31. On Oct 5 at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, the Yellow jackets got the best of the Tigers but just barely L (21–24). In a year in which three tough teams will beat Clemson, this would be the third of the three. This game was at home and Auburn's Tigers were the predators v the Clemson Tigers. Auburn was able to pick up another win at Clemson's Memorial Stadium on the campus of CU in Clemson, SC by a respectable score of L 10–21.

Back at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC, Duke's Blue Devils took it on the chin from the Tigers on October 19 W (39–22). On Oct 26 at Alabama's Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, AL, the Clemson Tigers were beaten L (14–21). On Nov 2, in the Textile Bowl at Carter Stadium in Raleigh, NC, the Tigers got the win against the Wolfpack W 24–19.

On Nov 9 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Tigers pinned a loss on the Terrapins W 16–0. Then, on Nov 16 at home, the Tigers beat the NC Tar Heels W 24–14. In another home match between Carolina teams, on Nov 23, South Carolina battled Clemson at home in the Battle of the Palmetto State, Clemson could not hold on and lost the battle L (3–7)

## 1969 Coach Frank Howard

The 1969 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1969 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his thirtieth and last season of thirty seasons. The

Tigers completed their seventy-fourth season overall and their seventeenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 4-6-0; 3-3-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in fourth place in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Ivan Southerland & Charlie Tolley were the team captains.

Frank Howard loved Clemson and he chose to remain as Athletic Director for several more years until 1971. In 1974, the playing field at Memorial Stadium, which he helped to build, was named in his honor. He was a great coach for a ton of teams that could play with the best of them. He was the first Clemson Coach to last for many years.

I would suspect that if Clemson were more interested in National Championships than Conference Championships among the great southern teams, Frank Howard would have been the guy to help tweak the recruiting and the game to assure that the institution got what it needed. No opponent ever pushed around a Frank Howard team, even without a zillion dollar in scholarships and endowments. Bravo Frank Howard! Bravo Clemson University!



Picture from Frank Howard's Last Home Game Nov 1, 1969 v Maryland

This year's season opener was on Sept 20 at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA. Clemson was pleased to take away the win for its game efforts W (21-14). Georgia then came home to Clemson's home opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Sept 27, to win the game in shutout L (0-30).

Clemson then traveled to Georgia Tech's Grant Field in • Atlanta, GA on Oct 4, my wedding anniversary pre-wedding to get a nice win W 21-10. On Oct 11, Clemson took on #20 Auburn at Cliff Hare Stadium in Auburn, AL, but could not keep up and lost in a shellacking shutout L (0-51). On Oct 18 Wake Forest came home to Clemson but lost W (28-14)

On Oct 25 Clemson was looking for a nice win over Alabama at home but it did not come in 1969 as the Crimson Tide dominated L (13-38) It would not always be like this game but Alabama, especially with the "Bear" coaching was always favored. On Nov 1, at home, the Tigers whooped the Terrapins of Maryland W (40-0). Then, on Nov 8 at Duke's Duke Stadium in Durham, NC, Duke took the win L 27-34. Then, a week later on Nov 15 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers lost again L (15-32). In an early season finale on Nov 22, at Carolina Stadium • Columbia, SC in the Battle of the Palmetto State), the Gamecocks whooped the Tigers L (13-27).

Frank Howard was on his way out the door and it would have been great if he got a better sendoff but his thirty years at Clemson were absolutely great

## **If you die, somebody writes a nice Obit**

Frank Howard was ready to go when he went but he did lament that the line to keep in at the head coaching job was not a lot longer... I think! He was a piece of work. He coached great teams and great players and nobody ever seemed to complain about his coaching work or the great players he produced. Howard did not even seem to care what they thought.

Clemson had been floundering between success and failure. It was not that they did not have great years and great coaches. It was that nobody until Jess Neely stayed long enough to give the Clemson program a fighting chance. Frank Howard liked to win but he was aware that a lot of coach's bur out by trying too hard to please a constituency that may already be OK with their performance. Frank Howard got thirty years out of simply being a great coach.

Like most observers of his era, it would be easy to suggest tome that Howard did not drive his team to ultimate excellence. Yeah! I get that but if you look at the scores of the games, Howard and company were always there but for very few runaways. Without having the opportunity to interview Frank Howard, I like him immensely and would love to have had or to have a few beers with him some time.

Bear Bryant died a quick death after a phenomenal career with Alabama. He did not get a lot of un after coaching. Frank Howard had it all but he did not have Bear Bryant's record. Howard, IMHO did what he needed to do to get his teams ready and ready to win and somehow when they played v ACC teams, his teams were ready to kill. Some might suggest that he did not do v SEC teams as well but I beg to differ. I say Howard's mission was to win the ACC Championship in which he was always a contender. In this he was extremely successful.

From my observations, Clemson did not fund a national championship caliber team during Howard's. Oh' don't get me wrong Clemson loved winning but the difference in funding from Conference Champion to National Champion is substantial. Frank Thomas brought a lot of fun to his team and to Clemson University by being the guy that could beat all the teams around him in the south. It meant more to everybody than coming in 32<sup>nd</sup> in the national championship race meant – or even a close #8. Meanwhile Frank Howard had about twenty great years after retirement. What old fart would not like that?

Here is the Obit which is a great recap of Mr. Frank Howard:

On January 27, 1996 Frank Howard went to his eternal rest at the age of 86 years old. He had quite a life after he retired as

Clemson's head football coach in 1969 from Clemson's head coaching duties.

The NY Times Frank Lisky wrote this tribute upon his death on January 27, 1996. His tribute was titled:

## **Frank Howard, 86, the Coach of Top Clemson Football Teams**

Frank Howard, the colorful coach who in 30 years took Clemson University from football obscurity to the ranks of the national elite, died yesterday at his home in Clemson, S.C. He was 86.

The sports information office at the university said the cause of death was congestive heart failure. Howard was hospitalized in November because of circulatory problems, last month after a fainting spell and this month after a minor heart attack.

After retiring from coaching in 1969, he was athletic director at Clemson until mandatory retirement in 1971. He then kept an office in the athletic department and, until three weeks ago, went there five days a week.

"I'm not sure what he did there," the sports information director, Tim Bourret, said. "Whatever a retired legend does."

Howard liked to say he retired for health reasons.

"The alumni got sick of me," he would say.

He had a quick sense of humor. In the late 1950's, after a loss to Duke, he was asked to define the turning point. "It was three years ago," he said, "when I didn't recruit any half backs."

Frank James Howard was born on March 25, 1909, on a cotton farm in Barlow Bend, Ala., a town that he said was "three wagon greasin's from Mobile." He called himself the Bashful Baron of Barlow Bend.

In high school he played football, baseball and basketball and was president of the junior and senior classes. At the University of Alabama, where he was an honor student on an academic scholarship, he was a 185-pound guard on the football team from 1928 to 1930

## FOOTBALL AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT?

When he could not find work as an accountant, he became an assistant football coach at Clemson under Jess Neely. "I also coached track, was ticket manager, recruited players and had charge of football equipment," Howard said. "In my spare time I cut grass, lined tennis courts and operated the canteen while the regular man was out to lunch."

In 1940, when Neely became coach at Rice, the Clemson athletic council interviewed Howard as a potential successor. As the council discussed what to do, Howard listened from the back of the room. Finally, a council member said, "I nominate Frank Howard."

Long pause.

"I second the nomination," Howard said.

He got the job, lost his copy of the one-year contract and never signed another. From 1940 to 1969 his teams compiled a 165-118-12 record. They won two championships in the Southern Conference and later six in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Between 1949 and 1959 Clemson played in six bowl games.

Shortly after he retired as coach, Clemson named its stadium Frank Howard Field. In 1989, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

With all his success, his highest salary was \$25,000 a year. The president of the university, Dr. R. F. Poole, feared that professors who earned less would be upset.



"He called me up and said that he didn't want me to tell anybody what I made," Howard once said. "I said: 'Doc, you don't have to worry. I'm as ashamed as you are of what you pay me.' "

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, the former Anna Tribble; a son, Jimmy, of Clemson; a daughter, Alice McClure of Gastonia, N.C., and three grandchildren.

## Hootie Ingram Replaces Frank Howard as Clemson Head Football Coach

Hootie Ingram became the next Clemson Football Coach. We highlight his Clemson tenure and his Clemson teams in this book. There are great moments in every season for every football team though in some seasons there are more great moments than others. In the next chapter, we examine the coaching work of Hootie Ingram who took over for the immortal Frank Howard at Clemson in 1970 and left the University after the 1972 season. His record with the Tigers is not very good – 12-21 over the three years in which he was the head coach.

You know from having read this book about every season from the first Clemson Football Season that there have not been many unsuccessful coaches at Clemson, University. Perhaps if he had been given more time, he would have been ready and would have done well.

Ingram had never been a head coach before. He had been a high school football coach and he had worked as an assistant football coach at several colleges, including the University of Georgia and the University of Arkansas, both noteworthy programs, before receiving the head coaching assignment at Clemson University from 1970 to 1972

Some still contend that Ingram may be the victim of "wrong place at the wrong time." It is always easier to replace a coach that everybody hates and wants to get rid of than an immortal with a great overall record who everybody loves. All coaches, who come after a great one, encounter the issue. Then again others say, three years was

enough time for him to leave the legend behind and make his own. It did not happen.

Ingram had the difficult task of replacing legend Frank Howard at Clemson. Nobody can deny that he was able only to muster 12 wins in three seasons before resigning.

Ingram was surely in the right business. He was an incredibly gifted athlete, playing his college ball at Alabama. He came to Tuscaloosa as a football and baseball player. He would earn three letters in each sport during his time there. He was first a defensive back and a darn good one. He intercepted 11 passes in the 1952 season but for team reasons at Alabama, he was nevertheless moved to quarterback in 1953. He played as QB for one season alongside Bart Starr. In 1954, he was moved to tailback, with the long-time Green Bay Packer, Starr starting at QB.

After leaving Clemson, Ingram stayed in college sports. He served as Florida State's athletic director from 1981-1989. He then took on the same role at his alma mater, Alabama. He was well respected. He installed Gene Stallings as head coach, who would go on to lead the Tide to a national championship in 1992. Ingram would eventually resign in 1995 amidst an NCAA investigation into rule violations.

There was an investigation that ran from late 1993 to August 1995, in which the NCAA "found" Alabama guilty of four major rules violations during the 1993 season. Stallings was implicated, along with athletic director Hootie Ingram.

Hootie Ingram was not fired but the NCAA reprimand had spoiled his effectiveness. He did what he felt he should do under the circumstances. He stepped down as Alabama's athletic director in August 1995 because the NCAA had placed the school on probation for three years. A stand-up guy, Ingram said he could no longer effectively serve as athletic director after the NCAA decision and he asked to be reassigned. He spent the final two years of his Alabama contract overseeing the expansion of the football stadium.

My opinion of NCAA sanctions is that they are often off the mark and have been unfair in cases that I have examined. Sometimes, looking at the backgrounds and the future accomplishments of some

NCAA officials over the years, and sometimes the people in charge of investigations have a personal stake in the outcome. Nonetheless, the NCAA has ruined numerous promising careers of good people at all levels of college football programs.

Maybe one day I will write a book about it. This book is not about the NCAA so I will limit my comments. You can find many opinions of many football experts in many articles written over the years. Just one article from 2014 is titled: "Why Hasn't Congress Investigated Corruption in the NCAA?"

Despite his obvious failings on the gridiron as Clemson's head football coach. Ingram was overall a gift to the sport. In 1991, for example, he was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. In 1999, he was inducted into the Orange Bowl Hall of Fame. He was also honored in 1992 as a second-team defensive back on Alabama's "Team of the Century."

In 2007, the University of Alabama National Alumni Association presented Ingram with the Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award. The award recognizes athletes whose accomplishments since leaving the University are "outstanding based on character, contributions to society, professional achievement and service."



## Chapter 14 Coach Hootie Ingram 1970-1972

Coach #18 Hootie Ingram I

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1970	Hootie Ingram	3-8-0	ACC	2-4-0
1971	Hootie Ingram	5-6-0	ACC	4-2-0
1972	Hootie Ingram	4-7-0	ACC	2-5-0



Hootie Ingram 1970-1972 Clemson Coach

### 1970 Coach Hootie Ingram

The 1970 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1970 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Hootie Ingram was the head football coach for his first of three seasons. The Tigers completed

their seventy-fifth season overall and their eighteenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 3-8-0; 2-4-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in sixth place in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. B. B. Elvington, Jim Sursavage, and Ray Yaeger were the team captains.

The season opener was earlier than normal this year as Clemson began the year at Memorial Stadium located right on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. The first two games of the season were at home. And, so, on Sept 12, Clemson beat the Citadel W (24-0) and one week later, on Sept 19, the Tigers beat the Virginia Wahoo's W 27-17). It was a fine start for new head coach Hootie Ingram but it would not last. Three tough duck had lined up to play the Tigers and after them, the season would continue to go south

Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Auburn, traditional tough rivals took the smiles off Clemson fans. Then, Wake Forest and Duke kept the smiles off until the Tigers were able to beat Maryland. Right after the Maryland game, however, there were three more losses to complete the season—Florida State, North Carolina and South Carolina. It was not a good year.

Let me describe quickly the one win in October at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD. The Tigers were able to defeat the Terrapins W (24-11) despite the five losses preceding the game.

The bad news began on Sept 26 at Georgia's Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA L (0-38). The bad news continued with the exception of Maryland to the end of the season. On Oct 3, at #15 Georgia Tech's Grant Field • Atlanta, GA, L (7-28); On Oct 10 at home, Auburn Shut-out Clemson 0-44; On Oct 17, at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC L (20-36).

Clemson lost its next home game on Oct 24 against Duke L (10-24). After the Maryland win, on Nov 7, the three final losses began at Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL L (13-38). This was followed by a loss on Nov 14 at home against North Carolina L (7-42). In the season finale loss on Nov 21, a close home game against South Carolina in the big rivalry known as the Battle of the Palmetto State, Clemson lost the battle L (32-38) before 51,500.

## 1971 Coach Hootie Ingram

The 1971 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1971 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Hootie Ingram was the head football coach for his second of three seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-sixth season overall and their nineteenth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-6-0; 4-2-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in second in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Larry Hefner and John McMakin were the team captains.

On Sept 11 in the home opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Kentucky beat Hootie Ingram's Tigers L (10-13). Clemson then lost to the two Georgia teams. On Sept 25, Georgia shut out Clemson at home L 0-28). On Oct 2 at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, the Yellow Jackets beat the Tigers L (14-24). With a 0-3 record the season was not going well until the Tigers played the Duke Blue Devils on Oct 9 at Foreman Field in Norfolk, VA in the Oyster Bowl and took away a close but important win W (3-0) The Tigers got another win a week later on Oct 16 at City Stadium in Richmond against Virginia W (35-15)

Next, on Oct 23 at #5 Auburn's Cliff Hare Stadium in Auburn, AL, Clemson lost L (13-35). On Oct 30, Clemson picked up its third win of the season at home against Wake Forest in a nail-biter W (10-9) before 55,000. On Nov 6, at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers were beaten by the Tar Heels. L 13-26. North Carolina would go on to win the ACC championship in 1971 with a 4-2 Clemson in second place. On Nov 13, the Tigers beat the Maryland Terrapins at home W (20-14).

In another home game, The Textile Bowl on Nov 20, Clemson was beaten by NC State L (23-31). On Nov 27 at South Carolina's Carolina Stadium in Columbia, SC, in the Battle of the Palmetto State, Clemson won the game W (17-7) before 57,242

## 1972 Coach Hootie Ingram

The 1972 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1972 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Hootie Ingram was the head football coach for his third and last of three seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-seventh season overall and their twentieth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 4-7-0; 2-5-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in fifth place in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Wade Hughes, Buddy King, & Frank Wirth were the team captains.

On Sept 9. At Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Clemson celebrated a victory over The Citadel W (13-0). On Sept 23, the Tigers traveled to Rice's Rice Stadium in Houston, TX and lost to the Owls L (10-29). On Sept 30, the Tigers faced off against #2 ranked Oklahoma and received a walloping at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman, OK L (3-52). On Oct 7 at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, the Yellow Jackets beat Clemson L (9-31). On Oct 14, Duke shut out CU at home L (0-7).

On Oct 21 at home, Clemson beat Virginia W (37-21) before 31,000. Clemson's next outing was on Oct 28 at Wake Forest in Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, NC. The Tigers shut out the Demon Deacons W 31-0. On Nov 4 at home against North Carolina, CU lost to the Tar Heels L (10-26). On Nov 11 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Terrapins beat the Tigers L (6-31). On Nov 18 in the Textile Bowl v NC State at Carter Stadium in Raleigh, NC, the Tar Heels beat the Tigers L (17-42). On Nov 25, the Battle of the Palmetto State was played at Clemson. The Tigers squeaked out a one-point win against the Gamecocks W (7-6).

Just after competing this 4-7 season, the school put pressure on Hootie Ingram to resign as head coach of the football team. Ingram indeed did resign, which paved the way for Red Parker. In his three years as head coach, Ingram's overall record was 12-21.





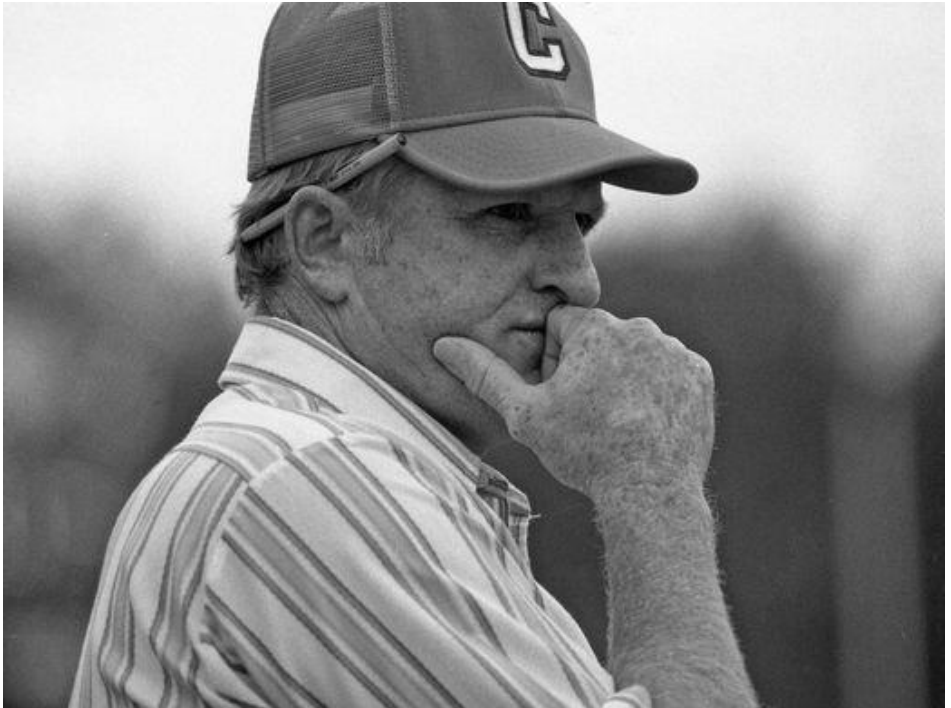
In the photo above, you can see Hootie Ingram (left), Clemson President R.C. Edwards (center) and Hootie's replacement, Red Parker (right) in a press conference announcing the coaching change.



# Chapter 15 Coach Red Parker 1973-1976

Coach # 19 Red Parker

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1973	Red Parker	5-6-0	ACC	4-2-0
1974	Red Parker	7-4-0	ACC	4-2-0
1975	Red Parker	2-9-0	ACC	2-3-0
1976	Red Parker	3-6-2	ACC	0-4-1



Red Parker Coaches the Tigers from the Sidelines

## 1973 Coach Red Parker

The 1973 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1973 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Red Parker was the head football coach for his first of three seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-eighth season overall and their twenty-first in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-6-0; 4-2-0 in the ACC. The

Tigers came in third place in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Mike Buckner and Ken Pengitore were the team captains.

In the home opener on September 8 before 40,000 spectators, at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Clemson clung to a victory over the Citadel, W (14–12). On Sept 22, the Tigers traveled to Georgia’s Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA, and lost their first game of the season L (14–31). On Sept 29 at Georgia Tech’s Grant Field in Atlanta, GA (Rivalry), the Yellow Jackets got the win L (21–29). The next two games were played at home. The Tigers lost the first against Texas A & M on Oct 6 before 48,062. Then, on Oct 13, the Tigers beat the Wahoo’s of Virginia W (32-27).

On Oct 20 at Duke’s Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, the Tigers picked up the win W (24–8). In the first of two successive home games, on Oct 27, NC State’s Wolfpack beat the Tigers in the Textile Bowl L (6-29). On Nov 3, The Tigers beat Wake Forest W (35–8) before just 23,000. On Nov 10 at NC’s Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, Clemson triumphed over North Carolina W (37–29). On Nov 17 at home Maryland’s Terrapins beat the Clemson Tigers L (13-28). Like clockwork in the Season Finale for SC and CU, in the Battle of the Palmetto State at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC. Clemson lost a close battle L (20-32).

## 1974 Coach Red Parker

The 1974 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1974 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Red Parker was the head football coach for his second of three seasons. The Tigers completed their seventy-ninth season overall and their twenty-second in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-4-0; 4-2-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in third place in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Willie Anderson, Mark Fellers, Jim Ness, and Ken Peeples were the team captains. This was the first season with more than six victories since 1959.

On Sept 14 in the season opener, the Tigers lost to #20 Texas A&M at Kyle Field, College Station, TX L (0–24). On Sept 21 at #15 NC State in the Textile Bowl at Carter Stadium in Raleigh, NC L (10–31). On Sept 28 at home the Tigers beat the Yellow Jackets W (21–17). Then, on Oct 5, Clemson beat the other Georgia team – first time in a while, at home W (28–24). On Oct 12, the Tigers traveled to Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD and were pounded by the Terrapins L (0–41). In another home game, the Tigers beat Duke in a close match W (17-13).

On Oct 26 at Tennessee's Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, TN Clemson lost by just one-point L (28–29). On Nov 2 at Wake Forest in Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, NC, Clemson prevailed W (21–9). Then on Nov 9 at home, the Tigers defeated the Tar Heels of North Carolina in a shootout W (54-32). On Nov 16 at home, Clemson beat Virginia W (28-9). Then on Nov 23, at home against South Carolina in the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W 39–21 before an attendance of 52,575.

## 1975 Coach Red Parker



### <<< Coach Parker.

The 1975 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1975 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Red Parker was the head football coach for his third of four seasons. The Tigers completed their eightieth season overall and their twenty-third in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 2-9; 2-3 in the ACC. The Tigers came in fifth place in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Bennie Cunningham, Neal

Jetton, Dennis Smith, Jimmy Williamson were the team captains. This was the first season with more than six victories since 1959.

On September 13, Clemson lost another home opener. This time, it was to Tulane L 13-17). As all home games, this one was played in

Memorial Stadium right on the Clemson University Campus in Clemson, SC. On Sept 20, an always-ready SEC powerhouse, Alabama, coached by Paul “Bear” Bryant invited the Tigers to play at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, AL. It was not much of a game.

The Crimson Tide shut-out and shellacked the Tigers in a big loss L (0-56). On Sept 27, Clemson then traveled to Georgia Tech’s Grant Field in Atlanta, GA (Rivalry) and played well but lost L (28-33). The next big loss in an especially poor season was on Oct 4. This time, it was the Bulldogs at Georgia’s Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA who beat the Tigers L (7–35)

On Oct 11 at home, the Tigers just about managed to beat the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest but in this season, it marked one of the high points W (16-14). On Oct 18, the Tigers lost to Duke at Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC L (21–25). In the Textile Bowl on Oct 25, at home, NC State scored a lot of points in beating Clemson L (7-45). On Nov 1, Clemson kept the losing streak going to three games at home against Florida State L 7–43 before 33,000.

On Nov 8, the Tigers managed to beat the Tar Heels of North Carolina at Kenan Memorial Stadium, Chapel Hill, NC, W (38–32). Then on Nov 15 at home, the Tigers lost a nail-biter to the Terrapins L (20-22) In the last game of the season between two South Carolina rivals, on Nov 22, the Tigers were thumped by the Gamecocks at Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC in the Battle of the Palmetto State. It was a shootout loss L (20–56) before 57,197 fans.

## 1976 Coach Red Parker

The 1976 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1976 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Red Parker was the head football coach for his fourth of four seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-first season overall and their twenty-fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 3-6-2; 0-4-1 in the ACC. For the first time, the Tigers came in seventh (last) place in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Malcolm Marler, Mike O’Cain, Randy Scott, and

Joey Walters were the team captains. This was the first season that Clemson played so poorly in the ACC.

On Sept 11 at the home season opener on the campus of Clemson University at memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC, Clemson beat The Citadel in a close match W (10-7). On Sept 18 at home again, Clemson was beaten by Georgia L (0-41). The next time out was at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA. The game resulted in a tie T 24-24. Soon there would be no ties in NCAA Division I Football. The first division I overtime game and first double overtime game occurred in 1979 when Eastern Kentucky beat Nevada 33-30 in a Division I-AA playoff semi-final game.

On Oct 2 at Tennessee's Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, TN, the Volunteers beat the Tigers L (19-21). On Oct 9 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC. The Demon Deacons defeated the Tigers L (14-20). On Oct 16, Clemson played another tie game. This time the opponent was Duke and it was a home game T (18-18). At NC State on Oct 23 in Carter Stadium in Raleigh, NC the Tigers lost the Textile Bowl to the Wolfpack L (21-38). On Oct 30 at Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL, Clemson put it together for a win W (15-12). On Nov 6 at home, the Tigers were defeated by North Carolina L (23-27)

The next game on Nov 13 was at #6 Maryland. The Terrapins were having a good year. They shut-out Clemson L (0-2) at Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD L (0-20). On Nov 20 at home Clemson won the Battle of the Palmetto State v South Carolina (W (28-9).





# Chapter 16 Coach Charley Pell 1977-1978

Coach # 20 Charley Pell

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1977	Charley Pell	8-3-1	ACC	4-1-1
1978	Charley Pell	11-1-0	ACC	6-0-0



Charley Pell and the Clemson Team

## 1977 Coach Charley Pell

The 1977 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1977 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Charley Pell was the head football coach for his first of two seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-second season overall and their twenty-fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-3-1; 4-1-1 in the ACC. The Tigers came in second place in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Steve Fuller, Steve Godfrey, and Randy Scott were the team captains.

On Sept 10, Maryland played Clemson in the home opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. The Terrapins defeated the Tigers in a close match L

(14-21). Clemson no longer was playing its opening days against weaker teams. Maryland had been tough during the 1970's and Charley Pell's Tigers, which did very well in this year, had a tough game. On Sept 17 at #17 Georgia's Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA, Clemson prevailed W (7-6) in a nail-biter. On Sept 24 at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, Clemson won handily W (31-14) What a difference a good coach makes. Charlie Pell was a great coach. On Oct 1, at Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, VA, the Tigers defeated the Hokies W (31-13).

Virginia came to play Clemson at home on Oct 8 and the Wahoo's were shut out by Charley Pell's Tigers W (31-0) before 49,830. On October 15 at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, Clemson was victorious W 17-11. On Oct 22, NC State's Wolfpack played the Tigers at home in the Textile Bowl W (7-3).

On Oct 29, Wake Forest was beaten by #16 ranked Clemson at home W (26-0). On Nov 5, at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the #13 Tigers tied the Tar Heels T 13-13 before 50,400 fans. On Nov 12, #5 ranked Notre Dame, coached by Dan Devine, came to #15 ranked Clemson at Memorial Stadium on the campus.

The Fighting Irish barely squeaked out a win against a Pell-led tough Clemson squad L (17-21). Notre Dame won the National Championship in 1977. Charley Pell's Clemson's almost pulled off the big one.

On November 19 at South Carolina, the still ranked #15 Tigers beat South Carolina at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC in what was known as the Battle of the Palmetto State W (31-27).

The 1977 Clemson Tigers had a great year. It was the first 8-or better win season since 1959. The Pell Squad was invited to the Gator Bowl played in Gator Bowl Stadium in Jacksonville FL before a crowd of 72,289, against the #10 ranked Pittsburgh Panthers. The Tigers had a few misfires in the Gator Bowl game and lost L (3-34) by a much larger margin than the pundits and scribes expected. Charley Pell was sure a great coach and the Tigers were an equally great team.

## 1978 Coach Charley Pell

The 1978 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1978 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Charley Pell was the head football coach for his second of two seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-third season overall and their twenty-sixth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 11-1-0; 6-0-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in first in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. They were also ranked # 6 nationally. Steve Fuller, and Randy Scott were the 1978 team captains.

A very strong Clemson team, molded by a great coach -- Charley Pell -- began the season in its opener at home on Sept 16. The Clemson Fighting Tigers blew out The Citadel at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, W (58–3). One might wonder if the first game were not so easy if Clemson would have gone undefeated.

There are pluses and minuses to having your way in the first game of a season. Clemson, ranked #8 at the beginning of the season, after a stunning blowout, lost in game 2 to an unranked Georgia team on Sept 23, at Sanford Stadium in • Athens, GA L 0–12. There would be no more Clemson losses this year. Charley Pell knew how to build a team, and then work the team to success.

On Sept 30, Clemson shut out Villanova in their first visit to Clemson, W (31-0) On Oct 7, at home again, VA Tech took a pounding from Clemson on the way to a W (38-7) shellacking. On Oct 14, at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, Clemson worked hard for a nice win W (30–14). At home, again on Oct 21 against an always competitive Duke team. The Clemson Tigers defeated the Duke Blue Devils W (28-8).

On Oct 28, at NC State's Carter–Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the annual Textile Bowl, # 20 Clemson dominated W (33–10). On Nov 4, # 16 nationally ranked Clemson had a major offensive surge against Wake Forest at Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC W (51–6). On Nov 11, North Carolina played #15 Clemson at home and were beaten in a very close game W (13–9). On Nov 18 at a

tough #11 Maryland, # 12 Clemson played the Terrapins at Byrd Stadium • College Park, MD and on the game W (28–24).

## Charley Pell

Coach Pell moved on from Clemson after the 1978 regular season to become head coach at Florida. As you already know, Danny Ford took over the duties of head coach for the Gator Bowl.

Pell was born February 17, 1941 and he died too early at 60 years of age on May 29, 2001). He played football and he was a great coach. An Alabama native, and an alumnus of the University of Alabama, where he played his college football.

He was a two-way starter and three-year letterman at the University of Alabama under legendary Coach Paul William "Bear" Bryant, Pell was a member of the Crimson Tide's 1961 National Championship team. Charley Pell learned how to win football games from the master. He not only played for Bryant, he was also an assistant under Bryant at Alabama.

Pell is most notably remembered as the head coach of the Clemson University and the University of Florida football teams. Pell created systems at both schools that were enduring. In his second season at Clemson, he had already made the name Clemson stand for success on the field. The systems he created laid the foundation for the later success of the Clemson program and then later the Florida program. Unfortunately, his coaching career was tainted by National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules violations.

Pell arrived at Clemson as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator under Red Parker in early 1976. After the poor 3-6-2 1976 outcome, Coach Parker was ordered to fire several assistants. When he refused, Athletic Director Bill McClellan terminated him and asked Pell to take over the reins. He turned the program around,

Charley Pell never intended to be absent for the Gator Bowl. He had made a life decision and made the mistake as some might say of telling some people about it. This stirred up controversy. Clemson officials were outraged. He had accepted the head coaching position

at the University of Florida, in Gainesville, on December 4, 1978. It was before the bowl game was played. His assistant, Danny Ford, a great student of Pell's, was named as his replacement almost immediately. Charley Pell's offer to stay with the team 'til the end of the season and coach the bowl game was declined.

Of course, only Charley Pell in a league now with the Lord, where there is no NCAA knows the truth. The alternate thought is that Pell originally said he would coach the Tigers in the Gator Bowl even while building his new program in Gainesville, but had a change of heart -- perhaps prompted by the yelps of outraged alumni and fans -- and announced on Dec. 10 that he was relinquishing the reins. I suspect somebody on earth may also know the truth. My own opinion is that if Clemson wanted Charley to stay, he would have been coaching the Gator Bowl. No aspersions cast on anybody.

Danny Ford, a kid at the time got the full-time job and coached for eleven years. He got Clemson its first National Championship as a kid. His teams are the focus of the next chapter.



# Chapter 17 Coach Danny Ford 1978-1989

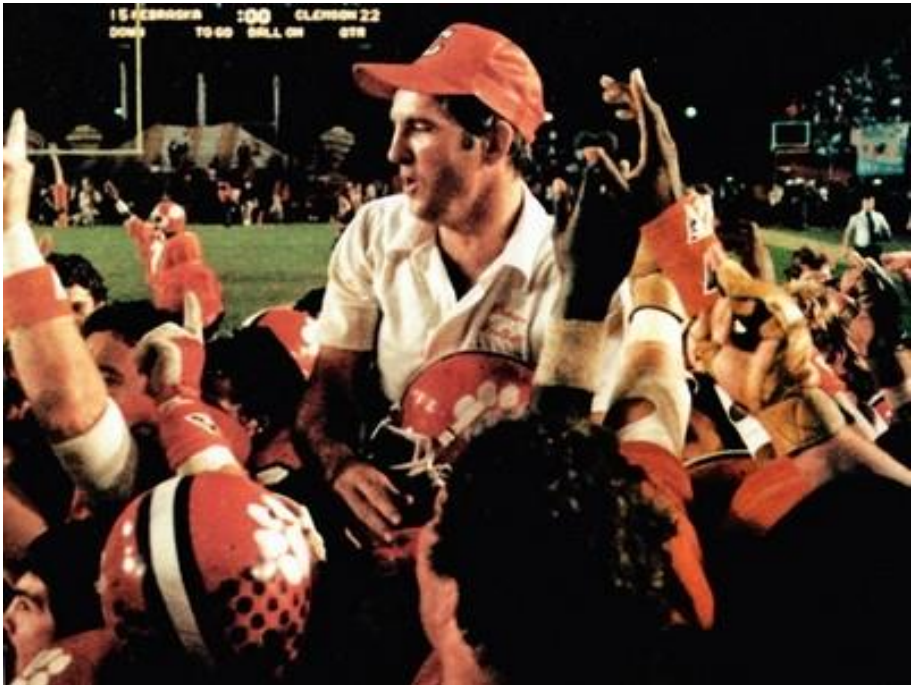
Coach # 21 Danny Ford

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1978	Danny Ford	1-0	Gator Bowl	Win
1979	Danny Ford	8-4-0	ACC	4-2-0
1980	Danny Ford	6-5-0	ACC	2-4-0
1981*	Danny Ford	12-0-0	ACC	6-0-0
1982*	Danny Ford	9-1-1	ACC	6-0-0
1983*	Danny Ford	9-1-1	ACC	7-0-0
1984	Danny Ford	7-4-0	ACC	5-2-0
1985	Danny Ford	6-6-0	ACC	4-3-0
1986*	Danny Ford	8-2-2	ACC	5-1-1
1987*	Danny Ford	10-2-0	ACC	6-1-0
1988*	Danny Ford	10-2-0	ACC	6-1-0
1989	Danny Ford	10-2-0	ACC	5-2-0

\* ACC Champions

## 1979 Coach Danny Ford

The 1979 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1979 college football season



Danny Ford Leads Clemson Team to National Championship

Clemson is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his second of twelve seasons. Ford's first season lasted one game as he was a replacement coach for Charley Pell in the 1978 Gator Bowl.

The Tigers completed their eighty-fourth season overall and their twenty-seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-4-0; 4-2-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in second in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. They were also ranked # 6 nationally. Steve Fuller, and Randy Scott were the 1978 team captains.

Clemson shut out Furman W (21) in the home opener on Sept 8 at Memorial Stadium, on the campus of Clemson University, Clemson SC before a crowd of 55,000. A tough Maryland Terrapin squad played Clemson at home on Sept 15 and beat the Tigers L (0-19). On Sept 22, Georgia was the next home game. The Tigers beat the Bulldogs W (12-7) in a tight match. Clemson's 300th win came on this day, September 22 against Georgia. On Oct 6, at home, Clemson beat Virginia W 17-17. Then, on Oct 13, at Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, VA, Clemson won W 21-0. On October 20, at Duke in Wallace Wade Stadium • Durham, NC, the Tigers defeated the Blue Devils W 28-10.

On Oct 27 at home in the Textile Bowl, Clemson was defeated by NC State L (13-16). On Nov 3 at home, #14 Wake Forest was beaten by Clemson W (31-0). Then on Nov 10 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the then nationally ranked # 18 Tigers beat the Tar Heels W (19-10) On Nov 17 at Notre Dame Stadium in Notre Dame, the Tigers defeated the Fighting Irish in a close match W 16-10.

## 1980 Coach Danny Ford

The 1980 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1980 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his third of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-fifth season overall and their twenty-eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-5-0; 2-4-0 in the ACC. The



Tigers came in 4th in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Lee Nanney, and Willie Underwood were the 1978 team captains.

On Sept 13 in the season opener at Memorial Stadium on the main campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, the Tigers defeated the Rice Owls W (19–3) to kick off the season. 60,361 were in attendance. On Sept 20 at #10 ranked Georgia's Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA, the Tigers succumbed to the Bulldogs. L (16–20). On Sept 27 at home, the Tigers beat the Western Carolina Catamounts W (17–10). On Oct 4, at home Clemson beat Virginia Tech W (13–10). On Oct 11 at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers defeated the Wahoo's in a very close game. W (27–24).

On Oct 18 at home against Duke, the Tigers lost to the Blue Devils L 17–34 before 59,873. On Oct 25 at NC State's Carter–Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the Textile Bowl, the Tigers were defeated by the Wolfpack L (20–24) On Nov 1, Clemson won its 100<sup>th</sup> ACC game against Wake Forest at Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC W (35–33) On Nov 8, #14 North Carolina beat Clemson at home L (19–24). Then, on Nov 15, in the second-last game of the season, Maryland beat Clemson at Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD L (7–34). In the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers prevailed over South Carolina at home W (27-6)

## 1981 Coach Danny Ford

The 1981 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1981 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his fourth of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-sixth season overall and their twenty-ninth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 12-0-0; 6-0-0 in the ACC.

The Tigers came in 1st in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Nelson Stokely was the offensive coordinator. Jeff Davis was the team captain. This year a dream came true. The Clemson Tigers won the National Championship. It was a consensus of the coaches and AP polls.

On Sept 5 in the home opener, Clemson defeated Wofford W (45-10) at Memorial Stadium on Sept 12, at Tulane in the Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, LA, Clemson won W (13-5). Then on Sept 19 at home, #4 Georgia lost to Clemson W (13-3).

On Nov 14, at home the #2 Clemson Fighting Tigers beat Maryland W (21-). On Nov 21, at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC, in the Battle of the Palmetto State, the #1 Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (29-13), finishing the season undefeated and in first place.

The #1 Clemson Tigers played in the Orange Bowl Game on January 1, 1982 at 8:00 p.m. against # 4 Nebraska in the Miami Orange Bowl, Miami, FL, and the Tigers came away with the victory and the National Championship

## **1982 Coach Danny Ford**

The 1982 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1982 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his fifth of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-seventh season overall and their thirtieth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-1-1; 6-0-0 in the ACC.

The Tigers came in 1st in the ACC out of 7 active ACC teams. Nelson Stokely was the offensive coordinator. Homer Jordan and Terry Kinard were the team captains. This year, with a great coach after a Championship Season, the Clemson Tigers played great football

If I am out of line, on the NCAA, please skip this part. Somehow whenever smaller, less important teams do something well like win a national Championship the NCAA seems to like to step in a ruin the party. Clemson was placed on probation near the end of this season for recruiting violations, and was ineligible for a bowl bid. Some think it was because Clemson won the National Championship and not a team the corrupt NCAA was supporting. Who knows? In this book about Clemson, I give my support to the Tigers and not to the faux Tigers in the NCAA.

"I was a senior on the 1982 team, and we voted as seniors to accept the unprecedented extra year of probation which the ACC handed down on top of two-year NCAA sanctions. We were offered the invitation to play SMU in the Cotton Bowl, and turned it down so that the future teams at Clemson could accept a bowl invitation in 1985." (Carl Martin). Why is it that when adults mete out punishment, it is student athletes who get hurt? I really would like to feel differently but please note this is the fifth Great Coaches book I have written. Nobody escapes the scourge of the corrupt NCAA with all of their rich and famous officials. Unless...

The home opener was not the first game this year. Instead, on Sept 6 at #7 ranked Georgia's Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA, this famous rival Bulldogs beat the former champion Clemson Tigers by no more than a hair. L (7-13). More and more fans were able to squeeze into larger and larger stadiums as in the 1980's there was a lot of building going on. On Sept 18, for the first time in a while, the always-tough Boston College Eagles played the #16 Clemson Fighting Tigers at home to a tie in the home opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC T (17-17).

On Sept 25 at home, Clemson beat Western Carolina W (21-10) before 61,369. On Oct 2 at home the Tigers beat the Kentucky Wildcats W (24-6). On Oct 9 at Virginia in Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, VA, Clemson pummeled the Wahoo's W (48-0). Then, on Oct 16 at home, the #20 Tigers beat the Duke Blue Devils W (49-14). On Oct 23 in the Textile Bowl at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC, the #18 Tigers beat the Wolfpack W (38-29).

On Nov 6 at home playing #18 North Carolina, the #13 Clemson Tigers managed to beat the Tar Heels W (16-13). On Nov 13, the eternally tough #18 ranked Maryland Terrapins took on the #11 Tigers at Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD and lost W (24-22). On Nov 20, at home in the regular season finale, the big in-state rival South Carolina in the Battle of the Palmetto State lost in a nice match W (24-6 before a great crowd of 66,210).

#10 Clemson had a good year and got to go to Japan's National Olympic Stadium in Tokyo, Japan to play an always-tough Wake

Forest team in the Mirage Bowl. As tough a game as it was, it was a treat for the players and the Clemson Tigers emerged victorious W (21–17) before 80,000 spectators.

## 1983 Coach Danny Ford

The 1983 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1983 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his sixth of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-eighth season overall and their thirty-first in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-1-1; 7-0-0 in the ACC.

The Tigers came in 1st in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Nelson Stokely was the offensive coordinator. James Farr and James Robinson were the team captains. This year, with a great coach again, the Clemson Tigers played great football. Clemson was on probation for recruiting violations, and was ineligible for the ACC championship or a bowl bid.

On Sept 3, to begin the home season at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University, Clemson, SC, the Tigers overwhelmed the Catamounts of Western Carolina W (44–10) before an opening day crowd of 69,962. On Sept 10, Clemson picked up its only loss of the year at Boston College's Alumni Stadium, Chestnut Hill, MA L (16–31).

On Sept 17, at home the Tigers settled for their only other mar on their record with a tie (16-16) against the Georgia Bulldogs. On Sept 24, the other Georgia team came to Clemson and the Tigers defeated the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets W (41-14). On Oct 8 for the third home game in a row, the Tigers defeated the Virginia Wahoo's W (42-21).

Duke was next on Oct 15 at Wallace Wade Stadium • Durham, NC, W (38–31). On Oct 22, at home, the Tigers beat NC State's Wolfpack in the Textile Bowl W (27-17). At home again on Oct 29, Wake Forest played tough football and came close to upsetting Clemson W (24-17). On Nov 5, Clemson defeated #10 North Carolina at Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC W (16–3). The following

week on Nov 12 at home, the Tigers defeated the Maryland Terrapins W (52-27). In the season finale, with no ACC championship though no losses in the ACC, and no Bowl games to be played, the Battle of the Palmetto State was the next and final item on the season's agenda. The Tigers won this game W (22-13) for a great season record of 9-1-1 and an ACC record of 7-0-0. That's great Clemson football.

## 1984 Coach Danny Ford

The 1984 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1984 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his seventh of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their eighty-eighth season overall and their thirty-first in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-4-0; 5-2-0 in the ACC.

The Tigers came in 2nd in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Nelson Stokely was the offensive coordinator. Mike Eppley, and William Perry were the team captains. This year, with a great coach again, the Clemson Tigers played great football. Clemson was on probation for recruiting violations, and was ineligible for the ACC championship or post season play.

On Sept 1 in the home opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, the Clemson Tigers began the season with a nice victor W (40-& over the Appalachian State Mountaineers. On Sept 8, at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, Clemson's Tigers shut-out the Wahoo's, W (55-0).

After a week break, on Sept 22, at #20 Georgia, the #2 ranked Clemson Tigers met with its first defeat of the season in a nail-biter L (23-26). On Sept 29, at #20 Georgia Tech 's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, #13 Clemson found its second close loss in a row. L (21-28). On Oct 6 at home, The Tigers defeated the North Carolina Tar Heels W (20-12).

On Oct 20, at home, the Tigers beat the Duke Blue Devils W (54-21). Next on Oct 27, at North Carolina State in Carter-Finley Stadium,

Raleigh, NC in the Textile Bowl, Clemson prevailed W (35–24). On Nov 3 at home the Tigers beat the Wake Forest Demon Deacons W (37-14). On Nov 10, at home, Clemson defeated Virginia Tech W (17-10). The third loss of the Clemson season came on Nov 17 at Maryland in Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, MD L (23–4). In the season finale on Nov 24, in the Battle of the Palmetto State the Tigers lost the battle to the Gamecocks in a close one L (21-22).

## 1985 Coach Danny Ford

The 1985 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1985 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his eighth of twelve seasons.

The Tigers completed their eighty-ninth season overall and their thirty-second in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-6-0; 4-3-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in 4th in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Nelson Stokely was the offensive coordinator. Steve Berlin and Steve Reese were the team captains.

On Sept 14 @ Virginia Tech in Lane Stadium, Blacksburg, VA the Tigers beat the Hokies W (20–17). On September 21 in the home opener at Memorial Field on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson SC, the Tigers lost to the Georgia Bulldogs, L (13–20) before 80,473. On Sept 28, at home, Clemson lost to Georgia Tech L (3–14). On Oct 5 at Kentucky's Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, KY, the Tigers beat the Wildcats L (7–26). On Oct 12, at home, Clemson beat Virginia W (27-24)

Clemson traveled to Duke on October 19 at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, and beat the Blue Devils W (21–9). On Oct 26, the next week at home, the Tigers defeated NC State in the Textile Bowl W (39–10). Then on Nov 2, at home Clemson defeated Wake Forest W (26-10). On Nov 9 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers were overcome by one-point L (20–21). Then, on Nov 16 at home, Clemson was defeated by Maryland l (31-34). The next week in the season finale, aka the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers managed to beat the Gamecocks by a touchdown W (24-17).

Clemson qualified for a Bowl game and played on December 21<sup>st</sup> against Minnesota in the Independence Bowl in Independence Stadium, Shreveport, LA and lost by a touchdown. L (13–20) before 42,800 fans.

## 1986 Coach Danny Ford

The 1986 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1986 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his ninth of twelve seasons.

The Tigers completed their ninetieth season overall and their thirty-third in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-2-2; 5-1-1 in the ACC. The Tigers came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Terrence Flagler and Terence Mack were the team captains.

Clemson began the season on Sept 13 losing one of just two games that it would lose in the entire season. This game was the home opener in Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University, Clemson, SC. The Hokies of Virginia Tech defeated the Clemson Fighting Tigers L (14-20) before 75,930. On Sept 20, at #14 Georgia's in Sanford Stadium, Athens, GA, Clemson prevailed W (31–28).

Then on Sept 27 at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in Atlanta, GA, Clemson won W (27–3). On Oct 4, at home, the Tigers shut out The Citadel W (24–0). On Oct 11 at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, Clemson won another W (31–17).

On Oct 18 at home against Duke, the #17 ranked Tigers walloped the Blue Devils W (35–3). On Oct 25 at #20 NC State's Carter–Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC, playing in the annual Textile Bowl, Clemson bowed to the Wolfpack L (3–27). On Nov 1 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers squeaked by the Demon Deacons W (28–20). On Nov 8 at home the Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated the North Carolina Tar Heels W (38-10). On Nov 15, at Maryland at Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, MD, the

teams played to a tie T (17–17). On Nov 22, at home, South Carolina tied the Tigers in the Battle of the Palmetto State T (21–21).

The #21 Tigers were invited to the Gator Bowl on Dec 27, 1986 to play #20 Stanford in Gator Bowl Stadium in Jacksonville Florida before 80,104. The Tigers defeated the Cardinal in a well-played close game W (27-21)

## 1987 Coach Danny Ford

The 1987 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1987 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his tenth of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their ninety-first season overall and their thirty-fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 10-2-0; 6-1-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Michael Dean Perry and John Phillips were the team captains.

On Sept 5 in the home opener played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Danny Ford's Clemson Fighting Tigers shut out Western Carolina to get the season rolling W (43-0). On Sept 12, at Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, VA, the #10 Tigers won again W (22–10). Back home, on Sept 19, the #18 Georgia Bulldogs were defeated by Clemson's Tigers W (21-20).

In addition to the success so far in the season, Clemson also won four more home games in the following five home encounters. The first was when #9 ranked Clemson went against Georgia Tech on Oct 3 W (22-12). The second was when the #8 Tigers went against the Virginia Wahoo's on Oct 10 W (33–12).

And then the third was when #7 Clemson played Duke's Blue Devils on Oct 17 for the win W (17-10). At this point, at 6-0 for the season, The Tigers suffered a tough home loss to NC State in the Textile Bowl on Oct 24 L (28-30). The fourth win of the last five home games came on Oct 31, when the #14 Tigers defeated the Wake Forest Demon Deacons W (31-17).



On Nov 7, at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium, Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers beat the Tar Heels in a close game W (13-10) Next on Nov 14 at home, the Tigers back to #9 nationally, handily beat Maryland W 45-16.

Now, looking for a nice top ten finish and a great Bowl Game, the #8 Clemson Tigers were disappointed in the Battle of the Palmetto State as #12 South Carolina pulled out all the stops and defeated CU at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium • in Columbia, SC L (7-20) Clemson was ranked #14 after the game and were invited to the Citrus Bowl.

## Citrus Bowl

On Jan 1, 1988, the #14 Clemson Tigers squared off in the Florida Citrus Bowl Game against the #20 Penn State Nittany Lions in the Citrus Bowl Stadium, Orlando, FL (Florida Citrus Bowl). Clemson beat up Penn State in the game W (35-10) and finished #11 in the AP poll and #12 in the Coach's Poll for the year. The Tigers had previously won the ACC Championship.

## 1988 Coach Danny Ford

The 1988 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1988 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his eleventh of twelve seasons.

The Tigers completed their ninety-second season overall and their thirty-fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 10-2-0; 6-1-0 in the ACC. The Tigers came in 1st in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Rodney Williams, and Donnell Woolford were the team captains.

The Tigers began the season with three home games in a row. On Sept 3 in the home opener played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Danny Ford's Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated Virginia Tech W (40-7) to get the season rolling. On Sept 10, #3 ranked Clemson beat Furman W 23-

3 before 80,620. Then, on Sept 17, the Tigers suffered their first loss at home against #10 Florida State in a nail biter L (21-24).

On Sept 24, at Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA, the #12 Tigers defeated the unranked Bulldogs W (30-13). Then, at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, Clemson got the best of the Wahoo's W 10-7. On Oct 15 at home, the #11 Tigers beat the #22 Duke Blue Devils W (49-17) before a packed house of 83,356. Then, on Oct 22 at #24 ranked NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the Textile Bowl, the Wolfpack got the best of the Tigers L (3-10).

On Oct 29 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers defeated the Demon Deacons W 37-14. On Nov 5, at home North Carolina was defeated by Clemson W (37-14). On Nov 12, at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Tigers defeated the Terrapins W (49-25). Then, in the season finale v South Carolina—the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W 29-10. Of the second year in a row, Clemson accepted an invitation to play in the Citrus Bowl.

## Citrus Bowl

On Jan 1, 1989, in the Florida Citrus Bowl post-season game, Coach Danny Ford's #9 Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated Coach Barry Switzer's #10 ranked Oklahoma Sooners in the game played at the Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, FL. The Tigers won W (13-6) The game was seen on ABC TV and by the 53,571 in the stadium.

## 1989 Coach Danny Ford

The 1989 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1989 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Danny Ford was the head football coach for his twelfth and last of twelve seasons. The Tigers completed their ninety-third season overall and their thirty-sixth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 10-2-0; 5-2 in the ACC. The Tigers came in 3rd in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams.

The Tigers began the season with a home game. On Sept 2 in the home opener played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Danny Ford's #12 Clemson Fighting Tigers shut-out Furman W (30-0) to get the season off to a fine start before 80,508 fans. On Sept 9 at No. 16 Florida State in Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, FL, the Tigers beat the Seminoles W (34-23).

## **Gator Bowl**

On Jan 1, 1989, in the Gator Bowl post-season game, Coach Danny Ford's #14 Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated Coach Don Nehlen's #17 ranked West Virginia Mountaineers in the game played at the Gator Bowl Stadium in Jacksonville, FL. The Tigers won W (27-7) The game was seen on ESPN and by the 82,911 in the stadium.



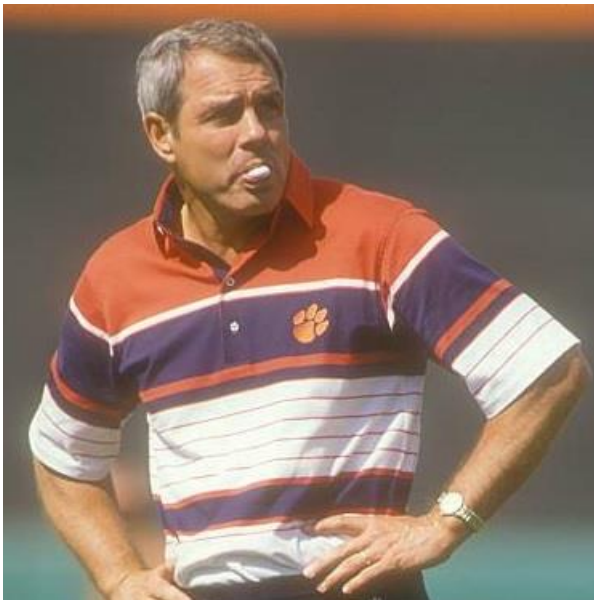
# Chapter 18 Coach Ken Hatfield 1990 - 1993

Coach # 22 Ken Hatfield

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1990	Ken Hatfield	10-2-0	ACC	5-2-0
1991	Ken Hatfield	9-2-1	ACC	6-0-1
1992	Ken Hatfield	5-6-0	ACC	3-5-0
1993	Ken Hatfield	9-3-0	ACC	5-3-01
1993	Tommy West	Bowl Game Win	Score	20-0

## 1990 Coach Ken Hatfield

The 1990 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1990 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Ken Hatfield was the head football coach for his first of four seasons. The Tigers completed their ninety-fourth season overall and their thirty-seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 10-2-0; 5-2-0. They were tied for second in the ACC. out of 8 active ACC teams. Stacy Fields and Vance Hammond were team captains.



### <<< Coach Ken Hatfield

The Tigers began the season with a home game. On Sept 1 in the home opener played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Ken Hatfield's #10 Clemson Fighting Tigers shut-out Long Beach State W (59-0 to get the season off to a great start before 74,250 fans. On Sept 8,

at #14 Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers lost to the Wahoo's L (7–20) On September 15 at Maryland's Memorial Stadium, the Tigers barely won against the Terrapins in a tough battle W (18-17). On Sept 22 at home Clemson beat Appalachian State W (48–0) before 77,716. On Sept 29, at home the Tigers defeated the Duke Blue Devils W 26–7.

On Oct 6, at home the Tigers defeated Georgia W (34-3). Next, on Oct 13 at #18 Georgia Tech, the #15 Clemson Tigers lost to the Yellow Jackets by two points at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA L (19–21). On Oct 20 at NC State's Carter–Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC, in the annual Textile Bowl, the Tigers beat the Wolfpack W (24–17). On Oct 27, at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers whipped the Demon Deacons W (24–6) before 25,317 fans. On Nov 3, at home, the #18 Tigers beat North Carolina W (20-3). On Nov 17 at home, in the Battle of the Palmetto State, Clemson defeated South Carolina W (24-15) before a sellout plus of 83,823. For a nice year and a #14 finish, Clemson earned an invitation to the Gator Bowl

## Hall of Fame Bowl

On January 1, 1991, the #14 ranked Clemson Fighting Tigers took on the # 16 ranked Illinois Fighting Illini in Tampa Stadium • Tampa, FL in the Hall of Fame Bowl. It was viewed on NBC. The Fighting Tigers shut out the Fighting Illini W (20-0) before 82,911 spectators.

## 1991 Coach Ken Hatfield

The 1991 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1991 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Ken Hatfield was the head football coach for his second of four seasons.

The Tigers completed their ninety-fifth season overall and their thirty-eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-2-1; 6-0-1. They took first place in the ACC. out of 8 active ACC teams.

Rob Bodine, DeChane Cameron, and Levon Kirkland were team captains.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers began the season with a home game. On Sept 7 in the home opener played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Ken Hatfield's #8 Clemson Fighting Tigers shut-out Appalachian State W (34-0) to get the season rolling quickly in a positive direction.

On Sept 21, Temple played # 8 Clemson at home in Memorial Stadium. The Tigers beat the Owls W (37-7) before 74,575. On Sept 28, at home Clemson barely got by a tough Georgia Tech Team W (9-7) On Oct 5, at Sanford Stadium in Athens, #6 Clemson lost to the Yellow Jackets L (12-27) before 85,434 fans. Then on Oct 12 at home against Virginia, Clemson tied the Wahoo's T (20-20).

On Oct 26 at home against # 12 NC State, the Tigers beat the Wolfpack W (29-19) before 79,832. On Nov 2 at home, the Tigers beat the Demon Deacons W 28-10. Then a week later on Nov 9 at North Carolina at Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, the Tigers won W (21-6). On Nov 16, at home, the Fighting Tigers defeated the Terrapins W (40-7) before 71, 881.

On Nov 23, in the Battle of the Palmetto State at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC, #12 Clemson beat the Gamecocks W (41-24). On Dec 1, in the season finale, the Tigers defeated the Blue Devils of Duke in the Tokyo Dome Japan in the Coca Cola Classic W (33-21) before 50,000. For a great season, Clemson accepted a bid to the Citrus Bowl.

## **Citrus Bowl**

On Jan 1, 1992, the #13 ranked Tigers of Clemson lost to #14 California in the Florida Citrus Bowl played at Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, Florida before 64,192. The score was L 13-27).

## 1992 Coach Ken Hatfield

The 1992 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1992 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Ken Hatfield was the head football coach for his third of four seasons.

The Tigers completed their ninety-seventh season overall and their fortieth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-6-0; 3-5-0 in ACC. They finished in seventh place in the ACC. out of 9 active ACC teams. It was a poor year for Clemson by recent standards. Robert O'Neal, Daniel Telley, and Wayne Simmons were team captains.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers began the season with a home game. On Sept 5. This and all home openers are played on the campus of Clemson University at Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Ken Hatfield's #8 Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated Ball State W (24-10) to get the season off to a good start. On Sept 12, at home the Tigers lost to the #5 ranked Florida State Seminoles L 20-24 before 83,170. Florida State had just become a member of the ACC, which was ready to swell as interest in the conference was booming. s

After a two-week break, on Sept 26 at Georgia Tech in Bobby Dodd Stadium • Atlanta, GA, the Tigers suffered another loss L (16-20). Now, at 1-2 for the season, on Oct 3 at home, Clemson faced Chattanooga and won the game in a blowout W (54-3) before 71,486. On Oct 10, the barely ranked #25 Tigers squeezed out a one-point win against #10 Virginia at Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, VA W (29-28).

## 1993 Coach Ken Hatfield

The 1993 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1993 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Ken Hatfield was the head football coach for his fourth and last of four fine seasons. Because Ken Hatfield moved on from Clemson after the regular season, Tommy West took over for the bowl game in his first year as head coach for 1994.



The Tigers completed their ninety-eighth season overall and their forty-first in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-3-0; 5-3-0 in the ACC. They finished in third place in the ACC. out of 9 active ACC teams. It was another fine year for Clemson. Richard Monreef was the team captain.

As is usually the case, The Clemson Fighting Tigers began the season with a home game. On Sept 4. As with all home games, this home opener was played on the campus of Clemson University in Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Ken Hatfield's #22 ranked Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated UNLV W (24-14) starting the season undefeated at 1-0. #1 ranked Florida State was in the beginning of a National Championship Season and they played like the champs in Clemson's second game of the season.

Nobody likes to admit getting whooped and shut-out by Florida State in the same game but the #22 Tigers sure did at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, L 0-57. Though Florida State won the Championship, it was not undisputed.

On Sept 25 at home, Clemson was about to begin to win again. They beat Georgia Tech W (16-13 before 72,511. On Oct 2, at home, Clemson beat NC State W (20-14). On Oct 9, at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, the Tigers beat the Blue Devils W (13-10). On Oct 16, at home Clemson's Tigers were defeated by the Wake Forest Demon Deacons in a very close match L (16-20). On Oct 23, at home, the Tigers shut out East Tennessee State W (27-0). On Oct 30, at home. The Tigers defeated the Maryland Terrapins W (29-0) before 66,147

On Nov 6 at 7:30 p.m. at # 16 North Carolina in Kenan Memorial Stadium Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers lost to the Tar Heels in a shut-out l (0-24). Then on Nov 13 at home, the Tigers beat # 18 Virginia W (23-14). Now ranked #24, Clemson looked forward to the season finale v South Carolina in the big rivalry game.

It was a good season but one in which the team could take nothing for granted. Against South Carolina, the Clemson Fighting Tigers got enough to win by three over a tough Gamecocks squad in the annual South Carolina Supremacy battle called the Battle of the Palmetto

State. This year's encounter was on Nov 20 at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC where the Tigers charted the win W (16–13). The Tigers accepted the Peach Bowl bid.

## Peach Bowl

Tommy West took over for coach Hatfield in the Peach Bowl as this Bowl game was his first game as head coach for the Clemson Tigers and for 1994. On Dec 31 @ 6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve, Kentucky squared off against # 23 ranked Clemson at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA for the (Peach Bowl. It was a thrilling game and the Tigers got it all together to win in the end, W (14–13) before 63,416 fans.



Emery Smith Starred in Coach Tommy West's 1993 Peach Bowl Win!

# Chapter 19 Coach Tommy West 1993 to 98

Coach # 23 Tommy West

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1993	Tommy West	Bowl Game Win	Score	20-0
1994	Tommy West	5-6	ACC	4-4-0
1995	Tommy West	8-4	ACC	6-2
1996	Tommy West	7-5	ACC	6-2
1997	Tommy West	7-5	ACC	4-4
1998	Tommy West	3-8	ACC	1-7

## 1994 Coach Tommy West

The 1994 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1994 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy West was the head football coach for his second of six seasons.



Clemson Coach Tommy West

Because Ken Hatfield moved on from Clemson after the 1993 regular season, Tommy West was asked to take over for the bowl game in his first year as head coach (one Bowl game) in the 1993 post-season.

The Tigers completed their ninety-ninth season overall and their forty-second in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 5-6-0; 4-4-0 in the ACC. They finished in sixth place in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. It was at best a mediocre year for Clemson. Tim Jones and Louis Solomon were the team captains.

As is usually the case, The Clemson Fighting Tigers began the season with a home game. On Sept 3. As with all home games, this home opener was played on the campus of Clemson University in Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Tommy West's #24 ranked Clemson Fighting Tigers defeated Furman W (27-16) for a fine start of the season. On Sept 10 at home, Clemson lost the Textile Bowl to NC State L (12-29) before a light crowd of 67, 127. On Sept 17 at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers lost for the second time in two games against the Wahoo's L (6-9).

On Oct 1, at home, Clemson defeated Maryland W (13-0). On Oct 8, at Georgia's Sanford Stadium in Athens, GA, the Tigers lost their third match of the year L (14-40). On Oct 15, at #15 Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, the Tigers lost to the Blue Devils. Carrying four losses as the season's baggage so far, the Tigers traveled to #7 Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL and lost their fifth game of the season L (0-17). On Oct 29, the Tigers made a comeback at home against Wake Forest W (24-8).

Then, on Nov 5 at No. 19 North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers beat the Tar Heels W (28-17) before 50,000. On Nov 12 at home, Clemson defeated Georgia Tech W (20-10). The last game of the season, hoping to get over 500 and stay there, the Tigers lost the battle to South Carolina at home in the Battle of the Palmetto State L (7-33) before a max crowd of 85,872.

## 1995 Coach Tommy West

The 1995 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1995 college football season as a member of the

Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy West was the head football coach for his third of six seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundredth season overall and their forty-third in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-4-0; 6-2-0 in the ACC. They finished in third place in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. It was a fine year for Clemson. Louis Solomon was the team captain.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers home opener resulted in a big win on Sept 2 on the campus of Clemson University in Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Tommy West's unranked squad shellacked Western Carolina W (55-9) for an excellent start to the season.

On Sept 9, at home, #1 ranked Florida State powered by Clemson L (26-45). Florida State would eventually lose two games and one in the ACC tying Virginia for ACC Champions and coming in fifth nationally. The Clemson Tigers had a tough time each year with the Seminoles. Things would change over time.

On Sept 16 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers beat the Demon Deacons W 29-14. On Sept 23, #11, ACC Champ this year, played the Tigers at home. The Wahoo's were a fine team this year and they beat the Tigers L (3-22). On Sept 30, at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the Textile Bowl, the Tigers got the best of the Wolfpack W (43-22). On Oct 7, at home, the Tigers lost by just two points to Georgi L (17-19).

On Oct 21, at Maryland's Byrd Stadium, College Park, the Tigers shut out the Terrapins W (17-0). Then, on Oct 28, at Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA, the Tigers beat the Yellow Jackets W (24-3). On Nov 11 at home the #24 Tigers defeated the Duke Blue Devils W (34-17). Then, in the Battle of the Palmetto State the following week on Nov 18, at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, the #24 Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (38-17). The Tigers were invited to the Gator Bowl to be played Jan 1, 1996.

## Gator Bowl

Typically, great performers in Bowl Games, the # 23 Clemson Tigers were unexpectedly shut out in this year's Gator Bowl on January 1, 1996 by the Syracuse Orangemen at Jacksonville Memorial Stadium in Jacksonville FL L (0-41) before 45,202 and an NBC TV national audience.

## 1996 Coach Tommy West

The 1996 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1996 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy West was the head football coach for his fourth of six seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-first season overall and their forty-fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-5-0; 6-2-0 in the ACC. They finished in third place in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. It was a fine year for Clemson. Louis Solomon was the team captain.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a big loss on Aug 31 at Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill NC. Coach Tommy West's unranked squad was shut-out by North Carolina L (0-45). The Clemson Fighting Tigers followed this loss up with a win in their home opener on Sept 7. All Clemson home games are played on the campus of Clemson University in Memorial Field in Clemson, SC, Coach Tommy West's team defeated Furman W (19-3) for their first home victory.

On Sept 21 at Missouri's Faurot Field in Columbia, MO, the Tigers were defeated L (24-38). Then a week later on Sept 28 at home, the Tigers beat the Wake Forest Demon Deacons W 21-10 before 63,263.

Then, on Oct 2, another iteration of a tough Florida State program invited the Tigers to play at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL. The Seminoles got the best of the Tigers L (3-34) before 76,360. On Oct 12, at Duke in Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham, NC, Clemson beat the Blue Devils W (13-6) before a crowd of 23,586.

On Oct 19, at home, the unranked Clemson Tigers defeated the # 22 Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in a close match W (28-25). Then, on Nov 2, at home again, the Tigers beat the Terrapins of Maryland in a blowout W (35-3).

On Nov 9, at # 15 Virginia in Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers commanded the victory over the Wahoo's W 24-16. On Nov 16, at NC State's Memorial Stadium •in the Textile Bowl, the Clemson Tigers whooped the Wolfpack W (40-17) before 63,796.

On Nov 23, at home, in the SC rivalry game of the year, the Battle of the Palmetto State, #22 Clemson played its best but lost to the Gamecocks L (31-34 before 82, 929. After this game, the Tigers found they were eligible for a Bowl Game and they chose to play in the Peach Bowl.

## **The Peach Bowl**

On Dec 28, 1996, at 8:00 PM, the Fighting Tigers of Clemson University engaged the #17 Louisiana State Tigers at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA for the Peach Bowl, seen by 63,622 at the stadium and millions of others on ESPN. The Tigers played a tough game but were beaten L (7-10) by the other Tigers from Louisiana.

## **1997 Coach Tommy West**

The 1997 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1997 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy West was the head football coach for his fifth of six seasons. The Tigers completed their one hundred-second season overall and their forty-fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-5-0; 4-4-0 in the ACC. They finished in fifth in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. It was an OK year for Clemson. Raymond Priester and Raymond White were the team captains.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a nice home win on Sept 6 at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC, Coach Tommy

West's team defeated Furman W (23=12) for their first home victory before 62,405 for the 1997 season. On Sept 13 at NC State, the #19 ranked Tigers traveled to Carter–Finley Stadium, Raleigh, NC for the annual Textile Bowl and they won by two points over the Wolfpack W 19–17 before 50,000.

On Sept 20, at home, the games against Florida State were getting closer as the #5 Seminoles gained a one touchdown advantage over the #16 Tigers and won the game L (28–35) before 80,939 fans. Then, on Sept 27 at Georgia Tech, the Yellow Jackets beat the # 17 Tigers at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA L (20-23) Then, on Oct 4, at home, which is also my wedding Anniversary that I am not permitted to forget ever, no matter what the reason, the Tigers got out of the funk and beat the visiting UTEP Miners from Texas, W (30-7)

On Oct 11, at home, as Virginia was playing tougher and tougher football, they were not even close to pushovers and this year, they beat the Tigers L 7–21 before 74,987. On Oct 25 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Tigers had winning in the blood and beat the Terrapins W 20–9, before 27,270. On Nov 1, at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers defeated the Demon Deacons W (33–16) before 23,411 fans.

Then on Nov 8, at home Clemson defeated Duke in overtime since there were no more ties in College football W (29-20.) So, how can such a score occur in OT. Here's how: Clemson and Duke met in the first overtime game between two ACC teams in 1997. The Tigers won the contest by the unusual score of 29-20. David Richardson kicked a field goal on Clemson's possession, then Rahim Abdullah intercepted a pass and ran 63 yards for a score, giving Clemson the nine-point win.

On Nov 15, at home, North Carolina beat Clemson plain and simple in a one – touchdown game L (10–17) before 71,514. Then, On Nov 22, at 6:00 p.m. at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC in a rendition of the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers were forced to flex some muscle to defeat the Gamecocks W 47–21 before 83,700. For a great year, the unranked Clemson Tigers, were invited to the Peach Bowl



## January 2, 1998 Peach Bowl

On January 2, 1998 at 3:00 p.m., the Clemson Tigers squared off against the Auburn Tigers in the first game between the two in many years. This was a post-season game called *The Peach Bowl* played at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA (Peach Bowl) L (17–21) before 71,212 fans.

## 1998 Coach Tommy West

The 1998 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1998 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy West was the head football coach for his sixth and last of six seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-third season overall and their forty-sixth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 3-8; 1-7 in the ACC. They finished in eighth in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. It was a terrible year for Clemson. Donald Broomfield and Holland Postell were the team captains.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a nice home win on Sept 5 at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC, Coach Tommy West's team shut out Furman W (33=0) for their first home victory before 70,855 for the 1998 season. Though this was a fine start, Clemson would find the winning column just two more times this season.

Sept 12 was not one of those two as Virginia Tech followed Furman to the home field a week later and shut out the Tigers L (0-37). On Sept 19, in a very close loss at Virginia's Scott Stadium in • Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers were defeated by the Wahoo's L 18-20.

The next loss was at home against Wake Forest on Sept 26 L (19-29). This was followed by another loss on Oct to North Carolina at Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC L 14–21. On Oct 10, Clemson found a way to win at home against Maryland W (23-0). On Oct 17, Clemson took a bad beating and a big shutout loss from #6 Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL L (0–

48) before 80,310. On Oct 24, the losses continued at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, L 23-28 before 30,630.

On Oct 31 at home in the Textile Bowl, Clemson lost to NC State L (39-46). Then, the losses kept mounting on Nov 12 at home against #22 Georgia Tech L 21-24. Then came the big Battle of the Palmetto state before 84,423 at home. Clemson found enough stamina and determination to defeat the Gamecocks in a nice game W (28-19)

# Chapter 20 Coach Tommy Bowden 1999-2008

Coach # 24 Tommy Bowden

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1999	Tommy Bowden	6-6	ACC	5-3
2000	Tommy Bowden	9-3	ACC	6-2
2001	Tommy Bowden	7-5	ACC	4-4
2002	Tommy Bowden	7-6	ACC	4-4
2003	Tommy Bowden	9-4	ACC	5-3
2004	Tommy Bowden	7-5	ACC	4-4
2005	Tommy Bowden	8-4	ACC	4-4
2006	Tommy Bowden	8-5	ACC	5-3
2007	Tommy Bowden	9-4	ACC	5-3
2008	Tommy Bowden	7-6	ACC	4-4
2008	Dabo Swinney	4-3	interim coach last 7 games	

## 1999 Coach Tommy Bowden

The 1999 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 1999 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden was the head football coach for his first of ten seasons.



Coach Tommy Bowden Prepares to lead his Clemson Tigers onto the Field

The Tigers completed their one hundred-fourth season overall and their forty-seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-6; 5-3 in the ACC. They finished in fourth in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. It was a terrible year for Clemson. Donald Broomfield and Holland Postell were the team captains.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a close loss on Sept 4 at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. New Coach Tommy Bowden's team battled it out with Marshall and lost L (10-13) for their first home loss of the 1999 season before an attendance of 79,181. On Sept 11 at home, the Tigers defeated #22 Virginia W (33-14).

On Sept 23, at Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, the #19 ranked Tigers were defeated L (11-31). On Oct 2 at home, Clemson beat North Carolina W (31-20). Then, on Oct 9 at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC, the Tigers lost the Textile Bowl L (31-35)

On Oct 16 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Tigers came out of their three losses and learned how to win again W (42-30). On October 23 against #1 Florida State, in the battle of the Bowdens at home, (The Bowden Bowl) Clemson almost brought down the vaunted Bobby Bowden Florida State Seminoles L (14-17) before a over-packed packed house of 86,092. On Oct 30 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, the Tigers won in a low-scoring game W (12-3) before 21,105.

On Nov 6 at home, the Tigers were learning how to score big and they defeated the Duke Blue Devils in a rout W (58-7). On Nov 13, against #13 Ga Tech at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA, the Tigers almost won in a shootout L (42-45). Then, on Nov 20, at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC in the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W (31-21) The Tigers barely qualified for the Bowl Season.

On Dec 30 7:30 vs. Mississippi State in the Peach Bowl postseason battle, played at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA and lost to the Bulldogs L (7-17) in a tough played match before 73,315

## 2000 Coach Tommy Bowden

The 2000 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2000 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden was the head football coach for his first of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-fifth season overall and their forty-eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-3; 6-2 in the ACC. They finished in third in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. Chad Carson, Rod Gardner, and Chad Speck were the team captains.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a shut-out win on Sept 2 at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. Coach Tommy Bowden's #17 ranked team shellacked and shut out The Citadel W (38-0) for their first home win of the 2000 season before an attendance of 75,086.

In the second of three home games in a row, on Sept 9, the #17 Clemson Tigers walloped and shut-out the Missouri Tigers W (62-0). The next home game on Sept 16 was a nice win against Wake Forest W (55-7). The #11 Tigers made it four in a row against Virginia at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA W 31-10.

On Sept 30, at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, the Tigers defeated the Blue Devils W (52-22) On Oct 7, at home, the #5 Tigers won their sixth in a row against NC State in the annual Textile Bowl W (34-27) On Oct 14, the Tigers were undefeated after six games, and ranked #5.

They beat Maryland W (35-14) before 83,752 for #7. Keeping the win streak alive, the Tigers got #8 in a row on Oct 21 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, W (38-24)

The Tigers would lose the next two out of three regular season games. The first loss was at home on Oct 28 v Georgia Tech L (28-31).

The second loss in the Bowden Bowl was a thumping to #4 Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium L (7-54). Clemson came back to

win the Battle of the Palmetto State at home against # 25 South Carolina W (16–14) before 85,187.

## **2000 Gator Bowl.**

On January 1, 2001 at 12:30 PM, the #16 Tigers took on #6 Virginia Tech at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, FL in the Gator Bowl. The Tigers could not get a full head of steam rolling and lost to the Hokies L (20–41). 68,741 were in attendance

## **2001 Coach Tommy Bowden**

The 2001 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2001 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden was the head football coach for his third of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-sixth season overall and their forty-ninth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-5; 4-4 in the ACC. They finished in fourth in the ACC, out of 9 active ACC teams. Brad Scott served as the offensive coordinator, and Reggie Herring served as the defensive coordinator.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a win on Sept 1 at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. Coach Tommy Bowden's #19 ranked team squeaked by UCF W (21-13) for their first home win of the 2001 season before an attendance of 81,482. On Sept 8 at home, #20 Clemson defeated Wofford W (38-14).

On Sept 22, at home, Virginia barely beat the Tigers L (24-26). On Sept 29, The Tigers put it in gear and had enough left to finish off the Georgia tech Yellow Jackets W (47-44).

On Oct 13, at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium • Raleigh, the Tigers won the Textile Bowl over the Wolfpack W (45–37).

On Oct 20 at home, the North Carolina Tar Heels beat the Clemson Tigers L (3-38) before 84,869. On Oct 27, at Wake Forest's Groves

Stadium, Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers defeated the Deamon Deacons W (21–14) before 21,290. On Nov 3, at home, Florida State beat Clemson again in the Bowden Bowl L (27-41) before 85,036. On November 10 , at #13 Maryland in Byrd Stadium, College Park, MD the Terrapins prevailed over the Tigers L (20–37). On Nov 17, at South Carolina’s Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC in the annual Battle of the Palmetto State, the Gamecocks beat the Tigers L (15-20). On Dec 1, at home the Duke Blue Devils were soundly defeated by the Clemson Tigers W (59–31) before 72,577 in the regular season finale.

## **2001 Humanitarian Bowl**

Thirty days after the close of the regular season, the Clemson Fighting Tigers were ready to face another opponent in the Humanitarian Bowl The opponent was Louisiana Tech and the venue was Bronco Stadium in Boise, Idaho. The Tigers prevailed against Tech W (49-24) before 23,472 and a national TV audience provided by ESPN.

## **2002 Coach Tommy Bowden**

The 2002 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2002 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden was the head football coach for his fourth of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-seventh season overall and their fiftieth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-6; 4-4 in the ACC. They finished in fifth, out of 9 active ACC teams. Nick Eason, Bryant McNeal, and Jackie Robinson were the captains for 2002.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a loss on Aug 31 at Georgia’s Sanford Stadium • Athens, GA-- L (28-31) In the Clemson Tigers Home Opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. Coach Tommy Bowden’s unranked Tigers Beat Louisiana Tech W (33-13) for the Tigers’ first home win of the 2002 season before an attendance of 72, 616. On

Sept 14 at home, Clemson beat Georgia Tech's Yellow Jackets W (24-19). Then on Sept 21 at home, the Tigers defeated Ball State W (30-7) before 73,945. Waiting to win a Bowden Bowl was continued another year at #11 Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, FL resulted in a one-year postponement of the inevitable L (31-48) (Bowden Bowl), ESPN, L (31-48) before 78,841

On Oct 12, at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers could not overcome the Wahoo's and went down L (17-22) before 54,114 fans. On Oct 19 at home, Clemson beat Wake Forest W (31-23). On Oct 24, at home, # 12 NC State beat the Tigers in the Textile Bowl L (6-38) before 78,904. On Nov 2 at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham, the Tigers beat the Blue Devils W (34-31). On Nov 9 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the Tigers beat the Tar Heels W (42-12) before 42,000/

On Nov 16 at home against # 19 Maryland, the Terrapins got the better of the Tigers L (12-30) before 74,707. On Nov 23, at home against South Carolina's Gamecocks, the Tigers won in a close matchup for the Battle of the Palmetto State, W (27-20) before 83,909

## Tangerine Bowl

The Tigers won enough to be scheduled in a non-January Bowl game. On December 23 at 5:30 p.m. vs. Texas Tech in the Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, FL, playing in the Tangerine Bowl. Texas Tech whooped the Tigers Texas-style in the fashion of Florida State's whoopings. The Tigers were making a great reappearance on the national stage but every great showing needs a little time.

## 2003 Coach Tommy Bowden

The 2003 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2003 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State's famous Coach Bobby Bowden was the head football coach for his fifth of ten seasons. The Tigers completed their one hundred-eighth season overall and their fifty-first in the Atlantic Coast



Conference with a record of 9-4; 5-3 in the ACC. They finished in third, out of 9 active ACC teams. Tony Elliott, DeJuan Polk, and Gregory Walker were the team captains for 2003.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a shutout loss on Aug 30 at home against the Georgia Bulldogs L (0-30). On Sept 6, in the Clemson Tigers Home Opener at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC. Coach Tommy Bowden's unranked Tigers Beat Furman W (28-17) for the Tigers' first home win of the 2003 season before an attendance of 71,477. On Sept 13 at home, Clemson defeated Middle Tennessee State W (37-14).

On Sept 20, at Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium, Atlanta, GA, the Tigers dominated the Yellow Jackets the whole game W (39-3) Then, on Oct 4 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium, College Park, MD, the Terrapins defeated the Tigers L (7-21) before 51,545 fans. On Oct 11, at home, #25 Virginia put up the fight of a lifetime seeking a Win but failed by a hair, W (30-27) in Overtime.

Then on Oct 16, a week later at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium, Raleigh, NC in the Textile Bowl, the Tar Heels beat the Tigers by just two points L (15-17). On Oct 25, at home, North Carolina did not have enough juice and were defeated by Clemson W (36-28) before 77,512 fans. The next week on Nov 1 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers were overwhelmed by the Demon Deacons L (17-45) before 35,643.

Then on Nov 8, history was made in the Bowden Bowl at 7:45 p.m. as #3 Florida State went in to Clemson Memorial Stadium expecting another blowout but instead faced strong opposition. The younger Tommy Bowden's team defeated his dad Bobby Bowden's team for the first time. History was made with the Clemson win W 26-10

In what was a key victory in saving Tommy Bowden's job in 2003, quarterback Charlie Whitehurst tossed four touchdowns to give the Tigers their largest-ever point production against their in-state rivals.

After a great season, the Tigers were invited to the Peach Bowl.

## **The 2003/2004 Peach Bowl**

On the day after New Year's Day on Sunday January 2, 2004 at 4:30 in the afternoon, # 6 Tennessee and unranked Clemson paired off to play a tough Peach Bowl Game in the Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA, shown on TV by ESPN and watched by 75, 125 at the Dome. The Clemson Fighting Tigers played the best that day and beat Tennessee W (27-14).

## **2004 Coach Tommy Bowden**

The 2004 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2004 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State's famous Coach Bobby Bowden was the head football coach for his sixth of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-ninth season overall and their fifty-second in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-5; 4-4 in the ACC. They finished in seventh, out of 11 active ACC teams. Eric Coleman, Airese Currie, and Leroy Hill were the team captains for 2004.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a tough win on Sept 4 at home against Wake Forest W (37-30) This home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 78,624. On Sept 11, at home, the Tigers lost to the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech L (24-28) before 81,427.

In another tough loss, Clemson teed off on Sept 18 at Texas A&M's Kyle Field at College Station, TX L (6-27). Then on Sept 25 at 3:30 p.m. against #8 Florida State in their home park of Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, FL in the now infamous Bowden Bowl, the Seminoles did not forgive anything about being beaten the prior year and proved their dominance again against the younger Bowden L 22-41 before 83,538.

On Oct 7, at #10 Virginia, Scott Stadium • Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers could not muster up an offense and lost L (10-30). Then, on

Oct 16, at home, Clemson got the best of Utah State W (35–6). On Oct 23, at home the Tigers squeaked by the Maryland Terrapins W (10–7) before 76,603. On Oct 30 at home, NC State lost to Clemson in the annual Textile Bowl W (26–20).

On Nov 6 at #11 Miami (FL) in a game played in the Miami Orange Bowl in Miami, FL, the Clemson Tigers were on-key and ready to play. They came up with the victory over the Hurricanes in OT W 24–17 before 55,225.

On Nov 13 at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham, NC, the Blue Devils got the best of the Tigers by three points L (13–16) before 24,714 fans. On Nov 20, at home. The Tigers defeated the South Carolina Gamecocks in the Battle of the Palmetto State W (29–7) before 82,372 screaming fans.

This was Clemson's 600th team win. The game was notable for a brawl between the two teams. Due to the brawl, the Tigers declined a bowl bid in part because of the unsportsmanlike nature of the fight.

## **2005 Coach Tommy Bowden**

The 2005 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2005 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State's famous Coach Bobby Bowden was the head football coach for his seventh of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-tenth season overall and their fifty-third in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-4; 4-4 in the ACC. They finished in third out of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Rob Spence and the Defensive Coordinator was Vic Koenning.

The Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a tough win on Sept 3 at home against #17 Texas A &M W (25-24) This home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 79,917.

## Champs Sports Bowl

In the post-season, Clemson received an invitation to play in the 2005 Champs Sports Bowl at the Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando FL. The game was played on Dec 27 against Colorado. Clemson won the game, W (19–10), to finish the full season at 8–4.

Clemson had a great year by all accounts. It could have been a little better with some better luck. The Tigers finished the season ranked in the top 25 (21st in both the AP and the Coaches' Poll) for the second time in three years. Clemson also recorded wins against three AP top 20 teams in the 2005 season for just the fourth time in school history. Clemson lost its four games by a combined 14 points. The two words *if only* come to mind but nobody was complaining.

## 2006 Coach Tommy Bowden

The 2006 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2006 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State's famous Coach Bobby Bowden was the head football coach for his eighth of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-eleventh season overall and their fifty-fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 8-5; 5-3 in the ACC. They finished in fourth out of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Rob Spence and the Defensive Coordinator was Vic Koenning.

Entering the season, the Tigers had high expectations, hoping to compete for a spot in the ACC Championship Game. After a heartbreaking loss at Boston College in the second game of the season, Clemson rolled off six straight victories, during which they averaged nearly 42 points a game. But things soon fell apart, with Clemson losing four out of their last five, including a loss to Kentucky in the Music City Bowl, and a 31–28 loss to arch rival South Carolina. The team finished the season with a disappointing 8–5 record.

The #18 ranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a blowout / shutout win on Sept 2 at home against Florida Atlantic W

(54-6). This home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 78,693. After this blowout win, the #18 Tigers played a tough Boston College Team in Alumni Stadium, Chestnut Hill, MA on Sept 9. The Eagles got the win after two overtimes L (33-34) before 44,500 happy Eagles' Fans.

In the most important bowl game for Coach Tommy Bowden, the Bowden Bowl, the younger Bowden got to clock in his third win against his dad. Surely the Thanksgiving dinners were sweeter for Tommy but then there was this guy named Joe Paterno fighting his dad for most wins. So, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month, playing for all the Bowden marbles plus who gets the most stuffing at the big family T-day dinner, at 7:45 p.m. on this fine Saturday night in September, # 10 Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL, could not keep up with the kid coach and so Clemson's Tommy Bowden got himself another win, his third v Dad W (27-20).

This was a home game before 83,510. Nobody, especially a Bowden ever took a CU v FSU game less than seriously. The taste of the Turkey rided on it. Go Tommy!

In another home game on Sept 23, before 81,886 Clemson Fans and a big TV audience of Clemson fans, North Carolina played # 23 Clemson at home W (52-7) before 81,886. On Sept 30, the #18 Tigers shut-out Louisiana Tech at home W (51-0) before 81,564. On Oct 7 at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, NC, Clemson won the game W (27-17) before 35,920.

Then on Oct 12, v Temple's Owls, the #12 Tigers got a big win at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, NC W (63-9) before 30,246. On Oct 21, at home the Tigers defeated the Yellow Jackets of # 13 Georgia Tech W (31-7).

On Oct 26, at Virginia Tech, the #11 Tigers engaged the Hokies at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, VA, but could not keep up with their offense, L (24-7) before an attendance of 66,233. On Nov 4, at home Maryland beat the #19 Clemson Tigers L (12-13) in a very close match—but no cigar. On Nov 11, at home, NC State lost in the big rival Textile Bowl to Clemson W (20-14). before 81,785.

On Nov 25, at home, against South Carolina, in the annual battle for the supremacy of South Carolina – the Battle for the Palmetto State, Clemson’s Tigers barely lost to the South Carolina Gamecocks L 31–28 before 83,428.

## **Music City Bowl**

On Dec 29 at 1:00 p.m. vs a tough Kentucky squad, at LP Field in Nashville, TN, the Wildcats defeated the Tigers in the Music City Bowl, shown on ESPN and 68,024 fans at the stadium L (28–20)

## **2007 Coach Tommy Bowden**

The 2007 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2007 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State’s famous Coach Bobby Bowden was the head football coach for his ninth of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-twelfth season overall and their fifty-fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-4; 5-3 in the ACC. They finished in second of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Rob Spence and the Defensive Coordinator was Vic Koenning.

Clemson started 4-0, including a victory in the season and conference opener over the Florida State Seminoles in the ninth "Bowden Bowl", which pits father Bobby Bowden, coaching the Seminoles, against his son, Tommy. Following their 4-0 start, Clemson gave up two losses to Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech respectively.

Following the two-game losing streak, the Tigers went on to another four-game winning streak. The team then finished the season with its toughest loss of the season (losing in the final seconds to Boston College, 20-17) and greatest triumph (defeating rival South Carolina 23-21 with a last-second field goal). With a record of 9-3, the Tigers received a bid to play in the 2007 Chick-fil-A Bowl.

Clemson played host to the Florida State Seminoles on Labor Day, Monday, September 3, 2007 in both teams' season opener. The game was played before a primetime national audience on ESPN as the only college football game in that time slot. It was only Clemson's second regular season Monday night game, the last being in 1982 against the University of Georgia.

## **Chick-Fil-A Bowl**

Ranked at #16, Tommy Bowden's Clemson's Tigers took on the #21 Auburn Tigers in the 2008 Chick-Fil-A Bowl game, played at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta GA on New Year's Eve. The Clemson Tigers entered the post-season ranked 15th nationally, while Auburn came in 22nd.

The game was particularly notable as it was Walter Riggs (Clemson's first football coach) who came to coach at Clemson from Auburn and who brought with him many traditions, including the Tiger Mascot Auburn barely beat the Tigers L (20-23) but got the win nonetheless. 74,413 were in attendance plus the ESPN audience.

## **2008 Coach Tommy Bowden**

Following a 9–4 season in 2007, in which Clemson finished second in the ACC Atlantic Division and played in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl, and with several players returning in the skill positions, many expected Clemson to be a strong candidate to win the ACC and a dark horse in the national championship picture.

The Tigers' main areas of concern heading into the 2008 season was on the offensive line and linebackers. The offensive line would be very young and inexperienced heading into the season, while the linebacker corps was thinned by graduation and off-field issues.

Despite these areas of concern, Clemson was tabbed as preseason favorites to win the ACC and was ranked 9th in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today preseason polls. In addition, QB Cullen Harper was tabbed as the preseason favorite for the ACC's Player of the Year. The best laid plans of mice and men gang oft aglay.

The 2008 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2008 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State's famous Coach Bobby Bowden was the head football coach for his tenth (last) of ten seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-thirteenth season overall and their fifty-sixth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 7-6; 4-4 in the ACC. They finished in fifth of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Rob Spence and the Defensive Coordinator was Vic Koenning.

Head coach Tommy Bowden stepped down after the first six games of his tenth and last season. He was replaced by interim coach Dabo Swinney in the interim. Swinney coached from the Georgia Tech game to the end of the season. S

Swinney was retained and of course in 2016, his Tigers brought in the School's second National Championship. Rob Spence left after Six games and was replaced by Billy Napier in the interim.

The #9 ranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener was played at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta GA in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Classic held on August 30. It was a tough loss against #24 Alabama L (10-34).

The home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC against the Citadel on Sept 6 before 76,794. After this win, on Sept 13 the #23 Tigers played again at home again against NC State in the Textile Bowl/Hall of Fame Day and won W (27-9. Let's look at this in more detail

The annual renewal of the "Textile Bowl" between the Clemson Tigers and N.C. State Wolfpack unexpectedly got off to a rocky start for the Tigers this year. The third home game in a row was on Sept 20 as #21 Clemson shutout and in fact, shellacked SC State W (54-0).

The first ever meeting between the Clemson Tigers and S.C. State Bulldogs turned into a lopsided contest, as the Tigers defeated their second FCS team on the season to improve to 3-1.



In the fourth home game in a row, on Sept 27, Clemson lost to Maryland L (17-20). On Oct 9, at #21 Wake Forest, an unranked Clemson lost to the Demon Deacons L (7-12) before 33,988. On Oct 18, at home, with Dabo Swinney as the new interim head coach, Georgia Tech defeated Clemson in a close match L (17-21).

Nobody could deny that on Oct 13, Clemson had a shocker as head coach Tommy Bowden resigned and was replaced by receivers' coach Dabo Swinney.

Five days later on Oct 18 Swinney was playing John Heisman's old team, Georgia Tech L (17-21) and they have always been a tough squad to control. Tech's defense controlled the ebb and flow of the game against the Tigers forcing six turnovers, which included four interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

On Nov 1, with interim coach Swinney at the helm, at Boston College's Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, MA, playing for the O'Rourke-McFadden Trophy, Clemson got the win and the Trophy W (27-21) before 41,863.

On October 27, it had been announced that the Boston College Gridiron Club would be sponsoring the O'Rourke-McFadden Trophy and it would be awarded to the winner of the Boston College-Clemson game on November 1. Clemson captured the O'Rourke-McFadden Trophy and its first victory over the Eagles since 1958 (and first win since Boston College joined the ACC) with a 27-21 victory.

On Nov 8, at #24 Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL, Clemson lost in what would have been the tenth Bowden Bowl but Swinney was the coach L (27-41).

On Nov 15, the Homecoming game was won by Swinney's Clemson against the Duke Blue Devils W (31-7). The Tigers came into their homecoming game against the Duke Blue Devils in need of winning the last three games for bowl eligibility.

On Nov 22 at the Virginia Wahoo's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, Clemson won W (13-3) before 51,979. The Tigers kept their bowl

hopes alive with a close 13–3 victory over the Virginia Cavaliers in Charlottesville. With the victory, Clemson captured their first victory in Charlottesville since 2000 and improved the series record against the Cavaliers to 36–8–1.

On Nov 29 at home, in Swinney’s first Battle for the Palmetto State aka the Solid Orange Game, the Tigers defeated the Gamecocks W (31-14) before 82, 456.

Swinney’s Clemson won its second straight game over South Carolina and extended the overall series lead against the Gamecocks to 65–37–4.

With the victory, the Tigers secured bowl eligibility and gave interim head coach Dabo Swinney his fourth win since taking over at midseason following Tommy Bowden's resignation.

For their efforts, Clemson was invited to the Gator Bowl.

## **2009 Gator Bowl**

On January 1, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Nebraska squared off against Clemson at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium in Jacksonville, FL for the Gator Bowl. It was a close loss but a loss nonetheless L (21-26) for the Tigers before a crowd of 67,282 plus a TV audience.

The best way to describe Tommy Bowden’s departure from Clemson after a reasonably good tenure is to turn the writing floor over to Mark Schlabach an ESPN Senior writer who wrote this piece right when it happened in mid-season, 2008. He tells it as he saw it right after it happened.

Schlabach titled his piece: “Bowden out at Clemson; coach 'deserved' fate, QB says.

It was written on Oct 14, 2008. Here it is:

“Clemson ousted football coach Tommy Bowden on Monday, four days after the Tigers -- who were the favorites to win the ACC championship -- lost to Wake Forest and fell to 3-3.

Bowden informed his assistant coaches of his ouster Monday morning. Assistant head coach/wide receivers coach Dabo Swinney has been named interim coach for the final six regular-season games and potential bowl game. Clemson offensive coordinator Rob Spence also has been ousted, a source close to the situation said.



Mark Schlabach ESPN Senior Writer

Athletic director Terry Don Phillips said his intent Monday morning was to have a candid heart-to-heart with Bowden about the football team. But Phillips said he was surprised when Bowden offered to resign.

"There wasn't a gun to his head," Phillips said.

"He put it on the table for the sake of the program," Phillips said. "I agreed."

Bowden will be paid through the end of the season, then get \$3.5 million as a buyout negotiated in the contract extension the two sides agreed to in December 2007.

Bowden sat next to Phillips in McFadden Auditorium, where he has held meetings and news conferences the past 10 seasons. He thanked the school, its administrators and his latest group of players.

"I wish them nothing but success, and I will be their biggest fan on Saturday" against Georgia Tech, Bowden said.

With that, Bowden left the stage without taking questions, walked into his office and shut the door as Phillips detailed the day's dramatic events.

In an earlier statement, Bowden said: "Terry Don Phillips approached me this morning and we agreed that this is the best solution for the direction of the program. Clemson has been very good to me and my family. Both of our children are Clemson graduates.

"I appreciate the opportunity Clemson University gave me and the support of the administration while I was here. I also want to thank all the players and coaches who worked so hard for this program the last 10 years. I wish Clemson University nothing but the best in the future."

Clemson's season started with a big thud, a 24-point loss to then-No. 24 Alabama that senior quarterback Cullen Harper said "really hurt our confidence."

Harper, who was benched after the Tigers' loss to Wake Forest and replaced by highly regarded sophomore Willy Korn, said the program needed to cut ties with Bowden.

"It's what he deserved," Harper said. "Dabo Swinney is a fine man and will do an excellent job."

Later Monday, Harper expanded on his comments, explaining that Bowden "tried to motivate us, but guys were off the bandwagon. There were things I disagreed with and that my teammates disagreed with. I didn't appreciate it when he would say some off-the-wall things about me to the media. I guess one thing I can say is he gave me an opportunity to come to Clemson and play."

Harper struggled playing behind an inexperienced offensive line this season. His father, Jeff Harper, an offensive lineman on Georgia's 1980 national championship team, said Bowden's dismissal was justified.

"I'd call it karma," he said. "I thought it needed to be done. I think anytime a head coach or someone in a leadership position starts to

place blame on his coaches and players, it weakens their respect on the team. His past experiences have shown he's done that."

In the wake of Bowden's ouster, two highly touted recruits have dropped Clemson from their lists, according to JC Shurburt, who covers Southeast recruiting for ESPN.com. Safeties Craig Liston from Aldine, Texas, and Devonte Hollomon from Rock Hill, S.C., have said they are looking elsewhere. Liston is the No. 1 safety on the ESPN150 list of safeties and is No. 8 overall; Hollomon is No. 3 on the safeties list and No. 20 overall.

The Tigers were ranked No. 9 in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 poll and were favored to win their first ACC championship in Bowden's 10th season as coach. But now-No. 2 Alabama blasted the Tigers 34-10 in the Aug. 30 opener in Atlanta's Georgia Dome, and Clemson then lost to Maryland at home and again to Wake Forest, falling to 1-2 in ACC play.

Bowden received a lucrative contract extension from Clemson after the 2007 season and after considering a potential coaching position at Arkansas. A son of Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, Tommy Bowden was 72-45 with eight bowl appearances at Clemson.

Bobby Bowden said in a statement Monday that his son "felt like it was fixin' to happen; he felt like it was inevitable."

Clemson's 10th season under Tommy Bowden unraveled quickly. The Tigers were expected to contend for the ACC

"He's thankful for the experience he got there at Clemson," Bobby Bowden said. "He has no hard feelings towards them. This is just the nature of this game right now. He's disappointed but he's got his priorities in order in his life, so he'll move on and won't lose a minute of sleep over it. At least I don't have to worry about him beating me again."

Clemson center Thomas Austin said he was "caught off guard" by Bowden's departure.

"You hear rumors, but I've heard that before, so I'm definitely surprised," Austin said. "We were definitely struggling. I think that

this could hopefully unify our team in the long run. We've got six games left and definitely have the ability to turn things around."

Clemson running back C.J. Spiller had mixed emotions in seeing the program move away from Bowden.

"I'm shocked. We are 3-3 because we didn't make enough big offensive plays," Spiller said. "I'm shocked by our record, and now I'm shocked that our coach is gone.

"I enjoyed playing for coach Bowden and I liked him, but in the end, he was yelling at us to be leaders and it wasn't working. He did all he could to motivate us, but guys weren't buying into what he was saying. And he said a lot of the same things over and over again.

"He let the offensive coordinator [Spence] run the show, and we got away from me and James [Davis]. I think part of the problem was when he benched Cullen. Some people wanted the offensive coordinator fired; [Bowden benched] the quarterback and then he got fired."

Phillips praised Bowden for his success and the generally upstanding program he ran. But Phillips was no different from most Clemson fans in expecting that this year's team had a prime opportunity to win the ACC.

"We both understood the conference championship was critically important," Phillips said.

Mark Schlabach covers college football for ESPN.com. ACC blogger Heather Dinich, SEC blogger Chris Low, ESPN reporter Joe Schad and The Associated Press contributed to Mark Schlabach's report.

## Chapter 21 Coach Dabo Swinney 2008-17+

Coach # 25 Dabo Swinney

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
2009	Dabo Swinney	9-5	ACC	6-2
2010	Dabo Swinney	6-7	ACC	4-2
2011	Dabo Swinney	10-4	ACC	6-2
2012*	Dabo Swinney	11-2	ACC	7-1
2013	Dabo Swinney	11-2	ACC	7-1
2014	Dabo Swinney	10-3	ACC	6-2
2015*	Dabo Swinney	14-1	ACC	8-0
2016*	Dabo Swinney	14-1	ACC	7-1
2017	Dabo Swinney		ACC	

\* **ACC Championship; 2016 National Championship**

### 2009 Coach Dabo Swinney

The 2009 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2009 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his second of many seasons.



This was Swinney's first full season after completing seven games of Coach Tommy Bowden's final year in 2008. The Tigers completed their one hundred-fourteenth season overall and their fifty-seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 9-5; 6-2 in the ACC. They finished in first place of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Bill Napier and the Defensive Coordinator was Kevin Steele.

The Tigers had an overall good year and won the ACC Atlantic Division, but after securing the title lost to in-state rival South Carolina in the Palmetto Bowl 34-17, before losing for the second time in the season to Georgia Tech in the ACC Championship Game. Clemson closed the season with a win over Kentucky in the Music City Bowl.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers home season opener resulted in a win on Sept 5 at home against Middle Tennessee W (37-14). This home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 78371. After this home win, on Sept 10, the unranked Tigers played at No. 13 Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA where they were defeated by the Yellow Jackets L (27-30) before 52,029. On Sept 19, at home, Boston College took it on the chin big time W (25-7).

On Sept 26, at home, Clemson lost to #14 TCU L (10-14). Then, on Oct 3, at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, Clemson lost again L (21-24) before 46,243. Two weeks later on Oct 17 at home, the Tigers defeated the Wake Forest Demon Deacons W (38-3). On Oct 24, unranked Clemson played the #10 Hurricanes of Miami University at Land Shark Stadium in Miami Gardens, FL., The game was nip and tuck and finally the Tigers beat the Hurricanes W (40-37) in OT before 43, 778.

On Oct 31, as Dabo Swinney's team was beginning to know how great they were, Coastal Carolina's Chanticleers came to Clemson's campus for the Clemson Homecoming game. It was a great homecoming as the Tigers got the best of the visitors in a walloping game W (49-3). In the non-Bowden Bowl of 2009, it was Bobby Bowden's last year coaching Florida State. The game was Nov 7 and it was at home in a celebration called Solid Orange Day. The Tigers



hit the Seminoles with all they had and the Seminoles fought back but lost the game W (40-24), giving Dabo Swinney a great win and putting a mar in Bobby Bowden's last season (7-6) at FSU with Jimbo Fisher as his offensive coordinator.

On Nov 14 at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC, the Tigers outplayed the Wolfpack in the Textile Bowl W (43-23) before 57,583. Then, on Nov 21 at home, #19 Clemson beat Virginia's Wahoo's W (34-21) before 77,568. Finishing up a better season than was ever delivered by a fine coach Tommy Bowden, on Nov 28, at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC, the #16 Tigers lost the game to the unranked Gamecocks L (17-34)). But, there was still one or two games left in the postseason.

At the end of the season, Head Coach Dabo Swinney announced that they would retire the #28 jersey worn by C. J. Spiller at a ceremony when the Tigers play Maryland at home on Oct. 16, 2010.

## **2009 Post Season – Championships and Music City Bowl**

On December 5 at 8:00 p.m. vs. #12 Georgia Tech, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, FL, Clemson lost the ACC Championship L (34-39).

The Tigers got a bowl bid anyway. On Dec 27 at 7:30 p.m. vs. Kentucky at LP Field in Nashville, TN, the Clemson Tigers with Dabo Swinney found enough muster to defeat Kentucky in the Music City Bowl W (21-13) before 57,280.

## **2010 Coach Dabo Swinney**

The 2010 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2010 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his third of many seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-fifteenth season overall and their fifty-eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a record of 6-7; 4-4 in the ACC. They finished fifth of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Bill Napier and the Defensive Coordinator was Kevin Steele.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers home season opener resulted in a win on Sept 4 at home against North Texas W (35-10). This home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 74,356.

After this home win, on Sept 11, the unranked Tigers played at home against Presbyterian for the first time in many years. The Tigers won the game in a big way but Presbyterian played tough on both sides of the ball W (58-21).

On Sept 18, The Clemson Tigers were playing the #15 Auburn Tigers again. This encounter was at Auburn's Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, AL. The Auburn Tigers won the game L (24-27) in Overtime before 87,451. On Oct 2, at home, #16 Miami was the homecoming guest team but homecoming did not go well as the Tigers went down L (21-30 at the hands of the Hurricanes.

On Oct 9, at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the Tar Heels beat the Tigers L (16-21) before 60,000. Then, on Oct 16, at home v Maryland, the Tigers beat the Terrapins W (31-7) In the next home game on Oct 23, Georgia Tech was forced to give it up for the Tigers of Clemson W (27-13).

Finding it just as tough as for Notre Dame v Boston College, this game on Oct 30, at the diminutive Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, MA, found the Tigers on the bottom side of the score against the Eagles L (10-16) before 37,137. On Nov 6, at home, # 25 NC State decided to win the Textile Bowl, but played just a notch short as Clemson won the game by one-point W (14-13) before 75,906.

On Nov 13 at Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL, an annoying rivalry, Clemson lost L (13-16) before 72,228. Then, on Nov 20 at Wake Forest's BB&T Field, Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers put a good grip on the Demon Deacons and beat them W (30-10) before 31,783. On Nov 27 at home in the Battle

of the Palmetto State, Clemson Tigers played # 17 South Carolina and the Gamecocks defeated the Tigers L (7–29) before 81,355. In an off-year bowl game, Clemson accepted to play in the Meineke Car Care Bowl Game.

## Meineke Car Care Bowl Game

On Dec 31 at Noon, against South Florida at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, NC, after playing the entire Meineke Car Care Bowl, South Florida had beaten Clemson L (26–31) before 41,122.

## 2011 Coach Dabo Swinney

The 2011 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2011 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his fourth of many seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-sixteenth season overall and their fifty-ninth as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record was 10-4; 6-2 in the ACC. They finished first of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Chad Morris and the Defensive Coordinator was Kevin Steele.

Clemson finished the previous season 6–7, losing in the Meineke Car Care Bowl to South Florida. They began the 2011 season unranked, but after a three-game winning streak against ranked opponents in late September, rose to #8 in the AP and Coaches Poll. However, the Tigers lost three of their final four regular-season contests (with two of the losses to unranked opponents). And, so, they fell back to #21 in the polls.

However, their early start was enough to clinch a spot in the 2011 ACC Championship Game. They won that game with a dominant performance over Virginia Tech, 38–10. In the process, they won their first ACC title since 1991, and with it, they received an automatic berth in the 2012 Orange Bowl.

It was the Coach Swinney's Tigers' first-ever Bowl Championship Series berth, as well as their first major-bowl appearance since the 1982 Orange Bowl. They lost the game to West Virginia and made history at the same. The game's score of 70–33, set a bowl record for points conceded in a game.

## The Games of the 2011 Season

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers home season opener resulted in a win on Sept 3 against Troy W (43–19). The Clemson home opener was played as always at Memorial Stadium (also known as Death Valley) on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 73,458.

In the game, The Tigers offense had a shaky first half adapting to offensive coordinator Chad Morris's faster new spread set. The scoring run continued in the fourth quarter, ending in a 43–19 Clemson rout.

After this home win, on Sept 10, the unranked Tigers played again at home this time against Wofford. The Tigers won the close match W (35-27). In week two, the inexperienced Tigers defense struggled to contain Wofford's triple-option offense throughout the game. The Tigers held on for a 35–27 victory.

On Sept 17, at home again against the #21 Auburn Tigers, the Clemson Tigers prevailed W (38–24) before 81,514. Defending national champions #21 Auburn took a 14–0 lead in the first quarter but when needed, Boyd threw two touchdown passes to earn a 38–24 win, ending a 17-game winning streak for Auburn.

On Sept 24, at home against #11 Florida State, the #21 ranked Tigers beat the Seminoles W (35-30). After Auburn, Clemson entered week four ranked #21.

On Oct 1, at # 11 Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, VA, Clemson's Tigers defeated the Hokies W (23–3) before 66,233. For Clemson's first road game, The Tigers' defense turned in its best effort of the season in a 23–3 victory against the #11 Hokies. The Clemson defense led by Andre Branch held the Hokies to 258 yards and no

touchdowns. Branch had three sacks and was involved in 11 tackles. Tajh Boyd threw one touchdown to Dwayne Allen and one interception while Andre Ellington and Mike Bellamy both recorded a rushing touchdown apiece. This win marked the first time any ACC team had ever beaten three top 25 AP opponents in a row. Swinney's Tigers made it happen. It was also the second time Virginia Tech had not scored a touchdown in Lane Stadium under Frank Beamer and was the first time since 1995.

On Oct 8, at home, the #8 Tigers beat the Boston College Eagles on Homecoming W (36-14) and the Tigers picked up the O'Roarke-McFadden Trophy. On Oct 15 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the #8 Tigers beat the Terrapins in a shootout W (56-45). On Oct 22 at home, the #8 Tigers beat the North Carolina Tar Heels in another shootout W (59-38) Clemson was scoring big while giving up a large # of points.

On Oct 29. At, 8-0 things looked very promising. Then came arch rival Georgia Tech at Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA. The #6 Tigers lost its first game of the season against the Yellow Jackets L (17-31) before 55,646.

On Nov 12, at home, Wake Forest's Demon deacons came in tough and almost beat the Tigers in a close match W (31-28) but Clemson won the game in the end. Clemson clinched its second ACC Atlantic Division Title.

On Nov 19, the #7 ranked Tigers lost to the NC State Wolfpack at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the annual Textile Bowl L (13-37). NC State shocked a heavily favored Clemson team in Raleigh, including a dominant 27-point second quarter performance.

Then, on Nov 26 at #12 South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC, the Gamecocks beat #18 Clemson and won the big Battle of the Palmetto State L (13-34) before 83,422.

## 2011 Post Season Games

#21 Clemson won its division championship in the ACC and got to play #5 Virginia Tech for the full ACC Championship on December

3 at 8:00 p.m. at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, NC. The Clemson Tigers won the game and grabbed the championship W (38–10) before 73,675 football fans.

On January 4, 2012 at 8:30 p.m., the #14 Clemson Tigers took on the #23 West Virginia Mountaineers at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, FL. The Tigers were beaten in a shootout L (33–70) before 67,563.

## **2012 Coach Dabo Swinney**

The 2012 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2012 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his fifth of many seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-seventeenth season overall and their sixtieth as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record was 11-2; 7-1 in the ACC. They finished tied for first with Florida State of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. Since FSU beat the Tigers in head to head, they got to compete for the ACC title.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a win on Sept 1 in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game against Georgia at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta GA. W (26-19). The Clemson home opener was played at Memorial Stadium (also known as Death Valley) on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 79,557. In this game on Sept 8, the #12 Tigers defeated Ball State W (52-27). On Sept 15 at home, the Tigers defeated the Paladins of Furman, W (41-7) before 83,574.

On Sept 22 at 8:00 p.m., in Clemson's most disappointing game of the year, the #10 undefeated Tigers lost to #4 Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, FL L (37-49). On Sept 29 at Boston College's Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, MA, the Tigers again captured the (O'Rourke–McFadden Trophy in a nice win against the Eagles W (45–31) before 40,138. On Oct 6, at home, the Clemson Tigers beat the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets W (47-31).

On Oct 20 at home, #14 Clemson beat the Virginia Tech Hokies W (38-17). On Oct 25, at Wake Forest's BB&T Field in Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers routed the Demon Deacons W 42-13. On Nov 3, at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium • Durham, NC, the #10 ranked Tigers defeated the Blue Devils W (56-20) before 31,894.

On Nov 10 at home, the #10 Tigers pounded the Terrapins of Maryland W (45-10). At this game, Clemson set a school record with their 12th straight home win at Death Valley. On Nov 17, at home, the Tigers whipped NC State in a shootout W (62-48). On Nov 24, at home #12 Clemson was defeated by #13 South Carolina in the Battle of the Palmetto State L (17-27). Clemson was invited to participate in the Chick-fil-A Bowl game.

On Dec 31 at 7:30 p.m. the #15 Clemson Tigers faced the #9 LSU Tigers at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA in the Chick-fil-A Bowl game and Clemson won the match by one-point W (25-24) before 68,027.

## 2013 Coach Dabo Swinney

The 2013 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2013 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his sixth of many seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-eighteenth season overall and their sixty-first as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record was 11-2; 7-1 in the ACC. They finished second of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams. The Offensive Coordinator was Chad Morris and the Defensive Coordinator was Brent Venables. They were invited to the Orange Bowl where they defeated Ohio State.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a win at home on August 31 against Georgia W (38-35). This Clemson home opener was played at Memorial Stadium (also known as Death Valley) on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 63830. In the next home game on Sept 7, the #4 Tigers defeated South Carolina State W (52-13).

On Sept 19 at NC State's Carter–Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the Textile Bowl, Clemson defeated the Wolfpack W (26–14) before 57,583.

On Sept 28 at home, the Tigers whooped Wake Forest's Demon Deacons W (56-7). Then on Oct 5, at Syracuse in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, NY, the Tigers defeated the Orangemen W (49–14). Then, on Oct 12, at home, the Tigers defeated the Eagles W (24-14) and they took away the O'Rourke–McFadden Trophy before 77,506.

On Oct 19, at home, #5 Florida State shellacked the #3 Tigers L (14-51). The week after this thumping, on Oct 26 at Maryland's Byrd Stadium in College Park, MD, the Tigers regrouped and beat the Terrapins W (40-27). On Nov 2 at Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, the Tigers routed the Wahoo's W (59-0) before 46,959. Then at home on Nov 14, in a shootout, the #8 Tigers defeated Georgia Tech W (55–31) before 75,324.

Then on Nov 23 at home, Clemson beat the Citadel W (52-6). The following week on Nov 30, at No. 10 South Carolina, the #6 Tigers lost to the Gamecocks L (17-31) in Williams-Brice Stadium • Columbia, SC in the defining Battle of the Palmetto State before 84,174 fans.

## **2014 Orange Bowl**

On January 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., the #12 Clemson Tigers defeated the #7 Ohio State Buckeyes at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, FL when playing the Orange Bowl Game. W (40–35) before 72,080

## **2014 Coach Dabo Swinney**

The 2014 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2014 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his seventh of many seasons.



The Tigers completed their one hundred-nineteenth season overall and their sixty-second as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record was 10-3; 6-2 in the ACC. They finished second of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a loss at #12 Georgia's Sanford Stadium Athens, GA (Rivalry) L (21-45). In the Clemson home opener, on Sept 6 played at Memorial Stadium (also known as Death Valley) on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Clemson completely destroyed South Carolina State W (73-7) before 81,672 fans, In the next game on Sept 20, the #22 Tigers were defeated by #1 ranked Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, FL in a major rivalry L (17-23) in one OT before 82,316.

On Sept 27 at home, Clemson defeated North Carolina W (50-35). On Oct 4, at home in the Textile Bowl V NC State, the Tigers shut out the Wolfpack W (41-0. On Oct 11 at home, Clemson beat Louisville W (23-17) before 81,500. On Oct 18 at Boston College's Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, MA, the Tigers won the O'Rourke-McFadden Trophy again, W (17-13) before 42,038.

On Homecoming evening on Oct 25 at 7:00 p.m., #21 Clemson beat Syracuse in a close match, W (16-6). On Nov 6, at Wake Forest's BB&T Field in Winston-Salem, NC, the Tigers beat the Demon Deacons W (34-20) before 28,846. On Nov 15 at # 24 Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA (Rivalry), the Tigers lost to the Yellow Jackets L 6-28. On Nov 22 at home, Clemson shut out Georgia State W 28-0) On Nov 19 at home in the Battle of the Palmetto State, the Tigers beat the Gamecocks W 35-17 before 82,720. Clemson was invited to the Russell Athletic Bowl.

## **Russell Athletic Bowl**

On Dec 29 at 5:30 p.m., the Oklahoma Sooners squared off against the #18 Clemson Tigers in the Russell Athletic bowl played at the Orlando Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, FL. The Tigers whooped the Sooners W (40-0) before 40,071.

## 2015 Coach Dabo Swinney

The 2015 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2015 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his eighth of many seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-twentieth season overall and their sixty-third as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record was 14-1; 8-0 in the ACC. They finished first of 6 ACC Atlantic Division teams and they won the ACC Championship.

Clemson had a great year with just one major disappointment. The Tigers won the 2015 ACC Championship Game by defeating the North Carolina Tar Heels, 45–37, capping their first undefeated regular season since winning the national title in 1981. Ranked No. 1 throughout the College Football Playoff (CFP) rankings, Clemson defeated the No. 4 Oklahoma Sooners, 37–17, in the 2015 Orange Bowl to advance to the College Football Playoff National Championship.

On January 11, 2016, the No. 2 Alabama Crimson Tide (13–1) defeated the No. 1 Clemson Tigers (14–0) in the 2016 national championship, 45–40. Both Clemson and Alabama finished the season 14–1.

Clemson announced their 2015 football schedule on January 29, 2015. The 2015 schedule consisted of seven home and five away games in the regular season. The Tigers hosted ACC foes Boston College, Florida State, Georgia Tech, and Wake Forest, and travelled to Louisville, Miami, NC State, and Syracuse. Clemson hosted #4 seed Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl in the first round of the 2015-16 College Football Playoff. The Tigers then hosted #2 seed Alabama in the 2016 College Football Playoff National Championship in University of Phoenix Stadium.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season and home opener resulted in a rout against Wofford W (49-10) before 81,345. The game was played on Sept 5 at Memorial Stadium (also known as Death Valley) on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC.

On Sept 12 at home, Clemson beat Appalachia State W (41-10). In the next game on Sept 17, at Louisville's Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in Louisville, KY, the Tigers nipped the Wildcats for the win W (20-17)

On Oct 3 in a pivotal game at home, with the start at 8:00 p.m. in what most would call torrential rain at Memorial Stadium, the undefeated #12 Clemson Tigers got the best of the #6 Notre Dame Fighting Irish W (24-22). All-Everything Deshaun Watson threw for two touchdowns, ran for a third and Clemson's defense stopped DeShone Kizer on a tying two-point conversion as the 12th-ranked Tigers held on to beat No. 6 Notre Dame.

On Oct 10 at home, the #6 Tigers beat Georgia Tech W (43-24) before 80,983. On Oct 17, at home, the Tigers beat the Eagles on homecoming night W (34-17). On Oct 24, at Miami (FL) at Sun Life Stadium, Miami Gardens, FL, the Clemson Tigers shellacked the Miami Hurricanes W 58-0 before 45,211. On Oct 31, at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, NC in the annual Textile Bowl, the Clemson Tigers defeated the NC State Wolfpack in a major shootout W (56-41) before 57,600.

In what might have been the season spoiler at home, the #3 Tigers engaged #16 Florida State and prevailed W (23-13) before 83,099. On Nov 14 at the Syracuse carrier Dome in Syracuse NY against Syracuse, the #1 ranked Tigers defeated the Orangemen W (37-27) before 36,736.

On Nov 21 at home, the #1 Clemson Tigers defeated the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest W (33-13). Then, on Nov 28 at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC in what is now known as the Palmetto Bowl, Clemson squeaked out its second-last win to earn an undefeated regular season W (37-32). The Tigers also won their Division Championship and would next play for the big ACC honors.

On Dec 5 at 8:00 p.m. v #8 ranked North Carolina, Coastal Division Champ, the #1 Clemson Tigers, Atlantic Division Champs engaged at the Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, NC in the ACC Championship Game. In a tough game, Clemson prevailed W (45-37) before 74,514.

On Dec 31, New Year's Eve, at 4:00 p.m. vs. #4 Oklahoma, #1 Clemson defeated the Sooners at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, FL in the Orange Bowl Game – CFP Semifinal. Clemson won the encounter W (37-17) setting the stage for a game against Alabama for the National Championship.

On January 10, 2016, at 8:30 p.m., #1 Clemson played #2 Alabama at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, AZ for the CFP National Championship. In a great game, Alabama held on for the win L (40-45) before 75,765

## 2016 Coach Dabo Swinney

The 2016 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson University during the 2016 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney was the head football coach for his ninth of many seasons.

The Tigers completed their one hundred-twenty-first overall and their sixty-fourth as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record was 14-1; 7-1 in the ACC. They finished tied for first of 7 with Louisville but got to play in the championship because they had beaten Louisville in head to head earlier in the season. They also won the ACC Championship. The Offensive Coordinators were Tony Elliott and Jeff Scott Chad Morris and the Defensive Coordinator was Brent Venables.

The # 2 ranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener was played on Sept 3 at Auburn's Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, in the long-time rivalry. Clemson won the close game W (19-13) before a packed house of 87,451. On Sept 10, game # 2 was played at home at Memorial Stadium (also known as Death Valley) on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC.

The Tigers had another close game against Troy but prevailed W (30-24). On Sept 17 at home against South Carolina State, Clemson shut out the Bulldogs W (59-0). On Thursday, Sept 22 at Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA, the Tigers won again W (26-7) before 53,932.

On Oct 1, now at 4-0 for a great season start after a #2 finish in 2015, the #5 Clemson Tigers took on #3 Louisville at home and beat the Cardinals in a close one W (42-36).

Then on Oct 7 at Boston College's Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, MA, the Tigers snagged the O'Rourke–McFadden Trophy again in a blowout W (56–10) before 44,500. On Homecoming Day, Clemson played the Textile Bowl game against NC State and in a nail-biter overtime game, escaped with the win W (24-17). On Oct 29 in another nail-biter game—this one against #12 Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, FL, the #4 Tigers escaped with the win W (37–34).

Bleacher report suggests that Clemson v Florida State is always meaningful in the ACC race. Lately, it has taken on importance in the College Football Playoff picture, too. When the Tigers and Seminoles met in late October, a pair of FSU losses had robbed the game of some of its significance. But that didn't stop the rivalry tilt from turning into an instant classic.

In 2016, Florida State erased an early 14-0 Clemson lead and led 28-20 after three quarters. A Wayne Gallman touchdown and a Greg Huegel field goal gave the Tigers a one-point lead with 5:25 remaining, but FSU had one final push. The Seminoles struck back with an eight-play, 80-yard touchdown drive, capped off by Dalvin Cook's eight-yard touchdown run with 3:23 left

That was too much time for Deshaun Watson and Clemson, however. He led a five-play, 75-yard drive that finished with a 34-yard touchdown to tight end Jordan Leggett, and the Tigers held on for a tense 37-34 victory.

On Nov 5, at home, the #3 Tigers shut-out the Syracuse Orangemen W (54-0) before 80,609. Sitting at 9-0 at home with recent ACC team Pittsburgh coming to play football, Clemson could not grab the win from the PA team and lost by one-point L (42-43).

Clemson made a habit of edge-of-your-seat victories in 2016. Call Dabo Swinney's Tigers the Cardiac Cats; six games were decided by a touchdown or less. Play with fire that much, however, and you're

bound to get burned eventually. Clemson found that out the hard way at home on Nov. 12 against Pitt. The cats had run out of luck.



Clemson 42 Pittsburgh 43

## The 2016 Post Season

After finishing the regular season 12-1 with a win over Coastal Division champion #23 Virginia Tech in the 2016 ACC Championship game, the #2 Tigers advanced to the 2016 College Football Playoff semifinal and went on to defeat the #3 Ohio State Buckeyes 31-0, in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl on December 31, 2016. Both top ranked Clemson and Alabama met again in college football's first rematch in National Championship game history, the 2017 CFP National Championship game in Tampa, Florida.

On January 9, 2017, the Clemson Tigers would go on to defeat the Alabama Crimson Tide in the rematch by a score of 35 to 31, winning their first consensus National Football Championship since 1981. Clemson subsequently finished with #1 rankings in both the Associated Press Poll and the AFCA Coaches' Poll for the 2016 season. Here are the stories

In the ACC Championship game on Dec 3, against #19 Virginia Tech, played at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Clemson prevailed in a close match W (42-35) to gain the full ACC Championship before 50,628. Ranked #2, the Tigers would be playing in the Fiesta Bowl in a game known as the CFP Semifinal.

On December 31, New Year's Eve two games were played and the winner would play on January 9 for the National Championship. #2 Clemson shut out #3 Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl at 7:00 p.m. at University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, AZ CFP Semifinal. W (31-0). In a game, earlier in the day at 3:00 PM, #1 Alabama beat the #4 Washington Huskies W (24-7) earning them a berth to play Clemson for the championship on January 9, 2017

On Monday, January 9, 2017 at 8:30 p.m., the #1 ranked Alabama Crimson Tide (14-0) were looking for a repeat National Championship against the #2 ranked Clemson Tigers (13-1) at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, FL in the CFP National Championship game. Clemson pulled out the win in a magical fashion.

## The 2017 National Championship Game

Uncommitted football fans across the world enjoyed one of the best football games of all-time on Monday evening January 9, 2017, from 8:00 PM to way past bedtime at 12:25 AM. For the committed Clemson fans, the victory was sweet after waiting a year for a rematch. For the committed Crimson Tide fans, the loss was simply heartbreaking. Clemson knew the feeling for the prior year and the victory was even that much sweeter.

In this game, the song lyrics, *what a difference a day makes* took a back seat to *what a difference a few seconds make*. Clemson did all it could to win, battling to the last second. Alabama came literally one second away from a repeat title. Clemson fans all remember that with Alabama holding a three-point lead after rolling down the field and scoring on a Jalen Hurts' 30-yard touchdown run with just 2:01 remaining, Clemson took the second-last kickoff of the game and simply refused to be stopped. It was exhilarating to watch for sure.

Deshaun Watson was the game's super-hero. However, Watson had to perform all night to get the win and he had the ball in his hands again as the game ended after a Clemson onside kick was recovered by Clemson with one second still on the clock.

It took many fans and the entire Crimson Tide by surprise as Clemson executed an onside kick with one second left in this Monday night national championship game. The Tigers, had kicked it after scoring a game-winning touchdown so as to avoid letting Alabama run the kick back, recovered it, leaving just a kneel down left for the Tigers to seal their big victory.

Just before that, without his two-yard TD pass with 1-second left after the score, the super-hero acclaim would have gone to the Alabama defense. The big guys from the Crimson Tide spent the night chasing Watson, keeping the talented QB from overcoming Alabama's early lead.

But, not this time. Not this game. Clemson would not be denied and the Tigers had both the talent and the luck, on their side. Clemson's heralded QB, and the best QB in the nation per his coach Dabo Swinney calmly led his team to victory and to him goes the credit as game super-hero.

This QB, who is also a two-time Heisman Trophy finalist, (who should have received the Heisman -- third in the Heisman voting in 2015, then second in 2016) performed flawlessly on this all-important drive down the field. Watson was the master on the field and the results have already made the history books. Clemson won by four. They are the 2017 National Champions for the 2016 season and will be so forever.

Deshaun Watson, interviewed after the game told reporters that his message to his teammates on the drive was to stay calm; don't get nervous; and they would prevail. They did.

Watson guided the Clemson Tigers 68 yards in nine plays, completing a 24-yard pass to Mike Williams to Alabama's 39-yard line and a 17-yard pass to tight end Jordan Leggett that gave Clemson a first-and-goal at the 9. The Tigers got to the 2 when



Alabama cornerback Anthony Averett was flagged for pass interference in the end zone.

"Everything was calm, and nobody panicked," Watson said. "I walked up to my offensive line and my receivers, and I said, 'Let's be legendary.' God put us here for a reason."

Coach Swinney offered: "He didn't lose out on the Heisman. The Heisman lost out on him."

From the two-yard line, with about 6 seconds left, Alabama was either going to be playing in OT with a field goal if Clemson's next play did not work; or time would run out by mistake; or of course option 3 was that the play would result in a touchdown.

Much to Alabama's chagrin, option 3 was operative. When Alabama double-teamed 6' 3" Mike Williams on the left side, Clemson decided to go right against man to man coverage. They executed a perfect touchdown play that some Alabama fans still claim was illegal. But, in football, the referees have the final word.

Regardless, along with other referee miscues, the officials said it was legal. On the play, Deshaun Watson's rolled right and threw a perfect 2-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow with just 1 second remaining. Clemson can take that call to the bank.

This gave Clemson their wild 35-31 win over Alabama in the College Football Playoff national championship game. Clemson fans were ecstatic as they felt they should have won the marbles one year earlier. Alabama fans of course were generally heartsick.

Sure, Alabama could have played better. Their offense was sluggish and they depended on their defense after Bo Scarbrough was no longer on the field. Clemson did not miss an opportunity when the going got tough. There is no denying the Tigers this great win.

There were a lot of ups and downs in the game, especially at the end. Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts had just given the Crimson Tide a 31-28 lead on his 30-yard scramble with 2:01 remaining. This had countered Wayne Gallman's 1-yard touchdown run with 4:38 remaining that had put the Tigers up 28-24. Two minutes is an awful

long time and Watson engineered a drive that used it all up right to the last second before he passed for the score.

Last year Watson threw for almost 500 yards and this year, the Crimson Tide managed him better; but he still stole 420 yards on 36-of-56 passing and three touchdowns. Renfrow caught ten of his passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns and big 6'3" leaping Mike Williams adding eight receptions for 94 yards and one score.

Clemson packed in 511 total yards to 376 by Alabama and the Tigers posted a 31-16 edge in first downs. Alabama's bright side in the game was not its offensive production and because of that, its D had little time to rest.

Clemson ran 99 plays. All season long it was only Arkansas W (49-30) that had anything close to that (84 plays). Though in great shape, the D was not as well backed up as the 2016 team. Some say that this huge number of plays helped wear down the mighty Tide defense with tempo and consistent movement on offense. One thing for sure is that Clemson bested the vaunted Crimson Tide.

Alabama did not get much rest as the offense ran just 66 plays. Its defensive depth was not at the same level as the 2015 team. The wear of those extra plays on the Alabama defense was evident in the second half. Clemson visited the red zone four times and they scored four times. Alabama had typically rejected opponents on two of every three red zone attempts. On the field, fatigue surely was a factor though there are no real excuses. Nick Saban is not looking for excuses. He knows his team was beaten.

Nick Saban's Crimson Tide were clearly denied a fifth national championship in eight seasons under this highly successful coach. The Tide managed just 131 passing yards, as Hurts had a tough night going 14-of-32.

Nick Saban saw it as it was. "They made the plays and we didn't," Saban said. "We could have done some things better, but I'm proud of the way our guys competed." Dabo Swinney has proven that he is one of the best coaches of all time at any university.

Alabama struggled in the second half but did take a 24-14 lead on a 68-yard touchdown pass from Hurts to O.J. Howard with 1:53 remaining in the third quarter. Clemson fans quickly remembered Howard as the MVP of last year's title game with 208 yards on five receptions. Alabama had faked the look of a quick screen before Howard raced behind a confused Clemson secondary for the catch. And the TD.

"Not to have him [Bo Scarborough] was probably a little bit of a disadvantage for us," Saban gave it a positive slant when he said. "I was pleased with our other backs who had an opportunity in this game, Josh Jacobs and Damien Harris, but we always miss a guy who's Bo Scarbrough's size when we want to run the ball and take some time off the clock."

Alabama had to punt after a three-and-out on the night's opening possession. Clemson on its first drive then moved across midfield before they were stuffed by Tony Brown on a fourth down and 1 try on a pitch to Gallman. Alabama then took over on their own 41.

Bama got going on their second possession on a 20-yard scramble by Hurts down the right sideline to the Clemson 39-yard line and grabbed a 7-0 lead at the 9:23 mark of the first quarter on Bo Scarbrough's 25-yard scamper around left end.

Watson was a bit shaky at first but calmed down as the O-line settled down. He fumbled a low shotgun snap late in the first quarter. Alabama outside linebacker Ryan Anderson recovered the fumble at Clemson's 35-yard line, Mistakes stopped an Alabama advance. There was a false start on Cam Robinson and a 2-yard loss by Scarbrough and the Tide was forced to punt.

When they got the ball back, ArDarius Stewart started Alabama's second touchdown drive with a 25-yard run to Clemson's 49-yard line early in the second quarter. From here, Scarbrough broke loose moments later from 37 yards out to make it 14-0.

The Alabama fans and the Clemson fans had a feeling that Alabama was on the verge of breaking things open until Tigers receiver Deon Cain took a short Watson pass and weaved 43 yards to Alabama's 39. It was the juice Swinney's Clemson squad needed to convince them they "could." It was a major momentum shift.

Watson was energized and calm by then. He completed a third-and-10 pass for Leggett for 26 yards to the Alabama 13 and ran in for an 8-yard score to pull the Tigers within 14-7 with 6:09 before halftime. That would be the end of the first-half scoring, with the Tide held the seven-point lead at the break even though they had been outgained 203-183.

Alabama's Anderson struck again early in the second half, stripping Tigers tailback Gallman of the ball and returning the fumble to the Clemson 16. For whatever reason Alabama, just as it had done after Anderson's first fumble recovery, could not move the ball and had to settle for a 27-yard Adam Griffith field goal for a 17-7 lead.

Clemson was no longer intimidated to say the least. They reduced the lead to 17-14 with 7:10 left in the third quarter on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Watson to Renfrow. After a Tide, TD, The Tigers then pulled within 24-21 in the first minute of the fourth quarter on a 4-yard touchdown pass from Watson to Williams.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney is one of Alabama's own. Swinney became just the second person to have won an Associated Press national championship as a player and coach. Swinney was a wide receiver on Gene Stallings' 1992 Alabama team that won the AP national championship and now he has coached Clemson to a national title over his alma mater Crimson Tide. Swinney still has a lot of love for Alabama and its supporters. He is a good guy

Coach Dabo Swinney was all emotion as he described the victory for Clemson: "This has been the most incredible team I've ever been around," Swinney said. "You saw their heart, and it's been there all year."

It was a big loss for Nick Saban. It was his first ever in a championship game. in six tries. Afterwards, speaking with ESPN's Tom Rinaldi, he was very gracious in defeat. Saban praised his team for all it accomplished in 2016, while also congratulating Dabo Swinney and Clemson on the victory.

Watch out next year folks! It will be another great Clemson football year. You can take that to the bank.

## 2017 Coach Dabo Swinney

The 2017 Clemson Tigers football team represents Clemson University during the coming 2017 college football season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Dabo Swinney is the head football coach for his tenth of many seasons. The Tigers will complete their one hundred-twenty second overall and their sixty-fifth as a member of the Atlantic Division of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Their overall record should be very good overall and in the ACC as they have a fine returning team

The Tigers enter the 2017 season as defending national champions, having finished the 2016 season 14–1 with a win over Alabama in the CFP National Championship game.

Clemson announced its schedule for the 2017 season on January 24, 2017. The Tigers' schedule consists of 7 home games and 5 away games. Clemson will host conference opponents Boston College, Florida State, Georgia Tech, and Wake Forest, and travel to Louisville, NC State, Syracuse, and Virginia Tech. The Tigers will host out of conference games against Kent State, Auburn, and The Citadel, and travel to arch rival South Carolina to close out the regular season. Clemson's out of conference opponents represent the MAC, SoCon, and SEC.

The Tigers will play 10 total teams who played in the postseason in the 2016 season: 2 New Year's Six participants (Auburn and Florida State), 7 other bowl teams (Boston College, Georgia Tech, Louisville, NC State, South Carolina, Wake Forest, Virginia Tech), and 1 FCS playoff participant (Citadel).

Here is the 2017 schedule for Coach Swinney:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent#</u>	<u>Site</u>
September 2	Kent State*	Clemson
September 9	Auburn*	Clemson
September 16	Louisville	Papa John's in KY
September 23	Boston College	Clemson
September 30	Virginia Tech	Lane Stadium VA
October 7	Wake Forest	Clemson, Homecoming
October 13	Syracuse	Carrier Dome, Syr, NY
October 28	Georgia Tech	Clemson
November 4	NC State	Carter-Finley Stad. NC
November 11	Florida State	Clemson
November 18	The Citadel	Clemson
November 25	South Carolina	Williams-Brice Stad. SC

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Brian has written 122 books. Others can be found at [amazon.com/author/brianwkelly](http://amazon.com/author/brianwkelly)

