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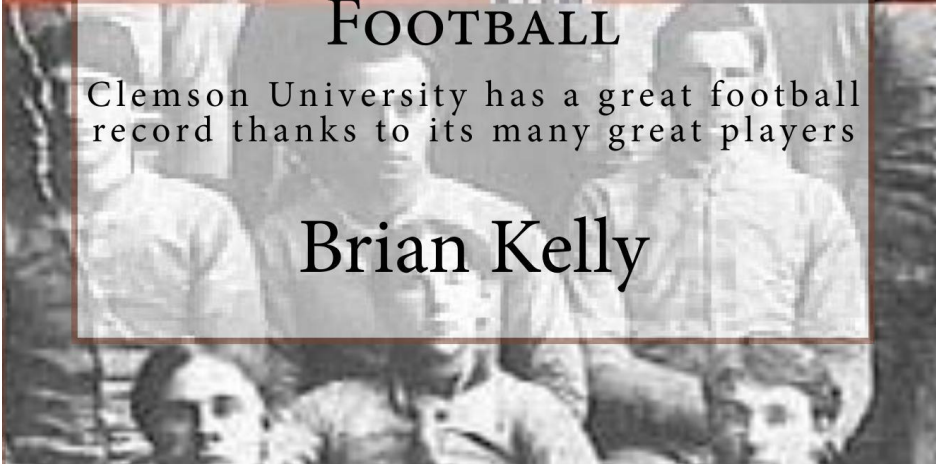
# CLEMSON



## GREAT PLAYERS IN CLEMSON TIGERS FOOTBALL

Clemson University has a great football record thanks to its many great players

Brian Kelly



# Great Players

In

# Clemson Tigers

# Football

Clemson University has a great football record thanks to its many great players

This book is written for those of us who love Clemson Tigers Football. Those of us who enjoy the teams full of great players, coming out every week in the fall, know that it is because twenty-five Clemson coaches and many great players over the years brought us all the victories and the excitement.

We know how they did it--discipline, conditioning and an honor in winning. Clemson was never a *losing is OK* team. Look at the Clemson record and you can see that the great games and seasons are accumulating quickly. The Clemson Tigers have a winning way. Near Championships and National Championships are part of that winning way.

This book tells the first story about Clemson football. It was when the school gave Walter Riggs the OK to have the first official varsity football team and the first game. It was a nice away victory at Furman at Greenville South Carolina (14-6). As we rapidly move through the football ages in this book, we meet the great immortal Clemson players with their great coaches—Walter Riggs, Jess Neely, Frank Howard, Charley Pell, \$ the great Danny Ford. Of course, we find another great coach at the end of the journey, not yet an immortal, but on his way. Coach Dabo Swinney seems to be on the right path for the future.

In this book, we tell lots of great stories about lots of great players in Clemson Tigers Football. It takes the reader through stories about Clemson teams of great players through 25 coaches over the years. There are many years of great games (1050 games) played by the best football players in the nation for Clemson University (CU) over 116 seasons. The book stops frequently in time and tells a nice tale about a great player such as Banks McFadden, Jeff Davis, Terry Kinard, Steve Fuller, Jerry Butler, Refrigerator Perry, C J Spiller, and of course Deshaun Watson, and many others. You won't want to put this book down once you begin reading it.

## Brian Kelly



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

Editor: Brian P. Kelly  
Author Brian W. Kelly

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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	Indep
<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
					SoCon
<b>Bob Williams (5 games)</b>					
<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
	<u>1939</u>	9	1	0	SoCon
<b><u>Frank Howard</u></b>	<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>Charley Pell (11 games)</b>	<u>1978 *</u>				ACC
		11	1	0	
<b><u>Danny Ford (1 game)</u></b>					ACC
<b>Danny Ford</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>				ACC
		9	3	0	
<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>				ACC
		7	6	—	
<b><u>Dabo Swinney (7 games)</u></b>					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

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# Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I received in putting this book together, along with the 123 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 Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Anger Brent Evans, 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 123 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 players 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, 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 players 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.

Since I am not a South Carolinian, but I love vacationing at Myrtle Beach, I want to visit SC and below often 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.

# Preface:

This book is all about the great players in Clemson Tigers football over the years. This list goes on and on and on so we can't show them all but those in this book are part of the greats. Along the way to today, we comment on the founding of Clemson University; and then we delve right into the storied Clemson University Football Program--its struggles; its greatness; and its long-lasting impact on American life. Winning a national championship has a long-lasting impact for sure.

As a Pennsylvanian, I admit 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 2017, 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 substantially.

You've got to admit, they are 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 extremely 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 book came out a few months ago. There are a lot of similarities between Clemson Tigers people and Gators people.

Before I decided to write the precursor book about the Great Moments in Clemson Football, I was thinking about writing about Army as they have three clean National Championships and a number of undefeated seasons. Army played some great football when American football was first being defined—plus like many, 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.

By the way, after I wrote the precursor book to this one, I did write a Great Moments book about Army and I am glad I did. I have also completed a Great Coaches book about Clemson. The Great Coaches and Great Players books for Army should be here before the middle of the football season. This book, I am hoping beats the college football season's inaugural game

Before the Army book, 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.

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 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. For a guy writing this book now, I was on the wrong side rooting for ND.

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. Thank God for laptops. I noted that those Clemson players sure know how to play great football.

I watched the end of season games 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 2017, I was attached to the TV for the 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 and the other two Clemson books 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 season and a ton of great players. Go Clemson Tigers!

This book walks you through the whole CU football journey. Then, we look at the players on the early teams who succeeded despite Clemson not yet having a big-time program. 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. We stop and amplify players in any time period that stand out as great and in fact, greater than most as many Clemson players that are great are not in this book. Maybe when we do the Clemson Player Encyclopedia, we'll get everybody.

The 25 great CU coaches are listed 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 the players are highlighted within the seasons in which the games were played. I sure hope you enjoy this unique approach.

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

Over 100 years and pushing 125 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 for the Tigers.

In 1953, as many know, Clemson joined the ACC and as a member, the Tigers 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 is better and they said that in 2016. But, then again, Clemson, a mainstay of the ACC is the reigning national champion. How'd that happen if the SEC is the best?

You can read a lot about Clemson's success before and after it joined the ACC in the Great Moments book but we also have a lot of it right here in this book. You can 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 another 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 the players who created Coach Swinney's National Championship win. It tells a story about all the football seasons and the great players 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 athletes to have competed in one of the finest football programs of all time.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's Great Players 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 123<sup>rd</sup> published book. Brian is an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics and 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 Let's Go Publish or [www.bookhawkers.com](http://www.bookhawkers.com). 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.





# Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction to Clemson University (CU) Football .....	1
Chapter 2 Clemson University .....	5
Chapter 3 CU “Un-Official” Football Teams .....	9
Chapter 4 Walter Riggs Great Players playing Great Official Football. 13	
Chapter 5 Early Clemson Football 1897 & 1898 .....	23
Chapter 6 Where Great Clemson Players Won Football Games.....	27
Chapter 7 John Heisman Era 1900-1903.....	41
Chapter 8 Shack Shealy and Eddie Cochems Era 1904-1905 .....	59
Chapter 9 Bob Williams & Frank Shaughnessy Era 1906-1907 .....	63
Chapter 10 Stein Stone, Frank Dobson & Bob Williams Era 1908-15 .	67
Chapter 11 Wayne Hart & Edward Donahue Era 1916-1918 .....	77
Chapter 12 E J Stewart & Bud Saunders Era 1921-1926.....	81
Chapter 13 Josh Cody Era 1927-1930.....	85
Chapter 14 Jess Neely Era 1931-1939 .....	89
Chapter 15 Frank Howard Era 1940-1964 .....	97
Chapter 16 Frank Howard Era 1955-1969 .....	113
Chapter 17 Hootie Ingram Era 1970-1972 .....	129
Chapter 19 Red Parker Era 1973-1976 .....	133
Chapter 20 Charley Pell Era 1977 to 1978.....	139
Chapter 21 Danny Ford Era 1978-1989.....	149
Chapter 22 Ken Hatfield Era 1990 - 1993 .....	185
Chapter 23 Tommy West Era 1993 to 1998.....	197
Chapter 24 Tommy Bowden Era 1999-2008.....	205
Chapter 25 Dabo Swinney Era 2008-2017+.....	227
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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 124 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 comes he'll be glad to sign your books. God bless the Tigers!



# Chapter 1 Introduction to Clemson University (CU) Football

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



Coach Swinney leading Tigers Players onto the field

The Clemson Tigers have fielded a team every season since the inaugural 1896 season. That's a lot of football games played by a lot of players. 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 and the lessons were clearly learned by a group of players over time who passed the learning from generation one to generation six so well that the newer generation players have produced two national championships and

some near misses and the plan for the future is for future generations of players to produce even more.

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 for the immortal Frank Howard had an extremely successful thirty-year tenure from 1940 through 1969. There are lots of great Clemson football players in history for sure.

After Frank 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 the teams back 100% 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. Some teams playing top brand ball would love its players to produce as well as Clemson's greats.

Like most startups, CU did have its share of medsa 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 its great players piling up 338 wins, 153 losses, and 5 ties.

Sometimes I wish the NCAA would just go away. This is part of the sixth series of books that I have researched and written about big-time college football, and I am beginning to see a pattern that is disturbing. 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. It certainly was not the fault of the great players on the Clemson team, yet in all cases, the players get punished.

There are more.

My point is that it was only when Clemson began to make trouble for the expected winners of elite conferences, 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 quickly. Just this man's opinion.

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 in Chapter 21 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 the 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

<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct</b>
<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 many great players taught by the greatest coaches. It also discusses Clemson's struggles; its greatness; and as noted before, 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 and great player by great player 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 players and so many great coaches and so many 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.

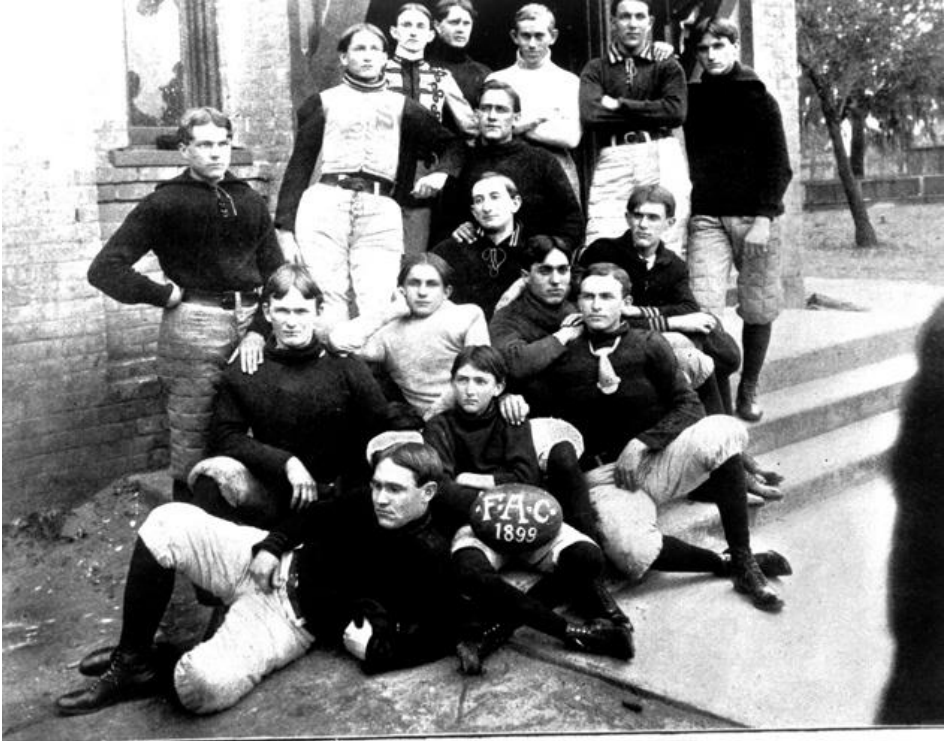
Experiential learning is a valued component of the Clemson experience, and students are encouraged through Creative Inquiry, internships, and study abroad, to apply their learning beyond the classroom. Electronic delivery of courses and degree programs also provide a variety of learning opportunities. 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 of Great Players

### 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. You can bet forms of Rugby and American football were being played unofficially at Clemson with all of the great recreational space on campus. 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 varsity football in the state 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 would have stayed if Clemson could have afforded to keep him. Heisman had to feed his family and Clemson had to survive as an entity.

Heisman was respected nationwide as a football guru and he was working for Clemson who could not really afford him. John 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.”

John Heisman could take a fine player and make him great. He could take an OK player and give him the tools to be a fine player and even a great player. Clemson’s player athletes gained immensely by having Heisman on campus.

He was 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 Walter Riggs Gets Great Players Playing Great Official 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.



Great Players from 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. Yet, even in 1896, with a guy like Walter Riggs and a

superior football analyst in the makeup of a Waltr Camp, on the campus of Clemson College, who could ask for a better startup.



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 playing season 120 years later in 2016. The coaches were so good in the beginning that when nobody knew how to play American Football, Clemson's great players were winning games on the field against some respected teams. 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 on day one 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 Clemson campus 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 young 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. The greatest players in the nation at Clemson played a few fine athletes at Auburn (OK, they too were very good players).

Knowing that Clemson eventually 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 great players on the Clemson Tigers team survived a tough battle against an always tough Auburn Tigers squad, and won the game W (19-13). Nobody is sure whether the conflicted Clemson/Auburn coach John Heisman would have approved. The stadium crew spent the next day cleaning up all the bitten nails. Go Clemson 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 in 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: Clemson Season -- 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.

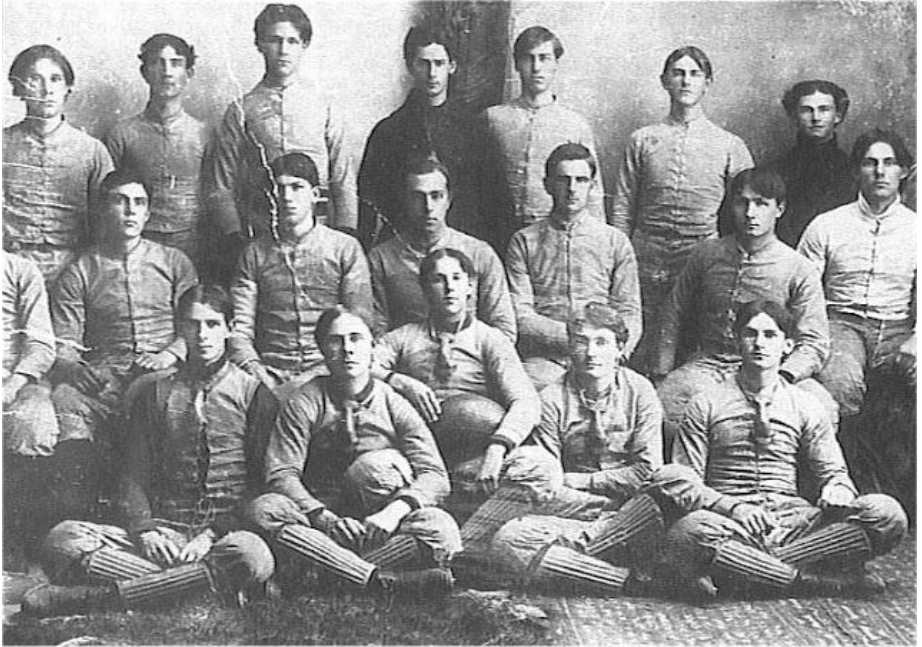
The season opened up on October 31 at Furman, a team that had been playing for several years. The game was played in Greenville, SC. The Clemson Tigers emerged victorious with a nice but close win W (14–6).

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, a great 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.



Another picture of Clemson's First Great Football Team 1896

Clemson's upset win over Furman was a monumental milestone for the school. Furman was considered at the time an experienced team, having played the game since 1889 (the year Clemson was founded).

A member of Clemson's first football team, Shack Shealy became the head coach of the Tigers in 1904. He holds the distinction of being the only Clemson player to have coached his alma mater. Shealy coached Clemson one year and guided the Tigers to a 3-3-1 record overall, which included wins over Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

The first-game victory set a positive tone and gave the team momentum that Clemson would build on for the next few years.

On November 12, the Tigers traveled to South Carolina to play in Columbia against the Gamecocks. It was called Big Thursday and Big Thursday was a seasonal event until Coach Frank Howard called a halt to the game during his tenure. 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: Clemson Season -- 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 1881 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 takes some time. John Heisman's time had come.



## Chapter 5 Early Clemson Football 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



Great Players from 1897 Clemson Football Team with 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) 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 Clemson Season -- William M. Williams

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

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 Clemson Season -- 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.



Great Players from 1898 Clemson Football Team



**<<< 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



## Chapter 6 Where Great Clemson Players Won Football Games

First there was Bowman Field



From its initial land donation, the Clemson Campus began huge. Its setting is suburban, and the campus size is 17,000 acres. With such a huge land mass, there would be no excuse for the University to not have terrific athletic fields with plenty of space for both varsity play and pure fun for students.



Though Clemson opted to play all away games for many of its early football years while the campus was being prepared for sports, eventually, one of their academic instructors worked hard enough to make sure Clemson was able to play home games. Cut from some of the 17,000 acres, Bowman Field is an extremely large, open grassy area located in front of Sikes Hall, Tillman Hall, Godfrey Hall, Holtzendorff Hall, and Mell Hall. It is the front lawn of the campus.

The field is named for Randolph T. V. Bowman, an instructor in forge and foundry, at Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina from February 1895 to April 1899, just after the college opened in 1889. Bowman also served as an assistant football coach.

Bowman met with an early death at 23 years of age on April 14, 1899. The field became the parade ground for Clemson cadets and the home of Clemson University's first football, baseball, basketball teams, track and even soccer teams.

Randolph Bowman had apparently suffered from ill-health from his early years, yet he persevered as if he had no handicaps. He received a great tribute from Clemson President Henry Simms Hartzog who noted that "Though physically unable to take any considerable part in athletics, he helped...by his counsel and presence."

Just before his death, Bowman finished carving the commemorative plaques for Professor Henry Aubrey Strode, Clemson College's first president, and Professor W. L. McGee, now displayed in Tillman Auditorium. Bowman Field, Clemson's "front lawn", of course is named in his honor: Bowman is said to have personally cleared the former sedge field of rocks and other detritus so that it could be used as an athletics ground.

Yes, while serving as an assistant coach, Bowman took responsibility for much of the hard work required in clearing of the field area for use as an athletics field.

The two 19th-century cannons located on the field were nicknamed Tom and Jerry by the class of 1952. Bowman Field sure has a lot of history.



It is a great testimony to the spirit of Randolph Bowman that he received the honor of the first Clemson field being named after him. He was quite a young man. Like many other greats in life, Bowman was not blessed with all the physical gifts that assure a successful life, yet, he not only persevered, he conquered all the Bogeymen he faced in life but one.

Despite his powerful spirit, even he could not chase away the Grim Reaper and so he died a young man, with many accomplishments and many accomplishments that would have come. The Randolph Bowman story is inspiring. In many ways, it resembles two of my favorite perseverance fables-- The Little Engine That Could and The King and The Spider.

Randolph Bowman was in many ways like Vikram, the brave king who learned to believe in himself as noted in his own words: "If a small spider can face failure so bravely, why should I give up? He was also like the little Blue Train, The Little Engine That Could, who would not give up when bigger trains said no, and he carried the toys to the other side of the mountain so as not to disappoint the children.

But, even more special than the heroes in these fables, Randolph Bowman was just like the real Randolph Bowman. He was true to himself and all those he met. He never said no to a worthwhile challenge and he would succeed when others would give up without even picking up the cup. Clemson University is honored to have Randolph Bowman in its proud institutional and football legacy. I was very moved by his personal story.

Clemson continued over the years to improve Bowman Field even after Riggs Field and Memorial Stadium were built. I am sure Randolph Bowman would humbly approve. Today Bowman Field is regarded as "sacred soil," having played such a large part in Clemson's history and being the central location for leisure activity for students. On most any day with nice weather you are likely to see students laying out, tanning, studying, throwing frisbee, playing football, volleyball, soccer, or even playing with their dogs.

Bowman Field is used by many organizations throughout the year for a whole variety of different activities. Clemson AFROTC can be seen using the field for practice marches on most Thursday afternoons.

Clemson fraternities and sororities also use Bowman Field for their many activities like Powderpuff Football. First Friday activities are usually held here and once a year, Homecoming floats are built on Bowman Field, in full view of all passing pedestrians and motorists. Habitat for Humanity builds a house for charity right on Bowman Field every year at Homecoming. Its use for parking vehicles for football games was discontinued in the 1990s over concerns of the damage done to the lawn.

## Riggs Field

Bowman Field served all of Clemson's needs from 1889 to 1915. Riggs Field became Clemson's second football field, with a tour of duty from the football program lasting from 1915 to 1941. Just like Bowman Field is still in high use today, so also is Riggs Field. It has now been remodeled into the university's soccer stadium.



The Original Riggs Field Circa 1915

As you recall, the founder of Clemson Football was Walter Merit Riggs who was Clemson's President and the first (and fourth) head football coach. Riggs is given credit for being the "Father of Clemson

Football" insofar as his bringing the game from Auburn to the new Clemson campus is concerned.

When Clemson played its first football game against Furman on October 31, 1896, only two people on the Clemson campus had ever seen a football game - Riggs, and Tiger backfielder Frank Thompkins, a Tiger team plank-holder.

Riggs Field was designed in 1915 to replace Bowman Field. It was located right behind the Rudolph E. Lee-designed YMCA building, and it was finished the following year. Players would dress inside the Y and then come down the staircase from the rear portico of the structure to field level. Having the Y so close meant no locker room facilities were required at Riggs.

Riggs Field was dedicated October 2, 1915, prior to the football game with Davidson College. A parade to the field formed in front of the main building at 3 p.m. led, in this order, by the Cadet Band, speakers, Athletic Council, Alumni, faculty, and the Corps of Cadets.

"Upon entering Riggs Field, the body took a 'C' formation and poured forth a thrilling volume of patriotic Tiger yells and songs." (The Tiger, 5 October 1915, Volume XI, Number 3, page 1.)

Presentation of the field to the Corps of Cadets by Dr. Walter Merritt Riggs followed. Prof. 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 in part; "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 team work and fair play.

On the crest of the hill stands the main Building which represents the intellectual side of life. In the immediate fore-ground you can see the Textile Building. Here the brain and hand are trained to work together. Just to our left is the magnificent new Y. M. C. A. Building, standing for the development of spirit, mind, and body. In the immediate vicinity in the back are the churches, which are agents in the influencing of our spiritual natures.

This large and beautiful athletic field was built to stand for the development of the physical man, and, whether in real work or in play the hope was for the field to be used as an agency in the developing of high and honorable men. (Mostly from *The Tiger*, 5 October 1915, page 1.)

Prof. Gantt then introduced Mr. H. C. Tillman, Class of 1903 and President of the Clemson Alumni Association, who christened the new playing field. Tillman offered these words: "Students who have been and are to be, no matter how much we love other things, we love our athletic field best. Therefore, this field should be named for him who has done most for our athletics. Dr. Riggs is not only the father of athletics at Clemson but has coached our teams. It is not alone for gratitude, but for a sense of love and esteem that we name this field. May it bring victory to the Tigers' lair, and may it be represented by the honor and spirit Dr. Riggs has always shown. In the name of all students and lovers of Clemson, I christen this Field Riggs Field."

A few minutes later, Dr. Riggs made the initial kick-off in the first football game to be played on the new field. Clemson and Davidson play to a 6-6 tie.

Riggs Field was the place for football for many years. Construction got underway for the new Memorial Stadium in October, 1941. The last game played on Riggs Field was against Wake Forest, on November 15, 1941. It was a fitting sendoff to the old Riggs football venue as the Tigers shut out the Demon Deacons, 29-0. Three weeks later, the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, setting America's involvement in World War II into motion.

As football games were played in Memorial Stadium, Riggs Field, just like Bowman Field began to be used for other worthwhile athletic and recreational purposes. For example, in 1973, Riggs Field was the location for a closing scene of the Burt Lancaster film *The Midnight Man*.

Riggs Field, with its large half-mile oval cinder track, remained an intramural space through the 1970s, providing a site for Greek Week, Dixie Day, and the Special Olympics. In late March 1980, without

informing anyone, the athletic department began grading of the historic Riggs Field site for transformation into the new soccer stadium. Dixie Day was moved to the soccer field located north of Death Valley on short notice.

The remodeled facility, seating 6,500, opened its new era on September 1, 1987 with a Men's soccer team win over UNC-Asheville, 8-0.

In early September 2011, the stadium which surrounds Riggs Field was named Ibrahim Stadium after the late Dr. I.M Ibrahim, who is credited with starting Clemson's men's soccer program in 1967 and who led the team to national titles in 1984 and 1987.

### **Riggs Kept Improving**

In 2013, Riggs Field completed another round of renovations. As part of the renovation, stands were constructed to replace bleachers on the north side of the stadium. Additionally, a new entrance was constructed on the side of the stadium and pedestrian improvements were installed along the north side between the stadium and highway SC 93. A memorial to Walter Riggs was constructed at the new entrance on the north side. Renovations were completed in time for the 2013 soccer season.

### **Celebrating 100 Years of Riggs**

On October 2, 2015, Clemson University celebrated Riggs Field's 100th anniversary. The Clemson University men's and women's soccer teams both played vs Virginia Tech and Wake Forest, respectively. Special promotions included a museum in the nearby indoor track to display artifacts and photos from Riggs Field's history, 2000 commemorative scarves to celebrate the occasion, and one uniform was given away during the women's game.



Riggs Field 2015 Construction



Historic Riggs Field Now Built for Soccer



## Memorial Stadium – AKA Death Valley

Courtesy of Clemson tigers.com



Clemson Memorial Stadium is the third venue in which the Clemson Tigers played the game of football. With this latest iteration, many more fans could enjoy the game. Everybody has an opinion of “Death Valley.” Opposing players from the 1970s and 1980s, professional players from the 1990s, and just about everybody else enjoy the ambiance of this special setting and most understand that this is what college football is all about.

The storied edifice added to its legend when the first meeting of father and son head coaches (Bowden Bowl I) took place before a sellout crowd of more than 86,000 fans in 1999. Clemson has ranked in the top 20 in the nation in average attendance 22 consecutive seasons. That includes 2001 when Clemson set an ACC record for total attendance. Last season, the streak continued when Clemson averaged nearly 79,000 fans per game.

The facility's mystique is derived from its many traditions, which date to its opening in 1942, the legendary games and players, and Clemson's corresponding rate of success. Clemson has won 227 games in 63 years there and has won over 71 percent of the contests (227-88-7). Thirty-nine times since 1983, a crowd has exceeded 80,000.

The stadium has definitely been good to the Tigers, but the stadium was constructed against the advice of at least one Clemson coach. Just before Head Coach Jess Neely left for Rice after the 1939 season, he gave Clemson a message. "Don't ever let them talk you into building a big stadium," he said. "Put about 10,000 seats behind the YMCA. That's all you'll ever need."

Instead of following Coach Neely's advice, however, Clemson officials decided to build the new stadium in a valley on the western part of campus. The place would take some clearing—there were many trees, but luckily there were no hedges. The crews went to work, clearing, cutting, pouring, and forming. Finally, on September 19, 1942, Memorial Stadium opened with Clemson thrashing Presbyterian by a score of 32-13. Those 20,000 seats installed for Opening Day would soon grow; and grow and grow.

When the original part of the stadium was built in the early 40's, much of the work was done by scholarship athletes, including many football players. The first staking out of the stadium was done by two members of the football team, A.N. Cameron and Hugh Webb. Webb returned to Clemson years later to be an architecture professor, and Cameron went on to become a civil engineer in Louisiana.

The building of the stadium did not proceed without problems. One day during the clearing of the land, one young player proudly announced that he was not allergic to poison oak. He then commenced to attack the poison oak with a swing blade, throwing the plants to and fro. The next day, the boy was swollen twice his size and was hospitalized.

There are many other stories about the stadium, including one that Frank Howard put a chew of tobacco in each corner as the concrete poured. Howard said that the seeding of the grass caused a few problems. "About 40 people and I laid sod on the field," he said. "After three weeks, on July 15, we had only gotten halfway through." "I told them that it had taken us three weeks to get that far, and I would give them three more week's pay for however long it took. I also told them we would have 50 gallons of ice cream when we got through. After that it took them three days to do the rest of the field.



Then we sat down in the middle of the field and ate up that whole 50 gallons."

Howard said that on the day of the first game in the stadium, "the gates were hung at 1:00 and we played at 2:00." But that would be all of the construction for a while. Then in 1958, 18,000 sideline seats were added and in 1960, 5,658 west endzone seats were added in response to increasing attendance.

With the large endzone, "Green Grass" section, this expansion increased capacity to 53,000. Later, upper decks were added to each side of as crowds swelled - the first in 1978 and the second in '83. This increased capacity to over 80,000, which makes it one of the largest on-campus stadiums.

The effect of spiraling inflation has had in this century can be dramatically seen in the differences in stadium construction. The original part of the stadium was built at a cost of \$125,000 or at \$6.25 a seat. The newest upper deck was finished in 1983 at a cost of \$13.5 million, or \$866 a seat.



The capacity for Clemson Memorial Stadium in 2005 was listed as 77,381 during construction of the WestZone area. The new capacity with the completion of the WestZone in 2006 is 80,301. Previously, capacity was listed as 81,473. When we listed that number in previous years, we counted 6,000 people on the hill. Our new capacities (2005 and 2006) count just 4,000 people on the hill and

that accounts for the fact that our new capacity in 2006 is lower than what it had been previously.

Phase II of the WestZone project includes coaches' offices, administrative offices, a new strength and conditioning area, a large team room/auditorium, an expanded equipment room and athletic training facilities. Life improves as time passes and people work hard.

Through the years, Memorial Stadium has become known as "Death Valley." It was tagged this by the late Presbyterian coach, Lonnie McMillan. After bringing his P.C. teams to Clemson for years and getting whipped, McMillan said the place was like Death Valley. A few years later the name stuck.

In 1974, the playing surface was named Frank Howard Field for the legendary coach because of his long service and dedication to the University.

Luckily, the stadium wasn't built behind the YMCA.

### Clemson's Top Single Season Attendance Figures

Rank	Year	Home Games	Total	Average	Head Coach
1.	1988	6	490,502	81,750	Danny Ford
2.	2006	7	570,542	81,506	Tommy Bowden
3.	2001	6	480,911	80,152	Tommy Bowden
4.	1990	6	475,174	79,196	Ken Hatfield
5.	1989	6	473,566	78,927	Danny Ford
6.	2004	6	472,939	78,823	Tommy Bowden
7.	1986	5	393,500	78,700	Danny Ford
8.	2000	7	548,647	78,378	Tommy Bowden
9.	1999	5	391,510	78,302	Tommy Bowden
10.	2005	6	469,391	78,232	Tommy Bowden







Pre-Game Festivities

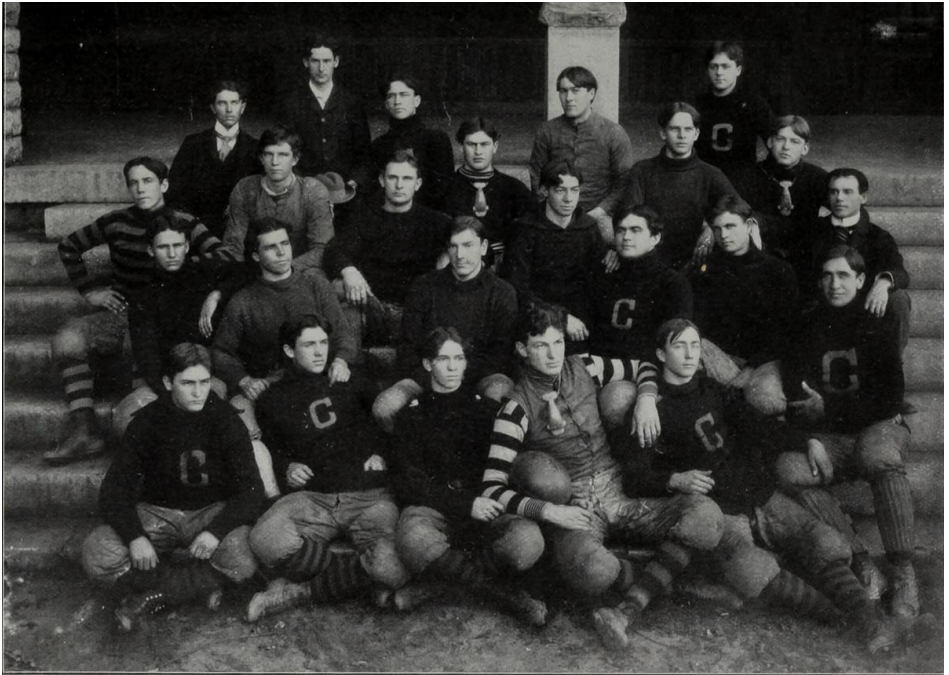


Howard's Rock

## Chapter 7 John Heisman Era 1900-1903

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



Great Players from 1900 Clemson Football Team -- 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.

### Clemson's great players come from great coaching

In a book about Clemson's great players, we include information on this great Clemson coach because he played a very important part in

assuring Clemson players were the best for the long haul. The famous John Heisman did his job with Clemson players quite well.

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

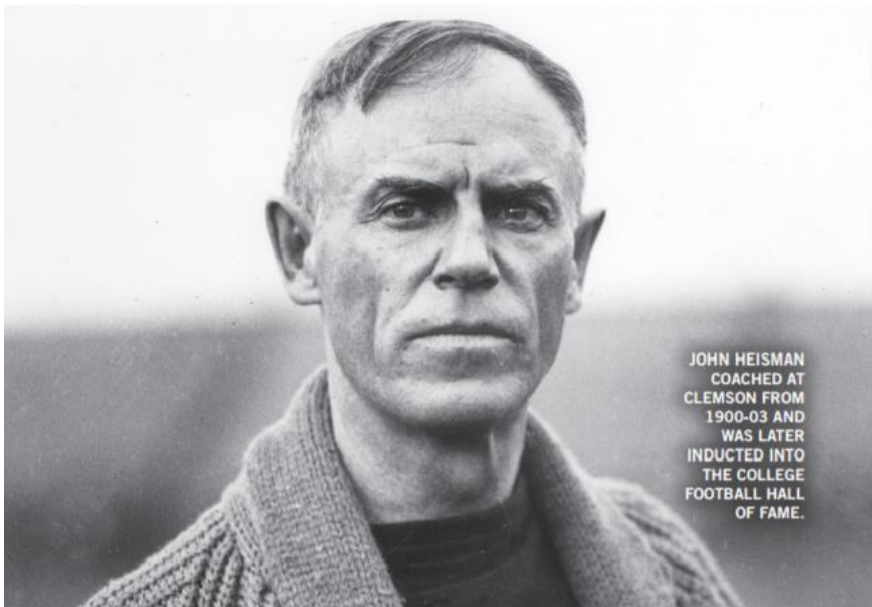
*Head Coach Years: 1900-1903*

*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: Clemson Season -- John Heisman**

In 1900, another rule affected how when a touchdown was to count as a touchdown. This year's change was of the definition of touchdown, which was changed to include situations where the ball becomes dead on or above the goal line.

Walter Riggs continued to help the 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. The starting lineup on this great team of players was Bellows (left end), Dickerson (left tackle), George (left guard) Kinsley (center), Woodward (right guard), Walker (right tackle), Lynah (right end), Lewis (quarterback), Forsythe (left halfback), Hunt (right halfback), Douthit (fullback).

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. Clemson back Claude Douthit scored four touchdowns. After the Tigers forced an Alabama punt to open the game, Douthit scored three consecutive touchdowns for Clemson en route to an 18–0 lead. Douthit scored first on a 5-yard run, next on a short reception and finally on a second short touchdown run.

M. N. Hunter then scored for Clemson on a long run just before the break and made the halftime score 23–0. In the second half, the Tigers extended their lead to 35–0, behind a long Jim Lynah touchdown run and Douthit's fourth score of the day on a short run. With approximately four minutes left in the game, both team

captains agreed to end the game early due to an unruly crowd and impending darkness.

## **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: Clemson Season -- 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: Clemson Season -- 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.



Great Clemson Players on 1902 Clemson Football Team, John Heisman Coach

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."

## Great Clemson Player – Carl Sitton

Charles Vedder Sitton was born on September 22, 1881, and he passed away on September 11, 1931. He was well loved and admired

and so he had a lot of nicknames. He was called Carl, C. V., and Vet Sitton. Besides being a football great, he was also a baseball player and coach. A gifted athlete, at Clemson College, he played great football, and he later coached baseball for the Tigers.

In his first two years as a pitcher in the minor leagues, he led his teams to a regional pennant. He then played major-league baseball in 1909 with the Cleveland Naps before returning to the minors.

His mom and dad were Henry Philip and Amy Wilkinson Sitton who raised Charles in Pendleton, South Carolina. He was the second of five children. Sitton's granddad, John B. Sitton, built the first brick building in the town square of the Old Pendleton district; his father and an uncle, Augustus, fought for the Confederacy in the American Civil War.

The following sourced quote is in all mentions of Sitton & Sadler, the pair of ends on Coach Heisman's great teams. According to one source, "Vetter Sitton and Hope Sadler were the finest ends that Clemson ever had perhaps". Sitton played on the left and Sadler on the right on Clemson's football teams. Both were All-Southern football players in 1902 and 1903. In 1902 he put it to Georgia Tech with a 44-5 beatdown in which Sitton scored first on an 80-yard end run.

There was chicanery involved with John Heisman as chronicled elsewhere in this book. 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 those who bet on Tech were fooled.



This picture of Sitton shows him in a dark turtleneck, while at Clemson around 1903. In 1903, Sitton was reportedly injured before the Georgia Tech contest. Tech rooters thought perhaps it was another ruse from Heisman. It was no ruse, but Sitton's substitute Gil Ellison played well enough for a 73-0 rout. The 24-0 win over Davidson saw one writer note "Clemson playing against eleven wooden

men, would attract attention;" and Sitton had a 60-yard touchdown run. One writer noted.

The 1903 Football Tigers went on to play in the South's first conference championship game, tying Cumberland 11–11. The tying score came after Cumberland muffed a punt. Cumberland expected a trick play when Fritz Furtick simply ran up the middle for a touchdown. 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 charges 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."

Charles Sitton was also a starting pitcher for the baseball team, "one of the best pitchers Clemson ever had" ... and "one of the best twirlers in the country." According to one account, "Sitton is considered one of the best college twirlers in the south ... He is a heady pitcher, and knows just what to do in every emergency." He posted an 18–4 career record.

Sitton played pro baseball for the 1908 Nashville Vols. After college Sitton played baseball in a number of cities, batting and throwing right-handed. He had his pitching debut with the Jacksonville Jays, leading the team to the South Atlantic League (SALLY) championship.

Sitton was then a starting pitcher for the Southern Association champion 1908 Nashville Vols. The club, under manager Bill Bernhard, entered the final day of that season with an opportunity to win the league pennant. The championship would be decided by the last game of the season, between the Vols and the New Orleans Pelicans at Sulphur Dell. Both teams had the same number of losses (56), but the Pelicans were in first place with 76 wins to the Vols' second-place 74.

A crowd of 11,000 saw Sitton use his spitball to outpitch Ted Breitenstein for a complete-game, nine-strikeout, three-hit, 1–0 shutout, giving Nashville its third Southern Association pennant by

.002 percentage points. The Nashville team and the fans mobbed the pitcher on the mound.

Grantland Rice called it "the greatest game ever played in Dixie." According to one account, "By one run, by one point, Nashville has won the Southern League pennant, nosing New Orleans out literally by an eyelash. Saturday's game, which was the deciding one, between Nashville and New Orleans was the greatest exhibition of the national game ever seen in the south and the finish in the league race probably sets a record in baseball history". Carl Sitton brightened up the lives of a lot of Sports fans in his day for sure.

The 1902 Heisman-coached 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.

Clemson scored first on an 80-yard end run from Carl Sitton. The starting lineup was Sitton (left end), Barnwell (left tackle), Kaigler (left guard), Green (center), Forsyth (right guard), DeCosta (right tackle), Sadler (right end), Maxwell (quarterback), Gantt (left halfback), Lawrence (right halfback), Hanvey (fullback). Week 3: at Furman On Oct 24, Clemson prevailed at Furman W (28-0). 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. The Carolina fans that week were carrying around a poster with the image of a tiger with a gamecock standing on top of it, holding the tiger's tail as if he was steering the tiger by the tail," Jay McCormick said. "Naturally, the Clemson guys didn't take too kindly to that, and on Wednesday and again on Thursday, there were sporadic fistfights involving brass knuckles and other objects and so forth, some of which resulted, according to the newspapers, in blood being spilled and persons having to seek medical assistance.



After the game on Thursday, the Clemson guys frankly told the Carolina students that if you bring this poster, which is insulting to us, to the big parade on Friday, you're going to be in trouble. And naturally, of course, the Carolina students brought the poster to the parade. If you give someone an ultimatum and they're your rival, they're going to do exactly what you told them not to do."

As expected, another brawl broke out before both sides agreed to mutually burn the poster in an effort to defuse tensions. The immediate aftermath resulted in the stoppage of the rivalry until 1909.

Clemson gained only 2 and a half yards in the first half. On a triple pass around end, Sitton made a 30-yard touchdown in the second half. More than 5,000 were in attendance.

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). Tennessee's Tootsie Douglas still holds the record for the longest punt in school history, when he punted a ball 109 yards (the field length was 110 yards in those days). It was in a blizzard."

## **1903: Clemson Season -- 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.



Great Clemson Players on 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.

Before the season, teams had to acclimate themselves to the new point system. For the 1903 season, the point values were different from those used in contemporary games. In 1903, for example, a touchdown was worth five points, a field goal was worth five points and a conversion (PAT) was worth one point.

**Hope Sadler** was again the Tigers' team captain. This was the last season with both Sadler and Carl Sitton at ends. As noted several times previously, one writer recalls, "Sitton and Hope Sadler were the finest ends that Clemson ever had perhaps."

## 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."



Quarterback John Maxwell, 1903

Quarterback John Maxwell returned a kickoff for a touchdown. A contemporary account reads "The Clemson players seemed mere dwarfs as they lined up for the kickoff. To the crowd on the sidelines it didn't seem that Heisman's charges could possibly do more than give a gallant account of themselves in a losing battle."

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.

## Great Clemson Player John Maxwell

John Maxwell was an All-Southern quarterback for John Heisman's Clemson Tigers of Clemson University, and a member of its athletic Hall of Fame.

Maxwell started every game in 1902.[3] The Tigers closed the season with an 11 to 0 win over the Tennessee Volunteers. Tennessee back A. H. Douglas holds the record for the longest punt in his school's history, when he punted a ball 109 yards (the field length was 110 yards in those days) with the help of the wind during the Clemson game. Heisman described the kick this way:

“...One quick glance he cast overhead– no doubt to make sure that howling was still the same old hurricane. I knew at once what he proposed to do. The snap was perfect. "Toots" caught the ball, took two smart steps and – BLAM!–away shot the ball as though from the throat of Big Bertha. And, say, in his palmiest mathematical mood, I don't believe Sir Isaac Newton himself could have figured a more perfect trajectory to fit with that cyclone. Onward and upward, upward and onward, the crazy thing flew like a brainchild of Jules Verne. I thought it would clear the Blue Ridge Mountains. Our safety man, the great Johnny Maxwell, was positioned 50 yards behind our rush line, yet the punt sailed over his head like a phantom aeroplane. Finally, it came down, but still uncured of its wanderlust it started in to roll–toward our goal, of course, with Maxwell chasing and damning it with every step and breath. Finally it curled up and died on our one-footline, after a bowstring journey of just 109 yards.”

Both Maxwell and Douglas were selected All-Southern in different publications. He returned the kickoff to open the second half 100 yards for Clemson's first score in the 1903 game with Cumberland billed as the championship of the South which ended in an 11–11 tie. It was John Heisman's last game as Clemson head coach.

## Great Clemson Player – Hope Sadler

The winning team was to be awarded the ball. Captain W. W. Suddarth of Cumberland wanted captain Hope Sadler of Clemson to get the ball, and Sadler insisted Suddarth should have it. Some ten minutes of bickering was resolved when the ball was given to patrolman Patrick J. Sweeney, for warning the media and fans to stay down in front and allow spectators to see the game.

<<< Captain Hope Sadler 1903



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.

David Hope Sadler was born on October 12, 1882 and he passed away on August 29, 1931. He was a Clemson All-American for

John Heisman's Clemson Tigers of Clemson University.

Sadler was captain of the SIAA champion 1902 and 1903 Clemson Tigers football teams coached by Heisman. He was selected All-Southern the same years. One publication reads "Vetter Sitton and Hope Sadler were the finest ends that Clemson ever had perhaps." Sitton played on the left; Sadler on the right.

Born in York County, South Carolina to Rufus Earle Sadler and Lillian Emily Crawford, he had a great football career at Clemson. In the "1903 SIAA championship game," against the Cumberland Bulldogs, which opened its season with an upset of Vanderbilt, as discussed above, the winning team was to be awarded the ball. The game ended in an 11–11 tie. Captain W. W. Suddarth of Cumberland wanted captain Sadler to get the ball for his great play in the game.

Hope Sadler had other ideas. He insisted Suddarth should have it. Some ten minutes of bickering was resolved when the ball was given to patrolman Patrick J. Sweeney, for warning the media and fans to stay down in front and allow spectators to see the game. In 2017, we are often deprived of such simple facts as sports pundits do their best to spice up the game action. Surely, the fans cheered for Patrolman Sweeney.

## Chapter 8 Shack Shealy and Eddie Cochems Era 1904-1905

Coach # 5 Shack Shealy

Coach # 6 Eddie Cochems

<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



1904 Coach Shack Shealy

### 1904 Clemson Season -- 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. Shealy's 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 Clemson Season -- Eddie Cochems

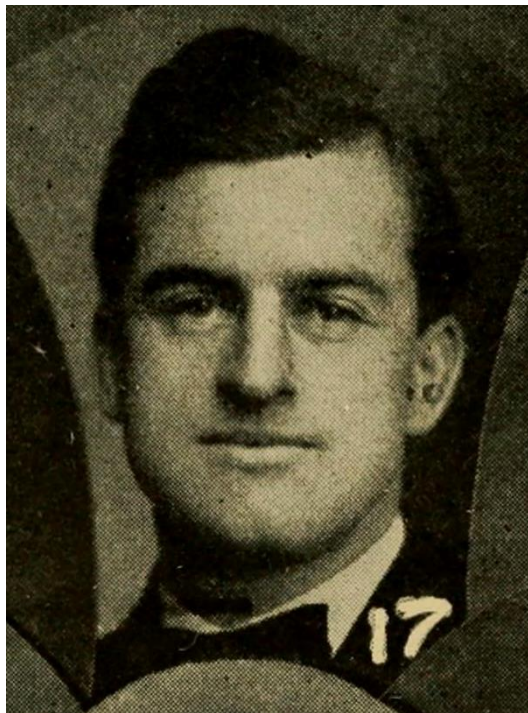
The 1905 Clemson Tigers football team represented the Clemson Agricultural College during the 1905 college football season as a member of the SIAA. Eddie Cochems, one of the immortals and early tradesmen in football strategies was the head football coach in his first and only season at Clemson. Eddie 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.

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.





Great Clemson Players from Cochem's 1905 Team



1905 Clemson Coach Eddie Cochems

## Great Clemson Player – Puss Derrick



<<< Puss Derrick, Clemson Captain Oscar Luther "Puss" Derrick was born November 29, 1883. He passed away in – July, 1965). Derrick was a great Clemson College football player from 1903 to 1906. "Puss" was a lineman for the Clemson Tigers.

He was selected All-Southern every year that he played. Derrick was still mentioned for an all-time Clemson team in 1960. He was a member of John Heisman's SIAA champion 1903 team with other great Clemson star players such as Hope Sadler and Carl Sitton.

In 1905, a year in which Derrick was captain, John de Saulles sums up Derrick's play; he "is a veteran player who, by steady improvement has put himself in the first rank of linesmen. He was the mainstay of the Clemson season and no other Southern player could so satisfactorily fill this important position; hence, to balance the team and utilize the best of the material available, he is shifted from center to guard.

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)

# Chapter 9 Bob Williams & Frank Shaughnessy Era 1906-1907

Coach # 7 Bob Williams

Coach # 8 Frank Shaughnessy

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	Conf	Record
1906	Bob Williams	3-3-1	SIAA	4-0-1
1907	Frank Shaughnessy	4-4-0	SIAA	1-3-0

## 1906 Clemson Season -- 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 in a row 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).



Fritz Furtick Captain 1906 Clemson Tigers

## Great Clemson Player – Fritz Furtick

Fritz Malholmes Furtick was born on July 15, 1882 in Sandy Run, South Carolina to Wade Hampton Furtick and Narcissa Ellen Saylor. He died almost eighty years later on May 5, 1962). He was a great football halfback for the Clemson Tigers. Twice selected All-Southern, Furtick was captain of the undefeated 1906 Clemson Football team.

Whenever there was great action on the field in Furtick's day. He was part of that action. Furtick made Clemson's second score in the 1903 game with Cumberland billed as the championship of the South which ended in an 11-11 tie. It was also John Heisman's last game coached at Clemson. Cumberland had expected a trick play, when Furtick simply ran up the middle he scored. The referee of the

Tennessee clash which ended in a tie, Frank Watkins, said "Furtick was as good bucking halfback as he had ever seen."

In the opening game with V. P. I. of 1906 that ended in a scoreless tie, Furtick played what the Atlanta Constitution called "the game of his life" on both sides of the ball.

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. In this 10-0 victory over John Heisman's Georgia Tech team, Captain Fritz Furtick scored Clemson's first touchdown. An onside kick set up the second TD.

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.

The starting lineup was Coagman (left end), Lykes (left tackle), Gaston (left guard), Clark (center), Carter (right guard), McLaurin (right tackle), Coles (right end), Warren (quarterback), Allen (left halfback), Furtick (right halfback).

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 Clemson Season -- 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).

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 10 Stein Stone, Frank Dobson & Bob Williams Era 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



Great Players on the 1908 Clemson Tigers Football Team

## 1908 Clemson Season -- 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.

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

## 1909 Clemson Season -- 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.



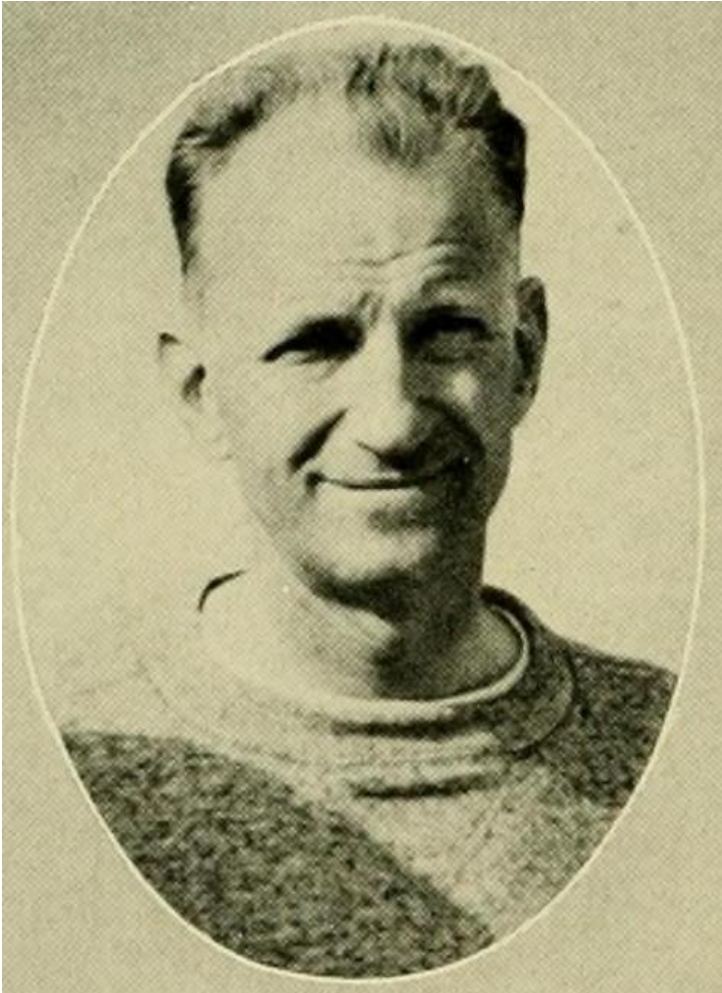
Great players from the Clemson 1909 Football Team Coach -- Bob Williams

### 1910 Clemson Season -- 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).

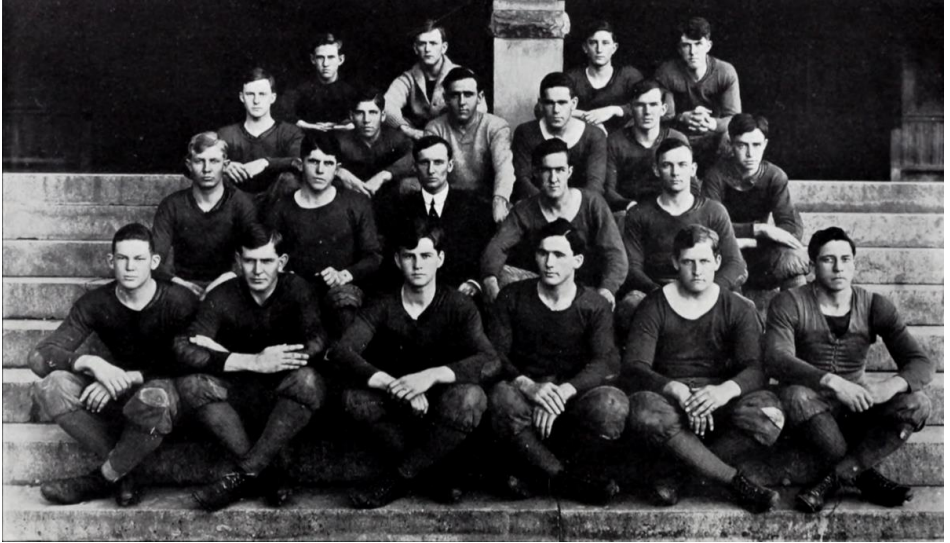


Clemson's 10<sup>th</sup> Football Coach 1910 -1912 Frank Dobson

## **1911 Clemson Season -- 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.



Great Players on the 1911 Clemson Football Team -- Frank Dobson Coach

## 1912 Clemson Season -- Frank Dobson

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.



Great Players on the 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 Clemson Season -- 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.



Though the Tigers were still taking their lumps v the better teams, they seemed to be doing better with Coach Williams. Though they were playing much better, John Heisman's Georgia Tech team was a well-oiled machine when they met on Nov 27. Heisman's boys easily beat the Clemson Fighting Tigers L (0-34).

## 1914 Clemson Season -- Bob Williams

In 1914, the founder of Clemson football, 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.



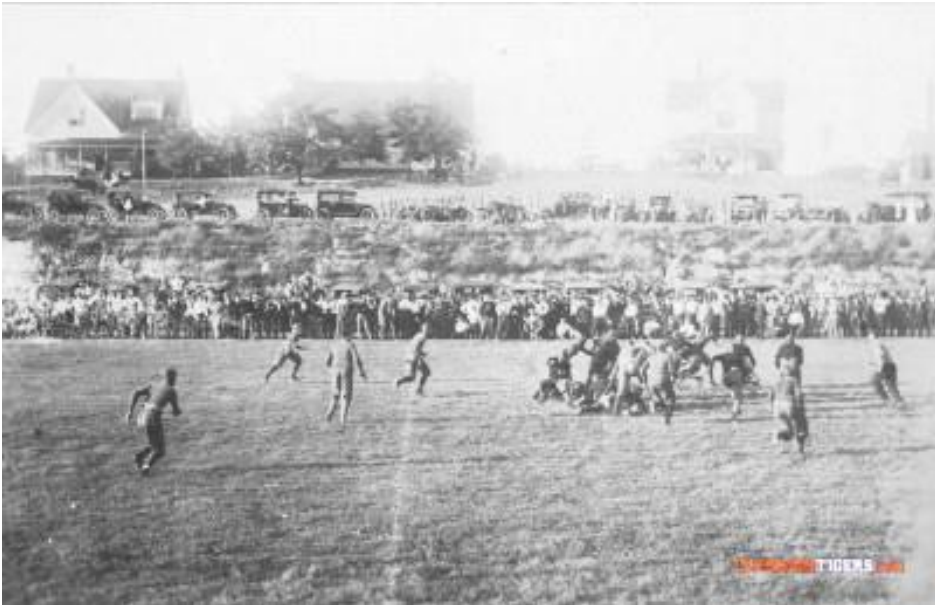
Great Players on Clemson 1914 Football Team -- Bob Williams Coach

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.

## 1915 Clemson Season -- 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.

Bob Williams 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.



Riggs Field – The First Game Oct 2, 1915 v Davidson





## Chapter 11 Wayne Hart & Edward Donahue Era 1916-1918

Coach # 11 Wayne Hart

Coach # 12 Edward Donahue

<b>Year</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Record</b>
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	2-6-0

### 1916 Clemson Season -- Wayne Hart



<< Coach Wayne Hart

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. Stumpy Banks caught two touchdowns against rival South Carolina.

### 1917 Clemson Season -- Edward 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.



## << **Coach Donahue**

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. Stumpy Banks scored five touchdowns against Furman for a school record. caught two touchdowns against rival South Carolina. John Heisman ranked Clemson fourth in the south, or third in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

## **Great Player Stumpy Banks**

Bertie Cecil "Stumpy" Banks was born July 11, 1898 and passed away on November 15, 1960. He was both a player and athletic director. He was a prominent running back in the football program of Clemson, receiving five varsity letters for the Clemson Tigers. He scored five touchdowns against Furman in 1917 for a school record. He caught two touchdowns against rival South Carolina in 1916. Banks was captain of both the 1918 and 1919 teams. He was selected All-Southern by John Heisman.] After college, he was athletic director at Claflin University.

## **1918 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1919 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1920 Clemson Season -- 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.



# Chapter 12 E J Stewart & Bud Saunders Era 1921-1926

Coach # 13 E J Stewart  
Coach # 14 Bud Saunders

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
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

## 1921 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1922 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1923 Clemson Season -- 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.

## 1924 Clemson Season -- 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.

## 1925 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1926 Clemson Season -- 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.



## Chapter 13 Josh Cody Era 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 Clemson Season -- 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

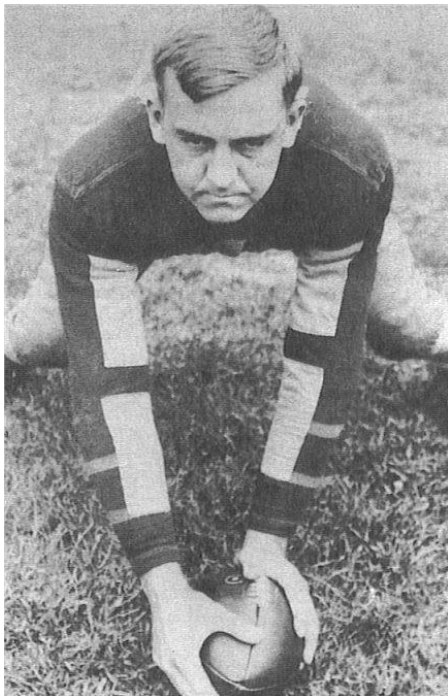
in the SoCon. They were ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 22 active SoCon teams. Bud Eskew was the captain.

## 1928 Clemson Season -- 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 7<sup>th</sup> out of 22 active SoCon teams. O.K. Pressley was the captain.

On Oct 25, on Big Thursday, the Tigers whooped the Gamecocks W (32-0) in Columbia SC.

## Great Player O.K. Pressley C 1926-28



Captain OK Pressley

In 1928, Pressley was voted Third-team All-American by Newspaper Enterprise of America, John Heisman, and Walter Trumbull. He was the first Tiger named to any All-America team. Pressley was the starting center from 1926-28. He was honored by being captain as a senior in 1928.

<<< Center / Captain O. K. Pressley  
Ready to snap the ball

Pressley was rugged and durable. He started 25 games at center in his three years out of a possible 29 games Clemson had a school-record eight wins his senior

year...O.K. Pressley was All-Southern in 1928.

## **1929 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1930 Clemson Season -- Josh Cody**

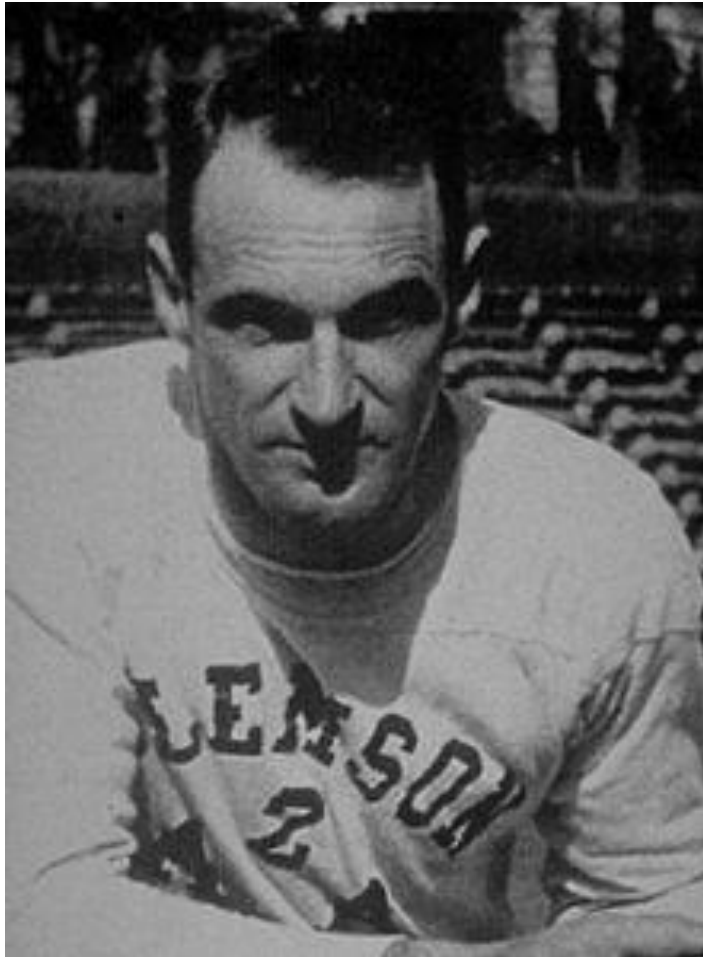
The 1930 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1930 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Josh Cody was the head football coach for his fourth and last of four seasons. This would be Cody's best season. The Tigers completed their thirty-fifth 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.



# Chapter 14 Jess Neely Era 1931-1939

Coach # 16 Jess Neely

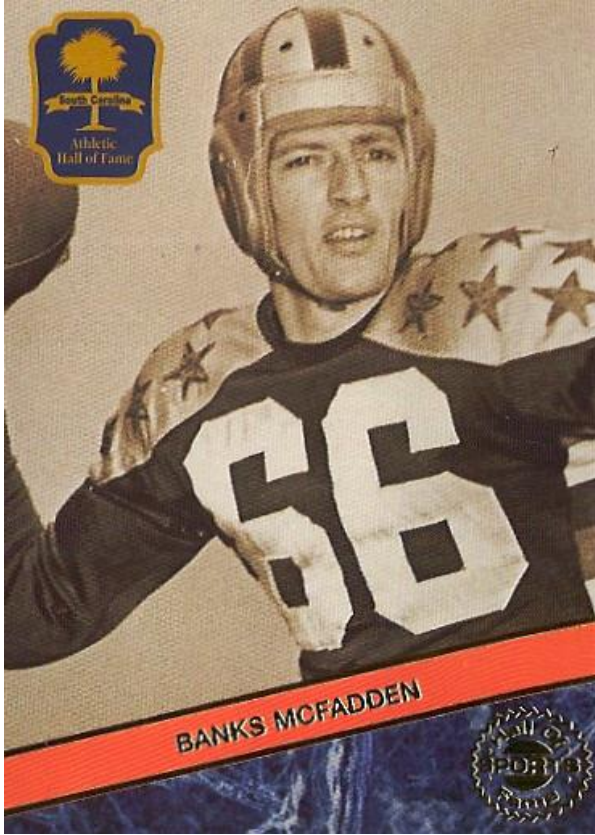
Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1931	Jess Neely	1-6-2	SoCon	
1932	Jess Neely	3-5-1	SoCon	
1933	Jess Neely	3-6-2	SoCon	
1934	Jess Neely	5-4-0	SoCon	
1935	Jess Neely	6-3-0	SoCon	
1936	Jess Neely	5-5-0	SoCon	
1937	Jess Neely	4-4-1	SoCon	
1938	Jess Neely	7-1-1	SoCon	
1939	Jess Neely	9-1-0	SoCon	



Coach Jess Neely

## Great Player Banks McFadden CB 1936-40

No book about Clemson greats could be written without discussing Banks McFadden.



<< *Banks McFadden*

To repeat, in any book such as this that honors great Clemson players, we could not leave off an athletic legend like Banks McFadden, who is without a doubt one of the greatest Clemson athletes of all time. Pulling full-time duty with football, basketball, and baseball, McFadden excelled as a defensive back thanks to his great athleticism that few could match. He is one of just three Football Tigers to have his jersey and number retired.

Check out the years in which McFadden played and then please remember we already declared that McFadden is widely considered to be the greatest athlete in Clemson University history, after lettering in three sports (football, basketball and track).

McFadden was All-American in both football and basketball in the same calendar year (1939), He is the only Clemson athlete to do that. In 1939-40, he was named the nation's most versatile athlete. He was also Clemson's first wire-service AP All-American.

Banks was a record setter on the field as a runner, passer, and punter. A born athlete, he kept busy in all sports seasons. For example, he led the Tigers to state championship in track twice in his three years...

He was elected to National Football Hall of Fame in 1959 and he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Clemson in 1966. He is a charter member of the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame and the state of South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

As noted above but worthy of mention again, McFadden is the only Tiger to have his jersey retired in two sports.

He was a great football player and had options after college. He was the #4 pick of the Brooklyn Dodgers (football) after the 1939 season, that is still the highest draft pick ever by a Clemson player. It took eleven passes to get to DeShaun Watson this year.

As noted, Banks played one year in the NFL and led the league in yards per rush...coached the defensive backs at Clemson for 26 years, he was also the head basketball coach from 1947-56...Clemson's McFadden Building, dedicated in 1995, is in his honor...named to Clemson's Centennial team in April, 1996...ranked as Clemson's #1 football player of all-time by a panel of Clemson historians in 1999. That is how good he was.

In 1939, McFadden was voted the Associated Press' "Athlete of the Year". McFadden was also a two-time All-American in basketball (1938 and 1939) and lead the Tigers basketball team to a Southern Conference championship in 1939.

McFadden also played halfback and punter on the football team and was named Clemson's first Associated Press All-American in football in 1939, which saw the Tigers play and win their 1st bowl game (1940 Cotton Bowl Classic).

Upon graduating, McFadden played football for the National Football League's Brooklyn Dodgers. He was the #4 overall NFL draft pick in 1940. In his first, and only, year as a professional he played in 11 games. He had the longest rush in the NFL that year -

75 yards. He was tied for second for most yards per attempt with a 4.8 yards per carry average.

He was also fifth in the league for most rushing yards per game. Defensively he had two interceptions. Despite his success, McFadden preferred the small-town life and the family atmosphere of Clemson. He returned to the state of South Carolina to coach at his alma mater. A great Clemson Tiger for sure.

## 1931 Clemson Season -- 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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1933 Clemson Season -- 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 w

This was the third losing season of the period of years known as the seven lean years. 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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1935 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1936 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1937 Clemson Season -- 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.

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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## 1939 Clemson Season -- 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.

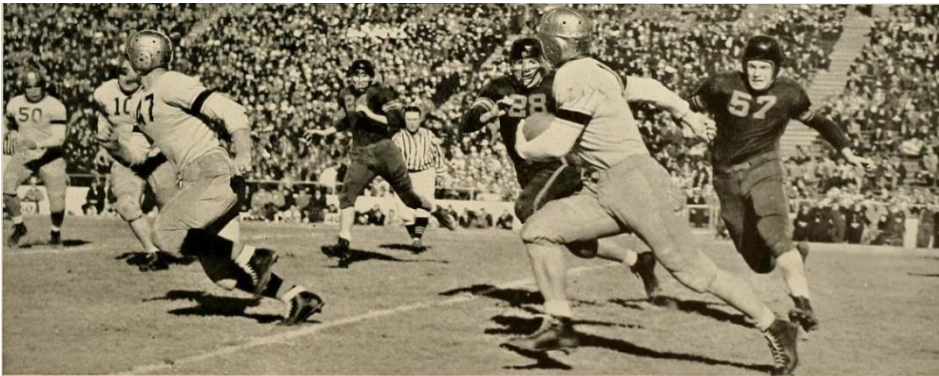
They were listed along with Duke at the top of the SoCon standings for 1939 out of 15 active SoCon teams. Joe Payne was the captain. Clemson participated in its first bowl game, beating a tough Boston College coached by the immortal Frank Leahy in the 1940 Cotton Bowl Classic. It was a great season changer 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 Sirmine 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 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 much more than a nudge W (6-3) What a win for Clemson and what a loss for Boston College.



VITO OFF FOR 14 YARDS

The Cotton Bowl 1940

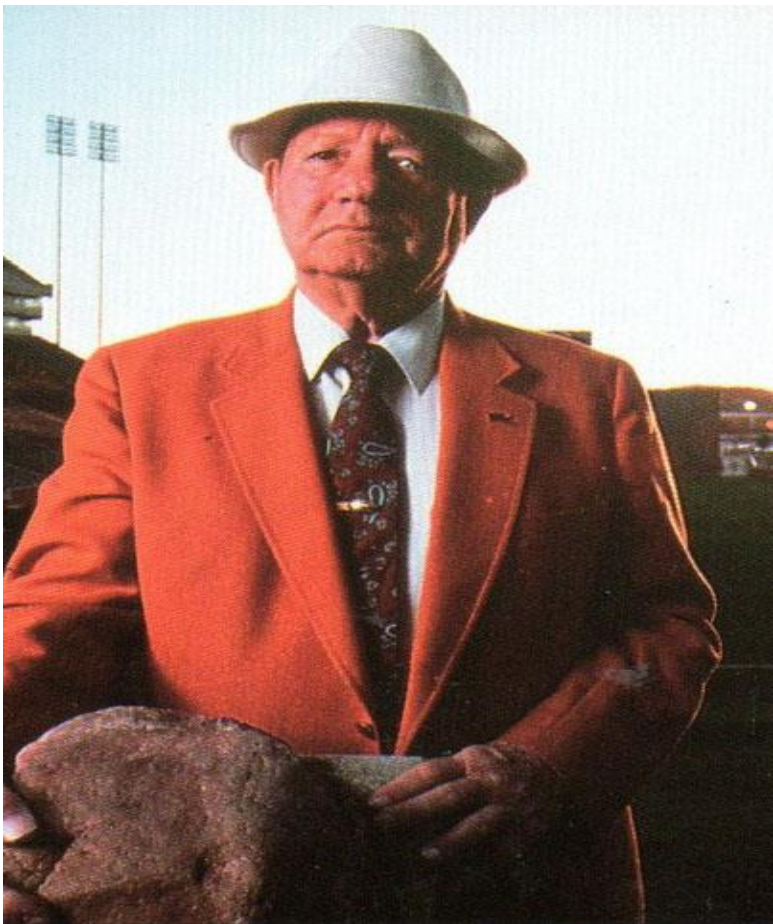
In the Cotton Bowl, Boston College took the lead on a 30 yard field goal by Alex Lukachik early in the 2nd quarter after four failed plays following a punt return to the Clemson 13. After both teams exchanged punts throughout most of the quarter, Clemson got it back at their 43. They drove 57 yards and it culminated with a Charlie Timmons touchdown. The scoring ended from that point on as Clemson won their first bowl game. Aftermath

It is to date Clemson's only Cotton Bowl Classic. BC would have to wait 45 years for another chance at the Cotton Bowl Classic, returning in 1985 and winning.

# Chapter 15 Frank Howard Era 1940-1964

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

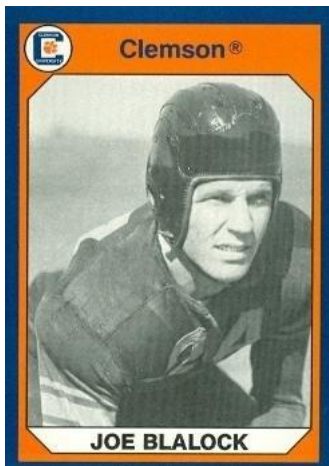
## 1940 Clemson Season -- Frank Howard

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

## 1941 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Great Player Joe Blalock WR 1938-41



In these early days of football, there were lots of opportunities for firsts. For example, Joe Blalock was Clemson's first two-time All-American. He was a starter as a sophomore when real Freshman were prohibited from playing in the 1940's. He started on the 1940 Cotton Bowl team. He led the Tiger receiver squad for three straight years. For many years, he was tied for seventh in Tiger history in career touchdown catches (11).

He averaged 20.3 yards per catch in his career, still the school record on a yards-per-catch basis...

When he graduated, he was a fifth-round pick of the Lions after the 1941 season. To keep in shape and because he loved Sports, Blalock also played Clemson basketball in 1940-41. He is a charter member of the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame being inducted in 1973. He has many accolades and awards such as being inducted into the state of South Carolina Hall of Fame and being named to Clemson's Centennial team in 1996. Blalock died August 21, 1974. In 1999, an esteemed panel of historians slotted Joe Blalock as Clemson's #16 gridder of all-time.

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## **1942 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1943 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1944 Clemson Season -- 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

## **1945 Clemson Season -- 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





Frank Howard's Clemson Players Taking a Water Break

## Great Player Ralph Jenkins C 1943-45



### << Ralph Jenkins.

Jenkins made second-team All-American in 1945. He also played in the 1946 Blue-Gray Classic game which was always a big-deal. Ralph was one of the first Tigers chosen to an All-Star game and he made All-American as a junior. He started only four games as a senior due to injury.

Jenkins was a three-time captain. He was that smart and that dedicated to the game. He is the first three-time captain in Tiger history and as of course we all can assume by being highlighted in this book, he was one of the top centers in Tiger history.

Ralph Jenkins started about as many games as a healthy man could from 1943-45. In fact, he started all 27 games at center his freshman, sophomore, and junior seasons. He was just the second Clemson offensive lineman to earn All-America honors. When it was time to graduate, despite his injury as a senior, he was a 14th-round pick of the Steelers after the 1946 season. He played one year of pro ball in 1947. He was such a standout Clemson Player that he was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1995.

## **1946 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1947 Clemson Season -- Frank Howard**

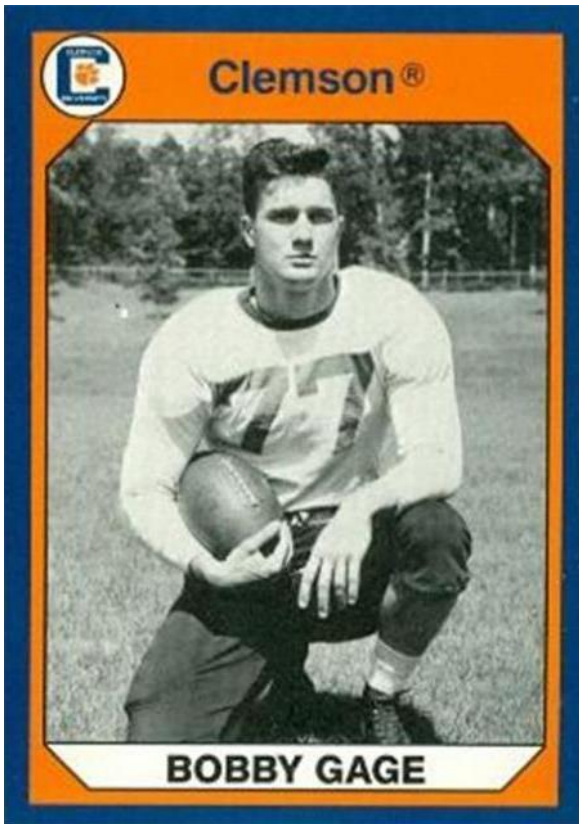
The 1947 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1947 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his eighth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-second season overall and their twenty-sixth 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.

## **1948 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Great Player Bobby Gage (1945-48)



Nobody contests that Bobby Gage was one of the finest all-around football players in Clemson history. He played in the two-platoon era and he really had an effect on three platoons because he changed the course of games with his punt and kickoff returns. Gage played everywhere and he was great.

Looking closely at his stats in 1948 shows a season in which he had a 100-yard rushing game (12-104 vs. Furman), a 172-yard passing game (against Mississippi State), a two-

interception game on defense (also against Mississippi State) and a 100-yard punt return game (101 on three returns against NC State). His 90-yard punt return in that game proved to be the game winner and is still the longest punt return by a Clemson player in the history of Death Valley.

Bobby Gage was the true triple threat football player of the 1940s. He ended his career with 35 touchdowns, eight on rushes, 24 touchdown

passes, one via punt return, one via kickoff return and even one on a reception. He still ranks in the top 10 in Clemson history in total offense and interceptions defensively. That is success on both sides of the ball, something you don't see today.

For his accomplishments in 1948, Gage was named a first-team All-American. He was a first-round draft choice of the Pittsburgh Steelers after the season. There were many great young men on Clemson's 1948 team that posted a perfect 11-0 record, the first perfect season at Clemson in 48 seasons. But, Gage might have been the top all-around player and senior leader. He had the stats to back it up.

It was not easy to become an All-American yet in his senior-year, he crossed the All-American threshold as a QB after leading Clemson to an 11-0 season and a 24-23 Gator Bowl win over Missouri. He was a unanimous choice as MVP in the 1949 Gator Bowl...

Gage was in the top 10 in career total offense at Clemson with 3,757 yards. When the greats were reported, he was tied for seventh in Tiger history in career interceptions (10). He also had perhaps the best all-around passing game in Tiger history when he completed 9-11 for 245 yards and two scores versus Furman in 1947. Gage knew the game and played it very well.

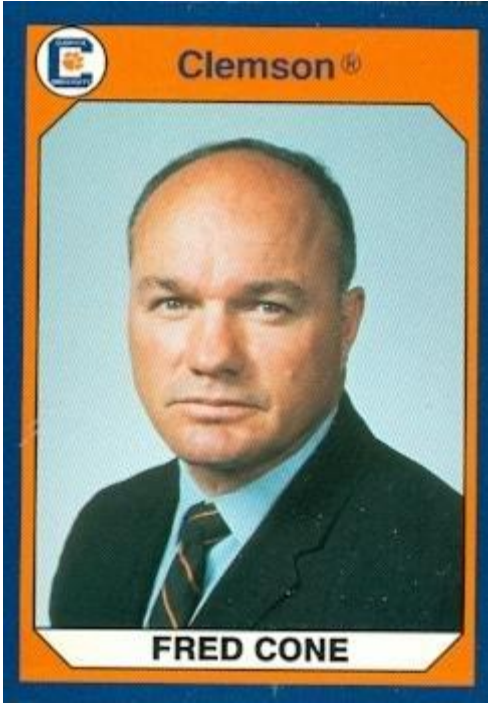
Bobby had four touchdown passes against Auburn in 1947, He was the first Tiger to do that. He was even better. He was called on the first-round of the NFL draft pick as the sixth selection of the Steelers. He played with the Steelers for two years.

He was inducted into the 1976 Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame. He was an inductee also to the state of South Carolina Hall of Fame in 1978. Gage was also named to the Gator Bowl Hall of Fame in 1990. After leaving the pros, he worked in the south in a big industry -- textiles at Chemurgy Products, Inc.

He was ranked as Clemson's #5 gridder of all-time by a panel of historians in 1999...At the time, he resided in Greenville, SC. The South Carolina gridgers love South Carolina as their home. What is there not to love?

## Great Player #6 Fred Cone (1948-50)

Every coach has a great recruiting story but there is no question that Coach Frank Howard has one of the best. The most unusual



recruiting story that you can find at Clemson was the case of Fred Cone. In the summer of 1947, Coach Frank Howard was informed by his sister, who lived in Mississippi, that there was a terrific athlete related to her next-door neighbor. When Howard turned in the names of his scholarship players for the fall of 1947, he had one spot left, so he added Fred Cone to the list, sight unseen. How's that for a guided light?

Had he wanted to watch Cone play high school football he could not have done it. Cone did not play football in high school. Howard's sister was

simply impressed with his athletic ability diving into the neighbor's pool.

By his sophomore year, 1948, Cone was leading the Tigers to an undefeated season, Clemson's first perfect year since 1900. Cone had 635 yards rushing and seven TDs, leading Clemson to the Gator Bowl, where Clemson downed Missouri 24-23. His second-effort run on fourth-and-three for a first down in the final minutes allowed Clemson to run out the clock and claim the landmark victory.

Two years later, Cone was leading Clemson to another undefeated season and he garnered first-team All-Southern honors. He scored 15 touchdowns and gained 845 yards in 1950 and concluded his career with 31 touchdowns, a record. After his Hall of Fame career at Clemson, Cone went on to a Hall of Fame career with the Green Bay Packers. He led the NFL in field goals in 1955.

In 1997 he was inducted into the Clemson Ring of Honor—a distinction he richly deserves. Not a bad record for someone who never played high school football.

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 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.

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 was mentioned by some pundits, but the idea was mostly pooh poohed. The pundits said that Clemson went 11-0, but their schedule was weak and they performed rather poorly, though victorious in a number of games. Life is not always fair.

Clemson's 1948 team was undefeated, but the team was wearing a lucky horseshoe all year long. Clemson had so many close games that year, but the Tigers won them all. College Football Coach Darrell Royal's comment might apply here "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." Of course, Clemson's own John Heisman would take the luck but he preached discipline: "Gentlemen, it is better to have died as a small boy than to fumble this football." Coach Howard took the luck this season and ran with it.

This season had some wins that only fate can explain. Of example, Clemson beat NC State 7-0 on a 90-yard punt return by Bobby Gage. Phil Prince blocked a punt at South Carolina that Rabbit Thompson returned for a touchdown, giving the Tigers the 13-7 win over South Carolina. And in the last game of the season, Clemson simply humiliated Auburn 7-6 in a driving rainstorm.

The Tigers kept the lucky horseshoe for their Gator Bowl appearance against Missouri. This game was voted the best Gator Bowl game of the first 25 that were played. Clemson had them 24-16 when they

scored a touchdown to cut the margin to one point with about four minutes left.

Clemson got the ball back and Howard was hoping and trying to run out the clock to come home with a one-point win. It was fourth-and-three near midfield. Coach Frank Howard decided to go for it because he felt the team had not effectively stopped Missouri's offense all day. He called a play that gave the ball to Fred Cone on a running play. Cone hit a stone wall, but he kept his legs churning, and he bounced outside a little so that overall, he gained six yards for the first down. Clemson ran the clock out for the victory. As you may be able to determine, Fred Cone was as strong as an ox.

Coach Howard had a problem giving up even little secrets. For example, there is nobody who can relate to anybody else what the coach saw as his most memorable game. However, Frank Howard had no problem telling the world that the run by Fred Cone was his most memorable play.

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 Clemson Season -- Frank Howard**

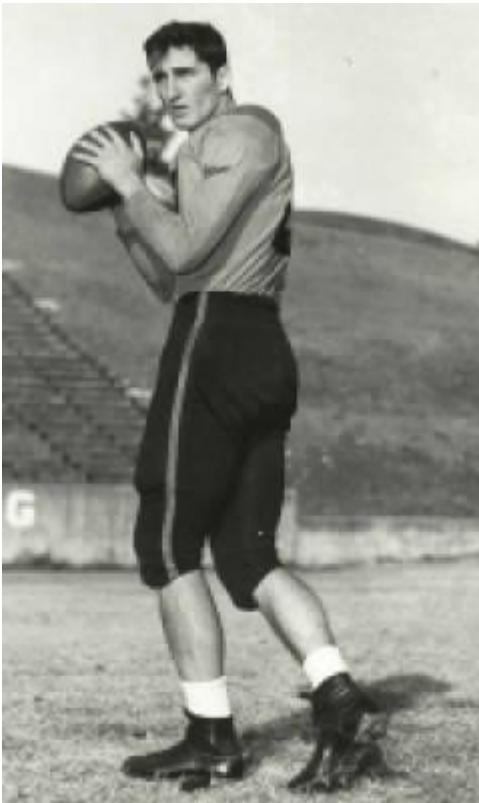
The 1949 Clemson Tigers football team represented Clemson College during the 1949 college football season as a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon). Frank Howard was the head football coach for his tenth of thirty seasons. The Tigers completed their fifty-fourth season overall and their twenty-eighth 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.



## 1950 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Great Player Jackie Calvert S, QB 1948-1950



Calvert was an NEA first-team All-America safety. He was a great one for sure. He still holds the career record for rushing yards per attempt (5.92). He was designated the honor of team co-captain for the 1951 Orange Bowl team. He was always a top all-purpose yardage gainer that season with 1,220 yards,

### << Jackie Calvert

He could easily be described as a fine all-around back but he was more than that.

When this record was retrieved, Calvert was still second in Tiger history in career yards per pass attempt (8.76)...also seventh in career passing efficiency.



Calvert was a 25th-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Rams after the 1950 season...one of the stalwarts on two undefeated Clemson teams...nicknamed "The Kid". For years, he resided in Murrells Inlet, SC.

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 Clemson Season -- 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.

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)

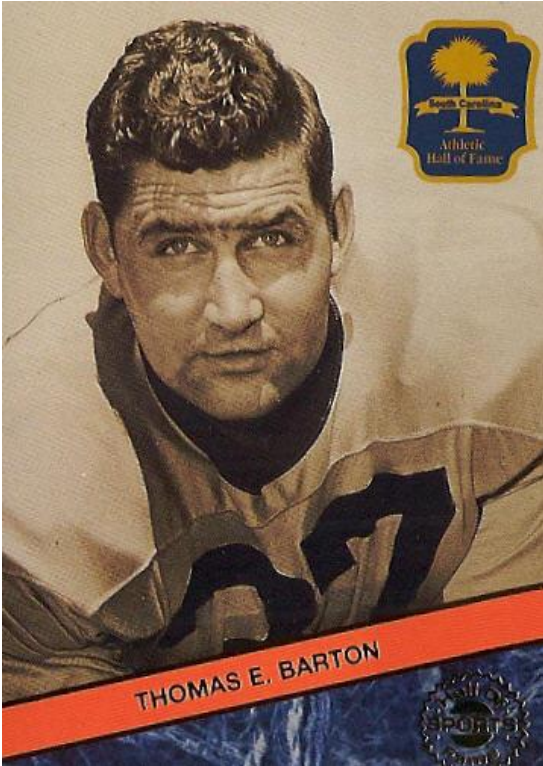
## **1952 Clemson Season -- Frank Howard**

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.

## Great Player Tom Barton G 1950-1952



Playing football in the war years was difficult. Barton spent two years in the Navy prior to attending Clemson. Soldiers in all branches of the service around this time were the toughest athletes in any of the nation's schools. They had faced death and football, no matter how dangerous for others, seemed more like fun for the returning veterans than their prior diet of war related activities.

Barton was named to all-state, All-South and All-America teams during his senior year. He was well

liked and respected by teammates and in fact was nicknamed "Black Cat."

He received the Blue Key Award as the Outstanding Athlete-of-the-Year in 1952. Barton also played in the 1953 All-Star College-Pro Game in Chicago. He was a sixth-round pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers after the 1952 season and was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1987 and the state of South Carolina Hall of Fame in 1987.

After graduating from Clemson, he went on to earn Master's and Doctoral degrees in education. He then served as President of Greenville Technical College.

## **1953 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1954 Clemson Season -- 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.



# Chapter 16 Frank Howard Era 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"	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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## 1956 Clemson Season -- 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.

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

## Great Player Joel Wells, RB 1954-1956)



Joel Wells was a running back who wore number-70. In the defense minded 1950s, Wells broke the ACC rushing record his junior season with 782 yards, then bettered that total with 803 as a senior. That junior year he reached 782 yards in just 135 carries, a 5.8 average that still ranks among the top 10 single season averages in Clemson history.

How respected was Wells nationally? In 1956 his picture adorned the cover of the NCAA media guide. He was

the first running back in Clemson history to rank among the top 20 in the nation in rushing in consecutive seasons. His number-seven ranking in yards per game in 1955 is still the highest ranking by a Clemson running back.

This two-time All-ACC running back is still in the top 15 in Clemson history in rushing and he led the Tigers in rushing three straight seasons. He might have saved his best game for last when he ran for 125 yards in 18 carries against Colorado in the 1957 Orange Bowl. He scored two touchdowns in that game, including a 58-yard jaunt that is still the Clemson record for a touchdown run in a bowl game by a running back.

He was the first Clemson running back to rank in the top 20 in the nation in rushing in consecutive seasons. He ranked seventh in rushing in 1955 and 18th in 1956.

Wells was truly an all-around player. Remember, in the 1950s, players went both ways. He was a strong tackler who also had five career interceptions. He had a 21-yard average on kickoff returns for his career and also had 11 punt returns for 85 yards. On top of that, he had a 20-yard average on 10 receptions for his career. Altogether, Wells had 2482 total performance yards.

Joel Wells was a third-team All-American in 1955...He had already broken the ACC rushing record as a junior.

He enjoyed being a two-time first-team All-ACC selection and as of this report, he was still ranked in the top 20 in career rushing at Clemson. He led Clemson in rushing three straight seasons (1954-56), he was the first Tiger to ever do that. Wells played in the 1957 Senior Bowl which was one of my favorite games when the College All Stars played the winning pro team from the year before. Bring this game back, please.

Wells was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1974) and also the state of South Carolina Hall of Fame the same year, 1974. He is ranked as Clemson's #25 most important gridder of all-time by a panel of historians in 1999. When the report was made, he was living in Greenville, SC. Like I have said, SC players like living in SC.

He was a mainstay of the Clemson squads of his era. When he graduated, he was a second-round draft pick, which meant at the time with so few NFL Teams that he as an 18th selection overall, of the Green Bay Packers after the 1956 season.

He was a second-round selection of the Green Bay Packers in 1957. Instead of the Packers, Wells played four years with the Montreal Alouettes of the CFL. In 1961, for one year, he played with the Giants. Wells played four years in the Canadian Football League before finishing his career with the New York Giants of the NFL.

## **1957 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1958 Clemson Season -- 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.

When Clemson played Vanderbilt on Oct 11 at Dudley Field in Nashville TN, the Tigers won W (12-7).

## **Game Highlight Clemson 12, Vanderbilt 7**

*Oct. 11, 1958 at Nashville, TN*

Clemson scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, including the last one on a short run by Harvey White with just three seconds left. It is still the latest Clemson has ever scored a touchdown to win a game. This was a key victory in a season in which Clemson would qualify for a bowl game.

This was another year that Frank Howard's boys had the lucky horseshoe. Clemson won four games with touchdowns in the fourth quarter that year and it took the Tigers to a bowl game.

On January 1, 1959, in a great effort, the Clemson Tigers lost to LSU at Tulane Stadium, New Orleans in the Sugar Bowl, L (0-7). Overall, the Bowl game was a bit disappointing but the Howard squad almost beat #1 LSU in the Sugar Bowl that year, but Billy Cannon threw a game-deciding touchdown pass to beat the Clemson Tigers.

Cannon's pass was no fluke. As a junior, Cannon was the driving force behind the Fighting Tigers as they carved out a perfect season and captured the 1958 national championship ... He passed for a touchdown and he even kicked the extra point in LSU's 7-0 win over Clemson in the Sugar Bowl, and earned MVP honors.

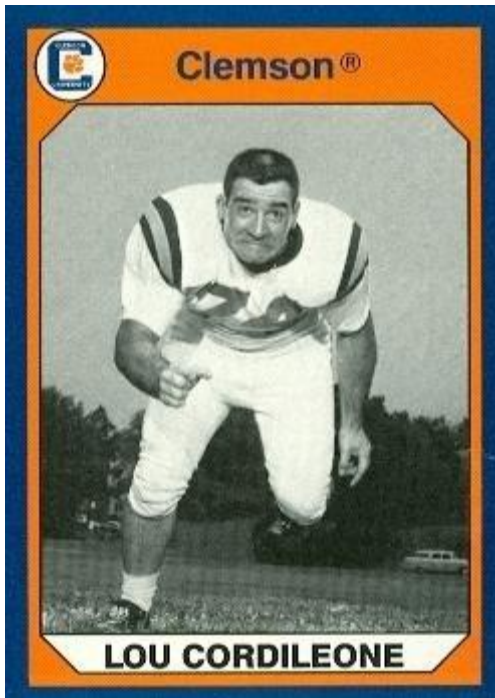
## **1959 Clemson Season -- Frank Howard**

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.

## Great Player Lou Cordileone T 1957-59

Cordileone was a great Clemson player. He was named first-team All-American, Academic All-American, and Academic All-ACC in 1959 as a senior. He played two fine years before his senior year. He started on two ACC Championship teams that were nationally ranked 12th and 11th in 1958 and 1959, respectively



He played in two 1959 bowl games, the Sugar Bowl and the Bluebonnet Bowl. He was also adept at other sports such as playing right field in the College World Series for the Tigers in 1959. Not too shabby! He was a first-round draft pick in both the NFL and the AFL. The AFL breakaway was very successful in this era.

Cordileone was chosen by the Giants in the NFL and by the Buffalo Bills in the AFL. He was the 12th pick of the 1960 draft by the New York Giants.

Lou was the first Clemson player to play in the Hula Bowl, which we all know he enjoyed. He also played in the 1960 College All-Star Game in Chicago which once was called the Senior Bowl. Lou Cordileone, an All-American was named to Clemson's Centennial team in April 1996.

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

## Highlight Game Clemson 33, Wake Forest 31

*Nov. 21, 1959 at Clemson, SC*

This was a very exciting game in Death Valley. Some might say the score replicated that of a tennis match, up and down the field. The Demon Deacons had the Tigers beaten in the fourth quarter, but in those days, maybe just that year, the NCAA had a crazy substitution rule stating that you could not reenter a game until the next quarter. Wake Forest substituted its quarterback late in the fourth quarter.

Clemson turned the ball over, so they had to put a substitute quarterback into the game. On a third-down play, Chuck O'Reilly, the substitute quarterback, threw the ball into the flat and the Tigers' George Usry intercepted.

Usry returned the interception about 75 yards. Two plays later, the same George Usry ran it in for the touchdown. So, Usry made the interception and then scored the winning touchdown. You wouldn't see that today because no one plays both ways anymore.

When Clemson scored that last touchdown to go ahead, 33-31, Furman Bisher of the Atlanta Constitution asked jokingly, "Does anyone remember how the first touchdown (of this game) was scored?" It was such a back and forth on the scores that it seemed like it had been a week ago. Of course, games weren't as high scoring in those days because offenses were much more conservative. Today, as we know, high scores are a lot more common.

Clemson signed up for the December 19 Bluebonnet Bowl v # 7 TCU at Rice Stadium • Houston, TX (Bluebonnet Bowl) and Frank Howard's squad came away with a big win W (23-7).

## 1960 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1961 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1962 Clemson Season -- 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).

## **1963 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1964 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1965 Clemson Season -- 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.

## 1966 Clemson Season -- 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.

### Clemson 40, Virginia 35

Sept. 24, 1966 at Clemson, SC

The Clemson Tigers were down 18 points with 17 minutes to play in this game. With a lot of guts and resolve, we came back on the passing of Jimmy Addison. Jimmy passed 65 yards to Jacky Jackson for a touchdown that put Clemson in front. Jackson took off down the sidelines and "Needle" hit him in stride.

That game was memorable because it was the first time that Howard's Rock was in Death Valley. Coach Howard went on his television show the next day and said he told his players prior to the game that if they rubbed that rock they would receive magical powers. But, if they weren't going to give 110 percent, to "keep your filthy hands off that rock." A legend was born on that day. Forever it is known as Howards' Rock!

Virginia had a quarterback named Bob Davis. He and Needle put on quite a passing show, even by the high standards of today. Both teams threw for over 300 yards, the only game that happened in Clemson history over the first 90 years of play. In fact, both QB's were named National Players of the Week by some services.

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.

## 1967 Clemson Season -- 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.

### Great Player Harry Olszewski OG 1965-1967



Harry Olszewski was a First-team consensus All-American, which means all his life his is a First-team consensus All-American. It is a big deal. He was the only unanimous choice to All-ACC team in 1967. But, Harry had been there before. It was his second straight year on the team...named to the Silver Anniversary All-ACC team in 1977

Olszewski had played in the East-West Shrine Bowl and the Senior Bowl. He nailed a 12-yard touchdown against South

Carolina in his junior year while he was playing offensive guard. This was a real big deal as no Clemson offensive lineman has scored since.

In 1967, Harry won both the ACC and State Jacobs Blocking Trophy. How else could a guard become All-American but by great

blocking. Olszewski was not shy about suiting up and getting on the gridiron to face opponents. He started 30-straight varsity games.

He was drafted in the third round by the Cleveland Browns, but he played for the Montreal Alouettes from 1969-1970. You can tell Harry Had fun but I'll bet his opponents did not like his shoving them around. He was inducted in 1980 to the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, He also made it into the South Carolina Hall of Fame in 1990.

In the reflections of his work at Clemson, Harry also was named to Clemson's Centennial team in April, 1996. A great man and a great player,

Mr. Olszewski passed away in spring, 1998. He is ranked as Clemson's #17 gridder of all-time by a panel of historians who convened in 1999 and who had analyzed Harry's All-American History.

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## Great Player Wayne Mass OT 1965-67



### << Rev. Wayne Mass

Wayne Mass was pleased to be a first-team All-American as a junior. He was that good. He was the recipient of the Jacobs Blocking Trophy for the ACC and South Carolina for the 1966 year. As he entered his time to be drafted, he went out as a fourth-rounder of the Chicago Bears in the 1968 draft,

He was the 99th player chosen in the draft He had been first-team All-ACC in 1966 and 1967, and he was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1993. Wayne Mass loved



football and he loved playing football. You can bet he enjoyed the trip to Hawaii in the 1968 Hula Bowl.

You would also slot him as a major player in the 1967 East-West game because he was ready to play for the East. As well expected for his great performances, Wayne Mass was named to Clemson's Centennial team in April, 1996...At the time of this report, he lived in Chicago, IL.

## **1968 Clemson Season -- 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.

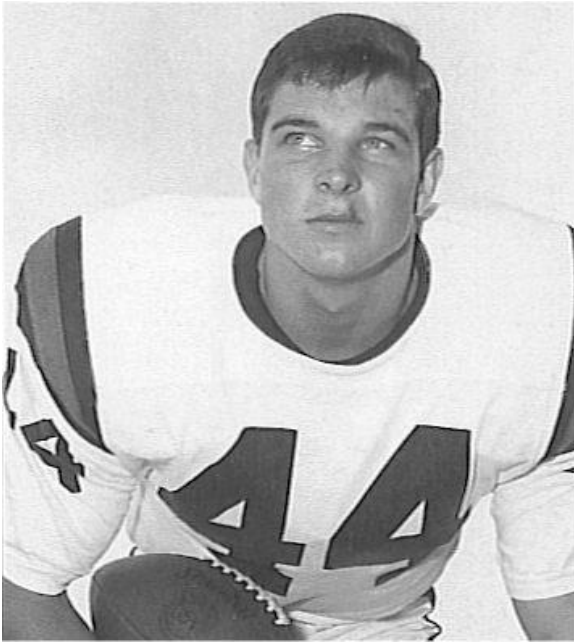
## **1969 Clemson Season -- Frank Howard**

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.

## **Great Player Buddy Gore, RB 1966-68**

Aubrey "Buddy" Gore was Clemson's greatest running back in the 1960s and perhaps during a 22-year period from 1956-78. Gore led the ACC in rushing in consecutive seasons, 1966-67, and was named

the ACC Player of the Year as a junior, the first Tiger in history so honored.



### << **Buddy Gore**

Still an avid Clemson fan, who looks like he could still play today, Gore carried Clemson to the ACC Championship in 1966 and 1967.

His most celebrated performance came in his last game as a junior, at South Carolina. All Gore did was rush for 189 yards in 31 tough carries, leading Clemson to a 23-12 victory.

In addition to leading Clemson to the win over its arch rival, a win that gave Clemson the conference crown, he set the ACC single season rushing record and became Clemson's first 1000-yard rusher in the process. He ended the season with 1045 yards in just 10 games.

Gore also led the ACC in rushing in 1966 when he gained 750 yards. Twice he finished in the top 20 in the nation in rushing, including a number-eight ranking in 1967. That number-eight ranking is still the second highest ranking by a Clemson running back in history. His senior year he accumulated 776 yards, the third straight year he led Clemson in rushing.

While Gore ranks only fourth in Clemson history in career rushing, it must be remembered that he played just three years and 30 games. In his era, freshmen were ineligible and teams played just 10 games per year. Only Terry Allen has a higher rushing yards per game average over a career, and Gore still holds the school mark for all-purpose running yardage for a career with a 109.1 figure.

That last item speaks volumes about his consistency, all-around abilities and productivity.

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 so many years.



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

On Nov1, at home, the Tigers whooped the Terrapins of Maryland W (40-0).

This was Frank Howards last year of thirty with Clemson's Tigers.



## Chapter 17 Hootie Ingram Era 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 Clemson Season -- 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 Yauger were the team captains.

## **Great Player Dave Thompson OG 1968-1970**

In 1970, Thompson was a First-team All-American guard. He was a flexible player and did what the team needed. He played center in his senior year. He was the recipient of the state of South Carolina Jacobs Blocking Trophy in 1970. He was also pleased to accept honors as First-Team All-ACC in 1970

Dave Thompson was a second-round pick of the Lions in 1971, he was the 30th selection of the entire draft. He showed his stuff as a pro by laying three years with the Detroit Lions and two years with the New Orleans Saints.

## **1971 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1972 Clemson Season -- 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.



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 19 Red Parker Era 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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## 1974 Clemson Season -- 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.



### <<< Coach Parker.

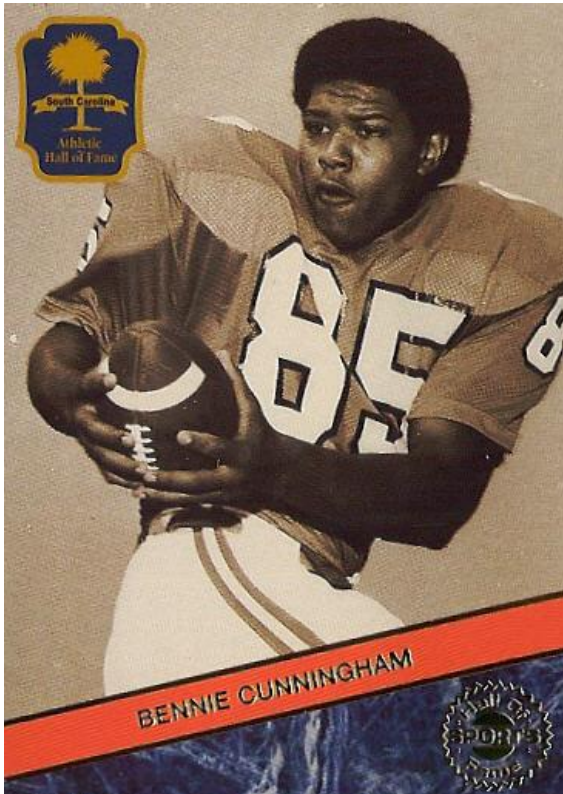
On Sept 14 in the season opener, the Tigers lost to #20 Texas A&M at Kyle Field, College Station, TX L (0-24). On Sept 21 at #15 NC State in the Textile Bowl at Carter Stadium in Raleigh, NC L (10-31). On Sept 28 at home the Tigers beat the Yellow Jackets W (21-17). Then, on Oct 5, Clemson beat the other 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 Clemson Season -- Red 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.

### Great Player Bennie Cunningham (1972-75)



Bennie Cunningham continues to today as the most decorated tight end in Clemson history. He is A native of nearby Seneca, SC and gets to see Clemson play regularly. Cunningham was a two-time first-team All-American at Clemson in 1974 and 1975, one of just 12 multi-year All-Americans in school history.

Cunningham was a pro scouts dream. At 6-5 and 250 pounds, he could run like a deer, yet run over the opposition in heavy traffic. In addition to his great hands and

quickness, he was a devastating blocker. Cunningham first came on the scene in 1973 when he started all 11 games and caught 22 passes

for 341 yards. He also averaged 6.6 yards a rush on 11 carries as a runner. That is a bit more than coming on the scene!

In 1974 Clemson's season long slogan was "Excitement Galore in '74". Cunningham did his part in the 7-4 season that included a perfect 6-0 home record, with seven touchdown receptions among his 24 catches, the most touchdown receptions ever by a Clemson tight end and one of the top five totals nationally that season for tight ends. Cunningham was named a first-team AP All-American that season.

The Tigers stumbled a bit in 1975 with an underclassman offense, but Cunningham still averaged 17-yards a catch, an incredible average for a tight end. After the season, he was named a first-team All-American by Sporting News for the second straight year.

Who would not want Bennie Cunningham on their team? He was one of Super Bowl great Terry Bradshaw's favorite receiving targets. Any coach would love to have the type of player who would later become what everyone wants in today's world of college football.

Cunningham was tough, could block, and was actually an athletic freak with great hands. A historic tight end with both the Tigers and the Steelers—with whom he won two Super Bowl Rings. Cunningham would make any Clemson Dream Team, as he would be too big for both corners and safeties and too athletic for linebackers to handle

Cunningham lettered three straight years for the Tigers, leading the team in pass receptions in 1973 and 1974. He was named first-team All-ACC in 1974 and 1975. He was a two-time first-team All-America, who earned consensus All-America honors in 1974. He completed his Clemson career with 64 receptions for 1,044 yards and 17 TDs.

He was the 28th overall selection in the first round of the 1976 NFL, drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Bennie played in the NFL for 10 seasons, all with the Steelers. He completed his professional career with 202 receptions for 2,879 yards and 20 touchdowns. In 1984 he was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame.

As a first-round draft choice of the Pittsburgh Steelers, still the only Clemson tight end in history to be a first-round draft choice.

Cunningham might have had an even better NFL career. He caught over 200 passes for the Steelers in his 10-year NFL career and Bennie was a starter on two Super Bowl Championship teams.

In 2003, Cunningham was the only tight end chosen to the ACC's 50th Anniversary Team in 2003, as one of the Top 50 players in league history. He was also the recipient of Clemson's Frank Howard Award for 1974-75, as the top student-athlete who brought honor to Clemson.

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## 1976 Clemson Season -- 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 20 Charley Pell Era 1977 to 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 Clemson Season -- 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.



**Clemson 31, South Carolina 27 was good enough for Clemson fans.** On Nov. 19, 1977 at Columbia, SC, Clemson jumped out ahead 24-0, but South Carolina came back and scored, and scored and scored. How could Clemson stop them? They were like determined rats trying to get off the ship. They had a 27-24 lead with less than three minutes left.

The Tigers took over for one last drive and Steve Fuller came into the Clemson huddle after we got possession and he told the team, "boys we are going down the field and scoring a touchdown to win this game," His first two passes weren't very good and it looked like CU was not going anywhere.

But Fuller finally completed a pass to Rick Weddington to keep the drive alive. He got hit after that. He then clicked with Dwight Clark with a pass on a key play. Then the culmination of the drive was a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Butler, something Clemson has begun to refer to as "The Catch". Butler made a diving backwards catch with just 49 seconds left in the game, giving the Tigers a 31-27 victory.

There might have been an extra motivation for Clemson on that last drive. That year, Coach Charley Pell would give cigars to the team after every Clemson victory. He started it after the team beat Georgia in Athens by stopping the bus at a convenience store on the way back.

Clemson hadn't won in Athens since 1914, so it was a special occasion. That year, someone at South Carolina printed up t-shirts that said, "No Cigars Tonight". A lot of the South Carolina players wore them under their uniform. When they scored to go up 27-24, a lot of them raised up their jerseys and showed the Clemson players and the television audience those t-shirts. I am sure Coach (Jim) Carlen wanted to wring their necks...especially after Butler made that catch.

The 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



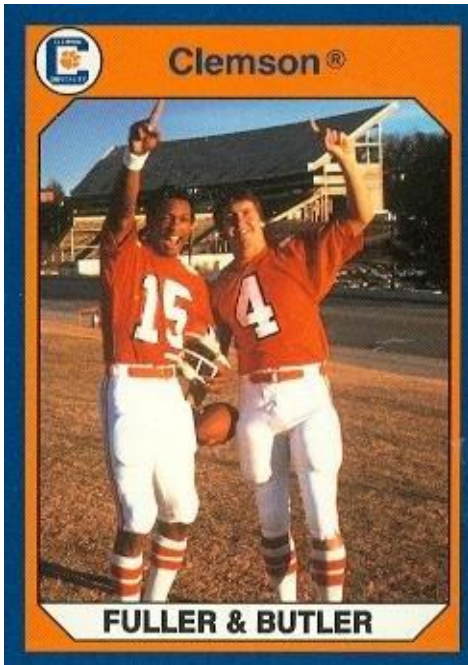
few misfires in the Gator Bowl game and lost L (3-34) by a much larger margin than the pundits and scribes expected.

Charley Pell was sure a great coach and the Tigers were an equally great team.

## 1978 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Great Player Steve Fuller QB (1975-78)



Steve Fuller was third-team All-American in 1978 coupled with being on the Academic All-American team for two years. He was smart and he was a great athlete.

He was ACC Player-of-the-Year in 1977, 78 in 1978, Fuller led Clemson to the ACC title and then to a Gator Bowl win. The team was 11-1 and ranked sixth in the final poll. Fuller chimed in with 4,359 yards passing and third in total offense with 6,096 yards in his career.

He was second in Tiger history in career touchdown responsibility (44). He was second-best pass interception avoidance percentage (3.33) in NCAA history at the time of his graduation. This tribute he shared with Frank Howard's Award along with with Jerry Butler for the 1978-79 academic year,

Fuller won it outright in 1977-78. He is the only two-time recipient of that award. The pros could not stay away from biffing on grabbing him for their team. He was a first-round draft pick (23rd overall) of the Chiefs in 1979. He played for the Super Bowl Champion Bears in 1985.

Retrospect honors came quickly. For example, he was named to the state of South Carolina Hall of Fame in 1991; the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985, and he was one of three original inductees to the Ring of Honor in 1994. He was designated as the quarterback on Clemson's Centennial Team in 1996. Plussing all of that, he was declared Clemson's #5 griddier of all-time by the esteemed panel of historians in 1999). On top of all those accolades, Steve Fuller was the ACC 50-Year Anniversary player nominated in 2002.

Charley Pell coached Steve Fuller for two of his four years. In those years, under Coach Charlie Pell he started 27 consecutive games for him. He was an All-ACC selection in Pell's years -- '77 and '78 and was honored as the ACC Player of the Year both years. He is the only Clemson Tiger to do it twice.

Pell stepped down before the 1978 Bowl game. Nonetheless, that year, Steve Fuller quarterbacked the Tigers to their '78 Gator Bowl victory over Ohio State (the Woody Hayes game) and delivered Danny Ford his first win as a "interim" head coach.

In his 1978 senior campaign, he finished sixth in Heisman voting accounting for 2,164 yards (1,515 passing and 649 rushing) in a "three yards and a cloud of dust" style offense. The stark difference in playing style makes it near impossible to compare to modern day greats like Whitehurst and Boyd, the latter of which doubled his yardage totals in most seasons.

Fuller was drafted 23rd overall by the Kansas City Chiefs after that season. He also earned a 3.93 GPA and made the Academic All-

ACC team three times. His name hangs in Memorial Stadium. He is one of the Clemson greats!

## Great Player Jerry Butler SE 1976-1978

Jerry Butler is not the same person as the man who sang "When A Man Loves a Woman," but he could have sung "When A Man Scores a Touchdown," but the music of the touchdown was enough! Butler was "First-team AP All-American." He had a record 2,223 receiving yards and at least one catch in 35 straight games. He was a Senior Bowl participant and co-winner of the prestigious Frank Howard Award along with Steve Fuller for their prowess in the 1978-79 academic year.



Butler will always be remembered for his game-winning catch at South Carolina in 1977 in the outstanding 31-27 Tiger win. He did his job well and reports stats such as being 10th in the nation in receiving with 4.9 catches per game in 1978.

Butler was a first-round draft pick of the Buffalo Bills, He was the fifth pick of the whole draft. His greatness did not end in Death Valley. He was Rookie-of-the-Year in 1979 by UPI and The Sporting News. He was thrilled to play in the

1980 Pro Bowl. He handled pain and stress well and so he was able to play with the Bills for nine years as a great pro. (1979-87).

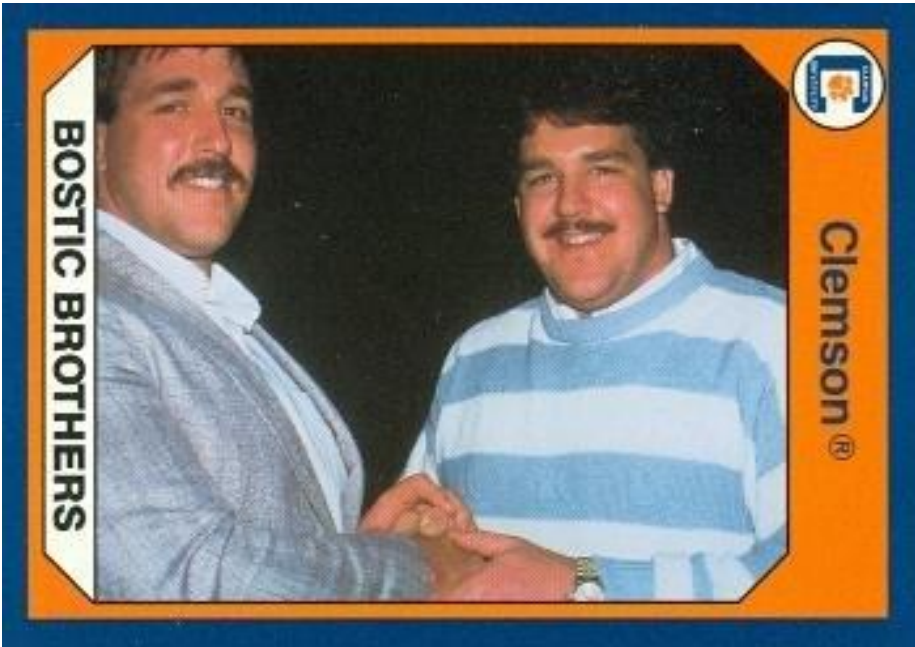
In time, he was named to the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1986. He was so good that he was also named to Clemson's Centennial team in

1996. South Carolina inducted him into the State of South Carolina Hall of Fame in 1997. Butler is not a fluke. He was the real deal. He is ranked as Clemson's #4 gridder of all-time by a panel of historians in 1999. He was inducted into the Clemson Ring of Honor in 1999 and named to the ACC 50-Year Anniversary team in 2002. Jerry Butler knew football and loved football and was a great football player.

## Great Player Joe Bostic (1975-78)

After some sluggish years, a rebirth of Clemson football took place in 1977. The Tigers had not gone to a bowl game in 18 years prior to that season. But, a group of veteran players who had suffered through a 2-9 1975 season as freshmen, picked up the Clemson program by the bootstraps.

One of the leaders of that class and the resurgence was offensive tackle Joe Bostic. Charley Pell and Danny Ford used the running game as the staple of the offense and many of the big first downs and long runs of 1977 and 1978 were plays that started with a strong block from Bostic.



Like his quarterback Steve Fuller, Bostic helped return Clemson to national prominence in the late 1970s. Behind Bostic, Fuller and running back Lester Brown, Clemson had a dominant run game during the 11-1 season of 1978.

The ACC and Gator Bowl champions, Clemson set school records that for total rushing yards (3,469), rushing yards per game (289.1), total carries (741) and carries per game (61.8). Not even Chad Morris' up-tempo offense topped Clemson's 78.8 plays per game in 1978. Bostic was an All-America selection in 1977 and '78.

A four-year starter, Bostic became a two-year All-American and recipient of the state of South Carolina's Jacob Blocking Trophy in 1977 and 1978. He won the same award for the ACC in 1977. He was a five-time honoree as the ACC Offensive Lineman of the Week over his career.

While the accomplishments of the 1977 team were significant, the 1978 team, Bostic's senior year, reached an even higher level. Bostic along with younger brother Jeff, also a member of Clemson's great players list, led the Tigers to an 11-1 record, a number-six final Associated Press ranking and ACC Championship. The season, and Bostic's Clemson career, culminated with a 17-15 win over Ohio State in the Gator Bowl.

After appearances in various college All-Star Games, Bostic was chosen in the third round of the NFL draft by the St. Louis Cardinals. He was chosen to the 1979 NFL All-Rookie team and played 10 seasons overall with the Cardinals organization.

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).

## **Game Highlights Clemson 28, Maryland 24**

*Nov. 18, 1978 at College Park, MD*

This was a big game -- for the ACC Championship and both teams were ranked in the top 12 in the nation.

It was a truly incredible game of big plays with many long plays. Maryland had a star runner named Steve Atkins who had a 98-yard run in this game. It is still an ACC record. Dwight Clark caught a 62-yard touchdown pass from Steve Fuller and Jerry Butler caught an 87-yard touchdown pass, the longest of his career.

Maryland kicked a field goal to make it 28-24 in the fourth quarter and then got the ball back. They drove into Clemson territory, but couldn't get any closer and the Tigers survived the assault. And won.

When we the team got back to the Greenville Airport there were 7,000 people waiting and cheering. Cars were lined up all the way to I-85. People were out of the cars and all over the place ready to



welcome the team. It was a great happy scene. This victory over Maryland gave the Tigers a noteworthy 9-1 record and moved Clemson into the top 10 in the polls for the first time since the 1950s, so it was quite a big win. Of course, it was big enough for the Clemson Fighting Tigers to clinch the ACC Championship. Nobody forgot that.

In the last game of the season. On Nov 25, at home. Clemson beat South Carolina in the Battle of the Palmetto State W (41–23)) It was the best season ever.

The #7 nationally ranked Tigers were invited to play #20 Ohio State in the Gator Bowl on Dec 29 at Gator Bowl Stadium in Jacksonville, FL. The Clemson Tigers played tough and won the game square W (17–15) before 72,011 fans.



Great Players >> Clemson's 1978 Gator Bowl Champions

## Game Highlight Clemson 17, Ohio State 15

*Dec. 30, 1978 at Jacksonville, FL (Gator Bowl)*

Ohio State always had tough teams and they still do. In 1978, they had a freshman quarterback named Art Schlichter who was a terrific player as both a runner and passer. He completed 16-20 passes in the Gator Bowl.

Of course, the thing everyone remembers is Woody Hayes hitting Charlie Bauman after Bauman made an interception in the final minute.

Charlie Bauman was not even supposed to be in that passing lane on that play. He got knocked backwards, enabling him to make the interception. That was the only interception of his career. He was run out of bounds in the middle of the Ohio State bench, right in front of Woody Hayes and Hayes struck him in a moment of frustration to beat all such moments. Many at the game could not see it for one reason or another.

By the time, the team had exited the field after the game and got in the locker room, everyone was talking about it. Coach Ford felt bad for Coach Hayes and told the players not to comment, just talk about the game.

Bob Bradley, the Clemson Sports Information Director recounts telling Coach Ford before the game that Clemson needed to have a press conference the morning following the game, because the game was scheduled for 9:00 PM. Coach Ford's press conference was scheduled for 10:00 AM. At 9:40 AM the Associated Press reporter came into our press conference to tell us that Hayes had already been fired.

Charlie felt badly about the whole situation because he had grown up an Ohio State fan and thought a lot of Coach Hayes. For years he refused to do interviews about the incident because he didn't want to rekindle the incident and hurt Coach Hayes' legacy. Coach Hayes called him to apologize after it happened. Charlie, who was a sophomore when the play happened, invited him to come down to spring practice, but he never came.



## Chapter 21 Danny Ford Era 1978-1989

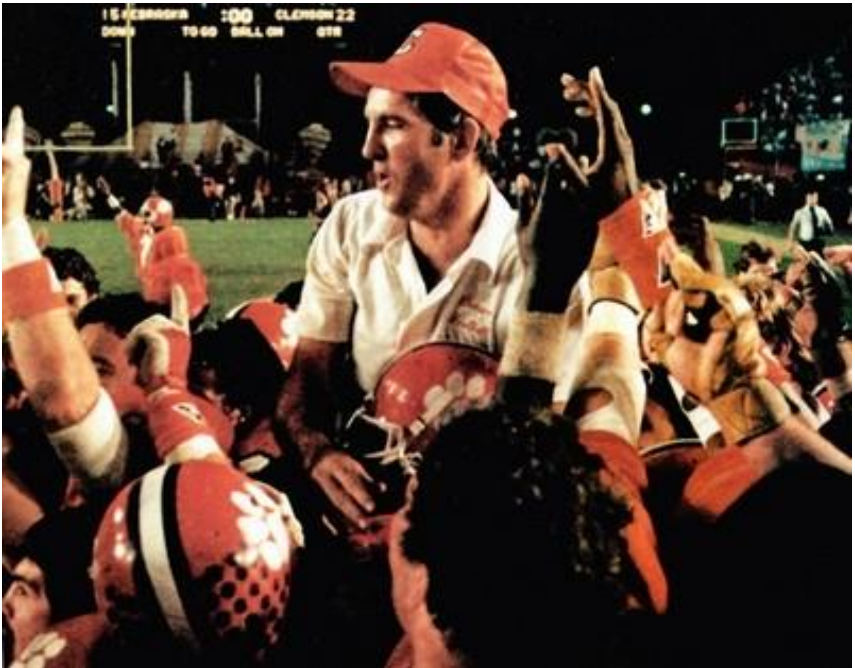
Coach # 21 Danny Ford

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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **Game Highlight Clemson 16, Notre Dame 10**

*Nov. 17, 1979 at South Bend, IN*

anytime any team goes to Notre Dame and beats them it is an accomplishment. Notre Dame had beaten Clemson two years before and then went on to win the National Championship.

They weren't quite as good in 1979, but they still had a good ball club. Notre Dame held a 10-0 lead in the first half and looked like they had taken control of the game. Then, there was a big break for Clemson. An ND player, Tyree Dickerson fumbled a punt that the Tigers recovered. It changed the momentum for the rest of the game.

Tim Bourret who became the Sports Communications Department Director told me later that after Dickerson fumbled the punt, he left the sideline, went to the locker room, got dressed and went back to his dorm. He had quit the team in the middle of the game. He watched the rest of the game on TV in his dorm room and never played football again.

It was Billy Lott who led the Clemson comeback in the second half. He had a 26-yard run that put the Tigers up and then Obed Ariri kicked three field goals and Clemson walked away from Notre Dame Stadium with a nice win W (16-10).

That was quite a first 11 games as head coach for Danny Ford. He was a fine coach. He beat Woody Hayes, Vince Dooley and Dan Devine all within that time. As many know, all three are in the College Football Hall of Fame.

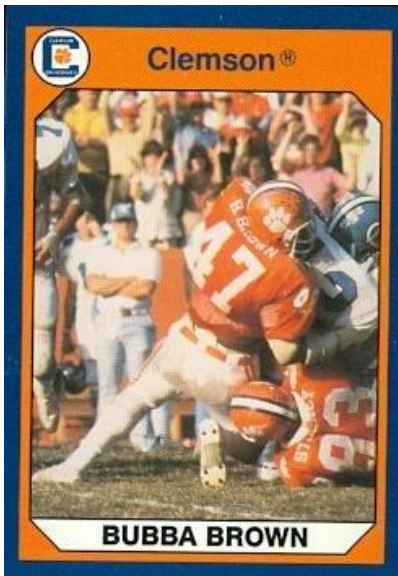
In the Peach Bowl on Dec 31 v #19 Baylor at Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta, GA, the Clemson Fighting Tigers, the #18 Clemson Fighting Tigers lost the match L (18–24)

## Great Player Bubba Brown, LB 1976-79

Marlon "Bubba" Brown is the all-time leading tackler in Clemson history. When you review the legendary list of linebackers who have played for Clemson, that is quite a statement. Bubba was finally inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame.

It has taken a while for Brown to get his due simply because of the great teammates Brown had in his era (1976-79). Of the four players now in the Clemson Ring of Honor, three played on Clemson's 1978 team. But, a look at the statistics tells us that Brown was the team's top tackler, a ferocious hitter and enthusiastic player.

Two games stand out in his career. In 1978 Clemson traveled to Raleigh for an ACC showdown with NC State. NC State was promoting their Brown, running back Ted, for the Heisman Trophy. He had riddled Clemson for four touchdowns and 227 yards rushing three seasons earlier.



Although the national media did not portray the game as a "Battle of the Browns" (Clemson also had running back Lester Brown), Bubba took the confrontation as a personal challenge. By the end of the game, Bubba had 17 tackles and had held Ted Brown under 100 yards rushing, and out of the endzone. When Sports Illustrated was released the next week, it was Bubba who caught the national headlines with his selection as National Defensive Player of the Week.

Clemson finished the 1978 season with a 10-1 record and was chosen to play Ohio State in the Gator Bowl on national television. Clemson won the historic game, 17-15. Again, the pregame headlines were all about Danny Ford's first game as head coach and his meeting with future Hall of Fame mentor Woody Hayes. Brown personally stymied the Ohio State rushing game with 22 tackles, still the second highest single game total in Clemson history.

## **1980 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1981 Clemson Season -- 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).

## Game Highlight Clemson 13, Georgia 3

*Sept. 19, 1981 at Clemson, SC*

Georgia came to Clemson as the defending national champion. It was a season highlight for sure for Clemson to compete well in this game. To win the game was simply remarkable. There is no question that this was Clemson's key regular season win on the way to winning the coveted national championship.

No one had Clemson on their scopes in their preseason top 20. As you all know, the Tigers were just coming off a frustrating 6-5 season. On top of that, Clemson vs. Georgia is a special rivalry and this is one of the games that made it that way. Herschel Walker, a name everybody knows had led Georgia to the National Championship the year before and he was ready to destroy Clemson if given the opportunity. He was a marked man by the Clemson defensive unit this day and it was quite effective.

The Clemson defense was ready as it forced nine turnovers against the Bulldogs. It was the most turnovers forced in a game in history. Clemson took a 10-0 early lead in the first half on an eight-yard touchdown pass from Homer Jordan to Perry Tuttle and a 39-yard field goal by Donald Igwebuike. Things were looking good.

Clemson and Georgia traded field goals in the second half and Coach Danny Ford let the defense take control to shut down the Bulldogs offensive threat. Jeff Davis was outstanding and followed Walker everywhere he went. Herschel Walker ended the day with 111 yards rushing on 28 carries, but the Tiger defense made sure that he never got into the Clemson endzone.

Georgia entered this game ranked fourth in the nation. It is still the highest ranked win in Clemson history in Death Valley. Go Tigers!

On Oct 3 at Kentucky's Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, KY, the #14 Clemson Tigers beat the Wildcats W (21-3). On Oct 10 at home, #9 Clemson shut out Virginia W (27-0) before 63,064. Then, on Oct 17 at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, NC, #6 Clemson beat the Blue Devils W (38-10)



Clemson's Jeff Davis celebrates after a victory in the magical 1981 season  
Photo courtesy of Clemson Tigers

In the Textile Bowl at home on Oct 24, the #4 Tigers beat the Wolfpack of NC State W (17-7). On Oct 31 in another home game, the #3 ranked Tigers routed the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest before 60,383. Then, on Nov 7 at # 9 North Carolina's Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, the #2 Tigers got by the Tar Heels by a thread W 10-8, keeping their unbeaten season streak intact.

## Clemson is "10-8cious"

By: ClemsonTigers.com

Release: Tuesday 09/23/2014

by Sam Blackman

Clemson's road to the National Championship in 1981 included a classic game with North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C. on November 7th. It's considered to be one of the greatest games ever played in Atlantic Coast Conference history.

It was eighth-ranked North Carolina against second-ranked Clemson, the first meeting of top-10 ACC teams in league history.

"The North Carolina game did more for us winning the national championship than any other game," said senior linebacker and captain Jeff Davis. "It was the ultimate test for us. We expected to win in Death Valley and we expected teams to already be behind when the whistle blew to start the game. But, to go into the backyard of a top-10 football team with everything at stake, and win, that did it for us.

"Remember, North Carolina had everything to play for. It's right there for them. You can think there were people wondering 'Can Clemson stay focused?' And we beat them in a fight. It was an all-out brawl. May the best man win! It was man-on-man."

With an ACC Championship and a major bowl bid at stake, it was dubbed the biggest game to ever be played in the state of North Carolina.

"North Carolina came to play," defensive tackle and All-American Jeff Bryant said. "They were at home and they were a top-10 team. We both were striving for that goal which was to win the ACC and take it further from there.

"It was a very physical game. I can remember being sore for a couple of days after that."

It was also Homecoming Weekend in Chapel Hill, NC and it was the last game at Kenan Stadium for UNC's seniors – a class that had helped the Tar Heels win an ACC Championship the year before and beat traditional powers such as Texas and Oklahoma along the way.

To top things off, there were bowl representatives from eight bowl games in attendance, more than at any other game that afternoon

across the country. Sports Illustrated had been at Clemson all week to chronicle the Tigers' magical run and was in Chapel Hill on that afternoon. ABC was broadcasting it as part of their regional coverage and carried the game throughout most of the country.

All of America's eyes seem to be placed on this small school from the foothills of South Carolina, and then Clemson Head Coach Danny Ford knew he had to do something to turn his team's focus to what was really important – beating the Tar Heels.

“Were we excited about the hype? Yes! We wanted the stakes high,” said Davis. “It didn't get any better than this. This was another opportunity for us to do something in Clemson football history that had never been done.

“We took all of that into consideration. We would not have approached that game any other way because there was the crown jewel of college football standing right in front of us. We could almost touch it.

“The world was watching. We had a great opportunity. It was everything that a young man and a young student-athlete could want.”

“North Carolina, for me, was a big game,” Davis said. “I'm from Greensboro, North Carolina, and I wanted to beat them more than anyone else we played. This was my last opportunity to make a statement in North Carolina that I made the right decision in coming to Clemson.”

“Both teams knew it was going to be a hard-fought, physical game. They had some very good athletes and they were a very good football team. We were going into their backyard. It was going to be tough.”

Ford knew it was going to be tough too.

“I was concerned about how we can play physically with this team,” he said. “We were out-muscled in 1980, which did not happen too often with our football teams. Their game plan in 1980 was to out-muscle Clemson, and I think they did it.



“We knew that’s what they were going to try and do again.”

The game started as a defensive struggle and lived up to its billing. The score was 0-0 at the end of the first quarter.

McCall had a game-high 84 yards before he left the game injured and scored the game’s lone touchdown – a seven-yard run with 6:54 to play in the second quarter. Clemson led 7-5 at the half.

North Carolina ranked second in the country running the football coming in, but Clemson held the Tar Heels to 84 yards on 42 carries. Stopping the run had been the Tigers ammo all season. With new defensive coordinator Tom Harper at the helm, Clemson led the ACC in rushing defense and ranked second in the country.

“We would put a goose egg on our (defensive) board before every game,” Davis said. “We didn’t do it as a mark or just to put something up there. No, we actually believed it. It was symbolic to us. You were not going to score on us. Even if you get in our territory, you might have a chance to get a field goal, but you can forget about scoring a touchdown on us.

“We took pride in that. You were not supposed to score on us. We even took pride in goal line situations in practice. I don’t care how close you put the ball you were not going to score on our defense. We believed that. That was not some tough guy talk or something to motivate people. We believed it.”

North Carolina running back and three-time All-ACC selection, Kelvin Bryant believed it. In his first game back after arthroscopic knee surgery earlier, he gained just 31 yards on 13 carries as did fellow running back Tyrone Anthony on eight carries.

“When I see Kelvin, he likes to joke that he gets a headache right when he sees me because we were hitting him so hard that day,” Davis smiled.

Clemson’s defense was stifling.

No team that season learned that any better than the Tar Heels. Twice, North Carolina had first-and-goal inside the Clemson 10, and both times it was held to short field goals by Brooks Barwick.

Early in the second quarter, North Carolina appeared to have a possible touchdown on a third-down swing pass in the flats to Tyrone Anthony, but Clemson All-American safety Terry Kinard came out of nowhere to drag him down at the five. The Tar Heels settled for a 22-yard Barwick field goal and led 3-0.

Now Trailing 10-5, following a Donald Igwebuike 39-yard field goal, North Carolina took its second drive of the third quarter and marched down to the Clemson four thanks to a 21-yard halfback pass from Anthony to Griffin. But, Davis and Kinard stuffed Kelvin Bryant for a five-yard loss on the next play and then Stankavage threw incomplete on second and third down, forcing the Tar Heels to settle for a 26-yard Barwick field goal.

The Tigers led 10-8 heading into the fourth period.

In the fourth quarter, North Carolina again had an opportunity to take the lead following a muffed punt by Billy Davis at the Clemson 37. After gaining just four yards on first and second down, the Tar Heels hopes for taking the lead were dashed when freshman nose guard William Perry broke through and sacked quarterback Scott Stankavage for a 10-yard loss.

“With the kind of defense we had, we never panicked,” defensive tackle, Jeff Bryant said. “We are going to make the big play. It was always role call to the ball.”

Following a Clemson punt, UNC again moved into Tiger territory to the 39, but again the defensive stiffened, with a tackle for a loss and two incomplete passes.

Unable to move the ball, Clemson punter Dale Hatcher then pinned the Heels deep in their own territory at the two-yard line following a 47-yard punt with 2:19 to play, setting up the final dramatics in one of the biggest victories in Clemson history.

After moving the ball out from the shadow of their own goal post , the Tar Heels found themselves with a first down at their own 40 thanks to a 12-yard scramble by Stankavage on third-and-10 from the two, then a nine-yard pass to wide receiver Ron Richardson and a 14-yard pass to Anthony.

With just over a minute to play and one timeout left, the Tar Heels called a screen pass to fullback Alex Burrus. Stankavage threw the ball behind the line of scrimmage and when Burrus went to make the catch, defensive end Bill Smith met him, knocking the ball to the ground.

The ball rolled 15 yards backwards towards the Clemson sideline, and that is where defensive tackle Jeff Bryant jumped on the football at the UNC 25-yard line.

Smith is sort of the unsung hero. The play everyone remembers is Bryant having the presence of mind to jump on what appeared to be an incomplete pass with 57 seconds to play.

The pass was ruled a lateral, and by jumping on the loose football Bryant secured Clemson's 10-8 victory in front of a then record crowd at Kenan Stadium of 53,611. But, what people don't recall is who actually caused the fumble.

That would be Bill Smith, a current member of the Clemson University Board of Trustees.

"They were moving the ball down the field, and all they needed was a field goal to win," Smith said. "That was just a timely play that happened."

Timely indeed, it was perhaps the calling-card of the 1981 defense. In 1981, Clemson ranked seventh in the nation in turnover margin and led the ACC in forced turnovers with what is still a school-record 41.

Jeff Bryant, who played 12 seasons in the NFL, had a stellar career at Clemson, but it wasn't until Tom Harper became the defensive coordinator in the spring of 1981 when he finally realized what kind of player he could be.

Harper did wonders for Bryant's play. He not only helped him become sound fundamentally, he helped him with his technique. He helped him become a better football player, and a better person.

"Tom Harper was very instrumental in my development," Bryant said. "He was a great guy. I wish I had Tom Harper all four years. I'm thankful I had him when I did, though, because he really made a difference with me."

Bryant credited Harper's instruction as one of the reasons he stayed alert and recognized the lateral on North Carolina's final drive.

"I was coming up field pretty hard because I figured they were going to pass the ball. I had a good rush on and I was about as deep as the quarterback," he said. "I noticed him throwing the ball, and I saw the hit, but I noticed he threw the ball behind him."

"Bill made a great hit, and I saw the ball coming out, so my thinking was to rush over there and get on it because no one else thought it was a lateral. I thought it was one because of the angle I was at because I was right there behind the quarterback as he threw the ball."

Smith, who admits he did not know it was a lateral at the time, sometimes wonders about the "what ifs" had Bryant not jumped on the loose ball.

"Who knows what would have happened had we lost that game, but thank goodness we can say 'what if' all we want because we didn't lose it," he said. "We won it and we did all we could do to win it. That was the mentality of that team all year."

After Jordan fell to the ground three times to run out the final 57 seconds, a mass celebration broke out on the Clemson sideline. As Tar Heel fans made their way to the exit, the Clemson players and the 10,000 or so Tiger fans that traveled up to Chapel Hill, stayed and enjoyed what they had accomplished, a 10-8 victory over North Carolina.

The next day, "The Greenville News" had in its headlines, in bold print, a very clever headline, "Clemson is 10-8cious."

“We knew that anything was possible at that point,” Bryant said.

With a victory over the eighth-ranked Tar Heels behind them, Clemson for the first time, admitted the possibility of going undefeated and playing for a national championship was on its mind.

“It was important because we started thinking a little bit now about being undefeated,” Davis said. “Until that point, we were not trying to touch it. There might have been a few rumblings here and there, but we were all about one game at a time.

“At that point, and where we were at, you were going to have to do something phenomenal to beat us.”

The Tigers were simply 10-8acious that day and that season.

-- End of article reprint--

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

## **Game Highlights Clemson 22, Nebraska 15**

*Jan. 1, 1982 at Miami, FL (Orange Bowl)*

This game was definitely for the national championship. Nebraska had future Heisman Trophy Mike Rozier, Dave Rimington, the Outland Trophy Winner and many other talented players. But Clemson had some pretty good players in our own right with Jeff Davis, Perry Tuttle, William “Refrigerator” Perry, and many others.

Nebraska scored and cut the lead to seven points, 22-15 when they converted a two-point play from the eight-yard line in the fourth quarter.

But, Clemson held the ball about the last five minutes. Homer Jordan was the key to running out the clock and not giving Nebraska another chance. He made a great run with about two minutes left that gave the Tigers a first down. What a run that was, he made so many cut backs. We held the ball to the final seconds. Nebraska had one last play with six seconds left, but Andy Headen knocked down a long pass attempt.

Homer made it to the dressing room, but he passed out once he got there from dehydration. It was a tough game. All the press wanted to talk to Homer after the ballgame, but he was in there for a long time getting IVs. By the time he got out of the training room it was past deadline for the writers. That is why all the accounts of that game don't have any quotes from Homer. He didn't do any interviews until the next day. That was certainly a magic night in Miami. Clemson was happy with the win and so what about the interviews.

Clemson's Fighting Tigers finished the 1981 season undefeated and untied (12-0) and were voted #1 in the AP and UPI polls. When they won the Orange Bowl over Nebraska, the Tigers were selected as Consensus National Champions by the AP, UPI, Football Writers Association of America (FWAA), and National Football Foundation (NFF). In the 1980-s with Danny Ford as the head coach for most of the run, Clemson was the fifth winningest Division I college football team of the decade, with a record of 86-25-4 (.765).

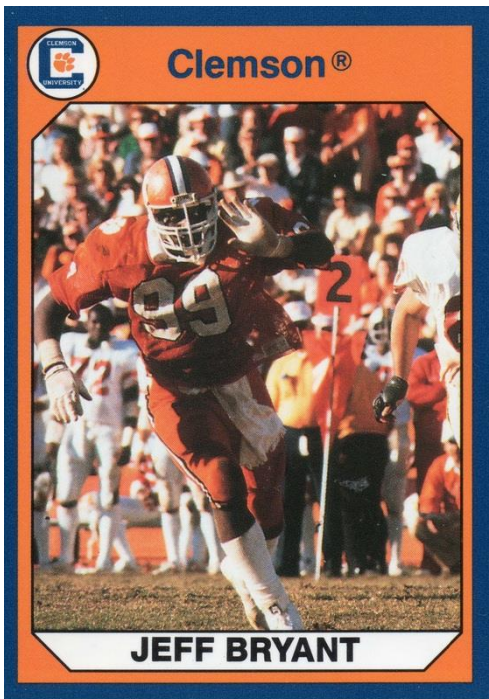
Danny Ford was awarded the 1981 Coach of the Year Award by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) and the FWAA. At the time, Coach Ford was the youngest ever to receive the award, and the youngest (33 yrs. old) to have won a National Championship.

In the 1982 Orange Bowl, Clemson QB Homer Jordan received Offensive Most Valuable Player honors. Homer earned first-team All-ACC honors in 1981, his junior season, and finished first in the ACC in passing efficiency and 12th in the nation. Jordan was an honorable mention All-American selection in 1981. He was runner-up for ACC

MVP behind teammate Jeff Davis, but the team voted him MVP in 1981.

Even though Jordan was injured for much of his senior season, he helped lead the 1982 team to a 9-1-1 record and number-eight national ranking. He also earned honorable mention All-American honors as a senior. He ranked as Clemson's 18th greatest player of the century. Jordan was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1993.

## Great Player Jeff Bryant T 1978-1981



Jeff Bryant was a great tackle who could start on any team. Though he is a Clemson great, his name now gets lost in the shuffle with the bigger stars such as “The Fridge” and Jeff Davis.

Bryant, a 6’5” 270lb DT/DE from the Atlanta area amassed 63 sacks in his 12 year NFL career along with 11 fumble recoveries and an interception. He was a key contributor to Clemson’s win over Georgia, causing two of the nine, yes you read that right, nine fumbles in the game.

Bryant was second-team All-American on the Tigers'

National Championship team of 1981. He still has the 10th-best single-season tackles-for-loss mark (19) in 1981. He led the National Championship team in sacks and tackles for loss

He was First-Team All-ACC that year and he still ranks in the top 10 in Clemson history in career sacks and tackles for loss. He will always be remembered for his fumble recovery at North Carolina in

1981 late in the game of the 10-8 win that kept the national title hopes alive.

Despite newcomers doing well in recent Clemson teams, Jeff Bryant was not only a mainstay on the defensive line for the Tigers, but he went on to lead a very successful NFL career. Bryant was drafted with the 6th pick of the very first round in the 1982 draft by the Seattle Seahawks. He played with the Seahawks from 1982-1993 and he is second in Seahawk history in career sacks.

Bryant was inducted into Clemson Hall of Fame in 1996. He was also named to Clemson's Centennial team in 1996 and he was inducted into state of South Carolina Hall of Fame (2004).

## **Great Player Perry Tuttle (1978-81)**

Another of the great Clemson football player of the century is still a fixture at Clemson football home games. Perry Tuttle has been hovering around the Tiger program for over 20 years as a player, supporter and now as a broadcaster on the Tiger Tailgate Show.

Perry Tuttle was one of many good receivers to come through Clemson, and was widely remembered for catching the winning touchdown pass to make the Tigers 1981 national champions.

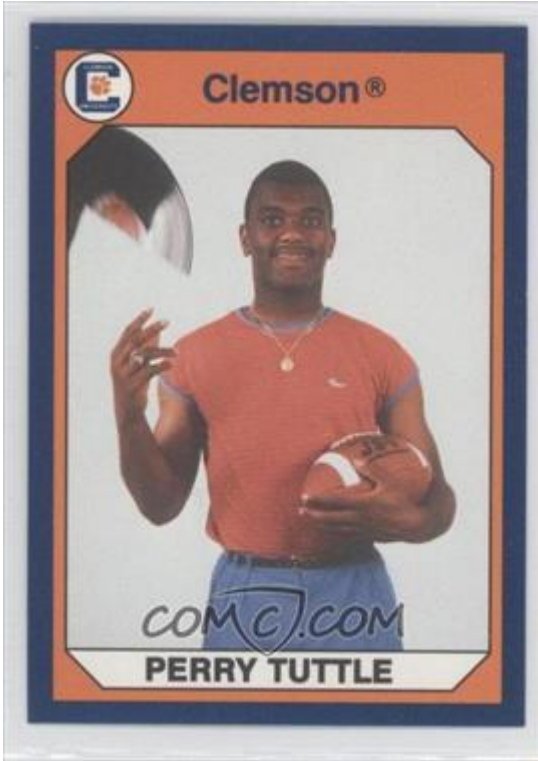
A member of Clemson's Centennial Team, as well as its Hall of Fame, there is no question that Tuttle is one of the best Clemson receivers of all time. He is one of the most decorated receivers in Clemson history, being in the top 10 all time at Clemson for touchdown receptions, receiving yards, and receptions.

His accomplishments on the field as an All-American receiver in 1981 were electrifying. He averaged 17 yards a reception on 52 catches during that National Championship season and he score eight touchdowns. He ranked in the top 30 in the nation in receiving that year, quite an accomplishment in Danny Ford's run-oriented offense.

He saved one of his greatest moments for his last game at Clemson. He caught five passes for 56 yards in the 22-15 victory over Nebraska



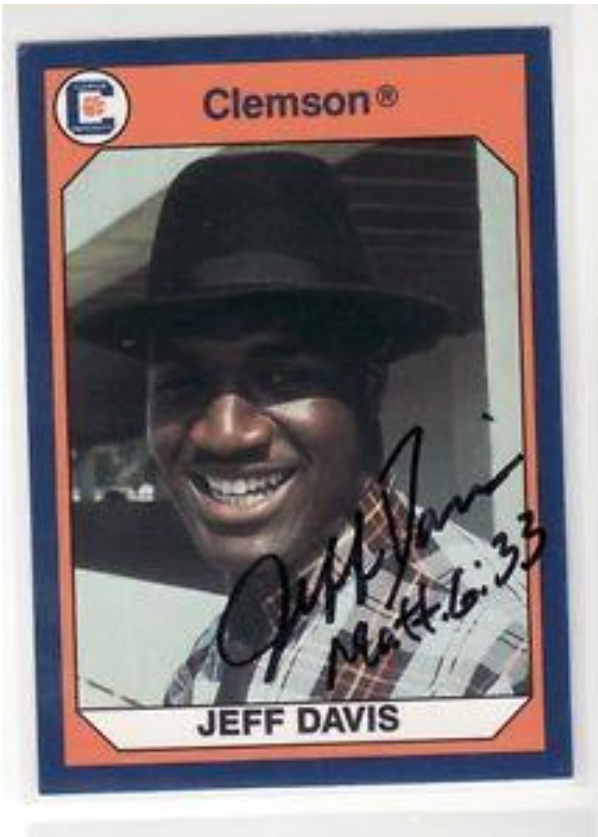
in the Orange Bowl, including a 13-yard scoring pass from Homer Jordan (another Clemson great player). His celebration was captured on the cover of Sports Illustrated and he remains the only current Clemson athlete in history to be featured on the cover of the world's most famous sports publication.



Tuttle finished his career with 150 receptions for over 2500 yards, still second in school history in both areas. He was the #19 selection of the NFL draft by the Buffalo Bills in the spring of 1982 and he played many years in the NFL and the CFL. In fact, a year after he was named to Clemson's Centennial Team, he was inducted into the Winnipeg Blue Bombers Hall of Fame. How's that for a great International Clemson football great?

## Great Player Jeff Davis, LB, 1978-81

Jeff Davis made his mark at Clemson and in making that mark, he was one of several outstanding defensive players from the title-winning 1981 team. Captain Davis played a major role in clinching Clemson's only national title by earning Orange Bowl Defensive MVP honors in the 22-15 win over No. 4 Nebraska to clinch the championship.



Davis led Clemson in tackles that season with a then-school record 175, earning ACC Player of the Year honors and consensus All-America honors. More than a sure tackler, Davis had a penchant for forcing opponents to cough up the ball. He claimed 10 forced fumbles and eight recovered fumbles in his career. Both are school records.

Many see that Jeff Davis is ranked as Clemson's second greatest player, the school's greatest

defensive player. He also could be called the school's greatest team leader, and for years, he continued that leadership, serving Clemson University as the Director of the "Call me Mister" program.

Davis was a common denominator on two of Clemson's greatest teams--the sixth-ranked 1978 squad and the 1981 National Championship team. He was Captain of the defense in 1981, and in this role, he led a Tiger point prevention unit with 175 tackles. He was named the Defensive Player of the Game in Clemson's 22-15 victory over Nebraska that gave the Tigers the National Championship.

He was the 1995 Clemson Ring of Honor Inductee as a model of consistency. He had at least 10 tackles in 22 of his last 23 games and had 30 double figure games in his 40-game career. He led the Clemson team in tackles 25 times.

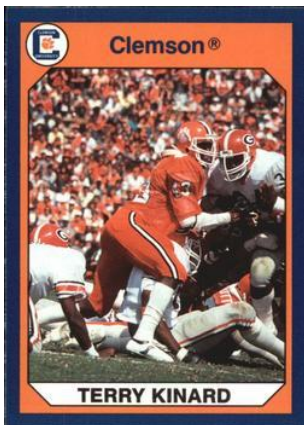
In 1981, Davis set a standard for defensive players by being named ACC Player of the Year, just the second defensive player in league history to win the award. He was a first-team All-American that season by UPI, the Football Coaches, Football Writers, Football News and the Walter Camp Foundation.

Upon the completion of his Clemson career, Davis played six years with distinction with the Tampa Bay Bucs. He played 83 games in the NFL and started 72 between 1982-87, and led the Bucs in tackles three of those six seasons.

## 1982 Clemson Season -- 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

## Great Player Terry Kinard, S, 1978-82



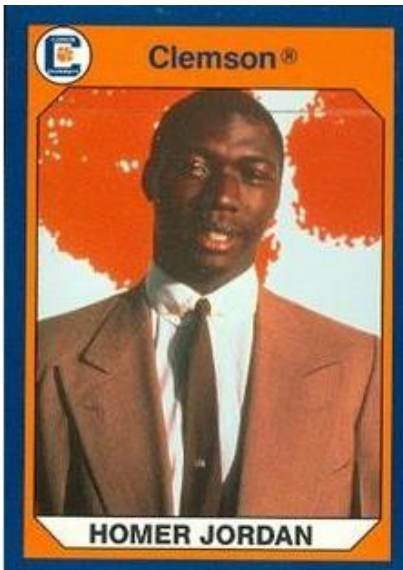
Terry Kinard was a dominant defensive back during his tenure at Clemson. He was Clemson's first of four unanimous All-America selections and the only one until 2006.

In the position of safety, hailing from Sumter, S.C., he remains the Tigers' only two-time consensus All-American. As Clemson went 12-0 and won the national title for coach Danny Ford in 1981, Kinard led the Tigers with six interceptions and

added 95 tackles. He returned for his senior season in 1982 to record 89 tackles and another six picks. He is Clemson's career leader in interceptions with 17 and leads all Clemson defensive backs with 294 career stops.

Kinard is recognized as one of the best Tiger defensive backs in history. He was yet another great piece for Clemson's national championship defense alongside Jeff Davis

## Great Player Homer Jordan (1979-82).



Jordan has the distinction of being Danny Ford's QB in the championship season. This national championship quarterback deserves his due. He played in an era of great defense and hard-nosed rushing attacks, yet was a critical piece to some of the best Clemson football teams. He was the Clemson offensive MVP in the 1981 Orange Bowl that gave the Tigers their program's National Championship.

He left it all out on the field that night. After winning the game, he passed out from heat exhaustion. In 1981, he had the second most passing TDs and the highest passing efficiency in the ACC. His stats don't tell the whole story though. His combined record as a junior and senior at Clemson was 21-1-1. He was a top Clemson QB. He was a great one for sure.

## 1983 Clemson Season -- 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 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 were ineligible for the championship or a bowl bid.

## Great Player Rod McSwain CB 1980-1983

The role of the cornerback has changed a lot over the years from the 1980's to today. Cornerbacks, in the early 80's were expected to cover wide receivers but they were basically linebackers who were lined outside of the eight-man box.

The reason was that most teams did not throw the ball regularly. The wish-bone, the single wing, the flex bone, and the I-Formation dominated the early part of the 80's so cornerbacks had to play more run support than they had to play the pass. They were not interested in getting burned by a pass in their area but they were not tested as often as today.

In next picture, Rod is blocking a punt!



Rod McSwain not only excelled in the double duty, he mastered it.

McSwain was called a a lock down cornerback from Caroleen, NC. He had the size to play linebacker, but he was fast enough to play corner. He really helped the Clemson teams, including the championship 1981 team put together by Coach Danny Ford.

McSwain was taken in the 3rd round of the 1984 draft by the Atlanta Falcons, who then traded him to New England. He enjoyed a 6-year career with the



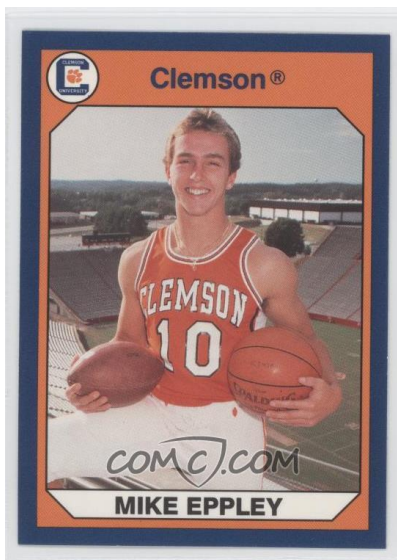
Patriots where he had 6 career interceptions and a multitude of pass break ups and tackles.

It's hard to find highlight film on McSwain, because the majority of his career was played under a television ban, due to probations in effect.

## 1984 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Great Player Mike Eppley QB (1980-84)



Eppley took over in 1983 following the departure of Clemson's national champion QB, Homer Jordan. The Tigers had been whacked by probation prior to the start of 1983 and was therefore unable to officially win the ACC. Clemson was robbed by officialdom of another great record.

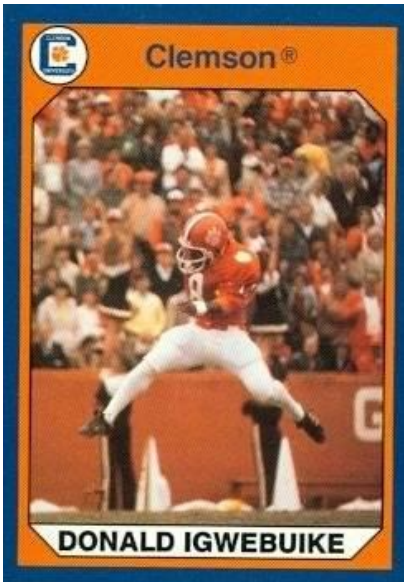
Nevertheless, Eppley led Clemson to a perfect ACC record in a year in which they finished 9-1-1 and beat a top 10 UNC in Chapel Hill. UNC

(along with UVA) had pushed for the additional penalties, making the win all the sweeter and inspiring a fan to make a sign reading “King of the Heel.”

In that '83 season, Eppley had the best passing efficiency and the second-best completion percentage in the ACC. Over his career he passed for more TDs and fewer INTs than Jordan, but Clemson's dominance faded in 1984 as the probation began to show on the field and they only finished 7-4. Even then, Eppley led the ACC in passing TDs and total TDs.

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## Great Player Donald Igwebuike K 1980-84



Igwebuike made the third-team AP All-American team simply because he booted the longest field goal in the ACC in each of his last three seasons. Donald led the nation and the ACC in field goal percentage with a .941 senior season mark.

His story is like that of other kicking sport greats who took a shot at football. Igwebuike came to Clemson to play soccer, and he did play in two NCAA tournaments in 1980 and 1981 but he went for football for his own reasons. He tied for 13th in the nation as a senior in

kick-scoring with an 8.1 average...a perfect 43-43 on PATs in his career and made 32-43 field goals

He is the only Tiger to boot at least one 50-yard field goal in four straight seasons. He kicked five career field goals of 50 or more yards to set Clemson records. In his last three seasons, he was phenomenal at 107-180 on non-returnable kickoffs.

Coach Danny Ford built a National Championship team on defense, and the leg of Donald Igwebuike. In 1981 the Tigers won by scores of 10-8, 13-3, 13-5 respectively.

Igwebuike kicked three field goals (41, 41, 36yds) in the Orange Bowl game against Nebraska. A field position, and distance kicking specialist, Igwebuike definitely is an all-star on anybody's list.

When he was out of Clemson, he was a 10th-round pick of the Tampa Bay Bucs after the 1984 season. He played from 1985 to 1989. He was no slouch with his foot as he is the fourth-place all-time scorer for the Buccaneers with 416 overall points.

He would often kick barefoot. Igwebuike also played for the 1990 Minnesota Vikings and he put time in the Canadian Football League with the Baltimore Stallions in 1994 and the Memphis Mad Dogs in 1995.

Igwebuike lasted 6 years in the NFL before kicking in the CFL with three different teams.

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## **Great Player #7 William Perry (1981-84)**

As a freshman at Clemson, Perry helped the Tigers to the 1981 national title. That season, Perry came off the bench to 48 tackles and four sacks, including two in a key win over North Carolina.

That was only the start for the 300-pound lineman, who earned his nickname as a senior at Clemson after earning consensus All-America honors as a junior. In his final season in 1984, Perry led the nation with 27 tackles for a loss and had 100 tackles – as a nose guard – to earn ACC Player of the Year honors.

Only three ACC defensive players and two players from Clemson since then have earned such honors.

“The Refrigerator” made a great debut at Clemson. They say he had a knack for the “big” debut, even before he helped the Chicago Bears’ dominant defense to the Super Bowl as a rookie in 1985.



The



Fridge Starring on the Bob Hope Show

The job of William, “The Refrigerator” Perry was to patrol the middle of the Clemson defense from 1981-84. The Refrigerator was perhaps the most feared defensive player in the South. Opposing

defensive coordinators had to make special plans, sometimes triple teaming assignments for Clemson's 320-pound anchor of the line.

Perry, who came to Clemson as a then unheard of 310-pound freshman, held legendary status at Clemson through his career and still. All the stories you heard about "The Fridge" are true. From the time that he once blocked the opposing team's punt by shoving the upback into the punter, to Perry Tuttle taking him to lunch at a McDonald's and spending \$22, Perry was a superhuman almost fictional character. He was also a sportswriter's dream. "Even when I was little I was big," said Perry, perhaps the Yogi Berra of Clemson football from an interview standpoint.

On the field, he was a three-time All-American, joining Anthony Simmons as the only Tigers who could make that claim. In 1984, he led the nation in tackles for loss with 27 and he tied the Clemson single season sack record with 10. He was a finalist for the Lombardi Award that season and was the ACC Player of the Year in 1984, the second defensive player in league history to win the honor.

In 1985, Perry was a first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bears. As a freshman at Clemson he started on the Tigers National Championship team. As a rookie in the NFL he started on the Bears Super Bowl Championship team, the first of his nine great NFL seasons.

## **1985 Clemson Season -- 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.

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 Clemson Season -- 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.

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)

## Great Player Terrence Flagler TB 1984-1986



Flagler was a first-team All-American pick by the Football Writers Association and runner-up in the ACC Player-of-the-Year voting in 1986. He finished 13th in the nation in rushing, but he was also superb coming in third in yards-per-carry among players with at least 800 yards.

He was the third Clemson player to score four touchdowns in a single game. When this was

written he still held the Clemson single game record for all-purpose running with 274 yards at Wake Forest in 1986. He also held the Clemson rushing record for yards gained in a three-game, five-game, six-game and seven-game series. Flagler set Clemson regular season record for yards per game with 106.9 figure in 1986...

After Clemson, he was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the first round (25th pick) in 1987 draft. He earned two Super Bowl Championship rings with the 49ers. He played in the spring of 2000 for Jacksonville in the Arena Football League.

He was very resilient as he played for five different professional Football teams from 1987 to 2003. That is a lot of football.

## **1987 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **Game Highlights Clemson 21, Georgia 20**

*Sept. 19, 1987 at Clemson, SC*

Clemson was down 20-16 with about five minutes left in this game when Rusty Seyle hit a punt that was downed by Chinedu Ohan on the half-yard line. A couple of plays later, the Clemson Tigers defense swarmed on Georgia quarterback John Jackson and tackled him for a safety and the two points that come with it.

The Tigers took the “safety kickoff,” which was a punt with about five minutes left and drove the ball down the field, one successful play after another behind the running of Terry Allen and Wesley McFadden.

Clemson was behind by two at this point and successfully drove the ball to the three yard-line. Clemson brought out kicker David Treadwell to make the winning kick. It was just like an extra point. Things got confused near the end of the game and it was a little hairy because the Clemson team was all out of timeouts. Nonetheless Coach Ford got the Clemson squad / the field goal team on the field and Treadwell got the kick through the uprights with just two seconds left.

Treadwell a great kicker and this was not the first time he had amazed the crowd. He had a number of game winning kicks. He had done the same thing the year before at Georgia, kicking a 46-yard field goal to win 31-28 in Athens. I wonder if Treadwell had his own horseshoe.

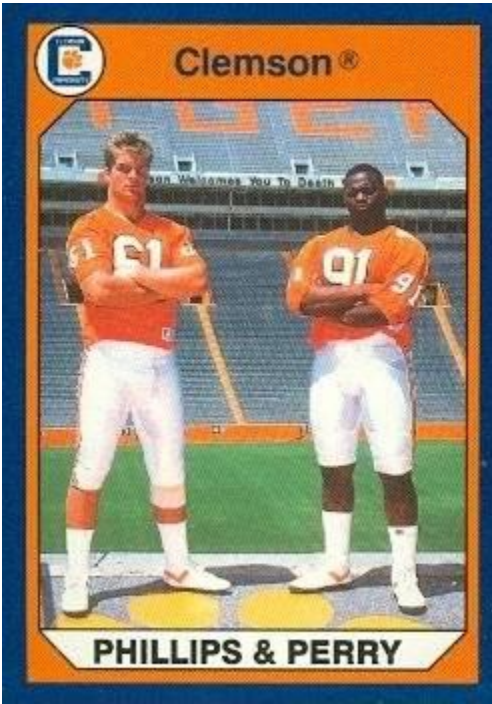
## **Citrus Bowl**

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.

## **Great Player John Phillips OG 1984-1987**

John Phillips was named first-team All-American as a junior and became a second-team All-American as a senior. He made the All-ACC team two consecutive years and captured the Jacobs Blocking Trophy for South Carolina two years in a row.

Phillips had the single-season record of 103 knockdown blocks as a junior, he concluded his career with 245 knockdown blocks, which at the time was third in Clemson history. He is still the only Tiger with a pair of 100-knockdown block seasons, he had 100 in 1986 and 103 in 1987.



Phillips started 32 games and played in 47 for his career. He was co-captain of Clemson's 1987 team with Michael Dean Perry. He was a graduate assistant coach at Clemson for 1990 and 1991. Phillips was inducted into Clemson's Hall of Fame in Fall in 1999.

### **Great Player Michael Dean Perry, 1984-87**

Some knew him as the Refrigerator's brother. But, he was more than just a familiar name along the Clemson defensive line. Michael Dean

Perry picked up right where his brother left off and he exceeded him in some areas. Like his brother, he was one of a handful of defensive players to win ACC Defensive Player of the Year (1987). Michael also broke William's ACC records for career tackles for a loss (61) and career sacks (28).

He remains Clemson's sole record holder for career tackles for a loss and was tied for career sacks by Gaines Adams in 2006. Perry's best season came in 1987 when he recorded 24 tackles for a loss and 10 sacks as Clemson went 10-2 with an ACC title.

### **1988 Clemson Season -- 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

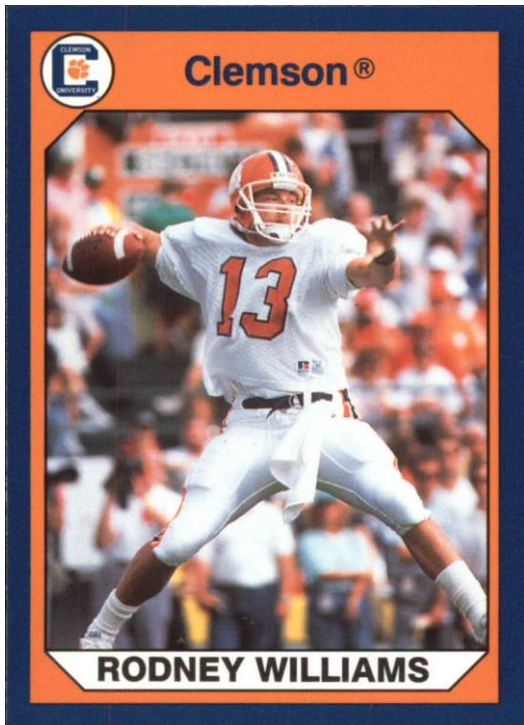


Tigers came in 1st in the ACC out of 8 active ACC teams. Rodney Williams, and Donnell Woolford were the team captains.

## 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.

## Great Player Rodney Williams QB (1985-88)



three straight ACC Championships.

Though it was not in the 1981 championship season, Williams was coached by Ring of Honor inductee, Danny Ford. Rodney Williams is without a doubt among the great QBs in a continual team of great Clemson quarterbacks.

He held the record for the most games won by a quarterback (was tied with Boyd at 32), most consecutive passes without interception (122), consecutive games completing a pass (46), most games started by a quarterback (44), and won

With DeShaun Watson and the impressive cadre before him, all of these records no longer stand but at the time, Rodney Williams was the best and he brought home a lot of fine Clemson victories.

## Great Player Donnell Woolford (1985-88)

Clemson under coach Danny Ford, was the fifth winningest team in college football in the 1980s and one of the reasons was the play of two-time All-American Donnell Woolford, one of the great Tiger gridgers of the century. Woolford was the mainstay of a Clemson defense that helped the Tigers to a 28-6-2 record from 1986-88, an era in which Clemson won the ACC Championship every year.



Woolford was a defensive back who might be regarded as the best modern-day cover corner in school history. In 1987, Woolford, he chalked up five interceptions with no interception return yards. Why no yards? All his interceptions were diving grabs while he was blanketing the opposition.

His interception total dropped to one during his senior year because rarely did the opposition throw in his direction. No receiver that he was assigned to cover caught more than two passes in any game during the 1988 season.

In addition to his job of effectively patrolling the secondary, Woolford was one of the top punt returners in the country. He averaged 15 yards a return in 1987, third best in the nation. He had a pair of opponent back breaking punt returns for touchdowns that year, one against Georgia Tech and one against Wake Forest.

Woolford may best be remembered for his performance in the final game of his career. Playing against Oklahoma's famed Wishbone Offense, Woolford was moved to a rover back position by Clemson defensive coordinator Bill Oliver. It was his job to disrupt the attack,



which he did. Oklahoma failed to score a touchdown in a game for just the second time in the decade of the 1980s.

A first-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears, Woolford started for the Bears from 1989-96 and for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1997. He earned a berth in the Pro Bowl in 1993. He is clearly a Clemson great!

## **1989 Clemson Season -- 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).

### **Game Highlight Clemson 34, Florida State 23**

*Sept. 9, 1989 at Tallahassee, FL*

This might have been the best performance ever for Clemson. The Tigers were ahead 21-0 in the first quarter after two 73-yard plays. Wayne Simmons had a 73-yard interception return and Terry Allen had a 73-yard run for a touchdown. Allen's run was simply amazing because it took place right before half-time. Clemson was simply trying to run out the clock on a sweep and it went all the way.

The Tigers controlled this game the entire night. Clemson held a nice 34-17 lead with six seconds left before Florida State scored a very late touchdown. This was not a fluke against a poor FSU team. No! This Florida State team ended the season at #2 in the nation in the final

Coach's poll. When you talk to Clemson fans who attend lots of Tiger games, this might have been the most fun they have ever had at a road game. This was the year after the "puntrooskie Game" so Clemson Fans were pretty fired up.

To help with that memory, in the prior year's Florida State against Clemson-- in the famous 1988 "Puntrooskie Game;" Dayne took the snap from center on the play, put the ball between the legs of the upback, Leroy Butler, who then raced down the sideline for 78-yards to the three-yard line. Bobby Bowden's squad orchestrated the play to perfection and it had its intended result—a Clemson loss after the field goal L (21-24).

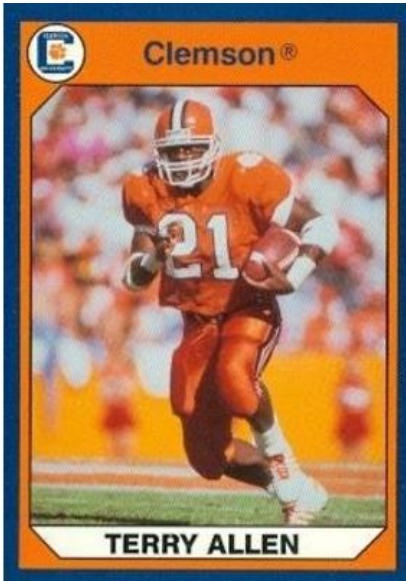
## **Gator Bowl**

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.

## **Great Player Terry Allen, RB 1987-89**

Terry Allen was noted for his toughness, perhaps the most resilient runner in Clemson history. The native of Georgia was Clemson's top rusher in 1987 and 1988, and only a knee injury prohibited him from leading the team in 1989.

As is the case with many of the players on this 25-man list, Allen was not a highly recruited player out of high school. In fact, the overriding reason he decided to come to Clemson was Danny Ford's willingness to give him a shot at tailback. Every other school wanted him to be a defensive back because they had measured his speed at less than blazing.



But, those other coaches failed to measure Allen's heart. After red-shirting the 1986 season, Allen burst on the scene in 1987, leading the ACC in rushing and setting a Clemson freshman record.

A key victory for the Tigers that year took place against Georgia, a 21-20 verdict. His straight ahead, run over the opposition approach, was pivotal on Clemson's winning touchdown drive. In 1988 as a sophomore, he again led the team in rushing, and the year was climaxed with his selection as the offensive MVP of the

Citrus Bowl victory over Oklahoma.

Allen's junior year was a constant battle against injury. He geared up for one last stand against South Carolina, and he responded with 89 yards in the first half, leading Clemson to a convincing lead. But, on his final carry of the first half, he was struck square in the knee, the area that had been giving him trouble. He never carried the ball again for the Tigers.

After that season, Allen decided to turn pro, a decision that was met with criticism due to his injuries. He felt if a team could draft him, they would be responsible for him and realize his work ethic. An injury during a senior year at Clemson would effectively end his career.

The gamble paid off. He was drafted in the 10th round by the Minnesota Vikings. He was injured during 1990, but the Vikings stayed with him. In seven healthy seasons, he has had four 1000-yard seasons and is the only running back in NFL history to come back from torn ACL injuries on both knees.



## Chapter 22 Ken Hatfield Era 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 Clemson Season -- 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.



Great Clemson Football Players 1990



### <<< 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,

### 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.

## Great Player Stacy Long OT 1987-1990

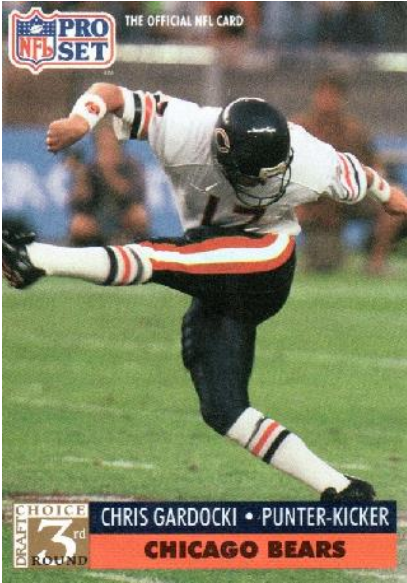
Long was a consensus first-team All-American as a senior and he was First-Team Sporting News All-American as a junior.

He was an Outland Trophy finalist in 1990, the second Tiger so honored. He made First-Team All-ACC twice. Additionally, he had 141 career knockdown blocks, a record for an offensive tackle. He was also two-time ACC Player-of-the-Week in 1990 and a six-time choice in his career. This is more than any other Tiger. Clemson won 40 games from 1987-90, fourth-most in the nation.

Long finished his tenure with Clemson as an 11th-round draft pick for the Bears. He was named to Clemson's Centennial team in 1996 and was inducted into Clemson Hall of Fame in 2004.



## Great Player Chris Gardocki K/P 1988-1990



Chris Gardocki was a master of both kicking and punting, Gardocki pulled double duty during his time at Clemson, and excelled at both, enjoying a decent career with the Pittsburgh Steelers. If Tiger fans can remember one kicker or punter, it's Chris Gardocki. After all, he did do both.

His achievements as a punter and placekicker are unprecedented in Clemson and college football history. He was even ranked top kicker in college football for the 1990s.

Only one player in NCAA history has ranked in the top 10 in the nation in punting and field goals per game in two different seasons and Chris Gardocki is that player. His abilities in both aspects of the game gave Clemson one of the top special teams in the nation from 1988-90.

In 1989, as a sophomore, Gardocki ranked sixth in the nation in field goals and was 10th in punting with a 42.7 average. As a junior, he was fourth in both areas, averaging 1.73 field goals per game to go with a 44.34 punting average.

He is a native of Stone Mountain, GA. Gardocki tied an ACC record for the longest field goal with a 57-yarder against Appalachian State in 1990, and he saved his longest punt for his final punt in Death Valley, a 78-yarder in the 1990 South Carolina game.

He concluded his career with 63 field goals and had a record 72 consecutive PATs. As a punter, he averaged 43.48 yards boot for his career, including a 39.1 net average. A one-step punter, Gardocki had just one punt blocked his entire Clemson career and has never had a punt blocked in the NFL. The Tigers were 30-6 in Gardocki's career.

Gardocki was an All-America punter all three years he played in Tigertown. Gardocki became the starting punter for the Cleveland Browns of the NFL. He was an All-Pro selection in 1996 when he led the NFL in net punting.

Gardocki was second-team All-American as a junior and a third-team choice as a sophomore place-kicker. He was an honorable mention choice at punter as well by UPI as a freshman, sophomore, and junior. He ranked fourth in punting and tied for fourth in placekicking in the nation as a junior.

Ironically, Gardocki was a two-time All-America placekicker at Clemson, but has been a punter in the National Football League. He was an honorable mention. He was a third-round draft pick of the Chicago Bears in 1991, he left Clemson after his junior year. He was an All-Pro choice with Colts in 1996. Then he went with the Cleveland Browns.

He was named to Clemson's Centennial team in April 1996. He is ranked as Clemson's #19 gridded of all-time by a panel of historians in 1999. He was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 2001. He could sure kick

## **1991 Clemson Season -- 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. After 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).



## Great Player Ed McDaniel LB 1988-1991



McDaniel was a first-team All-American by College and Pro Football Weekly and an honorable mention choice by Football News. He was listed as a third-team AP All-American and a first-team All-ACC choice by AP/ACSWA.

Ed was the number-one tackler on the defense that led the nation in rushing defense in 1991. His 114 tackles were tops for Clemson. He led the Tigers in tackles three of the four years he played, including 1990 when Clemson won the national title

in total defense, 1991 when Clemson won the national rushing defense crown and 1988 when the Tigers also ranked in the top five nationally in total defense

Ed McDaniel ranks fourth in Clemson history in total tackles with 389. In a given season, he went over the century mark in tackles three times. He was one of four semifinalists for the 1991 Butkus Award. When he closed out his Clemson career, he was a fifth-round draft pick of the Vikings in 1992. He started at LB with the Vikings from 1994-2001. Ed was proud to be named a Pro-Bowler in 1998.

## Great Player Jeb Flesch OG 1988-1991

Flesch was a first-team All-American by AP, UPI, Football News, and Walter Camp, and he was a first-team All-ACC choice. He was also the leader of the offensive line that led the Tigers to the ACC title in total offense in 1991.

Flesch was team leader in knockdown blocks during the 1991 regular season with 72. He led the team in that category in six different games with 262 knockdown blocks for his career. This was just 10 shy of tying the Clemson record.

He was a guy the team could count on. In terms of offensive action, he was involved in 2,630 plays for his career. He started 45 straight games, Fleisch ended his career ranked second in Clemson history in career starts by an offensive lineman and second in starts by any player regardless of position.

He signed as a free-agent with the Seahawks in 1992.

## **Great Player Rob Bodine MG 1988-1991**

Rob Bodine was the guy Clemson counted on to stop the run. He was the first defender a running back ever saw. He was first-team All-American in 1991 by the Football Writers, a second-team selection by AP, Sporting News, and College & Pro Football Weekly.

Bodine was an honorable mention All-American by UPI and Football News. He was First-Team All-ACC by AP/ACSWA in 1991 for the second straight year. He also led the nation in tackles for loss (27) as a senior, tying the school record.

He ranked fourth in school history for career tackles for loss with 48. He also ranked 20th in Tiger history in tackles. As noted, he anchored the defensive line on the unit that led the nation in rushing defense in 1991. Bodine accomplished all of this in just three years of Clemson playing time, He had played at North Dakota as a freshman. He was the only walk-on non-kicker in Tiger history to be a first-team All-American. He was a great Clemson player.

## **Great Player Levon Kirkland (1988-91)**

Having been victimized by NCAA sanctions several times in its history, it was always a great sign to see the light at the end of the sanctions tunnel. Clemson re-emerged from NCAA sanctions and a recruiting scandal in the late 1980s with defense once again at the forefront.

**LEVON KIRKLAND LB 45**

**BORN:** Lamar, SC  
**BIRTHDATE:** 2/17/69  
**HT:** 6-0  
**WT:** 140  
**COLLEGE:** Clemson  
**HTG EXP:** Rookie  
**ACQUIRED:** 2nd round '91

**POWERFUL HITTER AND PASS RUSHER WHO ALSO HAS ABILITY TO DROP BACK INTO COVERAGE... STATISTICS FOR COLLEGE CAREER REFLECT OVERALL ABILITY: RECORDED 273 TOTAL TACKLES, INCLUDING 19 SACKS AND 40 FOR LOSSES; INTERCEPTED 4 PASSES AND BROKE UP 23 OTHERS; CAUSED 5 FUMBLES AND RECOVERED 7... ALSO MADE 36 TACKLES ON SPECIAL TEAMS ... PLAYED IN FOUR BOWL GAMES ... FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICA IN 1991.**

**Team of Pines** **368** **PITTSBURGH STEELERS**

© 1992 National Football League

After recording 71 tackles as a freshman, Levon Kirkland enjoyed a breakout game at the end of his sophomore season in the Gator Bowl. With nine tackles and a sack, Kirkland was the Gator Bowl MVP as the Tigers' defense held Heisman finalist Major Harris to 119 passing yards in a 27-7 win over West Virginia.

Kirkland was a second-team All-American as a junior and a consensus first-team All-American as a senior, leaving school with 273 career tackles and 19 career sacks.

Many would on the spot declare Levon Kirkland to be the most popular Clemson football player in recent history. He was a three-time All-ACC first team selection and two-time All-American, Kirkland was a mainstay of four straight seasons in which Clemson lost just two games. The Tigers were 39-8-1 in his four years, with Coach Danny Ford and Ken Hatfield. He teamed with classmate and linebacker Ed McDaniel to make Clemson one of the most feared defenses in the NCAA.

In many ways, he was like the great Anthony Simmons, in that he was an impact player from his freshman year. When Clemson clinched the ACC Championship in 1988 at Maryland, Kirkland had one of the finest games of his career, collecting a career high 13 tackles, including three for loss, a sack and to top that off, he also caused a fumble. In 1989 as a sophomore, he was the MVP of the Gator Bowl victory over West Virginia as he chased Heisman Trophy Candidate Major Harris all over the Jacksonville facility.

In 1990, Kirkland was a defensive demon of the only Clemson unit in history to lead the nation in total defense. Kirkland, a virtually unrecruited player out of high school, was a finalist for the Butkus Award, the only underclassman on the list. The 1991 defense, again with Kirkland leading the way, led the nation in rushing defense. Kirkland was a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award that year.

Kirkland concluded his career as one of just three Clemson players in history to be named first-team All-ACC. Like Michael Dean Perry, Kirkland was a second-round NFL draft choice who has gone on to a celebrated career. His career included being a first-team All-Pro selection who started in the Pro Bowl. He also led the Steelers in tackles in the 1996 Super Bowl.

By 1996, he was recognized as one of the top inside linebackers in the league, and had a stellar performance in Super Bowl XXX against the Dallas Cowboys at the end of the season. In that game, the Steelers defense held the Cowboys to just 15 first downs and Emmitt Smith and the Cowboys powerful running attack to just 56 yards, despite losing 27-17 in large part due to two key interceptions thrown by Steelers quarterback Neil O'Donnell. Kirkland had 10 tackles and a key sack of Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman.

Kirkland was All-Pro in 1996,97. He was so good that he had the distinction of being the highest paid linebacker in the NFL in 1999. He played with the Eagles in 2002.He was named to Clemson's Centennial team in 1996. He was one of the best. Ranked as Clemson's #8 gridder of all-time by a panel of historians in 1999. He was inducted into Clemson Hall of Fame in 2001.

## **Great Player Chester McGlockton DT 1988-91**

Chester McGlockton was a man amongst boys when he arrived on Clemson's campus. Standing 6'4" and tipping the scale at just over 300 lbs., McGlockton made an immediate impact on the Clemson defensive line.

Fleet footed, nimble, and mean as a rattle snake, opponents feared McGlockton. McGlockton was a High School All-American as a

Tight End/Defensive Lineman at Whiteville High School in Whiteville, NC. During his senior year he led the Whiteville Wolfpack to a 15-0 record, a State Championship, and a USA Today National Ranking.



He played great college football at Clemson University under both Danny Ford and Ken Hatfield. He scored a touchdown as a freshman in the 1989 Gator Bowl vs. the West Virginia Mountaineers.

He had a stellar career at Clemson, beginning with Coach Danny Ford and ending with Ken Hatfield, McGlockton was drafted with the 16th pick of the 1st round

in the 1992 draft by the Oakland Raiders. This was a match made in heaven.

McGlockton was a no nonsense, physical, street fighter style of defensive tackle and Al Davis couldn't get him to Oakland fast enough.

He played six seasons with the Raiders, earning all four of his Pro Bowl appearances with them. McGlockton also played for the Kansas City Chiefs, the Denver Broncos, and ended his career by playing one season with the New York Jets. McGlockton finished his 12-year NFL career with 51 sacks including a career season high of 9.5 in 1994.

He collected over 500 tackles, 51 sacks and even grabbed four interceptions. Chester McGlockton passed away on November 30th, 2011 at the age of 42, due to an enlarged heart. His memory will live on in Tiger fans hearts forever.

## **1992 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **Game Highlights Clemson 29, Virginia 28**

*Oct. 10, 1992 at Charlottesville, VA*

This game is known as "The greatest comeback in Clemson Football History." Some may take issue with that but none can argue how great a comeback this game actually was. Virginia was up on Clemson 28-0 with 32 minutes left in the game.

Right before the half Louis Solomon made a 64-yard touchdown run to give the Tigers some momentum going into halftime. Coach Hatfield made some second half defensive adjustments which were more than enough to shut Virginia out.

Clemson made this comeback simply by running the ball effectively. The squad clocked off over 400 yards rushing for the day, a highly unusual way to make a major comeback. Rudy Harris had a big day and Rodney Blunt scored a key late touchdown. In the second half, Virginia just couldn't stop Clemson.

The Tigers got the ball back in the final minutes, down by two-points, 28-26. Using the running game, Clemson drove the ball up the field, very effectively on the ground. The crowd was still as the snap came

for the field goal. Nelson Welch made the 32-yard field goal look easy to win the game. It was phenomenal comeback because Clemson did it on the road against a top 10 team. It is still the greatest comeback by an ACC team against another ACC team. I bet you cannot prove me wrong on that one.

## **1993 Clemson Season -- 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.

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!

## Great Player Stacy Seegars OG 1991-1993

Offensive Guards typically are on the short end of the stick when plaudits are given out. Not true of Stacy Seegars. In fact, Seegars is one of the most decorated linemen in Tiger history, he was a first-team All-America choice by AP, Walter Camp, Scripps-Howard, and Football News in 1993 and was a second-team choice of AP and UPI in 1992.

A smart Guard, Seegars was also selected to the 1993 Academic All-ACC football squad. He was the fourth Tiger to reach 200 knockdown blocks in his career; he had 213. Seegars averaged five knockdowns per game for his career. In addition to being All-American. He was also a two-time All-ACC Guard. He tied the Tiger single-season record for knockdown blocks (103) in 1992.



## Chapter 23 Tommy West Era 1993 to 1998

Coach # 23 Tommy West

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1993	Tommy West	Bowl Game Wln	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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **1995 Clemson Season -- 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 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 the 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.

## **Great Player Brian Dawkins, (1992-95)**

Like many pretty good football players, Dawkins didn't fully blossom until his professional career, which ended in his retirement after the 2011 season. Before his Pro Football Hall of Fame career for 16 years in the NFL, Dawkins was a productive safety for two coaches (Ken Hatfield and Tommy West) at Clemson.



A three-year starter, Dawkins was a second-team All-ACC selection as a sophomore and junior before emerging as a second-team AP All-America selection as a senior in 1995. He finished his career with 11 career interceptions and 251 tackles. Dawkins showed a glimpse of what was to come in his pro career when he intercepted three passes against Duke in his final home game with the Tigers.

Brian Dawkins has it all: the coverage skills, the tackling, the aggressiveness. All that you want in a safety, Dawkins has it.

Able to play both positions, Dawkins made his name as one of the best all-time safeties at Clemson and one of the more notable ones in the NFL, and could probably be the first and only Clemson player enshrined in the NFL Hall of Fame. But, not yet!

## **1996 Clemson Season -- 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.

Due to a “rules change” during the postseason of 1995, college football games played from 1996 on cannot end in a tie. At the beginning of this season, the NCAA Football Rules Committee added an overtime procedure to end the chance of a tied game. Though Clemson had no ties in 1996, it would have had a tie in 1997 if it were not for this new rule. Every now and then, the NCAA does something because it is the right thing.

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 Clemson Season -- 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.

For having 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.

## Great Player Anthony Simmons (1995-97)



Compared to some other notable great Clemson football players, Simmons did not play during the best years of Clemson football. The Tigers had a respectable record of 22-14 during his three seasons starting with the Tigers, but Simmons was a dominant force anyway.

He started all but one game in his three seasons at Clemson, racking up 486 career tackles. In 1996, Simmons set a school record with 178 stops, topped only by Keith Adams' 186, three years later. Simmons earned consensus All-America

honors the following seasons.

And so, Simmons goes down in Clemson Football History as one of the all-time great Clemson players of the 20th century. He made an impact on the team from day one of his freshman year. It took about 10 days of preseason practice for Anthony Simmons to move into the starting lineup. By season's end he was a third-team AP All-American and UPI National Freshman of the Year. He was the first defensive player in history to win that national award.

Simmons was a precocious linebacker who combined speed and power with a keen knowledge of the game. It is safe to say he had the finest (true, not red-shirt) freshman season in school history, regardless of position. Possibly regardless of sport. He posted 150 tackles that year to lead the team.

The rest of his career was just as stellar. He accumulated 178 tackles in 1996 as a sophomore, again an All-America season for the native of Spartanburg, SC. He was a model of consistency throughout his career. He was Clemson's leading tackler in 28 of the 36 games he played and had a streak of 17 straight games with at least one tackle for loss, another Clemson record. He concluded his career with 486 tackles, second in Clemson history. He went pro after his junior year or would have shattered Bubba Brown's record had he returned.

Just the second ACC player in history to be named an AP All-American in three different seasons, Simmons was a first-round draft choice of the Seattle Seahawks in 1998 and played seven seasons of outstanding professional football.

## **1998 Clemson Season -- 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.

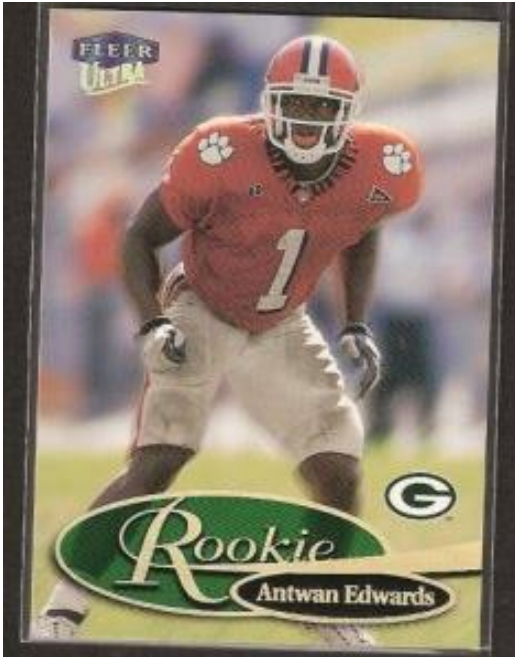
## **Great Player Antwan Edwards DB 1996-98**

Edwards was first-team All-American by Football Digest for his last season with Clemson – 1998. He was third-team choice by Football News and Associated Press. He was also first-team All-ACC at cornerback. He was called as a first-round draft pick (25th overall) of



the Packers in 1999. He was ranked 10th in the nation in kickoff returns with 26.9 average in 1998.

Edwards was a semi-finalist for the Thorpe Award, which is given to the top defensive back in the nation. He finished his college career ranked third in Clemson history in career passes broken up with 35. He had 14 “break-ups” in his senior year to lead the club and rank second in the ACC.



Antwan Edwards was the first player in Clemson history to have two 80-yard plays in the same game. He had a 93-yard fumble return for a touchdown and an 85-yard kickoff return at Virginia.

He became Clemson's career leader in return yards on takeaways. He had 10 takeaways in his career for 299 yards. An exceptional player, he was chosen to play in the 1999 Senior Bowl and the 1999 East-West game. He was second-team All-ACC in 1997. His career also included two interceptions, including one he returned 42 yards for a score at South Carolina in 1997.

Selected in the first round of the 1999 NFL Draft by the Green Bay Packers, the first of three consecutive defensive backs the Packers would take in that draft; the others being Fred Vinson and Mike McKenzie.

Edwards would play all sixteen games of his rookie season, starting one of them. During the course of the year, he made a total of thirty tackles (twenty-six solo), had four interceptions, and was named to the College & Pro Football Weekly All-Rookie team.

After five years with the Packers, he played with three other teams to finish a robust eight-year NFL pro career.



# Chapter 24 Tommy Bowden Era 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 Clemson Season -- 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 Tiger Players 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.

At 6-6, the Tigers barely qualified for the Bowl Season.

On Dec 30, 7:30 PM vs. Mississippi State in the Peach Bowl postseason battle, played at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA Clemson's Tigers lost to the Bulldogs L (7-17) in a tough played match before 73,315

## **2000 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **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

## **Great Player Rod Gardner WR 1998-2000**

Rod Gardner was a first-team All-American by Gannett News Service and College & Pro Football Weekly. He was one of 10 semifinalists for the Biletnikoff Award in 2000. He left Clemson as the school's all-time leader in total receptions with 166, He set the

record with seven for 94 yards against Virginia Tech in the 2001 Gator Bowl.



Gardner ranked third in career reception yardage with 2,498 and fifth in total touchdown receptions with 13. He was the only Clemson receiver in history with a 1000-yard receiving season, he actually had two. He set Clemson's record with 80 catches for 1,084 yards in 1999...He had at least two catches in his last 28 games, at least one in his last 30 games. He had nine 100-yard receiving games in his career to set a school record.

Gardner also tied Clemson's single-game record with 11 catches against Marshall in 1999. He also tied Clemson's single game record for touchdown receptions with three against North Carolina in 2000

He ranked 23rd in the nation in reception yards per game in 2000 and led the ACC in total receptions in 1999. He made second-team All-ACC as a junior and a senior. Along the way, he set nine records at Clemson. He will always be remembered for his 50-yard reception with 10 seconds left that set up the game-winning field goal against South Carolina in his final home game. That's not all. He also had the game deciding touchdown catch at South Carolina in 1999. He was named the IPTAY Athlete-of-the-Year for 2000-01.

Gardner was sought after by the pros. He was a first-round draft choice of the Washington Redskins in 2001, the 15th selection of the entire draft. He moved on to be the wide receiver for the Washington Redskins from 2001-04. Gardner could throw a ball and was one time a QB. This experience would prompt the Redskins to utilize him on trick plays during games.

For example, during the 2003 NFL season he was 2-for-3 for 46 yards and two passing touchdowns (to Chad Morton and Trung Candide). He had a seven-year NFL career finishing up with three different teams including the Carolina Panthers.

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## Great Player Keith Adams, LB 1998-2000

12 OF 20



Keith Adams was always an effective, hard-nosed, downhill blitzer at the linebacker position. His ability to shoot the gap is something that Clemson would love to always have and surely would love to squeeze from its current group of talented linebackers. Adams was effective in this regard, giving Clemson a great pass rushing threat in addition to the monster of a defensive line it already possessed.

He was a two-time All-American in both 1999 and 2000. He was ACC Defensive Player of the Year (1999). @00 was a great year for Adams as he was selected as a Finalist for the Butkus Award and the Bednarik Award (2000), and he was declared National Defensive Player of the Year Finalist by Football News (2000).

In his career, he set Clemson's single season record for tackles (186) and sacks (16) in 1999. He set Clemson single game tackle record with 27 vs. South Carolina in 1999. His totals are outstanding as he had 379 career tackles, ninth in Clemson history even though he played just three years.

When he came out to the pros, they were ready and he played seven years in the NFL with Dallas, Philadelphia, Miami and Cleveland

## 2001 Clemson Season -- 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).

## **Game highlights Clemson 47 v GA Tech 44 (OT)**

*Sept 29, 2001 in Atlanta Georgia.*

This game was another overtime thriller. It was also another victory on the road for Clemson against a top-10 team.

In 2001, Clemson had high hopes to capture the ACC title. Standing in its way was rival Georgia Tech, a team going into this game ranked #9 in the nation.

It was quarterback Woody Dantzler who made play after play, guiding the Tigers to a thrilling overtime victory by being personally responsible for 418 of the team's 502 total yards.

In overtime, on a 3rd-and-6 play from the Tech 11-yard line, Dantzler ran a draw untouched into the end zone to win the game.

## **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.

## Great Player Kyle Young C 1998-2000



Kyle Young is among the most decorated players in Clemson history in any sport. He was an All-American on the field and off in both 2000 and 2001. He joined the PGA Tour professional Jonathan Byrd as the only athletes in Clemson history to be named All-American on the field and in the classroom in the same year in two different seasons.

Young was a third-team All-American in 2001 by The Sporting News and Football News...a first-team Academic All-American for

the third year in a row. He became just the second offensive lineman in college football history to do that and just the second ACC player. The only other offensive lineman to do it was Jim Hansen at Colorado (1990-92) and the only other ACC player was Mike Dominick at Duke (1986-88)

Kyle was also the winner of the National Football Foundation Scholarship. He was the first Tiger to achieve that since 1978 (Steve Fuller). He was honored in New York as one of just 18 Division I players.

He was also the winner of the Jim Tatum Award as outstanding scholar athlete football player in the ACC and the winner of a Weaver-James-Corrigan Scholarship from the Atlantic Coast Conference for excellence on and off the field.

He had a Clemson record 168 knockdown blocks in 2001, he broke his own Clemson record for knockdown blocks in a season. His total included 18 in the bowl win over Louisiana Tech when he helped the Tigers to 49 points and 548 yards of total offense.

He was named to Sports Illustrated's All-Bowl team for 2001. He was a smart player and a smart student with an average grade of 90.5 percent for the season, best on the team.

He was one of the top 24 candidates for the Outland Trophy at mid-season. He was also a finalist for the Dave Rimington Award, one of five for that honor. The prime reason for that was that Clemson averaged 432 yards a game of total offense—second best average in Clemson history.

Young started every game at center his final three years and 40 in a row over four years. He tied Clemson's record for starts by a center in a career with 36. He also started four at guard as a freshman.

He is a big reason why Woodrow Dantzler broke 53 Clemson records in his career. He was three-time first-team All-ACC by Football News He was rugged and resilient and he played over 3,000 snaps in his Clemson career.

He had a record-tying 21 knockdown blocks against N.C. State in his 100 plays of participation with just six missed assignments in 845 plays by coach's grading system. This was the fewest among all starters on the Clemson team.

Young was the big reason why Clemson averaged a school record 446 yards per game and set school records for touchdowns and total points scored in 2000.

Kyle Young earned his degree from Clemson in secondary education with a minor in economics in May of 2001, he was a graduate student during the 2001 season...He had a 3.98 GPA in his undergraduate career, having received just one B and the rest of his courses were A. He is now an Administrative Assistant on the Clemson Athletic Department staff.



## Great Player Woody Dantzler QB (1998-01)

At the turn of the millennium, Woodrow Dantzler was one of the most electrifying running quarterbacks in the nation. It was part way through his sophomore season in 1999 that he took over as starting quarterback for Tommy Bowden's then 1-2 football team and he led them to a Peach Bowl.



In his junior year, the Tigers finished with 9 wins, but it was his senior season that was his most amazing. He tallied 2,360 passing yards and 17 passing touchdowns along with another 1,004 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground. With that, he became the first player in NCAA history to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 yards. He set 53 Clemson records and is in the Clemson football Hall of Fame.

## 2002 Clemson Season -- 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.



## 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 Clemson Season -- 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.

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

## Game highlights Clemson 26, Florida State 10

*Nov 8, 2003 in Death Valley*

No single win from the past decade tasted sweeter than on a clear November night. The son finally bested the father.

After 11-consecutive losses against Florida State, Clemson finally got the monkey off its back and got Tommy Bowden his first ever win against his dad.



The Bowdens at the Bowden Bowl

The Tigers thoroughly dominated the game, especially considering FSU didn't get its first (and only) touchdown until 2:14 left in the fourth quarter.

The Seminoles came into the game ranked third in the nation, making them the highest ranked opponent Clemson knocked off the entire decade.

Clemson out-rushed the Noles 152 to 11, and had a 13-minute advantage in time of possession.

This win was monumental in that it really helped turn things around for Tommy Bowden. Just a week before, Clemson had been humiliated by Wake Forest 45-17, a loss that had many fans calling for Bowden's job.

He would finish the season on a four-game winning streak, including this win, a win over Duke, the 63-17 thrashing of South Carolina, and knocking off Tennessee in the Peach Bowl.

Bowden's job may not have been cast in cement but it was on firm footing after this great win.

## 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).

### Game highlights Clemson 27, Tennessee 14

*Jan 2, 2004 in Peach Bowl Game Atlanta GA.*

For at least one evening, Clemson laid claim to this truth: The ACC can outplay the SEC.

The Vols, ranked No. 6 in the nation, were run all over by the Tigers, namely Chad Jasmin who rushed for a career high 106 yards and a touchdown in the Peach Bowl win.

The win capped off what could be defined as the best season Clemson had under Tommy Bowden. But even this postseason bowl win wasn't the best Tiger W of the decade.

## 2004 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Great Player Justin Miller KR 2001-2004

Justin Miller set the NCAA single-game record for kickoff return yards with 282 at Florida State in 2004. He also had two kickoff returns for scores in that game to set a Clemson record and tie an NCAA record. In addition to being a kick returner, Miller was a three-year starter at cornerback. But his forte is being one of the greatest kick returners in Clemson history. He was among the final 12 for the Thorpe Award in 2004.



Justin Miller was also a great cornerback. He finished his career ranked third in Clemson history in interceptions (13,) trailing only College Football Hall of Fame inductee Terry Kinard, who had 17 between 1978-82, and Fred Knoebel, who had 15 (1950-52).

Miller topped off his career with a 30.7-yard kickoff return average, the best in ACC history and fourth best in NCAA history. He had 50 kickoff returns for 1,534 yards. The 30.7 average is the best in NCAA history given a minimum of 50 returns.

He was ranked #14 in ACC history in total kickoff return yards (1,534; second in Clemson history in that category behind former teammate Derrick Hamilton. Miller was just 18 yards short of

Hamilton's total. He led the nation in kickoff returns in 2004 with 33.1-yard average on 20 returns and had a 13.0-yard average in punt returns to rank in the top 25 in the nation.

He also had a punt return for a score in the season opener against Wake Forest; that gave him a Clemson record three kick returns for touchdowns in the same season and a career standard of five (three kickoffs and two punts). He is one of only two players in Clemson history to return both a kickoff and punt for a touchdown (Bobby Gage is the other).

He had seven tackles in the 2003 win over #3 Florida State, seven tackles and three pass breakups against #6 Tennessee in a Peach Bowl win, and 148 return yards in an overtime win over #10 Miami (FL) in 2004. He was named to Sports Illustrated's All-Bowl team for his performance against Tennessee in the 2004 Peach Bowl...He was a second-round draft choice of the New York Jets. He played four years with the Jets and finished his career with a season stint in Oakland.

## **2005 Clemson Season -- 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.

## Game highlights Clemson 25 v Texas A&M 24

*Sept. 3, 2005 at Death Valley.*

1 OF 10

Many recall the ugly loss to the Aggies in 2004. This year, Clemson kicked off the 2005 season with a rematch against A&M, this time it was in Death Valley with the Aggies ranked No. 17 in the nation.

It took WR Chansi Stuckey returning a punt 47 yards for a touchdown and Jad Dean kicking a Tiger-record six field goals, including the game winner with six seconds remaining, to send the Tigers to their victory party.

## 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.

## Great Player C. Whitehurst QB (2002-'05)

Charlie Whitehurst had the height, the arm, and the leadership to be the quarterback on any great team. Those are some of the many qualities that made Charlie Whitehurst a Clemson great. Clemson fans missed those attributes deeply when he departed.

The former Tiger quarterback broke the Clemson passing record books, becoming the school's leader in many of its passing categories, and including breaking the all-time leading passer record.

To top it all off, and a point well taken by all Tigers' Fans is that Charlie is still the only Clemson quarterback besides DeShaun Watson to go undefeated against South Carolina.



Having his fame attached to beating South Carolina four times, Charlie Whitehurst took over after QB Woody Dantzler. As a sophomore, he threw for 3,561 yards with 21 TDs.

That season was his high point as the Clemson Tigers won nine games including great and memorable wins over FSU (the start of their decline), South Carolina (63-17), and Tennessee (who was ranked #4 entering the Peach Bowl). Whitehurst owned the Clemson record for completions (817) and pass attempts (1,368) until Tajh Boyd passed him on both marks with 901 completions in 1,402 attempts. Then of course we have DeShaun Watson in the last few years.

A few items barely keep him out of the top five. He won just 7, 6, and 8 games in his freshman, junior, and senior seasons, respectively. His career TD-INT ratio is only 49-46. (His junior season is largely to blame for that as he posted a poor 7-17 TD-INT Ratio). Although beating South Carolina is always fun, we also have the fond memory

of just how awful those Gamecock teams really were during that period with just one bowl appearance and zero bowl wins in those four seasons.

Whitehurst was a fine QB regardless of the circumstances.

## **2006 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **Game highlights Clemson 31 v GA Tech 7**

*Oct 21, 2006 at Death Valley.*

ESPN's College Gameday show made its first-ever appearance in Clemson for the game between the Tigers and the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets on October 21. Kirk Herbstreit mentioned both during and after the show, that he felt that Clemson hosted one of the best Gameday audiences he'd ever seen. The Gameday audience at Clemson also set a new noise record when measured in the latter-half of the show.



The Tigers were ranked 12th nationally, while the Yellow Jackets came in No. 13 in the nation. The game was the most hyped game the ACC had seen in years.

And yes, Clemson rocked with all purple uniforms.

James Davis ran for 216 yards and two touchdowns while CJ Spiller had some mind-numbing touchdown plays of his own to lead Clemson to the easy victory. GT star wide receiver Calvin Johnson was held without a catch.

This was perhaps the most dominating performance Clemson had all decade against a top 25 team.

## 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)

## Great Player Gaines Adams DE (2002-2006)

9 OF 20



Gaines Adams was a great speed rusher off the edge who could keep quarterbacks in the pocket where they belong and he could then wreak even more havoc for the good of the defense.

The late Gaines Adams, who died an untimely death, along with the Perry brothers, are near the top of the all-time sacks list, so it makes sense to pick a guy like Adams for any all-start Clemson team. Imagine teaming him up with the Perry Brothers. Can you imagine the frustration

of any offensive line trying to deal with these three all-time Clemson pass rushers? Gaines Adams was enough by himself.

Adams began to attend Clemson in 2002 and after being redshirted, in 2002, he played through 2006. As a redshirt freshman in 2003, he did not see much action as the second-team defensive end, only totaling 15 tackles and a sack. In 2004, he had 35 tackles with 8 sacks, and two blocked punts playing on special teams. For his hard work on special teams, Adams was awarded the 12th Man Award for Clemson's defense. Adams considered coming out for the NFL Draft after his sophomore year, but after the underclassman panel gave him a conservatively low ranking he decided to stay for his junior year.

Adams' 2005 junior season was a breakout year for him. He totaled 56 tackles, 9.5 sacks, and forced three fumbles while starting at boundary defensive end. Before his senior year in 2006, he was slated to be among the best defensive ends in the college football. Adams lived up to his reputation by starting all 12 games, recording 12.5 sacks, causing 2 fumbles and recovering 3.

By the end of the 2006 season, Adams recorded a total of 28 career sacks, tying the school record set by Michael Dean Perry (1984–1987). In addition, Adams was named to all five All-America teams acknowledged by the NCAA in 2006, and was recognized as one of seven unanimous first-team All-Americans that year.

Gaines Adams was off to a great career but his life ended suddenly. He was drafted in the first round of the 2007 NFL Draft, and played professionally for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Chicago Bears of the NFL. Adams died unexpectedly in 2010 from a previously undetected heart condition.

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## 2007 Clemson Season -- 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.

The unranked Clemson Fighting Tigers season opener resulted in a great win on Sept 2 at home against Florida State W (24-18) in the annual Bowden Bowl. This home opener was played at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson, SC before 81993.

## **Game highlights Clemson 24 v Florida State 18**

*Sept. 3, 2005 at Death Valley.*

In this Labor Day night classic, Clemson knocked off the No. 19 Seminoles 24-18 behind James Davis' solid performance running the ball (18 carries, 102 yards, one TD) and Will Proctor's efficiency (14-24, 160 yards, 2 TDs).

The Tigers jumped out to a 21-0 lead, but FSU would storm back to be down by only six in the fourth quarter. Clemson's defense held off the Seminoles on three-straight drives to end the game.

He may not have known it, but Tommy Bowden would coach his last game ever against his father that night.

## **Chick-Fil-A Bowl**

Ranked at #16, 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 Clemson Season -- 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 coach Dabo Swinney in the interim. 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). Some believed that coach Nick Saban's Crimson Tide's youth

and inexperience would prove a serious disadvantage against an experienced team like Clemson. However, Alabama quickly took control in what would eventually be a lopsided victory. By the end of the first quarter, Bama led 13–0, and they extended their lead to 23–3 by halftime.

The only scare came when C. J. Spiller returned the second half kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown. However, the Tigers failed to score again. James Davis and C. J. Spiller combined for only 20 yards on the ground, while the team's rushing total was 0. Clemson's redshirt senior quarterback, Cullen Harper, completed 20 of 34 passes but had no touchdowns and one interception. Alabama's John Parker Wilson completed 22 of 30 passes with no interceptions. He threw two touchdowns to Nick Walker and Julio Jones, and rushed for one himself. The Crimson Tide went on to win by a score of 34–10.

## **2009 Gator Bowl**

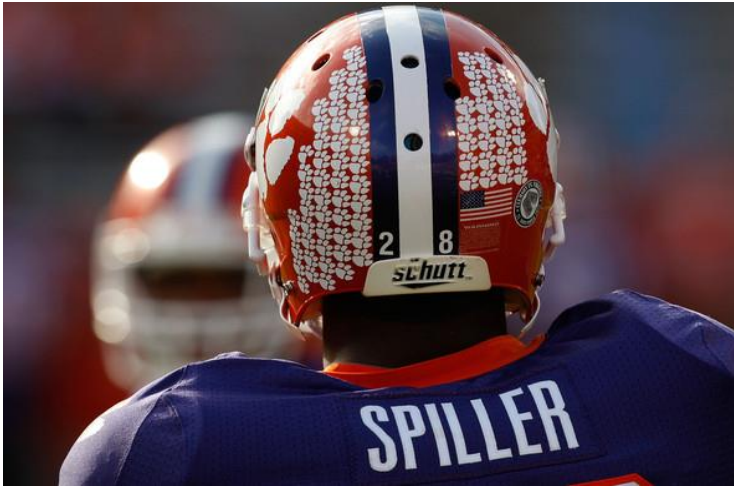
On January 1, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Nebraska squared off against Clemson at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium in Jacksonville, FL for the Gator Bowl. It was a close loss but a loss nonetheless L (21-26) for the Tigers before a crowd of 67,282 plus a TV audience.

The Nebraska win was a come-from-behind 26–21 finish to the 2009 Gator Bowl. The game remained in doubt until the very end, as Clemson marched from their own 23 to the Nebraska 10. With 1st and goal to go and about two minutes remaining on the clock, Cullen Harper came up short, resulting in a 16-yard sack and three Clemson incompletions to seal the outcome of the game. The game was played only days after Nebraska's Head Coach Bo Pelini and Defensive Coordinator Carl Pelini returned from their father's funeral in Ohio.

The best way to describe Tommy Bowden's departure from Clemson after a reasonably good tenure is that in the end. There was no cigar and he was replaced mid-season. 'Nuff said in this book for sure.

## **Great Player C.J. Spiller, RB 2006-09**

The consensus is that Spiller is Clemson's most dynamic offensive playmaker of the Athlon era (since 1967). He was quite a runner for sure with top-level football skills.



If you were forming the players who would be part of the all-time Clemson dream team, to add a little spice and a game-changer at running back, you would assure CJ Spiller was on the squad.

Spiller was a threat to score from anywhere on the field. He proved he could be the feature back of an offense when he returned for his senior season, and was one of the most explosive players of 2009, scoring at least one touchdown in every single game.

With his ability to catch out of the backfield and his blazing speed next to tall, strong-armed, very capable QB, any offense with Spiller would be one to watch.

C.J. Spiller came to Clemson from Lake Butler, Fla. He was an elite all-purpose recruit. He was not just a great RB. He delivered in all areas, earning ACC Player of the Year honors in 2009.

He was the first Clemson player to receive the award since Michael Dean Perry in 1987 and the first offensive player from Clemson to earn the award since quarterback Steve Fuller in 1978. Spiller had only one 1,000-yard season in his career (with 1,212 yards as a senior), but his 7.27 career yards per carry was the second-best average in Clemson history and the best since 1950.

Though listed as a running back, Spiller was a threat as a runner, receiver and return man, Spiller shattered the Clemson record for all-purpose yards with 7,588 in his career, an ACC record and the third-most in NCAA history. His 51 total touchdowns (31 rushing, 12 receiving, seven on kickoff returns, one on a punt return) is a school record.

## Chapter 25 Dabo Swinney Era 2008-2017+

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 Clemson Season -- 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.

## **Game highlights Clemson 40 v Miami 37 (OT)**

*Oct 24, 2009 in Miami Gardens FL.*

This was a huge game for Clemson's 2009 season.

The Tigers were coming off two tough losses to Maryland and TCU. Clemson had hammered Wake Forest the week before. Heading to Miami, Clemson was considered a huge underdog against the #8 Hurricanes.

There were more back-and-forth blows in this game than a heavyweight fight. Nonetheless, Clemson managed to outlast the Canes in overtime 40-37. CJ Spiller had 300-plus all-purpose yards while Kyle Parker threw for 326 yards and three touchdowns, including a 26-yard pass in overtime to cap off an instant classic.

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 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.

## **Game highlights Clemson 21 v Kentucky 13**

*Dec 27, 2009 in Nashville TN.*

Not only was it Dabo Swinney's first bowl win as Clemson's head coach, it was also CJ Spiller's last game as a Clemson Tiger.

Spiller gained 172 all-purpose yards and scored a touchdown in his 14th consecutive game.

Kentucky came out and scored quickly on its first drive. Clemson's defense then snapped from its slumber and held UK to just a couple of field goals the rest of the game. This was just Clemson's fourth bowl win of the decade despite being bowl eligible every single season.

## **2010 Clemson Season -- 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.

This year, 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.

## Great Player DeAndre McDaniel S 2007-2010

The safety who was closest to Dawkins' level during their time with Clemson was DeAndre McDaniel. He had the coverage skills and ability to make the secondary thrive. The Tigers sorely missed McDaniel in 2011 as a deep safety.



As a freshman in 2007, McDaniel made first-team All-ACC freshman selection by Sporting News after recording 33 tackles and two interceptions. As a sophomore in 2008 the Tigers moved him to linebacker. He finished the season with 77 tackles and an interception. He was a fine player.

In June 2008, McDaniel had a tough personal year after an argument with his girlfriend which resulted in some "serious bodily injury".

In 2009, McDaniel was back and he was also moved back to safety, where he recorded eight interceptions, with one returned for a touchdown. After a bowl victory over Kentucky, McDaniel decided

to return to Clemson for the 2010 season. His eight interceptions tied a Clemson school record.

In 2010, McDaniel finished with 4 interceptions and 75 total tackles, including 12 in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. Despite his strong collegiate career and physical talent, he was not selected in the NFL Draft, perhaps because of his personal conflicts.

McDaniel was not drafted in 2011. On July 25, when the NFL lockout ended, McDaniel announced that he was signed by the New Orleans Saints. After practicing he hit some hard luck and was waived on August 30. McDaniel was signed to the practice squad of the Indianapolis Colts on September 7, 2011. He was released on September 12.

## **Great Player Daquan Bowers DE 2008-2010**

10 OF 20

Bowers was not the best player in Clemson History but there is no question he could play football. Some might argue that he was not all-star category but perhaps they never played against him. His raw ability as a pass rusher at Clemson cannot go unnoticed.

It did take a little longer for to develop but when his light came on, Bowers proved he had the motor, the moxie, and the ability to give quarterbacks plenty of headache and concern.

Bowers graduated early to enroll at Clemson University in January 2008, where he was a member of the Clemson Tigers football team from 2008 to 2010. He went through the 2008 spring drills and was impressive with a game-high seven tackles in the 2008 Spring Game. As a true freshman in 2008, Bowers started six of 13 games, finishing the season with 37 tackles including 8 for loss.

When he was a sophomore, he recorded 46 tackles, 10.5 for loss and three sacks, in spite of an injury that forced him to miss three games. Then, as a junior in 2010, Bowers snagged 67 tackles, 26 tackles for loss and 15.5 sacks. Bowers led the nation in sacks and was tied for the most tackles for loss.



Following the season, he was a first-team All-ACC selection, and was recognized as a unanimous first-team All-American. He was also honored as the ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and was the recipient of the Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

Bowers was selected in the 2nd round (51st overall) of the 2011 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He had torn his Achilles tendon on the practice field on May 10, 2012, during the Bucs off-season program. Bowers was activated on Oct 25, 2012. He played his first game of the 2012

season that same night against the Minnesota Vikings.

His tenure with Tampa Bay came to an end following the 2014 season after yet an unproductive season. Da'Quan Bowers re-signed on July 27, 2015 for the upcoming training camp in order to grab a spot-on Tampa Bay's roster. After not making their 53-man final roster, on September 4, 2015, Bowers was cut from the Bucs. On December 15, 2015 Bowers re-signed with the Buccaneers to finish the season after the Bucs were plagued by injuries. He is currently and unsigned free agent.

## 2011 Clemson Season -- 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 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.

## 2011 Post Season Games

#21 Clemson won their 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. Clemson was invited to the Orange Bowl game for winning the championship. Devastating losses to NC State and South Carolina had Clemson's future looking bleak for the rematch against Virginia Tech in the ACC Championship, nonetheless, the Tigers regained their form from earlier in the season to secure their first ACC Championship game win and their first ACC title in 20 years.

Quarterback Tajh Boyd threw for 240 yards and three touchdowns, including a 53-yard strike to Sammy Watkins during the Tigers' 21-point third quarter rally. Clemson defense forced three touchdowns and kept the Hokies scoreless in the second half. The defense also held running back David Wilson, the ACC's player of the year, to

only 32 yards rushing. Clemson running back Andre Ellington ran for 125 yards and one touchdown on 20 carries. With the win, Clemson solidified its first 10-win season since 1990, a spot in the Orange Bowl and its first BCS bowl bid in school history

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. Not everything goes as planned. Clemson's best season in 20 years came to a crashing halt with arguably the worst bowl loss in school history. What at first appeared to have the makings of a high-scoring shootout between the Tigers and West Virginia turned into a shellacking on par with a video game score in the second quarter.

Following Andre Ellington's fumble at the goal line and the 99-yard touchdown return by Mountaineer safety Darwin Cook, the floodgates opened for the Tigers. West Virginia quarterback Geno Smith was electrifying, and Clemson's defense did not have an answer for him as he rattled off 407 yards passing and 6 touchdowns. Although Clemson coughed the ball up four times on offense, the real story lay in the defense's inability to stop Smith and the Mountaineer offense. The result was a record in points in a bowl game for West Virginia.

## **2012 Clemson Season -- 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 Offensive Coordinator was Chad Morris and the Defensive Coordinator was Brent Venables. They were invited to the Chick-fil-A Bowl where they defeated LSU. The Tigers had their first 11-win season since 1981.

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 Clemson Season -- 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 Wahoos 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.

## **Great Player Tajh Boyd, QB, (2010-13)**

Boyd holds the Clemson records for career completions, passing yards, and passing touchdowns. Tajh Boyd also holds the ACC record for total touchdowns and passing touchdowns (breaking Philip Rivers' passing TD record with one less season as the starter). He compiled a 32-8 record, tying him for the most wins by a QB in school history. Additionally, he is one of four Clemson QBs to ever win the Orange Bowl, the others being Billy Hair in the '50 season, Homer Jordan in the '81 season, and Deshaun Watson in the '15 season.

The few negatives on Boyd include a reputation, deserved or underserved, for his occasional poor play on a big stage. This was evident in his first two starts against South Carolina and his last matchup with FSU. Still, nobody wins them all. In his career Boyd, beat Virginia Tech, Auburn, LSU, UGA, and Ohio State, hardly pushovers.

With that, he led Clemson to an ACC Championship (after a two-decade drought) and two Orange Bowl appearances. After the first of those appearances ended in a blowout to WVU, he led Clemson to a 22-4 record in his RS junior and RS senior seasons.

Like Steve Fuller, Boyd revitalized Clemson's program. When the Tigers finally reached the mountain top winning the title three seasons after Boyd left Clemson, LB Ben Boulware stood on the stage and said past players who got the program to that point are part of the championship. He called out Tajh Boyd specifically - a recognition Boyd surely deserves.





Before DeShaun Watson, Tajh Boyd was the all-everything all-time best QB in Clemson History. Boyd did in fact return the Tigers to ACC supremacy with its first league championship in two decades as just a sophomore.

He then shattered most Clemson and some ACC passing records as a junior in 2012. He owned the single-season school record for passing yards (3,896) and the ACC single-season touchdown record with 36 scoring strikes. In 2015

DeShaun Watson broke his single season record with a 4104 performance and Watson broke his own record in 2016 with 4593 season yards.

He posted back-to-back seasons of at least 4,000 total yards of offense and has a chance to finish as the ACC's most productive player in history (passing yards and total offense). Against NC State, Boyd set an ACC record by accounting for eight total touchdowns (5 pass, 3 rush) and at the time, the third best total offense game in ACC history (529). How fortunate for Clemson for DeShaun Watson to come so quickly after Tajh Boyd.

Who knows what will happen at QB in the fall, 2017, but it can only be good as there will be five quarterbacks on the roster vying to be the Clemson Tigers starter for the 2017 season. I trust Dabo Swinney to make the right choice if he has not done so already.

## Great Player Sammy Watkins WR (2011-2013)



Sammy Watkins slammed onto the national stage as one of the top wideouts in the nation in 2011. He was not as adept in 2012 as his production decreased somewhat. Though many of his numbers were nearly equal to 2011 on a per-game basis.

In the 2013 season, Sammy returned to his freshman form in and even better. He was recognized as one of the best wideouts in the nation with 240 receptions for 3,391 yards and 27 touchdowns, 339 yards on 52

carries and one touchdown, six punt returns for 23 yards, and 60 kickoff returns for 1,376 yards and one touchdown in 1,717 snaps over 36 games (29 starts) in his career.

In his day, Sammy was first in school history in receptions, first in receptions per game (6.7), first in receiving yards, first in receiving yards per game (94.2), first in 100-yard receiving games (15), tied for first in receiving touchdowns, second in all-purpose yards (5,129), and fifth in kickoff return yards ... three-time, first-team All-American, the first Tiger to be a multi-year first-team All-American since 2000,01 (Kyle Young) ... two-time First-Team All-ACC selection (media).

On May 28, 2014, Watkins signed his rookie contract, a fully guaranteed four-year deal worth \$19.94 million, with a \$12.8 million signing bonus. He caught his first career touchdown reception from EJ Manuel in a Week 2 29-10 victory over the Miami Dolphins. In Week 7 against the Minnesota Vikings, Watkins caught nine passes for 122 yards for two touchdowns. His second touchdown was the game winner coming with one second remaining in the game. He played three years with Buffalo

On May 2, 2017, the Buffalo Bills declined Watkins' fifth-year option, making him a free agent after the 2017 season.

Watson was deserving of all the accolades he received at Clemson and at Buffalo. He would get a place on most pundit's All-Clemson Team after his stellar and historic freshman campaign. He has been one of the best freshman receivers the Tigers have had for some time.

Watkins was known to be able to work from anywhere on the field, and he seemed to catch everything that came his way. His smooth route running and speed allowed the offense to do a myriad of things. Imagine having an offense with both Florida natives CJ Spiller and Sammy Watkins on the field at the same time. Amen!

## **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 Clemson Season -- 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 Offensive Coordinator was Chad Morris and the Defensive Coordinator was Brent Venables. The Captains were Stephone Anthony, Sam Cooper, Adam Humphries, and Grady Jarrett. Clemson was invited to the Russell Athletic Bowl where they defeated Oklahoma.

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.

## Great Player Vic Beasley DE 2012-2014

Beasley was one of two “Two-time consensus All-Americans,” in Clemson history. The also great Terry Kinard was the other. Vic Beasley was also a two-time, first-team All-ACC performer. When he departed from Clemson, he was its career leader with 33 sacks, while compiling 52.5 tackles for loss (fourth-most in school history at the time).



Beasley was First-team All-American by Athlon, Bleacher Report, CBSSports.com, SBNation.com, SI.com, Sporting News, USA Today and Walter Camp in 2013. He was second-team All-American by AP, FWAA and Phil Steele in 2013.

Along the way to his great college career with Clemson he had 44 tackles, 23 tackles for loss, 13 sacks, 12 quarterback pressures, six pass breakups, four

caused fumbles and one recovered fumble in 560 snaps over 13 games (13 starts) in 2013.

He was ACC Defensive Player of the Year in 2014, when he was first-team All-American according to AFCA, AP, College Sports Madness and Walter Camp ... second-team All-American in 2014 by Athlon, CBS Sports, FWAA, Lindy's, Phil Steele, Scout.com and USA Today.

He was a finalist for the Bednarik, Hendricks and Lombardi awards in 2014 ... posted 37 tackles, a team-high 21.5 tackles for loss, a team-high 12 sacks, nine quarterback pressures, three pass breakups, two caused fumbles, one recovered fumble and a 16-yard fumble return for a touchdown in 557 snaps over 13 games in 2014. He was selected No. 8 overall in the first round of the 2015 NFL Draft by his hometown team, the Atlanta Falcons. He has two successful years under his belt for Atlanta now and has played in every Falcon game over that period.

## **2015 Clemson Season -- 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. The Offensive Coordinators were Tony Elliott and Jeff Scott Chad Morris and the Defensive Coordinator was Brent Venables. The Captains were Travis Blanks, B.J. Goodson, Eric MacLain, Charone Peake, D.J. Reader, and Stanton Seckinger.

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.

## 2015 Post Season Games

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. No. 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 Clemson Season -- 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).

Sometimes, Top 5 matchups fail to live up to their billing. They're blowouts—decided long before the final horn. Or maybe they're slogs, where points are at a premium, and turnovers are prevalent. That wasn't the case with Clemson-Louisville. The No. 5 Clemson Tigers and No. 3 Louisville Cardinals put on a show that the 80,000-plus in attendance at Memorial Stadium will likely never forget.

At halftime, it appeared that the quarterback showdown between Clemson's Deshaun Watson and Louisville's Lamar Jackson was one-sided on Watson's behalf, with the Tigers holding a 28-10 lead. But Jackson was just getting started, leading a Cardinals rally with his arm and legs that spanned 22 minutes in the third and fourth quarters for a 26-0 run and a 36-28 Louisville edge with 7:52 left.

The Tigers and Watson struck back, with Watson leading a pair of touchdown drives, the second ending with a 31-yard Jordan Leggett catch-and-run score for a 42-36 lead with 3:14 remaining. Jackson led one final drive inside the Clemson 15, and on 4th-and-12, he found James Quick. But one yard short of the first down, Quick was forced



out of bounds, and Clemson hung on for a wild 42-36 win and a huge feather in its College Football Playoff push.



Lamar Jackson and Louisville came up just short against Clemson

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).

For the win v Florida State, Deshaun Watson 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 and lost to Pitt by one-point L (42-43).



Clemson 42 Pittsburgh 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.

The No. 2 Tigers hadn't lost to an unranked foe since November 2011, but a combination of mistakes, poor defense and untimely penalties caught up with them against the scrappy Panthers. Even with quarterback Deshaun Watson throwing for an ACC-record 580 yards, Clemson couldn't put Pitt away, with its biggest lead being eight points. Pitt closed to 42-40 on James Conner's 20-yard touchdown run with 5:17 left, and the Tigers just had to run out the clock. But the Panthers stuffed Wayne Gallman on 4th-and-1 from their 35 with 58 seconds left, giving themselves one more chance.

Pitt quickly got into field-goal position, and the aptly named Chris Blewitt nailed a 48-yard field goal on the game's final play, lifting the Panthers to a shocking 43-42 upset. Clemson still made the College Football Playoff, but Pitt and head coach Pat Narduzzi had a win they'll never forget.

On Nov 19, the #5 Tigers recovered and beat Wake Forest's Demon Deacons at BB&T Field, Winston-Salem, NC, W (35-13). The next scheduled game was on Nov 26 at home against South Carolina in the Palmetto Bowl. The Tigers defeated the Gamecocks in a big-time shellacking W (56-7)

## 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 2016/2017 National Championship Game

Uncommitted football fans across the world enjoyed one of the best football games of all-time on Monday evening January 9, 2007, 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.

## **Great Player Deshaun Watson QB (2014-16)**

Only if you have never seen him in action would there be any doubt? Following the Tajh Boyd era, a great era, which ended with an Orange Bowl win over Ohio State, the Clemson Tigers began the 2014 season with QB Cole Stoudt at QB due in part to DeShaun Watson having suffered a collar bone injury prior to the season. In the season opener in Athens v and always tough Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets squad, Watson did take a few snaps and he secured his first TD pass as a Tiger.



From that moment, Clemson fans knew they had another one of those magical quarterbacks, and they knew the next few years would be special. Watson unfortunately was plagued with injuries for most of that 2014 season. He famously played with a torn ACL in the Palmetto Bowl and beat South Carolina to snap their five-game winning streak. Not ever to like seeing a loss on the scorecard, Watson would go 3-0 in his career against the Gamecocks.

Deshaun Watson shook the injury prone label the following year in 2015 as he led the Tigers to their first undefeated regular season since 1981. He was a finalist for the Heisman. He was simply a superman but for some reason, though John Heisman coached at Clemson, Clemson is always skipped over for the Heisman Trophy. Watson's stats were remarkable as he posted 5,209 total yards (4,104 passing, 1105 rushing) and 42 TDs (35 passing, 12 rushing).

After beating UNC in a high scoring ACC Championship game and Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, the DeShaun Watson-led Clemson Tigers played for the National Championship v Alabama, Clemson

would lose that game due to defensive lapses and special team gaffes, but the contest is largely remembered for the 405 yard, 4 TD performance by a great QB, Deshaun Watson.

In his final season as a Tiger, Deshaun Watson tallied 4,593 passing yards and was once again a Heisman finalist. Again, Clemson was denied a Heisman. Lamar Jackson won the award, but after what Watson did in three postseason games that came after the vote, there was no doubt about him being the best player in the nation. Following an 11-1 regular season, the Tigers used a five TD performance from Deshaun Watson to get past Virginia Tech, earn a second-consecutive ACC title and make another trip to the College Football Playoff.

The Tigers would win their first ever Fiesta Bowl by beating Urban Meyer's tough Ohio State team 31-0. In the title game, as noted, they got to play Alabama again.

The Tigers fell behind 0-14, but then, Coach Swinney's squad with Watson leading the offensive action outplayed the Tide for most of the night and finally took the lead with under five minutes remaining. Despite struggling to move the ball since early in the game, Alabama used a third-and-long completion, a fourth down conversion, a WR-pass, and a QB scramble to score the go-ahead touchdown with 2:07 remaining.

That's when Deshaun Watson calmly told his teammates to be "legendary," and they were. The greatest QB and greatest player in Clemson history took the field for the final drive of his illustrious career and cemented his legacy with "The Drive." Go Tigers!



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